

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"A Window into the Past"

JULY 2015

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Anne Anderson

THINGS TO SEE AT THE MUSEUM

.BLANKET OF PATCHES



This colorful display of World War II chevrons were collected by the Gothenburg Times office during the war from Gothenburg and area veterans. Jim Holmes, pub-

lisher of the Times during that era, displayed the patches at the office. Mrs. Wilmeth, an area seamstress, sewed the patches on the Army issue blanket.

A family member of the Times staff later gave the "Blanket of Patches" to Bob Bullock, the Gothenburg Post Adjutant for the American Legion.

There are 255 patches on the blanket each indicating the squadron or division in which the person served.

In 2015, after the death of Bob Bullock, his family gave the "Blanket of Patches" to the Gothenburg Historical Museum in his memory.

PNY EXPRESS SAMPLER QUILT -

The sampler designed by author and quilter, Jodi Barrows, was pieced and donated to the museum by Kathy LaFleur of Port Barre, LA.

The Pony Express Sampler was designed from a love of history and nostalgia for

the romance of the old west. The quilt commemorates the 150 year celebration of the Pony Express. Each of the 13 blocks in this sampler have their own story. Each star represents history of the Pony Express and its stations. The long vine represents the Great Platte River and Humboldt River. The patchwork cabin in the center portrays the St. Joseph, Missouri stable where the Pony Express began.



2015 STATISTICS.....

At the end of June 2015 we have hosted 803 visitors to the museum from 43 different states and 10 foreign countries.. This compares to 759 at this same date in 2014. Our volunteer hours recorded in 2015 by the board total

83.25 hrs., greeters 466.75 hrs. and other volunteers 826.0 hrs.

If you would like to become a volunteer at the museum, you may contact us by email (address is at the left of this

page) or give a call to Roger at 529-2196 or Anne at 529-0906. A special thank you to our greeter coordinators this year— Connie Larson and Carol VanOverbeke.

"MEMORIES OF FRIENDS"

Memories of Friends" was written by John Franzen Martens (May 5, 1890-March 25, 1974) of Reynolds, IL. He was the son of Charlie and Anke Franzen Martens. They lived on the section east of Gothenburg's Grandview Cemetery where the family home- steaded. See more about the "FRIENDS." continued on pg. 3

Sometimes I get to thinking
Of the friends I used to
know;
And of all the good old
neighbors
I knew so long ago.

There was Jennings, there
was Spauldings-
I'm naming just a few-
Cap Holmes and also
Janssen's,
And old Bartholomew.

And Bill May had the drug
store,
Fred Karlson sold us meat-
And there were many others
Along Old Winchell Street.

One time I worked for
Dahlquist,
About two years or so—
Then I worked for Old
Platte Valley
Some thirty years ago.

There was Walsh and old
Tom Kelly
Bill Witthuhn worked there,
too;
Cal Williams and old Ryan
Made up the office crew.

Art Hawley was head
miller,
Jack Deidel worked there,
too;
Myself and the two Georges
Made up the miller's crew.

My brother ran the engine
'Twas more than hundred
horse;
It was a gas producer

Made by Fairbanks-Morse.
It had a large producer,
Had purifiers too;
It had a tar extractor,
And other gadgets, too.

The flour that we made
there
Was made in many brands;
'Twas shipped into the
Southland,
And some to foreign lands.

We handled lots of flour
We worked from morn 'til
late;
The "P.V.M." was patent,
And "Happy Home" was
straight.

And then I got to hauling
Express and freight around,
And I delivered groceries
For every store in town.

You know, I have some
memories
That are my very own,
That center 'round that
sod house
That once we called our
home.

'Twas there we played as
children,
'Twas there we laughed and
cried;
'Twas there we spent so
many hours,
'Twas there that mother
died.

I remember all our neigh-
bors,
I'm sure I really do;

The Blocks, McNeals and
Adens
The Scotts and Franzens,
too.

And then down towards
Willow,
Among the Irish Crew,
The Harknesses and
Costins,
McKees and Ralstons, too.

And there were many
others,
I cannot name them all—
The Newmans and the
Gerdes,
And Folly Rosendahl.

Now, all my friends I wish
you
Good health and every-
thing;
May we all draw close and
closer
'Neath the shadow of His
wing.

I wish you many blessings,
And may we ever try
To draw nearer and ever
nearer
To the Master in the Sky.

PLATTE VALLEY MILLING COMPANY: Gothenburg's first flour mill was built in 1887. In 1903 The Platte Valley Milling Company or the P.V.M., began milling flour and was in operation 24 hours a day. In 1906 the mill began work at remodeling and putting in new machinery and began using a new linen flour sack. In 1908 the mill installed a new 100 H.P. gas engine. Two hundred barrels of flour were milled every 24 hours. In 1912, the mill made 7,044 sacks of flour, each weighing 48 pounds. In 1913, the production was increased to 14,222 sacks. This mill was located on the rail- road right-of-way just east of Avenue G. Gothenburg was known for miles around as a flour milling center during the peak of operation. Unfortunately it came to an end in 1919 when the big mill burned to the ground



"A Window into the Past"

MEMORIES....Continued from page 2

W. J. Bartholomew Drug

Store: The Bartholomew store was noted to be one of the hand-somest drug stores in western Nebraska; one of the most modern and complete to be found anywhere. It carried a full inventory of drugs, sundries, books, stationery, school supplies, fancy china, a carefully conducted prescription department and an appealing soda fountain. A large ornamental balcony on the three sides of the room offered additional space for handling a large stock of china and books which drew customers from a wide area.

Jennings and Spaulding

Hardware Store: John Jennings and Edwin Spaulding grew up as best friends in a small northeast Iowa town called Waukon. Their friendship spanned their lifetime, which included their personal life and business careers. On March 1, 1890 Jennings & Spaulding began their partnership in Gothenburg. In 1890, Gothenburg was just another one of the newer small towns on the Union Pacific rail line with a population of about 500. The dam to form Lake Helen had just been completed, but was waiting for the water. Work at the hardware store was divided when it opened with Spaulding handling the books and bills while Jennings who was a tinsmith was to do the buying and look after the tin-shop. Within a few years after locating in Gothenburg, the partners bought a 150 foot lot and here each built a house. The friendly relations that existed during business hours were continued side-by-side where each devoted himself to his home and children. Both men were well respected in the

community with Jennings serving as Town Clerk and then Mayor.

Cap Holmes: J.C. "Cap" Holmes was the first editor and publisher of the Gothenburg Times. Holmes came to Gothenburg in 1908. It is told that Cap would meet every train with a notebook in hand and ask people where they were going or coming from. Then he'd return to the newspaper office and write up accounts of what the residents of Gothenburg were doing. Every member of the Holmes family worked to put the paper together on press night and each issue was a precious memento of the hours of work that went into it.

H. Janssen Company:

Janssen Company was a dealer in hardware, furniture and im-



Early Times Office Building

plements. The furniture department offered the finest and newest furniture, carpets, rugs, curtains and pictures at prices with the reach of every pocketbook. The hardware department included stoves, ranges, graniteware, tin-ware and the many articles used in a home or on the farm. The implement department had a full line of farm implements made by the oldest and most reliable manufacturers.

Bill May: In 1882 William C. May came to Gothenburg and

became a telegraph operator for the Union Pacific Railroad. An ardent Republican, May was appointed postmaster of Gothenburg in 1888, by President Harrison. He later served two terms as County Clerk of Dawson County. Upon returning to Gothenburg he opened a Drug Store in the old opera house, and acquired the Gothenburg Independent Telephone Exchange. In 1916, continuing his interest in Republican politics, he was a delegate to the National Convention in Chicago. In 1919, Mr. May sold the Gothenburg Telephone Company to NE Bell Telephone Company. The following year he and his family moved to Santa Ana, CA. "Bill" was a well known figure on the streets of the town. Everyone could always tell when spring had arrived because "Bill" May started wearing his straw hat.

Gus Dahlquist—The Peoples

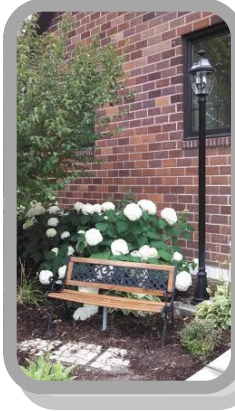
Store: The Peoples Store offered a very full and complete line of dry goods, groceries, furnishings, men's shoes, hats and men's furnishings. All goods were reportedly to be standard and high-grade. The Peoples Store was not only one of the busiest, but was also the most attractive places to trade in the city.

Winchell Street: The Winchell family was one of the early pioneer families to settle in the western part of Dawson County. Lake Avenue at one time was named Winchell Street in their honor. Edmond Winchell took part in the affairs of the area serving on the first school board and as a County Commissioner.

Information
and pictures
taken from
the
Gothenburg
History
Book
published in
1992.

We're Looking Good!

In June all fourteen windows were replaced in the museum to provide more economical heating and cooling as well as protect the items in the museum from harmful UV rays. With a grant from the local Chamber Tourism Committee and the Dawson County Visitors Committee, utilizing lodging tax improvement money collected by our motels and campgrounds, we were able to pay for this improvement to our facility.



Also in June we were able to install an underground sprinkler system after receiving a monetary donation from Donna McConnell in memory of her parents, Vera and Wesley Geiken, and a donation from Jane Sheets.

Thank you to Roger Heidebrink for refinishing our welcome bench and to Jane Sheets & Judy Frey and their families for maintaining the garden area with fresh mulch and adding a few new flowers. Special thanks to Jay Richeson for his time and equipment to help dig out the lawn area in front of the museum to eliminate water pooling over onto the sidewalk. Also helping with that project were Dick Larson, Tim Greenlee and Kevin Earll. The area has been reseeded and the new grass is coming in nicely.



2015 NEW & RENEWALS

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who have joined or renewed their membership and contributed to the museum building fund to date. Those in bold are new since the April newsletter.

- Dick & Connie Larson
- Pam Slack
- Bev & Chuck Titkemeier
- Denise Brittenham
- Leonard France
- Gene & Velma Schriver
- Jim & Janice Gonzales
- Milan & Barb Franzen
- Tom & Rhonda Jobman
- Gary & Anne Anderson
- Roger Heidebrink
- Jane Sheets
- **Randy Garcia**
- **Connie Bihlmaier**
- **Jack Soller**
- **Romaine & Joan Aden**
- **Dan & Liz Frerichs**
- **Dick & Connie Ostergard**
- **Loren & Mary Koch**
- **Eddie & Regis Fruit**
- **Gothenburg Feed Products**
- **Terry & Cathy Healey**
- **Robert Ronnekamp**
- **Gothenburg State Bank**
- **Gerald & Janet Kranau**
- **Father Wayne Pavela**
- **Robin & Lynnette Stevens**
- **Cathy Simon**
- **Larry & Kathy Nichols**
- **Jack & Faye Kniss**
- **Roy & LaVawn Farnstrom**
- **LeRoy & Elsie Cyriacks**
- **Marcy Wahlgren**
- **Dr. James Graff**
- **Jill Rubenthaler**
- **Mike & Deb Bacon**
- **Dick & Jackie Schwanz**
- **Diane Trullinger**
- **Gene & Cora Bosch**
- **Bob & Mary Theasmeyer**
- **Don & Marcia (Zorn) Welch**