

Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

Apr. 2020 Vol. 2 No. 1

Previously Liberty School News

Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc. the successor of German Settlement History, Inc.

Are you ready for the 1st lawn mowing of the year?
It's coming soon.....

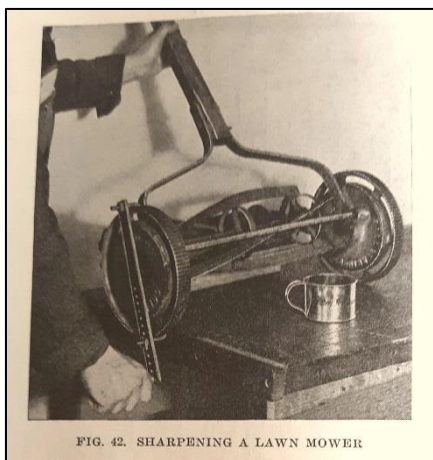


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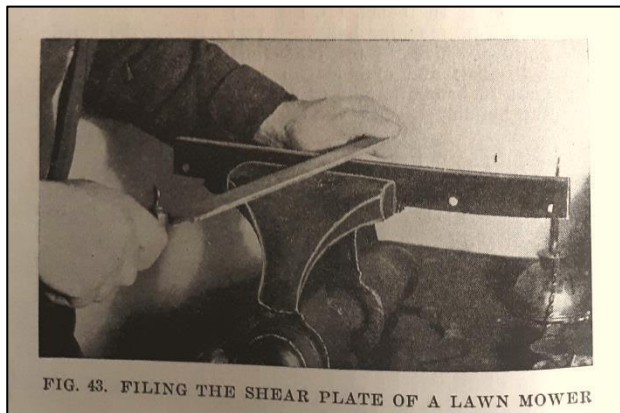
Peterson (or Pederson) home located across the road from the Nathaneal Norwegian Lutheran Church; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Peterson, in center is Louise Bissegger - who taught in the Knox Mills School 1907-08. with their modern lawn care tools. Ready to keep the home place looking good!



Then

And

Now



Our next **SHSI meeting** is on hold until meetings are allowed in the state again. When that time comes, we will meet at the **Spirit Town Hall** beginning at 12:30 p.m. with a potluck lunch which is open to the public. The meeting will follow. Everyone is welcome.

Watch our Facebook posts for that meeting announcement.

The Spirit Legion Post 452 will be honoring our deceased loved ones and in particular our service members on Memorial Day. They will be visiting all the cemeteries in the Ogema, Spirit, Brantwood & Clifford areas. A schedule will be released in the near future.

Per the executive orders put out by the State of Wisc. there will not be a program held at the Spirit Town Hall this year. (contact Duane Harper for details 715-657-0304).

Legion Post 452 holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thurs. of each month at the Spirit town Hall beginning at 7 pm.

Spirit Town Board meetings are held in the Spirit Town Hall on the 2nd Tues. of each month, starting at 6:00 pm.
Town board members are Darrel Lind, Bill Evans and Andy Holmquist.
Clerk – JaNelle Nelson Treas. – Myrna Holmquist

The 78th annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** is scheduled to be held Friday, Aug. 7 and Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Spirit Town Hall.

At this time the clubs participating this year will be Happy Hoboes, Hillbillies and Hamburg Hawks.

Fair board members are Darrel Lind, Ed Ulrich, Adam Kielsmeier, Lynn Peterson and Molly Kielsmeier. Sec/Treas. is Colleen Schult.

For more information and photos go to

www.facebook.com/spirithillogema4hfair

The spring planning meeting is currently on hold until meetings are again allowed in the state of Wisconsin. When it can be rescheduled it will be held at the Spirit Town Hall at 6:30pm. Watch our Facebook page for updates.



Our Yesterday House is currently located at: **W1316 State Hwy. 86 in the town of Spirit, Price County, next to the Spirit Town Hall.**

The Machine Shed will be rebuilt when funding can be raised to do so.

Tours of our buildings are still cancelled at this time due to our relocating process. We hope to be ready to schedule tours again later this summer. Tours will be free.

Mailing address: Spirit Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 621 Ogema, WI 54459

Email us at spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com Our website is www.spirithistoricalsociety.org

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is organized for educational purposes to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value and interest in the Towns of Spirit and Hill in Price County and surrounding Spirit River Valley.

S.H.S.I. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization.



Marvin Carl Meier passed away on March 20, 2020 in Wausau Wisconsin at the age of 83. He was born August 18, 1936 in a log cabin in Spirit Wisconsin the 3rd of 6 children to Carl and Olga Meier. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Rosalie, and brother Albert. After grade school in the one room school house in Spirit, he graduated from Rib Lake High School in 1954 and joined the U.S. Army where he was deployed as a linguist specialist in Germany listening to Russian transmissions. Upon his return he enrolled in college and found a calling in forestry, graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1965 with a Masters of Forestry. During college he was an active member of Gamma Delta where he met Joleen Nyla Franklin,

a grade school teacher from Milwaukee who was teaching in Wausau. The pair married in 1964 and following Marv's graduation they moved to Panguitch, Utah where Marvin began his career with the US Forest Service, a career that took him and family to Ogden, UT, Washington DC, Anchorage AK and Atlanta GA where in 1994 he retired from the position of Acting Regional Forester for the Southern States Region.

Joleen and Marvin returned to Wausau, Wisconsin – a town they remembered fondly and that was close to their forest land in Price County. Retirement gave Marvin the time and opportunity to work with his own forests – Sweet Spirit Woodlands. He was also an active member of WWOA (Wisconsin Woodland Owners), and Saint Andrew Lutheran Church in Wausau. He enjoyed working in his forests, wood carving, classical music, and writing poems. He is survived by his loving wife Joleen and his three daughters Kristina Meier, Marcy Horton and Julie Newton, grandchildren Kayla Meier, Jacob Meier and Lucas Horton, sister Gladys Ann Howard and brothers Michael Meier and Timothy Meier and their respective families.

Marvin will be cremated, and a memorial service will be held at a later date when friends and family can gather comfortably. He loved the beauty of nature, his family, his fellow man, and Jesus Christ his Savior.

Marvin was a charter member of our board serving from Jan. 2003 through Jan. 2018. He was faithful in leading us with his wisdom, friendship and dedication to helping with projects.



Albert, Marvin, Michael, Tim,
Father Carl, Mother Olga, Gladys



GSHI board meeting June 2004.
Marvin at the far end of the table.

Marvin helping clean up tools for
display in The Machine Shed.



**G.S.H.I. Board Members
March 2012**





Jerald Kenneth Blomberg, 66, Town of Hill, a man of integrity who loved his God, loved his wife, and loved his family, died at his home on Friday, March 6, 2020, while under the care of his family and Hope Hospice. He was born on June 4, 1953, the son of Wilbert and Mabel (Stolhammer) Blomberg. He was a 1971 graduate of the Rib Lake High School, and attended UW River Falls. He was married to Jennifer Wear on September 8, 1973, at the Ogema Baptist Church. His work history was long and varied, he operated a dairy and beef farm, worked as a carpenter with Blomberg Builders, logged, and drove

school bus for the Rib Lake School District. He was an active member of the Ogema Baptist Church, served on the Town of Hill Board, and for 15 years served on the Rib Lake School Board, serving as Board President for 13 of those years. In his free time he enjoyed time with his family, attending grandchildren's sporting events, camping and hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer; by his children, Jerod (Shelley), Rib Lake, Joelle (Craig) Scheithauer, Ogema, Jenae (Lance) Mattson, Wausau, and Billie Stevens, Tuscon, AZ; by 10 grandchildren, Ciara, Luke, Carter, Logan, Josie, Jackson, Madilyn, Norah, Lillian, and Jonas; and by six brothers and sisters, Ronald (Cyndi), Cypress, CA, Ruthie (Blair) Watt, Marshfield, Tom (Donna), Iron River, WI, Peggy (Joe) Francour, Merrill, Dan (Chris), Ogema, and Steve (Krista), Ogema. He is preceded in death by one infant daughter, Joy; and by his parents.

Funeral services will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 15, at the Ogema Baptist Church with Pastors Paul Van Camp and Rodney Price officiating. Interment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in the Spring. Friends may call at the church on Saturday after 6:00 P.M. and on Sunday from 2:00 P.M. until the time of services.

The family requests that memorial gifts be sent to the "Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin" for the benefit of the "Jerry Blomberg Memorial Scholarship", which will annually provide a scholarship for a graduating senior at Rib Lake High School.

News From the Past -- From the Rib Lake Herald Newspaper 1942

Mar. 6, 1942

Victor Brietzke returned to CCC camp Riley after spending the weekend at the home of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Gust Brietzke.

Mar. 13, 1942

Herbert Semrow returned to CCC camp Riley after spending the weekend with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rhody are the happy parents of a daughter, Annette Barbara, born March 3.

April 3, 1942

Roger Lee Zielke had his tonsils and adenoids removed Monday by Dr. R. Baker at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk.

April 17, 1942

Art, Bill and Ervin Brietzke left for Camp Livingston, La., Monday.

April 24, 1942

Ray Brietzke is assisting Max Scheller Jr. with the farm work this spring.

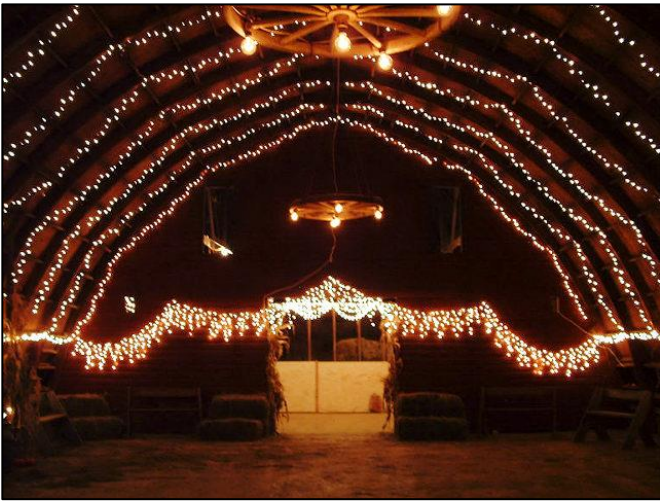
John and Emmy Lou Siroin are back in school after a two weeks absence due to mumps.

May 1, 1942

Bill Oberli who was employed in Rockford, Ill., is spending some time at his home and expects to be called for army service soon.

July 3, 1942

Miscellaneous shower was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lind (Newly Weds) at their home Sunday afternoon. They received many gifts and a delicious lunch was served.



Because of COVID-19 we will NOT be having our Annual Barn Dance/Fund Raiser on Memorial Weekend. If possible we may hold this event later in the summer. We will miss seeing all of you and all the friendship and laughter that comes to the haymow every year in May!

Follow us on Facebook for further announcements throughout the summer.

Old Photos from our files



Len Meier cabin on Meier Rd. by Spirit River; Grandma Nora Meier, Nora McMahon, twins Frank & Jim McMahon, 'Cassie' Elaine McMahon, Joanne Worden(behind others)



Henry and Ella Rhody out for a ride.



Summer 1907, Ole A. Peterson's bark camp on Spirit Point. Nettie Peterson Dodge is the cook on the left. She later operated Ma Dodge's Cafe in Rib Lake .



C.B. Nelson



Scheller and Ernst Family Gathering, 1917
Carl and Selma Scheller Farm on German Settlement in Spirit.
Selma Scheller, Solomea Ernst, Alice Scheller, John Jacob Ernst, Carl G., Carl A., Mildred & Augusta Scheller

Four Seasons of the Northwoods

The 4 seasons of the year are very obvious here in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Lives revolve around those 4 seasons. For some folks the weather dictates if their jobs will be successful or a failure. Field crops can be abundant or not depending on rainfall, warm temperatures and amount of sunshine in any given summer.

Woods workers depend on cold temperatures in the winter and dry summers to be able to get into the forests to harvest the trees. Tourism is a huge part of the Northwoods income. Without a decent amount of snow in the winter, there is very little snowmobiling or skiing. Without enough cold temperatures the ice isn't safe in the winter for ice fishing. Too many rainy days in a summer is very detrimental to fishing, boating, swimming and planned outdoor activities such as ball tournaments and fairs.

We have lived through a variety of changes in seasonal weather. As summer changes to fall we finish outdoor projects and enjoy a walk in the colorful woods taking in the last of the warm days and the smell of autumn leaves. When the snow starts to fall and the temperatures drop, we bring in the animals that are out on pasture and the barn is filled with fluffy looking heifers that already have a heavy coat of hair for the coming winter. Barn doors remain shut and everything in it seems to get cozy and content.

As winter closes in on us the daylight hours get shorter. Going outside becomes a chore now having to put on coat, hat, boots and gloves before venturing out. Snowstorms add to the daily chores. Plowing after a big storm can eat up hours of your day. It's not just clearing out the driveway, but the yard, behind the barn to open up the machine shed, the area needed to back the manure spreader under the barn cleaner and finally clean out the 2nd driveway for hauling manure. Once everything is plowed out there's shoveling to be done to gain access to all the buildings on the farm.

Extremely cold temperatures is probably the most difficult thing to deal with. Working in several layers of clothing is a necessity as there are daily chores that must be done outside. Even with extra layers it's hard to stay warm when out driving a tractor for half an hour. Extended cold days eventually reach water pipes causing them to freeze up. The manure freezes onto the spreader before the hauling process is finished. Day after day the manure builds up until finally the spreader must be backed into the barn to thaw out.

Machinery tends to break with extremely cold temperatures and repairs are difficult to do. Many times winter repair jobs end up with a hot cup of cocoa to thaw out the body and fingers.

As the winter tightens its grip on us the snow gets deeper. This requires chains on the tractor to haul manure and at times we've even had to change to our bigger more powerful tractor just to get across the fields with the spreader. At the end of those challenging days it feels so good to crawl into a nice warm bed for the night. There are times when we'd like to trade places with the bears and just sleep away those long cold days of winter.

Then as if by magic there comes a day when the temperature rises to 50 or even 60 degrees. Water runs down through the rain gutters of the house and barn as the snow gives way to the warm sunshine. The creek bed thaws out and once again we hear the beautiful sound of water rushing over the rocks. In the yard there appear patches of mud. The smell of fresh earth fills the air and the birds begin their spring songs.

The barn doesn't feel cozy and warm today as it did all winter. It feels stuffy and closed in. So we throw open all the doors and let the fresh spring air fill the barn. We can almost feel the excitement in the cows as they anticipate green grass again.

I think it would be difficult to find anyone who wouldn't appreciate a warm spring day. But I truly believe that these days are made especially sweet for those of us in the Northwoods because we endured the long cold winter.

By Luann Lind – *Blessed To Be Country*

Area Post Offices

USPS - Display Postmasters by City - Discontinued P.O.s

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

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**Postmaster Finder
Postmasters by City**

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National Archives
Personnel Records
Center
Geographic Names

**SPIRIT POST OFFICE
PRICE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Name	Title	Date Appointed
John Peterson	Postmaster	08/17/1880

Discontinued on May 9, 1881

USPS - Display Postmasters by City

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**KNOX MILLS POST OFFICE
PRICE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Name	Title	Date Appointed
Hiram Knox	Postmaster	08/22/1891
William H. Knox	Postmaster	05/29/1893
Charles B. Nelson	Postmaster	08/31/1894
Martin J. Roach	Postmaster	12/27/1894
Eskild Muller	Postmaster	05/27/1897
Ole K. Hobe	Postmaster	09/13/1898
Knute O. Knutson	Postmaster	12/04/1901

Discontinued on June 30, 1909; mail to Brantwood

USPS - Display Postmasters by City - Discontinued P.O.s

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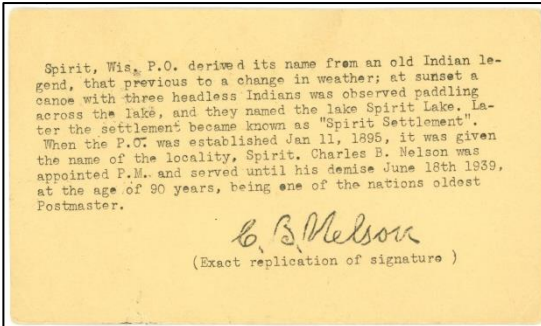
**SPIRIT POST OFFICE
PRICE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Name	Title	Date Appointed
Charles B. Nelson	Postmaster	01/11/1895

Discontinued on September 30, 1939; mail to Brantwood



Spirit Post Office was located at the corner of State Hwy. 86 and State Hwy. 102.



Cancellation stamp with the date when the Spirit Post Office closed.



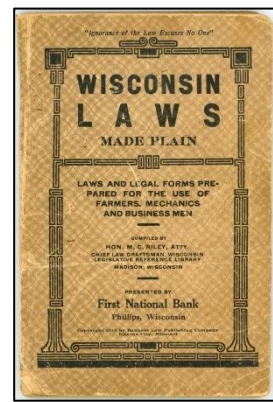
An older cancel stamp.



Each month and every day the correct date had to be changed to postmark the mail properly.



Interesting tidbits taken from Wisconsin Laws Made Plain dated Madison, Wisconsin Jan. 3, 1916.



Leaving Animals Unfastened - It is unlawful for the driver of a carriage or other vehicle used for the conveyance of passengers to leave the horses or other animals attached thereto while any passenger remains in the same without making such animal fast or leaving them in charge of some person so as to prevent their running. Failure so to do subjects the owner to forfeit not exceeding \$20, but the action thereof must be commenced within three months thereafter.



Automobiles and Motor Cycles - No automobile, motorcycle or other similar motor vehicle shall be operated, ridden or driven along or upon any public highway of this state, unless the same shall have been registered or application for the registration of the same shall have been made and forwarded to the secretary of state accompanied by the requisite fee therefor. **Registration Fee** - Automobiles, \$5; motorcycles, \$2; dealer, including eight number plates (4sets), \$10.



Signal to Stop - Every person operating an automobile or other similar motor vehicle upon or along any public highway shall upon a signal by putting up the hand or other sign of distress, made by a person riding or driving a horse or horses, which are frightened, cause such automobile or other similar motor vehicle to stop, unless a movement forward is necessary to avoid accident or injury, and upon request shall stop all motor power until such horse or horses are under control; and shall, if requested, assist such person or persons to pass such automobile or other similar motor vehicle in safety.



Fish and Game - Deer: No season for bucks in the velvet, or in the red, blue or spotted coat, or does in any county. Other bucks could not be taken in 39 counties throughout the state. In the remaining counties open season was Nov. 11 to Nov. 30 with a limit of 1 buck each year. **Fishing Licenses** - Any natural person, resident of this state, may fish for and catch fish during the open season therefor, without a license. Nonresidents over 16 years of age must secure a license either from the Conservation Commission or from some person authorized by that body to issue such licenses. The fee for nonresident fishing license is \$1.00.



United States Flag; Schools - Every board of education or district board shall purchase at the expense of the city, town, village or district to which it belongs, and display from a flagstaff on each school house, or on the grounds thereof, a flag of the United States, and shall purchase in like manner whatever may be needed for the display or preservation of said flag. It is the duty of every board of education or district board and of every principal or teacher in charge of each school to cause such flag to be properly displayed in seasonable weather during the school hours of each day's session of school upon the flagstaff of such school house or school grounds.



Holidays; Sunday - Sunday is not classed as a legal holiday. The Wisconsin statutes, however, prohibit the doing of any work other than work of charity and necessity on that day.

We sell books written by local authors

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Books by Jeanette Gilge	Quantity	Total	Books by Carl Rhody	Quantity	Total
<i>"Pioneer Family Series"</i>					
A Winter's Promise	\$5.00	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley	\$7.50	_____
Never Miss a Sunset	\$5.00	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley II	\$7.50	_____
All Things Heal in Time	\$5.00	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley III	\$7.50	_____
Best of Intentions	\$5.00	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley IV	\$7.50	_____
Satin in the Snow	\$5.00	_____	The Saga of Spirit Valley V	\$7.50	_____
As Long As I Have You	\$5.00	_____	Set of 5 Saga books	\$35.00	_____
Set of 6 Pioneer Series	\$20.00	_____			
City-Kid Farmer	\$5.00	_____	Books by James Rhody		
			Brant's Bear	\$10.00	_____
			The Pleasure of the Sorrow	\$5.00	_____

Shipping – Orders for \$10 and under – add \$3.50 > _____
 Orders over \$10 – add \$7.50
 Total Order > _____

Please make checks payable to SHSI
 and mail to:
 Spirit Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 621
 Ogema, WI 54459

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

Membership Application

You are invited to become a member of S.H.S.I.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Amount _____ Membership Year _____

- Categories: Please check one
- _____ Swamper (Non Member) - \$1.00 to \$24.00 per year
- The following categories qualify you as a Member:**
- _____ Sawyer - \$25.00 to \$49.00 per year
- _____ Teamster - \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year
- _____ Woods Boss - \$100.00 to \$499.00 per year
- _____ Homesteader - \$500.00 to \$999.00 per year
- _____ Settlement Builder - \$1000.00 or more per year

Please make checks payable to SHSI and mail to:
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 P.O.Box 621
 Ogema, WI 54459

Thank you for your generous gift!

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value for educational purposes. Members are persons who contribute \$25.00 or more at any time during the year. Membership continues through the month of January the following year. As a member of S.H.S.I. you will be contributing to our mission, receive our newsletters and will be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot at the S.H.S.I. January annual meeting.

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.
Formerly German Settlement History, Inc.
P.O. Box 621
Ogema, WI 54459
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



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