

Schuster Memorials Received

The family of Marcia Schuster, former society director and long-time supporter who died in January, donated memorials in excess of \$1100 to the society. Our thanks to Paul Schuster and his family for this gift. Those making donations to the memorial included:

Mr. & Mrs. D. Irwin Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Hansen
Mr. & Mrs. Ogden Confer
Roy & Elizabeth Cook
Phillip & Mary Kelley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Phillips
John & Marjorie Larken
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Meredith
Killian & Devora Molitor
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Price
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Beebe
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schuster
Myron & Gladys Schuster
Mr. & Mrs. John Frey
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mattsson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Youell
Mr. & Mrs. Mervin Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Elwin Gunnick
Mr. & Mrs. Helmer Engh
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Hatfield
Mr. & Mrs. T.R. Schaffler
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Trauger
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Perisho
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Claire Faust
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Bohnenblust
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schnoor
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mitchell
Bert & Inella Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Olstad
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Killion
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ziegler
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mundahl
Dr. Harold Slobof
Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Rosselit
Evelyn Schmanski
Indian Lake Sunshine Club
Ron & Audrey Hicks
Lester & Shirley Anderson
Hayden & Carmen Qualland
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Jones
Jeanne D. Kress
Margaret J. Irish
Daniel Burton
June Lees
Edith White
Doris Berger
Mary Dooley
Betty Thomas
Betty Cords
Margaret Jahr
Anita Stone
Florence Cobb
Evelyn Weisgram
Rachel Wigley
Rebecca Banks
Jean Rucksmeier
Kiyo Suyematsu
Louise Roth

Young Historians program continues to fill museum

Once a month on Saturday mornings the museum is filled with the sound of curious youngsters who participate in the Young Historians program. Third through sixth graders are eligible, but due to limited space all are asked to call for a reservation. The February program featured Irish Folk Dancing. The April 4 program is root beer brewing with George Marti of New Ulm. Two programs on May 9 and 30 will study beekeeping. Indian History will be the subject of the June 6 meeting.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Denise Bartels, Eagle Lake
Richard Huettl, Mendota Heights,
Arn & Margaret Kind, Mankato
James & Billie Seifert, Mankato
Glenn Bartsch, Mpls, Patron
We also note a donation of \$100 to the building fund from John Burton.

Volunteer member dies

Our sympathy is extended to Bernice Jones in the death of her husband, Ben, who had assisted with the historical society books.

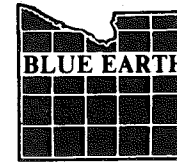
Our thanks for donations from Life Members

Paul M. Arnesen, M.D.
Mrs. Theodore Nydahl
Erve Jones
Marion Kooser
Mildred Jones
Ken & Colleen Mattsson
Mrs. Frederick W. Franchere
Ogden W. Confer
Emma Wiecking
Mrs. R.E. Schultz
Kathryn T. Hanson
Larry Fowler, Sr.
Dr. & Mrs. Dean C. Wykoff
Mrs. Harold H. Schwerr
Betty J. Bond
Elizabeth E. Jones
Ogden & Elizabeth Confer
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Hanson

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

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1987

Calendar of Events

- March 8-10 Women's History Week
- March 10 Luncheon Program and Exhibit Opening. Mary Van Voorhis will lead a lecture and discussion on the effects of the Dakota War on women. Bring your own lunch to the museum. Exhibit opening, *An Uncertain Future*, photos of Dakota women from the Minnesota Historical Society collection.

Annual Heritage Dinner April 11

The Heritage Dinner is scheduled for April 11 at the Mankato Golf Club. The annual meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., social hour at 6 and dinner at 6:30. The dinner will honor Judges Leslie and Frank Morse and the Morse family for the contributions they have made to the community.

Home tour on summer calendar

The Historical Society will sponsor an historical home tour as part of the Bend of the River celebrations on Saturday, July 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. They will show architecturally significant homes, not all necessarily older homes. The committee has not filled their roster yet and are looking for suggestions. Colleen Smith is chairperson and others are Verna Henry, Gail Palmer, Shirlee Ruble, Scott Taylor and Barb Lamson.

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Historical Society, 606 S., Broad St.
Mankato, Mn 56001

We salute our volunteers

Since the Blue Earth County Historical Society depends so strongly on volunteers, we take time this month to salute those who help make the Society function. It will be impossible to name all those who come when asked to serve tea and cookies, help with programs or demonstrate a skill but please know that your efforts are appreciated.

This newsletter reaches our members each month because several of our members take the time to research and write for us. Inella Burns and Gail Palmer deserve much credit for their careful and thoughtful articles as well as for helping in the planning of the newsletter. Vern Lundin, Elvina Lewis and Ruth Shellberg have also helped us relive the past with articles about earlier times.

Not all our volunteers are writers but there seems to be something to do for everyone who has time to give. When Elmer Goodrich is at Hubbard House, one may find him working on collections or archives, on a membership drive or even going



Dr. Larry Hammer demonstrates measuring to duplicate wood carvings on a newell post

on an errand. Such willingness is truly appreciated. Long-time volunteer Evelyn Weisgram, who has recently moved to St. Cloud came regularly to file pamphlets, index newspaper clippings and type cards through many years.

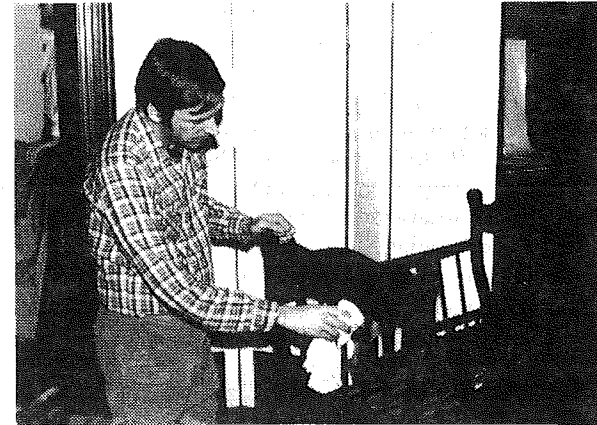
The Historical Society subscribes to eight nearby newspapers and there is much clipping and filing of historical items and there are back issues which are not completely indexed but are still being processed. Janet Larson and Ora Ohlenkamp give time for that and Ken Morse gives one day each week at the museum.

Society members hosted Sunday on Broad Street - in fact whenever a special event is in the offing it needs volunteer hands to supplement a small staff and make it happen. Sixty-four of our members turned out for that September afternoon to assist with the festivities. A similar number have helped with the Harvest Festival and other large events.

Hal Natvig brought his antique samovar, cookies and served hot cider to a new members reception. Zoe and Ken Colokovic, both high school students, worked two days a week last summer cleaning the beautiful woodwork at Hubbard House. That along with the repainting of the hall makes the House much more attractive.

For the past three summers the Homestead Players, all volunteers, gave performances throughout the county. Telling stories in a reader's theater format, this large group of volunteers wrote the scripts, costumed themselves and appeared on hot, windy or stormy days wherever they were scheduled. Betty Cords deserves much credit for the remarkable job of scheduling, scenery and stage moving.

The Society has been blessed with some volunteers who bring exceptional skills. Dr. Larry Hammer saw the broken and missing finials on the stairway newell posts. A skilled woodworker, Dr. Hammer took caliper in hand, measured, made a pattern and replaced the missing pieces. Matching the wood proved another challenge - no white oak was available. The oak eventually came from his own woodlot from his own kiln dried wood. Long-gone spindles were reinforced with metal rods and replaced in the same manner. Quality restoration!



Steve Olson goes over a recent acquisition with wood preservative before putting it on display

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors. Eighteen people assume responsibility on one of the committees as well as for the regular board meetings. Many of the board members contribute professional expertise. Bill Montag and Sue Chambers, among others, should be recognized for professional time donated to the society.

Summer beauty rests with the Twilight Garden Club who plans and plants the gardens in keeping with the period house. They weed and care for both the perennials and annuals which make such a colorful summer display.

Lest we leave you with the thought that all the slots are filled - not so! There are many spots for talent from serving as a guide, clipping, typing, working on Society programs, or serving on committees. The small staff can't cover all the needs, and after all, it is *our* Historical Society.

Our thanks must also be extended to the city crews who help with so much of the heavy work. The sparkling Christmas lights were installed by city workmen. They care for the grounds, spray for weeds, prune, shovel walks, change light bulbs in those high ceilings and assist with lifting and moving. While not volunteers these people are invaluable for their help.

Anita Stone, Past President

New director named

Susan Monk of Kasota has been named director to replace Denise Hudson who has left to become a full-time homemaker. Monk began her responsibilities March 2.

She is a native of Mankato, a graduate of the Mankato schools and Mankato State University with a degree in anthropology. She has a masters degree from the University of Nebraska and has been a field researcher for the National Park Service in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she supervised digs, hired staff and wrote reports. Most recently her post was historian at the Apostle Islands.

Society and Senior Citizens enter facility sharing talks

The BECHS and Summit Center senior citizens are engaged in talks which may result in the two organizations sharing space in the Summit Center building at 5th and Cherry Streets, just two blocks from the present museum.

A new museum has been planned for many years but costs have been prohibitive. Storage of the collections has become a serious problem and more of the present exhibit space has been shut to permit storage each year. Climate control is also needed since heat, cold, moisture and dryness are detrimental to fragile cloth, paper, leather and wood items.

The society needs to raise at least \$125,000 to pay for its share of the building and renovation to make it energy efficient. A bequest from the late Mary Gray of \$50,000 can be applied toward that amount and the remainder needs to be raised from county residents, particularly members of the Historical Society.

Hubbard House would continue to be operated by the Society and some displays would remain there. The long range plan is to restore the house as a period home and visitor attraction.