



**Tom Logelin** — *Former President and Founder*

After a lengthy battle with health problems on June 13, 2018, Tom Logelin passed away at his home in Green Valley, Arizona. He was 79 years old. Services for Tom were held on July 17th, 2018 at the Saint Marys of the Purification Catholic Church in Marystown, Minnesota. Following the service his remains were brought back home to St. Boni where they were placed in the family burial plot of the St. Boniface Catholic Church Cemetery.

It was Tom Logelin, along with Marilyn Maloney and Kenneth Heitz, that took up the challenge to begin working towards the organization of the St. Boni Historical Society. Without their efforts, our organization would not be here today.

Tom always had a high knowledge of the history of the St. Boni area. This knowledge was extremely helpful as he served our organization as its President for the best part of the first ten years of our existence. He kept his finger on the pulse of our organization almost on a day to day basis. It was through his efforts that everything that would come into our Historical Society would be entered into our Past Perfect computer system.

He spent hours and hours that turned into months and months in transferring Historical Society information from our three ring notebooks into this computer system. For all of Tom's efforts, we owe him a world of thanks.

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**Mel Hoagland** — *Former Vice-President and Founder*

Melvin Hoagland served the St. Boni Historical Society as Vice President from our early beginning up to a few months before he passed away. After a short period of illness, Melvin passed away on June 1, 2018. He was 86 years old. Funeral Mass Services were held on June 14th, 2018 at the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Edina Minnesota. Burial was at Roselawn Cemetery.

Mel was with us from the very beginning in 2001. Getting started with a first time ever organization was difficult. We needed Mel's expertise on guidelines and how to proceed. He helped us with brain storming and kept us on track for a tight meeting as we got carried away reminiscing on our childhood memories of St. Boni, etc. He contributed stories to our newsletter on early Boy Scouts (he made Eagle) and also about our milkman, Alex Stifter.

Mel's St. Boni history was especially interesting to him since his grandfather, Louis Hoagland, was the first superintendent of the Gale Upland Farm for twenty years. His father, Ernie Hoagland, married Gustie Logelin of St. Boni. Mel served on the St. Boni City Council in the past. He also helped Fr. Wohlfahrt compile the booklet, *A History of the St. Boniface Parish*, for the centennial of the church in 1959. [\(Click for Obituary\)](#)



**Ken Heitz** — *Founder and Historian*

After a long battle with brain cancer, Ken Heitz passed away on the morning of November 13, 2018. He was 79 years old.

Kens' longtime dedication to our Historical Society will be remembered for a long time to come. Services were held on Saturday, November 17 at 3 p.m. at the Cremation Society of Minnesota, 7110 France Avenue South, Edina MN.

Ken was the heart and soul of our organization. We are so grateful for his love of the history of our small village of St. Bonifacius.

It was so good to see him faithfully show up at our meetings after he drove all the way from his home near St. Paul. He always had so much to add to our discussions.

How fortunate we, from our town of St. Bonifacius to have had a local "Boni Boy" grow up here, and become a History teacher who took a huge interest in the history of our area....and also a genealogist who searched and recorded the ancestry of local families of the past.

Ken Heitz was one of our founders back in 2001 when nothing had ever been done on the history of our region. He had already written a large book on The History of the Jacob Heitz Family which included many St. Boni stories from the early days. While on board with us, he also wrote 2 interesting booklets: *GERMAN HOME: St. Bonifacius, Minn... a case study of German settlement on the Minnesota frontier in the mid-nineteenth century* and also *NOTABLE EVENTS In St. Bonifacius History 1904-2004*. (continued...)

One of Ken's most valuable contributions was he added a 2 page legend to each one of our newsletters.

Ken was an expert when researching at the Minnesota Historical Society. He made a huge collection assembled on many of the past people from our vicinity.

We cannot express enough our appreciation of how he shared his talent and knowledge to our group and to be enjoyed by future researchers long after we are gone.

To help explain Ken's thirst for knowledge and history as a young boy, here is a quote from him:

"My passion for books brought out a dark and sinister side in me. When I wanted access to the library during it's "off hours", I figured out a way to do it. The library was originally heated with coal: the coal was fed into the building through an access hole built into the front sidewalk...remove the manhole cover, shimmy down to the dirt floor, cross the room and climb the stairs...slide a newspaper under the door, and punch out the skeleton key; pull the newspaper back; take the key, open the door...then idle away the hours poring over fact-filled encyclopedia articles."

We miss you, Ken...and thank you for your input over the years. ([Click for Obituary](#))



**W. Jay Gregg** — *Recent President*

W. Jay Gregg, of St. Bonifacius, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2019. He was 86 years old. Jay was the President of our St. Bonifacius Historical Society for many years. Before that role, he had been a faithful attendee of our regular meetings. At each meeting, he had prepared the agenda and posted it on a huge sign pinned up under the front desk for us all to see. He had it all outlined in big bold letters for our upcoming discussions.

Jay grew up in St. Boni East of town and was a member of the Minnetrista Baptist Church. He shared many childhood stories with us. He attended the Public school and mentioned his former teachers often.

Jay had taken the time to purchase a huge glass display case now in our council chambers at the city hall. We have historical articles in it and also another show case in the entrance hall to the city offices with more interesting pieces. Jay always made sure we had a booth with our large sign above it at the Spass-haggen festival at the Nike park. He added our collection of old beer mug souvenirs, one from each previous celebration, with the year printed on them. Jay's carpet business is located on main street of town. He kept us "out of towners" up on the recent activities going on around the village.

We already feel the huge loss in our Historical Society without him and appreciate the large contribution he made to our organization.

Thank you, Jay.

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