



The Window

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BROOKINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Museum gains back Covid-concerned visits

It's all in the numbers, and they're spelling out another successful year for the Brookings County Museum.

When the summer 2022 museum season ended on Labor Day, records indicated there was a slight dwindling of Covid concerns, and 2022 attendance was higher than the Covid 2021 year.

The museum opened on Memorial Day and continued a rigorous seven-days a week schedule until Labor Day.

Nearly 5,000 visitors dropped in at the museum during June, July and August. Though now closed, the museum still has a few special meetings and tours on its schedule before the year ends.

In another noticeable change in the visitation profile of the museum, the year 2022 saw a return of more visitors from foreign lands than during 2021 when foreign travel to the USA was next to none.

This past season, visitors stopped by representing the countries of Australia, Denmark, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Canada and Norway.

Out-of-state visitor numbers were down slightly this past summer, with visitors from 22 states signing in, compared to 24 states represented at the museum in 2021.

Not surprisingly, most of the visitors to the museum hail from the Brookings County area, with Brookings, Volga and Estelline leading the way. Folks from Bruce, White, Sinai, Elkton, Lake Preston, Sioux Falls and Arlington also dropped by in good numbers. Many other South Dakota communities are also claimed by hundreds of museum visitors.

Persons signing in to the museum also leave complimentary comments including "Amazing", "Awesome", "Great Displays" and "Very clean and well organized."

Although attendance figures provide some indication of the museum's success and popularity to the greater community, the museum's archival collections of unusual, rare and valuable items related to Brookings County history is another aspect of continued museum support and activity. Also, there is educational value in keeping the past alive with museum collections, displays and programs.

The Brookings County Museum has no paid employees. All work is done by volunteers. Its annual budget is between \$20,000 and \$25,000, supported by an annual stipend of \$5,000 from the Brookings County Commission. The remainder comes from museum donations, memberships and bequests. The City of Volga does its part, including land, lot maintenance providing some utilities, and more. ❧

What's This?



Many believe it's a meat tenderizer. What do you think. Let us know.

Display case funding secured

Work will begin soon in the main museum building of the Brookings County Museum for a new display case dedicated to vintage clothing.

The case will house more than a half-dozen museum mannequins dressed in women's vintage clothing, with space for display of other clothing and accessories.

Expenses for the large new case estimated to cost about \$6,000 will be from an estate bequest provided by the late Clair Husby of Arlington. In addition, a \$1,000 grant was secured from Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up fund. ❧

Senator Mydland chair donated

A chair that was at the desk of State Senator Gordon Mydland during his Senate tenure has been donated to the Brookings County Museum by Mr. Mydland's son Gabe of Brookings.

The chair was presented to Mydland for his valued and faithful service to the state and the citizens of the Brookings County Area District 13 & 6 from 1963 to 1968.

The former Brookings businessman and lawyer was then elected as South Dakota's 23rd Attorney General in 1969, serving until 1973. He also served his native state as a Circuit Court Judge. Gordon Mydland turned 100 in May of this year. ❧

History in Print

Courtesy of the Brookings Register

July 24, 1924

Gusher spouts water 70 feet in the air

No need to go to the Yellowstone Park to see geysers.

We have them right here at home

Well drillers on the Erickson farm south of Aurora struck what is presumed an air pocket Tuesday afternoon which blew out their drilling tools and sent a four-inch stream of water into the air seventy feet.

The stream fizzled and hissed with the escaping gas like a huge soda fountain. The stream in the air lasted the rest of Tuesday and crowds were still visiting the site Wednesday morning, when the gusher abated.

Those who visited the well yesterday said that the ground quivered and the well casing vibrated as though there was still a tremendous amount of pressure locked up in the earth.

May 5, 1924

Speeders should look out for motorcycle cop

The days of the speeders in Brookings are numbered.

The streets of town are to be made safe for democracy, pedestrians and sane motorists.

The city commission at their meeting Monday decided to purchase a police motorcycle and are advertising for bids this week.

With a motorcycle cop on the job, speeding and violations of the traffic ordinances can be promptly curbed and the offenders brought to justice.

August 9, 1923

Good harvesting reports are starting to come in

The first threshing reports of the season have started trickling into town bearing out the earlier predictions of a large yield. Harvesting is being done earlier than usual this year.

A report of fifty bushels of oats to the acre in a field threshed on the Halstad farm south of Brookings was one of the first reports received.

A field of barley on Wilbur Atkins farm went thirty bushels to the acre.

Pioneer paid 15 cents for “par of spenders”

by Chuck Cecil
Window Editor

How the leather-bound book got to the Brookings County Museum isn’t known, but it’s tattered and torn pages have languished there for years.

It’s in one of our display cases. We know it belonged to a man named S. A. Robbins because one of his flowery calling cards is in the cover pocket of the book.

There’s also a calling card in that pocket that belonged to Emery Robbins, whom we assumed was his son.

Months after the 1889 Legislation admitting North and South Dakota to the Union was signed, Robbins was still using the “D. T.” on some of his notations, indicating he still figured he was living in Dakota Territory.

As to his spelling, we’re basing that on his spelling of kerosene, sugar and suspenders. He spelled them Caro Sene, Shugar and Spenders. In 1891, he paid 15 cents for caro senen, fifty cents for shugar and got a deal on spenders at 25 cents a pair, or a “par” as he wrote it.

He also bought “poster stamps” for a dime, a spoll of thread for his wife for a dime, invested \$2 in a razsor and \$1 for a pare over halls. Robbins also spent lavishly at times, paying \$51 for a “yoak of cattle.”

On another of his infrequent shopping trips to Watertown, he spent 85 cents for underwear, aka “drows,” got a bath for a quarter and spent another quarter “stabling” his “yoak of cattle” that were his yoke of oxen.

He also borrowed money. We can assume for Christmas gifts for his family, he borrowed \$35 from the Fairmont Bank at ten percent. That was a week before he gave a note to a neighbor for \$14 plus ten percent “for a bull.”

His threshing record for 1892 includes figures he received for various small grains. Wheat brought \$2.65, barley \$1.34, what looks like “sukhtash” brought \$1.34, oats, \$11.88 and flax, \$1.50.

In September of 1891 Robbins paid \$5 for two hogs, and in 1893, his notes indicate he hired a stud as he wrote that “Bolly took the hose the 24th of May and Fanny took the horse the 19th of June.”

In a notation in 1896, he writes that “sow took the bor the 23 of Jany.”

Thanks to Mr. Robbins, his notes taken when South Dakota was just a pup give us insight in the prices years ago. My apology to him and his progeny for pointing out his spelling errors.

We all make them, however, so Robbins isn’t alone on this.

I make speling erors all the time. I once reported on a well-known public figure, but left out the “l” in “public,” which gave the public figure’s buddies a good hoot. I was so embarrassed I went home and put my hed under a pilow. ❧



1904 Cadillac was first car ever in Brookings

Engineering Professor Halvor Solberg is at the wheel of his new 1904 Model A Cadillac as it makes a chugging tour of the SDSU campus.

At the time, Solberg’s car was the first automobile in Brookings. He paid \$900 for the one cylinder internal gasoline combustion machine.

It required plenty of gasoline and literally “burned up the oil”, Solberg is quoted as saying about his purchase.

Since there were no service stations or garages in Brookings in 1904, tires for his Cadillac had to be ordered from Indianapolis. Each cost \$27.

As the automobile became more popular in the early 1900s, the need for auto repair garages was also born, and in 1908, blacksmith R. J. Getty opened the first car repair shop in Brookings.

Note the car’s horn. The rubber bulb for activating it can be seen just below the steering wheel, and the horn itself projects out beyond the driver’s side front fender. The car’s headlights burned kerosene.

The two other men in the auto are unidentified in this very rare picture. Entry to the car’s back seat appears to be from the rear of the auto. ❧

Hauxhurst kitchen display planned

The Brookings County Museum board of directors have voted to add a kitchen display area to the newly refurbished James Hauxhurst 1884 home.

Most of the old home’s first floor space opened for visitors this past museum season.

Now, during the winter lull the small kitchen area will be installed to complete the entire first floor area. The home’s second floor is unusable and will remain unfinished and closed to the public.

James Hauxhurst was the administrator of the first Brookings County Commission and also served as the first county assessor.

His 1884 home was located in the City of Brookings until about 2010. It was then moved to the county museum complex in Volga’s City Park from its location on Brookings’ Third Street where the new county-city governmental services facility is now located.

In addition to the kitchen area work, museum board members and volunteers will repaint the home’s front porch, refurbish its massive front door and contract for roof repair, damaged during an early summer storm.

Funding for the Hauxhurst projects comes from donor gifts and memberships. ❧

Museum gets near miss during May Derecho

Had this fallen pine tree not been blown over to the southeast but instead fell to the northwest, the nearly new Trooien Horse Drawn Museum might have received serious damage. Fortunately, the May 12 Derecho that barreled across Brookings County at speeds approaching 100 miles an hour blew the right way.

Hundreds of other trees in the county were uprooted or snapped at the ground during the storm, which damaged numerous homes and farms in the area in what many old timers, including the editor of The Window, described as the worst wind storm in memory.

For three years, the museum board of directors have taken steps to ensure a tree doesn’t find its mark on one of the museum’s six building. The Main Museum built in 1968 seems the most vulnerable but with the help of Volga City crews, all suspect branches of nearby trees have been trimmed back.

Rare and unusual iron added to collection

by Chuck Cecil
Window Editor

*It smoked, and
it weighed about
seven pounds.*

One of the newest additions to the thousands of artifacts related to Brookings County history now on display at the county museum in Volga is a rare example of a charcoal-burning clothing iron.

The museum has dozens of old irons, including sad ones (so named after the old English word “solid”), specialized ones, gas-burning and early electric ones. But it had lacked a charcoal burning iron.

Now, thanks to Grace Wangberg, who farmed with her husband, the late John Wangberg, near Sinai, Mrs. Wangberg has donated her old charcoal-burning iron to the museum collection.

Weighing in at more than seven pounds,

Mrs. Wangberg’s old charcoal burner, used in the 1920s and early 1930s, is believed to have been manufactured and marketed in the United States by the Brazilian company “Ryres Figueiroa and CIA.”

The iron was heated by charcoal carefully taken from a wood fire and placed inside an iron box that sits atop the smooth ironing plate.

A protective tin plate under the iron’s wooden handle helped keep the ironer’s hand from getting too hot as it skillfully guided the seven pounds of iron to smooth out wrinkles.

The heat generated by the iron was controlled by an air-circulating hole that could be opened or closed. It was located at the back of the burning chamber.

Excess hot air and smoke from the burning chamber exited through a large, decorative spout at the front of the iron.

The charcoal iron was superior to the more common sad iron usually found in early Dakota homes. The sad iron was lighter but did not hold the heat it had soaked up while sitting atop the home’s kitchen range or some other heat source.

Sad irons had a removable handle that could be easily clicked on to a hot iron and clicked off for cold irons being placed back on the heat source. But the irons cooled quickly and required constant heating.

Sad irons today are quite common since a set of four or five was needed for smooth ironing. Charcoal-burning irons are rare and sought after by antique collectors.

The charcoal burning iron was always hot. But the guiding hands often got burned by accidentally touching the iron’s burning chamber during ironing.

The earliest examples of charcoal irons were found in China. There are paintings dating back thousands of years depicting women using the charcoal iron process. But then, coals were placed in a flat-bottomed metal pan and that pan was run over wrinkled fabrics.

Editor’s Note: The charcoal iron has been temporarily moved to the County Museum’s display case where it can be seen in the City-County Governmental Services Building.



Charcoal heated this old iron that is now temporarily being displayed in the museum’s large display case in the Brookings City/County Governmental Services Building.



When opened up, notice the charcoal leftovers in the bed of the iron. Also included mixed in with the charcoal are a few chips from an old brick, obviously added to the mixture to help retain some of the charcoal’s heat.

Museum mural artist has a career in law enforcement

From the looks of it, the 80-foot-long mural painted on the south side of the Brookings County Museum’s main building could have been created yesterday.

But more than two decades ago, Boy Scout Matt Christensen, then of Volga’s Troop 56, finished his now-famous painting of two pioneer families headed west. It looks as if the mural still has another 20 years or more before fading away and needing a touch-up.

Matt’s 2001 mural project was part of the community service requirements for his Eagle Scout award, which is the apex of Scouting. “I showed my ideas—I had three different drawings—to Howard Lee, who was president of the museum board at the time,” said Christensen, 38, who is now Office Manager for the Brookings County Sheriff’s Department.

Lee took Christensen’s ideas to the museum board, which selected the one of the pioneers headed west. He spent a day painting the museum’s south side cement

block exterior white, then penciled in his idea on the cement blocks, which closely matched the original drawing that he’d sketched out on graphic paper.

“I didn’t use any special paint on the building,” he recalled. “I just bought regular, garden variety paint in cans of white, black, red, orange and yellow paint, and went to work.” He figured he spent two days painting the mural, which because of the museum’s building east-west orientation, shows the pioneers actually headed true west.

His paintings still have the bright look that originated in 2001.

There is a slight fading, but no sign of paint flaking, despite taking on and soaking in what a south facing wall has had to do for 21 hot summers and cold winters.

“It’s amazing,” he said. Passers-by agree.

Matt and his wife, Amy, live on an acreage west of Volga with their three children: son Morgan, 14, Alaina, 12, and Mya, 8.



Our thanks to Alvin Schaut of Plainfield, WI, for this early photograph of the Chicago and North Western depot in Brookings during the 1920s. There are plenty of pictures of this old depot, which still stands today, but few of those photographs were taken from this angle looking northeast. The photo pin-points just where in the depot the lunch counter was located. The “lunch” sign door can be seen four-windows from the building’s west end. But the most revealing item in this photo is the raised housing facility to the extreme far right of the picture. It’s small, but it shows the elevated traffic control mechanism used for a time in the 1920s as more and more automobile traffic rumbled over the rail tracks.

Husby bequest will provide funds for clothing display

A Volga native, Clair Husby, who died in April of 2021, has honored the Brookings County Museum with an estate bequest in excess of \$4,000.

He was born in the Volga Hospital on July 22, 1941, the son of Hans O. and Edith (Dybdahl) Husby.

He attended Oslo District 95 rural school until the 6th grade when he moved with his parents to Brookings where he completed elementary and high school, graduating in 1959. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in Commercial Economics in 1965. He enlisted in the Navy, serving until 1971.

Husby attended Woodbury College in Los Angeles and Keller Graduate School of Management, Chicago, earning a business administration degree in 1979. In 1986 he passed the CPA examination.

In 1985 he began his career in federal service as field accountant for the REA and was assigned projects in Nebraska, spending many weekends attending SDSU athletic events. He retired in 2004 and relocated in Arlington, S.D. In 2000 he met the love of his life, Ediel Johnson of Alice, ND and gained a family.

Because Husby did not select a specific use for his gift in the will, board members voted to apply it to finance a large vintage clothing display in the main museum.

Husby will be recognized as part of the new display case.

“We are grateful for this generous gift,” said Museum President Shirley Deethardt.

“Mr. Husby’s remembrance of the museum in his will honors the museum and its supporters. We hope others will also keep the museum in mind as they make estate plans,” she said.

Husby passed away April 3, 2021, in Fargo, North Dakota.

History in Print

Courtesy of the Brookings Register
May 10, 1944

Railroad paid taxes

The Chicago and North Western railway company paid a total of \$7,840.04 in taxes in Brookings County in 1943, records show.

Of that total, \$1,045.90 were county taxes; \$5,392.83 were school taxes; and \$541.17 were for organized townships and road taxes. Assigned to county city and village taxes were \$860.14.

February 23, 1922

Coach West organizes new athletic conference

Coach C. A. West of State College has put together a new athletic conference of seven area teams.

The teams are State College, Creighton of Omaha, College of St. Thomas. St. Paul, N.D. Ag College, Des Moines University, University of N.D. and Morningside College, Sioux City.

September 30, 1892

Local couple unhurt in buggy mishap

While Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Mathews of Brookings were riding last Sunday afternoon, their horse became frightened at some boys who were wheeling a cart along the sidewalk, and very nearly overturned the carriage.

The animal finally threw itself and some men ran and held it down until Mr. and Mrs. Mathews alighted from the carriage.

April 22, 1937

Carl Grossman buys freak pig; displayed at pavilion near city

Carl Grossman, manager of the Grossman Livestock Sales Pavilion in Brookings has acquired a freak pig which is now on display at the pavilion.

In the words of its owner, the pig is described as "all hams and shoulders, no bacon."

Extremely stubby in appearance, the pig is short necked with long legs which makes eating a difficult task.

The tail of the pig is located on its back. The animal is about a year old and was raised near Watertown.



This recent gift to the museum of a horse-drawn chisel plow is now on display in the museum complex's Trygve Trooien Horse Drawn Museum. The unusual plow was meant for deep plowing and was a particularly useful tool for shelterbelt tree plantings, among other farm cropping uses. The plow was donated by Graydon Elverud. It was refurbished and provided with a sturdy metal stand by museum board member Marv Hope. Behind the plow is the museum's unusual horse-powered feed grinder, also refurbished by Hope.

What is this, anyway?

It's a harness maker's leather cutter

This old wood and steel pistol-shaped tool was one of the most important items in the harness makers tool box.

It was used to cut lengths of leather into various widths. The cutting knife is located just below the eye-screw at upper left. The blade was made removable for sharpening purposes. Width of the leather to be cut, for bridle and reins for example, was set by loosening the wooden pistol handle eye-screw located at the end of the pistol-shaped handle.

Widths of leather up to four inches thick could thus be cut. Holding the cutter with one hand, the harness maker drew the leather through the space between the pistol handle and the knife.

Horses were big business in Brookings County in the early 1900s. In 1920, Brookings County's census showed that there were 15,214 horses on Brookings County farms.

Tools of this kind made new and repaired old harnesses for county horses by the thousands. The 1920s census figures for Brookings County shows county horses were kept in harnesses by three harness makers and 26 blacksmiths.



This rare item was donated to the museum by Board Member Larry Ust. It is on display with other harness maker tools in the county museum's Trygve Trooien Horse-Drawn building.

Old Midway Park was area's recreation mecca

Editor's Note: This "Sharings" column was written for the Brookings Register by the late John Beatty of Brookings in 1991 when Midway Park was owned by the Church of God. The park today is under new ownership and is known as Midway Camp.

by John Beatty

Today's sharing is the story of the once famous Midway Park, which is still located along the Big Sioux River between Brookings and Volga. The site is now occupied by the state camp of the Church of God.

The history of the park, written by Mrs. Norman Swaney of rural Brookings, pointed out that: "The park formally opened on July 4, 1927, with over 10,000 people in attendance. A merry-go-round, furnished by William

Howard Lee remembers one Sunday School picnic at the park. He recalls swimming there when he was a young boy. During one such period of using the swimming facility, he found himself in trouble and had to be rescued by one of the lifeguards who was on duty whenever the beach was open for use.

At that time, the road between Volga and Brookings was known as the Black and Yellow Trail. Many of the fence and telephone poles along the way showed black and yellow stripes hence the phrase "B & Y Trail." The old wooden bridge which crossed the river just south of the park was replaced in 1927 and the entire road was re-graveled.

Does anyone remember who operated the railroad ride at this celebration? Who were the "several people" who made it? – J.D.Beatty.

Burdick of Volga, and a miniature railroad, made by several people in Brookings, were both enjoyed by many who attended."

During the day, three bands played, a minstrel show of 30 people entertained, and Ben Schaphorst, the States Attorney at the time, gave an address.

Mrs. R.J. Becker, a granddaughter of Andrew Pines, remembers working as a waitress in the ice cream parlor on this busy day.

The work day finally concluded at 4 a.m. with the employees counting more than \$1,300 in small change. This represented the entire proceeds for the day in the restaurant and ice cream parlor.

This was the first of many such celebrations held at Midway during the next few years.

(Originally, the old B & Y Highway went directly west on Sixth Street to the section road east of Volga, then north to the present route. Was the routing changed in 1927, or had that been done previously?...D.J.B.)

The new bridge and the improved roadway meant a great deal to those who lived in the area as well as those using the recreational facilities.

Chicken dinners for .75 cents were served on Sundays at the Midway Cafe.

Work was completed on the new roller skating rink in August of 1927. The facility had beautiful maple flooring and skaters could enjoy music furnished by a \$1,000 instrument called a "Radio-Phonograph."

The grand opening of the facility came in August during the park's Fall Festival. The contractor who carried out the project was a Mr. Dunbar.

Music and the sounds of roller skating were now a part of Midway. Even though the farmers were in the middle of threshing, the festival was well attended.

Reflecting the attitude of the times, the board of directors of the park passed a resolution prohibiting all dances, public or private, at the park.

The Midway Flying Field was completed in 1928 and M.L. Leib, an experienced flyer, moved his hangar there from its previous location in the City of Volga.

This hangar was large enough to accommodate the freight planes of that time, and a place to eat and sleep was provided for the aviators who might land at the field. Three American Eagle Planes were purchased and flight training was offered to the public by Mr. Leib.

The park received quite a boost when the Daily Argus Leader and the Volga Tribune published a map showing the new airport. At the time it was considered to be one of the most outstanding fields in the northeastern part of the state.

More activity occurred at Midway Park as each added attraction was announced. Improvements were made on both the grounds and equipment during 1928. Bridges were added where needed, a ferris wheel and a toboggan slide were made available. The toboggan featured wheeled sled-like vehicles which ran from the top of a tower, fifteen or twenty feet tall, into the river. It was both thrilling and potentially dangerous.

The new golf course was opened for the public in May, and John Phillips, a neighbor to the east, was engaged to mow the facility for 80 cents an hour. He was expected to furnish the tractor, mower, gasoline and labor. ❀

Visit brookingscountymuseum.org where history comes alive.

These six structures...

Your museum now insured for \$1.1 million



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
James Hauxhurst House
Main Museum Building
One-room Rural School
1880s Log Cabin
Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum
Vintage Farm Equipment Building



Century-old surrey donated to museum

The Brookings County Museum has been given a beautifully restored, four-passenger, two-horse surrey.

The carriage was donated by Mrs. Alice (Peggy) Jensen, 99, a former Erwin area resident now of Lake Preston. Her generous gift is on display in the museum's Trygve Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum building.

It is the second buggy in the museum, joining a smaller, one-horse, two-seater donated in 2003 by Lee Reed of Brookings.

Surrey donor Mrs. Jensen has fond memories of riding in the same big surrey buggy when she was just five years old in 1928, sitting proudly in the front seat between her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hodges of Erwin. The exciting 10-mile round trip was to Sid Holten's Grocery Store in nearby Erwin.

On that memorable ride so long ago, she was told by her grandfather that if she was a good little girl, she would get a nickel to spend at the store. "Well, I was a good girl and I blew the whole five cents on candy," she joked.

She remembers that the team used with the surrey was a beautifully matched pair of sorrels. "My grandfather was very proud of that buggy and that team," she said. So was Mrs. Jensen. Horses were not new to her, even at age five. "On my dad's farm at one time we had 34 work and pleasure horses, she said.

She was something of a tomboy growing up, she said. Many times, when her three older sisters were away, it was her job, early in the morning while her father was milking the cows, to feed the horses. She then had to harness and hitch the teams to the farm equipment her father, Joseph Hodges, planned to use that day to work the farm.

Her memorable surrey ride to the Erwin store in 1928 was followed closely by the purchase of a fancy new 1929 Model A Ford car by her father, Joseph Hodges. So in one year, Mrs. Jensen experienced and graduated from one South Dakota era to another—from horses to automobiles and tractors. "Oh, we had tractors," she said. "I think I could tear apart and put a tractor back together again even today."



Mrs. Alice (Peggy) Jensen, 99, is shown seated in the more than a century-old surrey recently donated to the Brookings County Museum.

The surrey she has given to the museum is from the Deere and Webber Farm Equipment distribution center in Minneapolis, MN.

The Jensen family isn't sure of the surrey's exact age, but a barely discernable sales record of the purchase, still glued to the bottom of the buggy's front seat, carries what is believed to be the hard-to-read purchase date of "6-22-1920."

Due to falling buggy sales in the early 1920s because of the growing popularity of the automobile, Deere and Webber would cease manufacture of that surrey model three years after shipping one of them off to J. H. Hodges in the early summer of 1920. The surrey was replaced by an automobile probably in the early 1930s, except for special occasions. It was used three times in Erwin and DeSmet parades, Mrs. Jensen remembers.

And now, after decades in storage, the buggy has been meticulously reconditioned by J. H. Hodges' great granddaughter, (Mrs. Jensen's daughter) Mrs. JoAnn Steffensen

of Hetland. She estimates she spent hundreds of weekend hours this summer cleaning and refurbishing the conveyance. She even added the pinstriping that was common on buggies in the early days. "It was all a labor of love," she said.

Her work was made easier thanks to the help of an old Jensen family friend.

Avid horseman and sometime harness maker Greg Skoglund of Watertown, who was originally from the Erwin area, had the tools, equipment and the knowhow for the task Mrs. Steffensen had taken on. "He sanded the wheels, made suggestions and helped out in so many ways," she said.

Thanks to the fond girlhood memories of Alice Jensen and her proud ride to the Erwin Grocery Store in 1928, and the surrey's rehabilitation by her daughter, the long life of a handsome 1920 surrey can continue to be admired and enjoyed in the Brookings County Museum. ❀

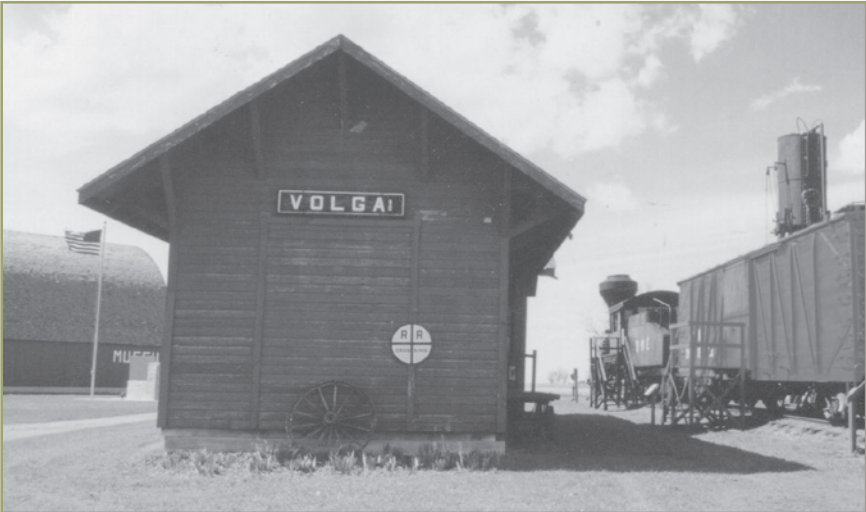
Nothing but bad luck for Volga Depots



Volga's first depot is at the far right in this early photo. Then, the depot was astride Volga's Main Street at the north end of town in among the town's stately elevators.



Volga's second (and last) depot hit the road in 1992 to become a part of the railroad museum in Tracy, MN.



The second depot in Volga is now a part of the railroad museum in Tracy, MN.

A tale of two depots

Editor's Note: Information and photos on this page provided by the late Sheldon Cotton, Volga's unofficial historian.

Usually, the train pulls into the station, but on Feb. 12, 1992, the old Volga Depot pulled up alongside a train at Tracy, MN.

The series of events leading to the interstate trip and a new home for the old Volga faithful actually began in 1960 when Chicago North Western railway closed the depot. It had been moved to Volga after a 1936 fire destroyed a more deluxe model of a depot which had served Volga for more than three prior decades.

The one that ended up in Tracy, MN, was a smaller version of a train depot.

It had been left unused for a few years until LeRoy Telkamp jacked it up and moved it to his parents' home near Elkton where it was used for a number of years as a granary and storage shed.

In September of 1991, a representative of the Wheels Across the Prairie Museum in Tracy heard about the old depot standing in disrepair in rural Elkton.

A deal was struck and the depot was hauled the approximate 70 miles to Tracy where it now resides as an important part of the railroad museum there.

Volga Tribune July 1936 Volga Depot burns

Volga's depot burned beyond repair Sunday afternoon, July 6, 1936.

A fire was believed to have started under the loading platform from a cigar or cigarette that had fallen through the platform boards.

Brookings Register May 25, 1944 Man's clothing catches fire while waiting at Volga Depot

Lighting a cigarette caused the death of W. P. Walsh, a transient ex-serviceman, at Volga last week in one of the strangest accidents reported in years.

The man was at the depot waiting for the passenger train and decided to smoke a cigarette.

He asked a passerby for a match which was no sooner lit than his clothing caught afire.

Those who saw him say he had been drinking. A group of rescuers pulled his clothing off and extinguished the blaze.

He was taken to the Volga hospital where he died within a few minutes.

bergs
Ahnberg Mercantile Co.

SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
MARCH, 9th and 10th. 1928.

Seal of Minnesota Flour\$2,15
16# Sugar\$1,00
10# can Smoke Salt ,79
10# pail of dark Syrup ,45
3# Prunes large size ,25
Oatmeal per pkg. ,21
3 med.size cans Pork & Beans .. ,25
2# Cocoa ,19
3 cans Oval Sardines ,43
5 cans small Oil Sardines ,29
2½# Krisby Crackers ,43
and someone will get a \$1,65
Pocket Knife FREE!

We have some good, round, heavy
Hogwaters, which is a bargain at,55¢
We also carry a full line of Harness
Repairs.

Our new spring goods arrived this
week, come in and look it over
the price is right.

We appreciate your business and we
will do everything consistant with
good business principles to keep you
a customer of this store. We assure
you that we can save you money. Your
saving here will go a long ways in
getting other things.

Yours very truly
Harold Nelson, Ahnberg, S. D.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
HELLO.

Here we are again. Mabe you forgot
something last week. So we invite
you to come again. We surely appre-
ciate your kind patronage. We shall
use our best endavores to serve you
the best way possible thru "The
Booster". New goods comming in eve-
ry week.

Specials for this week end:
2½ size cane Pineapple29¢
3 cans of Peas 27¢
3 pkg Fruit Jell 20¢
3 pkg. Macaroni 24¢
10¢ Toilet Soap 3 for 24¢
2 loaf's Bread 24¢
2 kinds of Cookies per pound . 19¢
Dates per pound 15¢
Cranberries per qt. 15¢
Northwestern Flour \$1,98
every sack guranteed.
Jersey Swater Coat \$1,49
See you again.
A. B. Raad, Ahnberg, S. D.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FARMERS SECURETY STATE BANK
AHNBERG, S. D.

You Bank with Us;
We Bank on You.

Safty Deposit Boxes for Rent.
P. H. Thompson,
Cashier.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE FARMERS ELEVATOR COMPANY
AHNBERG, S. D.

We have some good yellow corn for
sale. Here's your chance to buy
good corn at a reasonable price.
Also a lizited quantity of wilt-
proof seed Flax; and some medium
early Oats suitable for Seed.

L. E. Amdahl,
Mgr.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

HOLMAN LIVESTOCK CO.,
AHNBERG, S. D.

Volume has reduced our margin in
buying hogs and cattle. Our proof
is our many satisfied Customers.

Call us for prices:
Telephone No.10 Sinai Exchange.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE AHNBERG
POOL HALL & BARBER SHOP.

CANDIES, SOFT DRINKS & TOBACCOES

BARBER WORK A SPECIALTY.

H. L. LOMMEN,
PROP.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

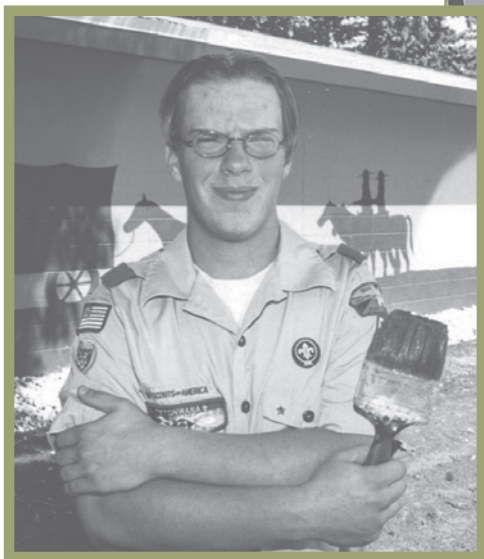
TRUCKING.

Two Trucks operated
for your service.

F. A. ROBERTS, AHNBERG, S. D.

History Preserved

See Matt's story inside.



It may be 21 years old, but the south-side museum mural painted by then Boy Scout Matt Christensen looks as if it could have been created yesterday. Matt, pictured at 18 with brush in hand, is shown at left with his finished product. He earned his Boy Scout Eagle ranking because of his volunteer work painting the mural for the county museum plus other Eagle requirements. Matt, at 38, above, is now office manager for the Brookings County Sheriff's Department.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Brookings, SD 57006

Box 872

Brookings County Historical Society

Brookings County Historical Society

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EDITOR: Chuck Cecil, Brookings

DESIGNER: Mary Björke, Volga

Museum Phone: 605-827-2303

Website: brookingscountymuseum.org

Memorial Day through Labor Day

1:00 – 4:00 pm daily

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