

## Notes Cont.

- artifacts, documents, & photographs of the Winnebago Agency
- artifacts, documents, & photographs related to our county's "ghost towns"
- early mailbox
- artifacts, documents, & photographs of Farm-fest
- artifacts, documents & photographs of county creameries
- a "fine pair" of early curtains or window coverings
- photographs of the following:
  - farm homes and barns (especially interior views)
  - early telephone use
  - early postal delivery
  - Lake Crystal school class taught by Catherine Williams
  - use of electrical appliances, pre 1940
  - railroad yards, depots, equipment
  - millers in their work clothing
  - stonequarry workers in their work clothing

## New Members

Welcome to the following new members:  
Herb & Suzy Kroon, North Mankato  
Katie Fitzgerald Payton, Dallas, TX.  
Luella Rose, Mankato  
Edna Ruddy, Mankato  
Mary Brown, Mankato

## New Sustaining Life Members

Theonilla Troumbly, Mankato  
Marion & Margaret Carr, Mankato  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pennington, Mankato  
Robert & Mary Ann Bensch, Mankato  
Odgen W. Confer, Mankato  
Elizabeth H. Confer, Mankato  
Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Andreas, Mankato  
Vern Lundin, Mankato

## Special Donations

Thanks to the following for their holiday donations:  
St. Mark's Lutheran Aid, Mankato  
Evelyn Schmanski, Mankato  
Ogden P. and Elizabeth A. Confer Charitable Trust

## Life Members Donations

Jo Schultz, Madison Lake  
Joseph & Elaine Eckert, Mankato

## Memorials

In memory of Jean Ervin Fitzgerald given by,  
Mary Dotson  
Peter & Carolyn Ferguson  
Julie Whitted  
Craig Dalluge  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Dilly  
Wynn & Elizabeth Kearney  
Harriet Neitge  
Saturday Night Club  
Dean & Ruth Wykoff  
Toy Wilson Blethen

In memory of Warren Claridge given by,  
Robert & Eloise Layman  
The Claridge Family

In memory of Mae Buckeye given by,  
June Lees

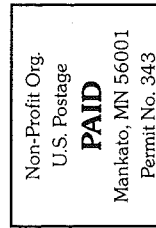
Please note that if we received your memorial, membership or donation after the 15th of the month when our newsletter goes to press, your name will appear in next month's newsletter.

We will be holding a membership drive in mid-February. Anyone interested in assisting in this event please call Mary Brown at 345-5566.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

## January 1990 Calendar of Events

- Jan. 1 *Offices closed for New Years*
- Jan. 15 *Martin Luther King's Birthday Observance*, Offices closed
- Jan. 19, 20 *Using Films and Television in History Classes*. Workshop sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
- Jan. 27 *Young Historians Workshop*

## Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

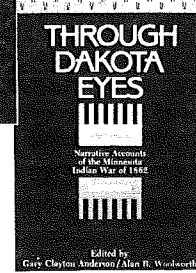
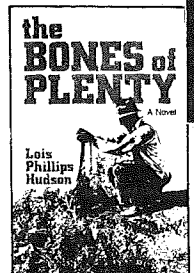
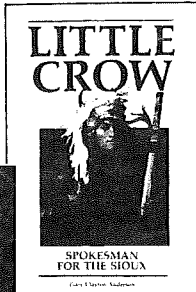
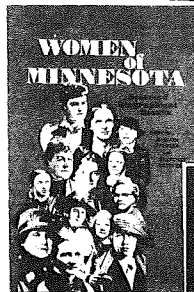
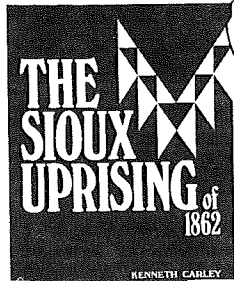
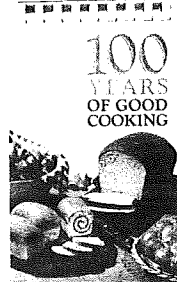
The staff and board of the Historical Society hope that all of our members had a safe and happy holiday season and that 1990 will be a prosperous year for each and every one. The holidays were extremely busy for us with lots of special events. The Annual Christmas Open House at the Hubbard House was a huge success with nearly 600 people attending the Sunday afternoon event. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who made the day so special, especially Santa Claus (alias Arnoldus Gruter), and friends. If you weren't able to attend the event, the house will remain decorated through mid January so stop by and see the fantastic displays and decorations! The Young Historians Art Competition Opening Celebration took place December 14 and was well attended by the young artists and families. Seven of the contributed works have been framed and will grace the walls of the Orientation Room. The event was sponsored by the Historical Society, Mankato Area Foundation and the Jefferson Memorial Fund. Finally, we celebrated the Grand Opening of the Heritage Center Gift Shop on the 20th of December, made possible by generous donations from the Lake Crystal National Bank and Eldon D. and Helen C. Jones. We were pleased to assist the last minute Christmas shoppers at the event. The Heritage Center gift shop hours are Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 pm. The Hubbard House gift shop is also open with hours from 1-5 pm, Tuesday-Sunday. For more information please call 507/345-5566. Finally, welcome to our new Hubbard House receptionist, Ann Lowe.

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Edited by Susan Monk-Kjos

## Heritage Center Gift Shop

The new gift shop at the Heritage Center is being well stocked with unique gift items including hand-crafted jewelry, sweaters, t-shirts, Betsy-Tacy books, and holiday decorations. In addition, we have greatly expanded our book inventory from what we are able to carry in the small space at the Hubbard House. Shown below are a few of the titles we now have in stock at the Heritage Center shop. Please call 507/345-5566 for mail order information.



## Program Director Notes

-Greta Hurlbut-

Once again it gives me great pleasure to recognize all of the volunteers and the Blue Earth County Historical Staff for their outstanding performances and dedication to our special programs and annual events! Congratulations for your contributions to this important responsibility of being a volunteer. Each year this Historical Society grows and matures through the efforts and generous contributions of our members and friends.

Yet, "... it wasn't raining when Noah started building the ark." Perhaps this would be an opportune time for you to join the Program Committee at the Society. Through planning, this committee has the chance to explore where the organization can go. Your only limit is your imagination. Planning is also your chance to find new ways for your organization to solve problems and get results. Please call me at the Historical Society, 345-5566, for more information concerning the Program Committee's goals and objectives.

## Open House

The Annual Christmas Open House transpired into a festive afternoon with tasty treats, Christmas music, and hundreds of visitors enjoying the holiday splendor of the Hubbard House. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the volunteers, members, and staff of the Society. Please know that I am most grateful to each and every one of you for helping to spread a bit of holiday cheer.

Open House Volunteers:

Kay Lamb, Faye Mattison, Kris Strom, Alma Severson, Karen Wright, Joe Kubicek, Dan Lemke, Jo Schultz, Arnoldus Gruter, Sue Wiltgen, Evelyn Mikkelsen, Margaret Sturm, Dean Pettis Family, Ethel Medalen, Craig Roberts, Lorraine Wright, Kathy, Dean & Nicolle Trauger, Susan Chambers, Etta Poole, Marion Lichtenburg, Teddy Ollick, Margaret Jarr, Mary Vee, Inella Burns, Molly Lyons, Mankato Mall Brass Quintet, Seth Greenwald, Peter & James McGuire, Kathy Hunter, Susan Monk-Kjos, Mary Brown, Audrey Burmeister-Hicks, Janelle Walker, Tasha Nienow, KEYC, Mankato State University Chamber Singers, KMSU, Luella Edquist, Kelly Reuter, and Erna Stock



**Santa Claus (alias Arnoldus Gruter) from the Christmas Open House**

## Young Historians Art Competition

Through the generous efforts of the Mankato Area Foundation, and the Jefferson Memorial Fund, the Blue Earth County Historical Society held the Art Competition Opening on December 14, at the Heritage Center. All of the works of art that were entered in the competition were on display. Seven of the art works were framed and will hang in the Orientation Room at the Heritage Center. Thanks to all of the students who entered the contest, the Mankato Area Foundation, and to Grace Jefferson for continued support and interest in the Society.

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE ART COMPETITION

Travis Back	Heidi Brose
Katie Broughten	Robert Cliff
Nicole Dahl*	Tom Dahl
Michelle Forsberg*	Kelly Glaze
Ruthanne Hovland*	Cory James*
Amy Kirby	Mandi Kirtz*
Mike Nelson	Keith Olson*
Ben Speigler*	Alan Sweere
Carolyn Votca	

\* denotes winners in the contest

## Young Historians Workshop

January 27, 1990

Young Historians Workshop - Tie Dye Shirts! This month the Young Historians will be right in style with a new tie-dyed shirt that they will make themselves. The workshop will be a hands on experience for the group as they experiment with dyes and patterns. The class will meet on Saturday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St., Mankato. Participants should bring to class a 100% cotton, white or light colored t-shirt. Class size is limited so please call Greta at the Historical Society, 345-5566, for reservations and more information. The workshop will be open for children in grades 3-6. The class is FREE to members and \$1.50 for non-members of the society.

## Curation Notes

Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

When three generations of a family operate the same business for 60 years, one can be certain that that family has a strong commitment to its heritage. Such is the case with the Meyer family which has been selling and servicing electrical appliances in Mankato since the early 1930s.

In 1935 Meyer & Sons installed electric Frigidaire refrigerators in the kitchens of Mankato's Security Apartments. Publicity photographs show the sleek, white, electric "ice boxes" proudly displayed, both on the sidewalk in front of Meyer & Sons store and on the boulevard in front of the Security Apartments.

Many years later the refrigerators were replaced with updated models and the Meyer family retrieved one of them to preserve as an example of early electrical technology.

In the county's new history gallery we plan to interpret the revolutionary effect that electrification had on the lives of the people of Blue Earth County. To illustrate that point we needed an early refrigerator. When Rich Meyer of Meyer & Sons became aware of our need, he generously offered us the 1935 Frigidaire from the Security Apartments.

Donors of artifacts to historical museums, like the Meyer family, realize the importance of preserving the material evidence of human endeavors and they are willing to share their own historic 'treasures' with their fellow citizens. We thank Rich Meyer and the Meyer family for their interest in the county's heritage and for their generosity to the people of the county.

The Blue Earth County history gallery will recount the history of our county "family" through artifacts, photographs, and documents from homes and businesses throughout the county. For the gallery we are still seeking a number of vital pieces of our past. We ask that you pursue the following list of items. If you or someone you know possesses an item listed and, like the Meyer family, would be willing to share it, please call the Heritage Center at 507/345-5566.

- a Confirmation dress or suit
- items connected with the Jewish religion as practiced in Blue Earth County
- Marlow Milking Machine Co. products
- furniture from an early Lake Crystal store or professional office
- early building or other permits required in our county