**The Silent Natural**

A Fundraising Event

Hosted by the Winnebago County Historical & Arch. Society

An Independent film just released this year, The Silent Natural is a story of the life of William “Dummy” Hoy, a deaf-mute man whose dream it was to play baseball. It is a true story based on fact from the 1880s and much of the story takes place in Oshkosh.

The Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society presents the Wisconsin Premier with a VIP Red Carpet screening of The Silent Natural at The Grand Oshkosh on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

*It’s the late 1870s. Young William Hoy plays in the schoolyard at the Ohio School for the Deaf, repeatedly throwing a ball at a specific brick with precise accuracy. He moves at every bounce, extending the distance between himself and wall, hitting the marked brick.*

*After graduation, Hoy returns to Houcktown, Ohio to work on his father’s farm. He plays baseball on the weekends with kids in the street and amateur teams. A pro scout passing through town notices Hoy and is astounded by the accuracy of the young man’s arm. Noticing Hoy is deaf, he writes on a piece of paper “Have you ever thought of playing professionally?” Hoy’s eyes light up and he nods enthusiastically.*

*At age 24, Hoy grabs his spikes and heads for a Minor league team in Oshkosh. Here, Hoy demonstrates explosive speed and a powerful arm, only standing 5’4” and 148 pounds. Unable to hear calls from the umpire, Hoy convinces umpires to use hand signals when calling balls, strikes, etc.*

*After playing in Oshkosh for two years, Hoy signs with the Washington Senators in 1888 and led the National League with stolen bases in his rookie season. Today, William “Dummy” Hoy is in the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame.*

WCHAS is working to publicize the event and would like to ask your support in spreading the word with any associations or groups you are involved with. Ads will be forthcoming in October in several of the local newspapers in the Fox River Valley. Tickets go on sale October 1 and will be available online at thegrandoshkosh.org or at The Grand Oshkosh ticket office.

If you know of any business or organizations that may interested in sponsoring this event, let me know and I can arrange a formal presentation.

For more information, please contact me.

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WCHAS truly appreciates your support with this fundraising event!

Thank You!

Randy Domer

President – Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society