

NEW BERLIN

*N* *H* *S*  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



Dedicated to  
the four Rs...  
*Rescuing ... Recording ...*  
*Restoring ... Re-creating ...*  
the *authentic*  
New Berlin history

August 2020

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

— 2020 SEASON —

**Saturday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> – Beer Garden**

See information in Newsletter

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – Walking Tour**

See information in Newsletter

**Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Walking Tour**

See information in Newsletter

**Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> –  
Annual Meeting & Program at 6:30pm**

7pm – *Damn the Old Tinderbox!*

Presentation by author Matthew Prigge

The New Berlin Public Library

### *November Annual Meeting of 2020*

At this point in time, we are leaving the Annual Meeting on the schedule. As things change with restrictions, we will be better able to decide if this meeting can happen or not. You will be notified once we know more.

### *Traveling Beer Garden*

We are excited to again offer a day when you can come to the Historic Park and enjoy a few hours with friends and family. Beer will be provided by Component Brewing Co. and it will be open from Noon to 8pm on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Park is unique in New Berlin and offers a family friendly atmosphere. Please share this information with anyone you know. We plan to have a few of the buildings open to share with visitors along with lawn games and some fun things for the little kids.

### *Historic Day and Applefest*

We are sad to have to cancel both Historic Day and Applefest, again due to the current restrictions. In lieu of these events but on the originally scheduled dates, we will be offering free Walking Tours of the Prospect Hill Historic District. We are asking people to reserve a spot

so we can manage the group size. We will share the history of the area and each individual building. Select buildings will be open for viewing. The tours will be on Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and 2pm and also on Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at those same times. Call Sue at 262-679-3461 or email: slhemmen@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

### *Wedding at the Park*

For the first time, we had a complete wedding at the Historical Park. Congratulations are in order to former Miss New Berlin, Jamie Watkins and her new husband, John Johnson. The wedding was held on June 28<sup>th</sup>. They were kind enough to share their wonderful photos of that day. The bride commented that she wondered why more couples didn't take advantage of our unique park for their special day.



**Tours**

On August 6<sup>th</sup> a group of 24 homeschooled children will spend a fun Pioneer School Day in the little Red Schoolhouse.

**Old Car Club**

On May 30<sup>th</sup> I happened to drive by the Park and see some very wonderful old cars gathered in our parking lot. The group was from a Milwaukee old car club. They were gathering there to set off as a group to spend a beautiful afternoon touring in their antique cars. I wish we had advance notice so more of you could have come up to enjoy them.



**Fourth of July**

New Berlin held a unique parade this year. They called it a “reverse parade.” The parade entries stood still on the roadside and citizens drove their decorated vehicles past bands, a clown and other musical groups. At City Hall, they took in enough food donations to fill a truck! Our Band Organ was parked along the route playing its “Happy Music” for all to enjoy.

**Anyone Remember?**

Those of you who have lived in New Berlin since the 1950s might remember the Swiss Miss Drive-In in New Berlin and/or the Somers Drive-In in Vernon. We believe both of these were located on National Ave. The Somers building is still standing, but we were told by the former owners (Rothenbueler family) that the Swiss Miss was torn down quite a few years ago. The President of the Vernon/Big Bend Historical Society would be very interested in adding to the little history we have on these two places. She also thinks there may have been another drive-in in Vernon called Schroeder’s or Al’s. Feel free to call me, Sue, at 262-679-3461 or email me at slhemmen@gmail.com with any old memories you might have to share.

**Museum News**

In conjunction with the museum’s expansion project, construction workers removed the front façade panels, revealing the buildings former identity.



The only automobile dealer in New Berlin, Prospect Hill Motors sold Studebaker vehicles from 1959-1964. The sign would date from about the time the Avanti (listed to the right of Hawk, but missing the “I”) was introduced in April, 1982. The exotic, 120 mph, Avanti sports car was said to be the fastest production vehicle available. We have been told the dealer was required to install a dynamometer and test every Avanti sold to verify it could reach the advertised speed. The building housed fire station #3 after it was purchased by the city in 1965.



With the framing and sheathing completed for the museum addition, horizontal siding will next be installed to integrate new and old.

**Thank You!**

*... to all of our donors since our last newsletter:*

**MEMORIAL:** Donation from the New Berlin Jr. Women’s Club - \$200

**Dues**

Dues should be paid in September. Please send check made out to New Berlin Historical Society for \$15 to Sue Hemmen, 21765 W. Edinborough Dr., New Berlin WI 53146

**2019-2020 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- |                           |                    |                |                            |                      |                |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| President .....           | David Totten ..... | (262) 643-8855 | Tour Director .....        | Joanne Erickson..... | (262) 542-3643 |
| Vice President .....      | Peggy Ament.....   | (262) 544-4534 | Programs & Publicity ..... | Sue Hemmen .....     | (262) 679-3461 |
| Recording Secretary ..... | Sue Hemmen .....   | (262) 679-3461 | Membership.....            | Sue Hemmen .....     | (262) 679-3461 |
| Treasurer.....            | Lu Ziemer .....    | (262) 544-6516 |                            |                      |                |

**Directors:** Vern Bentley, Rhoda Flagg, Carol Gorichanaz, Jackie Hermann, Barbara Koeppen, Anne Marquardt, Rip Edmundson, Cheryl Schober, Patti Shallow

**Newsletter Editor:** Sue Hemmen

Website: [www.newberlinhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newberlinhistoricalsociety.org)