Vesper Public Library. 2005

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 2005

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Spring in Vesper

If you come to Vesper,
You will find Spring is everywhere.
Secretly hiding from Winter,
Until the word is out!

Deep beneath the park's leaves,
Far below the creek's ice cover
Above the bare tree limbs,
Under the Hemlock Bridge

On the corner near the new library
Near the old brick yard pond
Quietly studying at the Vesper school,
Waiting patiently at the ballpark
Sweetly singing behind the old saw mill

Walking down the nature trail
Sitting in the park sandbox
Pondering under the water tower
So if you come to Vesper
Stay, sit awhile, enjoy!
In our quiet friendly village,
Spring and smiles are everywhere!

May 2006

Written for Vesper by Ruth Cline
Member of Vesper's Community Progress Initiative

The Sixty Books Project is a collaborative book arts, writing and journaling project for the people of south central Wisconsin, hosted by the South Central Library System (SCLS), and produced by the Bone Folders' Guild (BFG), a book arts group based in Madison. This project is supported by a Madison CitiARTS grant.

The BFG book artists have created sixty hand made blank books. One of these books will be catalogued into each of the sixty libraries in the South Central Library System. Unlike other library books, patrons are invited to write, draw, paint or collage in the books. Subsequent patrons will add their own stories, drawings, and so forth, creating community-wide collaborative works of art. After the launch of the project these books will be available for checkout by library patrons until August 15, 2006.

At the close of the circulation period, the 60 books will be removed from the SCLS collections and brought together for a traveling exhibit. This exhibit will have its debut in Madison as part of the Fifth Annual Wisconsin Book Festival (October 18-22, 2006).

To contact us: www.valleyridgeartstudio.com/bone_folders/

"Outside your window a bird
steps carelessly onto air and air
buoys him. How must it be to lean
on nothing till that nothing
lifts you!"

– from "Never Trust a Crow"

Lois Beebee Hayna

Instructions

- Check out this book as you would any other library book for a two-week period. Be sure to return it in the protective wrapper provided.
- Write a poem. Make a journal entry. Write political thoughts. Compose a short story. Collage. Paint a page. Be creative.
- Be respectful of these books. They are hand bound and bear delicate musings on the pages.
- Be aware of what has been done on the other side of the page that you are working on. For example, don't "sew" onto someone else's work.
- When you are gluing or painting put a piece of wax paper under the page you are working on. This will protect the other pages of created art.
- Before closing the book, be sure your page is dry.
- We encourage you to sign and date your work.
- Please, no perishables on the pages.
- Be advised that SCLS and BFG reserve the right to remove and/or delete any questionable material. Please be nice.
- Warning: You will incur a $125.00 library fine if this book is not returned!

"At the Second Threshold"

The roots of our veins settle in
for the white deception. This
is no token fall of snow.

We survived summer with its pain
and myriad deaths. We shepherded autumn
into safekeeping. Now

green exhaustion winds down
to an end of color. Blind roots tunnel
new territories, and in honeyed hives

bees plunder the royal jelly.
Let us bed the long nights
with legends of survival.

From "View from Behind the Mirror"

Lois Beebe Hayna

Vesper, Wisconsin on the Hemlock Creek

Editor's note: Among the newspaper clippings and photographs in Tille Baxter's box of memories wasthe Vesper Song. It was written at a time when loyalty to your hometown was not only a virtue, it was expected.

You can rave about your cities with their glitter and their show,
And the interesting places where the people like to go,
But to come to solid comfort we can show you all a trick
Where? Vesper, Wisconsin, on the Hemlock Creek.

Chorus:
Vesper for mine, yes it's Vesper for mine,
She isn't very big but she's the best on the line,
They can travel where they want to
But we'll try our best to stick,
Where? Vesper, Wisconsin, on the Hemlock Creek.

It's the home of dandy people and their children not a few,
It's the home of cheese and butter and a big condensery, too,
They make drainage tile and silos, have a band and park that're slick
Where? Vesper, Wisconsin, on the Hemlock Creek.

Now the people are so busy that it keeps them on the go,
So they haven't got a bit of time to stop and watch her grow,
It's the town where things are doing and we aim to do them quick,
Where? Vesper, Wisconsin, on the Hemlock Creek.

To each stranger who is seeking for a place to build his roost,
We extend an invitation to the town for which we boost,
We'll be glad to have you with us and we know you'll want to stick
Where? Vesper, Wisconsin, on the Hemlock Creek.

In the winter, the Vesper Creek was a big part of our life. One of the men in the village would test the ice for us to see if it was safe to skate and sled on. Many years we skated on Thanksgiving Day! The would shovel the snow to make paths all over the ice. The would skate at night also. Someone would build a bonfire for us to be able to see better and to warm up by. In the daytime, when it was really cold, when we were done skating, we would stop on our way home to warm up at the Olds Grocery Store. There was a large floor register in the back of that store where we could warm up on. Another winter fun thing to do was slide down a large hill by the Creek (usually on a piece of cardboard)! The would end up on the Creek — lots of fun! By: Marge (Kievet) Loonstra

By Mary Ann Ladik

Ron was born + raised in Vesper + I started living 2 miles from Vesper in 1958.

What I remember about Vesper is that Andy's first store, now apartments, by the bridge was where we did our grocery shopping. After doing our grocery shopping I would get gas at Ma Browns gas station + she loved children + would give them treats.

All my children went to Vesper Grade school. and took part in many school activities.

I can remember Bev's Fabric store, now apartments, sold fabric, materials + sewing items. I shopped there + bought materials to make clothes for my children alot.

Also there was Behlings Clothing + Shoe store which we bought clothes + shoes + boots. They would always have a special sale before school started in August.

The Coop + Feed Store, which is now Winches, was where we bought our cow feed, machinery parts + gas for the farm.

There was also Seifert's Hardware where we bought parts + paint + plumbing supplies.

The Children + I use to go to the park to play on swings + slides, and they really enjoyed the picnics each year.

And we attended St James Church services + the children catechism classes too.

My name is Sue "Smith" Haas. I have lived in Vesper all my life. I'll be 50 yr. old (what!?!) in July. I went to Vesper School. I was in the last 8th grade class there. Both my girls went to Vesper too. In May 1996 I got an award from Vesper School. I have baby pictures of me in the park when the gazebo was still there. I lived in the brick building across from park when I was little but then we moved across the bridge. I walked to school then. When Ma Brown's & Pool hall were open we couldn't walk on those sides of the street. When we got the mail we took it home in a bag so we wouldn't lose it across the bridge. We used to spit off the bridge & watch the fish come. I like working at the Firemen's Picnic in the French fries & the monthly brat fry's. I fry hamburgers for the Lions now at the baseball games. I remember Andy's old store that was fun when you had 10¢ you could

get a lot then. I remember Ma Browns, Pool Hall, Nick's Bar. I did a lot of baby sitting for one family. I waited on tables at Lions at both churches. I waited on tables at alot of weddings. I shopped at Vesper Clothing Store. I liked the old fireplace, the buttons, the lace hankies, etc. When I got confirmed in the old Trinity Water & Sewer were going through the road was a mess. I worked at Woodruff's & at Sanna. Then I went to Marshfield Hospital for 4 years. Married now am at 2 assisted living homes in Marshfield which I really like. I love to read, I have to start walking around now. There's always someone to talk to on the streets of Vesper.

Sue Haas
3-21-06

Jeanette Shick

8-6-06

Well, where to start - at the beginning I suppose. I was born April 19, 1960 and lived in Vesper ever since. Growing up I guess I'd have to say I was a loner, done things on my own - didn't play sports, go to the park or go to the library. Kids in Vesper these days have all the opportunties - 2 parks the schoolyard - youth sports & now a "new Lester" Library.

I guess I did go to the library - Sorta used it as an excuse to go "downtown" but never really read much, but boy now what's that saying "So many books - but so little time" ain't that the truth! I have been given the opportunity to work in the library for the last 13 years, I love my job!!! Thank you Arlene for opening the door!

This is a wonderful letter from a former Vesper resident! Enjoy!
3 pages!

"A friendly word makes happiness grow."
Blanche ~

Memories

IN 1921 ORA AND ZELLA WATERMAN, MOVED TO VESPER TO MANAGE THE A.&P. STORE, LATER KNOWN AS THE "HERB BEAM STORE." IT WAS LOCATED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE STREET NEXT TO THE HEMLOCK CR. BRIDGE. WE LIVED IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE THE STORE. THE FAMILY INCLUDED ELSIE, 17 YEARS OLD, BLANCHE, 5, AND SIDNEY, 3 YEARS OLD. AT THE END OF THE YEAR, DAD BOUGHT THE CONTENTS OF THE OSCAR TREUTLE GENERA STORE, IT WAS LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE PARK. DAD RAN THE STORE FOR EIGHT YEARS, BUT HAD TO QUIT, AS HE COULDN'T SAY "NO" TO ANYONE IN NEED. I REMEMBER AT 13 OR 14 YEARS OF AGE, AS DAD, COULDN'T ASK ANYONE FOR MONEY, I WAS SENT OUT TO RRY, BUT "SATURDAY NITE NEVER CAME!" WE MOVED TO PLAINFIELD, WHERE DAD WAS BORN.

I HAVE LOTS OF GREAT MEMORIES OF VESPER. I LOVED HAVING MISS HANIT-IN FOR A TEACHER, AS DID ALL STUDENTS. SHE NEVER RAISED HER VOICE TO ANYONE WHO WAS MIS-BEHAVING, AS THEY WOULD STOP WITH JUST A LOOK. WE ALL HATED TO SEE HER LEAVE WHEN SHE WAS MARRIED. I ALWAYS ENJOYED THE "SO. WOOD COUNTY SPRING DAYS" HELD EACH SPRING IN ARPIN. WE HAD CONTESTS OF ALL KINDS; IN SPORTS, MUSIC AND EVEN SCHOOL YELLS. I COVERED THE FREIGHT PLATFORM TO TRY TO SEE HOW FEW STROKES I COULD DRIVE IN, TEN-PENNY NAILS. I NEVER DID WIN! WHEN I WAS IN 7th GRADE AND JEROME SEIFORT WAS IN 8TH, WE WERE SENT TO MADISON TO WATCH THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION. WE STAYED IN THE DORMS.

"A friendly word makes happiness grow."
Blanche ~

2.

IT WAS SO EXCITING TO ME, JUST TO WATCH IT, EVEN THOUGH, I KNEW I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ATTEND A COLLEGE. IN THOSE YEARS, MONEY WAS PRETTY SCARCE.

I ENJOYED BEING IN THE 4-H CLUB EVEN IF I DIDN'T RAISE AN ANIMAL. I HAD SEWING WITH MRS. HORN, LEARNING HOW TO USE FLOUR SACKS FOR MANY THINGS. MRS. CHAUS HOENFELDT TAUGHT US COOKING AND BAKING, AND I LEARNED TO MAKE MANY KINDS OF BREAD. I EVEN TOOK SOME TO THE FAIR AND WON PRIZES AND MADE ALL THE BREADS AND ROLLS FOR MY DADS 65TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. I ENJOYED STAYING AT THE FAIR FOR THE WEEK AND MET SOME GREAT OTHER '4-H'ERS'.

VESPER WAS A GREAT TOWN TO RAISE CHILDREN IN. WE PLAYED IN THE PARK AND EACH NIGHT, IN THE SUMMER, MET THERE TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK. BY THE BAND STAND. AT 9 O'CLOCK, ONE MOM AFTER ANOTHER, WOULD CALL US HOME. IN WINTER, WE ALL WENT TO PLAY ON THE ICE, WHOEVER ARRIVED FIRST SHOVELED THE SNOW OFF A BIG SPOT FOR SKATING OR GATHERED WOOD FOR A BIG BONFIRE. I DON'T EVER REMEMBER ANY ARGUMENTS ON "WHO DID IT LAST" OR "WHO DID THE MOST." EVERYONE SEEMED TO GET ALONG VERY WELL OR MY MEMORY FORGETS THAT.

I RECALL WHEN THE HUGE SLAB OF CONCRETE WAS POURED FOR THE HORN'S HARDWARE, AND HOW EVERYONE WAS SO EXCITED WHEN IT OPENED. NO ONE HAD SEEN DRAWERS TO OPENED ALL ALONG EACH WALL.

"A friendly word makes happiness grow."
Blanche ~

3

EARLY ONE MORNING WE WERE AWAKENED BY THE FIREBELL. THE HOTEL WAS ON FIRE. IT HAD BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING AND ALL HATED TO SEE IT BURN. I WAS WORRIED FOR A FRIEND WHO LIVED IN AN UPSTAIRS APARTMENT. HER MOTHER, MRS CHARBONEAU TOOK CARE OF THE TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD. EVERYONE GOT OUT OK. IN A FEW DAYS, WE KIDS WERE HUNTING THROUGH THE RUBBLE TO FIND PIECES OF MELTED MARBLE. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL GLASS.

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 12 OR 13 YEARS OLD I BEGAN TO HELP IN THE STORE, WAITING ON THE CHILDREN FOR CANDY, AT FIRST. THEN I WAS ALLOWED TO HELP WITH THE GROCERIES. I REMEMBER A PARTICULAR SALE, AS IT WAS FOR $12.00 AND IT TOOK A BIG CORNFLAKE BOX TO HOLD IT ALL. I WAS SO PROUD OF MY BIG SALE AS EVEN THAT WASN'T A VERY COMMON SALE THEN.

I REMEMBER WHEN THE STREET WAS PAVED. THE TURNTABLE WAS PARKED ACROSS FROM THE STORE, ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK, ON WEEKENDS. IT WAS FUN TO WATCH THE TRUCK LOADS BEING TURNED AROUND ON IT.

I AM GLAD I HAD THE CHANCE TO GO TO THE VESPER GRADED SCHOOL FOR THE EIGHT YEARS.

I ALSO REMEMBER WHEN FATHER BUILE LIVED IN TOWN ACROSS FROM THE PARK, AND THE KLUKLUX CLAN BURNED A CROSS THERE.

BLANCHE WATERMAN KLUBERTANZ

My Family by Bob Cline

My family moved to Vesper in 1945. I have lived in the Vesper area about 36 years. When we first moved to Vesper there was a black smith shop, three taverns, two farm stores, two grocery stores, a clothing store, a newspaper office, and a restaurant. There was no library until 1950. There were two dairy producers; one for whey and one for milk. My dad worked at the Mid West Condensing plant as a boiler operator. Since that time Vesper has really lost a lot of businesses. The Vesper people are still the same friendly, generous folks as they have always been.

I attended school in the old brick grade school which was built in 1906. I graduated from Rudolph High school in 1962. I went into the service until 1965, then came home and got married shortly thereafter. I left Vesper area until 1988. Now I am living here again and enjoying the community. I retired from Beatrice Cheese Company in 1997. I worked part time at Walmart and Figi's until 2004. I decided it was time to retire and enjoy life a bit more.

I started woodcarving in 2001; it is a fun and relaxing hobby. I also like to hunt water fowl, upland game birds and deer. My wife Ruth and I live on 120 acre tree farm which we manage for wildlife. I enjoy being outside and walk a lot. My hunting Pardner is my Springer Spaniel "Jake".

Two years ago after many years of traveling across the country on our Gold Wing Aspencade 1200 Motorcycle and tent camping along the way……Ruth and I purchased our first motor home. We are enjoying Wisconsin's Rustic Roads in our Winnebago.

Some of the local residents that I grew up with include: Bean, Woodruff, Seifert, Cole, Smith, Smits, Miller, Wussow, Holly, Worlund, Zimmerman, Pryne, Sentec, Zieher, Halverson , Winch, just to name a few.

Some of the things I remember doing while growing up in Vesper: hunting, fishing, skinny dipping in the Hemlock creek, gopher trapping, softball and working in the garden with my dad. I now do a lot of volunteer work in the Vesper area. I enjoy working in the Vesper Community gardens and as a member of Friends of the library. I also try (when I am not too busy) to go down to Winch's and catch up on the local news at 10 a.m. weekdays! Better than any newspaper!

Bob Cline
8-13-2006

Memories

Otilia Smith Baxter has a lot of memories. She can recall days that most of us have only read about in history books. When she was born, the frontier was still open, journeys were made by horse and wagon, and a skirt above the ankle was terribly daring. Now, 99 years later, Man has traveled through outer space, cross-country jaunts are made aboard supersonic aircraft and, in fashion, anything goes. Times have changed drastically since Tilie, above left, her husband George and her daughter Myrtle, right, came to the town of Hansen to carve a farm from 160 acres of forest.

Lucy Buck Hayna a former Vesper resident recalls her

Lois Beebe Hayna a former Vesper resident recalls her childhood via email to Ruth Cline. Lois lives in Colorado!

I knew a Myrtle Baxter - could she have become known later as Tillie? And I'm very curious about the 90-year-old who wrote you - that puts her about in my age group and you didn't say who she was.

When I was a child, the ruins of the old sawmill - the original reason for the town's existence - were still standing not very far down from the bridge, and we used to walk down there for picnics. There were still a lot of clams in the creek then and along the banks a number of old clamshells with those neat little holes punched in them - but because the shells had such curvature, not more than one or two holes per shell - which might have been one reason the button factory didn't make it - my mother said that someone had tried to start one, but I don't know where that was located, it was totally gone by then.

In your previous note you mentioned that though you didn't live in Vesper you were taking part in what happened there - I think Vesper was always so small that we always included people from all the outlying areas to help the town prosper. And I, at least, never made a distinction between those from In as against those from Without. Even the kids I went to school with were often from quite far out of town. Some from out near Seneca, others from the other direction out across the creek.

I only dimly remember Myrtle Baxter's parents, and she was a bit older than I, so I didn't know Myrtle well. But of course I knew Blanche Waterman. Their store - which we always called Waterman's was to the left of the railroad bridge, a wooden building painted gray - and the Waterman's lived above the store. Both Mr. and Mrs. Waterman tended the store - Blanche was a year or two behind me in school. The Herb Bean store was brick and it was on the other side of the street, and not quite so close to the creek. They were not the same store. Then going toward town just past the next intersection was the Dassow store, a wooden building painted yellow. For a long time there were those three grocery/drygoods/feedstore operations, later on Klawitter's meat shop opened across from Dassow's and a bit farther to the east.

Marlene Jochimsen was library director of Vesper Library 2001 to April 15, 2006. Marlene enjoyed story hour, Summer Reading and her favorite project; crafts. Marlene enjoyed making crafts and attending craft shows! Marlene resigned her position as library director April 15, 2006!

Vesper Library Story Hour

I am the current librarian in Vesper. We will be opening a new library soon - I have discovered in old articles 1. The first library open May 6 in the Siefert Hardware store - 1950 - they paid 9.00 rent and had mostly donated books - The current library was opened in 1973. They paid 30.00 rent. It was 4 x's the space 24x30. The new Lester Library will be 50x50 - So much space. When I moved to town -1990- it had a grocery store, hardware. 2 bars, Winch Oil, ceramic shop. The grocery store and hardware have both closed. We go to Marshfield or Pittsville to shop. Our restaurant otts - closed and now is reopened as the Brickyard. Thus keeping with the fact that bricks were made here in town. In my time here I have seen the children come to story hour and become young adult readers - Yes, I've even seen them get married and start families - The population has decreased with younger adults leaving the area. A new ball park and play area has been added on the edge of town, which has been a very nice addition.

M Jochimsen 3-24-06

2006 Emails from Lois Hayna to Ruth Cline

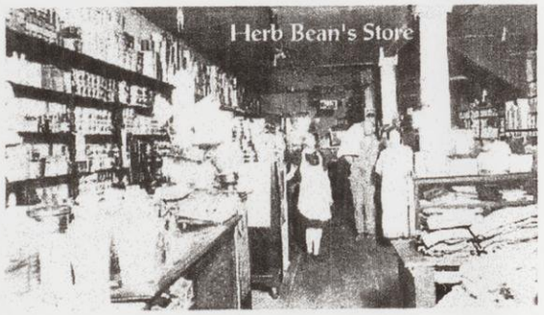
I'm so happy to know that Vesper has a library, something I missed as a child, without knowing quite what it was that I missed. I read and reread the few books in the school library, even the complete set of Books of Knowledge for lack of anything else. The town was, in many ways, an ideal place to grow up – and a library would have made, for me, all the difference.

When I went down the street into town for my mother, if we needed some heavy item such as flour or sugar or kerosene, I would take a little red wagon, to make transporting it easier. One day when she'd sent me to Waterman's for some such item, I had loaded whatever it was I'd been sent for, Mrs. Waterman had handed me my change, and she said, Wait a minute, you like to read, I have something upstairs you ought to have. She came back in a few minutes, her arms filled with copies of The Youth's Companion. She said they subscribed to it for Blanche, and she must have been doing some housecleaning and wanted those back issues out of her way. She loaded up my little red wagon with them and I suppose I read those till I wore them out, and even then, clipped certain items, mainly poems, that I kept for years. Vesper was so small then that people knew a lot about all of us, even when we were little kids.

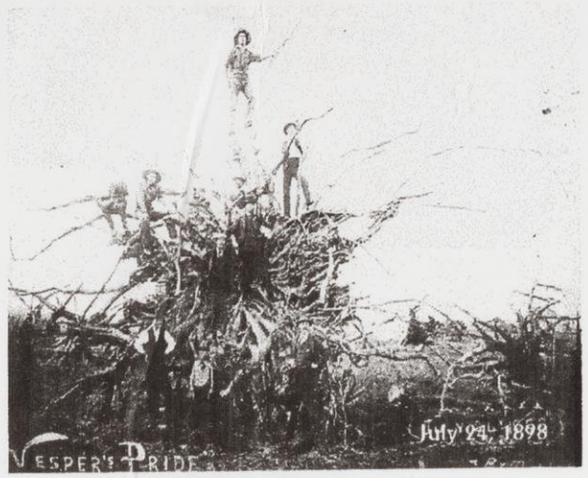
POET: There is joy, she says, in just the right combination of words

Businesses From Vespers Past

1874-Sawmill and Store
1876-Whorton Brothers Mill
1898-Carsten Otto Creamery
1900-F. Albert Dairy Co.
1902-Albert Adams (Button Maker), Dassow Mercantile
Vesper Brick & Time Co, & Horn's Hardware Store
1907-Equitable Creamery Co.
1909-Versper Safety Clevis & Malleable Iron Co.
Vesper Wood Manufacturing Co.
1910-State Bank of Vesper & Mongram Hotel
1916-Vesper Tank & Silo Co.
1917-Vesper Farm Bureau



3 More Mills
2 Blacksmith Shops
2 Grocery Stores
1Tinning Shop
1 Photograph Studio
1 More Hardware Store
1 Clothing Store
1 Wallpaper Mill
1Pickle Factory
2 Newspapers
3 Lodges

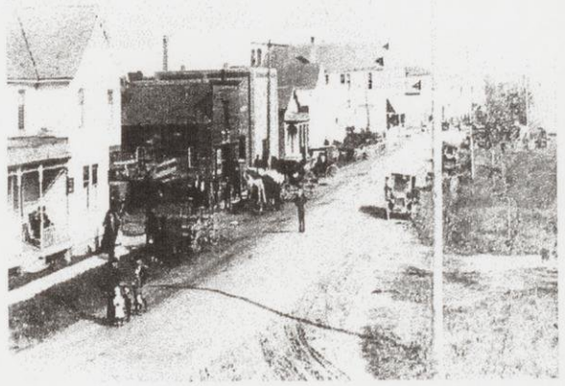


For more information about Vespers History stop by our local Library

The Silo Factory on the Hemlock Creek

A Look at the History of

Vesper



How Vesper Got its Name "It seems that no one was able to come up with a name for the town, and they were told that the U.S. Post Office could help them in naming the town. Some one wrote a description of the town and sent it along with a request for help. When the replay came back, the name Vesper was given, because it sounded like such a pretty, peaceful place."

-Lois Beebe Hayna

Hayna "grew up in Vesper during the '20s, when it was still a rather raw, new place."

How Vesper Started Out

The first settler in or around the Vesper area was a man named Sam Boynton.

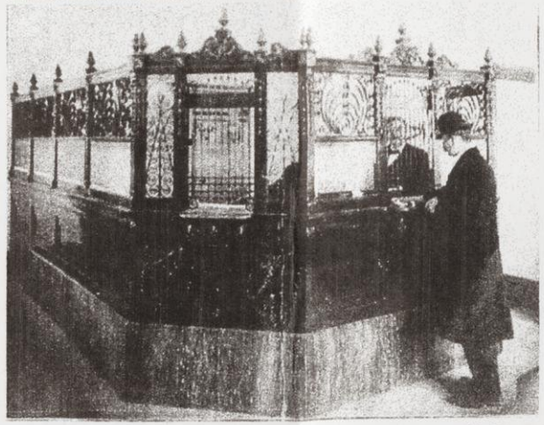
Old Vesper started to exist when a sawmill and store were erected on the west side of the Hemlock Creek, by the Girand and Drape Company in 1874. By 1879, the first school was built.

The first newspaper reference found referring to "Vesper" came in 1883, shortly after it acquired a post office.

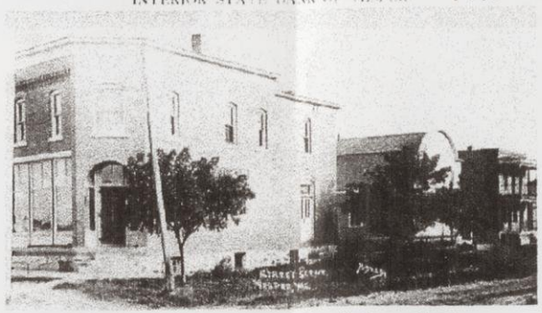
For twenty years, "old" Vesper boomed and then in 1894, a fire that started in the woods, burned the sawmill, 23 homes and the remaining timber on the west side of Hemlock Creek.

In four years, Vesper had rebuilt itself. With a lot of the timber having been destroyed by the fire, the sawmills were not as profitable as they had been, but the logged and burned over land was suitable for dairy farming. Dairy farming was responsible for creating new businesses in town.

Union Station



INTERIOR STATE BANK OF VESPER 1911



1908 HORN HARDWARE, VESPER OPERA HOUSE & HARRY COLE'S

The Band Shelter

That once stood in Cameron Park

The 300x300 park was given to Vesper so that there "would always be music in the center of town".

The Vesper Fire of 1894

"The thriving little town is all but wiped out. Ashes and ruins mark the site of its former industry. The sawmill, planing mill, lumber in the yards, and about 25 dwelling houses, in fact all of the little town west of the Hemlock creek was totally wiped out by the fire.

"The fire had its origin in the forest fires that have been running throughout that region for weeks. But no immediate danger was apprehended. Tuesday afternoon about half past three o'clock the wind shifted to the south, and before anyone was aware of the danger, the fiery element was beyond man's control. The fire was first observed in a large boarding house in the southwestern part of the town. From here it leaped with ferocious rapidity to adjoining dwellings and into the lumber yard where about 9,000,000 feet of lumber were piled. Everything was dry as tinder, owing to the long drought.

"The sawdust burned like powder and a strong wind swept waves of flame over the doomed portion of the town. Half an hour after the fire started, the mills, lumber piles and houses were one angry roaring mass of flames.

"There was time to save but little. Mrs J.W. Cameron was sick abed at the time and her safety was first looked after. After that there was only time to save Mrs. F. J. Cameron's handsome piano and a box of furs from Mr. Cameron's residence. Few people had time to save anything.

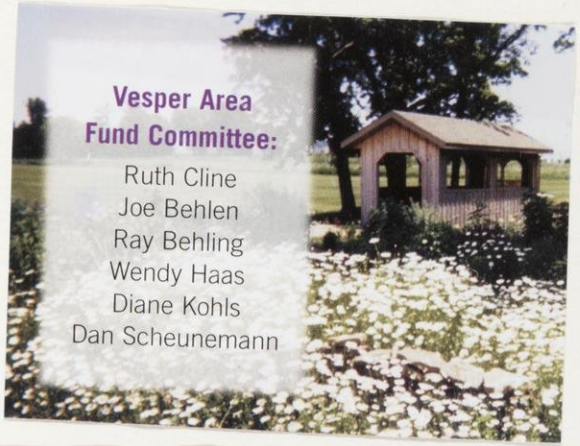
"Fears for the safety of the other part of town resulted in a call to the Grand Rapids fire Department. Hurriedly the fire engine and hose carts were taken down to the stricken town via the Port Edwards, Centralia & Northern road, but the company could be of little service. A strong south wind blew the smoke and heat away from the east half of the town and there was, hence, but little danger from fire in that quarter.

"The mills and the lumber belonged to the Sherry-Cameron Lumber Co. The plant consisted of a double-band sawmill and a planing mill (and the 9,000,000 feet of lumber). The loss to the company will amount to $150,000 covered by insurance to the amount of about $90,000.

"The fire will probably mean the wind-up of affairs at Vesper, as the mill will not be rebuilt, all of the timber of the company having been cut." -Centralia Enterprise Newspaper Sept. 1, 1894

Vesper Area Community Vision:

- Vesper is a safe, family-friendly community which celebrates our small-town characteristics, and we work together to create a positive environment and exciting community events.
- We are a Heritage Village with thriving businesses that celebrate our agricultural background. We offer unique outdoor recreational opportunities and successful community-based events.



2004-
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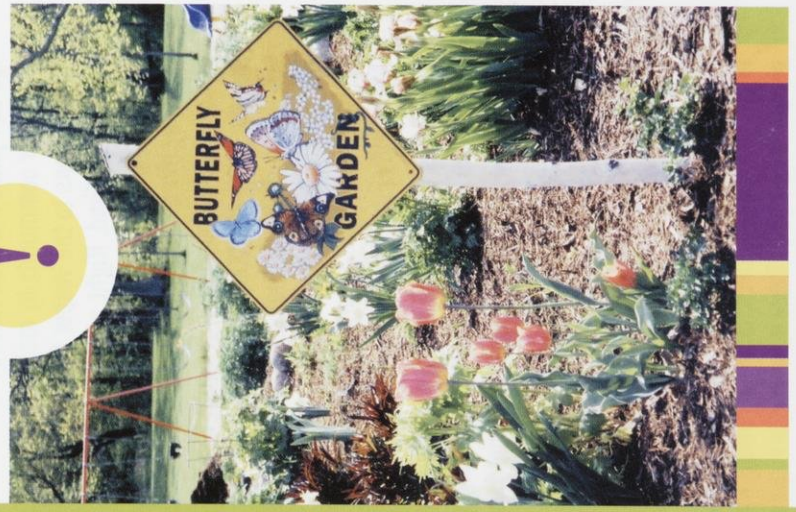
Vesper Area Community Fund



make it happen!
Community Progress
INITIATIVE

Plant the Seed - Endow Your Community!

What a lovely place to work! My name is JoAnn and I'm the new Director at the Lester Public Library of Vesper. Vesper is very lucky to have such a nice library, and I'm very fortunate to live in such a nice village that has such a nice library.

I hope that some day soon many more people will use the library on a regular basis. I hope that we can bring in more programs especially for adults and teens. We will be having a story hour starting in the fall and of course we have our summer reading program. This year 55 children participated in the summer reading program and together read over 80,000 minutes!

I like working in a library because I get to learn something new everyday. I also like to organize things. Sometimes I buy a box of junk at a sale just so I can organize it – weird hey?! I also like to work in a library because I am surrounded by people who like to read and learn. When you can read, the whole world is open to you and whether you want to can tomatoes, tune an engine, or learn about Tunisia, a library is a great place to find the information you need.

Lester Public Library of Vesper Information 9-15-06

Board Members

Mark Paul Jennifer Pfefferkorn Diane Kohls

J. L. Gay Jennifer Wilhorn Owen Bean

1 vacancy

Director: JoAnn O'Greene

Library Assistant: Jeanette Shirek

Friends of the Library

Laura Huber Bob Cline Ruth Cline

Library Hours:

Monday & Thursday Noon to 5 p.m.

Tuesday 9 A.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday 9 AM - 6 pm

Saturday 9AM - Noon

Closed Wednesday and Sunday

phone: (715) 569-4669

Hi Folks! Written by Ruth Cline May 18, 2006

When I was almost 2 years old my parents and grandparents moved to the Vesper area and purchased farms just outside of the village. I was born in Illinois while my Dad was serving his time in the Army. I am the third child in a family of eight. I love Wisconsin! I went to the Bean school; all 8 grades taught by one great teacher! Mrs. Winch was one of those teachers! In 1962 I graduated from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. After graduation I headed to Minnesota to College. In my heart Wisconsin was home so I returned and worked in the medical field, got married and had my family. In 1976 I changed careers, went back to College and enjoyed 25 great years in the Environmental Department at Consolidated Papers, Inc. Next to my family... my love of horses comes in next! My grandfather put me on a horse named "prince" when I was about 2 years old... the love affair began! Over the years I have owned numerous wonderful horses; for over 27 years I have shared my love of horses with 1000's of youth in Central Wisconsin. From teaching youth to ride to

hauling youth to horse shows both local and state wide... the memories would fill a lifetime! My drill team performed at the Central Wisconsin State Fair in 1993 to celebrate 100 years of the Ferris Wheel... if you listen you may still hear the music of "Wheels" and the horses hooves hitting the ground in tune! Today I operate a School of Horsemanship at Stone Gate Stables located on a farm on the Hemlock Creek... just across the road from where I grew up. Being a volunteer has been a part of my life since I was a kid. Now that I am retired... volunteering fits right into my retirement plans. In 1989 I got married for the second time "to my highschool best friend". We have a lot in common and enough differences to make life interesting! We love the outdoor world, have traveled 1,000's of miles by motorcycle, enjoy our little Winnebago Motor Home and traveling Wisconsin's Rustic Roads with my dog Baxter! Bob wood carves and I write; we both read a lot!

We are at home on our farm.. on the Hemlock.. near Vesper, WI

Colophon

A bone folder is an essential tool for book makers.
It creases paper to a nice, crisp fold.

Originating in Madison, Wisconsin, the Bone Folders' Guild is a group of people who share a love for the book as art. The Bone Folders' Guild was founded in February 2001 by a group of artists who desired to meet like-minded book artists to learn, support, and encourage each other artistically. We share a passion for creating books as a form of artistic expression.

Members of the Bone Folders' Guild who created
the Sixty Books include:

Suzanne Berland, Susie Carlson, Carol Chase Bjerke,
Nan Killoran, Laura Komai, Kathy Malkasian,
Nancy Schoenherr, Tricia Schriefer, Karen Timm,
Alexis Turner, Marilyn Wedberg,
Carey Weiler, Kristin Yates.

The text block paper used in all books is Arches Cover White, 270 gsm., 35.25" x 24.75" 100% cotton, acid free paper. Cover paper, cloth and other original embellishments were chosen by the book artists.

The Bone Folders Guild would like to thank Alison Jones Chaim for her thoughtful guidance through this process. Huge thanks to the South Central Library System for their cooperation with this project. Also, we send a gracious thank you to Madison CitiARTS for its financial support.

Five generations gather

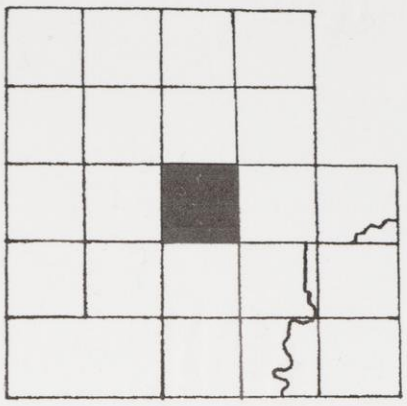
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five generations of the Madlin Budzinski family recently gathered. Pictured are grandson Dennis Dorshorst of Port Edwards, great-granddaughter Rebecca Paulson of Scandinavia, Madlin Budzinski of Rudolph holding great-great-grandson Eathan Paulson of Scandinavia, and daughter Margaret Dorshorst of Rudolph.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five generations of the Tena Bliek family recently gathered. Pictured are son Martin Bliek of Stevens Point, from left, great-granddaughter Rebecca Paulson holding great-great-grandson Eathan Paulson of Scandinavia, Tena Bliek of Wisconsin Rapids, and granddaughter Wendy Williams of Iola.

Tena Bliek and her family are former Vesper residents. They lived in Vesper many years. Tena Bliek was a librarian at the Vesper Libray.



Town of Hansen

By Supervisor Ruth Cline

Along the banks of the Hemlock Creek the town of Hansen was born. Back in 1883, Martin R. Hansen came to this site to operate a sawmill. Hansen left the Hansen settlement in 1885 and no physical trace of the settlement now remains; only the ghosts remain. Hansen Township as it is known today organized on February 13, 1901 as New Vesper Township after the village of Vesper. The name changed to Hansen Township on May 9, 1901; apparently after the name of the former Hansen settlement.

As early as 1850, history indicates that at least two entries on land in this township were made in Section 22. Town of Hansen was home to four country schools (Bean, Natwick, North Hansen, Pleasant Valley) until consolidation closed the schools. Country schools did more than educate the children; they were a social outlet for the community. Highlights of the school year included the Christmas programs, end of the school year picnics and school meetings; these were all well attended by everyone.

Town of Hansen is primarily agricultural with many old farms still producing. Tucked in and around the farmland an occasional new home is starting to dot the rural landscape. In 1921 the Township Agricultural Exhibit was encouraged to show at the Central Wisconsin State Fair at Marshfield. Five entries were placed; the town of Hansen won first place and was presented a beautiful silver cup by the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune.

Our township does not have any taverns; this would please our namesake Martin R. Hansen as he was against those types of businesses. Our township is home to many nationalities. We are also the home of former State Senator W. W. Clark. Mr. Clark also had a farm along the beautiful Hemlock Creek.

Most of the Town of Hansen roads are paved making travel much easier than in the 1800's when horse and buggy traveled on roadways resembling no more than a path through the woods. There are still paths through the woods in our township. Little known off the beaten path are the town roads called lanes that are the "unofficial Rustic Roads" of the Town of Hansen. In traveling these lanes one might still hear the sounds of an axe chopping down a tree, the neigh of a horse, a sleigh bell or smell the fragrance of wood smoke from homes being heated by wood.

Several old bridges were built years ago to allow travel across the Hemlock Creek. The bridges have outlived their use for the heavily traveled roads in today's world and the Town Board is replacing those large bridges with modern day structures.

Take a drive on our township roads, bring a thermos of your favorite beverage and a snack, and stop by the banks of the Hemlock Creek. Look carefully as you drive along our country roads and faint images of old farmsteads from years past may still appear! You may hear the ghosts of years past…if you are quiet.

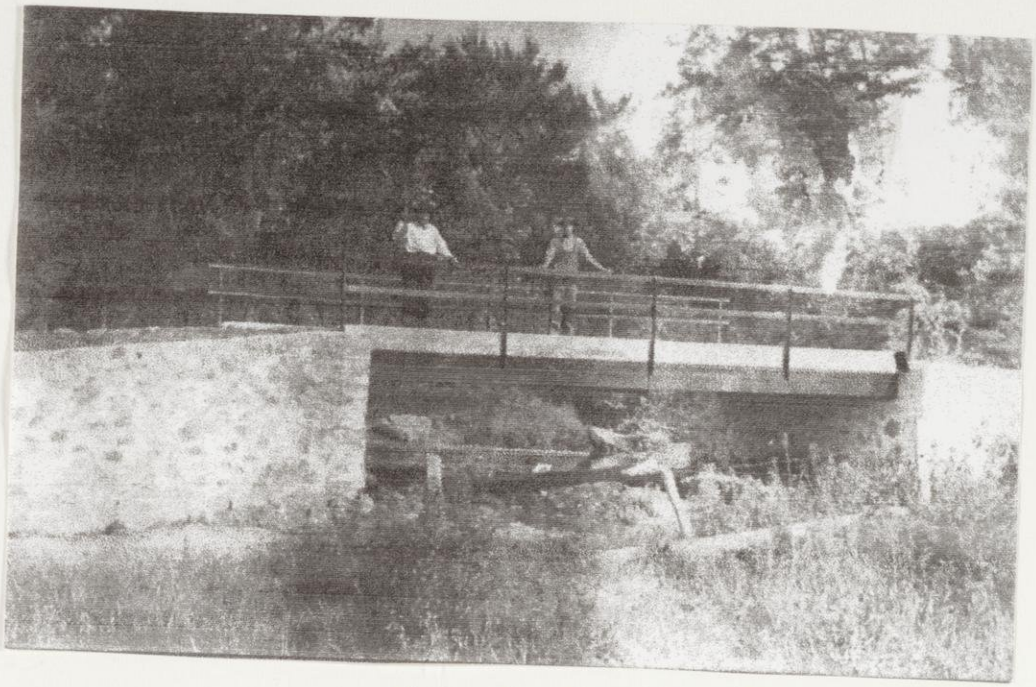
Collage Page from Vesper Community Calendar 2006

TUESDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2006
WISCONSIN RAPIDS DAILY TRIBUNE

Transitions

Vesper library sees many transitions, finally comes home

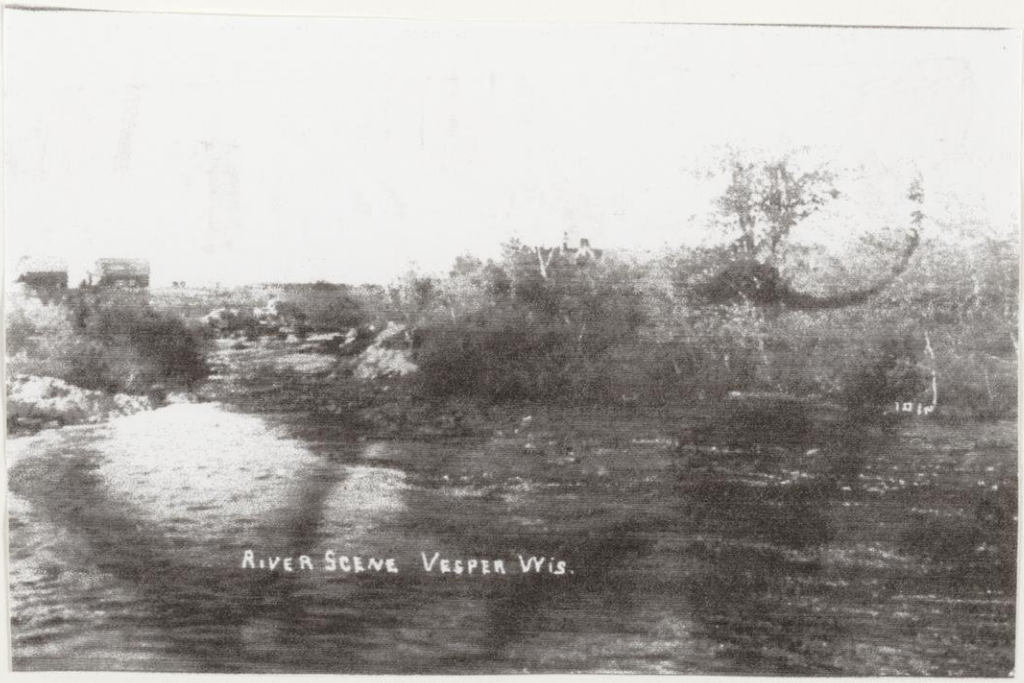
Charles & JoAnn Lester
donated new library to Vesper!



Bridge over Hemlock Creek
Post Card

The Hemlock Creek flows thru Vesper and the Town of Hansen. It is a hidden treasure to many. Those of us who grew up along the creek have enjoyed the beauty forever!

Post marked Aug. 16, 1910



December 30, 1918

We just made the date! Sept 15, 2006

To all who view our library journal; enjoy this labor of love!

It is unique! Our library moved to a new building May, 2006. Grand Opening 2006, May 13. The "Friends" of the Library discovered this journal while packing up the old library and sorting materials. We got a late start but wanted this journal to be completed for all to enjoy! We plan to attend the Madison Display of the "60 Books"!

It has been fun compiling all the pages. You will find a large variety of ideas. Kids to Adults, Men & Women. Thanks to the groups who sponsored this wonderful project!

Ruth Cline
Project Coordinator and Friend of the Vesper Library

After stroke, artist visits 'A Peaceful Place'

Library exhibit demonstrates past, transitional and current work

R[illegible] Colby, Oregon, [illegible] "A Peaceful Place" [illegible] at McMinnville Memorial Library during the month of December.

Brandis, who will be 89 years old on Dec. 20, began painting more than 60 years ago. After a serious stroke in 1962, Brandis was forced to give up her hobby. She lost the use of her right side and the ability to speak clearly. It [illegible] but never again.

Brandis was eight-handed. Encouraged by her family to try painting with her left hand, she began the challenge of re-training her eye, which taken through her left side.

In October 1989 she began painting again and public [illegible] by years ago.

"It is amazing to see the progress she has made in only one year's time," said her daughter, Sandra Gabriel of Gaiteway.

The exhibit will include a few of Brandis's paintings completed before her stroke, some [illegible] while retaining her left hand, and some works completed over the past year.

The exhibit will be displayed in the library's lower level and in all [illegible] rooms.

Sandra said Brandis still is difficult for Brandis, so her daughter assists by combining the colors. Brandis controls the entire painting, keeping in mind where she wants a tree or other natural placed.

[illegible] Brandis said, "the more time it takes. There is not enough time to do the [illegible] I want to do." Finding painting [illegible] time spent. Who [illegible] but her [illegible] though Brandis [illegible] a [illegible] she says.

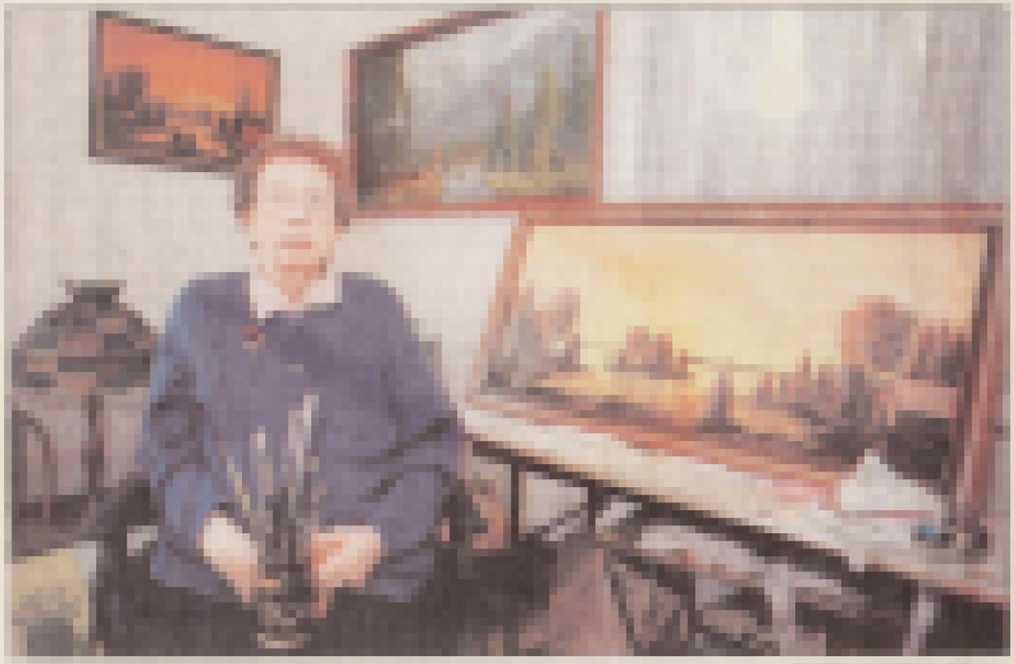
"I can go anywhere I want to go with my paintbrush. I always see a peaceful place and go there."

"I can go anywhere I want to go with my paintbrush. I always see a peaceful place and go there."

The exhibit will be open Sunday. The exhibit will be [illegible] from 2-4 p.m.

Sandra said from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 8

The [illegible] Sunday period on the [illegible] exhibit highlighted with [illegible] "[illegible] at the holiday [illegible]



Credit: [illegible] Telegram

Brandis Gabriel is shown in her Oregon home with [illegible] the painted before and after her stroke. Her works will be on display at McMinnville Library beginning Dec. 2.

Please join us in celebrating a life of art:

Rosella E. DeByl, Artist
"Grandma Roses"

Exhibit: "A PEACEFUL PLACE"
(variations of the theme)
****

December 1 – 31, 2000

McMillan Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-423-1040
****

Rosella started painting when she was a young woman. She will be 85 years young the end of December of this year. She was forced to give up her hobby from 1993 to 1999 due to two severe strokes. Rosella lost the use of her right side and the ability to speak clearly. She was right-handed.

Encouraged by her family to try painting with her left hand, Rosella began the challenge of rerouting her creative ideas through her left side. In October 1999, she began painting again and paints nearly every day.

The exhibit includes a few of Rosella's paintings completed before her strokes, some transitional work done while training her left hand, and many works completed over the past year. Her daughter assists by painting the animals and very small detail if needed. Rosella continues to work on that aspect of her art.

As a result of rediscovering her love for art, Rosella says, "The time goes so fast. There is not enough time in the day to do everything I want to do." Finding painting again has clearly opened bright new horizons for her. Even though Rosella must now use a wheelchair, she says, "I can go anywhere I want to with my paintbrush. I always see a peaceful place…and go there."

Her family extends a special invitation to please join us at the exhibit on one of the days that Rosella will attend. She will be at the exhibit on:

Sunday	December 3rd	2 PM – 4 PM
Saturday	December 9th	2 PM – 4 PM

We hope to see you there!

Refreshments will be served. RSVPs would be appreciated but not required:
Sam DeByl 715-886-5253

THE COMMUNITY CLUB

The Vesper community club is sponsored by the Woman's club. It meets as a rule every two weeks and the programs are featured by free movies fur-

Vesper Organizations Cont'd

nished by the University Extension Division of Madison. The Vesper Opera House has repeatedly been packed to the doors by enthusiastic crowds of movie fans.

LIVE STOCK CLUBS

Though at the present time neither the Vesper Guernsey nor Holstein club is active, still the nucleus is there and every effort should be made to bring these clubs to functioning as work of their nature is always needed in every dairy section.

THE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Vesper is strongly represented in the Wood county Farm Bureau. A branch warehouse is located in Vesper which is managed by John Tenpas. A wide territory is served by this warehouse. Meetings are held regularly. A live stock shipping association is in process of organization as this is written. Max Leopold, Arpin, is the county secretary of the Wood County Farm Bureau.

Vesper Organizations

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's club of Vesper was organized Feb. 1, 1924, with Mrs. E. E. Whitehorne as president, Mrs. H. Treutel, vice president; Mrs. Lee Huttman, secretary, and Mrs. E. M. Witzig, treasurer. The club meets twice every month and during its existence in Vesper has accomplished some really worthwhile things.

It has to its credit the organization and sponsoring of the community club and its programs; the 4-H club work in Vesper is due to the efforts of the Woman's club. To Mrs. Horn especially is due a great deal of credit in this important work. There are 54 4-H club members in Vesper.

The Vesper Woman's club also does an excellent piece of philanthropic work. Each year there is a donation day at which time members give articles of clothing and food for the families of the needy. Needy families are also further provided for during the year as occasion demands.

One of the most recent achievements to the credit of the Vesper Woman's club is the planting and dedication of Vesper's Community Christmas tree in the village park. Special music and speakers featured the program which was held in connection with the local schools.

The present officers of the Vesper Woman's club are as follows: Mrs. E. E. Whitehorne, president; Mrs. Albert Behling, vice president; Mrs. Kate Camlin, secretary; Mrs. A. L. Hartsough, treasurer.

THE VESPER COMMUNITY BAND

The Vesper band is a credit to the community because of its excellent work in furnishing weekly concerts in the village park. Prof. Lambert of Wisconsin Rapids is the leader and director. Other officers are Ray Bean, president; Martin Hoeneveldt, vice president; Albert Behling, treasurer; Wm. Dressen, secretary; Arthur Zabel, manager.


Bean School Town of Hansen

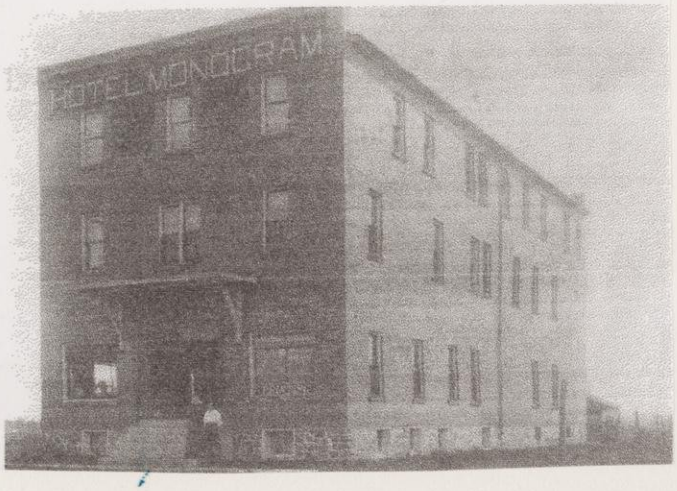
Vesper Village Events

George Baxter signed up to grow pickles for a well-known pickle company in 1913. They offered 90 cents a bushel of 1- 3 1/2 inch pickles. They would furnish seed and show the farmers how to grow them profitably. They signed up about 150 acres near Vesper. Baxter planted one half acre. The soil was sandy loam. Picking began at the end of August and ran for six weeks. Since there was no hired help, Baxter, his wife and nine year old daughter picked nearly five bushels a day. They sold 196 bushes weighing nearly 5 tons. He received $126.57 for a rate of over $250.00 an acre.

Equitable Creamery Company, a farmer's cooperative, was started on November 20, 1907 on an acre of land, granted to the company by C. R. Goldsworthy for $1.00. It operated as a creamery and cheese factory except for 1 or 2 years until 1921. In the late 30's and early 40's the plant made the base used to make penicillin. In 1951, Frank Gill purchased the factory and started Gill's Wholesale and Retail Wall Paper business. Sanna Dairies bought the creamery business and built a new plant.

Vesper Post Card

The Monogram Hotel was built in 1910 by C. R. Goldsworthy. He sold it to Elmer Trickey in 1911, who established the town's second newspaper "The State Center" in the lower part of the Hotel. The Hotel was destroyed by fire in the 1920's.



Lester Public Library of Vesper Grand Opening May 13

On May 13 a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. will kick off the grand opening of the Lester Public Library of Vesper. The public is invited to attend the program! The library will be open for tours! Refreshments will be served! Several activities are being planned; come and celebrate this grand event!

The Vesper library has come full circle; the new library is located on the site where the Seifert's(Horn's Hardware) Hardware building stood for many years. The Vesper Library has come home to start a new beginning.

The first library in Vesper opened May 6, 1950. Mrs. John Smart served as the first Librarian. The library was located in the Horn's Hardware building. The library flourished as donated and used books and magazines were added to the collection.

In 1974 the Vesper Library moved into a new building built by Mr. Frank Swetz. The open house was July 13, 1974. Mrs. Gina Clark was named Head Librarian. The library programs grew rapidly with the addition of Children's Story Hour, Summer Reading, Library Art & Craft Show, Nursery School, adult classes, senior activities and more!

Arlene Marti held the position of Library Director 1990 to 2000. May 6, 2006 the Vesper Library celebrated it's 50 year birthday with a program organized by the library director and staff. Modern technology continued making a big influence on library programs. The numerous library programs started in early continued to grow in popularity.

Marlene Jochimsen held the position of Library Director from 2001 to April 15, 2006. Marlene enjoyed planning the Summer Reading Program and Children's Story Time. These youth programs are very popular at the Vesper Library. Plans are being made to expand the programs being offered by the library. Public input is always welcome. Call the new Lester Public Library of Vesper at 569-4669!

Written by Ruth Cline
Columnist for the Lester Vesper Library of Vesper

The list that I found showed the following people served as Librarians:

Mrs. John Smart
Mrs. Dorothy Fox
Sheryl Dupree
Tina Bliek
Gina Clark
Mary Lou Jacunski
Arlene Marti
Marlene Jochimsen

Other interesting facts:
Fines were 3 cents
Rent was $9.00 per month
Village of Vesper gave $500.00 per year library support
County gave $200.00 per year library support
First electric bill was $0.99
Budget for books was $10.00 per month
Early years showed a yearly budget of $500 to less than $1000.00
Meetings indicate the Vesper Library survived due to the generous volunteers in the Vesper area.

Area Volunteers continue their support today!

Lois Beebe Hayna:
A Birthday Tribute

By Joan Hershberger

Lois Beebe Hayna, who began writing poetry in her 60s, celebrates her 90th birthday on January 28, 2003. One of her early poems, "Late to the Vineyard," advises readers to "forget calendars, ignore warning of frost and blight" when pursuing long-delayed ambitions. She presaged her own future and continues, almost three decades later, to write.

Her work has not been a casual endeavor. Hayna is the recipient of a literary fellowship from the Colorado Council on the Arts and a winner of the Top Hand Award from the Colorado Authors' League. She is author of *Never Trust a Crow*, *Northern Gothic*, and *View From Behind the Mirror*, and is coauthor of *The Book of Charms*. She has long promoted poetry in the Rocky Mountain region, serving as one of the founders of the Foothills Arts Center poetry group in Golden, Colorado, and of Poetry West in Colorado Springs. Her most recent project was the production of a new CD, *Split Vision*, which offers a cross-section of her work. She has said that "poetry can be effective as a vocal as well as a visual art," and that "technology makes it possible for poets to bring their words alive with the voice of the poet." This CD includes work from a collection she is now working on, her nonagenarian collection, capturing the humor and poignancy of a post-90 perspective.

Hayna predicted in her poem about coming to the writing life late that "time runs earlier than anyone suspects." She continues to publish in journals, judge poetry contests, and has recently coedited a 25-year anniversary issue of Poetry West's *The Eleventh Muse*. She enters this new decade still sharpening her skills and continuing to work with others who share in the need to write. ■

While working with the Vesper History Group I discovered Lois Beebe Hayna's stories. I have enjoyed emailing Lois at her Colorada home. She still writes. You may enjoy her poetry and other information at the Lester Library of Vesper.

Vesper History Group formed March 21, 2006. We meet the 3rd Tuesday 10 a.m. to Noon at the library in Vesper. Goals are to preserve Vesper Area History for others to enjoy.

Ruth Cline

Living 'her'story

...her husband carried a grindstone on his back to sharpen axes while he cut a road through the forest.

"Ford is a good man, you know. If he were president we'd be in a lot better shape than we are now."

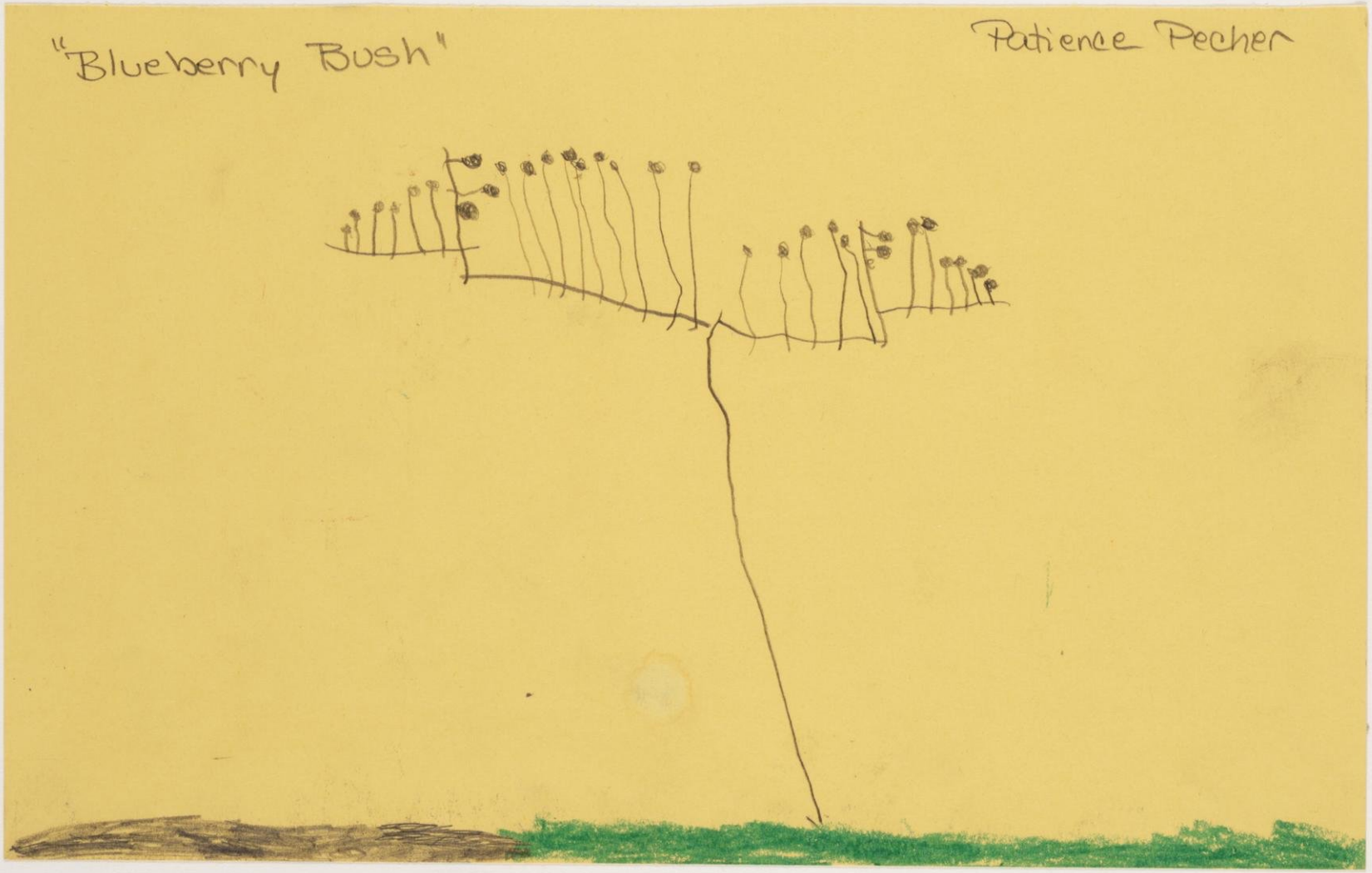
to [illegible] a daughter and a house [illegible] [illegible] she

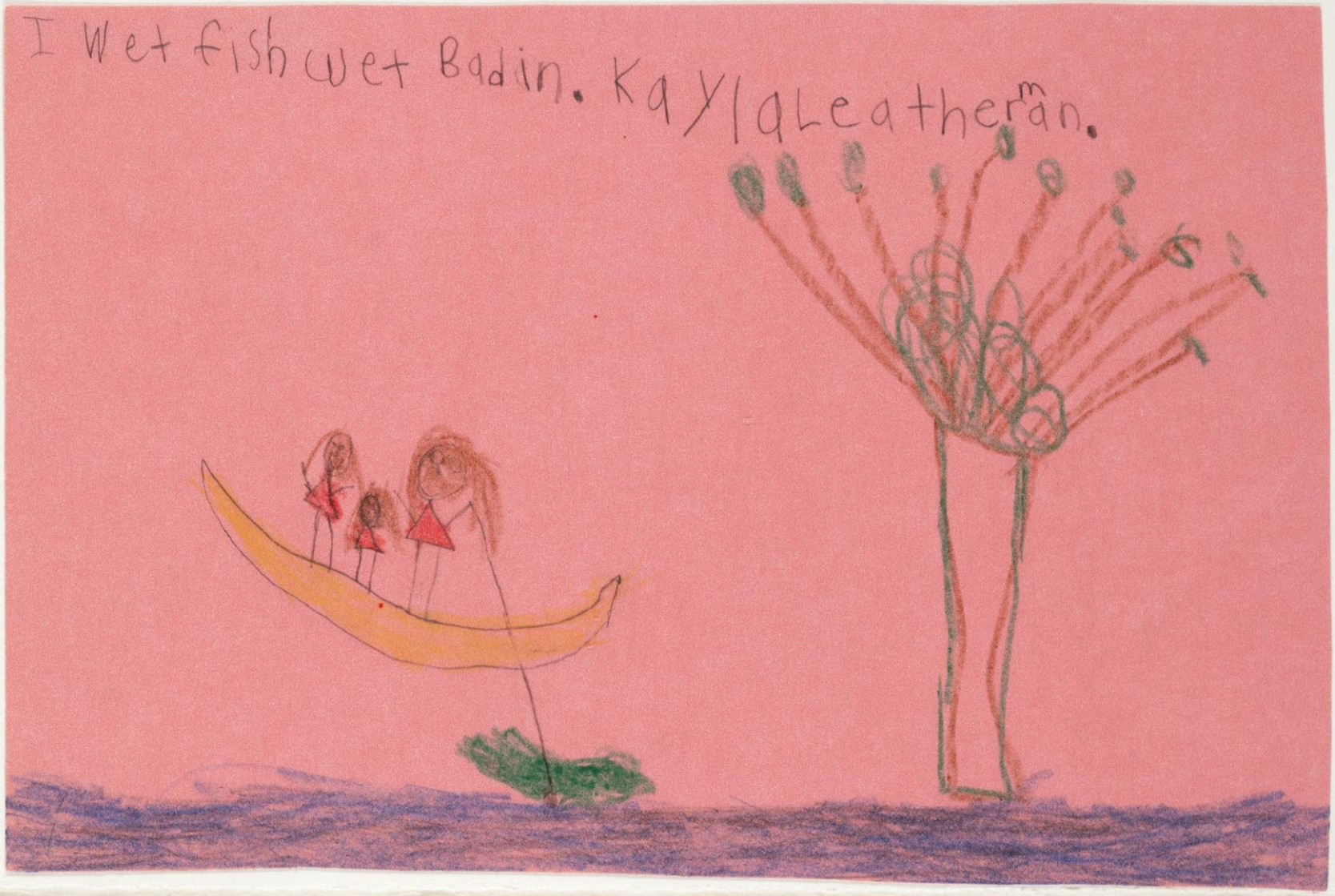
of local and federal politics. I her bio was pasted from

She agreed and gave it a go.

"Blueberry Bush"

Patience Pecher

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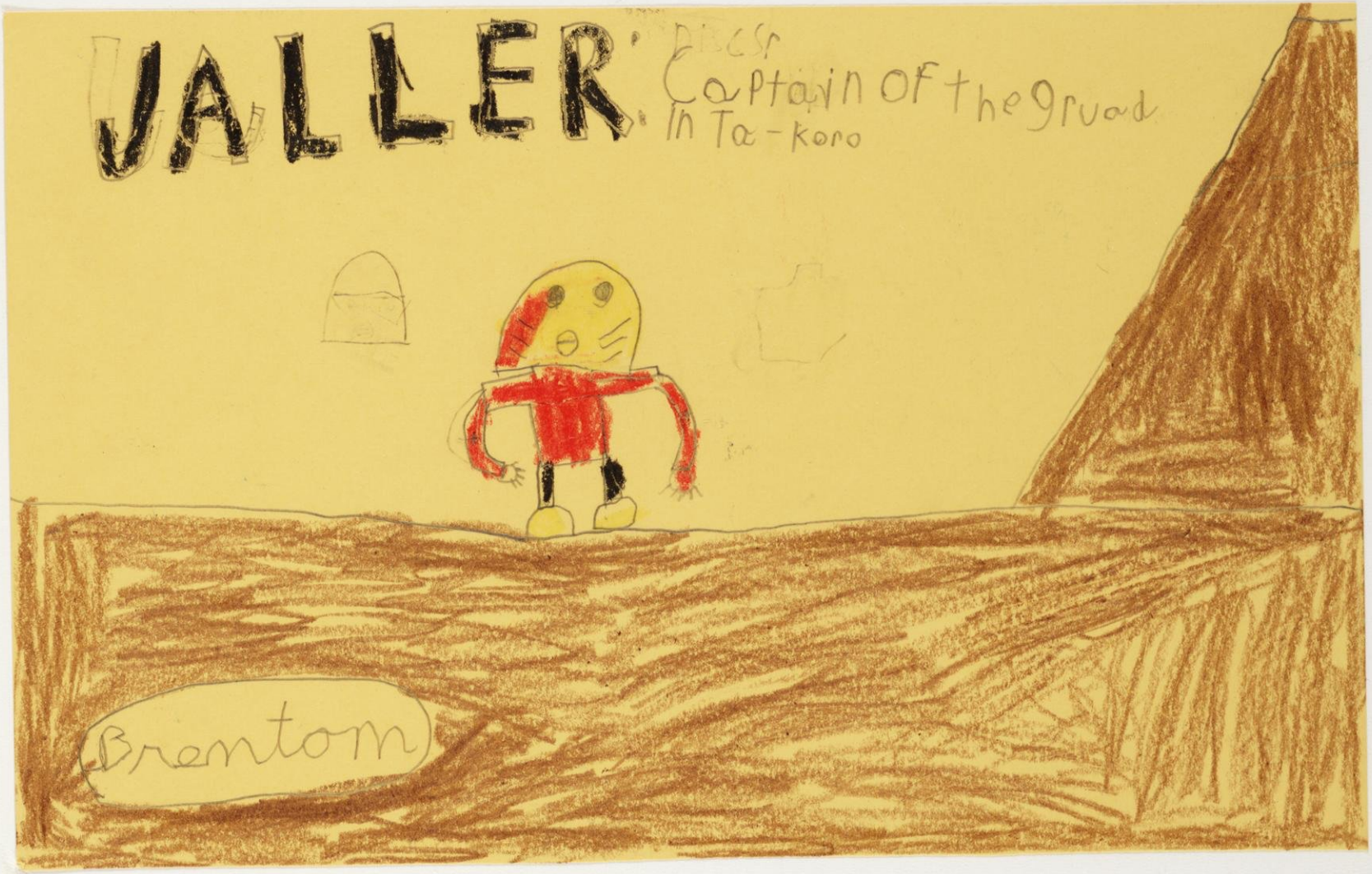
JALLER
Captain of the Gruad
in Ta-koro
Brentom


"Fishing"
Holden Brogan

Karen Timm '05

Library Summer Reading Program youth art