

## ALWAYS ONWARD

Chapter Eleven - 1980 - July 1988  
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The 1980's began with American citizens facing an entirely new set of problems. A.I.D.S. was on the upswing, a Dreaded new disease that was rampaging across the United States. Experts projected that, by 1991, the disease would afflict a minimum of 270,000 people and cause at least 179,000 deaths. With the increased cost of housing and cuts in the welfare assistance system, a new society sprang up known as "Street People. "

The Iranian crisis had not been resolved at the beginning of the decade and President Carter's planned rescue attempt had failed. It was not until 1981 that the American citizens held hostage would be released.

Disillusioned with the current Presidential administration, Americans voted Ronald Reagan into office in the 1980 Presidential Elections. Reagan would hold the office for two full terms and develop a new form of economics, "Reagan-omics, " and the "trickle down theory. "

Economically the country was on unstable ground. On January 7, 1981 a stock market run began when Joe Granville, a noted market, forecaster, advised investors to "sell everything. " It was unfounded at the time, but a preview of events to transpire in October of 1987. In 1982 a severe recession set in, by 1983 unemployment would reach 10.2%.

On October 16, 1982, the first sighting of Halley's Comet was made. Barnumites turned out in number to catch a glimpse of the famous heavenly body; unlike their ancestors who had taken to root cellars 75 year previously.

Along with the external pressures, Barnum struggled with its own set of new problems.

The School Board had ended its 1979 year facing a group of unhappy parents. In 1980 this group organized and were known as Concerned About Responsible Education, or CARE. The group attended one School Board meeting and dropped charges of student abuse into the Board's lap. The students, this group believed, were abused through neglect in the school system. The 60 parents also heaped criticism upon the Board regarding the pre-screening system for pre-schoolers, the ballot count at the last school board election and lack of discipline on school buses.

In turn, the Board investigated the accusations and, as their study showed the statements to be unfounded, proceeded to hire legal council.

Angry letters both defending the school and tearing it to shreds flew back and forth in local papers. The Board, feeling the pressure mounting, hired the services of a private detective agency to further pursue the alleged abuse.

Shortly after the School Board meeting, a lawsuit was filed against the District by a resident who alleged that the Board had violated his children's right to attend school. The person lived in the confines of the Cromwell District, but had chosen to send the students to Barnum in the belief that better educational opportunities lay in the Barnum School System. The Board had allowed the family to utilize the school bus services for two years; but, due to increased transportation costs,

had requested the parents to provide transportation themselves.

For several School Board meetings, parents demanded to be Informed of the private detective agency's findings. At each meeting they were informed that, due to confidentiality, the Board could not disclose the results. Finally, by the end of 1980, the situation was resolved.

In January of 1981 voters went to the polls enmass to determine If a new High School should be constructed. The citizens had given much thought to the issue, as was noted in Tom Riley's letter to the Star Gazette's editor:

Let's think about it. 20-30-40 years ago when we went to school the schools were comparatively new and we enjoyed the best our parents could provide, even though times were hard and difficult. Should we be different than our parents, I hope not. They gave us the best they could and I think we would be letting them down, and our children down, if we didn't do the best we can for them.

Voters apparently agreed with Riley's point of view and, by a 5-4 margin, approved the \$5.32 million bond.

The new project was well underway in the summer of 1981 when controversy over the employment of non-union labor caused construction to come to a screeching halt. Picketers formed strike lines to the new building entrances to protest the contract with the Gilbert Construction Company of Veronia, Wisconsin, who paid their employees \$6.50 an hour while union scale was close to \$13 an hour. Heated words were exchanged between the picketers and the non-union laborers. On a Tuesday the employees walked off the job. On that morning, unknown persons had, turned over a Gilbert trailer, damaged trucks and other equipment and cut phone lines.

Local residents who were union workers believed they had been denied a fair opportunity for employment due to the Gilbert Buildings non-union policies. One person stated, "My taxes are going to be paying for this school for the next 20 years. I feel I should be given a job. "

Shortly after the incident, two Duluth and one Barnum, were arrested and charged with the disturbance at the construction site. The charges included inciting a riot, unlawful assembly and criminal damage to property.

In November of 1982 attention was once again drawn to the new school. Labor World, a publication produced and published by the Duluth AFL-CIO, printed an article regarding supposed defects in the school's structure. Superintendent Baldwin was quoted in the Moose Lake Star Gazette, "I've read the article and some of the so-called things that were wrung with the building were pointed out by the School Board to the architectural firm of the project, Matson, Weglietner and Aberdrath of Minneapolis. " The firm had assured Baldwin that all matters pointed out would be "taken care of" prior to final approval of the project was given.

A group of School Board members, administrators, construction and state supervisors, Star Gazette staff and State

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Senator Florian Chmielewski toured the building to examine the alleged discrepancies in the construction. After completing the Investigation, Mr. Erickson, an official of the Minnesota Department of Education, deemed the construction safe.

The new school was dedicated with much pomp and circumstance on September 11, 1983.

Not everything in the school system was centered on disagreement. In 1980 a nature center on 65 acres of the school land was approved by the School Board. The center was the brain child of Steven Brandt, biology instructor, and his advanced Biology class. The Biology class combined their talents with those of Tom Hasset's Forestry Vocational Class and began developing nature trails on the acreage.

In 1981 the Barnum Boys Basketball team had streaked through games like Haley's Comet. The underdog team entered the District 25 Tournament as a dark horse and proceeded to claim victory over three highly rated opponents to claim the District Title. That year the team was stopped in the Regionals.

By 1983 the team had gained a cohesiveness that no other team in Barnum's history had achieved. In February of that year the team was rated the Class A Team in the Tri-State region and had been listed among the top ten basketball teams in the state. In March, the "Bomber Machine" rolled on, and over, opposing teams. The boys ended the season undefeated and moved on to the District playoffs. The team swept through the District games and went on to defeat Cromwell for the Regional title.

Barnum kept up its hard-hitting pace and concluded their winning streak by capturing the State Basketball Championship. The victory marked the first State Title that Barnum, or any small school in the State of Minnesota, had won.

The players who obtained that ultimate goal were: Jim Myhre, Mark Solheim, Dwayne Palmer, Darren Juntunen, Todd Lind, Robbie Peterson, Lief Eggen and Steve Spoolman. Russ Redetzke coached the Championship team.

The Star Gazette reported:

The Bombers completed their dream season on Saturday evening against Luverne with a 53 to 47 win, doing much the same thing they have done throughout the year in defeating 25 previous opponents, using full-court pressure and a hustling 1-3-1 half court zone defense to chalk up their 26th win of the season with no losses and the smallest school ever in the State of Minnesota to win a State Basketball Championship.

Leading offensive attack in the final game of the season was Peterson with 18 points, Lind with 15 points, and Juntunen with 9. Jim Myhre notched 4 points while team mates Mark Solheim and Dwayne Palmer tossed in 4 and 3 points respectively.

The team was welcomed back home by a huge car caravan beginning in Sturgeon Lake which escorted the victorious group to the High School for welcoming ceremonies. Approximately 600 delirious fans cheered every statement made by speakers and gave the team several lengthy standing ovations.

The Bomber Machine - 1983 - Back row: Coach Russ Redetzke, Tim Myhre, Mark Solheim, Lief

Eggen, Robby Peterson, Todd Lind, Darren Juntunen, Dwayne Palmer, Rodney Saarala, Steve Spoolman, Supt. Lavern Baldwin. Second row: Mark Hassett, Jack Peterson, Pete Charboneau, Jody Young, Lorin Peterson, Doug Juntunen, Marc Magnuson, Chuck Miller, Clayton Koupplia. Front: David Schwoch, Maijas Wilson, Ricky Romanoski.

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The Girls' Softball Team won the Region 7A Title in 1986 and advanced to the State Tournament. The Lady Bombers finished Fourth in that tournament, but were greeted later with no less enthusiasm upon their return.

Barnum's students were showing their talents in other departments as well. In 1981 Barnum's music students received Superior Ratings in the District Music Contest. The Math League was coming onto its own, and by the mid80's was claiming State Math Titles. In 1985 the school played host to 150 F.H.A. members during the club's annual convention. During the meeting's competition, the Barnum F.H.A. group took 5 gold medals.

In 1982 a new community organization took hold and strove to pick up where the federal Education Department had stopped. That year funding for schools had been cut drastically. The Ninety-One Club set out to support extracurricular activities that were in danger of folding for lack of financial support. The non-profit organization's objectives were to provide financial support for the athletic programs, band and other programs that had been cut or curtailed. The group desired to enhance the extracurricular program and to build the community's involvement, interest and support.

Other changes because of decreased revenue were apparent in town. The railroad tracks were removed in 1980, leaving a vast expanse of empty railroad grade to remind villagers that society had drastically changed since the railroad's first coming to Barnum. The villagers had bid farewell to this part of their history in 1978 when it became apparent that the railroad's days were numbered and the old depot torn down.

The Village Council was seeking ways to improve the town, and in 1980 a City Redevelopment Plan was implemented by the Barnum Planning Commission to re-design present and construct new establishments in the downtown business district. The proposed Senior Citizen Complex on the north end of town was a key component in the plan. The project, which had been put on hold in 1972 due to President Nixon's freeze on all such projects, broke ground in 1982 and was ready for occupancy on May 1st of that year.

A long, drawn out project was brought to the Council's tables in 1980 by participants in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Construction Grant Program who aimed their goals at upgrading the Municipal Waste Water Treatment Facilities in order to comply with federal water quality standards. The group had researched all possibilities of waste management and concluded that the use of a pond system including stabilization ponds for controlled discharge would prove to be the most economical. The proposed site for the pond system was an area west of town near Gillespie Brook.

Shortly after the proposal was made public knowledge, a petition with 62 names affixed, was filed against the sewage disposal project. The petitioners requested that the waste

ponds be set back at least 114 mile from County Road 6, or moved elsewhere, due to drainage problems, a high underground water table and lack of room for expansion of the pond system. During this time the Village Council had presented the proposal to the Carlton County Board of Commissioners who rejected it.

In 1984 a petition was circulated to clean up Barnum's sewage treatment process. Confronted by levels of effluent waste in lake waters and red tape in procuring funds for sewage treatment facilities, members of Hanging Horn Lakes and Landowners' Association began the drive to help procure funding to assist the city in development of an on-land disposal system or to upgrade the existing system.

In early 1985 the sewage disposal argument continued on when Carlton County Commissioners voted 4-1 to delay taking action on the granting of a conditional use permit for the City of Barnum Sewage Disposal Pond, heeding the request of 30 people who lived along Gillespie Brook.

Thus began a series of hearings that would yo-yo back and forth between the District Court and Minnesota Supreme Court systems. It was not until 1986 when, an appellate court upheld the sewer permit, that the project received the go-ahead. The County Commissioners attempted to carry the battle back to the Minnesota Supreme Court, but the issue had been decided.

In March of 1986, six years after its inception, the sewer project was underway and Barnum's Mayor commented that it was, "Right on schedule. " The project was completed in the summer of 1988. That year the work and funds invested in the settling ponds were threatened by the drought that had taken hold of the area. The ponds required water to maintain their seal, and there was no rain in the forecast during July. By August, enough rainfall had been received to maintain the pool's seals.

In 1982 the old Barnum water tower was demolished, ending its 60 years of service to the village. Progress was slow due to the high quality of concrete and construction used when the tower was built in the 1920's. On several occasions the wrecking ball struck the tower leaving little, if any, Impression on the structure. The vibrations caused by the demolition process rattled the windows in Tuffy Rudebeck's home located adjacent to the tower. The strength of the vibrations caused concern for Rudebeck's wife, Shirley, who believed their large picture window would shatter. Finally, the old water tower was nothing but rubble and soon after construction on a new tower was started, located immediately south of the new school.

The new water tower was not the only change in Barnum. In February of 19W the Desic Restaurant closed after being in operation less than one year. The projected Income from transient customers off the interstate had not become a reality and the business was in arrears. In 1981 the Northwoods Restaurant was purchased by the Happy Chef Chain in Mankato.

The Rocky Mountain Energy Company had completed their initial survey to determine the background level of decay

Steam engines as this had not passed through Barnum for many years. By 1978 the Depot was not longer visited by any train, and was dismantled. In 1980 the tracks were pulled.

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products of radon gas in specified areas. The company had constructed a new office building and core storage area just north of the Elementary School. On December 13, 1982, the company closed its doors. In view of the rampaging economic recession, the company had decided to concentrate its manpower and capitol on other areas of interest. Before leaving the area, the managers donated the office furniture and drafting equipment to the Barnum School District.

In 1981 the Farmers Home Administration suspended service to its part-time office in Barnum. Budget restrictions and a government wide effort to reduce travel costs were cited as reasons for the decision.

New businesses had moved into the area to help compensate for the losses. In 1980 Robert Noland opened a Culligan business next to the Rocky Mountain Energy Company. Gene and Betty Charboneau opened Gene's Super Saver in the old Co-op Grocery. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Edwards became the new owners of the Barnum Appliance.

A rash of burglaries plagued Barnum merchants in a three month time span during 1982. Two break-ins occurred at the Happy Chef, two at the Barnum Appliance and two at Gene's Super Saver.

At 6:30 a.m., Monday, November, 1982, the Barnum Volunteer Fire Department was called out to fight a fire at the historic Long Branch Bar. The establishment, founded in 1903, was termed "a total loss." The Moose Lake and Mahtowa Fire Departments were called to assist the local fire fighters. Thirty-five firemen spent hours bringing the blaze under control and protecting the adjacent structures.

The proposal of closing, and possible sale of, the Municipal Liquor Store prompted a 36 concerned citizens to attend a Village Council meeting. John Carl presented to the Council a petition with 110 signatures of citizens expressing the desire to have the liquor store issue be brought before the public during elections. It had been rumored that the Council would be shutting down the liquor store and issuing license to Jerry Martin for a lounge, supper club and bowling alley complex to be located on the site of the old feed mill. The Liquor Store remained open.

Closure of the Barnum Bank was not an unfounded rumor.

On February 10, 1983, John Chislom, State Banking Commissioner, announced the Bank's closure. He cited the, "gross mismanagement, greed and a desire for big profits on the part of the Bank officers," as the cause. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was immediately appointed the Bank's receiver. Chislom, "The depositors' funds are safe-guarded-I mean, there isn't any danger of their suffering loss.' "

Harold E. Martin, the Bank's President and principal owner, was ordered removed as a Bank official as was his son, Richard, a company Vice President.

John R. Swaim of Florida, a real estate developer, was arrested and charged with grand theft in conjunction with loans involving the Barnum Bank. The loans, totaling \$3,600,000, were supposedly used to develop a land project at Lake Placid Resort in New York.

The Bank had twice violated cease and desist orders which involved questionable investments. Commissioner Chislom stated that the Bank, "rather than relying on local deposits and loans, went into the open market and purchased out of state brokered funds and made substantial investments in loans secured by time-share mortgages. " The mortgages were of questionable value at the time of purchase. Failure of the people who sold the mortgages to the Bank to remit payments as agreed resulted in substantial losses to the Bank.

The closure left the community at loose ends. The Bank, founded by H.C. Hanson in 1903, had survived the Great Depression, slumps in the village's businesses and farming community, and strict governmental controls. When other banks across the nation collapsed, the Barnum Bank remained open thanks to the Bank's official's sound judgment.

Citizens were stopped by television crews and journalists from Duluth and Minneapolis to "get their reaction" to the Bank's closure. The event was broadcast on national news. Despite the pressures, the expected run on the Bank did not occur.

Rather than lay siege on the defunct firm, citizens rose to the challenge and organized the Barnum Bank Development Committee. The group's aim was to, "Investigate the possibility of establishing a locally owned and controlled cooperative bank to preserve the interests of the community by assuring conservative management and local control of any banking system.

The Finlayson State Bank located a new branch in Barnum in the spring of 1983 and shortly after established itself in the old Bank building.

Among the dark clouds of controversy, a periodic ray of light would break through, as was found in the case of Dorothy Darling Dahlms.

During the height of the Great Depression, the Dahlms children were placed in an Owatonna Orphanage by the County Welfare Department. Her parents, like many others at the time, were unable to support their six youngsters. Clorinda, Dorothy's mother, faithfully visited her offspring on a weekly basis to assure them that "Dad and Mom" hadn't forgotten nor abandoned them. On one such visit she was informed that Dorothy, the youngest of the six, had been adopted out and there was no information available as to her whereabouts. Mrs. Dahlms protests, "I never signed any papers," fell on deaf ears. Dorothy was gone, adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Avelsgarrd of Leander, Minnesota.

At age 18 Dorothy began her attempt to trace her heritage. She contacted the Welfare Board for her records but was informed that the orphanage, and all its records, had burned years before. She only knew that her real name was Dahlm and began to phone all the "Dahlms" in the phone directory. Her search was fruitless.

Finally Dorothy's husband, Richard Miller, contacted his brother Robert who was employed with the Danville, Illinois newspaper. In turn, Robert contacted the editor of the Mankato, Minnesota newspaper. The story of Dorothy's plight was run in that paper.

One week later Larry Dahlms contacted Dorothy and inquired into her middle name. If the name was Darling, he stated, Dorothy was indeed his sister. Larry had personally christened Dorothy with the name of Darling.

That summer Dorothy Darling Dahlms Miller traveled to Barnum to meet with numer-

ous relatives she had never seen. Her new-found family included Shirley Hruska, Fred Dahlms Jr. and Karen Wekseth. All had heard stories of “the missing sister” while growing up.

Twenty relatives gathered at the Barnum Village Hall for an emotion-packed reunion. Karen reflected on the feelings she had experienced. “When she [Dorothy] called from Northwoods to ask directions, tears came to our eyes and our hearts were overwhelmed. “

Joyce Juntunen, a 1962 Barnum graduate and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bergstrom, gained fame when she appeared on the Phil Donahue Show. The show, airing mid-morning on a national network, was popular among Barnum citizens for host Donahue’s straight forward manner. Juntunen, Executive Director of the National Association for Gifted Children in Chicago, discussed the problems gifted children experience while growing up.

In 1982 Barnum’s first All-Class Reunion was underway on July 2nd with a massive kick-off at the Fairgrounds in the Gold Building. Jim Lekander, class of 1963, served as Master of Ceremonies. Superintendent LaVern Baldwin presented the welcoming address while former Superintendent John M. Lundblad spoke on “Reflections. “ Rev. Donald Danielson, Class of 1947, gave the Blessing and Invocation. Vocal selections were presented by Leone (Johnson) Riley, Marilyn (Hall) Fetters and Phyllis (Baldwin) Gardner, all of the Class of 1952. 3,000 attended the event and all but three of the early classes were represented. The Class of 1918 and 1920 each had one representative and the Class of 1922 had two in attendance. Clara (Miner) Cain of Duluth, Class of 1918, was honored as the oldest graduate in attendance.

Another large gathering at the Fairground that year took on a different atmosphere. Over 7,000 were in attendance during a four-night evangelistic program presented by Lowell Lundstrom and the Lundstrom Family of Sisseton, South Dakota. Thirty to forty churches had pooled their talents and efforts to bring the well-known ministry to the area.

After several years of planning and work, Barnum dedicated the new city park on September 8, 1982, to the “Man who best exemplified the idea of dedication and improvement to a community. “ The park was dedicated to the former Mayor Robert Johnson, who had passed away earlier in the ‘80’s. On hand for the dedication ceremony was Johnson’s wife, Margaret, and their son, Doug. Speakers included the current Mayor William Norberg and Superintendent Baldwin.

The School Board was seeking options for the old high school building, not wishing the construction to sit unused and deteriorate. The group considered proposals for a Senior Citizen’s Condominium, a Fire Hall and City Offices with the old gym to be used for community activities, a Guernsey Breeders Association Museum in the old library and office areas for the Association in the old section of the building. In 1983 the

On September 8, 1982, the Johnson Memorial Park was dedicated to Robert Johnson.

Senior Citizens purchased the library portion of the school for the sum of \$1.00 and converted the structure into a Senior Center. For a time, the School Board considered remodeling the north wing to house a middle school; but, after investigating all possibilities and the cost involved, the idea was scrapped. The District opted to enter into an agreement with the City to demolish the section. The north wing was sold to a private construction firm.

on November 18, 1982, School Board members met at a regular session and present-

ed Superintendent LaVerne Baldwin a letter which listed deficiencies in the administration of his duties as the District's Chief Administrator. At the next meeting approximately 100 concerned citizens voiced opposition to the Board's action and stood in defense of the Superintendent.

The issue died out until, in 1984, Baldwin first requested a sabbatical leave and then resigned his position two weeks after his job description had been expanded to include extra duties.

Fifty concerned citizens met on a Monday evening to discuss the circumstances surrounding Baldwin's resignation. The group believed that the Superintendent had been forced out of his job, and Baldwin stated that a personal vendetta by a specific Board member created the confrontation which led to his resignation. An eight member Citizens' Group was formed from the 50 and set to the task of investigating the "forced" resignation. During the Investigation the issue of an unfavorable, but not derogatory, job evaluation surfaced.

As tensions grew, some citizens began attacking Board members verbally. Some of the Board received anonymous phone calls and letters which displayed dislike for the member and the Board's actions. A petition was drawn up to rid the Board of certain members. One citizen stated:

We were divided and at the bottom with Minnesota's first belly-up bank in '83, at the top and united by the State Basketball Champions that same year, and now, we of the Barnum School District find ourselves in the gutter again.

Letters to the editor which attacked Board Members, Mr. Baldwin and, eventually, private citizens, swamped the local press. Mr. DeRungs, Editor of the Star Gazette, offered sound advice to the Barnum citizens in one editorial:

The time has come to put the issue away. Points that need answering have been brought up by citizens, but, when the horse is dead you can't beat it any more. If the issue were left alone for awhile most likely the answers being sought after will eventually come out and they will come out in a more civil manner with less hardship being placed on those who are spearheading efforts for both the Board and the concerned citizens.

Some did not head that advice, and during the next School Board meeting the Citizens' Committee made an effort to question the Board on the reasons for Mr. Baldwin's resignation. Legal Council, Floyd Rudy, cautioned Board members

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to not discuss any details on the evaluation or personal file items on Baldwin until written releases were obtained. The evening ended with no resolutions made. Mr. Baldwin left both the school system and confused citizens behind to pursue a new career.

The gap in permanent administrative leadership for the school was filled in December of 1984 when Board members approved the hiring of Robert Sarff as the Barnum School District's new Superintendent.

Another gap which had been existed for ten years was filled on January 7, 1985 when

the Barnum P.T.A. was organized. A small group of people including Bonnie Fitzgerald, Doug Bandli, Richard and Mary Lindgren, Rick and Kathy Waseen, Ron Johnson and Steven and Dawn Eller had worked for five months to formalize the group. In January, the P.T.A. was officially organized by a unanimous vote of 75 people. The new organization immediately began striving to assure the school faculty and the village that it was not a disorganized rabble of revolutionaries ready to overthrow the

existing system.

The group's basic philosophy was based on one expressed by a pioneer in the P.T.A., Alice McLellon Birney, who stated:

The National Congress of Mothers (P.T.A.) irrespective of creed, color or condition stands for all parenthood, childhood, homehood. Its platform is the universe, its organization, the Human Race.

The statement was made in 1897.

Following its organizational meeting, the P.T.A. began working towards Birney's goal.

From 1985 on, special parent inservices were presented which covered issues as A.I.D.S., Teen Suicide, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and raised funds in 1986 to purchase

The Barnum P.T.A., which organized in 1985,

new playground equipment in conjunction with the Board of Education, for the Family Interactions. The organization promoted elementary school.

enlightened involvement in selecting School Board members by hosting a Meet the Candidate Night annually,

encouraged parent-teacher communications by hosting Open House at school at the beginning of each new school

term,

and showed its concern for children's safety by co-sponsoring with the F.H.A. District-wide Halloween Parties. In

1986,

the P.T.A. sponsored a fund raising project from which senior scholarships were provided, one-half of the 6th

grade's

funding for Isabella was procured and one-half of the Elementary School's new playground equipment was

purchased.

In 1985 the Mahtowa School was permanently closed, saving approximately \$30,000 a year in operating costs. The first grade students who had attended classes there were hosted in the Barnum Elementary facility.

Paul Olson and Steven Brandt, both Biology Instructors at the High School, were invited to present their demonstration, "How Cold Is Cold?" at the program for National Science Teachers Association Convention in Washington, D.C. The instructors had developed the project with the assistance of their Biology Class in 1985.

Other Barnum residents were being noted for their achievements during the '80's. In

1981 Harold S. Olson was honored by the Carlton County Dairy Herd Improvement Association for his outstanding, long time contributions to the dairy industry of the county. Olson was noted to be an outstanding judge and breeder of cattle. The Olsons had transferred ownership of the Green Hill Farm to their son, Kenny. During the same meeting of the Association, Kenny received an award for the highest Guernsey production of butterfat by his Guernsey Aymra. Both the Green Hill Farm and the Langhorst Brothers were Included in the Top Ten Herd listing for the Association that year.

In '82 two Barnum Guernsey farmers received awards at the Annual State Meeting of the Minnesota Guernsey Breeders' Association in New Ulm. Glenn and Debbie McDermott Johnson of Clover Glen Farm, the H.C. Hanson's old homestead, received an award for their Grand Champion cow, Clover Glen Donel. Kenny and Joyce Olson, of Green Hill Farm, were awarded for owning the 6th highest herd in butterfat production in the state.

Harold Olson recognized a twenty year old dream in 1983 with the publication of his book, White Pine To Clover, which traced the history of the Guernsey breed in Carlton County and focused on the Barnum area. "Twenty years ago I said I would write a book some day." Olson reflected. "Over the years I was so highly involved with the Old Timers in the Guernsey breeding business that I thought I should compile a// the facts so the information just didn't disappear. " A dedication ceremony for the book was held on July 21 In the new High School auditorium.

The farming business did not escape difficulties during the '80's. By 1982 the recession plaguing the nation's economy was harshly affecting the agricultural district. In 1910 area farmers would each produce an amount of produce which would feed seven Americans, by 1980 that same group was laboring to feed 77 each. With increased cost of raw materials the 1980 farmer was in more dire straits than those who farmed during the Great Depression. Items as fuel, seed, fertilizer, chemicals and machinery had increased in cost 104% since 1973. Interest rates on farm loans skyrocketed from 8% in 1973 to over 17.5% in 1981. The modern agriculturalist was forced to live with volatile price fluctuation in the commodities he raised; in 1973 corn sold for \$2.34 a bushel and in 1980 for \$2.25.

In 1987 an excessive amount of rainfall created a disaster for Carlton County farmers whose crops had literally "drowned" in the fields. Farmers petitioned for, and received, funding to help supplement their lost income. The summer of 1988 saw one of the worst droughts that had hit the nation since the Dust Bowl Days. Area farmers, as those elsewhere in the country, watched helplessly as their crops turned brown and died rather than growing. Field corn was stunted, other crops refused to thrive in the cracked, dry soil. Relief finally came in the way of rainfall for area farmers by August, but for many it was too late. The federal government had moved to supply emergency funding for the agricultural community, but, as in the past, the monies did not cover all losses.

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While the farming community struggled, as they had for over 100 years, to out-wit Mother Nature, the Village Council was mired in its own difficulties. In 1984, three City Clerks resigned within a matter of months. Problems with city reorganization, the city sewer and the new water tower had created a situation which prompted the vacating of the position. In December of that year, Faye Hurst assumed the position of City Clerk and the government of the town proceeded onward.

Citizens, already feeling undermined with the increasing pressures the Recession was creating became incensed when the Council leveled an order for special water assessments in order to pay for the water tower and waterline project. One of the formal protests the Council received was from the School District which felt, as the District had invested \$28,000 to the construction of the water tower, the additional assessment of \$6,000 was uncalled for.

During the same time another conflict arose between the city government and the School District. The District had agreed to pay \$5,000, one-half, toward the cost of demolition of the old school building with the understanding that the Council would pay the remaining half and the total cost for the work would be \$10,000. The cost of demolition ran over the projected amount, and the excess became a point of contention between the two powers.

In 1986 the Barnum City Council voted to give an ultimatum to the School District for payment in excess of \$10,000 for the District's share of the demolition costs and assessment on the water tower. The School Board responded that they would pay \$10,000, no more.

The two parties eventually came to a compromise when the School Board agreed to pay \$3,564.53 on the demolition charges and one-half of the water assessment levied on the District. Mayor Norland cast the lone dissenting vote on the issue; standing firm on his belief that the School Board should recompense the city in full.

The recession continued to affect the business district in Barnum through the mid-80's. Gene's Super Saver closed and left the village without a grocery for the second time in the town's history. During this time frame the village lay quiet, with little business being transacted.

Late in 1984 the recession began loosening its grip on the town and this allowed the village to progress forward once again. That year Church Street was vacated in order to allow Don Juntunen to pursue construction of a gas station on the site. Juntunen expanded his business and constructed a car wash and added a small grocery in the station by 1988.

A change of hands in the post office occurred in 1986 when Alston Hurd succeeded Ruth Anderson as Postmaster in 1986. The position was left vacant for a period of time in 1988 following Hurd's untimely death.

On January 1, 1987 Dorothy VanDerWurff retired from the Barnum Beauty Shop. Lynda Duesler, Dorothy's daughter who had been employed at the Shop for some time, became the new manager. VanDerWurff reflected upon her retirement, "A lot of people told me several Beauty Shops had started in town, but none had stayed-so it wasn't very encouraging when I first started the Barnum Beauty Shop. Maybe I was just a bit more stubborn than most. The shop that everyone said couldn't last is still going. "

The Barnum Hardware Store, which had been a Solheim family enterprise since the 1920's changed hands in 1987 when Bob Hoffman purchased the business. Hoffman went on to

purchase the Moose Lake hardware store in 1988.

The Barnum Commercial Club entered into a new venture in June of 1983 and sponsored the First Annual Spring Fever Days. The three-day event was kicked off with a Queen Coronation followed by a Community Dance. At 10 a.m. that Saturday morning the villagers were treated to an outstanding parade. Following the parade, spectators became participants and wholeheartedly engaged in bidding during a Club 91 Auction. The three days set aside for the event were packed with activities as Softball Tournaments, a Fun Run, Fishing Contest and family games.

The 1988 6th Annual Spring Fever Days was kicked off in May with a Treasure Hunt which ran up until the Spring Fever Days weekend in June.

That June, Spring Fever Days officially began on a Friday evening with a lively Queen Contest, complete with entertaining talent show, and Coronation. A Teen Rock Dance was held in the old City Hall that evening.

Saturday's events were kicked off bright and early at 7 a.m. with a Pan Fishing Contest. At 11 a.m. visitors from all points of Minnesota and villagers alike viewed an hour-long parade which had grown considerably since 1983. The day was filled with various events as a Tennis Tourney, Volleyball Tourney, Horseshoe Tourney, Kids Games, a Fire Department Water Fight, food concessions, craft and flea market tables set up in the park. A "Spaghetti Feed" was held that evening followed by a Street Dance which saw Barnum's parking lots, streets and alleys packed with those anxious to "shake their bootie." An all-day Fire Department Softball I Tourney was held on Sunday.

The Commercial Club had not abandoned the Trout O'Rama which became "bigger and better" each year. Weather conditions were not always favorable; but each year participants braved cold, snow and freezing drizzle to participate in the famous contest. In 1987 Mother Nature finally bested the faithful anglers; not by snow or cold, but by an early thaw. The event was canceled due to thin ice on Bent Trout Lake.

With the recession during the early '80's, the villagers had once again turned to their own resources for entertainment. Vibrations from various musical groups, instruments rocked Village Hall during Community Dances. Villagers once again began "getting together for coffee" and joining local organizations. In 1986 the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts were once again reorganized under the sponsorship of the Barnum Volunteer Fire Department.

Those who chose to stay at home and seek out diversions became caught up in a board game craze that swept the

Elementary School children of the 1980's, as children throughout Barnum's history, find gym one of the more enlightening school subjects.

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nation. Old standbys as Clue and Monopoly remained popular, but the most addictive proved to be Trivial Pursuit, a game that tested one's knowledge of, obviously, trivia.

Television remained a prime source of entertainment, offering the viewer a chance to escape from the pressures of the real world if they so chose. Prime time offerings of Alf, Magnum P.I., Hill Street Blues, St. Elsewhere, and Misfits of Science gave such an escape. Sports enthusiasts were found rooted to the screen each weekend watching hour upon hour of basketball, football, hockey, golf and bowling contests. Television evangelism, which had gained a large support group from the early '70's through 1988, was literally blown out of the broadcasting waters by scandals involving two prominent ministries.

Barnum viewers were not merely interested in being entertained or evangelized and frequently sought out hour long news shows as 20/20 or 60 Minutes to update them on world and national events. On January 28, 1986, Barnum villagers watched in horror as the space shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds after lift off at Cape Canaveral, Florida. All seven astronauts aboard were killed and the space race put on hold indefinitely. During the summer of 1987 Barnumites closely followed the Iran-Contra Hearings televised live from Washington, D.C. At that time a new type of national hero emerged in "Ollie" North.

The television special, The Day After, which depicted how American society would cope with a nuclear disaster, touched off buried anti-nuclear feelings in the villagers. Several Barnumites refused to view the special airing. Those who did watch commented that it brought back all too clearly the terror-filled memories of Civil Defense Drills, the Bay of Pigs and the near-panic scramble to construct home bomb shelters.

In January of 1985 the Barnum Community Theater Players organized, believing that the area was desirous of live theater which was not readily accessible to the village residents. The group made its cameo appearance in Barnum's First Annual Dinner Theater, an evening of one-acts that closely rivaled the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. The troupe presented Something I'll Tell You Tuesday to compliment the High School Drama Department's productions of The Storm and There's A Fly In My Soup. Cynthia Johnson, Gerald Haller, Dennis Seitz, Nancy Hoffman and Clara Bruneau, under the direction of Greg Opstad, starred in the Community Theater's first production. The South Polar Vocational Co-op catered dinner to a crowd that packed the auditorium. It was the Community Theater's and High School's first cooperative effort in a drama production. The venture proved so successful that the Dinner Theater evolved into an annual event.

The Community Theater group continued to grow in size and expertise until in 1987 they were ready to undertake a major production. In December of that year the Theater Players presented A Christmas Carol directed by Kris Lyons. The performance marked several "firsts" for the group. The play was the first three-act production done by the troupe, the first major cooperative drama effort between Barnum and Moose Lake and the first time a large group of very young actors (14 children under 13 years of age participated) graced the Barnum stage.

In 1986 the Music Boosters sponsored the Concordia Choir in concert at the Barnum High School. The 73 member choir, directed by Paul Christensen and managed by Mr. Tom Ross, performed before a packed house.

The Carlton County Fair continued to entertain a wide range of visitors each year with rodeos, square dancing, a multitude of exhibitions and draft horse races. In 1987 and 1988 a county wide Variety/Talent Show entertained a packed Grand Stand. The 98th Fair, held in 1988, featuring Herry Haller who was a noted musician and vocalist in the area; Lola Murphy and Her Family, gospel musicians who had also appeared at the State Fair; the Moose Lake Senior Citizens' Kitchen

Band; P.J. the Port Jester who juggled, clowned, performed magic and displays of unicycling; and Ding-A-Ling the Clown all appeared during the four-day fair.

In 1987 the issue of permitting the sale of beer during the Fair was once again brought before the Fair Board. Local residents raised protest to the proposition and the issue was laid to rest by a vote of 170 against and 27 for the sale of the brew.

Barnum natives continued to gain widespread fame. In 1986 Dr. William Norberg, originally from Barnum, along with Dr. Gerald Atwood, both cardiologists at the Fargo Clinic, became the first physicians in the nation to receive the status of Pediatric Internists. In December of 1987 Dr. Norberg achieved national acclaim for successfully treating an 11 year old Fargo boy who had spent 40 minutes in frigid water.

In 1986 a proposition was made to the villagers to move Engine #27 from the Fairground to the Lake Superior Transport Museum, better known as The Duluth Depot, who offered to purchase the engine for their collection. The engine's paint job was rusting off, the asbestos liner of the boiler exposed and, in essence, dripping free creating a health hazard. The Village Council met with the Fair Board to study the available options and decided to schedule an open meeting to gain the opinions of the village.

In November, 40 area residents packed into the City Hall to determine the fate of "Old 27." The locals led by Tiny (Clyde) Oswell and Pat Delarosby, made it clear that they desired the engine to remain on the Fairground. Oswell and Delarosby were made co-chairs of the Save The Train Committee that night.

The Committee immediately set to work raising funds to restore the old engine. By July of 1988 the engine had been moved to a new track to stabilize it, had received a new paint job and work was underway to reline the boiler.

Another Committee, with a different purpose, was formed in 1987. That year a C.F.A. Charter was granted to the Barnum Citizens' Scholarship Foundation. The Committee, based entirely on volunteer work, operated a non-profit scholarship program. Their goals were to expand educational opportunities for Barnum graduates by raising funds for scholarship distribution and to award the scholarships on a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory basis.

In September of that same year the School System called for citizens to serve on a committee which would review various health curriculums and present one to the School Board for approval. At that time only eight citizens responded.

By the end of 1987 a health curriculum had been chosen by the Committee, was proposed to the Board and immediately raised controversy in the town. A crowd of over 40 parents attended a School Board meeting to voice protest over the Committee's choice of text and a supplement which accompanied the text. One parent was quoted in the Star Gazette as describing the new text in emotional tones, "It is robbing the innocence of our children."

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This group of citizens, concerned with the aspect of sexuality in both the text and,

specifically the supplement, banned together and circulated a petition to stop the use of the new material.

At another Board meeting 90 parents, teachers and Interested parties were in attendance to discuss the controversial material. While a large portion of those attending continued to demand that the material be banned from the District, an equal number voiced their opinion that this material would prepare them for entering the outside world. It was noted by many that even though the curriculum may be implemented, their responsibilities as parents would not end.

The Board voted 6 to 1 to include all aspects of the proposed health curriculum, including the controversial supplement. This decision included giving parents the responsibility of deciding whether their children would participate in the entire program, or a part of it.

The idea of inter-school cooperation came up again in 1987 when the Barnum School Board received a letter from the Moose Lake School Board stating that the correspondence was an official request for the two districts to formally implement a cooperative study and discussions pertaining to a possible secondary cooperative agreement. The 89-90 school year was set as a target date for Barnum and Moose Lake to join the two schools.

A round of special meetings was initiated in Barnum and several committees formed to study all aspects of the proposal. In July of 1988 a vote was taken by the Moose Lake and Barnum School Boards to decide if the idea should be pursued. Willow River, who had initially been involved in the discussions, had opted to drop out of the agreement.

The decision by the two Boards was to continue investigating the idea of cooperation, but the re-set the target date to 1990-91.

In the spring of 1988 Mr. Harry Post retired as Elementary School Principal. Post had been the first principal hired for Elementary School after its construction in the 1960's. A farewell party was held in the Commons area of the High School with scores of villagers attending to display their affection for the retiring Principal. In June of that year Mr. John Braun was hired to fill the position.

Between 1982 and 1988 Pastor Dan Almquist attended to the congregation at both the Barnum and Moose Lake Methodist Churches. In 1988 the Barnum Methodist Church opted to split from the Moose Lake Church and became independent, for a trial period of three years. Pastor Matt Woodley came to Barnum that August. The church continued to extend its services to the churchgoers during the 1980's. In 1987 the ministry was extended to the youth in the church when C.Y.C. and a cherub choir was started. That same year a Jr. Church, held during regular service, was initiated under the leadership of Gussie-Jo Ection.

With the drought of 1988 came a series of brush fires in the area. Tinder-dry grasses literally exploded when ignited and fear of a major forest fire in the Barnum area was widespread. By August of that summer the fire danger in the immediate area was under control; but other areas of the nation were not fortunate. When Yellowstone National Park went up in flames, the fire services in that area called to Minnesota for aide in bringing the fire under control. Firemen from all areas of Minnesota responded including Rick Waseen, Mike Rudebeck and Roger Finifrock from Barnum.

Barnum continued to see growth and change during the 1980's. Businesses

exchanged hands, Rick and Kathy Waseen purchased the Northwood's Motel and Lou Paulson the Rustic Diner. The school's population continued to increase each year. While homes were put up for sale, new owners for those homes were found.

As was noted in the 1890's, Barnum Is a "Hello" town.

Barnum is today, as It was in the 1890's, a "Hello" town.

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### BARNUM - 1988

Coming off I-35 at Exit #220 and turning west, one views the outskirts of Barnum; a quiet village with over 110 years of history stored in its roads, alleys, fields, buildings and villagers' memories.

On the left at the Interchange stands the Little Store and Northwoods Restaurant. While dining in Northwoods, one can relax and enjoy a panoramic view of Bear Lake. On the right hand side of the highway sprawls the structure of the new Barnum High School. The famous Outdoor Church, praised by television and magazines for its evangelical uniqueness, stands immediately across from the High School. Close to the school building the new water tower rises from the village, proclaiming the maroon lettering "Home Of The Somers" on a gold background.

A few yards further down on the left stands the Northwoods Motel owned by Rick and Kathy Waseen. The Waseen's purchased the establishment from Roy and Bernice Bumann in July of 1985. For being in a quiet location, the complex is never left idle and houses fishermen, campers, tourists, hunters and snowmobilers year round.

Traveling down the incline, which at one time children ventured down on bobsleds, stands the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Further on, the Goodell Building can be found, now owned by Rev. and Mrs. Kamppi. No longer a variety store and funeral home, the lower floor was given over to a Salvation Army Outlet while the upper floors remain apartments. Across from Goodell's old building is the site of the old high school. The G.G. Barnum library now is a Senior Citizens' Center and the old school's south wing is owned by a private construction company. If a traveler chooses to turn left on Carlton Ave. he will traverse past the old Maplewood Hatchery site and on to Big and Little Hanging Horn Lakes.

Going due west on Main toward Front Street, one passes the Village Park, a serene setting of large pines and elms with the Moose Horn River meandering through the park's grounds. Each June the Park becomes the site of good natured commotion when Spring Fever Days bursts into activity.

Before the intersection of Main and Front is reached, can be found Leslie's Beauty Shop, the former Barber Shop, on the right hand side of the street, and the Post Office and Bank on the left. No longer used as physicians' and lawyers' offices, these areas in the Post Office have been given over to apartments.

After turning right on Front Street, one will view the Barnum Hardware Store now owned by Bob Hoffman on the right, and the old Barnum Hotel on the left. The Hotel no longer houses weary travelers nor are rousing games of cribbage heard in the downstairs area of the building. In the back section is found a laundromat, the front stands vacant.

Traveling north from the Barnum Hardware, one passes the Felgen Building; at one time a variety store, now an apartment complex. Continuing on one will see the Senior Citizen Apartment Complex. Immediately past the steel and concrete bridge can be found the Elementary School and further on the Culligan Building and the church of Rev. Kamppi, which at one time housed Rocky Mountain Energy Company.

On the left side of Front Street, past the old Hotel, one spies Thompson's Full Service Station owned and operated by "Butch" Thompson. The Rustic Diner, owned by Lou Paulson, is the Station's next door neighbor. The old Creamery Building remains a landmark in Barnum and houses the Barnum Appliance Company in one section of the stalwart brick building.

If the adventurer turns toward the south on Highway 61 at the corner of Front and Main, he will pass the old Rudebeck Garage, now housing the Village Hall. The Municipal Liquor Store, which has been under the management of Arnie Parviainen for fourteen years, stands next to the Hall. The old Legion Hall, now the Old Village Hall, is next to the Liquor Store.

Across Highway 61 from Juntunen's is found the Methodist Church. Behind the Methodist Church is found the Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the Volunteer Firefighters' Hall.

The Carlton County Fairgrounds remains where it was established in the 1890's. The grounds are now dotted with exhibition buildings and barns with the Grandstand rising up in the background. Engine #27, repainted and under restoration, continues to grace the Fairgrounds, reminding residents of Barnum's boom years when the steam engines made six stops a day at the depot. Between August 18 and 21 the town is packed with Fair visitors and, while requests for overnight lodging are no longer placed in the newspapers, the town's streets and Fairground's parking areas are crammed with hundreds of cars.