



<http://www.jacksonporthistoricalsociety.org>

Dear valued Members and Friends of the Jacksonport Historical Society (JHS),

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks for your continued support. Although Covid sidelined us for two years, we have been working hard to maintain the preservation of our history and heritage of Jacksonport.

The pandemic years forced us to cancel Cherry Fest and the annual Fish Boil for two years. Only one program during the two years was held in September 2021, "Growing Up and Going to School in Jacksonport" which was held at the Jacksonport Town Hall. Mike Madden was the panel moderator and the program included several speakers who each attended one of the four one-room schoolhouses: Jacksonport, Farview, Groveland and Washington. Many in the audience shared their memories too.

In addition to the difficulties caused by the pandemic, heavy rains in May 2020 caused significant damage to the Loritz Cabin. A sump pump failed due to a lightning strike knocking out the electricity and we ended up with 4 feet of water in the newly finished basement. We lost the furnace, dehumidifier, books, shelving and some artifacts. Several Board Members cleaned and dried out all that was salvageable and new heating and dehumidifying systems were installed; but there are still many things to reshuffle in the cabin due to the water damage.

The JHS was able to acquire the well-used telephone booth that was located near LeClairs Laundromat and move it into storage. We also moved old farm equipment from the Cote farm to the JHS historical site where it is now displayed.

The Loritz Cabin will undergo repairs to enable the JHS to offer tours and programs in the future which will highlight the life of Mrs. Loritz. The programs will provide a unique and educational experience for those who attend, allowing them to learn more about the history of Jacksonport and the people who lived here in the past.

In 2022, Cherry Fest was back in full swing plus we were able to present one program in September, "Artists of Jacksonport." We were grateful for the opportunity to provide our members and community with a glimpse into the history of education and artists in our Town.

We are already planning for this year's Cherry Fest which will be held Saturday, Aug. 5, running from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We're excited to announce that this year we'll be hosting Miss Wisconsin! Of course, the

homemade cherry kolaches baked fresh early that morning and the cherry sundaes, both Cherry Fest favorites, will be again display a wide range of cars at the Erskine Rest Area and last, but not least, the vendors will be set up in the park to show off and sell their merchandise.

We hope to once again hold the Annual Fish Boil which had been cancelled in recent years due to Covid-19 and manpower shortages. It will be held the third Wednesday in the month, July 19. Updates will be posted on the Historical Society website (<http://www.jacksonporthistoricalsociety.org>) as the board moves forward with plans for Cherry Fest and the Fish Boil.

We were sorry to hear about the passing of Jerry Cote, who died Nov. 26, 2021. Jerry was one of the founders of JHS and served on the board for many years. He was an important member of the JHS community, contributing his time and resources to help the organization thrive. Jerry's family donated the Cote Cabin to the JHS, which will ensure the cabin and its history are preserved for future generations. The cabin now sits at the JHS Historical site on the south side of Jacksonport. Jerry also took care of the Root Cellar which is an important piece of local history. The Root Cellar is located by the Erskine Rest Area. Jerry was born and raised in Jacksonport, was a military veteran and his presence at the board meetings are missed.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Robert Onan, a dedicated member and friend of Jacksonport Historical Society, who died Sept. 9, 2020. Bob was an individual who dedicated his time and energy towards preserving the local history. The Jacksonport Historical Society was named as a significant beneficiary in Bob's Will. We are grateful for his generosity and lifelong contributions to the society, which will allow us to continue preserving and sharing the town's history for future generations. The Onan family arrived in Jacksonport during the 1940s, Bob's father purchased a site on Jacksonport's lakefront located on what is now Onan Drive. From a young lad on, Bob spent his summers in Jacksonport. As a young man, he enjoyed the interaction with and experience he gained participating in local Jacksonport activities. This included such activities as the summer camp operated by the Charles Butler family just south of Lakeside Park, to helping the commercial fishing enterprises operating from the Grovogel brothers dock just north of Lakeside Park. He loved to point out how lucky the town was to have our beautiful sugar sand beaches. (Unfortunately, the first year his soon-to-be-wife Gail visited Jacksonport was the year of the alewife infestation. He often laughed about that.) As time went on Bob's parents acquired and donated the property, which is now the Erskine Rest Area, to the Town of Jacksonport. As a lawyer, Bob was instrumental in setting up various legal documents associated with the Jacksonport Historical Society. Annually, Bob could be seen helping out at the Town's festivals often manning the booth at the root cellar, located in the Erskine Rest Area, and managed by the Jacksonport Historical Society.

Questions or comments can be sent to jacksonporthistorical@gmail.com

Kindest regards,

The Jacksonport Historical Society
Board of Directors