

# The Radiator Brush



Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 Boys' Cottage  
- Fall 2014 Newsletter Edition -

## *Second Annual Lighting the Path Event*

Remembering the Past, Lighting a Path for the Future

**Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 6:00 PM**

**CORPORATE SPONSOR: FEDERATED INSURANCE  
MATCHING FUNDS BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

### 2014 LIGHTING THE PATH SCHEDULE:

- 6:00 PM: Register for event near West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center (luminaries and candles available for purchase), tour Cottage 11 and the Main Museum, enjoy treats
- 7:00 PM: Historic Luminary Walk begins  
*Special music at cemetery*
- 8:00 PM: Special presentation by local historian Barry Adams at the Children's Cemetery; closing memorial ceremony



You are invited to attend this year's "Lighting the Path" fundraiser for The Children Remembered – Orphanage Legacy Trust being held on the former State School Orphanage grounds on Saturday evening, September 20, 2014, at 6:00 PM. This special event will include special music, a Luminary Walk along "History Stops" including our recently restored Root Cellar, a presentation at the Children's Cemetery by Barry Adams, and a memorial lighting ceremony.

Our first Lighting the Path event was blessed with clear fall weather and attendees who respectfully remembered the children who had lived at the State School. Through this event, we were able to raise both awareness and money for our Legacy Trust Fund in the amount of nearly \$7,000. We hope the weather cooperates again this year and that even more people can participate in this special event.

For more than 20 years, Museum founders Harvey and Maxine Ronglien volunteered countless hours to not only start the museum, but to manage it on

a day-to-day basis. The Rongliens are transitioning down and we are finding we do not have the budget to sustain staff to continue their work. We rely heavily on donations and cannot responsibly operate on "hope" for donations throughout the year.

Once funded, the interest earned on the Trust will provide the money needed each year to make the Orphanage once again "self-sustaining." The Trust will also help preserve historic records and provide touring and educational opportunities for the community, for the thousands of visitors each year, and for the family members of those who are remembered at this facility.



### How to Purchase Luminaries

If you wish to participate by having a luminary (\$25 each) at this event in memory or honor of someone, you may purchase the following ways:

- By mail to the State School Orphanage Museum at 540 West Hills Circle Owatonna, MN
- Online at [www.orphanagemuseum.com](http://www.orphanagemuseum.com)
- At Cottage 11 between 1 - 3 PM Tuesday – Sunday
- On September 20, one hour prior to the event.

Checks can be made payable to The State School Orphanage Museum – Legacy Trust and the donations are tax-deductible.

**LIGHTING THE PATH SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- \$500 to \$4,999 History Stop Sponsorship: includes sign with your corporate logo and six (6) logo luminaries
- \$200 to \$499 Cemetery Sponsor: includes six (6) logo luminaries around the torch to be lit at the end of the candle walk to the cemetery
- \$25 each Company Logo/Personal Luminary placed along the path

I/We are interested in sponsoring the event!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. History Stop Sponsorship (\$500 - \$4,999 each)**

Name or business name to appear on luminary: \_\_\_\_\_

A logo will be provided    Yes    No    (circle one)

Please submit your .eps logo to: [museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us) by 9/12.

**2. Cemetery Sponsorship (\$200 - \$499 each)**

Name or business name to appear on luminary: \_\_\_\_\_

A logo will be provided    Yes    No    (circle one)

Please submit your .eps logo to: [museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us) by 9/12.

**3. Company Logo/Personal Luminaries (\$25 each)**

Name or business name to appear on luminary: \_\_\_\_\_

Name or business name to appear on luminary: \_\_\_\_\_

Name or business name to appear on luminary: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete form along with a check payable to "State School Orphanage Museum - Legacy Trust" and mail or return to 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna. All donations are tax deductible. Luminaries may also be purchased via our website at [www.orphanagemuseum.com](http://www.orphanagemuseum.com).



## *“We Were Called State Schoolers”*

The sounds of State School children’s voices again filled the former dining hall of the State Public School on Saturday, May 17, when the original play “We Were Called State Schoolers” was performed for the first time! However, this time the voices were loud and strong, as the “children” looked back as adults on their experiences.

The play, written by Cheryl Finnegan of Pine Island, Minnesota, and based on actual oral histories, opened to a full house. Several former State Schoolers, some who were portrayed in the play, were in attendance, and found the experience very moving, as did everyone in attendance.

Director Finnegan remarked, “Thank you to the Orphanage Museum for introducing me to the stories of these amazing people and supporting me in writing this

play. The stories of the children are both heartbreaking and inspiring and have influenced me profoundly.”

A special thanks to our cast members, who gave life to the children’s words, and to our Board Chair Shelby Zempel for creating a beautiful backdrop of images from the State School era.

Cheryl is currently working on creating two versions of the play, a student version for middle school students and one for other organizations, to offer another level of outreach and education, and also as a way to raise additional money for The Children Remembered - Orphanage Legacy Trust Fund. The May 17 event raised nearly \$1,300 dollars for the Legacy Fund.

The production is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage

## “We Were Called State Schoolers” Cast:



Bill & Bob .... Deb Brown



Dick ..... Matt Jessop



Eva ..... Sherry Kuns



Gene ..... Paul Krumrie



Harvey ..... Larry Pierce



Helen ..... Bev Cashman



Iris ..... Norraine Jensen



Jim ..... Dale Tracy



Lester ..... Kevin Ideker



Oscar ..... Jim Qualley



Ruth ..... Sarah Friesen



Vivian ..... Dianne Suarez

## Next Generation

During the May 17 event, Hannah Grawe of Northfield presented Harvey and Maxine Ronglien with a photo of her A+ school project on the State School. Hannah has a special connection with the Orphanage Museum because she is a great-great-granddaughter of Alvide Margaret Hansen Haberland Taylor, former State Schooler. Thank you for your interest in the Museum, Hannah. She'd like to have the middle school version of "We Were Called State Schoolers" performed at her school.



## We Have a Problem. Do You Have a Solution?

When the boardwalk marking the cinder path to the Children's Cemetery was first installed, we used the best wood product available at the time. However, the elements have taken a toll on the boards and more durable materials are now available.

The deterioration of the older wooden boardwalk is now bordering on jeopardizing the safety of this historic path site and is not representing the names listed as we intended. The Board submitted a grant request to replace the nearly 700 wooden boards with ones made of Trex® material with laser engraving. This would help ensure that the Orphanage Museum Boardwalk and the history recorded on the boards would be preserved for decades to come. However, after much negotiating our grant request was denied. The 2013 estimate for this project was \$20,850.

As a Board, we are looking for alternative solutions and grant opportunities...but we don't necessarily have all the answers! We thought we'd open the discussion up to our readers, many of whom have probably purchased a board in the past.

What are your thoughts? Do you have any ideas? Fundraising opportunities? Grant recommendations? Any ideas are welcome! You may send them to the Orphanage Museum at 540 West Hills, Owatonna, MN 55060 or by e-mail to [museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us).

The Boardwalk is located on the former cinder path. The cinder path was the primary path to the State School's Cemetery and was used in the funeral processions.



Boardwalk ground breaking



The Boardwalk lines the former cinder path



### *Harvey Ronglien – Steele County Male Senior Volunteer of the Year*

Congrats to our own Harvey Ronglien, who was selected to receive the male Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award at the Steele County Free Fair! He was honored on Thursday, August 14, on Senior Day for his efforts the past 20 years in restoring the history of the State School. Of course, Harvey says he felt Maxine was the one deserving the award!

Last year, Carol Raetz, Board Member and C-11 volunteer, received the female award.

### *“Orphan Train”*

Christina Baker Kline’s new novel, “Orphan Train,” has been making the book club circuit. And, as a result, we have heard several visitors say that the reason they came to the Orphanage Museum was because the book had sparked an interest in the orphanage system. However, we make sure they are aware that the children who came to Owatonna were placed here by their local county court system and were not part of the Orphan Train movement from the East Coast. The more you know....

### *Root Cellar Renovations!*

**Ever wonder what the Root Cellar looked like when vegetables were stored there? Well, you are going to have the opportunity the evening of September 20—it is one of our History Stops. There has been a renovation project underway to add bins, lighting and signage. The Root Cellar will also be an option for our group tour visitors.**

### *Spring Donations – Thank You!*

#### **General Donors**

DeLoyce Anderson  
Patricia Hill  
Hiram Drache  
William Poffenberg  
Harvey & Maxine Ronglien  
Irja Miles

#### **Memorials**

Greg & Darlene Thomas	In memory of Rosie Moe and Margaret C. Smith
Harvey & Maxine Ronglien	In memory of Reuben Kruckeberg
Family and Friends of Rosie Moe	
Lorraine Reiter	In memory of Vi Conlin
David Johnson	In memory of Rita Grismer Wolford, OSS School Principal 1965-1966
Chad & Karen Lange	Lorraine S. Grant

#### **Legacy Trust Donors**

Rev. Paul Duneman	In Memory of Phyllis J. Ahern
Rod & Suzanne Erickson	In Memory of Richard Erickson
Kathleen Tillotson	In Memory of All
Charles H. Danger	In Memory of Charlie Peterson
Claudia Beaty	In Memory of Arden Nelson
Al & Gloria Kolander	In Honor of Gloria Kolander’s Retirement
Margo Dinneen & Jon Zoller	In Memory of Alvilde Margaret Hansen Haberland Taylor
Castle Rockers Travel Club	In thanks to Harvey Ronglien for his dedication to maintaining history and story of the orphans
Margaret Ann Dickenson	In Memory of Bertha Maria Erickson



### Orphanage Legacy Trust *Update:*

Balance as of August 2014: **\$29,636.24**

2014 goal: **\$100,000** | goal by end of 2016: **\$300,000**

Edward A Peterson

In Memory of Arthur, Hjelmer, Ruth,  
Lillian & Roy Peterson

Rebecca Gross

In Memory of Alvie "Ike" Gross

Dennis & Kathy Stilb

In Memory of our departed family

Mary Virginia Betlach

Anonymous

Family & Friends of Ruth Wendlandt

Dr. John B. Winters

Wayne & Doris Klinkhammer

Joyce D. Frank

Kathleen Laughlin

Jane & Paul Krumrie

Shelby & Darren Zempel

### *Donation Challenge!!*

There are 971 subscribers to The Radiator Brush. If every subscriber could send \$10 to the Orphanage Museum, we would raise \$9,710 and push the trust balance up past \$39,300!

### *Orphanage Museum Board Sees Changes*

The past few months have seen some changes on the Orphanage Board of Directors. Tom Bonacci has joined the Board representing Cottage 11 and its volunteers; Suzy Meneguzzo, Owatonna Group Tour Coordinator, has taken a seat; and original Board member Corky Kolander has rejoined the Board. Welcome! We'd also like to thank Lisa Havelka for her time on the Orphanage Museum Board and as the Owatonna Tourism Director. Dale Tracy will assume the Chairman duties in January. Special thanks to Shelby Zempel who has held the Chairman's position since 2011. She will still retain a seat on the Board.

### **Thank You**

Leila Dahms Stenbakken - videotapes

Gail Zollner- coffee table from State School auction

### **Word of Deceased State Schoolers**

Violet (Grothe) Conlin

Frances (Sloter) Knudsen

Betty Lou (Young) Glock

K. Vernon Mattson

Richard Carpenter

Larry Weinkauff

Marlon Breitbarth

*Early Museum Board. Pictured:  
Front: Maxine Ronglien, Michael  
Maas, Sandy Dinse, Shelby  
Zempel; Back: Harvey Ronglien,  
Corky Kolander, Nancy Sletten.*



*Current Museum Board:  
Front: Lisa Havelka, Shelby  
Zempel, Maxine Ronglien,  
Harvey Ronglien; Back: Carol  
Raetz, Dale Tracy, Greg Thomas,  
Sandy Dinse, Anne Peterson  
(Museum Director). Missing:  
Nancy Sletten, Tom Bonacci,  
Corky Kolander, Suzy Meneguzzo*





# State School Orphanage Museum

540 West Hills Circle  
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060



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

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## Return Service Requested

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*If you plan to change your address please let us know as each returned newsletter costs the museum \$0.46 plus \$0.49 to re-send. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps us to save \$\$\$.*

Interested in purchasing "The Children Remember" or a board on the Memorial Boardwalk? How about purchasing an "apple" for the Apple Giving Tree displayed in C-11? Please fill in and mail to our address the form below. Your support is greatly appreciated! Checks should be written out to: MN State School Orphanage Museum. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to pledge an "apple." (  Red (\$1,000+),  Gold (\$500-\$999),  Green (\$250-\$499)  Silver (\$100-\$249)

Yes, I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\_\_. (  Donation for C-11  Legacy Trust  Non-specified)

Yes, I'd like to order a copy of The Children Remember documentary VHS at \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping/handling.

Yes, I'd like to order a copy of The Children Remember documentary DVD at \$25.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping/handling.

Yes, I'd like to order  plush State School afghans at \$40.00 each plus \$7.95 shipping/handling.

Yes, I'd like to purchase  board(s) at \$50.00 each. (\*We are now using new materials for extended life of the boardwalk.)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Like us on facebook! Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum

Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 | 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

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

*You may e-mail us at: [museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us) if you would rather receive our electronic newsletter.*