

THE CENTER PIECE



Brandon History Center, 105 Holmes Avenue, P. O. Box 514, Brandon, MN 56315
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Brandon History Center Holds Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center held its annual meeting on Monday, September 10, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Brandon History Center.

Marcia Bolin, Florence Bitzan, Ruth Plaster, and Hilda Bettermann were re-elected to the Board of Directors and will hold office from 2012 through 2015.

Treasurer's and secretary's reports and committee reports were presented.

An organizational meeting was held immediately after the annual meeting, at which time Chris Korkowski was elected President of the Board, Florence Bitzan was elected Vice President, and Karen Thoennes was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Anne Esala (right) was the winner of the door prize.

The Brandon History Center will be open for Coffee and Cookies on December 20th from 1 - 3 PM.

BHC Open Thursdays

The Brandon History Center is now open to the public on Thursday afternoons (unless Thursday is a holiday) from 1 to 3 p.m.

You can view thousands of pictures of Brandon and Millerville history, memorabilia, and displays, as well as family histories and pictures.

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The Board will re-evaluate the need for future hours after a one-year trial period.

We would love to have you stop in to say hello. Please tell your friends to join you for an afternoon of history-filled fun!

Please use the auditorium main entrance.

Belles Lettres Club Visits the History Center



The History Center hosted thirty members of the Belles Lettres Book Club of Alexandria on October 1. The group's study topic related to neighbors and friendships, so they chose to learn more about their Brandon neighbors.

Board members presented information about the various nationalities of people within our community, as well as the origins of Brandon.

The Book Club members viewed Brandon and Millerville pictures and memorabilia.

While they toured the Historic Brandon Auditorium, the ladies were given the history of its construction and its many uses over the past 75 years.

The Belles Lettres members were given tips on how to better care for and preserve their own personal family history items, pictures, and documents.

The History Center continues to be an interesting place to visit for our neighboring communities.

Old Brandon Water Tower Comes Down



The old Brandon water tower located next to the historic Brandon Auditorium came down on September 5, 2012.

Many interested people watched the process and were amazed at the daring antics of the contractors climbing the tower and cutting it apart. The tower was dismantled and hauled away within just a few hours.

The contractors estimated that when it was erected, the project probably took three to four months to complete.

This old Brandon landmark will be missed but has been replaced by a taller tower which is located east of the municipal liquor store. More pictures are available for viewing at the History Center.

Local Resident Witnessed Construction & Demolition



Local resident, Darold Plaster, (pictured at left) was present when the old water tower was erected in 1940.

His father, Ted Plaster, was the dray man who hauled all the sections of the water tower from the Brandon Great Northern Depot platform to the site where it was erected.

Darold was a teenager at the time and helped his dad with moving the sections of the water tower to its location.

Darold, along with many other Brandon residents, enjoyed the convenience of running water for 72 years from this water tower. It served Brandon well.

VETERANS' CORNER -----

Delphin Engel

A great supporter of the Brandon History Center, Delphin Engel, died at his home at the age of 90 years on September 22, 2012.

In 1942, Delphin enlisted in the U. S. Navy and served in the European and Pacific theaters for over three years. He was honorably discharged in December 1945. Delphin was proud of his service to his country and treasured the time spent at his shipmate reunions.

He was an active member of the Brandon Legion Post. Delphin was featured in an earlier edition of the Center Piece; more information can be found at the Brandon History Center.

He is survived by his wife, Gertie, and their three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Norbert Otto**

Norbert Francis Otto entered the U.S. Army October 22, 1957, and took his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado. After basic training, Norbert went to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, for advanced training for Radar Counter-measures. He was then assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

He earned the rank of Specialist Fourth Class and served his country until October 21, 1959.

Norbert was a resident of Brandon and died October 1, 2012, at the age of 74 years.



*God Bless their
memories!*

**Charles Rossum**

Long-time resident of Brandon, Charlie Rossum, died October 22, 2012, at the age of 95 years.

Charlie was inducted into the U.S. Army in July of 1945 and was assigned to troop trains traveling across the United States. He was honorably discharged on October 25, 1945.

He was a member of the Brandon Legion Post for 63 years. He is survived by his wife, Hulda; their three children; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

From the Past



Brandon High School Class of 1947

(Back Row -L to R): Elphege Webskowski, LaVerle Wilken, Arliss Vollbrecht, Gustavus Guenther, Francis Wettstein, Omar Johnson
(Front Row - L to R) Shirley Anderson, Mae Eichelberger, Erma Bettin, Evelyn Lanners, Adeline Kappahn
 Picture taken August 2, 2012, at Leaf Valley Mercantile – 65th Anniversary

Class of '47 Issues Challenge to All Graduating Classes

At their recent reunion, the Class of 1947 issued a challenge to all classes who have graduated from Brandon High School to contribute at least \$100 to the Brandon History Center. All contributors of \$100 or more are given the honor of having their name engraved on the large donation plaque at the History Center.

AND, your class will have the honor of being featured in our newsletter!

So, ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES! We would love to have you meet, or even exceed the \$100 challenge; and you don't have to wait until your next reunion!

Inventory of Class Pictures

We have framed graduation pictures on display at the History Center for the following classes:

- 1929 - 1930 - 1946 - 1947 -1948 - 1949 -1950
- 1951 -1952 -1953 -1954 -1955 -1956 -1957
- 1958 - 1959 - 1960 - 1961 - 1962 - 1963 -
- 1964 - 1965 - 1966 - 1967 -1968 - 1969 -
- 1970 - 1971 -1972

Pictures of classes graduating after 1972 are still displayed at the High School.

We would like to complete our collection by including the graduating classes 1931 through 1945. Can anyone help us out by either providing a yearbook or individual pictures of graduates?

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<http://brandonmnhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

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

Thank You . . .

Thank you to the following who have generously contributed to the Brandon History Center recently:

Eugene & Janice Stene in memory of August "Spike" & Mathilda "Tillie" Miller – \$100.00

Eugene & Janice Stene in memory of Ole and Gina Stene – \$100.00

\$35 in memory of Jim Eichelberger

\$20 in memory of Charles Rossum

\$25 in memory of Leonne Olson

\$85 in memory of Delphin Engel

\$50 from Georgine Roers

Also thank you to Tara Bitzan for her lifetime membership – \$150.00

Also thank you to those who have renewed their annual memberships.

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