

Wayne Knutson of rural Good Thunder for furnishing the vehicles, and Buell Jones, Lake Crystal, Richard Chambers, Good Thunder, Elmer Goodrich, Pemberton, and Ron Hicks, Mankato, for furnishing the manpower to transport these artifacts.

Paul and Tom Schuster of rural Mankato have been infinitely patient with us in providing storage space on their property for over ten years! We thank them and Richard and Susan Chambers of Good Thunder for providing a home for these pieces of Blue Earth County's heritage.

CEMETERY PROJECT

We have decided to extend our summer Cemetery Project into the fall months and hope that the weather will continue to cooperate with us. Please note that September's expedition will take place on a Monday instead of a Wednesday. If you would like to join us, mark your calendar for Monday, Sept. 12, with an alternate (rain) date of Wednesday, Sept. 21. We will meet in the Heritage Center parking lot between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.

Membership & Programs

- Barbara J. Lamson

The Historical Society is indeed fortunate to have the support of countless volunteers throughout the county. Thanks to the following people for their help this past month. Wayne Knutson of rural Good Thunder, MN for providing his truck, trailer and tractor to move the 1915 Detroit electric car from the Dick & Susan Chambers barn to the Blue Earth County Fair grounds. We are grateful to the Chambers for providing storage for the Detroit electric as well as Dick's help in the actual move of the car.

In spite of the record heat the following people pitched in to work at the fair:

Ernest & Dollis Hansen	Pam Johnson
John & Joan Roth	Michelle Loveall
Mary Ann Norman	Tony Thurston
Lyle & Kay Jacobson	Raleen Larson
Tom Weigt	Chuck Broste
Helen Jones	Audrey, Ron, Jake
Dick & Susan Chambers family	& Hans Hicks
Dean Pettis	Susan Monk-Kjos
John & Ann Christenson	Barbara Lamson
Faye Mattison	Maggie Lewis

Donations:

Ronnie Burton
Willard & Leda Davis

Kato 30-40 Club and Dr. John Michelson for the proceeds of the sales of his book "I Remember, Do You."

Thanks to the generosity of the law office of Chesley, Kroon & Chambers for the donation of a used copy machine, for the staff of the Hubbard House.

Thanks to Joe Kubicek for providing the truck and manpower to pickup and deliver the copier.

Memorials

In memory of Fred Lutz, Sr. from Mr. & Mrs. Hershel Siebrass
In memory of Richard Myers from Earl & Mary Helen Peterson and Emily Eberhart.

Membership

Welcome to the following new members:
Keisha Swanson, St. Peter, MN
Harry & Marjorie Barnard, Good Thunder, MN
Mr. & Mrs. Earl M. Peterson, Amboy, MN
George Tyrell, Mankato, MN

Young Historians

The Sept. 17, 1988 Young Historians class will provide children with a unique opportunity to learn first hand how to make candles and their significance in the lives of the early settlers.

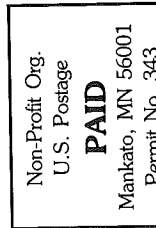
We will be collecting used candles that can be recycled for the wax needed for this program. If you have any candles please drop them off at the Hubbard House, 606 So. Broad St., Mankato, MN, Tuesday-Sunday afternoons.

Change of Address

It is more important than ever before to notify the Society if your address will be changing. First of all, we feel the information contained in the monthly newsletter is timely and we don't want you to miss a thing. The second reason, in order to be cost effective, we mail the newsletter at a bulk rate, which is about 8 cents a copy. Since bulk rate mail isn't forwarded, it is automatically returned to us at 25 cents per piece. We then must remail those pieces at the first class rate of 25 cents, making the cost of mailing the newsletter 58 cents. Your cooperation in this matter will be most appreciated.

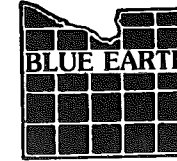
Ghosts from the Past

"Ghosts from the Past" will be held on two nights this year, due to popular demand at last year's program. The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2. We are still in need of volunteers to help with props, costumes, parking and refreshment serving. If you are interested in spending an evening or two at Williams Nature Center helping people explore the County's history in an exciting way, please give Barb or Susan a call at 507/345-4154. Persons already signed up to be characters, guides or helpers include: Betty and Mareena Cords, Susan and Dick Chambers, Marsha Danielson, Steve Michel, Peter McGuire, Mike Lagerquist, Tricia Lamson, Jim Mans, Eleanor Wittrock and Kathy Dorn.



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September 1988 Calendar of Events

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|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 5 | Labor Day —Museum Closed |
| Sept. 12 | Blue Earth County Cemetery Project |
| Sept. 14 | Leadership Mankato History Day at the Heritage Center |
| Sept. 17 | Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly Annual Meeting , Hubbell House in Mantorville. |
| Sept. 17 | Young Historians Workshop, "Candle Making" , 9 a.m. at the Heritage Center, reservations required. |
| Sept. 23 | Tickets must be purchased for the "Ghosts from the Past" event. |

Looking Ahead . . .

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 1 | "Ghosts from the Past" , beginning at 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 2 | "Ghosts from the Past" , beginning at 6 p.m. |

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Summer is moving along and all of us who work in the Hubbard House will be thankful for cooler days ahead. We had an exciting 4 days at the Blue Earth County Fair and thank all of our staff and volunteers who made our exhibit possible. This year our display centered around a 1915 Detroit Electric Automobile. A group of volunteers is getting together to restore this very unusual vehicle. Special thanks to Chuck Broste for his flint-knapping demonstration at the "Young Historians at the Fair" program.

The Exhibit Design community taskforce, along with the professional designers, Virginia Westbrook and John Low are working on the preliminary design and layout of the exhibit gallery. The taskforce will meet again this month. Comments from our members are welcome, just give us a call, we'd be happy to discuss the exhibit gallery with you. This design project is funded in part through a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Planning for "Ghosts from the Past" is going full-speed with the event scheduled for October 1 and 2. Ticket price for BECHS members is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 14. Non-member rates are \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 14. Reservations are required and tickets must be purchased by September 23. No tickets will be sold during the event. Call the BECHS at 507/345-4154 for information.

Grant Award for Conservation of Museum Collection

Lois Burke Shepard, Director of the Institute of Museum Services announced the names of 219 recipients of the 1988 Conservation Project Support grants. There were 404 applicants for these competitive grants.

Conservation grants provide matching funds to museums for projects such as general surveys of collection and environmental conditions, the treatment and conservation of specific objects in collections, and research and training in conservation methods and techniques. This year's program continues to address museum conservation needs for collection surveys and long-range plans. The program's framework encourages administrators to develop their museums' conservation plans from basic activities, such as general surveys of collections conditions, to more advanced activities, such as treatment of objects in collections.

In announcing this year's awards, Lois Shepard said, "I am pleased that the museums funded by this program continue to demonstrate that collections conservation is a high priority. It is always in the national interest to protect and preserve our cultural patrimony."

The Institute of Museum Services funds all sizes and disciplines of museums including, art, children's, general, history, natural history, and specialized museums, aquariums, botanical gardens and arboreta, historic houses and sites, nature centers, science and technology centers, and zoological parks.

Conservation Project Support grants require a one-to-one match by the museum applicant. After technical review by museum professionals in the field, applications are evaluated by panels of senior conservation professionals who make funding recommendations to the Director of IMS. One panel reviews applications from institutions with non-living collections, such as art, history, and technology museums, while the other panel is concerned with the living collections of institutions such as zoos, arboreta, and aquaria.

The Institute of Museum Services, an independent agency within the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, was established by Congress in 1976 to assist museums in their educational role and to help them modernize their methods and facilities so that they are better able to preserve the nation's cultural, historic, and scientific heritage. The policies and programs of IMS are determined by the National Museum Services Board, whose 15 members are Presidentially appointed.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society has been awarded \$6,570.00 by IMS to employ an objective, professional conservation consultant to help assess the most immediate conservation needs and develop a long range collection management system. The move of the artifact collection into the Heritage Center affords the perfect opportunity to care for the collection in an environmentally controlled location. This project will also allow us to improve descriptions and update donor information, now nearly 87 years old. This grant helps us to continue to preserve Blue Earth County's past for the future.

Lake Crystal Donation

In a move that caught the Mankato community off guard, the Lake Crystal National Bank has become a pacesetter in the fund campaign for the Blue Earth County Historical Society by pledging \$20,000 over a four-year period.

Helen Jones, of rural Lake Crystal, vice president of Crysteel Manufacturing, made the surprise announcement at a breakfast meeting last week sponsored by the Hubbard Milling Foundation. At the breakfast were nearly 50 representatives of Mankato commerce, business, and local government, as well as the Historical Society Board. Jones is a member of the board.

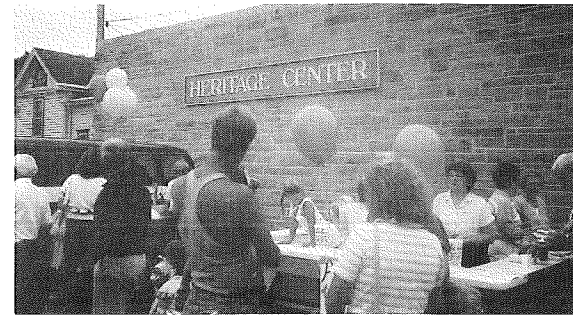
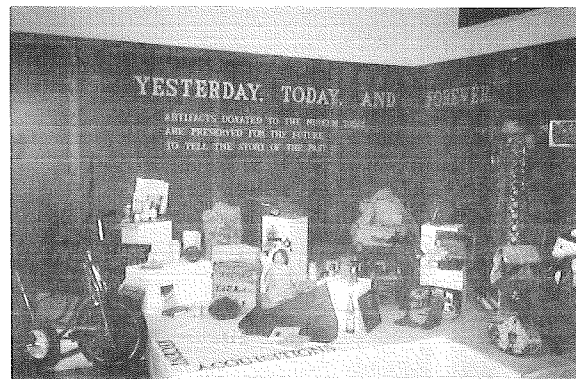
Because ours is a county society, with members, historical items, and archival materials from all towns and townships, our campaign is being conducted county wide. Lake Crystal, with its strong tradition of interest in its historical roots, is the first of the small cities to organize a local drive, and will be a model for the other small cities in the county.

Jim Clark, president of the Lake Crystal bank, explained that the bank board figured its gift on the basis of 50 cents per \$100,000 in assets, and challenges all the other banks in the county to use the same formula. He said the board recognizes the importance of history to the community, and feels the county organization has the professional help and now adequate space to collect, preserve, and interpret local history properly. He expressed confidence that the rest of the Lake Crystal community will join the bank in putting the town way over its goal.

The bank board has requested that its gift be used for the planned gift shop/reception area that will be located near the entrance of the Heritage Center. A plaque recognizing the contribution will be prominently displayed.

We are delighted by the Lake Crystal bank's pledge and by the local Historical Society's ongoing efforts to preserve the area's heritage. This pledge is very exciting and will be a challenge to all the other communities in the county.

A core committee conducting the campaign in Lake Crystal and the surrounding townships is comprised of Alice Hollingsworth, Helen Jones, Eldon Jones, Dick Wigley, Mary Ann Norman, Margaret Williams, Lois Champlin, Joe Kubicek, Beth Norman, Jim Zwickey, and Sig Svendson. Additional volunteers are being sought.



"Turn Back the Clock", Kickoff for "The Future of Our Past Funddrive", July 19, 1988 at the Heritage Center.

Mankato Area Foundation

Another major development in the campaign is the adoption of the Heritage Center's planned "Orientation Room" by the Mankato Area Foundation, a contribution worth nearly \$10,000.

The Orientation Room will be the starting point for tour groups visiting the museum, a place for audio-visual presentations, a comfortable waiting spot, and an educational facility. It is the first room encountered upon entering the Heritage Center.

The Foundation will provide carpeting, room darkening draperies, and some furniture for the room the first year of its three-year pledge. Later such items as a slide projector, projection screens, VCR, video camera and monitor, and storage cabinets and shelving will be provided.

This major gift is a very important one. The Orientation Room will be the first impression of the museum and heritage facility for many people and with the assistance of the Mankato Area Foundation, that impression will be a very good one.

Other memorials or specific gifts such as those given by the Lake Crystal National Bank and the Mankato Area Foundation are available to those of you who are interested in designating your contribution. Call Ann Christenson at 507/345-5566 to discuss possibilities.

Gift Shop News

Two exciting new items are available at the Hubbard House gift shop. Long-time Historical Society member and friend, Vern Lundin has recently published a book titled *The Twig is Bent—Growing up in the Minnesota Valley*. In Mr. Lundin's book he tells what life was like when he was growing up and describes that people, places and events that shaped his life. Excerpts from this book have appeared in the Blue Earth County Historical Society newsletter with very favorable response. If you are looking for the perfect gift for yourself or a loved one, Mr. Lundin's book may be the answer.

If you would like a card to go along with the gift of a book from our shop, we are proud to be selling "Joy of Beauty" flower notecards, made by our member, Donabel Linney. Color photos (suitable for framing) of some of the most beautiful flowers you will see grace the front of these unique notecards. Stop by and take a look at Ms. Linney's masterful photographic skill.

The Hubbard House gift shop is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm. For mail-order information, please call Faye at 507/345-4154, Monday-Friday afternoons.

Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly, Annual Meeting

The Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 17, at the Hubbell House in Mantorville, hosted by the Dodge County Historical Society. The program will feature *Computers in the Museum*, and will give practical guidelines about computer usage in historical societies. Cost effectiveness, how to obtain a computer, grant possibilities and specific museum designed programs will be presented.

The SMHA organization is a cooperative group of historical societies in southern Minnesota. Anyone interested in finding out what other societies are doing should attend. Blue Earth County Historical Society Archivist, Audrey Burmeister-Hicks will be a co-presenter of this program.

Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

We're on the move again! Phase II of the transfer of the Society's collections from the Hubbard House to the Heritage Center is scheduled to take place early in September. The design of the exhibit gallery is at the stage in which artifacts, documents, and photographs are being selected for use in the gallery's first displays. It is essential that the bulk of our collections be readily accessible to the exhibit designers and collections staff during this stage. For that reason we must move all artifacts currently in the storage areas of the Hubbard House to the Heritage Center.

The artifacts displayed in the Hubbard House will remain on exhibit there until the final phase of the move which will take place during the construction of the exhibit gallery, probably in mid-1989. The household furnishings appropriate to the 1890-1905 period will remain in the Hubbard House as it is developed into a house museum. The Hubbard House and Carriage House will remain open to visitors throughout Phase II of the move.

The local moving companies—Kato Moving & Storage, Ben Deike Transfer & Storage, and Piepho Moving & Storage—are again donating trucks and personnel for the move, but we will need volunteers to pack artifacts prior to the arrival of the moving companies. If you have a couple hours to spare, Monday through Friday, 9:00-5:00, please call Audrey at 345-5566. We also need good, sturdy packing boxes and packing paper; please leave those at the Hubbard House.

During the past year we have also been transferring our artifacts which have been stored in off-site buildings into the main museum buildings. This task was made difficult by the fact that most of these artifacts are large agricultural and transportation items. In the past month we have completed that project thanks to the help of a group of individuals and local businesses. We would like to thank Crysteel Manufacturing of Lake Crystal, MICO, Inc. of North Mankato, and