



# Kandiyohi County Historical Society

## County Museum



A museum is a place where things of interest or lasting value, which help explain or illustrate, are gathered together, studied, classified and restored – where at least part of the collection is exhibited for all to see. It educates as well as entertains. Museums are almost endlessly varied. Some are vast, comprehensive – others small and specialized. One may document the history of a nation – another, the story of a region or town.

The Kandiyohi County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, operates our museum. The society's activities are managed by a board of directors elected by the membership. Directors are all volunteers, assisted by a small professional staff. Typically, the board and other volunteer members actively participate in the "hands on" requirements of creating exhibits and developing activities such as the successful "Heritage Day" celebration which revived some of the older skills such as blacksmithing, cooking, spinning and a number of others. It has the advantage of stimulation of public interest in the museum, and participation in which is, after all, a public endeavor.

Kandiyohi County Historical Society has its origins in the Old Settlers organization. To qualify as a member of the Old Settlers Association the individual had to have survived the Sioux Uprising of 1862. This is particularly appropriate in our museum efforts to present the life and times of the history of Kandiyohi County, which begins with the Indians and continues with the original settlers through the beginnings of the settled contemporary community life in the county.

The museum entry building is the former Kandiyohi railroad station, which consists of the waiting room, the ticket office with its telegraphic equipment and the former baggage room, now the Lawson Library. This building was moved to the museum site in 1967.

As we move from the depot, we enter the new section of the museum. This structure has a unique financing in that it is the only county museum in the United States to obtain a Farmers Home Administration (FHA) loan under the Department of Agriculture's Resource and Development program.

The museum features exhibits devoted to early transportation, Indian artifacts, a horse-drawn fire engine and other exhibits, which relate to the Kandiyohi County of the past. If you have previously visited the museum, it may be worth your while to return since new exhibits appear at intervals.

The museum is open to the public daily from 9-5pm. Group tours may be arranged by calling the museum (320) 235-1881. There is no admission charge for individuals or groups. Everyone interested in the background and heritage of present-day Kandiyohi County is invited to become a member of ht society. Membership applications are available at the museum and on our web page, [www.kandimuseum.com](http://www.kandimuseum.com).

