**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts: Lee Halverson,** [**lesuhalv@wi-net.com**](mailto:lesuhalv@wi-net.com)**, or Greg Loescher, onthelake2@tds.net**

**Iola Historical Society looks at Milwaukee Braves history with former Braves minor-league team member**The program for the Iola Historical Society meeting on Monday, July 31, is centered around Milwaukee Braves baseball. In 1953 when the Braves moved to Milwaukee, the Iola Lions club took a bus and 34 members to see the Braves play the Chicago Cubs. This occasion is remembered by a framed set of pictures and vintage Braves baseball cards, which will be shown and discussed in the program.

In 1959, a seventeen-year-old Stevens Point youth, Ray Orlikowski, signed a minor league contract to play for the Braves. He pitched for minor-league teams (all called the Braves) in McCook, Neb.; Eau Claire, Wis.; Davenport and Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Boise, Idaho; Austin, Texas; and Yakima, Washington. He pitched in 169 games and had 700 strikeouts in his seven-year professional career, which ended in 1962.

Orlikowski will be present to share stories of his seven years in the Braves organization as well as to answer questions.

Anyone with Milwaukee Braves memorabilia is encouraged to bring them along for show and tell. Ballpark refreshments will be served. The presentation is free and open to the public, although goodwill donations are always accepted.

The Iola Historical Society monthly meeting begins at 6:30 with the program's start time about 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the Machine Shed at 222 Depot Street.

For more information on the Iola Historical Society, go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org). The society’s museum and historic buildings are open on Saturdays from Noon to 3:00 p.m. through the end of August.

**Picture Caption: Ray Orlikowski, Milwaukee Braves minor-league pitcher from Stevens Point.**