

Curation Notes

If you feel like visiting the Blue Earth County Historical Society and are searching for adventure, this is the month for you. Several of our artifacts have hit the road! Organizations which meet specific security and handling requirements are welcome to borrow items from our collection for display.

Our "Noah's Ark" play set, which is part of the Wiecking Family Toy Collection, was exhibited in MSU's Theater Arts Building during the production of "Two by Two". One of our early model bicycles accompanies the new fall fashions in the window of Brett's Department Store in the Mankato Mall. Our photograph exhibit, "An Uncertain Future", can be viewed at Lake Shetek State Park as part of the Park's "125th Anniversary of the Dakota Conflict at Lake Shetek".

We of course exhibited at the 1987 Blue Earth County Fair, this year featuring a photographic history of Sibley Park, which is celebrating its 100th birthday, plus a sneak preview of an upcoming exhibit on the flour mills of Blue Earth County. We're so proud of our fine collection of artifacts and photographs and welcome the opportunity to show them off, both in the museum facilities and elsewhere.

We'd like to introduce another volunteer who is generously giving his time to further the work of the Historical Society. Jerry Solberg, a MSU history graduate, is using his expertise in the field of genealogy (his family line traces back to St. Olav of Norway) to help us in answering the many genealogy requests which are phoned in and mailed to us daily. We are very fortunate to have Jerry with us!



Jessie Blaisdell and Amanda Pettis on our Victorian house float in The Bend of The River Days Parade.

Gift Shop

One new publication has arrived and another is on its way to our gift shop bookshelf. "Prehistory of Southern Minnesota" by Michael Scullin has just arrived and is for sale. In this publication Scullin lets the reader have a look into the past many thousands of years in Southern Minnesota. This is a fascinating publication, full of great illustrations by Jill Stofregen. On order is the book "Indian Chiefs of Southern Minnesota" by Thomas Hughes, 1969 reprint. We should have a supply of this publication in early September. We try to stock books and unique gift items that are in demand by our members. Please let us know if there is a publication you think we should be offering for sale in the gift shop.

Stop in the Museum and see the beautiful quilt handmade by Gail Palmer. We will be selling raffle tickets for the quilt with the lucky winner announced at the "Autumn in the Garden" Festival.

Membership

Public support and participation make possible the fine educational programs and exhibits offered by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. For information on how you can become a member please call Barb at 507-345-4154 or write her at 606 S. Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001.

Welcome to New Members

Donabel C. Linney
Marian C. Rodgers

Patron
Annual

Watch for a very special program happening on October 25, more information later.

Wanted

We're so busy at the Historical Society that we are in need of some equipment. If you have any of the items below and are willing to donate them to the Society please call us at 507-345-4154.

Index card (3 x 5) drawers
Filing Cabinets (2 or 4 drawer)
Typewriters (manual or electric)
Calculators
Card tables (small or large-sturdy)
Folding chairs (sturdy)
Typewriter tables
Serving Trays
Window shades (used for posters)
Fans
Room-sized air conditioners

Also, if someone is looking for a real challenge, we've got several old typewriters that need fixing.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Mankato, MN 56001
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September 1987

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 7 **Labor Day**
Sept. 13 **"Autumn In The Garden" Festival** at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, 1-5 pm.
Sept. 17 **Archivist, Audrey Burmeister-Hicks** will give a presentation on Norwegians in Blue Earth County at the Sons of Norway meeting. Membership Coordinator, Barbara Lamson will give a presentation on the Historical Society at the quarterly meeting of the Blue Earth County township boards.
Sept. 17-20 **Mah-Kato Traditional Pow Wow**
Sept. 21 **Director, Susan Monk-Kjos and Barb Lamson** will give a presentation on the Historical Society to the Christian Women's Club at the Garden Inn motel.

Notes from the Director

This month's newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on people, facilities and events at the Historical Society. The Young Historians met on August 7 at Williams Nature Center and were treated to a program by Jane Votca, an Interpretive Naturalist at the Hennepin County Park System. Jane, a former Blue Earth County resident led the group through a tasty morning of eating wild edibles and dying wool with grapes and onion skins. The next Young Historians will meet on Sunday, September 13 as part of the "Autumn in the Garden" festival. This children's workshop will focus on the 125th Anniversary of the Dakota Conflict. In addition to children's events there will be a Country Store full of dried weeds, pot-pouri and local craft items, plus lots of good food. Demonstrations of Traditional crafts and entertainment will also be part of the afternoon. The County Fair was lots of fun, even with the high temperatures. Thanks to volunteers Elmer, Joe and Ernie, Susan and Audrey got to meet lots of interesting people at our exhibit. Stop by the Society and see the great job Mankato city personnel are doing in laying paving bricks on the walks outside the Carriage House. The Historical Society grounds are getting more beautiful all of the time. Please be sure to give us a call with your ideas, we love to hear from you.

Planning Your Visit

Where . . . The Blue Earth County Historical Society is located in Mankato at 606 S. Broad St. (corner of Broad and Warren Streets).

When . . . Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm. Archives are open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 pm.

How to Schedule a Guided Tour . . . Call 507-345-4154 at least two weeks in advance for a guided group tour. There is a fee for the guided tour.

Why . . . The Blue Earth County Historical Society is here to preserve the heritage of Blue Earth County. PLUS-we have lots of fun things going on for both children and adults. Check out our regular monthly programs. Admission to the Museum is FREE.

We look forward to seeing you.

Fishing

The Minnesota Folklife Society received a grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission for "Minnesota Fishing: The Lure and the Lore," a study of traditions surrounding recreational fishing in the state. The project will create a traveling exhibition, a publication and public programs. For details, contact Peg Korsmorkennon, Minnesota Folklife Society, 522 South Oak Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

People Notes

Below is a listing of Board members and staff of the Historical Society:

Board of Directors

Barb Maher-President
Susan Stevens Chambers-Secretary
Anita Stone

Jerry Kenney
Wally Hayenga
John Christenson
Mary Dooley
Bill Lass
Joe Kubicek
Jim Norman
Nancy Croce
Dean Pettis
Marty Wiltgen
Ken Berg

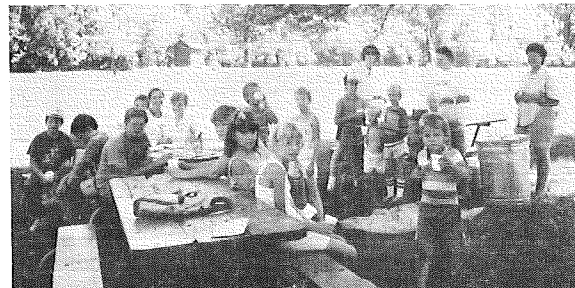
Staff Members

Susan Monk-Kjos-Director
Audrey Burmeister-Hicks-Archivist
Barbara Lamson-Membership Coordinator
Shelly Pestka-Receptionist
Michelle Loveall-Weekend Staff
Tom Hendricks-Weekend Staff
Jon Buscho-Weekend Staff
Kristin Mesrobian-Weekend Staff
Amy Oberdieck-Weekend Staff
Mary Broughton-Weekend Staff

Best wishes to Shelly Pestka our part-time receptionist who is leaving her receptionist duties at the Historical Society this month to student teach in Mankato. Shelly will continue to work at the Society on weekends until she gets married in December. We sure will miss her but wish her much happiness.

Despite the heat we had almost 700 visitors at the Historical Society during the month of July. August figures are being totaled, it too was a busy month.

Thanks to Aileen V. Eick for her donation to the Building Fund. Thanks to Ruth Confer for her patron membership.



Young Historians "Detectives of the Past," archaeology program at Daly Park, Mapleton, July 1987.

Autumn in the Garden

You are cordially invited to spend Sunday afternoon, September 13 from 1-5 pm at a festival of people, crafts, music, colors, texture, history and food. "Autumn in the Garden" will be held on the grounds of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, 606 S. Broad St. in Mankato. Events taking place will include the Young Historians program for children in grades 3-6. Two programs at 2 and 3 pm will feature demonstrations on frybread making, Native American children's games and story telling. These events are in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Dakota Conflict. For adults as well as children, there will be demonstrations including quilting, basket weaving, spinning and hide tanning by one of our Young Historians. Entertainment will be provided by the Southern Minnesota Poetry Society, Mankato Suzuki Musicians and the Homestead Players, times of performances will be posted. In keeping with fall tradition, the Historical Society will offer for sale local crafts, dried herbs and flowers and homemade pot-pourri. Lots of these items are super Holiday season presents. Fresh food and refreshments will also be available. At 3:30 there will be a presentation of a certificate of appreciation from the city of Mankato to the Twilight Garden Club for their work on the Victorian gardens at the Historical Society. Local authors including Carlienne Frisch ("Betsy Tacy in Deep Valley") will be here to autograph books and talk about their writing. Be prepared for an exciting afternoon at "Autumn in the Garden". Admission is FREE. For further information please call the Historical Society at 507-345-4154.



Facility Update

A total of \$175,000 was transferred to the Diocese of Winona on July 30, 1987. The Blue Earth County Historical Society contributed \$85,000 to the payment. The deed was registered at the Court House in the name of the Summit-Heritage Foundation as of August 6, 1987. This means that the residents of Blue Earth County are one step further toward our dream of a new museum and one step closer to the Hubbard House being returned to looking like a home. Although there is a lot of work to be done before the new facility will be opened, we should all be proud and excited about our future. Board members of the Summit-Heritage Foundation include Barb Maher, Susan Stevens Chambers, Rick Wolff, Paul Stevens and a fifth member yet to be chosen.

General Store

Thanks to the members who are working on crafts and dried flowers for the General Store at the "Autumn in the Garden" Festival. We are still in need of other local handmade items to sell that day. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept baked goods baked at home for sale in our store. The health inspector has told us that items can only be sold if they are prepared in an approved kitchen. If you are still interested in giving us baked items to sell, we can give you the names of approved kitchens. Thanks for your cooperation.

Restoration Workers List

Charles Nelson, Historical Architect for the Minnesota Historical Society has put together a *Contractor Specialty File*. This listing is a compendium of restoration crafts-workers throughout Minnesota whose work had met the Secretary of the Interior Standards. This listing is organized, indexed and published for building owners, general contractors, architects, and interested persons. A University of Minnesota student, Jean Zimniewicz has compiled the inventory with the aid of a computer. Nelson and Zimniewicz emphasize the *Contractor Specialty File* is not in any way a complete reference list. The Historical Society can play no favorites. Requests for information from the file can be made to the Minnesota Historical Society or you may contact Susan or Audrey at 345-4154 and they will help you get the information.