



The Blue Earth County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW! NEW! NEW!

Vol. 11, No. 3

June, 1973.



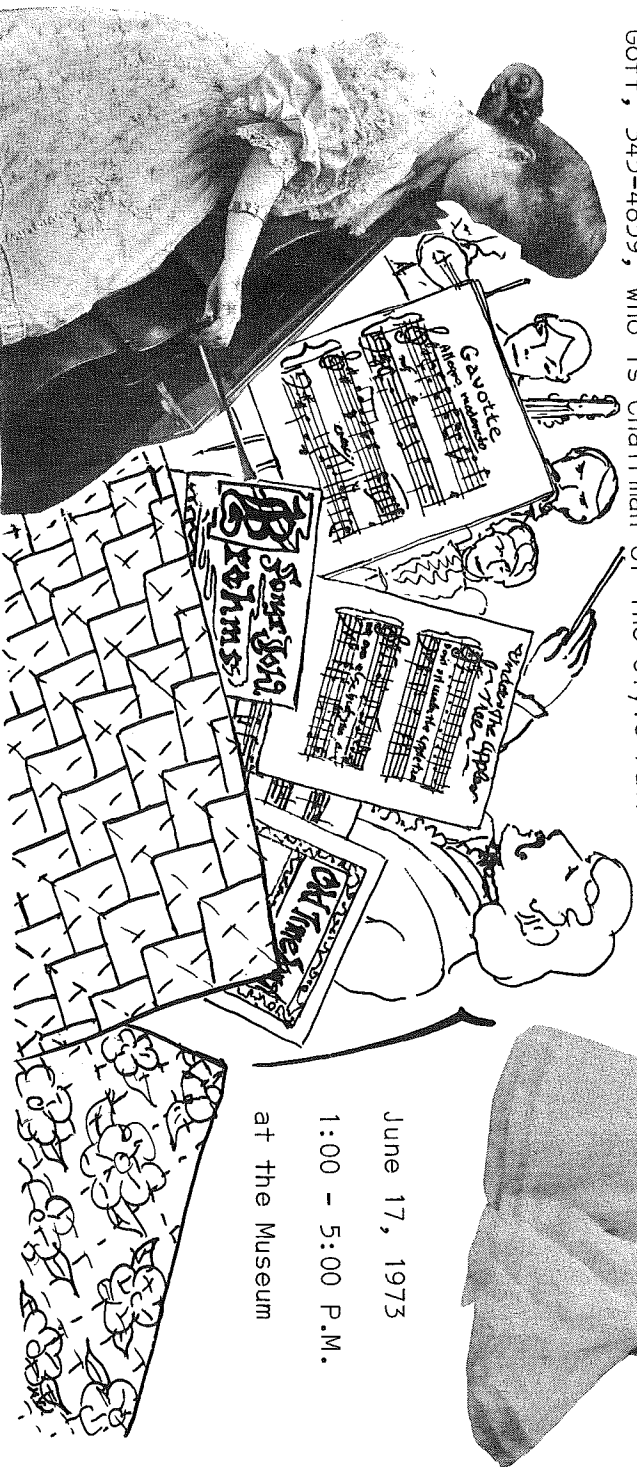
Hi-Ho! Hi-Ho!

come to the
10 year Style Fair!

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY:

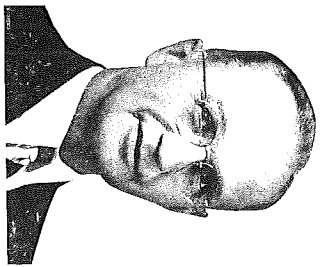
- * antique, vintage and special interest auto display.
- We expect at least 50 automobiles
- * an exhibit of 20 quilts from area residents
- * turn-of-the-century photo exhibit of the Kato area on our front porch
- * the Union Band to provide period music from 1903 to 1973 - 2:00 & 4:00
- * Mankato Chorus
- * barbershop quartet
- * clothing style show - 1903 to 1973 - tentative
- * horse and buggy ride
- * bicycle raffle too! - 10 speed

We hope members will bring lunches or refreshments and picnic on the grounds, and dress for some period between 1903 and 1973. We need at least 20 fine quilts to display. If you have one you feel can be displayed, contact Catherine Pinney, 345-6486 or Harley Goff, 345-4859, who is Chairman of the Style Fair.



June 17, 1973
1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
at the Museum

PRIMARY
ELECTION
JULY 8
1946



GENERAL
ELECTION
NOV. 5
1946

FRANK W.

CORDS FOR SHERIFF BLUE EARTH COUNTY

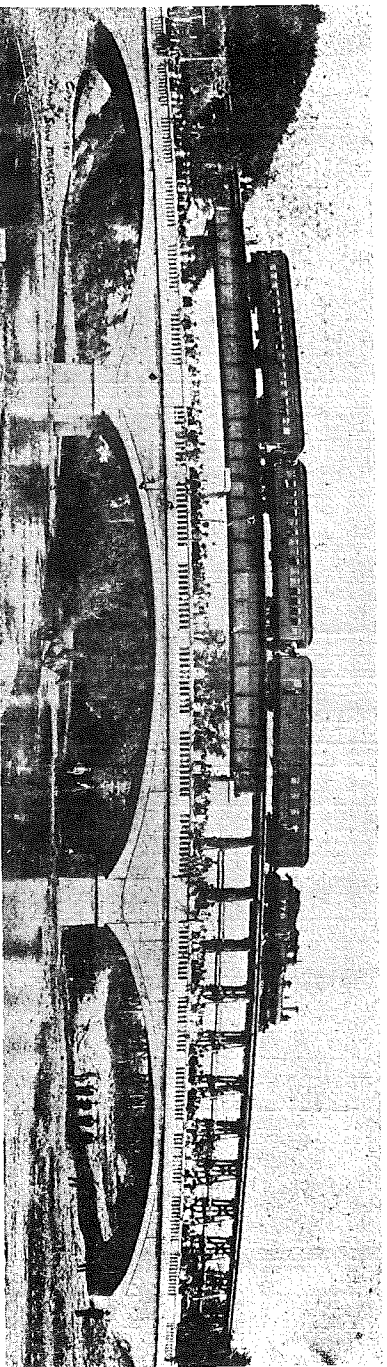
Proposed, established and held by Frank W. Cords, Mankato, Minn.

Opera House in Mankato. Perhaps the most exciting part of his life was his position as sheriff of Blue Earth County for 20 years, from 1926 to 1946. His tales of the Dillinger gang—who started in 1931 (a car used by the gang was given to him by the state for display for a while in Mankato); the investigation of 9 murders (one of these murders was written for a magazine entitled, "Tragedy at Black Fox Farm - Who Killed Floyd Williams?" - an extremely absorbing account); 7 bank robberies (2 of these were at Rapidan) and the arrests made (lost only 1 case); the jail at one time housing 81 people (about 40 too many) - all added up to a fascinating true story.

He told of the land now housing the St. Joseph's Catholic Church and school as well as the elementary school and houses in the area was once used by the Circus; ferries used to dock and load at Le Hillier, Sibley Park and at the grain elevator, no longer extant, behind the Saupaugh Hotel; gold was said to have been discovered in the Blue Earth River---stories about which might make one's "eyebrows raise."

We thank Mr. Cords so much for granting us this interview. Our only regret is that we were unable to see Mrs. Cords who is recovering from a broken hip at the Hillcrest Nursing Home. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. Cords also told us about the old "Red Jacket" bridge between Mankato and Rapidan which intrigued us, especially the name, that we decided to investigate further and came up with the following information:



The Red Jacket Bridge, pictured above (in front of the railroad bridge) on the day of the Dedication ceremonies in 1911, no longer spans the Le Sueur river as it was washed out in the flood of 1959. More than 1500 persons attended the dedication traveling there by horse and buggy. There are several theories as to how the bridge got its name "Red Jacket." The account given as a part of the information that explained the above picture is that because a grist mill was erected in 1866 near the site of the bridge and near part of the Winnebago reservation, Wooden, versed in Indian lore of the Great Lakes Region, painted the mill red and named it "Red Jacket." Since then the locality has been known as Red Jacket and the bridge still bears that name.

Other accounts of how the "Red Jacket" bridge got its name are as follows: Dr. Bert Burns, President of the Historical Society, said that the Indian chief Red Jacket, related to Chief Sleepy Eye, lived in the area of the bridge -- hence the name "Red Jacket." Cecil Jones heard from an old timer that it was a school teacher who, in the early days, always walked down the road across the bridge and always wore a red jacket. Another possibility was the color of the soil. Dr. Anna Wiecking said that Mr. Francisus of by-gone-days wrote that a man by the name of Park Worden knew an Indian from Illinois, where he was from, and with whom he was very friendly, by the name of Red Jacket, so when he built the bridge, he named it after the Indian. (See page 20 of Anna Wiecking's "As We Once Were.")

A CORCORD LIFE
By Helen Girard

One day in early spring we spent a pleasant morning chatting with Mr. Frank Cords, 93, a long-time resident of Blue Earth County. His wit and sparkling stories added to our enjoyment.

Mr. Cords' father came from Wittenberg, Germany, and finally settled on a farm near St. Clair, bordering the Winnebago Indian reservation. They raised wheat and the primitive tools used at this time certainly showed the fortitude of these early settlers. Near the farm, east of St. Clair, was one of the stage coach stops--tracks still can be seen where the coach made a circle preparatory to departing for the next station.

Mr. Cords left his aunt's home at the age of 14 and spent a varied and colorful life working in Michigan as a dock builder, in South Dakota as a ranch hand, in Mowbridge as a bridge construction worker, as a fireman ("tell-a pots" as they were colorfully called) for the Northwestern railroad, as an insurance salesman for New York Life, and others. He is the only living Spanish-American veteran in this area. He was also a professional wrestler performing at one time in the

reports

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
By Betty Cords

COLLECTORS:

There are 10 original "Hanging" prints for sale at the Museum at \$50.00 each.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society will host the First District Historical Assembly Annual Meeting, Saturday, September 8, 1973 at St. John's Episcopal Church. Registration will begin at 9:00 A.M., followed by a choice of 4 mini-courses; lunch at noon plus speaker -- then a bus tour of interesting historical points of interest in the area, ending with a tour and coffee at Hubbard House. This promises to be a fun and educational day, so watch the next Newsletter for all the fine details. Co-chairing this event will be Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Kroon.

Watch for our fall event! The past two years we've hosted a very successful Craft Show. This year we'd like to try something new and different. The Board has decided to do a series of Sundays on Early Industry in Mankato. The first of these is tentatively set for October and the second for February. We should have more details in the fall Newsletter.

We are doing some housecleaning and need some volunteers to launder linens and cotton dresses, blouses, etc. Call or stop down at the Museum - we certainly will appreciate it.

MUSEUM NEWS

OUR NEW INTERN

"I am originally from Marshalltown, Iowa, but have been at Mankato State since 1969. Last fall I graduated with a B.S. in History and am now working on my master's in Library Science."

Museums have always fascinated me, so the change to intern here was a perfect way to learn about the work, and also to convince me that this is the type of career that I want to pursue. Some of my other activities include the MSC Veterans Sweethearts Club, biking and softball."

-Jan Crowther

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

*Bert Burns
Kathryn Hanson
Betty Cords
George Sugden*

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor
Assistant Editor

*Helen Girard
Theresa Kasling*

"The Blue Earth County Historical Museum has been in dire need of paint for a couple years now. Short of dipping into public funds to accomplish what should be a labor of love, convention would have dictated a drive for donations or a bald darning of the business community."

The chore would have gotten done, of course.

But thanks to the Vets Club at Mankato State College, it's being done quickly, quietly, and extremely neatly.

It was the idea of a student intern at the Museum. She put the bug into the ear of Todd Anderson, who in turn polled the membership of the Club. The verdict was affirmative.

The thought of scraping the crumbling paint on the old Hubbard Mansion, and then applying a fresh coat, is hardly the average young person's conception of whiling-away a soft spring afternoon. Anybody who has lugged ladders, erected scaffolding, scraped paint chips into the eyes and had fresh paint rolling down the arms in tackling the eaves from beneath, knows of what I speak.

It's tough grunt-provoking work. But upwards of 40 Vets Club members have responded--some dashing back and forth between glasses, leaving a trail of paint-specked clothes and shoes along the way.

I just want to make certain it isn't thankless work.

Granted, the Vets Club is not unique. Services like this have been performed before in Mankato. Yet I am impressed by the realization that nobody has pounded on my door to exclaim, 'Hey, look what we're doing--aren't we great!'"

(Taken from Ken Berg's column in the Mankato Free Press, May 17, 1973.)

Our sincere thanks to the following who helped paint: Gene Schofield, Mike Harrington, Larry Hamer, Farlie Traxler, Curt Jensen, Mike Currie, Mike Stanton, PhilipMcNagle, Allen Trenda, Thomas Pulver, Patrick Sexton, Greg Holtz, Michael Simkins, Dan Dahle, Jim Hursh, Roger Korf, Dick Clarke, Don Larson, Paul Higdon, Bill Horlitz, Jeff Edwarsen, Todd Anderson and Tom Maine.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Ruth Palmer
Mr. Sam Baker

A special thanks to Ogden Confer, Jr., Vern Lundin, Wally Grochow and Maureen Pfeifer of Hubbard Milling Company for printing the Newsletter and to Anna Wiecking, Pat Schwan and Evelyn Schmanski for help with the contents.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society

Vol. II, No. 4

August, 1973.

FIRST DISTRICT HISTORICAL ASSEMBLY

Blue Earth County is playing host to the First District Assembly, to be held at the Museum and St. John's Episcopal Church, Saturday, September 8, starting at 9:00 A.M. Cost for the entire day, including registration, luncheon, coffee and bus tour of historical spots, will be \$4.00. Cost for the morning mini-groups and coffee will be \$1.00. Registrations must be sent to Mrs. Fred Cords, Lake Crystal, Minn., 56055, by August 30.

The mini-group subjects are:

1. Restoration and Preservation of Historical Materials, presented by Miss Frances Dickerson and Miss Betty William, prominent in this field with the Winona Historical Society.
2. Indian Artifacts, presented by Miss Jan Strief, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.
3. Indian Displays, presented by Mr. David Nystuen, Field Director, Minnesota Historical Society.
4. Fund Raising and Sales, speaker to be announced.

The luncheon speaker will be Mr. Arlo Hasse, Waconia, Minnesota, followed by a business meeting and presentation of display awards.

At 2:00 P.M. bus tours will be conducted to historical sites in the area. On their return, coffee will be served at the Museum.

Mr. Roger Lomning of Albert Lea is President of the Assembly and will preside. Local arrangements are being handled by Mrs. Clifton Kroon and Mrs. Fred Cords. Mrs. Shirley Broden is Secretary-Treasurer of the Assembly.

TEXAS VISITORS

Mrs. Jay Hubbard, Jr. and children visited the Hubbard House August 9 & 10 while vacationing in Mankato.

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

August 27 10:00 A.M.	Bus Trip to Owatonna to visit Village of Yesterday.
September 8 9:00 A.M.	First District Historical Assembly at St. John's Episcopal Church and at Museum. 9am-4pm.
October 14 2:30 P.M.	Museum Sunday: The History of the Stone Industry in Blue Earth County. Museum and YMCA Annex

See accompanying stories for complete information about these events.

MUSEUM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Society is taking a new direction for its Museum Sunday this fall. The Board felt it important not to repeat what is being done elsewhere in the city and county but to do something unique, something that the Society is especially capable of doing. And so evolved the idea of presenting the history and development of the industries of the County. The Stone Industry was selected as the first.

In the Museum proper, there will be shown memorabilia of the early days of the stone companies of Mankato, hand tools, pictures, payrolls, plus current photographs of old and new stone structures in the area, taken by The Photographers, Mankato.

In the YMCA Annex at 2:30 P.M., there will be a slide presentation of elementary geology, and early history; then short talks by representatives of the three active stone industries including their personal reminiscences. Quarry tours will also be scheduled.

Committee members are: Marcia Schuster, chairman, Bert Burns, Earle Wigley, Darrel Apitz, Anna Wiecking, Patty Babcock, Willard Vetter, Bill Coughlan, Mark Ahlstrom, Folke Person.

MUSEUM SUNDAY, Continued

Miss Anna Wiecking is writing a series of articles on the elementary school level so that school children may use them as a part of their units on Mankato history. Her first article follows:

Stone Galore

One summer afternoon we had a visitor from another state, and we were sitting on our big old-fashioned porch. As our visitor looked up and down our streets, he said:

"There must be a lot of stone in this town. Everywhere I look, I see stone."

So I told him that our house and most of the other houses in this older neighborhood had stone foundations. Our porch was built on eight piers of beautiful Mankato limestone.

"Look across the street," I said, "and see several stone walls that were built to hold back the terraces of the lawns. See those stone staircases in that house over there. And I could show you at least two heavy stone blocks up this street away that used to be used by people stepping out of their horse-drawn carriages."

I pointed out that the Lincoln Junior High School across from our home, where stone was used not only for the foundation, but for stone trim around every door and window, as well as around the whole roof-line.

"If we should walk north down Byron Street to Second Street and walk down Second towards downtown, we would be walking on some older sidewalks made of big slabs of limestone. Our Post Office is made of beautiful limestone blocks, and all over town you can see churches, schools, and houses where stone has been used for walls, trim, steps, chimneys, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, and so on. Our bridges and culverts have much stone work on them."

"And I must tell you about our beautiful new Regional Law Enforcement Center on Front Street at the foot of Liberty Street. The outside walls are covered with cut stone panels, a new way with stone."

After talking about all the stone used around here, the visitor on our porch said:

"You are very lucky here. Where I live we have no local stone for building. We have to send away for it. Nature has been very good to your county."

Anna M. Wiecking

The series will continue with the history and development of the stone industry.

VILLAGE OF YESTERYEAR, OWATONNA

A conducted tour for anyone, member or not, interested to the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna will be held on Monday, August 27. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Buses will leave the Museum, 606 S. Broad Street, Mankato, at 10:00 A.M. and will return at approximately 4:00 P.M. Cost of the tour is \$2.50, which covers bus fare and insurance.

Each person is to bring a sack lunch and the group will picnic together at a park in Owatonna.

Make your reservations with Evelyn Schmanski at the Museum, 345-4154, or at her home, 388-4440.

MUSEUM RESTORATION

We have started on a long term project of research to help us in getting ready for the eventual restoration of the Hubbard House. Carol Williams and Marcia Richards have been appointed collectors of research material. You may help by sending to them information you may have about the furnishings or the appearance of the house in earlier days, or names of persons who might have information.

We have tape-recorded comments of a house tour by two of our senior citizens who spent many hours in the house as children. We will continue to do these tapings as often as we learn of someone who may have information. After all of this information from many sources is recorded and indexed, the Restoration Committee will be able to develop a plan for how and what should be done.

One major decision will have to be which period we want to restore the house to. There are five possibilities:

1. The 1871 period when the house was first built.
2. The 1888 period when it was remodelled and added on to.
3. The 1905 period when it was redecored just before Mr. Hubbard's death.
4. The 1926 period when Mrs. Esther Hubbard Richter returned to live in the house with her family.
5. Or some combination of these different periods.

We are being guided in this project by Miss Janice Obst of the State Historical Society who has worked with the restoration of the Ramsey House and of the Livingston-Griggs House and is at present working on the Mayo House in Le Sueur.

This edition of the Newsletter is being put out by a temporary staff (Kathryn Hanson and Marcia Schuster) to keep you up to date on the happenings of the Historical Society and to bring you word of some coming events.

While we hated having to accept the resignations of Helen Girard and Tess Kasling whose other duties prevent their continuing as editors, we are happy to be able to announce that, starting in November, our new permanent editors will be Mrs. Nancy How Girouard and Mrs. Marcia Confer. Both are very talented persons, full of creative ideas for our newsletter.

HISTORICAL SITE TO BE PRESERVED

One of the goals of the Blue Earth County Historical Society is now assured of being reached: the preservation of the 1862 Sioux Hanging Site. This was guaranteed at a meeting held in the Mankato City Hall on August 1, 1973. Present at this meeting were representatives of the State and County Highway Departments, the Mankato City Government, and the local and state historical societies. Following the construction of Pike Street throughway, a triangle of land will be available for the development of a city parkette. This triangle is located at the place where the 1862 hanging took place, and the Mankato Housing and Redevelopment Authority will give title to the triangle to the City of Mankato.

The triangle will be landscaped. Present plans call for an open space where two bronze tablets will be located, the one a brief sketch of the background and course of the Sioux Uprising of 1862--an account approved by the Minnesota Historical Society; the other, a Sioux version of the same. Benches for visitors will be located in the vicinity. Long time planning calls for a shelter which will have a more detailed accounting of the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Pictorial presentations with descriptive text will be the main feature of the shelter.

While no firm decision has been made relative to the granite monument formerly located at the site, sentiment favors that it be kept as a museum piece but not to be a part of the parkette.

When completed, the site should prove to be a prominent tourist attraction. It will tie in beautifully with the Traverse des Sioux 1851 Treaty site just out of St. Peter.

Theodore L. Nydahl

Ogden Confer, Jr., Ted Nydahl and Kathryn Hanson attended a meeting with city officials about the Parkette.... Howard Williams and Kathryn Hanson attended a meeting with State and Federal officials in St. Paul pertaining to the Warren Street project.... Betty Cords, Marcia Schuster and Kathryn Hanson have been getting started on the House Restoration project.... Ben Jones has been reviewing our entire bookkeeping and accounting systems.... Anna Wleeking has been researching and writing about the stone industry in Blue Earth County.... Betty Cords and Kathryn Hanson have been doing volunteer work at the Museum.... Marcia Schuster is doing publicity for the First District Historical Assembly meeting and is chairman for the October Museum Sunday.

*see further story

BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 21

Mr. David Nystuen, Field Director of the State Historical Society, will attend our board meeting, August 21, to discuss with us possible directions for our county society. He will answer questions you've had! Short business meeting at 7 pm. Mr. Nystuen at 7:30 pm.

WARREN STREET PROJECT

Howard Williams and Kathryn Hanson represented the Blue Earth County Historical Society and William Bassett and Newad Ohlman represented the City of Mankato at a meeting held at the Minnesota State Highway Building on July 16, which also had representatives present from the State Historical Society and the state and federal highway departments, regarding the environmental impact of the Warren Street project on the Hubbard House.

As a result of this meeting, the State Society sent a letter to the Mankato City Council stating that they believed it was necessary to have written permission from the State Society to construct the storm sewer and roadway through the Hubbard House property, and that the Society would grant this only upon receiving written assurance from the City of Mankato that it would vacate and landscape half of the present Warren Street, adjacent to and northerly of the Hubbard House property, and move or reconstruct the carriage house on a suitable location behind the Hubbard House.

DIRECTOR RESIGNS

Mrs. Pat Schwan, Museum Director, resigned June 30. Mrs. Evelyn Schmanski has been appointed Acting Director.