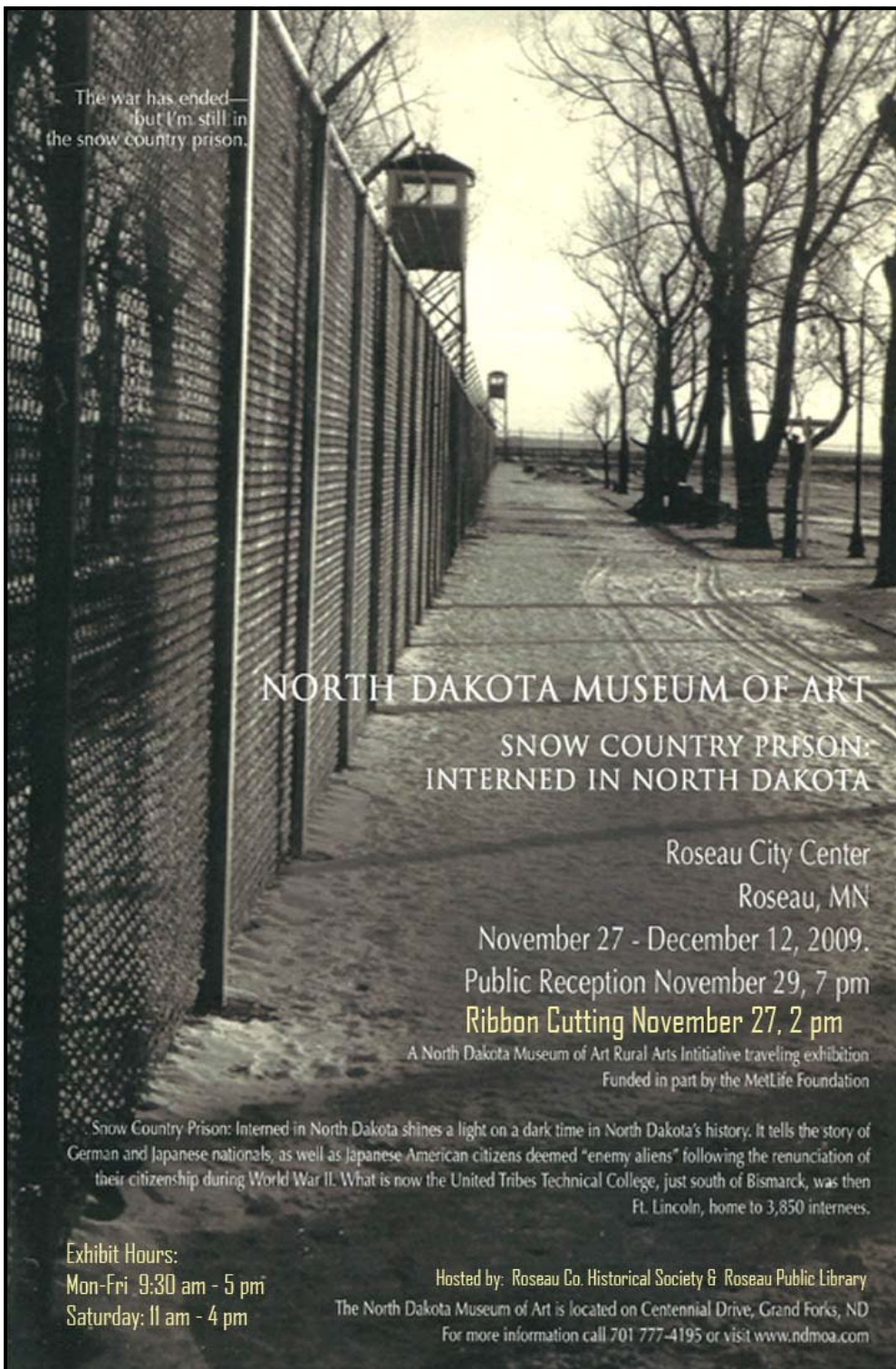


# *Roseau County Historical Society*

Roseau County Historical Society Newsletter  
Roseau County Minnesota

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall 2009



The war has ended—  
but I'm still in  
the snow country prison.

## NORTH DAKOTA MUSEUM OF ART SNOW COUNTRY PRISON: INTERINED IN NORTH DAKOTA

Roseau City Center  
Roseau, MN

November 27 - December 12, 2009.

Public Reception November 29, 7 pm

**Ribbon Cutting November 27, 2 pm**

A North Dakota Museum of Art Rural Arts Initiative traveling exhibition  
Funded in part by the MetLife Foundation

Snow Country Prison: Interned in North Dakota shines a light on a dark time in North Dakota's history. It tells the story of German and Japanese nationals, as well as Japanese American citizens deemed "enemy aliens" following the renunciation of their citizenship during World War II. What is now the United Tribes Technical College, just south of Bismarck, was then Ft. Lincoln, home to 3,850 internees.

### Exhibit Hours:

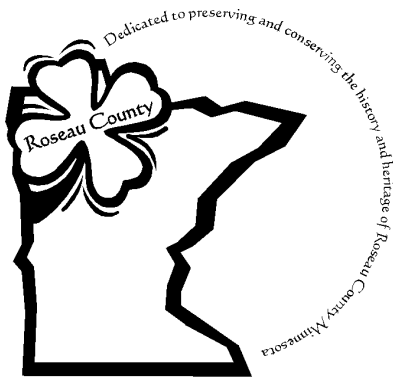
Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 5 pm

Saturday: 11 am - 4 pm

Hosted by: Roseau Co. Historical Society & Roseau Public Library

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive, Grand Forks, ND

For more information call 701 777-4195 or visit [www.ndmoa.com](http://www.ndmoa.com)



**Historical  
Society** est.  
1927

#### Museum and Research Center

121 Center Street East, Suite 101  
Roseau, MN 56751

Phone: 218-463-1918

E-mail: rchsroseau@mncable.net

On the web at

www.roseauhistoricalsociety.org

Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9:30am-5:00pm

Or by appointment

#### Board of Directors

Glenn Holm, President - Roseau  
Brenda K. Sather VP- Greenbush  
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Sheila Winstead- Roseau  
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Roseau County Historical Society  
Dedicated to collect, preserve, and  
disseminate the history and heritage of  
Roseau County, Minnesota.

## Curator's Report

Several exciting events have taken place at the historical society in 2009. "Woman's History Month" was celebrated for the first time and was well received. A word of gratitude goes to the "One Woman" and "Women in Education" committees for the wonderful events and exhibits they worked on so diligently for many months. Congratulations to the first year's selectees; it is a wonderful group of women.

At this time we are organizing for the second year of "Woman's History Month"; we are anxiously awaiting to find out who the "One Woman" recommendations are. At this time we are compiling information on Roseau County women who have served in the military for "Women in Military" segment of 2010. *See page five for more information and photos!*

During April and May the museum was busy with student tours.

2009's NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on Thursday, May 21 at the Roseau City Center with students from seven schools attending. The students taking the top six positions were Sydney Mosher - Warroad - 1<sup>st</sup>, Molly McDonald - Warroad - 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mariah Modahl - Badger - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Haley Coffield - Lancaster - 4<sup>th</sup>, Morgan Amley-Benzie - Warroad - 5<sup>th</sup>, and Madiline Huglen - Roseau - 6<sup>th</sup> place. Congratulations to the teachers and students. These children will be our future leaders.

In August we held our third annual Summer Youth Sleuth Hunt. The children searched the museum for three selected items daily. A drawing was held each Friday for a *Blizzard* from Roseau Dairy Queen. Thirty more children participated than last year. It is a wonderful way to have one on one with your children.

There are three events coming up in November and December. Please look for the information in the newsletter.

A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, *Between Fences*, opens on March 27, 2010 at the museum. The exhibit looks at fences from many different angles. Livestock fences, fences around our years, our border between the US, Canada and Mexico, American Indian reservations, and even Minnesota can all be looked at as having a fence, visible or invisible. Take out your camera and begin photographing fences in our county. Check through your photographs and locate family photos that include fences. Bring, send or email your photos to the museum so we can display them next spring. There is lots more going on so check the newsletter for all the info.

I look forward to seeing you at the best kept secret in Roseau County, your museum!

Charleen



## SNOW COUNTRY PRISON: Interned in North Dakota

*Snow Country Prison: Interned in North Dakota* will open on Friday, November 27, in the Roseau City Center Community Trader room with a ribbon cutting at 2 pm. *Snow Country Prison* is a photo exhibit about WWII era United States Japanese and German nationals as well as Japanese American citizens classified as "enemy aliens," were interned at the Fort Lincoln Prison in Bismarck North Dakota. 3,850 men were incarcerated during at the fort. These men were not soldiers or men of war; many individuals were of German or Japanese heritage, were citizens of the U.S. whose loyalty was questioned by our government. Still others of these nationalities found themselves in the wrong place during the war. Forcibly removed from their families they were placed in a cold and alien environment. This exhibit tells their story, through photographs and poetry.

*Snow Country Prison* will be displayed from November 27 – December 10 in the Trader Room of the Roseau City Center. A *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* will take place on Friday, November 27 at 2 pm. On Sunday, November 29 following the *Holiday Open House and Potluck dinner*, Sue Fink, Education Director for the North Dakota Museum of Art will offer insight into the exhibit with historical information about the prison and some of the individuals interned there.

*Snow Country Prison* is made possible through a grant from Met Life.

Hosts for the Roseau County exhibit are Roseau County Historical Society and Roseau Public Library.

## SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT *BETWEEN FENCES* OPENS MARCH 28, 2010

The Roseau County Historical Society and Museum will open the second Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit the end of March. New exhibits and programs are planned for this event.

For this exhibit, we would like soil samples from Roseau County farmers. Bring a plastic peanut butter jar of soil with a card with the farmer's name and the land description (township, etc) to either the museum or one of the Roseau County elevators. Any size peanut butter jar will do; it should be filled to the top and the cover replaced. We will label each jar with the farm information for the exhibit.

Pickets will be displayed during the *Between Fences* exhibit. Individual picket fence boards (36"x6"x1") will be available at the museum for \$25 each. Pickets can be painted to reflect your business, family, individual interest. Please place your name, phone number and whether the picket(s) are from an adult, child, or business. Examples of pickets can be seen on this page or by checking the Roseau County Historical Society **Facebook** website.

Can we encourage you to grab your camera and take photos of fences and farm shelter belts as you drive around the county? For example, fences like cemetery enclosures, church yards, playgrounds make interesting subjects. Further illustrations may include fences as they appear in family photos, random landscapes, and may include farm animals, people, or unusual objects.

Submit your photos to the museum either by mail or email (rchsroseau@mncable.net). Please include the names of people, the locations and occasion/date of photographs if possible. If you wish to have them returned, please enclose a stamped addressed stamped envelope.



### **Fence Tidbit!**

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a live fence usually made of scrubs which are planted close together in a line.  
The answer is hidden somewhere within the newsletter articles. *Submit your answer for a drawing for a picket.*

## Picket Contest Challenge

Its time to take out the paint jars and cans,  
**design a picket and perhaps earn a little cash!**

The Roseau Area Arts Association will partner with the museum by providing three individual judges for the picket fence art contest.

There are three categories to the contest: business, adult, and child. A winner in each area will receive a \$50 cash prize.



***RCHS MEMBERS!  
CONSIDER HAVING  
YOUR NEWSLETTER  
DELIVERED BY E-MAIL!***

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

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mail or bring this form to**  
Roseau Co. Historical Society  
121 Center St. E, Suite 101  
Roseau, MN 56751

\*\*\*\*\*

**Or send your information to**  
rchsroseau@mncable.net

Help us become green!  
*Thank you!*

***2009 Annual Meeting Notes***

Approximately 60 people attended the Roseau County Historical Society Annual Meeting. The business meeting was held April 18 in the Roseau City Center Community Rooms and included a pot-luck dinner and program as part of the festivities.

President Glenn Holm officiated at the meeting.

The following changes to the Roseau County Historical Society By-laws were made:

**Article 1.**

The address of the society shall be:  
121 Center St. E Suite 101  
Roseau, MN, 56751

**Article 3, number 4:**

Active Membership includes the following categories and with annual dues.

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Sponsor	\$50.00
Patron	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$250.00

**Article 7, number 4:**

Verbiage changes were made as follows:

For purposes of the annual meeting, no quorum needs to be established.

**Article 11:**

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed in writing and filed with the secretary by any three members. The secretary shall notify all members, in writing, of the proposed amendments. They may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the annual meeting, provided two weeks shall have elapsed after sending a notice.

Incumbent board members Darrell Borgen, Sheila Winstead, and Lola Grafstrom were re-elected with Harriet Heinen, Warroad, being elected to the vacant board seat.

The business meeting was adjourned and the evening's guest speaker was introduced.

Skipper Jerry Solom and his wife Marion presented a slide show program of their 2003 - 2008 sailing trips on their sail boat "Indian Summer". The Solom and their son Terry sailed from Norway to Ireland to Portugal during the 2008 summer and then late in the fall Jerry and Terry sailed the "Indian Summer" back across the North Atlantic.

Northern Posse entertained with several bluegrass and folk music selections.

***Fence Tidbit!***

At 200 rails a day, it would take a farmer 75 days to split the rails necessary to enclose 160 acres with a \_\_\_\_\_ fence in 1860. The answer is hidden somewhere within the newsletter articles. *Submit your answer for a drawing for a picket.*



Greenbush students participated in a scavenger hunt while at the museum during a class field trip in May. These young people are in one of the classrooms designed by the *Women in Education* committee.

## Woman's History Month 2009 & 2010

Women's History Month March 2009 opened with a ceremonial induction of 18 women into the first *One Woman* program. The women were selected by Roseau County cities and townships to be honored for their community service.



Museum exhibits displaying the women's abilities, tell of their many talents and the ways in which they implemented service in their daily lives. Representing women from homemakers to a state representative, their selfless service is a tribute to all



women.

The women, and the communities they represent, are Lois M. Johnson - Badger, Agnes Paulsen - Barto, Hilda Erickson - Deer/Strathcona, Nelsine Dahl - Dieter, Irene Kristofferson - Enstrom, Ruth Eeg - Greenbush, Clarice Bolin - Grimstad, Delores L. Andol - Jadis, Amelia Janson - Lake, Lorraine Hedlund - Malung, Florence Hanson - Mickinock, Luella Solberg - Reine, Marie Budd - Roseau, Gladys Venaas - Ross, Pat Westman - Spruce, Maxine Penas - Stokes, Verna Grafstrom - Unorganized Townships, and Margaret Marvin - Warroad. Each woman is well deserving of the title of *One Woman*. We are honored to have them representing their areas.

A second area selected honored county *Women in Education*. Several exhibits designed by the Education Committee chaired by Pam Solberg, and the talents of Janice Brenden, Diane Churchill, Kelly Falk, Katie Hedlund, Gail Johnson, Elaine Lang, Sharon

Lund, Aliza Olson, Sheila Olson, Lori Schaible, Marion Solom, and Joyce Woitke were wonderful reminders of how education has changed and how women have participated in that change.

If one is interested in finding a woman who taught at a rural school they attended, they will be pleased to know there is a list of teachers compiled by these diligent researchers. Hours were spent finding photos, information on who held various positions including a superintendent, janitorial, and teachers and then putting together exhibits that told the story of their careers.

Interviews conducted and videoed by Katie Hedlund were developed into a documentary. The documentary tells of the policies and changes that took place during the years teachers taught in rural schools. An event honoring educators was well attended. Several speakers shared stories of the challenges and joys while teaching. Each woman who had the distinction of being selected "*Teacher of the Year*" received an honorary certificate.

Two additional events were enjoyed, including a Red Hat event and a quilt show, were well attended.

*Woman's History Month 2010* will open on February 28, when the ribbon is cut honoring the 2010 women selected as *One Woman* by their communities. We warmly encourage you to contact your township officials with suggestions for a woman you believe deserves this recognition.

Part II of the *One Women* exhibit will be *Women in Military*. To date, a list of 134 women, who have served in the military, has been compiled. Photographs and stories of each woman about whom we have received information will be displayed.

If you have a female family member who has served, or is serving, in our military, the historical society would like to add their history to the society's research center. Contact the museum at 218.463.1918, Jean Vatnsdal at 218.469.2516 or email the museum at [rchsroseau@mncable.net](mailto:rchsroseau@mncable.net) with any information you would like to share. Mail-in forms are also available on our website at [roseauhistoricalociety.org](http://roseauhistoricalociety.org).

Thank you for helping us honor these women!



## *2009 New and Renewing Members ♦ April - October 2009*

Thank you for your support this past year. This list represents those who have paid from April - October 2009. Your support enables us to provide programs, events and exhibits hedge that express the history of Roseau County, including the NW Minnesota 6th grade history contest and the children's summer scavenger hunt.

Membership in the Historical Society brings benefits, the newsletter, 10% off Roseau County Historical Society books, advance notices of upcoming events, and discounts on special events.

### New Members

*Welcome and thank you for joining RCHS!*

Tony & Brenda Armstrong SK Can  
Marie Bergland WRD  
Glen & Marjorie Broten R  
Marian Grider CA  
Gordon Johnson NE  
Norman & Sharon Miller R  
Carolyn Moser S  
William & Arlene Olson Rsvlt  
Pat Smidt  
Ernest & Patricia Pulczynski TX  
Lee & Marie Rosenwasser CA  
Joe & Catherine Stenzel  
Darrell Torrin IA

### Renewing Members

#### Individual

Sarah J. (Frutiger) Allard  
Mary Bergland R  
Pat Czeh R  
Joan Dahl S  
Vivian Eggen W  
Mark Engen WRD  
Charles Erickson R  
Paul D. Erickson R

Rose Fredrickson R  
Denice Fuller UT  
Loretta Goos R  
Audrey Haugen R  
Harriet Heinen WRD  
Floyd Hlucny GB  
Joan Johnson MT  
Elmer Karlstad S  
Carol Kofstad WRD  
Marie Kompelien R  
Eleanor Kramer R  
Lucille Landby WRD  
Phyllis Larson R  
Evelyn Lillo R  
Susan Lisell R  
LaMae Lundbolm R  
Louvic Mattson R  
Bonnie McKash R  
Gracia Nelson R  
Elizabeth Njaa GF  
Roger Norman R  
Ida Novacek R  
Phyllis Odegaard R  
Carol Olson R  
Bruce Olson B  
Gayle Rice R  
Barbara Robinson  
Collette Roth R  
Irene Sather GB  
Arlene Seydel AZ  
Diana Schneider R  
Violet Sunsten R  
Irene Svir B  
Adam Tsarek  
Linda Vatnsdal R  
Lori Waterworth R  
Keith Wicklund Fairbault

#### Family

Tim & Linda Andersen KLSA  
Roland & Joanne Anderson W  
Ed & Ann Baumgartner R  
Lewis & Arlene Besserud R  
LaMoyne & Janice Branden GB  
Dr. Ron & Debbie Brunner R  
Charles & Gloria Brown Wlms  
John & Elileen Carter R  
Ron & Vonda Danielson R  
Roger & Dr. Lynne Didrikson R  
Howard & Margaret Eklund R  
Bernard & Sharon Erickson FF  
Farrell & Anne Erickson B  
Mickal & Sheila Erickson  
Selvin "Buddy" & Debra Erickson  
John & Randi Gaukerud B

Earle & Dorothy Gehrke R  
James & Donna Gilbery WA  
Dave & Sharon Grafstrom R  
Sam & Lola Grafstrom S  
Jack & Jean Grahn WRD  
Robert & Karen Granitz R  
David & Lisa Hanson GB  
Dell & Eryls Hedlund R  
Alan & Iris Herling R  
Mike & Cheryl Holm R  
Lyndell & Kathleen Huisman R  
Ernie & Karen Janousek GB  
Dr. Luis & Neva Jain R  
Curtis & Becky Johnson B  
Keith & Leanne Johnson R  
Philip & Janet Johnson R  
Mark & Mary Karl R  
Paul & Rosella Knochenmus R  
Dr. Allen & Carol Larson GB  
June & Iden Magnusson R  
LeRoy & Karen Mattson W  
Dennis & Diane Monkman R  
Wayne & Marlene Nelson R  
Pat & Aryls Novacek R  
Richard & Ann Novacek GB  
Alan & Aliza Olson R  
Joel & Irene Olson R  
Floyd & Marjorie Olson R  
Walter & Carol Pederson R  
Steve & Jackie Reynold W  
Arlen & Diane Sandlund R  
Curtis & Gloria Skrutvold R  
Harlan & Sylvia Solberg R  
Warren & Ann Stoe R  
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Bill & Helen Wagner R  
Bill & Pat Westman R  
Don & Doris Wicklund R

#### Sponsor

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AmericInn Lodge & Suites R  
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## Memberships

### Patron (continued)

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 Polaris Industries  
 Roseau Community School  
 Roseau Subway  
 Township of Huss  
 Claus & Terri Wiebe  
 Wikstrom Telephone Co.

### Benefactor

Border State Bank  
 Central Boiler  
 Doug's Supermarket

**Thank you!**

## 2008 Fund Drive

**Thank you** for your donation to the 2008 Roseau County Historical Society Fund Drive. We want to be sure everyone receives credit for their donation, please contact us if your name has been omitted in either the spring issue or this one. One hundred donors contributions assisted the museum in purchasing a scanner, upgrade our computers, purchasing software, and provided support for the "Woman's History Month" exhibits.

*The following donors gave to the fund drive after March 30, 2008*

Doug's Super Market  
 Town of Dieter  
 Town of Pohlitz

**Thank you for your support!**

## ***"We Were Not Worried at Dinner Time": The October 1938 Forest Fires and the Last Frontier in the Rainy River – Lake of the Woods Borderland***

**Book signing - Sunday, November 22 at 2 pm  
 Roseau Co. Museum**

Harl and Kay Dalstrom will be signing copies of *"We Were Not Worried at Dinner Time": The October 1938 Forest Fires and the Last Frontier in the Rainy River – Lake of the Woods Borderland*. The authors, retired from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, are longtime summer residents near Kenora. Harl will give a brief presentation entitled "Dances, Editors, Fires, and Homicide: Researching Borderland History," which will describe some of the methods of doing research which the couple have used in various projects, including the 1938 fires and a 1937 murder on the Manitoba-Minnesota border northwest of Roseau. Early autumn, 1938 brought unusually warm, dry weather to the Rainy River-Lake of the Woods area.



Harl Dalstrom is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Kay Dalstrom is retired from the Foreign Language Department at UN-O. With Lawrence Larsen and Barbara Cottrell, they are co-authors of *Upstream Metropolis: An Urban Biography of Omaha and Council Bluffs* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007). Harl has written two other books on Omaha. In addition, the Dalstroms have written articles about dancing and dance bands on the Northern Plains (Kay's parents operated an Omaha-based "territory band" that performed at many dances in Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and other states.) They have also written about the 1948-1949 blizzards that brought life to a standstill in a large area of Nebraska and South Dakota. Both are longtime summer residents at Longbow Lake, near Kenora, Ontario.



2008 - 09 NW Minnesota 6th Grade History Contest Winners

**Holiday Open House & Pot Luck Dinner**  
**Roseau City Center**  
**November 29 at 6 pm**  
*Evening Entertainment: Sue Fink - North Dakota  
 Museum of Art Education Program Director  
 and Rhonda Rothenberger.*



Roseau County Historical Society  
 121 Center St. E, Suite 101  
 Roseau, MN 56751

### Gift Shop

<b>Heritage Book</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Centennial Book</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>80th Anniversary Cookbook</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Pioneer I</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Pioneer II</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>Remembrances</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Soldier's Song - DVD</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Traveling Through Time in MN Historic Northwest</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
A Northwest Regional Pictorial History Book	

Additional items available.

The Roseau County Historical Society Newsletter  
 is published two times a year and is free to members.

### UPCOMING 2009 EVENTS

*November 22, Sunday - 2 pm*  
 Book Signing by author of  
 "We were not worried at dinner time"

*November 27, Friday - 2pm*  
 Ribbon Cutting for  
 Snow County Prison: Interned in North Dakota  
 ND Traveling Museum Exhibit

*November 29, Sunday - 6pm*  
 Holiday Open House & Potluck Dinner  
 7PM PROGRAM

#### 2010 Events & Exhibits

*February 28, 2010, Sunday- 2pm*  
 "Woman's History Month"  
 Ribbon cutting

*March 28, 2010 - May 8 2010:*  
*Between Fences*  
 Smithsonian MOMS Traveling Exhibit

Watch for more information  
 In the spring newsletter!