

Program Update

Linda Henry

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Please join the Society as we bring the Hubbard House alive with Christmas festivities. Treat your taste buds to holiday desserts, entice your ears with joyous caroling, and delight your eyes to the beautiful Christmas crafts. The Open House celebration will be Sunday, December 1st, from 1-5 p.m. at the Hubbard House, 606 S Broad St., Mankato.

The day's events will include the arrival of Santa Claus, pictures with Santa, and the telling of a Christmas story. We will also have caroling led by Shirley Grundmeier. Be sure to register for door prizes to be given away during the Open House.

NON-PROFIT BAKE SALE

The Madison East Merchants Association is sponsoring a bake sale for Non-Profits on December 7th, from 10:00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Any members interested in donating baked goods for this sale or working this event should contact Linda at 345-5566.

My warmest wishes to everyone for a safe and happy Holiday Season! The Holiday Season can sometimes become so hectic we forget the true meaning of Christmas. I urge you to take the time to enjoy your loved ones and let them know how much you truly appreciate them. Merry Christmas Everyone!

MEMORIALS

In memory of Sidney O. Johnson, given by Harold Nativig

A SPECIAL THANK - YOU

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the wonderful area rug donated to the Society by the Floor to Ceiling Store of Mankato. It is wonderful to have a local business take part in helping beautify the historic Hubbard House.

Donations

Thanks to the following for donations this past month:

Atwood Land
J. C. Mickelson
Fine Impressions
Floor to Ceiling Store
Lance Butler
Mankato Woman's Club
Sears Department Store
District 77 Audio Visual Dept
John L Pepper
Ema Miller Estate

Membership News

Thank you to the new and renewing members

Edward Frost	Rickway Carpet
Kathy & John Dorn	Eddie Barber
Tony & Sharon Knapp	Wayne Wells
C. W. Pennington	Save Mor
Mary Honetschlager	Carliene Frisch
State Farm - Wm Webb	Pam Pietan
Perry & Jolene Brown	Eddie Barber
Norma & Vern Carstensen	John Kanyusik
Mr & Mrs E. D. McLean	Jeff Kroke
Orville & Mary Ann Jensen	Don Cramer
Lake Crystal Tribune	
Herbert & Marie Arnold	
Dorothy Schutt	
Linda Nussbaumer	
C. A. Johnson	
Win & Shirley Grundmeier	
David Cowan	
Kato Storage	
Marion Lichtenberg	
Quintin & Karen Pettigrew	
Cornelius & Phyllis Votca	

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Mankato, Minnesota 56001
(507)345-5566

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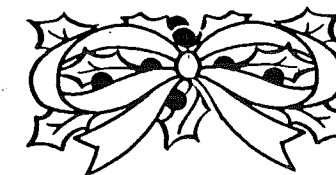


BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1991

Calendar of Events

- Dec 1 *Christmas Open House- Hubbard House 1:00-5:00*
- Dec 7 *Holiday Bake Sale -Madison East Shopping Center 10:00 -5:00*
- Dec 7 *Young Historians, 2:00-4:00 at the Heritage Center*



BECHS Notes

Linda Henry

The year of 1991 has been one of many changes for the Society. We are ending the year with a positive attitude and a strong commitment to enhance and broaden the Society's existence within the county.

We would like to thank our members for their continued support and urge you to become a more involved member in 1992. An easy way to support your Society is to return the enclosed Volunteer Registration Card and the Gift Membership Form enclosed in this month's newsletter.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

Mrs. Robert Schultz
RR 1, Box 79
Madison Lake, MN 56063

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Curation Notes

Jeff Kroke

The past month has been a busy one. Two new displays are being pulled together for the gallery. A display of toys and Christmas decorations from the collections entitled "Christmas Past" and "Blue Earth County in Uniform 1941-1945" a display of uniforms and equipment used during World War II by residents of Blue Earth County. Another addition to the exhibit gallery is a collection of paintings by Emma Miller a local artist. The four paintings on display are "Marsh Marigolds", "Relaxation", "Birds Eye View" in oil and the "Hubbard Mill" in acrylic. Emma Miller was an active member of the local arts community and a resident of Mankato for 45 years prior to her death in 1987. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and invite all to visit

A new book has been published entitled Cofio Contorion: The Welsh Imperial Singers by A'un Trevor. The book is written in both Welsh and English and gives the story in words and pictures of a group of singers who performed in Blue Earth County in 1932. For more information please call Jeff at 345-5566.

YOUNG HISTORIANS

Jeff Kroke

This months Young Historians program will be presented by Bob Follis Historian for the 135th Infantry of the Minnesota National Guard on December 7th, from 2:00-4:00 at the Heritage Centers. While dressed in the uniform of a World War II GI he will show the equipment which a soldier from that period used. Spaces are limited, call 345-5566 to reserve a seat at the program.

SILVER FIR CONES

Hartz Mountains, Germany

Once upon a time a miner who had a wife and seven children was confined to his bed with a terrible illness. They were a poor family. As days went by and the man did not recover, there was soon no meat in the cupboard nor fire on the hearth.

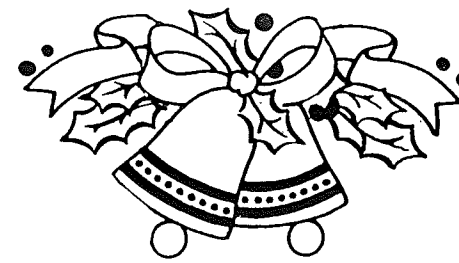
The miner's wife was getting desperate and finally told her husband that she would go into the woods on the hill of Hubinchenstein to gather fir cones. "With some fir cones I could make a fire and perhaps I could sell the others to buy meat," she said.

She took a large basket and climbed the hill into the deep dark forest. As she walked and gathered she thought about her troubles until at last they overcame her. She sat down on a tree stump weeping.

What is the matter with you and why are you stealing my fir cones?" said a voice right beside her.

The woman jumped up with fright and saw a frowning dwarf with a long white beard standing before her. She fell to her knees to beg forgiveness and blurted out her sad story.

The dwarf's expression softened with kindness. "Please get up. my good woman. Troubles come to us all. But you must leave these fir cones here as they belong to me. Go into the next forest. The fir cones you pick up over there will suit you much



better."

So the woman replaced the fir cones she had gathered and went to the next forest as the dwarf had instructed. It was a long way. By the time she got there she was very tired and needed to set her basket down to rest a bit. As soon as she did fir cones fell like hail out of the trees and filled her basket.

She was frightened and ran home as fast as she could. On the way the basket grew heavier and heavier until, just as she reached her door, she could hold on to it no longer. She dropped it, spilling its contents on the ground.

Then she saw why the basket was so heavy. Every one of the fir cones had turned to silver.

At first she thought the little man must have been Satan, But after talking with her husband she realized he was Gubich, King of the Dwarfs and helper of the poor. She went into town and sold some of the fir cones and returned with everything her family needed. Although her husband was sick and could not eat they all went to bed with happy hearts.

The next day the woman went back in the forest. She found Gubich near the same tree stump and poured out her thanks to him. "Thank me no thanks, my good woman!" he laughed. "I am happy to be



of service."

He stooped to pick a plant from the ground and gave it to her. "Take this home and strip it of its leaves. Put the leaves in a pot and boil them. When the water turns green give it to your husband to drink." And then he disappeared.

The woman was still a little afraid to follow the dwarf's advice. "What if he really is Satan? This might be poison," she thought. But when she returned home her husband was worse and seemed close to death. "I must trust that the dwarf is good."

She boiled the leaves of the plant into a green tea and gave it to her husband to drink. Almost immediately color came back to his cheeks and strength flowed through his body. He leaped out of bed a well man.

They had enough fir cones to never want again in times of trouble. They never saw Gubich again but thanked him in their hearts daily and kept one of the silver fir cones on the dresser to remember him by. The children kept the silver cone when they were older and their children kept it after them.

The people of the same region of the Hartz Mountains keep a silver fir cone on their dressers to this day as a reminder of the kindness of Gubich, the King of the Dwarfs.