

## Always Onward

### Chapter Ten - 1970-1979

#### ADJUSTING TO A NEW SOCIETY

The 1970's were escorted in by an overall national conviction of improving both social and environmental conditions. Pollution, rampaging taxes, federal budget cuts and a new breed of Americans - Hippies, Yippies and Flower Children - who centered their lifestyle on a drug culture, all gave Barnumites concern. The Village was undaunted; however, and set out to change their corner of the world.

One of these attempts to improve over-all living conditions came from within the school system. Concern over the status of ecology had been growing during the late 60's and by 1970 young people had taken hold of the challenge pollution offered. On April 22, 1970, Barnum first observed Earth Day. The 2nd and 3rd grade Elementary students observed the day by collecting trash from yards, roadsides and neighboring homes. Miss Austin's class gathered a total of 5,775 pounds of rubbish. Each Elementary student composed a letter to Hubert Humphrey voicing their concerns over the world's unstable ecological system. At the High School, lectures and student activities which centered on the problem of pollution, were scheduled.

Educators were facing federal budget cuts for school systems and in 1970 the issue of consolidation with Moose Lake, an issue High School students had pursued in the 60's, resurfaced. At that time the Board's attitude was one of general agreement that any reorganization should have as the primary goal the improvement of the curricular program and the broadcasting of educational opportunities for all children. In February of '70 the School Board moved to direct the County Auditor to draw a plat of combined Independent School Districts 91 and 97, Barnum and Moose Lake, to be considered for a new school district. Several informational meetings were held to clarify the proposed curriculum, finances and efficient use of both schools.

In March a public meeting was held in Barnum to pursue the issue. Two hundred district taxpayers were in attendance to review the proposal. The audience freely voiced the opinions that too many unanswered questions remained and that the proposal was being pushed upon Barnum citizens in too short a time.

Emotions began heating up and the audience informed the School Board that they were ready to remain in the auditorium until the issue was resolved-no matter how long it was before resolution was made. Several members of the group began to draw up a petition for a general election to be held that May and attempted to recruit Mr. Lundblad's assistance.

As the meeting was less than orderly, and deteriorating rapidly, the Board decided to vote and therefore resolve the issue. A tie vote was drawn, and, as a tie vote was considered a "No" vote, the matter was settled. There would be no merger.

Kalevala; however, had no such difficulty in convincing its citizenship that merger with another school system would be a life-saving measure for the students. The Kalevala students composed a letter to the adults of that community expressing their belief that the Barnum School System had more to offer them than did other high schools. Cited as opportunities available in Barnum were the Art Program, 3 year French Program, full year Kindergarten, availability of Summer Recreational Facilities, Summer School and a Summer Industrial Arts Program. Kalevala voted to merge with the Barnum School District in 1970.

In the effort to keep Barnum schools in competition with others in Minnesota, John Lundblad and Charles Lind visited a Secondary Vocational Center at Blue Earth. The steering committee was exploring the possibility of establishing a Vocational Center to serve schools in the Barnum area. The Vocational Center planning continued on into 1972 when the Barnum School District was selected by the Carlton County Superintendent to act as host District for the Vocational Education Director. In 1973 a Cooperative Vocational Education venture was entered into by Willow River, Moose Lake, Cromwell and Barnum. The main office for the project remained in Barnum; however, students traveled between the facilities and business establishments for varied learning experiences,

Another curriculum improvement in the Barnum schools was the Title I Supplementary Reading and Arithmetic Program. In 1973 this program was nearly lost when the funding was slashed by federal government policies which directly affected the educational system. Rather than the expected \$17,500 in aide, the school only received \$6,000, cutting the program from 58 to 37 students.

In 1972 two events occurred that had a direct impact on the school system and would re-route the school's history.

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## ADJUSTING TO A NEW SOCIETY

The Barnum P.T.A., which had been actively supporting the school system since 1921, dissolved. Forty-five parents and teachers cast a unanimous vote for dissolution during an October meeting. The group planned on reorganizing into a different organization in the hope the move would promote a focus on local goals. A new Parent/Teacher group was formed and began struggling for existence. This group dissolved in 1973 at which time the P.T.A. was reorganized for a short period of time. The former P.T.A. Officers had received notice that any remaining funds that had been raised under the auspices of P.T.A. would need to be turned over to the state P.T.A. office. The local P.T.A. unit remained active until the end of 1973.

John Lundblad, who had served as Superintendent of the Barnum School District since 1948, retired in 1972 and concluded forty-four years of service to Minnesota public education. Lundblad had served the community in varied ways; having been involved in P.T.A., Commercial Club and the Charities Committee, as well as serving as Chairman of the District 25 Committee of School Activities. Mr. Lundblad commented on the accomplishments made during his service. The most satisfying conclusion that can be drawn is that the people in the district have been interested in providing the best educational program that resources would allow.. The satisfaction rests in the accomplishments of graduates in all walks of life pursued at home and away. " Mr. Baldwin was hired to fill the vacated position.

With increasing enrollment the High School building appeared to be shrinking. In 1973 several informal open meetings were held at the school to discuss enlarging the building. Large crowds of citizens voiced concern over the effectiveness of enlarging the building and the direct effect it would have on the community's tax base. The citizens proposed development of a Jr. High

at the empty Kalevala building; but the old school would not meet the State Fire Marshal's standards.

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Seeing another "cause" developing, High School students rallied to support the building plans. Several students directed and filmed a short movie which presented the needs of the school and revealed, step by step, the facts of Why the proposed addition was needed. The film was aired on WDSE-TV, Channel 8.

The students also conducted an in-school survey of current needs and presented the findings to a Citizens' Committee which was evaluating the school's needs in curriculum and facilities. The list included a student lounge containing vending machines, tennis tables and music; a new gym with swimming facilities; a larger lunch room; a Sr. High Physical Education program which would include girls' programs; motorcycle training; enlarged Shop rooms and Art courses. The young adults had serious ideas about their school and curriculum.

That December the largest voter turnout ever recorded since the school elections were held in the District took to the polls to decide the building issue. Despite the students' efforts, the \$780,000 bond issue was defeated 795 to 130.

The size of the High School appeared to have no adverse influence on the students' abilities. In 1970 Debbie Mundell, an eighth grade student, had a poem titled "Hand In Hand" published in the fall anthology of High School Art. Bruce Thompson, a budding scientist, took honors at the Regional Science Fair at the U. of M. Bruce Hasset and Gary Peterson were elected to the Polar League All-Conference Basketball Team. Merlin Nelson received a blue ribbon and Superior Rating for his history project at the Minnesota Historical Society's 3rd Annual History Fair at the Capitol Hill Armory in St. Paul. The Barnum High School Band, under the direction of Mr. Christenson, received a superior rating at the District Music Contest and the High School Choir, under the direction of Miss Francine Gemlich, also was awarded a Superior Rating.

The sports teams were "dumping," "grinding," and "squeezing by" other local competitors. The Barnum Basketball team defeated Carlton in their first game of the 1970 season and went on to defeat a majority of other local school teams. The Baseball Team was formed in 1970, the Diamondball team also defeated Carlton in their first game. In 1972 the grid iron team played what may have been the most unusual football game in Barnum's history-in the dark. The game had been delayed one hour due to a power failure. With both players and fans becoming restless, the Barnum and Carlton teams agreed to proceed with the game minus lights. Even though the Barnum boys had a difficult time determining who was the opposition and exactly where the goal posts were, they swept over the Carlton guys.

One of the prime concerns of villagers was maintaining pride in Barnum. On Sunday, December 28, 1978, Mr. Holmes, a member of the Board of Education, appeared on a weekly Duluth television show, Report To The People. Holmes, who appeared as a representative of the village, apparently voiced opinions on Barnum and Barnum graduates which were not shared by a majority of Barnum residents. The villagers' hue and cry against Holmes was seen in the Barnum Herald for several weeks. Three college students, graduates of Barnum, protested Holmes' belief that college graduates felt the world owed them a living. Mr. Holmes' inference that Barnum was a

dying town was taken up by Mr. Howard Ballou via a letter to the editor:

Barnum has a liquor store, fire hall, gas stations, beautiful park, 3 churches, 2 grocery stores, 2 feed stores, 1 variety store, 2 insurance agents, 2 realty agents, 2 snowmobile agents, 1 hardware store, 1 hotel with catering service, 3 restaurants [its the only town you can still get a 5 cent cup of coffee in], 1 bank with an auctioneer, a weekly newspaper, M. P. & L. office, Village Hall, barbershop, beauty shop, lumberyard, laundromat, 2 income tax consultants, a mortuary and an excellent school system. IS THIS A DYING TOWN?

Earlier that year, in September, the Interstate officially became a state freeway. The Grand Opening Ceremony was a historic day for the village. Ceremonies were led by Mayor Bob Johnson and attended by visiting dignitaries including mayors of various Carlton County towns, State Senator Norman Hanson and Representative Bernard Carlson.

Up until the opening of I-35 Highway 61 was one of the most traveled highways in Minnesota, bringing heavy traffic through Barnum since the early 1900's. The heavy traffic had meant business for service stations, stores and restaurants. When the freeway opened, this source of revenue was basically cut off.

Donald Johnson was one entrepreneur who chose to take advantage of the new freeway. Johnson, owner of several restaurants in Wisconsin and Illinois, opened the Northwoods Restaurant on the I-35 Interchange east of town on land owned by Thure Nelson. The business employed 40 Barnum residents. The establishment, managed by Wayne Breeden, held its Grand Opening in November of 1971 with 2,000 customers flocking in for free coffee.

Barnum's downtown district slowly began changing. In December, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Farrell Stiehm from California assumed ownership of the old Nordquist Cafe. Renamed the Antique Inn, the cafe was extensively remodeled. Featuring "wholesome home cooked meals and pasteries" the owners also bought and sold antiques and coins. The Stiehms had chosen to move their family of eleven to Barnum as California was, "overgrown, over crowded, polluted and over run by hippies and drugs flow like water. "

In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Todd of Dassel, Minnesota, assumed ownership of the Antique Inn and renamed it Todd's Cafe. They did not hold the business long. In 1972 Mr. and Mrs. Bert Nordquist reassumed ownership of the building after unsatisfactory lease arrangements with other operators had forced the cafe's closing for six months. After evaluating both their expertise in the restaurant business and past experience with other owners, the Nordquist's chose to operate the cafe themselves. They once again remodeled and moved in pinball machines to entice the younger crowd.

Mrs. George Ruby, after operating the Red Owl for 33 years, sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jorgenson from Willow River. Renaming the business Jorgenson's Grocery, the new owners began building improvements and residing. A new shoppers' convenience was offered to the village when the grocery was opened for Sunday business between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. During the holidays, Jorgenson's offered mixed nuts at 69 cents a pound, Old Fashioned Chocolate Drops at 39 cents a pound and a one pound three ounce box of Mrs. Alison's Christmas Cookies for 99 cents. In 1972 the Jorgenson's sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Neagbour from Staples who christened the building The Village

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### Food Market.

The Nelco Gas and Fuel moved its business near the Northwoods Restaurant at the I-35 Interchange in 1971. In March, the station provided a buffet, catered by the Barnum Hotel, in the new salesroom which seated 100 people. During the three day Grand Opening over 2,000 cars visited the new Nelco Station. The Nelson's operated the service station until 1978 when it was purchased by the Little Stores, Inc. of Cloquet. At that time the bulk service was purchased by Don Juntunen.

During August, 1970, a fire at the Nelco Bulk Plant on the West side of the village nearly proved fatal for Barnum. When first noticed by Pat Delarosby, the wooden platform in front of the tanks was already enveloped in flames. The Volunteer Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire; therefore averting disaster, but the tanks were so hot they steamed when hosed down and the automatic fire releases had melted and shut off.

Telephone service to Barnum was under improvement during the early '70's. In 1971 underground cable was installed, eliminating the trouble some above ground wires gave. Later that same year the company constructed a 15x21 foot addition to the south side of Barnum's Telephone Building and installed dial switching and associated equipment needed to meet the increased local and long distance calling demands. In 1974 Barnum's telephone number prefix was changed from "356" to "389" and at the same time toll-free calling to Carlton, Cloquet and Duluth opened to the village.

Barnum villagers were saddened by Robert Goodell's death in 1971. Shortly after, Mrs. Florence Goodell sold the Funeral Home to Hamlin and it became known as the Goodell/Hamlin Funeral Home. Hamlin promised to keep the business in the village. The Goodell family had owned various business establishments, including the Funeral Home, since their arrival in Barnum in the late 1800's. With R. Goodell's death, another phase of Barnum's history faded into the background.

Other businesses continued to change hands. On January 2, 1972, Robert L. Bradford turned the ownership of the Barnum Herald over to Mansel D. Martin. In 1973 Martin became owner of both the Barnum Herald and Moose Lake Star Gazette. In 1971 Dave Kommueller of St. Croix Falls assumed the managership of Lampert Yards.

Louise and John Staxrud retired from the business world in 1973 and closed the Barnum Hotel. The eight room, nine bed, hotel had been an integral part of the social life in the village. Many women's clubs and Commercial Club Dinner meetings had been held there. The Staxruds, who owned the Hotel for 33 years, reported that, until television made its appearance, there were three booths of card players visiting on a nightly basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Heaton purchased the Barnum Mobile Home Park from Al Dahlberg in 1972. The Heatons immediately made plans to expand the seven site complex to accommodate fifteen trailers. In 1973 a new mobile home park was developed by Richard Nelson on twenty beautiful acres of property belonging to Thure Nelson and Pat Delarosby. Nelson opened the park under the name Sherwood Forest Trailer Park.

A new motel was constructed close to the Nelco Service Station and Northwoods

Restaurant in 1973. The new 15 unit complex was built and owned by Lester Bakka of Cloquet. Bakka had aimed at a June first opening, but due to material shortages, its completion was delayed until December of 1974.

The Postal System was undergoing changes during the early '70's as well. In 1972 post office hours were cut nationwide to avoid raising postal rates. Congress had abdicated their responsibility for funding the Postal Service and the age-old system was forced to seek alternative methods to operate without a deficit. That same year Eddie Stevens, who had served as Post Master for 25 years, retired. Melba Stevens, who had been a substitute and clerk in the Post Office for 24 years, was named as the new Post Mistress.

Clem Newman assumed ownership of the Farmers' Union Insurance Agency in 1973 and Douglas Buse of Mankato was appointed the new Manager of the Barnum Co-op Store that same year. Lucille Suranen Coppnell became acting Assistant. The Barnum Co-op bought the Brown Feed Company shortly afterward. The Co-op Store was remodeled, the first time in 50 years the exterior of the building had received a face lift.

In 1973 Pat Delarosby and his wife Pearl, who had been the well-liked owners of the Long Branch Saloon since the mid-60's, sold their establishment to Dennis and Ann Hanson. During the '70's, the Long Branch featured up and coming groups as "Whiskey River" who went on to gain fame outside the Barnum area.

Harold Martin, Vice President and Cashier at the Barnum State Bank, bought Ed Marini's interests in the bank in 1973. Mann!, who served as President for seven years, had watched the bank grow and expand its services since 1955.

The Dale Heatons purchased the mobile home court in 1972.

The Northwoods Restaurant and Nelson's Nelco gas station were opened soon after 1-35 opened.

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The ex-banker went into semi-retirement from 1973 to 1977 at which time he officially retired. Mann! had been active in the community in various organizations and continued to do so after retirement. In 1978 Manni completed his writing of Kettle River, Automba, Kalevala and Surrounding Area History.

In early 1974 Mrs. Betty (Jim) Carlson opened the Gingerbread House, an outlet for handcrafted items by area craftsmen/women and for heirloom cups and saucers, in downtown Barnum. In December she moved the establishment to the Northwoods Restaurant basement.

Farming had regained stable footing since the end of the '60's. Walter Olson had upgraded and expanded his turkey ranch and was raising 10,000 to 25,000 fowls annually. Olson was awarded the Land O'Lakes Creameries, Inc. Division 11 Turkey Producer Quality Award in 1970.

A younger member of the agriculture community received recognition for his achievements that same year. Alan Anderson, 17, was chosen to go on the Minnesota Agricultural Youth F.F.A. Goodwill People To People Tour of European Countries. The delegation was composed of twenty-four outstanding agricultural youth within the state. The students visited England, Norway, Denmark, the Soviet Union, East and West Germany and Switzerland.

Gatherings continued to play an important role in the farmers' lives. In 1979 Duluth Mayor Ben Boo was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Onanegozie Resource Conservation and Development Project Committee in Barnum. In 1974 an "Old Fashioned Town Meeting" was held at Swanson's Cafe. Congressman-elect James Oberstar called the gathering to give area farmers a chance to present their views of farming problems. At that time 7% of the dairy farms in Minnesota were located in the 8th District. In 1976 Jim Lewis, National Director from Chicago, addressed the Breeder Institute at the high school. Earlier in the decade the Guernsey Breeders celebrated their 60th Anniversary during their Annual Meeting in Barnum.

Disaster was never far away for farmers. In both 1976 and 1977 drought conditions hit the area. Farmers received aide through federal programs and were allowed to deduct disaster related loses on their taxes; but these measures only partially compensated for the dire effects wrought upon the farming community.

The Herald noted that the farmer's life was not always one of ease:

Sometimes the farmer wonders if it pays to be a farmer. Ervin Peterson, a local farmer, shipped an 85 pound Holstein calf on December 23. He received 8 cents a pound. The following charges were deducted from that amount: \$1.20 for yardage, 13 cents for State Health Insurance, 15 cents for Beef Promotion, \$1.50 for selling charges, \$4.83 for transportation and insurance. Peterson then received a due bill that he owned the trucker 21 cents.

Although villagers were involved with internal changes, they could not escape the pressures of the outside world.

As the Vietnam War raged on, more Barnum families worried that the American troops were being brutalized. Increased reports of rising incidents involving P.O.W.'s violent televised news reports live from Vietnam, and letters home describing often times deplorable, living and fighting conditions gave those at home valid reasons to worry over their family member's welfare. The citizen's anti-war feelings were escalating and hit their peak when the New York Times published excerpts from the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of the Vietnam War during the Johnson Administration.

In May of 1971 the tragedy of Vietnam was laid on Barnum's doorstep. SP/4 Kenneth Colen Westerdorf, stationed with Co. A 7th Engineer Battalion at a firebase away from Quang-tri was listed missing in action. It was not until June that notification was received explaining that Westerdorf was among 30 soldiers killed by incoming mortar.

In 1973 the Herald reported:

The Northwoods Motel was constructed starting 1973.

PEACE COMES TO VIETNAM-END OF STRIFE THAT WAS RIPPING THE NATION APART

The United States, under the leadership of President Nixon and his advisor Henry Kissinger, announce a truce and cease fire as of January 24, 1973. American troops are to withdraw in 60 days, coinciding with the return of ALL P.O. W. s. On January 26, at 6 p.m., the Barnum Methodist Church joined others across the nation in celebration by ringing their bells 12 minutes, one minute for each year the U.S.A. spent in Vietnam.

Questions arose after the evacuation, and continue to arise, as to the number of P.O.W.s remaining in the desolate country.

Bomb threats across the country were on the rise in the early '70's. On July 15, 1971 that threat reached Barnum when a call was received at the State Bank of Barnum stating a bomb was located somewhere in the building and would detonate without warning. The entire building, consisting of upstairs apartments, Post Office and Bank, was evacuated from 11 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Officers from the Sheriff's Department, Moose Lake Police and Barnum Volunteer Firemen searched the premises. Barricades were set up on Highway 61 by the Methodist Church on the south side of town and near the Herald office on the north side. Traffic was rerouted. No cars or pedestrians were allowed along the street. Business was at a stand-still while the townspeople held their breath. No bomb was found, but Barnum was once again rudely reminded that the town was not immune to problems which affected the entire nation.

By 1973 an energy crisis had wrapped its tentacles tightly around the nation and had begun to squeeze. With Arab

members of OPEC refusing to ship petroleum to nations supporting Israel, OPEC oil prices in the United States skyrocketed 40%. The first fuel shortage since WWII hit the United States.

President Nixon addressed the nation via television stating that speed limits on highways would be reduced to 55 mph, heating allocations for homes, schools and industries would be reset and that Daylight Savings Time would be extended. He also requested Congress to approve Gasless Sundays and a standby gasoline rationing program.

Across the nation, lines of cars waiting to receive their \$5.00 allotment of gas could be seen at service stations. In Barnum, the lines were shorter, but gas stations were definitely tied to allotments. Nelco Gas' allotment was to be the same as what the company's previous year's sales had equaled, but its parent company had been cut back by 34 million gallons of gas. In order to comply with the allotments, and to provide local residents the best service possible, Nelco was open between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. only, Monday through Saturday and closed all day Sunday.

In order to deal with the Energy Crisis the Village Council appointed Ed Manni to serve as Village Local Fuel Coordinator to handle fuel shortage problems. Mann! worked in cooperation with the Civil Defense Office in Carlton and the Department of State Civil Defense.

Since Barnum's incorporation as a village in 1889, Its faith in the federal government had been tried and tested several times. After each trial the village ultimately invested its trust in the established authority. A series of events between June 17, 1972 and August, 1974 left the villagers feeling betrayed by the institution it had so staunchly defended for nearly 100 years.

On June 17, 1972, Washington, D.C. police arrested five men who had broken into Democratic National Committee Offices in the Watergate Building. On January 20, 1973, President Nixon was inaugurated for his second term in office; Vice President Agnew was sworn in for his second term on the same date.

In April of 1973 President Nixon accepted the resignations of his Chief of Staff H.R. Holdeman, Domestic Policy Assistant John Ehrlichman, Counsel John Dean and Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst. All had been involved in what by then was termed the Watergate Scandal. Nixon adamantly denied any involvement in the affair. On May 17th of that year the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Affairs opened public hearings on the administration's involvement in the Watergate Affair. Vice President Agnew resigned during this time and Gerald Ford was appointed as the nation's new Vice President.

During that entire summer, Barnum residents were held captive by the televised hearings. The Barnum Herald reported in August:

The House Judiciary Committee met to decide on impeachment inquiry and decided that Richard M. Nixon to be stripped of the Presidency for high crime and other misconduct.

On August 8th, 1974, Richard Nixon, on a televised broadcast, announced his resignation to the American public. He admitted to making, "some wrong decisions, " but was insistent that his action was prompted from lack of congressional support. Gerald Ford was appointed as President of the United States.

While struggling to understand the Presidential scandal, Barnum was besieged with internal difficulties.

In 1970 the village was left without police protection when Jim Duffy, Village Deputy for two years, resigned. In 1971 citizens became angry over an increase in property taxes and joined other Minnesota residents in demanding a freeze on property taxes and a cut in spending and state and local levels of government. Village residents had received mailed notices informing them of the new value placed on their real estate as a result of the reappraisal. An outcry was heard throughout the village. One resident was notified that several empty lots he had set aside as future income property had jumped from \$2,000 to \$10,000. A business on Elm Street was raised in value by \$6,400; an older apartment building had its value increased by \$5,000.

In 1973 the Village Council voted to purchase the Liquor Store building outright for \$50,000. That same year State Legislation action changed the legal definition of a village and Barnum was henceforth to be known as a city.

Later that year the village entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Highway Department to equally divide the cost of upgrading the road running from Highway 61 to the 1-35 exit. The improvement included the grading and surfacing of the road, installation of new curbs, gutters and storm sewers and the construction of a new bridge. The new bridge and a short channel changed the course of the river enough to alleviate the yearly flooding of the park, a majority of the time. Estimated cost for the project was \$200,000.

In 1976 Barnum made the national evening news. During a general election that November, an error was noted on the ballots at the City Precinct Polls. The absence of a 4th District Commissioner was found; unfortunately, the error was not noted until after 60 ballots had been cast.

Those voters were called back to add their vote for Commissioner, only 39 returned. The event was so unusual that both NBC and CBS nightly news reports made note of it.

A form of lawlessness, not as well broadcast as Watergate but equally as devastating to local residents, hit the area. In 1973 cattle rustling was on the rise and reports of cattle losses were made to the County Sheriff routinely. One farmer reported a 1200 pound animal coming home one evening in a, "near strangled condition, dragging a lariat and rope. " Others reported corral gates opened and fences cut. In the immediate Barnum area an owner of a large herd chased away a group of people riding motorcycles in his pasture. Another reported a helicopter cruising over his farm and dropping close to the ground in the midst of his herd. Being apprehensive as to what would occur when the cattle were in their prime, area farmers organized a Volunteer Cow Patrol. The Patrol, under the direction of the Sheriff and County Conservation Officers, patrolled rural areas and reported any suspicious activities.

The Barnum area felt the attack of Mother Nature as well as human nature during the '70's. In 1970 a July tornado ripped through the area and tipped Jack Skoglund's trailer house sideways, smashing it into four trees and then left the abode wrapped around another tree. Russell Wekseth and Joe Buch both suffered damage on their farms.

In 1976 at 6:15 p.m. a funnel cloud was spotted four miles west of Barnum near the Wayne Breeden farm. Breeden reported that both pole and board fences were torn apart and hurled into the hayfield. Clifford and Larry Swanson were baling hay when the winds picked up. They grabbed their children and ran to the house; arriving at the shelter literally

plastered with mud and hay.

Customers in Northwoods Restaurant viewed the funnel cloud hovering about 300 feet over Bear Lake, sucking up the lake's water in sheets. Several large pine trees were uprooted by the sewage disposal plant. The tin fence around the race track at the fairground was flattened and scattered around an area of several rods.

The Don and Ruth Denton farm was hit by a twister in 1977. The winds blew down nine trees near their home and twenty more in the nearby pasture. Two hay wagons sailed 150 feet and slammed into other machinery near the chicken house. One tree top was snapped off and driven like an arrow 14 inches through the sideboard of a manure spreader box 350 feet away.

In 1979 an Easter snowstorm hit Barnum, dumping several inches of slushy slippery snow on the town. On the 23rd of April another storm hit, leaving 10 inches of snow which was accompanied by sleet and high winds. On I-35 between Barnum and Moose Lake, scores of cars were stalled or in the ditch. A power outage resulted from powerlines bending and breaking under the accumulation of heavy snow.

The wolf population had increased to the point of threatening both the welfare of wildlife and cattle. The Moose Horn Rod and Gun Club decided to resolve the situation and hold a wolf hunt. On Sunday, December 28th in 1970, fifteen men hunted in twenty below zero weather from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. without spotting one wolf. The chilled, discouraged group retired to the Hotel for coffee and conversation.

Again, in 1974, the Rod and Gun Club delved into the wolf problem when 21 wolf-killed

deer were discovered by members. At that time it was noted that the brush wolf population had literally exploded. Farmers reported hearing wolves howling close to their property and complained of extensive livestock losses. In order to get the wolf population under control an agreement was entered into between the Rod and Gun Club and Carl Halverson, noted area trapper. The Club agreed to pay Halverson \$10 for each brush wolf he trapped.

Alcohol and other chemical substance abuse among teens was another problem which increased yearly. In 1972 the village residents presented their concerns to the School Board. The Board resolved to limit the High School dances, which had been open to the public, to Barnum students and their dates. Trouble with drinking, smoking and general disturbances during the dances that were viewed as a public affair had become nearly uncontrollable. The Board also resolved to implement a Drug Education Program in the High School.

Despite the troubles and traumas Barnum struggled under, the townspeople continued to strive toward betterment of their community.

The Trout O'Rama, sponsored by the Commercial Club, had grown beyond anyone's dreams. At the 11th Annual Trout O'Rama, 1,000 spectators enjoyed the snowmobile races and 2,000 participated in the Fishing Contest. Fishermen, women and children pilgrimaged to the fishing contest each year. Various prizes were offered to the public including a 16 hp Skiroule Snowmobile donated by Nelco. It was not uncommon to see 500 or more cars parked on the iced-over lake. Following the day of fishing, a pot luck dinner was held at the Village Hall. Rocky Teller covered the contest in 1971; the Trout O'Rama was featured on Teller's sports broadcast that night at 6 p.m. on Channel 6.

The Commercial Club funds had been used for various causes since the inception of the Trout O'Rama. Included in these were sponsoring the 4-H Livestock Show annually, assisting with the Dairy Day Contest, contributing \$700 toward new lighting on the football field, contributing \$500 toward the new pavilion, sponsoring the Annual Christmas Program for Barnum children, sponsoring swimming lessons for students, assisting with deer feeding programs, funding the Annual Testimonial Dinner for Athletic Groups and installing baskets and backboards outside of both the Elementary and High School.

The Firebelles had not been sitting idly by. In November of 1970 the Park Pavilion was completed and paid for. The Firebelle's Masquerade Ball proceeds had covered the last of the outstanding balance on the building. With that project completed, the group turned toward new goals which included the purchase of new football field lights and a scoreboard.

In July of 1970 a new annual event was born, again through the efforts of the Commercial Club. Barnum's Canoe Derby Days began with several contestants lined up on the shores of the Moose Horn River in Barnum, anxious to canoe to Moose Lake. Even though the low waters along the canoe race route required the racers to make extra portages, the day was considered a success. By its 3rd year the event expanded to include a community picnic in the park and a street dance in the evening in town. A queen contest was also added to the festivities. Duane Larson, WDSM-TV sportscaster, participated in the 4th Canoe Derby and announced later that evening on his televised report that the Derby was a "splashing success." The next summer Cory Moss, an outdoor writer for the Minnesota A.A.A. Magazine, served as Master of Ceremonies. Moss stated that the river was one of the finest courses he'd ever seen. In 1976 the Canoe Derby was prominently featured in the North Central Airlines' magazine, Northliner, in an article titled "A Festival For Every Lake." 0

Snowmobiling had been gaining popularity since the mid-60's. In 1970 ten area men participated in a snowmobile safari in 38 degree below January weather. The group snowmobiled 75 miles one way to Fort Francis. In 1971 the Minnesota Association of Snowmobilers was organized with their main goal cited as, "Betterment of the greatest winter sport of all." Bob Clough was elected as the group's first treasurer. In 1972 Barnumites participated In the March of Dimes Snowmobile Marathon which they would continue doing for years to come. Bob Clough served as trail boss for the 100 mile course. Later, in the winter of 1972, Nelco sponsored a Northwoods Trail Drive. Richard Nelson acted as trail boss for the 150 participants on the 12 mile course.

Hockey was gathering a good following when a Barnum hockey team was formed. Pat Delarosby initiated work on a new skating and hockey rink on his property located behind and immediately north of the Donald Eller residence. Delarosby basically considered the project an experiment as the area was exceedingly swampy. Shortly after Delarosby began the project, several area residents turned out to help fill in the land, flood the rink and complete other chores involved in the rink's development. After spending a chilling day working on the rink, it was not uncommon for several of the younger laborers to stop by the Eller home for a warm up of cocoa. Thure Nelson of Nelco Gas and Wayne Breeden of Northwoods Restaurant helped Delarosby by installing floodlights and underwriting the expense of lighting the

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area.

While Barnumites enjoyed outdoor activities, they did not ignore the indoor lure of the television. Shows in the 70's began reflecting society's changing attitudes. Series as All In The Family and the Smothers Brothers' Comedy Hour forced residents to reflect on their own value systems. The mini-series was introduced to the public with highly acclaimed shows as Roots and Sybil. America's fascination with space travel was intensified with the airing of the science fiction series Star Trek. With it, a generation of "Trekies" was born.

Barnum Elementary aged children would rush home from school to view their favorite local TV personality, Mr. Toot. In 1970 37 boys from six dens of Cub Scout Troop 169, their den leaders and bus driver, were honored guests on the Mr. Toot Show. Mr. Larry Wormke, the bus driver, had the honor of being a contestant on the program. Not to be outdone by a group of boys, the Brownie Scouts of Troop 306 appeared in Mr. Toot's Peanut Gallery later that year.

Local entertainment took on forms other than television. Dances were well attended and The Young Old Timers, with Glenn Johnson, Dave Fredrickson and Gary Hagen, frequently provided the music. The North Star Opry, featuring the Country Folk and other local talent, became a regular event held at the high school. The Country Folk singing group consisted of Mrs. Burnis Maki, Max Fetters, Barbara and Loren Henninger, Myra Carlson, Art Foisted and Harry Carlson. On July 4, 1971, the Bear Lake Beach opened to the public and began being utilized for swimming lessons. The Bear Lake project had been approved for funding by the Department of Natural Resources and received \$490,500 for acquisition of lands adjacent to the Bear Lake Park earlier in the year.

The Lake Drive-In's popularity had done nothing but grow since opening in 1962. Barnumites flocked to see, "Colossus The Forbidden Project, the frightening story of the day man built himself out of existence," Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid and, "Against the canvas of a

giant megalopolis, EARTHQUAKE dramatized the raging fury, the destructive force and apocalyptic of horror of a trembler that strikes Los Angeles and reduces a great part of that city to rubble. Starring Charlton Heston and Ava Gardner. “

In 1973 the Drive-In Church was started as a summer evangelism project for area churches. Located directly across from Northwoods Restaurant, services were held each Sunday evening and broadcast over WWJC Radio. In 1974 the church was heralded as a “unique experience in people fellowshiping together” by Minneapolis TV-WCCO and Duluth WDSM-TV.

A day's diversion can come in strange wrappings, as what was provided by Eddie Stevens when he sold the quanset metal building behind the bank to Henry Davis. When the old, cumbersome building, erected by Jack Rudebeck in the 1920's, was jacked up and moved onto a flatbed truck, the Bank's parking area was crowded by amused spectators.

Barnum was entertained by a unique company of actors known as Shakespear In The Street when the group presented Love's Labors Lost on the Fairground in 1974. The group was required to set up a mobile stage, prepare for the performances of Shakespear's best works under a variety of conditions which were seldom ideal, and present an enthusiastic performance each evening. As befitted Barnum's reception of fine talent, the group was warmly received.

The village was not without its local celebrities. In 1973 Roy T. Hagen, having completed 3 years of Peace Corps Volunteer Service as a forester, was cited for outstanding service at a government arboretum by the Morraccan Newspaper, “Le Matin.”

Bernard Moder and Jimmy Lekander gained notoriety In 1976 when they discovered the largest Lake Superior Agate in the world, by the Moose Horn River. The rock weighed 493/4 pounds. Photos of the find were sent to Lapidary Journal, an international gem magazine. The agate was also examined by Dr. John C. Greer, a Professor of Geology at U.M.D. His letter to the two men stated:

I have examined this large specimen collected by Bernard Moder and Jimmy Lekander and find it to be an interesting and attractive intergrowth of agate and crystalline quartz. Although the agate is not the typically concentrically-bonded type most common in Lake Superior volcanic rocks, it has formed layers or bands in an open boxwork that filled some large rock cavity and is classifiable as an agate. The coarser, paler quartz then filled in the space between the original agate framework. I would estimate that roughly one-half of the specimen is agate, the rest crystalline quartz.

In 1976 Barnum pushed aside its other activities and concerns and helped America celebrate her 200th birthday in style. The Herald noted:

It was as corny as Kansas in August, as normal as blueberry pie, but it was much more.

Barnum participated in the Moose Lake activities. The Commercial Club's float for the grand parade was graced by Miss Barnum and her attendants. Donald Denton's float was pulled by his matched set of Clydesdales and proved to be a “real eye catcher. “ The Barnum High School Band added music and color to the bicentennial event.

Barnum's business district again saw major changes during 1976. Ruth Denton retired

from the editorship of the Barnum Herald. Her parting column stated:

It all started for me under the tutelage of Robert Bradley, Jr. and has included everything, news gathering, advertising sales, bookkeeping and billing, editorializing, makeup work, photography and mailing. To whomever holds down the editorial chair in the future: Best of Luck, wish you could have been with us on some of the very interesting story assignments and met some of the wonderful folks under the same conditions we have. Much

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happiness to you in the editor's chair.

Pat Macaulay was hired to fill in the "editor's chair."

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine I would some day be the editor of a Minnesota weekly. The coffee pot will always be on at the Herald office and I hope you'll find time to stop by and get acquainted.

In 1976 the Barnum Herald office closed its doors and transferred to a combined office with the Star Gazette in Moose Lake. The paper's owner stated:

It is the belief of the management of the Barnum Herald and Star Gazette that the readers, merchants, employees and entire community will be better served with this new combined office arrangement.

It was also the beginning of the end for the Barnum Herald.

In August of 1976 Pat Macaulay resigned as the Herald's editor and Ruth Denton stepped out of retirement to serve in that position.

By 1977 the Herald, an institution in the village since 1907, was no longer a separate publication. Ruth Denton was in charge of "The Barnum News," a single page found in the Star Gazette.

The Goodell/Hamlin Funeral Home was sold to Glenn and Carol Hanson in 1976. Shortly after, the Barnum Funeral Home was permanently moved to Moose Lake.

Jim and Wanda Akey turned the Village Food Mart over to Clarice and Porter Huddleston in '76. The Barnum Co-op went under the managership of Jim Bellveau. Lampert Yards had moved from Barnum and John Koontz purchased the vacated property. In 1978 the Barnum Co-op closed due to "lack of business."

Not everyone moved out of Barnum, and some new faces moved in. In 1978 the Desic Restaurant was constructed on the 1-35 Interchange by owner John Franzar. The unusually shaped building was a modified fast food service under a huge dome with seating space for 60. In 1979 Nell D. Heikkila opened a law office in the Bank building.

In 1978 the Rocky Mountain Energy Company opened for business and rented the for-

mer Flea House building located on Highway 61. The company's plans were to drill for uranium in the immediate area. While Barnum welcomed the new business, the prospect of uranium being mined in the village's backyard was unsettling. Several meetings regarding the legalities of such a project held in St. Paul were well attended by representatives of the town.

One institution that basically remained unchanged was the Carlton County Fair. The Fair Board continued to remodel and update the grounds, but held firm to their policy of entertaining and delighting the public. In 1971 the four-day Fair was climaxed by a Community Sing Fest. That same year an event was added to the Grand Stand shows that would survive on into the 1980's, the First Annual Demolition Derby.

The Board brought in top entertainers for the Fair. In 1973 a very young Tanya Tucker provided an evening of country-western music. She appeared immediately following the Great Ray who displayed America's most unusual exponents in the art of deception. In 1976 a rodeo played to a packed house of over 2,000 spectators. Moder's and Lekander's outstanding agate was on display that same year. The Bicentennial Program consisted of singing, dancing, instrumental players, and a drum and fife group. A style show of pioneer wedding dresses delighted the ladies and square dancing, a military song choir and old fashioned sing-along delighted everyone.

Certain events in the school system, in the other hand, did not delight everyone.

The installation of computers at the High School were termed a "passing fancy" and "an unnecessary expenditure" by some of the villagers. The School Board firmly believed that the new system would enhance education as, "it provides a lively, exciting addition to the traditional approach. "

In 1976 the issue of building a new High School was again brought forward. The School Board had taken an option of 400 acres of land in Barnum and was anxious to begin planning for a new school. In 1976 the Barnum School Board had voted against consolidation with the Moose Lake School System, stating that, if Barnum was to consolidate with Moose Lake, the need to begin a building program would remain.

The bond issue for a new High School went before the voters in 1977. The proposal included the new school, improvements and an addition to the Elementary School and an optional swimming pool. The proposal had raised the ire of many villagers and the bond was overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 647 to 320.

The School Board was undaunted by the negative vote. In 1978 the Board approved the purchase of a building site for \$50,000. Consolidation with Moose Lake and Willow River was also under consideration at the time.

In 1979 the State Board of Education advised the Barnum School Board against remodeling the existing High School. The cost of remodeling would have exceeded the costs of a new structure and, with the old building, legal problems could arise should a student be injured because of deficiencies in the old building. The debate continued to rage on into the early '80's.

One decision made by the school which was backed by parents whole-heartedly, was the 6th grade class attending "school" at the Environmental Learning Center at Isabella. The first trip was organized by Mary Lou Carlson and Richard Lindgren, both instructors at the Elementary School. The experience proved so successful that the trip became an annual event.

During the year 1976 Henry Nielsen and William Norberg had conducted a local survey of housing needs for low income Senior Citizens. The purpose of the preliminary search was to document the needs of Barnum citizens in order to receive approval on funding from the federal government for the project. In 1978 the blueprints were drawn up for a three-story masonry building with thirty-nine living units, and a large community area which would include a kitchen, craft room and a dance floor. Five lots of Block 4 located directly behind the property owned by the Sathers and Mrs. Wills was purchased. Duesler's Cafe was sold and the building burned, along with the old Herald office, in order to make room for the new project.

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1979 began bright and clear in the minds of Barnum villagers. Much of the upheaval of the decades first few years appeared to be resolved by both the small community and the nation. The riots of Kent State and Jackson State colleges had not been repeated on any college campus. The Vietnam conflict was at an end. SALT I had been signed and some of the anxiety over nuclear war had diminished.

In the town, the closing of businesses appeared to have stopped and the school building issue was tabled.

On Sunday, March 1, 1979, over 1,000 devoted fishermen and women attended the 18th Annual Trout O'Rama despite hazardous driving conditions that had forced local churches to cancel services.

Concerned citizens crowded into the High School to meet the adolescent drug problem head on. Students were reported to be abusing chemical substances in and out of school at an alarming rate. Young adults who were no longer involved in the school system were reported on school property selling illegal chemical substances. The group of parents chose to take a positive approach to the problem and volunteered to work on a Chemical Abuse Program in the school

The School Board sought out the services of off-duty Sheriff's Deputies to patrol the streets by the school two hours a day. A Community Support Action Committee was formed.

In 1979 Fred Brockman, the last chartered member of the Volunteer Fire Department retired.

The relatively tranquil atmosphere of the town was shattered on November 4, 1979, when Barnum citizens learned that the U.S. Embassy in Teheran was seized by Iranian revolutionaries. The terrorists retained 50 hostages at the Embassy, all Americans, demanding the United States return to them the Shah for trial. The U.S. refused to bend to terrorist demands.

The seizure of the Teheran Embassy triggered other such acts of violence; U.S. Embassies in various locations across the sea were bombed. Barnum villagers watched in horror as television stations relayed scenes of hostile, anti-American mobs burning the United States flag and swarming anti-like over the embassies.

As a show of support for those held hostage, the entire student body in Barnum took it upon themselves to write letters to the American captives in Iran.

I A disgruntled portion of Barnum's populous arose at the end of 1979 and decided to take aim at the school system. Meeting in private homes, the group set their goals and then presented the list to the School Board:

- 1) Investigation of complaints of physical and mental abuse of students.
- 2) Re-evaluation of priorities (sports vs. academics vs. support services).
- 3) Periodic evaluation of teachers.
- 4) Better communication between the School Board and parents.
- 5) Better control of bus problems by stricter screening of drivers.

And so, Barnum entered the 1980's with a new set of goals and a new set of difficulties.