

## School Placed On National Register

The Minto School building which is now the home of the Walsh County Historical Society Museum has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The notification of acceptance on the register was received in November 1991.

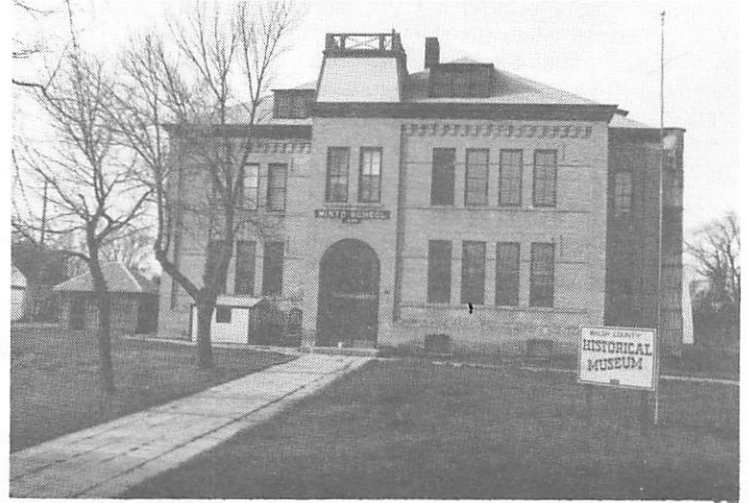
The building was constructed in 1895 in the town of Minto, ND., and was used as the educational facility for the community for 75 years. Architect for the school building was J.W. Ross who maintained offices in Minneapolis and Grand Forks. His assistant, O.R. Braseth, personally supervised the construction. Building contractors were Aner-son and Hunter from Grand Forks. Estimated cost of the building was \$10,500.00. The three-story structure measured 62 by 70 feet and was constructed of buff colored brick manufactured

in the Minto Brickyard, which is no longer in existence.

In 1970 the school was abandoned for a new building and the old Minto School was marked for demolition. The Walsh County Historical Society was searching for a building to begin a county museum. On October 26, 1973 the city of Minto and the Walsh Historical Society reached an agreement, a county museum was born. On July 18, 1976 it was dedicated.

If you haven't been to the museum, plan to do so during the summer of '92. Besides the brick building there is a quonset which was used for sporting events and is connected to the brick building by an enclosed walkway.

Much effort has gone into securing this special national recognition and we are happy and proud that it has been received.

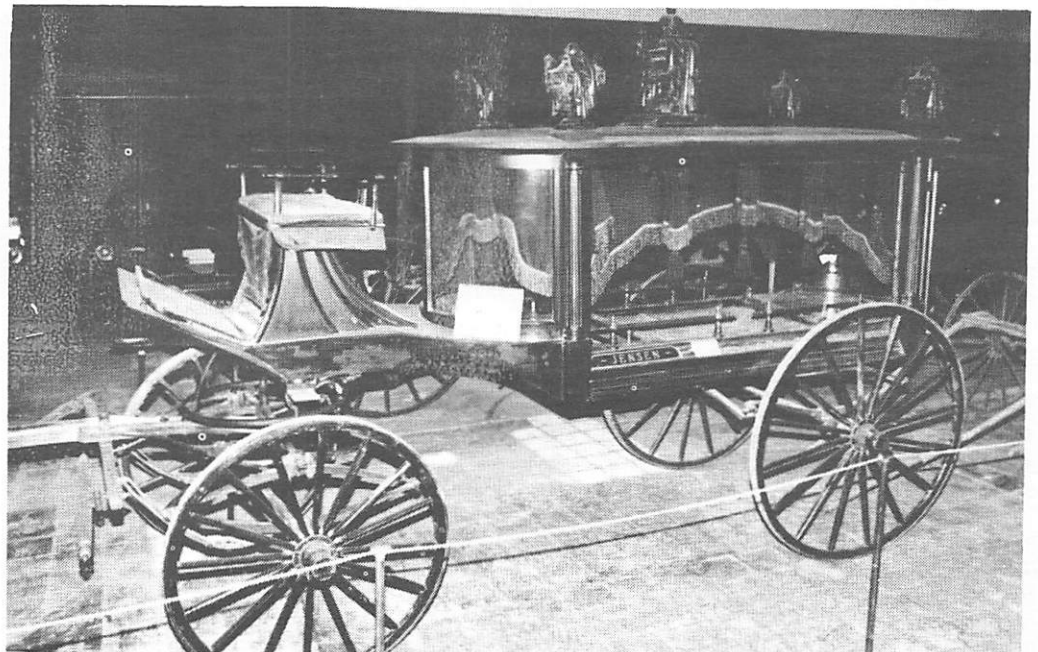


The Minto school building, which is now home to the Walsh County Historical Society Museum, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Gift Given To County Museum

When you visit the Walsh County Museum in Minto, you will see a horse-drawn funeral coach. It has been on loan to the museum since 1976 but in 1991 it was given to the Walsh County Historical Society's Museum by Leonard and Bertha Jensen, Edinburg. Leonard and Bertha are both life members of the society and Leonard also served as treasurer for 10 years as well as director. Leonard has sold hundreds of sets of the Walsh Heritage books for the society and they both have served and supported the historical society in so many ways.

Leonard's father, Gilbert, purchased the hearse in 1910 when he purchased the funeral home in Edinburg. The hearse was used until about 1930. Leonard joined



Horse-drawn funeral coach

SEE GIFT  
Cont. on Page 8

# Profile:

## Area People From The Past

By Lorraine Paulson

A young lad, who lived in Walsh County, grew up to become Bishop of the most famous and largest cathedral in Scandinavia. Arne Fjellbu lived in Walsh County when his father, Rev. Karl Fjellbu, was pastor of several area congregations - Zion, Park Center and North Trinity, rural Hoople and South Trinity of rural Grafton.

Arne was born in Decorah, Iowa, December 19, 1890, and came to Walsh County in January 1891. During the following nine years, Rev. Karl Fjellbu served these four congregations but returned to his homeland of Norway twice to visit. Pastor Karl and his wife, Ellen Johanna Retvedt, and two children, Arne and Ragnild returned to Norway to make their home in 1900.

Arne earned a degree in theology from the University of Oslo and studied at the universities in Berlin and Heidelberg. He was ordained in 1914. By 1915 Arne was secretary of the Norwegian Student Christian Movement and was serving as a pastor and during World War I was a war correspondent. Later he was awarded honorary doctor's degrees from St. Andrews, Scotland in 1953 and Lund, Sweden in 1959. Arne was made assistant pastor at the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, and served in that capacity from 1921-27; Canon from 1927-37; Dean from 1937-45 and Bishop from 1945-61. He was also active in the World Council of Churches.

The Nidaros Cathedral is of Gothic Architecture and with its spire towering 394 feet it can be seen from throughout the city of Trondheim which was founded in 997 AD and the city has a population of approximately 125,000 people. Trondheim was once capital of the Viking Kingdom. The Cathedral is 358 feet long and 197 feet wide - what a magnificent cathedral. Construction on the Nidaros Cathedral began in 1070 and over the years there were many serious fires in the Cathedral. In 1513 the church burned and was later rebuilt. In

1869 the Cathedral restoration began and continued for decades. Nidaros Cathedral has Baroque furnishings and the largest pipe organ in Scandinavia which stands under a large stain glass rose window.

Bishop Fjellbu officiated at the wedding of Princess Astrid, daughter of King Olav V. Over the centuries it was at the Nidaros Cathedral that all the kings and queens were consecrated. Fjellbu officiated at the consecration of King Olav V in 1957 at Nidaros.

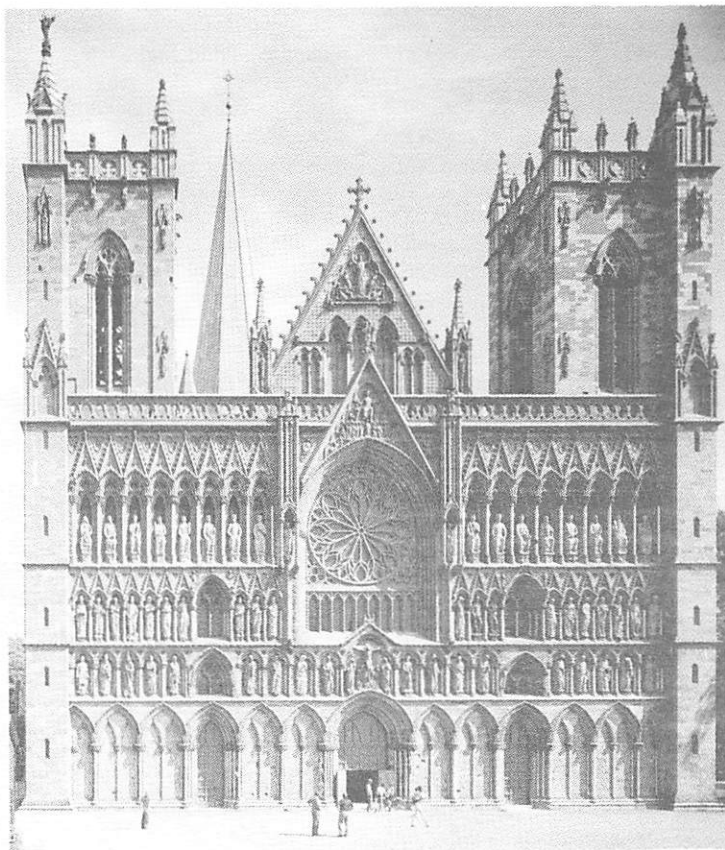
Bishop Arne Fjellbu was widely known and respected in Europe for his fight against the Nazis invasion and led a large demonstration against the Quisling controlled government. When the Quisling government demanded a service to bless its accession to power, Feb. 1, 1942, Dean Fjellbu refused. Dean Fjellbu was arrested by the Quisling government and sent into exile on an island off the coast of Norway. He fled to Sweden in October 1944. When Finmark, the extreme northern province of Norway, was liberated by the Russians and Norwegians in 1945, Fjellbu flew there and ministered in the church at Polmak.

In 1948 Bishop Fjellbu returned to the United States and spoke at Zion Church, Hoople, being invited to America by the Evangelical Lutheran Church and American Committee of World Council of Churches. Fjellbu was able to deliver sermons in English. Bishop Fjellbu said that a healthy relationship was formed between the state and Church during the war years when they shared the common experience of resistance and the German occupation. Over the years Bishop Fjellbu wrote nine books and several textbooks.

Bishop Fjellbu was married to Karen Christie and they were the parents of two children, Arne, Jr. is an attorney and also served as the Sec. General of the Norwegian Refugee Council from 1955-61 and prior to that from 1950-55, was director of the Lutheran World Federation and Tommelise (Johanna Amalie)



Bishop Fjellbu and his wife



Nidaros Cathedral — Trondheim, Norway

Fjellbu Lysaker. The past two summers I had the privilege of visiting with Tommalise at the Nidaros Cathedral and this summer I also met her brother. The first time I visited the Nidaros Cathedral was in 1982. Tommelise said, "I have never been in the U.S. but I have heard much

about North Dakota."

Bishop Fjellbu has gone down in history as a well known and respected theologian and we are proud to say he spent part of his childhood in North Dakota. Bishop Fjellbu died in October 1962 and is buried in the cemetery near the Nidaros Cathedral.

# 'There Were No Boys To Do The Work'

(Memories - Stories told to me by my mother, Mary, written by John Curran)

My parents lived on farms near Conway and Veseleyville in the early 1900's and the children were expected to take part in the farm work. In the case of my family the three oldest were all girls. Pauline was the oldest, Hattie was the youngest and I, Mary, was the middle sister. So we helped Dad with the farm work. Some was hard, but when we could we liked to have fun. Dad was rather stern; he would not permit the children to talk at the dinner table.

We milked the cows and joked with each other while we did it. This we did twice a day, before we went to school and before supper. While it was work, it was also a fun time. However, we had to stop our joking whenever Dad came to the barn because he didn't like it.

Winters were hard. One time Pauline fretted a lot because the snow kept us home for three days. One bright spot in the winter was Christmas. The night before Christmas we always ate fish for supper. On Christmas day we received our gifts. In the early years when we had little money, we each received a piece of fruit only, usually one apple or an orange. We went to church on a sleigh. I remember once Dad had a little too much to drink after church, and the sleigh turned over — with feather comforters and children flying out. But no one was hurt.

In the summers we did the field work. I didn't mind working with the horses, but shocking sheaves of wheat in the hot summer sun is what I hated most.

Since we were girls we also had to learn how to cook. Mother was

an excellent cook and I was amazed at how fast she could make noodles, by simply cutting the rolled out dough with rapid knife movements. We learned how to bake kolache, roliky and bublanina. We would make the latter, which is like a large deep dish pie, with juneberries we gathered. Years later I learned that the people in Czechoslovakia use cherries for this dish. Hattie was the best cook and in later years could cook dinners for a large crowd.

We went to school in the country where we first had to learn English. I liked school and later was a teacher in Veseleyville. At church we learned to read and write Czech, which we used as adults too. Going to church was fun because afterwards we would visit

Grandma, who lived across the street from the church. There we got together with our many cousins. The women and children stayed at Grandma's while Dad and the men went to the town bar.

The most fun for us was going to the Veseleyville dance hall when we were teenagers. Since there was no radio or T.V., this was our greatest pleasure — just to meet other people and to dance. Dad said we could not go unless we had a male escort. Since my brothers were too young, we asked cousin Frank to take us. Younger sister Bettie wanted to go too, but Dad said she was too young, so she was sad when we left for the dance.

I'm old now and my sisters are gone. I still remember the work and also the fun we had while growing up.

## 8 Walsh County Women are Centenarians

Eight women in Walsh County are at least 100 years of age. We know of no man who has reached that milestone in our county.

Mrs. Frank (Anna) Kubesh, Grafton became 100 years of age on June 28, 1991. Anna Dusek Kubesh was born in a cabin about two miles north of Veseleyville. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Mrs. Alcidas (Margaret) Corriveau, Grafton became 100 years of age on September 27, 1991. Margaret Krier Corriveau was born in Pulaski Township. She spent many years on their farm east of Oakwood. She is also a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton.

Mrs. Carl (Anna) Russum, Grafton celebrated her 100th birthday on October 5, 1991. She was born in Grafton Township and lived on a farm all her life. Just after her 100th birthday she entered the Good Samaritan Home, Warren, Minn.

Mrs. Joe (Katherine) Dub, Sr., was 100 years of age on December 24, 1991. Katherine Kozlik was born on a farm west of Pisek and has lived in Walsh County all her life. She is a resident of Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Ann Seeba, Grafton was 102 years of age on March 12, 1991. She recently became a resident at the Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Rena Peterson was 103 years of age on September 2, 1991. She is a resident at the Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Eleanor Cicha, Park River, was 103 years of age on June 9, 1991. She is a resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Gina Vigen from Adams-Fairdale area was 103 years of age on April 24, 1991. She is a resident at the Maple Manor Nursing Home, Langdon.

If you know of any other centenarians in Walsh County, contact Lorraine Paulson, Hoople.

## Julia Johnson Recalled Childhood Memories of Life In North Dakota

(This recollection was written by Miss Julia Johnson as a young girl. She is a former school teacher in Walsh County. She died in December 1991 at the age of 103 at the Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton.)

Back to 1894 and memories of old times in North Dakota. I remember log and sod shanties. My first home was a log house but Mother told me of the sod house she lived in when homesteading. My parents came to North Dakota somewhere around 1879.

Indians roamed around but they were friendly and occasionally ate a meal at home with us. One event I remember was about a proud Indian. People made their own mustard or had strong mustard and this Indian took a generous helping and smeared it on his meat not knowing what the results would be. Tears ran down his cheeks and some laughter ensued. When asked why he cried, he replied that he was thinking of how the white man had driven them off the land. He was to proud to admit his first trial with mustard.

Travel was with oxen or horses — wagons and sleighs and once in a while, a two-wheeled sulkey.

Churches were unknown so services were held in homes, and dinner was served to the minister who drove many miles. Homemade tables and planks placed on chairs or stumps were used to accommodate neighbors.

Mother was often called out as a mid-wife, and also to lay out a body after death. Homemade coffins were used.

We learned to speak English very young as we settled in a mixed community — Irish, Scotch and Icelandic. Our parents, Norwegian, had to learn the language for social and business purposes.

Men wore buffalo skin overcoats and I recall that they were very heavy. Occasionally we saw a man or two walking by with a tame bear. Then we children ran and hid, fearing the bear. I also remember a severe blizzard in 1893 and it was all open prairie at that time with no shelter belts.



# Museum Alive!

## A Rainy Day! A Special Day. . . A Museum Alive Day!

By Barb Bracken

The 1991 Summer "Museum Alive Day" began with lots of rain, a rain that stopped none of the many visitors from enjoying a special and exciting day. Visitors came from all over the valley and filled the surrounding buildings which featured special programs. The presenters dressed in period and ethnic costumes and featured demonstrations such as pirogie making. The main building of the County Museum in Minto featured the usual fine period collec-

tions and some unique animals such as the live llama family inside, due to the outside rain. (A large motor-home van full of 200 dolls was open to the public.) Many live animals were viewed inside, from owls and snakes to prairie animals. Buffalo (bison) stew was served from inside a special tent.

The hundreds of people who attended had an enjoyable and exciting day. The Minto area residents care about the Walsh County Museum and it shows!



Some of the 200 dolls belonging to Barb Bracken which were on display during Museum Alive.

## 1991 Walsh County Historical Society Summary

Lorraine Paulson

Corresponding Secretary

The Walsh County Historical Society just completed 24 years as an active county wide organization striving to preserve local history.

On January 27, 1991 the annual memorial service for members who died in 1990 was held at the Heritage Village, Grafton with Barb Bracken in charge of the program. Annual reports were given followed by a potluck lunch.

In mid January the annual newsletter was mailed to members. In March a membership drive was held when volunteers set-up a table at area banks to solicit memberships in the Society. New life members in 1991 were: Denny's Jack and Jill, Grafton, and Dr. Joyce Danielski Kates, Hershey, Pa.

On April 28 the historical society met at the Heritage Village. Members looked over the four volumes on Walsh County Cemeteries listing names and dates as recorded on the stone or markers. These books are available from the Red River Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 9284, Fargo, ND. They sell for \$12.50 per volume plus one dollar postage. You can get more infor-

mation from Mary Rose Rodriguez, Grafton.

The Walsh County Museum, Minto, opened for the summer months on June 2. The museum is open Sunday afternoons, holidays and by special appointment. "Museum Alive" was held on June 30th.

The annual potluck picnic was held at Sig Jagelski's Jugville on July 28. Jim Fuglie, Director of Tourism and N.D. Parks, visited Jugville that day and many of us had the opportunity to visit with him. We always enjoy our afternoon at Uncle Sig's farm where you can browse main street of Jugville, see old equipment outside and collectibles and antiques displayed in several buildings.

During the last Sunday in August, the annual Northeast N.D. Pioneer Threshing Show and Machinery Display was held in Park River.

This summer improvements were made on the walkway to the monument of Sweden which is located west of Nash. The work and cost was shared by the county and the historical society.

On November 24 the society met at the Heritage Village and election of officers was held.

In 1991 the society had 400 paid regular memberships, 23 business

and two new life memberships for a total of 55 life memberships. The annual membership is \$3.00, business is \$20.00 and life is \$100.00. It is only through your support that we are able to continue and hopefully grow. Insurance, utilities and upkeep are major expenses. Let's try and continue to preserve what our ancestors started. Your attendance at meetings, working on projects and at events as well as your financial support is needed. Please send in your membership.

Officers during 1991 were:

President, John Paulson; Vice President, John Curran; Treasurer, Lois Eisenrich; Recording Secretary, Mary Rose Rodriguez; Corresponding Secretary, Lorraine Paulson; Membership Chairperson, Emma Lou Minden; Directors: Ora Stewart, Geo Chyle, Vic Koppang, James Johnson, Roy Mohagen, Pete Matejcek, Leonard Fagerholt, Percy Walstad, Wm Gorder, and Ed Gudajtes, Ex. Officio.

For 1992 the board will remain the same except Fagerholt, Walstad and Gorder were replaced for a three year term by Dennis Anderson, Liz Fagerholt and one more to be announced.

## Many Major Improvements Made At Heritage Village

During the past year much work has been done to improve Heritage Village, including major repairs to taxidermy building, new roof covering, repair to windows, scraped, primed and repainted, along with new lettering. Theatre building had all the seats on upper portion replaced and railed as necessary, plus entire exterior has been painted. Much work was done on depot, church and some repair to Mandt Hall. We are looking forward to repair on school house and Mandt Hall during coming season, as well as working toward completion of the main street building.

Merry Go Round also is in major need of repair and horses need painting. Some wooden parts will be rebuilt during the winter season and hopefully horses may be completed. Future plans hope to include some kind of cover over this unit to protect it from the weather.

Submitted by  
C. W. Jacobson

# Historic Elmwood

## Mansion on oxbow becomes 'home' to many events

By Rae M. Desautel

Elmwood, the historic mansion in an oxbow of the Park River in Grafton, is receiving new vitality. Even before restoration is completed, it has become "home" to many events.

Given to North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in 1986, a local governing board oversees the progress of renovation of the house which has received national attention with its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mansion was opened to the general public in time to observe North Dakota's centennial in 1989. Since then many private and governing board — sponsored events have been held in the house or on the 20 acres surrounding the house.

The most recent completed project is an upstairs bedroom. The focal point is a stained glass oblong window. The project was completed with money donated by the Grafton Endowment Fund.

Work is expected to begin anytime on the rebuilding of a two-level porch. It will be built to return it to its original integrity with the lower level extending across the front of the house. A fund-raising porch Spindles and Posts project is underway to help with the cost of the approximately \$19,000 project. The spindles are \$50 and the posts will sell for \$100. All donors will be acknowledged on a plaque. Donations, which are tax-deductible, can be sent to Spindles and Post Porch Project, Elmwood, Box 263,

Grafton, ND. 58237. Gifts also may be given to members of the governing board, Virginia Anderson, Leora Mathern, Doug Johnson, Rae Desautel and Gloria Thompson.

Money raised locally will be used to match a \$6,100 grant from Federal Historic Preservation funds, administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota and the Walsh County Preservation Commission, and a \$4,500 grant from North Dakota Parks and Tourism Department. Several smaller grants and gifts have been received, including \$1,000 each from the Grafton Endowment Fund, the Walsh County Historical Society and an anonymous donor. Money raised from annual events such as the open house during the Walsh County Heritage Festival, Spencer's Election Day Spaghetti Supper, the lawn party and Christmas at Elmwood will be used for the porch project.

The porch is expected to be completed in time for a dedication ceremony during the Walsh County Heritage Festival next June when Grafton celebrates its 110th birthday.

Elmwood was built by C. A. M. Spencer in 1895. Spencer was the state's second attorney general. Adding to its historical significance, the property also was owned by W. C. Treumann who earned his way into the history of the state beginning when company C was organized as the Third Militia Company of Dakota Territory in 1885. He and his troops



Governing Board Members Leora Mathern and Rae Desautel receive a donation to Elmwood from Gloora Halliday, president of the Grafton American Legion Auxiliary.

served with distinction during the Spanish-American War and the subsequent rebellion in the Philippine Islands in 1888-1889.

In the meantime, life goes on as usual in historic Elmwood. The

public is discovering the joys of listening to the whispers of the past at the same time as new memories for the future are being created.

## Society Offers Special Price On Walsh 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. Approximately 120 sets of volumes 1 and 2 remain to be sold. If all four volumes are to be mailed, add \$10.00 for postage.

The books can be picked up at the Heritage Village, Grafton,

during bingo hours or contact one of the following: Pete Matejcek, Lankin; Leonard Jensen, Edinburg; James Johnson, Adams or Ed Gudajtes, Minto.

There are thousands of pictures and over 1,600 pages of history in hardbound covers. Volumes 1 and 2 were published in 1976 and volumes 3 and 4 were published in 1981.

## Historic Preservation Commission Receives Hall Of Fame Award

On September 13, 1991 the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission was the recipient of the Heritage Development Hall of Fame Award presented by the Red River Valley Heritage Society at the annual awards banquet at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

Jon McMillian, Fordville, accepted the award on behalf of the local commission. Other members of the committee are: Rae

Desautel and Mary Rose Rodriguez, Grafton; John Paulson, Hoople; Steve Mozinski, Minto, and Julius Wangler, administrator of the Red River Valley Planning Council and is the commission administrator. This commission was formed in 1989 by the Walsh County Board of County Commissioners. In just this short time they have completed several projects and are working on others.

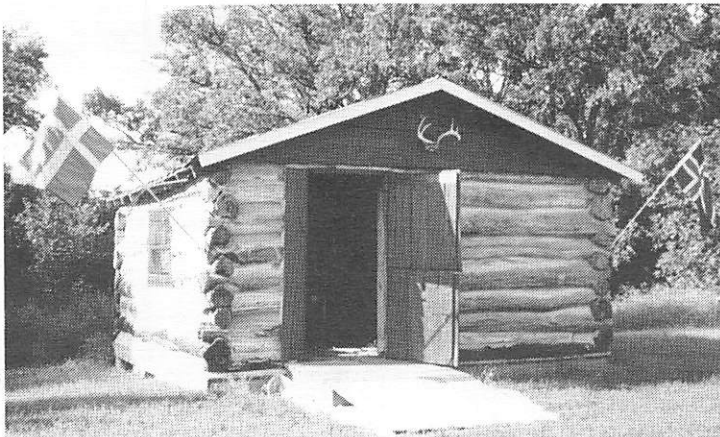


# State Historical Society Identifying Log Structures

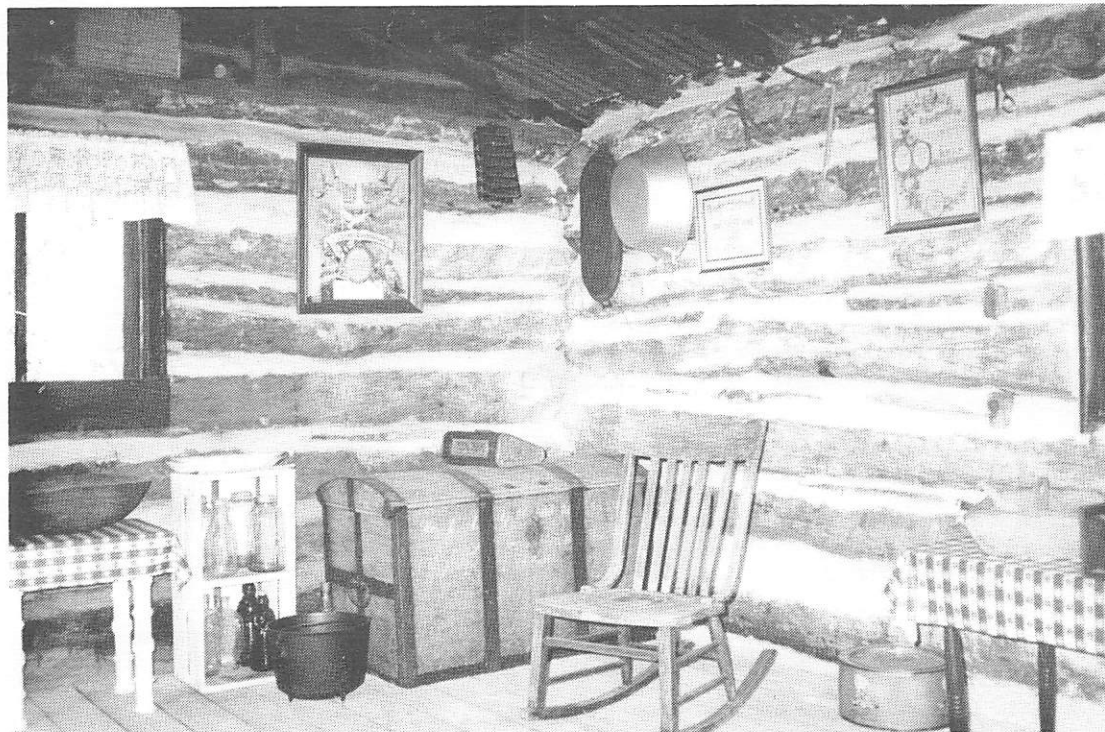
Do you have a log building or know someone who does? The State is requesting your assistance in identifying log buildings in North Dakota. To date, no systematic effort has been made to identify and record these buildings in our state.

The State Historical Society would like to know the location, condition, ownership and history of these buildings. The ultimate goal is to survey and evaluate these structures and they may also be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. People should be encouraged to preserve their heritage.

If you would like a form or more information, contact Lorraine Paulson, Hoople; or Louis Hafermehl, Director of Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, State Historical Society, Heritage Center, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505.



**The Paulson Log Cabin.** This is one of three log structures on the Paulson homestead south of Hoople. John, Cora and Lorraine Paulson restored this log cabin the summer of 1991. It was built in 1878 from logs on the family farm and they still have the two axes used in the construction. They are flying the Norwegian and Swedish flags in honor of their ancestors.



**Interior of Paulson log cabin.** You can see the original trunk which was used by John and Lorraine's great grandparents, the Even Andersons (parents of Mrs. John H. Paulson), who came to America in the 1860's. Marriage certificate, death announcements which were posted in local places of business, cast iron kettle, wood bowl, footwarmer and many other items used by the Paulson family are on display in the cabin.

## Former members honored

Members of the Walsh County Historical Society who died in 1991. They will be honored at the annual meeting and memorial service at the Heritage Village on January 26, 1992.

Jane Taylor, charter member, Grafton; Mildred Mosolf, Grafton; Marian Givens, Grafton; Annie Aasand, Centenarian, Grafton and Julia Johnson, Centenarian, Grafton; Lyle Johnson, Grafton; Aubrey Jaster, Grafton; Marlyn Kittelson, Grafton;

Helmer Mohagen, Grafton; George A. Berg, charter member, Edinburg; Gladys Lewis, Park River; Byrdie Staven, Park River; Inga Montague, charter member, Park River; Elizabeth Gest, Madison, Wisconsin; Stanley Makowski, Minto; Ray Wysocki, Minto; A. J. (Tony) Lutovsky, Voss and Mrs. Melvin Swensen, charter member, Adams.

## Who's in First? North Dakota or South Dakota?

Which state entered the union first, North Dakota or South Dakota? My understanding is that no one really knows because the president didn't disclose which statehood papers he signed first. Also, are the state flags lining the sidewalk from the parking lot to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial placed in order of administration to the union?—D.O., Arvilla.

You receive an "A" in history. North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted as the 39th and 40th states, respectively, on Nov. 2, 1889. President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the statehood bills in such a way that no one would ever know which bill was signed first. He explained the two new states were twins before being admitted to the union and twins they would forever remain. North Dakota is first in alphabetical order so it's the 39th state, while South Dakota follows and is the 40th state.

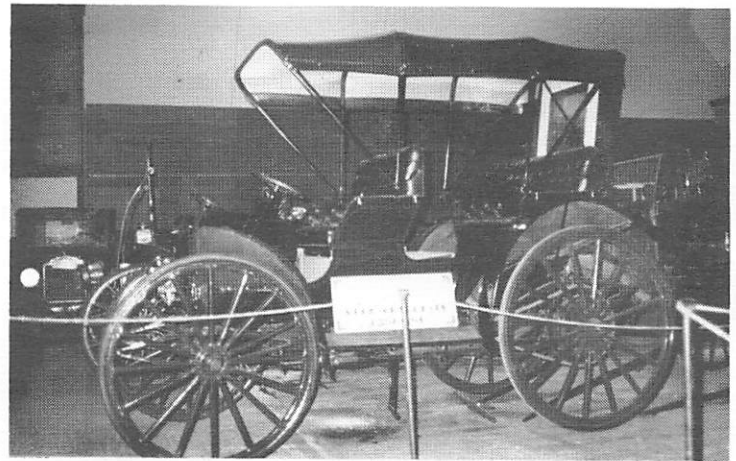
# Walsh County Museum Briefs

During the spring of 1991, a total of 475 students plus parents and teachers toured the museum in Minto. We enjoy seeing the bus loads of students pull up to the gate.

On Sunday afternoons and holidays a total of 490 visitors toured the museum and signed the guest book from the first Sunday in June through Labor Day.

Thanks to those who volun-

teered to assist at the museum. Frank Schiller is chairman of the museum board. A special thanks to Stephanie Prepora who serves as volunteer curator and arranges for volunteers who assist at the museum. Note - Stephanie hasn't missed one Sunday in over 20 years when the museum is open. Quite a record Stephanie. What would we do without you.



Various modes of transportation on display at County Museum in Minto. 1907 International auto-wagon owned by Herman Schanilec

# Williamson Milk Truck Returns Home

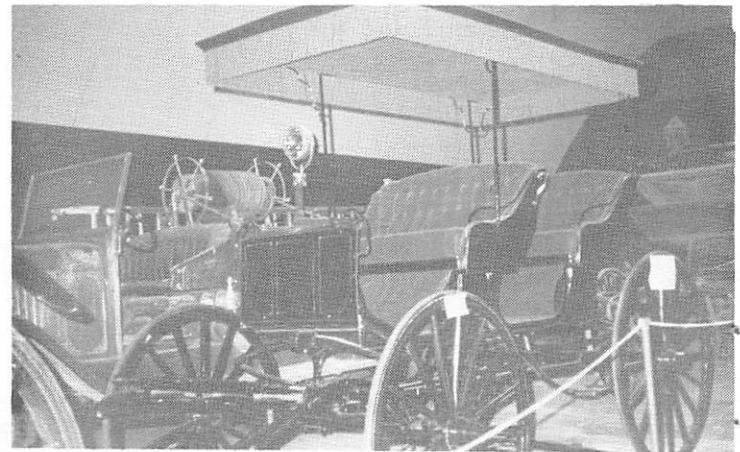


Williamson milk truck

The 1947 milk truck owned by Williamson Milk Company, Grafton, was recently purchased at an area farm auction by Charles H. Stewart, Grafton, and many friends and supporters of Elmwood (the former Williamson home). We would like to thank those who contributed. The purchase price was higher than ex-

pected.

Charles is working on repairing the truck to a good running condition. Now the brakes are functioning and other repairs need to be made. Next summer you will see the Williamson milk truck at Elmwood and at other area functions.



Surrey owned by Herman Schanilec.

## History Of The Flag Of North Dakota

Long before North Dakota became a state, three foreign and two territorial flags flew over part of the land which would eventually be divided into the Dakotas. Although statehood took place in 1889 it wasn't until the 1911 legislative session that North Dakota officially adopted a flag. The flag that the lawmakers agreed upon was not designed simply to represent the state but it was a borrowed flag.

Its adoption even resulted in a cover-up of sorts since the word "North Dakota" emblazoned on a flowing ribbon scrolled beneath the feet of a bald eagle was stitched over a logo reflecting the flag's earlier purpose as a regimental banner for the First North Dakota Infantry.

This flag did have North Dakota connections. Before it was adopted by the Legislature, men

of the First North Dakota Volunteers had carried it into battle during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Islands Insurrection in 1898 and 1899. Having come through both battles relatively unscathed the flag came under fire again — this time in 1951. That year North Dakota State Flag Commission gathered to make recommendations regarding the state's banner. According to the Centennial Blue Book, the commission concluded that the flag too closely resembled the coat of arms of the United States and the flag was not symbolic of North Dakota. Final result — the flag that once waved over Cuba and the Philippines still flies as the symbol of our North Dakota. The original regimental-turned state flag can be seen at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.



# Gift

Cont. From Page 1

his father in the operation of the Jensen Funeral Home in 1925 later graduating from the University of Minnesota College of embalming. Leonard retired as a funeral director in 1970.

Also on display in the museum is the dress uniform worn by

Leonard and Bertha's son, Leslie, while attending the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs where he graduated. Leslie is a Lieutenant Colonel and Commander and lives in Sioux City, Iowa.



Leonard and Bertha Jensen



Winter at Heritage Village, Grafton

## Attention Members

This is the third 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 1991 we had 400 paid regular memberships, 23 business and two new life members for a total of 55 life memberships.

We need your participation and financial support more than ever due to increased expenses. For example, just insurance and liability take a big bite out of our revenue, not mentioning utilities.

We have kept our regular mem-

bership 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 1992.

**Emma Lou Minden**  
Membership Chairperson  
430 Eastern ,Apt. 2  
Grafton, ND 58237

## Curtain Rediscovered

By Ora Stewart

The handpainted, turn-of-the-century theater curtains that have hung in meeting halls across the midwest have made newspaper headlines lately. First, was the discovery of a beautiful example of the oldtime art at the STAR THEATRE in Milton. Secondly, was the search for the curtain that used to hang in the Mountain Hall and its subsequent happy return.

Now Grafton has its own case of the missing curtain. This curtain was not a front curtain but a backdrop of a forest scene painted on canvas and installed on an old fashion wooden roller. It was done by a theatrical supply company in St. Paul as were the other two curtains mentioned. It was ordered for the theater in Old Main at the School for the Feebleminded in early 1900's. Before Old Main was to be demolished, Charles and Ora Marie Stewart removed the curtain. It was used in a Grafton Community Theatre production in the early 70's and then stored at the old St. John's Catholic Church. Again, the curtain's home was demolished. No one knew what happened to the cur-

tain for 15 years. Rumor had it stored at the school, police station, and the bus barn but rumor was wrong.

This summer it was found along with a companion curtain of a marbled interior scene. It was stored under the stage at the Heritage Village. The marble hall scene will be hung permanently at the Heritage Village Theatre. The decision was made in December by the Heritage Board.

Professors from the drama department of UND were delighted. They came to photograph, measure, and inspect. Yes, it was a fine example of the painting done by the old artists using a minimum of brush strokes, but letting color choice and shading to portray the scenes they desired. Current drama students were and will be sent to study the technique. Grafton Community Theatre delved into its funds and hired a technician to hang the old curtain on the grounds from whence it sprung—the State Developmental Center. It now hangs in all its antique glory as a backdrop curtain at the Collette Auditorium stage.

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