

Museum News



ICHS 218-326-6431

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 2



BOARD NEWS

Annual giving notice went out in the beginning of June, when normally it would have been out in May. Lilah let the board know it was going out late. We didn't know how the response would be! It has been awesome! Over \$4,000 has come in with almost equal amounts donated to the River Room, the Itasca Schools and to our general operating budget.

The Museum opened with proper social distancing requirements.

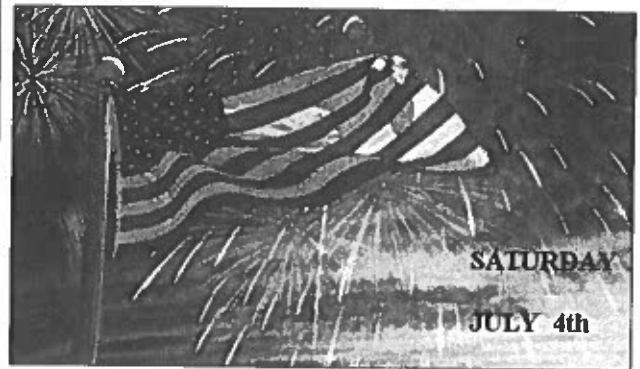
The Ghost Tours had to be cancelled for the summer because of Covid-19.

With the loss of that income, ICHS will be operating an "escape room" within the museum and over at the Speakeasy located at Annabelle's.

Itasca Veterans Project grant is complete with volunteers now working on data collection and entry with over 700 of our veterans uploaded.

Access ICHS mobile web site
www.itascahistorical.org

THINGS TO REMEMBER



IN YOU WE TRUST

During the Covid-19 outbreak, we trust...

...that you washed that cloth mask you're wearing.

...that you wore gloves when you stocked that store shelf.

...that you wiped down the computer keyboard before I had to use it after you.

...that you will stay 6 feet away from me at the store.

...that you told the truth when the clinic screener asked if you had a cough or fever.

...that you have washed your hands.

Yes, it is your right not to do these things, but it's OUR life. And we are

ITASCA GENEALOGY

Genealogy meetings: 1st Thursday of the month, (except for January and July)
6:00 p.m. at the Karjala Genealogy and History Research Center. New and seasoned
genealogists are welcome to come and learn more about how and
where to research your family tree.

It doesn't take a lot of convincing for people to know that interest in history and genealogy has become a phenomenon. The growth of such organizations as 23andMe or ancestry.com is proof of the populations interest in pursuing knowledge of what happened in the past and how it informs their own lives.

At Itasca County Historical Society we keep a guest register each year to track the many visitors who pass through our doors. It yields some interesting information.

During 2019 we noted signatures from Itasca County residents in: Bigfork; Coleraine; Warba; and Deer River. There were cities throughout the state that were represented as well. International Falls, Winona, Biwabik, Twin Cities, Moorhead, Moose Lake and so many other towns in Minnesota were noted.

One of the things the guest book reveals is that people from 35 states also stopped by in 2019. One of our favorite visitors was here from North Pole, Alaska! Seriously. You will find signatures from every corner of the United States—California, Oregon, Maryland, Florida and from everywhere in-between including Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, North Carolina, Iowa, Ohio and Louisiana.

This all seems fairly normal but we did have some surprises. We're always amazed by the visitors from around the world who stop by. This past year we had guests from THIRTEEN countries! Some came from England, Sweden, Spain, Canada, even Trinidad & Tobago! There's a toss up for who traveled the furthest to be here because we have visitors from Sochi, Russia and from South Australia.

And what are all these folks looking for?

Certainly some are just visiting or looking for information about the area. But many are seeking insight to their family history and genealogy. They have family who emigrated to Minnesota and Itasca County and want to learn more. They leave behind "research requests" for our volunteers to investigate.

Maybe you should stop in and see what all the excitement is about. Genealogy is not a dusty, old endeavor, it's interesting and fun. Nobody knows who you might find in your explorations!

**Life is more pleasant when you're humbly grateful
rather than grumbly hateful**

2020 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS

Carpenter Wabana Kinghurst Splithand Lone Pine Bigfork Blackberry
Feeley Sago Wirt Harris Deer River Lawrence Wawina Wildwood Arbo Balsam

2020 ITASCA COUNTY & CITIES — Itasca County Grand Rapids

LaPrairie Nashwauk Bigfork Calumet Keewatin

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

January through May 2020

INDIVIDUAL \$25

Corinne Jacobson
 Gwen Heywood
 Jean Bengston Winter
 Elaine Pauley
 Ella Inglebret
 Jerry Kleven
 Terry Snyder
 Bob Moore
 Steve Bjerke
 Ruth Martin
 Oliver Juntunen
 Nancy Salmi
 Douglas & Irene Salisbury
 Diane Gross
 Alice Sarkela
 Patricia Hill
 Helen Zeumer
 Marian Longrie
 LeAnna Sutherland
 Barbara Nalan
 Linda Hron
 Elizabeth A. Shoberg

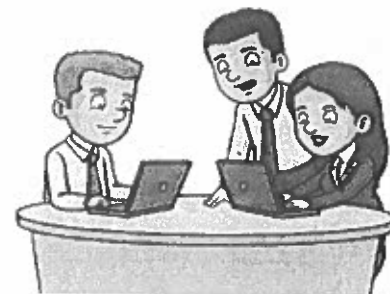
Tim & Joan Bonner
 Mark Hager
 Niels & Bonnie Henriksen
 Carol Brandon
 David & Marilyn Hutchins
 Joan Isaacs
 Duane & Anna Eells
 Grace Derfler
 Sandy Chapin
 Diane Hannah
 Shriley Zachman
 Martin & Gayle Coyer
 Jody & JoLynn Crowe
 Jean Koewler
 Patricia & James Frey
 Will Backes
 Linda Skallman

SUPPORTING \$65

Paul Anderson
 James R. Marshall
 Wilma Behm
 Virginia Russ Chalmers
 American Legion Post 60
 L & M Fleet Supply

PRESERVATION \$100

Keith & Nancy Austin
 Melinda Moede
 Bruce & Karen Ogle
 Leona Barten
 Steve & Vicki Wilcox
 Timothy & Lynn Moratzka



Bowen Lodge
 Andrew Shaw

SPONSOR \$500
**PAUL BUNYAN
 COMMUNICATIONS
 INC.**

ASSOCIATE \$1000
Richard Lacher



FAMILY \$40

PATRON \$250

As you do your tax and estate planning, please keep us in mind. ICHS is a 501(c)(3) and as such can accept charitable donations. An RMD from your retirement account can be made directly to us.



Members:

Everything changes, it seems like in minutes! We have been through a time of history that will forever be documented in the files! We do have some Covid-19 stories coming in for our files. We are pleased to share some with you in this newsletter.

The museum is now open to the public, of course with some changes to our systems. We are only allowing the volunteers in the research center and restrooms. The public can go through the museum but if research is to be done, they need to fill out a research form first.

We have gotten a lot of donations! It seems like people have sorted out their stuff during Covid-19 and brought in some really good things. We now have information about Indian Point Resort over on Swan Lake. Also, a band uniform was donated from the Nashwauk/Keewatin High School.

Cheryl Thueson, a volunteer in the research center, passed away in May. Her job was researching Veterans and obituaries. She will be greatly missed. We have set up a memorial in her name for the new Itasca School Exhibit opening up in February of 2021. People who knew her are really surprised that she was a school teacher. She loved Math and was the only woman in her class at Bemidji State in the 70's. She started out her teaching career in Northome. Cheryl was always volunteering and worked behind the scenes during our events.

The staff moved back into the office the last week in April after working from their homes. We have been busy changing the museum around. The picture GRACE Exhibit moved in preparation for the newest exhibit "The River Room" opening in February 2021. We also had our carpets cleaned throughout the museum during the downtime!

Volunteers worked from their homes on the Itasca Veterans Project. We are excited to have over 600 veterans now on the web! If you have your forms ready, please send in or email.

Donnabelle worked with Cheryl on the obituaries, she hopes to be able to come in again soon and finish that job. Dorothy Pollard is also anxious to come in and do filing. Some of the volunteers are still at home; most are coming in at least once a week.

Yours, Lilah

P.S. Lola Lulich is waiting for you to find the treasure before the museum heist occurs in the Escape Room!

**Remember to tell your friends our
Museum is FREE!**

We just ask people to sign in on the guest book; it helps in gaining support when we go before the County Board and when applying for grants.

**You can help us save on postage by getting your
newsletter emailed to you. Please send your email
address to ichs@paulbunyan.net**

LIFE DURING A PANDEMIC STORIES OF COVID-19

Susan wrote: "These past few months have been some of the strangest that I have known. Covid-19 has turned many lives upside down. As of now, I personally do not know of anyone who has been clinically diagnosed with the virus. Looking back, several in my group of friends that regularly get together appeared to have had this virus in January or early February.

"I am in my early 70s, live in a senior cooperative housing unit and still work full time. I am a CPA working in an accounting office and we were in the midst of the 2019 tax filing season. We can work in the office, but no outside visitors are allowed so our doors are locked.

"My life involves getting up, going to work, and then going back home. Wash, rinse and repeat for the next four days."

Dan said "It was early March of 2020. I had just come back from a trip to Arizona with a severe cold, and my friend, whom I had traveled with, suggested we might both have the illness. The thought that I might have caught the thing at the airport and was now propagating it in northern Minnesota devastated me. Meanwhile, I read websites that described the symptoms of Covid-19 and took my temperature several times over the next few days. I arranged to work from home and was staying inside and practicing social distancing. It was inconvenient, but I was so relieved that I was not spreading it around, I was happy to comply with all the precautions."

Gayle wrote: "These are difficult days. My precious daughter just died. We were not able to have a funeral as the virus requires social distancing and no gathering together. I live in a senior place and we are in "lock down". No visiting together and no outside visitors either. Never in my 81 years did I dream such a thing could happen. I hurt for young people who's lives are 'on hold' now, with jobs, careers, family etc."

And Jan wrote: "Well here are the good things I have experienced: making over 300 facemasks and receiving many appreciative thanks. I know my sewing machines have loved the extra attention they got as I feverishly worked on the masks.

"Here are the bad things: not having in-person contact with family and friends and especially not seeing my three granddaughters for such a long time. Oh, and the worst experience was having a one pound can of Crisco in my house for the first time in 56 years of marriage. Who the heck is hoarding larger cans of Crisco along with toilet paper?"

We have Beginner and
Intermediate Genealogy
kits available for
starting your family tree.
Only \$5.95

Please email or mail ICHS your Covid -19 experiences!

It's important to share, we don't have any stories from the 1918 Flu except by what the papers printed.

We will now add to the dictionary: social distancing, Covid-19 and many more.....

2020

ICHS Board of Directors

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Treasurer	Sue Kujala
Secretary	Richard Lacher
Roberta Truempfer	Jim Uzelac
Leona Litchke	Barb Adams
Jean Harkins	John Weber
Randy Bragonier	Wesley Sisson

Executive Director

Lilah Crowe

Computer Technician

Jeremy Anderson

Bookkeeper

Melissa McFadden

KRC Genealogists

Leona Litchke	Barb Adams
Jean Harkins	

Volunteers

Duane Eells	Heather Tardy
Dan Seward	Anna Eells
Dorothy Pollard	Jackie Dowell
Jody Hane	Scott Carter
Donnabelle Landey	Ruth Martin

Itasca County Historical Society
 201 North Pokegama Avenue
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
www.itscahistorical.org



COMING SOON

TWO ALL NEW ESCAPE ROOMS!

COMING SOON

OPENING JULY 2020 THE ITASCA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS EXCITED TO SHARE TWO BRAND NEW ESCAPE ROOMS!

Can your team Stop the Museum Heist before its too late? **OR** Can your team solve the Murder Mystery in Craigsville?

FUN FOR GROUPS OF UP TO 12!

Call today to make your groups reservation 218-326-6431
 Rooms designed to be solved in 1 – 1.5hrs, ideal for ages 12 plus.
 201 North Pokegama Ave | Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | 218.326.6431

