

Mailing Address
Altoona Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 1
Altoona, WI 54720

Newsletter

2026

January—July

Volume 4

Museum Address

Altoona Historical Society Museum
506 9th St. West



From Your President
Don Winrich

As of January 2026, I will not be seeking another term as President of the Altoona Historical Society. It's time for new leadership and fresh energy, but I'll remain an active member and continue supporting the organization however I can.

Though my working life has taken me across six different states, I've always found my way back to Altoona—because that's where my heart lives. Someone once told me, "You can take a person out of Altoona, but you can't take Altoona out of the person." I've found that to be true in every sense.

Special Notice

The Altoona Historical Society invites you to attend their Annual and First Board Meeting of 2026.

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Altoona Historical Society Museum 506 9th Street West, Altoona, WI 54720

This meeting will be held at the museum, and the public is warmly welcome.

Come join the organization and help us preserve the rich history of Altoona!



Leonard Clarence Haas

Leonard Clarence Haas was born on February 17, 1915, and grew up in Altoona, Wisconsin. Haas graduated from Eau Claire State Teachers College in 1935 with his bachelor's degree in education. He earned a master's degree in history from UW-Madison in 1938, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He married Dorellen M. Lambert on May 31, 1941, and returned to UW-Eau Claire that year as a history and government instructor. From 1959-1971, Haas served as President of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire until 1964, and Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire (1964-1971). From 1971-1973, he served as Executive Vice-President of the University of Wisconsin System where he played a major role in the merging of state colleges and universities into one system. He returned to UW-EC in 1973 and served as chancellor until 1980. Haas remained at the university as a history professor from 1980 until his retirement in 1985. The Fine

Arts Center was dedicated to Haas and his wife in 1986. Haas died at the age of 83 on March 14, 1998.

During Haas' tenure the university grew from five to 25 buildings and from 1,700 to nearly 11,000 students. The proportion of students coming from outside the Eau Claire area, and even from outside Wisconsin, increased greatly. Bachelor's degree programs in nursing and business were initiated. Acknowledgment of their high quality came from the college's membership and recognition of excellence in 30 honor societies and accreditations. At the suggestion of his mentor, Professor Laura Sutherland, he adopted "Excellence" as the university's motto.

**The above picture and article is courtesy of
UWEC archives.**

Memories From The Past

- The ball field on the south east corner of Spooner Ave., and Fairfax St.
- The 4-H Barns just east of Fairfax St. in the Altoona Addition.
- Walking across the railroad tracks to get to the Altoona Beach.
- Taking your garbage to the dump as there was no garbage service.
- Walking or driving to the Post Office to get your mail as there was no mail delivery.
- Fishing below the Altoona Dam.
- Swimming above the Altoona Dam.
- Parking with your girlfriend or boyfriend in Moonlight Bay area.
- Beer parties at the Altoona Dam.
- Party telephone lines and dial phones.
- Going to the library in the Auditorium.
- Going to Meyers Dairy Bar to get ice cream.
- Watching free movies next to the Auditorium.
- Doing "Shoe Sliding" in the winter.
- Shopping for candy or food at the A&B Superette or Looby's grocery store.

Continued on page 7

This coloring page is provided courtesy of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, signed a document called the Pacific Railway Act that created Union Pacific Railroad in 1862.



Music

Pictured below is Larry Daken, a proud 1968 graduate of Altoona High School and a member of the Altoona Historical Society. His extraordinary record collection is more than impressive, it's a living archive of sound, nostalgia, and cultural history.

Thanks to WQOW News for sharing this story and photo, which beautifully capture Larry's passion and the legacy he continues to build through music.



ALTOONA, Wisconsin ([WQOW](#)) -- When you step inside Larry Daken's home in Altoona, you're greeted with music. Music is in the air and records line the walls.

"There's records here that go back a long time," Daken said. "I don't have the exact number but it was close to 46,000 at one point until I sold 4,000. So it's over 41,000 records."

His collection includes records of all types and sizes and ranging back over 100 years to the early 1900s.

"Look at the number of people who have tried to make a living selling their voice," he said, standing in front of the shelves.

Daken started collecting in 2000 when he bought an old phonograph.

"There were records that came with it and I was amazed with what was in those records," he said. "So then it went from there on and it hasn't stopped."

He believes some of his more rare records

could be worth over \$1,000.

"You can have a lot of records that are the same, but there's a few that have some differences and those are rare and they bring a lot more money," Daken said. But he's not ready to sell, at least not yet.

"I think if I wanted to, if I ever get to that point, and I don't think I ever will, I could just open up a store here and sell records," he said. "I've got enough variety." Daken said his collection isn't about the money. It's about the music.

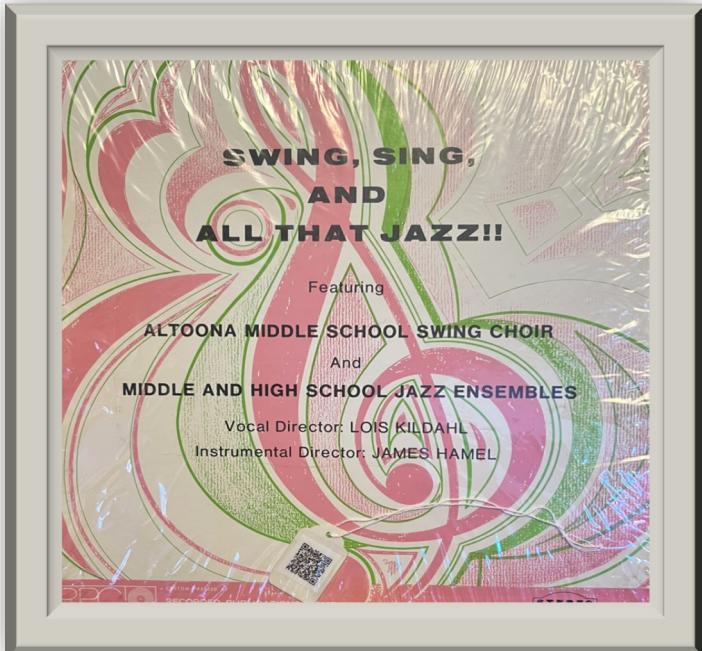
"Music has been known to be and proven to be uplifting," he said. "It takes you to different places and it changes moods, it lifts moods, it's healthy."

It allows him to reconnect with history, with the artists, and himself.

"I listen to music when I was growing up now and it just takes me back and it's almost invaluable, and those people are all gone now so all that's left is their recordings," he said. "So to your question, 'What is it about music?' I don't know. It just does something to you."

Donation

"This album was generously donated to the Altoona Historical Society by the Rehberg family in loving memory of their mother, Shirley Utphall Rehberg, a proud alumna of Altoona schools."



New Paint for the Old Fish House

The “Old Fish House” got a new coat of paint last summer. The building, located within Altoona City Park at 506 Ninth Street West, is used as a museum and meeting place for the Altoona Historical Society. With paint chipping and peeling on all exterior surfaces, it was overdue for much needed attention. Tim Wagner, a volunteer with the Altoona Historical Society, took the lead in organizing the project. Volunteers spent weeks using putty knives to scrape and chip several coats of old paint off the wood siding. This did not remove all the paint but ensured that peeling would not recur after new paint was applied. Electric sanders and 86 sanding discs were used to smooth the surface and prepare for painting. Because the wood siding was old and weathered, ten gallons of primer were applied before painting could finally begin. A total of four gallons of paint were used on the 26 ft. x 52 ft. building. Work on the project started in June, 2025 and lasted about ten weeks with the final touch ups of paint completed on August 26. Volunteers donated 200 hours of their time, with Tim working over half of those hours. Other Altoona Historical Society members who helped with prepping and painting were Vicki Iverson and Mariah Ottinger (Honorary Member and student at Altoona High School). Don & Mary Winrich assisted with picking up supplies and cleaning (there were piles of paint chips to clean up every day during the chipping process). Many compliments were received from people visiting the park. The total cost for primer, paint and supplies was about \$1,400 with the Altoona Lions Club donating a portion of that amount.

The original purpose of the building, which opened in 1972, was as a Community Recreation Center managed by the Altoona Recreation Department. The basement of the building was used as a teen gathering center run by volunteers. Local teenagers had been gathering in the nearby parsonage basement of Reverend Jerome Newton of Bethlehem Lutheran Church since 1969. Volunteers formed fund raising projects to continue the teen center in the basement of the new rec center. The teens called the parsonage basement “The Fish House” and the name carried over to the recreation center. Volunteers operated the teen center and supervised the teens. They sold pop, candy bars, and chips at minimal cost. Game tables such as Foosball and pool cost a dime to play. With a jukebox and a radio, it was a popular gathering spot.

See pictures on page 6



The Altoona Historical Society invites you to visit our museum during our Open House Events. You can also make an appointment for a visit to fit your schedule or planned event.

You can reach us by email: altoonahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

2026 Altoona Historical Society Museum

Open House Events (free of charge)

506 Ninth Street West

Altoona, Wisconsin 54720

June 6 from Noon to 4:00

Note: During Cinder City Days join us for museum tours, ice cream, and games with prizes for the kids.

July 11 from 1:00 to 4:00

August 8 from 1:00 to 4:00

September 12 from 1:00 to 4:00



SCRAPE



PAINT



**LOOKS
NEW**

Restoration Crew

Tim Wagner

Vicki Iverson

Mariah Ottinger

News From Altoona's Past As Published in the Leader Telegram On
June 4, 1893

Altoona is overrun with tramps.

Mr. and Mrs. Nesgood, of the town of Seymour, are causing considerable trouble to their neighbors. They will have to stop making threats to the children.

Mr. P. O. Evenson, editor of the "Warden" of La Crosse, and Pete Peterson, the violinist of Christiana, Norway, are visiting Bjornstad the tailor and Lee the shoemaker.

Mr. W. Boyington is the happy father of a fine little girl.

John Sturz, who has been digging a well, is now eighty-five feet deep and no water. John says he will make it an even 100 and if he don't reach water by that time he will fill it up again and carry water from the river.

John Dumphy says he can catch more fish in one hour than any other fisher in the city. Altoona has lots of people who don't know how to fish. Try it John.

If some of the ministers of Eau Claire would favor us with a sermon once a week it would do us good.

Mrs. Bannister visited her sister at Eau Claire for a few days last week.

The Misses Delia Roberts, Lillian Shute and Maude Doyle attended the matinee of the "Jolly Pathfinders" at Eau Claire last Saturday.

Mike Lenz, who received his new ice box last week, says he can keep enough beer on hand to last him all summer. He says the next thing he will want is a sign wanting 500 men men to unload schooners.

Ole Johnson, who has been in America for the last twenty-one years, ate his first banana the other night. Ole didn't know how to eat them until he was told to peel them. He is now one of Altoona's largest banana eaters.

Continued from page 2

- Ice skating in the winter on Lake Altoona or the rink next to the Auditorium.
- Sliding and tobogganing on Hillcrest Golf Course in the winter.
- Fishing Lake Altoona or as some called it the Dead Sea.



William (Bill) Leland



Bill, getting ready to drive students in the Altoona school bus.

Continued on page 8

William (Bill) Leland - Custodian & Counselor

By Roger Rasmussen

My Grandmother, Eva Glassbrenner, often spoke of little people who made big impacts on her life. My Grandma was not a little person- in her prime she weighted more than 300 pounds. What Bill Leland lacked in size, he made-up by being kind yet stern toward the hundreds of students he encountered as Altoona School custodian- janitor during the 1940-50's. Bill wasn't the principal/superintendent/ math teacher; that title belonged to one man- Mr. Pedersen. Bill wasn't that 6'5" basketball coach who took the 1952 basketball team to Madison; that distinction belonged to Mr. Lehman. Close in spelling but not the same. Bill Leland was not one of the guys at basketball games shouting at the officials; that title belonged to a variety of men- Gunder, Johnny, or Emil. Even Margaret threw-in a barb. They made every game exciting, challenging, and worthy of playing. Nor, was Bill that well-dress debonair guy who kept the score books; that honor belonged to Harold. No, Bill was none of these! Bill Leland's influence may have been greater.

Bill along with Emma Leland raised their own six kids: however, Bill could be credited with helping to raise 600 more. He drove the school bus each school day; he cleaned-up after our messes each day; he scrubbed the bathroom and hall floors each week; he removed the garbage, trash and our many footprints from the floors; he sanded the desks where we carved our names or the names of our secret pals; you know them as Shirley, Dorothy, Joan, Louise, or Jiggs, Jerry, Omar, Trapper, or Baldy. These carvings seem to be duplicated year after year; whatever happened to those woodcarvers? Like Bill, they aged, retired, and left their mark on the lives of those they passed along the way.

Emma raised their kids at home; Bill helped raise us at school. Disciplinarian? Don't eat all of your lunch? Bill wanted to know why ... followed by.... "Don't even think about getting away from the bench until you finish." No "if" but "when" was the rule. Now! Another class was coming. The look from his right eye, not the left, told you "get with it kid." It mattered little, 3rd or 12th grade, I never questioned Bill's authority. I towered over him by 7th grade; I replied "yes, Mr. Leland." It was never, "yes, Bill." He taught me to respect my teachers, the cooks, "Bill- the Custodian" and my classmates. I was 16 before I knew what the word custodian meant. I thought Bill Leland ran the school; he did! We were all true believers! I thought the word custodian meant he was in custody of me. I knew from the Saturday westerns at the Badger Theatre, that when the sheriff took you into custody, it meant that he was in charge of you for having done something wrong. That fear convinced me to do whatever Bill commanded; and, commanded he did!

Bill drove the bus each day; but his pride and joy was driving to basketball games. As a B-squader, when I first could ride the bus to away- games , Bill said, “ Roger, you sit in the last seat in the back.” I didn’t know if that was an honor or a punishment. Gosh it was cold back there. I never asked if I could sit in front. From the corner of his right eye, not his left, he gave me that look and silently “Don’t even think about asking....” I knew better! The warm front seats were for the cheerleaders and Mr. Lehman. Bill had a quiet way of saying... “Teenage boys must sacrifice.” He expected order, respect, obedience, self-control, and NO complaints. Those restricted to the rear seats, Gerald, Ritchie, Dale, Ronnie, whomever, might yell for “more heat” but we did so with our head hidden below the top of the seat. I could see Bill’s “evil right eye” looking through the rear view mirror; always focused right on me. Guilty or not- I would smile as I “shivered” and my heart beat 100 miles per hour. My gosh, “I hope he doesn’t turn the heat down.”

In the 1940-50’s we lacked playground supervisors, counselors, hall monitors; Bill filled the bill! Often he was lurking around every corner of the “old school.” Out of line? Wow! Look out for disciplinarian Bill. He seemed to be everywhere! Sort of a super-mom of the 1990’s. If you didn’t share the “giants or ball “ Bill might ask why. Next time you did!. Hard lessons taught by a firm and fair man. Mostly, Bill didn’t speak. He looked: mostly smiling, especially if you passed when you could have shot, or you picked-up when you could have turned-away. His spirit seems everywhere. He knew everyone and he knew where you were supposed to be; too often, I was in the wrong place. I was a slow learner! Bill wouldn’t tolerate backtalk. Insolence was not in his dictionary –his vocabulary. Obedience and respect were the same word. Bill taught me both; tough love!

Bill lacked a license to teach; he had no credentials from the State of Wisconsin. He had no written permission slip from my parents to discipline, guide or counsel me; in his wisdom, he knew Altoona’s families needed help raising kids. Today we marvel at our wisdom, “it takes more than concerned parents; it takes relatives, schools, churches, the whole community to help raise a child.” Bill knew it back in the 40’s-50’s- “the good times.” He taught using a more practical approach that neither “spared the rod or spoiled the child.” My eight siblings are testimony to Bill’s influence on one family. Bill’s and Emma’s six kids are too. We could use a few more Bill Lelands in our schools today. Tough love? You bet! He bet on us and we thank him!

Have you ever heard of the WPA Program? The article below gives you some brief insight into the program and was written and published by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

WPA (in Wisconsin)

A federally funded program intended to put the unemployed back to work and stimulate the economy during the Great Depression.

The Nation's Problem

The stock market crash of 1929 caused widespread poverty and unemployment as banks folded, businesses went bankrupt, and factories shut down. By 1933 more than 12 million Americans were out of work (about 25% of the labor force). In Wisconsin, by 1933 the majority of the state's banks had closed, retail sales and tax collections plummeted, and nearly 400,000 residents were on welfare or some other kind of relief.

The Government's Solution

To address the crisis, in 1935 Congress authorized the Works Progress Administration to create jobs and stimulate the economy. They funded it with an appropriation of \$5 billion (\$82 billion in today's dollars). Wisconsin participated eagerly in the WPA, setting up a state administration as soon as funds became available. In 1939, the program's name was changed to Works Projects Administration but the abbreviation remained accurate.

WPA projects were required to have a local sponsor who paid a portion of the cost and to recruit their workers from the ranks of the unemployed and those on relief. In Wisconsin, about three-fourths of the funding went to construction and engineering projects, and a quarter to professional projects and community service work.

Results of the WPA in Wisconsin

Between 1935 and 1943, WPA construction crews created 22,889 miles of roads, erected 1,456 new buildings, laid 1,588 miles of water pipes and sewers, constructed 504 dams, built 17 airports, and planted 63 million trees in Wisconsin.

Between 1935 and 1940, professional and community service programs taught 9,437 people how to read and write, served 3.1 million hot lunches to school children, gave citizenship classes to 3,611 immigrants, and manufactured or repaired 4.5 million articles of clothing or bedding. Other programs performed work or taught classes in the arts, music, and literature, including the Wisconsin Writers' Project and Arts Project, the Wisconsin Public Records Survey, and the Milwaukee Handicraft Project.

On average, the WPA employed 43,000 people per year in Wisconsin. Wages averaged about 60% of those paid to workers performing the same jobs in the private sector. About \$318 million was spent in Wisconsin during the life of the program, \$220 million of it going to wages.

The End of the WPA

The WPA was not the only public works initiative undertaken during the Depression. Other federal programs separate from WPA included the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the state of Wisconsin operated its own relief and public works agencies.

In the early 1940s, as World War II approached, the federal government helped American industry gear up for the war effort. The resulting economic growth and the war itself provided jobs for millions of workers, and the WPA was phased out. It formally ended in 1943 after giving work to more than 8 million Americans during the greatest economic collapse in the nation's history.

The Perfect Potato Salad with Directions



3 medium potatoes
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon vinegar
½ cup sliced celery
⅓ cup finely chopped onion
¼ cup chopped sweet pickle
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon celery seed
¾ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced

1. In a covered pan, cook potatoes in enough boiling water to cover for about 25 minutes or till almost tender. Drain well. Peel the warm potatoes.
2. Quarter and slice potatoes, and then transfer them to a mixing bowl.
3. Sprinkle potatoes with sugar and vinegar.
4. Add the sliced celery, onion, sweet pickle, salt, and celery seed to the potatoes. Stir the mixture to combine.
5. Add mayonnaise or salad dressing. Fold into the potato mixture
6. Carefully fold in the sliced eggs. Cover and chill thoroughly.

Makes 4 servings

Altoona 8th graduation picture taken in 1956,
and is courtesy of Marilyn Compton Sullivan.



Row 1 Left to Right: Miss Buelah Turney Teacher, Gretchen Gutsch, Georgianne Carr, Sonja Klungseth, Shirley Utphall, Ann Board, Jim Gries, Judy Franson. **Row 2 Left to Right:** Vicki Flora, Marilyn Compton, Janice Thompson, Joan Klingbeil, Harold Fischer, Larry Johnson, Pat Olson, Katie Gilbert, **Row 3 Left to Right:** Janet Udler, Joan Heike, Dorothy Rasmussen, Diana Connell, Nancy Rathbun, Deanna Shafer, Dick Schultz.



The Altoona Family Restaurant is currently undergoing a remodeling project. In the spirit of preserving local history during this transition, they have graciously loaned a cherished wood carving which was long displayed on their walls to the Altoona Historical Society. We are honored to exhibit this piece at the museum, where it can be enjoyed by all who visit.

Trickle watches Steuding nip Plank on final lap

By Ron Buckli

Dick Trickle was the main attraction but the heralded Wisconsin Rapids driver was forced to sit back and watch two track drivers battle it out for honors Wednesday night at the River City Raceway.

Trickle, a national record-holder, helped pack in a season-high 1,800 fans for the second leg of the 1976 International Late Model Short Track Championship Series of stock car racing.

And the Superamerica-sponsored whiz ran a fine race but at the checkered flag, he was well behind winner Tom Steuding of Altoona and runnerup Leon Plank of Mondovi.

Repeat finish

For Steuding and Plank, the finish was a repeat of the June Invitational here but Wednesday's 40-lapper was not decided until the final lap.

After exchanging the lead throughout the race, the two ran neck and neck in the final five laps.

On the south turn of the last lap, Plank, the Flying Farmer and 1974 series champion, slid high with Steuding getting inside to take the lead on the backstretch and then held it as he passed flagman Jack Rada's victory stand, winning by about a car length.

Even with the presence of Trickle, Steuding's victory came as little surprise. For the White Knight of Wisconsin dirt track circles, it was his 20th feature win of the season and boosted him into the lead in the series which he won a year ago.

Steuding's time of 12:00.60 easily set a new 40-lap record on a record-setting night and he got away with \$1,000 first place money, Plank pocketing \$700 for second.

Trickle came to town with the reputation as the No. 1 short track racer in North America with over 400 feature wins, including 67 in one season.

But nearly all of his winnings

came on half-mile, asphalt tracks, in contrast to the quarter-mile dirt track of the raceway here. Despite the change in atmosphere, Trickle showed his class.

After running a fifth best time trial of 17.53, he started inside on the third row, ran sixth early in the race only to work his way up to a solid third place finish, passing track point-leader Dennis (Red) Steffen on lap 38 to claim \$500 prize money.

Steffen, who started inside on the fourth row, also ran a good race and wound up fourth to pocket \$400 while Punky Manor of Altoona, the polesitter, came in fifth and checked out with \$300.

Manor gained the pole with a sensational 17.31 time trial run, setting a new track record as the first eight times bettered the old standard.

Manor lost the feature race lead to Plank on the second lap, however, and Steuding, charging from his outside start in the second row, took command on the seventh lap.

Plank roared into the lead on lap 10 with Manor second but Steuding gained the runnerup position at the mid-point of the race and then moved ahead of Plank on lap 27 with Trickle passing Manor to take fourth place.

On the 32nd lap, Plank passed Steuding, setting the stage for the neck-and-neck dash to the flag. While Trickle moved into third, neither Steuding or Plank could take command until the final lap when Steuding made his victory move.

The victory pushed Steuding into the series lead with 375 points, five more than Johnny Jones of Thunder Bay, Ont., who finished 12th in the feature.

Bob Saterdalen, who finished eighth in the feature, ranks third with 350; Brent Larson of Cumberland is fourth with 340 and Steffen is fifth with 325. Ed Sanger of Waterloo, Ia., winner of the first

series event at Superior earlier this month, was far down the list Wednesday and dropped to 10th in the standings.

Points are awarded on appearance, time trials and heats as well as the feature.

Heat winners were Dave Adams of Cameron, Saterdalen and Jerry Peterson of Marseilles, Ill. The Late Model consolation event was won by Doug Tylee of Menomonie.

In all, there were 27 late models in the competition, 18 running in the feature event.

The street stock feature went to Larry Heller of Augusta, who beat Eau Claire's Mark Kjelstad to the flag. Both had won earlier heat races.

In the first street heat, Dick Perkovich caused some excitement when he broke an axle and rolled in the south turn.

The record-setting times were attributed to super condition of the track, aided by Tuesday night's rain.

RIVER CITY RESULTS

Street Stock Heat 1—N.T.
1—12-Larry Heller, Augusta 2—70-Steve Paulson, E.C. 3—58-Dave Vleck, E.C. 4—92-Chuck Markman, E.C.

Street Stock Heat 2—3:55.42
1—93-Mark Kjelstad, E.C. 2—77-Don Jaquish, Eleva 3—55-Wes Vleck, E.C. 4—16-Randy Johnson, E.C.

Feature Street Stock—N.T.

1—12-Larry Heller, Augusta 2—93-Mark Kjelstad, E.C. 3—70-Steve Paulson, E.C. 4—23-Paul Smith, E.C. 5—77-Don Jaquish, Eleva 6—55-Wes Vleck, E.C. 7—92-Chuck Markman, E.C. 8—42-Chris Preston, E.C.

Late Model Heat 1—3:31.12

1—40-Dave Adams, Cameron; 2—7-Tom Steuding, Altoona; 3—66-Phil Prusak, E.C.; 4—97-Red Steffen, E.C.; 5—34-Leon Plank, Mondovi

Late Model Heat 2—3:37.69

1—98-Bob Saterdalen, Oronoco; 2—1-Tom Nesbitt, Thunder Bay; 3—02-Brent Laursen, Cumberland; 4—97-John Jones, Thunder Bay; 5—2-Skip Spittstoesser, Stillwater;

Late Model Heat 3—3:40.81

1—53-Jerry Peterson, Marseilles, Ill.; 2—77-Roger Turk, Eleva; 3—27-Dave Palmquist, Rice Lake; 4—8-Gary Dorn, Altoona; 5—89-Doug Tylee, Menomonie

Late Model Consy—3:42.22

1—89-Doug Tylee, Menomonie; 2—53-Jerry Peterson, Marseilles, Ill.; 3—29-Al Schuler, Winona; 4—77-Roger Turk, Eleva

Late Model Feature (12:00.60) Record

1—7-Tom Steuding, Altoona; 2—34-Leon Plank, Mondovi; 3—99-Dick Trickle, Wis. Rapids; 4—97-Red Steffen, E.C.; 5—57-Neil Manor Jr., Altoona; 6—87-Don Berger, Mondovi; 7—1-Tom Nesbitt, Thunder Bay; 8—98-Bob Saterdalen, Oronoco;

Late Model Time Trial

57-Neil Manor Jr., 17.31 (Record)

Mission Statement

The Society was officially organized May 7, 2010 by an act of incorporation in the State of Wisconsin, given its non-profit status by the IRS in 2016 as an educational organization exclusively to collect, organize, preserve, protect, promote, and present the history of Altoona including but not limited to securing documents, photographs, video and audio recordings of individuals and groups, artifacts and historical buildings of interest to current and future citizens of Altoona and the surrounding area, consistent with and guided by the by-laws of the State of Wisconsin Historical Society.

Altoona Historical Society Beginning

The current Altoona Historical Society Inc. was incorporated in 2010 and received IRS non-profit status (501C3) in 2016. AHSI was founded by John and Amy Thurston, Jack Blackburn, James Klingbeil, Mark Hagen, Herb Ruscin, John Udler, Mark Quam, and Roger Rasmussen- holding its first meeting in 2009. An earlier historical organization was created to celebrate Altoona's Centennial in 1988. This organization ceased to exist soon after the Centennial event and all funds created were eventually transferred to AHSI.

Officers elected at the first annual meeting in 2010 were Mark Quam-President; Roger Rasmussen Vice-President; Jack Blackburn- Treasurer; and, James Klingbeil-Secretary. Additional board level positions were soon created for Historian and Parliamentarian . The initial organizational meetings created a business address, banking and mail box information, plus protocol and procedures for meetings. The Wisconsin Historical Organization provided a liaison connection- this person met with the Board and provided guidance. Incorporation papers were filed with the State of Wisconsin. Initial application forms were developed for non-profit status. Both incorporation approval and non-profit status approval is in place.

During its infancy AHSI held information meetings for new members, speakers for public forums, assistants to public school historical events, developed several calendars for sale, and sold various books/booklets at public events. Future events include the above plus interviews of individuals identified as having important historical information and experience as Altoona residents. A continuation of the collection, organization, preservation, and presentation of historical documents, photographs and artifacts will serve as the major focus during 2016-2018.

We Never Get Derailed

History From The Past As Published In The Altoona Tribune

ALTOONA TRIBUNE

ALTOONA, WISCONSIN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1941

ALTOONA STATISTICS	
Population 1940	1239
Railroad Employees	400
Monthly Payroll	\$60,000
Paydays	15th and 30th

The 400 Club Lunch Room

Home Cooked Meals
Home Made Soups and Chile

Home Owned

Phone 2-1290

L. G. Stanley, Owner

FENNER'S GROCERY	
ALTOONA ADDITION	
SPECIALS	
WHEATIES	2 boxes for 25c
SPICES, 2 oz. box,	3 for 27c
SPAGHETTI, 22 oz. cans	
	3 for 28c
Grape JAM 32 oz. jar	24c
SAUERKRAUT 27 oz.	10c
PIGS FEET Tid Bits	
9 oz. jar	23c

KLINGBEIL DAIRY		
MILK	— CREAM —	CHOCOLATE MILK
BUTTERMILK		
— WE AIM TO PLEASE —		
ALTOONA		PHONE 305 R 12

1942 BUDGET			
CITY OF ALTOONA, WISCONSIN			
SUMMARY	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	
	1940	1941*	1942
General Operation			
General government	\$ 2,450.35	\$ 2,052.61	\$ 2,113.00
Protection of persons & property	1,789.56	1,668.59	1,695.00
Health and sanitation	1,589.75	1,746.21	1,869.00
Charity	4,170.50	3,851.09	3,800.00
Highways	2,280.92	2,629.79	3,501.52
Recreation	673.79	75.52	100.00
Indebtedness (excluding temporary)	3,152.68	2,969.50	3,000.00
Public service enterprises	2,110.92	2,936.28	3,000.00
Unclassified	32.55	22.45	9.20
Vocational school, Eau Claire, Wis.	1,547.90	738.50	725.00
Contingent appropriation			500.00
Temporary loans to be retired	7,209.50	9,169.50	11,000.00
Expenditures for outlay	1,376.68	5,100.46	750.00
Total Expenditures	\$28,385.10	\$32,960.50	\$32,062.72
Less: Revenues (Other than property tax)	\$16,273.17	\$18,376.71	\$13,171.20
Temporary loans to be required	6,200.00	4,900.00	4,300.00
General property tax for city purposes	\$10,264.39	\$12,493.16	\$12,450.00

(* Estimated for last 3 months)

CHENEY'S	
WITH COUPON	
3 pound SPRY	47c
can	
One to person while they last	
BUTTER	lb. 38c
GUM DROPS, 1 lb	12c
½ lb Cut Mixed	
CANDIED FRUIT	17c
1 Qt. Johnson's GLO-COAT	98c
and jar of Johnson's Silver Polish	
3 pounds BROWN SUGAR	22c
3 pounds Bulk POWDERED SUGAR	23c
2 pound Box CRACKERS	17c
Can Min-ot CRANBERRY SAUCE	15c
1 pound Ferry FOOD CANDY	21c

Altoona Public Library

The chillier weather is perfect for cozying up with a good book and the Altoona Public Library is the perfect place to find one! Our collection includes print and audiobooks for youth, teens and adults. We have DVDs and magazines too! Looking for a new hobby to keep you busy? Check out the Library of Things collection - we have everything from puzzles, board games, cookie cutters, snowshoes and more. The library has something for everyone!

Winter story time registration opens on January 2nd for Toddler Tales and Preschool Story Time sessions. Monthly youth programs starting in January include LEGO Club, PJ Story Night, and Chess Club. Teens are invited to attend Chess Club and monthly Ping Pong and Pizza.

Adult programs include monthly book clubs, Knit & Crochet Club, Crafternoons, Writer's Group and more! We're hosting an adult Winter Puzzle Race competition on January 29th at 6pm. Registration is required for this adult program and participants can sign up as a team or as an individual. Teams will race to complete a 300-piece puzzle that will be announced that evening. You can even create your own puzzle race at home by checking out a Puzzle Race Kit - a tote with eight copies of the same puzzle. Perfect for a game night!

The ***Friends of Altoona Public Library*** is always looking for new members! Friends is a civic organization whose purpose is to support the library through volunteerism, funding and events. As a member of the Friends, you will be helping to support our library. This is a great time to join and bring your ideas of how you can help the library.

Dues schedule:

Student/Senior – \$10 annually

Friend – \$20 annually

Family – \$50 annually

Lifetime – \$250 (individual, student, senior)

Watch the website and social media accounts for details on upcoming programs. You can also sign up for the monthly library newsletter to stay up to date on any library events. The library staff is also happy to answer questions over the phone.

Altoona Public Library
1303 Lynn Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
715-839-5029

<https://altoonapubliclibrary.org/>
Facebook/Instagram: @altoonapl



AHSI DONATION FORM

Altoona Historical Society, Inc. is a nonprofit organization managed by volunteers consisting of a Board of Directors and Members. Your donation can help to preserve the history of Altoona, Wisconsin. All donations are tax deductible.

Yes, I would like to help preserve the history of Altoona, Wisconsin by donating to AHSI.

Name (personal or business)

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Check one: Cell Phone Other

Email Address

Donation Amount \$ _____

AHSI may list your name (personal or business) in printed materials and/or on the AHSI website.

Please do NOT list my name (personal or business). I wish to remain anonymous.

Your address, phone number, email address will **not** be shared with anyone outside of the AHSI organization.

Signature:

Date: _____

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE
DONATIONS TO:**

**ALTOONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1
ALTOONA, WI 54720**

AHSI MEMBERSHIP FORM

AHSI members will be notified of meetings and will be able to participate in discussions and decisions regarding AHSI business. Your input will be appreciated. You will have opportunities to volunteer behind the scenes and at public events.

Yes, I would like to help preserve the history of Altoona, Wisconsin by becoming a member of AHSI. Suggested Donation \$10/year.
Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Check one: Cell Phone Other

Email Address

Membership Donation Amount \$ _____

I give AHSI permission to release my name and/or photos of my involvement with AHSI:

Yes No

Your address, phone number, email address will **not** be shared with anyone outside of the AHSI organization. To be more cost efficient, most AHSI information will be Emailed to members.

Signature:

Date: _____

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE
MEMBERSHIP DONATION TO:**

**ALTOONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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"Railroads carve the path of progress, uniting places and possibilities."