Greetings,

I just watched on television a true story called *Fort McCoy*. I had to look up some of the history portrayed in this film and share it with you.

The first POW that arrived at Fort McCoy on March 9, 1942, was a Japanese POW, Ensign Kazua Sakamaki.

Camp McCoy was one of 130 sites in the U.S. to house Japanese, German, and Italian POW's during WWII.

After America and England moved forward with plans to invade Africa, the burden of caring for POW's was more than England could handle. They determined it would be cheaper to send the POW's to America rather than shipping them to England. America agreed to take all POW's captured after November, 1942. They would be housed in five pre-existing military bases in America. At the end of the war there were 371,000 Germans, 51,000 Italians, and 5,000 Japanese prisoners. Of those, Camp McCoy housed 5,000 Germans, 3,500 Japanese and 500 other Asian nationalities.

The Geneva Convention stipulated prisoner labor must be paid, so the POW's were put to work in America. Putting POW's to work let them earn money, but the Geneva Convention said no prisoner could work more than 12 hours per week.

Outside camp labor was picking corn, vegetables, and fruits; bailing hemp; and working at tanneries, lumber mills and nurseries. If prisoners could not walk to work, they were taken by Army trucks. Guards would also be there with side arms or rifles.

Inside camp labor was kitchen duty (cooking and cleaning), camp maintenance, motor pool maintenance, barbers, welders, and medical technicians.

(continuation on page 2)

Japanese prisoners did very little labor, believing this work was aiding the enemy. Having so many nationalities in one area often led to conflicts.


I hope if you watch this movie, you enjoy it as much as I did—a fascinating part of Wisconsin history.

Kris Young, CCAHCE President

Photo of Fort McCoy from http://gaic.info/internment-camps/united-states-army-internment-facilities/camp-mccoy-sparta-wisconsin/

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY & PARADE**—May 28, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
Parade starts at the intersection of W. Slifer St., and Airport Rd., Portage, and goes east to Blue Star Park, where a ceremony is held following the parade.

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT OLD FORT WINNEBAGO CEMETERY**—May 28, 2018, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. 1824 E. State Rd. 33, Portage. Self-directed cemetery walk. Posters at each grave site noting biography of each individual.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
May 15, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Columbia County Administration Bldg.

If you are interested in volunteering...
Inserted in this newsletter is a Columbia County Fair volunteer sign-up sheet. This is re-printed from this year’s fair book. We have fair books in our office, or you may see his year’s fair info at http://columbiacofair.com/

HCE member contributions reports are due June 1 to your club president.

MOTHER’S DAY TRIVIA
- Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, who started Mother’s Day celebrations, also filed a lawsuit in an effort to stop the over-commercialization of Mother’s Day. She lost her fight.
- Elizabeth Ann Buttle is the mother who holds the record for the longest interval between the birth of two children. She gave birth to Belinda on May 19, 1956, and Joseph on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years, 185 days apart. The mother was 60 years old when her son Joseph was born.
- Many of the sweaters worn by Mr. Rogers on the popular television show, Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood, were actually knitted by his real mother.
- Kittens are born both blind and deaf, but the vibration of their mother’s purring is a physical signal that the kittens can feel - it acts like a homing device, signaling them to nurse.
- The odds of a woman delivering twins is 1-in-33. Her odds of having triplets or other multiple births is approximately 1-in-539.

—http://www.mothersdaycelebration.com

RENDEZVOUS/CULTURAL ARTS

See these photos, and lots more, on https://www.facebook.com. In the search bar, type “Home & Community Education — HCE Columbia County WI.”
The Cultural Arts Show and Contest was held with our Rendezvous on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at Savanna Oaks Community Center, Fall River. Twelve items were selected (maximum) to go on to the state conference being held September 17-19, 2018, at the Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee. Our judge was Kate Robbins of Lodi, who has previously judged other cultural art shows and fairs over the years. A special thank you to Kate and to ALL of our talented ladies in Columbia County! Well done!

We will let winners know via phone or by our newsletter where to bring projects going to state competition.

Gert Stilson/Cheryl Neef, CCAHCE Cultural Arts Co-Chairmen

Winners going on to state conference:
Judy Cuff, 7.B. Craft, Cards—mixed media — Individual member
Lorraine Hahn, 1.A. Oil Painting — Kozy Korner
Donna MacLeish, 3.A., Children’s Wear — Circle
Donna MacLeish, 6.B., Embroidery, placemats and napkins — Circle
Donna MacLeish, 17., Nonfiction, “Sunrise Service” — Circle
Phyllis Peterson, 10.A., Tied Lap Quilt — Country Settlers
Sue Peterson, 4.A., Knitting, Wearable Item, shawl — Pleasure Hill
Sandy Pohl, 2.C., Color-Plants, “Hoping for Spring” — Individual member
Sandy Pohl, 2.E., Color-People, “Musical Reflections” — Individual member
Sandy Pohl, 13.C., Jewelry — Individual member
Mary Ellen Ruesch, 9.F., Pieced, Professionally — Country Settlers
“Nonalee Savoy, 8.J., Hooked Rug, 23” x 29”, Grasshopper — Marcellon
**Alice Marquardt Thompson, Bonus Category, “Spring Into Action” — Marcellon

*People’s Choice Award—Winner chosen by written vote of those attending Rendezvous for Nonalee Savoy’s hooked run, “Grasshopper.” It will be hung and is hooked in #4-6-7 cut wool on linen by Nonalee. She belongs to the Marcellon HCE Club.

Congratulations go out to Nonalee, Alice, and Handi ladies.

The bonus category will join all of the other Wisconsin counties for top honors at the 2018 fall convention. And to all of you going on to state, we wish you the best!

Thanks to all who participated in our 2018 county show. There were a total of 67 entries, including four “Spring Into Action” projects.

In addition to thanking our judge, your Cultural Arts Committee wants to thank all those who helped check-in each entry to put on display in the right categories—Judy Robbions, Dorothy Priske, Joyce Abegglen, Sandy Pohl, Fern Bessac, Margo Holzman, and all the board members involved.

Cultural arts is a really big show. Thank you to all.

Gert Stilson/Cheryl Neef
CCAHCE Cultural Arts Co-Chairmen
2018 HCE Executive Board

Kris Young, President
Liz Miller, Vice President, President Elect
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Donna Kohnke, Fund-raising
Donna MacLeish, Scholarship
Dorothy Neitzel, Scholarship
Donna Kohnke, Education Community Outreach Coordinator
Marie Gabris, Wisconsin Bookworms™
Donna MacLeish, Wisconsin Bookworms™
Avis Link, Sunshine
Linda Heckel, Caledonia/Portage/WI Dells/ Lewiston Center Chair
Beth Hahn, Cambria Center Chair
Elsie Taylor, Columbus/Fall River Center
Cheryl Neef, Pardeeville Center Chair
Kris Young, Poynette/Lodi Center Chair

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