



WINTER 1985

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Palmyra Historical Society can be proud of its 1985 accomplishments and progress. This year was highlighted by the following:

The McKenzie-Carlin House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A new furnace was installed.

The upper level of the Carlin House was restored.

A house & yard workday was held.

Two days of work were scheduled to sort and rearrange items on the main level of the carriage house.

Three successful open house days were held.

We again had a memorable Old Settlers Celebration.

We experienced a successful Old Fashioned Day with a raffle and the sale of many donated house items.

Our August meeting was another of those delicious picnics which have become a tradition with the society.

There were four enlightening meetings with Faye Chronis (Genealogy), Ron Kurowski of the DNR (Indians), Marcie Hansen & Eda Rouu (Scandinavia) and Carl Seitz (Auctioneer) as the speakers.

A new portable TV was purchased to facilitate giving programs using our video tapes to provide speaker service to local organizations.

A Palmyra Historical Society 1986 Calendar was designed and printed. This makes an ideal Christmas gift as well as a treasured keepsake. An order form is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

In cooperation with the Powers Memorial Library, we had four sessions on Local History.

Plans are being made to try to help provide some services to the schools.

We have purchased a file cabinet and shelving for the office area of the Carlin House.

We have photographed the contents of the Carlin House and had slides made for insurance purposes.

Five Newsletters were published during the year.

We provided programs for several local organizations.

We have had five meetings of the Executive Board.

1986 can also be a banner year if we can continue to command the help and suggestions of so many willing persons as in the past. We must finish renovation, work on the carriage house, and inventory property. THANKS FOR THE HELPING HANDS IN 1985.

Donna Fanshaw, President

In the last newsletter we learned that the Indian was attracted to the Palmyra area because of the high land which surrounded the marsh lake.

The Scuppernong traversed this area to its rendezvous with the Bark River, along with several smaller creeks such as Spring Creek (formerly Battle Creek). Imagine yourself in an airplane at that distant time and you can reconstruct the Indians' attraction to this area. A lake which was marshy and shallow enough to grow rice and still navigable to the canoe; streams which were navigable to the Rock River, which provided a highway to the major waterways of the country; numerous springs to provide drinking water for numerous campsites; and enough highland to provide alternate land trails across the area and some fine lookout elevations to detect possible danger.

The Indians, Pottawatami, Winnebago, Sauk and possibly others saw these advantages and made use of them. An excellent documentation of artifact findings and pioneer memories by Ron Kurowski of the Department of Natural Resources gives us an excellent peephole into the past, some fact, some surmise, and probably a small bit of fiction devised by some nimble and imaginative storyteller of the pioneer days.

Indian tools, utensils and weapons have been unearthed on most of the farms which form the perimeter of this former marshland lake. Although the memories of persons still alive are sketchy, the sum total of them seem to bear out the interest of the Indian in the immediate Palmyra locale. Some of these indicate various encampments

which might signify a gathering place for the sections of the tribe (probably Pottawatami).

Bald Bluff is believed to have been used as a lookout point for the Indians and probably the white settlers as well. There are also indications, both in memories and some of the folklore, of a ceremonial area on Bald Bluff. This ties in with a widely known tale of the Great Spirit Wash Bowl. (continued next issue)

NOTES: 1986 Historical Calendars are on sale at Palmyra Pharmacy, Nite Cap Inn, Village Antique Store or by mail (form below) Persons with Palmyra ties who passed away the past year were Stanley Gerlach 11/29/84, Bessie Adams Pitcher Godfrey 12/28/84, Florence Blomily Brockway Mills 4/6/85, Cyril Marsh 5/9/85. Loretta Leach 6/2/85, Sam Tutton 6/7/85, William A. Schroeder 6/17/85, Vinton Sherman (Eagle) 6/22/85, William Maul 6/23/85, Hildur (Mrs. Lawrence) Taylor 6/27/85, Anna G. Oleson 7/1/85, Cosette Adsit 8/2/85, Paul Haunch 8/6/85, David Reed 8/7/85, Fisk Weld Carlin 8/18/85, Royal Hayes, Lawrence Patrick 8/22/85.

I enclose \$ _____ for 1986 Membership.
_____ Single (\$5) _____ Couple (\$10)
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Send to: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson P.O. Box 154,
Palmyra, WI. 53156

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Palmyra, WI 53156

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