



Phase I of Auditorium Restoration Completed

Pictured above is the east end of our Grand Old Hall, showing work in progress on the replacement of the entrance doors to the original fire hall. Upon completion of a larger fire hall next door by the fire department, the space was remodeled to house the Brandon City Offices and is currently occupied by the Brandon History Center. The replacement of the doors means that Phase I of the Brandon Auditorium Restoration project should now be completed.

The cost of Phase I was estimated at \$254,000, and we are hopeful that the project will come in slightly under budget.

Phase I included tuck pointing and waterproofing the exterior walls, replacement of the sidewalk along the south side of the building, masonry cleaning and stabilizing, chimney repair, and railing repair.

The cost of Phase II of the Auditorium Restoration project, which will include heating and air-conditioning, is estimated at \$249,000.

Matching fund grant applications are being submitted at this time. Local contributions will be required to match any funds received.

A local fundraiser is being planned for February 12, 2011, to begin the matching fund portion for Phase II. See related story on page 2 of this newsletter.

The City and the History Center Board appreciate the support of the Brandon community for the restoration project. Without your support, Phase I would not have happened.

Restoration Fundraiser

Fundraising for the matching portions of any grants received for the Brandon Auditorium Restoration Project begins!

The 2010 Chili Cook-Off proved to be a huge success so it was decided to try it again next year.

The Brandon 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off is scheduled for February 12, 2011, at the Auditorium; so please mark this date on your calendars and start practicing with your chili recipes. You may contact any of our board members if your group would like to be an entrant in the cook-off.

There is limited space at the auditorium so only 12 teams will be able to compete. There are rules and guidelines for participation, including where and how food is to be prepared and served, and will be provided when entrants register.

In addition to the cook-off being a fundraiser for the auditorium, it is a fun social event for our community. The Auditorium echoes with voices from the past and present every time an event is held within its historic walls.

Annual Meeting Notes

The Brandon History Center Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 7th, 2010, at the Brandon Auditorium.

Agenda items included reports by each of the board members. Histories of local organizations (Legion Auxiliaries, Lions, etc.) are being collected for preservation and display at the History Center. **All community organizations** will be encouraged to write their own histories for display. People and organizations are what make our communities vibrant and significant.

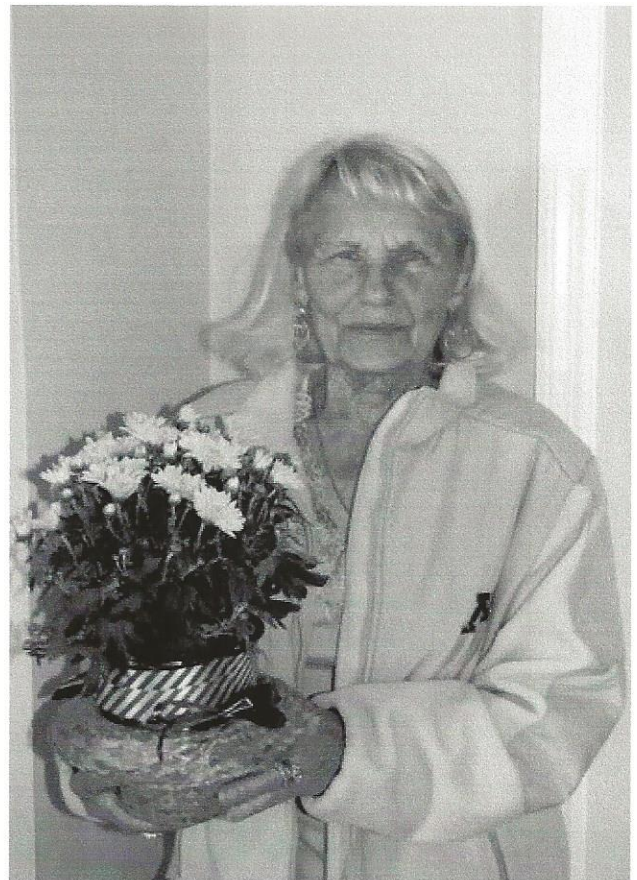
Florence Bitzan and Linda Wagner have updated the records of the Seven Dolors Cemetery of Millerville, which are now available for all to see at the Brandon History Center.

The date set for the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off is February 12, 2011.

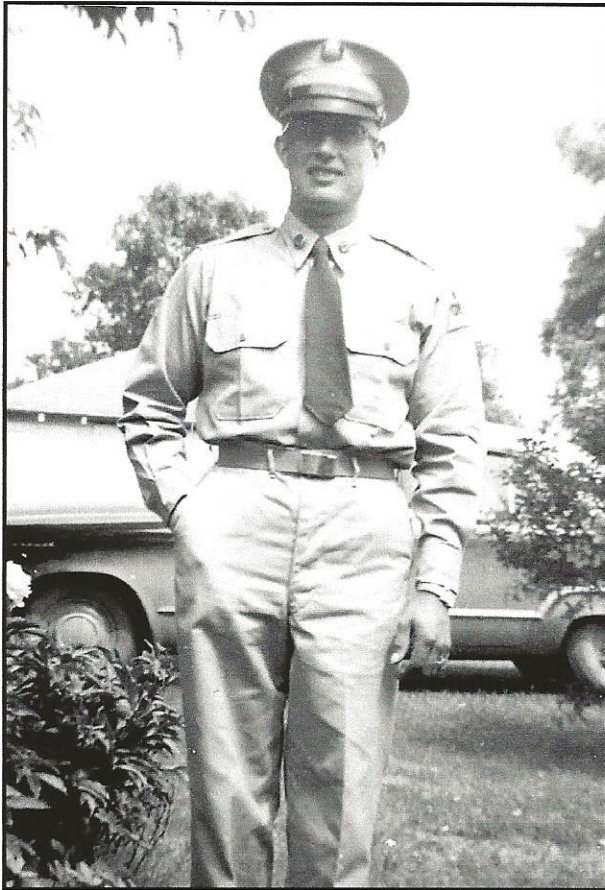
We were very pleased to have guests present at our meeting who were interested in the work done by our History Center and provided positive input.

Light refreshments were served to end the meeting.

Janice Stene (picture below) won the door prize.



Veterans' Corner



Eldred "Billy" Lund

Eldred was drafted into the United States Army on March 21, 1955. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Eldred served with Battery C of the 548th Battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served during the Korean Conflict and gained the rank of PFC. Eldred served as a *Truck Vehicle Mechanic*. He was discharged from the military on March 20, 1957.

Eldred passed away April 29, 2010.



Lars Greenquist

Ron Jacobson recently donated to the History Center a piece of World War I history given to him by Bud Greenquist—a sling which Bud's father, Lars Greenquist, used to carry his military rifle. With every piece of historical memorabilia comes a story.

Lars was a Swedish immigrant tailor; and before he was even an American citizen, he was summoned to appear before the local draft board and was told that he could be called into military service whenever more soldiers were needed. He was inducted into the United States Army in April, 1918. He was assigned to the 88th Division, 175th Infantry Brigade, 349th Regiment of Company B—commonly known as the Clover Leaf Division.

Lars was then sent to France to join the American Expeditionary Forces. Meanwhile, Lars had been promoted to Corporal, partially due to his expert marksmanship with his rifle. He was later awarded the Clover Leaf Medal and became a part of the American Expeditionary Forces Rifle Team.

He was discharged from the United States Army in June of 1919.

The French countryside is still pockmarked with giant craters caused by exploding mortar shells. It is estimated that over 116,000 Americans were killed or died in World War I; and over 200,000 were wounded. Every year at our local Memorial Day observances we honor many men from our community who also served their country during World War I.

We thank Ron for donating the sling to the History Center.

**PROUD TO BE AN
AMERICAN!**



Current Members of American Legion Auxiliary Post 527

Millerville American Legion Auxiliary Post 527

The Millerville American Legion Post 527 was formally organized on March 20, 1964. Its first elected officers were: Mrs. Howard Robertson, elected President; Mrs. Alphonse Thoennes, Secretary; and Mrs. Martin Stroh, Treasurer.

The first regular meeting of the Auxiliary was held on April 10, 1964. Thirteen members signed up for the Charter, and they are: Mrs. Howard Robertson , President ; Mrs. Victor Thoennes , 1st Vice P;resident Mrs. Helen Doll , 2nd Vice President; Mrs. Alphonse Thoennes ,Secretary; Mrs. Martin Stroh , Treasurer; Mrs. Henry Lutterman, Sergeant at Arms; Mrs. Anton Poltiske, Chaplin; Mrs. George DeLeeuw, Historian; and

Mrs. Peter Daas , Mrs. Clifford Guenther , Mrs. John Linster, Mrs. Philip Roers, and Mrs. George Thorpe.

The Auxiliary has always remained very active and now has over 50 members.

The Auxiliary has participated in the Girls State Program and has been a strong supporter of Veterans and Veterans' projects.

Many of its members have accumulated a lot of volunteer hours related to community projects. Much of the money the auxiliary raises is given to various Veterans' programs and facilities.

This very active Auxiliary is looking forward to celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2014.

A more detailed history is on file at the History Center.

From the Past



Mrs. Frances Dion's Second Grade Class of 1957

**Back Row: Kathy Otto; Eileen Jante; Rosalee Kelly; Kathy Fuller; Mary Jo Lanners; Shane Schulte;
Kathy Gabriel; Jane Schroeder; Marilyn Augdahl; Nancy Mahan.**

Front Row: Joan Schmidt; Judy Scholten; Ruby Faehrich

The Second Grade Class apparently had a dress code back in 1957 for its female students!

The picture was taken in front of the old Brandon School so it appears to have been a special school day for the girls.

Does anyone know the reason for the "dress code" on this particular day? Could it have been related to a particular period in history they were studying? Were they part of a play or skit?

If someone has the answer, please contact the History Center with the information.

This picture and the related story provide insights for future generations as to what went on in our public school classrooms in the past.

If anyone else has similar pictures of classes on any grade level, let us copy and label them for public viewing.

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We're on the Web!

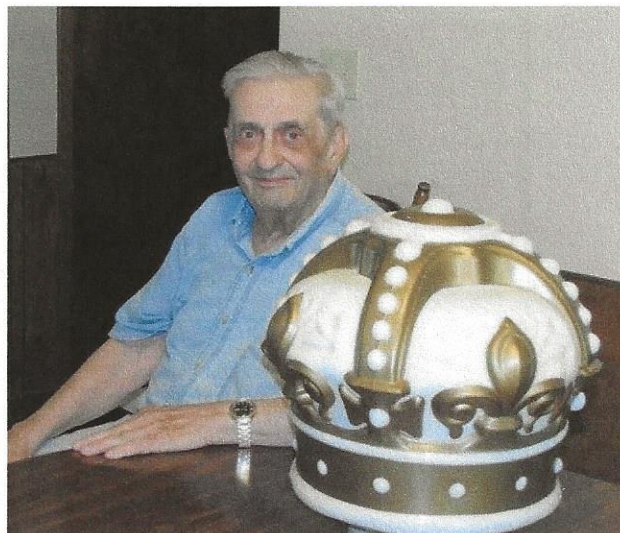
See us at:

www.brandonmn.com

Special Thank You's

Memorials have been received for Mark Kelly and Ralph Ostlund for which we thank family and friends.

Also special thanks to Don Bitzan for donating the Standard Oil gold crown pictured below, which adds a bit of historical memorabilia of business located in Brandon.



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