

**Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm 2004 Annual Report to
Ozaukee County Board** Prepared by Carol Ann Rittenhouse, President/Project Leader
December 31, 2004

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc.--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm, (W.E.S.T.), in December of 2004 moved from its office at Bayshore Mall, Glendale to the **Sheboygan County Historical Ozaukee Interurban Trail**, the Ozaukee County Brochure, Village of Saukville *Historic Walking Trail*, Cedarburg's *Washington House Inn*, and the *Ethnic Ozaukee County* brochure published by **W.E.S.T.** A four color Wisconsin wall map about 5 x 7 feet in size features **W.E.S.T.--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm** and the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail*. Historic and cultural destinations are invited to provide literature for display there.

In 2004, with the help of an intern student of history, **W.E.S.T.** made excellent progress in planning for the **Green Bay Ethnic Trail** website which will tie together the many heritage opportunities that exist along this Wisconsin 156 mile trail, including photographs of historic sites. The **Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)**, initiated by **W.E.S.T.**, is the first Wisconsin signed state heritage trail ever designated in the USA traversing Ozaukee County south and north.

W.E.S.T. has requested that the **GBET** be published in 2005 Ozaukee County publications on the map, as well as in the listings, and also on the website 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. It is the only state trail of its kind in Wisconsin. Eighteen State of Wisconsin historic markers now stand along or close to this trail, of which twelve are ethnic historic markers originated by **W.E.S.T.**

The **GBET** 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* marker 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 at **Research Center**, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085. Its new telephone number is 920-467-9518. **W.E.S.T.** continues to share an office with a nonprofit organization, including available online computer access; staffed by volunteers.

W.E.S.T. is a member of the **Ozaukee Tourism Council**, and **Visit Milwaukee**, and is active in **Sheboygan County** and **Plymouth Chambers of Commerce**. Area Chambers of Commerce are listed on its website, now at www.ethnicwisconsin.org with local contact information.

This year, (and again planned for 2005), another issue of the state *Wisconsin Heritage Traveler* including the **W.E.S.T. heritage tourism** project was (and will be) published. In this four-color magazine, **W.E.S.T.** is described on two pages naming several locations in Ozaukee County. It is included in a full page heritage map of the state.

W.E.S.T. was a participant in the Wisconsin Department of Tourism booth in March of 2004 at the *Governor's Conference on Tourism* held in Green Bay, and in 2005 will be a participant at the *Monona Terrace* in Madison.

In December, **W.E.S.T.**, for the eleventh year, was a sponsor and participant at the *Nonprofit Celebration of Diversity* now held at the *Italian Community Center* in Milwaukee. Organized by the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee, the celebration was attended by many ethnic groups; and included ethnic dancing, music, foods and gifts.

The **W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center** display at the National Landmark *Historic Turner Hall* and Restaurant, across the street from the Bradley Center, Milwaukee, maintained by volunteers; provides for the distribution of current cultural, local and state literature. A glass cabinet for public display of cultural sites is located in the front entrance of the restaurant. Thousands of brochures have been, and continue to be made available to, visitors since the *heritage tourism* display was built in 1995. Several Ozaukee Country brochures are found there including the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, the Ozaukee County Brochure, Village of Saukville *Historic Walking Trail*, Cedarburg's *Washington House Inn*, and the *Ethnic Ozaukee County* brochure published by **W.E.S.T.** A four color Wisconsin wall map about 5 x 7 feet in size features **W.E.S.T.-- ETHNIC WISCONSIN** tm and the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail*. Historic and cultural destinations are invited to provide literature for display there.

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The Board of Directors of *Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail (W.E.S.T.)* was instrumental in helping to secure the Boeker Farm in Cedarburg, planned for use as *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 fundraise for the extensive work that is needed.

W.E.S.T. 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). In addition, seven 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.

W.E.S.T. has produced through the years a number of festivals and exhibits in collaboration with *Cedarburg Cultural Center*, coordinated a *Smithsonian Institution* tour, and raised funds to "save" the old Payne Hotel in Saukville, and to begin restoration of *Historic Turner Hall* in Milwaukee. In 2004, it was a participant in preparing an exhibit of original settlements at the [Sheboygan County Historical Museum](#).

The [Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm 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. Ozaukee Report 12/31/04

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm

Income/Expense -- Actual -- Period Ending 12/31/04

Income: Interest-Savings \$ 1.42 Travel Agent Contribution 25.00 Grant-Ozaukee County
1,000.00 **Total Income: \$1,026.42**

Expense: Dues: GMCVB 200.00 Dues: Ozaukee Tourism Council 75.00 Governors Conference
on Tourism 80.00 Holiday Diversity Celebration 35.00 Telephone – SBC 306.25 Rent No
Charge Staff (HI-USA-WI) Office No Charge Postage 24.39 Website Domain Charges 35.00 WI
State Annual Report-- 10.00 **Total Expense \$ 760.64**

Cash on Hand & in Bank Accounts 12/31/04 Certificate of Deposit: \$1,140.45 (Maturity
8/21/05) (Turner Hall Display Area Reserve) Savings (12/31/04) \$ 779.67 Checking (12/31/04)
\$1,354.28 **Total Cash on Hand & In Bank Accounts \$3,274.40**

Accounts Payable -- Accounts Receivable --