



By-Gone Days at Grafton Heritage Village

A rainy, Sunday afternoon on September 11, could not dampen the spirit or the fun of reliving the past when the Grafton Heritage Village staged their first celebration, By-Gone Days.

The clack of the wireless key from the Voss Depot, mingled with calliope music from the merry-go-around. Each building on the grounds became the scene of old-time activities. At the log cabin, the whirl of the spinning wheel blended with the honky tonk piano music from the saloon where dance hall girls and an old-time bartender served sarsaparilla drinks. The U.S. Marshall kept a watchful eye on the crowd and delivered unruly guests to the law office.

Because of the wet weather, the theater building became the center of activities. A flea and farmer's market took place inside. The performers, the Czech Singers, the Grafton Kitchen Band, the Polish Dancers, the Fun Tone Musician, and an accordionist also moved into the theater. The crowd watched while savoring apple crisp and home-made doughnuts with their coffee. Because all the participants were in



I REMEMBER

Enjoying the afternoon from the porch of the old farm home at Heritage Village during By-Gone Days on Sept. 11 are Ora Marie Stewart, chairperson of the afternoon events and Uncle "Sig" who is commenting on the separating of cream. Inside the house they were washing clothes and making butter while organ music was played on the old organ.



Left to right: Jake Jacobson, Village manager, and T.J. Conlon supervising Charles Stewart as he separates cream from the milk at By-Gone Days.

costume, an impromptu fashion show became part of the fun.

The church was filled with the sound of old-fashioned hymn singing. At the farm house, ladies churned cream into butter, washed clothes in a wringer washer, ironed with sad irons, and fresh milk was separated in the old cream separator.

An antique vehicle parade around the Heritage ground gave the crowd a view of old-time cars, trucks and tractors. Exotic birds, mountain men and tepees, a doll collection, miniature threshing scene, an old fire engine, Rosie the Clown, telephone display, face painting, rope making were all planned for a family afternoon of fun.

Many Grafton students, citizens and members of various organizations helped to make this first By-Gone Days an exciting afternoon.

Submitted by Ora Marie Stewart

Schiller & Paulson Honored at Museum Alive June 26

Two dedicated volunteers were recognized for their volunteer service of at least 20 years to the Walsh County Historical Society on June 26 at Museum Alive in Minto. Frank Schiller, Minto, and Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, were presented engraved plaques. Schiller has served as co-chairman and chairman and now curator of the county museum in Minto. Over the years, Schiller has volunteered thousands of hours at the museum. Lorraine Paulson has been corresponding secretary and editor of the annual Walsh County Historical Newsletter since 1974.

Stewart stated that although they are not retiring we wish to recognize them for their dedicated service over the years.

Left to right: Chris Misialek, museum board ch.; Frank Schiller; Charles Stewart, first president of the museum board and former president of the historical society and Lorraine Paulson.



Old school building, present museum 100 years in 1995

The Walsh County Historical Museum closed for the season in September, 1994 after completing a very busy year.

A new attraction at the museum is a collection of African animals on loan from Gerald Heggestuen, Alvarado, Minnesota. Of special interest are a baboon, spotted leopard, civit and many other species.

Over 750 children toured the museum in May, 1994. Many thanks to some very dedicated tour guides. Schools visiting were Cavalier, Grafton, Minto, Manvel, Edinburg, Grand Forks Air Force Base, Emerado, East Grand Forks, Park River and several Grand Forks Schools.

Museum Alive turned out to be a very successful day with over 2,600 people attending the afternoon events. The children enjoyed a day of five cents ice cream cones, penny candy, sack races and other games.

The museum board is looking forward to the summer of 1995. On June 17, the museum board has been given the honor of hosting a family reunion for the Nash Finch Grocery Company of Minneapolis. Approximately 75 - 100 people will take part in a day of fun and games, including a picnic lunch and tours of the museum. On July 1-2, 1995, the museum will be having a mini-version of Museum Alive as the city of Minto will be hosting a community celebration. In 1995, the old school that is now the Walsh County Museum will mark its 100th anniversary. There will be an all-school reunion, parade, Museum Alive, dance and fireworks.

On February 22, 1970, the first official meeting of the Walsh County Museum board was held. The Walsh County Historical Society had signed a lease on the old Minto School building and the rest is history. Thanks to everyone who supports our county museum in so many ways. 1994 was the first year the County Museum received funds from the Stephanie Prepiors Endowment Fund and Frank J. Przepiora Trust.

Mark historical sites

People are being encouraged to identify and mark historical sites or places in the county. The Historical Society will donate a plaque identifying it as a county historical site. Individuals or groups are encouraged to erect a marker with historical facts.

At the July meeting Ed Gudajtes, Minto; Pete Matejcek, Lankin; and John Curran, Grafton, were appointed to serve on this committee. Contact them for additional information.

Over the years many sites have been marked but the society would like to see additional sites marked.

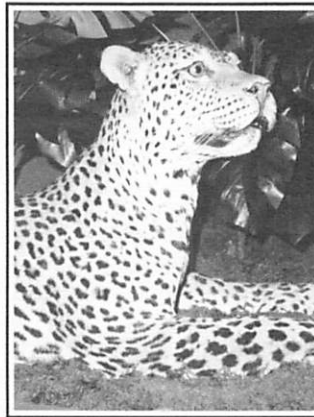
SERVICE REMEMBERS DECEASED MEMBERS

Each year members of the Walsh County Historical Society who died the previous year are remembered at the annual memorial service.

Members who died in 1994 are as follows:

Alfred Zinke, Florida, signed original Article of Incorporation of the society.
Edith Coulthart, Grafton, Charter & Regular
Forrest Issacson, Grafton, Charter
Wm. D. Woods, Forest River, Charter & Regular
Wm. "Hank" Johnston, Forest River, Charter
Viola Johnston, Grafton, Regular
Julia Larson, Grafton, Centenarian
Rena Peterson, St. Thomas, Centenarian
Lauren Babinski, Minto, Regular
Jeanette "Nettie" Rodger, Hoople, Regular
Doris Midgarden, Hoople, Regular
Margaret Nelson, Edinburg, Charter & Regular
Fern Eustis Running, Williston, Regular
Paul Johnson, Grafton, Regular

WILDLIFE DISPLAYS IN COUNTY MUSEUM IN MINTO



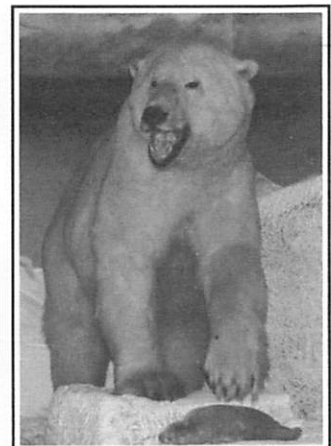
Leopard from Africa



Musk Ox from Alaska Tundra.



The big brown bear with Patrick Durkin, Grand Forks.



White Polar Bear from the Yukon.

Museum Board

The current Walsh County Historical Museum Officers and Board Members are as follows:

Curator/Manager Frank Schiller
Chairman Chris Misialek
Vice-Chairman June Selseth
Secretary Joan Schanilec
Treasurer Ted Barta

Board Members: Linda Dunnigan, Les Jallo, Robert Woods, John Gudajtes, Theafil Kilichowski, Gloria Koltes, Marlene Swenson and Ron Ophaug.

1994 Walsh County Historical Society Heritage Village Board Officers and Membership List

Chairperson Charles Lambrecht
Vice Chairperson Ralph Adamsen
Recording Secretary Mary Rose Rodriguez
Treasurer Sue Rose
Heritage Village Manager Jake Jacobson

Other Board Members : Loren Anderson, Rae Desautel, Norv Elbert, J.R. Gaustad, Ethel Mohagen, Dorothy Morgan, Henry Riske, Mark Kerr.

Elmwood to celebrate 100 years of history

By Rae M. Desautel

Before we review the past year, let's look ahead a few months. Elmwood is planning a big party June 24 during Grafton's SummerFest celebration. The mansion will be 100 years old.

The house will be decked out for the occasion and a grand program is planned to honor C. A. M. Spencer who built the Victorian mansion in an oxbow of the Park River. The house was built during a time history was being made in the young state of North Dakota. Spencer was North Dakota's second attorney general.



Virginia Anderson and Lee Mathern standing on new ramp.

Special invitations will be issued to past owners or descendants of subsequent owners and renters including the W. C. Treumann, Edith Maxwell and Luther Williamson families.

In the meantime, steady renovation continues at the historic mansion. The special project the past year is the completion of the ramp for use of those who find stairs difficult. It was built by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, owners of the property, to comply with standards set by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is expected work will begin in February to return the upstairs bathroom to its original integrity. Donations are being sought for the project. A \$500 grant was received from the Grafton Endowment Fund to help with this project.

As the word spreads about Elmwood, so does its use. People of Grafton and the surrounding area, along with businesses and organizations, are finding the ambience of the property appropriate for their special functions.

Major fund-raisers continue to be Spencer's Election Day Spaghetti Supper in November and Christmas at Elmwood in early December. Elmwood's Governing board also hosts one or two bridge luncheons each year.



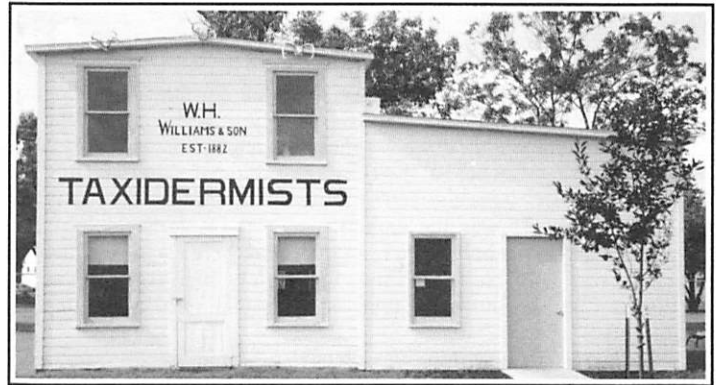
Christmas at Elmwood with Ann and Charles Thompson.

Members of the Governing board are Virginia Anderson, Rae Desautel, Leora Mathern, Mary Jo Olson, Ina Raumin and Gloria Thompson.

Reyleck's store closes

The oldest business, Reyleck's general store in Grafton, announced that it will close its doors in February 1995. The store was founded in 1887 by W.W. Reyleck, an immigrant from what is now called the Czech Republic. W.W. Reyleck came to America with his parents and some siblings in the early 1880s. They settled first in Iowa, then moved to Dakota Territory settling on a farm near Veseleyville, ND. W.W. Reyleck operated his business until about 1926 when he moved to California with his wife and three daughters. Some descendants of the Reyleck family still live in Walsh County, such as the Burianek family of Grafton, Ed Soutor of Voss, Mrs. Evarist Barta, Veseleyville and Mrs. Albin Praska, Pisek.

Submitted by John Curran



An addition 16x26 was added to the eastside of the Williams Taxidermy building in 1994 on the Heritage Village grounds to house the polar and brown bears along with other wildlife displays.

Placed on National Register

St. Joseph's Chapel, built in 1907 east of Warsaw, and the Pisek Public School, which was built in 1913 were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.



A polar bear from the Ray Foerster collection displayed in new addition of Williams Taxidermy building.

Identifying log structures

During the summer of 1994, Jamie Livingood, summer intern with the Red River Regional Council, worked on locating and recording log structures which still exist within Walsh and Pembina counties. Seventeen log structures were located in the two counties.

Next newsletter we will list these structures.

Society prints placemats

In 1994, the Walsh County Historical Society authorized the printing of 70,000 placemats financed by the sale of ads.

The object of the project was to awaken interest in the historical aspects of Walsh County and publicize historical places and sites. The placemats were designed by Charles.

The placemats are free and available from advertisers to organizations and food service businesses in the county.



ENJOYING MUSEUM ALIVE
Genell and Wayne Jallo with their son, Adam, from Fordville at Museum Alive in Minto. Wayne made his buckskin from six hides which he tanned and sewed. He also made Genell's moccasins, his rifle, tepee and some of the primitive furnishings displayed in the tent.

Walsh County Historical Society Summary for 1994

The annual meeting and memorial service for the Walsh County Historical Society was held the first Sunday in February. In March, the annual membership drive was held in area banks. On April 24, a regular meeting was held at the Heritage Village in Grafton. On June 26, Museum Alive was enjoyed by thousands on the museum grounds in Minto. July 31 was the annual picnic at Uncle Sig's Jugville. By-Gone Days was held Sept. 11 at the Heritage Village. Election of officers was held Nov. 20 when the society met at the Heritage Village. Charles Stewart served as chairman of the nominating committee.

Chris Misialek, Minto, was elected president succeeding John Paulson who served as president since 1989.

John Curran, Grafton, re-elected vice president.
Lorraine Paulson, Hoople, corresponding secretary.
Wm. McMillian, Grafton, treasurer, succeeding Lois Eisenrich who served in that capacity since January 1991.

Ora Marie Stewart, Grafton, will serve as membership ch. replacing Emma Lou Minden who served in that position since 1990.

New directors elected for a three year term beginning in 1995 are: Lois Eisenrich, Grafton; Gunnard Ness, Fordville; and Lizz Fagerholt, Hoople re-elected, replacing Dennis Anderson and Mary Osowski. Hold-over directors are Kenneth Stensland, Barb Bracken, Ora Marie Stewart, Henry Riske, Harvey Lykken, Pete Matejcek and John Paulson, Ex officio.

— Centenarians —

Ten Walsh County citizens are at least 100 years of age in 1994. Three additional residents became 100 years of age in 1994. They are as follows:

Joseph Kovarik, Lankin, 100 on Feb. 5, 1994, a resident at Good Samaritan, Park River.

Anna Swartz, Lankin, 100 on Aug. 25, 1994, a resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Clarence Ordahl, Grafton, 100 on Dec. 11, 1994, a resident at Sunset Home, Grafton.

Emma Novotny, Pisek, 101 on Jan. 22, 1994, a resident at Good Samaritan, Park River.

Nora Rinde, Hoople, was 101 on April 24, 1994, a resident at Sunset Home, Grafton.

Laura Nelson, Grafton, 102, on May 2, 1994. She lives in her own home in Grafton.

Mary Finley, Fordville, was 103 on Feb. 21, 1994, a resident at Good Samaritan, Park River.

Anna Kubesh, Grafton, 103 on June 28, 1994, a resident at Sunset Home, Grafton.

Anna Russum, rural Grafton, 103 on Oct. 5, 1994, resident of Good Samaritan Home, Warren, Minnesota.

Katherine Dub, Pisek, 103 on Dec. 24, 1994, resident at Sunset Home, Grafton.

Walsh Heritage Books

The complete set of four volumes of the Walsh Heritage books are no longer available since number one is sold out. A limited number of volume two are still available and it sells for \$6 each. We are selling volumes three and four for \$2 each. The books can be picked up at the Heritage Village, Grafton; First State Bank, Park River, or Pete Matejcek, Lankin, who served as book chairman.

Membership in Historical Society

In 1994, there were a total of 351 regular memberships, 30 business and 70 life memberships in the Historical Society. New life members in 1994 were: Leo Lizakowski, Minto; Rae Ann Larson, Grafton; and DKB Farms (Bjorneby), Minto. Each life member contributed \$100.00 and it is kept in an interest bearing certificate with interest used by the society for its projects.

The Society also thanks those who gave memorials this past year. Your support and participation are needed for the society to continue and hopefully grow.

Time To Renew 1995 Memberships

Renew your 1995 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 1995.

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

Your support helps sustain our Society.

Ora Marie Stewart, Membership Chairperson
Walsh County Historical Society
131 Prospect, Grafton, ND 58237

Editor — LORRAINE PAULSON

Walsh County Historical Society
RR 1, Box 32
Hoople, ND 58243

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