

News from Home

Tri-County Tourism Alliance Newsletter – June 2022



Talking Trail History – Plan your visit soon.

www.talkingtrail.com/tricountyalliance

From Hazelton – LOCAL POSTMISTRESS SHOT AND KILLED ON MAINSTREET

In 1884, at the age of 30, Perras Elise married her husband, Cyrille. Shortly after their marriage in Canada, Elise and Cyrille moved to Duluth, Minnesota, and later to Minneapolis. Cyrille worked at a meat packing plant, while Elise was a milliner, who started earning the reputation of making fine women's hats. They had three children together: Anita, Leopold, and Olga. In 1900, at the age of 42, Cyrille had a tragic accident at the meat packing plant and fell down the elevator shaft to his death. After Cyrille's death, Elise decided to move closer to family along with her three children. She joined her brother Avila in Emmons County. A few years later in 1903, she purchased these lots where the Museum sits today. While modest by today's standards, you can imagine just how proud Elise must have been to have this home for her and her three children. In June 1903, she applied to become Hazelton's first postmaster, and one of the first (if not the first) postmistress of North Dakota. In addition to serving the community as postmistress, she continued the hat-making business for the fashionable women of the area. Inside the museum you can view a hat that she made. She served the community as postmistress until 1905.

By 1918, with World War I well underway, the government had imposed food rationing across the United States. These were stressful times of war and the flu epidemic. On June 7th, 1918, a group of drunken men appeared on the doorstep of Elise's home. They demanded to see Wallace Daugherty, Elise's son-in-law, who they alleged was hoarding a supply of wheat. Wallace either was not home, or Elise was not about to hand him over to the men, whose tempers were inflamed and fueled by alcohol. An argument ensued, and one of the men shot and killed Elise, who became another victim of World War I in her own way.

Inside what is now the Elise Perras Museum, you can imagine her life—that of a hardworking, entrepreneurial single mother and widow, who, like so many women during the frontier days on the Northern Plains, met every challenge presented to her in life with courage and bravery.

From Ashley – SWIMMING UNDER THE FIRE HALL

Welcome to the historic Ashley fire hall which was restored by a grant from the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and houses impressive artifacts on the ground floor; upstairs is a meeting room, once the venue for dances and other public events. The city passed a bond issue and built the fire hall in 1912. Below it was a 75,000-gallon reservoir filled with water; a stationary engine was emplaced above the reservoir; and 4000 feet of hose carried forth by the fire wagon could reach any point in town. How was the water to be deployed? A steam engine and pump were installed in the fire hall to pump into hoses run out to the scene of a fire--literally, run out by athletic young men pulling hose wagons into place and trailing lines of hose.

This general arrangement of a cistern dug beneath the fire hall, hoses unwound from it (perhaps for the better part of a mile) to any point in town, and organized companies of volunteer firemen bringing them into play seems to have prevailed in towns across the prairies. Historic newspapers from the 1890s record that there was a cistern under the fire hall in Devils Lake and both Bottineau and Pembina had reservoirs beneath their fire halls.

It is said that the Ashley volunteer firemen were initiated by having them climb down into the reservoir and swim its length. The Ashley fire hall reservoir was utilized for firefighting until the 1940s, when city water lines were installed. After that, it was a storm shelter and based on the canned goods still stored there--a fallout shelter.

#prayforukraine



Dine-In or Cook at Home

Whether you want to cook at home or dine-out, we have you covered. Order one or both of our popular cook books, **Guttes Essen** and **Ewiger Saatz** by visiting the Tri-County Alliance website. (www.germanrussiancountry.org)

You can also visit local businesses including the Western Shop in Wishek and Mabel's Bakery in Napoleon to purchase copies. While it may be too early to think about holiday gift-giving, as our inventory shrinks, the cost of paper, printing and shipping rise and most likely require a price increase on the next printing.

When you are visiting or just wanting a day-trip in the area, make a point to include these restaurants serving German-Russian dishes on your itinerary.

- German specials on Wednesdays and knoephla soup on Friday's at Phat Shack in Linton
- Knoephla soup, fried knoephla, potatoes and sauerkraut with sausage or fish on Fridays at The Grill in Linton.
- German specials every Thursday at Hague Diner in Hague
- Every Thursday – German night at the Wild Rose, Ashley
- Every Friday noon – knoephla soup and cheese buttons at the White Maid, Napoleon
- Sundays at noon – German specials at R Place on Beaver Bay west of Linton



Mark Your Calendar

- **June 10** – Emmons County Dairy & Ag Day, Linton
- **June 11-12** – Kick-off to Summer, Wishek
- **June 17-18** – Sizzling Summer Days, Ashley
- **June 18** – Hazelton Community Days
- **June 24** – Daytrip to German-Russian Country organized by the GRHC
- **June 25-26** – Beaver Valley Horse Club Rodeo, Strasburg
- **July 13-16** – Germans from Russia Heritage Society 51st Convention, Best Western Ramkota, Aberdeen, SD
- **July 14-17** – Tri-County Fair, Wishek
- **July 16** – Accordion Jam, Vendors and Sue Balcom at Welk Homestead
(interested vendors should contact Brian Grove at 701-325-0354)
- **July 27-30** – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Convention, Lincoln, ND
- **August 6** – Gackle Orioles, 1971/72/73 Classes Reunion, Gackle Firehall
- **August 6** - Napoleon Alumni Community Day
- **August 6-7** – Ashley Rodeo Club Rodeo, Ashley
- **August 13** – Beaver Valley Horse Club Ranch Rodeo, Strasburg
- **September 9-11** – 48th Annual South Central Threshing Bee, Braddock

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