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# WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JANUARY 2001

WALSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Village & Museum Relive the Past

"Sunday at Grandma's House" was relived when the 7th annual By-Gone Days was enjoyed September 10 at the Heritage Village in Grafton. The day began at noon with a chicken dinner like Grandma used to make. The Funtones provided music during the meal followed by the North Country Cloggers and fiddle music from East Grand Forks.

Aprons and quilts were on display along with an open house and demonstrations in the various buildings. Food, crafts and various arts were for sale. School girls were dressed in clothing from the earlier decades.

The young children enjoyed the petting zoo, games, pony-cart, carousel and Humvee rides.



Joleen Bjerneby assisted Darlene Bjerke with her pony and cart giving rides.

The Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto "came alive" on Sunday, June 25. The weather was excellent and people came from near and far. The celebration began with an antique parade at 1:00 p.m. The parade was a great success with over sixty units. The museum opened at 2:00 p.m. As guests toured the museum, they could purchase penny candy, nickel ice cream cones, donuts and buffalo stew. Some highlights of the day were the Polish dancers, the Czech singers, a kitchen band, a petting zoo, reptiles and games for the children.

A new twist to "Museum Alive" was a costume contest. The winners were Maureen Gerszewski in the adult division and Kailin Durkin in the children division.

The museum board would like to thank all those who attended "Museum Alive" and all the volunteers for helping to make the day a success!



Gordon Bracken and AnneMarie Narloch with pet bunny.

## ~ Centenarians in Walsh County ~

Ingeborg Erickson, Adams, ND, 101 years of age on November 1, 2000 and resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Opal Gemmil, Edinburg, ND, 101 years of age on October 27, 2000 and resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Ann Kelly, Park River, ND, 102 years of age on September 24, 2000 and resident at Good Samaritan Home, Park River.

Frank Wysocki, Minto, ND, 101 years of age on January 13, 2000 and lives with his son Francis in Minto.

# Village Happenings



Two beautiful hand-painted horse on the Village Carousel.

The Historical Society received the deed from the State of North Dakota on May 22, 2000 for the west addition at the Heritage Village - 14 plus acres which was former State School property.

There was much activity this summer at the village, such as painting the top of the church, the barn, farm house, carousel building and many smaller projects. Drainage work was done and more trees planted.

Hopefully a loop road will be built through the new west addition this year.

During the summer months, many activities are held at the village and especially in the theatre building.

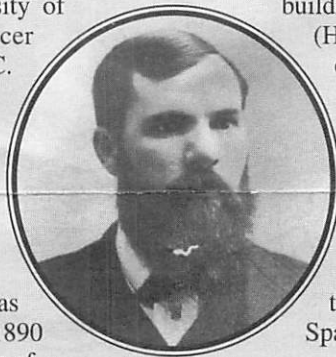
## HERITAGE VILLAGE BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman .....Ray Campbell  
 Vice-President .....Warren Wilson  
 Manager .....C.W. Jacobson  
 Secretary-Treasurer .....Verna Sherek  
 There are also 12 directors.

## Historic Elmwood

Possessing a law degree from the University of Michigan, Charles Augustus Manley Spencer arrived in Grafton in 1881, the same year as W.C. Leistikow, who built the roller mill and bankers D.C. Moore and John L. Cashel, all early residents who were about to get the town up and running. He was born to one of Ohio's oldest families in 1850. His father was wounded in Atlanta while participating in Sherman's march to the sea while serving in the Civil War.

He served eight years as states attorney, was elected Grafton's fourth mayor in 1888 and in 1890 was elected Attorney General for the second year of statehood in North Dakota. He built many houses during the early



building boom and his law office in the Union Block (Houska's Hallmark) which was built on the east side of Hill Avenue across the street from Leistikow's Syndicate Building (Grafton Drug) and one door north of Moore's Bank (Tweten's Photography).

In 1895 he built the large Victorian home we now know as Elmwood and sold it to W.C. Truemann in 1901 for the "consideration of \$6,000." Truemann operated an abstract office and gained early fame as the Commanding Officer for the two battalions North Dakota provided for the Spanish American War in the Phillipines.

## Activities at Elmwood

Elmwood sponsors four events during the year. A Victorian Tea is held each May on the Saturday before Mother's Day. During Grafton's Summerfest in June the house is open for tours and a band concert is held on Sunday afternoon. Former members of Grafton's noteworthy Parade Band of former years come to play and relive memories of those years.

Spencer's Spaghetti Supper held on Election Day in November is named in honor of C.A.M. Spencer and his election to the office of Attorney General. The supper has become the best fund raising event for the ongoing

upkeep and restoration of the Victorian home. Chairmen, ticket sellers, cooks and waiters are needed each year and many people



have generously contributed their time and effort to the super success of this supper. This year was the tenth year the supper has been served at Elmwood.

By Thanksgiving Elmwood was decorated for a "Childhood Memories of Christmas". A brunch was served at 10:30 a.m. and a lunch at 1 p.m. Children from Nash School presented a program with good food, music and readings.

Each year many events take place at Elmwood including bridal showers, groom's dinners, birthday parties, Christmas parties, meetings, etc. Information on renting can be

obtained from one of Elmwoods' seven board members.

# Walsh County Museum



Piper Cub



Thunderbolt

New to the museum are two airplanes on loan from Melvin Tibert of Minto. The one is a replica of a Piper Cub. The other is a model of the Republic P-47-025 Thunderbolt. The original Thunderbolt was a single-seat fighter airplane of World War II. Col. Francis Gabreski, a Polish fighter pilot whose family immigrated to the US in 1900, was the pilot. The Thunderbolt bears the Squadron code letters HV-A that were Gabreski's code letters of the Thunderbolt he flew against the Nazis.

## SCENES FROM THE COUNTY MUSEUM



Saloon



General Store

*During the month of May, the museum was open for numerous school tours. Children and teachers from the surrounding area delight in the history that the museum provides.*

*The museum is open Sunday afternoons during the summer. The officers and board members of the Walsh County Historical Museum include:*

Curator-Manager ..... Frank Schiller

### Officers

Chairman ..... Les Jallo

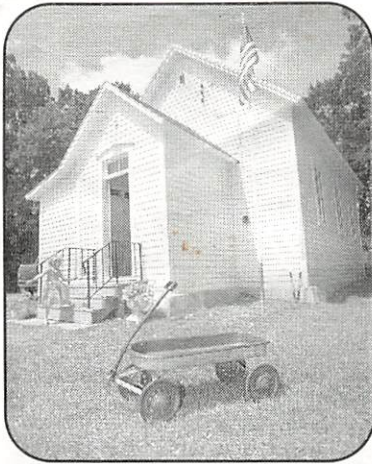
Vice Chairman ..... Wally Ebertowski

Secretary ..... June Selseth

Treasurer ..... Ron Ophaug

### Board Members

Chris Misialek, Kathy Langowski, Marlene Swenson, Kurt Kelley,  
John Gudajtes, Theafil Kilichowski, Henry Czapiewski, Gloria Koltjes



Former pupils and others interested in the restoration of Hoff School recently spent several months fixing up the one room schoolhouse in preparation for an open house held July 30, 2000.

Students in grades 1-8 used to attend the school from 1884-1960.

Many former students and teachers were on hand to take a trip back in time and visit the schoolhouse.

The building, located three miles west and one half mile north of Lankin on County Road 15, has been used by Hoff Lutheran Church for church services, Vacation Bible School and ALCW meetings.

## MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE: Life members receive a packet for renewal - as does everyone - but should either ignore it or better yet, give it to a friend to become a member. Secondly, the membership cards are to be signed by recipient and retained.

There were two new life members in 2000 - Ted Wylot, Minto and Gene Hagen, Grafton for a total of 102.

There were also 189 regular and 11 business memberships.

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One life member died in 2000: Bertha Jensen, Edinburg. Two centenarians also passed away in 2000: Henry Thompson, 103, Grafton and Thora Knutson, 101, Park River.

## TIME TO RENEW 2001 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 2001.

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

## 2000 Historical Society Summary

Meetings: The annual meeting and 16th memorial service was held January 30 at Heritage Village. In April the society met at Elmwood in Grafton and July 30 they met in Park River at the City Office Building.

"Museum Alive" was held at the county museum in Minto on June 25 and "By-Gone Days" was September 10 at the Heritage Village in Grafton.

Scott Stradley, UND professor, spoke on October 29 at the village about the life of Lynn J. Frazier from Hoople, who was a former governor of North Dakota and U.S. Senator from 1928-1933.

### 2000 OFFICERS AND BOARD

President ..... Ora Marie Stewart  
 Vice President ..... John Curran  
 Treasurer ..... Marian Hajcek  
 Recording Secretary ..... Rae Desautel  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Lorraine Paulson  
 Membership ..... Ora Stewart and John Curran  
 (Curran resigned due to vision problems.)

### DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR 2000

Gordon Bracken, Paul Westby (re-elected), Marlene Swenson

### DIRECTORS HELD OVER

Gloria Koltas, Frances Seeba, Charles Wilson, Robert Vaudrin, Delaine People and Edith Harris.

- A life membership plaque is displayed at the Heritage Village listing the first 100 life members of the Walsh County Historical Society. Individual name plates were placed on a large stained board. It hangs by the pictures of the former presidents of the society. Each contributed \$100 during the years 1974-1999. Now a new list will be compiled of life memberships.

- A pictorial album of churches in Walsh County was completed in 2000. The book is organized according to townships and a brief history of each church is included.

- St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Warsaw, which is on the National Register of Historical Sites observed the 100th anniversary of the church building on July 2, 2000. An estimated 1,000 people attended.

- Uncle Sig Jagielski celebrated his 90th birthday at his farm home - Jugville - in June with an open house that was attended by hundreds of friends and family.

- Walsh Heritage Books Volume 3 & 4 are available at two dollars each at the Heritage Village in Grafton, First United Bank in Park River or from Pete Matejcek in Lankin.

Walsh County Historical Society  
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 Hoople, ND 58243

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