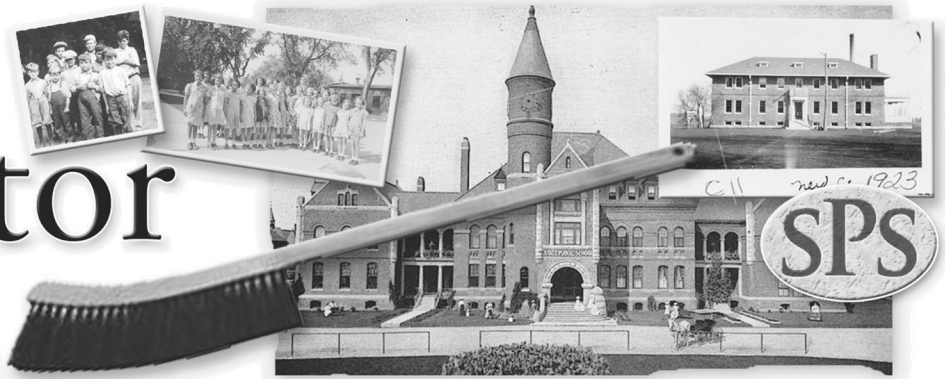


# The Radiator Brush



## Annual Fall Celebration Is September 16

Noon - 4 p.m.

West Hills Campus, Owatonna, Minnesota

Join us on Saturday, September 16, from noon till 4:00 p.m. as we come together to celebrate the children and history of the Minnesota State Public School.

This is a family-friendly event with activities for all ages. Plus, you'll learn what life was like at the State School between 1886 - 1946.

Returning after a year off are the popular horse-drawn wagon rides around the campus, with stops at various history stations, where a "real" State School character will share information and answer questions.

We will also celebrate C-11's 100th birthday! You can tour the cottage and there will be birthday cake! Since birthdays were not celebrated at the State

School, we are making an exception in this case.

Besides the wagon rides and State School characters, other activities include:

- An outdoor scavenger hunt
- Root cellar tour
- 1930 narrated film
- Games children played during the State School era
- Silent Auction and a Raffle

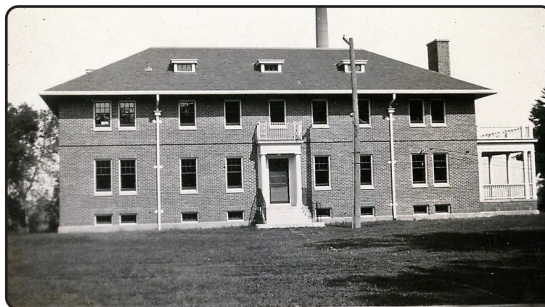
Put September 16 on your calendar! We look forward to seeing you then.



State School characters will be portrayed by re-enactors. Everyone from Nurse Dorothea Putter to Superintendent Galen Merrill, as well as State School kids will be on the grounds relaying stories from State School days.

## Cottage 11 Celebrates 100th Year

Constructed in 1923, Cottage 11 was designed by State Architect Clarence Johnston, who also designed Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, Minnesota. It housed 30-35 boys from ages 6-13. This photo was taken in 1923 when it was ready to open.



After an extensive restoration project, Cottage 11 opened to visitors in 2009. Come learn the stories of the boys who lived there from trained volunteers. Highlights also include the original terrazzo flooring, bathroom fixtures, and woodwork, and a Gift Shop. C-11 is now open Tuesdays thru Sundays, 1 - 4 p.m.



# THE CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Orphanage Legacy Trust

**Balance: \$100,525.23** (4/30/2023)

We're delighted to let you know that since the merger of the Orphanage Museum with the Steele County Historical Society, "The Children Remembered Legacy Fund" has grown from \$84,423.40 to more than \$100,000. This is in part thanks to two generous bequests and the new investment structure SCHS set up for our fund. More than ten years ago, the goal was to raise \$300,000 so we could start drawing money to help with annual expenses. Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the years. There's still a way to go to reach \$300,000, but with your support, it can be done! Please consider our Legacy Fund when planning your charitable giving.

## If Walls Could Talk - Former State School Chapel Yields Treasures

The Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on April 4, for the renovation of the Owatonna City Council Chambers, which was originally built as the "Amusement Hall and Chapel" at the State School. The *amusement* came in the form of plays and musical performances that were given by the State School children. Owatonna citizens were invited up to listen to these performances. Imagine the line up of horses and buggies outside the Administration in the early years.

The stage has been removed, but elements of its design are being incorporated into the new layout. There will also be a display telling the history of the room, from its State School origins to becoming an upgraded community space.

## Personalized Pavers Available



When the State School monument was erected to commemorate the site of the 1898 School/Cottage 16, a patio area made of pavers was included. You can purchase an engraved paver in honor or memory of someone special. The cost is \$100 each. If you'd like to buy a paver, send your order in the envelope included with this newsletter. Have the name clearly printed or typed out and include a check to the Steele County Historical Society for the total ordered. Each paver is limited to 20 characters. If you have questions, email [museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us](mailto:museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us).

Before the demolition crew moved in, City workers carefully removed artifacts that are being preserved or repurposed. Behind one wall they found three cards that had been tucked away long ago. The cards had copyright dates from 1920 and 1921 and told Bible lessons. Two cards were on the "Evils of Intemperance" and the other on chastity. Non-denomination religious services were held in the chapel on Sunday afternoons. One wonders who put them there and how long ago that was. Now that they've seen daylight again, they'll be included in the historic display.



Far left: One of the now-fragile lesson cards found and saved by City workers. Left: One of two stairways to the stage from below. Above: The stage on the west side of the former chapel. A wall and thick stage curtains used to block the light.