

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEPOT HIGHLITES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011 - Volume 16, Issue 3

May began with the sixth grade class from Aitkin visiting the museum. One hundred and one students and teachers toured our facility. Jerry Hedberg and Larry Nelson talked about the Railroads. Janet Miller showed the children our research facility. Alice Fageroos talked about the Steamboats and the main room. Jo White worked in the Homestead room. Boyd Bremner played Joe Gurty camp cook and talked about life in the Logging camps. Alice Dotzler was our timer. Serving as guides were: Everett Davies, Shirley Davies, Ron White, Connie Pettersen, Cheryl Meld, Mary Rea, Donna Midkiff, Sue Benson, Ruth Carlstrom and Carol Bailey. Bill Stimac acted as our photographer. A lunch was served to our volunteers of Brats grilled by Everett, potato salad and tuna salad made by Donna Midkiff, home made baked beans made by Alice Fageroos, Peanut butter cookies made by Shirley Davies and an applesauce cake made by Greg Leach. We also had potato chips and pickles. It was a very nice day. The letters of thanks that we receive from the children make all the work worth it.

Also, on the first of May we sent out membership notices. Our year runs from June 1st to May 31st. If you have not been able to send in your membership please do so now. Your membership is very important to us because it helps us to continue our work of collecting, preserving and disseminating information about Aitkin County.

My brother Bruce Leach donated 24 decks of **SHIPERIO** cards. **The Game of Golf**. Shiperio is a fun and exciting card game that's played like a round of golf. Just like on the course players will succeed with skill, strategy and of course... a little luck. Shiperio is a game everyone will enjoy. Bruce invented the game with a friend and now Shiperio is for sale throughout the twin cities. Regularly priced at \$8.00, we have them for sale at the Depot for only \$5.95. Shiperio can be played by 2 to 6 players or add a second deck for larger groups. But, you have to watch out for the Snowman card. (+8)

New displays were completed during the month of May. Our dentist display has come down and replaced with a hair dressers display. The scariest item in this display has to be the Permanent Wave Machine. It looks like a jelly fish. In building #2 the ladies fashion display was removed and replaced with a display featuring children's clothes and baptismal items.

Alice Fageroos donated a variety of Hostas for our Perennial gardens between our display buildings. Nancy and Jon Jacobson along with Ron Ritter have handled the planting. We are still looking for more plants to add to our gardens this fall. The Museum could use flowering plants that bloom during different times of the summer. If you have plants to donate please contact Greg at the Depot. (927-3348)

June 7th brought the Aitkin County Commissioners for their annual visit to the museum. Also, our County Auditor Kirk Peysar attended the luncheon. We showed them what was new at the museum and served them lunch. Cheryl Meld made potato salad and bars, Alice Fageroos made a pot of beans, Lorraine Liljenquest made lemon bars and brownies, and Sue Benson brought pickles. Fried Chicken was served as the main course. I brought an Applesauce cake.

On Saturday June 11th, raffle tickets were sent out to our membership with a list of the 29 prizes donated by ACHS members, local businesses and other Minnesota businesses. (Remember to listen to KKIN radio at 9:00 am on Tuesday August 9th for our early-bird raffle drawing.) Our list of prizes has grown to 36.

The second railroad speeder went on display June 24th. Volunteers had to clean up and paint the base and then fabricate a cab. After looking at several different cabs they came up with one. It looks pretty close to the pictures of others we looked at. Good job! Our next project will be fabricating a lumber wagon.

At 7:30pm on June 24th we were blessed with the arrival of the **1905 Mechanical Horse "Champion"**. Champion rode off into the sunset on January 28th of 2006 to play with children in Sparta, Wisconsin. After being absent from Aitkin for almost five and a half years Champion galloped back into town to make his permanent home at the Depot Museum. Champion was donated to the museum by Dr. Jill Stebbins and Dr. Mark Hemmerich, as well as their four children, Caitlin, Sarah, Celia and Natalie in remembrance of and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Betty Stebbins and Mr. and Mrs. Howard and Olga Smith, Sr. who were long-time owners and operators of the Ben Franklin, an Aitkin landmark for decades. The rest of the Stebbins family was happy about the donation of Champion to the Museum. Champion will be able to live out the rest of his

days bringing back fond memories for the residents of Aitkin and new memories for our children and grandchildren. Come to the Depot Museum and get reacquainted with Champion.

Aitkin HS All-class reunion hit town from June 25th to July 3rd. We were open everyday during the all-class reunion from 9am to 4pm. Aitkin school displays filled the Depot building. **Bob Lake donated 32 Aitkin year books** for the display and our archives. The reprint of our book "Aitkin County Heritage" was available for sale at this event for \$39.95. During this nine day event we had 412 visitors to the museum. Over \$1000.00 worth of merchandise in books and souvenirs sold in our gift shop. Also a reprint of the Aitkin Centennial book which we sold for \$9.95. We sold 7 new memberships and 43 raffle tickets at this event. Terry Mejdrich held a book signing on June 30th at the Museum from 1pm – 3pm. We helped visitors find obituaries and copies of birth records from the Beecroft hospital. Visitors came from 26 different states, Germany, Australia, England and Canada. Thanks to everyone that helped to staff the museum during this event. Visitors were thrilled when they saw that Champion had returned to Aitkin to stay. Many of the visitors were from Aitkin and had never been in the Museum and for others it had been years. **"We will be back"** was heard from many of our visitors.

The Aitkin County Fair ran from July 13th thru July 16th. This year our display in the Log cabin was about logging in Aitkin County. Our Camp kitchen display, logging model display, and logging equipment were put on display. Various artifacts and photographs from our displays and storage were featured this year at the fair. We had a total of 1171 people visit the log cabin during the fair.

Last year we set a new record of 126 donations beating the old record of 85 set in 2009. These donations consist of artifacts, photos and paper items relating to Aitkin County history. Each donation ranges from one item to fifty items or more. This year we have received a total of 102 donations as of July 29th. During the record breaking year of 2010 we did not receive that many donations until September 29th. We are on pace to shatter last years record. We are only as good as the items we receive. Help us to complete our Aitkin County history by donating artifacts and information to the Depot Museum. Keep donating those artifacts, photos and information pertaining to events, people and history of Aitkin County.

We now have a new feature on our web site. Every week we will feature a **photo of the week**. Do you have an old family photo that you would be willing to share on our web site? Maybe it is an old picture of a church, school, business or event in Aitkin County. Help us make our web site a place that people want to visit over and over again. If you have an idea for our web site, share it with us. We want to make the site a fun and interesting place so that people continue to visit.

Riverboat history needed!! We are still looking for information about the Riverboats that operated between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. Looking for histories of the Riverboats, who built them, how big where they, years of operation, crews names, log books, etc. If you have old photos of the riverboats or information please contact Greg at the Depot Museum. (927-3348). Please let the Historical Society make copies for our files. Very little is known about many of the boats that operated out of Aitkin. The Riverboats played an incredible part in the building and growth of Aitkin County. If you know someone that has information or photos of the Riverboats, please let them know that we need their help with completing this portion of Aitkin County history.

Caboose, Caboose, has anyone seen a **Caboose**. We are still in search of a Caboose to have on display at the museum. When you are traveling around Aitkin County or the surrounding Counties please keep an eye out for a Caboose. We are looking for one that still has its wheels and has a cupola on it. One that needs some tender loving care would be fine. The men are looking for a project to work on.

Membership is growing steadily. At the end of January we were at 280 members and currently we are at 343. My goal is to have over 400 members by the end of 2012. Membership is one of the keys to keeping the Aitkin County Historical Society healthy. By our membership growing it brings awareness in the community of the work we are doing to preserve our Aitkin history. Aitkin residents are starting to think of us to donate items, rather than throwing them away. Important pieces of our history are now being donated to the society.

The work on our Obituary files continues. We have now completed our files through 1945. Our files have grown from two drawers to six. During the all-class we were able to go to our files and find obits for people that were not in our files a year ago. This project is already starting to save us time on research projects. Thank you to everyone who has worked on this project. We are half way done. If you would like to help with this project contact Greg at the Depot.

Greg Leach, (Administrator)

Board of Directors: Bill Stimac (President), Mary Rea (Vice President), Lorraine Liljenquist (Secretary), Alice Fageroos (Treasurer), Cheryl Meld (Ex-Officio), Jon Jacobson, Alice Dotzler, Connie Petterson, Barb Gottsch, Pat Williams, Arlene McNevin, Susan Benson, Carol Bailey, Mark Wedel (County Commissioner), Sherry Arvidson (Accountant), Greg Leach (Administrator)

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Business Memberships – 28, Individual Memberships – 26, Senior Memberships – 98

Family Members – 171, Life Members – 16, Perpetuity – 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 341

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aitkin Independent Age
Members Coop Credit Union
Enberg TV
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Peoples National Bank
Security State Bank
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
Paulbeck's County Market
Aitkin Motor Company
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Hudrlik Carpet
Aitkin Body Shop
Aitkin Lodge No. 164 IOOF
Arvidson Tax & Accounting
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Gobles Sewer Service
Aitkin Family Chiropractic Center
Great River Gardens
Cummings Auto
Aicota Health Care Center
Aitkin Iron Works
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating
Blakesley Appliance Service & Repair

2011 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS

NORRLAND
PLINY
IDUN
LIBBY
FARM ISLAND
CLARK
GLEN
LAKESIDE
AITKIN COUNTY

EVENT SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Cycle, Path, & Paddle – Crosby
Garrison Disposal – Aitkin
Office Shop – Aitkin
Cuyuna Country Auto – Crosby
Traditions Mini-golf – Deerwood
Shiperio Games – Chanhassen
KKIN radio – Aitkin
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Minnesota Timberwolves
Minnesota Twins
Water Park of America – Bloomington
Wild Mountain – Taylors falls
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen
MacDonald-Wold – Aitkin
Rialto Theater – Aitkin
Joes Country Store & Kosie's Café
Glen Store & Grill
Aitkin Independent Age
RDJ products – Memphis, TN
Pine Inn Restaurant & Bar - Glen

Looking for the following Aitkin HS yearbooks
(PRE – 1932), 1972, 1975, 1979, 2010, 2011

The above list of yearbooks from Aitkin High School, are the only ones that we are missing to give us a complete set. If you happen to have one of the missing yearbooks, please consider donating it to the museum.

2011 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

EARLY BIRD DRAWING Held August 9th on KKin radio at 9:00am

1. Minnesota Twins Commemorative Print signed by retired player & coach Tony Oliva - (\$50.00 value)
2. Cuyuna Country Auto Center – Crosby – Full Service Oil Change – (\$32.00 value)
3. Cycle Path & Paddle – Crosby – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
4. Pre-paid Visa card - (\$25.00 value)
5. Digital Camera with Telescoping Tripod – (\$25.00 value)
6. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
7. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – (15.00 value)
8. Glen Store & Grill – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate)
9. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value)
10. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value)

MAIN DRAWING SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD 2011 at 2pm

1. Chanhassen Dinner Theater, (Dinner & Show for 2) donated by KKin radio – (\$150.00 value)
2. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel package (hotel & meal) – (\$125.00 value)
3. Quilt & 2 Throw Pillows made by Marlene Kingsley – (\$75.00 value)
4. Oil painting – “Wallaby Dreaming” – donated by Alice Dotzler - (\$75.00 value)
5. NBA T-shirt/Timberwolves Read to Achieve Notebook (\$60.00 value)
6. Water Park of America – Bloomington – 2 passes – (\$50.00 value)
7. Cascade Lodge – Lutsen – Free night stay with purchase of 2nd night – (\$50.00 value)
8. MacDonald Wold – Aitkin - Free Lube, Oil & Filter – (\$35.00 value)
9. Black & Decker Handisaw donated by Alice Dotzler – (\$35.00 value)
10. Cuyuna Country Auto Center – Crosby – Full Service Oil Change – (\$32.00 value)
11. Shawl made by Connie Pettersen
12. Wild Mountain – Taylors Falls – 2 Snow tubing passes – (\$30.00 value)
13. Garden Tote & Seat – (\$30.00 value)
14. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
15. The Office Shop – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
16. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
17. Pine Inn Restaurant & Bar – Glen – (\$20.00 Gift Certificate)
18. National Geographic – DVD – 30 years of specials – donate by Larry Nelson - (\$20.00 value)
19. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
20. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00)
21. Fleece Stadium Blanket – (\$15.00 value)
22. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – 2 rounds of mini-golf (\$15.00 value)
23. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00)
24. Glen Store & Grill – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate)
25. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value)
26. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value)

We have collected a wide variety of prizes for this year’s raffle. With a total of 36 prizes the odds are pretty good of winning a prize. So get your tickets and money in today!

34 MEMBERS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. Locating a caboose for Museum
2. New heavy duty flag pole
3. Purchase Minnesota Flag
4. Purchase POW/ MIA Flag
5. Clean dirt fill for south of building #3
6. Move artifacts by gardens
7. Level some areas of Cobble stone
8. Install gate in East fence by Depot
9. Grant for 43 Minnesota History books
10. Grant for Digital equipment
11. Stain/reseal front of building #2
12. Map of historic places in Aitkin County
13. Replace main computer
14. Check into networking computers
15. Wireless Internet?
16. Hold contests/scavenger hunts
17. More promotion for events
18. Organize files for easier access
19. Appraisal nights at museum
20. Write book about riverboats.
21. Write ACHS cookbook
22. Schools of Aitkin County book
23. Churches of Aitkin County book

CURRENTLY WORKING ON

1. Increasing information on web site
2. Increasing Membership
3. Working on Obituary files
4. Log cabin repair, chinking
5. Lending Library
6. Collecting family histories
7. Increasing store book sales
8. Warren William book signing
9. Creating more interest in Museum
10. Developing research facility at museum
11. Book signings at museum
12. More Perennials planted
13. Restore old lumber wagon
14. Display artifacts on walls of museum
15. Replacing lighting in Depot storage areas

2011 COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. New web site up and running
2. Grant received for Depot lighting - \$1000.00
3. Completed our newspaper microfilm library
4. Located wood card file for museum
5. Pictures hung on Depot walls
6. Second Railroad speeder on display
7. Mechanical Horse "Champion" on display
8. New storm windows installed on log cabin

Museum Wish List

Reams of white copy paper
Paper towels / toilet paper
Cleaning supplies
Tickets for garbage pickup
Clean rags
Photo scanner/printer/copier
6' Fiberglass Folding Tables
Flowering Perennials
2 - Half Barrel planters
Books for Library – local writers
Minnesota history books
Military history books
Prizes for Raffle
Donations for new Microfilm reader
New Digital camera
Riverboat histories
Family Histories
Folgers Coffee /coffee filters
Bottled water
Computer speakers
Railroad artifacts
Riverboat artifacts

Memorials:

Memorials have been received from the class of 1950 in memory of:

Margaret Jacobson Thompson - \$25.00

Ione Bergren Hulderson - \$25.00

Joanne Cartie Morkfeld - \$25.00

Marles Borgman Dragovick - \$25.00

Donald Meacham - \$25.00

Other Memorials

Louise Hasskamp - \$20.00

MEMBERS LOST IN 2011

Lucille Jones – 1/15/1917 – 1/1/2011

John Ivory – 10/19/1929 – 5/6/2011

Louise Hasskamp – 7/10/1933 – 5/26/2011

James McKersie – 5/19/1934 – 6/19/2011

PROGRESS BEING MADE ON LIST OF PROJECTS

Progress is being made on completing many of the projects that I listed at the beginning of the year. Is there a project that you would be interested in helping with or a project not on the list that you think we should work on? If there is, please contact the Depot and let me know. The list is what I came up with for us to work on. I am open for other ideas. This is your society, give me your ideas.

MUSEUM VISITORS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
January	30	24	40
February	18	22	22
March	30	61	23
April	28	36	48
May	77	72	50
6 th Grade	84	109	101
June	84	157	472
July	149	229	244
County Fair	1331	1441	1171
August	202	201	
September	42	68	
October	77	141	
November	30	43	
December	90	83	0
Totals	2322	2687	2171

Come to the Depot and enjoy the many diverse displays, work on your family Genealogy, explore Aitkin County history.

LOOKING FOR

- Old Phone Books
- Aitkin Plat Books – Any
- Information and pictures of the Riverboats
- Business Histories
- Church Histories
- Old School Records and pictures
- CCC camp information
- Pictures of Galloping Goose or other railroad items
- Glarco II snowmobile information and pictures
- Family histories
- Information about Civil War veterans settling in Aitkin
- Information about WWII veterans
- Information about Turkey industry
- Old Maps of Aitkin County & Cities
- Locations and information about Logging camps and CCC camps

New Items in the Museum Store

- Aitkin County Heritage – (soft cover reprint) - \$39.95
- Aitkin Centennial 1871-1971 - \$9.95
- Warren William by John Stangeland - \$39.95
- Furuly – Shelter in the Pines by Solvei Lewann Sotnak - \$7.00
- Minnesota Lunch by James Norton - \$19.95
- Minnesota in the Civil War by Kenneth Carley - \$19.95
- The Dakota War of 1862 – Minnesota’s other Civil War by Kenneth Carley - \$16.95
- Pale Horse at Plum Run – The First Minnesota at Gettysburg by Brian Leehan - \$17.95
- The Last Full Measure – First Minnesota Volunteers – by Richard Moe - \$17.95
- Brother of Mine – edited by Hampton Smith - \$19.95
- Libraries of Minnesota – Photography by Doug Ohman - \$24.95
- Midwest Marvels by Eric Dregni - \$17.95
- Minnesota Marvels – Roadside Attractions – by Eric Dregni – \$16.95
- Legends of Paul Bunyan by Harold W. Felton - \$18.95
- Shiperio – The Card game of Golf - \$5.95
- Norwegians on the Prairie by Odd S. Lovoll - \$19.95
- Swedish Folktales & Legends by Blecher & Blecher - \$18.95
- Tales from an Old Finn by Wayne Lundeen - \$15.00
- Wildflowers of the Boundary Waters by Betty Vos Hemstad - \$22.95
- Gardening in the Upper Midwest by Leon C. Snyder - \$24.95
- Dining Car to the Pacific by William A. McKenzie - \$24.95
- The Hiawatha Story by Jim Scribbins - \$29.95
- The Tranquility Child by Terry Mejdrieh - \$19.95
- Indians in Minnesota by Graves & Ebbott - \$19.95

MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT IN OUR GIFT SHOP

SECOND QUARTER ACCESSIONS

41. Marlys Gustofson Veterinarian tool, Malmo centennial button, 1916 MN State High School Board exam, 5 – various cards
42. Jennie Hakes Blueprints of the Aitkin Creamery
43. Doris Nordean Genealogist Source book, Photo Aitkin laundry, 13 photos of Riverboat landings, 3 photos Tibbetts home, one act play, 1949 music contest, misc. newspaper articles
44. Marlys Morris misc. paper items
45. Ezra/ Stella Hegman Cheese box from Aitkin Coop Creamery
46. Janet Miller Childs blue sweater, children's poodle skirt & sweater, 50's plaid Skirt, 50's McGregor High School letter sweater, Sears Catalog.
47. Randy C. Wall Landgren & Nicklander family histories
48. Lorraine Liljenquist 3 photos
49. Jane Pearson 1939 photo of family farm
50. Greg Leach 16 books for library
51. East Central Energy History of East Central Energy – book
52. Leslie Coleman 3 – Bennetville books
53. Janet Millet Mille Lacs Electric measure, many photos of McGregor area
54. Jon Jacobson 6" long grease gun, 9" long pipe wrench
55. Doreen Dotzler 5 AHS home coming buttons, 100 anniversary 1871-1971
56. Alice Dotzler 11 books for library
57. George E. Hallick Jr. **1923 Aitkin Class ring** belonging to Alice Ryden
58. Larry Hayes barb wire fence tool, wood furniture clamp
59. Tony Gabrio Misc paper items. Combination coin purse/muff, makeup bag
60. Evangeline Vanstrom 3 photos Cedar brook school
61. Robert Harder 5 – Negatives – City of Aitkin
62. Sharon J. Hasert Family Picture Gustav Anderson, American Burial flag
63. Neil Keller Photo of 1908 train wreck in Aitkin taken from southwest.
64. Joann White People magazine – Johnson sisters
65. Bob Lake **32 Aitkin High School year books-** 20 we were missing
66. Jeanie & Co. **Steamer Andy Gibson Discharging Book 1891 & 1892**
67. Alice Fageroos Souvenirs from 1945 Japan occupation, (flags, basket, silks, etc.)
68. Ruth Hauge AHS Girls White Gym Suit
69. Tom McMonigal WWII U.S. Navy Deck Pants
70. Marlene Kingsley **Metal Lumber Wagon Wheels**, Hay Fork, Grinding Wheel
71. Elsie Paulson Personal papers of E.C. Ekman, 5 boxes of Law books
72. Sandy Lake 7 – Riverboat Heritage buttons, 1 Centennial button
73. Don McKay **1953 Aitkin HS yearbook**
74. Julie Hansen Nov. 14, 1946 HS Play program, Cummings Auto Key Chain
75. Jon Jacobson NSP – Northern States People: the past 70 years
76. Don Hyytinen Brownie Camera, Old metal leaf rake
77. Carol Shields AHS yearbooks – **1932**, 1933, & 1934
78. Don Roden 1957 AHS yearbook, AHS "A" letter, Carlson school papers, calendars
79. Bonnie Farley Photographers Dark room Equipment
80. Newstrom Cloth bag made in school
81. Donohue Saraff Hand Cultivator – writing on handle in French
82. Dr. Jill Stebbins **Mechanical Horse "Champion"**, originally located at the Ben Franklin store
83. Gary Hietala 4 books in Finnish (Bible & meditation), Aitkin advertising items
84. Elaine Hallbeck 2 photos – 1929 basketball team with names, teachers
85. Don McKay American Legion Baseball Patch
86. Robert Harder 40 Aerial Photograph Negatives taken by Orvis Nelson
87. Elsie Nelson Potter/Casey Company – Sweet Oil Bottle
88. John Hendrickson Large Calumet can, Al Nelson Saw Shop advertising, 8 Aitkin pins
89. Theresa Mickley Three Poodle Skirts
90. Irene Long 1929 Quilt made by her mother
91. Robert Frost Four AHS athletic letters
92. Linda Davis Coaster from the New Empress Cafe

AITKIN RENDEZVOUS COMING

Aitkin Rendezvous will take place on September 16th, 17th, & 18th at the Aitkin County Fair grounds. Besides the food booth that the Society runs we also will have a display in our log cabin. We plan on making the log cabin into a pioneer home. Do you have an item we could borrow for the display? Let us know at the Depot. If you are able to help with this event contact Greg at the Depot.

Benefit for the Historical Society

The “**Aitkin Women of Today**” will hold a Vintage Wedding Dress show at the 40 Club on November 5th at 1pm. Other events will be a Purse Raffle. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Historical Society. While the men are out Deer hunting, come and join in the fun.
Contact **Jodie Johnson at the Office Shop** for more information.

County Fair

Total sales at the County Fair were \$416.41. (96 Raffle tickets, 5 Aitkin County Heritage books, 3 Aitkin Centennial books, 16 movies, 1 train whistle, 4 train banks, 3 Seasons In Time, 3 Aitkin County Naturally and 1 Dream Catcher Necklace). Fair attendance was down due to poor weather most of the fair. Our attendance in the Log Cabin was down 270 from last year. Next year we will be doing a display on Restaurants, such as the Beacon Arch. We had visitors from all over the state of Minnesota plus 15 other states, (Illinois, Tennessee, South Dakota, North Dakota, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina, Louisiana, Washington, Connecticut, Alaska, Wisconsin, Texas, and New York) and two Foreign Countries (Germany and Japan).

ALL-CLASS VISITORS

We had a total of 432 people visit the museum during the All-class reunion. Visitors came from all over Minnesota plus from 28 other states. (California, Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona, Missouri, Florida, Maine, Oregon, Texas, Arkansas, Washington, Wisconsin, Ohio, Alaska, Michigan, North Dakota, Iowa, Hawaii, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Montana, Georgia, Indiana, Arkansas, Illinois, Colorado, Michigan and Kansas) Five other countries were represented. (Germany, Australia, Canada, Mexico and England)

THE YEAR WAS 1948

- January 5th – Bing Crosby is named as the top moneymaking star for the 4th consecutive year.
- January 18th – In India Mohandas Gandhi ends his fast after 121 hours following the presentation of a peace pledge signed by over 200,000. The Sikh, Moslem and Hindu communities endorse the pledge.
- January 30th – Hindu spiritual leader Mohandas Gandhi, 78, is shot to death by Hindu Extremist in New Delhi.
- February 5th – Harvard freshman Dick Button, 18, wins the Gold Medal in Men’s Figure Skating, completing the first successful double axle during competition.
- February 12th – Indian Leader Mohandas Gandhi, who was assassinated on January 30th by a Hindu extremist, has his ashes scattered into the waters of the Ganges River during a national ceremony attended by Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.
- March 4th – A quart of fresh milk delivered to homes across the U.S. is selling for an average price of 21 cents. Longshoremen now average \$4,084 a year, according to CIO officials who are seeking wage increases.
- May 1st – The bay colt “Citation”, with jockey Eddie Arcaro aboard, wins the 74th **Kentucky Derby**, running the 1 ¼ mile in a time of 2:05 2/5. Arcaro becomes the first jockey to have won the Derby 4 times. (1938, 1941, 1945) Citation earns \$83,400 for owner Warren M. Wright’s Calumet Farm. A \$2.00 “to win” wager pays \$2.80.

- May 4th – American food shoppers can pick up a pound of **dairy-fresh butter** at their local supermarkets for the average cost of 87 cents while just 3 years ago, the average price of butter was 51 cents per pound.
- May 15th – Wonder horse “Citation”, with jockey Eddie Arcaro aboard, wins the **Preakness Stakes** for 3-year-olds, running the 1 3/16 mile distance in a time of 2:02 2/5.
- June 1st – The average **annual wage** per working person in the U.S. for this year is \$2,933.
- June 9th – The average cost of purchasing precious metals during this year is \$35 for an ounce of gold and 74 cents for an ounce of silver. Ford recently announces it will be increasing prices on its 1949 cars by up to \$125. Currently, its cars range in price from \$1,154 up to \$1,972.
- June 12th – Eddie Arcaro aboard “Citation” wins the Belmont to complete horse racing’s “**Triple Crown**” Arcaro also won the Triple Crown in 1941 aboard the sensational horse “Whirlaway”. Ben Hogan wins the U.S. Open Golf Championship. First prize of \$2,000.
- June 19th – The 80th Congress of the U.S. adjourns after two years, one of the longest sessions in history, having considered over 11,000 bills. One of the last bills passed is a draft calling for 19-25 year olds to provide 21 months of military service.
- July 8th – The hourly Minimum wage in the U.S. this year is 40 cents, which has been in effect since 1945.
- July 18th – The U.S. Postal Service is charging customers 3 cents to mail a first-class letter anywhere within the country. The Post Office first began service in 1775, collecting a minimum of 6 cents to deliver a letter less than 30 miles up to a ;maximum of 25 cents for over 450 miles.
- July 22nd – A recent “NY Herald Tribune” poll of eligible voter indicates that 50.5% of those surveyed would vote for Tomas Dewey while only 28.2% favored President Truman.
- August 16th – One of baseball’s all-time heroes, Babe Ruth, 53 dies in New York City. The legendary Ruth played in 2,503 games and hit an amazing 714 home runs, with a career slugging average of .690. Ruth also led the league in home runs for 11 straight years. In 1927, Ruth hit 60 home runs, a record that will stand until 1961 when Roger Maris will eclipse the mark.
- September 23rd – Republican Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey continues his coast-to-coast campaigning, constantly being assured by his advisors that all polls reflect he will easily win the November election. In many circles Dewey is listed as a 10-1 choice to win.
- October 11th – The visiting Cleveland Indians edge the Boston Braves 4-3 to clinch the World Series of Baseball. Led by manage Lou Boudreau, the Indians win their first World Series since they defeated Brooklyn in 1920.
- October 18th – The “New York Times” reports that N.Y. Governor Republican Tomas Dewey is assured of at least 333 electoral votes, compared to President Truman’s 82. The national election, only two weeks away, appears to heavily favor Dewey.
- November 2nd – President Harry S. Truman defeats Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey by 2.2 million popular votes and 114 electoral votes. Many people believe Truman’s victory is due to the extensive 10,000 miles he logged while campaigning on his Whistle-Stop Tour. In a move to jump the gun, the “Chicago Tribune” publishes a poorly-judged prediction headline that will haunt the newspaper forever.
- November 18th – Many continue to speculate what Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip will name their newborn son.
- November 23rd – A Box-Office Poll lists the nation’s favorite movie stars for 1948: Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper.
- December 3rd – Coffee drinkers across the country are paying an average price of 51 cents per pound for their favorite beverage
- December 25th – From the Hit Parade: The #1 song this week is “All I Want for Christmas (Is My Two Front Teeth)” by Spike Jones. It will remain the top spot for three weeks. The #1 song on the Country & Western Chart is “A Heart Full OF Love (For a Handful of Kisses)” by Eddy Arnold.
- December 29th – “Time Magazine” has selected President Harry Truman as **Man of the Year**. Truman was also “Times” choice for Man of the Year in 1945.
- December 31st – The estimated population of the United States this year is 147,500,000.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENEALOGY

Our Genealogy groups next meeting will be held **September 10th at 10am**.
The group meets every month from September – May on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

COLLECTIONS

Our Collection Committee meets the first Friday of every other month at 9:30am starting in January.
Next meeting will be held on September 2nd.
The group meets to discuss information and artifacts that have been donated to the Historical Society.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

This year's sale will be held on **August 5th & 6th** at the Aitkin County Fair grounds. Set up for our sale started the Tuesday after the County Fair. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Come and give us a hand. This year we will be using two buildings for the sale. Do two buildings make it a Huge sale?
Contact the Depot if you can help.

AITKIN RENDEZVOUS

Known in the past as the Festival of Adventures, the Aitkin Rendezvous will take place on **September 16, 17 & 18**. This event moved to the Aitkin County Fair grounds last year and will once again be at the fair ground. We will be operating our food booth and have a display in our Log cabin.
Contact Greg if you can help.

WEDDING DRESS FASHION SHOW

The **Aitkin County Historical Society** has been asked by the **Aitkin Women of Today** to partner with and help put on a Vintage Wedding dress show/luncheon at the 40 Club Convention Center on November 5th at 1pm. Ticket cost per person will be \$20.00 which includes lunch and wedding cake. There will be a Silent Auction, Raffle Baskets, Card Raffle, Purse Raffle and much more. They would like to have wedding dresses representing every decade. They can either be put on display or included in the runway show. Profits from this event will be shared with the Historical Society. For more information contact Greg at the Depot.

ACHS ANNUAL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be sent out to the membership the first week in June. Check out the list of prizes in this newsletter. If you have a prize to add to the list contact Greg as soon as possible so we can add it to the list that goes out with the tickets. The main drawing will be held at the Museum on **December 3rd at 2pm**. We will hold an early-bird drawing on KKIN radio at 9:00am on August 9th for all tickets and money turned into the Depot.

COOKIE WALK / OPEN HOUSE AT DEPOT

Our Annual Cookie Walk / Open House at the Depot Museum will take place on **December 3rd from 9:30am to 4:00pm**. The Cookie Walk is our last fundraiser of the year. Last year we sold out of cookies before noon so come early, enjoy some apple cider or coffee, tour our Holiday display. Get ready to bake some cookies.