

*Preserving our
Historical Heritage*



Price County Historical Society Newsletter

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2021 Is A Year of Accomplishment.

By: John L. Berg

Wow! Where did 2020 go? Each of us have different perceptions of that year, and I don't know about you and the rest of our readership, but 2020 seems like a blur and kind of distant. I know I got some things done, but it just seemed to pass rapidly. At times I wonder what it was like in 1918 when the Spanish influenza pandemic ravaged the world – and what did the survivors think about that year? It was a year not unlike 2020 with the end of a long and bloody war, changes in the economy, political unrest throughout the globe, with the impact of the Versailles Treaty soon to hit the former Axis powers square in the gut. When the pandemic receded, and people were able to resume some of their “normal” activities, did they have the time to take a moment to ponder what it was they had survived? Or were they just as eager to get on with things that they didn't think much about the past? There are many interesting parallels between these two events occurring a century apart.

So here we are after a year of Covid19 shutdowns and uncertainty in 2020, and the spring of 2021 appeared to offer hope that, just maybe, things might be different. The PCHS Board continued its work throughout 2020, meeting via ZOOM, courtesy of the efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Laurie Pilch. The buildings on the Fifield Campus were regularly checked and weathered the long year well. The board discussed the options for opening during the upcoming summer season and finally decided that the prudent course of action was to open during regular hours on Saturdays only, starting with the



Artist rendition by Irene Fleming,
Fifield, WI

first weekend in June and ending on Labor Day in September. The decision paid off as there was little problem filling positions for people to supervise the museum. And the public seemed eager to get out to explore the venues locked down for over a year; the museums had a good deal of pa-

tronage during the summer. And our fundraising events bestowed great gains too! The impetus for the generosity of those attending the fundraisers seemed to be accentuated by the goal of raising money for the proposed Louis A. Koenig Research Center. Around a year ago, the PCHS Board was approached by Louis's daughter, Carol J. Koenig, with an offer to fund the majority of the cost for constructing a building to house the pages of documents, numerous maps, plat books, history books, family histories, ledgers, records as well as the thousands of photographs in the collection of the Price County Historical Society, Inc. Archives. Currently housed in a fire-proof, climate controlled room at the Phillips Offices of BW Papersystems, and a basement room in the Price County Courthouse, these priceless artifacts documenting Price County's formative years have long needed a single, fire-proof, climate controlled

location for broader access and storage. While very grateful for the generosity of BW Papersystems and the Courthouse, the board has long agreed the collection needs a single location for proper accession, to conduct research, documentation and writing, and archival storage. Our responsibility in this proposal from Carol is to raise \$80,000.00 toward the cost of the construction. Word was sent out to you, our members, with a call for donations, with an understanding that not a spade of dirt would be turned until the full \$80,000 was in the bank. This amount seemed to be somewhat intimidating, but the members of our organization, as well as interested people from the public at large, have been responding wonderfully throughout the summer and up to the present. The PCHS sponsored three fundraiser events, with all proceeds going to the fund for the Research Center. The first was July 10 at the Fifield Picnic, where the PCHS members raised \$1288! Then, over a month later, on August 21, the PCHS hosted its Pie Social, and all but one and one half of the 25 pies sold, netting \$695! That event saw well over 100 visitors not only come out on a beautiful July day to eat pie, but also tour the museums. The third event was held September 22 at the Park Falls Farmers Market where the members sponsored a bake sale, having another resounding success that cleared \$519. The next event will be the PCHS Chili-To-Go on October 26. With our chief chef Bonnie Salm putting together her wildly popular chili, this promises to be another must come and pick up your order while it's hot event! October 26 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. is the day and time, and the Fifield Town Hall N13935 Ridge Ave. is the place. Hope to See you there!

As of the publication of this issue of the Newsletter, the Price County Historical Society has raised \$32,744.00 towards the goal of \$80,000.00! We have made this through donations both large AND small -The PCHS Board is extremely grateful to ALL interested people who want to contribute what they believe is reasonable! It all goes toward the goal of constructing the Louis A. Koenig Research Center for preserving and managing the precious artifacts that document the history of Price County.

If you are interested in contributing to the completion of this project, but aren't sure why this is important, allow me to propose this idea: Price County is a cross-road of history that has been defined by forest and watersheds. Ancient Woodland people migrating

from various areas ranged through the forest and traveled the waterways sustained by abundant wild rice, wild game, and fish. As semi-nomadic communities, the indigenous nations competed with each other for dominance of what is now known as the Chippewa River watershed.

Among the earliest nations to establish a presence in these water-rich lands were the Menomoni, the Ho Chunk, and the Mdewakanton Isanti Lakota. It was the Isanti Lakota who became the most pervasive hunters of the Chippewa watershed. The middle of the 17th century saw the westward migration of the Anishinabe Ojibwe to the south shore of Lake Superior, establishing a settlement Madeline Island. From there they roamed throughout the forests south of the lake, warring with the Isanti for dominance in the rich hunting lands. This conflict lasted for well over a century. By the mid-1740s the Ojibwe settled at Lac Court Orielles and Waswagoning, now known as Lac du Flambeau. Led by Keesch-ke-mun, the Ojibwe ranged throughout the Chippewa watershed hunting, fishing, and making maple sugar. For well over a century, each spring the entire community moved to the thoroughfare between Pike and Round Lakes, returning to Waswagoning in the autumn. The rise of the fur trade occurred concurrently, with Michael Cadotte establishing trade in at Waswagoning in 1782. Ten years later the Northwest Company built a post, followed by the XY Company in 1799. After the War of 1812, the American Fur Company controlled the posts and trade, continuing a presence through 1842. Treaties imposed by the United States government established the reservation at Lac du Flambeau, and recognized and affirmed the rights of the Ojibwe to hunt, fish, and gather resources in the ceded territories. These traditional practices continue throughout the 21st century.

Upon the coercion of the indigenous nations to reservations, it was a combination of market-driven capitalism that depended upon private ownership of land and huge numbers of immigrants, primarily from Europe which dominated the next phase of Price County History. Natural resources and extraction and processing those resources gave rise to factories and infrastructure to move resources to production and from there to market. After the treaties with the American Indian nations, lands were transferred from the public to private domain through various legislative policies. The Homestead Act provided individuals

with a vehicle for earning their own slice of America. The United States government implemented land grants to promote the building of railroads and agricultural and mechanical colleges. States placed their forested lands on the market to spur the consumption of trees to meet the demands of urban growth. Cheap, disposable labor was supplied by the immigrants from Europe in the first great surge during the mid-19th century. The bedrock of conventional wisdom was the conviction that “the plow follows the axe,” Thomas Jefferson’s ideal of the yeoman farmer as the economic backbone of the economy. Each of these vehicles of land acquisition were not without controversy leading to inevitable exploitation of resources and political and personal corruption and conflict. Present Price County was the eastern part of Chippewa County in the early era of European-American expansion, and it was the Wisconsin Central Railroad which was organized to build from Menasha in Winnebago County northwest to Bayfield on the south shore of Lake Superior near Madeline Island. Initially granted alternate full sections of land 10 miles either side of the grade, this was later expanded to a twenty-mile corridor. Reaching what was then Mile Post 101, Chippewa County in 1873, the railroad was stalled by economic and managerial problems until 1876. It then pushed northward to completion in Ashland County in 1877. The Wisconsin Central Railroad opened the forest to widespread industrial expansion and settlement.

Richly blessed with immense virgin stands of prime white pine, this wood fiber combined lightweight strength and malleability making it the primary dimension lumber for structural framework. Abundant hemlock was sought for framing shipping crates and furniture, while its bark was a primary material for leather tanning. Later logging phases saw the abundant hardwoods such as maple and birch cut for flooring, interior trim and furniture, while aspen were utilized for pulpwood in papermaking.

Loggers began their quest for white pine in the Chippewa headwaters in the early 1870s, while cheap transportation from the abundant river system floated the logs to sawmills in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire. A push for organization of a new county succeeded in March, 1879, and was named in honor of William T. Price, a prominent logger in the region. White pine production in Wisconsin peaked in 1892. Loggers continued major river drives through the turn of the century, after which hardwood production

rose to prominence. Hardwoods did not float well enough to use rivers for transportation, leading to a network of industrial railroads built to the remote stands to move logs to mills. By the mid-1930s the big loggers exploited forest resources to exhaustion and were finished off in the economic Great Depression, forcing them to close down their operations and lay off the laborers.

One survivor of the demise of logging was the Flambeau Paper Company, started by Henry Sherry as a pulp mill in 1885 and built into a complete paper mill in 1896. Paper was the product that allowed this operation to transition from lumber production and survive the economic depression.

From early on, the beauty and abundant game resources of the forest and lakes so captivated the Ojibwe convincing them to make this land their home. European settlers recognized its beauty and resources, and in the final decade of the 19th Century several entrepreneurs built resorts on remote lakes. Promoted by the railroads, the Pike Lake Summer Resort was built by Jim Feely on the western shore of Round Lake in April, 1892. The Mash-Ka-No-Zhe House was built on the shores of Butter-nut Lake in 1895, and in 1896 Hugh Boyd built his Mason Lake Resort on the western border of the county. The fishing at each of these wilderness retreats was unsurpassed and hunting was extolled. The fresh northern atmosphere and remote locations of these resorts were marketed as therapeutic retreats from the din of urban life, and attracted celebrities from major Midwestern cities.

And yes, the plow did indeed follow the axe, and yes, again the Wisconsin Central Railroad, ever anxious to establish revenue for its operations, promoted settler colonies in the lands of clover and grasses. Newspapers promoted Price County as the future agricultural center of Northern Wisconsin. Land companies came into operation to sell cut over timber lands as farm lands. Scattered throughout the county were areas well suited to agriculture, however the southern half seemed more amenable to extensive farming. Following 19th century conventional wisdom, “useless” wetlands were drained to convert them into “valuable” farm lands. Implement and machinery dealers could be found in nearly every town in the county. As logging slowly waned from the turn of the century through the 1920’s the future of Price County was agriculture.

Even with New Deal support systems, it was the Economic Depression of 1930-1940 that determined which farms would survive and which would fail.

With significant portions of the forests laid bare by the loggers, and possessing soils largely unusable for agricultural purposes, the USDA Forest Service and New Deal program of the Civilian Conservation Corps rescued the cut over lands.

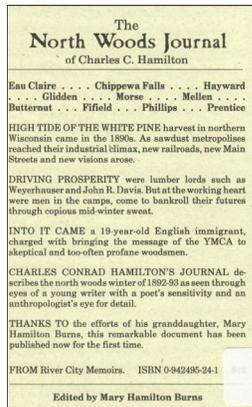
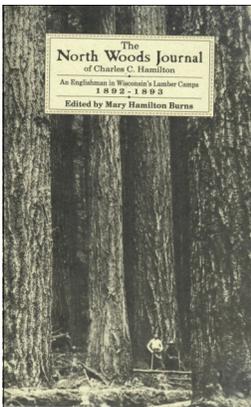
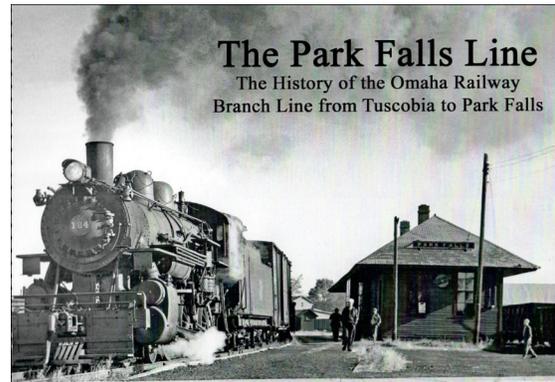
Beginning in the late 1920s groundwork was laid to acquire corporate timber lands delinquent in taxes. Accelerated in the early 1930s, the government aggressively pressured corporations to transfer tax-delinquent lands from private ownership back to the public domain. The creation of the Chequamegon Park Falls unit comprised roughly one fourth of eastern Price County. Working with the USDA Forest Service, CCC crews comprised of unemployed young men were recruited to rebuild the forests and infrastructure roads with a multiple use mission.

Now in 2021, Price County continues to be a crossroad of history as its people have come full circle facing the economic, social, political and environmental challenges of the 21st Century. What will future historians write about our history? What will their context be? The Louis A. Koenig Research Center will provide the resources to preserve those documents for the future generations who want to know what happened in this crossroad of history. You can be a part of that legacy with your continued financial support to make this dream a reality.

New Book Additions for Sale!

The Park Falls Line by: Arlyn Colby

Designed to be both a historical document for the serious railroad historian and a source of memories for local residents. This beautiful spiral bound book is written with great attention to detail and packed with historical photographs, documents and official railroad maps. 226 pages \$40.00 includes shipping and handling.



The North Woods Journal of Charles C. Hamilton Edited by: Mary Hamilton Burnes upon the discovery of the hand-written journals of her paternal grandfather Charles Conrad Hamilton. These wonderfully descriptive journals were written during the winter of 1892-93 by Charles a 19 year-old English immigrant and student at the Dwight Moody Bible Institute in Chicago as he spent the winter bringing the good word to lumberjacks in northern Wisconsin. 212 pages \$10.00 Includes shipping and handling.

To purchase send check payable to Price County History Society or order on line on our website.

Attention: We are looking to complete a portion of our collection of the Wabasso (Phillips High School Yearbook) Years needed: 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1950, 1951, 1961, 1962, 1969 and 1974. If you can help us out please contact Etola Foytek (715) 339-2415 or send e-mail to: efputter@pctcnet.net to make donation arrangements. Complete lists will be in the spring newsletter.

Price County Historical Society

LOUIS A. KOENIG RESEARCH CENTER

- **What is it?** A fully climate controlled 26' 8" x 44' block/brick building with year round accessibility.
- **Where will it be located?** Just east of the Old Town Hall Museum and Old Office building on the grounds of the Price County Historical Society in Fifield.
- **What will it contain?** It will be the central location for administrative functions and archival storage and research. In addition to administrative records, it will house thousands of originals and copies of photographs, maps, journals, diaries, family histories and other historical records of Price County.
- **Who will use it?** Individuals and researchers interested in Price County History.
- **When will it be built?** Plans are to break ground in spring of 2022, with a final completion date of either fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.
- **Why build it now?** At present our administrative records, archival documents and photographs are housed in three different buildings located throughout the county. The Society has long needed a centralization of operations and archival documents.
- **How will it be funded?** Through an extremely generous donation from Carol J. Koenig who has recognized the needs of the Society along with her desire to leave a lasting legacy to her father Louis A. Koenig a native son of Fifield. In addition the Board of Directors has projected an additional amount of \$80,000 will be needed.
- **How can you help?** Donations in any amount are appreciated. A donation of \$150.00 or more per individual will insure that you are included on our Donor Recognition Wall. Send to: Price County Historical Society, P.O. Box 156, Fifield, WI 54524-0156 and include how you wish to be listed on our wall.
- **What if I have additional questions?** Contact Etola Foytek, President of the Price County Historical Society at 715-339-2415 or by e-mail at efputter@pctcnet.net

LOUIS ALOYSIUS KOENIG:

*A Native Son of Fifield, Price County,
Wisconsin*

By: John L. Berg

In Part 1 of Louis Aloysius Koenig: *A Native Son of Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin*, we saw his early years growing up in Fifield, his service in World War I, his pursuit of a law degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and his admission to the Wisconsin Bar in 1927. Our second installment of the narrative resumes with Louis's aspirations to elected office of District Attorney for Price County.

By 1930 Louis decided he was ready to attempt a run, as a Republican, for election as Price County District Attorney, and he waged a successful primary campaign. The September 11, 1930, Phillips Bee offered this endorsement on its front page: "Looks Good for Koenig. As the campaign draws to a close just previous to the Primary election, we wish to call your attention to the candidacy of Atty. L.A. Koenig, who is soliciting your support and votes for the nomination of district attorney. Mr. Koenig is a young attorney of Phillips, who worked his way through law school while a resident of Fifield, and has been practicing law for the past few years with considerable success. He stands well in the community and is in no doubt well qualified for this important position. He was born and grew to manhood in Price County. He has been conducting a straight-forward campaign, and from reports coming to us from different sections of the county, is meeting with no small amount of success. It appears that he is meeting with favor everywhere he visits, as a result of his unassuming and manly attitude. He is a likeable fellow, makes a good impression with people whom he meets and when the votes are counted and the returns made, we will miss our guess if Mr. Koenig has not made a remarkable run. Mr. Koenig regrets that it is impossible for him to personally meet every voter in the county, but we can assure those who have not met him that he is capable, honest and fearless. You will never regret having supported him for the nomination of district attorney, as he will make an efficient officer in every respect if you nominate and elect him to this important office."

In the same issue, but further back on page 6. Incumbent District Attorney Jerome Ledvina, also a Republi-



District Attorney Louis A. Koenig

can, published: "PAID ADVERTISMENT Authorized and paid for by Jerome V. Ledvina, Park Falls, Wisconsin. To the Voters of Price County: In announcing my candidacy for reelection as District Attorney, I do so upon my record which shows a big saving of public money. Every public officer should, whenever possible, practice economy with public money, and help to reduce taxes. As District Attorney, I

carefully investigate all cases and when convinced that the accused are guilty, I use every legal means to get them to plead guilty, instead of having long expensive trials in Circuit Court. My record shows there have been but very few days of criminal trial work in the Circuit Court, due to these pleas of guilty which were obtained, and at the same time there were more convictions during my term, than in any other term in the history of Price County. My efforts have resulted in a SAVINGS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO THE TAXPAYERS. It is upon this record of efficiency and saving the taxpayer's money that I appeal to you for your vote on September 10th. Thank you! Jerome V. Ledvina." Under the headline, "LaFollette Ticket Wins Decided Victory," the BEE reported, "In no uncertain terms did LaFollette and his on the Progressive ticket win in the Primary election on Tuesday in Wisconsin." And, "Price County was not much different from other counties in the state..." Further it was reported, "The most pronounced victory on the county ticket was that of L.A. Koenig for district attorney. He led J.V. Ledvina, the present incumbent, in 25 of the 27 precincts and had a majority of 1,419, better than two to one." On the following page of that issue, the results tabulated 2,826 votes for Koenig and 1,407 for Ledvina. Louis didn't have much time to savor his victory though, as his first case was a preliminary hearing on January 6, 1931 in the shooting death that pitted accidental versus intentional motivation. Louis met with outgoing District Attorney Ledvina regarding his initial charging of Michael Leopold with fourth degree manslaughter in the shooting

death on December 5, 1930, of Valentine Marz near Phillips. Leopold claimed he mistook Marz for a deer. The warrant was issued by Justice M.D. Hinshaw and was returnable before Justice C.A. Nelson. Leopold was defended by Attorney John A. DeBardeleben of Phillips. Nelson dismissed the case on grounds of insufficient evidence of criminal intent, and Leopold was released. However, Anton Lach, brother-in-law to Marz filed a complaint and later in January Leopold was re-arrested on the same charge; he pleaded not guilty and faced a second preliminary hearing February 2nd. As of this writing news articles reporting the outcome of this case have not been located....

However, 1931 was another important year for Louis when he had a chance meeting with a young woman who was to change his life. According to family lore, there was a new commercial arts teacher in Phillips, who was fond of traveling to Milwaukee to shop for some of the finer things not offered in Phillips; she had purchased a fur coat at one of Milwaukee's finest clothing stores. However, upon returning to Phillips, she discovered a flaw with the coat and attempted to have it returned. Not getting satisfaction from the store's management on her own, she decided to enlist the help of an attorney and sought the expertise of one Louis A. Koenig. Mr. Koenig agreed to help her seek a favorable resolution, and, deferring to her stenographic expertise, Louis used his legal expertise and dictated as Miss Daisy Kramer used her shorthand and typing expertise to prepare the letter to the company seeking compensation for the flawed item. Mr. Koenig's legal expertise and Miss Kramer's secretarial skills produced a successful outcome to this claim, and it was during the course of these proceedings that a friendship grew.

Daisy Viola Kramer was born in Clearfield, Douglas County Kansas, on April 14, 1902, and spent her youth there and on the Rio Grande River Valley in southwest Texas. During the war years Daisy spelled her last name as "Cramer" with a "C" rather than "K" to soften the Germanic tone and hopefully mitigate any anti-German prejudice. Miss Kramer was very close to an older sister who lived in Monroe, Wisconsin, and moved there to live with her sister and finish High School in Monroe in 1921. Miss Kramer then attended Whitewater Normal, earning a teaching certificate as a commercial arts teacher in 1924. From there she took her first job in Redgranite, Wisconsin, with a later stint at Red Wing, Minnesota. She spent her summers at Whitewater earning a formal degree, and eventually she made her way to Phillips, Wisconsin

in 1931, where she was the high school commercial arts teacher.

Meanwhile, as he worked his way through his first term, Louis evidently gained confidence in himself and, in turn, gained the confidence of the citizens of Price County. In 1932 he was up for re-election and once again earned the votes for a second term.

By 1932 Price County was in the throes of the Great Depression; big operators such as the Kneeland-McLurg Lumber Company in Phillips had shuttered its railroad and sawmill in early March. Other companies in Park Falls and Prentice struggled as markets shrank and people lost work. It appears that most of Louis' cases were routine claims for the county, theft, some juvenile cases, and property issues. By 1934 Price County was on edge along with the rest of the north woods as they had become haunts of the Chicago gangs of Capone and Dillinger. Carol recalls a family snapshot of Louis and friends who had just busted a still—barrels of liquid axed open and draining across the road. Again the Park Falls *Herald*, April 27, 1934: "*NORTH IN UPROAR AS DILLINGER DODGES NET. Park Falls narrowly missed a visit from the nation's worst desperadoes—John Dillinger and his gang... You of course have been reading the daily papers since Monday and have learned as much as anyone knows about the manner in which the Dillinger gang broke through a net which was tightening about them at Little Bohemia roadhouse near Manitowish...*" Although the FBI and federal marshals pursued the "bad men from Chicago," Price County legal issues kept Louis a very busy man as District Attorney, and planning a campaign for this third term.

And, all along during the past three years he was certain to make time for Miss Daisy Kramer. In fact, one thing led to another culminating in their covert travel to Stockton Illinois, where they were wed before the Justice of the Court on July 14, 1934. However, times being what they were, a married woman could not continue as a school teacher when there was a man who needed the work, and since this was during the height of the depression when money was tight and her income was necessary, Louis and Daisy decided to keep their marriage a secret and returned to their separate living arrangements.

Returning to the September, 1934 Primary Election, Republican Louis A. Koenig faced off against Republican John A. DeBardeleben. The Park Falls *Herald*

tells the story: "Another lively little primary battle—the only one on the Republican county ticket—was between L.A. Koenig, incumbent district attorney, and John DeBardleben. Koenig won by a vote of 785 to 610. Whitmer was the unopposed Progressive candidate. The Democrats had no candidate in the field. With the Progressives' showing influence statewide for the first time in Price county, a Progressive Party candidate, John M. Whitmer was in the race. Louis realized it was time to tout his record, and he did so in the October 26, 1934 *Park Falls Herald* and the *Bee*: PAID ADVERTISEMENT Authorized and paid for by L.A. Koenig, Phillips, Wisconsin. RE-ELECT L.A. KOENIG for District Attorney. He Stands on His Record. Having received the largest number of votes in the Primary Election for the office of District Attorney, I herewith again submit to the voters as before for your consideration my record in office: 1. Claims collected for Price County—\$4,900.00. 2. Felony convictions obtained in Circuit Court ranging from larceny to first degree murder—104 out of 108. 3. Juvenile cases successfully disposed of—65. 4. Other matters and cases handled were inquests, extraditions, condemnations, Justice Court cases and a \$65,000.00 county bond issue. 5. Office and expense account kept down to a minimum. 6. Thousands of dollars saved for the county and taxpayers on pleas of guilty obtained. I solicit your vote and support this record at the election on November 6. I sincerely thank you. L.A. Koenig.

Although defeated in the primary, John DeBardleben was not finished with his quest for the office though. He ran this advertisement on page 10 of the November 1, 1934 *Phillips Bee*: "DeBardleben District attorney. To the Voters of Price County; The recent Primary Election did not afford full choice to the people on the office of District Attorney, by reason of the necessity of voting a straight party ticket, and further, because more than fifty percent of the voters of Price County did not vote at all. The Democratic party had no candidate, the Progressive party had only one candidate, so that the voters of these two parties had no choice, the incumbent receiving less than thirteen percent of the votes of Price County, and the votes for the three candidates for District Attorney combined amounted to less than thirty-four percent of the votes of Price County. Believing the people themselves should have full choice and the right to say who should be elected to this important office, and complying with requests from all parts of the county, I have accepted the nomination for the office of District Attorney and my name will be found on the Independent column, in the lower right hand corner of the ballot, at the election on November 6th. As you know, I live at the county seat where I have made my home with my

family and have paid taxes for the last fifteen years. I am familiar with the problems facing all of us today, and know the absolute necessity of reducing taxes. If elected, I will do all in my power as District Attorney to reduce taxes to a minimum. Pleas of "guilty" or "not guilty" of those charged with crime are made to the Court and not to the District Attorney and where one pleads "not guilty" he is entitled to an impartial trial by jury. If elected, I promise prompt efficient service, and fairness to all. I wish to thank those who have supported me in the past. It was impossible for me to make a personal call on all the voters. I take this means of asking your personal support and help at the election on November 6th. Thank you! John DeBardleben."

The main election proved competitive, as reported in the *Park Falls Herald*, November 9, 1934 [page 1]: "There was no Democratic candidate for District Attorney but due to the campaign of J.A. DeBardleben as an independent, the outcome was very much in doubt. L.A. Koenig, incumbent, was re-elected, going in with about 400 votes to spare over John M. Whitmer, Progressive candidate from Park Falls.

It was right back to work for Louis and Daisy at their respective jobs. On November 19, William Tobin of Prentice was murdered and by the end of the month authorities arrested Martin Heisner, 26, in Rhineland, along with Frank Campbell and his wife, who were arrested after a robbery in Antigo. Heisner confessed, naming Campbell as the shooter, but Campbell refused to talk. Their court hearings were delayed, as the *Park Falls Herald* reported on November 30: PHILLIPS YOUTH DIES AFTER AUTO ACCIDENT: District Attorney Koenig Gravely Injured in collision on Saturday Night. A Phillips young man was fatally injured in an automobile accident Saturday night [November 24] and at least four other were hurt, Louis A. Koenig, district attorney of Price County gravely so. The accident occurred sometime between 8 and 9 o'clock a short distance south of Piccadilly Inn. Three cars were said to have figured in the mishap. A completely accurate account is missing because the principals were either so badly injured or dazed that they recall little of what happened. The driver of the third car, who possibly could give information, was able to drive away after the accident and has not reported since...The two most seriously injured, Mr. Koenig and George Slavik of Phillips, were both taken to Phillips while those less seriously injured were brought to Park Falls. Slavik was later brought to Park Falls hospital. Both his legs were broken and he had suffered other injuries the combination of which proved fatal and he died Tuesday morning. Mr. Koenig was taken to the Medford

hospital and there it was discovered that he had four ribs broken on his left side and two on the right. One of the ribs had punctured his lung cavity. While his condition is very serious, doctors believe that he will recover unless complications set in." Carol relates that Daisy and Louis's sister Rose traveled to Medford, and Rose directed Daisy to summon a Catholic priest to perform the rite of extreme unction for Louis. In time Louis did recover and slowly resumed his duties as District Attorney. This tragic experience with the loss of the young man's life and Louis' injuries was a sobering experience in their lives.

Then an article in the Thursday, January 10, 1935 [page 1, column 2] Phillips Bee records this story: "Friends of Miss Daisy Kramer and Louis A. Koenig received a very pleasant surprise this week when these popular young people announced their marriage. The announcement was made at a tea Tuesday afternoon given by Mrs. Koenig for a number of her friends. The wedding took place on July 14, 1934 at Stockton, Ill., and since that time has been kept a close secret by the couple." But in November, their secret had been found out and thereupon the Phillips Public School board was obligated to release Daisy from her teaching position at the end of the semester. The couple then setup their household. The Bee article offers insight to the Koenigs' standing in the community: Mr. and Mrs. Koenig need very little introduction to the people of this community, as they are both very well and favorably known, having lived in this city the past few years. The bride has resided in this city since 1931, being employed as commercial teacher in the High school. She is one of the finest young ladies of this city and during the years spent here she has gained the friendship of all who know her. Mr. Koenig is probably one of the best and most favorably known young men in the county. On Monday he began serving his third term as District Attorney and high esteem with which he is held is best told by the fine vote that he has received in all campaigns. Mr. Koenig came to this city in 1928, after completing his work at the Northwestern University Law School and since that time has made this his home. This paper wishes to join with the host of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Koenig in extending congratulations and best wishes for many continued years of happiness.

Two years passed quickly and the rivals squared off again with the November 6, 1936 Herald reporting: "COUNTY-STATE-NATION JOIN NEW DEAL DELUGE." In the article, "The close contest for District Attorney



Daisy and Louis Koenig

resulted in the re-election of Louis Koenig, Republican, over John Whitmer, Progressive. The margin was narrow, Koenig getting 3689 votes to Whitmer's 3042." Close on the heels of that election was the passing of Joann [John] Koenig, who died December 15, 1936 in Fifield and is buried next to Theresa in the cemetery there.

1938!?! Well that was another story. Ray J. Haggerty a local attorney, decided to challenge Louis in the primary as a Republican candidate for the DA office. Once again, the Park Falls Herald, September 23, 1938: *REPUBLICANS SCORE HEAVILY IN CITY, COUNTY, STATE. Kremer Wins Four-Cornered Progressive Fight for Assembly man, Haggerty Defeats Koenig by Narrow Margin...The closest contest of the entire election was that on Republican ticket for District attorney. Ray J. Haggerty, with 1386 votes, defeated Louis A. Koenig, present incumbent, who polled 1314—a margin of only 72 votes.*" Haggerty went uncontested in the general election.

Louis returned to his practice at Phillips and his new responsibilities as a father—he and Daisy had welcomed their first child, Stephen Louis Koenig on August 2nd. Life was changing for the young couple, as their second child, Carol Jean, arrived on March 13, 1940.

We have seen how Louis dealt with adversity in his life with a dogged persistence and competitiveness within himself to accomplish the tasks at hand. Now he did the same as a lawyer back in private practice once again, but those competitive juices simmered beneath the surface for two years while District Attorney Haggerty ran the show. An advertisement appeared in the September 6, 1940 Park Falls Herald on page 4: *PAID ADV.—Authorized and paid for by L.A. Koenig, Phillips. 'ANNOUNCEMENT. I regret to say that I am unable to make a house to house campaign, which I know is the best, but I am sure that you will appreciate the fact that sometimes it is not possible to do the things we would like most to do. Because it is*

not possible for me to see you personally, I make this appeal to you by this, the next best means, and that is to ask for your vote and support on my record as your former District Attorney, which I believe is worthy of your consideration. I have been and am a life-long resident of Price County, a homeowner, a taxpayer and a man with a family. Thank you. LOUIS A. KOENIG.' In the same issue Ray J. Haggerty authorized and paid for this announcement, which reads: *"ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VOTERS: I have just finished my Primary Election Canvas of the county and thank you most sincerely for the uniform courtesy with which you received me. Of course, in such a canvas, it is humanly impossible to see everybody and if you are kind enough to deliver me with the nomination I am seeking, to continue serving as your District Attorney, I shall look forward to calling on all those homes before the general election, which time did not permit me to visit now. Yours respectfully, RAY J. HAGGERTY, District Attorney."*

The September 20 *Herald* reported the results: *"3,327 REPUBLICAN VOTES IN COUNTY, Koenig, Zierer, Blume, and Koch Win Contests for Place on Republican Slate. A Number of contests on the Republican ticket for county offices made the election of considerable local interest. Former District Attorney Louis A. Koenig defeated R.J. Haggerty incumbent, 1839 to 1438."* Louis served this, his final term, with distinction, ending in 1943. Once again Louis A. Koenig was a man in private life. He and Daisy continued raising their son, Stephen Louis Koenig and their daughter, Carol Jean Koenig in their home across from the Price County Normal Building in Phillips and Louis continued his practice.

In 1944, Daisy's older sister, Mattie Kramer Lynch, who had moved with her husband to Monroe years earlier had informed her sister, Daisy, that one of Monroe's attorney, Matthew F. Thurber, had passed away and his law practice and office were for sale. After some discussion, Louis and Daisy decided to inquire about the situation; then they decided to purchase Thurber's practice and move to Monroe. Here was an opportunity for Daisy to be closer to her beloved sister Mattie, and there were more opportunities for clients in Louis' practice. The family moved to Monroe in January 1945.

Louis never did sever his ties to Price County—

particularly Fifield. There were annual expeditions north to the village to fish the Flambeau and surrounding lakes in the summer and deer hunt in November. Old friends were reacquainted and brothers and sisters visited. Stephen and Carol recall traveling with their dad to fish; afterward the big treat was to go to Tillies Bar and sit on the bar stool for soda pop while dad had an ice-cold beer. Carol remembers traveling north during deer season to do a little hunting, but mostly to visit her Aunt Rose and her cousins and ice-skate on the ponds. And when he couldn't run away back home, Louis spent many hours fishing the lakes and streams in Green County. The Koenig house in Monroe was 2 1/2 blocks from the courthouse and his office so Louis walked to work each day. Carol recalls *Mother was in the Women's Club, they were both in a reading club, she did substitute teaching, had a small store in Blanchardville WI for a few years. Daddy was Secretary for the local Boy Scout Association for years (2 Silver Beaver awards)."* In a search of the city directories of Monroe, Carol was able to compile a chronology of Louis' professional work in Monroe: *"In addition to his law office he was listed as a justice of the peace in 1947, 1950, 1951, 1954, and 1955, but not in 1952. Not sure if that was an oversight in the maker of the 1952 directory. In 1958 and 1960, the firm was listed at 1518 1/2 11th St as Koenig & Elmer. By 1962 he was again alone in the office, but stayed at the same address until his retirement. He was also listed as family court commissioner that year. He was listed as family court commissioner and district attorney in 1964, 1966, and 1969. He was listed only as family court commissioner in 1972 and 1974."* Louis *"...was retired by 1976, don't remember actually when he retired from law practice—I remember there was a big party given by the Green County lawyers group at the county courthouse."*

Louis and Daisy lived their lives in Monroe, until his passing on August 11, 1987. Daisy moved to Brookfield, Wisconsin and passed away there on March 10, 1991. She and Louis are buried in Greenwood cemetery in Monroe, Wisconsin.

The Price County Historical Society would like to thank Louis's two children Carol Jean Koenig and Stephen Louis Koenig along with Louis's grandson Dr. Craig Stephen Koenig for contributing family stories, documents and photographs for this story.

The Annual Meeting of the Price County Historical Society will be held virtually through Zoom on Wednesday evening November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend the meeting virtually please send your email address to Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Secretary/Treasurer by November 1, 2021 and you will be sent a link prior to the meeting. Please send your request to: rljpilch@pctcnet.net

Whether you can attend virtually or not, you are still able to participate in the election process for members of the Board of Directors by filling out a proxy ballot (which is included with this newsletter), Each member should vote separately and sign and date your portion of the ballot. If an organization is voting, the president or vice-president of the organization should sign and date the ballot.

Ballots should be mailed to: Price County Historical Society
PO Box 156
Fifield, WI 54524-0156

All ballots must be received by November 3.

AGENDA

Call the Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Memorial Acknowledgement of members deceased since last meeting:

Life Members: Hadley Chafer and Don Mockler

Individual Members: Verna Behreandt, Adrienne Bouchonville, Martha Hilgart, Barbara James and Agnes Wudel

Introduction of Board of Directors

Approve Agenda

Secretary's Report: Minutes of November 4, 2020 (included in newsletter)

Treasurer's Report: Current Financial Report for 2021 (included in newsletter)

Committee Reports: Building and Grounds; Newsletter; Photo; Fundraisers/Events; Displays; Membership; Books; Website/facebook

New Business: Election of Directors – see proxy ballots

Open Forum

Adjournment

Price County Historical Society Annual Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Zoom

President Foytek called the 2020 Annual Meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Board Members Present: Etola Foytek, Peter Dahlie, Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Tom Kaiser, Traci Dunbar, John Berg, Sally McFadyen, Len Schmidt and Steven Eitrem

Board Members Not Present: Bonnie Salm and Eric Tollefson.

Also Present: Jo Gibeaut, Karen Baumgartner and Bev Brayton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed in honor of those members departed since our last Annual Meeting: Life Members: James Bant, Alice Vincent and Louise Zorn.
Individual Members: Jean Bodenburg, Carla Boettcher, Bob and Marge Kleinsmith, June Peters and Ethel Teeters.

Motion made to approve the Agenda. Dahlie/ Kaiser Carried.

Introduction of Board of Directors: Completed during roll call.

Secretary's Report: Annual Meeting minutes of October 27, 2019 (included in newsletter and on website). Motion made to approve minutes. Dahlie/Kaiser Carried.

Treasurers Report: Current Financial Report to October 5, 2020 (included in newsletter). Income total \$11,196.19; Expense Total \$11,869.56. Cash on hand (checking and savings) \$24,219.41. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report (subject to audit). Berg/Gibeaut Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Kaiser – Projects completed at the Old Town Hall: Water valve replaced by Greg Wagner Plumbing without charge. Old Office Building: Resided with metal siding done by Hartmann Construction. Kaiser and his wife Terri will complete the painting of the trim work at the building. Greenfield School: Painting of north side of building completed by Tim Christiansen. Foytek and Dunbar scraped and painted railings at the school. Regular maintenance continued with fire extinguisher and exit light inspection by Cintas and pest control by Plunkett's. Furnace inspected at GFS and is in good working order.

Plans are in the works for the building of a Research Center. The Board is in the process of working with Carol Koenig on drafting of agreements and working on preliminary plans. The building will be named the Louis A. Koenig Research Center and will be the central location for administrative functions and archival storage and research.

Newsletter: Berg-Reviewed the editorial and publishing process and invited individuals to contact him regarding stories they may like to submit or newsletter ideas. Future newsletters will contain much more information on the research center.

Photo: Foytek/Berg – We continued to accession and scan photographs through 2019 on a routine basis. Beginning in March of 2020 access to our photo archive room was closed to use due to the Pandemic. Berg will continue with the “Throwback Thursday” section in the Price County Review; whereby photographs from the PCHS collection will be captioned by Berg and featured in the weekly paper.

Fundraisers/Events: Foytek/McFadyen – 2020 fundraisers were cancelled due to the Pandemic. A Bake Sale held at the Farmer’s Market in Park Falls netted a profit of \$322.20.

Displays: Foytek/McFadyen – The museums were closed in 2020 due to the Pandemic. Several new displays are in the works for 2021. Foytek organized and inventoried 70 boxes of artifacts in the area behind the stage.

Membership: Pilch- 246 members (Membership increased by 10 from last year).

Website/Facebook: Pilch – Updates were done as needed. Credit cards are now being accepted on our website for book sales, memberships and donations. The facebook site continues to be managed by Steven Eitrem.

Books: Pilch – Book sales are starting to take off through the website. The *Lugerville Town of Flambeau 1904-1954* was reprinted.

New Business: Election of Directors for three year terms 01-01-2021-12-31-2023: Foytek Terms for Eitrem, Kaiser, McFadyen, Pilch and Schmidt are expiring. All have agreed to serve another three year term; Dunbar was appointed to fill Morrison’s vacancy and has agreed to serve the remaining one year of that term expiring in 2021. Therefore it is the recommendation of the Board that this slate be elected as described above. Foytek called three times for nominations from the floor. Motion made by Len Schmidt, second by John Berg to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of directors as presented by the Board. Motion Carried. In addition fifteen proxy ballots were received voting in favor of the above slate for the designated terms.

Open Forum: Baumgartner and Brayton gave updates on the status of the Price County Genealogical Society. Baumgartner also gave an update on the activities of the Spirit Historical Society.

Adjournment: President Foytek adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Lorraine (Laurie) Pilch, Secretary/Treasurer

**PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—TREASURER’S REPORT
AS OF THE END OF THE THIRD QUARTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

INCOME

Grants	0.00
Membership Dues	5,255.00
Donations	126,491.49
Visitor Donations	306.07
Books Sold	1,618.20
Interest Income	114.52
Gift Shop Sales	78.10
Fundraisers	2,707.85
Memorials	100.00
Bricks	<u>150.00</u>
INCOME TOTAL	<u>136,821.23</u>

EXPENSE

Advertising/Soc. Media	0.00
Insurance	0.00 *
Fees/Dues/Licenses	222.00
Credit Card	138.40
Office Rent	0.00 *
Office	0.00
Postage	42.26
Photo	0.00
Newsletter Printing	217.50
Repairs/Maint-OTH	607.19
Repairs/Maint-GFS	50.85
Repairs/Maint-Office	0.00
Repairs/Maint-Grounds	40.92
Utilities-OTH	458.81
Utilities-School	640.43
Utilities-Office	290.13
Preservation Materials	0.00
Publishing	3,114.50
Fund Raising	<u>218.48</u>
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>6,041.47</u>

Checking Account	15,803.21
Savings BCMMA 1	<u>138,869.59</u>

**TOTAL CASH
ON HAND** **154,672.80**

DESIGNATED DONATIONS:

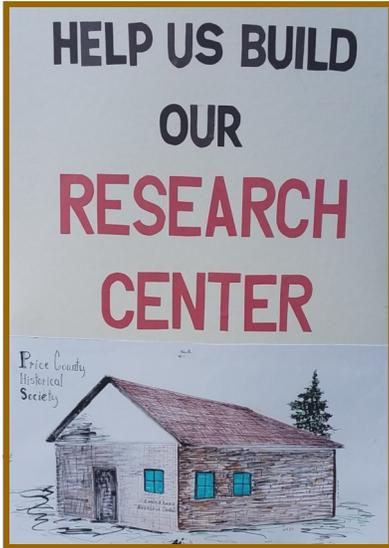
Building & Grounds	795.00	General Maintenance	
Research Center	32,744.35	General Donations & Donor Wall	
Research Center	100,000.00	Donation (Carol J. Koenig)	
Historical Preservation GFS	300.00	Donation (Family of Ethel Teeters)	
Photo Preservation	677.82		
Displays	122.54		
Bricks/FSM	1,201.17		
Soo Line Hist. & Tech. Soc.	<u>5.00</u>		
Total Designated Funds	<u>135,845.88</u>		

Designated Fund Donations maintained in PCHS account at Forward Bank.
These funds are included in totals of cash on hand.

* Amounts to be paid before the end of 2021: Insurance \$1,679; Rent \$1,200.

Membership as of 10-01-2021

<p><u>LIFE MEMBERS</u> ALM, LESLIE/BARBARA BANT, JOYCE BANT & ONCHUCK LAW OFFICE BAUMGARTNER, KAREN BERG, JOHN L BERG, MICHAEL/PAMELA BIRCHMEYER, PAMELA BLOOM, BARBARA BRASKI, MARCELLA BRAYTON, BEVERLY BRAZELTON, GLENN BRENDL, CHARLOTTE BROWN, NORENE CHAFER, NANCY COLLINS, ANNE COLLINS, KERRY CORDY-PRITZL, DOROTHY CVENGROS, CLARENCE CZECH/SLOVAK FEST DAHLIE, DR. JAMES G DAHLIE, DR. PETER N DANIELSON, DONNA FAILING, GARY FLAMBEAU, TOWN OF FLEMING, IRENE FLEMING, ROGER/GRACE FOJTIK, MARIE FOYTEK, ETOLA FROMM, MARLEE GENISIO, JOEL/NANCY GIBEAUT, ED/JO GOC, MICHAEL GRUBE, DUANE R HABECK, VIOLET/SUSIE HOFFMAN II, HAROLD G HOFFMAN, WILLIAM HOWLETT-STONE, DON/LISA HRAD, EDITH JORGENSEN, AGNES KAISER, TOM/TERRI KNUTSON, DAVID KOENIG, CAROL KOENIG, DR. CRAIG S KOENIG, KRISTINE MADER KOENIG, SARAH STANDFIELD KOENIG, STEPHEN KOWALSKI, ROSEMARY LANDRE, DEBRA LAPOINTE, KATHY LIVIERI, TIMOTHY LOVETT, RICHARD N MARSCHKE, GAY MARSHALL, BRUCE/SUSAN</p>	<p><u>LIFE MEMBERS</u> MEIER, DAWN MEIER, LAVONNE MEIER, MICHAEL/TONI MESS, CATHERINE MORRISON, ARLENE MUIRHEAD, BRUCE NALEID, THOMAS J. NEECK, LILLIAN NEUHAUSER, DR. KENNETH NEWTON, MARCUS NUSSBERGER, MARION OCKER, GARY/JANICE PILCH, RICHARD/LORRAINE PLANT, ROSEMARY SAMUEL, ANTOINETTE SCHROEDER -DAILEY/JANE SELUCKY, BARBARA SETTERMAN, ANNETTE SPOSITO, JEANNE STANKE-STROM, MARY LOU STEBEN, MARILYN STROM, KAI STUTZ, JONI STUVE, TERRY/SHERI TROJAK, MAUREEN TROJAK, THERESE UPSON, ARNOLD/THERESA WELCH, PAM ZELLINGER, CAROLE</p> <p><u>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</u> ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANDERSON, BLAKE BASTING, CHUCK BEARD, KATHY BEWLEY, JANET BOECK, BARBARA BOERS, LYNN BOSSE, GINNY BRADLE, CLARENCE BUBENIC, DONNA BUSHMAN, PETE CARPER, JOE CASSIDY, DENISE CASSIDY, MERRI CRESS, SHIRLEY DRAXLER, ETHAN DRAXLER, JOHN DUNBAR, JEFF/TRACI EITREM, STEVEN ELKINS, ROBERT FISH, LINDA FORWARD, CAROL/ GREGORY</p>	<p><u>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</u> FURSTENBERG, BARBARA GEHRMAN, JO ANN GERBER, LETA GRANZIN, KATHY HEIZLER, SUSAN HILGART, FRANCIS HINTZ, JIM/DEE HOFFMAN, MARK/LENORE JOHNSON, WAYNE KRONBERGER, ROLAND/ DORIS LEVINE, DENNIS LIEBELT, ANN MANZANARES, DIXIE LEA MASUCA, TAMI MILLER, JIM MOZENA, , JENNY NAUMAN, MONICA NELSON, KATHRYN NELSON, KERI NELSON, ROBERT OSKVAREK, JOSEPH PETERSON, CATHY POMMIER, YVETTE SALM, BONITA SHEPHERD, JIM SHILTZ, NATALIE STANFORD, SHIRLEY STANKE, CATHERINE STANKE, TOM TOLLEFSON, ERIC TOLLERS, VINCE WENZEL, CLARITA</p> <p><u>BRONZE MEMBERS</u> AHERNE, JOHN/RENEE' BARKSTROM, ALAN/DIANE BEHREANDT, GINGER BLENSKI, ROMAN/SUSAN BOETTCHER, JOHN BRILLHART, GERALD/DONNA BRZESKIEWICZ, MARK/ MARJORY BUTTS, ELLEN CERVENKA, KATHRYN GIBSON, DANIEL GOTTWALD, JEAN/MIKE HILGART REALTY, INC. KENYON, KENNETH/JOLENE KIELSMEIER, GRACE KLEINSCHMIDT, JOANN KOSHAK, ALAN KRONBERGER, JIM/BRENDA</p>	<p><u>BRONZE MEMBERS</u> LEMIEUX, HEDY LUDWIG, RICHARD MCFADYEN, SALLY NELSON, JOLEEN PRESCOTT, NORMAN/RENEE PRITZL, PATTI REINHARD, KATHY ROGERS, CECELIA/ROBERT SCHMIDT, LEN SEVERT, JOHN/CAROL STAPLES, THERESA STRAND, ROGER/JANE TEETERS, TERRY THE 5 SENSES, LLC THELEN, JERRY/KAY TURZENSKI, DONN WESTER, FREDERIC WOLLNER, LARRY/CAROL WICKEN, INGRID ZIRBEL, RONALD</p> <p><u>SILVER MEMBERS</u> DRAXLER, LAWRENCE/ JULIETTE GARGES, PATRICIA GLISSENDORF, DAVID GRIESEL, GREG HICKS, CONNIE JANSEN, LORI KENNAN LUMBER CO LLC MILLER, RICHARD MOVRIK, JERRY/GAIL ONCHUCK, CHELSEA/TOM PALECEK, LIZ/BOB REIL, BECKY ROBERTS, MARILYN ROSS, DICK/LUCY SIMON, DICK TAUSCHMANN, TERRY TEETERS, FORREST/WENDY WAGNER, BETTY</p> <p><u>GOLD MEMBERS</u> AC CARPET PLUS, LLC CLEVEN, KATHLEEN HEIKKINEN, DALE HILGART, ROBERT/PATRICIA KOUNTRY KAFE&KATERING, LLC MOQUIN, DOUG/BONNIE OLSON, TOM/LINNEA ORTMAYER, MARYANN PATENAUDE, DAN/JEANNE</p>
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CHILI TO GO DINNER: Drive up and pick up your dinner, which includes a quart container of Chili, with Cornbread and Bars for desert

Date: Tuesday, October 26 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fifield Town Hall N13935 Ridge Ave Fifield, WI

Price: \$10.00 per dinner

How to Order: You have until 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 24 to call in your order and schedule a pick-up time. Call one of the following individuals to place your order:
Etola Foytek 715-339-2415 or Steven Eitrem 715-518-8024

Annual Members Meeting: A virtual Zoom Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. Please read the instructions on the enclosed Agenda page to receive a link to the meeting; along with directions contained on the insert page for casting your proxy vote.

Price County Historical Society
Old Town Hall Museum
W7213 Pine Street, P.O. Box 156
Fifield, Wisconsin 54524-0156