

OBS News

Volume VI, Issue 6

December 1, 2004

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2004
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM

**WED., DECEMBER 8, 2004, 6 P. M., AT THE MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER
CHRISTMAS MEETING, BEGINNING WITH A POT LUCK SUPPER**

**PROGRAM: Audrey Hakkila will present the second half of a VCR tape of the
CLIFFORD PETERSON FAMILY HOME MOVIES from the 1930s and 40s. LaVerne LaPole will return
with photos of her recent trip to Finland. A BUSINESS MEETING WILL FOLLOW.**

**GIFT EXCHANGE: Those interested in participating in the Christmas gift exchange
are asked to bring a wrapped gift marked "man" or "woman"
ranging in price from \$5.00 to \$10.00.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND.

Thanks to Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Janine Seis and Alice Christensen who will decorate.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone,

First, I'm proud to congratulate our group on a successful year, for completing and exceeding our goals in many tasks. Of course much recognition should go to Jim Pellman, who will be modest as he reads this, for all the time he donates as he navigates our organization. Others who deserve recognition are Audrey Hakkila and Harry Wester for all their contributions, plus our Board of Directors and its members for their support.

We are still waiting to receive our quitclaim deed from the WIS DOT for the old abandoned right-of-way. We are thankful for the cooperation of Kenneth Thimm, right-of-way agent, and Bill Anderson, of Corner Stone Surveying and Mapping, for helping with our vision. Because the property is not in O-BHS' name yet and a buried fiber optics line is in the path of our scraping, we were unable to complete the lowering of the old road bed. We had planned to fill in low spots with the fill where we will place the foundation of the much appreciated donated Anderson (Eskolin-Hendrickson) log house. Hopefully we can complete this portion of the project by our midsummer (*Juhannus Päivää*) tour in June next year. I believe this is attainable; however, much depends on our volunteers' schedules.

Paul Williams, Eddie Walman, Harry Wester and I planted twenty-two white cedar and six apple trees east of the windmill, which were purchased from the friendly owners of Wentworth Gardens. We also placed fencing around the tree to protect them from the deer. Greg Ukkola, from Ukkola Tree Service, donated and delivered five yards of wood chips to place around the trees to help promote their survival.

Shirley Kankas-Rouleau and Irene Parenteau represented our group in front of Younkens, November 17th, where they sold additional five dollar vouchers for merchandise. Younkens in return, donated five dollars to our group for each voucher used on a special shopping day, November 20th. The ladies then also volunteered to help in the store on the 20th. They felt this was a great fundraiser, a win-win event, and we thank them and Younkens.

My hunting season was successful; I did bag a nice buck north of my place on Tuesday evening. I meandered farther north when I noticed the guys from Eau Claire weren't hunting and driving their three and four

wheelers back and forth along our land, and the guys from Minneapolis west of me were silent. I was sitting over thirty feet up on the limbs of a very large spruce, just north of their property when he made his appearance to the west, across the creek cautiously moving down the hill towards me. He then vanished in the dark alders and I was stunned. I hadn't shot because I was waiting for an opening, and it was difficult to deliver a shot with the glare of the sun and no snow. I did say a prayer, and amazingly about twenty minutes later the magnificent creature reappeared and stood until I pulled the trigger. Was this luck, skill or faith? My daughter and her friend, Alex Heart, assisted me during the dressing and dragging of the deer, one of many over the years behind my 1983 Suzuki LT-125 four wheeler.

Also, I roamed familiar hunting grounds, noticing trees for future deer stands. I would stop and reminisce about the old days when we made great drives. I sat in the same chair that my grandfather sat in near the Middle River hillside where he could see the ash and bombagillion (balm of Gilead) flats, while my dad and I would do pushes to him. He would often miss and when the hunt was over he would slowly walk up the gradually sloping logging road grabbing onto trees at the edge of the trail to rest. I knew his hunting days were numbered, and later I would fill his tag, and with my announcement (he was hard of hearing) to him, "I got one" he would smile and his eyes would glisten. I miss him dearly and wish I had asked him more about the old days.

When you drive by the Lakeside Town Hall you will notice a new flag pole and flag. This was donated by Karen (Olson) and Wesley Johnson and Al Olson, in memory of Jarl and Sadie (Saalasti) Olson. Sadie always thought there should be a flag pole at the town hall. This was a great contribution to our town's appearance.

I drove down Engdahl and Amnicon Roads a couple weeks ago while bird hunting. I was amazed at the all the building progress. Even driving past R-Place on Highway 13, I noticed another parcel chopped up into future building opportunities. Is this the beginning of urban sprawl or is it just a cycle? I even heard that locals are advertising lands in Chicago, Minneapolis and Milwaukee. Will future local families be able to afford these prices? Are they hoping a developer buys? I wonder what their ancestors would say or what their wishes would have been?

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Cherish your families and loved ones while together during these special times.

Very respectfully,
Paul Colby

FROM THE EDITOR:

This year's deer hunt was personally safe and successful, but news of a dispute over a tree stand in the nearby Rice Lake area that left six hunters in one deer camp murdered, at a minimum, shadowed the hunting experience of everyone afterward. There were plenty of moments to reflect on the shootings over the last days of the season. It wasn't as if a gun accident had taken a life, or that someone had fatally fallen from a tree stand. It was not like the horrifying ten highway deaths over Thanksgiving weekend. These tragedies we've been hardened to. But this event was so disturbing because the shootings were deliberate. Something terrible had spilled over into these cherished outings, these renewals of friendship and re-connection with the natural world. Violence, human madness, had combined with the lethal force of a hunting weapon.

The seeds of this violence and madness had been planted at least half a world away and two generations ago, perhaps another sad legacy of Viet Nam. One man apparently had pulled the trigger of the murder weapon, a cheap Chinese made semi-automatic hunting rifle, but this man's outburst, as inexcusable as it was, carried the full weight of our war torn age. For this season at least, irrational human outrage had consumed the pleasure of the traditional hunt, and six...no, seven...individual lives, and affected the well-being of hundreds of others.

Where does the healing begin? How do we retreat from this world of violence? The people in this small hunting camp were so much like those I enjoyed my time with. The victims' connection with the shooter was completely random. It could have been my friends and my camp. In fact one man in our extended party had bought a pickup from one of the victims. We pray for healing, and hope that we might better come to understand what led up to this event. To call it a "clash of cultures" is not enough. And finally, we share the unsatisfying thought, that in so many ways, "There but by the grace of God go I."

- Jim Pellman

2005 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, has produced its eighth calendar with more pictures of Brule's past. Proceeds of their annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, will be used for the publication of the history of Brule.

To order a calendar by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715) 372-4948 (\$7.50)

postpaid), or pick them up locally for \$6 from a BHRG member or at Twin Gables, Lori's Store, River House and Round Up North. An e-mail address: knmo@baysat.net.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE O-BHS NEWS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS ALONE AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF THE O-BHS ORGANIZATION.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The group would welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Our current project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos, storing records and creating data bases. Our thanks to our loyal committee members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space. If you enjoy exacting work please join us at 1 p.m. at the Pellmans some Monday afternoon. Next meeting: December 13, 2004. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

(UNAPPROVED) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OLD BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
OCTOBER 13, 2004, AMNICON TOWN HALL

Attendance: 26

Time: 6:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Paul Colby. Paul Williams introduced Alex O'Kash who was instrumental in getting the Meteor brought to Superior. He gave a short talk on that subject and answered questions from the audience. Following his talk, Audrey Hakkila showed the first half of a video made from movies taken by Clifford Peterson. The second half of the video will be seen at a later time. A break was taken for lunch.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the August 11 Regular and September Board meetings as printed in our newsletter was made by Janine Seis, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Checking Account Balance \$1,458.92

Mill Fund Balance \$7,116.08

Treasurer Shirley Kankas Rouleau reported the following for the Windmill open house weekend:

Bake Sale \$ 128.50

Donations \$ 103.00

Book Sales \$ 347.00

Merchandise \$ 900.00

Younkers Coupons \$ 110.00

Sub-total \$1,588.50

Expenses -\$ 121.11

{toilet rental & pizza}

Grand Total \$1,467.39

Shirley asked for volunteers to sell Younkers booklets on Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4.p.m. A motion was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Janine Seis to approve the financial reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

WINDMILL COMMITTEE: Paul Colby reported on progress in acquiring the right of way land at the mill. The Town of Lakeside will remove the mound of gravel and stockpile it. We will split the gravel with the Town. Paul also reported on signs which will be ordered. A sample of the sign was passed around. The Town has approved the signs. The Amnicon Park will allow a sign to be placed under their sign in Hy UU. A motion to purchase two signs at \$175.00 each was made by Alice Christensen, seconded by Irene Parenteau. Motion carried. Paul also reported on the trees that were planted. He has taken pictures of improvements at the Mill to be submitted to Conoco-Phillips in hopes of getting additional grant monies. We discussed re-roofing the Mill, possibly with grant money.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE. The committee meets weekly at the Pellman home on Mondays. Additional volunteers are welcome. A donation of mining tools was received from Lois Johnson.

BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Laila Magnuson reported that 2005 calendars

are available, and that Nan Wisherd will publish the first book on the Town of Brule, with a deadline of Dec. 1 and a release date of Feb. 1. An second book will be published at a later date. Some Coolidge postcards have been received by BHRG and will eventually come to OBHS.

WEBSITE: Jim Pellman met with Jon Winter and gave him materials to use on the website. Website address is www.oldbrule.org.

PUBLICITY: Audrey Hakkila contacted Barb Gardner of THE CONNECTION and asked her if she would do a review of our book. A discussion was held on a wholesale price for the book if it is to be sold at various locations. A motion was made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Audrey Hakkila to establish a wholesale price of \$15 with a recommended sale price of \$20. Motion carried. Poplar Hardware will accept the book on consignment, and Fairlawn was suggested as another place to sell them. The second printing is done, and corrections of typos were done for that printing. Harry Wester has completed maps of Poplar and Lake Nebagamon. The cost to print the additional maps will be \$115 for 250 maps. A motion was made by Jackie Plunkett, seconded by Karin Colby, to allow this expenditure.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET ADOPTION: Jim Pellman reported on the proposed budget with the dates running from Oct. 1, 2204 to Sept. 30, 2005. A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Laila Magnuson. Motion carried. The money from the open house weekend goes into the Mill fund.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be our Christmas potluck at the Maple Community Center on Dec. 8 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a gift exchange with a \$5 to \$10 limit for those who wish to participate. Next Board meeting will be on Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Alice and Cassius Christensen's.

OTHER: Laila Magnuson asked about having our brochures available at Younkers when we are selling the coupon booklets. She also complimented Paul Colby and Jim Pellman on the newsletter. Jim mentioned that the time cards should correspond with the budget dates, Sept. 1st. through August 3rd. Audrey Hakkila was recognized for the publicity she does for us. We discussed giving a discount to members for sweatshirts and merchandise. The matter was tabled.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Barbara Granroth, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist

(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES BOARD MEETING OLD BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC., NOV. 17, 2004, CHRISTENSEN HOME

Present: Paul Colby, Karin Colby, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Eddie Walman, Harry Wester, Irene Parenteau, Marion Christensen, Jim Pellman, Paul Williams, Earl Granroth, Janine Seis, Alice and Cassius Christensen.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: New members were introduced.

BUSINESS MEETING:

A. MINUTES. A motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 11 Board minutes was made by Alice Christensen, seconded by Harry Wester. Motion carried. Earl Granroth's status on the Board was changed to active, with Irene Parenteau as alternate member.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT (Oct. 14 to Nov. 17).

Income:	\$ 642.74
Expenses:	\$ 460.66
Checking	\$ 994.66
Mill Fund	\$7237.62
Book Sales	\$2351.36 (profit to date)
Younkers Bks.	\$ 320.00

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Paul Williams. Motion carried.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: The excavation and moving of the log building had to be put on hold due to a fiber optic line running through the property given to us by the State. Need to determine who will be responsible for lowering the line. The Town of Lakeside is happy with the material they have removed from the mound. Harry was going to mount some signs but signs cannot be put up unless the property is zoned commercial. Jim suggested pursuing having the site rezoned as commercial. Jim is in favor of a formal scale drawing of the property before the

building is moved with provisions for electricity at a future date included. The Town of Lakeside has sent us their annual donation \$250. donation and Gene Davidson has sent \$100 towards a roofing fund. Harry Wester has put wires on the blades to support them when sails are put on. Gene Davidson is concerned about a wooden bearing that may give out if not repaired.

2. FUND RAISING: Jim has made some magnets of the Taylor's Bridge, use of the picture donated by Roy Martin. Photo cards done by Bob Jauch have been received. Our cost will be \$2.75 or \$2.50. \$137.50 is owed to Bob Jauch. A motion to pay Jauch this amount was made by Alice Christensen, seconded by Karin Colby. Motion carried. A motion to set a price of \$4.50 for the cards was made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Eddie Walman. Motion carried. Younkers will have another fundraising sale in February if we want to participate. There was a discussion about two cars that Elmer Hermanson has offered to OBHS. Marian Christensen offered to contact the Studebaker Club to see if there is any interest. Paul will not ask Conoco Philips for another grant until the money from the last one is used up.

3. ARCHIVES: They are working on the Winkka/Eric Johnson papers. There are farm records, milk sales, bylaws of the Wentworth Co-op, tax statements, news clippings, etc. The family wants the papers returned. They are also working on the Follis papers. Volunteers are needed to transcribe video tapes. Janine volunteered to do some of the typing. Next meeting Nov. 29th at 1:00 p.m. Earl Granroth is new on the Archives committee.

4. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Their first volume of the book will be out in February. The first volume will cover the time period before 1887 when the Town was formed. The second volume will cover 1887 to the present. BHRG will donate all of their materials to OBHS when they are through.

5. Lois Pollari Gift. A \$1000 gift from Lois Pollari has been given in memory of Esther Pollari. The intent was to have competition in the schools on collecting family histories. Alice will contact Minerva Johnson and Hope Swenson to see if they would again handle the project with the schools.

6. COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE/WEB SITE: No progress.

7. PUBLICITY: Jim has updated the brochures and will get the information to Bob Aho. 2000 will be printed.

8. NEWSLETTER: Articles due now.

9. PUBLICATIONS: Second printing of our book is done. Beecroft Bookstore bought six books outright for \$15. each. Discussion was held on whether to go with a second edition of the book or have a third printing of this one done when needed. The second edition would contain more pictures and maps. It was decided to wait until the inventory is down to about 25 and if there isn't time to get the second edition done, go with a third printing.

10. MEMBERSHIPS: Jim will check with Shirley as to who is paid up for newsletter purposes. A certification of recognition is ready to be presented to Norman LaPole for his service to OBHS. This will be presented at the next meeting if he is there. Time cards should be turned in before the next annual meeting. They go from Sept. 1 through Aug. 30.

11. FOREST HISTORY CONFERENCE EXHIBIT: Jim got no response on this.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. COMING MEETING: The next meeting will be on Dec. 8 at Maple Community Center at 6:00 p.m. This is the Christmas potluck. There will be a gift exchange of \$5 to \$10 value. Audrey Hakkila will show the second half of Cliff Peterson's movies. LaVerne LaPole will talk on her recent trip Finland. Discussion on future programs. Alice and Shirley will decorate for the Christmas party.

2. DAVID MAKI RESEARCH: David Maki is doing research on Finnish homesteads, etc. He scanned the soil at the Windmill with his equipment and a homestead near Paul Colby's. Jim toured historic sites in the area with him.

3. OTHER: Eddie Walman talked about a windmill available from the Mattson family. Earl Granroth has a bobsled he will donate to OBHS. Harry Wester offered his barn to store it temporarily.

E. COMMUNICATIONS: Paul submitted an article to the *Daily Telegram* about our organization and our book. The Duluth News Tribune did a brief review of our book earlier. A thank you has been received from Lois Pollari for her Certificate of Appreciation

F. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Paul Williams to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Ann Gronquist

FUND RAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and tee shirts and sweat shirts for sale. Magnets are going for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$8.00, caps, \$9.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, taxes included.

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill for sale. This image comes in three sizes: 4 by 5 inches, 5 by 7 inches, and 8 1/2 by 11 inches. The smaller reproductions can also be used as post cards as each has a brief historical description on half of its reverse side. Prices are \$1.00, \$2.00 and the largest one which has no printing on it \$3.00. All are laser reproductions on card stock suitable for framing. This same image is available in our magnet series.

Our new book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, is available for \$20.00 a copy. \$3.00 shipping. A great Christmas gift.

Wisconsin tax is included in all our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items will also be available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an OBHS member.

Area History: No. 41

Another excerpt from our new book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, "the Towns of Amnicon," Part 2:

Figure 9. *The Chippewa Mine, 1900. Located on the Middle River near the end of Twenty-Two Road, this was one of the most developed of the Douglas County mining properties. The site was discovered by Joseph Huck in 1891 when a logging dam was released. Photo from "The Superior Annual 1900" by John McCabe, a regional promotional booklet.*



In the earliest days, logging and almost forgotten exploratory copper mining were sources of income. The copper mines were among many found on the Douglas Range. The mines in Amnicon were worked in the 1890s into the early Twentieth Century. The Chippewa mine, financed by Boston interests, located near the south end of Twenty-Two Road on the Middle River, had over 1,500 feet of underground work done at the site before it was abandoned. There was extensive development at the site: two boilers with 135-horse power capacity, a blacksmith shop, well equipped laboratory equipped for all mineral tests, shaft house, engine and boiler house, office, boarding house, dormitory, ice house, powder house, and dwelling for engineer, and barn (Thomas 1993). Work ended early in the century, but the site was investigated by the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines in 1953. The main shaft was capped after this investigation. Similar investigations had taken place earlier at the abandoned Weyerhaeuser Mine in southern Douglas County during World War II, but mining did not return to the region.

One of Amnicon's early residents, Joseph Huck, had made the discovery that led to these extensive excavations. After spring runoff waters behind a logging dam near the mine site were released in 1891, Huck noticed native copper that had been exposed on the eroded Middle River bank. By the 1930s the old shafts were being used by locals for dumping garbage. The main shaft, which went under the Middle River at an angle to the south, was on land owned by John L. Wold.

Some people worked in town, especially as roads were paved and travel became easier. Olaf Staurseth was a tailor at Siegel Brothers in Superior, and Dick Tenhunen and Gust Schultz worked on the railroad. During World War II, many men and women from the area worked at the Superior shipyards, building ocean going tugs, frigates and freight carrying vessels.

But in the early days, most residents of Amnicon were dairy farmers. The average farmer milked 10 to 20 cows, and most shipped milk, although a few had separators and shipped cream. These products were shipped to Twin Ports Creamery in South Superior which building still stands. At first the farmers took the milk to the train depot at Wentworth, but later milk trucks did a good business. The Wentworth Co-op had two routes, and was in competition with a private operation run by Buzzy Jones and his half brother, Merle Seiler. In the winter only Highway 2 was plowed regularly, so after a snowstorm the farmers would take turns picking up the milk cans with a horse and sleigh to meet the milk truck at Jones' Corner. (T. B. Jones farm on Highway 2 and Twenty-two Road). Milk cans were marked with names and numbers for identification, and would

be wrapped in blankets to insulate the contents from the cold. The cans were washed and scalded at the creamery before being returned. A Farmers' Union, formed around 1930 to represent the farmers and serve their interests, was organized by Wesley Thompson. A. N. Young, an Amnicon resident, was the first state president. This organization is still in existence today on a national level.

Life was not easy for the pioneers in Amnicon. They scoured the woods for wild berries, hunted deer and partridge, and raised large gardens. Everything had to be canned, using wood stoves, since there was no refrigeration. Children learned to work at an early age, and helped milk the cows, make hay, carry water from hand-dug wells, and gather food. They also helped the men clear the land. The area was all woods except for the sections cut over by large scale loggers like Weyerhaeuser and Hines. Settlers had to cut down the trees and initially planted amidst the stumps. Later they would pull or blast them with dynamite as they expanded their fields.

Sometimes amusing incidents occurred, like the time Ray Sundet's family dog was caught in an explosion. Thinking the dog was dead, the boys went in to eat dinner, but when they went back out, there he sat on the porch, wagging his tail! The clearing and blasting went on for years as more land was needed. In the late 1930s, Ray Sundet, Harold and Thurie Mattson, and Orville Petterson, who were 12 or 13 years old, went into the business in the summer, blasting stumps for busy farmers.

Although there was a tremendous amount of work, people in those days enjoyed life. Neighbors were interested in each other's welfare, and would trade work and help each other. No one, not even poor families, went hungry. When good hunters shot more game than they could use, they would often leave a half or a quarter of venison on a neighbor's doorstep.

The people of Amnicon got electricity in July of 1938. One of the first things many people wanted was a radio so they could keep up with events in the outside world. Refrigeration was also needed. Before electricity, food was kept cool in cellars or dry wells, and cold well water cooled the cans of milk.

Keeping things clean also became easier with the arrival of electricity. In the past, women hand pumped water from wells (the O'Dells on Twenty-Two Road had a windmill), carried it in buckets, and heated it on wood burning stoves in copper boilers. They washed clothes on scrub boards or in hand powered washing machines (working a lever back and forth turned a flywheel). A few, like Mrs. Christensen and Mrs. Staurseth, had gasoline powered washing machines, but these were the exception rather than the rule. When electricity came, so did electric washers, and electric motor driven jack pumps (made by Duplex in South Superior) replaced the hand pumps of former days.

Sometimes phone wires were run along with the electric lines, and sometimes they ran on fence posts. Most Amnicon residents got phone service in the 1940s. Unlike many areas, phone service was not provided through a co-op. Instead, Eric LeMone and Gene Nevin ran a privately owned phone company from Poplar.

The residents of Amnicon were mostly Finnish (both Finnish and Swedish speaking), Norwegian, and Polish. Social life for many Finns centered around the Finn Hall, at the intersection of Wentworth Road and Moonshine Road. This building was commonly known as the "Finn Hop" because it was used for dances, as well as other entertainment and gatherings. Built around 1920, it became the site of an intense ideological battle during the Depression: the regional Communist efforts to take over the non-political Rochdale cooperative movement.

One of the leading regional Communist leaders was Matti Tenhunen who lived near the Chippewa Mine site at the end of Twenty-Two Road. His neighbor was V. Severi Alanne, an intellectual leader in the movement and a widely respected English to Finnish dictionary compiler. Oscar Corgan, father of Maymie Sevander, and George Halonen from Brule, and Eskel Ronn were also associated with the movement. The spirit of the group was a quasi-religious materialist-economic understanding of social reality which identified with the laboring groups in what they felt was a class struggle, phrased in terms of labor versus an exploiting capitalist class. There were glowing praises of the workers' dictatorship and paradise in Soviet Karelia and Russia. This struggle had all the classic features of the East-West clash that unfolded over the next 75 years. Mixed in was a sense of the imminent apocalyptic collapse of capitalism as evident in the 1929 Stock Market collapse.

The Moscow based leadership sought to impose itself on those anti-capitalistic forces in America which were allied with them in beliefs, among these forces those which were promoting co-operative economic principles through the *Työmies* newspaper in nearby Superior. Superior had become the heart of a flourishing co-operative wholesaling enterprise. Based upon Rochdale principles it was non-political in outlook, but already in 1925 Alanne discerned the dangers of becoming politically aligned with the centralizing Moscow party line. Local believers in the democratic and local self determining co-operative outlook were finally forced to choose between Moscow or non-political co-operation, which they did in choosing to oust the Moscow faction. Alanne, Halonen, and Ronn came down against the Moscow line; Corgan and Matti Tenhunen were persuaded otherwise, and both eventually ended up in Soviet Karelia where they were eventually killed by Stalin, but not before persuading many others to join them in their pilgrimage to a false Karelian Finnish workers' paradise. The former group began a new newspaper, the Finnish version of the *Cooperative Builder*, published also in Superior.

The Communist movement divided the community and many families including the Tenhunen family. Victor stayed on the farm in Amnicon and brothers Roy Tenhoe and Matti went. The Tenhunen neighbors remember being made to feel like poor peons, but in reality they would be far better off. The Amnicon Finn Hall was eventually abandoned and the structure was moved in about 1945 to Highway 13 in Lakeside near Hanson Road where it was used again for social purposes but finally burned.

(To be continued.)

Notices:

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS:

To **All of You** who have renewed your memberships or who have joined OBHS throughout 2004. (Some will receive their membership cards with this newsletter.) Most recently we were happy to hear again from **Mike & Sue Doherty** of Portland OR

To **Lorraine Tykkila** of Arlington, VA, for her kind note with her renewal.

To **Lois Pollari** for her email thanking us for her Certificate of Recognition, and for her encouragement.

To **Mr. Gregg Lundberg of the School District of Maple and staff** for several purchases of our new book.

To **J. W. Beecroft Books & Coffee in Superior** for picking up our book for sale.

To **Mgr. John Kittelson and Poplar Hardware** for carrying our new book on consignment.

WE CANNOT THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR YOUR INTEREST AND MEASURES OF CONFIDENCE & SUPPORT.

CONDOLENCES:

To **Mr. Gregg Lundberg** on the loss of his father **Rodney** of Hayward.

ENCOURAGEMENTS:

To **Laverne LaPole** as she continues to mend.

To **Doris and Arnold Perala** as she they continue to support each other with health issues.

BEST WISHES:

To **Jackie and Keith Plunkett** as Keith's work forces them to move to the Twin Cities.

To **Hilda and LeRoy Falk** as they resettle near daughter Shirley

-and who have we missed or forgotten?

Calendar:

December 8, 6 pm., Wednesday, O-BHS Christmas Regular Meeting, Maple Community Center. Pot Luck Supper, Gift Exchange, Clifford Peterson movies on video presented by Audrey Hakkila. LaVerne LaPole display of Finland Trip.

December 13, 1 p.m., Next Archive Meeting, Pellman's in Maple.

December 24, Friday, Christmas Eve.

December 31, Friday, New Year's Eve.

January 12, 6 p.m., O-BHS Board Meeting.

January 15, Saturday, Deadline for next edition of *O-BHS News*.

February 9, 6 p.m. Regular Meeting.

WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been working with member **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems in Superior** on our own independent site (www.oldbrule.org). Thank you for your patience as we work to build up the site. Thanks to **Audrey Hakkila, Jackie Plunkett, Donna Bergsten, Jamie Erickson and Jon Winter**.

Anyone interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society is encouraged to attend any of our meetings and programs. To join they may contact any member or the President at the return address below, or call him at (715) 364-2500, or our Treasurer, Shirley Kankas Rouleau, at 374-2413. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in September. Higher levels of support are always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 24

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