

## Curatorial Notes

by Jeff Kroke

As many of you are aware I have resigned my position to accept employment with the National Park Service in Missouri. This was a very difficult decision. The Blue Earth County Historical Society has a very exciting collection and many challenges for the Museum professional. The past year at the Society has been a challenging and regarding job. I also want to thank the many wonderful people, board members, part-time help, and volunteers I have worked with. It is your commitment and dedication which makes the Blue Earth County Historical Society what it is today and it also many times made my job easier. Finally, I want to wish the Society good luck in the future. I am susre the membership and staff will meet the challenges to come. Again, thank you and good bye.

## Membership News

Thank you to the new and renewing members

John & Shirley Scheidel  
George & Mary Smith  
Mrs. Corrine Van Stelten  
Kay & Randall Lamb  
Dr J Von Drasek  
Mary Ellen How e  
Doris Vetter  
Adele Zernechel  
Mary Johnson  
Shirley Lieske  
Mr & Mrs William Montag  
Helene Thomas  
Nancy Hamer

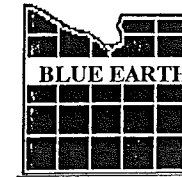
---

## YOUNG HISTORIANS

Young Historians will be held on Saturday, August 29, from 2-4 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St., Mankato. The August class will feature a T-shirt painting class taught by Rose Lotton of Good Thunder. Please be sure to bring a white T-shirt with you. Admission is free to members and \$1.50 to non-members. Spaces are limited, please call the Heritage Center at 345-5566 to reserve a place.

Published monthly by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.  
Design and layout by Linda L. Henry  
© 1992 Blue Earth County Historical Society

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



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

### August 1992

#### Calendar of Events

- Aug 6-9      *Blue Earth County Fair -Garden City*
- Aug 15      *Summerfest - Pemberton, MN*
- Aug 29      *Young Historians -2:00 - 4:00 p.m*  
*Heritage Center*

## BECHS NOTES

Linda Henry, Executive Director

The month of July has been an extremely busy month. We have received \$533.00 for paid admissions, and gift shop sales are \$1,440.97 as of July 27.

We would like to thank the following organizations for helping make July such a fun and rewarding month:

**The Betsy - Tacy Club**  
**Deep Valley Quilters**  
**Mankato High School Reunions**  
**Come Back Club - MSU**

Hope to see you at the Blue Earth County Fair!

Blue Earth County Historical Society  
415 Cherry Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
(507)345-5566

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Mankato, MN 56001  
Permit No. 343

THE LEGEND OF THE MAIDEN  
WHO FELL IN LOVE  
WITH THE MORNING STAR

Listen, please, to the Indian Legend of the maiden who fell in love with the Morning Star.

It is told that one night this lovely daughter of the Red People spread her sleeping robes in the tall grass at the entrance to her lodge. As she slept a radiant shaft from the heavens seemed to caress her face and as she awoke she saw that the light came from the Morning Star far away in the Sky Land.

So did the star appear in its soft silvery glow that the maiden was entranced and fell so deeply in love with the heavenly jewel that she vowed she would never marry a mortal but would only accept only the Morning Star as her spouse. All through the night, until the morning dawned and the star had paled in the light of the Sun, she gazed toward the heavens, completely enraptured. And every night thereafter she worshipped her Sky Land lover and by day he was always in her mind.

Then one morning when she went to a nearby spring to drink she started to find a tall, strange, young brave who smilingly addressed her. He told her that he was the Morning Star; that he had often beheld her gazing at him and he knew what was in her heart. He asked her to become his bride and the lovely maiden consented. Morning Star took a long yellow plume from his hair and commanded her to hold it. She obeyed and instantly

she found herself being wafted to Sky Land where she was ushered into the golden lodge of her bridegroom.

So she lived on, free to wander about at will, excepting that she was warned not to disturb a certain curious golden plant which grew close to her husband's home. One day, however, overcome by her curiosity, the bride uprooted the strange plant to see what was beneath it and found that it had been planted the hole through she had entered the Sky Land. She gazed through the opening and saw the village of her people on the earth far below. She could hear the voices of the women at their work and she grew so sad and lonely that Morning Star found her weeping.

He knew immediately what had happened and to punish her for her disobedience he ordered her to return to her people. So she was gently lowered to the Earth Land on the strands of a silvery web. But each night thereafter the sorrowing wife climbed a nearby hill and, stretching her arms heavenward, prayed to be reunited with her celestial husband.

One night Morning Star answered, saying that she could not be forgiven; that she could not be returned to the Sky Land. The next day the sorrowing wife was not to be found and when her people searched for her at the top of the hill, where she had stood and prayed for forgiveness, they discovered a strange new tree growing, a tree whose branches drooped earthward as if in sadness, a tree that has since been known to the white man as the Weeping Willow.

PROGRAM UPDATE

What a time we had celebrating the month of July!

The Betsy-Tacy Convention was held in Mankato on July 10 - 12. It was a wonderful week-end of childhood memories. The Betsy Tacy Society is to be commended for their well organized and delightful Victorian tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace. Thank you for sharing this splendid event with the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

The Heritage Center hosted a Quilt Show during the month of July, and it was well received by the museum's visitors. We have had many requests to make this an annual event and plans are under way for next year's show to be an even bigger and better! Our thanks to the many individuals who shared their lovely quilts with us.

The Blue Earth County Courthouse Lawns hosted "Commemorating Great Events in History", on July 21. The Mankato Area Municipal Band with Edwin Stock, Director and Bill Van Loh, Assistant Director played twelve magnificent musical selections. Linda Henry and her daughter, Tanya, were dressed in period costumes and helped hand-out the programs. The Society displayed pictures of older street scenes of Mankato and the inside of the Courthouse during 1910.

Thank you to the Blue County Board of Commissioners for asking the Society to participate in this thoroughly enjoyable event.

The Blue Earth County Society will offer root beer floats and ice cream for sale at the fair, and we will furnish tables and chairs for you while you rest a spell and enjoy your refreshments.

We will also have Blue Earth County Fair T-shirts available for \$10.00 each. The white T-shirts will be printed with the 1992 Fair logo on the front of the shirt in black. Be sure to get your shirt early as supplies are limited!



There will be a display called "Grandma's Attic", a display of children's toys, and old photographs of various Blue Earth County communities will also be on display.

BECHS is happy to be sharing the Heritage Building with Etta Poole and her Retired Senior Volunteer Program, (RSVP). RSVP will be having its "Senior Day" at the Blue Earth County Fair August 7, at 1:30 p.m. They will host a MVAC Senior Meal at 12:00 p.m., a talent show, a band performance by the "Golden Boys", and present Senior Awards.

We urge you to attend **your County Fair!** It is a chance to have fun and support your County.