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ALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JANUARY 1991

WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Uncle Sig's Jugville To Become Part Of Walsh Heritage Village

By Rae Desautel

He worked hard to build a town that would portray the past.

Using his hands and imagination, Sig Jagielski created Jugville some 30 years ago. The little town north of Grafton has become famous and the role of visitors has grown. But, now Sig says the time has come to insure the town's future. With a desire to perpetuate Jugville for future generations he has given his town to Heritage Village in Grafton.

"I've always had a dream of doing this," he said as he signed the document transferring the property in October 1990.

However, at the same time, he emphasized with fingers tugging at the straps of his bib overalls, "I'm still the boss."

The 80-year-old has no thoughts of retiring and enjoys life as it is.

Sig says much of Jugville came from people in the community who added to his collection with family heirlooms or material with which to build. That compounds his desire to preserve Jugville and to keep it intact.

The full glory of the summer season is past, but there still is an Alice in Wonderland feeling as one strolls the garden paths leading to scaled buildings created in

the images of former times. In season, it's a real garden spot. Although the flowers have been pulled from the garden marking the end of another busy season, one can imagine the glory of the blooms once carefully tended by Sig's wife, Josephine "Josie," for 18 years until her death four years ago. Now Sig plants the abundant gardens in her memory.

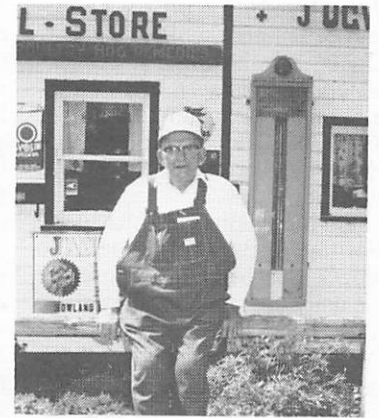
Among the buildings and flower spots are shoe, printing, telephone and telegraph shops, a general store, clinic, chapel, saloon, cook car and a school, all telling their individual stories of life in the past. Farm machinery and implements lining the back lot continue the story. Interspersed among the buildings are other items of Sig's imagination. There are potato chains used for archways, fences and vine climbers. Tractor seats have become garden seats and crank shafts are now bases of tables. There are bedsteads that are seeing new life as park benches and gates. There are bird baths that once were sinks or drinking fountains and a planter marks the seat of a commode.

Sig began collecting about 30 years ago when as a bachelor he wanted something more to do. He began in a small way by gathering

pencils, pens and bottles. In the beginning his collection was kept in the basement, but as time progressed and his visitors list grew, he turned to new quarters. Jugville grew and flourished, not by leaps and bounds, but slowly with sweat and affection for what became his and Josie's little town on the prairie.

Reared from hardy stock which eased the way for a lifetime of hard labor, Sig was born on a farm south of Minto and later moved to a farm near Cashel. It was there his mother died after being gored by a bull. Sig was five and his two sisters were younger. He was sent to live with his grandparents near Minto where as a child he displayed some of his determination when he walked 20 miles to return to his father's home.

From Cashel the family moved to LaPorte, Ind., where his father remarried in 1920. One of his sisters died there. The other sister lives in Warren. It was in 1921



Uncle Sig resting in front of the General Store in Jugville.

that Sig and his family moved to the current farm north of Auburn. His father died in 1958 and his stepmother died a year later.

During the winter months when Jugville isn't open to the public, Uncle Sig can be heard every Sunday afternoon over KXPO, Grafton, playing his old-time music from 1-4 p.m. for thirty years.

In the meantime, it's business as usual at Jugville, the town Uncle Sig has nurtured with a promise for future generations. Jugville is his legacy to the community that supported his efforts all these years.

Gov. Sinner Visits Hoople

Governor George Sinner came to Hoople on September 26, 1990, to plant two mountain ash trees in Century Square Park in honor of the late Governor Lynn J. Frazier, who was the 12th governor of North Dakota and served from January 3, 1917 until November 23, 1921. Frazier was the first governor elected by the Non-Partisan League. He was re-elected in 1918 and 1920. Frazier later became a U.S. Senator in 1922 and was re-elected to that office in 1928 and 1934.

Frazier grew up on his parents' farm northeast of Hoople and later operated the family farm. He was born in Minnesota in 1874. In 1892 he graduated from Grafton High School and from the UND in 1901. Lynn Frazier named his



Governor Sinner in Hoople for the planting of two trees in the park in honor of the late Governor Lynn Frazier from Hoople.

SEE GOV. SINNER
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Jugville located north of Grafton.

Dec. 15, 1990, Declared Uncle Sig Day

On Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15, from 2-5 p.m. hundreds of friends stopped at the theater building at the Heritage Village in Grafton to thank and honor Uncle Sig Jagelski for his generous gift to the village of his private collection of antiques, collectibles, artifacts, and hand-made replicas which are displayed in 14 buildings on his farm about five miles north of Grafton along State Highway #81 and is known as Jugville.

Jugville has been gifted to the Heritage Village when Sig no longer feels he is able to oversee the daily operation as he is doing now at the age of 80. Sig said, "The Lord willing I plan to continue Jugville as is as long as I'm able."

Sig began collecting approximately 30 years ago and over the years Sig and his late wife Josie accumulated and collected one of the largest private collections of antiques and collectibles in the area. Uncle Sig said he enjoyed going to sales. Sig said that close to 95 percent of his things came from the community and he wants to see it go back to the community. Sig said, "When

I was buying this stuff they called it junk and would say to me, there comes that junky Polack again." Aren't we glad he had such foresight. It would be impossible to even estimate the time he and his wife Josie spent collecting, repairing, displaying, and sharing their private collection called Jugville. Jugville is also adorned with flowers and beautiful trees — a garden spot. Thousands of people have stopped to visit and tour Sig's Jugville when it is open during the summer months.

Leroy Nelson, chairman of the Heritage Village board, served as emcee for the 3 p.m. program. Remarks were given by Grafton Mayor Jeff Pederson; Grafton Chamber President Ralph Kingsbury; and Walsh County Historical Society President John Paulson. Paulson said, "In 1967, 23 years ago, Sig helped organize the Walsh County Historical Society and he signed the Articles of Incorporation in May 1967. Sig is also a charter member of the society."

Del Nygard, KXPO radio station manager and part-owner, related many humorous events and the growing popularity of Sig's



Left to right: Leroy Nelson, chairman Heritage Village Board; Jeff Pederson, Grafton Mayor; Honored guest Sig Jagelski; Ralph Kingsbury, Grafton Chamber President; and John Paulson, President of the Historical Society.

30-year association with the local radio station. Sig started out with a half hour radio program and over the years it has grown to three hours every Sunday afternoon of good old-time music requests, and talk.

Leroy also called upon former historical society presidents, Pete Matejcek and Ed Gudajtes to come forward and give remarks. Sig was presented with tokens of appreciation and thanks from the Heritage Village board and Graf-

ton Chamber of Commerce. Sig expressed his thanks and appreciation.

The day's event was organized by the Heritage Village board and the Grafton Chamber of Commerce. Cake, coffee and apple cider was served throughout the afternoon. Floral arrangements given to Sig adorned the stage and serving table. The day's event was covered by several newspapers as well as WDAZ TV Channel 8, Grand Forks.

Village Happenings

Many activities were held at the Heritage Village on the west edge of Grafton throughout the year. During the summer months, the buildings were open for tours on Sunday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. and by special appointment during the week.

Bingo is played in the theater building on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings as a fund raiser for the village. Twenty dollar chances were sold on a drawing for a new 1990 car which was won by Hodny, Burke and Rice Law Firm in Grafton. Several cash prizes were also given.

The Heritage Village board would like to give a special thanks to Sig Jagielski for his generous gift of Jugville to the Heritage Village. On Saturday, December 15, 1990, Sig Jagielski Day was held at the Heritage Village thanking him for his gift of Jugville to the village and community.

Many family reunions, picnics, anniversary gatherings and other

groups used the facilities at the village. They are available to anyone at a rental fee. If you would like to schedule an event, you can contact C.W. "Jake" Jacobson, site manager, or June Capouch, village treasurer. Leroy Nelson is chairman, Mary Rose Rodriguez is secretary, and Wally Ruud is vice chairman of the board. Other directors are as follows: Ralph Adamsen, Loren Anderson, Arnold Clemenson, T.J. Conlon, Leonard Desautel, Rae Desautel, Tim Dvorak, Norv Elbert, Ralph Kieley, Charles Lambrecht, Ethel Mohagen, John Morgan, Jr., Dorothy Morgan and Bob Vaudrin.

New lighting was installed in the theater building in September.

Some of the special events this past year were the annual toy show in February, the old-timer's day in June, and Christmas shopping spree in November. Many souvenir or gift items are for sale at the village along with the "Walsh Heritage" books.

Cemetery Census Conducted

The Red River Valley Genealogical Society, West Fargo, in cooperation with the Walsh County Preservation recorded all the graves in the various cemeteries in Walsh County as well as graves which families reported as located on their private property or farms. Prior to 1900 many were buried on their farms and even in some instances small cemeteries were abandoned years ago.

Maxine Workmen from Borrrup and Marlyn Christlieb from Harwood and other volunteers have recorded all the information on

each tombstone in all the known cemeteries in the county in 1991 with the work beginning in mid July. The information for each county will be published in a book.

In 1972 Cass County was the first county researched and recorded in North Dakota. Now Walsh County is the 24th county where this project was completed and four counties in Minnesota have been recorded. There are 70 known cemeteries in Walsh County. This information can be used in genealogical work or tracing their ancestors.

Tribute to Former Members

The annual memorial service is held at the annual meeting the last Sunday in January. Members who died in 1990 are as follows:

Alphonse Koehmstedt, Grafton, Life Member (it was Mr. and Mrs. Koehmstedt who submitted the name "Walsh Heritage" as the title for our county history books);

Homer Nelson, Grafton, charter member; Ruth Holt, Grafton; William McIntyre, Grafton; Rita Kofsky, Grafton; Hilary Reszka, Minto; Mrs. Louis (Isabel) Wisniewski, Minto; Linden Tharalson, Hoople; Gudmund Gilbertson, Fairdale; Elaine Larson, Grafton, charter member.

Gift from North Dakota in Vigeland Park - Oslo, Norway

Anyone from North Dakota should rightfully feel proud when viewing the Lincoln Memorial at the world famous Vigeland or Frogner Park in Oslo, Norway.

Governor Hanna of North Dakota personally presented on July 4, 1914, the bronze bust upon a base of granite and tablets in bronze from the people of North Dakota to the King of Norway for the people of his country. Hanna was accompanied by a delegation of North Dakota citizens. Forty thousand attended this memorable event in Norway. Ever since on July 4, in honor of U.S. Independence Day, a special ceremony is held with a military person from the United States Armed Forces and the Norwegian Armed Forces each carrying their respective flags while the National Anthems are played, speeches are given and floral wreaths placed at the base of the monument.

1914 was the centennial year of Norwegian Independence and is celebrated on May 17, Constitution Day. This past summer I had the opportunity to go inside the Constitution Hall in Eidsvoll, Norway, where the constitution was signed. This was my second trip to Vigeland Park but only after our guide, Carrol Juven, Fargo, pointed out this memorial was I made aware of this gift from North Dakota. It stands about 60 feet to the left from the main entrance and rose garden. Funds for the statute were raised by school children in North Dakota who donated their pennies.

The people of Norway were especially pleased over the presentation of the statute as indicating the esteem in which their former sons and daughters are held in their adopted country — America. Norwegians comprised a large percentage of the population of North Dakota. Hanna stated that Norwegians had done their part in building up and making this great state of North Dakota. Now the Norwegian people of America and fellow residents of North Dakota turned with love and reverence to the Fatherland of Norway.

In 1915 the King of Norway

conferred upon Governor Hanna "The Order of St. Olaf," the highest civic decoration given by the Norwegian government.

Governor Hanna appointed a committee to find a suitable gift for the people of Norway in honor of their centennial. The memorial is that of a great man — Lincoln — whom America idealizes and the whole world knows, loves and respects. The committee agreed upon a bronze bust of Lincoln and commissioned Paul Fjelde, a 21-year-old North Dakota farm boy, to create the sculpture. Fjelde's sculpture now shares a place in the world famous park with hundreds of larger than life sculptures or figures chiseled and carved in granite and others in bronze and other metals. Gustav Vigeland dedicated his life and was commissioned to create the story of life or man for this large park.

Abe Lincoln

A man, rough-hewn, cast in heroic mold
The sculptor chisels from enduring stone,
With coarse carved lines and line-ments and bold
And set upon a pedestal — alone.

Carved from the stone, a rock to raise the Right
Upon, as Liberty her edifice
Founded on Him, and found in Him the might
To close a chasm, bridge a precipice.

Mighty, a monarch, Nature wove his crown
And justice framed his edicts, right his throne
Love shaped his heart and through the ages down
He lives a deathless memory, in stone.

What more appropriate gift could have been given to another country and to be seen by millions of people from around the world than a bust of our great and beloved president — Abraham Lincoln.

By Lorraine Paulson



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sorlie, Buxton, standing by the Lincoln Memorial at Vigeland Park in Oslo, Norway. Oscar's father served on the committee to have an appropriate memorial constructed for the centennial of Norwegian Independence.

Centenarians in Walsh County

Six women are known to be at least 100 years of age in our county. If you know of any other centenarians please let us know.

Julia Johnson, a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton, was 102 years of age on February 24, 1990.

Annie Aasand, a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton, was 101 years of age on September 2, 1990.

Rena Peterson, a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton, was 102 years of age on Sep-

tember 2, 1990.

Anna Seeba, who was 101 years of age on March 12, 1990, lives in her own home in Grafton.

Eleanor Cicha, a resident of the Good Samaritan Home in Park River, was 102 years of age on June 9, 1990.

Gina Vigen from the Adams-Fairdale area but who is a resident outside of our county at the Maple Manor Nursing Home in Langdon, was 102 years of age on April 24, 1990.

Walsh County Museum Report

TWO DECADES

(Excerpts taken from the Walsh County Historical Society Newsletter Issues of May 1974 through January 1990)

Twenty years ago, on Feb. 22, 1970, the first official meeting of the Walsh County Museum Board was held. Charles Stewart was elected president; Walter Gerszewski, vice president; and Lola Sitzer, secretary-treasurer. The Walsh County Historical Society had obtained a lease on the old Minto School building and the rest is history.

The first few years of the museum board's existence consisted mainly of cleaning, repairing and renovating the old school building. Everyone pitched in, even the Boy Scouts offered their assistance in this worthwhile project. The cleaning and repair job was topped off in 1975 with the re-shingling of the roof. Of course establishing a museum does not only entail restoring of a building, as necessary as it was in this case, but mainly consists of gathering articles of historic importance as used in early households and implements used by early settlers in taming a wild territory into a productive and modern agricultural area which exists today. Much was accomplished these first five years, thanks to the willing and able volunteers under the guidance of the Museum Board.

1974 saw the Fund Raising Committee of the Walsh County Museum sponsoring a number of fund raising events. Their aim that year was a Country School House and Jail Restoration Project

which would include moving a country school house onto the grounds of the Walsh County Museum and to place a foundation under this school house as well as a foundation under the old Conway Jail which was already on the grounds. It was also in 1974 that the museum announced the addition of a Wildlife Collection display.

July 18, 1976, the museum was dedicated, with an open house at the museum and dedication ceremony at the Minto High School. Finding a new home on the museum grounds in 1976, was a one room country school house and a cook car. Also in 1976, the quonset had been converted from a combination gymnasium-auditorium to a display room for farm machinery and other vehicles. One of the rooms in the main building had also been converted into a country store. Two cloak rooms off the country store were converted into a single room to house the blacksmith shop and a large room on the second floor was divided into areas to simulate an old fashioned pioneer home.

1977, and the museum had really taken shape. The Walsh County Historical Society Newsletter for December proudly displayed pictures of the blacksmith shop, the country store, the pioneer home, the quonset that housed the farm machinery and vehicles, the ice cream parlor and Andy Hulstrand driving one of the many cars he has donated to the museum.

During the winter of 1977-78, the early "main street" was

added to the museum. The main street consists of a post office, a drug store, an ice cream parlor, a creamery and a barber shop. To finish off this "main street" scene, appropriate murals were painted at each end of this room. The church room where old religious articles of the different faiths are displayed was also completed in 1978. The museum boasted over 2,000 visitors that year.

In 1979, things had progressed so well with this museum project that the museum board declared a "Museum Alive" day to be held in July of that year. This Museum Alive day proved to be such a great success, that by popular demand, it was held again in July of 1980, with over 1,200 persons attending. It was a grand event, well planned and well carried out. It was also a gigantic job for such a small crew but now after 10 years has elapsed, they knew "all the ropes."

It appears that the next Museum Alive was held in 1982. A number of glass cases were installed in the museum that year to house and protect some of the displays. Additional murals were painted as background for some of the displays. The Bremer Foundation announced the award of a substantial grant to the museum which was much needed and put to good use. This was also the year that the grounds were landscaped.

By 1983, the museum was beginning to suffer growing pains. The displays in the wildlife room were enclosed in glass, the Three Rivers Petrology Club had put in a new display showing a great variety of rocks, and a memorial room in honor of Herman C. Schanilec, Sr. who had passed away within the year, was sponsored by his family. A late 1800 or early 1900 photographer's chair was also donated to the museum that year. Over 350 pupils from schools in Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, Manvel, Park River, Pisek and Minto visited the museum in 1984, as well as groups of Homemakers, Senior Citizens and other clubs.

"On the boardwalk in the Minto Museum" was the tune in 1984. Another street had been formed in the large room across the hall



Have your next perm at the beauty shop at the county museum in Minto.

from the Main Street room. This is the street with the boardwalks which takes you past the photographers studio and the saloon. Across the street to the east are other village businesses — a corset and dress shop and a butcher shop both done in a diorama display. The fourth Museum Alive was held in July of 1984, with every phase of the museum coming alive for the day. All displays were open and performing. It included the country store, post office, drug store, ice cream parlor, creamery, blacksmith shop, barber shop, etc.

1985 was the year the big buffalo was added as a display in the wildlife room. A fund raising auction sale was held on main street in Minto with articles donated by friends of the museum. To quote the curator, "The monetary results of the sale were gratifying." It was also rumored that "Museum Alive" would probably be held again in 1986.

Extensive work was done in 1986 to create a new wildlife room which would feature animals native to North Dakota. Acquisitions made that year included a moose, a sandhill crane, a bobcat, a bear and her cub and a family of fawns. A donation was also made toward the purchase of an elk for the museum's wildlife exhibition.

In 1987, two new display areas were established, both designed by Ted Hobert, a taxidermist from Grand Forks. One was a display of the 31 fish found in North Dakota waters with an accom-



A country kitchen set up in the county museum at Minto.



An old living room and an old-time saloon as set up in the county museum in Minto.

Museum Report

Cont. from Page 4

panying identification chart. The second display area shows prehistoric diggings from the Badlands of western North Dakota with some petrified artifacts several million years old.

1988 and "Museum Alive" was again the big event of the year, with individuals instrumental in organizing the Walsh County Museum in Minto being recognized. Receiving awards were Herman Schanilec, Helen Lizakowski, Charles Stewart, Walter Gerszewski, Dorothy Spelhaug and Elizabeth Rolzinski.

It was business as usual in 1989. The museum continues to be open every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. beginning with the first Sunday in June through the Labor Day weekend. Stephanie Prepiora sets up the schedule of guides, usually three or four people for each Sunday. She usually gets the schedule out in early April and is always very pleased with the response and very grateful to her many good friends that have acted as volunteer Sunday afternoon guides at the museum for these many years.

1989 was the North Dakota Centennial Year and the celebration in Minto started off with the 1989 "Museum Alive." Each area of the museum was staffed by people who could give information about products and services of days gone by. Rosemaling and quilting were demonstrated with a beautiful red, white and blue, hand stitched, centennial quilt displayed in the pioneer bedroom. During the afternoon a program was conducted honoring some of the people who were instrumental in helping to establish the museum in Minto. Honored were Ed Gudajtes, Herman Schanilec,

Sr., Stephanie Prepiora and Pete Matejcek.

1990 and a "gravity" house was built on the museum grounds. Upon entering this house, most things appear to defy gravity. Water runs up hill instead of down, a large bowling ball rolls up an incline, together with other strange happenings. This exhibit has been very popular with the children who visit the museum and this year has been a banner year for school visitations. A number of classes from Grafton, Fordville-Lankin, Valley Elementary School of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, St. Mary's School of Grand Forks, Holy Family School of Grand Forks, the Decca Club from Park River, and others, have toured the museum during 1990. Over the years, the curator states that she has been very impressed with the good behavior of the children who have visited and of the interest they have shown in viewing the various exhibits. The museum also received visitors from Texas, California, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, Wyoming, Connecticut, Washington, Maine, Florida and North Dakota, as well as from West Germany. But this is not unusual as every year a great number of states are represented in the museum's register of guests.

Another honor was bestowed on the museum in 1990, in that Senator Burdick presented the museum with a U.S. flag that had flown over the White House. This flag was accompanied by a certificate of authenticity and plans are pending for its display.

February 22, 1990, marked 20 years of dedicated and diligent work by the members of the Walsh County Museum. Our hats

off to these brave and daring souls who undertook this vast project. It has taken much work, a lot of good planning, a multitude of brilliant ideas and many fund raising events to accomplish what this board and its members have done in the last 20 years. Today the Walsh County Museum is a show place that the entire county can be proud of. The building is filled to overflowing with exhibits of antique farm machinery, vehicles, household goods, medical equipment, postal equipment, photography equipment, Native American artifacts, and thousands of other antiques and collectibles. Our thanks also to the many fine residents of Walsh County and elsewhere who have been so very generous in their donations to the museum. A special thanks also to the foundations that have awarded grants to the museum such as the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, the North Dakota Community Foundation, the Bremer Foundation, the Walsh County Bank and Trust Co., and for the funds received from CETA and for our Green Thumb workers. The number of people and organizations involved in this project have grown with each year.

Our wish for the present museum board is that all their future endeavors may be as fruitful as those of the past. The present board members are: Stephanie Prepiora, curator; Frank Schiller, chairman; June Selseth, vice chairman; Ted Barta, treasurer; Joan Schanilec, secretary; Terry Nowling, Linda Dunnigan, Joyce Boeddeker, Don Rudnik, John Gudajtes, Teafil Kilichowski, Wen Kennedy and Ted Wylot are the directors.

Lois Eisenrich

Special Price On Heritage Books

For the bargain price of \$20.00 you can purchase all four volumes of the "Walsh Heritage" books. Volumes three and four can be purchased separately, if you wish, for \$2.00 each.

There are thousands of pictures and over 1,600 pages of history in hardbound covers. Volumes one and two were published in 1976 and volumes three and four were published in 1981. They can be picked up at the Heritage Village, Grafton, during bingo hours or contact one of the following: James Johnson, Adams; Ed Gudajtes, Minto; Pete Matejcek, Lankin; or Leonard Jensen, Edinburg. If you want to have the books mailed, add an additional ten dollars for postage.

Gov. Sinner

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twin daughters Unie and Versie, he said, after his alma mater, the UND. Frazier died on January 11, 1947 while visiting in Maryland and is buried in the Hoople Cemetery.

Governor Sinner said he hopes to plant trees in the hometowns of the twenty-nine former governors and that the project will inspire everyone to continue the project started in 1989, centennial year of North Dakota, when the goal was to plant 100 million trees in our state.

Plans are to plant a tree for the late Governor Roger Allin in Park River at a later date. Allin was the 4th Governor of North Dakota and served from January 10, 1895, to January 6, 1897. Allin homesteaded and farmed in Fertile Township, Walsh County, and lived in Park River where he died on January 1, 1936.

Hoople Mayor Roger Hall introduced the Governor, the Valley High band and quartet presented numbers, and the third and fourth grade students from Valley School sang. North Dakota's first woman State Ag. Commissioner, Sarah Vogel, was present. Governor Frazier's stepson, Bev Paulson from Concrete was introduced.

Official County Newspaper Celebrates Centennial Year

Just over 100 years ago, on April 2, 1890, the first Record was published. During that hundred year span 7,131 issues were published. The first month the newspaper was sent out free. In 1890 Grafton and the surrounding area were being served by three newspapers when A.L. Woods and Edward H. Pierce started a new publication. Woods was superintendent of the Grafton Public School and Pierce a former printer at the Grafton News and Times.

For the next 10 years they ran a successful newspaper and on Sept. 6, 1899, the name Pierce dropped from the paper and Woods appeared as editor and proprietor. On Jan. 1, 1900, Editor Woods, a former educator, became state deputy superintendent. Now former business associate E.H. Pierce became publisher and A.L. Woods proprietor. In Feb. 1905 Pierce became sole owner and publisher.

During the time that Pierce and Woods published the Walsh County Record, two of the three other papers in Grafton ceased publication leaving Grafton now with two newspapers. September 1908, Pierce sold the Record to Grant S. Hager, publisher of the St. Thomas Times.

Rilie R. Morgan became associated with the Walsh County Record on Nov. 1, 1922, as business manager and later assumed editorial duties due to Hager's failing health. Publisher Hager died in April, 1923. By November 1, 1923, Morgan purchased the entire property from Mrs. Hager

and became sole owner. Rilie was born in Kansas in 1891. His first job in the newspaper business was sweeping the newspaper office in the morning and delivering papers in the evening. From then on printing was his love, his interest and his trade. He attended school and worked in several states before coming to Starkweather, N.D. in 1914. In the fall of 1922 Grant Hager asked Morgan to leave his job in Starkweather and become associated with the Record in Grafton, N.D.

On Sept. 12, 1949, the Walsh County Record became a semi-weekly newspaper. Rilie Morgan continued as publisher until Jan. 1, 1959, when he turned the duties of publisher over to his son, John D. "Jack" Morgan. John's newspaper career was interrupted by three years in the military service and upon his return he attended UND for one year before rejoining the Walsh County Record as business manager until becoming publisher. Jack learned the newspaper business from his dad and learned it well. Jack retired from The Grafton Record in 1985.

In 1973 the name of the newspaper was changed from The Walsh County Record to The Grafton Record.

Jack was serving as president of the Heritage Village board and was just elected president of the Walsh County Historical Society at the time of his death from cancer on March 24, 1989, while spending the winter in Arizona. Jack was married to Dorothy



The Walsh County Record moved to this building on the corner of Fourth and Hill Avenue in Grafton in 1954. The building has been remodeled and enlarged.

Danielski, Warsaw, and they are the parents of six children — Wynne Pascual, Gayle Morgan, Jan Kuhns, Jackie Thompson, Ray and John Jr. Ray Morgan was general manager until he left Grafton to pursue his own newspaper career.

In 1988 Jackie Morgan Thompson, then business manager, assumed the duties of publisher. John Morgan, Jr. now serves as president of Morgan Publishing, Inc. and oversees the company's commercial printing operation.

Over the years the other children of Rilie Morgan were associated with the Walsh County Record and they were Mary Anderson Phyle, Jeanette Numedahl, Norma Sather Trepto and Rilie Morgan, Jr. Rilie Jr. lost his life in World War II.

Some of the editors over the years were: W.E. "Ed" Balkee for 32 years; Tom Lundquist, Bob Jansen, John A. Strand, Dean Hanson, Carter Sandvik, Neil Nelson, Jeff Jones and presently Julie Copeland.

The present circulation of The Grafton Record is 4,500. The Grafton Record and Associated Printers has the latest in printing equipment. When you tour the old Mandt Hall at the Heritage Village in Grafton, you can see printing presses and other equipment set-up and displayed depicting a long and successful publishing business.

The Walsh County Record has been located in several buildings in Grafton. In 1954 the present building on Fourth and Hill was purchased by Morgan and extensively remodeled. **By L.P.**



First home of the Walsh County Record at 26 East 6th Street in Grafton from 1890 to 1935 when they moved to 524 Hill Avenue.



John Morgan, Jr. and Jackie Morgan Thompson are standing in front of the picture of their dad, the late John "Jack" Morgan at The Grafton Record.

Activities at Elmwood

By Rae M. Desautel

The walk leading to the mansion is covered with snow. No longer do lights shine from the windows. Elmwood is at rest after a busy season of activity.

After a rest and further restoration last winter the double doors were flung open to welcome spring and visitors. As its fame as a hands-on-museum spread people began using it for private events including bridal showers, meetings, holiday parties, anniversary celebrations and family gatherings. In addition, the Governing Board hosted open houses and tours. One of the features of the past summer was an open house during Heritage Days when old-fashioned molasses and sugar cookies and lemonade were served. As fundraisers the board sponsored two bridge luncheons, a Depression glass show, Spencer's Election Day spaghetti supper and the second Christmas at Elmwood style show.

During the off season, the house is shut down for continuing restoration. Last year, new flooring was installed in several of the downstairs rooms. Other minor adjustments were made. A grant from the Grafton Endowment Fund will enable an upstairs bedroom featuring a stain glass window to be renovated this winter. Other work will be continued as funding allows.

Individuals and organizations have been generous with donations of time and/or furnishings and appointments appropriate for a 96-year-old house. They come as gifts or are on loan. The Governing Board, Gloria Thompson, Virigina Anderson, Leora Mathern and Rae Desautel, recognizes the generosity of those who have contributed time and possessions. They have become Friends of Elmwood.

People are becoming familiar with the nature trail developed at the back of the property. It is a project of Boy Scout Troop 122 and the 1989 Mayor's Centennial Committee.

For their work on the trail and the Governing Board's efforts on behalf of the mansion, each was awarded a Take Pride in America plaque from Governor George Sinner. The Scouts and the Governing Board members were invited to Washington, D.C., to accept the award on the federal level. The award is a project of the Department of Interior.

Elmwood is featured in a recently-published brochure that highlights property in Walsh County, most of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The brochure will be placed at strategic sites throughout the state and along the borders. The brochure is a project of the Walsh County Historic Preservation

Historic Walsh County Depicted in Brochure

In early 1991 a brochure that will highlight historical landmarks and points of interest in Walsh County and surrounding area will be available. It is one project of the Walsh County Historical Preservation Committee assisted by the UND Geography Department. Jon McMillan, Fordville, serves as chairman of the committee.

Sites included will be the old victorian home in Grafton called Elmwood, Heritage Village, the post office and courthouse in Grafton; St. Joseph's Chapel near Warsaw; St. Stanislaus Church

and St. Anthony's Academy in Warsaw, and the Walsh County Museum in Minto. On the regional map the recreational areas shown will be Homme Dam, Fordville Dam, and Matejcek Dam, Alexander Henry Rest Area on Interstate #29 east of Grafton, Sig's Jugville north of Grafton along Highway #81 and the Icelandic State Park west of Cavalier.

Purpose of this brochure and project is to create greater awareness of these sites and help to preserve them.



Jocelyn Kopperud — Christmas at Elmwood '90 — sang "We Need A Little Christmas, We Need A Little Gingerbread" for the gala event.



Santa (Norv Elbert) — Christmas at Elmwood '90 — followed by his helpers, the Gingerbread Girls.

Commission with most of the financing coming from the National Park Service and administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

This winter an architectural student from North Dakota State University will make a study of the front porch and as funding becomes available the porch will be rebuilt to its original likeness. A landscaping plan has been designed by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. It is hoped to get that off the ground this coming summer.

Early this spring the doors will reopen and the public will be invited to Elmwood. One of the first scheduled activities is a quilt show. Chances are being sold on a quilt, handmade by members of Walsh Quilters. Tickets are available from members of the Governing Board, Claudia Thompson and quilt members.

Drawing will be held at the show April 20.

Elmwood was built in 1895 by C.A.M. Spencer, a prominent local attorney who went on to become North Dakota's second attorney general. It is located in a curve of the Park River at the north end of Cooper Avenue. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 by the Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson family who bought the property in 1945. In 1986, the Williamson family gifted the house and the 20 acres on which it stands to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. It belongs to the people of North Dakota.

Elmwood serves as a gentle reminder of the way life was lived as the area was working its way toward statehood. It is important to continue to emphasize that time in history.

Population Statistics:

In 1980 North Dakota had a population of 652,695 people and in 1990 a population of 638,800. A decrease of 2.13%.

Walsh County's population declined by 771 people between 1980 and 1988 . . . falling from

15,371 to 14,600. Cavalier County declined from 7,636 to 6,400. Pembina County went down from 10,399 to 10,300. Grand Forks County increased from 66,100 to 70,500. (U.S. Census Bureau)

Historical Society Summary for 1990

On January 28, 1990, the Walsh County Historical Society held the annual memorial service giving tribute to former members who died in 1989. Lois Eisenrich was in charge of the service. Annual reports were also given from the historical society, county museum, heritage village, and the daily calendar drawing. In mid January 540 newsletters were mailed to members. Lorraine Paulson has been the volunteer editor of the newsletter since 1974.

In March the annual membership drive was held in banks and savings institutions in the county. Hopefully most members had already mailed in their annual dues by this date. Emma Lou Minden, Grafton, is chairperson of the membership committee.

On May 6 the historical society met at the Heritage Village.

During the summer months, the county museum in Minto and the buildings at Heritage Village in Grafton are open on Sunday afternoons to the public as well as by special appointment.

Sig Jagelski and the Walsh County Historical Society hosted the annual potluck picnic at Jugville on July 29. Following the meeting everyone enjoyed viewing his outstanding large collection of antiques and collectibles at Jugville.

The Northeast N.D. Pioneer Machinery Association held the annual threshing show and machinery display in Park River on August 26.

On September 23, the Historical Society met at the Heritage Village with a potluck lunch. Special bargain prices will be offered on the Walsh Heritage books — all four volumes will sell for \$20 if picked up. If you wish to purchase only volumes three and four, they are available for \$2 each. Add \$10 if all four volumes are to be mailed. The Heritage Books were sold at the Heritage Village booth at the Walsh County Fair in Park River in October.

New lights were installed in the theater building at the Heritage Village this fall. Chances were sold on a new 1990 car during the summer months with any profits realized going to the Village. The 1990 car was won by Hodny, Burke and Rice Law Firm, \$500

was won by Simonson Lumber, \$300 was won by Ron McMartin, and \$100 was won by Jack Burns.

Emma Lou Minden said that we had 483 regular paid memberships, 40 business and 52 life memberships in 1990. New life members are: Ora Marie Stewart, Grafton; Dr. H.R. Piltingsrud, Park River; and Dr. S.W. Lipinski, Florida.

Thanks to Leonard Fagerholt who for five years was chairman of the daily calendar drawing and a special thanks to his wife, Lizz, for assisting. There will be no daily calendar drawings in 1991 which will result in a loss of revenue for our historical projects and general expenses such as insurance and upkeep which is very costly for an organization so if you have any new ideas on how to raise additional revenue it will be considered and your financial support, membership dues and participation in any way is needed now more than ever.

In the fall of 1990 the Heritage Village received a generous gift from Sig Jagelski, Jugville (story in newsletter). On Dec. 15 Uncle Sig Appreciation Day was held at the Heritage Village.

On November 18, the historical society met in the Shoult's House at Heritage Village. Lois Eisenrich was elected treasurer to replace Mary Kennedy. For 1991 John Paulson will continue as president; John Curran as vice president; Mary Rose Rodriguez as recording secretary; Lorraine Paulson as corresponding secretary, and Emma Lou Minden as membership chairperson.

During the year, the historical society held several executive board meetings and also met with representatives from the Heritage Village at various times.

The directors for 1990 were Ora Marie Stewart, George Chyle and Victor Koppang serving their first year of a three year term. Hold-over directors were: Pete Matejcek, James Johnson, Roy Mohagen, Leonard Fagerholt, William Gorder, Percy Walstad and Ex Officio Ed Gudajtes. At the November meeting the decision was made that all the same directors will remain on the historical society board for 1991.

By Lorraine Paulson
Corresponding Secretary



Winter at Heritage Village.

Attention Members

This is the second year we have enclosed our membership card for the new year in the newsletter to cut down on postage for returning the card to you after you pay your membership dues.

In 1990 we had 483 paid regular memberships, 40 business and 53 life memberships.

We need your participation and financial support more than ever due to increased expenses. Insurance and liability alone take a big bite out of our revenue.

We have kept our regular membership at \$3.00 for years in order

to reach more people but if you feel you would like to purchase a business membership for \$10.00 it would be greatly appreciated. You in turn will receive a certificate.

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Hope to see you at a meeting in 1991.

Emma Lou Minden
Membership Chairperson

(If you wish to receive the Heritage Press from the Red River Heritage, Moorhead, please enclose an additional \$2.00.)

Time To Renew 1991 Memberships

Renew your 1991 membership. We would appreciate it very much if you would take a few minutes of your time to mail your yearly dues. We are enclosing your membership card for 1991.

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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