

***Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSIN* <sup>tm</sup>**  
**2007 Annual Report to Ozaukee County Board**

*Prepared by Carol Ann Rittenhouse, President/Project Leader December 31, 2007*

The ***Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc.--ETHNIC WISCONSIN***<sup>tm</sup>, (***W.E.S.T.***) office, is located at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, 53085. 920-467-9518 [www.ethnicwisconsin.org](http://www.ethnicwisconsin.org) wicar@tds.net

In 2006, ***W.E.S.T.*** embarked on organizing and naming (with the help of Lakeland College Interns) the Franklin Settlement<sup>tm</sup>. Its location is at Highways A & M at the Sheboygan River within the unincorporated historic Village of Franklin, Town Herman, Sheboygan County. It is a Lippe German settlement which originated in 1847. It contains eighteen timber frame buildings, including the grist mill which is on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The long-term objective is to prepare for the entire Village to become a *National Register of Historic Places* designee.

Within the Franklin Settlement<sup>tm</sup>, the Franklin Haus\* Tavern & Hall, was purchased in 2005 by C. A. Rittenhouse, LLC. Its website is: <http://www.franklinhauswisconsin.com>. The 151 year old original tavern and community hall building is located at the edge of the Sheboygan River, five miles east of Elkhart Lake. The Ethnic Buildings of Eastern Wisconsin Exhibit, developed by ***W.E.S.T.*** and the Cedarburg Cultural Center are on display in the ballroom of the Franklin Haus\*.

In 2007, an adjacent property, also at the river, was purchased which is intended to become an extension of the Settlement. When funding is obtained to do major repairs, construction and enhancements, they are planned to be deeded to ***W.E.S.T.***, or to another nonprofit, and further developed as a living museum and Historic Preservation Resource Center. This year the Spindler Family Home, a donation of an original 1,200 square foot log home structure from the area was completed. Area volunteers joined together to disassemble and move it to the Franklin Settlement<sup>tm</sup>. Presently it is stored at N8127 Franklin Road. The Board of Directors continues to promote the Franklin Haus\* Brat, the recipe for which is owned by ***W.E.S.T.***, with the brats prepared by a locally respected merchant. The Pie Plant Bake-off (rhubarb plant) event with a brat fry was developed for last May 26, and will be again presented in May, 2008 to honor German history and heritage.

***W.E.S.T.*** in 2007 was again a member of **Visit Milwaukee**. ***W.E.S.T.*** through its president, is active in the **Sheboygan County, Elkhart Lake and Plymouth Chambers of Commerce**. Area Chambers of Commerce will soon be listed on its website with local contact information. In 2008, for the first time, the Franklin Haus\* will be listed as an "Attraction" in the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce Directory.

***W.E.S.T.*** continues to promote tourism in the 12 country region along Lake Michigan, and to work on the development of the ***Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)*** website: <http://www.greenbayethnictrail.org//> which will tie together the many heritage and merchant opportunities that exist along this original Native American Wisconsin 156 mile trail, including photographs of historic sites located in Hamilton, south in Mequon, and east of Cedarburg north through Grafton and Saukville through Belgium . . . from Kenosha County to Green Bay. The ***Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)***, initiated by ***W.E.S.T.***, is the first Wisconsin signed state heritage trail ever designated, traversing Ozaukee County south and north.

For several years, ***W.E.S.T.*** has suggested that the ***GBET*** be shown on the Ozaukee County Map to quietly invite more tourists (as does the Ozaukee County Interurban Trail Map). To date, that has not happened. It is a most important route for the traveler, inviting enjoyment of the beauty, and area heritage, made possible by many volunteers working together, and the only state trail of its kind in Wisconsin. With the state of Wisconsin development of greenwisconsin tourism, the Board of Directors of ***W.E.S.T.*** believes that its publication in the Ozaukee County brochure would encourage additional economically enhancing tourism, much as has the Interurban route. Eighteen State of Wisconsin historic markers to attract the visitor now stand along or close to this trail, of which twelve are ethnic historic markers originated by ***W.E.S.T.***

The *GBET* trail began at Chicago's old Fort Dearborn. In Wisconsin, it begins at the southern State Line. The first marker is located at 95th Street and Highway 31 in Kenosha County. The second marker is found at the *Bohemian School* built in 1888 in the Town of Caledonia, Racine County. The third marker is located in Bayview at *Zillman Park*, and tells of area immigrants. In Milwaukee, one block north of the *Milwaukee County Historical Society*, at Weissgerbers "Third Street Pier", on Old World Third Street, a fourth marker commemorates the original settlement of *Kilbourntown*. The trail then progresses on Martin Luther King Drive to the Green Bay Road.

Continuing north through Ozaukee County, across the road from the *Isham Day House* in front of Mequon City Hall, the fifth marker, *Wisconsin's German Settlers* marker is placed. The trail follows the Green Bay Road through the *Hamilton Historic District* (NRHP), Grafton, north to the Village of Saukville, where the *Saukville Trails* marker is located at Triangle Park, then, north on LL into the Village of Belgium where the *Wisconsin's Luxembourgers* marker is found.

Traveling north to Highway 32 in Cedar Grove, a marker commemorates *Early Dutch Settlers* at Windmill Park. North to Sheboygan Falls, a marker is located in *Settlers Park*. Another marker is found adjacent to the *Meeme Poll House* in Manitowoc County. At Maribel is found the *Old Rock Mill* marker; the *Denmark* marker is located in *Denver War Memorial Park*, and finally or first, depending on your direction of travel is found near the site of old Fort Howard, the *Beginning of the Green Bay Road* marker in Green Bay downtown at the river.

For more than ten years, issues of the state *Wisconsin Heritage Traveler* including the *W.E.S.T. heritage tourism* project have been published. In the present state four-color magazine, *W.E.S.T.* is listed for contact information, ongoing, there, and in the *Milwaukee Visitors Guide*. Having participated since 1992, *W.E.S.T.* was part of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism booth again in March at the *Governor's Conference on Tourism* held at the *Paper Valley Hotel* in Appleton, and will again participate in the 2008 conference in Lake Geneva.

At the *Historic Turner Hall National Landmark* in Milwaukee where the *W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center* is found, the highly frequented location contains the *Ethnic Ozaukee County* brochure developed by board members with the participation of several area groups, and published locally. Several Ozaukee County brochures are found there including the *Ozaukee County Interurban Trail*, and the *Ozaukee County Brochure*, Village of Saukville *Historic Walking Trail*, and Cedarburg's *Washington House Inn*. A four-color Wisconsin wall map about 5 x 7 feet in size features *W.E.S.T.--ETHNIC WISCONSIN*<sup>tm</sup> and the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail*. Historic and cultural destinations are invited to provide literature for display there. A glass cabinet for public display of cultural sites is located in the front entrance of the restaurant. This *W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center* display, across the street from Milwaukee's *Bradley Center*, is maintained by volunteers and provides for the distribution of current cultural, local and state literature. Thousands of brochures have been, and continue to be made available to visitors since the *heritage tourism* display was built in 1995.

The Board of Directors of *Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail (W.E.S.T.)* was instrumental in helping to secure the Boeker Farm in Cedarburg, planned for use as *Wisconsin Quilt History Museum*. In August of 2001, the *Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc.* was able to achieve its goal to purchase the farm; it continues to fundraise for the extensive work that is needed.

*W.E.S.T.* continues to publish ethnic histories and auto cassette tour tapes (including Walloon Belgian of Door/Kewaunee Counties, the Czech of Manitowoc/Kewaunee Counties, the Dutch of the Lower Fox River Valley, Brown and Outagamie Counties, and the Welsh of Waukesha County). Hundreds of copies of it's *History of Elkhart Lake* are sold annually at *The Osthoff*. In addition, six other histories including *Schleswig-Holstein German of Calumet/Manitowoc Counties*, and Native American from east of Lake Winnebago, Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties have been developed. These ethnic products are sold throughout Wisconsin and the country.

*W.E.S.T.* has produced through the years a number of festivals and exhibits in collaboration with *Cedarburg Cultural Center*. In 2004, it was an originator and participant in preparing an exhibit of original settlements at the *Sheboygan County Historical Museum*. The *Ethnic Architecture of Eastern*

Wisconsin Exhibit is presently displayed at the Franklin Haus\* Tavern & Hall in the Village of Franklin. W.E.S.T. has coordinated a Smithsonian Institution tour, and raised funds to "save" the old Payne Hotel in Saukville, and to begin restoration of Historic Turner Hall in Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc--ETHNIC WISCONSIN<sub>tm</sub> Board of Directors consists of volunteers to whom recognition of heritage and history are of great importance. Members work to honor and highlight settlement history in our Lake Michigan shoreline area, and to make the economic impact of heritage tourism grow in importance in our land. Ozaukee Report 12/31/07

**Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSIN<sub>tm</sub>**  
**Income/Expense -- Actual -- Period Ending 12/31/07**

**Income:**

Books Sales	\$ 117.00	
Events--Log House & Pie Plant Bake-off	270.00	
Interest Savings/Certificates of Deposit	44.82	
Cash Donations	55.00	
Grant-Ozaukee County	1,000.00	
Memberships	260.00	
Sale of www.west.org	<u>1,285.00</u>	
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$3,027.82</b>

**Expense:**

Astro Log Homes--Spindler Log House Move	\$2,796.50	
Books Publication Cost	\$ 485.20	
Dues: VMCVB	225.00	
Governors Conference on Tourism	Donation	
Log House Move Day-- Volunteers Food	78.38	
Office Expense	Donation	
Pie Plant Bakeoff Advertising/Music/Prizes	487.18	
Rent	No Charge	
Staff (SCHRCenter) Office	No Charge	
Postage	Donation	
Telephone – AT&T	379.05	
Website/Domain Charges	91.20	
WI State Annual Report--	<u>10.00</u>	
<b>Total Expense:</b>		<b>\$ 4,552.51</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>		<b>\$1,524.69</b>
<b>(Less Loan from Turner Fund</b>	<b>\$1,000.00)</b>	
<b>Adjusted Net Loss</b>		<b>\$ 524.69</b>

**Cash on Hand & in Bank Accounts 12/31/07**

Savings Account	\$ 871.37	
Checking Account	<u>605.11</u>	
<b>Total Cash on Hand &amp; In Bank Accounts</b>		<b>\$1,476.48</b>

**Accounts Payable**

Depies: History Books Supplied Sold	\$ 95.00	
Cedarburg Cultural Center	25.00	
<u>W. E. S.T. Turner Hall Display Reserve Fund Loan</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>		<b>\$1,120.00</b>

**Accounts Receivable**

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<b>Assets:</b>	Spindler Log House Donation in Storage	\$20,000.00
	Elkhart Lake History Books - 400	388.16
	Franklin Firehouse Chairs	200.00
	Cash Accounts Above	<u>1,476.48</u>

**Total Assets**

**\$22,064.64**

**Total Net Worth**

**\$21,539.95**