

◆ CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS ◆

Publication of the Cass County Historical Society

January 1, 2002

**SPRING MEETING
AT 6:00, TUESDAY
APRIL 09
AT
CASS COUNTY
MUSEUM**

**REMINERS OF
OUR PAST**

DONATIONS

**UPCOMING
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS**

**CENTENNIAL AND
HISTORY BOOKS**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES**

**Museum
Closed for the
winter season.**

**Research Library
Hours
10:00 - 5:00**

Thursdays



**New Years Greetings —
Postcard from Cass County
Museum's collection**

Stories & Updates

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*The Cass County
Historical Society wishes
you a very Happy New
Year for 2002!*

Reminders of Our Past

Cass County population grew by 24.6 percent according to the census 2000 figures. Our total population count was 27,150 compared to 21,791 a decade earlier. Those cities gaining in population were Backus at 311; Hackensack at 285; Pine River at 928; Remer at 372; and Walker at 1,069. Cities whose population decreased were Bena at 110, Cass Lake at 860, Federal Dam at 101, and Longville at 180. Cass County is one of the fastest-growing counties statewide. More information may be found on the U.S. Census Website, www.census.gov.

As new people settle in our county, land is cleared, old buildings and landmarks are removed; new churches, schools, businesses and family dwellings replace them. Our history is forever lost unless perhaps, someone has had the insight to use a camera and to document what used to be there for posterity's sake. The Cass County Historical Society would welcome this information.

“Should immediate needs and practical concerns related to economics, convenience and efficiency take precedence over

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intangibles like appearance and beauty, that are harder to put into dollars and cents?" (Pilot Independent, May 3, 2001—Don't it always seem to go...Gail DeBoer/Flotsam and Jetsam?) Residents throughout Cass County need to address this issue.

"What was, what is, what might be" (Pine River Journal, May 3, 2001) is an article in which the fate of a century-old landmark, the Pine River Depot, is discussed. This depot was built in 1895 and is the oldest remaining business structure in Pine River. The Depot Delegation is working with the Minnesota Historical Society to preserve the building.

McKinley Township contacted the Museum for help to restore their town hall. The hall was built in 1914 and was used as a meeting place and dance hall with local talent providing the music for dancing. An area fair was held there every fall with displays of local produce. Potluck dinners were often held with a large New Year's Day party.

Wilkinson Township is replacing their own town hall, the Carlson School building, with a new building. The school was built in 1919 and children were educated there until 1952. In October of that year, Gust and Signe Carlson deeded the one-acre site to the township to use as the town hall. They had hoped that the building could be moved to the museum grounds here in Walker.

On May 7, 2001, the city of Walker held a public meeting to obtain public opinion about the future of Block 25 where the historic rock garden, the Conservation Building (home to Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Walker Wildlife and Indian Artifacts Museum) are located. More than 100 people were in attendance and expressed their opinion to save the block. The Save Block 25 Committee, a sub-committee of the Walker Park & Recreation Board, was asked to explore ways to restore the building. The committee contacted Susan Roth of the Minnesota State Preservation Office who immediately began working on a nomination of this building to the National Register of Historic Places. The committee was notified that the building will be entered on this register sometime early in 2002. Then the committee, city of Walker and Cass County should begin to explore grants and fundraising to provide monies for the work that needs to be done.

It is evident, throughout our county, that Cass County residents recognize and value their heritage. They have a tremendous amount of respect for the trials and tribulations that their forefathers overcame in the settlement of this land. It is fitting that we try to preserve as much as possible. County, City, and local governments need to work together to preserve our rich heritage.

The Cass County Historical Society was organized by 11 members of the Walker Ladies Civic Club and the Isaac Walton League in 1948. The Historical Society was officially organized in April of 1949. Reorganization occurred again in 1956 and the Society was legally incorporated on May 13, 1971 and became a non-profit organization in 1976.

Our mission statement is to collect, preserve, disseminate and interpret the history of our county by publishing historical materials, by holding meetings, by conducting tours, by marking or restoring historic buildings, sites and trails and to operate a museum. We are proud to have managed the Cass County Museum for the past 54 years and hope to continue in the preservation of our rich heritage. To accomplish this task, we ask that you become involved in this group through membership, donation, volunteerism and by supporting us at your local government level.

UPCOMING CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

The first centennial celebration of an incorporated city in Cass County was the city of Walker, although Pine River celebrated its settlement in 1973. Cass County's centennial was celebrated in 1997. Cass Lake followed with their centennial in 1999. In the next few years many of our cities will be celebrating their centennials also: **Bena**, October 3, 1906; **Backus**, November 27, 1902; **Hackensack**, June 19, 1903; **Longville**, October 16, 1905. Longville is the only city in Cass County that lost its incorporation status due to a decrease in population when logging operations ceased. It was reincorporated in 1940. The Cass County Historical Society encourages you to become involved in your city's celebration, whether it be with activities or the publishing of your local history. Many cities have published histories which will be cherished by its citizens for years to come. Every committee needs volunteers that will actually be there for the duration of the project. It can be a shared and very enjoyable experience and an opportunity to learn about your city's past and its people who settled there. None of us will be around for the next centennial, so let's do this one up right. There are 52 townships in our county and many of them will also be celebrating their centennials within the next 25 years.

CENTENNIAL AND HISTORY BOOKS

The Cass County Historical Society still has a supply of the following publications: Cass County Heritage (\$49.95), Walker Centennial (\$29.95), Remer (\$20.00), Boy River (\$20.00), Federal Dam/Gould Twp. (\$20.00), Memories of Sugar Point & Bear Island (\$20.00), and the Battle of Sugar Point (\$15.00). Copies may be mailed priority mail for \$5.00 each with the exception of the Cass County Heritage, which is \$7.50 priority. Mail your request to Cass County Museum, P.O. Box 505, Walker, MN 56484 or call (218) 547-7251 and leave a message.

DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following for their financial support this past year. We receive support from Cass County which only covers half our budget, so your donations are very important for the successful operation of the museum.

YAH Club, Longville
Lime Township
Powers Township
Kego Township
Boy Lake Township

Blind Lake Township
Wilkinson Township
Ponto Lake Township
Turtle Lake Township

Staff
Renee Geving

Board of Directors
Cecelia McKeig
Sandy Pauly
Oliver Opheim
Florence Tande
Lori Gamache
Vi Blackburn

Historical Society
Officers
Phyllis Krueger
Audrey Chelberg
Mary L. Isakson

Happy New Year!

Cemetery Information

If you have information about private or family burials in your area, please give a call to Cecelia McKeig at 218-654-5011 or call Renee Geving at 652-4377.

NEEDED!

Your membership renewal.

A renewal form is on page 6 for your convenience.

Thank you. Your support is vital to this organization.

National Register of Historic Places Cass County*

Battle Point, Leech Lake Reservation (8/17/1990)

Chase Hotel, 329 Cleveland Ave., Walker (destroyed by fire) 6/4/1980

Chippewa Agency Historic District, Sylvan Twp. (5/22/1973)

Great Northern Railway Company Bridge, Wilkinson Twp. (10/14/1980)

Gull Lake Mounds Site, East Gull Lake (5/7/1973)

Hole-in-the-Day II House Site, Sylvan Twp. (6/19/1973)

Julius Neils House, Cass Lake (6/20/1980)

Old Backus, Powers and Pine River Twps. (12/24/1974)

Rice Lake Hut Rings, Fairview Twp. (8/14/1973)

Sherwood Forest Lodge Complex, Lake Shore (6/16/1980)

Soo Line Depot, Remer (5/23/1980) Restored

Supervisor's Office Headquarters, Chippewa Nat. Forest (1/31/1976)

Winnibigoshish Lake Dam, Unorg. Territory & Itasca Co. (5/1/1982)

Winnibigoshish Resort, Bena (5/23/1980)

*Dates are when entered on National Register.

MGS CEMETERY PROJECT

The MGS Cemetery Project is continuing its project to identify all cemetery sites in the state of Minnesota. So far there are about thirty volunteers working on cemeteries throughout the state. This should be very helpful to all who are interested in searching for the locations of burial places of family members. Cec McKeig is the volunteer for Cass County. Volunteers will meet in Minneapolis in January to assess the progress in 2001.

The Cass County Historical Society is seeking to update its files at the same time in order to record all burials within the county. Township clerks and village clerks have been asked to assist with information on cemeteries and burials in their areas.