

Wildlife collection donated to Heritage Village



A large wildlife collection of North American birds and animals has been donated to the Heritage Village by Kathleen and Marvin Sobolik, Fordville, which will make a wonderful display in the H.V. Williams taxidermy building. Nearly all of this large collection has been mounted by the late Mr. Williams in his shop and now on the village grounds.

The animals and birds belonged to Kathleen's father, the late Ray Foerster, an avid hunter and Ops Township farmer in Walsh County. The display represents more than 30 years of his hunting expeditions. The collection is sure to be admired by both young and old. It will be an educational tool for the young people who visit the Heritage Village. Again our thanks to the Soboliks for this generous donation.

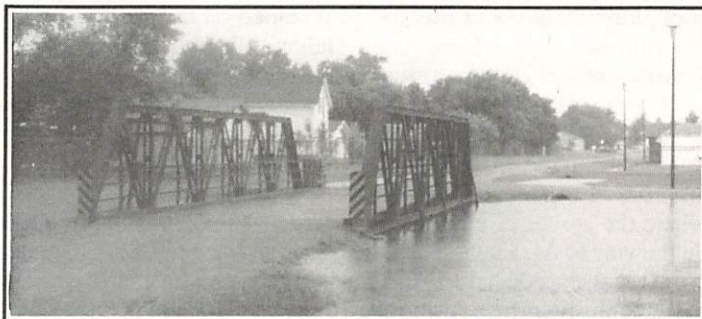
Memorial fund established

A Memorial Fund has been established. Gifts are recorded and the memorial money is kept in a special account.

Carousel building constructed at Heritage Village

During the fall of 1993, this building was constructed to house the 1916 model carousel and to provide the weather protection necessary to preserve this antique merry-go-round for the enjoyment of future generations. The building has been completed except for painting. Our thanks to all who so generously donated funds for the project, however, funds are still needed to finish paying off our obligation. Cost of construction was \$24,500.00. The merry-go-round has been restored to good working order and brings smiles to all as they enjoy their ride or just view the beautifully hand-painted horses. Approximately 350 area school children visited the Heritage Village this past spring and the ride proved to be one of the highlights of the tour.

Any donations over \$100.00 will be recorded on a plaque in the new building. For \$250.00 you will be the supporter or sponsor of a chariot and for \$500.00 you will have your own beautiful horse. When the weather gets nice, stop and see the new carousel building.



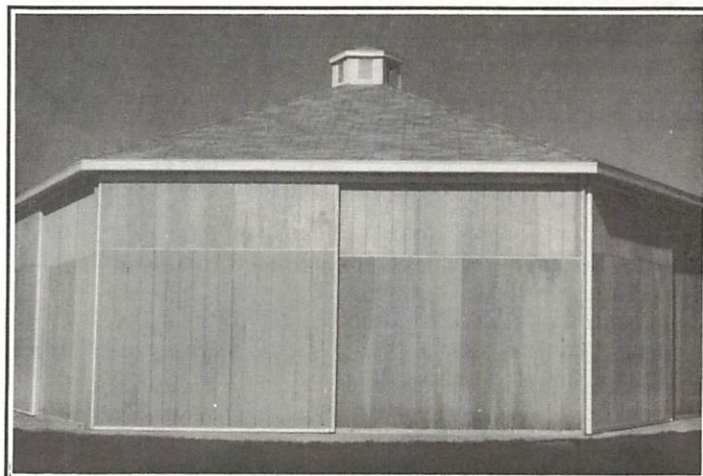
75-year-old bridge moved

During the summer of 1993, a bridge of historical significance was moved to the Heritage Village in Grafton. The bridge had been located two miles east and one mile north of Park River and was constructed in 1918 at a cost of \$4,395.00. Before the bridge could be replaced it was to be preserved at another site. The original builder of the metal truss bridge was the Nollman Lumber and Contracting Co., a North Dakota bridge builder, who had competed with large bridge builders and out of state bridge companies. Nollman is known to have constructed at least 125 bridges in Walsh County but only two were identified in the Historical Society's Bridge Survey taken in 1991.

Charles Nollman came to Grafton in 1883 and established the Nollman Lumber Co. and became active in bridge building, house, church, and farm building construction as well as several state buildings on the west edge of Grafton. Mr. Nollman also served two terms as Grafton mayor.

The contractor for the new bridge, Dakota Bridge, Fargo, had the old bridge lifted by two cranes so Mattson Movers of Grafton could transport the bridge, assisted on the complete project by the county crews who also set the bridge in place.

A historical plaque will be placed near the bridge. The bridge was placed in the roadway at the Village so vehicles can drive over the historical bridge.



Historical tour resumed in July

When the Walsh County Historical Society was first organized, one of the main projects was tours of historical sites throughout the county. This summer the membership decided to do it again. On a cool, windy Sunday in July, the tour started on the Walsh County Courthouse steps where Judge Geiger told the history of the Courthouse and also the history of the statues that grace the lawn.

The second stop was Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oakwood.

In the 1890s a boarding school and a short-lived college were established in the French Catholic community of Oakwood. Actors dramatized these events. A drive-by of the old Acton Cemetery, where the graves of early German settlers can be seen, took place on the way to Alexander Henry rest stop on Interstate 29. There the crowd was introduced to Alexander Henry, the fur trader and the pretty Ojibway princess who shared his quarters on the Park River in 1802. Alexander Griggs, the riverboat Captain and his nagging wife, Ettie, recreated life not only on the river but in towns such as St. Andrews and Acton. The group returned to Grafton to be welcomed to Elmwood by C.A.M. Spencer, played by Charles Stewart, who pointed out the latest architectural features of his 1895 house. Refreshments were served on the lawn.

The historical characters were portrayed by members of the Grafton Community Theatre. Arrangements for the tour were made by Charles and Ora Marie Stewart.



Lowell Selliken portrayed Capt. Griggs with his wife, Ettie, played by Crystal Daigre at Alexander Henry Post for the historical tour.

Past presidents pictures on display at Heritage Village

The pictures of the past presidents of the Walsh County Historical Society have been framed and hung in the theater building at the Heritage Village, Grafton.

Father Joseph Hylden, Grafton, 1967-1969

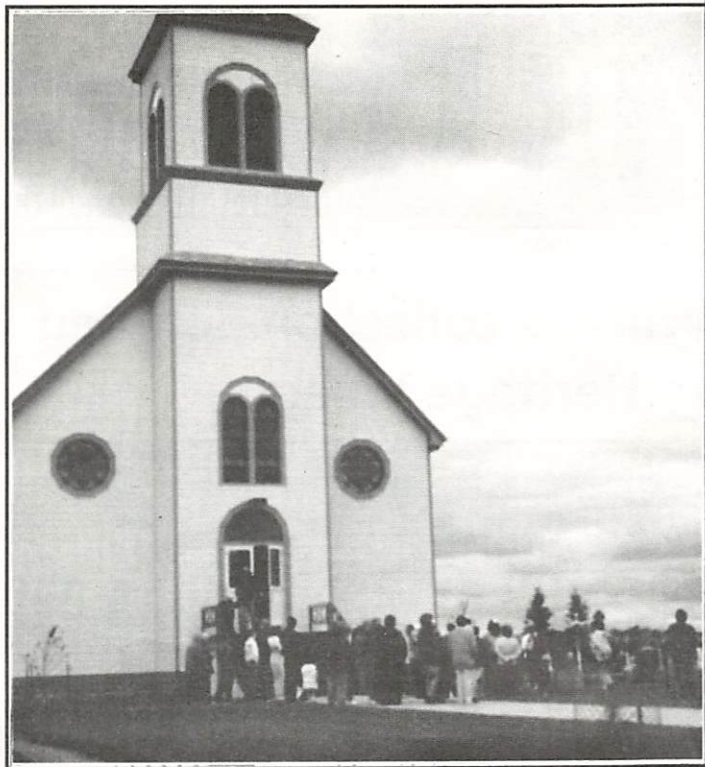
Henry Lundene, Adams, 1970-1972, 1975-1976 & 1980-1983

Charles Stewart, Grafton, 1973

R.F. "Pete" Matejcek, Lankin, 1977-1979

Ed Gudajtes, Minto, 1974, 1984-1988

John Morgan, Grafton, president-elect, 1989



The tour group stops at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oakwood.

Dedicated volunteer dies

Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, a dedicated volunteer and willing supporter of the Walsh County Historical Society, died on May 10, 1993, at the age of 87 following a brief illness. Stephanie served as membership chairperson of the society for 16 years and volunteer curator of the county museum in Minto from 1973 until her death. Almost every Sunday for 20 years during the summer months and by appointment, Stephanie could be found at the museum. She also attended nearly every meeting of the Historical Society after her return to Minto in the early 1970s. Stephanie was a charter and life member of the society. She will be remembered by her many friends in Walsh County.

Service to remember deceased members

The following deceased members of the Walsh County Historical Society will be remembered at the February 6 meeting of the Society.

Stephanie Prepiora, Minto, Charter & Life

Harry Mach, Minto, Regular

Walter Halberg, Adams, Charter & Former Director

Paul Chally, Fairdale, Regular

Ervin Schumacher, Drayton, Charter

Mae Curran Alm, Fargo, Regular

Mrs. Ingvald Moe, Grafton, Charter

Mrs. Rose Sauer, Grafton, Regular

Joe Birkeland, Grafton, Charter

John O'Brien, Grafton, Charter

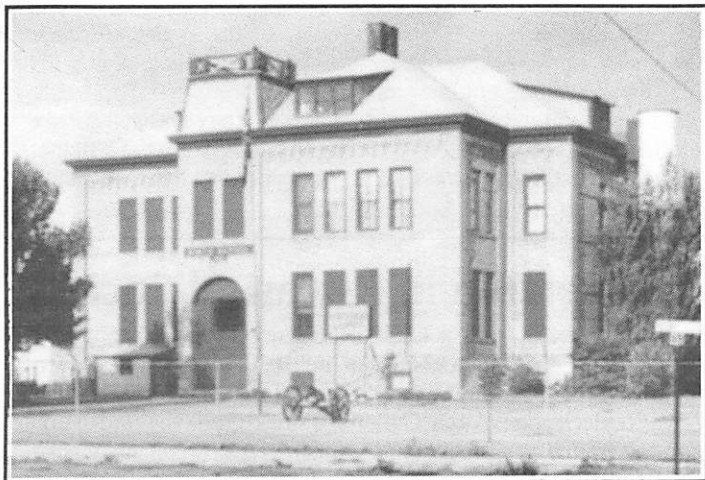
Sylvia Wick, Park River, Charter

Anna Seeba, Grafton, Centenarian

Betty Christopherson, Edinburg, Regular

Paul Meberg, Park River, Regular

Museum to celebrate 25th anniversary



Walsh County Historical Museum

The Walsh County Historical Museum will come alive once again in June of 1994. It will be a very special event as it is the 25th anniversary of the Historical Museum. Museum Alive will take place on Sunday, June 26, 1994 with an "antique parade"

beginning at 1:00 p.m. Museum Alive will immediately follow the parade, which will be from approximately 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in participating in the pre 1953 antique parade, please contact any of the officers or board members.

Another new attraction of the museum will be the North American Wildlife project. This project is currently in the construction phase and will be ready for the general public by early May. Of spectacular beauty will be a brown bear, polar bear, and musk ox.

We encourage all to attend this fun-filled day. Many exciting events are currently being planned for the entire family. Mark your calendar - MUSEUM ALIVE SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1994!

The current Walsh County Historical Museum officers and board members are as follows:

Curator/Mgr. - Frank Schiller

Chairman - Chris Misialek

Vice Chairman - June Selseth

Secretary - Joan Schanilec

Treasurer - Ted Barta

Board Members - Linda Dunnigan, Les Jallo, Robert Woods, Terry Nowling, John Gudajtes, Theofil Kilichowski, Donald Rudnik, Carol Flanders

Restoration of historic Elmwood continues

By Rae M. Desautel

Life continues for the historic mansion tucked among the trees along the banks of the Park River in northeast Grafton. People manage to find Elmwood.

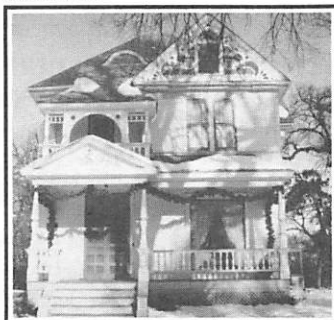
They appreciate the historical significance and seeking a unique setting, will rent Elmwood for their private events. They also come for governing board-sponsored events such as bridge luncheons, open houses, SummerFests and Spencer's Election Day spaghetti suppers. As an indicator of community support for historic preservation many become involved in planning the special functions sponsored by the governing board.

It is proper that Elmwood continues to be restored and returned as closely as possible to its original state. The hands on museum provides its visitors a closer look at the past. It takes them to a time before the turn of the century, a time when local and territorial history was in the making.

Built in 1895 by attorney and community builder C. A. M. Spencer, North Dakota's second attorney general, it also was owned by W. C. Treumann, a prominent local citizen who earned his way into the history of the territory when Company C was organized as the Third Militia Company of Dakota Territory in 1885. He commanded North Dakota's First Regiment of U.S. Volunteers. He and his troops served with distinction during the Spanish-American in the Phillipine Islands in 1888-1889.

Elmwood also was owned by the Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, Minn., who envisioned a school. It was sold less than a year later to Marie Srott. Longtime dwellers were Edith Maxwell and her family who lived there until 1945 when Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson purchased the house and approximately 20 acres.

The governing board opened the mansion for public review for the first time in 1989 in time for the state's centennial celebration.



Restoration continues as funds become available. In the past year interior work included wallpapering and painting. A major project a year earlier was the building of a two-level porch that restored the front of the house to its original integrity. It was a project sponsored by the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission.

This winter the governing board plans to begin work on the two bathrooms with a future goal of providing guest house services. And, if one dares to dream, a foot bridge leading from the front yard to Cooper Avenue will become a reality.

It is hoped major renovation will be completed in time to celebrate the Victorian mansion's 100th birthday in 1995.

Centenarians

Nine women are centenarians in Walsh County. We know of no men who are at least 100 years of age.

Nora Rinde, Hoople, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 24, 1993. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Julia Larson, Grafton, celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 16, 1993. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Emma Novotny celebrated her 101st birthday, Jan. 22, 1993. She is a resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Laura Nelson, Grafton, celebrated her 101st birthday, May 2, 1993.

Mary Finley celebrated her 102nd birthday on Feb. 21, 1993. She is a resident at Good Samaritan Home in Park River.

Anna Kubesh, Grafton, was 102 years of age on June 28, 1993. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Katherine Dub was 102 years of age on Dec. 24, 1993. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Anna Russum, rural Grafton, celebrated her 102nd birthday on Oct. 5, 1993. She is a resident at Good Samaritan Home, Warren, MN.

Rena Peterson was 105 years of age on Sept. 2, 1993. She is a resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Summary of Historical Society

1993 was the 26th year since the Walsh County Historical Society was organized. Many activities were held during the year and especially at the Heritage Village. The county museum in Minto is open on Sunday afternoons during the summer months and by special appointment.

In January a memorial service honoring 26 deceased members was held at the Village. Annual reports were given followed by an executive board meeting.

Tom Matchie, NDSU, gave a book review on "Bones of Plenty" when the April meeting was held at Carnegie Library, Grafton.

July 11 was the tour of historical sites and places of local history in Walsh County. It was the 11th tour. There were 10 consecutive tours starting in 1968. It was decided to resume the tour and Charles and Ora Marie Stewart served as co-ch. of the event.

In August the Northeast North Dakota Pioneer Machinery Parade and threshing display was held in Park River.

On Aug. 1 the society met at the Heritage Village. On Nov. 21 election of officers was held followed by the regular business meeting and an executive board meeting at the Heritage Village.

Many additions and improvements were made at the Heritage Village during the year. Charles Lambrecht is chairman of the Heritage Village Board and C.W. "Jake" Jacobson serves as the manager. The society would like to thank those who donated items to the village and museum as well as their time.

1994 Officers

President: John Paulson

V. President: John Curran

Recording Sec.: Mary Rose Rodriguez

Corresponding Sec.: Lorraine Paulson

Treasurer: Lois Eisenrich

New Directors: Kenneth Stensland, Barbara Bracken, Ora Marie Stewart (re-elected for second term)

Hold-over Directors: Elizabeth Fagerholt, Mary Osowski, Dennis Anderson, Henry Risky, Harvey Lykken, Pete Matejcek and Ed Gudajtes, Ex Officio

Membership: Emma Lou Minden

(Directors whose terms expired in 1993 were George Chyle and Victor Koppang)

Walsh Heritage books

The complete set of four volumes of the Walsh Heritage books are no longer available since number one is sold out.

We are selling volumes three and four for two dollars each. As long as volumes two are still available, they will sell for six dollars each. The books can be picked up at the Heritage Village, Grafton, First State Bank, Park River, or contact Pete Matejcek, Lankin, who served as book chairman.

Membership in Historical Society

In 1993 there were a total of 390 regular memberships, 27 business and 67 life memberships in the Historical Society. New life members in 1993 are: Leonard Fagerholt, Elizabeth Fagerholt, W.W. Reyleck Co., Alma Collette, James Gudajtes and Hoople Farmers Grain. Each life member contributed \$100.00 and it is kept in an interest bearing certificate with interest used by the society for its projects.

Your support and participation are needed for the society to continue and hopefully grow.

Time To Renew 1994 Memberships

Renew your 1994 memberships. 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 1994.

ANNUAL REGULAR DUES \$3.00 per person
ANNUAL BUSINESS & INSTITUTIONAL . . . \$10.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Emma Lou Minden, Membership Chairperson
Walsh County Historical Society
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Editor — LORRAINE PAULSON

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