

The Blue Earth County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW YEAR

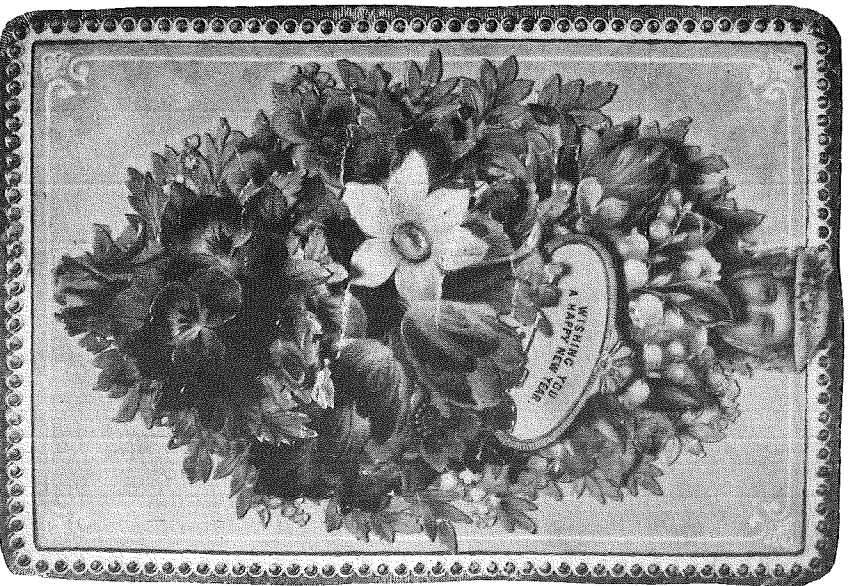
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January, 1973.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
and

WELCOME to OLD and NEW MEMBERS

We wish our readers an old-fashioned Christmas and New Year with the lovely old holiday card which was very popular just 50-100 years ago.



The Blue Earth County Historical Society begins 1973 with a goodly number of new names on the membership roll. This is heartening to an organization in which growth comes slowly because it provides a wider base of operation, and indicates a quickening of interest within the community as well.

IT ALSO MEANS AN ADDED WORKING FORCE WITH NEW ENERGY AND IDEAS DIRECTED TOWARD GROWING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

The annual meeting of the organization on January 17, 1973 will provide the first opportunity to welcome the new members publicly and we hope many will be in attendance.

Welcome aboard and be ready to roll up your sleeves.
Bert Burns

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT

Community attention recently has been focused upon substantial physical changes to the Blue Earth County Museum property to be brought about by a proposed extension of Warren Street and the laying of storm sewer through the Hubbard House grounds. The Society's Board recognizes both street and storm drainage as vital and necessary to urban function and safety and has no desire to prevent their construction. However, alternative routes do seem to be worthy of consideration. It seems apparent that alternative routing of the storm sewer is limited by established natural drainage ways which cannot be diverted safely. Initial Society suggestion for alternative routing of the street was unsuccessful at a hearing held on the project and at present any change appears to be limited by engineering feasibility and financial commitments. If the latter were to be abridged in any way, it is believed that federal support vital to the program will be lost. A recently discovered state statute requiring permission of the Minnesota State Historical Society before changing a state historical site such as the Hubbard property has modified the situation to some degree, indicating a certain amount of backing to the Society's original hope for an alternate street route.

Whether the state statute would stand a legal test in this matter is uncertain and there is no particular wish on the part of the Society Board to force such an issue in the belief that only acrimony and ill will would result. At the same time, the Board feels substantial physical damage will have been done to the property in the loss of the spacious lawn, large trees and separation of the carriage house and mansion. Such defacement of a cherished landmark is obviously irreversible. Because there was to be no compensation from any source or in any form, the Board wondered if good citizenship and good public relations should not be a matter of cooperative effort on the part of all concerned rather than one of total and docile compliance to the projected use of the Hubbard property.

This point of view was aired in discussion with city officials and a statement was made by them that because the Museum holding is the property of the City of Mankato, compensation could be made only if the property were turned over to the County Historical Society or to Blue Earth County. Such action, in turn, would change the support structure of the Society by loss of approximately half the annual budget now supplied by the City of Mankato. Responsibility for total support would then become the responsibility of the tax payers of Blue Earth County under the supervision of the Blue Earth County Board.

These matters were discussed at length by members of the Society Board, city, county and state officials on December 19, 1972. As the newspaper indicated in reporting the meeting, much further dialogue is required before final decisions are made.

To that purpose, further consultations are planned by all groups concerned through which all possible solutions will undoubtedly be explored. Ultimately an arrangement must be reached which will be satisfactory and acceptable to everyone -- INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Toward that goal, the Board of Directors feels the membership of the Society should participate in the decision making process and when alternatives become clear cut should make its decision as a group.

A propitious time to begin such action would seem to be at the annual dinner meeting of the Society to be held on January 17, 1973. By that date it is hoped that sufficient progress will have been made that the Board can make some recommendations and the Society may then form some judgment on the course it wishes to follow.

Decision to bring these matters to the membership was made by the Society Board after the December 19 meeting thus necessitating a change in the scheduled program of the January meeting. At the time of this writing, new arrangements are tentative but it is hoped that representatives of the Society, the city council and the county board may address the gathering on the circumstances now facing the group and at the same time will be available to answer questions of clarification which members may wish to ask. Hopefully the membership may then take such action as it deems necessary.

In essence, this becomes an informational and working meeting from which should stem policy affecting the operation of the Society for many years to come. The attendance of each member--including the new ones--is earnestly requested. The plans for expansion and growth which have been made cannot be set in motion until these decisions are made--and obviously if we don't expand and grow, we wither and die. Perhaps it is not that simple nor that dramatic but nonetheless, the presence of every member is important.

Please return reservations to the Museum, 606 Broad, by Friday, January 12th.

I will [] be able to attend the annual dinner to be held at the YMCA annex
I will not [] January 17th -- social gathering to begin at six o'clock, price \$3.50.

REPORTS

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

By Pat Schwan

Trading stamps will be accepted to get needed items such as desk lamps, vacuum cleaner, etc., for running the Museum.

566 kindergarten children from District #77 visited the Museum during the last couple of months as part of their Indian studies.

Dr. Anna Wieckling, whose laudable pamphlets on Blue Earth County history, was in St. Joseph's hospital, is now recovering from recent illness and surgery. Our sincere wishes for a quick recovery go out to her. She celebrated her 85th birthday not long ago -- Happy Belated Birthday, Miss Wieckling!

If you wish to contribute to the Newsletter or to make any suggestions, please write to the Editor at 233 Lincoln Avenue, Mankato, Minnesota 56001.

SOCIETY OFFICERS	
President	<i>Bert Burns</i>
Vice President	<i>Kathryn Hanson</i>
Secretary	<i>Betty Cords</i>
Treasurer	<i>George Sugden</i>
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Editor	<i>Helen Girard</i>
Assistant Editor	<i>Theresa Kasling</i>

The editors would like to thank Mr. Ogden Confer, Jr. and Mr. Vern Lundin for making possible the printing of this issue. Also, many thanks to Wally Grochow for his patience and fortitude in the actual printing of this Newsletter.

A note of apology to those life members who received, by accident, a membership application letter. We sent out almost 2000 letters, and an oversight was bound to happen. Hope we haven't angered too many members! And for those of you who might know of others interested in joining but who did not receive an application, we are including one below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Blue Earth County Historical Society
606 South Broad Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

I wish to join under the following membership:

- Annual.....\$5.00
- Life.....25.00
- Patron.....100.00 or more

- Check enclosed
- I would like to volunteer my services.

Your membership card will be mailed to you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____