

Pipestone County
Historical Society

113 South Hiawatha
Pipestone, MN 56164



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www.pipestonecountymuseum.com



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The Prairie Traveler

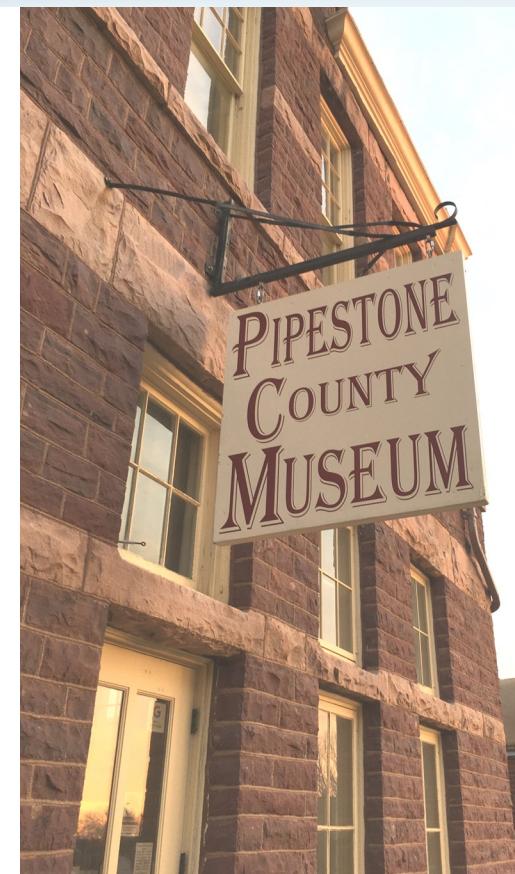
Quarterly newsletter of the Pipestone County Historical Society

Volume XLI, Issue III
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Pipestone County Historical Society Pipestone County Museum

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PCHS Annual Membership Drive

PCHS relies on members like you to support our mission of encouraging an awareness of Pipestone County's history and its connection with the history of Minnesota, the region, and the nation.

This is done through artifacts, exhibits, archives, publications, educational programming and in cooperation with others in protecting and preserving buildings and monuments which reflect our unique community heritage.

We believe the study of the past enriches perspectives on the present and provides guidance for the future.

Look for your 2024 Membership Drive notice in your mailbox in November. PCHS Memberships run on the calendar year. We look forward to hearing from you!

PIPESTONE COUNTY MUSEUM UPCOMING CALENDAR

- November 3: "True Crimes of Pipestone County" at the Edgerton Library, presented by Trava Olivier, Museum Educator
- November 16: Coffee Talk at the Pipestone County Museum, presented by Noah Burris, Collections Manager (TBD)
- December 14: Coffee Talk at the Pipestone County Museum, presented by Susan Hoskins, Executive Director (TBD)
- January 18: Coffee Talk at the Pipestone County Museum, presented by Trava Olivier, Museum Educator (TBD)

Pipestone County Museum

Open Tuesday-Saturday
9am-4pm

Admission \$3, Members FREE!



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We Need
YOU!

Ferris Grand Project

After a summer of major tuckpointing work, the scaffolding came down September 29! The job is not finished yet, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

PCHS was awarded a “Legacy Grant” through the Minnesota Historical Society for just over \$199,000 for this project, with a pledged \$30,000 match. This project concentrated on tuckpointing the front façade of the Ferris Grand Building and resealing the windows. As the project progressed, it was found that the center parapet had a severe lean to the south. That issue was corrected by taking the stones off and resetting them.

An additional project was the restoration of the stone plaque reading “A.F. & A.M.” in the center of the building. Carved out of sandstone, the stone had ‘spalled’ and part of the lettering had chipped off. The stone plaque was stabilized and repaired and looks good as new!

Much thanks to everyone who has supported this project. The maintenance and rehabilitation of this important historic building is critical to Pipestone’s Historic Main Street.

The next Ferris Grand Dinner Fundraiser will be February 10, 2024. Cash Raffle tickets are available now! All proceeds from the dinner and the raffle go towards the continued rehabilitation of this building.

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



2023 PCHS Board

- Sue Parsley- President
- Gen Lustfield- Vice President
- Staci Burmeister- Secretary
- Chris Hollingsworth- Treasurer
 - Shannen Muller
 - Chuck Ness
 - JoLynn Nangle
 - Surrina Martinez
 - Open

PCHS has several working committees for areas of focused work. Members are encouraged to inquire for information about serving on one of these committees. Most meet once per month.

- * Building Committee
- * Collections Committee
- * Exhibits Committee
- * Fundraising Committee
- * Membership Committee
- * Programming Committee

....Find Us On....



Pipestone County Historical Society Membership & Donation Form

Annual Membership Categories

- Friend \$25-\$49
- Supporting \$50-\$99
- Century \$100-\$249
- Silver \$250-\$499
- Gold \$500-\$999
- Advocate \$1,000 & Up

Annual Business Categories

- Business Backer \$100-\$249
- Business Supporter \$250-\$499
- Business Promoter \$500 & Up

Additional Donation: _____
(please fill in amount)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Benefits include ...

- Subscription to *The Prairie Traveler*, PCHS’s quarterly newsletter.
- Free Admission to Exhibit Galleries & Research Archives
- 10% Discount on most items at the Museum Gift Shop
- 10% Discount on Research Fees, Photocopies & Photographic Reprints
- Notifications for upcoming programming at reduced rates

Membership Renewals

Business Promoter

Pepsi Cola Bottling Company– Pipestone
Staci's Bar & Grill– Woodstock
First State Bank Southwest– Pipestone

Business Supporter

Elmer Township– Trosky
New Horizon Farms– Pipestone
VanderStoep Furniture– Edgerton
Quist Plumbing & Heating– Pipestone
Pipestone County Medical Center– Pipestone
D&T's Meat Market– Pipestone
Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce– Pipestone
*Jack of Trades– Pipestone
Hank's Foods– Pipestone

Business Backer

Dr. Paul Henriksen– Pipestone
O'Neill, O'Neill & Barduson– Pipestone
Sioux Valley Energy– Coleman, SD
Bole Mor Lanes– Pipestone
First Farmers & Merchants– Pipestone
Pipestone Realty– Pipestone
J&K Auto Service– Edgerton
A&S Drug– Pipestone
Sweet Township Mutual Fire Insurance– Pipestone
Pipestone Veterinary Services– Pipestone
Pipestone Indian Shrine Association– Pipestone
Pipestone Grain Company– Pipestone
Double D Gravel– Pipestone
Windy Ridge Veterinary Services– Pipestone
Edgerton Bakery– Edgerton
American Family Insurance– Pipestone
Hartquist Funeral Chapel– Pipestone
First Bank & Trust in Pipestone– Pipestone
Dynamic Health Chiropractic– Pipestone
Raymond James, Eric Brockberg– Pipestone
M&H Hardware & Appliance– Edgerton
*City of Trosky– Trosky
Coborn's– Pipestone
Stout & Evink Plumbing & Heating– Pipestone

July- September 2023

* = new member

Annual Supporting

Reggie Gorter– Pipestone
*Randy Koopman– Pipestone
*Sirrina Martinez– Lake Benton, MN

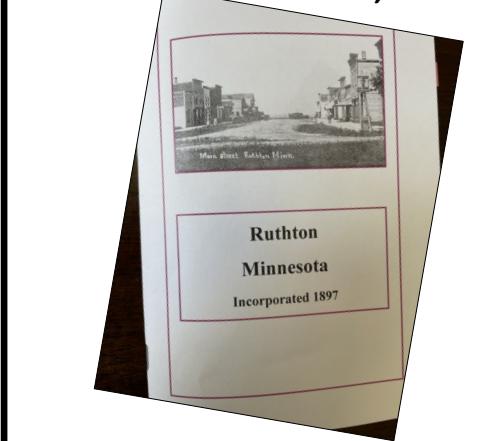
Annual Household

*Matt Kellen– Pipestone

Annual Friend

*Shirley DeRuyter– Rock Valley, IA
Larry & Mary Marquardt– Coralville, IA
Sophie & Jerold Schoolmeester– Edgerton
*Robert Baerenwald– Pipestone
*Xin Gao– Burnsville, MN
Randy Larson– Jasper

Small Town Series, "Ruthon"
Available November 24, 2023



St. Martin's Cemetery.....by Trava Olivier

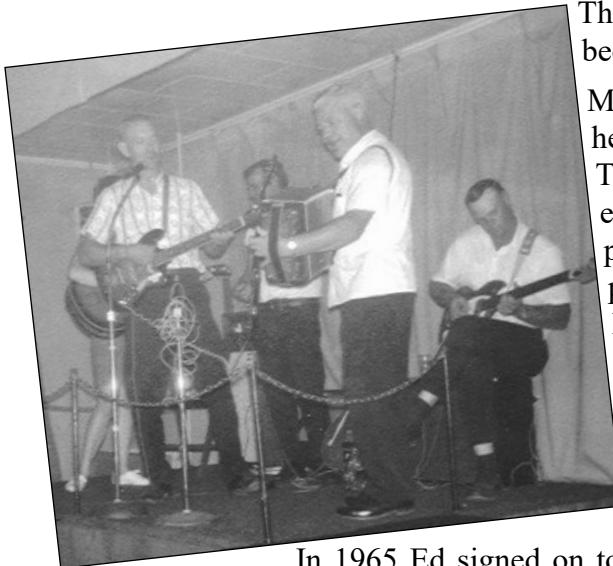
Four years after the summer of 2020, when COVID forced programming outside to keep everyone safe, I have to say that cemetery programming remains my favorite part of my summer programming schedule. The final tour of 2023 took me and guests to St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery just outside of Woodstock, Minnesota. The tour was a symbolism tour, meant to share with those in attendance what the unique shapes carved and etched into grave-stones stand for.

To begin my tours, I like to share the history of the cemetery; when and how it started, who gave or purchased the land, etc. The story of St. Martin's Cemetery is too interesting not to share! Michael O'Mahoney was born in Ireland in April 1843. He married Hannah Mulvihill in New York City in 1863. The couple went on to have 7 children. Their first son, Patrick, was born in New York in 1864 and died in 1868. The family moved to Chicago sometime after the Civil War and Michael helped design and build the first water works system for the city of Chicago. Their infant daughter, Annie, was born and died in Chicago in 1871. A few months later, the family lost everything in the Great Chicago fire. With lingering lung problems from the fire, the family moved to Pipestone County for the fresh air it offered. They were the first settlers in what would become Burke township. When the township was organized, there were those who wanted to name it O'Mahoney township in Michael's honor. He insisted on the name Burke, after Father Burker, a traveling Catholic priest who frequented the area. In September 1883, diphtheria struck the O'Mahoney household. Five-year-old William died from the disease on September 2, the next day it claimed Bridgette, just four days before her third birthday. Two days later, on September 5, one-year-old Mathew died from the disease and Minnie, age 14, succumbed on September 8. The family lost four children in the span of six days!!! The children were buried on the family homestead. When Michael and Hannah and their one remaining child moved into the community of Woodstock the following year, Michael deeded the portion of land he had buried his children on to the Catholic church for a cemetery.



A Taste of Country- the Country Gentlemen

Rock & Roll was sweeping the nation in the 1960s but for my dad, Ed, who grew up in Toronto, SD, it was all country music. It all started in 1935. When Ed was 4 years old, he learned to play guitar by ear. Ed quickly mastered playing the 4-string banjo and in 1948 he picked up his brother William's 120 bass accordion, purchased in Watertown SD, and he added that to his music accomplishments. The music bug had infected my dad and it became a life long passion.



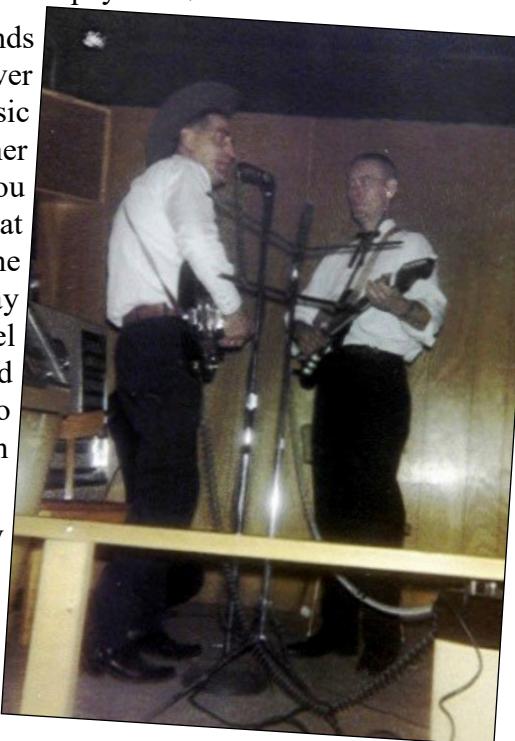
My dad's first music performances started when he was 8 and included his sister Doris. Together this duo would provide the musical entertainment between the acts of the school plays at the Toronto High School. Ed would play the guitar and Doris would be on the horn. This combination lasted for a couple of years.

Ed continued playing music whenever the opportunity came up through marriage, starting a family and moving to Pipestone in 1959.

In 1965 Ed signed on to play guitar and vocals with the Fran Foster Band "Dakota Country Four" out of Baltic, SD. His first job with the band was in Pipestone at the "Sportsman Bar," and take home pay was \$20.

To continue playing in country western bands meant upgrading his equipment whenever possible by buying and trading with the Music Store in Luverne, or swapping with other musicians, and borrowing when in a pinch. You must also remember he had a wife and 5 boys at home to support. Ed had to balance a full time day job, a night job at the gas station "Hi-Way Café," and also midnight runs driving diesel transport to Sioux Falls for Cecil Kofed, and still continue playing music in a band. Ed also sang and played guitar in local clubs with Doug Schmidt of the "Melody Men Band."

In 1968 Ed started playing with the "Country Gentlemen." They had the Country look: white shirts, black pants, Texas ties, black boots and sometimes cowboy hats. Ed really enjoyed playing in this band and they often practiced at our farmhouse on Highway 75 north of Pipestone. The music was country of course, and play dates included



Memorials

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 a plaque in the Museum. 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
Lulubeth Stromberg
by Rosemarie Loose

In Memory of
Verne & Wilma Deen Long
by Kathy & Grant Lillivold

General Fund

Bruce & Barbara Jensen
Betty McClaran
Jan Hintermeister
Barbara Heyl Estate
Holland Hair Shack

Special Projects

Kathy & Grant Lillevold: Sound equipment for in-house programming

Donations July- September 2023

PCHS relies on the generosity of our members not only to meet the general budget but also to maintain our five historic properties and to accomplish special projects. Thank you.



The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) supports discovery and education through access to unique digital collections shared by cultural heritage organizations from across the state of Minnesota. Contributors include libraries, historical societies, museums, and archives.

Check out the Pipestone County Historical Society's collection at the Minnesota Digital Library here: www.mndigital.org by searching "Pipestone County Historical Society." A large portion of our photographic collection has been shared through MDL, as well as our Close Brothers Land Records.

Collections Spotlight

In 2022, the Collections Committee accepted about 38% of the objects offered.

Once a donated object becomes an artifact in the Museum Collection, PCHS takes the care of that artifact very seriously.



Taking proper care of artifacts can be expensive due to the high cost of archival storage materials and environmental standards.

The Pipestone County Museum curates over 30,000 objects and is committed to the appropriate care and storage of those items which takes a large financial commitment.



With that in mind, please consider a monetary donation. You are helping PCHS care for the artifacts for generations to come.

Collections Accession Process

The Collections Committee has been working to help the public understand the process of donating objects to the Museum's Collection. Not every object donated will be suitable for the Museum Collection.

Step One: Temporary Custody

When a member of the public offers an object to the Museum to be considered for the collection, a Temporary Custody form is filled out. It will include descriptive information, such as who it belonged to, how it was used, etc. The object donation and information provided will be added to the Agenda for review at the next Collections Committee meeting.

Step Two: Collections Committee Meeting

Accepting an object donation into the PCHS collection is a very important task, so great that the decision is not made by one person alone. A board appointed Committee of PCHS members review all new object donations to decide if it meets the criteria outlined in the collections policy.

- Criteria 1:** Does this object help PCHS meet its mission?
- Criteria 2:** Does this object help to tell the story of Pipestone County?
- Criteria 3:** Is PCHS financially able to care for and store this object appropriately?
- Criteria 4:** Does the Collection already hold a duplicate or similar object?
- Criteria 5:** Is the condition of this object suitable for display & long-term preservation?

If the Collections Committee determines that the object donation meets the above criteria, the donor will be sent a Deed of Gift form to sign and return to complete the donation. The object will then move to the next step in becoming part of the Museum collection. If it is not accepted into the collection, staff will follow through with the instructions given on the Temporary Custody form: 1) Donor will pick up; 2) It will be disposed of; 3) It will be sold with the proceeds to benefit PCHS.

Step Three: Accessioning

Once the object donation has been approved by the Collections Committee, and the signed Deed of Gift is received, it will be given a unique identification number, photographed, and logged into the collections software program.

Step Four: Storage

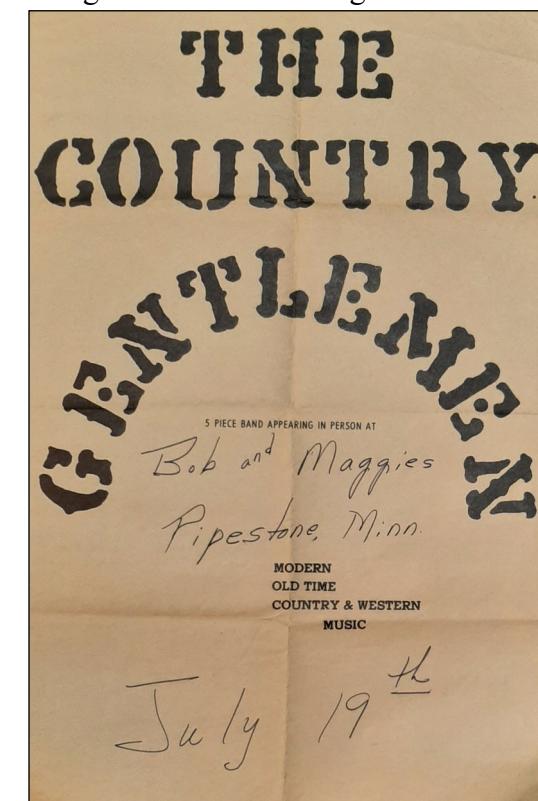
Finally, the object will be placed in storage or added to the archive and be available for future exhibits.

the popular 'Bob & Maggie's Pizza' and 'Sportman's Bar' in Pipestone, 'Ritz Ballroom' in Lismore, 'VFW' in Brandon S.D., 'Eagles Club' in Luverne, 'Joe's Bar' in Jasper, and numerous other bars and clubs throughout the area.

The Country Gentlemen included Everett VanSurksum from Jasper on guitar and featured Ada Kalass, a female singer and guitar player from Luverne. My dad would always say when Ada was along with the band they would always pack the place as people came to see her perform. There were a couple of other members of the band who's names are lost through time.

Kenny Maranell from Pipestone would also sit in on vocals on occasion. Ed eventually left the "Country Gentlemen" and played mainly for family reunions, jam sessions with relatives, and in our own family gospel singing group.

When we moved into Pipestone our house had a large music room in which Ed spent many hours playing guitar and singing his favorite country western songs. Ed also had an organ in the room and loved to play on that.



Although Ed never learned to read music and only played by ear, he mastered the guitar, accordion, organ & banjo. In his retirement years, arthritis started getting the best of his hands and Ed sold his music equipment and donated his cherished Hammond organ to the Senior Citizen Center in Pipestone.

Ed had a love of music and always enjoyed sharing it with the public & family. And there you have it, "A Taste of Country."

Thanks for reading & keep Rockin'

Tony Texley

Exhibit Spotlight

Almer Folstad, owner of the Ruthon Telephone Company, filed a patent application for a telephone line insulator on March 22, 1915. It was patented on January 25, 1916, with patent number 1,169,246.

Folstad sought to improve upon previous insulators in a few ways. The primary goal involved creating what was described as a “relatively simple design” insulator that was constructed so there would be little to no possibility that the wire would become detached.



Folstad porcelain telephone insulator from the Museum's Collection.

Telephone insulators were necessary to provide a way to attach wires to the telephone poles and to help prevent electric current loss during transmission. They were made of glass or porcelain and usually came in a blue-green color, but other colors were used.

On Exhibit Now

Noah Burris

“What Number Please?” An exhibit on the telephone sponsored by Woodstock Communications, opened in April 2022. It was the first new exhibit opened in the renovated second-floor main gallery. The exhibit examines early telephone service in Pipestone County while showing the progression of telephones and their features to the changes in their connections from telephone poles to buried fiber optics. Learn about switchboards, telephone operators, and party lines and view multiple phones on exhibit from rotary to push-button to cell phones. On display are even a countertop payphone and a novelty Garfield phone.



The exhibit contains multiple hands-on interactive features as well. These include a working antique wall phone that visitors can call with their cell phones and have a conversation on, a soundboard that plays sounds from telephones past like all circuits are busy and collect call notices, and rotary and push-button phones available “to dial”. With the interactives, this has proven to be a popular exhibit with visitors of all ages and is often featured during school field trips.

Did you know?

You can call the U.S. Naval Observatory at 202-762-1069 and get the most accurate time from the U.S. Master Clock. The time is kept by the Time Service Department of the Navy, the official timekeeper of the country, and keeps everything from GPS to cell phones and the Internet running smoothly. The precise time is determined by dozens of atomic frequency standards, often called atomic clocks, housed at the Washington D.C. facility. The data that is continuously gathered by computers scanning these clocks is then averaged to set the Master Clock. An Alternate Master Clock Facility is located at Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado and can also be called at 719-567-6742.

Chester Huston, Pedestrian Athlete

21 year-old Chester Huston, Pipestone's first (and probably only?) “pedestrian athlete” shone in the limelight in 1912 when he walked from Pipestone to Sioux Falls- a distance of 52 miles- in under 13 hours.

Chester Huston was a hometown boy. He was born in Pipestone in 1890, and by 1910 he was working as a delivery boy for a local grocery store. In late March, 1912, the *Farmers' Leader* newspaper ran an article about him as a pedestrian athlete.

“Pipestone is developing a heel and toe walker who bids fair to attract some attention the coming summer. Chester Huston has been for some time taking to road work and now ten to fifteen mile promenades are the regular thing. He clips them off at four miles and hour and better. About the first or second Sunday in June he informs us he will walk to Sioux Falls, a distance of 52 miles, and he promises to make it in 13 hours, which will require a continuous journey at four miles per hour. Any stop along the way will serve to increase the pace and we believe he will find that he has set himself a task that will require a high degree of endurance and speed.”

Another article appeared two weeks later in April, which called Chester “our local pedestrian” and announced that a shoe firm has such interest in him as to furnish him with a “fine pair” of walking shoes. (Product endorsement!) The first week of May, it was reported that Chester was in training for his Sioux Falls walk, having just “clipped off 21 miles Sunday last in four hours and forty minutes.”

Chester Huston did make his big walk to Sioux Falls on Sunday, May 26, 1912. Unfortunately for him the weather was less than cooperative. Strong winds and rain harangued him for the entire distance of 52 miles. However, he not only succeeded in reaching Sioux Falls in the 13 hours time allotted, but he beat that time by 50 minutes!

This was just a day in the life of Chester Huston. No other mentions of his sensational athletic feat has been found, but Chester was greatly involved in community life, including the Pipestone Fire Department, where he was elected Captain of Hose Company #1. He saved up his money and in August 1913 he left for Mankato to enroll in Mankato Commercial College.

Tragically, Chester Huston died in pursuit of amateur athletics. His neck was broken in a wrestling accident at Mankato in October 1913 and he died the next day in the presence of his mother and sister. His body was escorted back to Pipestone and he was buried in Old Woodlawn Cemetery, where his grave is marked by the fire department.

We are able to know of Chester Huston and his accomplishments more than 100 years after his death, through government documents such as birth and death certificates and census records, and contemporary accounts reported on in the newspaper, and we honor his story.

Check out the Coffee Talk presentation on “Chester Huston— Pedestrian Athlete” by Executive Director Susan Hoskins, on our YouTube channel!

