

By-Gone Days — Sept. 10, 1995

Salute To Victory



From left, Norv Elbert and Charles Lambrecht, both former chairman of the Heritage Village board, along with C.W. Jacobson, village manager, enjoy the program "Salute to Victory" on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Heritage Village. Norv and Chuck can still fit into their original W.W. II military uniforms.

Nash Family Tour County - Roots In Walsh County

Ninety degrees plus temperatures did not hinder the enthusiasm of 90 members of the Nash family when they visited Walsh County on June 17. Four generations of the Nash family brothers of the Nash Finch Co. came from 19 states and Ireland traveling on two buses. They made several stops in our county including Edinburg, Nash and Minto. Nash, ND was named in honor of the late Edgar Nash. Governor Schafer had declared the weekend "Nash Family Days."

Fred Nash was the founder of Nash Brothers in 1885 in Devils Lake and was joined by his brothers Willis and Edgar. The second store opened in Park River and there was also a store in Grafton. The business moved to Grand Forks in 1887 and Harry Finch joined the company. Now Nash Finch Co. is the third largest food wholesaler with three billion in annual sales and a Fortune 500 Company with headquarters in Edina, MN. A North Dakota man, Alfred Flaten, originally from Edinburg is the CEO.

The group was served a noon meal in Minto and they toured the county museum.

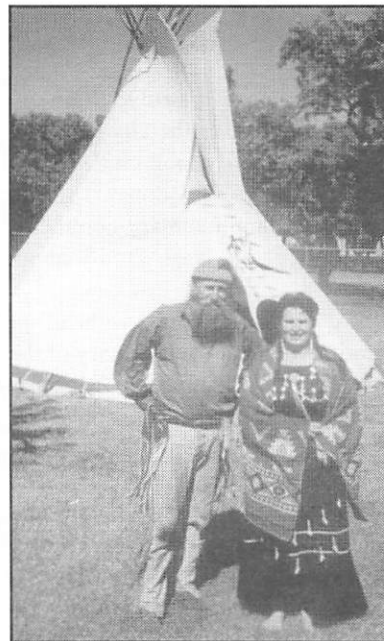
Horns honked, sirens sounded and red paper poppies fell from the sky. It was a recreation of a celebration that took place in Grafton 50 years ago when the end of the World War II was proclaimed.

"Salute to Victory" was the theme of the second annual By-Gone Days festivities which opened with the raising of the flag, military honor guard, trumpet calls, war songs, dedications to POW and fallen soldiers and patriotic speeches.

Displays of military uniforms, weaponry, vehicles, plus the presence of personnel from the Grand Forks National Guard and Air Force Base complemented the theme.

The Heritage Village came to life that day with a parade of military and antique vehicles, merry-go-rides, miniature train rides, horse-drawn carriage rides, hymns sung in the old church, samples of home-baked bread at the farmstead house, animals in the barn, and sarsaparilla drinks at the saloon, and cream separating and wringer washing machine demonstrations on the back porch of the farm house.

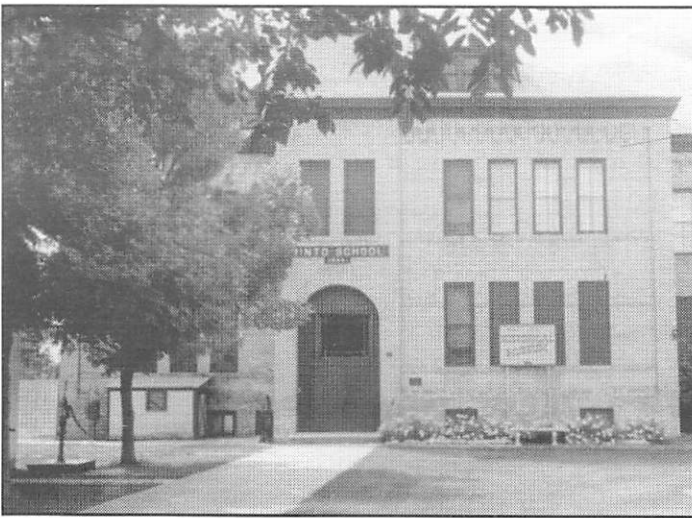
More music from the 1940's was performed. The old-fashioned drug store and doctor's office was open to visitors for the first time. Everyone left tired and happy with a conviction that the history clock can be turned back — for a few hours.



Stephany and Bob Vaudrin, Grafton, set-up their tepee and dressed as French trappers demonstrating their skill from the fur trading era at By-Gone Days at Heritage Village.



Eleanor Lerud, Grafton, served home-baked bread at By-Gone Days at Heritage Village.



The Walsh County Museum building, former Minto Public School, observed 100 years of history. The buildings constructed in 1895 was used as an educational facility for 75 years. In 1970 the three-story school was vacated for a new building.

The first official meeting of the museum board was in February 1970 and by July 1976 the museum was dedicated. The building was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1991.

On Sunday afternoons, holidays and by special arrangements the museum is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

On July 2, 1995 a trip back in time was enjoyed by hundreds of guests who attended Museum Alive.

1995 Museum Summary

The Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto has had a very busy and productive season.

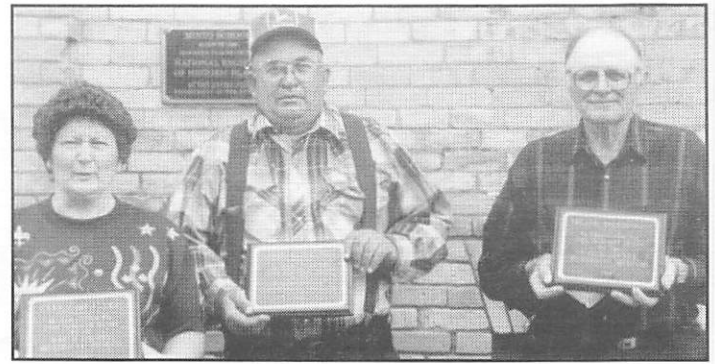
Kicking off the season for the museum were the guided tours for area school children. Over 400 children, teachers and chaperons enjoyed touring the museum. The wonder and enthusiasm of the children during these tours was enjoyable for all involved.

June brought several repairs to the museum. New doors and a new step going into the museum. The old gym, containing cars and other machinery as well as the African animal collection, got a new roof.

June 17 was the date of the Nash Family Reunion. Approximately 100 Nash descendants came to the city park and enjoyed a picnic lunch. Then the Nash family took guided tours of the museum. A Nash baseball uniform was donated to the museum as well as a cash donation. Complimentary comments were heard from the many members of the Nash family about their day spent in Minto.

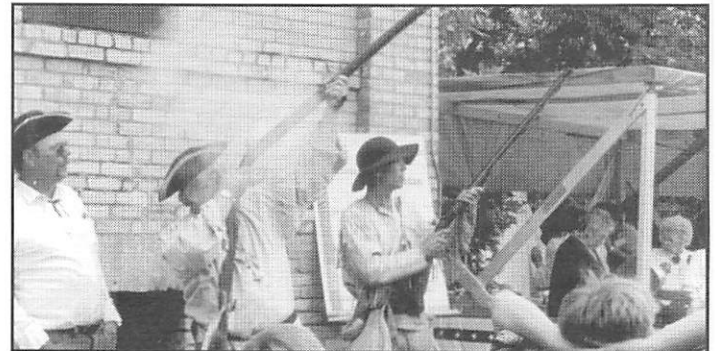
Minto celebrated the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July with an all community reunion commemorating the 100th anniversary of the original public school, which now houses the museum. Museum Alive was held to honor the event and promote the museum. Approximately 1,500 people attended the event. Some of the highlights of the day were the Polish National Alliance Dancers of Warsaw, the Plains people, P.O.L.K.A. Lovers of Warsaw and surrounding area, children's games, a tepee and outdoors men and women depicting life as it was in the 1800s. Ethnic food of all kinds was also enjoyed by all. Ellen Misialek, John Gudajtes and Theofil Kilichowski were honored for their dedication and service to the museum with a plaque and hearty thank you.

Walsh County Museum Board: Chairperson - June Selseth; vice chairperson - Les Jallo; secretary - Marlene Swenson; treasurer - Ted Barta, and curator - Frank Schiller.



Recognized at Museum Alive '95

Ellen Misialek, John Gudajtes and Theofil Kilichowski, all of Minto, receive plaques honoring them for many years of dedicated service to the Walsh County Museum in Minto.



Load, Aim, Fire at Museum Alive

Les Jallo watches as Gary Hagness and Wayne Jallo put on a musket loading demonstration at Museum Alive. To the right the Legion auxiliary serves lunch.



Chris Misialek, president of the WCHS and museum board chairman receives a Nash baseball uniform being held by John Nash (grandson of Fred Nash) at the picnic at Minto City Park. The Nash Foundation also presented the museum with a check for \$5,000.

Walsh Heritage Books

Walsh Heritage books volumes 3 and 4 are available for \$2.00 each if picked up at Heritage Village in Grafton or First State Bank, Park River. Volumes 1 and 2 are sold out.

Village Happenings

Improvements at Heritage Village

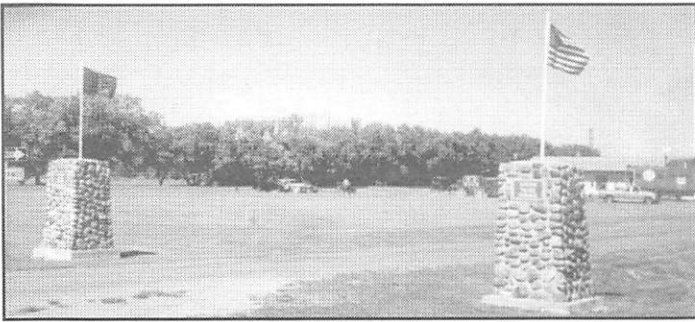
Major projects at the Heritage Village in '95 were a new platform and ramp on the depot.

Work is progressing on a military display in the depot.

Part of the garage was insulated and now heated for a year-around workshop.

Heritage Village Board

Chairman Ralph Adamsen, Vice Chairman James Gaustad, Manager C.W. Jacobson, Treasurer Sue Rose, and Secretary Mary Rose Rodriguez

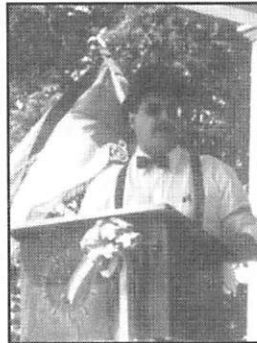


Four fieldstone cairns with flag holders were constructed in August marking the entrance and exit at the south end of the Heritage Village grounds. Making this project a reality were Nodak Electric, Ray Misialek who donated parital labor, and Walsh County for the stone and hauling it to the village.

Elmwood celebrated 100 years

The high point of 1995 for historic Elmwood was June 25 when history was relived. C.A.M. Spencer, Elmwood's builder, returned to celebrate the mansion's 100th birthday.

With the mansion in the background, Spencer, portrayed by Chris Stordalen of Grafton, reviewed the activity of the community as he took the audience back in time. Elmwood and its occupants played a major role in the growth of the city and development of the state.



Chris Misialek

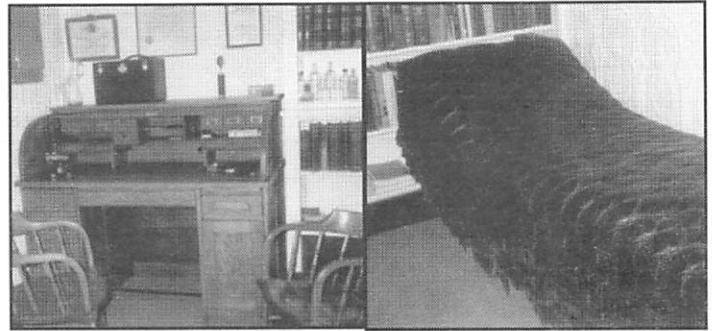
One of the speakers at the program was Doug Prchal, director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The department is owner of the 20 acres on which Elmwood stands as a symbol of the prosperity of the time 100 years when Grafton was being settled. Prchal cited the cooperative effort within the community to return the property to the way it looked in the days of its youth. "I'm excited about what is going on here and I'm excited about what the community is doing (to preserve it)," he said.

James Sperry, administrator of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, also referred to the community's sense of volunteerism and partnership in the restoration process. Mayor Sharon Martens brought greetings from the city and said, "The past, indeed, does need to be preserved."

Others bringing messages were Keith Bylin, Adams, president of the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission; Chris Misialek, Minto, president of the Walsh County Historical Society, and Ralph Adamsen, president of Heritage Village board of directors.

Speaking also were members of the Williamson and Treumann families who once occupied the historic mansion along the Park River. The Williamson family was the last owner and had it researched for admission to the National Register of Historic Places and later deeded it to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

Other guests included Karen Assel of the Parks and Recreation Department, Henry Duray, manager of Icelandic State Park near Cavalier, Steve Crandall, manager of Turtle River State Park near Arvilla, and Pam Dryer, Bismarck. Dryer is a former staff member of the Parks and Recreation Department and was instrumental in obtaining the property for the department.



A pioneer clinic has been set-up on main street at the Heritage Village. Certificates, books, furniture and implements used by area doctors are displayed.

Also a fainting couch which belonged to the late G.W. Gaspel, Grafton.



Marion and Richmond Lapp, former owners of Grafton Drug, donated furnishings and helped to set-up a complete historic drug store at the Heritage Village. Items displayed are typical of an old-time pharmacy.

Centenarians

The following Walsh County citizens are at least 100 years of age in 1995:

Mary Watson, Park River, 100, May 21, 1995. A resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Mabel Grinter, Pisek, 100, Jan. 30, 1995. Resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Nora Rinde, Hoople, 102, April 24, 1995. A resident at Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton.

Laura Nelson, Grafton, 103, May 2, 1995. She lives in her own home in Grafton.

Mary Finley, Fordville, 104, Feb. 21, 1995. A resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

The following centenarians died in 1995:

Clarence Ordahl, Grafton, 100; Wilmer Neilson, Grafton, 100, charter member; Anna Swartz, Lankin, 100; Joe Kovarik, Lankin, 101; Emma Novotny, Pisek, 102; Anna Russum, Grafton, 103; Katherine Dub, Park River, 103 and Anna Kubesh, Grafton, 104.

Historical Society Membership

In 1995 there were a total of 302 regular memberships, 27 businesses and 78 life memberships in the Historical Society. New life members in 1995 were: Chris Misialek, Minto; Don Gerszewski, Salt Lake City; Hoople Potato Products, Hoople; Paul Campbell, Aurel DeSautel, Phelan Farms, Mrs. Percy Davis and First American Bank, all of Grafton. 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 in various ways and participation are needed for the society to continue and hopefully grow.

1995 Walsh County Historical Society Summary

The annual meeting and memorial service of the Walsh County Historical Society was held January 22, 1995 at the Heritage Village.

On April 30 the society met at Elmwood in Grafton. At this meeting the constitution and by-laws revision committee of the historical society recommended and discussed additions and changes to be acted upon.

Over the July Fourth weekend the WCHS museum building, former Minto school, observed its centennial. Museum Alive on July 2 brought back many memories to those in attendance.

The annual society picnic was held at Sig Jagielski's Jugville on July 30. Birthday cake was served for Uncle Sig's 85th birthday.

September 10 the second annual By-Gone Days was observed at Heritage Village. The theme "Salute to Victory" commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of W.W. II. On November 5 the society met at Heritage Village. A committee of C.W. Jacobson and Lizz Fagerholt will check into the cost of publishing volume five of the Walsh Heritage books or possibly reprinting volumes 1 and 2 which are sold out.

The following officers were elected for 1996. President - Chris Misialek, Minto; vice president - John Curran, Grafton; treasurer - Wm. McMillan, Grafton; recording secretary - Paul

TIME TO RENEW 1996 MEMBERSHIPS

Renew your 1996 memberships. We would appreciate it very much if you would take a few minutes of your time to mail your annual dues. We are enclosing your membership card for 1996.

ANNUAL REGULAR DUES PER PERSON \$3.00
ANNUAL BUSINESS \$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

Westby, Fairdale; corresponding secretary - Lorraine Paulson, Hoople; membership ch. - Ora Marie Stewart, Grafton; directors elected for three-year term - Edith Harris and Delaine Peoples, Park River, and Robert Vaudrin, Grafton (replacing Henry Riske, Pete Matejcek and Harvey Lykken). Hold-over directors - Kenneth Stensland, Adams; Gunnard Ness, Fordville; Barbara Bracken, Ora Stewart and Lois Eisenrich, all of Grafton, and Lizz Fagerholt and Ex Officio John Paulson, both of Hoople.

Multi-Ethnic Group

Robert Burns Day was observed in January with a dinner and program at the library in Grafton.

In the spirit of the Irish, a St. Patrick's dinner and program was held in March.

May was a busy month with a Polish dinner and program held in early May, following a Norwegian Independence Day celebration later in the month.

The season of Christmas was highlighted with a Czech dinner and program on St. Nicholas Day at Heritage Village.

Officers for the group include: Margaret and Jerry Bruce, co-chairmen; Ora Maria and Charles Stewart, vice co-chairmen; and Barb and Gordon Bracken, secretary and treasurer.

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