

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ethnicwisconsin.org™ **2009 Annual Report to Ozaukee County Board**

Prepared by Carol Ann Rittenhouse, President/Project Leader December 31, 2009

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc. office, (marketing name recently revised to **ethnicwisconsin.org™**) is located at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, 53085. 920-565-2565 www.ethnicwisconsin.org wicar@tds.net

The Board of Directors of **ethnicwisconsin.org™** (**ew**) was instrumental in helping to secure the Boeker Farm in Cedarburg, planned for use as the *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 plan and to fundraise for the extensive work that is needed. **ew** has dedicated the *Luxemburger Stone House*, held two ethnic festivals at Pioneer Village, and another festival in Cedarburg Village Park.

At Historic Turner Hall, a National Landmark in Milwaukee where the **ew** Heritage Tourism Center is found, is contained 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 **ethnicwisconsin.org™** 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 **ew** 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.

ew believes that it would benefit Ozaukee County if the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)* would be placed on the Ozaukee County Map to quietly invite more tourists (as does the Ozaukee County Interurban Trail Map). 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 *ethnicwisconsin.org* 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 *ethnicwisconsin.org*.

The *Green Bay Ethnic Trail* 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* 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.

ethnicwisconsin.org promotes tourism in the 12 country region along Lake Michigan, and to develop the **Green Bay Ethnic Trail** website: <http://www.greenbayethnictrail.org/> providing for many heritage and merchant opportunities that exist along this original Native American Wisconsin 156 mile trail; it includes photographs of historic sites located in Hamilton, in Mequon, east of Cedarburg, north through Grafton and Saukville

through Belgium from Kenosha County to Green Bay. The ***Green Bay Ethnic Trail***, traversing Ozaukee County south and north, initiated by ***ethnicwisconsin.org***tm, is the first Wisconsin signed state heritage trail ever designated.

In 2006 ***ethnicwisconsin.org*** embarked on organizing and naming (with the help of Lakeland College Interns) the Franklin Settlementtm 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. To date, six properties have been assembled; three are adjacent buildings along the Sheboygan River.

Within the Franklin Settlementtm, the Franklin Haus Hall, Tavern & Market, was purchased in 2005 by C. A. Rittenhouse, LLC., President of ***ew***. Its website is: <http://www.franklinhauswisconsin.com>. The 153 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 ***ew*** and the Cedarburg Cultural Center was displayed for two years within the ballroom of the Franklin Haus. The Village of Franklin Images Exhibit prepared by Alan C. Pape, made possible by the Jacobson Family of Sheboygan continues on display. The old stage constructed after World War I, has now been uncovered. The roof of the ballroom, built by 1875, has been reshingled, and a variety of other improvements made. In 2007, an adjacent property, also at the river, was purchased which is intended to become an extension of the Settlement. As funding is obtained to do major repairs, construction and enhancements, they are planned to be deeded to ***ew***, or to another nonprofit, and further developed as a living museum and Historic Preservation Resource Center. The Spindler Family Home donation of an original 1,200 square foot log home structure from the area was removed from its original site and placed into storage. Area volunteers joined together to disassemble and move it to the Franklin Settlementtm. It is stored at N8127 Franklin Road. It awaits full funding for its rebuilding.

The Pie Plant Bake-off (rhubarb plant) event with a brat fry was again held by ***ew*** and other local food suppliers for the fourth year on May 16. It will be expanded to include tables, information and products, outside and inside on May 22, 2010 to continue to honor German history and heritage. ***ethnicwisconsin.org*** in 2009 was again a member of **Visit Milwaukee**. Through its president, ***ew*** is active in the **Sheboygan County, Elkhart Lake and Plymouth Chambers of Commerce**. It presented historic heritage displays at the first annual *Sheboygan County History Fair* in Kohler in May, 2009, and will do so again in 2010. Franklin Haus was listed as an "Attraction" in the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce Directory. Advancement was made toward the goal of attaining National Register status for the unincorporated Village of Franklin. ***ew*** is listed for contact information, in the Milwaukee Visitors Guide. Having participated since 1992, an ***ew*** representative again attended the *Governor's Conference on Tourism*.

ew 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). Many copies of its 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.

ew has produced 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 was displayed at the Franklin Haus Hall, Tavern & Market in the Village of Franklin for more than two years. The exhibit, the original Wisconsin Village of Franklin Images is currently on display presenting Franklin Village prior to 1960. ***ew*** has coordinated a *Smithsonian* 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***tm, ***ethnicwisconsin.org***tm 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.
Report 12/31/09 *Ozaukee County*

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Period Ending 12/31/09

Cash on Hand & in Community Bank & Trust Accounts,	
Small Business Checking Account	\$ 75.59
Business Savings Account	<u>407.02</u>
Total	
\$ 482.71	

Income/Expense--Actual -- Period Ending 12/31/09

Income

Book Sales	
124.00	
Donations	
47.00	
<i>Governor's Conference on Tourism</i>	Donation
Office Rent	
Donation	
Postage	
1.00	
Pie Plant Festival Proceeds	142.84
Sheboygan Local History Tickets	40.00
Interest--Savings Account	<u>_.51</u>
Total.	
\$ 355.35	

Expense:

AT & T	
269.32	
Barn Exhibit	
13.94	
<i>Local History Brochure/Tickets</i>	17.40
<i>Local History Expo Admission x 2</i>	20.00
<i>Local History Donated Cookies</i>	15.76
Sheboygan Co History Museum Table Exhibit	4.40
<u>Sun Graphics--Pie Plant Bake-off</u>	14.80
Website--www.franklin settlement.org	20.60
WI Annual Report	20.00
<u>Visit Milwaukee Dues</u>	225.00
Bank Fees	<u>72.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 693.02

Accounts Payable

W. E. S.T. Turner Hall Display Reserve Fund Loan	\$1,000.00
Frederic Depies History Books	<u>31.00</u>
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,031.00

Accounts Receivable

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Assets:	Spindler Log House Donation in Storage	\$ 20,000.00
	Elkhart Lake History Books - 350	339.64
	Franklin Firehouse Chairs	160.00
	Cash Accounts Above	<u>482.71</u>
	<u>Total Assets</u>	\$20,982.35
	<u>Total Net Worth</u>	\$19,861.35