

# History Notes



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Waseca County Historical Society

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P.O. Box 314, Waseca MN. 56093

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*From the Desk  
of  
Margaret  
Sinn*



Were did Spring go? I suppose it washed away with the rain. Suppose that the Farmers will have a great growing season? That would be nice. Then it would all be worth it. At least my flowers like it and I don't have to water much.

There are several things that I would like to tell you in this newsletter. Some really great things are happening at the museum right now. Waseca's own George Ericson or Eugene Iverd 's paintings are on display at the Owatonna Art Center. After it is finished there it will be coming to Waseca. The show will open here on the 4th of August 2002. This is the same Sunday the Waseca Garden Club Garden Tour will be held. The Bailey/Lewer House will be featured on the tour and refreshments served. Joan makes it her personal mission to make the gardens different every year. This year she has added new beds in back and planted heirloom vegetables, flowers and vines. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 4th from 1 to 5 pm. Attend the Ericson/Iverd show as well as all the gardens featured on the tour,

For those of you who are not familiar with Eugene Iverd, here is part of an article written by his daughter Jean Ericson Sakumura.

George Ericson-grew up in Waseca. His father thought the life of an artist was not for George and discouraged him. George's brother Carl and his mother were his supporters, sometimes behind his fathers back. George and Carl owned the Waseca popcorn wagon. The money helped finance his education. After George started attending art school in Minneapolis, Carl ran the popcorn wagon alone and sent the money on to his brother. After George gained some success he painted his commercial work under the name Eugene Iverd his commercial work. According to his daughter Jean "Iverd was the middle name of his brother Carl. One day when George was 14 he came out of the house and called to Carl, "Hey Iverd come here a minute!" Carl said, "My name is Carl, and I won't come until you call me that!" "Iverd is a good name," George said. Just then Carl looked across the street and saw a neighbor boy named Eugene. "Iverd is a dumb name," Carl said, "just like Eugene!" No, George replied, "and someday when I am a great artist, I'm going to use both names

and prove it to you. I'm going to make the name Eugene Iverd famous!"

Silvan Durban, Gwen Buscho and I had the opportunity to meet Jean when we went to Kansas City to pick up the paintings she was loaning the show. She is a delightful person and tells me that she will be coming to Waseca for the opening of her father's show. She believes that other members of the family will be with her as well.

When the Ericson/Iverd show leaves us it will be going to the Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and then it's last stop will be in Wisconsin. After that it will be dispersed back to the works original owners.

We have two new faces at the museum. The first is Pauline Fenelon. Pauline has been here for several months in fact. We are thrilled that she has joined us. Pauline has a Bed and Breakfast in Janesville but is a native New Richland girl. She was the librarian at the Janesville High School until her retirement. She and Terrie are doing a job share cataloging the collection.



The other new face is Joyce Frederick. Joyce is our green thumb person. She is doing data entry. Right now she is putting the 1880 Federal census on our internet page. Joyce was working at the Neighborhood Service Center, until they moved. Joyce has a smile for everyone. We are fortunate to have both of these ladies with us. I realize that I am somewhat prejudice but I think there are no finer staff in the County than what we have at WCHS.



We wish to remember Frank and Elise Papke for donating \$3,000 to the society. Their daughter donated the money saying that her parents wished for us to have it. This money will be presented to the board at the July meeting for their action to send it to the Waseca County Historical Society Foundation. Only a percentage of the interest will be returned to the society each year for expenses. The donation itself will always work for the society. This would appear to be fitting thing for a man who worked so quietly and yet so steadily for this society for so many years. Have a wonderful summer!



# Springtime in Waseca County

Finally Spring has sprung at last! Appleblossoms and lilacs, tulips and dandelions add color to our neighborhoods and landscapes. Nature in all its splendor! The following article is a selection of newspaper articles reflecting "Springtime" activity in Waseca County:

## Indian Skeleton and Relics

On Wednesday afternoon, F.H. Miner, Wm. Emerson, D.J. Dodge, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Cohen, the latter a traveling man, went up the lake on a fishing expedition. They stopped at the island and just before their return, while crossing from one side to the other, Mr. Emerson observed a bleached bone protruding from the ground. Out of curiosity he pulled it from the loose dirt and on examination found it to be a human bone, the femur.

This led to further investigation. The ground was dug up and the full outlines of a human skeleton were made plainly visible. In life it must have been immense, as it measures over six feet in length. A traditional story comes down, and the finding of these bones would seem to authenticate it, that years ago, an Indian chief died and was buried on the island. The story further tells that beside him were placed his implements of war, his necklace and the ornaments that adorned the leaders of his tribe. This too was substantiated by the finding of numerous articles, answering to the above, among which was a stone axe, two whet stones, a nicely carved pipestone, on one side of which was engraved in Indian fashion, a Teepee, and in the other the figure of a pipe, a piece of wampum, used for money, and made of blue translucent stone, six pieces of rings of coiled wire, a cylindrical hollow bone, six inches long, flattened on one side, on which curious marks and figures appeared, two handles made from a buffalo's ribs, supposed to be the handles of a tomahawk, and pointed tips of bone, supposed to be from deer's horns, and made into a necklace. These were all in

a fine state of preservation. Wm. Emerson took them in charge, cleaned and polished them and now has them on exhibition.

The bones of the Indian, however, were not preserved well. They were brittle and many of them broke when taken up. The teeth were the only parts perfectly preserved. The enamel is as white and polished as when the chieftain led his tribe in the wilderness and over the wild plains of the west.

The bones were all placed in a box and given in charge of Mr. Emerson. He has them partially cleaned and will in due time string them for exhibition. They will be kept as a curiosity and as a valuable memento of the day's work and the traditional story of the chief and his tribes. *Janesville Argus, May 11, 1886.*

—Clothes line thieves are beginning to ply their trade again. We hear of several instances lately. On Monday night the line in Mrs. Hall's yard was raided. Among other things taken was an easy hammock. Whoever indulges in these little pastimes ought to be detected and dealt with severely.

—Our old friend, J.J. Headly, was seen upon the streets of Mankato one day last week. He is still a resident of LuVernè, Rock County. He gave the information that sometime he should return to Janesville and make one good long visit. He thought possibly there might be some here who would be pleased to see him. Others, perhaps, would not. For our part we shall be very much pleased and shall welcome him at any time he may come.

## Big Vegetables at Alma

Editor Argus: As we don't see much in your paper of late from our locality, we propose to compare a few garden items with your town.

We have in our garden sweet corn of the Cory variety standing two feet high and beginning to show tassels. Potatoes fourteen inches high. Peas of the American wonder variety loaded with pods. Beets 12 inches tall with bottoms 1 1/4 inches in diameter. Wax beans 14 inches tall, loaded with blossom buds. Tomatoes nearly as tall. A nice patch of sweet potatoes doing finely, besides various other things that we are not ashamed of. How does that compare with your town please?

Milo Baldwin

Alma City, May 28th, 1886

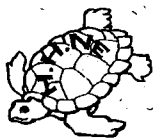
*Janesville Argus, June 1, 1886*



Unidentified couple and home photographed by Hellebo, Janesville MN, 1890.

A short communication found elsewhere in this issue regarding Lake Elysian as a summer resort is to the point and properly and truthfully represents the lake and it's advantages. Too much cannot be said in favor of this beautiful body of water, but it will require something besides talk to develop all its possibilities. It will take genuine enterprise, backed by capital to bring it out in all its fullness. This may be a thing of the future. We think it will be and then the lucky ones who wisely invested, will reap the remuneration. While it will doubtless be some years before the resort will be fully developed, yet our people are gratified and pleased to know that something is already being done. We have the island, rich in resources, with shady groves, cottages and green lawns; the steam boat, a tiny craft, but swift and sure; fleets of row boats and sail boats and prospects of a regatta, and with a steamboat from Lake Elysian, we shall be enabled to entertain in princely style, though at only a minimum of what might be done were the full possibilities of this beautiful work of nature fully materialized.

*Janesville Argus, April 6, 1886*



Thursday last, Miss Amy Deveraux captured a large mud turtle, on main street, about half way from the village to Mrs. Deveraux's residence. On the back of the turtle was the following inscription: H.H.

Nelson, Janesville Minn. Year Aug. 29, 1879. This was seven years ago and Mr. H.H. Nelson, if he ever was, is no more a resident of Janesville. He is informed that the property is at his disposal, providing he pays Mrs. D. for storage and "whacks up" for this "ad."

*Janesville Argus, April 27, 1886.*

**H.H. Nerbovig, of Winona writes:** "The mud turtle you spoke of in your last issue is an old resident of Janesville. In the year mentioned my boys had it for about a month over my old jewelry shop. One day I cut my name on it's back and cast it into Lake Elysian, to see when it would turn up again." The name on the back can clearly be made out as Nerbovig. *Janesville Argus, May 4, 1886.*

Look out for the traveling agent who is working in this state selling fire extinguishers to the farmers. Fire extinguishers are very useful appliances on the farm. They are more needed on the farm than they are in town where there is a fire department available, but the methods of this sharper have nothing to do with the specific merits of fire extinguishers apparently. It is reported that his method is to leave a number of extinguishers with a farmer offering the farmer a commission if he can sell any to his neighbors. He presents the farmer with a paper purporting to be a receipt for the goods in charge, but later it turns out to be a note for \$100 or more and the farmer has to pay it.

*Waseca Journal Radical, May 18, 1910*

#### **Balloon Released in Minneapolis Found Here**

A toy balloon found by A.H. Scholljegerdes in his field Friday bore a tag which stated that the balloon had been released at Minneapolis on March 29 last in connection with the National Flower Show. On the back side of the tag it stated that DeClerc's Flower Store, Green Bay Wis., would deliver free of charge to any individual or institution in Green bay a bouquet of flowers at the request of the finder of the balloon.

The rubber in the balloon was torn in narrow shreds when found in the field and the finder has no way of determining how long was required flight from Minneapolis.

*Waseca Journal, April 9, 1930.*

The year 1910 will be remembered as a year in which the sun did not shine on the second of February and according to old sayings, winter will be short from then on, and now as if in compliance with these mid-winter prophecies, on the last day of February the weather suddenly

*(Continued on page 4)*

changed from the severe winter condition to a general spring like appearance and many signs of spring have already appeared. Prairie chickens were heard on the 3rd of March, meadow larks on the 10th., wild ducks were reported in different parts of the country and a frog was seen by the writer on Friday, March 11 and all ground hog predictions bid fair to come true.

The Wells paper reports that Mr. Sunde the barber was laid up with a lame arm. Sprained it, we presume, prying off a tough whisker.

*New Richland Star, March 18, 1910.*

The cut worm pest is mutilating gardens and in many instances is attacking corn fields, doing much damage.

A barn dance at Henry Neumann's place southwest of town last Saturday evening furnished enjoyment for a large number. *New Richland Star,*

*May 31, 1912.*



unidentified photo, WCHS collection

The report comes from Byronville that a certain young gentleman who is the fortunate possessor of a motorcycle, is practicing diligently for the stunt of the modern Lochinvar. Recently

the denizens of that neighborhood watched the young man speed along the roadway with not only one but two fair maidens seated comfortably aboard the machine, the two evidently enjoying life to the full. Trust to New Richland boys to take complete advantage of modern inventions.

*New Richland Star, May 3, 1912.*

The New Richland Lawn Tennis club Has opened its season despite the cold weather. The courts have been cleared and put in readiness for the ball and racquet. Quite a large number have signed up. *New Richland Star, April 26, 1912.*

Selmer Anderson and his mother drove to church last Sunday and had to walk home. We suppose the horse got tired of waiting. Better take care of your horse next time, Selmer.

*New Richland Star, May 24, 1906.*

A.C. Sybilrud we learn has established a boat livery at St. Olaf lake and already has several boats for rent. Severson and Gordon, with their accustomed skill have several other fine ones in course of construction for Mr. Sybilrud. This spirit of enterprise on the part of Mr. Sybilrud will be appreciated by those who visit this beautiful little lake during the summer season.

Druggist F.W. Johnson, is installing a new soda fountain at his place of business this week, and will soon be in readiness to serve the public with all the latest soda fountain drinks. To accommodate the fountain it has been necessary to rearrange the store fixtures. There seems to be a demand for the operation of a soda fountain in New Richland and Mr. Johnson will likely find it a paying investment. *New Richland Star, May 17, 1906.*

Rat Runs Up Pants Leg and Out Of Sleeve

Sleepy Eye- Ray Savold had a thrilling experience while shoveling out corn from a crib. A rat ran out of the crib, up his pants leg to his shoulder and finally made its exit through his shirt sleeve. He was too stunned by the suddenness of it all to catch the rat before he got away.

*Waseca Herald, June 20, 1940.*

Herd of Deer at New Richland

When Mr. and Mrs. William Hoetz were returning home on Saturday evening about six o'clock they spotted a herd of deer. They drove quickly to the Jacob Hoetz farm and Mr. and Mrs. Hoetz and Avis and Rex Volling and three daughters were also on hand to see the beautiful sight. Rex counted the animals which numbered 21. They were seen on the Wm. Rielse farm. When seen they became frightened and headed towards the woods near Otisco. Mrs. Jacob Hoetz said all you could see as they ran was their white tails. As fences are no obstacle to the fleet of animals Mrs. Hoetz is a bit worried about her garden this summer.

*New Richland Star article in the Waseca Journal, March 29, 1955.*

Texas Topsoil Falls on Area As Sky Darkens

The rain Monday was anything but refreshing but it might help the cotton crops in Waseca

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(Continued from page 4)

county.

Rain mixed with dirt makes mud and mud was spattering up the countryside as high altitude winds carrying dust from the storms in Texas and Oklahoma reached Minnesota.

Residents complained of windows and cars being dirtied up by the droplets while salesmen and other traveling men, complained their windshields were spattered with the brown stuff. The sky darkened about 11:30 a.m. and stayed dark several hours.

Up to 8 a.m. Monday .06 moisture had fallen during the wind storm around midnight and later Sunday night.

Gusts of wind were reported up to 65 miles an hour in the area. Although Waseca police or sheriff's departments received no emergency calls nor reports of damage, the water and light crews were out attempting to correct cases of wires rubbing together.

Street lights in Waseca were out nearly all of Sunday night and in some parts of town, electricity was interrupted for about five minutes during the night.

### Car Sinks

"Sometime between sundown Saturday and sunrise Monday."

Those terse words were muttered by baseball board members to all and sundry who inquired about the time of the car sinking Monday.

The reason the words were terse and muttered is that suddenly the members of the board were immersed in work—trying to wade through the thousands of tickets sold—an estimated number between 2,000 and 3,000—In an attempt to match a ticket or a close one to the the time the electronic device hooked to the car stopped.

Only a couple of people knew the exact time when the Journal went to press late Monday. It was a closely guarded secret but a secret which thousands of Wasecans wondered about.

The news spread like wild fire Sunday that the car was beginning to go. Lines of cars paraded slowly by Clear lake in hopes that the occupants would see the final scuttling of what has been a base-

ball promotion with great interest in the area.

Monday the journal office was swamped with calls from persons who wanted to know the time the car was officially sunk. Ticket stubs were clutched in fists waiting for the tense moment when someone would win ten per cent of the total ticket sales money.

But the board members weren't talking—they didn't have time. Sometime within the next two days they plan to come up for air—with a winner. The time will be announced in Thursday's Herald.

*Waseca Journal, April 5, 1955.*



### Anybody Hear Of a 3-Bloomed Purple Tulip?

Ever hear of a triple blossomed purple tulip? Well Mrs. Howard Deichen, 1101 Elm Avenue E. has grown one this year. And she has a colored picture to prove it.

Mrs. Deichen called the Journal office last week to inquire if anyone else has seen or heard of one.

Three tulips are attached to one stem. The woman would like to know of anyone who can give her information on how phenomenal the freak really is.

*Waseca Journal, May 10, 1955.*

Researched by WCHS Volunteer Jeannette Krause.



a traveling exhibit of

**George Ericson/  
Eugene Iverd**

at the  
Waseca  
Co. Historical  
Society

The Waseca Co. Historical Society and The Owatonna Art Center proudly present:





## Curator's Corner

Currently on exhibit at WCHS "Games Children Play". The show will run through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The show has changed direction from the original plan. The focus is now on sports in Waseca County.

On **Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>** we will open to host the works of **Waseca artist George Ericson/ Eugene Iverd**. This show is in conjunction with the Owatonna Arts Center. **The Bailey House** will also be open as part of the **Waseca Garden Club "Garden Tour 2002"**. Featured will be the new **heirloom vegetable gardens** as well as other vintage annuals and perennials. Please Join us **Sunday August 4 from 1-5 pm. Both of these events are free and open to the public!**

In the fall we will have another photography exhibit. It will be on the **Everett home and family**. Please be sure to stop in this summer and enjoy the shows. Apologies for the misinformation on Janesville in the last newsletter.

Thank you to the following for their donations and time given to WCHS:

**Lynn Carlson: Canna lilies for plant sale.**

**Toddy Smith: Lily of the valley and containers for the plant sale.**

**Sue Boje: Plant Sale volunteer.**

**Diane Forsythe: Plant sale and museum volunteer.**

**Don Wynnemer, Dan Swenson: Plant sale.**

**Jeanette Krause and Jean Lundquist: Research and library volunteers.**

**George Kastle: drill guide for plant tee-pees.**

**THANK YOU**



What's  
Happening  
at WCHS

The Waseca  
County  
Historical  
Society  
Spring

**Luncheon Lecture Series** began March 14. Our attempt at a historic bus tour was hindered by a late winter ice storm. The turnout was small but we went and managed to make it back to the museum before the storm turned nasty.

The **April luncheon** was held April 18. Our guest speaker was Owatonna silkscreen artist, Jean Zamboni. The topic was "Oz Press". We were shown a retrospect of work done by Jean and her partner Alice Ottinger from 1964 through 1999. Jean officially retired the press after Alice's death in 1999. It was a wonderful event.

The **May luncheon** was held Thursday May 16, in conjunction with National Preservation Week. Charles Nelson, Architect for the Minnesota Historical Society presented "The Architecture of Minnesota". Many examples of buildings and houses were given as examples of different styles of architecture seen Minnesota cities, towns and rural communities.

After the luncheon WCHS hosted a preservation meeting for area building owners interested in restoration.

**WCHS was selected to host the Minnesota Historical Society field workshops** for the southern Minnesota region. The workshops were held on Friday, April 12. Attending were area historical society staff members. A historic bus tour of Waseca was conducted and a trip to Pauline Fenelon's victorian house in Janesville was the final stop before returning to WCHS for afternoon sessions. **Special thanks to Pauline Fenelon** for inviting us into her lovely home.

The annual **WCHS Mother's Day Plant Sale** was held Saturday, May 11 at Margaret Sinn's house. The weather was horrible as it has been in the past. However it did not stop our supporters from coming out in the cold rain to make their purchases. **We appreciate your support.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, July 4th.** We will be celebrating the history of Clear lake at **Lakefest 2002**. The event is held at Clear Lake Park all day and into the evening. **Fireworks** from Maplewood will be

(Continued on page 7)

shown at dark. WCHS will have a display featuring "Chautauqua" at Maplewood Park. This is a great family and friend outing. Great food, music, boat parade and fun. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the park and meet your neighbors. Bring folding chairs and bug spray!

**Sunday, August 4, George Ericson/Iverd Show opens. 1-5 pm.**

Also that day;

The Waseca Garden Club and WCHS host the **Waseca Garden Tour.**

**BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

The **Waseca County Fair** will be held **July 24 through July 28.** Hodgson Hall will not be open this year. We will be at the county school house and look forward to seeing all of you at the fair.

**Remember the Everett mansion?**



The Waseca County Historical Society is planning an exhibit about the E. A. Everett mansion, remembered as

one of the most beautiful homes ever built in Waseca. It once stood on the 900 block between Clear Lake and East Elm, a three-story Victorian masterpiece built in 1894 by E.A. Everett, and razed in 1958. E. A. Everett was the son of a Waseca pioneer, William Everett; and was a partner with his father and John W. Aughenbaugh in the E.A.Co. Mill at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Waseca County Historical Society is looking for artifacts to borrow for the exhibit in September 2002. We are interested in anything from household items to architectural parts (doors, window frames, columns, mirrors, etc., from the Everett house, probably purchased at the estate sale. If you have any such artifacts, please contact Sheila Morris, 835-7700, between 8 a.m.-12 p.m., weekdays.

Jean Zamboni of OZ Press



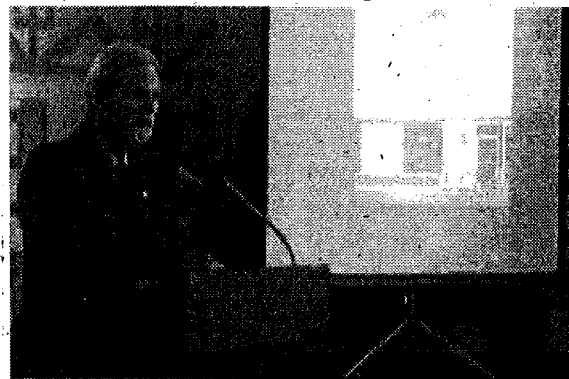
and twin sister, Sister Edith, and Margaret Sinn.



Bus Tour around Waseca then on to Janesville with Minnesota Historical Society.



The Fenelon House Janesville MN.



Charles Nelson, Architect for the Minnesota Historical Society.

**WASECA COUNTY  
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## **Memorials**

Marie Eustice, Allen Wolf, Lillie Wahlstrom, Sylvia Morris, Evie Allan, Ivan Scheffert,  
Frank Papke, Emmett Johnson, Don Sheeran

## **New Members and Renewals**

Tim Flor, Barbara Graham, Marie Querna, Millie Neidt, Elaine Swenson, Pearl Hoyersten,  
Chris Glamm, Caryn Wendt, Brenda Flintrop, Gweñ Buscho, Marty Tesch, Dan Beall, Neil Hovelsrud,  
Fred Eichorst, Jackie Ross, Jody Johnson, Sheila Morris, Bernie Anderson, Patricia Dorsey, Winegar Inc.,  
Jeannette Krause, Jean Byron, Dale & Bess Kritzer, Rod Searle, Irene Jeddelloh, Jean Miller, Dallas McColley,  
MaryAnn Hill, Francis Miller, Liz Corchran, Dennis Christensen, Wilma Roesler, Arnold Deverell, Paul Byron,  
Dan O'Brien, Margaret Eaton, Lloyd Schoenfeld, Mert Schwarz, Georgette H., Otisco Township, Bruce Stauffer,  
Catherine Clasen, Helen Greenwood, Jeanette Rosenthal, Judy Joecks, David Hause, Mrs. Shanley Wood,  
John Priebe, Marrisa Wolff, Willie J. Eich, Vivian Township, Richard Guentzel, Jean Bunch, Eugene Sexton,  
Bethel Miller, Clifford Gardner, Ferne Thursdale, M. Jeanne Welna, Bonnie Born, Margaret Cliff, Donna Miller,  
New Richland Care Center, Bonnie Lewer, Bruce Wick, Dale Groskreutz, Leo Fette, Margaret Sinn,  
Marlene Rietfort, Warren Routh, Walter Kinder, Marshall Cawley, Cynthia Cummings, Lisa Ward, First National  
Bank, Michael Halvorson, Pauline Fenelon, Ervin Wille, Romelle Deef, Sam Fiske, Gene Miller, Marjorie Ross,  
Janette Larson, Teresa Roessler, Bethel Bentley, Troy McDonald, Bruce Boyce, Roy Srp, Margaret Horner,  
Karen Lechner, Brown Printing, Eugene Welch, Patty Masberg, Emil Meyer, Sharon Wilker, Paul J. Ward.