

# BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL, 2010

P.O. Box 336  
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI  
54202

baileysshs@hotmail.com

## INTERIM OFFICERS

**-Roy Cole**  
President  
**-Rozanna Gerdman**  
Vice-President  
**-Kristen Peil**  
Secretary  
**-Mary Moran**  
Treasurer

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Barbara Anschutz:**  
Town Board Liaison  
**Suzanne Bauldry**  
**Roy Cole**  
**Leann Despotes**  
**Rozanna Gerdman**  
**Steve Hey**  
**Lynn Mattke**  
**Kristen Peil**  
**Carol Schmidt**

## 2010 MEETINGS

TOWN HALL  
MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
7:00 PM



“Lost” Baileys Harbor  
Do you know “the who,  
what, where & when” of  
this building?  
(See page 5)

## SIX BUSY MONTHS

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society was organized in May, 2010. The society has sponsored several informative and enjoyable public programs that have been recorded as DVD’s and are available at the Baileys Harbor library. There has also been a lot going on behind the scenes.

Seed money has been obtained from the town board and through private donations. The Baileys Harbor Historical Society has been incorporated, written by-laws, and established a 3-year operating plan and budget. We have become affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Federal and state non-profit status has been established. We have also developed

criteria for future facilities needs. Special thanks to Roy Cole and Inga Bacon for helping with this work.

The Baileys Harbor Library has set aside 2 display cabinets for our use; they are located in the hallway to the left of the library door. Kristen Peil has created a series of historical displays there for all to enjoy.

One priority for BHHS is conducting a Historical Architectural Survey. We invited one of the state certified architects in this field to meet with us and tour our community. The architect has submitted a proposal for preparation of the Survey.

Yes, it has been a busy 6 months.

## BHHS MEMBERSHIP

The Society has established four classes of membership: Individual, \$15; Family, \$25; Business, \$50; and Lifetime, \$150. We currently have 55 memberships representing about 90 people: 23 individual, 21 family, 1 business and 9 lifetime memberships.

Many of our members have offered volunteer services of various kinds. As the organization grows, volunteer help will be critical. Volunteering historical information, documents and images will be key to our success.

An email and USPS communication system has been set up to provide members with newsletters, and other communications. A procedure has been put in place for publicizing our events through print media and radio. Thanks to Leann Despotes for managing membership and communication.

# HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society is undertaking a project to raise grant money and donations for the preparation of a *Historic Architectural Survey*. The survey and research will be done by a professional architectural historian who is certified by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The survey will be a valuable tool for us as well as the town government in implementing comprehensive planning as recommended in the Baileys Harbor SMART Growth Plan. When completed, the Survey will allow us to fund future projects in Baileys Harbor by applying for additional financial grants.

All in all, the Survey will give us official recognition of our Baileys Harbor historical and cultural heritage as embodied and reflected in historic structures and sites.

The survey will include:

1. Research on all properties potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Survey data including information about notable people, ethnic groups, businesses and industries.
3. Inventory cards and photographs for each structure with historic potential.
4. Electronic and bound copies of

the Survey for the Baileys Harbor Town government, Baileys Harbor Historical Society, Baileys Harbor library, and the State Historical Society.

The results of this Historic Architectural Survey will help to facilitate:

- A. The cultivation of civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of Baileys Harbor's history.
- B. Acquisition of state and federal grants.
- C. Publication of a Baileys Harbor town walking tour.
- D. Placement of markers or plaques identifying and describing historic structures and sites.
- E. The development of design guidelines to encourage historic restorations.
- F. The identification and protection of historic properties.
- G. The establishment of a local historic preservation ordinance.

In order to fund the above Survey, The Baileys Harbor Historical Society will conduct a 2011 campaign to cover the \$28,000 cost for the Survey and Walking Tour Brochure. We look forward to gaining your support

## OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2011

Officers of the Baileys Harbor Historical Society for 2011 were elected at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Leann Despotes will serve as president, Kristen Peil as vice-president/secretary, and Mary Moran as treasurer. All three have been active as members of the organizing committee, and are looking forward to future activities as the society grows.

## ORAL HISTORY: NELSON'S SHOPPING CENTER

On Wednesday, July 14, 2010, the Baileys Harbor Historical Society sponsored its second program of the summer, exploring one feature of Baileys Harbor history. This program employed an oral history interview format to relate the history of the growth and development of Nelson's Shopping Center during its first 65 years. Beginning in 1945, three generations of the Nelson family have owned and operated the Baileys Harbor landmark.

The oral history interview process, began with a series of

informal interviews between Gary Nelson and Steve Hey, allowing them to identify major themes and talking points. These points were organized into an interview outline which guided questions presented to Gary during the program. Gary responded to the questions with wonderful stories about his parents, Gordie and Phyllis Nelson, their family and the history of the Nelson Shopping Center as one of the anchors of the Baileys Harbor business district. Gary proved to be a masterful and entertaining storyteller who was enjoyed by all.



## TOOLS

BHHS has purchased an LCD projector so that images which illustrate presentations can be viewed easily by our audiences. We have also purchased a storage cabinet to safeguard this and other equipment we are acquiring. We are looking forward to purchasing an AV

cart, a computer, and a scanner/printer so that records can be properly entered and maintained in a central location. This will facilitate easy retrieval of records when needed. In addition, we are investigating archival storage methods, materials and means to catalogue

donations to the society.

## OUR FIRST EVENT

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Bill Tishler shared his research concerning the Frogtown Art Colony of Baileys Harbor, Door County's first art colony. His information certainly illustrated that as far back as the 1920's, world events had an impact - even in relatively isolated Baileys

Harbor. The students in the art colony were primarily World War I veterans, undergoing rehabilitation sponsored by a Federal program. Although not known to have been members of the art colony several Baileys Harbor boys did serve in Wisconsin Company F in the Great War.

## THE HISTORIC COLLECTION DEVELOPS

In addition to the donation of the historic information on Birdcage Lighthouse and the donation of the painting of Emma Toft mentioned in our first newsletter, the BHHS has received other items for our collection. These include:

- Here's to the Way We Were: A Pictorial View of the Past in Baileys Harbor, a booklet by Annie Peil, contributed by Chris Shorer.
- A History of Schmitz Gazebos by Karen Tews and a 45rpm recording by the Blarney group, titled "Sailing into Baileys Harbor", contributed by Karen Tews.
- Diane Peil Postcard Collection, donated by Suzanne Bauldry.
- A sign-in register from the first meeting of the Baileys Harbor Research Foundation, donated by Mary Ann Johnson.
- A collection of historical Baileys Harbor clippings and writings, donated by Mary Ann Johnson.
- A biography of Michael W. McArdle by Chris Shorer, donated by Chris Shorer.
- A register from the Baileys Harbor House donated anonymously.

Do you have pictures or other items that would illuminate the history of Baileys Harbor? If you do, please consider contributing them to BHHS. If you have photos, film or documents that you would like to share but not give up at this time, contact us about the possibility of our scanning them into a BHHS electronic format, allowing you to keep the original.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?  
DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PRESENTATION?  
PLEASE CONTACT US.**

## HISTORIC POSTCARD EVENT

“I felt like I was at a family reunion with everyone laughing and reminiscing” was the common response received after the September 16<sup>th</sup> ‘Historic Postcards of Baileys Harbor’ presentation. Over 60 people attended, including locals, seasonal and even a few tourists. Over one hundred postcards were digitized and presented on ‘the big screen’. The event began with a brief history of the postcard and focused on images of the downtown area dating from about 1900 through the 1970’s. Audience participation was encouraged and thoroughly enjoyed. An image from the 1970’s of Ridges Beach portraying a

woman in a bright yellow bikini with her family brought a loud gasp from an audience member. Carol Schmidt of Baileys Harbor identified the woman as herself and then went on to tell us the history behind the image! Someone then asked if Carol would autograph her copy of the postcard to the laughter of all.

With so many images and comments the program continued for two hours. The BHHS has 100’s more postcards, and a future show is in the works. The focus of the next program will be lodging and resorts; if you have any postcards or images of old Baileys Harbor resorts, please share them with us.

## LOST BAILEYS HARBOR PHOTOGRAPH

The lost Baileys Harbor photograph on page 1 is Otto and Lenora John’s Service Station. It was located on the site of the present marina. Built in 1948, it contained the Taste & Tattle Grill, a beer & liquor depot, and an auto repair shop that rented outboard motors, sharpened saws and lawn mowers, as well as selling gas. After many changes, it was razed for the building of the marina in 1999.

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN 1904!!

This gala group was celebrating Halloween in Baileys Harbor over 100 years ago. The picture might have been taken in Olga Olson’s studio (note backdrop), 8106 Highway 57. Can you identify any of the revelers? We have tentative names for about eight of the party people. Do you have a print of this photo? Did someone think to label it?? Look for a follow-up in the next newsletter.

