

grants and from community donations. The home is also available for meetings during the summer months.

Eileen Osking Mork, who was born in the Eielson home and is a niece of Ben's, recalls nine children being raised in the home which was full of life. Not only did Ben and his friends put on plays in the attic, but other Eielson and Osking children even practiced basketball in the spacious room which features a turret and two huge water tanks. A windmill pumped water to the tanks and gravity flow then brought the water to the bathroom and kitchen years before there was a community water system.

"That bathroom was an item of interest to all my friends," recalled Eileen. "The house was for living in and we used all of it. Mother loved to show off the house. There were always people going through the house."

The credit for maintaining the home in near its original condition goes to Elma Eielson Osking, Ben's oldest sister.

"My mother always wanted to keep the house intact. She worked hard to keep everything together and she appreciated other people's interest in Ben's career," said Elma's daughter Eileen.

The Hatton Historical Society is only the fifth owner of the home. It was built in 1900 by a local businessman to rival his partner's nearby home in both size and style. A prominent local businessman himself, Ole Eielson purchased the home for \$8,000 in 1908. It then became Hatton's showplace for years as people often stopped to admire it and later to inspect the memorabilia of Ben's flying career. The upstairs bedroom now houses the equipment of Dr. A.A. Kjelland, Hatton's pioneer doctor, in addition to the antiques, photographs and original land grants from Traill County settlers.

Although the house as Ben knew it was painted gray with white trim, the stately white home sits prominently on a wooded Hatton street corner, now a symbol to the foresight of a preservation-minded community. For many residents, the Eielson home and Hatton's history are intertwined and now, fortunately, it stands as a memorial for future North Dakotans to visit, and study and enjoy.



Donated Pump Organ



Carved Oak Railing



Sitting Room



Parlor and Piano Room



Dining Room



Spacious Livingroom



Living Room



Stained Glass Windows