



1936 - 2011

Morrison County Historical Society 75th Anniversary Booklet
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Morrison County Historical Society Celebrates 75th Anniversary ☆

On July 28, 1936, a group of citizens convened at the behest of Sarah Thorp Heald, district supervisor for the Works Progress Administration, to form the Morrison County Historical Society (MCHS). The original founders of MCHS included Mrs. J. K. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stillwell, Mr. Val Kasparek, Mrs. R. L. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gibson, and Mrs. Julius Jetka. The mission of the fledgling organization, which was officially incorporated on September 17, 1936, was to collect the history of Morrison County events from the time of Zebulon Pike's 1805 expedition to the present.

Seventy-five years later, the Morrison County Historical Society has grown well past the fledgling stage. It continues to collect, preserve

and educate the public on the history of Morrison County, but has expanded its mission to include the area's history prior to 1805. In 1975, the organization moved from a cramped basement room in the Historic Courthouse to The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum, a spacious and attractive building on the west bank of the Mississippi River directly north of the Pike Creek confluence. During its growth process, the organization has become highly respected for the professionalism it displays in research, exhibits, collections management, use of technology, and publishing.

MCHS officially celebrates its 75th anniversary with a dinner on September 18, 2011, at the Royalton American Legion.

First MCHS Board of Directors

Elected in 1936: Valentine Kasparek, President; Mrs. Harry Stillwell, Vice President; Mrs. A. E. Amundson, Secretary; and Mrs. Warren Gibson, Treasurer. Members of the Board of Trustees were Frank Logan, Royalton; and Mrs. Julius Jetka, Mrs. J. K. Martin, Mrs. Warren Gibson, and Mrs. R. L. Cochrane, all of Little Falls.

Current MCHS Board of Directors

Serving from September 2010 to August 2011: Art Warner, President; Gary Block, Vice President; Duane Welle, Treasurer; Patricia Quinn, Secretary; Cathy Adamek, Laura Block, Gen Waller, Camille Warzecha, and Stan Wielinski, Directors.

Board members serve three-year terms that are staggered so the entire board doesn't change at once.

The Origins of MCHS According to the *Little Falls Daily Transcript*

☆ WPA to Organize Historical Society In Morrison County

“Mrs. Sarah Thorp Heald, WPA district supervisor of handicraft of museums, has called a meeting to be held at the court house Tuesday afternoon at 2 o’clock for the purpose of organizing a Morrison County Historical Society. The society will gather historical information about the county, mark historical spots and secure specimens. It is planned to secure a place in the court house to store the specimens.

“All interested are invited to attend the meeting.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 25, 1936



Organizers of the Morrison County Historical Society
From left, standing: Valentine E. Kasperek, Minnie Cochrane,
Eda Jetka, Sarah Gibson, Warren Gibson, Harry Stillwell.
Seated: Amy Stillwell, Lottie Lee Martin.

From W.P.A. Biographies to “What’s It Like [...] in Morrison County?”

In looking back to the beginnings of the Morrison County Historical Society in 1936, a number of parallels appear between then and now. The Great Depression was in full swing in 1936, with President Franklin Roosevelt initiating a vast number of projects to employ people under the Works Progress Administration, later called the Work Projects Administration. One of those projects was the collection of biographies from long-time residents of Morrison County.

This oral history project became the genesis for forming the Morrison County Historical Society. The biographies, which number over 1,000, also served to seed the Family Files, a collection of genealogical materials arranged by surname that are housed at The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum.

Because of their age, the original W.P.A. biographies have since been removed from the Family Files, retyped by volunteers, and filed in a fireproof cabinet, with the retyped versions compiled into three-ring binders for researchers to use.

Fast-forward to 2011 and we find the United States beginning to slowly pull out of what has been called the Great Recession. The federal government passed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in order to stimulate the economy by providing infrastruc-

ture jobs. And, after numerous requests to conduct a new oral history project, the Morrison County Historical Society has initiated a project called “What’s It Like [...] in Morrison County?”

The aim of the project is to collect mini memoirs from current and former Morrison County residents, with writers encouraged to choose their own topics, which can range from canning pickles to owning a pet to being Catholic to having Ojibwe ancestry to being transgender. By having writers focus on one topic, MCHS hopes to relieve the feeling that contributors have to write all of their history at once. A limit of 200 to 1,000 words per essay is also meant to quell this fear. MCHS is hoping the mini memoir format will unearth stories not often recorded in other historical documents.

All essays submitted to the project are being posted online at the “What’s It Like” blog, as well as being added in print form to the collections at The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum. For information on how to submit an essay, visit the blog at <http://morrisoncountyhistory.org/whatsitlike/> or stop by the Weyerhaeuser Museum.



News Items & Such from 1936

Whenever there is an anniversary for a consequential event, like the founding of the Morrison County Historical Society 75 years ago, it's tempting to look back at the other happenings of the time. Let's give in to that temptation, because an important part of historical events is examining the context that surrounded and influenced those events. **Note:** The news items that follow have been greatly truncated from the original articles.

State, National & International Headlines



Supreme Court Rules AAA Illegal

"The supreme court today struck down the New Deal's farm recovery program provided for in the AAA [Agricultural Adjustment Act] by holding the law an unconstitutional attempt to control production."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 6, 1936

Wales Formally Proclaimed King Edward VIII

"His face bearing the marks of grief for his dead father, Edward Albert, Prince of Wales, was formally proclaimed King Edward VIII today by the privy council. The age-old ceremony was held just 16 hours after King George V had died in a painless coma at Sandringham House at 11:55 p.m. Monday."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 21, 1936

Senate Passes Old Age Pension Measure, 62-0

"The [Minnesota] senate today passed without debate the old age pension bill. The vote was 62 to 0. The bill now goes to the governor for signature.

"There was no doubt that Governor Olson would sign the measure and set up the old age pension system in Minnesota.

"The bill provides a maximum benefit of \$30 a month to needy persons over 65. Counties will pay 16 2/3 per cent of the costs, the state will pay 33 1/3 per cent and the federal government the remainder."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 23, 1936

Hitler Opens Olympics Amid Salvo of Cannon Shots from Mountain Heights

"Facing some 1,500 tanned, robust, eager athletes Reichsfueher Adolph Hitler today opened the

fourth Olympic winter games in a heavy snowfall amid a scene of unique grandeur.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 6, 1936

Nazi Troops Move Into Rhineland

**Defy Treaty to Enter Zone First Time
Since 1919**

“German troops crossed the river Rhine today for the first time in nearly 17 years to occupy key cities as symbols of Germany’s complete emancipation from the military clauses of the Versailles treaty.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 7, 1936

France Abandons Sanctions Against Germany

“France decided today to waive her demand for military sanctions against Germany and even on certain conditions, to withdraw her demand that German troops be withdrawn from the Rhineland.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 10, 1936

Take Suspect In Kidnaping With Tear Gas

“Edward Bentz, wanted in connection with the kidnaping [*sic*] of George Weyerhaeuser last year, was taken into custody today by federal agents who bombarded his flat with tear gas bombs.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 13, 1936



Flood Toll In 14 States Expected To Reach 175

“A total flood death toll upward of 175 was indicated today as the area of devastation in 14 eastern states was increased by surging waters that swept down the Connecticut and Ohio rivers.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 20, 1936

Trappers Warned Not to Take Mink

“Muskrat trappers who plan to begin trapping when the 20-day season opens in Morrison and 40 other counties at 6 a.m. Wednesday, are cautioned against taking mink, for which the trapping season closed February 15.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 24, 1936

Another Milestone for the Dionne Quintuplets

“As little Yvonne Dionne points out to Dr. A. R. Dafoe the date, “May 28,” they seem thoughtful. To both, it is a distinctly red-letter day in their lives. For Yvonne and her sisters, it means their second birthday; the beginning of their third year in this amazing world. To Dr. Dafoe it brings memories of the precarious first few months of the babies’ lives, during which he struggled with might and main to keep them alive.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 28, 1936

tate, National & International Headlines (cont.)

U. S. Hopeful Of New Crowns

“Negro competitors contributed six individual [Olympic] titles to America’s 12 track firsts, besides helping to account for a seventh in the 400 meters relay.

“Jesse Owens, including his part in the sprint relay, became the first American to collect four gold medals since 1900, besides duplicated Paavo Nurmi’s 1924 achievement.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 10, 1936

Funeral Cortège Reaches Capitol Funeral For Governor Set On Wednesday

“Party leaders were on the alert today for any political reaction to the death of [Minnesota] Governor Floyd B. Olson, the nation’s only Farmer-Laborite chief executive, as a shakeup loomed on the Farmer-Labor ticket where Olson was the United States senatorial nominee.

“As the oath was being administered to the new governor, the Olson funeral cortège was en route here from Rochester.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 24, 1936

Power Experts Gather to See [Franklin Roosevelt] Throw Boulder Dam Switch

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 11, 1936

Citizens Rush To Defense of Madrid Guns Heard As Rebels Press Onto Capital

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 20, 1936

Edward Abdicates to Marry Mrs. Simpson, York Takes Throne, Becomes King George VI

Britain Feels Extreme Hurt

“England awoke today to a fear deeper than the fog that blanketed the island as rumors leapt from a thousand tongues that King Edward was on the verge of forsaking his throne to marry the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson.”

Edward Still Greater News Than New King George VI Lacks “Sparkle” of Brother, Whom Headlines Will Follow

“As Britain’s new monarch, the stutter-tongued Duke of York - called “Bertie” in royal family circles - still will play second fiddle in at least one respect to his glamorous elder brother.

“Inevitably, it is safe to predict, the world’s headlines will follow Edward.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
December 10, 1936



ovies of 1936



The Bride Comes Home

Starring Claudette Colbert & Fred MacMurray - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 4, 1936

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Starring James Cagney, Joe E. Brown, Dick Powell, Jean Muir, and Victor Jory - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 22, 1936

Follow the Fleet

Starring Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 12, 1936

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine

Starring Sylvia Sidney, Henry Fonda & Fred MacMurray - showing at the Falls Theatre. Film features new three-color Technicolor process.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 23, 1936

Captain January

Starring Shirley Temple - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 19, 1936

The Golden Arrow

Starring Bette Davis, George Brent, Carol Hughes & Ivan Lebedeff - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
June 5, 1936

San Francisco

Starring Clark Gable & Jeanette MacDonald - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 14, 1936

Suzy

Starring Jean Harlow, Franchot Tone, Cary Grant, Lewis Stone & Benita Hume - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 7, 1936

King of the Royal Mounted

Starring Robert Kent - showing at the Ripley.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 28, 1936

The Man Who Lived Again

Starring Boris Karloff & Anna Lee - showing at the Ripley.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 9, 1936

Cain and Mabel

Starring Marion Davis & Clark Gable - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
November 20, 1936

A Woman Rebels

Starring Katharine Hepburn & Herbert Marshall - showing at the Falls Theatre.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
December 4, 1936

The Cost of Things in 1936

Beef Pot Roast - 15¢ per pound
 Oranges - 25¢ per dozen
 Catsup - 10¢ for a 14 oz. bottle
 Coffee - 23¢ per pound
 Peanut butter - 29¢ per 2 lb. jar
 Apples - 25¢ for 5 lbs.
 Sirloin steak - 20¢ per pound
 Bologna - 16¢ per pound

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 January 2, 1936

Corona "Floating Shift" Typewriter
 for purchase at The Transcript
 office - \$49.50

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 January 27, 1936

Men's Sturdy, Dressy Oxfords -
 \$2.98 per pair
 Women's Black Kid Gore Pumps -
 \$2.98
 Perfect, Full Fashioned Silk Hose -
 49¢ per pair
 Rayon Prints, All Washable, All
 New - 49¢ a yard

J.C. Penney Co.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 January 30, 1936

February Special - Milky Wave
 A rejuvenating oil permanent -
 regular \$6.00 wave for \$4.00

Cora Sand's Beauty Salon

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 February 6, 1936

FREE - With every purchase
 Saturdays and Mondays one
 large size box washing powder at
 Sheedy's Auto Supply, West side.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 March 21, 1936

The Remington 
 "Target Master" Rifle

The Open Sight Job - \$5.25
 With Shielded Front and Peep Rear
 Sights - \$6.00

Pap's Sport Shop

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 March 31, 1936

Adonna Undies - 49¢
 Easter Frocks - \$4.98
 Town Clad Suits - \$19.75
 J.C. Penney Co.

Styles for Easter
 Carefully selected styles in mannish
 and swagger types at \$7.95 -
 \$10.95

The Leader Store

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 April 2, 1936

New Patent Leather Handbags in
 all colors - \$1.95 and up

Misses Dress Shop

Little Falls Daily Transcript
 April 9, 1936

Hot Chocolate 5¢ at the Black and
White Shop

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 10, 1936

Luggage for the Graduate
Overnight cases ... \$1.00 to \$12.50
Zipper bags ... \$5.00 to \$9.75
Gladstone bags ... \$10.00 to \$15.00
The Golden Rule

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 27, 1936

Lawn Mower Sharpening
\$1.00 each

J.B. Shop

Little Falls Daily Transcript
June 19, 1936

Outboard Motors
New trolling motors priced from
\$45 and up

Larson Boat Works

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 2, 1936

Rytex Deckle Edge Vellum Printed
Stationery - 100 Sheets & 100
Envelopes, \$1.25

Transcript Publishing Company

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 13, 1936

Sky Line Trike - \$3.98

J. Jetka Hardware & Coal

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 14, 1936

School Supplies

Pencil Boxes - 3¢
Notebook Covers - 10¢
Mechanical Pencils - 9¢ - 25¢
Filler Paper - 5¢ pkg.
Dictionary - 10¢
Eversharp Pencils - 10¢ and 25¢
Crayolas - 5¢ - 19¢
Chalk - 5¢ box
Blackboard Erasers - 10¢
250-page Tablets - 5¢
Rulers - 1¢ - 5¢

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 2, 1936

Hot Water Heaters - \$5.95
Jefferson Highway Garage

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 19, 1936

Castile Soap - 29¢ per pound
Mentholum - 24¢
Woodbury's Lotion - 29¢
Pablum - 39¢
Castoria - 33¢
New Pompeian Beauty Kit - 29¢
Barber's Shaving Soap - 5¢
Hot Water Bottle - 69¢

Mushel's

Little Falls Daily Transcript
November 12, 1936

Floor Lamps - \$5.50
Simonet Furniture & Carpet Co.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
December 18, 1936





WPA Activities in 1936

Work Relief May Continue

“Continuance of the existing work-relief program throughout 1936 was predicted by authoritative sources today as friends and critics alike awaited to see what President Roosevelt would propose in his annual message to congress.

“Just how much, if any, additional funds he would ask for the Works Progress administration, the mainstay of the program inaugurated to provide jobs for 3,500,000 able bodied needy, remained a secret.”

*Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 2, 1936*

700 Men Will Work on Projects at Camp

“A base of 700 men on WPA has been determined for Camp Ripley between now and around the middle of March, Colonel R. A. Rossberg announced today. Some men are being taken from the water plant project in the city, which was over-staffed. A new base will be established in March dependent upon conditions.

“The last monthly payroll was for 613 men at \$55 a month, making a total of \$33,715. This is the first month of the 12-month WPA program at the camp.”

*Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 6, 1936*



50 Youths To Be Given Jobs Program Supplemental to WPA Outlined in Interviews Here Today

“Applications of approximately 90 Morrison county youths between 16 and 25 years old were taken today for supplemental work on recreation, rural development and public service.

“Seven will be selected from Little Falls at \$16 a month. The others will come from villages and rural districts, where the pay is \$14 a month.”

*Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 14, 1936*

Two Shifts For Water Plant Job

“Starting Tuesday men employed on the water works plant project (WPA project No. 1077 [in Little Falls]) will work in two shifts of seven and one-half hours each.

“Considerable time has been lost due to layoffs on account of the cold weather and, as it is necessary to complete the work by June, the double shift is being put into effect to catch up on the work.”

*Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 10, 1936*

Bowlus Will Have New Village Hall

“Bowlus will erect a village hall under WPA. The one-story

building, 34 by 36 feet, will have space for the village fire apparatus, council rooms and two-cell lockup. It will also have a separate 10 by 13-foot pump house.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 13, 1936

3 WPA Probes In Making On Capitol Hill

“Three separate inquiries into the administration of the \$4,000,000,000 work-relief fund were in the making today on Capitol Hill while a house committee prepared to consider President’s request for a new appropriation of \$1,500,000,000.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 24, 1936

Dream Of Good Water In City Seen Reality

“Employment for over 300 men and good water for Little Falls.

“That is the dual purpose of the \$234,000 treating plant and recreational center project, which got under way definitely on November 4, 1935, when the federal WPA approved the construction.

“Today the treating plant is 40 per cent completed, according to L. M. Anderson, project engineer. Since its start late in the fall it has fulfilled daily its purpose of employment. The completion of the plant itself is expected along in July, but it may take some weeks for the machinery to get into motion.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 14, 1936

Signs to Identify WPA Projects

“Within a short time, all WPA projects, in Morrison county will be identified with an appropriate sign, said A. C. Dunn, in charge of operations in this area.

“The new signs are red, white, and blue, in horizontal bands and are lettered as follows: “USA--Work Program--WPA.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 11, 1936

Drouth Relief To Start Soon In This County

“Morrison county, placed in the drouth area a week ago, will be given secondary road projects under WPA, following the regular WPA schedule of wages.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 5, 1936



Seek Increase In WPA Wages

“A 20 per cent increase in total monthly wages on WPA, with prevailing union wage rates to meet the rising cost of living is one of the aims of a mass meeting called by the Minnesota Workers Alliance at the court house Tuesday night.

“The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. under the auspices of the Morrison County Farmer-Labor association. The call is issued to all unemployed, all WPA and PWA workers, farmers and farm hands, independent merchants, Townsend clubs, N.U.S.J. members and all youth and women.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 12, 1936

ocal News in 1936

Winter's Coldest Day Brings 38 Below to City

"A biting Arctic wind swept the most severe cold wave of the year into the northwest today, dropping the temperature in Little Falls to 38 below at 7:15 a.m.

"It was one of the coldest days on record here, just two degrees below the 40 mark of January 24, 1904. Official readings have been taken in Little Falls since 1898."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 22, 1936

Father Musial Dies Suddenly

"The Rev. Fr. John Musial, 54, founder of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes church, died this morning at St. Andrew's hospital in Minneapolis, where he had been receiving treatment since Monday."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 22, 1936

Rural Homes Get Current

"The immediate territory around Little Falls now has 39 farms which are using electricity supplied from power lines. Electric service was extended to seven farm homes in the Little Falls area during 1935 and construction is now under way to serve 43 new customers in the vicinity of Freedhem, Lastrup and Genola. The rural electrification

program of the Minnesota Power and Light company has added 352 farm users in 10 counties of central and northeastern Minnesota."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 23, 1936

Pierz Liquor Store Damaged By Fire

"The Joe Newman liquor store at Pierz was damaged by fire this morning at 10 o'clock. ... Damaged [*sic*] was estimated at \$250, which was covered by insurance."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 30, 1936



Storms Trail Most Bitter Cold Wave of Century

150 Brave Roads and Cold Weather To Demand Snow Removal On Mail Routes

"Bad roads and bitter cold weather failed to keep some 150 delegates from the court house today to "storm" the commissioners for snow removal on mail routes. The discussion was the most heated the board has had since the relief appropriation question last July."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 4, 1936

Ice 29 Inches Thick On Pierz Lake And That Proves Weather Is Cold

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 6, 1936



Fire Destroys Two Buildings At Pierz Today

“Fire early this morning destroyed two buildings at Pierz and damaged three others. The blaze was discovered in the Green Keg, owned by Henry Cormier, at about 2 a.m. and had made such headway that firemen made no effort to try to save it but concentrated efforts on nearby structures.

“Spreading to the Theodore M. Gross clothing store, the fire completely destroyed that building. The Farmers and Merchants State bank was damaged by smoke and water. The plate glass windows in the Faust liquor store across the street were broken and the Al Stalpes Electric store north of the Green Keg was slightly damaged.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 14, 1936

All-Time Mark Of 46 Below Is Reached Here

“With no relief in sight and a new all-time record of 46 below zero established, Little Falls and surrounding area went into its thirty-fourth successive sub-zero day today.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 17, 1936

Kiewel Brewery Adds Equipment For Beer Making

“The Kiewel Brewing company will complete installation of a new filter by April 15, thereby increasing the capacity of the plant 15 per

cent.

“Along with this addition, the Kiewels are installing an apparatus for the thorough sterilization of all materials used in filtering beer.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 7, 1936

New School Is Being Planned

“The \$41,666 collected by school district No. 77 in taxes from the Weyerhaeuser estate is coming in handy. Without the prospects of the payment, the present inadequate school building probably would have been condemned a year ago.

“Plans are going ahead for construction of a new, modern building that may cost all the way from \$6,000 to \$8,000.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 12, 1936

Lions Hear Of Early History

“An outline of early Morrison county history was given by V. E. Kasperek before the Lions club last night.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 20, 1936

Tony Smith Again Chosen Manager of L.F. Baseball Club

“With Tony Smith again installed as manager, officials of the Little Falls Baseball club today went ahead with plans for an active 1936 season.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 27, 1936

Local News in 1936 (cont.)



J. J. Jacobson, Pioneer, Dead Lived on Elmdale Homestead 65 Years; Served on County Board

“Funeral rites for Jacob Jenson Jacobson, 82, pioneer resident of Elmdale, who died at his home Thursday, will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o’clock at the Elmdale Lutheran church.

“Mr. Jacobson was an active Republican and took a keen interest in political affairs. He served as county commissioner many years and was chairman of the board part of that time.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 3, 1936

Rest Rooms Will Be Built for Fair

“Material is on the ground for one of the most-needed improvements at the fairgrounds, rest rooms for men and women. A cement block structure, 14 by 24 feet, with tile roof, will be erected near the office building, Adolph Peterson, president, announced today. Modern lavatories [*sic*] will be installed.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 11, 1936

Theater To Be Started Soon

“Building operations were under way in Little Falls today.

“On First street northeast men

were busy with shovels, preliminary to the start of the new theater, which probably will be Monday.

“Two blocks south, workmen were dismantling the old Lisle garage, which will give way to a super service station and addition to the Burton Chevrolet company. The building was put up by William Loomis for a livery stable.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 15, 1936

Cloudburst Hits S.E. Townships Bridge East of Royalton Washed Away

“One bridge was carried away, two others were endangered and miles of road were washed out in a cloudburst which struck southeastern Morrison county late yesterday afternoon. Thousands of acres were under water and slopping fields were washed of their top soil.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 1, 1936

Troops To Find \$300,000 New Construction

“Troops arriving at Camp Ripley June 14 for the 1936 encampment will find construction and improvements amounting to \$300,000 since their last training season. The work has been done by relief labor, which will continue through the summer.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 2, 1936

Fred Larson Hooks 25-Pound Trout in Lake of the Woods

“Anglers anchored themselves outside the window of the Little Falls Packing company this morning and gaze wistfully at Fred Larson’s latest catch, a 25-pound lake trout, hooked at Lake of the Woods. It was one of the finest fish specimens ever placed on display here. Hints for dinner invitations were met by Mr. Larson’s statement that he “guessed he’d have it mounted.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 19, 1936

Police Arrest 3 In Liquor Raids

“Police raided two places late yesterday and arrested three persons on liquor charges. Mrs. Bessie Pierzina was fined \$100 and costs before Municipal Judge Randall for selling liquor without license on Second avenue southeast. Sentence was stayed until Wednesday. Harry Posch, who was arrested at the place, pleaded guilty to intoxication and was fined \$25 and costs.

“Leo Riesgraff, charged with selling tax-paid liquor without a license at Kidder street and First avenue southeast, pleaded not guilty and posted \$100 bond for hearing at 7:30 this evening.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
June 2, 1936

Pierz Playground Opening Sunday

“The recently completed recre-

ational and park grounds, east of the village of Pierz will be formally opened Sunday, with a picnic sponsored by the Pierz band. The large park, a WPA project was completed a short time ago and all who have had occasion to visit it pronounce it one of the finest in this part of the state.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
June 6, 1936

Variety of Color Enhances Fine New Ripley Theater Wide Range Sound and Washed Air Made Part of Equipment

“In a little over three years the same men [Harry B. and Lowell Smoots, owners of the Falls Theatre] are opening the Ripley, a fine house employing all the latest modern lines of architecture and giving the city a second theater which clinches its claim to being a foremost amusement center.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 29, 1936

Start Two-Mile Road Near Bowlus

“Grading of a two-mile stretch of county-aid road near Bowlus was started Monday by H. A. Peterson, contractor, who set up camp on the Adam Folta farm, southwest of town.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 4, 1936



Dance, Lyshik’s, Sobieski, Monday, Lila Ferd & Lars Or.

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 14, 1936

ocal News in 1936 (cont.)

Mother General For Franciscan Order Named Here

“Sister Immaculate, O.S.F., who has been superior of the Franciscan Sisters at the St. Cloud Orphan home for 11 years, was elected mother general of the Franciscan Sisterhood of Little Falls at the close of the recent retreat.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 20, 1936

8,000 Attend Opening Day Of Morrison Fair

“With a near record for attendance set by Sunday’s crowds, the 1936 Morrison county fair was open for its final sessions today. The two-hour grandstand program will close the formal program tonight. Exhibits will be on display until the gates close.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 24, 1936

Boy, 2, Drowns Near Topeka

“Bernard Machesney, 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Machesney was drowned in the Mississippi river at Topeka yesterday afternoon.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 11, 1936



Missing Motley Man Seen Twice

“Missing since Tuesday night, O. E. Billings, 44, manager of the Lam-pert Lumber company at Motley, was reported seen near Philbrook this noon, wandering in a dazed state. He quickly disappeared into the woods and searching parties, led by Sheriff William Butcher, shifted the hunt from an area three miles away, where he was reported sighted late yesterday”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 11, 1936

Malcolm Alleys Open Thursday

“The bowling alleys at the Malcolm hotel will be opened for business Thursday evening. The alleys and balls have been reconditioned and new pins have been added to the equipment.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
September 15, 1936

Morrison County Farmers In Favor of Soil Program

“One thousand and fifty farmers attended seven meetings in Morrison County last week to discuss the soil conservation program for 1937. The response was highly in favor of the program and the attendance showed the interest of farmers of Morrison county are taking in the movement, County Agent Henry

Werner said. The seven meetings averaged 150 attendance.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 5, 1936

DeZurik Sisters Start Week's Run In Chicago House

“The DeZurik sisters of Royalton, who were “found” at the Lions club amateur contest here last winter, have started a week’s engagement at the State and Lake theater, third largest in Chicago, with the Fred Allen company. They are giving five performances daily. On Saturday from 6:30 to 7 p.m. they will be heard over station WLS.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 14, 1936

Two Business Places Burn In Randall Fire

“Fire of unknown cause destroyed one of the oldest business buildings in Randall at 3 a.m. today, when the structure housing the Merle Ballou implement shop and George Nelson funeral home was burned to the ground. Loss to the building and contents was estimated at \$5,000 and is partly covered by insurance.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
October 22, 1936

County Buys Snow Fence

“With a premature winter at hand, the county board yesterday purchased 20,000 feet of snow fence for newly added county roads.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
November 7, 1936

Lamperts Acquire Flensburg Concern

“Purchase of the Flensburg Lumber and Grain company was announced today by the Lampert Lumber Company.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
November 18, 1936

Dr. Greene, 64, Dies of Fall

“Dr. Willard P. Greene, who studied animal and fish diseases at his Lake Alexander laboratory for the past nine years, died at his home in Minneapolis from a skull fracture. He fell 20 feet down a stairway in the psychology building at the state university Wednesday.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
November 27, 1936

Black Granite Plant Is Wiped Out By Flames

“Flames raced through the Little Falls Black Granite company plant on Sixth street northeast today, completely destroying the structure and contents.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
December 10, 1936



Swanville Has Tree In Village Square

“The Commercial club has had a fine Christmas tree erected on the square in the center of Main street. The tree is trimmed with many different colored lights and it will be lighted every evening during the holidays.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
December 10, 1936

Charles Lindbergh News in 1936

Lindberghs in ‘State of Siege’ British Press Gives Ultimatum, “Give Interview or We’ll Hound You”

“British newspapermen informed Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh that “the war is on,” and threatened to follow him all over England unless he consents to a personal interview explaining why he left the United States.

“Lindbergh refused, and last night he and his family, who thought they were going to find privacy in the British Isles, were in a virtual state of siege in their Adelphi hotel suite.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 2, 1936



Order Jafsie Taken Into Custody

“Dr. John F. Condon, the bewildering “Jafsie” of the Lindbergh kidnapping case, who sailed last night for South America, today was ordered taken into custody for questioning regarding discrepancies in his stories.

“The sensational new turn in the case came as the New Jersey court of pardons deliberated a last plea for clemency for the man convicted of the kidnapping, Bruno Richard Hauptmann.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 11, 1936

Bruno’s Fate Again Up To U.S. Supreme Court Reprieve Seen Likely Course

“Amid unsubstantiated reports of a confession from a new figure, Bruno Hauptmann’s fate forked two ways today: Toward the United State supreme court and the office of the Governor Harold G. Hoffman.

“In one of these directions lay the only hope of the convicted kidnapslayer of the Lindbergh baby to escape his rendezvous with death tomorrow at 8 p.m.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 16, 1936

Hoffman Will Seek Out Full Kidnap Story

“Governor Harold Hoffman issued a statement today justifying his reprieve for Bruno Richard Hauptmann and saying he doubted the crime could have been committed by any one man.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
January 17, 1936

Bruno To Die During Week of March 30

“Bruno Richard Hauptmann was resentenced today to be executed in the week of March 30 for the murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.”

Little Falls Daily Transcript
February 19, 1936



Bruno 'Cracks Up' As Hour Nears

"Bruno Richard Hauptmann, who had a mad dream he could kidnap a baby and capture a fortune, finally faces death tonight."

Lindbergh Engrossed In Science As Time for Bruno's Death Nears

"Work on a mechanical heart and lungs was Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's chief interest, person close to him said today, on the day Bruno Richard Hauptmann's heart was to be finally stilled for the slaying of the kidnaped Lindbergh baby."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
March 31, 1936

'Big Break' in Wendel Case Bruno's Only Hope Execution Is Re-Scheduled Friday Night

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 1, 1936

Last Minute Reprieve Only Hope For Bruno

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 3, 1936

Bruno Dies As Public Expected He Would, Unshaken and Silent

Little Falls Daily Transcript
April 4, 1936

Lindbergh Park Program Approved On Anniversary

"Nine years ago today hundreds of visitors swarmed to the vacant Lindbergh homestead to view the boyhood scenes of the youth, who

had just completed the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. Hundreds swelled to thousands the next day - it was Sunday - and the house was in a state of delapidation by nightfall, so eager were souvenir hunters to take away a piece of it.

"Today, to make the anniversary more outstanding, word was received from WPA offices that final approval had been given the \$23,777 Lindbergh State park development project, which is sponsored by the State Park commission."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
May 21, 1936

Lindbergh Calls on Nazis to Curb Deadly Weapons

"Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, speaking at an air club luncheon, called upon Nazi aviation leaders today to realize the responsibility they bear for the deadly weapons they have created.

"The famous aviator, who arrived from England yesterday with Mrs. Lindbergh, was acclaimed by high Nazi officials, the press and the Berlin populace."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
July 23, 1936

Lindy Nearly Bolts Session Science Group

"Colonel Charles Lindbergh, angered by the presence of photographers, nearly bolted the opening session of a scientific congress today at which he later was to demonstrate his mechanical heart."

Little Falls Daily Transcript
August 10, 1936

Tour Memories Here

Please share some of your memorable personal events from 2011.







Morrison County Historical Society

<http://www.morrisoncountyhistory.org>