

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

P.O. Box 336
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI
54202

baileyshhs@hotmail.com

www.baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org

OFFICERS

-Leann Despotes
President
-Kristen Peil
Vice-President
-Mary Moran
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Suzanne Bauldry
Roy Cole
Leann Despotes
Steve Hey
Lynn Mattke
Mary Moran
Kristen Peil

Town Board Liaison
Roberta Thelen

2012 MEETINGS TOWN HALL

MAY 26th, 2PM
JUNE 7th, 7PM
JUNE 23rd, 2PM
JULY 18th, 7PM
AUGUST 21st
7:00 PM



Lost Baileys Harbor:

This Coast Guard facility used to occupy land near the end of Ridges Road.
See page 2.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Winter is a time of fewer public activities for the BHHS, but work continues. Kristen Peil continued to mount interesting and informative monthly displays outside the library. This year the BHHS participated in the BHCA Tree Lighting event, providing an opportunity for children to make old-fashioned Christmas ornaments. Photos and an article appear later in this newsletter.

We have been planning a fundraiser for the early fall, and hope that you will join and support us. The new technology is plugged in and hooked up in our downstairs space in the Town Hall, and we are planning to furnish the area to best support our activities and preserve and expand our collections.

The BHHS would like to thank the Town of Baileys Harbor for renewing financial support for 2012.

Events for the summer have been changed somewhat from our original plan. The tentative schedule is below for convenient reference.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for future events. Baileys Harbor families, recreation, or businesses are a few of the possible topics.

Leann Despotes

2012 EVENTS SCHEDULE

May 26, 2012- 2:00PM- General Meeting- Sharing Baileys Harbor Memories
June 7, 2012-7:00PM-General Meeting-Baileys Harbor Shipwrecks by Russell Leitz
June 23, 2012- 2:00 PM- General Meeting- 4th of July in Baileys Harbor Retrospective
July 18, 2012- 7:00 PM- (Annual Nominating Meeting)- Kangaroo Lake by Patty Williamson
August 21, 2012- 7:00 PM-The Ridges Sanctuary-a History

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Baileys Harbor Historical Society has 60 memberships that represent about 100 members. Renewal reminders are sent month by month as yearly memberships expire. Our membership levels are: Business \$50, Family \$25, Individual \$15, and Lifetime \$150. Membership dues help to support our continuing displays outside the McArdle Library, events and presentations, and our newsletters. Please encourage your friends, neighbors and family members to join the BHHS so they can enjoy sharing information and exploring the history of the community. A printable membership form can be found on our website <baileysharborhistoricalsociety.org>; just fill it out and mail it in.

LOST BAILEYS HARBOR

The lost Baileys Harbor landmark on page 1 was a Coast Guard Lifesaving Station located near the end of what is now called Ridges Road where it meets Harbor Lane. The photo is dated ca. 1912.

According to information from the U.S. Coast Guard History Program, it was built in 1895 and abandoned in 1948. Up to June, 1935, the station responded to 465 calls for assistance. Of these, the most spectacular call was the

rescue of 15 men from the stranded steamer *Philetus Sawyer* on October 27, 1916 of which part of the crew were badly injured and required medical attention. The keepers listed in this source are Peter Lavenger (1896-1915), Frederick Staal (1915-1934) and Arthur Anderson appointed officer in charge on September 7, 1934. Before it was named Ridges Road, the road leading to this location was commonly referred to as The Station Road.

ATTIC ARCHEOLOGY: OPEN SOME BOXES!

It seems like whenever I start looking for something in the attic, I wind up spending (wasting??) all sorts of time looking at family pictures, sorting through old 78RPM records, or wondering if it's finally time to get rid of the remains of a set of dishes my mother really liked. I'm drawn to the contents of trunks, drawers, and boxes that were packed decades ago. I suspect that other attics, cellars, garages, and barns could

be as fascinating to their owners as my Baileys Harbor attic is to me.

Since becoming active in the BHHS, I've decided to try to turn this little quirk into something worthwhile. Taking a second look at the detritus and ephemera accumulated over the years can give little snapshots of history and life in the past with just a bit of thought and research. An example can be found in the following article.

Leann Despotes

ADVERTISING COOKBOOKS GIVE FLAVOR TO AN ERA

Finding a pile of vintage, pamphlet-sized cookbooks in my Baileys Harbor attic inspired me to look for pictures that, if enlarged and framed, would give a retro look to the kitchen. These small books were given to homemakers, via grocery stores, to encourage the use of particular products; hence, they are referred to as Advertising Cookbooks. Indeed, one of these has Otto R. Voeks, a Baileys Harbor grocer's name, printed on the back.

The recipes were varied and sometimes surprising. I found that Jell-o, bananas, powdered milk, Knox gelatin, and Minute tapioca could be served at breakfast, lunch and dinner and used in relishes, salads, entrées or desserts. The Hershey Chocolate Co. (1920's) points out that a calorie is the unit measure of food value, and implies that 1 pound of milk chocolate has more "food value" than a pound of white bread + a dozen eggs. Anyone care for a nutritious chocolate sandwich?

The illustrations were also interesting. My cookbooks were printed from 1890-1945, and the illustrations reflected the technology of their time. The earliest had little or no illustration; those had color illustrations reproduced from paintings. Some dining, (often eating were beautifully Deco glassware and 1930's, this individual replaced by color to the introduction of Kodachrome (color) film in 1935.



from the 20's and 30's that were apparently original drawings or showed elegant people Jell-O). Place settings rendered including Art china. By the mid art disappeared, photos, probably due

Of course, I couldn't stop reading the cookbooks, and I noticed a profound need to establish authenticity and authority for the products and recipes. One way of doing this involved a scientific approach to healthy eating reflecting the Progressive Era (ca. 1900-1930) in America. An overarching idea of this era was transforming all knowledge so that it would be more scientific and modern. This was when Home Economics became an academic discipline, even receiving its own Dewey Decimal number. The Pillsbury (1929) recipes claimed to promote efficiency in the home and were developed under the direct supervision of the Pillsbury Laboratory. The Good Housekeeping "tested & approved" seal appeared in many books. Baking powder sellers gave dire warnings about the ingredients alum and ammonia in competing brands. Minute Tapioca (1929) emphasized that it was a "precision ingredient." Testimonials from home economists appeared frequently endorsing particular foods and brands.

Another way of seeking authority for these recipe books was to tie them to famous chefs. Recipes in a Corn Products book were endorsed by Chef Oscar of the Waldorf-Astoria. "From the Tropics to Your Table," is a book of banana recipes, all of which were tested and prepared by Camille Den Dooven, chef to Albert, King of the Belgians. Former White House chefs, including President Garfield's, give support to other booklets. Sometimes lists of endorsements from chefs of known restaurants are found at the end of the cookbook.

The economy also influenced the advertising. Two Jell-O recipe books differ in only one way. The 1930 cover shows a line of uniformed maids presenting elegant Jell-O molds described as quick, easy wonder dishes. The 1931 cover, printed as the Great Depression worsened, shows a lone, aproned housewife unmolding her Jell-O now described only as thrifty. The text in the booklets is identical.



Well, I never did manage to decide on any pictures for framing, but I may share some menus, household tips, and other informational tidbits discovered in this little treasure trove in a future newsletter.

Leann Despotos

JESSIE DEBOTH: OUR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Jessie DeBoth is commemorated in our BHHS display cases outside the McArdle Library. She grew up in DePere, Wisconsin, and graduated from Ripon College in 1915. She subsequently moved to Chicago and began a career as a celebrity chef. She wrote many cookbooks, authored a syndicated newspaper column, and hosted on-stage cooking schools in various cities that were sponsored by the newspapers. Similar cooking events were sponsored in many towns and small cities by product manufacturers, like Occidental Flour, and looking in newspapers of the time one can find many ads for such productions. DeBoth, however, seems to have been exceptionally celebrated.



Her productions included music, dramatic performances, and a fully equipped kitchen. She appeared, fashionably dressed, and provided cooking demonstrations, discussed nutrition, budgeting, interior design, and cleaning and laundry tips. She became so popular that her free programs eventually began charging admission in hope of cutting the overflow crowds. In the 1940's her activities expanded to a radio program based on her columns and homemaking classes. In the 1950's she had a television program called "Jessie's TV Notebook."

Jessie married a Sturgeon Bay man, Carl Dreutzer in 1954. He was a prominent attorney and was president of the Chicago Adventurer's Club. He shared his experiences as an explorer, a big game hunter, and more, as a lecturer for the Chautauqua Circuit.

Jessie and Carl spent much of their time at Jessie's summerhouse at 7797 Frogtown Road in Baileys Harbor. Carl passed away in 1958 after only four years of marriage. Jessie followed him a year later in 1959.

Jessie's legacy lives on through her numerous cookbooks, which reflect the times in which she lived. She was the author of a very modern idea - a celebrity chef/homemaker teaching modern methods instead of traditional skills taught by our

grandmothers. Her recipes and cleaning tips made the most of frugal Depression Era and World War II supplies, but her flamboyant, open and friendly personality brought charm to the drudgery of everyday chores.

The above information (and more) on Jessie DeBoth can be found at <http://doorcountylibrary.org/category/adult-blog/events>. Links to further interesting information on DeBoth appear at the end of that article.

PARTNERING WITH THE BHCA

The holidays are all about surprises! The Baileys Harbor Community Association (BHCA) was pleasantly surprised when the Baileys Harbor Historical Society (BHHS) offered to partner with them on their annual Christmas Tree Event. The BHHS provided all the materials and tools necessary to create old-fashioned Christmas ornaments. Paper chains, decorated pinecones, pipe cleaner creations, mini-trees, and paper snowflakes were just a few of the offerings. Multiple work areas were setup with all the ingredients needed to create the type of ornaments people 100 years ago would have used to decorate their trees. The results were nothing short of good old fashion fun, with glitter spread from one end of the auditorium to the other. Partnering with other groups makes putting on an event easier for all involved and can result in a gathering that appeals to a larger crowd and brings more activities to a broader audience. Some candid pictures are below.

Kristen Peil



Sophie Alexander



The Auditorium



Santa with
Theo Goode and
Giuseppe Mercier



Kristen Peil with Chloe
Alexander and Clair
Swanson

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINI-MUSEUM AKA DISPLAY CASES AT BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL

The Baileys Harbor Town Board (BHTB) has offered the Baileys Harbor Historical Society (BHHS) the opportunity to use 2 of its 5 display cases to showcase our archives, activities and artifacts. We have taken full advantage of this opportunity by having revolving displays year around.

Over the last 9 months we have featured historic images of the birdcage lighthouse, promotions for our summer series of public presentations, a history of the Boettcher Garage & Car Dealership, Clerks Corner, historic images of Baileys Harbor Halloween celebrants, a salute to Baileys Harbor veterans, images from the Baileys Harbor Community Association Christmas Tree Lighting event where the BHHS provided old time ornament making (see related article), historic plat maps of 1899 and 1999, and a sparkling collection of brooches for Valentine's Day . Currently displayed in honor of Woman's History Month (March) we are featuring research on Jessie Deboth, a forerunner to Julia Child. Below are a few images from recent displays.

We hope one day Baileys Harbor will have a museum, but until then the BHHS will share whatever they can squeeze into the display cases. If you have a historic collection or story you would like to share with the community let us know; we enjoy surprising the public with items, images and information that tell Baileys Harbor's history.

Kristen Peil



Baileys Harbor plat maps and a collection of sparkling, vintage brooches celebrate Valentine's Day



Our oldest picture (how old?) of Boettcher's garage and Ford dealership.



Jessie DeBoth at one of her very popular homemaking programs.



WE WANT YOU!

“We lose our past if we don’t preserve it.”

Come and share your memories of Baileys Harbor at an open-mike session at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 26th at 2:00PM.

**No memory is too insignificant to share
with your fellow Baileys Harborites.**

**Remember sledding down the school hill,
catching perch at Kangaroo Lake,
eating ice cream at Wasserbach’s ice cream parlor?**

**These memories will help the Baileys Harbor Historical Society
plan future programs and events.**

Refreshments will be served.

**Transportation will be provided if needed. Please call Susie Bauldry
(839-2674.)**

A special invitation is extended to all returning “snow birds.”

Lynn Mattke

FINAL FACTOID

In one of the Clerk’s Corner displays, this item, found in the Town Records from August 5, 1922 was showcased. The Town Clerk at the time was Henry H. Hinrichs.

“The Chairman also stated that the grasshopper was doing considerable damage again throughout the town and advised the buying of 500 lbs of arsenic which could be bought from the County Agent at nominally cost price and distribute the same at cost price to the farmer expecting that our merchant would handle the same free of charge, after a lengthy discussion he was authorized to purchase the 500 lbs. of Arsenic.”

It may cause one to wonder what has been spread on the land over the past century.