

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2007 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 2007, 6,807 visitors came from twenty-eight states not including Minnesota, three Canadian Provinces, and several foreign countries such as Norway, Netherlands, Korea, Sweden, France, Switzerland, and Austria.

RCHS partners with various community organizations to present programs to their patrons. In 2007, nursing home residents from Greenbush, Roseau, and Warroad received special tours and programs at the museum. Research scholars, genealogists, and television organizations used the research center for various projects. RCHS reaches county residents and visitors through off-site programs such as the Roseau County Fair, centennial festivities, Hometown History Night, and genealogy seminars. RCHS partnered with area schools and the local libraries to present various programs.

2007 Highlights

General Museum Information

The museum continues to progress toward total flood recovery. More of our artifacts that were not able to be accessioned during the flood are being cataloged by staff and volunteers. Shelving and proper storage materials have made a difference in the storage of our artifacts and we continue to receive more donations to enhance the collection. We would like to thank those who support the historical society in whatever way they can.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held April 14 in the Roseau City Center community room. Approximately sixty people were in attendance. Curator Charleen Haugen reported on the progress the museum and research center have made since the move into the new building and thanked those who helped with the move and setup. Ida Novacek-Roseau, Jeff Pieterick-Greenbush, Bruce Olson-Badger, and Irene Olson-Roseau were re-elected to serve as members of the general board.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dean Sather, director of the Heritage Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead Minnesota. Sather spoke on Robert Asp's dream to build a Viking ship and sail to Norway. The ship Asp built is on exhibit in the Heritage Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Roseau County Fair

The Roseau County Fair exhibit took on a different dimension this year following a loan of two items that characterized earlier fairs. A folk art Ferris Wheel and Merry-Go-Round designed and made by carpenter Lloyd Johnson in early 1960s were displayed for the enjoyment of all fair goers. Promotion for the winter Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food* was also focused on. The staff designed an apron exhibit with the idea that it would encourage Roseau County residents to bring in aprons and photographs of their family members to display during the exhibit.

2007 commemorated five years since the 2002 Roseau County Flood. Photos taken from across the county were on public display. These photos attracted much attention and people spoke of their memories of the flood to staff.

Over 5,500 visitors stopped at the booth, looked at the photos or the newspapers that were on display.

Holiday Open House

The fifth annual Holiday Open House was held Thanksgiving weekend, with a potluck dinner served with over 100 people in attendance. Glenice Johnson and Lorelee Marvin were the MCs for the evening. They provided many laughs in their character renditions of Floyd and Lena. Attendees were entertained by the Highway 11 Ramblers, the Solem Sisters - Arlette and Deaun, and Pastor Lou Hermansen. The evening finale included Santa Claus.

Education

School Educational Programs and Tours

The historical society provides an excellent educational foundation for students from area schools. In 2007, students and head start children learned much about the changing agricultural demographics in Roseau County through the dairy exhibit. Other areas of the museum explored American Indian life, county and postal history changes, as well as the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Key Ingredients: America by Food and Roseau County by Food. Over 1,300 students from Warroad to Middle River received special on-site instructional tours this year.

Schools often request artifacts and training for the museum. A history class from Northland Community and Technical College from Thief River Falls participated in this program. High School students are taught basic research skills in the research center.

Northwest Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest

The 2007 Northwest Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held in the new Roseau City Center. The contest has been held for over twenty-five years, with students from across northwest Minnesota participating. In 2007 students from Badger, Fisher, Goodridge, Grygla, Karlstad Tri-County, Roseau, and Warroad took part in this contest. The contest fosters excellence in education by providing students with an opportunity to show their academic knowledge of Minnesota history. The 2007 winners were: first place - Casey Anderson, Warroad; second place - Tyler Fish, Warroad; third place - Nick Corbit, Roseau; fourth place Justin King, Warroad; and fifth place - Matt Sorenson, Fisher, and sixth place - Pat Casserly, Fisher. The winners received trophies and saving bonds from the following sponsors: Border State Bank, Citizens State Bank, and Security State Bank.

Genealogy Seminar

No genealogy seminars were held in 2007.

Exhibits/Collection Care/Acquisitions

Exhibit

In 2007, the museum partnered with the Minnesota Humanities and the Minnesota Historical Society to bring a traveling exhibit to Roseau County. RCHS hosted the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Traveling Exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food* from November 7 – December 15, which was opened by Roseau County Commissioner Alan Johnston. Over 1,700 individuals visited the museum and participated in events and activities.

This exhibit featured 5 areas, Land of Plenty, Local Flavors, Dynamic Delivery, Festival of Feasts, and Home Cooking. The museum staff and volunteers designed exhibits that complimented these five areas. The

exhibits focused on each area. Agriculture production and how it has affected our county including the dairy industry was a main exhibit. The restaurant business and eating out was brought many memories to visitors. The area of Festivals covered such things as Sheep Days, Scandinavian Festivals, church dinners and so much more.

During this time, several programs were held to educate and enhance Key Ingredients. There were demonstrations on chocolate and table settings as well as American Indian cooking. These events were highly attended with people from across the county participating. A Warroad Girl Scout Troop working on badges for American Indian cooking and culture was just one group who attended the event.

Students from local public and home schools participated in the scavenger hunt and other educational programs. A student nutrition program was presented by Kristina Kaml of the University of Minnesota's Nutrition and Education program.

Several local businesses sponsored the Roseau County companion exhibit Key Ingredients: Roseau County by Food. They were CHS -Salol Elevator, Border State Bank, Marvin Windows and Doors, Border Insurance Network, Citizens State Bank, Farmers Union Oil Company – Badger, Farmers Union Oil Company – Roseau, Roseau Community Schools, and the Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Collection Care

Each year the museum must check and maintaining its vast collection of approximately 25,000 archival and three-dimensional objects. Photographs are stored in special folders called Mylar so that the public can access them without causing damage. Small objects are given special treatment to ensure that they be maintained for the next hundred years. They are wrapped in a special tissue and placed in special boxes or placed on special shelf covering material to protect them.

Acquisitions

In 2007, over seventy-five individuals, organizations, and families donated artifacts or archival items. At this time all of the items are not cataloged so we can't give a full account of the magnitude of the donations except to say they are a wonderful variety. Numerous photographs from all areas of Roseau County have been added to the collection.

We often receive unique and different items that tell a wonderful historic story of our county. For years there were many ham radio enthusiasts. As the computer developed where people were able to use email and blogs to communicate this enthusiasm waned. Roland Fredrickson and Dennis Monkman wanted to make sure the museum had artifacts to educate our visitors and donated the equipment that will tell this story. Jack Swanson also was concerned about his radio equipment when KJ102 was transferred to Joseph Bain. Swanson donated his receiver, headset, and other items radio transmitting equipment as well as his advertising banner. Another donor who donated many items from her past was the former Tess Lundby of Greenbush. Lundby and many other Roseau County provided several items for the Key Ingredients: Roseau by Food exhibit.

Future collections look very promising. We encourage individuals to donate three-dimensional objects to the museum so the museum will have a broad collection.

Library/Archives

Photographs and archives

Township records are always welcome. In 2007, Falun Township placed some of their township and school records in the care of the historical society. This is a great advantage to townships; the historical society has a controlled environment which prevents deterioration due to dampness or high humidity.

Over 1,000 photographs from the Roseau Times-Region enhance the family, business, and county files. As we designed 2007 exhibits, several people brought in some wonderful photos which they did not want to donate. Staff scanned these photograph and they are now available in a digital format. These types of records

are invaluable to researchers and for exhibition. Scrapbooks, manuscripts, and military records have also been added to the collection.

RGHS continues to participate in the Minnesota Digital Project (www.mndigital.org/). This project digitizes a county's photograph collection and makes it available on the internet. These photographs present an opportunity for visitors to see photos of past people, places, and events.

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. Security State Bank of Warroad funded the purchase of several years of missing Warroad Pioneer microfilm editions in 2007 so at this time all Pioneers are up to date.

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 and volunteering for different projects and programs.

2007 board members included Glenn Holm (Roseau) - President, Irene Olson (Roseau) - Vice President, Sheila Winstead (Roseau) – Secretary, Helen Wagner (Roseau) –Treasurer, Anne Erickson (Badger), Bruce Olson (Badger), Darrell Borgen (Badger), Eunice Korczak (Greenbush), Ida Novacek (Roseau), Jeff Pieterick (Greenbush), Laurel Ulwelling -(Warroad), Lola Grafstrom (Salol) , and Brenda Sather (Greenbush).

Administration

The staff consisted of one FT and two PT employees. They are Charleen Haugen, Curator/Director; Britt Dahl, Museum Assistant; and Marie Kompelien, Research Specialist.

Staff responsibilities covered all areas of museum and research center management. Museum staff participate in and provide community and educational programs for residents both onsite and offsite. They also participate in the Minnesota's Historic Northwest Consortium.

RGHS is a member of the Minnesota's Historic Northwest consortium, a eleven county organization for historical societies and museums in Northwest Minnesota. The consortium provides collaboration and educational training for the members. One staff person attends all consortium meetings. Charleen Haugen serves as a secretary for the organization. In 2007, the consortium received a \$5,000 grant from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Committee to develop an photograph exhibit about the history of NW Minnesota, provide educational programming with a docent handbook, and a photograph book which would celebrate Minnesota's 2008 Sesquicentennial.

In 2007, Charleen attended two workshops in connection with the Smithsonian Institute's Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) Main Street exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*. The workshops were sponsored and paid for by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, SITES, and the historical society.

Volunteers

Volunteer projects vary from year to year. Basic projects may include exhibit designing, program development, education tour docents, filing, data entry, and working with collection care. Over 30 volunteers assisted in various ways in 2007.

Several hundred Roseau Times-Region photographs were donated to the museum. Volunteers labeled the photos and filed them. Several volunteers worked on adding the Greenbush files from the Milt Sather collection to the family and city files.

Several individuals were involved exhibit designing during the year as we worked on the agriculture exhibit. The Smithsonian exhibit could not have had the success it had if it were not for volunteers assisting in designing exhibits, working on the programs or presenting tours.

Volunteers provide an invaluable service to the historical society in time and talents.

Financial

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

In 2007, a Hartz Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000 was applied for and received for several designated items. In order to care of the collection when items that need light protection are on exhibition, it was determined that the exhibit cases should have sensors which will turn the exhibit cases on when visitors approach and turn off when the visitor goes to the next area. The museum also needed a computer that could meet the needs for exhibit designing and software to go with it. These are just two of the items that the Hartz Foundation grant supported.

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

The 2007 financial report follows.

The Roseau County Historical Society apologizes for any oversights or errors in the annual or financial report.