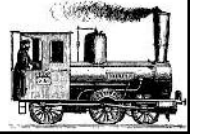




THE DEPOT EXPRESS

THE BELTRAMI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Winter 2014

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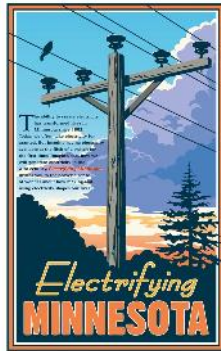
New Exhibits to Light Up the New Year

In 2015, the Beltrami County Historical Society (BCHS) will feature two new exhibits and unveil updates to the *Trails Through Time* exhibit. The exhibits and updates will include records from our archives, interactive components, and fascinating artifacts and stories recently loaned to BCHS from individuals and organizations. In other words, 2015 promises to be a busy year, full of research work and exciting opportunities to explore and enjoy local history!

From January 24—April 11, BCHS will host the *Electrifying Minnesota* traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum at the Beltrami

County History Center. Through period silent films, photography, and an interactive electromagnetic generator the exhibit illuminates the power of electricity and how it shapes the lives of Minnesotans.

The Bakken Museum, in partnership with the Minnesota History Center, developed *Electrifying Minnesota*, and it is made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.



examples of historical objects people used before and after the introduction and proliferation of electricity.

Thanks to a grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation and matching donations from Kent L. Wilson and Carol A. Wilson, a new exhibit highlighting the history of sports and community in Beltrami County is in development and scheduled to open on July 1, 2015, at the History Center. The exhibit will explore a period of over 100 years and



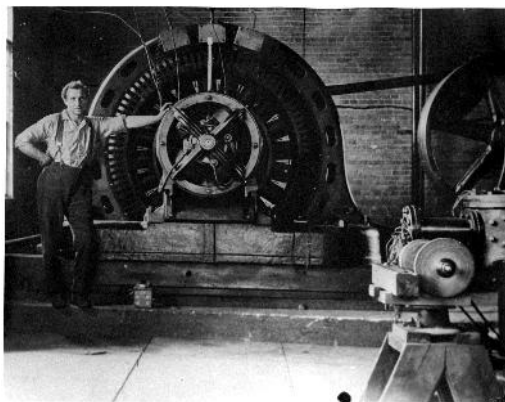
Baseball game, Kelliher vs. Red lake, 1916 [BCHS-2621].

consist of artifacts, photographs, and memories from the BCHS archives and community members that tell stories about sports and recreational activities, including everything from baseball, lacrosse, and football to ice skating, fishing, and skiing. These stories aim to show how sports shaped people, communities, and relationships in Beltrami County. In addition, the exhibit will offer interactive tablet displays and hands-on features for an immersive history experience.

We also have plans to update our foundational *Trails Through Time* exhibit with new content and features. Some of the new current topics in the exhibit will come down, and new topics, such as Railroading and The 1960s, will go on display. This project is in the planning stage, with August 2015 targeted as the completion date. Please contact us, and tell us what Beltrami County stories you would like to see!

Dugout Canoe Update!

In September, Maritime Heritage Minnesota visited the History Center to give a presentation and take a sample of the dugout canoe we have on display. They just received funding from the George W. Neilson Foundation, allowing them to complete research and radiocarbon testing on the canoe. What does this mean? It means that BCHS will soon have an approximate date of the canoe's construction. Stay tuned!



"Old Man" Hanks and generator, Beltrami Electric Light & Power Company, Bemidji, 1912 [BCHS-2280].

To complement the traveling exhibit, BCHS will highlight Beltrami County's experiences getting "wired," including: stories describing what it was like for families when the lights first turned on; histories of local power companies, like the Beltrami Electric Cooperative; and displays giving

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

I am writing this the day after the Second Annual Bonfire at the Depot. This was a terrific event again this year. We had great publicity thanks to Dan and the Chamber. We had delicious cookies thanks to Raphael's and Lueken's bakeries. Marketplace Foods donated hot chocolate. I lost count, but I am sure we served cider, hot chocolate, and cookies to over 250 people. It was cold and windy, but the people were warm and friendly.

I am still amazed at the number of people who did not know the History Center was here or what we have in it. You, as members, know we are here, but do you know and have you seen what we have here? Did you know we are striving to keep open the same hours this winter as in summer? Your memberships and other contributions are making this possible. Have you heard about the new event in the works for New Years Eve? How about the new exhibit planned for next summer? Keep reading!

Dan has proven to be a great fit to BCHS as Executive Director. He is coming up with new ideas for rotating exhibits and fundraising. BCHS not only got a hard worker, but his wife and family were cleaning up the Depot after the Bonfire (Thank you! Susan and boys). With the help of all of you members maybe we will be able to make him a full-time employee next year.

Changing the subject, part of our *Trails Through Time* exhibit may be reproduced in the (hopefully, soon to be renovated) Carnegie Library. We are supporting the preservation of that historic site, and you will find a message from the Friends of the Carnegie in this newsletter. We have lost many historic buildings in Bemidji, and I hope the community can save this one.

Speaking of raising funds, eleven businesses contributed to our Calendar fundraiser. The 2015 calendar has pictures from our Revisiting Beltrami County rephotography exhibit. You can buy one in the gift shop, online, or from a member of the Board of Directors for just \$10.00.

If you have ideas of businesses that may be willing to contribute to BCHS please let us know. Dan created a donor wall at the Depot to recognize donors. Business sponsors are also listed in the newsletter. If you shop at any of the businesses, please thank them for supporting us! Members thanking business donors is a good thing.

And Thank You for continuing to be members. I am proud of being part of BCHS and as a board member I know how important you are. Thank You! May you have a wonderful Christmas and an historic New Year.

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2014 Annual Giving Campaign! Your gifts will help create connections to local history next year through upcoming exhibits and events like those described in the rest of this newsletter.

Did you know that the Beltrami County Historical Society also has an endowment fund to provide us with ongoing support beyond 2015? As you conduct estate planning and make your gift-giving plans for the rest of this year and in the future, please consider contributing to it. We established the fund several years ago for the purpose of providing financial support for projects and programs that further our mission to *provide connections to county history*. In the past, the fund helped us: host a history conference, enhance our research resources, and develop exhibits and local history books. Our goal is to see the Beltrami County Historical Society Fund as a robust source of financial support for future history programs, events, and exhibits that are both educational and entertaining.

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Bemidji, owns and manages our fund's assets. Gifts to the fund may be made by: Check payable to NMF—Beltrami County Historical Society Fund, 201 3rd Street NW, Bemidji, MN 56601; Online at www.nwmf.org (click the Donate Now button and find the BCHS Fund); or by calling the Foundation at 1-800-659-7859.

Your support as members, donors, volunteers, visitors, and individuals simply interested in history makes the History Center, according to our guest registry comments (see graphic below), *Awesome! And Wonderful! Thank you!*



Find our guest register comment graphic larger and in full color on our website: <http://beltramihistory.org/about/>

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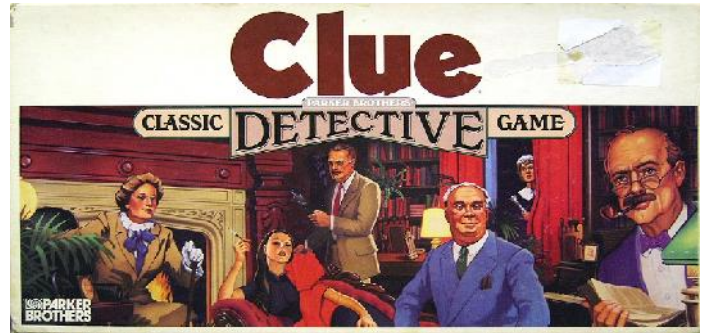
Dan Karalus, Exec. Director



Calendar of Events

December 31: The History Mystery

A Great Northern Railway conductor was found dead in a railcar outside the Great Northern Depot. Detectives declared the death a murder and traced it to inside the Depot. Six local historical figures were there when it happened, and all are suspects. Was it the theater owner? The former mayor? Or another suspect? The detectives need your help to solve the crime. Join us from 4:00—6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve at the History Center for this live whodunit that combines the classic game of Clue with local history. Interview the suspects, explore the depot, and enjoy appetizers while uncovering clues. Solve The History Mystery first and win. **Doors open at 4:00 p.m., and the game starts at 4:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members. Guests of members receive the member-price. Kids 12 & under free with paid adult! Reserve your ticket in advance by contacting BCHS at (218) 444-3376 or depot@beltramihistory.org.



January 24—April 11: Electrifying Minnesota

BCHS hosts the Electrifying Minnesota traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum. Imagine what it was like, for the first time, to have electricity available at the flick of a switch. Discover what makes the miracle of generating electricity possible. Learn what people thought about electricity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and how we will generate it in years to come. Through period silent films, photography, and an interactive electromagnetic generator *Electrifying Minnesota* illuminates the power of electricity and how it shapes the lives of Minnesotans. BCHS will complement the exhibit with stories and displays on the local impacts of electrification in Beltrami County. *Electrifying Minnesota* was created by the Bakken Museum in partnership with the Minnesota History Center and is on temporary loan from the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society Traveling Exhibits Program. The exhibit is made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.



February 3, 10, 17 & 24: Beltrami County & Beyond Lecture Series

The Beltrami County Historical Society presents the Beltrami County & Beyond History Lecture Series at the Bemidji Public Library. Four speakers, four presentations, four winter Tuesday afternoons, and four chances to learn about local history and broader stories. Each presentation will be at **12:00 p.m.** at the Bemidji Public Library. **FREE** to attend.

February 3: Dan Karalus, *Getting Wired: Electrification in Beltrami County & Minnesota*

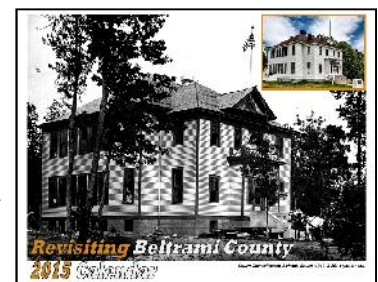
February 10: Dr. John Ellis's Bemidji State University Minnesota History Students, *Prohibition in Minnesota*

February 17: Anton Treuer, *Native Nations in Minnesota*

February 24: Doug Easthouse, *Bombing of the Big Bog*

For the latest event, exhibit, and program updates go to our website:
<http://beltramihistory.org/events>

Support BCHS and keep track of these events on our **2015 Revisiting Beltrami Calendar!** This year's calendar features black & white and color images on high-quality paper thanks to our sponsors, including: Lavalley Industries, Mark Sand & Gravel Co., Northwoods Lumber Co. & Reiersen Construction, Inc. Get one in our gift shop or online. **Just \$10!**



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

Multi-Generational Homes

In studying the buildings, blocks, and streets of Bemidji, I don't know why it should surprise me that Bemidji people often lived a long time at the same addresses. After all, my mom is still in our family home after 70 years, but I find it interesting that some families chose to stay in the same house over decades. So much for upward mobility! Maybe we move less than the stereotypical American family, but I found many families and even neighborhoods that did not change much in the make-up of the families who lived there. One could choose from a multitude of examples, but these are just two of those homes.



601 Fourth Street, Bemidji [Photograph by Cecelia McKeig].

601 Fourth Street

Annie Schauls purchased this corner lot from the Carsons on February 17, 1899, for \$75, and the deed was delivered to Frank Schauls. Deed records show that she sold the house for \$1,000 to Ed Pagel on March 16, 1904, and bought it back again from him the next day. A real estate person might be able to explain the “why” of these transactions. This house appears in Bemidji’s first city directory [1904] owned by Frank Schauls. This section of Bemidji was heavily populated. Small houses on lots on America, Irvine, Mississippi and Park Avenues gave quick access to the business area and train depots that contributed to Bemidji’s rapid growth. To move north of Eighth Street, for example, was really moving to the suburbs.

Frank Schauls ran a saloon in 1904. The case of Frank Schauls vs. Frank Gagnon went to a jury trial during the fall term of 1904. Schauls, the plaintiff, alleged that during the time he rented Frank Gagnon's building at the corner of

Minnesota Avenue and Second Street, certain repairs were made to the building by the defendant, and that while the repairs were underway his saloon business was damaged. He claimed damages against Gagnon upon this ground. Bailey & McDonald represented Schauls, while P. J. Russell appeared for Gagnon. A second case came up the next week. “The case of Frank Schauls vs. Willitts & Cahill was taken up this morning and occupied the entire forenoon. The plaintiff in the action wants damages for rent which he claims to have overpaid, the amount being \$40.” The jury went to their room at noon and had not yet reached a verdict by the end of the day.

Frank Schauls was born in 1861 and married Anna Schwarz in 1899 in St. Cloud. Agnes was born February 2, 1900. Son Frank was born in Bemidji on June 26, 1901. John Casper Schauls was born in Bemidji on August 1, 1904. Frank and Anna Schauls also farmed in Maple Ridge Township. Mr. Schauls died in the spring of 1906, which left Annie as a young widow with three children.

Annie Schauls married Jacob Funk on August 31, 1908. They moved to a farm at Maple Ridge Township. Mr. Funk accidentally drowned while riding in a gasoline launch on Mud Lake less than a year later on August 4, 1909. It appears that Funk was returning to his home from a trip to Puposky and had nearly reached the landing when he fell out of the boat, sinking to the bottom of the lake into deep mud. Funk could not extricate himself and drowned without rising to the surface. Mrs. Funk was looking out of the window when Jake was coming across the lake and noticed him in the boat. She looked again a few minutes later, and the boat was running wild without any occupant. Their baby boy, Joseph Funk, was born the next day on August 5, 1909. This young man had a tragic start and an early death as well. He became ill and died while a sophomore at St. Thomas College in 1930.

Anna Funk was left with four children, three from her first marriage (Agnes, Francis and John) and baby (Jacob) from her second marriage to Mr. Funk. She moved back into the house at 603 4th Street and in 1913 advertised that four unfurnished rooms were available for rent.

According to the 1920 Census, she and her children were back at the farm in Maple Ridge Township while she rented out the house. It was occupied by G. B. Bagsley in the 1920s and by George Mahn in the 1930s.

Agnes Schauls was mentioned frequently in the newspaper

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| The UPS Store 215 Paul Bunyan Dr NW Bemidji—751-7179 | Camp Thunderbird, Inc. 49536 Thunderbird Dr. Bemidji—751-5166 | Cease Family Funeral Homes, 2807 Irvine Ave Bemidji—751-9700 | Northwoods Lumber Co. PO Box 130 Blackduck—835-7745 |

social columns. She was the attendant for the wedding of Grace Riley to Joseph Forester in May 1919. Rudolph Welle was the groomsman. Agnes was also a music student at St. Cecilia's Music Studio and performed in a quartet at St. Philip's Hall in 1919. She became a nurse and was married in Bemidji on April 28, 1932, to William Lindusky. They moved to South St. Paul. Mrs. Funk eventually lived with the Linduskys and died on March 31, 1943.

John Schauls married and farmed in Maple Ridge Township. Frank married Ermyl Ashby on June 16, 1934, in Bemidji and moved into the house of his childhood. They raised seven children in the house at 603 4th Street. Mr. Schauls worked at Kenfield Lumber Company for many years and also farmed in Maple Ridge Township. Except for one year, he spent his entire life in Beltrami County. He was a member of the St. Philip's Catholic Church and the town and school boards of Maple Ridge Township. He was still a resident of 603 Fourth Street at the time of his death on November 25, 1975. Mrs. Schauls lived at the house until her death in 1993.

406 America Avenue

Samuel Robinson and Agnes McConnell were married in 1898. They were two of the earliest residents of Bemidji. He purchased a business lot on the corner of Third St. and Bemidji Avenue on February 1, 1899, and they built this house about the same time. Their daughter Ella Robinson was born in 1898. The 1900 Census shows that Samuel and Agnes had four children (Mable, Effie, Elliot and Ella) living with them. Agnes was the mother of the three youngest children. Judge Spooner granted an absolute decree of divorce to Mrs. Agnes Robinson from her husband, Samuel Robinson on June 5, 1905, and she was allowed the custody of two children, a boy of eight and a girl of five, presumably Elliot and Ella. On the 1910 Census, she and her three children (Effie, Elliot, and Ella) were living at 406 America Avenue. The Sanborn Map Company in 1914 described the house as a dwelling, 1½ stories, with a one-story apartment and porch, and a small building also on the lot. Agnes McConnell Robinson lived in this house for 42 years until her death on May 5, 1941.

Edward Joseph Brouillard moved to the Bemidji area in 1917. He was a private in the infantry in World War I. He and Ella Robinson married when he returned on September 25, 1919, and he moved into the Robinson home. During his career, he worked for the Crookston Lumber Company, the Bigelow Lumber Company, Robertson Lumber Company, and E. E. Kenfield & Sons. He was a member of the Ralph Gracie Post and the Bemidji Fire Department. Agnes died in 1941 and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery.

Edward and Ella continued to live in the home. The Bemidji City Manager reported in April 1969 that a contract for purchase of the Brouillard property had been concluded for additional parking for City Hall. The Brouillards moved to the Northland Apartments. Edward died on December 24, 1970, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Ella died in Indiana in 1976.

Cecelia's story may also be found on our website:
<http://beltramihistory.org/blog>

Bemidji Carnegie Library Restoration by Friends of the Carnegie



Carnegie Library, 1940s [Photograph by Waldo Wattles]

Two years after its threatened demolition, the Carnegie Library has a new vision for its future.

The Carnegie Library is not only an historic building, but resides within an historic site on the banks of Lake Bemidji, near the Mississippi River inlet, a place of human habitation for 3000 years. As part of the project to restore the Carnegie, an ongoing exhibit of regional Native American history and culture will be created to celebrate this long and rich story, significant to the Ojibwe as well as those who settled here later.

The exhibit will expand on the life of Shaynowishkung (Chief Bemidji) and reflect on the pre-contact and post-contact life of the Ojibwe of Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, and Bemidji. It will also document the history of the Carnegie Library and its importance to the community.

The project includes: a restoration of the sandstone and brick exterior; interior restoration of the original windows, woodwork, stairs, and historic fittings; upgraded mechanical systems; new ADA-accessible restrooms; and a secondary entrance in an exterior addition at the rear of the building, with stairs to both levels and an elevator.

The goal is to make the Carnegie open to all, just as it was when Andrew Carnegie first endowed it. The exhibit is expected to be an attraction to enhance Bemidji's offering for residents, visitors, tourists and students, from our own community, from neighboring reservations, and beyond.

The Friends of the Carnegie Library are a volunteer, non-profit group working to preserve and restore this historic structure in the heart of the Bemidji community. To date, the Friends have raised more than \$765,000 toward the goal of \$1.6 million for the restoration project. Please visit savethecarnegie.org to learn more about this landmark building, or for further information contact Kay Murphy at (218) 759-3580 or carnegie@ci.bemidji.mn.us.

What's in a Name?

by Sue Bruns

Townships—Southern Beltrami County



Log School, District #8, Frohn Township [BCHS-1481].

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. Most of these townships have stories behind their names. Here are a few of those explanations.

- Bemidji Township, 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.
- East of Bemidji is Frohn Township, established in 1898 and named “Frohn” by a Norwegian settler. “Frohn” means “pleasant view” in Norwegian.
- Next, to the east, is Ten Lake Township, which was not organized until 1919. Containing Lake Andrusia and parts of Big Lake and Cass Lake, the township got its name when someone started counting the lakes and stopped at ten.

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 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>

Sidetracked

by Darla Sathre

As I was filing newspaper articles one day, the following few sentences, written by Rosemary Given Amble in 1995, caught my eye: “Bemidji’s industries in 1937 included several lumber mills and kindred activities. We still have some of those. We no longer have the railroad shops, butter and cream factories, the flour mill, the potato chip plant, nor the brick plant.”

Potato chip plant? I thought that was worth a sidetrack! I learned that it was called Witting Company. I looked in a 1942 city directory, and they were the only listing under the Potato Chip Manufacturers heading. They were located at 406 Minnesota Avenue. By 1946 there was a hardware store in that location. By 1976 it was, and still is, the location of Dress Club Cleaners. One old timer reminisced about her family taking a car ride to town and parking in front of the potato chip factory just for the enjoyment of inhaling the enticing aroma!

I found two names associated with the Witting Potato Chip Company: Winthrop C. Batchelder (1904-1962) of South Lake Irving, a city councilman for the 4th Ward; and Henning Thompson (1891-1965), a cook for the potato chip company.

As a sidetrack, did you know that it takes four pounds of raw potatoes to make one pound of potato chips? The average person eats six pounds of potato chips per year. An acre of land yields between 300-400 bushels of potatoes.



Potato Harvest at the Charles Slough Farm, near Lake Plantagenet, 1911 [BCHS-5358].

Bemidji also had a potato flour factory. During World War I, wheat was needed to feed the troops. To conserve on wheat, using potato flour was the patriotic thing to do. One carload of potatoes yielded 7,200 pounds of potato flour.

All this potato talk made me hungry. So I looked through the *Bemidji Centennial Cookbook* and found a recipe for “Amy’s Potatoes” on page 67 shared by Pat DeWenter. **The recipe is at the bottom of Page 7.**

Also find this story online: <http://beltramihistory.org/blog>

| | | | |
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Thank you to everyone who created connections to history through our 2014 Annual Giving Campaign! Your support is *Awesome! Wonderful! Thank you!*

BCHS Winter Photograph



Ice fishing on Lake Bemidji, December 1959.

Back of photograph reads: Clarence Bergsven's fish house,
Naylor's with TV [BCHS-18644].

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

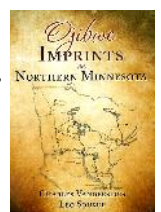
"Amy's Potatoes"

Bemidji Centennial Cookbook, Shared by Pat DeWenter, p. 67.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 3 to 4 Potatoes | 1/2 tsp Salt |
| 1/4 cup Parmesan Cheese | 1/4 tsp Pepper |
| 1/4 cup Flour | cup Butter |

Peel potatoes. (Since I used wonderful red potatoes, I left the peel on!) Cut into strips as for French Fries. Rinse in cold water; pat dry. Mix cheese, flour, salt, and pepper in large brown bag. (I used a Tupperware bowl with a lid.) Add potatoes; toss well. Melt butter on 9 x 13 pan. Add potatoes. Bake at 375degrees for 1 hour, turning occasionally to brown evenly. Serves 4.

The first printing of *Ojibwe Imprints on Northern Minnesota*, our new book by Leo Soukup & Charles Vandersluis about the experiences of John G. Morrison, Jr. in 19th- & 20th-century Northern Minnesota, sold out! The next printing should be available in our gift shop and online in January. The 300-page book sells for \$29.95 and includes three CDs of oral histories told by John G. Morrison, Jr. Contact us to order a copy!



The Depot Express

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Fax: (218) 444-3377

depot@beltramihistory.org

<http://beltramihistory.org>

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