

# The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume Three

Number One

Winter 2010



*Taken at Hogsback Ski Hill in 1952, the members are standing alongside of the club's blue and white ski bus, probably as they were getting ready to go to a tournament out of town. Left to right are, Leo Haroldson, Tom Hoyord, Marlyn 'Jake' Jacobson, Don Wilhelm, Duane 'Buddy' Louison, Bob Olson, Alton 'Hank' Solberg, Albert Grenlie, Julian Leer, Allen Morey, Ronnie Tschurwald, Unidentified, Julian Jenson, Jesse 'Chuck' Louison, Leonard Haroldson, Claire Forseth, Terry Oligney, Joey Gjertson, Dennis Smith, Jim Helgeson, Lloyd 'Mick' Tschurwald, Ole J. Aasen, and Arnold Helgeson.*

## Iola Ski Hill / School House Ski Hill

On Tuesday, January 11, 1910, a group of businessmen from Iola got together to create a ski club. Little did they know that night that 100 years later successor ski jumping tournaments would still be held.

On January 11, 1910 a group of ski enthusiasts met for the purpose of organizing a club to be known as the Iola Ski Club, and for building of a slide to be erected on the hill just west of the high school.

The election of officers took place, which resulted as follows:  
President - Oscar Wrolstad,

Permanent Clerk - H. C. Cleaves,  
Treasure - G. L. Gunderson. A committee of three consisting of C. L. Mead, Oscar Wrolstad and H. C. Cleaves, was appointed to draw up by-laws for the club.

The first Iola Ski Hill was built just west of the original school houses on W. Iola Street in the area of the current Iola Fire Station. This location was later referred to as School House Ski Hill. On January 30, 1910, the first ski tournament was held in Iola, it also being the first held in Waupaca County. A special train was run from Waupaca to Iola, with over 1,000 spectators witnessing the event.

## Iola Ski Hill/ Slaughter House Ski Hill

The Iola Ski Club built its second scaffold in December, 1910, designating it the Iola Ski Hill; it was located on the east side of Iola. Later a slaughter house was built there, so it became known as the Slaughter House Ski Hill. This ski hill was located where the Glacier

*(Continued on page 3)*

## In The Window

Dennis Smith and Allen Morey ski jumped for the Iola Winter Sports Club in the 1950s

---

## President's Corner

---

I and the entire membership of the Iola Historical Society would like to thank everyone that contributed to the society during 2009. There were one hundred and thirty separate donations of artifacts during the year; some were repeat donors, some donated one item, and others donated over a hundred items at a time. Some of the items donated were from the early 1900s, others from 1960s and later; it's all part of the history of Iola and each donation is important in maintaining the history of Iola.

If you are looking at throwing out old items and/or photographs, keep the Iola Historical Society in mind. I've had many people tell me, I didn't think the historical society would want those old photographs or other items and threw them in the trash. Keep the Iola Historical Society in mind when cleaning out those dresser drawers and attics.

We also want to thank those who made cash and in-kind donations. With the general operating expenses increasing and special projects funding requirements, cash donations are always welcome. One of the main projects I would like to see is raising money for material for display cases, so we can place more of our holdings on display. One of the major displays we need to work on is the wonderful violin collection donated in 2009 by Maynard Stromberg.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

*Lyle*



*Left to Right: Stella Strand and Lila Aanstad are ready to begin serving strawberry shortcake, along with other mouth watering goodies, at one of the Society's Strawberry Festivals.*

## Our Society Over The Years

by Robert Strand

As I hope I have made quite obvious, all of the growth of our Iola Historical Society didn't just happen. It happened as a result of a lot of work and planning on the part of the membership.

Willing officers participated in regular and special meetings as necessary, and work sessions were also very frequent. We needed member volunteers to mow the lawn and do frequent cleanup of the property, except during the winter season.

We also needed members to volunteer for the sorting and labeling of all of the individual items acquired and placing them on display. And, we needed willing members to be available to serve as visitor docents, to greet visitors and answer their questions. During off-

times of the year they also did research on much of the early history of Iola and the surrounding area.

In regards to taking care of the lawn mowing and cleanup in the earlier years, George Aanstad, Jerry Jerome and I handled such duties much of the time. As the years rolled by we had quite a lot of help from Bob Crase, Aldo Danielson, Mike and Chris Ross, Andy Anderson and Clifford Mishler.

Much of the repair and maintenance was quite often done by the same group, with Andy Anderson being the chief electrician. Gloria Briquet and Murnell Olson were on the job almost every Wednesday for years sorting and organizing displays, with the assistance of Stella Strand, Lila Aanstad, the Crases and others.

In recent years newer members Howard and Kathy Bestul, Roger and Eugene Voie, and Lyle Mork assumed responsibilities for many of the service and repair tasks.

In August of every year, commencing in 1985, an annual Strawberry Festival fundraising event has been held, with strawberry shortcake, ice cream and lemonade and other beverages being

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

**Officers:**

Lyle Mork, President  
Stella Strand, Vice-President  
Kathleen Lehman, Secretary  
Tom Fucik, Treasurer

**Board of Directors**

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

*(Continued on page 4)*



1956 Iola Winter Sports Club members from left to right: Duane Olson, Tom Hoyord, Joey Gjertson, Leonard Haroldson, Allen Morey, Tom Hoyard, Judy Oligney, Jim Helgeson.

## 100 YEARS OF SKI JUMPING

*Continued from page 1*

Wood Golf Course is now located. The old slaughter house still stands today and is used for storage. The ski hill was noted as one of the biggest and best slides in this part of the state at that time. The first ski tournament was held by the Iola Ski Club at this slide on Sunday, January 15, 1911.

### **Knutson Ski Hill**

Construction of the Knutson Ski Hill was completed prior to the tournament held there on February 18, 1913. In addition to the ski jumping competition they also held a cross country run. In December of 1913 the Iola Ski Club worked on the scaffold, building it twenty feet higher. Knutson Ski Hill was recognized by skiers as one of the best hills in the United States. At the 1915 tournaments longer jumps were made at Knutson Ski Hill than at the National Tournament held at Duluth, Minnesota.

### **Hogsback Ski Hill**

After eighteen years without a local ski hill, a group of skiing fans got together and built a new scaffold

in 1938. This ski scaffold was built on Wipf property just at the north edge of Iola and was named after the hill it was built on, Hogs Back, the name being conjoined to Hogsback. This was fourth ski hill built by the ski club.

On Sunday afternoon, February 27, 1938 the first ski tournament was held at the new hill. Twenty-nine skiers competed at Hogsback Ski Hill at the first tournament, with Milton Aasen placing first in Class B.

On March 7th, two weeks after the ski tournament and winter carnival, a group of men held a meeting and reorganized the club, naming it the Iola Winter Sports Club.

### **Norseman Ski Hill**

With the purchase of the clubs first property a dream began to emerge. This dream would grow over the years and would exceed everything ever done by the club in the past. After two long years of hard work, mostly donated labor, the Iola Winter Sports Club had a new scaffold and held its first sanctioned tournament since 1955 on Sunday, February 22, 1959, a Senior Ski Tournament. It drew a large

crowd of approximately 2,000 people, showing the sport of ski jumping was still popular in the area.

Another Senior Tournament was held in 1960. Also during this time a larger scaffold was being erected.

Over the years the club erected additional scaffolds and they now have a total of five scaffolds, a 5 meter, 10 meter, 20 meter, 40 meter and 60 meter. The 60 meter ski hill in 1996 replaced the 35 meter hill built back in 1961. Later plastic matting was installed on some of the hills, allowing ski jumping to continue through the summer months.

The Badger State Games Ski Jumping Championships are held in Iola on Saturday during the Winter Carnival. The USSA Junior Ski Tournament is held on Sunday of the same weekend. Many other activities also take place during the Winter Carnival such as Norwegian Lutefisk Supper, ice sculpture contest, fishing contest, crowning of the Snow Queen, Nordic Ski Races and fund raising raffle.

Today, the Norseman Hill complex includes cross country skiing trails, with a total of seven miles of trail, part of which are lighted. The club has a Youth Ski League for teaching skiing and ski jumping to youngsters, a cross country ski team, and other activities. They have a team of volunteers who have helped youngsters become championship skiers.

### **Three Honored at Christmas Party**

The Iola Historical Society showed its appreciation to Martha Cook, Chris Williams and Chet Krause at its annual Christmas Party held at The Millstone on December 21.

Martha Cook received the "Docent of the Year" award for her

help when the Historical Village was open from May through September, and for special tour groups. Martha is always willing to help at the annual Strawberry Fest and Whatzit Day held in June, and Wednesday work days and any time help is needed.

Chris Williams, Office Manager at Krause Auto Collection was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" recognition, even though she is not a member of the Iola Historical Society. Chris was very deserving of the award because of all the assistance she provides the society. Chris prints our quarterly newsletter "WINDOW", images for displays, meeting notices, mailing labels and much more. The society also presented her with a \$25.00 gift certificate as a token of our appreciation.

Chet Krause was awarded an "Honorary Lifetime Membership" for everything he has done for the society over the years. Chet has always been a financial factor in helping the society. In 1996 the IHS acquired the Helvetia Town Hall, subsequently moving it to our Historical Village. This was made possible because of Chet. He was also a major contributor to the construction of the replica of the 1900 Iola Fire House. He donated two of Iola's old fire engines to be displayed in the fire house.

In 2008 Chet gifted the property at 210 Depot Street, previously occupied by John Lashua, and 222 Depot Street, previously occupied by Tony Hawke, to the Iola Historical Society.

## Events Schedule

(All meetings are held at 210 Depot St.)

### Monday, January 25

7:00 pm Special General Meeting

### Saturday, February 6

1:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Display Booth.

Lutefisk Super at I-S High School,

### Sunday, February 7

Noon. **Dedication of Iola Winter Sports Club Historical Marker**  
Norseman Ski Hill

### Monday, February 22

7:00 pm General Meeting

### Monday, March 29

7:00 pm Board Meeting



*Society president Lyle Mork (right) is shown thanking Greg Loescher for his contribution towards the Iola Historical Marker project.*

### Historical Marker to Recognize Iola Winter Sports Club's 100 Years of Ski Jumping

The Iola Historical Society will honor the Iola Winter Sports Club on Sunday, February 7, at 12:00 noon at Norseman Ski Hill when a historical marker will be dedicated recognizing 100 years of ski jumping in Iola and the origins of the Iola Winter Sports Club. This is the first in a series of "Historic Iola" markers the Iola Historical Society is planning to place in and around Iola.

The Iola Historical Society wishes to thank Greg Loescher for his donation of \$2,500.00 to start this program. Anyone interested in helping with this project can make donations to the Iola Historical Society designated for the "Iola Historical Marker" project.

### SOCIETY'S HISTORY

*Continued from page 2*

served. While this has not been a huge money maker, it has become a tradition that draws more attendance nearly every year. In 2008 the

date of the event was switched to the fourth Sunday of June. Another feature was added to the event in 2008, it being a "Whatz It?" invitation to the general public to bring along antiques, collectibles and historical items for appraisal in return for a small donation.

As the society has grown, the monetary aspects of its operation, including not only dues receipts and donations, but also payments for services and property purchases, it eventually became necessary to keep more than a monthly handwritten statement of accounts.

With the bookkeeping being moved onto computers, as Chris Ross knew more about computer operating than the rest of us, she handled this conversion for the most part, becoming our treasurer in more recent years.

*(To be continued)*

### Membership Dues for 2010

An executive meeting was held at the IHS office on Saturday, December 19, to review the 2010 budget and after making a few changes the budget was approved. New membership rates were discussed and voted on by board members. Dues recommended for 2010 are; Individual members \$15 (renewals for 2010 remain at \$10), Family membership (two or more in same household) \$25, Supporting Members \$50, Business Partners \$100, Lifetime members \$200.

The above will be discussed and voted on at the January meeting of the General Membership.

### Donors & Loaners

October, November, December

**DONATIONS:** Richard and Crystal Anderson, Howard and Kathy Bestul, Colin Bruce II, Don and Ann Church, Evelyn Olson-Danielson, Mr. & Mrs. L. Davis, Gene Hooker, John Hauke, Howard Inderdahl, Iola Public Library, Iola-Scandinavia High School, Don & Janice Jensen, Reuben Jenson, Leland Johnson, Mark Johnson, Ruth Lien, Greg Loescher, William Lund, Mary Lutz, Clifford and Sally Mishler, Allen Morey, Judy Morey, Patty Mork, Dennis Sorenson, Strand, Stella, Bernice Strauch, Maynard Stromberg, Eugene Voie, Steve Voie.

**CASH DONATIONS/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:** Kenny Bottolph, Joel Edler, Fischer R. H. Overhead Door, LLC, Iola-Scandinavia High School Community Service Class, Ken Koch, Scandi Auto Repair, Gregory Loescher, Clifford and Sally Mishler.

*Please let us know if we missed anyone. We apologize for any oversights.*