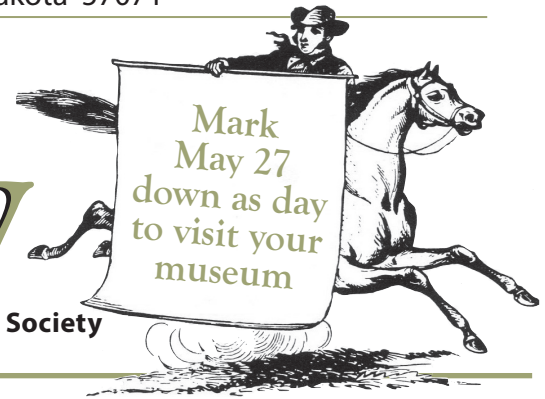




# The Window

Official Newsletter of the Brookings County Historical Society



Work continues this winter on the staging of artifacts and horse-drawn equipment in the county's new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum.

## A Fiftieth and a First... New Museum Opening Date Set

On a warm July 27, 1968 afternoon, Brookings County Museum President John Bergh broke ground in Volga's City Park for what has grown to become an exceptional six-building museum complex.

Late last summer, additional ground was broken for what is an exceptional Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum.

It's the latest addition in the half-century old county museum complex. Until 1968, museum artifacts were stored and displayed in the county courthouse.

Volga was the successful county community bidding in the 1960s to have the museum located in its city park. Funds were raised to build the first building, now the museum's main facility.

On May 27, the public is invited to share in the joy of celebrating the 50th

Anniversary of that museum facility, and the launching of the only Horse-Drawn museum in South Dakota.

"We're excited about finally opening the long-awaited Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum and are looking forward to also celebrating fifty years on the Volga museum site," said Phil Wagner, president of the Brookings County Historical Society/Museum.

The museum will display vintage horse-drawn equipment and conveyances as well as other tools, artifacts and machinery necessary to support the growth of the county's agricultural potential.

At one time there more than 15,000 horses at work on county farms. "The draft horse was the catalyst that brought tremendous agricultural growth and a

way of life from the late 1800s into the 1950s," Wagner said.

The museum board of directors came up with the concept of building a horse-drawn museum because the building's major benefactor, Oak Lake farmer and amateur historian Trygve A. Trooien, had an abiding interest in those early days.

After he returned from serving in Vietnam, Trooien worked to insure that his forefathers' pioneering era was not forgotten. Before his death in April of 2015, he included \$100,000 for a museum building in his will.

Details of this major celebration of the county's museum from noon to 5 p.m. on May 27 are still to be finalized, Wagner said. ❧

# Volunteers Make A Difference

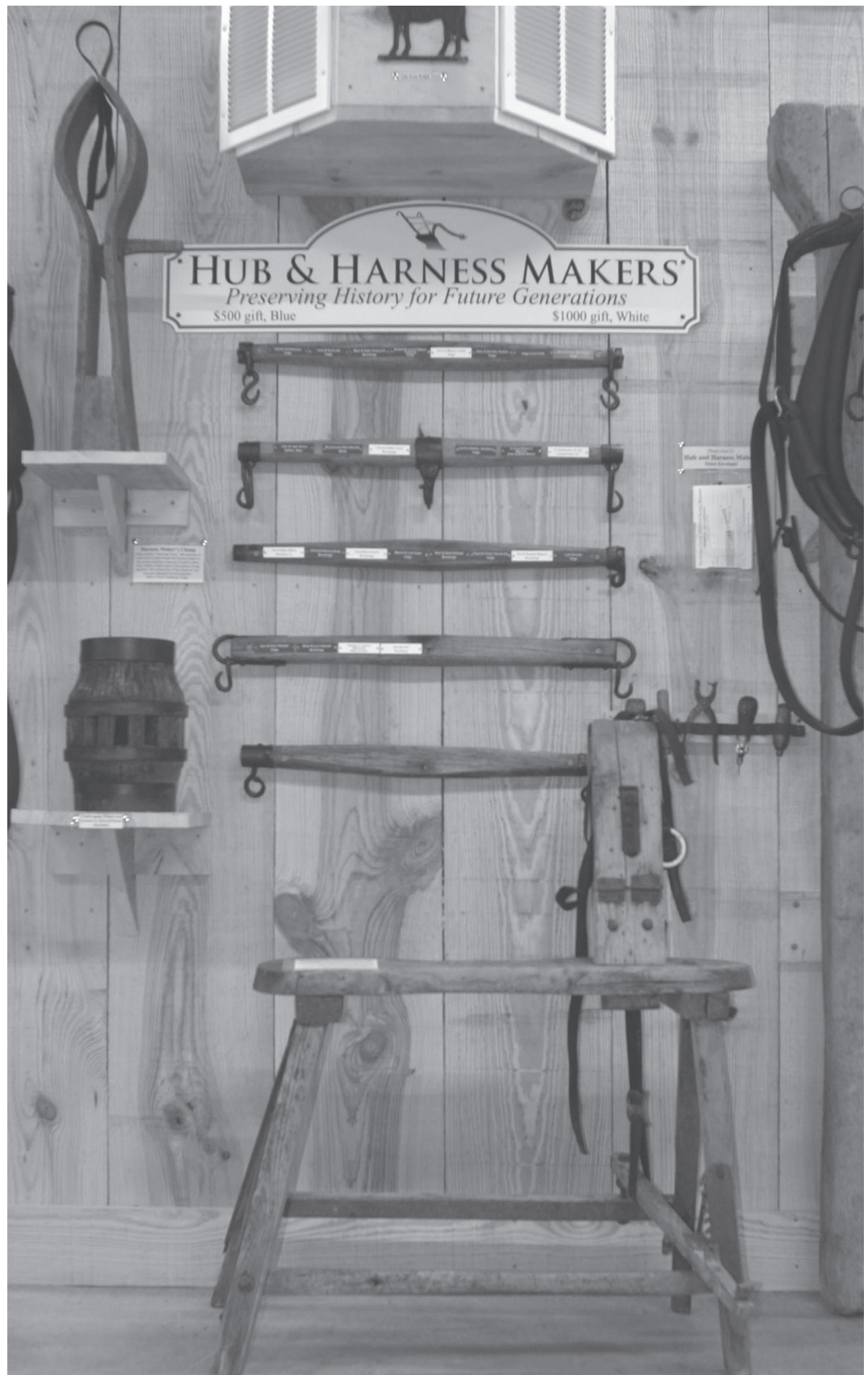
The Brookings County Museum has no paid employees, but depends entirely on a loyal cadre of volunteers. The museum is open during the summer months seven days a week, and volunteers are always there to greet museum guests.

Volunteers who helped at the museum in 2017 were Tom Elverud, Cheryl and Floyd Havrevold, Cal Higgins, Sheldon Cotton, Gert Dykhous, Marilyn Kleinjan, Nancy Anderson, Andrea Sapp, Charles Sapp, Norma Hanson, Bernice Mullett, Darla and Arden Stensgaard, Marianna Brawand, Bev and Allan Nelson, Paul Stonefield, Steve Swartos, Henrietta and Andy Molengraff, Kathy Platts, Verdella Gross, Polly Larson, Joan Trenhaile, Joan and Lyle Bjorklund Betty VanderZee, and Marcene Severson.

Museum board of directors also get into the museum volunteer docent act, staffing the museum complex every Sunday throughout the season.

Board Member Cindy Jacobson, Volga, enlists the volunteers and said that with the opening of the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, even more volunteers will be needed for the approaching museum season, which runs from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Persons interested in volunteering a few hours for the Museum should contact Cindy Jacobson.



## Recognizing the Generous

A special Hub and Harness Makers recognition area has been created in the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum. The names of donors of \$500 to \$1,000 for museum operations will henceforth be recognized with name tags attached to the example of various singletrees used by former Brookings County farmers. Note the rare Stitching Horse on the floor and the Stitching Pony on the shelf at left. Both vice-like devices were used to make and repair horse harnesses.





## Tribute to Trygve

Brookings County Museum board members decided to use a portion of one of the walls within the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum as a tribute to the man whose generous gift made it all possible. Included on "Trygve's Wall" are the old emigrant chests his great-grandfather packed in Norway in 1871, plus a large color photo of Trygve straw-bossing a threshing machine demonstration near White.

## Local Government Appreciated

The Board of Directors and the entire Brookings County Historical Society membership wish to express deep appreciation and a heart-felt thanks to the members of the Brookings County Commission and the City of Volga.

Through the years, beginning in the 1930s when the Society was first organized and was given space in the County Courthouse for a display of historic artifacts, up to today, with a museum complex of six buildings, local commissioners have been supportive.

Current Commissioners who have recently been supportive of the efforts of dozens of museum volunteers are Mike Bartley, Larry Jensen, Ryan Krogman, Stephne Miller and Lee Ann Pierce.

The six-building museum complex occupies space in the Volga City Park, and has been doing so since the main museum building was built in the park in 1968.

Prior to that, members of the Brookings County Historical Society searched for a county community in which to locate a planned museum building.

All communities expressed interest in being the museum's host city, but the Volga City Council offered the society two town lots in its city park, and also offered other city services.

During the major expansion of the museum's facilities upon completion of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum late last summer, city governance and city employees were helpful during the building period.

A special thanks to Randy Santema, mayor, and city council members Doug Wermedal, Jody Havrevold, Ken Fideler, Kelly VanderWal, Nichole Hofer and Matt Jaquet.

The Brookings County Historical Society and Museum has no paid employees, but depends upon hundreds of hours of volunteer service and thousands of dollars of donated funds to supplement the budget each year. 🌿



# Moving Day



One of the most challenging moves of moving day from the old Vingtage Farm Equipment building to the museum's new Trygve Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum was this heavy bobsled. It was a bright and sunny fall day, with no snow, but five men and four sturdy furniture moving carts did the job. That's Bob Buchheim of Volga at left, then Marvin Hope, Jerry Leslie, Phil Wagner and Floyd Havrevold horsing the heavy sled into the new building.



Among the first items moved into the new Horse-Drawn Museum last fall were Jip and Molly, who in perpetuity will be pulling an old Mail Wagon. Marvin Hope handled Jip, at left, and Phil Wagner and Floyd Havrevold calmed the "more gentle" Molly.

## Donors Make New Museum Possible

A very special thanks to those who made contributions toward the funding for the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum.

Donors included: Trygve A. Trooien estate, Jim and Betty Wood, Coral Bonnemann, Rich and Darla Strande, Ken Nelson, John and Jean Grove, Barry and Karen (Mershon) Welch, Roger and Linda Sandness, Larry and Marcia Knutson. Harold Christenson, Robert Nelson Trucking, Allen and Bette Nelson in memory of Arne Nelson, Jerry and Maxine Leslie, Signe Anderson.

Larry Winkelman, Joanne Murphy, Robert Hoogwerf, Donald and Ellen Berg, Marvin Hope, Kenneth Larkin, Volga Lions Club, Betty and Lynn Darnell, Phil and Roberta Wagner, Bob and Renae Buchheim, Chuck and Mary Cecil, Dick and Beth Berreth, Al and Dorothy Husher, Cindy Jacobson.

Don and Carol Kleinjan, Patty and Mark Kratochvil, Deanna and Alfred Rude, Lyle Strande, Larry and Doris Ust and Floyd and Cheryl Havrevold. 🌿



## Guest Speaker

Guest speaker at the Brookings County Historical Society annual meeting recently was Staci Madison of Carthage, at table second from left. Mrs. Madison told about her efforts to restore the Carthage childhood home of SDSU benefactor Charles Coughlin, who financed the Campanile. She also recommended procedures in the refurbishing of the museum's 1884 James Hauxhurst house, a pending project on the museum's "to-do" list. Others at the head table are, from left, Deanna Rude, who supervises the board's vast archive inventory, Mrs. Madison, outgoing president Harold Christianson, secretary Bob Buchheim and treasurer Darla Strande. 🌿



## New Officers and Board Member Welcomed



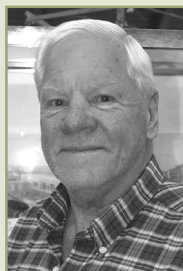
Ringling the bell for the Brookings County Historical Society/Museum for the year are, from left, Jerry Leslie of Volga, vice-president; Darla Strande, Brookings, treasurer; Phil Wagner, Brookings, president; and Bob Buchheim, Volga, secretary. In the background is the museum's latest addition, the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, which will open this spring.

Floyd Havrevold of Volga has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Brookings County Historical Society/Museum.

He and his wife Cheryl have been volunteers for the museum, working at the museum one day a week during the summer seasons.

Floyd grew up on a farm 10 miles south of Volga and attended Lee Country School. He graduated from Rutland High School in 1967. He has been employed at SDSU, Northwestern Energy and owned the Downtown Tire Co. of Brookings before retiring, when he took a job at the United Living Center in Brookings.

Floyd and Cheryl have two children, Traci and Wade, and three grandchildren.



**Gifts to the Brookings County Museum ARE TAX EXEMPT**



## Hauxhurst Cleaner Uppers

The plan was to remove the many layers of wallpaper clinging to the 1884 walls of the James Hauxhurst house that is part of the Brookings County Museum complex. But the 132-year-old plaster proved so weak that the project was abandoned, and a decision was made to eventually sheet-rock the damaged walls. From left are Deanna Rude, Cindy Jacobson, Staci Madison and Darla Strande. Mrs. Madison was a volunteer helper from Carthage.



## BankStar Financial Presents Gift

President of the Brookings County Historical Society/Museum board of directors Phil Wagner of Brookings, right, tries out the sturdy, new metal outdoor bench given to the museum by BankStar Financial, which has banks in Volga, Brookings and Elkton. Volga branch President John Heylens is at left. The museum is appreciative of BankStar's generosity.

## Gifts In Kind

*Every effort is made to include everyone who in some way helped the Brookings County Museum with in kind giving. If we've missed someone, our apologies. Please let us know and we'll correct our error.*

Allegra  
Ag First Farmers Cooperative  
Bjerke, Mary  
Banner and Associates  
Barnett, Lawrence  
Bezdichek, Tom  
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Brookings Area Master Gardeners  
Brookings Health System  
Brookings Register  
Brookings KBRK  
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Buchheim, Bob  
Cecil, Chuck  
Central Business Supply  
Christianson, Harold  
Dusharm, Gary  
Fixit Shop, Mike Filholm  
Forester, Cory

Gatzke, Brian  
Heismeyer, Kristen  
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Hope, Randy  
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Jacobson, Cindy  
Kaufmann-Ust Construction  
Kaufman, Gary  
Kleinjan, Don  
Kratochvil, Patty  
Jager Grocery  
Johnson, Mike  
Knapp Electric, Mike  
Steffenson  
Larken, Harlan  
Leslie, Jerry  
Linn, Grace  
Linn, Sandy  
Linn, Norma

Nelson, Ken  
Outlaw Graphics  
Perry Electric, Brian Perry  
Petersen, Scott  
Rude, Deanna  
Sioux Valley Energy  
Steinback, Marvin & Marilyn  
Strande, Darla  
Strande, Lyle  
Strohfus, Mike & Lu  
Town & County Shopper  
Ust, George  
Ust, Larry  
Ust, Steve  
Volga Ag Center, Inc.  
Valley Restaurant  
Volga, City of  
Wagner, Phil

# New Horse-Drawn Museum Wagon

by Chuck Cecil  
Window Editor

A 20th century wooden wheeled ugly duckling is now a 21st century object of historic beauty at the new Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum in Volga.

A late 1890s refurbished, horse-drawn Standard Oil fuel wagon has been given to the Brookings County museum by Jim Martin of rural Brookings, who, with his father Norman, purchased the Standard Oil Company's bulk oil business in Brookings in 1976.

Phil Wagner, president of the Brookings County Historical Society, said the museum's governing board is grateful for the "wonderful gift that fits perfectly into the horse-drawn museum's concept and really brightens up the collection of interesting farm equipment and horse-drawn conveyances."

He noted that the new addition is "in wonderful condition."

For decades, Standard Oil controlled the distribution in rural areas of kerosene, gasoline, lubricating oil, stove distillate for home heating and oil lamps. In some cases, oil was even for treatment of injury and illness.

In 1907, Standard Oil's business agent in Brookings was Brookings County native Ole Jermstad, Jr.

Incidentally, his daughter, the late Mrs. Paul (Ruby) Merschon, was an early force in the establishment of a Brookings County Museum. Her father managed the business that is still located on First Street South in Brookings. The original stucco building remains with modern embellishments.

Jermstad managed the distribution by four two-horse wagons, each filled with about 600 gallons of various fuels for delivery throughout the county.

On good travel days over rough and often muddy and snow-covered roads, he and his three drivers delivered fuel for heat, light and energy to businesses, residential homes and farms in the Brookings area, as well as the Bruce, Aurora, White, Volga and Bushnell areas.

By 1911, the automobile and early gas-powered tractors rumbled and roared onto the transportation scene, and gasoline became the leading product for Jermstad.

In 1912, Standard Oil still held about 90 percent of the oil business throughout this area, and the local agency bought a



With the bulk Polarine tank at left constantly filled from the rail fuel cars behind the Standard Oil headquarters on First Street in Brookings, the firm's eight draft horses and four bulk wagons with a capacity of about 600 gallons each, pose for a company picture. Agent for Standard Oil was Ole Jermstad, Jr., who is on the third wagon from left.



Jim Martin, who donated the refurbished fuel wagon to the Brookings County Museum, and specifically to the Trygve A. Trooie Horse-Drawn Museum, helped move the colorful wagon into the new museum building. Note the Standard Oil Polarine logo. David Heubner of Bushnell painted the wagon's signage.

chain-driven truck, known as a "Republic," from a concern in Watertown. It was used for out-of-town deliveries while the rattling horse-drawn wagons plied the muddy and rutted fuel routes in Brookings and the immediate area.

Agent Jermstad knew the roads and the territory well. He was born in 1869 on the Jermstad homestead southwest of Brookings along the Sioux River.

He retired in June of 1936 after nearly 29 years working in Brookings and Huron for Standard Oil, and was praised by Standard Oil executives for his successes in growing the business in this area.

He not only operated one of the delivery wagons, but he became a traveling auditor and salesman for Standard Oil. Succeeding Jermstad in the Standard Oil bulk business, so far as is known, was Donald Holiday of Brookings. In about 1945, Norman Martin, an SDSU graduate who was hired as poultry extension agent, left extension work to take a job with the bulk oil firm.

In 1975, his son Jim, the museum's fuel wagon benefactor, joined the business, and in 1976 they purchased the business outright from Standard Oil. The elder Martin retired a year later and Jim

managed the business until 2006 when it was sold to Alan Perry. Howes Oil Company of Sioux Falls now owns the local bulk station.

Jim said he was pleased to donate the fuel wagon to the Brookings County Museum. He and his father purchased it years ago and often used it in local and area parades.

Beautifully restored, the wagon's tank was painted Standard Oil blue by the Kruse Body Shop of Brookings. The tank is actually three separate tanks, each holding about 200 gallons that might be filled with fuel oil, lubricating oil, gasoline or kerosene depending on the season or the needs.

The wagon comes with original five-gallon buckets the wagon driver filled from spigots at the rear of the wagon. He then carried the heavy buckets to the storage tanks in homes and on farms.

The museum's wagon also comes with a simple tabulator so the operator could keep track of the number of gallons he had unloaded at each stop at the ten-gallon (two buckets full) rate.

David Huebner, owner of Dakota Stone Ware Bushnell, did the fancy lettering advertising Standard Oil's Polarine. ❧

# These Folks Keep the Museum Going

*Donors over past 12 months*

If your name is missing, our apologies and please inform us of our error.

| Family                                  |                               | Pathfinder                 |                              |
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| James and Gloria Thvedt                 | Verne Hansen                  |                            |                              |
| Winds of Change Club c/o Barb Hillestad |                               |                            |                              |



# NOTEWORTHY

## Tractor Home Again

Mike Krauss of Wessington Springs, South Dakota bought this 1944 D.I. Case –DC 3 general purpose tractor at Trygve Trooien's estate sale in 2015. Now he's given it to the Brookings County Museum. It was Trygve's father's first tractor purchased about five years before Trygve was born. Museum board members Phil Wagner and Marvin Hope picked it up in Wessington Springs October 28, 2017, and Mike had the honor of driving it onto Hope's flatbed trailer. The museum now has five vintage tractors. Thanks to Marvin Hope, not only for providing his equipment and expertise in hauling the Trooien tractor back to the museum, but for his generous gift of his rare 1940 B-John Deere tractor, soon to be housed in Vintage Farm Equipment Building.



**History Comes Alive at the Brookings County Museum**  
*Join us and become a member today!*

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