

# BUCKSTOP SENTINEL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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(701)250-8575

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**MVHS Contact**

Em Holly  
223-4838

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### 5 Fun Things to do at Buckstop Junction

1. Come to the Annual meeting on May 18.
2. Visit Buckstop for a tour of the buildings; Members free!
3. Take photos of our buildings and people during our celebrations.
4. Browse *The Shoppe* for great finds.
5. Join your friends at our 18<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Old Settlers Day/Corn Feed on August 16th.

### 5 Fantastic Things "You" Can do for Buckstop Junction

1. Renew your membership, memberships will be accepted at the Annual meeting, or any time the office is open (see Buckstop Junction Summer Schedule on page 2).
2. Invite a friend or family member to join MVHS.
3. Tell others about our wonderful facilities to rent: Hotel, Church or the whole of Buckstop Junction.
4. Donate items for display in our historic buildings or to sell in *The Shoppe*.
5. Volunteer to help with maintenance, building restoration, tours or many other things.

This has surely been an interesting year so far: blizzards, floods and now fires – grim reminders that we might not really be in control. Financial matters, health concerns, job and family matters all creep into our consciousness and keep us from the good things that we'd like to accomplish.

Sometimes we work away on our dream projects, seemingly not making any progress. We plan, write, evaluate, explain, promote, re-assess, give up and take a chance and start again. Start again, appeal to others, beg for understanding, money and finally, a break through!

Oh the Joy! Someone agrees, understands, and believes in your dream. Someone has bought into it and set other things in motion. One step taken. Many more to come.

Don't know what I'm talking about? Just look at page 4!

*J. Fried*



Judy Fried, MVHS President

## **Buckstop Junction: The Missouri Valley Historical Society**

MVHS (Buckstop Junction), PO Box 941, Bismarck, ND 58502-0941

**MVHS Office: 701-250-8575**



*Photo: The bell tower of our Lein School #2 from near Arena ND.*

### **Spring & Summer 2009 Schedule**

#### **Entrance Building**

MVHS Office/ *The Shoppe*

**March 2- May 15:** M-Thurs 10 am to 3 pm

**May 19- Sept 18:** Tues-Sat 10 am to 3 pm

*The Shoppe* at Buckstop Junction

offers collectables and local history items.

#### **Tours: May 29 to Aug. 8**

**Friday & Saturday at 1:30 pm**

Entrance / Tour Fees: MVHS Members: Free

Adults: \$5.00, Students over 12: \$3.00,

Children 12 & under: \$2.00, Under 6 yrs: Free

Tours by appointment - minimum of four adults

### **Special Events**

- May 9:** Membership Day: Entrance Building/*The Shoppe*  
1 to 3 p.m. Free face painting by "Buttons" & balloon animals by "Cuz'n Cal"  
We appreciate our members! 10-3 free coffee & cookies.
- May 18:** Annual Meeting of Missouri Valley Historical Society  
5:30 pm: Entertainment, 6 pm: Free Supper, 7 pm: Meeting  
*The Lewis Hotel, Buckstop Junction*
- June 7:** Buggies & Blues Fly in Breakfast at Mandan Airport.  
Sponsored by EAA 1008, supporters of our airport hangar, [www.EAA1008.org](http://www.EAA1008.org)
- August 16:** Buckstop Junction's **OLD SETTLERS' DAY / CORN FEED**  
This is our 18<sup>th</sup> annual celebration!
- September 26 & 27:** Bismarck Cancer Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Applefest  
[www.BuckstopJunction.org](http://www.BuckstopJunction.org)

**Membership Privileges of the Missouri Valley Historical Society** (as per membership category).  
Free Tours of Buckstop Junction, Free admission to Old Settlers' Day/Corn Feed. Free subscription to The Sentinel (our newsletter), Interesting volunteer & leadership opportunities, Invitation to and voting rights at annual meeting, Membership card. Help preserve our local history!

## SCALE HOUSE OR LINE SHACK?

In 1996, the Norbert Zirbes Family donated a scale house which had been used to weigh loads of coal at a Morton County coal mine to the Mine Camp at Buckstop Junction. Recent information indicates the building may be older than earlier thought.

The Scale House is built of full dimension lumber and it is possible it began as a "Line Shack", a Government building during the Homesteading Era of western North Dakota. When land was available for homesteading, many Line Shacks of this design were used as information centers to help settlers locate available land. These Shacks provided the settlers with a local agent so they didn't have to make the long trip to the county seat.



Scale House at Buckstop Junction today .

The large window was hinged at the top, and when open, served as a ceiling for an enclosure created when canvas side curtains were hung from the open window. On pleasant warm days with no wind (are there any?), the side curtains would not be necessary. When homesteading ended, it appears this Line Shack was moved to a coal mine north of Mandan to serve a few years as a Scale House. In the late 1930's, George and Martin Zirbes moved the building to Bismarck where it remained until 1949 when it was relocated to a farm northeast of Driscoll. It remained on the farm until being moved to the Mine Camp in 1996. A cast iron wood stove which stood in a corner was used for heating and cooking.

*Written by Tom Zirbes and edited by Carl Vender*

## THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

- ◆ Acme electric, Tool Crib of the North
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- ◆ N.D. National Guard
- ◆ Amvets Post #9
- ◆ B.N.I. Coal Ltd
- ◆ DC&WM RR Museum
- ◆ Fraternal Order of Eagles
- ◆ VFW Post # 1326

*Note: We know there are others; please let us know who else should be on the list.*

# OUR VANISHING PRAIRIE ELEVATORS

All across our North Dakota skyline we are seeing gaps where our prairie sky-scrapers, the grain elevators once stood. Just the summer before last we lost the elevator in Mandan. Every year we hear of three or four lost to the ravages of time or weather.

These buildings once made the transportation of our North Dakota grain to the people who needed it possible. The elevators were built along the railroad and the farmers hauled their grain to them for shipping.

The Brittin elevator pictured at the right was built along the Soo Line Railroad in Burleigh County, northwest of Moffit. The town of Brittin lost the last of its residents during the Great Depression and the post office closed in 1933. The elevator still stands, but for how long?



Brittin Elevator: Photo by Doug Alm.

This is not a rhetorical question. Efforts are afoot to save this building and move it to the historic town of Buckstop Junction. Our Brittin Elevator committee is being organized by Doug Alm. Thanks Doug!

Preservation North Dakota held its annual conference at Buckstop Junction May 1 and 2. You can find information at [www.prairieplaces.org](http://www.prairieplaces.org) The Missouri Valley Historical Society would like to thank Preservation North Dakota for naming the Brittin grain elevator to their list as one of the three most endangered places for 2009 (see above). This designation will help bring needed publicity and funding and begin the process of moving the elevator to Buckstop Junction!

**PRESERVATION**  
North Dakota  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Historic Preservation Conference

**Brittin Grain Elevator**

is hereby recognized by  
Preservation North Dakota as one of the  
**3 Most Endangered Places**

On this FIRST day May, 2009

*Suzanne Kelley*  
Suzanne Kelley, President

*If you haven't renewed your membership please do so now. If we work together we can make this a great summer! Larry Strand and your Membership Committee.*

## **Membership Application: Missouri Valley Historical Society**

Yes, I/We want to support the continued development of Buckstop Junction.  
Enclosed is a check/money order covering my 2009 dues. New Member  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Single (\$25)  Family or Grandparents (\$35)  Donor (\$50)  Business/Organization (\$75)

Please make check payable to **MVHS**. MVHS is a 501 (C) (3) organization.

Mail to: MVHS, PO Box 941, Bismarck, ND 58502-0941 MVHS Phone: (701) 250-8575

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## **Volunteer Information 2009**

If you would also like to support Buckstop Junction by volunteering, please fill in the following information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Best method of contact \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_

### **Area of Interest:**

### Days & Times Available

Conduct Tours \_\_\_\_\_

Work in *The Shoppe*/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Building Maintenance/ Restoration \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

### **Events:**

#### Old Settlers' Day/ Corn Feed, August 16, 2009

Entrance Gate  Food Booth  *The Shoppe*  Historic Building Docent  Parking lot  
 Golf cart driver for handicapped  Gofer  Set Up on Aug. 15  Take down on Aug 16

#### Bismarck Cancer Centers Applefest, September 26 & 27

*The Shoppe*  Membership Information  Historic Building Docent  
 Golf cart driver for handicapped  Set up on Sept. 25  Take Down on Sept. 27

#### Large Tours (scheduled by organizations or groups)

Historic Building Docent  *The Shoppe*/ Office

**Committees:**  Membership  Buildings & Grounds  Fund Raising  Assistant to Ike

Volunteer Scheduling  Publicity  Brittin Elevator  Chesak Seed House

Comments, Questions or other areas where you could help:


Thank You for offering to help, we really appreciate you!

Missouri Valley  
Historical Society  
PO BOX 941  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0941



*Mission Statement:*

*This organization shall  
stimulate, coordinate and  
assist activities relating to  
the preservation of this area's  
history.*



*Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!*

The Missouri Valley Historical Society & Buckstop Junction  
*Invite you to attend the*

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, May 18th

To be held at the Historic Lewis Hotel, Buckstop Junction

**5:30 p.m. Entertainment**

5:30–7 p.m. Register for Gift Certificate\* & Door Prizes!

\*Good at *The Shoppe* at Buckstop Junction or toward MVHS membership

**6:00 p.m. Free Hot Dogs, Cowboy Beans & Salads**

Courtesy of the MVHS Board of Directors

**7:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting Begins...**

*(You'll be home in bed by a reasonable hour, we promise!)*