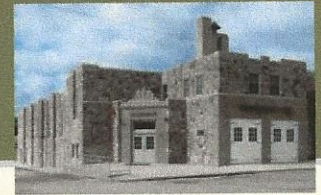


THE CENTER PIECE



Brandon History Center, 105 Holmes Avenue, P. O. Box 514, Brandon, MN 56315
 Website: www.brandonmn.com Email address: brandonhistory@gctel.net Phone No. 320-524-2260

Baseball – The American Sport

Baseball is as American as apple pie, ice cream, and hot dogs. We enjoy watching our kids and grandkids play— we watch them strike out, pitch a no-hitter or a shutout, hit a home run, or steal a base. Some of those kids might even move on to play college or professional ball.

AND we might even see them playing on a local hometown team. In fact, many of us enjoyed watching the Brandon and Millerville baseball teams competing in the Resorters League.

Clarence Anderson played ball for many years and was a longtime coach for the Brandon Town Team. Clarence was a driving force in the Resorters League from its inception after World War II until his retirement in the late 1960s. Clarence was inducted into the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1967. He began his career playing in a cow pasture in Moe Township in 1920. The Brandon baseball field was dedicated in his honor and became known as the Clarence Anderson Field. Pictured on page 2 is the 1951 Brandon Championship team and Coach Anderson.

Millerville was another Resorters League team respected for its achievements in amateur baseball. The Millerville and Brandon teams' rivalry resulted in spirited competition and great entertainment for the community. Also pictured on page 2 is the 1944 Millerville team.

Minnesota Amateur baseball began one year before Minnesota became a state. On August 15,

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1857, the first known baseball game in state history was played in Nininger, a small town near Hastings on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Several men from the Resorters League and other nearby communities were recognized over the years for their achievements and were inducted into the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------|
| Clarence Anderson | Brandon | 1967 |
| Kenneth L. Borg | Ashby | 1972 |
| Wayne "Pete" Bright | Cyrus | 1978 |
| Wendelin Koep, Sr. | Urbank | 1984 |
| Ted Peterson | Alexandria | 1979 |
| Oscar "Bunny" Running | Ashby | 1963 |
| Bernie Steidl | Miltona | 1987 |
| Dana Wheeler | Henning | 1963 |

While the exact origin of baseball is unknown, many historians say it is based on the English game of rounders. Most of the original rules established in 1846, when baseball was introduced in America, are still in place today. Although popular legend says that the game of baseball was invented by Abner Doubleday, many historians believe that baseball's true father was Alexander Cartwright who coached the New York Knickerbockers team.



1951 Championship Brandon Team



1944 Millerville Team

VETERANS' CORNER – Nootnagel

Former Brandon area resident and 1959 graduate of Brandon High School, Fred Nootnagel, recently donated his U.S. Navy dress blue Chief's uniform, complete with hat, to the History Center. Fred has already donated a shadow box which contains the U.S. Flag, many of his medals, a bronze plaque with his dates of entry into the Navy, each position he held and the date, and the date of his retirement. All of these items are on display at the History Center. Fred currently lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The History Center is pleased to receive items such as this for preservation and display. Thank you to Fred and all who have given us military uniforms and memorabilia to care for and share with the community. Our collection continues to grow.

The picture below is of Fred Nootnagel presenting his uniform to History Center Board members Janet Nelson and Chris Korkowski.



VETERANS' CORNER – Schjei



Kenneth Schjei

Kenneth Schjei was born in New Richland on January 1, 1928, to Ole and Ella Schjei. The Schjei family moved to the Brandon area where he grew up on a farm southwest of Brandon.

At the age of 17, Kenneth enlisted in the United States Navy and did his basic training at the Great Lakes Training Center in Illinois. He later was stationed on an oil tanker servicing the Marianas Islands and was discharged from San Francisco, California, on January 3, 1949.

Ken was a charter member of the Brandon Lions, served on the Moe Town Board for several years, and had a long career in the trucking industry.

Kenneth died March 26, 2011. He and his wife Karen had four children and enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren.

Robert A. Lanners

Robert Lanners was born September 5, 1930, in Marshall, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Lanners.

Bob was drafted into the military service on December 12, 1951, at San Diego, California. He served in the 3rd Marine Division and the 3rd Ordnance Battalion during the Korean Conflict. He took part in atomic blast testing in the Nevada desert in 1952. He attained the rank of Corporal and was discharged in December 1953.

Bob was employed by Bremer Bank in Brandon from 1954–1987. He was a member of the Brandon Volunteer Fire Department and the Brandon Community Club. He also volunteered as a Boy Scout leader for several years.

Bob and his wife Theresa were the parents of six children and grandparents to many loving grandchildren. Bob died on February 12, 2000.



Thank you . . .

The following memorials have been received by the History Center:

- \$100 in memory of August and Dora Nootnagel
- \$200 in memory of Wilbur and Leona Hopfner
- \$5 in memory of Kenneth Schjei

Fred G. Nootnagel has become a lifetime member of the Brandon History Center.

Thank you all!

Auditorium Restoration Donations – Phase II

The History Center is thankful for the following grants and donations received for Phase II of the auditorium Restoration Project:

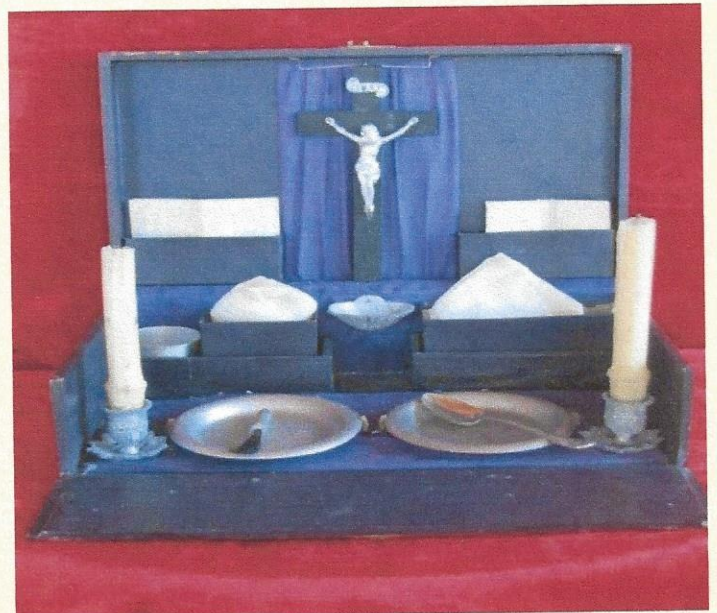
| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bremer Foundation | \$ 50,000 |
| City of Brandon | 50,000 |
| Tastefully Simple | 5,000 |
| Brandon Lions | 5,000 |
| Brandon Community Chest | 3,500 |
| Proceeds from Chili Feed | 2,068 |
| Brandon Fire Department Auxiliary | 500 |
| American Legion Auxiliary | 100 |
| Brandon Senior Class of 1960 | 100 |
| Private Donations | 2,040 |
| Minnesota Historical Society | 100,000 |
| (part to be matched) | |

The cost of Phase II of the Restoration Project is \$249,000, so we are about \$38,000+ short of achieving our goal. Donations can be sent to the History Center at P.O. Box 514, Brandon, MN 56315.

A special "thank you" to the family of **Wilbur Hopfner** for allowing us to preserve and display his WW2 uniform.

Memorabilia

Special thanks to Lisa Bettermann for allowing us to display the items pictured below. The "sick box" contained items used to help someone offer spiritual comfort to an ill person. The candles and statue were arranged prior to the prayer of and for the sick, the holy water was used for blessing appropriate to laypersons, and the holy water and oil could be given to a visiting priest to use for priestly blessings. Visiting priests usually bring their own oil for the anointing of the sick.



Sick Call Box



Legend of the Crucifix Fish

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BOARD MEMBERS:

Hilda Bettermann
Florence Bitzan
Marcia Bolin
Christella Korkowski
Janet Nelson
Ruth Plaster
Karen Thoennes

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

www.brandonmn.com



**2011 Restoration Fundraiser Chili Cook-off
First Place Winners, Integrity Title/Alex YMCA**

Brandon Fire Department took second place; the Brandon Lions walked away with the People's Choice Award; and Gardonville received the Best Theme Award.

Thank you to all who participated in any way!

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