

'23

Pioneer  PBS

WE ARE

yours.

local
 **CONTENT & SERVICE REPORT**
to the community

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A Note from Shari Lamke

PIONEER PBS PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER



Fiscal year 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023) saw challenges Pioneer PBS had to overcome once again. A catastrophic incident took us off the air for seven weeks. This required a complete rebuild of our delivery system to our transmitters as well as a replacement of most of the broadcast infrastructure and the completion of master control in our Granite Falls facility. Chief Technology Officer Jennie Reedquist designed and installed a modernized system in record time to put us back in business for our members and viewers.

WHAT PIONEER PBS HAS TO OFFER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

Throughout our struggles Pioneer PBS has continued to send production teams out to capture the region's stories. Pioneer PBS is your station, telling your stories! We will continue to remain true to our rural values as always. We will continue to pair the best in PBS programming with regional content. We will continue to raise up the rural and diverse voices of our region and showcase this area's strengths. We will continue to use multiple methods of collecting story ideas and feedback from the community we serve.

Pioneer PBS is headquartered in Granite Falls, Minnesota, with towers in Appleton, Worthington and Fergus Falls. We reach over a million people in rural areas and small towns in western Minnesota, eastern Dakota and northern Iowa. We are proud to reflect our region and the richness of its people.

Shari Lamke

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Lamke".

President and General Manager
Pioneer PBS



Pioneer PBS

Local Value

OUR MISSION. OUR VISION. OUR VALUES.

MISSION STATEMENT

Pioneer PBS fosters civil discourse and improved quality of life through thought-provoking and inspiring media productions that connect people to rural stories and shared values. Pioneer PBS's services and programs facilitate educational growth, support cultural opportunities and promote economic development for western Minnesota, eastern South Dakota, northern Iowa and beyond.

VISION

Our vision is to be a forward-thinking media and technology leader whose viewers are engaged and inspired to advance rural values of cooperation, resilience and innovation.

LOCAL VALUE

Pioneer PBS's programming and services are focused on the needs of our viewers. We tell stories about our region and the richness of its people. We value family as a cornerstone of our work. We engage and tell the stories of the diverse rural region we serve. We believe in fairness and justice for all people. We aspire to provide provocative inspiration and technological innovation. We help viewers of all ages learn and grow. We strive to keep Pioneer PBS a balanced and independent media voice. We provide excellent programming of enduring value.

Key Services

AT A GLANCE

During fiscal year '23, Pioneer PBS continued to release episodes from regional series Postcards, Prairie Sportsman, Prairie Yard & Garden, Compass and Your Legislators – all local productions produced from its studio in Granite Falls. Read more about episodes and full seasons of these programs in the coming pages.

The station also released additional broadcast specials for LANDMARKS and WHEELS as well as documentaries called Remembering WWII: Heroes & History, Built with Love, State of Polka, Playing Haydn for the Angel of Death and Vietnam Brotherhood. This was a banner year of output for the station. The production teams crisscrossed the region, the state and even the world to tell your stories.

“*For the artists showcased, it has resonated deeply. It made me realize that I came from a very powerful place. You did an absolutely amazing job. It was beautiful. I actually cried. I saw myself in a totally different way. You gave me even more confidence to continue with my work.*”

- Jammie Niemeyer



Artist Jammie Niemeyer

Pioneer PBS provides free over-the-air broadcast and live streaming from its website to the rural areas and small towns of western Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and northern Iowa. Fiscal year 2023 saw another growth in streaming of our service, reaching 1,773,310 streams! We also stream PBS Kids, hitting record highs of 3,210,292 streams for the year.

Pioneer PBS added educational materials to [PBS LearningMedia](#), with a total of 15 lesson plans now available to teachers nationwide. In fiscal year '23 Pioneer PBS also presented at a conference for five school districts, showing teachers how to utilize the content on our website and PBS LearningMedia to localize history for their students.

Pioneer PBS engaged with the community through many events in fiscal year '23, reaching over 1,500 families and individuals in total. These events ranged from screenings of Pioneer PBS works to showcases for regional artists and participation in various regional events. Read all about them in the “In the Community” section of this report.

The public affairs program Compass launched a digital-first series in collaboration with the World Channel's Local USA to nationally showcase the impact of the world's largest pea protein processor on the area within and around the small town of Dawson, Minnesota, since it moved in. This solutions-based program also partnered with the West Central Tribune to publish articles on the subject around the time new segments were released. This collaboration and distribution across a variety of digital platforms was a first for Pioneer PBS. The digital episodes will be edited into a half-hour special that will air nationwide in fiscal year '24 on the World Channel. Read more about its progress in the Pioneer PBS Illuminates Agriculture and Rural Stories section of this report.

Bill Holm is an iconic Minnesota poet and essayist. The film "[Playing Haydn for the Angel of Death](#)" takes viewers on a trip to Reykjavik, Iceland, an ancestral homeland of Bill Holm, to witness a project, led by Dr. Daniel Rieppel, to pair Holm's poems to music composed by Martha Helen Schmidt and sung by SMSU graduate and opera singer Ryan Hugh Ross. The program was awarded an Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® in 2023.

The Postcards team also traveled to Norway, Finland and Denmark in fiscal year '23 building relationships and capturing stories that will be completed in fiscal year '24.

Pioneer PBS is showcasing our regional voices to an international stage, raising this region's voices to the world.



"Minnesota's Alt-Meat Revolution" digital-first series



"Playing Haydn for the Angel of Death"

“The programming on Pioneer PBS focuses on the **stories about our region and rural area. It educates viewers of all ages.**”

- Diane, Montevideo



Special event and screening of *Remembering WWII: Heroes & History* at Fagen Fighters WWII Museum

In the Community

EVENTS, ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pioneer PBS conducted and/or participated in several events in fiscal year '23, engaging with nearly 1,500 families and individuals, including;

'22 EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

- “Hort Night” in Morris, Minnesota, promoting our work with Prairie Yard & Garden and engaging with more than 100 people // [July 27](#) **P**
- Swift County’s “Welcoming Week” in Kerkhoven, Minnesota, visiting with more than 50 attendees // [September 7](#) **P**
- “Prairie Harvest Fest” in Morris, Minnesota, engaging with nearly 100 people // [September 23](#) **P**
- Postcards set up at the Madison Mercantile in Madison, Minnesota, to tape for a feature a curated showcase of artist [Franz Albert Richter](#), capturing the impact of this influential artist on the region. The event had an attendance of 75 people. Just before broadcast of this segment, Richter passed away. The region was very thankful that Franz had a chance to witness the impact he had made. // [November 11](#)

P Event Participated In

“*Local history on Postcards has been incredible. Thank you, Pioneer PBS.*”

- Sue, Granite Falls

‘23

- Preview screening of “Built with Love” at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, Minnesota. The event saw 150 attendees and included the Norwegian musician Olav Luksengård Mjelva, who had provided musical elements for the film and performed live. // [November 18](#)
- While promoting the “Built with Love” preview screening, the Danish American Center learned that Olav Luksengård Mjelva, famed Hardanger fiddle player, was coming from Norway to attend and asked if he would add a performance with them in the Twin Cities as well. Olav performed to a sellout crowd of more than over 200 attendees. // [November 19](#)
- A Valentine’s Day screening of “Built with Love” at the Madison Mercantile in Madison, Minnesota // [February 14](#)
- Prairie Yard & Garden aired a screening on the legacy of quilting at The Caboose in Tracy, Minnesota. Even with a sudden and unexpected influx of bad weather the event was well attended with 100 people. // [March 12](#)
- “Strengthening the Families” Beach Party in Madison, Minnesota, to raise awareness of our kids programming and engaged with 20 families // [March 30](#) **P**
- Willmar’s “Life Connections” gathering, bringing the Larry Olson Polka Band and engaging with nearly 200 people // [April 21](#) **P**
- A special event with Nordic folk artist Fred Livesay, showcasing his wood craft and screening his Postcards segment “The Art of Everyday Living,” at the Madison Mercantile in Madison, Minnesota, had an attendance of 50 people. // [April 23](#)
- Screening of “Playing Haydn for the Angel of Death” and event with SMSU professor Dan Rieppel, who was good friends with poet Bill Holm, was attended by 75. // [May 10](#)
- “Stampede to Fun” family event in Madison, Minnesota, interacting with 40 families. // [May 24](#) **P**
- A special event had four sold-out screenings with more than 300 people in attendance of the film “Remembering WWII: Heroes & History” at Fagen Fighters WWII Museum, featuring a few of the veterans in the film. // [May 26](#)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pioneer PBS KIDS Educational Resources

Looking for ways to keep your kids engaged during summer and winter breaks? Look no further than Pioneer PBS KIDS! Our collection of free and kid-tested programs, games, and hands-on activities are perfect for children of all ages and available wherever you are - at home, at school, or on the go.



- In January 2023 Pioneer PBS was invited to participate in the MELT conference at Lac qui Parle Valley Schools, bringing teachers from around the region together for learning opportunities. We presented how to use PBS's LearningMedia as well as how to find our veteran stories on YouTube to help localize history for the region's students. This also provided an opportunity for students to watch a veteran's story before they visit the classroom, thus being prepared with deeper questions for the veteran. This was met with great enthusiasm from teachers who planned to put it in action immediately.
- Pioneer PBS stays in touch with regional schools, offering occasional internships, job shadowing, etc., and helping the youth of this region see the potential of growing with Pioneer PBS in the community

“We watch Pioneer PBS because we enjoy the local and personal approach to television.”

- Tim & April, Appleton

PIONEER PBS by the numbers

YOUTUBE

Pioneer PBS:
1,181,960 views
14,100 subscribers

Postcards:
704,762 views
3,513 subscribers

Prairie Yard & Garden:
112,441 views
960 subscribers

Prairie Sportsman:
90,521 views
892 subscribers

Compass:
67,630 views
503 subscribers

Your Legislators:
6,442 views
88 subscribers

**PIONEER PBS
KIDS LIVESTREAM**
3,210,292 streams

TIKTOK
1,606,305 views
21,707 followers

FACEBOOK
15,300 views
18,657 followers

Local Stories

YOUR STATION, YOUR STORIES

Pioneer PBS is honored to lift the voices of this region into the media landscape. We hear from viewers regularly on the value they place on this service. See a recent example on page 11 in the yellow box.

Here are some highlights of regional stories Pioneer PBS has told in the last year.



COMPASS

Ortonville, Minnesota veteran acts for Ukraine

[Ortonville's Mark J. Lindquist](#) is a United States Air Force veteran and has been volunteering in Ukraine. Compass met up with him when he was home to learn about all the work he's been doing and how people in Minnesota's southwest prairie lands have been helping.

Responding to the call – EMS in rural Minnesota

[There are a lot of challenges facing rural EMS](#), including staffing and funding. Get a brief history of how emergency medical services were set up, starting in the 1960s, before Mark Jones from the Minnesota Rural

Health Association and Kelly Asche from the Center for Rural Policy and Development talk about the state of rural EMS now with people working in the field — from CentraCare in Redwood Falls to Lake Region Healthcare in Elbow Lake. Learn how they're thinking about and addressing these challenges.

BIRKEY'S BRAIN

"[Birkey's Brain](#)" features Dr. Tom Birkey, who has been a treasured physician in the Montevideo, Minnesota, area for decades. The film follows Dr. Birkey's early journey with Alzheimer's disease and his wife Doris Thompson's experience as his caregiver.

YOUR LEGISLATORS Season 43

First airing in 1984, [Your Legislators](#) is a live, one-hour public affairs program produced for PBS stations and serving the citizens of Minnesota. The 2023 season was produced using Zoom and allowed moderator Barry Anderson to field questions from viewers and provide a forum for citizens to directly obtain information about state issues that most concerned them.

WHEELS 2nd Gear

Discover the [stories behind a 1954 Nash Metropolitan and a rare original 1976 Gran Torino "Starsky and Hutch"](#) edition. Then, take a look at the unique automobiles at the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run — plus many more classics and collections.

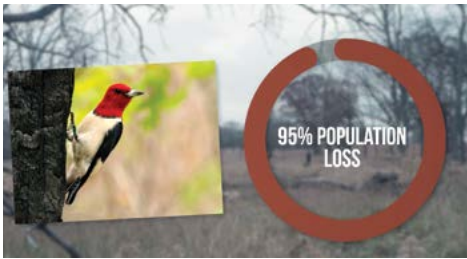


PRAIRIE YARD & GARDEN Season 36

[Prairie Yard & Garden](#) is a 30-minute television show about gardening in the Upper Midwest. Each season, PY&G travels the state to meet with researchers, gardening and nursery professionals, educators and ordinary backyard gardeners to discuss specific issues in horticulture, landscaping and a host of topics in gardening.

Growing Hydrangeas

The highest-viewed episode of Season 36 was “[Growing Hydrangeas](#).” The PY&G crew visited with horticulturist Debbie Lonnee of Minnesota-based Bailey Nurseries for information on the best varieties and growing tips for these elegant plants with an old-fashioned charm.



PRAIRIE SPORTSMAN Season 14

[Prairie Sportsman](#) is an Upper Midwest Regional Emmy®-awarded Pioneer PBS series that celebrates our love of the outdoors to hunt, fish and recreate provided by Minnesota’s vast resources of lakes, rivers, trails and grasslands. The weekly half-hour show, hosted by Bret Amundson, takes viewers on outdoor adventures around the state and explores ways we can protect and restore our natural resources.

IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITIES



Recently our Chief Technology Officer/Director of Engineering Jennie Reedquist went to the Community Center, and walked through those who were walking laps, wearing her PBS Nerd sweatshirt. As she was leaving, a woman said, “I have to say, I love your shirt!” Jennie replied that it was an apt shirt for her. When the woman asked why Jennie replied, “Well, it is what I do all day instead of retiring here - being the tech geek over at Pioneer.” The woman grabbed her arm and said, “Really what do you do there?” Jennie told her what her job is, and the woman’s jaw dropped. Before Jennie could finish replying the woman started gushing thank yous. She and her husband only have antenna TV and they live by our six channels all day and night.

Jennie thanked her and acknowledged there is a lot of technology still to rebuild for the station. The woman replied that our stories and programs fill her days, and it’s so huge for her and the people she knows, so not to worry so much. Jennie thanked her again and let her know we are thrilled to be her tv station. The woman’s last shout out was “We couldn’t get through our days without you. Thank you for coming here for us...”

This quick moment rejuvenates and renews why it is an honor to be your TV!

POSTCARDS Season 14

[Postcards](#) is an Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® regional-awarded Pioneer PBS series that features the art, history and cultural heritage of western Minnesota and beyond. This past year we've seen how impactful being featured on Postcards has been for show participants. They've shared how being featured on Postcards has brought them recognition and grown their following...even if they've decided to change careers.

“*Since you last came to visit us, we finished out the market season strong with lots of pumpkins. We did not choose to pursue another season on our farm in Renville County, but are still hopeful that we can return to something like this work someday. This spring I returned to working as an electrical engineer in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. I interviewed for a job at an agriculture company, and they mentioned seeing our story on Postcards. They offered me the job; I cannot be certain, but I do think it **helped my credibility and secured the job.**”*

- Zeke Lundstrum



Naviga Damrongnawin Lundstrum on the Lundstrum Farm



THE STATE OF POLKA

Polka has been part of Minnesota's rich music history for a long time. In this half-hour special, learn about the current [state of Minnesota's polka music scene](#).



Pioneer PBS received nominations for 22 Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® awards for 2023, bringing home three Emmy awards.

An indicator of the excellence of Pioneer PBS' efforts are seen in our 22 nominations for Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® awards for work in fiscal year '23. Three statues were awarded: one for a segment on Postcards of storm chaser [Tanner Charles](#), one for the program [Playing Haydn for the Angel of Death](#) and one for Compass's Minnesota's Alt Meat Revolution: [The Great Burger Taste Off](#).

Pioneer PBS illuminates

CULTURAL LEARNING

COMPASS

Pezihitaziz Oyate land return meeting

On Wednesday, April 5, Minnesota Sen. Gary Dahms and Rep. Chris Swedzinski hosted a meeting at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Granite Falls, Minnesota. The meeting was to hear public comment on a proposed bill (S.F. No. 2250) to return roughly 1,400 acres of the Upper Sioux Agency State Park land to the [Pezihutazizi Oyate](#)/Upper Sioux Community.



Marshall's first Juneteenth celebration

The MORE (Marshall and Mustangs Overcoming Racism through Education) Network partnered with Marshall's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission to put on [Marshall's first Juneteenth celebration](#) in Independence Park.



PRAIRIE SPORTSMAN

Foster the Outdoors

Minnesota Trout Unlimited launched [Foster the Outdoors](#), a mentorship program that teaches youth how to fly fish and connect with nature. The organization's goal is to inspire youth to become lifelong environmental stewards who will help protect the state's cold-water fisheries.

PRAIRIE YARD & GARDEN

Refrigerator Pickles

Teresa Peterson (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and a citizen of the Upper Sioux Community) has a great [family pickle recipe](#) that is easy and requires no advanced canning processes. And all the produce you need are Minnesota Grown!



Tracy Gardens and Quilt Tour

The PY&G crew experiences an annual tour that brings together families and friends from the region to appreciate the [craft of quilting and the love of gardening](#) – tied together with the promise of homemade pies and ice cream!

POSTCARDS

Drawing Your Own Story

Jordan Rodgers, based out of Duluth, Minnesota, is a BIPOC queer illustrator and graphic artist who has [created illustrations for several written adaptations of indigenous oral tradition stories](#), such as “Grasshopper Girl” by Teresa Peterson.



Grasshopper Girl - Teresa Peterson

Teresa Peterson lives in Belview, Minnesota, is Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and a citizen of the Upper Sioux Community. “[Grasshopper Girl](#)” is a children’s book that Peterson wrote from her own family stories. It conveys a trickster story from Peterson’s childhood that was told when someone was feeling sick.

“The stories Pioneer PBS produces *lift up the voices of Dakota people and are truly immeasurable. For so long, the first people of this land have been invisible in mainstream society. These stories provide opportunities to learn of our beautiful ways of being. Our arts, culture and the way that we see the world has value in this contemporary world. When we are seen, heard and appreciated, it nurtures a sense of belonging that I want my grandchildren to experience.*”

- Teresa Peterson

Connecting to Black History with Art

Jammie Niemeyer talks about how she looked to her [ancestral roots to inform her most recent art](#). Niemeyer did deep-dive studies on 44 people important to Black history and the Black experience in America. Niemeyer created portraits of these subjects as she learned about them and how they impacted who she is today. “It made me realize that I came from a very powerful place,” Niemeyer explains.



The Heart of Thunder

[Jonathan Thunder](#) is a Duluth-based multidisciplinary artist, focusing on painting and filmmaking. Thunder is an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe and works out of his studio on the North Shore. In this segment, Thunder shares the meaning behind his art in his studio in Duluth.



The Art of Everyday Living

Fred Livesay from St. Paul is a teacher and craftsman with a long career centered around traditional Scandinavian handcrafts. Livesay has a degree in history museum studies and has taught in the United States, Sweden and England. [Discover the healing art of craft and the meditative connection](#) between head, hands and heart from his studio in St Paul.



Built with Love

Would you give up your passion for love?

“[Built with Love](#)” follows Pioneer PBS Senior Producer Dana Conroy as she travels north along the coast of Norway to meet some of the last few people still building boats in the old Norwegian tradition. Along the way, Conroy discovers what her own great-great-grandfather gave up when he moved to America for the woman he loved.

“Built with Love” is edited by Mike Scholtz, a Duluth area filmmaker and long-time collaborator with Dana Conroy and Videographers Kristofor Gieske and Ben Dempcy. In June 2022 the Postcards team traveled Norway’s northwest and northeast coasts, visiting communities such as Flakkfjorden, Stadsbygn, Joa Island, Nesna and the Lofoten islands. They encountered a cast of characters engaged in the craft of traditional Norwegian boat building and sail making. Master craftsmen like Einar Borgfjorn, Frode Bjøru and Ulf Mikalsen shared their love for boats along with up and coming apprentices like Vebjorn Reitan and Stephanie Hiem. Historic sites such as the Coastal Heritage Museum in Stadsbygd and the Lofoten Stockfish Museum are also featured prominently in the film.



“Built with Love” follows Pioneer PBS Senior Producer Dana Conroy as she travels north along the coast of Norway to meet some of the last few people still building boats in the old Norwegian tradition.

Pioneer PBS illuminates

VETERANS STORIES

REMEMBERING WWII: HEROES & HISTORY

This [half-hour documentary](#) features riveting first-hand accounts from veterans who served in a diverse array of positions during World War II. In this documentary, viewers will hear interviews from Fagen Figher's WWII Museum's chief pilot Evan Fagen and 10 WWII veterans:

- Harlan Rosvold of Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, was a Marine Corps veteran who served in Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Rosvold was a tank driver of amphibious tanks and saw the famous flag rising on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi.
- Paul Fynboh of Pine River, Minnesota, is a Navy veteran who served in the Liberation of the Philippines as an electrician and first loader on a destroyer ship.
- Fay Hendricks of Alcester, South Dakota, is a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Liberation of the Philippines as a rifleman.
- Willis "Bill" Friberg of Big Lake, Minnesota, is a Marine veteran who was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa in Hawaii. Friberg was an airplane mechanic and served for more than four years during the war.
- William Homan of Montevideo, Minnesota, is a WWII U.S. Air Corps veteran. He was a mechanic on a B-17 Bomber and witnessed the aftermath of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, months after the bomb was dropped.
- David Wooden of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Wooden flew a variety of WWII aircraft under instruction of WWII pilots and took many of the planes to their final resting place at the "boneyard" in Arizona.
- Bob Brix of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a WWII U.S. Marine veteran who traveled to China and Japan and visited Admiral Nimitz's headquarters in Guam.
- Delvin Owen of Park River, North Dakota, is a WWII U.S. Naval Reserve veteran who operated test flights on a variety of WWII aircraft during the war.
- Paul Wojahn of New Ulm, Minnesota, is a WWII U.S. Marine. He fought as a pioneer soldier in the Pacific on various islands including Pavuvu, Peleliu and Okinawa.
- Dennis Boldt of Mankato, Minnesota, is a WWII U.S. Army veteran. Boldt worked as a M7 gun director which helped aim 90mm artillery fire in an anti-aircraft unit.

All of these stories were recorded at the Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow in Granite Falls in 2022.



Charles and Royal Hettling in front of their museum in Minnesota.

VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD

Located in the heart of Minnesota, the Vietnam Memorial and History Center is dedicated to telling the stories of the Vietnam War. Its founders, [brothers and Vietnam War veterans](#) themselves, Royal and Charlie Hettling do this by collecting and curating private photographs, newspaper articles and personal accounts of the war that highlight people's different, and often conflicting, experiences.

“When ‘Vietnam Brotherhood’ was shown at my unit’s reunion, the guys were extremely happy with the program. The message given was ‘*our story is finally being told.*’ Many wives commented that they felt like they understood their husbands’ experience better having seen the program.”

- Royal Hettling



LANDMARKS

Minnesota Medal of Honor

Learn the stories of the [Minnesota’s recipients of America’s highest military honor](#) with historian and storyteller Doug Ohman. First issued during the Civil War, 72 residents of Minnesota have been recipients of this most prestigious medal. Ohman traces the lives of several of these Minnesota heroes through photographs, family memories and stories.

On Medal of Honor Day, March 25, 2023, the chairman of the Medal of Honor Memorial sent the link of the program out to their mailing list with the following comment:

“In recognition of Medal of Honor Day, I am sending the link that connects our efforts as a committee to Doug Ohman, who has taken the honoring of Minnesota Medal of Honor recipients to *an ever-enduring level of recognition and remembrance.*”

- John Kraemer

A recipient of that email added:

“Think about it! One hundred years from now, these bios will still be available all because of your efforts.”

- Bonnie Kottschade
Honorary State DAR Regent & Project Leader

“I’ve been sharing the link with family and friends. A few are Vietnam vets. I’ve had some great compliments on the whole documentary. Everyone enjoyed it.”

- Mike Wayrynen

“I hope my words will express how much our family admires you and appreciates all that you have done for us. When you first came to New Ulm to interview me and my siblings, we recognized that you were special with your preparedness, and your ability to make us feel at ease and bring out the best stories about our Uncle Willibald Bianchi. From there you and your team put together a most informative and interesting documentary about brave individuals. We sincerely thank you for all your hard work and dedication to a profession you love.”

- Mary Borstad

“We will use it in the classroom for our cadets.”

- Neil Hetherington
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) Saint Thomas Academy

Pioneer PBS' recognized that these veteran stories were resonating with our region. We created a [veteran page on YouTube](#), which includes extended interviews from the productions above. It has garnered over 630,000 views in the past year. We recognize as well that for teachers, this collection helps them utilize these regional voices to localize history for their students.

The stories added this year include:



[Charlie Hettling](#) extended interview. Charlie served in Vietnam in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 1966 to 1967. After the war, Charlie was drawn to return to Vietnam 33 times to learn about the country where he once fought. Inspired to establish a museum in the small town of Minneota, Minnesota, with his brother Royal, Charlie began to bring back artifacts and stories to try to tell the story of a complicated, tragic war from both American and Vietnamese perspectives.



[Royal Hettling](#) extended interview. Royal was assigned to the 483rd security police squadron canine unit stationed at Cam Rahn Bay Air Base from 1970-1971. Service dogs were used in Vietnam for scouting sentry duty, mine/tunnel detection and water patrols. During his tour Royal and his dog Thunder went out at night to patrol camp perimeters, fuel dumps and other areas that the Viet Cong targeted. In this raw, unfiltered interview Royal recounts his experiences in Vietnam.

[Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow](#). A bi-yearly event held at Fagen Fighters WWII museum in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

10 WWII VETERAN ORAL HISTORIES

[Dennis Boldt](#) is a WWII U.S. Army Veteran. Dennis worked on a M7 director, which helped aim 90mm artillery fire in an anti-aircraft unit.

[Paul Wojahn](#) is a WWII U.S. Marine. He fought as a pioneer soldier and fought in the Pacific on various islands including Pavuvu, Peleliu and Okinawa.



[Delvin Owen](#) is a WWII U.S. Naval Reserve Veteran. Delvin operated test flights on a variety of WWII aircraft during the war.

[David Wooden](#) is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. David flew a variety of WWII aircraft under instruction of WWII pilots and took many of the planes to their final resting place at the "boneyard" in Arizona.

[Bill Friberg](#) is a WWII U.S. Marine Veteran. Bill was an airplane mechanic and served for more than four years during the war.

[Fay Hendricks](#) is a WWII U.S. Army Veteran. Fay talks about his time in the Philippines and the poetry he writes related to the war. We lost Fay this past year, but his story is preserved.



[Paul Fynboh](#) is a WWII U.S. Navy Veteran. Paul served as an electrician and first loader on a destroyer ship in the Liberation of the Philippines.

[Harlan Rosvold](#), a U.S. Marine veteran, operated tanks in the Pacific theater, including during the battle of Iwo Jima where he personally witnessed the iconic flag-raising on Mount Suribachi. We lost Harlan this past year, but his story is preserved.

[Bob Brix](#) is a WWII U.S. Marine Veteran who served in many areas of the Pacific.

[William Homan](#) is a WWII US Air Corps Veteran who served as a mechanic on a B-17 bomber.



Pioneer PBS illuminates

AGRICULTURAL & RURAL VALUES

At Pioneer PBS we have always strived to connect people to the stories of the diverse rural region we serve. The communities that make up Pioneer PBS are the heart of what we do. We truly are yours: your station, telling your stories.

PRAIRIE YARD & GARDEN



The Memorial Garden

Bereaved parents have channeled their grief by [building gardens honoring their loved one's memory](#).

The Fall Harvest

[PY&G visits with Jenny Thull](#), a self-described 'squash fanatic' and gardener at the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center.

COMPASS



Minnesota's Alt Meat Revolution

As the demand for [plant-based alternatives to meat](#) grows, so does the demand for new methods of farming and food production. In the small rural town of Dawson, Minnesota, "alt-meat" is nothing new. Soybean processing dates to the 1950s. Now, PURIS, North America's largest manufacturer of pea protein (think "Beyond Burger"), moved into town with a promise to revolutionize the agricultural system. What impact will it have on the residents of Dawson and surrounding rural communities?

Building Bridges Memory Choir

The [Building Bridges Memory Choir](#) is for people living with dementia and their care partners. It's part of the Act on Alzheimer's program that was started in Granite Falls, Minnesota, in 2016 by The Living at Home Nurse Block Program. Part of the Giving Voices Initiative, the choir aims to foster well-being, purpose and community understanding for people living with Alzheimer's disease and their care partners.

A Coaching Dynasty

2022 is the 50th anniversary of the passing of Title IX. While Title IX doesn't only apply to gender equality in sport, it did have a huge impact on athletic equality. But while participation in sports for females skyrocketed, women coaches have been left behind. Learn about a report from the Tucker Center on [female coaches and about a coaching dynasty](#) out of Fosston, Minnesota.

PRAIRIE SPORTSMAN*Red Lake Fishing*

When people think of [Red Lake, Minnesota](#), they think of walleye fishing in Upper and Lower Red Lake. However, the Red Lake Nation is home to 40 secluded lakes full of other fish. Guide Darwin Sumner, Red Lake Nation Hereditary Chief, frequently fishes for bass and panfish on small lakes within the reservation and shows off the management the tribal DNR does.

Finding Fawns

Prairie Sportsman learns about using a thermal drone to locate [white-tailed deer fawns](#), then fitting them with tracking collars to determine mortality, habitat preferences and distribution.

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