

# The Center Piece

Winter 2022

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1950 Census—1 | Veteran's Corner—2 | Thank You — 3



## 1950 Federal Census

The 1950 census was released on April 1, 2022 and is a wealth of information for genealogical research. It is available for free through a dedicated website at <https://1950census.archives.gov/> or through sites such as [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). The Brandon History Center has a membership to Ancestry.com and is available for usage by members at the History Center. Questions asked on the census include:

### Questions for all persons:

1. Name of street, avenue, or road
2. House and apartment number
3. Serial number of dwelling unit
4. Is this house on a farm or ranch?
5. Is this house on a place of three or more acres?
6. Agricultural Questionnaire Number
7. Name
8. Relationship to head of household
9. Race
10. Sex
11. Age on last birthday
12. Marital status: Married (Mar), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D), or Separated (Sep)
13. State or country of birth
14. Naturalization status if foreign born (Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)

### Questions for persons fourteen years of age and over

15. Was this person working (Wk), unable to work (U), keeping house (H), or doing something else (Ot) most of last week
16. If H or Ot in item 15: Did this person do any work at all last week?
17. If No in item 16: Was this person looking for work?
18. If No in item 17: Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?
19. If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16: How many hours did he work last week?
  - a. Occupation
  - b. Industry in which person worked
  - c. Class of worker: Private employer (P), government (G), in his or her own business (O), or without pay on family farm or business (NP)

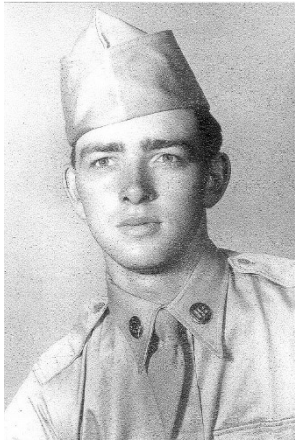
**Brandon Village:** Brandon had 318 residents and most of the residents were born in Minnesota. Only 12 were born in other countries and 36 were born in other states. Other countries of birth included Germany, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Other states of birth included Texas, Washington, North Dakota, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, New York, Indiana, and California.

Occupations included carpenter, station agent, farmer, janitor, gas station attendant, school teacher, trucker, book keeper, sales, banker, butcher, creamery worker, telephone operator, mechanic, bartender, minister, and restaurant workers.

**Millerville Village:** Millerville had 173 residents, and again most of the residents were born in Minnesota. 9 were born in other countries and 10 were born in other states. Other countries of birth included Holland, Germany, Poland, and Belgium. Other states of birth included North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and South Dakota, Iowa

Occupations included working at a meat locker, restaurant workers, creamery workers, trucker, farmer, carpenter, housekeeper, teacher, auto mechanic, Great Northern railway workers, and egg candlers.

# Veterans Corner



**Eugene Stene**  
**United States**  
**Army**  
**Korean Era**

Eugene entered the United States Army in June of 1952 at Alexandria MN. He took his basic training & school at Camp Gordon, GA. Eugene served 18 months with the 8th Army Signal Depot Co. at Yong Dong PO Korea. It was quite an experience and he has no complaints. He met life long friends in the service of his country. Eugene was discharged in June of 1954.

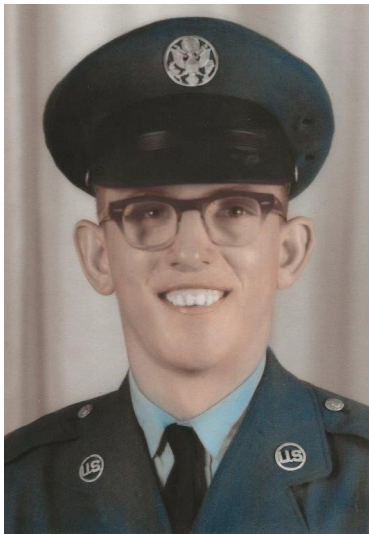
Eugene Stene passed away July 20, 2022



**Edward Frank**  
**Bitzan**  
**United States Army**  
**World War II Era**

Private Edward Bitzan was in the United States Army during World War II from 1942 to 1945. He was of small stature, only weighing 110 pounds when he entered the service of our country on February 16, 1942. According to the medals on his uniform and the stripes on his sleeves, he was a very valued soldier. Some of these included the American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal. The Rifle indicated that he was a Combat Infantryman in the 31st Corps. The Diagonal Stripe recognized 3 years of service. The Gold Bars indicate one for each year of overseas duty.

Edward Frank Bitzan passed away April 12, 2018 and was interred at The Church of Seven Dolours in Millerville, MN



**Edwin Wilfred**  
**Silbernack**  
**United States Air**  
**Force**  
**Vietnam Era**

Ed Silbernack joined the United States Air Force October 1962. He received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He received his MORSE INTERCEPT OPERATOR COURSE at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. Ed used this training while serving in Germany. Ed received his Honorable Discharge October 1968.

Edwin Wilfred Silbernack passed away April 16, 2022 and was interred at St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery in Brandon, MN.



Leadership Alexandria Visit Oct 11, 2022

# Brandon Auditorium Celebrates 86 Years



Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate 86 years of this very special building with the premiere of the new video. The video is available for viewing on the [website](http://www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org) at [www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org](http://www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org) under the Auditorium tab.

## Thank you!

To everyone who requested research on family members, other Brandon/Millerville research, or other items, we are glad help. Thank you to all who have donated money, items for our history collections, and information about people of the area for our family files.

### Gifts and accessions:

- AMS Digital Productions - generous donation of a computer, monitor, and accessories.
- Benedict Stroh—Family history: Black Sea to 10,000 Lakes, and other items
- Rosalie Eisner Roquette—various items
- Babe and Ron Jacobson—local advertising memorabilia
- Sharon Rossum—1954 BHS athletic jacket
- Florence and Dave Bitzan—Millerville Co-op Creamery pitcher



## Brandon History Center Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center Board held its annual meeting on October 24, 2022. At that meeting, Dennis Korkowski was elected to fill the open board position. Offices for the following year were elected and are Mike Cleary, president; Carol Ramler, vice-president; and Karen Thoennes, secretary-treasurer. It was voted to waive membership dues for board members and volunteers who volunteer at least 10 hours per year.

## Membership Information

Annual Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for family. Life time memberships are \$150 for individuals and \$200 for family. Membership dues are waived for board members and volunteers who volunteer at least 10 hours a year.

In addition to renewing your membership, you may want to consider a tax deductible charitable contribution of \$100 more to the History Center. The Brandon History center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

With a \$100 donation, the donation is remembered on the wall plaque with either your own name or in memory of a family member or friend.

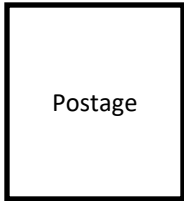
## History Center Hours

The History Center hours are by appointment. It is open for research or to donate items of historical value such as family pictures and stories. Email [brandonhistory@gctel.net](mailto:brandonhistory@gctel.net) to arrange a time for a visit or to drop off your items.

The History Center is usually open Friday mornings from 9 to noon, but since it is staffed by volunteers, you may want to verify before planning a visit by emailing [brandonhistory@gctel.com](mailto:brandonhistory@gctel.com).



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



### Brandon History Center

105 Holmes Avenue  
P.O Box 514

Email: [brandonhistory@gctel.net](mailto:brandonhistory@gctel.net)  
Website: [www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org](http://www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org)  
Blog: <http://brandonhistorycenter.blogspot.com>  
Facebook: Brandon History Center

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Florence Bitzan  
Carol Ramler  
Mike Cleary  
Ruth Plaster  
Cheryl Johnson  
Karen Thoennes  
Dennis Korkowski

## Our Mission Statement

To collect and preserve the history of Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

To assist in the preservation of the Historic Brandon Auditorium and other local historic sites

## Trivia

1. Who operated the Brandon Meat Market for 33 years?
2. What Catholic Church at Millerville did Father Franz Pierz help establish?
3. What township official keeps the township records?
4. What is the highest hill in Moe Township?

From the Douglas Country Trivia game published by the Douglas County Historical Society 1986

1. Leo Smedstad and Oscar Pladson — 2. Our Lady of Seven Dolers 3. Clerk 4. Tower Hills