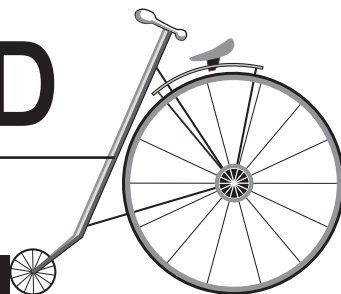


# THE HERITAGE HERALD

## LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### President's Message

*Sue Larsen*

So much has happened at the Smith-Zimmermann Museum since the last newsletter!

The 50th Anniversary celebration on October 9 was a great success. Well over 125 people attended the festivities that day. This great show of support was very rewarding for all the folks who worked so hard on the arrangements for this special day. I was very glad that I had the guys from the Physical Plant bring us twenty-five chairs. Even with these extra chairs it was standing room only at the museum.

Of course we had many local people in attendance, as well as those from other locations in South Dakota. A special "thank you" goes to those who traveled from out of state. We also received very special letters from several people who were not able to make the trip to Madison. More about the 50th celebration is included in this newsletter.

We barely had time to catch our breath after the 50th celebration before plans had to be made for the Veterans' Day program that is held at the museum for Madison's 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. A separate program is done for each grade level, and Torrie worked very hard getting everything arranged for these three very successful presentations.

The elementary classes in attendance were larger than in previous years, so it was a good thing that we still had the extra chairs at the museum! I enjoyed the three programs, but even more enjoyable was the time between the presentations. This time was spent visiting with the veterans. They had much to share with us and with each other.

Soon after Veterans' Day, the Hall of Trees committee began mak-

ing plans for the holiday season at Smith-Zimmermann. There were more Christmas trees at the museum than in past years. This is the first time that some organizations participated in this event.

December 18 was a special day at the tree festival. Richard Wolf entertained visitors with music and songs, and the LeBahn family Christmas train provided rides around town for the over 130 people. It was wonderful to have so many people include the museum in their holiday plans!

Even with all the special activities, "business as usual" continues at the museum. Volunteers have been working to accession the newly acquired collection items as they are donated. Torrie adds these items to the PastPerfect computer program. It may take us a while, but at some point in the future a complete inventory of the museum collection will be on file.

The museum continues to receive donations for the ongoing fund raiser at Four Seasons Flea Market. This money is used for conservation supplies and several other projects at the museum. The membership's support in this fund raiser is greatly appreciated.

It never ceases to amaze me when people tell me that they didn't even know that there is a museum in Madison. We are attempting to change this by doing more promoting of our special events. As LCHS members, you can help with this also. Please visit the museum and encourage others to visit it, too. The museum is a great place to bring visiting friends and family members when they are in Madison.

The Lake County Historical Society Board of Directors wishes all of you a safe and happy 2012.

## Tidbits – First Tuesday Talks Group

*Sue Larsen*

A group of area “old-timers,” who call themselves the First Tuesday Talks Group, meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Smith-Zimmermann Museum. Sometimes there’s an agenda and other times it becomes a very informal discussion of the “old days.” New members are always welcome, and there’s always an empty chair for visitors who would just like to sit and listen.

The December 6 topic was World War II. Jon Lincoln recalled that a relative was the pilot of a B17. This individual knew where the Lincoln family lived on South Egan Avenue. One day on a practice flight he flew very low over the Lincoln home. Jon’s grandmother was on her way back into the house after gathering eggs. The plane scared her so much that she dropped the bucket of eggs that she was carrying. Needless to say, this young pilot later received a thorough chewing out from Mrs. Lincoln.

Bill Klopf remembers when fifteen to eighteen brown DC3 fighter planes flew very low over Madison in the vicinity of the light plant. A door was open on one of the planes and one of the airmen waved at Bill.

Dick Wiedenman shared a story about his mother’s attempt at being too conservative during the war effort. Ada Wiedenman cut the worn part from the center of a bed sheet. She sewed it back together and re-used it on a bed.

Several members of the discussion group remembered the “blackouts” that were held during the war. On the nights when the blackout drills were held wardens patrolled Madison to see that no lights were showing from houses.

Scrap drives were held in 1943 and 1944. School was let out for a half day. School children pulled their wagons around town collecting items for the scrap drive. Items such as iron, paper, and pots and pans were gathered up. The children returned to school with full wagons. There

were huge piles of the collected items on the school grounds. Of special interest were empty toothpaste tubes which were collected because of their lead content. Among the school children who did the collecting were a few young entrepreneurs who kept some of the scrap iron and sold it themselves so they would have some spending money.

At other past discussion group gatherings, Jon Lincoln remembered Gypsies camping in the apple orchard in the southeast corner of Madison (where the 4-H Grounds are now located). Jon’s family lived nearby and remembers that his father would lock their dog in the chicken coop. The Gypsies didn’t attempt to take chickens with the dog in the coop.

Jon also shared a story about his great-grandfather, John Norton, who was the last Civil War Veteran in Lake County. Norton served in a Minnesota light artillery group. This artillery group helped to handle the Indian issues in Minnesota. Norton also helped build Fort Sisseton.

During the 1940s and 1950s there was a well near the creek in Junius. People from the Madison area went out there to get water from this well because it was so good. Junius once had three grain elevators and a stockyard. The stockyard was located next to the railroad track. Dances were held at Junius in an empty store building. These dances had nicknames – “Little Hollywood.”

In the 1930s, Medicine Shows were held in the area where the 4-H Grounds are now. These shows featured a truck with a stage where magic acts were performed. These shows also promoted the sale of medicines and snake oils that were advertised to cure cancer and all women’s diseases. The names of one of these cure-alls was “Indian Kickapoo Joy Juice.”

Seventy-five millimeter shell projectiles were once manufactured

where the East River buildings are now located.

### *In Memory:*



Jon Lincoln  
1930-2011

Jon Lincoln died this past December. Jon was born and raised in Madison. He was a member of the Lake County Historical Society and often traveled to Madison from his Lake Norden home to attend the First Tuesday Talks Group. Jon had excellent recall and vivid memories of the events, happenings, and the “way of life” during the 1930s and 1940s. LCHS sends its thoughts and prayers to his wife and family. He will be missed.

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### *Wishes Granted – Thanks*

LCHS is very grateful for the following donations:

- Three Lake County History books have been donated to the museum. Thanks go to Floris Hilmoe, Terry and Lynn Ryan, and Richard and Marilyn Belatti for bringing in their history books.
- William Griffin of Seattle, WA, gave the museum a donation to be used for the purchase of archival quality textile boxes and photo sleeves.
- Midwest Glass repaired the glass in two **display cases at no charge**.
- An anonymous donor for the money given to purchase Christmas Tree totes

## Celebrating the 50th Anniversary at Smith Zimmermann Museum

*Dale Nighbert*

Add 125 supporters to a museum full of displays and you pretty much get a full house. So it was this past October as the Lake County Historical Society celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Smith-Zimmermann Museum.

The Smith-Zimmermann Museum opened the doors to its new building in 1961.

To honor that occasion, a 50th birthday party was held in combination with this year's LCHS annual meeting.

John Nelson was Master of Ceremonies who introduced a number of speakers. Mayor Gene Hexom read an official proclamation in support of the museum. City Commissioner Richard Ericsson, who grew up across the street from the museum in the 1950s and 60s and who was a neighbor to George Smith, spoke about his childhood memories of the neighborhood. Delmer Dooley, former LCHS board member, recalled the transfer of ownership of the museum from state control to local control in the early 1990s.

The last presenter was John Nelson who provided an audio-visual presentation of historic photos and the original audio from the pre-

served tape of the 1961 dedication. On the recording are speeches made by then Governor Archie Gubbrud, Senator Karl Mundt, George Smith, and Lillie Zimmermann.

On display were the contents of the time capsule – preserved from the 1961 program: the tape recording, a General Beadle State College catalog, a Dakota Territorial Centennial program, Madison Daily Leader newspapers, and the South Dakota Centennial Editions of newspapers.

The Smith-Zimmermann Museum was dedicated by George Smith and

Lillie M. Zimmermann and donated to the Lake County Historical Society, the college, and the community in memory of their parents, Captain and Mrs. H.P. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Zimmermann, early pioneers of Lake County.

Special thanks to the following for helping to make this event possible: Questers, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Mundt Foundation, DSU Physical Plant, DSU Production Center, Unlimited Possibilities, and The Surplus Store.



**There was standing room only as 125 supporters filled the museum this past October. The event was the celebration of Smith-Zimmermann's 50th birthday. Pictured is John Nelson, Master of Ceremonies.**

## ***Wish List -***

- **Lake County History Books:** We still have a list of folks who would love to have a copy of this book.
- The museum is taking donations to be put toward "glass covering film" that will be used on the windows and doors in the entry areas of the museum. The film blocks the light rays that have the potential to harm collection items. If you are interested in donating toward this project please, contact Torrie at 605-256-5308.
- We could also use more artificial trees that will be used for the Holiday Hall of Trees. Several of the trees we have are past their prime, and we will need replacements for them.
- Old phone books from the Madison area and Lake County provide a wealth of information for research. We would love to have more in our collection. If you have one of these and wish to keep it, we can scan it and return the original to you.
- A large Digital-Photo Frame used for displaying digitized documents & photographs would also be appreciated.
- Volunteers to help with special projects at the museum are also needed. For example, we sure could use help with organizing and putting our large collection of obituaries into acid free sleeves.
- Wanted: Early photos of Lake County Towns. We have an abundance of Madison photos, but not too many of the surrounding communities.
- Melinex film is used to encapsulate paper items such as large pictures, newspapers and maps. We used up most of our supply to preserve the blueprints of the Grand View Hotel. The costs of these items are:
  - Archival Polyester Film Melinex 3 Mil 40" x 25' \$67.00
  - Archival Polyester Film Melinex 3 Mil 40" x 50' \$126.00

## Annual Meeting

*Dale Nighbert*

The Annual Meeting of the Lake County Historical Society was held this past October in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Smith-Zimmermann Museum.

Each year the Lake County Historical Society presents Krueger Awards honoring volunteers and contributors to LCHS and the museum. This award is named for Fritz Krueger, a longtime resident of Lake County, who was a major supporter of and contributor to the museum. This year's recipients are Gayle Mayberry, Jerry Larsen, John Nelson, and Barb Iverson Crawford.

Gayle Mayberry is owner and operator of the Four Seasons Flea Market – a business in downtown Madison. Gayle allows LCHS to bring in donated items and sells them as part of an ongoing fundraising project. Gayle has been very helpful and has given LCHS many suggestions about what to bring in and what time of the year certain things sell better.

Jerry Larsen was recognized for volunteering his time and efforts with a number of projects. Most recently, Jerry moved the carriage rock

to the front of the building. He also moved the display cases from the Masonic Temple and rebuilt them at the museum. Jerry has also helped out with a number of the museum's school programs.

Both John Nelson and Barb Iverson Crawford were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the LCHS Board of Directors. John served as president for two years and was chairman of the Publications Committee. His job as a writer, editor, and layout coordinator for the Heritage Herald newsletter was much appreciated. Barb served as secretary for LCHS for a number of years. Her contributions and hard work on many of the museum's programs and fundraisers were also appreciated.



President Sue Larsen, Treasurer Lori Norby, and Coordinator Torrie Ewoldt each presented their annual reports as did the chairpersons of various LCHS Committees: Acquisitions/Collections, Budget/Finance, Membership, Program, and Publications.

An election for board members was held. Approved for a second three-year term were Sue Larsen, Lori Norby, and Rosie Brashier. Elected to replace John Nelson was Chris Olson.

Door prize winners were Ron Warns, Marty Warns, Gayle Mayberry, Donna Birgen, and Roger Hallenbeck. Thanks to Deb Sorenson of Great Western Bank, St. Thomas Quilters, and LCHS for contributing door prizes that included Colman Binoculars, Bar-B-Q implements, an indoor/outdoor weather guide, a quilt, and a LCHS Cookbook.

**Fritz Krueger, a longtime resident of Lake county, was a major supporter and contributor to the museum. Each year LCHS presents Krueger Awards honoring other individuals who volunteer and contribute their time to LCHS activities. This year's recipients pictured left to right Barb Iverson Crawford, John Nelson, Gayle Mayberry, and Jerry Larsen**

## Goodroad Family History

*By Sue Larsen*

Terry & Judy Kukuk of Bainbridge Island, WA, have donated a copy of the book *Lewis & Adaline Goodroad's Homestead Farm* to the Smith-Zimmermann Museum. This is a wonderful addition to the museum's genealogy collection.

In February of 2009, Terry contacted the museum asking for help in locating and obtaining pictures of the Goodroad graves that are located in the St. Thomas Cemetery. I volunteered to help him get the information that he needed. Ted Weiland gave me the location of the graves, but it was several weeks before the snow had melted enough for me to actually clean the gravestones and take the photographs.

I was pleasantly surprised when Terry sent me a copy of the book with directions to take it to the museum after I had a look at it. Terry and Judy have done an excellent job of tracing the Goodroad family through their various moves until finally reaching Dakota Territory. This book contains many pictures and a lot of documentation about the family. I can only imagine the time and effort that it took to write this family history.

The book contains much historical information about pioneers in general that I found very interesting. Chapter Six, entitled "The Grasshopper



**The Goodroad family history book traces the family's move into Dakota Territory and Lake County and is part of the museum's genealogy collection. Pictured are Lewis and Adaline Goodroad**

*(continued on page 10)*

# The Third Annual Christmas at the Museum

Lori Norby

The only word to describe the 3rd annual "Christmas at the Museum" is wonderful! We had a wonderful turnout of decorated trees, a wonderful turn out of visitors, and the Lebahn Holiday Train and Richard Wolf were also wonderful.

As I looked at each of the 26 trees, I would comment on "clever", "cute", "beautiful", "sweet" and the comments would go on and on. There are not enough thanks to the businesses and volunteer organizations for the trees that were decorated. I am always surprised with what people come up with for ideas.

During the weekend of December 17th & 18th, we had over 150 people come to the museum. It has been our committee's dream to have that kind of attendance at the Christmas at the Museum. We know we have the Lebahn Holiday train and Richard Wolf to thank for that, and oh, yes, Mother Nature. The weekend was just awesome with the weather cooperating. The train ride and listening to Richard's signing were free for those attending. We did ask people to bring donations for the Lake country Food Pantry if they so desired.

People visiting the museum were allowed to vote for their favorite tree by putting money in the decorated package or bag under the tree. This year's first place winner was the city of Madison, second place was Catholic Daughters and third place was ICAP. The money raised from the voting will be given to the Lake County Food Pantry.

The participants in the year's decorating of trees were City of Madison, Wells Fargo Bank, Nicky's, After School Program, Buckle Up Bulldogs, Madison Kiwanis Club, Madison Rotary Club, Catholic Daughters, Madison Lion's Club, Madison Fireman's Auxiliary, Madison Christian School, East River Electric Cooperative, ICAP, Lake County Boots & Saddle Club, Great Western Bank, Kolorworks, Da-

kota State University, Prairie Pasque Questors, Irish Tree by Hyland Family, Smith-Zimmermann Museum (50th anniversary tree), Candyland by anonymous group, KJAM, ECCO, Prairie Village, Prostrillos and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

It has been a task to find a place to store the trees. I want to take this time to thank Julie Gross at the Madison Chamber of Commerce for the trees, Delon Mork for allowing us to store them at his building in the past, and Tim Begeman and Ed Hansen who are allowing us to use their basement for storage in the future.

We had a very nice donation from one of our members to purchase some tubs to store the trees. This keeps them free from dust which is very harmful to the museum collection.

The museum's hope is for the attendance to grow and add more trees to our display. If you have an artificial tree that you are looking to get rid of and would like to donate, please call the museum at 605-256-5308.

Again, THANK YOU for making this the best Christmas ever at the Smith-Zimmermann Museum.



The Museum was decked in its Christmas finest as it hosted the 3rd Annual Hall of Trees.

Pictured: Lebahn Christmas Family Train, Madison's Park and Recreation tree, Madison Christian School students and staff and Smith Zimmermann's 50th anniversary tree

## Entertainment in Madison – 100 + years ago

By Gene Hexom – from Lake County History sources

Entertainment anyone? Let's head for the Opera House in downtown Madison!

Well, not today, but local residents may have said that a hundred or so years ago.

Opening in June, 1884, the Opera House on East Center St. was a hotbed of community and entertainment activity for about 30 years. The Opera House hosted dances, social meetings, dramatic presentations, athletic events, commencement exercises for Madison High School, temperance meetings, vaudeville productions, even a service to mourn the death of President Wm. McKinley in 1901.

The Opera House was a large wood-frame structure located in the 100 block of East Center and across the street from the present day Madison Post Office. No information could be found regarding the builder, owners and operators of the building. Was it torn down or burned down? It would be interesting to find this information.

The Opera House had a stage and a floor area large enough for basketball games. Goethe's "Faust", was presented in 1900 and the "Sherry's" were on stage in 1901 with a 'spicy' vaudeville performance. Mme. Elsie de Tourney was

featured in "Mary, Queen of Scots" that same year. A performance of "Mutt and Jeff" was a stage feature in 1915.

In 1910, the Madison High boys basketball team defeated Lake Preston 30-15 and the girl's team won 7-5.

The MHS boys scored a signature win at the Opera House in 1915, whipping the boys from Sioux Falls 23-10.

Wrestling fans watched Oldham's Harold Hughes tangle with George Sauer of Sheldon, Iowa, in 1911. The prelim contest at this match featured two Winnebago Indians.

Admission was 10 cents for the Madison High commencement pro-

gram in 1911 and that apparently guaranteed one a seat.

No references are made to the Opera House after 1915 in the Lake County History. By this time, movie theaters were starting up, Madison High and the college built additional athletic and auditorium facilities and other meeting facilities were available in the city. The Lake Madison Chautauqua was probably serious competition for events and entertainment during the warmer months.

At any rate, the Opera House, might be referred to as the city's first events center, providing a wide variety of entertainment and social value to early residents.



The Madison Opera House (pictured right) - the city's first "events center" opened in 1884 and was located on the one hundred block of east center. This undated photo was taken from where the post office now stands.

### New Board Members

In with the new and out with the old. As we enter the new year, the Lake County Historical Society's Board of Directors bids farewell to a few of its board members and welcome new ones.

Chris Olson replaces John Nelson, whose 2nd three-year term came to a close this past October. Barb Iverson (who goes by Barb Crawford now) has resigned and moved from the area. She's been replaced by Dick Wiedenman. Barb's term ends in October. John Hess and Kelli Wollmann have also resigned from the board due to other commitments. Nancy Sabbe will finish out John's term that ends in two years. Karen Fiege replaces Kelli Wollmann whose term also ends in two years.

The Board thanks John Nelson, Barb Crawford, John Hess, and Kelli Wollmann for their time and dedication over the years. The Board welcomes back Dick Wiedenman, and Nancy Sabbe who have both served on the board in the past, and Karen Feige.

## A Murder in Nunda

Dale Nighbert

The news in the Monday, July 26, 1915, newspapers highlighted two main stories – the sinking of the American steamer *Leelanaw* by a German U-boat and the Anti-Saloon League's push to rid the nation from "the evils of alcohol." But another headline in the *Madison Daily Sentinel* caught the readers' eye: **TOM SERVIS, TRANSIENT; Stabbed in Drunken Brawl at Nunda – May Die.**

By 1915, the Prohibition movement began to take hold in the United States. Madison's voters had passed an anti-saloon vote the previous April and the community went dry the following July. Two Lake County communities remained "wet" – Nunda and Rutland.

The Great War in Europe that began the year before continued to make headline news. The United States attempted to avoid the conflict while maintaining its free trade with Britain and other countries. But, the sinking of the British ship *Lusitania* by a German submarine the previous May brought the United States closer into the fight. The loss of the ship's 1,198 passengers (128 of them Americans) had angered many citizens.

Tom Servis, a 32-year-old transient, traveled to South Dakota from his Auburn, Nebraska, home that summer to work the harvest fields. A painter by trade, he had hoped that the work would benefit his health, which had declined due to a lung infection. Servis was described as a non-habitual drinker with a healthy build, who came from a well-respected family.

Late Saturday night, July 24, after the closing of the Nunda saloons, Servis and a small group of other men left with bottles of liquor in hand and congregated at the local grain elevators. Newspaper accounts described the men as "all being of different nationalities" and were also traveling as harvest hands.

As bottles were passed around and the carousing got more serious, an argument about the war in Europe broke out between Servis and James Glenn, another transient. Witnesses said that Glenn made a threat to "get Servis," pulled out a large pocket knife, and plunged it into his abdomen. Everyone scattered from the scene, including Glenn. Servis was left lying on the ground in a pool of blood and with a wound that was later described as five inches across and three inches deep. After an hour and a half, Servis somehow was able to raise himself, and reportedly, "carrying 20 inches of protruding intestines in his hand," set out and found help.

The sheriff and doctor were notified, but proper care was delayed due to the fact that the nearest medical facility was some 15 miles away. He arrived at the Madison hospital the next morning in serious condition. The stabbing perforated his bowel and severed the intestines in ten different places. There was little hope of recovery.

Glenn attempted to escape from the area, but town officials overtook him about three-fourths of a mile from the scene of the crime. He was arrested and taken to the county jail in Madison where he denied knowledge of any wrongdoing. He contended that at the time of the crime he was drunk to the extent that he could not recall having quarreled with or stabbed Servis.

The *Madison Daily Leader* described Glenn as being in his late 40s, having a hobo like appearance, and a "man of mystery." He refused to give any information concerning himself, any former place of residence, or the existence or whereabouts of any relatives. The *Madison Daily Sentinel* reported that "the officials have made an effort to make him 'come across' with something pertaining to his past life, but they have had but poor success."

By mid-week, Servis's temperature rose to 104 degrees, peritonitis set in, he became delirious, and died. Glenn was charged with first degree murder and bond was set at \$10,000. Unable to make bail, he remained in jail awaiting his fate.

After ten days, the *Madison Daily Leader* reported that it had filtered through Glenn's mind that he had killed a man, and he began to seek terms on the best way out of the dilemma. He agreed to plead guilty to manslaughter in the first degree.



Nunda was established in 1907 with the expansion of the Railway. In 1915, with a population of 174 residents, it was one of the only two towns in Lake County where the sale of alcohol was legal. This undated photo shows a wagon load of barrels making a delivery at one of the town's saloons.

The state's attorney accepted his plea after taking into account the county's expense involved in prosecuting the case. After appearing before Circuit Court Judge Jones in Sioux Falls, Glenn was sentenced to the South Dakota Penitentiary to serve a term of eight years. The August 5 headlines of the *Madison Daily Sentinel* read: **"MYSTERIOUS HARVEST HAND IS SENTENCED ON MURDER CHARGE; James Glenn Steadfastly Refused to Divulge Identity or Names of Friends."**

A few weeks later, the Reverend G. McKibbin, a Madison clergyman, sent a letter to the editor of the *Madison Daily Leader* describing his views on the effects of liquor including its cost and impact on crime.

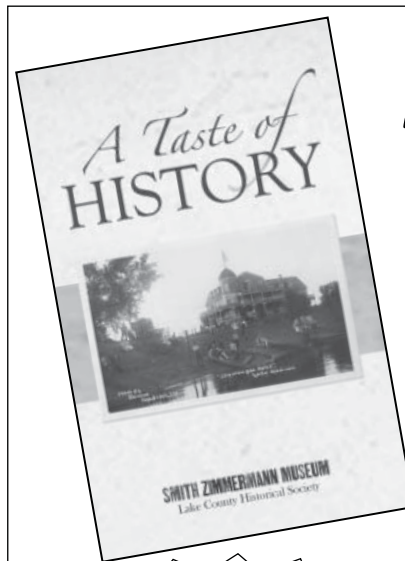
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He wrote that "expense of the county was added by the murder at Nunda due to liquor, the expense of arrest, the board of the prisoner while awaiting trial, the justice fees, the attorney's fees, the cost of taking the prisoner to Sioux Falls, all this expense must be paid by the county; then there is the keep of the prisoner for eight years in the penitentiary which will cost the state at least \$1,000."

McKibbin added that "the public is beginning to see that liquor is an expensive luxury as well as a fruitful source of crime. The public is not accusing all the citizens of Nunda with being drunkards and criminals, but they are blamed for putting temptation in the way of the drunkard for the sake of the few dollars license money. This is the selfishness that produces crime."

In the years that followed, while James Glenn served his prison term, the war in Europe continued with American involvement. So did the work of the Anti-saloon League. In 1919, Lake County residents, like the rest of the country, saw the passage of the 18th Amendment that prohibited the production, sale and transport of "intoxicating liquors." The nation went dry, or so it was said.



*Contains over  
250 recipes from  
our members, families  
and friends.*

## *A Taste of History*

The Lake County Historical Society has been compiling recipes in order to create a keepsake cookbook to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Smith-Zimmermann Museum.

*Cookbooks can be bought at the  
Museum, Four Seasons, or  
Heritage Cafe in Ramona*

**The cookbook sells for \$15.00.**

**Please include \$3.00 for shipping and 6% sales tax.**

*For more information please contact the museum  
at 256-5308 or [smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu](mailto:smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu).*

## **Coordinator's Report**

*Torrie Ewoldt*

My children have been serenading me with "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" and "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" for the past month. Given the seven day weather forecast is calling for above average temperatures with no precipitation and the dentist saying we shouldn't expect new teeth for a while - I hope they're not too disappointed when neither of those things happen. Hopefully all of the presents under the tree will brighten their moods.

Christmas is a lesson in anticipation and patience for little children. The kids love wondering about what is under the tree and counting down the days until they get to open all those lovingly wrapped presents.

My work at the Museum is sometimes a lesson in anticipation and patience, too. I am always hoping that each day will bring a new donation or a new membership form arriving in the mail. Those are the best gifts I could ask for.

I'm learning to be patient in regards to time constraints, storage space issues, and trying to find new and exciting ways to attract new members and visitors. Being in a part-time position is wonderful in the sense that I am able to do something that I love, but yet still be able to devote plenty of time to my family. On the flip side, it is also hard to walk away from the museum after 14 hours a week knowing that there are still so many more things that need to be done.

I also walk through our archives and storage areas trying to figure out a way to display all of the many artifacts we have carefully preserved. These items seem to be begging to be able to tell their story.

I am hoping in the new year that I will be able to incorporate more social media outlets into the museum. I hope to utilize a blog and also a Facebook page. These will be great ways to tell about upcoming events and post pictures, stories and day-to-day museum activities.

2011 was a fantastic year here at the Smith Zimmermann. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and even have a more wonderful 2012!!!



## From our Filing Cabinets

*Smith-Zimmermann's filing cabinets are full of many interesting, well-written stories describing Lake County's past. Some were printed in the Heritage Herald newsletters, some in the Lake County History Book, and others in a variety of older publications.*

*In 1940, the school children of Lake County were asked to do a project – interview an older resident and write down their memories. Jennie Adkins, who was the county's Superintendent of Schools at the time, was concerned that the stories of these early settlers, including their "tears and laughter," would be forgotten after the teller was gone.*

*The result of the project was a bound collection of 65 essays titled "Pioneer Stories of Lake County." The following is just one of these treasures from the past:*

### A Pioneer Story

By Hugh Williams as told to Lester Schultz

Mr. W.H. Williams and family came to this country in 1879. They left Lime Springs, Iowa, on September 1, 1879, and arrived in Sioux Falls the twenty-fifth of September. They had six wagons drawn by oxen. They drove the cattle and sheep ahead of the prairie schooners as their wagons were called.

On arriving at the promised land (Winfred area), the settlers pitched their tents. The father made the family sit on the ground while he read from the scriptures and offered thanks to the Lord for delivering them safely. After that, there was never a Sunday that Mr. Williams (Hugh) could remember that the family didn't hold Sunday School and prayer services.

On arrival, the first thing they did was to make a house. It was made of sod. The floor and walls were of dirt. They drove to Lake Herman where they found plenty of material to make the log roofs. They put on the poles first and then put brush on top of that. The brush consisted of water willows which they found along the water's edge. Next they put on hay and then sod and clay on that which made a very good roof. The house had no windows or doors, but they hung blankets over the openings. The men slept in the wagon tents the

first winter while the women and children slept in the house. The winter was very mild so sleeping in tents didn't seem so bad.

By 1880, several other families had arrived: John Evans, Henry Jones, Dave and Fred Thomas, and about twenty-five young people.

In the fall of 1880, the pioneers had their first blizzard. It started on October 14 and lasted three days. The snow drifts were from eight to ten feet high. It stayed all winter. The potatoes were buried in the deep snow and they had to do without. In the spring, they dug the potatoes and ate them the same day. This was a treat for the people to have potatoes again.

The flour was wheat ground with a coffee mill. The other food consisted mostly of grains and meat. The rivers had many fish in them.

The first school house was built about January 1, 1882. They had lived there three years before they had a school. School lasted four months.

There was no mail, no papers, no light at night, and no salt. The pioneers missed the salt most of all.

The first train that came to Madison was on January 20, 1881. It made one trip, but didn't return until the month of May.

The first church was built in Winfred where the present one now stands. It was built in about 1884.

Many blizzards occurred during the winter of 1881 and 1882. One storm lasted for three days and the settlers didn't get out to see the stock until it was over. The water was scarce, but they melted snow enough to last them until the storm was over.

On January 12, 1881, they had another blizzard. This one was worse than any. Mr. Williams had never seen one like this before. It began to snow and blow about one o'clock in the afternoon. The people were taken by surprise. The children

were in school. Mr. Williams hitched up the team of oxen and started after them. He arrived safely, put the children and the teacher in the bottom of the sled and covered them up. They got lost at one time on the way home, but after five hours they finally arrived home safely. The air was so full of snow that one could not see his hand before his face. One man lost sixty head of cattle. He tried to save them, but couldn't. He got lost, but followed his dog for a half a mile. This blizzard only lasted until the next morning.

Mr. Williams said that he could well remember when they were getting ready to harvest. The men were getting the binder ready and all at once it got dark. They could not see the sun. Mr. William's father said that something queer was about to happen, but no one knew what it was. All at once grasshoppers came down in swarms and took every bit of the harvest. They did not get a bundle of grain that fall.

Mr. Williams said they had many hard times as you can see in the above story, but along with them they had many good times also. He is the only pioneer left in this community now.

*Note: In 2005, the Smith-Zimmermann Museum reprinted the "Pioneer Stories of Lake County." Copies of this publication and others are for sale at the museum.*



Although there are records of people moving to the Winfred area in the 1870s, the town itself was not founded until about 1881. Winfred's post office was established on July 24, 1882. Other buildings soon included the depot, barbershop, dray line, confectionery, lumber company, two elevators, and a church. This undated photo shows how main street Winfred once looked.

*(continued from page 4)*

per Years," tells about the crop devastation and hardships caused by the grasshoppers. Also explained are some methods that farmers used to try to kill the hoppers. In early spring, farmers would spread straw on the fields in hopes that the newly hatched "hoppers" would crawl under the straw to keep warm. The next morning the field would be set on fire to kill the young hoppers.

Individuals also built machines called "hopper dozers." A piece of sheet metal was smeared with coal tar or molasses. This was dragged across a field. Dragging the metal caused the hoppers to stick in the tar. Farmers would dispose of the grasshoppers by burning them in fires built on the edge of the field.

In my own family history research, I have found that many discoveries lead to more mysteries and question. From Terry's comments, I believe that he also found this true. The following is a quote from the book. "There is likely much more information yet to be discovered, as Lewis and Adaline's relatives review all their pictures, letters and other family information. Each discovery is like a piece of a mosaic that allows us to see a clearer picture. Finding those pieces is like solving a mystery or completing a complex cross-word puzzle."

The Goodroad book is part of the genealogy collection at the Smith-Zimmermann Museum. This whole collection is meant to be shared. Take a look at this great source of information when you visit the museum.

## Veteran's Day Program

*Torrie Ewoldt*

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the eight Lake County Veterans that so graciously agreed to be a part of this year's Veteran's Day Program. Austin Slaughter, Don Wheeler, Gary Pederson, Donald Erickson, Lloyd Schulz, Terry Ryan, Pete Hoidal, and Delmer Dooley spoke about their experiences in the military and shared their memories with the Madison 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

The children (and adults) were able to learn from these men that while the technology and equipment might have changed over the years, the sense of duty and patriotism has not. My job is made infinitely easier when I'm able to draw from a knowledge base like these men have.

This year we decided to add some artwork to our Veteran's Day Program. Students were invited to design a poster relating to veterans.

Each grade picked their own theme and the artwork was based off of that. Our eight veterans that participated in the program were asked to be the honorary judges. They had a hard time picking a winner as the quality of the posters was very good. I appreciate the teachers letting their students help brighten up the museum!!

I would invite you all to plan on visiting the museum next November. Our Veteran's Day Program is something I am proud of, not for my own selfish reasons of planning and putting it together, but because I am able to let our Lake County Veterans take a small stage and be honored for answering the call of duty. They deserve so much more than we can give them.



These veterans participated in the Veteran's Day Program held at the museum this past November for Madison Public 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders. Left to right: Pete Hoidal, Donald Erickson, Gary Pederson, Delmer Dooley, Don Wheeler, Terry Ryan, and Austin Slaughter. Not pictured is Lloyd Schulz.

Extra chairs were needed to accommodate the Madison Elementary classes at this year's Veteran's Day Program



Winners of this year's Veteran's Day poster contest are back row left to right: Caroline Graham, Avery Mechels, and Quinn Kinsella. Front row left to right: Riley Reurink, Sophia Vander, and Erin Englert.

## Memories from Our Readers – The Egan Avenue Clock

*Ed Hallenbeck makes his summer home in Madison and his winter home in Gasa Grande, Arizona. When in Madison, Ed also attends the First Tuesday Talks Group that meets once a month to share memories from days gone by. He recently sent a letter to our President, Sue Larsen, adding more to what the group discussed at one of their meetings. He writes:*

Sue, we spoke some time ago about the bank clock on Egan Avenue. Let me expand on that conversation.

I spent my early years and teens around the family business on Egan Ave. At that time, Egan Avenue was Madison. We had about the entire business community located in that small downtown area.

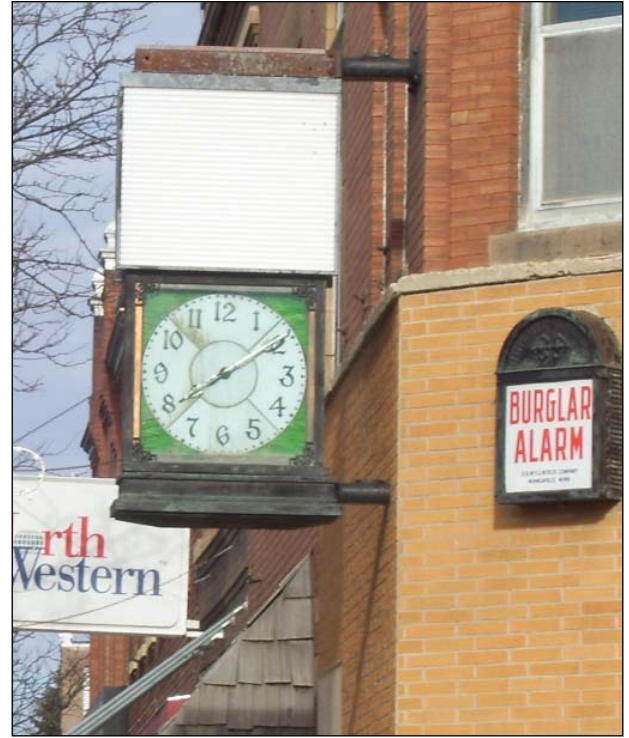
There were two theaters, several grocery stores, a number of clothing stores, about four drug stores, several hardware stores, and a wide assortment of retail establishments that made up a thriving active community. The town operated six days a week with Saturday evening being the big finale with stores closing about nine after deciding the

winner of a big cash drawing.

There were two banks, and one of them had something rather special - a beautiful, big, bright clock. This clock chimed out the hour and half hour with musical notes that can still be heard in the minds of many of us today.

Madison's main street is now diluted down to a rather quiet, five-day-a-week operation with much of Madison's retail activities spread to outlying parts of town. It is rumored that there is an evening that stores remain open, but I am not too sure what evening that is.

Decentralization may have come to Madison, but it is not working to Main Street's advantage. Egan Avenue is missing some things. They are hard to precisely define, but I know what one may be – the old Security Bank clock proudly displaying accurate time with chimes



The Egan Avenue clock has been a fixture on Madison's main street for many generations. The Security Bank building was constructed in 1901, and the clock was added sometime between 1908 - 1916.

tolling the hour and half hour that can be heard from one end of Main Street to the other.

I am sure that the current clock could be returned to the condition that it was in not so many years ago and resume its duties of landing some life to a main street that is in need of some tender loving attention.

I am a resident of Arizona, but we spend our summers in Madison and would look forward to participating in whatever it would take to 'Bring that Clock Back to Life'.

It appears that the clock has worked to one degree or another in recent years, but the exact cost to "refurbish" it is unknown. But as a project for the community to become involved with, preserving the clock would have some pay-out for everyone on "Main Street." I don't think it could be beat.

Thanks for listening.

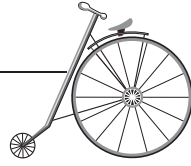


This undated photo of main street shows the clock (pictured on the right-hand side) in its heyday - back when traffic cops were once needed to direct the busy main street traffic.

We're on the Web: <http://www.smith-zimmermann.dsu.edu/>

# THE HERITAGE HERALD

## LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum  
221 8th Street Northeast  
Madison, SD 57042

Phone: 605-256-5308

E-mail: [smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu](mailto:smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu)

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## LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### LCHS HERITAGE HERALD

The Heritage Herald is published quarterly by members of the Lake County Historical Society and the DSU Production Center. The Society has been established to collect, document, preserve, secure, research, exhibit, and interpret objects of cultural, developmental, and historical value of the Lake County area from the mid-1800s to the present.

If you have questions or comments, please contact our Museum. The LCHS's Board of Directors meets at 5:15 the first Tuesday of each month at the Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum, located on the campus of Dakota State University. Welcome Visitors!!

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### Museum Hours Tuesday-Friday 1:00-4:30



The Smith-Zimmermann Museum  
221 8th Street NE  
Madison, South Dakota 57042  
605-256-5308

e-mail: [smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu](mailto:smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu)