

Wheels Across the Prairie Museum  
PO Box 1091 • 1325 Craig Avenue  
Tracy Minnesota 56175  
www.wheelsacrosstheprairie.org

# Membership

It's what helps us 'keep rolling'

Dear Wheels Across the Prairie Museum  
Members and Friends...

The Wheels Across the Prairie Museum appreciates your support of the educational services, exhibits, and programs provided by the museum. Many exciting things continue to happen at the Wheels Museum and we want you to be a part of them. We look forward to your continued interest and support in the coming year.

At this time, we ask that you sustain your membership, or join if you are not already a member. The categories are listed below. Please mail your membership coupon to:

WHEELS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE MUSEUM  
PO BOX 1091 • TRACY, MN 56175

Thank you for your membership and believing in preserving our past for future generations.

Sincerely, Wheels Across the Prairie Board Members

## Wheels Across the Prairie

### 2017 Membership

PO Box 1091 • Tracy, MN 56175

*Benefits include free admittance to the museum & two newsletters per year.*

*The Wheels newsletter is also posted on our website.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

*(Due annually on May 1)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual – \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Couple – \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Family – \$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Business – \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Other – \$\_\_\_\_\_



Wheels Across the Prairie Museum

# The Waggin Wheel

P.O. Box 1091 • 1325 Craig Avenue • Tracy, MN 56175 • (507) 626-1949 or (507) 829-5145

Spring 2017      www.wheelsacrosstheprairie.org • info@wheelsacrosstheprairie.org

Open Weekends in May 1-5 p.m.; June 1st – Sept. 30 7 days a week 1-5 p.m.; Oct. & Nov.: Weekends only, 1-5 p.m. Weather permitting.

Board Members:  
Jon Wendorff – President  
Jane Muedeking – Vice President  
Priscilla Muske – Secretary  
Billie Jo Lau – Treasurer

Find us on Facebook

# 32 years and rolling...

From humble beginnings in a rail car to the donation of our present site. We have come a long way! Our village is growing and changing. We are excited for the coming season! We will be ready once again for visitors from near and far.

Our newest building is going to be the home to Tracy High School exhibits, the massive Tornado that ripped through our beloved city in 1968, Garvin, MN exhibit, the Wichmann threshing machine, the dental offices of local dentists in our past such as Dr. James. Other exhibits include the business of Johnston Travel Agency, Tracy medical exhibit, and farm tools donated by Norm DeBlieck. *Thank you, Norm!*

Our second floor will be used for staging exhibits for future displays, work room for research projects – a much welcomed space, and storage.



The newest building at Wheels Across the Prairie will hold new exhibits.

Our Mission at Wheels Across the Prairie Museum: To collect, catalog, preserve, display, and interpret relevant historical artifacts, and to provide information to visitors.



The one-room school house is up for repairs.

### 1891 School House

Our 1891 one room school house is slated for repairs this spring. It is in dire need of shingles, windows, siding and a new front door. These are some pretty expensive repairs that NEED to be done as soon as possible. If you would like to assist with these repairs, kindly send your donations to: Wheels Across the Prairie Museum, PO Box 1091, Tracy, MN 56175.

## WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

***Have You Ever Considered Spending Some Time At A Museum? Just A Few Hours A Week?***

We are looking for people interested in spending 1 - 4 hours a week showing our guests our wonderful little growing museum! Maybe that is more time than you feel you have? Well no problem! An hour here and there is always welcome too! If you are not a "people" person, we can always use some help with cleaning or maintenance like weeding gardens, dusting webs, washing windows, or display cases. No job too small is ever turned away!

Our volunteer help is way down for the coming season. So we are hoping you can find it in your heart to come on out and HELP the very few we have to make Wheels Across the Prairie the best Museum in SW MN! This was the goal of the founders!

***COME ON OUT AND HELP THAT GOAL COME TRUE!***





### Octagon Granary

Our octagon sided granary will be placed on its new home next to the Blacksmith shop, when spring allows.

### Family History Room

We are always looking for family histories to feature in our family history room. If you would like to see your family's history on display at the Wheels, feel free to get in contact with one of our cherished volunteers! You may want to loan or donate items for this display if you are so inclined.

### Plan a day trip

All of the local historical societies and museums are working together to bring events and visitors to all Area Historical Sites and Museums, plan your day trip today! Make sure to include Wheels Across the Prairie in your trip!

### Now on Facebook

We are on FACEBOOK! Here is our link: [facebook.com/wheelsacrosstheprairiemuseum/](https://facebook.com/wheelsacrosstheprairiemuseum/) We are also the administrators for the groups “If you grew up in Garvin, MN then you remember”, “If you grew up in Tracy, MN then you remember”. It is a great way to catch up on friends near and far as well as read some very interesting stories of yesteryear. Join us, won't you?

A reminder: When cleaning out your garage or home extra tools are welcome at the museum.

### Opening for the season

We will open the season May 6th, 2017 with our military

display of “World War 1 – 100 years ago”. There are several displays of past vets in this exhibit. Come and see if you recall any of them! Do you have a VET or Military person in your family? We would love to share their stories and pictures in our display!

### Rotating exhibits

As ever, we are changing things around. If it has been some time since your last visit, you will notice some displays have gone into storage and new displays have replaced them. Never fear, those items are well taken care of for future viewing. One exhibit in particular will be getting a nice make over and expansion thanks to Marcy Schramm. She is a Laura Ingalls Wilder fanatic! Her donations have always been a favorite for many a guest. This season they are in for a real treat! *Thank you, Marcy!*

### Volunteers

Where would we be without them? Many organizations use volunteers daily. Volunteering is wonderful way to help where there is need. It gives you opportunity to give back to a wonderful organization or the community in which you live. We are looking to expand our volunteer pool. If you are a self-motivated and caring person, this is a great way to meet others with like interests, as well as a gift for gab, cleaning, or giving a tour, or simply helping where need be, we WANT YOU!

The many opportunities will be available this spring. We will need some assistance with moving several artifacts to their new home. The yard will need to be spruced up, as mother nature left behind a grand abundance of twigs and branches.

Think About It... Thought about it? Great! Now call or stop in and let's get you started!

## In Memory of...

### PHYLLIS M. RADKE

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to past employee, Phyllis M. Radke. She passed away January 30, 2017. She was a smiling face that warmed the hearts of all those who knew her. She loved working at the museum in 2015. Due to illness, she did not work in 2016. She was never far from our thoughts and prayers. Phyllis, WE MISS YOU! God Bless her family and friends!



### Contact Information

The Wheels has changed its number. We no longer have a phone at the museum. To cut down on expenses, we have decided to take calls on our personal cell phones. You can call President - Jon Wendorff at (507) 626-1949 or Treasurer-Billie Jo Lau (507) 829-5145 if you have any questions. You may also email the museum. [info@wheelsacrosstheprairie.org](mailto:info@wheelsacrosstheprairie.org)

### New business hours

Opening Saturday May 6th, 2017 10:00 – 5:00 Weekends 10:00 – 5:00 ONLY in May, September, and October (weather permitting) June, July and August open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please join us for our  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Sunday, May 21, 2017 • 6:00 p.m.

**Featuring a surprise guest speaker!**  
**Serving BBQs chips, desserts and a beverage.**  
Come early to see the “teacups and saucers” on display from years gone by as well as the new look and feel we have put in place this year! We hope to see you all there!

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

1:00 – 5:00 Weekends 10:00 – 5:00 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

*Special thanks to Jim Babcock for sponsoring this newsletter! We appreciate your donation!*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jon Wendorff - President**  
**Jane Mudeking – Vice President**  
**Priscilla Muske - Secretary**  
**Billie Jo Lau – Treasurer**

## CRACKLING BISCUITS

*It comes from one of our cookbooks dated back to the early 1900s.*

2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted (for lightest biscuits, sift, then measure)  
1 tsp. sugar  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup chopped cracklings or crisp bacon, crumbled  
3 tbsp. melted crackling or bacon drippings, strained  
2 large eggs  
1/3 cup buttermilk or light cream  
1 1/2 tsp. caraway seeds

Combine dry ingredients and sift together. Add drippings and cracklings. Beat eggs well. Add buttermilk or cream to eggs; stir in flour using a wooden spoon or spatula. Do not overmix; stir only a few times or the biscuits will be tough. Pat dough out on a lightly floured work surface or silpat to a thickness of about 3/4-inch. Cut into 3 inch rounds with a biscuit cutter. Arrange on a greased or parchment-lined baking sheet and brush with cream. Sprinkle tops evenly with caraway seeds. Bake in a preheated 450°F oven for 9-15 minutes (depends on size and thickness of biscuits). They should be lightly golden brown. For soft sided biscuits, crowd them closer together on pan.