

The Rise and Fall of 1912 Village Hall

Two or three generations of Greenbushites have fond memories of the once stately embossed tin covered building known as the Hall or more often, the Showhall. Located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Highway 11, now Lowell's car lot, the Village Hall was a center of activity.

Discussion about needing a town hall and raising money was reported in the Tribune as early as December 31, 1909. In March 1912, the council decided to ask voters to float a \$2,000 bond for a hall. A public meeting was held July 8, 1912, to ask voters' advice on whether to raise more funds or to reduce the building's size. In July 1912 the council let the contract for \$1,525 to Aanund Burelyson of Strathcona for 28'x80' building with a 14' stage, not including finishing inside walls.

The October 25, 1912, Tribune announced completion of the hall and credited the council for wise planning and the contractor for his workmanlike manner. Umpleby declared the building was of excellent value for the money and a structure of which the people could be proud.



Village Hall

On November 2, 1912, a large crowd was present for the opening exercises, which was a musical program, including the Greenbush Orchestra. A basket social auctioned by Ole O. Hereim and a dance followed. The social and dance netted nearly \$150.

The Hall's main entrance with a false front faced east. To the left (south) of the front entrance was a ticket booth. An elevated projection room was above that. The movie was projected onto a screen on the stage at the west end. Rows of wooden theatre seats lined the flat floor for viewing movies and programs and were moved to the sides for dances.

In 1925, two large new stoves were installed to heat the building more comfortably. The stoves took a full cord stick so the expense of sawing would be eliminated. Did that mean four foot sticks?

Although Casper Snare began showing silent movies before this hall was built, it's assumed he also used this building. William Paulson advertised the first talking picture would be shown in Greenbush on April 28, 1929. The building was used as a showhall until Ellerd Paulson built a real theatre. Saturday nights were busy, especially in the summer, the farmers' night to come to town.

Throughout the years the Hall was the place for wedding dances and public meetings. In the early forties, school operettas and plays were held there because the new school didn't have a stage or gymnasium. In the 1950s teenagers enjoyed rollerskating on the wooden floor.

In August 1958, the Village Hall was sold to Woodland Industries of Marshall County and moved along Highway 32 between the motel and Tom's Body Shop. Gerald Berg owned the building from 1967 to 1973 when it was purchased by Weeks Enterprises. The building fell into disrepair and was torn down as part of a community clean up program in 1988.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde Source: Tribune

Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department

One of the most vital volunteer organizations in the 100 year history of Greenbush remains the Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department that was organized in 1906. It was housed in a building that held the city office, public works department, and city jail.

In 1973, the city office and public works department were relocated. The space vacated was remodeled to suit the expanding fire department needs: more garage space, a kitchen, meeting area, and bathrooms. In 1978 and 1983, additions were again added onto the fire hall to accommodate both the fire department needs and the rescue squad equipment and vehicles.



Old Fire Hall (Tribune photo)

The growing needs of the fire department soon outpaced the old building: necessary and extensive renovations and repair to the old building was not economically feasible for the active fire department and rescue squad. With full support from the community, fire department volunteers decided to pursue the building of an all new fire hall facility.

In 1988, the Greenbush City Council approved a request by Fire Chief Russell Wicklund to establish a fire department building fund. An individual in the community donated \$500 to the fund. With the community's avid support of the new venture, the fire department building fund grew to over \$200,000 in five years, exceeding its initial goal of \$140,000. With the help of volunteers on the fire department, the land for the new building was cleared and construction began in June of 1993. The new hall was completed in January of 1994.

The fire department has been marked by many volunteer efforts. The Greenbush American Legion Club donated the 1954 fire truck that is still at the hall. Members of the early 1980s gave up their retirement funds to purchase a new truck. Recent purchases of trucks and equipment have been made possible in part due to generous donations of community and township people.

The Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department is an active organization. In addition to responding to various fire calls in the area, it also volunteers its time for controlled burns on private property,



2005 Fireman with tanker truck in new firehall. Back: Jon Foss, Keith Haarstick, Marty Lieberg, Ben Beito, Chad Dallager, Kurt Wojchowski, Todd Gjovik, Rick Solberg, Kevin Waage, Joey Novacek, Dale Foss, Troy Gjovik, Bob Pederson. Front: Tom Duray, Gary Langaas, Ronnie Novacek, Earl Wiskow, Jeff Nelson, Richard Gillette, Tad Anderson, Charlie Kapphahn, Ryan Ratkovec, Arlyn Anderson, Scott Waage, and Chief Randy Jenson. (photo by Central Boiler)

sandbagging in times of flooding, sponsors a yearly smoker, and volunteers at various community activities. The fire department also is dispatched to vehicular accidents where their services are needed. Firefighters have monthly training drills and meetings. Members also take part in off-site training to learn new techniques.

Currently, 37 community members volunteer as firefighters in Greenbush. In addition to serving the Greenbush area, they are also mutual aid members with Badger, Karlstad, and Middle River.

Nearly as old as the town itself, the Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department continues to serve an important role in the community.

Fire Chiefs: A.A. Burkee 1906; Jim Roche 1941-1942; Ing Lillemon 1943-1946; Vernon Fugleberg 1947-1960; Don Wicklund 1961-1971; Axel Lieberg 1972-1973; Nels Wicklund 1974-1976; Melvin Sovde, Jr. 1976-1979; Richard Sovde, Sr. 1979; Russell Wicklund 1979-2002; Randy Jenson 2003-present.

Submitted by Sue Lieberg

Police Department

Over the years law enforcement has been an important part of the Greenbush community as it is in any town. It is a very valuable service which protects the whole community. When Greenbush became an organized village, a council was formed with elected **officials** and some appointed positions. Justice of the peace and marshals were appointed positions. The village marshal was to enforce all ordinances, rules and by-laws of the village, within the village limits. After arresting violators, the marshal immediately took the violator to the justice of the peace. The marshal was also in charge of the village jail. In 1905, the marshal also took care of city waterworks and was the village fire warden.

The **first** constables were appointed on February 7, 1905. They were William Reilly and Peter Rindero with Dr. F. Young as justice of the peace. During the early years these appointments changed often.

In the June 4, 1968 city council minutes, the village constable position was abolished and they accepted the resignation of Constable Linn Rigstad. The office was to be filled by appointment of a village police. In 1970, a police car was purchased.

In 1971, the need for a night policeman was apparent and the wages were set at \$468 per month. Gerald Brinkman was hired as night policeman and given a salary of \$500 per month. Jack Johnson, a Vietnam veteran, was also hired as night policeman under the Minnesota Department of Manpower Services allocations. In 1973,

the Emergency Employment Act was cancelled and positions on the police force were terminated.

In 1973, Sheriff Paul Knochenmus, Roseau County Sheriff, proposed an offer of \$14,808 per year for policing services. The sheriff's office would furnish all equipment, one full time man and a part-time man, to be stationed in Greenbush. On November 30, 1973, Jack Johnson was dismissed as police officer and replaced by Gerald Brinkman for the month of December. Jack Johnson was then hired as part-time police for the month of December.

Policing between the county, Badger, and Greenbush, went back and forth during the 70s and 80s.

A police protection contract with the Roseau County Sheriff's Department for 1975 was approved at the annual cost of \$16,500. In 1977, Felix Korczak was appointed to the joint law enforcement committee. By 1980, police protection annual costs had risen to \$27,012.

In 1981, the city entered into an agreement with the City of Badger to share the police protection duties with Deputy Steve Willet for 90 days. A month later Badger withdrew their offer but wanted to discuss a 90 day trial sharing again.

On December 14, 1981, the county decided not to offer contracts for police protection services to the cities, forcing the city to consider establishing their own police department, possibly on a sharing basis with Badger. On January 10, 1982, Greenbush entered into an agreement with Badger to share cost of police protection, Badger at 40% and Greenbush at 60%. Officers Steve Willet and Tom Wachsmuth were hired, provided a county contract would not be available. A 1977 Plymouth was purchased from Roseau County Law Enforcement.

In 1982, a contract was again approved with the county for police protection at a cost of \$21,701.63. By January 17, 1983, Greenbush approved forming their own police department and Ordinance #51 was adopted, an ordinance for the establishment of a police department. The city would also participate in MEAD (a Job Training Office program) and provide on the job training for a law enforcement student. This program was 100% funded and would provide 20 hours per week part-time help.

On May 21, 1984, Jim Vigness was hired as a part-time officer for the summer under the MEAD program. Tom Wachsmuth was possibly going to procure another police dog to be used in emergency situations. The city would have no financial obligations in procuring or training of the dog. In September of 1984, MEAD contract was to be continued and completed with Russell Wicklund, Jr. as part-time police. On December 26, 1984, Tom Wachsmuth resigned as police chief.

In 1985, Patrick Cartier was hired as police chief. Hector Reese was appointed police chief until Cartier could be trained in. Cartier was terminated in July, 1985. Hector Reese was then rehired. The 1977 police car was sold to Reese for police duties.

In August 1985, Robert M. "Mike" Siems was appointed police chief at \$1,200 per month plus benefits, with an increase of \$150 per month after three months. Mike Siems, Bemidji, started his duties on August 15, 1985.

In October 1985, the city's law enforcement agency was allowed to assist the fire department and the search and rescue units outside of city limits when the potential for bodily harm existed. The Roseau County Sheriff was asked to make the city special deputies licensed officers of Roseau County in order that all legal requirements are fulfilled.

As in the past, talk was again resumed in 1989 on contracting

with the county for police protection services. An agreement approved with the State of Minnesota was made on August 14, 1989, for the use of preliminary breath test instruments on a loan basis by law enforcement officers.

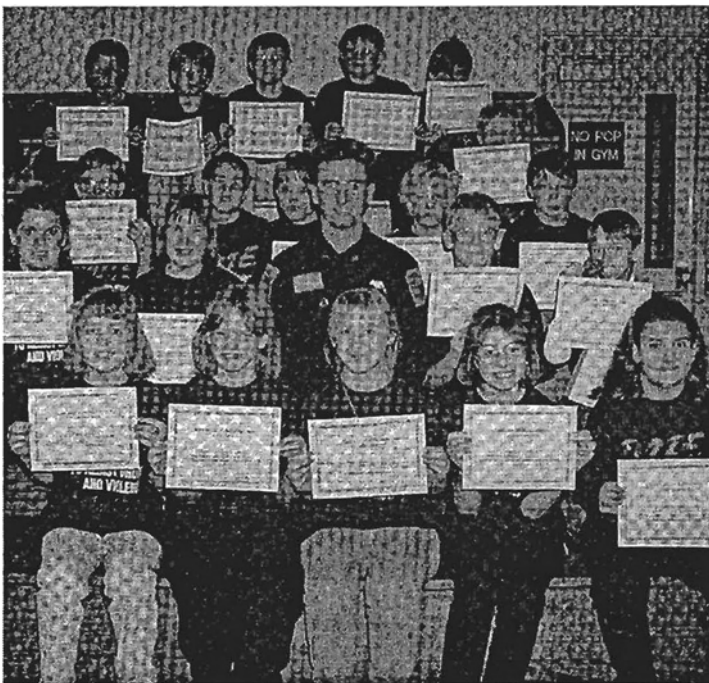
Mike Siems has been instrumental in starting many programs in Greenbush. In 1988, fingerprinting community youngsters began in cooperation with the American Legion, who provided the money for ill kits. Fingerprinting is used to identify area youth in case of a missing child or an abduction.



Mike Siems fingerprinting a local child.
(Tribune photo)

In 1995, DARE was formed in cooperation with the school. It is a program that familiarizes kids with the effects of drugs on the body. Another program was the helicopter fly-in co-sponsored by the National Guard, the school, and the Greenbush Police Department. It was a one day program for 10th grade students put on by the National Guard for drug awareness. This program has not been active since the war started in Iraq.

Bike Safety is a program that is no longer in place but was co-sponsored with the State Patrol



Dare graduation held at the Greenbush Middle River School, Greenbush. Row four: Jason Jevne, Aden Graff, Noel Barret, Adam Hamness, Brady Kjersten and Max Duray. Row three: Chance Jensen, Taylor Becotte, Roger Sirucek, Erick Gross and Mike Wentz. Row two: Kristen Pulczinski, Angie Beito, Dare Officer Ward Anderson, Josh Korbl and Ryan Korczak. Row one: Elizabeth Dvergsten, Christine Lorensen, Amber McFarlane, Amber Williamson and Jaime Emery. *(Tribune photo)*

and was implemented in Greenbush and surrounding communities.

Administrative assistants through the program, COPS MORE, were Debra Nubson and Brenda Onstad.

Submitted by Karen Janousek.

An organizational meeting was held in the Greenbush School in November of 1961 to discuss plans to open a library in Greenbush. Mrs. Helen Klefstad, wife of Dr. Klefstad, originated the idea and was the driving force behind it. The first library committee consisted of Milton Sather, Bonnie Johnson, Mayor Art Braun, Clara Lorbiecki, Louis Allen, and Helen Klefstad with Astrid Berger as advisor to the board. At a joint meeting of the Village Council, the Hospital Board, and the Library Board, in July of 1962, the Hospital Board passed a motion to erect a partition in the Nursing Home basement, making one room for a library/community room and one room that the Village of Greenbush would rent for Village Council chambers.

The following month, the Girl Scouts conducted a book drive and through the next couple of years were active in processing books under the guidance of Astrid Berger. The Senior Girls who did the cataloging of the books were Karen Klefstad, Linda Rae Evans, Mary Lorbiecki, Marcia Folland, Mary Allen, Janis Temanson, Carolyn Thompson, Sandra Fugleberg, and Vernetta Nubson.

Library furnishings were ordered by Anne Clapp and shelving and storage cabinets were donated by Dr. Lloyd and Helen Klefstad in memory of Helen's mother, Marie Melby.

The formal opening of the library was held June 30, 1963, with an open house from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and was staffed by volunteers. Some of the first volunteers were Leona Temanson, Irene Sather, Clara Lorbiecki, Sylvia Solberg, Grace Doran, Mrs. Arnold Overland, Alma Wicklund, Phyllis Evans, Clara Prosser, Nina Lund, and Laura Harper. The library was open twice a week, on Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Each time the library was open, a senior scout was on duty plus one volunteer.

The first children's story hour, conducted by the Girl Scouts, was held in the library on July 6, 1963. A Children's Hour was held each Saturday morning from 10:00-10:30 a.m. for the four and five year olds and from 10:30-11:00 a.m. for the six and seven year olds. At this time, a story from the selection of new children's books was read.

In addition to its use as a library, the community room was used for countless meetings, from Girl Scouts and Commercial Club to farm groups and mental health clinics. The library also received income by renting the area to the school for use as a kindergarten room.

The Greenbush Public Library became part of the Northwest Regional Library system when the Roseau County Commissioners signed the contract on December 19, 1969. The bookmobile stopped in Greenbush while the regional library built up the book collection of the library. Bookmobile service was discontinued when the library was able to go into full operation as a branch library.

The library was officially moved to the city-owned building on Main Street on June 22, 1970, with Gladys Gonshorowski hired as the first librarian.

In 1978, the library space was expanded to include what had been the village office, which moved into the newly constructed Community Center. This provided the library with a children's room and an adult room. Genevieve (Jenny) Pulczinski was hired as assistant librarian the same year.

In 1981, Gladys Gonshorowski retired and Jenny served as librarian until 1984. Antoinette (Toni) Kjos was then hired as the new librarian.

In 1984, the library entered the computer age when all the books within the Northwest Regional Library system were catalogued and entered into a computer bank. The library also added a personal computer available to the public.

Over the years, Toni implemented many programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, Dial-A-Story, and the Book Hall of Fame.



Toni retired in September of 1999 and Annethea "Ann" Novacek was hired as the new head librarian.

Ann brought to the library many years of experience plus creativity. She also arranged for many artists to display their work in the library;

Plans were made to build a new library after a grant was received for the city in 1999. The grant writer for the project was Brenda Sather. The new library would be adjoining the present city offices and community center on Main Street. The new facility opened its doors on June 5th, 2001. With the help of Northwest Library employees, its director Barbara Jacquet-Kalinowski; and several patrons of the library, the move into the new library was made quickly and smoothly.

representative from Greenbush for a three-year term. Following Shirley's term, Pat Haarstick, Ann Novacek, Marlene Rokke, Mary Kuznia, Tess Lundby, Carol Waage, Richard Churchill, and Brenda Sather served on the board. The present board representative is De Stordahl.

Several outstanding people have worked as volunteers and substitutes throughout the years. Among these are Shirley Langaas, Pat Haarstick, Helen Kilen, Charmaine Lorensen, Eunice Stenberg, Sharon Rasmussen, Marissa Rasmussen, MaryAnn Schires, and Peggy Kruger. In 2003, the Greenbush Area Friends of the Library set up a volunteer schedule to staff Saturday hours at the Greenbush Library. Those volunteers are Deb Korczak, Marita Becker, Ann Novacek, Dianne Churchill, Judy Pulczynski, Angie Peterson, Pat Hogan, and Lisa Hanson.

The Greenbush Public Library is open to serve the community of Greenbush and its surrounding areas from 10:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and from 11:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday. Saturday hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Angela Peterson, Librarian.

Tri County EMS

Tri-County EMS was organized in 1975 as a nonprofit corporation owned by the townships and cities belonging to Tri-Co. EMS covers 1,393 sq. miles. It is managed by a board of directors made up of seven members. These members are three from Kittson County, two from Marshall County and two from Roseau County. The EMTs and first responders are volunteers and receive compensation only for the time spent on a run.

The Greenbush squad started with one used unit and very little equipment. It has grown to have two ambulances and about as much equipment as they are allowed to have. Thanks to the generosity of this community, a new ambulance was purchased in 1985. We currently have a 1998 Ford and a 1995 Ford. Some of the equipment carried in each rig is a heart defibrillator, oxygen, blood pressure monitor, and in 2002 we were given a new ambulance from the state to carry and use epi pens, nitro tablets, and glucometer.

To become an EMT a person must complete a 140 hour class which includes "hands on" and pass a state exam. You must take a refresher class every two years and pass a written and practical exam given by the state to remain active. The continued education is necessary.



National EMS Week honored in Greenbush. Shown **with** their newest Lii-County Ambulance is the **Greenbush Emergency Rescue Squad**. Front row, left to right: Heidi Tureson, **Jeff Tureson**, Mary Solberg, JoLeah Hasson, and Sue Tureson. Back row, left to right: Rick Solberg, Ratkovec, Kurt Wojchowski, Charlie Kapphahn, and Randy Jenson. During the week, the elementary classes visited and toured the ambulance.

Greenbush, Roseau and Karlstad. The majority of four patients were taken to the Greenbush Hospital. It is a patient's choice which facility they are taken to unless it is a life threatening situation and then they are taken to the nearest hospital. Since the Greenbush and Karlstad hospitals have closed, most of our patients go to **Roseau** or Thief River Falls. The squad also does transports to Grand Forks and Fargo, NO.

Local businesses have been very cooperative in allowing EMTs and **first** responders to leave their employment to respond to a call. Few areas are fortunate enough to have **the** excellent ambulance service and community support we have in Greenbush. Thank you business owners!

Former and Present EMTs and First Responders: John Agre, Aliza Novacek Olson, Christopher Beito, Arlene Bertilrud, LaMoyn Branden, Glen Brazier, Brittany Burkel, Cari Burkel, Gerald Burkel, Tim Buzick, Scott Christianson, Sharon Christianson, Kathy Clow,

Steve Collins, Pamela Conner, Cory Dallager, Linda Duray, Sharon Eva, Jon Foss, Rich Gillette, Mary (Gonshorowski) Stusynski, Keith Haarstick, Darcy Hasson, Dwight Hasson, JoLeah Hasson, Barb Holm, John Holmgren, Marge **Holmgren**, Jeff Jenson, Randy Jenson, Tyler Jenson, Alwyn Johnson, Edell Johnson, Paulette Johnson, Charles Kapphahn, Joshua Kern, Mike Kirkeide, Kelly Kjersten, Rachel Kjos, Roxann Kjos, Mike Korczak, Leatrice Kujava, Stacey Lockhart, Ardys Miller, Steve Morgan, Amber Nelson, Mitch Novacek, Tammy Novacek, Brandon Olson, Larry Pederson, Vicki (pederson) Gast, Jason Pulczinski, Ryan Ratkovec, Mary Solberg, Rick Solberg, Mary Sovde, Rick Sovde, Mary Stauffenecker, Karolyn Swenson, Gary Trangsrud, Patty Truscinski, Heidi Tureson, Jeff Tureson, Sander Tureson, Sue Tureson, Tom Wachsmuth, Lisa Wicklund, Peter Willis, Kurt WojchoW'ski, Mary Wollin Wickersham, and Warren Yeager.

Submitted by Roberta Anderson

Intoxicated **Men** Have no **Right** to Run Loose

Section 2 of Ordinance #5 of the village of Greenbush reads as follows: No person shall be drunk or intoxicated in any street, alley or thoroughfare, or in any saloon, barroom, hotel, store, shop, office or other public place in said village nor in any private place to the annoyance of any person.

It was our disagreeable duty as a justice to have to prosecute two cases under this ordinance the past week. If the ordinance is violated again it will be our duty to prosecute the offender however much we may dislike to do so.

The law does not prohibit liquor from being shipped in but it does prohibit a person from making a public nuisance of himself. Each member of the village council, the constables, and justices are peace officers and can make arrests with or without warrant, but we sincerely hope it will not be necessary to exercise this power in the future.

From the Greenbush Tribune of October 27, 1916.



History Book Committee leaders **with** representatives from J&M Publishers, Jay McCleery, Hap McCleery and Linda Gieseke. Front row: Karen Janousek and **Myrna** Sovde.

Researching old Greenbush Tribunes: Linda Blumer, LaMoyn Branden, Arlaine Duray, Linda Gieseke, Pat Hogan, Karen Janousek, WyAnn Janousek, Eunice **Korczak**, **Felix Korczak**, **Shirley** Langaas, Bob Nelson, Ann Novacek, Shirley Pederson, Angie Pederson, Milt Sather, Myrna Sovde, and John and Sandy Stauffenecker.



Left to right around the table: Elinor Koshenina, Anilethea Novacek, Karen Janousek, Linda Gieseke, Myrna Sovde, Andrea Nelson. Proof reading at the community center.

Proof Readers not included in the photo: Janice Branden, Dianne Churchill, Arlaine Duray, Marcia Folland, **Pat** Jacobson, Mary Ann and Kenneth Johnson, Helen Kalinoski, Eunice Korczak, Shirley Langaas, Loralie Lorenson, Paulette Melby, Dena Pulczinski, and Mariiyn Wahl.

Clubs and Organizations

The History of Moen-Zimek Post 88



Adolph Moen



Adolph Zimek

June 16, 1919:

"Your presence is requested at the village hall; Greenbush, on Saturday, June 21st for the purpose of organizing a local chapter of The American Legion, election of permanent officers and election of delegates to the Polk County Convention, Crookston, July 1, 2, and 3. The committee on entertainments for the July 4th celebration at Greenbush has requested that a parade and drill be put on by the returned service men and therefore it will be necessary to get together and get a little preliminary work-out. A.K. Czyrson, Chairman."

On August 22, 1919, Quentin Roosevelt Post 88 of Greenbush, Minnesota, was chartered with 33 members. A. K. Czyrson was the first commander. Quentin Roosevelt was the son of former president Theodore Roosevelt, an aviator shot down behind enemy lines in 1918 and buried by the Germans with full military honors.

Although the number indicates that the Greenbush Post was the 88th in the state, one of the first in Minnesota and certainly one of

A caucus of members of the American Expeditionary Force founded the American Legion in the month of March, 1919, in Paris. It was chartered by an act of Congress on September 16, 1919.

Several original minutes of early years of Post 88 do exist, although many are difficult to read because they are written in long hand, usually in pencil, with varying degrees of legibility. Some adjutants faithfully recorded everything discussed at the meeting while others simply jotted down the bare necessities and left maddening gaps, leaving the reader to speculate about what actually happened. The minutes from the 1920s and 1930s are fragmentary at best, and many probably are missing for all time. Those available, however, offer tantalizing glimpses into bygone times.

The only information to be found concerning the organizing of the post is an excerpt from the Greenbush Tribune in June of 1954. The American Legion was celebrating its 35th birthday that year. The Tribune reprinted a postcard sent to J.J. Walsh on

the first in the country, many of the charter members were disappointed and incensed that the number was not lower. They insisted that the paper work was submitted early and blamed poor postal service and/or bureaucratic foot dragging. More likely, the fledgling American Legion Department of Minnesota was inundated by several applications at the same time and it was simply a matter of which envelopes were opened first. At a regular meeting more than sixty years later, Jens Pederson and Eugene Simmons, charter members then in their eighties, reiterated their displeasure at being assigned such a high number.

At a regular meeting of the Quentin Roosevelt Post 88 held on June 5, 1923, a motion was made and carried: "That we change our name to Adolph Moen Post 88." At that time, Ole Pederson was commander and Paul Hanson, adjutant. The name was officially changed on June 23, 1923, and verified by the Department Adjutant at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Adolph Moen was thus honored as he was the only man from Greenbush to die in the service of his country in WWI. He died of the flu at Camp Merrit, New Jersey on October 10, 1918, while awaiting shipment overseas.

The American Legion was founded just prior to the prohibition era, and the business activities were somewhat different from what is familiar today with the normal bar/lounge/dancehall and dining operations that most posts have. Since its inception, Post 88 has been a civic and patriotic organization, and as existing reports indicate, the post was very active in the Greenbush community. Entertainment committees were set up and several projects were embarked upon. Halls were rented and dances sponsored, whist tournaments were popular, talent shows and plays were arranged. At the July 25, 1923, meeting, receipts of \$203 were reported as income from a flying circus. Nowhere is there any mention of what a flying circus was, and we can speculate that it may have been a barnstorming air show or possibly a trapeze/acrobatic display.

At a meeting in November of 1922, it was decided to hold a "smoker" at the village hall, but no records can be found showing if it was profitable. No reports indicate the results of the various plays and talent shows or if, in fact, they were held. In 1928, a Fourth of July celebration was sponsored and receipts of more than \$1000 were reported. The Post realized \$189.90 from this endeavor and the community band also received \$189.89, indicating that the project was a partnership venture. The Post sponsored baseball and basketball teams in its earliest days, held picnics, and on one occasion a slumgullion feed was advertised.

In 1924, more than two acres of land in the north end of Greenbush was purchased for about \$150 for a Legion Park and \$78.75 was spent "fixing it up." The land was cleared, fireplaces built, a pump installed, and a fence erected. An attractive sign was put up and the park was opened to the public as a tourist park for visitors and as a playground and picnic site for residents of Greenbush. This property encompassed a large area of town where the water tower is located today. In 1932, the park was refurbished. Comrades Stone and Kjos were appointed to get a new pump, and Comrades Bialke, Haugen, and Kjos were appointed to collect funds for a new fence.

Construction was completed on May 17, and Comrades Haugen and Kotschevar were to look after the painting of the fence posts. At a later meeting Joe Evans was paid \$1.95 for a new sand point to provide water for the park.

In these early years, the primary goal of the post seemed to be the acquisition of a post home or clubhouse. In 1930, the purchase of the **Methodist** Church building was considered but given up for reasons unknown, most likely financial. Meetings were variously held at Joe Rinowski's barbershop, Joe Smrstik's home, and on one occasion at Doc Stone's new residence.

A deal was made, at the December 1935 meeting, with fellow Legionnaire, Dave Lofgren, owner of the Greenbush Mercantile to use the apartment upstairs as Post headquarters. "The rent to be paid is to furnish lights for the Legion room- Legion to furnish it's own wood. Motion was made and seconded that wood be bought from a non-paid member in exchange for dues."

In 1931, Comrade Joe Evans was appointed to check into the matter of purchasing a discarded Pullman car but the project did not work out. No specific reasons were mentioned but most likely costs involved were prohibitive, nor do we know the condition of the car.

"Comrade," was the common form of address between members back then. That tradition came to a sudden stop at the October 3, 1939, meeting: "Motion made by Dolney, seconded by G. Williamson that the greeting of Komerad, (comrade) be changed to "Buddy" on all notices, as it smacks too much of, you know what... Carried." The new form of addressing one another was not popular with the members, because later writings prove that "Comrade" was reinstated.

In 1933 at a meeting in Joe Rinowski's barbershop, a deal was struck with Art Mattson to rent a room in his building for meeting purposes at the rate of 50 cents per month and a cord of wood. At that time Mattson was the local Ford dealer, in the building which now houses Lowell's Auto Service. Later that year, Comrades Stone, Haugen, and Lundbohrn were appointed to investigate the purchase of an old Soo Line diner car to be used as a post hall. At the February 1934 meeting, the committee reported unfavorable and the matter was shelved. Finally at the March 1934 meeting, it was decided to build a Legion hall on the southeast lot of the Legion Park. This hall was to be 18' X 22' in size and was to be built of green poplar lumber and cement. The dimensions were later increased to 20' X 24', and the hall, when completed was 24' X 36'.

It was voted that each member should contribute one day of labor on the hall or hire someone to take his place. In an interview with Clayton Kjos, he stated, "The members built the hall themselves and many of them brought their sons along to "help out." He said that he worked on the building with his father and some of his friends who also were sons of Legion members. Kjos and many of those boys became members of Post 88 in their own right as veterans of WWII.

The first meeting in the new hall was held on January 5, 1938. At the May meeting, the Community Band was given free use of the hall on Monday evenings, and at the June meeting, it was voted to give any church organization free use of the quarters for the purpose of putting on suppers. In 1939, a resolution was made "to give the school district wholehearted support in their misfortune of losing the school house and pledge our support in its recovery." The facility was used for classrooms for a time until the school was rebuilt. This first Legion Hall was located approximately at what is now the corner of Poplar Avenue and North Second Street.

It seems that formalities were more stringently observed by the WWI members than they are now and a higher level of courtesy was expected, especially to the Office of Commander. The members, apparently, accepted summary punishment as it was meted out by their fellows, as in this example from the 1936 June meeting, when a member neglected his turn to clean guns and for "talking back to the commander." "Motion was made and seconded that the Comrade was to collect funds to take care of cleaning the park in the amount of \$8 or more." This penalty was deemed adequate for this man's infraction and he must have agreed because no further mention of the incident is made and he kept his membership in the post for the rest of his life.

Rules for personal behavior were strictly observed and members could lose their Post privileges while still being accepted in the ranks of the club. Guests of members could be blackballed for a period of time or in extreme cases, for life. On one occasion the Commander became embroiled in an incident which resulted in the loss of his Post privileges. He could carry on the duties of his office but once his business was done, he was required to leave and not allowed to socialize with the rest of the members. Though, certainly embarrassing, the Commander accepted the punishment of his comrades and when the term of his sentence expired, he was welcomed back into the good graces of the club. This man also remained a member in good standing for the rest of his life. Being a member of Post 88 was obviously important to many area veterans.

In October 1942, the American Legion Charter was amended to allow veterans of WWII to join the organization.



Moen-Zimek Legion Post 88

At the February 6, 1946 meeting, a vote was taken to select a new name for the post. The legal committee consisting of Comrades Kotschevar and Dolney recommended that the new name represent veterans of both WWI and WWII and also represent the two largest ethnological groups of this community, Scandinavian and Slavic. To this end, they recommended that the name "Moen" be retained as representing WWI and the Scandinavian group and that the name "Zimek" be added to represent the Slavic group and WWII. All recommendations passed and the name "Moen-Zimek Post 88, Department of Minnesota" was adopted.

Adolph Zimek lost his life while serving with the American Army in its assault on the Sigfried Line and is buried in an American cemetery in Luxembourg, France.

With the influx of many young veterans of WWII, the membership of the post grew substantially, unusual for that time. World War II Veteran, Charles Beiswinger, was elected Post Commander in 1946.

The members of Moen-Zimek Post 88 were busy in the year 1947. It was decided to move the hall to a new location, remodel, and

enlarge the facility. A lot was purchased from Herb Reese on South Third Street in the area of today's Greenbush Implement Company and a basement was constructed with kitchen facilities and a meeting room. The original building was moved, set on the basement, and enlarged to 24' X 60' for the bar/lounge/dancehall operation. In an article published in The Greenbush Tribune shortly after the completion of this construction, Post 88 was declared "one of the finest Legion Halls in Northern Minnesota."

The expense of the project was considerable and it was decided to sell the Legion Park, an area of about two acres in the north part of Greenbush. A large portion was sold to the Greenbush State Bank and within a few years this space became a residential addition to the city.



American Legion Post 88 Marching in Greenbush, Minnesota Memorial Day Parade in 1949. First Row - John Wilebski, Sr., Albert Zimek, Floyd Stauffenecker. Second Row - Linn Rigstad, Earl Kelly. (Photo compliments of Doris Wilebski)

In the 1950s, with the advent of the Korean War, membership was opened to veterans of that conflict and more young men joined the Post. The club was reenergized, and in 1958, a new building was constructed on the corner of North Main Street and Minnesota Avenue. Individual pledges were made, money collected, and the new Post was debt free in short order. A gala Grand Opening was held on January 31, 1959.

Also in 1958, a new Legion park was carved out of a small wilderness on land purchased from Anna Borgen. In April of 1958, Commander Orville Pederson wrote to the 5th Army Salvage Depot. "Our local American Legion Post 88 has purchased some land within the Village of Greenbush, located along the new road approach to town and is in the process of putting same into shape for a very attractive and much needed Village Park. This project is sponsored by our Legion Post and most of the work connected with same is being done by Legion members. We are justly proud of our accomplishments to date; which includes brushing, construction of new picnic tables, camp stove sites, and running water. As a perpetual reminder of the work being done by our American Legion Post we would like to secure an Army tank to set up at the entrance to this park."

The Post was not successful in this request and although succeeding commanders have, from time to time, attempted to secure a tank, artillery piece or other surplus military artifact it has been to no avail to this day. In 1996, a granite monument was placed at the

park entrance and dedicated to all those who gave their lives for our country. With a light fixture in place, an American Flag next to the monument is flown night and day.

The new park along Minnesota Highway 11 at the southwest corner of Greenbush remains a popular picnic site for local people and has accommodations for RV campers, a playground for children, and a shelter for events such as family reunions and other gatherings. Throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s the mainstay of Post 88 was its business as a bar/lounge/dancehall operation. Profits were put back into the community in the form of donations to worthy causes and organizations. The post is the sponsoring organization of the Boy Scouts, has sponsored Legion baseball teams, and contributed to youth projects including Boys State. It has taken part in national and department projects to support disabled veterans, cancer research, and a number of other projects, which benefit Americans beyond the local community. Dances, bingo nights, and whist tournaments remained popular forms of entertainment in Greenbush. Gradually, enthusiasm for these pursuits waned, and they are seldom held anymore. In the 1970s, charitable gambling was introduced and its growth over the years has enabled Post 88 to once again become a major financial contributor to community causes.

Moen-Zimek Post 88 is one of the most unique organizations in Greenbush. Its members have taken part in events that have shaped our country and the world. They have served from frigid bases in the Arctic Circle to the sweltering jungles of Asia, from European battlefields to the islands of the Pacific. They have served in deserts and on the oceans. They have slogged through mud, flown thousands of feet in the air, and have served hundreds of feet beneath the sea.

Some interesting tidbits about Post 88 members include:

- One man, John Langaas, had more seniority than even the charter members of the local Post; he joined the American Legion while still serving in France before Post 88 was chartered. Langaas served in the 308th Infantry Regiment and was a member of the famed "Lost Battalion."
- Two men from Greenbush, Lawrence Lorbiecki and James Dolney, served in the Polish army and were admitted to Post 88 in 1923.
- Rodney Erickson was serving in Berlin when the Communists erected the infamous Wall, and his son Brad was serving in Berlin when the Wall came down.
- Frank Novacek was the last WWI member of Post 88, he was a combat veteran, and a further claim to fame was the fact that he sailed home on the same ship as General John J. Pershing, the "Leviathan." He was present when Pershing's promotion to "General of the Army" was confirmed on September 5th, 1919. Novacek met his "Taps" on January 17, 1994, at the age of 98, more than 75 years after the war ended.

The Vietnam War of the 1960s and 70s provided more young men for the Post as did the Gulf War of 1990, and eligibility dates have remained open to all veterans since then. At this writing, all of the WWI members have gone to their "Taps", most WWII members are in their 80s, Korean vets are in their 70s, and Vietnam vets are in their 50s and 60s. The continued existence of the American Legion is a sad testament to our inability to maintain peace. The organization was meant to die with the last veteran of WWI, "The War to End All Wars." It seems that there will always be new veterans. It seems that humanity never learns.

Submitted by Felix Korczak

Greenbush American Legion Auxiliary

When World War I was over, the disabled veterans wanted to get home and get on with their lives. They had difficulty in finding proper care and had problems in obtaining employment. In 1919, the help came in the form of the American Legion.

Their first national convention was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November of 1919. During this time, the Legion authorized the formation of an organization to be known as the "Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion." Membership was restricted to the wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters of American Legion members, of those who died in war service or deceased veterans, and women who themselves served in the armed forces during the war.

When the second Legion Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1920, the "Women Auxiliary" had 1,342 charter units, and over 11,000 members had paid a per capita tax to the American Legion. The Cleveland Convention recommended an intense organization campaign, which resulted in the formation of enough units and departments to call a national convention of the "Women's Auxiliary." The convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri from October 31 through November 2, 1921. The name of the organization was then replaced with the "American Legion Auxiliary."

On November 21, 1922, all mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of American Legion men were urged to attend a meeting at the Greenbush School. The purpose of this meeting was to organize an Auxiliary to Quentin Roosevelt Post 88 of Greenbush. Miss Julia Dufwa presided as the Auxiliary's first president. In the early years of the Auxiliary, the meetings were held in the members' homes.

The first year of the Women's Auxiliary was a busy one, as the **group** sponsored their first card party soon after their organization began. Other events during this first year included a play called, "Back to the Farm" put on by the Auxiliary members. On Memorial Day a march was made to the cemetery, afterward ex-soldiers were treated to a dinner at the village hall. Another event included a pageant called, "To Arms for Liberty" which was followed by a lunch served to the veterans. A New Year's party for the Legion closed this busy first year.

The second year began with a membership campaign. Dues were set at 75 cents per year. Charter members were Ms. Dufwa, the Mesdame's Slominski, H.I. Gavick, Lofgren, Engelhom, Lubinski, Swanstrom, Sophie Dolney, Hildahl, Rinowski, Langsleth, Dalby, Frances Kukowski, Anna Dolney, Helen Pelowski, Albert Dolney, Montieth, Hanson, O.K. Paulson, E. Lillemon, Heltne, E. Anderson, Clara Mortrude, Helen Schires, the Misses Signe Moen, Mildred Nubson, Edna Kotchevar and Cecelia Goslien.

Ladies who have served as unit presidents since Ms. Dufwa have been: Florence Evans, Olga Stone, Clara Mortrude, Millie Short, Agnes Bialke, Edna Kotchevar, Alva Mattson, Milda Goslien, Marian Everson, Vange Olson, Beau Monde Brazier, Phyllis Evans, Selma Rigstad, Jane Harders, Lou Vicia Reese, Kay Gustafson, Helen Novacek, Dee Dalager, Vi Becken, Mary Ann Johnson, Helen Kalinoski, Doris Wilebski, Ann Miksatko, Irene Ratkovec, Lois Chrzanowski, and Ruby Brekke.

The Greenbush American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored many activities throughout the years. Serving meals at large gatherings was very popular several years ago, but this is no longer done. Other activities have taken place however. Some of the projects of the Auxiliary are: the Veterans Hospital in Fargo, state and district projects, the school Halloween Party, the school music department, selling poppies, high school graduate scholarships, after prom party,



American Legion Auxiliary members April 4, 1987. Members standing left to right are: Phyllis Evans; Mary Johnson; Helen Novacek; Selma Rigstad; Helen Kalinoski; Carol Kukowski; Doris Wilebski; Irene Ratkovec. Seated are Dist. Secretary Gladys Fish; Dist. President Bev Letexier; Dept. President Marian Headly and Marian Kukowski.

Girls State, Memorial Day programs, donations for American Education Week, and support of various fund-raisers. The Auxiliary also provides a luncheon each March to celebrate the birth of the American Legion. Since 2003, a memorial ceremony has been given in memory of a deceased Auxiliary member.

The Auxiliary has 60 members at the present time.

Submitted by Ann Novacek

Greenbush Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee started as a sub-committee of the Greenbush Community Improvement Committee, which was organized in 1987 to provide a way to communicate and coordinate the activities and plans of the many volunteer groups in the Greenbush community. Beautification Committee members were Pete Willis, Bernard Gonshorowski and Carolyn Eeg. On April 21, 1988, the committee became a focus group of the Governor's Design Team. The Design Team visited Greenbush in the spring of that year and returned for a follow-up visit in the fall.

The Beautification Committee's first project was development of the L.S. Folland Welcome Park at the junction of Highways II and 32. Plans for the park were underway by the fall of 1988. In 1989, the committee received a grant from the Northwest Regional Development Commission and the Department of Trade and Economic Development to create Welcome Park. The park initially had a gravel parking lot, two bridges, two trash receptacles, three permanent picnic tables, and three permanent park benches.

Committee projects for Celebrate Minnesota 1990 included Main Street beautification, development of a trail system in Welcome Park, and signs at the entrances of the City of Greenbush. Welcome Park was dedicated June 30, 1990, as part of the kick-off of Greenbush's six-day Celebrate Minnesota event.

In the fall of 1994, community volunteers planted 1,895 seedlings of native grasses and prairie wildflowers in Welcome Park. The plants, black dirt and landscape plan were provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation as part of the Roadside Enhancement Partnership Program. In the spring of 1995, 150 cardinal red dogwoods and 20 maple trees were planted in the park.

In 1995, a Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Program Grant provided funds for the installation of a vault



Beautification Committee with help from the Jaycees and Town & Country Club decorating Main Street for Christmas in 2003. (photo courtesy of Town & Country)

restroom, barbecue grill, swing set, finishing the parking lot and walking trails with concrete, and construction of a picnic shelter with two permanent picnic tables at Welcome Park. Additional improvements at Welcome Park included **landscaping along** the riverbank, installation of flag poles, and a community billboard. The work was completed in 1996 and 1997.

Other projects of the Beautification Committee include Main Street sidewalk replacement, the Blighting Ordinance, Clean-Up Week, Y River Clean-Up, and planting and maintaining planters on Main Street.

The Beautification Committee's main fund-raiser is a soup and sandwich dinner in coordination with Santa Claus Day and the Parade of Lights each year.

Current members of the Beautification Committee are: Ruth Eeg-Chairperson, Selma Rigstad-Secretary, Jeff Pieterick-Treasurer, Pat Haarstick, Bernie Reese, Carol Miller, Jessica Kuznia, Kara Heggedal, Anne Stolp, Deb Korczak, MaryBeth Gonshorowski, Annette Wicklund, and WyAnn Janousek.

Submitted by Lisa Hanson.

Greenbush Cub Scouts



A young Greenbush Cub Scout-Pack 54. (Linda Gieseke photo)

Greenbush started its first Cub Scout Troop # 54 in 1949. It was sponsored by the American Legion Post 88 until 1954. The first leader was Ray Kellekson and he started with 15 boys. He remained the leader until 1953 when Arley Brandvold took over. The club was dropped from 1955-1961.

In 1961 Mel Wang started again with 18 boys. In 1962 Dale Longmore was leader followed by C.O. Holm in 1963. The Bethel Men's Club was sponsor from 1961-1963 when it was dropped.

From 1967 until 2002 the Ameri-

can Legion sponsored the Cub Scouts but not continuously. There was no program in 1975-1976 and in 1981. The Cub Scout leaders during this time were: (1967-1968) Linn Rigstad, (1969) Arnold Pederson, (1970) Dr. Allen Larson, (1971) Bob Wollin, (1972) Doug Dahl, (1973-1974) Rodney Langaas, (1977-1980) Russell Wicklund, (1982-1983) Mark Colter, (1984-1986) Joan Vatnsdal, (1987-1988) Jan Wollin, (1989-1990) Kari Wiskow, (1991-1994) Karen Gerth, (1994-1997) Mike Korczak, (1998-1999) Dale Sand, (2000) Jodi Wahl, (2001) Jared Evans, (2002) Tom Wollin. There was no troop in 2003-2005.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from the Fargo Office of the Boy Scouts of America.

Greenbush Boy Scouts

Greenbush started its first Boy Scout Troop # 79 on December 15, 1928, with 26-year-old Walter R Rykken as the scoutmaster and 9 young boys. It was sponsored by the Greenbush Consolidated School #66. That troop was dropped in 1930.

On February 10, 1936, the American Legion Adolph Moen Post sponsored a new Troop # 107 with Boyer Egge leading 14 boys. He wrote a letter to the scout office in Fargo saying that he would try to get to the meeting in Mahanomen, but he had no car so would have to see if he could get to Thief River Falls and ride with them. That troop only lasted that one year.

In 1944, the Greenbush Association of Commerce sponsored the beginning of Troop # 54. Clifford Heltne was scoutmaster of 20 boys. It was dropped, and in 1946, it was started again with Mr. Heltne. In 1947, E. Wayne Sanders took over, and in 1948, the sponsorship went to the Commercial Club.

In 1949, the American Legion started sponsoring the Boy Scouts and continued the sponsorship through 2003. The scoutmasters since 1949 have been: (1949) Walter Pederson, (1950) E. Wayne Sanders, (1951) Kermit Kjolhaug, (1952) Robert Benson, (1953-1955) Elmer Doran, (1956-1957) Don Becken, (1958-1975) Jack Rousseau (eighteen years of dedication by Mr. Rousseau), (1975-1976) Michael Novacek, (1977-1980) Steve Morgan, (1980-1981) Bruce Mahne, (1982-1984) Mark Colter, (1985-1987) Peter Willis, (1988-1989) Leonard Chrzanowski, (1990-1991) Tom Kujava, (1992-1994) Pastor Jim Gerth, (1995-1997) Dennis Olson, (1998-2000) Gerald Korbl, (2001-2002) Kathy Sovde, (2003) Charlie Kapphahn. There was no troop in 2004-2005.

Those who have served on the board and worked in various ca-



Gerald Doran (Eagle Scout), Elmer and Grace Doran (Parents). (photo submitted by Grace Doran)

pacities in recent history have been Leonard and Lois Chrzanowski, Cindy Hagen, Karen Gerth, Ernie and Linda Gieseke, and Carlyle and Inocencia Pederson. Leonard Chrzanowski was Legion Liaison for many years as well as many other jobs and received the District Award of Merit. Lois was named Scouter of the Year and was treasurer as well as other things.

Eagle Scout is the highest award given in scouting. Only about 2% of those who enter scouting ever achieve this goal. Only 21 young men from Greenbush have attained the honor since 1941. They were:

- 1960---Gerald Doran
- 1970---Michael Novacek, Mitch Novacek, Dale Rousseau, Gary Trangsrud, Chris Swanstrom
- 1974---Lloyd Wang
- 1976---James Fugleberg, Kevin Rousseau
- 1979---Michael Miller
- 1980---Dale Wicklund
- 1983---James Foster
- 1987---Todd Chrzanowski
- 1995---Brant Hagen
- 1997---Nathan Gerth
- 1998---Andrew Gieseke, Martin Pederson, Klinton Stephens
- 1999---David Gerth, Charles Gerth
- 2001---Brandon Dvergsten



Greenbush Boy Scouts (Early 1990s). Back Row: Nathan Gerth, Brant Hagen, Andrew Gieseke, Klint Stephens, Martin Pederson, David Gerth. Front Row: Derek Fugleberg, Kane Stephens, DJ Janousek, Matt Huntley, Kurt Pulczynski and Charlie Gerth. (*Tribune photo*)

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information obtained from the Fargo Office of the Boy Scouts of America.

History of the Greenbush Community Band

Before World War I, a number of Haug farmers from north of Greenbush formed a band, which flourished and then died out. After the War, Greenbush businessmen formed another band, also eventually disbanded.

In the 1920s, farmers of Lind Township organized a band, which grew into the Greenbush Community Band. In January of 1924, the Greenbush Community Band, at a meeting after a practice session, elected Hans Haug as director.

In addition to making music, the band actively participated in the community. On May 28, 1926, the Greenbush Tribune reported, "The Greenbush Community Band benefit Friday evening was well patronized. It was the first time that we know of when a band furnished music to dance by in Greenbush. The band furnished old time and modern music so there was a good variety of music." In



Haug Band· circa 1915 - Forerunner of Greenbush Community Band. Back Row: Hans Haug, Oscar Scott, Thorval Haug, L.C. Hegstad. Middle Row: Ben Scott (leader), Julius Kohl, Nick Davidson, William Haug. Front Row: Ben Lieberg, Fred Lieberg. (*photo courtesy of Roseau County Historical Society*)

1935, the band became involved in developing the Old Pelan Swimming Hole and hosted the Land O' Lakes picnic there, which reportedly drew a crowd of over 5,000. The site of the swimming hole was about three miles northwest of Pelan (town) across from the Leonard Klegstad farm. But there was no room for expansion there and the land was low.

The Greenbush Community Band began the development of the Pelan Battleground site (Pelan Park) on the Sand Ridge about 1937 and dug a large, deep swimming pool out of the South Branch of Two Rivers. The next year, the band sponsored the Chippewa Pow Wow at Pelan Park, reportedly drawing over ten thousand. In 1939, they held a 50th Anniversary of the Permanent Settlement of Roseau County with the governor of Minnesota as featured speaker.



Greenbush Community Band

In 1940, the band presented an original opera, Wannaska and Waunda, at the Old Settlers Celebration at the Pelan Park that fall. The opera, written by Roseau County residents, was based on an old Roseau County Indian legend involving lovers from the Sioux and Chippewa nations, mortal enemies.

The same year, markers for three historical sites were secured by the Greenbush Band and placed by the state highway department.

Greenbush Area Development Corporation
Star Cities Commission

One was erected at Pelan Battleground Park site commemorating the famous Sioux and Chippewa battle that was fought there. The second was placed at the Pelan Village site. Commemorating the thriving little community that disappeared with the coming of the rail lines that bypassed it. The third marker was set up at the site of Old Greenbush.

In July of 1941, the Greenbush Community Band went to the Grand Forks State Fair. They marched through several sections of the town and played concerts, until they were rained out. At the fairgrounds they gave several concerts and participated in one grand band concert in conjunction with several other bands. By this time the band consisted of people from many areas: Lind, Pelan, Greenbush, Haug, and perhaps others. It was truly a community band.

World War II marked the end of the Greenbush Community Band, and it was never reinstated as such, although the Greenbush community continues to boast outstanding musical talent. Currently many of these talented folks gather to perform for audiences at regular "jam sessions."

Submitted by: Eunice Korczak

(A significant portion at the beginning of this article is based on an article published in The 1940 Roseau County Historical Booklet, a souvenir program booklet for the Old Settlers Celebration at Pelan Battleground Park, sponsored by the Greenbush Community Band - and a special thank you to Art Anderson for assisting with this article.)

Roster of Greenbush Community Band
1939-1940

Coronets,	Basses
Hans Haug (39, 40)	Myrtle DeRaad (39)
Helmer Johnson (39, 40)	Bernard Anderson (39, 40)
Harry Berger (39, 40)	Prof Justin Swenson (39, 40)
Lillian Fugleberg (39, 40)	Henry C. Hess (39, 40)
Eli Omar (39)	
Arthur Anderson (39)	Drums
Kenneth Roche (40)	Evelyn Sanders (39)
	Shallborg Solom (39, 40)
Baritones	Arnold Anderson (39, 40)
Tangen (39, 40)	Myrtle DeRaad (39)
Joseph Christianson (39, 40)	Amy Hetland (39)
Altos	Clarinets
Mrs. Arthur Anderson (39)	Mrs. Andrew Stenberg (39)
Bert T. Anderson (39)	Edwin Anderson (39, 40)
Andrew Alme (39, 40)	Wesley Sanders (39, 40)
Ronal Rowley (40)	Wayne Sanders (39, 40)
Hilary Bialke (40)	June Mattson (39, 40)
	Jalmyra Blazek (39)
Trombones	Clarice Christianson (39, 40)
Kermit Stenmoe (39, 40)	Beatrice Peterson (39, 40)
Leslie Klegstad (39, 40)	Lenore Lillemon (40)
Lloyd Lubinski (39, 40)	
Donald Rinowski (39, 40)	Saxophone
Joseph Anderson (40)	Ruth Christianson (39, 40)
	Palma Anderson (39, 40)
	Orville Anderson (39, 40)
	Mrs. Orville Anderson (40)
	Jalmyra Blazek (40)

The Greenbush Area Development Corporation was incorporated on November 20, 1967. It was started by a group of businessmen interested in promoting the growth and prosperity of the community of Greenbush.

Regular meetings did not commence until 1969. The initial officers were: I.S. Folland, President; Vernon Fugleberg, Vice President; Louis Allen, Secretary; and L.H. Klefstad, Treasurer.

Memberships were sold to businesses for \$25, and individuals could join for a \$10 membership fee. Focus of the group included the possibility of an industrial park section of Greenbush. In 1976, the group assisted projects such as converting the theatre building into a dental office and the start-up of the Sather Clothing Store.

There was a period of inactivity until 1986 when a group of area business, farm, and community individuals formed a Star Cities Commission. Members were Greg Wollin, City of Greenbush; Linda Gieseke, Public Relations; Bob Hager, Financial; Oren Lund, Commercial/Industrial; Carolyn Eeg, Community Improvement; Paul Everson, Hospital/School; Mike Korczak, Housing; as well as Ex Officio members Hector Reese, Mayor; Keith Haarstick, Ottertail; Glenn Darst, Roseau County; and Rudee Anderson, NW Regional Development Commission. The primary function of the Commission was to develop a five-year plan for the community and provide leadership or direction to accomplish goals within the plan.

The GADC had remained inactive until the Star Cities Commission reactivated the corporation in 1990. Karen Janousek served as president. At that time, the membership consisted mainly of business owners who shared the common goal of attracting new businesses to the community of Greenbush and improving existing businesses and attractions. The initial project the new group focused on was the development of a mobile home court.

In 1991, an Economic Development Authority (EDA) was established for the City of Greenbush. The vision that had begun the GADC had evolved more into the need for the city to have a loan pool to assist new and existing businesses. It was at this time a major membership drive was set forth with the goal of raising \$25,000 to inject into the loan pool. The EDA continues to this date, assisting new businesses in the Greenbush area, with a total Loan Pool accessible with the city, Border State Band, and Ottertail Power of \$150,000.

Some of the community accomplishments were: 1987- Community Coordinator hired for community and economic development projects. Individuals who served in this position were Carolyn Eeg, Sandy Hall, and Susan Anderson. 1988- Governor's Design Team in Greenbush. 1989- Swimming pool, with the community raising funds of approximately \$125,000. 1990- Celebrate Minnesota projects; Welcome Park dedication; Main Street sidewalk improvements; Greenbush welcome banners. 1991- city facilitated moving Jon's Auto for beautification; Oak View Golf Course grass greens completed; Greenbush Race Park opened. 1992- Legion campground improvements including electrical hook-ups, bathrooms/showers, and dump station; also a redesign of the intersection of MN Highway #11 and #32. 1993- community center improvements; landscaping, sidewalk, and parking lot; baseball diamond Agralime base; sidewalk improvements; signage for County Rd #4, Legion Park and Welcome Park; fire hall construction- community fundraiser 1988-1993; community meeting held to discuss community issues and needs including beautification, housing, activities, medi-

cal services, community relations/services, and business relations/development.

Submitted by Robert Hager.

Greenbush Community Food Shelf Organization and History

The Greenbush Community Food Shelf was originally organized in about 1980 by Ruth Eeg at the Greenbush Community Center with the assistance of Pastor Stadler and later Pastor Jim Gerth, who provided individuals and families with food and personal care items on an as-needed basis. The food shelf was reorganized in 1990, initiated by Lyle & Loreen Sovde and opened on a regular basis April 12, 1990 at the Greenbush Community Center. An application form process was incorporated for all newcomers and signature cards were provided for each visit. There was, and still is, no specific requirement that recipients must meet to receive assistance. Food shelf members during the reorganization period included Lyle & Loreen Sovde, Pastor Jim Gerth, Alvin Sather, June Gjovik, Ruth Eeg, and WyAnn Janousek.

The Greenbush Food Shelf is a nonprofit service organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life by providing needed food and personal items; and also exists as a support system for area families and individuals. The Greenbush Community Food Shelf helps the hungry when they have run out of options, when they can't get help from friends or relatives, when an elderly widow's Social Security doesn't stretch far enough to make it through the month, when single parents work hard to earn a paycheck only to watch it go to rent and utilities and leaving nothing to feed their kids.



Members of the Greenbush Community Foodshelf boxes food to be distributed to area families. Pictured L-R: Beatrice Dvergsten, Ilene Trangsrud, WyAnn Janousek. (*Tribune photo*)

Throughout the years, food and personal care items have been distributed to several families and individuals. Donations and contributions by various area organizations, businesses, individuals, and families have helped tremendously in fulfilling these needs.

In 2002, due to decrease in this type of needed assistance, the Greenbush Community Food Shelf committee members decided to change to a certificate only system vs. collecting and keeping food

on the shelves and distributing. A new application form and procedure was initiated and presently operates in this manner. These certificates provide recipients with a monetary amount that they can use to purchase items needed at our local grocery store, Squid's Market. No food is given out unless it is a turkey at thanksgiving or a ham at Christmas. During Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, food shelf members distribute certificates in various increments based on family need and/or size.

There have been several individuals throughout the years who have served on this committee and/or helped deliver food, etc. Current committee members include Father Don Braukmann, Pat Haarstick, Avis Iverson, Bernie Reese, Donna Anderson, Carol Waage and WyAnn Janousek.

The heart of the food shelf's success is the pool of several volunteers over the years who have provided numerous hours of assistance, and area organizations, businesses, families, and individuals who have contributed funds, food, personal care items, etc. Without these volunteers and contributors, there could not be a food shelf.

Submitted by WyAnn Janousek.

4-H History

The first known forerunner of 4-H in the Greenbush area was a Growers Club organized at the Haug School in 1917. The chief purpose of the club was "to encourage children to take a vital interest in the work on the farm and try to show that farming is not drudgery, but an educational occupation."

About 35 children joined that first club. The first officers were: President George Cooper; Vice President Joseph Christianson; Secretary Marie Kelly. Club leaders were teachers Olga Sather and Elmer Boerke. Other family names were Samstad, Wahl, Hegstad, Novacek, Frislie, Lieberg, Nelson, Hoem, Graff, Pederson, Holter, Kjersten, Hellickson, Blazek, Brandvold, and Davidson.

Throughout the 1920s, the newspaper generally referred to the clubs as Boys and Girls Clubs, but they were 4-H clubs under the auspices of the county agent.

In 1926, 150 boys and girls with calves and lambs participated in the parade at the Roseau County Fair and sang club songs in front of the grandstand. Morris Dallager, Mildred Anderson, and Myron Jacobson received trips to the Junior Livestock Show for sheep. Rudolph Berger, Harley Anderson, and Myron Jacobson received trips to the state fair for grade sows. Harold Johnson received a trip to the Junior Livestock Show for a grade barrow. (News release by county agent IW. Taylor)

According to the 1968 Greenbush Tribune, Darwin Huartson was named Sate Treasurer, and in 1969 he attended the National 4-H Congress.

Green Acres began in late 1972 or early 1973, with their first exhibits at the Roseau County Fair in 1973. They began when Valley Builders of rural Greenbush was starting to phase out, because their members grew older and the club was not active. At that time, there were separate clubs for kids that lived north of Greenbush, south of Greenbush, and the town kids. Some parents felt all the kids should come together. Merton and Annette "2P" Kirkeide and Ray and Lillian Christianson met with Delores Andol to attempt to set up one new club including all Greenbush kids. The 4-H program stressed putting rural and town kids together to create a diverse club, with more learning capability. They met in the Greenbush School cafeteria before moving to the Greenbush Community Center.

Some of the first members were: Ron and Reed Anderson; Bonnie and Becky Boyum; Janene, Ann, and Paul Kirkeide; Robby and Corena Christianson; Julie, Jackie, and Liz Efta; Gene, Gwen, Trina and Troy Jacobson; Renae and Scott Melby; Mavis and Barb Bolek; and Steve Haugen. They were active in Share the Fun, had strong exhibiting in all project areas at the Roseau County Fair, and sent several kids to the Minnesota State Fair. They had judging teams in both general livestock and dairy, and also had bowling teams in a tournament for Roseau County members. Having a very strong softball team was a must for 4-H and the team played on the softball diamond near the United Free Lutheran Church in Greenbush.

Some of the first adult leaders were Merton and Annette "2P" Kirkeide, Ray and Lillian Christianson, Ron and Shelah Jacobson, Tom and Pat Wallace, Keith and Eileen Kilen, Jackie "Gary" and Joan Erickson, Orin and Peggy Swart, Karen Eeg, and Karen Stephens.

The Roseau County Fair was a little different back in the 70s as they still had all the old barns, with one bam for each of the different species of animals.

The GreenAcres Club continues to be a very active one. After 34 years, their enrollment for 2003-2004 is 41 members. The meetings are held at the Greenbush Community Center or the Greenbush Fire Hall.



Front Row, l-r: Molly Janicke, Courtney Schires, Courtney Kirkeide, Tyler Bentow, Eric Hart, Mattie Janicke. Middle Row: Peter Wollin, Jessica Sand, Emily Bentow, Vanessa Dvergsten, Carly Schires, Jessica Dvergsten, Michaela Janicke, Karla Alme. Back Row: Kayla Kirkeide, Alyssa Dvergsten, Regina Wollin, Danica Dvergsten, Anna Alme, Kari Alme.

The club is also very involved with Community Pride. Community Pride is very important to 4-H because this shows the community how a club can work together making a difference in their town. Some of the community pride projects done in the past have included working with the Greenbush Nursing Home residents, Adopt-A-Highway, and a gardening project at the Greenbush Nursing Home. Green Acres members also participate in the Greenbush annual 4th of July Parade.

Green Acres members still enjoy the anticipation of getting ready and participating in the county fair. It brings satisfaction to members and they receive ribbons and advancement to the Minnesota State Fair. Visiting with family and friends is also a highlight of the fair.

Club members also have fun participating in 4-H bowling tournaments, a day at the Seven Clans waterslide in Thief River Falls, and a number of different county camps.

The club hopes to continue as an active club. Leaders in the past who have kept the spirit going in Green Acres are Jan Wollin and Lisa Dvergsten as well as many others. Although times are chang-

ing in the 4-H program, leaders and members will continue the beliefs from which 4-H originated: HEAD, HEART, HANDS and HEALTH.

Portions submitted by Myrna Sovde. Roxanne Kirkeide, Shelah Jacobson

The Greenbush Area Friends of the Library

The original chapter of the Greenbush Friends of the Library (FOL) was organized in 1982 to spearhead a campaign to raise funds to complete Roseau County's funding contract for 1983. This culminated with SYRCL (Save Your Roseau County Library) Sunday in October of 1982, when a county-wide radio-thon over KRWB netted enough donations to keep the library from closing its doors in 1983.

From this fund-raiser, Greenbush also had enough money left over to start remodeling the look of the library by purchasing a new circulation desk, a storage cabinet, and additional shelving.

The FOL also organized a volunteer librarian program which increased the hours of the library from 19 to 36.5 hours. Six local residents staffed the extra hours, plus several more serving as substitutes.

As membership dwindled down throughout the years, a re-organizational meeting of the Friends of the Library was held on Thursday, October 15, 1987, at the library by Shirley Langaas, Ann Novacek, and librarian Toni Kjos. In 1988, Deb Korczak was appointed Treasurer.



2004 Women of Today Easter Carnival Bake Sale benefiting the Greenbush Library. L to R: Ann Novacek, librarian; Tessany Becker; Marita Becker, FOL Membership Chair; Dianne Churchill, Vice Chairperson; Deb Korczak, treasurer; and Angie Peterson, Chairperson. (FOL photo)

The Friends of the Library reactivated in February of 2003 because there was a definite need to show support for the spacious, new library that had just been built adjacent to the community center. Charter officers were Angela Kilen-Peterson, chairperson; Deb Korczak, treasurer; Pat Hogan, secretary; Marita Becker, membership chair; Judy Pulczynski, newspaper contact; Ann Novacek, librarian; Dianne Churchill, historian; and Lisa Hanson, public relations.

In 2004, Judy Pulczynski replaced Pat Hogan as secretary and Dianne Churchill was elected vice chair. In July of 2004, Dianne stepped up to the chairperson of the Friends of the Library upon the resignation of Angie Kilen-Peterson, who was hired as the new librarian.

Since its reactivation, the Friends have covered the deficit brought

on by budget cuts and have also implemented new programs, such as Saturday volunteer hours and the book-borrowing cart for the Greenbush Nursing Home.

The FOL works **extensively** to promote and support the library. The Greenbush Lions and the FOL hold a free-will pancake breakfast at the Greenbush Community Center annually to raise funds. In May of 2004, a dinner was held at the Greenbush Community Center, not only as a fund-raiser, but also as a way to raise awareness about the library and to publicize all that it offers.



2004 Greenbush Library Fundraiser Dinner. L to R: Dianne Churchill, Vice Chairperson; Judy Pulczinski, Secretary; and FOL members Shirley Langaas and Myrna Sovde. (FOL photo)

Also, with the FOL, the Greenbush Girl Scouts consisting of Chantal Wilson, Allison Waage, Ashton Waage, and Kayla Kirkeide along with their leader Dawn Wilson, conduct a monthly story time in the winter and a weekly one in the summer.

At the 2003 Fourth of July parade, the FOL received first place for its float "The Greenbush Public Library, Where Literary Characters Come to Life."

They also work with the Greenbush Middle River School to offer the accelerated reading program to students throughout the summer months. This program was a finalist for the 2003 Evy Nordley Award for Best Project by Friends presented by the Minnesota Association of Library Friends.

To this day, the Greenbush Area Friends of the Library remains a strong and active group dedicated to the preservation of our beautiful public library.

Submitted by Angela Peterson

The Greenbush Garden Club

In May 1952, The Greenbush Garden Club organized at the Folland home. A number of women from Badger, Minnesota, assisted in drawing up a constitution. Mrs. W.O. Gordon was made President; Mrs. Maynard Peterson, Vice President; and Mrs. I.S. Folland, Secretary and Treasurer. They affiliated with the State Horticultural Society. They maintained the planters at the hospital, built floats for "Hospital Day" and brought bud vases and flowers for the teachers on the opening day of school. At that time they had about 20 members.

The Greenbush Garden Club dissolved in the 1960's but area gardeners are active in the Badger Gro-Rite Garden Club. The Gro-Rite Garden Club had been active since 1946 and is still going strong. The Badger Club has members from Warroad to Middle River and includes 22 members.

Submitted by Joan Green

Greenbush Girl Scouts

The Greenbush Girl Scouts have been a very active organization for at least forty years. Through scouting the girls become strong leaders of tomorrow. The Girl Scouts do many community projects to help better the community. They are active with all age groups in the community, including the very young all the way up to the elderly.



Front Row, l-r: Chantal Wilson, Kayla Kirkeide and Whitley Aamodt. Back Row: center, Dawn Wilson and Pine to Prairie Council Representatives. (photo by Dawn Wilson)

Some troops have put in extra time and have received special awards. Three major awards are the Bronze, Silver, and Gold. To earn these awards, the girls must create a special project, which they must plan from the first stage all the way to the end. This includes planning, financing, preparing, carrying out the project, and finalizing all paperwork. The girls learn leadership, responsibility, and best of all, how one person can make a difference.

In the year 2000, four girls earned the Silver: Ashley Mekash, Jaime Emery, Rachel Kapphahn, and Samantha Sovde. They developed a project called Lock-In of the Millennium. This project was planned to teach the girls how things were in each decade. Each troop researched a different decade, and the night of the lock-in each troop performed a skit to show what they had learned. The night was a success, and the girls felt a sense of great accomplishment.



Front Row, l-r: Jaime Emery, Ashley Mekash and Samantha Sovde. Back Row, l-r: Sharon Emery Elaine Kapphahn and Pine to Prairie Representatives. (photo by Dawn Wilson)

Those same girls went on in the year 2002 to earn the Gold Award. The girls planned the annual Halloween party for the community,

adding many new experiences and fun activities for the event. The girls planned the night, estimated and paid all bills, and found volunteers to work. The party was wonderful, and again, they gained great experience toward future leadership.

Another Greenbush group earned the Bronze Award. This award is the first of the three awards and teaches the girls about responsibility. Kayla Kirkeide, Whitley Aamodt, and Chantal Wilson earned the Bronze in 2002. The girls earned many badges, and for their final project, worked with the Greenbush Town and Country to plan the Christmas Carnival. The girls created new games, ordered the prizes, and organized workers for the event. The girls worked at many different games and after the event donated all the games they had created for future use.

After the older girls earned their Silver, the city honored them by making them Grand Marshall of the annual Fourth of July parade.

Girls currently working to earn the Silver Award are: Allison Waage, Chantal Wilson, and Ashton Waage. They are busy with the Friends of the Library bringing storytime to life. The girls plan and perform storytime once a week at the public library. The girls enjoy learning and the children love to attend each week wondering what the theme will be.

With bright young girls and future leaders coming out of this program, it is a great asset to our community.

The Dr. Lavernia Jorgensen Scholarship was awarded to Ashley Mekash in 2004.

Leaders in 2005 include Rochell Klegstad, Shellie Mekash, Lynn Balstad, Sharon Emery, Annette Wicklund, Deb Korczak and Dawn Wilson. Korczak, Mekash, Balstad, Wilson, and Emery have been leaders for over five years.

Submitted by Dawn Wilson

History of Greenbush (Roseau County) Homemakers Clubs



Homemakers Club in 1957 - L to R standing - Frances Smrstik, Stella Novak, Alma Hutchinson, Susan Mrozek, Betty Kukowski, Blonden Pederson, Agnes Troskey, Marian Kukowski. Front L-R: Antonette (Wojciechowski) D'Heilly and Elizabeth Wojciechowski.

On looking through past extension reports, the first mention of Homemakers Clubs seems to be about 1922. The women at that time were not organized into various clubs, but had a county-wide project. Some of the local leaders at that time were Mrs. Sam Darst, Mrs. Gust Waage, Mrs. John Mellick, Mrs. R. Mellick, Mrs. M. Olson, Mrs. DeRaad, Mrs. A. Dolney and Mrs. A. Olson from the Greenbush area. By 1925, there was a definite organization of Homemakers Clubs in this area.

The Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minne-

sota sponsored the Homemakers program. The information the Homemaker groups received varied: from nutrition, foods, family life, home furnishings, and home management. Some of the most interesting topics were: broiler meals, outdoor cookery, remodeling of furniture, picture framing, make over clothing, wills and descent of property, etc. Besides various programs, the women also had sewing machine clinics, pressure cooker clinics, and lessons on home freezing of foods.

The Homemakers of the county participated in the Roseau County Fair, by making homemade cookies, and by helping the dairy industry by serving milk at the milk booth. They also coordinated various activities and demonstrations for "Achievement Day," which was held in May of each year: they planned and set up lessons for the following year. The first report of an Achievement Day was in 1924.

In 1944, one of the main interests of the Homemakers Clubs was a school lunch program. A county nutrition committee was set up to organize a county-wide school program, which helped with planning menus for the area schools.

In 1946, the first Homemakers council was formed with township chairpersons. This group consisted of the leaders for all the local clubs, and each township was represented. They helped coordinate the program of activities for the year.

Plans were made for the hiring of the first Home Agent, Marion Parbst, for Roseau County in 1946. Her first year was spent mainly in the reorganization of the Homemakers Clubs. Since that time three new Home Agents have been employed in Roseau County. They were Miss Carol Eyford, Miss Betty Ostlund and Claudia MacDonald. In the early 1960s, Delores Andol was hired as the County Extension Agent, which she held for many years, retiring in 1993. Because of a steady decline of interest in the Homemakers program, due to many women being employed outside the home, most of the Homemakers Clubs in the Greenbush area no longer were active in the 1990s.

Barto Homemakers Club (Later known as Country Homemakers)

The Barto Homemakers Club started in the Greenbush area in (about) 1950. The members in 1951 were: Martha Woitas, Frances Smrstik, Elizabeth Landowski, Marian Kukowski, Antoinette Wojciechowski, Elizabeth Pulczinski, Stella Novak, Susan Mrozek, Helen Novacek, Agnes Troskey, Julia Wojciechowski, Agnes Stanislawski, Helen Stanislawski, Josephine Kukowski, Elizabeth Wojciechowski, and Betty Kukowski.

Carol Eyford was Home Extension Agent; leaders were Elizabeth Landowski and Frances Smrstik; assistant leaders were Antoinette Wojciechowski and Helen Novacek; and reporter was Martha Woitas.

The leaders attended training sessions in Roseau and brought back lessons for the next meeting. Monthly meetings were held, and the club honored any members who had a birthday during that month. Each member brought a small, wrapped prize to the meeting where bingo was played for entertainment. The hostess served a luncheon and furnished a "door prize". In the 1970s, Nola Kukowski, Carol Kukowski, and Elinor Koshenina joined the club.

The closure of the Country Homemakers Club, and the other homemakers' clubs, came in 1984. The remainder of the account from dues and other functions was donated to the Fergus Falls Hospital, as this had been done each year during the Christmas season when the club was active.

Garden Patch Homemakers Club (1977-1984)

Members were Joan Erickson (President), Peggy Swart, Joan Green, Eileen Kilen, Marlene Reese, Gertrude Flaten, Audrey Olson, Mary Kuznia, Sharon Christianson, Colleen Lorenson, Sandy Stauffenecker, and Karen Eeg.

Soler Homemakers Club

Some of the members of this club were Edna Wahl, Helen Wahl, Rose Brekke, Olga Melby, and Ruby Brekke. Ruby Brekke was also county chairwoman in the 1960s.

Submitted by: Elinor Koshenina with information from the Roseau Extension Office and from previous area Homemaker Club members.

Greenbush Jaycees

The first chapter of the Greenbush Jaycees was organized on June 25, 1974. The officers were President Adrian Pulczynski, Vice President Louis Haupt, 2nd Vice President Doug Dahl, Treasurer Jack Johnson, Secretary Pete Duncan, State Director Rodger Matthews, and Directors Frandell Johnson and Bernie Nelson. The formal meeting was held at the Legion.



Back Row: Louis Haupt, Brian Dailey, Rodger Matthews, **Frandell** Johnson, James Stolp Jr. Front Row: Glenn Darst and Peter Duncan (photo by Greenbush Tribune)

Thirty charter members in addition to the officers were Richard Churchill, Kenneth Johnson, Norbert Johnson, Norman Miller, Mike Kvarnlov, Wayne Burkel, Greg Wollin, Rhett Haugen, Brian Dailey, Robert Novotny, Curt Hauger, Jack Brazier, Glenn Darst, Nathan McFarlane, Gary Trangsrud, Steve Evans, Larry Slawson, Del Stordahl, James Stolp, Jr., Russell Wicklund, Tim Truscinski, and Sander Tureson.

Meetings were held at A.J.'s Cafe. Their first projects were Deer Contest; Recreation Nights at the school, open to the public, with admission of one dollar; Light a Bike program; and Auto Rally. They also purchased a T.V. for the hospital.

The Jaycees had a basketball show at the school gym against the Arkansas Gems. They also worked on a draft for a swimming pool and helped the police department on Halloween night.

In 1975, the Jaycees started the first high school athletic awards banquet. They gave awards to lettermen, players, cheerleaders, and

coaches. They contributed money to the wrestling program, worked on trying to get tennis courts built, and on getting summer activities started. They raised funds through the basketball game and by selling Christmas wreaths and coloring books. They sponsored four teams of youth baseball for boys ages 8-15. They played an intermural schedule. They also sponsored Babe Ruth Baseball for ages 13-15.

In 1976, they constructed the trap shooting facilities north of town. Nathan McFarlane was president at the time and received a special presidential citation for outstanding local chapter.

This Jaycee chapter disbanded in 1977.

In 1980 a group of men got together and decided they wanted to reestablish the Jaycee chapter. In March of 1981, they met and elected Jack Sovde as President. They were a group of men ages 21-40 who wanted to provide for personal growth, development, and community service. They needed 30 members to establish a club. Roseau Jaycees sponsored them. In 1989, women were allowed to join the group.



Greenbush Jaycee Shelter 2004 (photo by Linda Gieseke)

They started the sand box fill in 1989. They sold pictures and gave money to the Ellis Island Statue of Liberty Fund. They also built the new Jaycee Shelter that year. Later that year they purchased two bulletproof vests for the safety of our local police officers.

They have sponsored Run/Punt/Pass contest for kids, Harvest Festival, softball tournaments, golf tournaments, ATV races, evening beer garden and street dances, barbeque turkey and lamb suppers, Toy Show, youth basketball, youth wrestling, summer recreation, circus, Halloween booth, Fourth of July games, races and demo derby. The Vikings, amateur boxers, and other out of town attractions were brought to town. They were instrumental in getting the softball complex together and buying playground equipment.

Pull-tabs were added in 1988 for raising funds for community donations. The Jaycees have donated to the library, new gym floor at the school, swimming pool, grass greens at the golf course, ambulance and rescue squad, fire hall and fire department, skating rink warming house in Strathcona, Greenbush Hospital and Clinic, Close Up, the after prom party, Cystic Fibrosis Bike-a-thon, and academic scholarships. They have given prizes to area children and honored community volunteers.

In 1991, they added a floor, bathrooms, and a cooler unit to the shelter and donated it to the city. Later picnic tables were added.

They have received numerous awards including Outstanding Project, District Director Award, Award of Excellence, Minnesota Outstanding Jaycee Chapter, and the Minnesota Outstanding Jay-

cee Chapter, and the Minnesota Service Award.

In June of 2004, the group decided to disband.

Submitted by Mary Ann Johnson and Linda Gieseke with information from the Greenbush Tribune and the Greenbush Jaycees.

Greenbush Lion's Club

Greenbush Lion's Club is a part of Lion's Club International. There are Lion's Clubs in 192 countries in which 45,978 clubs are organized and have 1,352,397 members as of October 31, 2003.

Our mission statement is, "to create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation." The Lion's motto is, "We serve."

Internationally, Lions emphasize eyesight and preventing blindness. A good share of Lions resources are spent on problems that may cause blindness. Lions Clubs International Foundation is our disaster response fund for floods, earthquakes, and other major disasters. The 2002 Roseau flood was such a disaster, and LCIF helped the people of Roseau.

The Greenbush Lion's Club was organized in February 1985 and our charter night was held March 22 at the Greenlin Supper Club with many clubs represented from Minnesota and Canada. Charter members were Maurice Bertilrud, LaMoyne Branden, Art Braun, Pat Cartier, Richard Churchill, Rex Clay Jr., Harvey Dallager, Peter Duncan, Manvil Dvergsten, Ernie Gieseke, Carlen Gilseth, James Gonshorowski, Frandell Johnson, Keith Kapphahn, Felix Korczak, Larry Kruger, Rodney Langaas, Axel Lieberg, Duane Lorensen, Charles Lund, Paul Nelmark, Bernard Nelson, A.J. Pulczynski, Robert Sawyer, Harlan Solberg, Delbert Stordahl, Kenneth Swanson, BelmerThompson, K.B. Trangrud, Tom Wachsmuth, Melvin Wang, and Don Wicklund. Fifteen of these charter members are still active in the club.

Charter officers were: President, Keith Kapphahn; 1st Vice President, Tom Wachsmuth; 2nd VP, Lamoyne Branden; 3rd VP, Larry Kruger; Secretary, Kenneth Swanson; Treasurer, K.B. Trangrud; Tail Twister, Jim Gonshorowski; and Lion Tamer, Mel Wang. Charter Board of Directors were Rodney Langaas, Felix Korczak, Ernest Gieseke, and Richard Churchill. Our Guiding Lion from our sponsoring Roseau Lions Club was A.J. Kramer assisted by Irvin Johnson.

Greenbush Lions Club has put on or cooperated on 26 benefits for people in the Greenbush and Badger communities and contributed money to six benefits put on by others. These benefits have been pancake breakfasts/dinners usually to help with medical expenses. Benefits have amounted to approximately \$75,000.00 since January 1985. Some of these projects have earned supplemental funds from Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans which now are combined into Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Lions fun night was started in January 1985. Lion Manvil Dvergsten organized it and is still in charge. All other members sell tickets and some sell a lot! This event raises money which is used to help people in the area.

Lions were asked to help with the Community Halloween Party in October 1986 and have been helping every year by blowing up helium balloons.

Each year Greenbush hosts the Lions 5M-11 Governor's visit and the Lions' wives are guests. This is a pep talk for Lionism. They also have an annual Christmas Party for their wives and the wives of deceased Lions.

Life-Alert System was purchased in January 1987 and the base established in the Greenbush Nursing Home. Units were rented to those who needed to summon emergency help. By 1999, the equipment was outdated technologically, and we turned it over to Roseau Area Hospital.

In March of 1997, we took over Farmer's Appreciation day. The Town and Country club co-sponsored this. It died out and Lions quit sponsoring it in 2002.

The Sheep Days Committee asked Lions to help serve breakfast and we have done this when asked since 1992. Greenbush Lions scholarship program was established in 1988 at \$150 for the Greenbush School. In 1989 the amount was raised to \$250, and in 1997, to \$500. Badger School was added in 1998. In 2000 it was increased to two scholarships in Greenbush/Middle River and one in Badger. At present the amount is \$750 for each.

Since "After Prom" parties were started the Lions have donated to both Badger and Greenbush/Middle River parties.

From 1990 to present, two miles of Highway 11 ditches have been cleaned in both spring and fall.

In September of 1997, Northland Threshing Bee asked Lions to serve a Sunday breakfast and this has been done since. It raises some money for our community projects.

The first reading assistance machine was purchased in February 2000 for a person with glaucoma. It was so successful that a second one was purchased and placed in the Greenbush Nursing Home. When these machines are not being used, they are expected to be placed in the Greenbush Public Library so they can be available to lend to people who need them.



Friends of the Library Fundraiser by Lions. Back Row: Harlan Solberg, Del Stordahl, Dick Churchill, Elmer Doran, Don Wicklund, Jeff Everson, Ellis Waage, Kurt Zimdars, Bernie Nelson, Ernie Gieseke. Front Row: Manvil Dvergsten, Bill Wagner, Keith Kapphahn. (photo by Lions club)

When the new Greenbush Public Library was completed in 2001, the Lions furnished a meeting room with furniture, sink, counter, clock, and blinds. The Ralph Pederson estate had given the Lions a legacy and part of it was used for this project.

In 2001, Lion Bill Wagner arranged for a trailer to haul and store our benefit supplies. Lion's decals were added, and Lion's activities were also listed on the trailer body. It is also used as a float in area parades.

Shortly after the 2002 Roseau flood, the Greenbush Lions were asked to help by touring the town and distributing Lion's Club International Fund vouchers to be used in area stores. This was done twice.

The Greenbush Lions have been very active in the community for over 20 years and are looking forward to a bright future in continued Lionism.

Submitted by Secretary Lion Keith Kapphahn

The Pelan Players

The Pelan Players are an unusual group, because they have organized at intervals only long enough to present a production. Once the current production has been presented, the group disbands, until they decide to do another presentation. The group consists of different people for each production, with **only** a few who seem to be more or less "regulars." The main purpose of the Players has been to raise funds for Pelan Park, and most, but not all, presentations have been at the park.



Phyllis Evans, long-term Pelan Players member; Sharon Schultz; Tami Wahl; Dory **Stephens**. (photo courtesy of Felix Korczak)



Tom Sawyer - Christine Gieseke, Valarie Stanislawski, Crystal Johnson, Andrew Gieseke. (photo courtesy of Linda Gieseke)

In 1940, the original Roseau County opera, Wannaska and Waunda, was perhaps the first production ever at Pelan Park. Sponsored by the Greenbush Community Band, there is no indication they called themselves The Pelan Players. However, they were certainly the fore-runners of The Players. In 1976, a repeat of Wannaska and Waunda was staged,

thirty-six years after the original performance. Again there is no indication that the group was billed as The Pelan Players.



Face on the Barroom Floor: Pam Johnson, Khristi Lieberg, Felix Korczak, Lisa Sovde, Pastor James Alger, Todd Chrzanowski, Peter Pederson. (photo courtesy of Felix Korczak)

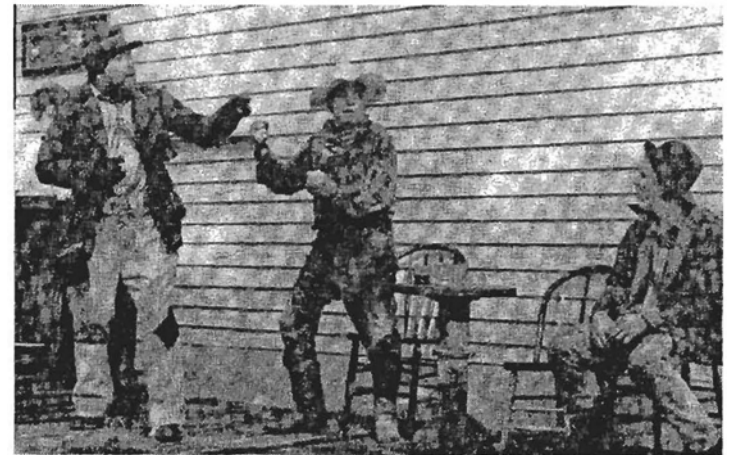
A number of programs were presented by outside groups, including The Gong Show by a Karlstad group in 1977; Norwegian Cultural Folklore Team in 1978; and Heritage Art Festival in 1979. The first outdoor "dinner theater" at Pelan Park was presented by a Minneapolis theater group in 1980.

Finally in 1984, local talent known as The Pelan Players presented the play How the West Was Fun, a melodrama. This seems to be the first appearance of the Pelan Players. A series of plays followed including, but perhaps not limited to: Goodbye to the Clown, 1985; Huckleberry Finn, 1986; The Face on the Barroom Floor, 1987; Harvey, 1988; Our Girls, 1989; Showdown at the Rainbow Ranch,



Little Luncheonette of Terror - Debbie Johnson, Sadie Olson, Matthew Harper, Crystal Johnson, Britt McFarlane, Jeanne Novacek, Mary Kaml, Matt Kujava, Lynnette Gustafson, Melissa Huntley, Sylvia Kukowski, and Germaine Riegert. (photo courtesy of Linda Gieseke)

1990; Tom Sawyer, 1991; I'm A Family Crisis, 1992; Fools, 1993; Little Luncheonette of Terror, 1994; Hillbilly Wedding, 1995; and The Great Ice Cream Scheme, 1997.



Face on the Barroom Floor - Ken Johnson, Joe Anderson, Peter Pederson. (photo courtesy of Felix Korczak)

The talent of The Players has been consistently good, a remarkable achievement for a rather disjointed and unorganized group. Perhaps the longest continual member was Phyllis Evans, a key member of the group for five years, usually directing and sometimes taking a bit part.

Major renovations have been accomplished at Pelan Park recently, and here's hoping The Pelan Players will be revived to entertain the community again with their abilities and high spirits. They have been a fine addition to our community.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak

Greenbush Senior Citizens

A group of interested residents held a meeting Friday, August 26, 1966, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the federal program for senior citizens as it pertained to the Greenbush community. Mrs. Nellie Anderson, overall director of the senior project, represented Northwest Community Action, Inc. This agency funded projects by providing grants for the establishment of community buildings in the area. The communities which expressed an interest in this venture realized that little had been done as far as providing worthwhile activities for the elderly in the area. A housing project, including a center for programs and activities, such as games, music, arts, crafts, hobbies, movies, and meals would be welcomed. This would be supervised by a local director. In order to be considered a senior citizen member, one would have to be 60 years of age and the spouse would be eligible regardless of age.

After many meetings and much planning, a grant was obtained and a 20-unit, low income housing building was constructed. This was realized in 1972 and was named Elderbush. It housed a large meeting room and was to be used as a headquarters for the senior citizens.



A monthly Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Dorothy Kasproicz. (*Senior Citizen photo*)

The Senior Citizens organized and held their first meeting on January 20, 1975. The first officers were: Agnes Kruse, President; Mary Jopp, Vice President; Ruth Eeg, Treasurer; Mamie Anderson, Reporter and Secretary; Sister Lucille, Advisor. Lavern Swan, Area **Director**, attended the Senior Citizens meeting and explained the benefits seniors could receive from the Senior Citizens' program. At meetings, crafts were made, time was spent playing cards, bingo, and checkers, or trips were planned. A bus was obtained or rented for these trips. Bob Sawyer was the faithful bus driver. Speakers were obtained to give information and help whenever needed. The citizens vowed to have fun and learn more things than work. It was an enjoyable time in their daily lives.

To make crafts, they needed supplies, such as a used sewing machine, and fabrics for making quilts, so they advertised for these items and many were donated. A director was needed, and Dee Eeg was appointed for this job. After getting a large quantity of items assembled, a Hobby and Craft Show was planned. The first craft show was held April 12, 1975, in the Legion building. It was a huge success. The proceeds were used to rent the bus for sightseeing, make donations to children's homes, disabled veterans, and other gifts and donations. They made a float for the Fourth of July parade and won the third place ten dollar prize money.

The Senior Citizens Organization was responsible for the first set of new street signs in Greenbush.

At one meeting a discussion was held about a nutrition program. Also membership cards were filled out and a one dollar membership fee was collected. Athletic tickets were given to seniors so they could attend school athletic events free of charge. Many members supported the local teams.

Emelia Svir was chosen director when Dee Eeg could no longer work in that capacity because of other commitments.

Meals were made available at Vi's Cafe for 60 cents on Tuesday and Wednesday. AJ's Cafe also participated in this project. The first meal was served October 7, 1975. These meals were sponsored by the Community Food and Nutrition Program of NWCA (Northwest Community Action), organized by Laverne Swan. These meals were enjoyed, with an average attendance of 30 members.

In December 1975, another craft sale was held in the Legion building. It also was a success, and proceeds were given to the children's home in Roseau and to the Greenbush Nursing Home for Christmas presents. A beautiful program was enjoyed with music supplied by Ellen Kappahn.

White Corelle plates were purchased to complement the white cups purchased before. In the meantime, more crafts were made and everyone was busy. A talent show was sponsored and the proceeds were used to furnish the kitchen at Elderbush.

The village council was holding meetings to obtain a grant to build a new community center on Main Street. It would house the city offices, a large meeting room, bathrooms, and a well supplied kitchen. This building was completed in July 1978. The first meal served was July 17, 1978. This was prepared in the community center kitchen by Mabel Aamodt. The Senior Citizens group moved all their supplies and belongings to the new community center in July, 1978. The director was Emelia Svir. Crafts were continually made and sold and exercises were enjoyed. Movies were obtained from Northwest Regional Library in Thief River Falls. Card playing was enjoyed, and monthly birthday parties were held. Lunch was served, with a small fee depending on what was served. Visitors were encouraged to attend and the spacious room and surroundings were enjoyed by all. A beautiful cabinet was made to display the crafts. Other activities included monthly blood pressure checks, entertainment, dancing, and trips to other centers and places of interest.



A monthly Senior Citizens' Birthday Party L-R: Ida Mattson, Pearl Miller, Clara Mortrude, Aggie **Foss**, Julia Shimpa, Agnes Spangrud, Miranda Kaml, Joe D. Anderson. (*Senior Citizen photo*)

Through the years several methods were used to bring and prepare the delicious dinners. Some meals were cooked at other sites, and volunteers traveled to bring the prepared food to be served in Greenbush. The majority of the meals, however, were cooked and served in Greenbush. The senior citizens helped with the clean-up

chores. A "Meals on Wheels" program was thoroughly appreciated. This program consisted of volunteers delivering meals to shut-ins on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This nutrition program was sponsored under Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, and many wonderful cooks prepared and served these meals over the years. Dorothy Kasprovicz, the good and faithful cook, served the last nine years. The last meal was served on June 6, 2003.

At this time the Senior Citizens Organization is inactive, but some of the needs are being met. Meals are now served under the Dining Club program and can be used for breakfast, lunch or supper. Meal tickets can be purchased at the city office for a suggested donation of \$3 and can be used at any participating restaurant in the area. Meals on Wheels continue to be delivered by volunteers five days a week.

Blood pressure and foot care continue to be offered at Elderbush on the fourth Tuesday of the month by a registered nurse for a small fee.

The Senior Citizen Organization was an important part in the lives of the elderly. It was a program which combated loneliness, promoted friendship, and provided a nutritious meal in beautiful surroundings.

Submitted by Selma Rigstad and Ruth Eeg.

Commercial Club

In April 1910, the Commercial Club, also known as the Association of Commerce, held their first annual meeting. President Torgerson outlined the work that was accomplished the past year. In the spring the club worked on roads. Much more work needed to be done to roads north, west, and south of Greenbush. Hildahl wanted to organize a band, as he felt there was a lot of local talent. Burkee wanted to improve the fire department. Joe Zone wanted to develop a baseball team, as the area had talented men.

In May 1910, they met with the farmers to get a new drainage system north of the ridge. A proposed system was to run laterally from the ridge, west between Hereim and Barto; another lateral ditch due west, past the Leo Church; and a third, west from the range line between Barto and Soler. They would extend into Kittson County. Proper drainage would help the country north of Greenbush. By the end of May 1910, they met again and discussed the matter of ditches that were to be put in north and west of Greenbush. They also put together a committee to get things together for the 4th of July celebration.

In 1936, Father Lehmen was President of the Commercial Club. They met at the Village Hall and voted to support Sheep Days, and to help financially with prizes and publicity.

In 1942, the Association of Commerce discussed giving assistance to farmers in shocking their grain. Farmers needed help, and people in town were willing to give them the help they needed.

The Association met in 1946 to discuss new lights, to be added in the summer. Wayne Sanders outlined a promotion of education. The Community Band requested financial support and was given a donation. Truck parking was discussed. Committees were set up to discuss hospital spending and the village's **distribution** of fine money.

In 1949, a petition from the Railroad and Warehouse Commission read "the Great Northern Railway would discontinue Saturday train service." The Club opposed the letter, as they felt they needed six-day mail service. A hospital board member asked for the willingness of the association members to grow beards as a fund-raiser.

It was decided to leave it to individual volunteers.

In February 1950, the Club met in the Blessed Sacrament basement for dinner and to elect officers and directors. A meeting was held in the Legion basement in August 1950 regarding mail service, streets, cleanup, and sanitation. In January 1951, they donated money to the first baby born in the new year.

In March 1951, they met at the Village Hall and the topic discussed was advertising. President Harley Trangsrud expressed, "More advertising should be sponsored by our local business people." He strongly recommended advertising our village to draw visitors to our business places. Methods of raising money to pay off the club's indebtedness were discussed. It was decided to form a committee to check into a series of dances.

In 1953, the Club had a supper meeting at the M & Q Cafe to discuss bringing in a circus, and it was concluded to get the Art B. Thomas Shows for July. They also discussed Sheep Days, and they decided to have a street dance.

Harry Prosser was elected president at the annual banquet in 1954. They had a banquet with a good representation of local businessmen and their wives, in 1955. Harry Prosser was past president and Master of Ceremonies. Roller skating at Smith's Pavilion was discussed. They welcomed Woodland Industries in 1958, and expressed confidence that the plant would be a fine addition to this area.

In 1959, it was decided to provide more adequate winter recreation, with special emphasis on skating facilities. There was a need to raise funds, so it was decided to have a special dance at Smith's, with the Knights of Rhythm band. In 1963, they sponsored the free lunch downtown for Sheep Days, with Rhude's Ranglers providing entertainment throughout the day.

In 1969, Sander Tureson was elected President. In the 1970s, the Association welcomed the following new businesses to the community: A.J.'s Cafe, Bonnie's Beauty Shop, The Western Store, and Novak's Market.

In 1974, President Ray Mahne of the Association discussed obtaining a doctor, a dentist, and a motel. Also discussed was Santa Claus Day, and getting a circus. Commissioner Wayne Juhl spoke about roads being worked on, especially County Road 4 from Kittson County to Greenbush. Maurice Bertilrud brought up the subject of ambulance service for Greenbush.

In 1975, they discussed snowmobile races in Greenbush and maybe a snow dance. The Grain Forum was set to be at Legion; seventeen businesses sponsored this event. The "Greenbush Community News" was on Roseau's KRWB Radio Station for five minutes each weekday morning, beginning at 9:40 a.m. Herb Spinler, the new manager of the Farmers' Co-op Grain & Service, became a member. Liquor licenses, July 4th, horse races, and a Greenbush brochure were topics on the agenda.

The Association sponsored Dalton Fuller and the Nebraska Playboys to perform their country western music on the 4th of July, at the school gym. The Musical Monson Family gave a performance of gospel music at the school gym, the end of July.

For many years the Association sponsored many different events that promoted Greenbush: they brought in circuses, carnival rides, speakers, and entertainers; they sponsored the noon meal for Sheep Days, sponsored July 4th activities, Santa Claus Days, the Halloween parade, roller skating, Christmas lighting for the town, businesses and residents- and so much more.

Submitted by Mary Ann Johnson.

Greenbush Town and Country Club

"The mission of the Greenbush Town and Country Club, Inc. is to provide leadership for the unity of commerce and community in building a positive future for Greenbush."

An organizational meeting of the Greenbush Town and Country Club was held December 1, 1976, at A.J.'s Cafe. The first meeting was held January 17, 1977. The first president was A.J. Pulczinski. Mike Kvamlov and Ellis Waage were the vice presidents of town and country respectively. Ben Christianson was the secretary/treasurer. The directors were Kenny Johnson, Beirnel' Thompson, Otto Waage Jr., Larry Stenberg, and Don Wicklund. Dues were \$5.00 a year. They decided to meet the third Monday of the month at A.J.'s Cafe at 8 p.m. Their opening balance was \$140.00.

Many years have passed, and many people have shared in the success of keeping the Town and Country going as an important community service organization. Past presidents include: Adrian Pulczinski (1977), Don Wicklund (1978-1979), Robert Novotny (1980-1982), Dr. Larry Kruger (1983-1987), Robert Hager (1988), Richard Timm (1989-1990), Linda Gieseke (1991 & 1998), Leslie Peterson (1992), Michael Korczak (1993), Deb Sovde (1994), Greg Dvergsten (1995), Gary Trangsrud (1997-1998), Patrick Lorenson (1999), Jeffrey Pieterick (2000), and Christine Foss (2001-2004).



Serving noon picnic lunch on the 4th of July. (Tribune photo)

The Town and Country Club has done many community projects through the years including: T & C Annual Meeting and Social, Small Business Award and New Business Ribbon Cuttings, Racers' Appreciation Night, Academic Awards Banquet, Citizenship Award and Scholarship Fund, Annual 4th of July Celebration and



T&C Float in the Lighted Christmas Parade. (T&C photo)



Paul Everson presenting the Small Business Award to Jeff Pieterick of FineTymes. (T&C photo)

Parade, Duck Races, Community Banners, Chili Challenge, Car Show, Economic and Professional Development, Hawaiian Luau, Western Days, Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway, Greenbush Bucks, Casino Night, Farmers Appreciation Breakfast, Sheep Days, Halloween Booth, Parade of Lights, Santa Claus Day, and the Christmas Lighting Contest.

The Small Business awards started in 1994 and have been given to: Central Boiler, Jeff's Super Service, Pierce Racing/Wahl Bros. Racing, Ace Hardware,

Agassiz Realty, FineTymes Supper Club, Ernie and Linda Gieseke-Funeral Chapel/Floral and Gifts, Central Boiler/Central Fireplace, Oren's Parts Napa-Oren and Jina Lund, and Border State Bank.

Greenbush Town and Country meets for a supper meeting the first week of every month. Approximately 25 businesses belong and 20 individuals/couples. Businesses pay \$100 annual dues, individuals \$15 and couples \$25. We are always looking for new members to join us. We are a very informal group and enjoy our time combining social interaction and community service.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke.

Greenbush Women of Today History

The Greenbush Women of Today came into existence in May, 1976- chartered as the "Greenbush Mrs. Jaycees." The first chapter president was Bev Motschenbacher. The Mrs. Jaycees was started as an affiliation of the Jaycee organization. Only Jaycee members' wives could be members.

In the early 1980s, the name of the organization was changed to "Jaycee Women," and the requirement of being a Jaycee member's wife was eliminated- any woman, age 18-40, could be a member.

In 1981, the Greenbush chapter "extended a hand offellowship" to Middle River, and helped establish a chapter in their community. That chapter is still going strong today.

The United States Jaycee Women organization made a historic decision in 1984. Due to a Supreme Court ruling, the Jaycee organization could no longer exclude women from belonging to their organization. Therefore the Jaycee Women had two options- merge into the Jaycee organization or dissolve the affiliation and continue as a separate organization. The latter was chosen, and on July 1, 1985, the Women of Today organization emerged.

In 1994, the Greenbush chapter had faded and was nearly dissolved, however the enthusiasm of then President Brenda Berg rejuvenated the chapter with many new members and new goals. That year, the chapter was ranked number one in the state's Success System.

The Women of Today Creed highlights the purpose of the organization as "Service, Growth, and Fellowship"- Service to our local community, state and nation; personal Growth of our members; and Fellowship within our organization and community.

The chapter has been involved in numerous projects and community activities over the past three decades. Some of these projects include: Welcome Wagon, Outstanding Woman of the Community, After Prom Party, Bike Safety Clinic, Christmas Light Contests, Little Sweetheart Contests, Senior Scholarship, Little Bo Peep/Boy Blue contests, Women's Forum, Babysitting Clinic, Miss Greenbush



Participants of the 1999 Easter Carnival Fundraiser. (photo by Sharla Kilen)

Pageant, First Baby Contest, Kids' Week celebration, Fourth of July Kiddie Parade, Santa Days & Craft Sale, Pamper Yourself Night, Fashion Shows, Easter Carnival, and many more.

The Women of Today decided in 1978 to begin a new project within the Community, the Outstanding Woman of the Year. Anyone could nominate someone for Outstanding Woman of the Year. They had to follow guidelines. They should tell in story form why the nominee is worthy of consideration in that she has given unselfishly of herself, her time, and her talents. She must be a resident of the Greenbush Community and not a member of Women of Today.



Participants of the 2000 Babysitting Clinic. (photo by Sharla Kilen)

Outstanding Woman of the Community Winners:

Astrid Berger (1978); Selma Rigstad (1979); Marlene Kjos (1980); Gladys Hontvedt (1982); Eunice Udstrand (1983); Gloria Erickson (1984); Audrey Olson (1985); Katie Langaas (1986); Sylvia Solberg (1987); Ruth Eeg (1988); Irene Ratkovec (1989); Phyllis Evans (1990).

Miss Greenbush Winners:

Alice Kruger (1984); Kathee Efta (1985); Kim Langaas (1986); LaNelle Knutson (1987); Jackie Howell (1988); Dory Stephens (1989); Kristi Wicklund (1991); Jessica Reese (1992); Annette Mooney (2000); Amber Becker (2004).

Past Presidents of the Greenbush Women of Today

(76-77) Bev Motchenbacher; (77-78) Carolyn Eeg; (78-79) Jeannine Matthews; (79-80) Margaret Delude; (80-81) Mary Wollin; (81-82) Sue Trangrud; (82-83) Kathy Sather; (83-84) Carrie Jo Howard; (84-85) Angie Wiskow; (85-86) Mary Wollin; (86-87) Deb Sovde;

(87-88) Mary Solberg; (88-89) Jenny Pulczynski; (89-90) Patty Stephens; (90-91) Angie Truscinski; (91-92) Brenda Berg; (92-93) Gizelle Lentz; (93-94) Brenda Berg; (94-95) MaryAnn Johnson; (95-96) Sharla Kilen; (96-97) Becky Yeager; (97-98) Joni Mooney; (98-99) Sharla Kilen; (99-2000) Angie Kilen-Peterson; (00-01) Michelle Beito; (01-02) Brenda Sather; (02-03) Michelle Beito/Sharla Kilen; (03-04) Shannon Dostal/Angie Kilen-Peterson; (04-05) Shannon Dostal.

Some members have extended beyond our chapter and have served on the state level of the organization. In 1982/1983 Carolyn Eeg served as State Parliamentarian/Brenda Berg served as a State Program Manager in 1995/1996; State Secretary in 1996/1997 and as State Membership Vice President in 1997/1998; Sharla Kilen served as a State Program Manager in 1996/1997. Carolyn Eeg (1981), Brenda Berg (1997), and Sharla Kilen (2004) were awarded the Key Woman Award, the highest honor given by the state organization.

Many women in the Greenbush community have belonged to the chapter over the years. One special member, MaryAnn Johnson has been a member of the organization since its inception in 1976. This "charter member" is still active in the chapter, attends meetings, and participates in projects. Another member, Sharla (Peseck) Kilen, has belonged to the chapter since 1993. Throughout the past years she has kept the chapter going with her tireless energy and her excellent organizational skills.

As of 2004, the membership stands at fourteen members. These dedicated members still host a number of long standing events throughout the year, such as the Miss Greenbush Scholarship Pageant, Santa Days Craft Sale and Kids' Store, the Easter Carnival, and Family Week. They also have implemented new events, such as the Greenbush Community-wide Rummage Sale. Thanks to their members' dedication, the Greenbush Women of Today remain an active part in the community of Greenbush.

Submitted by Sharla Kilen, MaryAnn Johnson, and Angie Peterson.



Lions Club Perfect Attendance Award 1990-91. LtoR: Axel Lieberg, Pete Duncan, Ernie Gieseke, Larry Kruger, Keith Kapphahn, Mel Wang, Dick Churchill, and Bob Sawyer.



Town and Country Ribbon Cutting for the Greenbush Race Park in June 1991. T&C members Les Peterson, President Linda Gieseke, and Tom Kujava; Oren Lund and Ray Paulson, part owners of the track. Bob Hager, Greenbush State Bank; Keith Kapphahn, Lions; Jim Fugleberg, Fire Department; and Greg Wollin, City Council.