



**Crow Wing County Museum
& Research Library
Restored Sheriff's Residence**

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Crow Wing County
Historical Society
is committed to
preserving the history
and telling the story of
Crow Wing County.*

STAFF

*Pam Nelson
Director/Administrator
Newsletter Editor*

*Lynda Hall
Assistant Administrator*

*Sue Duda
Administrative Assistant*

Experience Works Staff

*Lyn Lybeck
Bonnie Novick*

NEWSLETTER



BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 6th
~ 10 am to 4 pm ~



light refreshments will be served
free admission ~ open to the public
museum is located next to the historic courthouse

President's Report

With Christmas just around the corner and looking back over the year we certainly had a busy, eventful year. Our annual meeting was a success, although there is always room for more attendees. Our museum continues to receive rave reviews from our visitors that tour our building. The historic log home called the Carbine House was restored with the collaborative efforts of the society and the Crow Wing County fair board. During Brainerd History week in June the fair buildings we maintain at the fairgrounds were open and we celebrated the restoration of the Carbine House. Our next project will be to restore the Wohl house. The fundraising process has started. Since the museum first occupied its current location in the old county jail improvements have been minimal. The time has come to make major changes to the building to preserve its exterior, update our heating and cooling system, and bring it up to code. The county is in the process of getting a grant and selecting an architectural firm. Ideas for improvements at the fair grounds and museum are greatly appreciated. Volunteers are always needed, especially during fair week.

Happy Holidays!

Don Samuelson,
Crow Wing County Historical Society
Board President


HOLIDAY
 OPEN HOUSE
 & BAKE SALE
(home made lefse for sale!)
 Saturday,
 December 6th
 ~ 10 am to 4 pm


Crow Wing County Historical Society/Museum
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



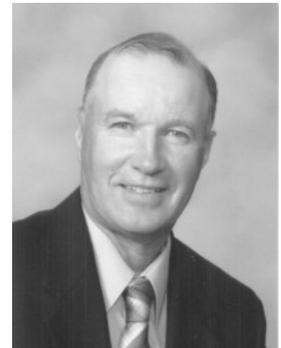
Don Samuelson
President



Ted Kotyk
Vice President



Carol Wermter
Secretary



Dwight Thiesse
Treasurer



Elaine Axtell



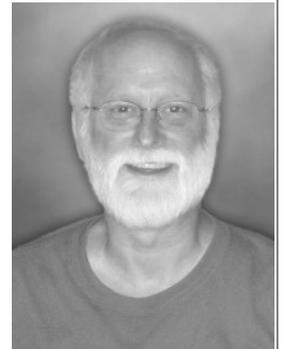
Ron Crocker



Shirley Jensen



David Juracek



John Van Essen

Greetings

**From Pamela Nelson,
Director/Administrator**



The society's annual holiday open house and bake sale will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 10 am to 4 pm. Staff and volunteers have been very busy sprucing up the museum and sheriff's residence and completing exhibits that were a "work in progress". One of the exhibits is our baseball display. Photos, newspapers, and artifacts have been added pertaining to Chief Bender and Bullet Joe Bush. In the school exhibit, some of Mary Tornstrom's memorabilia is now included. Mary was a distinguished high school teacher and principal in Brainerd. Several country school photos are now on display. Colorful and cartoon-like paintings have been added to the Fishing exhibit. We have taken out of storage the surveyors chain and the compass dip needle that was used by Lyman P. White to plat the town of Brainerd. The "History on Loan" exhibit that was part of Brainerd History week (June 16 –22) is still on display. If you didn't get a chance to see this interesting exhibit, now is your chance. Thank you Merv Eisel and Carl Faust for letting us showcase some of your artifacts. The display will be dismantled in January.

The museum is fortunate to have been loaned an exhibit from the Itasca County Historical Society in Grand Rapids called "The Road to the Olympics Starts at Home". The display features hockey player Bill Baker who was a member of the Miracle on Ice 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team that won the Gold Medal in Lake Placid, NY. Bill now resides in the Brainerd area and is an oral surgeon and maxillofacial specialist.

The CWCHS recently completed a project that resulted in the digitization of some oral history cassette tapes and corresponding transcripts. We submitted an application to the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) to have this work done, and we were accepted. The cost to have this done was paid for via a grant. It was a year long process that involved the MDL copying the materials and uploading them in a data base for access on a computer. We then needed to add various pieces of information about the tapes, including a brief description of the topics discussed, to the data base. There were a total of 43 tapes digitized. Some of the citizens who had contributed their recollections of times past included Chuck Warnberg, Ray Bang, Ed Ruttger, Lucille Shaw, Alec Ruttger, and Bill Van Essen. I want to thank our volunteer Brian Marsh for doing the work on this project. To listen to these tapes or read the transcripts, go to this link:

<http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/search/collection/cwc/searchterm/Sound%20Recording-Nonmusical/field/type/mode/all/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc>
We will be getting this link added to our website.

The new renovation and preservation project for the museum building is in the early stages of the process. Crow Wing County has received a State Legacy Grant to start the project. This is very exciting! The project will encompass much needed repairs to the roof, brick work, façade, as well a structural issues, heating and cooling, and code problems.

The museum will be closed starting Dec. 23 though Feb. 2nd. We will reopen Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015. Staff will continue to answer phones and check emails for research requests during January.





By: Lucille Kirkeby

OUR WPA LEGACY

Of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the WPA was by far the most famous since it affected the most people. In the beginning it employed men to build bridges, roads and public buildings, public parks and airports. Women were employed in lower paying activities such as sewing, book binding, caring for the elderly, school lunch programs, nursery schools, and recreational work. Eventually both men and women were included in the Professional Projects Division --art, music, theater, dance and writing projects. What followed was eleven years of support for the arts. There was some controversy about the inclusion of the arts. Harry Hopkins, the director of the WPA program had this to say, " Hell! They've got to eat just like other people."

With this background, we can focus on what legacy the WPA left to our Crow Wing County Historical Society. If you have been in our meeting room downstairs for any type of gathering, you, no doubt, noticed the paintings on the walls. Eleven of the paintings are done by WPA financed artists. Topics are varied. Painting titles include: *Yellow House, Ballet Dancer, Creamery Hill, Boat on a River, Lone Tree aka Metropolitan Morning, Girl, The Barn*, just to name some in the collection. In the hallway across from the lumbering exhibit, three large, 3 feet by 4 feet WPA paintings show lumbering: *Teamsters, Axe Men, and River Loggers*.

The WPA also included Indian handicrafts projects. Sarah Thorpe Heald, a local woman, headed the Indian Handicrafts Project of Cass Lake and Onijum. In our case of Indian artifacts, we have a birch bark basket, and a beadwork purse, two belts, a bracelet, and necklace. All WPA items.

Our museum library benefited from the Writer's Project. Around 1500 biographical sketches were done by local individuals who interviewed county residents. These write-ups vary in length from about a half type written page to some a couple pages in length. Genealogists find them to be a gold mine of information. Each sketch gives the name of the interviewer. Some of those names include Luella Stropp, Anna Peterson, Wilfred Monson, Mildred Monson, Arthur Cleveland, Rose Parker and Sarah Thorpe Heald just to name a few.

Anna Himrod was involved in the WPA Writer's Project and we are fortunate to have her manuscripts. (They were never actually published in book form.) Her research and writings include what amounts to the only written county history materials of any length and scope. They are in three-ring binders entitled: *Early Crow Wing County History, Towns and Townships of Crow Wing County, and Historic Handbook of Crow Wing County*. We have three Brainerd histories (not WPA projects) plus two pictorial histories done in more recent years, but nothing but the Himrod materials on the county. Thank goodness for the WPA!

The Writer's Project also produced major works such as the *Directory of Church and Religious Organizations in Minnesota and a Guide to Church Vital Statistics—Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals*. They were produced in 1942 so the material is not current and up-to-date, but there is value in having these guides in our library. The WPA Veteran's project provided our collection with three large three-ring binders of with a page devoted to information on service men from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War I. There is limited information on some individuals, but on the most part there is valuable information on the majority. In our library also are a copy of *The Cuyuna Range: A History of a Minnesota Iron Mining District* and a copy of *World War Emergency Activities in Minnesota*.

The WPA has definitely left us a legacy both of a historical and cultural nature.



What Used To Be....

By Brian Marsh

In the last newsletter, we took a look at the vanished town of Woodrow. As part of a continuing series exploring boom-to-bust towns of Crow Wing County, this issue will relate the story of Barrows.

Like some other towns in the county, Barrows' rise and fall was directly the result of the fortunes of the mining industry.

Located about five miles SW of Brainerd, Barrows got its start in 1911 due to the discovery of an iron ore deposit there. On March 28, 1911, through the efforts of W. A. Barrows, Jr., the Virginia Ore Mining Company, a subsidiary of M. A. Hanna & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, acquired a lease and proceeded to sink a shaft. It was named the Barrows mine.

Also in 1911, the town was platted, many structures were built, a school was moved in from another location in Crow Wing Township, and a post office was established. Soon the little town boasted cement sidewalks, a bank, a newspaper, a saloon, a pool room, a town hall, a boarding house, a meat market, a restaurant, a grocery store, an express office, a depot, hotels, and many residences. In 1914, the Wilson school had both boys and girls basketball teams coached by Mae Staples.

Initially, iron ore that was dug was stockpiled. On October 2, 1913 the first ore was shipped out. In 1914, the previously mentioned stockpile was shipped. The total came to 56,439 tons. This wound up being the last shipment. Due to "quicksand", the mine closed, forcing most of the town to move on. The post office was discontinued in 1918.

Barrows' heyday was very short-lived. Today, less than a half dozen of the town's original buildings remain.

Pictured below:

Left to Right: Harry B. Guin, George Wetherbee, John Erickson, Sup. Cap Nichols, Fred (bookkeeper), Jim Dixon, Cap Talon, Sol Noble (blacksmith), Billy Miller, Roy C. Craddock (machinist)



Barrows Main Street
in about 1918



shaft house
December 1913



**Business & Organizational Members
and/or Donors**

THEY SUPPORT US. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM.

Anderson Brothers Construction Co.
AAUW (American Association of University Women)
Antiques & Books—Staples, MN
Boberg & Boberg Enterprises
Brainerd BN Credit Union
Brainerd Daily Dispatch
Brekken's Clothiers, Inc.
JB Accounting
Cragun's Conference Center & Golf Resort
Crosslake Area Historical Society
DJ Hall Sign & Design
Dr. Randahl B. Hoghaug, D.D.S.
Lakes Area Mat Service II Inc.
Lakes Printing
Madden's Resort
Mattson Lumber Company
Mid-MN Federal Credit Union—Brainerd
Mills Companies
Pequot Lakes Area Historical Society
Reichert Bus Service
Retirement Learning Center
Schaefer's Foods
Scotch Pine Tree Farm
Stifel Nicolaus
Syvantis Technologies
The Copier/ECR Service

Supporting County/Municipalities

City of Baxter •*City of Brainerd • Crow Wing Co.

*Townships:

Bay Lake Oak Lawn
Crow Wing Platte Lake
Fairfield St. Mathias
Irondale Garrison
Long Lake

*(Donations were designated for the Carbine house restoration.)

NEW MEMBERS

We thank you for your support!

Family Member

Bob Toberg &
Rosemary Goff

Individual Members

Daniel L. Lueken
Diedre A. Rosier
Sherrie Southerling
Robert Stinson
Patrick Tester
Ann Toumi

Monetary Donations & gifts in kind

Thanks!

Baxter Lions
Douglas Birk
Rodney & Avis Converse
Gary Duda
Garrison Lions Club
Ted Kotyk
Bill Mohs
Sertoma Winter Wonderland grant

NOTE:

We are asking members to let us know if they would like to receive the newsletter electronically. This would save the society postage and copy expenses. Just email us: history@crowwing.us



THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Doris Anderson | Randy Johnson |
| Bill & Sandy Ash | Lois Jubie |
| Jan Burton | Joyce Juracek |
| Dick Esser | Tanya Bollum |
| Carl Faust | Lucille Kirkeby |
| Mary Ann Frisch | Kevin Koop |
| Ray Frisch | Brian Marsh |
| Wanda Gallagher | Dana Moen |
| Deb Griffith | Ann Nelson |
| Dick & Betty Hayes | Atesha Barnes Nelson |
| Peggy Hildebrandt | Nancy Samuelson |
| George Hooper | Alice Stenlund |
| Ann Hutchings | Allen Vanlandshoot |
| Howard Hutchins | Board Members |



Bake Sale

If you're a baker & would like to donate to the **Saturday, December 6th** bake sale, you may drop off your goodies at the museum that morning starting at 8:30. We need a variety of baked goods to sell and serve. Please ring the west door bell if the doors are locked. Cash donations are always welcome & proceeds go to the Society.

Carbine House Ribbon-cutting Ceremony held on June 19th, 2014



front row: Mary Dischinger (former Crow Wing County Historical Society Board Secretary), Becky Joerger (former Fair Board President), Don Samuelson (CWCHS Board President), Pam Nelson (CWCHS Executive Director), and Carol Wermter (CWCHS Secretary)

back row: Crow Wing County Board members: John Van Essen, Shirley Jensen, and Elaine Axtell



The Crow Wing County Fair is a recipient of a County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Carbine House Restoration project is funded, in part, by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature.



320 LAUREL STREET PO BOX 722
 BRAINERD, MN 56401

2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Samuelson President
 218-829-4898 1018 Portland Avenue, Brainerd

Ted Kotyk Vice-President
 218-829-4085 1713 Graydon Avenue, Brainerd

Carol Wermter Secretary
 218-829-0192 7105 Barrows Avenue, Brainerd

Dwight Thiesse Treasurer
 218-829-7805 11635 State Highway 25, Brainerd

Elaine Axtell
 218-829-0720 17188 Leonard Lane, Brainerd

Ron Crocker
 218-829-4493 1222 7th Avenue NE, Brainerd

Shirley Jensen
 218-764-2929 9208 Hillman Road, Brainerd

David Juracek
 218-546-5734 20249 Tower Road, Ironton

John Van Essen
 218-829-9013 P.O. Box 224, Brainerd

THE CROW WING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM,
 SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND RESEARCH LIBRARY
 IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

PHONE: 218-829-3268 FAX: 828-4434 E-MAIL: history@crowwing.us

WEB: <http://www.crowwinghistory.org>

HOURS: TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY 10 AM - 3 PM (Closed Major Holidays & Holiday Weekends)

Call the museum to schedule appointments or tours after hours.

CWCHS Yearly Membership Levels:

\$500.00 - Patron	\$40.00 - Family	Business: \$50.00 for 1 to 10 employees
\$250.00 - Benefactor	\$40.00 - Non-Profit Org.	\$75.00 for 11 to 25
\$100.00 - Booster	\$30.00 - Supporting Individual	\$100.00 for 26 to 50
\$50.00 - Sustaining	\$20.00 - Individual	\$200.00 for over 50

**PLEASE SUPPORT CWCHS
 RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

To become a member of the Society, send your name, address, and telephone number along with your membership dues to the **Crow Wing County Historical Society, P.O. Box 722, Brainerd, MN 56401**. If you would like to give a gift membership to the Society, please send the name and address of the person for whom the membership is intended. Memorials of loved ones are also accepted. Donations can be sent to the same address and are tax deductible. Membership forms are available on our website or at the Museum.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

