

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Roseau County Historical Society was organized in 1927 by individuals who recognized the need to maintain a history of the county. The Minnesota Historical Society designated the Roseau County Historical Society as the official county organization. The historical society is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization.

The mission of the Roseau County 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 II, sections 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 the sole owner of its collection.

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

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2011 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President; Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President elected May 2011; Lola Grafstrom (Salol), Secretary, Helen Wagner (Roseau), Treasurer; Darrell Borgen (Badger), Eva-Jayne Krueger (Warroad), Ida Novacek (Roseau), Jeff Pieterick (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), and Sheila Winstead (Roseau).

Visitors

In 2011, 8,997 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from twenty-four states, Canada, Germany, Holland, Netherlands, and United Kingdom. RCHS off-site exhibits and programs were seen at the Roseau County Fair, Warroad Senior Living Center, Oakcrest Senior Living Center, in county schools by approximately 11,000 plus 244,000 during an Olympic hockey uniform exhibit at the Grand Forks Ralph Engelstad Arena where Roseau resident Don Ross' Olympic collection was displayed.

2011 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The Roseau County Historical Society and Roseau Public Library hosted the second North Dakota Museum of Art (NDMOA) exhibit, the Jim Dow "Marking the Land" photograph exhibit during February. It was made possible by a Met Life grant to NDMOA. RCHS and Roseau High School received a Legacy Arts and Culture Heritage grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council for a NDMOA Artist-in-Residence for art educator Mary Vatnsdal's class. Guillermo Guardia taught advanced clay techniques to four classes with their work displayed at the county museum and in the library in Roseau.

Roseau County Commissioner Glenda Phillipe opened the March 2011 One Woman exhibit and program. Nineteen women were selected for their community service: Gladys Paulson - City of Badger, Alice Miller - Barnett Township, Alpha Darst - Barto Township, Marianne Kristofferson - Enstrom Township, Alice Erickson-Falun Township, Adele Folland - City of Greenbush, Pearl Loe - Grimstad Township, Avis Wiskow - Huss Township, Helen Bergland - Jadis Township, Lillian Nelson - Malung Township, Sadie Rygh - Mickinock Township, Dorothy Brinkman - Mickinock Township, Clarice Billberg - Palmville Township, Alma Melquist Skime - Reine Township, Annette Hermansen - City of Roseau, Mary Dostal - Skagen Township, Frances Karlsson - Stafford Township, Loretta Voll - Unorganized/Norland Township, and Anni Daedlow - City of Warroad. Co-chairs for the One Woman Exhibit were Linda Vatnsdal, Dawn Johnson, and Carole Wilson. Mary VandeWege and Cassie Bina provided entertainment.

Women who have served in a government capacity were recognized during an exhibit and program in March. Speakers included Anne Granitz, former Roseau County Auditor; U.S. Customs and Border Protection Area Port Director Mary Delaquis, Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County Commissioner; and Barb Roseen, former director of the Roseau County USDA FSA office.

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was held April 16, 2011. Board member Bruce Olson gave an update on the Pinecreek Log Church Restoration Project. Incumbent board members Glenn Holm, Eva-Jayne Krueger, and Helen Wagner were reinstated with Jolene Juhl of Greenbush replacing Brenda Sather. Assistant Roseau High School Principal Aaron Nelson presented the program, "Tour of Gettysburg and Other Civil War Sites".

In June 2011, a *Roseau County Century Farm* exhibit opened focusing on fifty-five farms. The history and photographs of early homestead owners, a land ownership pedigree and recent aerial photograph interpreted each farm. Other aerial farm photographs were used in an interactive exhibit. The exhibit is rotating between Senior Living Center sites across the county.

The museum continues to offer free activities for youth included a summer movie series and the August museum/Dairy Queen scavenger hunt partnership which includes a weekly drawing for a DQ Blizzard. One hundred twenty children enjoyed these events.

Minnesota's Historic Northwest Consortium received a Hartz grant for the *Faith Matters: Churches in Minnesota's Historic Northwest* traveling exhibit. It was displayed at the Roseau County Museum and the county fair during July and August.

The Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, a Minnesota Humanities Center and the Minnesota Historical Society partnership with the Smithsonian, opened at the museum on November 13. Roseau County Commissioner Roger Falk opened the exhibit, which included a catered dinner sponsored by Jeff and Patty Pieterick of Greenbush and the historical society. "Music of Hope" provided entertainment. A staff designed exhibit, *New Harmonies: Music in Roseau County*, focused on local people and places involved in music.

Several *New Harmonies* related music events were held during 2011. "The WoodPicks" performed on August 25 at the Roseau River View Gazebo. On November 12, "The Story of Music, Stories from Home" was held in the Roseau School Theater. The event was supported through the Minnesota Art Council by a Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage grant. "Our Traditions, Our New Harmonies" featured seventeen Warroad High School students, who shared poetry, theater, dance, and music under the direction of Saymoukda Vongsay and Julian Hines at the Warroad School on November 3. "Christmas Harmonies" was presented on December 11, at the Roseau School Theater with local talent providing holiday music and stories. Dawn Johnson chaired the event.

All the events were supported in part by a Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage grant through the NW MN Regional Arts Council. Exhibits and events sponsors were Border State Bank, Citizens State Bank, Doug's Supermarket, Northern Resources and C-Store, Polaris Industries, Roseau Liquor Store, Roseau VFW, Security State Bank, Thrivent Financial, Thune Insurance Network and the Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund through the NW MN Arts Council and the MN Historical Society. Over 2650 patrons from NW Minnesota and southern Manitoba visited the museum over eight weeks.

School Educational Programs and Tours

RCCHS provided educational programs for K12 students for all schools in the county and northwest Minnesota, including offsite presentations and onsite tours and programs. Education Coordinator Lola Grafstrom uses the museum SMART board and collection items during onsite teaching programs.

On May 19, seven schools (twenty-one students) from Badger, Goodridge, Grygla, Lake of the Woods, Lancaster, Roseau, and Warroad participated in the annual Minnesota History Sixth Grade contest at the Roseau City Center. Sponsors were Border State Bank, Citizens State Bank and Security State Bank. Participating students were Badger - Seth Dostal, Caitlynn Garten, Olivia Monsrud; Grygla - Logan Tinnes, Ryce Skime, Tanner Anderson; Goodridge - Kristin Farris, Ashlyn Hendrickson, and Jeremy Wiskow; Lake of the Woods - Journey Dahl, Logan Rennemo, Josie Leahy; Roseau - Ivy Braaten (1st place), Sarah Noethe, Tanner Njaa (4th place tie); Warroad - Logan Wilmer (3rd place), Sandalee Norindr (5th place), Jenna Johnson (2nd place) and - Lancaster - Bea Jaszczak, Spencer Billings (4th place tie), Morgan Sjostrand.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

- Sixty-five individuals, families and businesses donated over 700 photographs, three-dimensional objects and archival items to the museum. Ross and Malung Townships donated the township records to the museum. John Wahlberg donated Bill Adam's camera collection; Bill was a former owner/editor of the Roseau Time-Region newspaper. The New Harmonies exhibit encouraged individuals to donate photos and objects to the museum. Several records and artifacts were received from several county 4-H organizations.
- RCCHS replaced the front desk computer to meet the needs of the exhibit poster design by staff.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

The historical society is governed by twelve trustees. They serve a period of three years and may serve as many terms as they desire.

Administration and Training

RCCHS staff members are Charleen Haugen, Executive Director, Britt Dahl, Museum Assistant; and Marie Kompelien, Research Specialist. Staff are in charge of all areas of museum management. Four other individuals were paid through employment training programs.

RCCHS is a member of the Minnesota's Historical Northwest Consortium, an organization for historical societies and museums in Northwest Minnesota. The consortium provides collaboration and educational training for the members.

Volunteers

Approximately 110 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2011. Although the Sentence to Service program is not considered volunteer hours, their community service to the museum is invaluable.

Financial Information and Grants

General operating funds for the historical society come from county allocations, memberships, donations, gift shop proceeds, research requests, the Roseau County Endowment Fund, a yearly fund drive, and grants.

- The 2011 fund drive provided the historical society the opportunity to purchase collection care items and exhibit supplies and help with the cost of exhibit design as well as assist with general operation. 113 contributors supported the 2010-11 fund drive. A \$1,000 donation was received for the research center from Dennis, Richard, and Peter King in memory of their Laona Township grandparents. \$500 donation came from the Care Abounds in the Community Thrivent program. Donors may be viewed on the historical society website. The fund drive provided support for the *One Woman*, *Women in Government* and *New Harmonies* exhibits.
- Grant funding in 2011 came from foundations and the Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund. The fund provided \$1380 for the Roseau Artist in Residence and \$2800 for music programming.
- A major contributor to the museum over the years has been the Hartz Foundation. The museum finalized the 2010 grant project by completing three exhibit cases with Plexiglas covers.
- The Roseau Area Friends of the Library (RAFL) and the historical society collaborated on the publication *P is for Pioneer*, an ABC picture book for children and adults. Project editors were Britt Dahl (RCCHS) and Annette Hermansen (RAFL). Over seventy talented writers, photographers and artists contributed with photos and articles, Roseau County Museum staff photographed artifacts from the collection for the book. The book went on sale in April. The projects were made possible by grants from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund channeled through Northwest Regional Library for printing costs and Northwest Regional Arts Council for a music cd.
- The Kenneth Holm estate gifted \$16,682.62 of which \$8,000 was placed in the RCCHS endowment fund with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.
- Bob & Joan Fikkan-Shetterly donated \$1,000 in memory of their daughter Elizabeth, and Joan's parents Amos and Irene Fikkan. The memorial gift was used for exhibit design.
- In memory of Lillian Nelson, \$500 for exhibit cases was received from Lillian's daughter and son-in-law, Richard & Karen Stacy.

Additional information is available in the 2011 financial report.

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

Glenn Holm, President and Charleen Haugen, Executive Director