

Dyer home turns 100

It has been in the same family all 100 years

Margaret Dyer is living in a house that turned 100 years old in 2008 and has been in the same family all those years.

"It's never been owned by anyone not named Dyer," she said proudly. "And only the Dyer's have paid taxes on it."

The home at 204 7th Street N.E., was built in 1908 by Lenard and Catherine Dyer. It was designed by Harry Rondorf, who was a brother-in-law to the Dyers as Mary Rondorf was Catherine Dyer's sister.

"My husband Larry (his full name was Lawrence, but no one ever called him that) was born while the home was under construction. "They lived in the Strain house when he was born and they moved into the new home when he was a small baby."

Len Dyer died - a victim of the world-wide flu epidemic - in 1917, leaving his widow with no insurance, no pension and two young children, Larry and Eleanor, to care for. Catherine rented out rooms in the

upstairs of the large house to teachers and railroad men for the huge sum of \$3 a month.

Catherine also worked for W. J. Lewis at his general store downtown to help

getting transferred back to Staples, where he and his wife, the former Margaret Hoemberg (they were married in 1938) moved with their first two children into the Dyer house, with Larry's mother moving to the upstairs.

Larry first worked in the railroad tower, then became telegrapher, and was named the Staples station agent when Harry Peterson retired. He was the last agent for the NP and first agent for the Burlington Northern. He was still working as agent when he died in 1973.

Catherine died at 100 years old in 1978 and Margaret still owns the home that is now 101 years old. The house is much the same as original, although some changes have been made. Catherine put in a rear stairway for the renters. Margaret and Larry enclosed the front porch, making it a three season porch. They also remodeled the kitchen and made a few other changes.



Stately home

The Margaret Dyer home at 204 N. E. Seventh Street, despite being 100 years old, still retains its early 20th Century look.

pay the bills and the taxes on the home - for which Len had fortunately made the final payment shortly before he died.

Larry went to work at 16 years old as a call boy for the Northern Pacific and eventually worked up to a telegrapher. He worked in several different stations, including Aldrich, Wahpeton, N.D. and Wadena before

Hospital awarded grant for safety equipment, training

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry recently awarded Lakewood Health System a \$10,000 grant to assist in the purchase of safety equipment intended to aide in full body lifting, seating lifting and walking and gait training.

The grant will be applied to patient care areas located at Lakewood Health System's Senior Campus including the Care Center Rehabilitation Department and Lakewood Reflections. Lakewood Health System has implemented a comprehensive safety

and loss prevention program and is continually working towards process improvement in the areas of employee safety. An internal Safety Committee meets regularly to identify and implement safety measures in prevention of employee and patient injury. This grant covers approximately one third of the total costs of implementing the needed equipment to:

Prevent manual boosting and repositioning of residents;

Maintain mobility during walking and toilet-

ing residents;

Transfer immobile residents for all aspects of care.

Upon purchase of the equipment, project activities include ongoing equipment education to all direct patient care staff, installation/implementation of the equipment and an "as-needed" Loss Prevention Service Visit on behalf of SFM, The Work Comp Experts.

For more information, contact Lakewood Health System Employee Health at 218-894-8163.



Fire extinguisher demonstration

Jody Longbella, Staples, practiced using a fire extinguisher at the Staples Volunteer Fire Department open house Friday evening for Fire Prevention Week. Randy Scott, far left, and Tom Graumann, not pictured, of Nardini Fire Equipment, Brainerd, demonstrated the fire extin-

guishers and talked about how and when to use them. Mike DeGeest of the fire department estimated that about 300 people attended the event which featured a picnic supper and several other information booths. (Staples World photo by Brenda Halvorson)



Student tours held at fire hall

Students in Mrs. Nancy Johnson's class from Staples Elementary School heard the story of how retired Staples firefighter Russ Lee's fire hat melted. He wore the hat while fighting a barn fire around 1975, and didn't realize it had melted until the firefighters had returned to the fire hall. The history of the Staples

Fire Department was included in one booth during tours hosted by the Staples firefighters Oct. 8 and 9 during Fire Prevention Week. Over 590 students toured the Staples Fire Hall, culminated by the open house held Oct. 9. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Trying one on

Staples firefighter Mike Fitcher placed a helmet on today's crew on willing students from the Staples Head Start class. Now much safer than the old hats, students were surprised how heavy the helmets are. The session introduced students to what a firefighter might look like if they had to answer a fire at their home and teach them what do in case of a fire.

Two injured in Verndale area accident on Sunday

Wadena County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one vehicle roll-over, with injuries, on County Road 23 approximately one mile north of Verndale on Sunday, Oct. 11.

The vehicle was southbound and left the roadway on the west shoulder. The driver steered the vehicle back onto the road and

over corrected causing the vehicle to turn sideways in the middle of the road. The vehicle rolled approximately three times while on the road and into the west ditch where it came to rest on the driver's side.

The driver, a 16 year old juvenile female, was transported to Tri-County Hospital and treated and released to her parents. The passen-

ger, Tyler Hodgden 18, of Menahga, was also treated and released at Tri-County Hospital

The driver was wearing her seatbelt at the time of the accident. It is unknown if the passenger was wearing his. Witnesses told authorities they found the female belted in the driver's seat, and the passenger lying on top of her.

At this time the crash is under investigation.

The sheriff's office said it is believed alcohol may have been a factor in this accident. The Wadena County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by Verndale Fire and Rescue, Tri-County Ambulance, Wadena Police Department and Madsen's Towing of Verndale

TODD COUNTY continued from page 1a

Stevenson receives Land Stewardship Award

Land Stewardship Award

Gloria Stevenson received a round of applause and congratulations from the board. Stevenson is the recipient of this year's Land Stewardship Award from the Todd Soil and Water Conservation District. She is the county's GIS and Land Services Manager.

The award was given for her years of service and dedicated efforts to help preserve the county's natural resources. Stevenson said she was surprised and very honored to receive the award.

2010 Census

Representatives from the U. S. Census Bureau told commissioners that it is important that everyone in the county be counted for the 2010 census. The census count affects federal grant funding for counties, cities, highways, hospitals and schools, said Cynthia Madigan with the Census Bureau's office in Duluth.

There are only ten questions on the census, Madigan said, and the questions should take ten minutes to complete. Ruda said someone told

him a census question asked about the number of guns in a household. Madigan said this is not a census question.

Kircher asked about counting legal and non-legal residents. Madigan said all U.S. residents must be counted, both citizens and non-citizens. Kircher asked it this would have an effect on legislative representation. Madigan said yes.

She said they would be working on ways for the county to partner with the census to encourage participation.

Boiler replacements

Commissioners are considering replacing the three boilers in the jail. The boilers are frequently causing alarms to go off within the system, said Burkett.

A new, high efficiency system, proposed by Johnson Controls, would cost about \$43,000. This system would reduce heating and cooling by about \$7,000 per year, he said. Burkett is also seeking other bids from other businesses. He said grant funding of about \$5,000 may be available for this expenditure.

Hiring policy

There are 16 fewer county employees now than one year ago, Burkett told the board. He said people are working harder to get the same job done. If staff were reduced in certain areas, however, he said the county could have to reduce services.

Burkett suggested that the board review their hiring policy. The current hiring resolution states that no new positions may be created without a source of revenue. Ruda said this resolution has been working.

Under the current hiring policy, Burkett said he has the authority to hire staff who are required to perform tasks the board has funded. Some of these hiring decisions are not currently being made at public county board meetings. Burkett said he would have a report on staffing available by the end of the year.

Kircher said he would like to see a hiring policy. "When we do resolutions, we tend to forget about them. If a good policy is set, county government should function in good and bad times," he said.

THANK YOU
for making a difference!

Congratulations to these 5-Star employees



Jason Dukowitz & Jon Chenoweth Environmental Services
Nominated by Becky Ashbaugh, "Thank you very much for all that you do everyday to ensure that this is a five star facility."

Nola Varilek Women's Health Coordinator
Nominated by Lynn Rice, "Everything Nola does is with passion, energy and enthusiasm. Nola's personality is larger than life and she role models the standards of behavior every day."

Vicky Dvorak Environmental Services
Nominated anonymously, "Vicky is dependable, enthusiastic, has a great sense of humor and is caring. She brightens my day."

Mary Jasmer Receptionist/Scheduler
Nominated by Annette Moore, "I was very impressed with Mary's five-star service...she didn't give up until the problem was solved."

For full nominations, visit www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Lakewood Health System's STAR Program recognizes employees for outstanding performance in the delivery of service to patients, residents and visitors and how they work as a team with other employees.

