

Membership News

-Mary Brown

General Donations

Thanks to the following for donations this past month:

Ruth Confer Estate to the Endowment Fund
F. Beneta Just, Mankato
Mankato Labor Temple Association, Mankato

Memorials

In memory of Mrs. Freda Larson given by Mrs. Ray Erlandson.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

David & Colleen Jackson, Mankato
Betty Ann Carroll, Mankato
Marion Lichtenberg, Mankato
Frank L. Gazzola, Chartered, Mankato
Martha Hansen, Mankato
Margaret Jenkins, Mankato
Judy & Jerry Reich, Mankato

New Sustaining Life Members

Many thanks to the following Life Member for upgrading to an annual Sustaining Life Membership:
Marge Meredith, Mankato

Congratulations to Mrs. Darrell Schubbe of Pemberton who won the \$25.00 gift certificate during the July Membership Drive. Her name was drawn at the annual membership meeting in August. Thank you to everyone who contacted us with prospective members.

Please Note: 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.

Board Member Update

Goodbye and thanks to Board Members John Christianson and Joe Kubicek who left the Board in August after many years of service. We hope they will enjoy their freedom on the third Tuesday evening of each month! Welcome new Board Members Bunny Just, Jennifer Thompson and Ramona Fitzloff. We're glad to have you share in the excitement. The complete roster of the Board of Trustee Members is listed below:

Susan Stevens-Chambers, President	Bruce Miller
Tom Weigt, Vice President	Jennifer Thompson
Kathy Trauger, Secretary	Lee Williams
Janet Morken, Treasurer	Fred Cords
Bud Barnard	Dave Jackson
Ramona Fitzloff	Mrs. Fred Just
Lyle Jacobson	
Kay Lamb	
Tricia Nienow	
Peg Ganey	
Helen Jones	

VOLUNTEERS

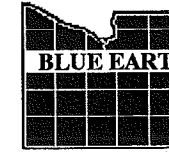
Welcome to our new volunteer, Betty Hoban. She will be working in the Collections Dept. entering artifact data on our computer system.



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 1990

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 6 & 7 *Ghosts from the Past*
Oct. 8 *Offices Closed -- Columbus Day.*
Oct. 19 *Young Historians Program - Guided tour of the New Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery. Meet at the Heritage Center at 1:30pm. Call for reservations.*

Notes from the President

Susan Stevens Chambers

September has been a month of changes, some anticipated and some not. As you know, Susan Monk-Kjos, our Executive Director, has been expecting a baby and anticipated a maternity leave which would begin in October. However, Mother Nature does not always cooperate and Susan has been ordered to bed for the remainder of her pregnancy. We wish her the very best.

We welcome Audrey Burmeister-Hicks as Interim Director. If you have any questions or need information, please feel free to contact her at the Heritage Center.

Susan has also given notice that she has accepted a new position at Mankato State University and will be leaving as our Executive Director. We are currently advertising for a new director, and will accept applications and resumes through November 16, 1990. We appreciate all that Susan has done for us over the past four-and-a-half years, and wish her the very best in this new endeavor.

The Board of Directors now has a full contingency, as our two newest members were elected at the Annual Meeting held in August. We look forward to an exciting year as we begin work on the restoration of the Hubbard House and have the satisfaction of seeing the public begin to enjoy the excellent facility at the Heritage Center. If you have not yet invited friends or relatives to tour the exhibit gallery, you should do so today. It is well worth the time.

Curation Notes

Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

The BECHS Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery received a glorious initiation on August 21 when nearly 600 persons attended the Gallery's Grand Opening. Susan Stevens Chambers, President, BECHS Board of Trustees, cut the ribbon to the Gallery and Ian Stewart, Deputy Director of Interpretive Programs, Minnesota Historical Society, presented the keynote address. Major donors to the 1988 BECHS Capital Fund Drive addressed the visitors, after which everyone enjoyed an evening of discovery, music, and food.

Throughout the evening the individuals instrumental in the research and construction of the exhibition, including the BECHS Exhibit Committee, Jo Blatti of History Afield, and staff members of DisplayMasters, Inc. and BECHS were on hand to answer questions and to note the public's comments. They were delighted to learn that the public response to this new interpretive presentation of Blue Earth County's history was overwhelmingly positive.

But work in the Gallery has not come to an end. None of the exhibits within the Gallery are permanent.

Visitors to the Gallery will have noticed a few exhibit platforms, cases, and panels which have space for further artifacts or photographs; those will be added as they become available. For example, we would like to add clothing worn by local stonemasons or bricklayers to the exhibit on the county's quarrying and brickmaking industries. If and when those become available to us we will place them in the exhibit.



Exhibit Gallery detail.

Also, we will periodically remove photographs and artifacts which are on exhibit and replace them with other examples from the collection. This rotation of the artifacts between exhibition and storage will make more of the BECHS collection available to the public, as well as provide for the long term conservation of the artifacts by removing them from exposure to light and other deterioration forces.

It would be impossible to tell the entire story of the county or to exhibit all of our artifacts and photographs at one time, no matter how large the Gallery. And, just as the development of Blue Earth County continually gives its citizens something more to discover, the BECHS Exhibit Gallery will continually give its visitors the opportunity for discovery.

Program Update

Jane Kolars

Gallery Grand Opening

A big thank you goes out to all who helped to make the Grand Opening of the Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery a wonderful success!

Congratulations to Donna Larson. Donna won the raffle for the hand-crafted baby quilt.

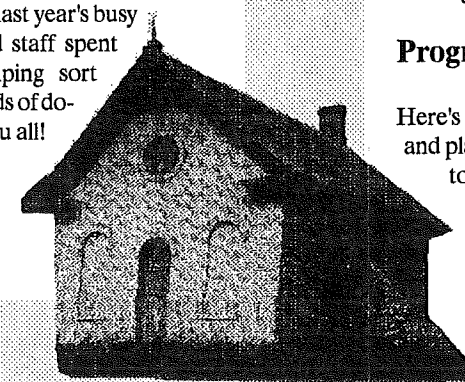


There are still a number of limited edition posters which commemorate the Grand Opening, available for sale in the Gift Shop.

Page illustrations feature topics among this year's Ghosts from the Past vignettes. Along the Williams' Nature Center trail, visitors will meet Father John Prior, experience the Grasshopper Plague of the 1870's, and discover the mystery of what lived beneath the Yeager School House.

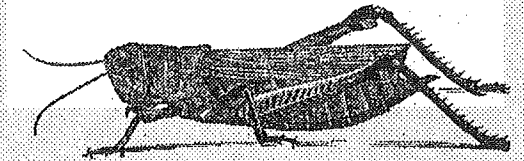
Silk Stocking Day Rummage Sale

This newsletter goes to press one week before the **Silk Stocking Day Rummage Sale**, but we anticipate a repeat of last year's busy day. Volunteers and staff spent numerous hours helping sort and price the thousands of donated items. Thank you all!



Ghosts from the Past

Perhaps our most exciting and enjoyable event, **Ghosts from the Past**, is coming up October 6 and 7 at Williams' Nature Center. Tickets are available at the Heritage Center Gift Shop through Thursday, October 4. Tours are every 15 minutes, beginning at 5:45pm and ending at 8:30pm each evening. We have a wonderful cast of volunteer thespians assembled this year and we look forward to seeing you at the Fourth Annual Ghosts from the Past.



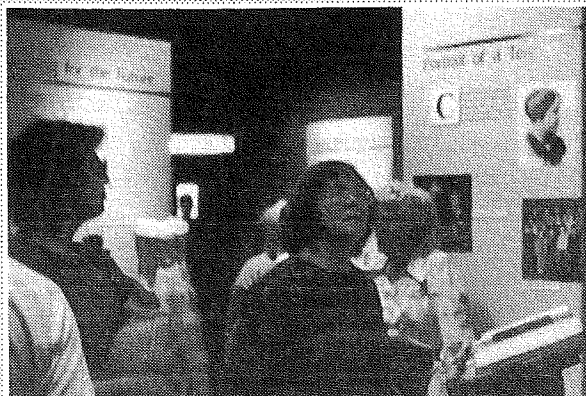
Christmas Cheer

Sunday afternoon, December 2, join us for an old-fashioned Christmas at the Hubbard House. It will be a day of festive entertainment, delicious food and beautiful holiday decorations at the **Christmas Open House**. To donate holiday baked goods, or serve as a host for the Open House, please call Jane Kolars at the Heritage Center, (507)345-5566.

Program Committee

Here's an opportunity for you to help develop and plan events. I'm looking for several people to join the BECHS Program Committee.

We meet the second Thursday of every month at 5pm at the Heritage Center. If you would like to join us, contact Jane Kolars at the Heritage Center.



BECHS Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery Grand Opening.