

## ALWAYS ONWARD

Chapter Kin - 1960 - 1969

### THE GREAT SOCIETY

feeling of social and economic well being of the 1950's carried over into the early '60's. Barnum continued to enjoy the prosperity bolstered by expanding businesses, low unemployment and increased wages.

Plans for a new industry in the village became concrete in 1960. The Waterfront Equipment Company, geared toward the manufacture of wood and steel docks, finalized their plans and moved into the rear section of Rudebeck's Garage. Melvin Rudebeck had assumed ownership of the operation during 1960.

In 1961 the Old Home Creameries, which had taken over the Barnum Creamery in the late '50's, sold out to Twin Ports Co-op Creamery in Superior. The Barnum Creamery, which had originated in 1895 and had been producing quality dairy products since 1903, closed. The Barnum Realty Company, which had been located in a portion of the Creamery Building, also closed its doors that year. Clements Hanson; however, did not stop providing the town with needed services, and opened the King Koin Launderette. On the day of the business' Grand Opening, villagers were offered, "Wash, Dry, Soap, Bleach free on opening day, three washer loads per customer. We'll be open 24 hours a day. 12 washers and driers. "

Although the mail run had been dropped by the railroad, Barnum's depot continued to do business in heavy freight and passenger service. Only one depot manager was needed to handle the depot's affairs, rather than the two required a few years before.

On August 17, 1961, Dr. Munson, who had established his medical practice in Barnum in the '40's, closed his office and moved to Moose Lake. He assured the townspeople that his decision was no reflection on the village; but due to more accessible medical facilities in Moose Lake. That same year Dr. C.E. Seimer retired as Barnum's Vet. This position, unlike Munson's, did not remain vacant. Dr. M.D. Feters assumed Seimer's practice.

The Barnum Herald continued to provide the village with current news on a weekly basis. Editor Perry had expanded the paper's horizons and added several columns to the weekly publication-From Where I Sit by Joe Marsh, Family Finances by John Roberts, The Anderson Letter by Governor Elmer L. Anderson and Rural Views by Pat Borich. In 1962 Richard Perry accepted a new position with a larger weekly paper in Wisconsin and the editorship of the Herald once again fell on Wayne Evan's shoulders. Evans in turn hired Vi Cummings to act as manager and editor of the paper in 1963.

Letters to the Barnum Editor were, in themselves, not uncommon. One; however, was note-worthy due to the part its author would play in the nation's history. An excerpt from the letter read:

I cannot answer individually all the letters I have received from your area, though I would like to be able to do so. However, I personally do wish to assure you and your readers that the Democratic farm program is not warmed over Benson prettied up in a new wrapper. The small

farmer should have the same rights as big industry or any other part of our economy. He is entitled to fair return for his labor and his investment in the land. If elected, our party will expand Social Security and increase minimum wages for the benefit of all our people.

New frontiers are to be crossed that require imagination, inventiveness, a new approach. Our economy needs to be bolstered, our defenses strengthened. Our next President must have a full vote of confidence — a mandate from the largest possible number of people.

You, as a responsible editor, can help bring that about by urging your readers to go to the polls on November 8th and vote.

Sincerely,  
John F. Kennedy

Richard Nixon took Barnum's vote, 112 to 82, but John F. Kennedy won the nation and the Presidency.

In May, 1962, construction of the Lake Drive-In Theater was underway. The new facility accommodated 300 cars and included a 65 foot-high screen and concession building. During opening week in July, Mr. Lower, owner and operator, featured Ring Of Fire, Zahrain, and Light In The Piazza. Later Elvis hit the big screen in Barnum, "Elvis, singing and swinging in It Happened At The World's Fair. "

Rudebeck's Garage closed in 1963 and Melvin Rudebeck went on to purchase the Soft Drink Distributing Firm, Miller Distributing Co., from Clarence Christenson. The Henniger Garage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Taivo Saari of Grand Rapids and Billman's Cafe became the famous Duesler's Cafe-Home of the 5 Cent Cup of Coffee.

Barnum citizens had averted a majority of the problems with juvenile delinquency the rest of the nation was dealing with by opening the Youth Center in the basement of the Bank Building. The Center became an overnight hit with Barnum's youth. Capable of providing entertainment for 100 young people, between January and March of 1963, the Center was operated 35 times with a total attendance of 1,347. The Center was based on volunteer help and the enthusiasm of the teens.

The youth of Barnum sought out other means of entertainment as well as attending activities at the Center. In 1960 the Chevy Road Show at the Fairgrounds was packed with those aged 12 to 18, all anxious to see the fabulous Crash Dick Auto Daredevils Group, "experienced, top-name stuntmen and women in glorious new wardrobe, " who provided a, "rapid-fire, death-defying, thrillpacked program."

Popular music that delighted young people and, "would be the death" of many adults, rocked the airwaves. Radio had been forced out of the "serial" business by television and in order to survive, accommodated the new age of Rock and

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Roll. The medium's survival was put in jeopardy in 1960 when the payola scandal hit both the record

industry and radio stations. Adults who had held firm to the belief that rock and roll was a “dirty business” had their egos justified when Disc Jockeys were tried before a Congressional Committee on the grounds of accepting cash or goods in return for featuring specific records on their shows.

Barnum experienced its own heated debate when the Village Council proposed a special election to approve the addition of on-sale liquor to the village. Not all of the villagers were supportive of the idea, believing that the ability to consume liquor on the premises of the liquor store would bring immorality crashing down upon the town. This fear was

obvious in letters to the editor:

There shouldn't be any question in the minds of people concerning the on-sale liquor lounge if we fear the wrath of the Almighty God. As for benefits from selling liquor, there just isn't any when you stop to think of the damage it does. Families arguing, some divided. Bills unpaid. Immorality. What an example for young people and what a price to pay at the end.

The on-sale liquor proposal was defeated by a close vote, 88 to 80. In November of 1962 the question was again on the ballots. The Herald's editor noted:

I hope enough people realize the benefits that can be derived from the extra income the village will receive if the on-sale lounge is voted in. As far as the on-sale liquor corrupting the people of Barnum as was brought out in letters to the Editor last year, if people are going to drink, the village may as well have O'Rama held on Bent Trout the money they spend as letting one of the nearby towns have it all. outer edge of the lake are participants' cars.

An aerial view of the Trout

Lake in the early 1960's. The two

Voters said yes to the proposal that year by a vote of 119 for, 74 against. Originally, the Village Council considered remodeling the Village Hall into an On/Off sale lounge. After investigating all possibilities, the Council voted to lease quarters in the former Rudebeck garage to house the new establishment.

Following the Liquor Store election, another major project was entered into by the Council. Contract was entered into with the engineer firm Carter, Krueger and Associates of Minneapolis to survey the village sewage system and draw up plans and present the plans, along with an application for a federal grant to receive funding for the construction of a sewage disposal system. The project was approved by the federal government and Barnum received notice that the village topped the list for federal assistance. A Council Meeting was held specifically for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the construction of the plant and sewer extension. The villages' share of the \$91,306 cost would be \$63,914. The project was approved and construction was underway by September of 1962.

In 1960 the Village Council approved the formation of an Annual Charity Drive and the Barnum Volunteer Committee for Charities was organized. The village gave strong support to the group and enabled the Committee to exceed its goal of \$400 on the first Charity Drive.

The village showed its cohesiveness in other ways as was obvious when Karen

Estabrock, aged 13, disappeared. Karen had asked school bus driver, Art Fetters, to drop her off at the Post Office, a request that was not out of the ordinary and therefore accommodated. That was the last a Barnum resident saw of Karen for several days. When her absence from home became stretched to an alarming amount of time, her parents notified officials. Karen had last been seen in a cafe in Moose Lake and was known to have only \$1.50 on her person. School officials, the town's constable Roy Harrington, the Sheriff's Department and private citizens from town all took up the search for the missing student. Six long, agonizing days later Karen, under the accompaniment of St. Paul police, returned her to her parents.

The Commercial Club began promoting Barnum as a Vacation Land in the early '60's. A 20x30 foot sign painted on the south wall of the Barnum Hardware featured the area as an ideal vacation land with easily accessible resorts, fishing and recreation areas.

In 1962 the first Annual Trout O'Rama was held at Bent Trout Lake. There are over 15,291 official lakes in Minnesota and Robert Goodell was the proud owner of one. Located five miles east of Barnum, its waters covered only 30 acres, but was 90 feet deep in spots. During the fishing season any fisherman was welcome to catch what he could and pay at the end of the day a fixed rate per pound of fish. Goodell routinely stocked the lake with trout from commercial fisheries. Surrounding the lake was room for 38 camping units. A fisherman would periodically happen upon one of the beat up row boats Goodell kept stashed along the lakeshore. Goodell was an avid, and lucky, fisherman. In 1965 he landed a trophy northern on the lake.

In January, 1962, several hundred fishermen swarmed over the icy lake. Goodell had donated the lake's use to the Commercial Club for use as a fund raiser. Each fisherman was charged a \$1.00 admission fee in return for free fishing and chance at over \$500 worth of prizes.

In 1963 several hundred faithful to the art of fishing crowded Bent Trout Lake in sub-zero weather. That year Bent Trout was featured on OutDoor Friend, a sportsmen's program seen on the Twin Cities Channel 11. The segment on Goodell's lake and the Trout O'Rama encompassed 15 minutes of the one-half hour program.

Community spirit did not stop at fund raising nor locating missing children. In 1962 the State Bank of Barnum, in cooperation with the Minnesota Twins and the North West Bank of Minneapolis, sponsored a series of "Knot Hole Games" at the Metropolitan Stadium. The Bank furnished tickets for the 21 Barnum sponsors who volunteered to accompany 105 children aged 9-13 to attend the games. The school system, in keeping with the spirit of goodwill, donated the three buses needed for transportation.

The churches in Barnum made great strides in the early 60's. In May, 1961, the Barnum Methodist Church held a mortgage burning ceremony. In 1962 a ground breaking ceremony for the new Emmanuel Lutheran Church was held. The new church was completed at a cost of \$35,000 and dedicated in July of 1963. The old structure was donated to the Carlton County Fair Board and moved to the Fairgrounds on May 9, 1963. It stands there to serve as a memorial to the early Barnum settlers.

The Barnum school system was also looking at a building project. In 1961 Mr. Lundblad reported to the School Board that the Elementary grades were overcrowded- 33 pupils were enrolled in grade 1, 40 in grade 5 and 36 in grade 6 with 33 in a combined 5th and 6th grade class-and that the High School was in dire need of additional room for the Science

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and Home Ec courses and for counseling and guidance services. In view of the possible entry of Mahtowa and Blackhoof into the Barnum school system, a new elementary school was proposed. Later that year Blackhoof did indeed close its school's doors and consolidated with Barnum.

In March, a Citizens' Committee attended the School Board meeting and loudly voiced opposition to the Board's building plans. The Board had already rejected all bids on the school and requested the building plans to be revised. Following the revisions, a public meeting was held to inform the 175 residents in attendance of the new plans. In late March, the residents of Independent School District 91 defeated the proposal to bond the District for \$445,000 to erect a new elementary school and do remodeling and electrical improvements at the High School. The proposal was defeated by only fifteen -votes.

That April a special meeting of the School Board was held with architect Donald M. Erickson and twenty members of the Citizens' Committee. The group brain stormed to arrive at a means of providing Barnum with the much needed elementary building and required improvements on the old building while at the same time staying within the bonding power of the District. It was decided to hold another bond election to seek approval to bond the District for \$402,000. The project was approved by the voters.

In 1963 the first day of school was postponed as furnishings for the new elementary school had not arrived. On September 9th, for the first time in Barnum's history, school buses delivered students to two separate locations in the village. The twelve room elementary school, under the supervision of newly hired principal Harry Post, was completed for a total cost of only \$337,277.09.

In 1968 Mr. Alan Syverson was hired as the new High School Principal.

As Barnum grew and changed the nation was undergoing changes as well, changes that would dramatically affect the small village.

In April, 1961, Barnumites sat nervously in their homes when the Bay of Pigs confrontation came to a head. The invasion of Cuba by Anti-Castro Cubans, supported by the United States, had failed. It was discovered that the Soviet Union was transporting missiles to the small island; missiles that would be aimed at Florida. The American government, engaged in a fragile stand off with Cuba, demanded the weapons be removed. Many Barnum families rechecked their home bomb shelters for provisions. Procedures for a nuclear disaster were reviewed in school. World War III seemed close at hand.

The confrontation was resolved and an uneasy understanding established between the two countries; but the villagers had been rudely reminded that their peaceful existence could be shattered without warning.

On May 5, 1961, Alan Bartlett Shepard, Jr. became the first American in space; on February 2, 1962 John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. The USA was seriously

thrust into the “race for space.”

On August 28, 1963, Barnum citizens crowded around televisions to view 200,000 Civil Rights demonstrators march down the Mall in Washington, D.C. and listened to Dr. Martin Luther King present his moving speech, “I Have A Dream. “

November 22, 1963 is cited by many residents of Barnum as the, “day society changed. “ It is a day many can recall in detail. If in the classroom, what lesson they were studying. If at home, what activity they were engaged in. If at work, what time their coffee break began.

On November 22, 1963, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Lee Harvey Oswald was pursued, arrested and believed by the nation to have murdered the 34th President of the United States.

The shooting of the President was announced to Barnum students’ classroom by classroom in quiet tones by shocked instructors.

Mixed reactions — disbelief, shock, anger, grief—rampaged throughout the village. Some students wept quietly,  
others

worked intently on their studies. Instructors sat rigidly at their desks, attempting to continue on with the lesson  
plan.

Villagers congregated in homes or restaurants to support one another and confirm the news.

For four days the village, as the rest of the nation, stood still. Images of the President’s widow and small children, the funeral procession and the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery remain with every Barnumite who was old enough in 1963 to comprehend the tragedy.

By 1964 the United States’ involvement in the Viet Nam Conflict had escalated when the government supported Vietnamese revolutionaries upset the Diem Government. In 1965 there were 100,000 American troops in Vietnam, by the end of 1967 500,000 combat troops were stationed there.

Barnum citizens voiced concern regarding the conflict. One villager, through a letter to the editor, questioned the cost of the war, not only in monetary figures but human figures as well. Another citizen suggested the U.S. to use the

The 20x30 foot map promoting Barnum as the Gateway to the Northwoods, painted on the south wall of Solheim’s Hardware.

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hydrogen bomb to end the “pointless war.” An editorial stated:

The war in Vietnam is coming closer and closer to Barnum as

times goes by. At present, this area has at least four, and possibly more, men in uniform who may eventually be involved in the jungle war in Indochina. One thing seems to be fairly certain. The youngsters who are wearing our uniform, the kids who are doing our dirty work, all have the right to know why and for whom they are doing it. We hope that they know more about the why's than those of us who gain our knowledge from a few news stories and those are generally buried on inside pages where they will offend only a minority.

A U.S. Captain from Barnum was one of a group of psychological warfare experts who utilized Showmanship and gifts to offset Communist propaganda in South Vietnam.

Captain William I Weske, son of Mrs. Catherine Weske, had been in Vietnam since May 5, 1964. Along with an Army Major, Weske devised a plan to reach many of the South Vietnamese in The old Emmanuel Lutheran Church was moved to the the MeKong River rice field country. The two men contrived the Fairground on May 9, 1963:

idea of a 35 foot flat bottomed Show Boat christened "The Long Giang" or "River Dragon. " Because of the loudspeakers which boomed out voice and song over a wide area, the natives referred to the boat as, "The River Dragon That Talks. " Musicians and singers performed on the roof of the Show Boat's cabin while the Master of Ceremonies doubled as a propagandist reading from a script prepared by spywar writers. Gift packets were handed out to the natives who lined the river's shoreline and leaflets were dispersed among the crowd.

Captain Weske received the Bronze Star and Soldiers Badge while stationed in Vietnam.

Although concerned about the war, villagers were plagued with problems at home. Each spring, rainfall and run off from the thaw flooded the Village Park. The Park would prove to be unuseable for days and citizens began casting about for a permanent solution to the problem. Several citizens approached the Village Council with plans for building a dike on the Moose Horn River to divert the flow of water, but no action was taken.

Farmers were facing problems beyond their immediate control. In both 1961 and 1967 severe droughts seriously impaired farming and livestock operations. Carlton County was declared a distressed agricultural area and federal funds were made available for production emergency loans. Farming seemed to be rapidly becoming a profitless business. The cost of operations continued to climb as the profits declined. Area farmers welcomed President Johnson's 1967 proclamation to cut the volume of imported dairy products. The importation of dairy products had created a no-win situation for farmers and consumers alike. Following the Presidential decision, farming began to stabilize and area farmers to see a more positive future.

That year a series of brush fires in the Barnum area threatened both homes and crops.

A welcomed rainstorm extinguished the rapidly spreading flames; but a lightning strike at the Leland Ballou farm ignited the barn and killed 25 head of cattle.

Agricultural lectures and cattle shows kept the farming community in touch with advances in the business. The Arrowhead Extension Service sponsored lectures in the Barnum High School on building farm incomes on soil resources.

Barnum area residents became active in the Community Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. The Committee's principle job was to administer National Farm Programs in the area and to aide in the development of the programs.

The 4-H Clubs were gaining members and honors during the '60's. In 1963 the Barnum 4-H Club captured honors at the Annual Dairy Show. Katie Olson topped all breeds with her 3 year old Guernsey cow. Vernon Oroskovich was named Reserve Champion and Marvel Norgverg named Showmanship Champion. The 4-H group went on to capture honors at various demonstrations and to ultimately go on to state competition.

The enthusiasm of the 4-H members paled beside the enthusiasm one young student displayed toward her upcoming entrance into the Halls of Higher Learning. On a bright Sunday morning, Lynet Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nelson, arose, dressed herself and set out for her first day of Kindergarten before the rest of the family awoke. After journeying the eight miles by foot, she arrived at the Elementary School only to find the doors locked. The youngster remained undaunted and proceeded to the Nelco Station where her father was employed, but that was also deserted.

During this time an all-out search had been taken up to locate the adventurous Miss. Eventually Roger Thompson, Lynet's appointed bus driver, located the youngster and safely deposited the waif to the bosom of her worried parents who were attempting to understand the note Lynet had left to inform them where she had gone. On it was printed, "LYNET. "

In 1965 an event transpired in the quiet village that made each citizen take note. It came to be known as the Second Coming Of The Railroad.

Moving the old Lutheran Church - on the right is Solheim's Hardware and the Red Owl. On the left is the Barnum Hotel and the Standard Station.

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A steam locomotive, Engine No. 27, better known as "Old 27, " was accepted as a gift to Barnum at a special Council meeting. The 75 foot long switch engine was presented by the

Duluth Northeastern Railroad. Pat Delarosby and Clyde (Tiny) Oswell had been two of the prime motivators in arranging the transference.

Initially, the knowledge of the gift was contained strictly to those involved with the transfer for fear that other communities would claim a higher priority for the engine. Once the moving was in process though the “cat was out of the bag” and the townspeople turned out in mass to view the engine’s slow progress to the Fairground.

During the move, two of the engine’s rear drive wheels jumped the track. The mishap occurred when an attempt was made to get the engine from the spur track onto a curve that was too sharp for the rigid locomotive. Once it was railroaded onto straight track again the difficulties in transporting “Old 27” to the Fairgrounds became minimal.

Old Engine Number 27 was moved onto the Fairground in 1965, where it remains today.

The tedious chore of moving the engine was periodically brightened by the hi-jinks of Tiny Oswell. During one waiting period, when a crew had been sent for heavy jacks, Oswell climbed up the front of the engine with two 30gallon barrels. He proceeded to dump oil and gas into the drums and followed that with lighted rags. His mixture proved too rich, and one drum went skyward with a loud roar and a long-tailed flame.

Hurley Anderson and his son, Don Weski, AVOID Smith, and Oswell put in long hours along with the railroad crew and Mr. Gilbert in order to move the engine through Barnum and onto its permanent location at the Fairground.

In 1963 Pat and Pearl Delarosby assumed ownership of a small 3.2 establishment known as The Long Branch. When the Delarosby’s assumed the business, it was obvious that the building had been in Barnum for quite some time. The floor had a 14 inch slope requiring the new owners to strap the stove and juke box in place. While objects could be strapped safely into place, customers could not. On one crisp winter day, a customer entered the saloon and immediately began to slide down the floor’s steep incline. He continued to slide the full length of the bar and was saved from an unpleasant meeting with the rear wall by desperately grasping at the bar. His progress was finally halted at the bar’s far corner when he caught himself on a post by the nap of his neck.

In 1966 Mr. Neuman made the decision to sell his shares in the State Bank of Barnum and retire. Ed Manni expressed interest in purchasing the shares; but was unable to do so alone. Harold Martin, who was employed at the Carlton Bank, expressed interest in the venture and purchased some of Neuman’s shares. Manni, who had invested in the remaining shares, was selected as Bank President and Martin Vice-President and Insurance Representative.

At that time the Bank was experiencing a booming business. Manni’s congenial manner and the villagers’ faith in the institution created a stable, growing concern. During the 60’s it was not uncommon to wait in one of the five teller lines before being able to conduct business.

Harry Solheim, who had been employed at the Barnum Hardware Store since the mid-50’s with his father and brother, Bob, was another Barnum resident who opted to establish his own enterprise. In 1966 Solheim bought out Harold Lumby’s establishment and opened the Moose Lake branch of Solheim’s Hardware. His brother went on to manage the Barnum store.

A rash of robberies plagued the Barnum merchants in the mid-60's. Lund's Standard Station was broken into and robbed of \$50 worth of silver. Other establishments suffered from similar petty thefts. Bud Peterson's warehouse was burglarized and six cases of beer taken.

One night as George and Gladys Ruby were preparing to close the Red Owl, two young men entered the establishment

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supposedly to purchase cigarette tobacco. When the two approached the counter to "pay" for their purchase, they informed the Ruby's, "This is a stick up, " and proceeded to take all the change and dollar bills from the cash register. Mrs. Ruby stated that, "They must not have known about the cash register because they never looked in the back of the drawer where the bigger bills were kept. " The two young bandits were apprehended when attempting another robbery in Moose Lake.

The upswing in crime was laid upon the new Counter Culture, to be known as Hippies, emerging in the mid to late

'60's. These defiant young people voiced scorn of the establishment and scoffed at the "older generation" who was defined as anyone over 30. The Hippies displayed their own value system by growing shoulder length locks, wearing outrageous clothing and promoting their own dialogue and philosophy of, "If it feels good — do it. "

Tight, bell bottomed trousers became fashionable and the Barnum Co-op picked up on the trend specializing in, "new floral and hip hugger slacks with BELLS. " The Barnum Herald kept the villagers abreast of changing fashions. In the mid-60's high fashion included, "Turtlenecks with suitcoats are worn even by the movie stars and Wall Street executives. " Twiggy burst into the fashion world bringing with her short cropped hair and even shorter hemlines, the mini-skirt was born.

Citizens voiced concern over the "hoodlum" element that was evolving in town and considered Hippies a, "long haired problem for the barbers. " Their concerns were to be proven well founded.

On a summer's evening a group of local youths injured an elderly recluse, who lived near the Barnum dump, by throwing liquid bleach into his face. William Henderson, age 85, was a transient who routinely made his summer residence in the area between the Barnum dump and the Northern Pacific Railway tracks in a roofless building. He was hospitalized at Cloquet Memorial Hospital and later died from complications which resulted from the incident.

An editorial in the Herald reflected the outrage and pain the village felt:

Whatever Mr. Henderson's reasons for living as he did are

purely his own. He had the right to reject or exclude the rest of us from his life and the right to refuse aid of any kind from us or to use our cast off items in the dump for his purposes, as long as his actions did not break any law. There is NO rationalization for this sort of thing [the attack on Henderson]. It can be explained, examined, discussed, criticized and condemned, but excused — NEVER.

The incident was investigated, but no arrests made.

In 1965 bids were being taken by the State Department of Highways for construction of Interstate 35 between Scanlon and Willow River. The Interstate was destined to change the lives of Barnum villagers. Once completed, the freeway would route the mainstream of traffic off Highway 61, the highway's main route was directly through the Barnum business section. The ramifications would not be felt immediately; but they would be felt by both residents and businessmen in the near future.

Traffic on Highway 61 had become increasingly heavy and the crossing at the bank corner more treacherous. Citizens petitioned for a traffic light to be installed at the site; but, due to the impending completion of 1-35, the Village Council deemed it an unnecessary cost.

By 1968 problems with the interstate's construction near Barnum surfaced. Culverts, which went under a temporary road paralleling a raw stretch of 1-35 and provided a solid access across the riverbed, became blocked. The spring run off swelled the rivers and lakes creating high water tables at Big Hanging Horn Lake. The result of the blocked culverts and rising water levels was flooded, damaged lakeshore property and irate property owners.

One annual event that the coming of the freeway would not hamper was the Carlton County Fair. In 1967 approximately 2,000 people attended the fair which was termed an art gallery, a home and recreation show. It was also, "four days of exciting horse racing, animal exhibits and judging. It is a character building exercise for many who would learn first hand of our pioneering past." In attendance was Carl Hecker, the only man in Carlton County who had never missed a County Fair in the event's 77 year history.

In 1968 the Fair was selected as one of Minnesota's 23 summer tourist attractions and received special mention in a guide book, What's Going On Here? published by the American Telephone Co. in conjunction with the Bell System.

The 79th Anniversary of the Fair saw record breaking attendance with 12,500 paid admissions recorded. A new event, the Tractor Pulling Contest, drew interested on-lookers from all points of the state. The grandstand was packed and auxiliary bleachers were set up to accommodate the overflow of spectators who crowded in to view the 37 tractors participating.

A boulder, found by John Wirtanen on his farm in Kalevala Township, was donated to the Fair Grounds. An evaluation of the mammoth rock was done by Dr. D. Daily and Dr. R. Ojakangas of the University of Minnesota. Their report stated:

This unusual rock, although of no monetary value, is a conglomerate and was deposited here during the ice age about 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. It is probably a part of the original located in northern or northeastern Minnesota. The exact source is unknown. The rock originally

formed as an accumulation of mixed sand, gravel and pebbles in a stream or beach environment. Pebbles of many types including quartzite, mica,-schist, and volcanic rock [are found]. The material was then buried and cemented, forming a hard rock which was later heated and fractured by - Internal forces. The two thin quartz veins were precipitated in these fractures from hot water. The rock was finally exposed to the surface after millions of years of erosion. This piece was picked up by ice masses which were moving southward from Canada. As the climate warmed and the glaciers retreated, the boulder was deposited near Barnum.

While the Fair provided one form of entertainment, local dances provided another. Barnum teens danced The Dog, The Chicken, Watusi, Twist and Fruge to their favorite singers. On February 7, 1964, the Beatles arrived in New York City to begin their first American tour and to popularize the "group" style of music.

Barnum's answer to the group singers rage was its own group known as the Bittersweet 7 who performed locally for teen dances. Mrs. Jerry Sharp acted as the group's director and manager. Debbie Numela, Vicky Skoglund, Debbie Peartree, Christine and Kathy Solheim and Rodney Dahl became the well known local musical talent.

Television's grip on America's leisure time had not weakened. As early as 1961 Newton N. Minow, Chairman of the F.C.C., termed the magic medium a "vast wasteland."

Wasteland or not, Barnum villagers faithfully tuned into their favorite programs. During the '60's the "huck" comedies evolved which attempted to divert citizens' attention away from the stresses of the real world. The Beverly Hillbillies, Green Acres and the Andy Griffith Show depicted the values of small town life. Fantasy escape shows as Bewitched, I Dream Of Jeanie, The Munsters and The Adams Family were offered to home viewers. Some of these were further from reality than others as in the case of The Twilight Zone and Outer Limits.

Westerns had not ridden off into the sunset and Barnumites tuned in to Have Gun — Will Travel, Rawhide and The Wild, Wild West.

Television was molding a new image of American life, one that was white, middle-class and suburban. The medium was also indoctrinating citizens to the realistic, and often unpleasant, realities of life.

The horror of viewing President Kennedy's death on television had barely receded into villagers' memories when, in 1968, they were bombarded with a level of violence unequalled in the decade. By that year the war in Vietnam had escalated into a bloody battle and this was broadcast into private homes on a nightly basis. Viewers watched as Martin Lutheran King was ruthlessly shot by James Earl Ray in Memphis; in 1968 and Robert Kennedy's death caused by assassin Sirhan Sirhan's bullet on June 6th. A conflict equal in violence to that being carried on overseas erupted between the peace demonstrators and Chicago police during the democratic convention.

Barnum could boast of its own television personalities. In 1967 Mrs. Jerry Sharp, assisted by Mrs. Arnold Korby, made an appearance on the Twin Cities' Mel Jazz Notebook Show. Mrs. Sharp had eight champion dogs from the Huck Kennels in White Bear Lake, model her original "Sharp Dog Togs Fashions. " Dick Paulson and Jerry Sharp appeared on WDSM-TV in a series, "Agriculture 2000." Both Paulson and Sharp were soil scientists for the Soil Conservation Service.

As television provided both entertainment and coverage of the news breaking events, Barnum citizens began looking to their own community resources to regain a sense of belonging.

In 1967 the village concluded that it was time to improve the Village Park by constructing a Park Pavilion. A series of fund raisers was kicked off with a Masquerade Ball sponsored by the Firebells. A recordbreaking number of locals attended the Ball and reportedly had a "ripping good time. " At the 2nd Annual Firebell's Masquerade Ball, Mr. and Mrs. James Birt and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Thoreson received first place in the costume judging. The four had attended the Ball together, bedecked as a caterpillar.

130 acres on the shores of Lake Hanging Horn were turned into a non-profit organization known as the Arrowhead Music Camp in 1960. By 1967 it had grown from a virtual wilderness to a complex of fourteen main buildings housing up to 130 music students per week. The camp's advisors cited the primary objective of the camp as to foster and promote musical education by providing facilities for teaching music and to promote appreciation for natural resources.

The Annual Trout O'Rama continued to expand throughout the '60's. In 1967 Rocky Teller, WDSM personality, and Ken Swanson from WDIO, participated in the famous fishing contest. Swanson spent the day trying to "hook a big one, " but ended up borrowing a trout for a press picture. By 1968 the event had proven so successful it was expanded to a two day spectacular which included snowmobile races, an evening guided tour of snowmobile trails and, of course, the fishing contest.

The Commercial Club involved itself in activities outside of the Trout O'Rama. Each year the group sponsored a Christmas Party for Barnum's youth. The youngsters were entertained by movies or performers, indulged in treats and were offered the opportunity to chat with the special-guest of honor, Santa. In 1967 the Commercial Club, Rod and Gun Club, with the assistance of the Moose Horn Lake Commercial Club, developed two access sites at Hanging Horn Lake and the Moose Horn River. During 1968 the group approved the purchase of ten acres of land on Bear Lake to develop a swimming beach and public access site. The project also encompassed improvement of recreational facilities and overnight camping sites. In July of 1969 a grant of \$15,000 was approved by the United States Congress for improvement of Bear Lake as a recreational and swimming area.

The First Annual Barnum Commercial Club Softball Tournament, with eight teams competing for a variety of trophies, was held in 1969.

The Moose Horn Rod and Gun Club did not sit idly by during the '60's and routinely provided the community without

Pat and Pearl Delarosby purchased the Long Branch Saloon in 1963. The building had been a livery stable, newspaper, post office, pool room and restaurant before becoming a Saloon.

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standing wildlife films and well known speakers. During one 1967 meeting the Club sponsored the

appearance of Rocky Teller, Duluth Businessman and noted television personality, who addressed Barnum citizens on the importance of wildlife conservation. The organization began blazing a snowmobile trail to run between Moose Lake and Solon Springs in 1968. In keeping with their goal of outdoor safety, a snowmobile training program was conducted. John (Butch) Thompson, Bob Clough, Richard and Harold Nelson, William Zickrick instructed 30 Barnum youngsters in safe snowmobile operation.

Several other organizations remained active in the village. The Friendly Club, Garden/Flower Society and P.T.A. continued meeting community needs while the Volunteer Firemen provided a safe environment for the activities to be done in. The Women's Christian Temperance Union was active as were both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. In the late '60's the Local Boy Scout Troop 169 began a "Clean Up Moose Horn River Project," their goal was to make the river passable by canoes. The presentations they sponsored included Brandon Southworth, of the Duluth Symphony. The group's notoriety spread and in 1969 Mrs. Kinn, the Club's Spokeswoman, appeared on the Dottie Becker Show where Kinn outlined the organization's goals and philosophy. Barnum Senior Citizens had organized during the mid60's and in 1968 opened a Senior Center at the Village Hall. At that time the group assumed the name "Seniors A GoGo."

The Barnum P.T.A. continued to strive toward enlightening the public. In 1967 Dr. Munson was asked to address members on the issue of, "Social Diseases and the New Morality." As a follow-up, programs as "Sex and Family Life" and "Hot To Tell Your Child About Sex" were offered. The organization promoted service to the school with book fairs, community calendar sales and a Hootenanny and Talent Show. Proceeds from all the events were channeled back into the school system.

The High School student's accomplishments during the late '60's laid to rest most of the concerns of young people joining the New Morality Group. In 1967 the Barnum High School newspaper won second place Class Honor Rating in the 76th All American Newspaper Critical Service at the National Scholastic Press Association. Richard Langhorst was the paper's editor and Shirley Duesler his assistant. The Student Choir, noted among the top High School Choir Groups in the northland area, was invited to participate in a musical choral, "Beautiful Music of Christmas," sponsored by, and heard over, WEBC Radio in 1968. During the 1969 District 25 Music Contest, Barnum's Band received eleven superior ratings for their solo and ensemble entries. In 1969 Barnum held its first Annual School Science Fair. The event was heralded as a success and 18 of the participating students went on to participate in U.M.D.'s Science Fair.

The students took it upon themselves to dictate appropriate fashion for school and in 1968 the Student Council drafted a Dress Code:

Girls:

1. Blouses must be tucked in unless styled to be worn out.
2. Hair to be neat and clean at all times.
3. Skirts to be a respectable length for school dress.
4. Extreme uses of makeup and/or jewelry to be avoided.
5. Slacks shall be permissible only in severe weather or cases of illness. Boys:

1. Shirtails must be tucked in unless styled to be worn out.
2. Shirts must be buttoned up, with the exception of the top button.
3. Haircuts must be neat, clean and a respectable length.
4. Bluejeans shall not be permissible.
5. Conventional shoes are to be worn, this excludes cowboy boots and engineer boots.

The students' social awareness did not stop at dress codes. When the Mahtowa School System opted to consolidate with Barnum in 1969 a group of Barnum students were prompted to take consolidation one step further. Enlisting the aid of alumni and voters, the Barnum students joined with a group of Moose Lake students and dedicated their energies toward convincing both Barnum and Moose Lake voters of the need for consolidating the two systems.

As the students were actively working toward betterment of the system, not everything was going as smoothly between teachers and the School Board.

The Board has issued an ultimatum to the faculty to sign the 1969 contract by July 10th. The ultimatum was rejected by the Barnum Teachers' Association and another meeting with the Board to negotiate salaries was requested. Apparently the teachers were once again handed contracts and the contracts were once again returned to the Board stating that, as long as no agreement had been reached, they could not place their names on the contracts. The issue continued on through the beginning of the 69/70 school term when, in October, the issue was resolved.

At the closing the decade Carlton County residents were enjoying better incomes, a higher rate of employment and were spending a record amount of goods and services.

Barnum's business section could vouch for that. In 1967, the Barnum Co-operation Discount Store, under the management of Bernard Johnson, opened. The new store was geared to handle customers from a wide area surrounding the village. It's Grand Opening offered free carnations "for the Moms" and free ice cream cones for "kids of all ages." The first specials the establishment offered were a two pound tin of Maxwell House Coffee for \$1.19 and tennis shoes ranging in price from \$1.89 to \$2.89.

Marvin Waseen became the well known proprietor of the Cabinet, Carpentry and Supplies during the '60's. In 1967 Wayne Burt from Mahtowa opened a new Television/ Radio Repair Shop in the former Felgen Building. The United Farm Agency moved from Moose Lake into Barnum in 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Lindgren, the Real Estate Firm's owners, purchased the former Maplewood Poultry farm home and located the business in their residence. Harry Shepard moved his Barber Shop to the Felgen Building in '69. The new shop was, large, well lighted and cheerful," and boasted a revolving barber pole outside.

Established businesses continued to entice customers into their stores. The Barnum Hotel and Cafe proclaimed itself,

your home away from home." Ruby's Red Owl and the farmers' Co-op ran weekly spe-

cial on much needed items. Dueslers Coffee Shop offered a Sunday dinner for 95 cents. For the customers' convenience, the King Koin Kleenette installed a new Philco Bendix Coin operated dry cleaner. The Lake Drive-In offered "Buck Night, just a dollar a car load, the more you bring, the bigger the bargain. Showing Born Wild, a story of student gangs battling it out in a slum High

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An aerial view of Barnum.

School. -

In 1967 Wayne Evans sold the Barnum Herald to Robert Bradford of Moose Lake. Mrs. W.F. Zickrick remained the news editor until 1969. After her departure the vacated position was filled by Ruth Denton.

Barnum's Village Council experienced a busy time from the mid to late '60's. In 1967 Nathan Moore became Mayor and the Village approved the appointments of James Newman, Albert Johnson, George Folz and Leo Crossler as local police enforcement.

That same year the Council began to take action on flouridating the local water supply. A letter was received from the State Department of Health commending the Council on its plans and offering the Department's assistance. Once in place, the program's maintenance cost was estimated at a range between 9 cents to 15 cents per person per year.

Roads in the village were in disrepair, and the Council agreed to fill "chuck" holes in the streets with crushed rock as a temporary solution. Workers doing road repair were to be paid \$1.75 an hour, a raise of 40 cents. Roy Harrington's wages for Village Worker were increased to \$1.50 an hour.

The threat of an increase in local real estate taxes drew a large crowd to the Council meeting in June of 1968. Sherman Lord, Village Assessor, volunteered to go over the town, count and label homes that had been constructed within the past fifteen years and those built in the 1880's and 1890's. At his own expense, Lord traveled to St. Paul with the figures and attempted to change the State Commissioner's mind on the new tax base.

As the decade drew to a close, the villagers were burdened with concerns. Involvement in Vietnam had become a heated debate in the small village and, when American troops massacred a south Vietnamese village, Barnum was thrown into a state of patriotic confusion. On November 25, 1969, the northbound lane of 1-35 was opened between the Twin Cities and Scanlon, leaving the future of Barnum hanging in balance. Penthouse, a Playboy like British magazine, hit local news stands and scandalized local residents. Literature as The Group by Mary MacCarthy and Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. made villagers question their personal beliefs.

American astronauts made science fiction become scientific fact in 1969 and awed the nation with the first moon landing. Even though the feat was impressive, Barnum villagers questioned if federal funds had been used appropriately and the Herald noted:

The money could have been used to end the Vietnam War, halt massive pollution, help corporation farmers or straighten out global youth rebellion rather than on a mission with no direct benefit to the common man.

During such trying times a hero is needed, and such a hero emerged.

A figure in a red coat, red hat and red scarf, nicknamed The Red Phantom by the High School Crowd, was seen picking up litter along Main Street and in front of the High School. This mystery person's influence rubbed off on the students who joined in the crusade and picked litter between the bridge and Goodell's Variety. The Village Council promoted the new venture by ensuring the rubbish barrels were routinely emptied. The Boy Scouts were the next to catch "Phantom Fever" and began cleaning private residents' yards, the Village Park and the town's streets.

Even under ridicule, the Phantom carried on because, as he so eloquently stated, "If one does not condone a situation, one must at least attempt to do something about it. "

Adopting that philosophy the village moved into the 1970's.