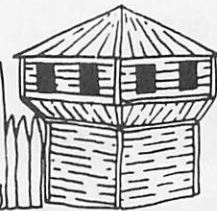


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"Walsh Heritage" Will Be Title

Pioneer History To Be Published In 2 Volumes By Historical Society



The Walsh Historical Society's Book Committee is comprised of nine members and four are pictured above. From left to right: Mrs. James Johnson, treasurer; Mrs. Franklin Goodman, secretary; Mrs. M. C. Flaten, chairman; and Miss Nora Gryde, vice chairman. Not pictured are: Mrs. Percy Walstad, John Novak, Ted Gillham, Lois Stanislawski and Francis Chromy.

-by MRS. M. C. FLATEN
Chairman of Book Committee

In January 1975 our Walsh County Historical Society voted approval of the publication of a County History as a Bicentennial Project, the most important activity for the year. Accordingly the Officers of the Society selected a Committee of Nine representing all areas of the County to act as chairmen in their respective communities and secure helpers to collect biographies, pictures and histories.

The first goal set was four months for collecting but as time passed it was learned that going

back 96 years to Territorial Days in the drive for material, required more time. With a County population of over 16,000 the decision was made to limit the period for historic items to 50 years or 1930 deadline. Biographies were to be taken up to 1914 for adults but could be continued on until date of death.

The committee met every week at first to coordinate plans and material--later three meetings a month were held.

A contest was held for the selection of a name for the history. Mrs. Alphonse Koehm-

[Continued on Page 3]

Walsh Historical Society Officers



Pictured here are officers of the Walsh Historical Society for 1975 and they are seated, from left to right: Leonard Jensen of Edinburg, treasurer; Lorraine Paulson of Hoople, corresponding secretary and publicity director; and R. F. [Pete] Matejcek of Lankin, vice president. Standing is Jean Bodmer of Hoople, secretary. Not present was President Henry Lundene of Adams.

Directors include: Lennart Almen, Ann McIntyre, William Skjerven Sr., and Thelma Wick, all of Park River; Tom Walker of Hoople; Gladys Huseby of Fordville; Ed Gudajtes and Walter Gerszewski of Minto; and Charles Stewart of Grafton.

Memorials Listed For Minto Museum

Memorials for the benefit of the Walsh County Museum in Minto since the last issue are as follows:

In memory of Mary Soutor Dirksmeyer, given by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dobson.

In memory of Russel Lykken by Don LaBonte.

In memory of Mrs. Louis Gornowich by Mrs. Pat Mach, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Misialek, Mr. and Mrs. James Costello, Mrs. Sarah Flanders, Mrs. Blanche Schiller, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gudajtes, Louise Farmer and the Louis Gornowich Family.

In memory of Richard Daniels by Don LaBonte.

In memory of Joe Reski by

Elizabeth Rolzinski.

In memory of Arnold Sitzer by Elizabeth Rolzinski, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lizakowski, Miss Julia Danielski. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Reszka, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Wisniewski, and Mr. and Mrs. James Costello, Sr.

In memory of Ray Common by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gudajtes.

In memory of Franklin Goodman by Stephanie Prepora.

The Museum board had set up a memorial committee for the benefit of the Museum. Memorial envelopes are available by contacting the fund-raising chairman, Elizabeth Rolzinski, P.O. Box 217, Minto, North Dakota 58261.

Alexander Henry Rest Area On Interstate 29 Dedicated; Gov. Link Speaks To 1500

On Sept. 21 the Alexander Henry Rest Area in Eastern Walsh county on Interstate #29 was dedicated with approximately 1,500 in attendance. Walter Hjelle, State Highway Commissioner, served as master of ceremonies. Governor Arthur A. Link was also in attendance.

The rest area has overnight camping facilities, many picnic tables, restroom facilities, a stockade and is well-lit. In 1976, it would be a nice place to take your family for a picnic or just to view the grounds and think about the early adventures of Alexander Henry in our area. Henry built a stockade, dwelling house, storehouse and shop, all made of oak, for which over three thousand pieces of timber were used. A fifty-five foot flagstaff was erected to fly the British Flag . . . the first of any kind to float in what became North Dakota. His writings also tell about the herds of buffalo which roamed the area then. Henry was the first white farmer in what later became North Dakota. In May, 1801, he planted a few potatoes and garden seeds.

Through the special effort of Mr. Charles Stewart of Grafton, former president of the W.C.H.S. and present director, he was able to promote the theme for the rest area. And the State Highway Department was most flexible in carrying out the theme. Also, Canon A. C. (Ted) Smith of Fargo helped to promote the theme for the rest area and he gave the invocation and benediction at the dedication.

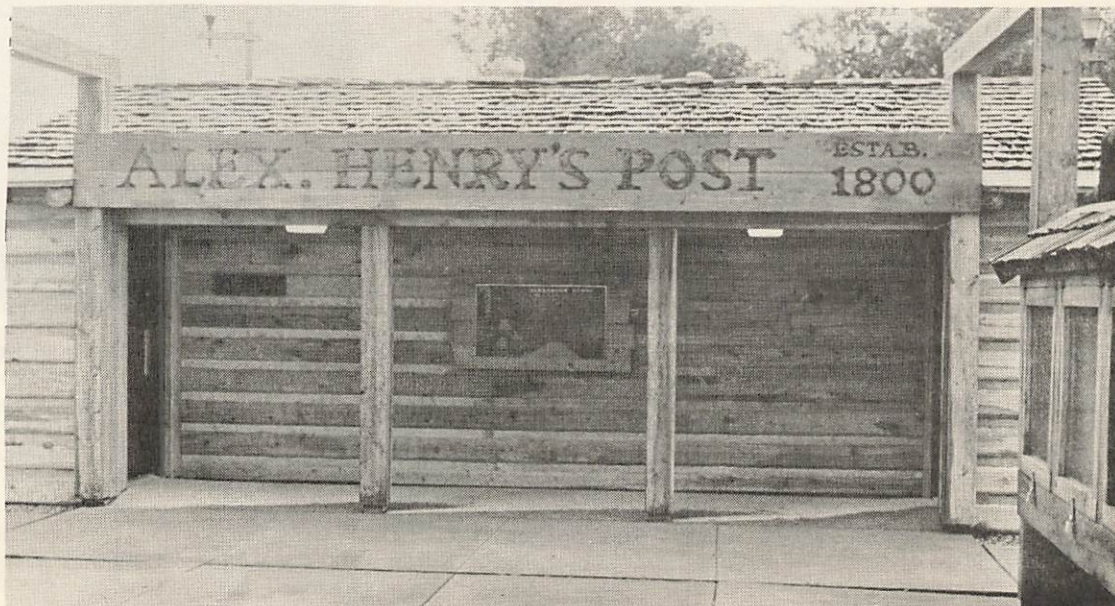
The Walsh County Historical Society placed a marker on the rest area. Another plaque on the trading post replica relates some

of Henry's experiences and reads as follows:

In the summer of 1800 Henry traveled from Grand Portage to this spot on the Park River where he constructed his first trading post. With his brigade of eight "north canoes manned by French Canadian voyagers" he followed the regular fur trade route from Grand Portage to the Pigeon River, Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, Winnipeg River, and then up the Red River. The journey required over sixty-two portages, some of which were one thousand yards long.

Henry constructed his post within a stone's throw of this rest area. He dared not go farther up the Red because of his fear of the Sioux who roamed the area. Henry spent the winter at this post, then moved north to Pembina where he constructed a permanent post which was to remain open until the demise of fur trading in this area.

Henry and his men are credited with the invention of the "Red River Ox Cart," the original of which had solid wooden wheels cut from the trunk of a tree. His most important contribution to the history of the area are his journals. Henry was a prolific writer who kept a daily report of life around the trading post. These journals have become an important link in the study of frontier history.



BICENTENNIAL QUILT GIVEN BY NASH GRADE SCHOOL

Students from the elementary school in Nash made a Bicentennial quilt this past spring and presented it to the Walsh County Historical Society. It depicts the early history of our country.

Mrs. Joesph Midgarden, a member of the Historical Society, was a teacher in Nash this past term.

Voss Depot Moved To 10-Acre Heritage Village At Grafton



-by JEAN BODMER, secretary
The Walsh County Historical Society has obtained a 99-year lease on 10 acres of land along Highway 17 in Grafton for the location of the Heritage Community Center Village. This area will provide a place for buildings and artifacts to be preserved in a central location in Walsh County. They will be available there to the people of the area. The Heritage Village will not merely be another museum: as it will also provide for many types of community activity.

The Village has been selected by the Grafton City Bicentennial Heritage Committee as their Bicentennial project. A proposal to obtain funds for the village has been submitted to the Bicentennial Commission.

The former Voss Depot has been moved to the site and is being refurbished to a useable state by the Grafton Jaycees. A country school house will be moved in soon. National Guard in Grafton assisted a professional mover to bring in these two buildings.

Tentative planning includes a theater for community functions, plays of all types, art displays and programs. Ethnic display areas as a vehicle for showing modes of dress, language and customs of the various ethnic groups in the valley. An agricultural technology area with space to show the evolution of the machinery, seeds and varieties of crops grown through the years.

Inventions in communications, transportation and appliances with emphasis on local industries. Their impact upon our life style will also be featured.

Indian Heritage, an important portion of any history of North Dakota, will have its own area for display.

A bandstand in the center of the village has been suggested as has a picnic area.

Much of the proposed village will take visitors "down memory lane" with plans for the "streets of yesterday" to include a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, a pioneer church, plus the early day depot already in place.

Pageant Given By Carnegie Library

A pageant sponsored by the Carnegie-Bookmobile Library in Grafton entitled, "A Century of Grafton's Heritage," was presented this past summer.

Officers and directors of the Historical Society were guests one evening to view this interesting and educational presentation. The pageant began with the arrival of Alexander Henry east of Grafton and carried the early history of Grafton up until approximately 1900. Slides, music and narration told the story.

Mrs. Charles Stewart is head librarian at the library.

Pioneer History Book

[Continued From Page 1]

stead's suggestion, **Walsh Heritage**, was the winner. She is from Grafton. She will receive one set of books as a prize.

A review of histories published by other groups was made and individuals in charge were contacted before a decision was made to have the history book printed by the Grafton Record.

Gunder Berg of Valley City, former newspaperman in Walsh County offered his services gratis for editing, as did the Committee of Nine and their helpers and Legal Council Robert Burke, Sr. Their voluntary service has greatly reduced the cost of the book. We can now offer a two volume set of six-hundred pages, 8½x11 inches in each volume, 1200 pages in all for only \$20 per set plus postage and handling of \$2.00 if mailed. No sales tax will be charged to the purchaser.

Most of the biographies have been written by family members. There are pictures galore pertaining to the early development of the county and the people featured in the biographies.

Placed on sale during the Bicentennial year it will become a collector's item.

In addition to histories of towns, townships, organizations, schools, churches and other items of historical value will be included along with 1800 biographies. The book will provide a source of reference in homes, schools and libraries.

Included in the book will be a two page map showing the location of county schools and dates established and another map of the same size giving the same information for county churches.

Promoters of the book say the volumes will preserve a rich heritage of the settlers and will be one of the most varied in contents.

A specially durable hard cover will bind the two volumes, reported to be one of the most complete and definitive histories ever compiled by any mid-western United States county.

Advance orders will be given first delivery. A special gift card is available. Why not make this a family gift item? Orders, accompanied by check or remittance in any form, can be mailed directly to Leonard

Jensen, Treasurer of Book Committee, Edinburg, N. D. 58227, or to any members on the sales committee.

Henry Lundene, president of the Historical Society, has named the following sales committee: Walter Gerszewski of Minto, chairman; Ed Gudajtes of Minto, secretary; Leonard Jensen of Edinburg, treasurer; Dr. M. C. Flaten of Edinburg; James Johnson of Adams; Gladys Huseby and Harris Trosen of Fordville; Mrs. Andrew Haug of Fairdale; Pete Matejcek and John Novak of Lankin; Larry Docken and Francis Chromy of Forest River; Mrs. John Jelinek of Pisek; Mrs. Maziel Nielson, Mrs. Leonard Fagerholt and Mrs. Clifford Berg of Hoople; John L. Johnson, Lennart Almen, Roy Seboe and Adele Hankey of Park River; Mrs. Susie Jackson, Mrs. Alida Goodman, Mrs. Francis Phelan, Mrs. Milton Johnston, Myrtle Schrank, Ron Demers and Arnold Hanson of Grafton.

All banks in Walsh County are serving as distribution and sales centers for the book. No postage and handling for books picked up. Just \$20.00. **An order blank is included in a brochure in this newsletter.**

Advanced orders for the two volume **Walsh Heritage** will receive first delivery.

The nine members of the book committee are: Mrs. M. C. Flaten, chairman; Miss Nora Gryde, co-chairman; Mrs. Alida Goodman, secretary; and Mrs. James Johnson, treasurer.

Others: Mrs. Lois Stanislawski, Francis Chromy, Leona Walstad, John Novak and Ted Gillham. Through their diligent work and dedication; and assistance by many others it is possible to offer this book to you.

Fruit Cakes
To Be Sold

Again this year, Mrs. Bensen's Fruit Cakes are being sold as a money-making project for the benefit of the Museum in Minto. Elizabeth Rolzinski is chairman of the sales.

Minto Museum Started In 1970



**-by Carol Tibert
Museum secretary**

Feb. 22, 1970 was the official date of the first meeting of the Museum Board. Charles Stewart was elected president; Walter Gerszewski, vice president; and Lola Sitzer, secretary-treasurer.

At this time, the old school was leased to the Historical Society. The City ordered a fence to enclose the grounds, and the Minto Good Cheer Homemakers donated the gate.

Now rooms had to be cleaned and readied for donations and loans to the museum. Over the years, many rooms of the museum have been repaired, painted and paneled, windows boarded up, and the grounds cleaned and leveled.

Much of the labor for repair work was furnished by Federal Employed Green Thumb Workers. Materials and supplies have been financed by the Walsh County Historical Society, and various fund-raising projects sponsored by the Museum committee.

The roof was repaired and reshingled this year by Brodeur

Construction Co. The old bell from the Muesum school building will be placed outside the old Forest River Township School after it is moved to the grounds. The school is a gift and is designated as a Bicentennial project. The Museum has also obtained the old Conway jail.

This summer the old Minto School Gym was leased to the Historical Society by the City of Minto. The gym is connected by walkway to the Museum and will be used to display larger items or antiques.

The Museum has a wildlife display on loan from the Vejtasa Family, the church room contains a baby grand piano from the August Schultz Estate, along with articles from various churches in the county. Downstairs in the meeting room, the Hylden Dolls are on display. There are also hundreds of other articles on display at the Museum.

A country store and a blacksmith shop are presently being assembled.

The Museum is open on Sunday during the summer and also on other days by special

appointment.

Present officers are: Frank Schiller, chairman; Herman C. Schanilec, vice chairman; Stephanie Prepiora, currator; Helen Lizakowski, vice currator, Eliza-

beth Rolzinski, news reporter; Carol Tibert, secretary; Ellen Misialek, treasurer; Helen Lizakowski, Hilary Reszka and R. F. (Pete) Matejcek, directors.

Time To Renew 1976 Memberships

Any dues paid after Oct. 1, 1975 are for 1976. An envelope is enclosed in this Newsletter and we would appreciate it very much if you would take a few minutes of your time to return your yearly dues. In turn, you will receive your membership card.

ANNUAL REGULAR DUES	\$2.00 per person
ANNUAL BUSINESS & INSTITUTIONAL	\$10.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$100.00

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Mrs. Lennart Almen, Membership Chairman
Walsh County Historical Society
Park River, North Dakota 58270

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage 1.8 Cents Paid, Minto, No. Dak. 58261
Permlt No. 1 Editor-LORRAINE PAULSON

Walsh Historical Society Had Real Busy Year In 1975; Membership For Year Has Reached Almost 800

-by LORRAINE PAULSON
Corresponding Secretary

The Walsh County Historical Society has had a busy 1975. Meetings are scheduled the last Sunday afternoon of each month in various communities in our county. After each business meeting, lunch is served by hostesses from that locality.

The January meeting was held in the Minto Fire Hall with installation of officers. Since Henry Lundene served in our state legislature for the first three months of the year, Pete Matejcek, vice president presided. Projects completed in 1974 and plans for 1975 were discussed.

February meeting was held at the Pisek School. It was decided to continue the Historical Society Newsletter which is mailed to paid members of the society. Several members reported on replies they had received from our U.S. Congressman concerning our interest in the Green Thumb Project which provides employment for the elderly and low income in our area by having them work on various projects in the county such as the museum, restoration of old landmarks and improvements on various other projects and sites in our county.

The March meeting was held in the Park River City Hall. At each meeting progress on the book on Pioneer Histories was presented by the editorial board chairman, Winnie Flaten, and various other members on the editorial committee of nine.

The April meeting was held in the Community Room of the Walsh County Bank in Grafton. President Lundene was welcomed back to the organization. It was decided that Brodeur Construction would be repairing and re-shingling the roof at the county museum in Minto this summer. Francis Chromy was named chairman of the annual tour which will be in the Forest River area this year. A tribute was given in memory of the late Ed Balke who was a supporter of the Society and the county in general. The Society also sponsored a display at the County Farm Bureau style show and luncheon in Grafton. Jean Bodmer set up a display representing an old fashioned dressing table.

The May meeting was held in

Forest River. It was announced that the Walsh County Historical Society leads the state in Historical Society memberships. There was discussion on moving the depot from Voss to the Heritage Village in Grafton. Historical plaques will be placed on the original site of old Edinburg and the Alexander Henry Rest Area.

June is the month set aside for the annual tour. The July meeting was held in the park at Adams. It was announced that Gunder Berg, former Walsh

county newspaperman, will edit the book on Pioneer Histories gratis. It was decided to secure the gym at Minto which joins the county museum. This will greatly enlarge the present facilities and will make it possible to display larger items.

The August meeting convened at the Alexander Henry Rest Area on Interstate #29 and then the group went to the Bookmobile Library in Grafton for the business meeting and pot-luck lunch.

The ninth meeting of the year

was held in Edinburg on Oct. 12. Mrs. Flaten said that the book was now at the printer and the sales committee with Walter Gerszewski as chairman, is now working on sales.

The Society has 775 paid memberships for 1975. Mrs. Lennart Almen of Park River is serving as membership chairman. Any memberships paid after Oct. 1, credits you for 1976. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The last meeting scheduled for 1975 is Nov. 30 at the Legion Community Center in Hoople.

Wildlife Collection Of Frank Vejtasa On Display In Minto



Frank Vejtasa, a former Silvesta Township farmer near Adams, is still sharing his hobby with others. In one room at the county museum in Minto you can view a large wildlife collection. This picture shows a part of the display presently on loan to the museum. A realistic background was painted by Mrs. Frank (Ethel) Vejtasa and Yvonne Combs (Frovarp).

Frank began his collection at the age of fourteen, so his interest in wildlife began as a hobby many years ago. He enjoyed hunting as well as trapping. After acquiring the animals, he decided he wanted to preserve many of them,

so he enrolled in a taxidermy correspondence course from Omaha, Nebraska.

Most of his animals and birds were acquired in his native North Dakota. Possibly many of you may recall his interesting wildlife displays at the Walsh County Fair and State Potato Show in Park River in the late 40's and early 50's. Then, his collection was set up among a water fall, evergreens, and a background of hand-painted murals.

Frank also has a display at the "Cloverleaf" located three miles east of Jamestown and another display at the Capitol Building in Bismarck.

Mrs. Frank Vejtasa said that she thought that the eagle case near Jamestown was his favorite work, since the eagle was his favorite bird. The wolf was his favorite animal.

Frank died in 1962 at the age of 71. His two sons show an interest in their dad's hobby. Don is continuing his dad's hobby, and also does taxidermy work. Another son, Armand, also enjoys the outdoors.

Our Historical Society is most grateful to the Vejtasa family for this collection which can be shared and enjoyed by many. Hope you have the opportunity to view this display some time when you are at the museum.

Theme Developed By Walsh Historical President

1975 Legislature Enacted Legislation To Benefit Historical Society



-by Henry Lundene
W.C.H.S. President

Evidently because of the American Revolution Bicentennial in 1976 and the increased interest in historical matters by many people in North Dakota the 44th North Dakota Legislative session enacted more than the usual number of history related pieces of legislation during the 1975 session. Some of these I will mention briefly.

1. The old Governor's mansion, which was replaced by the new Governor's residence in about 1960, was transferred from under the custody of the Director of Institutions to the State Historical Society. The plan is to restore it, as it was when occupied by a great number of our governors in years gone by.

2. The Superintendent of the State Historical Society was given power to make and enforce stronger rules and regulations to protect state monuments and site markers. Vandalism has been something of a problem.

Legislation was also enacted that will afford more protection to archaeological and historical materials found in the state, making it illegal for the uninformed and untrained to explore and excavate for historical matters.

Under a new statute the Superintendent of the North Dakota Historical Society may mark any North Dakota historical site that is listed in the North Dakota registry and it is no longer permissible for anyone to alter the physical features or historic character of any site listed in the North Dakota registry without the

permission of the state historical society superintendent.

3. House Bill 1099 which was enacted, provided \$200,000 from the state general fund together with a like amount from the Federal Congress for the North Dakota Bicentennial commission to be used on a matching basis to fund acceptable bicentennial projects in the state of North Dakota.

Other action of the 1975 legislature transferred the Oxford House on the campus at the UND to the North Dakota Historical Society together with \$125,000 of Federal money for restoration purposes.

4. \$84,940.00 was appropriated to complete the North Dakota Oral History Project which is a program of recorded interviews with people over the state . . . mainly the older generation . . . concerning what can be remembered of the early history of North Dakota. The schedule will put those who are making the interviews into Walsh County in March or April 1976.

The International Peace Garden received \$40,000.00 for new structures and other improvements.

The Number One historical project of the 1975 legislative session was the \$4,000,000.00 appropriated for a North Dakota Heritage Center to be located on the capitol grounds. However, it is necessary for the Heritage Commission to have on hand a million and a half dollars in contributions from the private sector before the 4 million becomes available. This will be considered the North Dakota Bicentennial project, and the goal is to start construction in 1976. The last five North Dakota Governors have been promoting a heritage center for North Dakota, but the funds were never provided until the 1975 legislature gave it the green light.

5. To promote and encourage the conservation of birds in North Dakota, April 26 of each year was designated as Bird Day. This also being the birthday of naturalist, John James Audubon.

6. In order that Historical works can be promoted in the counties where there is sufficient interest, subsection two of 11-11-53 was amended to provide for a ¾ mill levy if supported by

60% or more of the electorate at the polls.

House concurrent resolution of #3014 was passed urging the Governor to proclaim the 200th anniversary of our nation by extensive ceremonies at the front door of each court house on July 4, 1976, which would include the reading of the Declaration of Independence by the County Sheriff.

Another concurrent resolution was enacted designating our own Lydia Jackson of Walsh

county together with Henry Martinson of Fargo as poet laureates of North Dakota.

A resolution of condolence was passed expressing sorrow of the death of Mrs. Mattie Grinnell who died recently at the age of 108. She was considered to be the last surviving member of the Mandan Indians. She was an outspoken advocate for the retention of her tribe's traditions, a great humanitarian and the widow of a soldier in the Union Army.

Arts & Crafts Show Set For Nov. 15-16 At Minto

The Second Annual Arts and Crafts Show for the benefit of W.C.H.S. Museum in Minto will be held Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15-16. Hours on Saturday will be from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m., and on Sunday the show will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It will be held at the old high school gym just west of the old museum. You can secure a booth for your display for \$2.00. For more information, contact Ellen Misialek or Tony Osowski, Minto. Come and browse, buy or sell. Remember, it is almost Christmas, and many items will be offered for sale.

Senior Citizens Plan Trip To Adams For Nov. 19 Fall Bazaar

The Walsh County Senior Citizens Bus will be making a special trip to attend the Adams Senior Citizens Fall Bazaar on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Bus Director Mrs. Larry (Kathy) Houser said that the bus will be stopping in Park River first for any persons having appointments, etc.

Any Walsh county senior citizens interested in going on this trip are invited to call 284-7980 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, and between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. weekdays before Nov. 18.

Historical Society Tours South-Central Walsh County In June

The Eighth Annual Tour, sponsored by the Walsh County Historical Society, was held on Sunday afternoon, June 29. Francis Chromy served as chairman of this tour of south-central Walsh county.

The first stop was St. John's Catholic Church in Pisek, where the valuable painting from Czechoslovakia by Alphonse Mucha was viewed and its history was explained.

The Ray Foerster Farm and Museum was toured. He had a large collection of animals on display from many countries which he has secured during his hunting trips. His collection of Edsel cars was also viewed.

The Forest River Hutterite Colony near Fordville was the third stop on the tour. Their farming practices, traditions and customs were explained, and their living quarters, dairy and egg facilities were also viewed.

Lunch was served by the women of St. Mark's Church in Conway.

Heritage Village Gets Second Pioneer Structure

A second pioneer structure has been moved to the Heritage Village which is located along Highway 17 in Grafton.

The recent addition to the Village is the one-room school of Acton School District No. 57 (informally known as the Schrank or Dipple School).

The approximately 90-year-old rural school house was moved to Heritage Village Oct. 25.