**Chalk on the Blackboard**

*By Liane Rakow Stout*

The Historic 1916 Buffalo High School is located at 303 Pearl Street in Buffalo, North Dakota, just three miles north of I-94 at exit 314. The school closed in 1978 and has undergone many years of repairs to make it an important part of our community once again. It is the property of the Buffalo Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties in 2001.

The Buffalo Historical Society will host an Open House on Monday, May 27, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day ceremonies by the Buffalo American Legion Easton-Yanish Post #10. We want to welcome our visitors to Buffalo on this important day of remembrance and invite them to stop by our historic school for a visit, and enjoy cake and coffee. We will showcase exhibits of our local veterans and the women who served in the military or worked in defense jobs on the home front.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day and was first observed on May 30, 1868. Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1968 which made Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May. Our American Legion Post #10 in Buffalo was chartered July 19, 1919. The post changed its name in January 1946 to the Easton-Yanish Post #10, in honor of James L. Easton and Lawrence A. Yanish, both of whom were killed during World War II, and are buried in the Buffalo Cemetery.

James Easton, son of Lewis and Alfreda Easton, was born in Buffalo on November 10, 1919. He attended school in Buffalo all twelve years and graduated from Buffalo High School in 1937. Lt. Easton served as a bomber pilot in the United States Army Air Corp (USAAC) which was the military aviation arm of the United States from 1926 to 1942. He was killed in a bomber crash September 11, 1942 while on a training mission prior to an overseas assignment.

Lawrence was born April 22, 1923 near Oriska to Michael and Eva Yanish. At the age of 22, Seaman First Class Lawrence A. Yanish was declared missing in action after an attack by Japanese planes on the USS Lindsey, near Mae Shima, southeast of Okinawa. Lawrence died while in MIA status and was the recipient of the Purple Heart award. He is memorialized at the Honolulu Memorial.

Please join us for Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 27, starting at 9:30 am with a salute to veterans at the Tower City Greenwood Cemetery and a salute to Veterans in the Buffalo Cemetery at 10:00 am, followed by a program and lunch at 11:00 am at the Buffalo Community Center sponsored by the Buffalo American Legion and Auxiliary Easton Yanish Post #10.

Visit our website at [www.buffalond.com](http://www.buffalond.com) to learn more about our small town and its rich history. Please call me at 701-412-4485 for more information about our activities and projects at the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School or to schedule an event.

May 17, 2024