

## Being Involved Always Makes It More Fun

By LULUSTY

What's more fun than attending a banquet celebrating the birthday of Robbie Burns? Or getting dressed in green for the Emerald Isle dinner even if you don't have a drop of Irish blood in your veins? Being involved is what makes it more fun. That's why members of this satellite of the Walsh County Historical Society meet the challenge each year and put on some crowd pleasers for banquets.

Our members are proud of their heritage which originated in either England, Wales, Scotland, or Ireland. Our membership is smaller than it should be, but it takes time to show the value of taking an interest in our ancestor's roots.

Our officers this year are Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bruce, president and co-president; vice president is Homer Nelson; secretary-treasurer duties are shared by Mrs. Ralph Pederson and Mrs. Gene Lusty. These last two sort of lost their identity with their married names, but we're really talking about a McDonald and a McLennan.

January 25, 1982, the annual Robbie Burns banquet was held at the Alexander House in Park River. (Even the carpet is plaid there.) A committee of Mr. and Mrs. Arden Burbidge, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart, and Mrs. Gene Lusty laid the ground work for what turned out to be an enjoyable evening. Larry Lewis was master of ceremonies, Senator Harvey Tallackson added to the festive decorations by bringing a large oil painting of his great-grandfather to prove his connection with the group. Harold and Edith Harris showed slides of their trip to the "Old Country" which encouraged all of us to start saving towards the time when we can embark. Jerry Bruce gave us our annual lesson in reading Gaelic poetry by our famous poet. Charles and Ora Marie Stewart have been

pestered ever since that evening for their recipe to make Haggis. It was symbolic, even without the bag pipes. Thank goodness the Veseleyville store had a sheep's liver and heart! A quartet from Park River sang Barbershop harmony even if it wasn't Scottish. Chester Goronowich, Lorenz Mahar, and Ora Marie Stewart were the lucky winners of the door prizes.

March 13, 1982, was the date selected for the Emerald Isles dinner to be held at the Grafton American Legion. This is a bigger banquet and very well attended, so the committees appointed by President Margaret Bruce had their work cut out for them. Besides the officers, the

following members accepted their appointed duties: Vivian Nelson, Ora Marie Stewart, Margaret Phelan, Carol DeSautel, Connie DeSautel, Dorothy Lykken, Emma Lou Minden, and Mary Rose Rodrigue. It was so green and shamrocky, you felt in a festive mood the minute you entered the room. The entertainment was outstanding, in line with the excellent food served. Judge James O'Keefe was master of ceremonies, Cindy Phelan was a soloist singing "Danny Boy" so beautifully, Henry Kelly cried! Annette Venegas from the Grand Forks Air Base showed marked professionalism in her dancing ability. Her Sailor's Horn Pipe



Pictured are Judge and Mrs. James O'Keefe. He was master of ceremonies for the Emerald Isles dinner held in March, 1982.

SEE BRITISH ISLES  
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## Society Picnic Held At Jagielski Farm

Sig and Josie Jagielski hosted the Walsh County Historical Society for a potluck noon picnic on Sunday, July 25th, at their farm and museum near Auburn. What an ideal setting for a picnic with a cookcar, picnic tables, benches and flowerbeds. Several long tables were for serving all the delicious food brought by the guests. It takes hours to browse through their private museum, main street, park, machinery display and numerous buildings housing antiques, pioneer relics and artifacts. Sig has also built scale models of a stage coach and hearse. There are sixteen buildings on the grounds at "Jugville." Main street has a general store, medical clinic, country school, shoe shop, print shop, depot, chapel and parish house. This summer over two thousand people visited "Jugville." "Jugville" village is a hobby-dream come true for the Jagielskis which they love to share with the public. This hobby began in the 1960s. Guests are always welcome and there is no charge but free will contributions

are accepted to help defray some expenses. Contributions received during our picnic were returned to the historical society. Thanks again, Josie and Sig. At the picnic Simon Mears, chairman of the Grafton Centennial Committee, presented a Grafton Centennial Flag to the Jagielskis and the

Heritage Village in Grafton.

You need to experience "Jugville" to really see what two unique individuals can do. Sig is also known as "Uncle Sig" over KXPO Radio, Grafton, where he hosts a Sunday afternoon show of music and chit chat during the winter months.



Willard and Mary Hove, rural Grafton, assisted Josie and Sig Jagielski (pictured on the far right of the picture) at historical society picnic.

# Third "Museum Alive" Held At Minto

The third "Museum Alive" was held at the Walsh County Museum in Minto on Sunday afternoon, July 11th, with a large crowd in attendance.

The following original poem written by Lois Eisenrich, Grafton, really sums up this special day.

The centennial was over and the 4th was long gone,

Still a crowd gathered on the old Minto School lawn.

President Wilson was there to greet one and all,

While the President's Lady was having a ball.

He had a Groucho Marx mustache that sure was a diller,

But he somehow resembled a farmer named Schiller.

Folks strolled on the green and viewed the old jail;

They saw the log cabin and heard Mozinski's tall tale.

The one room school was a popular spot,

That left us all with a sentimental thought.

Then on to the cook car with the table all set,

Many a good meal was served there, I'll bet.

There were so many people, both young and old,

And on this Minto Museum, they really were sold.

The throng move on, and into the school,

If you didn't go in, you were a genuine fool.

Oh such a thrill to go through the old store,

The shelves filled with goodies, but still room for more.

Then I know what they meant by "Museum Alive,"

For the place was buzzing like a regular bee hive.

Ladies were painting, tatting and grinding wheat,

They had hardanger and spun wool that couldn't be beat.

We followed the crowd to a very large hall,

Filled with antique machinery from wall to wall.

There were vintage cars, trucks and a one-horse shay,

Old tractors and engines, you could spend a whole day.

Then the crowd pushed us on and we went up some stairs,

And as we waddled along, we lost all our cares.

At the Post Office Gladys Conlon sold us a stamp,

And we almost got a haircut from Remi Beauchamp.

But his measuring bowl or pot was too small,

So it was on to the Soda Parlor just down the hall.

The Boleks were selling cones

for five cents,

And had plenty of customers, both ladies and gents.

There were so many things to see and to touch,

I just never realized they had so much;

An old telephone switchboard and a creamery station,

And things dating back to the birth of our nation.

The model home, which was furnished to real perfection,

Made us think of our grandparents with renewed affection.

In the kitchen they were serving pancakes and cheese,

Those old fashion women sure aimed to please.

We thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the old hats,

And the beautiful clothes, and how about those spats?

We loved the stuffed animals and all the stuffed birds,

And the murals behind them were too much for words.

Back out on the grounds the crowd had grew,

And were standing in line for buffalo stew.

There were cowboys and Indians and a teepee too,

Lemonade and popcorn and a petting zoo.

I've seen so many things and

everyone's so busy,

I'm beginning to feel just a little bit dizzy.

And who's that old lady condemning rum?

Just about now, I could sure use some.

The town crier, Henry, is shouting "All's well,"

But with all this commotion, how on earth can he tell.

Oh! good grief! what was that noise?

It's just Lundene with his cannon and one of the boys.

It's been such a great day and I've had such a good time,

To leave without thanking you would be a real crime.

The Historical Society has done a fine job,

It takes a lot of work to entertain such a mob.

So special thanks to Stephanie and all her crew,

But now it's time to bid you a fond adieu.

You've brought back old memories and even a tear,

And we'll sure be back for a repeat next year.

## Heritage Books Still Available

If you have not purchased volumes three and four of the "Walsh Heritage" books they are still available. Volumes three and four sell for thirty-three dollars which covers postage or they can be purchased at various banks and savings and loans throughout the county for thirty dollars. Since the publication of the two newest volumes in the summer of 1981, sales have gone extremely well. Volumes one and two which were published in 1976 sell for twenty-three dollars which covers postage. Books can be ordered from Leonard Jensen, Edinburg, N. Dak. 58227; James Johnson, Adams, N. Dak. 58210; or R. F. "Pete" Matejcek, Lankin, N. Dak. 58250.

## Antique Show And Sale Held

The Fourth Antique Show and Sale was held at the Heritage Village in Grafton on August 20 and 21. There were seven dealers who set up tables for sale and display. Co-chairpersons of the show were Jean Bodmer and Kay Vang. Lunch was served by the British Isles Group.



This group is largely responsible for the well-planned 1982 "Museum Alive." They are museum board members: (front, left to right) Mary Mach, Carol Tibert and museum curator, Stephanie Prepiora; (back row) Jim Schanilec, Donald Rudnik, Frank Schiller and Tony Osowski.



# Another Busy Museum Year

By Stephanie Prepiora

So much in the growth and activities of a museum takes place every year that it is difficult to give a detailed account in an annual newsletter and 1982 was no exception. This was another eventful year at the museum and I will attempt to list some of the highlights.

An additional island of glass fronted display cases were built and against a background of appropriate murals display a variety of women's clothing of early days including dresses for all occasions, suits, swimsuits, nurse's uniforms and other

apparel. The room which was formerly the principles office, and up to now has been a catch all, has been refinished with glass cases which contain a large and varied display of Indian artifacts. Background for the displays are again appropriate murals which enhance to portray Indian life and culture more realistically.

The big event of the summer is "Museum Alive" truly a fun and happy day for everyone and attended this year by over 1,200 persons. For a more detailed account read the special tribute written by Lois Eisenrich of the event which appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

During the summer, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the museum is open to the public on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. It is also open by special appointment, mostly at the request of groups. This year classes from the University of North Dakota, public schools from East Grand Forks, Grand Forks, Manvel, Minto and Park River, as well as senior citizen groups, homemaker clubs and individuals were our guests.

Highlight of financing this year was the grant of \$5,800.00 from the Otto Bremer Foundation of St. Paul and the Walsh County Bank of Grafton.

A number of very desirable donations were given to the museum including six antique cars donated by A. J. Hultstrand of Fairdale. The cars are a 1910 Overland, 1914 Maxwell, 1916 Chevrolet, 1924 Oakland, 1926 Motel T Ford and a 1930 Ford.

All murals were sponsored and paid for by individuals, friends of the museum. Building of the show cases and setting up of displays were all done by volunteer workers who have a great interest in the growth of the museum.

Listed here are only a few of the highlights of 1982. Many other improvements were made including landscaping with the planting of trees and shrubs on the grounds.

The Museum Board gratefully thanks all who participated in any manner whether by donation of articles, physical or financial help or words of encouragement which helped make the growth of the museum possible.



## Lundenes Honored

Henry and Selma Lundene, Adams, were honored on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary at the April meeting of the historical society. Henry is the present president of the society and he and his wife, Selma, have served the organization in so many ways as well as being charter members. Remarks were given by Ed Gudajtes, vice chairman; an original poem written by Lois Eisenrich was read by John Paulson, director; reading and remarks by Leonard Jensen, treasurer. Seated, Henry and Selma Lundene; back, left to right, Ed Gudajtes, John Paulson and Leonard Jensen.

## British Isles

Cont. From Page 1

was wonderful, but her Scottish version of the Irish Jig was fantastic. The Grafton quartet sang some mixed melodies in good old harmony, and St. Alphonse students from Langdon did some intricate group dancing. I hope this isn't letting the cat out of the bag, but anyone who was there knows what the Irish Sweepstakes — Walsh County Style profitted for the lucky winners.

One might think this would be enough for one year, but remember, those Grafton members had a Centennial to celebrate, and wouldn't you know they were involved as much as possible? I think everyone in Grafton bought a flag from Dorothy Lykken and if they didn't they'd better call Mary Rose Rodriguez and take care of that right now.

Our British Isles float in the Grafton parade and also surrounding area celebrations didn't win any first place honors, but we were there, and proud of the flags and the girls dressed in each country's costume. Lee Bennington and Margaret Bruce are the ones to be congratulated on being willing to drive the pickup and have the responsibility involved.

Watch the local papers and when you see a meeting announced for the British Isles, Inc. at the Grafton library, mark it on your calendar and join us. We'll make you feel welcome and glad that you're a part of that portion of this big old world.

## New Officers Elected By Icelandic Heritage Club

By MARGARET THOMASSON

The Icelandic Heritage Club of Grafton held election of officers at their regular meeting in April. The officers elected for the May, 1982, to May, 1983, year were: President, Margaret Thomasson; Vice President, Nick Hall; Recording Secretary and Librarian, Lillian Wild; Corresponding Secretary and Public Relations Chairman, Donna Stark; Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Jane Mohagen; and Director Victor Johnson.

Fund-raising projects for the year have been the sale of lapel pins bearing crossed Icelandic and American flags, and the sale of T-shirts with various slogans printed on them. Some of the slogans are: "Love Me I'm Icelandic," "I'm Proud to be Icelandic," "It's Hard to be Humble When You're Icelandic," and "I Married an Icelander." These shirts are available in red and light blue and can be purchased from any club member. The pins are also available from any member.

The club was represented by a float in the Centennial Parade which was held at Grafton in

June. T-shirt sales were also held during the Centennial celebrations at both Grafton and Edinburg.

Articles were donated by club members for the rummage sale which was held at the Heritage Center on Sept. 10 and 11 for the benefit of the Heritage Village.

An invitation was received from the Grand Forks Icelandic Club to attend their potluck picnic which was held on June 13 at Riverside Park in Grand Forks. Those in attendance reported an enjoyable afternoon.

The Grafton club hosted a potluck picnic which was held on Sept. 19 at the Heritage Village. Invitations were sent to the Fargo-Moorhead and Grand Forks clubs, as well as to all people of Icelandic heritage in the area.

Membership in the Icelandic Heritage Club of Grafton is open to all people of Icelandic heritage, including those people outside the Grafton area. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Grafton Carnegie Bookmobile Library. Attendance by all people of Icelandic descent is encouraged.

# History Of The Red River Ox-Cart

The ox-cart somewhat resembled the farm carts in France except that they had no iron. The ox-carts used by the Metis were held together by wooden pegs and rawhide. The wheels were five feet in diameter. Some wheels had as few as four spokes; some had no spokes at all but were round slabs of wood. The carts carried a load of from 800 to 1,000 pounds. Raw buffalo hide was used as tarpaulins wrapped around the load to make it water-tight while fording streams.

The Metis or mixed bloods used the carts for transportation. Families traveled in the carts drawn by their ponies. The carts shrieked like bloody murder but they could be driven with break-neck speed, crashing through the brush and the timber.

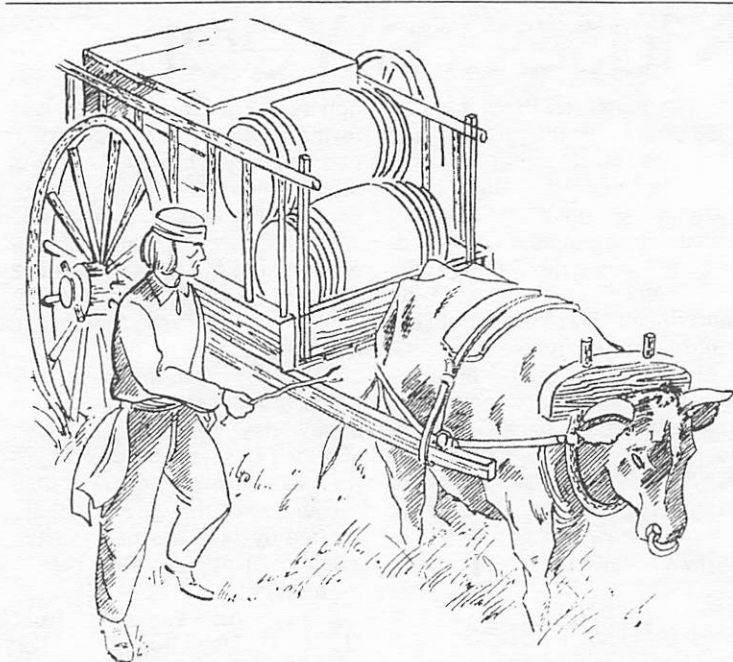
The Hudson Bay Company would not permit the Metis in Canada to expand their growth or their trade. The International Border meant nothing to the Metis so they came south across the border to trade. The American Fur Company's man, H. H. Sibley, sent 'Jolly Joe' Rolette to Pembina to trade with the Metis in 1841. The Metis used

to gather at Pembina once a year for a rousing jamboree. This appealed to Jolly Joe who was a loud, lusty extrovert. He was born in Prairie Due Chien in Minnesota. He was sent to New York City to get some education. New Yorkers were amazed and somewhat aghast to see him walk the streets in buckskins with a rifle across his shoulder.

Jolly Joe returned to Pembina and married a Chippewa girl. They had eleven children. The Chippewa Indians fondly called him Prairie Chicken's Son. When their rice crops failed he fed them. Jolly Joe's happy-go-lucky temperament made Pembina a happy center of buffalo hunting, feasting and dancing.

Canadian traders were using fire-water to trap the Metis into trading with them. They established a trading post two miles north of Pembina. This enraged Jolly Joe and he gathered a few Metis and attacked the post, destroying it by burning the buildings and driving the traders away.

Jolly Joe loaded several Metis carts with furs and sent them to St. Paul. He was familiar with the route and the city of St. Paul



where he often went during the winter months when boredom overtook him. The carts loaded with raw pelts had a putrid stink that could be smelled from a long distance. The stench, the shrieking of the wheels, the hordes of mosquitoes made the trip almost unbearable except for the happy songs of the Metis. Sometimes whole families followed the carts and the trip became a festive occasion.

Jolly Joe was not a good businessman although a sharp trader. Sibley sent Norman W. Kittson to Pembina in 1844 to master-mind the business. At first he lost money but then he adopted a system of ten ox-carts to a trip with three men traveling with the carts and soon he was making a profit. Ten years after Jolly Joe Rolette made his first trip more than a 100 carts used the trail each year. By 1858, the number had grown to 600; in 1868, the number grew to 2,500. It has been estimated that at the peak before the riverboats and the railroads took over the shipment of furs, the number had reached as high as 6,000 carts a year.

The Metis ponies hitched to the carts made better time, however, the ponies did not have the endurance that the oxen had. The carts made from 15 to 20 miles a day. The mosquitoes were so bad that the Metis wrapped themselves in blankets even on the hottest days. The route from Pembina to St. Paul finally settled to three trails, one west of

the Red River on the Dakota side, one east of the river on the Minnesota side and the third one cut across the Minnesota brush country to the Crow Wing Post, then down the Mississippi River to St. Paul.

In later years the Hudson Bay Company gained permission to control the trade and the ox-cart trail extended from Fort Garry to St. Paul with the ox-carts shrieking and smelling all the way.

The information for the above script was obtained from the book, "The Story of North Dakota" by Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud, published by Lantern Books, Alexandria, Minnesota. This was done without written permission of the author therefore you must use your own judgment in the matter.

Script by Kenneth Colter

## Walsh Centennial Time-Capsule Buried

In October, 1982, the Walsh Centennial time capsule and the Grafton Centennial time capsule were placed in concrete at the Walsh Heritage Village in Grafton. A marble marker set in concrete notes the spot which is near the village sign at the

entrance to the village. Plans are to have three flag poles erected on the site for the North Dakota, Grafton Centennial and United States Flags in 1983.

Charles Stewart, Grafton, made the box or capsule for the Walsh County Centennial. It was formed from copper from a woodburning kitchen stove reservoir and is encased in layers of fiberglass and resin. Contents of the box are also sealed in plastic to prevent moisture damage. Included in the box were: a Walsh Centennial spoon, a plaque identical to the one presented to a first generation son or daughter still residing on their parents homesteads, copy of 1981 Centennial and "Walsh Heritage" book, Dedication Program, a Walsh County Centennial souvenir button, copy of the Walsh County Record Centennial Edition Section and previous historical society newsletters.



Charles Stewart holding the Walsh Centennial time capsule which he made to preserve numerous centennial items.

### MINI-FOLKARAMA

"It's a small world after all, it's a small, small world." From 1-5 on Sunday, December 5, you could get your passport at the door of the ethnic theatre at the Heritage Village in Grafton and stop at one of the numerous tables to sample or purchase nationality food and view displays from many foreign countries. There was continuous entertainment throughout the afternoon. Rev. Sherman spoke on Walsh County's colorful nationalities. Dancers and singers also performed.



# Heritage Village Happenings

1982 has been a year of activity and improvements at the Heritage Village in Grafton. The Mandt Hall has been renovated, Lawrence Thompson farmshop has been moved to the grounds by KAP, Inc., Park River, repair work has been done on the roof and door of the taxidermy building, the interior of an old post office has been set up in the post office building, and the old jail cell from Pisek has been enclosed.

The Grafton High School graduating classes of 1940, '41 and '42 donated money to plant trees on the village grounds. Also, two more ethnic shields — France and Germany — have been placed on the Ethnic Theatre building.

The village received \$250 from the Grafton American Legion Post. Many items have been donated for the kitchen in the theatre building so now we have quite a well-equipped kitchen thanks to so many generous people. Following the Grafton Centennial the village received two old display cases and one of each centennial items sold during the celebration including the ten-inch limited edition plate.

Some events at the village have been the 4th antique sale and display, first rummage sale, 4th pancake meal, second village auction, and a folk-a-rama, all as special fund-raising events for the society and village. The village has also been used for registration for the Grafton all-

class reunion, public auctions, family reunions, community theater plays, yoga classes and other events. The village board formed a committee to promote use of the theatre building at the village and a rental rate schedule has been set up. The summer schedule rate has been set at fifty dollars for first day and each additional day is twenty-five dollars. Winter rate is sixty-five dollars for first day and forty dollars for each additional day. Winter rates run from November 1-April 1. The building can be used for public events including group meetings, auctions, luncheons, wedding dances, rummage sales, family gatherings and etc. For further information contact John Morgan, Lois Kieley, Jean Bodmer, all of Grafton; Harry Kohl, Minto; or Henry Lundene, Adams.

Ed Couture and his wife, Alice, have served as caretakers for the summer months and now a mobile home has been purchased and the caretaker can remain at the village the year around. Serving on the village board are: Ralph Adamsen, chairman; Henry Lundene, vice chairman; Jean Bodmer, treasurer; Lois Eisenrich, secretary; Charles Matcha, Charles Stewart, Harry Kohl, Wally DeSautel, John Paulson, Lois Kieley, Mary Rose Rodriguez, Kay Vang, Ray Charlton, John Morgan, Paul Torgeson and Bob Burke as legal consultant.



Some of the individuals who contributed toward the moving of the Mandt Hall to the Heritage Village in Grafton are: left to right, Earl Anderson, Jens Torkelson, Arnold Clemenson, Stella Thompson, Harvey Tallackson, Jean Bodmer, Doris Thompson Knaus, Art Tallackson, Jr., and John Morgan. The building is being renovated by John Morgan to display newspaper printing equipment acquired by the Morgan family for over eighty years.

## Mandt Hall At Village Renovated

The old Mandt Hall which was moved to the Walsh Heritage Village in Grafton in November, 1981, has been almost totally renovated by John Morgan this year. When the building is completed it will be used to display newspaper printing equipment acquired by the Morgan family, Grafton newspaper publishers for over eighty years and other historical items. Senator Harvey Tallackson organized the drive to move the hall to the village and Tallackson was also the owner of the old structure. The building measures thirty feet wide and forty-two feet long.

Major donors to move the Mandt Hall from Mandt which is nine miles west of Grafton to the present site were: Earl

Anderson, \$500; Jens Torkelson, \$100; Arnold Clemenson, \$500; Art Tallackson, Jr., \$500; Paul Hankey, \$500; Arnold Hove, \$200; Amos Flaten, Sr., \$200; Hankey Farms, \$200; Nels Midgarden, Midgarden Potato Co., \$100; Tommy Thompson, \$200; Thompson Farms (Bernice Hall, Doris Knaus and Stella Thompson), \$250; Quinten Daley, \$100.

### Society Owns Books

The Historical Society owns a series of twelve books on the numerous ethnic groups in America and were written by Percie V. Hillbrand. They are kept at the home of Mrs. Jim (Otella) Johnson in Adams and she has been bringing them to our monthly historical meetings.



A bright new sign stands at the entrance of the Walsh Heritage Village. Ann McCann, local artist and owner of Letter Perfect Signs, Grafton, volunteered her talent of woodburning and painting. The sign shows a pioneer harvest scene. The original sign was donated by the V.F.W. of Grafton.

# Riverboats On The Red

The colorful and picturesque days of the steamboat on the Red lasted from 1859 when the Anson Northrup made a voyage to Fort Gary until 1911 when the sternwheeler "Grand Forks" made a nostalgic memorial trip to Winnipeg. The heaviest traffic was during the 70s and early 80s.

In 1875 when Fisher's Landing on the Red Lake River was as far as the railroad came, it was a transfer point from train to river steamer for both passengers and freight bound for Grand Forks and down the Red River to Winnipeg.

In June, 1871, Antoine Girard pitched his tent on the historical ground of Acton and in 1872, he was followed by Doc. Kelley and, in 1875, Jacob Reinhardt opened a general store at Acton, the first companion building to the old stage coach office at Kelley's Point, a name earlier applied to Acton.

The survey of Acton Township was made in 1879 and the large store of Budge, Eshelman and Anderson was opened the same spring. Thereafter, Acton teemed with activity. Hundreds of immigrants arrived weekly and headed westward and occupied the timberland along the Park and Forest rivers.

Merchants in the surrounding communities hauled their supplies from Acton and St. Andrews with wagons drawn by horses and oxen. Wm. MacKenzie

hauled his supplies to Sweden; Wm. Chandler shipped his merchandise from Grand Forks to St. Andrews and carted it by wagon and horses to Grafton where he set up in business on the banks of the Park River.

Acton was first known as Rose Point, then Kelley's Point and finally Acton. News items in the Acton News for Thursday, May 26, 1881, comment that "the river banks look beautiful in their bright hues;" "there is a large number of rafts of logs passing this point every day;" "the river has fallen a few feet during the past week and is now almost down to the regular channel;" "five rafts of lumber went down the river by Acton last Sunday evening, from Moorhead for Winnipeg;" "at least one hundred immigrants have come into town during the past week and are hunting up locations in the vicinity;" "the steamer, Grandin, came down from Fargo and discharged a lot of miscellaneous freight at this point, and returned back on Saturday morning;" "during the temporary absence of Capt. Alex Griggs at St. Paul, the last trip of the Selkirk was under the command of Pilot Hartshorn, and he didn't seem to be out of place either;" "up to the hour of going to press, we have been unable to learn of any railroad news of importance. The latest rumor is that a surveying party is near the Big Salt and will pass Acton about seven to the westward;" "James Hilton, the gentlemanly and obliging clerk of the steamer Selkirk, dropped in upon us one day last week. Jim is one of the popular clerks on the river and a man to "stand in with."

An advertisement for the Acton

House reads "Acton House W. F. Schumann & Son, Acton, North Dakota. The Acton House is new and is the largest hotel building in town. It is only one square from the steamboat landing. Stages for Pembina, Grand Forks and the west start from this house. There is a good stable connected with the house and plenty of hay. Terms reasonable. Good wines, liquors and cigars in the Sample Room connected with the House."

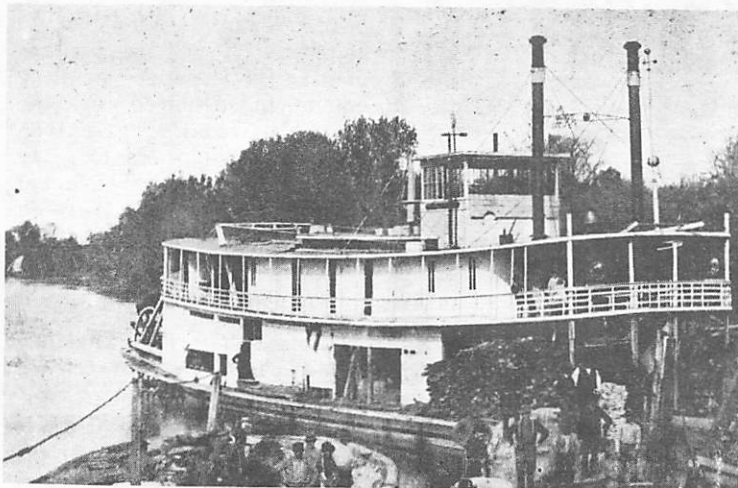
The Grafton News and Times for October 26, 1932, carried this article: "The Red River was then the highway (1881) of commerce. Three steamboats — Selkirk, Grandin, and Pluck — sailed regularly on its water and occasionally the palatial Northwest, which cost \$26,000 would pass Acton en route to the Assiniboine River and Lake Winnipeg. Rafts of lumber would pass Acton on their way from Moorhead to Winnipeg. The water supply was ample."

A local item in the first issue of the Acton Times stated that "the steamer Selkirk had some trouble in landing on account of the depth of the water on the banks and slippery mud."

It was river navigation that built Acton. "The first tarrier here was a Norwegian woodchopper named Larson, who supplied the steamboats with fuel" according to the historical account in the initial number of that pioneer publication.

Acton prices in 1881 were wheat 74 cents, barley 65 cents, oats 65 cents, flour \$4 per cwt., mess pork \$22 per barrel, bacon sides per lb. 13 cents, hams 15 cents, butter and lard 15 cents per lb., cheese 20 cents.

Script by Kenneth Colter)



## Centennial Spoons Available

Approximately one hundred Walsh County Centennial spoons remain to be sold since our centennial celebration in 1981. A total of sixteen hundred were purchased and now only a limited number remain to be sold. They will become a collector's item since no other county centennial items commemorating the 100th birthday of Walsh County were ordered. They can be ordered by mailing \$4.50 to Lorraine Paulson, county spoon chairperson, Hoople, N. Dak. 58243, or purchased locally from Mrs. Leonard Jensen, Edinburg; Mrs. Wendell White, Park River; Mary Rose Rodriguez or First Federal Savings and Loan, both of Grafton.

## Pancake Benefit Served

The Third Annual Pancake Meal was served in the theatre building of the Heritage Village on Sunday, October 10th, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. for the benefit of the village. Lois Kieley and Clifford Grove were co-chairpersons of the event and Clifford Grove and Harvey Lykken mixed all the batter. The cakes certainly were uniform in size since Henry Lundene used his new pancake dispenser. The menu included pancakes, eggs, sausages, orange juice and coffee. The event showed a profit of \$655.00.

Throughout the day the Grafton Centennial Slide Presentation which was compiled by Steve Larson and the First National Bank in Grafton was shown. Bill Kingsbury had been the photographer for these slides. The event was well attended and many individuals volunteered their services to make this event a success.



Four supporters of the historical society who died in 1982 are: Herman Schanilec, Sr., Frank Przepiora, and Adrian Danielski from the Minto area and Oscar Sunderland, Adams. Blessed be their memory.

## Annual Benefit Auction Held

An auction sale of new and used items for the benefit of the Heritage Village was held on Saturday, November 6. Auction proceeds were \$1,667.50. Francis Chromy, auctioneer, and the Walsh County Bank which clerked the sale volunteered their services. Paul Torgeson was chairman of the sale and the collection of items from Grafton. Assisting Mr. Torgeson were Homer Nelson, Charles Matcha, Jack Bannerman, W. J. Johnston, Nick Altendorf, J. J. O'Brien, Bill McIntyre and George Egeland. Lunch was served by the British Isles Organization. The generosity of many make this our best benefit auction and thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.



# Summary Of Historical Society For 1982

In 1981 Walsh County celebrated its centennial and now we are into the first year of a new century of history for Walsh County. Many of us are working to preserve the history of our county in various ways. In the past year and a half several thousand sets of "Walsh Heritage" books have been sold. We are very proud of our two thousand seven hundred seventy-three pages of printed history. It took thousands of hours of volunteer work from many individuals to reach this goal. Below is a summary of some of the activities of the society in 1982.

The annual meeting of the Walsh County Historical society was held in January at the county courthouse in Grafton with a potluck lunch. Officers for 1982 were installed and plans for the new year were discussed. LeRoy Stroh, Grafton, gave background data on the telephone building which has been moved to the Walsh Heritage Village in Grafton and he displayed a collection of old tools and books on early telephones which were then donated to the village to be kept in the telephone exchange building.

The February meeting of the society was held in Minto at the Senior Citizen Center. March 3rd was the date scheduled for selling society memberships at banks and savings and loans throughout the county. Emma Lou Minden, Grafton, coordinated the drive. Saturday, March 13, was the date announced for the Emerald Isle dinner and program at the American Legion in Grafton. Again this year, Charles Stewart, Grafton, will coordinate volunteers at the county museum in Minto when it is open for the summer months. His plans are to appoint city and area captains. The museum will open on Memorial Day weekend and every Sunday afternoon throughout the summer and by special appointment until Labor Day weekend. Stephanie Prepiora serves as volunteer curator at the county museum.

Women from the Adams area hosted the March meeting of the society at the county extension office in Park River. In April the society honored its president, Henry Lundene, and his wife, Selma, on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary. They are both charter members of the

society and faithful workers, promoters and supporters of the society. A decorated anniversary cake centered the serving table. Stephanie Prepiora, county membership chairperson, reported that the society has five hundred thirty-five paid memberships to date. Charles Stewart reported that the Walsh County Centennial time capsule had been sealed and placed in a vault in the county courthouse. (In October, 1982, the capsule was placed in concrete along with the Grafton Centennial capsule at the Heritage Village in Grafton.) Ed and Alice Couture will be caretakers at the Heritage Village this summer.

The May meeting of the society was held at the Heritage Village in Grafton with women from that area as hostesses. Plans for "Museum Alive" scheduled for Sunday, July 11, at the county museum in Minto were discussed. The society assisted when Grafton celebrated its centennial in June. Ethel Mohagen and Mary Hove were co-chairpersons of serving lunch at the village June 20-26 when the all-class reunion headquarters were set up in the theatre building. Tours of the village were also conducted.

July was a busy month for the society. Again "Museum Alive" was a huge success. And, the society held a potluck noon picnic and tour at the farm and museum of Sig and Josie Jagielski north of Grafton.

There was no regular business meeting in August because the Northeast North Dakota Pioneer Machinery Association held their annual threshing show and machinery display in Park River. In September the society met in Grafton with local women as hostesses at the theatre building. Lois Kieley reported on the successful rummage sale held for two days in late September and Jean Bodmer reported on the annual antique show and display which was held at the village in August.

The October meeting of the society was held at the courthouse in Grafton with a potluck lunch. Lois Kieley, co-chairperson of the annual pancake meal along with Clifford Grove, reported that the meal was well attended and a financial success. Clifford Grove and Harvey Lykken sure know how to mix pancake batter. Gladys

Lewis, Park River, who is a director of the historical society and active in many community and church activities, was one of the five finalists for the "Farm Wife Award" at the Walsh County Fair and State Potato Show in Park River. She was nominated by the Historical Society.

A benefit auction for the village was held November 6th in the theatre building. New and used items were auctioned off by Francis Chromy and clerked by the Walsh County Bank. Paul Torgeson, Grafton, was chairman of the sale and he was assisted by a group of men from Grafton. Thanks to all these men for volunteering their services and the women who served lunch. The November meeting of the society was held at the county courthouse and a potluck lunch was served. Officers for 1983 were elected. And, the first folk-a-rama will be held at the Heritage Village in December.

Besides these general meetings two executive board meetings were held.

Thanks to those who helped support our society in so many ways this past year and your cooperation is needed for the coming year.

1982 officers of society are: Henry Lundene, president; Ed Gudajtes, vice president; Leonard Jensen, treasurer; Jean Bodmer, recording secretary; Lorraine Paulson, corresponding secretary.

Directors are: Harold Harris, Gladys Lewis, John Paulson, Pete Matejcek, Mary Rose Rodriguez, John Gadajtes, Stephanie Prepiora, Denis Monson and Kay Vang. Chairman of Heritage Village Board, Ralph Adamsen, and Chairman of County Museum Board, Frank Schiller.

Lorraine Paulson,  
Corresponding Secretary



## Museum Receives Donation

Standing on the ground of the Walsh County Historical Society Museum in Minto are Dan Lessard, President of the Walsh County Bank in Grafton, who is presenting a check for \$5,800 to Stephanie Prepiora, volunteer museum curator. The money from the bank and the Otto Bremer Foundation was used for repair work at the museum. A new sidewalk in front of the museum, addition to an existing fence and a fire door on the west side of the quonset museum building. Left to right are Lessard; Frank Schiller, museum board chairman; Prepiora; John Gudajtes, board member; Carol Tibert, secretary; and Jim Schanilec, treasurer.

# War Memorials Honor County Veterans

On the west side of our Walsh County Courthouse in Grafton stand two monuments — one honoring those who served in the Spanish-American War and the other honors veterans from World War I and II.

The memorial honoring Walsh County men who served in the Spanish-American War was erected in 1900. A plaque bearing the inscription "Erected by Walsh County and its citizens, A.D. 1900, in honor of their heroic dead." Originally the monument stood in a park north of the first courthouse and when the new courthouse was built, it was located so that the memorial was centered in front of the new structure. The monument is made of limestone with a round pillar mounted upon a square tiered base. A band of eighteen stars at the top of the pillar helps set off the soldier which is made of copper. Carved on the front of the memorial is the inscription, "You can't stampede the 1st

North Dakota" which is a quotation from General Lawton. A plaque bears the inscription: "Sacred to the memory of the brave boys of Company C who gave up their lives in the service of their country." On the north side of the memorial there is a plaque bearing the following history of the Campaign: "Company C, 1st. N. Dak. Vol. Inf. enlisted for the Spanish-American War April 26, 1898, was mustered in May 14, 1898; took part in the capture of Manila, P.I., August 13, 1898, and then Santa Cruz, the San Isidro and Morang expeditions during the Philippine insurrection, participating in 24 engagements, was mustered out at San Francisco, September 25, 1899, arrived at Grafton, October 25, 1899. Every duty well done." On the south side of the memorial is a plaque bearing the names of those who lost their lives and listed as follows: Corporal Isidore Driscoll, Waggoner Peter

W. Tompkins, Private Alfred C. Almen, Private Wm. C. Lamb, Private John Buckley, Private Frank Upham, Private Olai Berg, and Private Nathan Myers.

The World War I & II Memorial is dedicated to the women and men of Walsh County who served their country in these two World Wars. The monument is located forty feet west of the Spanish-American War Memorial on the courthouse grounds. It is a plain limestone shaft with three panels topped with a large bronze eagle.

The plaque on the center panel bears the inscription: "Walsh County Memorial. In honor of men and women who served their country during World War I and World War II. Sacred to the memory of those who died for Liberty, Justice and Peace. Erected by the citizens of Walsh County, 1950."

Maybe we should be thinking about erecting memorials on the courthouse grounds to honor veterans from the Korean War and Vietnam War.

## Membership In Society

This year 583 memberships were collected, this represents 497 individual and 86 business members. No life members were received this year. During the March 3 membership drive when members of the Walsh County Historical Society did membership collections in the county banks and savings and loan institutions, a total of 206 individual and 7 business memberships were collected. The total of 583 memberships collected this year plus the 17 life

members gives us a total of 600 members for 1982. Annual dues are \$3, annual business dues are \$10 and life membership is \$100. Renew your membership and help maintain our county historical society. If you wish to receive the Red River Valley Heritage Press, add two dollars to your membership dues. This interesting publication comes out about ten times per year and is most interesting and educational. That is truly a great buy.



Walsh County Courthouse with war memorials in foreground.

## Centennials Celebrated

Centennials were celebrated by the towns of Pisek, Grafton and Edinburg this summer. They all had parades, all-class reunions and many other community events.

Many families have been celebrating centennials the past three years since most farms were homesteaded from 1879-1882

in what is now Walsh County. This summer the Lundene family from near Adams erected a monument on the Henry Lundene farm which is the original family homestead. A 100th family birthday party has been a milestone celebrated by many families throughout this area.

### Time To Renew 1983 Memberships

Renew your 1983 memberships. We would appreciate it very much if you would take a few minutes of your time to mail your yearly dues and in turn, you will receive your membership card.

- ANNUAL REGULAR DUES..... \$3.00 per person
- ANNUAL BUSINESS & INSTITUTIONAL..... \$10.00
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP..... \$100

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Stephanie Prepiora, Membership Chairman  
Walsh County Historical Society  
Minto, North Dakota 58261

Editor - LORRAINE PAULSON

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Joys of the season.  
May the holidays  
find you healthy  
and happy.