

Museum News



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VOLUME 50 ISSUE 2

Anderson Photo Studio

In the ICHS photo collection there are a lot of pictures which have Anderson Studio hand- written in the bottom right corner, very few in the left corner.

The studio was in Grand Rapids for fewer than 10 years.

A. C. Anderson's great grandson was doing some research and came here to see if we had anything on the Anderson Studio. He had pictures but no connections as to where and why. Here is sample of those pictures. The studio was located where Brier clothing is today and

part of Stokes. In the back of the studio, it shows the bell tower of city Hall and a very small part of Central School on the roof line bottom right.



The Andersons had 4 children when Mrs. Anderson became gravely ill. She did not survive a surgery in St Paul at the age of 27. Her grave is at the Itasca Cemetery.

Lloyd & Clifford Anderson



Along Memory Trails
A History of DEER RIVER
Prepared and Written by Mrs. Gladys Erola
Published by the Western Itasca Review

About the Author

Mrs. Gladys Erola is a fifth grade teacher in the Deer River school system.

She was born in Pipestone, Minn., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Forsman. The family moved to Deer River in 1924. Mrs. Erola attended schools in Deer River and is a graduate of St. Cloud Teachers college.

After graduation from St. Cloud, Mrs. Erola returned to Deer River to pursue her profession, and has remained here since 1933 when she obtained her first teaching position.

She and her husband, Omar, have two sons, Roger and Raymond, both now students in the Deer River high school.

Furthering her studies as a history major, Mrs. Erola prepared the article as a part of her special course in Minnesota history.

The article ran as a weekly feature in the Western Itasca Review for 13 weeks. She consented to have it prepared into booklet form, since there was no other composite history of Deer River as a village itself on record.

Because of the interest in this article which appeared in the Deer River newspaper, it was agreed that her article be published by the Western Itasca Review for sale in booklet form to the general public.

Her history of Deer River and neighboring communities follows : Continued from the spring newsletter.....

These roads were iced about two feet thick and were always swept clean of manure and debris by the men called "road monkeys". The sleighs they used had runners about nine feet apart with approximately sixteen foot bunks and hauled loads of logs which scaled at eight or nine thousand feet.

Of course there were private companies and enterprises which got out the pulpwood, cedar posts, poles, ties etc. by-products of the forest. Only choice pine and spruce were logged by the big companies. At this time ties weren't treated to preserve them so nothing but tamarack was used. Later, when treating the ties became common, the birch and oak were cut for this purpose. "In fact," said Wallace, "Two trainloads or sixty cars of these by-products were shipped out of Deer River per day."

Each spring, as soon as the ice went out of the rivers, crews would break camp and the season was over.

"I used to watch the train come in, from the safety of creamery hill," said Mrs. Wallace. "The Canadians were very gaily dressed, the

other lumberjacks in plain woolens, all with turkeys (knapsacks) on their backs. In two days time, three thousand men would come in on the M 86 R train — sitting anywhere, hanging on any place. When the train stopped they'd run to the office to get their pay and then race to the saloons. Many of them got no farther than whiskey row where many of them, after having cashed their checks and becoming slightly inebriated, were deftly rolled by the generally not too honest proprietor or other bar flies."

Many complaints came from families of these men —no money was brought home. The company then made a ruling that the men were to be given ten dollars of their pay in Deer River and the rest was to be collected from the company office in Minneapolis or Duluth. This made a great difference in the amount of money received by the families.

As time went on, roads were built and then some men didn't stay in the camps all winter. Some bought cheap cut over land from the lumber companies and settled down as permanent residents — many of them as good, respect-able and capable farmers.

It was the lumbermen who named the lakes such as Dead Horse Lake, Turtle Lake, Mud Lake, Little Too Much Lake etc. When resorts came in, many of these names were changed to more inviting ones.

When the town was rebuilt, Brooks moved their store to the site of the M. J. Baker Store. At that time the main street was called Whiskey Row and included saloons belong-ing to some of the same proprietors who had been burned out before. Among them was Charlie Fullwood who lived where the Catholic Priest lives now. He was a hunchback who wanted to do something for the town. He bought two identical church bells and presented one to the Catholic and one to the Methodist church. Today the bells are still in use and I've heard people say that when a bell rings you can't tell which one it is.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

June 2023—October 2023

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

\$1,600 Richard Lacher
\$500 Bowens Lodge
\$500 Kathy Mattson
\$500 Vickie Rasmussen-
Wilcox
\$500 Larry Baldwin

PATRON \$250 +

David Bishop

PRESERVATION \$100

Jerry & Sue Pulkrabek
Leonard Hirsch
Dale & Kari Juntunen
Hawkinson Construction
John Weber
Dede Emerson
Melinda Moede
Bruce & Karen Ogle
Sylvia Olson
Patricia Walls
Donald & Leona Litchke
Merton Rima

Carol Steel the volunteer membership chair comes in a couple times a month to make up membership cards and send out the renewal letters.

SUPPORTING \$65

Deborah Best
Virginia Russ Chalmers
Jan Mary Hill
Larke Huntley
John Kelsch
Betty Denzel
Ed & Lucille Lauer
Orlyn & Bonnie Olson
Martin & Gayle Coyer
Farrell Gunelius
Kent Johnson
Paul Anderson
Bill Rutherford
Mary Schmitz

FAMILY \$40

David & Marilyn Hutchins
Cheryl Kallberg
Joe & Carol Spooner
Bruce & Diane Mangseth
Jean Bengston Winter
Howard & Christie Kuusisto
Lee & Mary Jo Jess
Jean Koewler
Niels & Bonnie Henriksen
Joan Isaacs
Keith & Jan Matson
John Johnson
Jeff & Laurell Aiton
Ann Clark
Sylvia Olson
Patricia & James Frey
Jan Latola
Jeff LeSarge
Bill Mager
Arvid Waller
Kathleen Bouchie
Charles Corwin
Susan Hayes
Georgette Renslow

INDIVIDUAL \$25

Donna Lane
Dave Schultz
Joan Roessler
Gwen Heywood
Bruce Swenson
Frank & Noreen Anselmo
Mavis Gould
Kenneth Krugel
Vic Spadaccini
Barbara Adams
Jean Lane
Barbara Nalan
Janet Stejskal
LeAnna Sutherland
Donnabelle Landey
Jeremy Adam
Dan Collins
Diane Gross
Lori Huber
Robert Manske
Nancy Salmi
Ella Inglebret
Sally Sedgwick
Helen Zeumer
Iona Meyer
Flora Conklin
Carolyn Hanaka
Susan Johnson
Norma Eppinga
Gwen Litchke
Phyllis Magelky

You can help us save on postage by getting your newsletter emailed to you. Please send your email address to ichs@paulbunyan.net

As you do your tax and estate planning, please keep us in mind. ICHS is a 501(c)(3) and as such can accept charitable donations. An RMD from your retirement account can be made directly to us.

Members:

Our 75th anniversary year is almost over! Celebrating a big milestone is not always easy. Many of you joined in on the spirit of the year and gave the seventy-five dollars in the annual giving. Our Facebook page "Throwback Thursday" showcases all pictures from 1948. What an adventure...now what can we do to top that!

Peggy Hagen's design of the 75th logo was wonderful, and then Juan at Treasure Bay enhanced the diamonds. The logo will be used for the next couple of years.

The second edition playing cards came out and are still available for stocking stuffers!

The GRACE print from the Stokes family is also still available this year.

The volunteers have completed a huge scanning job of pictures from the donations during the covid years. We will be doing all the documentation the next few months and will add almost 2,000 pictures to the ICHS collection. What an awesome accomplishment by the volunteers!

Annie and Duane are in the middle of digitizing a postcard collection from the Robin Baker collection. Robin's wife Brenda brought them in and we were presently surprised at how

many postcards we were missing. Two of the three ring binders are complete.

The museum committee agreed to leave the Itasca School exhibit up for another year while we collect materials, pictures and stories from the resort community. The gallery will change out in 2025 to Itasca Resorts. Jeremy already has a plan for showcasing as many of the 198 resorts from the collection as we can.

We also have ignored the basement storage for a bit and my personal goal for January is to put away items that were added to the collection this last year. We are 3 years behind in numbering and storing. The covid years put us really behind when volunteers were unable to work in-house.

We are so excited about the Veterans that are now on the web site. Sue edits the final sheets from Leona, Roberta, and Barb before they are uploaded. We will soon have four thousand on line!

Lilah



BOARD NEWS

The board accepted under protest the resignation of John Weber and Wesley Sisson. John is with his young family and all their events while Wesley moved to Albuquerque New Mexico. We wish them both well in their new endeavors.

The board did not meet in November or December, but all have continued volunteering or stopping in to see all that occurs here in the office.

The finances are stable for the end of the year books, we will continue to watch our spending as we approach 2024.

Purse Bingo is again planned for the last Saturday in September at the Cohasset Community Center.

2023 COUNTIES : Itasca County

2023 CITIES: Grand Rapids

LaPrairie Bigfork Calumet Zemple Effie Marble Warba

2023 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS: Lone Pine Wirt Carpenter

Wabana Kinghurst Arbo Bowstring Feeley Blackberry Sago Harris
Splithand Bearville Wawina

Continued from page 2

Jack The Horse was a big moose of a fellow whose real name was John McDonald. He was running a camp for Freeman and Gray. One day while hauling a load of logs, one of his horses broke a leg. John picked up the trace chain and neck yoke and he and the other horse proceeded to haul the load to the landing — hence the name Jack The Horse. There is also a lake named after him.

Then there was Jack Jones, notorious, profane, but still kindly. The story is told that a certain lumberjack had cashed his season's check and had left the cash with Jack Jones for safe keeping. Later when he came to claim it, Jones informed him that he had no money there. The an-gry lumberjack threatened to shoot him if he didn't get his money and then left the saloon. In the meantime Jack The Horse had come on duty in Jones' place. Both were big men and may have looked much alike to a drinking man. The lumberman walked to a store and bought a revolver. He re-entered the saloon, sauntered up to the bar, calmly aimed his gun at the bar tender and pulled the trigger — killing-Jack The Horse who of course wasn't the right man at all. He tried to get away --threw his revolver between two buildings, and headed up the railroad track where he was soon caught, convicted and served a three year prison term.

Ted Robinson's saloon was run by Charlie Grant. He was a good man, but tough. There had been trouble in town caused by the setting of fires. It was thought that Charlie knew too much about these fires or who had set them so Patty Burke had been chosen to "get rid of him."

Burke had come to town trying to pick a fight with Charlie all afternoon but had not succeeded. That night there was a dance at the Northern Hotel. Charlie went but he had his revolver with him. He walked into the bar (the dance was in the dining room) where Burke wanted to wrestle with him. When Charlie refused, Burke pulled his gun and killed him. Charlie no more than hit the floor when another man pulled off his watch and put it in his pocket. The murderer went free while the thief was sent up for twenty years.

Continued in the spring newsletter....

**Remember to tell your friends our
Museum is FREE!**

We just ask people to sign in on the guest book; it helps in gaining support when we go before the County Board and when applying for grants.

Reserve your hour at the
Escape Room!
218-326-6431

“Bigfoot’s Backyard!”

Volunteers 2nd & 3rd Quarter Hours

In April we had 12 volunteers put in 324 Hours.

In May we had 12 volunteers for a total of 345 hours

In June we had 11 volunteers put in 423 hours.

In July we had 12 volunteers put in 347.75 hours.

In August we had 10 volunteers put in 404.75 hours.

In September we had 9 volunteers put in 416.5 hours.

That’s over 2,260 HOURS!

2024

ICHS Board of Directors

President Andy Nintzel
Vice President Jim Uzelac
Treasurer Sue Kujala
Secretary Ginny Frahm
 Roberta Truempler
 Leona Litchke Barb Adams
 Peggy Hagen Richard Lacher
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Executive Director
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Computer Technician
 Jeremy Anderson

Bookkeeper
 Melissa McFadden
KRC Genealogists
 Leona Litchke Barb Adams

Membership Volunteer
 Carol Steele

Volunteers
 Jean Koewler Anna Eells
 Duane Eells Ruth Martin
 Scott Carter

Itasca County Historical Society
 201 North Pokegama Avenue
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
www.itascahistorical.org



Long-time volunteer Dorothy Pollard is showcasing the GRACE Print with Lilah. Dorothy has been under the weather at the age of 95 for a short time and can no longer volunteer. If you can send her a note of encouragement. She served for over 20 years here!



Second edition of cards is available. We challenge everyone to find the 2 misspelled words in the trivia....



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