

1954
to
2007

The



C-47

53 years

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Sorry, no reunion this year!

Several factors, including the lack of interest and construction in the Elkader area have made it necessary to cancel plans for a Crash Family Reunion in Elkader this year.

In reviewing the number of parties replying to the announcement newsletter, the Pratt and Olson families made the decision late last month to cancel the reunion and send a questionnaire to determine the interest in future get-togethers.

The lack of numbers was not the only reason. High Street, the main thoroughfare on the east side of the river has been torn up for two years in a project to install new water and sewer mains and of course, new paving. City officials expected the project to be completed by mid-July but since that time they have added the tuck pointing of the historic keystone bridge that connects Main and High streets, further complicating the reunion project.

If that wasn't enough, the local telephone company kicked off a project in mid-June to install fiber optics into every home and business in and surrounding the city. This means that underground crews will be spending the summer tunneling under every street in town, making it difficult to carry out normal traffic flow.

While the fiber optics puts the city in a special class for communications in the world, its installation has put the damper on normal summer activities for the year. **Sorry!**



Update on the memorial trees

During the last reunion in Elkader in 1999 some 16 trees were planted in memory of those who boarded the ill-fated C-47 back on February 5, 1954. Some of the trees were White Birch and others were River Birch. A borer has infiltrated the area, and as of June 22, 2007 some eight of the trees have died and been removed. Another four or so are expected to die and be removed before the end of summer. It was hoped that a re-planting could take place in Elkader this summer or next year.