

Pipestone County Historical Society



Pipestone County Museum
113 South Hiawatha Avenue
Pipestone, MN 56164

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Pipestone County
Historical Society
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Pipestonecountymuseum.com
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Newsletter editor: Susan Hoskins

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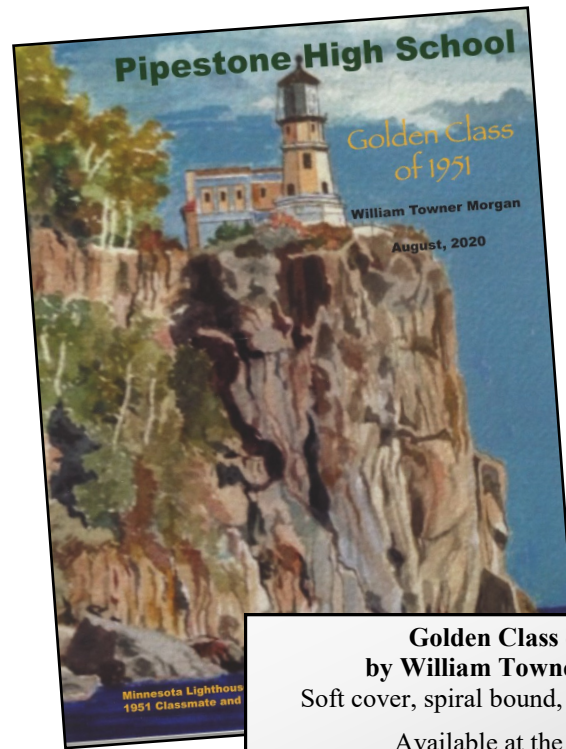
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Soft cover, spiral bound, 91 pages. \$18.00
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Fire Hall Door Replacement

Several years ago PCHS installed replica Fire Hall Doors in the front of the building, replacing a wall of windows that had been installed in the space in the 1970s. Over the years, these replica doors have deteriorated to the point that they will be replaced this fall. The new doors will look identical, but have additional insulation properties that will be beneficial. Water run-off issues have also been corrected which will lead to a much longer lifespan for the doors.

Funds for this project will be taken out of the Society's Building Savings Account which allows for on-going and emergency building projects. Please consider making a donation to this account. The responsibility of owning and maintaining five historic buildings is a large one. PCHS relies on the generosity and dedication of our membership to pursue historic preservation on this level. Thank you.

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Think Christmas at the Museum's Gift Shop and Online Store

Looking for a unique and meaningful Christmas gift? The Pipestone County Museum Gift Shop has many local interest books and items that are now also available Online! Go to our website at www.pipestonecountymuseum.com and click on the "Gift Shop" tab to visit the Online Store and shop from the comfort of your home.

***Use this code to apply your membership discount: membership1**

From Books to T-Shirts to Mugs and More. Your purchase at the Pipestone County Museum Gift Shop & Online Store supports the historical society and provides unique gifts.



History of the Pipestone County Bank Block

By Noah Burris

While preparing for our exhibit "Building Boom! Landscape of the Sioux Quartzite Industry" last year I pulled photographs of quartzite buildings from the archives. These included two different photos of the Pipestone County Bank Block. When comparing the photos, one from soon after the building opened in 1884 and the other from later, it looks like almost two completely different buildings. After examining them, you can see the building has the same shape and the neighboring buildings are the same in both photos. There are still many differences that could make one think it is a new building. These changes range from the door being moved and the cornice removed, to the most drastic change of the exterior stone being different. The information we had about the Bank Block listed a remodel that happened around 1915. These two photos have brought up the question though of what exactly took place during that "remodel."



The building was constructed in 1884 at the corner of what is now Main Street and Hiawatha Avenue. (The bank originally formed as a private bank in 1879. It was chartered as the Pipestone County Bank in 1882. When that charter expired in 1908, the bank became the Pipestone State Bank and on December 31, 1916 it became The Pipestone National Bank.) Minor changes to the building were made throughout the first 25 years, these are ob-

servable through dated photographs that give a range of when they took place but not exact dates. The eagle above the name and date stone was removed sometime between 1884 and 1900. The front entrance was moved between 1900 and 1908. The triangular part of the cornice was removed between 1908 and 1911. The most drastic changes however were made during the 1915 remodel.

Pipestone County Star and Pipestone Leader articles from the years around the remodel provided some information about the work done. The first mention found of the bank being remodeled came in January 1914. The bank had plans to remodel and double the size of their banking rooms. They first purchased a portion of the bank block owned by Dr. W.J. Taylor to tear down. This allowed for what was called a long-contemplated improvement for the bank. It was also stated it would provide a permanent home for the bank with "plenty of room and light and all modern business conveniences." The remodel was set to completely change the interior of the building and was estimated to cost \$10,000. Throughout the entirety of the work the estimates of the costs and timeline continued to change, another estimate from around the same time, had the project set to significantly exceed \$5,000. The project was however not expected to start until 1915 but many improvements were set to be made.

By January of 1915, the bank was still moving forward with plans to enlarge and remodel the current bank space. It was set to be one of the finest in the southern part of the state. The estimated cost had increased to around \$15,000. Work began in June of 1915 and by then the cost had jumped up to \$25,000 to \$30,000. One article stated a modern front would be erected and that "the present bank building will be practically torn down." The various newspaper articles would switch back and forth from calling the project a remodel and a new building. Work was hoped to be completed by December 1st. The work sped up by August with around

New in the Small Town Series:

Holland, Minnesota Incorporated 1898

Fourth in the series along with booklets on Woodstock, Hatfield and Cazenovia. This booklet outlines the history of the small, Pipestone County town of Holland, from its beginnings right up to today with business and civil information along with interesting anecdotes.

Available Saturday, November 28 and beyond. Order yours online, or stop into the Gift Shop!

Pipestone County Historical Society

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Pipestone County Historical Society



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Membership Benefits include ...

Free Admission to Exhibit Galleries & Research Archives, 10% discount at Gift Shop, Subscription to the Prairie Traveler newsletter, Discounts on Research, Copies & Photo Reprints and Free Queries in the newsletter.

New & Renewing Members

July– September 2020 * = new member

Century

Terry Peterson– Jasper, MN
*Bobbie Floody– Pipestone

Household

Marjorie Pankonen– Pipestone
Jim & Pat Kallsen– Middleton, WI

Friend

*Sue Wiley– Torrance, CA
Paul & Marian Everett– Pipestone

Business

***Bold** = Supporting Membership

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- Quist Plumbing & Heating
- Sturdevants Auto Parts
- New Horizon Farms
- Pipestone Indian Shrine
- Hartquist Funeral Chapel
- Pipestone Publishing Company**
- First Bank & Trust in Pipestone
- Good Samaritan Society
- ***Pipestone Grain Company**
- Dynamic Health Chiropractic
- Stout & Evink Plumbing & Heating
- Sweet Township Mutual Fire Insurance
- Pipestone County Medical Center & Family Clinic**
- Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce**
- Snyder Drug
- Olsen Electric
- Pipestone Dental Clinic
- A&S Drug
- Coborn’s
- All About Smiles
- First State Bank
- Dr. Paul Henriksen
- *M&H Hardware
- *Edgerton Enterprise
- Dahl Motors**
- Jer’s Electric
- VanderStoep Furniture

New Policy:

Due to Covid-19 Complications



Ink Cartridges

Will No Longer be Accepted

Thank you to everyone who has donated over the years and especially to Joni Petersen who managed this program!

Wanted:

Board Members for the
Pipestone County Historical Society Board

Terms are 3 years. Regular board meetings are the second
Thursday of the month at noon. Additional board and
committee meetings as needed.

Volunteer Projects

PCHS is in need of some project volunteers. We even have a few projects that can be done from home!

- ◆ Newspaper Clipping: every week articles are clipped from local newspapers to be filed in the Museum research library. Newspaper can be supplied to a volunteer on a weekly basis, clipped at home and the clippings returned to the Museum.
- ◆ Typing: We have a handwritten index of baptisms from three local churches that needs to be typed into a searchable form. Can be done at home or Museum
- ◆ Card Catalog: Several issues of the old Ruthton Tribune newspaper to have births/obits/marriages information taken from. Can include typing index cards, or just gleaning the information. Will be done at the Museum.



12 men working on the project and more expected to join. The front of the building had been removed and the interior was set to be remodeled. Estimated completion time had been moved to the first of the year.

The building was finally opened to the public on Monday February 7, 1916. The exterior had been refaced with quartzite stone (referred to as jasper) with some trimming from the local quarries. A large mar-

quee was added above the main entrance. Just inside the entrance the original Pipestone County Bank date stone, which was removed from the building was now displayed. Once inside, a marble stairway led to the second floor which was occupied by doctor, dentist, optometrist, psychologist, and attorney offices. The basement housed a barber. The main bank area flooring was ceramic tile, the wainscoting was Tennessee marble, and the woodwork and furnishings were mahogany including the ceiling beams. A new modern reinforced concrete vault with plenty of room for safety deposit boxes and two modern vault doors was installed. After the area the bank had temporarily used during the project was remodeled and everything was done, the total cost had grown to \$40,000 which adjusted for inflation would be over \$950,000 today.

The project was quite an expensive and extensive undertaking. It seemed to fall in between being a typical remodel and viewed as a new building. The quartzite front was removed and replaced but the whole building does not appear to have been torn down. The building before the remodel was apparently in good condition, but bank officials noted that “it was entirely inadequate to their present needs.” With the town of Pipestone and their customer base growing, the bank wanted to grow and modernize as well. They were also keeping pace in town as 1915-16 saw a lot of improvements in Pipestone as many businesses were remodeled, streets were paved, and a bank improvement race took place. The Security Bank in the Calumet enlarged and remodeled the first floor in 1916 at a cost of \$12,000. The new First National Bank Building was built in 1916 as well at a cost of \$35,000.



The Pipestone National Bank remodeled the building to modernize it again in 1949. In 1969, construction was started on a new building for the bank at the corner of Second Avenue and Main Street. After the new building was finished, the original bank building from 1884 was torn down in April of 1970 and replaced with a parking lot.

Socially Distanced Programming!

By Trava Olivier

Programming opportunities throughout the summer were outdoor events. Attendance varied based on the subject matter but overall, efforts were successful. COVID restrictions from the state have not changed but the weather has, creating the need to face the challenge of providing indoor programming opportunities in a socially distanced manner.



I hosted our first indoor event since the pandemic began on Saturday, October 17th. Due to the need to spread out, this event was held on our second floor. I realize this isn't convenient for some of you and look forward to the day we can utilize the main floor programming space that was created during the pandemic. The topic of this first event was *Crimes of the Past: Uncovered*. This presentation included stories of murder, bank robberies, and bootlegging that occurred throughout the county in its first 100 years. Some of the cases shared were shocking and sad, such as the murder of Maggie Dowd by a would-be suitor whose advances were rejected. Other cases provided a humorous twist, as happened in 1930 when suspected bootlegger Gerald Meyers was caught by Federal agents for possessing alcohol during prohibition. Agents had gone to the Meyers home and were turning to leave without having found any evidence when the overstuffed chair Mrs. Meyers was sitting in broke, causing several bottles of moonshine to roll into view and leading to Mr. Meyers arrest.

Behind the scenes I have been working on researching the life of James Irving. Mr. Irving was born on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota and educated in government schools. He came to Pipestone and worked at the Pipestone Indian Training School in the printing department. He then edited several newspapers in Pipestone County before being elected Probate Judge. He went on to become an attorney and Episcopal minister. Throughout his life he advocated for Indian rights. His story is fascinating! View my full article on Mr. Irving's life on our website: www.pipestonecountymuseum.com; click on 'More' and 'Local History Articles.'

One way I let PCHS members know what upcoming events I will be hosting is through email. If you haven't been receiving the notices in your inbox please send me an email at travaolivier@iw.net. Once I receive it, your email will be added to the membership list. You will then be included in future communications.



Golf & Country Club continued...

With the new clubhouse opened, plans for the former Golf and Country Club had taken place. On June 22, 1970 it would become the City's recreation and youth center. Money for this purpose was left in the will of Paul Ewert, a city lawyer who had died in 1924. The name for the building was then called the Ewert Recreation Center. With some reconditioning of the interior of the building, it was open to the city's youth for meeting and socializing, with ping-pong tables, a pool table and set up for music and dancing. An array of snacks and beverages were made available. A twenty-five cent yearly membership was offered, and both levels of the building were used.

After about ten years, from 1970 to 1980, the old country club and Ewert Recreation Center building would be permanently closed. A new recreation center was then planned in an existing building in the downtown business district of town. It is now the Ewert Recreation Center. Following in 1981, the Casey's General Stores, Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, became interested in obtaining the land on the corner of 8th Avenue and Highway 30. Later that year, that land was purchased by contractor Ken Stewart of Rock Rapids, Iowa, for the purpose of building a Casey's General Store. The land was purchased from the City of Pipestone for \$50,000. In October 1981, Ken Stewart and his construction company started construction on that corner. The Casey's General Store and gas station was opened for business on May 6, 1982. The land purchased by Mr. Stewart also included the old country club/youth center building and the land it occupied. The abandoned building was then put up for sale and sold at auction on October 31, 1981. The money from that sale was used in the construction of the new downtown recreation center. Dale Butman was the auctioneer for the sale of the building, it is not known [by me] who purchased the building.

The new owners were to decide the fate of the building. Could it be moved to another location? That proved to be too much of an undertaking, so the decision was made to dismantle the building for its materials. A semi-truck and trailer was brought in for saving the materials. Demolition work started in December 1982 and was completed by the early months of 1983. This opened the way for residential homes to be built to the south on what was the original #4 fairway. And old #1 fairway became available for an auto dealership and a department store to the east. The golf course layout was again re-designed as additional land was obtained further to the east and to the south for cart storage.

During a visit to the city in the summer of 1982, family members including my mother Mary and myself, decided to visit the old building while we still could. This visit brought back a flood of memories of the many years we lived and worked there on that busy corner. We have photos as a lasting memory which includes a photo accompanying this article showing part of Casey's and the old clubhouse behind. I often think back on those years and the many opportunities presented to us from the ten plus years of our management. For me these are memories of a lifetime.

2020 PCHS Board Members

Judy Oldemeyer– President, Curt Hess– Vice President, Staci O'Hearn Burmeister– Secretary,
Steve Schulz– Treasurer, Paul Everett, Chuck Ness, Dicksy Noyes, Sue Parsley, Open Seat

Pipestone County Museum Staff

Susan Hoskins– Executive Director
Trava Olivier– Museum Aide, Programming
Noah Burris– Museum Aide, Collections/Exhibits

The Early History of Pipestone's First Golf & Country Club

By Gerald Peterson

The first permanent golf course, continuing the sport of golf for the City of Pipestone from earlier attempts, was set in motion in March 1945, on approximately 160 acres of land in the southeast corner of the city. In July 1946 work began on a clubhouse at a cost of \$20,000. It was built on the corner of 8th Avenue and Highway 30, near where the Casey's General Store is now. The building was designed and built first as a half-underground basement, with normal sized windows. One half of the basement floor space provided room for tables and chairs, a full-service bar, a furnace room, restrooms, and space for displaying golf accessories. The other half of the basement was built for the caretaker and his family as a five-room apartment with a kitchen, living room, two bedrooms, and a full bathroom. Upon completion, Don Rodvold was the first caretaker to manage the clubhouse. During the following year the second floor was added to the existing basement. The second floor was designed for hosting dinner meetings, receptions, parties and as a dance floor. The interior walls, with well-spaced crescent windows, was made with 2x4 redwood boards. A fully functional fireplace was installed on the north wall. At the south wall was a fully equipped kitchen, enclosed by an interior wall and two doors. A ladies restroom was on the southwest facing side of the building. Facing east toward the north green was an enclosed floor space called the "porch," divided from the dance floor by doorways and a wall. The kitchen was in operation by the year 1949. As many as five caretaker/mangers were hired up until April 1956, when my parents Emery and Mary Peterson were hired by the Country Club Board of Directors, to manage the clubhouse on a full-time basis. Besides my parents, my sister Barbara, brother Dennis and myself, were fortunate to have this clubhouse with its five-room apartment as our new live-in home. Our management lasted from April 1956 until March 1967 (see Prairie Traveler newsletter, Summer 2019.) Several others were to follow as clubhouse managers. In 1967 Tom St. Aubin; in 1968 Pete and Marilyn Spawn; and in 1970 and beyond Blas and Rosalie Brual.

In the late 1960s a new Golf and Country Club was in the planning by a local contractor, Herb Schmuck, on additional land purchased bordering the golf course to the south. Construction began during the year of 1970. This new clubhouse is located approximately one-third of a mile south of the old country club, and from the Casey's General Store. The new clubhouse at this location caused the original #3 fairway to be changed to a dog-leg fairway and re-numbered as the 9th hole. A few other fairways were re-numbered in the process. Opening day for the new clubhouse was on New Year's Eve of 1970. Blas and Rosalie Brual would continue as club managers through the 1970s until their retirement in the early 1980s. At this location today, other managers continued to manage the clubhouse and golf course operations.



Memorials

July-September, 2020

Memorials are a special way of remembering a friend or loved one with your gift to PCHS. This gift is given in their memory and a letter is sent to the family of the deceased noting your gift- but never its size. Memorials of \$100 or more will be registered on plaques in the Museum's lobby. Let us know the person to be memorialized, the amount of the memorial and who to send the memorial letter to along with their mailing address.



In Memory of Les Earhart
by Dan & Mary (Lohmann) McElroy

In Memory of Les Earhart
by Friends & Family

In Memory of Martha Evans
by Rosemarie Loose

In Memory of George Alan Morgan
by Steve & Barb Morgan

In Memory of Dorothy Cocoran
by Friends & Family

Donations July-September 2020

PCHS relies on the generosity of our members not only to meet the general budget but especially to accomplish special projects. Thank you.

General Fund: Sharon Hays, Alfred Page, Jan Hintermeister, Bonnie Jerde, Margaret Davids, Myron & Nancy Koets, Jeff & Deb Brockberg



The Pipestone County Historical Society now has a presence on the Give MN website for easy on-line donations.

Go to givemn.org and search for Pipestone. PCHS is the first to come up- look for the Museum Logo!



Consider Giving to the Pipestone County Historical Society this Year!

Each year, the Pipestone County Historical Society chooses a select group of programs and projects to be the focus of our charitable donations. By supporting the Pipestone County Historical Society, you will help us both now and in the future to present the rich history of Pipestone County. All donations are tax deductible.

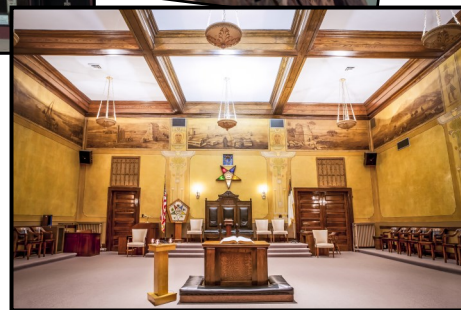
Permanent Endowment

The Society's permanent endowment was created in 2001 by Helen Perkins, giving \$10,000 to the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation and naming the Pipestone County Historical Society as the benefactor. Since that time the size of the endowment has more than doubled and provides the Society with a small, but regular interest income. In past years, the endowment distribution has been used to help fund new carpet in the museum galleries, a digital micro-film reader and window shades throughout the Museum building. Help ensure the future prosperity of the Pipestone County Historical Society by contributing today! **Make checks payable to: Pipestone County Historical Society Endowment.** Currently, these funds are earmarked for building preservation projects on the Society's five historic properties.



Ferris Grand/ Masonic Building Fund

When the Society received the Ferris Grand/ Masonic Hall in 2013, a separate account fund was set up for the property. The finances of this building are kept separate from the other finances of the Society. All maintenance, preservation and day-to-day expenses for this property are funded through this separate account. In 2015 the Society was awarded a grant to conduct a Reuse Study on the property to help determine how to fit this property into the mission of the Society as a whole. It also outlined structural work that needed to be done on the building. In 2019 the Society was awarded an additional grant to have construction drawings completed in four areas of structural concern. This phase is under progress now with LHB Architects. Upon completion of this phase, another grant will be pursued to fund a portion of the physical work to be done. It is a multi-phase/ multi-year process in the ongoing pursuit of the historical preservation of an important Historical District property. Your support helps the Society maintain the building while major projects are pursued.



Top and Bottom Masonic photo credit: Mark Thode Photography & Design.

2021 Annual Membership Drive will be kicking off soon. Look for a membership renewal letter in your mailbox!

HPI Not PCHS; History of Historic Pipestone, Inc.

Historic Pipestone, Incorporated [HPI] is often confused with the Pipestone County Historical Society. However, it is an entirely separate group that was created with the mission of preserving the historic buildings in the community, as well as keeping the overall historic feel of the town alive.

Urban renewal had taken its toll on Pipestone and by 1976 many Sioux quartzite buildings in Pipestone had been torn down. That was likely in the forefront of the minds of the local citizens who got together and organized the group which was incorporated the following year. To begin with, a fund drive was held to match grants sponsored by the National Trust, the Minnesota Historical Society and Community Development.

The first four years of existence HPI was involved in many small-scale projects in the downtown district. They provided cost-share help to repair roofs and tuckpointing on at least 6 separate buildings. They went on to assist with period appropriate awnings, paint, signage and other cosmetic finishes to 10 additional buildings.

Other downtown projects HPI supported was a feasibility study for the Calumet Hotel and a tourist information corner located at the intersection of Main Street and Hiawatha Avenue. Projects outside the downtown area were limited, but still on the group's radar. HPI was a part of the Phase 1 restoration at the Pipestone County Courthouse and led a charge to restore the historic Water-tower.

In 1986 the group purchased the Rock Island Depot, which was already listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and began an extensive restoration and rehabilitation of that building which included replacing rotten floors on the interior and tuckpointing and chimney construction on the exterior. The roof was re-shingled to look as historically accurate as possible and windows, freight and passage doors were replaced. In 1994 HPI was honored by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota for its work on the Depot. In 1997 the sale of the building was finalized to the Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemaking. The Keepers agreed to preserve the historic integrity of both the interior and the exterior of the building.



HPI was able to do similar work with the Brown Hospital. They purchased the building in 1997 and over a number of years made it handicap accessible, installed and painted new windows, a new porch was put in place and the tin roof was painted and sealed. After restoration and rehabilitation it was sold in 2016.



Which brings the group up to their current project, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which they purchased in 2008. During restoration and rehabilitation, a new handicap restroom was installed, the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary have been repaired and new furnaces and air conditioning units put in place. The lowered ceiling in the parish hall was removed and insulation and new drywall have made the original vaulted space viable again.

HPI relies on fundraisers and donations in order to work towards their mission of historic building preservation in Pipestone, a mission which PCHS fully supports. Check out their Facebook page or for more information email HPI board member Trava Olivier at travaolivier@iw.net or contact them at HPI, PO Box 277, Pipestone, MN 56164.