

INTRODUCTION

The Heritage Education Commission is an arm of Minnesota State University-Moorhead and is affiliated with the Minnesota Historical Society. It is composed of volunteers appointed by the University President. The commission is increasingly recognized for its annual one-day Family History Workshop which draws more than 200 family historians from the tri-state region (Brochure attached). A second, less known endeavor related to efforts to produce oral histories on various occupations and professions in the region. Scores of recorded interviews are preserved in the MSUM Library. These interviews have been done, again by volunteers, and represent a mine of information about our region and its development. (See attached list of oral histories). Now, efforts are underway to digitalize these oral histories so that access can be made through e-mail.

This latter program warrants support. Thus this document highlights ideas for such support.

AIM: To expand efforts to gather regional oral histories, and to facilitate usage.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Create a cadre of regional people who would develop lists of people from whom oral histories would strengthen and enhance the existing collection.
 2. Recruit possible interviewers, focusing particularly on area retired people who would have
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time and interest in the project.

3. Develop a training session for the interviewers to give them helpful skills for their task.
4. Collect, store, and, as resources permit to digitalize these histories.
5. Develop an index to make the histories more accessible.

BUDGET: What resources are needed. To be developed.

POSSIBLE FUNDING RESOURCES?

1. Fargo-Moorhead Foundation
2. West Central Initiative. Fergus Falls
3. The Strauss Foundation. Fargo
4. The L.B. Hartz Foundation. Thief River Falls
5. The Hill Family Foundation or is it now the Northwest Area Foundation. St. Paul
6. Dave Kaldahl, owner of Fair Hills Resort (2nd generation)
7. Earl Stein, Stein chemical

POST SCRIPT: There are a number of area people who should be interviewed. Some that come to mind are:

1. Al Anderson, original provost, Tri-College University.
 2. Pat Benedict, area farmer, once on the cover of Time Magazine.
 3. Some one from sugar beet industry.
 4. Norman Lorenson, Dilworth man who became president
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of Burlington Northern Railroad.

5. Ron Offutt, entrepreneur.

6. Arlan Stangeland, former Northwest Minnesota
congressman.