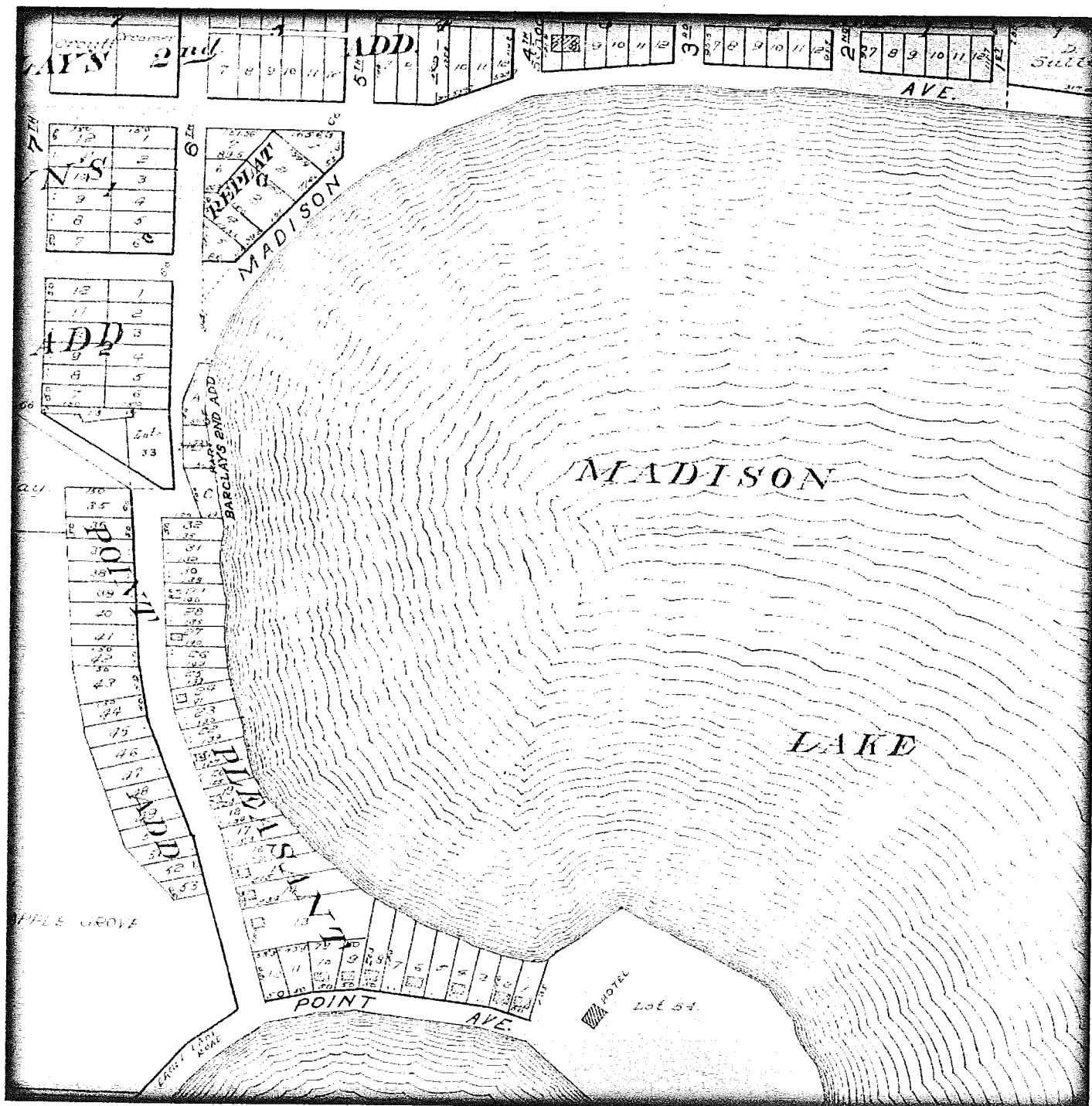




The Blue Earth County Historian

A publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Summer 2004



In this issue:

Early Resorts on Madison Lake

The Blue Earth County Historian
Summer 2004

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of Blue Earth County Historical Society. BECHS has the mission of collecting, preserving and publishing material relating to the history of Blue Earth County.

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***Tidings from the
Executive Director***

A few weeks ago, the Blue Earth County Historical Society hosted the spring workshop for the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. After the workshop was over many of the participants came to see the Heritage Center and R. D. Hubbard House. These museum professionals were very complimentary about BECHS. We are being recognized as one of the better county historical societies in the state. This has been done with the dedication of many volunteers over the years, and of course with the support of our members and donors. It cannot be said too often, so I would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who has helped make us what we are today.

We are also looking to the future and setting the foundations for what the Society will become as we work on our second century of preserving the history of Blue Earth County. Some will be accomplished in the weeks and months ahead, and some of the long-range plans will take years to complete. It is with long range vision that significant projects can be completed. Among the larger projects that has been discussed is finishing the restoration of the R. D. Hubbard House and moving into a larger facility that will allow for additional exhibit space. The Board realizes that these projects will take considerable planning and time to successfully implement them.

The Hubbard House is now open for the summer season. BECHS and the Mankato Area Chamber have been working on building a bigger tour base for the house. This has resulted in more tour groups in the first half of the year than we had over most of last year. As these tours grow, we will need additional people willing to show off this treasure. Anyone interested in learning more, please give me a call.

**The Blue Earth County Historical Society's Heritage Center Gallery,
Museum Store and Research Center are open
Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00, 1:00 to 4:00 and 5:00 to 8:00
Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00**

We have a couple of new people helping out at BECHS. MSU intern Brandi Hennis is working on an activity schedule for the Hubbard House. More activities will bring in a wider audience and encourage repeat visitors. By the time the summer newsletter is mailed out, we should have some of these on the calendar. Also Andrew Brown began working with BECHS in June. He will be handling our ordering and sales for the museum store. Welcome Brandi and Andrew!

The annual Blue Earth County fair is right around the corner. Please visit our exhibits at the county fair!

James Lundgren
BECHS Executive Director



*Volunteers Are Always
Welcomed*

If you have some time to spare to help us preserve history, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

*serving as tour guides at the Hubbard House and
Heritage Center gallery
participating on committees
assembling garment hangers
sewing labels in garments
working with some carpentry projects
doing data entry for our indexes
indexing census or newspapers*

April - June Volunteers

Apitz, Darrel
Bartsch, Glenn
Burns, Inella
Burton, Ronnie
Coleman, Mary
Cords, Betty
Dooley, Mary
Douglas, John
Douglas-Hennis, Brandi
Falencykowski, Lona
Fowler, Bridget
Francis, Pat
Frederick, Michael
Goff, Harley
Goschy, Deb
Graham, Joanne
Griffith, Helen
Grundmeier, Shirley
Grundmeier, Win
Hagen, Tom
Hallett, Tom
Hanson, Kathryn
Hennis, Larry
Herbst, Gordon

Hopman, Edith
Hugg, Bob
Hugg, Corey
Jansen, Steve
Jensen, Orv
Keir, Grace
Kind, Arn
Kubicek, Joe
Kubicek, Sylva
LaFavor, Lyle
Lagerquist, Mike
Lamson, Barb
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Madsen, Jack
McComb, Mary
McLaughlin, Theresa
McLaughlin, Tom
Nesheim, Steve
Niu, Dana
Norman, Beth
Nussbaumer, Linda
Nysteun, Aleigha
Ohlenkamp, Ora

O'Malley, Helen
Rezmerski, John
Ries, Bill
Salsbery, Tom
Sandon, Buzz
Sassenberg, Eunice
Schaefer, Dawn
Schmitz, Leora
Schultz, Jo
Shortall, Christina
Smith, Emmett
Smith, H. Roger
Sofchalk, Helen
Sugden, George
Tarjeson, Jane
Twilight Garden Club
Webb, Donna
Williams, Natalie
Wilson, Bernadette
Wright, Lorraine
Ziegler, Ken
Zielske, Dan
Zimmer, Beth

Early Resorts on Madison Lake

by
Inella Burns
BECHS Volunteer

Nature was especially kind in beautifying the northeast corner of Blue Earth County with a number of lakes surrounded by the Big Woods. Lake Madison, as it was first named, was especially blessed with several desirable points of wooded land early sought out for their beauty, recreation, and resort living. Of the most popular early resorts, only Point Pleasant remains today.

In 1858 Roger Wells, Jr. acquired title to what later became Point Pleasant on Madison Lake. But the first resident was Joe Wright, a trapper, who built a cabin in the woods and stayed for a number of years hunting and fishing in the solitude of the point.

General James Baker, who later founded the *Mankato Free Press*, and a friend from Ohio came to the Point in 1874. They found fish so plentiful they returned with axes, cleared the thick underbrush of the point and camped for several days. Baker then organized the Mankato Boat Club. Among the members was George A. Clarke, who in 1877 took possession of the Point, already a popular resort. He built a hotel and made a number of improvements to accommodate guests, but in 1881 sold the property to Lucetta and J. M. Barclay, congenial people with the capabilities and contacts needed for promoting the resort throughout the Midwest.

Point Pleasant

The Barclays filed the plat of Point Pleasant townsite in 1883, two years before the Madison Lake townsite was platted. The Point flourished as a popular resort whose accommodations and hospitality drew guests from such distances as Omaha, Chicago and St. Louis. After a week's visit at the Point in 1884, an editor of the *Des Moines Daily State Reader* wrote praising the crystal clear water of the lake and the magnificent grove of maple, oak and elm surrounding the new hotel where "no better meals or beds can be wished for." A few years later, an editor from Hastings, Nebraska, noted the hotel's spacious covered porch with a polished floor for dancing

parties and on the lawn a fine tennis court as well as a croquet ground finished off in elegant style. Elsewhere on the grounds a boathouse held 15 boats, including two sailboats; and an ice house contained 60 tons of ice available for guests.

John Wise, editor of the *Mankato Review*, was the first to build a cottage. It was built partly with surrounding timber at a cost of about \$125.00. Later the cottages of George A. Clarke, L. Patterson, George E. Brett and others followed. The continued growth of Point Pleasant was assured with the coming of the Cannon Valley Railroad in 1884 and the location of their depot on the road to Point Pleasant. The resort flourished. One day, in May of 1887, 50 teams were stabled. By 1890 the Barclays found the hotel too small for their increasing business and within the next few years completely renovated the hotel, built a new pier and a boathouse large enough for a fleet of 20 new boats.

The natural beauty of the lake and its abundance of fish was no doubt the major drawing card to Point Pleasant. Ladies and children enjoyed wading about catching crappies. But serious fishing was for black bass, lake catfish, perch and pickerel that seemed to take the bait as it hit the water. A 1906 visitor from Omaha caught eight large bass in 30 minutes; another Omahan, 15 fine large black bass; a Washington D. C. guest left with "a nice mess of fish." J.A. Odell of Omaha, who had patented an adjustable weedless fishhook, much used and sold locally, enjoyed fishing for several weeks. About this same time, a Mrs. W. T. Shattuck "distinguished herself by landing a 13-pound pickerel."

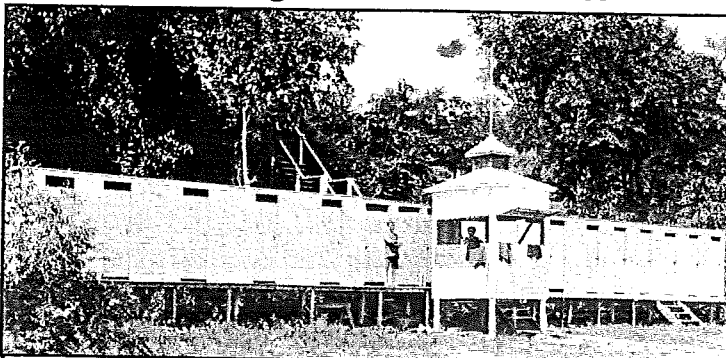


Pt. Pleasant Inn, Madison Lake, Minn.

Point Pleasant Inn, Madison Lake
Photograph courtesy of Lona Falenczykowski

There was even talk of shipping an exhibit of Madison Lake's black bass to World's 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

The lake's crystal-clear water made swimming also a big attraction at the Point, especially during those dog days of summer. In 1898 Barclay put up "the finest toboggan slide possible and new bath rooms. The slide is steep enough to give the momentum of the carriage 40 - 50 feet into the lake...a great sport for those who enjoy a swift and safe ride." He also built "a diving platform some 80 feet out from shore with a walk leading out to it." Some time before 1916, the Barclays built a long bathhouse. Morris "Doc"



Point Pleasant bath house - men to the left, women to the right.
Photograph property of Morris "Doc" Sheppard.

Sheppard, whose parents bought Point Pleasant in 1930, recalls that on a 106-degree day in the '30s, as many as 3,000 people came to swim or cool off in the lake breezes at Point Pleasant.

Besides fishing boats and canoes, Point Pleasant summer residents had rather elegant sailboats and yachts for boating on the spring-filled waters of Madison Lake. Area newspapers frequently reported their arrivals in glowing terms: (1891) "R. E. Brown's sailboat is the handsomest on the lake and will move almost without the breath of a wind." (1893) "John Van Liew ...is never so happy as when he has a load of friends in his sailboat enjoying the waves with him. In the delightful breeze yesterday, he hardly had time to eat." And (1905) "H. A. Patterson, who with his father conducts a large wholesale grocery house in Mankato, has the largest and finest equipped yacht that sails the lake. It will hold thirty people." There was also a steam launch to take guests around the lake.

Through the years, Point Pleasant has maintained its popularity of those early days. Their dining hall



Photograph property of Morris "Doc" Sheppard

continued its reputation for "no better food to be wished for," though it has been replaced by a banquet hall used today only for wedding receptions and other special occasions. The present owners are Morris and Flossie Sheppard.

Prospect Park

Other resorts on Lake Madison did not enjoy the success or lengthy tenure of Pt. Pleasant. In 1877, a few years before the Barklays bought The Point, Chauncey H. Austin, owner of a shoe store in Mankato, bought a beautiful stand of timber on the lake shore only a few miles from Point Pleasant. He built a 100-foot dock and pier into the lake and purchased a fine big sailboat and a number of rowboats.

By 1879, he had built a spacious Italianate home large enough for his family and several comfortable rooms for guests. On the grounds of his resort he also built a store and stocked it with goods for farmers as well as for guests. Arched over the entrance of the long cedar-lined driveway into his resort was a big sign "Prospect Park." In 1879 about 500 people responded to Austin's invitation to "patriotic people in Blue Earth County to join him in celebrating the 4th of July... boating, swimming, croquet, ample dancing room and refreshments at reasonable prices."

For many years, Prospect Park was popular especially for school and church picnics. In addition to enjoying the usual resort recreation, the long driveway provided space for various competitive races. The site also was appealing. Austin cleared and farmed 23 acres; and his "neat little barn, granary, and sheds along with the resort buildings gave the appearance of a little village."

No longer a resort, Prospect Park was sold to Frank Hoehn in 1900. It is still visited today, however, by devotees of Mankato author Maud Hart Lovelace who spent her childhood vacations there with her grandmother, Mrs. Chauncey (Palmer) Austin. In *Heavens to Betsy*, she wrote of her summers at "Pleasant Park" and "Murmuring Lake." Her parents, Stella Palmer and Thomas Hart were married in the Austin home.

Fair Point

Across the town bay of Lake Madison was Huff's Point, an ideal resort site with shady woods and a splendid view of the entire lake. In 1887, ten years after Austin bought his resort property, C. H. Christianson bought the interests of J.M Barkley and George A. Clarke in Huff's Point to develop a resort there. By 1890, he had cleared the underbrush, platted 34 lots for cottages, built "pretty driveways and promenades," leaving a large area on the extreme point for a hotel facing Point Pleasant. Although investment possibilities for the hotel lagged, the resort, then called Fair Point, enjoyed considerable patronage. It seemed to have its share of family, school, church and other group picnics as well as drawing prominent Mankato social groups. During the summers in the early '90s, Dr. and Mrs. Andrews and Dr. and Mrs. Steel of Mankato arranged 4th of July picnic parties for mostly business and professional friends. Dinner and supper was served on the shady bank overlooking the lake. Boating, sometimes in sailboats or yachts, occupied their time until the fireworks appeared in the evening. Among the 34 guests in 1894 were familiar names in Mankato history: Ben Pay, Jay Hubbard, E. F. Searing and R E. Brown.

Probably the largest group that partied at Fair Point was the 7th Annual Picnic of the American Railroad Union of Minneapolis, held for shop employees of the Northern Pacific Railroad in June of 1895. A special train of 13 tourist coaches carrying about 1200 men, women and children were met by crowds of 2500 to 3000 area people surrounded by welcoming banners, flags and bunting. "Some brought their wheels, others hammocks and swings, and all were supplied with well-filled lunch baskets." The Metropolitan Brass Band provided music for the excursion.

At Fair Point 18-20 contests were set up: foot, sack and potato races, a tug-of-war and hammer throw, with prizes for the winners donated by Twin Cities merchants. Other resorts loaned their boats. Those lucky enough to get a boat went fishing or sailing, while others strolled in the cool of the grove or danced on the large platform built for the occasion. About 6:30 p.m. they all boarded the homeward-bound train.

By 1900 Christensen still had not found investors for his hotel, and sold Fair Point to a syndicate composed of Drs. Webster and Steele, Attys. B. C. Taylor and W. E. Young, Professor Charles F. Koehler and George Sugden. The new owners named it Idlewood and planned to keep the grounds private.

Coponaning

With the closing of Prospect Park and Fair Point by 1900, the Barklays planned another resort closer to the business center of Madison Lake. Before 1910 they built a large hotel at the foot of the hill below All Saint's Church. The name was selected in a contest for which the prize was a \$5.00 gold piece. The word is Ojibwa and means "The way to the woods and the lakes."

The hotel had a spacious front porch which offered a full view of the lake. Inside on the first floor were the kitchen and beautifully furnished parlor and dining room with hardwood floors, electric lighting and running water. On the second floor were attractive and comfortable guest rooms, and a third floor provided extra room for a number of cots. Mrs. Nora Reedfield was proprietor of the hotel.



Coponaning Resort, Madison Lake

Photograph courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Picnic grounds were well-shaded and furnished with hammocks and swings, as well as tables and chairs for guests with snacks from the nearby lunchroom. A boathouse held a fleet of boats for guests to rent and a launch for guests to use. Elsewhere several rental cottages were available.

As a resort Coponaning had much to offer, yet it did not enjoy the success of Point Pleasant. One reason was that the shoreline was too "mucky and weedy for good swimming." In the '40s the property was bought by Ernie Fasnact and the buildings were torn down or moved.

Along with recreational sports provided, an active social life evolved in these early Madison Lake resorts. Picnic or party groups came on the morning train from Mankato, spent a happy day together and returned on the evening train. Cottage owners entertained friends, often with yacht or launch parties. Wedding receptions and special celebrations were held in the dining hall or pavilion. Resorts often provided entertainment ranging from area talent to vocalist Arthur Hackett, a soloist with the Minneapolis Orchestra.

Dancing in the resort pavilion on a platform was so popular that in the 1920s Elmer Casper built a floating dance hall known as Noah's Ark, a private enterprise unrelated to any resort, but anchored nearby. It drew record crowds.

Lawrence Welk played there a few times before he became well-known. As it became too raucous for the cottage residents, investigating town officials, shocked by the "wiggles, steps and hugs" and drinking, ended Noah's Ark's after two years on the water.

There were also resorts on the east shores of Madison Lake, but none offered the extensive facilities or

services that these early west shore resorts provided. The Lone Pine Inn was a popular fishing resort. It had a restaurant and rental boats, bait and other fishing needs were available. Anglers fished off Buckmaster's Bridge. But according to Madison Lake historian Theodore Roemer, it dates back as a resort only to the late 1930s or early 40s.

Through the years these first Lake resorts provided area people and many from afar with beautiful surroundings, a wide variety of services and accommodations for all walks of life. As the resorts flourished, they improved their facilities as needed to enhance the well-being of the thousands of people who came.

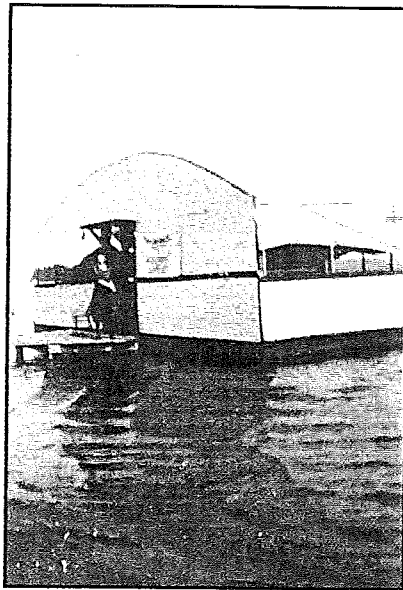
My sincere appreciation for the assistance provide, in researching and writing this article, by: Flossie and Morris (Doc) Sheppard, Lona Falenczykoski, Susan Taylor, Jo Schultz, Curt Schueneman and Shelley Harrison, BECHS Archives Assistant.

Sources:

Roemer, Jan. *Bits of Local History of Marysburg, Cleveland and Madison Lake.* A Scrapbook of Ted Roemer's Writings Collected by Jan Roemer From *The Times* 1967-1988.

Sullivan, Frank and Roemer, Theodore J. *The Pioneer Diary of the Village of Madison Lake, MN, From Age 1 to Age 7, 1892-1899.* This historical volume consists of actual excerpts from the newspapers of those times: the *Madison Lake Breeze*, the *Madison Lake Mirror*, the *Mankato Review*, the *Mankato Free Press* and others.

BECHS Archives: Madison Lake Archives



Lost and Found

Recently two items have been left at BECHS that we believe the owners would very much like to have back. A pair of glasses was left in the museum store in June and a lightweight red and black jacket was left in the orientation room after a May program. Please call the office at 345-5566 to claim these items.

Reprinted from the *Mankato Free Press*, 12 July 1943

The 'Ol' Swimming Hole' Isn't Going To Be Same

Nine boys, eight to 16 years of age, were arrested in LeHillier Friday by Ed Hultengren, South Bend township constable, and brought before Ralph Worthley, township justice, for sentence. The justice, looking stern, gave each of the boys a 30-day sentence.

But all this does not mean that South Bend township is running into a problem in juvenile delinquency. Far from it. All it means is that kids are kids and that it is more fun to swim in your "birthday suit" than in swimming trunks when you are young.

The boys were all arrested by Hultengren after he had received complaints that they were swimming without bathing suits in a LeHillier gravel pit.

With something of a twinkle behind his stern visage, the justice suspended the sentence on condition that the next time—and all the rest of the times—that the boys use the swimming hole they wear the outfit a well dressed swimmer is supposed to wear.

WISH LIST

- Legal size hanging folders
- Copy paper
- Index cards
- Mankato City Directories 1998, 2000-2003
- *Maple River Messenger* on microfilm 1995-2002
- *Lake Crystal Tribune* on microfilm 1997-2000
- *Mankato Free Press* on microfilm 1998-2003

Recent Financial Donations

Up to \$25

Dunlop, Donna
Faust, Hazel
Howard, Don
Ries, Carol & Charles
Svendsen, Sigvald
Wigley, Francys
Wilmes, Brad
Zielski, Dan

\$26-\$50

Buck, Margaret
Heyer, Monty & Julie
Holbrook, Viola
Kubicek, Joe
Medalen, Ethel
Miller, Ted & Julie
Smith, H. R.

\$51-\$100

Burton, Ronnie
Hanson, Kathryn
Schaefer, Dawn & Darold
Wolverton, Lorraine

\$101 to \$500

McLaughlin, Theresa

\$500 and Up

Anonymous
Andreas, L. W.

In Kind

Balcome, Helen
Carlson, William
Heyer, Monte & Julie
Smith, H. Roger

**Thank you all
very much!**

April - June 2004 Donations

Annis, Paul: Family Photos (3) - BEC at MN State Fair
Anonymous: Paper Fan - Swanson's Wallpaper
Bartholdi, Roberta: Gloves, Necktie, Tennis Racket
Bauer, Janice: Nightgown, Sugar/Salt bags (4)
BECHS : Negative - McGovern stones, Photo/negative - Octagon House (4)
Beetsch, Carol: Katonian (3) - 1914, 1915, 1928, Otaknam (3) - 1930-1932
Botten, Joel Jr.: Beaded pouch, Necklace (glass beads), Pipestone pipe, Wampum Belt (clasped), Wampum Belt (glass beads), Woodland Indian Moccasins
Buck, Margaret: Ax, Camp stove, Photos (4) - Jane Roberts, Pipestone Pipe
City of Mankato: Mankato City Directories (2)
Dooley, Mary: Travel Kit
Doran, Anne: Papers re: Helen Doran
FIC-Hubbard House: Clothing, accessories, hats, etc.
Fonda, Robert: Film Projector , Camera - Yashica EZmatic, Cameras (4) - 8 mm Movie Camera
Frederick, Mike: Ad - Mickey's Sports Bar and Grille, Ad - Sunrise Cottage of Mankato, Annual Report - GMED 2003, Bag - Greater Mankato, Brochure - I&S Engineers, Brochures - SSND (2), Button - Loyola Homecoming (8), Button - Mankato Police Federation, Button - Minnesota's Groweing, Buttons (6), Cap - Reich Trucking, Flyer - 1st Annual One Bright Star Golf Tournament, Flyer - Mankato Western Arts Club, Key ring - South Central Technical College, Magnet - Mankato Chiropractic, Menu - Najwa's Catering, Napkin - Cambria, Paper Knife - Amboy Bus Service, Papers re: Filan Family, Patch - Mankato Fire Dept., Pencils (17), Pens (24), Photo - Dawson Ballard, Photo - Dorothy Jewison, Photo - Erwin Pautsch, Photo - Kierlin Gardens, SSND, Photo - M/M Frank Pietsch, Photo - Coponaning Hotel, Photo - Madison Lake Pavilion (4), Photo - Mankato State Old Main, Photo - Mike Frederick, Plate - SS Peter and Paul Church, Playing Cards - Crystal Cooperative, Postcard - Keepers RV Center, Poster - Mankato Moondogs 2004 schedule, Program Boys Basketball Tournament 2004, Program (2) - Loyola H.S. Commencement, Ruler - E.G. Clinton Co., Schedule - Mankato Moon Dogs 2004, Schedule - MSUM Athletics 2004, Signature Stamp -

Donald O'Donnell, Yardstick - Hiniker Mfg., Yardstick - Landkamers Furniture, Yardstick - MN Valley Federal Credit Union, Yearbook - St. John's Lutheran Church 1953

Gleason, Sara: Souvenir card of Mankato, 1917
Griffith, Helen: Photos - Group at Rush Lake (2)
Grundmeier, Win and Shirley: Recital Dress 1981, Recital Dress 1982, Wedding Dress 1963, Annual Report - Region Nine 2003, Booklet - MN Regional Development Org., Booklet - MSUS President's Club, Boy Scout Tenderfoot Badge
Herbst, Gordon Button (12) - MN Licensed Chauffeur
Higgenbotham, Shirley: Book - Life of Christ
Hodapp, Francis: St. Clair Catholic Cemetery Listing
Hugg, Corey: Program - MSUM Commencement 2004
Joerg, Lowell: Postcard - St. Joseph's Hospital
Johnson, Leora Papers re: Hamburger Heaven, Papers re: Stoney's Restaurant
Keir, Grace: Book - Blue Earth County from 1700-1900 (SC), Book - U.S. Pictures of the World War (SC), Winter Garrison Cap, Magazines (SC) - Life (3), Look (2), Saturday Evening Post (1), Silk Suit, Sweater
Kilanowski, Nicole: Blueprints - Wildwood Park, Clothes Hanger - George E. Brett
Knight, Michael: Letter from B. Rowland Lake Crystal
Layeux, Tim: Book - Elementary Mathematics
Manthe, Lois: Booklet - Pemberton HS Commencement, Booklet - School Souvenir 1911-1912, Certificate - Pemberton Creamery Assn. 1916, Newspaper - the Pemberton Wireless 1931, Pass - to North Mankato, Flood 1951, Photo - Emma O'Donnell, Photo - Everett Furr, Photo - Hwy. 83 Pemberton, Photo (1) - Flood of 1951, Photo (29) - Flood of 1965, Report Card - Erna Doss 1912
Marks, Thomas: BEC native stones (8)
Mason, James: Papers re: 1962 Election, Papers re: Marion Dailey Mason
McGrew, Mary: MSU, M Campus Directory 2002-03
McLaughlin, Tom: Report - Rapidan Dam Fall 2003 MSU Family Consumer Science Dept. Display stands and mannequins (SC)
Ohlenkamp, Ora: Book - Understanding Your Car
Quade, Henry: Bottle - Wm. Bierbauer
Quie, Albert: Book - Riding the Divide
Rollins, Eva: Scrapbook - Pemberton Basketball
Schoewe, Sherry: Book - Our Lady Stakes a Claim
Schultz, Georgia: Medallion - Model T, MN Driver's License 1971, Traveling alarm clock, CB License, Clip-on earrings (9 pairs), Nightcap (SC), Nightgown and robe, Polaroid camera

Scullin, Michael: Atlas - Geologic Atlas of BEC.
Atlas - Nicollet County 1980, Atlas - Public Drainage
Atlas (4), Calculator, Corn Fork, Doll - MSC mascot,
Fish spear, Ice Tongs, Oral History project -
tapes/transcripts, Papers re: Blue Earth Dam, Senior
Essay - Potentially Useful Plants
Smith, Emmett: CD - Mankato History - Tom
Maertens, CD - Mankato History program, CD- Radio
program - How Mankato Grew
Smith, H. Roger: Photos - and material of Mankato
1949 (4), Photos (36)-Panoramic views of Mankato,
Stereoscope (SC)
So. MN Historical Center: AASLH Technical Leaflet
Series (SC), Paper - Attendance award Oscar
Anderson, Papers - Mankato Public School Teacher's
report (4)
Sweere, Edward: Hat, Mans
Tarjeson, Jane: Book - Storm of Spirit, Book -
Visions of Red, White and Blue
Thompson, Genevieve: Plate - State Normal School,
Saucer - Courthouse
Webb, Donna: Book - The New Business and Law,
1915 (SC)
Zins, Mary Ann: Information compiled

Through the Research Center Door:

What is black and white and read all over? The Blue Earth County Historical Society's collection of County newspapers.

Newspapers give us a glimpse into the past. If you want to know the price of a car in 1945 or when Andrew G. Johnson was elected County Treasurer, you can find out by reading the newspaper.

The first newspaper in the County was the *Mankato Weekly Independent* published in 1857; the *Weekly Independent* later changed its name to the *Union*. We have that, and 16 other papers that were published in Mankato over the last 147 years including the *Mankato Free Press*. We not only have the Mankato newspapers but we also have the smaller community newspapers published in the County. We have over 60 different newspapers from Blue Earth County on microfilm. So if you have relatives living in Beauford in 1922, the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* may provide you with some of the details to their lives. If you were searching for information about Sterling Center from the 1890s the *Mankato Enterprise* would be the paper to read. A newspaper can be a great research tool, containing obituaries and stories of major events. You can also find things such as:

- Gossip columns
- Social History (the price of a woman's hat in 1942)
- Marriage and Birth Announcements
- School Items
- Recipes
- Police Blotter
- Church Services
- Weather on any particular day in history
- TV listings

We have created several indexes from newspapers; the Obituary Index, the Social Note Index and both of our subject and biographical clipping files are generated by the newspapers. New indexes are constantly being created like the new 1947 Marriage Announcement Index. So if you haven't been to the Research Center lately, stop by to see what's new.

Shelley Harrison
Archives Assistant

South Central Minnesota Genealogy Expo

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Centennial Student Union

Sessions will be announced by
September 2004!

Watch the SCMGE website for details:

www.lib.mnsu.edu/lib/archives/expo/expo.html

Notes from the Collections Manager..

Have you ever heard of Young Historians? It is a free program for children grades 3-6 that introduces them to different historical events and time periods through hands-on workshops. Last school year, BECHS explored the past with over 60 children. Topics ranged from making butter like the pioneers to listening to a first-hand account of the Great Depression from a 10-year-old boy's eyes (now 80-year old man). The workshops are fun, informative and always a learning experience. Young Historians meets the second Saturday of each month during the school year. Pre-registration is required for each workshop. For location details and registration, please contact BECHS at 345-5566 no later than a week before each workshop.

New this year to Young Historians is the introduction of the Young Historians Club. The Club is a members only part of Young Historians workshops. Club members receive a t-shirt, membership card, monthly newsletter, special club trips and a special club meeting before each workshop for the small fee of \$10 per child. Young Historians workshops will remain free, only the club will have a small fee to join. To become of member of the Young Historians Club, pick up a membership form at the Heritage Center or call BECHS at 345-5566.

Announcing the 2004-2005 Young Historians Schedule...

September 11th – Revolutionary War and Founding of America

October 9th – Native Americans in Minnesota

November 13th – Pioneer Living 1840s-1850s

December 11th – Civil War 1860s

January 8th – Turn of the New Century 1900

February 12th – Immigration and Ethnic Groups

March 12th – World War I 1910s

April 9th – Great Depression 1920s-1930s

May 14th – World War II 1940s-1950s

Pick up your Young Historians Bookmark Schedule at the Heritage Center or Blue Earth County Library today!

If you are knowledgeable in any of the topics above

and are interested in assisting with the program, please contact me at 345-5566. We are still working on the details of each workshop and enjoy having different presenters and activities each year. The Young Historians program is made possible by funding from the Jefferson Memorial Fund.

Jessica Potter
Collections Manager

Reprint from the *Mankato Review*, 22 May 1909

Sunday Dinner

At Hotel Copananing,
Madison Lake

The following is the menu of the Sunday dinner to be served at Hotel Copananing, Madison Lake, tomorrow evening from 6 to 8 o'clock.

Olives Turtle Soup Young Onions
 Mixed Pickles

Baked Chicken, Dressing
Boiled Fish, Hollandaise Sauce
Irish Stew

Creamed Asparagus String Beans

Mashed or Boiled Potatoes
Stewed Tomatoes

Celery Nut Salad, Mayonaise Dressing
Cream Custard

Rhubarb Pie Orange Cream Pie
Puff Pudding, Cream Sauce
Ice Cream with Assorted Cake

Mixed Nuts White Bread
Raisins Graham Bread

Tea Coffee Milk Iced
 Tea



Rapidan Heritage Society

The Rapidan Area is 150 years old and you are invited to join in this sesquicentennial celebration on September 11, 2004. Beginning at 1 p.m. will be a stationary parade (the parade vehicles will be parked, and the people walk by), music, square dancing, crafts in the park, clowns, historical exhibits and more. A hog roast will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Calvary Lutheran Church. Informational sheets will be available indicating where activities will be taking place. Fireworks will begin at 8 p.m. with the Good Thunder Fire Department Dance following. All are invited to this celebration of the settling of the Rapidan Area.

I'd like to thank all the people that supported us on Memorial Day by attending the Memorial Service and staying to meet Marian Anderson and view her latest



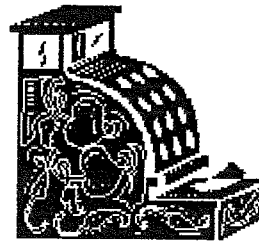
Marian Anderson signing prints in Rapidan.
Photo courtesy of Rapid Heritage Society.

work, "Passage of Time." It was great having coffee and conversation with you. Limited and open

editions of the Rapidan prints are still available, call Jane at 507-278-3738 for more information.

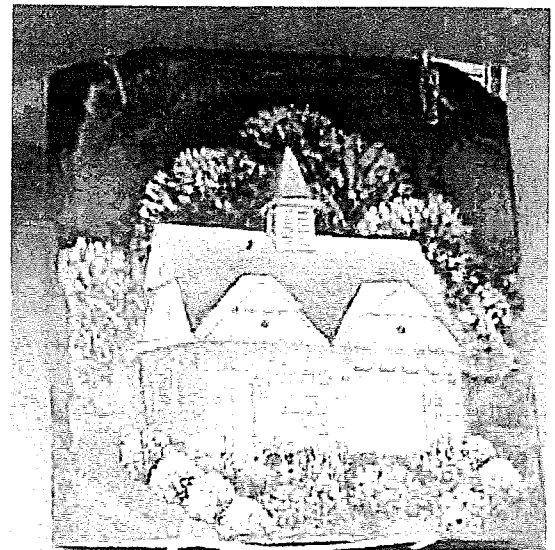
Have you driven by the depot lately? Volunteers have been busy replacing windows and siding and painting the exterior. Wells Fargo replicated the Wells Fargo Express sign and generously presented it to RHS to hang under the Rapidan sign on the depot, when the exterior work is finished it will be permanently mounted to the depot.

Jane Torgeson
Secretary

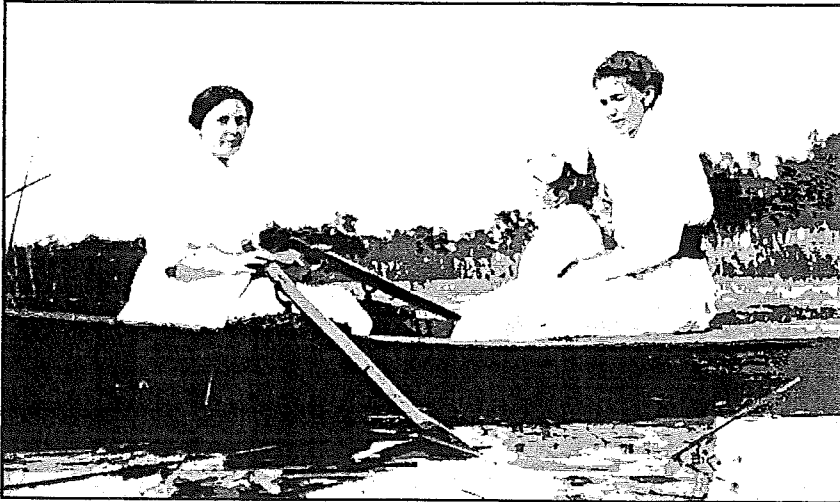


...at the Museum Store

The Museum Store has a wide selection of painted slates available. These are original roof slates from the R. D. Hubbard House. During restoration a few years ago, some slates were replaced. The Twin City Decorative Arts Guild took some of the old slates and painted images of the Hubbard House, the Carriage House and Seppmann Mill. Each slate is unique and makes a wonderful gift. To view more of these slates, and see the other items available in the museum store please visit the store during regular exhibit gallery hours.



Mysteries from our Past



The Society has an extensive collection of photographs that have been donated over the years. Here are a few examples of some of those wonderful photographs. Sadly, the people and place in these photographs have not as yet been identified.

Can you help?



Remember to carefully preserve and identify your family photographs for the pleasure and delight of future generations.

You will find helpful information on preserving your photographs on our web site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs/programs.htm>
1

Blue Earth County



Membership Form

Yes, I would like to become a member of the
Blue Earth County Historical Society!

Member Levels*

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Student | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Senior | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$35.00 |

Send completed form to:
BECHS Membership
415 Cherry Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Donor Levels*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booster | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$5000.00 |

* For Business Membership information, please contact the BECHS office

BECHS Membership Benefits:

- Support preservation of our heritage
- Free admission to the Hubbard House
- Free admission to the Exhibit Gallery
- Free access to the Research Center
- Invitations to special events
- 10% discount at the Museum Store
- Reduced admission to special programs
- Quarterly history publication

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Telephone:

E-mail:

☐ Please send me information about becoming a BECHS Volunteer



Madison Lake Area Historical Society

The Madison Lake Historical Society started their yearly programs with a "Hat Night" It brought many laughs with Ed Hendrickson modeling a large man's cowboy hat, complete with feather, that he got for nothing at a rummage sale. It didn't sell and was too large to pack, so they gave it to him! Ed said, "It was a large size and wouldn't fit anyone else!" Donna Dachner wore a bridesmaid hat from her wedding. She and her sister had made the hats and on Donna and Will's 50th anniversary, one of the bridesmaids returned it to her. Roger Schaub had a neat looking fireman's hat and there were many seed caps and just pretty hats. Three gals came in their "red" hats which they collected so they could start a "red hat" society.

The Madison Lake Area Historical Society donated money to BECHS to purchase microfilm of the Lake Region Times for 2000, 2001 and 2002. The men in the group will work on a better way to hold the Lindbergh

plaque in Lindbergh Park. It has a propensity of leaning to one side or the other after strong winds. Charles Lindbergh wouldn't have flown in such weather and maybe the plaque is saying it won't either.

The Society meets in the Community Center the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. The following is a schedule of the remaining 2004 programs:

- August 18: "Banking in the Madison Lake Area." by Bill and John Ries
- Sept 15: "Carriage Repair - Past and Present." by Jon Schneider
- Oct 20: "Early Days to the Present in the Hardware Business." by Jack Hoehn and Family
- Nov 17: "Seeds and Farms" by Jerry Frederick and Family
- Dec 15: Christmas Party

Jo Schultz
Secretary, MLAHS

Memorials

**For: Eileen Lee
Kitchenmaster & Company
Tamara Milbourn**

**For: John Mickelson, MD
Esther Mickelson**

**For: Jay Hubbard
John Hubbard**

Correction

Charles N. Andrews was incorrectly named, in our last issue, as the Andrews brother who went into law and became a judge. Rather it was J. Oliver Andrews. Our thanks to Betty Cords for bringing this to our attention.

EXHIBIT UPDATE

- Hickory Tech exhibit on display now through September 2004
- "That's Entertainment" on display now through Winter 2004

ATTENTION:

The new exhibit to replace "That's Entertainment" will be Blue Earth County Century Farms! BECHS will take a look at the more than 175 Century Farms in Blue Earth County. However, we need your help. We are now gathering information and photographs of the Century Farms and their past and present owners. If there is a Century Farm in your family, please share your story with BECHS. We are also seeking people that would like to assist with the creation of this exhibit, if you would like to volunteer your time in any aspect of the exhibit, please contact Jessica at 345-5566 or: bechs-collections@juno.com

New and Renewed Members

Anderson, Elaine
Anderson-Morgan, Verna
Apitz, Darell and Lucille
Ballman, Mary Lou
Barret, Mary
Bartsch, Glenn
Bartsch, Janet
Belgard, Hugh and Vail
Birbeck, Marilyn
Blume, Darwin
Botton, Joel
Bradshaw, Louise
Broadwell, Donald
Burns, Inella
Bursaw, Iona
Cariveu, Yvonne
Clements, Tom
Dobie, Joseph
Dunlop, Donna and David
Faust, Claire
Fredricks, Marlene
Gage, Kelton and Dorothy
Gower, Ronald
Grundmeier, Win and Shirley

Halstead, Sharon
Hill, Evelyn
Hogan, Pat
Howard, Don
Huettl, John
Jerabek, Barbara
Kanyusik, John and Carolyn
Krenik, Shirley
Lundblad, Larry
Madsen, Jack
McLean, Edward
McNear, Virginia
Medalen, Ethel
Merkert, Karen
Meyer & Sons TV and Appliance
Nielsen, Gerald
Nisja, Marilyn
Niu, Dana
Norman, John and Beth
Nussbaumer, Linda
Nydahl, Irene
Owens, Helen
Parks, James and Sandra

Peterson, Mary Helen
Peterson, Stella
Pierce, Glenn and Donna
Reichs, Judy and Jerry
Ries, Charles and Carol
Ries, W. C.
Roberts, Craig
Rose, Robert and Luella
Salsbery, Virl and Caroline
Schafer, Darold and Dawn
Simonette, Bill
Smith, Michael
Smoley, John and Nancy
Solie, Tim
Suserud, Rose
Tacheny, Delores
Thiesse, Sylvan and Rosalin
Thompson, Kenneth
Vosbeck, Elizabeth
Wittrock, John and Eleanor
Wolverton, Lorraine
Wright, Lorraine



Upcoming BECHS Events

Please mark your calendar and join us.

Thursday, July 29 - Sunday, August 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

BECHS at the Blue Earth County Fair

Arcade Building, Fairgrounds
Garden City

Saturday, August 7 or Sunday, August 8, (TBA)

"Blue Earth County Diner's Club"

5th Anniversary Celebration of Formerly Cranes
118 Main Street, Garden City

Friday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Young Historians

Climbing Your Family Tree
BE County Library
Pre-Registration Required
100 E Main Street, Mankato

Saturday, August 14, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

"Blue Earth County Diner's Club"

Rapidan Dam Cafe
54116 Glory Lane, Rapidan Township

Saturday, August 14, 1:00 p.m.

"That's Entertainment Comes Alive"

Horseshoes in the park across from Dam Cafe
54116 Glory Lane, Rapidan Township

Thursday, August 19, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

"Hometown History Photo Night"

Mapleton Leisure Center (after Senior Potluck) 304
2nd Avenue NE, Mapleton

**Those interested in any of the above activities, please contact
BECHS at (507) 345-5566 for reservations one week prior to the event**



Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 East Cherry Street
Mankato MN 56001

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