



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)

Alfred Arthur “Art” Warner, Jr.

March 21, 1931 – August 16, 2015

Education

Bachelor’s Degree, North Dakota Agricultural College (NDSU), Fargo, ND

Work

Morrison County Social Services, Little Falls, MN, Child Support Enforcement – 30 years
(retired in 1991)

Boeing, Seattle, WA – 1 year – received bonuses for 3 ideas submitted to improve performance of
company

Had a variety of jobs prior to his position with Social Services, including at a print shop,
Larson Boats, and the Morrison County Highway Department

Military Service

United States Army, stationed in Giessen, Germany, 1952-1954

Volunteer Activities

Morrison County Historical Society – joined organization in 1962, elected president in 1965,
served as president for 47 years

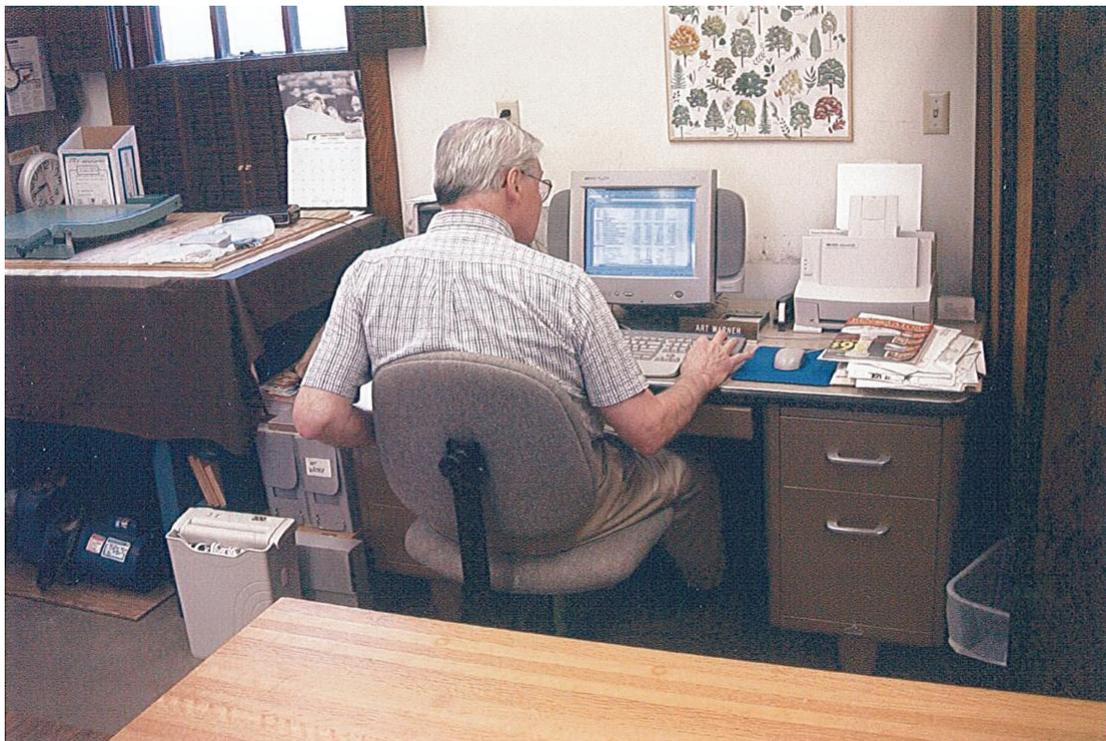
Chi Rho Advisory Board
First Lutheran Church
Boy Scouts
4-H
Tri-Cap Board of Directors
Kiwanis Club – member and president
Jaycees
Lindbergh Elementary PTA
Preserve Our Land
Mississippi River Revival
Governor’s Design Team for Little Falls
Washington Playground Ad Hoc Committee
First United Church
Little Falls festivals
Little Falls Planning Commission
Little Falls Heritage Preservation Commission
Little Falls Tourism Committee - advisory member
Mayor’s Task Force 2014 (Little Falls)
Great River Arts Association – organizer
Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau – organizer
West Side Improvement Association – organizer
Region 5 History Coalition

Recipient, along with wife Jan Warner, of the Little Falls Exchange Club’s Book of Golden
Deeds Award in 1994

Art Warner's Service in Pictures



Art Warner, MCHS president, churning butter for the Morrison County Fair booth display of the Morrison County Historical Society, 1967.



Art Warner, MCHS president, doing board work at the Weyerhaeuser Museum, 1999. Note the spreadsheet on the computer screen. Art was known as "Spreadsheet Man."

Art Warner's Service in Pictures



Art Warner putting together an audio-visual table for an annual meeting of the Morrison County Historical Society, 2011.



Bob Maschler (left) with Art Warner, discussing the new benches Bob made for the Weyerhaeuser Museum, June 2012.

Art Warner's Service in Pictures



Art Warner and Ann Marie Johnson reviewing exhibits for a coffee party in Buckman, MN, sponsored by the Morrison County Historical Society, April 2011.



Art Warner showing a contractor the inner workings of part of the furnace at the Weyerhaeuser Museum, February 2013.

Art Warner's Service in Pictures



Art and Jan Warner (back left) at a Region 5 History Coalition meeting in Staples, MN, January 2012.



Art Warner leading the 75th annual meeting of the Morrison County Historical Society, Royalton, MN, September 2011.

Art Warner's Service in Pictures



Art Warner speaking at the program celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Weyerhaeuser Museum, Falls Ballroom, Little Falls, MN, 2005.



Art Warner, MCHS president (right) with Alfred (left) and George Janske, accepting a donation of property from the Janske brothers to the Morrison County Historical Society, 1996.

DOUGLAS A. BIRK, ARCHAEOLOGIST/HISTORIAN
2063 White Pine Point Trail SW
Pine River, MN 56474

23 February 2016

Mary Warner, Interim Executive Director
Morrison County Historical Society
The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum
2151 S. Lindbergh Drive, PO Box 239
Little Falls, MN 56345

Dear Mary:

I am writing in support of Art and Jan Warner's nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM). This letter specifically addresses the late Art Warner, and my personal admiration for his many efforts to initiate and facilitate historical and cultural programs in Morrison County and the State of Minnesota.

I first met Art and Jan Warner in 1972 while working at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. Art was Jan's life partner, guide, and associate. He was naturally quiet and reserved and yet, despite an obvious aversion to being the center of attention or orating, he headed countless committee and board meetings at the Morrison County Historical Society (MCHS). Art was elected President of the society in 1965 and labored diligently (and with little fanfare) in that position or as a volunteer until his death at the age of 84 on 16 August 2015.

"Still waters run deep" is how I think of Art. Whenever I saw him, he was invariably with Jan. The two were inseparable in their private lives and public endeavors. At the MCHS, Art always seemed the silent partner, the wizard behind the curtain, the fellow who crafted strategies, balanced budgets, and carried heavy loads when no one was looking. He sought results and not recognition.

Art had broad interests in history, archaeology, architecture, and the arts that went far beyond the bounds of Little Falls and Morrison County. To be sure, he was a learned student of local history and could cite, chapter and verse, the exploits of many persons who early passed through or settled in central Minnesota. In his spare time, however, he prowled the internet for the latest word on archaeological and historical projects and discoveries around the world. He often sent me email links to such information and certainly used his global perspective when advising about programs, systems, events, and legalities at the MCHS.

Art was computer literate in ways that allowed him to create spreadsheets and organizational charts. Through his practiced skills, Art was fond of mentoring fellow board and staff members at the MCHS with regard to fiscal and organizational management issues.

Art, like Jan, had a lifelong passion for making their community a better place to live or to visit. He knew the importance of history and historical education, as well as the potential of historic sites and heritage tourism for attracting people and stimulating the local economy. His many contributions to Minnesota history as a director, fund-raiser, advisor, supporter, and facilitator are almost legendary.

Of course, many of Art's accomplishments are highly visible and enduring. On his watch the MCHS moved from a dank and obscure dungeon in the basement of the county courthouse to a brand new facility on the scenic west bank of the Mississippi River. The society's *Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum* is now an inviting, secure, state-of-the-art facility with carefully organized and accessible collections, well-conceived exhibits, timely programs, and a friendly and professional staff.

Mary Warner, 23 Feb 2016
Page Two

Art was an active member of his community with a demonstrated proficiency for management and leadership who dedicated a great deal of his life towards the gathering, curation, and promotion of history on both a state and local level. Along with his life partner and associate Jan, I know of no one more deserving of the MALHM's Lifetime Achievement Award than Art Warner.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Birk
Archaeologist/Historian



February 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the nominations of both Art Warner and Jan Warner for the Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums and I am absolutely delighted to do so.

I met both Art and Jan in 1994 when I began work as the Morrison County Administrator and we worked together on many projects and community initiatives over the course of the next 14 years until my departure from that job in 2008. I say that I met Art and Jan because I do not recall seeing just Art or just Jan ... ever. Simply put, they were inseparable and both zealously committed to preserving the history of Morrison County. More than that, though, they were just as zealous in their commitment and passion to advancing the community of Morrison County in the broadest sense of the term.

I worked with them every year on the county's appropriation for the Historical Society—which, as an aside, was never enough. I worked with them to assist in setting up reasonable and affordable benefit approaches for the staff as the Weyerhauser Museum, the home of the Morrison County Historical Society. I never once worked on an issue related to the museum or the Historical Society when I didn't work with Art and Jan. Their presence in these active roles within the Society and the museum pre-dated me by decades and continued until just very recently after my departure.

I don't think it an overstatement to say they *were* the Morrison County Historical Society and, by sheer force of will and personality, they *built* that museum from scratch. The Society thrives today because of the solid foundation they laid and nurtured over decades of service; and, the museum is a priceless jewel second to none in Greater Minnesota. They introduced the idea of curation of the museum's holdings to ensure they were not just stored, but they would be properly preserved for generations to come. They were one of the first historical museums in Greater Minnesota to have a paid, trained Curator on staff. They tirelessly marshalled volunteers for event after event to highlight the rich history of Morrison County and to keep it fresh and alive for present generations. They were many years my senior, but I frequently got tired just watching the expenditure of energy they could muster for the Society, the museum, and the preservation, presentation, and interpretation of Morrison County's history.

That, in and of itself, given their passion and dedication over

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Timothy J. Houle
County Administrator

County Administrator's Office
Historic Courthouse
326 Laurel Street, Suite 13
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1067

Toll Free: (888) 829-6680

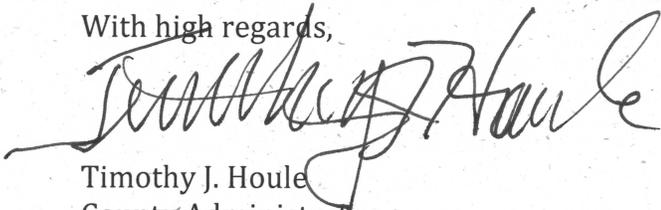
Fax: (218) 824-1054

www.crowwing.us

decades of selfless service, should be enough to make them deserving of the honor of this Lifetime Achievement Award. But that would not be the whole story. Art and Jan, once again inseparable, throughout their life could be found at any community gathering where there was an art display, performance art, or a cultural event of any kind for they keenly understood the building blocks of a vital and energized community did not just include a vibrant history, but also involved the *creation* of future history by our actions within the community today. That passion and dedication to creating and sustaining a vibrant community extended to their volunteering their time, their talents, and their treasure to a wide variety of community events and initiatives, a small accounting of which would include education, providing for those who are most vulnerable in our society, economic development, and community development. There were very few community advancement events or initiatives that took place during my entire 14-year tenure with Morrison County that did not include the presence and active participation of Art and Jan Warner.

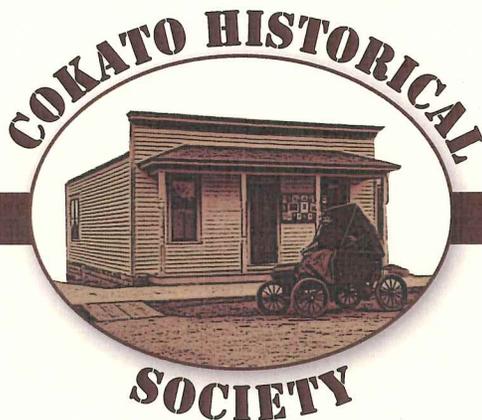
Both Art and Jan are well known and much loved in their community. Art's passing and Jan's retirement (really retiring this time!) leave a significant hole which will be nigh on impossible for any other two people to fill. It will take the collective energy of a lot of people to replace the energy, dedication, and enthusiasm with which Art and Jan blessed the community. I cannot fathom that you could come up with a more deserving couple of people—an inseparable couple in their own right—to receive the honor of this Lifetime Achievement Award. They are the most deserving of recognition for their lifetime of contributions to their community across a broad spectrum of interests than anyone I have known in my 21 years of public service. I am honored, privileged, and delighted to supply this recommendation for a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums for Art Warner and for Jan Warner.

With high regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Houle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Timothy J. Houle
County Administrator

TJH/



COKATO MUSEUM AND AKERLUND PHOTO STUDIO

WWW.COKATO.MN.US/CMHS/

23 February 2016

Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums
Willmar, MN 56201

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter as my whole-hearted recommendation for conferral of the Alliance's *Lifetime Achievement Award* to Art & Jan Warner of the Morrison County Historical Society.

For many years, both Art and Jan worked diligently to bring attention to local history in their area. Even more importantly, they worked to extol the enduring value of local history across the state at a time when that field was largely being ignored. Their tireless efforts (some of which came with understandable frustration) helped pave the way for an entire generation of younger professionals in the field to demonstrate how local history can be a vital part of a community's composition.

As someone who came into the field in the early 1990s, I was a beneficiary of the Warner's efforts. They were without a doubt people who set a good example for us younger historians, and helped articulate the many ways local history could be more than just a building with "old stuff on shelves". Their energy and passion were certainly something I noted, appreciated, and tried to emulate.

It also bears noting that they did much of their work humbly, rarely trying to draw attention to themselves. Instead they wanted to work to be observed, shared, and spread far and wide. In that vein, their lasting contributions to the field of local history will likely never be fully measured or appreciated.

I am honored to be able to make this recommendation to the Alliance.

Sincerely,

Mike Worcester
Museum Director

Turnstone Historical Research

275 E. 4th St., Suite 790 ~St. Paul, MN 55101~Phone: 651-310-0601~ Fax: 651-222-7338

February 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Art and Jan Warner for the Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.

I do not remember the first time I went to do research at the Morrison County Historical Society, but I do remember all the times I heard about it before I ever went there. My mother, Helen White, who had worked before as a staff member of the Minnesota Historical Society and later was a free-lancer and publisher in Taylors Falls told me about Morrison County and about the splendid people, Jan and Art Warner who were guiding lights there. My mother had high standards and she made clear to me that Morrison County Historical Society was a wonderful place and the Warners were wonderful people.

Later on when I began to work on the project on Ojibwe photographs which led to my book *We Are at Home*, I am sure my mother asked me: "Have you talked to Jan Warner yet?" I did of course and then went there to do research, around 1987. Jan was very helpful to me and I loved doing research there. The building is one of the most beautiful of any historical society in the state and it is a lovely place to do research. I'm sure in my mother's eyes it gave her the feeling of a kind of Japanese architecture that she loved from her time in Japan, a sense of serenity, of a connection to nature, and to history and to its community. And I, who was born during parent's time in Japan, love the building too.

I have appreciated working at the Morrison County ever since my first visit. In terms of county historical societies, it is a state-of-the art organization, encouraging of scholarly research while at the same time connected to the public and to the community it serves.

Because of their role in making the Morrison County Historical Society the kind of institution it is, I strongly support the nomination of Art and Jan Warner for the Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.

Sincerely,
Bruce M. White, PhD
white067@umn.edu

Marilyn J. Chiat, Ph.D.
11484 Fairfield Road West, #405
Minnetonka, MN 55305
952-544-6434 chiat@earthlink.net

February 15, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Heckman,

It is indeed a privilege and honor to write a letter of testimony for the awarding of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museum's Lifetime Achievement Award to two outstanding people, Arthur(Art) and Jeanette (Jan) Warner, who together and individually have contributed so much to the documentation and preservation of Minnesota, and in particular, Morrison County's history. Their accomplishments in the field of local and state history are many and will be recounted by many individuals who have had the privilege to work with them on their many and varied projects. But their efforts have gone beyond the field of local history, they have also been committed to their larger community that was recognized and honored when they were presented with the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Little Falls' Exchange Club in 1994 for their extensive volunteer service. I could go on and list many of Jan and Art's awards they received and accomplishments they achieved over the more than fifty years they resided in Little Falls, and in particular in their relationship to the Morrison County Historical Society where Jan was named Executive Director in 1977 and Art became its first Board President in 1965. It is in this context that I had the opportunity to first meet Jan and Art and witness first hand their outstanding ability to not only gather community support for a research project, but their leadership capabilities that are so important if a project is to achieve success, as this one did.

In 1989 I received grants from the American Association of State and Local History (the first awarded in Minnesota) and the Minnesota Historical Society for the Project to Document Places of Worship in North Central Minnesota. The counties participating in the project were Aitkin, Cass, Crosslake, Crow Wing, and Morrison, as well as the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians. The project would require the participation of each of the county's historical societies' directors in recruiting volunteers to undertake the research under their supervision and that of

the project's directors. A training manual, written by the director, was used to prepare volunteers for the project. It is at this point that the county directors had to demonstrate their ability to attract volunteers willing to commit time and effort to the project, and it is here that I witnessed Jan's ability to do just this. Without going into an extensive explanation of the project, suffice it to say that Jan with Art's assistance was able to recruit the necessary volunteers, guide them through the training sessions, and oversee their work in the field. As Jan stated in a bulletin sent out by the Morrison County Historical Society in March, 1989, "...this project is one that the entire community can take part in." And, indeed the entire community did. Researchers compiled data including documents and photographs on over eighty houses of worship in Morrison County as well as conducting oral interviews with many congregants. That data is now in the archives of the Morrison County Historical Society where, according to its current director, Mary Warner, it has been used by many researchers.

Since the successful conclusion of that project in the mid-1990s, I have kept in constant contact with Jan and Art, both on a professional and personal basis. When I was asked to write a book by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on America's religious architecture, I consulted with Jan regarding a church in Morrison County that I wanted to include. She graciously provided me with all the information I required. In addition, I have spoken to both Jan and Art on numerous occasions about research projects we were both engaged in. Their suggestions and advice have always proved helpful.

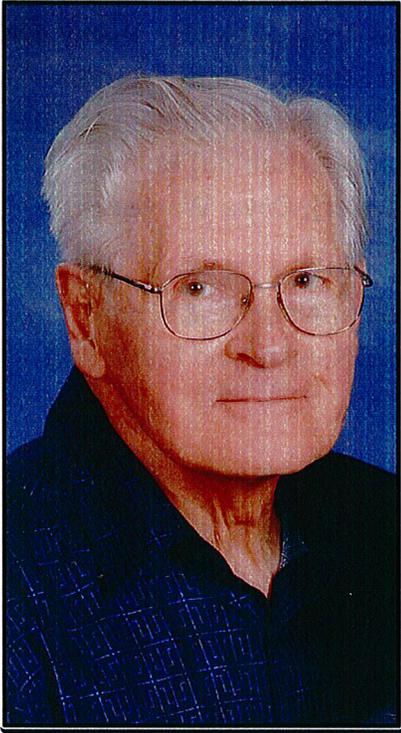
Art has left us and Jan has recently resigned as Executive Director of the Morrison County Historical Society, but their outstanding contributions to their community and the State of Minnesota will always be there for others, such as myself, to benefit from, and for that I am grateful, and so should all of us involved in preserving our past for future generations. For that reason alone I urge you to consider Jan and Art for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cordially,

Marilyn J. Chiat, Ph.D.

Alfred "Art" Warner

August 16, 2015



Alfred Arthur "Art" Warner was born on March 21, 1931 in Minneapolis, Minnesota the son of Alfred A. & Helga (Nielsen) Warner, Sr. He graduated from Vocational High School in Minneapolis, 1949, and received a Bachelor's Degree from North Dakota Agricultural College (NDSU), 1959. Art was in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954 and served in Giessen, Germany.

On August 26, 1950, Art was united in marriage to Jeanette Erdyne Pigman at Bethany Lutheran Church, Cushing, MN. Art's first job after college was with Boeing in Seattle, WA. The family moved to Little Falls in 1960 and Art went to work for Morrison County Social Services, where he remained for 30 years. Community service always complemented his working life and continued for 24 years after his retirement. One of Art's greatest joys was to attend any event in which his children or grandchildren were participating. Various hobbies over the course of his life included woodworking, collecting cameras, coins and Red Wing crocks, stained glass, genealogy, caring for house plants, feeding songbirds, attending concerts, listening to jazz, creating spreadsheets, and eating out at restaurants. He was especially fond of chocolate and coffee. Art was involved in a vast array of community activities, both locally and around Minnesota, often with his wife, Jan. Together they were presented with the Book of Golden Deeds Award for their contributions to the community. He was most known for his 50-year involvement in the Morrison County Historical Society, serving all but three of those years as president of the organization. Other community activities included serving on the Little Falls Planning Commission, taking part in numerous environmental and conservation causes (Preserve Our Land, Mississippi River Revival), contributing time to a variety of community planning and development meetings and committees, helping to organize the Great River Arts Association, Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau and West Side Improvement Association, a former member of the Jaycees, and was a past-member and president of Kiwanis. Art was a former member of First Lutheran Church, serving on the church council, and is currently a member of First United Church. Art was a man of integrity who was respected by all who met him. He seemed to live by the motto, "speak no evil word of anyone." He

Services

VISITATION

Monday

August 31, 2015

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Emblom Brenny Funeral

Service - Little Falls

Little Falls, MN

was a passionately devoted husband, wise and loving parent, and unflinching support to his entire family. We will miss his kindness, his subtle humor and his gentle presence.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Jeanette "Jan" (Pigman) Warner of Little Falls, MN; son, Erik (Mary) Warner of Little Falls, MN; daughters, Stacy Warner (Jerry Salitros) of Golden Valley, MN, Rev. Jill Warner of Aberdeen, SD, and Glenys (Todd) Warner-Holman of Baxter, MN; grandchildren, Rianna (Christopher) Matter, Ariel (Devin) Larson, Sam Kelash, Nicholas (Katrina) Holman, Patrick Holman, Ian Warner (Desiree Miller), Olivia Warner (Eric Seonbuchner), and Sebastian Warner.

Art was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred A. & Helga (Nielsen) Warner, Sr., grandson, Daniel Kelash; and father and mother in-law, Earl & Lillian Pigman.

The family requests written memories of Art.



Art Warner reviewing an invoice with Bob Maschler concerning the new museum benches the men are sitting on, June 2012.



Art Warner removing a panel to access the cooling coil on the furnace at The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum, Little Falls, MN, February 15, 2013.



Art Warner's hand holding a piece of bark chewed off a tree at the Weyerhaeuser Museum by a beaver, September 26, 2012.



Art Warner on a ladder, peering up into the attic space at the Weyerhaeuser Museum, February 15, 2013.



HERITAGE FUND

The Morrison County Historical Society's Heritage Fund was of special importance to Art Warner because the endowment allows people to give to the organization in a way that honors relatives and friends while contributing to MCHS's long-term financial stability. Thank you to the following for your donations to the Heritage Fund in memory of Art.

Robert & Helen Verkuilen
 Catherine J. Little
 Frederick S. Larson
 Douglas Birk
 Linda Peavy & Ursula Smith
 Stan & Dee Wielinski
 Carol Schmidt
 Helen Gaiser
 Erik & Mary Warner
 Jim & Mary Palmquist
 Judith Lickteig
 Judy & Bruce Eckblad
 Julia R. Crockett
 Ren & Ida Mae Holland
 Jill L. Christopherson
 Dan & Pam Girtz
 Alice Smuda
 Albert & Pat Libke
 Barbara Roszell
 Wayne & Lola May Thompson
 Marlene A. Williams
 Kathleen Hanowski
 Delores Zyvolski
 Ray & Dianna Schulte
 Fran Reinke-Ust
 Ardelle Johnson
 Ed & Lucy Tanner
 Dr. William Girvin & Barbara Heinrich
 Stephen G. Wenzel
 Bette & Gordon Gerling
 J. Forrest & Harriet Anderson
 Shirley Jane Arvidson
 Tom & Joy Wenzel
 Bob & Nancy Keeton
 Norman & Marcia Nelson



*Today is the fruit of yesterday,
 the seed of tomorrow.*

Museum Sundries - Art & Jan

At the Pike Commemorative Dinner held on October 16, 2005, the board and staff of the Morrison County Historical Society took an opportunity to show appreciation for the forty years of service Art and Jan Warner have dedicated to the Weyerhaeuser Museum and county history. It is difficult to summarize forty years into a quick article, especially when the subjects have often taken on several complicated tasks simultaneously.

I wrote this article using past minutes of the Historical Society. These were an exciting treasure that I had trouble keeping to myself when discussing museum-related issues with Jan. The presentation was a secret, so I couldn't let it slip that I was looking at old minutes or Jan would know something was up.

During the New Business portion of the annual meeting dinner, board member Deb Collis slipped up to the front of the room and kindly read this piece. I would have become a blubbing mess if I had done so. Deb then presented a gift of recognition to Art and Jan from the board: A beautiful, clear glass pitcher engraved with the names of the Weyerhaeuser Museum and Historical Society, along with the year. The pitcher was filled with a colorful array of flowers.

Following the recognition, Jan spoke, modestly giving credit to past and present board members, donors, and staff, as if she and Art were no more than wallpaper in the history of the Society. We know better. They are the glue that holds this organization together and makes it a "premiere" Historical Society in the state.

Art spoke next, thanking everyone for the recognition. He continued the annual meeting by saying he was afraid to ask for any other new business because he didn't know what to expect.

Cheers to Art and Jan Warner. They make work at the Historical Society pure joy.

The names "Art and Jan Warner" are synonymous with the Morrison County Historical Society. They have earned this distinction through a commitment to the Society that has lasted over forty years. Art's name appears on a membership role in 1963, within a year after the Historical Society was re-energized by Arch Grahn of the Minnesota Historical Society. Art was elected to his first stint as Society president in 1965. At the March 4 annual meeting that year, "Mrs. Warner proposed keep-

ing a Scrap Book of photographs and articles of current events in Morrison County." (MCHS minutes, March 4, 1965) Thus, began Art and Jan's long association with the Society.

The Morrison County Historical Society was officially incorporated in 1936. It was an outgrowth of the Works Progress Administration, which put a handful of local people to work collecting the histories of long-time area families. The Society operated out of a dark, crowded basement space in the Historic Courthouse at the time Art and Jan joined. Jan set out to rearrange the space to display artifacts "to better advantage." (MCHS minutes, Oct. 14, 1965) She suggested to the board that "this should be done with a view to making the museum more educational and interesting for school children." (MCHS minutes, Oct. 14, 1965)

Art had a few goals of his own for his first year as president. He wanted the Society to work toward the preservation and marking of historic sites, create a booth for the County Fair, and establish a traveling exhibition. The minutes of the Society show that all of these goals were seriously pursued. One of the historic sites under discussion was Pike's fort. The Society was concerned about the placement of the monument, the meeting minutes suggesting that its location was not ideal.

As the Society ramped up its activities and public services, it became apparent that a new museum building was needed. Members investigated a variety of possibilities and plans took years to reach fruition, culminating in the opening of The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum thirty years ago, in 1975. Art and Jan were fully entrenched in the project, with Jan having



MCHS Board member Deb Collis with Jan & Art Warner, who were recognized for 40 years of service to the Historical Society, Oct. 16, 2005, during Pike Commemorative Dinner at Falls Ballroom. Photo by Glenys Warner-Holman.

to convey to contractors and construction crews that she certainly did know what she was talking about when it came to building construction. She also worked with John Low to design the exhibits and write exhibit labels. Meanwhile, Art concerned himself with such details as selling the first property purchased by the Society for the museum, getting insurance, and having the burglar alarm and telephone connected. At this time, he also continued his presidential duties, having served all but one year in this office between 1965 and 1975.

The museum needed a director, but a qualified one could not be found. In June, 1975, Sr. Mary Venard Niehaus, secretary of the Society, suggested that the position be opened to Jan, because she had already been acting in this capacity. She declined, but continued directing day-to-day activities at the museum. She was not officially named as Museum Director until sometime in 1977.

Art and Jan are inseparable. They

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initially joined the Historical Society because it was an activity they could share, without being split into work groups by gender. They weren't looking to escape each other's company as other married couples sometimes do. To the great benefit of the Historical Society, they have complemented each other's talents beautifully.

Jan has served as the public face of the museum, speaking to innumerable groups; presenting local history on Partyline and in the Society's newsletter; leading the charge to save important historic sites; directing interns, volunteers, and staff; and serving on countless state-wide boards and committees. Behind the scenes, she has created exhibits, packed and organized artifacts and archival materials, and dreamed up all sorts of events, which she loves to revolve around themes. She could have been a party planner . . . maybe, when she retires.

Anyone who knows Art realizes that he is not particularly comfortable with speaking in front of people. With much throat-clearing and a soft-spoken demeanor, he does a fine job of it. He loves detail and has worked tirelessly on the legalities of operating the Society, along with keeping close attention to the organization's finances. He is fond of creating spreadsheets and budget reports that easily show the staff and board how money moves in the organization. Art also makes a great chauffeur for Jan.

Working together, Art and Jan have turned The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum into a world-class facility, one that exceeds people's expectations of county historical societies. It is their love of each other and local history that have made it so.

~Mary Warner
Museum Manager

MCHS welcomes artifacts and archival items that are in good condition and deal primarily with county history. If you are interested in donating an item to the collections, feel free to give us a call 320/632-4007.



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

by Jan Warner

Receiving recognition for our years of involvement with the Morrison County Historical Society was totally unexpected, and a wonderful gesture on the part of the Board of Directors and Staff. We have enjoyed forty years of association with countless people that we would otherwise not have met. The first person who comes to mind is Stella LeBlanc. Stella and I spent hours upon hours together, sorting, arranging, doing research and planning for the future. From her I learned how to pronounce French-Canadian names. We visited the White Earth cemetery where Allen Morrison, the County's namesake, is buried. She is only one among hundreds who have made significant contributions to the growth of the Society and to planning for a new facility.

There is no doubt that the Society would not be what it is today without the generosity of Robert and Sarah Maud Sivertsen and the late Carl Weyerhaeuser,

the daughter and son of Charles A. Weyerhaeuser. Their donation of The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum lifted the Society from a small county museum to a premiere museum and research facility. It is gratifying that the grandchildren and even the great grandchildren of Charles Weyerhaeuser now show interest in the museum.

The engine that runs any organization is its Board of Directors. The Society has been blessed with dedicated people who have kept a watchful eye on the policies and the funds. Fiscal responsibility has kept the museum afloat. Credit also must go to staff members who keep daily tabs on museum operation. Fuel for the engine is supplied by the members and donors who have volunteered their time and supplied money.

Thanks also must go to the Board of County Commissioners. Throughout the years the Society has had the support of the Commissioners. The present Commissioners all take a personal interest in the County's history.

We have been richly rewarded to serve with so many people. Thanks to all who have made this effort possible and have given us so many wonderful friends.

Crude Beginnings

Seventy years ago a small group of people began collecting artifacts, information and memorabilia from the pioneers who had settled Morrison County. This group of founders included Mrs. J. K. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stilwell, Mr. Val Kasperek, Mrs. R. L. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gibson, and Mrs. Julius Jetka. They organized the Morrison County Historical Society and soon new members joined. As the collections grew a museum space was needed to house the items. The County provided a room in the basement of the courthouse. The room was small with not much head-room due to the heating pipes near the ceiling. One small basement window faced the west. As the collections grew the exhibits spilled into the hallway. A big furnace faced the museum's doorway from the opposite side of the hallway.

The artifacts were exhibited in cases donated by stores. Those not in cases were hung on walls. Tags attached to the items identified their use and who donated them. There were two metal file cabinets, not enough space for the manuscript collections. Boxes filled with papers were shoved into every available space. There was no provision for the conservation of the items and little was known about the elements which damage precious items.

In spite of these crude beginnings, it is to these founders that we owe much for their foresight. Some of the most important items in the museum's collections were gathered in these early days. It is our duty to carry out the work that was begun seventy years ago. Perhaps we could all pay tribute to their efforts with an extra donation to carry on the work of the Morrison County Historical Society.

~ Jan Warner

BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS AWARD PRESENTED TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS ART AND JAN WARNER

Copied from the Morrison County Record, dated November 13, 1994

Text and photo by Joyce Moran

According to Dr. James Gehant, member of the Little Falls Exchange Club, the Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award is given annually to those who have volunteered their services without expecting any recognition. "The Award is our way of showing appreciation for their good deeds," he related at the award's presentation banquet held Thursday evening at the Oaks Supper Club. He then proceeded to present the 1994 Award to Art and Jan Warner.

As the banquet's featured speaker, Chuck Stone pointed out, "We have a remarkable museum because of Jan and Art, and the history of our region continues to live." When one realizes that Jan has been the volunteer Executive Director of the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Museum since it opened in 1975, and Art has been the President of the Morrison County Historical Society for most of the last 30 years, he or she understands more fully the meaning of his statement.

Jan, the daughter of Earl and Lillian Pigman, was born in Cushing. After attending school in Cushing and Little Falls, she graduated from West High School in Minneapolis in 1949. Her days of employment took her, among other places, to KLTF Radio, WDAY-TV and the Little Falls Daily Transcript. The list of her volunteer involvement is extensive. It includes being a Campfire leader, a summer Bible School superintendent, a member of various church committees, a member of the steering committee for the formation of the MN Association of Museums, a member of the steering committee for the formation of the MN Preservation Alliance, a member of the original Board of Directors of the Institute for MN Archaeology, the Bicentennial Chairperson for Morrison County, as appointed by the Governor, being on the State Bicentennial Heritage Commission, serving as a 4-H leader, being on the Governor's Design Committee for the Little Falls Downtown Beautification Project, being on the Little Falls Festival Committee, and serving as the banquet chair of the Lindbergh 60th anniversary celebration.

Currently, in addition to being the Executive Director of the Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum, Jan is President of the Great River Arts Association, President of the Cushing Women's Club, board member of the Cushing Community Club, advisory member of the Little Falls Tourism Committee, a member of the Mayor's Task Force 2014, a member of the Finance Committee at First United Church, a board member of Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, and a lifetime member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

Art was born in Minneapolis, the son of Alfred and Helga Nielsen Warner. After graduating from Vocational High School, he went on to graduate from North Dakota State University. His places of employment include Germany with the U. S. Army, the Morrison County Highway Department, Larson Boats and Morrison County Social Services. After being with the latter for 30 years, he retired in September 1991.

Art's volunteering services include working with the Chi Rho Advisory Board, the First Lutheran Church, the Boy Scouts, the 4-H, the Tri-Cap Board of Directors, the Kiwanis Club, the Lindbergh PTA, the Jaycees, the Preserve Our Land Committee, the Governor's Design Team for Little Falls, the Washington Playground Ad Hoc Committee, Little Falls festivals and First United Church.

Currently, in addition to being the President of the County's Historical Society, Art is a member of the Little Falls Planning Commission, a member of the Little Falls Historic Preservation Commission, a member of the Worship Committee at First United Church, an advisory member of the Little Falls Tourism Committee, a member of the Mayor's Task Force 2014, and continues to do volunteer work at the Weyerhaeuser Museum.

"After hearing all they've been involved in, perhaps we should introduce Art and Jan to each other," said Stone as he continued to pay tribute to the Warners. He then went on to emphasize the couple's part in getting the book of Charlie Martin's poems published, their part in getting local artists to paint pictures of the county's historic places, and the "trusting relationship" they developed with Bob and Sarah Modd [*sic Maud*] Weyerhaeuser Sivertson [*sic Sivertsen*] who, over the years, have quietly donated extensively to the construction of the Weyerhaeuser Museum.

Concluding his testimonial to the Warners, Stone stated, "We won't ever realize how much they've done until people start trying to fill their shoes. Please God, let them live forever."

In accepting the award, Art said, "We're deeply honored. There are a lot of other people out there who are doing volunteer work and who are just as worthy. It's the volunteers in the community who keep it going."

Stating she had made a lot of friends through her volunteer work, Jan, in accepting the award, went on to thank all those who had volunteered their time to assist her over the years. She also thanked their four children who, because their parents were involved in so many projects, had to make sacrifices themselves. But I believe they also gained from our example," she added. "They're all involved in volunteer work themselves now."

Concluding, Jan stated, "I guess I've always believed in what my mother taught us. That's 'If you give of yourself, it'll come back to you'."

Child support

County improving collection record

By DEBORAH HUDSON
News Editor

An absent parent—there are over 500 families in Morrison County where that is the case. And whether they are divorced or have deserted—they still have a responsibility to their children.

That's the reason behind the Child Support Enforcement unit of the Morrison County Social Services. What the office does amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly trying to collect court-ordered child support payments to help offset the county's cost of providing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

According to Art Warner, supervisor of the federally mandated program that the states and counties administer, there are four purposes behind the procedures of child support. Warner has been with this division of Social Services since January, having worked previously in the financial area of the welfare department.

The first, he said, is to provide public assistance in locating the absent parent. Both the state and federal government levels have a Parent Locator Service, which the county makes use of.

Second, the county helps through court orders to establish paternity. Then third, the county goes after court orders which require the absent parent, with the vast majority of them being the fathers, to provide for child support.

Finally, the county enforces the child support court orders, and collects money, then makes the payments.

Typically, the county finds out who has child support coming through initial AFDC applications. It then investigates how it can recover the child support, while it is still paying out AFDC. In some instances, if the county can recover child support, the grants for AFDC can be reduced.

But Warner is quick to point out that this isn't nearly enough to have the county come out even. "The court ordered payments never equal or exceed what the county pays out in AFDC," he said.

The county sets goals annually for the collection of child support payments, and has seen increases in the amounts collected. In 1980, the county collected \$179,372 in child supports payments and in 1981, \$254,616 was collected.

That doesn't mean the county was able to keep the entire amount. Not all of the support money for AFDC

Child support, continued on page 2



Wednesday

April 28, 1982

91st year

No. 18

One section

20 cents

A Gannett Newspaper

Copyright 1982 Little Falls Daily Transcript

little falls

Daily Transcript

The 82-year-old nuclear Navy pioneer went on: "You know what (Robert) Browning said about a man's aspirations? He said a man's aspirations should always exceed his grasp. Now, if I gave interviews, then reporters would have no more aspirations."

"But," Rickover added with a smile, "you should keep on trying."

Rickover, in San Diego for a speech, said he has declined interviews since retiring Jan. 30.

In Washington on Tuesday, the House passed a bill authorizing the creation of a gold medal to honor Rickover for his 63 years of service and the development of the nuclear navy.

million project last week at Rome's Cinecittà. He said the film, starring tenor Placido Domingo and soprano Teresa Stratas, should be finished by October and will be previewed in Venice before its general release.

The film is being co-produced by the Italian TV network and is to be shown eventually on television.

Proposal

NEW YORK (AP) — They are England's "Most Romantic Couple," but it wasn't until their honeymoon that Raymond Kemp proposed on bended knee to his bride.

"You never did that for me before," Sheila Lane Kemp, 27, said

"I woke up this morning and had something very important I wanted to ask you," Kemp, 30, wrote in his proposal. "I want to tie up your heartstrings and seal them with a knot of love forever. Please will you marry me."

Answered his bride-to-be: "Even if you'd sent it secondclass post, my reply would have been just the same ... How could I say no."

Raymond, a TV news editor, and Sheila, a secretary, were married April 24. They received a week-long honeymoon here for winning the post office contest.

A new life

DOVER-FOXCROFT, Maine

forces radio.

It costs \$50 to enter the contest and participants must explain in 125 words or less "Why I want to own a big, old house in Maine." The contest entries are being judged by a former magazine editor.

Mrs. Pieriboni is getting divorced and says she cannot afford to keep up the \$30,000 mortgage on the house. She said she hopes the contest will bring in \$50,000 to pay off the mortgage and let her settle somewhere else.

It's "a wild and crazy idea ... just crazy enough to work," she said.

Child support...

Continued from page 1

comes from the county. There are federal and state portions in each of the grants so the county has to give back percentages of the money it collects.

In 1981, according to Social Services, the percentage returned to the federal government was 54 percent, with the state receiving 39 percent and the county retaining the remaining seven percent. But, in turn, the county does get incentives and refunds from the government for continued and improved collections, and it is to the county's advantage to be aggressive about obtaining the money the law says children are entitled to.

The vast majority of the child support cases the county keeps track of are on AFDC. Warner said that only 12 percent, or about 61 of the 489 active cases the county now has are non-public assistance cases.

Thus far in 1982, the county is one-fifth of the way towards its goal of collection of \$300,000 in court-ordered payments, having collected \$59,955 in the first three months of this year. In return, the county received \$5,138 in refunds, and \$38,074 in incentives.

There is still almost \$707,000 in arrearages, or overdue child sup-

port payments, to collect county-wide.

Warner said the county has a variety of ways of obtaining the money. The most effective way is that the court-ordered child support payments involve the law to begin with. This helps the county enforce the provisions the court already has made.

Second, Social Services makes use of the small claims or conciliation court for support payments under \$1,000. The larger amounts go to the county court level, he added.

Third, the county can go after funds by using returns from either the federal or state tax refunds. "The state program is called Revenue Recapture," said Warner. Statistics for Morrison County indicate that 236 claims have been filed against state returns this year, and have yielded \$4,621 so far. No total dollar amount is available on what the county is seeking overall.

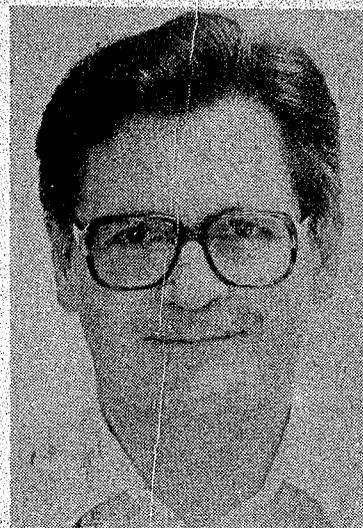
On the federal level, recent publicity has highlighted the Project Intercept, where tax refunds also are tapped for child support. The county has filed 274 claims totaling

\$602,429. The county has not yet received any reimbursement from Project Intercept, Warner noted. If the county were to recover that entire amount, it would double the collection goal for 1982.

The county also has other techniques available for child support collection. It can locate the absent parent's assets, and claim that money, or put holds on property titles, if it can obtain the information on them.

Finally, the county also can go after income withholding, where a certain portion of wages is withheld from a paycheck until the child support judgment is paid. The payroll deductions are part of the revised state laws that make it easier for the counties to recover some of the child support money, and keep Minnesota at the top of the list for tough states in child enforcement procedures.

"The state and federal guidelines determine how much AFDC is paid out," said Warner, "But often the court orders are less." Whether or not successful collections will reduce the amount of assistance the county pays out in food stamps and other welfare benefits can't be said.



Warner

he added. "It depends on the collections. The incentives and reimbursements we get from the federal government help us to defray the costs of the program," said Warner.

Regardless, the county will continue to collect child support payments in an effort to enforce support obligations it believes the parents should have, not the government.

For period ending at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, 1982.

GREENHOUSE WEATHER STATION

High temperature -- 65
Low temperature -- 28
Rain -- none
Moisture since Jan. 1 -- 4.03 inches
YEAR AGO
High temperature -- 74
Low temperature -- 48
Moisture since Jan. 1 -- 4.88 inches

Showers and thunderstorms swept the northern and central Atlantic Coast early today and heavy thunderstorms raked North Carolina, producing golfball-size hail in some areas.

Skies were generally overcast from New England to the Carolinas with a few thundershowers rumbling over southernmost Florida.

Showers and a few thundershowers dampened the central Plains, the Texas Panhandle and

south-central Texas. Skies were cloudy over the southern plains and the lower and middle Mississippi valley.

Freezing cold stung sections of the Midwest overnight, dropping temperatures into the upper 20s and low 30s over parts of the Great Lakes region.

Temperatures before dawn ranged from 26 at Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to 78 at Key West, Fla.

Some other reports: Anchorage 41 rain, Atlanta 56 hazy, Boston 53 fair, Chicago 31 fair, Cincinnati 44 fair, Cleveland 39 fair, Dallas-Fort Worth 68 cloudy, Detroit 40 fair, Kansas City 53 rain, Miami 74 fair, New York 52 rain, Omaha 51 cloudy, Philadelphia 49 rain, Pittsburgh 38 fair, St. Louis 48 partly cloudy, San Francisco 52 fair, Seattle 47 rain, Washington 53 windy.

Calendar

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers meeting in Pine Edge Inn.

7 p.m. TOPS No. 307 meeting in St. Francis Christian Development Center.

7 p.m. Closed Alateen meeting in Blue Room above Lovdahl Drug.

7:30 p.m. St. Mary's Christian Mothers meeting in St. Mary's Church cafeteria. Sr. Mary Dumonceaux, OSF, featured speaker.

7:30 p.m. Little Falls Masonic Lodge 140 AF and AM meeting in lodge hall.

8 p.m. AA and Alanon meetings above Lovdahl Drug Store.

Thursday

Noon. Little Falls Kiwanis Club meeting in Pine Edge Inn. Steve Brown is program chairman.

Speaker: Stan Wietinski, past Lions Club district governor.

6:30 p.m. Little Falls Lions Club meeting in VFW Club. Jim O'Toole is program chairman.

7 to 9 p.m. Food Shelf is open in Mary Hall, on Franciscan Sisters campus.

8 p.m. AA and Alanon meetings above Lovdahl Drug Store. Also AA meeting in Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Friday

Noon to 9 p.m. Charles Kapsner and Wesley Sod will present their works during an open house at Botega Kapsner, 821 1/2 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Continuing Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until May 30.

Sincere thanks

To the Editor:

Art Warner, a friend to many and a loyal servant to us all, has moved quietly into retirement as of the last day of August, 1991. Art, who has never been a flag waver, has exercised his caring and compassionate personality through work in the Morrison County Social Services Department for many years. At the same time, Art and his wife, Jan, have demonstrated a remarkable degree of dedication to the development and maintenance of the Morrison County Historical Society. They played key roles in coordinating the conception, location and construction of the Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum. They have donated tens of thousands of hours of their discretionary time to the development and operation of the Society and the Museum.

Moving the County Historical Society from a basement room in the courthouse to a new museum facility was a challenging task, leaving room for considerable controversy as to the design and location of the new site. Art and Jan persisted in their efforts and, today, who could fault the location, structure and content of the Weyerhaeuser Museum, an aesthetic and historic treasure which many counties would give a right arm to have as their own.

Art deserves a strong vote of appreciation for his dedicated services through the demanding work within the complex, evolving social-services system. Both Art and Jan deserve appreciation and recognition for their persistence and dedication to the important work of the Morrison County Historical Society.

Therefore, a sincere "thank you" to both Art and Jan Warner for effective, creative and dedicated service to the people of Morrison County, and visitors from the wider world, for these many

years. May the years to come bring you a sense of joy, satisfaction and fulfillment. - **Chuck and Nell Stone.**

Sept. 15, 1991
Morrison County Record