

Iowa County Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XXVIII

No. 3

July 2003

Potpourri

The serene **Iowa County Courthouse Park** was dedicated on May 17, 2003. **David Ladd** and his family cut the ribbon. Invited guests and interested spectators enjoyed treats, and a brass band played the old tunes one would expect to hear in the shadow of Wisconsin's oldest active courthouse. The committee, **Eva Eliscu, Barbara Glass** and **Marcia Geer**, are justly proud of the small, user friendly park.

Recently a descendent of early settler **Daniel M. Parkinson** admired his likeness at First Capital Park, Belmont.. To her dismay it was labeled **Henry Dodge**. Determined study by the descendent and **Cliff Krainik** of Warrenton, Virginia proved that for many years Parkinson has been Dodge on that particular image. See the Spring 2003 issue of the Mineral Point Historical Society Newsletter for well documented details. Believe it!

See page 2 for details of the proposed bylaw change. Concerned for the future of the Society, the Board believes this is a necessary step for the preservation of management continuity. Please attend the Ice Cream Social on July 17 and exercise your right to vote.

Think **State Historical Soci-**

ety of Wisconsin. The Joint Finance Committee of the state legislature has reduced the draconian budget cuts proposed by the governor. At this writing it is uncertain if the Governor will ac-

Ice Cream Social
5 p. m. 17 July, 2003
At the museum
Music, Pie, Cake, Ice Cream
All are welcome
Members to vote on
bylaw change

cept the changes which were made in the interest of fairness. The initial plan was to slash the State Historical Society much more harshly, on a percentage basis, than the other state supported institutions. Your contacts with legislators and the Governor's office made a difference.

Now, when we write about **Ole Bull** and **Syttende Mai**, it is in the past tense. May 17, 2003 began in fog and became lovely, bright and cheerful, just the kind of day to celebrate a Norwegian event in the history of **Moscow Village** (again past tense) and the **Township of Moscow**, present tense. **Priscilla Lewis**, her husband **Mel** and a **host of volunteers** made the day everything Priscilla had hoped it to be. We listened to speeches by authentically garbed gentlemen including **Abraham Lincoln**, viewed a parade, enjoyed brass band music, food, friends, a Civil War battle, Folklore Village music, and vendors with period skills. *We hope that this is not a one time event.*

ICHS Directors

Sherry Einerson, Pres 930-2035
Helen Radtke, VP 987-2892
John Hess, Sec. 588-7082
Marie Sersch, Treas. 935-5752
Ruth Bahr 532-6843
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Books-Genealogies, Artifacts
For Sale at the ICHS Museum

ICHS BOARD PROPOSES CHANGE TO BYLAWS

by John Hess

The Board of Directors of the ICHS voted May 29 to seek approval from the membership to remove the provision from the bylaws that limits directors to two consecutive elected terms. This provision was added to the bylaws when they were revised in 1995, making it difficult for a small Society like ours to fill the nine director positions.

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any regular meeting, per Article IX. A short membership meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ice Cream Social on July 17 at the Museum to explain the reason for the proposed change, receive input from members, and to vote yes or no to eliminate Section 1. c. of Article III which states: "Members of the board of directors may only serve two (2) consecutive elected terms. They may be elected again in any election after a one-year absence from the board. These requirements shall apply in all elections held after the adoption of these bylaws but shall not apply to board service accrued before adoption of these bylaws." All members are urged to attend the Ice Cream Social and vote on this important proposal.

Postcards Donated to ICHS

by Neil Giffey

Getting it right was how **Gari Walz**, retired Dodgeville High School science teacher, described, his efforts to get the right image, the correct message and the authentic colors for the Dodge Mining Camp Cabin postcards which he recently donated to the Society. The card, see column 2 on this page, is enhanced with a likeness of Col. Henry Dodge as he appeared in 1834 to artist George Catlin. The postcard is for sale at the museum and if all goes well, a life size Col. Dodge will be on view at the cabin before the season ends. Gari and his wife Dee operate Outdoor Horizons, a scenic postcard production business. Thanks so much.



Gari Walz

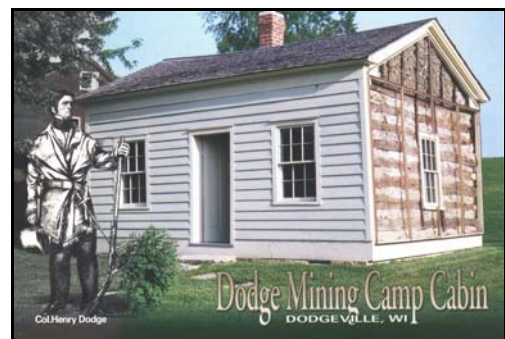
Volunteerism by the Young

Is it out there?

by Neil Giffey

America thrives on the unpaid efforts of millions of citizens. Neighbors help neighbors and sometimes help those whom they will never know. It works because millions volunteer every day of the year. No magic but ... we would be in a fix if this generous donation of time and effort ceased.

Some have said, the young adults of the present have no interest in volunteering ... for anything! I believe that to be an overblown statement. However, if it is even partly true, we are in trouble. Your historical society lives on volunteerism. Without the help of local citizens no museum, no genealogical research, no archiving of records and photographs, no newsletters and no friendly assistance to those who wish to become involved in the preservation of our mutual memories, could possibly exist. Towns and farm communities are held together by common interests, including memories from the past. Some memories are vague or erroneous but most of them have enough of reality in them to inspire, providing they are presented to us in an interesting manner. That's part of the problem, How to inspire younger adults busily raising their children and holding a job or even two jobs. An organization which depends on volunteers must recognize this fact of life and consciously strive to present their mission so that it will capture the attention of the generation which will inhabit our future. Can this be done? We believe so, but nothing is guaranteed and we must work to leave the future in those good and willing hands. We can be optimistic, we can plan for success. A good place to start is to remind the younger adults of the opportunities which have been given their generation because so many worked off the clock, with no thought of recompense. After all, it was the right thing to do.



CHIEF BLACK HAWK

The Black Hawk War

BLACK HAWK was born about 1767, shortly after his Sauk and Fox People moved from the British-governed lands of their favorite agricultural and hunting grounds, the lower Wisconsin River and Northern Illinois areas, to the equally rich lands near the present-day Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa. In 1804, after the Louisiana Purchase, the American government concluded a treaty with the Sauk and Fox which ceded 50 million acres of land to the new settlers for \$1000 per year! Some years later the tribes were moved to the Iowa side of the Mississippi.

In 1831 Black Hawk's advisors, *The Prophet* and *Neapope*, wrongly advised him that the British Army would assist his people to recover the rich Illinois soil from which they had been removed, a necessity if they were to feed themselves and remain a self sufficient tribe. However, during the spring of 1832, it became clear to the old leader that the American settlers were too numerous and too well armed to allow the tribe to do so. His people must surrender and return to Iowa or at the least harvest their crops in Illinois for winter survival in Iowa. Sadly, the uneasy and untrained militia were unable to understand the pleas of surrender. The long bloody trail from northern Illinois, leading to the battles at Wisconsin Heights and Bad Axe, resulted in the devastation of the "British Band" of the Sauk-Fox under Black Hawk. The uneven battles ended, Black Hawk was imprisoned, toured the country, and died on October 3, 1838, already a hero to many settlers.



"I loved my towns, my cornfields, and the home of my people. I fought for them." Black Hawk

This page is a small copy of a Dodge Cabin sign board, one of many which provide brief explanations of the Lead Region historic past. Volunteer as a cabin guide during the short summer season from May 15 through September 15. Visit anytime, just call ahead if the cabin is closed. For information call Neil Giffey at 608-935-5557 Email giffey@mhtc.net

Gerald Fieldhouse, Continued From An Interview January 19, 1993

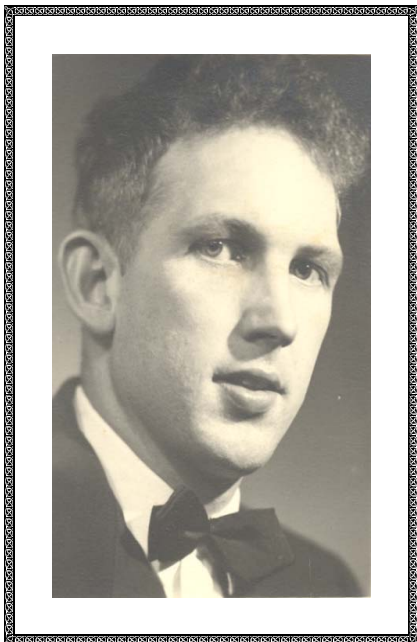
by Melva Phillips and Neil Giffey

Transcribed by Mary King

This is a continuation of a discussion with the late Iowa County historian Gerald Fieldhouse about the belief that most of our ancestors openly and frequently discussed matters of national policy and at least seemed more patriotic. Editor.

Giffey--This is a little poem about patriotism. The author is anonymous. It tells how patriotic they were, back to the original colonies. They were talking of gatherings, discussions on the streets, in the fields. "When a nation's life is in hazard, we've no time to think of men." I really think you're right.

Fieldhouse--What do you think of my grandfather Fieldhouse? I thought that he probably came from a place in England, not a very pleasant place and every-



Gerald Fieldhouse
young historian

thing, because he always talked about how wonderful it was in the United States. He had no desire to go back at all. After I went back and saw where he had lived there and saw it was quite a beautiful place. But he just thought that the opportunity in this country was so great. That it couldn't be much better.

Giffey--What he really was saying was that the opportunity made it beautiful.

It made the grass greener.

Fieldhouse--It was opportunity they never had in the old country. I knew they had a hard time of it over there. Work was scarce and when he came here there was just so much. They might have had hard times but never like it was over there. They were from Yorkshire.

Phillips--When did they come over here?

Fieldhouse--they came at the time of the Chicago fire.

Giffey--Oh, '75 or '76. (Note, Chicago and

Pestigo fires were in October 1871.)

Phillips--Oh, they were late coming.

Fieldhouse--It would be in the '60's, wouldn't it?

Giffey--No 1875 or 1876. The same time as the fire up in Pestigo. (October 1871, Giffey was in error.)

Fieldhouse--They came a little before that. But I know they went down to Chicago.

Giffey--It wasn't that far off from the Custer Massacre.

Phillips--My ancestors came in 1840.

Fieldhouse--I think many people were really satisfied with their niche in life because the ones that came from Vermont and out there and the ones that came from such poor farmland and so on, this was really wonderful here. People from Cornwall of course it was super. Never could they have had the opportunity that they had here. The same with the Welsh and the Germans, too. There was so much opportunity.

Giffey--Yes, it still exists but it's kind of hard to find sometimes, isn't it? The world is getting very competitive.

Fieldhouse--I know the Germans when they came in here they couldn't get over all this land. They wanted to farm all of it.

Giffey--You think all they wanted was all the land that's next to mine, huh?

Fieldhouse--The Norwegians were different. All they wanted was a farm that was up in the hills, just like they had in Norway. About 40 acres, enough to get them by.

Giffey--Now when you talk about the Norwegians, I've read that most Norwegians had Norwegian pastors from Norway and that they were very strict, old style Lutheran. There's another denomination similar to the Lutheran's belief. Do you have any idea did they get along with the German Lutherans or the German Catholics or did they kind of withdraw?

Fieldhouse--No, they are still separate.

Giffey--Yes, but they intermingled and intermarried and all that.

Phillips--There are two York churches down

(Continued from page 4)

there. They were Lutheran weren't they? One was German and the other something else and they went together.

Fieldhouse--Yes. The Norwegians came in town only once a week. They bought very little stuff and they loaned out their money. Even though they had only 40 acres and just a few cows they were able to put money aside.

Phillips--They always said in the time of the Depression the farmers that lived back in the hills were the ones that had the money.

Giffey--Probably no one ever got inside to sell them something they didn't need. That's the big curse of agriculture.

Fieldhouse--The Irish when they first came into this area here they just about starved to death their first winter. They had no idea at all what they were getting into. Take Hollandale for example, you have both the Irish and the Norwegians. All during the summer and fall the Norwegians were making their jells and bringing in stuff from the woods and so on. A lot of stuff to carry them through the winter. They were canning and preserving. Benny Bollerud told me that come the winter the Irish were starving. You could tell by the school kids, there was nothing packed in their lunches anymore.

Giffey--I wonder if that's-- if the Irish that came here were like my ancestors. Some of them stopped in Canada for a while. They worked as maids and ditch diggers. Some stopped in New York. But of course, they came from a milder climate. At least the grass was green all the time. I wonder if the Irish were farmers? The Germans were almost certainly farmers in Germany but I wonder about the Irish.

Fieldhouse--They were potato farmers. The thing was in Ireland the land got divided and divided and divided. The oldest son got the land.

Giffey--Of course, the Irish were not their own landlords except for a small minority. The land was owned by others.

Fieldhouse--Still the only crop that they could raise on that amount of acreage was potatoes, not enough to get by on. You could live on the Irish potato if you cooked it skin and all.

Giffey--Well, thank God they learned or they wouldn't be here. That's interesting. You say Ben Bollerud told you that?

Fieldhouse--Yes, he remembered it from his

school days.

Giffey--Now, do you see a trend? Who's running the land, the farms now, do you see a difference? At first it was all people from the British Isles and then it started to change. Now what's your observation on that?

Fieldhouse--What you have with it, up around Ridgeway it was a good part Irish. A lot of them lost their farms because of drinking. Then you have the Germans that were the first ones to go out in the prairies. The English stayed away from the prairie land.

Giffey--But now English, Irish and Scots and so on at least in Wisconsin don't do much farming any more do they? It seems like the Germans and Norwegians are closer to the land. That's what it looks like to me overall. I could be wrong.

Fieldhouse--The Norwegians, they stayed with the poor land. They are still on the poor land out north. Up in Ridgeway those farms used to be almost all Irish and there are a lot of changes there.

Phillips--Yes, that was almost all Irish. When

we first went down there we were the only Protestant children in the school and that wasn't that long ago, '49. But they are all pretty well changed up there now. We're the only family left up there. There are still the kids on the farm, but all the old timers are gone.

Fieldhouse--The Brunkers, the Sullivans, the Ryans.

Giffey--You had a school system in Ridgeway and one in Dodgeville and Hollandale had a high school. A complete system with their own superintendent.

Phillips--And you had the little country schools.

Giffey--Weren't they part of the high school system?

Fieldhouse--No, they were separate. A few of the country schools disbanded and became part of Dodgeville, but not the majority of them. They were separate and when they came to high schools they paid tuition.



Growing Up in a Small Town in the 30s And 40s

By Leon Nelson

Growing up in the 30's in a small farming town in Wisconsin was a pleasant experience for the most part. In the worst part of the depression people still had to eat and farmers still grew food and cows gave milk. So there was some money in circulation. I was sometimes sent to the creamery with a pail that had a lid on it, about a half gallon in size, and I would bring home a pail full of sweet buttermilk for a nickel. Mom would send me to the meat market and I would say, "My Mom wants a soup bone." The butcher would wrap one up and send me home with it, no charge. A good customer got one free but others had to pay about a nickel. There was no such thing as a "Super Market" in those days. Mom could make out a list of things she would need at the "A&P" and send me after it. Vern Post would take the list from me, read it over, fill the order, make out a bill, hand me a sack of groceries and send me on my way. All of the canned items were kept on a shelf behind the counter. Whatever you needed the counter person would fill your order. No one but employees went behind the counter. We did have paper sacks, but no plastic, no "scotch tape" and we still made out O.K.! In dry goods stores they wrapped everything in kraft paper (much like the brown paper in a paper sack) and tied it with string. Then came the big invention of mucilage on the back of kraft paper rolls. These rolls were held in dispensers with a water reservoir and a bristle brush-like piece that would hold the water and apply just enough to moisten the sticky tape. The string was held in cast iron filigree cages with an exit hole and suspended five or more feet above the counter. The string was threaded through screw eyes so it was handy to the merchant or his employees for easy access. Some of the larger stores and the most progressive markets had pneumatic tubes to send the cash or check along with the sales slip to a central cashier. Soon the canister was returned with the proper change and the finalized sales slip, much the same as is used today at some drive-up teller windows at banks. I think that in some of the smaller stores which used the central cashier system they had spring loaded devices instead of pneumatic. Small town merchants did a pretty good business because even if you had a car, when money was tight you didn't go running off to the big towns like Madison to shop anymore than about once a year.

There were no such things as "discount stores" or "wholesale catalogs." Quality merchandise was kept at a fair price, in fact, merchants were held to a fair trade agreement with their suppliers and if they sold below the "fair trade" amount the manufacturer would stop supplying them with that line of merchandise. I still think that was a good system.

Small towns in those days did not have sewer systems. We had what was called a cesspool. It was just a deep dry well in the ground filled with large rocks, a pipe from the house bathroom and kitchen sink led to the cesspool and the sewage would filter around the rocks and seep through the dirt, eventually replenish the groundwater. They claim that raw sewage filtered through about one hundred fifty to two hundred feet of soil will be pure enough to drink. I believe them but I'm not standing there with my cup for a fill up either. All of the years that we lived there we did not have a problem with our system and it was rare to find anyone else with a problem. Probably our frugal water use had a great deal to do with it.

Most every home had a cistern. A cistern was a large concrete "tank" that was built into the basement area of our homes. When it would rain, the water from our roof would go down the roof gutters to the down spout and be channeled into the cistern. There was a lever that would control the flow into the cistern or out on the ground. The first rains in the spring were not directed to the cistern but to the ground until the roof was flushed from all of the dirt and soot that had accumulated over the winter. The water was also diverted during a wet year. In most homes the first piped water in a home was pumped into a sink from a cistern. Cistern water was only for washing clothes and bathing.

To be continued.

Acquisitions

Lyla Vinje, Hollandale, 1919 History of Hollandale, Wisconsin, baby bonnet and foot stool.

Leland Kopps, Highland, Kopps genealogy.

Help when help was needed.

We have it on good authority that **Carolyn and Francis Portwine** have assisted at the vital task of preparing the ICHS newsletter for mailing. **Marie Sersch, Helen Radtke, Melva Phillips and Dorothy Anderson** help on a regular basis.

RIDGEWAY DEPOT RESTORATION UNDERWAY

By David Pearson



Volunteer Dave Pearson of Dodgeville paints a fascia board as Phil and Tom Jenkins work in the background.

Friends of Military Ridge Trail are making progress on restoration of the railroad depot in Ridgeway. **Tom and Phil Jenkins of Rock Church Construction Co., Linden**, have completed work on the foundation after floor boards had been carefully numbered, removed and cleaned by the **Wisconsin Conservation Corps** and volunteers. Original paint chips and specifications of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad were obtained from the **North Prairie Railroad Museum** and carefully reproduced by **Deco Supply Co.** in Dodgeville. Work is expected to be completed this summer with the help of volunteers and fundraisers. Money and volunteers are needed to complete tasks not covered by the DOT grant obtained by the Friends group. Please call 608-437-4990 or 608-935-3613 for information.

Minutes ICHS Board Meetings

March 27, 2003

Meeting called to order at 4 PM by President Sherry Einerson. Other Board Members present: Helen Radtke, Marie Sersch, Melva Phillips, Neil Giffey and John Hess.

Minutes of the February 20, 2003 Board Meeting were presented, with the name of the Society's cabin changed to "Henry Dodge Mining Camp Cabin". Motion to accept corrected minutes, seconded, carried. Treasurer's Report presented with motion to accept, seconded, carried.

Old Business

Sherry advised the profit sharing fund raiser with Culver's is set for March 31 through April 6, with newspaper ads placed. Posters were distributed and all were encouraged to talk up eating at Culver's during the above dates, since the Society will receive 3% of sales.

Neil advised that the request by Priscilla Lewis for the Society to act as sponsor for a May 17th even at the Smith Log Cabin was withdrawn because of other arrangements, but that participation was still requested and encouraged.

Neil advised that the computer software used for data entry of ICHS

collections was modified by Dick Rohowetz. Robert Koss of Cobb made further refinements to the Obituary portion of the software which is now ready for members and directors to volunteer time to enter obituaries and collections inventories.

Marie reported on loan sources for underwriting a reprint of the History of Iowa County – 1881. This project is not eligible for the Iowa County Revolving Loan Fund, and the No Interest Loan Fund at the M & I Bank is being looked into further.

Regarding the purchase of the History of Iowa County – 1881 by the Lafayette County Historical Society, motion by Marie to sell it to them at our cost of \$40. Second by Neil, motion carried.

Melva explained need for an additional fireproof cabinet. She will check on models and price in Madison and Sherry will check with Richland Center Office Supply and they will report back to the Board.

New Business

Entertainment for July 17th Ice Cream Social was discussed. Tom Bedtka who performed last year was the preferred choice, and Sherry will check on his availability.

Our Museum Curator's duties in relation to requests for research, was the subject of extensive discussion, due to the large amount of time required to handle research requests made via personal visits to the Museum or by mail, for little or no reimbursement to the Society. Many suggestions were offered. Board Members will report back by next meeting with recommendations for charges for services and formal written procedures, with Neil and Dorothy Anderson to work up a draft "Pass Out Sheet" from these recommendations, which would be provided to all users wishing to access ICHS collections.

The ICHS link to Dodgeville.com was discussed in terms of a need for an expanded display and possible costs, with Neil to pursue further.

Next meeting scheduled for April 24 at 4 PM at the Museum. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

April 24, 2003

Meeting called to order at 4 PM by President Sherry Einerson. Other Board Members present: Helen Radtke, Melva Phillips Neil Giffey Ruth Bahr, Calvin Olson and John Hess

Minutes of the March 27, 2003 Board Meeting were presented with motion to approve, second, motion carried. Treasurer's Report to be held for next meeting.

Old Business

Sherry and Melva reported on information gathered on prices, sources and specifications for a new fireproof file cabinet. Motion by Neil to acquire one Turtle Model fireproof file cabinet with four drawers and 22 inches deep, based on price quotes from Madison sources obtained by Melva.. Second by John, motion carried. Melva to arrange for purchase and delivery.

Neil passed out a proposed "Museum Policy" in regards to requests for research, for Board members to consider and evaluate. After review, Sherry recommended to "polish it up" for formal consideration at the next Board Meeting.

Regarding the Ice Cream Social set for July 17, Sherry advised Tom Bedtka had agreed to perform at the event. Detailed planning was scheduled for the next Board Meeting. Sherry offered to include a message in the July Newsletter requesting donations for the Ice Cream Social as well as other needs of the Society.

New Business

requests for research, for Board members to consider and evaluate. After review, Sherry recommended to "polish it up" for formal consideration at the next Board Meeting.

Discussed need for notifying the general public and Society members about meetings and activities. Decision not to publish notice of Board Meetings, but to hold more membership meetings and activities and publicize them fully.

Neil brought up for discussion the data entry project of obituaries into the computer, with recommendation that Museum Curator participate by allocating time each day to data entry. No action taken since system still needs some modifications. Neil described need for adequate lighting in the computer work area, with motion by Melva authorizing him to purchase an appropriate lighting fixture. Second by Calvin, motion carried.

Establishment of committees to include non board members as well as board members was discussed, with appointments scheduled for next Board Meeting.

Sherry reviewed with Board members all correspondence received since last Board Meeting.

Next meeting set for May 29 at 4 PM at the Museum. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM. Submitted by John Hess, Secretary.

Iowa County Historical Society
1301 N. Bequette St.
P. O. Box 44
Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

MEMBERSHIPS

MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH

106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533

Family, includes spouse	\$10.00
5 year membership	\$40.00
Historian, annual dues	\$25.00
Master Historian, annual dues	\$50.00

ICHS SERVICES

GENEALOGY-HISTORIC RESEARCH

The Society has extensive archives for Iowa County:
history-cemeteries-obituaries-newspaper microfilm-artifacts
For an appointment contact Curator Dorothy Anderson
at the museum: 608-935-7694.

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Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting ICHS

Opens with a speaker

7:30 p. m. Tuesday,

October 28, 2003

Dodgeville City Hall

Exercise your right to vote

Dodge Cabin is open from 1 to 4 p. m. Wednesday-
Thursday-Friday through September 15.
205 East Fountain St. Dodgeville, Wis.
Bring your kids

Ice Cream Social

July 17, 2003

At the Museum

1301 N. Bequette St.

Dodgeville

5 to 7 p. m.

ice cream plus bylaw vote



Please renew now now now NOW

Thank You



**Broom maker at Syttende Mai
in Old Moscow May 17, 2003**

**Volunteer anyone?
Call the Museum**

**ICHS Annual Meeting starts at 7:30 p. m. Oct. 23, 2001 in the Dodgeville City Hall. It be-
gins with speaker David Lowe, a specialist in Savanna and Prairie Restoration. This lecture
is appropriate for the those with an interest in the original look of our Iowa County hills.**

Lunch will follow.