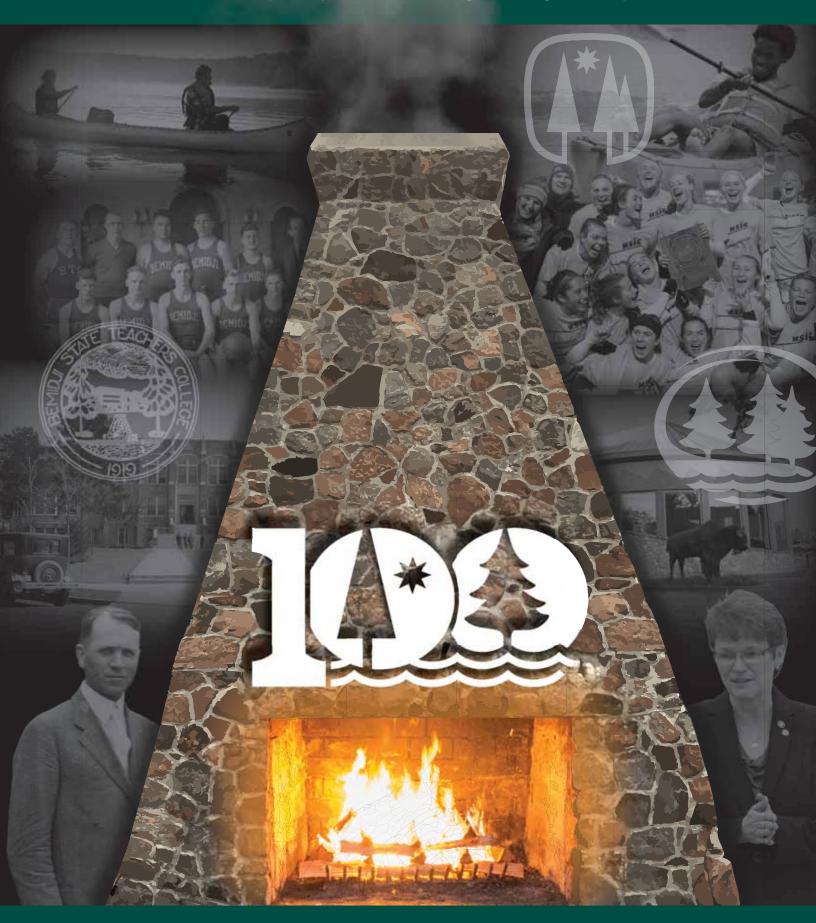
BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY



A CENTURY IN THE PINES



INTRODUCTION

Bemidji State University's first 100 years are marked by tremendous growth — in our size, in our purpose and in our mission to serve the people of Minnesota and beyond.

When we opened our doors in 1919 as Bemidji Normal School, the sixth Normal School for teacher education in the state of Minnesota, few couldn't have imagined what we would become. Our first four-year degree offering came in 1921, and we renamed ourselves Bemidji Teachers College. In 1957, we became Bemidji State College. Then, in 1975, our journey took its next step when we became Bemidji State University — a name recognizing our role as a multi-purpose institution with regional importance.

Taking full advantage of our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to recognize a 100-year milestone, our observance of A Bemidji State Century lasted for nearly 18 months. An April 2018 kickoff celebration

- held nearly 100 years to the day from the groundbreaking ceremony for our first building on campus
- featured music, dance and artifacts from our past. It was an energetic and exciting celebration of the events, people and achievements that are now interwoven into the history of this timeless institution.

That celebration continued into 2019, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of our first fall semester, which began on Sept. 2, 1919, when 38 students registered for classes. The recognition of our Centennial included celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Hobson Memorial Union, the 50th anniversary of varsity intercollegiate women's athletics and the 10th anniversary of our Sustainability Office.

The students who first rushed to the shores of Lake Bemidji to pursue their dreams of becoming teachers could not have known that theirs were the first steps in what has become our 100-year journey. It is because of their dreams, and the dreams of those who believed that this institution could only belong in Bemidji, that BSU endures to this day.

From all of us at Bemidji State University, please enjoy some highlights from this rich story through the people who lived it, then and now.

ENTURY











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- 4-7 Remembering a Bemidji State Century
- 8-11 BSU commemorates end of Centennial Celebration by planting a time capsule
- 12-17 Messages From the Past: BSU opens 1918 time capsule
- 18-29 A Century in the Pines Bemidji State's Centennial Photo Montage



BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY Magazine

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andy.bartlett@bemidjistate.edu or (888) 234-7794
Towns are in Minnesota unless noted.



A member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, Bemidji State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity educator and employer.

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Rachel Munson and Eric Sorenson



recognition of its 100th birthday.

Bemidji's quest to win the right to host Minnesota's sixth normal school can be traced back to 1906, when Bemidji Schools Superintendent A. P. Ritchie first conceived the idea. Over the next seven years, Bemidji, Cass Lake and Thief River Falls waged a lobbying battle with the state legislature, each trying to make its case as the new school's home. Cass Lake

> seemed poised to win the battle in 1909, when the legislature passed a bill awarding the school to Cass Lake. The Cass Lake Times celebrated the decision, running a headline reading "Cass Lake Bill Wins 'Against the Field." Minnesota Governor John A. Johnson vetoed the bill in full, however, saying in his veto message "in my judgment there

is no pressing need for the establishment of an additional normal school at this time."

The battle continued for another four years, with Bemidji finally prevailing and winning the right to host the school in 1913.

group of students.

Nearly 100 years to the day from when ground was broken for construction of the school's first building — "The Main," as it was known, which today still stands as Deputy Hall — Bemidji State University threw a raucous kickoff celebration of its centennial year in the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex. This issue of Bemidji State University magazine officially brings that celebration to a close.

As we have celebrated this historic and monumental milestone in our history, we've also found opportunity to recognize many other significant milestones in this university's storied history — including the 50th anniversaries of the Hobson Memorial Union, our since-retired holiday Madrigal Dinners production and organized varsity intercollegiate athletics for women. We also acknowledged the 10th anniversary the BSU Sustainability Office.

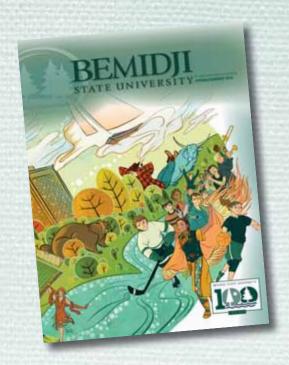
Photos on the next several pages capture just a few of the many high points from our celebration.

perform for the more than 100 guests at the April 12, 2018, kickoff for BSU's





Homage to the Past with an Eye on the Future



Bemidji State University formally launched an 18-month celebration of its 100th anniversary on April 12, 2018, with a full day of activities and special events on campus. The recognition began with a morning history walk reception on the concourse outside the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex Main Theatre, featuring historical artifacts from the university archives and banners recapping key moments in Bemidji State's century-long story. A multimedia extravaganza followed, with BSU students performing eraappropriate song and dance routines during intermissions of a video documentary on the university's history. A luncheon followed at the American Indian Resource Center and an afternoon ceremony renamed the courtyard between the Hobson Memorial Union buildings as "Centennial Plaza."

A complete look back at the kickoff of "A Bemidji State Century" may be found as the cover story to the Spring/Summer 2018 edition of Bemidji State University magazine. That story, along with the rest of the issue, is available on our website.

Women's Athletics 50th Anniversary



anniversary of women's athletics.

Former and current BSU women's athletes, coaches, supporters and family packed the American Indian Resource Center's Gathering Room for an Oct. 6, 2018, social to launch a recognition of the 50th anniversary of varsity intercollegiate athletics for women at Bemidji State. The social, emceed by BSU alumna and retired North Dakota State University Director of Women's Athletics Lynn Dorn '72, also recognized four remarkable women for their roles in creating BSU's women's intercollegiate athletics program. Dr. Marjory Beck, Dr. Ruth Howe and Betsy McDowell were recognized as founders of women's athletics, while long-time BSU faculty member and coach Dr. Pat Rosenbrock was celebrated as the program's historian for her tireless effort to document the history of women's athletics at the

Bemidji State's journey to the modern, competitive NCAA Division II women's athletics program it enjoys today began with four sports — basketball, volleyball, field hockey and swimming — in an era when prevailing conventional wisdom dictated that while athletic competition was considered healthy for men, it was "harmful and inappropriate" for women.

BSU also recalled its history as a founding member of the Minn-Kota Conference, one of the first in the nation for women's athletics, in 1969, its national leadership as a founding member of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women in 1971, and its eventual moves to the Northern Sun Conference and the NCAA.























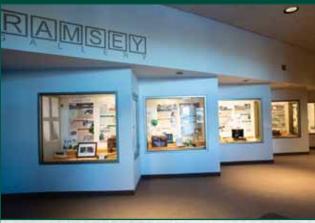








Ramsey Gallery Installation



Bemidji State's Office of Communications & Marketing opened a showcase of historic artifacts from the university archives and from private contributors in the Ramsey Gallery of the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex in October 2018. The gallery also featured recreations of banners highlighting decade-by-decade key moments in the university's history which were used during the Centennial Kickoff in April 2018. The exhibit also included special displays celebrating the 50th anniversaries of both the Madrigal Dinners and women's intercollegiate athletics, and later was home to artifacts found in the 1918 time capsule left in Deputy Hall's cornerstone when construction on the building began.



President Hensrud and members of the BSU Building & Grounds team opened a time capsule left in the cornerstone of Deputy Hall in 1918. Artifacts from the time capsule were publicly unveiled in an exhibit at the university's Ramsey Gallery in September 2019. A complete story on the 1918 time capsule opening begins on Page 12.



2019 TIME CAPSULE Timus and director emeritus ffice of News & Publications, rer, reflects on his nearly 50-



On a cloudy October afternoon, about 100 campus and community members gathered on the Hobson Memorial Union lawn, where dozens of items were left for future generations to explore in Bemidji State University's centennial time capsule.

A dedication ceremony, led by BSU President Faith C. Hensrud, Colleen Deel, assistant professor of library services, and Al Nohner, a BSU alumnus and director emeritus of its Office of News & Publications, marked the conclusion of Bemidji State's 18-month centennial celebration.

Hensrud welcomed attendees and acknowledged the historic nature of the occasion.

"Today, we are creating an opportunity for a future generation to travel back in time to October of 2019," she said. "For in 100 years — in the year 2119 — we expect that a future Bemidji State University students, faculty and staff will again come together with members of the Bemidji community at this very spot so they might discover what we are leaving for them today."

The centennial time capsule includes a wide selection of items, including branded merchandise such as t-shirts, hats and note pads, a current campus map, a copy of BSU's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, a hockey puck, a current academic course catalog, a diploma cover given to graduates at commencement, a red pine tree core sample collected by Landscape Ecology students and more.

Al Nohner, a BSU alumnus and director emeritus of its Office of News & Publications, reflecting on his nearly 50-year association with Bemidji State — looked to the future with optimism.





2019 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS StarTril The F 2019 ANNUAL REPORT Weekender velers 100 YEARS OLD AND READY FOR MORE 918 time ICDES CELEBRATION B For more information about the contents of the 2019 BSU time capsule, visit our website at www.bemidjistate.edu/100.

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- Tree core sample pg. 10
- Gloves pg. 11

RECEIPT FROM F.G. SCHADEGG"Box sealed by F.G. Schadegg. Local Tinsmith born April 23, 1873. Age 45 years, 3 months and 17 days."





Bemidji State Reveals Contents of 1918 Time Capsule

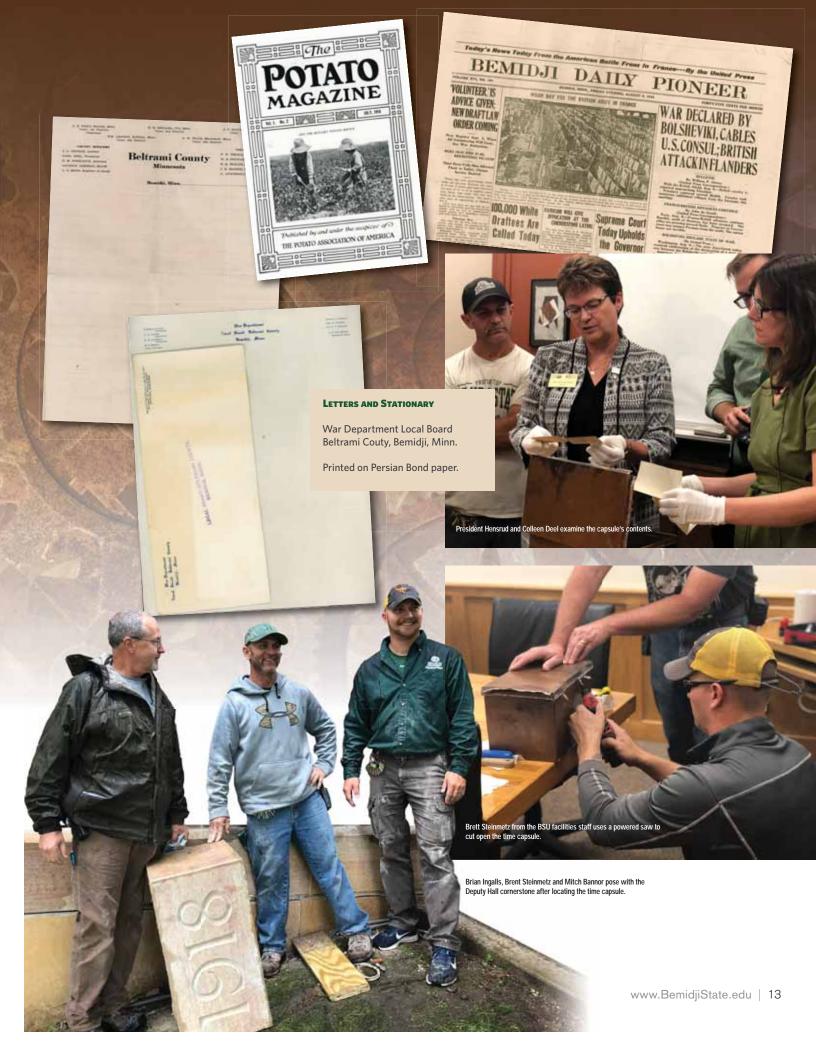


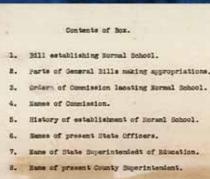
A footnote found on page 47 of Dr. Art Lee's book, "University in the Pines," reads, in part: "...it took a large container to accommodate all the memorabilia that went into it. As the (Bemidji) Sentinel article of August 16, 1918, read: 'Records of practically all the proceedings connected with the development ... were placed within the casket that is now covered by the cornerstone."

After this reminder of the existence of a 100-year-old time capsule on campus, and finding no records that it was ever recovered or retrieved, Bemidji State's grounds crew removed the Deputy Hall cornerstone on Sept. 9, 2019, and located the capsule.

The entire Bemidji State University community owes a debt of gratitude to the founders of this great and enduring institution, not only for the years-long campaign they waged to win the right to host Bemidji Normal School, but also for having the foresight to leave for us this priceless gift of a time capsule.

the BSU Buildings and Grounds staff.





- History of establishment of Horsel School.
- of State Superintendedt of Education.
- e of present County Superintendent.
- of present City Superintendent.
- 10. Hames of local Senators and Representatives,
- Hane of State grahitect.
- Photograph and biographical sketch of L.S. Penlergast.
- 14. Comy of me biannual report of Normal Bobool Board.
- Mirisaye view of the City of MHIDJI, Hinn.
- Photograph of Chief Senidit.
- Photographs of public and business houses of Benidji including Rest School, City Library, United States Fost Office.

 Court Nouse, Nethodist Church, Catholic Church, Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church, Episcopal Church, Barkiam Botel, Elks Hall, Crockston Hills, Union Depot, Great Northern Engot, Semidji Handle Factory, Birchmost Hotel, Boat City of hemidji, County Counterings in Session.
- Business and professional cards.
- Copy of City Directory.
- Copies of local and State Newspapers.

While the numerous newspapers of the day shared within — issues of the Bemidji Pioneer, Bemidji Sentinel, and other newspapers from around the state — speak prominently of the Great War being waged in Europe at the time, the message found in the time capsule is instead one of hope and pride.

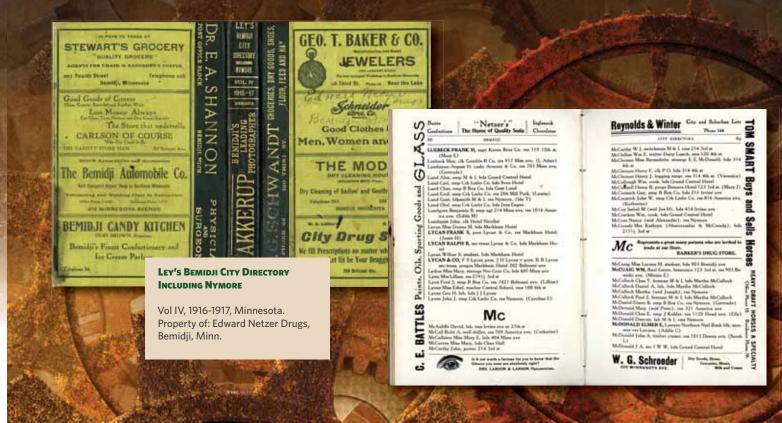
At a ceremony to dedicate BSU's 2019 time capsule, after which the contents of this capsule were publicly unveiled for the first time, President Hensrud spoke to that message of hope.

"While the contents of this time capsule show us that much has changed in Bemidii over the last 100 years, the pride we feel today for our university and for the city we call home continues — as strong as it has ever been."

In total, the brass box — sealed by local tinsmith F.G. Schadegg on August 10, 1918, as stated on the enclosed handwritten receipt — contained more than two dozen artifacts. Included were copies of the bill establishing Bemidji as the site of Minnesota's sixth normal school; a record of all legislators who voted in favor of the bill's passage; a document called "History of Establishment" which recapped the legislative battle between Bemidji, Cass Lake and Thief River Falls for the right to host the school; and various photos, postcards and directories that provided a glimpse into the 1918 version of Bemidji.

Contents of this time capsule were included in BSU's Centennial history display in the Ramsey Gallery of the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex, and also were on display at the 2019 Honors Gala at Bemidji's Sanford Center.





HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

This document, called "History of Establishment," was one of the many historical documents found in the 1918 time capsule left by Bemidji Normal School's founders in the Deputy Hall cornerstone. It is presented here precisely as it was typed more than 100 years ago, in the spring of 1918. On the list included in the time capsule, "Contents of Box.", this document is Number 5, "History of establishment of Normal School."

The Idea of the Bemidji Normal School was first conceived in the summer of 1906, by A. P. Ritchie, who was at that time, city Supt. of th Bemidji Public Schools. During the Winter and Fall of the same year the idea spread, and during the session of the Minnesota State Educational Association it took tangible form. Little attention was paid to the idea, however, in Bemidji until the State Legislature met in January, 1907, Cass Lake was the first to present a Bill in the Legislature and not until that time did the majority of Citizens of Bemidji wake up to the occasion. The Cass Lake Bill was fathered by P. H. McGeary of Walker. Soon a bill was introduced in the House by J. J. Opsahl, and Senator Honson presented two bills in the Senate. One for Bemidji and one for Thief River Falls. These were followed by Bills for Park Rapids, Warren and Wadena. After some time all the contending parties except Cass Lake fathered a General Bill which provided that a Normal School should be established in Northern Minnesota north of the Northern Pacific Railroad, extending from Duluth to Moorhead. The site to be selected by the Normal School Board. This Bill was pushed by Bemidji and Thief River Falls assisted by Warren. All Bills failed to pass at this session.

The ground was now broken and the way paved for a more intense struggle. During the session of 1909, Cass Lake backing an individual Bill while Bemidji and Thief River Falls backed the General Bill. After a long and protracted fight, the Cass Lake Bill was finally passed, and was vetoed by Governor John A. Johnson.

This put a damper on the fight during the session of 1911 and but little was done during this session more than to create a sentiment for the additional Normal School.

When session of 1913 opened the same fight was on. The backers of the General Bill however, asking for a commission of five men to be selected by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the house, whose duty it should be to visit all contending localities and select Ole Sageng of Dalton, Hon. W. W. Brown of St. James, Hon. Samuel Wilson of Mankato and Hon James Ferguson of Duluth. During the following summer of 1913, the commission visited the several proposed locations and after due deliberation finally selected Bemidji as the location. The City of Bemidji granting to the State of Minnesota the site which is estimated at not less than \$30,000,00.

The Bill creating the school d i not carry with it any appropriation. During the session of 1916, the Legislature appropriated the sum of \$25,000 to begin the construction and erection of a building. This was not used at this time.

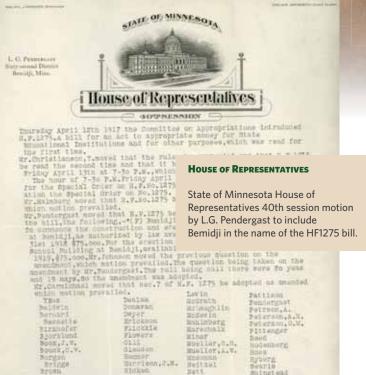
The session of 1917, opened with considerable opposition to any further appropriation for the erection of a building at this time. L. G. Pendergast of this City went to the session with but one object in view that was for a substantial appropriation. The odds seemed against him but with superhuman efforts he persuaded the Legislature to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00. This amount was cut by Governor J. A. A. Burnquist to \$75,000.00. With this amount the Board of Control, , at the suggestion of The Normal School Board began the construction of the main building in May, 1918.

Committee.

History of Establishme

The Idea of the Bemidji Mormal School was first o r of 1906, by A. P. Ritchie, who was at that time, o Il Public Schools. During the Winter and Fall of th agreed, and during the session of the Minnesots St. mintion it took tangible form. Little attention was nowever, in Benidji until the State Legislature ne Cass Lake was the first to present a Bill in the I until that time did the majority of the Citizens of the occasion. The Case Lake Bill was fathered by P. ker. Hoom a bill was introduced in the House by J. ster Hanson tresented two hills in the Genete. One for Thief Siver Palls. These were followed by Pil THE AND Videos. After some time all the contending a Lake fathered a General Bill enich provided that

1918₍₁₎





HEREAFTER- STORK WILL BRING BANK ACCOUNT:

CARLSON-OF COURSE

"Return in 5 days to Carlson Variety Store Bemidji, Minnesota."

HANDWRITTEN NOTE ON BACK

"We boost for the Normal School and every other good thing for our city." 8-10-1918, Carlson Variety Store, A.T. Carlson





Cook Montogomery Co. Post Cards, Minneapolis.

MISCELLANEOUS **BUSINESS CARDS**

Bemidji area businesses.















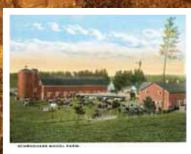


Eugust 11 1918 H.C. Share

-BSU PRESIDENT FAITH C. HENSRUD

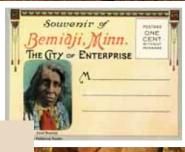












SOUVENIR ILLUSTRATION BOOK

City of Bemidji, "The City of Enterprise" published by Hakkerup Studio.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT MEMO

Treasury Department Custodian Service document of names and roles of those instrumental in securing Bemidji Normal School site.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

art, Prominent in fight.

ergest , sepresentative when appropriation were made

all, representative during the first ten firmts

s .Senator suring the first two figure.

tiace, Jesus serguene, c.v. Scoule, v.v. Brown; tile SegengioCarini commirme.

STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SAINT PAUL

July 18, 1913.

ION BY THE COMMISSION IN COMMECTION WITH THE FOR THE NORMAL SCHOOL AT BENIDJI.

"On motion of Mr. Wilson it was Voted, that Bemidji be finally designated ation for the sixth normal school, upon meet ing conditions:

- 1. Acquire title to all of the site kn i Point, there being about thirty-seven acre and convey to the state a tract of twentyreof, or such part of twenty-five acres as t shall designate.
 - 2. Agree to park the balance of the to
 - Agree to extend the city sewerage
 - 4. Tree to open and improve land Ave

ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

This memo on State of Minnesota Department of Education letterhead, marked "COPY" and dated July 18, 1913, officially established Bemidji as the site of Minnesota's sixth Normal School. It read:

ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITE FOR THE NORMAL SCHOOL AT BEMIDJI.

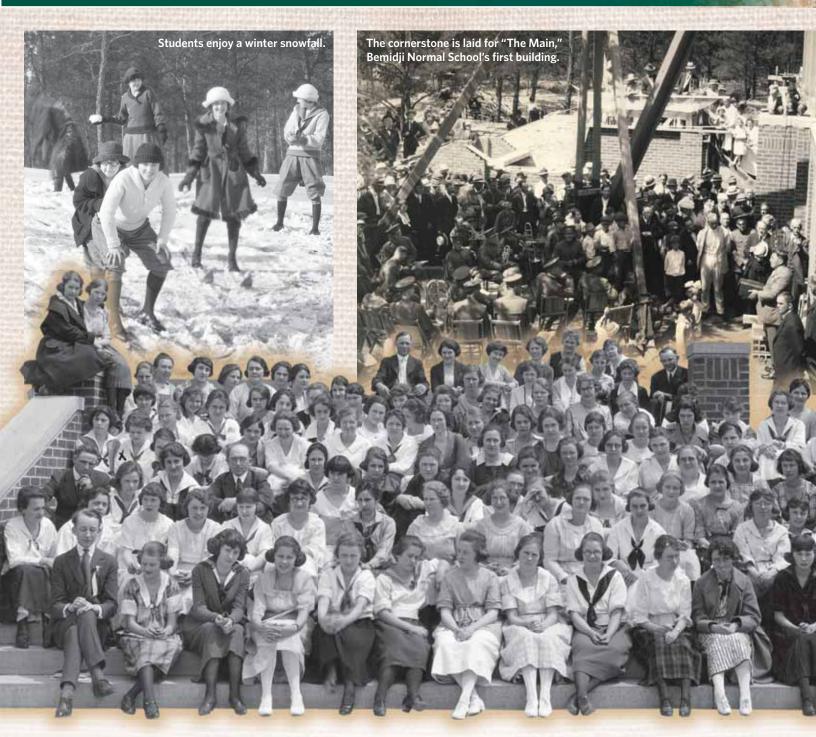
"On motion of Mr. Wilson, it was Voted, that Bemidji be finally designated as the location for the sixth normal school, upon meeting the following conditions:

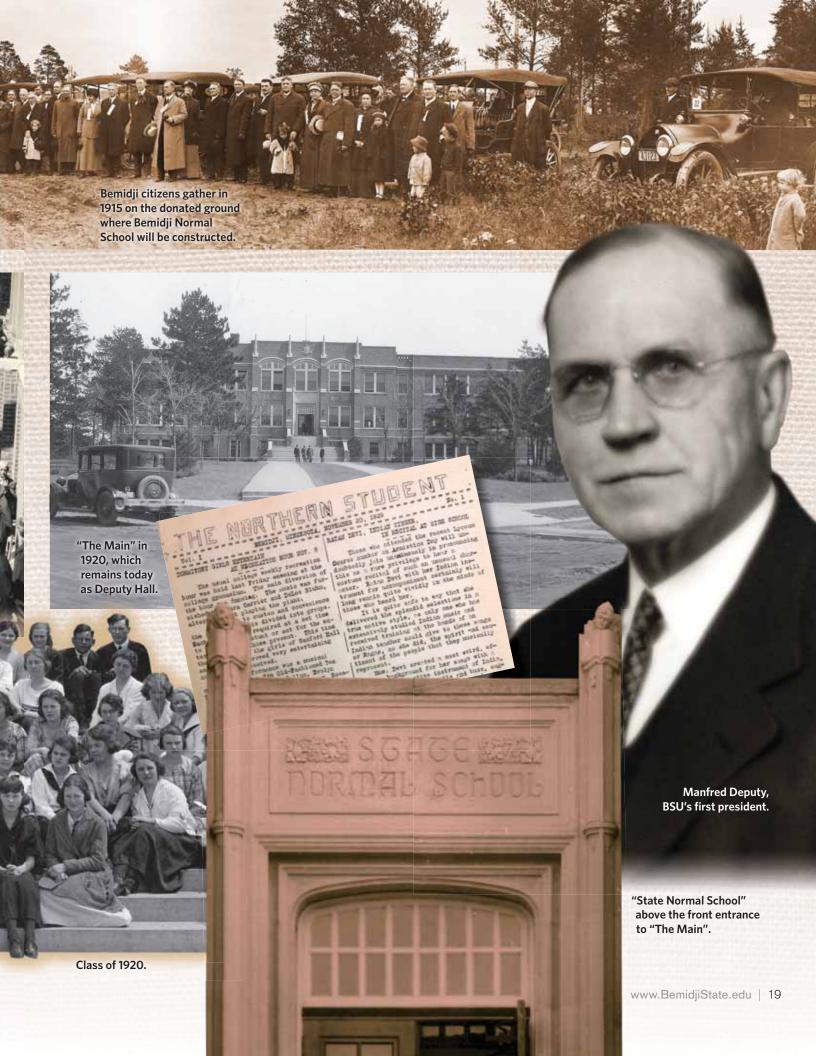
- 1. Acquire title to all of the site known as Diamond Point, there being about thirty-seven acres in said site, and convey to the state a tract of twenty-five acres thereof, or such part of twenty-five acres as this commission shall designate.
- 2. Agree to park the balance of the tract.
- 3. Agree to extend the city sewerage and pavement up to the site.
- 4. Agree to open and improve Dowd Avenue as it runs along said site."





Founding – 1929 L

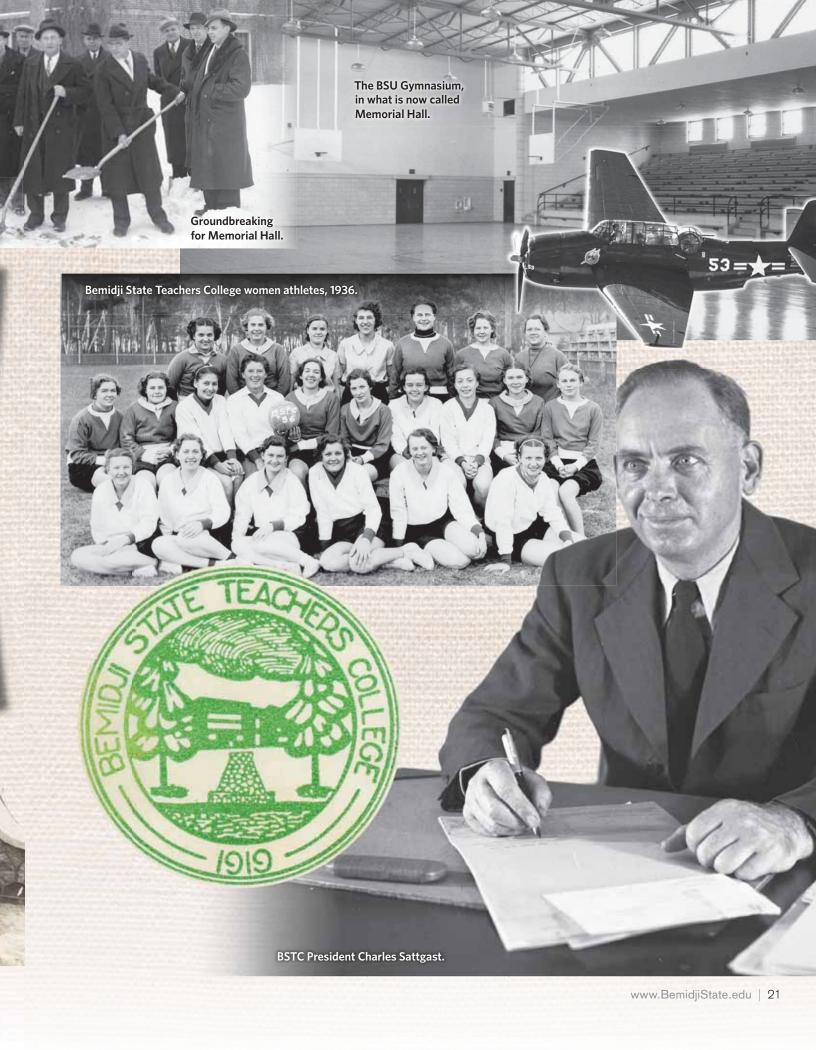


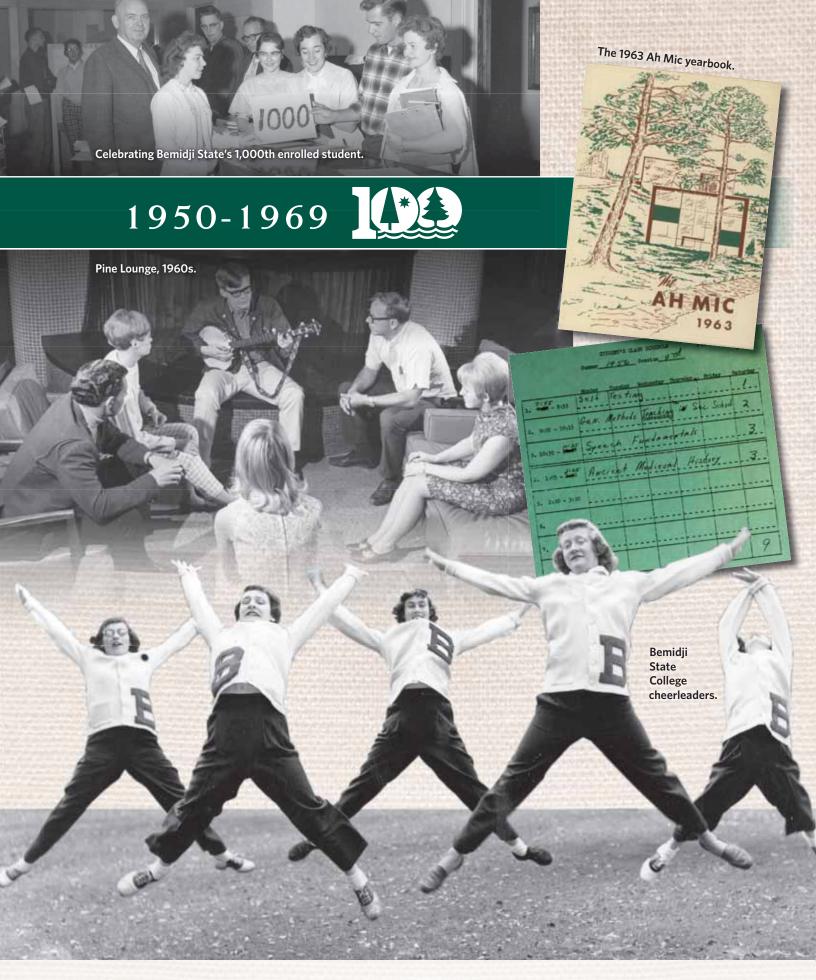


1930-1949





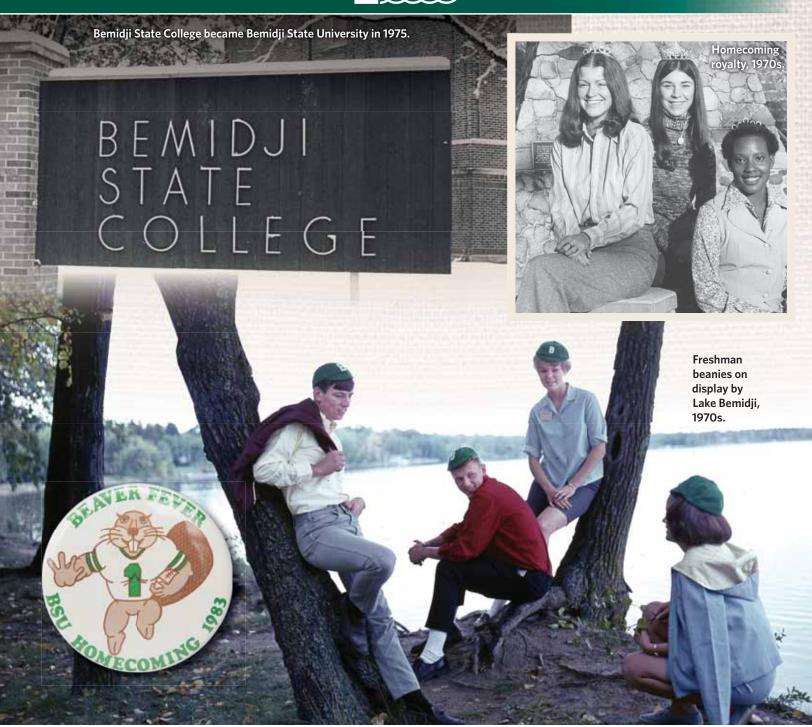








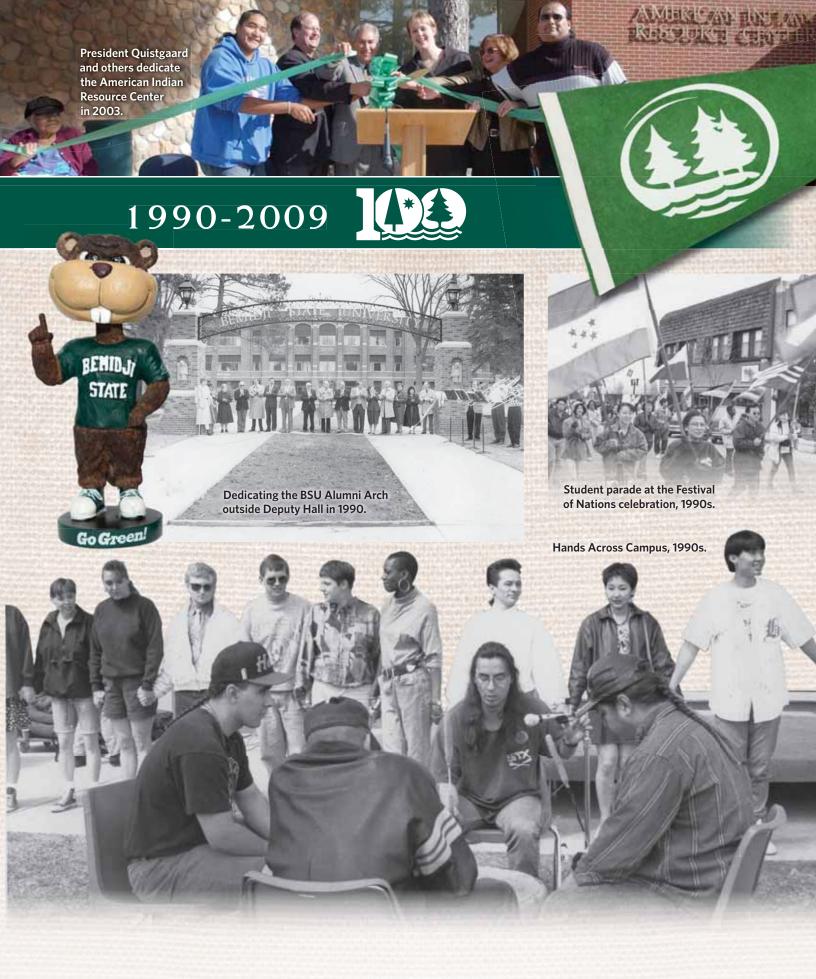
1970-1989

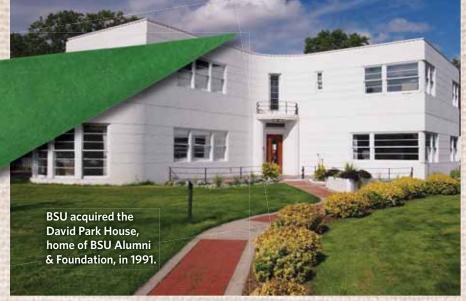


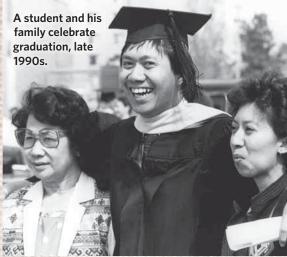


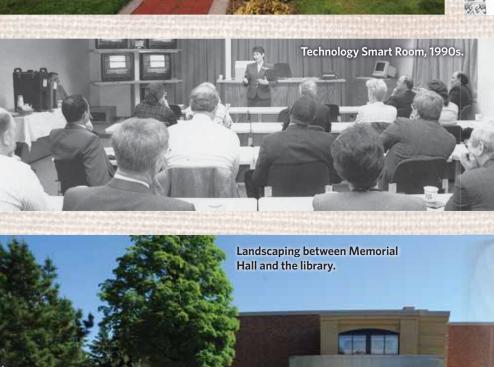


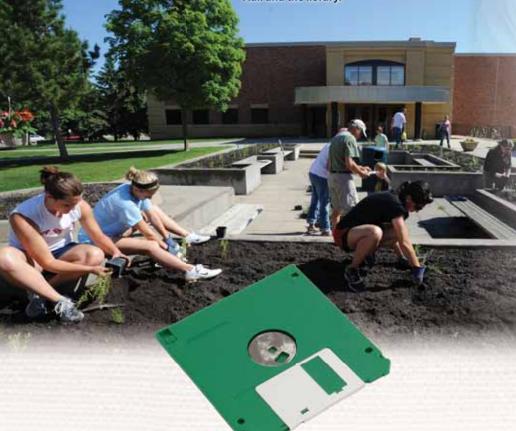












BSU President Les Duly.



2000-2019







