



## 2017 Heroes of History



Marquette County Historical Society presented the Hero of History Award to two staunch supporters of history this year. Janet Pope, left, was given the award by Neil Kruger and Ella Fae Johnson, right, was given the award by President of MCHS Board Leroy Stublaski. Prior recipients were Fran Sprain, Esther Brancel, Pat and Neil Kruger Mary Jean Thalacker and Gene Yates.

Janet volunteers countless hours at the museum and has organized all the records. She has created folders for photos, papers and more so that doing research is much easier now. She also volunteers at many of the special events and her deep knowledge of the people of Marquette County makes her an invaluable resource for many people who come to do genealogical research.

Ella Faye Johnson has donated a number of items to MCHS including a buckboard wagon that can be seen at the museum. The young at heart 96 year old told the members present that she was a log cabin baby. Her parents moved from Texas to New Mexico and homesteaded there after her father's service in WWI. They lived in a log cabin when they first settled there. Ella Faye is a volunteer contributor to Find a Grave, an internet site that stores valuable information about cemeteries all over the country for those interested in genealogy or other research.

MCHS recognizes all the history that Janet and Ella Faye have preserved for Marquette County. Please say thank you to them when you see them. Without our volunteers, there would be no MCHS.

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**Another Thank You:** Board member Greg Smith wanted to be sure we thanked Dave Fascio who was instrumental in the insulating of the attic of the Nelson-Cochrane House. The project was just recently completed and will save many dollars on energy costs. MCHS wants to also thank Greg for all the hours he spent on finishing this project.

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Have you tried out the Marquette County John Muir Nature and History Route mobile app? You don't need a smartphone to see it. Use your computer to go to

<http://muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com> and learn all about Marquette County.



## Cookies, cookies, cookies.....

The 2017 MCHS Cookie Walk was a huge success with over \$800 taken in during the event. It was so popular this year that a call had to go out for more cookies! Thanks to everyone who donated cookies and to those who came and bought cookies. Thanks, also, to the folks who set up vendor tables at MCHS as part of the Westfield Taste and Tour. We hope to expand on this next year. Board member Carol Claesges, below, left, coordinated the fund raiser and spent hours coordinating volunteers and cookie donors. Thanks, Carol!



## Ever hear of the Fountain Creek Dairy?

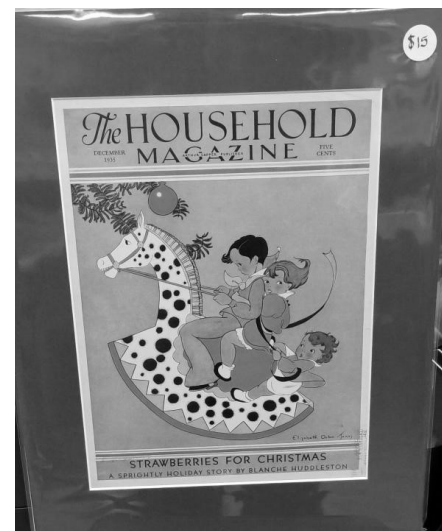
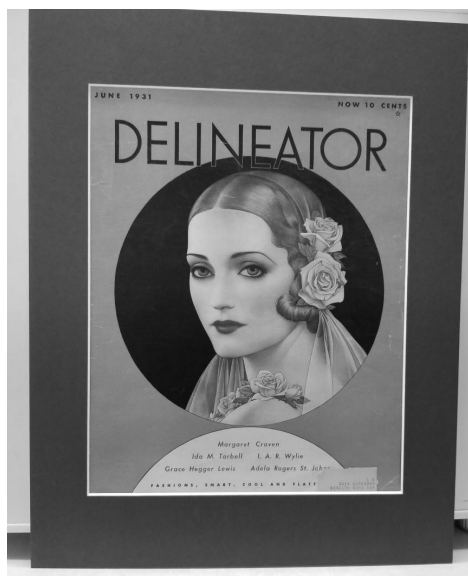
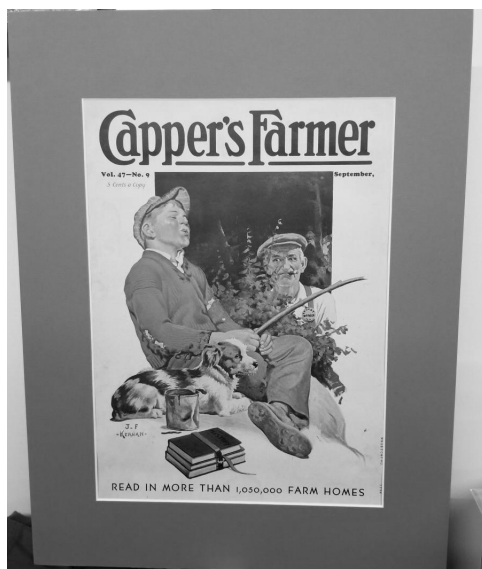
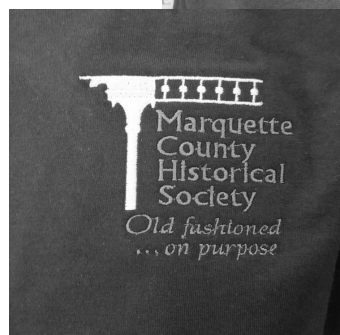


Neither had we until Dan Janke donated this bottle from the dairy as well as a history of the business that he researched. He wrote: Gustav and Augusta Janke moved from their farm west of Lawrence, near the end of what now is Eagle Avenue, to Westfield in 1919. Their new home was located at what is now 252 West Park Street. Elson, age 3 then, was the youngest of seven children. As a school boy, Elson got up at 4:30 every morning to help with the milking and to bottle and deliver the 80 quarts of Guernsey milk and cream throughout the village. He was also able to get his driver's license at the age of 14. The years of operation for the dairy were about 1919 to the late 1930s. Thanks, Dan, for sharing this with MCHS and Marquette County.

## In the MCHS Gift Shoppe.....

Don't forget to shop at the MCHS Gift Shoppe located in the museum building in Westfield. We've got quality T Shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. The logos are stitched on the front of the shirt. Shirts are \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members, but for \$25 you can get a shirt and a membership. A real bargain.

We also have a number of beautiful authentic vintage magazine covers that were professionally matted by Niki Russos-Harris of Montello. They come in a clear envelope and are a standard size, so buying a frame for them will be easy. The matting compliments the colors in the vintage cover design and some of them are seasonal. There are designs for children's rooms, your living room or office. They're just \$15 a piece and make a nice gift for you or someone you know.



The MCHS gift shop also has a number of historical collectibles for sale. We often get donations of items that are duplicates of items we already have in our collections. The curator keeps two of the best preserved items and, if appropriate based on rarity and value to the history of Marquette County, the board has decided to sell other duplicates. These are usually items like advertising pencils, calendars, etc. There are also some items from other counties. These make great gifts or to add to your own collection of Marquette County history.



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP or if you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please JOIN NOW. Membership is due November 1. Remember, Life Time membership is \$200 and you never pay again! Individual \$10 Family \$25 Sustaining \$25 Business \$50 (includes business card in newsletter for a year). We need your support.

Join today! The Marquette County Historical Society welcomes new members.

Members receive a the newsletter, discounts on gift shop items, and the pleasure of knowing you are preserving the wonderful, rich history of Marquette County.

The Marquette County Historical Society is a 501(c) Non-profit organization, founded in 1962  
 Marquette County Historical Society  
 125 Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 172  
 Westfield, Wisconsin 53964  
 (608) 296-4700 / e-mail: pnkruger@maqs.net  
 Www.marqcohistorical.org  
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Membership Application

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 Editor: Kathleen McGwin

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Make check payable to:

**Marquette County Historical Society**  
**125 Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 172**  
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**Memberships renew November 1 each year.**

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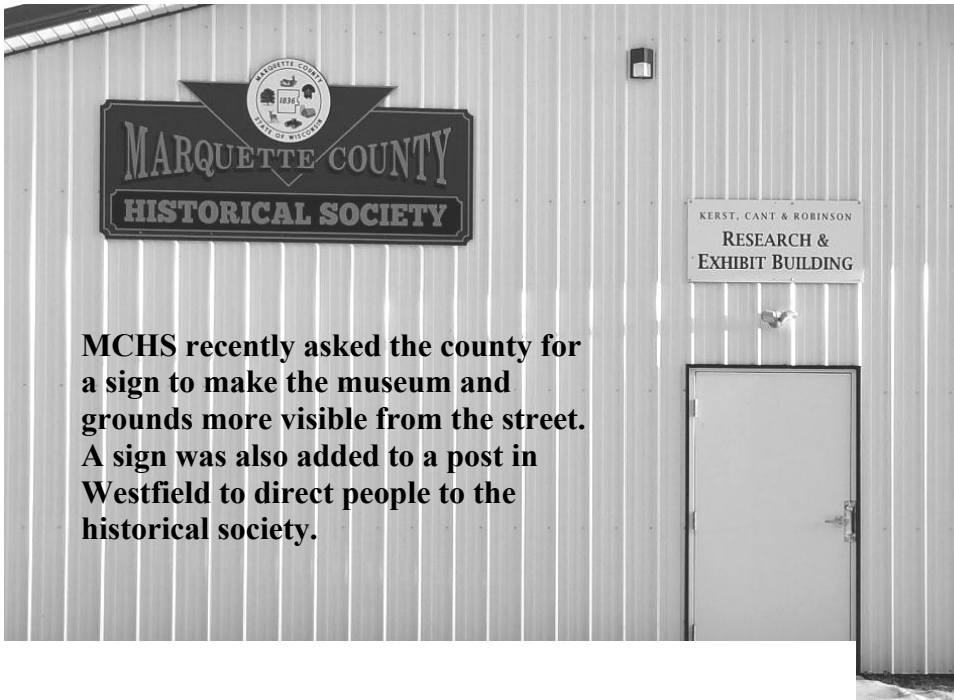
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**MCHS recently asked the county for a sign to make the museum and grounds more visible from the street. A sign was also added to a post in Westfield to direct people to the historical society.**

## **Quilt book and cemetery friends still alive and well**

Kathleen McGwin’s house fire set back the Cemetery Friends and second edition of the Marquette County quilt book, but work will resume on both early in 2018. Kathleen has all the quilt photos since she saved her backup drive from her computer, but lost all the paper copy folks filled out about the quilts. Watch the Marquette County Tribune for information about dates Kathleen will be available at the museum for those who brought quilts to be added to the book, to once again fill out information and identify the correct quilt. She apologizes for this double work.

Watch the paper also, for a date when the Friends of the Marquette County Cemeteries will begin meeting. It probably will be in February or March.

Thanks for you support.

Several other interpretive signs have also been added to MCHS buildings. One, on the left, gives the history of the Cochrane/Nelson house. People can learn about that, Riverside School and the railroad building even if the museum is not open. The interpretive signs are on the outside of the buildings.

Inside the railroad building are also new signs that give the history of the railroad in Marquette County. Those can be viewed when the doors of the old tool house are opened.

The signs were donated by a volunteer.



*Old fashioned  
...on purpose*

**W**elcome to the Cochrane Nelson house, the home of the Marquette County Historical Society. This house was built in 1903. It was built by T. Harry Cochrane who was the son of the man who first platted the Village of Westfield,

Robert Cochrane. Robert built a grist mill in 1853, one of two mills that formed the mill pond located behind this home.

T. Harry Cochrane and his family only lived in this house for three years. In 1906 Nels and Petrea Nelson bought it and the Nelson family lived here for 72 years until it became the Marquette County Historical Society Museum.

Nels’ and Petrea’s families moved to the US from Denmark. They met in Westfield and married in 1893. Nels owned and operated a grocery store and ice cream parlor on Main Street.

The house grounds once had an ice house, a fountain house, and a two story carriage house. Inside is a front hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, summer kitchen added to the back, bedroom with “cuddling room” for mothers to care for babies, and two large bedrooms upstairs, both with walk in closets, something that was very unusual for houses of this time. There’s also an attic under the eaves.

The “cuddling room” on the first floor was made into a bathroom by Mr. Nelson shortly after buying the home. It was the first indoor plumbing in Westfield. Water was pumped up into a tank in an upstairs closet that was released to flush the toilet and refill a hot water tank installed in the kitchen. It was cutting-edge technology at the time.