



# Happy Birthday North Dakota

Throughout 1989 most towns in Walsh County celebrated the Centennial of North Dakota with parades, all-class reunions, special programs, all-faith worship services and picnics.

November 2, 1888, was the official kick-off for the centennial. Prior to 1889 we were part of Dakota Territory.

In July Hoople celebrated the town's centennial along with North Dakota Statehood with a three-day celebration. The last city celebrating was Grafton when a program was held on November 2, 1989 at St. John's Parish Center.

At various celebrations hundreds of people in our county received certificates and pins honoring them as sons and daughters of pioneers. To receive this honor at least one of your parents must have resided in North Dakota prior to November

1889. Centennial farms and places of business were also recognized by the Greater North Dakota Association and in 1988 and 1989 the N.D. State Department of Agriculture recognized Centennial Farms with certificates, signs, a book, and special gatherings at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot.

We have renewed pride in our ancestors as we begin our second 100 years of statehood.

By now you probably know that the Dakotas formally became states on Nov. 2, 1889. It was the only time two states were admitted to the union on the same day. President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the statehood proclamations around so that no one would know which he signed first.

Thanks to Bethel Cudmore of rural Park River for writing this poem for us.

Happy Birthday, North Dakota  
By **BETHEL CUDMORE**

North Dakota citizens  
Are proud of their great state,  
And want to let the whole world  
know  
That we truly are first rate.

We know we've come from hardy  
stock,  
Who worked to tame the soil,  
With sacrifice and hardships,  
So we could reap their honest toil.

Let's continue making history,  
With the pride that set men free,

And encourage those who take  
our place,  
To be the best that they can be.

Children are our greatest assets.  
They're the future of our land.  
We're proud of how they represent us.

We're proud of our Centennial  
Band.

Happy Birthday, North Dakota!  
We salute your brave pioneers.  
We pray your flag will proudly fly  
Beside Old Glory, far eon years.

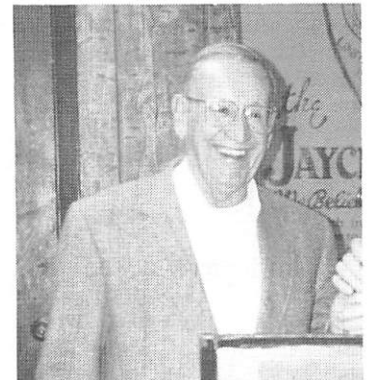
## Tribute To J.D. Morgan

John D. Morgan, Sr., better known as Jack by his friends, died in Arizona at the age of 66 from cancer on March 24, 1989. Jack was the newly elected president of the Walsh County Historical Society and died before he was able to preside as president. But, he was already serving as chairman of the Heritage Village Board since 1986, a branch organization of the Historical Society. Jack could be found day after day volunteering his time working and making improvements on the grounds and buildings at the village.

Jack served as publisher of The Record, a bi-weekly newspaper, for 26 years after his father, Rilie R. Morgan, retired. Jack continued in that position until his retirement in 1985. Jack was a printer, columnist, publisher and also owned and operated Associated Printers. You could say that Jack grew up in the newspaper business and now it is being carried on by his children.

On Jan. 19, 1923, Jack was born in Grafton. After high school he served in World War II, then attended UND and returned to The Record. In 1971 Jack served as president of the N.D. Newspaper Association.

Jack was a man of thought, ideas



**John D. Morgan, Sr. accepting gavel as president of Walsh County Historical Society November 1988.**

and words but also someone who could use his hands and do physical work. He was truly a community-minded individual, civic leader and most of all enjoyed people. Especially after his retirement, he often talked about sports, hunting and fishing. Jack was an avid sportsman.

Jack is survived by his wife, Dorothy Danielski, who grew up in the Minto area. Dorothy and Jack were married in 1949 and made their home in Grafton and became the parents of four daughters and two sons. Jack is truly missed but not forgotten.



## NORTH DAKOTA CENTENNIAL 1869-1989

During our North Dakota Centennial year, 1989, we have seen our logo almost everywhere in our state. Have you really looked at it and given it much thought? Burt Calkins, a native of Napoleon, ND and an artist, was the individual who designed the logo. Calkins was one of over 200 individuals who submitted designs for the seal competition in 1985. It shows a pioneer family and the grain that nourished them as the prominent features on the image. The "Pioneer Family" is taken from the work by one-time UND sculptor-in-residence, Arvard Fairbanks. The circular logo is meant to convey: "collective strength, integrity and intrinsic continuity of life itself." Art Calkins is truly proud of his North Dakota roots.

# Centennial Year Celebrated at Minto's Museum Alive

"If I could talk to the animals" is a phrase from a song that came true for many a youngster and some not so young at Museum Alive in Minto on Sunday, July 2, 1989. Animals have always been one of the most popular attractions at the biennial celebration at the Walsh County Historical Museum. Carla Williams from the Grove-Ranoe Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Larimore brought some babies that were irresistible. Among her menagerie were pygmy goats, baby raccoons, baby deer and elk. They needed to be bottle fed and there were many offers to do this. Her project is non-profit and she is one of only a few in the state who is licensed to care for animals if they are hurt or orphaned.

Another very popular exhibit was from the Oak Park Hatchery, Oslo, MN, whose owner is Bruce Patterson. He brought furry little baby chicks, ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasant and guinea hens. To add to the appeal (and the comfort of the ducks and geese) they built a little pool so the animals could swim and splash around. He also brought large chickens of different varieties. Chad Barta of Forest River added variety with his 25 baby rabbits, a cage of pigeons and ducks, geese and turkeys, both domestic and wild. Ted Barta is in charge of the animal exhibits and he always does a great job.

Approximately 1,200 people attended the celebration. Many were out-of-town visitors here for the centennial. Comparison to other museums and historical exhibits is inevitable and Minto's museum is rated excellent by all who visit it. The afternoon was filled with things to see and do, and should anyone be hungry or thirsty there was plenty of food and drink available. The Girl Scouts had a lunch stand. Five cent ice cream cones were sold by June Selseth, Debbie Jallo and Peggy and Ryan Kowalski in the old drug store, and outdoors Dale and Joyce Boeddeker and Ron and Cindy Ophaug kept everyone cool. Donuts and coffee were available in the pioneer kitchen, popcorn smells filled the air from the old fashioned popcorn machine and in the general store Gert Hewitt, Mary Jane and Stan Makowski offered apples, penny candies, dill pickles and also

homemade soap and freshly ground coffee. Greg Misialek and his team of mountain men set up their tepee and cooked and tended their delicious buffalo stew in a large black kettle over an open fire the whole night before the celebration. Then to assure that no one was thirsty, Chris Misialek, Dennis Slominski and John Janda served up near beer in the saloon with the honky-tonk piano offering entertainment.

Each area of the museum was staffed by people who could give information about products and services of days gone by. John Miller and John Schanilec were in the drug store and offered penny candy and patent medicines, and Jerry Fladeland, Minto's postmaster, was in the post office selling stamps and postcards with different museum scenes. You could have your picture taken in vintage clothes in the old photography studio by a Grand Forks photographer. Amby Wysocki demonstrated and told us how a creamery operated and Art Selseth offered to give you a trim in the old barber shop. Carol Nowling was the teacher for the day in the country schoolhouse and copies of Rules for Teachers were for sale. Walsh County Heritage books were also being sold. Antique stationery engines were displayed and operated by Clifford Knutson of Manvel who restores them and is willing to share his knowledge with you.

Rosemaling and quilting were demonstrated and a beautiful red, white and blue centennial quilt made by Amelia Riske of Minto was displayed in the pioneer bedroom. Antique dolls were displayed by ladies from the Grafton doll club. If people were interested in knowing how a blacksmith did his work they could visit the demonstration by Frank Mittel and Theofil Kilichowski. The special blacksmith coal was shipped from Duluth for this occasion.

An always popular attraction is the PNA-Polish dancers. Sandy Schuster directs this group of elementary, junior high and high school students who do traditional dances in their authentic and colorful costumes. Children looked forward to the games conducted by Sam Mondry and Mark Tweten who were dressed as clowns. There was a watermelon seed spitting contest, a peanut

relay and a hopping contest. Prizes were coupons for treats from several local merchants. Helium balloons were for sale and were seen bobbing all over the grounds and the surrounding area.

During the afternoon a program was conducted honoring some of the people who were instrumental in helping to establish the museum in Minto. Honored this year were Ed Gudajtes, Herman

Schanilec Sr., Stephanie Prepiora and Pete Matejcek. Plaques and corsages were given to these diligent workers who have made it possible for the rest of us to have this glimpse of the past.

The museum is open to the public every Sunday afternoon from Memorial Day to Labor Day and other times by appointment. There is a small charge.



## Centennial Memorial Dedicated In Minto

When you drive through Minto on State Highway No. 81, you will see a beautiful North Dakota Centennial Monument in the city park. Governor George Sinner dedicated this memorial in late June.

The concrete monument stretches 200 feet in length, is four feet high and 11 feet wide. There are four two-tiered flower beds which are separated by three concrete and stone walkways, each surrounding a flag pole flying either a U.S. flag, a North Dakota

Centennial flag, or a Canadian flag. At night lights shine on the memorial.

Project coordinators were Randy Kowalski, Louise Schanilec and Les Jallo. Plaques are attached and dedicated to family and friends. A drive was launched and the \$25,000 project was thus funded by individuals, organizations and places of business mainly in the Minto area. This is one centennial project that will be around for years.

## Heritage Books Still Available

All four volumes of the Walsh Heritage books are available for \$30 (add \$8 for postage and handling if mailed). They are available at the Heritage Village in Grafton or from Leonard Jensen, Edinburg; James Johnson, Adams; Pete Matejcek, Lankin; or Ed Gudajtes, Minto.



In February 1989 the U.S. Postal Department issued a commemorative stamp honoring North Dakota on their centennial.



# PNA Dancers

One ethnic group in Walsh County that has kept their traditions alive are the Polish.

The Polish National Alliance Dancers represent PNA Lodge 3043 of Warsaw, ND.

The PNA dancers were originally formed over 25 years ago. Former dance directors include: Mrs. Blanche Babinski, Mary Kosmatka Woods and Mrs. Kathy Gudajtes. From 1975-1985 Gudajtes directed both a youth dance group and an adult dance group, this tradition has continued over the years.

Performance highlights from those years include: Walsh County Fair and Potato Show; Museum Alive, Minto; Heritage Days, Grafton; 1975 - St. Stanislaus Jubilee celebration; 1982 - Grand Forks Historical Society ice cream social; 1983 - St. Stanislaus centennial celebration, UND centennial ethnic production and St. Michael's Catholic Church Polish Sunday each January.

In 1983, Mr. Ron Wilga of Erie, PA visited Minto for an intense, three-day dance workshop for the adult dancers to learn a variety of Polish dances for performances accompanied by Lauren Babinski of Warsaw on piano and Gene Vasek of East Grand Forks on accordion. The adult dance group had seven active dancing couples at that time. Their ornate costumes were colorful and authentic, representing the "Krakow" region of Poland.

In 1986, Sandy Schuster of Warsaw became dance director

and the dancers have consistently numbered at least 30-40 in recent years. Young teenage Polish dancers have replaced the adult dance group and two younger dance groups were also formed.

Recent highlighted performances of these groups include: nursing homes in Grand Forks and Walsh County; annual Minto Pre-Harvest Fest; 1988 - Fargo Diocesan centennial celebration in Fargo, North Dakota centennial kickoff, Grand Forks, and Grand Forks Christmas Muscular Dystrophy Telethon; 1989 - Several North Dakota centennial celebrations in Walsh County, Ethnic Day at Trollwood Park, Fargo, Grand Forks Christmas Exchange Television program.

In 1988, Schuster and PNA dancer Tina Walski of Oslo attended a week-long dance workshop in Minneapolis sponsored by the Polish Folk Dance Association of America. Three choreographers from Poland taught articulate dances and customs of regions of Poland, including Krakow, Rzeszow, Ciesyn, Rozbarski and Lublin.

Each spring Schuster choreographs new dance selections for the current year's dancers based on their ability and the number of dancers in each performing group. This adds variety to their repertoire and enables the performers to learn a number of Polish dances. The audiences also enjoy seeing new selections each season. The active season of the dancers is April-October each



P.N.A. Junior Dancers dressed up in their colorful Polish costumes.



P.N.A. dancers - Advanced group from the Warsaw-Minto area.

year with additional performances upon request throughout the year.

The 1989 dance selections include: "Grozik" and "Children's Polka" - Junior dancers; "Szat Madziarz" and "It's a Small World" polka - Inter-

mediate dancers; suite of dances from the Cieszyn region - "Hey Na Moscie," "Cieszyniok" and "Jawornicki" - Senior dancers; "Schottische" and "Krakowiak" also by the Senior dancers.

Sandy Schuster

## Centenarians in Walsh County

During our centennial year, two women joined the ranks as centenarians in Walsh County. Anna Seeba, Grafton, a mother of eight children, celebrated her 100th birthday on March 12, 1989. Anna was born in Oregon coming to our area as a child. When Anna was married to John Seeba, they farmed east of Grafton. Anna was also employed for a number of years as a seamstress at the Grafton State School. She still resides in her own home in Grafton.

Annie Aasand, Grafton, celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 23, 1989. She was born in

Norway and came to America when she was 16 years of age. Annie married Ole Aasand and they farmed in the Hoople and Grafton area. They had five children, all who came to help celebrate her centennial. Annie is now a resident of the Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton.

Other centenarians are: Miss Julia Johnson, Grafton, who was 101 on Feb. 24, 1989 and is a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton; Mrs. Joseph (Eleanor) Cicha, Park River, who was 101 on June 9, 1989 and she is a resident of Good Samaritan Home in

Park River; Mrs. Nels (Gina) Vigen of Adams-Fairdale who celebrated her 101st birthday on April 24, 1989 and is a resident of Maple Manor Nursing Home in Langdon.

Three centenarians who died in 1989 were: 103-year-old Carl J. Paulson, Hoople, who died on Jan. 12; 102-year-old Mrs. Caroline Verke who died April 6; and Katherine Misialek who died November 11 at the age of 111 making her the oldest resident in North Dakota.

## Centennial Business

Dundee Mutual Insurance Company, Park River, was organized by a group of farmers from Dundee Township and was incorporated in March 1889 to provide low cost adequate protection against fire losses for farmers. The company is governed by a board of nine directors with Rodney Olson, Adams, present board chairman. The secretary-treasurer of the board and company manager is Eugene Loftsgard who succeeded his father, T.G. Loftsgard (1944-1969).

Over the years coverage has expanded and now there are agents and policyholders in 15 counties in northeast North Dakota.

# County Museum Report

By JOAN SCHANILEC

What better time than a centennial year to visit a historical museum? Apparently that was the thought of many people, as the Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto concluded its season with a record attendance of visitors.

It began in the spring, when letters were sent out to 40 area elementary schools inviting them to schedule field trips for their students. A tour guide orientation meeting was held, with novice and experienced guides given information and instruction about the museum. And then, the students and their teachers and chaperones began pouring in! During a two week period in May, 690 students and 70 adults visited the museum. They arrived by foot, car, or school bus from Drayton, Grafton, Adams, Minto, Midway, Manvel, Crystal, Grand Forks, and Park River. Many of the classes had been studying North Dakota history and heritage in conjunction with the state centennial, and found that the museum tour added to their learning experience.

Attendance at the museum remained above average on Sundays throughout the summer, with a peak over the July 4th holiday. Museum Alive was the kick-off event for the North Dakota State Centennial celebration in Minto. Approximately 1,200 people attended Museum Alive which was held on July 2. The museum was

also open on the afternoon of July 3 and 4 with many people taking the opportunity to tour the buildings and grounds at their leisure.

And with each visit to the museum, there always seems to be something new or different to catch the eye. The main street is a favorite of many. One can step back in time by stopping in the general store, the photography studio, saloon, church, post office, pharmacy, ice cream parlor, creamery, barber shop, beauty shop, and the dentist and doctor's offices. Each of the rooms is decorated and furnished in turn of the century detail.

The wildlife displays are also of great interest to those touring the museum. Four areas are devoted to wildlife exhibits. One of the goals for the museum is to have a complete display of all birds, animals, and fish indigenous to North Dakota. Some of the species that are yet to be obtained are the elk, antelope, big horn sheep, eagle, meadowlark, and hummingbird. The museum was fortunate to have acquired several birds and animals from the Ray Foerster collection during the past year. They are on display in the newest wildlife area which is located south of the quonset.

Another new feature for 1989 was the addition of two dioramas. And what is a diorama, you may be wondering? According to Webster, a diorama is "a scenic representation in which sculptured figures and lifelike details

are displayed usually in miniature so as to blend in with a realistic painted background." Both of the displays show scenes from prehistoric time: one being a scene with dinosaurs and the other of cavemen defending their home from a wild animal.

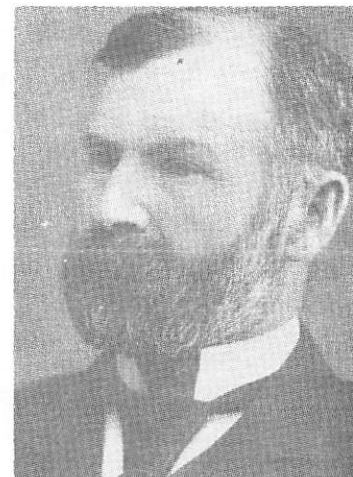
The latest undertaking that is occurring on the museum grounds is the construction of an anti-gravity house or cosmos. Work began this fall when an old granary was moved in and set to rest on the south side of the main building. A few board members traveled to area exhibits of the same nature to obtain plans and ideas. When the project is completed in the summer of 1990, the little granary will house displays that seem to defy the laws of gravity: balls and water that seem to run uphill, illusions of height and distance, etc. This will be a unique and fascinating feature for all museum visitors to investigate.

As the North Dakota centennial year comes to a close, the Walsh County Museum Board wishes to thank all those who have so generously supported the museum with their time, talents, and finances.

## Tribute to Society Members

Several members of the Walsh County Historical Society died in 1989 and will be remembered by our organization at the January meeting.

They are as follows: 103-year-old Carl Paulson, Hoople, a life member. Charter members: Dorothy Kenney, Park River and Minneapolis; Stanley Stenerson, Edinburg and Grand Forks; Ethel Peoples Barnard, Florida; Walter Gerszewski, Warsaw; John D. Morgan, Sr., Grafton. Business membership: Wm. Greenagel. Regular member: Kenneth Folsom, Edinburg and Ted Swenson, Arizona. Centenarians, 111-year-old Katherine Misialek, Grafton and Caroline Verke, age 101, of Fairdale.



John Miller was North Dakota's first governor.

## First Governor of North Dakota

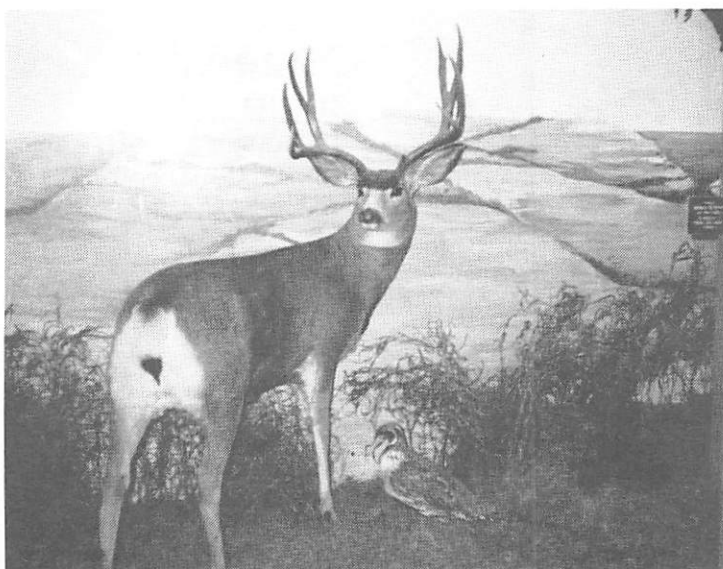
John Miller was the first governor of North Dakota and represented the Republican Party. He served Nov. 2, 1889 until Jan. 7, 1891. Miller took the oath on Nov. 3, 1889.

John Miller was born Oct. 6, 1843 in Dryden, NY and was of Scottish ancestry. Miller died on Oct. 26, 1906 in Duluth, MN.

Miller was a farmer and land speculator from Dwight in Richland County. He had received his elementary and secondary education at Dryden Seminary and later he worked as a clerk in the store of Jeremiah, W. Dwight and Company, and in 1864 he became a partner in that business. In 1878 Miller and Dwight purchased 17,000 acres of land in Richland County, Dakota Territory, and a year later they organized the Dwight Farm and Land Company and began to turn the prairie into farmland. John Miller was the manager. In 1882 they expanded their holdings to 60,000 acres with most of the additional acreage purchased from the Northern Pacific Railroad Co.

In 1888 Miller entered Territorial politics. He was elected to the last territorial legislature. Miller was identified with the Farmers Alliance, an early progressive farm movement.

In 1889 John Miller won the Republican nomination and was elected so it was Miller who issued the proclamations establishing the state and called for the first North Dakota Legislature to convene on Nov. 19, 1889. John Miller served two years and did not seek re-election.



One of several wildlife displays at the County Museum in Minto.



# 1989 Historical Society Summary

This North Dakota centennial year, 1989, we saw many activities in Walsh County and throughout the state. The Walsh County Historical Society completed 22 years as an active organization working to preserve our heritage.

The annual meeting and memorial service was held in January at the county courthouse in Grafton with vice president John Paulson presiding for the newly elected president, John Morgan, who had left for Arizona. Annual reports were given for the county museum in Minto, Heritage Village in Grafton, and the historical society.

In March the county and historical society was saddened by the unexpected death of the society president, John Morgan, who was vacationing in Mesa. John Morgan was also serving as chairperson of the Heritage Village Board in Grafton at the time of his death.

There were no scheduled meetings of the society in February or March. On April 30 the society met at the Heritage Village. John Paulson was elected president to succeed John Morgan and John Curran was elected vice president. Mary Kennedy, who had served as treasurer for five years, resumed the job as treasurer after the newly elected treasurer resigned. Joan Abercrombie from the Red River Regional Planning Council was guest speaker. A potluck lunch was served. There was no meeting in May.

The county museum in Minto opened for the season the first Sunday in June. "Museum Alive" was held on July 2 at the county museum with a brief business meeting at 5 p.m. During the summer, many activities were also held at the Heritage Village in Grafton.

The last Sunday in July the annual potluck picnic and meeting was held at Jugville, north of Grafton, with Sig Jagelski as host. Everyone enjoyed viewing his antiques and collectibles in the various museum buildings, machinery lots, and his main street of Jugville, U.S.A.

In August the Northeast North Dakota Pioneer Machinery Association held the 14th threshing show and machinery display in Park River. No meeting was held in September. In October the his-

torical society met in the Shoul't's home at the Heritage Village.

In mid October the society had a booth at the Walsh County Fair and State Potato Show in Park River. Wen Kennedy constructed the booth which can be used at future shows. Delores Dub, Pisek, won the four volumes of the Walsh Heritage books.

The November meeting was held at Elmwood in Grafton. This old victorian home is being restored by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation, assisted by a local committee and the Heritage Village.

Daily calendar drawings with Leonard Fagerholt as chairman just completed its fourth year. These \$20 chance tickets are being sold for 1990 which is the fifth year for the drawings. The profit is used to help support various projects of the society.

We are proud of our 661 paid

memberships in the historical society. Two new life members in 1989 are Willard and Marie Hove, Grafton, bringing the total life membership to 49. Thanks to Stephanie Prepiora who has been our faithful and dedicated membership chairperson since 1972. Thanks to everyone who mailed in their membership dues and all those who collected memberships in their area. Only through the effort of each one of you was it possible to reach this goal. Stephanie feels that she can no longer continue in this position so Emma Lou Minden, 420 Burgamott, Grafton, will head a membership committee of Marie Hove, Grafton, and Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, assisted by Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, for 1990.

Plan to attend a meeting or two in 1990. Your financial support and participation at meetings and various activities keeps the

society active and growing.  
Lorraine Paulson, Corr. Sec.

### Officers for 1990

President . . . . . John Paulson  
Vice President . . . John Curran  
Treasurer . . . . . Mary Kennedy  
Recording Sec. . . . . Mary Rose Rodriguez  
Corr. Sec. . . . . Lorraine Paulson  
Membership Chrm. . . . . Emma Lou Minden

### New Directors Elected (1990-93)

Vic Koppang, Ora Marie Stewart and George Chyle (replacing Leonard Jensen, Harvey Lykken and Herman Schanilec who completed terms)

### Held-Over Directors

Leonard Fagerholt, James Johnson, Roy Mohagen, Percy Walstad, Wm. Gorder, Pete Matejcek and Ex. Officer Ed Gudajtes.

## Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission

In September 1989 the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission was organized. The goal is to help preserve some of the county's rich heritage. The first official meeting was in November at the county courthouse. Members had been appointed by the county commissioners. The formation of the commission now may make the county eligible to receive grant money to use for historic preservation causes, reported Joan Abercrombie, Red River Regional Planning Council program administrator. Abercrombie had informed county commissioners earlier this year that the county was actually turning away funds because of the lack of "certified local government" in North Dakota. That status can be earned only by counties with a home rule charter. Because Walsh County qualifies as a home rule county, Abercrombie urged the county to form a commission so that federal monies can be invested locally and not turned away.

The county has been deemed eligible under certified local government requirements, but Abercrombie said it's just a matter of time before the wheels start rolling. 1989 grant monies may be used only for planning historical projects but hope some funds can



Left to right: Rae Desautel, vice chairperson; Mary Rose Rodriguez; John Paulson; Steve Mozinski; James Johnson; Joan Braaten-Grabanski; and Jon McMillan, chairman.

be used for restoration as well. register first. Each year the funds Properties must be identified as are earmarked for specific being eligible for the national projects.

## Walsh County Historical Museum Officers and Board Members

<b>Officers and Board Members</b>	2 . . . . . Terry Nowling (1989)
Curator/	3 . . . . . Donald Rudnik (1990)
Mgr. . . . . Stephanie Prepiora	4 . . . . . John Gudajtes (1990)
<b>Officers - 1 year term</b>	5 . . . . . Theafil Kilichowski (1990)
Chairman - Frank Schiller (1991)	6 . . . . . Wen Kennedy (1990)
V.-Chrm. - Jan Lysengen (1989)	7 . . . . . June Selseth (1991)
Sec. . . . . Joan Schanilec (1989)	8 . . . . . Ted Wylot (1991)
Treasurer . . . . . Ted Barta (1991)	
<b>Board Members - 3 year term</b>	
1 . . . . . Linda Dunnigan (1989)	

The dates following the names refer to the year that the director's three year term expires.

# Stage Coach Service Inaugurated in 1871

Prior to 1871 there was no regular overland transportation service through the valley, but in that year contracts for carrying the mail were let and relay stations were established by the government.

For several years stage coaches rocked along the valley roads, carrying mail, express and passengers from Fort Abercrombie to Winnipeg. From Grand Forks to Pembina the stage stations were: Grand Forks, where John Stewart was the station master; Turtle River, with William Budge and Geo. B. Winship, proprietors of a tavern and stage station; Kelly's Point, where Andrus and Kelly were in charge; Thirty-Mile Point with James Hastings and Hugo Biggerstaff as operators; Twelve-Mile Point, also known as Frank LaRose's with LaRose in charge, and Pembina, where Antoine Girard and Geo. F. Potter were the hosts. There were changes in these stations, a list in a later period including Bowsmont and Longpoint (next to the south) and omitting Thirty-Mile Point.

Kelly's Point was about midway on the stretch through Walsh County and Thirty-Mile Point was at first the next stop to the north, Longpoint later shortening the distance. Thirty-Mile Point and Twelve-Mile Point, as the names indicate, were those distances respectively from Pembina.

The stations were about 20 miles apart on the average, a convenient distance for change of

horses, meals for passengers, shelter at night and in case of storms.

For the first year or two the station buildings were crude but were soon improved. The station at Turtle River, where Manvel now is located, was typical. It was built of logs and roofed with sod with a thatching of reeds. There was one door and one window but no floor the first year and no stove or furniture. Cooking was done in a fireplace. Roaring fireplaces kept the structures warm and travelers paid, without complaint, 50 cents for sleeping space on the floor.

Robert Stanley, 91-year-old pioneer of Traill County, residing on a farm seven miles northeast of Hillsboro, drove the stage through this section from the time the service started until 1878.

"The stage route on which I drove extended from Breckenridge to Pembina," the veteran driver reminisced. It was in the summer of 1871 that I first cracked a whip over a stage coach team. The line was operated by Blakely and Carpenter, this firm having just bought out J. C. Burbank.

## "Lightning" Service

"Our coaches were of a uniform type, painted yellow with canvas tops. There were three seats with room for 10 passengers and a few more in a pinch. The coach body rode on leather straps called 'thorough braces.' There was usually room in the boot for the mail and express. Four horses

were used and when there were enough fresh horses available and the roads were fairly good the trip from Grand Forks to Pembina could be made handily in a day despite stops, unless for unavoidable reasons the stops happened to be too long.

"When I hired out to the company I was told that it planned to provide 'lightning' passenger, express and mail service in the valley — and it was pretty fast for those days. We had all kinds of passengers, fur traders, promoters, adventurers, homeseekers, businessmen at different points in the valley, school ma'ams, priests and ministers and plain laborers. Once in a while I had a couple on their way to Pembina to be married.

"The riding was rough at times but we didn't know much about comfort on the road then. Passengers were sheltered from the rain and there were no hostile Indians to molest them. Indians still committed murders in the valley occasionally but they did not ven-

ture out on the open road."

Stanley never was held up, although he often carried valuable express. The pay varied, ranging on different routes and at different times from \$40 to \$125 a month. Stanley received about the average wage during his entire service. In 1878 he was transferred by the company to a route from Bismarck to the Black Hills. The same year he settled on his farm in Traill County.

The stage driver had first visited the valley in 1870 with a train of 35 wagons hauling lumber from Anoka to Pembina for the fort built there that year.

Cars and buses now speed over Highways 81 and I-29 that follow partly the old stage route and airplanes fly overhead. Distances that required hours in the 1870's are now a matter of minutes. Advent of the railroads in the early 1880's ended the valley stage service. Steamboats in the summer rivaled the stage line also.

(Reprint from old Grafton Record)

## 1989 Membership

	Total	Regular	Business	Life
Adams	29	27	2	
Ardoch	3	3		
Edinburg	41	37	4	
Fairdale	28	27	1	
Fordville	4	4		
Forest River	25	23	2	
Grafton	199	159	38	2
Hoople	43	41	2	
Lankin	1	1		
Minto	133	117	16	
Park River	57	53	4	
Pisek	8	8		
Out of County	19	19		
Out of State	22	22		
	612	541	69	2
Life Members	49			
Prior In 1989				
TOTAL	661			

## Dedicated Volunteer Retires From Post

Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, volunteer curator, working at the county museum. She can be found at the museum every Sunday when the museum is open from 2-5 p.m. during the summer months, on holidays and by special appointment.

Stephanie recently retired as membership chairperson of the Historical Society, a volunteer job she has done so well since 1972. At the 1989 Museum Alive she was recognized for her dedicated service starting with the development of the museum up until the present. Thanks Stephanie.



Stephanie Prepiora

The two new life memberships for 1989 are Willard and Marie Hove, Grafton.

Thanks to Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, for serving so faithfully and working so hard to build up our membership since her appointment in 1972 as membership chairperson.

The new membership chairperson, starting Jan. 1, 1990, is Emma Lou Minden, 420 Burgamott, Grafton, assisted by Marie Hove, Lorraine Paulson, and Stephanie Prepiora.

A regular membership is \$3.

Business membership is \$10.

Life membership is \$100.

If anyone would like to receive the Heritage Press, which is published in Moorhead by the Red River Heritage Society, enclose an additional \$2. This year 33 individuals receive the Heritage Press.



# Support Shown in Restoring Elmwood

By RAE M. DESAUTEL

While Dakota Territory was working its way into separate states a late Victorian style house was built in 1895 in an oxbow of the Park River in Grafton.

The house, located on 20 acres (seven of which are protected in the Natural Area Registry as an example of river bottom forest) was built by C. A. M. Spencer, a local attorney. Spencer served as a Grafton mayor, city and state's attorney and North Dakota's second attorney general. Subsequent owners included Judson LaMoure and John L. Cashel, both of whom served in the state Senate, and John H. Fraine, a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives.

William C. Treumann of Treumann Abstract Co., established in 1896, in 1913 registered the property and gave it the name Elmwood. Treumann, a North Dakota adjutant general, perhaps is best known for his distinguished military career which included service as commander of Company C, North Dakota's first regiment of U.S. volunteers. His regiment saw service in the Philippines during the Spanish American War.

In 1919 Treumann sold the house to the Benedictine Sisters who envisioned a school. Less than a year later it was sold to Marie Srott. In 1945 Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson, long-time owners of Grafton Milk Co., became the owners.

They cared deeply for the property and maintained the

house to reflect the original character. The couple reared their eight children on the property.

Elmwood apparently is one of three remaining turn-of-the-century mansions in the community to survive as a single family dwelling and to retain essential design and maternal integrity, according to U.S. Department of Interior.

In 1985 the mansion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the following year the Williamson family gifted the property to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. In 1988, a management agreement between Heritage Village of the Walsh County Historical Society and the parks and recreation department was signed. Later that fall in cooperation with the state improvements and restoration began. Heading the list of improvements was the replacement of a bridge at the back of the property. Others included a security system, hook up to city water and burial of electrical wires on the outside. On the interior, floors were returned to their original hardwood surfaces and walls and ceilings were repaired and painted. In the immediate future floor covering will be installed in the kitchen and back porch. As funding becomes available the front porch will be replaced and improvements made to the structure of the house.

In the meantime, a cooperative spirit rang throughout the community as interest in the property grew. The house and grounds



Elmwood hosted grand tours during Grafton's celebration of North Dakota's 100th birthday. LeeAnne Nilson standing by a vintage car, owned by Paul Benjaminson, in front of Elmwood.

were ready to receive visitors during Grafton's observance of North Dakota's centennial celebration in June. More than 1,000 people were given guided tours. For many visitors it was a trip down memory lane as they recalled events or visits to the mansion in earlier days. Coming "home" were Mary Nancy Williamson and her sons Aaron and Erik.

People roamed the grounds put in order by various city crews and individuals and dreamed of another time. Boy Scout Troop 122 in cooperation with the Mayor's Centennial Committee developed a nature trail in time for the celebration. A high tea was served to further emphasize the gracious living of another era. Elmwood was recognized as a North Dakota Centennial project.

The open house whet the appetite of the community. Many groups and organizations chose to use the house for special events. The house once again echoed with the sound of laughter and activity. A highlight of the holiday season was the first Christmas at Elmwood with Friends of Elmwood in charge. Others have been supportive of the efforts to restore Elmwood and have shared time, energy, gifts and money to aid in the restoration and refurbishing. Some such as ADK, a teachers' sorority, have adopted Elmwood as an ongoing project. Others such as Grafton Community Chorus and American

Legion Band, have shared their treasury with Elmwood when they disbanded. Members of the Mayor's Centennial Committee solicited funds to pay for the printing of brochures to be ready in time for the city centennial celebration.

Thus far only free-will donations have been taken for the use of the house but a price schedule will be in effect when the house is reopened this spring.

Elmwood was featured on the cover of North Dakota Realtor magazine. A regional representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., visited Elmwood in September. He concurred with the Governing Board that Elmwood is unique because of its setting and the plan as a hands on museum. Members of the Governing Board are Virginia Anderson, Gloria Thompson, Joen Duerre and Rae Desautel. A memorial fund has been started and those interested in contributing may send a check to Elmwood, Box 263, Grafton, ND 58237.

It is the goal of Heritage Village, the Governing Board and Friends of Elmwood to keep those of the present and future in tune with the past. What better way to celebrate a state's 100th birthday than by bringing up the past for the enjoyment of the people of North Dakota to whom Elmwood was given?



A meeting of Heritage Village Board of Directors was held at Elmwood. Back: Leonard DeSautel, C.W. Jacobson, Tim Dvorak, Bob Vaudrin, Loren Anderson, Arnie Clemenson, T.J. Conlon and Wally Ruud. Seated: Ralph Adamsen, June Capouch, Norv Elbert, Rae Desautel and Ethel Mohagen. Standing in center is Mary Rose Rodriquez.

# Pioneer Farm Home Refurbished at Heritage Village

Built in 1916 on the original homestead of John and Martha Mielcarek, on the north outskirts of Warsaw, this two and one-half story house has been restored to its original plan, with all the woodwork refinished including pillars in the parlor, doors and open staircase. The house has found its permanent location at Heritage Village, and, it and its antique furnishings will be admired by future generations.

The house was built by Mielcarek's son-in-law Joseph Shoult and his wife Francis. In this house the Shoultses raised their 10 children, consisting of Steffie Pasko, John Shoult, Hilary Shoult, now deceased, Donicella Kosmatka, Regina Kowalski, Sophia Lubbesmeyer, Eva Olson, Cecilia Goa, Ernest

and Fabian Shoult. After standing empty for several years the house was donated to Heritage Village by Fabian Shoult and his family. In the fall of 1988 it was placed on a permanent foundation, to again become a typical farm home.

The winter of 1988 was spent in complete restoration, replacing broken windows, plastering walls, painting, varnishing, etc., hoping to have it ready for display at our state centennial celebration in June. In early May a plea was put out to the people in the area for furnishings, as the inside was ready but we had nothing to put in it. Thanks to many people and a good committee to do the work, we acquired enough furniture, etc. to fill the house. It was opened for display on the first day of the



Shoults' house at Heritage Village.

centennial and during that period we had approximately 800 people visit and sign the guest register. Many had never seen an old cistern pump, cream separator, pump organ and other antiques on display. Truly a great addition to Heritage Village.

We are still in need of some antique furniture such as a bedroom set, chairs, sofa, porch furniture, etc. If anyone has any items they

may wish to see preserved, contact Heritage Village.

A special thanks to the Shoultses, everyone who donated time or items, and especially to all those on the house committee who worked so hard and long to make this empty house into such a typical farm home, and a major attraction at Heritage Village.

Submitted by C.W. Jacobson,  
House Comm. Chrm.

## Village Happenings

There have been many activities and improvements at the Heritage Village this centennial year. Activities began with the annual Toy Show in February. Heritage Days, which were held in June, provided ethnic food and entertainment with many people in ethnic costumes and centennial wear enjoying the festivities. The annual Rock and Gem Show was held in October and the Christmas Bonanza in November. There were many anniversaries, picnics and family reunions with 300 relatives attending the Desautel reunion in June.

Many groups, organizations, individuals and students toured the buildings during the year. Later in the summer the buildings were open every Sunday afternoon.

Bingo is played nearly every day unless other activities are scheduled.

The Landstad Church and the barn were both painted this summer and the Shoults' home renovated and furnished, and shops are being set-up on main street. The Rilie R. Morgan Memorial Pioneer Printing Plant

which is set up in the Mandt Hall was in operation during Heritage Days. Interior work has also been done in the theater building on the restrooms and kitchen area.

Officers of the village are: Norv Elbert, chairman; Wally Ruud, vice chairman; Mary Rose Rodriguez, secretary; and June Capouch, treasurer.

## Outstanding Farmer of N.D.

Walsh County resident, Rick Johnston, Nash area farmer, received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award for North Dakota at Mandan in November. The 32-year-old farmer, and Helena, his wife of 11 years, are parents of three daughters. They raise potatoes, wheat, corn and barley on more than 3,100 acres. Congratulations.

### Time To Renew 1990 Memberships

Renew your 1990 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 . . . . . \$100.00

Heritage Press include an extra \$2.00.

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Emma Lou Minden, Membership Chairperson  
Walsh County Historical Society  
420 Burgamott, Grafton, ND 58237

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