

The Good News

2011 A Year to Remember!



The Museum Roof and window project is complete! After receiving a Legacy grant in the amount of \$156,369, with \$5000 from the City of Hewitt and \$5000 from the Hewitt Historical Society, the former Hewitt Public School's roof and many of its windows have been restored to their original glory. An exciting part of restoring the School's roof to its original condition was rebuilding the tower that was taken down by a tornado in 1920. For a complete photo recap of the roof and window project and a video of the tower raising, please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/HewittPublicSchoolMuseum>

Receiving a grant to repair the School's roof was just the first step in getting the Museum in shape. Receiving this Legacy grant requires that the School building remain a Museum for at least the next 25 years. This may just give us enough time to make everyone's dreams come true. Yes, it is a large and worth while project, but we NEED YOUR HELP! The admittance to the Museum has been growing steadily the past three summers. If you live close to Hewitt and have even one day to volunteer at the Museum this summer we can really use the help. Our summer hours June 1st to Oct. 1st, will be 12 to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Reserve your day or weekend asap by calling Michael at 218.924.4910. Thank you!

Eagle Bend Library Donation inspires Lending Library

The Eagle Bend Public School Library donated over a thousand, mostly non-fiction books to the Hewitt Historical Society. When Michael from the HHS went down to Eagle Bend to inspect the books, he quickly realized that there were way more than he could fit in his van. A quick phone call to fellow HHS member Alan Knutson and soon Al's big tan bus was waiting at the front door to be filled.

The plan now is to open a Lending Library in the south room on the main floor of the Museum. This southern room is currently being used for storage and is in dire need of some repair before being ready to house the future library. The walls of the room will need to be patched and painted and the lighting replaced. Also, to have a library, we will need to build some bookshelves.

Why a Lending Library you may ask? Hewitt does not have its own Library or a place for the public to access the internet.

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A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE MURAL PROJECT A SUCCESS!!!!



Hewitt Lumber Yard & WWI Solders
Painted by Amber Fletshock

The Mural Project has been completed and the paintings now cover the second floor windows on the North and South side of the Museum. Artists: Robert Meszaros, Amber Fletshock and Jaime Peterson volunteered their time and talent to create the windows into Hewitts' past. The addition of the Murals has definitely increased traffic to the Museum. This project was made possible by: **Dennis Greenwaldt, Roger & Marie Folkstad, Marion Bucholz, Glenn Harris, Mervin Harris, Leonard Tritsch, Holly & Al Knutson, Sue Boehland, Leora Daas, Alynn Dull, Lawrence Denny, Leona Selivanoff and Marvel & Ken Blaske.**

The funds generated by the Mural project not only covered the cost of supplies for the Murals, but the remainder of the funds went towards the painting and repair of broken panes of glass on the other three sides of the Museum. Restoring the old Hewitt School has inspired cooperation and participation from both current, former and non-residents of Hewitt. The Hewitt Lions club gave permission to have the lean to on the south side of the building removed which has greatly improved the view of this historic structure. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project possible and such a success!



Hewitt Street Scene painted by Robert Meszaros

Lending Library continued from page 1...

Our hope is that a Lending Library will increase the visitors and volunteers to the Museum. The Hewitt Historical Society has been fortunate to receive a \$2500 Initiative Foundation grant for technology. This money will be used to install a computer and check out system for the Library. Housing a Library & Museum; the old Hewitt School will once again stand as a beacon of learning for all who are searching for history and knowledge.

You may ask; "How can I help this Library?" There are many ways to help us make this Lending Library a reality. If you love books and have some time to volunteer at the library or are able to help with the physical construction of the space please call Michael at 218.924.4910. Another way of helping would be a financial donation to the Lending Library. Maybe you have some great books that you would like to see in the Hewitt Lending Library? Our space is limited and we are already full of enough encyclopedias , but we would love to check out your book collection if you are interested in donating to the Lending Library. Together may we create a unique place of learning that will live on past us all!

*Check out a Historical Film
this summer at the Museum
every Sat & Sun at 2pm!*

**“DR” KATE TARNOW,
HOMEGROWN MEDIC**

WRITTEN BY ETHEYLN PEARSON

“Never give the blue pills with the blue salve. If you give the blue pills, you gotta use the pink salve. An’ the other way around, too.” That standard advice was almost always left with the patient before Kate Tarnow headed back to her drugstore in Hewitt, MN.

As far as anyone ever found out, Kate had never so much as walked past a medical college. And, her background in pharmacy was debatable.

Yet, she is remembered by old-timers in the Hewitt area as having an innate ability, somehow, to correctly diagnose most common ailments of that era as efficiently as a real doctor (few and far between). She was especially effective at a confinement case and known for “pulling folks through” a particularly vicious brand of flu around the turn of the century.

Kate was a tiny woman. Too busy to “fuss”, she wore her hair severely pulled back into a tight knot. Few remember having seen her without a floor-length dress, covered by an enveloping apron, and the battered black-cloth bag that held her medicines and the few instruments she used. While she was out doctoring or waiting for another brand-new citizen to “land”, her husband waited on the customers in the drugstore. The Tarrow family had several teenaged children, and the family lived in rooms in the back of the building.

Trained or not, Kate seemed to know what to do with the vials of pills and potions on the store’s shelves. She concocted many of

them herself, particularly the pink and blue pills and salves.

One old-timer remembers the pills as being the smallest things he had ever seen. “Drop one by candlelight and a feller could forget findin’ it until morning-light,” he said.

Another remembers that, when a baby brother got into a supply of pink pills, eating an unknown number of them, Kate soothed the distraught mother with “Never mind, Ain’t anything in ‘em anyhow.”

Kate had no transportation other than walking. Often, members of the ailing one’s family came after her, then fetched her home again. She stayed until the patient was well or a more urgent case called her away.

The exact date the Tarrow family moved to Hewitt is unclear, but it’s agreed that they were established by the early or mid 1890’s. Mr Tarrow passed away while they lived in Hewitt and is buried in the oldest section of Mt Nebo Cemetery, along Highway 71, halfway between Hewitt and Wadena. The sons in the family kept the store going, so their mother could keep up her practice. In the early 1900’s, the drugstore was sold, and Kate went to live with one of her children in California where she ultimately died.

About that same time, a bonafide doctor, with a brand new license to prove it, by the name of Dr. George Lothian took up practice in town. Dr. Lothian’s assessment of “Dr Kate” was: “She did a remarkable job with what she had to work with. (Often onions were applied to the chest

**HELP US KEEP THE
MOMENTUM GOING!**

**Membership to the
Hewitt Historical Society
is NOW \$5 per year and
\$50 per lifetime!**

**June is our membership
month so if you know of
someone who isn’t a
member and should be
please invite them to be
apart of the excitement!**

Please help us preserve & promote Hewitt and Stowe Prairie’s rich history. We are looking for your family’s stories of life in this area and this quest includes original photographs. Donated or borrowed photos will be scanned and returned to their owners if so desired. Together we can insure that future generations will have access to our community’s great story. Please contact Michael with stories & photos (218.924.4910).

for congestion or to the feet to draw the blood away from the head in case of earache.) She had an uncanny ability to correctly diagnose...then, do all she could about it.” Kate also set many fractures that turned out fine.

Many are those, still in the area, who were ushered into the world with the help of “Dr. Kate’s” gentle hands, and then were kept going by those pink and blue pills and salve.

Wiese Family represents a Hewitt Century Farm



Walter & Hazel Wiese and the Hewitt Historical Society, represented a Hewitt Century Farm at this year's Todd County History day held Oct. 29th, 2011 at the Todd County History Museum in Long Prairie.

Lunch and coffee were enjoyed by all who attended. County commissioner Gerald Ruda gave a recap of the ongoing restoration of the Historic County Courthouse in Long Prairie. Author Tim King shared some stories from his new book with Nancy Leasman's on Todd County Century Farms. Once again the Todd County History Day was made possible by a Legacy grant through a partnership with the Great River Regional Library System.

* Summer Calendar *

Hewitt Historical Society meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Community Center.

Museum Hours:

June 1st-Oct. 1st

Sat. & Sun 12-4pm

Historical Film shown at 2pm both Sat & Sun.

Hewitt Historical Society

PO Box 73

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