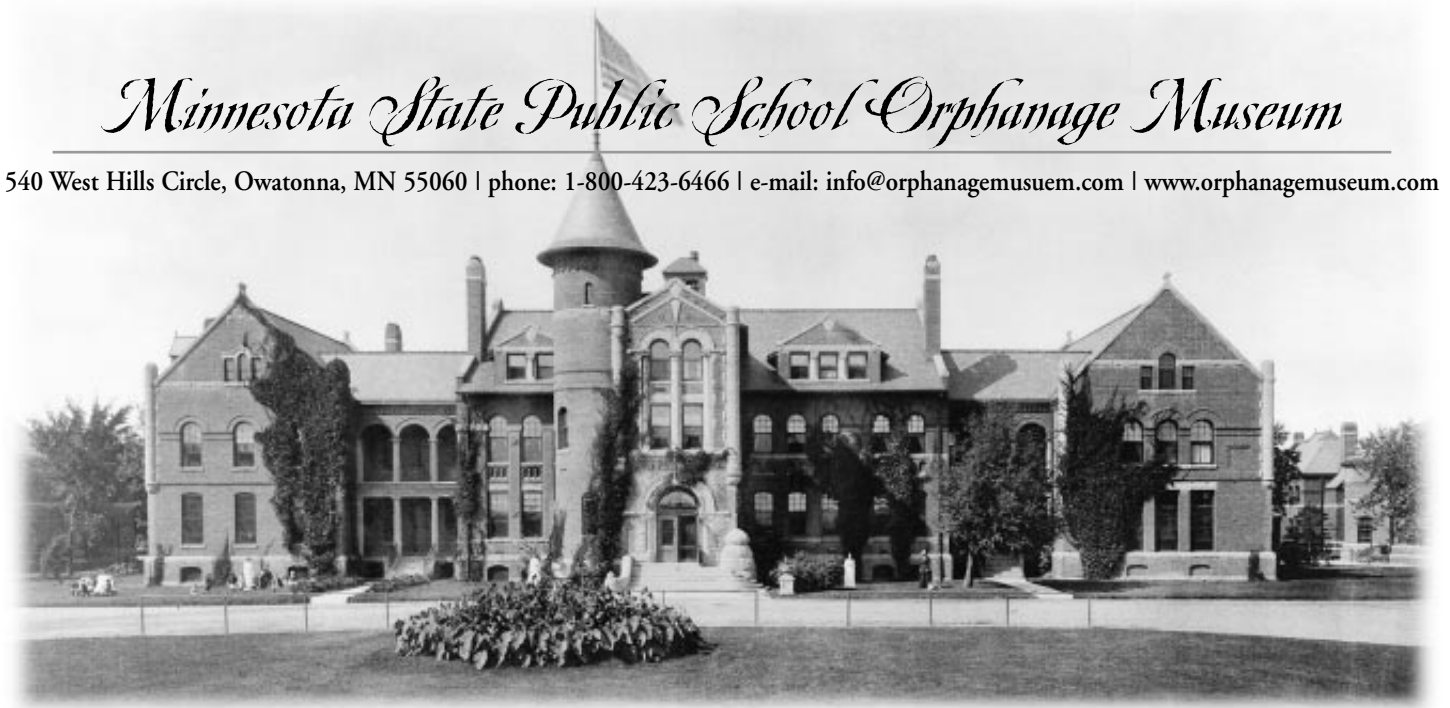




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Interested in purchasing *The Children Remember* or a board on the Memorial Boardwalk? Please fill in the form below. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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.

SUMMER 2005

"What an Interesting Place! What an Eye Opener!"

This is just one of the many wonderful comments in this summer's *Guest Register* in the State School Museum. Others include: "Glad we came. Learned a lot" "Very interesting" "Children of a State Schooler. Thanks for bringing this back to life." "Words cannot explain. Very interesting."

We're pleased to tell you we've had hundreds of walk-in tourists visit the Museum and grounds this summer from all parts of the U.S. PLUS, we've done many, many tour presentations with bus tours and other smaller groups. What a compliment to hear a 92-year-old woman say, "I learned something today!"

Also, almost weekly we continue to receive phone calls from children and grandchildren of State Schoolers from all parts of the U.S. wanting to know if records are available. Almost always we hear the comment "He/She would never talk about it." What a reward to inform and direct these people to the Minnesota Historical Society Library, and also provide them with literature.

Permit me to share a very rewarding experience on July 30. I had the pleasure of meeting three daughters of a State Schooler who had been placed in the State School as a baby and remained until age 18. He had never told them anything about his time there. It just happened he and I were in the same cottage for seven years. What an enlightening experience we had at the Museum telling them all about their Father and experiences we shared.

I simply wanted to share these thoughts with you to help you better understand that the restoration of State School history has meant so much to so many. My personal thanks to each of you who have helped make this possible.

Harvey Ronglien, Ward of the State 1932-1943

State School Orphanage Nominated in Parade Magazine's "Tell America's Story Preservation Award Contest"

From the Owatonna People's Press, August 16 issue

"...Kathy (Wilker) Megyeri is leading a charge to preserve an important part of the city's history.

"Kathy has entered Owatonna's former state school orphanage in Parade Magazine's Tell America's Story Preservation Award Contest.

"A May 8 edition of Parade Magazine asked readers to nominate a local landmark to be recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The article stated that the contest intended to "honor the little-known places that are important to understanding and appreciating who we are as a nation and a people."

"Megyeri submitted a nomination on behalf of the state school orphanage, and told in a 200-word essay, why the state school should be considered.

She was then contacted by someone from the magazine and asked to encourage others to submit similar entries."

The contest opened May 8 and runs through September 30, 2005. HGTV will also take part in promoting the 10 finalists, broken down from an anticipated 1,000 entries.

Information and registration instructions are available at www.parade.com/history.

Hello from Oregon

I was so impressed by the meaningful ceremony at the cemetery during the reunion in 2004, I wrote this poem about it.

Children's Cemetery

By Linda (Logan) Will 2005

*Gently falls the winter snow
To clad small markers in each row
Rows and rows of stones with crosses
Clothed in lichen, leaves and mosses*

*Recall the day we gathered there
To honor with speeches, hymns and prayer
"The angels," to quote Harvey,
Minnesota's innocents*

No longer abandoned, neglected, dependent.

*Rustling leaves of maroon and gold
Touch boardwalk and headstones that number
His fold
Cottages leveled; friends gone, and yet
We children remember; we will not forget.*

Little Known Fact Today...

The Main Building at the State School was actually built in three stages. The center section was built in 1886-1887. The south wing (which became Cottage 6 for little boys) was added in 1891. The north wing, added in 1892, had a first floor assembly room with seating for 250, plus a stage. Until 1933 when the new school was built, this assembly room served as the chapel as well as for other entertainment purposes. The upper story was "devoted to sleeping rooms." Red Wing brick was used in construction.

News On Campus

Boardwalk Update

Thanks to the Park and Recreation Grounds Crew and City of Owatonna, a new cement walkway now joins the Senior Place east parking lot to the Boardwalk. This addition not only makes the boardwalk wheel chair accessible, it also links up with the sidewalk from the north entrance. New boards are now being installed along the north sidewalk.

We are most grateful for all who have indeed helped create a "living memorial" for the State School institution. If you have not had an opportunity to stop and visit the cemetery and boardwalk, we hope you'll take the time to stroll down the boardwalk and read the interesting memorials and names of supporters of this great project.

Outdoor Audio System

Soon visitors will be able to walk up to four outdoor audio stations, press a button, and learn about the former buildings and grounds of the State School. Construction of the four brick stations is underway and it's hoped the project will be completed by early fall. This should be a great addition to the restoration effort. Funding for this project has been provided by a grant from the Women's Club of Owatonna, and Kathleen Sherman, a former ward of the State School.

Minnesota Memories, Volume 5

You might enjoy picking up a copy of this latest book at your favorite book store. On page 56 you'll find a great story of the State School by author Kathy Megyeri. Kathy had two aunts who were Matrons in the School. She describes one who "never cracked a smile, possessed no mothering skills, and thrived on regularity." The other was the opposite, "a large woman, read voraciously, didn't follow such a set

schedule, had innate intelligence and in inquiring mind, and loved her 'boys.'" Kathy lives in Washington, DC, writes for the Chicken Soup series and is an education consultant. We're also pleased to tell you Kathy has nominated the State School for Parade Magazine's "Tell America's Story" Preservation Award Contest.

We are most grateful for the following donations and memorials received since the Spring Newsletter:

- Jerry Robinson
- Ramona Orłowski
- Yvonne Ahrens-Wencl
- M.C. & Connie Stephenson
- Rita and Gene Michaelson
- Donna Norling
- Wally & Marlene Knutson
- Richard & Marlys Webber
- Kathleen Heino
- Harland & Ramona Strohschein
- Myrtle Loch
- Wilmer Lindorff
- Gloria Johnson
- Linda Will
- Gladys Lueders
- Helen Splittstoesser
- Vic Laskowski
- Arnold Berg
- Perry Virkler
- Dennis & Christy Brungardt
- Marcia Rowell
- Deloris Thomas
- Emily Herrmann
- Gary Terrill
- Nina Zak
- Helen Hufendick
- Marlene Lilyerd
- Alice Bergeron
- Harriet Grunklee
- Patricia Hill
- Rosemary Link
- Marvin Tenhoff
- Diane Lyles
- Cathi Schmit
- Edna Draskovich
- Vivian Manthe
- Arlend "Buzz" Wilson
- Claudia Beaty
- Richard Curtiss
- Donald "Ike" Mendelson
- Orville Beuthien
- Virginia Wahlig
- John & Marilyn Betlach
- Dorthy Haupth
- Henry Grothe
- Donald McKenney
- Sue Dresser
- Lyle Olds

Memorials given by:

- Penny Irions
- Jim and Diane Guse
- Greg Thomas Family
- Harvey and Maxine Ronglien

A special "Thank You" for responding so generously to our appeal for mailing costs of the Newsletter. It is greatly appreciated!

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Life at the State School 100 Years Ago in 1904 (as recorded in Owatonna Newspapers)

February 3

The infant child, Nancy Dalton, aged 18 months, died at the State School of pneumonia last Saturday. The remains were shipped to her mother at Pine Island, MN. The infant, Mary Young, aged three months, died at the State School last Monday. The interment was made in the State School cemetery.

February 16

Joint Legislative Committee Visits Owatonna to Inquire into Needs of Institution-Regardless of the fact that the mercury in the thermometer registered many degrees below zero, and a biting wind was blowing from the west, six senators and seven representatives came to Owatonna on the regular biennial junket. The party arrived over the regular Milwaukee passenger and was met at the station by Prof. G.A. Merrill. Covered sleighs were in waiting for the party and as it is a long cold drive to the school the solons doubtless experienced feelings of genuine relief upon reaching the inward warmth of the school where they were cordially made welcome.

February 17

ARE NOT BOUND OUT-Superintendent Merrill Corrects Impression as to Placing Out of State School Children. 'An opinion has prevailed that our children are bound out to service. This is a false impression, as all who have executed indenture agreements with us have had occasion to know. The conditions are largely in favor



of the child. The great State of Minnesota has not gone into the boy farming business to let out the care of these children to the lowest bidder.'

February 21

The State School, located on the West Side, has at the present time 147 boys and 88 girls, regular attendants and wards of the state. The total number of wards of the school, including those in actual attendance and those who have been placed in homes are 1,410. The school has out on trial 19 children, and out on indenture 1,106. The total number of children that have been received in the school since its opening (in 1886) is 2,823. While children are being taken out of the school and placed in homes every day, new children are being received every day.

February 21

F. Lewis returned to the city Saturday evening from Douglas County, in company with two children that he placed in the State School. Mrs. Lewis was a passenger Tuesday morning to a home beyond Mankato, where she will place an eight year old girl of the State School. Miss Swindlehurst, agent of the State School, returned to the city Saturday from Redwood Falls. She was accompanied by a baby girl and a four year old girl that were enrolled as wards at the State School. (Such accounts appeared throughout the year.)

February 25

There were eight children sent out to homes from the State School this week. Five of the children were taken to the western part of the state; two to Kasson and Kenyon and one to Medford. (Such accounts also appeared throughout the year.)

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March 1

Master Ralph Hood and William Morris, two boys ranging in age from 11 to 12 years, packed up their clothes Monday morning at the State School and mysteriously made their departure. Both boys were brought to the institution from the Twin Cities and they thought that the confinement of the school was too much for them to stand so they watched an opportunity and stole away from the school. Their absence was soon noted, but a diligent search has failed to reveal their whereabouts.

March 6

Candy at the State School. Plenty of it for the Children Last Christmas--Away with all the Fake Stories. Prof. Galen A. Merrill, Supt. Of the state public school at Owatonna, appeared before the state board of control the other day to resent the charge made by the enemies of the state board of control that no candy was furnished to the inmates of his school last Christmas. 'Last year,' said Mr. Jacobson, 'the inmates for the school received four times more candy than ever before. The entire charge is false and vicious.'

March 31

SEEKS MATERNAL CARE-Touching Search by a Young Polander Father for a Good Home for His Motherless Babe. Comes from Iowa Seeking Place Among Fellow Countryman--Tries State School. After viewing the magnificent building on the West Side he concluded that the state school was the place for his only son and heir. He secured an interpreter and visited the court house, only to learn that while Minnesota is kind and provident toward its own indigent children it offers nothing to babes from sister states. Learning this, the disheartened parent drew the shawls about this treasured bundle and left to renew his search among the Polish residents of Owatonna.

March 24

Saturday evening the children at the State School were entertained by C. J. Balch at a phonograph concert. The instrument used was an exceptionally good one and the entertainment was a most enjoyable one.

April 5

Andrew Mork was appointed special police at the State school and appointment confirmed.

April 8

Deputy Sheriff Bathke, of Waseca County came over to the city Thursday afternoon at which time he proved to be the guardian of a fourteen day old baby and a two year old child that he took to the State school where they were taken in charge and made at home.

April 14

State School Prodigals--two boys, aged 13, who have been wards of the State school of this city but a few weeks, mysteriously disappeared from the school some time during Thursday evening. A searching party was formed and it was found that they had made tracks for the north, apparently towards Medford and Faribault.

April 25

The Easter services held at the State school Sunday afternoon were very interesting to all those who had the pleasure of attending. Too much can not be said of the way in which the wards of this institution performed the difficult parts that were assigned to them both in singing and speaking. Their work shows excellent instruction and the pupils as well as the instructors cannot be given too much praise for their work.

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Life at the State School 100 Years Ago in 1904 (as recorded in Owatonna Newspapers)

April 28

WILL THEY FEEL GUILTY? RESULT OF FRIENDS (?) PAMPERING FATHER'S APPETITE FOR DRINK SENDS BOYS TO STATE SCHOOL. Two recent arrivals at the state public school on the west side are the two little sons of G. Edward Wilbur who is known in Owatonna, having been employed as a printer on a local paper at different times in the past. The boys aged five and seven years respectively, were brought here from their home in Melrose by a commissioner from Saint Cloud. They are handsome boys, and that they have become state dependents is to be regretted. Their father is a habitual drinker, and the mother a woman of delicate health, so the boys are not well cared for. The Dodge County Republican wonders 'if some of Mr. Wilbur's Mantorville friends (?) won't feel a bit guilty when they read this item--those friends (?) who used to think it a joke on the Express editors to take Wilbur out on a Saturday night and fill him up with bad whiskey. Think of the disgrace and sorrow now being born by the family as a result of this early training of the head of the family, and his Mantorville friends (?) are more or less responsible for this condition.

April 29

Two deaths have occurred at the State school this week which have cast a deep gloom over the attendants of the baby cottage, and the attendants and children of the school. Master Addis Kemper, a baby of five months that was brought to the school from Ramsey County, died Wednesday afternoon and was buried in the cemetery of the school. On Friday Master Donald Phillips, a ten month old child from Rice County, succumbed to the disease of pneumonia.

May 8

Measles have taken hold of the children of the State school, and there are at the present time no less than twenty-five cases reported. The cases are of a very mild form however and there is little danger of the epidemic spreading any further than it has. The disease was brought to the school by five children from the northern part of the state who were suffering slightly from it, which fact was unknown to the attendants. After the children's arrival the disease soon spread, and child after child broke out with it. Everything is being done for the children that can be done and the hospital quarters are being used to their fullest capacity.

May 10

The remains of little Nina Wooge, a State school child, were shipped to Windom Wednesday morning. The little one has been sick but a short time with measles.

May 12

Two Enterprising Young Men Establish a New Industry in Owatonna--a Message Service. Messrs. DeShon and Fulley, two young men who were formerly wards at the state public school, have established the Independent Messenger Service in this city. They will, at all times, for a reasonable fee, deliver packages and parcels, also messages, invitations, etc. in the city.

May 18

BOYS WANT TO SEE THE WORLD-- Two boys who were recently taken to the State school from Winona took it into their heads to run away the first of the week. They took the Northwestern tracks for Waseca, in which city they arrived late in the day, tired and hungry. They walked the streets of that city for some time, and were about to make their way out

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when they were apprehended by Marshall Misgen, who brought them back to this city and turned them over to the school authorities.

May 20

There are about fifty cases of measles at the State school, an increase of twenty-five over two weeks.

May 23

Harold Shadbolt, a baby boy two years of age, an inmate of the States school died Monday morning of pneumonia. The child was taken ill some time ago with measles, which later developed into pneumonia from which he succumbed. The funeral was held Monday afternoon and the remains were buried in the State school cemetery.

May 23

Three of the members of the state board of control of Kansas, arrived in this city Tuesday and spent the day looking over and inspecting the State school. They were sent to look over and gain an insight into the manner in which the state school is managed.

May 26

TERRIBLE TIME WITH MEASLES. The state school authorities have been having a serious time with the outbreak of measles, reported in these columns a short time ago. Last week there were over fifty cases among children and employees, and the hospitals were taxed to the utmost. Many of the cases run into more serious ailments and there have been three deaths in consequence.

May 31

Two deaths occurred at the State school Tuesday morning and cast a shade of gloom over that institution for Decoration Day.

June 2

Measles Cause another Death when little Jessie Jackson succumbed to pneumonia. Remains were interred in the school cemetery.

June 15

Frank Lewis, one of the state agents for the State school, returned to his home in this city Wednesday evening from the western part of the state where he has spent several days looking after the state wards.

June 19

Two deaths occurred at the state school one on Saturday, Clarence Chapman a little boy died of measles and little Miss Lovie Jackson, Monday morning of a complication of measles. Remains were interred in the school cemetery.

June 22

TWO NEW BUILDINGS TO BE ERECTED THE COMING SEASON which will add greatly to the facilities of this big institution. One will be a \$5,200 laundry, the other a farm cottage costing \$1,500. The two buildings are badly needed at the institution.

June 23

The epidemic of measles at the State School which has resulted in several deaths has caused some alarm among West Side residents but it is not believed that the disease will spread to any extent outside the confines of the school.

July 15

Mrs. Stewart, daughter of the judge of probate of Chippewa County, arrived in this city Saturday morning accompanied by four boys, brothers, ranging in age from three months to thirteen years, that they had placed in the care of the State school.