

History of Brainerd History Week (Aug. 9-12, 2018)-WJJY interview July 30, 2018:

In 2013 Councilwoman Bonnie Cumberland asked me if anyone was planning a 100th birthday party for City Hall in 2014. She was our liaison to the Council, forming the ad-hoc Brainerd History Committee which lasted 3 years! She let me present some ideas to the Council, and I invited the Fire Hall and Gregory Park Bandstand to the list of hundred year celebration buildings. Mary Koep shocked us all suggesting we make a full WEEK of it, and so she did, chairing the event for 4 years.

2014: June 16-22: Showcasing 3-100-year-old buildings.

- It all started with Mayors' Breakfast with mayors from surrounding cities
- vintage cars including Walt Straaka as a passenger
- tours of City Hall for its 100th -kiddie parade downtown
- 100th birthday party at the Gregory Park bandstand, and a "group hug"!
- reunion of retired firemen & photo shoot, 100th for the Fire Hall
- railroad day at Northern Pacific Center (NPC), Gala Event in the new NP Event Space and a toot from the old NP steam whistle—the toot was a hoot!
- White Earth American Indian Color Guard and Reconciliation & marker dedication
- Downtown Brainerd History Walk, which was started in 2008, slotted and now repeated each year
- Historical Evergreen Cemetery walking tour, repeated each year

2015: June 15-21, showcasing NORTH Brainerd! The directional compass theme is started, although not on purpose! First tour booklet by Ann M. Nelson, now available online on the CWCHS website. EIGHT big days, Sunday to Sunday!

- NPC tours repeated, repeated each year
- Paper Mill day, a tour of the dam
- Veteran's Day -Historic Court House tour
- Children's Day in Gregory Park...old-time games recreated.
- Church service in Gregory Park.

2016: June 14-19, this time showcasing NORTHEAST Brainerd! Another booklet by Ann M. Nelson, still available for \$1 at the museum, and online on their website.

- first Riverview Brainerd History Walk introduced, will repeat yearly
- NE Brainerd bus tours of the old electric RR route
- dam tour, ALWAYS a hit
- huge Downtown Day -Lum Park Day

2017: June 12-17, showcasing SE Brainerd.

- Harrison School event by Chuck Marohn
- Community Paddle & history sites tour with about 80 canoes & kayaks, evergreen to Kiwanis Park
- Rosko Airport marker dedication, starting a movement toward historic locations marking; 2 planned this year
- 100th anniversary of the CWC museum, the former Jail & Sheriff's Residence, and another "group hug"

2018: "Brainerd History Week was established in 2014 as a way to celebrate the rich history of the community. Events are organized by a volunteer committee". Another booklet by Ann is planned, Miss. River & West Brainerd.

MOVING FORWARD: Future themes for Brainerd History Week include **-2019:** Downtown and South Brainerd

-2020 the focus will be on the 100th birthday of the Historic Concrete Water Tower, the 150th anniversary of the groundbreaking of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and the selection of the Mississippi River crossing site **.2021-** Brainerd will celebrate its sesquicentennial which is the 150th birthday of the City of Brainerd! -CWF, 7/20/2-2018