

New Glarus Historical Society

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President's Report By Larry Klassy

Hello all members of the Swiss Historical Village & Museum. We had a very eventful July. We had a group of international priests visit for the second year, which was very interesting. We had a group from Muskego that spent a whole day in town. The highlight of the month was the dedication of the Glarus murals in the Hall of History. Thanks to Jackie Judd for spearheading the project, and to Jackie and Jarryd Lowder for their great work. We encourage everyone to come and see the murals. We also received several sizable donations last month. Thank you.

Just for Fun

This photo appeared in the November 10, 1946 edition of the *Wisconsin State Journal*, alongside an article about Ernest Thierstein, owner of the Four Corners Tavern. Ernest's dog, Fido, was a local celebrity. This clever pup helped bus tables, removing empty beer bottles and depositing them back in their crates. He would also fetch candy bars for customers, deliver their change, and help lock up at night.

The men in the photo are identified as John Marty, Henry B. Hefty, Casper Zentner, and J. Henry Zentner.

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Erica Loeffelholz, Newsletter Editor

New Glarus 'Retriever' Scores on 'Empties'



Treasures from the Archives: Bauernmalerei



This dedication page was found in a prayer book gifted to Dietrich Freitag (1834-1900) by his aunt, Regula Schneider, in 1839.

The colorful flowers and swirling lines are typical of a type of folk art popular in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland known as Bauernmalerei. The time and attention to small details that goes into creating a piece of art like this are no small matter, which truly makes this a gift of love.

It's also extraordinary that after 185 years, the inks used are still so colorful and vibrant. This little piece of New Glarus' history truly is a treasure!



Meet Kim Tschudy

I was born on September 26, 1946.

Mother was a farm girl in Primrose, Dane County, born in 1922, and my Dad was born in New Glarus in 1920. Mother was one of the thousands of young women working in the men's place during WWII. Mother worked at Gisholt in Madison, aka the Norwegian Poor House on WWII projects.

After WWII, Mom and Dad married and we lived with Dad's parents until a \$40-per-month, 3rd-story apartment opened up on Main Street in New Glarus. The building housed two apartments, ours and Ray and Meta Marty's apartment and Doc. Bartle's dentistry office. This building was demolished about 50 – 60 years ago. I was a child at that time.

As the only grandchild, I had lots of grandparent time with them. On Sundays we would take country rides in their maroon 1948 Chrysler. Grandma would do the driving and grandpa and I would look at the stone outcroppings, nice farms, country churches and plentiful trees of various types. Weekends and summer we had to get home for lunch or supper when the Pet Milk whistle blew. If not, there was hell to pay.

Since I was the only grandson, I had lots of grandpa and grandma time. Every summer we would go to Milwaukee where all of Grandpa's brothers and sisters lived. Those side trips often took us to Lake Michigan.

Each of these trips always called for taking in several Milwaukee Braves games, trips to Lake Michigan, and make the rounds of all the Tschudy relatives. One day was always saved for a family reunion and hanging out with all my Tschudy relatives we saw only once each year.

The biggest event of the year was watching the 4th of July fireworks on the large Wisconsin Veterans Hospital lawn.



School Days

By Erica Loeffelholz

Even though I left the classroom many years ago, August still brings a feeling of excitement for the upcoming school year. I fondly remember shopping for new clothes and school supplies, and even today I can't pass by a school supply display in a store without picking up a new notebook or package of fancy pens. I loved the feeling of stepping back into my classroom, with its freshly waxed floor and squeaky-clean chalkboard, and planning how I'd decorate and organize the space for the upcoming school year. And of course, I enjoyed the planning sessions with my fellow teachers as we plotted out our units and lessons for the upcoming school year, seeking projects that would engage student minds and help them enjoy the learning process.



These two photos are of the 8th grade students who worked hard to create the Swissconsin scrapbook.



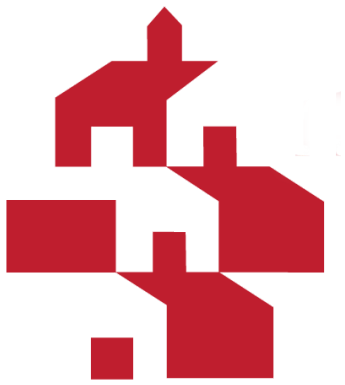
This scrapbook was created by Mrs. LaVon Wenger's 8th grade Badger Historians during the 1954-1955 school year. The covers are made of wood and hand-painted.

So it seems appropriate this month to write about one of the student-created treasures we hold in our archives here at the museum. The Swissconsin scrapbook is part of our school collection, and is an excellent example of a classroom project.

As I carefully turned the crumbling pages of the scrapbook, I could tell that many hours of painstaking work went into creating it. Each student in Mrs. Wenger's class researched an important person, place, or event from New Glarus' history. They conducted interviews, took photographs, and consulted many books to complete their research. And while the pencil notations on the construction paper pages have faded to illegibility, the students' papers are still in surprisingly good condition, each meticulously written in the students' very best cursive.

This scrapbook has now been cataloged in our new Past Perfect software. Next we would like to make copies of the scrapbooks' contents, so that the stories and photographs won't be lost to the ravages of time. I wonder if the students pictured here ever imagined that nearly seventy years after their project was complete, another teacher would be reading their work and appreciating the effort that went into creating it?





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of New Glarus**

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*We thank The Bank of New Glarus
for their support in publishing the
New Glarus Historical Society
newsletter.*

Ancestry Corner



Pictured here are Werner (1897-1974), Lydia (1903-1979), and Kathryn (1895-1990) Stauffacher, the children of Dietrich Stauffacher and Barbara Elmer. We believe the portrait was taken sometime around 1906.

This photo comes to us from an antique photo album donated to the museum by Mary Donnelly in 2018. The album is a treasure trove of memories, not least because many years ago, someone had the foresight to identify all of the people in the photographs. What a wonderful gift to bestow upon the Historical Society!

**New Glarus Historical Society &
Swiss Historical Village Museum**

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