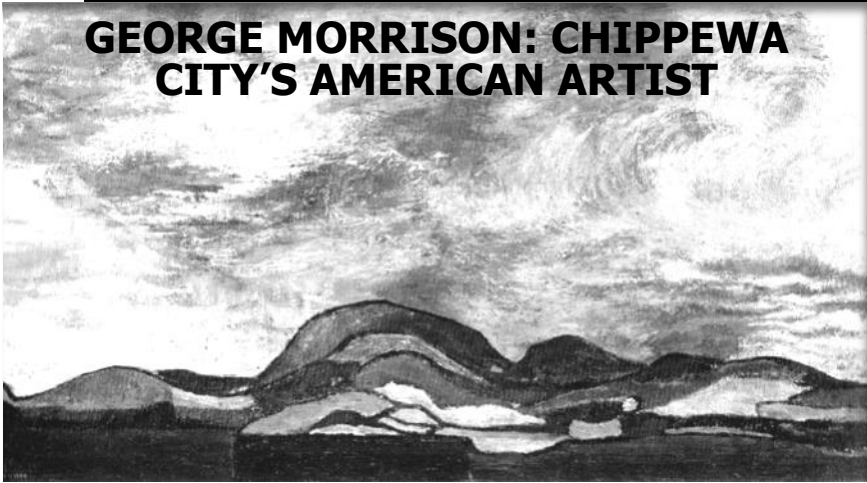


OVERLOOK

Cook County Historical Society

Spring 2015

GEORGE MORRISON: CHIPPEWA CITY'S AMERICAN ARTIST



“Dawn and Sea” by George Morrison featured in retrospective exhibit

Morrison. Born and raised in Chippewa City, he spent his youth playing along the shore of Lake Superior. His connection to the region, especially Superior’s ubiquitous horizon line, is evident in his many works that span over six decades. Visitors of the exhibit will recognize the rocks, wood, water and sky of his North Shore home. “Dawn and Sea” was complete around ten years after George graduated from Grand Marais High School. By then, he had left his home and journeyed to Minneapolis, New York, and France in pursuit of art.

In 1958 on a special visit back to Cook County, George donated “Dawn and Sea” to his old school while being honored by the community for his achievements as a world renowned artist. At this event, he exhibited 22 paintings and about 40 photographs of oil paintings, ones completed from 1944 to 1958. George wanted “to give the people of Cook County a good idea of what I’ve been doing through the years.”

George’s family’s roots are deep in this area. His grandfather, James Morrison Sr., was a pillar of the early St. Francis Xavier Church, which was built in 1895. Not only would the elder Morrison

For years just inside its main entrance, Cook County School proudly displayed “Dawn and Sea,” a 1948 painting by the famous American artist George Morrison. The painting is now featured in “Modern Spirit: The Art of George Morrison” a traveling exhibit curated by the Minnesota Museum of American Art. The retrospective has been to the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis and the Heard Museum in Phoenix, its last stop is the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul—now through April 26th.

Cook County held significance for George

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This Birney Quick painting shows how businesses on this block, for a time, faced 1st St. and Hwy 61. Thank you to Leslie Quick Pedersen for donating this print to CCHS.

BEFORE SOUTH OF THE BORDER CAFÉ

Most visitors to Grand Marais are familiar with the Bally Blacksmith Shop, which still stands today along Broadway. But what about the property across the street? For a time the Ballys owned that entire block. In 1930, the Bally family sold the property across from the blacksmith shop to Axel Backlund and his wife Clara.

Before 1930 ended, the Backlunds sold the majority of four lots making up the block to Andrew Shold. However, some portion of the lots were sold to the State of Minnesota to accommodate the new Highway 61—hence the triangle shape of land that now exists in its place.

Andrew Shold initially moved his Home Trade Shoe Store to the site. It was on the street level facing First Street, across from today’s Grand Marais Liquor store. As the new highway was being routed through town, the Sholds added a second floor to the westerly building and moved their shoe repair business upstairs. Recognizing that access to the highway provided new opportunities, gas pumps were added, a bus was purchased, and Shold contracted with the school district to provide a bus service for students. His shoe repair business was sold to Oliver Anderson, who

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking out the window, it doesn't look like spring will be here March 20th!

Many things have moved at the museum with a new display upstairs on dog sled history and a new area for the front desk and research computer. Soon there will be a new display on the music of Cook County.

We'll be having a volunteer training session for summer front desk at the Museum and JHP. Please call to sign up!

Staff have been very busy completing grants and starting new ones. The JHP is waiting to receiving funding for an updated kitchen.

Watch for our Small Talks—and come to enjoy them this spring and summer at the JHP!

Alta McQuatters, CCHS President

COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alta McQuatters	President
Barb Backlund	Vice President
Eleanor Waha	Treasurer
Bob Pratt	Secretary
Carrie McHugh	Museum Director
Don Davison	JHP Director

Historical Society Board Members:

Doug Anderson, Wayne Anderson, Duane Ege, Dean Einwalter, Gene Erickson, Hal Greenwood, John Jacobsen, Mary Ann Gagnon, Irene Malner, Patty Nelson, David Peterson, and Leonard Sobanja

Honorary Members:

Howard Sivertson and Herb Hedstrom

County Representative: Frank Moe

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in this 2015 issue of the *Overlook*

LEGACY GIVING

You can easily provide substantial support for the continuation of the core programs and mission of the Cook County Historical Society through a planned charitable gift. Some simple ways you can leave a legacy are to:

- ◇ Name the Society in your will with a donation of money, stock or property
- ◇ Designate the Society as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account

Please discuss options with your attorney or financial representative.

Every gift helps to provide for the future of this important organization!

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about how this type of giving can be of long-term benefit to the Cook County Historical Society. 218-387-2883 or history@boreal.org

PLEASE, REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2015 MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again—March is our traditional time to ask you to renew your membership to the Cook County Historical Society and Johnson Heritage Post.

As you consider the importance of local history and Cook County's impact on your life, please remember that our mission is to honor the past by preserving and sharing its stories. We do this in many ways:

- ◆ Housing archives and collections for preservation
- ◆ Restoring and caring for historic buildings
- ◆ Reaching out to schools and families to share our past
- ◆ Presenting art that demonstrates the local culture
- ◆ Providing programs to entertain and educate
- ◆ Sharing local history through exhibits, publications, and our website—www.cookcountyhistory.org
- ◆ Serving a community of researchers and others who want and need to know more about this unique and wonderful place!

Please continue to support us. Your membership is one of the key funding sources that we can count on from year to year! If you are able, would you consider renewing at a higher membership level to help us in achieving our new and developing goals? THANK YOU!

Membership form on the last page of this *Overlook*.



Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery

15 WISCONSIN ST. in Grand Marais
 jhp@boreal.org (218-387-2314)
www.JohnsonHeritagePost.org

JHP EXHIBIT SCHEDULE, SPRING 2015

Opening receptions are on the first Friday of the Exhibit

March 13-29	Spirit of the Wilderness Exhibit
April 3-19	Permanent Collection (featuring new acquisitions)
April 24-26	A'RT (Art 'Round Town) Fundraiser
May 1– May 24	Summerfield Photograph

Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery is Open
 Wednesdays—Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Sundays & Mondays, 1:00—4:00 p.m.
 We are closed Tuesdays and between exhibits.

Four Anna Johnson Paintings Donated To JHP

We gratefully acknowledge a gift of four Anna Johnson paintings from Nancy Dalbec. The paintings include a winter country scene, a portrait of Lloyd K. Johnson as a boy, an early Grand Marais Harbor scene, and a wilderness landscape that is the last work that Anna Johnson painted. These paintings will be featured during the display of the Permanent Collection in April.



Mary Pratt and her "East Bay from Artist Point"

Permanent Collection Exhibit To Feature New Acquisitions

Paintings and other artwork of Anna Johnson are always on display. The display of the permanent collection this year will be bolstered by new acquisitions, including the four new Anna Johnson paintings; some new works by Birney Quick; two paintings of the Grand Marais harbor by unknown artists; and "East Bay From Artist Point," the first painting by Mary Pratt to be acquired by JHP; "The Temperance Bridge," the first painting by Helga Moe to be acquired by JHP; and "Blazing Forest," a painting of the Gunflint Trail in fall color by world renowned painter Polish painter Alicja Stoeger Zamojska.



Lloyd K. Johnson as a young boy by Anna Johnson

Also on display will be other works by Birney Quick, Harvey Turner, Keith Havens, the Spellman family, photographs by M.J. Humphrey, and others.

Volunteers Needed

Over the last couple of years, we have been able to expand JHP gallery hours, thanks to our dedicated volunteers. We could use more, however. If you are willing to work one or two three-hour shifts per week, or serve as a substitute, please call the gallery at 387-2314, or email us at jhp@boreal.org.

Remember to check out our website at www.johnsonheritagepost.org, and to "like" us on Facebook!



(Continued from page 1 as SOB)

rented space in the lower level. It appears the Sholds added a large garage fronting Broadway in the 1940s, perhaps right after WWII ended.

In the mid-40s, Shold became an International Harvester truck dealer. He also sold parts for farm equipment, cream separators and other farm supplies. Around 1946, he added a Hudson car dealership.

In 1947, Andrew's wife, Freda Shold, opened up the Kaffe Stuga on the upper level, originally selling coffee and short orders. Later she added full meals while baking in the lower level of the building. In 1948, Andrew added a wing to the building known as the "lube room" where vehicles could be repaired and lubricated.

In 1953, Andrew and Freda Shold sold Shold's Mobil Service to Kenneth and Fern Lovaas and Roger and Janet Shold. Fern and Roger were Andrew and Esther's children. In 1953, they discontinued selling the Hudson cars. Kenny and Roger leased out the coffee shop for a couple years and discontinued it in 1955.

In 1973, the joint owners sold the property to the Grand Marais Hotel Co., Inc., a corporation owned by George and Norrine Peet, and purchased the Spur Station owned by the Peets which was located across Broadway from their former station. They converted the Spur Station to a Mobil Station. In 1980, they discontinued selling International vehicles.

On September 20, 1973, Robert V. Evenson and John V. Viren officially leased the property from the Grand Marais Hotel Company, Inc. They had remodeled the building earlier that summer and, in July, opened a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise on the first floor. John Viren used the lower level of the building for his veterinary practice. By 1973 the two one-story garages fronting on Broadway had deteriorated. Consequently, Peet had them torn down sometime during the 1970s. Evenson and Viren terminated their lease with George Peet and discontinued their Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Grand Marais on January 1, 1979.

Over the years, several businesses rented various parts of the complex. Dr. Soderberg rented the two story building in the 1950s and Dick O'Brien used the space as a law office in 1956. It also served as a propane and laundromat business, an accounting service, and a furniture store. On October 18, 1982, George and Margie Peet sold the building to Troy and Helen Ford. They started the South of the Border Café. Today, this locally favorite eatery is the first to open its doors in the morning for a delicious breakfast!

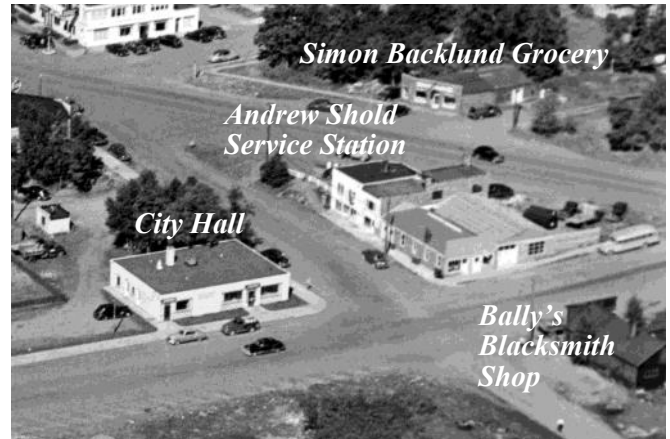
Special thanks to Gene Glader for his thorough research. Gene continues illuminating the history of Grand Marais businesses and is planning a second book on the topic in the future.



Kaffe Stuga: (l to r) Anna Hussey, Ruth Gilbertson, Freda Shold and Andrew Shold



The Kaffe Stuga was located in right side of the building. The "lube" wing is on the left. c1950



Aerial photo of Grand Marais taken c1950



The Kentucky Fried Chicken Franchise. Circa 1975

IMAGES OF COOK COUNTY'S EAST END BY M.J. HUMPHREY

Starting in the late 1930s and early 1940s M.J. Humphrey photographed resorts from the Canadian Border to Duluth. These photos are from the east end of Cook County. Most of his negatives have been donated to this Historical Society.



Lucky Star Landing in Grand Portage was an early boat service to Isle Royale in the mid 1930s.



Wilderness Retreat at McFarland Lake was originally built by Wesley Jameson in the 1930s. Later it was known as Brandt Wilderness Retreat, owned by Carl J. Brandt. There were at least four fires over the years.



Paradise Beach Resort was built in 1936 by Godfrey Plante. He sold it in 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Shannon (formerly of California) and R.W. Smith. Eventually the resort was dismantled and the cabins sold and moved off the property.



Naniboujou Lodge opened in July of 1929 as a sportsmen's club. It was initiated by a group of businessmen primarily from Duluth, however there was an effort to have members from around the nation—Jack Dempsey and Babe Ruth were among them. Of the original 3,300 acres of the property, a majority is now known as Judge Magney State Park.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 as MORRISON)

often conduct services, he had a special chair at the entrance of the church where he greeted the congregation and rang the church bell. The Morrison family even made dinner for the priest when he came to town. Chippewa City was thriving then. Its population may have been larger than Grand Marais—with up to 100 families calling it home.

George's mother, Barbara Mesaba, was raised in a very traditional Ojibwe home in Ontario, Canada. George's father, James Morrison, Jr. was a hunter and trapper. During the Great Depression, James worked on Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects. Though times were difficult, the family made good use of the available local foods sources and did their best to support their 12 children.

By the time George was born in 1919, the population in Chippewa City was dramatically declining. The once vibrant village had dwindled to a hand-full of families—the large Morrison family was one of the few that remained.

Though opportunity was scarce during the Depression, George developed a strong sense of what he wanted to do with his life. At a very young age, his family recognized his ability to work with his hands—he made toys and soon became a skilled wood-worker. George was very intelligent and curious about the world around him. He received encouragement to continue his education and was one of the few Native youths in Cook County at this time to graduate from high school.

In a 1958 interview George talked about his burgeoning talents. "I wanted to be an artist because I always had a knack for drawing and doing poster work at school. When I graduated, I started to become a commercial artist. I went to school at the Minneapolis School of Art."

George later explained how he developed his modern style. "I had the idea at first to go into advertising art but after two years of art school I became interested in drawing and painting and so I changed into the fine arts. [In] those early years of academic training, I was more or less realistic... I guess it was New York that sort of gave me another look at art, and I became influenced by students and teachers... and maybe the French impressionists at that time. It was still realistic but more expressionistic in that manner of Rudolf [Bauer]. Plus Picasso and Matisse also had a tremendous influence.

"American painting was very much influenced by the French school... Up into the 1940s and at the time that I was in New York in the middle '40s, I came under all of these influences, and I think that American painting was also taking a turn from there on and I was right in the midst of all this."

Throughout his formal education and his life's experiences, George earned critical acclaim and many honors. It was a Fullbright Scholarship that allowed him to study art in France in 1952. He worked as a professor for several prestigious institutions including the Dayton Art Institute, Cornell University and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). George Morrison eventually found himself drawn back to Minnesota. He worked for over a decade at the University of Minnesota, not only in its fine arts department but also in its American Indian studies. Upon retirement, he continued creating art in his Red Rock studio in Grand Portage.

There is so much more to learn and say about George Morrison. As always, contact the Cook County Historical Society for more information. We have wonderful resources available! And remember to visit the exhibit at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul

before April 26th. Over 200,000 people have already attended this wonderful show! To learn more about it go to mmaamorrison.org.



At the Chippewa City Church: George's grandfather is back row on far left, his father is third from left in third row, and his grandmother third from left in front.



Morrison with a high school "shop" project, 1938



George Morrison with his mother, Barbara, in 1958

BALLY COLLECTION

NOW—ONLINE—the entire collection of artifacts from the Bally Blacksmith Shop has been uploaded to our ONLINE CATALOG. These records of our historic collections all have accompanying photographs.

Here's how you can have a look at the decades of objects that were housed in the historic blacksmith shop:

Go to our website: www.cookcountyhistory.org, click on Research and Remember, and then choose Collections Catalog. In the key word search put in "blacksmith" or "Bally." The search can be narrowed (on the right) by only records with images.

This important collection will be used in our future exhibits at the Bally Blacksmith site and are a very important part of the historic record—the blacksmith was integral to all activities of our early, growing community.

*Please send us an
email greeting!
history@boreal.org*

*We are working to
gather our members'
email addresses and
hope to save on postage
and printing costs.
In your email, please
indicate if you would
prefer a digital version
of your newsletter rather
than paper.*

**Become a member of the Cook County Historical Society Museum and/or
the Johnson Heritage Post today!**

COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEMBERSHIP 2015

We invite you to join our society, supporting its museum and our ongoing projects. If you are interested in supporting our work, please select a category below:

- \$10.00 Single Annual Membership
- \$15.00 Dual Annual Membership
- \$25.00 Supporting Membership
- \$50.00 Commercial Membership
- \$100.00 Patron
- \$500.00 Life Membership

Please clip and return this form along with your check to:
Cook County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 1293, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send my Overlook newsletter by email

JOHNSON HERITAGE POST ART GALLERY

Your membership is very important to JHP. Membership privileges include free admissions, invitations to openings, newsletter mailings, and discounts on book sales. Join today!

- \$20.00 Annual Membership (Single)
- \$30.00 Annual Membership (Family)
- \$50.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$100.00 Sponsoring Membership
- \$250.00 Patron Membership
- \$1000.00 Lifetime Membership

Please clip and return this form along with your check to:
Johnson Heritage Post
P.O. Box 35, Grand Marais, MN 55604-0035

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send my Overlook newsletter by email

Preserving Cook County's History for Future Generations.

OUR MISSION: The purpose of the Society shall be the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Cook County and to relate it to the history of the State of Minnesota.

COOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1293
Grand Marais, MN 55604
www.cookcountyhistory.org
history@boreal.org
218-387-2883

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNERS & SMALL TALKS

Everyone is invited to come share good stories and good food.

- ⇒ *A History of Dog Sledding* by Arleigh Jorgenson, Sat. March 21 at the JHP, 4 p.m.
- ⇒ *Stories of Bally Blacksmith Shop*: special guests and YOU are invited to share stories, photographs, or objects made/repaired at Ballys— Sat. April 11 at the JHP, 4 p.m.
- ⇒ *A History of Grand Marais Businesses* by Gene Glader, Sat. May 2 at the JHP, 4 p.m.
- ⇒ *Annual Fishcake Dinner*—Friday, June 19 at St. John's Church, 5:30 p.m.

Remember, music lovers!

Please, help us by sharing your Cook County music memorabilia for a new exhibit opening spring/summer 2015.

- ♪ Posters
- ♪ Photos
- ♪ Live recordings
- ♪ Programs

We are seeking items that highlight local musicians and performances through the years! Please submit before March 30.

MUSEUM IS OPEN

Through May

Fridays 1-4 p.m. & Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Starting in Early June

Tuesday—Saturday 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

Office hours throughout the week!
Please, call ahead for research or special tours.