December 2009 December 2009

NewsLines

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Foley Baseball Gals

We found this picture in a box of items that was marked "Foley". It was an original post-card with no writing on the back. We did a little searching inside the Museum until we found an old newspaper article that explained and named the gals. We are thankful that the *Benton County News* published this years ago with the information. We were going to ask for help to identify, instead we decided just to repeat and share the original.

L to R; Margaret Thomas (Derby Hat), Frances Wisniewski, Mamie Patke, Vivian Walters, Murlie Callahan, Mayme Murray, Rose Wisniewski, Clara Brennan, Top Row: Josie Latterell, Josie Wisniewski, and Elsie Murray.

The Foley Ladies were modeling uniforms in the pre-season, for a little publicity for the 1913 team sponsored by Ed Barthelemy who purchased the new uniforms for the Base-ball Club.

PAGE 2 NEWSLINES

DONATIONS

Anonymous- History of the Frank Heinzel Post No. 254 of the American Legion – Sauk Rapids 1919-1949-/2 Fire Committee Coffee Mugs

Edna Wesenberg Estate - Miscellaneous Sauk Rapids items, Buttons, newspapers

Dean & Barb Malikowski – Water pot, Bellows, Cutting board, 2 Small industrial stoves, wooden mallet, and crusher/grinder

Cliff Johnson – Collection of pencils (with Benton County Business names) T-shirt w/ business sponsors, Church cookbooks for Gethsemane, Sacred Heart and St John's Churches organizations, Neron Gallery pie plate

Jean Stark- Minden 4-H Picture

LuVerne Neils-Sauk Rapids Historical Society Rubber Stamp

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Bud Lubbesmeier– Old horseshoe from Wilson Park area – was a blacksmith shop near Ox Cart Trail

Thank you to all the donators of Benton County History! It is the community who keeps the history pieces coming in for the future generations!

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

~Thornton Wilder~

CUB FOOD RECEIPTS

We are still collecting Cub Food Store Receipts at the Museum for a fund-raising opportunity for us! Please drop off your receipts in the Green jar at the front door of the Museum for us to turn in!

The program requires the receipts to be from the St. Cloud Cub Food stores. We must turn them in quarterly: **Jan-Feb-March**

Apr-May-June

Jul Aug-Sept.

Oct-Nov-Dec

Thanks to all who donate the receipts!

Please help us out by turning in your receipts for the current quarter today!

DECEMBER 2009 PAGE 3

WOMEN IN HISTORY NOMINATIONS

History nominations for the Spring season! If you know of someone who you would like to nominate, please send a short biography on the woman you would like to nominate with their name, address, phone, and the items that you would like the Board to know about

We are still accepting **Women In** this woman. Items of interest would be if they were, or are em- mat will go to the BCHS ployed, family, any contributions they may have made in Benton County employment, schools, volunteer work, churches, politics etc.

> We will be accepting nominations until February 12th, 2010. women will be in March!

Nominations in written for-Board of Directors at the February 16th meeting and nominations will be chosen from the applicants at that meeting.

Our banquet to honor the

VOLUNTEERS& STAFF

Fred Joesting - Research Specialist

Marjean Keehr-Research

Andy Schwalboski - Research & Displays

Caren Kalenda - Data Input/Oral Interviews

Jenny DeWenter- Museum Support

John Stafney - Database support

Lorane Walsh - Cemetery Support

Maureen Athman - Transcriber Oral Interviews

Ron Zurek - Webmaster

Staff: Mary Ostby - Executive Director

Meredith DePree - Office Support

Miles Christie - Office/Military Support

Jack Toliver - Military Support

Thanks to all the people who helps us with projects!

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours & Contact Information

Hours: 10am-4pm

Monday Thru Friday

Appointments are available for after hours for tours, visits and travel requests.

Phone: 320-253-9614

Email: bchsmus@charterinternet.com Web: www.rootsweb.ancestry/~bchsm PAGE 4 NewsLine

Bus Service Beginnings and History-Sauk Rapids area

As the snow is starting up in the State of Minnesota, I love to look through the files and find pieces of history that some would remember!

Before automobiles were used to bus children to school; there were the teams of horses pulling the bus on a sleigh frame through the snow! We have only one picture of the horses harnessed to the bus ready to go. We are fortunate to have this horse drawn bus at the Museum with four wheel frame which can be interchanged with the sleigh frame for snowy weather. This picture was taken by Herman Fischer somewhere around 1900.(according to the writing on the back). Herb Seltenheim was a driver in the early 1900's, Sauk Rapids district was small (18 miles Square) and two horse drawn units covered the area. Each bus unit seated 18 students, originally had canvas coverings, and was heated by wood or coal during the cold weather. They were usually pulled by two horses, but could be hitched to a four horse hitch when the snow was deep or conditions were muddy.

Over the years from 1890 – 1935, the busses went through some changeovers, and were driven by Herman Fischer, Fermie Arsenberger, Herb Seltenheim, Ed Larson Sr. and Philip Nierengarten. The horse drawn busses finally ending up being owned and driven by Larson Bus Service when they were established as a private contractor to the Sauk Rapids School District. Larson Bus Service did not retire the teams of horses with the wagon/ sleigh from hauling students until 1936. By then roads were better, autos could pass through easier.

During 1940, the horse and sleigh were used by Peter Nierengarten to deliver some students home in the 1940 Armistice Day storm. Some students ended up being sheltered at the Fruitville Store as the Duane Larson -Rice routes were snowed in. Amazing pieces of history for our area!

Seeds of faith are
always within us;
sometimes it takes
a crisis to nourish
and encourage
their growth
~Susan Taylor



DECEMBER 2009 PAGE 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER-PAT GERCHY

I have lived in Sauk Rapids since I was nine years old. My parents, Ed and Angie Lehmann owned the Red Owl grocery store in Sauk Rapids, which later became Lehmann's Family Food Store. I went to Russell Grade School (where Russell Arms apartments are located in Sauk Rapids now) and graduated from Sauk Rapids High School (formerly Hillside and is now an administrative building) After High School I graduated from the St. Cloud Hospital School of X-Ray as a technician. I moved to Los Angeles, California where I met and married my husband, Ed Gerchy. We moved back to Sauk Rapids and raised four sons and now we have one grandson and two granddaughters!

I have always been interested in Sauk Rapids and Benton County History because my grandparents and other relatives lived in East St. Cloud. This interest, along with my own history in the area, my parents grocery store and the stories and history associated with that, brought me to the BCHS Board.

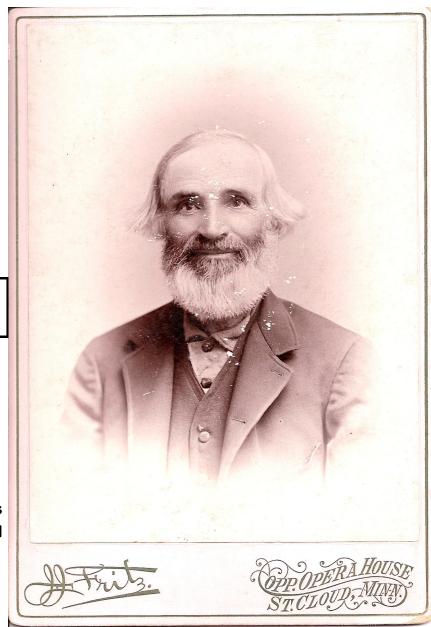


You know children are growing up when they start asking questions that have answers.

~John J. Plomp~

Unknown Picture →

This unknown and handsome gentleman 's picture was taken at JJ Fritz studio in St. Cloud (as you can see from the writing at the bottom of the picture) No identification on it, in a box of "Foley" items. The size that it is printed in the newsletter, is the actual size that the picture is. Again, we are asking for your help in finding out who



PAGE 6 NEWSLINES

2010 MEMBERSHIPS RENEWALS

Cecil Wade – Senior Jeremy & Melissa Keller-Family

Ralph & Marion Berger-Senior Steve & Mary Ostby-Family

Merlin Youso – Senior Robert Rofidal-Single

Jack Toliver – Senior Sauk Rapids VFW-Annual



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Things are quiet in the Museum today as I work on the newsletter. The snow is just beginning as we are under a winter weather advisory for the day and the evening.

I looked outside for a moment and thought about what I was going to write, but the snow brought a "flash" of memories of the holidays and the Railroad "track- shack" that my grandfather George Youso brought home.

Grandpa won the lottery! (that's what I got told) The lottery of "which Rail Road man would take the shack home" when it was no longer in use for the Foley railroad! Grandpa's blue eyes were bright, pleased to drag the building to his house and smiling when it came home to stay! It's "re-use" was the grandchildren's play house and a piece of railroad workers history retained.

On a day like today, if the grandkids were at Grandpa and Grandma's, I would be out in that little shack making a fire in the stove to melt some snow, along with my siblings. I am sure that Grandma was not always happy with the little building tucked behind the garage, with its benches, little stove and it's <u>real fire</u> but it made the grandchildren VERY HAPPY! (The pan used for melting snow/ice -compliments of Grandma Merlin!) During the holidays all the cousins from other cities would be delighted in helping to build a little fire, and "warm up" after playing outside, while Grandma and the aunts were talking and putting together a meal. The Dads/Uncles were talking sports, snowmobiles, work and someone, ever once in awhile would say: "Did someone check on the kids?" (I do not need to remind anyone how things have changed and yet stayed the same!)

Chances are, if there was snow on the ground, the snowmobiles were in tow with the family vehicles to give some rides and yes, there was a "snowmobile sleigh" that was in use for a year or two, (with snowmobiles pulling it instead of horses – compliments of the uncles/dads) There also was a very l-o-n-n-n-n-g toboggan, that at the time, was defined as "dangerous" depending on which uncle was driving the snowmobile!

As the holidays approach, there is a lot of "business" or "busy-ness" that needs to get done. Plans need to be made; the holidays are approaching and things that need closure for the New Year to begin. (I will focus your attention to the next page with 2010 membership information!) Yet, it seems that our history calls us to look, remember and remind ourselves that family, life's happenings, memories and events follow us sometimes presenting itself at unexpected times! *It is important and it will be remembered!*

Two things to take care of before the end of the day for me: 1. I am wishing that everyone has a great holiday season, spent with their families, and making their "future flashes" in time, out in Benton County communities! 2. I think I will make a wish to Santa to find a picture of the "track- shack" or at least find out what

happened to it after some time went on!

Enjoy your Holidays!



DECEMBER 2009 PAGE 7

2010 Membership Renewals Due January 1st

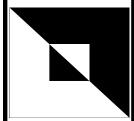
Every year during December, Benton County Historical Society has in the past sent out a separate letter to all the members wishing them Happy Holidays and a membership renewal form to send in.

The economy has contributed to some financial cuts from the City of Sauk Rapids, Benton County and donations. We are making some adjustments and one of the adjustments is not to send a separate letter to members for renewal of dues unless absolutely necessary. This will cut our mailing costs down a little and save some paper!

So, we are putting the membership slip in the newsletter and trying to get as many renewals as we can through the newsletter formatting!. Please detach this page (or the slip below) and send it in for renewal of your membership for January 1st, 2010. If we do not have your renewal by the first of the year, we will send letters to the people that have not renewed. (Just in case they did not see this!)

We look forward to serving you as members in the 2010 year and the Board and Staff wish all the members a very Happy Holiday Season!





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIPS

Household		<u>Business</u>				
□ Seniors	\$9.00 □ Annual \$50.00		Name:			
□ Single	13.00	□ Supporting	75.00	Address:		
□ Family	18.00	□ Maintaining	100.00			
□ Contribute	or 27.00	□ Patron	150.00	City:	_State:	_ Zip Code;
□ Supporter	50.00	□ Benefactor	500.00	Phone:	20	010 Membership Dues!
				Email:		
Make your check payable to: Benton County Historical Society or BCHS.					(if available)	

Thank you for your continuing support of Benton County Historical Society and Museum!

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnbchsm

NEWSLINES

P.O. Box 426 218 1st St. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Bauk Napius, Will 30378

Phone: 320-253-9614

Email: bchsmus@charterinternet.com

Membership Renewals Slips Enclosed!!!

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ernie Wollak Next scheduled meeting: January 19, 2010

Vice President: Char Dhein 2010 Meeting Schedule:

Treasurer: Renee Kampa (Tentative-may change due to weather or Board decision)

Secretary: Melissa Keller February 16, 2010

Director: Earl "Butch" Bukowski March 16, 2010

Director: Pat Gerchy April 20, 2010

Director: Bud Lubbesmeier

Director: Randy Schafer

May 18, 2010

June 15, 2010

Director: Merle Stowe

Board Meetings

July 20, 2010

August 17, 2010

Board Meetings

Held the third Tuesday of every month

August 17, 2010

September 21, 2010

at 6:30pm– NO meeting for December

2009 (Board Cancelled)

October 19, 2010

November 16, 2010

December 21, 2010