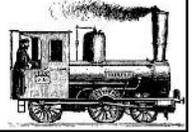




THE DEPOT EXPRESS

THE BELTRAMI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Summer 2014

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Sidetracked by Darla Sathre

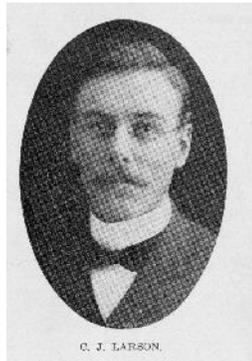
Eyesight is something we tend to take for granted until we have a problem. I have worn glasses since childhood, but recently got a new prescription. I am now wearing trifocals with lines. They take a little getting used to, and the first time I wore them in the museum archive room my eyes felt a little dizzy. Nothing major, just some adjustment issues on my part involving moving my head up and down trying to focus on newspaper articles. So when I noticed a 1907 *Bemidji Daily Pioneer* article about a local optometrist office I got sidetracked. A picture of an eye halfway through an article is what really caught my attention. The article's headline read "DRS. LARSON AND LARSON INSTALL ELECTRIC SIGN." The sign they had installed was a large reproduction of an eye. It was wired to wink at passersby!



one time their residence was 515 Bemidji Avenue.

Dr. Carl Larson was also a clarinetist and a member of the City of Bemidji band. He died in 1963 at the age of 85. One of his daughters, Bea, was also an optometrist.

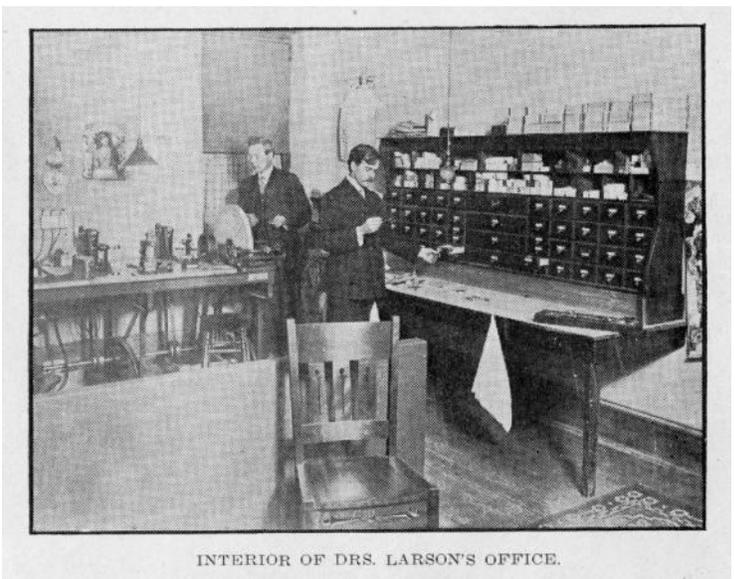
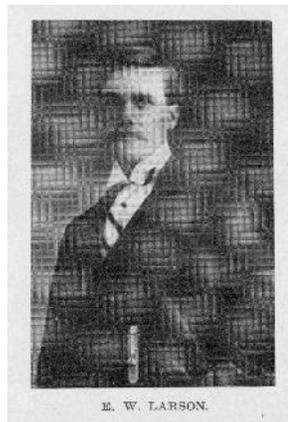
Of course, Bemidji has been home to many other optometrists. While looking for stories about others, I got



Before Bemidji had an optometry office, Dr. C. J. Larson had an office in Park Rapids. Several times a year he would come to the Hotel Remore in Bemidji and stay a few days seeing eye patients. Then in September 1906, Dr. Carl J. Larson and Dr. Erick W. Larson started their Drs. Larson and Larson optometry business in Bemidji. It is obvious that they kept up-to-date in their profession. By early 1908 they

had a lens grinder in their office. In March 1909 they acquired the new De Zeng's Luminous Retinoscope and Ophthalmoscope. In 1909, Dr. E. W. Larson completed a post-graduate course at the New York Institute of Optometry. He then passed an exam to be qualified as an optometrist in North Dakota as well.

Drs. Larson and Larson had various locations over the years, sometimes residing in the same building as their office. Locations included: the Mayo block, over the post office, over Boardman's Drug Store, 401½ Beltrami Avenue, and two doors west of the 3rd Street Café. At



INTERIOR OF DRS. LARSON'S OFFICE.

sidetracked by a story involving the father of former Bemidji optometrist Dr. James Davey. Both father and son were Dr. James Davey. The elder was an ear, nose, and throat specialist in Chicago. He once removed a cyst from the ear of Homer Onassis - you know, the father of Aristotle who was married to Jackie Kennedy. Anyway, this surgery saved Homer's life and in gratitude he gave the doctor an Italian custom-made nickel bed. About twenty years ago this bed was up for auction, with a minimum bid of \$100,000. I am sorry to tell you that I do not know if it sold (or to whom or for how much money) because as I started to dig for more facts I once again became sidetracked. Besides, I have to go now to clean my new glasses. Maybe that is part of my adjustment problem!

Images from the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer*, July 25, 1907 & the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer*, March 27, 1909.

Also find "Sidetracked" on our website: <http://beltramihistory.org/blog>

Beltrami County Historical Society
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Operating out of the Beltrami County History Center
Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4
Groups and Researchers also by appointment.

President's Report

by Linda L. Lemmer

Well, we totally missed spring and went full speed into summer, weather-wise. Fortunately, the weather does not prevent the History Center from having wonderful exhibits. We just shipped off the great *Innovators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs* traveling exhibit from Minnesota's Historic Northwest. I hope you were able to get here to see that.

We now have another traveling exhibit, *Minnesota Disasters*. It just opened on June 14 and will be here when we have our Annual Meeting on June 21. That gives you two reasons to stop by the History Center. You do remember that members can vote on the officers of the Beltrami County Historical Society, right? I am asking for a second term as your President. The Annual Meeting would be a good time to tell me if you like my notes in the newsletter and to tell me what you would like to hear about.

Another event on the summer agenda is the opening of the Doud Cabin during the Beltrami County Fair, July 30 – August 3. This year we will be there for more hours (Noon to 7:30 p.m.) to better serve visitors. We plan to have small tokens for the young ones doing the scavenger hunt. We also plan to have a daily drawing. Come visit, see what "old stuff" you can recognize and put your name in the basket.

Depot Day is August 9. The Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society will have their work room open for train enthusiasts. We will have former railroad employees talking about their work. I am hoping we will have a couple of spinners working a spinning wheel and someone playing a saw. Watch for the flyers to see if we got them and/or what else we will be doing.

What's on the History Center agenda for fall? Watch for the next newsletter to find out or stop by to talk with Dan. He is the third reason to come to our Annual Meeting in June. Dan will be celebrating being our Executive Director for one year. He has done a good job over the last year. Come see for yourself and celebrate with us.

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The mission of the Beltrami County Historical Society is to provide connections to county history through public archives, collections, interpretive exhibits, and programs that educate, invite dialogue, and inspire self-reflection.

From the Desk of the Director

by Dan Karalus

Summer is a hectic yet rewarding and exciting time for all staff, volunteers, and board members working at the History Center. We are busy setting up exhibits, building new partnerships, making plans for the next year, and, of course, welcoming visitors and members from as far away as France and as nearby as across the railroad tracks.

Thanks to our volunteers, we are putting the finishing touches on our display of local Beltrami County disasters as part of the *Minnesota Disasters* traveling exhibit. Visitors are already pinning their disaster memories on our community bulletin board and enjoying video segments about tornadoes, floods, and other catastrophes. The exhibit is free for members and we are very excited to have it at the History Center through July 31.

We are also excited to bring two Minnesota authors to the History Center to discuss their recent books. Rhonda Fochs talks about *Minnesota's Lost Towns* at 2:00 p.m. on June 28, and Deane Johnson explores *The Best of Itasca* at 1:00 p.m. on July 19. Both presentations promise to deliver engaging stories about the characters and places that make Northern Minnesota unique, and best of all each talk is free for members and free for non-members with paid admission to the History Center.

In other exciting news, BCHS just received a generous grant award from First National Bank Bemidji to produce three History in a Trunk kits for teachers, homeschool families, and outreach opportunities for BCHS staff. The kits will include artifacts, documents, photographs, and other resources to help kids (and adults!) learn about history through hands-on, interactive activities. We still need some families and teachers to be a part of our pilot program starting in the fall so please help us spread the word or contact us if you are interested in participating. After the pilot program the trunks will be available to members for free and non-members for a small fee.

And remember: For more excitement, take your BCHS membership on your summer road trip and tell us about it when you return. We want to see how far it goes!

Introducing Free Fridays!

On the third Friday of each month this summer BCHS will offer free admission to all visitors thanks to generous donations from local groups and businesses—an amazing opportunity to experience history, and a great way for members to introduce friends and family to BCHS.

June 20—Sponsored by the Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society

July 18—Sponsored by First National Bank

August 15—Sponsored by Paul Bunyan Communications, Inc.

Calendar of Events

June 14—July 31: *Minnesota Disasters: Stories of Strength and Survival*

BCHS hosts the Minnesota Historical Society's *Minnesota Disasters: Stories of Strength and Survival* traveling exhibit. From man-made catastrophes to Mother Nature's fury, disasters leave an indelible mark on our landscape and our memories. *Minnesota Disasters* brings these events to life with stories told through extraordinary photographs and film. BCCHS complements the exhibit with photographs, stories, and memories about fires, fire protection, storms, and other disasters in Beltrami County and Northwest Minnesota. Made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



June 21: Fire Safety & Information Day

The History Center hosts personnel from the Bemidji Fire Department from 12-4. They will be on hand to provide information about fire safety and display their fire engine outside the Great Northern Depot. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about disasters and the Fire Department's role in the community!

June 21: BCCHS Annual Meeting

BCCHS conducts its Annual Meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the History Center. Members are encouraged to attend, offer input, and vote for new BCCHS officers. Stop by or go to our website (<http://beltramihistory.org/about/>) for our Annual Report.

June 28: *Minnesota's Lost Towns* Presentation and Book Signing by Rhonda Fochs

History teacher and author Rhonda Fochs will give a presentation on *Minnesota Lost Towns*, her book featuring nearly 150 of Northern Minnesota's lost towns, vanished villages and long ago places, including Buena Vista, Farley, and the Lake Julia Sanatorium. Presentation is free with History Center admission, free for members. Starts at 2:00 p.m.

July 19—*The Best of Itasca* Presentation and Book Signing by Deane Johnson

Author and active photographer Deane Johnson will take a hike through history at Itasca State Park, discussing his book and the trails, history, and people who shaped the area, including inside information on "secret" spots and stories about Henry Schoolcraft, Joseph Nicollet, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Presentation is free with paid admission, free for members. Starts at 1:00 p.m.

July 31—August 3: BCCHS @ the Beltrami County Fair

Join BCCHS at the Doud Cabin during the Beltrami County Fair! Make ice cream, complete a scavenger hunt, and win prizes! Volunteers and BCCHS Board Members will staff the Doud Cabin from 12-7:30. Contact us to volunteer.



August 1: *Revisiting Beltrami County*

Our *Revisiting Beltrami County* rephotography exhibit opens August 1 at the History Center. The exhibit will show past and present photographs of towns and landscapes in Beltrami County to highlight the region's change, or lack of change, over time, featuring historical images from the BCCHS collections and rephotography (or repeat photography) images from photographer Todd Geiger. Historical camera equipment and other objects on display will also provide a sense of the evolution and development of photographic technology. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

August 9: Depot Day

Tour the Great Northern Depot and experience the history of railroading in Beltrami County! Activities include: history talks from railroad workers, a "touch table" of railroad tools, "paint-a-train" crafts, model trains with the Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society, Lego trains, and more! Join us from 10-4. Everything is free! Donation suggested.

The Beltrami County Historical Society is also presenting talks at the Senior Activity Center in Bemidji on the third Thursday of every month! See our website for more details: <http://beltramihistory.org/events>

On the Street Where You Live by *Cecelia Wattles McKeig*

Neighborhood Groceries

One of the memories that many of us share is that of the neighborhood grocery – the kind of place that just did not change much. A kid could ride his bike there to pick up a quart of milk for supper, or approach the owner with a note and a quarter from his mother when he was sent to pick up a pack of Lucky Strikes or Camels. Most of the time the owners were patient with us when we counted our pennies or stammered when we could not remember just exactly what it was we were supposed to buy to bring home to mom or grandma. Occasionally, there would be a grumpy day. I remember once when the proprietor finally got tired of a customer who consistently came in to buy three eggs and four slices of bacon. In a loud voice so everyone in the small store could hear, he announced, “I sell eggs by the dozen and bacon by the pound. If you want breakfast, try the café down the street!”



C. E. Hulett Store, 1101 Irvine Ave, 1904 [BCHS-775].

There were an amazing number of grocery stores throughout the Bemidji area that served the neighborhoods before the arrival of the Handy Andy, Hartz, Red Owl, or National Tea. Some of these continued for several decades. There are about 250 entries for this kind of family business in Bemidji between 1904 and 1994. Many are in the same building but under new ownership or new names. Before you read further, you might try to recall five or even ten that existed during your years in Bemidji.

Hulett/ Dicaire Grocery, 1101 Irvine

One of the most enduring locations was the grocery at 1101 Irvine Avenue, best known as Dicaire Grocery, Berg’s Grocery, and as Sunflower Foods although it had other owners and other names. It was first owned by Charles

Hulett in 1904. Pierre “Peter” Dicaire had the store by 1910. He was born in 1851 at Ottawa, Canada, and married in Wisconsin in 1885. He and his wife Alice moved to Bemidji in 1902. While Peter ran the store, Alice spent her life caring for her family, and most of all for her daughter Christine who was paralyzed. Pierre died in 1934 but during the years he lived in Bemidji, he took an active interest in the affairs of the city, and was well known as a tinsmith as well as the proprietor of the grocery store. After his death, the store was owned by Mrs. Blanche Vincent from approximately 1937-1940. It next belonged to Peter and Carrie Larkin from about 1946 to 1950. John and Nine Berg purchased the neighborhood grocery in 1950. After that it was known as Berg’s Grocery for fifteen years. Mr. Berg died in 1951, but Mrs. Berg operated the grocery until 1965 when she moved to Northern Township. It was listed for one year as Minnie’s Corner Grocery, run by Minnie Stone in 1966. Alice Lokken ran it as Lokken’s Grocery from 1967 to about 1970. It was Bruce’s Grocery, Conrad Bruce (1970); Evans Grocery, Harold Evans (1972); Frank Trombatta ran it under the name Good Earth Foods. At one point the building housed a pawn shop as well. The business was known as Sunflower Foods from 1976 through 1980. Penny Smith owned it in the early 1980s and she had a ceramic shop in the back. In 1990, it was Cameron’s Food Store, run by Earlean Cameron. It is not listed in 1993. The building is still there.



Interior of the Case Store (undated) [BCHS-5010].

Case’s Store, 800 Irvine Avenue

Newell and Mary Case owned the store in 1920. Newell was a farmer, and Mary ran the store. When Mrs. Case died in 1938, their son James took over the store from 1938-1940. Their second son Ralph owned a grocery store at 520 Fifth Street from about 1934-1940. The Case Store was

<p>Beltrami Electric Cooperative 4111 Technology Dr NW Bemidji—444-2540</p>	 <p>Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS 1831 Anne St NW Bemidji—444-1234</p>	<p>Bemidji Bus Line 1507 Naylor Dr SE Bemidji—751-5311</p>	 <p>FIRST NATIONAL BANK BEMIDJI 1600 Paul Bunyan Dr NW Bemidji—751-2430</p>
<p>Young At Heart PO Box 1186 Minnetonka</p>	<p>Camp Thunderbird, Inc. 49536 Thunderbird Dr. Bemidji—751-5166</p>	<p>Slim’s Bar & Grill 142 Anne St. NE Bemidji—444-7546</p>	<p>Northwoods Lumber Co. PO Box 130 Blackduck—835-7745</p>

operated by Heathman's in 1942 and renamed Heathman's Grocery during World War II. It was managed by Edwin Skoglund in 1946. Ralph Case then took over the store again and owned it through 1960. The store was renamed Bemidji Cash and Carry and was managed by Helen Hanson in 1963. It was run by Donald Glass in 1964. The building is now gone.

Daylight Store, 1214 Beltrami Avenue

The Daylight Store was one of the longest running grocery stores in Bemidji. The last time I looked, the grocery sign was still hanging there. It was a popular hangout for high school kids and also a popular warm up spot for those who walked to the high school on 15th St. The first owner listed in Arthur Knutson who owned two Daylights stores in 1927, one in Nymore and this one on Beltrami Ave. Maxwell "Max" LaCore operated the Daylight Grocery from 1930 to 1944. He later owned the Campus Food Mart at 1026 Birchmont in the 1960s. The Daylight store was owned by Eugene Keable after WW II, and in 1951 it was owned by Harold Hellekson. At one point it was also owned by Frank and Hilda Rom. John and Josephine Gordon moved to Bemidji in 1952. They owned and operated Gordon's Daylight Grocery for over 35 years. John Gordon died in 1972. Mrs. Gordon then ran the store until 1989 when she retired and moved to Northfield. Neil and Connie (Wilson) Grimsley owned the store in the 1990s. They changed the name back to the Daylight Store.



1214 Beltrami Avenue.

Holeen/ Allen's Fairway Store, 812 Beltrami Avenue

The complex at 812-814 Beltrami Avenue originally was the residence of Cliff and Mary Montague. In 1911, Mr. Montague won a prize for the beautiful garden at this location. For years, the grocery was housed at 814 Beltrami. Henry Miller had a grocery there in 1913, and in 1920, it was called the Midway Grocery. Henry Brakke ran a grocery store at 1024 Birchmont from 1918 until about

1924. He then purchased the Midway Grocery and changed the name to Brakke's Variety Store. By 1934 Brakke had moved the grocery business next door to 812 Beltrami, and the 814 address became the site of the Cottage Studio owned by "Rich" Richardson, one of Bemidji's first photographers. It then became the home of the Scherling Photo Studio. Brakke's grocery at 812 was next known as the Holeen Grocery. Verland Allen, who had previously managed the local Woolworth store, purchased the Holleen grocery and took possession in 1945 when Carl Holeen moved out west. Verland and Onolee Allen operated Allen's Fairway Grocery from 1945 - 1969. By 1984, it



812 Beltrami Avenue.

housed a business called the Craftsmen's Touch. The building is still there across from Central School.

St. John's/Nutzman's Grocery, 325 Minnesota Ave.

Schroeder first operated a general merchandise store at this corner and called it Schroeder's Groceries. It became the site of the People's Coop and then the Ganter Bakery in 1924-25. Felix St. John owned the store during the 1930s and 1940s. Mom and I walked to the store in all seasons. On a Sunday afternoon in 1941, we were shopping for a few groceries when the bombing of Pearl Harbor was announced on the store radio. Mom put me on a sled and hauled me to our home in the night watchman's shack at Grinol's pulp yard. St. John's had a soda fountain and they made their own ice cream. They had a drive-up window that served frosted malts. The store next belonged to Earl Utter. They received an "off-sale" beer license in 1950. Elmer Lyons owned the grocery in the 1950s. Edith and Elmer ran the grocery store. Then it belonged to William and Hansel Nutzman. Wm. Nutzman (1963). It was still a grocery on the tax list in 1969.

Cecelia's story on the many groceries in Bemidji continues on our blog: <http://beltramihistory.org/blog>

<p>Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society Bemidji—444-2111</p>	<p>Deerwood Bank PO Box 1278 Bemidji—759-6919</p>	<p>VFW Post #1260 PO Box 1271 Bemidji</p>	<p> 502 3rd St NW Bemidji—751-4441</p>
<p>Northern Psychological Services, 403 4th St NW Bemidji—759-2825</p>	<p>Turtle River Electric, Inc. 4357 Minnkota Ave. NW Bemidji—751-0286</p>	<p>North Country Dental 1311 Bemidji Ave N #601 Bemidji—751-1111</p>	<p>Carpenter & Wangberg, P.A., 201 7th St. NW Bemidji—444-7564</p>

What's in a Name?

by Sue Bruns

Tenstrike, MN



Main street looking west, Tenstrike, 1903

Main Street, looking west, Tenstrike, 1903 [BCHS-959].

In May 1899, a post office was established in a little logging community on the shores of Gull Lake just north of Bemidji. The village of Tenstrike was incorporated on March 11, 1901.

From 1901-1915, the little community published a newspaper called the *Tenstrike Tribune*. The M & I Railroad ran through Tenstrike and into the lake on which two different sawmills operated, sawing logs purchased from settlers.

In the early 1900s Tenstrike was home to thirteen saloons, four grocery stores, several hotels, two lodges, a post office, two meat markets, a city hall, several sawmills, a box factory, two cemeteries, and four churches to serve a population of about 2000.



Tenstrike Depot, 1914 [BCHS-929].

The most commonly accepted story about the source of this community's name is that a Mr. M. R. Brown, then mayor of Crookston, Minnesota, set up timber buying stations in various locations in northern Minnesota for the Crookston Lumber Company. The buying station on Gull Lake turned out to be quite profitable, due to the extensive forests in the area. According to the story, Mr. Brown said, "I surely made a **TENSTRIKE** in locating my trading post here."

You can also find this story on our website:
<http://beltramihistory.org/blog>

In the Archives

by Dan Karalus

Did you know BCHS houses a huge collection of negatives from the Scherling Studio in Bemidji? We have over 40,000 portraits dating from December 1941 to April 2003, along with the original log books detailing each photograph's subject, contact information, and details about the size and cost of prints developed. Our volunteers and staff are working to make this collection available for access by entering the information from the logbooks into a searchable database. The database has just a few hundred records in it right now and can be found only at the History Center, but we hope to soon provide access online.

What does all of this mean? It means that we may have a portrait of a family member or relative that we could digitize for you so you can rediscover old memories and lost faces. Or maybe you want dig up an old portrait from a friend's childhood or teenage years to help drum up some old stories. We did just that with our very own volunteer, Darla Sathre. In fact, she got "Sidetracked," found an image of herself, and agreed to let us share it in the BCHS newsletter (see below). Let us know if we can find a photograph for you! Right now, having a date helps us search, but soon our database will make finding these memories much easier.



Darla Miller (now Darla Sathre), 1972 [Scherling-29940].

BCHS Summer Photograph



Second Street in Nymore, looking west, 1906 [BCHS-1350].

Have a photograph of Nymore? Please consider donating it to BCHS to help us preserve local history!

You can find more photographs in our online Photograph Database: <http://beltramihistory.org/research/photographs>

Thank you for all the New and Renewed Memberships!

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Find BCHS online to explore P. J. Reynolds' story about the Bemidji Belle and more!

The Depot Express

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depot@beltramihistory.org

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Your *tax deductible* donations preserve collections of manuscripts, textiles, maps, photos and artifacts.
Donations also support operating expenses for the History Center.