

What's Going On!

A Newsletter to Members

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison 6, Wisconsin

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November 1949

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

This has been a busy month, a month of spadework as we stack the hay against the clapboards and prepare to dig in for the winter. The director alone has been on nine trips around the state good for 13 days, Mrs. Ryan has been out working on the junior program four times, Miss Drews has been on four trips promoting publication sales and giving speeches, and other members have been out three times. The 1950 Calendar has appeared, slightly reduced in size to meet the new postal rates, but with the best pictures and reproduction yet, with excellent geographical coverage in shots from all over the state. Initial sales are encouraging. It again is priced at only \$1.00, with the profits going into the research and publications fund. It is an excellent Christmas gift for individuals or firms. The five colored-cartoon film strips on Wisconsin history have been delivered by the manufacturer, and by the time this is in your hands the accompanying Teachers Guide will be off the press and the whole set ready for distribution. The annual conference of weekly newspaper editors, October 7-8, brought many friends into our town and our building. The lobby ceiling, flooded by a burst pipe last month, finally fell and has been replaced. Specifications for the renovation of our ventilating system, for which the last legislature made appropriation, have been received and bids are due from the contractors November 17. The museum loaned for window display a mannequin and nurse's costume of World War I in connection with the Madison Community Chest Drive. Four of our committees met during the month: the Executive committee, Oct. 6; the Villa Louis committee, Oct. 6; the committee on Society-University Affairs, Oct. 14; and the committee on Public Records, Sept. 30. The latter, acting on 13 requests, approved the destruction of 2,501 cubic feet and ordered the retention of 500 cubic feet of non-current state records.

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SWISS BOOKS

The Swiss-American Historical Society took over our first floor corridor for a display of modern Swiss printing and binding, October 13 to 27. Accompanied by travel posters and wall mural photographs of Swiss scenes, the display was both attractive and interesting. Sponsored jointly by the Swiss-American Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin General Library, and the Society, the exhibit opened to a special preview for persons of Swiss descent the evening of October 12. Some 80 people attended, including the Swiss Consul at Chicago, Dr. W. Schilling, his assistant, Mr. Getz, and Mr. Emil Schaefer, Madison, president of the Swiss-American Historical Society.

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ARCHIVISTS COMING

The recent Quebec convention of the Society of American Archivists accepted our invitation, conveyed through Mr. Boell, to hold their 1950 meeting in Madison as our guests. The exact dates of this meeting will be announced later.

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HOWARD
OHM

The State lost a faithful and invaluable servant and the Society a good friend with the untimely passing of Howard Ohm, long head of the Legislative Reference Library. His services to the state were in the high tradition of his predecessors, Dr. Charles McCarthy and Dr. Edwin E. Witte. His influence on legislation will probably never be accurately assessed, for it was by gentle suggestion to individual legislators on proposed bills to be drafted by his department, by his ability to draw effectively through a phenomenal memory on the accumulated experience of his years of service with succeeding legislatures that his influence was effected. Of this there will be but little written record except in the occasional memoirs and tributes of his legislative contemporaries. His passing leaves a gap it will be hard to fill in state service and impossible to fill in the ranks of his friends and family.

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MINNESOTA
SOCIETY
CENTENNIAL

Our sister state historical society the other side of the Mississippi and the St. Croix observed the centennial of its establishment on October 20 with a full day of intellectual celebration. A morning meeting of delegates from the county societies, now for the first time in history organized in each of the 87 counties of the state of Minnesota, was on the eve of a fruitful and provocative discussion when the lunch hour arrived. The luncheon talks, the afternoon open house at the Society's building with the formal unveiling at an autograph party of Dean Elegen's latest book on Minnesota history, and the four-hour dinner session, sparked by an extraordinarily effective toastmaster, Pierce Butler, and featuring various awards including some for work in the Society's membership drive which has brought their total membership to 2,600, and by the remarks of a popular governor who obviously was thoroughly sold, in practice as well as words, on the value of the Society's work, completed a happy and rather inspiring day. The Lords, house guests of Director and Mrs. Cater, Miss Smith and Miss Appel, guests of members of the Minnesota society's staff with whom they once served, Dr. Glover and Mr. Jenkins represented our society.

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ECHOES OF
SHILOH

A recent request from the National Park Service for the gift of a cannon captured by the 14th Wisconsin Volunteers at the Battle of Shiloh to serve as the Wisconsin Memorial at the site of the Battle of Pittsburgh Landing precipitated an interesting expedition by Mr. Sivesind. The cannon, which the National Park Service claims is the only authentic surviving captured Confederate cannon from this battle, was finally located in very dilapidated condition near the trailer camp in Camp Randall at Madison. Its label clearly authenticates it as the cannon in question. Now the question is, will Wisconsin part with it for the memorial in question?

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McCORMICK
REAPERS

The Society has acquired on indefinite loan from the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry six beautiful scale models showing different stages in the development of the harvester. Done on a scale of approximately one inch to a foot, the models are complete with horses, drivers, and hay! Each model is operable in every detail and represent the years 1831, 1847, 1883, and 1893 (with Appleby twine-knotter which had first been used in 1881). They will shortly be installed in proper cases in the museum and opened to public view. They are a unique and splendid addition to our materials on the agricultural history of this area. One of them was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition. The entire group was displayed at the outdoor exhibit of International Harvester in Chicago two years ago.

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OUR
AMAZING
JUNIORS

The junior historians are running off with the show once again. As of October 31 we have 12,222 junior members in 660 chapters in 63 counties. Two years ago we reached those figures the latter part of February; last year in early January. At the moment Grant county is leading with 102 chapters and 958 members, although Winnebago county, with 77 chapters has 1,563 members. A significant development, attributable to Curator Shannon and Dr. Westenberg of the Green Bay Catholic Diocese, is the enrollment of 2,185 junior members in the parochial schools of that diocese. The work of the juniors in Minnesota, where the junior magazine now bears a striking resemblance to Badger History, was featured at the Minnesota society's centennial meeting last month, and notice of the annual meeting of the Michigan society brings notice of a constitutional amendment to permit the organization of a junior program there as well.

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TOURISTS
and
HISTORY

The attraction of historic sites and restorations for the tourist trade has been one of the interesting phenomena particularly of the past two decades. The Society for at least a quarter century has been interested in marking historic sites, and more recently in working with the Conservation department on the acquisition and restoration of historic buildings. A meeting in LaCrosse October 12, sponsored by the Wisconsin Tourist Bureau, promised more attention to historic sites in southwestern Wisconsin as bona fide and effective tourist attractions. Your director has long held that joint advertising of Wisconsin's historic buildings in public and quasi-public ownership would help them all. Now it looks as though in the southwest something of the sort might be done.

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NATIVE
MEXICAN
CULTURES

Some of our readers will be interested in the announcement that the San Jacinto Museum of History Association, San Jacinto Monument, (Houston), Texas, is undertaking the distribution in the United States on an exchange basis of Tlalocan, a quarterly journal of source materials on the native cultures of Mexico published by La Casa de Tlaloc, Azcapotzalco, Mexico, D. F. Distribution will begin with Vol. 3, No. 1. Institutions interested in receiving this quarterly on an exchange basis should write the San Jacinto Museum, Houston, Texas - Dorothy W. Knepper, director.

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C.L.L.

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VISITORS
OF THE
MONTH

Among our visitors during October were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Duncan of Los Angeles. Duncan, a prominent novelist, is the author of Gus the Great, the Literary Guild selection for September, 1947, and is now at work on another novel with an upper Mississippi setting. Another distinguished novelist visitor of the month was Samuel Hopkins Adams, who is forming the happy habit of annual sessions with our collections. Adams is a fellow of the New York State Historical Association. His most recent book is Plunder, published in 1948. Other visitors included Prof. and Mrs. Charles Roll, Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute; Leland L. Sage, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls; Stith Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School, and Oscar O. Winther, professor of American history, Indiana University, Bloomington.

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OCTOBER
SPEECHES

During October members of the staff again were active on our own little chautauqua. Chronologically their engagements follow:

3	Cambridge Priscilla Club	Mr. Sivesind
	Richland Center Kiwanis	Dr. Lord
4	Burlington Historical Society	Dr. Lord
	Madison Evan. Lutheran Guild	Miss Krueger
10	Beaver Dam Rotary	Dr. Lord
17	Winneconne Community Schools	Mrs. Ryan
	Black Earth Univ. Ext. classes	Mrs. Ryan
18	Milwaukee Imm. Presbyterian Guild	Miss Drews
20	Kenosha Historical Society	Miss Drews
25	Shawano PTA	Mrs. Ryan
27	Eau Claire Kiwanis	Dr. Lord

November dates are the following:

4	Missouri Historical Society	Dr. Lord
7	Mt. Horeb Rotary	Dr. Glover
8	Madison Alpha Phi Alumnae	Miss Drews
	Fond du Lac Kiwanis	Dr. Lord
9	Whitehall schools	Dr. Glover
10	Wis. Fed. Woman's Clubs (Wausau)	Dr. Lord
	Janesville Home and School Assoc.	Mrs. Ryan
15	Wis. Soc. Mayflower Descendants (at Milwaukee)	Dr. Lord

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HISTORICAL
FLIGHT

The nation's first "historical flight" on Sunday, October 16, sponsored by the State Historical Society and the Wisconsin Civil Air Corps, was successful by "quality rather than quantity". Though a beautiful day, somewhat windy with ground fog in the southeast which lifted early, only 33 airplanes flew into Nicolet Airport, DePere, and some 74 people participated in the flight, some of that number driving in from nearby points to act as observers rather than as flight participants. We learned, too late, that the duck-hunting season and the Packer football game in Milwaukee both demanded more attention than did a group flight at the end of the summer season. Those people who did participate in the flight, however, were loud in their praises of the venture and most vehemently stated their interest in more of the same for the 1950 season. So - we are planning four for 1950, with the first to be held on a May Sunday. Each of the four will take personal pilots to different regions of the state to view historic sites in that locality, and the tours will be co-sponsored by the State Historical Society and the State Aeronautics Commission. We have every reason to believe that we can expect many more airplanes to join the 1950 flights. Join us on the 1950 "HFs". We know you'll enjoy them - even if you drive in!

Though we believe we have thanked everyone whose help was so valuable to us, it may be we have neglected some, so for the sake of the record here is a big thank you to all of the following: Carl Guell of the State Aeronautics Commission, Jay Lison of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, our conscientious curator Harold T. I. Shannon of Green Bay, Dan Sprang of the H. C. Prange Company, Green Bay, who printed the very attractive flight programs for us as a gesture of good will, the Green Bay Press-Gazette and the Green Bay radio stations, Henry Bredael and Helen Holzer of the Brown County chapter of the WCAC and all their able and willing assistants, Boyd and Ruth Miller, operators of Nicolet Airport, the Green Bay Police Department, the local

restaurants who expedited our luncheon arrangements so well, the committees and custodians of Tank Cottage and the Cotton House, "Duke" Hanold of the PureOil Company who provided identification cards, trip logs, and navigational aids as souvenirs to flight participants, and the many members of the Brown County Historical Society and the State Historical Society who offered their automobiles, with drivers, for the tour of the area's historic sites as well as transportation to town from the airport. Though special church services proved not too appealing, we think it was due to the novelty of such arrangements, and to the Rev. Robert A. Boettcher of the Brown Co. Ministerial Society and the Rev. Father Robert Cornel, O. Praem., of St. Norbert College go our thanks for the arrangements they made for us. The entire committee for the day consisted of Jay Lison, Carl Guell, Henry Bredael, Helen Holzer, Mrs. Charles Hine, Harold T. I. Shannon, Joseph Horner Jr., W. W. Horner, Rev. Boettcher, the Rev. Father Cornel, and your writer.

The historic sites visited in the two-hour tour after luncheon included "The Spirit of the Northwest", the Neville Public Museum, the site of the home of the DeLanglades, the site of Wisconsin's first bank, the site of the earliest church and cemetery, the site of Astor House, "Hazelwood", Christ Church, the Green Bay Packer's stadium, the Beaumont Hotel and site of the Sac Massacre, "Wisconsin Under Three Flags", Fort Howard Hospital and Surgeon's Quarters, the Roi-Portier-Tank Cottage (which we inspected), the site of St. Francis Xavier Mission, the site of "Shantytown", and "Wisconsin's American Home"; the Cotton House (which we also went through). We have a few extra copies of the itinerary describing these sites which you may have for the asking.

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LIBRARY Mr. A. E. Hatch, supervisor of assessments, Fond du Lac, recently
ACCESSIONS presented the Society with used directories from his office as follows:

Fond du Lac (1946), Manitowoc (1947), Neenah-Menasha (1937, 1946), Sheboygan (1945), Sturgeon Bay (1940, 1944), Brown county (1937-38, 1941, 1943), Columbia county (1940-41), Dodge-Jefferson county (1939-40), Door county (1940), Fond du Lac county (1938-39, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1943, 1945), Outagamie county (1941-42), Ozaukee county (1923-24), Rock county (1931), Walworth county (1940-41), Washington county (no date), and Winnebago county (1937-38, 1939-40, 1943-44).

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MUSEUM A recent gift from Mrs. William Middleton includes a portrait of Elisha
ACCESSIONS Burdick, Madison pioneer, who, it is said, "bought Madison from Doty", a gravyboat and ladle, and a square bowl. The gravyboat and bowl were made by the J & W Ridgeway potteries around 1814-1829. These are of the "Beauties of America" series; the bowl pictures Mt. Vernon, and the gravyboat features a picture of the State House, Boston.

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MINNESOTA Just recently brought to our attention is the May 29 edition of the
MILLERS Minneapolis Sunday Tribune which tells the story in a feature section of the famous Pillsbury family of Minneapolis who this year observed their 80th year in flour milling and in the food and feed industries. The section is called "The Story of a Family - the Minnesota Millers" and is interesting reading.

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MEMBERSHIP Current membership figures show a total count of 3,410 as of October 31. We have picked up 18 new annual members and four new sustaining members since October 1, and we have lost seven members during the month. New annual members include Dr. Roland F. Schoen, Beaver Dam; Orlando M. Skindrud, Clinton; Fred A. Stare, Columbus; Mrs. Irene L. Riley and S. L. Hagen, Eau Claire; the Rev. E. J. Westenberger, Green Bay; Harold J. Newton, Kenosha; Mrs. Joseph C. Gamroth, Madison; Convent of the Sorrowful Mother, Milwaukee; Mrs. Winsome Nyre, Mondovi; the Rev. Hubert J. Kleiber, New Franken; J. M. Quail, Richland Center; A. W. Neuses, Sheboygan; E. J. Koelzer, Wauwatosa; the Right Rev. S. M. Killeen, O. Praem., West DePere; and Robert F. Fries, Chicago, Mrs. Z. H. Beers, Elmhurst, Ill., and Mrs. Therese San Souci, Woonsocket, R. I.

New sustaining members include the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation, Kenosha; the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee; the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Milwaukee; and the West Bend Aluminum Company, West Bend.

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LOOKAROUND CEREMONY At a special ceremony at Keshena on the Menominee Indian reservation Sunday, October 9, a bust and plaque of Angus F. Lookaround, famous Menominee musician and athlete, were unveiled. W. C. McKern, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum, was to have made the dedication speech but was unable to be present and his paper was read by Earl Wright, director of the Neville Public Museum at Green Bay. Mrs. Angus F. Lookaround (Phoebe Jewell Nichols) accepted the bust which had been made by Adolph Seebach, Milwaukee museum sculptor, on behalf of the Menominee Indian people.

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SCHUT! Hollandtown's centennial "Schut" (shooting) was held under the auspices of St. Francis Society in that village on Sunday, October 16. "King of the Schut" was LeRoy Tennessen, who with the 1,122nd shot, using a standard army Springfield rifle, brought down the last remnant of the wooden bird which was the target for the day. Ninety-eight persons, including two women, participated in the "schut", and all manner of firearms were used in the fray from light .22 calibre rifles to high-powered pieces equipped with telescopic sights.

The Hollandtown "schut" was inaugurated in Wisconsin in 1849 one year after the village had been settled by people from Holland, and it was patterned after the "schuts" or fall festivals celebrated in Holland during which event the people of the community who had prospered from the harvest shared their goods with those who had not fared so well. This festival was started in Holland 578 years ago. The main event of the day, after an early morning mass, is the "schut" proper wherein a large, tough, (made of knotty elm) bird is mounted on the end of an 80-foot pole. Every man in the community is allowed to take a shot at the bird, one at a time, until the one who succeeds in shooting away the last fragment of it is acknowledged "king of the schut". The first shot is usually fired by the pastor of the parish, and it generally takes from 500 to 700 shots to bring a bird down.

The 1949 Hollandtown "schut" hit a new high in shots for never before had more than a thousand shots been required to demolish the bird. Special prizes awaited Mr. Tennessen, and prizes were also awarded to the persons who brought down the head, wings, and tail of the bird. The day's festivities, after the "schut" included a bountiful noon meal and a social afternoon.

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BIBLE A very old Bible was on display at the Central Lutheran church in Stoughton on October 30. One of the Nuremberg edition of Martin Luther Bibles, this particular book was printed in Germany in 1708, and brought to Wisconsin in 1851 after having been handed down through one family for more than 200 years. It is still in the same family, now being owned by the Rev. Walter H. Nordby, a descendant of the original owner. It is a large book - 18 inches long by 12 inches wide by six inches thick, and weighs 25 pounds. Bound in pigskin, it has 2,000 pages, and 1,200 wood block illustrations as well as many maps and marginal notations by Martin Luther. It is printed in German script.

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CHURCH CENTENNIAL The Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin celebrated its centennial on Sunday, October 9, on the campus of Northwestern College at Watertown. Organized at Granville in 1849 with five pastors, 18 congregations, and a membership of almost 1,000, the synod today has 883 congregations, 297,922 members, 697 pastors and professors, 402 teachers, and 200 missionaries in Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY To the Reverend George F. Dilling of Lowell township in Fond du Lac county go belated birthday greetings. On October 4 he observed his 101st birthday, and attributes his longevity to total abstinence from tobacco and alcohol, and to "the grace of God and good doctors".

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LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES Our monthly report of the doings of our good friends and affiliates, the state's local historical societies, starts off with a resumé of a meeting held in Oshkosh on October 29, sponsored by the Oshkosh Public Museum, and conducted by J. E. Lundstedt, to discuss the regional confederation of local historical groups for the purpose of searching out and cataloguing historical materials to simplify the research tasks of students of history. On the program were Dr. W. H. Glover of the state Society, E. A. Clemans; Otto Heller, Harvey Leaman, Postmaster Kiley of Fond du Lac, and junior historians from Oshkosh and Delhi.

The Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society held its monthly meeting October 21 and Albert Kracht and Ada Mansfield were guest speakers.

The Fond du Lac County Historical Society, at its meeting October 17, heard Mrs. Julius E. Richter speak on old glass and china, and Mrs. Charles Platz discuss period costumes. Both speakers illustrated their talks with exhibits of interesting materials.

The Kenosha County Historical Society met October 20 at the American Legion clubhouse for its Autumn Dinner. Speaker of the evening was Dora Drews of the state Society who discussed "Wisconsin Women in History".

The Burlington Historical Society, playing host to the Kenosha group, met October 4 to hear Dr. Clifford Lord, state Society director, speak.

The annual meeting of the Milton Historical Society was held on October 20 and officers for the coming year were elected as follows: president, Mrs. Arthur Drake; vice president, Mrs. Carr Marquart; secretary, Ada Grandall; treasurer, Mrs. Carroll Hill; custodian, Fay Coon; and director for four years, O. T. Babcock. Plans for the Antique Show, profits from which are to be used to help restore the Old Milton House, on October 26, were discussed. A fashion showing of old costumes was a feature of the Show. It was directed by Mrs. M. D. Davis, with descriptions of the costumes narrated by Mrs. Elston Shaw, and musical background provided by Mrs. Nina Summers.

The Milwaukee County Historical Society announces its officers and directors for the coming year. They are: president, Frederic Heath; vice president, Fred Olson; secretary, Mrs. Oscar Muenzer; treasurer, Fred W. Friend; and directors, Leroy Stellar, Dr. E. J. Calloway, and Louise Riebs.

The new officer slate for the Racine County Historical Society includes as president Guilbert L. Piper; vice president and historian, Mrs. George Colbo; Vice presidents, Emil Wiegand and Edith McEachern; secretary, Mrs. Frank A. Hall; and treasurer, Mrs. Hannah Smith.

The October 28 meeting of the Whitewater Historical Society featured a reading of the autobiography of her greatgrandfather by Mrs. Ellsworth Coe, and the exhibit of articles for the society's future museum.

Mrs. Hamilton Bolstad was general chairman for the dinner meeting of the Vernon County Historical Society on October 19 at DeSoto. The Rev. Anton Stury spoke on "Our Wisconsin".

The newly organized and lively St. Croix County Historical Society met on October 30 at the home of Mrs. George Thompson in Hudson, and heard Josephine Lutz Rollins, Stillwater, Minnesota, artist speak on a display of 25 water colors of historic houses she had painted. Willis Miller, Hudson, is in charge of the vigorous membership drive presently being conducted by the society. New officers for the 1949-1951 term include Edward P. Rock, president; N. E. Erickson, vice president; and Willis H. Miller, secretary-treasurer.

Officers of the Green County Historical Society, recently reactivated after years of inactivity, include Marshall L. Peterson, president; Mrs. May L. Luchsinger, vice president; Clara Zumbrunnen, secretary; and J. J. Figi, treasurer. Mrs. Ralph Bridge is membership chairman. A report was given on the public acceptance of and interest shown in the carriage house on Idle Hour Farm at Monroe which has been open Sundays from 2:30 to 4:30 through the generosity of Mrs. Luchsinger who presented the carriage house to the society for use as a museum, at the October meeting.

The Rock County Historical Society, with more than 700 members, has recently elected officers for next year. These include as president, John W. Gross, Janesville; vice president, George Sweeney, Edgerton; recording secretary, Mrs. Thomas E. Peterson, Janesville; and as directors (3 years) Dr. Rachel Salisbury, Milton, and Mrs. J. K. Porter, Evansville; (2 years) Mrs. Lewis G. Ehrlinger, Janesville, and Mrs. B. E. Thoen, Orfordville; and (1 year) Rev. Louis Poppe, Emerald Grove, and Mrs. Arthur Harris, Lima township. The fourth tour of the season sponsored by the society took place on October 9 and started from Shopiere, included Turtle Township, and wound up at historic sites in Beloit. This society, organized but a little over a year ago, is now the largest local group in the state, and its record for the year includes monthly society meetings, 11 board meetings, three special meetings, and two joint meetings with township historians. There are 18 of these and they have special duties and meet, under separate organization, to trade historical information. The society is leasing from the city the historic Tallman home which was presented to Janesville by Mr. and Mrs. George C. Tallman and will operate it as the Lincoln-Tallman museum. Mrs. Louis Avery is acquisition and restoration chairman for the museum, Fred Jungblut is building supervisor, and Ralph Buell will be museum curator.

***Please, local societies, send news of your activities directly to us so we may take note of them in What's Going On! Our only source of information presently, except in a few cases, are newspaper clippings, frequently erroneous, and word-of-mouth reports.

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