Every Picture Has a Story by Sharon Geisen

Have you looked at a picture and wondered: Who are these people? What did they do for a living? Why did they come to Bemidji? If they moved away, where did they go? Where was this picture taken? What happened to that building? What did these people accomplish? Many questions like these stir in our minds just from looking at a picture, and I recently had those questions while looking for pictures to hang in the hallway of the Beltrami County History Center.

I came across this wonderful black and white photograph of two couples with their bikes somewhere in downtown Bemidji. There are several things in the photo that made me start wondering: the architecture of the building, the clothing being worn, and curiosity about the people in the photograph.

The two couples in the picture were identified as Francis Spinner Arnold and his wife, Elizabeth M. (Ridenour) Arnold and Fredrick William Rhoda and Melvina Eva (Yunk) Rhoda. The photo indicated it dated to 1904-1908. Researching these two couples I discovered they both came to Bemidji and became long-time residents of Bemidji and very prominent citizens.

Francis and Elizabeth Arnold are the couple in the middle of the picture. Elizabeth was born December 21, 1868, in Rochester, Iowa. Her parents were John Daniel Ridenour (March 23, 1835 to June 11, 1907) and Sarah Cordelia “Cora” Kester (October 27, 1840 to May 2, 1911).

Elizabeth was one of eight children born to John and Sarah Ridenour. She and Francis married January 10, 1905, in Minneapolis where Elizabeth was employed. They adopted a girl they named Hazel Mildred Arnold. The family is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Bemidji.

Elizabeth’s obituary gives us a wonderful look at the active and civic life of Mrs. Arnold. She was active in the Red Cross, a charter member of the Women’s Study Club formed in 1903, and a member of the Beltrami County Welfare Board and the Beltrami County Historical Society. Francis, Elizabeth, and Hazel lived at 802 Beltrami Avenue from 1907 to her death. That home burned in 1968.

Elizabth died June 29, 1952 at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Cronemiller at 609 Bemidji Avenue.

Francis Spinner Arnold was born March 1, 1867, in the District of Columbia. He graduated from law school at Georgetown University in 1892.

Francis was a member of the bar in the District of Columbia and was associated with the United States Court of Claims and the U.S. Court of Prior Land Claims for a number of years, during which time he served as a government representative in Cuba for about a year. He continued law practice in Washington until 1900 when he came to Bemidji and entered a law partnership with L. H. Bailey under the firm name of Bailey and Arnold.

Leslie Harrison Bailey was a brother-in-law to Francis and Elizabeth. Mr. Bailey was married to Elizabeth’s sister, Ida Cordelia (Ridenour) Bailey.

For a number of years Mr. Arnold engaged in the abstract business with the Beltrami County Abstract Company dealing mostly in title work, and was well known among the court house employees as a “walking dictionary.” He was (Continued on Page 4)
President’s Report
by Linda L. Lemmer

Can you believe how fast the summer flew by? Bemidji was a happening town and the History Center joined right in there. We had traveling exhibits to supplement our Trails Through Time exhibit, book presentations, the Doud Cabin was open extended hours at the fair, Depot Day was a hit, and in came September on a zip line.

But before I go on to What’s Next, let me tell you about the fun time at the fair. I had not been to the Beltrami County Fair in decades. When I became BCHS President I said, “I don’t do fairs.” Last year I had to fulfill my obligation of one afternoon at the Doud Cabin. Surprise! I had fun! So this year I asked the Board to consider opening the cabin longer hours, and I would work every day. They did and I did. Did I see you there? Did you see some kids doing the scavenger hunt? They were so funny (I mean some parents helping the kids do the hunt were fall-on-the-floor funny). I loved the laughter, such a good time. This year we had a prize for the kids, and they came back bringing their friends to do the scavenger hunt, too. Awesome! So next year, fair time, we hope to have some different things to help the kids (and parents) enjoy history. Plan to come a day or two and see us at the Doud Cabin.

Have you been to see our new exhibit? I call it “Then and Now,” but it is Revisiting Beltrami County. Pictures from the archives of buildings and landscapes in Beltrami County were retaken showing the same locations as they are today. If that is unclear, come and see for yourself.

So, What’s Next? First, the museum will continue to be open through the fall and winter from 12-4, Wednesday-Saturday. I hope this means that when your busy summer ends, you will have more opportunities to find time to visit.

In September we will be part of Minnesota Archaeology Week, and welcome Maritime Heritage Minnesota to the Depot on Saturday, September 20. They will take a sample of our dugout canoe and talk about their research and the process of carbon dating artifacts. I heard of this being done to several artifacts, and now it will happen here. Come watch and visit the temporary MHM exhibit, too.

Friday, November 28 is the Night We Light Bonfire at the History Center. We will have two bonfires, lots of hot chocolate and hot apple cider. Watch the parade and come to the museum to warm up.

We have some other ideas cooking to help enliven a long cold winter, so check our website for updates. Oh, did I mention we will be having a 2015 Calendar? Please buy one to support the museum. That’s all I have for now. Thank you for your support!

From the Desk of the Director
by Dan Karalus

The Beltrami County Historical Society had a busy summer in multiple ways. The Board of Directors and I welcomed guests to the History Center, enjoyed Depot Day and the Beltrami County Fair, and opened the Revisiting Beltrami County exhibit with the help of our wonderful volunteers. We also spent time planning for the future, assessing our budget, working to raise funds, and performing other behind-the-scenes tasks.

Some of you may have noticed that I spoke at a meeting of the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners in July and requested that the County provide an appropriation to the Historical Society to support our operations and mission. I asked for $0.50 per capita, or roughly $20,000, of funding for 2015 to help increase the History Center’s hours and offer more programs and exhibits to members and the public. For comparison, counties in Minnesota of similar populations support their historical societies with general operating funds at an average of $0.97 per capita, and other counties in our region of Northwest Minnesota provide an average of $1.44 per capita to their historical societies.

Beltrami County supported BCHS in the past. They provided a general operating appropriation from 1995-2002 that peaked at $20,000. From 2003-2014, BCHS received support from the County through a competitive grant process that only offered funds for singular projects. The grants awarded to us over those 12 years helped produce DVDs and exhibits, but BCHS received $0.00 of support from the County for general operations during that time.

I share this information to give you a glimpse of how we work to improve the Historical Society, and to ask that you help BCHS and our effort. Please contact your County Commissioners to tell them why you support us and why you think we are important. Call, write a letter, or type an e-mail. Your collective voice is vital. You can find your Commissioner’s contact information below. Thanks again for supporting us and local history!

District 1:
Jack Frost
15228 Joes Lodge Dr SE
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 335-6773
jack@joeslodge.com

District 2:
Joe Vene
1415 Birchmont Dr NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 444-6734
veneti@paulbunyan.net

District 3:
Richard Anderson
7278 Lammers Road NW
Solway, MN 56678
(218) 467-3275
richard@paulbunyan.net

District 4:
Tim Sumner
PO Box 712
Redby, MN
timsumner15@gmail.com

District 5:
Jim Lucachick
13318 Wildwood Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 586-3523
lukmar@paulbunyan.net

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.
Calendar of Events

September 20: Minnesota Archaeology Week—Dugout Canoe Sampling & Presentation
As part of Minnesota Archaeology Week, the Beltrami County Historical Society is pleased to host Ann Merriman and Christopher Olson of Maritime Heritage Minnesota on Saturday, September 20 at the Beltrami County History Center. They will display exhibits and movies of their underwater archaeological research on shipwrecks and dugout canoes in Minnesota, and they will also take a sample of the BCHS dugout canoe & discuss the process of sampling, documenting, and radiocarbon testing artifacts to learn more about them. **Exhibits and Movies from 12:00—4:00 p.m. and Dugout Canoe Testing and Presentation starting at 3:00 p.m.** FREE with paid admission to the museum and FREE for members.

October 19: BCHS Semi-Annual Meeting at Saum School
The Beltrami County Historical Society’s Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at the Historic Saum School at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 19. Get the latest updates from the director, check out a few classrooms, enjoy a presentation of photographs from the Revisiting Beltrami County exhibit, and stay for lunch.

November 28: Night We Light Bonfire
Warm up at the Beltrami County History Center at the Night We Light Bonfire after-parade event from 6:30—8:30 p.m. Enjoy bonfires, hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies, and other treats outside. Explore the museum and find unique holiday gifts in the gift shop inside. Refreshments and admission are FREE!

December 31: New Year’s Eve History Mystery
The Beltrami County Historical Society presents the History Mystery! Someone committed a crime at the Great Northern Depot on the eve of 1920, six local historical figures were there when it happened, and all are suspects. Was it the railroad baron? The local school teacher? Or another suspect? Join us at the Beltrami County History Center from 4:00—6:00 p.m. for this live whodunit that combines the classic game of Clue with local history. Interview the suspects, explore the depot, and enjoy refreshments while uncovering clues. Solve the History Mystery first and win. Tickets are $15 for non-members and $10 for members. Guests of members receive the member-price. Historical Roaring Twenties costumes encouraged. Reserve your ticket in advance by contacting BCHS at (218) 444-3376 or depot@beltramihistory.org.

For the latest event, exhibit, and program updates go to our website: http://beltramihistory.org/events
Every Picture Has a Story by Sharon Geisen (continued from Page 1)

considered conversant on current events as well as matters of law and title.

Mr. Arnold played an important role in securing the location of the Bemidji Normal School (later Bemidji State Teachers College and Bemidji State College, and now Bemidji State University). In the early days, he was secretary of the Metropolitan Club, an organization of more than 100 business and professional men of Bemidji who were active in the development of this North Country. Mr. Arnold died May 31, 1937, several months after a stroke.

Fredrick William Rhoda is standing on the far right and Melvina Eva (Yunk) Rhoda is standing on the far left. Melvina Eva Yunk was born in Marinette, Marinette County, Wisconsin on August 11, 1891. The 1905 census shows that she was one of nine children born to Matt Yunk and Mary (Weber) Yunk. Both of her parents were born in Germany (Prussia). Melvina came to Bemidji in 1906. She and Fredrick married in Bemidji in 1907 or 1908 when Melvina was only 16 years old. Melvina lived from the time she married at their home on America Avenue until her death on June 12, 1959. She is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Bemidji.

Fredrick William Rhoda was born on July 19, 1869, on a farm where the village of Swanville is now located in Minnesota to Albert Julius Rhoda and Matilda Rhoda. Albert came to the United States in 1856 at 19 years of age with his parents, Karoline Friederike Wilhelmina Fischer (Born April 12, 1809, in Kremen, Germany (Prussia) and died September 17, 1904 in Winsted, McLeod County, Minnesota) and Christian Wilhelm (William) Rhode (Born September 8, 1801, in Kremen, Oberhavel, Bandeburn, Germany (Prussia) and died March 23, 1888 in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota).

Fred was Clerk of District Court for Beltrami County from January 1903 until he died at his home at 423 America Avenue on November 27, 1938. When he was a young man, Mr. Rhoda moved with his parents from the farm to Long Prairie and served for a number of years under his father, Albert, who was a deputy county auditor of Todd County. In 1892, Fred went to Staples where he worked as cashier in the Bank of Staples. In 1895, he moved to Park Rapids and became cashier of the Bank of Park Rapids.

On December 24, 1897, Mr. Rhoda came to Bemidji and with William M. Taber started the city’s first bank, the Bank of Bemidji. It was before the days of incorporated state banks, and so it was a private institution. In 1898, the bank sold out and became what is now First National Bank. In 1898, Mr. Rhoda started the Merchants Bank of Bemidji and operated it until the turn of the century, when it was sold to the Lumberman’s State Bank.

Fred and Melvina had one adopted son, Albert M. who was born September 17, 1918. In 1940, Albert, at age 21, was living with his mother at their home at 423 America Ave. Albert was a bookkeeper for a retail lumber yard. I believe that Albert is still living in Bemidji and is 95 years old. I would love to talk to Albert about his long life in Bemidji. Think of all the changes he has seen and the wonderful stories of his parents and the Arnold family. If anyone knows Mr. Albert Rhoda, please contact the History Center so a visit with him could be arranged. I would also love to hear from the children and grandchildren of the Arnolds.

Doing research on these two couples is like being a detective. Maybe my love of history, mysteries, and suspense novels explains why I find looking for information of this kind very fascinating. Doing my own family genealogy over the years has been just as interesting for me as looking for these two families. I found the information for the article at the Beltrami County History Center. If you are trying to uncover your own family history or want to play detective, the History Center is a great resource, and independent research there is free. Obituaries in newspapers are a particularly great source of information. The Arnold family has listed a great deal of information on Elizabeth’s family that can be found at the website Find a Grave, including family photos of Elizabeth’s parents.

What building is that behind our couples? I think it is the building on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Third Street in Bemidji. The Third Street front was the First National Bank. The side of the building on Minnesota Avenue is shown in this picture. Some of the original railings shown in the picture are still there today. It appears that people lived in this building. You can see curtains in a window and it looks like a walk-up entrance. Notice the beautiful designs of the metal stairs and railings.

Also find this feature on our website: http://beltramihistory.org/blog
I love rocks. So no matter where I am or what I am doing, rocks can get me sidetracked. The nationally known Fireplace of States located in Bemidji’s Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information Center is made of over 900 rocks from all over the country. It all started in the early 1930s with an idea from Harry E. Roese, district manager of the Federal Reemployment Service, as well as president of the Civic and Commerce Association in Bemidji. His grand idea was of a fireplace containing rocks from every state in the union, from every Canadian province, from all 87 Minnesota counties, and from all the national parks. The building of the fireplace became one the New Deal projects designed to keep people working during the Depression.

A short sidetrack concerning Harry Roese: He was the owner of the classy Shorecrest Resort with the dance pavilion on Birchmont Drive.

He did not work alone. A secretary in Harry’s office, Miss Kathleen Wilson, was directed to write solicitation letters for the rocks. Fifty years later she still marveled at how willing people were to send their rocks to Bemidji, especially considering shipping costs of heavy rocks. As the rocks came tumbling in, each was numbered so an identification key could be compiled.

Mark Morse was the stone mason in charge of building and designing the fireplace. (If I were to go on a sidetrack now I would tell you about the Bemidji State University outdoor fireplace, the Greenwood Cemetery pillars, and Mark’s many other masonry projects in Bemidji).

By the end of 1935, the fireplace was completed as part of the octagonal Bunyan House on the shore of Lake Bemidji. For decades tourists admired the great fireplace and the many rocks.

As a sidetrack, I came across a 1939 newspaper article about Miss Elsie Mae Willsey acquiring some circa 1514 tiles in Puerto Rico, from the home of the Spanish Explorer Ponce de Leon, that she planned to bring back to Bemidji to be added to the fireplace. We are not sure about what happened to these. By the way (a sidetracked way), Elsie was a daughter of the well known Captain Willsey of early Bemidji renown, but that would be a whole ‘nother story.

By the mid-1990s, the building was in poor shape and needed to come down. But the great Fireplace of States was to be saved! It was segmented, shrink wrapped, and moved with a crane into the new Tourist Information Center next to the 1937 statues of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe. Visitors still love the impressive Fireplace of States. Go see it. The only thing missing is the key. The only rocks that we are certain of the origin are the ones that were engraved by the donors. But it is still worthwhile to check out!

Also find Sidetracked on our website: http://beltramihistory.org/blog
The *Revisiting Beltrami County* rephotography exhibit is now on display at the History Center. It features historical images of towns and landscapes throughout the county, and new, present-day photographs of the same locations and perspectives by photographer Todd Geiger. The photographs capture the uniqueness, beauty, and changes of Beltrami County. Displays of historical photographic equipment complement the images and explore the evolution of camera technology. An interactive touchscreen showcases additional “Then and Now” images. The exhibit will be on display through the fall and then travel to the Blackduck History & Art Center in Blackduck and the North Beltrami Heritage Center or another location in Kelliher (exact dates pending).

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.

Look for the *Revisiting Beltrami County* digital exhibit on our website: [http://beltramihistory.org/exhibits](http://beltramihistory.org/exhibits).

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Lammers Avenue, Solway, undated [BCHS-10032] & Centennial Road and Highway 2, Solway, 2014.

Bathing Beach at Diamond Point, Lake Bemidji, 1920s or 1930s & Diamond Point Park, Lake Bemidji, 2014.
The Beltrami County Historical Society welcomed 250+ visitors to the Great Northern Depot for Depot Day on August 9, 2014! We operated model trains, painted locomotives, listened to railroad stories, and explored the Beltrami County History Center.

Thank you to everyone who visited, volunteered, and contributed, including:

- Sue Bruns
- Boyd Ferrell
- Betsy Gerard & Kathy Winger
- Cindy Gennes
- Susan Joy
- Bob Larson & the Bemidji Woodcarvers
- Andy Mack
- Catherine Marchand & Save the Carnegie
- Bob Montbriand
- Chris Muller & the Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society
- Tony Nicholson
- Larry Oakes
- P.J. Reynolds & Friends
- Dave Smith

Model trains from the Northern Iron Horse Railroad Society [right]; Visitors exploring the Revisiting Beltrami County & Trails Through Time exhibits inside the History Center [nearest two below images].

Boyd Ferrell (left) speaking with visitors in the restored telegrapher’s office [above]; BCHS Board Member Andy Mack in engineer’s cap and overalls [above right]; BCHS Director Dan Karalus staffing the paint-a-train table [right].
On the Street Where You Live by Cecelia Wattles McKeig

Condemned Buildings

Driving down the street last spring, I was surprised to see a backhoe at work tearing down a building at 1207 Bemidji Avenue. I quickly made a left and came back through the alley and watched as the claws of the machine tore at the old house. I wondered who had lived there and why it was being torn down. No doubt there was good reason, as many houses in Bemidji have “gone to seed” and needed to be removed. In the early 1960s, more than three dozen old houses, outbuildings, and other structures were condemned and removed by the city or torn down by their owners.

1207 Bemidji Avenue

John McDonald bought four lots on June 27, 1905, for $500 from the Bemidji Townsite Company and built a home there. In the fall of 1906, Mrs. McDonald advertised for a girl to help with the housework. J. A. McDonald advertised his barn for rent on December 27, 1907. They sold the house in 1907 to Matthew Phibbs for $2,200.

Matthew and Mary Phibbs sold the house on contract for $2,070 to Edgar C. McGregor on July 19, 1909. Tragedy followed their move when Edgar, their 5-month-old son, died after an illness of about two months. The funeral was held at the house on November 10, 1909. Edgar McGregor was a timber cruiser born in Canada, and his wife Gertie was born in Minnesota. In 1910, they lived at the house with children Ford, William, John, Daniel, and Marguerite. Ellen Johnson, 22, was the Swedish live-in helper.

Less than a year after baby Edgar’s death, the parents were stunned when their son Ford, age 9, died on July 21, 1910. He had been sick only two or three days and his death was a total shock to his mother. A baby girl named Gertrude was born in the fall on September 19, 1910.

While returning to her home in Nymore at 11:30 at night on August 10, 1911, a young woman who did dressmaking and had been sewing at the McGregor home was accosted on the bridge crossing the Mississippi. A struggle ensued, her screams frightened the man, and he released her and ran.

A son, Thomas, was born in 1913. The Ladies of the First Methodist were entertained at the McGregor home in February 1914. A son, Gordon, was born June 26, 1916. Mrs. McGregor advertised for a nurse girl to assist at the home. In July 1916, E. C. McGregor, accompanied by his son, Jack, went to the Twin Cities to visit Donald Stevens, formerly of Bemidji, for a week.

The next month E. C. McGregor kicked up some excitement when he complained about refunding license money to former saloon owners in Bemidji. The city council voted at a meeting on September 27, 1915, to refund saloon license moneys to 12 former saloon keepers of Bemidji, as follows: Thomas McCarthy, $144.99; Geo. Tanner, $37.58; Matt Thome, $378.57; Gennis & Layon, $245; E. K. Anderson, $490; Andrew Dahl, $695; Frank Lane, $653.33; F. B. Brinkman, $861.91; J. E. Maloy, $397.39; John Bye, $163.33; Harry Gunalsus, $397.39; and J. E. Croon, $144.99.

When money became available for the settlement in 1916, McGregor brought action through Attorney M. J. Brown to halt the refunding of the money. Action was brought against "the city of Bemidji, Charles Vandersluis as mayor, George Stein as clerk,...George W. Rhea as treasurer," and the former saloon keepers to enjoin the city from returning the license money claimed by saloon keepers. Exception was made of the firm of Gennes & Layon and of Frank Lane for the reason that they closed their places of business on November 30, according to the order of the federal agents, and did not again open them as "soft drink parlors."

McGregor filed a complaint, on behalf of the taxpayers of Bemidji, that notwithstanding the order, the liquor license holders had continued to operate their respective saloons, designating their respective places of business as “soft drink parlors,” and continued to sell intoxicating and malt liquors, with the exception of the following: “F. E. Brinkman, who from and after the 30th day of November, 1914, discontinued the operation of his saloon.”

The action went to the Supreme Court and I don’t know the outcome. Meanwhile, McGregor must have been doing okay financially as he purchased a new Reo automobile in September 1916. The sale was made through C. E. Battles, who had the Reo agency in this city.

In September 1917, McGregor put the house up for sale. It was described as an eight-room house with bath, barn, and garage on a 100-foot lot facing east and south with crab apple and plum trees, currant bushes and strawberry plants. Household Goods were advertised for sale in April 1918.

McGregor sold the property to Ernest D. Boyce, an employee of the Bemidji Box Factory, on May 21, 1918, for the sum of $3,300. The McGregors moved to Boise, Idaho and lived out their lives in Idaho.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beltrami Electric Cooperative</th>
<th>Reierson Construction, Inc. 4111 Technology Dr NW Bemidji—444-2540</th>
<th>Bemidji Bus Line 1507 Naylor Dr SE Bemidji—751-5311</th>
<th>Dondelinger GM 2310 Paul Bunyan Dr NW PO Box 545 Bemidji—751-1220</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The UPS Store 215 Paul Bunyan Dr NW Bemidji—751-7179</td>
<td>Camp Thunderbird, Inc. 49536 Thunderbird Dr. Bemidji—751-5166</td>
<td>Cease Family Funeral Homes, 2807 Irvine Ave Bemidji—751-9700</td>
<td>Northwoods Lumber Co. PO Box 130 Blackduck—835-7745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Presbyterian Aid society met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Boyce on September 26, 1918. It was noted: “Lunch will be served, which will be the first time for the past year, the same having been discontinued in order to Hooverize.”

Gene Boyce, their six-year-old son, was ill but recovered in October 1921. Miss Harriet Boyce was hostess to the Young Ladies Sewing club on a Saturday evening in October 1922. The Boyce family lived in the residence until about 1927 when Boyce sold the residence to G. H. Bergstrom, proprietor of the Bergstrom Flour & Feed Co. Bergstrom sold it to Charles and Etta Johnson, who lived there in the 1930s. He was a carpenter.

The property with the four lots was sold to Homer C. Baer, and then split into two properties. Lots 11 and 12 were sold to J. B. and Ida Parenteau for $600 on June 17, 1937. Lots 9 and 10 were sold to Roxie Nelson for the sum of $1,350 on June 16, 1938. Roxie was a beauty operator in 1942. The property remained in the Nelson family for the next sixty years and was listed in the city directories under the names of Roxie Nelson, Roxie Gilstad, and Mrs. Mina Nelson.

Mrs. Mina Nelson moved to Bemidji in 1937 where she operated a rooming house until her death on May 22, 1966. Mrs. Roxy Gilstad continued to own the property until her death in 1990. In 1974, her son, Private Paul Gilstad, graduated from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California.

The house was taken down by a backhoe on April 23, 2014, to make way for a future Bi-CAP Youth-Build home project. A total of three houses were torn down for the program, which is a partnership between the city, Headwaters Regional Development Commission and Bi-CAP to provide housing for low-income individuals.

315 Fifth Street
An interesting and once-lovely home was in existence on Fifth Street from 1898 until it was razed in 1970. The home was built by A. T. Clavin. The local newspaper noted that Clavin had almost completed his one-story building on the Ed Boyd lot on February 10, 1898. The old Clavin house was right across the alley west of the Presbyterian Church.

Andrew and his wife Annie were one of the first couples to settle in Bemidji. Andrew was an Irishman, born in Wisconsin in January 1849. Annie Seado was almost 20 years younger, born in 1868 in Wisconsin. They were married about 1887. In 1900, Anna, a Swedish seamstress lived at this residence as the servant. The Clavins are listed in the first Bemidji city directory in 1904, but no street addresses had been assigned yet.

Clavin was an early saloon keeper. In 1912, he was the co-owner of the Clavin & Tanner Saloon at 211 Third Street. He was also owner of the Star Theatre. In 1909, he attended the Seattle Exposition and visited with old friends. He asserted that he had one of the most enjoyable times of his career and that the "big show" is indeed a "hummer."

In 1912, the Fire Marshall ordered George Tanner and Andrew Clavin to remove the two story building known as the "Star Theatre," situated on lots 18 and 19 of block 17, within sixty days because it was an alleged fire trap. Clavin filed an injunction and in 1917, Judge Stanton modified the order and directed the owners of the building to repair it and to make the chimneys, heating apparatus, and electric wiring conform to Bemidji city ordinances.

Members of the Linger Longer Club surprised Mrs. Clavin on her birthday in March 1917. The members gathered at the Clavin home and prepared a sumptuous seven o'clock dinner. The hours were spent in cards and music. By this time, the house was quite imposing. The house had ten rooms and beautiful chandeliers and furniture. I remember Mrs. Clavin sitting on the porch, and my brother was her paperboy. Clavin also had property in Eckles Township.

After the death of Andrew in 1932, Mrs. Clavin continued to live there and to take in boarders. At one time, her brother John Seado lived with her. He was a retired lumberman and a resident of the Bemidji area since approximately 1920.

Mrs. Clavin died about 1952. The property passed to the First National Bank on March 30, 1954. It became a nine-unit apartment house with many problems. Firemen were called to the residence on several occasions, and in October 1970, the city passed a resolution that the building had to be either repaired or razed. The owners of the building, John and Lucille Wright, had 60 days to improve the conditions in the dwelling or to have the building torn down. Jack Wright opted to tear it down. He recalled in an article for North Country that the house had some nice chandeliers and a beautiful old china cabinet.

The Social Security office was built there later on and it is currently the site of the Chriswell Building.

Cecelia’s story may also be found on our website: http://beltramihistory.org/blog
What’s in a Name?
by Sue Bruns

Beltrami County consists of 51 named townships (not all of them organized) and a number of unnamed, unorganized townships in the northern part of the county. At least four township names have their roots in Ojibwe words:

- Bemidji Township, which, along with a village established in 1896, took the name “Bemidji,” a shortened version of the Ojibwe name for the lake “Bemejigamaug,” meaning “a lake with water running through it.”

- Nebish Township: According to the Minnesota Historical Society, Nebish Township and its lake of this name are from the Ojibwe word “aniibiish,” meaning “tea,” a drink enjoyed by both the Ojibwe and white settlers.

- Waskish Township, located northeast of Upper Red Lake was organized in 1916. The name for this township, as well as the village of Waskish within its borders, reportedly comes from the Ojibwe word for deer: “waawaashkeshi.”

- Moose Lake Township was named for the already named lake within its borders from the Ojibwe word “mooz.”

Spellings and details about these townships from: Louis Marchand, *Up North: Beltrami County’s Townships* (Bemidji: Bemidji State University Printing Services, 1998). For more information about Beltrami County’s townships, their beginnings, and how they grew, explore the book in the research library at the Beltrami County History Center.

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

Sports Donations Needed!

BCHS is planning a new exhibit for the summer of 2015 focusing on sports and community in Beltrami County. The exhibit will explore the numerous and diverse sports local residents enjoyed in the area, from team sports like lacrosse, baseball, and football to individual sports and recreational activities, such as skiing and ice skating. The History Center archives contain a wealth of records, but we need more local sports history from you to produce a fuller, deeper story of how sports shaped individuals and communities in the county.

Our wish list for donations or loans includes:

- Video footage (highlights, news stories, or other video that captures local sports feats)
- Equipment (vintage curling stones, footballs, basketballs, leather helmets, skis, etc.)
- Photographs (images that capture local athletic moments, particularly from 1940-2000)
- Your input and your stories—share your memories of sports experiences and how sports impacted your life. Your voices and ideas are important!

To contribute contact BCHS at (218) 444-3376 or depot@beltramihistory.org, or stop by the History Center from 12-4 Wednesday-Saturday.

BCHS Fall Photograph

A preview of the sports exhibit is now on display in the History Center gift shop, showing items from the Kenneth “Red” Wilson Collection, donated by Kent Wilson.

Koors Brothers Bakery, 417-419 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji, October 1919 [BCHS-6345].

Please consider donating your photographs 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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<tr>
<th>Allen Anderson</th>
<th>Rebecca Gieske</th>
<th>Patsy Moen</th>
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<td>Jim Aakhus</td>
<td>Betty Hanson-Lehman</td>
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<td>Gerald N. Kerr</td>
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<td>Lawrence Krantz &amp; Diane Pittman</td>
<td>Dallas &amp; Joyce Way</td>
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<td>Janet Enquist</td>
<td>Tom Kremer</td>
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<td>Allen &amp; Penny Evans</td>
<td>Arlene Lee</td>
<td>Bud &amp; Gloria Woodard●</td>
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<td>Ike &amp; Linda Fairbanks</td>
<td>Emily Lovering</td>
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<td>Nina Foran Gee</td>
<td>Warren &amp; Claudia Meissner</td>
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● Sponsor level or above

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**Thank you to our new and renewed Business Donors!**

- Cease Family Funeral Home
- Edgewater Group
- Mark Sand & Gravel Company
- The UPS Store

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**Thank you for the recent collections donations!**

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<th>Chief Bemidji Statue Committee</th>
<th>Charles Lundblad</th>
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<td>Crow Wing County Historical Society</td>
<td>Penny Lundblad</td>
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<td>Richard Evenson</td>
<td>Lyon County Historical Society</td>
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<td>Wayne Fereivicik</td>
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<td>Sally Johnson</td>
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<td>Diana Kraelplin</td>
<td>Darla Sathre</td>
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<td>Daniel Krueger</td>
<td>Donna St. Peter</td>
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As you start planning your holiday shopping, think of the History Center! Our gift shop has many new items, including: engineer’s caps, railroad pins, train whistles, train-themed puzzles, Great Northern Railway shirts & mugs, and other great gifts for kids and adults.

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The Chief Bemidji Statue Committee donated the old statue to BCHS in July. Thanks go to Al Belleveau (pictured above) for the safe delivery. It is now on display next to the older statue along with a descriptive plaque at the History Center. The new Shaynowishkung statue goes up this fall along Bemidji Avenue.

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- Kathryn “Jody” Beaulieu
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The Beltrami County Historical Society

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Beltrami County Historical Society
PO Box 1190
Bemidji, MN 56619

Return Service Requested