Gage!

In the fall of 1970 as a Freshman I was intrigued by the excitement of the first night on Campus and all of the excitement that everyone had in making new acquaintances….

One night in particular as I looked out the window towards the girls wing I noted a type of Morris code that seemed to be coming from one particular room. After watching the room for a while I started to see a sequence that repeated (lights on and off). Being the accounting major type I counted the repeating flashing lights and realized that the code was in fact the telephone number of the girls in that room. Once we had decoded the flashing lights and the starting sequence we had the number and were able to call the girls and meet up with them……

It was fun to figure out the code and then meet the girls responsible…… although nothing every materialized from the decoding we did meet other people who became friends as a result of those days at MSU. Some are still friends today and have found the Facebook group for Searing Center (where I transferred to since my classes where on lower campus)!

-Gerald W. Poppe
Memories of Gage Centers!

I am the graduate of Class of 76. When I enrolled in 1972 I remember I got sick. The doctor had an office in Gage center on the ground floor. So I walked there from McElroy. It was the mid of December 1972.

The doc checked me. Then he advised to go to some warmer state. I proceeded to Alexandria, VA the very next day. After staying few months there I came back in spring session.

Next year I heard (in 1975) an oriental girl jumped from its one of the Building and commit suicide. Some break up in her love-affair with her friend. This story I would
remember graphically after the passage of 38 years, as it has occurred today.

-Kunwar Khalid Yunus

Gage Centers!

I was a freshman in the fall of 1965 and lived in Gage Center. I was there my entire freshman year and lived in 3 different rooms because my roommates kept dropping out of school. I think the Spring quarter I was on the 6th floor where the other picture was taken from. Also, I don't think there were using the other tower that first year. Bugs were still being worked out in the building we were in too. I liked the cafeteria. I remember them having great meals. The rooms were tiny but in the Spring quarter I was in a corner room that was nicer because there was a little more space.

Cathy Groenke Frescholtz Lay class of 1968 (I finished in 3 1/2 years) with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Science. I was an elementary school librarian in Tempe, Arizona for 21 years. I have been retired for 10 years. While I was in college I
worked in the Reference Room of the college library on the lower campus. I met and married my husband while attending college in Mankato.

–Cathy Lay

4 year Gage survivor...!

I was in Gage from ’73 to ’77. Was grandfathered in with a single room and was the only one with one for the last two years. Perseverance has its advantages!

I think I had the first Sony Trinitron portable color TV in the dorm and that was quite a hit in the evenings in my room. Great reception up that high ;)) Along with the hotdogger, electric teapot and mini fridge, life was good! Not to mention the quadraphonic sound system and the Crest toothpaste rendition of the Milky Way on the ceiling; had to have the lights off and the black light on to see it. Might still be there? Stuff lasts forever. Almost... (That TV is now used by the Guthrie as a working prop for their 70’s circa productions. lol)

The ’73 A 9ers, me included, staged the mass-streak down the mall in the winter time (as reported almost live by WCCO radio) and we got caught by Campus Security and the ’Kato PD. Was pretty funny. We still don’t know who the snitch was. We all ended up back in our rooms with only a slap on the wrist. We looked pretty awkward with everyone else’s pants on, all lined up somewhere down what used to be a country road south of the stadium. And it was cold.

We were also known for taking a day’s catch of Rapidan’s finest carp and brought them back to swim another day... in the girls shower
and bathtub a floor below. Needless to say, we did not get many dates from them that year.

Vikings stories with Tommy Kramer and Scott Studwell… mostly they’ll stay behind sealed lips.

ALL the weekend fire alarms. "Oh hey; didn’t know you were here tonight!!!"

Bowling in the hallways… those cracks are still there. Short-sheeting and devil’s horns added to girlfriends pictures (saran wrapped tightly first…)
And 'Guys;... the towels along the bottom of the door... they're just not doing' it. Better if they're wet…'

Oh ya… the big old muddy tractor tire brought up in the elevator and rolled down the halls of A-8… that was NOT me. lol. I just watched all this stuff. ;)

And good old Dave Abels asked what the girls looked like that streaked our floor one evening. "I don't know, they had bags over their heads!" Ahhhhhh yes. David was our only streaker that lost his wallet while streaking. Go figure that one out. You'll have to ask him.

Funny; I went from Gage to the old, 'Tornado Towers'; a place I named that lives on in infamy. Was the longest surviving resident of that place too; 4 years. Glad to see I've outlived them both!

-Gary
Gage Memories!

Back in 1972, I interviewed the Vikings in the lobby of gage hall, for my newspaper column. The newspaper was called "the shopper". It was an advertising newspaper. I interviewed Fran Tarkenton, and Charlie West and a couple of others. I also lived in gage hall in 1971. Journalism graduate, 1972...

-Bebe Croteau
Gage Memories!

I lived in Gage my freshman year at MNSU-2003 and had the pleasure of being a Maverick Mentor in 2008-graduation year. I so enjoyed mentoring my girls on my floor and teaching them the studying and life skills I learned as a MNSU student. I couldn't have asked for a better community to spend 5 years getting a wonderful education and making lifelong friends.

Shout out to the entire Department of Social Work and Gerontology Department!

-Anne Elvecrog
Gage Memories!

As a Night Owl Supervisor, I felt for my alumni who had to come down to the cold, drafty commons to pick up their pizza delivery, sometimes in their nightwear, but we also helped keep folks safe.

As a DJ at KGMA AM, I lamented that my broadcast range was barely, if even within, Gage towers, but I spun records as if thousands were listening from midnight to 3AM.

I recall the legend that in the 1980’s Mankato Fire & Rescue only had ladders that would reach the 10th floor. Don’t know if it was true, but it crossed my mind.

Gage was the most modern of the dorms in my time. I recall the cornerstone dated 1970, right?? That’s where the Vikings chose to stay. Sounds strange, doesn’t it? I assume Crawford and Mac are still there. I miss them all.

“Hold the ‘vator!”

-John Macho

Gage Memories!

My husband, Jerry Bly, was the Campus Food Service Director when ARAMark was there. He was the Director Cira 1974-1978. I was the Gage Dorm Food Service Manager 1976-78. I had a
few other jobs with the Gage food service during my undergraduate years; the bakery, meat and salad department in the lower level.

Jerry died in 2000. We met through the food service, had a lot of fun, met some interesting people. We were married in 1982. Always had fond memories of Gage, especially for meeting my husband there.

I only worked one Vikings summer camp; it was the year of Tommy Kramer's rookie year. The Vikings had a tradition of tapping glasses with silverware during a meal service; this was a signal that a rookie would be called out to sing a song. I remember one when his name was called he stood on top of the table and sang Margaritaville. Also each year Jim Marshall would push a cream puff in a food service worker's face. He would come up to the worker and say that it smelled funny and wanted the worker to smell it to confirm that it did not taste right either. The year I worked the training camp food service, I was the cream puff victim. Many of my coworkers had worked previous camps and knew what was going to happen. I will never forget it. I was stunned and Mr. Marshall and everyone else were laughing.

I was not there when B-Tower dining room was used, that was before my time. I did live in Gage B-122 for 2 years, 1971-1973. That is my attraction to the mailbox for that room. When I received my room assignment my freshman year, I was not aware that the Vikings lived on the first couple of floors of B Tower. Not being a sports enthusiast, I really never kept up with the Vikings games, however, I always wondered which Viking player lived in the room I lived in for those two years.

I was driving home from my job at Gage on a hot day in August 1977. The news over the radio said Elvis Presley had died. I remember where I was when he died and relate that memory to my time at Gage too.

-Brenda Bly
I am Tana Dolphay Marthaler and I would like to have the mailbox door to 1022 B-TOWER. That was my first room back in the fall of 1972. There were only 12 girls that lived on that floor that year and we were known as the nuns because it was a no male visitation floor. No one lived on the two floors above us and no one lived on the two floors below us. Obviously the dorms were not full back then.

-Tana Dolphay Marthaler

Gage Memories!

Gage B-12th floor was the place where many young woman came together to start their new adventure into College Life in the Fall of 1999. Now, almost 14 years later, there is a group of us that are still not only in contact with each other but are best friends. Gage Hall 12th floor will always be remembered as the place we all came together to start these friendships.

-Amanda Basset-Swanson
I was a resident of Gage “A” tower in 1976-78, and there are numerous stories that I recall fondly. There were pranks and fun in the dorm, and I would like to share with other alumni.

As a freshman, I wanted to room with someone I knew, and so was able to line up a room with a sophomore who went to the same high school as I did. We were friends, and so I thought it would be easier to fit into the dorm life. Well, that is true, except I did not realize that I would be the ONLY freshman on 10th floor that year! The guys on the floor were quite the eclectic mixture of personalities, and one interesting situation was the fact that the RA room on 10th floor was not occupied by our dorm RA! Yes, since that year there were actually open rooms available, our floor RA (Rodney Brown), was actually living in the 9th floor RA room and was in charge of both A9 and A10 floors. So for a few extra dollars, two students were able to live in the larger RA room on our 10th floor. Well…. That room became quite popular as a meeting place! Especially when there were parties that included beer, since the RA room had its own bathroom and bathtub. The tub was used as a large beer cooler, and ice was purchased, or in the winter, snow and ice from outside the dorm – hauled up in the metal garbage cans in our rooms – in order to ice down our “barley pop”. The guys living in the room were accommodating in their allowance of party supplies in their bathroom, and only a nominal fee was charged for beer. We actually were able to bring up 8 gallon kegs of beer (cleverly hidden under laundry and hauled up the elevator in the laundry carts available to Gage residents. I know we were in some violation of college rules, but for the most part, the parties were not too rowdy, no damage done to rooms or dorm property, and I do not recall any ‘Kato police or campus security stopping in to break up a party. A great way to meet new friends, especially the girls on 11th and 12th floors above us!!

Another memory I have is related to the Gage mailboxes, now offered for sale. In my freshman year, since I was the oldest in my family and the first one to leave home, I recall receiving almost daily letters from my Mom. Yep, in
the days of “snail mail”, I would come back from class or the library, pass by the mailbox area, look in my mailbox, and voila! A letter almost every day! It kept me connected with family, and I also sent back a letter each week, to let my family know I was doing OK and enjoying MSU dorm life, as well as progressing in my studies….yes, I did study!! I have now contacted the Alumni Association and was pleasantly surprised to learn that the door/cover for my first dorm room mailbox, A1002, was available. I am now awaiting its’ arrival and I will treasure it as a memory of my first year of college, and a connection with my Mom (now passed away) and her hand-written letters.

One other memorable event centered around a pizza delivery from Pagliai’s, late at night. Just as our pizza arrived and my roomie and I were ready to chow into the double-cheese and pepperoni delicacy, the Gage fire alarm went off. Yep…… someone, as a prank, pulled the alarm. This happened about 2-3 times each month, usually when someone came back from the bars or a party, and wanted to get everyone out of bed….nice….NOT! Anyway, my roomie and I were not going to let a hot, mouth-watering pizza grow cold, and we were quite sure that the dorm was not on fire. However, it was a responsibility of every RA to clear the rooms and get everyone down in the common central tower area until each floor was emptied and it was verified that there was no fire. So….my roomie and I split the pizza down the middle, tore the top of the pizza box off to use as one plate, and the bottom of the box served as the other plate. Then, we turned off the lights in our dorm room, climbed into our clothes closet, sat on the top of the drawers in the closet, shut the doors and proceeded to chow down on our pizza! I could hear my roomie slurping and munching, and proceeded to get “the giggles”….. he hissed at me to “Be quiet, we will get busted!”….so I did quiet down. The RA soon came to our room, used his master key and gave a quick scan and locked the door. SUCCESS! We had our
pizza, hot and cheesy....and lived to tell the tale to our families years later. My daughter, Sara, when she was younger, asked me more than once to "tell the pizza story, Daddy!" A fond memory, and glad to say, Pagliai's still lives on, and their pizza is still wonderful!

Thanks for the memories, Gage Towers! There are many many more...... the snack bar, playing pool in the "B" tower rec area on the main floor, visiting friends on the "co-ed" floor in "B" tower....living on A3 and putting up with the MSU football players that were my floor mates.... Snowballs tossed at windows, water balloons tossed back from windows. Friends and memories were made, treasures forever.

- Steven P. Weiland

My job at Gage!

I graduated on March 21, 1969 from MSU (MNSU) and did work in the basement of Gage for a short time. The butcher shop for campus food service was in the basement and I worked for the butcher preparing fresh meat for the campus cafeterias. I like to think my big claim
to fame was how many hamburger patties I could make in an hour. The exact number escapes me now, but was either 1000 or 1500 patties in an hour. There was a hopper for the ground beef (that I also made) and a platter that rotated kicking out the formed patties which were placed on a tray with wax paper squares.

After graduation I was drafted and served one year in Vietnam, heavy artillery. I went on to work in food manufacturing and paper manufacturing in production control and information systems. I retired in June 2012.

-Thomas J Towner

**Gage Memories!**

This was our freshman year 1998. From left to right: Josh Kreimeyer, Suzie Koenigs, Amy Kienitz (Kreimeyer), and Alex Perfetti. Alex and I went to high school together. Alex's dad worked with Suzie's dad and Suzie was friends with Amy. Due to this connection and the girls' brazenness to cross over from B to A tower, we made a group of lifelong friends that crossed the tower divide. We also have several marriages attributed to this beginning. Thank you Gage Towers for being the background for the formation of our lives!

- Joshua Kreimeyer

**Gage Mailboxes.**
This is exciting. When I read the article with the offering, I got so excited about having a piece of my past it brought a tear to my eye! Who would have thought that such a small thing would have elicited such a reaction? I’m glad I was able to get my first mailbox on campus. Personally, it was quite a difficult year for me but I came through it and now have something to remind me of the triumph. Several years ago I reconnected with one of my next door neighbors in Gage that first year, now getting my mailbox feels good and somehow connects me once again with some wonderful years of my life. Thanks to whoever came up with the fundraising idea? Now, I need to think of something special and unique to do with it. I hated to hear that Gage was being demolished, but know that the needs and expectations of today’s students have changed a lot. MSU needs to stay competitive in this regard.

-Norma Jean Guildner Martinek

Gage A12!

What’s with all the B Tower stories? :) Gage A was where it was at in the late 70’s! I lived in the penthouse room overlooking campus (and the track!) for two years. As a track fanatic (to this day) it was a great place to start and end the day. My best friend (met in a class on "lower campus") lived in the B tower so I had the best of both worlds. If we got bored we went down to A6 where the men’s
track team resided... and if we got really bored we ventured over to Crawford! There was always something happening somewhere and all you had to do was walk around and find it -- much like a treasure hunt.

-Shawn Johnson-Hipp

---

Gage!

I lived in Gage my sophomore year - the year it opened. Such a great place - it took forever to get an elevator, especially when running late for class. They were making a new road in front of it and we had to climb over the mounds of dirt to get to class. Running over it in the rain in 1966, I lost my shoe in the mud; remember those were the days when you wore good clothes to class... and heels.

-Sandra Haney

Gage Memory!

I lived in Gage in 1976-77 and remember a blizzard and -60 degree temperatures that shut down the campus and classes were cancelled for...
the first time in many years. Stranded snowmobilers were invited in and spent the night sleeping in the lobby and empty rooms. I made life-long friends while living in Gage; it was the bomb! (And now it is literally.) Here's to past and future memories of MNSU life!

-Sandi (Christianson) Carlyon

Gage Memories!

It was a Saturday in the spring of 1971 and it was very warm. We lived in the East side of Gage in 615 if I remember right. Even though it was very much against the rules, my roommate and I were drinking beer to cool off as the dorm was hot. Suddenly there was quite a commotion in the hall with shouting and laughter. We stepped into the hallway with beers in hand. We saw two young men and a young woman in their swim suits running and sliding in water at the far end of the hallway. They had plugged the drains in the bathroom and flooded the far end of the hall. Then they would run and slide along the floor. They were having a great time. Suddenly the elevator opened. The head resident and a couple of RA's came charging out. We thought we were done because of the beer but they ignored us and took after the three swimmers.

Luckily for these three, they were at the far end of the hall when the RA's came. They slipped into the far stairway and escaped. We had recognized them from campus but we didn't know them. They escaped to slide another day. Who knows? Maybe they also put the soap and whatever else into the fountain by the Union. This story is just for fun. Thank you and May God bless you!

-John Bergh

Gage Memories!

My fiancée and I met for the first time at a party near my room in A Tower 7th floor in 1981. We fell in love and eventually consummated that relationship in her room in B Tower. Unfortunately after going to spring break in 1982 we
drifted apart. I am happy to report though that in December 2011 we reconnected again after 30 years and we are now engaged to be married.

-Doug Hornick and Judy Van Thomme

Gage Elevators!

Aside from the taco bell tacos on the floor, an ice cream cone stuck on the ceiling then melted all over the floor, here is one memory of gage towers that stands out.

-Jaimie Deutsch

Gage Memories!

I graduated Mankato High School in 1964, and shortly thereafter enrolled in then Mankato State. One of my first jobs after High School was painting much of
the interior of the Gage buildings, which was quite the experience. My job was transporting paint, 5 gallon buckets, by hand, up to all the floors, since the elevators were not yet working. I was paid $0.90 per hour at that time. They were the tallest buildings in Mankato, and were expected to last forever I supposed then. The U.S. Army needed my help in Vietnam about then, so I left Mankato for the next 50 years or so. Recently I returned to Mankato to live out my life, and I was sad to learn that Gage dormitories are to be destroyed. I knew many of the builders, some now dead, that worked alongside of me. We were so proud to be part of these buildings.

-Adrian Oliver