

The Radiator Brush



# ORPHANAGE MUSEUM

## Fall Celebration 2024 - A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

On September 21, we held our annual Fall Celebration. This is the eleventh year we have had an event in September. The first three years, we had a beautiful luminary walk down to the Children’s Cemetery. While it was very moving, the evenings got chilly, so we moved to an afternoon event that focused on children, and we’ve had a variation of that ever since. COVID-19 was the reason we missed one year. Each year we are

delighted to host State Schoolers and their families and to educate our guests about what life was like at the State Public School. Here are photos from the 2024 event that show the interest and enthusiasm the day brought. Even though the circumstances the State School children endured were often heart wrenching and tragic, Harvey Ronglien would say, “There were good times too.” Enjoy the pictures!



*Zeke & Gabe Guy, State Schoolers*



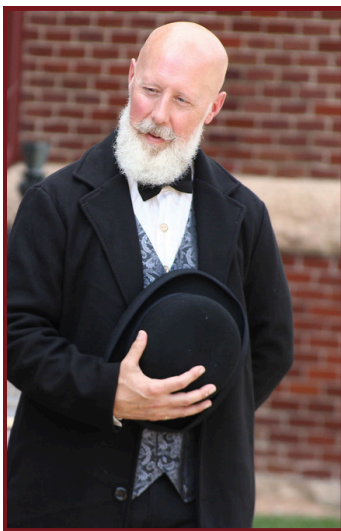
*Nancy Vaillancourt, Nurse Dorothea Putter*



*Tim Shea, Cemetery Historian*



*LaDonna Brossard, SPS Student*



*Matt Jessop, Senator Charles Crandall*



*Conrad Heusinkveld, SPS Student*



*Jerry Ganfield, Superintendent Merrill*



*Kathi Upham, Miss Morgan*

Thank you to our guests for coming and to our character actors who told the stories of the State Public School.



*Noah Moore*

### Word of Deceased State Schoolers

At the Fall Celebration we also remembered the lives of two former State Schoolers who passed away in 2024.



Merrilla Kahlstrom Socher, 92  
Richard “Dick” Webber, 93

# LEGACY FUNDS AND DONATIONS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cherilyn Deml  
 Mark Jarvis  
 Harold & Joyce King  
 Janet Nolan  
 Renee Wyatt

## LEGACY FUNDS

*Funds as of September 20, 2024*

### SCHS

\$1,357,496.56

### Children Remembered

\$171,073.06

## DONATIONS

### SCHS Legacy Fund

Werner & Jackie Knuth  
 Gary & Salie Schuweiler

### SCHS Operational Fund

Tom Bonacci  
 Gerald & Carol Deetz  
 Silvan Durben  
 Jerry Ganfield  
 Dale Hoppe  
 Paul & Debra Knutson  
 Karl Korbel  
 John & Mary McDermott  
 Owatonna Youth Hockey Association  
 Gary & Salie Schuweiler

### Village of Yesteryear

Sr. Edith Zamboni

### The Children Remembered Legacy Fund

Conrad Heusinkveld  
 Gary & Salie Schuweiler

### Orphanage Museum Donations

Peter Rice  
 Williams Family  
 Kyra Helmsley  
*In memory of all the State School children*  
 Keisha Mitchell  
*In memory of John H. Shaw, Jr.*  
 Mary & Len Powell  
 Gary & Salie Schuweiler

## Donation Opportunities

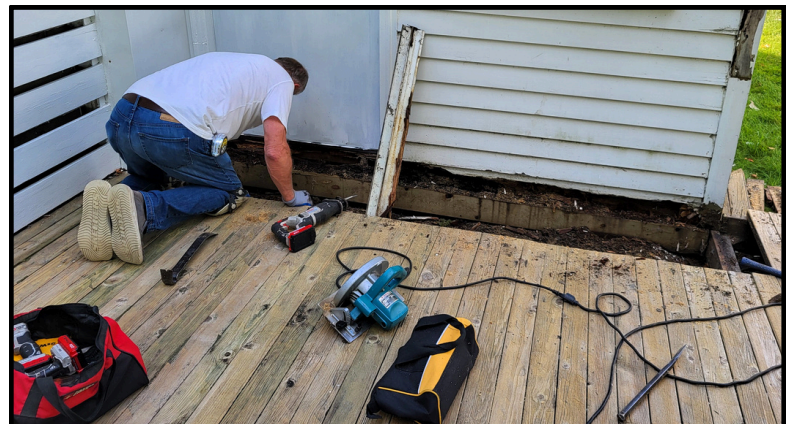
Each quarter, you have the opportunity to use the enclosed envelope to contribute to the SCHS Legacy Fund, Orphanage Museum Children Remembered Legacy Fund, and General Support. Each of these is equally important to the SCHS's current and future success. Legacy donations are invested for future financial sustainability. General Support helps the organization pay for current operational expenses. You also have an opportunity to help sponsor an event, program, or village building with the new \$500 Sponsorship level membership. To discuss options, contact Jennifer Thiele at 507-451-1420.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Steele County Historical Society. We appreciate all you do to help preserve and share the County's history.

## Restoring the Post Office

While planning to add more planks to the Village's boardwalk adjacent to the Meriden Post Office, maintenance volunteers discovered the Post Office's front was in need of reconstruction before any new boards could be added. Work is now complete thanks to Rocon Inc., and dedicated volunteers who have now placed new boardwalk planks leading to the handicapped-accessible Post Office and General Store.

If you're interested in purchasing a board, newly engraved boards will be available in this location. Each board costs \$100 for a family and \$150 for a business. Contact the SCHS office at 507-451-1420 to order your engraved board.



*Jim Soukup is removing a damaged section of the Post Office.*