

The Blue Earth County

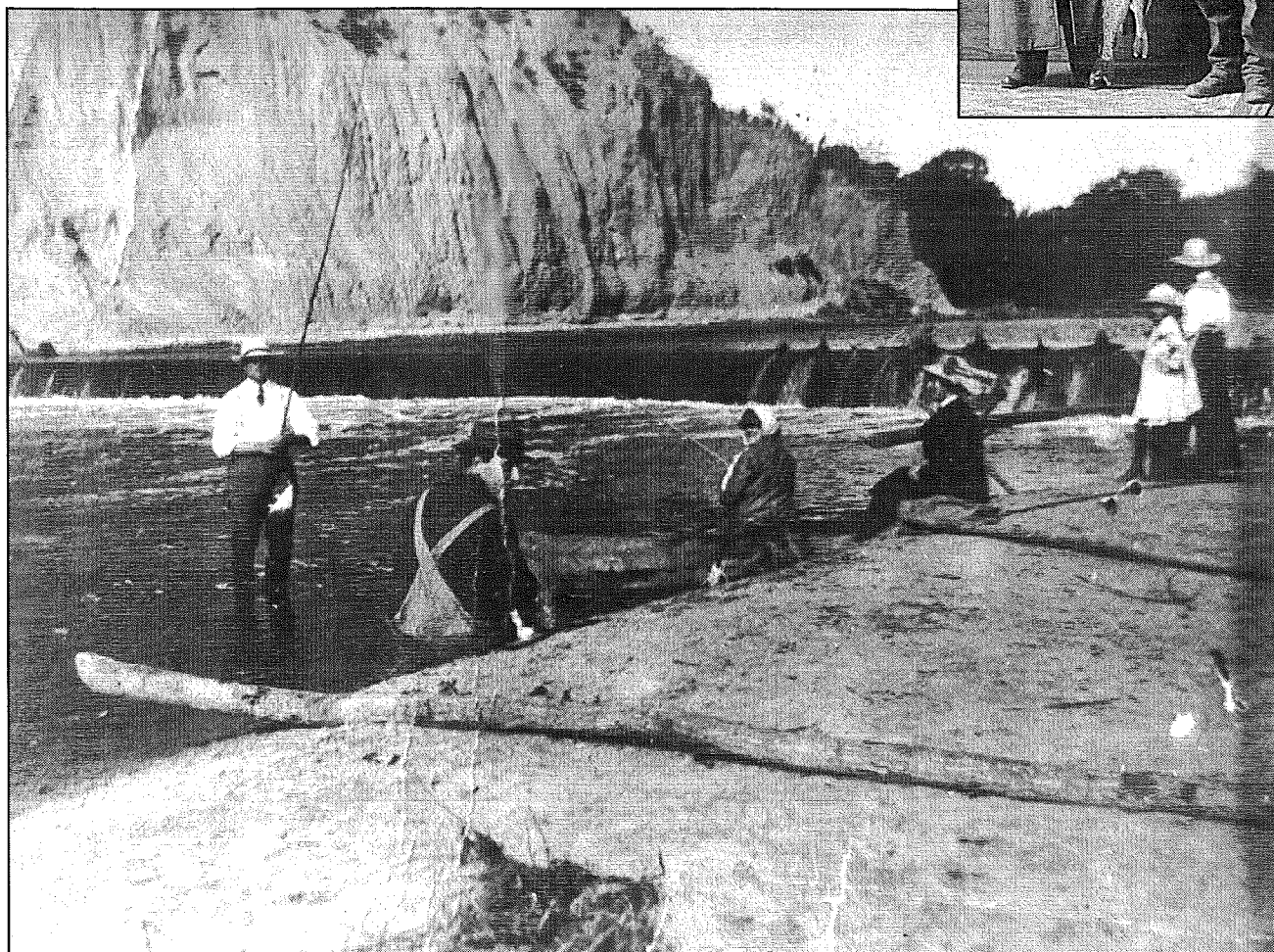
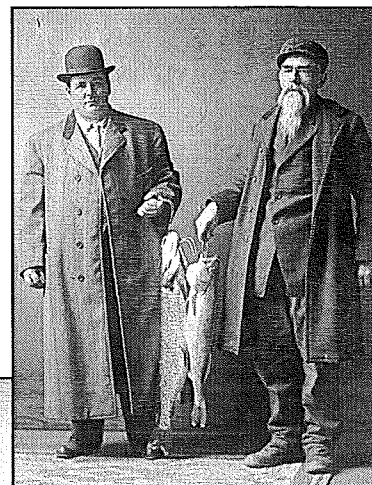
HISTORIAN



In this issue:

- Board of Trustees 2
- Director's Notes 3
- Museum Store 4
- Fingerprints & Footnotes 7
- Mankato's Role in the Carp Story 8
- Young Historians 19

Fred Hilke, Mr. Sohre
and their catch of the
day, November 1913.



Fishing at the "Upper Dam" on the Blue Earth River in Good Thunder Township: Paul Sperra, Paul Dunbar, Esther Dean Polchow, Ida Possin, Florence Sperra and Mrs. Paul Sperra around 1918.

Our Mission: To collect, preserve, and promote the history of Blue Earth County for present and future generations.

Historian



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566
www.bechshistory.com

Board of Trustees

Todd Stromswold, President, Lake Crystal
Leslie Peterson, Vice President, Mankato
Andrew Thom, Treasurer, North Mankato
Vail Belgard, Secretary, Garden City
Preston Doyle, Mankato
Paul Grabitske, Mankato
Win Grundmeier, Mankato
Corey Hugg, Mankato
Susan Hynes, Mankato
Mike Lagerquist, Mankato
Patricia Nienow, Mankato
Henry Quade, Good Thunder
John Rezmerski, Mankato
Stacey Straka, Mankato

Advisory Council

Margaret Preska, Chair
Kristin Duncanson
Sal Frederick
Mike Kearney
George Sugden

Staff

Jessica Potter, Executive Director
bechs@hickorytech.net
Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager
bechsam@hickorytech.net
Gabriela Rodriguez, Archives Assistant
bechsrc@hickorytech.net
JoLynn Crowe, Museum Assistant
bechsms@hickorytech.net
LaDonna Tollefson, Museum Aide
Glenn Stryker, Hubbard House Aide

Newsletter Production

Donna Webb, Editor

The Blue Earth County Historian Summer 2009

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of Blue Earth County Historical Society.

Copyright: *Historian* copyright 2009 by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue is expressly forbidden without permission of the publisher.



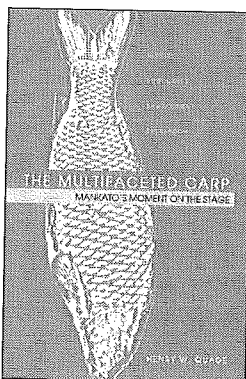
Board of Trustees

Todd Stromswold
Board of Trustees President

We all leave our own unique mark on this world; through our families, work and the organizations we believe in and support. We celebrate these legacies at BECHS – after all, they are the heart of the history we preserve every day.

Although we are in the business of preserving the past, we do this with an eye toward educating and enlightening future generations on the history of life in Blue Earth County. If you are also thinking about the future, please consider our Endowment Fund or a legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, to help ensure BECHS has the resources to preserve and present the history of Blue Earth County for many years to come. To learn more about giving opportunities, contact me at 507-387-9395.

Thank you to everyone who has made it possible for BECHS to continue its mission to preserve and protect the history of Blue Earth County by supporting us with your membership, donations and purchases in the Museum Store. All of your efforts make a big difference to us.



The Multifaceted Carp Mankato's Moment on Stage

by
Henry W. Quade

Mankato had a "moment on stage" as the result of local entrepreneur Armin Kleinschmidt's idea that canned carp could provide a delicious and valuable food source during WWII.

Once a popular immigrant food source, today carp is considered by some a valuable recreational and food source and by others a pest and a danger to the environment.

Here the author gives us a historical perspective on carp, and discusses the environmental impacts and entrepreneurial ventures regarding carp today. \$12.95

Meet the Author
Tuesday, July 28th 6-8 p.m.
Heritage Center Museum Store



Director's Notes

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

During the 2008 legislative session, the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment was approved and placed on the November general election ballot. The constitutional amendment asked Minnesota voters to increase the state sales tax by 3/8ths of a percent and dedicate the revenue to the outdoors, arts and cultural heritage.

In the final language of the bill, it was decided that 19.75% of the additional sales tax revenue would be dedicated to the arts and cultural heritage with the remaining split amongst outdoors entities. The collected pool of "cultural heritage" monies would go toward projects "to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota history and its cultural and historical resources."

It was decided by the Minnesota Legislature in May 2009 that the total arts and cultural heritage funds would be split amongst the different entities identified in the appropriations chart.

What does this mean for the Blue Earth County Historical Society and other local cultural and historical organizations? The sales tax revenue for history will be allocated to the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) which will establish a competitive grants program.

The language in the bill establishing the competitive grants program specifies that the funding is for "history programs and projects operated or conducted by or through local, county, regional or other historical or cultural organizations, or for activities to preserve significant historic and cultural resources."

Along with other county, local and regional organizations, BECHS may apply for these competitive grants beginning in Fall 2010. The guidelines for the grants program will be developed over the next few months by the Historic Resources Advisory Committee.

Just thought you would like to know how the revenues from this new tax will benefit history. For more information on the bill, please visit www.mnhs.org/historymatters/#legacy.

Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Appropriations

	2010	2011
Total Funds	\$44,470,000	\$48,750,000
Arts Board	\$21,650,000	\$21,650,000
Minnesota Historical Society (MHS)	\$9,750,000	\$12,250,000
MHS Programs and Exhibits	\$5,500,000	\$4,750,000
Statewide Historic and Cultural Grants	\$2,250,000	\$4,500,000
Partnerships with MHS	\$1,250,000	\$2,750,000
Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites	\$250,000	\$250,000
Digital Library Project	\$500,000	---
Department of Administration (Public Television, Public Radio, State Capitol, Children's Museums in St. Paul and Duluth, MN Science Museum)	\$6,500,000	\$7,900,000
Department of Education	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000
MN Center for Humanities	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
Perpich Center for Arts Education	\$300,000	\$700,000
Indian Language Preservation	\$250,000	\$700,000
Legislature	\$20,000	---



Museum Store

JoLynn Crowe
Museum Assistant

Do you know how many wonderful and unique items we offer at the Museum Store? One beautiful item in particular is the aprons that one of our wonderful volunteers (Grace Keir) has sewn together. The aprons come in two sizes, one for adults and another for a children. Grace has integrated parts of embroidered dresser runners which are used as the front flap of the aprons. What a great way to repurpose items that might have been discarded due to a stain or tear. They come in a variety of colors from blue, green and pink prints with the bib front tastefully matched.



Donna started out as the assistant to the culinary superintendent at the Blue Earth County Fair. When the superintendent retired, she took over the duties of as superintendent until 2003. Donna is also known for winning purple ribbons for her angel food cake and jelly rolls, which are featured in the book. The book will be on sale at the Blue Earth County Fair coming up on July 31st through August 2nd. Happy 150 Years to the Blue

Earth County Fair in Garden City! Why not help them celebrate by visiting the fair and making some new memories for years to come.

Enjoy your summer and if you are looking for a cool place to spend some time, check out the Museum Store; it might just surprise you with what it has to offer!

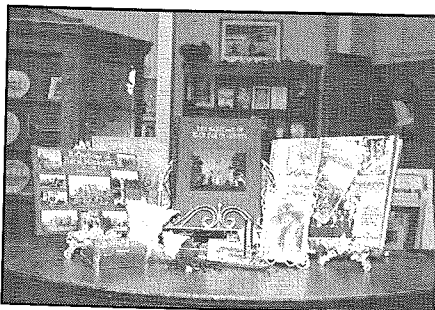
Speaking of taste, the Museum Store offers a wide selection of cookbooks for every discerning palate. We have the Minnesota titles of *Potluck Paradise*, *Bundt Cake Bliss*, *A Prairie Kitchen* and, of course, everyone's favorite *Hot Dish Heaven*. Even though it's summer, we all know what's around the corner! Hot dish anyone? Then we also have some with a local flavor such as; *Recipes from German Friends of Mankato, MN*, *Friends are the flowers in life's garden*, *Favorite Recipes Epiphany Lutheran Church Eagle Lake, MN*, *Recipes from THE LAND Volume II*, and a new book, *Recipes & Memories* by Donna M. Hood.

SALE

20% off selected items in the
Heritage Center Museum Store
Limited quantities, stop in today!

No coupon needed.

Membership discount will not be applied to sale



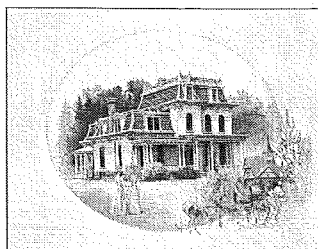
Heritage Center Museum and Store Hours: Tue. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Wed. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Closed Sunday & Monday

Museum Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 students (age 5-17); BECHS Members
and children under 5 Free

Members receive a 10% discount on most items available in the Store.

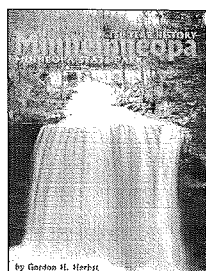
Featured Museum Store Items

Reflections of Days Gone By



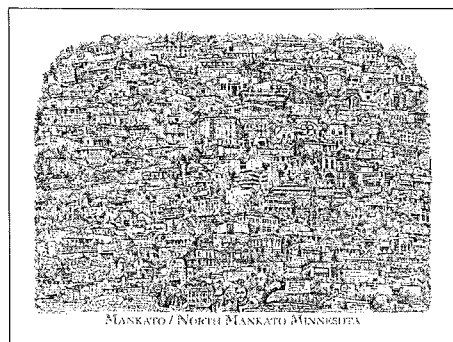
by Marian Anderson
Art print of the R.D. Hubbard House. Third and final in the Historic Home Series
\$150 Artist Proof
\$75 Main Edition
All proceeds benefit BECHS Capital Improvement Fund

Minneinneopa - 150 Year History of Minneopa State Park

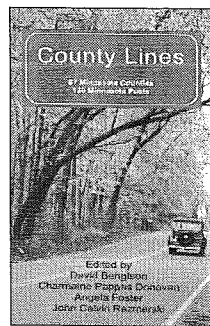


by Gordon Herbst
This book covers the many facets of Minneopa State Park which offers its beauty and a place to relax and enjoy nature. Wonderful photographs along with information about this resource in our own area. Paper, \$19.95

Mankato/North Mankato Montage



Discover something new in this print, every time you look at it. Many local businesses, historical places and people are featured. \$14.95



County Lines

The League of Minnesota Poets introduces an anthology of Minnesota poetry celebrating Minnesota history, legends and prominent landmarks in commemoration of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial. Paper \$13.95

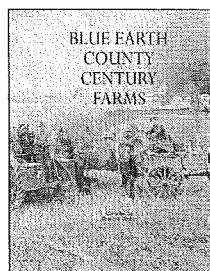
Unique Mankato Stories

by Daniel Vance



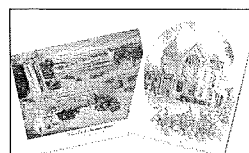
Relive the incredible forgotten stories of Mankato including those of Moses Wickersham, Maud Hart Lovelace, Julia Ann Sears, Sinclair Lewis and the Green Gables tornado. These hidden gems span the first 100 years of Mankato history. Paper, \$19.95

Blue Earth County Century Farms



The story of the development of agriculture in this county through the eyes of the farm families who lived it. Between 1876 and 2004, 178 farms in our county became registered Century Farms. These farms have been owned and operated by members of the same family for at least 100 years, some of them for 150 or more years. Through

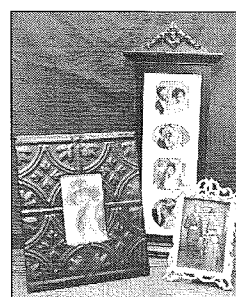
the pages of this book, meet these families, read their stories, learn about their lives and farms, and about their successes and failures, joys and sorrows. Hardbound, \$39.95



Note Cards

For sending an extra special note to a favorite someone, the Museum Store carries a selection of note cards from the Historic Homes

series by Marian Anderson to some of her other featured prints that are note card size. Many different designs are available to fit every occasion. \$1.50 each, sold in packets of 6 for \$9.



Unique Picture Frames

For *unique* picture frames the Museum Store is the place to shop. We carry three different types of frames: wood, metal and replica tin. Prices range from \$6.95 to \$25.95.

BECHS accepts the following credit cards for store purchases, membership dues or donations.





Research Center

Gabriela Rodriguez
Archives Assistant

When doing genealogical research, successfully finding out where your relative lived will help you narrow the location for your search. As you start your research it may appear, according to census records, that your ancestor moved around a great deal because each time a census was taken he was in a different county. By looking at plat maps you may find that it was not your relatives who moved but rather that the county lines shifted.

Before the Land Ordinance Act of 1785, land was surveyed using a system called metes and bounds, which created some confusion. The new system, known as Public Land Survey, divided land into grid-shaped townships and sections. The government would then sell the surveyed land to make money for the newly established nation. The earliest land surveys in the Minnesota Territory were done by the Surveyor General from Iowa and Wisconsin whose headquarters were located in Dubuque, Iowa. These first surveys were conducted between 1848 and 1857. The Office of the Surveyor General in Minnesota was established in 1857, and that office conducted the original government survey for the present State of Minnesota.

By using plat maps you are able to get useful

information such as who were the owners, what sections did they own, what county did they live in, how many acres did they have, who were their neighbors, how long did they own it, and was the land near any rivers or roads.

In the Research Center we have plat maps for Blue Earth County and also for nearby counties including Nicollet, Waseca, LeSueur and Martin Counties. For Blue Earth County we have plat maps that range from 1879 to 2000. We are missing a few years in between, so if you have any plat maps that you would like to donate, please come and see me.

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's that time of year. Reminder: 2008-9 memberships expired on June 30, 2009. Renew your 2009-10 membership today! Also, consider gift memberships or encourage a friend or family member to join. Please use the enclosed yellow form to renew.

Researchers and genealogists will delight in the varied resources available.

Blue Earth County history has been recorded through:

- Original Manuscripts
- Photographs and scrapbooks
- Maps
- Cemetery transcriptions
- Newspapers
- Census Records
- Subject and Surname Files

Research Center Hours:

Tue. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Wed. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Closed Sunday & Monday

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 students (age 5-17);
BECHS Members Free

Genealogy Day 4th Saturday of each month - Free Admission

Research Fees: Copies 25¢,
Contracted Research \$20/hour

BECHS Website Resources

We had almost 900 people visit our website in June. Would you believe that people from the Netherlands, Romania and Spain have checked us out? They could have been looking at the new photos or the added links on those pages. Or they may have been interested in memberships, volunteering or giving donations. The Calendar page has all the information about up-to-date programs and events; it is the spot to get the entire scoop on what's going on at BECHS. It was also the most visited page in June! The Education page contains information on our Speakers Bureau, children programs and tour information. If you can not make it to the R.D. Hubbard House to see all the wonderful restoration work, you can always take the virtual tour that is located on the Hubbard House page.

The Museum Store has its own page and new items are constantly being added, such as the book *Unique Mankato* or the Marian Anderson Historic Home Series. On our home page we have a very convenient search window. The most popular search terms in June were: Volunteer (volunteer information can be found on every page), Hubbard House and Peter Schmidt. Coming in at a close second to the most viewed page is the page of indexes which is fantastic because we always have volunteers working on updates. It has lots of useful information. Our Indexes are found under Research and then Resources. The newest addition to the Indexes are social notes. These are articles consisting of "gossip" or social brevities of the day such as, from Ceresco in 1892, an article titled "Several Citizens Talked of Going on Wolf Hunt". These are not just the average genealogy facts; there is a lot of social history too. Check out Decoria or Eagle Lake. So whether you're from Amboy, Lake Crystal or some far off exotic location like New Ulm, have a look!



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had an exciting spring. In May we had an excellent program with Dr. Ronald C. Schirmer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. We discussed all the stuff we didn't know about the archaeology of the area. There were some great mysteries. In June, we met with historian David Grabitske, and discussed his new book *Six Miles from St. Paul: the family and society of Sarah Jane Sibley*. We learned how Sarah Jane Sibley, wife of Minnesota's first governor, used her training, skills and relationships to manage a complex household and lead the state's first historic preservation movement during the Civil War era, despite challenges of distance and chronic illness. If you'd like to learn more, there are copies of his book available in the Museum Store. Just this month the club motored to Rapidan, where we shared a little bit of history, took a stroll through town with the Rapidan Heritage Society and even had a great piece of pie.

If you have ideas for discussion topics or an interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know and, as always, newcomers are welcome.

Future Meetings:

August 5 (**note the date change**) - Adventures with the Madison Lake Area Historical Society

September 1 - *The Dakota Uprising: A Pictorial History*, a presentation and book signing by Curtis Dahlin

October 6 - Minnesota Beyond the Veil (Ghost Hunting in Minnesota) by Kathy Machowski

Footnotes In History

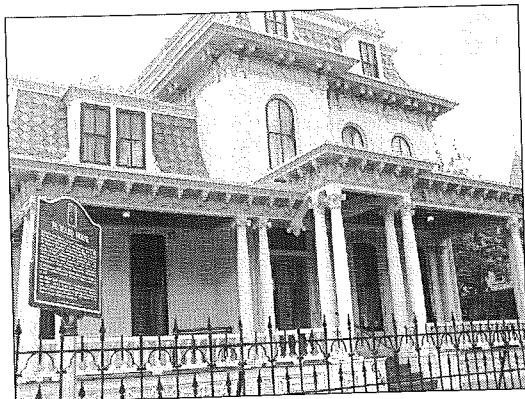
Do you want to know if your ancestor was a veteran of any war? Check the 1930 census.
-Provided by Beth Zimmer



BECHS On the Air

Listen to KTOE 1420 AM the 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of each month 4:10-4:40 p.m.
BECHS update with Trish.

R.D. Hubbard House



Exterior restoration of the R.D. Hubbard House is complete (for this phase). From 2005-2009, restoration projects have included the limestone retaining wall and restored wrought-iron fence, brick tuck pointing, bay window repairs, exterior painting (color based on a paint analysis completed in 2004), repair and restoration of all three porches and a brick paver driveway at the Carriage House.

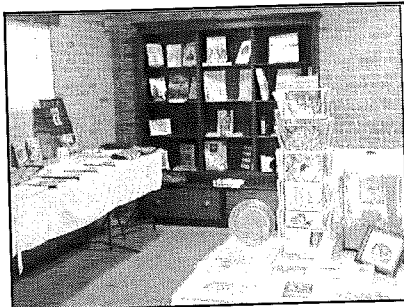
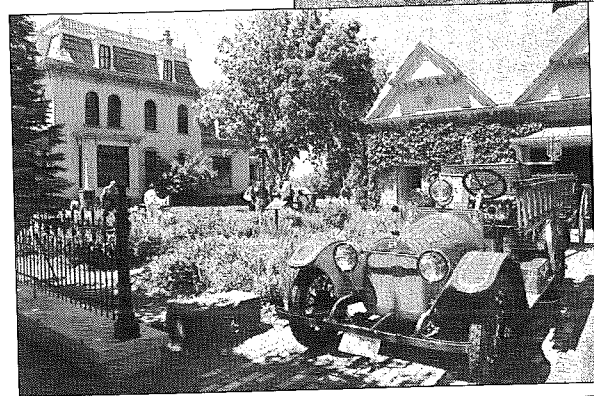
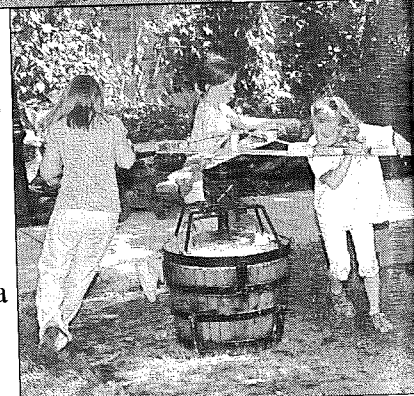
The final detail was the installation of a heritage plaque. The plaque is part of the City of Mankato's efforts to share the local history. It was unveiled at the Hubbard House 20-Year Tribute Weekend on May 30-31, which also included tours of the house with costumed volunteers as well as opportunities to meet Harley Goff and Linda Nussbaumer, Hubbard House Restoration Committee members and Ron Goodrich and Randy Dinsmore of Goodrich Construction. All these people had their hand in the 20 years of work on the historic house.

The Hubbard House is open for tours through September and will reopen during the month of December for holiday tours. If you have questions about visiting or the restoration, don't hesitate to contact the BECHS staff at 345-5566.

Hubbard House 20-Year Tribute Weekend May 30-31, 2009



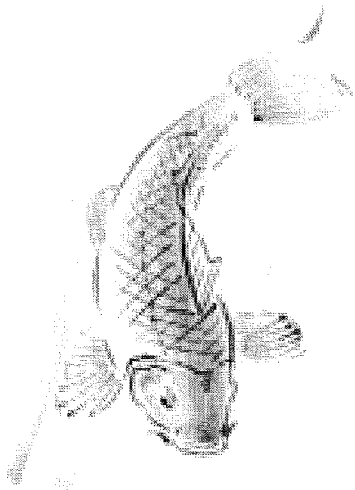
Costumed volunteers entertained the 600+ visitors at the Hubbard House 20 Year Tribute Weekend. Activities included a 5-gallon ice cream maker.



Hubbard House and Carriage House Gift Shop Hours:

June-August: Fri - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
September: Sat. - Sun. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 students (age 5-17); BECHS Members and children under 5 Free



Mankato's Role in the Carp Story

by
Henry W. Quade

Mankato's major entry into the carp market was preceded by sporadic shipments of carp. Thirty thousand pounds of live carp, seined from Eagle Lake by Matt Kane, were shipped, live, to the east coast by the Railroad Express Company in 1943. Meatless days in the East, as well as the general meat shortage in the United States greatly improved the market for cold-water carp.

In 1945, the filing for incorporation of the Land of Lakes Canning Company formalized a new industry in Mankato. The industry was engaged in vital war production by canning, preserving, processing, marketing and delivering fresh fish. Incorporators of the new firm were Armin R. Kleinschmidt, B.E. Bouda and Bertha E. Kleinschmidt, Armin's mother. The business office was located at 121 E. Walnut Street.

Armin R. Kleinschmidt was born in 1899 in Mankato. He invested a great deal of his life in Mankato where he served as a city councilman and later as mayor (1937-1939). He built the towers for the first radio station, KYSM, had the first radio talk show in Mankato and was president at various times of the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, The Builder's Exchange, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Mankato Ordinance Pool. A respected and successful businessman, he partnered with his father, Gus, in the Kleinschmidt & Son building contractor business. Many homes, churches, theaters, stores and factories built by them still stand in Mankato today. He owned three building supply stores in town, had a Pittsburgh Paints dealership and owned the MICO Co. which manufactured airplane parts for bombers during WW II.



Armin Kleinschmidt, photograph
courtesy of Joan Kleinschmidt
Bleakley.

Ed Bouda was a German-born mechanical engineer employed at MICO. He was the plant engineer, designed much of their tooling and adapted machinery for special uses. As an incorporator, he was responsible for the acquisition and design of many of the processing machines for the fish plant. Much of the processing itself was planned by Continental Can Company, including can handling, autoclaving and labeling.

The idea for Mankato's entry into the carp market came about in 1941 at a dinner of the Game and Fish Conservation Club of Madison Lake, Blue Earth County, Minnesota, where baked carp was served. Armin considered carp a delicious fish, and felt whoever could discover a successful means of canning it would be serving a useful societal purpose. His mother, Bertha, packed some of the fish at home, using a pressure cooker, with considerable initial success and thus provided Armin with needed support from a baked to a canned product.

In April 1944, Kleinschmidt contacted the Smaller War Plants Corporation (SWPC) officials in Minneapolis. The SWPC was created in the spring of 1943 by a direct act of Congress for the purpose of "helping the individual or firm in establishing new industries." The SWPC was a quick-acting governmental organization and had the backing of all government agencies in the United States. It was directed to complete its work on a particular project in three to four weeks, including gathering data, research material and drawing a blueprint for the plant organization to a completed plan.

The Minneapolis office of the SWPC compiled a report for Kleinschmidt including an offer from the Continental Can Company in Chicago to make a trial run at their Chicago plant. Kleinschmidt contacted the company in 1945 regarding two points: first, since only one third of the fish would be used for human consumption there would be a tremendous need for raw fish. Where could that be obtained? Second, what could be done with the other two thirds of the fish not used for canning?

Joan Kleinschmidt Bleakly, Armin's daughter, wrote in a personal communication:

Although only one third of the fish were suitable for canning for human consumption, my Dad thought there had to be a use for the other two thirds of the fish. He, somewhere along the line, developed a canned pet food using the remainder of the fish. Of course, all pet food, even in that era, had to be "fit for human consumption." At least once, Dad brought a can home from the plant, made his "tuna salad mix," and spread it on crackers. After we ate it and declared it "good," he told us we had just sampled cat food.

In trial runs in Chicago, fish experts worked out a plan where other fish parts could be used as fishmeal for poultry, hogs and fish in hatcheries.

Kleinschmidt gained the support of the State Conservation Department, which pointed out that his plan would provide an excellent outlet for disposal of rough fish in Minnesota. On February 28, 1945, Kleinschmidt announced that an application for a patent on a method for canning carp and other rough

fish had been made in Washington, D.C. He stated that "this method, as far as known, represents the first successful effort to can fresh-water fish," and further stated that it "tastes and looks like white breast of chicken."

The Army had been highly encouraging when a laboratory run of 200 cans was made at the Continental Can Company's research laboratory in Chicago the previous November. At the request of the Army Quartermaster at Chicago, a follow-up sample pack was run off at the Fairmont Canning Company in February 1945, amounting to 1,250 pounds or 5,000 cans.

On March 6, 1945, Kleinschmidt announced that a carp canning plant was to be built in Mankato that would can 2,000 pounds of carp per hour and employ 100 workers. Kleinschmidt, the military and the U.S. Department of Interior's game and fish division met in Chicago in the Subsistence Research and Development Laboratory of the Army and Navy Quartermaster. The quartermasters for the Army and Navy concluded that canned carp was choice eating and had excellent post-war civilian possibilities. Further, the Army and Navy agreed to accept all the canned carp that could be provided, 100 percent production for the war effort. Financing for the new plant would involve stocks to be sold locally under the name of Land of Lakes Canning Company. The actual construction was to be done by the Kleinschmidt's construction company.

Seining capacity was expanded from the winter only to a year-round activity using holding ponds. Further, Kleinschmidt wanted to start a research laboratory, as he felt, "we've just scratched the surface regard to the possibilities of carp." He thought many useful byproducts were possible since fish are high in vitamins A and D, and in protein. The combination of the canning, fish meal and oil processing would be valuable in the disposal and utilization of the entire fish.

The contract with the military called for production to start in 30 days. Since it was impossible for the proposed new plant to be operational within that time, a pilot plant was developed. The pilot plant used one of the buildings of the Minnesota Valley

Natural Gas Company at Elm and Willow Streets.

An educational order from the Army and Navy was designed to determine the cost and output. This called for 150,000 pounds of whole fish, 75,000 pounds of ground fish and 75,000 pounds of flaked fish. The ground fish would be sent to civilians in occupied territories in Europe, and the flaked fish would be packed in cottonseed oil, canned and used for the Army and Navy in the Pacific. The plant would produce 600 pounds of canned fish per hour.

Raw fish for the pilot plant were purchased from state and commercial operations, utilizing most of the state's capacity. A special government directive provided for the purchase of cans from the Continental Can Company. The cans had no rationing priority since they were used in a vital industry to supply Army and Navy needs. The Game and Fish Commission was especially interested in the Land of Lakes Canning Company because it not only utilized excess carp in lakes and streams of the state, but it also provided income for citizens.

By the end of May, Army authorities changed the name of the company to Lake Fish Canning Company. Military analysts were stationed in Mankato to determine price and other factors. Kleinschmidt put out a call for more rough fish stating that he could use all the rough fish brought in.

On June 23, 1945, the first trial run of the pilot plant commenced. One thousand pounds of carp went through the line. The fish came from the fish hatchery in St. Peter. The trial run was a complete success, and 250 pounds of flaked fish were packed in three samples: tomato, mustard and cottonseed. By the end of June trucks were bringing in about 10,000 pounds of raw fish per day, many of them in open, flat beds. The fish were packed in ice and came from Fairmont, Stillwater, St. Peter and Hutchinson.

During the first week of pilot plant production there were two officials from the Department of Interior (researching the canning process), two officials from the Army and Navy Quartermasters Corps. and two men from the Veterinary Corps., all on site. The pilot plant soon reached its maximum production of 600

pounds of canned fish per hour, which put pressure on for starting the building of the new plant.

On October 5, 1945, Kleinschmidt released a prospectus announcing the sale of \$101,120 of preferred and common stock. Forty thousand dollars



Lake Fish Canning Co. stock certificate originally owned by George Sugden.

was for the new factory building, \$30,000 for the machinery and \$31,120 for working capital. He arranged to lease from the Chicago and Northwestern Railway a plot near Willow and Spring streets, about 100 by 160 feet in size, for fresh fish delivery and storage. The company had signed a contract with the State of Minnesota to take about 4,000,000 pounds of carp weighing .75 to 4 pounds.

Joan Kleinschmidt Bleakly (daughter) worked in the canning plant after school and during summers. She was responsible for local sales. She stated:

My involvement in sales was my demonstrator role in local grocery stores when the canned fish was being introduced to Mankato grocery shoppers. I would set up a table with a cloth and silver trays and put on a pretty apron. A "tuna salad type" mix was made up and spread on crackers for the market customers to sample. Some fish was offered right from the can on crackers with no mayo. This activity continued on weekends, in a variety of local food stores for a couple of

months.

By February 1946, after the war, Kleinschmidt was shipping carp to Honolulu, Paris, Palestine and more than a dozen states.

Throughout the history of Mankato's carp production, research was carried out by plant chemist, Leonard A. Ford, Ph.D., head of the Science Department at Mankato State College. Working out of a company laboratory, he spent a great deal of time on two major problems: the taste of the carp, and uses for the offal (the byproducts and unused portions of the fish). The partnership represented an early collaboration between the college and town which greatly added to the success of this venture.

Barbara Ford Olson, Leonard Ford's daughter, relates that, as part of his research and interest, in the summer of 1946, the family drove out to the west coast and visited canneries from Monterey, California (Cannery Row was made famous by John Steinbeck) to Seattle, Washington.

Leonard Ford reported that he found similar historic acceptance problems to carp with the introduction of canned tuna in 1904.

Ford found that the difficulties encountered in the canning of fresh-water fish was due largely to the difference in water content, texture and firmness of the flesh of fresh-water fish, as contrasted with ocean fish. Applying the established process of salt water fish canning to fresh-water fish produced a product rather unappealing and somewhat mushy. Ford developed a method of careful brining and pre-cooking which produced a product that was quite firm in texture, low in water content and with a flavor described as similar to tuna.

In 1948, expanded production from the Mankato plant for distribution of carp products throughout the nation was proposed. Appointments to the board for this expanded production included Bob White, national distribution; Leonard Ford, chemist and analyst; Robert M. McCurdy, controller; and Larry K. Fuller, production director.

In the immediate post-war years, the plant primarily dealt with the German ethnic market in the United States and with the German civilian market in the new State of Israel. Since gefiltifish can't be processed, Mankato faced stiff competition from the East Coast for fresh carp. Armin had to go to Denver to get carp because of price competition. By this time the plant had scaled down to 50 to 60 people; it finally went bankrupt in the early 1950s.

Canned carp from Mankato, however, did not disappear immediately and even resurfaced in 1952. Bob Browne, a Korean War Veteran and Mankato native, was surprised to find Mankato-canned carp in his assault ration cans at his outpost in the Iron Triangle, Baldy Hill, Korea. The rations included the fish in a sardine-like can and soda crackers. He said they tasted good, like kipper snacks in oil.

Dean Kleinschmidt, Armin's son, said that after the bankruptcy, Armin went to Gary, Indiana, as a Federal Highway Inspector. Upon retirement he returned to northern Minnesota and died there in 1976.

Sources

Bleakly, Joan Kleinschmidt, Personal Communication

Browne, Bob, Personal Communication

Kleinschmidt, Dean, Personal Communication

Mankato Free Press

Olson, Barbara Ford, Personal Communication

The preceding article is an extract from the BECHS' publication:

***The Multifaceted Carp:
Mankato's Moment on Stage
by Henry W. Quade***

Available now at the Museum Store

Copyright 2009 by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this article is expressly forbidden without permission of the publisher.



For more information, visit the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Heritage Center or www.bechshistory.com.

BECHS Donations

April - June 2009

MONETARY GIFTS

Up to \$49

Balcome, Helen *Meeting Room*
Bartholdi, Roberta
Carstensen, Norma
Chalgren, Marcia
Craig, Nancy
Hesse, Norla
Howard, Don
Karow, Linda
Marti, Helen
Owens, Catherine
Quade, Henry and Ann
In honor of Tim and Liz Madsen
Ries, Chuck and Carol
Ringheim, Marilyn
Schindle, Berneal
Stromswold, Todd
Williams, Jerry and Vee.

\$50-\$99

Bishop, Mary L.
Cambria Township
Duncanson, Patrick and Kristin
Griffith, Helen *Building Fund*
Hoehn, William
Joyce, Ron
McLaughlin, James
Petrie, Jane
Sassenberg, Karl
Smith, H. Roger
Torgerson, Allen and Jane

\$100-\$499

Barrett, Mary
Davis, Judith *Collections/Exhibits*
Fitzloff, Shirley
Goff, Harley *Hubbard House*
Goodrich, Ron *Hubbard House*
Hanson, Kathryn
Jensen, Orville and Mary Ann
Medo Township
Olson, Susan
Piepho, Mark *Collections/Exhibits*

Rapidan Township
Salsbery, Tom and Cindy
Sugden, George and Nadine
Thom, Andrew and Melinda

\$500-\$2500

McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa
John Rezmerski
Sofchalk, Donald

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Eva Hodapp
by Jane Tarjeson

In Memory of Vivian Jones
by Marcia Richards for Welsh Archives

In Memory of Rene "Fritz" Maes
by Marcia Richards

In Memory of Dick Oehler
by Dick and Frankie Adams

In Memory of Judy Preis
by Jane Tarjeson

In Memory of Helen Sofchalk
by Athar and Virginia Murtuza

In Memory of Cliff Yaeger
by Jane Tarjeson

IN-KIND

Artic Ice *150 lbs of ice*
Braun, Chris *Sign and flag holder*
Hugg, Corey *Box of Copy Paper*
Jensen, Orville *History-to-go supplies*
Lavitschke, Jo-an *Inkjet Printer*
Red Door Creative *Design Services*
Sign Pro *Event Banners*
Webb, Donna *Software*

THANK YOU!



Collections & Exhibits

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

It's Fair time again! This year the Blue Earth County Agricultural Society is celebrating their Sesquicentennial (150th). There is always exciting entertainment, tasty food and a lot of exhibits. It's an annual event that showcases the values and tradition of the people of Blue Earth County.

In the past, people would wait all year long to see friends and neighbors at the fair. The fair was a time to show off the best things about Blue Earth County. People from farms and towns would make or raise



Fair exhibit at BECHS Heritage Center

the finest things and bring them to the fair in hopes of winning a ribbon. In 1887, "an urban fair-goer," Mrs. Martin from 306 Willard Street in Mankato, won first place for the best pickles and took second for the best butter.

Come and share your collective and individual memories of the fair. Join BECHS as we

"Remember the great crowds at the grand

fair grounds" walking tour. Reminisce about the pavilion, the cabin, the school, the racetrack and other buildings long gone but not forgotten on our walking tour of the grounds. Do you know when the fair got electricity? Agriculture is a central part of our community and the Blue Earth County Historical Society wants to preserve the rich heritage of Blue Earth County. Agriculture, industry and home life are all represented at the County Fair. We at the

Historical Society are looking for items that tell stories surrounding the fair. So if you have fair premium books, 4-H memorabilia, ribbons, buttons, or plaques and photographs, we would like to add these items to our collection. If you would like to donate anything relating to the fair, please contact me.

In celebrating the 150 years of the Fair we would like to honor those families whose farms have received century farm status. One of the farms in our book *Century Farms of Blue Earth County* has applied for and won Sesquicentennial Farm status. Congratulation to the Issac Wood Farm and Family.

So let the Blue Earth County Agricultural Society and the Historical Society invite all of you to the Fair!

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out at the fair; if you are interested please contact JoLynn at 507-345-5566.

Artifacts & Archives Donations April - June 2009

Benefield, Dale
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Blue Earth County
Blue Earth County
Fair Board
Burns, Inella
City of Mankato
Colakovic, Kenneth
Davis, Judith
Dobie, Sheryl
Engen, Dave
Felber, Kathy
Fitzloff, Shirley
Frederick, Mike
Gardner, Jill
Giefer, Donna
Greater Mankato Growth
Grundmeier, Win
Herbst, Gordon

Hiniker, Ruth
Hoehn, Pat
Hoelbur, Jeff
Hynes, Susan
Keir, Grace
LaFavor, Lyle
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Lewis, Chuck
Lindeman, Colleen
Marshall, Polly
Matzke, Frederick
McLaughlin, Theresa
Ohlenkamp, Ora
Peterson, June
Plotz, Harriet
Schaub, Shirley
Tarjeson, Jane
Thompson, Ken and
Farnsworth, Susie

BECHS Volunteers

January - June 2009

Affolter, Ron
 Bartholdi, Roberta
 Baures, Lisa
 Beiswanger, Joshua
 Belgard, Hugh
 Belgard, Vail
 Benefield, Dale
 Bouma, Jana
 Bunde, Margo
 Carlson, Bruce
 Carlson, Carla
 Clement, Jeri
 Clobes, Abby
 Clobes, Joshua
 Clobes, Nathan
 Cords, Betty
 Coleman, Mary
 Crowe, Jody
 Darling, Brad
 Dickey, Phil
 Frisch, Carlienne
 Garlow, Laura
 Garlow, Sandi
 Geibel, Roger
 Goff, Harley
 Grabitske, Paul
 Grundmeier, Shirley
 Grundmeier, Win
 Hanson, Kathryn
 Heaney, Kelly
 Herbst, Gordon
 Hugg, Bob
 Hugg, Corey
 Hugg, Leslie
 Hugg, Nathan
 Hustuft, Carol
 Hynes, Emily
 Hynes, Susan
 Jensen, Mary Ann
 Jensen, Orville
 Keir, Grace
 Kennedy, Gloria
 Kind, Arn
 Kloster, Jeremieh
 Kloster, Joshua

Kloster, Sarah
 Kloster, Troy
 Kramer, Darby
 Krassin, Sara
 Lagerquist, Mike
 Lavitschke, Jo-an
 Madsen, Jack
 Madsen, Timothy
 Mattick, Jason
 McComb, Mary
 McGowan, Jack
 Nelson, Pat
 Nussbaumer, Linda
 Ohlenkamp, Ora
 Oldenburg, Aiden
 Oldenburg, Alex
 Oldenburg, Connor
 Owens, Dean
 Peterson, Leslie
 Peterson, Rachel
 Quade, Ann
 Quade, Henry
 Reichel, Jason
 Reinbold, Bianka
 Rezmerski, John
 Rockne, Kallista
 Sassenburg, Eunice
 Schaub, Shirley
 Schultz, Jo
 Sinn, Baerbel
 Sinn, Gunter
 Starcher, Sarah
 Steinhauer, Bernie
 Straka, Stacey
 Straub, Don
 Stromswold, Todd
 Tarjeson, Jane
 Ulman, Ida
 Ulman, Steve
 Warman, Tiffany
 Webb, Grace
 Webb, Donna
 Zeigler, Ken
 Zimmer, Beth

Volunteers Are Always Welcome

If you have some time to spare to help us preserve history, please contact JoLynn at 345-5566 or bechsms@hickorytech.net.

Some examples are:

*Blue Earth County Fair
 Tour Guides—Hubbard House
 and Heritage Center
 Antique car maintenance person
 Research and writing for publications
 Grant research and writing
 Data Entry
 Hubbard House Gift Shop attendant
 Archives Volunteer
 Collections Volunteer*

WISH LIST

*Items or financial donations will be
gratefully accepted.*

- 3 Ft. Step stool for Hubbard House
- Cordless Drill
- Copy Paper
- *The Land* on microfilm (\$35 per roll)
- New tables and chairs for meeting room (need approximately \$5,000)
- Office Max Gift Cards

Wishes Fulfilled

- Past Perfect Multimedia software (\$300) by George and Nadine Sugden
- Microfilm donations by Ron Joyce and Jane Tarjeson

Thank you for your time and talents!

BECHS Membership

April - June 2009

New Members

Avery, Earl and Carol
Beiswanger, Robert and Sarah
Heim, Jeremy and Jaclyn
Johnson, Pat
Kroenke, Sharon
Marti, Helen M
Roemhildt, Kevin and Brenda
Wessman, Rebecca

New Business Members

The New Generation Studio/Custom Weddings

Renewed Business Members

Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd.
Goodrich Construction
Pathstone Living
Paulsen Architectural Design, Inc.
Red Door Creative, Inc.
State Farm Insurance/ Preston Doyle
Voyager Bank

Renewed Members

Ahlness, Janice
Allen County Public Library
Anderson, Marian
Apitz, Darell and Lucy
Auringer, Tim
Bachmeyer, Sandra
Balcome, Helen
Barber, Eddice B.
Barrett, Mary
Bartholdi, Roberta
Bellig, Daniel
Bessler, Bill and Marilyn
Bishop, Mary Louise
Blume, Darwin F.
Bock, Claire L. and Roger
Boroski, Betty
Botten, Joel
Boubel, John
Bradshaw, Louise L.
Broadwell, Donald
Brugman, Douglas
Bunde, Margo
Bursaw, Iona
Burton, Verona

Carstensen, Norma
Casella, Donna
Chalgren, Marcia
Clause, David and Carolyn
Coleman, Mary
Cotton, Glenn and Marcia
Davis, Don and Lois
Diamond, Sandy
Dobie, Joseph
Dorn, John and Kathleen
Duncanson, Patrick and Kristin
Evans, Brian
Ehmke, Judy
Eick, Aileen
Fallenstein, Fay
Farnham, Joseph and Malda
Farnsworth, Susan
Faust, Claire E.
Frederick, Michael
Frederickson, Dennis and Joan
Freyberg, Lynette
Friday, Mona
Friedrichs, Barb
Frisch, Robert and Carlienne
Frost, Robert and Linda
Goelz, Nicholas
Goettl, Terry
Goff, Harley and Janet
Griffith, Helen
Griffith, Jane
Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley
Habein, Harold and Jeanne
Hamer, Nancy
Hanson, Kathryn
Harmer, William
Hess, Dominic
Hesse, Norla
Higginbotham, Jack and Shirley
Higginbotham, Marla Sugden
Hillegas, Marcella
Hines, Eileen
Hinrichs, William and Judith
Hodapp, Frank and Marian
Hoehn, Jim and Pat
Hoehn, William
Hollingsworth, Alice
How, Mary Ellen
Howard, Don
Hubbard, John J.
Hugg, Robert and Corey
Hustoles, Paul J. and Mary Jo

Hustuft, Dean and Carol
Insty-Prints, Shibilski, Bob
Ireland, Lawrence H. and Patricia
Jackson, Judy
Jensen, Orville and Mary Ann
Johnson, David and Linda
Johnson, Douglas W. and Patricia
Jones, Eldon and Helen
Jones, Ellis and Janet
Joyce, Ron
Just Sr., John
Kalvig, Ann
Karow, Linda
Keenan, Jerry
Keir, Richard and Grace
Kietzer, David and Mavis
Kent, Jack and Harriet
Kind, Arn and Meg
Klammer, Chuck and Kait
Klugherz, Catherine
Kohrt, Jim and Melinda
Krause, Dolores
Kubicek, Joe and Sylva
Lagerquist, Mike
Larson Shapiro, Nancy
LaTourelle, Mary
Leeman, Harold
Lites, Jerry and Arden.
Lund, Kay
McComb, Mary
McGowan, Jack and Diann
McGregor, Byron and Karen
McLaughlin, James L.
McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa
McLean, Edward
McMillin, Ronald
McNear, Virginia
Madsen, Jack
Maker, Mary
Manthe, Lois M
Masberg, Rita.
Maung-Mercurio, Alice
Medalen, Ethel R.
Meredith, Don and Marge
Meyer, Pete and Sharon
Miller, Jo
Mohr, Harley
Mosher, Clayton
Muellerleile, Fred and Dixie
Musel-Staloch, Liv
Neitge, Judie

Nienow, Richard and Patricia
 Nordgren, Lee and Donna
 Norman, Beth
 Nuessle, Ruth
 Olson, Susan
 Owens, Catherine
 Parks, Sandra
 Peterson, Harriet
 Phelps, Dean
 Piehl, Chuck and Kathy
 Pulis, Tim
 Quade, Henry and Ann
 Rasmussen, Howard
 Ries, Charles and Carol
 Ringheim, Marilyn
 Roberts, Craig
 Roscoe, Don
 Rose, Robert and Luella
 Rottunda, John
 Ryan, Thomas

Salk, Carolyn
 Salsbery, Tom and Cindy
 Sassenberg, Karl
 Sawina, James
 Schaub, Shirley
 Schindle, Mrs. Berneal
 Schmitz, Joan
 Schrader, Julie
 Schulte, Darla
 Schulte, Pat
 Schulz, Richard
 Schulz, Roy and Velma
 Schutt, Donna
 Schutz, Kelly
 Siebrass, Hershel and Grace
 Simonett, James and Patricia
 Smith, H. Roger and Anne K.
 Snilsberg, Lee and Loretta
 Sontag, Leola
 Steele, Richard and Ramona

Stokesbary, Christine
 Sugden, George
 Swanson, Kevin and Jody
 Tacheny, Leon and Delores
 Tarjeson, Jane
 Thiesse, Sylvan and Rosalin
 Thom, Andrew and Melinda
 Tire Associates
 Torgerson, Allen and Jane
 Troemel, Clarinda
 Veroeven, Richard
 VINE Faith in Action
 Vogel, Paul and Kristin
 Ward, Howard and Mary
 Webb, Gerald and Donna
 Williams, Jerry and Vee M.G.
 Wingen, Carol
 Wittrock, Eleanor
 Wolff, Gerald and Mary
 Zimmer, Beth

**Please support the following Blue
 Earth County businesses that have
 supported BECHS with a Business
 Membership ranging from \$100-\$500**

TRUE SATISFACTION



BRENNAN COMPANIES

BRENNAN CONSTRUCTION | BRENNAN PROPERTIES

Call. 507.625.5417
www.bcofmm.com



HOEHN
 DRAINAGE & EXCAVATING LLC

TOM HOEHN - OWNER

388-7741

Serving So. MN Since 1976

- Septic System Installations & Repair - MPCA License #948
- General Backhoe, Crawler-Dozer Work
- Basement Excavating
- Sewer & Water
- Landscape Grading
- Farm Drainage
- Demolition
- Black Dirt, Sand Gravel
- Snow Plowing, Removal & Sanding

GHOSTS FROM THE PAST

Saturday, October 17th

at the

**Historic Brandrup House
 Lincoln Park Neighborhood**

Watch for details!

Relationship Banking. The Voyager Way.

VOYAGER
 BANK

MANKATO
 507-625-8721

Visit us at VoyagerBank.com today!

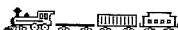
Member FDIC

Recycle your newsletter!

Pass it along to a friend,
 neighbor or family member!



Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

RHS was happy to host the Fingerprints and Footnotes Club for their recent meeting. Who we are and what we are attempting to achieve was discussed. (And yes, the caboose is still pink – but we are working on it!) A short walking tour of Rapidan was then taken. There is an amazing amount of history behind every building façade.

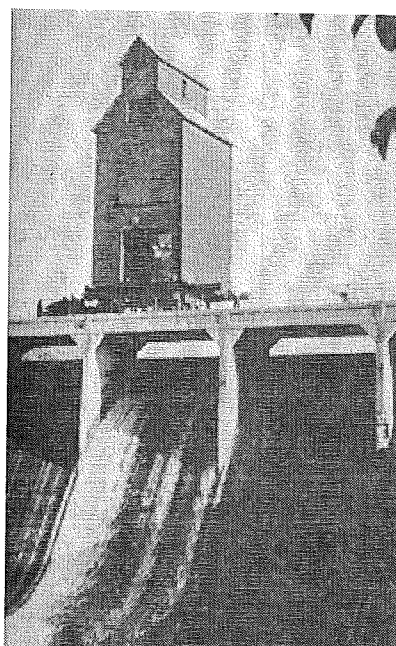
The 2009 Red Wing Stein featuring the Rapidan Elevator is available and can be picked up at the depot. The stein features the current Rapidan Elevator.

Fire! Disaster struck Rapidan in March, 1949, when the Hubbard & Palmer Elevator burned to the ground. Lack of water hindered the firemen's efforts to save the elevator, but they were able to save the surrounding buildings. The cause of the fire was a defective oil burner in the office. Hubbard & Palmer realized the need for a new elevator, but costs to rebuild was placed at \$50,000. Their solution was to move the Hubbard & Palmer elevator from Cray to Rapidan.

The Cray Elevator was built in 1906, but had been unused for several years. It was moved a distance of 8 miles. Phone and electrical lines were minor obstacles; the big challenge was moving this 65-foot, 40 ton elevator over the Rapidan Dam and up the steep hill on the east side of the dam.

On Sunday, August 1, 1949, the truck under the elevator inched its way onto the dam. Farm chores had been done early and picnic baskets packed as an estimated crowd of 2,000 people watched. But another challenge quickly became apparent. The

The Rapidan Depot will be open to visitors Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Memorial Day through September.



elevator had to be raised another two feet to clear the dam fence railing! The crowd watched anxiously – would it wobble and fall? The striking photo of the elevator on the dam appeared in newspapers around the country.

The skill of the movers prevailed that day when crossing the dam and also the next when it was

slowly taken up the hill. Today the elevator rests securely on its footings – some people still remember it as the "Cray Elevator" but it *is* the Rapidan Elevator!

Jane Tarjeson
Secretary

**Visit BECHS
at the Fair
July 30 - August 2
Blue Earth County
Fairgrounds
Celebrating 150 Years**

*Gift Shop and Exhibits in the Arcade Building
Schoolhouse activities
Vintage Base Ball Game
Mankato Baltics vs. Nicollet County*

Please visit us at the Fair, but please also consider volunteering. Contact JoLynn at 345-5566 if you are interested.



History's Mysteries

If you watched the Fox 9 News Twin Cities on April 19th, you may have noticed they used our Research Center in a story about the murders of Barbara and Michael Jimenez in April 1974. Edward Clark was convicted of killing the young couple in Blue Earth and LeSueur Counties. Brad Swagger, along with his producer, used our Research Center to interview Joan Cassel and used our Vertical File on the Jimenez homicide. The Fox News team brought up the issue of whether the Mankato police had arrested the right person for the murders.

As part of the Channel 9 investigation, they looked through court records and found a statement from a waitress in a café in Iowa stating she was "positive that the Jimenez couple, whom she had identified by photographs, was in the restaurant where she worked." By that time, Clark was back in Michigan. The waitress also stated that other investigators had attempted to "get her to change her mind..." about what she saw, "but that she wouldn't do it for them." Another report they found stated a farm wife could recall that at 10:30 the night Michael Jimenez was murdered, "she noticed two cars in the field right in the area of the crime scene."

Edward Clark wrote a book, *Rush to Judgment*, where he lays out his version of what happened. His account of events is that he picked up three hitchhikers: Barbara, Michael and a third un-named man. He says that since he had been driving for 38 hours, he asked one of them to take over. He says that he went to sleep and when he woke up all three of them were gone.

In articles we have in our files from the *Mankato Free Press*, some of the details given are that Michael's body was found 1/2 mile from Smiths Mill and Barbara's in LeSueur County. The evidence against Clark was a receipt in a box found by the caretaker of Sakatah State Park. This receipt, found among the Jimenez's belonging, led police to Clark. They also had tire tracks which indicated a Bronco had been used for the crime and Clark owned a white Bronco. The gag used on Barbara matched a sheet in Clark's storage room. Also found in the storage

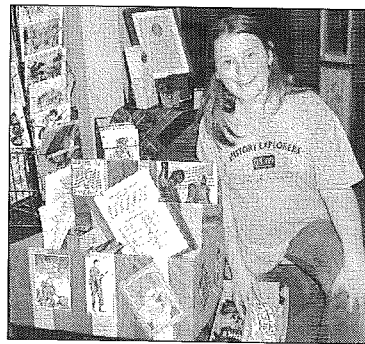
room was the .44 magnum rifle used to murder Michael. Another thing Clark lied about was being in Minnesota; he said he had not been here in three years. Four months after the indictments he was sentenced to life in prison for both murders which in 1974 was 17 years for each.

Through the years, Clark has continued to maintain his innocence. He refuses to admit that he is guilty even though it would mean being paroled from prison early. Some unanswered questions do remain: where was Barbara when Michael was killed, were the police really withholding evidence, what was the significance of the shoe found in a tree, was this crime drug related, and who was the third hitchhiker if there was one.

You can see the Joan Cassel interview at the following website:

http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/Investigators_Reasonable_Doubts_april_26_2009.

YOUNG HISTORIANS



Young Historians finished the spring by learning about the 1920s and Great Depression in April and World War II in May.

Junior Historians did their part for Veterans this year. Laura Garlow's Veteran

Projects included assisting with the Mapleton VFW's Veteran's Day Dinner, arranging oral histories with Mapleton veterans and collecting items for Soldier boxes. Laura had a collection box at BECHS; thanks to everyone who made a donation. In the Soldier boxes, she included many personal care items and snacks as well as a personal letter to the soldier. Laura has received one letter back so far from a soldier who was excited to get her letter.

Young Historians have also been assisting with programs at the Hubbard House this summer. Young Historians workshops will start up again September 12th at 10 a.m. - the second Saturday of each month.



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street
Mankato, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Visit us on the web:
www.bechshistory.com

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901

The Blue Earth County Historical Society's
Heritage Center Gallery, Museum Store and
Research Center are open
Tuesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday through Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

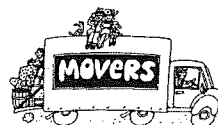
The Hubbard House and
Carriage House Gift Shop are open
June - August
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.
September
Saturday and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.



Faces and Places of South Central Minnesota By John Cross

Saturday, October 3
BECHS Heritage Center
2009 RiverCrossings Art Fair in Motion

John's favorite photographs taken during his 34
years at the Mankato Free Press will be on display.



Moving? **Please let us know!**

If you are moving to a different address, please let us know. Our newsletter is sent at a non-profit bulk rate and cannot be forwarded or returned to BECHS with the address change. Please help the Society reserve our funds for educational exhibits and programs and assure that you get your copy of the *Historian* by notifying us of your new or winter address, or letting us know to suspend mailing your newsletter if you are going to be away for a long period. Your help is appreciated.