

Lifetime Achievement Award

Application Instructions

The Lifetime Achievement Award was created by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) to honor the excellent work performed by individual in Minnesota's public history community. The intention of the program is to give due recognition to the individuals who have demonstrated leadership within their organization, their community, and to Minnesota's history community in the preservation and promotion of local and state history. The award is intended for those who have completed a body of work not less than 25 years in the state of Minnesota. A combination of experience within the nominee's work status is acceptable to meet the criteria.

Filling out the Nomination Form

A general rule of thumb to follow as you are filling out the nomination form is to check each box for a black "+" sign in the lower right hand corner. If this appears, you have overfilled the box and the review committee may not be able to see the additional information. If this symbol appears, revise the text to fit within the box. Do not attach additional sheets. All of your information must fit within the boxes provided.

Nominee Information

- Fill out the complete contact information for the nomination.
- Multiple boxes may be checked in the work status section.
- All nominees must have reached the award criteria within the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. A combination of experience within the nominee's work status is acceptable to meet the criteria, as long as it took place within the state of Minnesota.
 - Someone who has reached the 25-year threshold must have had his or her 25th anniversary date occur **within or prior to** the award period.
- Posthumous awards may be given to individuals that passed away between January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Nominator Information

- Fill out the section completely.

Nomination

- Nominee Background
 - Within the character limit, tell us about the nominee. Discuss the nominee's professional background, work accomplishments, length of service, service to local, regional, or statewide history organizations, and more. Use this section to introduce the nominee to the Selection Committee.
- Nomination Statement
 - Describe the reason why this person should receive an award within the character limit. Tell us what the nominee has done to advance the

preservation and promotion of local and state history. How have they demonstrated leadership in Minnesota's history community?

Required Documents

- Two letters of critical testimony
 - These letters should come from museum or public history professionals, but not the person submitting the nomination. Not more than one letter can come from a community leader outside of the history profession. Each letter should address the nominee's demonstration of exceptional leadership and the nominee's impact on the community or constituency(ies) served.
- Photographs of the project
 - Photos can be extremely valuable in evaluating a nominated project. Depending on the project, before and after images can be helpful.
- Samples of the individual's work or resume
 - Samples may include published items (books, newspaper editorials), completed project materials (example – page from a database the nominee created or exhibit panel).
 - **Electronic submissions (PDF, video files, or links) are preferred as a copy will be needed for each reviewer and it is much easier to distribute an electronic version. If an electronic version is not available, the nominee may be asked to provide a copy to each reviewer.**

Optional Documents

- Additional letters of critical testimony
- Media coverage
 - Any clippings, recordings, or additional media coverage can be used by the reviewers in evaluating the nominee.

How to Submit Nominations

All nominations should be submitted in one of these two methods:

U.S. Mail

Send one copy of your nomination form and additional materials (loose paper, flash drive, or CD) to:

Dustin Heckman
Goodhue County Historical Society
1166 Oak Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Email

Send a single PDF packet to: director@goodhistory.org

Questions

Contact the Minnesota History Awards Coordinator Dustin Heckman by phone at (651) 388-6024 or by email at director@goodhistory.org.

Submission Deadline

All nomination materials must be received by the Awards Coordinator by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

When will nominees be notified of their award

The nominee and nominator will be notified by email the week of March 28 of the nomination's status. Winners will be invited to the 2016 MALHM Conference in Willmar on April 27 and 28. The award presentation will take place following the business meeting on April 27.

Each award winner will be sent a press release that can be used in their local area to promote their achievement.



2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

All nominees must have reached award criteria on or by December 31, 2015. Self-nominations are discouraged.

The following documents must accompany your nomination: 1) Two letters of critical testimony, 2) Samples of the individual's work or resume, and 3) Photographs of the individual. Optional documents that may enhance your nomination include: 1) Additional letters of critical testimony and 2) media coverage. Refer to the nomination instructions for more detailed information.

Nominee Information

Name of
Nominee

Organization

Work Status Paid staff member
 Board Member
 Volunteer - excludes board service
 Retired staff member

Mailing Address

City/Zip

Phone Number

Email

Date Reaching
Achievement

Nominator Information

Name of
Nominator

Phone Number

Email

Nominee Background (1,500 character max)

Nomination Statement (1,500 character max)

February 22, 2016

Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums
Minnesota History Award Program

Dear jurists,

I am writing to commend Marlys Hirst to you for recognition of her many years dedicated to saving and sharing history in Lake of the Woods County. This letter cannot cover all of Marlys' contributions, but I do wish to highlight how she has improved organizational capacity to meet standards, her dedication to continuing education, and her local and regional influence.

Marlys Hirst has been one of the most consistent leaders in the state when it comes to seeking ways to uphold standards and encourage stakeholders to align themselves with those standards. The Lake of the Woods County Historical Society's facility was constructed in 1979 using a style and methods then thought to be effective in meeting the energy crisis. Namely, the building is partially underground with large earthen banks along most of its walls. The result is mixed in that while the facility has provided needed space for processing, storage, and exhibition, the museum climate has not always been ideal. Marlys has strategically sought grants to bring greater stability to her facility, and therefore greater capacity to her organization. Throughout these projects Marlys has thoroughly trained herself not only in the specifications of the project, but has become highly skilled in managing contractors who are unaccustomed to meeting museum standards.

Not only has Marlys learned and led major projects to improve museum climate, but she has also sought out professional enrichment. Marlys has been exceptionally consistent in attending and participating in workshops over the last 16 years that I have known her. And, what is an even greater example to me and many others, she also returned to school to achieve an associate's degree in history from the Rainy River Community College under noted Minnesota historian Prof. Joe Chlebeczek. Marlys has occasionally remarked to me how important it has been for her to bring what she learns back to her organization. Long before the current trend of continuous improvement, Marlys constantly sought to improve her skills and keep current on best practices.

Finally, over the years I have known Marlys, I have always admired her cheerful and subtle leadership. I think a lot of her contributions go very unnoticed. She has been a consistent champion in creating and maintaining Minnesota's Historic Northwest, one of the nation's premier regional history collaboratives. Marlys served a term as chair of the group as well. Also, on the local level, Marlys played another strong but quiet supporting role in preserving the historic Canadian National Railway (Baudette) Depot, which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Without her energy and quiet support, I doubt the depot would have been as successful a preservation project as it most certainly is now. While history needs visible leaders, it also needs quiet leaders like Marlys who bring the credibility of accurate resources to support those who are on camera and in print.

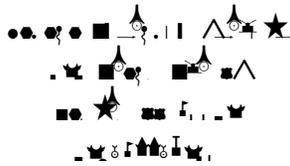
For 25 years, Marlys Hirst has made enduring contributions to saving and sharing history in Lake of the Woods County and across Minnesota's Historic Northwest through her good examples of dedication to meeting the very best of museum science, relentless pursuit of continuing education, and the

indispensible quiet leadership that strongly supports more visible leaders. She has been a great example to me of the best qualities of local history leaders here in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



David M. Grabitske, DBA
Manager, Outreach Services | Heritage Preservation
651-259-3460 | david.grabitske@mnhs.org



Feb. 28, 2016

RE: MALHM Lifetime Achievement Award

I am very happy to support the nomination of Marlys Hirst for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Marlys has been in her position at Lake of the Woods Historical Society for more than 30 years, second only to one other museum director in Minnesota. That fact alone qualifies her for consideration.

That she has been in her position for that length of time, also testifies to the fact that she has been running a successful museum program for years and is dedicated to the society and its mission.

While I do not know the details of her work at LOW, I have worked with Marlys for about a dozen years in our Minnesota's Historical Northwest group. We have collaborated on many projects and she has always been a dependable and responsible partner. She pitches in where needed and consistently offers excellent advice to ensure a successful project. Marlys also mentors anyone in the group with answers to the questions we have about our own museum programs.

Marlys has served as president of the MN Historic NW consortium, as well as a project director and grant writer for the group. She was one of the founders of the group and has consistently supported it since its founding. Our most recent project- which Marlys played a key role- the traveling exhibit about inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs, won a MALHM Minnesota History Award in 2014.

Her years of work, leadership and mentoring deserve to be recognized. Marlys has always been an authentic partner to the Historic Northwest and to the museum community as a whole.

Tamara Edevold

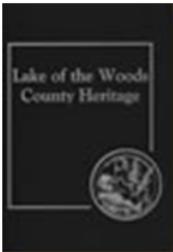
Tamara Edevold
Executive Director, Clearwater County Historical Society
Managing Director- Minnesota's Historic Northwest

Books published by Marlys Hirst



The Great Minnesota Forest Fire of 1910 by Marlys Hirst, published 2010.

A 145 page account of the fire devastation, the relief efforts and subsequent rebuilding told through survivor stories, newspaper coverage and historic photographs. An epic event in local history and ranking among the worst forest fires in the history of the State, the 1910 forest fire helped gain legislative support for the establishment of the Minnesota Forestry Service in 1911.



Lake of the Woods County Heritage published 2000.

A 375 page family history book with the stories of 1000 present or former area residents. Considered a companion volume to Lake of the Woods – A History of People, Places and Events.



Lake of the Woods County - A History of People, Places and Events published in 1997.

A 250 page comprehensive history including geology, natural history, indigenous people, fur trade, community histories, industry and transportation. Coverage of the lake, area fires, churches, schools, newspapers, 692nd radar base and more.



Annual Meeting Programs during the Tenure of Marlys Hirst

For the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society

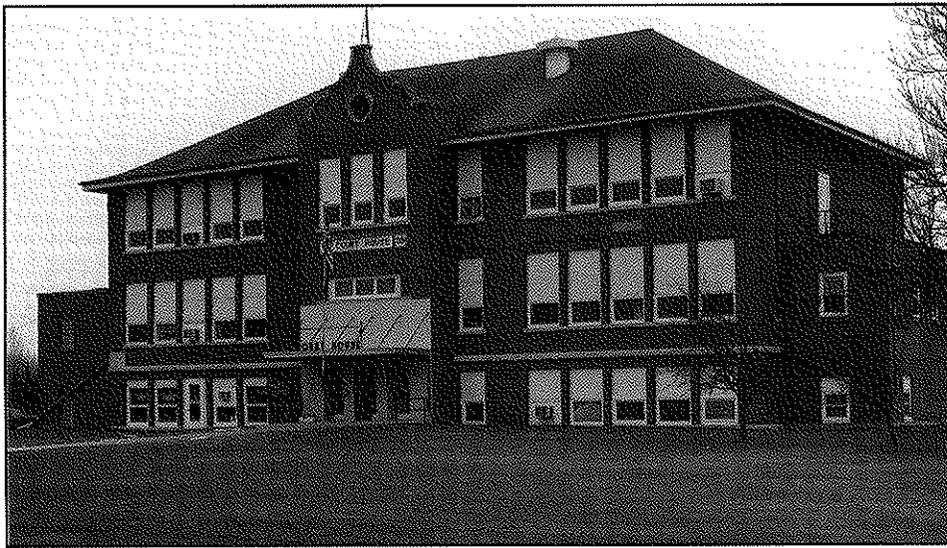
1984-2015

- 2015 Native American History in Lake of the Woods County (by Henry Bouche, plus highlights on his hockey career)
- 2014 Early Days of Life on Oak Island (by Ducky Webb)
- 2013 Bombing the Bog (by Doug Easthouse)
- 2012 Sturgeons in the Rainy River (by Dennis Topp, DNR Fisheries)
- 2011 Honoring our WWII Veterans (interviews with our veterans, facilitated by Jody Horntvedt)
- 2010 Honoring our Centenarians (interviews with those 100+ years: Gladys Krohn, Helen Hansen, Leon Wilson and Minnie Weisenhaus, facilitated by Jody Horntvedt)
- 2009 History of the Resort Industry in Lake of the Woods County (timeline and story-telling, facilitated by Jody Horntvedt)
- 2008 When they Flipped the Switch – Rural Electrification (with Ross Dally and LeRoy Nelson, facilitated Jody Horntvedt)
- 2007 Norwegian Woodcarving (by Hal Bitzer)
- 2006 Baudette Centennial History Book (by John Oren and display of area scrapbooks)
- 2005 Area Birding (by Jenny Moorman)
- 2004 Leaving the Dakota Dust Bowl for the Green Acres of Lake of the Woods County (by Cy Slick)
- 2003 Winnie Time (local correspondent, Winnie Hasbargen, reflects on writing a local news column)
- 2002 Joyce Lockhart Retirement and Recognition as Charter Board Member: Her Remembrances
- 2001 Key Aspects of the MN Fur Trade (by RRCC history instructor Joe Chelbeczek)
- 2000 Life of the Carp Community Hall and Carp Home Club (by Ed Hansen)
- 1999 Highlights of the Historical Society (by T. Everett Helmstetter)
- 1998 Gerry Hansen (gifted craftsman and musician)
- 1997 Four Generations of Making Music in Lake of the Woods County (by the Sindelir Band, with introduction and history by Ed Hansen)
- 1996 Unveiling of the Lake of the Woods County History book (by Marlys Hirst)
- 1995 Norris Camp (by Gretchen Mehmel)
- 1994 Native Plants and Wildflowers (slide examination by T.E. Helmstetter)
- 1993 Indian Rock Painting on Lake of the Woods (slide examination by T.E. Helmstetter)
- 1992 Ojibwa Culture and Traditions (by RRCC instructors and students, Rochelle Senagales, Don Robinson, and Nancy Jones)
- 1991 Rapid River Log Drives (by Richard Holmgren)
- 1990 Documentation of Lake of the Woods County Cemeteries (by Marlys Hirst)
An Aerial View of the Lake (slide presentation by T.E. Helmstetter)
- 1989 Memories of the One Room School (with Julia Griggs and Elida Berg)
- 1988 Hazel Wahlberg shares thoughts and autographs her new book, The Northwest Angle
- 1987 Between Two Worlds (slide presentation on John Tanner by Jenny Moorman)
- 1986 Indian Rock Paintings on Lake of the Woods (slide program by T.E. Helmstetter)
- 1985 Glaciation of the Rainy River (by Lee Grim, RRCC Instructor)
- 1984 An Aerial View of the Headwaters of the Rapid River and Adjacent Bog (by T.E. Helmstetter)

Lake of the Woods County Heritage



Lake of the Woods County Heritage



County Court House, 1998

Written by
The People of Lake of the Woods County

and

Published by
The Lake of the Woods County
Historical Society



Central Committee

Left to right, front row: Jeanne Haukaas, Marlys Hirst, Ruth Hall; back row: RuBelle Towne, Pat Borgen, Grace Hanson. Not pictured: Pam Haskin.

Acknowledgements

Project Director Marlys Hirst and Central Committee members: Pat Borgen, copy editor; Jeannie Haukaas, genealogical editor; Ruth Hall, treasurer; RuBelle Towne, final proofreader; Grace Hanson, primary indexer; and Pam Haskin, publicity spokesperson are to be commended for their efforts in bringing this Heritage Book to completion.

The tremendous community support for the Heritage Book made a project of this magnitude possible. We thank all those who submitted family stories and business histories. We also wish to acknowledge those who served as area representatives for this project, and we recognize the many volunteer typists, proofreaders, and indexers who gave countless hours of their time and talents to prepare the stories for publication.

Foreword

This Lake of the Woods County Heritage Book complements the basic county history, published in 1997, in that it provides an avenue for citizens of the county to tell their individual stories: who they are or were, where they came from and what their ethnic origin might have been. While most of the contributors are one or more generations removed from the original settlers, it gives some hint as to what life was like in that unique period.

From this material, it is apparent that our population is predominately Northern and Eastern European and that many of the original settlers were immigrants. Some measure of the trial and tribulation, success and fulfillment, is recorded here. It becomes evident through the stories that the privilege of acquiring a home on land of one's own through the process of homesteading was not always the boon expected. By no means could all select a homestead parcel with good, marketable timber or land with the potential to be developed for agricultural production. Only when and where intentional or inadvertent fire occurred could agriculture develop short of a whole generation of chopping and grubbing. This picture is not fully conveyed in this volume, for the many settlers who inadvertently found themselves on a "heartbreak parcel" with no possibilities for development are long gone with no one to tell their story.

The personal histories in this book, however, go beyond the early years of homesteading. There are the Depression Era and the Forest Area Resettlement stories. There are the family stories from World War II and those from when the Air Force Base was located here. Many contributions came from families whose roots lie in Lake of the Woods County but live elsewhere now felt it was important to have their histories recorded in this volume. These stories are a significant contribution to the social history of Lake of the Woods County and of Minnesota. These stories are the recollections and remembrances, anecdotes and connections, of family members, written by them, with a minimum of editing, and put in this permanent form for future fam-

ily members and others interested in their history. All of the stories, whether from the early 1900s or from the late 1990s, give a glimpse into the individual lives of the people who helped Lake of the Woods County grow with logging, farming, and fishing to manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture. This volume is a time capsule for the twentieth century.

In addition to the stories that were submitted by past and present residents, an effort was made to include the stories of some of the families and individuals who lived much of their lifetime in Lake of the Woods County but had no descendants available to write their histories. These individuals and families, who were identified by the area representatives and other committee members during the course of the project, were researched and written by the Heritage Book Committee. Information for their stories was taken primarily from obituaries found in the *Baudette Region* and *Williams Northern Light* newspapers.

This volume completes one of the basic goals set by the Lake of the Woods Historical Society. Stories were collected for the Heritage Book from June to December of 1998. Since that time a number of families have experienced births and deaths and other significant life events. Because of the committee's inability to incorporate all of the changes that may have occurred, the stories remain as they were submitted and reflect family status in 1998. Although much care was taken to insure accuracy in processing the material submitted, we apologize for any errors or omissions that may occur in this publication.

For the board of directors of the Lake of the Woods Historical
Society

T.E. Helmstetter, chairman, 1998
and

For the Heritage Book Central Committee
Jeannie Haukaas, genealogical editor

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Introduction

Condensed from: *A Brief History of Lake of the Woods County*

(Published 1979, Revised 1986, 1998)

Following Jacques De Noyon's arrival in 1688, there are no known expeditions to the Lake of the Woods area until Pierre La Verendrye came with a party of more than fifty men in 1732. La Verendrye found northern Minnesota populated by Cree, Monsonis, Assiniboine and Sioux Indians. The Ojibwe, who would shortly become the masters of the border area, had not yet pushed west in substantial numbers as far as the Lake of the Woods.

British possession of the land west of Lake Superior began the golden age of the voyageurs, who, with their canoes, became the main characters in the story of this region for the next seventy-five years. Lake of the Woods became a major link in the voyageurs' highway. All trade returning from the north and west crossed the lake. The rival fur companies—Hudson Bay, Northwest, XY and American—all had posts here as they struggled to monopolize trade. Posts of the various companies stood at different times at the mouth of the Rainy River. The Hudson Bay Company and the Northwest Company built Ash House and Hungry Hall about two miles up the river from the lake.

The town of Norwest on Harrison Creek at the Northwest Angle, became the first settlement within the borders of what would be Lake of the Woods County. There was a Hudson Bay post there also. Norwest was a landing site for steamboats carrying freight destined for Winnipeg via the Dawson Trail. However, in a few years, the railroad reached Kenora and pushed on to Winnipeg making the trail obsolete, and the little town soon disappeared.

The next visitors to the county were Canadian loggers who came to pirate American timber for the lumber mills at Kenora, which were busy sawing ties for the Canadian railroad.

By 1885, the county area had its first two permanent settlers. Although land was not yet open for homestead, Alonzo Wheeler established himself at Wheeler's Point at the mouth of the Rainy River, and Wilhelm Zippel located on the south shore of the lake at Zippel Bay. Zippel began the first commercial fishing enterprise from the American side of the lake.

In the 1890s more settlers followed Wheeler and Zippel. Most of the earliest arrivals chose likewise to make their homes on the shore of the lake and fish for a living. Barney Arnesen settled at Rocky Point. The Asmus family lived first at Long Point. Ole Johnson ran a fishery on Pine Island where the Morris Point trap has since been forced through by current.

Men and an occasional family continued to drift into the area until 1901. The village of Baudette grew to substantial size at its location on the bank of the Rainy River, north of where the International Bridge now stands. Baudette was then a river town, serving as a steamboat landing. But, in 1902 a railroad

Most of the homesteads were still covered with timber. What fields existed were small and used to grow enough grain for animal feed and for household use. Homesteaders earned their money by cutting and selling their wood to the various buyers or by working in one of the two large lumber mills that were built in Baudette and Spooner (now East Baudette).

The mills had barely started operation when in 1910, a disaster struck that threatened to end the Lake of the Woods lumbering industry while it was still in its infancy. On October 4, 1910, a forest fire, which had started east of Williams burned the town of Cedar Spur. By the end of the day of October 7, Graceton, Pitt, Baudette, Spooner, and most of the northern half of the county had been reduced to smoldering piles of ash and rubble. Forty-two people died in the conflagration.

The aftermath of the fire was bleak. In the smoke-laden days following the fire, a mass grave was opened at Elmpark Cemetery for men, women, and children. The wind-blown streets of the towns were now barren except for the piles of rubble that had tumbled from the burned buildings.

But, the lumber mills had been spared or saved. The Engler Mill had been barely out of the path of the flames. The Shevlin-Mathieu Mill had been saved by the night-long efforts of men running pumps and hoses, though some forty million feet of sawed lumber were destroyed in the Shevlin-Mathieu yard. With the mills still intact, there was some reason for optimism. Rebuilding, with the help of the Red Cross and National Guard, began immediately. By the fall of 1911, much of Baudette and Spooner had been rebuilt, and the homesteaders had returned to seed their land. The Baudette Fair of 1912 showed that there had been a bountiful harvest.

One of the effects of the fire was to improve the land for farming. Acreage that would have required months of toil to clear was opened more easily after the flames had done much of the work. The soils in the fire area were also enriched by the addition of the great amounts of ash. Agriculture beyond the subsistence farming level began to offer more promise to the homesteaders.

Until the fall of 1922, the area was a part of Beltrami County. After years of discontent with their lack of voice in county decisions and their great distance from the county seat of Bemidji, the people of Northern Beltrami County organized to split off from Beltrami and form a new county. A county-wide vote in the fall election accomplished their purpose, and Lake of the Woods County was created by order of the Secretary of the State on November 28, 1922. Lake of the Woods County became the last of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties to be

shores of the river and lake. Before this time, several men had catered to a small number of tourists, usually providing guide and launch service on the lake. The first local resorts were Klimek's Lodge, built in the shelter of Four Mile Bay, and McGuire's, located at the mouth of the Rainy River. Klimek's has since become the site of the Wigwam Resort, and McGuire's is now known as Wheeler's Point Resort. John Morris was next to construct a series of cabins at Morris Point, several miles west of the mouth of the river. In the following years, many more resorts took root along the Rainy River and on the lake's south shores as well as at Northwest Angle and on Oak and Flag Islands. Tourism, along with agriculture, started to generate some of the revenue the county needed to survive.

In the decade of the 1930s a nearly explosive development in local agriculture occurred. The early fires of the period, particularly those of 1931, assisted greatly in land clearing. Technological advances made more effective tractors and farm equipment available. An area normally marginally wet for crop production became very productive when the area as a whole was drier than usual. This new land, under these conditions and with the new equipment, was especially productive in legume seeds of extraordinary quality and purity and claimed a high price even during the Depression. However, the 1931 fire, which ravaged the Hay Creek area, was also very destructive, burning a number of farms and taking two lives.

In the mid-thirties, Ted Rowell, Sr., started processing and marketing burbot liver oil products under the name of Rowell Laboratories. The company's product line was soon expanded, and Rowell Laboratories claimed its place as the area's leading

manufacturing industry. Known today as Solvay Pharmaceuticals, the company continues as one of the county's largest employers.

The towns of Spooner and Baudette combined in 1954, and the location of the courthouse was moved across the bay to the old Spooner School Building, thus ending years of squabbling over which town should be the county seat. In 1957 construction of the Air Force Base at Baudette was underway. For the next twenty-two years, the base would be an economic and social asset to the county. It closed during the summer of 1979.

During the 1950s a potato growers' association established a local potato quarantine, and the area became a large producer of disease-free certified seed potatoes, which were and are, shipped to growers all over the world.

Workers put the finishing touches on the International Bridge in 1960, ending more than half a century of ferry traffic between Baudette and Canada. Baudette became a major port of entry, increasing traffic through and into the county.

In its first seventy-five years, the county has undergone many changes. From commercial fishing to logging, to agriculture and tourism the local economy has shifted with the times. The towns of Baudette and Williams have emerged as the area's trade centers. The population, which saw significant reductions following World War II, has maintained a steady level of about 4,000 year-around residents through recent decades. Although ranking as one of the most sparsely populated counties in Minnesota, the population swells to include many additional residents during the summer months.

Family Histories



becoming their first woman Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Lead, fully licensed A&P by the Federal Aviation Authority, Pain Field, Everett, Washington. Ann retired TRAMCO at age fifty.

We are currently having good times with our granddaughter, Jeanette Esther Tobin, age fourteen, a high-scoring basketball point guard and 3.95 grade average student, including algebra and French.

Submitted by James W. Tobin

THOMAS AND BETTE (SOLOM) TOBIN

Lake of the Woods, the year is 1688, a twenty-year-old lad, Jacques DeNoyon, and his Indian companions guide their canoes around the last bend on the Rainy River heading north. DeNoyon becomes the first white man to see one of the most beautiful and exciting bodies of water in all the world.

Lake of the Woods, the best walleye fishing in the world. It is sixty miles long and eighty miles wide. The Zippel Fishery was established on Lake of the Woods in 1893. The Tobin Fishery was established on Bostic Creek in 1910. Across from Cyrus Resort was the log house. The fish house was behind Randall's Resort. Tobin Fishery was started by my Dad's dad, Charles Tobin, Sr. My dad, Edward Tobin, started fishing in 1926. I, Tom Tobin, started in 1953. Jim Tobin started in 1954. Three generations, from 1910 to 1962, fifty-two years.

There were seven commercial fishing licenses between Zippel Bay and the Rainy River. Those holding the licenses were Zippel Fishery on the lake at Zippel Bay, Charles Tobin, Sr., Ed Tobin, Tom Tobin (1953), and Jim Tobin (1954) on Bostic Creek; Charles Tobin, Jr., Desie Gunderson, Renaldor Borgen, Ed McGuire, Joe Rowell, and Melvin Johnson on the Rainy River. Also, George Miller had his fish house on Gull Island. Those were the good old days!

My mother and dad, Buelah and Ed Tobin and son, Edward, Jr., are buried at the Baudette Cemetery. My twin sister, Temmie, died eight years ago. She is buried at Orange, California. My sister Lois lives in Bellingham, Washington, my brother Jack in Long Beach, California, and my brother Jim in Mt. Lakes Terrace, Washington.

I met Bette Solom in 1949 at Graceton, Minnesota. We were married in Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 7, 1951. We have three sons: Tony, Mike, and Jeff.

Tony and Mike were born at Warroad, Jeff in Minneapolis. We have nine grandchildren, ages two to nineteen years old. Bette and I have been married forty-seven years.

Bette worked for G.T.E. Telephone Company as Administrative Assistant in the Construction Department for twenty-three years. I worked for Pacific Fruit SnoBoy as a truck driver and in the warehouse for twenty-three years.

I received a ten-year safe-driver buckle and belt after driving 250,000 miles in the city of Spokane, Washington, which is thirty miles west of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

We live on two and one-half acres, located in the mountains, six miles from Coeur d'Alene. I served in the Army from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War. I did not go overseas. I was in anti-aircraft, loader on a 90 M.M.

My advice—"Keep smiling." Church: Lutheran. Political: Democrat. Hobbies: Panning for gold and looking for crystals. Hardships: None. I am happy-go-lucky. Sports: Hunting for elk, white-tail deer, black bear, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse (partridge). Partridge is the best eating bird in the world! Travels: twenty-six states and went to Tule, Greenland. Influences in my life: my mother and dad. Childhood highlights: Viv and Roy Cyrus' kids and us would play a lot and ice skate in the winter. Roy, Jr., Joan, Peggy, Kathryn, Edna and Cecil Cyrus' kids: Nadine, Barbara, Myrna, Janet. Fred Frohreich would take us all on a sleigh ride in the winter. My brother Edward would take us all out to Pine Island. We would have a picnic and go swimming. The Crompton kids would come down and go swimming, George, Bob, Mary. We would hear horse hoofs trotting across the wooden bridge over Bostic Creek. We knew who it was, Quinten and David Fadness coming over to go water skiing. David sure is a good banjo player. In the fall we would go blueberry picking, a lot of mosquitoes at that time of year. Fred Frohreich and Norman Hornvedt and I would go hunting ducks and geese a lot—at Zippel Bay and Four Mile Bay.

We would put up ice in the winter between Christmas and New Year's. Gus and Fred Frohreich and Norman Hagen would help. I would go over to Mrs. Hagen's (Florence Hagen's mother) and have coffee with her. She sure was a nice person. My dad, Ed Tobin, bought forty acres from Mrs. Hagen in 1928. That is where the Tobin Fishery was when I was growing up. My brother Jim still owns it.

My mother's dad's (Campbell Edwards) homestead was where Morris Point is now. Back then it

ness and also where the Ken-Mar-Ke Resort is now.

My wife, Bette Jane (Solom) Tobin was born at Roseau, Minnesota, November 9, 1933. I, Thomas Arthur Tobin, was born at Spooner, Minnesota, January 4, 1929. Spooner now is East Baudette. Bette graduated at the Williams High School in 1951 at Williams, Minnesota. I went to the Bostic School (all eight grades in one room). It burned down around 1940, then we all went to the Wheeler School, a two-room school. It closed and we were bussed to the Baudette High School. I quit school in the seventh grade and went fishing, helping my dad.

We sure like it out here by Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. If you are ever out this way stop in. Thank You.
Submitted by Thomas A. Tobin

ADOLPH AND HANNAH (MOE) TOMTENGEN

Hannah Catherine Moe was born November 1887 in Clay County, Minnesota. In 1908 she and her mother, Nora, moved to Baudette, where her father, Knute, had taken a claim on Kelly Creek about three miles northwest of town. Hannah spoke about her life at that time:

"I taught school for a time, in both Clay and Wabanica. I had taught before we left Clay County, too. We didn't need much education to teach then, so the pupils were nearly as old as I was. I boarded with the family nearest the school. There was no school in the winter or summer months was about as long as a term ever lasted."

In December 1913 Hannah married Adolph Tomtengen, whom she knew before moving to Baudette. Adolph could fix anything and was interested at photography and music. Local events would often remind him to play the violin," much to the dismay of Hannah. He thought they should have said "bring me a violin" instead. He also played the guitar and the harmonica.

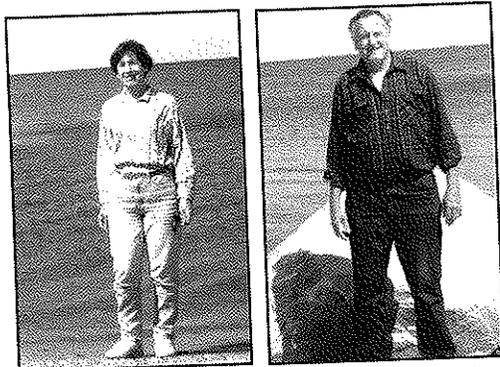
Hannah quit teaching school when she was married. Soon after their daughter Lila was born,



Hannah Tomtengen

the Tomtengens took a claim on the land near the present's home. Adolph and his brother-in-law had a threshing machine, so they moved to Baudette, Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Over the many years, including the war years, Hannah stated:

"After my husband took his claim, he had to go away to help his brother-in-law. I stayed in the land, because you had to live on the land. One night, here came a woodchuck. I was so scared that he'd bite Lila. I was so scared that I was so soon as it was quiet, there I was. I was the bravest little thing. I was so scared that I had an awful hard time. I was so scared that they were sleeping so close to me."



Bette and Tom Tobin at Lake of the Woods—taken 1991.

Lake of the Woods equals "Fish." Thirty-one species are: Walleye yellow, Walleye blue, Sauger, Northern, Pickerel, Pike, Perch, Crappie, Sunfish, Burbot, Large Mouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Suckers, Red Horse, Buffalo, Quillback, Sturgeon Sucker, Lake Sturgeon, River Sturgeon, Tullibee, Whitefish, Carp, Rock Bass, Bullheads, Catfish, Muskie, Gold Eye, Chubs, Shiners, Clams, Crayfish.



Tobin Fishery—Bostic Creek

pancake turner between a stud and the wall sheeting. When Adolph was siding the outside of the building, he nailed the pancake turner to the stud! He had to remove the nail to free the pancake turner, which was used for many years despite the nail hole in the corner.

The Tomtengens were active in Baudette Township affairs, with Adolph holding office as Township Clerk. He helped bring phone service to the township and was involved with organizing the local co-op, while Hannah was a 4-H leader and was involved in other clubs. Adolph's photographs documented much of their life: unfortunately, many of these photos burned in a house fire in 1966.

After Adolph's death in 1953, Hannah remained in Baudette until her death in 1980.

Submitted by the Tomtengen's great-granddaughter, Joni Wyman

BERT AND EFFIE BOECKERS TONBERG

Bert Tonberg was born on a farm in Romsdalen, Norway, March 26, 1878. He arrived in the United States in 1895 and lived in St. Paul with an uncle while attending school there. He worked in several stores before coming to Baudette in 1905.

From 1905 to 1910, Bert was connected with the First State Bank of Baudette. Following this, he went into the real estate business and farming. Later he spent a number of years in the store business, and, for a time, he and his wife operated a cafe on Baudette's Main Street.

Bert married Effie Boeckers in 1927. Effie was born December 27, 1889, at Morris, Minnesota. Effie is remembered as a wonderful cook and for being an avid ice skater. She could often be seen skating at many of the outdoor rinks around town and on the river. She was also very active in the ladies activities at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Bert made several extended trips back to his homeland during his lifetime. He and Effie also took a long trip to the West Coast.

In 1943, Bert was appointed sheriff to fill an unexpired term of three and one-half years. Ill health prevented him from filing for election when the term was up. Following this, Bert retired to a quiet home life. He died in November of 1948.

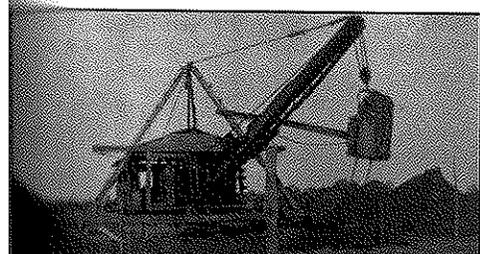
Effie became a resident of the Pioneer Home for a number of years before her death in February of 1984.

Bert's obituary in the *Baudette Region* listed the following step-children: Blanche, Kenneth, and Effie Boeckers. Effie's obituary listed her son's name as Kenneth McAweeney.

Submitted by the Heritage Book Committee

SANFORD AND ELIZABETH (HARROUN) TOPPING

Sanford Volna Topping and Elizabeth (Harroun) Topping came to Spooner, Minnesota, from Oosau, Wisconsin. Sanford, a dredge operator, awarded a contract to work on the big ditch-dredging project in what was then Beltrami



County. He dredged in the area south of Williams, as well as south of Baudette. Although the purpose of the dredging project was to drain acres of swampland in order to make it productive farmland, the most useful result was a network of roads in the county.

The last ditch Sanford worked on was "Ditch 13," now known as Highway 72. When it was finished, in about 1919, Sanford left his dredge for the last time and went home. The dredge sat where he left it for years, and when Sanford's daughter and son-in-law went by with their children, the children would point and exclaim, "There's Grandpa's dredge!"

Among those who worked for Sanford Topping was young Vane Lester Morrison, and on April 20, 1916, Vane joined the Topping family by marrying Ethel, one of Sanford's three daughters (the other two were Eunice and Jennie).

Submitted by Helen Morrison

TORGER AND SELLENA (LERUM) TORGERSON

Torger J. Torgerson was born to Jens and Anna (Johnson) Torgerson in Waseca County, Minnesota. Torger's father was born in Norway on May 12, 1846, and came to America, April 30, 1875. His wife, Anna, was also born in Norway and came to America in 1867. They were married April 27, 1868. They farmed south of Ellendale, in Freeborn County, Minnesota. Torger was one of twelve children.

Torger married Sellena Lerum on November 2, 1902, at Oakland, Minnesota. Sellena was born May 27, 1884, in Oakland. The Torgersons had eight children, two of whom died at infancy. They were James and Ruby. The other six children are: Edgar "Torg," who lived in Minneapolis; and James, of Minneapolis, who lived in Baudette for a short time after World War II; Adeline (Mrs. L. M.



Torger Torgerson, Edna (Torgerson) Westerlund, and Sellena Torgerson.

Brown), who lived in San Francisco; Idella (Mrs. W. H. Butcher), Los Angeles, California; Thelma (Mrs. W. G. Ford), of California, who also lived in Baudette during World War II for a short time, working as a hairdresser, for her sister, Edna (Mrs. Chester E. Westerlund) of Baudette.

Torger and Sellena farmed near Ellendale and

knitting, crocheting, embroidery work, and making carrings from rickrack. Sellena also made beautiful quilts and rag rugs. Many of the quilts she made went to her children. Edna used to sit with her daughters, Shelley and Wendy, at night before they went to bed and tell them stories about different pieces of fabric in their quilt that came from dresses and shirts of Sellena's and her children's.

Torger died in their home in Spooner on January 14, 1951, after being ill for six months. Sellena Torgerson died on May 19, 1955, in Baudette.

Submitted by Shelley Phillippe

JESS AND ADELE (BUCK BAADE) TORIAN

Jess Torian was born in Paducah, Kentucky, December 5, 1894.

Adele (Buck Baade) Torian was born in Farmersburg, Iowa, the youngest of thirteen children.

Fred Baade was born in Farmersburg, Iowa. He had four brothers.

Fred Baade and Adele Buck were married February 26, 1902. They had three children, all born in Farmersburg, Iowa. They were: Floyd Baade, born August 5, 1901; Jason Fred Baade, born November 28, 1910; and Doris Marie Baade, born August 6, 1915.

Their father died October 11, 1917. Sister Doris Baade died February 5, 1927. She died of burns she received in a fire at the Congregational Church in Williams, Minnesota.

Jess Torian and Adele Baade were married on April 12, 1919 in Dubuque, Iowa. They came to Williams along with the children in 1919. They bought property with a house on it south of Williams. Jess worked for the telephone company.

The children attended the Conklin school and walked one and one-half miles to school. After a few years, the family moved into Williams where Adele ran a restaurant.

The boys went to work very young. Jason married Marjorie Earl in 1931. They had two daughters, Dolores Evelyn Adele and Janet Lorraine. Dolores married Paul McKinnon and had four children. They live in Kennewick, Washington.

Janet married Harold Evenson, and they had three children. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Harold died in 1990.

Floyd Baade had two boys, Darrel and Kenneth. Floyd farmed most of his life.

Jason farmed, had a trucking business and learned to fly in 1946. He owned his own plane and drove school bus for eighteen years.

Submitted by Marjorie Baade

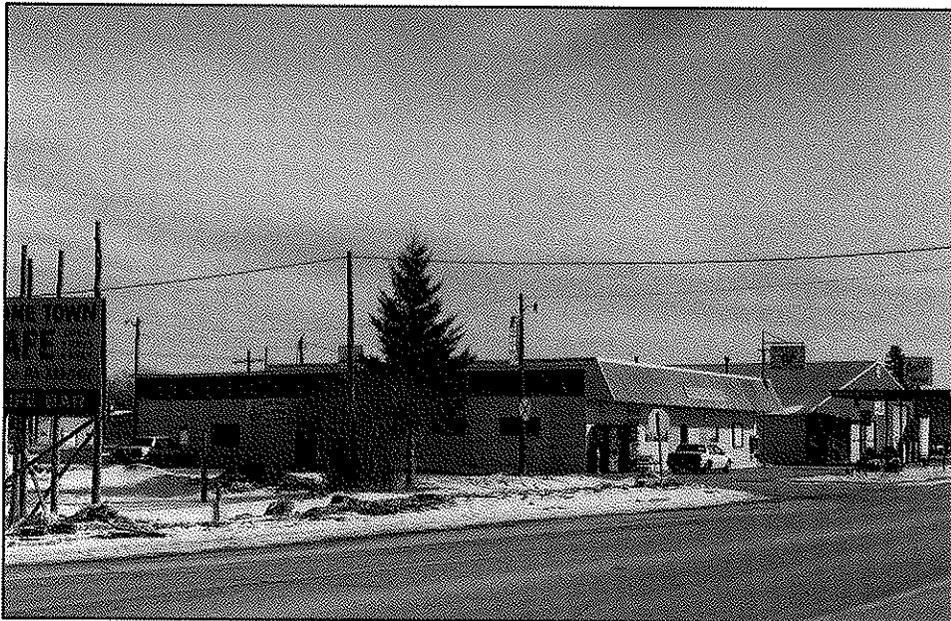
GLENN AND RUBELLE (HANSON) TOWNE

Glenn Towne was born May 2, 1923, at Twin Lakes, Minnesota, to Harry and Jessie Towne. There were nine children in the family—six boys and three girls: Lauretta, Howard, Vern, Violet, Lloyd, Glenn, Earl, Marvin, and Wallace.

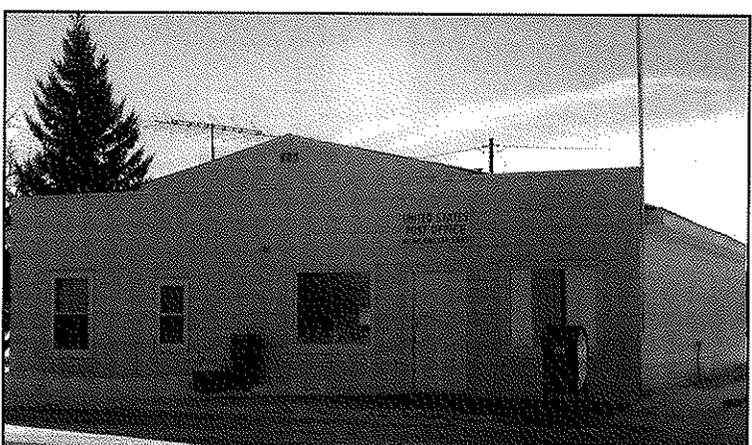
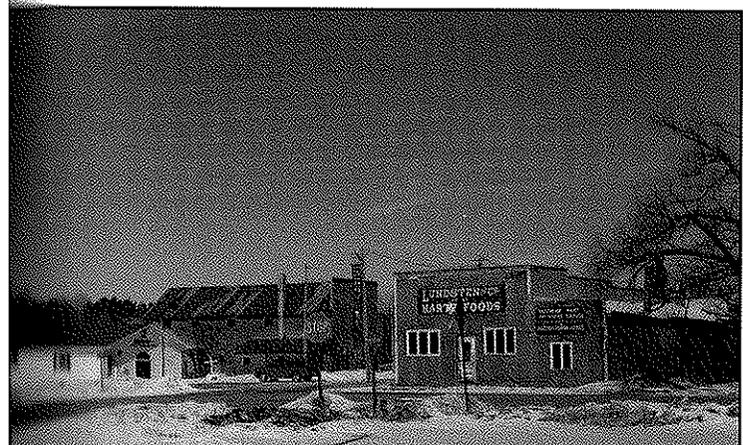
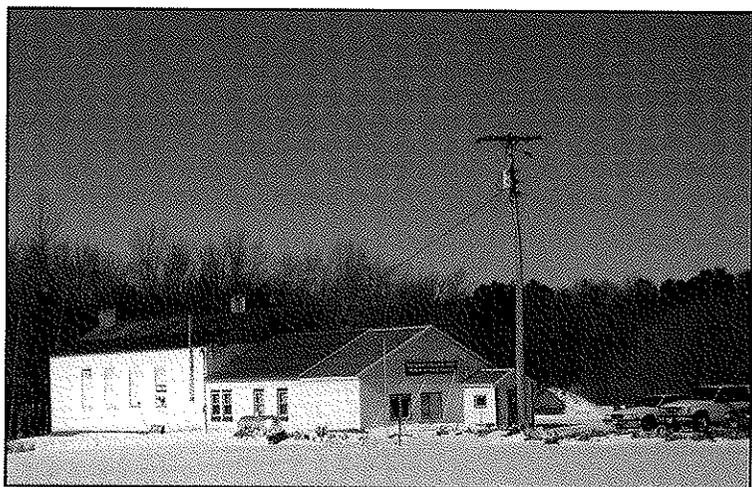
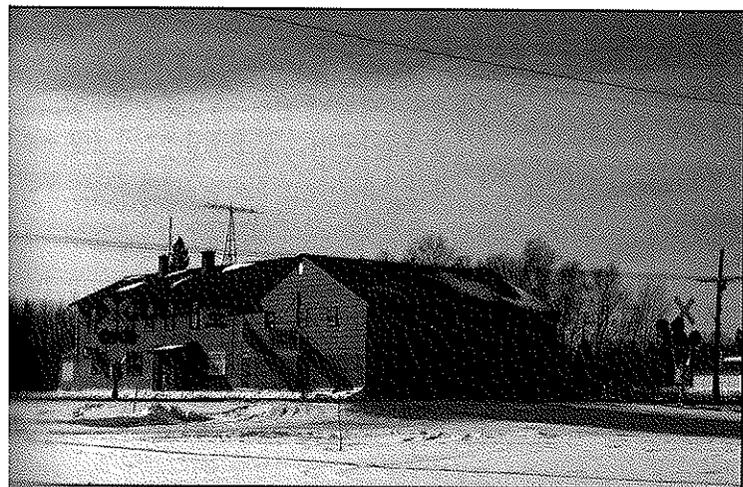
Glenn and his sister Vern and brother-in-law Don Peterson bought a farm on Bankton Trail, and Glenn came north in October 1947 to start farming. Don and Vern and their three children came later. Don and Glenn were in farming and logging operations for several years. Glenn also worked on farms in Iowa and southern Minnesota. He helped in building the hospital in Virginia, Minnesota, and other projects in the Range area.

RuBelle was born in 1930 and attended Boone School and in 1943 began attending high school in

Business Histories



Williams, 1999



SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS

Improving the Health of Millions



Solvay Pharmaceuticals

Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc., had humble beginnings, rooted in nutritional supplements that later evolved into more complex solutions that, today, have improved the health of millions of people.

The modern-day portfolio of Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc., includes several products that are established agents of proven effectiveness. Products produced by the world-class Solvay Pharmaceuticals production facilities in Baudette, Minnesota, support the corporation's commitment to research and the development of medical therapies that offer hope in four of modern medicine's most challenging arenas: women's health, mental health, gastroenterology, and cardiology.

Solvay Pharmaceuticals is a leader in these four therapeutic areas in part because the company develops sophisticated health management programs with strategies for disease detection, prevention, and early intervention.

Innovation and vision have enabled

pertension, mania associated with bipolar disease, cystic fibrosis, and much more. Ongoing research is broadening the ability of the company to help patients overcome these and many other complex conditions.

Solvay Pharmaceuticals facilities in Lake of the Woods County manufacture, package and test many of the innovative products bearing the company's name.

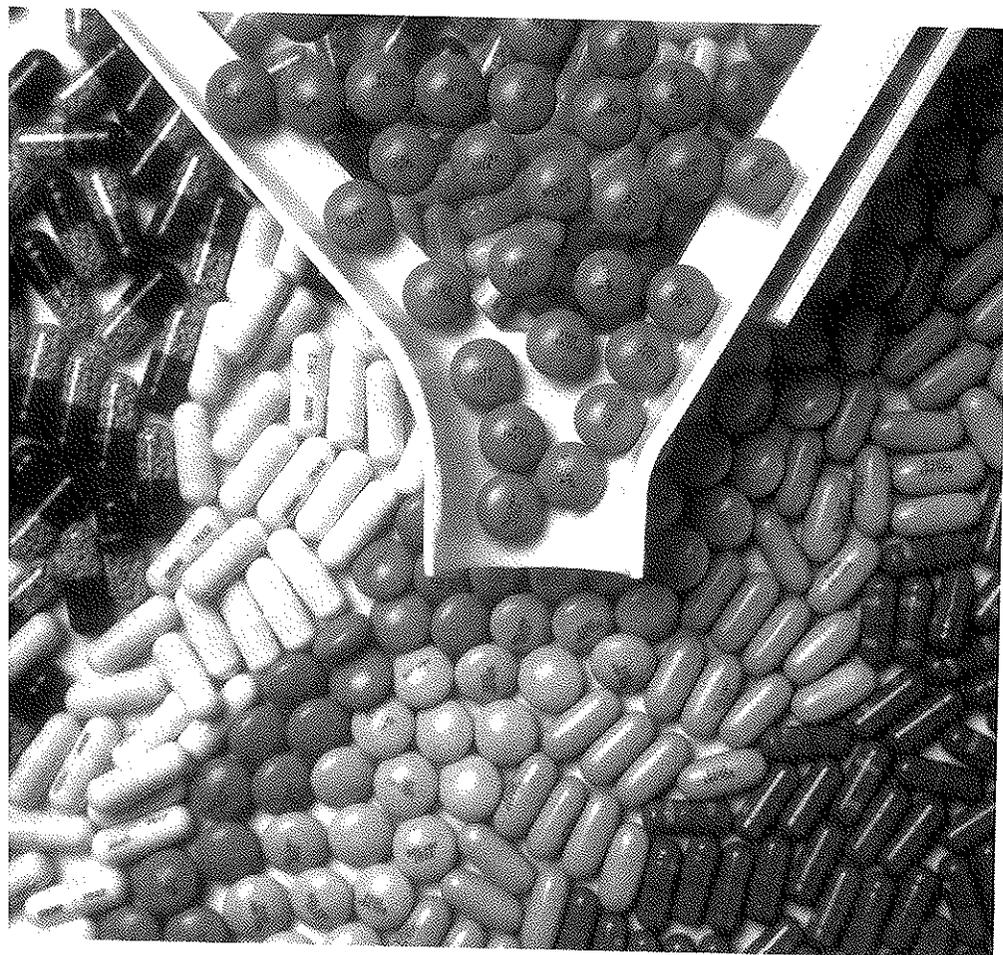
From Lake of the Woods County . . .

During the Great Depression, Joseph and Ted Rowell devised a method of extracting fish oil from burbot, a catch from Lake of the Woods County waters. The Rowell father and son discovered that the burbot's liver contained eight times the amount of vitamins A and D found in the Atlantic cod.

After three years of perfecting the extraction process, in 1933 the product was named Burbot Liver Oil™, and the newly-formed company be-

To market the fish oil, Ted Rowell moved to Minneapolis to work as a druggist for Walgreen's Drugstore, enabling him to sell Burbot Liver Oil™ in the popular store. As orders grew and the product's reputation as a quality nutritional supplement mounted, the company began to outgrow its manufacturing capacity. As a result, plans were made to move the operation from Minneapolis to Baudette. This relocation also allowed the company to expand its product offerings in addition to increasing its manufacturing capabilities.

With the increased capacity, another new product soon followed—a vitamin supplement called Vitacod. Soon after, in 1940, rival company McKesson-Robbins was unable to keep up with the influx of orders for its vitamin B product, so it recommended Burbot Liver Oil to the Company for the manufacturing. This opportunity marked Burbot Liver Oil's first big break into the pharmaceutical industry, soon to be



generations of the Rowell family were leading the company in its continued success, and newer products began to overshadow the original fish oil product.

In 1985, to ensure the company's survival in a rapidly changing industry, Rowell Laboratories merged with another pharmaceutical company, Reid-Provident, of Atlanta, Georgia. The newly formed company would be headquartered in Atlanta and called, accordingly, Reid-Rowell.

By 1986, some 150 products had been developed or marketed by Rowell Laboratories, and the workforce in Baudette had grown from its founders in 1933 to 108 full-time employees, twenty part-time workers, and fifty-five sales representatives.

In less than a year, Solvay & Cie (now called Solvay S.A.), a plastics, health care products, and chemicals manufacturer based in Brussels, Belgium, acquired Reid-Rowell, giving the company worldwide recognition and an explosive potential for growth.

... to Pharmaceuticals Giant

1001 B... ..

pharmaceutical companies, based in Brussels, Belgium. Today, the Solvay Group has operations in forty-six countries, employing 33,000 people, and is among the top fifty pharmaceutical companies in the world.

Since the Solvay Pharmaceuticals acquisition, research and development expenditures in the company's production operation in Minnesota have grown dramatically. In fact, Solvay Pharmaceuticals has quickly implemented major expansions and renovations to the Baudette plant.

Six years after a spacious packing complex and shipping port were constructed in Baudette in 1991, output for Solvay Pharmaceuticals operations hit an impressive two billion units, ten million packages of some twenty-five product formulations and sixty-seven package presentations. As Solvay Pharmaceuticals began to build its presence in women's health, another significant upgrade was slated—the expansion of the company's hormone facility in an industrial park south of town. The project adds some 20,000 square feet to this facility.

In 1998 work began on the h...

ty four to five times. This expansion is a logical, strategic result of the many developments and improvements the Baudette operation has undergone since the Lake of the Woods County site was acquired by Solvay Pharmaceuticals in 1986.

Today, two manufacturing plants in Baudette house 130,000 square feet of high-speed, automated processing and packaging equipment, enabling the company to quadruple capacity in recent years and to respond promptly to changing production needs. Some 200 highly trained employees today use computerized production and packaging lines that generate more than two billion dosage units per year.

The Baudette facilities produce tablet, capsule, oral liquid, lotion, and rectal dosage forms. They also package several products that are produced by Solvay S.A. affiliates in Europe, including DUPHALAC® (Lactulose Solution, USP) and CREON® (Pancrelipase) Delayed-Release MINIMICROSPHERES® Capsules.

The most basic commitment to customers is the Solvay Pharmaceuticals' assurance of high quality products that support improved health care. In Baudette, ninety-eight percent of its orders are fulfilled on the same day they are received.

Among the products manufactured by Solvay Pharmaceuticals in Baudette include: ESTRATAB® (Esterified Estrogens Tablets, USP) Tablets, ESTRATEST® (Esterified Estrogens and Methylene Testosterone) Tablets, LUVOX® (Fluvoxamine Maleate) Tablets, LITHOBID® (Lithium Carbonate, USP) Slow-Release Tablets, ROWASA® (Mesalamine) Enemas and Suppositories, and CREON® (Pancrelipase) Delayed-Release MINIMICROSPHERES® Capsules.

Today, Solvay Pharmaceuticals is one of the nation's fastest-growing pharmaceutical companies. Well-positioned for a future of accelerated growth, Solvay Pharmaceuticals is committed to improving medical treatments for the sake of healthier people now and into the next millennium.

LAKE OF THE WOODS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

sites. In 1980 the society published *A Brief History of Lake of the Woods County*. In 1997 they published *Lake of the Woods County, A History of People, Places and Events*, a long-awaited volume of Lake of the Woods County history. They are pleased to publish this *Lake of the Woods Heritage Book* as a companion volume.

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society has a current membership of approximately 200. Directors meet monthly to conduct the organization's business and hold an annual meeting of the membership each spring. Directors in 1998 are: T. Everett Helmstetter, president; Richard Johnson, vice president; Ruth Hall, secretary; Alice McLain, Terry Toft, Arvid Christiansen, Robert Slick, RuBelle Towne, Joyce Lockhart, and Ed Hansen. Past directors, in addition to those already mentioned, who also contributed many years of service to the society include Roy Borgen, Sid Moorhead, Marvin Hendrickson, Kenneth Aery, Carlos Grove and Gordon Farel.

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society continues to need the support of Lake of the Woods County and the time, talents, memberships, donations, bequests, and memorials of county residents in order to carry on their mission of collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating the history of Lake of the Woods County.

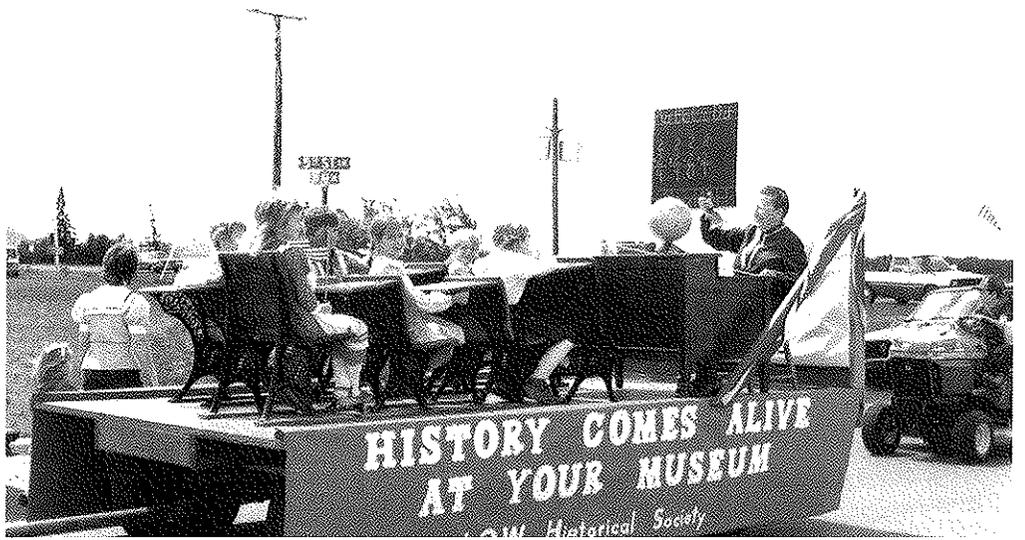
ment Grant. The building project was led by Society President Dave Olson with assistance from Minnesota Historical Society field services director Dave Nystuen. Other society directors at that time were Roy Borgen, Sid Moorhead, Alice McLain, Carlos Grove, and Joyce Lockhart. The building was completed in March and opened in April of 1979. Tom Ines was the first museum curator. He was followed by Vicki Goble in 1981 and Marlys Hirst in 1984.

The second phase of the Museum building was completed in 1989 by Lake of the Woods County. The addition nearly doubled the museum's display and storage areas. In 1993 the Annex was added to the Museum complex to house agricultural equipment and other large items. The Lake of the Woods County Museum and Annex are open to visitors from May to October each year.

Over the years, the Lake of the Woods Historical Society has completed many short- and long-term goals. They have conducted several oral history projects, produced programs on area history, and worked to obtain recognition for local historic



Museum Curator Marlys Hirst with tour group.



Lake of the Woods Historical Society Board of Directors in the new museum building, 1979. Left to right: Carlos Grove, Marvin Hendrickson, Dave Olson, Ken Aery, T. Everett Helmstetter, Alice McLain, and Joyce Lockhart.

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society was incorporated on November 8, 1965. On that day, a small group of residents interested in starting a historical society met at the Ed Lockhart home in Williams. Led by Arch Grahn, field director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Morris Grove, local advocate, they elected directors and chose officers. The first directors and officers were: Morris Grove, president; Glen Bergan, vice president; Ralph Ines, treasurer; Joyce Lockhart, secretary, and Clarence Peterson, director. At a follow-up meeting on November 24, 1965, the group adopted by-laws and set annual membership dues at one dollar per individual and ten dollars per individual for life. By the time of the first annual report on November 18, 1966, Glen Bergan and Morris Grove had switched their offices of president and vice-president and two more directors, L.J. Arnesen and T. Everett Helmstetter, had been added to the Board.

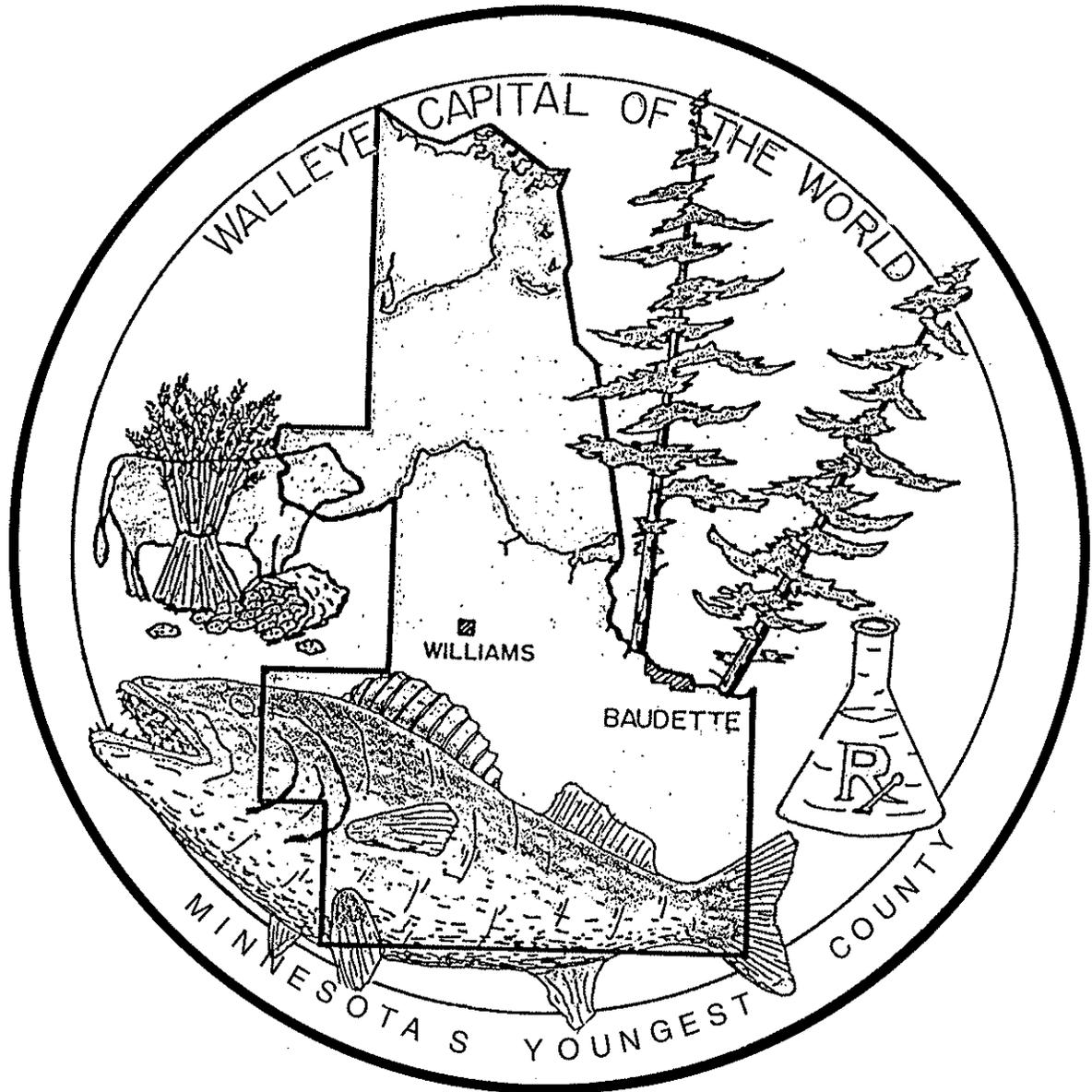
The Society set forth as its purpose: to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Lake of the Woods County. In the formative years, the society concentrated its efforts toward the securing of historical artifacts and information. They also began taping the oral history of area pioneers. As time progressed, a place to house these collections and create public exhibits narrating

Lake of the Woods County



Lake of the Woods County

A HISTORY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS



The Lake of the Woods County Historical Society
1997

Acknowledgment

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge Marlys Hirst for her work in bringing this county history book to completion. Marlys has contributed countless long hours and a tremendous amount of hard work to every aspect of the book's production. Her years of dedication to the project are gratefully appreciated. We, the directors, wish to say thank you, Marlys, for your perseverance.

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Foreword

CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE, reference-quality history of Lake of the Woods County has been a goal of the Lake of the Woods Historical Society since its organization in the late 1960s. Collecting and filing historical information began at that time on a small scale. Once a building was erected to house historical artifacts and data, a serious effort to assemble and preserve historical information was started.

Producing this county history has been an immense project. It was carried out over a period of fifteen years with a few selections actually going back further to work assembled in the late 1970s.

Over the years, many volunteers have assisted with the project and have helped to bring this book to completion. A research grant received from the Minnesota Historical Society's Grants-In-Aid program in 1987 and additional support received from the American Legion Post 217 and the Moose Lodge in 1989 gave the project some very much needed financial boosts.

Oral history projects conducted by Tom Imes and Florence Ferrier provided a wealth of stories and information for researchers and writers, and excerpts from these transcripts are included in various sections. Many topical writers were solicited to examine specific areas of county history. Their work forms the basis for much of the assembled text.

Early research and writing was conducted by Florence Ferrier. Additional research, writing, and editing was completed by Elnora Bixby, and the final research, writing, and rewrites, text assembly and editing was completed by Marlys Hirst. In addition, the material assembled underwent the scrutiny of two book committees composed of historical society board members. Jenny Moorman served as project director for the first book committee review. The text was computerized and continuously updated by Vicki Goble, who also provided additional editing and proofing skills. Artwork was provided by Jenny Moorman and Trevor Hirst. Indexing was completed by Candy Fagen.

Throughout the course of this project, the society has been committed to presenting an accurate and detailed account of area history. Much previously written material, both accurate and inaccurate, was examined and considered during the process. In some instances, the writing presented here expresses the views of the specific author. To the best of our knowledge, the factual information is correct. We do, however, acknowledge that some imperfections may exist and apologize for any errors that may be present.

The society wishes to express appreciation to the Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Lake of the Woods County who have continuously supported the work of the Lake of the Woods Historical Society.



LAKE OF THE WOODS HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HISTORY BOOK PROJECT DIRECTOR

Back row (left to right): Terry Toft, Arvid Christiansen, Bob Slick, Richard Johnson, Ed Hansen, RuBelle Towne.
Front row: Marlys Hirst—project director, Ruth Hall, T. Everett Helmstetter, Joyce Lockhart, and Alice McLain.

1996

First Settlers

A handful of adventurous men arrived in the area shortly before the turn of the century. They squatted along the lake shore and riverfront waiting to stake their claims when the land was opened for homesteading.

Whatever their previous lifestyle, each was willing to brave the wilderness for the opportunities offered by this new country. Their stories are stories of isolation, adversity, and perseverance. Their names are still familiar to us, though over a century has passed.

The following biographies are written as a tribute to these men and women whose visions inspired the birth of our first communities.

Alonzo Wheeler

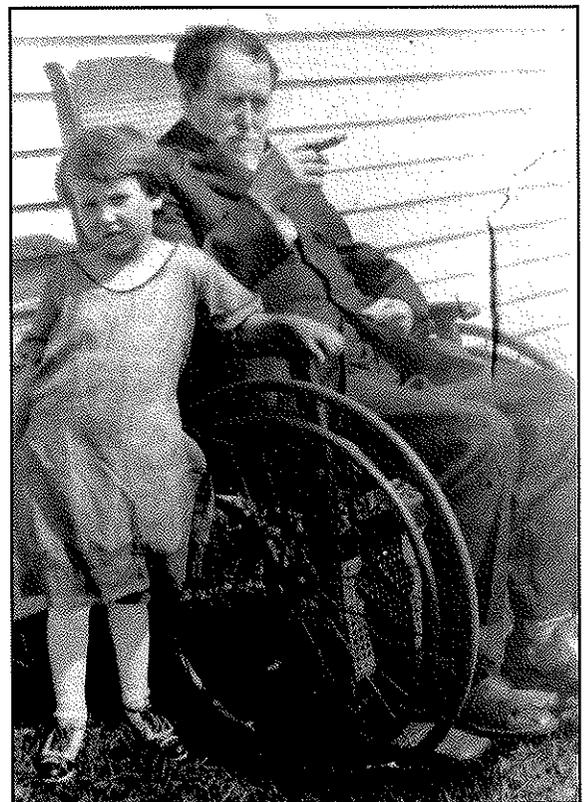
by Marlys Hirst

FIRST AMONG SETTLERS was Alonzo Wheeler. He was born in 1853 to James and Matilda Wheeler of York State, England. Sometime after his birth, the family came to America and settled in Watertown, New York.

At the invincible age of twenty-six, Alonzo left his family to venture beyond the edge of the civilized world. His travels brought him to the Lake of the Woods region, and he squatted on a piece of land at the mouth of the Rainy River. The year was 1879 and the place would thereafter be known as Wheeler's Point.

Initially Wheeler found employment on the steamboats already plying the lake waters. He also engaged in fishing and trading with the Indians. Later his efforts turned more towards farming, and eventually he subdivided much of his homestead into summer resort lots.

Wheeler married Annie DuBois Morrison (or Morriseau) Hooper, a Chippewa Indian woman from the Long Sault Band. Although nine children were born to Alonzo and Annie, only one son lived to adulthood.



Alonzo Wheeler with his granddaughter Erllys Wheeler, 1924.

Community Histories

Clementson and Silver Creek

Clementson Business and Community History

by Marlys Hirst

THE POTENTIAL FOR SETTLEMENT of the land situated at the junction of the Rapid and Rainy Rivers was realized by Helic and Ole Clementson as early as 1894. The high plateau offered excellent drainage; the surrounding forest land held vast timber resources; and the connecting waterways accessed regions to the east, west, and south. The waterfalls at the mouth of the Rapid River added a touch of beauty to an already ideal location.

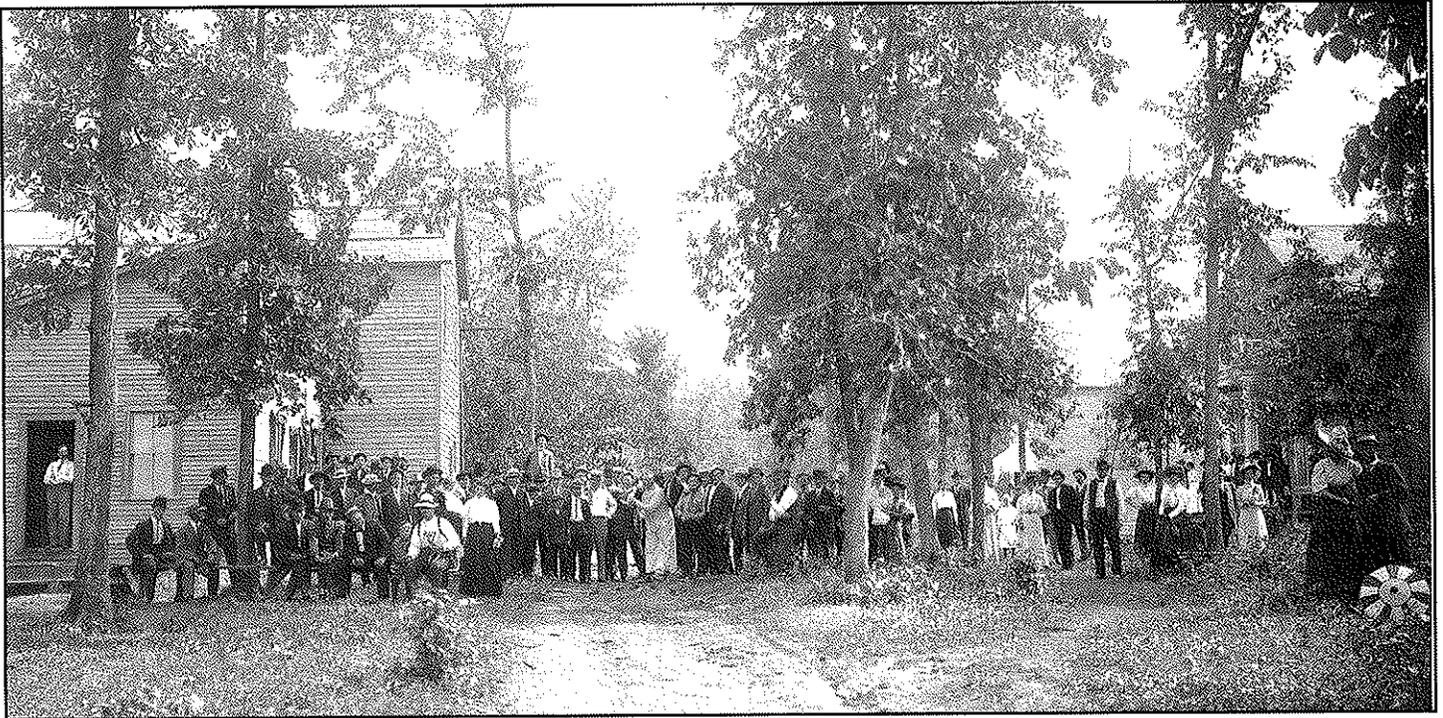
The first families were the Clementsons. They established themselves and their name upon the location by 1896. Others soon followed.

Ole Clementson started a small settlers' trading post and in 1901 received permission to establish a post office at the site. As settlement of the surrounding area and regions along the Rapid continued, the outpost grew into a well-stocked general merchandise store ready to accommodate the needs of the homesteaders.

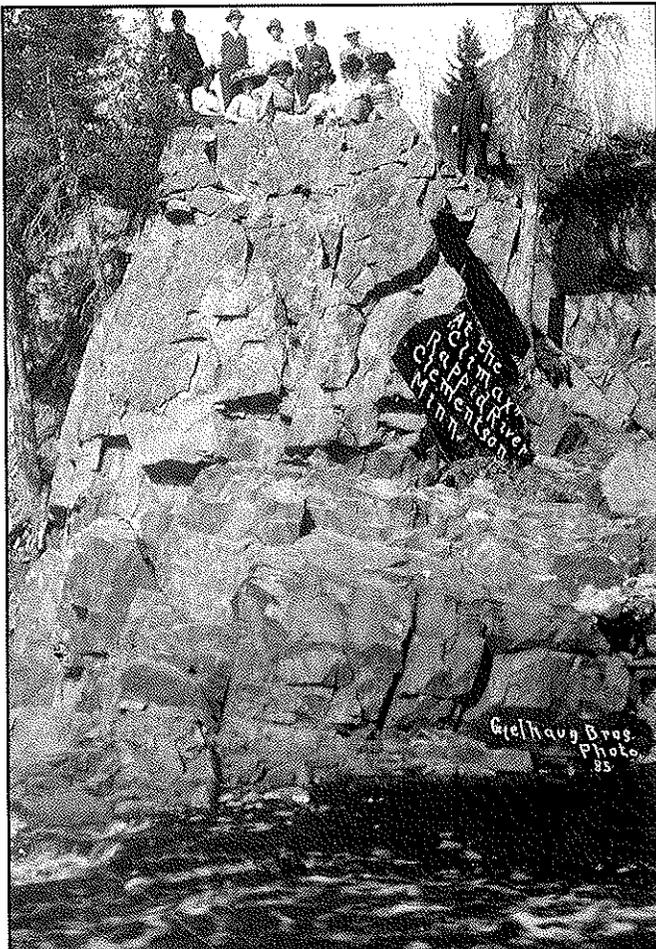
Since logging camps operating in the southern regions of the county used the Rapid River as the means to get their timber to the mills in Baudette and Spooner, Clementson became a main source of provisions for these operations. A second store was started by Mr. Fay Curtiss. Edward Farder, who married Helic Clementson's daughter Clara, purchased the Curtiss Store in 1908.

The merchandise for the stores at Clementson was brought by launch from Baudette, having arrived there by railroad. Reference to the two progressive merchants being in town to receive freight were frequent in the issues of the *Spooner Northern News*. In October of 1908 the newspaper recorded Ole Clementson receiving a carload of feed and flour to supply the demands of his patrons. In the same issue Ed Farder was making two special trips on the launch *Teddy Roosevelt* to bring down shipments of hardware for his store. A few months later an additional 5,000 pounds of freight was recorded as stock received for the Farder Store.

In 1908, William Ford built a hotel and saloon at Clementson. This accommodated the timber representatives traveling in and out of the area and served the local community as a social gathering point. By this time sorting pens for the timber had been erected in the Rainy at Clementson and Silver Creek. Crews were



Early gathering at Clementson (above). Buildings in the background include the Ford Hotel, Ole Clementson Store and Post Office, and the Curtiss Store. Circa 1908.



Social outing at Clementson Rapids.

of Gudrid in 1909, the establishment had since operated as a hotel and boarding house. After its destruction, a new hotel was erected by Mr. William Lucy of Rainy River, Ontario. Lucy also operated a similar establishment on the Canadian side. The new hotel opened with a formal dance in December of 1911. Over the years, a number of managers and/or owners conducted affairs at the hotel. Among them were Mr. O. Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Raeymaecker, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Erickson, L. O. Mick, and Mrs. William Lucy. Community dances occurred regularly at the Clementson Hotel and the Farder Hall, a building apparently connected with the store operation.

Phone lines connecting Clementson to Spooner via the Warroad Telephone Company were in operation by 1913, and a road connecting the two villages was completed by October of that year. The construction was done with horses, scrapers, and manual labor. Gravel for the road was hauled on a narrow gauge railway with ten to fifteen cars pulled by a caterpillar tractor.

In 1916, a fair was held in the community at the Clementson Hotel. Agricultural exhibits and handmade items were displayed, and pupils from the Goode, Williams, Eidem and Clementson schools of the area provided entertainment for the day.

During the period between 1916 and 1919 disaster struck both of the community's founding fathers. Floods washed out Helic Clementson's profitable saw and shingle mill at the mouth of the river, and fire destroyed Ole Clementson's store. Ole rebuilt but Helic did not. The mill machinery was eventually sold as scrap metal for the war effort.

As the timber was depleted, local mills were discontinued and the big logging companies moved elsewhere. Roads were being developed into the county's southern region, and Clementson's importance as a trade center diminished. Settlers addressed agriculture as a way to utilize their lands, and in time the area

became a viable farming community. The Farm Bureau organization was very active during these years. Meetings were held at the hotel, which also began operating a cream station.

Ed Farder sold his store business to Oscar Clementson, Ole's oldest son, in 1928. Ed moved his family to his homestead south of Baudette. Oscar and Ole continued in the store business with Oscar officially taking charge of the post office in 1940.

During the first years of World War II, Oscar built eight cabins along the Rainy River and established a summer resort. Art Roberts also built four small cabins at Clementson in the early 1940s. Known as Robert's Resort, it operated through the mid-1960s. The hotel had ceased to operate prior to the establishment of these new businesses and was eventually torn down.

In 1946, Oscar Clementson retired and sold his business to Paul and Bryce Chilgren. Fire again destroyed the store in the late 1950s. Chilgren then converted the garage, which had been spared, into a new home for the store and post office. In 1960 he sold the store, resort, and postal business to Dean Smith who operated it briefly. Following Smith, the store and resort had a number of owners including Bill Mauk, Fred Baker, Andy Dragon, Mr. Albertson, Mr. Harroun, and Mr. Wiest. The post office at Clementson was discontinued in the early 1980s.

The original school at Clementson was located near the site of the present Clementson Lutheran Church. In the early 1920s it was moved to the corner of the Holte farm in order to provide a more central location for its pupils. It served both the Clementson and Silver Creek communities until the mid-1940s when the district consolidated with Baudette.

A cemetery was established at Clementson in 1898. Called the Rapid River Lutheran Cemetery of Clementson, it was located in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section twelve of Gudrid Township. When use of a schoolhouse southwest of Clementson was discontinued, the building was moved next to the cemetery and became the first Clementson Lutheran Church. It served the community until a new church was built at the present site in 1960-1961.

One hundred years have now passed since the Clementsons established themselves at the mouth of the Rapid River. While many changes in the community have occurred over the years, one thing has remained constant—the Clementson family. Five generations of Clementsons have made this community their home. Clementson descendants still reside on the original homestead and, like their founding fathers, they continue to take an active part in the affairs of the community.



The wedding party for Clara Clementson and Ed Farder on Helic Clementson's steamboat, 1906.

July 26, November 22, and December 6, 1918; January 3, 24, February 7, March 7, and September 5, 1919; February 20, April 9, July 9, and November 19, 1920; April 8, 15, May 20, August 19, September 23, and October 14, 1921; December 1, 1922; September 14, 1923; and February 13, March 20, and 27, 1925.

Pamphlets

_____, *Church Messenger* (A history of the Mission Covenant Church), Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Brothers, 1951.

All written sources are on file at the Lake of the Woods County Museum unless otherwise noted. Identifying headlines for newspaper articles cited by date only are available upon request.

Baudette

by Elnora Bixby and Marlys Hirst

Editor's Note: The history of Baudette, our largest city and county seat, could well be a book unto itself. Although a few modest attempts have been made over the years to assemble the city's history in brief form, these efforts have often devoted as much space to setting the stage—from geology to fur trade to overall settlement—as they have to the actual history of the town.

The lack of previously assembled historical manuscripts on Baudette's history coupled with space and time limitations of this volume suggest that a separate book may be the best and only way to do justice to the many facets of Baudette's interesting and colorful past.

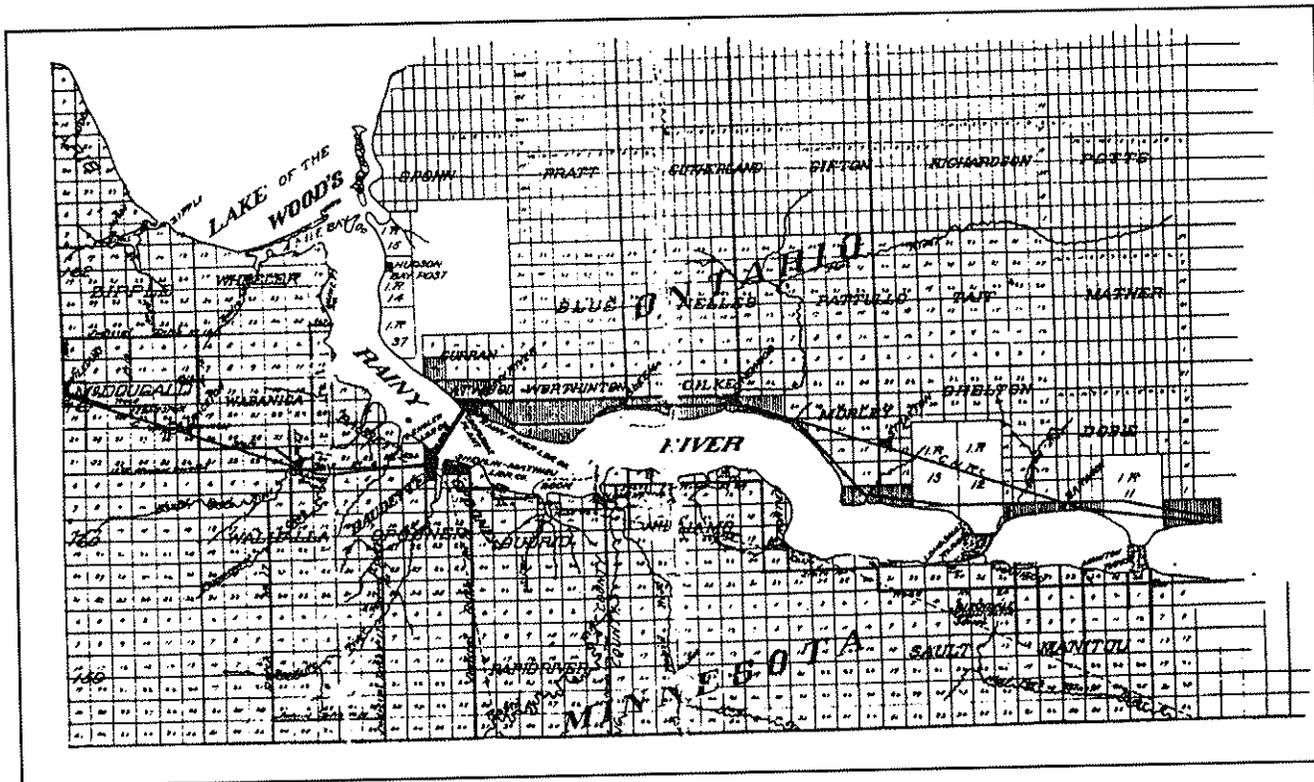
Until such an endeavor can be undertaken, we offer the following look at the birth and growth of the county's largest city.

THE CLOSE OF THE FUR TRADE ERA gave way to the settlement boom in northern Minnesota. Legend has it that when Thomas Cathcart arrived at Beaver Mills (Rainy River) in 1887, he found the French trapper/trader Joe Beaudette still harvesting furs in the region. His trapper's shack was said to have been located near the present town site on the Baudette Bay and this river, which flowed into the Rainy, derived its name from him. Little else is known about Joe Beaudette, though it is speculated that he retreated to more isolated country as settlers began to encroach upon his trapping ground.

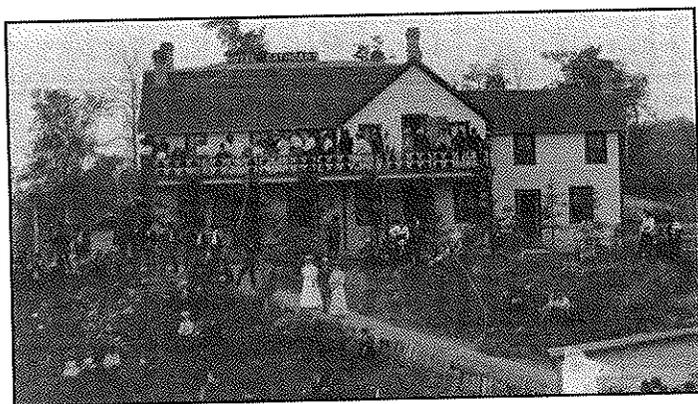
A reference to the Baudette River in John Bigsby's *Shoe and Canoe*, the 1823 journal of his experiences as part of the British American Boundary Commission, raises some interesting questions about the Joe Beaudette legend. Did Cathcart really meet Joe Beaudette or see his trapper's shack? It is doubtful, for if the river had already taken the Baudette name by 1823, old Joe would have had to have been in his eighties when Cathcart arrived some sixty-four years later in 1887. This would be an exceptionally long life span for a trapper of that day. Nevertheless, could such a widely known and long-repeated story have no credibility? It seems unlikely. The truth about the legendary Joe Beaudette—who he was, where he came from—just becomes a little more mysterious. The name Baudette is undoubtedly a French appellation as Bigsby further records that the Indians called the Baudette River "The River of the Bitter Side of the Ribs."

Regardless of how it was named, the village that sprang up at the conflux of the Baudette and Rainy Rivers had the advantage of both rail and water transportation. These two factors would enable it eventually to become the principal city in Lake of the Woods County.

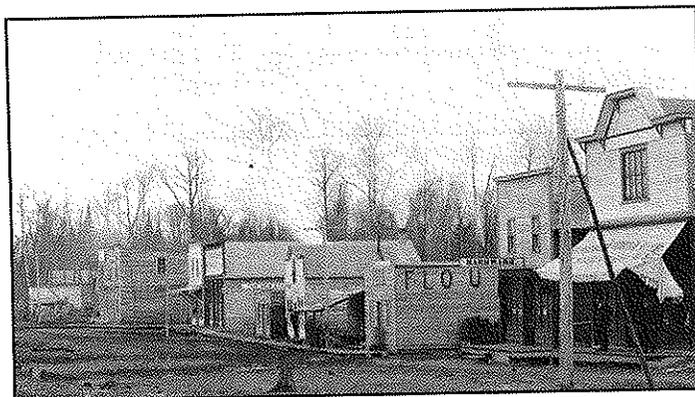
"Village of Baudette," a feature article published in the *Spooner Northern News* of 1915, recorded Baudette's early history and indicated the size and citizens of the community at that time. An edited version of this article provides our first look at the town's formative years.



Map VIII: Rainy River District, "The Land Where Clover Is a Weed"—Dean Woods.



Cathcart Hotel at conflux of Baudette and Rainy Rivers.



Main Street of Baudette, Minnesota in its infancy, 1905.

Village of Baudette - 1915

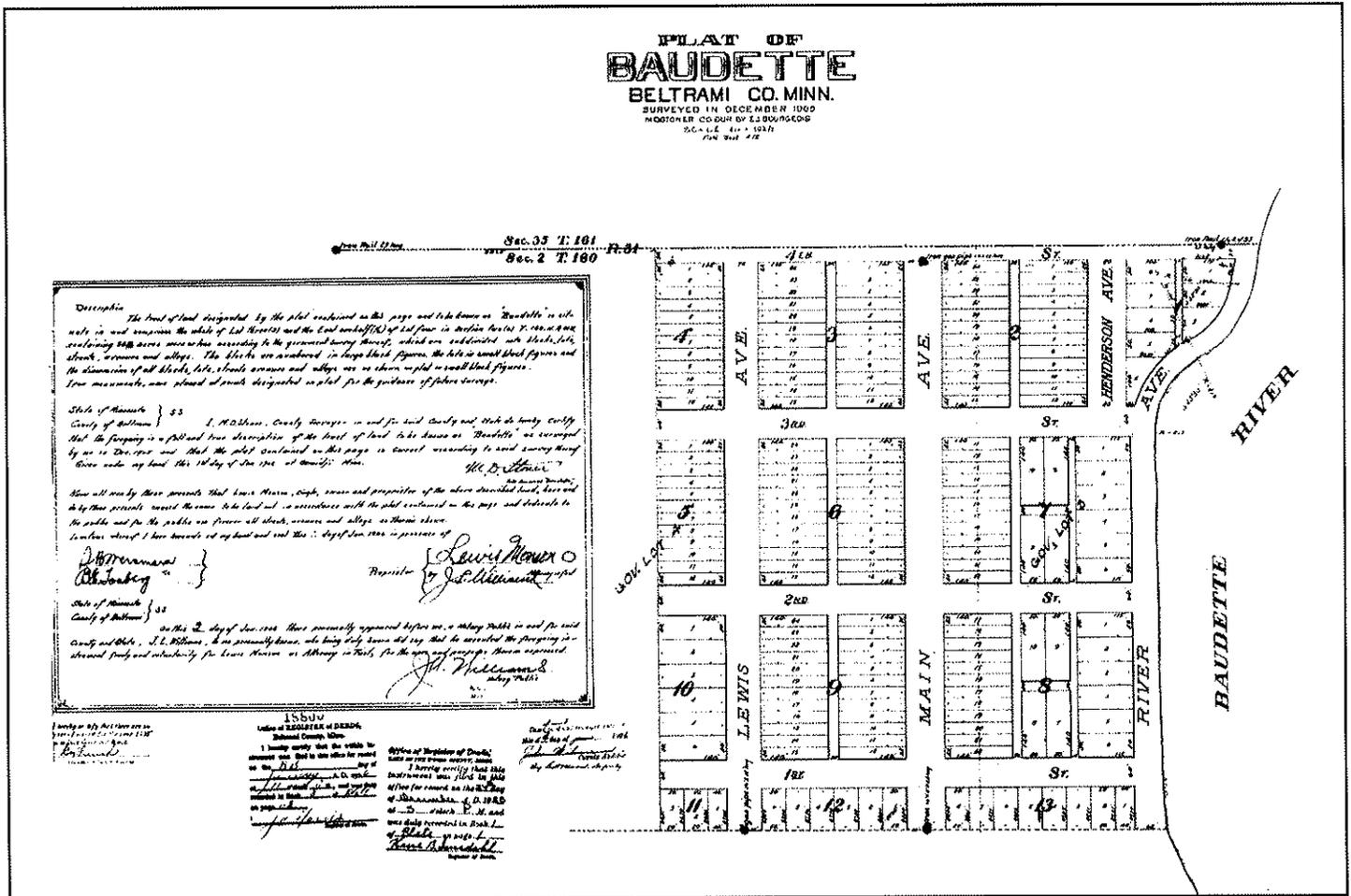
Baudette . . . one of the twin border villages, is located along the line of the Canadian National Railway on the Rainy River at the point where the waters of the Baudette and the Rainy Rivers meet. Before the coming of the railroad this place was known as Hyland's Landing, and on the Canadian side of the Rainy was located another small settlement known as Beaver Mills. As the settlements grew, they finally attained the dignity as ports of entry and the name Beaudette, taken from the name of the river, was assigned to designate the port. Later as the post office was established the change in the spelling of the word was made by those making application for the office. The later spelling was afterwards used in the incorporation of the village, but the older form is still in use by the customs department and the railroad company.

. . . Among those still residing at Baudette of the old timers is Thomas Cathcart, who is still hale and hearty although well along in his eighties. He and his good wife, who passed to the Great Beyond about a year ago, early established a stopping place for travellers through this district and nearly everyone of the older

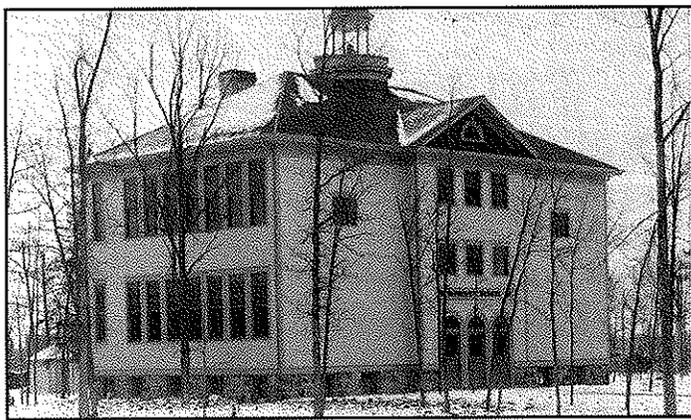
generation of pioneers were recipients of their hospitality during those days.

Other old-timers are J.A.C. Lindsay, who served the village several times as trustee; J.L. Williams, who served as first postmaster; William Craig and Mike Kelly, who held lands close to town. The land was finally opened for settlement in 1902 and the many who had lived for years on the lands had a busy time securing their filings against the many newcomers who arrived at that time.

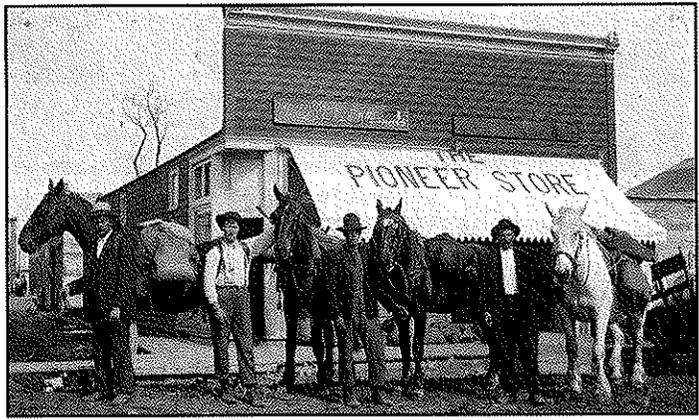
In 1906 the Shevlin interests established a sawmill plant on the east bank of the Baudette River, which is now Spooner, the population has increased until there were sufficient to organize a village and proceedings with that end in view were commenced early in the year. Owing to the defective posting of the notices this organization was not completed but was again commenced in April and a village government was elected. The then village included lands on the east side of the Baudette River and an action was commenced by the residents who opposed the incorporation to set aside the proceedings on the grounds that lands were included that were not adjacent. Judge W.S. McClenahan of



Map IX: Plat of Baudette.



Baudette School, built 1908.



The Pioneer Store, Baudette.

Brainerd so held in August of that year, the present village of Baudette finally being organized in November of 1906.

The first officers of the village were President J.U. Williams, Clerk P.S. Nelson, Trustees F. E. Johnson, Axel Miller and J.F. Collins while I.F. Severson was treasurer.

Early in 1908 the citizens . . . erected a substantial four room schoolhouse, which barely accommodated the needs . . . until that fateful day, the seventh of October 1910 when a whirlwind fire swept in from the west and the entire population was forced to abandon their homes and flee for their lives.

. . . Shortly following the fire its citizens met and resolved that Baudette should be rebuilt and adopted as its motto, "A bigger, a better, a busier Baudette." Today Baudette has a population coming well onto the two thousand mark and is in fact one of the busiest villages of its size in the state. A fifty-thousand dollar eight-room schoolhouse was just completed this year and is now being occupied. Here the children are given the opportunity to acquire as good instruction as can be had in any town of its size in the state. Manual training and domestic science are also included in the course as well as high school subjects.



Brovold residence and store.

Of mercantile establishments the village is well supplied. The Pioneer Store, still conducted by J.L. Williams, one of Baudette's earliest merchants, carries a full line of general merchandise as does A. Brovold, I.M. Nesje and Bert Tonberg. At Old Town J.L. Hackett supplies the settlers while the Tedlund brothers have established a good trade in the Engler section. The Williams brothers, J.L. and Ab, have a complete assortment of hardware and furniture, as has F.E. Johnson.

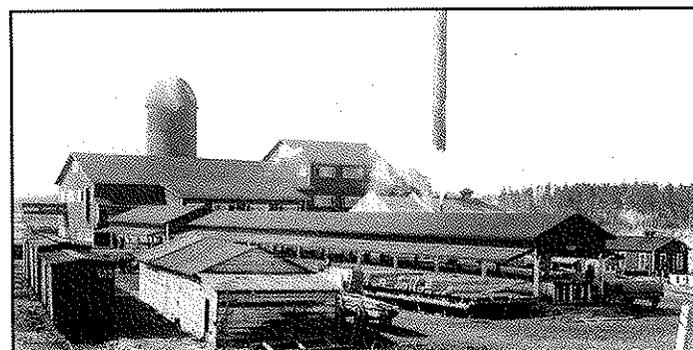
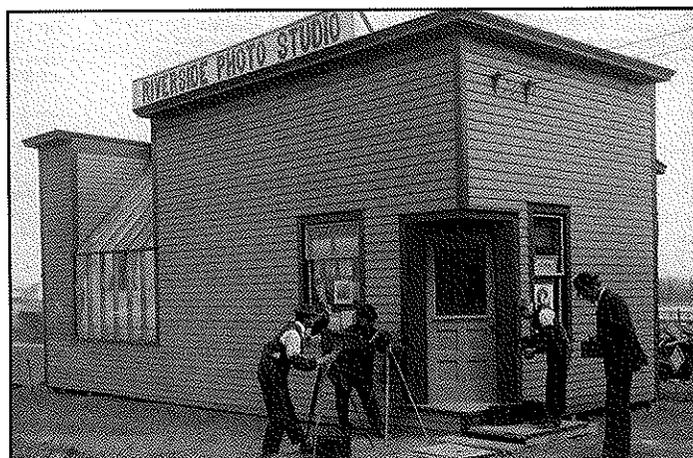
E.T. Johnson and V.L. Watson handle watches and jewelry. As for clothes you can secure anything from a lumberjack's outfit to Hotel Astor glad rags at either Oscar Flatner's, Frank Ingram's or C.J. Olson's. Olson also sells shoes as well as dress goods.

In the hotel line Baudette is supplied with several up-to-date hostelries. The Rex, a forty-thousand dollar establishment, is noted among the knights of the grip as one of the best in this section of the state. The Baudette, managed by William Young, usually is forced to turn away patrons owing to the fact that the accommodations are all taken. The Cathcart is still the mecca for the older settlers who look for Tom and his son Will to look after their needs. Besides the Northern Hotel and Pepin's Hotel are ready to meet the needs of homesteaders.

Baudette is blessed with two good substantial banking institutions, the First National of which R.M. Skinner has charge, which has just completed a splendid thirty-thousand-dollar bank building, also the Security State Bank managed by W.F. Steffes.

Two real estate companies have a busy time locating all the prospective settlers who come to look over the district. The Baudette Realty Company managed by T.J. Clauson deals in village property as well as farm land. Rulien Land Company has also brought many satisfied customers to this section.

Besides those mentioned there are numerous other lines of



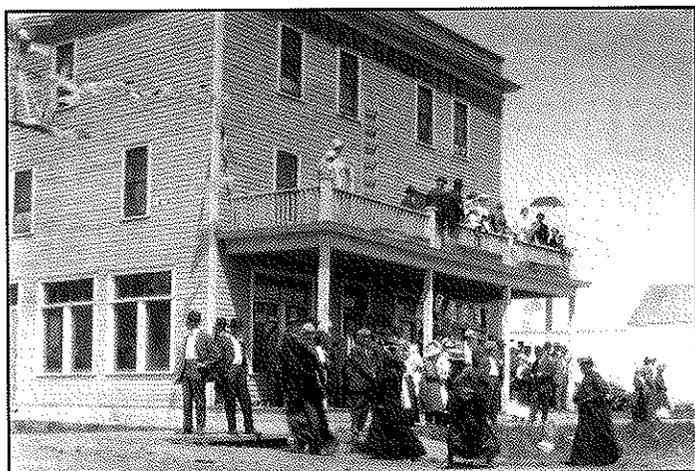
Riverside Studio, Baudette (top). E.A. Engler Lumber Company sawmill (above) commenced operation at Baudette in August 1910.

business represented, such as J.L. Lind and J.A. Gjelhaug, photographers; Frank Todd and Alex Germaine, restaurants; Jos. Guenin and George Leahy, confectioners; Mrs. Sadie Jessup, notions; J.U. Williams, drugs; T.O. Noble, laundry; and Mrs. Frank Smrstik, looks after the wants of ladies in headgear.

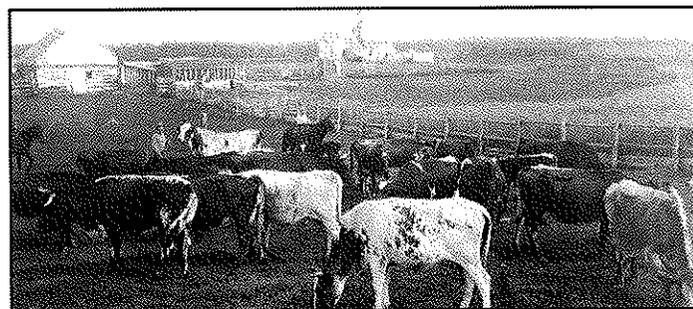
Doctors F.H. Stuart and J.A. Osborne look after the ailing ones while Dr. C.E. Lewis attends to aching molars. The legal fraternity is represented by attorneys S.M. Koefod and the firm of Middleton and Middleton.

The timber industry is well represented by the Rainy River Timber Company, the National Pole Company and Partridge-Dyer Lumber Company who are dealers in poles, posts, ties, and other kindred products. The Cross-Dodds Lumber Company looks after the retail end of the lumber business while the E.A. Engler Lumber Company gives employment to many in its sawmill and planer plant where nearly fifty million feet of lumber are cut each sawing season.

William F. Zauche, O.H. Deitreks, William Hicks, B.S. Miller, Nap LaPointe, E.A. Noble and C.H. Dodds are the leading timber men.



Hotel Baudette, William Young, proprietor, circa 1915.



Stock on Henderson's farm, 1915. The farm later became the site of Trinity Hospital.

Two well conducted show houses cater to the people. The Lyceum conducted by Herman Miller and the Grand, recently opened by Tony Hoover.

One institution of which Baudette may well feel proud is the *Region*, which is ably edited by W.T. Noonan. The success of the village and its consistent growth is in a large measure due to his continual boosting. His paper is recognized as one of the best weeklies in the north and would be a credit to cities of several thousands.

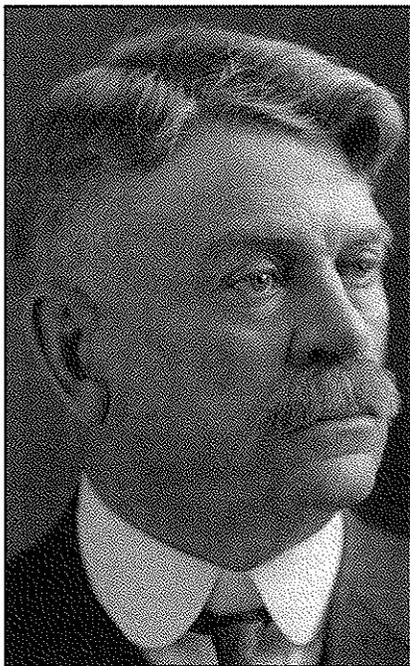
Several well-developed farms lie near the village, notably the M. A. Henderson farm south of town; the Cowan farm to the west; the J.L. Williams farm where its owner has made special study of hog raising in this area. Down river is the Charles Miller farm, which is one of the show places along the river. Here is found the only silo in the district and Charles takes pride in his herd of thoroughbreds.

Baudette, the Largest City in North Beltrami

The newspapers played a vital part in spreading the story of the Lake of the Woods region. They acted as a public relations firm to spread the word of the area and the potentialities of it. Though they used flowery language to sing these praises and always reported successes and failures in the best possible light, they are unequalled in documenting the history of the area. The evolution of the newspaper not only tells of the events happening in the community but also imparts the changes in the mores and attitudes of the population. It is evident, as the years progressed, that the newspapers became more cautious in the matter of opinions and personal feelings than in the earlier years.

The *Rainy River Region*, as *The Baudette Region* was first known, was started in 1903 by Carl Dahlquist. The oldest sample of this newspaper still in existence is the issue of August 22, 1907. With only a few years missing from this chronicle, the following history emerges.

The *Rainy River Region* of August 22, 1907, gives some idea of the businesses in Baudette at that time by the paid advertisements included. There were three separate law offices: C.R.



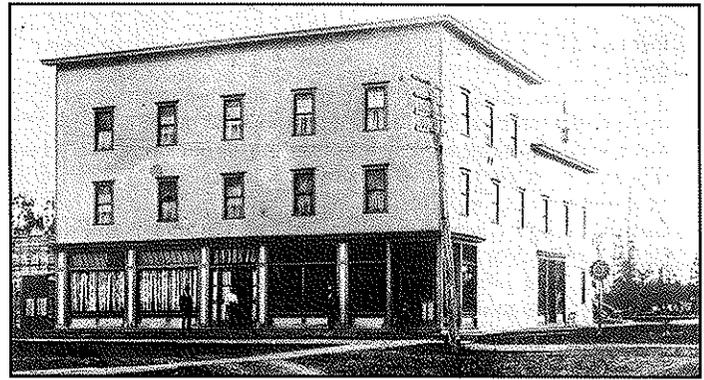
C.R. Middleton, lawyer.

Middleton, George Erickson, and Vaule and Murphy. Three doctors, listed as physicians and surgeons, were Stewart, C.B. Tiesberg and P.A. McDonald. Eagan's store sold groceries, clothing and furniture. Both dentists and opticians visited every week. Williams and Calvert sold wallpaper.

By January 1908, either the town had enlarged considerably or more businesses were using advertising. Besides the ones previously noted there were now Pioneer Mercantile, Inc. (J.L. Williams, president); F.E. Johnson,

"the furniture man"; The Farmer's Store featuring lutefisk, with part of the ad written in Norwegian; Baudette Drug Store (Williams and Calvert, owners); Cross-Dodds Lumber Company; The First State Bank; and H.M. Evanstad and Eskil Olsson, both advertising their services as paperhangers and painters. There were also the Miller brothers, who owned the Stockholm Saloon, and Irwin Wickland, the Crystal Saloon; Sanderson's cigar factory; the Williams brothers, who offered building materials; Collins Hotel, "A home for the traveling man"; Charles Cowles, a taxidermist; Louis Monson, who sold real estate; and Thomas Borman, who operated the Palace Barber Shop.

The town continued to grow. On March 26, 1908, Dr. Corrigan told about his plans for a hospital in Spooner that would also serve the people in Baudette. There were more advertisements from various enterprises: Eidem Poultry Farm, could supply either eggs or fowls; The Scandia Hotel, run by N.J. Johnson, was located at the corner of Henderson Avenue and Third Street; The International Cedar Company (near the Cathcart Hotel) also had groceries, feed, hay, and clothing; D.F. Cargill could do freighting and hauling with his tug the *Nick*; Buttolph's

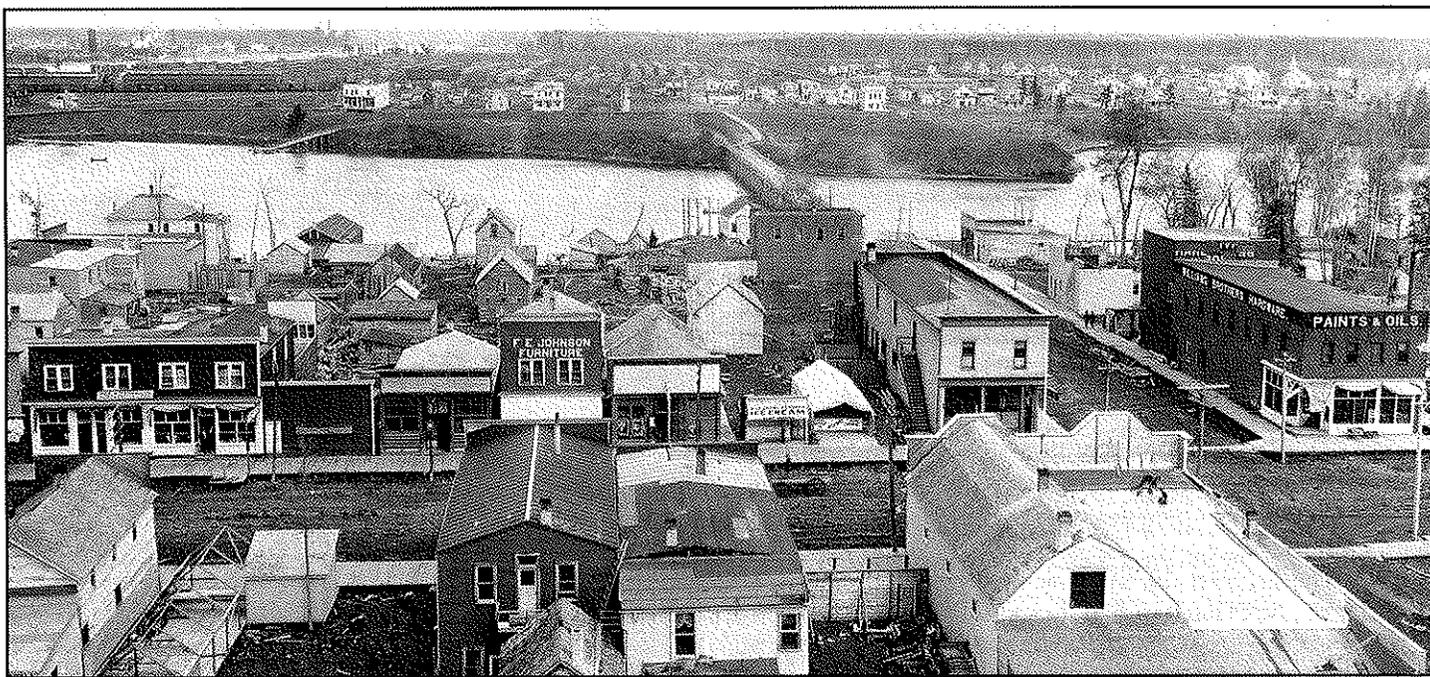


The Collins Hotel, circa 1908.

Ferry left for Rainy River every hour; Ole Torgerson was a paper hanger and decorator; Boe and Randelin were tailors; and R. Bohm was a shoemaker.



Watching the water sports on the Baudette Bay, July 4, 1910. Baudette Boat Manufacturing Company building before 1910 fire.



Bird's eye view of Baudette (above), August 1910. Ruins of Baudette (right), October 9, 1910.

Sadie Jessup advertised her Notion Store, which sold dolls, china, stationery, and hair ornaments. The Baudette Boat Manufacturing Company was owned by I. Gibson; Mrs. Frank Smrstik had a millinery shop; and the ad for the First State Bank stated that "women are invited to become customers." Albert Berg was an insurance agent and E.E. Moorhead ran The Club, which sold liquor and cigars. On the Spooner side, Milton's Confectionery sold candy, leather goods, dishes, jewelry, and that new rage, the Gramophone.

It was the same year, 1909, when a water system was begun for the town. The line, which progressed a hundred feet a day, must have been a welcome addition to the town, for the reports of fires in homes during the winter months were frequent news items. All the houses were heated with wood, and scarcely a month went by without a loss of a house, or even a loss of life, reported somewhere in the paper.

In January 1908 mention was made of an electric light plant to be installed in the town. Apparently there had been no electricity available up to this time.

The year 1910 became a watershed for the town; not only because of the fire in the latter part of the year, but also because the village was increasing in size and more thought was given to laws and law enforcement (which had been in short supply up to this time), roads and general improvements in the county and city. C.R. Middleton was in St. Paul in March to plead the cause for roads in the northern part of the county. The Commercial Club recommended a road between Warroad and Baudette since there was actually no road in the whole area that was passable the year around. In the meantime, the mouth of the Rainy River was being dredged to improve water transportation.

Unguarded machinery at the mills were frequent causes of accidents over the years. In May 1910 the death of Carl Opsal



was reported. Carl was unfortunately pulled into the machinery when it caught a part of his clothing. Safety features were yet to come to the sawmills.

Carl Berman was appointed as night policeman in that year, as well. His duties consisted not only of watching for crime in the village but also watching for fires in the homes. Often, by the time the fire was noticed, it was too late to save the building and lives were lost, as well.

On October 7, 1910, one of the state's most devastating fires wiped out the towns of Baudette and Spooner. Only Old Town remained due to a miraculous wind change. The area would never be the same again. Some people left; many stayed and helped rebuild. It was a time of hardship for all who remained.

Early in the year of 1911, businesses had progressed enough to advertise in the newspaper again. Hotel Pepin was operating and open for customers. Other businesses included Donahue Heating and Plumbing; A. Hoelscher, piano and organs; Emil Peterson and Cross-Dodds, both had lumber yards; Stanley Ball Brothers, carpenter; E.T. Johnson, watch repair; F.F. Perry, cafe; Cathcart sawmill; and International Cedar Yard in Old Baudette.

*The Great Minnesota
Forest Fire of 1910*



The Great Minnesota Forest Fire of 1910

**Compiled and Edited by
Marlys Hirst**

**Published by
The Lake of the Woods County Historical Society
2010**

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Presented in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary
of the 1910 Forest Fire
and dedicated to the memory
of all those who
experienced this great conflagration

One hundred years ago, in the fall of 1910, an immense forest fire raged savagely across the landscape of Minnesota's northern border. This flaming inferno swept up entire towns, consumed forests, blackened the countryside and claimed the lives of those who could not escape its fury. Several thousand people survived the conflagration, but their lives were seemingly in ruins. In a matter of hours their homes, farms and businesses had been destroyed. Their newspaper offices, schools and churches were gone. Nearly all of what they had worked so hard to achieve in this frontier land was reduced to rubble. Only a few buildings here and there had been missed by the blaze. The country looked barren, devoid of the plant and animal life that had been so richly abundant. What few roads and trails that existed were burned out and blocked by a tangle of fallen trees and debris.

As the ashes settled, those who had fled to safety returned to survey the fire damage. Walking among the ruins, they stared at the desolation in disbelief. Though greatly sorrowed at their loss, the people were equally thankful to be alive. Some, overcome with discouragement, left the area for good at the first opportunity, but others stayed to rebuild their homes and communities. It was their determination and hard work that brought the country up



Leonora Abrahamson surveys the remains of the family homestead near Graceton

from the ashes and laid the foundation for what exists in Lake of the Woods County today. Our gratitude is expressed in remembering the fire—the tragedy and the triumph.

The exact number of

people who died in the fire is unknown. The area, at the time, was in a great state of transition, with new settlers arriving daily in search of land to homestead. Many of these people had no contacts here and, as a result, if they perished there was no way to identify them and no place to look for them. The number of bodies that were found also varies from publication to publication and ranges anywhere from 27 to 34.

Most accounts agree that twenty-seven of the victims were buried in a mass grave at the Baudette cemetery. Only sixteen of their identities are known today. Included were: Kate Jasmer, the only known fire casualty in Baudette; nine members of the Julius Broten family from the Spooner - Boone area; five members of the Goffin family from Pitt; and possibly William Jorgenson, a 21-year-old man who had just arrived in the region (some information suggests that he was buried in the woods where he was found). Mary Diercks, a six-day-old infant who perished in the fire, was also thought to be buried in the mass grave, but within recent years, her grave site was found at the cemetery in Rainy River, Ontario. Nine members of the Edward Rulien family are buried



Jack Everett stands amidst the ruins of Spooner, October 12, 1910



TRENCH GRAVE, 27 BODIES, BAUDETTE, OCT. 12, 10

Trench grave where 27 bodies were buried

in a family plot in the Baudette cemetery. Three victims, Nels and Martin Klakeg and John Alfson, are buried in the cemetery at Silver Creek. A Mr. Simmons from Iowa who had accompanied William Jorgenson in search of homestead land was found alive but died shortly after being taken to the Virginia, Minnesota hospital. Others who may have perished are remembered only by their occupation. One account lists five unidentified lumbermen. Time, it seems, has raised the overall number of fire victims to around 42 or 43. One reason to favor a somewhat larger number is that not all fire victims died immediately. An example of this is Ed Hooper, who died several days later from smoke inhalation he suffered while fighting the fire as it approached Wheeler's Point. Another such victim is Martin Brennan, who died at the hospital in International Falls nearly three weeks after the fire. He was buried in that city and Hooper was buried at Wheeler's Point.

Due to the enormous area the fire covered and the poor means of communication, early reports of the casualties were greatly overestimated. Roads were poor to non-existent, and it was feared

that the death toll in the outlying areas would be much greater. Some of the people who fled on trains to International Falls and Duluth and simply didn't return were initially counted among the dead. When the chaos subsided and news from the outer settlements reached Baudette, a truer picture emerged. The relatively small number of casualties in comparison to the vast area the fire had consumed was miraculous. As help for the refugees poured in from across the country, hope was renewed and many people began to rebuild their lives and develop the land that would eventually become Lake of the Woods County.

The year 1910 was the driest on record across the State of Minnesota. The drought-stricken area extended from the state's prairie regions to the eastern shores of Michigan. Forest fires had already destroyed the timber on millions of acres throughout the north country by late June. The area east of Rainy Lake and along the border between Minnesota and Ontario had been particularly hard hit. The tremendous timber production in this region over the past ten years left



BURIAL SCENE OF SILVER CREEK FIRE VICTIMS.
 EXC. BATTLESON & BJORNAA PHOTO. Spooner-Baudette Fire, Oct.

Burial scene of Silver Creek fire victims

an accumulation of slashing that added fuel to the dangerous conditions. No rain fell as the summer progressed. As the grasses turned brown and the trees became dry and brittle, the entire area was a tinderbox.

July was hot. Small fires broke out in numerous places – along the Rapid River, near Birchdale, at Williams and to the south and west. Along the Canadian Northern railroad track, grass fires had started more than once and there were complaints about the

coal-burning locomotives not having protective screening. Several charges had been brought against the railroad. Additional danger came from the strong temptation among homesteaders to continue to use fire to burn slashing and piles of peat as they cleared land.

In August fires were reported burning near Blackduck, Kelliher, Tenstrike, Littlefork, Big Falls, and International Falls. By mid-September the situation was ominous. Both townspeople and settlers kept an anxious watch on the sky from day to day for



Cedar Spur, 1909

any sign of fire. Much of the area was still an expanse of unbroken forests. There was no means of rapid travel for those homesteaders at a distance from the railroad or a navigable river—and no means of fast communication. In these outlying areas settlers had to use their own judgment about when and where to flee from an advancing fire.

On September 1st, the fledgling system of state forest rangers was disbanded due to lack of funds. The state rangers had been established by State Forestry Commissioner C. C. Andrews to help during the extremely dry conditions, but their allotted budget had run out. There were still township fire wardens, but these men were not always effective in controlling their own neighbors.

The smaller outbreaks of fire continued through the end of September. On September 29th, *The Bemidji Pioneer* reported that the forest had been filled with fire in every direction, but on the day before, a rain had done much to curb the threat, at least in southern Beltrami County. The newspaper went on to say that the drenching rains of the last 48 hours were believed to have extinguished every fire in the territory except those burning underground.

The rains were evidently too little too late. On the Monday after the weekend rains, *The Pioneer* had to report that a fire in Roosevelt destroyed a sawmill and 100,000 feet of lumber. The men there put up a strong fight and the fire had been partly under control, but the shifting winds and sparks continually started new blazes. "The settlers," *The Pioneer* said, "were in a constant state of anxiety," as fires continued to burn throughout northern Beltrami County.

The day of October 4th began as usual. The settlers continued to watch the horizon for the threatening signs of fire, but there was little to hint of the impending disaster that would befall the railroad settlements of Cedar Spur and Graceton by nightfall. Located two and a half miles east of Williams, Cedar Spur was little more than a timber station with a yard where posts and poles were gathered for shipment on the Canadian railroad. A residence, a boarding house, a post office, and restaurant completed the town site. Much of the population here was transient with men coming

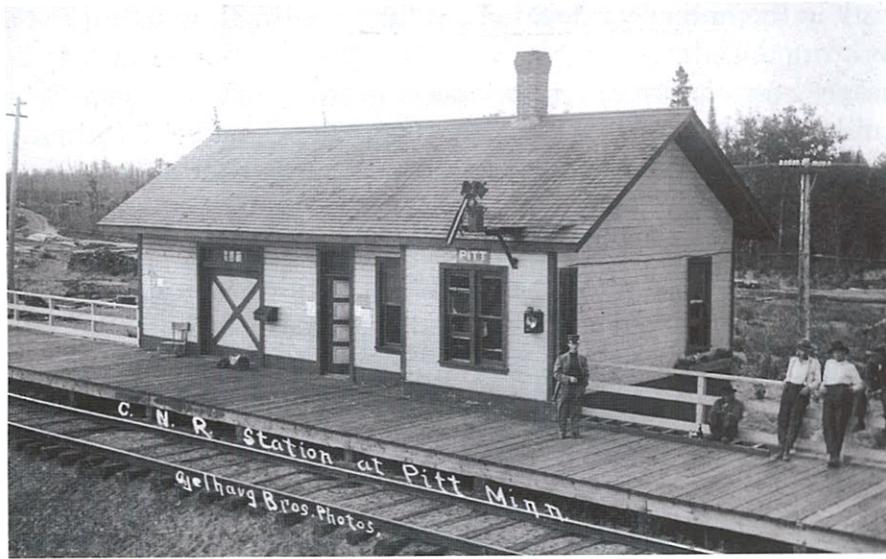
to work in the timber yard staying at the boarding house, but the lands around Cedar Spur were heavily settled with homesteaders on nearly every quarter section. Graceton was located two and a half miles further east of Cedar Spur. Here the Canadian Northern had a depot and a water tank. There was a blacksmith shop, restaurant, a few homes, and a saloon. Here too, the adjacent lands were well settled.

The people at Cedar Spur had already fought several fires that threatened their settlement in the previous week. That afternoon fire broke out again and the blaze spread quickly. Pushed by a strong wind, flames rolled through the treetops in a swath about ten miles wide running northward to Zippel Bay. Those that were close enough to get to the railroad were evacuated to Baudette. Others found refuge where they could—in creeks, ditches, root houses, even a potato field. Some homes were saved by having enough water and manpower available. Still others were spared only because the fire veered around their clearings.

No lives were lost that day, but a number of homes, businesses, the depot and the Canfield School were destroyed, along with livestock, animal forage, and cut and standing timber. Both Graceton and Cedar Spur were leveled.

For the next two days the fire smoldered and flared up intermittently without becoming much of a threat. Then, on October 7th, the wind rose stronger than ever and fanned the fire into a raging wall of flames. About five miles east of Graceton, another small village stood along the railroad tracks. Like Graceton, Pitt was a sparse collection of buildings: three stores, two sawmills, timber yards, two blacksmith shops, a café, hotel, and a post office. The railroad had built a depot there in 1908 and the main industry in the town was shipping timber.

After two days of watching the rescue trains pass through town carrying refugees from Graceton and Cedar Spur, the citizens of Pitt now found their settlement threatened. By 3:30 that afternoon a train was there to remove the women and children to safety in Baudette. By 6:00 p.m. the winds had increased to gale force and the flames were again rolling across the treetops. The strong wind blew sparks and bits of burning bark a mile ahead of



Railroad depot at Pitt

the massive fire. These burning pieces started new fires which rapidly grew into full-fledged conflagrations. In this way the fire moved so rapidly that it was impossible to fight. That evening, Pitt was completely destroyed except for the railroad depot.

The last rescue train reached Baudette safely about 5:00 p.m. A later train was wrecked when the burning trestle across the Winterroad River collapsed. The trainmen escaped without serious injury and used the safety of the river to wait out the firestorm.

Relentlessly the swirling, turbulent



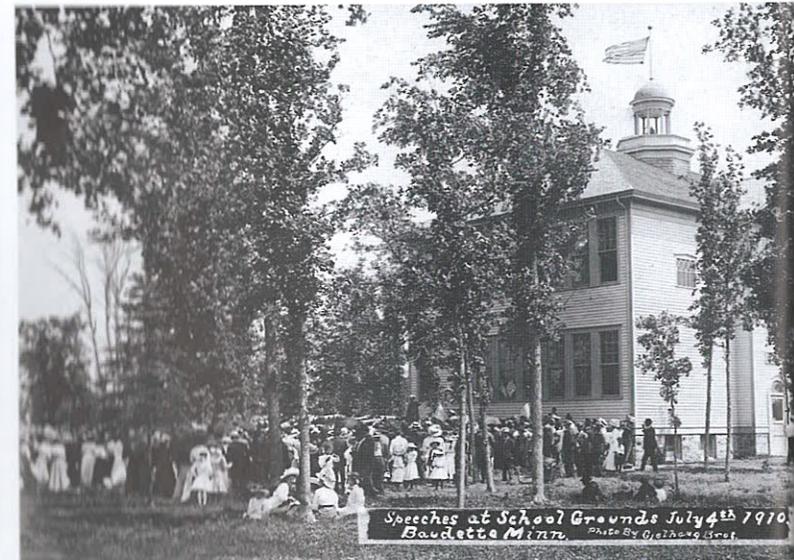
Watching the water sports at Baudette on July 4, 1910

wind drove the fire north toward Wabanica and east toward the villages of Baudette and Spooner. These twin towns, located at the confluence of the Rainy and Baudette rivers, were substantial villages with a combined population of between 1,500 and 2,000. The villages were accessible by both water and rail transportation and each had a large lumber mill that served as the main source of employment.

That afternoon, the firemen had soaked the south and west perimeters of the towns and were advising people of possible danger by the next day. A few hours later a general alarm was sounded, and the populations of both towns sought refuge. Most of the people went to the depot and were eventually taken by train to safety in Rainy River, Ontario. Others fled to the Rainy River and the Baudette Bay.

To complicate the situation there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in the villages at the time. The typhoid patients had to be carried to safety. Some were taken to the depot and others, especially those in the Spooner Hospital, were brought down to the water's edge of the bay.

At about 7:00 p.m. the fire descended upon the towns. Those who had taken refuge along the banks of the river or in small boats



Speeches at Baudette School grounds, July 4, 1910



Downtown Spooner, July 5, 1909

on the water watched as the wind-driven flames seemed to rise up out of the burning forest and drop down on the towns from the sky. W. T. Noonan, the editor of the *Baudette Region*, described it as a cloudburst of fire which engulfed the entirety of the two substantial villages. By morning, both villages were reduced to smoking ash and broken foundations.

Fortunately the lumber mills that were the mainstay of the two communities were spared or saved. Engler Mill, north of the present airport, had been barely out of the path of the flames. The Shevlin-Mathieu Mill on the Spooner side of the Baudette Bay was saved thanks to an ample water supply and large crews of men, though some 40 million feet of sawed lumber was destroyed in the Shevlin yard. Beaver Mills on the Canadian side was destroyed when burning debris from the fire crossed over the Rainy River.

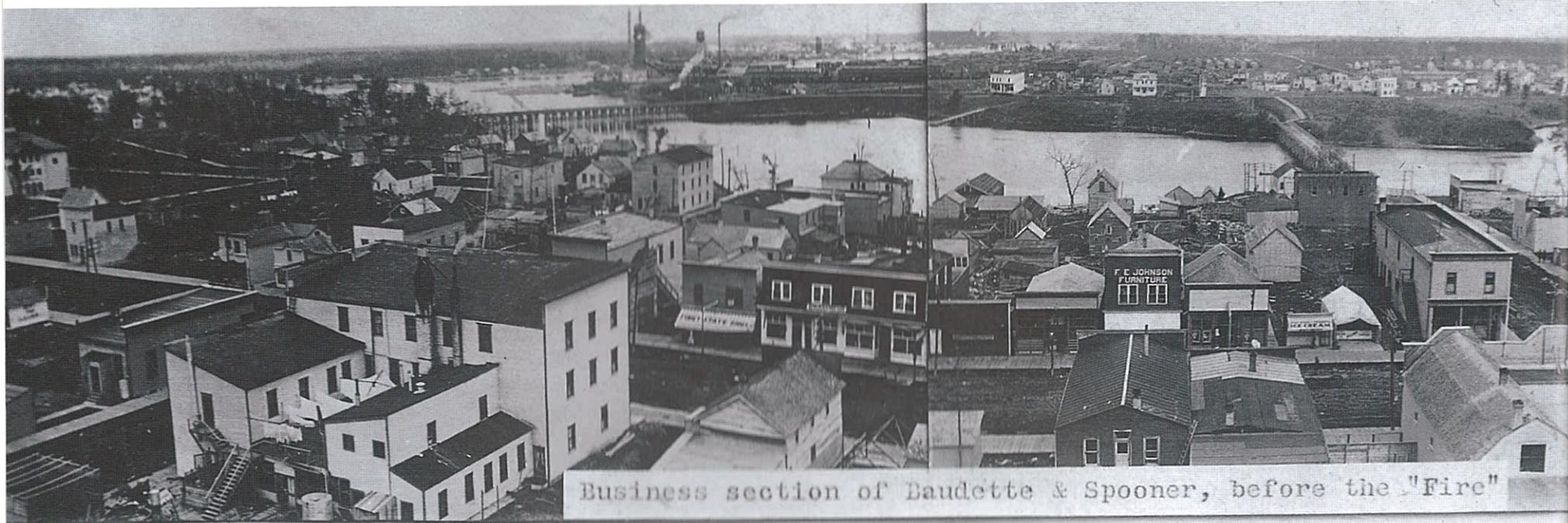
Old Baudette, that portion along the river, also escaped the fire. This was a collection of eighteen or nineteen buildings including the Asmus store, Cathcart Hotel, several saloons and the depot. An abrupt shift of wind direction spared this section north of the

tracks leading to the mill in Spooner, some of "old Spooner" along the Rainy River and part of the settlements at Silver Creek and at Clementson. Instead, the fire turned southward and burned through the settled areas south of Baudette, including Rapid River and Carp.

In all, more than 3,000 people were left homeless. For the first few hours and days, the people of Rainy River, Ontario provided the immediate assistance. Merchants in Winnipeg were able to aid the homeless even before the Red Cross and militia arrived. The generosity of the Canadians and their help in countless ways not only eased the suffering but also, no doubt, saved lives.

Within a few hours after news of the disaster reached the outside world, efforts were started through official channels and by private individuals to provide relief for the fire victims. Militia units from Duluth, Bemidji and Minneapolis arrived to distribute supplies, help clean up, bury the dead, and stop looting.

The first days following the fire were filled with arrival of the National Guard troops, as well as the Red Cross and Minnesota's Governor A. O. Eberhart. The governor arrived on the 12th of



Business section of Baudette & Spooner, before the "Fire"



Remains of Baudette & Spooner after Fire, of October 7, 1910.

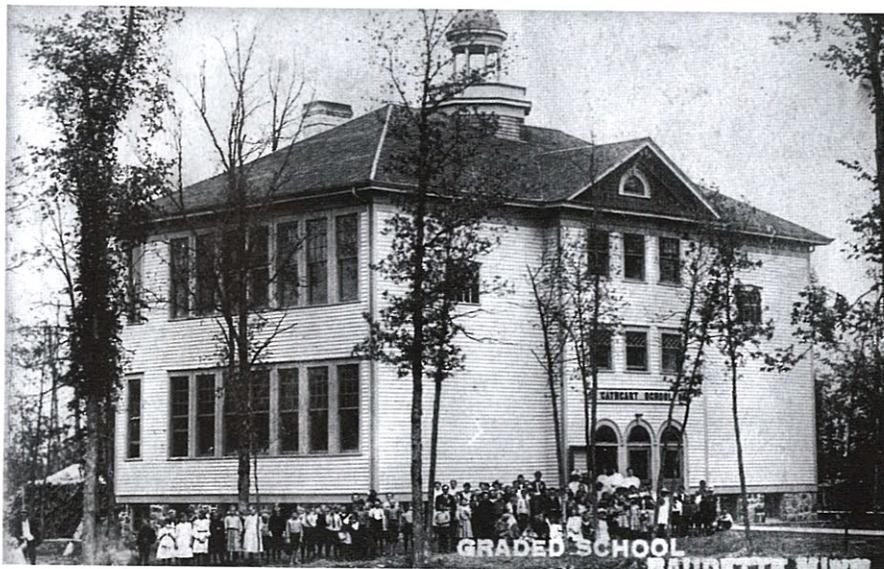
Business sections of Baudette and Spooner before and after fire of October 7, 1910

October, and his immediate call went out for aid to relieve the suffering and provide relief to the fire survivors. It was soon answered by institutions and private individuals from across the state who pledged monetary contributions and shipments of food and clothing.

With the two lumber mills still intact, there was some reason for optimism and by the 14th of October the *Minneapolis Tribune* reported that the reconstruction was underway. Lumber was offered to the settlers at cost and the rebuilding was started with remarkable speed. The militia helped to build small houses which were paid for by the Red Cross. Photographs taken just three weeks after the fire show a number of buildings nearing completion.

The Farmer, a magazine published in St. Paul, offered to send its local subscribers any necessities that had been lost in the fire. Lists were sent in and a boxcar of relief goods arrived shortly after. Of more long-term help was a suggestion to the legislature that clover and timothy seed be sent in the spring to reseed the burned-over land. The seed, sent and planted the next spring, provided not only hay but also seed as a cash crop for many years to come.

The damage from the fire was estimated at over a million dollars. The Canadian Northern was eventually held responsible for some of the fire damage and in 1913, the company agreed to settle most claims on a basis of seventeen, fifteen, and ten percent of the claim amount, depending on whether the property was



The Cathcart School at Baudette

north or south of the track or in the two villages. Though these percentages were small, when taking into consideration the number of fires that were burning out of control in the area and the extraordinary winds that prevailed, many felt that the railroad was only partially to blame. Others disputed the settlement and their cases continued in the courts for several more years before settling for similar amounts.

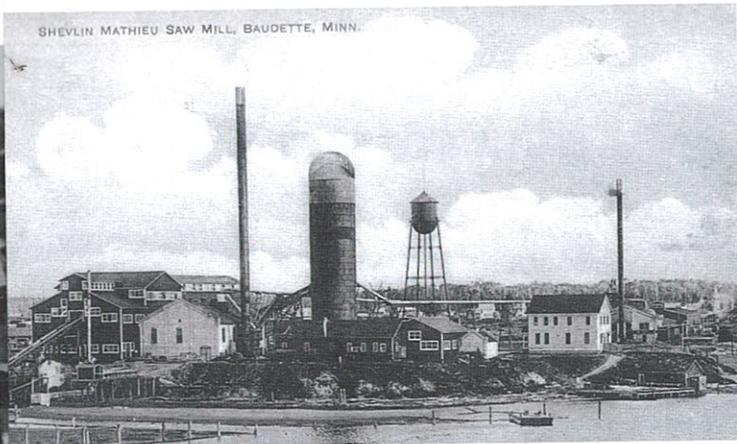
The fire actually helped the county in some ways. It vastly accelerated the clearing of land and made farming a viable option for the settlers. In all, it burned over 360,000 acres. Many of the trees in the fire's path were not consumed, but merely scorched by the flames. For the next

several years, the mills did a booming business harvesting the burned-over timber. Even without the fire, the area's logging industry was diminishing; the fire only hurried the process. The ashes left in the fire's wake enriched the soil and gave rise to abundant crop yields and vegetable produce of amazing size.

On the state level, the fire served as the wake-up call for the necessity of a fully funded forestry service. The forest rangers had been dismissed earlier that fall due to lack of funding. The Baudette-Spooner fire showed the folly of this action and the need for



Remains of the Cathcart School on October 12, 1910



Shevlin-Mathieu sawmill, Spooner saved during the fire



Lumber yards at Shevlin-Mathieu sawmill burned during the fire

a better fire control system. The legislature of 1911 appropriated funds and passed laws that set up the Minnesota Forest Service and established forest rangers and forestry districts in the state.

One hundred years have passed since the fire engulfed Lake of the Woods County. Although the once desolate landscape has re-grown and bears no evidence of the disaster, the forest fire of 1910 continues to stand out as the most significant event in local history. It is a point of demarcation breaking history into two segments—before the fire and after the fire. The event is vividly preserved in photographs, newspaper articles, documents and the collective memories of those who lived through it. These personal accounts document both significant and trivial things, the details of that day being etched into their memories forever.

It was the only book ever published about the fire. Her story is followed by twenty-four additional first hand accounts taken from both written and oral sources. Next, the local and regional newspapers have been gleaned for their reports of the disaster and the overwhelming aid for the fire victims that led to the recovery and reconstruction. Finally, information surrounding the cause

of the fire, including several detailed reports submitted by Forester George Chapin, who examined the burned-over area, are included for consideration. Throughout this publication are the many fire images that serve as windows into the past. Presented and examined together, these sources create a legacy from which generations to come can remember the Great Forest Fire of 1910.



Relief train at Baudette, October 12, 1910



National Guard troops called to restore order and assist with the clean up



Red Cross Hospital and attendants in Old Beaudette, October 10, 1910



Beaudette and Spooner three weeks after fire of 1910

The 1910 forest fire, or the Baudette-Spooner fire as it is sometimes called, ranks among the three worst forest fires in Minnesota history. It burned 360,000 acres of timberland, left nearly 3,000 people homeless, and caused approximately 42 deaths. The property damage was estimated at over a million dollars. The Hinckley fire of 1894 burned a smaller area, just over 200,000 acres and displaced about a thousand less people, but it claimed at least 418 lives and resulted in property damage of over a million dollars. The destruction from the Cloquet-Moose Lake fire of 1918 was the most staggering. It burned 960,000

acres, destroyed thirty million dollars worth of property, killed 453 people and displaced more than 11,000. Nonetheless, the severity and impact of the 1910 forest fire was substantial.

For those whose lives were lost in the fire, it is important to honor and preserve their memory. Some we can name: the Rulien family - Edward, Augusta, Herman, Lillie, Hildegard, Judith, Evelyn, Agnes and Margaret, nine members of the Julius Broten family, five members of the Goffin family,

William Jorgenson, Kate Jasmer, Mary Diercks, Nels Klakeg, Martin Klakeg, John Alfson, Martin Brennan, and Edward Hooper. Others whose names were lost remain present in the number 42, a number purposely larger than can be verified.

For those whose lives were spared and who persevered to rebuild their homes and our communities, it is important for us to remember that our county's existence today is a memorial to their success.

The census taken in April of 1910 gave the area's cities and townships a combined population of just over 3,000. This was

a tremendous increase from the census five years earlier which showed less than 200 residents in the same geographic region. Despite the fire setback, population grew to almost 5,400 by the census of 1920, an amount sufficient enough to split the region from Beltrami County and create Lake of the Woods County in 1922.

The fire gave the area an entirely new start. The few pre-fire structures that once existed have dwindled



to almost none during the past 100 years. Even the water towers of Baudette and Spooner that stand so prominently in the background of many fire photos are in the process of being replaced. Except for a rural home or two that was missed in the blaze, the area is completely reborn.

Yet, the story of the fire lives on. The community has found ways to remember this crucial event in our history over the years. Each decade has seen feature stories in the local and regional newspapers marking the fire anniversaries. School classes are taught about the fire as part of their local history education. An historic marker placed near the International Bridge tells the history of the Great Forest Fire of 1910 to area visitors. Another historic marker dedicated to the memory of the fire victims is located at Elmpark Cemetery. The American Legion Memorial Forest was also dedicated to the memory of those who died in the tragedy when it was replanted by the Boy Scouts in 1967. The Lake of the Woods Historical Society hosted a special banquet to honor the area's fire survivors in 1978. The Lake of the Woods County Museum has an exhibit about the fire in the museum gallery and preserves additional fire information in its archives. Books on local history, pamphlets, brochures, and websites have included coverage of the 1910 fire, and now an entire book is devoted to this turning point in area history. On the 100th anniversary of the fire, the mayor of Baudette declared October 7-10th, "1910 Fire Observance Days" and the city joined with the Lake of the Woods Historical Society and the Lake of the Woods Chamber of Commerce in hosting a commemorative event.

As we continue to remember the Great Forest Fire of 1910 for all its tragic and triumphant moments, let us forever keep in mind the outpouring of support from across the country that brought the area back from the edge of despair. The generosity shown by all those who gave to the recovery effort should be an inspiration for our community and its succeeding generations. May it impart in us a sincere desire to come to the aid of others when disaster strikes.





The L.O.W. ~down

From the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society

Volume 15 Issue 2

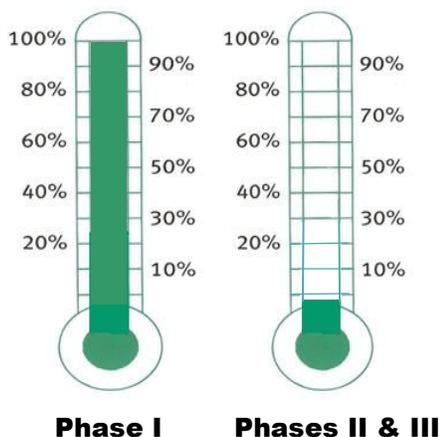
December 2013



*~ 2013 ~
A Year To Build On*



Museum's Capital Campaign



~ Update ~

The Phase I Capital Campaign has been completed.

The Phase II Campaign awaits the award of a Legacy Grant to begin the installation of a HVAC System for the facility. It will be augmented by \$12,500 in matching funds from Lake of the Woods County.

The Phase III fundraising to finish off the addition interior and remodel the existing museum space is now under-way.

2013 Memorial Gifts to the Society In Memory of -

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Jim Schuster
Given by Tom & Judy Griffen</p> <p>Bruce Baldwin
Given by RuBelle Towne</p> <p>Ron "Buck" Webb
Given by Martha Whaley & Grace Webb</p> <p>Roger Lindstrom
Given by Gerald and Rosey Hansen</p> <p>Carl & Lois Mae Hanson
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Given by Larry and Eileen Olson</p> <p>Marie Olson
Given by Larry & Eileen Olson and Lindabell Hansen</p> <p>Phil and Rose Vidas
Given by their Great-grandchildren and Mary Vidas</p> <p>Emery Bourgeois
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Ted Maus & Gerald Lalli
Given by the Residents of Summerfield West</p> <p>Eldyne Walton
Given by RuBelle Towne, Karen Hanson
Larry and Eileen Olson</p> <p>Evelyn Beckel
Given by Tom and Judy Griffen</p> <p>Judy Swentik
Given by Loraine Stigen</p> <p>Clifford Cole
Given by Loraine Stigen and Marlys Hirst</p> <p>Adeline Sunne
Given by Karen Hanson</p> |
|---|---|

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY MUSEUM

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The Mail Bag



Dear Low-down,

Reading the "Childhood memories of Christmas Past" in your newsletter brought back some memories of my own. Those include my grade school years at the country school in Pitt and the annual Christmas program at the Pitt Hall across the road from the school in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

A few weeks before Christmas every student was given his/her "part" to memorize or act out. Each day during school about a week before the event we practiced those "parts".

A couple days before the per-

formance we marched across the road to practice on stage in the hall. The day of the program the hall was warmed by the wood barrel stove, the benches along the walls were moved to the center of the floor facing the stage and the hall's kitchen was made ready for a bountiful Christmas potluck lunch and brown sandwich bags of candy and nuts to be handed out to all the children.



At home, too, preparations for the program began early. I practiced my "part" and my mother made sure I had a new dress to wear which she sewed from printed flour sack material. She also made sure the white cotton long stockings I wore on special occasions (not the every



Seasons Greetings from the County Museum,

2013 is almost history. It has been a year of great strides for our building and renovation project.

In May, bids were let for erecting the building shell complete with plumbing, electrical and insulation. The project was awarded in June to Rebarchek Construction of Grand Forks.

Dave Rebarchek is no stranger to the area having grown up in Graceton. He has built a number of local buildings over the years including two hockey arenas in Baudette and one in Williams, the True Value Hardware Store, the Williams Community Center and the Northern Seed Plant.

With the County Highway Department doing all of the site preparation, Rebarchek and crew began the foundation work in early June and the building began to take shape in July. The photos on our cover page capture some of the progress.

There were some staff changes this year. Doris Knutson, our office assistant and collection's registrar for the past six years left us to become editor of the Northern Light Region. Her skills at data entry, tape transcription and graphic design have left their mark and we appreciate the years she was with us. The new faces in the office were Emily Fraser and Carol Sindelir. Both did a great job of keeping our daily work in check.

We also had a good team of volunteers who came in to work on various projects. Regulars included Gloria Baade, Louise Cook and Grace Webb.

Two new exhibits opened this summer — the first looked at how we separated from Beltrami County to run our own government affairs 90 years ago. The second was a traveling exhibit from MN Historic Northwest entitled *Innovators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs* which showcased people and companies from NW Minnesota including Ted Rowell Sr. and Jr. of Rowell Labs.

Also new this year were monthly guest collections that shined a spotlight on what local people collect. The collections of salt and pepper shakers, rocks and gemstones, stamp hammers, locks, spoons, coffee cans and vintage packaging were enjoyed by all.

At the County Fair in August, our building featured the history of early area logging.



In September, we hosted our first Heritage Day as part of Baudette's Fall Fest. It was a great hands-on event. People enjoyed seeing the clothes washing, soap and loom demonstrations, making corn husk dolls, bannoch and krumkaka.

In our off season we will be catching up on

some of the many things that get set aside when the days are busy with visitors. If the grant for the new HVAC system that was submitted in October is received, we will also be packing and moving much of the collection out of the way of the contractors before installation work begins.

As the year closes, I would like to reflect on what an amazing journey our building project has been. Like any big undertaking, it has taken time and persistence. One of the more challenging tasks is to balance our time between fundraising and our mission to document, collect and preserve not only the distant past but the history that continues to be made here every day.

Completing Phase I is a major milestone. Considering that over 75% of the \$220,000 it took to fund the design and construction of the addition was raised through book sales, fund drives, special events and donations from businesses, organizations and individuals, it's a huge accomplishment. Our supporters have been steadfast and generous. Truly they are the ones who have made it possible and it speaks well of the value that the community places on our local heritage.

While the project is not finished yet, we are excited and re-energized by the progress made in 2013 and we look forward to doing great things in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of the County Museum and the addition/renovation project.

Marlys Hirst, Exec. Director



The Mail Bag continued from page 2

day brown ones) were indeed white. Just before we left for the hall my hair had to be curled with the curling iron heated in the kerosene lamp. As we left our house, I was beautifully dressed and my hair was perfect. No one knew I almost always had a burn mark or two on the nap of my neck.

One special program was when I had to recite "Merry Christmas" in my language of heritage. I asked my grandpa John Sindelir, Sr. for his help, and with pride and a big smile he said, "Vesele' Va'noce". Likewise I stood on stage before the crowd and wished everyone a Vesele' Va'noce.

A number of years later I visited the

Czech community of New Prague and purchased a beautiful Christmas tree ornament which has Vesele' Va'noce on it and two wooden ornaments made in Czechoslovakia. Every Christmas I display them on our tree to remind me of the sacrifices my grandfather made as a young man to travel to the USA in search of a better life, the sacrifices my mother made to make her chubby little daughter look her best at the school Christmas program and the fun I had on stage of the Pitt hall every year.

Donna Mae (Sindelir) Erickson



Collections Development Wish List at the Museum

- An early model snowmobile
- Sports uniforms and jackets from Baudette/Williams/LOTW teams
- Little League photos, uniforms, equipment and memorabilia
- A slide rule
- A bag phone or early cell phone
- A mounted Northern Pike
- Framed painting or prints by local artists Gary Sorrels, Thomas Parr Williamson and Nels Kofstad
- Organizational records, township records, country school records
- Early resort memorabilia
- Stories about growing up here in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s
- Stories of community leaders
- Family & business histories
- Works of local authors

The Tree of Life—Capital Campaign



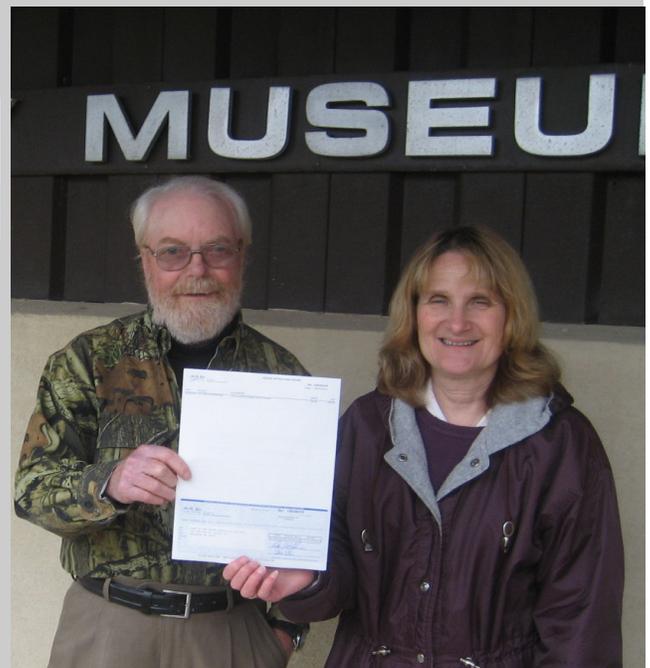
Above: The Brink Senior Center donated all the proceeds from the August Pancake Breakfast to the County Museum’s Capital Campaign. For this generous donation of \$1105 they received a gold leaf on the Tree of Life. Pictured with society president Dan Crompton are Brink Center Board members Arvid Jaranson, Betty Berg, Ross Dally, Bill Mouw, Ron Wertanen & Ellen Davis.



On left: The Lake of the Woods Drifters Snowmobile Club donated \$800 to the Museum’s Capital Campaign and received a copper leaf on the Tree of Life. Presenting the check to Curator Hirst is club treasurer Carole Powell.

On Right: North Star Electric Cooperative donated unclaimed capital credits in the amount of \$300 to the Lake of the Woods County Museum. These funds were added to the Capital Campaign for upcoming museum renovations. Presenting the check is North Star Director Mike Hanson.

A special thank you to all who contributed to the Final Thirty-five drive & for the donations received from the Happy Homemakers’ Club, the Smiling Moon Employees & Lakewood Health Center.



The Tree of Life—Capital Campaign

Believing that the County Museum plays a vital role in preserving our history and that the time had come to begin the long awaited museum renovation project, Gloriann Fischer was moved to make a sizable gift to the Historical Society’s Capital Campaign this spring. In doing so she expressed her approval of the museum and her desire to get the addition underway.

Gloriann has made Baudette her home for the past 35 years. She was born and raised on a farm in Holt, Minnesota. After graduating from Newfolden High School she attended Moorhead State University and received a teaching degree in sales and marketing. While in college she worked in a hardware store which further developed her business interest and from there she found her calling – hardware retail.

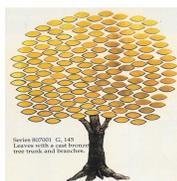
As the owner and operator of True Value Hardware, Gloriann has seen many changes to the Main Street business section. She remains committed to serving her customers and actively participating in community affairs. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary, the First Lutheran Church and the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society.

Gloriann’s gift to the museum is her way of saying thanks to the community that she calls home. The society is gratefully acknowledging her gift with a platinum leaf on the Museum’s Tree of Life.



Gloriann Fischer presenting Curator Marlys Hirst with the groundbreaking donation for the Phase I construction of the Museum Addition.

New Tree of Life Donors



Additional copper leaves purchased to support the Capital Campaign and the work of completing Phase I of the Museum Addition and Renovation Project in 2013 are acknowledged below.



Phase I—We did it!
Marlys L. Hirst

In Honor of
Marlene Dahl
A Wonderful Teacher

2012-2013
Lake of the Woods
Historical Society
Board Members

In Honor of
Joyce Lockhart
Board of Directors
1965– 2002

Honoring Marlys Hirst
for her dedication to the
L/W County Museum
by Gary and Joan Aery

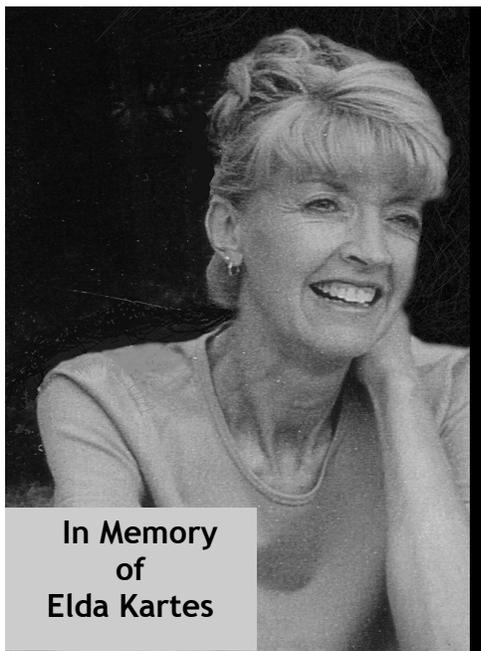
To Date the Tree of Life has 48 Copper leaves, 17 Gold leaves and 4 Silver leaves. In all, the Tree has raised \$61,000 for our Capital Campaign.

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign

Elda Leora was born to Richard and Ruth Johnson of Pitt, MN on November 17, 1943, She was the youngest of their four children. She attended school and after graduating from Baudette High School in 1961 she moved to Minneapolis.

She married Michael Kartes of Langdon, ND in 1966 and they moved to Seattle, Washington. Elda and Mike had two daughters, Lisa and Amber, and a son, Matthew who died in infancy. The couple were later divorced.

Elda was an avid reader and took great interest in history, politics and sports. A sports enthusiast and a loyal fan of the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners, she held season tickets for many years and together with her daughters made elaborate signs to carry to



In Memory of Elda Kartes

their games. Outgoing and friendly she knew everyone from the ticket takers to the hotdog sellers. When

unable to attend the games, friends and family were invited to join her for the televised version accompanied by her delicious lasagna.

Elda was a gracious host and frequently entertained for the holidays with bountiful meals.

She loved animals, especially horses and cats. Her greatest love and pride, however, were her daughters, Lisa and Amber.

A month before her 69th birthday, Elda succumbed to cancer. She continued her work as the manager of a Shell Gas and Convenience Store until two weeks before her passing.

Remembering her Baudette roots and love of history, her family and friends purchased a copper leaf in her memory.

New Tree of Life Donors

Both Marie (Marchuk) and Hanlon Olson were born and raised in Lake of the Woods County.

They made Baudette their home and raised their three children while owning and operating the M&H Motel along the Rainy River.

Together they worked as mail carriers, owned the Redi Mix concrete plant and the Olson Trucking business.

Hanlon served in the U.S. Navy and was a County Commissioner for 14 years.

Hanlon and Marie loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing, hunting and camping with their family and friends.

Their children, Steve, Bob and Cathy purchased a copper leaf in their memory.

In Loving Memory of Hanlon and Marie Olson



Memories

*I thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.*

*I think of you in silence
I often speak your name
All I have are memories
And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is my keepsake
With which I'll never part
God has you in his keeping.
I have you in my heart.*

Author Unknown

Leaves Have Also Been Purchased

In Memory of Carl P. Hanson

By the Family of Stanley and Ruth Holte and

To Honor Audrey Grund Sorenson

They will be acknowledged in 2014.



Lake of the Woods County Historical Society
206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 150
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(218)-634-1200

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Please Support Us With Your Membership in 2014

Annual Membership Renewal — Please Check One

- Single \$15.00 (Includes 2 additional free passes for relatives and friends)
- Family \$25.00 (Includes 3 additional free passes for relatives and friends)
- Sponsor \$50.00 (Includes 5 additional free passes for relatives and friends)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

- Yes please include my free 2014 passes
- No thanks, I am not interested in receiving the free 2014 passes

Mail to: Lake of the Woods Historical Society 206 8th Ave SE, Suite 150, Baudette, MN 56623



The L.O.W.~down

From the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society

Volume 16 Issue 1

May 2014



Ducky Webb tells of life at Oak Island on Lake of the Woods.

Grace "Ducky" Webb speaks at Society Annual Meeting

Members and guests who attended the Historical Society Annual Meeting at the Brink Center in Baudette on April 27, got a unique glimpse of what life was like for the residents of Oak Island on Lake of the Woods over the past eight decades from guest speaker Grace "Ducky" Webb.

Ducky, who came to the island by airplane when she was just 14 days old, shared a wealth of memories, photos and mementos as she told her island history.

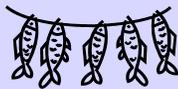
Ducky's father, Elvin Hansen, bought a homestead relinquishment on Oak Island in 1923 and her mother Louise Wanous came there

to teach school in 1928. They were married by Justice of the Peace Phil Smith in 1931.

Elvin worked as a fishing guide prior to starting the Bay Store, a general mercantile that eventually also became the home for the Oak Island Post Office.

In addition to the store, the couple ran a beer parlor, Elvin served as the US Customs agent and Louise taught school for a number of years. When the Hansens retired in 1961, they turned the store business over to Ducky and her husband Ron "Buck" who continued its operation for another 33 years. *continued on page 6*

License
Ye Fish Liars



This card entitles the bearer to membership in any and all societies of liars or yarn tellers, be it Fish Liars or Big Game Liars, so long as the following rules are observed:

Fish caught in Lake of the Woods shall not exceed the following weight or length:

Walleyed Pike, 21 lbs. or 64 inches.
Northern Pike, 58 lbs. or 98 inches.
Lake Trout, 84 lbs. or 69 inches.
Muskellunge, 92 lbs. or 132 inches.

Big Game yarns shall be confined to the following sizes and quantities:

Male moose can not exceed one ton or a horn spread of 9 feet.

Male deer or caribou must be kept under 1500 lbs. and not exceed 32 spikes per horn.

No more than 3 adult bears can be killed or taken alive in one day by any member of this society with his bare hands.

"Wild" duck stories accepted only between drinks.

Any teller of yarns who knowingly or obviously violates the above rules shall be unceremoniously expelled from all organizations of yarn tellers.

J. W. Collins Hardware
Baudette, Minnesota

Society receives Cultural Heritage Grant for HVAC Project

A Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant was awarded to the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society to support their project to upgrade the heating, venting and cooling system at the County Museum.

The grant in the amount of \$146,495 includes funds to finalize the design and systems specifications, hire a contractor and cover cost of materials and labor to implement the system. It also provides funds for an independent building commissioning to approve the design and ensure that after the system is in place it meets the desired specifications.

The County Museum's HVAC System upgrade is a project of enduring value because it will enable the museum to create a stable environment that will be appropriate for the long term preservation of

the collections that are entrusted to the historical society. These controls will be in accordance with professional museum standards.

The proposed system divides the museum into several zones with temperature and humidity controls based on the specific use of each area. The installation of new furnaces and overhead ductwork will necessitate moving a significant portion of the museum's collection out of the way of contractors and into areas of safety until the work is completed. Items that are left in place will need to be covered and sealed from dust and other hazards.

The work at the museum is expected to begin by early summer and be completed by fall. For the safety of the public, and the collection, the museum's galleries will not be open *continued on page 6*

Thank You to these members & friends for supporting our Annual Fund Drive

Forest Abbott - Bonnie Moosbrugger - Marie Matthews - Kerry Warzecha - Nancy Wendler - Dennis & Sylvia Killen - Brent & Mary Alice Slick - Bonita Sindelir - Kelly Anderson - Leonard & Iris Hoscheid - Sonya Larson - Jan Imes - Lois Dally - Judy Bourgeois - Larry & Eileen Olson - Myrlis Dahman - Heather Peek - Gerald & Jean Johnson - Florence Haukaas - Bill McAnnany - Carol & Ken Nordli - Joanne Fieldseth - Joni Book - Randy & Dorothy Engh - Hazel Moorman - Margit Spackman - Geneva VanDeHey - Wayne Olson - Loraine Stigen - Dr. Harry Peirce - Nelda Anderson - Ardis Brink - Chuck Tischart - Leslie Langton - Robert & Paula Humeniuk - Gloria Baade - Terry & Coni Waibel - Allan Ferrier - Neal & Dian Slick - Tom Wiechmann - Irene Timm - Daniel Huntsperger - Dale & Bernice Merschman - Donnie Cole - Richard & Annette Johnson - Janet Cyrus Knibnisky - Mike Wammer - Bennie Brist - Wally & Mona Beyer - Chris Frutiger - Richard Grugal - Dale & Louise Cook - Louise Menk - Larry & Sharon Larson - Betty Frohreich - Steve & Debbie Cyrus - Carol Birkeland - Roxanne Olson - Bruce Atwater - Bertil & Nancy Anundson - Don & Karen Holte - Helen Curtis - Howard Anderson - Pauline Koster - Marty & Pam Thompson - Van & Ruth Holmgren - Steve Charlton - Anthony Biesiot - Donna Zahn - Fischer's True Value - Wesley Erhart - Ken & Carol Mattison - Dale Sundholm - Rose Hansen - Beverly McGurran - Fern Russick - Winona Hanson - Agnes Peder-son - Milton & Eva Haroldson - Darrell & Doris Nelson - Gertrude Weeks - Terry Hedtke - Jerry & Sharon Krohn - Greg & Sally Peterson - Mel & Patricia Borgen - Darlene Moen - Ted & Vivian Rowell - Gene & Dolores Ullstrom - Leland & Phyllis Hendrickson - George Frank - Dale & Vivian Sanford - Louise McFadden - Barbara Hauger - Bob & Joan Zippel - Kay Slick - Charles Coleman - Norm & Joan Undahl - Ann Zavoral - Joseph Humble - Brenda Sproat - Kathy & Ralph Philpot - Grace Sonstegard - Betty Cahlander - Erlyce Pekas - Bev Becklund - Sandra Baldwin - Paul & Tammi Hedtke - Dorothy Reiersen - Charlotte Henderson - Oscar & Norma Maus - Dennis & Valerie Sarenpa - Jerome & June Bourgeois - Cecily Williams Barker.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY MUSEUM

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 150
Baudette, MN 56623
218 - 634-1200

lowhsociety@mncable.net

CURATOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marlys L. Hirst

OFFICE STAFF

Emily Fraser
Carol Sindelir

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Dennis Topp, Nyla O'Connell
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*Dedicated to the preservation
of local history.*

2014 Memorial Gifts to the Society In Memory of :

Albert & Lucy Senkyr

Given by Virginia Cameron

Winnie Hasbargen

Given by RuBelle Towne
Matt & Barb Mickelson



Clifford Cole

Given by Rollie and Aldyne Fuller

Eldyne Walton

Given by Matt & Barb Mickelson

Helen Allison

Given by RuBelle Towne



Janice Bjork

Given by Linda Hansen

Delphine Sindelir

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Betty Frohreich - Karen Hanson
Tim & Marlys Hirst
Matt & Barb Mickelson
Bonita Sindelir & Kenneth Keller

Norleen Anderson

Given by the residents of
Summerfield West



Betty Lemm

Given by Jerry & Sharon Krohn

Morry Nordine

Given by Betty Frohreich

John Oren

Given by Rollie & Julie Bergman
Richard & Annette Johnson
Larry & Eileen Olson
Tim & Marlys Hirst
Betty Frohreich

Betty Mason

Given by Dave & Mary Marhula
Friends at Summerfield West
Tim & Marlys Hirst

Edward Trunk

Given by Ellen Davis
Summerfield West Residents

Wayne & Juanita Ellis

Given by Gary & Joan Aery

Verona Nordquist

Given by Dave & Mary Marhula
Tim & Marlys Hirst

Juanita Ellis

Given by Dave & Mary Marhula
Tim and Marlys Hirst
Tom Dinndorf - Karen Hanson

Gone from our midst, they remain lovingly in our hearts and minds.

Scenes From Our Past— photos recently donated to the museum’s photo archives:



Tom Wiechmann & crew at Tom’s Café—identities welcome.



Tom’s Café —a part of Baudette Main Street businesses from 1960 to 1971.



Leon Fausher—WWII



The Chocolate Castle, 1st Ave. SE, Baudette



Edith O'Connor L/W County Auditor circa 1970



Doc Janecky, Paul, Joan and Lucille



Ed Hansen at Carp Store—1940s



CCC Co. 723 Jeep near Faunce —1930s



First State Bank of Williams—1914



Carl Stenberg’s Blacksmith Shop, Spooner 1914



Coach Art Anderson— 1960s



Hamre’s Jewelry - Baudette —1950s

The Tree of Life—Capital Campaign

Audrey Marie Bonney was born on November 10, 1926 in Williams, Minnesota. She was raised by her aunt and uncle Birdie and Norman Clementson.

Audrey attended grade school at the Silver Creek and Border schools and graduated from Baudette High School in 1944. After graduation she was employed as a bookkeeper/cashier at the First National Bank in Baudette.

On January 14, 1945, Audrey married Doran Grund of Pitt, Minnesota. They had two children Ken and Diane who both graduated from Baudette High School. Doran passed away in April 1970.

Audrey has always lived and worked in Baudette and she wouldn't have it any other way. For many years she was a bookkeeper for the LOW County Engineer. After leaving that



**In Honor of
Audrey Grund Sorensen**

position, she worked as a bookkeeper for the Baudette Village. In 1975 she began working as an office manager for Larry Lar-

son. She handled the records/books for Larry's businesses including Rapid River Grain and Seed. She remained at Rapid River Grain and Seed until she retired.

In October 2004 Audrey married Fred Sorensen of Roseau, Minnesota. Fred passed away in September 2006.

Audrey loved to bowl and was passionate about dancing. She volunteered for endless events/functions/causes as well as serving the community as deputy mayor for many years. She is very outgoing and friendly to people she meets and she seemed to know everyone.

The Larry Larson family is purchasing a gold leaf to honor Audrey for her many years of dedicated work, friendship and being an adopted Grandma to Sheila, Christa, Peter and Neil.

New Tree of Life Donors

Carl P. Hanson was born in Koochiching County to Peder and Olga (Olson) on October 19, 1921. He moved with his family to the Hay Creek area in 1927. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945 and received an honorable discharge after sustaining a broken leg in a non-combat injury while serving in the South Pacific.

Carl and Lois Mae Stanley were married in 1947 and moved to Roseau where they lived for ten years. In 1961, after returning to Baudette, they purchased their farm near town. They raised a family of six children: Stephen, Wayne, Ellen, Bruce, Mark and Paul.

Carl worked at various jobs over the years and farmed in his spare time. He drove truck hauling pulp wood, propane and fuel. He was employed by George Feiker as garage mechanic and wrecker ser-



**In Memory of
Carl P. Hanson**

vice driver. Later he worked for twenty years in the maintenance department at Reid/Rowell, retiring in 1986.

Carl had the skills to build or fix most anything. He was a fair, honest, no nonsense guy with a good

sense of humor. Sports, especially hockey and baseball, were a favorite pastime. In his youth he played ball with the Hay Creek team and as an adult he was involved with hockey as a coach and a fan. He grew up hunting with his dad and brothers and enjoyed the family traditions of the hunting season throughout his life. He enjoyed passing his knowledge on to his children and liked spending time with his grandchildren, always keeping up on their activities.

Carl and Lois Mae loved to dance and there was no one any smoother on the dance floor. They had been married 56 years when Lois Mae passed away in 2003. Carl continued to live on the farm until 2012 when he moved to the LakeWood Care Center for his final months.

Carl's family purchased a copper leaf in his memory.

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign

Tony Svitak was born in Michigan, North Dakota to John and Agnes Svitak in 1918. At age sixteen he moved with his family to a farm in Graceton, Minn.

In 1945, he married Mabel Solien, the daughter of Hannah and Einar Solien of Roosevelt. Born at Roosevelt in 1926, Mabel attended country school through the eighth grade and graduated from Williams High School in 1944.

Tony and Mabel lived north of Graceton on the family farm for 46 years. They raised a family of three children, Patricia (Dan) Black, Carole (Don) Powell and Timothy.



In Memory of Tony and Mabel Svitak

In addition to farming, Tony worked as a clerk at Stan's Hardware store and as a rural mail carrier. Mabel also worked out at various places over the years including Morris Point Resort, the Williams School, Trails End Lodge, and the Ben Franklin store.

Tony and Mabel shared a love for music. Tony was a talented musician, playing the saxophone.

He started his own band, Tony's Swingsters in 1946 and most people's memory of Tony is of him playing for dances throughout the community. Mabel traveled with Tony as he entertained. She enjoyed listening, dancing and visiting.

Tony served on the Lake of the Woods A.S.C.S. board and was a member of the Baudette Moose Lodge. Mabel was a homemaker and 4-H leader. She took special pride in her Norwegian heritage, her home and flourishing gardens. Her grandchildren were a great joy and she loved spending time with them.

Tony passed away in 1991 and Mabel in 2011.

A gold leaf in their memory was purchased by Daniel and Patricia K. Black.

New Tree of Life Donors

Arvid Olson was born August 22, 1923, at Bemidji, Minnesota. He graduated from Bemidji High School in 1941. Arvid worked as an electrician for Northwestern Bell in Minneapolis and Lake Washington Shipyards in Seattle. He enlisted in the Navy in 1944, attended California Polytechnic and St. Mary's College, attended pre-flight training and ground school in Norman, OK, graduated from Naval Aviation Flight School in Corpus Christi, TX and received his wings in 1946.

WWII had ended and Arvid returned to Bemidji. He then moved to Graceton where he met Beryl Ganyo. They were married October 26, 1950, and together built the house that was to be their life-long home.

Arvid founded Olson Timber Products in the early 1950's and for three decades diversified into pulpwood brokerage, saw milling, lum-



In Memory of Arvid Olson

ber, and railroad ties before retiring in 1986. He was a member of Minnesota Timber Producers for 50 years and a member of the American Legion for 60 years. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fishing and hunting; a carpenter, having also built the family cabin at Rocky Point; a mechanic

and amateur engineer, having designed and repaired much of his own logging and sawmill machinery. After retiring, Arvid continued to be active in reforestation, planting acres of trees on family land. Arvid had a wealth of friends and was known for his sense of humor. He always had a story or joke to share!

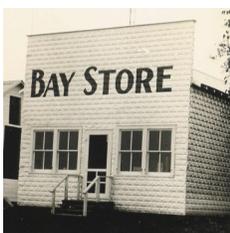
Arvid and Beryl raised three children: Susan (Dave) Thomas, Marcia (Byron) Hauger, and William "Bill" Olson. Arvid was devoted to his family, always available to assist his children with a project. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge and wisdom with grandchildren Jennifer, Justin, Harland and Clark and great grandchildren Jordan and Max..

Arvid and Beryl celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2000 and enjoyed several more years together before he passed away in Sept. 2009.

The Olson family has purchased a copper leaf in memory of Arvid.

Annual Meeting *continued from page 1*

Ducky recalled her school days, the various boats and planes that serviced the island, some of the dangers posed by the area's remoteness, putting up ice, fishing, hunting, trapping, ham radio operators and the camaraderie of the community. "Life on Oak Island was not magic," she said, "but we had a good life there."



The evening began with an ethnic potluck featuring many wonderful dishes. At the business meeting that followed, President Dan Crompton gave an update on the progress of the museum addition and Curator Hirst explained the work that will be done this season. She also announced an important gift from the Ed Hansen estate.

The directors whose terms had expired, Jody Horntvedt, Richard Johnson, Doug Easthouse and Shelley Phillippe were re-elected by a unanimous ballot to serve an additional term.

Heritage Grant *continued from page 1*

until after the HVAC system is in place and staff has adequate time to re-install the exhibits. As this work is expected to last throughout the 2014 season, a re-opening date is set for the spring of 2015. Visits for information and research will be continued by appointment.

This Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant was made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund approved by the voters of Minnesota on Nov 4, 2008, which awards grants to projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state.



Historical Society Receives Major Estate Gift

The remaining assets in the Carl "Ed" Hansen estate were recently gifted to the Lake of the Woods Historical Society by his executors honoring his involvement and belief that preserving the local history of the area was so very necessary and important. The receipt of an amount just slightly over \$12,500 was announced at the Society's Annual Meeting on April 27.



Ed Hansen—2006

Ed Hansen served on the Society's Board of Directors from 1991 to 2001 and spent many hours researching areas of the county with Board Chair Everett Helmstetter. He was very involved with the collection of stories for the County Heritage Book and also wrote a history of Carp and a history of local ball teams.

Ed established the Carp Memorial Park on the site of the store he and his family owned and operated from 1918 to 1955.

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign

Join the Tree of Life Capital Campaign to help upgrade the County Museum.

**Three leaf colors:- three levels of giving --
Copper \$500 Gold \$1000 Platinum \$5,000**

Purchase leaves in memory or honor of loved ones - a business or organization.

**To Purchase a leaf return coupon with your check to:
L/W Historical Society - 206 8th Ave SE, Baudette, MN 56623**

Select Leaf Color _____ Gold _____ Copper _____ Platinum

Print Your _____

Inscription _____

Your names _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



The Tree of Life now has 70 leaves.

A copper leaf was purchased by the Stanley and Mary Ruth Holte Family

Memories of Zippel Creek

By Daniel Huntsperger

Selections reprinted in tribute to Daniel Huntsperger who passed away on April 14, 2014. His complete story can be found on pages 109-115 of the L.O.W. County History book.

We officially welcomed spring in Zippel when we saw the first returned red-winged blackbird hanging off a cattail reed and singing, "Oak-a-lee." Brownish water with steaks of white foam surged far over the creek channel's usual margins, and the flooding waters crept up the foot of the hill where our old farmhouse stood. Stubborn, dirty remnants of winter's great snowdrifts waited to be transplanted by the ever warmer spring sun and to join the great currents of the spring break-up.



Walking on those early spring days and evenings, we buttoned the top buttons of our jackets to keep out the moisture-laden air, which was fresh and keen. We listened to the mingling sounds of running water. Cool streamlets gurgled down gentle slopes in the woods; ditch water plunged rapidly toward the creek, sometimes roaring through our flatland with as much boisterous clamor as mountain rapids. Our normally placid creek, temporarily assuming the dimensions of a full-fledged river, murmured with a deep, swollen dignity.

Great flocks of wild Canadian geese called overhead pushing the south behind them and the white-throated sparrows sang their sweet, ethereal notes from the thicket of hazelnut and wild plum bushes that hid our ancient outhouse, reminding all of us, even the young ones, of some glorious spring season lost forever in the distant past but capable of being renewed if we just concentrated long enough on the essence of its brief song. Thus, once again, with winter behind us, the genuine new year began by the creek.

In the first decade of the 1900s, Ole Grovum died of a heart attack while moose hunting on the edge of Zippel Bay's widest expanse near Ski's Rock.

Grovum, one of the first settlers by Zippel Creek, was buried in a small clearing beside the big rock. His widow, Maria, left with three small children, remained in the area for about a decade, but in 1913 she moved to Alberta, Canada where she remarried. My father purchased Maria Grovum's farm in 1919.

On a spring day in 1919, Father, Mother, and their first three children—four-year-old Robert, three-year-old Marjorie, and baby Ralph—drove to their new home in Zippel from Alexandria, Minnesota. It was fortunate that Father's vintage Model T Ford had plenty of clearance and that he had been over the route before. When they reached the border country, local roads varied from primitive to nearly nonexistent, and the rain poured down steadily. No welcoming committee but mosquitoes waited for them when they reached the former Grovum house, a one-story construction of large cedar logs that stood on a small hill overlooking Zippel Creek. There was a small clearing for the garden and cornfield, but poplars and jack pines filled most of the yard area.



Father had purchased some milk cows before their arrival, which were cared for by neighbors and pastured across the creek. That evening the baby wanted milk very much, and he decided to cry until he got it. Father took a pail, walked across the creek on a log (there was no bridge in those days), and shortly he returned through the rainy night with the first warm milk for the baby from his own cows.



Four new children would arrive in the years to come. The house of cedar logs would eventually have an upstairs and a new, larger kitchen and spare room added to replace the old ones. Stucco was placed over the exterior and wallboard was hung inside, but the original pioneer house of cedar logs remained, hidden from view, an integral part of the structure for the next sixty-five years.

If Father and Mother expected Eden in their new surroundings, they failed to find

it. The rain and mosquitoes that greeted them on arrival were prophetic of many summers that followed. There was much timber standing in the area in spite of the ravages of the 1910 forest fire and long, bitter winters with which to contend besides.



Venison, blueberries, rabbits and bullheads were staples of the early settlers by the creek, and many of their neighbors lived largely by trapping, hunting, fishing and cutting pulpwood. Some remained content with a hand-to-belly livelihood, but most of the people with families, including my parents, were determined to make their living from tilling the soil, putting in crops and raising their own domestic animals. So they worked with saw, ax and pickaxe, stone boat and logging chain, teams of oxen and horses. They burnt where there was peat and tamarack or wherever it was feasible to clear the land with fire. However they rid the land of timber and rocks it involved hard, sweaty, back-breaking labor in those years before bulldozer and power equipment were options for anyone. Years later, when Father was an old man and there were a fair number of open fields where the forest once flourished, he would reminisce, "When Minnie and I first came to Zippel, we were certain that we would never run out of timber..."



My parents loved nature and were not so blind as to care only about the immediate practical uses of all that surrounded them. When Mother couldn't make the walking trip east in the early spring, she asked the children to look for trailing arbutus on the sand ridge. Father came home smiling from a trip to Williams in February, when swirling snow devils blew across the road, and the winter's chill was still very much in evidence. Why? He had seen a horned lark beside the range-line road, the first sure sign of spring.

Lake of the Woods County Historical Society
206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 150
Baudette, MN 56623
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Collections Development
Wish List at the Museum

- April 10, 2012 Baudette Region
- A 50s/60s model console TV
- Sports uniforms and jackets of Bdte/Wms and LOTW teams
- Little League photos, uniforms, equipment and memorabilia
- Mounted Northern Pike
- Records of local organizations
- Early resort memorabilia
- Family & business histories
- Works of local authors
- Keith Ballard "Wild" jersey or other career memorabilia

Boxholder

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Note: If you are receiving an addressed copy of our newsletter and would like to be removed from our mailing list please check here.



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY to RHODA LAUGHY on July 25
from Ann Zavoral and all of your friends in Baudette.





The L.O.W.~down

From the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society

Volume 18 Issue 1

February 2015

Installation of the new Heating Venting & Cooling System begins at the Museum



In December, the Historical Society accepted a bid of Shannon's Mechanical Incorporated of International Falls to install the new heating venting and cooling system in the County Museum. Work on the project got underway on January 12 and has been progressing rapidly. The system will enable the museum to create a stable museum environment that is appropriate for the long term preservation of the collections that are entrusted to the L/W Historical Society. *Continued on page 2*

Society Receives Planning Grants

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society has received grants from the Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to assist in developing an overall plan for the museum grounds.

The grants are being paired with cost share dollars from the Lake of the Woods Soil & Water District to assist the museum in handling storm water runoff from the museum facility.

The project will strive to improve the aesthetics of the museum grounds, plan for parking, increase visibility, create avenues for kids' outdoor activities and complement the visitor experience to the County Museum.

The Society is soliciting ideas from the community by forming a focus group to explore options and develop a plan of action.

The group meetings will be facilitated by the University of Minnesota and a student from the U. of M. Crookston will provide the landscaping design by creating the diagrams and drawings needed to implement the plans short term and long term goals.

Historic Holiday Resort Tour showcases Area Accommodations

The Resort community on the Rainy River teamed up with the Lake of the Woods Historical Society to present a Historic Holiday Resort Tour on Sunday, December 7. The event was similar to the Parade of Homes the society had sponsored in the past, but with a fun and fresh new twist.

Featured resorts on the tour were Sportsman's Lodge, Ballard's Resort, Wigwam and the Wildwood Inn Bed and Breakfast. Each was decked in holiday finery and ready to welcome visitors for a special look at their accommodations.

The museum staff prepared a tour brochure featuring a brief history of each resort for the event. The day concluded at the Sportsman's Lodge where refreshments were served and door prizes were drawn. RuBelle Towne was the lucky winner of the "Dinner for Two" donated by Ballard's Resort.

The resort tour raised \$310 for current museum projects.

Next fall the society is considering a tour of area hunting cabins.



A majestic spruce welcomed guests to the great room of the Wildwood Inn Bed and Breakfast. (Photo is courtesy of Mary Boomgaarden)

**LAKE OF THE WOODS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
"Select and Support" Project**

We invite you to support the Lake of the Woods Historical Society this year by taking part in our "Select and Support" project! Here's how it works.

YOU SELECT an envelope.

We started with 141 envelopes, each labeled with a dollar amount (ranging from \$1 to \$141).

Which do you pick?

We have 105 envelopes remaining. You select the envelope with the \$ amount you are willing to donate! Then you place your donation (checks payable to L/W Historical Society) in the envelope and give (or mail) it to us.

It's that easy!

YOUR SUPPORT is important.

When all the envelopes have been selected, we will have raised \$10,011!

Why is this needed?

We have had additional expenses related to our current building project at the museum— so any amount you can contribute, be it \$1, \$14, \$56 or \$141, would be greatly appreciated!

NOTE: Envelopes will be available at upcoming Historical Society events or at the museum. For more information call 218-634-1200.

**LAKE OF THE WOODS
COUNTY MUSEUM**

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 150
Baudette, MN 56623
218 - 634-1200

lowhsociety@mncable.net

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Borderland Orchestra Concert benefits Museum

The L/W Historical Society was pleased to host the Borderland Community Orchestra's "Christmas Concert" at the Lake of the Woods School Auditorium on December 14. Directed by Conductor Katherine Williams, the musicians performed a variety of seasonal selections.

The concert marked the Borderland Orchestra's 15th season of performing music for audiences along the U.S. ~ Canadian border and continued their tradition of benefit concerts by donating the concert proceeds of over \$900 to the County Museum's addition/renovation project.



The orchestra's 50+ members travel from ten border towns including the Ontario towns of Barwick, Rainy River, Emo, Devlin, Fort Frances and the Minnesota towns of Williams, Baudette, Littlefork and International Falls to practice together each week during the school year and offer several public concerts annually.



HVAC Installation *continued from page 1*

Initial funds for the HVAC project were received from the Minnesota Historical Society when they awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant in the amount of \$146,495 to the L/W Historical Society to support their Museum HVAC System project. These funds were made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Art and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans in November of 2008.

The award allowed the society to finalize the design and system specifications using the EAPC Engineer firm of Bemidji, MN and the independent consulting firm of Questions and Solutions Engineering of Chaska, MN. It provided funds for the museum to implement temporary storage measures, eliminate existing underground ductwork, complete the bid process and test the system's performance after installation. Funds were included to cover the cost of hiring the contractor, materials and additional labor, however, these funds fell significantly short of bids received, due, in part, to the unpredictability of the market place when projecting costs out two years in advance.

In order to accept the bid from Shannon's and keep the project moving forward the society has received a pledge of support in the amount of \$23,000 from Lake of the Woods County and will also exhaust most of the capital fund holdings they had hoped to use for completing the interior of the new addition.

While it is a bit of a disappointment to be nearly back at the starting gate for the Phase III funds to finish the new and old section interiors, the society takes pride in realizing how far they've come in improving the museum facility and is keep their gaze fixed on the finish line.

**LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established Nov. 1965 ~ Entering OUR 50TH Year**

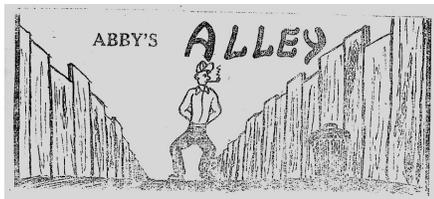
-- Remembering Abby --

With the recent passing of Forest Abbott, the historical society has lost a valuable source of first hand local history. His lifetime of experience made him well versed on many subjects and over the years he provided us with a wealth of information.

In addition to being a charter member of the Historical Society, Forest served on the organization's Board of Directors from 1975 to 1978. In the 1990s, when the Region's old printing press came to rest at the museum, he eagerly joined an effort to bring new life to the machine and helped set type for the press's commemorative pages that we are still printing.

Countless times we called on him to tell us about someone, some place or something from the past and, not only could he usually provide the answers to our questions, he'd have a few good stories to throw in for our enlightenment during the process.

Forest was a gifted and willing story teller. The column that he wrote for a number of years in the Baudette Region will forever preserve a portion of his humorous wit and wisdom. In tribute to this Baudette legend we offer these excerpts from two of his Abby's Alley columns that ran in Feb. of 1959.



A little more daylight as each day goes by lends hope to the wish that the back of winter will soon be broken.

One thing you can say about the weather. It's cold enough to freeze the imagination of even the hardiest winter fisherman. And needless to say, it's hardly worthwhile going out without one.

It has been generally conceded that winter fishermen were among the world's most abnormal and addicted fresh air enthusiasts. But now days what can you find them doing on a cold but bright sunshiny day?

You're right if you said: "Imprisoning themselves in little shanties reeking of fuel oil fumes, ripe minnows and tobacco smoke, and maybe even a slight aroma of fermented spirits as well."

Some of those fishing huts would

make history's famous Black Hole of Calcutta seem like a sun parlor.

You probably wonder at our dwelling on fishin'... just getting our enthusiasm worked up for the VFW fishing derby comin' up here on the 15th.

By the way the derby top-piece is making a comeback in some places, so they say. You can rest assured, however, it will gain no favor, for the present at least, in these frozen parts.

Whenever fishermen gather, you can expect a few yarns to be spun. Perhaps some of these may be of interest to you.

As you may know, Sid Moorhead practically cut his teeth on a gill net float around local fisheries, and through the years has probably enticed as many fish out of the depths of Lake of the Woods by hook and line as any of the oldest lying inhabitants of the area.

Well, when fishing at the VFW derby at the site out from Baudette's bathing beach Sunday, he hooked what may well have been a prize of the ages. Some lads claim to have identified the struggling thing at the end of his line as a mermaid. But after that Sid made no effort whatever to land it (or her, whatever you call 'em)—there was no prize money offered for that species.

However he did collect the prize for the biggest fish and split with another fisherman for the most fish.

The trouble with some fishermen is when you tell 'em a fish story, they always want proof—and usually 100-proof at that.

Donnie Smith really caught the lunker of the day – a five-foot board and on the end of his line wrapped around the board was a five-ounce burbot . . . Jimmy Moorhead was one of the fisherman lamenting the loss of a wall-

eye, plus the \$25 prize . . . and it is nice that Charles (Won't) B. Achen anymore after winning the pepper-upper pills given by Rowell Laboratories.

If anglers could keep their hooks as sharp as a gossip's tongue, you wouldn't hear quite so many sad stories about the big ones that got away.

Walt Campbell, who keeps the guys from loafing on the CNR section crew, doesn't take to fishing as some do, but he had planned to watch the antics of the frosted brethren from an equally cool perch on the railroad bridge. He must have been frozen out.

It seems that farmers take naturally to winter fishing. Besides having a little time to spare during this season, they also have the needed gift of gab that is usually associated with shoving bulls around the farm.

Wonder if Art Murray's young fisherman, four year old Tommy, has taken to the accepted method of pulling walleyes up through the ice as yet. Last winter, when getting a nibble, Tom would throw the line over his shoulder and promptly take off across the ice like a skid horse dragging the fish out. Amazing as it may seem, he rarely lost a fish. Perhaps his dad should take to the lad's method.

Cold fronts have plagued the weatherman all winter, but ice fishermen have had their troubles too –with cold behinds.

It is quite natural that we must take our share of ribbing, but do you think it's nice of some folks to deliberately confuse us with *Dear Abby's* syndicated column for the lovelorn?



The Tree of Life Capital Campaign



**In Memory of
George & Helen Humeniuk
Pictured on their wedding day 1917**

George Humeniuk was born in 1889 in Tereblecea, Bukovina, Austria to Iwan (John) Humeniuk and Mary Szlanek. His small village was a mixture of Romanians, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans, Slovaks and others who had migrated there during the early 1800s under a homesteading program offered by the Austrian government. He was from a family of ten children, but was the only one to emigrate.

In 1909 he traveled by rail to Antwerp, Belgium and then sailed to Canada. He worked in the coal mines in

Pennsylvania and then in the iron mines in northern Minnesota. Other families from Tereblecea, including Swentik, Sarafiniuk, Siminovich and Crusnitchi, had settled in Baudette. George was a close friend to Mrs. Swentik's brother, Mike Pieczarka, and probably chose Baudette because of that connection.

In 1913 George made application for 160 acres on the North Branch of the Rapid River eighteen miles southwest of Baudette. He worked at the Engler sawmill while improving his land. In 1917 he went to New York City to find a wife. On July 8th he married Helena Rzasa. His best man was his friend from Tereblecea, Mike Pieczarka.

Helena was born in 1894 in Dynow, Galicia, Austria to Thomas Rzasa and Mary Szczepanski. Galicia, another of the Austrian Crownlands, was located adjacent to Bukovina. George and Helens' birth villages were only two hundred miles apart. Helena was ethnically Polish. Poland as a country did not exist from 1772 until 1918.

She was eighteen years old when she took the train to Antwerp and then sailed on "Vaderland" to New York. Her older sister had emigrated in 1907 so she had family to greet her. She lived with and worked for various families during the five years she was in New York. Her marriage and move to the wilderness of northern Minnesota was a

difficult transition for her. They spent their first winter living in a dugout near the river. George purchased a house from the mill company in town, disassembled it and moved it to the farm. Their three sons, Victor John, Chester Thomas and Frank Nickles were born in 1919, 1921 and 1924.

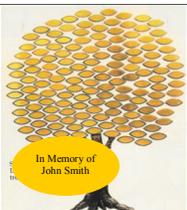
Education for their children was a priority. When the North Star School closed and they had to attend the Germanson School which was about seven miles from home George found an abandoned cabin, marked each log and reassembled it near the school. Helen and the children stayed in the cabin while school was in session. During their high school years they stayed in various cabins in town in order to attend school. All three sons graduated.

Life on the farm included milking cows, separating the cream, feeding the chickens and pigs, tending gardens, preserving fruits and vegetables, planting and harvesting crops, fixing machinery, cutting wood. George did not hunt or fish, but his sons did. They were active members in the Carp community.

George died in 1969 at 79 years of age. Helen moved into Baudette where she lived until her death in 1978. She was 83 years old. They are buried at Elmpark Cemetery.

A gold leaf was purchased in their memory by Jim and Jean Humeniuk.

New Tree of Life Donors



Join the Tree of Life Capital Campaign to Upgrade the Museum Facility

Three leaf colors — 3 levels of giving: Copper \$500 Gold \$1000 Platinum \$5,000

Leaves on the 48'' x 54'' tree plaque located in the museum's main hallway can be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones or to recognize businesses and organizations.

Select Your Leaf Color Print _____

___ Copper Inscription _____

___ Gold (Up to 3 lines) _____

___ Platinum

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Historical Society
206 8th Ave SE, Suite 150
Baudette, MN 56623

Your Name/Names: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign

Roma and Bert never forgot their past firmly rooted in Lake of the Woods County. After leaving their farm near Williams, they frequently returned "home" to visit family and friends and for Bert to hunt and to fish. A favorite trip was to celebrate Old Home Days held on the Elden Dally homestead which is now part of the Beltrami Island State Forest.

They both grew up on farms near Williams. Roma was the eldest child of Bill and Pansey Aitchison and Bert was the fifth child of Elden and Dorothy Dally.

While attending school, Roma and Bert played in the band. Bert played the trombone and Roma the clarinet. Roma competed in numerous state music competitions and was known for her musical talents. Bert lettered in football, basketball and band at Williams High School, but playing catcher for the baseball team was his favorite sports activity. Even though they attended the same school, they met singing in the choir at Bethany Lutheran Church where they subsequently were married and had several of their children baptized.

After graduation, Bert entered the Merchant Marines and later the US



In Memory of
Roma and Bert Dally

Navy. Upon his return from WWII, he and Roma married. They settled on a farm near Williams and started to raise their family.

In 1950 they moved to Sioux Falls, SD, for a year, but then returned to Williams. In 1956, they moved again to Grand Forks, ND, where Bert joined the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. They built a new home in East Grand Forks in 1959 and lived there until moving to St. Cloud, MN in 1963. There they stayed busy working full time and

attending the activities of their eight children. Roma worked at The Sears & Roebuck Company for many years as the head cashier and later as the manager of the service department. Bert continued his work as a carpenter and was elected a union representative for the local in St. Cloud. He later became the Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota State Council of Carpenters and Joiners and served in that position until he retired. He was a member of the Union for 58 years.

They enjoyed playing cards, gardening and traveling with their family. Their trips took them from Florida to California, Nova Scotia to Vancouver, and to Alaska and Hawaii. They encouraged their children to travel; they often said travel was the best education a person could get.

Living "up north" had a lifelong influence on them from which they shared stories and cherished memories. Roma died of cancer at their St. Cloud home May 2, 1991 and Bert died in Delano, MN, May 18, 2014. They are buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.

Their 50th Wedding Anniversary, surrounded by all their family and friends, was one of the highlights of their lives.

Gold leaves in their memory were purchased by daughters Dianna Deschene Linda Lutz and husband Larry.

New Tree of Life Donors



In Memory of
Elmer and Evelyn Knutson
Photo - October 1960

Elmer and Evelyn Knutson trace their roots to the Pitt and Williams communities and a gold leaf has been purchased in their memory by their daughters, Ethlyn Alonzo and Mildred Olson.

Elmer, the son of Carl and Elizabeth Knutson, came with his parents to Williams in 1914 at the age of eight. His siblings included Alma, Lloyd, John, Ida, and Lydia.

Evelyn was the first child born to Severin and Lenora Abrahamson of Pitt in 1908. She had one sister, Frances. The couple was married in September of 1930. Their daughters, Ethelyn and Mildred, were born in 1931 and 1936.

Elmer held various jobs before going to work for the Northern Farmer's Grain Elevator in Williams and Bau-

dette. In 1942, when their youngest daughter started first grade, Evelyn began cooking at the Williams School.

In 1953, the couple moved to Duluth where Elmer went to work as a state grain weigher. He continued there for many years. Evelyn spent the remainder of her working years clerking at various retail establishments.

Elmer and Evelyn moved closer to their children and grandchildren in the Minneapolis area a year before Elmer's death in 1970. Evelyn continued to live in the Cities until she passed away in 2004.

Over the years, the family returned to the area many times to visit family and friends. Their daughters continue to come for the Back Home Days Celebration in Williams each summer.

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign

Carl Emil Curtis was born at Baudette in 1925, the fifth child and first son born to Jon Emil and Ingeborg Curtis.

He grew up in Baudette and graduated from high school in 1943 as president of his class. While in school, he played hockey, football and the clarinet in the band.

After graduation he was drafted into the army. He spent most of his service time in Germany where he attained the rank of

Sergeant. When he returned home, he enrolled in the School of Pharmacy at North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo. After his second year, in 1947, he and Helen Brown were married.

Carl graduated from college in 1950 with an ROTC commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was then recalled into the army. He was seriously injured in the Korean Conflict and received the Purple



**In Memory of
Carl E. Curtis
1925-2005**

Heart for combat wounds in 1951. After his hospitalization in Tokyo, Japan, he was honorably discharged in 1952 and returned to Baudette to take over the operation of the Curtis Drug Store from his father. He and Helen raised a family of five children, one son, John, and four daughters, Jane (Feigum), Cathy (Dunshee), Becky (Campbell) and Christy (Armstrong).

Carl was very active in community affairs and service for the betterment of others throughout his life. He was a member of the American Legion Post 217 where he held various offices including commander of the Post's Ceremonial Squad for 50 years. He was a member of the VFW Post 723 and Baudette Moose Lodge. For 25 years, he chaired the local March of Dimes and was a Firearms Safety instructor. He also served terms on the Baudette School Board and the City Council. As

a member of the First Lutheran Church he served in many capacities including president and as lay preacher when asked. He assisted in organizing many community events and served as the Master of Ceremonies on numerous public occasions.

An avid deer hunter, Carl bagged a rare albino deer in 1955 which became the symbol for the Curtis Rexall Drug Store and the background of the store's soda fountain.

Curtis Rexall Drug was a fixture on Main Street for 71 years. John E. Curtis started the drug store in 1919 and ran it for 37 years until Carl took over. In 1960, Carl built a new store building and stayed at the helm for the next 39 years. In 1989 it was sold to Stuart and Nancy Noble who continue its operation today as Noble Drug.

Many young and old people came to admire the albino deer and fondly remember the ice cream and good times shared at the soda fountain.

A copper leaf was purchased by Helen in memory of Carl and the Curtis Drug Store.

New Tree of Life Donors

Stoddard Merchant Robinson was born in Des Moines, Iowa to Stoddard and Marian Robinson in 1927. He was five when his family came to Baudette and his father opened a five and dime store. He grew up in Baudette and after graduating from high school in 1945, he joined the Army Air Force. Following the service he enrolled at Bemidji State University and then at St. Cloud State where he graduated in 1950.

In 1948, he married Alyce Tangreen and the couple returned to Baudette to make their home in June of 1950. They had one daughter Shelley (Weidner).

Stoddard, or Stod, as he was known, worked in his parent's dry goods store for a couple of years before opening his own variety store in 1953. Stoddard's Variety Store was briefly located in the Bartle Building before moving to the Rulien Building on the corner of Main Avenue and Highway 11 directly across from the Municipal Building. In 1955, it became a Ben Franklin Store and he remained in operation there for 35

years. In 1985 the business was sold to Randle's Ben Franklin of Roseau.

An active figure in civic affairs, Stod held several offices in the Baudette Civic and Commerce Association including president. In the 1960s he helped to secure federal funds to pave the town streets and

obtain a loan to build Oak Harbor Golf Course where later he served as president. He was a charter member of the Baudette Rotary Club formed in 1962, a commander of the American Legion, a member of the Osiris and Moose Lodges. He served on the boards of Trinity Hospital and First Lutheran Church.

Stod also brought cable television



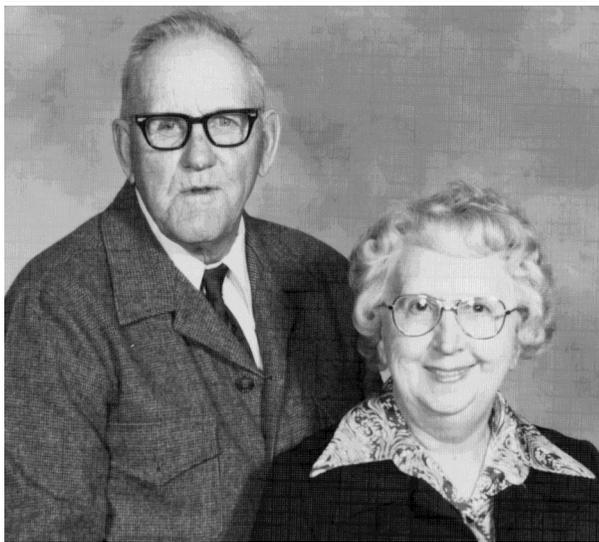
**In Memory of
Stoddard M. Robinson**

to Baudette enabling people to receive American stations in addition to the Canadian channel CBC. He founded Border Area Cable TV in 1974 and introduced the first local Channel 3.

Music was a big part of Stod's life. He played in the Baudette School band, two air force bands, two college bands, the Baudette Municipal band, a local German band and blew TAPS at countless military funerals. He was also an avid fisherman and the family enjoyed many outings to their lake cabin.

In 1987, Stod moved to southern California. There he married Sara Landry. He continued to be interested in the affairs of his hometown and was a faithful supporter of the Lake of the Woods Historical Society. He died on May 4, 2014. A gold leaf was purchased in his memory by his daughter, family and many friends.

The Tree of Life Capital Campaign



In Memory of Harold and Helen Hansen

One cannot think of two individuals more enmeshed in Carp history than Harold and Helen Hansen. Harold came to the community as a child in 1907 and Helen as a young girl in 1920. In 1910, when Harold was just eight his family lost everything in the great forest fire that swept through the region. It took hard work and dedication by his parents

worked with his dad, Ole, in the woods. From 1918 to 1930 he worked on the log drives on the Rapid River in addition to cutting timber. He took a liking to woods work and continued to log along with his farming operation for most of his life. When time permitted he enjoyed fishing.

Helen was a true homemaker. She

to turn their scorched homestead into a modern, productive farm.

The Carp Store and Post Office, which Harold's mother Elise and brother Ed operated for nearly all the years of its existence, made the family central to the community.

Helen is legendary for her many years as the Carp Correspondent in the Baudette Region and for her longevity. When she passed away in July of 2014, she held the distinction of being 105 and the County's oldest resident.

As a young man, Harold loved to cook, bake, sew and care for her family. She also enjoyed gardening, flowers, dancing, bingo and reading scripture. Harold filled the role of cop at Carp Hall on Saturday nights for a quarter century and for as many years, Helen was the family barber.

The couple grew up as neighbors, Helen being the daughter of Gust and Clara Belkey. They married in 1931 and moved to a small house that had once been the first store building at Carp. This remained their home for many years. Three sons were born to them: Rolland in 1932, Richard in 1933 and Gerald in 1935.

Harold was buried at Elmpark Cemetery in 1979. The Clementson news reporter at that time described Harold as "a man of many fine qualities, always calm and understanding with warmth and friendliness toward everyone he met."

The Hansen's legacy is one of example. They were family people, good neighbors; solid citizens with a special fondness for their Carp community.

A bronze leaf from their family has been placed on our Tree of Life.

Memorials—gone from our midst, they remain lovingly in our hearts

In Memory of
Juanita Ellis

Given by Larry & Eileen Olson

In Memory of
Delphine Sindelir

Given by the Sindelir Family

In Memory of
**Ruth Levasseur
and Tanner Mollberg**

Given by Helen Curtis

In Memory of
Alton Fadness

Given by RuBelle Towne
Roger & Rita Krause,
Elwood & Aris Gubrud,
Richard & Annette Johnson
Dave & Mary Marhula

In Memory of
**Delores Bagne, Doris Macheel
and Duane Hildebrandt**
Given by RuBelle Towne

In Memory of
Helen Hansen

Given by Carol Brune
Robert & Arlene Slick
Dave & Mary Marhula
Ron & Kay Lien
Marvel & Gerald Duffy
Betty Frohreich,
Carol Nelson,
Judy Bourgeois

In Memory of
Elda Kartes

Given by Dennis & Kay Briese

In Memory of
John Stanton

Given by Gary & Joan Aery

In Memory of
**Julienne Sunne, Lil Humeniuk
Ruth Fogelstrom &
Bev Christofferson**

Given by Dave & Mary Marhula

In Memory of
Lil Humeniuk

Given By RuBelle Towne
George and Marlene Dahl
Lindabell Hansen

In Memory of
Bert Tyler

Given by Forest Abbott
and Steve & Carol Sindelir

In Memory of
Winnie Hasbargen

Given by Sandra Sindelir

In Memory of
Evelyn Vondrka

Given by Marlys Hirst
Gerald & Rose Hansen
RuBelle Towne

In Memory of
Joyce Slick

Given by Gerry & Rose Hansen
Linda Hansen



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Have a Question or Comment for the Historical Society?

Is there something about Lake of the Woods County History that you are just curious to know - when, where, how or why something happened? Submit your question/comment below and we'll do our best to provide an answer in our next newsletter.

Question/Comment: _____

Please provide name and e-mail or phone number below in case we need to contact you.