



1912 Mamie & Poly Wiggins Skiing

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
20 Pacific Street S.W. / P.O. Box 215  
Aitkin, MN 56431

We are located just 2 blocks south of the stoplights in downtown Aitkin, south of the railroad tracks and west of highway 169 on Pacific Street.

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Web Site: [www.aitkincohs.org](http://www.aitkincohs.org)

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015**

### **Annual Cookie Walk/Open House**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The museum opens at 9am and closes at 4pm. Admission is free on this day. Hot apple cider, coffee and cookies are served for our guest's enjoyment. Our Annual Cookie walk takes place during our Annual Open house. Doors open for this event at 9:30am and run until cookies are gone. Usually all cookies have been sold by noon.

### **Annual Raffle Drawing**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Our Annual Raffle drawing takes place at 2pm. This year's drawing will include 108 prizes donated by local businesses and members. A list of raffle prizes is included in this newsletter.

### **Annual Dinner/Meeting**

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Our Annual Meeting will take place at the 40-Club bar-n-grill. The cost this year will be \$15.00 per person.

## **MUSEUM HOURS**

### **June thru August**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday &  
Saturday 10am to 4pm

### **September thru May**

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday  
10am to 4pm

THE PRESERVATION OF  
OUR HERITAGE  
DEPENDS ON **YOU**

**Editor:**

**Gregory Leach**  
**Administrator, Aitkin**  
**County Historical Society**

## **AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Business Members – 34, Individual Members – 31, Senior Members – 131, Family Members – 273, Life Members – 16, Perpetuity Members – 2

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 487 (NEW GOAL IS 500)**

### **BUSINESS MEMBERS**

Aicota Health Care Center  
Aitkin Auto Body  
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce  
Aitkin County Abstract Co.  
Aitkin Family Chiropractic  
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts  
Aitkin Independent Age  
Aitkin Iron Works  
Aitkin Lodge #164 IOOF  
Aitkin Motor Company  
American Legion Post 86  
Arvidson Tax & Accounting  
Bremer Bank  
D.Q. Grill & Chill  
Eyecare Center of Aitkin &  
McGregor  
Garrison Disposal  
Gobles Sewer Service  
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating  
Hasskamp Brox. Well Drilling  
Hudrlik Carpet & Tile  
Jim Blakesley Enterprises  
K & J C-Stores, Inc.  
KKIN-KEZZ Radio  
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating  
Members Coop Credit Union  
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
Neighborhood National Bank  
Northern Air Plumbing & Heat  
Paulbecks County Market  
R & K Cabinets  
Schwebel, Goetz, Sieben  
Security State Bank  
Sunset Bay Resort  
The Tire Barn, Inc.  
Woods & Shores Real Estate

**Please Support Our  
Business Members!  
They Support us.**

### **Supporting Townships**

**Farm Island Township  
Beaver Township  
Lakeside Township  
Libby Township  
Pliny Township  
Macville Township  
Nordland Township  
Idun Township**

**Supported by:  
Aitkin County**

### **Memorials Received**

#### **During 2015 For:**

Allan Westerlund  
Judith Arnold  
Donnie Hanson  
Betty Stromdahl  
Robert Borg  
Calvin Davies  
Harvey Fairchild  
Irene Betley  
Glen Olesen  
Georgiana Wold  
Lyndon Hasskamp  
Clarence Hedlund  
C.J. Meacham  
Lynn Ackerman  
Leona Wagner  
Albin Pearson

**Buy a membership for  
a family member,  
neighbor or friend.  
Help ACHS reach its  
goal of 500 members.**

### **Board Members**

Darlene Maciej – Pres.  
Cheryl Meld – VP  
Colleen Bremner – Sec.  
Susan Benson  
Carol Bailey  
Ron Kemmett  
John Hendrickson  
Bob Lake  
Lorraine Liljenquest  
Joel Hyytinen  
Allen Ladd Hakes  
Russell Peterson  
Mark Wedel – Co. Com.  
Sherry Arvidson – Acct.  
Greg Leach – Admin.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Robert Skogman  
Judy Sutherlund  
Rick & Brenda Bandow  
Donna Appel  
Mardelle DeCamp  
MyRene Magdsick  
James Peterson

### **Members Lost**

#### **During 2015**

**John Young**  
8/5/1929 to 2/10/2015

**Shirley Meyer**  
6/14/1927 to 1/11/2015

**AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER**  
**SUMMER 2015 – Volume 20, Issue 3**

The seventh summer as your Administrator is quickly disappearing and fall is looming on the horizon. The County Fair has come and gone. This year we utilized nine glass display cases to show case Aitkin County Fair history, Aitkin Fire Department, Warren William (movie actor from Aitkin), McGregor, Tamarack, Palisade, McGrath, Jacobson, and Iron Hub. On the walls we displayed Country schools of Aitkin County and Glory. All the displays were well received. Next year we hope to use those same display cases to show case Hill City, Aitkin and various other towns in Aitkin County such as: Bain, Swatara, Red Top, Ball Bluff, Arthyde, Kimberly and Shovel Lake. Or maybe displays about the River boats, Resorts or logging. These decisions I will leave for the new Administrator.

Work on our Annual Garage sale started on Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> with Sentence to serve helping to move all of our tables and some of the merchandise for our sale for 5 ½ hours. Volunteers started to unpack and sort. On Wednesday the volunteers spent the day moving the rest of the merchandise to the fairgrounds and continue to unpack and sort. Actually the volunteers spent the entire year collecting merchandise for our sale. By the end of Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, almost everything was unpacked and sorted and the pricing had begun. Only 15,000 items to mark or at least it seems like that much stuff. This is our largest fund raiser of the year but, it also requires the most volunteer hours. When counting up the hours of collecting, storing, moving, unpacking, organizing and pricing the merchandise and add in the hours running the sale and cleaning up after the sale we will have spent around 1500 hours. But our sale is not just that, it has become an event. Last year over 1800 people attended and bought a lot of items for 25 cents and up. Our sale has items from the kitchen sink to beanie babies, furniture to books, Linens to tools and jewelry to baby items. You will not find clothes at our sale or TV's. You will find a huge selection of books, cassette tapes, and Jig saw puzzles. The amount of merchandise has grown so much that we now fill two of the large buildings at the fairgrounds. This year the riverboat parade was moved from 4pm on Saturday to 11:30am. How that will affect our sale on Saturday is yet to be determined.

This year we collected 108 prizes for our Annual Raffle drawing which will take place at 2pm on the first Saturday in December. Our hope is to sell 3000 tickets this year. We currently have around 2000 tickets sold and usually sell around 600 at our garage sale. After our garage sale we have four months to sell tickets until the drawing. Check out the list of prizes for this year's drawing found in this newsletter. All winners will be notified by December 9<sup>th</sup> and have 30 days to pick up their prize. If prize not picked up we will redraw and give the prize to someone else.

Research continues on the Country Schools of Aitkin County book. We are still looking for photographs and information on several of the schools. Do you have photos or information of one of Aitkin Counties Country schools? Please share those with us now. We want to make this a complete history of our country schools.

**Greg Leach (Administrator)**

# **2015 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST**

## **Drawing on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

1. Night Stay at Grand Casino Mille Lacs + \$25.00 Dinner Coupon – (\$125.00 value)
2. Framed picture donated by **Aitkin Furniture** – (\$76.00 value)
3. 250 Full Color Business Cards from **Tidholm Productions** – (\$69.95 value)
4. 2013 American Eagle coin donated by **Neighborhood National Bank** – (\$50.00 value)
5. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate
6. \$50.00 **Shopko** Gift Card
7. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate
8. Honeywell FocusPRO 5000 Thermostat from **Gravelle Plumbing** - (\$50.00 value)
9. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate
10. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate
11. Bird Feeder donated by **Hyytinen Hardware** – (\$39.99 value)
12. One Year Subscription donated by **Aitkin Independent Age** (\$39.00 value)
13. **Duane Photography** gift certificate – (\$39.00 value)
14. Oil Change from **Brandl Motors** – (\$35.50 value)
15. Oil Change from **Brandl Motors** – (\$35.50 value)
16. Grill Set from **Pine Insurance** – (\$35.00 value)
17. Oil Change from **Cuyuna Country Auto** – (\$35.00 value)
18. Fish Wind chime from **Aitkin Pet & Farm** – (\$35.00 value)
19. BRK Carbon Monoxide Alarm donated by **Northern Air** – (\$35.00 value)
20. First Aid Kit donated by **Riverwood Health Care** – (\$30.00 value)
21. First Alert Fire & Smoke Alarm donated by **Northern Air** – (\$30.00 value)
22. **Farm Island Repair** – Blue Collared T-shirt – (\$26.00 value)
23. **Farm Island Repair** – Blue Collared T-shirt – (\$26.00 value)
24. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to the **Rialto Theatre**
25. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **Roadside Restaurant**
26. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **The Office Shop**
27. 12-Golf balls donated by **Security State Insurance** – (\$25.00 value)
28. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **Birchwood Café**
29. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Paulbeck's donated by **Woods & Shores Real Estate**
30. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to **Sew Much & More**
31. Folding Chair donated by **Security State Bank** – (\$25.00 value)
32. **Freedom** Gift Certificate for \$25.00
33. **Hometown Building Supply** gift certificate for \$25.00
34. Necklace donated by **Jessica's Treasure Chest** – (\$25.00 value)
35. T-shirt & Gift Certificate donated by **Shirts Plus** – (\$24.95 value)
36. Dairy Queen Gift Certificate for one 8" D.Q. Cake – (\$20.99 value)
37. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society** – (\$20.00 value)
38. \$20.00 Gift Certificate from **Aitkin Flowers**
39. \$20.00 Gift Certificate for **The Green House**
40. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society** – (\$20.00 value)
41. \$20.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Paulbeck's**
42. **40 Club** Gift Certificate for \$20.00
43. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society** - (\$20.00 value)
44. \$20.00 Gift Certificate to **Aitkin Lanes**
45. \$20.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Paulbeck's**
46. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society** - (\$20.00 value)
47. **Farm Island Repair** – camo t-shirt – (\$20.00 value)
48. Baseball cap donated by **Aitkin Glass** – (\$20.00 value)
49. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society** - (\$20.00 value)
50. Carpet cleaning supplies donated by **Hudrlik Carpet** – (\$20.00 value)
51. 3-in-1 John Deere Power Tools – (\$19.99 value)
52. Framed Swan picture donated by **Unclaimed Freight North** – (\$19.98 value)
53. Barns of Aitkin County donated by **ACHS** – (\$19.95 value)
54. The Money Hungry Hound donated by **Kathy's Kitchen** – (\$19.95 value)
55. Cardinal Wind Chime donated by **Crossroads In Time** – (\$19.95 value)

56. Barns of Aitkin County donated by ACHS – (\$19.95 value)
57. **Coombs Cuts** Gift Certificate – (\$18.00 value)
58. Tire Rotation donated by the **Tire Barn** (\$18.00 value)
59. Mag Rain Gauge donated by Midwest Machine – (\$17.99 value)
60. 2 Rounds of mini-golf at Whistling Wolf in Crosslake – (\$16.00 value)
61. **40 Club** Gift Certificate for \$15.00
62. Folding Chair donated by Greg Leach – (\$15.00 value)
63. Set of 4 Frosted Glasses donated by Members Coop Credit Union – (\$15.00 value)
64. \$15.00 off retail gift certificate from **Lorrie's Hair Studio**
65. **Farm Island Repair** – T-shirt – (\$15.00 value)
66. **Farm Island Store** – 14" two topping Pizza – (\$13.99)
67. **Farm Island Store** – 14" two topping Pizza – (\$13.99)
68. **Bar-B-Q** set donated by Kay Olson – (\$10.00 value)
69. Mini Maglite donated by **Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative** (\$10.00 value)
70. Forestedge Rhubarb Blend Wine donated by Aitkin Municipal – (\$10.00 value)
71. \$10.00 Gift Certificate for **Auli Z's & the Bippity Bop Ice Cream Shop**
72. **Rasley Oil Company** Gift Certificate for \$10.00
73. **Bginagins Used Clothing Store** gift certificate for \$10.00
74. **Cedarbrook Lumber Company** gift certificate for \$10.00
75. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Bills Sportsman's Service**
76. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Gramma's Pantry**
77. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by the **Beanery**
78. Forestedge Rhubarb Blend Wine donated by **Aitkin Municipal** – (\$10.00 value)
79. \$10.00 Gift Certificate to **Rasley Oil Company**
80. \$10.00 Gift Certificate to **Bginagins Used Clothing Store**
81. Umbrella with light donated by Greg Leach – (\$8.00 value)
82. Umbrella from **Pine Insurance** – (\$8.00 value)
83. Bottle of VENDANGE White Zinfandel donated by **The Landing** – (\$8.00 value)
84. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – (\$7.50 value)
85. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal - (\$7.50 value)
86. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach** – (\$7.50 value)
87. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – (\$7.50 value)
88. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – (\$7.50 value)
89. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach** – (\$7.50 value)
90. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – (\$7.50 value)
91. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – (\$7.50 value)
92. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach** – (\$7.50 value)
93. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – (\$7.50 value)
94. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – (\$7.50 value)
95. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach** – (\$7.50 value)
96. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – (\$7.50 value)
97. **State Farm Insurance** – Coffee Mug – (\$7.00 value)
98. **State Farm Insurance** – Coffee Mug – (\$7.00 value)
99. **Midwest Machine** baseball cap – (\$6.95 value)
100. Goodyear racing baseball cap – (\$6.95 value)
101. **Midwest Machine** baseball cap – (\$6.95 value)
102. Steak & Chop Marinade donated by **Kathy's Kitchen** – (\$6.95 value)
103. **Midwest Machine** baseball cap – (\$6.95 value)
104. Case of Pepsi donated by **EZ Stop** – (\$5.69 value)
105. Case of Mountain Dew donated by **EZ Stop** – (\$5.69 value)
106. 2015 Road Atlas from **State Farm Insurance** – (\$5.00 value)
107. \$5.00 Gift Certificate from **Aitkin Secondhand**
108. 2015 Road Atlas from **State Farm Insurance** – (\$5.00 value)

## Raffle Drawing December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

**Items Donated**

**Folgers Coffee**

Everett Davies  
Kay Olson  
John Hendrickson  
Lorraine Liljenquest  
John Hendrickson

**Candy / water**

Greg Leach  
Ron Fitch  
Marcia Thurmer

**Lime-a-way & Windex**

Anne Marcotte

**Four Display cases**

Jessica's Treasure Chest

**Reams of Copy Paper**

Laura Thornbloom  
Anne Marcotte

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

**Diana Princess of Wales**

**BUGS! - - - - - I hate ‘em!**

Sand flies, Deer flies, ‘skeeters, ticks  
It doesn’t matter, take your pick;  
They bite me, they sting me, they drive me insane,  
I slap ‘em, I spray ‘em, I cuss all in vain,  
I smear bites with ointments, liquids and paste,  
I search for remedies flat on my face,  
I’m a whimpering, cowering, miserable wreck,  
Unnerved and scratching from toe to neck,  
I can’t relax, forget ‘em and shrug,  
I hate to admit that I’m licked by a bug!!!!!!!!!!!!

**By Dorothy Harley**

**“The following donations have been received during the second quarter of 2015”**

**Donations \$300.00 & up**

Aitkin Lions Club

**Donations \$100.00 & up**

Carol Munson  
Alice Fageroos  
Shirley Davies

**Donations \$50.00 & up**

Lual Leistiko

**Donations \$20.00 & up**

Paul & Luanne Beyreuther  
Aitkin Women of Today  
Class of 1950  
Sherry Arvidson

**Numerous office supplies were pulled out of the items that were donated for our garage sale such as: copy paper, folders, note cards, tablets, paper clips, staples, pens, and envelopes. The value that these items has saved the museum over \$100.00.**

**County Commissioner Lunch**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual lunch for the County Commissioners and Administrator. The purpose of this lunch is to share with the commissioners what changes have occurred at the museum during the past year and let them see the new displays. We also try to share with them our plans for the coming year.

The lunch included a Tater-Tot hot dish, three salads, rolls, and two dessert bars. A variety of sodas, coffee and water were available.

Everyone seemed to be happy with the changes to the museum and everything we are doing. They seemed to enjoy the lunch which was provided by our board members.

**Door Prize Winners at County Fair**

1. Two rounds of golf at Cross Woods golf course –  
**Matt Hurd**
2. \$20.00 gift certificate to the Office Shop-  
**Raylene Davis**
3. “Barns of Aitkin County” Book –  
**Kylie Cooper**
4. Two Free Sandwiches from McDonalds –  
**Marlys Morris**
5. Shiperio – The game of golf card game –  
**Pat Johnson**
6. 12 – pack of Pepsi – **Roger Johnson**

## SECOND QUARTER ACCESSION LIST

4/1/2015	15.21	Cuyuna Heritage Network	Aitkin Soo Line Depot Post Cards, 100th Anniversary Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4/4/2015	15.22	Kit Julum	Jean Hodgedon Kelve Photos & Articles, 20 - Aitkin Hi-Lites, Bell Tower & Bell from Chute School
4/10/2015	15.23	Cherie Holm	
4/10/2015	15.24	Unknown	Hair Pins & Combs
4/22/2015	15.25	Jan Ziske	bag - Ziske Wild Rice
4/22/2015	15.26	Janet Miller	Hakes Creamery Jar & photos
4/22/2015	15.27	Bev Mensing	School Record Books
4/29/2015	15.28	Monica Westerlund	Book - My Life - Donald Carlson - Remembering When
4/29/2015	15.29	Connie Messer	Book - Jacques
4/29/2015	15.30.	Pam Landgren	1st National Bank Plaque, Land O Lakes Turkey bag
5/1/2015	15.31	Nordland Township	Minute Book - 1996-2006
5/1/2015	15.32	Sally Bowser	Sewing Machine
5/1/2015	15.33	Val Toivonin	School teacher contracts
5/1/2015	15.34	Gerald Hedberg	IOOF Information
5/6/2015	15.35	Jean Pitt	Old 4H & County Homemaker info.
5/6/2015	15.36	Barb Lundquist	Aitkin F.D. photos, helmets, alarm signals & Truck
5/6/2015	15.37	Bernis Geving	Justice of the Peace Ledgers from McGregor 1960's political Scrapbook, Hills Drive in Visor, Sears Café
5/6/2015	15.38	Noel Bailey	Matchbooks, Misc. postcards, postage stamps, adv. Items
5/13/2015	15.39	Bryan McGinnis	Photo - school - Lakeview by McGregor
5/13/2015	15.40.	J.T. Kullhem	Photo - school - Lakeview by McGregor
5/15/2015	15.41	JoAnn Getsinger	1920's Wedding Dress Political Card - 1914 Boekenoogen - Candidate for Sheriff
5/16/2015	15.42	Chris Johnson	
5/16/2015	15.43	Peggy Connally Itasca Co. Historical Society	1832 Spinning Wheel from Norway
5/20/2015	15.44	Society	Photo - Early Waldeck, Aitkin Co. Travel Map
5/20/2015	15.45	Robert Kolodji	Photo - 1920 Log Home in Verdon Township
5/20/2015	15.46	Marge Anderson	Photo - 1901 Football, Record - Aitkin H.S. Choir 196?
5/20/2015	15.47	Karin Butler	District #94 School Census report
6/9/2015	15.48	Merle Peterson	Projector
6/9/2015	15.49	Brian Napstad	framed Mississippi Headwater record
6/9/2015	15.50.	Unknown	Photo - Veteransville school
6/9/2015	15.51	Barbara Monnier	School photos, 1871-1971 Aitkin Book
6/9/2015	15.52	Connie Messer	Sugar sack, booklet - "Practical Helps"
6/9/2015	15.53	Jan Moriarty	Misc. Military Souvenirs, Yearbook & Napkins
6/13/2015	15.54	La Vonne Blount	photo - flood
6/19/2015	15.55	Sue Doering	2 - Quilts
6/19/2015	15.56	Diann Hendrickson	Misc. Paper Items
6/19/2015	15.57	Cathi Webster	Misc. books for our library



# Old Age Is' Hell

Author Unknown

The body gets stiff; you get cramps in your  
Legs:

Corns on your feet as big as hens' eggs:  
Gas on the stomach, elimination is poor:  
Take Ex-Lax at night, but then you're not sure:  
You soak in the tub or the body will smell...  
It's just like I said. "OLD AGE IS HELL."

The teeth start decaying. Eyesight is poor:  
Hair falling out, all over the floor:

Sex life is shot – it's a thing of the past...  
Don't kid yourself, friends, even that doesn't  
last.

Can't go to parties, don't dance anymore;  
Just putting it mildly, you're a hell of a bore.  
Liquor is out, can't take the chance.

The bladder is weak, might pee in your pants.  
Nothing to plan for, nothing to expect;  
Just the mailman bringing your security check.  
Now be sure your affairs are in order, your  
will made right.

Or on the way to the grave, there'll be a hell of  
a fight.

So if by this year, you feel fairly well. Thank



The photo above was one of the displays featured at the Aitkin County Fair. Eleven displays showcased different areas and subjects pertaining to Aitkin County. The display featured photos and information about the Aitkin Fire Department. Other fair displays shown below.





Vintage car club stopped by the museum on Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Not normally open on Sundays, they called ahead and made arrangements to tour our facility. Everett and Shirley Davies came in and helped me with the tour. Coffee, Lemonade & cookies were served. Eight cars made the trip. (Stanley Steamer, Ford, 1906 REO, Maxwell, 1910 Buick, Cadillac and a Hudson) It was fun to see the Stanley Steamer.



The Aitkin Armory, a historic building of brick, is being turned into an assisted living facility and the entire building will be stucco on the outside. When that happens, the 90+ year old landmark of Aitkin will be gone. It might have been cheaper to tear down the building and build a new one. However, it was decided to save the building and rebuild the inside. With all the workmen at the sight we have taken a hit on the number of people visiting the museum this summer.

### Garage Sale Numbers are In

The Annual Garage Sale is over and a new sales record was set. This year we had sales of \$10,918.00 which crushed last year's sales of \$9300.00. Our sales have gotten better every year since we broke \$4000.00 in 2009. Concern over the move of the parade time from 4pm to 11:30am turned out to be unfounded. There were around 40 people shopping during the parade. Our count of people attending once again surpassed 1800. DAV came on Monday after the sale and picked up some of the remaining merchandise.

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone who donated items for our sale. I want to thank Mike Paulbeck for loaning us six grocery carts to help with the sorting process. I want to thank Aitkin County Growth for providing us with some space to put collected merchandise before the sale. A big thank you goes out to Sentence to Serve (STS) for helping to haul our tables and merchandise from storage to the fairgrounds and helping to clean up after the sale. And a **great big thank you** goes out to all the volunteers that spent 100's of hours collecting, hauling, sorting, marking working and cleaning up after our sale. Without all of the hard work of our volunteers this event would not be possible.

## **GEARING UP FOR 2016**

1. The search for my replacement will start in the beginning part of 2016.
2. Some interesting changes were discussed for next year's garage sale.
3. New fundraisers will be discussed and possibly put into play.
4. Our new book "Country Schools of Aitkin County" will possibly be published.
5. The purchase of the land under our buildings might become a reality.
6. Our new "Historical Map of Aitkin County" will be distributed around the County to help tourism and share our counties rich history.
7. Younger volunteers must be nurtured and taught how the museum works.
8. Promotion of the museum must be continued.
9. More model trains must be located for our display. (donated or on loan) Twelve more needed to fill our display cases. Any size will be accepted.
10. Continue to research for future books on Resorts, Churches, and Riverboats.
11. Develop displays for the County fair about different areas of Aitkin County.
12. Replace current displays about Land-o-lakes and musical instruments with different displays.
13. Add more content to our web site.
14. Promote our research center located in the Depot building.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### **Volunteers are needed to help with the following at the museum.**

1. Staff the front desk to answer the phone and welcome guests to the museum.
2. Learn how to accession in photographs.
3. Learn how to accession in information and artifacts (Care and preservation)
4. Write thank you letters. (For items received as donations to the museum)
5. Write grants for things needed at the museum.
6. To develop new displays in the museum. (Interactive children's displays)
7. Create new displays for next year's County Fair. (Hill City, Logging, Riverboats, etc.)
8. Research old newspapers for information about Churches, Resorts and Riverboats.

As my time as your Administrator runs down I find myself evaluating my performance. Is the Historical Society a better place then how I found it? **I believe so.** How can I make it easier for the person that takes my job next to come in running? **(Administrator time table book)** Have I been able to accomplish everything I had hoped to? **No. I had hoped to get the land purchased under the Depot and find a Caboose to put on display.** Although I still have eight months to accomplish those things. The numbers of displays have been increased. Books have been published and others are being researched. A research room for visitors has been established, new microfilm reader added and many rolls of microfilm. Two of our fundraisers have more than doubled in the amount raised. All-in-all I believe that I will have left the society better off.