

town of Spivey's Corner in Sampson County to hear and participate in the National Hollerin' Contest. June 19th marked the 31st anniversary of this special event. Each year, the event is held for the benefit of the Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire Department.

The now-famous contest originated from a chance comment made by Spivey's Corner resident Ermon Godwin, Jr. in 1969 on a weekly radio talk show that he co-hosted. Mr. Godwin mentioned the tradition of hollerin' in Sampson County to the radio show's other host, John Thomas. Mr. Thomas half-jokingly suggested that the two hold a hollerin' contest. Much to their surprise, about five thousand people showed up on that June Saturday in 1969.

The Hollerin' Contest has evolved into a daylong event, featuring live music, food, and five separate hollerin' events. They are: the Whistlin' Contest, the Conch Shell and Fox Horn Blowin' Contest, the Junior Hollerin' Contest, the Ladies Callin' Contest, and the National Hollerin' Contest, the main attraction. In addition, many also participate in the watermelon roll, in which contestants attempt to run barefoot carrying a watermelon across a distance of about 20 yards as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department tries to knock the participant off his or her feet using a high-pressure hose.

Winners of the different events has garnered national recognition over the years, including appearances on The Tonight Show and Late Night with David Letterman. Sports Illustrated, The Voice of America, and documentary films have all featured the contest and its winners. As would befit its local roots, 30 of the 31 winners of the National Hollerin' Contest have been natives of Sampson County, including this year's champion. Tony Peacock, who now resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

To further honor this unique event, I have sponsored the Spivey's Corner Hollerin' Contest in the Library of Congress Bicentennial Local Legacies Project. I am hopeful that the colorful tradition of hollerin' will now be preserved in the American Folklife Center of the world's most reknown library so that everyone can have a chance to celebrate this North Carolina unique cultural event.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SILVESTRI

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Silvestri, the esteemed Chief of Police in Chisholm, MN.

Chief Silvestri recently announced his retirement after serving 33 years in the Chisholm Police Department. My hometown of Chisholm will miss the inspired dedication and commitment he brought to the police department.

Chief Silvestri began his law enforcement career by training at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in 1966. Following his training, Robert Silvestri became a patrol officer for the Chisholm Police Department. Eventually, his dedication to the police force led to his pro-

motion as desk lieutenant, and then administrative assistant. Each of those positions gave Robert Silvestri a better understanding of and appreciation for all aspects of law enforcement. Because of his experience and knowledge of law enforcement, Robert Silvestri was hired as chief of police in 1983. He held this position until his recent retirement from the Chisholm Police Department.

Throughout his service at the Chisholm Police Department, Robert Silvestri believed strongly in the law enforcement community and his colleagues. Even through adversity, Chief Silvestri maintained a level head and respect for his fellow law enforcement officers. His open door made his co-workers feel at ease, and he learned to adapt his management and law enforcement skills to changing laws and societal behavior. Furthermore, I commend Robert's wife and the Silvestri family for supporting him through the years.

Police Chief Robert Silvestri maintained the public safety and tranquility in Chisholm for 33 years. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Robert Silvestri for his many years of service and dedication to the Chisholm Police Department and the entire Iron Range community.

TRIBUTE TO MARK FRIESTAD

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the winner of the 1999 "Great American Think-Off." This year's champion is Mark Friestad, a high school social studies teacher who proved to his students that learning is a life-long pursuit to be enjoyed and celebrated.

Mark is a dedicated young teacher in my hometown of Valley City, North Dakota, who exemplifies the state's exceptional teachers.

He was among 500 contestants from around the country competing in the Great American Think-Off held in New York Mills, Minnesota. The task was the best answer to the question: Which is more dangerous: Science or Religion? Selected as one of four finalists to debate the merits of his essay, Mark convinced the crowd of 400 with thoughtful arguments supporting his thesis. At the end of the day, the audience felt that he had best illustrated his point that the more dangerous idea between science and religion is the one accepted more blindly—science.

While Mark is to be commended for his insightful debate and well-researched essay, perhaps just as important is his participation. Reading about and studying topics of interest should not be limited to our school years, but rather encouraged and practiced at every age level. Formal education and official degrees are the runways for learning, but our country has taken flight thanks to the help of great life-long thinkers.

How fortunate we are to have thoughtful, studious individuals who dedicate their careers to the public education of our young people. I congratulate Mr. Friestad for teaching by example, and picking up the title of "America's Greatest Thinker" along the way.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENIKA DISTRICT LIBRARY IN WAYLAND, MICHIGAN

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize the 100th anniversary of the Henika District Library, located in Wayland, Michigan, part of the Second Congressional District, which I represent.

The Henika Library was established in 1899 as a legacy of Mrs. Julia Henika, who upon her death left \$2,000 to the Wayland Ladies Library Association for the construction of a library. Aided by contributions from Mrs. Henika's husband, George, and her mother, Mary Forbes, this picturesque library formally opened in 1900.

Initially, the library was run by the independent Library Association for many years before turning it over to the village of Wayland. At that time, the facility's first paid librarian, Miss Fannie Hoyt, was hired. She served in her position until the 1940s, when she was succeeded by Dorothy Peterson, who served as librarian until 1975. Barbara Crofoot then became the library's third head librarian and served for 10 years until she was succeeded by the current librarian, Lynn Mandaville.

Henika Library has served the Wayland area as a source of information and entertainment from the Gilded Age to the Information Age. The original building was first expanded in 1968 with an addition in the rear with a full basement, effectively tripling the size of the facility. A reading room was created the next year by enclosing the front porch.

In the early 1990s, the building received a complete makeover, inside and out, with financial assistance from the Wayland Downtown Development Authority, an outstate equity grant and contributions from the city of Wayland and Wayland Township. This remodeling made the library ready for the 21st century by providing public access computers, an online card catalog and public access to the Internet. In addition, a local company, Ampro Industries, donated several thousand dollars to remodel the basement children's library.

Today, Henika District Library continues to serve the community in the same manner Julia Henika envisioned a century ago. I am proud to honor her memory and the hard work and dedication of so many people to make that vision a reality.

TRIBUTE TO WINSTON BLEDSOE

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, senior citizen centers are fairly recent to our culture. Many of the centers that exist today were created in the early 1970's with the help of federal

grants. Strong local leadership transform these centers into places many older citizens now depend on for warm wholesome meals, fellowship and recreation and a way to support the maintenance of an independent life style.

Twenty-seven years ago, using a \$25,000 budget provided by a "model grant," Winston Bledsoe started the first agency in Southwest Missouri to organize and open senior centers. The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging grew out of that effort and opened nine senior centers in six weeks in 1973.

Today, the agency that Bledsoe helped create provides services and a daily meeting place for more than 40,000 seniors a year. The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging has 38 centers and a budget of more than \$6.8 million providing individual social services, transportation, meals, recreation and home-maker care. Bledsoe encouraged seniors at each center to own their own building, thereby reducing the government's role in the future of the facilities in case federal aid was ever curbed or interrupted.

Dorothy Knowles, who was Bledsoe's chief lieutenant over the last quarter century and the new agency director, calls Winston a visionary, who was "dedicated to the lowest cost of keeping older people independent." For most people, quality of life is defined by their degree of independence.

Bledsoe has been a tireless advocate for seniors and group who serve them. He has often battled bureaucrats, politicians, and local opponents. He has not always been diplomatic but he has never forgotten who he serves. The interest of older Southwest Missourians are always foremost in his efforts.

Winston, at age 70, retired as the director of the agency this year. A former insurance salesman and football coach, his third career will leave a legacy cherished by every senior in Southwest Missouri who finds friends, support and nourishing meals at one of the centers that Bledsoe nurtured.

WILLARD MUNGER, MINNESOTA'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL ICON

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 11, Minnesota lost our most senior, longest serving, best loved friend, mentor and state representative, Willard Munger at the age of 88.

After forty-eight years of public service and a lifetime of fighting for people and the environment, DFLer Willard Munger stands as a testament to public service. Unbending in principle but pragmatic and patient to achieve results, Munger's list of achievements are too numerous to mention. While 88 years of age he was still contemporary in his thinking and open to new ideas and solutions. Many of his policies were ahead of their time, such as packaging laws, water and air pollution.

I was proud to serve in the Minnesota Legislature on Chairman Munger's revered Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I was an eager student and to this day, twenty-

nine years later, both the lessons I have learned and the Munger spirit and excitement guide me in my Congressional work. Indeed I, like to many others, stand on the shoulders and work of one very special Minnesotan environmentalist, Willard Munger.

We can all see further because of his work and the benchmarks Munger has set in Minnesota. We should try to employ his vision and lessons as we work for future generations in the preservation, conservation and restoration of the natural world.

The following are two editorials from the July 13th St. Paul and Minneapolis papers which give testimony to the work and life of Willard Munger, who is being laid to rest today.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 13, 1999]

MORE THAN A POLITICIAN

Willard Munger campaigned for Floyd B. Olson, first ran for office under the banner of the old Farmer-Labor Party and won his first election when Dwight Eisenhower was president. At age 88, Munger was the oldest legislator in Minnesota history and its longest serving House member—with 48 years of service.

But Munger, who died early Sunday in Duluth, will be remembered for more than his phenomenal political longevity.

Long known as "Mr. Environment," Munger left his mark as the father of the state Environmental Trust Fund and an architect of virtually every major piece of environmental legislation enacted in the last three decades.

While he was not the Legislature's most gifted orator, the motel owner from west Duluth had a way of getting people's attention and getting things done. Munger's environmental activism began in earnest in 1971, when he passed a bill to create the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and begin the cleanup of the heavily polluted St. Louis River.

Two years later, after the DFL captured control of both houses of the Legislature, Munger took over as chairman of the House Environment Committee and helped enact dozens of major environmental laws. They included legislation to protect wild and scenic rivers, promote recycling and reduce solid waste, clean up polluted lands, safeguard groundwater supplies and preserve wetlands.

But Munger's greatest achievement was the passage of a state constitutional amendment in 1988 that created the Environmental Trust Fund, and earmarked 40 percent of state lottery proceeds for this purpose. Since its creation, the fund has generated more than \$100 million for parks and trails, fish and wildlife habitat, and environmental education.

Willard Munger truly left this state and Earth a better place than he found it.

[Minneapolis Star Tribune, July 13, 1999]

(Willard Munger)

MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONARY

There is talk about the best way to memorialize Willard Munger and his four decades in the Minnesota House, perhaps by renaming the Environmental Trust Fund for him. Not a bad move, but possibly a superfluous one.

"This state abounds with monuments to Munger's tireless advocacy of the natural world, from clean rivers to bicycle trails to metropolitan wetlands to northwoods wilder-

ness preserves. Many a Minnesotan needs no plaque to know that "Mr. Environment," who died on Sunday at age 88, is the man to thank for these.

Munger was already in his second decade of legislative service when the modern environmental movement began in the early 1970s. His political experience, informed by the passions he acquired from a naturalist grandfather and populist father, positioned him as both visionary and strategist of the new ideals.

One of his proudest victories was among the first: the \$115 million cleanup that transformed the St. Louis River from an industrial drainage into one of the state's loveliest streams. Munger built his last home along the river and hosted an annual canoe trip and barbecue for friends and colleagues; the tenth of these would have been held last month but his illness forced postponement.

Munger loved politics of the old-fashioned sort, stubbornly advancing his cause with a combination of persuasion, patience and shrewd deal-making. He was not notably charismatic; journalists ranked him among the legislature's worst-dressed members and marveled at his mumbling, fumbling style of address on the House floor. But he excelled at one-to-one negotiation and played a masterful role in conference committees, where his passion could win the day for his position.

He was deeply respected by colleagues, if not particularly beloved. Northern legislators were regularly aggrieved by his advocacy for public lands and lakeshores, for wetland protection, for halting Reserve Mining Co.'s discharge of tailings into Lake Superior. But they could count on him to support spending that would bring employment and tourism to their districts. Some, perhaps, began to see the correctness of his views that more jobs are created than destroyed through environmental progress.

In recent years, as the tide turned on environmental concerns, Munger fought to save his earlier achievements from dismantling. But his file drawers were said to contain plenty of new initiatives, too, awaiting the right moment for introduction. Now they form another Munger legacy, awaiting a new champion to take up the task.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY SNYDER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Chisholm High School bank conductor, Jerry Snyder.

Jerry Snyder was borne in Duluth and graduated from Duluth East High School. As a child, Jerry learned to play the piano and went on to learn how to play the tuba, baritone horn, and trombone. He graduated from the University of Minnesota—Duluth. A few years later began his career as a conductor at Chisholm High School. Jerry began his conducting career 30 years ago when he became the band conductor in Chisholm. In addition to directing the Chisholm High School Band, he also conducted two area church choirs, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and St. Leo's Catholic Church.

Jerry has continued his personal interest in and enthusiasm for music through the years.