

CALEDONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 2

Preserving Caledonia's past for the future

April 2010

Editors: Joanne Jensen and Debra Jensen contact information: djensen@bytehead.com

In Sept of 1960 a first grader filed into a new school building. The smell of sawdust and the sound of hammers hung in the air. Ready or not, the Caledonia Graded School began educating the students of Caledonia. That first grade class was the only class to go through all 8 grades.

The May 11 program will be about the Caledonia School turning 50 years, with the focus on the first 10 years. Bring your memories, photos, or other memorabilia of the Caledonia Graded School during the 1960's. Mary Mittlesteadt will lead the discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions call Mary at 742-2912.

The March 9 meeting was held at the town hall. Al Hamele led the discussion on the organizational structure of the CHS. Nancy will be at the Town Hall during business hours, except the 3rd Monday of the month, during March and April. The members of the library committee will spend that time working on the library. There was talk about the site of the Radisson post office. It is currently located in a flood plain.

Due to a conflict with the Sept 14th primary election it was decided to hold the CHS meeting on its regularly scheduled date but at a different location. Members will check other sites to see if they are available and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Does anyone have any pictures or information about any of the 3 Caledonia Post Offices? If you do, contact any member of the Caledonia Historical Society.

Do you know?

Can you name the following people who worked at the Caledonia Graded School when it opened?

- 1) The 1st grade teacher?
- 2) The 2 cooks?
- 3) The 2 bus drivers?
- 4) The custodian?

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday May 11th** at 7pm at the Caledonia Town Hall N5479 Beich Road. The program will be about the Caledonia School after 50 years. For more information contact Jennifer Blau at 608-697-0279 or jenablau@hotmail.com

Officers:

President: Jennifer Blau

Secretary: Susan Jensen

Treasure: Al Hamele

Program Secretary: Mary Mittlesteadt

Library Committee:

Jennifer Blau, Chris Blau, Kay MacLeich, Nancy Wehlage

Caledonia History Corner

Caledonia has not had any towns or villages within its boundary but it has had 3 post offices. Alcoa was the first one to be established. It operated from 1863 to 1901. It was suspended for a short time but was re-established in 1879. The first postmaster was James Stewart and the last was Robert Marshall. Radisson was the next established, operating from 1891 to 1901. It was to be originally called Indian Farm but the Post Office Dept objected to the name. The post mistress was Mrs Holl. Very little is known about the last Post Office - Bragg. It operated only from 1895 to 1901. Alcoa was located on Hwy 78 (T11N R8E Sect3 N), Bragg on Co Rd W (T12N R8E Sect 33 NW), and Radisson was on Durward Glen Rd (T11N R8E Sect 16).

Source: Wisconsin Post Office Handbook by James Hale, Portage Daily Register May 28, 1891, Wisconsin Blue

see the answer in the next issue