

The Westby Border News

October 10, 2011

Volume 6

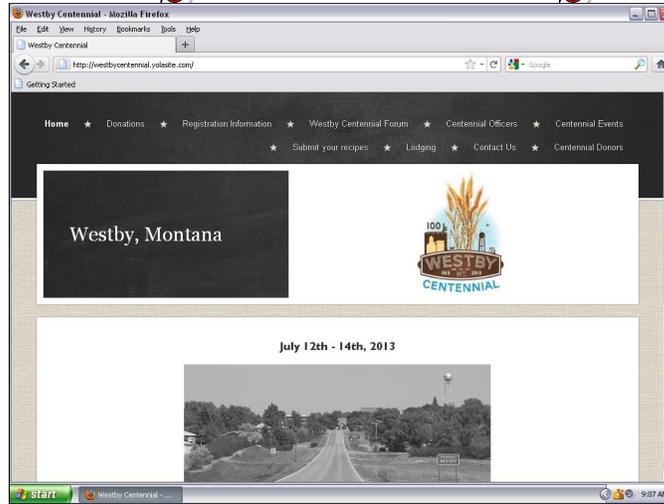
Issue 126

1.50/copy

<http://westbycentennial.yolasite.com>

It's official, 2013 Westby Centennial has a website page to keep everyone in the loop and up to the minute on the progress-schedules, registration, souvenirs and fund-raising. Recipes for the cookbook may be submitted here, as well. It will take a while to get the kinks worked out, so bear with us.

Besides being informative, the web site contains a registration form to be filled out by those attending. The Centennial committee has opted not to charge for the event, but registration is required to get a meal count. For those who prefer a registration form be mailed to them, please send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to 2013 Westby Centennial, P O Box 61, attn: registration, Westby, MT 59275.



Recipes may be submitted to this same address attn: cookbook.

The website address is listed above.

SUMMARIZED CENTENNIAL MEETING MINUTES:

The following is the summarized minutes of the last Centennial meeting:

The fifth meeting of the Westby Centennial organization was held on Monday, September 26 at the Westby Community Center. Co-chair Leann Westgard called the meeting to order with 4 officers, 15 committee members, and 2 community members. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved. A balance of \$23461.94 was noted.

(Continues next page)

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TUESDAY – TACO TUESDAY - \$1.00 Tacos

WEDNESDAY – Shrimp in a Basket w/ coleslaw & fries

THURSDAY – Pablo's Mexican Dinner– OR - Full Menu

FRIDAY – Chicken Fried Steak w/ fries, toast & salad

SATURDAY – Hamburger Steak w/ baked potato, toast & choice of salad

Chocolate & Vanilla Soft Serve

Chicken to go (potatoes included) 2 pc – Barrel 200 pc

Centennial Meeting Minutes (continued)

Gene Kavon reported the Centennial is now linked under the Westby Development Corporation as a non-profit organization as recommended by an accountant. Therefore, all gifts are tax deductible. Gene also stated a decision should be made as to what to do with any remaining funds after the centennial celebration is over. He recommended some thought be put into this so a decision can be made before the celebration.

Before the web site goes up, Val asked for a final clarification as to whether there would be a registration charge. Gene Kavon stated an anonymous donor has offered to donate the meat for the centennial celebration, and Al Ekness volunteered to cut the meat up. Robin Solberg made a motion there would no registration charge, Marlene Anderson seconded the motion, AIF Marlene Anderson reported the following fundraising profits were realized: Flamingos - \$1634.00, Prairie Fest Activities-cowpie - \$709.00, raffle - \$6500.00, silent auction - \$470.00, carnival - \$200.00, food - \$1200.00, Sheridan County Fair car parking - \$600.00, Westby Open Golf Tourney - \$500.00

Marlene inquired about interest in a Centennial cook book; she would be willing to take on the project. Robin Solberg thought it a good idea as cook books make great souvenirs of the celebration. Marlene requested a form for submitting recipes be placed on the website.

Marlene also reported she had acquired an old van Nate Olson and the Westby School art class would be painting next spring for advertising the 2013 centennial celebration. It was mentioned, a working van would be ideal as it could be used in parades, etc. for further advertising of the event.

Karla Christensen reported she had a meeting with Joylene Novota. Joylene suggested a local talent show and may incorporate a short fashion show between talent acts. She also reported making headway on booking music for the event.

(Continues page 12)



Come celebrate 100 years of life with

Irene "Rene" Stageberg

Thursday, October 13th

Westby Community Center

1:00-5:00 P.M.

Lunch and cake will be served.

No gifts please!!!

NELSON

J. Eva Nelson, 95, died Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, at Northern Montana Care Center of natural causes.

Her funeral service were held Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, at First Lutheran Church. Graveside services took place at Daneville Cemetery near Westby, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011.

Memorial contributions in Eva's honor may be made to Grace Chapel at Northern Montana Care Center in Havre, Mont., Immanuel Lutheran Church in Westby, Mont., the Daneville Cemetery Fund, First Lutheran Church in Havre, Mont., or Lutheran World Relief Services. Arrangements have been entrusted to Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.

Eva Jensen was born Nov. 23, 1915, at her home near Hardy, Neb. She grew up in rural Nebraska in a Danish Lutheran community and was educated in a one-room school. Both of her parents died when she was young, but she and her siblings stayed together and managed the family farm. As a young adult she worked at Emmanuel Hospital and at the telephone company in Omaha, Neb. She moved to Los Angeles, and met and married George H. Nelson in 1949. They made their home in northwestern North Dakota, near Westby, Mont., where they farmed and raised their four children. Though Eva and George only had an eighth-grade education, all of their children received college degrees.

Eva was a busy farm wife, working long hours cooking, baking, gardening, sewing and caring for her children, while George farmed and raised cattle. They were active members of Daneville Lutheran Church and later Immanuel Lutheran in Westby. Eva loved quilting for Lutheran World Relief and participating in ALCW/WELCA.

After George died in 1987 of cancer, Eva moved to Williston, N.D., where she lived until 2002. When her health began to decline, she moved to Havre, Mont., to be near her daughter, Elaine. She was a resident of Northern Montana Care Center for over nine years, enjoying the staff and daily activities.

Eva's Christian faith and her family brought her comfort and joy throughout her life. She will be missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; sister, Esther Miller; brothers, Albert and Alvin; and her parents, Soren and Bertina Jensen, who emigrated from Denmark in the early 1900s.

Eva is survived by her brother, Harvey (Mary) Jensen of Omaha, Neb. ; children, Dennis (Shirley) Nelson of Wheat Ridge, Colo., Carol (Keith Henry) Nelson of White Bear Lake, Minn., Janice (Terry) Bechtold of Billings, and Elaine (Brad) Ulgenes of Havre; and 12 grandchildren: Katie, Kimmie, and Matt Nelson; Dan, Nate and David Henry; Chris, Nick and Ryan Bechtold, and Joanna, Emily and Jacob Ulgenes.

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**DAILY
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SPECIALS**

Tuesday SMEAR
Friday BINGO (5:30)

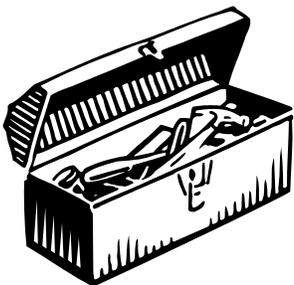
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**Danny Moore
Westby Manager**



We have enjoyed a beautiful month of weather. Those flowers that made it through the one and only frost we have experienced are still blooming like crazy. Tomatoes continue to ripen on the vine and leaves are just starting to turn. I document this so when the 200 inches of snow they are predicting starts to fall I can revisit, at least in my mind, the record breaking temps, the robins munching on my crabapples, and the monarch butterflies flitting from blossom to blossom. All of which I have witnessed this first week of October.

And speaking of October it's the month of "fests". We have several to look forward to right here and the granddaddy of them all, the Hostfest, held annually in Minot, ND, wrapped up last week. This celebration of Scandinavian heritage draws people from all over the world and with its long list of entertainment and Scandinavian delicacies served up, (I guess that is what they call lutefisk and lefsa) it isn't any wonder why people return year after year. It always makes me think of Mabel Sorenson, it was her favorite thing in the world and she planned for days and days for the venture and we received a blow by blow upon her return. If I remember right, she was there from the beginning and I don't know if she missed a year. Bless her heart she loved her Norwegian heritage and she could give any vendor there a run for their money with her *Sotte Suppe*.

And that leads me to our very own festival, the Immanuel WELCA Bazaar, scheduled for October 16th. Mabel was famous for her Sotte Suppe or Norwegian Sweet Soup which was a favorite auction item for years. Mavis has carried on the tradition so I suspect any who missed out in Minot will have a chance to buy a sampling. The bazaar is always fun with a great variety of crafts, food items, garden produce and seasonal items.

Following the auction, slushburgers and home-made pie will be served.

On October 29th the Lion's club will be holding their annual craft and bake sale. This annual fundraiser has carried on for years and is always well attended. Vendors come from miles to display their wares and Lion's members and willing community members have a wonderful array of baked goods to choose from. Lunch is served throughout the day.

Last, but certainly not least, a very unique 'festival' will be held on Thursday, October 13th, to commemorate a 100 years of life. Please join our community as we wish a very Happy 100th Birthday to Irene Stageberg. The celebration will take place at the community center and all are invited to share in this very special occasion.

Here is Mabel's recipe for sweet soup.

SOTTE SUPPE

Norwegian Sweet Soup

- 1 qt water
- 2 cups grape juice
- 1 lb prunes
- 2-3 cups chopped apples
- 1 pkg dried fruit
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup sugar or to taste
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 1 cup Minute Tapioca

Stir together in large pan all ingredients except tapioca. Bring to boil and reduce heat and simmer until tender. Add tapioca and cook over low heat, stirring often, until thick. Serve warm with cream or cold with whipped cream.

I made this recipe from *Cuisine at Home* and was quite happy with the results. It is easy, quick when you use tenderloin, and a complete meal when you serve it over mashed potatoes and rutabagas. Egg noodles would be another good option.



PORK AND MUSROOM STEW

1 Tbsp olive oil
1 Tbsp butter
1 ½ lb pork tenderloin, trimmed & cut in to 2-inch pieces, dried with paper towels, season w/ S&P
8 oz cremini or baby bella mushrooms, quartered
½ cup sliced leeks or shallots
½ cup diced carrot
2 Tbsp flour
¼ cup dry sherry or white wine
¾ cup apple cider or juice
¾ cup chicken broth
Salt & pepper to taste

Heat oil and butter in a sauté pan over medium-high. Add pork and sauté until brown on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Remove pork to a plate; set aside.

Sweat mushrooms, leeks, and carrot in same pan over medium heat until softened, 3–4 minutes. Stir in flour and cook 1 minute.

Deglaze the pan with sherry, scraping up any bits on bottom of pan, and reduce until evaporated. Stir in cider and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Add pork with residual juices and 1 Tbsp. thyme. Simmer stew until thickened, 5 minutes; season with salt and pepper.

Garnish each serving with diced apple and a sprig of thyme. 4 servings.

I made a trip to Williston to see a couple friends and their cute little babies this week and Carlee shared this recipe for sliders. I can't wait to try them. She said they were delicious. The buns get nice and crunchy-the sandwiches are great served with soup, salad or as an appetizer. They can be made ahead for a party and the kids will love the small little bundles for lunch.

HAM AND CHEESE SLIDERS

24 dinner rolls
24 pieces of good honey ham
24 small slices of Swiss cheese
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup miracle whip

Poppy Seed Sauce (you probably could half this... She had plenty left)

1 Tbsp poppy seeds
1 ½ tbsp yellow mustard
1 stick butter, melted
1 Tbsp minced onion
½ tsp Worcestershire sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together mayo and miracle whip. Spread onto both sides of the center of each roll. Place a slice of ham and cheese on one side of each roll. Close rolls and place them in to a large baking dish or heavy cookie sheet. Place them very close together.

In a medium bowl, whisk together all of the poppy seed sauce ingredients, Pour evenly over all of the sandwiches. Let sit 10 minutes or until butter sets slightly. Cover with foil and bake 12-15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Uncover and cook for 2 additional minutes. Serve warm.

NOTE: sandwiches can be assembled a day ahead and kept in the fridge until ready to bake.

Enjoy
For
Life is Good!



Network Upgrade/Nemont Billings Area Cell Sites Activated

Scobey, MT October 3, 2011:

Nemont is undergoing a full wireless network upgrade in an effort to provide the best possible wireless experience for its customers. This upgrade will improve coverage in some areas and will also allow Nemont to offer new products and services, including high speed mobile data. The network upgrade is expected to be completed in early 2012.

In conjunction with the upgrade, Nemont has activated cell sites in the Billings, MT area. These sites will allow Nemont wireless subscribers to enjoy home network coverage while visiting the Billings area.

Mobile data and features such as mobile-to-mobile calling and free nights and weekends are available on these sites. The handset roaming indicator will let customers know if they are roaming or using the home network.

As with all Nemont cell sites, other carriers can choose whether or not to allow their customers to access these new sites. If you are not a Nemont wireless subscriber, you can contact your carrier to find out if you can use Nemont sites.



IMMANUEL WELCA

FALL BAZAAR

Sunday, October 16th

2:30 PM–Westby School Cafeteria

Auction with dinner to follow

Grab Bags for the kids

LYO Candy Sale

SLUSHBURGERS, SALAD, PIE,

COFFEE & LEMONADE

EVERYONE WELCOME





Long Distance Call Completion – A Growing Nationwide Problem

Please take a few minutes to read this notice as you may be experiencing this issue and were unaware of the cause or what you could do to help!

In recent months, Nemont and other rural telephone companies across the United States have experienced increasing problems with the completion of long distance calls. In addition to calls simply not completing, the quality of some of the calls, when they do complete, is very poor. For example, your phone may not ring yet you will later see a missed call on your Caller ID. Or, you will hear the phone ring and try to pick up the call but cannot hear the caller's voice. Another scenario being reported is poor voice quality, such as static or echoes, which make it difficult to carry on a conversation. Nemont has also received more and more reports of troubles with sending or receiving faxes.

What is going on? Because of the reliability of the telephone network for years and years, we take it for granted that when someone in another city or state tries to call you or your business, the call will complete, your phone will ring and you will be able to carry on a conversation without any issues or poor call quality. The problems experienced by Nemont and other local telephone providers are frustrating and costly to both you as our customer and to us as a business. These calling problems are not caused by Nemont, and cannot be "fixed" by Nemont. The problem calls, which move from one telephone network to a second network and perhaps a third or fourth network along the way, are not even reaching the Nemont network.

Nemont has actively participated in information gathering sessions with other local telephone companies as well as with national telephone associations. These issues have been presented to the Federal Communications Commission, urging them to investigate and find the cause of the long distance call completion issues. This is a growing epidemic and is causing great concern in the telephone industry.

If someone is attempting to call you, and experiences any issues with call completion or poor call quality, Nemont encourages you to gather as many details about the call as possible and call us to report these details. This information is very useful as we actively seek a solution to the call completion issues. If possible, we ask that you gather the following information for each problem call:

- The time the call was placed
- The phone number from which the call was originated
- The name of the caller's long distance or wireless provider
- Details about what happened (my phone did not ring, I picked up the phone to answer a call and there was dead air, the caller could hear me but I could not hear the caller, etc.)

Please call 783-2210 or 1-888-542-0917 for the Trouble Department. The Trouble Department will log your call as well as the details related to the call completion issue. Thank you for your patience as Nemont and other rural telephone providers work together to resolve the call completion problem.

September 2011 Customer Notification

61 Highway 13 South / PO Box 600 / Scobey, Montana 59263-0600 / (406) 783-2200 / 1 (800) 636-6680
Fax (406) 783-5283 / Email: nemont@nemont.coop

WESTBY WELCOMES



Pictured: Kim Rust, Becky Petersen Seeking, Karla Christensen holding one of Becky's twin sons, Renetta Westgard holding Logan Cartwright, and Logan's mother, Holly. Becky and Holly and their families are new members to the community.

Close to 70 community members, new, not-so-new, and been-here-forever, attended a "meet and greet" at the Westby school cafeteria on Sunday, September 25th. The event, sponsored by the Westby Development Corporation and Lion's Club, was organized to welcome new community members to the area and provide information on available services and organizations.

Superintendent Tony Holecek gave a presentation on the school and offered tours of the facility to all who were interested. The event was well received and enjoyed by all.



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WESTBY LION'S CLUB

ANNUAL CRAFT & BAKE SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th, 2011

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WESTBY COMMUNITY CENTER

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

To reserve a table call Kim Rust

701-834-2227 or at AL's Meat 385-2349



Anyone wishing to share pictures, stories, or pieces of the puzzle may contact the Border News. Cathy Nordhagen, our correspondent for the history portion of this Column, may be reached at: firecrackermango@gmail.com or 385-2364.

A note from the Editor:

In the last edition of The Westby Border News we published a portion of the History of Westby, Montana as originally written in "Sheridan's Daybreak" published in 1970. Here is part II in a three part series of the history of Westby.

History of Westby, Montana

(continued)

Lumber was shipped in and soon two lumber yards were in business. Quote from the May 1, 1914 edition of the Westby News (Price: \$1.50 per year in advance) tells of the moving of Westby to the new townsite in Montana. Says the Westby News: "The Knutson Opera House was the first building to be constructed in the new townsite. It is quite a sight to see the men and teams grading, excavating and getting the ground ready for the many business houses and residences."

Honstain Brothers built the first Farmers Elevator in Westby at a cost of \$6,740 with a capacity of 30,000 bushels. The school building was also erected during the summer of 1914. There were about

30 students in attendance, most of them being very cold during the winter in the unfinished building. The pot bellied stove was somewhat comfortable; but the teacher, Miss Effinger, would often have to suggest an exercise period to warm up.

Westby was booming and many businesses sprang up in the town. Looking down the street, some of those to be seen were Farmers Grain and Trading Co., Tri-State Land, Farmers State Bank, Hinshaw and Roycraft Barber Shop, Onstad, Ditmarson & Jensen Independent Oil Co., Planter's Hotel (Andy Wall, Prop.), Peter Miller's feed mill (the first in the new town -- Peter also shipped out the first car load of grain", John Borg's Hardware, Bentley Law Offices, Simmon's Westby News, Christine Kambestad's Millinery, Berger Larsen's General Merchandise, Otto Enger Shoe Store and Repair, Grina Brothers Clothing, Slocum-Simpkins Saloon, Kelly-Gordon Saloon -

(Continues next page)



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The History of Westby, Montana

Nelson-Sannerud Merchandise, Jens Hammong Dray Line, Lee's Dray Line (first in Westby), Green's Arcade Hotel, Attorney-at-Law Severeid, C.G. Johnson Home Bakery, C.N. Rostad Drug Store, Barry and Flaskerud Drug Store, First State Bank, Mortenson Cafe, J.P. Johnson and A.T. Olesen Livery Barns, Henry Hudson, Blacksmith, Schloesser Confectionary and Billiards, Minot Cafe (H. Timbrel, Prop.), Bowling Alley, Drae Photo Shop, J.P. Johnson Cream Station, Kulaas Lumber, and Monarch Lumber (E.E. Morrison, Mgr.). The first two churches built in Westby were the Catholic and the Lutheran (prior to this, services were held in the homes with ministers coming from nearby towns). The first butchers in town were Fred Anhalt and Archie Johnson; first milkman was Ted Nielsen; first depot agent was John Schmidt; and the first doctor was Dr. Norris.

The blacksmiths were busy early and late shoeing horses, sharpening plowshares, repairing wagon wheels and doing general metal repairs. When large buildings like the Nelson-Sannerud store were moved from North Dakota to the present location, a large steam engine pulled the building over a series of round poles used as rollers. These rollers were manned by a dozen strong men who kept carrying the rollers to the fore as the building passed over them.

Westby soon had good streets, too, for the soil was sandy and there was an abundance of gravel in the area. Hitching posts were installed on the side streets, so folks coming to town in wagons and buggies could tie their horses. Westby, being a border town, with North Dakota to the east and Canada to the north, found the residents of these-

three areas doing much visiting and neighboring. Some of the early pioneers to settle in Westby were from these bordering regions.

In its infancy, Westby produced some rousing Fourth of July celebrations. Farmers and their families could not travel far in the horse and buggy days, so they came to celebrate in their own town. Traveling carnivals set up tents and small booths where the wonders of the world could be seen... and also shirts lost on the games of chance. Not to be forgotten were the Chautauqua's and their musical entertainment and plays. Setting up huge tents, they could entertain large crowds. Baseball games attracted much attention, too. Westby's team was one of the best in the area with pitcher Hans Larson and catcher Hub Wirtzberger, as well as many other very good players outdoing themselves on the field to put on a good show.

Signs were posted on the edge of town stating the speed limit -- 10 miles per hour. Before going for a drive at night in the first Model T Fords (A.T. Olesen is rumored to have owned the first one in Westby), the driver would first light the kerosene burning tail lights, and then the Prestolite (carbide gas) head lamps with matches.

Looking at the Westby News again, 1916 edition, we find that Walter Olesen was to build a new garage. The building was to be 50' by 100' and was to be constructed of solid cement. The contract was awarded to one of the finest masons in the area -- John Christofferson -- who was greatly in demand for this type of work.

(Continues next page)

FOR RENT

Westby Manor, Inc. has one-bedroom apartments for rent in Westby. Very nice, utilities paid and free laundry. Eligible tenants will not pay more than 30% of their adjusted income. The Westby Manor, Inc. will be temporarily renting apartments to all persons without regard to income restrictions. The Westby Manor Inc utilizes Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-253-4091 (TTY)/1-866-253-4090 (Voice)

"This institution is a Equal Opportunity Provider, and Employer."

Call Brenda at 385. 2577

Centennial Meeting Minutes (continued)

Karla also suggested an outdoor movie with a big screen. Robin Solberg stated she, Jennifer Pulvermacher, and Gayle Overgaard would be working on a power point presentation of old photos from the decades. Showing a movie of the Diamond Jubilee program was also suggested.

Nate Olson reported the Westby Gun Club would be willing to have a trap shoot and some activities for kids and adults during the celebration.

Val Moore reported for Sue Meyer, chair of the athletic events, some of the ideas were a fun walk/run and golf tourney. Nate Olson suggested a tennis ball golf activity. Nate stated Reserve did this with great success. Val will suggest to Sue to check into how Reserve ran the tennis ball golf event for their celebration.

Mavis Weiler reported Maggie Johnson will help with the parade list. Maggie has a list she uses for the Sheridan County Fair. A suggestion was made to hold the child parade on Friday afternoon and the other parade on Saturday morning.

Val also contacted several people about heading a Fortuna Air Base memorial project with little success. She will keep trying.

A tentative schedule was discussed to be placed on the website.

Friday

- Registration
- Children Parade
- BBQ burgers
- Kids Outdoor Movie
- Dance

Saturday

- Athletic Events
- Parade
- Gun Club
- BBQ
- Talent Show
- Dance

Sunday

- Church Service
- Continental Breakfast

The History of Westby, Montana (continued)

A look at prices during 1916 revealed the following: Nelson-Sannerud advertising suits for sale for \$15.00. No more or less!! The grain market quotation told this story:

- Wheat.....\$1.35
- Oats.....\$.40
- Flax.....\$1.84
- Rye.....\$.97
- Durum.....\$1.28
- Barley.....\$.55

Olesen and Anderson were advertising the Maxwell car for \$595, while Westby Hardware and Implement offered the Ford Car for \$345.

World War I touched the Westby community with many a husband, son and brother serving duty to protect this great country of ours.

WEE BEE QUILTERS BUSY

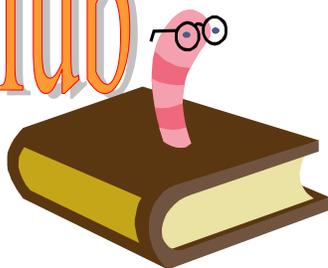


This beautiful quilt was made and donated by the Wee Bee Quilters for the Immanuel Fall Bazaar. The quilt will be auctioned at the annual event to be held on Sunday, October 16th, beginning at 2:30. Due to the flooding of the church basement, this years bazaar will be held in the Westby School cafeteria.

Holding the quilt are Donna Evans and Bonnie Matzke.

Book Club

By Arlene Hove



September 2011

Giants In The Earth

Author: O.E. Rolvaag

Hostess: Connie Meyer

We hope that you had a great summer of reading and enjoying our beautiful summer months. Our summer reading consisted of the beautifully and lyrically written classic, Giants In The Earth. Written in the Norwegian language and translated to English in 1927, this is the story of Norwegian immigrants who settled on the vast prairie of the Dakota Territory in the 1870's, lured by the Homesteading Act of 1862. Although a work of historical fiction the author undoubtedly drew from his own experience as a Norwegian immigrant, having arrived in the states in 1896.

This sweeping saga begins with a small group of Norwegians who traveled together from the same small fishing hamlet in Norway and formed their settlement in what would later become South Dakota. Through Rolvaag's descriptive prose, we experience the hardships, trials and tribulations of these early settlers. Per Hansa, his wife Beret and their three children, Ole, Store-Hans and And-Ogden are the central characters. Per Hansa, with an enterprising spirit bursting with energy and enthusiasm for the land is a thinker and a doer who refuses to let the elements get the best of him. Beret, on the other hand, symbolizes those who see a relentless uphill fight to try to make something out of seemingly nothing. She longs for her beloved Norway and her family there as she struggles with the isolation and interminable loneliness on the Dakota prairie.

Other core characters include neighbors, Hans Olsa and his able and gentle wife Sorrine; the ebullient and sometimes crafty Syvert Tonseten and his wife Kjersti; and the Solum brothers. The author's rich development of these characters is a main strength of the book.

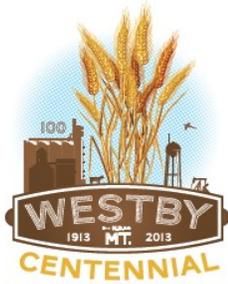
We also learn of an encounter with Indians, five years of locust plagues, the encounter with the Irishmen who returned to claim their previously staked land, and the struggles to break the land and build sod houses and make them winter-worthy. The men had to travel great distances to the river for firewood and other places for supplies, all the while leaving their wives and children behind to face whatever dangers lurked on the open prairie.

Although the overall tone of the novel is one of sadness and bittersweet moroseness we came away with a sincere appreciation for what our grandparents, great-grandparents and forefathers faced and accomplished in order to tame this unsettled land. We now have a re-awakened sense of awe and admiration for these brave settlers. The farm we live on was settled by my husband's Norwegian grandparents in 1912. If only they were around to shed some more light on what homesteading life was like nearly 100 years ago, or if *only* we had listened when our grandparents tried to tell us!

We all really liked this novel, although we couldn't quite agree on why things happened the way they did in the final pages. Do read this fine classic.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Val,
Enclosed is my WDC membership and a \$100.00 contribution to the 2013 Westby Centennial event. Greetings and thanking everyone involved. The news in the paper is always very well done. My sister, Myrtle La Fond, of Box 1043, Elkhart Kansas, 67950, had cancer surgery in September. She is home from the hospital and is doing well. Best of Wishes!
Dorothy Andersen Mundt
111 2nd ST S Box 210
Shelby, MT 59474



Westby Border News
P.O. Box 36
Westby, MT 59275

Westby Border News Contact Information

Editor:

Val Moore
P.O. Box 36
Westby, MT 59275
E-mail: dvmoores@nemontel.net

Publisher:

Tracy Johanson
P.O. Box 124
Westby, MT 59275
E-mail: loopy_fruits@hotmail.com

Submission Deadline:

6 P.M. FRIDAY before
Publication

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Subscriptions are \$30.00/year.
Mail your check made payable to:

Westby Development Corporation
% Val Moore or Tracy Johanson
Westby, MT 59275

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