

THE HERITAGE HERALD



L A K E C O U N T Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

S I Z Z L I N G S U M M E R I S S U E !

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28: 9:30 a.m. Margaret Straley will present a brown-bag program on butterflies

Sept. 11: 7 p.m. The Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum is proud to host a preview screening of Ken Burns' new documentary series, "The War." This series examines the ways World War II touched the lives of every family on every street in every town in America. Join us for this screening and discussion. Area vets will be

President's Message

By John Nelson

The past year has been a successful one for the Lake County Historical Society, but that success may be a threat to our budget.

LCHS and the Museum have relied on county and city contributions to support the free museum and its activities, a major benefit to people here and with contacts here.

But LCHS had such a good year raising money for its en-

dowment that we face resistance to our normal budget request.

I wish all members could have seen the joy on the children's faces on our recent Old-Fashioned Game day, or recognize what the society means for someone like D.J. Bilka, our young contributor in this issue. People like Gene Hexom and Dale Nighbert research area history and do the writing you see in these pages to preserve and share our history. That's why we publish this newsletter.

If you support the kinds of things we do, make sure you let our elected representatives know.

Thanks for your support!

Lake County Historical Society President John Nelson at the Nunda Parade in Eric Johnson's 1932 Ford highboy hot rod.



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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Remember that the LCHS and Museum receive no state or federal funds for Museum operation. All of our funding comes from city and county government and private sources. Send your membership dues, memorials, or donations to

Smith-Zimmermann Museum

221 NE 8th St.

Madison, SD 57042

Call us at 605-256-5308.

NUNDA'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Cindy Bilka

In its early days, Nunda was known for some memorable celebrations, including Fourth of July celebrations and the 1916 wedding of Mathilda Gauthun and Ervin Hyland that involved a large tent and lasted three days.

I can tell you from experience that Nunda still knows how to celebrate. Their Centennial celebration on June 30 and July 1 was good, old-fashioned, small-town fun. Keeping with tradition and thanks to the generosity of people like Barb and Dave Hanson, there was even a large tent to provide shade.

A kiddie parade opened the two days of activities. Over 110 entries were in the other parade that followed. Saturday afternoon included games and a 12-year-old fiddle player. The fire department's pork loin supper fed at least 550 people before a fashion show entertained the crowd. This was not just any fashion show; this fashion show explored that staple of rural economies in America---bib overalls. "Overalls All Over: The Oak Lake Farms Bib Overall Modeling Road Show" featured 67 pairs of overalls. Trygve Trooien has saved every pair of bib overalls he has ever had, including a pair he bought in Australia while on leave during the Vietnam War . (How many soldiers do you know who brought back a souvenir like this?) The hilarious details of the narration, accompanied by jokes and fiddle music, kept the audience well-entertained. The eve-

ning concluded with a fireworks display. (All together now: "Ooh! Aah!")

A community church service was the first event Sunday. This was held outdoors under the tent; with the sun shining and a light breeze, this was the perfect setting. Brunch afterwards was attended by about 400 people. There were 65 entries in the afternoon's car show. You could find a large variety of vehicles lining Nunda's Main Street--- a 1931 Ford Model A to a 2007 Mercedes, cars trucks, and motorcycles. My son and I offered to take the Model A off the owner's hands since he had another vehicle, a Cadillac, in the car show and would have a tough time driving both but he just laughed.

A food stand, manned by 4-H and Luther League groups was open both days as was a historical display or museum. I was amazed by the amount and variety of interesting things in the museum. Who would have thought such a small town could have so many items displaying its history? Besides photographs and newspaper articles, there were a PowerPoint presentation of the town's history and people, military and baseball uniforms, a large collection of "custard" and ruby souvenir glassware, a 1907 wedding dress complete with veils and button-top shoes, school books, and all sorts of other items.

The Museum also had some very unusual items. Curt Lone displayed the shoes his great-grandmother brought over from Norway and wore to her wedding.

What was unusual is that they are wooden, elaborately carved, and have delicate, little heels. They are also amazingly lightweight. Having been in the Netherlands before, I have seen wooden shoes but nothing like these. Thanks to Delores and Lyman Overskei, the suit Lars Overskei, Sr. wore at his wedding over 100 years ago was on display and, other than three small spots on one shoulder, was in as good a condition as the day he first wore it.

By far, the most unusual exhibit though was one that accompanied the 1907 wedding dress. Some people may have overlooked it since it wasn't up high and wasn't very colorful. How many of you have seen the top layer of a 105-year-old wedding cake?

Galen Crosby brought this memento of his parents' wedding. It's a bit worse the wear since Crosby himself and later his children, found the cake, still in its original tin, in the attic, and picked off and ate the frosting decorations. ("Ate" might not be the correct word. As one of Crosby's daughters said, it was more like suck on them like hard candy since the decorations were "petrified" by then!)

This Centennial celebration was good, clean fun, a time to revisit old friends or to make new ones. The Centennial Committee, headed by Dan Hansen, deserves thanks and applause for all they work they did. I'm just sorry it's over, but if Nunda has a 125th celebration, I'll be there and hope you will, too. You won't want to miss it.

Continued on page 3

YOUTH NEWS

Elementary Students Raise Funds for Museum

Throughout each school year, the students of Madison Elementary School raise money by having special activity days. At the end of the school year, this money is donated to the Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum.

Activities vary from classroom to classroom but include things like Sunglasses Day, Hat Day, Backwards or Inside Out Day, Snack or Treat Day, and Jersey or Favorite Team Day. Students bring donations a week or two ahead of time and are then allowed to participate. Depending on what the day is, they can wear hats or sunglasses or wear their shirts backwards or inside out all day. Fifth graders even had a day where they could have recess.

This year Madison’s fourth and fifth graders raised an amazing \$489.52 to donate to the Museum. The LCHS thanks the students and their teachers for their ongoing generosity and support.

1st Annual Game Day a Success

Nearly 50 children of various ages attended the Museum’s first annual summer Old-Fashioned Games Day on the DSU campus July 10, 2007.

Museum volunteers led the children through a wide variety of games and activities, some of which the children were familiar with, including Red Light—Green Light, Simon Says, Crack the Whip, and jump rope.

On the beautiful afternoon, the children were treated to refreshments and indoor games as well, such as jacks and card games.

Jim Swanson, who led the children through a variety of racing games, noted their success. One boy, after completing the three-legged race, the hopping races (both feet and then one foot), and the kneeling race, cried out, “My knees are bleeding!” But the young man then raced off to the next activity undaunted.

For those who claim that today’s

children don’t enjoy outdoor games, the sight of a lawn filled with children clamoring to play another game of Simon Says was a reminder to the contrary. It certainly wasn’t a Nintendo afternoon.

It was surprising how many of the games the children did know, including the old favorite tag game, Pum-Pum-Pollaway, Red Rover, Jacks, and Marbles.

The children weren’t the only ones to enjoy the afternoon. Some spectators appeared and enjoyed the sights and sounds of children at play in the great outdoors.

Thanks to Cindy Bilka, Kelli Wollman, Andy Wood, Jean Tommeraasen, Jim Swanson, and all volunteers. Local businesses donated some of the games used.

Volunteers and children alike look forward to next year, when we all might be more ready for an afternoon of potato races and other games.



Museum Wish List

Small, glass butter churn and rope making machine for demonstration purposes

← **Sandy and Bonnie Davidson** See the related story on page 7.

Coming In Future Heritage Heralds

The 1915 Murder In Nunda
Madison’s Electric Plant
Family Histories

Advice From Sandy Davidson: “Never tell people you can’t do anything; always tell them you’ll try. Always tell them you’ll try and if you can’t do it after you try, it’s okay, nothing hurt.”

“FIRE AND WATER” A HISTORY OF MADISON’S EARLY WATERWORKS

By Dale Nighbert

One fateful night on August 4, 1894, Madison’s fire alarm rang at 12:40 A.M. summoning the local firefighters and residents to a fire at C.M. Klotzbach’s livery barn. The firefighters responded quickly, but the city’s new waterworks system was not working properly. There was not enough water pressure to fight the growing inferno.

By daylight, amid the ashes and burning embers, officials estimated the destruction to be in the thousands of dollars and called it the worst disaster in the city’s 14-year history. The 120 by 80 foot, three story high building and other nearby structures – a barn, a blacksmith shop, a cottage, and a number of outhouses in the neighborhood lay in ruins. Other buildings were also damaged.

However, the “saddest and most horrible feature of the whole catastrophe,” as described by the Madison Daily Leader, was the loss of two human lives – those of James Darby and Isaac Bitworth, both of whom were stablemen employed at the livery barn. Also consumed in the blaze were 28 horses, 13 buggies, 2 road carts, 12 cutters, numerous sets of harnesses, and other equipment that could only be found in a first-class livery stable of the times.

The disaster could have been worse. Burning cinders that were carried high in the air landed on the roof of the new Central School building. Small fires started on the east and south sides of the high structure. Again, the water in the mains could not reach the growing flames, but men with water buckets and a stream from the chemical engine below quickly doused them, thus saving the building.

Fortunately, the city’s businesses located on nearby Main Street – buildings that were constructed mainly with wood, were spared. A continuous pour of water on a store building to the east of the livery barn prevented the spread of the fire.

The following day, Madison’s City Council strongly expressed their dissatisfaction with the operation of the waterworks plant. They declared the city’s water service as unsatisfactory either through “incapacity of those in charge or the inefficiency of the service.” They blasted Water Superintendent Rafferty and ordered a replacement of a Fairbanks, Morse, and Co. employee who had been placed in charge of installing the city’s new waterworks. They also criticized local citizens for their careless use of the water service and ordered the local marshal to prosecute all viola-

tors of the city’s new water ordinance.

Once upon a time, as settlers moved westward and settled the Great Plains, the first land to be claimed and settled was the land along the rivers and streams. The availability of a good supply of water for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing, and fighting fires had always been on the minds of people – including the first pioneers. Shallow wells that provided easier access to this necessary commodity were also dug. As settlements were built and their populations grew, the residents saw the need for a good, public waterworks system. Madison was no exception.

“Proceed China-ward as long as the drill will work.”

The history of Madison’s waterworks goes back to the 1880’s. In 1889, the city had budgeted \$10,000 to drill for an artesian well – the “mother-lode” of all water sources. The city’s plan seemed simple and easy – secure an artesian water source with a force that would supply the city with good quality water, and deliver it to the local businesses and its 1736 residents through a series of pipelines.

Drilling for the famed and desired artesian well began in June 1890. In early September, after reaching a depth of 570 feet, it was reported “water had com-

Continued on page 5

“FIRE AND WATER” A HISTORY OF MADISON’S EARLY WATERWORKS (CONTINUED)

menced gushing with tremendous force, rose to within 120 feet of the surface, and became calm.” The City Council instructed the contractor, Mr. Karr, to continue drilling and “proceed Chinaward as long as the drill will work.”

Work continued, but not for long. At a depth of 610 feet, Karr informed the city that he had struck granite, an impregnable rock, thus fulfilling his contract. The council ordered additional tests to be done. The conclusions were that it was not granite but probably sandstone, and Karr was ordered to resume his work.

Contractor issues and equipment failures became regular problems. Eighteen months and several delays later, an artesian water source still had

not been located. In late 1891, the *Madison Daily Leader* reported that the artesian well enterprise had developed into something of a “chestnut” – an old joke or story repeated to the point of staleness. However, the newspaper ended the year with a more encouraging note stating “Work at the artesian well is progressing finely. The drill is working in soft sand rock at a depth of 1010 feet with every prospect of a gusher at hand.”

But, once again optimism led to disappointment as it did throughout 1892 and into 1893. Different contractors were hired to secure an artesian flow at different sites, but these attempts also led to failure. One contractor said he

could “insure a hole, but not a flow.” Another agreed to “sink a hole at 1500 feet, or no pay – provided granite is not struck.” He was hired, granite was not struck, but neither was a flow of artesian water.

In 1893, the City Council began to rethink its position in securing an artesian well and weighed the advantages and disadvantages of others methods to obtain a good water supply. At one point, rumors began circulating throughout the city that insurance companies were withdrawing or about to withdraw their risks for fire coverage because Madison did not have a satisfactory waterworks.

On October 10, 1893, a special election was held and voters approved bonds for the construction of a \$25,000 waterworks system. The cost would include the digging of a well, building a pump house and a standpipe, and laying the water mains, hydrants, etc. The city also approved the hiring of a civil engineer from Chicago to draw up the plans and specifications. They requested that another engineer be sent to oversee the project.

In early February 1894, contracts were issued to Fairbanks, Morse, and Co., headquartered in Chicago. Two months later, once the bonds had been finally approved by



Madison’s sewer system gets a badly needed update in this 1891 photo. Surviving Egan Avenue buildings are visible in this example of the photos in the Museum’s collection.

Continued on page 6

MADISON WATERWORKS, CONTINUED

Continued from page 5 a New York bank, the construction of Madison's waterworks system began and proceeded quickly.

It was decided that the best site of the city's water well would be located on Union Ave. – south of the railroad tracks. The specifications called for the sinking of a 20-foot deep hole with a diameter of 20 feet and 12 inch walls. The pump house, measuring 26 by 50 feet, had a stone foundation and a 51-foot high brick chimney. Two boilers and two pumps, capable of pumping 500 gallons of water a minute, were installed.

The standpipe was constructed at the corner of Union Ave. and Lake St. (N.W. 4th St.). This "superstructure," as it was called, was built on a concrete foundation with rings, or bands, measuring 14 feet in diameter. It had the capacity to hold about 30,000 gallons of water and towered over the city's west side at a height of 100 feet.

Throughout the spring and summer, a crew of up to 36 men dug trenches and laid the necessary cast-iron piping. Ten-inch piping extended from the well and pump house site northward to the standpipe. An 8-inch "feeder" pipe was buried on Madison St. (N.W./N.E. 1st St.) and extended from Union Ave. to

Washington Ave. A 6-inch pipe was laid on Egan Avenue's business district, and 4-inch pipes were laid throughout the city's neighborhoods. All piping was laid on the north or west sides of the streets. A total of 41 hydrants were placed at the street corners.

Citizens were charged up to \$19.50 to have the pipeline extend to their curb line, and an additional \$35 to have 50 feet of pipe extend onto their grounds. The annual cost for residential water service was set at \$5 for a 6-room house and up to \$20 for businesses.

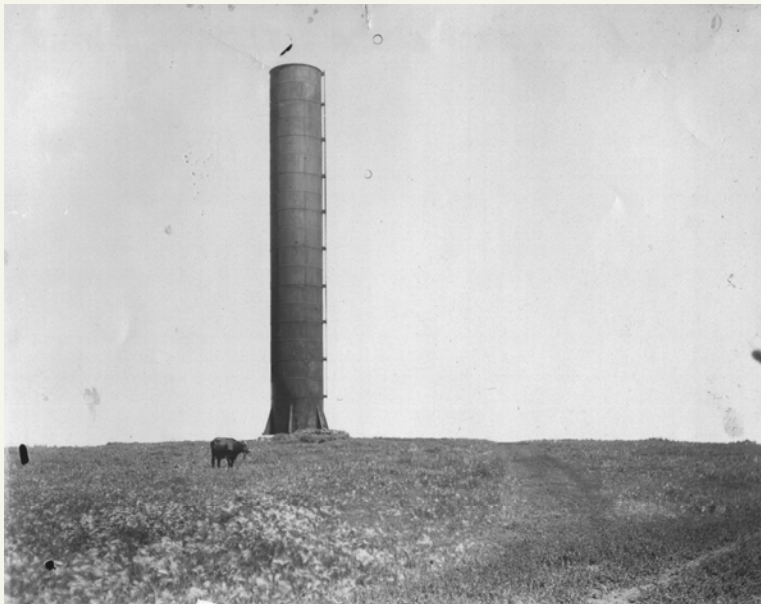
The nearly completed waterworks system was tested in July. It was reported that the machinery was in excellent

shape – no leaks were found in the mains, the water pressure from the hydrants was more than enough, and the test was satisfactory in "every particular." The engineer felt that the well was "capable of supplying an ample quantity of water for all purposes." One month after the tests were completed, the city suffered its "great fire."

During the days and weeks after the Klatzbach's livery barn fire, employees worked to make changes and adjustments to the waterworks system. Citizens were only allowed water service from 5-8 P.M. daily as work was completed to refine the system. Water Superintendent Rafferty blew the town's whistle that announced the opening and closing of the water service.

The local fire department enlisted the services of more volunteers, and it was announced that the operation of the waterworks system would be placed in the hands of the fire officials during times of fires. Firefighters were also given instructions and held practices on the use of the new system.

Another test to the system was conducted a week



Madison's standpipe, similar to a modern-day water tower, constructed in 1894 west of the city after several failures to drill the artesian well that would serve the city's water needs.

Continued on

AN AMERICAN DREAM: A TRIBUTE TO SANDY DAVIDSON

By D.J. Bilka

With \$18 and a cardboard suitcase, Alexander “Sandy” Davidson came to America after World War II to start a new and better life. Through hard work and perseverance, he became a respected college professor in Madison.

Alexander Davidson was born and raised in Elgin, Scotland. He was one of eight children and became the first to go to college.

Some Mischief

Young Davidson got into some mishaps when he was younger, mischief that wouldn’t hurt anyone. At night, he and his friends used to steal apples and pears from



Alexander “Sandy” Davidson as a British sailor.

other people’s gardens. The gang had a saying, “A B C R L!,” which meant “A bobby’s (policeman’s) coming; run, lads!” When a lookout yelled, “A B C R L!,” everyone scattered. One time when Davidson was the watchman, he yelled, “A B C R L!” and then, going the wrong way, ran right into the bobby’s arms.

As a young lad, Davidson went to a private school. When he visited his old school two and a half years ago, the school was exactly the same as when he went there. The classrooms were just the same and the head master’s office was

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Madison Waterworks, Cont.

following the August fire, and again the results proved “favorable.” Two days later, the city officially accepted the now-completed water works plant from Fairbanks, Morse, and Co. with the condition that representatives continue to stay an additional 90 days to help with any repairs.

In late November, Madison was faced once again with another major fire when J.C. Mitchell’s icehouse caught on fire. The nearby elevators were also in danger from burning cinders. The newspaper reported that the “fire laddies and water supply did an excellent service, and with the help of the chemical engine and 2 lines of hose attached to a nearby hydrant, the fire was soon brought under control.”



Park Lake, now Memorial Park, in a photo from the era of the new waterworks.

A week later, in early December, another fire summoned local firefighters to the McDonald Bros. Hardware Store on Main Street. It was reported that because of the prompt work of the firemen and the efficient service of the water supply, the business portion of the

city was well protected from a “great conflagration.”

As local residents witnessed the success of Madison’s waterworks, many wasted no time to sign up for service. It became a busy yet prosperous time for local plumbers.

However, when the waterworks system was completed in 1894, the community was once again faced with a new challenge. Neighbors in the area of Park Lake (Memorial Park) began complaining of a nearby sewage stench.

And so, the story goes.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO MADISON!

By Gene Hexom

It's a beautiful summer day – June 10, 1892 – and the circus is coming to Madison!

One could feel the excitement of the children and adults in the air. Circus Day was, without a doubt, the biggest single event of the year in Madison. Advance crews for the Ringling Brothers Circus had plastered ad posters in every available location. Newspapers advertised the event throughout the area. But, it was the word of mouth 'buzz' among the people that generated the real excitement.

Don't miss the 'big one'

You see, the Ringling Brothers Circus was the "big one" -- the one that everyone wanted to see. The Ringlings had put together the biggest, classiest circus in these parts of the United States during the 1890's. John Ringling was the master of his craft – entertainment, showmanship and marketing – to the general public. This was a great show at a reasonable price of 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The Ringlings were noted for their honesty and integrity since they wanted the public to keep coming back again and again for many years.

The Ringling Brothers Circus had more of everything: more elephants, horses and animals; more clowns, performers and acts; more musicians, bigger tents, more circus wagons. The steam calliope was a show-stopper.

Before this day was over in Madison, about 17,000 people would be



The 1892 circus parade turns west on the corner of South Egan and S.W. 1st to the show grounds several blocks west.

in town for the parade and the afternoon and evening performances. That was a huge number of visitors for a town of 3,000 persons. Visitors came by train from all directions, on horseback, in buggies and wagons. They came early and stayed late. Some circus buffs would take in both performances and find a place to stay overnight.

A one-day stand for the Ringling Circus was a precision-engineered event. The circus train traveled at night between destinations. It was carefully planned for the train to pull into town at the depot about sunrise. A large crowd was already gathering as the animals and wagons were unloaded near the Madison Depot on South Egan. After the animals were fed and watered, the circus personnel

were fed in the cook tent and the heavy work of erecting the 'Big Top' and side-show tents began at the showgrounds. The History of Lake County reveals that a least three showgrounds were used over the years. One was south of the depot; another was on the east edge of town at the Lake County Fairgrounds where the Madison Auction is now located. A third location was on Southwest 1st Street, in the general area where Rapid Air and Persona are now located.

Parade at 10 a.m.

The big downtown parade was set for 10 a.m., so the circus performers and the animals were dressed for show. Many local men and boys helped the circus with the

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CIRCUS IN MADISON! (CONT.)



Madison circus memorabilia collector, Gale Pifer, believes the circus wagon in this photo is from the Ringling Circus which appeared in Madison several times in the 1890's and early 1900's. The photo is part of a collection donated to the museum by Martin Berther.

each. John Ringling gave the people everything they wanted and a little bit extra. After the last of the visitors had left the evening performance, it was time to pack up the entire circus on the train. Sometime after midnight, the big steam engine

setup and, in turn, received a free pass to one of the shows for their efforts.

Large crowds lined the Egan Ave. parade route. This was also a special event since the Ringling Brothers featured more elephants (at least 40) than any other traveling circus of this era. That, in itself, was a rare sight for any prairie resident. The parade served as a good warm-up to get more people to purchase tickets for the shows.

Plenty of work and business was generated for local merchants as the crowds consumed plenty of food and beverages. Those providing livery services and lodging did a brisk business. There was also some time to shop in the stores, since most folks were here for the day.

The afternoon and evening performances ran at least two-hours

roared to life and slowly pulled its huge, precious cargo from the showgrounds heading for the next town, probably Huron, where at dawn the whole process would start over.

Seventeen-thousand happy circus fans straggled home from a memorable day in Madison, wondering how long it would be before Ringling and his "Greatest Show On Earth" would return. And, John Ringling just kept smiling and enjoying the ride to the bank. By 1929, he would be one of the richest men in America until the stock market crash and the Great Depression changed his fortunes.

Editors note: Information for this article came from the History of Lake County and the book, "Small Town – Big Top"

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Lake County Historical Society and the Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum need your help. You can help preserve our heritage and improve the Museum:

1. **Become a member of the Lake County Historical Society.** Dues are just \$10 per year! Members receive the newsletter and information about the Museum and can vote at the annual meeting of the LCHS.
2. **Make an annual financial contribution** to the Museum to build our endowment or support our annual budget.
3. **Consider a memorial gift** to the Museum in memory of a loved one.
4. **Consider an estate gift** to the Museum as part of your estate plan. Consult your legal advisor or estate planner when preparing your will or estate plan. The LCHS is a non-profit corporation under state law and is organized exclusively for the charitable, education, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the LCHS are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.
5. **Become a Museum volunteer.** Volunteers do many jobs at the Museum that take little time and effort. Volunteer workers help free up time for our Museum director to develop and expand our operation.

AN AMERICAN DREAM: A TRIBUTE TO SANDY DAVIDSON (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 7.

in the same place.

When he was in school, Davidson's mother needed to get on his case to get his work done. Davidson also remembered that when he was around ten years old, one of the teachers left to get married. (Married women weren't allowed to be teachers in Scotland at that time.) Davidson and his friends thought, "Who would want to marry that old hag?!?" She was 21 but to them that was old.

Davidson was in the Boy Scouts and he and his friends would march in parades during Scottish holidays like Empire Day and Armistice Day. He remembered being at a Boy Scout Jamboree where the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were present. He remembers the princesses were driven around in a beautiful carriage that was pulled by beautiful white horses.

Davidson's father was out of work for eight years during the Great Depression. (There were no relief efforts in Scotland like there were in the United States.) Before that he worked in a saw mill and also did the outside work at home. Davidson's mother was a household mother who did all the inside work like cooking, cleaning, and mending. She said she had a lot of time for herself at night after the kids were in bed; that's when she would sit by the fire and darn socks.

At age 13, Alexander Davidson was forced out of school to help his family. He delivered newspapers and milk, worked in a grocery store, or worked any job he could find to help out.

Until joining the British Royal Navy in 1942, Davidson hadn't been far from home. His older brother joined the army and two of his sisters joined the air force. Davidson and his shipmates were brought to the United States aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* to get their ship at the shipyard in Philadelphia. When his mother found out he was in America, she said, "Oh, Aunt Mary's in America. Maybe you can stop by and say, 'Hello,' to her." The problem was that Aunt Mary lived in Portland, Oregon; his mother didn't realize how big the United States is. **\$18 and a Cardboard Suitcase**

After the war, Davidson went back to Elgin but, since supermarkets had made his old job of waiting on each individual customer obsolete, he couldn't go back to his old job clerking unless he moved forty miles away. "I had to spend four years away from home and I was not going to work away from home."

His father told him that if he stayed in Elgin all he would ever be would be a laborer. Davidson wanted more than that, so he asked his Aunt Mary to sponsor him to come to the United States. They had never met be-

fore so it was a leap of faith on both sides. This is when Davidson came over with \$18 in his pocket and all his belongings in a cardboard suitcase.

Davidson wasn't afraid of work and worked any job he could find. Even though he hadn't finished school, he finally convinced a private college, Lewis and Clark College, to let him take the entrance test. He passed and was allowed to attend classes there. He worked hard both in class and at any honest job to pay for college. "My big achievement was I graduated without any debt." He then went to the University of Iowa, where he met his wife Bonnie and received his master's degree. (He often liked to joke about the order and would put graduating first. After a laugh, Davidson would admit that Bonnie was more important.)

A job offer from General Beadle State College brought Davidson and his family to Madison. He was a well-respected and well-liked figure on campus and around Madison. After retiring from teaching, Davidson became known for his shortbread and scones and would share his recipes and baked goods through art fairs, bake sales, and cooking demonstrations.

Sadly for all those who knew him, Davidson passed away last winter. He was a good friend to many and a loyal, steady supporter of the Lake County Historical Society. He said he found a

L C H S M E M B E R S H I P

Membership Continues to Grow!

As of July 18, 2007, the Lake County Historical Society/Smith Zimmermann Museum had 214 members for the year. This includes 29 new members.

This count reflects our highest membership in recent years, but we are not done. We continue contacting past members in hopes they will consider joining this year. The Museum board is more than pleased that we reached our goal of more than 200 members. We would still like more!

Dues are only \$10 per year. Memberships are very important to the Museum since we receive no state or federal funds for operation.

Your board of directors is working to build the Museum which many consider to be one of the finest local historical museums in South Dakota. Our Curator, Cindy Bilka, continues her excellent job of expanding programs and events as well as improving publicity and public relations efforts. Her work with the Nunda Centennial netted many new members and much positive comment.

Remember, there are many ways to support the Museum, in addition to your membership, including: tax-deductible contributions of any amount, memorials or estate gifts as part of an estate plan. And you can be a Museum volunteer to help with exhibits and routine duties.

We appreciate your support as we work together to preserve our history and heritage. Thank you!

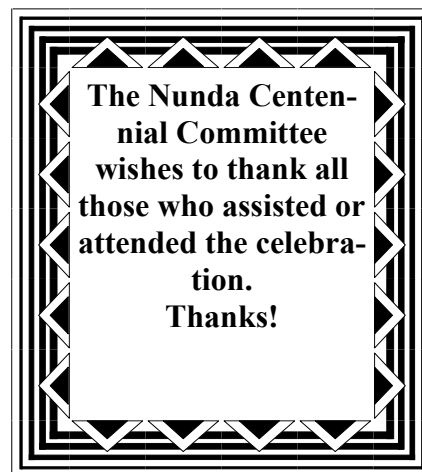
The following names indicate those who have paid their 2007 Memberships, new or renewed, and donations received since our April 2007 newsletter.
* denotes new members.

Marilyn and Richard Belatti
 Irma and Red Beukelman
 Gregory and Jackie Bortnem*
 Richard Bortnem*
 Kathy and Gene Dragseth*
 Dona Hansen*
 Barbara and David Hanson*
 Judeen and Mert Hanson*
 Shirley Hanson*
 Insurance and Real Estate Market
 David J. Jencks*

Rochelle and Gary Johnson
 Della and Ben Kehr
 Alice Keupp
 Kathleen Korol*
 Edelle and Norbert Limmer
 George Loomer
 Mildred Lowry
 S.B. Lowry
 John W. Maloney*
 Bob Maskell*
 Nancy and Francis McGowan
 Nancy Mead
 Dean Mehlum*
 Judy and Roger Myers

Marie and Howard Nicholson
 Lois and Jay Niedert
 Robert and Marian O'Connell
 Mildred Olson
 Joy and Roger Reed
 Shyrlee Roling
 Lucille Schoepf*
 Peach Seten*
 Kathryn Walter

Thank You!



If you have not sent us your membership dues for 2007, or if you have a change of address, please complete the following form and mail it to the Lake County Historical Society, Smith Zimmermann Heritage Museum, 221 NE 8th St., Madison, SD 57042.
 Thank you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Family Membership: \$10.00
 Additional Contribution: _____.

WE'RE ON THE WEB: [HTTP://WWW.SMITH-ZIMMERMANN.DSU.EDU/](http://www.smith-zimmermann.dsu.edu/)

THE HERITAGE HERALD

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

Phone: 605-256-5308
E-mail:
smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu

LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LCHS Heritage Herald

The Heritage Herald is published quarterly by members of the Lake County Historical Society. The purpose of this society is to collect, document, preserve, and interpret artifacts and documents that reflect the present cultural and developmental history of the Lake County area from the mid 1800s to the present and to encourage an understanding and appreciation for the history and progress of Lake County and the contributions of the county's residents.

If you have questions or comments, please contact our Museum's curator, Cindy Bilka. The Museum's address is 221 NE 8th St, the phone number is 605-256-5308, and the email address is www.smith.zimmermann@dsu.edu. The LCHS's Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Smith-Zimmermann Heritage Museum located on the campus of Dakota State University.

Board of Directors:

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



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