



# DEPOT DISPATCH

*Fall 2020*

## BEHS Salvages Garage Sale Fundraiser Set For October 2, 3

### SANTA OPEN HOUSE CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER

With the Santa Open House and four other Black Earth Historical Society fundraisers cancelled plus the Black Earth History Museum at the Depot closed in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the garage sale fundraiser is still being held on Friday & Saturday, October 2 & 3 from 9:00 to 3:00.

The garage sale will be at the Black Earth History Center (new name for our headquarters), 1022 Blue Mounds Street. Last year's 2019 garage sale fundraiser raised nearly \$550. Over the past five years, it's raised a cumulative \$4,500 with the peak year of \$1,668 in 2017, according to the

latest BEHS annual report. "This sale is so important. We've had so many things cancelled," said BEHS president Wayne Barsness. "We are hoping for a good turn out."

The BEHS is seeking volunteers to set and clean up, plus donated items in good condition such as toys, books, household & vintage items, sporting equipment, furniture, tools, etc. (no clothing, holiday decor, electronics or tech equipment please).

To donate or volunteer, please contact board member David Cooper at 608-767-2281.

### UPCOMING:

- October 2, 3 Garage Sale Fundraiser Friday & Saturday from 9:00 to 3:00 at the Black Earth History Center, 1022 Blue Mounds Street.
- October 7 monthly meeting Wednesday 6:30 at the Black Earth History Center.
- November 4 monthly meeting Wednesday 6:30 at the Black Earth History Center.
- November 16 - 22 Cheese Curd Culver's Share Event Cross Plains Monday - Sunday.
- December 2 monthly meeting Wednesday 6:30 at the Black Earth History Center.



Vintage items for sale at the upcoming garage sale fundraiser at the Black Earth History Center.



Mr. & Mrs. Ballweg on their wedding day.



Brenda Carlson joined the BEHS board in August.

# Historic Wedding in Black Earth

## BALLWEGS TIE THE KNOT AT B.E. HISTORY CENTER

Two Black Earth Historical Society board members, Gary Ballweg and Debbie Huelsemann, were married at the Black Earth History Center on Saturday, August 22. The History Center is located in the former Congregational Church, 1022 Blue Mounds Street.

For the Ballwogs, it just seemed like the logical spot for their wedding.

"Having seen the old church so many times, still beautiful after so many years . . . the choice was perfect for our special event," Gary said.

"The church is near and dear to our hearts as we both grew up in this area and are members of the Black Earth Historical Society," Debbie agreed.

Our best wishes to Gary & Debbie for a happy and historic life together.

## *Welcome Brenda Carlson, New BEHS Member*

Life-long Black Earth resident Brenda Carlson was approved by the BEHS board in August to serve out the remainder of Paul Skalet's term until spring 2021. "I have always had a love of all things vintage and enjoy documenting my family history through scanning and sharing photos," Brenda said. Married to husband Rich with two children and two grandchildren, Carlson has worked her entire career at News Publishing in Black Earth, starting in the mailroom while still attending Wisconsin Heights High School. She currently handles design layout for the Star News. "Working with our local newspaper has allowed me to bring news and record life these past 40 years, and I hope to continue that journey as part of the BEHS," Brenda added.

# BEHS Cheese Curd Fundraiser

**HEAD TO CULVER'S CROSS PLAINS NOVEMBER 16-22**

For one week prior to Thanksgiving, Culver's in Cross Plains will donate \$1 to the BEHS for each cheese curd sale from Monday, November 16 through Sunday, November 22. Culver's generosity is part of their Culver's Share Events program that supports local organizations.

In spring 2020, the BEHS also received \$265 from Culver's as part of a daylong Share Event, according to BEHS board member Lavonne Clason.

Please show your support to the BEHS and enjoy some delicious cheese curds at Culver's Cross Plains location in November.



## FALL SCHOOL DAYS:

The Black Earth History Center archives has many historic school photographs including this undated school bus photo that Gary Ballweg recently posted on the Facebook group, "If you grew up in Black Earth you might remember." Who's driving the bus? Consensus says Clarence Obright. Among the many likes and comments included this, "I think this was the red, white and blue school bus and the driver I believe is Clarence Obright," wrote BEHS member Joan Haugen. "With only two busses the routes got pretty long. Dave (Joan's husband) tells of a time that the bus got stuck on Moe Road as it hadn't been paved yet. Clarence O. said a few 'naughty' words. An hour plus bus ride was the usual."

The village of Black Earth once had its own high school prior to combining with Mazomanie High School to open Wisconsin Heights on U.S. Hwy. 14 in 1965. Now, the only remaining public school in the village is Black Earth Elementary School. The Wisconsin Heights school district going to referendum in November to determine that school's fate. The History Center has many photographs of graduating classes, old school buildings and yearbooks. Some may be found online at [Recollection Wisconsin](http://RecollectionWisconsin.com), please visit the BEHS website at [blackearthwihistory.org](http://blackearthwihistory.org) and click on Resources & Links.

## Black Earth Historical Society

P.O. Box 214

Black Earth, WI 53515

*Next Depot Dispatch: January 2021*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

## Welcome New Members

Please remember to renew your 2021 BEHS membership by December 31 or at the upcoming annual meeting to be held mid-February. A special thank you and welcome to new members: Audrey Curtis, Roger & Diane Runk, Vern & Brenda Wendt, Richard & Sybyl Wood, Nels Nelson, James & Debra Lucey, Donald & Kathleen Olson, David & Lona Barsness, Steven & Barbara Parrell, Ronald & Suzanne Howard; all from Black Earth. Also welcome to David & Carol Kalscheur, Waunakee and Lois Ballweg, Mazomanie.



### BLACK EARTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Website:** [blackearthwihistory.org](http://blackearthwihistory.org)

**Email:** [behistoricalsoc@gmail.com](mailto:behistoricalsoc@gmail.com)

**AmazonSmile Fundraiser:** [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

**Facebook Group:** *If you grew up in Black Earth you might remember,* Administrator Gary Ballweg

**Board:** President Wayne Barsness, Vice-President Harold Miller, Secretary Jan Cowan, Treasurer David Cooper, Lavonne Clason, Rita Miller, Gary Ballweg, Jan Schroeder, Shirley Williams, Debbie Ballweg, Brenda Carlson

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Photo: Black Earth History Museum at the Depot in downtown Black Earth