

## Walsh County Historical Society celebrates 40th anniversary



Norv Ebert

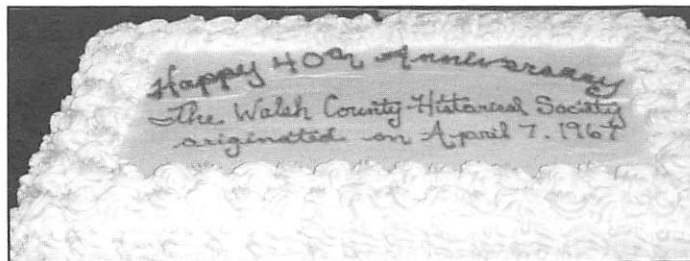
A celebration of the Walsh County Historical Society 40th anniversary was held Sunday, April 15 at the Heritage Village in Grafton, ND with President Jean Bodmer presiding.

President Bodmer called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance after which the celebration began with the introduction of the past presidents of the Historical Society present with each of them taking their turn at the podium on the stage and discussing their term or terms as president of the Historical Society.

Ellen Misialek read the speech of Henry Lundebly which was his dream for the future of the Society with many of the changes he had spoke about coming to realization years later. A gentleman of vision for the Society.

President Bodmer introduced the current officers of Historical Society present at the celebration with President Harold Blanchard of the Heritage Village and Kurt Kelly of the Minto Museum each giving their thoughts on the present and the future of their organizations.

During the celebration there was a visitor, a Lieutenant, Norv Albert from Fort Pembina on mission to scout out the area known as Walsh County to confirm or deny rumors of the people living in the area having many different lifestyles in their dress, language, diet and their method of entertainment. He found the rumors to be true and reported his findings to the Commanding Officer at Fort Pembina.



Walsh County Historical Society anniversary cake.

The Lieutenant found that the people in the Walsh County area were from different countries, different backgrounds and all living together in the melting pot of Walsh County. This resulted in the Parade of Nations each dressing in their ethnic attire and parading through the meeting room proudly presenting their attire with the good Lt. Albert doing the narrating explaining the colorful and interesting costumes on parade. Thanks to Ora Marie for writing the Lieutenant's script and for Norv Albert for playing the part. Great job!

The Polish Dancers from Warsaw dressed in costumes and directed by Sandra Schuster danced for all those in attendance doing several numbers and then also explaining to the crowd what areas of Poland their costumes were from and what they were made from and the meaning of the different parts of their attire. This was a great performance by this group of young people keeping a part of their heritage alive and well. Hats off to them!

After the performances the food was served! It was ethnic food provided by the people from Minto and Grafton, as well as desserts and anniversary cake. It was FANTASTIC! Thanks again to all who provided the great meal and for the hard work to make the celebration a success.

Written by Ken Hoffmann



Pictured, from left, Helen Schuster, Josh Stoltman and Lili Robinson.



From left, Michaela Crotty (Germany), Ora Marie Stewart (Welsh), Kayla Stewart (France), Lee Stewart (Mexico) and Charles Stewart (Scotland).

# Walsh County Historical Museum

The Walsh County Historical Museum in Minto had fewer projects in 2007, but we were very busy showing and promoting the wonderful museum that we have in Walsh County.

We started the summer season with school tours. Every year we have many elementary students bused in from the surrounding area. The students especially enjoy participating in the scavenger hunt.

Museum Alive was held on June 24, 2007. Attendance was down a bit as there were other celebrations in the area. A parade with nearly 50 entries started our afternoon festivities. Our longtime board member, Theafil Kilichowski, was Grand Marshall. On the museum grounds we had lefse and donut making, kids games, face painting, old-time fiddling, pony rides, the Polish dancers, just to name a few. The museum was truly alive as many members were dressed the part as they tended to the store, saloon, ice cream parlor, or sold concessions. The day prior to Museum Alive, the board members had a float in Pisek's anniversary parade and Grafton's SummerFest parade. Then in July, we participated in parades in Park River and Edinburg.

Fall brings us to our annual Chili Cook-off. This event has proved to be a very good fundraiser for the museum. A big thank you goes to Chris Misialek who does so much to make this event a success.

We look forward to next summer, as Minto will be celebrating their 125th anniversary on July 25, 26 and 27. We will not be having Museum Alive, but the museum will be open Saturday and Sunday that weekend.

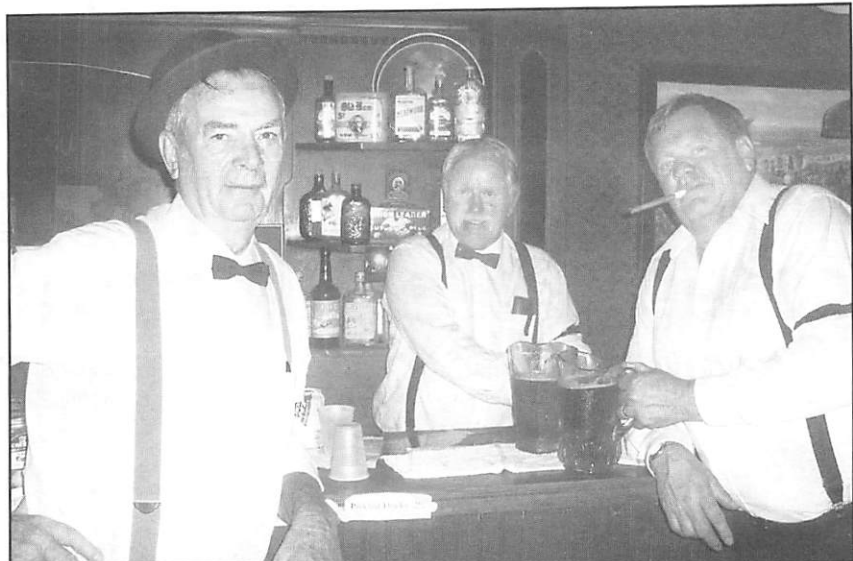
Remember, the museum is open every Sunday afternoon from 1:00-5:00 p.m. beginning with Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

## Officers

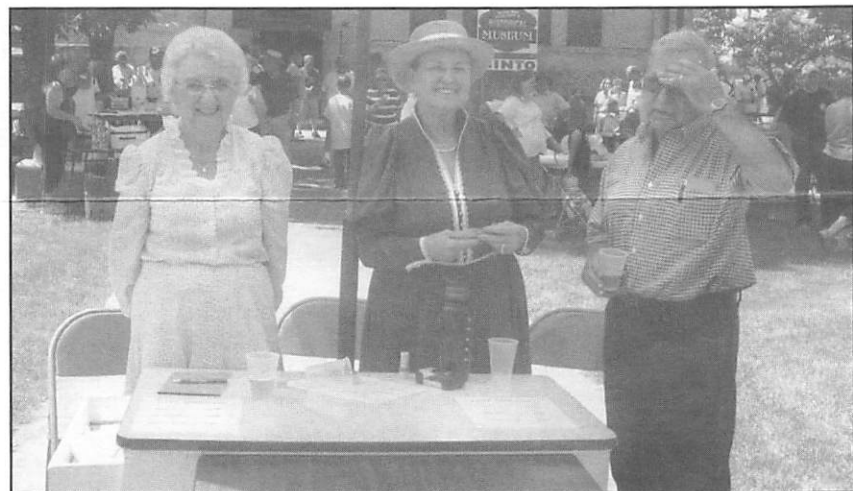
Curator/Manager – Kathy Langowski  
and Henry Czapiewski  
Chairman – Kurt Kelley  
Vice Chairman – Les Jallo  
Secretary – June Selseth  
Treasurer – Ron Ophaug

## Board Members

Chris Misialek	Theafil Kilichowski
Cindy Jamieson	Tim Nelson
Doug Ulland	Karen Farder
Wally Ebertowski	Larry Jamieson
John Gudajtes	



From left, John Janda, Dennis Slominski and Gary Slominski tending to the bar at Museum Alive.



From left, Isabel Niswonger, Janice Wysocki and Frank McCann.



Activities during Museum Alive.

# Historic Elmwood 2007

By Gloria Thompson

Officials from the Grafton Park District, Historic Elmwood Board and the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation met at Elmwood on November 1, 2007 to transfer the deed of the historic home from State Parks to the Grafton Park District. This transfer is "in title only" and enables the Elmwood Board to continue the preservation of this property, the history and memories of its occupants and provides the community with a gathering space to socially enjoy the home and grounds.

In 1986 the Williamson family deeded Elmwood to North Dakota Parks. An agreement was then signed with Heritage Village to restore and manage the property. It was opened to the public for the first time in June 1989, North Dakota's centennial year.

The partnership with North Dakota Parks has resulted in the restoration of this beautiful home. They provided funds for utilities and insurance, and found funds for the replacement of the original bridge, the addition of a city water line and a natural gas line. The electrical system was improved, a new roof added and the basement bricks repaired.

Other funds for restoration have come from many community sources including the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission, Heritage Village, Walsh County Historical Society, Grafton's Endowment Fund, the Williamson family and the Kopperud Foundation. When the front porch was rebuilt and the house painted in 1992, 60 local businesses and individuals donated to its cost and a local painter put his crew to work, gratis.

In preparation for this transfer, Historic Elmwood has recently been designated by the IRS Code as 501c(3) non-profit tax exempt group. This designation allows the continued preservation of this property.

Elmwood held "Springtime at Elmwood" on April 21. A



Historic Elmwood in Grafton on a frosty January morning. (Photo courtesy of the Walsh County Record and taken by Mike Alan Steinfeldt)

number of graduation parties were held in May, and on June 21 a very successful "Rhubarb Festival" was attended by many here for class reunions and other city activities. "Spencer's Spaghetti Supper" on election day in November continues to be very popular, and in December Elmwood sponsored a house tour of four beautiful area homes decorated for Christmas. It was very successful. On December 26 a double wedding was held for Krista Restad and Chance Sveen and Brittany Restad and Chris Lilton.

A volunteer board sees to repairs and maintenance. With the help of many others, five fundraising events are held throughout the year. The fully equipped house and grounds is available to be rented during the year. Contact any board member.

## Uncle Sig's cook car arrives at Heritage Village

Uncle Sig's cook car arrived at Heritage Village in time for By Gone Days and once again served food to hungry people. This time the menu featured Indian tacos.

Serving crew was Barb Hoffman and Annette Skaro.



Pictured, from left, Barb Hoffman and Annette Skaro.



Bringing cook car from Uncle Sig's.



# Ox-cart rally raises \$1,000 for Ostby's trek

■ Ridge Trail complements  
Woods Trail

By Bernice Flanagan

On July 1, 2008, Orlin Ostby of Gatzke, Minn. will begin a journey from Pembina, N. Dak. to St. Paul, Minn. That will take six weeks to complete. Yes, six weeks, because it will be done by Mr. Ostby walking beside his ox and ox-cart.

Fifty years Orlin worked for Delmar Hagen, who made the trek with ox and cart to commemorate Minnesota's Centennial celebration. Mr. Hagen challenged young 18-year-old Orlin to make the same journey in 50 years. Orlin kept that dream and challenge alive and five years ago purchased a team of oxen named "Pum" and "Kin" and began training them for the historical journey. "Pum" and "Kim" are six feet tall at shoulder and weigh in excess of 2,300 pounds, have taken part in parades and celebrations in northwestern Minnesota and the Red River Valley region, and are in prime condition for the Sesquicentennial stroll.

From 1800 to 1870 the ox carts were used to transport hides and furs from Winnipeg to St. Paul and bring back trade goods and supplies. North Dakota was a land teeming with wildlife that attracted hunters and trappers as well as homesteaders looking for farming land. This lifestyle was especially true of the Métis, a culture so named by the inter-marriage of fur traders and native-American women. Annual buffalo hunts on the plains provided a year's supply of buffalo meat as well as hides and furs for trade. The hunts were family affairs and historical records tell of an 1840 hunt numbering 1,260 carts and 1,620 people. At the height of this mode of travel and trade, it was estimated there were 5,000 carts in use. It was a flourishing business that ended with the coming of the railroads that steamed westward following the Homestead Act of 1862, bringing hundreds of immigrants from other countries to seek their fortune in the Dakotas, a place known to be "A Land of Plenty."

Three routes were carved in the virgin soil of Minnesota and North Dakota: The Red River Trail along the Red River, the Woods Trail further east through Minnesota woodland, and the Ridge Trail going westward from Pembina and then south following the eastern edge of the Pembina Escarpment and the western edge of what was once glacial Lake Agassiz. This trail enabled man and beast to be free from the hoards of mosquitoes that plagued the travelers when following the Red River, as well as escaping the muddy, gumbo-like soil that made many a "stuck cart."

This Ridge Trail cuts across Pembina County and Walsh County as it slowly carves a trail going "the long way around." Where the trail cuts across land owned by Mike Olafson, he has built a foot-bridge over the small stream known as Clearwater Creek. Going southward across Walsh County and nearly at the Grand Forks County line, Jon McMillan has likewise identified the trail on his farmland.

A portion of the trail on both Olafson's and McMillan's property where the trails are very evident have been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Both Mr. Olafson and Mr. McMillan were present at the recently celebrated 15th anniversary of the Edinburg General Store and readily shared their knowledge of history with the many people interested in



The Mike Olafson Farm, northwest of Edinburg was the gathering place to recognize the historic ox cart trails and to help publicize an ox cart trek to be undertaken in the summer of 2008. Those present included, from left to right, Christopher Ostby, Orlin Ostby, Bob Vaudrin and Robbie Vaudrin. The Ostbys, who are Canadians, plan to travel from Winnipeg, Manitoba to St. Paul, Minn., by ox cart. The Vaudrins, who are Grafton natives, might join them for part of their trek. (Photo courtesy of the Walsh County Record and taken by Mike Alan Steinfeldt.)

the trails of long-ago.

Orlin Ostby was also present for the day's event and was accompanied by his wife and family and some neighbors from the Gatzke area. Free-will offering for the noon meal was designated to go to Ostby's July journey. Approximately 200 people enjoyed the meal and gave generously. \$100 donations from Nodak REA, Polar Communications, Citizen's State Bank, and Edinburg Community Club enabled a total of \$1,000 to be donated to Ostby to defray the expenses of his 45-day journey which will cost an estimated \$20,000.

Edinburg General Store owner, Bernice Flanagan, plans to have a large map on display at the store, and with modern technology of website and cell phone, chart each day's progress on the 420-mile journey.

Ostby welcomes anyone wishing to walk along with him and his family whether it is a mile or several miles on this history-making journey. . . .

Good luck and Godspeed, Orlin.



Pictured, from left, Dennis Markuson, Jean Bodmer, Leo Feltman, De Laine Peoples, Doug Weberg, Bernice Flanagan and Charles Stewart.

# Heritage Village - 2007



Jugville history was still on the move in 2007. The board along with the assistance of several other volunteers moved in a lot of Uncle Sig's memorabilia. We will continue this process in 2008 with plans to bring in some more buildings. We would appreciate any volunteers who can help us with this project and also the organizing and re-arranging of what we already have in our buildings.

As usual, we continue to have our fundraisers to help with the ongoing repair and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. A huge accomplishment this summer was the painting of several of our buildings. Doug and Pam Hove did a wonderful job with the painting project and we are hoping they will have the time to come back next summer to touch up some of our other buildings.

Our year was quite eventful. The year started out with a fish fry in January. A pancake breakfast and fish fry were events for February and March. Also in March we participated in Rally in the Valley which was held at the Grafton Armory. Pancake breakfasts were held in May and June. June was also the month for SummerFest. We severed a dinner and held a flea market. August brought in another breakfast and then came "By Gone Days" in September. We held a breakfast that day, tables were set up inside with various vendors selling their products, the Schwan truck was on our grounds with wonderful ice cream treats, merry-go-round rides for the kids, and a taco plate was served out of Uncle Sig's cook car. A pancake and sausage breakfast was held in November, along with a fish fry. The busy month of December came along and all we had time for was a breakfast. We plan to continue the fish fry through March of 2008. In July we advertised for donations for upkeep of our grounds, with nice donations that helped cover those expenses.

First United Bank in Adams did a wonderful job this year selling our huge inventory of Heritage books. Keep up the good work!

The board plans to continue with fundraisers and hopes to add some different types of meals/lunches in 2008. We appreciate the support from everyone.

## Heritage Village Board of Directors:

Harold Blanchard .....	President
Ken Hoffman .....	Vice President
Jean Bodmer .....	Secretary
Verna Sherek .....	Treasurer

## Directors:

Vance Anderson	Gordon Bracken
Curt Bratlie	Jan Demester-Ledbury
Vernon Russum	Curt Bratlie
Carol Spale	Jocelyn Lerol
Todd Lerol	Norman Paulson

Please keep in mind that our main source of revenue is our bingo. Your support is needed.

Our theatre building is for rent, no alcohol, by appointment for \$100.00 per event. Please contact the Village at 701-352-3280 or Verna Sherek at 701-520-1207 for more information.

Heritage Village wants to thank everyone who participated in this year's activities and to all those who gave donations. Continued support from the community and individuals is needed to continue the perseverance of the Village.



Schultz farm house at Heritage Village.

## Membership Rates

At the April 2008 meeting of Walsh County Historical Society the members present voted to increase the membership rates as follows (Business membership remains at \$10.00 annually):

### New Membership Schedule

1 Year Single Membership .....	\$10.00
5 Year Single Membership .....	\$25.00
For Life Membership:	
75 Years and Older .....	\$50.00
74 Years and Younger .....	\$100.00

### 2007-2008

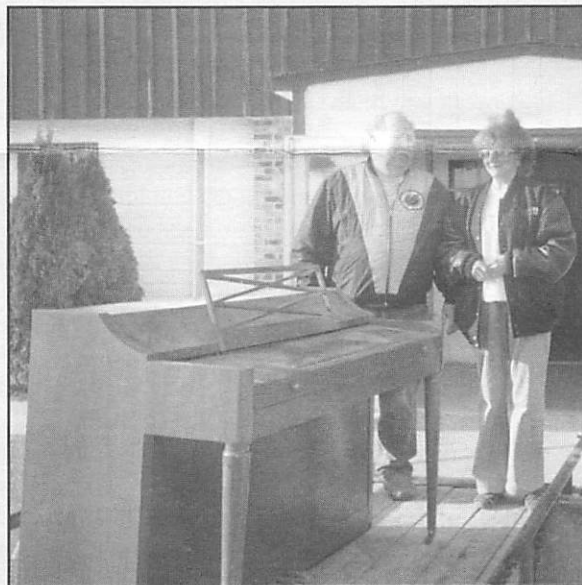
### Historical Society Officers

President .....	Jean Bodmer
Vice President .....	Chris Misialek
Secretary .....	Ken Hoffman
Treasurer .....	Marian Hajicek
Membership .....	Ora Marie Stewart
Newsletter .....	Jean Bodmer, Jane Selseth

### Historical Society Directors

Leo Feltman	Gloria Koltres
Les Jallo	Dennis Markusen
Jim Morrison	De Laine Peoples
Dorothy Wilson	Kurt Kelley
Charles Stewart	Harold Blanchard

## *In memory of Lorraine Paulson*



In memory of Lorraine Paulson, her piano was given by Norman and Marlene Paulson for use in the Theater building. Pictured, from left, Ken Hoffman and Marlene Paulson.

## CENTURIANS

Theadora Dvorak ~ 103 Years of Age  
Isabella Klava ~ 105 Years of Age  
Hjelmer Haug ~ 102 Years of Age  
Mable Johnson ~ 101 Years of Age  
Muriel Gjein ~ 102 Years of Age  
Josephine Pohanka ~ 100 Years of Age  
Hazel Phannsmith ~ 105 Years of Age