

Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

Nov. 2024 Vol. 6 No. 3

Sharing historical information from Spirit, Hill, Knox and the Spirit Valley area for your enjoyment.



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Outhouse

The one place I go where I know what I'm doing!

The Outhouse by Allen Stea

There's many tales already writ
About an old-time place to sit
And contemplate or sharpen wit
Or so the story goes.
You could steer your life from there
Sitting on that holey chair
Muse upon a world of care
In calm and sweet repose.
There was a nail to hang your coat
You could decide upon your vote
Or dream of places most remote
That latter choice/chase.
A few knotholes to ventilate
A spring-held door that worked first-rate
Catalogues in an old egg crate
Their use – each person knows.
In spring and fall a pleasant spot
Was not too cold and not too hot
And not too smelly like as not
At least I should suppose.
Now summer took a different hue
A wrinkled nose – you'd say p-u
And there might be a fly or two
To tickle kids' bare toes.
But winter was the worst of all
The time spent there was very small
A very hurried nature call
Or you could end up froze.
Our outhouse is still standing there
But my own kids don't give a care
About the memories it could share
So soon its age will close.



Our Yesterday House at its original site at the end of Apple Ave.



Helen & Roy Meier next to Our Yesterday House when it was located on the Meier Homestead on County YY. It was moved there in 1972. From there the building was moved to the Liberty School Location in 2003 and then to the present site at the Spirit Town Hall in 2019.

There is still time to give a donation to help us finish the Machine Shed project. Anyone giving \$200 and up will have their name put on a plaque. Anyone giving \$500 or more will have their name in a separate category on the plaque. Any amount of donations is appreciated! A big thank you to all of you that have donated so far. We are well on our way to paying for the whole shed.

Community Events

Our next **SHSI meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th at 10:30 am at the Spirit Town Hall. Board elections will be held at this meeting. There will be 4 board positions open. If you would be willing to serve on our board, please contact one of the current board members by the end of November. Let us know if you would like to participate online at the meeting, phone Dawn Meier @ 715-544-0023 and we will send you the link ahead of time.

Everyone is welcome to join us or contact us with your input.

Current Board Members:

Luann Lind-Pres., JaNelle Nelson-V.Pres., Maryalice McHugh-Sec., Pam Welch-Treas., Karen Baumgartner, Cheryl Pierson, Johanna Holliday, Anne Marie Fries, Dean Gilge, Mark Nyberg & Dawn Meier



The 82nd annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** was held Sat., Aug. 17th at the Spirit Town Hall.

Participating 4-H clubs: Happy Hoboes, Hillbillies, Restless Rascals & Hamburg Hawks
Derek Schult was crowned fair King.

Check out the fair at www.facebook.com/spirithillogema4hfair

Next year's fair will be held on Aug. 16th.

Fair Board Members: Darrel Lind-Pres., Ed Ulrich-V.Pres., Molly Lind, Mary Jo Ulrich & Colleen Schult-Sec./Treas.



Annual Community Christmas Program will be sponsored by Spirit Legion Post 452 and the Legion Auxiliary. Everyone is welcome to attend and /or participate with readings, musical talent or anything else that would make this program great!

It will take place at the Spirit Town Hall on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Duane Harper @ 715-657-0304 (leave a message) if you would like to be a part of the program.



Spirit Legion Post 452 and the American Legion Auxiliary hold their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thurs. of each month at the Spirit Town Hall beginning at 7 pm.

Spirit Town Board meetings are held in the Spirit Town Hall on the 2nd Tues. of each month, starting at 6:00 pm.

Town board members are: Darrel Lind, Bill Evans and Gary Siebert.

Clerk – JaNelle Nelson Treas. – Myrna Holmquist

Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

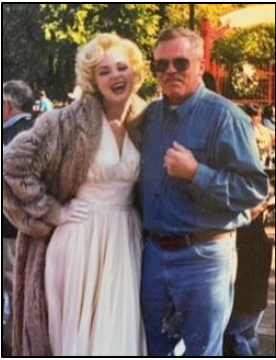
Tours of Our Yesterday House are available by appointment in the summer.

Contact a board member.

Visit us on Facebook, email: spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or

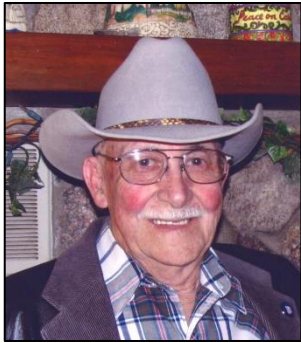
visit our website spirithistoricalsociety.org.

Obituaries



Wayne Louis Schmidt, age 89, died September 24, 2024 in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was born September 14, 1935 in the town of Spirit, Wisconsin. He was the oldest son of Nellie Cutts Schmidt and Louis Schmidt. He attended Liberty School in the town of Spirit, and completed high school at Lincoln High in Wisconsin Rapids. He attended the UW-Stevens Point, UW-Madison, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, earning degrees in history and business administration. While serving in the Army, he was stationed at Bremerhaven in Germany. He married Phyllis Marie Caskey on Jun 15, 1963 in Phelps, Wisconsin. Wayne and Phyllis lived in Madison, Philadelphia, and Wausau before settling down on their farm in Marathon. Wayne worked for Wausau Insurance, and then taught insurance and business classes at Northcentral Technical College for 33 years before retiring in 2000. Wayne was a great family man, teacher, farmer, traveler, and bon vivant. A lifelong adventurer, he hitchhiked Europe in 1957, traveled around the world with family and friends, and enjoyed cross-country road trips on his Harley. He volunteered as a tax preparer for the elderly as well as serving in the Kiwanis Club of Wausau, the Marathon County Retired Educators, and at First Presbyterian Church of Wausau.

Wayne is survived by his sister Fran Bailey-Gokey of Wisconsin Rapids, WI; children Steve Schmidt (Brad Hamilton) of Chapel Hill, NC; Bill (Georgia) Schmidt of Raleigh, NC; Kate (Roger) Fletcher of Verona, WI; grandchildren Emily and Thomas Schmidt and Garrett and Sam Fletcher, and many other friends and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents Nellie and Louis Schmidt; brothers LeRoy and Arnold Schmidt; and his wife Phyllis Caskey Schmidt.



Lawrence L. Plude, 94, of Rib Lake, passed away on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at Rib Lake Health Services, where he was known as “Cowboy”, under the care of Hope Hospice. Lawrence was born in Crandon on January 22, 1930 to Frank and Exildia (Pratt) Plude. After completing 8th grade, he helped run the family farm. He joined the Army at 18 years old and was stationed in El Paso, TX for 11 months. After serving in the Army, he began his life long career of carpentry in Beloit where he married his first wife Eleanor Dilley. They then moved to Loves Park, IL where they lived for approximately 10 years and had 5 daughters. In 1967, Larry and Eleanor, along with her parents, Ed and Dottie Dilley, moved back to Wisconsin where they ran Pic-A-Dilley Resort on Stone Lake for 5 years. They divorced in 1975. Larry was an avid hunter and loved fishing. He also played fast pitch softball for the Men’s Spirit softball team. He had a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and took many road trips. He also loved snowmobiling in the winter time. He was always building or remodeling something. He loved watching westerns on TV and at one time had a horse named Satin. Later in life he married Jeannette Bube and they were married 30 years, then divorced.

Lawrence is survived by 4 daughters, Debra Lind of Rib Lake, Diana DeBoth of Westboro, Dawn (Hal) Swenson of Rib Lake, and Darcy (Mark Listle) Johnson of Tripoli; 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren; 3 step-children, James (Melissa) Bube, Paula (Dave) Becker, and Marion (Tony) Reinhardt and 7 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren. Lawrence is further survived by his siblings, Cecilia Blackwell (Dan), Clarence (Arlene) Plude, and Linda (Rick) Hagelin and many other family and friends.

Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Denise Harubin; great-grandson Maddox Scheithauer; sister, Dorothy Hargraves; sons-in-law, Dennis Lind, Greg DeBoth, and Luke Harubin.

The school photos on this page and on page 4 were published in the April 2006 edition of the Liberty School News. These students were never identified. If you know who any of them are, please contact 715-564-3340 so we can label them. Thank you.



Obituaries Continued



Cindy Sue (Ulrich) Seemann, age 68, of Ogema, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2024, surrounded by family. Cindy was born on February 27, 1956, to Merlin (Frank) and Elaine Ulrich. Cindy graduated from Prentice High School in 1974. She entered the workforce working at Phillips Plastics, Town of Ogema and then PCA (Tomahawk Papermill) where she retired in February 2020. Cindy met the love of her life David Seemann 20 years ago. They spent many years enjoying their love for the outdoors together. They married on February 27, 2020. Cindy took every opportunity she could to hunt, fish and go camping. She shared her passion with others, mentoring her grandkids, nieces and nephews and their children. Cindy was devoted to her family, loved making memories and welcomed every opportunity to spend time with them. Family meant the world to her.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents and her granddaughter Kennedi. She is survived by her husband David (aka Horsefly); parents Merlin (Frank) and Elaine Ulrich; son Brian (Bobbi) Ulrich; stepdaughters Cheri (Michael) Miller, Laurie (David) and stepson Scott (Colleen) Seemann; her grandchildren Noah Ulrich, Keyton (Anna) Ulrich, Tessa Ulrich, Mckenzi (Andy) Franz-Kaliska, Madi Randolph, Amanda (Kyle) Rens, Brant (Topanga) Rens, Derek (Anna) Johnson, Jordan (Marissa) Johnson, Morgan (Adam) Nelson, Jared (Kenna) Seemann, Mackenzie (Joey) Seemann; great-grandchildren Harley Mae, Beckham, Kennedy, Cal, Hans, Beau, Isla, and Wesley; siblings Ed (Mary Jo) Ulrich, Bill Ulrich, Gene (Hope) Ulrich, Sharon (David) Scott, Bonnie Nerison, and Pat (Renita) Ulrich, as well as many nieces and nephews.



Elaine Carol (Bockholt) Ulrich, age 90, of Ogema, Wisconsin, went home to be with the Lord on October 30, 2024. Elaine was born March 2, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late John and Lucille Bockholt. She was the oldest of six children. After graduating from Rib Lake High School, Elaine married Merlin Frank Ulrich on May 2, 1953. Elaine was a loving wife and mother of 7 children, 23 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren. She loved spending time with her family—especially camping. Elaine worked as a cook at Ogema Elementary school for 29 years and served as janitor at Ogema Baptist Church for 30 years. Elaine also enjoyed her many friendships developed through her involvement in Bible studies, the Homemakers group, teaching children's programs at church, participating in many 4-H activities, and working at Spirit-Hill-Ogema Fair and Price County Fair, as well as cooking for the Ogema Lion's Club.

Elaine is survived by her husband Merlin Frank; children Ed (Mary Jo) of Ogema, Bill of Ogema, Gene (Hope) of Ogema, Sharon (David) Scott of Fifield, Bonnie Nerison of Phillips, Pat (Renita) of Wausau; son-in-law David Seemann of Ogema; and sister Donna Kelley. She is preceded in death by her parents, four siblings (Jack, Don, Marge & Jim), daughter Cindy Seemann and great-granddaughter Kennedi.



More old school pics to identify.



Meet Board Member Dean Gilge

My name is Dean Gilge, I am the son of Ken and Jeanette Gilge. My father was raised in Rib Lake, Wisconsin and my mother was raised on the Meier Homestead in Spirit Wi. My mother also went to grade school at the Liberty school in Spirit. Many of you recognize my mother as the author of "Never Miss A Sunset", a fictional book based on the Meier family in the early 1900's. She also went on to write "City Kid Farmer". This was a story based on a boy moving from the city to the country. My mother wrote this book using many of my own experiences while I was working on the Meier farm as a young adolescent and teenager.

My father and mother were married in the Spirit Lutheran church and then moved to the Chicago area to pursue jobs. Less than a year later my father was inducted into the army and drove supply trucks all over Europe during the WWII campaign. My mother worked in a parachute factory in Chicago. Mom has written a book called "As Long as I Have You" about this experience. My father returned after the war and worked for an underground construction company. He was hired for his truck driving experience and was made foreman.

The short version of this story is that my father and mother raised 2 girls and 4 boys, (me being the baby of the family) in a small house in Maywood IL, a suburb of Chicago. But every summer and some fall holidays we drove up to Spirit Wi, to visit family and enjoy the farm life.

I developed a love for the farm and especially cows! We were coming back from a family vacation out west and stopped in Spirit. I was twelve years old, and we were visiting at my cousin Gene Meiers' farm, when his wife of one year Marie Meier suggested I stay for three weeks and work on the farm and they would bring me home in time for my brother's wedding.

This was the beginning of my future career! I loved the tractor driving and truck driving and milking cows. Gene treated me like a man and gave me a lot of

responsibility. Up north I was a man, down in Chicago I was a boy. So, every summer from then on, my summers were spent on the farm, baling hay, picking rocks and milking cows. I

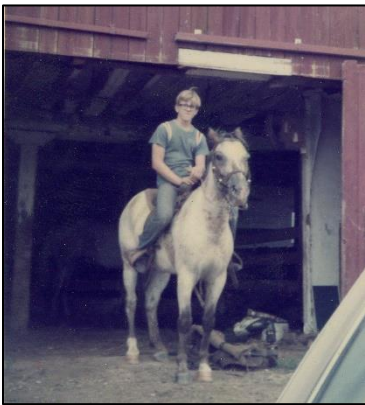
rode horse a lot at that time also, the summer of 1972, I was riding one of Ron Meier's horses and she went up and over on top of me trying to get me out of the saddle, and she broke my femur in half. Needless to say, that summer was cut short and it kept me out of football that fall. I returned in November for Thanksgiving and rode a horse again, just not that horse!

My senior year of high school, I came up to the farm to rent Gene's dairy herd and get a full years' experience of managing a dairy herd. My dad bought me a 1967 D200 Dodge pickup and my parents sent me on my way. My

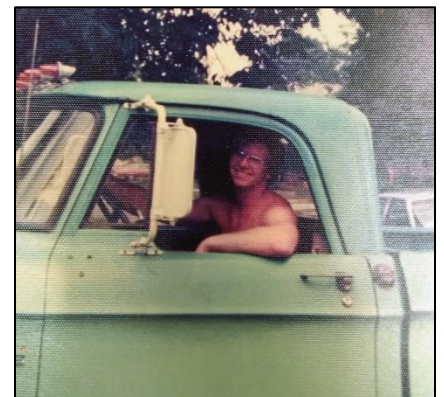
mom said there was no stopping me. I finished high school in Tomahawk, since Gene's farm was just on the Lincoln County line. It was a great year for me, I loved the smell of the old barn and the dry hay and corn silage. It was hard work, but it made me who I am today.



1971 Dean age 13 milking cows at Meier Homestead farm



1972 Dean riding at Gene Meier farm



1975 Dean in his 1967 Dodge truck

Many times, when I was working at the home farm, visitors would stop by to see the yesterday house and I was privileged to hear Roy Meier (my great uncle) tell the stories of the house and the farm and the region. Sometimes I was the only one around and I would give people the tour and visit with them about relatives and history of the area.

I married my wife Jayne, also from Maywood Il, and she quickly adapted to country life. We worked briefly one year in southern Wisconsin where I managed a 65-cow registered Holstein herd. We then moved back to Spirit because this is where we wanted to live and raise our children. I worked on a few dairy farms and milked cows for many of the farmers in the area so they could get a break. I then worked for three years on Albert and Carol Meier's farm, along with my great Uncle Carl Meier, and I enjoyed many dinners made by my great Aunt Olga. Many stories were told at the table and in the barn during milking!

I went on to work for Midwest Breeders, an Artificial Insemination cooperative and I ran a service route for 12 years. I was promoted many different times in different positions. In 2005 I became the Chief Operating Officer of a joint venture company in India, Jayne and I moved to India and lived there for 2 years. We came back and I was promoted and needed to live in Shawano, Wisconsin to be in the office. I retired at the end of 2022 as the Vice president of international sales. I have worked and visited in about 55 countries. I continue to do some consulting in international business development.

Jayne and I have three children. Amy is our oldest daughter married to Adam Blomberg, they have three children Luca, Dean and Iris. Jordan our middle son is married to Joanne (Smith) they have 5 children, Graham, Clare, Gertie, Niko and Oliver. Emily is our youngest married to Matt Blomberg, they have three children, Brett, Finnley and Falon. Our girls live near Timms hill and Jordan is in the Lacrosse area.



2022 Dean & Jayne Gilge family

We now live in Ogema in the country north of town along the Pine Line trail. When asked to sit on the Spirit Historical society board, I thought of my Uncle Roy moving the Yesterday House to the homestead and all the joy it gave him to share the history of the area. I thought I could give some time to this and help in the preservation of the Yesterday House so others can also enjoy and learn about the rich history of the area.



Best Wishes from the SHSI board members!



Life-Changing Jalopy - 2018

Printed with permission by Dale Lindwall, son of Marie & Leroy Lindwall. Dale grew up on River Rd. in Spirit.

The first time Dale Lindwall saw the car, it was sitting atop a rock pile on a farm east of Merrill. He thought, "I can do something with this." It was 2013, and he was looking at a four-door, six-cylinder 1948 P15 Plymouth Deluxe sedan. All of the windows were gone. Time and weather had worn away the paint, leaving patches of nearly bare metal on the doors, fenders, hood and trunk. The upholstery was ragged and rotting. Gunshots left a hole in the trunk and rear driver's side fender. Rust had eaten away most of the floor. Dale was in rough shape, too. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, he suffered from symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder, including panic attacks, depression and memory failures. Restoring the car would give him something to concentrate and work on. Take his thoughts off the past. Reset his mind, body and spirit.

It worked. Over the next three years, Dale, 69, of the Marathon County town of Texas, meticulously resurrected that old car. He would go on to raffle off the car in August, with proceeds going to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. The Plymouth would raise nearly \$45,000 to help 90 veterans travel free to Washington, D.C., to see war memorials that were installed in their honor.

Dale poured himself into the Plymouth. It became more than pieces of metal put together. He and others would be dumbfounded by striking bits of serendipity concerning the old sedan — goose-bump coincidences and experiences so powerful that Dale came to believe the car has a spirit of its own. "I look at that old car as a friend who helped me," Dale said. "I felt I had spiritual guidance here. I believe divine intervention was working through this car."

The car that carried a family

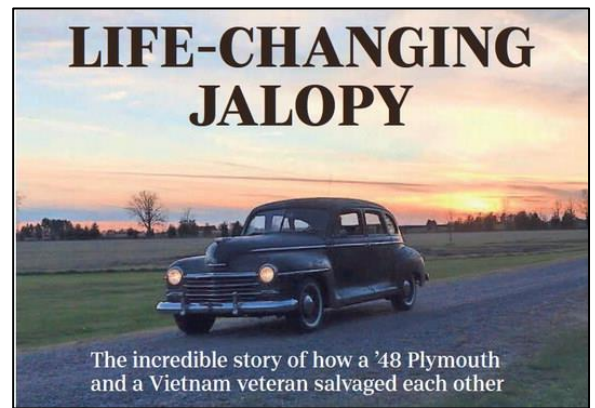
The first time Bernie Frick saw the Plymouth was in 1950 or '51. Frick is a 79-year-old retired farmer from the Lincoln County town of Schley. But at that time, he was 11 or 12, and he remembers standing near his family's two-bedroom home when his father, Bernhardt Frick Sr., drove the car into the driveway.

His dad bought the secondhand car from a dealer; no one today knows who the first owner was. Bernhardt Frick was in his mid-30s, and his health was suffering. He had disabling allergies, so severe that he and his wife, Marvel, had decided that his health might improve if the family moved west to Colorado. Bernhardt and Marvel sold the cattle and other animals from their dairy farm to buy the '48 Plymouth to move with their three children across the country. (They would go on to have three more children.) "That was the reason for that car," Bernie said.

The car wasn't new, but it was an incredible luxury for the family. "There was no plush money," said another of the couple's sons, Dan Frick, 76, of Merrill. "Everything was hand to mouth." Bernie, Dan and their younger sister, Nancy Schmidt, now 72 and living in Shawano, piled in the back seat of the Plymouth, with their parents in front. They don't remember many of the details about the trip, but they do recall that the lights on the sedan went out a few times because the electrical circuit's fuse blew as the family drove across South Dakota.

Finally, after burning through fuses, Bernhardt used a foil wrapper from a piece of chewing gum to complete the circuit. When Dale was rewiring the vehicle more than 60 years later, he found that wrapper. When they got to Colorado, the Fricks discovered that the environment was worse for Bernhardt's allergies than in Wisconsin. "He was *really* allergic to sagebrush," Dan said. Bernhardt and Marvel returned to their farm east of Merrill, bought more cattle and livestock, and started over.

The car remained important for the entire family. Marvel worked at a glove factory in Merrill, and she drove the car back and forth to her job. "Dad would say that the (Plymouth) was the newest car in the parking lot when they first got it," Dan said, "and then it became the oldest car in the parking lot." Everyone used the



Plymouth, which is the size of a modern-day SUV, to help with farm chores, such as pulling wagons across fields or taking raw oats to a refinery. Bernhardt even got a part-time job as a bus driver and used the Plymouth to take rural kids to school, Dan said. But by 1963, the car had seen better days. It wasn't worth much, so the family decided not to sell it. Another brother, Larry, who at 11 years old had been driving the car around the fields, drove it up on the rocks and left it there. Larry is 66 now. He would be the last person to drive it for more than 50 years.

A war comes back to haunt....

Dale Lindwall grew up in the small Northwoods town of Spirit, just west of Tomahawk, and graduated from Prentice High School in 1967.

His father, who died when Dale was young, wanted his son to attend college, so Dale enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County. But Dale wasn't a college, sit-down-and-study kind of guy. He dropped out of UWMC and took on a sheet metal apprenticeship through North Central Technical Institute in Wausau, now Northcentral Technical College.

He was gaining traction in the program when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in May 1969. In the middle of 1970, Dale was sent to Vietnam, where he spent the next year as a team leader in the 9th Infantry Division and a weapons trainer with the 101st Air Mobile Division.

When he got home, all Dale wanted to do was forget the war and get on with his life. So he did. He got married to Marie, and they had three children, two sons and a daughter. For years he owned Stainless Specialists, a custom metal fabrication company, and then Comfort Gallery, a heating, cooling and hearth products company. He was always busy, and even though the PTSD affected him, he mostly shrugged off the illness and went on.

Things changed when he was retired. Little things could set him off. Dale would be walking on the wooded property his home sits on east of Brokaw, and he'd occasionally hear gunfire from a shooting range not far away. Dale knew what it was, but he couldn't help but respond like the combat soldier he was. He'd end up crawling back to his house, ducking from tree to tree, heart racing and his entire nervous system aflame. He once cut his hand helping his son Paul in the Comfort Gallery shop — Paul took over the business when Dale retired — and the sight of his own blood unleashed panic so intense his mind basically shut down. "The average human being should not be involved in (war)," Dale said. "Nobody can understand what it's like unless they've been there."

It was Paul's idea to go look at the Plymouth. Paul knows Bernie Frick's son, and he knew about the car and what it could do for his father. They went out to retrieve the car together. Bernie Frick still lives on the family farm where he and his siblings grew up. The car meant something to Bernie, but he had no plans for it. He wasn't sure Dale could restore the old wreck, but he liked the idea of someone caring for the vehicle and trying. So he gave the car to Dale. "He was going to fix it, renew it," Bernie Frick said. "I wanted to see it running again."



'Like the sun coming out after a cloudy day'

Dale is a car guy and has two other collectible vehicles, a 1973 Ford Bronco that he customized, and a pristine 1965 Ford Mustang. They're stored in Dale's large shop that's nestled in the woods on his property. It's an incredibly tidy place, with metal working equipment and tools placed just the way Dale likes. That's where he worked on the Plymouth.

He custom ordered the glass parts, which had long ago been shattered. He had the engine rebuilt. He bought new upholstery designed specifically for the car. But Dale did most of the work himself, along with help from friends from the Wisconsin Road Knights Car Club, to which he and Marie belong. He put signal lights on the

car; they weren't standard in 1948. He put disc brakes in the front, to make it safer on the road. He pattered and messed around with the details of the sedan.

There would be times, outside the garage, when he'd feel the stress and depression clamping down on his chest, tightening his face. When that happened, he'd walk up to the shop, turn on some oldies on the radio, and sit down on a bench. He'd look at the car and just think. "I'd start regrouping and clearing my mind. And then I would work on my car," Dale said. "My wife would say I looked like a different man when I'd come back to the house. ... It would be like the sun coming out after a cloudy day."

Dale knows the car didn't cure his PTSD. He still sees a counselor and takes medications to deal with the stress and depression. He still has difficult days. But the car made a difference, helped him in ways that he cannot even explain. There were times, he said, he could feel God working through the car. "I would run into a dead end, where I didn't know what to do," Dale said. "And the answer would just come to me."

A car, and veterans, never forgotten

As much as he loved the car, Dale didn't quite know what to do with it after he finished the restoration. He had the other two collector vehicles, and keeping it just didn't make sense to him. Marie suggested that they should raffle off the Plymouth and use the proceeds to help other veterans. She asked: What about the Never Forgotten Honor Flight? That was it; it just felt right.

Dale approached Honor Flight leaders, and they helped him with the details of starting the raffle. The Road Knights agreed to sponsor the giveaway. Dale met with some leaders of the Eagles Club in Wausau to ask them for help and to host a party at which the raffle drawing to announce the winner could occur. The group thought that Aug. 24, 2018, would be a good date. A couple months later, Dale was doing some research with the historical office of Chrysler when he found that the day the car rolled off the factory floor was Aug. 24, 1948. That was 70 years to the day prior to the planned raffle giveaway. Dale was floored. "I mean, you can't make this up," he said.

'This car's a survivor'

Tim Dupee first saw the 1948 Plymouth at one of the car shows that Dale and Marie attended. He immediately was drawn to the car. Dale chose not to restore the paint, but rather to put a clear coat over the old paint to maintain the patina of age and use. "This car's a survivor," Dale said. "And I wanted it to look like it."

Tim, a car collector and the owner of the used-car business Midtown Motors in Marshfield (moving soon to Arpin), has shiny new vehicles. But he loves older ones that show their age and character. Tim loved the car even more after Dale started talking about it and explained the details of the restoration. Dale talked about the raffle and the cause. Tim bought a bunch of tickets and told Dale that if he didn't win the car, he would be willing to buy it from the person who did. Tim left a foam sleeve can cooler in the car's glove compartment with his business listing and phone number. Just in case.

'I never win anything'

Randy Wendt first saw the '48 Plymouth at Brickner's Park City Dodge dealership in Merrill where the car was displayed to drum up interest in the raffle. Randy, a retired teacher and school counselor who lives in Minocqua, was looking for a new vehicle to replace his old minivan that had around 200,000 miles on it. He was drawn to the old sedan because when he was in high school and living in Owen, he owned a 1948 Plymouth. He's 70 now. "It was a neat car," Randy said about the one he owned. "I liked it. It had a lot of room in it. Stick shift. It was easy to fix. I think I paid \$75 for it, and sold it for \$75."

Randy also was attracted to the Honor Flight cause. His brother was a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War and was killed in a training crash. At Brickner's, Randy bought one ticket. "I didn't think I'd win. I never win anything." But he did win, and at first he was elated. He thought it would be like going back in time, to that car he drove in high school.

Then he thought about it some more. He realized that the Plymouth wasn't really practical; he needed a daily runner. He also was hoping that he could get a new car that was a hybrid with good gas mileage. "I'm very concerned about the environment and global warming," Randy said.

Dale and Marie delivered the car to Randy's home in Minocqua. They could see that Randy was beginning to have his doubts about keeping the car. Dale told him about Tim's cooler in the glove compartment. Randy called Tim, and the two came to an agreement about a purchase price for the vehicle. The money that Tim paid Randy allowed Randy to buy the hybrid van he wanted. "It's just been a win-win-win," Randy said.

A sign from above

After Tim made the deal with Randy, he called Dale to invite him along when he took his flatbed truck to Minocqua to haul back the '48 Plymouth. Just after the two drove away from Randy's home and turned south onto U.S. 51 for the trip back, a bald eagle dove along the highway and soared straight at the cab of the truck. "You could look right into his eyes," Dale said. "I've never seen anything like it. ... Tim turned to me and said,



'Anybody who doesn't believe in a higher power hasn't experienced what we just have.'" Tim told Dale that his grandfather was a big part of Tim's life when he was growing up, getting him interested in cars and the car business. He believes that eagle was a sign from his grandfather.

Tim spoke about a photo he had of his grandfather, standing in front of an old car. He would dig it out and look at it again when he got home, Tim told Dale. When he did, Tim called Dale and told him about the photo. His grandfather was standing in front of a 1948 Plymouth.



SHSI volunteers had a successful day at the Spirit Fair selling cheese curds, cold brew coffee and caramel dip apples.



Karen B. gave many tours of our Yesterday House throughout the day.



Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

Membership Application

You are invited to become a member of S.H.S.I. and vote at our annual meeting in January



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____
 Phone _____
 Amount _____ Membership Year _____

Categories: Please check one

_____ Swamper (Non Member) - \$1.00 to \$24.00 per year

The following categories qualify you as a Member:

_____ Sawyer - \$25.00 to \$49.00 per year

_____ Teamster - \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year

_____ Woods Boss - \$100.00 to \$499.00 per year

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