

# ZUMBROTA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Lights! Camera! Action!



Zumbrota was the backdrop of a movie "His Neighbor Phil" in March and April of 2014. Residents from Zumbrota and surrounding towns were invited to participate in this exciting venture. Pam Langley and Ronda Sand held several

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informational meetings and spent countless hours making arrangements so that the movie could become a reality. Over 60 people showed up to audition for the film, which is centered on a family dealing with Alzheimer's disease. Many of those auditioning had no acting experience. Bob Bird of Mazeppa who played Phil, had never acted before, said he was talked into auditioning when he was in search of work behind the scenes. "It's been a great adventure, to see how the magic is created," he said. "It's incredible."

*Movie continued on page 4*

## Annual Meeting Features Scouting in Zumbrota



### Annual Meeting- October 13 - 7:00 PM

The history of scouting in Zumbrota will feature guest speakers and memorabilia. Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be represented.

**Photo: Eagle Scouts between 1947-1952**

**Front row: Don Raasch, James Wedge, Alton "Bud" Werth, Assistant Scoutmaster, Clarence Austed-Scoutmaster, David Rockne, Duane Hoven**  
**Back Row: Charles Haapala, Gordon Trelstad, Richard Wedge, Paul Rockne, Louis Banitt, Jerome Trelstad, Robert Kalass**

Please see Annual Meeting page 4

## Movie Sneak Preview!

The Movie "His Neighbor Phil" will be first shown in Zumbrota at the State Theatre on Oct. 25th, 2014.

Then movie will be held on all dates at 7:30 PM except for Oct. 26th, and Nov. 2, which will be at 2 PM and 7:30 PM.

The movie dates are as follows:  
Oct 25-31 and Nov 2.

### WALKING TOUR PROJECT

The Zumbrota Historical Society is still planning on creating a walking tour of Zumbrota. Several suggestions have been offered regarding the extent and focus of the tour. If you have any thoughts on this, please contact us!

The idea is that a walking tour of the downtown area will be planned, designed and created. A map and buildings with a brief history will be featured in a brochure that can be obtained in several locations. Then a logo and corresponding number will be stenciled on the sidewalk in front of the building. The city has expressed interest in cooperating with the project.

Some ideas so far are to concentrate on buildings built in the early 1900's, buildings that are "haunted", and distinguished buildings on Main Street.

Work on this project will begin in early October.

If you are interested in this project, please email [zahistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:zahistorycenter@gmail.com) or call Stacy Drenkhahn at ( 507) 732-4191



*Watch the Zumbrota News for details of the Sneak Peek!*

## Glaciers, Explorers, Farms and Floods: The History of the Zumbro Watershed

Kevin Strauss will be the presenter in this joint project with the Zumbrota Public Library.

The History of the Zumbro Watershed will be held at the Museum November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

### Many Meals Prepared for Movie Crew

Many meals were served by local residents over the course of the movie-making. Everyone pitched in both cooking and donating food, to serving and cleaning up. Most of the meals were served at the Congregational Church, which also served as a staging area for the extras. A meal was served at United Redeemer Church, and a Pizza party at the Jeff and Linda Smith residence where they cooked pizza in their outdoor wood-fired pizza oven.



*Zumbrota Girl scouts serve a meal at the Congregational Church.*

## Movies and Golf

By Judy Rockne

After participating as extras at a Crossing's shooting, Paul and I were at the bottom of the outside steps when Stephanie Zimbalist came out. She started talking to us and the conversation turned to golf (imagine that!) She said she loved to golf with her 95 year old father, and couldn't wait to get home to golf with him again. We were saddened to hear that her father passed away about a month later. We hope that they got in their game.



*shouting or foul language. I got to know a member of the film crew during a long dinner break. He knew airplanes well and we had a very good conversation. We had plenty of time because of those frustrating delays I mentioned earlier. After that, it was a wink or nod, or more conversation, every time we met.*

*I appeared in only one scene and was, "on the set" as we theatrical people say, quite early. After quite a bit of conversation with the other "actors", I took my place in a chair next to a davenport where I was to interact with the leading lady Stephanie Zimbalist. She came in early and we sat and talked for two and one half hours while we waited for several uncontrollable factors. The sun had to set to a certain level and the camera crew had a myriad of details to attend to. This was fine with me. What better excuse to spend that much time with a charming lady of her theatrical stature.*

*With that much time, we talked of many things. One coincidence seemed remarkable to me, She mentioned that her father Efrem Zimbalist who was also an actor of note, served in WWII in Europe and received the purple heart medal for severe injuries received, "in some woods over there". I asked if it might have been in the Hurtgen Forest, but she was not sure what the place was called. When I got home that night I looked it up on the computer and it was indeed the Hurtgen Forest. My division, the eighth, spent a couple of miserable months in that same forest. Snow, mud and tree bursts were everywhere. Efrem, no doubt was sent home and out of the war. He probably did not receive a Division 8 book so I took photos of the Hurtgen Forest from mine and sent them home with Stephanie. She also mentioned wanting to play golf with her dad when she got home. I doubt she ever did, since he died soon after the completion of the film and her return to California.*

*One trick about acting that Stephanie taught me was this. If you intend to quote something from memory, but will be holding a book as if you are reading from it, be very sure that you cover the written word with a blank sheet of paper. If you do not, you will have a mess of your words from memory mixed with the printed words.*

*The whole episode was an adventure we will all remember. Thanks again to all who made it so. It will be interesting to view the finished product.*

## Shared Experiences

By John Perra

*On learning that a movie was to be made in our town, I was elated. It had to be good for all concerned. At the casting interview, the director seemed very interested in my penchant for poetry and especially in one poem I quoted which was somewhat humorous. He seemed to think that a bit of levity in a movie on Alzheimer's was a good thing. He signed me as the first of his list of characters. I was surprised that there was no real rehearsal for me, only the request that I have another poem available to act as background for a given scene. Longfellow's poem, "The Day Is Done" seemed to me to fit the situation perfectly.*

*To my mind, film making is inherently a frustrating business, primarily because you are constantly waiting for something, over which you have absolutely no control. The consideration and gentleness of the film crew and the actors was remarkable. Although they had to be on edge frequently, I heard no*



*Annual Meeting* from page 1

The Zumbrota Historical Society will hold their annual meeting at the museum on Monday, October 13, 2014. After the business report to members, a program will be held on the history of scouting in Zumbrota.

Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts will present a short program. The museum will also display scouting memorabilia that is owned by the museum.

This event is free to the public and also to all Society members.

Since this is the start of the new year, if anyone is interested in serving on the board, please contact president, Judy Lang to express your interest. New board members are presented at the annual meeting.

[zahistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:zahistorycenter@gmail.com)

## Movie Continued...

Tricia Stiller, a physical therapist by day at Big Stone Therapy in Zumbrota, like Bird, had never acted before, but decided to try out because, "a movie won't be made in Zumbrota again in my lifetime." Stiller plays the role of Wendy.

"Zumbrota can be so proud of this," said local actor Sue Flemke. She wasn't too nervous about stepping in front of the camera, either. Most likely because she has a plethora of theater experience and even made appearances in several television shows and films in the 1980's. She's also a stand-up comic, so the intimidation factor was low for her.

*"A movie won't be made in Zumbrota in my lifetime."  
Trish Stiller*

"Everyone is so nice, there is no need to be intimidated,' she said. She also spoke highly of all of the acting talent, regardless of experience. "I challenge anyone to watch and see if they can figure out who has acted before this and who hasn't," she said, "everyone is so good."

Even for those who didn't try out to be on screen, it doesn't mean they won't be. Filming took place all over town, making it easy for citizens just going about their regular ol' day to wind up being extras. Filming took place at locations over town, including the State Theatre, Crossings, Bridget's Café and various store fronts and businesses. Of course, the historic Covered Bridge was included. "People in town might just become extras because they are out having a cup of coffee,' said Stiller.



Filmmaker Scott Thompson, the head of *My Town Pictures*, came to Zumbrota in March to begin the three week filming of his production, "His Neighbor Phil".

It took the people of Zumbrota to get him there though, literally. Thompson and *My Town Pictures* produce low-budget, independent feature films set in small Midwestern towns. The Towns provide half the cost of production, plus \$1. To keep costs down, cast and crew members from out of town were housed in citizens houses and were fed at local churches.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 8, 2014 – Board Meeting at the museum  
7:00 PM

Oct. 6, 2014 - Board Meeting at the museum  
7:00 PM

Oct. 13, 2014- Annual Meeting at the museum  
7:00 PM

Nov. 3, 2014 - Board Meeting at the museum 7:-  
00 PM

Nov. 20, 2014 – The History of the Zumbro  
Watershed at the museum 7:00 PM

Dec. 1, 2014 - Board Meeting at the museum  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERSHIP**

\*Purchase online – Forms on our website or at  
the museum

\$15 – Individual

\$25 – Family

\$30 – Non-Profit

\$45 – Business/Professional

\$100 – Friend

\$100+ - Associate

\$500 – Patron

Membership renewals for 2015 can be sent in!

**ZUMBROTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD  
MEMBERS**

Judy Lang- President

Jeff Solberg- Vice President

Stacy Drenckhahn- Secretary

Garry Hoyme – Treasurer

Linda Smith- Social Media

Ken Lothar

Jon Stee

The board meets the first Monday of the Month at 7  
p.m. at the museum. In addition, the annual meeting is  
held the second Monday of October.

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Saturday or by appointment

10 AM- 1 PM

Alice Lothar – Curator

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Condolences to the families of long time Historical  
Society members Gretha Loken and B Knudson.

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