

"OLD ED KENDALL SCHOOLED ME IN INDIAN LORE"NEUBAUER SAID

Joe Neubauer admits to being a persistent man. If it wasn't for this quality, the Northwest Fur Post, state historical site would not be reconstructed west of Pine City.

Neubauer was the first to be aware that the soil in the area was different and he tells his story.

"I was always interested in the history of this area. When I was just a kid, about 11 years old, I would take the boat and go way to Mora looking for Indian artifacts along the shore of the river," he said.

When on these adventures he always stopped to visit with old Ed Kendall, a man who came to the area in the mid-1980's and knew the Indians and the traders by their first names.

"He would show me Indian relics he had and I would show him things I had found and he helped me identify them," Neubauer said.

Among those finds were a rifle flint and musket balls. Neubauer had found them around the site of the trading post. It was only a plowed field then but Kendall assured the boy that there must have been a trading post on that location.

Neubauer grew to manhood and was working on a job down in Red Wing, Minnesota.

"I had time on my hands so I went to the library and got a book entitled, "Five Traders of the Northwest". When I finished reading it I was convinced that that spot where I had found so many artifacts as a boy must have been the exact site of a trading post," he said.

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Excited about his discovery he notified the University in 1963 and Mr. Cooper came out to examine the site. He thought it might possibly be the site of a trading post but wasn't sure so nothing further was done.

"I just had to find out for myself," Joe said. "Jerry Cummings owned the land and it was all grown up into hay--in the soil bank program. We were friends so I asked him if he would mind if I plowed it up and he said go ahead."

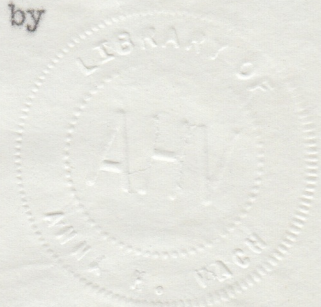
Neubauer hooked up an old single bottom plow and went at it.

"All of a sudden, it was there. I could see the outline of where the buildings stood just as plain as day. I staked them out and called the University again," he said.

"They came out, verified the site, and excavation and reconstruction began shortly after. "

Because of the persistence of Joe Neubauer and his boyhood interest in the history of this area, the Northwest Fur Trading Post has been reconstructed and is viewed by hundreds of tourists each year.

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