

Shirley's Column

By Shirley Farrell
Spring is Coming

I want to wish everyone a nice spring and a very happy Easter.

Our first meeting for the year will be on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. We would like to see all of you there for the meeting and we always welcome new members to join the historical society.

In December 2011 we had seventeen Eagle Valley grade school students visit the museum for a photography class.

At Christmas time we had a Christmas table setting display. Everyone wanted to bring items for the setting and we received many nice compliments on the display. After the Christmas holiday we had a display of old wooden games—dice, dominoes and others.

Each month I have tried to arrange a different display on our top glass shelf.

See you at the April meeting!



Our Christmas Table Display

Join Us and Help Us Preserve Your Past

Yes, I'd like to help!

_____ I will become a member

\$5.00 per year per single membership

\$10.00 per year—husband and wife

\$25.00 per person lifetime membership

I will donate but not become a member

Amount _____

Please make checks payable and mail to the:

Eagle Bend Historical Society

% Carol Becker

737 3rd Ave. NW

Eagle Bend, MN 56446-8116

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Thank you for your support!

TODD COUNTY HISTORY DAY

A sizeable crowd gathered at the Hewitt Community Center this past October 30, 2010, to discuss the preservation of historic buildings. Area historical societies presented displays of historical buildings in their communities.

A panel presentation was given after the luncheon, which was served by the Hewitt Lion/Lioness Club, and discussion followed. Michael Dagen detailed the efforts of the Hewitt Historical Society in getting the grant for redoing the roof and installing windows and a heating system in their historic museum building.

Gerald Ruda, Todd County Commissioner urged the continued use of the Todd County Courthouse as a means to help in its preservation. He noted, for example, that many buildings of great age are still in use today in Rome and other cities. Under the proposed plan for our courthouse a central reception area will be able to serve the several departments wishing to move into the old building.

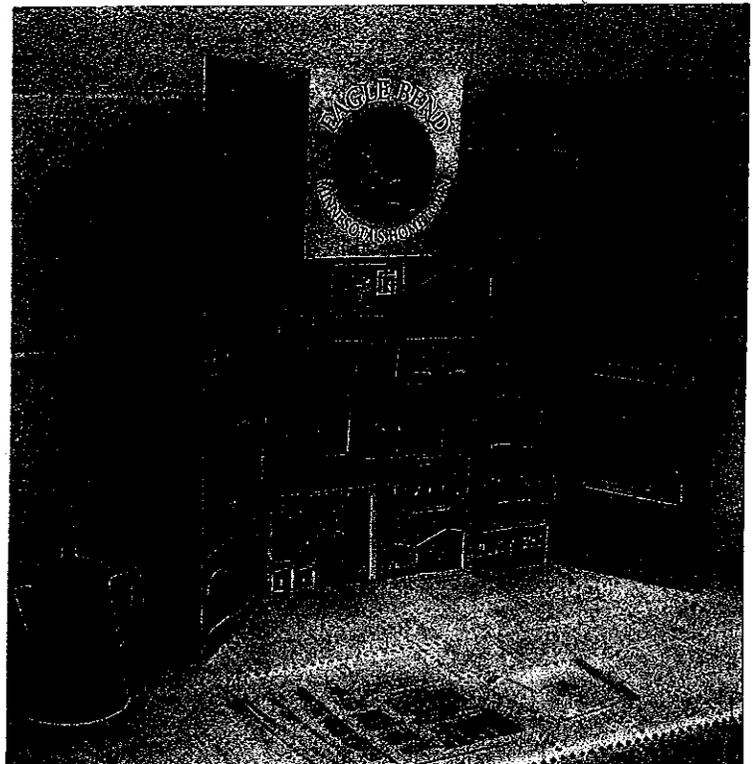
Amy Hunter of the Staples Historical Society reported on the success of the efforts to save the historic Northern Pacific depot that is now home to their society.

After the discussion those attending were able to tour the Hewitt Museum.

Transportation and facility rental was provided by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy funds.

Carol, Norma, Shirley and Deanna created our very attractive Eagle Bend display.

Another History Day is being planned for 2011.



The Eagle Bend Historical Society Display
Presented at Todd County History Day
Last October

THEN AND NOW

By Sharon Sly-Durante

The big house at 304 South Street West in Eagle Bend has a very interesting history. Today it is the home of Beverly Snyder and her family. Before being a family home it was a crafts business called "The Little Red School House" owned by Tom and Brenda Murch.

However, the original building, built in 1915, was a house of worship for the Seventh Day Adventist congregation. I was a member of this church in the 40's and 50's. We had a membership of about 50-55 and lots of youth.

The building was a frame structure with high ceilings, tall doors, wood floors, and wooden pews. It had a platform in front with a large podium and two large high back carved chairs. A beautiful ornate pump style organ was on the left side of the church. Harold Dockham, a blind man, played the hymns from his memory.

Music was a large part of our services. The children would present a music program to the adults upstairs. When we were small, my brother and I had to stand on chairs to see over the podium when we had special music!

All of our services were held on Saturdays. Sabbath School and the Bible study were at 9:30 AM and the worship hour service was at 11 AM. The children's Sabbath School was downstairs and Ruth Dockham was the leader. I was "appointed" to play the piano for this division because I was taking music lessons!

Ruth later taught me how to play that pump organ. I had to pump with all my might to keep it going, but it worked!

Our Pastor was responsible for three churches. Our district was with Wadena and Staples. I remember the district meetings were fun. Sometimes we had a picnic in the park and sometimes we had a "basket social" in the Wadena church. Baskets were made in secret and auctioned off to make money for needy projects. I couldn't wait to see who would buy my basket and have lunch with me.

Our church did not have a baptistery so we would go to a river or lake to baptize anyone who wanted to join our church. We didn't have a kitchen or hall for potluck dinners, so we would get together in homes after the services for fellowship. My Mom, Verna Burr, was so good to have pastor's family for dinner.

A few years ago, I was at the 3ABN Trust Department in Loma Linda, CA, when my former pastor from Eagle Bend walked in the door. "Pastor O.L. Johnston—I would know you anywhere", I told him. He reminded me of the many meals they had at our farm and he told me of the fond memories they have of the Eagle Bend church families. He is retired and living in Loma Linda, CA.

Pastor Herman Guy and his wife visited our Lakes Area church in Alexandria last summer and they told me Eagle Bend district was their very first church to pastor. They were young



"Then"



"Now"

Photos courtesy of Sharon Sly-Durante

and just out of the seminary, and we welcomed them and made them part of our families. They are retired and living in Kansas now.

Some of the families belonging to our church back then were the: Dahls, Lehmans, Olsons, Morrisons, Harnacks, Dockhams, Johnsons, Hokensons, Russells, Thompsons, Trumbles, Millers, and Burrs.

The July 4, 1983 Centennial Edition of *The Eagle Bend News* published a picture of the inside of our church and the chairs on the platform have a smooth area in the carved backs. There had been a lion's head carved into each chair back, but the children thought they were "scary", and the parents agreed, so the backs were sanded down to remove the lions.

In October 2010, I was able to visit with Beverly Snyder, the present owner of our church. She invited me to come inside. She has made it into a very beautiful two-bedroom home with a large living room, a kitchen and bathroom. The original platform is now a sitting room and the high ceilings are just as I remembered. The entry hall has the original shining oak floors and tall oak doors. As you can see by the "Now" picture above, Beverly has added new siding and a great front porch. Our former church has been lovingly maintained and just think—it is now 96 years old!



Editor's Note

This issue features Sharon Sly-Durante's memories of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and our next issue will feature the United Methodist Church.

Since the late 1880's when Eagle Bend was first established, churches have played a vital role in the life of the town and its environs. As in most early settlements the beginnings were simple. People met in private homes and the ministers had long commutes on horseback or on foot to reach their congregations.

The earliest recorded service in Eagle Bend was held in 1883 by a group of United Brethren. Other groups soon followed, first meeting in homes, the schoolhouse and other available places and later building houses of worship and incorporating into mainstream churches. People tended to congregate with their own ethnic groups so Eagle Bend has a history of services conducted in English, Norwegian, Swedish and German.

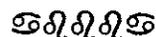
At one time Eagle Bend had eight churches: The United Methodist, the Free Methodist, Immanuel Lutheran (LCMS), the Assembly of God, Petri Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran, the Protestant Episcopal and the Seventh Day Adventist.

At the present time the Assembly of God, the United Methodist and Immanuel Lutheran are still active congregations as are Petri and Trinity (the Norwegian Evangelical Church) the two of which merged to become Faith Lutheran in 1963.

If any of our readers have recollections of any of our Eagle Bend churches that they are willing to share we hope you will let us know and we will print them.

Your "recollections" may be sent to:

The Eagle Bend Historical Society
% Carol Becker
737 3rd Ave. NW
Eagle Bend, MN 56446-8116



Pride in our past and belief in our future!