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WORLD WAR II ERA PROGRAM AT BECKER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

with **Becky Olerud, Director**
Becker County Historical Society

The Becker County Historical Society (BCHS) will hold its third annual WWII Era Dance on Aug. 21 in the Detroit Lakes Pavilion. "Doc' and the Scrubs," a local 12-piece orchestra, will again perform the Big Band sounds from the 1940s. BCHS director Becky Olerud says that "the music of the 1940s holds a special place in many hearts. It represents a period of time when families and the entire country worked together. It gave the country some glamour and elegance even though people were feeling the effects of World War II: family members overseas, shortages of supplies, war rationing, victory gardens, the Red Cross, and just struggling to get through the everyday challenges." The Pavilion is a natural location for the dance, as it was a "local hot-spot during the 1940s."

The music of the 1940s brought out a "nice-sized crowd" to the first dance in 1996. Then, as Olerud says, "The next year we had another dance and were blown away by the response. The building was filled to capacity, even though there was so much road construction everyone had to go in by way of back streets."

BCHS encourages but does not require people to dress in 1940s clothing or costume for the dance. However, Olerud says, "Each year more and more people are doing this. Those who are still able to wear



"Rosie the Riveter" and a friend at an earlier WWII Era dance in Becker County.

Courtesy Becker County Historical Society

their World War II uniforms do so, with pride. Some of the men wear suits and hats of that time period, while some of the women wear dresses and fancy hats. One year we even had 'Rosie the Riveter' come to the dance." (See above.)

Each year BCHS honors the WWII veterans or representatives of the armed forces who are present at the dance. Last year the Women of Becker County who served in WWII were honored, and this year a special presentation will be made to men and women who received the Purple Heart during WWII and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The orchestra is extraordinarily generous to the community; it charges a minimal fee, "then donates it to the St. Mary's Health Care Organization and to the Becker County Historical Society." With this and the overwhelming response from the public, Olerud says, "not only has this become a great fund-raising event, but everyone has a great time."

ISTEA Reauthorized

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) has been reauthorized by Congress as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The bill provides \$630 million annually, which is 40 percent more than previously. As before, local organizations and communities can apply to the transportation enhancements program in the historic preservation and restoration categories, and now in two new categories, transportation museums and visitor and welcome centers. For further information on TEA-21, contact Susan Coppa in the American Association of Museums Government and Public Affairs office at (202) 289-9125; e-mail: scoppa@aam-us.org.



New Roof Again for St. Francis Xavier Church in Chippewa City



The North Shore of Lake Superior has a rich history of missionary life and work, including the legendary trip of Fr. Frederic Baraga across the lake from the Apostle Islands to the Cross River at Schroeder in 1846. An important part of that history is the story of the community of Chippewa City. It grew up about one mile east of Grand Marais. Between 75 and 100 families lived there in the period from the 1880s to 1900. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church was built in 1895 in the community of Chippewa City through the efforts of Fr. Joseph Specht, S.J. Funds to build the church came largely from basket socials. Handmade birch-bark baskets were filled with home-baked foods and sold, mainly to lumberjacks who

lived and worked in the area.

The church was almost destroyed in 1907 by a forest fire that consumed many homes. Mrs. Albertina Hedlund, though

confined to her home in the Maple Hill community by rheumatism, was aggressive in her efforts to save the residents of Chippewa City. She persuaded her nearest neighbor, August J. Johnson, to ask the governor to send ships to anchor in the harbor and provide relief. The sailors from these ships saved the church.

In the early 1970s, a new foundation for the church was laid and the building was completely restored, including a new roof. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986; another new roof is to be erected this summer. To pay for the restoration work, the Cook County Historical Society (CCHS) received a matching grant of \$5,475 in State Grants-in-Aid funds from the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa at Grand Portage contributed \$5,000 toward the match through Cook County. Additional donations have been received, enough to enable CCHS to purchase a replacement organ. (The original organ still exists and is in the possession of a private owner.)

For further information, contact CCHS, Box 1293, Grand Marais, MN 55604; (218) 387-2883. (Source for this article: historical accounts from St. John's Catholic Parish of Grand Marais, provided by Pat Zankman, CCHS museum director.)



SHHS file photo

St. Francis Xavier church as it looked in July 1979. A sign once stood on the other side that read, "St. Francis Xavier Church/Erected in 1895/Jesuit French Architecture/Site of Early Chippewa City/Morrison Home Used as/Mission Before 1895."

Grants to Arts Presenter Groups by State Arts Board

The Minnesota State Arts Board (SAB) has approved \$277,000 in grants to 19 Minnesota arts presenter organizations. The funds support theater, dance and music performances as well as exhibitions, screenings and readings. For further information, contact SAB at (651) 215-1600, or (800) 8MN-ARTS [(800) 866-2787.]

- Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud
- College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud
- College of St. Catherine, St. Paul
- College of St. Scholastica, Duluth
- Concordia College, Moorhead
- Fairmont Opera House
- Fergus Falls Center for the Arts
- Mankato State University
- Moorhead State University
- Music in the Park Series, St. Paul
- North Hennepin Community College, Brooklyn Park
- Ordway Music Theatre, St. Paul
- Reif Arts Council, Grand Rapids
- Southern Theater Foundation, Minneapolis
- St. John's University, Collegeville
- St. Mary's University, Winona
- T. B. Sheldon Theatre for the Performing Arts, Red Wing
- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- University of Minnesota-Morris





Carlton County Historical Society Issues Picture Book about 1918 Fire

The Fury of the Flames, a revised and updated version of a booklet published in 1919, has just been published by the Carlton County Historical Society to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the fires of 1918. Historian Francis M. Carroll, in his

introduction to the new publication, stated “The death, suffering and destruction were unlike anything that had ever been experienced in Minnesota, nor has the scope of the catastrophe been surpassed in the history of the state in the past 80 years.” The booklet

This photograph by an unidentified photographer shows the ruins of Cloquet after the fire. Dunlap Island and the St. Louis River are in the background. This picture from The Fury of the Flames may not have been published before.



Courtesy Carlton County Historical Society

features pictures of Cloquet, Moose Lake, Duluth, and rural areas by photographers Hugh McKenzie, Olaf Olson, Earl Irish and others; some of the pictures have not been published before.

The book is available at the Carlton County History and Heritage Center in Cloquet, (218) 879-1938, and the Moose Lake Depot & Fires of 1918 Museum, (218) 485-4234. 32 pages, \$5.30 including tax (add \$2 for postage and handling for mail orders).

Two Harbors Lighthouse Restoration

The airport-style beacon at Two Harbors lighthouse on the North Shore reaches about 17 miles across Lake Superior. Though it is known as “Split Rock’s Sister Lighthouse,” the Two Harbors lighthouse was built in 1892, 18 years before its more

famous sibling. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the lighthouse is operated by the Lake County Historical Society (LCHS); last year it received about 12,000 visitors.

The lighthouse is deteriorating. Its windows and boiler must be replaced and

repairs on brickwork are needed, or the lighthouse might not survive another winter. LCHS has mounted a fund-raising campaign called HUSTLE! (for Help Us Save The Lighthouse Everyone), whose goal is to raise \$25,000 dollars. LCHS received a \$7,500 matching grant in State Grants-in-Aid funds from the Minnesota Historical Society to aid in restoration work, and is considering additional fund-raising efforts. These include:

- an elementary school program (“Bring a Shiny Penny to Keep the Light Shining”);
- a spaghetti feed;
- sweatshirts and T-shirts with a photo of the lighthouse and the words “I helped save the Two Harbors Lighthouse”; and
- a raffle of three, two-person, six-or-eight day, trips—donated by the USS Great Lakes Fleet—on the ore boats *Gott* or *Speer*.

For further information, contact the LCHS office at P.O. Box 313, Two Harbors, MN 55616; (218) 834-4898.



Courtesy Lake County Historical Society

Two Harbors lighthouse, as it looked in 1998. It is painted a vivid red.



Useful Books from the American Association of Museums

The American Association of Museums (AAM) commissions books on all aspects of museum work and makes them available through its bookstore. Among the new titles (June 1998) of interest to *Interpreter* readers are the following.

- *The New Museum Registration Methods*, edited by Rebecca A. Buck and Jean A. Gilmore, which covers collections management, computerization of records, registration procedures and more; it has been "updated for the 21st century, with more than 50 all-new chapters." Paper, 400 pp., \$40/member; \$55 non-member.

- *The Standard Facility Report*, by the AAM Registrars Committee, provides a user-friendly format for assembling information needed to communicate with lenders, borrowers and insurers. Paper, 30 pp., \$13/member; \$18 non-member.

- *Everyone's Welcome: The Americans with Disabilities Act and Museums*, edited by John P. S. Salmen, details the requirements of the Act (ADA) and offers recommendations for museum compliance and effective communication. The looseleaf, 155-page manual complements the video *Everyone's Welcome: Universal Access in Museums*. Manual: \$25/member, \$30/non-member; video: \$40/member; \$45/non-member; both, in discount package: \$55/member; \$65/non-member.

- *Preservation Planning: Guidelines for Writing a Long-Range Plan*, by Shereyn Odgen, provides a sample plan, guidelines, checklist and worksheets on a Microsoft Word diskette. Paper, 150 pp., \$29.50/member; \$41.50/non-member.

Call AAM at (202) 289-9127, or shop on-line at www.aam-us.org.

"River of Dreams" Conference in September

The University of St. Thomas Environmental Studies program, in an effort to broaden and deepen our understanding of the significance of the Mississippi River, will host a multi-disciplinary, multi-professional conference in St. Paul, Sept. 24-26, titled "River of Dreams: the Humanities and the Upper Mississippi River." The conference has numerous co-sponsors, including the Minnesota Historical Society, the Ramsey County Historical Society, and the Insitute for Minnesota Archaeology.

The fields of the humanities include literature, history, philosophy, and related fields such as archaeology and heritage preservation. Speakers will seek to provide insight and information by formulating questions about the river from the perspective of these disciplines, and will join wildlife biologists and river managers in debating commercial and political issues related to the river.

For more information, consult www.newcollege.stthomas.edu/environews.htm, or contact Patrick Nunnally at (651) 962-5692 or at pdnunnally@stthomas.edu.

Otsego HPC Seeks Materials for Book

The Otsego Heritage Preservation Commission is planning to publish a book covering the years 1880 to 1990, when Otsego township became a city. This will be the commission's third book; the first two are *Otsego in the Beginning-1852-1880*, and *The Otsego Cemetery*. Information in the form of pictures, clippings, historical documents, family stories and legends would be especially useful; copies will be made and originals returned to the donor. The group also is interested in recording oral histories. Contact Elaine Norin at (612) 295-2019 for further information.





NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 1998: MINNESOTANS WIN HIGH HONORS

A total of 17 Minnesota students shared eight awards at the National History Day program in College Park, Md., on June 18. The awards recognized high achievement in representing the 1998 theme, "Migrations in History: People, Cultures, Ideas." The students, their categories and awards are listed below.

JUNIOR DIVISION

First Place Research Paper: *Mark Thomson*, "The Migration of Smallpox and Its Indelible Footprint on Latin American History," Breck School, Minneapolis.

Fourth Place Individual Media: *Nathan Otten*, "Gangsters in St. Paul," Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul; Otten's project also received the **Junior Outstanding State Award** for Minnesota.

Fifth Place Group Performance: *Hannah Appelbaum*, *Alison Brazel*, *Rachel Hopsicker* and *Zaneta Clark*, "Anne Hutchinson," Ramsey Junior High, St. Paul.

Sixth Place Individual Performance: *Jonathan Bluhm*, "Dillon O'Brien and Irish Settlement," Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul.

Eighth Place Individual Exhibit: *Cam Clark*, "Migration and the Rondo Neighborhood," Anthony Middle School, Minneapolis.

SENIOR DIVISION

Second Place Group Exhibit: *Hilary Lundquist* and *Caitlin Reid*, "Japanese Language Schools," South High School, Minneapolis.

Fifth Place Group Performance: *Emily Gunyou*, *Nathan Keepers*, *Kathryn Parker* and *Rachel Widen*, "Migration of Jazz to Minneapolis," South High School, Minneapolis.

Seventh Place Group Exhibit: *Dan Salzer* and *Jesse Atkins*, "John Ireland and Catholic Settlement," Totino-Grace, Fridley; this project also received the **Senior Outstanding State Award** for Minnesota.

Eighth Place Individual Exhibit: *Jesse Dalbacka*, "The Trans-Art-Lantic Movement," Marshall School, Duluth.

"Mr. History" Honored

In addition to these student honors, *Tim Hoogland*, Minnesota's state History Day coordinator, received the **Outstanding History Educator Award** from National History Day and The History Channel.



Minnesota Historical Society; photo by Sara Bendure

First row, left to right: Mark Thomson, Nate Otten, Hilary Lundquist; second row, left to right: Jesse Atkins, Caitlin Reid.

National History Day 1998 in Minnesota was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota Department of History. Major funding was provided by Star Tribune, Cargill, US WEST and the George W. Neilson Foundation. Additional funding was provided by NSP and H. B. Fuller Company Foundation.



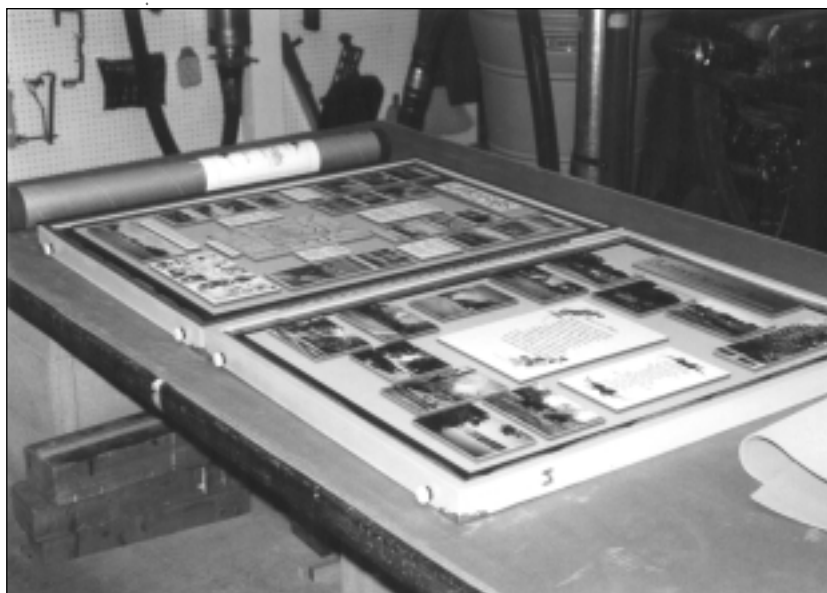
New Exhibit on History of Minnesota Work Installed by CHARNELL on World Wide Web

The Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center (MLIC) commissioned CHARNELL of Little Falls to develop an exhibit titled *The World of Work—History of Work in Minnesota* and install it on the World Wide Web. Intended as an introduction to the subject of work from prehistoric times to the present for students, teachers and libraries, the exhibit is now available at www.brainerd.net/~mlic/ It is stimulating and highly user-friendly, and will be of

interest to the general public as well. There are 21 sections, beginning with “Making a Living,” and ending with “Modern Technology” and “The Role of the Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center.” The topics include individual and family life (e.g. “Who Are the Workers?”); kinds of work (e.g. “Flour Millers” and “Meatpackers”); social and political issues (e.g. “Good Times and Bad Times” and “Protests and Reforms”); and general historical significance of labor (e.g. “Transitions from Producer to Consumer”). The web site allows the entire text of the exhibit to be printed in one document for reference. Images are subject to strict copyright restrictions.

CHARNELL is a multi-purpose exhibit, museum and program consultant firm, owned and managed by Chuck Stone, former site manager at the Charles Lindbergh House Historic Site, and his wife, Nellie. They did the research and development of the exhibit, heavily relying on resources from the Minnesota Historical Society and Chris Welch, an independent consultant, designed and developed the web site. CHARNELL also publishes a *Guide to Affordable Exhibits and Programs*, and provides numerous special aids and services such as brochures, instruction in grant writing and getting, and fabrication of exhibit displays (see photo left).

For further information, contact MLIC at 1-800-366-5426, or e-mail: labor.interp@state.mn.us; and CHARNELL at (320) 632-3388, or e-mail: charnell@brainerd.net.

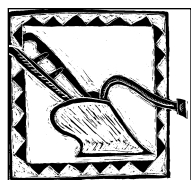


Courtesy CHARNELL; photo by Chuck Stone

Above is the assembled exhibit for the Little Falls Chamber of Commerce. The panels are 24" x 32", attached to the padding in each section with velcro, and can be displayed as one- or two-sided panels. The tube contains the corner form materials, which are slipped into slots so the exhibit will stand erect.

Conservation Magazine from Getty Institute

Among the articles in the Vol. 13, No. 1, 1998 issue of *Conservation, the Newsletter of the Getty Conservation Institute*, are two that might be of interest to local historical organizations. “Illicit Trade in Cultural Objects” discusses the history and prospects of progress in international efforts to control the pillage and trade of cultural objects. “Fighting the Theft of Art” describes how an internationally recognized computer database of stolen works of art can sometimes lead to the recovery of stolen objects. The magazine is distributed free of charge three times per year “to professionals in conservation and related fields and to members of the public concerned about conservation.” Back issues are on the Institute’s web page: www.getty.edu/gci. Write: The Getty Conservation Institute, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1684; (310) 440-7325; fax (310) 440-7702.





Accessibility in Museums: Smithsonian Recommendations

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., has issued guidelines for assuring that its exhibits are accessible to all persons. While the guidelines are too extensive and comprehensive to include in their entirety, a few selected items might serve as a brief review of the issues and an introduction to them.

The introduction begins with a useful definition: "Exhibitions are complex presentations that convey concepts, showcase objects and excite the senses." It continues with reasons for paying close attention to issues related to accessibility, pointing out that the learning styles of museum visitors differ in every conceivable way. Thus, "accessible design must be a part of this new philosophy of exhibition development because people with disabilities are a part of museums' diverse audience."

Making exhibitions accessible will serve most directly people with disabilities and older adults, but it will benefit every kind of audience as well. "Accessibility begins as a mandate to serve people who have been discriminated against for centuries; it prevails as a tool that serves diverse audiences for a lifetime." The guidelines offer a set of design tools that have evolved as staff throughout the Smithsonian have sought to resolve accessibility-related problems.

The following discussion is from the appendix to the guidelines.

Language

References to people with disabilities should reflect sensitivity to the following considerations:

People with disabilities—

- are not *suffering from, victims of, or afflicted by* their disabilities;
- are not *overcoming their disabilities* so much as the barriers that the rest of society puts in front of them;
- want to be portrayed as individuals who find alternative means to accomplish everyday activities;
- do not have *special needs*, but do require *certain accommodations* to make the best use of museums—programs, exhibitions and facilities;
- make up the largest so-called minority group in the United States: "We are talking about 43 million (and growing) of us, not them."

The table below lists commonly used and misused terms.



Yes	No
People with disabilities	the handicapped, the disabled
People who are deaf or hard of hearing	the hearing impaired, deaf-mute
People who are blind or have low vision	the blind, the sightless
Wheelchair users	those confined to wheelchairs, wheelchair-bound
People with mobility impairments	the crippled, the lame
People with cognitive disabilities	the retarded, the mentally deficient
People with mental illness	schizophrenic (as a generic), the insane
People with learning disabilities	dyslexic (as a generic), the retarded

The guidelines are available from the Smithsonian Accessibility Program, Arts and Industries Building, Room 1239 MRC 426, Washington, D.C. 20560; (202) 786-2942; e-mail: majewski@si.edu. The Smithsonian's home page is www.si.edu; to reach the accessibility guide, go to www.si.edu/resource/tours/access/.

In a future issue of the *Interpreter*, we will provide additional accessibility-related information and a discussion of some of the more widely used accessibility symbols.



Recognizing Volunteers by Newsletter Coverage at Olmsted County Historical Society

The June 1998 issue of the *OlmSted HiStorian*, the newsletter of the Olmsted County Historical Society (OCHS), makes the point of the importance of volunteers with its headline: VOLUNTEERS TRIUMPHANT! The front page article, "Historical Society Salutes Volunteer Contribution," continues the theme by acknowledging the "talent, enthusiasm and energized excitement about involvement in historic preservation and interpretation." A list of OCHS volunteers follows, requiring the entire second page and one-quarter of the third; a note at the end of the list apologizes in advance for leaving anyone's name off the list, and promises to include all omitted names in the next issue.

Articles throughout the issue discuss the many ways volunteers are involved in the work of OCHS. Here are some examples: "How Is It That Mayowood's Gardens Are So Lovely?" (because all the work is done by volunteers); "Volunteers and 3rd Graders—A Perfect Blend!" (volunteers from the

Master Gardeners of Olmsted County helped instruct 1,200 third-grade students who came to the OCHS History Center); and "Cutshall Collection" and "Probate Project" describe the work of volunteers in these two OCHS projects as "instrumental to the success of the projects."

Two other roles played by volunteers at OCHS should be noted here. A student from Mayo High School volunteered to help with the layout of this issue of the OCHS newsletter, and another article describes the work of the 15 members of the board of directors, all volunteers. For further information, call OCHS at (507) 282-9447.

As these examples show, it is important that volunteers receive appropriate recognition for their work in historical organizations, libraries and museums. In future issues of the *Interpreter* we will carry articles about different ways this responsibility is carried out. We invite your suggestions and comments.



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Readers are invited to submit information for publication. To be considered, items must reach the editor by the 25th of the month, two months before publication (example: the deadline for the October issue is August 25). Send to: **Interpreter** Editor, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. For more information call (651) 296-5434 or (651) 296-8196.

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