

History Notes

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1956, Dodie Lorenz, Cinderella, Jeanie Lorenz, Bunny

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Hodgson Hall : *Maritime Heritage Minnesota*
“Herter’s Fiberglass Boat Report”



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Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-12, 1-5



The Timeline Project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. WCHS is also grateful to the Carl & Verna Schmidt



Foundation, the First National Bank-Waseca, Principal Financial Foundation- John Priebe, and Bill and Patti Hoversten for match support to the Implementation Phase.



From the Executive Director Joan Mooney

Welcome to the Board! Katie Youngberg!

We are delighted to have Katie join our Board of Directors. Katie took a two year hiatus and now we have her back again. Thank you Katie.

Spring is a busy time for many of us. We have kicked off our construction season with the replacement of the accessibility ramp at the Bailey Research Library. The concrete structure was beautifully

crafted by Jerry Raetz and crew, however it will take some serious muscle to wrestle the landscape back into shape! WCHS is very grateful to Mary Allen and the Phil Allen Memorial Fund for donating funds for the new ramp. Thank you Mary.

Our second project, also for the Bailey House, is the repair needed for the exterior porches. Believe it or not, it's been 20 years since we expanded into the restored building. I guess that's about as long as it takes for wood to rot. We knew the decking needed replacing. What we didn't know was that all four of the front porch pillars were about to fail. We also discovered carpenter ants had found a home in one of the pillar bases. Fortunately, WCHS established a maintenance fund with a generous donation from Henry and Phyllis Lewer for the ongoing maintenance of the Ewald Lewer family home. We are very grateful. Thank you Henry and Phyllis.

WCHS is seeking donations to help offset the additional costs for the pillars and landscaping. If you would like to make a donation or discuss the project please contact me and we can have that conversation.

Our third project for summer 2019 is the Hofmann Apiaries roof and window restoration project. The hammers are about to start swinging! This is the first of two phases to stabilize the Honey House and the Wax Shed which will be used for interpretive programming beginning in 2021. This project was funded by the Minnesota Cultural Heritage fund, the Waseca Area Foundation and donations. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Another project recently completed is the nomination for the City of Waseca Downtown Historic District. WCHS and the Heritage Preservation Commission have contributed research, historic photos, maps and other important documentation needed to meet the National Register criteria. Special thanks to Molly Patterson-Lundgren, AICP Senior Planner WSB, Les Tlougan, Waseca City Council and HPC Chair, Mike Anderson, Assistant City Manager, Ranae Schult, City of Waseca Administration Assistant and fellow HPC members, Justine Meyer, Jeanie Lorenz Thompson and Bill Casper. We will find out if we made it sometime this fall.

New at Hodgson Hall! Thanks to a grant from the **Waseca Area Foundation** we will be exhibiting excerpts from a study conducted by Maritime Heritage Minnesota. WCHS was selected in 2017 to participate in a study entitled "Minnesota Small Craft Report". Featured is one of Herter's "World famous Chrome Fiberglass" boats. Four other Minnesota boat manufacturers are also included in the study.

Maritime Heritage Minnesota or MHM, is dedicated to the identification, documentation and conservation of submerged cultural resources-they are underwater archeologists. PHD Ann Merriman and Chris Olson have documented many sunken vessels all over Minnesota. They are currently working on a new study featuring wooden vessels made in Minnesota, our Thompson boat being one of them!

We are excited to present this exhibit.

Enjoy the Spring/Summer. See you at the fair!

Joan





From the WCHS Museum Director

Vanessa Zimprich

Thanks to our wonderful board of directors here at WCHS, we are proud to announce the return of our history center's Summer Saturdays! The museum building will be open 10am until 1pm for Summer Saturdays beginning June 1 and ending August 24. Hope you can come visit and learn more about Waseca County history.

Look for us at the Waseca County Fair July 17-21 at our Hodgson Hall building on the fairgrounds. We will be selling our famous 50 cent bags of delicious popcorn, a variety of tiny cans of pop and a few ice cream treats. Hope to see you there!

Membership update. Goal #1: 300 members representing Minnesota on the WCHS Membership Representation Map. Current status: 243 members representing Minnesota. Goal #2: Have a WCHS member from each state. Originally, there were only 17 of the 50 states represented, but as we begin the month of May, we have 24 of the 50 states accounted for!

A very special thank you to the Waseca County Sheriff's Office for giving us a tour of the Waseca County Jail, Dispatch Center and Emergency Management Areas.

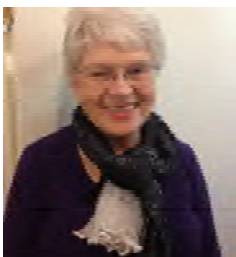
Sheriff Trevor Kanewischer was an excellent tour guide and full of knowledge.

The Waseca County jail was built in 1970 and is the second oldest jail in Minnesota.



WCHS STAFF

Pauline Fenelon
Artifact & Library
Curator



Linda Taylor
Research & Genealogy



Jan Hunter
Research



Amanda Larkin
Photograph Archivist



Andrew Breck
Exhibit Design



In recalling the beloved town of Waseca, MN fifty years ago, I have to lay a transparency of my life over the top of it. In June of 1969, I graduated from Waseca High School. It was only a year earlier that I began to plot in earnest my escape from Waseca. In September of 1969, I'd be away from home for the first time on some new campus in some new town suffering the unanticipated homesickness I would feel the moment I waved good-bye to my folks.



A Waseca Remembrance

by Jeanie Lorenz Thompson

Clear Lake Park, 1955 Waseca MN

Through the years, I remember my mother 'getting her back up' over progressive changes Waseca planned to make. At some point in the early 1960's there was even talk of tearing down the Waseca County Court House and replacing it with new. The initiative lost. Sadly, the Waseca Jail was not given the same reprieve. I am willing to bet that in 50 years no one is going to be leading the charge to save the current Waseca County Jail, functionality aside.

Even as a kid I loved riding my bike on State Street, looking above the business facades to the building tops with all the unique stone architecture and maybe a date, and maybe a name, or both. Sadly, several of my favorite Waseca structures didn't survive. Man does not live on sentimental attachment alone, and it costs money to renovate and most people do so on a shoestring.

I was particularly fond of a piece of real estate known to the locals as the boat dock. It's still there, but without the original, architectural charm. Thompson's Boat House is now a darling neighborhood restaurant. What's gone is its distinctive, unique design. Now, to see it the way it was, there is a picture on the restaurant wall. I still go there frequently, but Ray and Blanche are long gone as is their Springer Spaniel, Bing. They were awfully sweet to the Lorenz girls. My Dad always said that it was too bad Ray hadn't had the opportunity to attend MIT. He had a brilliant engineering mind. He also said that about Ewald Schacht, who had a Fixit Shop business under my Dad's dental office. What stays the same at the Boat House are the



Thompson's Boathouse, ca 1965



*Dr. Lorenz Dentist Office, ca 1960
Waseca MN*

imposing oak trees and a little bit of some concrete substructure where we would wash our always fishy smelling Weimaraner. How lucky we were to have such a playground.

Taking on projects in downtown Waseca like the beautiful, old grocery warehouse, which I think is stunning, requires financial backing, big bucks! I'd like to see someone take on a pretty, old building downtown and put a few upscale condos in it. I was sitting at an outdoor cafe in Northfield when it occurred to me Waseca could do something similar. Of all the things that have come and gone on State Street that I miss the most as someone who has returned, is a theater. It doesn't have

to be a cineplex, just a little copy of what had been.

The State Theater was probably featuring 'The Graduate' in the spring of 1969. The theater brought people together. It's a big reason why high school kids would 'bat the drag'. We'd cruise through town to see who was going to the first show, continue south to the old DQ, head back north past the State Theater to just before Born's pasture where we

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4 would make a U-turn. Proceed south for nine blocks. Turn left at the only stop light to Elm Avenue which doubled as Highway #14. Barney Oelke, the original, the one and only Barney of Barney's Root Beer Stand would urge his car hops of which I was one, to use the public relations phrase 'Beautiful Highway #14, Chicago to the Black Hills'. East and West 'batting' was equally exciting, but there were limits, no going past Loon Lake on the west or Clear Lake on the east. I saw a lot of the Waseca during those years from the passenger seat of my best friends 1951 Chevy. Judy's father sold Chevrolet's but she couldn't easily reach the pedals so I would assist by manning pedal operation from the passenger seat. I was up to the challenge, but I can still hear Judy's beautiful, alto voice yelling, 'BRAKE'!



Photo of the State Theater, 1953 by Jerry Rutledge



Barney's 1959 image on loan from Neta Oelke

Another favorite building of mine that didn't make the cut was the original clubhouse at Lakeside on the north shore of Clear Lake. I remember this distinctly as it was my Father's home away from home. I'm guessing the main problem and expense was heating and air conditioning, but she was pretty. I'd like to take a metal detector to that old corner of the course. In my lament over what is gone,... I miss the old fire hall, the Waseca Creamery and the Waseca Hotel. After losing my parents, neighbors and school nurse, my husband's work took us to Washington D.C. and northern Virginia. On September 11, 2001, I began to lobby in earnest my desire to return to the heartland and hopefully, Waseca. We lived within walking distance of the Pentagon. While out with our traumatized St. Bernard the evening of the terrorist attack, amid the smell of burning jet fuel, I knew

our days in Virginia were numbered. I think it was the hope of everyone that the sadness of the sixties with the assassination of a beloved president and the murder of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were behind us, the pendulum would start to swing the other way. Sadly, the Vietnam War lingered and cities were in turmoil, but there was one bright spot on the horizon. Man was going to walk on the moon and the United States was going to make it happen. I'm so glad our 50th High School Reunion and the American Moon Landing coincide this summer. Forever etched in my memory is lying on the new mown grass of our front yard with my childhood pal, Ann Arvesen Gjelten. We were listening to Walter Cronkite's soothing, yet excited voice wafting through the screen while we stared up at that big, bright, beautiful moon. It was July 20, 1969, six weeks prior to our own life changing launch away from Waseca. And, the world was never the same.



Happy 50th Reunion to the Class of 1969 from Sacred Heart & Waseca High School, July 20, 2019!
 Happy 50th Anniversary to the wonderful people at NASA!

The Waseca County Sixth Graders had a wonderful time exploring the museum and research center this past April.



May Day Fun with kindergarteners from Sacred Heart and TEAM Academy. Thank you to Amanda for bringing this event back to WCHS! Joan Mooney, Peggy Larkin, Char Harguth and Waseca Art Center volunteers helped the kids create May Day baskets and dance around the May Pole.



Photograph taken by Donna Fostveit at St. Mary Cemetery.

On the 18th of May, the Fenian Memorial Committee of America held a memorial stone unveiling and commemoration celebration for the Rev. Patrick McCabe. They held their reception and luncheon at the WCHS.

From the WCHS Collection: Meet Artifact 2850

I am a gray leather ball with black and white cotton stitches over my seams. In 1945 a lady named Ruth Gutknecht purchased me from a Waseca County store. Ruth took me to many rural schools throughout her teaching career. I met lots and lots of children and was a main part of many softball and kittenball games. After Ruth retired from teaching she brought me to the museum in 1969. A nice lady took my photograph and put a number on me. Then, the curators carefully placed me into my new home. I have some water stains and show some wear and tear, but it just proves that I was well loved. Although I probably won't hear the words, "Play Ball!" anymore, I am still here if someone wants to see me or if the curators would like me to participate in a display at the museum. As my good friend that lives in the WCHS Timeline always says, "Catch you later!"



Membership and Donations

1 February 2019 - 22 May 2019

New Lifetime Members

Dunn, Dave & Melissa
Sexton, Thomas & Jeanne

New / Renewing Sustainer Members

Goehring, Pam & Larry
Kramer, Robyn
Peters, David
Suek, Peter & Teresa
Wheelock, Greg & Donnette

New Members

Buland, Eric
Giesler, Paula
Henkensiefken, Larry
Hoehn, DuWayne & Barbara
Johnson, Vicki
Murphy, Mike
O'Brien, Matt
Peterson, Dawn
Peterson, Sharon
Putnam, Jeanne
Roal, Bob
Singlestad, Scott & Vicky

Appropriations

Alton Township \$400.00
Freedom Township \$150.00
Iosco Township \$250.00
Otisco Township \$300.00
Woodville Township \$150.00

Donations

Forrest, Dan & Cheryl
Hunter, Robert
Kiesler, Barbara
Kozan, Anita
Prail, Janet
Simon, Jim
Strand, Mel

Alton Township
The Fenian Memorial
Committee of America
(George McLaughlin) \$100.00
Thrivent Donations \$177.00

Renewing Members

Aldrich, Donald	Jones, Karl	Richard, Deb
Bagne, Rev. Myrwood	Kanewischer, Trevor	Rogers, Clinton
Baker, Dale	Koechel, Lynn	Schultz, Kent
Berger, Doris	Kroeger, Lester & Jane	Stromme, Roy
Breen, Lillian	Kurkoski, Thomas & Cherryl	Taylor, Linda & Gary
Buum, Karen & Marty	Lucas, Chuck	Tesch, Marty
Byrne, Robert	Lundquist, Olof & Jean	Tesch, Russell & Marie
Byron, Mark	Masberg, Patricia	Tollefson, Kathryn A.
Cunningham, Sheila	McCarthy, Virginia	Twisselman, Alan D.
Dyngeland, Kari	McIntire, Betty	Waggoner, Linda
Eichorst, Fred	Meyer, Clark	Walker, Roger & Roberta
Fell, June	Morris, Eric J.	Wegner, Geraldine
Flitsch, Kathleen	Nelson, John	West, Tom & Francie
Flood, Karen	Norman, Beverlee	Wildgrube, Barb
Groskreutz, Dale & Lynn	Oblak, John	Wobschall, Carol
Hagen, Tom & Nyla	Pooley, Arlene	Wolff, Dennis & Beth Ann
Harter, Lorraine	Priebe, Janet	Zempel, Keith J.
Hintz, Joanne	Quickstad, Terry	Zika, Dave
Johnson, Michelle	Rathmann, Duane & Cheryl	

Volunteers

Buum, Marty
Harguth, Char
Haug, Roger
Jones, Karl
Larkin, Peggy
Zika, Dave
Waseca Art Center Volunteers

Honorariums

In honor of Pauline Fenelon
by Linda Grant

In honor of Charlene Roemhildt
by Alton Township

Memorials

In memory of Connie Barrie

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Steven Conway

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Judith De La Fosse

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Donna Flaten

by Jane & Mark Bartelt

In memory of Calvin Kiesler

by Barbara Kiesler

In memory of Ruth and Joe Kozan

by Anita Kozan

In memory of Pat Rohde

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Jerry Rutledge

by Sheila Morris

In memory Mary Jean Somers

by Donna Fostveit

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Renewal Date



Need help discovering your roots? Better see Linda.

Bailey~ Lewer Research Library

401 NE 2nd St. Waseca, just across the street
from the museum. Tues.- Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon,
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (507) 835-7700

**Waseca
County
History
Center**

SUMMER SATURDAYS at the Museum
Reunions? Family coming? Rainy day?
Come visit the museum! Call for dates.
Open most Saturday's 10 a.m to 1 p.m.
So is the Waseca Art Center!

