

# TIMELINES

## NEWSLETTER OF THE OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

Monday, February 3rd

Membership Update 7:00 - Presentation  
7:30

**Location: Cedarburg American Legion Post  
W57 N481 Hilbert Street, Cedarburg  
Free and open to the public.**

### Cedarburg's Lumber and Quarry Men

Presentation by local historian, Chris Lese, focusing on the city's founders who built downtown Cedarburg with timber and stone, buildings that have stood the test of time. The use of these materials gave our buildings their unique style and character. This talk will expand on these well known men and their construction businesses that were influential from the city's hopeful start to recent times. We will also see that beyond foundations, walls and elegant architectural designs, many of these men were committed to build a comfortable, family friendly community that lives on today.

Chris Lese is a Social Studies teacher at Marquette University High School and a Cedarburg resident. His articles on teaching and about his immersive student trips to Civil War sites have been published in a variety of education journals. Most recently, Chris and his students helped install the Cedarburg History Museum's "Wisconsin in the Civil War exhibit" and he gave a presentation on Currency in War.

Bill Wernicke and his family who owned and operated Cedarburg Lumber Company



## ***Greetings From the President:***

***Hello and Happy New Year!***

***With the cold weather upon us, it is hard to imagine that Spring is only two months away.***

***We have some pretty large projects planned for the village this year, including acoustic panels in the Village Hall to improve the sound quality and air conditioning in the kitchen to keep our volunteers cool during the Dog-Days of Summer.***

***Speaking of volunteers, we can always use more of them to work our events, to help with cleaning and gardening. In addition, we are looking for more board members and people who would like to join committees.***

***We welcome two new docents, Kathy Callaway and Karen Boedecker. Kathy is a retired teacher from the Texas, where she taught for 25 years including working with 4th and 5th graders. She moved back to Wisconsin to be near her family. Karen is a CPA, serves on the Grafton Library Board, and enjoys reading, traveling and history.***

***Mike Hecker will be joining us as Master Gardener and will be working with those volunteers who love to dig in the dirt. Mike is involved with the Falls Village and has created beautiful garden beds at the Davidson House. He is skilled in the knowledge of plantings, trees and bushes that are native to the area.***

***Please feel free to give me a call (1-262-377-4545 ) with any ideas or suggestions you may have.***

***We look forward to seeing you soon!***

***Mary Ann Velnetske - President***

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary Ann Velnetske, President  
Becky Miller, Secretary/Graphic Design  
Don Borgwardt, Treasurer  
Keri Eichner, Director  
Ashley Fullerton, Director  
Dan Paulus, Director  
Dick Liersch, Director

### **SUPPORT STAFF**

Jane Butz, Archivist  
Chris Fricke, Archivist  
Eugene Durben-Resident Blacksmith  
Michael Hecker-Master Gardener  
Allen Buchholz-Project Lead

### **TOUR GUIDES/DOCENTS**

Barbara Roob      Linda Ziebell  
Donna Smith      Karen Boedecker  
Kathy Calloway      Carol Curtis  
Carol Stephenson

### **CONTACTS**

Website-Mary Ann Velnetske  
Marketing-Becky Miller  
Videographer-Dick Liersch  
Social Media-Laura Bruederle  
Photographer-Mileana Burmesch  
Newsletter-Lindsey Harness  
School Tours-Mary Ann Velnetske

## WELL REMEMBERED-GUS "SANDY" WIRTH, JR



Gus Wirth passed away on December 1, 2024. A life-long resident of Cedarburg, was born on Center Street to Gustav and Hazel Wirth on September 28, 1937. As a young boy, he had a keen interest in technology and was futuristic far beyond his time. He attended Carroll University and founded Echo Communications. He was a public servant, serving 32 years on the County Board. He was also the president of the Wisconsin Counties Association, and on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

Gus and his wife, Doreen were Lifetime members of the Ozaukee County Historical Society and made many contributions, most notably to the Hazel Wirth Archives and Research Center.

### Donations October—December

#### General Donations:

Carol Hausmann  
Greg & Tomi Forbes  
Dorothy Boxhorn  
Dave Garacci & Nicole Sova  
Mark & Laurel Hornick  
Gary Feider

#### Specific Donations:

The Stilt House ~ Wagon Restoration  
Hepburn Bootstrap Foundation~Acoustic Panels  
Jack & Susan Hale~Acoustic Panels  
Edward & Silva Droppers Fund~Acoustic Panels  
Bill Malone~Log Cabin Project  
Debra Senn ~Pioneer Village  
Sandy Ingram~Interurban Depot  
Lisa Roemer~Archival Supplies  
Granger Insurance Gives~Stony Hill School

#### Artifact Donations:

Jim & Lorraine Stencil~Niesen Hotel bench  
Judy Schwengel~Dentist cabinets, tin candle molds, and other items.  
John Tiegs~Trunk and rocking chair

#### Memorial Donation:

Nina Look & Fred Derr-Gus Wirth

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND

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### 2025 Event Calendar

- OCHS Quarterly Meeting ~ February 3
- Easter Egg Hunt ~ April 19
- OCHS Quarterly Meeting ~ May 5
- WWII School Day and Encampment ~ May 16-17
- Flag Day ~ June 14
- Summer Solstice Date Night ~ June 21
- Fire Up the Forge ~ July 6
- OCHS Quarterly Meeting ~ August 4
- Bluegrass at the Village ~ August 10
- Planes, Trains and Automobiles~ September 6
- Autumn at the Village ~ October 11
- OCHS Quarterly Meeting ~ November 3

Watch for additional information about all these dates on our website:<https://www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us/> and on Facebook



### **BECOME A VOLUNTEER!**

Volunteers make OCHS a Success! Whether you are in school, working or retired, you can make new friends, learn a new skill and learn about history, too.

## **This & That**

### **Harold C. Dobberpuhl Memorial Scholarship Funds Available**

#### **Deadline for Applications- April 1st, 2025**

The scholarship fund was established in recognition of Harold C. Dobberpuhl's (1931-2002) many years of service to Ozaukee County, local communities and organizations. As a lifetime member, his support of the Ozaukee County Historical Society reached all aspects to include the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, Stony Hill School, the Ozaukee County Archives Research Center and Interurban Depot, to name just a few. His passion and commitment to preservation of the past, along with his legacy of public service, is remembered through the scholarship fund. (Application information can be found on our website.)

Each year a \$400 scholarship is available to a High School student in good academic standing who will be pursuing a degree in Public Administration, History, Historic Preservation, Graphic Arts or Photography.

**Please encourage those who meet this criteria, to apply!**

#### **Wish List:**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Menards Gift Cards</b>                  | <b>4. Costco Gift Cards</b>       |
| <b>2. Home Depot Gift Cards</b>               | <b>5. Office Depot Gift Cards</b> |
| <b>3. Blain's Farm &amp; Fleet Gift Cards</b> | <b>6. Amazon Gift Cards</b>       |

#### **IT IS TIME TO RENEW!**

**You won't want to miss a thing in 2025! OCHS is a real deal. For only \$25.00 a year, your membership benefits include: Free admission to Pioneer Village, 10% off gift shop merchandise, Free admission to event weekends, except Bluegrass at the Village which is only \$5.00. You keep up-to-date with our quarterly newsletter and are always invited to our quarterly meetings. Why wait? Renew Now!**

## The Winter of 1936

### By Mary Ann Velnetske

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It was February 1936. It was cold and a horrible blizzard was on its way. The severe blizzard struck February 5, that Monday evening and Tuesday morning totally paralyzed Ozaukee County. There was no way that the residents of our community could prepare for this. When the storm hit, all the roads were impassible by drifts that were 15-20 feet high! The interurban railway ran intermittently only after the plow could come through. The Milwaukee Road service was suspended after midnight. For instance, a passenger on Train No. 6 was to arrive in Cedarburg at 3:11PM. The train was released from the snowbank such that it didn't arrive until 12:00AM. No other trains were allowed to travel in either direction from Cedarburg to Milwaukee and vice versa. By morning the temperature was 20 degrees below zero.

Mail service stopped entirely in Cedarburg, Grafton, Saukville and Thiensville. Mail carrier, Henry Marquardt, said that he never experienced all roadways blockaded by snow like this! Trucks from Milwaukee came to Ozaukee County to help with snow removal. It got to the point that there was no room to pile up more snow.

Only seven days later, the County was again slammed by a second blizzard. They had not been able to clean up from the February 5th blizzard and the second blizzard hit harder than ever.

(Story continued on Pg. 7)

## The Winter of 1936

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This time, crews of 30-40 men accompanied the plows with shovels. The temperatures were again, dangerously cold. They could hand shovel for only a short time before risking frost bite. Before the day was over, 25 men totally gave up. Milk drivers and mail carriers made their best efforts to deliver, but would reach roads that were totally impassible. They were only able to cover about 20% of their routes. Private trucking firms attempted to help, but encountered the same difficulties. The rural communities suffered the most. Highway 57 was blocked a mile out of city limits. A quote from the Cedarburg News on Wednesday, February 12th said, "Not since the advent of the automobile have counties faced road conditions such as prevail this winter. Equipment is entirely inadequate, and Ozaukee County purchased on new plow and is anxiously awaiting another, and last reports had it side tracked in a freight yard." So even the additional plow that was purchased could not reach the areas most needed.

Thank goodness, Ozaukee County has not experienced these conditions in the last several decades. Winter will soon be over and we will be grateful for warm summer days.

Written from excerpts of the Cedarburg News 1936.

Ozaukee County Historical Society  
N57 W6406 Center Street -PO Box 206  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206  
www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us  
  
Hazel Wirth Archives Research Center  
262-377-4510

**~2025 Membership Application ~**

Membership ~ January 1 thru December 31, 2025

Sign me up! I'm ready to be a part of history!

Enclosed please find my:  Renewal  New Membership

Individual \$25  Husband/Wife/Family \$50 (incl children under 18)  
 Sustaining Individual \$50  Sustaining Family \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Email & Phone Number will never be shared!)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! Please contact me when you need volunteer help!

*I want to make a contribution to history. Enclosed please find my additional tax-deductible contribution specified for:*

- Hazel Wirth Archives Research Center
- Acquisitions & Collections Maintenance
- Stony Hill School Upkeep
- Ozaukee County Pioneer Village Upkeep
- General: Where Needed Most

- Interurban Depot Preservation Fund
- Memorial: In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_
- Celebration: In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsorship of an Event: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ozaukee County Historical Society  
N57 W6406 Center Street  
P.O. Box 206  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

