

Williamson Home on National Register

One of the life members of the Walsh County Historical Society had her home placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In February 1986 the large victorian home of Mary Nancy and the late Luther Williamson of Grafton was placed on the National Register. Presently, Mrs. Williamson makes her home in Mission, Texas.

This large two and one-half story wood-frame house was built in 1894 by C.A.M. Spencer on acreage near the Park River. The home is located at the end of a peninsula formed by an oxbow of the Park River and faces the city of Grafton located across the river to the south. A spacious lawn extends from the house to the riverbanks. Large elms, firs, lilacs and other native trees grace the serene yard. To the east and northeast of the home is

a large wooded area abounding with native flora and fauna. This area is now maintained by the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department as a registered natural area. The Williamson home and area is known as Elmwood. Access to Elmwood is by a small wooden bridge at the north end of the site. A suspended footbridge which once spanned the river, south to Cooper Avenue, no longer exists.

Mary and Luther purchased the home from the Svott family in 1945. Mary and Luther raised their eight children in this spacious home. The porches extended a welcome to guests arriving at their home. The stained glass windows and art glass add a special charm found in very few homes. The interior of the home remains largely unchanged since construction. An outstanding feature is the



Williamson Home — Elmwood

original bird's eye maple woodwork with a raised rosette motif and the massive oak stairway. The first floor includes an entrance vestibule, entrance hall, living room/parlor, study, dining room, kitchen, pantry/laundry room, and bathroom. The fireplace and french doors add a cozy feeling to the living room. The second floor is divided by a north-south hallway. Three family bedrooms at the south end of the house and two servant's rooms and a bathroom at the north end. A servant's stairway leads from the kitchen to the servant's quarters.

The area and home known as Elmwood or the Williamson home is significant for its association with some of the early prominent citizens of the city of Grafton, our county and the state of North Dakota. The original patent for the property was received by Thomas E. Cooper, Grafton's first white settler, first U.S. postmaster in Grafton, and the individual credited with selecting a name for the community now known as Grafton. Later owners included Judson LaMoure and John L. Cashel who each served several terms in the N.D. State Senate and were active in community affairs, and John H. Fraine who served in the N.D. House of Representatives.

The house was built in 1895 by C.A.M. Spencer, North Dakota's

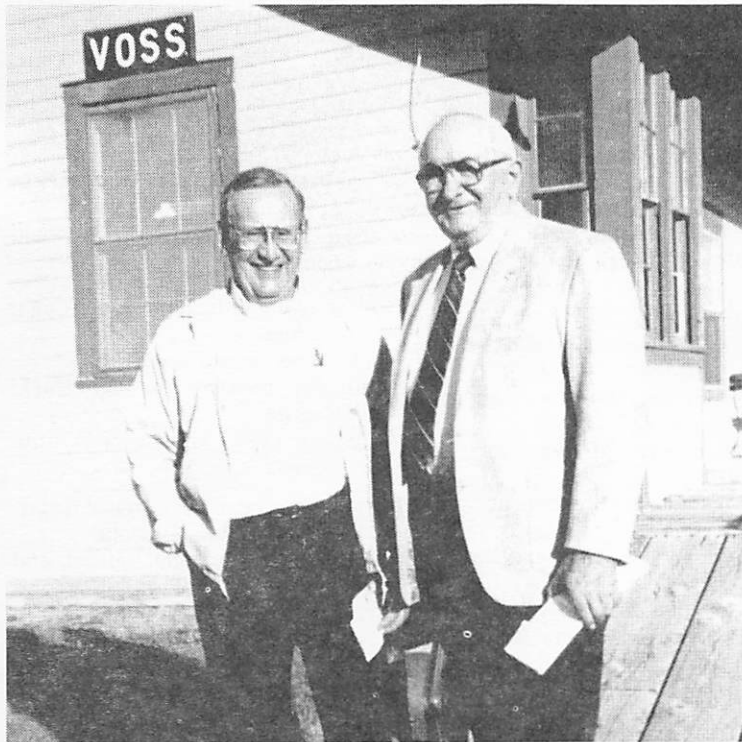
second Attorney General. Spencer was born in Ohio in 1850 and received his law degree from the University of Michigan. He came to Grafton in 1881. Spencer was a prominent member of the state bar when North Dakota was admitted to the Union in 1889 and was elected to the office of Attorney General in 1890. Spencer served as deputy county

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Walsh Heritage Books Still Available

You can still purchase the Walsh Heritage Books. These books provide a history of Walsh County — schools, churches, towns and people from the time the area was settled up until the present.

Volumes one and two sell for 23 dollars and volumes three and four sell for 33 dollars. (Both amounts include postage). The four hard-cover books have a total of 2,774 pages of written history and pictures. They can be ordered from Leonard Jensen, Edinburg, N.D. 58227; James Johnson, Adams, N.D. 58210; or Pete Matejcek, Lankin, N.D. 58250. They are also available at the First American Bank in Grafton.



John Morgan (left), Chairman Heritage Village Board telling Ed Gudajtes, President of the Walsh County Historical Society about the many improvements at the Village in 1986. They are standing in front of the Voss Depot at the Village in Grafton.

11th Annual Threshing Bee & Machinery Display

On Sunday, August 24th, the 11th Annual Threshing Show and Pioneer Machinery Display was held on the Walsh County Extension Farm on the west edge of Park River.

The whistle from the steam engines, bundle wagons, horses and threshing machines bring back memories to many and is an education and taste of the past for the younger generation.

The day begins with a pancake-sausage breakfast served by the county livestock association followed by the parade of machines, threshing show, and flea market which is held throughout the afternoon. Lunch is also served. A special attraction this year was the Fort Seward 20th Infantry from Jamestown who set-up camp and re-enacted battle maneuvers. The 20th Infantry guarded crews building railroads in the Dakota Territory. They brought horses, tents, cannons, wagons and the men dressed in military uniforms while the women and children wore styles of the period of around 1876.

Ten years ago in 1976 a group of area men interested in forming an organization to preserve pioneer machinery and have a threshing show and display met in Park River. The group decided to organize and became known as the Northeast North Dakota Pioneer Machinery Association and they now have members from at least five counties as well as some from across the river into Minnesota and across the border into Manitoba. The objectives of the organization are to acquire, rebuild and maintain old or pioneer farm machinery and share with the public through an annual show. The threshing shows are generally scheduled for the last Sunday in August except this year when that was Labor Day weekend and a threshing show is held annually in Rollag, Minn.

There were approximately 2,000 in attendance at the first show in 1976. The first president was John Paulson, Hoople, and he served for four years followed by Bob Johnson, Hoople, who was elected president in 1980 and served for four years and Dick Mitchell, Crystal, was elected president in 1984 and presently serves in that capacity. Besides an executive committee there are eight directors. Meetings are generally held in Hoople or Park

River. The annual meeting is held in late March. Starting in 1979 at the annual meeting, the Silver Oil Can Award is presented annually to an individual for their volunteer service, interest, dedication and involvement with the organization. Ray Johnson, Hoople, was the first recipient in 1979; Erwin Cudmore, Park River, in 1980; John Paulson, Hoople, in 1981; Carl Nelson, Park River, in 1982; Bob Johnson, Hoople, in 1983; Dick Mitchell, Crystal, in 1984; Lars Borgen, Niagara, in 1985, and Cy Hunter, Park River, in 1986.

In 1979 the association constructed a steel building 48 X 96 feet and is located just south of the county extension office in Park River and is used to store machinery. The association owns some machinery but the majority is owned and restored by the individual members.

"The Wood, Coal, Oil and Oat Burners on Display" is a 128 page book published by the association to inform and promote pioneer machinery and can be purchased from members or ordered from Shirley Mitchell, Crystal, for six dollars plus postage.

Anyone is welcome to become a member of the NEND Pioneer Machinery Association and annual dues are 10 dollars.

The following poem was written by Bethel Cudmore, Park River, whose husband Erwin is an active member of the organization. The poem sums up the memories of harvesttime of years past.

Memories of Harvest

By Bethel Cudmore

In looking back on my childhood,
There are many things I recall.
Like new life that emerges at
spring time
And the fragrance of harvest in
fall.

My Dad would go out with the
binder.
The family would put up the
shocks.
As we worked, we eagerly waited
For the lunch Mother packed in
a box.

As we sat in the family circle
With heads bowed down in
prayer,
We thanked the Lord for his
bounty
He's provided for us year after
year.



Carl Paulson, rural Hoople, who celebrated his 101st birthday on Sept. 5, 1986, served as parade marshal at the 11th Northeast N.D. Pioneer Machinery Show in Park River. Seated along with Carl are four neighbor friends — Brad Clemenson, Linnae Johnson, Kristin Clemenson and Audrey Bjorneby.



Older equipment at the Threshing Show in Park River. A steam engine owned by Clayton Walstad and Dr. Gerard Dahl, Park River, standing ahead of several threshing machines, and in front of the machinery is a 1929 International truck, six-speed special.

When the binder had made its
last bundle
And the shocks were all put in
place,
Then my Dad would take off to
the neighbors
With his rack pulled by Topsy
and Grace.

As he followed the thresher men's
schedule
From neighbor to neighbor, he
knew
That my Mother was busy
preparing
Food for the threshing crew.

The shelves in the cellar were
laden
With jars of food set aside,
For the time when it would be our
turn
To feed the crew with pride.

Now everything was ready—
The aroma filled the air
With a mixture of cooking and
threshing
That was difficult to compare.

At last we could see in the
distance
A cloud of dust come in view,
As the first bundle team
approached us
We knew the "rig" would
come, too.

The thrill of the harvest took on a
change
As in my teens I'd work
In the cookcar for my Uncle
George
Where there was never a time
to shirk.

He got us up at the crack of dawn
To feed the crew and bake.
We would just get settled and
we'd hear
"There's another move to
make."

So off we'd go to another farm
Until the jobs all done.
I was happy when the boss would
say,

"It's the last of this years run."

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St. Joseph's Chapel

Walsh County has one of the largest rural Catholic churches — St. Stanislaus in the village of Warsaw which has seating for approximately 1,100 worshippers — and one of the smallest chapels — St. Joseph's Chapel located east of Warsaw.

This newsletter has covered St. Stanislaus in the past since it was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in 1979.

St. Joseph's is located five miles east and one mile north of Warsaw in Pulaski Township on the John and Geraldine Bishop farm, Oslo, Minn. St. Joseph's Chapel was constructed in 1907 and is just large enough for a priest and two altar boys. The main reason why the chapel was built was so that a priest would come to the area and offer mass at least once a year and ask God's blessing on the crops and good weather. This practice has continued and generally in the month of June people from the area gather and give thanks for their blessings and prayers for another bountiful crop.

Polish pioneers settled in the Warsaw area in the late 1870's and early 1880's and most farmed the fertile, level, black soil not far from the Red River. These settlers brought with them to America a strong christian faith.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wosick

suggested to their neighbors that a cross or some type of religious monument should be erected in their midst so a special meeting was called for that purpose. A decision was made to build a small chapel and call it St. Joseph's Chapel because several of the men who attended this meeting were named Joseph. Joseph Wosick donated the land and Joe Kosmatka was the designer and carpenter. Each one attending the meeting donated 17 dollars for a total of 102 dollars toward the cost of the chapel.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wosick were caretakers until 1967. Now Mrs. Hilard Sczesny, Warsaw, and John and Geraldine Bishop on whose farm the chapel is located look after the chapel and grounds. They plant flowers, mow the lawn, place flowers on the altar and keep clean linens on the chapel altar. At Christmas time the Bishop Family sets up a stable and nativity statues in front of the chapel and places Christmas lights on the chapel which shine for miles around each Christmas. After 79 years, this chapel in the country remains dear to the heart of many.

This poem was written by the late Agnes Dahl Qually about her home church which was North



St. Joseph's Chapel — Pulaski Township

Trinity located in the country along the river west of Nash.

This poem could refer to so many rural churches in Walsh County.

My Church

The little white church looks so peaceful
Nestled close to the river's edge;

It stands as a stalwart sentinel
To guard the graves of the dead;
It has no colored windows
No pretentious pillars of stone
There is no special pipe organ
No statues nor colored dome.

But my little white church is hallowed
A sacred shrine since my callow youth.
It stands as a guardian symbol
For honesty, hope, and truth;
It was here my good parents brought me
To the baptismal font as a child
Again at the altar I promised
To serve my good master so mild.

Memorial Services Held At November Meeting

Memorial services were held at the courthouse during the November meeting of the Walsh County Historical Society to honor members who died the past year.

Life Member Louis Wisniewski, Minto.

Charter Members: Bill Skjerven, Sr., Park River; Mrs. Montelle (Josephine) Boone, Grafton; Mrs. Sig (Josie) Jagielski, Grafton; Oscar Knutson, Grafton; Mrs. Charles (Gussie) Thomson, Grafton; Lillian Winkle, Venice, Fla.;

Herbert Stewart, Drayton and Grafton.

Regular Members: Mrs. Gordon (Ruth) Corby, Grafton; Chester Osowski, Minto; Wm. K. Shirek, Adams; Roy Seboe, Park River; Joseph B. Wangsness, Grafton; Mrs. Mary Eustis, Williston; Mrs. Chester (Marion) Gornowich, Forest River; Erma Common, Forest River; Avis Tallackson Bettis, Zephyr, Texas and Grafton.

Lois Eisenrich was in charge of the program.

Opening Prayer	Pastor Greg Billberg
Memorial Resolution	Ed Gudajtes
Tribute	Percy Walstad
Musical Selection	Darrel Moe
Accompanist	Marilyn Moe
Special Memorial	Stephanie Prepiora and Mary Kennedy
Musical Selection	Darrel Moe
Benediction	Pastor Greg Billberg

Center Is Dedicated

The Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead, Minn., was completed and dedicated in 1986. When in the Fargo-Moorhead area, plan to stop and tour the new center.

Annual Show

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Again the picture changes,
When as a wife and Mother,
I saw the threshing rig replaced
By a combine and a swather.

The years have passed by swiftly—
All the children left the nest.
But Mom and Dad discovered
There's not much time for rest.

For we keep busy everyday
Restoring and preserving,
So our children and grandkids
will have
The heritage they're deserving.

Erwin's tractors are his pride
and joy
And I help whenever free,
To get them washed and ready
For our Annual Threshing Bee.

Our memories are refreshed once
more
As we hear the whistle blow,
And see the engines steaming
As the straw and gold grain
flow.

Some trucks replace the wagon.
But the horses steal the show,
As they prance between the rows
of shocks
To keep the threshing on the go.

The crowd is slowly leaving
As the day draws to an end.
And memories of the days of old
Remain the farmers friend.

Village Has Not Gone To Sleep For The Winter

By Rae M. Desautel

Although the snows of winter have arrived Heritage Village in Grafton has not gone to sleep for the season. On the contrary the city fathers are busy building for the future as they contemplate the past.

The village, an arm of the Walsh County Historical Society, has been a bustling community this past year. It has experienced a growth spurt in terms of improvements, events and additions.

To keep activity rolling there have been a couple of village-sponsored pancake breakfasts, and for the first time but planned as an annual event, a corn fest. Along with the meal, entertainment was provided by Mark Fjeld, Park River, with his demonstration on duck carving, the Foxy Four Square Dancers (the caller was Ernest Rethemeier of Arvilla) and horseshoe. The newly installed merry-go-round, obtained from the Grafton State School, was put into motion for the first time that day. The doors of the buildings were opened to welcome visitors.

Other events such as gun, toy and rock and gem shows were held in the Ethnic Theatre building. The theater building was used by the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Festival committee for an arts and crafts show. The village kitchen crew furnished lunch or meals at each of these events. The village staff catered a meal for a dinner showing of a Grafton Community Theatre production.

The village hosted meetings of the Walsh County Historical Society and the Red River Valley Heritage Society when it held a network workshop. The Grafton

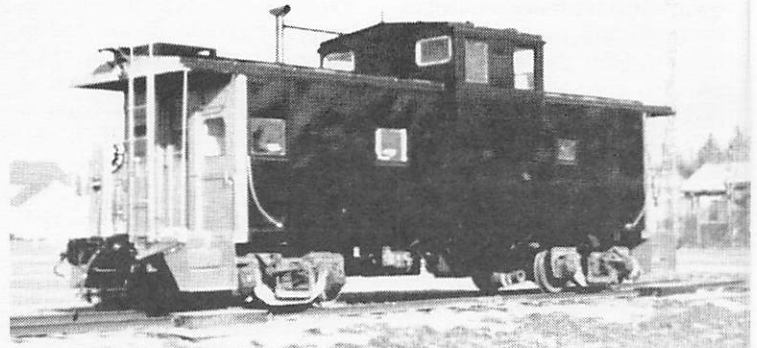
area Knights of Columbus organization held its annual family picnic and installation at the village. The theater building was used for two wedding anniversary observances.

School groups and senior citizens were among those who toured the village. A cub scout jamboree was held on site. Other events include a Hockey Moms bake sale, Investors Diversified Services (IDS) meeting and a Christmas Bonanza.

On the practical side of village life are efforts to raise funds for village improvements. By far the largest contributor the past year is the gaming activity three evenings each week. Lois Kieley is in charge of the effort that has breathed new life into the city treasury thus enabling the board of directors to make several improvements. Realizing the value of monetary gifts donations were made to the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department and Grafton Ambulance fund.

Among the improvements are the installation of street lights that once lighted the streets of Grafton, a parking lot, drainage and road system, a concrete pad under the merry-go-round and restoration of a building housing blacksmith equipment. In the theater building the ventilation and lighting systems are being improved. A public address system was installed. A railroad caboose, donated by Burlington Northern Railroad, was moved to the track at the front of the village and restored. To encourage people to use facilities picnic tables were purchased.

Paul Johnson was hired as the resident caretaker. Two Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) employees



The caboose that was moved to the Village in 1986 and stands on a section of tracks near the Voss Depot was recently painted and will be lettered in the spring.

work at the village.

In progress is the formation of a Heritage Village Foundation to be administered by a board of trustees. Also in the formation stage is a Long-Range Planning Committee with a purpose of making plans for the orderly development of the village without duplicating existing facilities such as the Minto Museum and Jugville, north of Grafton.

Under discussion are the possible acquisitions of St. Ann's Church in Auburn and a barn. Also being discussed is Elmwood, formerly owned by Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson. On the National Registry of Historic Places, the property was given to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept., which in turn would like Heritage Village to assume responsibility, on a long term lease, for the house.

In the meantime because of increased activity and hopes for the future, the village board voted to increase the board of directors from 15 to 25 members. Presently serving are Jack

Morgan, president; Norv Elbert, vice president; Mary Rose Rodriguez, secretary and June Capouch, treasurer. Other members are Jim Tibert, Tim Dvorak, Homer Nelson, Ethel Mohagen, Ralph Adamsen, LeRoy Nelson, Arnie Clemenson, Dorothy Lykken and Rae Desautel. The unfilled term of Alida Goodman, who recently resigned, will be filled. Capouch also was given the task of special events chairman and bookkeeper.

Items of the past aren't trash to be discarded, but rather they are treasures of the present and future. The deposits of history left by others will be preserved by those charged with responsibility for their safekeeping.

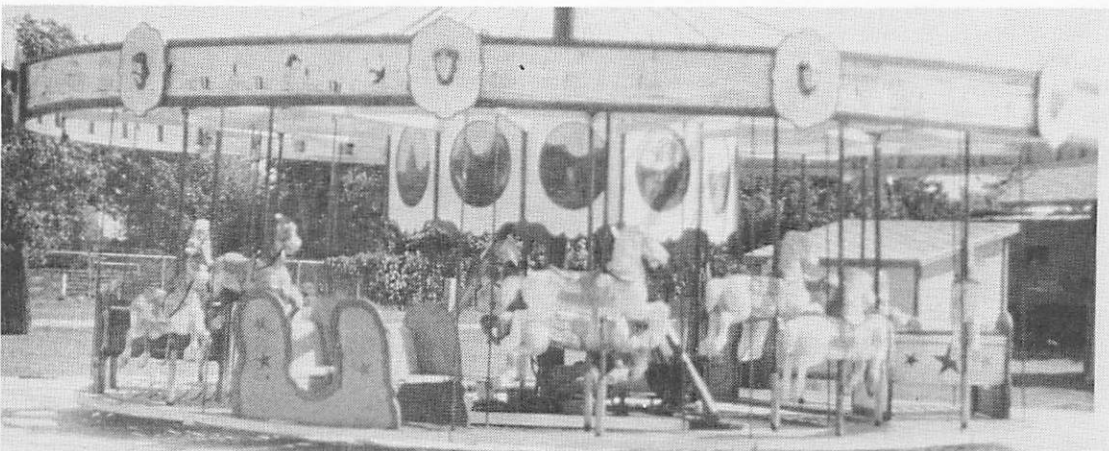
Historical Society 1986 Officers

1986 officers of the Walsh County Historical Society are as follows:

President Ed Gudajtes, Minto; Co-Vice Presidents Ora and Charles Stewart, Grafton; Treasurer Mary Kennedy, Minto; Recording Secretary Leona Walstad, Park River; Corresponding Secretary Lorraine Paulson.

Directors:

Roy Mohagen and Mary Rose Rodriguez, Grafton; Harvey Lykken and James Johnson, Adams; Leonard Fagerholt and John Paulson, Hoople; Leonard Jensen, Edinburg; Ambrose Spoonland, Park River; Ted Barta, Minto.



A new addition at Heritage Village in Grafton is a merry-go-round, complete with horses, that was formerly located at the Grafton State School.

Verke Celebrates 100th Birthday

Caroline Verke, Fairdale, joined the ranks of centennial citizen of Walsh County when she celebrated her 100th birthday in August. Other centennial citizens are: Katie Misialek, Grafton, who was 109 years of age on December 19th; Ida Rosvold, Adams, who was 105 on October 14th; and Carl Paulson, Hoople, who was 101 on September 5th.

Caroline, 'Grandma Verke,' celebrated her 100th birthday on August 17, 1986, at her home on mainstreet in Fairdale, ND. Her 12 children along with other family members and many friends attended an open house at her home followed by a potluck supper at the Legion Hall.

Her 12 children were in attendance and they are as

follows: Bryan, William, Carl Jr., and Gilbert Verke all of Fairdale; Edwin Verke, Grand Forks; Hartley Verke, Northfield; Inga Hammer, Alida Roppel, and Marion Latulippe all of Fairdale; Violet Deplazes, Devils Lake; Selma Jensen and Ethel Gerszewski, both of Grafton.

Caroline also has 48 grandchildren, 103 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

Caroline lives in her own home and this is possible because her six daughters take turns staying with her around the clock assisted by other family members at times. Caroline is very mentally alert and uses a wheelchair to get around. She is a

small lady weighing less than 100 pounds. She still likes to know what is happening in the world so generally stays up until after the 10 p.m. newscast.

Caroline was born in Honefoss, Norway, August 18, 1886. After her arrival in the United States, she never returned to her place of birth.

Caroline married Carl H. Verke in 1903 and settled in the Nekoma area. They became the parents of 14 children. Two sons — Lloyd and Clayton — are deceased. Clayton lost his life in battle during World War II. Five of the Verke sons served in the military during World War II.

Caroline and Carl farmed in the Nekoma area for many years and in 1956 they moved to Fairdale.



Caroline Verke taken on her 100th birthday.

Carl died in 1965 at the age of 93.

Two organizations of which Caroline is a member are the Fairdale American Legion Auxiliary where she is a Gold Star Mother and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

Women Homesteaders

By H. ELAINE LINDGREN

In general we tend to think of men when we talk of early settlement in North Dakota but many women also took advantage of the economic promise of homesteading. Percentages of women who filed on homestead claims in their own name or purchased land through preemption are low for eastern counties which were settled early during the 1880's but the number increases as pioneers moved westward after 1900. In Grand Forks County eight percent of these early landowners were women (about 440 women) while in Williams County the percentage reaches 18 percent (about 1,350 women).

The early women of Walsh County made their mark in the history of homesteading too. Settlement took place primarily in the early 1880's. Only four townships have been studied so far. The percentage of women in these townships who were homesteaders are Prairie Center (six percent), Perth (eight percent), Pulaski (eight percent), and Walshville (six percent).

Among the women who acquired land through homesteading in Walsh County were Mary Lien (Dale) and Joraand K. Gryde. In 1881 Mary's two brothers Knut and Gilbert Lien and a friend came to Dakota Territory from Wisconsin. Later

the friend returned to Wisconsin instructing the brothers to hold his tree claim for someone of their liking. Immediately they sent for their sister Mary who was working as a seamstress in Montewac, Wisc. Mary filed her claim in 1886 in Medford Township at the age of 23 and received her patent in 1894. At first she kept house for her single brother, making 50 cents a day for sewing shirts for other bachelors in the area. In 1887 she married Thomas Dale and moved to her new home three miles southeast of her homestead. Half of Mary's original homestead is currently owned by her daughter Tina Ness.

Joraand Gryde was one of many widows who saw homesteading as a means of providing for a family. Widowed in 1879 she moved with her three sons, Knut, Kittel, Ole and two daughters Ingeborg and Signe, from Mound Prairie, Minn., to Glenwood Township in Walsh County. Joraand was 57 when she filed for her homestead. Her three sons also filed on separate homesteads. She lived on the homestead only a short time before her death in 1880 and the brothers signed over the mother's land to Signe who was gradually becoming blind.

The accounts of Mary and Joraand are part of a broader study being conducted by H. Elaine Lindgren, a professor at North Dakota State University.

She is collecting information about women across North Dakota who filed on homestead claims. Her book will be published during the state's centennial celebration in 1989. Although most of her material has been collected she would like to find additional information about women who filed on claims before 1900.

The following women filed claims or purchased land through preemption in Prairie Centre: Eliza Ann Foster, Mary Lovin, Margaret Widde, May Petrik, Elizabeth Brett, Mary Chamy, Lidmita Zikmund, Mary Coffey, Anna Kupka; Perth: Mary Karas, Monica Kalas, Hanna Severson, Martha Thompson, Pauline Mott, Anna Kelly Linda Midthum, Mary Cardine, Veronika Zilinka, Lizzie Kelly; Pulaski: Jane Anderson, Catherine Polasky, Julia Kerokolski, Rebecca Russell, Mary Czapiewska, Teofila Cropicaski, Maryanna Rogalla, Elizabeth Wysocki; Walshville: Minnie Nelker, Viktoria Wagner, Isadore Busbaw, Eliza Jenkins, Lina Petterson, Mary Newell, Jennie Jenkins.

If you have any information about the above names or other women who homesteaded before 1900, please contact H. Elaine Lindgren, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D. 58105 (701-237-8928).

Williamson Home

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treasurer, mayor of Grafton, city attorney, and state's attorney as well as a local practicing attorney.

In 1886 the house was purchased by Wm. C. Treumann who had established the local abstract company. It was Wm. C. Treumann who commanded Company C., North Dakota's first regiment of U.S. Volunteers, serving in the Philippine Islands for a year and a half during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection. Treumann continued command of the regiment until 1911 when he was commissioned adjutant-general by the governor. Treumann retired with the rank of brigadier-general. It was Treumann who registered the property as "Elmwood" in 1913 with the Walsh County Register of Deeds.

The large home and its setting reflect not only the success and social status of builder Spencer but also the preferred lifestyle of community leaders of Grafton in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The Walsh County Historical Society is happy that the Williamson family made every effort to preserve this home and worked to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Museum Report

By LOIS EISENRICH

You have all heard the song "If I Could Save Time in a Bottle?" I think that is what the Walsh County Historical Society may have had in mind when they started their project; however, the project got completely out of hand and they had to change their song to "If I Could Save Time in a Schoolhouse," and this is exactly what they have managed to do: Save over 100 years of precious time in the form of antiques and artifacts, uniquely displayed in every nook and cranny of the former Minto City School Building. I wish I could tell you of the many things they have, but to merely catalog them with a brief description would fill several volumes. Instead, I am going to tell you of my tour as a "Guide" for the museum.

Early one spring day, before the snow had left the ground, I received a call from the curator of the Minto Museum, Stephanie Prepiora. She was working on her list of guides to assist her during the summer months when the museum is open from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. She must have been at this project for awhile, as the first Sunday opening that she had was in late July. We worked out a suitable date for both of us and I even threw my husband in on the deal.

Somehow late July arrived awfully early this year. Several days before the appointed time, Stephanie stopped by the office and advised me that she would be out of town at a meeting on Sunday and would I open the museum and turn on the lights. "No problem," I told her, "I'd be happy to do it." She left the keys

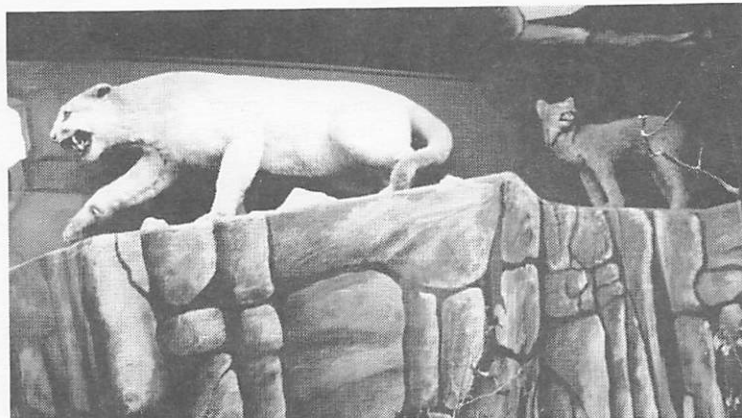
and a list of printed instructions and told me it would only take a few minutes.

On Sunday we hurried a bit more than usual and arrived at the museum at 1:15 p.m., much too early as the museum does not open until 2:00 p.m. but we started at our task anyway.

I opened the big gates to the grounds and headed for the old jailhouse, opened the door and peered in. All looked well so I proceeded on my way to the log house. I opened the door and was struck by how dark the interior was for the middle of the day. It was impossible to see anything. I turned on the light and the figure at the kitchen range, obviously preparing the meal, startled me. It suddenly occurred to me that it must have been just as dark in this cabin in the middle of the day 90 years ago and how the woman of the house would have appreciated the small electric fixture with the one bulb that now illuminated the entire cabin.

Next I opened the old one room schoolhouse. All was quiet in the cloak room but I decided to take a peek at the classroom also. There it was, somehow it looked exactly like the one I had attended. Everything was there, right down to the water cooler. Classes could have started at any time.

The last building on the grounds is the cookcar. I opened the door and stopped for just a minute. Noticed that the tables were all set and the cook was at the stove. All the plates were upside down and I remembered that someone had told me that because of the lack of cupboard space the tables were always set and the dishes were turned



Mountain lion and bobcat in cave at county museum.

upside down because sometimes the mice would use the china at night.

At last we were at the big front door to the school. I opened them wide and the sun followed me through. The first room on the first floor is the emporium. I flipped the light switch and just had to take a few minutes to look around. Everything from fashionable hats of the day and groceries to a blacksmith shop. What a variety. There are always new things in this room, a store has to be well stocked and with this one, kept out of date. It took a little longer than I thought to check this room out.

When I turned on the light to the next room the music started. Housed in this room was an oldtime saloon with a bartender and a dancing girl in a bright red dress. The music was from the saloon. There was also a fully equipped photo studio. It took a lot of equipment to take a picture back in the "good old days." We didn't have as many pictures then but we seemed to enjoy and appreciate them much more. I can remember that occasionally on Sunday afternoons, if we had behaved, mother would let us page through the old family album. What a treat.

I continued down the hall turning on lights and noted that display cases had been built in, covering both walls, which were now filled to capacity with various antique household items.

At the end of the hall is the old gymnasium which is now filled with vintage vehicles and some early farm machinery. Here again I had to make a quick trip around the hall as they are always adding new items.

When I came back up the hall again, I discovered there was now a new room, filled with stuffed animals with painted murals, shrubs, etc. so the animals all appear in their natural habitat. Fox, weasels,

mink, and many others. I never realized a baby deer was so small.

The next room I suppose would be considered an early "mall." It has a fully equipped post office, drug store, ice cream parlor, barber shop and an egg and cream station. On a trip to town, you could handle most of your business here in the mall.

My journey then led me upstairs. Another room filled with terrific taxidermy work. All native animals, all doing their own thing, and topped off with a giant buffalo. The kids would love it.

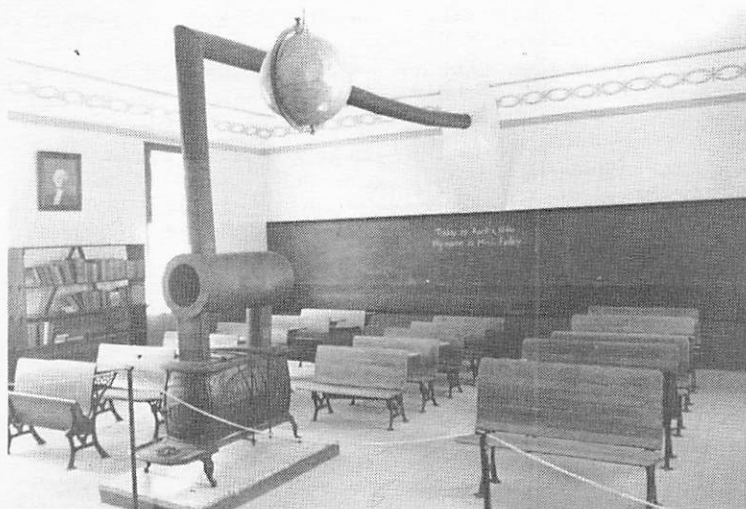
When I turned on the lights in the next room, again there was music. This time it was an Indian chant with tom-toms. The room was filled with Indian headdresses, clothing and artifacts. I could almost see the hunched over Indians dancing in a circle; however, they sounded like friendly Indians and so it probably was a rain dance as it's been pretty dry around here lately.

The next room was filled with clothing of all sorts. Coats, shoes, fancy dresses, work dresses, purses, baby clothes, baptismal outfits, uniforms, and on and on. Mostly displayed behind large glass enclosures to protect them from me as I had an incredible urge to just touch them.

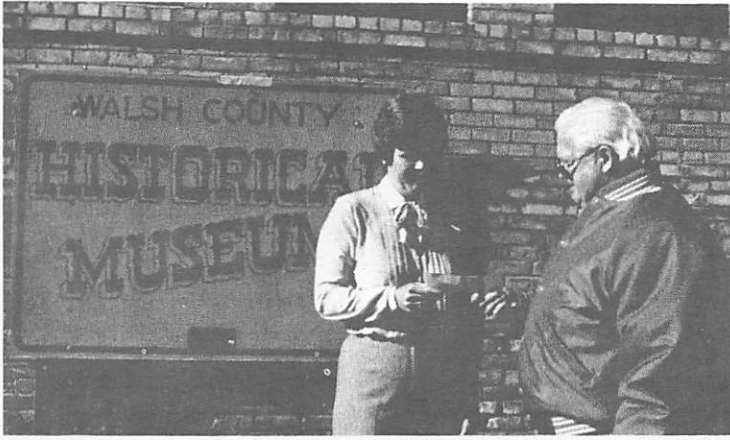
Oh! I couldn't believe my eyes, the next room had been partitioned off and was set up as a completely furnished four-room house, kitchen, dining room, living room and bedroom. The furnishings and fixtures were from long before my time, really old and beautiful. I could almost see the isinglass stove glow.

Outside the house was an outdoor yard scene, father, mother, children, chickens and a cat with a freshly caught mouse in its mouth. I'm glad it was

See MUSEUM REPORT
Cont. on Page 7, Col. 1



Interior of country school on museum grounds.



Janet Lysengen, co-chairperson of the Walsh County Historical Museum Board, receives a check for \$500 from Ray Conlon, representative of the Grafton Eagles Club, Aerie No. 2803, toward the purchase of an elk for the museum's wildlife exhibition. Extensive work has been done in the past year in the museum, located in Minto, to create a new wildlife room which features animals native to North Dakota. Recent acquisitions include a moose, a sandhill crane, a bobcat, a bear and her cub, and a family of fawns. Continued work in the exhibit depends on the involvement and financial gifts of individuals and local groups who support the museum's efforts.

Museum Report

Cont. From Page 6

behind glass. I know the animals were stuffed but that mouse still looked alive.

I now had all the lights on and hurried down to my "guide station" at the front door. For a moment I stood in absolute awe of the people who have done all this work as I know it had to take a great deal of time, work, imagination and ingenuity to save over 100 years of time and to display it with such authenticity. I then checked my watch and found it was now 2:00 o'clock. It had taken me 45 minutes just to turn on the lights. I had lost my husband in the country store and he didn't re-appear until 5:00 o'clock, just in time to leave.

We had a most enjoyable day, met many interesting people who visited the museum and look forward to going back again. If you have not visited the Minto Museum, be sure to put it on your schedule of things to do, or better yet, give Stephe a call and volunteer to assist some Sunday afternoon next summer. The pay may be small but the rewards are great. Just be sure to allow yourself plenty of time if you have to turn on the lights.

I noted pictures of the many school classes that had visited the museum and thought a visit to the Minto Museum should be a required field trip for every class in the county.

Many of the items displayed also show the name of the donor. Some of the people in Walsh

County have been exceptionally generous in their donations to the museum and will be remembered by many people for years to come as they visit the museum. What a fitting and final tribute to some of our early settlers.

1986

WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM Officers and Board Members

Curator/Manager — Stephanie Prepiora

OFFICERS — 1 year terms
Co-Chairmen — Frank Schiller and Jan Lysengen
Vice-Chairman — Wen Kennedy
Secretary — Joan Schanilec
Treasurer — Ted Barta

BOARD MEMBERS — 3 year terms (expire at the end of the year)

- 1 — Linda Dunnigan (1986)
- 2 — Terry Nowling (1986)
- 3 — Donnie Rudnik (1987)
- 4 — John Gudajtes (1987)
- 5 — Theafil Kilichowski (1987)
- 6 — Ed Stoltman (1988)
- 7 — Jim Schanilec (1988)

Centennial Spoons Available

A few Walsh County Centennial spoons are still available and can be ordered by mailing \$4.50 to Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, N.D. 58243.

1986 Summary Of Walsh County Historical Society

The Walsh County Historical Society has been busy with many projects and activities in 1986, and I will give a brief summary of some of the activities throughout the year. The annual and first meeting of the year was held in Grafton at the Heritage Village in January following a pancake-sausage breakfast and an executive board meeting. On January 1, 1986, daily drawings began for the first fundraising calendar project for the benefit of the historical society and its projects. First drawing of the year was for \$500.00 and was won by Don Zidon, Edinburg, while the last drawing of the year is for \$1,500.00, daily drawings of \$20.00 except each Saturday when the amount is \$50.00 and the end of each month is \$100.00. Winners are listed weekly in The Grafton Record and the Walsh County Press. Volunteers do the drawings at the Leonard and Liz Fagerholt home, Hoople, which is the gaming site.

Oral histories of the pioneer women of the state are being put on tape for the N.D. Centennial through the sponsorship of the Extension Service at NDSU.

There was no meeting in February.

The March meeting was held in Minto at the Senior Citizen Center. Leona Walstad, Park River, was elected recording secretary. The annual membership drive was held March 3 and 4 throughout the county and tables were set up in many banks and savings and loans to collect memberships. Stephanie Prepiora does an excellent job as membership chairperson as do numerous other members in the organization who collect memberships in their locality.

Forest River hosted the April meeting at the Senior Citizen Center. Ora and Charles Stewart showed slides on N.D. Cultural Heritage and Changing Landscape followed by an oral quiz on North Dakota with winners receiving North Dakota products and state maps.

The May meeting was held in Pisek at the Senior Citizen Center. The Walsh County Museum in Minto opened for the summer on Memorial Day weekend and was open by appointment, on holidays, and

Sunday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. through Labor Day weekend.

On June 29th an indoor picnic was held at the Senior Citizen Center in Adams due to rain. The historical society voted to set up a repair fund and an agreed upon amount will be saved in that account each year for any major repair that may come up in the future. Funds were donated to the State Historical Society to microfilm area newspapers which will be kept at the Heritage Center in Bismarck. In July several members attended an area meeting for communities to begin making plans for the N.D. Centennial in 1989.

By July the society had 677 paid memberships. New life members for 1986 are: Francis Phelan, Ethel Mohagen and Lois Kieley all of Grafton, Minto Farmers Elevator and Victor Stoltman, Minto.

On August 24th a meeting was held at the Heritage Village during the first cornfest following the Threshing Show and Machinery Display in Park River. On August 11th the Heritage Village hosted the Red River Valley Historical Society Network Workshop at the village.

There was no meeting in September.

In early October an executive board meeting was held at the Gate City Savings in Park River. Calendar sales started in October for the drawings which will begin for the second year on January 1, 1987. The regular October meeting was held in the depot at the Heritage Village during the Rock and Gem Show.

A memorial service and the November meeting with election of officers followed by a potluck lunch was held at the Walsh County Courthouse in Grafton. No meeting was held in December. There are separate write-ups about the many activities and improvements at the Heritage Village in Grafton this past year. There have been more activities at the Heritage Village in 1986 than any time since the theatre building was completed and dedicated in 1978.

Thanks to everyone who supported the society in so many ways this past year. It takes devoted members to keep the organization active and growing.

Lorraine Paulson
Corresponding Sec.

Museum Alive - 1986

By MINNIE AGAN

Sunday, June 29, was a good day for a family outing and we, the Elmer Agan III Family of Fredericksburg, Virginia, were doing just that! We had returned to Walsh County, North Dakota, for our second visit, timing our trip so as to be able to attend Museum Alive. The day was overcast with a slight chilly breeze as over 1,300 attended this event. There was something to touch the heart and/or memory bank of each individual in attendance.

As we approached the Walsh County Historical Society Museum in Minto, various sights and sounds added together to excite the visitors. . . on the outer perimeter of the museum grounds we saw a trailer with a live buffalo cow and her calf. Folk dancers were colorful and performed with talent and enjoyment of their art. A

beautiful six-horse team and wagon with which they took attending children on rides around the streets of Minto. The bright red wagon was outstanding but nothing equaling the six black horses each weighing a ton or more. Harnessed in polished shining black leather with lots of silver trimmings they worked in near perfect harmony. And the outside buildings were manned to give the visitor information to make one more aware of their use of yesteryear.

On the corner in a pen all alone the museum grounds were guarded by a lovely and proud peacock. Animal life of North Dakota with not only the peacock but baby animals of the fox, ferret, geese, duck, chick, lamb, goat and bobcat families. We learned there were more than just red and grey foxes as several species were on display. This year gave us a view of the new second wildlife room which is a continued view of excellence in animals, art, and realistic displaying. All of the animals give one a real feel of what one could encounter in North Dakota.

An Indian teepee was background for a frontiersman, with a musket he guarded his huge iron pot of simmering buffalo stew which was emptied by visitors. Music, in a melody of tunes, was a treat for everyone, providing the entertainment was the eight member kitchen band from Grand Forks. For many this band was a rare treat never seen before, their instruments not of the usual brass and chrome type.

Along with the buffalo stew, other foods available were popcorn for five cents a bag,

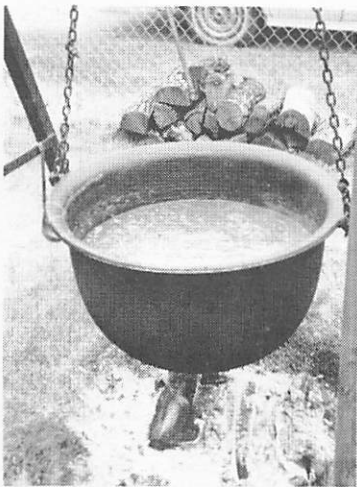
nickel ice cream cones and potato dumplings. Also, for the hungry, the all-American hot dogs, iced drinks and coffee were on sale. From the Country Store a nickel could get your a big red apple for munching or a huge pickle and from the Pharmacy long peppermint sticks for a penny a piece. To go through this tastefully assembled museum is to step back in time. The Country Store is a combination of our modern day hardware, grocery, shoe 'n clothing stores. The Creamery, Ice Cream Parlor, Post Office and Bar were open



Phyllis Chally, Adams, surrounded by her friends Etta and Celia Agan, Fredericksburg, Va. enjoying the activities at Museum Alive.



Those attending Museum Alive in Minto enjoyed riding in a red wagon pulled by six black horses from the Bimblar Paradise Ranch at Crary.



Buffalo stew simmering and ready to be served at Museum Alive.

with museum volunteers dressed in old time clothes talking and selling their specialties.

Youngsters enjoyed helping a lady grind wheat into flour with her rewarding the flour to the young millers. She had for sale a variety of whole grain breads and all natural roll-ups. Another treat for the children was the rope maker who gave all an excellent show of how twine is braided into strong rope. (Our two daughters use their lengths of rope as belts

in their jeans). A tanner had his display of tanned native animal skins to show and sell. A trio of quilt makers sewed stitch after stitch to put together a warm cover for a future cold night.

Then last but not to be forgotten, is the enjoyable stroll among the many vehicles and implements such as plows, harvesters, threshing machine, wagons, hearse, buggies and a big display of barb wire. Travel of earlier days was slower with these conveyances yet homesteaders of North Dakota traveled to reach this territory and in turn built a future of which the visitors of Museum Alive 1986 were able to catch a glimpse. Museum Alive was rewarding to us, giving each a taste of yesteryear and values not of today. To all who labored toward this wonderful day of activities. . . THANK YOU.

(Much of the organization of Museum Alive goes to Frank Schiller, museum board co-chairman, as well as Stephanie Prepora, museum curator, the museum board and dozens of others from the area.)



Volunteers assisting at 1986 Museum Alive.

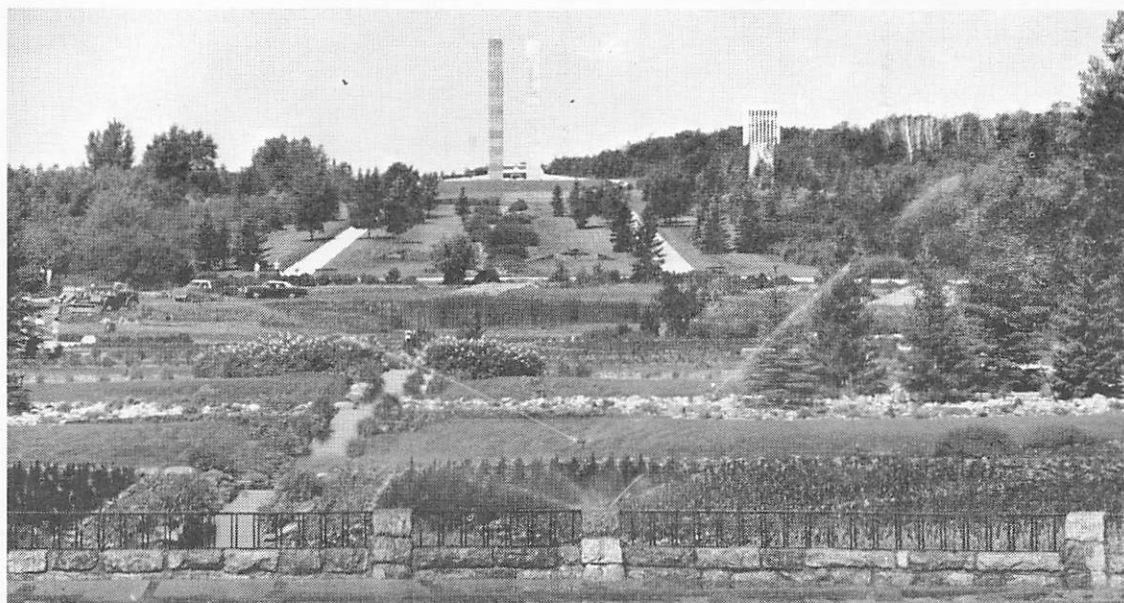
History Of International Peace Garden

Located on the Manitoba and North Dakota border stands the International Peace Garden, a symbol of peace between the United States and Canada. The International Peace Garden was dedicated on July 14, 1932, with an attendance of approximately 50,000 people. In 1932 the only piece of construction in the garden was a simple cairn made of native stone inscribed with the following pledge.

“To God in His Glory
We two nations
Dedicate this Garden
and pledge themselves
That as long as men
Shall live, We will
Not take up arms
Against one another.”

Henry Moore, Islington, Ontario, Canada, a horticulturist with the provincial government came up with the idea of a peace garden in 1928 on his way home to Canada from a meeting of gardeners in Greenwich, Conn. Moore presented the idea to the National Association of Gardeners of the U.S. when they met in Toronto, August 7, 1929. For years he wondered what could be done to help maintain the goodwill which exists between the U.S. and Canada. What would be more appropriate than a magnificent garden at a point on the International Border, a living memorial to everlasting peace between the two nations.

Big decisions followed. Where shall the garden be located and how shall it be financed. A committee was selected to choose the site. Buffalo, New York, made perhaps the strongest pitch, a populous spot on the International boundary and gateway to Niagara Falls. The state of North Dakota and Manitoba governments offered tracts of land free of cost in the scenic Turtle Mountains. Moore was impressed and convinced with his view from the air of the undulating hills rising out of the prairie and filled with lakes and streams and to the North the Manitoba Forest Reserve. North Dakota donated 888 acres and Manitoba pitched in with 1,451 acres. The gardens would be almost exactly half way between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and all but 30 miles north of the exact center of the North American continent which is Rugby, N.D., and almost directly north of Dunseith. In September 1931 the Turtle Mountain site was



International Peace Garden

selected at a meeting held in Ashbury Park, N.J. Finances would be needed to develop a garden. Throughout North America, newspapers carried stories of a proposed Peace Garden. Moore was touched by the offers of children to help finance the garden with small donations. During the following three years, financial support came from throughout the continent. The Congress of the United States appropriated money and the Canadian Government as well as North Dakota and Manitoba. There has also been individual contributions and hundreds of organizations have supported this project over the years. Some organizations made sizable contributions.

Henry Moore became the first superintendent of the garden on a parttime basis and was involved with the project until his death in 1946.

In 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corp under the National Park Service set up in the garden and except for brief periods the corp remained until World War II and aided in the early development.

At first trails, roads, scenic drives, lakes, cabins and picnic areas were built and flowers, shrubs and trees were planted in the garden and they have been expanded over the years. A high wire fence on the outer boundaries of the garden was erected.

The C.C.C. constructed the lodge which is 105 feet long with a 60 foot wing made from North

Dakota granite and Duck Mountain Timber and sponsored by National Homemakers. For a period of about ten years the development was reduced to maintenance due to World War II. In 1948 an appeal was made to the two governments and assistance arrived. A landscape design was accepted with six panels in the design — the Peace Panel, the Terrace Panel, the Sunken Garden, the Cascade Panel, the reflecting pool and the Peace Tower.

Some of the major improvements and contributors over the years are listed below. In 1964 the reflecting panel was completed; 1966 the Bulova Floral Clock; 1967 the Errick Willis Pavillion, (Willis was former Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba); 1975 the OES All-Faith Chapel on the International Boundary Line; 1980 the Peace Garden Administration Building; 1981 the Masonic Auditorium and the water system needed for future growth of the park and in 1982 construction began on the Peace Tower.

In the early 1970's the Royal Canadian Legion Memorial Complex for the Legion Athletic Camp was built. It is one of the finest athletic camps on the continent and offers 13 sports to young athletes over four weekly sessions. More than 1,500 attend this coed camp each summer.

The International Music Camp was organized in 1956 by Dr. Utgaard and includes eight one-week sessions during the summer for approximately 2,300 junior and senior high school students

from several continents and they receive instruction in band, orchestra, chorus, piano, guitar, hand bells, drama, creative writing, speech, debate, ballet, modern dance, cheerleading, piping and drumming.

Several other cultural activities are the International Festival of Arts, International Youth Band Festival, the International Youth Cultural Exchange and the Goodwill European Tours which began in 1962. Outstanding students are selected to perform in band or choir and other musical groups to spread goodwill throughout Europe and North America. Weekend concerts are a treat to the visitors at the garden. What better way to enjoy a North Dakota evening than to attend a concert in the Knights of Columbus Amphitheatre. If you haven't visited the International Peace Garden lately, plan to do it next summer.

The sponsor of the garden was the National Association of Gardeners. There was reorganization of the International Peace Garden Inc. Control of the garden passed to North Dakota and Manitoba residents. In 1934 the garden or land was put in trust to the state of North Dakota and the Canadian side in trust of the Crown, with stipulation that operation, management and supervision would remain with the board of directors of the garden. Then the C.C.C. could operate in the garden and state could

See PEACE GARDEN
Cont. on Page 11, Col. 1

County Ag School Had 59 Year History

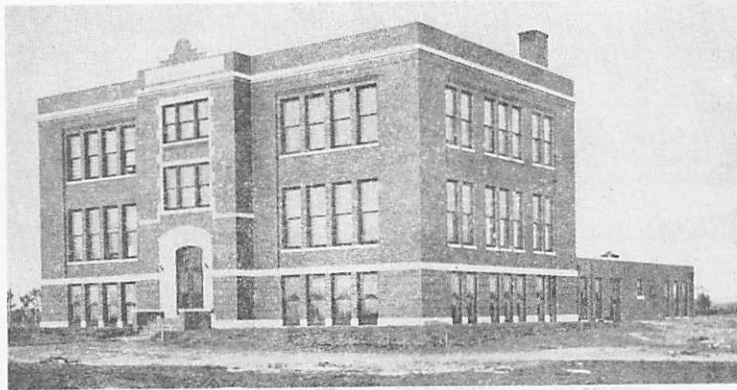
The Walsh County Agricultural and Training School provided a practical and well-rounded education to those attending classes in Park River during the school's 59-year history from 1913-1972.

In 1912 a petition for the establishment of the school was presented to the Walsh County Commissioners and was approved by the public in a successful vote. The county also appropriated \$13,000 to help establish the school. An act introduced and passed in the North Dakota legislature in 1911 made the establishment of such a school possible. Senator Gibbens from Cando was the father of the legislation. Gibbens schools in North Dakota were to provide secondary schooling for rural people. The purpose was twofold, training in agriculture and training for teaching. Gibbens had studied the Danish folk school system and followed many of the features of that system in the legislation.

The school was established in Park River which is almost the center of Walsh County and the city had option to a beautiful site which was formerly the county fairgrounds on the hill on the west edge of town and they also agreed to canvas for funds.

The Smith-Hughes Act provided federal funds to states for vocational education. Funds were for training in agriculture, home economics, trades and industry. The unit of administration was the county but the county did not need to bear the entire cost.

In June 1913 ground was broken for the first building. In September classes started in the city hall and city schools. By January 7, 1914, the new building was dedicated. The main three-story building was constructed of North Dakota oil-pressed Hebron bricks and finished in natural birch with hardwood floors and a cement basement at a cost of \$20,000. In 1913 the grounds were comprised of 17 acres with 10 for



Walsh County Ag School dedicated in January 1914.

experimental work in agriculture and the remainder for the school grounds.

By 1915 there were two buildings, the main classroom building and a smaller building to store farm machinery and other equipment. The grounds grew to 23 acres with 250 additional acres for experimental purposes. In 1918 a barn was constructed which provided space for a dairy room, feed room and stables.

In the fall of 1925 a girls' dormitory was purchased. The home was formerly the residence of C.D. Lord and was located just down the hill from the school. The dorm had room for about 30 girls and was used until 1964 and since then has been demolished. The Birder residence at the north end of Briggs Ave. became the boys' dormitory in 1933 and is now owned by Agnes Dougherty Henderson. In 1946 the boys' dorm moved next door to a structure which had been a barn on the Birder estate and was converted to a dorm. Students were enrolled at the W.C.A.S. from all over the county, other areas of the state, surrounding states and even Canada. Besides the dorm some students secured room and board in homes and in some cases several students rented a couple rooms and set up light housekeeping.

Since 1927, the superintendent was furnished with a house which was located on campus between the classroom building and the

girls' dorm. This resident has also been demolished. Also, in 1927 an oval shaped assembly hall or gymnasium measuring 74 X 148 feet with a 37 foot ceiling was constructed southeast of the main classroom building at a cost of only \$2,700 and financed by the county. This gym was demolished in 1982. The building served the county in many ways for the State Potato Show and winter shows and later the Walsh County Fair, livestock shows, athletic events, physical education, commencements, 4-H follies and many other events.

The school offered both "long term" and "short term" or "short course" classes. The "short term" began in mid November and ended in mid March which was ideal for the farm youths. Evening courses were offered for farmers, homemakers and others at W.C.A.S. The school offered many programs and was open to all residents tuition free. Courses were offered in poultry, beekeeping, woodworking, engineering, agronomy, science and animal husbandry. The long term courses of study included such classes in agriculture, home economics, English, history, math, commercial, music and others. During the summer, students in agriculture and home economics had home or summer projects supervised by instructors from the school.

In 1914 there were two graduates and by 1915 there were 13 graduates at W.C.A.S.

The W.C.A.S. had close association with the Walsh County Extension Office which had its office in a portion of the school until the new extension office was built in 1973. E.J. Taintor who served as W.C.A.S. superintendent, also served as county extension agent for a

number of years. Approximately 250 acres of farm land was used for experimental purposes and the extension agent worked closely assisting the farm families.

The W.C.A.S. had nine superintendents over its history. W.A. Broyles was the first superintendent beginning in 1913. The local Future Farmers of America Chapter was named in his honor. The crop judging teams received many honors over the years.

In 1929 the school was accredited by the North Central Association of schools and remained a first-class high school. All subjects regularly taught in high schools were offered at the county school and in addition students could enroll in agriculture, mechanics, shop, home economics and commercial subjects. At one time there were a total of 301 students enrolled in the high school at one time. For years classes started later in the fall than most other high schools in the county so students could assist on the farms.

Music always played an important part in a person's education at W.C.A.S. Students could receive individual instruction in voice, piano, instrumental music, band, glee clubs and chorus. Many operettas and plays were presented.

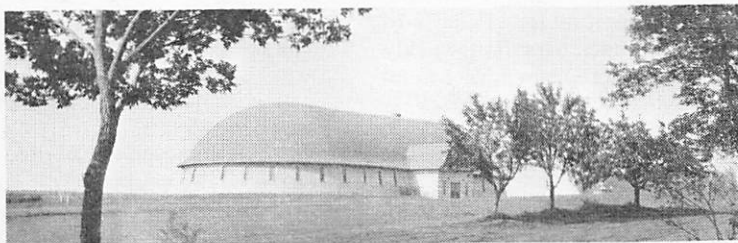
Sports also had its place at W.C.A.S. In 1927 boys' and girls' basketball was organized. The first basketball court was on the third floor of the school. In 1928 boys' baseball and track was organized and in 1933 football. In 1966 hockey was organized. In 1937 W.C.A.S. received class A rating for sports and remained in that division the remainder of its history.

For a period of time the city of Park River had two high schools. At first there was only the high school located where the elementary school stands. After the agricultural school was built, Park River had two schools offering high school level subjects. In 1933 the high school closer downtown folded and all students would now attend high school at W.C.A.S. on the hill. From 1933 until 1972 W.C.A.S. was the only high school in Park River.

In the early 1950's a large fair building was built east of the

See COUNTY AG SCHOOL

Cont. on Page 11, Col. 1



W.C.A.S. gymnasium built in 1927.



Girls' dorm on school grounds.

County Ag School

Cont. From Page 10

gymnasium by the Walsh County Fair Association and is used for hockey, skating and the Walsh County Fair and North Dakota State Potato Show. In the mid 1950's another one story addition was built onto the main high school building.

Being a county school the board members were appointed by the Walsh County Commissioners. By 1972 the school was sold to the district and is now known as District No. 78 — Park River

High School. The last class graduated from W.C.A.S. was in 1972 and the class had a total of 68 graduates.

The W.C.A.S. Alumni Association was organized in 1919. In 1976 an all-class reunion (W.C.A.S. and Park River High School) was held in Park River and in 1984 another all-class reunion was held when Park River celebrated its centennial. (L.P.)

Peace Garden

Cont. From Page 9

appropriate money. The International Peace Garden is governed by a board of directors with representatives from both countries. The executive committee is elected from the board of directors. The Peace Garden staff consists of a superintendent, a head gardener, foreman, caretaker, secretary and during the summer months many seasonal workers. One North Dakota individual who worked diligently for the development of the garden from 1933 until his death in 1981 was Honorable Judge John Stormon from Rolla. Stormon was known

as Mr. Peace Garden and served as secretary and president of the organization. A lake is named after Stormon at the garden.

There is a master plan for the development of the garden. Phases of the plan will be completed as funds become available.

The Peace Garden continues to be a monument to the cause of peace, developed and maintained by our two nations. It is a garden beautifully painted by nature and truly a symbol of peace. A lasting memorial to the long standing friendship between the United States and Canada. (L.P.)



Left to right: Minnie Agan, Fredericksburg, Va. and Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, at 1986 Museum Alive. Stephanie is volunteer museum curator.

Walsh Membership Continues To Lead

A regular membership is \$3, business is \$10 and life is \$100. If you pay an additional \$2, you will receive the monthly Heritage Press from Moorhead. Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, serves as membership chairperson.

Due to your financial support, Walsh County leads other county historical societies in North Dakota in total memberships. We

need your continued support so please mail your 1987 dues as soon as possible at your convenience.

New life members are: Farmers Elevator, Minto Francis Phelan, Grafton Mrs. Roy (Ethel) Mohagen, Grafton Lois Kiele, Grafton Victor Stoltman, Minto

1986 MEMBERSHIPS WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Town	Total	Regular	Business	Life	Heritage Press
Adams	45	43	2		8
Edinburg	31	25	6		5
Fairdale	43	42	1		4
Forest River	28	25	3		3
Grafton	238	185	50	3	39
Hoople	39	35	4		5
Minto	148	134	12	2	19
Park River	47	42	5		6
Ardoch	4	4			
Fordville	6	6			
Lankin	3	3			1
Lawton	1	1			
Pisek	11	11			4
Out of County	18	17	1		4
Out of State	23	23			6
Former Life Members	32				
Total Membership	717	596	84	5	104



Grounds of county museum in Minto — jail and log cabin.

Forest River Will Celebrate Centennial

Forest River will celebrate its centennial from June 26-28, 1987, the one hundredth anniversary of the platting and establishment of its present townsite. However, the story of this little prairie town in Walsh County and its people begins several years before 1887.

The Forest River was actually known as the "Big Salt" river by early traders before the first settlers came. When the early settlers arrived, they looked at the beautiful spring fed stream with its canopy of majestic trees and soon determined that the name should be changed to "Forest River."

It is generally agreed that the first settlers in the Forest River area was Jesse Warren, who came with a surveying party in 1877. He decided to stay and so proceeded to build himself a shelter, and with native Indians as neighbors, he hunted wild game for his survival. In the spring of 1878 he returned to eastern Ontario to spread the word among his friends and neighbors about the Forest River area. The next four or five years brought a large influx of settlers to the area, as word of rich, fertile farm land that was available through homesteading, went back to the areas where the very first settlers came from. By 1882 or '83 most of the very best land was already taken up.

On September 20, 1878, the first post office was established, and Jesse Warren was appointed the first postmaster. It was a log building and is said to have also contained a small store or trading post operated by the Bates Bros.

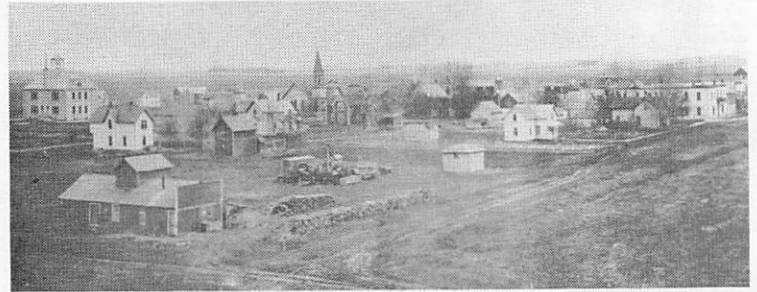
The present townsite of Forest River is located in section 28 of Forest River Township. An early abstract of title shows this land to be conveyed from the U.S. government to Ed E. Daily on February 2, 1881. The same abstract shows a certificate of H.H. Mott surveyor, that the townsite was surveyed and

platted in September of 1887 on its present site of land obtained from W.J. Brennan. Post office records indicate that the post office was also moved to this site in 1887. James Carpenter owned the land on the west side of the railroad track and sold small parcels to people to build houses, and this became known as Carpenter's Addition.

The Northern Pacific Railroad was built through Forest River in 1887 and no doubt was the major reason to move the town to its present site, and certainly was the most important factor in the town's growth.

The farmers were producing good crops on the fertile soil and businesses sprang up in town and by 1890 the combined population of the town and the township was 586 people. By 1900 it had grown to 631 people with 252 in the town and 379 in the township, which was the largest it would ever be. From that point it dwindled down to 258 in 1980 with 152 in the town and 106 in the township. The 1890 census posted one doctor, two clergymen, two school teachers, one bank cashier, one hotel owner, one druggist, one drug salesman, one barber, two merchants, one grocer, one meat dealer, one butcher, one railroad agent, one grain master and three grain buyers, one hardware dealer, one lumber salesman, one carpenter, one liveryman, one restaurant manager, four blacksmiths and one apprentice, several salesmen and one dressmaker. It is believed that Moses and Wiley built and operated the first general store until the late 1890's. Dr. A.B. Field was the first and only medical doctor to practice in Forest River. He came to the town in 1892 and didn't retire until the 1940's. Dr. Black practiced dentistry in Forest River around the turn of the century.

The 1893 plat book shows four grain elevators in Forest River — the NP Elevator, the Hoskins



Early scene of Forest River.

Elevator, the Northern Dakota Elevator Company and an unnamed elevator with a roller mill. Later photographs show the Atlantic Elevator, the Monarch Elevator, the Amenia Elevator and the Thorpe Elevator. After the Soo Line Railroad came through, the Atlantic and the Monarch elevators were moved to the Soo Track. One of them, the Atlantic, eventually became the Forest River Farmers Elevator, which is still thriving, and is the only elevator left in Forest River today.

The first telephone service came to Forest River in 1909.

Four protestant churches have served the people of Forest River. As the population decreased and through consolida-

tion of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in 1964, one church, the Forest River Community Church remains in the town.

Over the years several major fires occurred in Forest River and in the earlier years most buildings were wood construction so they burned readily. In November 1918 fire destroyed everything on the south block of main street.

The town and area was also prone to flooding and some of the more destructive floods occurred in 1897, 1907, 1948, 1950 and 1979.

Forest River is rightfully proud of its first one hundred years and is ready to face the challenge of the next one hundred years.

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Grain elevators in Forest River in early days.