

PLACID PIONEER

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Newsletter

December 2016



A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS

2017 marks the 50th year anniversary of the gift of the Lake Placid Station to the Historical Society by Frances and Louise Brewster. We hope you will save the date of Thursday, June 29, 2017 and join in the celebration!

(Pictures from left to right: History in Progress Summer Camp(2012), Ice Cream Social (1987), Lake Placid Sinfonietta (1987), Exhibit Opening (2016)

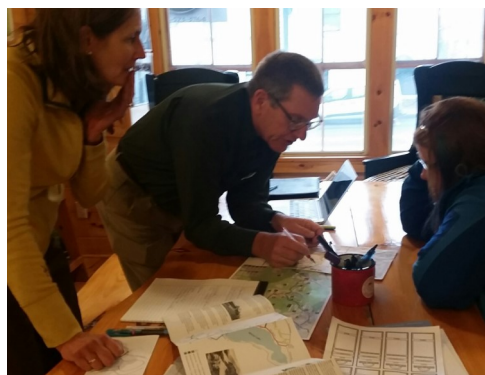


UIHLEIN EXHIBIT AT HEAVEN HILL

Director, Carla Eilo and Alison Haas of the Olympic Museum of Lake Placid collaborated on a project which highlights the accomplishments of Henry Uihlein and the impression he left on Lake Placid. The panels were installed in September at Heaven Hill.

In addition to this project, Eilo will be researching and completing a panel of the history of the earlier residents of Heaven Hill. A small exhibit case will be installed sharing artifacts from Uihlein's career.

HISTORIC BIKE TOUR IN THE WORKS



The Society is planning on offering a historic bike tour in the near future. Members of the Society along with Karen Delaney from High Peaks Cyclery and Mavis Miller from the Northwood School recently sat down and started mapping out bike routes for a new historic tour.

The Society will plan the descriptions of the points of interest on each route and search for photos. After the research is complete, students from Northwood School will design and develop a brochure that area bikers can enjoy.

CAMP SUNNYSIDE HISTORY VIDEO

Stemming from the Northwood School oral history project, over the summer Tom Broderick from Northwood School interviewed the women of Camp Sunnyside. In the Camp's 110 years, there have only been 2 families who have occupied the camp. Parmelee Tolkan from the Eells family sat down with members of the Beebe family, Peggy Beebe, Martha Knowles, and Liza Knowles Park to share their family stories from Lake Placid and Camp Sunnyside.

Kenneth Knowles recorded the interview and has edited the footage into a video presentation. He worked with the Society to find historic photos of family members to depict in the interview. The film will be available to watch at the History Museum this summer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

As we come to the end of the year the Historical Society is looking forward to 2017. We will be opening the expanded "History of Lake Placid" exhibit on June 29th. I hope that many of you will join us that evening as we celebrate the Brewster sisters and their gift of the train station to the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society. Quite fittingly, the main gallery of the museum will be dedicated to long time town historian Mary McKenzie at that event.

For now, I join our director, Carla Eilo, and the entire Board in wishing you the very best of holiday seasons.



Parmelee Tolkan

Who, where, when?

This was our most "liked" photo on social media this year. This picture is from a square dance at Old McDonald's Farm in 1956. By sharing the photo, we were able to identify Dick Lalonde, the guitar player in the middle.

Can you identify anyone else in the photo? Let us know!

Don't forget to follow us on facebook and Instagram. Just search for [lakeplacidhistory](#).



Board of Trustees

Parmelee Tolkan, President

Patty Clark, Vice President/
Secretary

John Huttlinger, Jr., Treasurer

Janet Bliss

Laura Jean Clark

Dean Dietrich

Chuck Finley

Karen Fountain

John Hopkinson

Georgia Jones

Doug Lansing

John Lansing

Steve Preston

Beverley Reid

Peter Roland, Jr.

Sage Ruttan

♦♦♦

Carla Eilo—Administrative
Director/Registrar

BEV'S BITS~

A report from registered town Historian, Beverley P. Reid

When the first settlers came to the area the means of transportation was by horse and oxen. Traveling was not as easy as it is today and many considerations had to be made when maintaining the roads. Those who worked on the roadways needed to solve problems we may not even consider today. They needed to make sure the dirt roads did not have ruts so as to not damage the carriages that passed through. The horses that pulled the carriages needed places to stop and drink water, so troughs needed to be available along routes. Due to the slow speed of travel, stagecoach stops were needed so people passing through could find a place to rest at night.

The first train arrived in Lake Placid in 1893. This changed the way visitors could travel to Lake Placid. The first station was a converted farm house. The new stone station was built in 1904 by the train company to accommodate higher train traffic, carrying passengers and cargo.

Things really changed in the early 1900's when the automobile was first introduced to our village. Problems arose due to the fact that the automobiles required gas and repairs. This led to the construction of many gas/service stations.

(continued on page 4)

UPDATES~

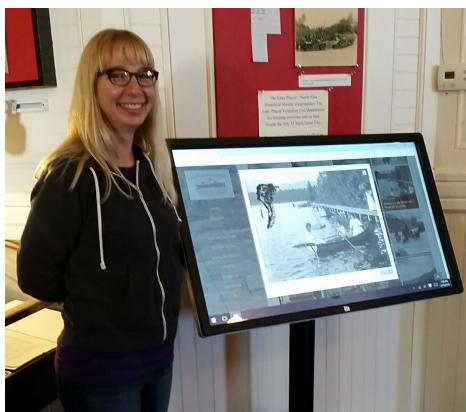
Historic Tour



This fall we held our annual historic fall tour. The theme and title of this past year's tour was called, "What Was it Before?" The sold out event visited Main Street establishments and guests learned about the history of each building and enjoyed sharing their own stories. The tour visited the Cottage, Jimmy's 21, Great Adirondack Steak and Seafood Company, Upstairs Grill, and Generations. We want to once again thank the establishments for their participation and Bill Borzilleri for arranging the tour!

Digital Exhibit

With funding from the J.M McDonald Foundation, the History Museum was able to purchase a touch screen exhibit to view the image from the Stedman and Moses Collection of Glass Plate Negatives. We invite you to stop by and view these pictures in the "History of Lake Placid" opening next summer.



Thank you to our recent foundation supporters...

Campus Planning: Frances Douglass Silleck Fund/
Adirondack Foundation

Exhibit Lighting support and General Operating
support: Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein
Foundation

Contact us:

💻 www.lakeplacidhistory.com

✉ info@lakeplacidhistory.com

☎ **The History Museum** (518) 523-1608

☎ **LPCA office** (518) 523-3830

SOCIETY EVENTS

Winter Lecture Series—2017

Jan. 25—Lake Placid Ski Trails Through History

Presented by: Tony Goodwin

Location: Cascade Inn

Feb. 15—Memories of the 1980 Winter Olympics

Presented by: Jim Rogers

Location: Nicola's

Mar. 22—Camp Santanoni: Past, Present & Future

Presented by: AARCH

Location: Pine's Inn

Apr. 26—History of the Lake Placid Train Station

Presented by: Parmelee Tolkan and Beverley Reid

Location: 'dack Shack/Simply Gourmet

June 29—Milestone Celebration

50th Anniversary of the History Museum

Opening of the "History of Lake Placid" Exhibit

Dedication of the Mary McKenzie Gallery

WANTED

We are looking for Main Street photos and hope you can help us.

The second installment of the Lake Placid History Exhibit will feature Main Street photos spanning **all** years of Lake Placid history. If you have any photos you would like to share, please contact us! We would love to see them and possibly share them in the exhibit!

BEV'S BITS... (continued from page 2)

During the 1940's, there were several Village Board and Chamber of Commerce meetings about the approval of all the permits for the gas/service stations. One of the biggest concerns brought up during these meetings were that parking spaces would be eliminated due to the space and driveway needed to access the gas pumps.

It did not stop construction of these stations. During the 1950's there was a total of seven service/gas stations on the main corridor, through Lake Placid.

The locations were: corner of Saranac Avenue and West Valley Road; the present Adirondack Steak and Seafood; the parking lot across from the NBT bank; two across from the Olympic Arena; the corner of Main Street and Mirror Lake Drive; on the four corner red light; middle of Mill Hill; and Cascade Road.

However, that was not all of the stations in town. I found proof of at least a dozen more located on different streets in the village!

These days with increased automobile traffic, Lake Placid has only one gas/service station and two gas/convenience stores on that same corridor. What happened?

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 189, 242 Station Street

Lake Placid, NY 12946

