

Volume 5, Number

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NEWS LETTER

July, 1976

GREAT NEWS

preservation, Places, National Register makes the Hubbard House eligible for Federal grants-in-aid for historic the official list of the Nation's cultural and also provides protection for its continued The Hubbard House has been placed on resources worthy of preservation. existence the National Register of Historic S an historic property. Listing

Schuster attended a meeting of the State Review Committee $A_{\rm F}$ It was unanimously approved by the Review Committee at that newed in December, 1975. This year Society President Kathryn Hanson and Museum Director Marcia toward which efforts were Blue Earth County Historical first undertaken in 1970, when Dr. State Review Committee April 28, to support our application. Society can take pride time. Bert Burns was president, in the achievement of this goal, and re-

Herbert Mocol, dated June 14. ed of our success from Minnesota Historical Society) confirmed the news in a letter of congratulation to Mayor Me were surprised office. Russell Fridley, and gratified by the speed of action at the Federal level. the editor of the State Historic Mankato Free Press, who was Preservation Officer (and Director of natified by Congressman We first learn-

Mankato, an influence which continues to the present through the Hubb: The date of the house (1871) makes it the oldest surviving example of of many houses in the neighborhood. mansion in the area, and its influence on local domestic architecture can be seen in details tribution of R.D. Hubbard and his associate, distinctive characteristics of a type and period of the lives of The Hubbard House was granted recognition under two criteria: as a building which embodies persons significant in our past. The Society's application stressed the George M. through the Hubbard Milling Company. Palmer, architecture, c o the economic development the mid-19th century and as a place associated

Mankato, presently occupied by Piper, the old First National Bank Blue Earth County now has a second building to be accorded national recognition. Building at the corner of Jaffray & Hopwood, Inc Front о П Hickory Streets 5 downtown The other

BICENTENNIAL MEMENTOS from the MUSEUM SHOP:

The second of DONNA SANDON'S LIMITED EDITION HAND-CRAFTED PLATES: MANKATO'S HERITAGE TREE,

THE LINCOLN PARK ELM ____ \$10.00

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

If your adress has changed,
PLEASE PHONE & TELL US !

It costs us 23 cents extra every time the U.S. Postal Service corrects your address for us and we re-mail to you.

COMING EVENTS

JULY 18 (SUNDAY)

MUSEUM SUNDAY: MEETING & PROGRAM FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS and FRIENDS

PLACE: MANKATO YWCA ANNEX

SPEAKER: DR. T.L. NYDAHL SUBJECT: PIONEER MANKATO AND BLUE EARTH COUNTY

TIME: Dr. Nydahl will give his talk at 2:30 pm, after which at the YWCA and see our Bicentennial exhibits. usual from 1 to 4 pm. Stop in on your way to the meeting refreshments will be served. The Museum will be open as

SEPTEMBER 13 ŧ 19 FARMFEST U.S.A. - LAKE CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA

Cambria Folkist Culture of Blue Earth County), as well as a full-size lodge and gardens characteristic of this culture, prepared under the direction of Michael Scullin, Professor of Anthropology at Mankato State University and member of the Society. SOCIETY'S EXHIBITS on EARLY INDIAN CULTURES (Hidatsa & related EXHIBITS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST will include the HISTORICAL on display will be a large exhibit of antique farm machinery

ANNUAL MEETING

Earth County Historical Society was held April 21, 1976 at the Mankato YWCA. The 52nd annual meeting of the

and Bruce W. Smith, Treasurer. Board Members for the term 1976-79 are T.L. Nydahl, Bruce Paradis, Mike Regan and Carl A. Wendt. Law-Stan Hall, Ernest Hansen and Warne Mr. Will's term also ends in 1978. 1977: Tom Champlin, Emy Frentz, Julie Kroubetz and Howard Williams; through 1978, Bert Burns, Members who continue on the Board through term of Betty Cards, who resigned in April. Paradis, Mike Regan and Carl A. are: Kathryn Hanson, President; Ogden W. Con− rence Will was elected to fill the unexpired Vice-president; Marion Carr, Secretary; Officers elected for the year 1976-77 Ernest Hansen and Warner Zeno.

COUNTY RECEIVES MORE FEDERAL FUNDS

arily restored. We now have a better under-standing of government financing ! terminated in March, some has been tempor-Blue Earth County Historical Society was As abruptly as CETA funding for

Federal minimum wage. all Society employes are paid at least the increases to several to reinstate Friday open hours at the Museum. In addition, we will be able to give salary This unexpected windfall will allow us persons, to insure that

deficit spending, and will act quickly to keep the budget balanced, as it did in the government sources. However, the Board of as the greater part of our income is from unknowns in the Society's budget, recent funding cutback. Directors is firmly opposed to any kind of Inevitably there will always be some ധ

PEOPLE POWER WANTED!

VOLUNTEER HELP from Society Members (others not excluded) appreciated. is needed for a variety of activities, and would be much

our projected Christman Party (December 12). IF YOU ENJOY SOCIALIZING, Be a hostess or host at a Museum Sunday, or a recptionist on Saturday or Sunday afternoon. We also need planners for coming social events, specifically at a Museum Sunday, or a recptionist on a

real labor of love: the Museum curtains need laundering! OTHER ACTIVITIES OF A QUIET TYPE: furnish refreshments for a YOU PREFER to do your good work in the more relaxed atmosphere of your home, here is

help with typing and mailing. Museum Sunday or Open House,

WE ANTICIPATE a need for more tour guides in the near future. Would you be interested in spending some free time to train as a tour guide?
TO PARTICIPATE in any of the above activities, PLEASE CALL THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR,
MARCIA SCHUSTER, 345-4154, Monday-Friday, 8 to 4 pm.

MORE GREAT NEWS!

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT

Society and the top-priority projects it has undertaken. boosting success! The fact that we have been able to raise \$3,085. shows that many individuals and businesses are concerned about the ongoing viability of the Blue Earth County Historical We are overjoyed to announce that our appeal for funds has been a financial and morale-

successful completion of funds are available to maintain news the Accessions item files Inventory for MOU ST at least another assured. In addition,

e T wish behalf of to thank these Historical the Blue Earth County Historical Society and its Board of Directors Society Supporters:

WILLIAM EDWARDS WILLIAM CARLSON MR. & MRS. WILLIAM BLETHEN FIRST NATIONAL BANK FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN DM PRINTING INC. ATWOOD-SMITH REALTY LOWELL ANDREAS AMERICAN STATE BANK CHARLOTTE FARRISH LUWE ROBERT LLOYD LAYMAN-TODD REALTY KAYDT, INC. JOHNSON REELS JOHNSON, JOHNSON, ANDERSON, ۲ & MRS. DGDEN W. DOTSON COMPANY GENE LUCIER MOONAN & BRADSHAW BERNDT CONFER

> SHARI CANDIES SECURITY STATE NICK SCHEUER MICHAEL REGAN RAMY SEED COMPANY CHARLES PENNINGTON PALMER FOUNDATION NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL BANK NORTH STAR CONCRETE NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE RICHARD L. MYERS BRUCE MILLER MIDWEST REALTY DR. BYRON MCGREGOR MILTON MASON ZENO GLASS COMPANY THE MRS. JAYCEES DON MEREDITH BANK

(Signed) Emy Frentz Ogden W. Confer Bruce Paradis

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENTS AID HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ments of Blue Earth County for financial support, particularly in order to carry on the project of the Museum inventory. Following the favorable endorsement of the Association, a number improvement, the Society's Last March, boards have made contributions to the Society. Some townships have voted to make this donation. faced with the necessity of cutting both current services and plans for their Board of Directors appealed to the Association of Township Govern-

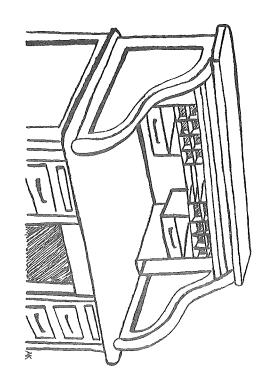
for contributions received in March and April: The Board of Directors wishes to thank the following township governments

GARDEN CITY	CAMBRIA	BUTTERNUT VALLEY	BEAUFORD
LINCOLN	LIME	LE RAY	NOSUUL
SHELBY	RAPIDAN	MEDO	MANKATO
			VERNON CENTER

encouraging demonstration of the continuation of the inventory project without a break. Such a prompt response is The Museum Director and staff are especially grateful for this support, which made possible to preserve and interpret the history of all of Blue Earth County. interest and appreciation of the work of the Historical Society a most

MUSEUM OPEN TUESDAY — SUNDAY, 1 — 4 pm SCHEDULE CLOSED MONDAY and LEGAL HOLIDAYS THURSDAY

There is a charge for group tours, which are by appointment only. For information and appointments, PHONE the MUSEUM, - 345-4154



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP ...

The exciting news of course is that the Hubbard House is now a National Historic Site! The recognition is long overdue.

And for perfect timing, architect Foster Dunwiddie, Minneapolis, is now starting on his feasibility study for the restoration of the house as a Victorian Period mansion. The restoration will be integrated with regular maintenance work. Then, when that new separate museum we all dream about becomes a reality, the Hubbard House will be restored and furnished, and can be on exhibit for itself, without competition from the Indians and pioneers who camp in it now.

Speaking of restoration, thanks again to Marion Carr, who restored the office rolltop desk, and has now braced the pigeonhole part, which was sagging. It is a lovely old piece, and we enjoy using it.

The Museum staff is working on a new Bicentennial summer exhibit - wedding attire and accessories of the century past.

Our archaeological exhibits — the model Hidatsa earth lodge and village — will be on display at Farmfest. Michael Scullin, Mankato State U. anthropologist, and his student crew (Mike Eigen, John Kjos, Julie Cole & others) are building a life-size lodge and are planting and tending gardens in the Hidatsa style. Farmfest visitors will thus see at first hand how these Indians lived.

Have you seen our new brochure comparing the interior woodwork of the Hubbard House with that of the Cray House (YWCA)? Written by Marcia Confer, it was published especially for the Historical Society—YWCA Open House on June 7. About 120 people toured the Hubbard House on that date.

New CETA funding has made available to us a clerk-typist who will work with Jeanne Kress on the Accessions Inventory, to hasten its completion. Coralie Chevalier will start work on July 1.

Did you see the exhibit of women's clothing from the Museum collection at Pierce's
Dress Shop in downtown Mankato ? According
to Mr. Pierce, some shoppers wanted to buy
the dresses right out of the window!

Comments about our limestone retaining wall on the Warren Street side of the Museum have been nothing but favorable. It is not only attractive, but highly functional, as it conceals the bare cut and protects our bit of lawn and shrubbery. It was provided by the City of Mankato and built by Stan Swensen Masonry Inc.

The Mankato Park Department has loaned us two park benches and a Bicentennial picnic table (red, white and blue) for the north lawn. Staff members enjoy eating their lunches outdoors.

The Mankato Garden Club has given us two jardinieres of flowers for our front entrance and has planted our flower bed. Club members come faithfully each week to water, and the flowers are thriving. Our thanks to the club for brightening our landscape so prettily!

Stop in for a visit some afternoon. We're always glad to see our members !

Marcia T. Schuster

NE CRYSTAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The Lake Crystal Historical Society met June 22, 1976 to discuss finding a location for a museum. A committee was appointed to investigate places suggested and to report on them at the next meeting, July 27.

A number of Society members took part in the Lake Crystal Bicentennial Pageant June 16 17 & 18. Mrs. Ellis Norman was co-editor of this original four-act production, entitled "Yesterday's Headlines - Today's Heritage." Its theme was 200 years of the nation's history. The scenario combined narration and pantomime, with a chorus providing the music. Old costumes and antiques added much to the staging.

Organized by the Lake Crystal PTA, the pageant was truly a community effort, involving some 200 people. It played to a full house; and all who participated said that the fun well repaid the many hours spent in preparation.

EXPLORING HISTORY AT THE MUSEUM

FARM IMPLEMENTS OF THE 1800'S

Cataloguing the Museum collections is a voyage of discovery in time. In checking the farm tools and implements we have, I met with an object which brought into focus one aspect of the development of our farm economy. In this year of farmfest, others may find it as interesting as I do.

The object is a hand corn planter, designed to enable one man to plant two hills of corn at once. It is made entirely of wood, except for its two tin seed hoppers and the metal tips which push into the ground to deposit the corn kernels. The frame is 49 inches across. Two levers with horizontal handles are set together in the center of the frame, and a six-inch motion of the arms releases the seed, to make two hills, 40 inches apart. It looks clumsy. To use it all day would be strenuous work, although it weighs only about five pounds. Certainly lifting it would be no more tiring than the lop-sided movement needed to operate the one-handled single planter which hangs beside it on the museum wall. And twice as efficient! It bears the stamp: "The Twin Planter" "M'f'd. by H. Seppman, South Bend, Minn." "Pat. Jan. 5th, 1892."

This fascinating object made me wonder if other farm implements were manufactured in Blue Earth County in an earlier day. The advertisements and listings in county and city directories between 1870 and 1900 answer an emphatic "Yes;" and the early reports of the Mankato Board of Trade give some idea of the scope of such production.

Plows, cultivators, harrows and other horsedrawn field implements were manufactured locally on a commercial scale right after the Civil War. The earliest directory we have for the county (1871) lists two plow factories in Mankato. One was the North Star Plow Factory of Dauber, Kenney & Co., located on Main Street between Front and Second; the other was Roberts and Weaver, on South Front between Cherry and liberty Streets. It seems that both Dauber and Weaver were in business as early as 1860. In that year, 510 plows were sold in Mankato, of which 245 were made locally. North Star Plow Works continued producing "Breaking, Crossing and Double-Shovel Plows," and other farm machinery until at least 1895. In 1875, a third producer appeared. This was the Mankato Manufacturing Company, located "at the foot of Poplar Street," presumably in the area back

Mankato Manufacturing Company began by making plows and agricultural machinery, but by 1877 had expanded to making steam boilers as well. By 1888 it was producing "steam engines, boilers, mill machinery, steam hoisters, derricks, horse powers, well rigs, well augers," etc. Agricultural machinery seems to have become relatively unimportant in the company's output

Fanning mills, advertised by A.W.Dawley and also by Scattergood & Son in 1878, were an item of farm equipment made in the Mankato area. Another maker of such mills, H.W. Cleland & Co., appeared in 1895. In that year Mayer Brothers Inc. established a foundry and machine shop at 802 North Front Street and advertised the manufacture of "the Tidland Grading & Ditching Machine."

A local industry which produced equipment used by farmers, though it was not agricultural equipment strictly speaking, was the Mankato Pump Works of W.D. Tompkins, "manufacturer of the celebrated Mankato Wooden Pump and Piping." His business was in continuous operation between 1871 and 1895.

companies. The Board of Trade reports indicate that after the Civil War, demand for machinery was so great that local manufacturers could not possibly meet it. In 1877, adhis family hardware store. The county directories tell us how it came to be in Good Thunmute answer. It is a New Holland No. 1 grist mill, made in Pennsylvania and, as Mr. Bruscke munity. So the makers of smaller and more or steam-powered equipment which could not be Of that, locally manufactured plows and cultivators accounted for \$6,600. The bulk of the machines sold were harvesters, mowers, sales of farm machinery in Mankato was \$74,650. mittedly a bad business year, when purchases by Carl Bruscke of Good Thunder provides a What happened to these local manufacturers, who disappear about 1900? Another piece for their products as time went on. labor-demanding equipment found less demand produced in what was almost a frontier comreapers, binders and threshers by farmers were down, the total volume of implements manufactured by large non-local had at least one established dealer in farm most every community in Blue Earth County der. They show that from the 1870's on, altold us, taken in on trade many years ago at farm machinery recently given to the Museum large animal

(Continued on Page 6)

ATTENTION SOCIETY MEMBERS

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NEWSLETTER

MUSEUM SUNDAY

SPECIAL PROGRAM 2:30 P.M.

See COMING EVENTS

Blue Earth County
Historical Society
606 South Broad
Mankato, MN 56001



FARM IMPLEMENTS, Contid.

The corn planter and the grist mill, side by side in the Museum, illustrate the transition in farm machinery that changed the whole agricultural economy. Although Seppman's corn planter saved time and labor compared with the single-handled planter, it could not compete with the advantages of larger equipment. The New Holland grist mill, a small but mechanically powered machine, was produced by more elaborate means than those available in Mankato at the time.

Today we accept without question that the machines we use are produced on a vast scale, in distant — or at least somewhat distant — cities. But Mr. Seppman's corn planter is here in the Museum, to remind us that this was not always so.

Jeanne Kress

WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO GIVE US

A $\underline{\mathsf{small}}$ refrigerator (in working condition) for the staff lounge ?

Mannequins to use for Museum displays ?

Back years of the City Directory for the Library? We need 1943-1944; 1946-1947; 1949; 1951-1952; 1954; 1956; 1959; and 1973 to date. We have duplicates of some other years. What about trading?

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
Editor: Jeanne D. Kress
606 South Broad Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

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Mankato, MN. 56001

PERMIT NO. 343

MRS. ROBERT SCHULTZ 8033 FREMONT AVENUE MINNEAPOLIS, MN

NEWS AND NOTES

The Hubbard House has its picture in the <u>KEY</u> Ad Promotion's new "Guide to the Greater Mankato Area." We are on the guide map also.

Garnet Nelson, one of our tour guides, recently gave a special Bicentennial program on pioneer life for Mankato Girl Scouts at their day camp. She showed Museum artifacts to illustrate her talk.

Sixty-seven members of the Day family, whose forebears settled in Shelby Township (Amboy-Willow Creek area) in 1858, made a special visit to the Museum June 26, as part of their 50th family reunion celebration.

To mark the occasion, several gifts were presented to the Historical Society: a patchwork quilt made by ladies of the Willow Creek Christian Church in the 1890's, given by Mrs. William Benton; a walnut chest made by George Aaron Day; and patent papers and a drawing for "an improvement on windmills" made by Pardon B. Day, 1868, given by the family of George Day.

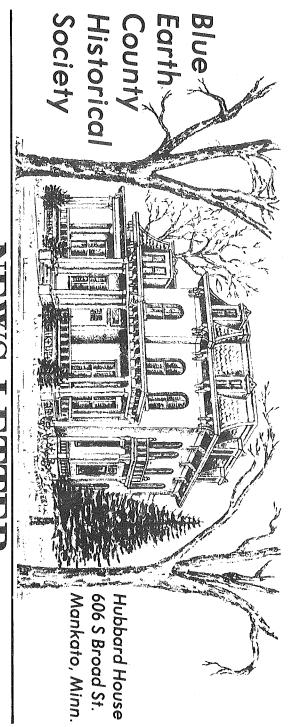
THANK YOU !

To the Boy Scouts who have been serving as Museum receptionists on weekends, to fulfill their social service badge requirement.

To Paul G. Schuster for working at the Museum as a Wilson School social service project.

To Anne Kress for our arrow doorbell indicator and other signs.

To KATOLIGHT CORPORATION for the printing of our newsletter.



Volume 5, Number 3

VEWS LETTER

October, 1976

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 5 - 11

WEEK OF WINTER WARMTH at the MANKATO YWCA

special selection of historical throughout the week and the MUSEUM SHOP TABLE will offer The HUBBARD HOUSE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TREE will be items for Christmas on display gift-giving

RECENT ACCESSIONS

A number of gifts received during the past three months have added to the museum's collections of clothing, husiness machines, household equipment and furnishings, and educational materials.

A SUMMARY LIST:

From THE THRIFT SHOP: Women's and infants' clothing of the 1890's.

from MRS. H.J. BRANDRUP, Mankato: A lady's
 dress, early 20th century (before 1910)

*rom MRS. BEA WATERSTON, North Mankato: Two dresses of about 1900.

rom MRS. JOHN MILLER, Pemberton: women's clothing, including house dresses from about 1900.

From MRS. MICHAEL GEORGE, North Mankato:
 A dressmaker's form, early 20th century.

From MR. M.C. SCHLIEF, North Manketo: A U.S. Army uniform, a spinning wheel, a wool coverlet, and several items of glass and stoneware.

from MRS. FRED CORDS, Lake Crystal: An early duplicating machine.

From MR. CLARENCE OLSON, formerly of North Mankato: A numbering machine.

rom MISS EMMA WIECKING, Mankato: A 19th century jewelry box and jewelry, including a novelty brooch with a portrait of Lillian Russell.

From the ESTATE OF J.B. SMITH, Mankato:

A teacher's edition of the New Practical Reference Encyclopedia (6 volumes), 1907-1910.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY ARCHIVES:

From MR. R. DEAN HUBBARD II: Family papers
and photographs.

From MISS EMMA WIECKING: Papers of her sister Anna Wiecking.

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YOVE

HUBBARD MILING COMPANY CENTENNIAL PARK

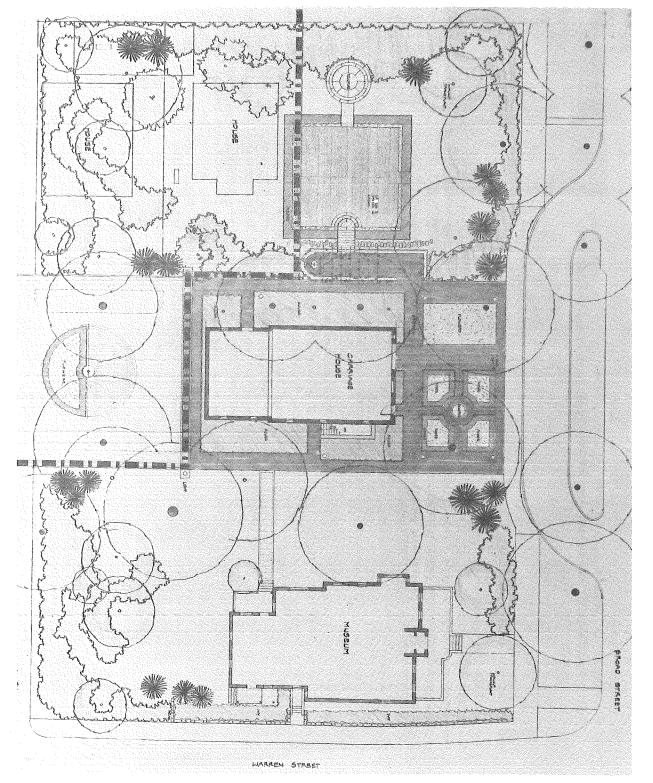
This going large entertainment which DHHOK the building will social gatherings, room", space space between the faces Broad formal and wood arbor along the g D in front of main 片. rose planned for outdoor concerts lawn area Victorian Street. Carriage House rose garden and garden give typical features of # 0 enclosed by hedges. A gravel walk access times. Carriage accupy ç side wall entrance another an "out-House,

dens, pensated by elm trees to Dutch elm disease will be comshrubbery as extensive The lighting and full plan around the planting of both buildings. planting of ornamental includes additional gartwo mature trees sculpture, The and loss of മ

> walnut trees from the memorial grove planted in Minneopa Park by George M. Palmer, cofounder of the Hubbard Milling Company.

and this きれた Sec 1978, when the revitalization celebrate its 100th major chosen this way commercial project will the Intentions that part of the 9ೆ.04 the († of Mankato's areas. Hubbard Milling Company will park can be are to begin work on the provide impetus quote project this fall. anniversary. signalize the ĭ, completed by April older Confer) The residential for "that occasion, company It is further

Truly an example of civic-spirited munificence in the grand manner of the Victorian Age !



"Seppman Mill in 1887" OIL PAINTING by Ida Martin

RELICS AND

other major agricultural happen-A month ago, somewhat weary of the high-powered build-up of Farmfest 1976, I decided Garden City. this was the ing of our county, the fair at year to visit the

premium book and history of undertaking which can claim a grimage of afternoon), the secret of this community I didn't use Accordingly, 117 years. sorts, I set (it rained that a camera which to discover armed with a out on a pil-

MEDAL OF THE DRIVING

horse-racing club. ent Sibley Park) with the Mankato Driving Park Association, Mankato's Livestock and Fair Association. This organization was quite active in IN EARLIER YEARS, as today, the Garden City Fair had its big-time rivals, notably the fairs held at Mankato by the Southern Minnesota 1880°s and early 1890's, when it shared its grounds (part of pres-

ing and sculpture, but also "photography, penmanship, printing, framing, architectural drawing and specifications of farm houses and A fair is a fair — and at Mankato, as at Garden City, there were divisions for competition in the "fine arts" and the "domestic arts". categories were broad: Fine arts included not only painting,

buildings." Craft work also came under fine arts, and included "needle, shell, wax, hair and WOHK .

painting." Unfortunately the <u>Mankato Review</u> reporter who covered the fair apparently considered fine arts unimportant, for he did not even mention them. He did, however, record all the awards for foods, including the information that Mrs. W.J. Martin (Ida's mother) took first place for pickles and second for a sample of butter. won first place for her painting of 1887 at the Mankato fair the following year. Her name is clearly engraved on the medal, though so finely that it does not show in the photograph, and there is no date. The Museum records say only:"awarded to Miss Ida Martin for the best oil seem to be related to the Mankato fair of 1888. The painting is the work of Ida Martin, whose father, William J. Martin, had a grocery and feed business in the city from before 1871 to his death in 1899. The family lived at 306 Willard Street. It is a guess that Miss Martin probably The painting and the award medal shown here are two objects in the Museum collection which and

1935. The canvas measures 12 by 20 inches, and was professionally prepared. Framed, it hangs at present on the wall of the log cabin in the Museum basement. The medal, made of a bronzethe inscription: The Mankato Driving Park Association ... Incorporated 1873. The reverse is stamped simply: "Awarded to ..", with a space below, in which Ida Martin's name was engraved. Both the painting and the medal were given to the Historical Society by Miss Martin in is one and five-eighths inches in diameter. The obverse shows a sort of seal,

