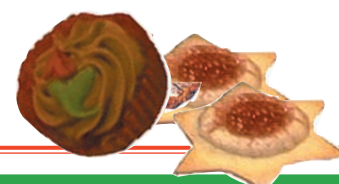




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# The **ECHO**

A Newspaper Dedicated to Our Past



VOL. 2, NO. 3

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

\$2.00 per issue

### Inside:



Three gifts, winter 1957

### Aside:



*THE POINTER SISTERS (and brother) – Dottie, Crosby, and Zekus, German Shorthaired Pointers who are now 17 months old, shared a moment of rest last summer in Mellen. Owners Susan and Peter Turney, Mellen natives who live in Monona, bring the dogs regularly to Mellen to hunt ruffed grouse and ramble in the great outdoors of Wisconsin. (Echo photo by Jeff Peters)*



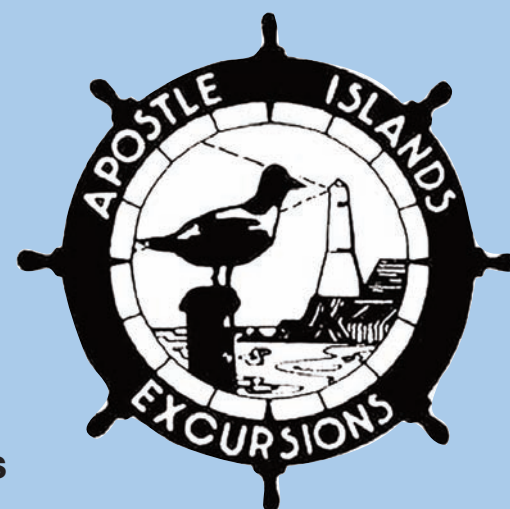
Northern Wisconsin Sunrise

PHOTO BY JEFF PETERS

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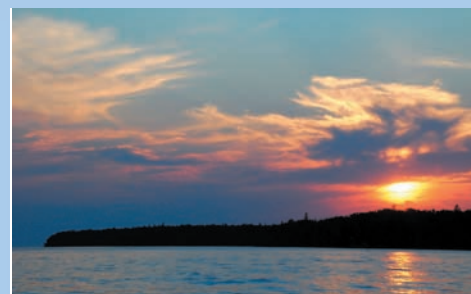


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## The workhorses of Sand Island: May they rest in peace

By **BOB DAHL**  
SAND ISLAND NATIVE

**H**ow many people have stood by these two cars alongside the "road" on Sand Island, racing through time, if not through space, wondering –What? Who? Why? When? How? Virtually everyone who has visited East Bay on Sand Island, two miles out into Lake Superior, must have formulated ques-

tions about these cars that sit there as though frozen on their way to nowhere. Do they have a history known to anyone? There is no road worth mentioning on the island, so why are they here, in this place, at this time?

Yes, there is a history, and yes, it is known! But not to many people, only to a few.

The older of the two vehicles, at least in

*continued on page 3*



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Please send your stories and photos (quality photographic copies and digital files at 300 dpi are preferred) to:

**THE ECHO**  
Attention: Jeff Peters  
31374 Long Lake Road  
Mellen, WI 54546  
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Email them to:  
peters@ceas.coop



# Calander selection

The photo at the left of Wood Ducks in the Spring, was selected for Wisconsin Wildlife Federation calendar for 2009. Photo by Jeff Peters.

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**Special time**

**ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE**

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# The marble big top

Continued from page 21

law. In one, King John meets with his nobles as he is forced to accept the Magna Carta. In another, Roman senator's lounge in the Forum as the Emperor Augustus presides over the trial of Scutarius, an event in the development of Roman Law. In a third, George Washington and our Founders meet to sign the Constitution at the Constitutional Convention.

Finally, in the fourth, a log cabin is pictured, with buckskin clothed frontier men facing a strong, dignified Indian. This is the 1830 trial of Oshkosh, who was accused of murder and defended himself by showing that the killing was proper under the law of his tribe. He was acquitted by Judge James Doty, who ruled that tribal sovereignty had to be respected.

In the Assembly Chamber, where my house of the legislature meets, a gigantic mural entitled "The State of Wisconsin, its Past, Present, and Future," depicts allegorical references to the three great bodies of water which border the state, together with figures representing early explorers, tradesmen, forest conservationists, and Civil War soldiers, while a taxidermy specimen of an eagle presides on a ledge before it.

The eagle signifies Old Abe, the mascot of the Wisconsin regiment in the Civil War. He was wounded twice in battle as he soared above the field, shrieking encouragement to our troops.

On the outside, statues stand in the huge triangular pediments at the end of each wing. Each statue carries symbolic significance. High atop the dome, a massive gilded bronze statue of a woman named Wisconsin, arm outstretched toward the West, embodies the state's motto: Forward.

This magnificent building is, as it has always been, truly the "People's House." Virtually every day, scores of visitors from throughout Wisconsin, across America and around the world tour our Capitol. The squeals of wonder from young children in the ever-present school groups echo off the walls. Frequently musical groups play concerts in the Rotunda. Military bands, high school orchestras and drum societies from various Wisconsin tribes all appreciate the acoustics under the Dome. And there is nearly always someone laying on their back, staring up at the Oculus, an enormous, free hanging mural above a hole in the top of the interior of the Dome.

All must surely agree that Wisconsin's Capitol is the most beautiful in America.

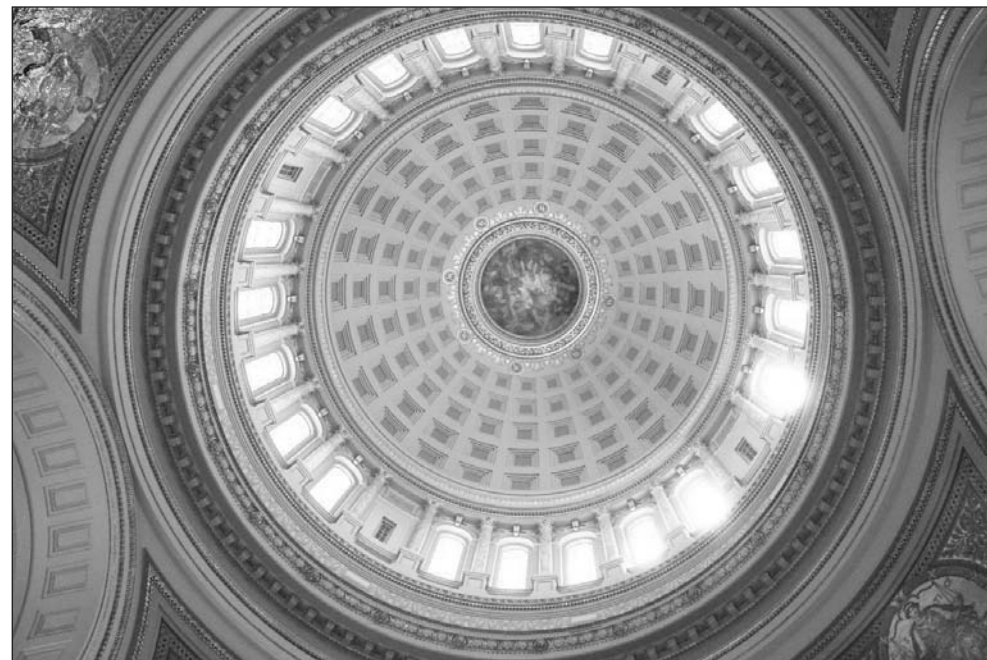
An in depth and informative article concerning the history and renovation of the state's Capitol, "Restoring the Vision: The First Century of Wisconsin's Capitol,"

may be found in the 2001-2002 State of Wisconsin Blue Book. The Blue Book

may also be accessed on the legislature's website at [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us).



The statues in the State Capital, which was completed in 1917, are priceless and have been painstakingly preserved during a recent restoration.



Visitors to the State Capital always marvel at the dome from this interior view best viewed lying flat on their back.

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## HISTORICAL VIGNETTE

# King's Official Route Guide

By SHARON MANTHEI  
ASHLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Today, when planning a trip, we might go to a Travel Agent, check with AAA or surf the internet for the best way to find or travel to our destination. Back in the early days of motor cars, motorists could purchase King's Official Route Guide to plan their trip. This interesting book, written for the motorist (the Ashland Museums copy is from 1917) traveling throughout Wisconsin, NE Illinois & Eastern Minnesota, guides you mile by tenths of a mile from city to city noting the types of pavement, R. R. crossings, bridges and buildings, businesses, places of interest, dangerous curves and intersections, crossroads and grades of hills along the way.

.0 Leave the Court House on right on West Second St following trolley on asphalt pavement, to 4 corners (immediately passing Post Office on right), (Public

Park on near right corner).

.3 Turn left with one branch of trolley on Seventh Ave. (asphalt pavement), to 4 corners.

.4 Turn right on Third St. (leaving trolley).

.5 Pass fire engine house on left.

1.0 Cross R. R.

1.2 Cross R. R. switch, straight ahead, through cross roads, cross trolley.

1.4 Shortly bear right with road, down easy grade, towards Chequamegon Bay.

This description of the "Kings" recommended route from Ashland to Bayfield continues bringing you along the Bay Front, passing the road to Iron River, to Nash station, Barksdale, Washburn, Sioux River, Chequamegon Springs, Pikes Bay and Quarry, passing the road to Cornucopia, Salmo, Pikes Creek, State Fish Hatchery and into Bayfield.

It is interesting to note that the trip from Ashland to

Bayfield begins and ends at the County Court House, yet the trip from Ashland to Mellen begins at the County Courthouse and the return trip brings you either to the County Courthouse or to the Ashland Garage. Maybe the trip to Mellen and back was harder on the motor car and maintenance was required. The Ashland Garage even had an advertisement on the page.

*Note: In 1917, the County Court House was just two years old and is the Court House that still stands today on Main Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues West, and the Post Office was located at 601 West Main Street, which is now the Ashland City Hall, the public park was where the old Court House stood and where the present Post Office now stands. The Ashland Garage stood on the corner of 2nd Avenue East and Main Street, which is now a part of Zifko Tire and Battery Supply.*

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## The workhorses of Sand Island

*Continued from page 1*

terms of longevity on Sand Island, is the one in the foreground, closest to the road. Both cars are Fords from the mid to late 1920s or maybe even from early Thirties. Having spent their normally useful lives on the mainland as either a utility or a pleasure vehicle, they would have been relegated to live their declining years out to pasture as a farm mule on Sand Island.

The truck, probably brought out by the Moes or Norings, pioneer families, was used as a farm utility vehicle by all the East Bay residents, depending on their needs. Although not mentioned by name in Fred Hansen's diary, on August 6, 1936, he wrote, "Bill Noring set fire up to T. Dahls."

The editor of the diary, Fred Dahl—the author's brother—wrote, "I was with Bill Noring on the morning the fire started. I had been riding with Bill in a Model T truck used to pull a hay mower. Bill had thrown a cigarette from the truck. Later that day a fire started. Fire fighters from the main shore came over to put it out. Elvis Moe was hauling water to the fire in barrels on the truck and the firefighters used Indian Pumps [backpack pumps] to fight the fire. The fire was extinguished sometime during the night."

The truck was handed down from remaining settler to remaining settler until by default it ended up in our father's hands as the last of the year 'round residents. Either he or someone before him cut the top off the cab for safety on the ice when ice fishing. The logic was that if the truck went through the ice, it would be easier to escape through the top of the truck. My brother Carl remembers going back into Loftfield's field, a quarter mile south of our place, as late as 1942 or '43 to cut sod with dad, using the truck to haul the dirt back to fill in under the kitchen window at our new home at the top of East Bay. (Our home sat on the exact same spot where the Park Ranger Station sits today on the eastern side of the island.)

The truck, parked in our back yard most of my lifetime along with its sister car, a late 1920s "T Bucket Ford" owned by Gert Wellish, a school teacher in the winter and a summer resident on Sand Island for years before my time and into my early twenties.

A road between East Bay and Hill's Point (now called Shaw's Point) had been maintained along its 1.5 mile length for many decades by the islanders. The only connector between the two settlements other than via the lake, the road ranged from a footpath to a two-lane highway over the years. In the 1930s through the 1940s, it was a highway, albeit a dirt one. A person could drive the bumpy, rutty road

from one end to the other and meet little or no mechanical traffic. At one time, it was possible to find not only these two cars on the island road, but also a third owned by the Jensch family: an early Twenties Jordan.

Brought to the Sand Island in 1926, the Jordan was a snazzy convertible, green in color. But like a racehorse fallen on bad times, it too was hauled to the island to pull a mower and to help in other farming type activities. Overpowered with a high gear ratio, it never fulfilled its purpose, and like the racehorse, was put to "pasture" in an old barn where it rested until bought by an investor from Kentucky in the '60s and removed as she and the other autos were delivered, ignominiously on a pile driver raft, across the channel to Little Sand Bay.

Like the other cars, Gert's T Bucket Ford arrived on the island to fill a utilitarian need. She brought the vehicle to Sand Island around 1940 to haul lumber and other building materials from the sandy shore in the middle of the East Bay to her cottage being built a quarter mile south along the road. Too rocky and steep at her place, the prudent thing was to drop the supplies in a safe part of the bay and transport them to her building site.

Once its original function was complete, the T Bucket, like the Jordan, became a frolic mobile, transporting guests from the East Bay to the Point or from

Hill's Point to the East Bay.

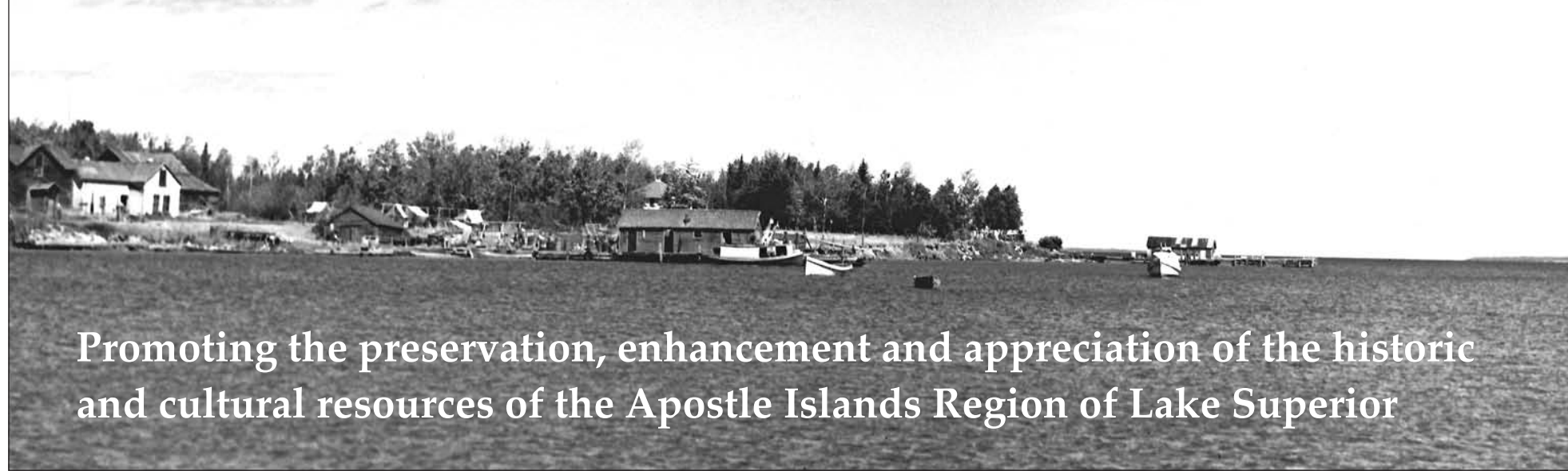
Gert's T Bucket ran into the early Fifties when it, like its partner, became cannibalized to maintain other engines on the island. A solenoid here, a fuel line there. The whole engine to emerge as something else. A fender for sheet metal. Vandals also took their toll. Gunshot wounds and smashed headlight attest to the disrespect for these old workhorses who retired to the Apostle Islands.

Three cars helped ease the load of many an islander. Two of them now find a fitful resting place alongside a quiet glade on the northern end of the East Bay Road on Sand Island, racing ever so slowly into the consciousness of those who pause to admire them and wonder how they came here to rest.

As they rust into nothingness, it reminds me of all our fates when we hear those final words from the Book of Common Prayer, "...we commend to Almighty God our brother and we commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him and give him peace. Amen."

May these workhorses also continue to rest in peace among the Apostle Islands and share a space in the history of Sand Island, a place my family once called home.

## Apostle Islands Historical Preservation Conservancy



Promoting the preservation, enhancement and appreciation of the historic and cultural resources of the Apostle Islands Region of Lake Superior

*Photo courtesy of the Bayfield Heritage Association, Inc.*