



*State School
Orphanage Museum*

540 West Hills Circle
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 7
Owatonna, MN 55060

Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, MN 55060 | phone: 1-800-423-6466 | e-mail: museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us | www.orphanagemuseum.com



A Great Success!

With nearly 1,000 in attendance, West Hills week is declared a success! This issue of the Newsletter is a scrapbook of some of the days' events. THANK YOU to everyone that attended or volunteered their time.

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Interested in purchasing The Children Remember or a board on the Memorial Boardwalk? Please fill in the form below. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

- Yes, I'd like to order a copy of The Children Remember documentary video at \$29.95 plus \$5.00 for shipping/handling.
- Yes, I'd like to order a copy of The Children Remember documentary DVD at \$34.95 plus \$5.00 for shipping/handling.
- Yes, I'd like to purchase ___ board(s) at \$35.00 each! Yes, I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of _____.

If you wish to purchase a board, please print clearly the words you wish to have inscribed.

Mail your check, along with this form to: MN State School Orphanage Museum, 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, MN 55060. Checks should be written out to: MN State School Orphanage Museum.

Important: To ensure receiving future Newsletters, please inform us of any address change.



Bob Charnell, former State Schooler, raised \$2,500 for West Hills Week through community fundraising projects. Thank you, Bob!



Melissa Schlobohm driving her horses and buggy around West Hills (similar to the kind Mr. Merrill used to drive)

...grams tours and more

CELEBRATING IN *Style*

There were many; I was but one

By HARVEY RONGLIEN
Special to the People's Press
OWATONNA — During my 11 years at the State School, those hills were alive with energetic children and rambling teenagers. Almost every day children

educated me. During those years, I fully accepted the main public school as a fulfilling home. I came so young; it was all I knew. As an adult, I came to realize the institutional environment of the State School and

ABOUT HARVEY RONGLIEN

Harvey Ronglien came to the State School in 1932 at age 5. He remained there for 11 years, until 1943.

In 1992, Harvey sought permission from the City Council to erect a State School Kids memorial at West Hills which, over the past 12 years, has led to a great restoration of State School history on the grounds.

Today, Ronglien's presentation of 180 at the State School Kids memorial is

the animal kingdom knows that. It's parallel to putting an animal in a zoo. They are fed, bedded down and appear strong and healthy. But then, after a few years of captivity, (at their back in their natural habitat, and 90 percent won't make it. They never learned the skills to survive outside the zoo.

There is a real bond between State Schoolers. I consider all who were there my brothers and sisters. One camaraderie lives in the fact we went through it together. For those many reasons I'll be forever grateful to the State School. Every child is deserving of dignity and worthy of love. I don't care if you were born as a monster or a shock. If you're raised by a loving family,



Steele County Pork Producers grilling burgers



Members of the Golden Tones



Phil Velzke, West Hills Commission, drives volunteers around.



Owatonna Park & Recreation Employees and West Hills Board Members Tim Truelson, Sharon Klein and Matt Kottke working in the Concessions Stand



Rongliens Named as "Book of Golden Deeds" Recipients

The Owatonna Exchange Club has announced Maxine and Harvey Ronglien as the 2004 recipients of the "Book of Golden Deeds" award for outstanding lifetime contributions to the community. If you have a story/comment regarding Maxine and/or Harvey that we could use for the Honor Banquet, please send to Corky Kolander at 1765 Cedar Valley Drive NW, Owatonna, MN 55060; e-mail to corkyk@ci.owatonna.mn.us; or call Corky at (507) 451-4287. The event is November 7. We will need to receive tributes by Monday, October 25 in order to submit. Anyone interested in attending the event should contact Corky directly for more details.

Congratulation Harvey and Maxine on this well-deserved honor!



Orphanage Museum Board Member Nancy Sletten working in the Merchandise Tent.



Kris Oppgaard, Youth Scholarship Member, selling popcorn.



Former State Schoolers Peter Razor and Eva Carlson Jensen signed books during the celebrations.



"Matrons" and "State School Kids" in the Sesquicentennial Parade



The incredible talent behind the Rock Garden: Greg Thomas, Lynn Wolters, Jesse Wilker, Jeff Sorenson and John Blaha