

**Pipestone County Historical Society**



Pipestone County Museum  
113 South Hiawatha Avenue  
Pipestone, MN 56164

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pipestone, MN 56164  
Permit #002

Pipestone County Museum  
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museum

Volume XXXVII, Issue III  
Fall 2018



**Prairie Traveler**



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*Armistice Day, celebrated every year on November 11th, commemorates the signing of the armistice between the Allies and Germany to cease hostilities on the 11th minute of the 11th hour of the 11th month of 1918.*

*In the United States, Armistice Day became officially known as Veterans Day in 1954, a day to commemorate all wars and honor all veterans.*

*Take a moment this year, at 11:11 on November 11th to acknowledge the sacrifices of those serving our country, and especially those who served in the Great War which came to a close one hundred years ago.*

 *Lest We Forget*

**Community Collection: Marian Carstens, Dolls**



Marian Carstens has been collecting dolls all of her life. Some of the dolls in her collection are from her childhood, but she has been collecting dolls more in earnest for the past thirty years. She buys them at rummage sales and receives them as gifts from friends. Any kind of doll can find its way into Marian's collection. She has collectible china dolls, barbie dolls, baby dolls, rag dolls, homemade dolls, big dolls, tiny dolls, any kind of dolls! A few of her most recognizable dolls on display here include Shirley Temple and Princess Di. She has all her dolls on display in one room in her house. Marian also collects teapots and elephant figures. Her doll collection will be on display through December.



Check us out on the web!

[Pipestoneminnesota.com/museum](http://Pipestoneminnesota.com/museum)

Shop at the  
**Museum Store**

 *proceeds support the Museum & Its programs!*

**Members Receive 10% Off!**

Looking for a very unique gift? Most of the images in the Museum's Photographic Collection can be reproduced for private use.



**Unique Christmas Ideas at the Museum Gift Shop!**

The Museum Gift Shop's local shelf holds all kinds of hard to find and out of print local publications that the hard to shop for local history buff on your Christmas list would love to have!

Pipestone High School Annuals; Pipestone County Atlases; local city and county Directories; town Centennial books, and more!

Don't miss out on this gem in particular! **Pipestone County, Minnesota in the Great War; 1917-1918-1919.** This hardbound book was published by the Leader Publishing Company of Pipestone in 1920. It was sold as "An Honor Roll containing a pictorial record of the gallant and courageous men from Pipestone County who served in the Great War." Includes information on local WWI soldiers & sailors, plus so much more!.....\$50



# New in the Museum's Collection

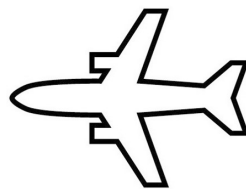
By Noah Burris

Recently an unidentified uniform patch came into the Museum. It is a small round blue and gold patch with a mascot on wings in front of the state of Minnesota. After doing some research, I discovered it is a Minnesota Civil Air Patrol patch and the inspiration behind the design is quite the story, involving Roald Dahl, Walt Disney, World War II, and Gremlins.

Roald Dahl, before he wrote famous books such as *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The BFG*, was a member of Britain's Royal Air Force during World War II. During the war he began writing down stories told by other pilots in the RAF. One such story was about these mischievous small creatures that RAF pilots blamed for problems with their planes. The creatures were called Gremlins and inspired Dahl's first published book. The story tells about a wounded fighter pilot, who ends up meeting one of these gremlins, named Gus. They become friends and the pilot convinces Gus and the other Gremlins to stop wrecking their planes and instead join the Allied Powers in the war.

Walt Disney learned of Dahl's story and thought it would be a great one for the Disney animation studio. In 1943, the book was published as a Walt Disney children's book and titled *The Gremlins*. As a film was in the works, comic books, plush dolls, and other Gremlin related merchandise were created and sold. The planned film slowly moved along but ended up being canceled and never created. Dahl's book and the Gremlin stories and legends did however lead to a number of tv and movie appearances including the non-Disney feature film titled *Gremlins* that came out in 1984.

After learning what the patch was and that the mascot was a Gremlin, the next question was how it became Minnesota's patch. That was a fairly simple answer. Throughout the war Disney had created several emblems for the U.S. military. The Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol evidently liked the Gremlins and ended up asking Disney if they could put a Gremlin on their emblem. Disney granted them permission to use it and a Disney artist designed an emblem in 1943. Beginning in 1944, Minnesota members started making their own Gremlin patches and wearing them on their uniforms, even though Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters did not approve of wearing state patches. Eventually the Headquarters did start allowing separate state patches and approved Minnesota's Gremlin patch in 1950. To this day the Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol still wear a version of the Gremlin patch.



At Left: Aerial photograph of the Pipestone Airport which ran in the June 4, 1964 issue of the Pipestone County Star illustrating a story on the Civil Air Patrol "Breakfast Flight."

## Historic Pipestone, Inc.

Hymn Sing



Sunday, Nov. 11 2pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
221 4th Street SE, Pipestone

Free Will Donation to support HPI



Tour of Homes

Dec. 1st 1-4pm  
Tour four local homes, refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 221 4th Street SE, Pipestone

Tickets \$10 to support HPI  
Get tickets at any home on the tour or at the church!

## Pipestone Chamber

Tour of Trees & Tour of Tables

Tour of Trees: Dec. 1&2 and 8&9 1-4pm  
Tour of Tables: Dec. 8&9 1-4pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 221 4th Street SE, Pipestone

Free will donation to be split between HPI and the Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce



# GoodSearch

For the Pipestone County Historical Society at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

Use this search engine for Pipestone County Historical Society. With just a few participants we have raised over \$381 to date!  
**We need your involvement!**

In 2017 PCHS Good Search supporters raised \$40.46. Go to your on-line retailer through the Good Shop site and they will donate a percentage of your total to PCHS—no strings attached!

# GoodSearch



### Pipestone County Historical Society Membership & Donation Form

#### Annual Membership Categories

- Friend \$15-\$24
- Household \$25-\$49
- Supporting \$50-\$99
- Century \$100-\$249
- Patron \$250-499
- Benefactor \$500 & Up

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ (please fill in amount)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Benefits include ...

Free Admission to Exhibit Galleries & Research Archives, 10% discount at Gift Shop, Subscription to the Prairie Traveler newsletter, Discounts on Research, Copies & Photo Reprints and Free Queries in the newsletter.



**Holiday Fair Fundraiser!**

**Saturday, November 3**

**9am-2pm**

**Over 30 vendors,  
lunch available  
Silent Auction!**

**Pipestone High School  
Commons— use the north door**



The Pipestone County Historical Society now has a presence on the Give MN website for easy on-line donations.



Go to [givemn.org](http://givemn.org) and search for Pipestone. PCHS is the first to come up- look for the Museum

**Pipestone County Historical Society is now on...**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- Support the Pipestone County Historical Society by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



Check us out on Facebook!



Pipestone County Historical Society



**Visit the  
Pipestone County Historical Society's  
Redesigned Website!**

[www.pipestoneminnesota.com/museum](http://www.pipestoneminnesota.com/museum)

**With new databases, indexes  
and links to  
expanded newsletter articles!**

**> IN THE GIFT SHOP <**

**Small Business Saturday!**


November 24, 10am-5pm

Shop great deals in the Gift Shop

50% off ALL Books

25% off Everything Else

**Including the Local History Shelf!**




**Remember...**

*Save Your*

**Ink Cartridges**

PCHS is able to redeem them for office supplies !

# Emergency Work on the Ferris Grand

Two drenching days of heavy rain and a strong north wind presented a substantial water issue in the Ferris Grand Block. With water leaking in above the second floor windows and the first floor windows, the roofers were called in. They were able to find two large gashes in the parapet and also some minor damage in other areas of the roof. These were all duly patched. Blake & Randy Jasper Construction, pictured at right, are also at work on the Ferris Grand Block with repair work to the enameled steel panels above the street level windows, which had been pulling away from the building. The panels are all secured, caulked and ready for winter. Water problems from this last round of weather also plagued the “L” building (PPAC lobby.) More work will commence this spring on the front façade of the building. The deteriorated wooden beadboard will be replaced with a similar vinyl product. This repair work on both buildings will be a stop-gap until PCHS is able to restore both buildings with their historical façades. That will entail work that will be much more intensive and require much grant writing and fundraising. In the meantime PCHS aims to care for the historic buildings to the best of our ability—to make sure they survive for the future.



# 2018 Paranormal Weekend Fundraiser



2018 Tales from the Grave cast, l-r: Joseph Karnof, Shannen Muller, Jackie Swanson, Duane Carlson, Scott Swanson, JaNeil Peschon, Erica Volkir and Tom Steffes.

The 2018 Pipestone Paranormal Weekend fundraiser for PCHS went off without a hitch on October 12 and 13. 153 tickets were sold to six separate events: Bedtime Stories at the Calumet; Historic Cemetery Tour featuring WWI Veterans; Psychic Gallery Reading with Susie Otto; the popular Tales from the Grave cemetery tour; Kym O’Connell Todd & Mark Todd presenting on their newest book “Wild West Ghosts;” and the very popular Ghost Hunt. Much thanks to the volunteers who make this fundraiser possible: the City of Pipestone and the Pipestone Chamber for their support; the business owners for welcoming our visitors; The Tales crew shown at left; and all others who helped make this a great event to bring people into the community and raise funds for the Pipestone County Historical Society.

## J.D. and the Wild Ones

By Tony Texley

It seems there is a never ending list of 1960's rock and roll garage bands that came out of Pipestone. This next one I was aware of for a number of years but was always missing a few key pieces of information to putting the story together. This would be the story of "J.D. & the Wild Ones."

It all starts back in Pipestone around 1951 when 8 year old Jim Duane (J.D.) Frick received his 1<sup>st</sup> guitar and taught himself to play by books. Jim would continue to play guitar through high school, graduating in 1961 and moving to Omaha to attend computer school. While there, Jim formed a duet with fellow guitar playing student Dale Riesberg and performed at tech school and college parties. During this time they also auditioned to appear on a local Omaha Saturday morning TV talent show. They were chosen for the show and played two numbers, "Twist & Shout" and "500 Miles." When interviewing Dave for this article, he mentioned one thing stood out in his memory about the TV experience. As they were watching the playback of their performance in the TV studio, Dave thought to himself "Oh my, Jim is really good and I'm not."

After school and a stint in the army Jim would return to Pipestone around 1966 and start his own Rock & Roll band "J.D. & the Wild Ones."

"J.D. & the Wild Ones" consisted of Jim Frick, vocals & rhythm guitar, brothers Steve on drums & trumpet, Bob on saxophone and neighbor Jay Bucher on trombone & bass guitar. The band would rehearse at the Frick's family farm. Jim would also form "B.S.M.F. Music Productions" a booking agency for the band. The Wild Ones traveled the local dance circuit that so many of the 60s bands would follow, playing in high schools, ballrooms, clubs, armories etc. in the tri-state area, hauling their gear in their pickups (sometimes with a camper still on it!) and later with rented U-Hauls. Their dress attire was everyday casual with no need to spend money on matching outfits.

Jim soon decided to add two more Pipestone members: first was Dave Linnemeyer, vocals & lead guitar and Lee Sundermeyer on Doric organ, both in same class in high school and about 15 years of age at this time. The additions allowed the group to expand their play list and also their chances at playing more venues. The band became very successful and popular playing Top 40 hits of the day. The members would often trade instruments during their show to highlight the versatility of the members. They also soon realized they needed more room for rehearsals. They practiced once a week in various members' homes and now also the basement of the Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone.

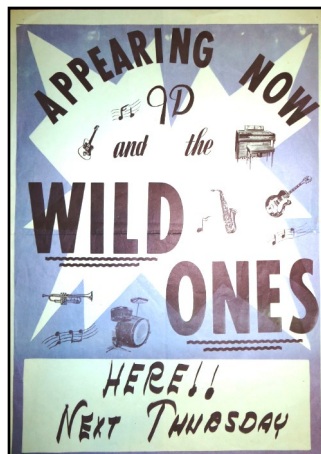
As usual, school, sports, jobs and family issues would come up and members had to quit and new members would be added. At this junction in time it was decided to drop the J.D. in the title and just go as "The Wild Ones." The band continued on with about four versions of band members. They never really dissolved but evolved into a new group calling themselves "The HEATE," which would be a story for another day.

Jim would continue playing in various bands including the "Banditos." A 1970s country/rock group based out of Fulda, MN. The Banditos enjoyed Midwest success with a 45 recorded on the IGA label out of Milford, IA, of the Buddy Holly classic "Peggy Sue" with Jim doing lead vocals. This group also featured bass guitar player, Doc Schwarz. Doc would go on to grace the stage of the Pipestone Performing Arts Center with his musical abilities numerous times as a guest performing on Mylan Ray's "Main Street Jamboree."

After leaving "The Wild Ones," Lee & Dave would also continue their musical careers and hook up with popular Marshall based band, "20th Century Fox." Stricken with its own member changes, the reformed into "Foxx."



"J.D. and the Wild Ones" rehearsing at the Frick family farm 1965/1966. Jim Frick is in front holding guitar and singing; Dave Linnemeyer is directly behind playing guitar; Steve Frick is behind him on the drums; Jay Bucher is on guitar on the right. Lee Sundermeyer is to the left of Jim Frick on the organ (not visible).



Continued on Page 5

unique historical structures, which can serve to host programs, businesses and community services that are currently not available, as well as increasing tourism to contribute to the local economy. Historic structures like these have a higher tax base and greater long term return than vacant lots or new construction, and are more appealing to entrepreneurs as they come without the higher overhead of new construction.

To donate to Bauman Hall fund, you can go securely online at [www.paypal.me/reclaimcommunitymn](http://www.paypal.me/reclaimcommunitymn) or mail checks to Reclaim Community, PO Box 9, Jasper MN. We have an active Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ReclaimCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/ReclaimCommunity) with lots of videos, and are working to update our website [www.reclaimcommunity.org](http://www.reclaimcommunity.org). Contact Elicia Kortus at [reclaimcommunitymn@gmail.com](mailto:reclaimcommunitymn@gmail.com) or 605-595-4693 with questions or to sign up to help with cleanup, repair or fundraisers.

## Quilt Exhibit

October 11, 2018

The Pipestone County Historical Society is in support of Reclaim Community's plan to rehabilitate Bauman Hall in Jasper. This historic quartzite building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings in 1979 due to its local significance.

Bauman Hall is an extremely significant building not only in the city of Jasper, but in Pipestone County as a whole. This Sioux quartzite building was built at the town of North Sioux Falls in 1881. After the demise of North Sioux Falls, Jasper business man, Henry Holvig, had the building deconstructed, moved to Jasper and rebuilt in 1908. Over several decades, Bauman Hall was a bustling part of Jasper's downtown, housing a department store and then a grocery store, among other things. The second floor of the building held a community hall in which the high school held its community events until the school gym was built.

Reclaim Community has proposed to acquire ownership of Bauman Hall to rehabilitate the building and put it back in use for the community. They have outlined a plan to have the building professionally assessed, pursue grant funds through the State Historical Preservation Office, and to stabilize and rehabilitate the building for utilization. Reclaim Community has a proven track record for obtaining grants and mobilizing the Jasper Community most notably in their work with the Jasper High School building. They are the perfect group to take on this project.

The Pipestone County Historical Society recognizes Bauman Hall as an extremely significant historical building and is in full support of Reclaim Community's efforts to rehabilitate it.



The quilts on display in this exhibit include nearly all of the Museum's signature quilts, but only represent about 1/4 of the entire quilt collection. Signature quilts, also known as autograph or friendship quilts, are made by making individual pieces with signed names and then sewing them together into the quilt top. These types of quilts were often treasured keepsakes, reminding people of loved ones or friends or even specific occasions. The exhibit features a few quilts which were made as fundraisers. People could sign their name on a piece of fabric for a donation, the signatures were embroidered and pieced and the finished quilt raffled! These nine quilts will be on display through 2020.



## The Fate of Bauman Hall

By Elicia Kortus of  
Reclaim Community

Bauman Hall was constructed in 1881 as a hotel for quarry workers in the town of North Sioux Falls, the site of a Sioux quartzite quarry, three miles north of Jasper. The quarries and town were shut down in the early 1900s, as there was no longer a need for a hotel in North Sioux Falls, Henry Holvig had the hotel building disassembled stone by stone and brought to Jasper and re-assembled in 1908. Fred Bauman purchased the building in 1916, and the hall became a store known as Silver-

bergs. All local events and school graduations and plays were held on the second floor of the hall until 1939 when a gymnasium was erected. Sacks Brothers General Store moved to the first floor of Bauman Hall in 1933, remaining for nearly 30 years. From 1960 to 1973 it functioned as a grocery store. For the next eight years it held various businesses. The second floor was used during much of the 20th century as the town's social hall, used for activities such as roller-skating, school plays, basketball games, medicine shows and graduation ceremonies. Following a \$71,000 renovation in 1981, it became the Jasper Senior Citizen's Center and shared the space with a hair salon owned by Cindy Rieck.

In 2009, after structural issues were discovered, the city of Jasper brought in Natascha Wiener, historical architect with the State Historical Preservation Office in St. Paul, and an architect with TSP, to complete a general, visual-only structural assessment of Bauman Hall after buckling of the east exterior wall and other structural problems were discovered. TSP indicated in its findings that roof trusses, the floor system and the east wall on the second floor would require immediate attention.

Not only does this building have great historic and sentimental value as a central hub for decades for events and gatherings, it has great future potential to the town as a building that could serve many functions-office space and fundraiser event hosting space for Reclaim Community, and even shared as retail space, a cafe, residences or hotel/Air BnB space, and historical exhibits on the quarry. Reclaim Community believes all other alternatives must be attempted before demolition is an option.

We have approached the County Commission with our plans, as we [Reclaim Community] are a 501(c)3 non-profit and can apply for these funds. We are asking donors to contribute to a fund to preserve it, assist us in purchasing it in Nov/Dec, and complete some temporary stabilization to the east wall while we apply for the grant funds for major repair. We estimate needing approximately \$5,000 for these items, labor can be donated by several of our board members with contracting experience. We are already working with several structural engineers to obtain estimates for the grants.

In three years, Reclaim Community has raised nearly \$100,000 towards the restoration of Jasper High, and will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places very shortly. This year, we successfully reconnected the electricity and raised \$8,500 in our Quartzsiter Days fundraisers to put up solar security lights and a security system to eliminate vandalism. Our volunteer crew has spent over 600 hours this fall demolishing damaged walls, removing floor and ceiling tiles, and filled SIX roll-off dumpsters, to the tune of \$500 each!

Currently, we are applying for a grant to fund a complete condition assessment of the building to prioritize repairs in order, and plan for the complete renovation. Donors from across the nation have committed funds to Jasper School. We believe that the future development of the economy in the county relies on these very

## Memorials

**In Memory of Paul Brockberg**  
by Theresa Mahoney

**In Memory of Pat Beyers**  
by Theresa Mahoney

**In Memory of Rody Trageser**  
by Janice North

**In Memory of Carol Dressen**  
by Leland & Marilyn Erickson

**In Memory of Darrell Eugene Smith**  
by Leland & Marilyn Erickson

**In Memory of Patricia Beyers**  
by Jim & Cheri Jacobson

**In Memory of Pat Beyers**  
by Beverlee Kennedy

**In Memory of Verla Kallemeyn DeBeer**  
by Carol Penning-Corporon

**In Memory of Robert Stordahl**  
by Carol Penning-Corporon

**In Memory of Patsy Iverson Hey**  
by Carol Penning-Corporon

*Memorials are a special way of remembering a friend or loved one with your gift to PCHS.*

*This gift is given in their memory and a letter is sent to the family of the deceased noting your gift- but never its size. Memorials of \$100 or more will be registered on plaques in the Museum's lobby.*

*Let us know the person to be memorialized, the amount of the memorial and who to send the memorial letter to along with their address.*

This would be the last band the two would play in together before going their own ways.

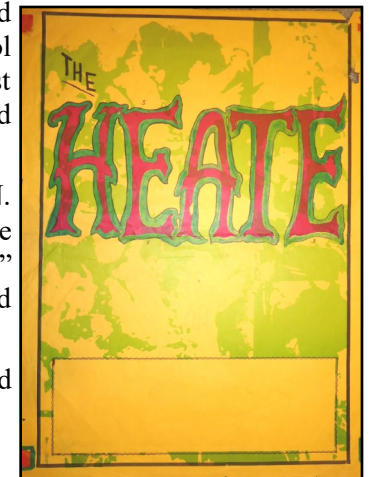
I have been told a number of stories about the band "J.D. & Wild Ones," but one sticks out as a common issue with rock & roll bands through the years: hauling your equipment into the dance. The gig was in Aberdeen, South Dakota at a place called "The Depot," an old Minneapolis & St. Louis train depot converted in to a dance hall. You still had to be on the lookout for trains as you crossed the four or five sets of tracks carrying your equipment to the back door. At this time Lee Sundermeyer had a Hammond B3 organ plus a rotary amp in a matching wood cabinet and both were very heavy. They carried the organ over the tracks, made it through the back door but the steps up to the stage were too narrow to carry the organ up. It took everyone to lift the organ up onto the stage and then reverse the process at the end of the night. Who said rock & roll stardom was easy !

Another story concerns what happens at the end of a dance. They just finished playing a dance in Pipestone and the group was tearing down and packing up their equipment in Jay Bucher's pickup. They proceeded to drive out to Lee's parents' farmhouse and were unloading their equipment into a garage when they realized Jay's Gibson bass guitar was missing. They back-tracked their steps to the school (remember, this is after midnight) and found it laying outside on the school lawn. It must have slipped off the pickup as they were leaving. They were very lucky it was in a hard shell case.

My brothers and I have our own memories of the band. In the 60s we lived on a farm on N. Hwy 75 across the road from the Sundermeyer's place. Now we couldn't go listen to the Beatles practice sessions, but we could walk across the road and listen to "The Wild Ones" doing their thing out in Lee's garage. It seems ironic now, but by brother Terry would wind up playing bass guitar in "The Wild Ones."

So there you have it, another 60s Rock & Roll band out of Pipestone, "J.D. & the Wild Ones," doing what they enjoyed, playing music.

Keep Rockin' **Tony Texley**



# New & Renewing Annual Members

\* = new member!

## Century

William & Celia McKown– Wittier, CA

## Supporting

Tom & Joan Walker– Pipestone

## Household

Elmer Stoltenberg– Holland

\*Larry & Mary Marquardt– Waverly, MN

\*Nathan Lamb– Pipestone

Ron Beckering– Edgerton

## Friend

\*Steve Moffitt– Pipestone

\*Gordon Huebner– Pipestone

\*Lulubeth Stromberg– Pipestone

Karen Hellie– Pipestone

Thomas Onan– New Prague, MN

\*Kathy Lillevold– Northfield, MN

Nyla Johnson– Pipestone

\*Lavonne Anderson– Sioux Falls, SD

## Business

Snyder Drug

O’Neill, O’Neill & Barduson

Dr. Paul Henriksen

VanderStoep Furniture



## Donations

*PCHS relies on the generosity of our members not only to meet the general budget but especially to accomplish special projects. Thank you.*

## Regular Donations

Carol Penning-Corporon,

Debra (Duggan) Pennington

### Holiday Fair

*Craft & Vendor Show Fundraiser*

Saturday, November 3, 9am-2pm

Over 30 booths to shop from!

*Fundraiser for the Pipestone County Museum*



PCHS is looking for high school annuals from Ruthton, Jasper and Edgerton High Schools along with the following years from Pipestone High School: 1981, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2002– to the present: For the Museum Collection.



Patrons have requested the following Pipestone High School annuals for sale in the Gift Shop: 1940, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1969, 1979. Contact the Museum if you have one you would like to donate for resale.



Patrons have requested the following Pipestone County history books for sale in the Gift Shop: 1898 or 1914 Atlases; 1984 Pipestone County History book; Edgerton Centennial book. Also looking for a Historic Museum Ornament for resale.

### Quilt Raffle

*PCHS is raffling a pieced quilt with a buffalo motif as a fundraiser. The quilt was pieced and donated by Lona Christiansen*

*Tickets are \$5 per chance*

*Drawing to be held at the Holiday Fair, Nov. 3*

### 2018 PCHS Board Members

Bob Buffington– President, Curt Hess– Vice President, Judy Oldemeyer– Secretary, Steve Schulz– Treasurer. Paul Everett, Susie Otto, Mary Schroer, Linsey Prunty, Chuck Ness

### 2018 Pipestone County Museum Staff

Susan Hoskins– Executive Director, Trava Olivier– Museum Aide, Noah Burris– Museum Aide

# The Yellow Paint Saga

By Trava Olivier

I stumbled upon a photocopy of an article that appeared in the Pipestone County Star Newspaper on September 9, 1919 titled “Miller, Yellow Paint Victim, Asks \$100,000.” The article detailed how Mr. Miller had been painted yellow on May 19, 1918 by a group of Pipestone citizens for his failure to purchase war bonds or support the government’s war effort in any way. Mr. Miller asked for damages for the “suffered mental and physical anguish” from Mayor S.B. Duea, John Gray, and Henry McKeon of this city as well as Barney Mooney of Woodstock in the amount of \$100,000. That amount would be slightly under \$1.5 million today.

Intrigued I went back into the Pipestone County Star dated May 21, 1918 and the Pipestone Leader newspaper dated May 23, 1918 and read the accounts of the event involving the yellow paint. Both articles detail how Mr. Miller stood before the Safety Commission to answer for his lack of support to the war effort and both accounts detail his continued refusal to pay before he was released to return to his home near Ruthton. As he tried to board the train for that community, he was taken by a group of citizens who were angered by his refusal. He was marched uptown and promptly painted yellow and given a shoe polish Kaiser like mustache before being allowed to walk home.

After reading the newspaper accounts, I was convinced the event had happened. I attempted to locate information as to how the court case played out. A headline from the November 18, 1919 Pipestone County Star “Meints Case Verdict is For Defendants; Interesting Trial Close Friday at Mankato-Pipestone Case Goes Over to April” next caught my eye. (As a side note, Mr. Meints, from Rock County, claimed to have been tarred and feathered in August 1918 for similar reasons and his trial took 3 weeks to complete and the jury did not side in his favor!) This article stated the Miller vs. Duea, McKeon, Gray and Mooney case would have to be continued to the next term of the U.S. District Court to be held in April 1920.

Scrolling through April 1920 microfilm proved fruitless, but I pressed forward on the belief that this case would certainly make the paper...and it did! The May 14, 1920 issue of the Pipestone County Star front page headlines read “Miller Failed to Secure Damages.” It also appeared in Pipestone Leader on May 13, 1920 with headlines reading “U.S. District Court Decides ‘Yellow Paint’ Case.” Both articles report the decision in favor of the defendants with the Leader’s version citing it as an example for people with hurt feelings to not seek monetary reward and the Star’s version providing some detail as the arguments used in the case. It would seem Mr. Miller was unable to prove that the named defendants were in the crowd and the individuals who were wielding the paint brushes at the time of the event.

As I read this information, I had questions regarding Mr. Miller. I was able to find U.S., Minnesota State and Iowa State Census records that showed me he married and raised 5 children in Iowa between 1885 and 1900. I find him in both Lincoln and Pipestone County between 1910 and 1940.

I know he and his second wife (he was widowed) are interred in Lake Benton. I was unable to locate any records to verify if he ever became a naturalized U.S. citizen or if he had religious or personal reasons for his refusal to support the war effort in his adopted homeland. Perhaps someone reading this will pursue Mr. Miller’s story in Lincoln County, MN or Clinton County, Iowa. If you find any further information, I’d be happy to hear from you!

