



The Union

**Prairie du Chien Historical Society Newsletter
November 2019 Volume 22 #4**

Events to Come

Nov. 30th Saturday “Santa Shop Small”

The Gift Shop will be open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Bring out of town family and friends to the museum for unique gifts and historical books. New for Christmas are ornaments and specialty soaps made exclusively for Fort Crawford. Also, the museum buildings will be open for touring with the purchase of a ticket. Stop in and sign up for the holiday book drawing. The title of the book is *Catlin’s Letter and Notes on the North American Indians*. George Catlin was one of the greatest American artists of the 19th century. The book is filled with 400 illustrations along with his observations of Native Americans he encountered during his travels between 1832-1839.

Dec. 7th Saturday “The 13th Annual Holiday Cookie & Candy Sale”

The Holiday Cookie and Candy sale is from 9:30am to 12:30pm or until all goodies are sold. **Please, bring your own container!** The Christmas trees will be lit for the first time at noon to begin the “Christmas at the Fort” Event. Sponsor a tree for \$50.00. **Form on page 3. The museum will also be open from 9 until 4.** This is the last day to sign up for the drawing.

Jan. 9, 2020 Thursday “Annual Dinner Meeting”

The PdC Historical Society will host its annual dinner meeting at Huckleberry’s Banquet Hall on Thursday, January 9th. It will start with a social gathering at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 followed by a business meeting and an excellent presentation by Scott Boylen. See **page 4** for additional information and the RSVP form.

Gift Certificates

The gift shop now offers gift certificates. Perfect for stocking stuffers!

Board of Directors

President

Mary Antoine

Vice President

Chad Fradette

Secretary

Janet Finn

Treasurer

Lori Bekkum

Joe Atkins

Bill Howe

John Mundt

Carolyn Sand

Terry Seeley

Cindy Standorf

Bob Ziel

Staff

Administrative Manager

Friday Wiles

Interpreters

Barb Rink

Jodi Russell

Donia Russell

Buildings and Grounds

Gene Bouzek

Standing Committees

Collections

Education

Exhibit

Finance

Membership

Contact Information

Fort Crawford Museum

717 S. Beaumont Road

PO Box 298

Prairie du Chien, WI

53821

608 326-6960

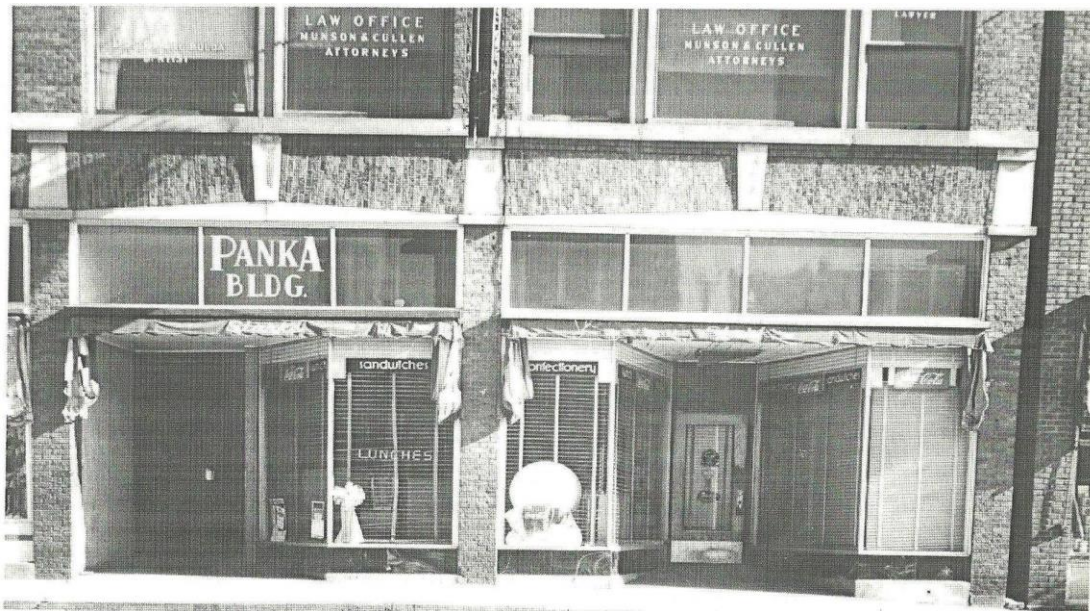
ftcrawmu@mhtc.net

Kathy Koch

kathygarykoch@gmail.com

Stark's Sport Shop—Celebrating 75 Years—Congratulations!

On September 14th Stark's Sport Shop celebrated its 75 year anniversary of doing business in Prairie du Chien. Today the business is run by brothers Ron and Randy Stark, and Randy's wife Deidre, and his son, Alex. They took over the reins when their father, Dick retired. Ron and Randy's grandfather, Frank Stark opened a sweet shop in 1937. The first location was on South Wacouta Avenue where ice cream, malts, soda and other sweet treats were sold. In 1940 the business was moved to the Panka Building at 205 E. Blackhawk Avenue. The PdC Historical Society just so happens to have a picture of that. In the 1940's Gordon Peckham photographed various businesses in Prairie du Chien. The Sweet Shop was included in that promotional series of pictures. Today, Panka's Shoe Store occupies the space.



Written on the back of the photo is Stark's Sweet Shop

Before building his own place in 1955 at 119 W. Blackhawk Avenue Frank's business moved to 106 W. Blackhawk Avenue currently Sutton Insurance. And at that location it was known as Stark's Sport Shop. Frank was an outdoorsman who loved the river. He put what he loved into a business--a sport shop. Stark's is a well known fixture in our downtown. Best wishes for 75 more years!

Next door to Stark's Sweet Shop in the Panka building was the Bohanek Meat Market and Bakery. The Local Oven is there today. The building was built in 1919—one hundred years old!

The building looks very different today but it still remains standing. May this building see another 100 years.





Christmas at the Fort

Christmas trees will deck the porches of the Fort for the holiday season. **They need sponsors!** For \$50.00 a family, an individual, an organization, a business or a group of fun-loving people can have the opportunity to be creative and spread some holiday cheer. The trees will be up and ready for decorating on December 2nd. We ask that trees be completed by December 6th. Call Janet Finn for more information at 326-6010.

-----**Sponsorship Form**-----

Fort Crawford Museum Christmas Trees 2019

Name/Business/Organization _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Trees _____ x 50.00 = \$ _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to: Janet Finn 724 S. Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

The trees are purchased from the Prairie du Chien Fire Department. They are delivered to the museum around Thanksgiving time. Ted and Janet Finn are in charge of setting them up on the porches of the hospital. They are always looking for willing people to help with this. Contact the Finns (326-6010) and volunteer your help! The Christmas trees will be set up and have lights on them by December 2nd. Between the December 2 and December 6 is decorating time. The name of the sponsor(s) will be prominently displayed below the tree. The trees will be officially lit on Saturday, December 7th. This coincides with the Holiday **Cookie and Candy Sale** and the start of **Christmas at the Fort** event. The uniquely decorated Christmas trees are festive to behold anytime, but the lighted trees at night are magical!

The trees stay up and lit until January 1, 2020. Please retrieve your decorations by January 9th so the Finns and crew can have them ready for the City Christmas tree pick up.

It is a nice event—why not join the celebration!

**Annual Dinner Meeting
Prairie du Chien Historical Society
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Huckleberry's Banquet Hall**

5:30 Social Gathering
6:00 Dinner
6:40 Business Meeting
7:00 Program

Scott Boylen Photographer

Scott grew up in Prairie du Chien and has enjoyed photography for more than 30 years. He has a passion for capturing the artistry of nature in the Driftless Region and helping others to realize the beauty around us from a different perspective.

The Evening's Dinner

Salad Greens with Raspberry Vinaigrette
Smoked Pork Chops
Garlic Parmesan Red Potatoes
Grilled Veggies
Assorted Rolls
Coffee or Milk

Price per person: \$20.00

Please mail completed reservation form and cost of ticket(s) to:

Prairie du Chien Historical Society
P.O. Box 298
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
(608) 326-6960
Reservations due by January 3, 2020

Name(s) _____

Number attending _____

Phone number _____

Amount enclosed _____

Pillar Project Support Outstanding

The pillar project is scheduled for completion by November 15, 2019. Architectural Restorations of LaCrosse has been doing the restoration work. Only five pillars are removed at a time for repair work. Fifteen of the pillars will be repaired in LaCrosse and the remaining ten will be repaired on site. Elite Painting has been contracted to paint the pillars and other wooden areas of the hospital. Volunteers have refurbished and stained the wooden floors of the porch. Completion of the project will be the construction of a new handicap accessible ramp.

The following people and groups have donated money to "Support the Fort".

Sharon & Dick Martin

Dr. Kurt Jorgensen

Prairie Pulverizing, Inc.

Dr. David DeHart

Dr. Wanda DuCharme

Fred & Barb Grelle

Amy Grelle

Robert & Cindy Standorf

Mayo Foundation



Temporary pillars in place along west side of hospital

Bernice Satter Rongstad Family in memory of O.E. Satter

Crossing Rivers Health Care in honor of the Medical Staff Past & Present

Marilu Bintz in memory Dr. Mike Garrity

Krus Howe, Jaxon & Dane Thomas Driscoll-Howe dedicated to William Howe

Mattie Rademacher in memory of Dr. Roger C. Rademacher

Roy C. & Vicki George in memory of Faith & Lloyd Rickleff

Rob Bryson in memory of Kathryn Slaght

Diana Temte in memory of Eric Temte

Deidre & Randy Stark/Good Moment Charitable Foundation

Richard & John M. Dyrud in memory of Marty Dyrud

Robert & Barbara Barr, Michelle Newhouse dedicated to Dr. Jesse Milton Mecum

George Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Ron, Andrew & Afton Stark in memory of Richard & Janice Stark

Randall & Karen Baszynski in memory of Lorraine and Leo Hanson

Janet & Ted Finn in recognition of Dr. Mike & Linda McKeever

Daughters of the American Revolution

Drs. Mark & Ann Grunwald in memory of Dr. Mike Garrity

20th Century Study Club in honor of the dedicated Nurses in our area.

THANK YOU