

Paddelwheel Press

Grand Forks County Historical Society, Grand Forks, ND Fall 2012

Craft Sale

The 36th Annual Craft Sale will be held on Saturday, November 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Craft Guild has many new items for sale for home and holiday decorating. Baked goods will be available for sale as well.

Proceeds benefit our Historical Society.

Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss it!



New Attraction: an "Old Time Gas Station" Rolls Into Grand Forks

The Society added a new attraction to our museum grounds this fall: a 1930s era gas station. Former Board member, Reg Urness approached our staff several years ago, inquiring about the feasibility of adding an "old time gas station" as a museum building. Naturally, the main impediment to pursuing the project was the question of how to fund it. The new site plan designed by Myron Denbrook following the '97 Flood, reserves some space for future development. One of these spaces, at the northern end of the parking lot is ideal for a service station.

In June, a golden opportunity presented itself: all of the buildings and many hundreds of artifacts at the Pioneer Village of Ayr in Cass County, were going up for sale at auction. Urness, in partnership with Dennis Pazderic and fellow members of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA), North Dakota Chapter, worked out a plan: Pazderic started calling club members,

gathering pledges towards purchasing and moving the station. Even while the auction proceeded, Pazderic worked the telephone, and successfully raised the required funds.

On Monday, September 24th moving day arrived. Schmidt and Sons House Movers, from Kindred, ND, arrived in Ayr and quickly had the station lifted up onto a flatbed trailer ready for transport north to Grand Forks. Traveling east on Cass County Road 4, the station made its way to Argusville, and then turning north, the caravan proceeded along Highway 81 at thirty five miles per



(Continued on page 4)

Myra Museum Remodeling Plan

Bart Hayes and Matt Cox, of Split Rock Studios in St. Paul, completed the concept designs for future remodeling of the Myra Museum's main floor exhibit space. The drawings are available for viewing in the Myra Museum and members are welcome to come and discuss ways that we can tell "our" story using new and more interactive methods.

The overall theme of the design is movement. As the first people moved through the valley hunting the buffalo, as the first settlers moved west seeking a new home, as present-day residents move forward with new technology and new ideas, Grand Forks is forever changing and evolving with through time.

The full layout resembles a wheel with a center hub. Visitors will follow a meandering pathway that leads them from our Ice Age-influenced geology, to Native American history, set-

tlement history and the development of industry in the Red River Valley. There is open space in the center, allowing us to set up chairs for our Entertaining History lecture series and other special events. Built in multimedia equipment will be readily available, making it easier to set up presentations with a projector, screen and sound system.

Turning the "plan" into a reality will require our Society's biggest fundraising effort to date. Grants will play a large part in funding the remodeling project, however a significant portion of the cost will need to be raised locally, as many foundations require a cash match. Individual contributions will be very important and will keep the museum more personal for our community.

Donor's gifts will be acknowledged on a new donor's wall inside the museum, and families will have the option of spon-

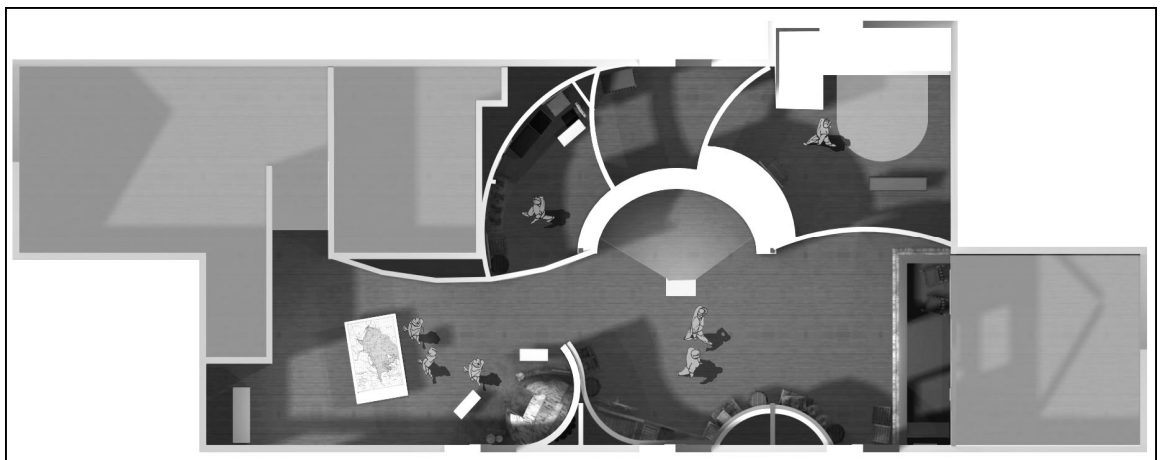
soring a particular exhibit space and have it permanently named for their family or in memory of loved ones.

Our staff is available anytime to meet with individuals interested in contributing to this exciting project. As our official County museum, the Myra Museum tells the story of our land and our people in northeastern North Dakota.

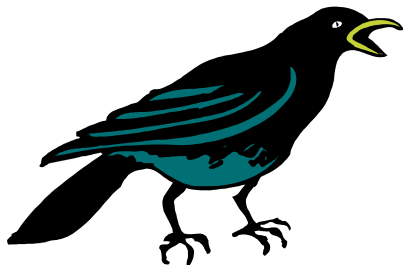
The State Historical Society of North Dakota does not maintain any historic sites in Grand Forks County, therefore it is our responsibility to tell our story in the best way that we can. A well designed, modern museum will be a popular destination for visitors, benefitting our community through education and tourism and will demonstrate that Grand Forks' present success is directly related to the vision and accomplishments of our earliest pioneers.

Split Rock's designers propose to create a layout that resembles a wheel, demonstrating movement through time.

See more on page 5.



Legends of Terror



The fourth annual Legends of Terror haunted house will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 26th and 27th, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The theme this year is the horror stories of Edgar Allan Poe. The selection of Poe fits perfectly with the time periods represented by our museum building, and Poe's popularity remains strong today.

Visitors are encouraged to make a list of all of the Poe ref-

erences they see along the tour and email them to our office, or to the Legends Facebook page. Those participants will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win two free movie tickets to Carmike Cinemas.

Legends of Terror is not intended for young children. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Over thirty young actors will be performing each night. Legends of Terror received a \$1500.00 grant from the North Valley Arts Council (NoVAC) to fund actors' stipends for the event.

On behalf of the Society, our Board would like to express their thanks to NoVAC for supporting this program again this year.

Half Pint Haunt

The Half Pint Haunt is intended for families with young children. Children may trick or treat through all of our museum buildings, meeting friendly ghosts along the way.

Cider and cookies will be served inside the Myra Museum and Bonnie Cameron will share a fun and spooky Halloween story with the kids. The Half Pint Haunt will be held on Sunday, October 28th from 2-5 p.m.



Holiday Open House

Our 2nd annual Holiday Open House will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, December 15th and 16th** from 2-5 p.m.

Last year's event was very well received, patrons enjoyed seeing the Campbell House and Lustron Home decorated for Christmas in each of their respective time periods.

The Myra Museum will be decorated as well, and cider and cookies will be served. Admis-

sion to the open house is a non-perishable food item or a toy for "Toys for Tots."

The event parallels the Santa Village that is hosted by the GF Park Board. Families may enjoy making crafts there, and then come to the Historical Society to enjoy some Holiday nostalgia and carols performed by area choirs and instrumental groups.

Entertaining History

Jan. 20th, Gordon Iseminger: "The Hersey Farm at Arvilla: Bonanza Farm or Show-place?"

Feb. 17th, Mike Jacobs, What did Franklin Pierce Ever Do for ND?

March 17th Ken Dawes, Early Churches in GF.

April 21th Kim Porter, James J. Hill and the RR Transportation Company.

All Programs begin at 2 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

hour.

Staff from the GF County Historical Society met the procession with the 1965 Ford Galaxie Patrol Car as they turned off onto 62nd Ave. South and led the way along the last stretch of the journey to Belmont Road, where several members of the AACA club joined the small parade with Model T's escorted the station onto the grounds of the Society.

Schmidt and Sons wasted no time in moving the trailer into position and backing the station slowly into place above its new foundation. The foundation was prepared under the leadership of Board member Wes Rogers, who, working with volunteers and professionals from Rogers Concrete Construction, completed the foundation weeks before the station's arrival. Within an hour, the building was lowered into place and Schmidt and Sons loaded up their equipment and headed for home. Mission accomplished.

The station is a replica of the Mobile station that once stood in Tower City, ND. The original Tower City station was purchased in 1992 with the intention of moving it to the historical village in Ayr, however due to its age, the building's base



The new Thirties-era Gas Station on its new foundation. Notice the Lustron House in the background. A brick driveway will be added this fall completing the old-time look. Opp Construction will donate the labor, using brick pavers salvaged from the flood protection project.

was near to crumbling and could not have been moved intact. Instead, measurements were taken and a near-copy was built in Ayr at a cost of nearly \$25,000.00. At auction, the AACA members purchased the station for \$1,400.00, an excellent bargain.

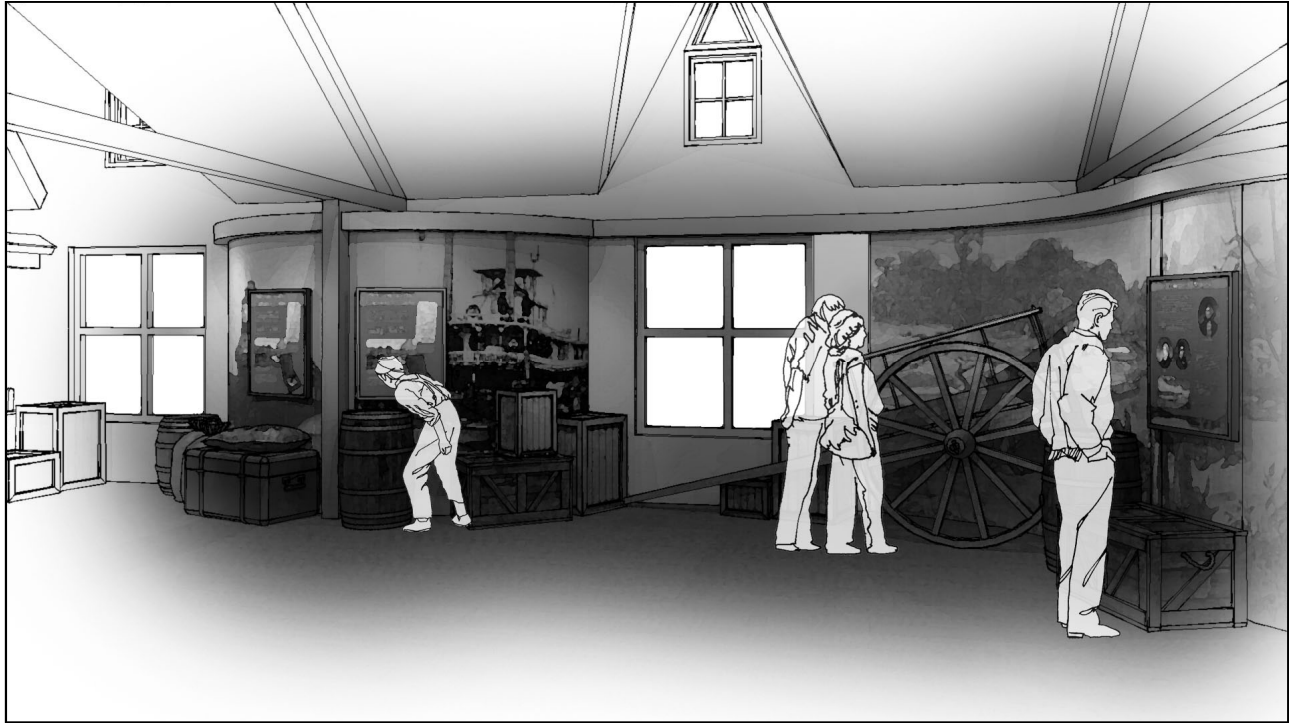
To date, the station has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted. A pair of matching pumps will be restored over the winter in preparation for its grand opening next summer.

The Society and the members of the AACA are now working to collect artifacts to complete the station. Mobil

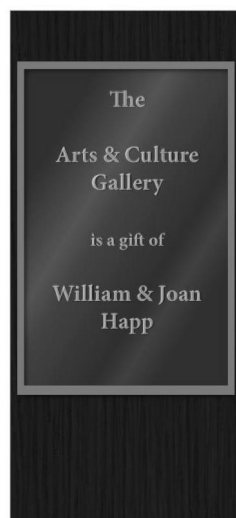
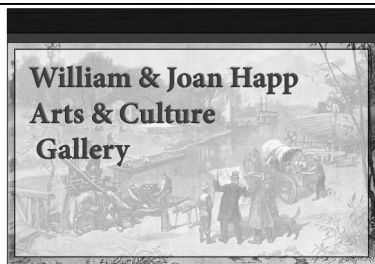
signs and other filling station memorabilia are needed, and all the other elements necessary to present an authentic looking 1930s era service station: Soft drink memorabilia, candy and tobacco signs, promotional products for all sorts of automobile parts, tires and fluids. If you have items to donate, please call our office at 775-2216.

The public response to this project has been overwhelmingly positive. Join us as we bring another fun element of nostalgia to life at the Grand Forks County Historical Society.

Myra Museum Remodeling Plan



The Transportation exhibit area includes artifacts and text along with containers visitors can open to discover the sorts of items pioneers carried with them to the Valley.



Sponsor Recognition Panels can be focused on a particular exhibit or for the museum space as a whole



The Quiet Room will remain untouched, but a front porch will be added, providing a unique entryway to see what's inside.

It will also serve as our "stage" for Entertaining History and other special presentations. A hidden screen and sound system will be built into it, that can be pulled out and tucked away as needed.



Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2405 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

Paid

Grand Forks, ND

58201

Permit no. 31

Return Service Requested



Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

☐ **New Member**

☐ **Renewing Member**

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- ☐ **\$25 Individual**
- ☐ **\$50 Family**
- ☐ **\$100 Corporate**
- ☐ _____ **Other**

Members receive free admission, our organizational newsletter, museum shop discounts and reduced rates on facility rentals.

Please make checks payable to the Grand Forks County Historical Society. Membership is fully deductible as allowed by law.

Membership runs for one year from receipt of dues.

The Grand Forks County Historical Society is a registered
501 (c) (3) Organization