

## Thank You

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked at September's successful membership drive phone-a-thon:

Joe Kubicek	Joe Richter
Nancy Zallek	Fred Cords
Mary Dooley	Anita Stone
Tricia Nienow	Marty Wiltgen
Alice Hollingsworth	Susan Monk-Kjos
Lucille Fitzsimmons	Greta Hurlbut
Mary Brown	Helen Jones
Karla Larson	Marge Anderson
June Miner	Ann and John Christenson

## New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Hope Cook, Madison Lake  
 Patricia Pond, Beaverton, OR  
 Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Mapleton  
 Wayne & Anne Knewton, Good Thunder  
 Jane Eby, Mankato  
 Sue Crane, Garden City  
 Gosewisch Construction, Mankato  
 Renee Mathiason, St. Clair  
 Gene & Pat Glade, Mankato  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Draper, Mankato  
 H. Roger & Carol Smith, Mankato  
 MN Dept. of Labor & Industry, Mankato  
 Tony & Sharon Knapp, Mankato  
 Wendell & Lois Jahnke, Mankato  
 Craig Dalluge, Mankato  
 Ron Newell, Mapleton  
 Lois Snell, North Mankato  
 J. Scott Sanders Family, Mankato  
 Eddice Barber, Mankato

## Memorials

In memory of Mrs. Mae Buekeye given by Emma Wiecking

Please note that if we received your memorial, membership or donation after the 15th of the month when our newsletter goes to press, your name will appear in next month's newsletter.

## Holiday Spirit

Christmas is a magical time for all of us. But a time that can also be too busy. When the days dwindle down to a few before the 25th, and your gift list is still a long one what can you do? We've thought of ways to make your Holiday shopping easier. Here are a few of our ideas: handmade sweaters, mittens, booties, vests, (children and adult sizes), Maud Hart Lovlace stories, books on the history of our county and state, Ethnic cookbooks, historic collector plates, one of a kind notecards and much much more. All of these items are available at the BECHS gift shops. Call 507-345-5566 or 345-4154 for more information, during business hours please. If you feel like shopping at home, there is no need to go to crowded stores, stand in long lines to make a purchase, simply fill in the information below and send to us before December 18. We will send an acknowledgement of your gift membership to the special person who is receiving a gift that lasts all year. It's as simple as that.

### PERFECT FOR HOLIDAY GIVING!

A gift membership in the Blue Earth County Historical Society is a perfect way to give a gift that lasts all year and lets a loved one secure their place in history.



#### Membership Levels

- |                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron     | \$100 |

#### Business Memberships

We suggest a level corresponding to employee numbers.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (under 10 employees) | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate (10-50 employees)    | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (over 50 employees)    | \$100 |

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Life Member | \$20 |
|---|------|

This level is offered to those who became life members prior to 1985 for sums of \$10 to \$40, who would like to show their continued support on an annual basis.

#### Please send a gift membership to:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how gift card should be signed:

From \_\_\_\_\_

Blue Earth County  
 Historical Society  
 415 Cherry St.  
 Mankato, MN 56001

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

## December 1989

### Calendar of Events

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Dec. 3    | <b>Christmas Open House</b> at the Hubbard House 2-6 pm                                     |
| Dec. 1-31 | <b>Exhibit, "Putting Blue Earth County on the Map"</b> , Archives Map Room, Heritage Center |
| Dec. 14   | <b>Young Historians Workshop and Art Show</b> , 7-8 pm                                      |
| Dec. 25   | <b>Offices closed for Christmas</b>   |

### Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Welcome to winter at the Blue Earth County Historical Society! The white twinkle lights are up at both the Hubbard House and Heritage Center. Thanks to the Mankato Parks and Forestry Division for putting up the lights at the Hubbard House and Carriage House and to Larry Haring for the lights at the Heritage Center. December is an especially busy month at the Society this year with dozens of adult and children's tours, the Christmas Open House and opening of the Heritage Center Gift Shop. Special thanks to all of the people who made last month's re-premier of the movie "Man on a Mission" such a huge success, especially Greta Hurlbut, Craig Roberts, John Votca & staff, Dorothy Townsend, Kay Lamb and the entire BECHS Program Committee. As those of us on the staff of the Society reflect upon the past year there is so much to be thankful for. We accomplished a successful fundraising campaign, completed a state of the art Archives/Research Library, nearly finished design and research of the new exhibit gallery, completed an exciting gift shop and had the most successful year ever for programs and special events. None of these achievements would have been possible without the support of all of our members. To each of you we send our thanks and wish you and your family the most rewarding holiday season ever. See you in 1990!

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Edited by Susan Monk-Kjos

## Did you know...? Waxed Paper

Recently, a piece of waxed paper in the form of a bread wrapper was unearthed at the Historical Society. The bread wrapper reads "Home style honey whole wheat bread from the Rockford bakery". In discussing the bread wrapper and pondering how fresh it kept the bread, some old timers recalled other uses for wax paper. Mothers wrapped the school lunches in leftover bread wrappers. On ironing day, women would put a piece of waxed paper over the item to be ironed and the hot flatiron would slide easily over the paper and iron the item much faster than normal. Some kids put it under their behinds and slid down the slide at school or Sibley Park. After a few trips with wax paper, the slide became very slippery. That is why children of that era will recall approaching a slide with caution. The first time down, the hands were on the side of the slide to find out how slippery it was. The unwary, who hopped on and gave a push found themselves sliding so fast they landed in the dirt three or four feet off the end of the slide.

## Curation Notes

Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

We invite the public to view the exhibit, "Putting Blue Earth County on the Map: Surveying in the County" in the BECHS Archives Map Room throughout the winter months. The exhibit features early county surveyors, their equipment, and maps.

This fall the BECS collections staff has been working with the interpretive consultant, Jo Blatti, in selecting artifacts to be displayed in the initial exhibits in Blue Earth County's new history exhibit gallery.

As the research progresses we are finding that a number of artifacts needed for the gallery are not currently represented in our collection. In the following months we will be searching for these artifacts and will be turning to you, the BECHS membership, for assistance in locating them. Those items we are seeking at this time are:

- a pre1940 electric refrigerator
- a pre1940 electric vacuum cleaner
- a violin
- pre1900 agriculture how-to manuals
- pre1940 rural mailbox

Mankato State Normal School lab school interior photos  
a 1950 Mankato High School Yearbook

If you or someone you know possesses any of these items and would be willing to donate or loan them to the Society, please call Audrey at 507/345-5566.

## FAMILY HISTORY BROCHURE

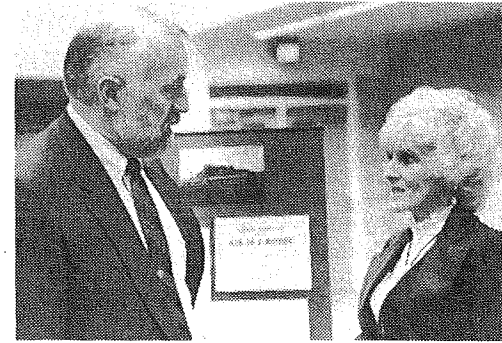
Interested in compiling your family history, but unsure of where to begin? BECHS has assembled a new brochure, "RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY." This handy guide has many suggestions on how to get started, and summarizes local sources of information including BECHS research facilities, area libraries, and government offices. Pick up your copy at the Heritage Center's Research Library and Map Room, Tuesday through Friday afternoons.

## Man On A Mission

The Man On A Mission Gala Re-Premiere proved to be a very successful fundraiser for the Historical Society. Ticket sales, program advertisements, Klub Berlin T-shirt sales, and original 1965 program sales provided a healthy boost for the general operating budget. The spirits of all who attended were very high, and are exemplified by a congratulatory letter from cast member Cliff Adams:

"May I first of all thank you for the wonderful evening I shared with you during the Re-Premiere showing of 'Man On A Mission' movie. As one gets older I think we appreciate these events much more than the younger generation does. It was good to see so many people I hadn't seen in many, many years. Although I frequently come back to Mankato, it is mostly to visit my aging parents and relatives. So, it was especially a wonderful event for me as it was for so many others."

The Man On A Mission Program Committee of Kay Lamb, Greta Hurlbut, Craig Roberts, Ross Gersten, and Kris Strom, would like to thank all the BECHS staff and members who volunteered their time, the Mankato Rotary club for their support, and especially the movie's cast and crew whose enthusiasm and gratitude made it all worthwhile.



Roger Franke & Dorothy Townsend  
Reception at Re-Premiere of Man On A Mission

## Young Historians Workshop Art Competition Opening

The Mankato Area Foundation, the Jefferson Memorial Fund, and the Blue Earth County Historical Society are pleased to announce the opening of the Young Historians Art Competition.

Works of art submitted by children in grades 3-6 throughout the Blue Earth County area will be on display in the Orientation Room at the Heritage Center. Selected works will be framed and remain in the Orientation Room. All of the submitted art work will become a part of the Historical Society collection.

The Young Historians are invited to participate in the opening of this art exhibit. The event will be held Thursday, December 14, 1989, 7-8 pm at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St., Mankato, MN. For more information call Greta at the Historical Society, 345-5566.

## Silent Auction

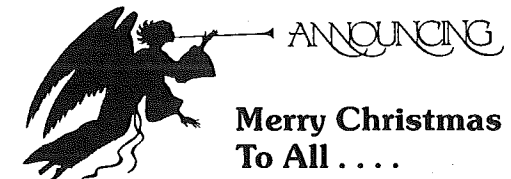
Highlight your holiday family gathering or Christmas office party with a surprise visit from Old Saint Nick! The Blue Earth County Historical Society, in conjunction with its Christmas Open House festivities, is offering a silent auction. The highest bidder will receive an hour with Santa (who bears a strong resemblance to Arnoldus Gruter), during the afternoon of Wednesday, December 13th or the evening of Friday, December 15th.

Bidding opens at \$25.00, and can be done through

the mail or in person at our Christmas Open House from 2-6 pm Sunday, December 3. Mailed bids must be received by 5:00 pm Friday, December 1st. All bids will be sealed at the conclusion of the Open House. In the event of a tie, bidders will be contacted by telephone with the option to increase the bid. The silent auction winner will be notified on Wednesday, December 6, 1989, by 5:00 pm. For more information call Greta at the Historical Society, 345-5566.

I sincerely hope that this is the beginning of a Happy Holiday Season for you and your families.

Margaret-Greta Hurlbut  
Program Director, BECHS



Please join the Blue Earth County Historical Society as we bring the Hubbard House alive with the echoes of traditional Christmas festivities. Treat your taste buds to holiday desserts, entice your ears with joyous song, and delight your mind's eye with Teddy Bears and a Doll display.

The Open House celebration will be Sunday, December 3, 1989, from 2-6 pm at the Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St., Mankato, MN.

- 2:15 Arrival of Santa Claus to tell the Christmas story.
- 2:45 Mankato Mall Brass Quintet
- 3:30 Mankato State University Chamber Singers
- 4:15 Violinist Peter McGuire

This year BECHS is pleased to feature Arnold Gruter as Santa Claus! During the afternoon, a Silent Auction will be held with the highest bidder receiving a visit from Santa at their home or office. All proceeds will benefit the Blue Earth County Historical Society. For more information call the Historical Society, 507-345-5566 or 345-4154.

..... **And to all a good night!**