

BHS ANNUAL DINNER
Bill Jamerson presents:
DOLLAR-A-DAY BOYS!
A Musical Tribute to the CCC



Michigan-based Bill Jamerson will present a musical and storytelling program about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the Beloit Historical Society's Annual Dinner the 6th of May. The program includes a look at the CCC projects in Wisconsin, reading from Bill's novel, *Big Shoulders*, performing original songs and showing a brief segment of his film on the same subject, which aired on PBS.

During the CCC's ten-year run, from 1933-1942, 92,000 young men between the ages of 17 and 23 worked in numerous Wisconsin camps. Kids and young adults planted 265,000,000 trees, built 483 bridges, erected over 4,000 miles of telephone poles, constructed 4,300 miles of truck trails, stocked a half-billion fish, fought forest fires and built several parks: Peninsula State Park, Copper Falls State Park, Wyalusing State Park and Devil's Lake State Park. The camps not only revitalized Wisconsin's natural resources but also turned the boys into men by giving them discipline and teaching them work skills.

These kids and young adults of the CCC camps were also referred to as The Dollar-A-Day Boys and this tribute to them presented by Bill Jamerson will be a treat for you. So join us for an evening of education, entertainment and enlightenment. We'll see you on the 6th of May.

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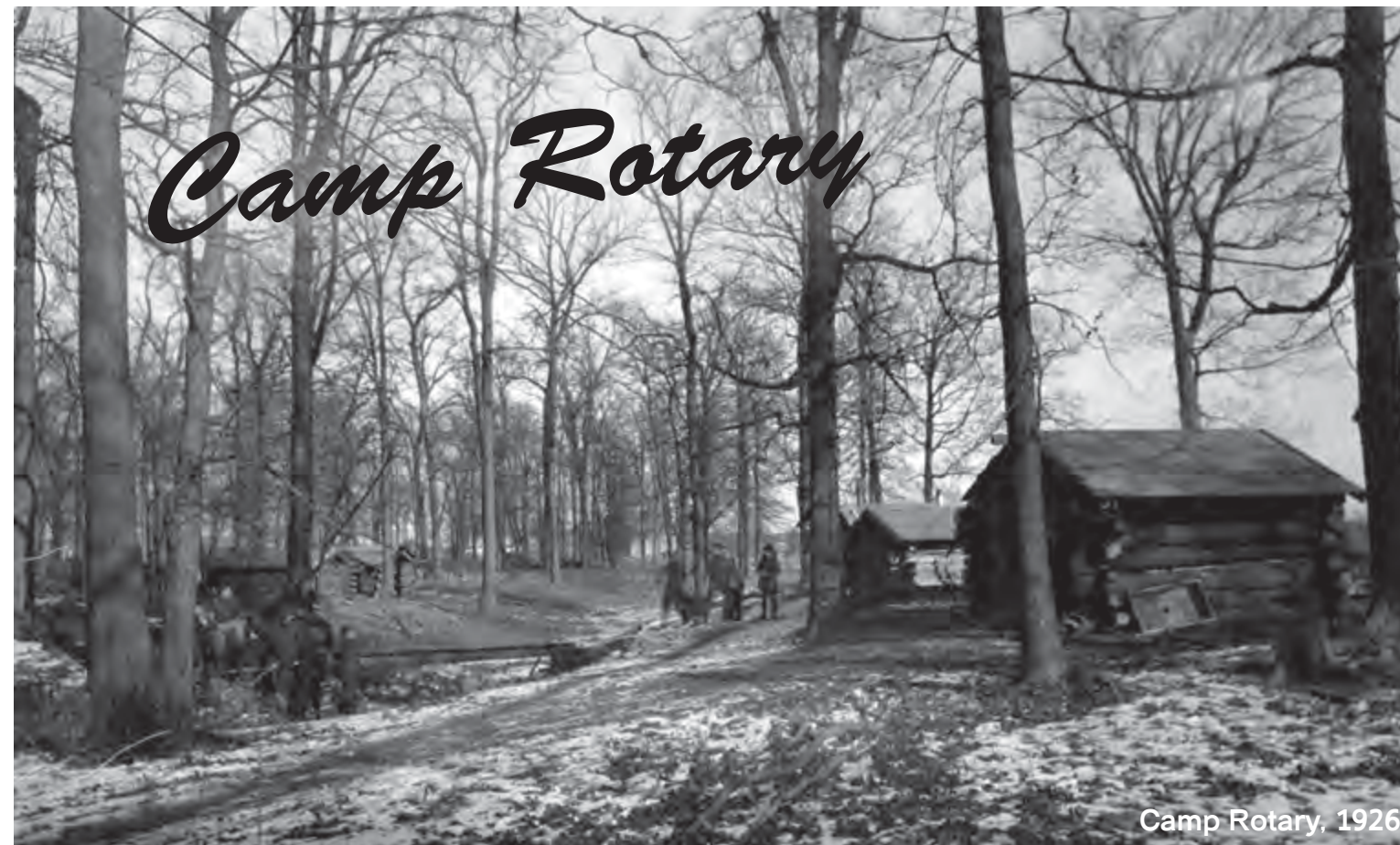
The Vision of the Beloit Historical Society is to
make history a focal point of community pride
and to serve as a constant reminder to the
community of its great and diverse heritage.
Visit our web site at beloithistoricalsociety.com

Beloit Historical Society
Confluence
845 Hackett St.
Beloit WI 53511
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Paul Harris of Racine, Wisconsin, was approaching his 37th birthday when he invited friends Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram Shorey to a meeting to put into practice an idea he had long been developing. The year was 1905. The end result of this meeting would be the founding of the organization called Rotary, a service club, with the purpose of fostering fellowship, friendship and mutual assistance.

Beloit's Rotary Club, the 503rd one in America, was founded in 1919 and incorporated in 1924. Paralleling this development was another organization coming into its own: The Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts were founded in 1910, and though there were troops of Scouts associated with a variety of

organizations, like the YMCA and churches, the American Council of Boy Scouts didn't establish itself in Beloit until 1920. It was a good thing for the Boy Scouts that Rotary turned to them for one of their first substantial projects. What came to be known in the early 1920's as Camp Rotary was a real boost to the continuing efforts of the Beloit Boy Scouts to maintain themselves as a viable institution.

Camp Rotary was a beautiful wooded area of 17 acres nestled between Rockton and Roscoe bordering Rock River. It served as the headquarters and camp for the Beloit Boy Scouts from the early 1920's to the end of the decade. There were eleven men who contributed the funding to make all this possible and six of them were Rotarians. Frank Converse, Ralph Schellenger, Al

Continued inside

BHS Lincoln Center hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and by appointment on Saturday. Call 608-365-7835.

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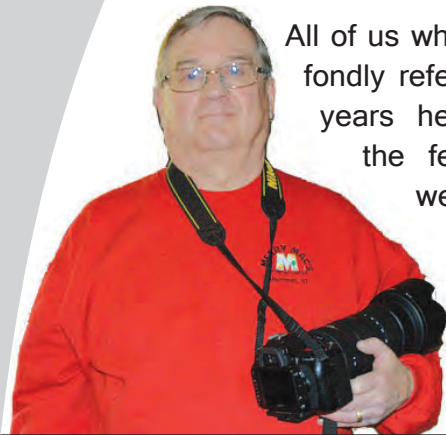
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Paul Kerr, Dwight Alton,
and Dick Gerhard; layout
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Board meetings are the
third Thursday of every
month at 4 p.m. and are
held at Lincoln Center, 845
Hackett Street.

The Newsletter, Conflu-
ence, is published quarterly
for the membership of the
Beloit Historical Society to
inform readers of Society
activities as well as educate
them on the history of Beloit.
The Beloit Historical Society
manages two sites, Lincoln Cen-
ter Museum with main offices
at 845 Hackett St. and Hanchett-
Bartlett Homestead, 2149 St.
Lawrence Ave. For further infor-
mation please call (608) 365-7835
or e-mail us at
Pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com.
Or see our web site at
beloithistoricalsociety.com.

The Birdman of the BHS



All of us who work and volunteer at the Beloit Historical Society fondly refer to Dwight as the “Birdman of the BHS.” For forty years he’s been looking at, studying and photographing the feathery creatures. Throughout the year we usually get e-mails with some lovely photo of an eagle, a snowy owl or, most recently, a white turkey (Royal Palm). He’s heightened our awareness about birds and it’s been enlightening.



New Members!

Delores Hahn, Adrienne Massel, Carl McMillan, James Melville, Dave Reimer and Cathy Schafman.

Keep our membership growing! Tell your friends about the BHS.

Past Events

Last month, 11 February, the Society had its annual **Evening at Lincoln Center** dinner which attracted 60 people. The program for the evening was Marquette University Professor C.J. Hribal who read to the attentive audience from his book entitled *The Company Car*.

The stories centered around the Czabek family who moved from the Chicago suburbs to a small Wisconsin town. There they tried, with both comic and sad results, to be farmers. Those attending enjoyed the program which provided laughs and some interesting questions following the reading.

Upcoming Events

May school tours of historic Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead are on the horizon. The beginning of Spring will again bring the third graders from area schools to tour the homestead, grounds and one-room school house. Last year roughly 500 kids toured the area; we are preparing for a like number this year. We need the help of additional volunteers this year. If you can help, please give us a call at (608) 365-7835.

Once again the Beloit Historical Society will thank its strong cast of volunteers at its **Annual Volunteer Brunch**. This 14th of April at 11:30 a.m. we will provide a brunch and program to those who have given us so much of their valuable time. The program for the occasion is provided by Jeff Pockat who will provide us with musical entertainment. He plays a Gaelic Harp. Our volunteers have seen us through a century and we do sincerely thank them one and all.

The **Annual Dinner** is slated for 6 May starting at 6:00 p.m. A brief business meeting will follow the dinner. Bill Jamerson, who will provide the program for the evening, will enlighten us with the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its impact on the state of Wisconsin. The program consists of music, story telling and a brief clip from his film on the same subject, which aired on PBS. Please see the insert and brief article on Bill which we’ve provided for this issue.

Camp Rotary Continued from page 1

Wagner, Paul Fox, Herb McNeel and Don VanWart joined with J.E. Kinzer, Will Weirick, Ted Morrison, A.S. Koto and Bert Thomas contributing \$3,400 to the purchase of land.

Eventually the Beloit American Legion and the Beloit Fire Department would, along with the kids, build cabins, a dining hall and kitchen, concrete swimming pool and electric light plant. It was haven and heaven for a while until this camp was too small to handle the growing number of boy scouts.

By the 1930’s the Beloit boys had moved on to a larger, 40-acre site in Lake Geneva which was called Camp Offield. The abandoned camp, the former Camp Rotary, was maintained for a time by the Beloit Recreation Department and there was some talk about the YMCA using the camp in the mid 1950’s. But the Rotarians and others involved sure supported an enduring organization that today has made quite a mark on the American scene and on the Beloit scene.



1) One of Beloit’s first Boy Scout troops, 1913, part of Gridley Chapel 2) Integrated boy scout troop, early 1920’s
3) Camp Rotary pool, early 1920’s 4) Present day road leading to the camp

