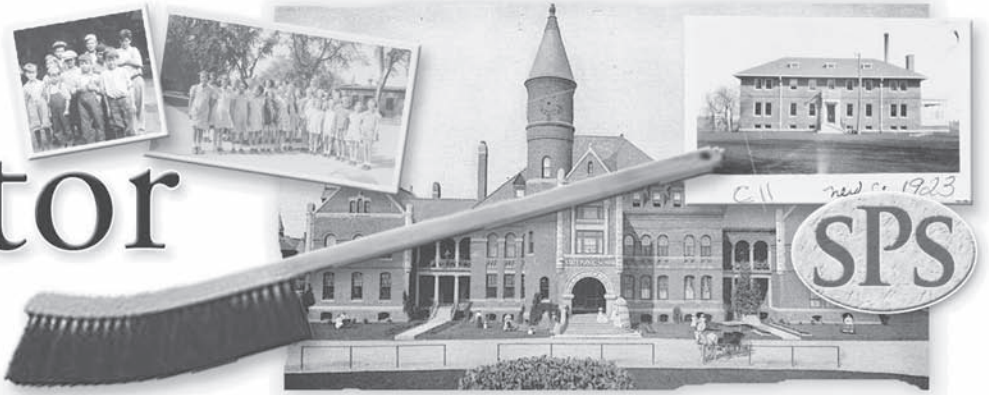


The Radiator Brush



Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 Boys' Dormitory
~ Winter 2019 Newsletter Edition ~

“WHEN THERE’S GOOD TO BE DONE” TOUR COMES TO ORPHANAGE MUSEUM - MARCH 9-

Minneapolis folk singing duo “Curtis & Loretta” will appear at the Owatonna Arts Center on Saturday, March 9, at 2:00 p.m. to present their program, “When There’s Good To Be Done.” The event is being co-hosted by the Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum and the Owatonna Arts Center.

The award-winning husband and wife pair gathered together a stellar cast of characters for this collection of songs. Loretta wrote about real-life, ordinary people, who overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges in their lives, and came out stronger for the journey. These are story-songs of courage, resilience, kindness, and determination.

There’s a rich tapestry of inspiration and riveting drama offered by the people (mostly Minnesotans) she sought out to interview and write about, including two men who grew up at the Owatonna State Orphanage, Harvey Ronglien and Peter Razor. Peter will be on hand to speak to the audience and answer questions about both the positive and negative things he experienced while growing up at the State School.

Owatonna is one stop on a 22-city concert tour that Curtis & Loretta are presenting across the state. It is funded in part by an Arts Tour Minnesota Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

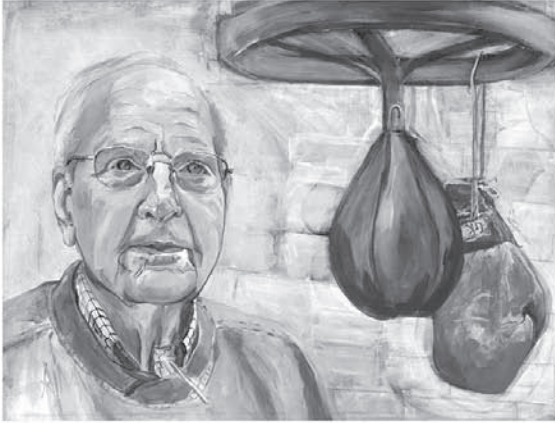


Curtis & Loretta



Loretta Simonet, Harvey Ronglien, Peter Razor, and Curtis Teague at Harvey's 90th birthday celebration.

State School and the Arts



Harvey Ronglien and Cottage 11 interior



An art show titled “Interiors and Portraits” by Ann Magnuson will be exhibited at the Owatonna Arts Center in February. There will be an artist’s reception on February 10. The exhibition focuses on subjects from southern Minnesota, specifically the communities of and surrounding Albert Lea and Owatonna. Harvey Ronglien was one of her subjects! Ann has donated these painting to the Orphanage Museum and they will be on display in Cottage 11 in the near future.



The Main Building by Donald Sundeen

On October 18, former Owatonna State Schooler Donald Sundeen returned for the first time since the 1970s.

His artwork was on display at the Owatonna Arts Center. Don came along with a film crew that is shooting a documentary on his experiences. After his retirement, he became involved with CHOICE Unlimited, a community-based private non-profit organization located in Duluth, Minnesota, which is dedicated to supporting adults with disabilities and individuals who are experiencing barriers to employment and community inclusion. It was there he cultivated his artist talent.

A COLLECTOR'S ITEM "A REAL TREASURE" – NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-SALE!

Until now, people could only watch the 1930 film – we've named "A Real Treasure" – during a group tour or in Cottage 11. We are happy to let you know that this 12-minute film will be available on DVD through our Gift Shop.



PLUS, it includes a **full 50-minute filmed presentation by former State Schooler Harvey Ronglien** taped several years ago. Since Harvey no longer gives his talk, we are happy to offer this special opportunity to hear him tell his compelling story with a mixture of candor, poignancy, and charm.

The silent, uncut, 16mm black and white footage of the children and staff of the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children was found in a canister in the attic of the Waseca home of William Vernon Gallagher, financial steward at the State School, in the early 1990s by Emmett and Rosemary Gallagher. It was most likely filmed in the spring of 1930.

It has since been preserved digitally and the DVD is narrated by Harvey Ronglien.

Take Advantage of Mail Ordering

The Gift Shop re-opens on March 1, but we will also take mail orders for this DVD. The cost is \$25 each + \$7 for postage and handling. We can include more than one DVD in a mailer, so the extra mailing charge would remain \$7. Mail orders will ship in the beginning of May.

Send a check made out to

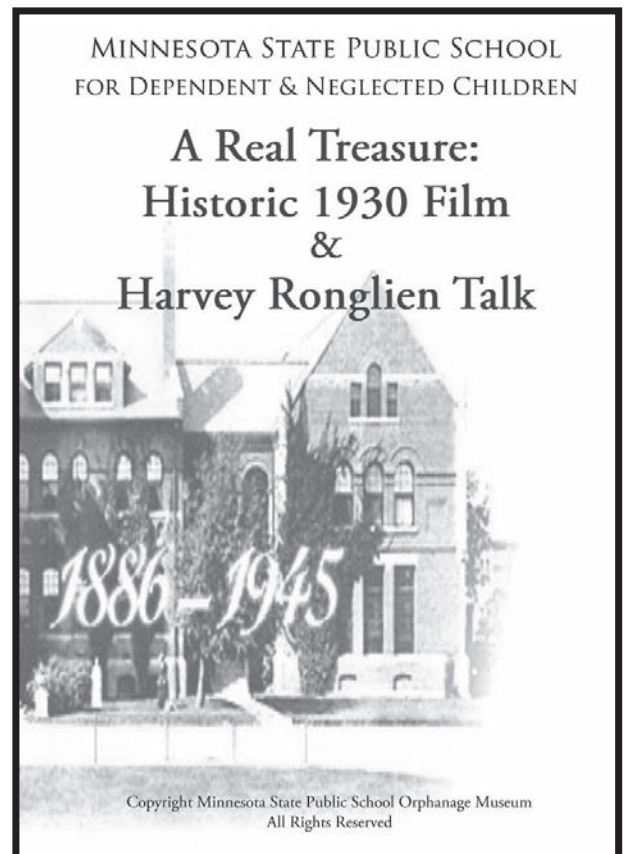
Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum:

Attn: Real Treasure

540 West Hills Circle

Owatonna, MN 55060

If you have questions, email
museum@ci.owatonna.mn.us.



STATE SCHOOL REUNION

Here are some photos taken the afternoon of September 15, the day of the reunion. We had family members drive from as far as Illinois and Connecticut

2018 50/50 RAFFLE WINNER

The lucky winner of the 2018 Raffle was Merrilla Kalstrom Socher, a State Schooler from 1940-1945. She received a check for \$1,480.



Visitors ask questions of State School book authors.



Conrad Heusinkveld answers questions from a local reporter.

Myrtle Clark Loch and Buzz Wilson doing some catching up.



Former State Schooler Jerry Prondzinski reviews a map of the 1930's campus.



State Schoolers and Families

Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum & Historic Cottage 11 Boys' Dormitory ~ Winter 2019 Newsletter



Harvey Ronglien greets Genevieve Roessler. Her family hosted a State Schooler named Erwin Varns, who was a friend of Harvey's. Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Jackson, Owatonna Peoples Press



Iris Segelstrom Wright talks about her State School story with a young visitor.



Dale Sweeney and Randy Menter look through a State School scrapbook.



Harvey sharing his memories of the State School with a reporter.



Peter Razor and his daughter Kathy Gilles chat with another attendee.

STATE SCHOOL MEMORIES

We just learned of the passing of Milo Beuthien-- State Schooler, veteran, poet. In 2017, Milo expressed his thoughts about his time at the State School that we'd like to share them with you now.

"I will never lose my gratitude to the State of Minnesota and the City of Owatonna for having established the State School for the thousands of children who needed special care during their young lives. I was one of them, along with my brothers Orville, Vernon, Elwood, and Norman.

"Some of the most important memories of my life are my times spent at the Orphanage (1927-1943). After that time, I was sent to North Dakota to live with my mother's sister and her husband.

My last year at the Orphanage, I recall they started a Boy Scouts troop and we had some camping times at Clear Lake, west of Owatonna. I had just enough

MILO BEUTHIEN

exposure to receive some life-saving instructions. That training allowed me to be able to save a GI from drowning in the Sea of Japan.

"After finishing high school, I became a World War II draftee and was sent to the Pacific, where I served with the 11th Airborne Division as a paratrooper, completing 22 jumps."

*Male Wards
of the State
M. Beuthien,
M. Charnell,
G. Stevens,
R. Wynman,
and an
unidentified*



Ward posing just south of the Cottage 3.

LOVE HEALS – CASE #9544 – WILLIS E. COE

On February 27, 1933, Willis Eugene Coe was born at the St. Paul Salvation Army Home. Alone, his mother Mary wanted what was best for her child and came to the conclusion that adoption was the best resolution. Unfortunately, her medical history of tuberculosis and Willis' delayed developmental abilities disqualified him.

An alternative was the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children. Willis was admitted on July 29, 1935, barely 2½ years old.

While the school provided education and food, clothing, and shelter for the children, they lacked love and the ability to learn the social interaction skills Willis desperately needed. While living in Cottage 6, under Miss White's supervision, Willis appeared to be well liked. Living in Cottage 11, with Miss Morgan, he developed personality traits that were not socially accepted. He became quarrelsome and disruptive.

Somehow, Willis made it through the remainder of his teenage years. He lived and worked in Minneapolis and, for weekend fun, he enjoyed going to the St. Louis Park Roller Rink. There he met and fell in love with a lovely girl named Lee Etta Swen.

Willis and Lee Etta married and began to renovate a fixer-upper house. Little by little, His carpentry work transformed the house into a beautiful home. But that's not all! Another transformation was taking place. It was then that Willis at last recognized his self-worth and knew he was a valued person who was loved and had a purpose in his life.

Willis died of lung cancer at the age of 57, and rests in peace surrounded by friends and family. And Lee Etta? She continues to live in the fixer-upper house that was transformed into a beautiful, love-filled home.

Story written by neighbor of Willis & Lee Etta.

DONATIONS

MEMORIALS

Shirley & Ron White
Dean Hartle

Shirley Fulmer
Clifford White

Gary & Kathleen Hadley
Emery, Ben, and Vernon Hadley

MAXINE'S GARDEN

Dennis & Jacqueline Meiller

Rose Lindorff

Jeanette M. Drake

Arlend "Buzz" Wilson



LEGACY TRUST

Rick & Jill McVenes

Don & Vivian Manthe

Ken & Sandy Dinse

Bob Charnell

Peter Razor

Modern Woodmen
in honor of Jackie Dulas

Federated Insurance

Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman Law Firm

Owatonna Motor Company

Alexander Lumber

Advanced Coil Technology

Total \$60,797.23 in Legacy Trust.

GENERAL FUND

Anna Hagemeister

Bob Charnell

Margaret Moritz

Mary L. Smith

Mary Kay Feltes

DeLoyce Anderson

Kay Tillotson

Arlene Nelson

Laura Cady

Irja Miles

Jill Smith

Ken & Sue Baker

Jerry & Judy Robinson

WORD OF DECEASED STATE SCHOOLERS

Virginia Knapp Wahlig

Richard Hoover

Milo Beuthien

Rose Wright Earles

Arnold Clifford "Cliff" Berg

Gladys Dahl Bedney

Arvid C. Anteroinen

William "Bill" Earl Jacobson

June Hall Thompson

Did you know we keep an Obituary Book?

If you are aware of a State Schooler's passing, please let our office know so we can share the news. To preserve the history, we also maintain an obituary book with as many people associated with the State School as we can. Our contact information is listed below.



*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

If you plan to change your address please let us know as each returned newsletter costs the museum \$0.55 plus \$0.55 to re-send. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps us to save \$\$\$.

Interested in purchasing "The Children Remember" or brick on the School Plaza? How about purchasing an "apple" for the Apple Giving Tree displayed in C-11? Please fill in and mail to our address the form below. Your support is greatly appreciated! Checks should be written out to: MN State School Orphanage Museum. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Yes, I'd like to order a copy of The Children Remember documentary VHS 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 purchase brick(s) at \$100.00 each.

Yes, I'd like to pledge an "apple." (Red (\$1,000+), Gold (\$500-\$999), Green (\$250-\$499) Silver (\$100-\$249)

Yes, I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of _____. (Donation for C-11 Legacy Trust Non-specified)

If you wish to purchase a brick, please print clearly the words you wish to have inscribed.
