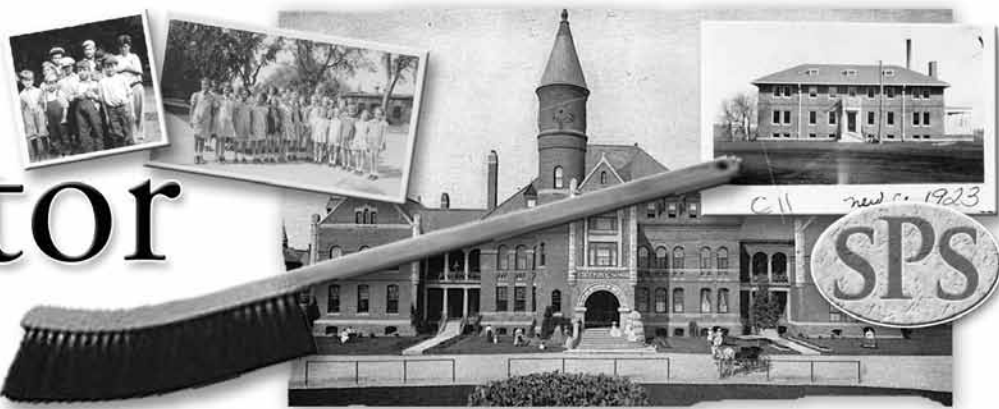


The Radiator Brush



Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 Boys' Dormitory
~ Winter 2011 Newsletter Edition ~

STATE SCHOOL REUNION HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

September 4th of this year marked the 35th Anniversary of the first State School Reunion held in Minneapolis, MN. We implored all State School children and their families to visit the grounds this fall for one last reunion. This one-day event was held on the morning and afternoon of Sunday, September 4 and we are pleased to

report that 30 State Schoolers along with many family members and friends attended.. The day was spent touring C11, enjoying a great lunch catered by HyVee, catching up with old friends, and hearing each State Schooler share a special memory or two from days gone by. Thank you for allowing us to share your story.

A special thank you to the State Schoolers who also invested a bit of time for us to record their memories for the museum.

First Reunion organized by Oscar Ronglien in 1976





Sally (Sherman) Nemitz;
They said I was unadoptable,
so my mother said I'll take
that one. It was a good home,
and I am still there.



Jerry Prondzinski;
I was a depression baby, born in
1934. I don't remember much
about the State School, maybe
that is good. I do remember this
room, coming here for breakfast,
lunch and dinner.



Kathleen Sherman;
I came running, the
length of the room and
grabbed him and said "Hi
Daddy."



Brent Kruger (Larry Koebke);
I was only here a short time. Later
I found my birth family, I had 8
sisters. Now I have a wife, two
daughters and 3 granddaughters,
the only other male in the family
was our cat—they had it fixed!



Iris (Segelstrom)
Wright;
I remember the meals,
it was hash, and
we sang "meat and
potatoes in the dining
hall, help yourself, but
do not eat it all."



Gilbert (Domarus) Graus;
I want to thank Harvey and Maxine
for the wonderful job they have done
making the State School history
known. We learned a good food,
clothing, education, work discipline,
but no love, they couldn't take the
time for each of us.



Vivian (Swan) Manthe;
Remember the little
bags we girls hung on
our chairs? That was our
personal property.



Myrtle (Clark) Loch;
When I got older we got to go
downtown to the Roxy Theater,
if you were good. I was one of
the last girls to leave in 1945.
Looking back it was not so bad,
but we had no love.



Elsie (Turnmire) Potter;
I remember the detention
cottage, they took care of you
real quick.



Deloris (Peterson) Rak;
When we came to the orphanage there
were five of us, after 3 months most
were adopted. My sister however was
here for 3 years.



David Conat;
David lived in five
different cottages. David
remembers a measles
outbreak and that his
cottage was quarantined.



Dianne (Anderson) Jensen;
When talking to Harvey I
mentioned that I was adopted from
here, he said you were one of the
lucky ones, only 4% were adopted.



**THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING!**



2011 REUNION: 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST REUNION





Al Sukau;
I don't have memories of the school, so I thank the Rongliens for giving me a way to learn about the school.



Lucille (Houim) Andrus;
I sure was glad to see some of my C4 friends here today. When I was 16 I was sent out to a home in the country with an elderly couple. I cried for 3 weeks, so they sent me back.



Alan Ziemann;
In 1957 I got sick, when I woke up I couldn't remember anything. The doctors said I would never learn again, so they sent me here. God and this school gave me a chance to learn. In 1963 I was tested again, and tested out of the school. This school was a big help to me, I thank God for it.



Marion (Hartman) Nielson;
I went to this school as a real little girl, from about 5 – 14. This place taught me a lot of lessons about how to live. I went on living the life I learned to live here, and it was wonderful. They really did help us, I want to honor them for that.



Jim Chauncy;
I came in 1940. After detention I went to the hospital. Later I remember a number of years in C2 scrubbing the floors. Later in C8, working in the barns. It wasn't that strange, the cows had numbers too, and they knew where to go.



Buzz Wilson;
My father lost his job, and my three sisters and I were sent to the orphanage. I remember, one of the times I ran away, I was riding the freight trains and a hobo said... "Life is too short to take yourself seriously, but too short to shirt the responsibility you assume as you go through it." I lived by those words.



Richard Brossard;
I was in Cottage 11. My Matron always said just wait until you get out into the real world. I was placed in 1945 and I was beat every day. My brother finally found out where I was at, he came to my school and asked, are you staying or coming with me. I jumped in the car with only the clothes on my back.



Daryl Lewis;
I am glad this school was here for us people. But, this school was supposed to teach us, to this day I can't read, write, or spell. They didn't pass us through grades for learning, they passed us for attending.



Richard Weber;
I want to thank you for the very good job you've done, and if I had a Matron like you I would have stayed.



(Please send us your name)

I was in a children's home in Duluth. I want to thank you all for helping all of us to better understand our lives.

Vivian (Swan) Manthe: I would like to close this meeting, because I want to make a tribute to Harvey and Maxine. Spending their lives taking the sting out of how we grew up, ashamed of our childhood and unable to talk about it. Orphanages, you know, you just don't talk about this. It is a part of life, it is our story, please stand up and give a tribute to Harvey and Maxine.

MAXINE RONGLIEN RECEIVES ADVOCACY AWARD

We are so pleased to announce that Maxine Ronglien was honored this fall by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. In a ceremony held at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Maxine received the Advocacy Award for the more than two decades she has dedicated to the preservation of State School History.



After retiring from Federated Insurance, Maxine Ronglien and her husband Harvey began the campaign to restore the history of West Hills in the early 1990s. Harvey was an orphan at the institution for 11 years. He not only offered a wealth of information, but was also truly passionate about restoring the State School. However, as Harvey states, he is half a pair of scissors without Maxine, the organizing force.

The initial efforts were headed by the reactivated West Hills Commission, a mayoral appointed body. Maxine served as Chairperson of the Commission for several years. In 1999 the Orphanage Museum officially



Maxine poses with fellow Board Members: (from left) Carol Raetz, Corky Kolander, Sandy Dinse, Dan Moeckly (museum staff), Shelby Zempel, Dale Tracy and Harvey Ronglien

incorporated and Maxine has served as Chairperson and Chief Operations Officer from that time until her recent retirement on June 14, 2011. Maxine continues to hold a position on the Board of Directors.

Maxine would be the first to tell you that she did not restore this history alone. The restoration would never have been possible without the wonderful support of so many of you who have donated dollars, artifacts, photos, and knowledge. But, it would be disingenuous to think that any of this history would be remembered without Maxine's volunteer efforts. As the primary organizer, she has always been here to pull the right people into action.



SHELBY ZEMPEL ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF ORPHANAGE MUSEUM BOARD

With Maxine retiring, the Orphanage Museum Board of Directors has elected Shelby Zempel as the new Chairperson of the Board.

Shelby is well qualified to step into the new roll. She has been a volunteer and Board Member for over 15 years, which has included several years serving as Vice Chairperson.

Beginning in the 1990s, Shelby brought her considerable computer and graphic design skills to the restoration effort. This greatly contributed to the impressive museum we have today, and our always attractive and easy to read newsletter, "The Radiator Brush." Shelby has provided strong leadership in the continued expansion and transition, particularly over the last decade.

Rest assured that the Orphanage Museum Board of Directors will be in very capable hands with Shelby at the helm.



Tour group of Mankato, MN Seniors with Harvey and Maxine in front of the State School, October 2011.



2011 TOURISM STATISTICS:

In 2011 alone, the Rongliens have hosted close to 2,000 people from about 70 different groups—adult, student and from out-of-town. Our estimate for Museum and C-11 visitors this year is 7,000 people.

THANK YOU to both Harvey and Maxine for their continued dedication and time spent sharing the story of the Orphanage.

DID YOU KNOW...

Approximately 95% of your donations to the Orphanage Museum go directly to preserving the history of the grounds. We have very minimal administrative expenses and actively seek grants when working on larger project. In order to help ensure the Museum and tours can continue in the future, we have started our Legacy Trust drive. Please watch your mail for more information. THANK YOU for your continued and generous support!

WORD OF DECEASED

Roy Olson
Milton Keith
Ellouise Parrish
Lou Johnson
Warren Hemsted
Theodore Stockey
JoAnne Peterson

DONATIONS

DeLoyce Anderson
Elizabeth Witt
Shirley Fulmer
Fred Herr
Judd & Bonnie Hollister
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Pam Dreesson
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Ray & Barbara Walsh
Federated Insurance
Gaylerd Brown
Jerry Prondzinski

MEMORIALS

Ellouise Parrish
Bunnie Haberman



State School Orphanage Museum

540 West Hills Circle
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060



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

Return Service Requested

Interested in purchasing "The Children Remember" or a board on the Memorial Boardwalk? How about purchasing an "apple" for the Apple Giving Tree for C-11? 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 \$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 lush State School afghans at \$49.95 each plus \$7.95 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 _____. (Please check one: Donation for C-11 Non-specified)

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.

Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 Boy's Dormitory

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, MN 55060 | phone: 507-774-7369 | e-mail: museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us | www.orphanagemuseum.com

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