

Paddlewheel Press

Grand Forks County Historical Society Spring Summer 2026

Museum Open Daily
from 1-5 p.m.
May 15th through
Sept. 15th

City Band

*The City Band will
perform four con-
certs this summer
in the Myra Pavil-
ion:*

*June 11 and 25
July 16 and 30
Programs start at
7 p.m.*

**Summer
Performing Arts
(SPA)
Bands on the Red
Concert**

*June 18th
7 p.m.*

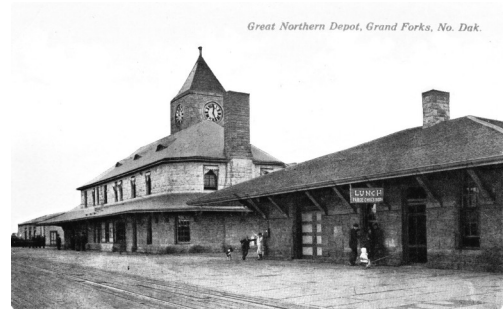
**Dal Segno Music
Camp
August 11-15
with
Public Concert
August 15,
11:30 a.m.**

Railroad Exhibit Additions

Several new panels have been added to the transportation section of the Myra Museum. They show historic images of the Grand Forks Depot, the Larimore Depot, the Roundhouse and various passenger trains.

Grand Forks was a critical maintenance hub for the Great Northern. The roundhouse alone employed nearly 300 men in 1913: machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths and other skilled workers.

Many of the photographs range from the early 1900s to the 1950s when most freight and passenger service was conducted by rail.



Large steam locomotives and sleek streamlined locomotives arrived and departed several times a day with names like the Winnipeg Limited, The Dakotan and The Red River.

The panels were created by Mike Lunak, a locomotive engineer now retired from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad.

New to the Collection

A 1930 Ford Model A Pickup was donated to the Society by Gordon and Trudy Iseminger last fall. It was restored in the 1980s and is in great condition.

The 1930-1931 Model A pickups featured larger tires and a higher hood line than the 1929 models. The 1930 featured a more powerful engine and a steel bed. Its top speed was 50-60 miles per hour.



Thank you!

Entertainment in the Campbell House

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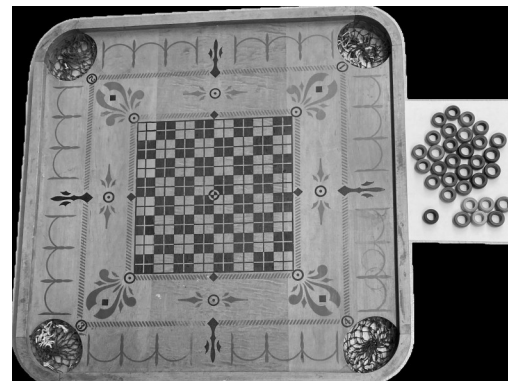
Ricardo Gomez-Nieto

Caroms

Caroms is a tabletop game played in similar fashion to billiards. The game is played on a square wooden board that measures twenty-eight inches on each side. The edges of the board have wood bumpers to keep the carom pieces on the board during play, and there is a pocket on each of the board's four corners.

Carom pieces are thick wood or plastic rings, about the size of a fifty-cent piece. There are about twenty-two rings-nine of one color, perhaps green, and nine of another color, perhaps red. One ring, sometimes referred to as the queen, may be black. The four shooters or strikers, the cue ball in billiards, may be white. The strikers are propelled across the board with miniature cue sticks or by a flick of a finger or thumb. As in billiards, the rings are "racked," but placed in the center of the board, with the black ring in the center.

There are variations in how the game is played, but, as in billiards, a player "breaks" the rack and then the players take turns shooting, using their striker ring to drive rings into the corner pockets on the side of the board opposite the shooter. The object of the game is for a player to clear the board of his color



Caroms Board with Rings on the Right

rings, while placing the rings remaining on the board in positions that make it difficult for the opponent to complete shots. Once a player has cleared the board of his color rings, he may pocket the black ring and win the game.

Carom boards are printed with checkerboards and backgammon patterns on the underside, and they are sold with dice, skittles, and other pieces to allow as many as 80-85 games to be played on the same board. The games provide entertainment for the entire family, from children to adults.

With their carom board, members of the Campbell family could spend Sunday afternoons or long winter evenings entertaining themselves, even if housebound by blizzards or prevented from traveling to Grand Forks for amusement.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a few hours a month to spare serving your community? If so, consider donating your time and talent to the Myra Museum. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available, which are sure to match your interest and skills. You can participate with a planned schedule or be "on call."

Here are some possibilities:

Tour Guide - Tour guides accompany guests as they explore our buildings and grounds. Don't worry about not knowing all the facts for each building. We will train you to be a successful tour guide and provide you with the necessary resource material. You will enjoy interacting with young and old alike.

Gardening - Our campus grounds have numerous gardens and flowers, all of which need loving attention! You could adopt a specific garden or work as needed. Our grounds are beautiful because of the many hours of attention they are given by our staff and volunteers.

Building Maintenance - All of our buildings are old and require constant upkeep and maintenance. If you like to paint, repair and build, you are just the person we can use. We need people who can work with their hands to get a job done!

Event Volunteering - We host a variety of events every year, all of which require many hours of work. Events such as Legends of Terror and our History Rock's Car Show, require many hours of preparation, planning, set-up and clean up. Pick your event and join us for a good time!

Office and Clerical Work - Do you like clerical work? We need volunteers to help catalog our artifacts, and mail post cards & newsletters. Individuals with other skills, such as graphic arts, should consider volunteering their expertise!

Entertaining History Presenters - Every year we host guest speakers in our Entertaining History Program, and we are always looking for local presenters. If you have an interest in the history of our area, consider sharing your knowledge with us by scheduling an Entertaining History presentation.

Building Volunteer - Consider donating your time and talent to a specific building. Building volunteers help with cleaning, decorating, and taking care of the buildings' exterior plants.

Call or stop in, we're looking forward to working with you! Check out the volunteer form on our website: www.grandforkshistory.com

History Rocks

Featuring Kenny and the Classics

Sunday August 30th

We are excited to announce that the History Rocks car show has been selected as a "Pick Site" by the North Dakota Street Rod Association this year.

With the endorsement of NDSRA, we expect to have more cars from all over the region.

History Rocks brings back fond memories of great music and great cars. The museum buildings will be open to tour and we will have hot dogs and root beer floats available in the Auto Livery building.



THE GF COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS HOSTING

THE COTTONWOOD CLUB

A Prohibition-Era Party

SATURDAY | 09 MAY 2026 | 6:30 - 9:30

THE MYRA MUSEUM
2405 BELMONT RD, GRAND FORKS, ND

LIVE MUSIC BY "JAZZ ON TAP"
CASH BAR PROVIDED BY BONZERS

- 1920-ERA APPETIZERS AND SNACK
- COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE
- GAMES & PRIZES - CASH/CARD TO PLAY

OVER 21 TO ATTEND

- \$25 EACH | RSVP USING THE QR CODE

INCLUDES ONE YR MEMBERSHIP TO THE GF
CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR



GRANDFORKSHISTORY.COM | 701.775.2216

Myra Museum Milestone

Fifty years ago, construction of the Myra Museum commenced in June of 1976. Fugleberg Construction fenced off the area, excavated the basement and laid the cement blocks for the foundation. Other contractors prepared the site for plumbing and electrical service.

There was no ceremony or formal ground breaking so far as our minutes record.

On July 25th an Ice Cream Social was held on the lawn of the Campbell House and cakes were served from the freshly restored Old Post Office.

The museum was financed through grants and local donations by members of the community.

The largest grant was approved by the Myra Foundation and the new museum was designated the *Myra Museum*.

There will be events planned to celebrate this Golden Anniversary and to honor the people who lead the way to establish this museum.



'Entertainment Continued from page 2

Banjoele, also known as a banjo-

Uke: The banjoele can best be described as a hybrid, a musical instrument produced by crossing a ukulele with a banjo. As with all hybrids, producers of this hybrid instrument took the desired features of the ukulele and the desired features of the banjo and combined them to produce a new instrument.

The banjoele is a four-stringed musical instrument with a small-type body and a fretted ukulele neck. The instrument combines the easy tuning and playing style of a ukulele with the distinctive tone and volume of a banjo. The instrument was developed by vaudeville performers who needed an instrument that could be played with the ease of a ukulele, but with the volume produced by a banjo when played before large audiences.

Because the performers moved from town to town, often a different town every night, they needed a light, compact instrument that could be easily carried. They were made of wood, sometimes with open backs, and they may have incorporated a resonator. Heads were traditionally made of calfskin that produced a more

mellow tone than the sharp, distinctive tone of a banjo. By tightening or loosening the drumhead, by adjusting the tension hooks around the outside, the performer could change the tone. Tightening the drumhead produced a bright sound with good note distinction, and loosening produced a more mellow, less bright sound.

The instruments, relatively inexpensive, enjoyed their greatest popularity in the 1920s and 1930s.

The banjoele on display in the Campbell house likely provided evenings of entertainment for members of the Campbell family, when conditions prevented their attending events in Grand Forks. Gordon Iseminger.





Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2405 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201

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58201
Permit no. 31



Grand Forks County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

☐ **Not a member? Please join us!**

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

Members receive free admission, our organizational newsletter and museum shop discounts.

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

The Grand Forks County Historical Society provides life long learning opportunities and a valuable tourism destination for our community. Please show your support by becoming a member today!