

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

Fall 2010

Over 30 Quilts are draped throughout the museum. Quilts can be found in glass cases, draped from the ceiling, hanging on walls and part of our existing displays. These quilts are all antique and vintage. This display will be up only through the month of October. So don't miss out on seeing this incredible display. One of our quilts is 153 years old; another is made out of corset material. There are many unique and colorful quilts included in this display.

We are still looking for more perennials to plant around the Museum buildings. If you are going to split some of your perennials, consider donating some to the museum. Help make the grounds around the Depot Museum more beautiful. Please consider donating some plants. The Lakes & Woods Garden Club has purchased 2 – half barrel planters and planted them with annuals. A group has removed some overgrown bushes and will trim others this fall. Big thanks go out to all those volunteers.

Remember that our Raffle drawing will be held on December 4th at 2pm at the Museum. (21 prizes) Our Early-bird drawing was held August 2nd on KKin radio. (8 prizes) Make sure to check out our list of prizes located in this newsletter. Last year we were still receiving prizes for our raffle two weeks before our drawing. So it is very possible that our list will grow. Do not forget to get your tickets and money into the Museum before our drawing.

This year's County Fair display was to honor and appreciate our Veterans. The Legion loaned us some banners and a 1917 WWI recruitment scale to add to our display. 1434 people signed our guest register, up from 1339 last year. We sold 13 Seasons In Time, 18 – Train whistles, 10 – Aitkin County Naturally books, and 12 assorted Minnesota Remembrance books. 148 Raffle tickets were also sold during the fair. I would like to thank the following volunteers for helping to man our building. Cheryl Meld, Alice Fageroos, Larry Nelson, Jon & Nancy Jacobson, Ron & Jo White, Bill Stimac, Dave Benson, Doug & Mavis Olson, Florence Tarr, Sharon Cooper, Lorraine Liljenquest, Barb Gottsch, Marlene Kingsley, Chris & Elert Johnson, Mike Hill, Marion Gilmer. Visitors came from 18 different states which included: Wisconsin, Florida, Arizona, Texas, Kansas, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Dakota, Colorado, Utah, Montana, Oregon, Nebraska and Washington. Also a group from Toronto Canada visited our building.

Garage Sale is this week!!!! (Friday August 6th 9am – 4pm and Saturday August 7th 9am – 3pm). Sale is at the County Fair grounds in Aitkin. Come and find some bargains. If you can help at the sale contact the Depot museum at 927-3348 or stop by the Fair grounds.

I am still looking for help with the newsletter. Do you have a favorite family recipe you would like to share? Do you have a favorite story about something that happened to you while growing up in Aitkin County? Did you witness an event in Aitkin that you would like to tell about. Have you written a poem or short story that we could put in the newsletter? What would you like to see in the newsletter?

This newsletter is full of small articles pulled from the Aitkin Independent Age from the early 1900's.

Please send in your membership dues and return your raffle tickets for the December drawing'

Greg Leach - Administrator

Board of Directors: Bill Stimac (President), Don Niemi (Vice President), Cheryl Meld (Ex-Officio), Lorraine Liljenquist (Secretary), Alice Fageroos, Jon Jacobson, Mary Rea, Ruth Carlstrom, Alice Dotzler, Mark Wedel (County Commissioner), Sherry Arvidson (Accountant), Greg Leach (Administrator)

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Business Memberships – 27, Individual Memberships – 25, Senior Memberships – 99, Family Members – 117 Life Members – 17, Perpetuity - 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 287

MEMBERS LOST IN 2010

Lois Lyons – 2/10/1921 -1/10/2010
Beverly Just – 3/18/1930 – 1/27/2010
Bryan Bailey – 8/10/1933 – 5/19/2010
Betty Davies – 5/16/1929 - 6/19/2010

MEMORIAL'S RECEIVED IN 2010

\$50.00 in Memory of Helena Dotzler
\$200.00 in Memory of Vernon Miller
\$25.00 in Memory of Philip Virkus
from the AHS class of 1950
\$25.00 in Memory of Roger Wold
\$10.00 in Memory of Eleanor Gamradt
\$20.00 in Memory of Paul E. Filer
\$20.00 in Memory of Conrad Lueck
\$10.00 in Memory of Henry Janzen
\$10.00 in Memory of Bryan Bailey
\$25.00 in Memory of Betty Davies

Total Memorials - \$395.00

PROJECTS WORKING ON IN 2010

1. New energy efficient lighting in Depot.
2. Motion sensor lighting in building #2.
3. Dedicated outlets in office for computers.
4. New shelving in store area
5. Locating a Caboose for Depot yard.
6. Repairing log cabin, chinking and storms.
7. Planting more perennials around Depot
8. Move artifacts outside Depot
9. Make our web site more fun and informative.

Completed projects 2010

1. Removed metal bookcase and file cabinets in hallway and replaced with Macy Barrister type bookcases.
2. Repaired Depot overhang.
3. Ramp installed by main entrance.
4. Steps installed by back door.
5. Power lines removed west of building #2.
6. Depot trim scraped and painted by STS
7. Some perennials planted along building #2
8. Information Kiosks repaired
9. New flower pots in front of Museum
10. Overgrown shrubs removed by Depot

YOUR IDEAS NEEDED! The Historical Society is currently developing a list of **Short Term and Long Term goals**. What do you think the Museum needs to do to create more interest with the people from Aitkin County?

1. Should we start to offer appraisals at the museum every month of old artifacts?
2. Maybe, have local writers available at the Museum for book signings once a year?
3. Should we add onto building #2 for more display space?
4. We need more storage space for artifacts. Should we build a cold storage building that could also be used to store items for our Garage Sale?
5. We need your ideas for fund raisers!
6. Would a second printing of our Aitkin Heritage Book be a good idea?
7. Build more flower gardens around Museum.
8. Should we continue to look for a Caboose? Or Speeder?
9. How about a book about the Steamboat's that ran from Aitkin to Grand Rapids?

Call Greg at the Depot Museum with your ideas and thoughts. (927-3348)

OUR FILES ARE GROWING

Many of you have brought in photos and information about Aitkin County for our files and we want to thank you. We are now in the process of going through the papers from the early 1900's. All obituaries and articles about businesses and people are being copied and put in our files. If you would like to help with this project call Greg or stop at the Museum. It is our hope to eventually have complete obituary files. This project takes time because the entire paper needs to be read to find all of the obituaries. We have found some very interesting articles about the happenings in Aitkin County.

STORY OF INTELLIGENT CROWS

From the Aitkin Independent Age – 1905

Two crows lighted upon a frozen pond. One got a firm footing upon a cake of ice but the other pitched into some pulp snow, from which he found it impossible to extricate himself. Crow No. 1 went to the rescue, but being unable to help his partner out of the scrape, stopped, cocked his head on one side in deliberation, chatted for a moment with the prisoner and flew off. In about ten minutes he returned, accompanied by two other crows and the three, putting their heads together for a consultation, flew around their unfortunate comrade to examine his condition. Then, by joint effort, they raised him up and set him upon the ice. He was very cold and weak, but they brushed the snow from his limbs, rubbed against him until the warmth of their bodies thawed him out, and finally all departed together. – New York Press.

A TIMBER WOLF

From the Aitkin Independent Age – 1905

County Auditor Campbell has a pretty good story to tell the boys when they drop around these days, and by the way, our friend C.C. Kelly might find it of sufficient interest to weave into one of his famous wolf stories. It seems that a short time ago a man came in from one of the back districts with a wolf he had killed. He seemed to be aware of the fact that a bounty was paid for the destruction of these animals, and the place he first thought of as being the most likely for him to get it was the court house. He interviewed Auditor Campbell in regard to the matter and was directed by that gentleman to get a certificate from the town clerk of the town in which he lived. There being considerable difference in the bounty paid for male and female wolves, the question that prompted itself to the mind of the county auditor was whether it was a male or female wolf, and no sooner had it prompted itself than the question was asked. The answer was equally prompt: "He neder: he timber wolf." The auditor's perplexity soon gave way to a quiet smile. He will likely discover the sex when he receives the certificate of the town clerk above referred to.

Aitkin Independent Age – May 20, 1899

A saving husband said to his wife: "Susan don't spend a cent of my money with a merchant that don't advertise in the papers." The wife was a business woman and replied: "You old goose, I learned better than to go where I wasn't invited long ago. You would be an old bachelor now if you had not invited me to be your wife! Catch me going to the store without an invitation! I guess not."

SURPRISING FACTS FROM THE WILDROOTER JULY 1955

1. Foot trouble is six to ten times more common in women than in men.
2. About 500,000 pleasure boats are utilized by about 30,000,000 Americans
3. The average person has about 12,000 miles of blood vessels.
4. There are about 137,000 beauty shops in the U.S.
5. It's estimated that at least 75% of the dice in U.S. gambling houses is loaded or shaved.
6. The number of alcoholics in the U.S. has increased nearly 50% in 10 years.
7. Don't worry about brief memory lapses. Active minds stop to rest now and then.

2010 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

EARLY BIRD DRAWING – AUGUST 9th

9:00am on KKin Radio

1. Canterbury Inn (night stay, breakfast) (\$129.00 Value)
2. Rutgers Golf on the Lakes – (2) – 18 hole rounds of golf – (\$90.00 Value)
3. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) – 2 Tickets – (\$60.00 Value donated by KKin)
4. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) – 2 Tickets – (\$60.00 Value donated by KKin)
5. Shakespeare Complete Fishing Kit – (\$20.00 Value)
6. 2 – 22” White Doilies made by Laurel Lamke
7. Seasons In Time – pictorial history of Aitkin County (\$10.00 Value)
8. Aitkin County Naturally – (\$5.00 Value)

DECEMBER 4TH RAFFLE DRAWING

1. Eddy’s Resort Package (Fishing/night stay/meal) – (\$150.00 Value)
2. Ramada Mall of America (Night stay, breakfast for 2) – (\$110.00 Value)
3. Water Park of America (Bloomington) – 4 passes – (\$100.00 Value)
4. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – (\$60.00 value donated by KKin)
5. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – (\$60.00 value donated by KKin)
6. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – (\$60.00 value donated by KKin)
7. Afghan donated by the family of Marge Burr
8. Lutsen Cascade Lodge (Night stay with purchase of 2nd night) – (\$50.00 value)
9. Minnesota Twins 50 year commemorative 8” X 10” poster (\$50.00 value)
10. 46” White Doily made by Laurel Lamke
11. Minnesota Remembrance – 4 book set by Robert Harder (\$40.00 Value)
12. Wild Mountain Snow Tubing (Taylor’s falls) 2 – passes – (\$30.00 value)
13. 28” Red & White Doily made by Laurel Lamke
14. Rialto Theater – (\$25.00 gift certificate)
15. Cuyuna Bowling Lanes (Crosby) – (\$25.00 gift certificate)
16. Rialto Theater – (\$25.00 gift certificate)
17. 1 – 15” X 20” Cream Doily made by Laurel Lamke
18. Tradition Mini-golf (Deerwood) 2 – rounds – (\$15.00 value)
19. Seasons In Time – Pictorial history of Aitkin County (\$10.00 value)
20. Aitkin County Naturally – (\$5.00 Value)

Last year we received prizes for our raffle all the way up to the drawing. So I expect that we will receive more prizes to add to our list before our drawing in December.

We have been able to get some great prizes for our Raffle this year so get your tickets and money turned into the Depot!

RAILROAD SPEEDER FOUND

We are currently negotiating with the owner and it is our hope to have it on display sometime this fall. This will make a nice addition to our railroad display outside.

MONKEY BURIED WITH HONORS

Aitkin Independent Age – April 16, 1901

Simian. Knew How to Play Pinochle and Was a Pet of the Fireman.

The late Jimmy McKee, a monkey, taught by the members of Engine Company No. 3, Jersey City fire department, to take a hand in a game of pinochle, was buried with honors in a lot in Baldwin Avenue, New York city, the other day.

An enterprising clothier had a diminutive fireman's uniform made for the monkey, and he was laid out in a homemade pine coffin lined with satin. The body laid in state in the engine house for several hours. The firemen chipped in and bought violets to place on the coffin. The remains were conveyed to the Baldwin avenue lot in a wagon and interred without ceremony.

Jimmy McKee was presented to firemen by Robert Davis, boss of the democratic machine in Hudson County. He had learned to throw out cards and take in tricks so the firemen say when death cut short his promising career.

GIRL IS SOLD TO INDIANS

Aitkin Independent Age – March 19, 1901

A Strange Romance Revealed in Suit to Recover Her Father's Ranch

The curious romance of a white girl's life among Blackfeet Indians for 16 years has just come out through a suit brought by Alice Burke against Thomas Husson, a rich cattle rancher of eastern Oregon.

Alice Burke seeks to recover a ranch which once belonged to her father and is now valued at \$22,000. Burke and Husson started to cross the plains from Kansas to Oregon. Burke was detained and placed his girl, then two years old, with Mr. Husson.

Husson sold the child to a Blackfeet chief for 12 ponies and when Burke arrived in Oregon told him that Alice had died. Six years ago Burke died and the Hussons have been carrying on his ranch. Alice meanwhile grew up among the tribe in Idaho and when white people remarked on her fine hair the Indian said she was a half-breed whose father was dead. She gained the love of the son of Chief Fleetwing, who was sent to Carlisle.

While there Alice took lessons of the Indian agent's wife and kept pace with him in his studies. Finally the revelation of here white blood came when she was an applicant for a place in a big tribal ceremony. Then young Husson appeared and told her story, but offered her only \$100 for her father's property. She refused and investigated, and is now suing for the recovery of the land. When she gets it she is to marry John Fleetwing.

LIFE OF A CHINESE MAIDEN

Aitkin Independent Age – February 1, 1901

There is no Intermediate Period between Girlhood and Maturity

There is in China nothing of the sweet girlhood enjoyed in this country, in fact, one rarely sees girls in China.

They marry so young that they appear to spring from childhood to maturity without any intermediate stage of girlhood. There is no "blushing 15" or "sweet 16," no flirtations, no balls, no picnics, no billet doux. The child has not ceased to play with her doll before she has a baby to dandle.

The only joy of a woman's life is in dressing her hair. This is done with an elaborate artistic science curious to see. Their hair is invariably black and very long. It is drawn tightly from the face and stiffened with gum. It is then piled up in coils and wings and loops that stand alone without the aid of pads, roulets, pugs or hairpins.

There are no spinsters in China, except the nuns who dedicate their virginity to Buddha. These ladies shave their heads like priests and thus deprive themselves of the only Chinese sign of gender – the hair dressed a la teapot.

Aitkin Independent Age – April 23, 1901

The first mosquito of the season pounced on us last evening in an unsuspecting moment. We managed to capture him but was unable to hold anything but his bill which we still have in the back of our neck. As near as we can estimate he was about the size of an ordinary bat. Wonder if he was an advance guard and that the army that is to follow are all of his size?

WHEN A PAPOOSE DIES.

Aitkin Independent Age – February 1, 1901

Its Spirit Is Thought by the Mother to Frequent Its Places in Life.

The Indian mother, when her baby dies, does not believe that swift angels bear it into the sunshine of the spirit land: but she has a beautiful dream to solace her bereavement. The cruel empty places which everywhere meet the white mother's eye are unknown to her, for to her tender fancy a little spirit-child fills them.

It is not uncommon, says the author of Little Folks of Many Lands, to see in Mexico, or in Canada a pair of elaborate tiny moccasins above a little Indian grave. A mother's hand has hung them there, to help a baby's feet over the long, rough road that stretches between his father's wigwam and the Great Chief's happy hunting-grounds.

Indians believe that a baby's spirit cannot reach the spirit-land until the child, if living, would have been old enough and strong enough to walk. Until that time the little spirit hovers about its mother. And often it grows tired-oh, so very tired! – so the tender mother carries a papoose's cradle on her back that the baby spirit may ride and rest when it will.

The cradle is filled with the softest feathers-for spirits rest more comfortably upon feathers, hard things bruise them – and all papooses' old toys dangle from its hood, for dead papoose may like to play even as living papoose did.

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aitkin Independent Age
Members Coop Credit Union
Cummings Auto Sales
Enberg T.V.
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Peoples National Bank
Security State Bank
Paulbeck's County Market
KKIN-KEZZ radio
American Legion Post 86
Aitkin County Abstract Company
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce
Eyecare center of Aitkin & McGregor
Garrison Disposal
Hometown Building Supply
Aitkin Motor Company
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Hudrlik Carpet
Aitkin Lodge No. 164 IOOF
Arvidson Tax & Accounting
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Aitkin Iron Works, Inc.
Gobles Sewer Service
Aitkin Family Chiropractic Center
Great River Gardens

BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR EVENTS

Aitkin Independent Age
KKIN-KEZZ radio
Garrison Disposal
Rialto Movie Theater
Water Park of America – Bloomington
Ramada Mall of America
Wild Mountain – Taylor's Falls
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen
Ruttgers – Golf
Cuyuna Bowling Lanes - Crosby
American Leagion Post 86
Tradition Mini-Golf - Deerwood
Minnesota Twins
Mille Lacs Casino/Eddy's Resort
Canterbury Inn – Shakopee

You know you're a Minnesotan if....

...your idea of great landscaping is three statues of deer and that wooden woman bending over to pick flowers.
...you once killed a mosquito you almost took to the taxidermist.
...you have a mother who says "if you get killed, don't come running to me."

I AM LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIVERBOATS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DIFFERENT BOATS. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE SHARE IT WITH THE MUSEUM. GREG

Donations received during Second Quarter

The following is a list of items received as donations to the Aitkin County Historical Society Depot Museum from April 1st to June 30th.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Everett Davies | 16 – Framed Pictures |
| 2. James Kast | Family History, Art |
| 3. Doris Nordean | Lone Lake School photo, advertising, Vic Erickson Political card |
| 4. Bernard Leach | Toy Hoop, Barb wire display |
| 5. Marley Spute | Quilt – Glen Ladies Aid |
| 6. Marjoree Hair | Photo class of 1937, personal history |
| 7. James McKersie | Gum ball machine |
| 8. Sharon Cooper | Advertising – Burtrams thermometer |
| 9. Kit Julium | dress, 1941 graduation photo |
| 10. Florence Tarr | Crazy Quilt |
| 11. Jolene Christensen | tapes, photo |
| 12. JoAnn Hagman | photo – Doll Buggy Parade |
| 13. Kathy Pearson | Corn Husker |
| 14. Lorraine Liljenquest | 1966 A book |
| 15. Luanne Beyreuther | 1976, 1977, 1978 A books |
| 16. Bob Harder | 6 large aerial photographs |
| 17. Claudine Nordean | All Class Reunion |
| 18. John Hendrickson | MN Centennial train book, ice auger, friendship calendar |
| 19. Randy & Jody Olson | 39 – Old Phone Books |
| 20. Lavina Eklund | Glass Cords |
| 21. Darlene Maciej | 2 – photos, McGrath cookbook |
| 22. David & Sharon Peterson | Rolling pin, quilt frame |
| 23. Connie Messer | Cradle |
| 24. Elsie Paulson | Black dress |
| 25. Noel Bailey | Lawn Mower |
| 26. Louis Hasskamp | History of MN State Fair, 4 vol. History of Minnesota |
| 27. Jennie Hakes | Grandfathers Masonic Certificate |
| 28. Correen Anderson Newstrom | 1937 Class photo's |
| 29. Janet Miller | Photo's, Misc. paper items, McGregor photo's, |
| 30. Carol Mills | caned seat high chair, caned seat wheelchair |
| 31. Debra Janzen | Franz book, 1950 Flood |
| 32. Mike Hill | 2 – stools |
| 33. Laura Thornbloom | Bennetville teacher plan book, curtain stretcher, advertisement |
| 34. Betty Nelson | Glen Store Calendar's |
| 35. Jerry Hedberg | book – Mille Lacs Electric, misc. papers |
| 36. Lakes & Woods Garden Club | 2 – half barrel planter's plus plants |

As you can see, there has been a wide variety of items donated to the museum in the past three months. What do you have that could be donated or copied for our files. Help us preserve our Aitkin County history. Our files are missing pieces of our history. Do you have that missing piece? I would like to thank all of the people in the past year and a half who have brought in pieces of our history. Many of you have supplied us with family histories, photos, scrapbooks and artifacts. Looking for Family Histories, Business histories, information on schools and churches, cemetery records, photos of family or events in Aitkin County. Our files are only as good as the information given to us, so if you have information about Aitkin County please share it with us.

WE ARE CURRENTLY RESEARCHING ALL OF THE OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR OBITUARIES AND ARTICLES ABOUT PEOPLE AND EVENTS PERTINENT TO AITKIN COUNTY TO PUT IN OUR FILES. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT? CALL THE DEPOT.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL MOVING WALL

On July 22nd at 7:30am the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall arrived in Crosby. I was sitting in the Hallett Library Park to watch the arrival of the wall. The procession arrived led by local and surrounding area police cars with lights flashing, followed by 30 motorcycles, then the wall, followed by another 30 motorcycles and ending with fire trucks from all the surrounding areas with their lights flashing. No sirens, for this was a solemn occasion. Within two hours the wall was installed in the outfield at the Crosby Memorial Park ball field.

All other areas of the Crosby Memorial Park were closed for the duration of the Moving Wall's stay. This included the Skate Park, campground, and play ground areas of the park. The American Flag was flown at half staff in the park. All of this was done to honor and recognize all Americans who served in Vietnam and their families. On the wall are the names of over 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing.

I attended the opening ceremony on Thursday at 5pm. I watched the Advancement of Colors, listened to the National Anthem sung by Carla Gutzman, participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, listened to the Invocation and the POW/MIA Ceremony, the welcome from Mayor Dale Sova, listened to the song "From a Distance" sung by Carla Guzman, the 21 Gun Salute & Taps and watched the Retirement of Colors.

The ceremony hit me hard. I was in the Navy from January 4th 1971 thru December 1974. I was based on Naha Air Base on Okinawa from July of 1971 to December 1974. I was part of a squadron that pulled and flew targets for the fleet before they went to Vietnam. I have friends that are on the wall. I visited the wall four times during its stay in Crosby, touched my friend's names, and said a prayer for them and their families. I also walked within a block of the wall a dozen times and viewed the wall from a distance.

Why is the wall important? For me it is the fact that there is a Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall that travels around the Country honoring those men and women who served our Country during the Vietnam War. At that time members of the military were called names and spit at. It probably was the only time in history that our military was treated to badly.

I made my final trip to the wall on Monday morning, helped a couple find a friend, and talked to several other visitors' to the Wall. When I passed the park at 4:30 on Monday, while walking my dog, the Wall was gone. I was left with an empty feeling.

I would like to thank the Myrin-James American Legion Post #443 from Ironton and the Walter Scott Erickson American Legion Post #557 from Deerwood for sponsoring the Moving Wall to come to Crosby.

FACTS ABOUT THE WALL

What are the dates 1959 and 1975 on the Wall? 1959 is the year which the Department of Defense gave as the date in which the first American casualties occurred. The first two men listed, Dale R. Buis and Chester N. Ovnard (this name was a misspelling, it should have read Chester A. Ovnard), were military advisors, killed on July 8 in Bien Hoa while watching a movie in a mess tent. However, after the dedication of the Memorial in November of 1982, it was learned that Captain Harry Cramer had been killed in action in 1957. His name was subsequently added to the memorial, but it was impossible to change the 1959 date on the granite panel. In 2000, Richard Fitzbiggon, Jr., who had been killed in 1956, had his name inscribed on the Wall. 1975 was the year the last 19 casualties occurred. The 18 were casualties on May 15 during the operation to rescue the U.S. freighter Mayaguez and its crew.

The Moving Wall has visited hundreds of small towns and cities throughout the USA, staying up to six days at each site. Local arrangements for each visit are made months in advance by veterans' organizations and other civic groups. Thousands of people all over the United States have volunteered their time and money to help honor the fallen.

The Moving Wall visits 22 to 28 cities around the United States annually and has visited over 1,000 cities since its inaugural year. John Dewitt, owner of The Moving Wall Project and a Vietnam Veteran, says that as many as 75,000 to 100,000 people come out to the memorial display during the week-long appearances at each location.

Dewitt, of Stockton, CA, attended the 1982 dedication ceremonies of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Recognizing what he saw as the healing nature of The Wall, he vowed to make a transportable version of The

Wall so those who were not able to travel to Washington, D.C. would be able to see and touch the names of friends or loved ones in their own home town.

Using person finances, Dewitt founded Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd. With the help of friends, the half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, named The Moving Wall, was built and first put on display to the public in Tyler, TX, in 1984.

**Preamble of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:
IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED IN THE
VIETNAM WAR. THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE
INSCRIBED IN THE ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US.**

What happens to the artifacts left at The Wall?

The artifacts left by visitors are collected, boxed and marked at each location, then taken back to White Pine, MI. They are currently stored in The Moving Wall's warehouse/office complex. A museum will be built and all the artifacts that have been left will be displayed.

What is The Moving Wall made of?

It is made of aluminum panels, having a surface painted with a two-part polyurethane gloss black which gives a mirror-like finish, mounted to angular aluminum frames. The original structure was made of black Plexiglas panels mounted to plywood and lumber frames. The original structure toured for almost three years before it was decided to replace the structure because of so much weathering. The aluminum structure is supported from the back by 76 steel square tubular braces.

Museum Visitors

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Jan	30	24
Feb	18	22
Mar	30	61
Apr	28	36
May	77	72
Students	84	109
Jun	84	157
Jul	149	174
Fair	<u>1331</u>	<u>1441</u>
Totals	1831	2096

Re-news for Nylons

For Cleaning

- To clean kitchen drawers without removing the contents, cover your vacuum-cleaner nozzle with panty hose or cheesecloth and fasten with a rubber band.
- Cut the foot off an old nylon stocking, roll it up, and use it with cleansers for cleaning sinks without scratching.

For Finding

- Covering the vacuum-cleaner nozzle with panty hose and fastening with a rubber band is also a great way to pick up a contact lens lost in the carpeting.

For Storing

- Store onions or potatoes in old nylon stockings so air can circulate around them and they'll last longer. Hand inside the kitchen closet.

For Straining

- Use a clean, discarded nylon instead of cheesecloth for any straining jobs.
- Attach a used nylon stocking to the drain hose leading from your washing machine to shortstop lint that can clog the drain.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 215, Aitkin, MN 56431

Email: achs3348@embarqmail.com

Web Site: www.aitkin.com/achs/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010

QUILT DISPLAY

Over 30 Antique and Vintage Quilts are on display throughout the museum complex. This display will be up now thru October of this year. This is a must see display, so make sure to come to the Depot before it is gone.

GARAGE SALE

The sale this year was moved from the second week in July to the first weekend in August. This year's sale will be held on Friday August 6th from 9am to 4pm and on Saturday August 7th from 9am to 3pm. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Come to the sale and find some treasures

PIONEER CAMP

Camp will be held for one week only this year. The dates for camp are August 16th, 18th, 20th and 21st. We have only 2 children signed up for camp so far this year. Do you know of any children between the ages of 8 & 13 that would enjoy Pioneer Camp? We need 8 more children for a full camp.

COOKIE WALK / OPEN HOUSE / RAFFLE

This year's event takes place on December 4th from 9am to close. Last year we sold 311 dozen cookies during this event and we need to sell 334 dozen to reach our goal of \$1000. We only had 3 dozen cookies left over last year. During the open house we offer our visitors coffee, cider and cookies. The raffle drawing will be held at 2pm. At this time we have 28 prizes to give away.

GENEALOGY

Our Genealogy group starts back up on the second Saturday of September. September 11th at 10am will be the first meeting. They will discuss the possibility of reprinting the Aitkin County Heritage book. Finish up the Black history of Aitkin County and start a new project. Possible next project is Civil War veterans.

COLLECTIONS

Next meeting of the Collections committee will be Friday September 3rd at 9:30am. The collection committee goes over all of the items that have been donated to the museum. This year we have received 70 donations as of July 14th. Last year we took in our 70th donation on October 16th. Thanks to KKIN radio and the Aitkin Independent Age for continually helping us by running news articles in the paper and ads on the radio. They have helped us get out the word about saving Aitkin County History.