



Friends of Jasper High

By Elicia Kortus

A group of concerned alumni and local citizens have formed a nonprofit, called “Reclaim Community,” to preserve the historical value of the Jasper High School building and renovate it for a new purpose that will add economic growth and value to our area. The school qualifies for listing in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is eligible for major grant funding to aid restoration and renovation. We have 501(c)3 tax status through fiscal sponsorship with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, a private, non-profit organization that aids projects just like this.

Our long-term plan is to create a multifunctional building that includes various types of residential units, as well as business incubation spaces. We also intend to have community use spaces such as the gymnasium/auditorium for events and receptions, and even an outdoor space for community gardens.

To move forward with our plans we must raise \$25,000 by February 10, 2016. We are getting close to half-way there, but need more donors to come forward. We are hosting a Pancake Feed and Silent Auction Sunday, January 31st from 9am - 1pm at Memorial Hall in Jasper, and have a slideshow of current photos of the school's condition. We will be bussing tables at Pizza Ranch from 5-8pm on Monday, February 8th for tips, and will receive 15% of all the night's dinner sales as well. We invite supporters to come and eat, donate goods or services for the silent auction, or contribute directly online or by mail to help us meet our goal.

All checks or online donations should be made to Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and notated to Jasper School Project. There are several ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

- 1- Come to the pancake feed, and donate there.
- 2- Leave a check donation at People’s State Bank in Jasper.
- 3- Mail a check to Preservation Alliance: Attn: Erin Hannifin Berg, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, 416 Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W., St. Paul, MN 55102.
- 4- Donate online at www.mnpreservation.org/jasperschool

2015 PCHS Board Members are: Joni Petersen *President*; Bob Buffington *Vice-President*;
Chuck Draper, *Treasurer*; Deb Brockberg, *Secretary*, Paul Everett, Mary Schroer, Curt Hess,
Judy Oldemeyer, Susie Otto

Pipestone County Museum Staff: Susan Hoskins, *Executive Director*;
Betty McCabe, *Bookkeeper*; Trava Olivier, *Museum Aide*.

The Ferris Grand Reuse Study has been completed and we are anxiously awaiting the final report!

Ferris Grand Reuse Study

In 2015, PCHS partnered with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and received grant money from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy fund through the Minnesota Historical Society, and the National Trust for Preservation. With this grant funding, we were able to hire an arts conservator- Dan Tarveaneau- to give special attention to wonderful murals in the lodge room; a historic architect- Paul Ormseth- to check the integrity of the building and how it has been changed over the years; and an economic consultant- Steve Perkins- to gauge the economic needs of the community and to tag potential uses for the space. Through two highly attended community meetings the public’s opinions were heard and taken into



account. Reuse ideas veered away from retail or office space. PCHS would like to see the Lodge Room preserved as such and showcased as helping to tell the story of Masons, and possibly other fraternal groups, in Pipestone County. Some ideas included a Masonic Museum or research center in southwest Minnesota, with a lodge room available for Masonic groups to use. A retreat center was a popular idea (Masonic or otherwise) with meeting space in the dining hall and a remodeled kitchen for catered groups. Another idea was to some way expand the Museum’s exhibit galleries, especially as the two buildings are abutting. Any reuse of the second floor of the Ferris Grand Block will by necessity include elevator access.

Vandalized Cemetery Stone to Return Home



The Pipestone County Sheriff’s Department recently came to the Pipestone County Museum for help on locating the home of a vandalized cemetery stone which had been kept in county evidence for several years. The stone had been found in a rural ditch with no immediate indication of where it had come from. Using the information on the stone itself, the Museum staff was able to research the family name and determine where it belongs. It is the stone of Lee Everet Edsill, the seven year old son of O.M. and Idella Edsill. According to his obituary in the March 2, 1894 edition of the Pipestone County Star newspaper, Lee died at home at Cazenovia and was buried at Prairie Lawn Cemetery in Troy Township. Lee’s father operated the Edsill General Store in Cazenovia for a number of years. His mother Idella died of consumption in 1893 and was also buried at Prairie Lawn Cemetery. When weather allows, this stone will be returned and reset in Prairie Lawn Cemetery.

Regular Donations

Bruce & Barbara Jensen, Mary McKeon Crockenberg, Helen Perkins, Mary Lohmann McElroy, Pat LaRock, Doug Theel, Bud & Estella Vis, David & Rosemarie Loose, Harry & Lois Hansen, Robert Sherve, Dennis & Diane Hansen, Delores Runge, Bruce Michels, Junior Sorosis Club, Donald Roscoe, Herman & LaDonna Meinders, Richard Colvin, Pat Beyers, Doug Onan, Sioux Falls Scheels, Irmtraut Engmann, Maynard K. Winsel, First Bank & Trust in Pipestone