



April, 2010  
Volume 18 Issue 4

# Pioneer Crier

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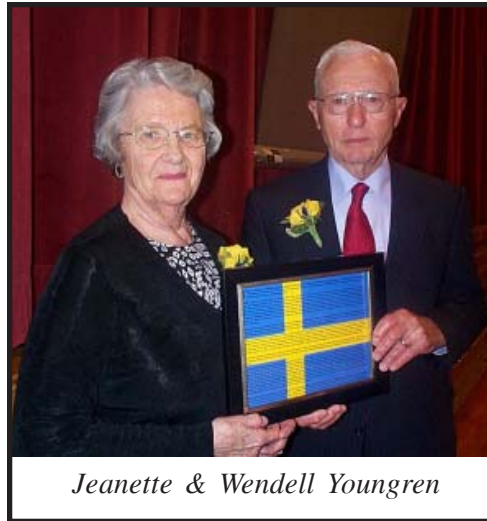
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## Youngren's Inducted Into The Hall Of Fame

Wendell and Jeanette Youngren were inducted into the Chippewa County Historical Society Hall of Fame on Monday, April 12, 2010 at the Society's Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting held in the Milan



*Jeanette & Wendell Youngren*

gym. The following is the biographical information which was read for their induction.

The joy of having an individual deeply committed to an organization is only surpassed by having a couple who also shares that same type of commitment. Wendell and Jeanette Youngren are just such a couple. Their dedication to the Chippewa County Historical Society is unwavering in all that they do for one small organization.

Wendell Youngren was born on July 16, 1924 in Willmar, MN. He moved to Woods Township in Chippewa County in 1935 with his family. His parents, August and Minnie Youngren, were blessed with four additional children,

Charlotte Johnson and Vivian Carlson of Kerkhoven, Vernon Youngren of Battle Lake, and Donald Youngren who is now deceased. Jeanette was born on April 16, 1929 in Albert City, IA to David and Hilda

Lindstrom. Her family moved to Louriston Township in 1936. Jeanette also has four siblings, June Fransen of St. Louis, MO, Juvette Freas of Eden Prairie, MN, and Eldon and Willard Lindstrom both of whom are now deceased. Wendell and Jeanette were united in marriage on December 30, 1961, and they have resided on the Youngren family home in Woods Township since. Although they were not blessed with children of their own, they have 27 living nephews and nieces of whom they are very proud, and over the years they have enjoyed being invited to events in their active lives. They also have several great nephews and nieces.

*Youngrens, Cont. on page 2*

Wendell attended grade school in District #83 in Woods Township and graduated from Kerkhoven High School in 1942. Jeanette attended District #38 in Louriston Township, and graduated from Murdock High School in 1946. She received her Associated and Bachelor of Science degree from St. Cloud State University and her Master of Arts degree from the College of Education at the University of Minnesota.

Wendell and Jeanette have both been very active in the Kerkhoven Evangelical Free Church where Jeanette has been very involved in Women's Ministries, and as a Sunday School teacher. Wendell has served in a variety of church offices. Jeanette remains active with the KIP Federated Study Club, is a member of the American Association of University Women, and is a life member of the Minnesota and National Education Association. Wendell has served on the Woods Township board, on the Kerkhoven Elevator Board of Directors and as their Chairman, and is a member of the Minnesota Farmer's Union. In their spare time they enjoy traveling, reading, using the computer, and Jeanette also enjoys doing needle work.

Wendell and Jeanette became active with the Historical Society in 1995 when plans for the Swedish Jubilee were being formalized. They had read about the upcoming event in the local newspaper, and since they are both of Swedish heritage, they eagerly wanted to participate. The rest, as they say, is history!

Wendell served for three years on the Society's Board of Directors, two of those as Vice President. Since 1995 they have been active in almost every facet of the

Historical Society. They volunteer annually for Heritage Week and Christmas in the Village, they have helped with spring cleaning at the Village and the Swensson Farm, are annual hosts at the Village and have hosted Sundays at the Farm, and Wendell has helped with shingling buildings and storm damage cleanup. Additionally, they helped to paint the pressed metal ceiling in the Swensson Farm kitchen, have provided fresh bouquets of flowers for the Horse Power Event, have assisted with the Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting, and have provided food items for various events and programs. The quilt that was donated in 2005 as a raffle for the Church Window Fund was given by the Youngrens. Both Wendell and Jeanette say they have numerous fond memories of the Society including being with so many dedicated people who volunteer for the Society and for an organization that functions so optimistically. Jeanette says that her funniest memory of volunteering for the Society, and it wasn't so funny at the time, was almost falling off the ladder while painting the ceiling in the Swensson Farm house.

Wendell and Jeanette's commitment to the Chippewa County Historical Society is unparalleled. Their willingness to become involved and to remain involved is an inspiration to everyone around them. On behalf of the Chippewa County Historical Society's Board of Directors, staff, and members, thank you, Wendell and Jeanette, for all that you have done and continue to do for our organization, and for being the exceptional and extraordinary people that you are. Congratulations, Wendell and Jeanette!

## Briefly ...

If we have inadvertently forgotten to mention your contribution to the Society, please accept our apologies.

Although we have limited space available, we do want to recognize everyone who offers their time and talents to the Society.

*"Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday."*

### Memorials

*The following have given a gift to the Society in memory or in honor of friends and relatives. We appreciate their thoughtfulness.*

**In Memory Of:**  
Elwood Anderson

**Given By:**  
Elroy and Ardis Dragsten  
*Church Window Fund*

### Church Penny Fund

**2,393 pennies Collected This Month!**

Thank you to Gerald and Helen Steele of Starbuck, MN for donating 1,127 pennies (literally), and to Margaret Martenson of Granite Falls for donating 266 pennies (literally). Additionally, a memorial In Memory Of Elwood Anderson was received.

Since the penny drive was resurrected in September, 1998, and the membership updated monthly, the Society has received 1,814,121 pennies.

Please help us to continue the preservation of the Village Church windows by contributing general monetary donations or Memorials to the Historical Society. As of March 31, 2010, we have a negative balance of \$620.62 which we still need to raise.

# Shingle Our Structures

## Donations Received

\$34.00

Julius and Anita Ost

\$17.00

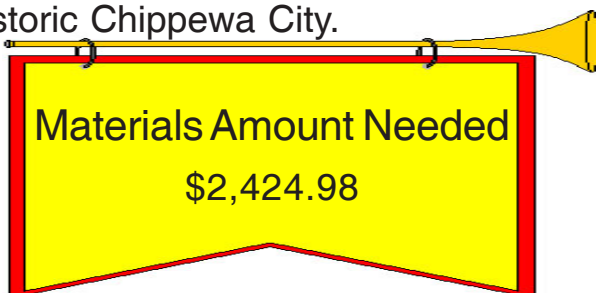
Harlan and Dorothy Jorgenson

The low bid of \$2,424.98 for materials only for the Chippewa Bank Building was received from Pro-Build of Montevideo. This amount includes new plywood to re-sheath the entire roof. Sentencing to Service has indicated that they should have time this summer to shingle the building. The Chippewa Bank is the ONE building that must be shingled this year.

If time and finances permit we will next focus on either the Fire Hall, School House, or Garage. We anticipate, however, 'stretching these out', about one per year, unless a more urgent need arises. Each of these structures will use asphalt shingles.

If you would like to make a donation to the SOS fund, please send it to the Society's office with SOS written on the memo. Each bundle of asphalt shingles costs approximately \$28.00.

Please help us **Save Our Structures** at Historic Chippewa City.



*Youngrens, Cont. from page 2*

Inducted as Stewards of the Society were Donna Kemen and Linda VanBinsbergen. In other business, Richard Oleson, Bev Lambert, and Laura Hendrickson were elected to the Board of Directors, and Alan Johnsrud was reelected to the Endowment board



*Donna Kemen*



*Out-Going President Jeffrey Lopez*

of directors. Officers elected for 2010 are President Jim Thein, Vice President Lee Hagemayer, Secretary Dixie Tilden, and Treasurer Celeste Suter. Winners of the "Enchanted Evening At The Swensson Farm" were Marilyn Handeen, and Marlin and JoAnn Schoep.



*Jim Thein, Lee Hagemayer*

Jim Thein of Their Moving presented the program "Moving the Past Into the Future", which gave the audience a glimpse into

one of Chippewa County's oldest and longest running businesses, as well as a history lesson on a few of the thousands of structures their company has moved in the past 118 years, and an account of the many advancements which have been made to the business since 1892!

## Endowment Fund Update

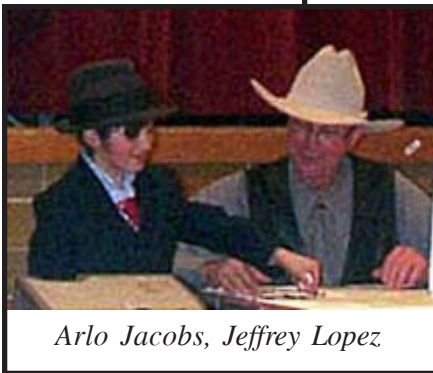
The Historical Society's Annual Meeting was a big success and the Endowment Fund update was a huge hit as well, especially when six year old Arlo Jacobs came up



*Sherron & Jim Thein, Jeffrey Lopez, Wendell & Jeanette Youngren*

in the following morning we are pleased to announce that we are now at **\$50,533.83!**

**“WE MADE OUR GOAL”**



*Arlo Jacobs, Jeffrey Lopez*

front and said he had some money to put into the "Big Jar". Arlo then proceeded to find change in his pant pockets,

his jacket pockets, and he even had some in his hat! Everyone really laughed when he took off both of his shoes and dumped even more coins on the table for President Lopez to count. The total he had on himself was \$25.37.

The goal for April 12, was to be over \$50,000.00. We came up a little short, with the total being \$49,051.00 when the night began. However, after the money that was collected from the audience was put into the "Big Jar", and after a sizable check came

The money collected in the "Big Jar" is not meant to be a major part of the fund drive, but instead to serve as a reminder that there are many different ways to contribute to an endowment fund. Most funds come through bequests, living trusts or revocable trusts.

**Remember, we have expert advisors available to visit with you about what you might do to help preserve our Society forever.**

A new goal has now been set at \$100,000.00 which we hope to reach by the 2012 Annual Meeting. The Chippewa County Historical Society's 75th anniversary is in 2011, and we will make a strong effort to make our Goal during that time. Thank you to each of you who have contributed any and all amounts over the past two years.

| Endowment Fund |                      |                     |                         |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Year           | Endowment Fund Value | Annual Distribution | Cumulative Distribution |
| 1              | \$100,000.00         | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00              |
| 5              | \$115,900.00         | \$5,600.00          | \$26,500.00             |
| 10             | \$134,000.00         | \$6,500.00          | \$57,300.00             |
| 25             | \$209,400.00         | \$10,200.00         | \$182,300.00            |
| 50             | \$438,400.00         | \$21,300.00         | \$564,000.00            |

# Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

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## Thank you to ...

**Larry Larson** for his hard work in helping to organize and plan our 2010 Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting;

**Ron Molde** for repairing the fluorescent light in the office;

**Mary Keller, Donna Kemen, Celeste Suter, Richard Oleson, Larry Larson, Ron and Ann (Thompson) Porep** for helping with the Annual Banquet setup;

**Billy Thompson** for his amazing display at the Annual Banquet;

**Dennis Anderson** for providing bussing for the Annual Banquet;

**Phyllis Youngren** for helping with the March newsletter;

**John Givan** and **Marlin Schoep** for helping to identify photographs;

**Richard Oleson** for donating sand for the Swensson Farm Museum;

**Scott Lynne** and **Vernon Lund** for doing plumbing repairs;

**Wally** and **LaVonne Sletten, Deanna Olson, Phyllis Youngren, and Mary Keller** for attending the Horse Power Event meeting;

**Phyllis Youngren** for helping to complete the organization of the photo negatives;

**Carol Siverhus** for keeping the obituary files up to date;

and **YOU** for being a member of the Chippewa County Historical Society!

## Chippewa County Historical Society

### Office Open

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
Closed on all legal holidays.

### Historic Chippewa City

Closed for the season

### Swensson Farm Museum

Closed for the season

### Lac qui Parle Mission

Opening for the season April 25

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## Membership Information

### Individual/Family Memberships

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Annual Individual .....   | \$15.00  |
| Annual Family .....       | \$20.00  |
| Annual Sustaining .....   | \$30.00  |
| Annual Contributing ..... | \$50.00  |
| Annual Benefactor .....   | \$100.00 |

### Business Memberships

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Annual Bronze .....   | \$50.00  |
| Annual Silver .....   | \$75.00  |
| Annual Gold .....     | \$100.00 |
| Annual Platinum ..... | \$200.00 |

### Membership Benefits

Monthly Newsletter,

Adopt-a-Building Participation,

Unlimited Visits to Historic Chippewa City  
and Swensson Farm Museum for two adults,

10% Gift Shop Discount

Photocopy Discounts

Free admission to Christmas in the Village

**Calendar**  
**April/May '10**

**Chippewa County Historical Society**

**Monday, April 19**

*Executive Director Gone*

**Friday, April 23**

*Cleaning at the  
Lac qui Parle Mission*

**Sunday, April 25**

*Lac qui Parle Mission Open House  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

**Friday, April 30**

*Wedding Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Historic Chippewa City*

**Saturday, May 1**

*Duffy/Fowler Wedding  
4:00 p.m., Historic Chippewa City*

**May 3 - May 7**

*Cleanup Days at  
Historic Chippewa City*

**Wednesday, May 5**

*Prairie Waters Tourism Coalition  
1:30 p.m., Appleton*

**Thursday, May 6**

*Montevideo Community Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
12:00 p.m., Minnwest Bank*

**Monday, May 10**

*Convention & Visitors Bureau  
5:00 p.m., Montevideo Chamber*

**Tuesday, May 11**

*Board of Directors Meeting  
5:30 p.m., Country Kitchen*

**Sunday, May 23**

*Hope Reform Worship & Pot Luck*

**May 25 - 28**

*Heritage Week*

**Saturday, May 29**

*Historic Chippewa City Opens*

**Sunday, May 30**

*Swensson Farm Museum Opens*

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jim Thein**  
*President*

**Lee Hagemayer**  
*Vice President*

**Celeste Suter**  
*Treasurer*

**Dixie Tilden**  
*Secretary*

**Larry Larson**

**Mary Keller**

**Richard Oleson**

**Bev Lambert**

**Laura Hendrickson**

**Sandy Hodge**  
*City Appointment*

**Jeffrey Lopez**  
*County Appointment*

**STAFF**

**June Lynne** - *Executive Director*

**Vernon Lund** - *Historic Chippewa City Caretaker*

**Carol Westberg** - *Gift Shop Manager*

**Delores Veden** - *Experience Works*

**Shannon Lien** - *Swensson Farm Sunday Hostess*

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## MONTHLY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This month's volunteer spotlight recognizes our Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting volunteers. Numerous individuals assisted with some facet of our annual event, including helping with displays, preparing and presenting the program, setting up and taking down the venue, and a myriad of tasks in between! For their continued dedication, this month's volunteer spotlight recognizes our Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting volunteers. **Congratulations, Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting Volunteers, and THANK YOU!**

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### **Pioneer Dies After Reaching Age 100** Julius Kurtzbein Came to America in 1868

That same year he built the home in which he still lived with his granddaughter, Mrs. Ed Grams.

From 1895 to 1931, from the age of 55 to 91, Mr. Kurtzbein and his wife farmed alone, his two sons having purchased farms of their own. When the wife of Frank Kurtzbein passed away on July 26, 1897, Mr. Kurtzbein took their youngest daughter, Elsie, to live with them. His wife passed away on April 13, 1931,

and from that date until October he was alone on the farm and did all the farm work and daily chores.

In the fall of 1931 his granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grams, rented the farm from Mr. Kurtzbein and he made his home with them until 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Grams then moved to town, and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schultz rented the farm and made their home with him for one year. He moved to Montevideo in 1934 with the Grams, and then in the fall of 1939 moved back with the Grams to the home farm. To be continued next month.

*The Montevideo American, June 7, 1940*

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Address Service Requested



4-2010

e-mail: [ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net)  
320-269-7636

Chippewa County  
Historical Society  
151 Arnie Anderson Drive  
P.O. Box 303  
Montevideo, MN 56265



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## Lac qui Parle Mission Open House

The Lac qui Parle Mission will open for the season on Sunday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. The building will be staffed from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Please join us as we open our first site for the season!

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### Telephone Numbers

If you have disconnected your land line telephone and replaced it with a cell phone, please call the office to update your phone number.

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### Donations Received

Thank you to the following individuals for their generosity to the Chippewa County Historical Society.

#### Endowment Fund Donations

\$1,000.00 and over ~ Wendell and Jeanette Youngren - Kerkhoven

\$100.00 - \$250.00 ~ Vernon and Joyce Youngren - Battle Lake, MN

In Memory Of their parents August and Minnie Youngren from Woods Township, and Alfred and Alfie Petersen from Louiston Township

#### General Donation

\$25.00 ~ Elroy and Ardis Dragsten - Montevideo

For their grandchildren, Peder and Johanna Haugan, Easter present

## Heritage Week

Our 2010 Heritage Week will be held Tuesday, May 25 through Friday, May 28. Hours for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday's sessions are 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and Thursday's hours are 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Volunteers will be needed to interpret buildings, work in the Gift Shop, and provide salads and/or bars for the volunteers lunch. If you are available, please call the office.

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### Membership Renewals

Thank you to the following individuals for renewing their membership in the Society as of April 15, 2010.

#### Bronze Membership

Country Inn and Suites - Montevideo

#### Family Membership

Paul & Rosalie Dehli - Montevideo

John & Linda Givan - Montevideo

Robert & Julie Grant - Montevideo

Jay & Elizabeth Grave - Milan

Stacy & Karen Tufto - Montevideo

John Walstrom - Montevideo

Carolyn & Frederick Wheeler - Palm Desert, CA

#### Individual Membership

Paul Kief - Bemidji, MN

Dr. Brett Opdahl - Montevideo

Norma H. Stevens - Montevideo

Susan M. Strand - Las Vegas, NV

#### Welcome Back

Family Membership - Laura & Noel Hendrickson - Montevideo

## Challenge 2010

Although our tools are still packed away, and will be until the beginning of June, planning for the repairs needed at the sites has already begun.

At Historic Chippewa City we will shingle one building and repair and paint two others. We will also continue working on the upper front side of the Millinery Shop. We have a substantial 'micro-list' of things to do as well on each of our buildings.

At the Swensson Farm we need to glaze and paint the basement windows, and repair one of the lower back windows of the barn. We will also be working with professionals to install the new wallpaper upstairs, as well as to repair and preserve the tombstones in the family burial plot. Our 'honey-do' list is substantially shorter for this site in 2010!

We are also hopeful to get more of our buildings handicap accessible this year.

If you recall the January Pioneer Crier, you will remember that there are still tons of additional projects to work on. We will focus on the largest projects and then work our way through the list.

We honestly have a good time as we are working on these projects, so, please join us if you are able!

**The following buildings must be repaired and painted in 2010 ...**

1. ↗ **Gazebo** - Finish staining the upper half of the structure. Volunteers and stain are needed for this project.

2. ↗ **Ice House** - This building must be repaired and then scraped, primed, and painted. Volunteers and supplies are needed.

3. ↗ **Ag Building** - This building must be repaired and then scraped, primed, and painted. Volunteers and supplies are needed. Perhaps the largest and most physical task on this project is to move all of the lumber, etc. which sits on the north side of the building!

4. ↗ **Millinery Shop** - If time permits we would like to repaint the upper front of this building.

**The following building must be shingled in 2010 ...**

5. ↗ **Chippewa Bank Building** - Asphalt Shingles

### ADA RAMPS WISH LIST 2010

6. ↗ Village Church

7. ↗ Burn's Fur Trading Post

8. ↗ Dr. Burn's Office

9. ↗ Blacksmith shop

**Future shingling projects ...**

10. ↗ **School house** - Asphalt Shingles

11. ↗ **Fire Hall** - Asphalt Shingles

12. ↗ **Garage** - Asphalt Shingles