

Native Costumes, left to right: Ruby Beyer, Grafton, dressed in an authentic costume from Sweden, and Ruth Holt, Grafton, dressed in her Norwegian outfit from Norway at the Folkarama.

## Second Folkarama Held At Village

The ethnic make-up of Walsh County was evident when the second annual Folkarama was held at the Walsh Heritage Village in Grafton on Sunday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The day opened with Roy Mohagen conducting Norwegian Worship Service at 11 a.m. in the Landstad Church on the village grounds.

At noon there was a parade of flags. Representatives from each country in native costumes carried flags representing their country. Norv Elbert, Grafton, did a great job as master of ceremonies during the afternoon. There was a short sing-along with accompaniment by the Red River Brass.

The Czech group from Pisek was the first to entertain followed by the French, Icelandic, Norwegians, Cambodians, Polish and the British Isles.

Throughout the day the aroma of ethnic food, the sight of authentic costumes and the sound

of ethnic entertainment filled the theatre building. Tables lined the walls where each ethnic group could sell and serve their specialties. No one had to leave the folkarama hungry. The hardest decision was to know what to sample. Coffee was served by the village auxiliary and you could stop at each table to select your favorite foods.

In charge of arrangements were Lois Kielely and Mary Rose Rodriguez. Representatives from each of the ethnic groups met during the spring to assist with the plans. The next Folkarama is planned for Sunday, June 23, 1985, at the Heritage Village.

### Looking For A Gift

The Walsh Heritage Village has T-shirts, caps and mugs for sale. The logo for the village and society is printed on each item. If interested, contact Mary Rose Rodriguez, Lois Kielely or Jim Tibert.

## 1984 Museum Alive Held In July

Another year of preparation culminated July 8, 1984, when the County Museum at Minto, N.D., opened its doors for the 4th "MUSEUM ALIVE."

One thousand two hundred persons signed the register and went back into the "good old days" for an authentic glimpse and taste of long ago.

Hot dogs, lemonade, penny candy, 5 cent ice cream cones, pickles out of a crock, popcorn and cotton candy were served from noon until it was all gone.

New attractions on display were another street in town that includes: a butcher shop, corset shop, photography shop (where real photos were taken), a church sanctuary and a real-live saloon with player-piano music and ladies of the evening on stage until close-up.

As you approached the Armed Forces display, one could hear artillery fire in the background.

This year as you viewed the Indian display, you could listen to the rhythmic beating of tom-toms.

Every phase of the museum comes alive for this day. All displays were open and performing. This includes the country store, post office, drug store, ice cream parlor, creamery, blacksmith shop, etc. All were open for business. Various displays and demonstrations were also alive. You could view china painting, hardanger, rope making, spinning wool on the wheel and egg testing were all demonstrated.

See MUSEUM ALIVE  
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Early trappers and hunters. Florence and Harvey Lykken, Adams, stop to visit with the early trappers in the Valley during "Museum Alive."



Women love to shop! Dina Barta, Forest River, window shopping on main street at the Walsh County Museum in Minto. "I think the old dress that I'm wearing is as nice as the new one in the window."



Smile! Mary Mach, Minto, is seated in an old photographer's chair during "Museum Alive." Chair was donated to the museum in memory of Frank Przypiora.

## Museum Adds A New Street

"On the boardwalk in the Minto Museum", to paraphrase an old tune, is where the creativity, energy and a winter's toil was spent in 1984.

Old main Street, created a few years ago, displays a cream testing station, postoffice, drug store, ice cream parlor, barber shop and livery feed store. Now another street, as yet unnamed, has been formed in the large room across the hall. This is the street with the boardwalks that in the past kept m' ladys' skirts free from mud and challenged the men to shooting a stream of

snooze between the cracks.

A store along the boardwalk on the west side will take you past the Photographers Galley where you held a pose in the fancy photographers chair which had a headclamp to insure that you did not move and blur the exposure.

After the exhaustive picture taking session, you could continue on the boardwalk and step into the saloon if you are so disposed, belly-up to the bar and exchange tall-tales with the bartender and the old timers, both manikens, and wait for the next variety act to appear on the stage. Meanwhile, while you sample your favorite beverage, the piano player, (maniken) will serenade you (by hidden cassette player) with actual songs of the time. The saloon girl in her fancy clothes from Denver may share a glass with you. After a visit to the saloon, the logical step is to continue up the boardwalk to the small village church to repent your sins where communal cups, confessionals, stained glass, robes and vestments from area churches have been preserved.

Across the street to the east are other village businesses — a corset and dress shop and a butcher shop both done in a diorama display. The prices posted in the meat market would make you wish for the good old days.

This new street was designed and created by Frank Schiller. The art work was done by Lori Aslakson and Amy Jo Stewart. The addition of battle fire sound effects for the military display gives a fearful and awesome tone to the show case as does the sound of Indian tom-toms and chanting coming from the Native

American Collection.

Other new displays in 1984 are: kerosene lamps, albums, post cards of 1900's and metal toys.

A grant from the North Dakota Community Foundation will aid in further improvements in the pioneer home on the second floor.

All this has to be seen to be appreciated. See it!!

### 1985 Officers

The following officers and directors were elected on November 25 to serve the Walsh County Historical Society for 1985:

Ed Gudajtes, Minto, president; Ora and Charles Stewart, Grafton, co-vice presidents; Mary Kennedy, Minto, treasurer; Jean Bodmer, Grafton, recording secretary; Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, corresponding secretary; Ted Barta, Forest River, and Leonard Fagerholt, Hoople, new directors, and John Paulson, Hoople, re-elected director. There are several holdover directors.

### Museum Alive

Cont. From Page One

The local ladies activated the kitchen. Homemade "Sinkers" were made, cooked and served all day.

All the buildings on the grounds were open. The street in front of the museum was roped off and a large display of antique cars was held.

There was a petting zoo for youngsters and oldsters. All kinds of small animals and birds were the recipients of lots of attention. Presiding over the live zoo was a young buffalo, imported for the festivities courtesy of James Earl, Grand Forks, N.D.

Frank Schiller, chairman of the museum, Stephanie Prepiora, museum curator, their museum board of directors and the great Minto City participation makes

this a memorable day for all who attended.



Taping television interview, left to right: Mary Kennedy, Minto, treasurer of the Walsh County Historical Society, visits with Madelyn Camrud, WDAZ T.V., Grand Forks, prior to "Museum Alive."

# Memory Of Poet Laureate Will Live On

Lydia O. Jackson, Poet Laureate of North Dakota and Walsh County resident, died on April 3, 1984, at the age of eighty-

two. Lydia loved North Dakota where she was born and where she died and is evident in her poetry. Lydia taught in rural

schools until her marriage to a young farmer, Art Jackson, who farmed just west of Grafton and that is where they continued to

make their home. Lydia is survived by her husband, Art, a resident at the Good Samaritan Home, Park River, and one daughter, Mrs. Leonard (Elizabeth) Fagerholt, Hoople.

Lydia's love of the country, pioneer days and the state influenced her writing. She won numerous awards and received recognition for her literary work and was a member of several groups of distinguished poets.

Lydia was the author of three books of poetry and over one thousand one hundred of her poems have been published in various magazines and books.

After serving many years as co-associate Poet Laureate of North Dakota and later as co Poet Laureate, Lydia O. Jackson became the lone Poet Laureate of our state.

Lydia's published books and unpublished and published poems and complete correspondence are now in the Special Collections section on the fourth floor of Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Lydia's daughter, Lizz, and grand-daughter, Roberta, are having a book of her poetry published entitled "Trilogy Trimmed in Lace", and should be ready before Christmas 1984. These books will be available at the Grafton Record or for more information contact Mrs. Leonard Fagerholt, Hoople.

Below are two poems we selected to print at this time.

## Children

Children are the lights — star bright —  
Lighting up life's tree  
Sheening it with laughter — glow  
Born of ecstasy;  
Decking it throughout the years  
With mid-summer's gladness  
Interwoven with the gray  
Of mid-winter's sadness  
God-directed, children beam  
On the tree of Life agleam

Lydia O. Jackson

## Sunset Years

Looking back to years gone by —  
Years that have a place  
In the archives of my heart  
re-arranged for space.  
I am sure to find intact  
Memories together  
With forget-me-nots that bloom  
In all kinds of weather.  
It is thus that years unfold  
One by one, all sunset-stoled.

Lydia O. Jackson

# A Tribute To Our Forefathers

(The following poem was written by Ebba E. Severson, Adams, North Dakota.)

## A Tribute To Our Forefathers

They came, those immigrants of old  
From lands across the sea.  
Their dreams were bright as purest gold  
Of the future yet to be  
They left behind, their homes and kin  
To cross the ocean wide;  
To see what fortunes lay within  
That land on the other side,  
They heard about the great midwest  
About its wide and fertile lands  
And vowed they would go there, would do their best  
With strong and willing hands.  
They came, the Norse, the Swedes, the Scots, the Danes;  
The Irish, the Czechs, and Germans too.  
They came by ox drawn wagon, came by train;  
To build a life anew.  
On North Dakota's prairies rich and broad,  
They found that, for which they sought;  
And built their homes with that black sod,  
To house what they had brought.  
They turned the furrows dark and straight  
With ox drawn walking plow.  
They worried when the spring was late  
If grain would ripen, then as now.  
Grasshoppers came, but much more dire  
Were the leaping flames of prairie fire.  
In the evening when the lamp was lit  
No one around the fire would idly sit;  
Father found shoes and harness to repair  
While Mother on a straight backed chair  
Beside her spinning wheel would like a charm  
Change wool into yarn, both soft and warm;  
To knit socks for all the busy feet  
To keep them snug and warm and looking neat  
On a warm spring day she would make soap,  
With garden weeds, she too, would cope  
When it came time for making hay  
They worked together day by day  
This pioneer man and his good wife  
As they dreamed their dreams of better life.  
A country church, a one-roomed school  
On the plains soon found a place  
Built by willing hands and simple tool;  
And from such as these, we still can trace  
The history of many a man, and woman, too,  
Who helped to make this country great.  
When as a nation it still was new.  
These old pioneers were of sturdy stock.  
And they made their dreams come true.  
And for all the blessings we have now,  
We must give these pioneers their due.  
So when we raise our flag up high  
See it unfurled against the sky  
Let us give them a quiet salute  
For their example of integrity and truth  
So rest, ye pioneers, of by-gone days  
Let us ne'er forget to sing your praise.



Norv Elbert, Grafton, dressed in a cavalry uniform served as master of ceremonies for the day long Folkarama held at the Heritage Village.

## Walsh Heritage Books Still Available

If you have not purchased all four volumes of the "Walsh Heritage" books they are still available.

Volumes one and two sell for \$23.00.

Volumes three and four sell for \$33.00.

(Both amounts include postage.)

These books can also be purchased at area banks and savings and loans in Walsh County. They can also be ordered from Leonard Jensen, Edinburg, N. Dak., 58277; James Johnson, Adams, N. Dak., 58210; or R.F. "Pete" Matejcek, Lankin, 58250. Pete Matejcek served as chairman of volumes three and four of the books. The four books have a total of 2,774 pages of history.

# Activities Of Area Ethnic Groups

British Isles, Inc. had a relatively busy year starting with their Annual Robert Burns Dinner held in Park River at the Alexander House on January 25, 1984. Paul Meberg was Master of Ceremonies and special entertainment was provided by Maria Clark of Canada, a student at UND, who played several selections on her bag pipe. Maria also assisted in "Piping in the Haggis" a traditional Scottish event on Robert Burns Day. Ora Marie Stewart and Barbara Bracken carried in and served the "Haggis".

Jerry Bruce read several selections of Burns poetry and also enlightened the group with a biography of Robert Burns. Special guests were members of the British Wives of Grand Forks. Nita Fox who is originally from York, England; Delia Prickett, Oxford England; Vera Jantzen, Glasgow Scotland; Carolynne Cross, Cambridge England; and Dianna Rose of New Hampton, England. Each of the ladies spoke of their homeland and Vera Jantzen, not to outdo Jerry Bruce with his poetry reading, read "To a Mouse", by Burns.

Elections of officers was held at this meeting with Charles and Ora Marie Stewart elected as Co-Presidents; Francis and Margaret Phelan as Co-Vice-Presidents and Margaret Bruce as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Robert Burns dinner is also the kick-off for the annual Emerald Dinner and plans were soon underway for the Emerald Dinner which was held on March

17, 1984 at St. John's Parish Center in Grafton. The ladies of the Altar Society, who were "wear'n of the green" to keep in the spirit of the evening, served a delicious Irish meal. With his delightful Irish wit Judge James O'Keefe was Master of Ceremonies. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Amy Stewart at the piano accompanying Father Pat O'Conner of Oakwood, who is originally from Ireland, who sang several Irish songs. Tom Dohman of Grand Forks, an Irish Tenor who also sang and Art Schumacher of Drayton, who made his fiddle sound oh so Irish with a selection of Irish Jigs and Reels. Msgr. Allan Nillis of Park River played the piano and led the group in an Irish sing-a-long.

In June the British Isle participated in the Folkarama held at the Heritage Village in Grafton. Several members had made dolls and pillows using some of the Centennial flags from Grafton's Centennial that were left and the dolls and pillows were extremely popular, several orders were taken when the supply ran out. Irish spuds with toppin's were served along with Scotch shortbread and the tables had several items of interest from the British Isles.

In July, British Isle had a unit in the Park River Centennial Parade. Gordon Bracken drove and his wife, Barbara and several of the Stewart grandchildren rode wearing costumes of the British Isles. Later on the evening of the 4th

Rev. Gannon and four girls from Bismarck were sponsored by British Isle to participate in the Ethnic program held at the Park River Park. Rev. Gannon dressed in an authentic Scottish outfit played the bag pipe and the girls also dressed in kilts and sashes danced and sang a selection of Scottish tunes.

This fall the British Isle is

planning to celebrate St. Andrews Day with a dinner at Flanagan's Fancy in Edinburg. Tickets are on sale now from any British Isle member. This is a new event for our group and is limited to members only. Purchasing a dinner ticket will include a membership to British Isles, Inc.

## Scandinavian Heritage Society

The Scandinavian Heritage Society took part in the Second Annual Folkarama on June 17th at the Heritage Village, Grafton. Norwegian Worship Services were held in the Landstad Church on the grounds at 11 a.m. with Roy Mohagen, Grafton, delivering the message in Norwegian. Margaret Johnson, Grafton, served as accompanist. Special music by the Almen Sisters — Ruby Olson, Velma Estad and Esther Almen. Also, vocal music by Edna Ohnstad, Fairdale.

Taking part in the ethnic program representing the Scandinavian group were: Helen and Lloyd Hilde, Adams, vocal duet, accompanied by Sylvia Wick; Ella Hanson, Park River played the violin accompanied by Sylvia Wick, Park River, on the piano with narration by Thelma Wick; vocal duet by Synnove and Karl Svarthus, rural Grafton, accompanied by Edith Coulthart on the accordion and Gloris Larson, Grafton, on the piano.

Otella and James Johnson, Adams, and Britt and Harlan Haslekaas, Fairdale, had a display of Scandinavian artifacts.

Scandinavian food was served throughout the day.

The club has over forty paid memberships and dues are only one dollar per year. Members submitted Scandinavian recipes and Cora and Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, made one hundred cookbooks which were sold for two dollars each with proceeds going to the club. Scandinavian flags and pins ordered by Ethel Mohagen were also sold.

The first meeting of the year was held in March at the home of Alida Goodman, Grafton, and the other meetings this year were held at the Heritage Village. Representatives from the group met several times with the group planning the folkarama.

The main project of the society is to oversee the Landstad Church on the village grounds. Roy Mohagen fastened wallboard and did some painting in the church and cables are being installed to prevent walls from bulging outward and the roof from sagging. The club also cleaned the church in May.

Officers of the Scandinavian Heritage Society are: co-presidents — Edith Coulthart and Ruth Holt; co-vice presidents and membership — Alida Goodman and Eleanore Clark; treasurer — Ethel Mohagen; secretary — Lorraine Paulson.

## Icelandic Heritage Club

The Iceland Heritage Club of Grafton, ND held its annual election meeting on March 25, 1984 which resulted in the following election of officers: Lillian Wild — President; Victor Johnson — Vice President; Celeste Flanagan — Treasurer; Margaret Thomasson — Secretary; Donna Stark — Director.

Our club participated in the second annual Folkarama held on June 17 at Heritage Village. The Icelandic Heritage Choir,

directed by Becky Morrison of Bathgate and accompanied by Suzanne Olafson of rural Edinburg sang three songs in Icelandic. Erika Wild, in her great grandmother's Icelandic costume "Passufut", was the Icelandic flag bearer in the Parade of Flags. Elaine Olafson Byron from Park River modeled her great grandmother's wedding dress which is over one hundred years old. The following ethnic foods were served from our

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The leprechaun seems to be giving his blessing to the officers of the British Isles, Inc., and others after the St. Patrick's Day dinner and program on March 17th at St. John's Parish Center, Grafton. From the left are Charles Stewart, co president; Margaret Bruce, secretary-treasurer, Judge James O'Keefe who served as master of ceremonies, Monsignor Allan Nillis, who provided entertainment on the piano, and Margaret and Francis Phelan, co vice presidents. Not present for the picture was co president, Ora Stewart.

# 1984 Historical Society Summary

1984 was another active year for the Walsh County Historical Society. Ten general meetings were held along with several executive board meetings. Several revisions were made in the constitutional by-laws. Ed. Gudajtes and Charles Stewart were co. ch. of the revision committee and Judge James O'Keefe volunteered his legal advise.

The annual meeting of the historical society was held in January at the Golden Age Senior Citizen Center, Minto. Jim Schanilec gave the annual report of the county museum in Minto, Stephanie Prepora gave the membership report, Lois Kieley the heritage village report and Mary Kennedy the treasurer's report.

Elizabeth Hempsten and Gail Hand showed a video tape on pioneer history which they had filmed. The vice chairman of the historical society, Charles Stewart, arranges special programs at the general meetings.

The annual Bobby Burns Program and Meal was served in Park River on January 25th at the Alexander House.

February meeting was held at the county courthouse, Grafton. Jean Bodmer, Grafton, had a display and presented history and Chinese legend of blue willow ware or pottery.

Forest River hosted the March meeting at the senior citizen center. Charles Stewart showed the film, "The Plow that Broke the Plains". The countywide membership drive was held March 2nd and 5th. Tables were set-up in several area banks and savings and loans and 277 memberships were collected.

The Annual Emerald Isle Program and Dinner was served at St. John's Church in Grafton on March 17th.

The April meeting was held in Adams at the Sr. Citizen Center. Otella and James Johnson and Florence and Harvey Lykken showed slides and told about their trip to Norway the previous summer.

Pisek hosted the May meeting at the Sr. Citizen Center. Elaine and Ludger Kadlec showed a movie and told about their recent trip to China. Elaine also showed and told about some of the articles she had purchased in

China.

The Walsh County Museum opens for the summer on Memorial Day Weekend.

The second folkarama was held at the Walsh Heritage village in Grafton on June 17th. The event was well attended so another success.

Mick Frank, Bismarck, presented a monologue on Alexander Henry, early fur trader in the Red River Valley, at the Alexander Henry Rest area on June 27th. Charles and Ora Stewart were in charge of arrangements for the program and the catered noon lunch.

The one-quarter mill levy increase for the Walsh County Historical Society was defeated 920 to 721 in the primary election.

"Museum Alive" was held at the County Museum in Minto on July 8th. A short business meeting followed "Museum Alive". The day was another huge success.

There was no meeting in August because the Northeast North Dakota Pioneer Machinery Association held their 9th annual threshing bee and machinery display in Park River.

The September meeting was held in Edinburg at the American Legion. Mrs. Willard Hove recently completed writing a history of the Walsh County Historical Society since its beginning in 1967. The society received a cash gift of two hundred and twenty dollars from the Walsh County Pioneer Daughters Organization which recently disbanded.

The annual pancake benefit was held at the Heritage Village followed by the business meeting. Pictures from Salter's Photographic Studio, Grafton, were on display and available free of charge for anyone who wanted them. Birthday cake was served in honor of Stephanie Prepora's birthday. She has served as membership chairperson and volunteer curator at the county museum for many years.

In the November General Election the one quarter mill levy was once again defeated 3,594 to 2,711.

The final meeting of the year was held at the Senior Citizen Center, Park River. A short memorial service was held for members of the society who died

this past year. Election of officers for 1985 were elected.

1984 Officers: President Ed Gudajtes, Minto; Vice President Charles Stewart, Grafton; Treasurer Mary Kennedy, Minto; Recording Secretary Jean Bodmer, Grafton; Corresponding Secretary Lorraine Paulson, Hoople.

Directors: Leonard Jensen, Edinburg; James Johnson and Harvey Lykken, Adams; Mary Rose Rodriguez, Kay Vang, and Roy Mohagen, Grafton; Gladys

Lewis, Park River; John Paulson, Hoople.

Thanks to everyone who supported our county historical society in anyway such as membership, attendance, hosting meetings, volunteering time for our numerous activities, as well as donating items for our museum and heritage village. Each one of you are most important if we are to continue and hopefully grow.

Lorraine Paulson, Corr. Sec.

## Ethnic Groups Cont. From Page 4

booth: brown bread with rulla pylsa, brown bread with hangikjot, skyr with cream and sugar, mysostur on white bread, vinarterta, ponnukukkur, asta bollur and kleinur.

The Icelandic Heritage choir also sang at the Park River centennial held on July 4th and again at the celebration at the Icelandic State Park in Cavalier.

On August 11th we sponsored the Icelandic Male Voice Choir of Greater Seattle in a concert held at the Grafton Lutheran church. This was well attended and very well received. Following the concert we hosted the choir and all who attended the concert to a reception in the church parlors to give everyone a chance to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends as well as to partake of some Icelandic goodies along with the fellowship. The choir had been on a tour of the Icelandic communities in Canada before

coming to Grafton for a concert. Last year they toured Iceland and were very well received wherever they went. They sing both Icelandic and English and have a large repertoire of varied songs. While in Iceland, they recorded their concert and a limited number of cassette tapes are available for sale. They sell for \$10.00 and can be purchased by contacting Margaret Thomasson, 303 Kittson Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237.

Our club is planning its second annual Fun Festival night to be held in the American Legion Club on November 30, at 7 p.m. This party is being held for club members and invited guests only. We invited all people of Icelandic heritage from any area to join our club. Membership dues are \$10.00 per family, \$5.00 per singles, or for person age 62 or over \$5.00 per couple or \$3.00 per single.

## French Ethnic Group

The French Ethnic Group of the Walsh County Historical Society met six times in 1984. Slides were shown on France and Quebec, and on June 17th a fun filled afternoon was spent at the Folkarama at the Heritage Village in Grafton. The group sold pea soup, French bread, crepes, and molasses cookies. The members who participated wore costumes, and a group sang Frere Jacques, Alouette, and Aux Claire De La Lune. The entertainers were age 5 to 90 years. The Group singers were — Pres. Agnes Bolek, Sec. Cecilia Sass, Rose Sevigny, Marie

Byzewski, Rosemary Fisher, Kim and Jaime Fisher, Cristy and Lancer Schrum, Jalene and Karie Bolek, and Alan Berry. The workers at the booth were Cecilia Sass, Agnes Bolek, Isabell Collette, and Clarabell Demers.

We hope to have more people of French ancestry join our group and plans are in the talking stage for the next folkarama in 1985.

We lost one of our members on Sept. 29, Alice Couture of Drayton passed away and services were held in Drayton.

Our officers remain the same as last year.

# History And Future Of Heritage Society

Because of the divisiveness of state and international boundaries, that heritage that is uniquely Red River Valley was being lost. That day in 1964, the Red River Valley Heritage Society was founded. Its goals were simple: to promote the spirit of a unified Red River Valley; to minimize the divisiveness of the political boundaries; to educate people about our unique Red River Valley Heritage, and to build a stronger Red River Valley, both culturally and economically.



Nowhere in the world, perhaps is the ultimate absurdity of political boundaries more clearly defined. Economically, geographically, climatically and historically, the Red River Valley is a unit, yet it is divided by state and international boundaries, and its story is correspondingly fragmented.

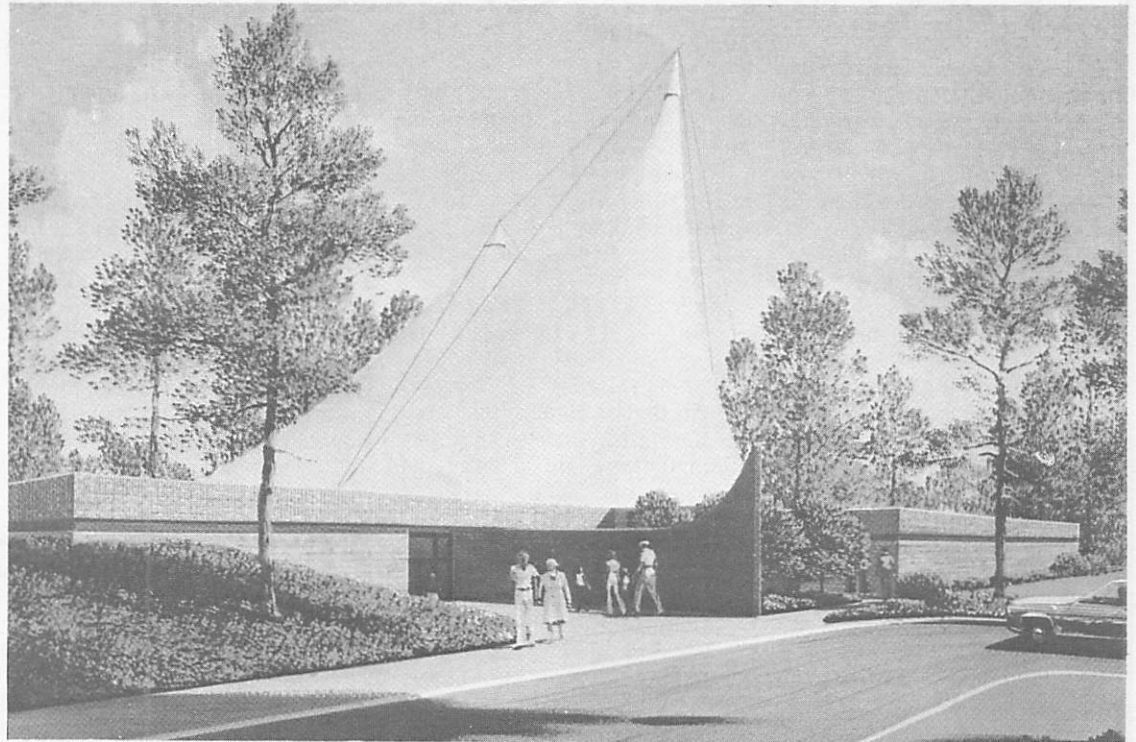
— A report to the Legislature on Interpretive Programming in Minnesota. Minnesota Historical Society, 1976.

The group of people who formed the RRVHS in 1964 saw that the heritage specific to the Red River Valley was being lost. Yes, the many county and local organizations were doing an excellent job preserving local history and artifacts. But the broad story, the story of the Valley, was not being told.

Education, they felt, was the key. The earliest program of the Society was the annual high school essay writing contest. This contest, instituted that first year, was designed to encourage elementary and high school students to study Valley history, and to reward them for proceeding with excellence.

**“THE RED RIVER VALLEY — A UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF 130,000 SQUARE MILES, HOME FOR 1 MILLION PEOPLE.”**

But essay contests and publications on the Valley were not enough. Imbued with the idea from the leadership of the



Architect's conception of the Heritage-Hjemkomst Center to be constructed at the foot of the First Avenue Bridge, Moorhead. It will employ the latest in permanent fabric roof construction to house the Hjemkomst (Viking Ship) with full mast and yard erect. The result will be a unique architectural expression standing to a height of 105 feet.

Minnesota Historical Society, the Society embarked upon an ambitious plan to construct a network of heritage and cultural facilities and sites in the Valley.

## THE RED RIVER VALLEY INTERPRETIVE NETWORK

We ought to be able to do more and preserve more, if we can create facilities that will generate revenue through tourism, Society leaders reasoned.

In 1973, they commissioned a study called the “RED RIVER VALLEY INTERPRETIVE NETWORK, PHASE I.” That study defined a network of sites and facilities anchored by a major facility in Moorhead and a major facility in Winnipeg, each providing an overview of the entire picture of Valley heritage past, present and future. From the anchor centers, visitors would be directed into the valley to local centers where they would be able to get more specific thematic information in depth.

For the next 10 years, hundreds of meetings were held to discuss and plan for the concept. In the mean time, 18 counties published family history books, sponsored by the RRVHS.

But it was not until Dec. 1982

when the Hjemkomst Viking Incorporated, owners of the Viking Replica ship “Hjemkomst,” awarded the historic ship constructed by Robert Asp to the RRVHS to be included in the Interpretive Center did the spark for the Interpretive Center catch fire.

Almost immediately committees were formed and planning for a fund-drive began. After thousands of hours of volunteer labor, a \$3.7 million fund drive to construct the center has been completed. Ground breaking was Sept. 7, 1984.

With \$2.2 million raised from private sources, \$1 million from the state of Minnesota and over \$500,000 worth of land donated by the city of Moorhead, the long awaited, long planned for interpretive center will begin construction in the spring of 1985, with opening set for Summer, 1986.

The program, as conceived, has the opportunity to assist in preserving and passing on the heritage of a vast area so important to the development of our North American continent.

But even after 20 years of activity, the work of the RRVHS is only just beginning. The world in which we live is changing rapidly. We are entering an era of

electronic communication, computers, space travel, an era whereby accelerated change will be the order of the day. Yet we are approaching this era with a social system designed to meet the needs of 19th century immigrants.

New discoveries in the physical and biological sciences are rapidly changing the way we relate to each other and the world. The Interpretive Center and the proposed interpretive network is designed to lessen the severity of the corresponding social impact of these changes by relating what is happening now with what has happened in the past.

The magnificent construction and voyage of the Viking Ship Hjemkomst shows us that nothing is impossible, that to dream, and to try, is to achieve. From our heritage we can learn to know the power within, and to know of our strength to do more, perhaps ten times more than we think we can do, and that we just might succeed in the dreams we have for ourselves. Let us each take a step together and lay the groundwork for generations of tomorrow.

Submitted by Gary Phillips  
Red River Valley  
Heritage Society

## Honored By Society



Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, honored on her birthday by members of the historical society at the Oct. meeting in Grafton. Stephanie serves as membership chairperson of the historical society as well as volunteer curator at the county museum in Minto.

## Walsh County Historical Museum Board

The Walsh County Historical Museum is a branch of the Walsh County Historical Society and is subject to its rulings, however, it has its own board and constitution.

In 1984 the museum constitution was revised giving in more detail the purpose and functions of the museum and the various members of the board. Also, the number of directors was increased from 5 to 8.

Present officers for one year term: Chairman, Frank Schiller; Vice Chairman, Tony Osowski; Secretary, Joan Schanilec; Treasurer, Jim Schanilec; Curator-Manager, Stephanie Prepiora.

Board Members for three year term, Expire at end of indicated year: Donald Rudnik (1984); John Gudajtes (1984); Wen Kennedy (1985); Ted Barta (1985); Ed Stoltman (1985); Linda Dunnigan (1986); Janet Lysengen (1986); Terry Nowling (1986).

# Tribute to Elton W. Ringsak

"The Price of Freedom," which is a memorial display to the late Elton W. Ringsak, Grafton, was dedicated at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks in May, 1984. This memorial is located on the second floor of the student union and is a display of Ringsak's awards, medals, honors, photographs and the helmet he wore when he was wounded in World War II.

Elton Ringsak is the most highly decorated North Dakotan in World War II. Ringsak was born in Walsh County in November 1915, and he died in May, 1982, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Elton served his people as a state legislator and an attorney. He had many achievements and made many contributions to society. Elton earned his BS degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army from the UND in 1937. He served at several bases in the states in the prewar years before going to Ireland with the 1st Armored Division to prepare for combat in North Africa and later in Italy. He received his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on his 27th birthday in 1942. Over

the next two years, he compiled an outstanding record as a battalion commander and was wounded five times in action.

His medals awarded him for heroism made him one of the most decorated veterans to serve in World War II. Among the medals were two Distinguished Service Crosses, the Legion of Honor (awarded twice), the Legion of Merit, five Purple Hearts, the Italian Military Valor Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the French Crois DeGuerre with Oak Leaf Cluster. Ringsak's most serious and nearly fatal wound occurred in 1944 near Monte Casino in Italy when Shrapnel from a mortar round penetrated his helmet, resulting in partial paralysis.

Elton Ringsak returned to Grafton to rebuild his life. He began to work at controlling the convulsions caused by his injuries. Elton started back on his road to recovery. Elton received permission from the North Dakota Supreme Court to study law privately and was admitted to the North Dakota State Bar in 1948 and began his legal career in Grafton. From 1949-1956 he was Walsh County States Attorney. In 1958 he was

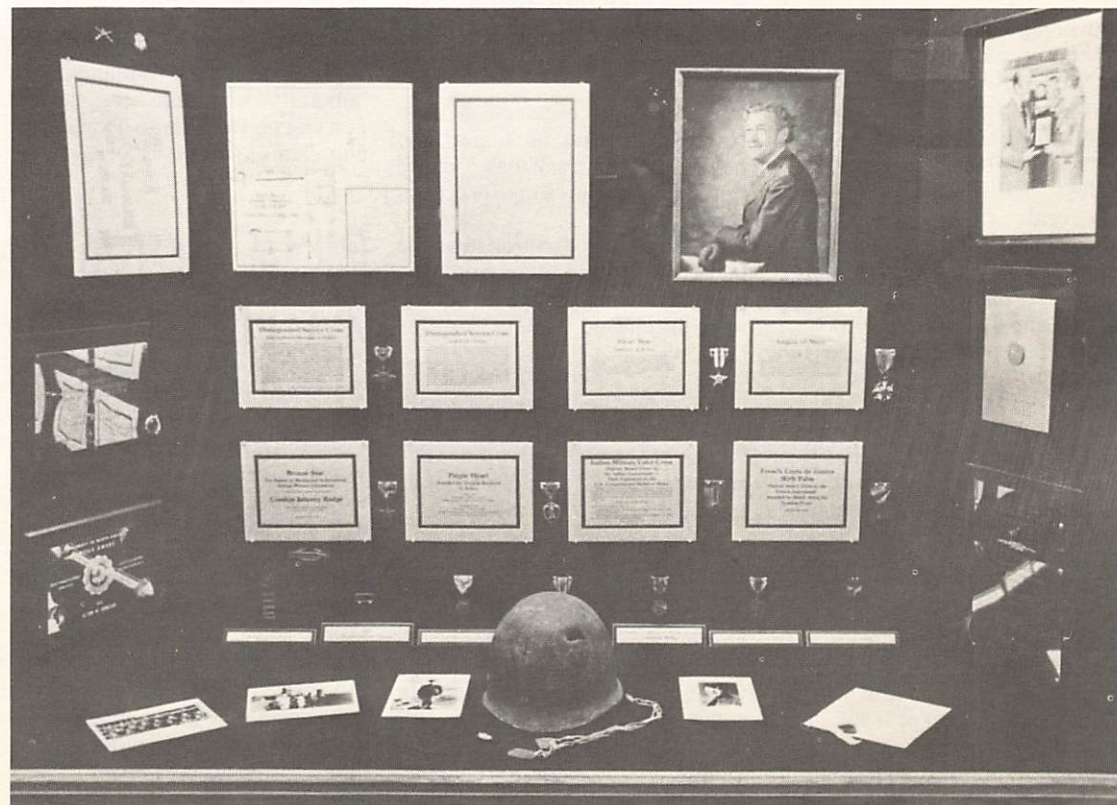


Lieutenant Colonel  
Elton W. Ringsak

elected to the North Dakota State Senate where he served seventeen years.

Another national award Ringsak received was the President's Trophy as Outstanding Handicapped American for 1974. And, the UND Alumni Association presented him the Sioux Award in 1976.

Elton Ringsak is survived by his wife, Ruth Baker Ringsak, and five children.



The Price of Freedom memorial for Elton Ringsak, Sr., was dedicated at the University of North Dakota in May. Ringsak's medals and awards are featured in the permanent display in Memorial Union at UND.

# Heritage Village Happenings

There have been numerous activities at the Heritage Village in 1984. The Toy Show and Sale was held in the theatre building on February 25th and 26th. The displays were mainly miniature farm machinery.

A Gun show was held on April 7th and 8th at the village and was well attended. There were exhibitors from Minnesota, South Dakota as well as North Dakota.

The Prairie Rose Craft Show and Sale was held on April 29th and also November 15th in the theatre building.

The Annual Rock and Gem show was held May 4-6th. School classes visited the show on the first day. The show was attended by over five hundred and each year the show continues to grow.

The Sixth Annual Antique Show and Sale was held August 17 and 18th at the village.

There was a sale of new and used items at the village sponsored by the Grafton Chamber of Commerce on September 28th and 29th.

Holiday items were on display and for sale when the second Holiday Shopping Spree was held on October 20th at the village with eight dealers participating.

The Annual Pancake Benefit for the Heritage Village was held Sunday, October 21. Old photographs from Salter's Studio were available for anyone who wanted them.

Several school groups and other clubs and organizations toured the Walsh Heritage Village grounds this summer. Nash School toured the village and held their school picnic at the village with the Nash Mother's Club in charge. Family reunions and other activities were also held in the theatre building this past year. The theatre building is available for a rental fee. For more information contact Jim Tibert or Mary Rose Rodriguez, Grafton.

Every year improvements and additions are made at the village. A caboose was received from Burlington Northern and will be placed on a section of track near the village depot. A cookcar was received from the Ed Monson family, rural Park River, and has been placed on the village grounds. Ralph Adamsen, Grafton, donated a large two

story car garage and it has been moved to the grounds and will be used as a storage and repair shop for the village. Ramps were placed on the Mandt Hall, Landstad Church and Schrank School making all buildings more accessible.

With grant money from the Bremer Foundation an office was constructed in the southwest corner of the theatre building. This area can be used by small groups for meetings. The room is paneled, carpeted, and has a desk, tables and chairs. The Bremer Funds also financed improvements in the kitchen and serving area. A long enclosed counter with storage area below makes serving much easier.

Money from the North Dakota Community Foundation help complete the stage area and doors were constructed underneath the stage for extra storage space.

All the ethnic shields have been placed inside the theatre building on the south wall. The ethnic flags from the theatre building were loaned to the city of Park River for their Centennial on July 4th and were also used in Park River for the Walsh County Fair and N.D. State Potato Show in October.

The village received a free standing as well as a portable podium from the Walsh County Centennial Spoon Fund proceeds this year.

Rodney Alme, Grafton, was the lucky winner in March of the computer. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets for this drawing.

We are thankful to the city of Grafton for their assistance with mowing the grounds, snow removal and scraping the roadway as well as the city police for their patrol protection.

Mary Rose Rodriguez and Lois Kieley have served as volunteer activity directors at the village this past year. Dorothy Lykken has served as chairperson of the village auxiliary and she and her workers have served at nearly every event at the village in '84. Martin Benefiet lived in the village mobile home in the early part of '84 and now Nathan Shereck lives on the grounds and serves as caretaker.

The Walsh County Historical



The cookcar donated to the Heritage Village by the Ed. Monson family, rural Park River.



The car garage donated to the Heritage Village by Ralph Adamsen, Grafton, to be used as a shop and storage area.

Society and Heritage Village board would like to thank everyone who assisted at the village this past year and who supported the many events or contributed in anyway. Your support and help is vital if we are to maintain the village and hopefully continue to grow. Serving on the village board are: chairman, Jim Tibert; vice

chairman, Ralph Adamsen; treasurer, Dave Droske; corresponding secretary, Lois Kieley; recording secretary, Mary Rose Rodriguez; directors, June Capouch, Jerry Countryman, Norv Elbert, Dorothy Lykken, Ethel Mohagen, John Morgan, Ray Charlton, Homer Nelson and LeRoy Nelson.

## Bid For Museum Guides At Historical Museum

The Board of Walsh County Historical Museum takes this means to express their thanks to the many fine members of the Walsh County Historical Society who volunteer their services to act as guides at the museum when it is open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 beginning with Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day. We appreciate your help and especially enjoy getting to know you better.

To be a guide at the museum is a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon. It gives you an opportunity to thoroughly view the museum contents, enjoy other members of the society with whom you will be working

and meet interesting people who also come to view the museum.

If you would like to spend a most rewarding Sunday afternoon, please submit your name to Stephanie Prepiora, Curator, Walsh County Historical Museum, Minto indicating the afternoon of your choice. Should you find this date later conflicts with another activity, it can be changed to a more suitable time for you.

## Centennials Held

The city of Park River and the Village of Conway both celebrated their 100th birthday this summer.



# Wm. Avery Rockefeller Alias Wm. Livingston Filed For Homestead In Walsh County

(As editor of this newsletter, I chose to write an article on Wm. Avery Rockefeller or Wm. Livingston who was a homesteader in Walsh County. Information was taken from the land abstract deed and the files of the Walsh County Record.)

William Avery Rockefeller was a colorful and interesting individual as well as mysterious. Wm. Avery using the name W. Livingston homesteaded a quarter section of land just east of what is now Park River. He received a receivers receipt on October 8, 1883 and was filed on May 23, 1885, for consideration of two hundred dollars for the NW¼ of section 27, twp. 157.

Wm. Avery Rockefeller was the father of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., Standard Oil Magnate. No one is certain why he came to Dakota Territory to homestead. One reason could have been his questioned practice of medicine or it could have been his marital situation or both. If the legend or stories are true, it is to the effect that Rockefeller never talked about his connection with the Rockefeller family or Standard Oil while in Dakota or North Dakota and he even assumed the name of Wm. Livingston, M.D. In his first land transaction he used the name Wm. Livingston and not until a land transaction in 1890 did he sign his papers as William Avery Rockefeller.

Known in the area as an itinerant medicine man who made the rounds offering his cure. Livingston had a very robust personality to match his handsome appearance. Little did pioneer settlers realize that Dr. Livingston had connections with a prominent Eastern family and that his real name was Rockefeller. Wm. Avery Rockefeller was said to be as unpredictable as day and night, and his family seldom knew when he would show up or when he would be leaving again.

The story about Wm. Avery Rockefeller or Dr. Livingston is one of an adventurer, quack doctor, dog fancier, lover of horses, recluse and later farmer. His imagination was unlimited, especially, when it came to selling his cure to his prescription which was supposed to cure all ailments attainable by man or beast. In July 1882 found Dr. Livingston advertising in the

Grafton News. He then related his expertise in the medical practice and stated three conditions for any consultation: he would not charge for the examination; he would not do anything for hopeless cases and would tell the patient immediately; and he would always state his opinion and offer treatment if it would help. He was said to be popular with the old and young alike. His son, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., saw him as a flashing personality, the best talker, polite mannered, a shrewd bargainer, clever story teller, wise advisor and a welcome visitor. Wm. Avery also was the most mysterious, unpredictable and freest individual either John D. or his brother William had ever known.

Wm. Avery Rockefeller lived in New York State and later he and his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. He was married to an Eliza Davison. In Ohio he left his wife and family and went into Canada. Wm. A. Rockefeller, age 48, married a second woman, Margaret Allen, nineteen years of age, without divorcing his first wife. He and Margaret then lived at Freeport, Illinois. An adventurer and still practicing his type of medicine Rockefeller left his second wife and in the company of a Dr. Johnson made his way to Dakota Territory where that area around what is now Park River was open for homesteading.

Some investigators said that he was involved in some difficulty because of his "practice" as a doctor who used but one prescription for healing or curing all ailments of man and beast. And, it was illegal to have two wives so he headed for Dakota Territory. At first Doctors Johnson and Livingston lived in a log house across the trail or road from the land on which Livingston filed his homestead claim. Dr. Johnson also filed claim to what is now part of the present Park River townsite later selling the land to the city. Dr. Johnson then moved away after his short stay but Livingston remained.

Livingston filed his homestead on May 23, 1885 but got his receivers receipt on Oct. 8, 1883 and is recorded on page 348 in book "C" at the Register of Deeds Office at our county

courthouse. The consideration or price was two hundred dollars for the NW¼ of section 27, township 157, range 55. Besides then one hundred and sixty acres of land he purchased other parcels of land around Park River, some of the land even adjoined the quarter section he homesteaded. The land Livingston homesteaded is presently owned by Vernie Larson, Park River. The south and west part of the house where Vernie and his wife, Annie, now live was built by Livingston.

The land Livingston homesteaded has gone through several transfers. In September 1884 the land was transferred, assignment of receivers receipt, from Wm. Livingston to Laura and Pierson Briggs for consideration of two thousand dollars and again recorded as Wm. Livingston to Laura Briggs and Pierson Briggs, Quit Claim Deed, dated March 23, 1885 and filed June 11, 1885 and recorded in book "C", page 355, of deeds. The next transfer of this land was from Pierson D. Briggs and Laura E. Briggs to Wm. Rockefeller, consideration of ten thousand dollars, and on June 9, 1890, Wm. A. Rockefeller to Pierson D. Briggs for consideration of eleven thousand dollars. Pierson D. Briggs and Laura sold to Robert Arnot on February 24, 1899 for consideration of ten thousand dollars.

Pierson D. Briggs came into the picture because on one of

Wm. A. Rockefeller or Dr. Livingston's trips back to Freeport, Illinois, he returned with Pierson D. Briggs who managed the farm. Livingston would return to Illinois for visits as well as for the winters. Briggs later became a purchasing agent for Standard Oil Company.

Reports say that Livingston worked as a medicine man, which he enjoyed, more than actually doing the labor on his farm. Shortly after 1890 when Wm. A. Rockefeller sold the land he had homesteaded he returned to Freeport, Illinois. C.D. Lord, who was in the real estate business in Park River acted as agent for the Standard Oil Company in making final disposition of the land, selling three quarters to Robert and Margaret Arnot.

Livingston always seemed to have plenty of money and drafts from Cleveland, Ohio, than the headquarters for Standard Oil and were frequently cashed for Livingston.

In Cleveland, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., grew to his high position and affluence and the lawful Mrs. Wm. Avery Rockefeller, Eliza Davison, died about thirty years after being deserted by her husband. Wm. Avery Rockefeller died on May 11, 1906 at the age of 96 and only four months less than his famous son, John D. Rockefeller, Sr. Wm. Avery Rockefeller was buried in Freeport, Illinois, and not with the rest of the famed Rockefeller family.

## Geographical Names In County Honor Mr. Walsh

Three geographical names in the county honor the memory of the man for whom Walsh County was named. These are Walsh Centre, Walshville Township and Walshville Postoffice in the latter named township which was in existence from 1878 until 1914.

Incidentally, it appears that Mr. Walsh had achieved some renown before his career as legislator and territorial and state leader began; for U.S. postoffice records do not show that the Walshville office first

had another name.

In other words, Mr. Walsh rated highly enough to have a postoffice named for him back in 1878. Moreover, Walshville was not in Walsh County then; in fact, this county did not come into existence until three years later.

So it is clear that the postoffice name was not simply an adoption of the county's name. Walshville was in Grand Forks County then and Mr. Walsh, as an editor, was active in promoting settlements along the river.

# Phone Pioneers Open Building

The Telephone Pioneers of America have been busy preparing a phone station building at Heritage Village in Grafton.

The building started out in Bowman in 1941. In 1948 it was moved to Leeds, in 1957 to Edmore, in 1971 to Forest River, in 1977 to Minto and it now has found a home at Heritage Village.

The building will be filled with old telephone equipment including such items as a teletype and a switchboard from the old Basell Hotel in Grafton.

The Grafton chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America currently has 15 members.

Members are classified as active, retired, future and associate pioneers. To qualify for the Telephone Pioneers, a person must have been with phone company for at least 18 years.

Associate memberships are given to spouses of phone company who had put in at least 18 years.



Members of Telephone Pioneers of America were at Heritage Village recently where a telephone equipment display is being set up. Front row, left to right are: Alma Collette, Pat Larson, Rose Sauer, Phyllis Eng, Millie Kalbrener and Ron Clow. Second row: Ken Vertin, Lavina Stroh, Rose Wendelbo, Tim Rogers, Dave Folske and Greg Hopman. Ron Eng is in the doorway.

# Walsh once had Poland, Sweden

Did you know that our county had two settlements or villages called Poland and Sweden?

Poland, North Dakota, located in Walshville Township in section 32, was built shortly after the Soo Line junction or spur was built in 1903-1905; connecting Oslo, Minnesota, and Ardoch. It was about four miles west of the Red River. When this village was being established, a group of railroad men met and decided on its name. Frank Nice and Joe Michalaski suggested Poland and all agreed.

In the early days, only one elevator was built; later three more were added. Fire destroyed all but one which is still standing and is privately owned, but not in use.

A general store was started by Andrew Hobbs, which was later sold to August Mesheski. Many years later he sold the store and

moved. The store had telephone and mail service for the area but the people had to come to the store for their mail.

Two families who lived in the village were the August Mesheski family and the Cawldones. There was also a dance hall and area musicians provided the music for dancing. Basket socials were also popular at that time. During World War I benefits were held in the local hall for the Red Cross. Since most of the settlers in the area were of Polish descent, benefit dances were held for financial aid for Poland, Europe, so they could gain their freedom from German control.

## Sweden

Sweden was located about a mile and a quarter west of the present village of Nash along County Highway No. 9. A marker was constructed by the North Dakota Historical Society and

sponsored by J. Otto Almen of Sierra Madre, California, to commemorate the village of Sweden where his father, John Almen, had been a postmaster. The actual site of Sweden would be about 400 yards south of the marker.

William McKenzie built the first log house in Sweden, which housed the general store as well as post office. Later there was a livery barn and blacksmith shop along with a frame house. Wm. McKenzie homesteaded on the north eighty of the northeast quarter of Section 36, Township 158 north and Range 54 west. The Wm. McKenzie land became the property of Donald and Mary Ann McKenzie. Hans Dahl purchased that land in 1889.

The Great Northern Railroad, then known as the St. Paul and Minneapolis, extended north of Grafton in 1882. Nash grew up

along the railroad and Sweden became a ghost town. In the 1890s logs from the old buildings were hauled to the Hans Dahl farm.

Besides John Almen as a postmaster of Sweden, Murdock McKenzie carried mail from Kelly's Point on the Red River where mail and supplies were brought from Grand Forks by steamer. Later Thomas Thompson carried mail. Nels Midgarden clerked in the store. When settlers made trips to Grand Forks about 50 miles away, they brought back supplies for themselves and often for the store at Sweden. Sweden was a gathering place for the Irish, Scotch and French from the north and east of Sweden and the Scandinavians from the south and west. In August 1882 the post office was discontinued and mail sent to Grafton. In 1891 Nash had a Post Office.



Coffeetime! Dorothy Lykken (left), chairman of the village auxiliary, taking a coffee break with Lois Kieley.

## Village Kitchen Auxiliary Have Very Active Year

The kitchen auxiliary of the Heritage Village has been very active this year. Whenever there was a show or other activities at the village, the auxiliary went to work preparing and serving noon plate lunches, sandwiches, hotdogs, barbecues, soups and the sweets were donated by people of the area. Proceeds from the lunches are used to purchase

items used at the village such as kitchen equipment, cleaning supplies, etc. New blinds were recently completed for the office in the theatre building.

Serving is now more convenient with the long serving counter which was purchased through a grant from the Bremer Foundation. Mary Rose Rodriguez and Tom Kutz donated carpet for the kitchen, behind the counter, and the bathroom hallway and the auxiliary paid for the cleaning of the carpet. Appliances have been donated to the kitchen and Jerry Countryman donated many utensils and other items.

The weekend before the Folkarama a few members of the auxiliary armed with brooms, mops, rags, pails and water went into action and cleaned the buildings which had not been cleaned by other organized ethnic groups.

Proceeds from the pancake breakfast held October 21 was given to the Heritage Village treasury. Dorothy Lykken, Grafton, serves as chairperson of the kitchen auxiliary.

Thanks to the volunteer help — you have all been fantastic. Thanks for making it another successful year.

Best wishes  
for a joyous  
Christmas.

## Memorial Service

Memorial tributes were given for members of the Walsh County Historical Society who died this past year when the society met at the Senior Citizen Center in Park River on Sunday, November 25.

Tributes were paid to Jack Bannerman and Lydia Jackson, Grafton; Thelma Wick and Ted Torgerson, Park River; Victor Walstad, Alice Couture and Mrs. Magnus Hatloy, Drayton; Beatrice Fedje, Hoople, and Leonard Borchgrevink, Adams.

Jack Bannerman served as the first treasurer of the society and held that office for six years. Lydia Jackson was the poet laureate of North Dakota, Thelma Wick served as a director for several years while Ted

Torgerson served on the building and repair committee, and Alice Couture assisted her husband, Ed, for a couple years as caretaker at the Heritage Village in Grafton. Blessed be their memory.

The opening prayer was given by Stella Skjerven, a memorial resolution was written and presented by Charles Stewart, verses were read by Eleanor Clark and Dorothy Lykken, poetry written by Lydia Jackson was read by Otella Johnson, Dr. Gerard Dahl gave a Norse tribute to Ted Torgerson and the group recited the Lord's Prayer in Norwegian, and the services concluded with a prayer by Jean Bodmer.



Willard and Marie Hove, rural Grafton, who are active members of the Walsh County Historical Society, are shown with the sign designating their farm as a North Dakota Centennial Farm.

## Centennial Farms

If your family has owned the same farm for 100 years, you could be eligible to receive special recognition as a North Dakota Centennial Farm. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Farm Bureau and the North Dakota Farmer's Union are sponsors of this program.

A form must be completed showing proof of ownership and be mailed to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in Bismarck for final approval. A certificate signed by Kent Jones, North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture, will designate the farm as a North Dakota Centennial Farm. Numerous farms within Walsh County have already received this special recognition but possibly you are

eligible and have not applied.

Besides the certificate which is free of charge you can purchase a large sign for eight dollars through your local Farm Bureau or Farmer's Union Office.

## Shopping Spree Winners Named

Winners of the grocery shopping spree in November which was sponsored by the Heritage Village were: Harvey Tallackson, Grafton, \$300.00; Emma Lou Minden, Grafton, \$200.00; and Anthony Fast, Thompson, \$100.00. Thanks to those who purchased tickets of chance.



## Robert Burns Day

Barbara Bracken and Ora Stewart, both of Grafton, viewing tartan plaid at the Annual Robert Burns Party in Park River. Ora is co president of the Br. Isles Inc., and Barbara was in charge of the program.

# Happy 107th Birthday Mrs. Katie Misialek

Mrs. Andrew (Katie) Misialek is the oldest living resident in Walsh County and on December 19 she was 107 years of age.

Katie or Katherine was born in Poland in 1877. Katie and Andrew Misialek were married at St. Stanislaus Church, Warsaw, North Dakota. Katie and Andrew knew one another from Poland and after he got settled in America he sent for his bride-to-be. They farmed in the area until they moved to Grafton due to Andrew's health and he died in 1946. They experienced many hardships like other pioneer families.

For twenty-three years Katie made her home with her daughter Eleanore and her husband Tom Birk on Lavergne Ave., Grafton. In September Katie had the misfortune of falling in their yard while picking sticks and twigs resulting in a fracture of her hip. She was hospitalized in Grand Forks where she had surgery on her hip. Presently Katie is in a swing bed at Unity Hospital, Grafton, but will be entering a local nursing home.

Eleanore said that her mother is in good spirits, enjoys visitors, enjoys singing in Polish and is



Katie Misialek, 107 years of age.

taking physical therapy.

Over the years Katie has been blessed with extremely good health. She has been an active lady and enjoyed the outdoors and gardening. She is a member of St. John's Catholic Church, Grafton.

Katie and Andrew were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are still living, Bruno, Josephine Sondeland, Martha Elshaug, Irene Elshaug, Leonard, and Eleanore Birk all of Grafton, Christine Pykosz, Grand Forks and Richard, Virginia, Minnesota.

## Time To Renew Your 1985 Membership

By Stephanie Prepiora

The time is here to renew your 1985 membership in the Walsh County Historical Society. By adding \$2 to the dues you will also receive monthly issues of Heritage Press which is published by the Red River Valley Heritage Society. At present the Red River Valley Heritage Society is completing plans for the construction of an Interpretive Center in Moorhead, Minn., where the Hjemkomst will eventually be permanently stored and will be accessible to public viewing.

The year 1984 was another good membership growth year for the Walsh County Historical Society as is evident on the accompanying chart with a total of 725 members of which 620 were regular, 99 business and 6 life. There were 174 subscriptions to Heritage Press.

We now have 27 Life members, 6 were added in 1984 to the 21 we previously had. We welcome the following new Life Members: Lutheran Sunset Home, Mrs. Mary Nancy Williamson, Mrs. Milton E. (Hazel) Johnston, Grafton, VFW, all of Grafton, and Mrs. Carl J. (Cora) Paulson and John Paulson of Hoople. Thank you for your generous support of the Walsh County Historical Society.

For your convenience, a self addressed envelope and membership renewal statement are enclosed in this Newsletter. Please avail yourself of these by mailing your membership check to: Stephanie Prepiora, Membership Chairperson, Minto, N.D. In turn your membership card will be mailed to you. Thank you for your help in the growth and achievements of the Walsh County Historical Society.

## Membership Statistics

Walsh County Historical Society has largest membership per capita in State

Town	Total	Regular	Busi.	Life	Bank Collect.	Herit. Press	
Adams	51	49	2		37	5	
Edinburg	31	27	4		26	19	
Fairdale	35	34	1		25	3	
Fordville	2	2					
Forest River	29	26	3		8	6	
Grafton	301	232	65	4	124	79	
Hoople	25	21	2	2		6	
Minto	137	123	14		42	27	
Park River	50	45	5		15	15	
Ardoch	2	1	1				
Lankin	8	8				1	
Nash	2	2					
Pisek	11	11				3	
Out of County	27	25	2			8	
Out of State	14	14				2	
Total	725	620	99	6	277	174	
Previous Life Members							21
TOTAL							746

Collected in area banks on March 2 and March 5, 277 memberships or 38% of total; and approximately 40% as a result of notices and envelopes in Annual Newsletter, 13% by direct billing and 9% either voluntary or by personal contact. Income from all memberships in 1984 was \$3,450.00.

### Time to Renew 1985 Memberships

Renew your 1985 membership. 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 Chairperson  
Walsh County Historical Society  
Minto, North Dakota 58261

Editor — LORRAINE PAULSON

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