

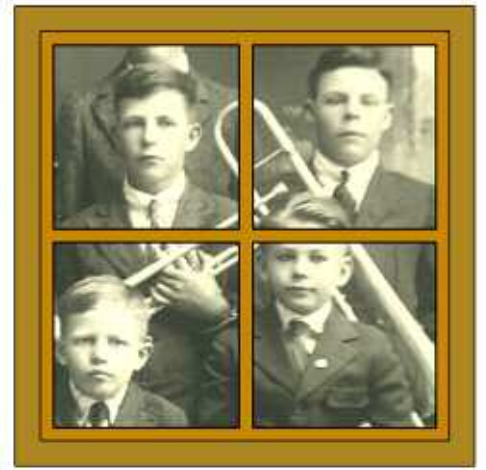
# The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume Two

Number Three

Summer 2009



MUS000011



*This photograph appeared in the 1924 and 1925 pamphlets. **Standing, from left:** Cecil Nelson, trombone; George Parks, trombone; De Ronda Maney (short boy), cornet; Allen Cleaves, alto saxophone; Lester Peterson, alto saxophone; Harold Aasen, clarinet; Lester Larson, soprano saxophone; Orin Taylor, clarinet; Arling Sorenson, tenor saxophone; Glen Knutson, piccolo and Orville Egner, Alto. **Seated:** Reynold Parks, cornet; Frederick Wipf, cornet; Carl Doxrude, bass drum; George Walrath, tuba; Norman "Jiggs" Sorenson, snare drum; and Charles Parks Director/manager.*

## Strike Up The Band

In 1921 Charles W. Parks organized a band made up entirely of school boys. Iola also had a Cornet Band which was organized in 1888, and a Children's Band for which Iola Historical Society has a photograph taken in 1931 or 1932. The Iola Boys Band must have consisted of

some excellent musicians because in at least four years they toured throughout Wisconsin.

The Iola Historical Society has in their archives three pamphlets, 1923, 1924 and 1925, that were dedicated to the tours of those years.

The 1923 pamphlet has two

advertisements. On the inside cover is an ad promoting Iola, and states; "The Iola Advancement Association invites you to visit The Biggest Little Town in Wisconsin." It goes on to say; "This is primarily a dairy and agricultural community, but the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Corner

# Our Society Over The Years

by Robert Strand

### Part Two

I want to apologize for not getting the Window out sooner, but with everything that has been going on and with the 4th of July and the Iola Old Car Show it has been pretty hectic. This last quarter (April, May and June) has gone by so fast.

April was pretty normal with a couple of Wednesday work days, hosting the Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post April meeting, and our general meeting.

In addition to our Saturday Open House, we had special tour groups visiting us in May. These included 75 visitors from the Nickle "A" Model A Auto Club from the Fox Valley, the Packer Region of the American Chevrolet Auto Club from Green Bay; the Local Cub Scout Troop 3631; the Upper Mississippi Valley Willys, Overland and Knight Registry (WOKR) toured our facility with about 40 members.

June was exceptionally busy. Our Wednesday work days were largely devoted to cleaning out the Iola and Northern train depot.

We were also open every Saturday and on the 13th we had the Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) as special guests. The parking lot was sealed and parking stripes were painted.

Sunday, June 28 was our busiest day when the 25th Annual Strawberry Fest took place. Whatzit Day, held in conjunction with the Fest and introduced last year, had collectable experts identifying and appraising items. We had a good

*(Continued on page 4)*

Several new members joined as we continued enhancing our property with additions and improvements. They included Reinhart Tschurwald, Andy and Alberta Anderson, Margaret Johnson, Bob and Elaine Crase, Aldo and Evelyn Danielson, Doris Dunn, Clifford Mishler, Gerald and Murnell Olson, Sharon Peterson, Mike and Chris Ross, Lila Wasrud, Russell Berkholtz and Laverne, Lillian Lovdahl, and Jerry and Flora Jerome. Without the help of these new members and the donation of labor and services by others such as Tony Hawke, Scott Bestul and Charlie Wasrud, we wouldn't have been able to keep up with all of the work and preparations necessary to keep the society growing.

Others who should be included in this listing of members for special recognition include Jan Gnacinski, who took on the editing of our railroad book, and her husband, Len, along with Gloria and Richard Briquet, and Betty Finch. We also owe much gratitude to Chet Krause and the Krause Foundation for donations of money and assistance on several projects, including the layout and pre-printing preparation and costs involved in the production of our 1978 historical study "A History of Iola."

In 1992 the society had the opportunity to purchase a small log cabin that was located in the Town

of Harrison. At the time it was owned by Mr. Hjalmer Gill, but has originally been built in the late 1800s by Andrew Hanson. We decided that it would make a nice addition to our museum complex. Members of the society, aided by Roger Olson, dismantled the cabin log by log, rebuilding it on the present location, after replacing rotted logs. This cabin houses several late 19th and early 20th century arti-



facts, including a trundle bed and other pieces of furniture from those times. It has a loft which in the old days was used as sleeping quarters for the children.

We had also pursued acquiring a local one-room school that we could move onto the property but found those that were available were either in extremely poor condition and not suitable for moving, or were unavailable. Therefore, we decided to build a replica of such a building, incorporating into it many of the features that were present in those days, styling it after the old Townsend School. This building was completed in 1996 and, since it is insulated with a modern heating system installed, it was generally used as our meeting place for the next ten years. Much of the site preparation for this building was done by Tony Hawke, with Frank Akey installing the cement block base and Charlie Wasrud and his crew doing the building.

*To be continued*

**The Iola Historical Society**  
210 Depot Street • P.O. Box 412 • Iola, WI 54945

#### Officers:

Lyle Mork, President  
Stella Strand, Vice-President  
Tom Fucik, Treasurer

#### Board of Directors

Cliff Mishler, Robert Stamsted, Doug Watson  
e-mail address: iolahistoricalociety@tds.net  
Phone: (715) 445-IOLA (4652)

MUS000012



*This Iola Boys Band photograph was taken about 1926. **Standing from left to right:** Carl Doxrude, Norman (Jiggs) Sorenson, Orville Egner, DeRonda Maney, George Parks, Cecil Nelson, Glen Knutson, Lester Larson, Arling Sorenson, and George Walrath. **Seated:** Reynold Parks, Fred Wipf, Charles Park, Harold Aasen, Orin Taylor. Allen Cleaves and Lester Larson who are shown in photograph MUS000011 are not included in this photograph*

## STRIKE UP THE BAND

*Continued from page 1*

Village of Iola offer many advantages to the small manufacturer.”

On the inside back cover is the advertisement; “Iola Opera House and East Side Park Pavilion”. In regards to the Iola Opera House it is stated; “Our projection is perfect and we show only the best and latest productions released.” In regards to the Pavilion, which was a dance hall and was also used for basketball, roller skating and other functions,” the ad continues; “Just a Word to Those who May be Interested— The East Side Park Pavilion is recognized by the public to be one of the best conducted places of its kind in the state. No roughness or disorder of any kind allowed. The best of music and a wonderful floor. F. E. Maney, Owner and Manager.” F. E. Maney built the East Side Park Pavilion on a 49 acre tract that was later acquired by the Iola American Legion Post. Fred Maney also ran the Iola Opera House and showed movies, along with live stage plays and minstrel shows.

On another page is the following statement “The purpose of this pamphlet is that the sale of the same may help defray expenses.”

In the 1923 pamphlet the prior

year’s tour is referenced, “Vacation Tour to Hancock Lake in August, 1922.” Also in the 1923 pamphlet it shows that year’s itinerary as being “Eagle River via Rosholt, Elderon, Wittenberg, Birnamwood, Aniwa, Antigo, Crandon, Argonne and Three Lakes.” They returned “via Rhinelander, Tomahawk, Merrill, Wausau, Stevens Point, Amherst Jct. and Nelsonville.” It is not known how many days they toured,

but if the band played in all places named they had to be very busy with little time for leisure. Emlin Leean is listed as playing the cornet but he doesn’t appear in photographs MUS000011, MUS000012 nor MUS000022. Leean graduated in 1923 and is not listed after 1923.

The 1924 pamphlet shows the band’s itinerary as touring 44 different northern Wisconsin cities and resorts. The advertising on the inside front and back covers features The Advancement Association again, along with the Iola Fish and Game Protective Association. The Iola Fish and Game Protective Association ad states; “Being situated near the divide of waters we are fortunate in having pure spring water in the lakes and streams. Every stream contains trout and each lake game fish of some sort. Look us up at Junction of State Trunk Lines No. 49 and No. 161.” In this pamphlet, a photograph of the band and another of the bus used to transport it are added.

In 1925 the pamphlet indicates the band toured from July 19 to August 1, and once again toured northern Wisconsin cities, towns and resorts, but does not list any specific places. The pamphlet is smaller and carries no advertising.

*(Continued on page 4)*

MUS000024



*It is unknown when this photograph of the Iola Boys Band was taken. **Seated:** Lester Larson, clarinet; unidentified, director; De Ronda Maney, cornet; and Palmer Kjendalen, cornet. **Second Row:** unidentified, clarinet; Norman “Jiggs” Sorenson, snare drum; Harold Aasen, clarinet; Reynold Parks, cornet; and George Parks, trombone. **Back Row:** Orin Taylor, clarinet; Morten Tackman, violin; and George Walrath, tuba.*



Top photo is of the first bus used to transport the band on their tours. This is the bus illustrated in the pamphlets held by IHS. There appear to be side curtains which could be lowered in case of inclement weather. The second bus (lower photo) was built on a newer vehicle chassis. Both busses were lettered "Iola Boys Band."

### STRIKE UP THE BAND Continued from page 3

However the same two photographs appear in this pamphlet as appeared in the one of 1924. Eli Block and Lawrence Lind, listed as members in 1925 pamphlet, are not identified in any of the photographs. De Ronda Maney, Lester Peterson, Arling Sorenson and Norman "Jiggs" Sorenson are not listed as

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER Continued from page 2

turnout and from the feedback everyone enjoyed the food and the strawberry short cake. Those attending were able to observe "Lost Arts" artisans do rosemaling, rug weaving, candle dipping, and wood carving. There was also a quilt display. It was a day of food and leisure and the weather was great.

Then on Friday, July 3, about 15

members in the 1925 pamphlet.

When the photograph (MUS000011) was printed in the *Iola Herald* in the mid-1900s, it was accompanied by the following caption: "The famed Iola Boy's Band in picture taken around 1921 at Parks studio."

A photograph (MUS000024) the society recently received includes a lady who was probably the band director but whose identity is unknown. This is the first time we have seen the band members dressed in suits. After studying this photograph, and comparing the members that are in the other photographs, they look younger in this photograph, so it appears it may have been taken before Parks directed the band.

The Iola Historical Society is not certain as to how many years the Iola Boys Band performed.

If anyone has any information concerning the identities of those pictured in any of the photographs

members of the class of 1959, who were in Iola for their 50th anniversary reunion, visited us.

Last year we had about 500 people visit our Historic Village and compound, this year we have had nearly that amount of traffic already, and we still have 11 more Saturdays to be open. So if you can help, please sign up and do your share. Remember this is your Iola Historical Society.

Lyle Mork

or any other information about the Iola Bands, they are urged to contact the Iola Historical Society



Photo submitted by *Iola Herald*

David Johnson (right) receives the first prize consisting of a two night stay for four at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells he won in the Iola Historical Society Strawberry Fest Raffle from Lyle Mork, President of IHS.

### Strawberry Fest Winners

A list of raffle winners is available by sending an SASE to the Iola Historical Society, P.O. Box 412, Iola, WI 54945

## Events Schedule

### Saturday, July 18, 25

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Open House at Iola Historical Society

### Monday, July 27

7:00 pm IHS Board Meeting, 210 Depot Street

### Saturday, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Open House at Iola Historical Society

### Monday, August 31

7:00 pm IHS General Meeting, 210 Depot Street

### Saturday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Open House at Iola Historical Society

### Monday, September 28

7:00 pm IHS Board Meeting, 210 Depot Street

## Donors & Loaners

April • May • June

**DONATIONS:** Russell "Andy" Anderson, Harry Becker, Harold Buchholz, Martha Cook, Barbara Cullum, Dennis Bickford, LolaMay Dalland, Eugene Engebretson, Rex and Leona Evchuk, Betty Finch, Trey Foerster, Susie Freistedt, Morgan Huglen, Neil Kachur, Alyce Kolden, Eugene Knutson, Chet Krause, Dave LaStofka, Martin Langdok Estate, Myrtle Larson, Don Loken, Jeff Louison, Lyle Mork, Roger Nassen, Lee Nelson, Ila Olson, Roger Olson, Chester Pedersen, Janet Peterson, Gary Richards, Eugene Russell, Sheveland-Taylor Post 14-American Legion, George Severson, Bob Strand, LaVern Trinrud, Diane Trost, Dean Tuomi, Eugene Voie, Ken Wall, Diana Waller. **CASH DONATIONS and PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:** Phyllis Beyer, Iola Lions Club, Journal Community Publishing Group, Roger Peterson, Eugene Voie, Charlie Wasrud. **STRAWBERRY FEST and WHATZIT DAY DONATIONS** Discount on two night stay for four persons: Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Donations: Blackberry Ridge Massage, Cady's Corner Bar, Community Insurance, Crystal Cafe, Edgewater Bar & Grill, Faldet Farms, Irene Maloy-Haroldson, David & Kay Holz, Iola Automotive, Iola Old Car Show, Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce, Iola Vintage Military Show, Journal Community Publishing Group, Main Street BP, The Millstone, Mary Jo Patton, Sharon Peterson, Silver Lake Lanes, Subway Sandwiches, Toning Zone.

Our Historical Village and other buildings have become an attraction the public wants to visit. I am hoping more of our members will help out as docents the remaining Saturdays of our 2009 season and for any other special tours we have. It is frustrating when only one or two members show up and have to spend the entire day, sometimes all by themselves. Thanks to those who help out for a half day, your help is certainly appreciated but need to get more people involved. In reality we should have one person in each of the buildings as docents. We may have a lot of traffic on one Saturday and the next Saturday could be a slow day, but we do need to be prepared for when the traffic is great. We have seen increased visitor traffic as a whole.