

Ashwaubenon
 Historical Society
AND MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

August 2013 Volume 5 Number 2



OUR MISSION

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose goal is the preservation of Ashwaubenon's past and present through the collection and interpretation of historical records and artifacts of the area.

Preserving the memories of yesterday for the generations of tomorrow.

Ashwaubenon Businesses: An Occasional Series

ROLA-RENA: AN ASHWAUBENON FIXTURE FOR 41 YEARS

Rola-Rena Roller Skating Center
 731 Morris Ave. Ashwaubenon, WI 54304-4558

The Rola-Rena Roller Skating Center has been a recreation facility in Ashwaubenon for 41 years. It opened on August 31, 1972, to offer family-centered roller skating.

Co-founder, Mary Dollar, said that she and three other families with young children saw that the area had a lack of activities for parents and their children. When thinking about a roller skating facility, the families took a year to plan, visiting other roller skating venues. They eventually purchased one and one-half acres of land, a few blocks from Lambeau Field, from then Ashwaubenon Town Chairman, John Monfort. The building was engineered and constructed by Stran Steel, Appleton. It was the first steel building to be constructed with outside beams to allow more room inside and no pillars in the skating area.

The first skating floor was concrete, poured by the brother of one of the owners. In 1998, Ralph's Hardwood Flooring, Black Creek, installed a solid maple floor with a picture frame design and a skate coating.

Before the rink opened, the owner families laced and glued insoles in hundreds of rental skates. One year later, precision bearings were purchased for all of the skates, replacing loose ball bearings. Bearings are part of the skate wheel.

Mary gradually bought out the other owners, and by 1986, was sole owner. She grew up in a family of roller skaters. Her parents had skated at Skate Land in Green Bay while dating. After Rola-Rena opened, Mary took lessons to become a Nationally Certified Roller Skating Coach. *(Continued on page 3)*

DON'T MISS THE VINTAGE WEDDING GOWN DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM THROUGH DECEMBER

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum opened a vintage wedding gown display with a reception on Saturday, June 22. Over 100 attended to view the 24 gowns which date from 1901 to the 2000's. They were worn by those married in Ashwaubenon or those who live here now. A featured item on opening day only was part of the wedding costume of Theresa Rankin, granddaughter of Chief Ashwaubomay. It was on loan from the Neville Public Museum which owns the entire costume. The display will be up through December.



ITEMS DONATED TO THE MUSEUM

An 1800's wedding dress donated by Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society member, Anita Zipperer. It was owned by her friend, Mary Beth Malm. The dress is on display at the Museum as part of the vintage wedding gown display.

Cormier family history book donated by Gail Walraven. Her husband, Dan Griffiths, is a member of the Cormier family.

Pictures and posters related to the opening of the Red Owl Warehouse in Ashwaubenon in 1953. They were donated by Sue Paral, granddaughter of Mike Van, who was CEO of the Eastern Division of Red Owl at the time.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gary and Anita Roland
Helen Wanish
Erma Olsen
Carol Selissen
Betty De Walle

FALL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, October 19, is Fall Clean-up Day at the Museum. Please come at 8:30 a.m. and help get the outside area ready for winter!



GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE GREEN BAY-DE PERE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society applied for and was awarded a grant of \$542.00 from the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society. The grant funds were used to purchase body forms to display clothing items. The forms are currently being used in the Museum's vintage wedding gown display.

LOCAL HISTORY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference will be held October 11-12, 2013, at the Hotel Mead and Conference Center in Wisconsin Rapids. There will be 24 educational sessions and 12 workshops offering timely information on almost every subject facing local historical societies and historic preservation groups. A special movie night will feature films from the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society. For more information and registration material, go to www.wisconsinhistory.org and click on Local History on the right side of the page.

Remember that the Ashwaubenon Historical Society has a web site www.ashhs.com

Find back issues of the newsletter, meeting minutes, building use policy, a list of the heritage farm families, information on the hobo/tramp art collection, hours, contact information, and more!

MEET OUR MEMBERS:



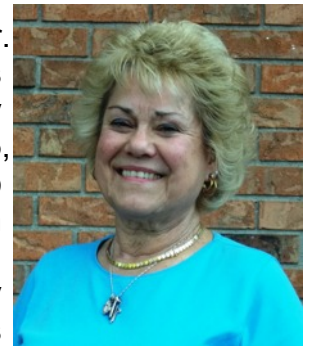
Ralph and Janet Klipstine have been members of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society since 2000. Both grew up on farms in Ashwaubenon and attended grade and high school together. Janet taught elementary school in Hobart, Green Bay, Ashwaubenon, and West De Pere. After serving in the Army Reserve, Ralph worked for the Village of Ashwaubenon and Kerscher Metal Services, now known as Temperature Systems. His father, Alfred, was Town of Ashwaubenon treasurer for many years. Klipstine Park is named for him.

Janet became interested in the Historical Society after she retired and was attracted by the Society's work in collecting information on Ashwaubenon's original farm families. Janet is serving her fourth term as the Society's president. Ralph helps with the property and management work at the Museum. The couple have two children and four grandchildren.

(Continued from page 1)

To promote a family atmosphere at the rink, Mary established a dress code and expected good behavior. A "Wall of Fame" includes photos of events and skaters going back to Rola-Rena's opening day. For a time, Betty Norris, a Green Bay professional figure skater, taught roller skating classes at Rola-Rena.

Mary is very active in the community. She is a graduate of the Greater Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, and in 1971, was the Chamber's Small Business Person of the Year. Over the years, she has volunteered with many community groups. In 2005, she received the Leo Frigo Award, "bestowed on an esteemed volunteer or alumni of the Leadership Green Bay program, a person who has made a significant, continual contribution to the program and to leadership in the community."



When not open for public skating, Rola-Rena hosts birthday and other parties and special events. Many groups use the Center for skating activities. There are bi-weekly skating sessions for the clients of Aspiro. During the school year, Valley View Elementary School in Ashwaubenon and Beaumont Elementary School in Green Bay,

Mary has an interest in history. She has served as Governor of the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society, and has been a member of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society for nine years.

incorporate regular visits to Rola-Rena into their after-school programs.

Mary says she loves what she does and, at present, has no thoughts of retiring.

Mary has been actively involved with the Roller Skating Association International (RSA) and is currently president of Section 3, which covers seven states. She was part of an Association group which developed standard guidelines for teaching roller skating, and was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Interview with Mary Dollar July 31, 2013.
 "Three Inches Taller," Phyllis Mong. WOMAN: WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE WOMAN OF TODAY, GREEN BAY NEWS CHRONICLE. July 22, 1997, p. 2
 "Life Rolls on for Skating Rink Owner," Nancy Barthel. THE COMPASS. JUNE 17, 2011, p. 1A
 "Chamber award winner is on a roll," Michelle Kennedy. GREEN BAY NEWS CHRONICLE. June 7, 2001, p. 5



ASHWAUBENON HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMING EVENTS
 The calendar for the year is on the Society's website: www.ashhs.com



- August 22 6:30 p.m. General meeting
- September 11 1:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
- September 26 6:30 p.m. General meeting
- October 11-12 Local History/Preservation Conf.
- October 19 8:30 p.m. Museum fall clean-up
- October 24 6:30 p.m. Annual meeting

- November 1 Deadline for newsletter
- November 12 Newsletter publication
- November 14 6:30 p.m. General meeting
- December 11 1:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
- NO DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING



AND MUSEUM

737 Cormier Road
Ashwaubenon, WI 54304

HOURS

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays and Saturdays
Closed January - February
Admission: \$1.00

Phone 920-429-2863

Leave message or call 920-339-9519
if the Museum is closed.

E-mail: ahshistory@att.net

Website: www.ashhs.com

OFFICERS

President: Janet Klipstine
Vice President: Mary Kugel
Secretary: Lorraine Petersen

Treasurer: Ray Rottier

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lois McAllister
Judy Schroeder
Mary Selner

ALTERNATE BOARD

Betsy Johnson
Dave Johnson
Dave McAllister

MUSEUM CURATOR

Annette Aubinger

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jackie Burkat

To join the Ashwaubenon Historical Society, fill out the form below. We invite your active participation, and you will receive our newsletter, meeting agendas and minutes, and free admission to the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2013 (January 1 to December 31)

MAIL WITH DUES TO:

Ashwaubenon Historical Society, 737 Cormier Road, Ashwaubenon, WI 54304

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Student \$5.00 Couple \$18.00 Supporter \$50.00 Corporate Member \$250.00
Individual \$10.00 Contributor \$25.00 Honorary Member \$100.00