



# The Window

Official Newsletter of the Brookings County Historical Society



## Museum volunteers are recognized

The first annual Museum Volunteer Appreciation dinner in late August recognized and thanked individuals who stepped forward to help during the Brookings County Museum season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The event, held in the Volga Community Room, was attended by about 75 volunteers and Brookings county and community leaders.

Phil Wagner, president of the museum board, thanked the volunteers for their tremendous help during the museum's season, and recognized board member Cindy Jacobson who is responsible for volunteer recruiting and scheduling.

The need for volunteers nearly doubled this season with the opening of the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum. The publicity and advertising related to the opening of that museum broadened the interest area for the museum complex with many guests traveling hundreds of miles to tour the facilities.

There was also a noticeable increase in group tours and in the number of guests visiting from Brookings city.



**Museum board of director members Cindy Jacobson of Volga and Darla Strande of Brookings assist with serving as loyal museum volunteers fill up their plates. From left are volunteers Henrietta Molengraaf, Gert Dykhouse and Norma Hansen, all of Volga. (Photo by Jerry Leslie)**

The museum has no paid employees and depends on volunteers for the myriad of jobs necessary to keep the museum opening and operational.

Volunteers at the museum this summer included:

Marilyn Kleinjan, Cal Higgins, Harold Beukelman, Betty Beukelman, Floyd

Havrevold, Cheryl Havrevold, Shirley Deethart, Norman Hanson, Verdella Gross, Jerry Anderson, Mary Bjerke, Nancy Anderson, Tom Elverud, Harlan Larkin.

Duane Oines, Irene Oines, Keith VanDuyn, Shirley VanDuyn, Arden Stensgaard, Darla Stensgaard, Andrea

continued

## Where did summer go?



**It seems like only yesterday when Sioux Valley Fourth Graders stopped by for a tour before the beginning of their summer break.**

# Volunteers

continued from front

Sapp, Charles Sapp, Polly Larson, Barb Meyer, Patsy Johnson, Gert Dykhouse, Don Dykhouse.

Kathy Platts, Andy Molengraaf, Henrietta Molengraaf, Joan Bjorklund, the late Lyle Bjorklund, Marcene Seiverson, Vicky Linneman, Carol Holm, Rod King, Don Derdall, Ione Swedlund, Ruth Anderson, LeRoy Anderson, Sonja Anderson, Janet Pirlet, Roger Sandness, Gary Dusharm, Rich Strande.

Phil Wagner, Jerry Leslie, Darla Strande, Bob Buchheim, Patty Kratochvil, Dorothy Husher, Don Kleinjan, Harold Christianson, Lyle Strande, Chuck Cecil, Dick Berreth, Cynthia Jacobson, Marvin Hope, Larry Ust, Pam Stubjaer, Bill VanBeek, Fannie Janssen.

Editor's Note: Please contact the museum if your name may have been unintentionally left off. Our apologies. 🌸



**About 75 museum volunteers and guests attended the first annual Museum Volunteer Appreciation dinner at the Volga Community Room on August 15. Among those attending were, from left to right, Brookings County Commission Chairperson LeeAnn Pierce of Brookings; Mary Ries, Volga Deputy Finance Officer; Kelly VanderWal, Volga City Council; Julia Steffensen, who attended with her parents, Mike and Stacy Steffensen of Volga (Stacy is Director of the Brookings County Commission); Doris Ust and Museum Board member Larry Ust of Volga. (Photo by Jerry Leslie)**

# An Old-Time Celebration



**TOP LEFT: Museum board member and retired farmer Marvin Hope, Volga, rode his beautifully refurbished 1944 John Deere B tractor in the Old Timers Day parade, pulling along behind the restored Volga Depot freight cart that was donated to the museum in 2014. The Museum is grateful for the generosity and restoration talents of Allen Nelson and H. E. VanMaanen, both of Volga on the freight cart.**

**ABOVE: Annual celebrants at Old Timers Day are this handsome quartet. From left: retired SDSU president Dr. David Chicoine and his wife, Marcia Watts Chicoine; Mary Watts Thompson and her husband, R. J. Thompson of Sioux Falls. As Thompson's shirt implies and as might be expected, all four are rabid SDSU fans. Marcia and Mary are daughters of the late Edith and Elgie Watts of Volga.**

**LEFT: This panorama pretty much explains what Volga's annual Old Timers Day is all about. It's held in Volga's beautiful city park in among the six museum buildings of the Brookings County Historical Society.**

# Museum Progress Through the Years

**T**hanks to the completion and opening of the \$150,000 Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, improvements in the Vintage Farm Equipment Building and a general realignment of museum display areas, 2018 stands to become the most visited year of any in the museum's 50-year history.

"It's been an exciting time," said Museum President Phil Wagner. After a bin buster grand opening of the Horse-Drawn Museum and a well-attended Old Timers Day Volga City celebration, museum officials determined that the practice of having one volunteer staff member on duty during regular visiting hours just wouldn't do.

For example, recently Harland Haugen of Fergus Falls and David Strand of Alexandria, Minn., drove over three hours to see the Horse Drawn Museum and other museum buildings.

More and more visitors meant tours of the museum's five of six open buildings required two on-duty volunteers.

The changes made in the museum complex not only meant more county visitors, but museum publicity because of the new museum brought the curious to Volga from throughout South Dakota and Minnesota, Wagner said.

The newly found museum fans and increased visitation caps a twenty-year improvement plan made possible by generous gifts from thousands of museum friends.

Some of the highlights during that two-decade long period of change were:

**1998**—First Museum Window newsletter planned, first mass fundraising mailing to museum members and friends. Additional funds raised through the next twenty years made possible many museum improvements and two decades of museum growth.

**1999**—Cement floor in 1982 Vintage Farm Equipment bldg. (north section) poured; scanning of all museum photos with an initial Walmart employee organization gift.

**2000**—Sheriff's Office and tool shed/blacksmith shop rooms installed in Vintage Farm Equipment Building.; museum's first ever copy machine a gift from County Commission. Machine later replaced by copy machine gift from Daktronics that is still in use (2018). Period rooms and Pioneer Home construction began in Main Museum.

**2002**—Main Museum walls insulated; west end garage door removed and permanent wall installed; entry doors and windows installed; hot water heater installed; exterior south wall of Main Museum painted with wagon train scene; floor painted.

**2004**—County Commissioner's 1912 meeting table donated to museum archives room; Archives shelving in main office installed, bookcases and scanned photo displays cases built.

**2005**—Directors set goal to replace old store type display cases over time with vertical glass display cases. During the next

several years, funds raised to purchase 16 such cases. Old store-type cases sold or donated to area museums. Main Museum interior modernized so that more artifacts can be displayed in an organized manner.

**2009**—Old (north portion) of Vintage Farm Equipment building added on to in a \$35,000 expansion project to the south.

**2010**—Rural school roof re-shingled.

**2011**—James Hauxhurst's 1884 house moved to museum site from Brookings. Chilton Foundation grant of \$5,000 helped close in north side of Hauxhurst House and \$12,300 donated for that project and for the painting of the exterior. Improvements made to Main Museum's Archives room as directors see marked interest by museum visitors in archival material.

**2012**—Interior walls of old and new Vintage Farm Equipment Building were lined with rough lumber, greatly improving the ambiance and the use of the building.

**2014**—Installation of more than 500 feet of sidewalk to all museum buildings completed at a cost of more than \$12,000. New, insulated roof installed on Main Museum at a cost of \$35,000. Fenced area set aside and graveled at west end of Main Museum for display of growing collection of old farm machinery.

**2015**—Operation Rescue of deteriorating Sundet Log Cabin initiated and over time more than \$10,000 spent for removal of old concrete chinking and installation of a newly developed, rubberized chinking product. Windows repaired and eventually rotting foundation logs on north side of cabin replaced with new logs. Bequest of \$100,000 from Oak Lake Township farmer Trygve A. Trooien received. Decision made to plan the building as South Dakota's only horse-drawn museum.

**2017**—Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting installed in Main Museum. New front sidewalk and patio areas installed to match up with new Veterans' Memorial being built adjacent to museum. Horse-Drawn Museum completed. Display placement in it began during winter of 2017-18.

**2018**—Exterior of Christianson Family rural school repainted. More than 1,000 attend dedication of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum on May 27, 2018. With new space added because of the Horse-Drawn Museum, pressure on the Vintage Farm Equipment Building was greatly reduced making two positive changes possible. Displays remaining in the Vintage Farm Building sited to be more visible and accessible, and space is made available for a much-needed storage room for museum artifacts that was added in late 2018.

A few weeks after the grand opening of the Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, the museum complex attracted more than 1,000 visitors during Volga City's Old Timers Day. Attendance to the museum in 2018 broke all previous records. ❀

history

On September 4, 1917, nearly 470 attended an early settlers reunion in Brookings and re-organized the Pioneer Historical Society that in the 1930s became the Brookings County Historical Society.



# Visitors From Around the World Stop by for Summer Tours



About 30 visitors from the Singaas area in Norway toured the Brookings County Museum complex in August on a tour that also took them to the Hendricks, Minn., area where Norwegians from the same area in Norway settled in the 1880s. Included in the group was a Trooien relative who was thrilled to tour the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum. Here some of the group pose in front of the museum's 1872 Jokum Sundet log cabin. Sundet and his wife Maren were natives of Norway. Museum Board Member Marv Hope, center, whose forefathers came from Norway, assisted in the tour. Orlan Sandro, far right, of Hendricks, speaks Norwegian and was there to translate. The group toured SDSU and left later in the week for a tour of Alaska before returning home to Norway.



**First Class Visitors**  
More than 50 members of the First Bank & Trust First Class Club stopped by the Brookings County Museum on June 22. Morning coffee and rolls were also on the menu before the group continued on by bus to visit other museums and area points of interest.



Among the more than 1,000 who attended the Grand Opening of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum on Memorial Day were many friends and relatives of Trygve's from the Oak Lake and Lake Hendricks, Minn., area, including the Phil Trooien family. From left: Todd Trooien, Annika Isbell, Roberta Trooien, Bobby Isbell, Inger Trooien and Phil Trooien. Phil is Trygve's brother.



Enjoying the dolls and other toys in the Children's Room of the Brookings County Museum recently were, from left, Bergan Oines, museum volunteer Henrietta Molengraaf, Volga, Kennedy Northrup and Lucy Milton, who were among more than 100 Sioux Valley school students who visited the museum in June.



**The Eyes Have it!**  
That's according to Theo Bolstad, the two-year-old son of Tyler and Brianne Bolstad of Volga. He took a liking to the Brookings County Museum's south side mural of pioneers headed west with their faithful dog not far behind. The 80-foot long mural was painted in 2001 by Matt Christensen of Volga as an Eagle Scout project. (Photo by Museum Board member Cindy Jacobson, Volga)



**School's Out for the Summer!**  
Celebrating the end of the school year, three of the 62 Sioux Valley fourth graders who toured the Brookings County Museum, temporarily "locked" themselves in an old Volga City jail cell on display. Celebrating a summer "parole" from school were, from left, Morgan Christensen, Jameson Kurtz and Dubhlainn Vermeulen.



Four generations of the Meyer family accompanied their patriarch LeRoy Meyer, 102, of rural Rosholt on an hour-long tour of the Brookings County Museum in Volga on a Saturday afternoon in August. "It was really a nice museum and we all had a good time," the 102-year-old Meyer said. That's his great grandson, Grant Vandenberg, 2, of Sioux Falls, asleep next to him in this photo. Other family members in the photo were from Mankato, Minn. (Darla Strande Photo)



The Brookings Area Sons of Norway gathered in Volga's City Park recently for a meeting and tour of the Brookings County Museum. In appreciation of opening the museum for the rare evening tour, and for the courteous help of the museum staff, the group donated a generous gift for museum operations. Sons of Norway treasurer Rev. James Thvedt, left, presented the check to Phil Wagner, museum president, as museum horses Pet and Tiny looked over their shoulders to see if they could read the gift check's amount.

**Gifts to the Brookings  
County Museum  
ARE TAX EXEMPT**

# Rural Teacher Returns to Classroom

**W**alking through the door of the old District 89 one-room school was a homecoming for Ken and Pearl Ivers of Brookings. It had been 62 years since they last walked through the door of the country school built in 1880 on the Hans Simonson farm seven miles south of Volga, now a part of the Brookings County Museum complex in Volga's City park.

Pearl and Ken of Brookings were among members and guests from the Brookings PEO Chapter BP who visited the museum in late August.

Pearl taught at the school from 1954 to 1956. Her husband Ken, then a South Dakota State University music major, often dropped by to give impromptu music lessons to her 10 students representing four families.

At the time, Ken was directing the Sinai school band as a part-time job while finishing degree. So after his work days in Sinai, he steered the young couple's '49 Studebaker into the District 89 schoolyard to talk music with the students and help them practice music for their school programs.

After Ken graduated, the couple moved to Appleton, Minn., for his first music teaching job. But in 1962 they moved back to

Brookings after he accepted an administrative position at SDSU. Pearl assumed teaching Home Economics in the Brookings School system.

Her old school, Medary District 89, would continue to operate for six more years before school reorganization came along. It was closed in 1963.

Teachers at the school after Pearl left were Ina Tate for four years and Emma Hofter for two years. Ardys Ahnberg closed out the last school year.

During its nearly 85-year history, 194 students graduated from District 89. At the height of the rural school era, District 89 was one of the county's more than 100 rural schools, and each of the county's 22 townships had four or five such facilities.

Eventually, the school was trundled off to the Volga museum site. To help present and future museum staff maintain the school building, former museum board president Harold Christianson of Volga donated \$25,000 in memory of his siblings, all of whom entered the teaching profession.

District 89 School is now officially the Christianson Family District 89 School. ❀



## The Museum Man

Howard Lee is 99 years old, and for 50 of those years he was the very active, kind and creative officer and board member of the Brookings County Museum. The retired Volga banker was instrumental in making the museum what it is today. The WW II Navy veteran and his family spent Memorial Day visiting the museum and adjacent Veterans Memorial. From left: son-in-law Ron Bortnem, former Volga resident now living in Cottonwood, Minn., Charles, Howard and his wife Gladys, and daughter Kris Lee Bortnem.

## Worth the Drive

Farmers Harland Haugen of Fergus Falls and his friend David Strand of Alexandria read about the Trygve A. Troien Horse-Drawn Museum in the Aberdeen Green Sheet. So they decided to visit the museum. And they did, after a nearly four hour drive. They said their enjoyment of touring the museum buildings, and especially the Horse-Drawn Museum, was worth the drive.

## Classic Car Poker Run

The Brookings County Museum was one of five area museums recently featured in a Highway 14 Classic Car Poker Run. Other Highway 14 museums on the route were in Arlington, Oldham, Lake Preston and Lake Norden.

On their stop at each museum, participants were asked to correctly answer a museum question and in turn received a museum ID stamp for a five-card draw at the conclusion held at Wooden Legs Brewing Company in Brookings. Proceeds were shared among participating museums.



Brookings residents Ken and Pearl Ivers, front, recently toured the Brookings County Museum's District 89 rural school where Pearl taught more than 50 years ago, and where Ken, an SDSU music major, often dropped by to give impromptu music lessons. Ken and Pearl were among Pearl's fellow PEO, Brookings Chapter BP members who toured the museum in Volga's City Park. Other PEO members and guests were, from left, Dean Hofland, Sharon Hofland, Jackie Blackford, Roberta Hansen, Linda Thaden, Bill Wadsworth, Mary Cecil, Nancy Wadsworth, Mary McCaa, Eleda Brotsky, Ron Thaden and Bob Brotsky.

# Display Showcases Local Dairy History

A new display of old milk bottles and other paraphernalia related to the history of dairying and creameries in South Dakota is now a part of the Brookings County Museum.

The new display drew praise from recent museum visitor Monte Harming of Brookings, now 78, who for nearly two decades was the Bibby-Kallemeyn milkman delivering milk to Brookings homes, schools and businesses.

“I was very impressed with the variety of milk bottles and the number of milk bottle caps,” Harming said. “They all brought back fond memories for me.”

What Brookings and area residents referred to as the B/K Dairy was then located at 422 4th Street. For nearly six decades before it was sold to Lakeside Dairy of Sioux Falls, the firm delivered milk in bottles to Brookings residents, and to area farms and in communities in the eastern part of the county.

Harming’s tenure at the local dairy started shortly after he graduated from Elkton High School in 1959 and continued until the late 1970s. Home milk deliveries in Brookings continued until the early 1980s.

Harming remembered that in many homes on his delivery route he was granted carte blanche access to the kitchens where he personally checked the refrigerators and stocked the dairy products the homeowner’s family needed.

“Times changed since those days,” joked Harming, who entered the restaurant business in Brookings after he retired from his milk delivery days.

Many of the items on display were donated by former Brookings resident Roger Scheibe, who is now retired and living in Sioux Falls. County Museum President Phil Wagner said Scheibe’s gift fills a gap in the museum’s dairy history. “We appreciate his help in adding to what the museum has accumulated over the years,” he said. “His gift is one of the most extensive milk bottle collections in this area.”

Scheibe grew up on a dairy farm near Wolsey and majored in dairy science at South Dakota State University before becoming an official in the state Department of Agriculture’s dairy division. He was instrumental in South Dakota’s successful efforts several years ago to convince foreign dairy producers to relocate to the state.

A few items in the display, including a rare, mint condition B/K Dairy insulated metal porch container, are gifts from Brookings resident Harlan Larkin. Other friends of the museum have donated wooden butter molds, churns, a hand-hewn three-legged milking stool, an old wooden cheese box and a curd and whey bucket dating from the Dakota homesteading years of the late 1800s.

But the exhibit’s colorful crown jewels are the more than 35 milk bottles of various shapes and sizes, all with logos representing dairy and creamery businesses from Rapid City to Sioux Falls and points between.

The collection includes an unusual figure-eight shaped milk bottle from Gagnon’s Dairy in Huron, and a brown bottle distributed by the Fenn Guernsey Dairy in Sioux Falls. There are also examples of the waxed cardboard milk containers that gradually improved through the years and eventually spelled doom for glass milk bottles.

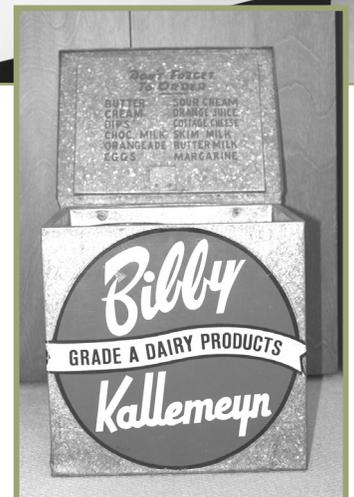
Scheibe also gave the museum his collection of milk bottle caps representing dozens of South Dakota dairies. ❀



Monte Harming then and now. Top left shows Monte exiting his delivery truck with chocolate milk, regular milk and some cottage cheese around 1960. He worked for the dairy for about 19 years. Top right, Monte visited the museum this summer to see the display.



The new dairy display in the museum displays old and not so old dairy items, many of them donated by Roger Scheibe of Sioux Falls.



# NOTEWORTHY

## Batter Up!

Sinai baseball started in 1909. No one is sure what year this team of nine took the field but they are all identified.

Back row: Charles Richardson, Jim Kalberg, Otto Larson; Middle: Marvin Peterson (left) and Jim Svarenning (right); Front: Selmer Meyer, Adolph Larson, Benny Thomson and Robert Larson.

This team was probably from the 1920s when the diamond was in the field of Clarence Skaggs farm (Marvin Hope) from 1921 to 1924; or it could have been in the southeast corner of Vigil Bolstad's north quarter. Late in 1920 the diamond was on Carl Anderson's pasture near Lake Sinai.



*Join us and become a member today!*  
**History Comes Alive at the Brookings County Museum**

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