

## ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

The Roseau County Historical Society was organized April 22, 1927. It has been recognized and designated by the Minnesota Historical Society as the official county historical society. It is registered as a non-profit organization with 501 (C) (3) status.

The mission of the historical society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Roseau County and to relate it to the state of Minnesota as it pertains to Article 11, section 1, 2, and 3 in the historical society's by-laws. This includes preserving written materials, electronic data/media, photographs, and three-dimensional items. The Roseau County Historical Society is sole owner of the collection.

The Roseau County Historical Society (here after referred to as RCHS or historical society) operates the Roseau County Historical Museum and Interpretive Center, housing the county archive and artifact collections, and serves as the hub for the Society's activities.

The historical society serves the residents of Roseau County and surrounding area. In 2006, visitors came from sixteen states, five Canadian Provinces, and several foreign countries such as Germany, Sweden, Norway, and Mexico.

The former museum was closed in the fall of 2005 and the research center relocated in the Budd Hospital. Most of the museum collection was stored until July 2006, when the collection and research center moved into the new county museum. Due to the lack of a museum, programs were provided to county residents off-site to schools, nursing homes, in genealogy seminars and other community programs. RCHS developed exhibits for the Roseau County Fair, and the Badger and Roosevelt Centennials.

### 2006 Highlights

#### *New Museum Information*

In July, the RCHS collection moved for the fifth time, this time to the new county museum. Over 30,000 items were transferred to the new museum from the former museum/library building and the research center in the Budd Hospital.

The new museum provides more storage room for the future. It contains the following rooms: gallery, research center, theater, archive and artifact storage rooms, registration/clean room, offices, workroom, bay area and isolation/storage room.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Roseau City Center was held October 18, 2006. Many dignitaries participated in the event, including Governor Tim Pawlenty, Congressman Collin Peterson, State Representatives Leroy Stumpf and Maxine Penas, Minnesota Historical Society Outreach Service Director Tim Glines, Polaris Industries representative Mark Karl, and Roseau Mayor Jeff Pelowski. The museum was open to the public following the ceremony.

#### *Annual Meeting*

RCHS held an annual meeting April 21 in the 4-H building. The event commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roseau County Fair. An old-fashioned fair dinner of hot dogs, chips, beans, potato salad, and apple pie was served by the Green Acres 4-H Club. A business meeting and program followed the meal. Darrell Borgen, Laurel Ulwelling, Lola Grafstrom, and Sheila Winstead were re-elected to the Board of Directors. During the program, interesting stories about past fairs were told by Delores Andol, and Fair Board members Julie Magnusson Eaton and Pat Novacek.

### *Badger and Roosevelt Centennial Celebrations*

Two major city centennials, Badger and Roosevelt, took place in 2006. The historical society research center was used by individuals doing research for centennial books. The historical society holds the copyright on each city's book.

During the festivities, many photographs were taken, and will be available for future generations to enjoy. The RCHS staff designed exhibits for the events and assisted the centennial committees during their events.

The centennial committees added many historic items to the archives and collection.

### *Roseau County Centennial Fair*

The first Roseau County Fair was held in 1906. RCHS staff worked with the fair board as they organized exhibits and photograph displays for the fair centennial. Historic photos and memorabilia, dating back to the earliest fairs, were in the museum and fair archives. RCHS requested memorabilia donations from residents via the radio and newspaper. Many items were donated following the request. Over 500 photos were donated or scanned for the museum collection, past fair booklets and other items were also donated including a very early gate ticket.

The Agricultural Society (Roseau County Fair) board of directors included several photos from the historical society when developing a Centennial Fair video. This video has been viewed by many museum visitors. Staff also used it for programs.

The RCHS county fair exhibit commemorated the event with booklets and other memorabilia from past Roseau County fairs. This exhibit was viewed by over 6,000 fair attendees.

### *Holiday Open House*

The third annual Holiday Open House was held during Thanksgiving weekend, with a potluck dinner served. Roseau County Veteran Service Director Jeff Parker was the MC for the program. Attendees were entertained by the Highway 11 Ramblers, the Solem Sisters - Arlette and Deaun, Pastor Lou Hermansen, Brita Comstock, and Lola Grafstrom. At the end of the evening festivities, Santa Claus handed out candy. Over 100 people attended the open house.

## **Education**

### *School Educational Programs and Tours*

The historical society provides educational opportunities for students in area schools. The museum is the best setting to educate youth in the history of the county. It was a different situation without a museum in 2006. All educational programs were presented in the classrooms until the new museum opened in the fall. An example of this is a classroom presentation given to the Roseau first grade. PowerPoint presentation was used to explain some of the cultural events that Anishinabe celebrate. Several American Indian artifacts from the museum collection were shown to the students. This lesson gave the children a greater understanding of the Anishinabe culture.

Another example is a program where high school students are taught how to use a research center. Instruction in using reader-printers and copy machines are part of the lesson. This program provides the fundamentals for using a university research center.

When possible, objects can be temporarily used in classrooms. A history class at the Northland Community and Technical College utilized American Indian artifacts.

### *Northwest Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest*

The Roseau County Historical Society has held a Northwest Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest for over twenty-five years. Students from Badger, Fisher, Goodridge, Greenbush-Middle River, Grygla, Lancaster, Karlstad Tri-County, and Warroad have participated in this contest. The contest fosters excellence in education by providing students with an opportunity to show their academic knowledge. Winners receive trophies and saving bonds from the following sponsors: Border State Bank, Citizens State Bank, Farm Credit Services, and Security State Bank. The 2006 winners were: first place - Austin Streiff, Warroad; second place - Tanner Pederson, Warroad; third place - Kaitlyn Heneman, Warroad; fourth place - Cassandra Kompelien, Badger; and fifth place - Ryan Modahl, Badger, and sixth place - Madison Grove, Fisher.

### Genealogy Seminar

Genealogy Seminars were held during the Scandinavian Festival in June. Family History Directors Karen and Leroy Mattson from the Warroad Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Center explained how to use the internet for genealogical research. Using the research center collection, RCHS staff described the materials available in a historical society research center and how to use them when doing family research.

### Exhibits/Collection Care/Acquisitions

#### Exhibit

Although the collection was not exhibited for the first 8 months of 2006, by September exhibit designing was started. Thematic exhibits focus on areas such as agriculture, business, ethnic diversity, etc. A dairy exhibit was the first focus. The exhibit will look at dairy equipment, "Dairy Days," King Agassiz, the county creameries and milk drying plants, and other facets of the industry. The exhibit will compliment the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*, which will be displayed during the winter of 2007.

During 2006, several interactive exhibits were developed by Wayne Holmgren for the museum. One popular exhibit is a large puzzle of a 1913 map of Roseau County.

Several individuals and groups assisted with setting up the museum including painting and designing exhibits. The Badger High School Art Club was one of the participants.

#### Collection

Collection care and setup was a priority once the move into the new museum started. Funds from the Roseau County Historical Society endowment fund were used to purchase shelves, file cabinets, and collection care products for both archive and object storage areas.

#### Acquisitions

Over 1,600 items were received from twenty-three donors in 2006. This does not including digital photo collections.

Two major collections came from the late Milt Sather family (Greenbush) and Marjorie Wangenstein Radi (Holm-Wangenstein family of Roseau). The Sather compilation contained family, business, church, school, township, and city files for the Badger, Greenbush, and Strathcona area. This collection contained over 100 event buttons, and many other objects.

The Radi collection included an assortment of photographs and objects including an early twentieth century silver coffee service set. Other donations included Roseau County Fair photographs, posters, and memorabilia; business receipts and invoices for merchandise from a Greenbush business; a Soil, Water and Conservation anniversary booklet and several NRCS posters; several scrapbooks and photographs.

## **Library/Archives**

### *Centennial Book Projects*

As was mentioned under the events area, city history books were published by both the Badger and Roosevelt centennial committees. These committees donated their large collection of scanned photographs and research information to the research center. A PDF format of each book was also received. These items will be placed into the research center files by volunteers. They provide an excellent source of information for researchers.

### *Newspapers*

Bound and microfilm editions of county newspapers from 1884 to 2007 are available to patrons. Each year, Border State Bank, Lake Country Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, and the Patrick Moren Law Office purchase the microfilm and bound editions of the county newspapers for the research center.

### *Photographs and archives*

In 2006, many photographs and other items were received for the archive; some photographs are available in a digital format. This material is invaluable to researchers and the historical society staff. The histories for most photographs are included; this adds to their research value. Family history books, manuscripts, and scrapbooks, including military scrapbooks, were also added to the collection. These items provide a wonderful source of past history.

RCHS participates in the Minnesota Digital Project ([www.mndigital.org/](http://www.mndigital.org/)) where county photographs are digitally available on the internet. These photographs present an opportunity for visitors to see photos of past people, places, and events.

## **Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers**

### *Board Members*

Twelve Board of Director members govern the Roseau County Historical Society. Board members serve three-year terms for an unlimited time. They provide support to staff by setting policy and serving on various committees.

2006 board members included Glenn Holm (Roseau) - President, Irene Olson (Roseau) - Vice President, Sheila Winstead (Roseau) – Secretary, Helen Wagner (Roseau) –Treasurer, Anne Erickson (Badger/Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Darrell Borgen (Badger), Eunice Korczak (Greenbush), Ida Novacek (Roseau), Jeff Pieterick (Greenbush), Laurel Ulwelling (Warroad area), and Lola Grafstrom (Salol).

### *Administration*

The staff consisted of one FT and one PT employee and an Experience Works federal employee, Charleen Haugen, Curator/Director; Toni Anderson-Donarski, Museum Assistant; and Marie Kompelien, Research Specialist.

Staff responsibilities covered all areas of museum and research center management. Museum staff participated in and provided community and educational programs for residents, both onsite and offsite.

RCHS is a member of the Minnesota's Historic Northwest consortium, a nine county organization for historical societies and museums in Northwest Minnesota. The consortium provides collaboration and educational training sessions for the members. RCHS staff attend all consortium meetings. Charleen Haugen serves as a secretary for the organization. One of the training sessions held in 2006 was an exhibit design

workshop sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. Exhibit designer Tom McKay (Wisconsin Historical Society exhibit design director) provided the training at Shevlin.

A Beito grant to the consortium provided training for an individual at the Minnesota Historical Society. Charleen Haugen was the recipient of this grant and spent two weeks at MNHS in March. The training provided insight for collection care, exhibit design, examples of how to present educational and community programs, including ideas for programs. Eight museums besides the Minnesota Historical Society were visited by Haugen during that period.

A workshop for the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food* was held at the Minnesota Humanities in the fall. Haugen attended this workshop. The *Key Ingredients: America by Food* exhibit, sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Commission will be exhibited at the museum November and December 2007.

### Volunteers

Over 100 volunteers assisted with the move into the new museum. These individuals helped with moving the collection, setting up the research center, and arranging exhibits.

Wayne Holmgren provided many hours of service building a workroom table, putting in counters, and assisting with woodworking projects. Students helped with exhibit designing and data entry.

Volunteers assist with filing, data entry, and collection care throughout the year. This invaluable service gives staff the ability to focus on the main work of the historical society.

### Financial

General operating funds for the historical society come from county allocations, memberships, donations, and grants.

The museum endowment fund provided capital for special projects. This fund is supported by donations and memorials from supporters. The Historical Society appreciates the important assistance it receives from your donations to the Roseau County Historical Society component endowment fund through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

The 2006 financial report follows.

The Roseau County Historical Society apologizes for any oversights or errors in this report.