



# historically speaking

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 304 / St. Paul, Nebraska / 68873

Summer Issue 1999



*Photo above: The Gage Valley baseball team. Members include: Spencer Hartford, Clyde Reynolds, Ralph Robinson, Clifford Scarborough, Lee Davies, Neuman Scarborough, Elmer Hiett, Frank Robinson, and Hugh Arnold. Photo courtesy of Agnes (Fay) Hartford family.*



## Gage Valley: One of Howard County's oldest settlements.

By Ron W. Sack

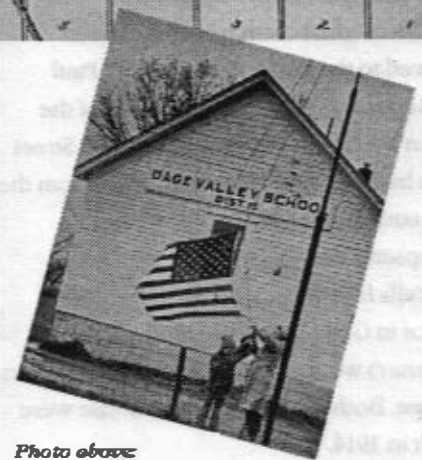
The name Gage Valley comes from one of its first settlers Alonzo Gage. Gage Valley precinct once boasted churches, schools, baseball teams, a gas station/cafe, and even a post office. According to *Parkley's Nebraska Place Names*, a post office was established in Gage Valley on July 11, 1871 and was in operation until March 13, 1883.

Probably the one building people associate with Gage Valley is the District #19

school. Of all the building sites in the Gage Valley precinct, this school served the community the longest: well over 100 years. Devoted alumni still hold reunions to vigorously keep the memories alive.

We now invite you to experience a place called Gage Valley.

*Map above: Once the favorite hunting ground for the Pawnee Indians (Gage Valley precinct). Some historians say the post office was once located on the SW corner of Section 10. No information has ever been published to prove this fact. Many of the settlers in the southwest portion of the Gage Valley precinct would board the train at the Bluffton Station on the Union Pacific Railroad (section 25, just outside of Gage Valley precinct). Map courtesy of the Howard County Historical Society.*



*Photo above: Flag raising at the Gage Valley district #19 school in the late 1970s. District #19 would survive for over 100 years. Photo courtesy of Marion Babensky.*



Depot plan wins award for Rural Development.

Monet's student has Howard County roots.

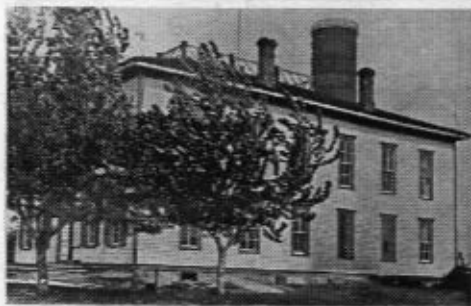


It's a bird. It's a plane. It's the Gage Valley Flyers.

# Will the court please come to session?

*Bahensky's barn in Gage Valley was once the Howard County Court House.*

By Marion Bahensky



K. D. Bahensky was Howard County Clerk from 1912-16. In 1913, the present court house was built. K.D.'s father, Joseph, bought the old wooden court house (photo shown above in article)

The original court house had been moved to the back of its site in St. Paul and still used during the building of the court house. The house at 523 Sixth Street was built for his family with wood from the old courthouse (former French and Pfelepen home).

Stalls for the barn at Lyle Bahensky's place in Gage Valley (Section 10, SW Quarter) were also built from the old court house. Both the barn and the house were built in 1914.



*Top photo: The Bahensky barn, built in 1914, has always been one of the focal points in the Gage Valley community. Family and friends pose for a picture in the 1930s.*

*Photo above: The barn looks as good as it did when it was completed back in 1914. (Photo taken in April 1999.)*

*Photo at right: Stalls in the Bahensky barn were once part of the Howard County Court House. All photos courtesy of Marion Bahensky.*



## The next issue will focus on:

- Ray Bahensky's Gas Station
- More on School District #19
- Photos of School District #53
- Photos of Gage Valley Churches

## Look up above... It's the Gage Valley Flyers.

By Marion Bahensky

Melvin Bahensky and cousin Ray Bahensky, along with Alvin Deertz, Ted Sazama and Max Scarborough enjoyed owning planes and taking flying trips to the limit of their planes' capacity. The following reflections were recorded by me during my visits interviewing them. They were quite the group. I can't imagine anyone having more exciting moments than these men: The Gage Valley Flyers.

### Melvin Bahensky remembers

"I made more than 10,000 veterinarians' calls by plane until I stopped counting," said Melvin Bahensky, Howard County's flying vet. Sometimes Melvin found corn stalks in his landing gear, having unwittingly flown that close to the ground. Melvin had other vet stories. "Once I was taking off in high grassland, which was impeding takeoff. There was a nice tight barbed four-strand fence in front; I thought I could clear it, but went through it. At least I missed the fence posts. Looking back, I saw a 150 foot piece of barbed wire hanging from my tail. I thought, what if I run into a power line? I landed, pulled it out, and went home. The next time I went there, I carried a wirecutter and wire. The farmer had fixed the fence - said he found all the cattle out. 'I didn't know you took that fence out.' I said, 'Well, I didn't have time to tell you.'" During the winter months, Melvin attached skis onto his plane for better landing abilities. "Once after I had taken off the skis, I landed in some snow I could not see directly below me. The wheels hit the snow, I pulled the stick back, gave it gas, but the plane had went over on its nose. I ran away, afraid of fire, but nothing had happened. The farmer helped me pull it back.

I had bent a propeller." Melvin retired in 1969 and quit flying in 1973. Melvin made several flights with Bill Graunke during the big snows of 1948-49. "I was sold...told Graunke to order me a plane 'emergency rush' for \$2,200 (which included lessons). Graunke gave me lessons in another plane for about two hours. I did a solo and everything, so when my plane came in two weeks, I was ready to fly. You had to have 40 hours of solo before you could get a license." Both Ray and Melvin had a hangar in the field across from K.D.'s in Gage Valley.

### Tragedy.

Tragedy struck when Max Scarborough and Robert Lautenschlager were checking out a plane and hunting on a too-windy day. Both were killed when they flew into a hillside. Gage Valley was swidisen with grief.

### Alvin Deertz remembers

"I became interested in flying in 1923 when a mail plane crashed nearby. The mail had to be transferred into another plane. I had the first Gage Valley plane. I took Doc (Melvin) on one of his hurried trips. He said, 'If I could land this thing, I'd buy it.' I said, 'You can.' I talked him down, he made a perfect landing." Ray Bahensky used to fly backwards - "If you had a 60 m.p.h. wind, the plane could only go 50 m.p.h. The wind will just push you backwards at 10 m.p.h. We went up anytime we had an excuse to fly. Leonard Lautenschlager raced to hide into the barn when we flew over. He later thought we were game wardens. I don't know how Ray could have hit a power line, we always flew under them."

### Reflections on Ray Bahensky

Ray Bahensky taught 31 people to fly, including his four children who all flew solo



Photo above: Melvin "Doc" Bahensky prepares to take off on one of his 10,000 veterinarians' calls. Photo courtesy of "Doc" Bahensky.

before they were 15. He celebrated his 75th birthday by taking a nice plane ride. Once the stick came off in his hand. He just put it back on and kept on going. Roy Olsen (Public Power District) asked Ray to take him up to look things over after the 1984 St. Paul tornado. He alerted Ray to an oncoming plane, which they missed by about seven feet, after Ray took diversionary action.

### Ted Sazama remembers

"I was flying to Lincoln to pick up Bill Scott. The back seat, from which you had to fly, was too cold, so I climbed into the front in mid-air. I was close to the airport when I realized I had better move back. I wiggled back, but caught my coat on the stick. The plane went straight up. It caused a lot of commotion at the airport. The flyers used to play on Sundays - a motorcycle-plane race along HWY 92 - throwing a role of toilet paper out and trying to beat the record for number of cuts of the paper before it landed."

Anybody could have an airport; so a Sazama airport and a Bahensky airport are listed on some of the old aeronautical maps. Right up there with Kennedy and Reagan.

## Gage Valley's incredible dances at the Helzer family barn.

By Ron W. Sack

They came from St. Paul... Farwell... Liberty... Grand Island... Palmer... Central City... even all the way from Fullerton. Dances held at the Henry and Elizabeth Helzer barn provided a true sense of community for the people around Gage Valley.

"They were something everyone in our family looked forward to," stated Frieda (Helzer) Oakesen. "We would prepare the whole day to get everything ready."

The Helzer's barn was one of the larger barns in the Gage Valley area. Besides Henry and Elizabeth, the Helzer clan consisted of children: Emma, Albert, Walter, Martin, Frieda, and Mamie. In 1928, the Helzers moved to this Gage Valley farm. They had previously lived in Hall County.

Bands usually consisted of drums, a clarinet,

# BARN DANCE

June 24th

Henry Helzer's Barn  
GAGE VALLEY

MUSIC BY  
JOE LUKESH BAND

25 cents

*Photo above: Gage Valley had the tradition of having some of the largest barn dances in Howard County. The ad above is typical of many which were placed in county newspapers touting the next band to appear. In most cases, word of mouth was the best form of advertising. Photo below: Henry and Elizabeth Helzer's classic barn played host to some of the finest bands in the area. Photo courtesy of Frieda and Howard Oakesen.*



a saxophone, a bass, and of course an accordion.

Joe Lukesh and his band performed at the Helzer barn many times.

Albert Schwenk of St. Liberty was one of the attendees at Helzer barn dances. "Their dances were some of the best times we had when we were young," exclaimed Schwenk. "I do remember Frieda's sister - Emma Knothe, along with her husband Mitch - preparing some of the best hamburgers around at these dances."

Besides the polka dances, square dances were also popular. Summers were the best times for the dances. Frieda stated that the hay loft in the barn was usually cleared of hay by then, as the cows were "out to pasture" except for

milking during summertime. "The dances would last for hours," concluded Frieda.

The Helzer barn was a mixture of some of the best things in life: family, friends, food, music, sunny nights, and of course - dancing.

As the years progressed, the Helzer barn was torn down, but the memories of those cool summer nights and the warm wishes from the attendees are still felt by all of the loyal friends who danced at the Helzer barn.

## Tragedy strikes Gage Valley.

### Father Flanagan remembers the family who remembered others at Boys Town.

By Ron W. Sack

On February 11, 1939, tragedy struck Gage Valley. Eleven year old Donald Sidel was biking to the Gage Valley district #19 school with his friend. As they were approaching the school, Donald's bike was struck by a passing motorist. Donald died instantly.

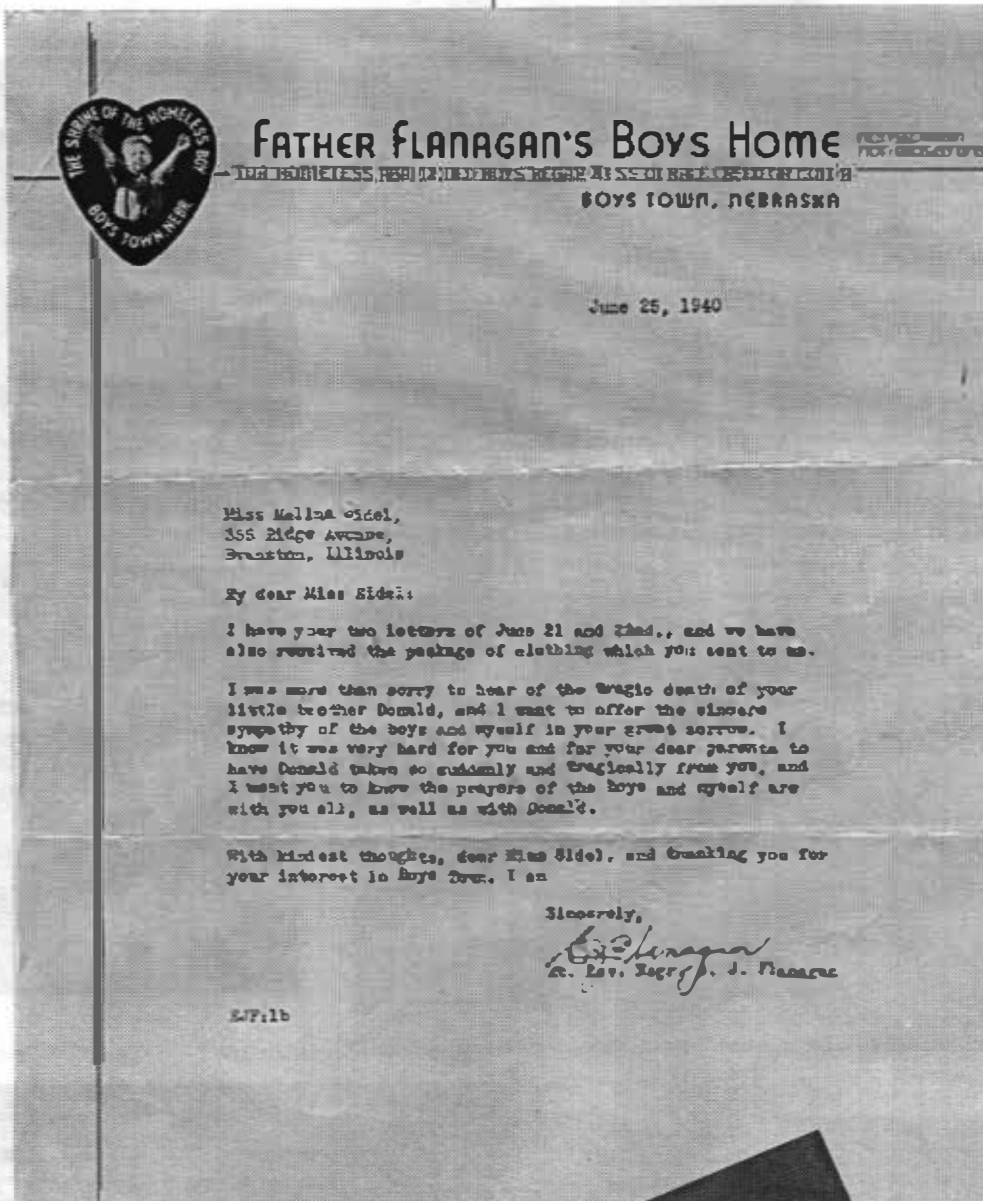
Gage Valley responded in traditional style with food, prayers, and aid for the Sidel family. School was even cancelled for the next day. Donald was the son of Anna (Lukasiewicz) and William Sidel II. He was survived by four sisters: Ollie Kotila, Pauline Sack, Sr. Ann Francis (Melina), and Xena Coons.

Another form of sympathy came through a series of letters which were sent to the family from the renowned Father Flanagan of Boys Town.

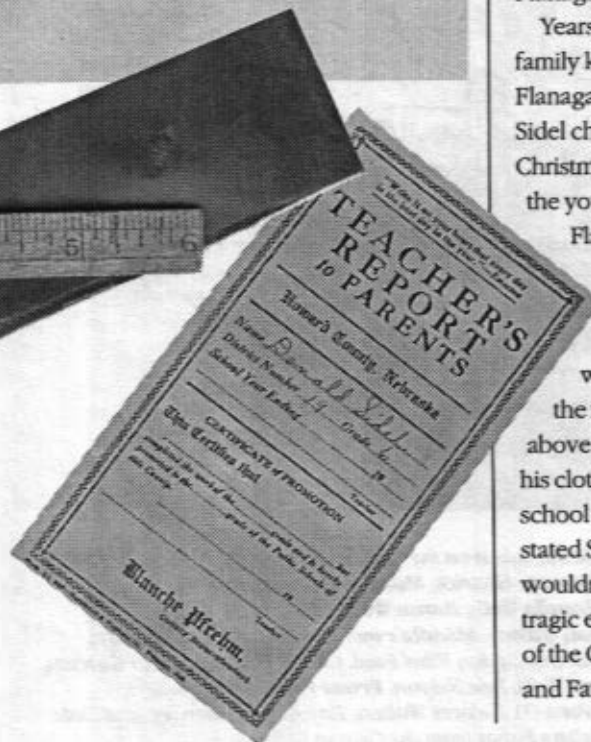
Years before the tragedy, the Sidel family kept in close contact with Father Flanagan. Each year at Christmas time, the Sidel children would save their candy over Christmas and send a large package of it to the young boys at Boys Town. Father

Flanagan never forgot this kindness.

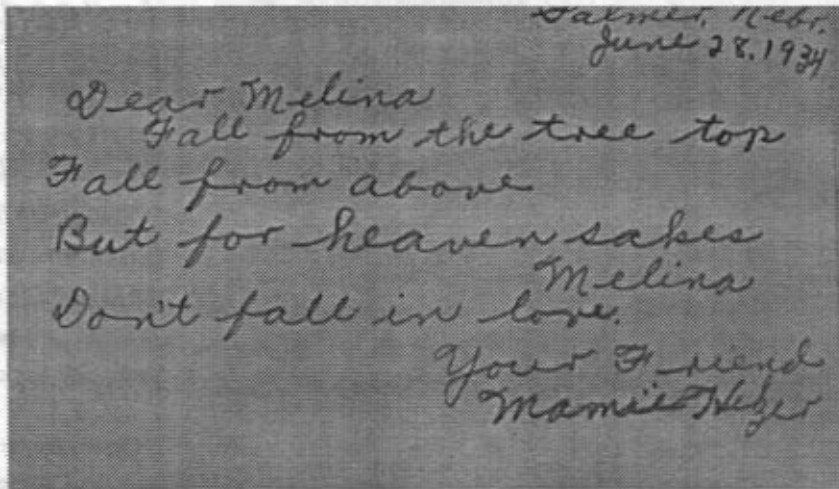
When word reached Omaha that young Donald had died on his way to school, Father Flanagan wrote a series of sympathy letters to the family. One of these letters is shown above. Eventually the Sidels would donate his clothing to Boys Town. "The whole school mourned over Donald's death," stated Sr. Ann Francis Sidel. "Our family wouldn't have been able to get through this tragic experience if it wasn't for the support of the Gage Valley community, our church, and Father Flanagan."



Photos above: Letter from Father Flanagan to Melina (Sr. Ann Francis) Sidel. Donald Sidel's ruler, leather ruler case, and report card he used at the Gage Valley district #19 school. Courtesy of Sr. Ann Francis Sidel.



Gage Valley  
District #19  
memories.



Photos above and right: Autographs from Melina (Sr. Ann Francis) Sidel's autograph book from fellow friends and sisters Mamie (Helzer) Leth and Frieda (Helmer) Oakeson. Courtesy of Sr. Ann Francis Sidel.

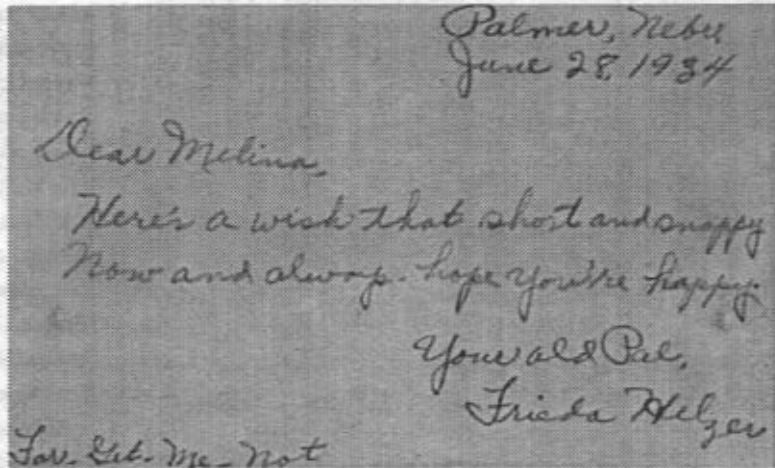


Photo below: Dress-up day at #19. Bessy Bahensky, Eileen Baker, Jean Prince, Leonard Bahensky, Robert Schmidt, Clarence Karner, James Newton, and Jonnie Jensen. Courtesy of Lyle and Vanice Bahensky.



Photo at left: Back row, Anna Karner, Melina Sidel, Margaret Schmidt, Xena Sidel. Front row, Bessy Bahensky, Mamie Helzer, Eileen Baker, and Jean Prince. Courtesy of Lyle and Vanice Bahensky.



Photo at far right: District #19 picnic, taken on the William Prochaska farm west of the slough around 1910. Back row: Florence Hettrick, Mabel Bahensky, Margaret Spilger, Aaron Taylor, Christine Moravec, Louella Wells, Byron Wells, Leonard Bahensky, Ralph Ferris, Fred Spilger and teacher Evan Walters. Middle row: Howard Walk, Sylvia Ross, Beulah Geersen, Julia Bahensky, Earnest Taylor, Ethel Paul, Cheryl Taylor, Marian Geersen, Lynn Ferris, George Spilger, Howard Wells, Lyle Nelson. Front row: Mabel Walters, Florence Newton, Bernice Walters, Fern (?), Delores Walters, Raymond Bahensky, and Dale Walters (?). Donated by Delores Walters Fisher from the George Spilgers.



Photo at left:  
Flag raising at the Gage  
Valley district #19 school  
Courtesy of Marion  
Bahensky

Photo at right:  
Program from the district  
#19 school courtesy of  
Marion Bahensky

Photo below:  
Dress-up day at school  
Jennie Jensen, Kena Sidel,  
Mamie Heber, Betsy  
Bahensky, Eileen Bader, and  
Jean Prince, courtesy of  
Vernice and Lyle Bahensky

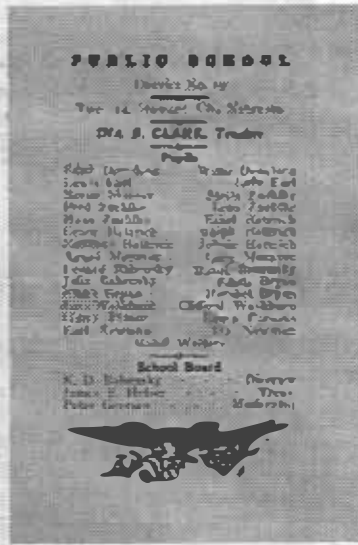


Photo below:  
Program poem given to  
students from former  
teacher Agnes (Fay)  
Hartford. Courtesy of  
Agnes Hartford family

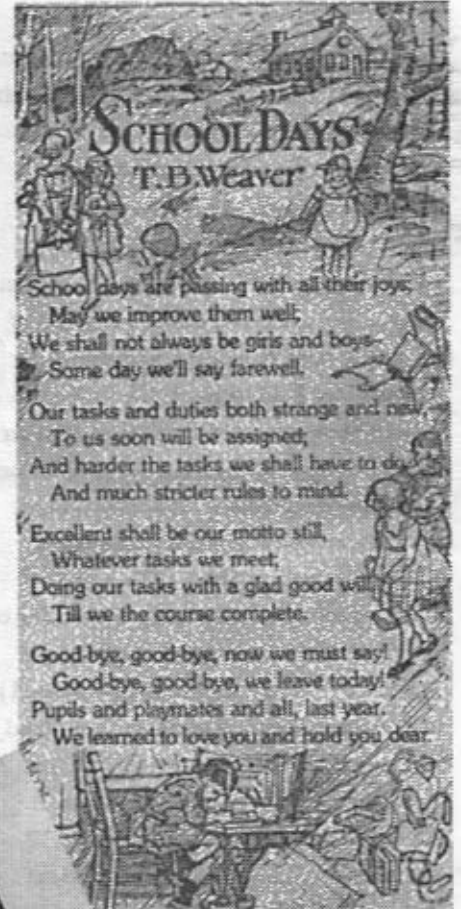
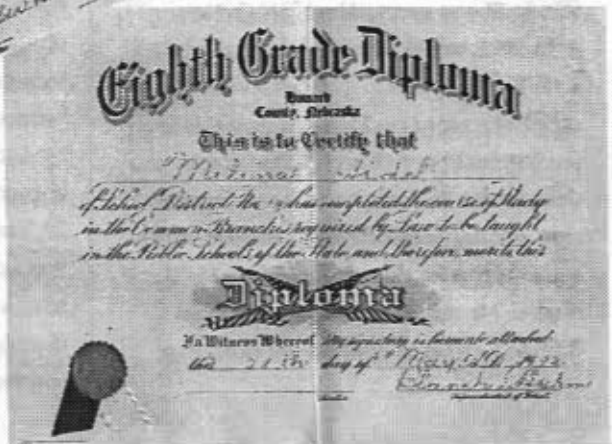


Photo above:  
A page from a "Perfect  
Attendance" book awarded to  
Pauline Sidel from teacher  
Esther Critch.  
Courtesy of Ron Sack.

Photo at right:  
"Eighth Grade Diploma"  
awarded to Melina  
Sidel. Courtesy of  
Sr. Ann Francis Sidel



## A place called Dannevirke.

By Heloise Bresley

Dannevirke was named after the ancient wall in Slesvig, Denmark that separated the Germans and the Danes. There are 113 places in the world named Dannevirke.

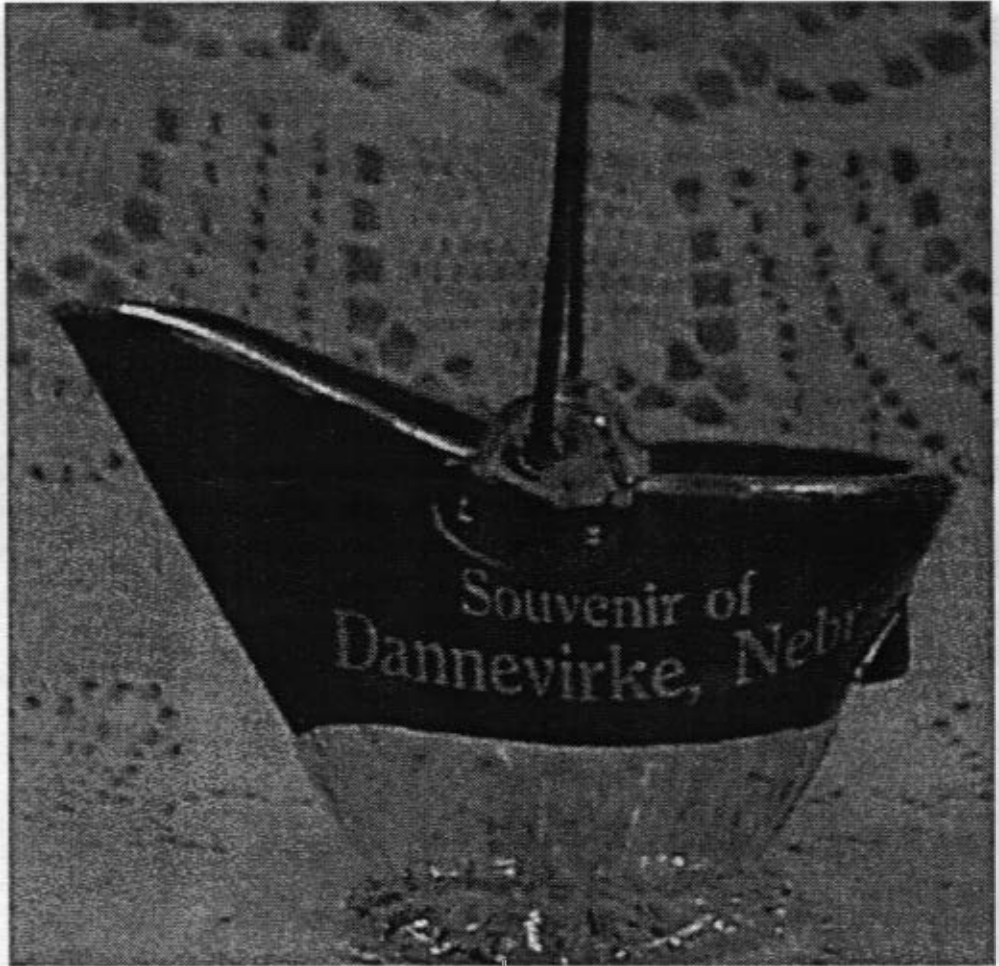
Settlers began coming into this area called Dannevirke, but there were no horses until 1878. Up until then, only oxen or cows were used. The first threshing of grain was in 1878. In 1880, a grain binder was used for the first time.

In 1879, to serve the increasing number of settlers, two school districts were formed in northwestern Howard County. District #29 was housed in a sod house built by Nicolai Lassen. For district #35, a sod school was built. This was the beginning of the organized settlement of Dannevirke.

The Dannevirke cemetery was started in 1879. Niels Ebbesen gave the plot of land where the cemetery is located. The first frame house was built that year as well. The Dannevirke settlement covered 32 square miles. 80 farms were located on railroad land. The Dannevirke Post Office was established on February 16, 1880. The first barbed wire came in 1882, when four neighbors fenced in 60 acres of pasture.

Elba was established in 1884 and became the trading point for the Dannevirke settlers. In 1888 the first windmill was erected by N. O. Nelsen.

In 1892, while plowing his ground with a walking plow, N. O. Nelsen spoke these prophetic words in Dane, "Upon this knoll we will build our church." This dream was delayed for 14 years because of depression, drought, and disunity. In 1898, wheat, a good crop for this area, sold for \$1.00 a bushel. Mr. and Mrs. Iars Christensen donated a tract of land on the northeast



corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 16N, Range 12W on which the Dannevirke Hall was built in May, 1901. On the day of dedication, June 5th - which is Denmark's Constitution Day - the Danish and American flags were flown. This was the beginning of the June 5th celebrations which are still held today. A large horse barn was built south of the hall.

October 1901 was the opening of the first store by Mr. Strickler. The ground was donated by A.W. Christensen, and was located just east of the hall. The store burned and a new store was built in 1923 by Andrew Christensen on the southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 16N, Range 12W. This store was across from the hall and across the road west of the church and is presently used for a garage and storage. On the southeast corner of the intersection

*Photo above: Rare souvenir of a ruby and crystal coal bucket reading "Dannevirke, Neb." This souvenir was probably purchased at the Strickler Store in Dannevirke in the early 1900s. Courtesy of Ron Sack.*

Andrew Christensen also built a house and converted the old store into a garage where he had a car dealership.

In January of 1904, the Dannevirke Post Office was closed with the people of the community being served by the Coatesfield and Elba post offices.

*Editor's note: Andrew Christensen is the uncle of Heloise Bresley. Bresley has done extensive research on Dannevirke and helped get the Church and Hall placed on the National Register this year. Look for the history of Dannevirke Church, provided by Bresley, in the next issue of "historically speaking." This will be the third part of the series on Dannevirke.*



# Nebraska Rural Development Commission honors depot plan.

By Ron W. Sack

Howard County's recent surge in preservation activities has caught the eye of the Nebraska Rural Development Commission. At a March meeting, the Commission named the Howard County Historical Society's depot plan as one of the state's "100 Initiatives For Rural Development" in 1998.

At the heart of the application was the focus on acquiring the Union Pacific depot for expansion of the Historical Village. Other noteworthy improvements mentioned were the Jean Potts exhibit, the restoration of the Cotesfield Post Office, and the introduction of a village walkway and street lamps. Programs, events, publicity and publications such as the newsletter and brochure also helped establish a strong track record for promoting St. Paul and Howard County to the state. The increase in attendance at Society-sponsored activities proved to a key factor as well.

PRESERVATION WEEK



NATIONAL TRUST  
IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
May 9-15, 1999

Community painting day at the depot:  
Saturday, May 15  
Please help preserve history.



Photo above: Father Hinzmann's band takes a little breather in Farwell, circa late 1920s. This is the type of information the Society is seeking for its church history research project.

## A tribute to Father Hinzmann of Farwell.

Written by Gertrude Lukaszewicz  
Supplied by Georgia Jensen

Father Joseph Hinzmann, pastor of St. Anthony's Parish at Farwell, had the patience of a saint to be able to create a band out of a group of thirty teenagers who had little knowledge of music.

The first band consisted of all boys, and then girls gained interest and decided to join. All were members of the Catholic Church in Farwell.

After a year or two of practicing (usually on Friday evenings) the group progressed enough to give concerts on Wednesday nights on main street in Farwell. They gave a good rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever" and other John Phillips Sousa selections.

They performed at county fairs, church activities, and in other communities such as Lexington, Greeley and Paplin. The highest honor was playing at the Cathedral in Grand Island. The band was given the opportunity of playing during the procession of Cardinal Hayes of New York and

over 80 priests and bishops as they entered the Cathedral.

The band consisted of:  
Trumpets - Frank Kalinowski, Isidore Kezior, Gertrude Pawloski, Jake Blaha; Trombones - John Mudloff, Harry Hastert, George Sevcik, Magdaline Mudloff, Lorena Borzycki; Bases - Henry Kalinowski,

Iongin Kezior, Dominic Pawloski; Drums - Valentine Strolecki; Piccolo - Bridget Pawloski; Baritones - Gilbert Dilla, Zigmund Kalinowski, Leonard Pawloski, Herbert Siegel; French horn - Charles Hastert, Dominik Dorczynski, Edward Kalinowski; Saxophones - George Lukaszewicz, Victor Jo Pawloski, Alex Krzyski, Emma Pawloski, Leoria Maschka; Clarinets - John Pawloski, Pete Mudloff, Alphonse Kezior, Robert Bara, Clemens Kezior, and Emil Sevcik.

Band caps were the only insignia which denoted we preformed in the band. The group performed together from 1925-36.

The band disbanded when Bridget Pawloski passed away, the Kalinowski family moved to Oconto, and several members got married and moved away.

Everyone respected and appreciated Father Hinzmann for his teachings.

Special thanks to the following who have supplied us with church histories and photographs:

- Sts Peter and Paul School: Mary Duffy
- Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Church: Georgia Jensen
- Summit U.B. Church: Veola Rasmussen
- Gage Valley Church: Vanice Bahensky
- St. Libory Catholic Church: Albert and Clara Schwenk
- Farwell Catholic Music Group: Georgia Jensen
- Dannevirke Lutheran: Heleise Bresley
- St. Paul Presbyterian: Marie Iwanski
- Bible: Carol Reimers

## Union Pacific depot donations and pledges (As of 4/30/99)

Citizens Bank  
 St. Paul Jaycees  
 Marion Bahensky  
 Brehm Healthmart  
 Ron W. Sack  
 St. Paul Equipment/Leon Stanczyk  
 Sowers Club  
 T.O. Haas  
 DeVry Family  
 St. Paul Bank  
 Jacobsen Funeral Home  
 Russell Klingensmith  
 Dorothy June Rubeck Collins  
 Barb and Dan McIntyre  
 Dr. Maurice and Maureen Mathews  
 Pat and Lowen Clausen  
 Marj Southard  
 Joyce Strong  
 Farwell Arms

Swinarski Pharmacy  
 St. Paul Abstract  
 Dan and Marlene Syas  
 Ron Bahensky  
 Liz and Terry King  
 Heritage Living Center  
 Dan Sevcik  
 First Federal Lincoln  
 Kathy Semerad  
 Elaine and Wayne Swadley  
 Betty and Gary Schwenk  
 Carl Christensen  
 Pizza Hut  
 Jean and Claire Pare  
 Office Bar  
 Bill Mannelein  
 Roderick Burkhardt  
 Nancy Forbes  
 Bob Forbes  
 Anna B. Smith  
 Gerald Larkowski  
 Ed Schmidt  
 John Weitzel

## Union Pacific depot memorials (As of 4/30/99)

Peg Zocholl  
 Pat Kelly  
 Evelyn Svoboda  
 Louise Shaughnessy  
 Violet Vardaman  
 Gertrude Bahensky  
 Willard and Dan Ross  
 Ernest Becker  
 Alvin Layher  
 Eva Bahensky  
 Kenneth Berggren  
 James C. Cook

**Grand total: \$33,000...  
 only \$57,000 to go!**

We also wish to thank all of those people who have volunteered time, talents and labor to begin the restoration process.

Photo copy or cut along dotted line and send in.

**Yes, I would like to contribute to the completion of the Howard County Historical Village by helping preserve the Union Pacific Depot.**

I want to help fund this much needed and final project which will house new exhibits, meeting space, and storage space. I wish to donate:

\$100     \$250     \$500     \$1,000     \$2,500     \$5,000     \$10,000     Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City                      State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

All donations over \$100 will be remembered on the Donor Board which will be prominently displayed in the restored depot. Donations of \$2,500 or more will receive special recognition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name you wished to have inscribed.

Your donation, made out to the Howard County Historical Society, is tax-deductible. (Be sure to indicate the "Depot Campaign" on your check memo area.)

Send in your tax-deductible donation to us at: P.O. Box 304, St. Paul, NE 68873

Questions? Contact the Historical Society at the address above or contact any of the other board members.

**Thank you!**

**IT'S YOUR MEMORY. IT'S OUR HISTORY. IT'S WORTH SAVING.**

*Historical Society  
researching  
the life of one of  
Monet's Students:  
Frank Vavra.*

By Ron W. Sack

Frank Joseph Vavra was born in St. Paul, Nebraska in 1898. He grew up and attended school in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his father was a cabinet maker for the coaches on the Union Pacific Railroad.

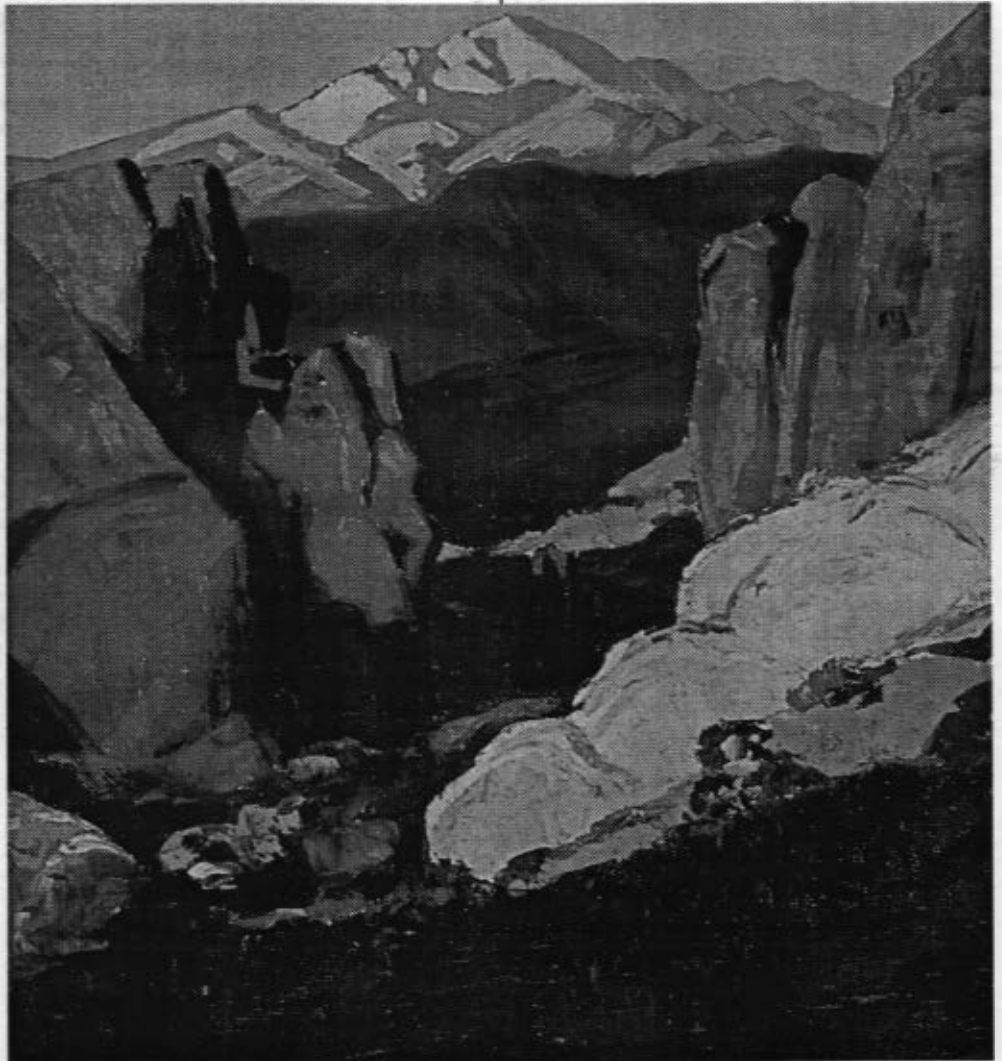
After fighting in World War I in France, Vavra studied with artists Pillan and Claude Monet. Under them, he developed his interest in light.

Returning from France, Vavra worked in Cheyenne as a window decorator. In 1923, he moved to Denver to seek a career in art. Vavra would open up his studio in Denver and specialize in painted landscapes, portraits, and still lifes.

Wishing to improve his skills, he enrolled in school with John Thompson, Robert Alexander Graham, and George William Eggers Eggers, formerly director of the Chicago Art Institute, taught in Denver from 1921-26, and served as director of the Denver Art Museum.

When the stock market crashed in 1929, Vavra moved his family to the town of Bailey, Colorado. He would live there until 1942.

Vavra's landscapes beautifully captured the grandeur and charm of the Colorado scene. Inspiration was found in the southern valleys of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, at Pike's Peak, in the Collegiate Range outside of Buena Vista, and in his own backyard in Bailey



looking toward the cliffs. It was his training in French Impressionism that persuaded him to show the moment in light.

His works are large enough to capture the greatness of Colorado. Vavra's paintings are strong as compositions and he was Denver's best modernist artist.

In 1942, Vavra moved to Denver and taught painting at the University of Denver. Murals Vavra created can be found in the Wyoming and Colorado State Capitols. Vavra died in 1967.

The Howard County Historical Society wishes to find out more on Vavra's roots in Howard County. If anyone has information about him, or his family, please contact me at P. O. Box 304, St. Paul, Nebraska 68873.

*Frank Joseph Vavra's painting entitled "Pike's Peak," date unknown, oil on board, owned by Professional Book Center.*

Most of the information we have on Vavra is from his experiences after he left St. Paul. We wish to understand his roots in Howard County.

After the success of the Jean Potts exhibit, there is strong interest in perhaps working on an exhibit for Vavra. If the interest is still there, and Vavra's ties to Howard County are strong, Vavra would make a very nice addition to the new Historical Village Main Museum.

## Historical Society to publish expanded version of County History.

By Marion Bahensky

The Howard County Historical Society is seeking to enlarge upon and update the history written by others over the past 100 years.

This hard cover book will be about 8.5 x 11 inches in size and probably 400 pages in length. It will feature family histories, as well as histories of county businesses, organizations, and clubs. Family histories with 500 words or less will be included in the book free of charge. There will be a charge for any family histories exceeding 500 words and a charge for pictures.

Please plan to send your histories in by August 1, 1999. Orders for the printed history must be accompanied by a deposit.

All of the county churches we are researching will be included, as well as the research stories we have completed on Gage Valley, St. Libory, Paplin, Dannevirke, Fairdale, Farwell, and Cushing. We are especially looking to include histories on businesses, clubs and churches, both past and present. If you feel it is important to remember one of these, be sure to get the history and photographs in to us.



HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 304  
ST. PAUL, NEBRASKA 68873

## historically speaking

### PUBLISHERS

Howard County Historical Society

Including the settlements of  
Bodie, Coatesfield, Cushing,  
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