

Roseau County Historical Society

Roseau County Historical Society Newsletter
Roseau County Minnesota

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2010



*The North Dakota Museum of Art,
Roseau County Museum & Roseau Public Library
Present
Photographer Jim Dow's
"Marking the Land"*



Museum and Research Center

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Hours:

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

Or by appointment

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Roseau County Historical Society
Dedicated to collect, preserve, and
disseminate the history and heritage of
Roseau County, Minnesota.

Notes from the Vice President - Brenda Sather

Happy Holidays!



With each new year, we continue as individuals or families to add to our own memories, history or heritage. Our mission at the Roseau County Historical Society is to ensure that these are captured and documented for future generations to enjoy in the Roseau County area. We continue to **focus on adding to the museum's vast collection of artifacts** as well as work on bringing quality and interesting exhibits and activities that further celebrate this mission.

The Holiday Open House and Potluck Dinner is scheduled for November 14th. This is a wonderful time for our members and guests to come together. It is also a time for us as board members of this organization to thank you for your continued support. There will be more details about this event in the newsletter.

We are also very pleased to announce that we once again will be hosting a Smithsonian Museum exhibit. **The exhibit "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music" will depict how music in America has been influenced by immigration. The exhibit is free to the public and you'll see more advertisement on this in the future.** Be sure to bring your family and friends as most of us will never get the opportunity to see an exhibit from a museum of the caliber. Also coming in February 2011 will be an exhibit **"Marking the Land" with unique photos of NW Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Plans are also underway for Women's History Month in March 2011 that will focus on One Woman and Women in Government.**

The staff has not only been busy planning for the future but has held many successful activities over this past summer. **The children's activities "Thursdays at the Movies" were well attended, and the ability for us to partner with the Dairy Queen on the August Sleuth Hunt for a blizzard drawing each Friday was a hit with the youth.** Of course, the Roseau County Fair exhibit was also well done and featured photos of many of the farms in our area that were 100 years old.


Finally, we were excited to be able to secure an exceptional piece for displaying the vast gun collection that we have which seems appropriate as we are into the hunting season. The case has been traced back to Jon Holm, an early pioneer. **Plans are underway to integrate this into the current show cases and you'll definitely want to stop by to see this.**

Again, I wish to thank you on behalf of the Board for your continued support and commitment to this organization and our mission.

Join the Roseau County Historical Society for their
**ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
 & POTLUCK DINNER**

Sunday, November 14
 Roseau City Center
 6 pm - Supper
 7 pm - Program

Holiday Exhibits & Door Prizes



~ Marking the Land ~

North Dakota Museum of Art Exhibit

Roseau County Historical Society and Roseau Public Library will host the second North Dakota Museum of Art exhibits made possible to the area by Met Life. *Marking the Land* can be viewed in the Trader Room in the Roseau City Center from February 8th through February 28th.

In 1981 the North Dakota Museum of Art invited Jim Dow of Boston to photograph the State's environmental folk art—that is, architecture, signage, sculpture, painting, grave markings, working shops, the stuff made by farmers during idle winter months, and all else that decorates the land. Over the course of a year, Dow captured over a hundred images. The initial commission was funded by Target Stores. Then in the late 1990s, he returned to North Dakota to photograph Northern League baseball parks. Dow once again was hooked on North Dakota. The Museum found enough money for Dow to begin anew, but this time with one condition: he could photograph whatever he pleased but Northwest Minnesota should be drawn into the project. From a distance of twenty years, Dow saw the larger themes harbored within the photos: change, the passing of time, the innate creativity demanded of people who live in rural or remote places, and the way humans live lightly on the land and then move on, leaving marks that soon fade away.

Jim Dow's photographs are among the most important works ever created about North Dakota. They encapsulate the historic change that swept across the Northern Plains in the last half of the twentieth century. Dow literally has captured the traces of people who have died or gone elsewhere. He records an earlier, hand-made existence, churches now sitting empty, the remains of decayed civic life. Described as having the "grandeur and loneliness of ancient ruins," Dow's work has been cherished for documenting the disappearing uniqueness of American life. Photographer, Jim Dow has been coming to North Dakota from Chicago

since 1981. First, Dow photographed folk art within the environment: sculpture, murals, carvings, and then tourist traps, odd manifestations, surface appearances, and the stuff

farmers made in their shops during long winter months. Gradually, his vision expanded to include vernacular architecture: people's places of business, classrooms, workshops, homes, backyards, and hunting lodges, as well as churches and cemeteries and prison yards. Twenty-five years and 300 photographs later, the project coalesces into this North Dakota portrait, a gentle assessment of a time, a land, and its people, and, just outside the picture frame, the weather that mandates endless change.

Marking the Land is a moving reflection by a leading American photographer on the state of the Northern Plains today, forcing us all to rethink our conceptions of America's forgotten frontier. The historic frontier life portrayed in *My Antonia* and *Little House on the Prairie* may be long gone, but the idyllic small town still exists as a cherished icon of American community life. The fading communities, social upheaval, and enduring heritage of the Northern Plains are the subject of Jim Dow's *Marking the Land*, a stirring photographic tribute to the complex and unyielding



landscape of North Dakota.

Marking the Land consists of approximately fifty photographs from nearly all reaches of NW Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

About Jim Dow: An indifferent student of graphic design at the Rhode Island School of Design, Jim Dow took a photography course with Harry Callahan, which caused him to switch his major. His fate was sealed when, purely by chance, he met Walker Evans and saw sculpture, murals, carvings, and then tourist traps, odd manifestations, surface appearances, and the stuff farmers made in their shops during long winter months. Gradually, his vision expanded to include vernacular architecture: people's places of business, classrooms, workshops, homes, backyards, and hunting lodges, as well as churches and cemeteries and prison yards. Twenty-five years and 300 photographs later, the project coalesces into a . . . portrait, a gentle assessment of a time, a land, and its people, and, just outside the picture frame, the weather that mandates endless change.

The exhibit is free to the public. Exhibit hours will be announced in the future.

New Harmonies Tidbit Look for boxes like this with questions in them. The answers are on page 7.

Who are the present singers who make up the *Overtones*?

New Harmonies

CELEBRATING AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

The Roseau County Historical Society and Museum Board of Directors is pleased to announce that from November 12, 2011 to December 24, 2011, the museum will host the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Traveling exhibit *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*. The museum is one of six sites chosen through a very competitive application with the Minnesota Humanities Center. The Minnesota Humanities has worked with the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street program for approximately five years to bring exhibits to the smaller libraries and museums in the state.

Music has always been a part of American life. Each culture has brought their own style of music and musical instruments when they immigrated to the United States. This variety has giving us a broad range of music to enjoy, and as time passes music adapts.

In the Smithsonian's words, as we "Listen to America's music . . . [we] hear the story of freedom. It's the story of people in a New World, places they have left behind, and ideas they have brought with them. It is the story of people who were already here, but whose world is remade. The distinct cultural identities of all these people are carried in song-both sacred and secular. Their music tracks the unique history of many people reshaping each other into one incredibly diverse and complex people - Americans. Their music is the roots of American music.

"The music that emerges is known by names likes blues, country western, folk ballads, and gospel. The sounds are as sweet as mountain air and as sultry as a summer night in Mississippi delta country. The instruments vary from fiddle to banjo to accordion to guitar to drum. But a drum in the hands of an African sounds different than one in the hands of a European. And neither is the drum-beat of an American Indian. Yet all the rhythms merge, as do the melodies and harmonies, producing completely new sounds – new music. The music merge[s] because this is America. New waves of music ride ashore in the hearts and heads of new immigrants and they create still new sounds from what they have brought with them and what they find here. And nothing expresses the tensions or the triumphs – of this journey into democracy quite like the music it spawns.



The National Museum of the American Indian National Powwow, Verizon Center, Washington, D.C., 2005. Photo by Walter Larrrore - Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian



musical roots from "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to the latest hip hop CD." (MOMS *New Harmonies* Exhibit Support Manual, pg 3)

It is exciting to be able to bring this exhibit to our county. The county has so many talented people who entertain in many different places. Through our personal exhibit we will explore the music and the people who bring that music to us.

For more information or to assist with the upcoming exhibit, contact the Roseau County Historical Society and Museum at 218-463-1918. Volunteers are needed to be docents, design exhibits, and assist with programs.

New Harmonies Tidbit

This church singing group was organized in 1991 and has performed from International Falls to Moorhead. (see pg 7)

Celebrate Women Woman's History Month



Has your township selected an individual for the *One Woman* program for Women's History Month in March 2011? If not there is still time. We would like to have all nominations in by December first so we can contact the families and they can put together their exhibit items.

Last year thirteen women from county townships and cities were honored during an induction ceremonial held in the Roseau City Center. These women who came from all walks of life were an example to everyone. 2010 women are Alma Anderson - Stokes, Alma Lee - Dieter, Brenda Yanok - Unorganized, Christine Nelson - Malung, Gertie Hetteen Carter - Jadis, Joy Phillipe - Warroad, Kelly Falk - Roseau, Lucille Wiskow - Huss, Marie Comstock - Falun, Marie Oslund - Palmville, Oline Erickson - Badger, Ruth Stukel - Warroad, and Selma Rigstad - Greenbush.

The second area of Woman's History Month will honor the women would have worked and served in government. Many women have served as township officers for 20 years or more. All township officers, male and female, give service that is not noticed by their constituents until they are flooded or have another township situation. Woman's History Month presents the opportunity to honor the women who serve.

County and city employees will also receive recognition for their service.

If you can help us discover who has served in any of these capacities, contact the museum at 218-463-1918.

From the Collection Manager Britt Dahl

The historical society and museum gratefully acknowledge the wonderful acquisition items it has received this year. Over sixty donators have added items to the collection. Increasing the collection adds new history memorabilia and contributes to upcoming Roseau County Museum displays.

Some notable items include a wooden Art Desk, circa 1900, belonging to Myra (Heieren) Johnson; "The Classroom Printer", a large wooden case containing approximately 320 rubber stamp letters, numbers, and words, dated 1932 which belonged to former teacher Gladys Hontvet; an Oliver Typewriter, patented in 1912; several Lao dresses, three Olympic Hockey jerseys worn by Don Ross when he participated in the Olympic games; Frans Peter (Pete) Jensen's WWI items, including a helmet, hat, tie, and gas mask, along with a plaque commemorating Pete as the first Commander of the Badger VFW Post. Other objects and archive items include telephone records and a ledger kept by Mabel Gregerson during the over fifty-one years she served as Badger's switchboard operator; Audrey Jensen's hand-written recipes, Audrey was the first instructor for the Vocational Food Service class in Roseau; S&H Green Stamps and Gold Bond, and Gas Stamps along with several stamp books. When the Roseau United Methodist church dissolved, many items were received from the church; and Norm Flagstad presented Maurine Flagstad's Methodist Church collection as well as a display case. A most recent item received was the compass from the Lake of the Woods passenger and freight vessel, the Resolute.



Please consider the museum the next time you are going through items in your home or a deceased family member's items; yesterday was history. Something doesn't have to be antique to be in the museum. It will just tell the story of an era.

Museum Benefactors & Grants

During the past year the museum has received two estate gifts. These gifts have enabled us to obtain long-term progress in program development and to establishing additional opportunities to collect and preserve the county's history.

The estate gifts were received from Kenneth Holm of Oregon, in recognition of the years he enjoyed visiting the museum as a youth; and Gladys Paulson of Badger, a former historical society member. Gladys was a long time supporter.

Estate gifts such as these leave a lasting legacy by providing equipment, and supplies and increasing the historical society's endowment fund for years to come.

For more information on how to pro-

vide estate gifts to the historical society, contact the museum, the NW Minnesota Foundation, or your personal representative.

On another note, the museum has benefited from three grants since last fall.

During the setup for Woman's History Month 2009, several educators thought it would be advantageous for the museum to have a SMART board. A SMART board is an interactive white board used for educational purposes. With the assistance of Warroad educator Lorie Schaible, RCHS was able to receive a funding from Polaris Industries, the Minnesota Historical Society and from a pri-

vate grant funder with the Minnesota Foundation.

Then this past spring, Roseau School Advanced History teacher Aaron Nelson and Charleen Haugen applied for an oral history grant to do veteran interviews and were funded by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for equipment.

Recently RCHS also received grant funding from the Harz Foundation for exhibit cases for the gallery.

These grants have opened doors for new and different projects!

Thank you to all of these benefactors.

New and Renewing Members ♦ November 2009 - October 2010

Thank you for your support this past year. This list represents those whose membership is current from Nov. 2009 through Oct. 2010. Your support enables us to provide programs, events and exhibits 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!

Robin Shimpa McIntosh, MN
Luanne Baumgartner R
Angie Peterson G
Lore Maas Winona, MN
Dean & Ruth Lindgren ND
Dennis & Rose Strandlund R
Vern & Joanne Sunset CO
Rosemary Slaughter WI
Jan Jenson R
Christopher E. Smith
Roseville, MN
Larry Olds Minneapolis, MN

Individual

James Avron MR
Ann Baumgartner R
Mary Bergland R
Val Bernat Jr. W
Pat Czeh R
Dianne Dahl R
Vivian Eggen Wan
Paul D. Erickson R
Charles Erickson R
Clarice Kelly Falk R
Rose Fredrickson R
Denice Fuller UT
Barb Geer MR
Dorothy Gehrke R
Marlis Glennen B
Loretta Goos R
Geanen Grefthen R
Marian Grider, St. Francis, MN
Kevin & Janette Guida R
Audrey E. Haugen R
Jean Haugtvedt R
Nolan Hauta R
Lorraine Hedlund R
Harriet Heinen War
Scott Hetteen R

Floyd Hlucny G
Paula Housker R
Myrna Johnson G
Joan Johnson MT
Carol M. Kofstad War
M. Lucile Landby War
Phyllis Larson R
Evelyn Lillo R
Susan Lisell R
Alve Lund G
LaMae Lundbohm R
Shirley Magnuson R
Louvic Mattson R
Dorothy Monsrud Salo
Carilyn Moser Salo
Elizabeth Njaa GF
Byron Norby DL
Ida Novacek R
Phyllis Odegaard R
Carol Olson R
Bruce Olson B
Gayle Rice R
Barbara Robinson Salo
Irene Sather GB
Diane Saurdiff War
Diana Schneider R
Arlene Seydel AZ
Ann Marie Skrutvold R
Patricia J. Smidt TRF
Ruth Stukel W
Violet Sunsten R
Irene Svir B
Darryl Torrin IA
Linda Vatnsdal R
Katherine Vertina Salo
Keith Wicklund Fairbit
Avis Wiskow G

Family

Curtis & Carol Amundson R
Tim & Linda Andersen KLSD
Roland & Joanne Anderson W
Glen & Donna Arneson MR
Bob & Judi Aronson Roseau
Glen & Marie Bergland W
Lewis & Arlene Besserud R
Darrell & Judy Borgen B
LaMoyne & Janice Branden GB
Glen & Marjorie Broten R
Charles & Gloria Brown Wlms
Dr. Ron & Debbie Brummer R
John & Elileen Carter R
Roger & Dr. Lynne Didrikson R
Howard & Margaret Eklund R
Bernard & Sharon Erickson FF
Farrell & Anne Erickson B
Mickal & Sheila Erickson
John & Randi Gaukerud B
James & Donna Gilbery WA
Dave & Sharon Grafstrom R
Sam & Lola Grafstrom S
Jack & Jean Grahn WRD
Robert & Karen Granitz R

Scott & Tallie Habstritt R
Michael & Karen Hagen R
David & Lisa Hanson GB
Ardmore & Charleen Haugen R
Dell & Eryls Hedlund R
Nick & Brittany Hemmingson R
Mike & Cheryl Holm R
Lyndell Huisman & Kathleen Raykowski Idaho
Dr. Luis & Nevadita Jain R
Ernie & Karen Janousek G
Curtis & Becky Johnson B
David & Eleanor Johnson R
Dick & Gail Johnson R
Keith & Leanne Johnson R
Philip & Janet Johnson R
Dan & Julie Johnston R
Mark & Mary Karl R
Jeff & Trish Klein W
Dr. Allen & Carol Larson GB
June & Iden Magnusson R
LeRoy & Karen Mattson W
Dr. John Jr. & Georgine McMartin Mpls, MN
James & Shirley Miller R
Norman & Sharon Miller G
Dennis & Diane Monkman R
Edward & Etta Mooney TRF
Wayne & Marlene Nelson R
Forrest & Linda Novacek VA
Pat & Aryls Novacek R
Richard & Ann Novacek GB
Alan & Aliza M Olson R
Duane & Shelia Olson R
Floyd & Marjorie Olson R
William & Arlene Olson Rsvlt
Layton & Marie Oslund Wan
Scott & Michelle Ostroski R
Todd & Eunice Otto R
Norbert & Laurel Pastir R
Walter & Carol Pederson R
Mitchell & Carol Rhen B
Lee & Marie Rosenwasser CA
Phil & Gwen Sallberg R
Arlen & Diane Sandlund R
Darlene Sandstrom MO & Carol Tillberg B
Curtis & Gloria Skrutvold R
Gary & Michelle Slater R
Harlan & Sylvia Solberg R
Joe & Catherine Stenzel R
Warren & Ann Stoe R
Jim & Janet Strandlie TRF
Ron & Marg Unger SK Cnda
Dr. Byron & Mary Vandewege R
Sheldon & Deanne Vatnsdal R
Bill & Helen Wagner R
Bill & Pat Westman R
Don & Doris Wicklund R

Sponsor

Annie's Trading Post
Prior Electric, Inc
Law Offices of Patrick D. Moren
Agassiz Insurance Group
Gieseke Funeral Chapel
Helgeson's Funeral Chapels

2010 Memberships & 2009 Fund Drive

Mattson Pharmacy
 Optometric Clinic
 Greenbush Veterinary Clinic
 Doug & Linda Hedlund R
 Felix & Eunice Korczak G
 Town of Enstrom
 Town of Falun
 Town of Mickinock
 Town of Palmville
 Town of Ross
 Town of Spruce
 Town of Stafford

Patron
 AmericInn Lodge & Suites - Roseau
 R&Q Trucking Inc
 Wikstrom Telephone Co.
 Roseau Community School
 Border State Bank Roseau
 Czeh, Pederson & Wilson, CPA
 B B Diversified, LTD.
 Intercept Industries Ltd.
 Roseau Subway
 Roseau Electric Cooperative
 Robert & Helen Bergland R
 Dr. Mike & Mrs. Dieter R
 Vernon Johnson R
 Robert & Patricia Olson Ely
 Town of Huss
 Carole Wilson R
 Doug's Supermarkets

Thank you!

2010 Fund Drive

We express our appreciation for your contribution toward the 2009 Roseau County Historical Society Fund Drive. Due to your additional donations, we were able to increase our programs, focus on new exhibits, such as the Smithsonian "Between Fences", One Woman, Women in Military, and Century Farm, plus purchase some much needed collection care supplies. Your donations exceeded \$6,000. Thank you for your support.

We want to be sure everyone receives credit for their donation. Please contact us if your name has been omitted.

Carol & Curtis Amundson
 Ann Baumgartner
 Chuck Baxter
 Bob & Helen Bergland
 Mary Bergland
 Val Bernat, Jr.
 Bessie Billberg
 LaMoyne & Janice Branden
 Michael & Linda Blumer
 Darrell & Judy Borgen
 John & Eileen Carter
 Central Boiler Inc.
 Citizens State Bank - Roseau
 Czeh, Pederson & Wilson

Pat & Wayne Czeh
 Dianne Dahl
 Harl & Kay Dalstrom
 Wendell D. Daneilson
 Dental Health Office
 Ed & Delores Desrosier
 Dr. Michael & Mary Dieter
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 Howard & Margaret Eklund
 Buddy & Debra Erickson
 Charles W. Erickson
 Paul Erickson
 John & Randi Gaukerud
 Earl & Dorothy Gehrke
 Gieseke Funeral Chapel
 Sam & Lola Grafstrom
 Greenbush Vet Clinic
 David & Lisa Hanson
 Ardmore & Charleen Haugen
 Jean Haugtvedt
 Nolan Hauta
 Lorraine Hedlund
 Helgeson Funeral Chapel
 Scott Hetteen
 Gertrude Hoglin
 Michael & Cheryl Holm
 Dr. Luis & Neva Jain
 Ernie & Karen Janousek
 David & Eleanor Johnson
 Dick & Gail Johnson
 Keith & Leanne Johnson

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 Town of Ross
 Town of Spruce
 Town of Stafford
 Roxan Vatnsdal
 Helen & Bill Wagner
 Pat Westman
 Warroad Motors Inc.
 Wikstrom Telephone Co. Inc.
 Robert & Sheila Winstead

A significant donation to the fund drive was received from Bob & Joan Fikkan-Shetterly in memory of their daughter Elizabeth and Joan's parents Elizabeth Shetterly and Amos and Irene Fikkan.

Thank you for your generous support to keeping the history and heritage of Roseau County for future generations!

2010 Minnesota History Contest



Seven schools participated in the 2010 Minnesota History Contest at the Roseau County Museum and Interpretive Center. The contest is sponsored by the following banks: Border State-Badger, Citizens State-Roseau, and Security State-Warroad.

The following student participated:

Back L-R: Marisa Newton, Goodridge; Brady Klien, Greenbush/ MR; 6th-Martyn Novacek, Greenbush/MR; 5th-Amy Svir, Badger; 4th-Sabel Knochenmus, Roseau; Dylan Olsonawski, Lancaster; Sydney Sele, Lancaster

Middle L-R: Courtney Novacek, Greenbush/MR; Riley Sovde, Badger; 3rd-Robby Davy, Badger; 2nd-Kirsten Grafstrom, Roseau; 1st-Sam Moorhead, Warroad; Kirk Pearson, Warroad; Erin Thompson, Warroad; Cassidy Stenvik, Goodridge

Front L-R: Trent Jerome, Lancaster; Madison Bakken, Grygla-Gatzke; Samantha Kraulik, Grygla-Gatzke; Caleb Olson, Goodridge; and Benji Wilebski, Goodridge

New Harmonies Tidbit Answers

- Pg 3: Dale Billberg, Neil Vagle, Randy Howell, and Keith Sandland
- Pg 4: Zion Lutheran Church's Z-Men



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

Gift Shop

Heritage Book	\$50.00
Centennial Book	\$18.00
80th Anniversary Cookbook	\$15.00
Pioneer I	\$15.00
Pioneer II	\$12.50
Remembrances	\$10.00
Soldier's Song - DVD	\$10.00
Traveling Through Time in MN Historic Northwest	\$20.00
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.

2010 EVENTS

November 14, Sunday - 6 pm
 Holiday Open House & Potluck Dinner
 7PM PROGRAM

EXHIBITS

Roseau County: Between Fences
 "Roseau County Century Farms"
 "One Woman" and "Women in Military"

2011 EVENTS & EXHIBITS

February 8, Tuesday - 7 pm
 "Marking the Land"
 North Dakota Museum of Art
 Traveling Exhibit - Feb. 8 - Feb. 28

March 6, Sunday - 1 pm
"Woman's History Month"
 Ribbon cutting

March 19, Saturday, 10 am
 "Women in Government"

November 12 - December 24, 2011
 "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music"
 Smithsonian MOMS Traveling Exhibit

See you at the Museum!