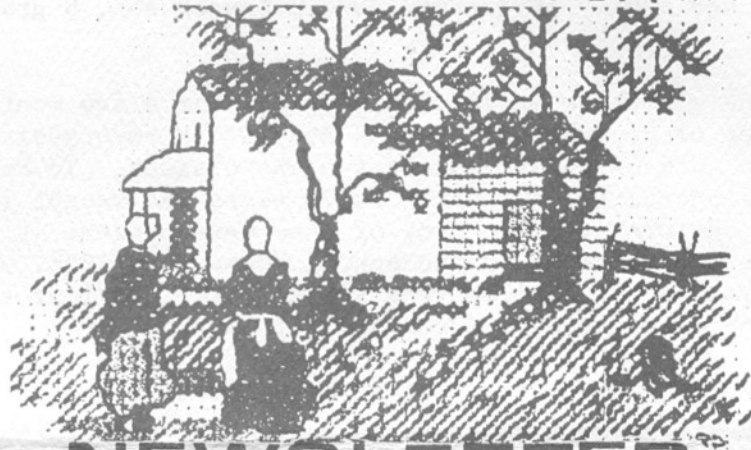


PALMYRA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 24
VILLAGE PARK
1 P.M.

HONORING
CLASS OF '38



NEWSLETTER

OLD SETTLERS EDITION 1988

Do you remember taking your child to the Palmyra Elementary School for that first day of Kindergarten? As you approached the door little Johnny or Suzy began to drag heels and you began to anticipate a traumatic separation. The door opened and you were greeted by an attractive, soft-spoken lady who diffused the situation with a few well-chosen words which charmed the child, reassured you and from the very beginning made school a wonderful place to be. You just met our 1988 Honored Old Settler. You also met a person ideally suited to introduce our educational system to Palmyra's children. Palmyra is fortunate to have had Lucille Eilenfeldt for so many years.

Born in Fort Atkinson and educated in its schools, Lucille received her teacher training at the Whitewater State Teachers College. In 1931 she first came to Palmyra to teach 1st. & 2nd. grades and stayed for two years.

Lucille returned to Fort Atkinson to work in the business office of the Wisconsin Telephone Company for 3½ years. Saving \$1000, she invested it as a down payment on an 8 room house with 8 lots of land in Palmyra, becoming the 16th owner of property granted to James Westphal by the U.S. Government in 1841, prior to Wisconsin statehood.

In 1938, Lucille returned to Cy Schaefer who They survived the augmenting his salary toes, selling cucum-Dingee pickle factory, tion in Palmyra, and brown eggs were sold population of Palmyra 600.



Palmyra as the bride of operated a milk route. post-depression years, raising & selling pota-bers to the Squire which had an intake sta-raising chickens whose to Evans' Grocery. The at that time numbered

In 1942, a son, Glen, sently Captain of the engaged in mapping and

was born. He is pre-NOAA ship Fairweather, charting work for the

pages

U. S. Department of Commerce, working north of the Aleutian Islands in Bristol Bay. Glen makes his home in Seattle with his wife Bonnie (Steinhoff) and daughter Juliana. Two other grandchildren, Misty & Tim, live in Salem, Oregon. Lucille has two sisters living in Fort Atkinson.

Death took Cy. Schaefer in 1968 and after being widowed 8 years, Lucille married Walter Eilenfeldt, enlarging her family by 2 daughters, a foster son, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Lucille returned to the classroom in 1945 to help out for a few months in a half-day Kindergarten, found her niche in teaching, and stayed for twenty-six years, obtaining her degree in Kindergarten work by taking summer & night classes. To Palmyra and her colleagues she became the ideal kindergarten teacher. In 28 years she taught 1292 children and worked with 122 teachers & 7 administrators. Many of them were present at her retirement in 1971. On retirement, she served two terms on the school board. In 1968, when the old 1885 school building was demolished, Lucille rang the bell for the last time, pulling the rope 25 times - one for each year she had served at that time.

Always active in community and professional affairs, Lucille was the first president of the Palmyra Educational Association, a 63 year member of the Royal Neighbors of America, served as Sunday school teacher and superintendent & member of many committees in the Palmyra Methodist Church, including the building committee for the present church. She has lived through 5 school building projects and served on Citizen Advisory Committees for 4 of them. Lucille is a member of the National Retired Teachers Association and the Palmyra Senior Citizens Club (17 yrs.).

Travel is a favorite recreation since her mother carried Lucille in her arms to ride the train from Fort Atkinson to Whitewater to visit her grandparents. She has traveled this country to its limits in all directions, visiting 44 of our 50 states, 6 provinces and 1 territory of Canada and has flown over the Arctic Circle to the Eskimo village of Kotzebue on the Chukshi Sea. A lover of trains, she has traveled on the Alaska RR, the Whitepass & Yukon RR and the Ontario Northland RR. A fond memory is a 1922 trip in an open Ford touring car to Neillsville (200 mi) using a book which guided them over unmarked gravel roads with such instructions as "drive west ten miles, make a right turn at a country church, then 8 miles, cross a wooden bridge, pass a creamery, enter the village of Pittsville, turn left at the Blacksmith Shop, etc.". Flat tires to be repaired on site, boiling radiators, side luggage racks and curtains to keep out the rain were all a part of the experience.

Now in 1988 Lucille still loves Palmyra and its children and all of Palmyra loves her.

Palmyra Historical Society
Palmyra, WI 53156

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 21



CARLIN HOUSE