

From the Director's Rolltop, cont.

primarily for textile storage. Access to these areas and other storage areas will, of course, be limited to those so authorized.

To make up for the closing off of exhibit areas, current displays will be upgraded or changed. The process will be gradual to allow for the completion of all design elements to create the best possible exhibits with the available resources.

Much of the work that we do at the Museum is "behind the scenes," rather than in the public eye. You may not notice many changes when you visit -- but they are happening. Stop by some time and we will share our work and plans with you.

Denise

Memorials have been received to:

Margaret Kleinschmidt
Mrs. Michael Mountain
Glenn Sellers

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A bag of books was left on the doorstep of the Museum in early January. There was no note identifying the donor. In order to properly place them in the collection, we need to have a signature on a Gift Agreement Form. We would also like to properly thank the donor. If you left the books, please call the Museum at 345-4154.

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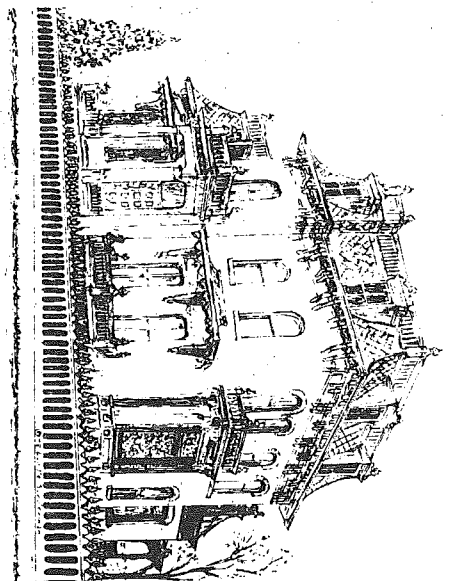
We were saddened to learn of the deaths of two friends of the Historical Society . . . Mrs. Grace Patterson, wife of the former Curator G.S. Patterson; and Margaret Kleinschmidt, former receptionist and guide at the Museum.

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**Blue Earth County
Historical Society**
606 South Broad
Mankato, MN 56001

Address Correction Requested

**Blue Earth County
Historical Society**



R.D. Hubbard House

January / February 1984

Welcome To . . .

Randy Munsen, a graduate student at MSU, is working with the collection of Indian artifacts.

Rick Donnelly, on the faculty at MSU, is helping in the process of documenting the costume collection and reorganizing storage facilities.

Chuck Piehl, who became a Board member in December of 1983 to fill a vacancy.

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A special THANK YOU to all those who have donated items for the collections of the Historical Society. It is through your help that we are able to save pieces of past history and complete the story of the evolution of Blue Earth County.

Sincere THANKS are extended to all those who have donated monetary gifts to the Historical Society. It is through your continued support that we are able to continue the various programs and work toward preserving the history of our County.

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606 South Broad Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Report of Activities during 1983

Visitor Count (compare with 1982)

	1983	1982
Tours	117	143
Individuals	4,753	5,964
Research Requests	340	420

Collections

The artifact collections increased by 490 pieces in 1983. Four major collections were received in addition to many other smaller (one to twenty items) donations:

Emmel Estate Collection	167 items
Sugden Collection	81 items
Bartsch Collection	53 items
Jefferson Collection	41 items

The majority of donations this year were additions to our clothing and textile collection.

The Archives collection increased by 589 pieces. The photo collection increased by 264 photos in 1983. The greatest number are from the Sugden, Emmel, Jefferson, and Nelson Collections. General Archive materials totaled 325. The largest donations are in the Wigley, Jefferson, Friday, Emmel, and Sugden Collections. In total, the Archives collections increased by 589 pieces.

The grand total of pieces added to the collections at the Museum is 1,079 for 1983.

(An aside from those totals - - A total of **at least** 3,237 catalog cards were typed to complete the process of accessioning all the pieces. The Artifact collection requires three cards on each item in order to be properly cross referenced. The Archives collection requirements vary as some items need numerous subject cards typed for best use.)

Exhibit Changes

Display of Valentines and Candy Boxes

"Women's Work" - an exhibit for Women's History Week

"The County Attic" - Curiosities discovered in the collections storage

"Recent Accessions" - Artifacts and Archives donated in 1983

"Hats Off to Hats!" - Hats from c. 1840-1983

"They Meant Business" - An exhibit of business machines

Membership Announcement

The Board of Trustees has approved the implementation of new membership categories, effective immediately. They are as follows:

Student (with valid I.D.)	\$ 10.00
Annual	15.00
Couple	25.00
Patron	100.00
Sponsor	300.00
Life (One time payment)	500.00
Corporate	1,000.00

Check your mailing label. If there is an "A" in the corner, it means you are currently an Annual member and should renew for 1984. If you renewed your membership or became a new member after October 1, 1983, your membership is current through December of 1984 and you need not send further payment.

If there is an "L", it means you are a Life member and need not renew. (You may do so if you wish.)

If there is no letter, it means that you are on our mailing list only. You are invited to become a member to help us in our work.

This will serve as the first billing notice. If you renew **now** it will save additional postage costs for subsequent billing notices. So please help us out and use the form in this newsletter and send your membership dues today.

Thank you all for your continued support!!

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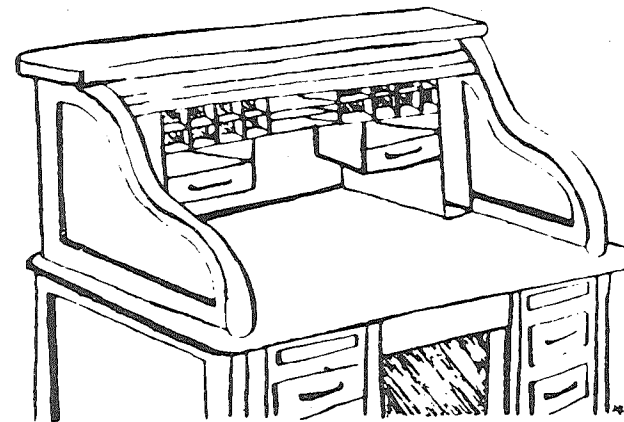
Welcome to a New Member

Jane Eng (Annual)

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Trica Willey Hazelton, P.O. Box 3175, Las Cruces, NM 88003, is doing genealogical research on the Thayer and Frenzel families of Blue Earth County. She is interested in exchanging information. The family names are: Dexter A. Thayer, Charles Edward Thayer, Mary Anna Frenzel, Peter Frenzel, and Julia Schmidt.

From the Director's Rolltop . . .



Denise Schmidt

The year of 1984 has gotten off to a great beginning. It is hoped that the energy levels will be high to enable us to accomplish many things in the next months.

Work is continuing on the reorganization of the storage facilities and upgrading the collections care. Few people realize the amount of space that is required to properly store museum artifacts. Most pieces need "breathing space" and should not come in contact with other objects. Artifacts not made of the same type of material should not be stored together. (Metal or wood should not be kept in the same box as paper or cloth.) Special storage boxes are often needed to not only keep dust and dirt off items, but also reduce deterioration from acids. Temperature and humidity levels and their rate of change need to be considered also. The storage needs require special consideration in order to place artifacts in the best possible environment.

Due to these special considerations, the reorganization of storage has taken on an added dimension in 1984. The collection continues to grow and more space has been needed to create better storage areas. Because the collection is in need of more "growing space", two exhibit areas will be closed within the next few months. The area that is now the Nursery on the 2nd floor will soon be the office and workroom area for the artifact collection. The room that now houses the sleigh bed, dresser, and exhibit case will be used