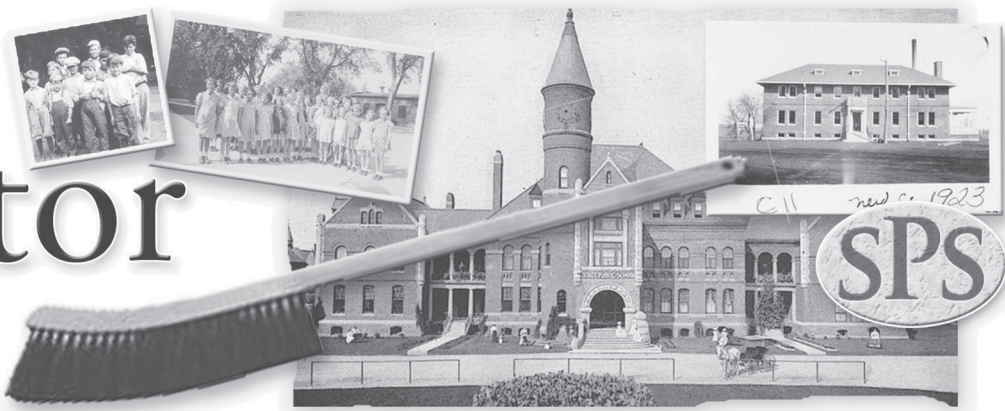


# The Radiator Brush



## *Orphanage Museum & SCHS Joined Forces for Successful Fall Celebration*

September 10, 2022, saw the return of the Orphanage Museum's Fall Celebration after a two-year break due to COVID. The rain stopped that morning and we enjoyed a glorious day, in so many ways.

The event began with a Memorial Service for 37 former State Schoolers who passed away during the past three years. Our emcee was Pete Connor, former mayor of Owatonna, and special music was provided by the folk song duo Curtis & Loretta.

A flower was brought forward as each State Schooler's name was read, creating a gorgeous floral centerpiece.

Actors on the grounds interacted with visitors while portraying State School employees Superintendent Galen Merrill, Nurse Dorothea Putter, Principal Dorothy Idem, Head Farmer Hans Halvorson, and Cottage 11 Matron Gertrude Morgan. Visitors strolled from one character to the next to hear about their roles at the school and other interesting facts. There was an outdoor scavenger hunt, children's games in C-11's basement, genealogy help provided by the SCHS Genealogy Club, and fresh apple crisp in honor of the apple orchard that used to be on the grounds. Visitors to Cottage 11 totaled nearly 200, the most at a Fall Celebration.

This year, only two State Schoolers were able to return, Myrtle Loch and Conrad Heusinkveld. But we also met children and grandchildren of former State Schoolers for the first time. Their response to the service and the event overall was truly heartwarming.

The support from the Steele County Historical Society board and staff helped make this an annual tradition that we hope grows more in the years to come.



Above: Curtis & Loretta performed two original songs written by Loretta. One was "Where the North Wind Blows" about Peter Razor's life and "Case 9164" about Harvey Ronglien. Attendees also sang along with "Sweet By and By."



Above: Superintendent Galen Merrill (Jerry Ganfield) and Nurse Dorothea Putter (Nancy Vaillancourt) were on hand to share State School stories. Left: Orphans Anna and Gabe handed out Memorial Service programs.



## Steam-Jacketed Tilting Kettle Used in State School Kitchen

This kettle used to sit in the museum basement. Now it's part of the exhibit space. Imagine how much it was used over the years.

A steam-jacketed kettle functions similarly to a double boiler. It cooks large quantities of food using steam heat. It is designed with both an inner and outer steel wall that cooks the contents inside by releasing steam into the space between the walls. This system provides even heat and speeds up cooking time. The food cooks on all sides, not just the bottom.



When it was used in the State School kitchen, a hose was connected to a direct steam line from the power plant.

The handle unlocks so contents can be poured into serving containers and delivered to the children in the Dining Hall. It could have been used to cook a variety of foods, such as sauces, puddings, stews, jams, jellies, soups, rice, and eggs.

Some chefs still use a modern version of the steam-jacketed kettle today for cooking large quantities of food.

### QR Code Technology Is Here

Even if you haven't used them, you've probably seen QR Codes popping up all over. Now each of the six audio stations on the museum grounds includes a QR (Quick Response) Code that allows visitors to listen to a recorded message from Harvey Ronglien on an electronic device. Watch for more of these coming to our campus in the future.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO FOR THIS STATION ON YOUR PHONE



THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN LOCAL HISTORY!

Intro

## The Tourists Are Back!

The 2022 tourist season has seen a real jump in activity! We're not at pre-COVID levels yet, but we're well on our way. People are again ready to get out and explore. Buses with 30 to 45 people are once more winding their way up to West Hills. Revenue from group tours is a major source of

income for the Orphanage Museum, so we hope the trend jumps even more in 2023. Leisure travelers—those who find their way to the museum through the internet, Owatonna Visitor Guide, and word of mouth—are back as well. Not only are we seeing people from the Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin area,

but from across the United States and abroad. The Orphanage Museum offers a one-of-a-kind piece of Minnesota history and we welcome all who want to come learn more about the institution and the Minnesota children who lived here.

## Donations and Memorials



### Legacy Fund

Vivian & Don Manthe

The Estate of Joyce Nelson

Mindy McFarren

*in memory of all the children*

Monica Luu

*in memory of John Anton Perhay*

Silvan Durben

*in memory of Peter Razor*

Margo Dinneen

*in loving memory of Margaret Alvilde Hansen, #3275*

Ray Otto

*In memory of Richard Carpenter*

Christine Johnson  
& Marion Dotson

*In memory of their father  
Marlon Breitbarth*

### General

Amy Rye

*in memory of Lloyd Reed*

Harvey Sellner

*in memory of Walter Sellner*

### Word of Deceased State Schoolers

We recently learned of the passing of the following State Schoolers.

*Russell Tenhoff, Sr.*

*Richard Lappin (Richard Frederick Van Horsen)*

*James Edwin Chauncey*

We appreciate getting these notifications, as we are saving as many obituaries as we can for our Obituary Book.