

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2009



www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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The new County Home was build in 1902 to replace the Poor Farm.

Poor Farm Cemetery Rededication May 21st

JIM SCHUH

A granite monument donated by Johnson Monument, LLC and Chippewa County Historical Society's 50th historic marker will be unveiled in a dedication ceremony at the Poor Farm Cemetery on Thursday, May 21, at 5 p.m., just prior to Memorial Day Weekend.

The Chippewa County Historical Society coordinated the cemetery restoration project. Work was completed on September 25, 2008. Everyone has described the project as a huge success. There was a "Your View" letter in the Chippewa Herald Saturday October 11, 2008 written by Evelyn Shilts, the sister of infant twins who are buried in the cemetery. She had not known where her sisters had been buried and was very happy to get closure by being able to locate the headstones after our project and she placed flowers by them.

Several businesses and groups stepped forward to participate in this project. Chippewa County Historical Society with support from the Chippewa County Genealogical Society



Please join us for the
**Rededication of the Chippewa
County Poor Farm Cemetery**
Thursday, May 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Located on County Hwy I between St. Joseph's Hospital and the Wissota Health & Regional Vent Center. Enter on the service road between the St. Joe's Emergency entrance and the Wissota Health & Regional Vent Center. The new Kids USA Learning Center is located on the east corner of the service road. The cemetery is near the south end of the service road on the west side of the street.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2007-2009

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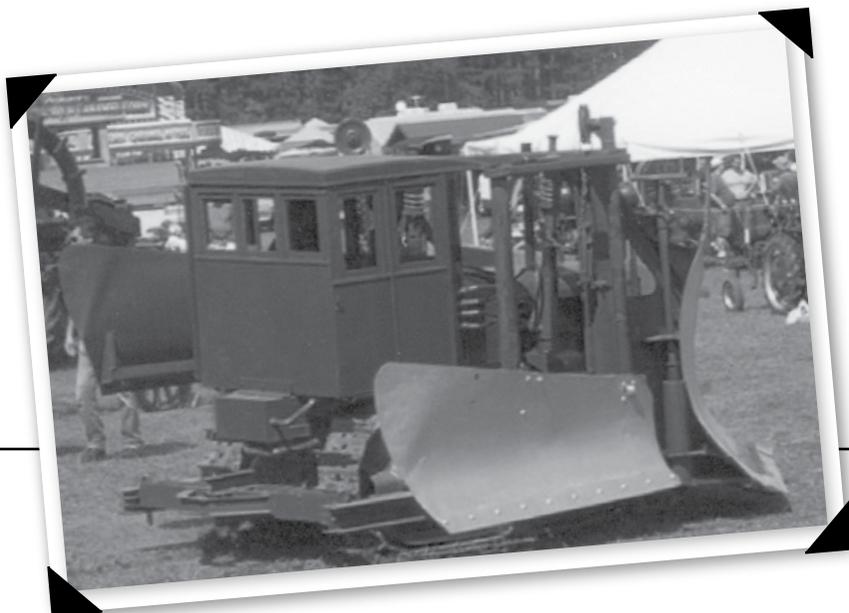
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❖ Arley Engel, 5294 90th St.,
Chippewa Falls (07) 723-5124



How Did Your Family Handle the Winter Blizzards?

ARLEY ENGEL

Thinking back to the good old days at Sunnyside School in 1945 and the way we were transported to school. We had a unique system in our neighborhood. There were 5 family's involved and we took turns hauling the neighbor kids and our family to school.

The neighbors involved in this transfer system included our family Ray and Evelyn Engel. Their turn was on Monday. Next was Clifford and Sylvia Goulet. They hauled us on Tuesday. Joy and Molly Lynn would haul us on Wednesday, sometimes Clayton would drive especially in the winter. Elmo and Dorothy Daggit had their turn on Thursday. On Friday it was Ford and Marjory Engel's turn to haul the tribe of kids. At this time there were 8 of us kids and we ranged in age from 12 down to 7 years old.

This group of kids included Eugene and Arley Engel, Bill and Betty Goulet, Marvin Lynn, Robert and James Daggit, and Annette Engel. Once you include the driver with this bunch of kids it was a pretty cuddly group especially in Joy Lynn's 33 Chevrolet coupe with a "rumble seat." Should you not be acquainted with this car it is a 2 door with the trunk lid opening from the top instead of the bottom. This allowed for a padded area inside the trunk lid and a small cushion mounted 3 or 4 inches off the floor. The older boys were allowed to ride the rumble seat as weather permitted, but if it was raining or in the cold of winter we all had to crowd into the car.

There was a small ledge above the interior seat and three of us would sit on this ledge. Thus allowing the other 5 kids and the driver sitting on the seat. There wasn't much thought of a seat belt in those days, especially when us kids were 3 or 4 deep. This was a time of war and I remember tires were rationed. I remember how proud my aunt Dorothy Daggit was when she came to pick us up one afternoon with brand new 6:00-16 three rib front tractor tires on the front of their 1936 Chevrolet passenger car. Due to rationing those were the only tires available.

We did not have much for roads at this time period. There were big pot holes in the spring, in the winter we had a lot of snow drifts to drive through mostly due to the lack of ditches to plow the snow into. As the snow banks got higher the drifts got deeper, making for some interesting trips to and from school. Sometimes when a snowstorm would hit the area, usually in February or March, school would be let out early in the day and it seemed who ever was hauling us would show up at school and talk the teacher into letting us go home before the storm got too bad. If there was a storm that arrived



over night, we listened closely to WEAU Radio Station in the morning. We would be quite disheartened if other schools in the area were closed and our school was open. That did not happen very often, if the storm was severe all the schools in the county would be closed. We usually counted on at least one good snowed in stretch each year. In fact we were disappointed if there was not at least one big storm each winter. So these storms were expected, and the school calendar allowed for a few snow days and they did not have to be made up in the spring.

There was a lot of excitement when a blizzard hit, most thinking of a few days off from school, not even thinking of all the extra work that would be going on at the farm. On our farm we did not do a lot of shoveling, dad had helped operate the wing on the township snowplow which was a caterpillar type rig with a wing on both sides and required an operator for each wing.

Dad told stories of being out plowing at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning and stopping at neighbors farms for a cup of coffee and maybe a sandwich if they were lucky. They mainly stopped to warm up as the wing man stood on the outside of the machine. From this experience dad learned that after the plow blades were worn to within an inch to the mounting bolt holes the blades were removed and scrapped. He bought some of these scrap blades. and had Ted Roehling weld them together making a drag 8 feet long by 3 feet deep with 2 cutting blades.

We would hook a 12 foot chain to this drag and pull it over the snow with our F20 Farmall tractor, this worked if we only had a foot of snow or less. If we got 18 inches or more snow, we had the town plow come in to move the snow back. At this time the milk haulers had plows on their milk trucks and they would move the snow the best they could when they came to pick up our milk. We usually had the driveway packed down and the manure spread by the time the milkman came. Then we would run the tractor and drag over the bank his plow had made and pack it down again. The packed snow would be frozen hard enough to support our vehicles by the next morning, as the temperature usually dropped below zero after the storm moved out of the area.

There were certain areas that had to be shoveled by hand. The trail from the milk house to the barn was the first to be cleared because we had to carry the empty milk cans and the milking machines into the barn for milking. After we were done with the barn chores, we would shovel a path to the chicken coops, we had 2, one for Grandma's chickens and another for our chickens. At this time of year our sow pigs were kept in the east end of our chicken coop as it was getting close to "farrow time." This is when the sows have a litter of pigs. After shoveling this area we would shovel into the granary to get at the ground feed for all these different animals. We had one more path to shovel, this being to the outdoor toilet. We had running water to our house but no bathroom facilities. Later in the day we would do some touchup shoveling around the machine shed and the garage, then maybe we would go to the brooder house as it was getting close to time to

CALENDAR

May 6-10

The Past Passed Here re-enactment in Allen Park

May 9, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

History Center open & CF History Coalition History tour shuttle bus

May 19, 9:15 a.m.

CCHS Board Meeting

May 21, 5 p.m.

Poor Farm Cemetery Rededication

May 26, 1 p.m.

Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting

June 16, 9:15 a.m.

CCHS Board Meeting

June 23, 1 p.m.

Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting

July 21, 9:15 a.m.

CCHS Board Meeting

July 28, 1 p.m.

Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting

All meetings are at the Area History Center 123 Allen Street unless otherwise noted.

The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

Chippewa County Historical Society
123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI
Open on Tuesdays | 9am-4pm



FEATURED ARTIFACT



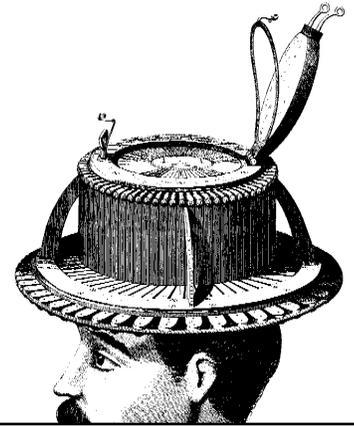
Doctor Earl Hatleberg's Chippewa Marines Football Jacket

After hearing many stories over the years about the professional football team from Chippewa Falls, we were very excited to acquire a genuine Chippewa Marine's Football Jacket. We are very grateful for the recent donation from Mary Hatleberg.

The team was organized in 1930 and on September 2, 1935 the team actually played the Green Bay Packers in an exhibition game at the fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls. In spite of a valiant effort the Marines lost to the Packers with a score of 22 to 0. The team disbanded later that same year.

After WW11 the team returned to action playing other Wisconsin teams and teams from several neighboring states until the early 1950's. Mary's late husband, Dr. Earl Hatleberg, was the team's doctor during this period in the team's history.

Thank you Mary for donating this very special piece of Chippewa Fall's history. 🐾



A Message From Your President

Hope you weren't confused by the last "The Eagle Speaks" which was dated February 2008, of course you knew we meant 2009.

Last issue I told you about the new Chippewa County Historical Society Hall of Fame. It is official now. At the February 16th Semi-Annual Membership meeting I presented Gene Harm, Joe Joas, Winifred Glass Jenson and Marvin Nauman with plaques recognizing them for all they have done for the Society. We missed Dolores Beaudette who was unable to attend so I went to Comforts of Home to present her with her plaque. Betty Plombon sent a letter of regret because she winters in Mississippi. I look forward to presenting Betty with her plaque when she returns to Stanley. From the comments and broad smiles of all the recipients, I think I can tell you they were very pleased. Next time you're at the History Center look for the large perpetual plaque in the entry listing all members of the Hall of Fame.

You also read about Betty Cowley's portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln at the membership meeting. You missed a very special event and educational experience. The twenty-five people at the meeting sat spell bound as Betty told about Mary's life with story after story. Did you know one of her children had her committed to a mental institution? Mary Todd told us she dressed Abe Lincoln to be presentable in public only to have him come home without any socks on time and time again. We learned Mary was a very intelligent and influential person in her lifetime. I hope we can have Betty back again so more people can enjoy and learn from her performance.

By the time you get this newsletter we will have completed helping Main Street with another "The Past Passed Here". This is an excellent educational experience for the fourth graders in the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District. This year as in past years the Society, thanks to Arley Engel, had a major display for the kids to tour. We had four large displays showing the history of Chippewa lumbering industry, tools and machinery of the past and many pictures of the history of our community. Of course Arley's buffalo stole the show as usual. The History Coalition for the first time participated in the "The Past Passed Here" on Saturday by having a van shuttle people from Allen Park where the festival is held to the History Center, Chippewa Falls Museum of Technology & Industry, Cook Rutledge Mansion and the Library. Each location was open for tours. Genealogy was open and the Historical Society gave tours of our museum.

In the November 2008 issue Jim Schuh talked about the New Community Television Program being made about the Society's Museum. Well we have received a DVD of the program and it is terrific. We used it for the first time the Saturday we were open for "The Past Passed Here". It played in the meeting room the whole day for visitors to watch while they waited for a tour of the museum.

We were pleased to receive a \$50 donation from the Chippewa Falls Lions Club. Our audio-visual equipment increased with a gift of a DVD player and 36 inch television with the capability to hook up a computer to the television and view items on the computer on the TV screen. This is a much-needed capability. You'll be seeing this at future membership meetings.

Well those are some of the exciting things going on at 123 Allen Street. Don't be a stranger stop by. *Dave* 🐾



Everyone in attendance at our February Semi Annual Membership Meeting was mesmerized with Betty Cowley's portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln in conjunction with President Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday celebration.

WINTER BLIZZARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get our baby chicks. the house had to be prepared and preheated to be ready for the little chicks.

We had electricity on the farm by the year of 1945. REA had put a line through in 1941 supplying power to our neighborhood, this was a much better system than our 32 volt wind charger with all the batteries that had to be maintained.

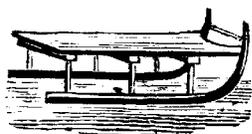
Mother would have a big breakfast ready after we were done with the morning chores, usually bacon, eggs and hot buttered toast with a choice of either jam or jelly to make it all slide down better, plus all the milk we wanted to drink. Life on the farm was ok even with rationing, as we raised most everything that we ate.

Usually within 24 hours the storm would have blown out of the area. When the chores and shoveling were done, we were allowed some play time. We would either go skating, skiing or we would build snow forts. The snow would drift 4 to 5 feet deep along the garden fence. We dug down in this area to make the base of our fort, then we would take a rectangular shaped pan, put snow into it to make blocks for the fort. These forts lasted for a week or so before we attacked with our bodies, smashing them into the snow bank.

People would laugh at our snow gear now days. We wore 16 inch high top boots, long underwear with the drop seat for special needs, then a wool sweater covered with a macinaw jacket, some kind of scarf, a wool cap with ear flaps, and chopper mittens with wool liners. If the snow was wet we also wore some wool snow pants. After we got soaking wet we headed into the house and started peeling wet clothes, than hanging them by the oil burner stove to dry. Mother would be ready for us with some home made bread fresh out of the oven or maybe some fresh chocolate chip cookies, this really hit the spot along with milk.

I guess looking back on these days, we did not have things too bad on our farm. We always had plenty to eat, a good place to sleep "maybe a little crowded" 5 boys in one bedroom with 2 beds, kind of cuddly just like in the neighbors coupe. Brother Eugene always says "when we were kids we were so poor we did not know we were poor." What do you think?

That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie. 🐾



Board President, Dave Gordon, presents a Hall of Fame Plaque to Marvin Nauman at the February Semi Annual Membership Meeting



Arley Engel shows fourth graders lumbering era tools at the CCHS display in Allen Park during the Past Passed Here. In the background Chuck Card and Jeff Prichard conduct the sawing competition..

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Donations



LOCAL NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVE JANKOSKI, REPORTER

Stanley Historical Society Building Project End in Sight

Spring has finally come and with it workers at the museum have little time remaining before our summer opening. Those assisting this winter have been working on WW II exhibits, which is the exhibit focus for 2009. Several special programs featuring veterans will be held in August and September. The dates for these programs are yet to be established and will be announced when they are determined. Also with winter work at the museum winding down the work crew has been focusing on giving the facility its annual housecleaning.

The Stanley Area Historical Society has good news and bad news to report on their building project. The good news is that the new addition is nearly completed. The remaining work to be done before the building can open includes installing window, door and baseboard trim, installing safety rails on the ramp, painting the upstairs storage room, installing shelving in the upstairs storage room, and construction and installation of a number of exhibits. The bad news is that donated funds for the project have been expended and it is estimated that the cost of the remaining interior work is \$10,393, which does not include the brickwork around the front entrance. The Society's plea is that anyone who has not contributed to this project, or anyone willing to make an additional contribution is asked to do so by sending their contribution to the Stanley Area Historical Society P.O. Box 142, Stanley, WI 54768. The hope is that the remaining work can be completed soon so that a Grand Opening can be planned for mid-summer. On the positive side, to date we have paid expenditures for the new building in the amount of \$113,637.71.

Donations in

Memory of:

From:

Francis Rooney	Adelaide Willett	10.00
Henry C. 'Hank' Bowe	Arley & June Engel.....	5.00
Douglas Lindsay	Kathy Forsgren.....	5.00
Jack Brenner	History Center.....	10.00
Helen Chandler	Kathy Forsgren.....	5.00
Art Walloch	Kathy Forsgren.....	5.00
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John Sokup	Gary & Judy Gaier.....	10.00
B.J. Sokup	Gary & Judy Gaier.....	20.00

Other Donations:

From:

Gail Willi.....	5.00
Pierre Girard.....	10.00
Chippewa City Abstract & Title	60.00
Ben Franklin	30.00

From Visitors:

..... \$54.00

POOR FARM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

coordinated the project. The Chippewa Valley Correction & Treatment Facility provided a 15 man Community Work Crew. The property owner St. Joseph's Hospital provided a worker, heavy equipment and lunches for the workcrew. The Wisconsin Health & Regional Vent Center donated topsoil and Mike Winscher from their maintenance department provided direction. Forest Hill Cemetery provided guidance on setting headstones and lent use of hand tools. Harvey's Tree Care donated removal of a four-foot wide basswood tree stump. Johnson Monument, LLC offered to donate a Civil War era style monument identifying the cemetery. ❧

Committees in sync—new members!



Kathryn Forsgren

Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

❖ Collection & Artifacts:

- * Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleur, Terri Stahr, Gail Willi, Jeff Pritchard

Photography Sub Committee:

- * Lucyann LeCleur, Donna Bourget

❖ Building & Grounds:

- * Steve Rasmus

Space Utilization Sub Committee

- * Steve Rasmus

❖ Education:

- * Cathy Lee, Evalyn Fransch, Ann Gordon, Rosemary Broeren

Docent Subcommittee:

- Lalie Boos, Pat Ahneman

❖ Exhibits:

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Historic Markers Sub Committee:

- * Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber

❖ Finances:

- * Skip August, Kathy Forsgren

❖ Membership:

- * Shirley Liedl, Mary McKenna

Telephone Subcommittee:

- * Mary McKenna

❖ Publicity:

- * Jim Schuh, Wayne Meyer
Newsletter Design: Elly Rochester

* Chairperson

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

Kathryn

Our treasurer, Kathryn Forsgren was born in Milwaukee during the depression on December 30th to Don and Odelia Oliver. She had one sister, Gwen and a brother, Don. They went to all Catholic schools and she graduated from Messmer High School in 1951. Two years later she married Duane Walin who was in the air force reserve. During the Korean Conflict he decided to join the army and so they traveled to Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Carson, Colorado. The first of their six children, Margaret (Peg) was born at Fort Carson. After being discharged, they returned home to Milwaukee and had three more children: Richard, John and Linda. They bought a duplex and her husband went into the service station business with her brother-in-law. They were blessed with two more children: Tom and Carolyn. For this growing family, life was full — in the summer they rented cabins and did lots of fishing. One fishing trip to Manitoba, Canada netted them huge jack fish and walleye. Golfing and playing cards rounded out their fun activities which still enjoys today.

Her husband, Duane, soon was ready for other business pursuits. He convinced his brother-in-law, Joe, to go to Minneapolis where they rented a service station from his uncle who had a bulk oil company. They later went on to each have their own stations where Kathryn became one of the bookkeepers. This experience was instrumental in giving her the expertise she has as our treasurer here at the History Center. Their home was in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, where the schools were all in walking distance.

Once the boys were in high school, they built a sailing board and learned how to sail. Now they had a trailer that they used as a cabin on Big Swan Lake, where the fish were plentiful. Duane was a boy scout leader at that time and spent a lot of time with his sons. He was getting tired of the business and so he sold it and went to work for Sears Roebuck as the manager of their service department. Kathy went to work for Twin City Federal when her youngest was five years old. She acquired a canoe through work incentives and their family also had a speed boat to enjoy the waters in addition to fishing.

Kathryn managed to squeeze in a few college classes in financial business by now. Noting how fast their children were growing up, they decided to take the four oldest on a trip out west. They traveled to Mount Rushmore, Teddy Roosevelt National Park, the Grand Canyon from both rims, Yellowstone Park, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Catalina Island, San Diego and Flagstaff, Arizona where they had relatives living in some of those places.

As time went on, Kathy and her husband purchased a lot next door to her brother's home in Jim Falls on the Chippewa River. With the help of her brother, Don, and his two sons Don Jr. and Chuck, they built a small cabin for their retirement in 1980. Due to downsizing,

Board Vice President, Jim Schuh, welcomes riders aboard the May 9th History Tour Shuttle. Use of the van was donated by the Chippewa Valley Bible Church and the magnetic signs were designed and donated by Kurt Gaber, owner of Gaber Signs.



she lost her job at Twin City Federal after working there for eight and a half years. Then her husband learned he had cancer at 52 years of age. They decided to move to Jim Falls and after only one year the cancer was spreading fast. He died in 1990 at the age of 57 but managed to see his children graduate and attend their weddings.

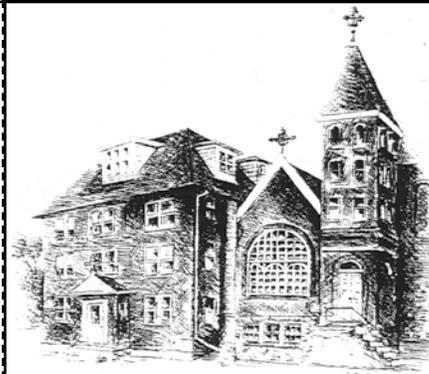
Now Kathryn had to find a job. She began working for Green Thumb and also did a lot of volunteering. Sadly her mother also was diagnosed with cancer and she nursed her until she died in 1992 at the age of 95.

While in Minneapolis she delivered meals for CEAP and transported Hmong people to English classes. She continued delivering meals in Chippewa Falls and in her leisure time took classes in swimming and joined a golf league and continued playing bridge with her friends in Minnesota — a practice that has lasted over 40 years. About this time she met Winifred “Freddie” Glass Jensen, a long-time volunteer at the Historical Society. Freddie invited Kathy to come to work at the center. Kathy found it enjoyable and it filled her free time. At first she worked in the library and from there she joined Lucy LeCleur in the photo room. Next she was asked to help Mary McKenna with bookkeeping and together, they were given expert instruction by CPA, Hugh Francis. Our former president, James Schumacher observed her ability in bookkeeping and because it was something she really enjoyed, she agreed to become the treasurer upon Jim’s request and has been aptly doing the job for four years now.

Having been a widow for nine years, Kathryn traveled with her sister and brother-in-law to Canada, Montreal and Quebec. They also traveled to Spain, Portugal and Jerusalem. Together they went on a mission to Nicaragua as ambassadors after the Contra and Sandanista upheaval. Love was to find her again when she met Will Forsgren while they were both volunteering at the History Center. They were married and traveled together to Sweden and Finland, and she says it was the most wonderful trip she ever took. They were hosted by his cousins and sister and brother-in-law who were fluent in Norwegian. They also visited Washington State, Maine, California, Arizona, Florida and Tennessee. They shared 8-1/2 happy years together before Will died at age 82.

Kathryn has outlived two spouses, has six children, 14 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren. Will had five children and 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Together theirs was a wonderful family. Her home is still in the cabin next door to her brother in Jim Falls. She still enjoys playing bridge, golfing and bowling and church involvement. Faith, family and fun along with dedication to her volunteer work round out her life. She counts her blessings and we count ourselves lucky to have her devote so much to the financial health of the Historical society.

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