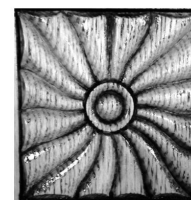


# MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Murray County  
Historical Society

May, 2015

## **BATTER UP! Creating a fun and educational exhibit on Home Town Baseball.**

For almost one hundred and forty years there has been organized baseball in Murray County. Towns rivaled each other good naturedly and in more serious ways through the game. A good team brought people to town to shop at the least, lured in a new business from another town at best, or simply provided bragging rights for the summer. Towns often went to great lengths to support their teams. The MC Museum staff and volunteers are working to create an exhibit that will reflect the joy, fun, and struggles towns went through to cheer on their home town nine. Every exhibit starts with research and we are blessed with receiving research help from people like Char Larson, Bill Bolin, Earl Halvorson, and Marty Krogman. An exhibit needs good displays and Brian Harmsen has been busy donating time and materials for new, easy viewing display cabinets. The museum holds many precious baseball items in its collection but for a comprehensive view of the history of the game, we are asking the public to share their items for this display as well. We are actively seeking artifacts, information, and photos for teams, leagues, and players. We are also seeking sponsorships for our exhibit. If you are interested in helping us in any way please fill out the slip provided on the back page and send it along with your donation. Our goal is to make this as interesting and fun as possible. With the help of donors, volunteers, and historical society members we can make this happen.



## **In This Issue**

- More Baseball in Murray County
- Field Trip
- Grants
- Photo Mystery
- Spring and Summer Events
- What we're up to

Some of the baseball artifacts now on display at the Murray County Museum.

## MCHS Staff Visit To The Fagen Fighters WWII Museum

On February 21<sup>st</sup> 2015, the principal staff from the Murray County Museum and the End-O-Line Park in Currie along with two board members, Gary Kass and Brian Harmsen, for the Murray County Historical Society, visited the Fagen Fighters WWII Museum in Granite Falls. We were provided a guided tour by Ann Hanson, the Museum's director.

The Fagen Fighters Museum is a new museum, started just two years ago under the sponsorship of Fagen Industries from Granite falls. The museum has two primary focuses

The display and preservation of planes of the WWII era along with visual and interpretive display of the air war over WWII battlefields

The telling of the story of invasion of the European continent by forces of the United States on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944.

Easily the greatest displays at the museum are the WWII aircraft. There you can see a P-40 Fighter, a B-25 Mitchell Bomber, two P-51 Mustangs, a P-38 Fighter-Bomber and a Waco Glider along with many other trainers and associated aircraft from the era. Many of the planes are maintained in flight status by mechanics at the museum. Almost all the aircraft are in pristine condition and are accompanied by interpretive displays of the aircraft and the roles they played in the war.

The other primary feature is on the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944 invasion of the European continent and the ensuing ground war that liberated the continent from German occupation. There is a large static display of this monumental undertaking in the main hanger. Ray Fagen, the principle beneficiary of the Museum was one of the many thousands of American troops who stormed the beaches that day. There are many ground vehicles and a mock up of a landing craft coming to rest on the beaches of Normandy on that fateful day.

The museum has an extensive library, a gift shop and is a wonderful way to learn of the might and know-how of the American forces of that era.

We learned much from our visit, it was a great way to spend an afternoon and an extremely informative way to learn how other museums feature their artifacts. I would encourage you to visit the museum's web-site or plan a visit to the museum which is housed in three hangers at the Granite Falls Municipal Airport. The web-site is itself unique, having a virtual tour of the main attractions in the Museum. The web-site is <http://www.fagenfighterswwiimuseum.org/>, and the phone number is 320-564-6644.



Brian Harmsen and Gary Kass pose inside a replica Waco CG-4A combat glider cockpit, known as the flying coffins of WWII. Watch out guys!

Overlooking several of the exciting displays in the Fagen Museum.



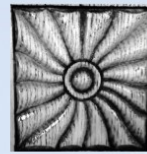


## Southwest Minnesota Arts Council Funds the Dinehart Front Porch Music Series

The MCHS received word that the summer Dinehart Front Porch Music Series will be made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SWMN Arts Council thanks to legislative appropriation from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The Historical Society thanks the SWMN Arts Council for their help with this great summer series.



# Front Porch Music Series



***Historic Dinehart Holt House, Slayton, MN***  
***All concerts start at 7 P.M. Bring a lawn chair***  
**Concerts Free and Open to the Public**

***Thurs. July 16***     **Jerry Ostensoe, folk/blues**  
**Sacred Heart, MN**

***Thurs. July 23***     **Pete Lothringer and**  
**Ross Anderson,**  
**jazz and blues**  
**Marshall, MN**

***Thurs. July 30***     **Glenn Anderson and**  
**Gale Otto, country/folk**  
**Slayton and Tracy, MN**

***Thurs. Aug. 6***     **Dick Kimmel Duo, bluegrass**  
**New Ulm, MN**

*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SWMN Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*

**Murray County Historical Society will serve an evening meal starting at 6 PM before each performance. Proceeds to go toward programming, restoration, and preservation at the Dinehart Holt House.**

**In the case of rain, concerts will be held in the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds.**

**For more information contact : [jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:jtimmerman@co.murray.mn.us)**

**Or call 507-836-6533 website: [www.murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org)**



## What We're Up To....

The museum staff has been busy with upkeep of the collections, planning for the summer events and doing research for those who are engaged in family history research.

We have had 16 research requests via the internet, and many walk-ins. It so fulfilling to help those that come in and find family information that they did not even know existed. Our visitors have come as far as Marshfield WI., Le Sueur MN., Charles City IA., St Paul MN., Virginia Beach VA., Okoboji IA., Woodburn OR., and Vista CA., just to name a few. Brigitte from Trinidad, CO wrote on our guest book "I found my family on the Land Plats from 1898 and 1908!"

Murray County citizens are fortunate to have such a great collection of research items.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> we had 47 students come over from the Murray County Central High School as part of a Patrick Freeman's History Class. Dr. Anita Talsma Gaul presented a classroom lecture on the involvement of Murray County in WWI and then they toured the WWI exhibit.

Edgerton Christian School second graders came for Pioneer Day on May 7th and learned all about making butter in a churn, music making without electricity, and pioneer and Native American lifeways. Our thanks to volunteers, LuAnn Parker, Leon Carney, and Mary Molitor for helping with the event.

Thanks to another group of volunteers, we now have 91 specially made hangers for our military uniform collection. Volunteers wrapped wooden hangers with tinfoil, then poly batting and lastly covered them with cotton stockinet. The hangers will be used for our large collection of uniforms that were in need of these special designed hangers to protect and preserve them for generations to come. The cost of this project was around \$360.00. If you would like to adopt a uniform for \$10.00 and help with the cost of this much needed project contact Gaylene at the museum. Volunteers who helped for two different afternoons were Doris Carda, Cathy Lalemon, Elvira Nelson and Colleen Miller, and Paula Thomas.

Keeping up with the accession process is a big job. Each donated item must pass thru the collections committee and then be prepared to go into the collection. Each one is cleaned, marked with its own individual number, and all information pertaining to it is entered into the museum's Past Perfect software. Volunteer, Rachel Dreesen, has been helping with this time consuming task.

The Dinehart Holt House has been busy with prom goers stopping to have photos taken before prom and the monthly Dinehart Lunch Box Series. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> a large group of those interested in the 1940 Automobile Crash filled the house to hear Janet Timmerman and Bill Bolin discuss the nation's worst two car accident. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the day that marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fatal accident, the museum hosted a quiet memorial for each of the victims. We placed a photo of each victim beside a candle to remember them, near the old memorial sign. When the local churches in the area rang their bells at 12:30 PM, it was a sobering moment.



"Adopt a Hanger" for \$10.00 to help preserve a veteran's uniform.



Volunteer, Mary Molitor, teaches Edgerton Christian School 2nd graders about acoustic music from violins, mandolins and guitars.



## Photograph Inventory Project with Josh Jordan

The photograph scanning project is coming along nicely. Over 1,100 photos have been scanned. Photographs are being removed from folders in file cabinets, scanned, cataloged, and stored in archival quality plastic sleeves, archival folders, and archival boxes. This is consistent with best practices, and will ensure that the photographs will last for a long time. On a personal note, scanning photographs has given me a better understanding of Murray County's History, as I am a newcomer to the area.



2015.001.0849 Murray County Museum Collection

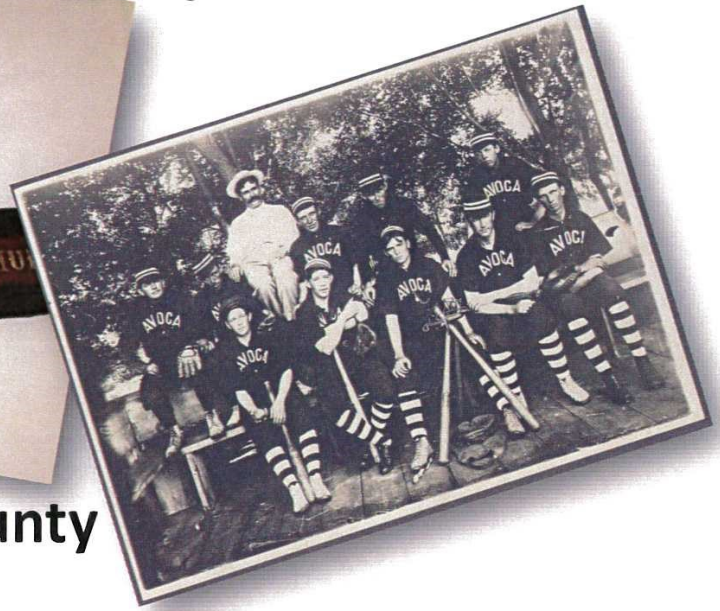
This photograph is believed to be from Dovray. If anyone could identify the people in the photograph and/ or what the meeting might have been about, it would help us. Thank you.

Josh

### Upcoming Activities for Spring and Summer at Museum and End O Line

<b>Sat. May 30 at End O Line —8-10AM-</b>	<b>Birds, Bikes, and Binoculars</b>
<b>Saturday June 27 at End O Line—9-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Country School Program</b>
<b>Thursdays July 16-Aug 6 at Dinehart House– 7 PM</b>	<b>Front Porch Music Series</b>
<b>Sat. and Sun. July 11 and 12– MC Fairgrounds All day–</b>	<b>Draft Horse Holiday</b>
<b>Saturday Aug. 1, End O Line—10-5 PM</b>	<b>Open House with Model Trains</b>
<b>Saturday, Aug. 1, End O Line– 7PM</b>	<b>Jerry Ostensoe Concert Railroad and Hobo Music</b>
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 11, MC Museum-7 PM</b>	<b>Donor and Members Only Baseball Exhibit Opening Event</b>
<b>Wed. Aug 12– Sat. Aug 15</b>	<b>Murray County Fair</b>

## Home Town Nine



## Baseball in Murray County

There has been organized baseball in Murray County since before many towns were incorporated. Baseball games determined bragging rights and affected the economies of towns. Baseball was a cultural institution. The Historical Society is planning a major exhibit to open August of 2015 that will highlight one hundred and forty years of rich baseball history in Murray County. It will become the backbone of a new permanent exhibit on sports in the county. This exhibit will include teams, the promoters, and outstanding individual players who made the game what it was.

### Highlights:

- ◇ Life size story panels and photos
- ◇ Easy to see exhibit cases with artifacts , photos, and stories from as far back as 1873.
- ◇ Interactive exhibits for kids of all ages

**To make this exhibit happen we need your help.** Please consider becoming an exhibit sponsor. Our goal is to raise approximately \$3,000. As a sponsor your name and business will be listed at the entry to the exhibit, included in the exhibit brochure and advertising. Sponsors and historical society members are invited to an exclusive exhibit opening event prior to the public opening. Sponsorships of all sizes are welcome. The Murray County Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible.

Please fill out the slip below and send it along with your donation to: Murray County Historical Society, PO Box 61, Slayton, MN 56172 . Be sure to indicate on your check that your donation is for Murray County Baseball exhibit.

**YES! I want to help make this exhibit happen with my tax deductible sponsorship! Please accept my donation.**

Loyal Fan Level: \$50-\$100 \_\_\_\_\_ MVP Level: \$101-\$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Promoter Level: \$501 or more \_\_\_\_\_ Knot-hole-any amount is gratefully accepted \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail and Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Grants New and Completed

The Photograph Inventory grant will be wrapping up by August first. Applications for three other Arts and Cultural Heritage grants have been submitted to the Minnesota Historical Society but we have not received word about their status as of this publication date. As they say in radio, "Please Stand By." We should know very soon if we received those funds.

The Southwest Minnesota Arts Council has granted funding for our Dinehart House Front Porch Music Series. This \$ 1430.00 grant is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment .



## Summer Hours:

**T-F 10-5 and S 1-5 PM**  
**Closed Holiday Week-**  
**ends**

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about programming, visiting the museums, or renting the Dinehart-Holt House for special occasions .

507-836-6533

[museum@co.murray.mn.us](mailto:museum@co.murray.mn.us)

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