

Blue Earth County Historical Society



Hubbard House
606 S Broad St.
Mankato, Minn.

Volume 5, Number 4

NEWS LETTER

January, 1977

MEMBERS NEW !

WELCOME to Eugene J. Beckius, Duane Bieber, Coralie I. Chevalier, Michael A. Eigen, Mrs. Gary Hugeback, Dorothy Jefferson, Janice Krueger, Devora L. Molitor, Dr. & Mrs. James Rochovitz, Eugene L. Schwasinger, Mrs. Daniel J. Scheurer and Donald L. Williams, who have recently joined the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

MEMBERS OLD !

A REMINDER: Bills for renewal of annual membership are being mailed this month. If you have not already renewed your membership, we ask for your prompt response.

AN URGENT PLEA: PLEASE LET US KNOW of any change in your address! Phone 345-4154, or write, if you prefer, but please inform us DIRECTLY. The U. S. Postal Service charges us 32¢ for this information!

FLOOR COVERINGS NEEDED !!!

Does anyone have room-size rugs suitable for use in the Hubbard House ? If you have noticed how threadbare our present rugs are, you know how badly we need replacements, particularly for the front parlor, where school children sit on the floor to listen to the music box when they are here on tour. For the parlor, a rug 9' x 12' or longer would fit. For the dining room, one 6' x 11' or slightly larger is needed. If you have suitable rugs which you don't need and could donate, please call us at 345-4154.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

There are two VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER JOBS open at the Museum. One is a new position; the other is a vacancy to be filled.

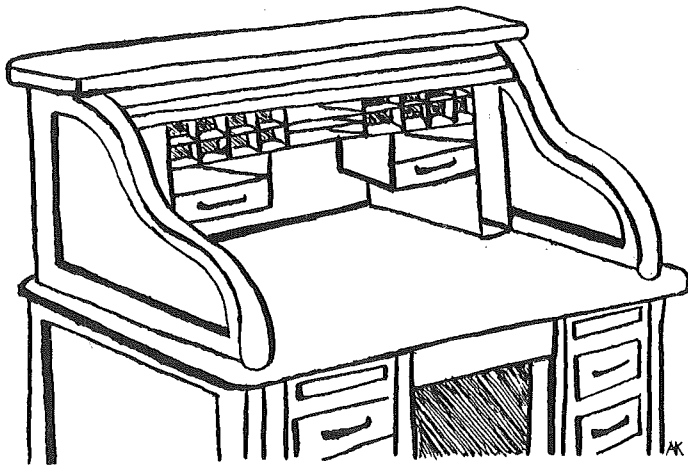
DIRECTOR OF TRAVELING EXHIBITS:

To plan, develop and assemble from the Museum holdings, portable exhibits to be displayed throughout the county, on a regular basis. Must be physically able to carry and set up exhibits, with help if needed. Must have transportation available. Our first traveling exhibit was of art works by Gilbert Fletcher. Others being considered include the art of Anders Anderson and the Seppman Mill.

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS:

To draw up job descriptions for volunteer positions, and to recruit and supervise persons to fill these jobs. We envision an active volunteer corps of people with many different talents, wanting to contribute their services to carry out the work of the Historical Society. We need volunteers in the following areas: Archives and Library; Reception and Tours; Social and Public Events (such as Museum Sundays) Building Maintenance; and Restoration of Artifacts. The Director of Volunteers should have some knowledge of personnel practices, a positive interest in and understanding of volunteer work, and time to do a good job.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on either of these jobs, please call the Museum Director at 345-4154.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP

With the New Year upon us, it is time to take stock of where we are, where we would like to be, and to plan so that we make some progress in getting from one to the other.

The Carriage House restoration has occupied much of our time and thought this past year. As we see it through our window every day, it already seems to be a permanent part of the landscape. The care of the Robert Carlstrom Company workmen in re-building is evident, and their pride in doing an authentic job is obvious. We share in the work too: Foster Dunwiddie, the architect, made slide photographs of every detail of the building before it was dismantled. Now, as the carpenters are reconstructing the interior, we show the slides for them, so they can see how it used to look, and check construction details.

Although our volunteer forces did not clean all the brick that was needed and we had to hire some cleaned, they did accomplish a lot. We are very grateful to everyone who spent time at the brick pile!

An open house to inspect the new (old) Carriage House is being planned. In the Mankato Free Press of August 18, 1890, there appeared this notice: "Saturday was the occasion of Miss Katie Hubbard's fifth birthday, and fifty-three of her little friends assembled to help her celebrate that event. The new barn was taken possession of and a fine time was had, with games, refreshments, etc." We propose to celebrate Katie Hubbard's birthday this coming August in the "new barn". Watch for details on this event in the next Newsletter.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Paul Francis to Mr. and Mrs. John Keefe in November. His mother, Mary, was our librarian here at the Museum.

The YWCA Christmas Tree exhibit and sale was a success, and the Museum Shop benefitted from our participation. Our Christmas tree, displayed at the Y, was given to us by the Farmer Seed and Nursery Company, and decorated with antique ornaments from the Museum collection. The tree was set up again at the Museum for our Members' Christmas Party, then donated (without decorations) to the Salvation Army. Its final destination was the home of an elderly couple whose Christmas tree money had been spent to pay for a doctor's prescription.

Society members owe thanks and gratitude to Marion Harten, who decorated the tree and planned and managed our old-fashioned family Christmas party. The house decorations were lovely, the activities for adults and children were fun, and the refreshment table was beautiful. Hazel Faust led the carol-singing, and Paul W. Schuster doubled as Santa Claus.

We are delighted to have Janice Krueger working with us as an intern this winter quarter. She is a student from Mankato State University, majoring in History and minoring in Journalism. She spends at least ten hours per week with us, getting acquainted with all phases of museum work, while helping us with many important projects.

Our inventory, though taking much longer than anyone anticipated at its start, is progressing rapidly. Our CETA secretary, Coralie Chevalier, is now typing our new permanent accessions record and new card files for artifacts and for donors. When the project is finished, we will have a revised and corrected listing and description of every item in the Museum and a complete record of our entire collection.

The Zonta Club of Mankato has presented the Museum with a projection screen, to replace the worn-out piece of cardboard we have been using. It is amazing what a difference a proper screen makes in the quality of slide projection! We truly appreciate the club's contribution.

Members of the Museum staff were guests of the Board at a Christmas luncheon at the YWCA - a very pleasant interlude in our working day.

(Continued on Page 3)

We have a new type of Indian exhibit this year: Michael Scullin and his MSU Anthropology students have prepared two show cases, using prehistoric Indian tools and assorted natural vegetables and cereals, as well as packaged foods, to illustrate how many of the foods we now have were developed from crops first grown by the Indians of North and South America. When you see what looks like a grocery store display, you realize what a debt we owe to those first Indian farmers!

Dorothy Duncan, Museums Advisor for the Province of Ontario, Canada, was sent to us as a consultant for three days in October, by the American Association for State and Local History. We learned much from her visit and will attempt to put many of her suggestions into effect. She most kindly donated her consultant's fee to the Society.

And what about our aspirations for 1977 ? We need to move steadily forward on the plans for a new Museum building and for the restoration of the Hubbard House as a proper Victorian mansion; to plan and develop an interpretive program for the entire Museum complex - Hubbard House, Carriage House and new museum building; to develop a comprehensive volunteer program to help staff the buildings and carry on our activities; and to develop additional sources of income for their operation.

It is a tall order for the New Year, but let us make the effort, and take the first steps !

Marcia T. Schuster

PIANO RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

Mr. Larry Paulson has begun work on restoring the Museum's square grand piano. We watched as he took it apart for a first examination, and were fascinated by the beautiful decoration of its working parts. The photograph shows the steel brace at the right end of the horizontal sounding board.

Cost of the restoration is expected to be \$465. Contributions to the HARRY HEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND, totaling \$225, have been received from the following:

Arnold & Annie Allen
Harvey & Dolly Andersen
James Andersen

Ron Andersen
Frank Barth

Arlo Born

Dr. & Mrs. John Butzer

Ida F. Cousandier

Bob & Katherine DeMarce

Marguerite W. Erchul

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Gerhart

Reuben & Marie Gosewisch

Kathryn Hanson

Mrs. Dave Henning

Clet & Gert Hottinger

Mr. & Mrs. Rob McTigue

Tom & Rhonda Krekow

Dave & Bev Krueger

Lucky & Rachel Lokensgard

Mrs. G. Magnussen

Bill & Barb Maher

Mike & Dorothy Meixner

LaVerne & Elaine Meyers

Pete & Devora Molitor

Walter & Ethel Murphy

Mary Ellen Neitge

Lynn Owen

Gary & Lana Parrot

Ethel M. Pehrson

The Postal Employees Welfare Fund

Lillian Roberts

Fred & Louise Roth

Mr. & Mrs. Irve Samuelson

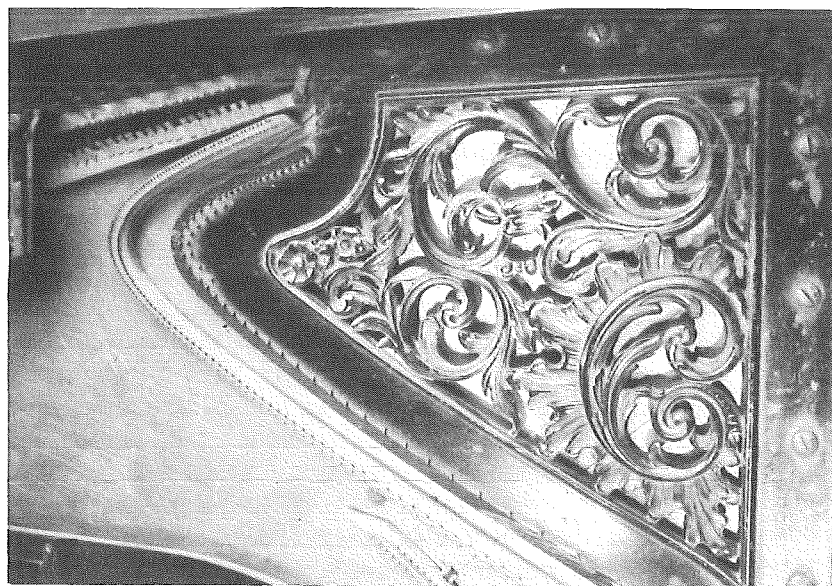
George W. Scherer

Marcia T. Schuster

Paul & Kristi Thompson

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Waldorf

Mrs. A. Ray Wilcox

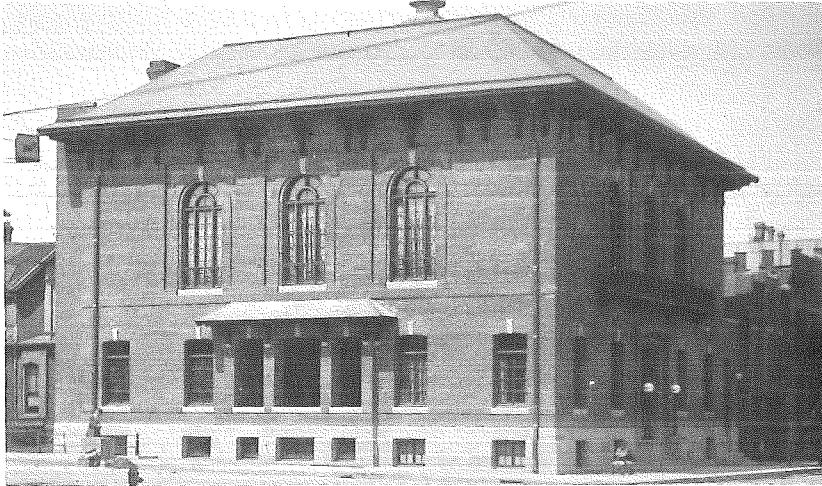


DETAIL OF THE INTERIOR
of the BACON & RAVEN SQUARE GRAND PIANO
(Photograph by Roberta Kress)

Additions to the fund would be welcome, and may be sent
c/o the Museum Director, 606 S. Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001

PAST TIMES AND PARKING LOTS

Last April, in the first issue of our revived Newsletter, we asked for articles from Society members. Mr. George W. Scherer, a former Mankatoan now living in Florida, is the first to respond to our invitation. We are pleased to publish his reminiscences, which provide a delightful comment on Mankato urban renewal, past and present. We regret that we could not find a picture of the building whose history he recounts in greatest detail. We hope he will not object to our putting in one of another building which he does not mention.



THE ELKS LODGE

(shown here in a photograph taken soon after it was built in 1911) is the only structure in the 100 block of Hickory Street which survives today from the years when the Scherer family lived and worked at 120 East Hickory.

REMINISCENCES by MR. GEORGE W. SCHERER

It was some time around the year 1902 that Mr. George W. Sugden, of the National Citizens Bank, came to my father, George W. Scherer, and said, "George, I have a laundry I want to sell you."

"George, what do I know about running a laundry?" answered Father. Father had been County Superintendent of Schools of Blue Earth County.

"I have a laundry and money," replied Mr. Sugden. "I'll sell you one, and lend you the other."

That is how I became acquainted with the building at 120 East Hickory Street.

I was very young, but I remember that the basement floor was made of wide planks, very wet and slippery. The washroom was in the basement. Its floor, together with the open trench to the sewer, was very unsatisfactory.

It must have been quite soon after Father bought the laundry that he also bought the building and the vacant lot next door, because a new cement floor, new sewer and a new water line were installed. The water line was a lead pipe. I know that several times, during one war or another, it could have been dug up and sold at a profit. I remember the purchase of the building so well because one of my chores was to take a check to its owner, who was Mrs. Cannon, living at the corner of South Broad and Warren Streets. She was the mother of Mrs. R. D. Hubbard.

Business must have picked up, because Father had an office building erected on the vacant lot at 122 East Hickory. This was a one-story building with basement, connected on the ground floor and basement to the laundry itself. An unfortunate accident occurred when the contractor, Mr. Otto Neitge, fell through the floor joists to the basement and suffered a broken hip. He limped for the rest of his life.

When Father first took possession, the laundry occupied the first floor and basement, leaving the second story empty except for a few flimsy partitions. It had been rented out for living quarters. Years before, the space had been used by Mr. A. M. Smith in his wagon and buggy-painting business, which was evidenced by generous blotches of red, green and white paint on the floor. A ramp from the rear, up the side over the vacant lot, led to a wide door, through which the wagons and buggies could be taken in. It must have been quite a pull to get a heavy farm wagon up that ramp. Mr. and Mrs. Smith lived on South Broad Street next to the "Irish Catholic" Church. I knew them well in their later years.

Again the laundry business must have prospered, because in 1906 Father employed an architect to draft plans for a seven-room apartment over the laundry. Maple flooring was laid, oak woodwork was installed on door and window frames, all in the then-popular dark oak stain.

The contractor on the staining and varnishing was my mother's uncle, Jos. Manderfeld, the grandfather of Joe and Bill Manderfeld. We lived there until my sister Allie (Mrs. Flachsenhaar) and my brother W. P. (the "Enthusiastic Gardener"), long-time columnist for the Mankato Free Press, were married, and I went into the Army in 1917. Father died that year, and W. P. sold the laundry, which went out of business. Mother retained ownership of the building. Mrs. Chas. E. Griebel, the widow of the long-time manager of the Opera House, operated a tea-room in the former laundry building for several years. Mother stayed in the apartment, and my wife and I lived with her until her death in 1921.

In 1922 I purchased my home in North Mankato, and shortly thereafter the building was sold to Mr. J. R. Snow. I recall that a men's clothing store was in the building at 120 East Hickory, and Jaehn and Peck's barber shop was in the building at 122 East Hickory for many years.

In 1958 I left Mankato and lost track of the building until the summer of 1976, when I came to Mankato, tried to show my new wife the place where I had lived for so many years, and saw a neat parking lot. So I showed her that, as we drove slowly past to the next parking lot.

That next parking lot was where the Mankato Citizens' Telephone Company building used to stand. Unfortunately, I do not know the year it was built, but I recall clearly that the exchange was on the second floor, and the first floor and basement were occupied by Mr. Lou Hauck, where he sold candy. His ice-cream parlor was on the ground floor, and he made his candy in the basement. He had occupied a small brick building which stood for years on the rear of the National Citizens' Bank lot, and moved across the street to the Telephone Company building. About this time of year (Christmas) I spent many happy hours with Mr. Hauck, helping to bend candy canes, & make candy sticks, some with stripes and some with flags or faces. Later, Mr. Hauck moved his business to Front Street, and I do not know what went in the building then. Later, during Prohibition days and after, Mr. Bill Hodge's restaurant was a popular place to eat. Mr. Charles Willard was the first manager whom I knew in the Phone Company, and he was followed by Mr. Pete Ferguson. Again, I lost contact with the building until I saw the nice parking lot.

The City Hall on South Front Street, in my childhood, did not resemble the building in its later years. The original building was brick of a grayish color. The predominant feature was the belfry or cupola which rose from the front wall. Possibly in some earlier day it housed a fire-alarm bell. The Fire Department was on the ground floor, horses and all. The exit for the fire wagons was in the center. A short plank ramp led to Front Street, which was dusty or muddy, depending on the weather. Flat strap irons held the planks of the ramp in place. When the Fire Station on South Second Street was built, the Fire Department moved out, and the City jail took over the whole first floor. The cells were in the rear. One day, Mr. Dan Bowen, Chief of Police, took me in and showed me the cells. It was during the week of a "street fair", and I saw two dapper young men sparring for fun in a cell. My eyes bulged when Mr. Bowen told me they were pick-pockets.

The second floor was occupied by city offices and the Council Chamber, which was also the Municipal Court Room.

The third floor was all one room, and was known as the Band Room. It was there that I was initiated into orchestral playing under the director, Mr. Seidle, a local druggist, and also Mr. Jache, a piano tuner and very competent director of band and orchestra. Maybe some Mankato residents will remember the well-known local musicians who played in that room. Possibly the best-known would be Mrs. Minnie Hubbard. Her sister Eva and her father Emil Schoyen were very able musicians. Mr. Ed Lamm, Carl Kortz, Bill Schwanenberg, Louis Ambrosch, Chris Aamolt, Adam Klugherz and Heinie Udelhofen come to mind. The musical history of these men and women might be of interest to future readers. Concerning the building itself, I can only say that during some progressive era of the city's growth, the cupola was removed, and the front of the building was faced with shiny white ceramic tile, giving it a very attractive appearance.

A building comes to mind which more lately housed the Harres-Smesrud furniture store. It stood on South Front Street, separated from the City Hall by a narrow alley. The first occupant I remember was the Young and Otto Grocery Store. They had men clerks who waited on customers, cut off a pound of bacon from a side, weighed out a pound of coffee beans from a barrel and ground it, or a half-pound of soda crackers from a box, and could always hit it right the first time. On the second floor was the Public Library, presided over by Miss McGraw, who knew books and children equally well. The library was moved to the new Carnegie Library on South Broad Street. About that time the Mankato Gas Company, under the management

LIFE AT THE HUBBARD HOUSE - 1976 IN REVIEW

Our Director, surveying the Hubbard House scene from her roll-top, comments on a number of events and projects. In this column, your Newsletter editor essays a supplementary account of Historical Society services and activities in 1976.

STATISTICS, To Begin!

VISITORS to the Hubbard House numbered 7,367. Mankato and Blue Earth County accounted for about two-thirds of this total, with 4,403. Of the remaining third, 2,220 visitors were Minnesotans from outside the county, 658 were from other states, and 86 were from foreign countries.

CONDUCTED TOURS totalled 157. One hundred eleven (111) were Blue Earth County school groups. Other youth groups numbered 27. Nineteen (19) adult groups made scheduled tours, nine coming from outside the county. One of these was a group of 40 Swedish tourists! The largest young people's tour was the visit of 112 Peace Pipe Council Girl Scouts, who came to the Museum on their Bicentennial trip to historic places in southern Minnesota.

THE MUSEUM LIBRARY received 309 requests for information and research help, 184 of which were made by persons who came to the Museum and were assisted by our library staff in using materials. These visitors represent 60 % of requests received; telephone inquiries account for 30 %, and requests by mail for 10 %. We began only in July of this year to keep track of where our mail requests come from. Interesting to note that in this brief period, the total was evenly divided between Minnesota and other states! We had many requests for use of our photograph collection and for xeroxing of photographs and other materials in the Library.

NEW EXHIBITS: The on-going inventory of the Museum collections has made us aware of how much we have to show. Working on the principle of selective exhibition, our Director and staff, assisted by interested Society members, developed five new exhibits. Three of these were designed to emphasize the historical character of the Hubbard House: the Victoriana exhibit (North Parlor), the Sewing and Dress-making exhibit (second floor) and the seasonal Victorian Christmas exhibit. Our special Bicentennial exhibit (Wedding Attire and Accessories a Century Ago) utilized a part of our extensive collection of clothing, a collection which our professional consultant, Mrs. Duncan, particularly noted in her evaluation. The first of

our traveling exhibits, the Art of Gilbert Fletcher, was similarly planned to show an outstanding component of the Society's holdings. In addition, the Indian exhibits are being progressively re-organized by Michael Scullin and his student assistants.

NEW ACCESSIONS received during the year numbered forty-one, some being single items and some including a dozen or more. This total was almost exactly divided between gifts of artifacts (21) and gifts of library and archival materials (20). Some augment existing collections, such as textiles and clothing. Others represent valuable additions to our archives on Blue Earth County, the most recent being a large collection of records given by Medo Township.

EFFORTS TO BUILD FINANCIAL SUPPORT of the Society's program had encouraging results: Contributions from forty Historical Society Supporters and thirteen Blue Earth County Township Governments totalled \$4,435, providing funds to maintain Museum services at the 1975 level and to continue the inventory and revision of Museum records. A number of gifts for special purposes were received: for picture framing (Home Economists in Homemaking and the Art History Club of Mankato); for brick-cleaning (Ruth Palmer Confer, Ernie Hansen, Tom Champlin); and memorial gifts to the Hubbard House Restoration Fund (Mrs. Lawrence Will, Ogden Confer, Jr., Fred & Betty Cords). A new memorial fund was established by friends of the late Harry Heidel, for piano restoration.

THE MUSEUM SHOP did a flourishing business in its first full year of operation. Most popular items were reproductions of old-fashioned toys and reprints of Victorian children's books, and Donna Sandon's limited edition historical plates, the latest of which depicts the Lincoln Park Elm. Teachers were pleased to find Minnesota Historical Society publications on Indians and pioneer life available. Our own Hubbard House stationery continues to be a steady seller.

Besides these day-to-day activities, 1976 saw the achievement of one long-term goal: the designation of the Hubbard House as a National Historic Site; and major progress on a second project: the relocation and restoration of the Carriage House.

ALTOGETHER, we think that the Blue Earth County Historical Society had a record year.

(Jeanne D. Kress)

ATTENTION
SOCIETY MEMBERS

THE NEW YEAR
IS HERE

TIME TO RENEW
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIPS

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



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HASSLE OVER HISTORIC PRESERVATION CALIFORNIA STYLE

If you think that Blue Earth County has difficulties with public funding for Historical Society projects, consider the case of Alameda County, California! The following account appeared in a Livermore, Cal. newspaper in December:

"Historic Museum Escapes Cutback

"Pleasanton - A county official said Thursday that the Livermore-Amador Valley Historical Society's museum here won't be hurt by a funding transfer.

"There had been fear that an action by the county board of supervisors this week would reduce funding by \$3,500 and threaten the museum's public programs.

"Supervisors approved transfer of \$3,500 from the society to the Dublin Historical Preservation Association toward rebuilding the home of Dublin pioneer Jeremiah Fallon. The frame home was destroyed last May 21 in a case of mistaken identity during a fire drill.

"According to David Williams (of the county administrator's office) the sum transferred between historical groups is different money than the \$10,000 which the society has received toward museum operation. The \$3,500 was earmarked for the society in September 1975 to restore the Fallon Home, which hadn't yet burned. The money was from the county's Bicentennial Theme Funds. The Alameda County Bicentennial Corporation recommends to the supervisors how theme funds should be spent.

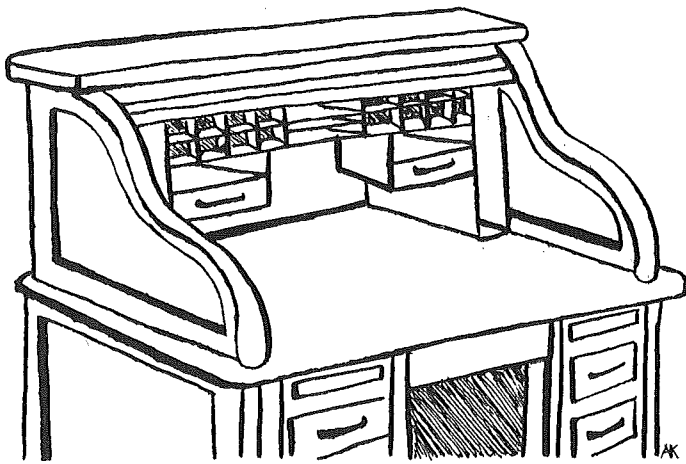
"Williams said the corporation's directors recently requested that the \$3,500 instead be given to the association. Apparently the society wasn't aware of the request.

"Marie Cronin is active in the Bicentennial Commission, which is affiliated with the corporation. She also is involved with the Dublin historical group. Mrs. Cronin feels the transfer is no surprise. She said the society some time ago 'decided it wasn't able to take on the project' to restore the Fallon Home. The society 'dropped that (Fallon) project. The Dublin Preservation Association took over. They (the county supervisors) just transferred the funds,' she said.

"The society's president, Bill Apperson, couldn't be reached regarding the matter."

CENTURY FARMS IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY

A Minnesota State Fair Bicentennial Project this year was to research and designate for recognition farms in Minnesota which have been continuously owned by one family for one hundred years or more. Blue Earth County has eighteen such farms. The three oldest are owned by Kenneth and Evelyn Schostag of Mankato, which goes back to 1855; Claire A. Strobel and Janet H. Strobel & Children of Mapleton, 1858; and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davis, of Cambria, 1860.



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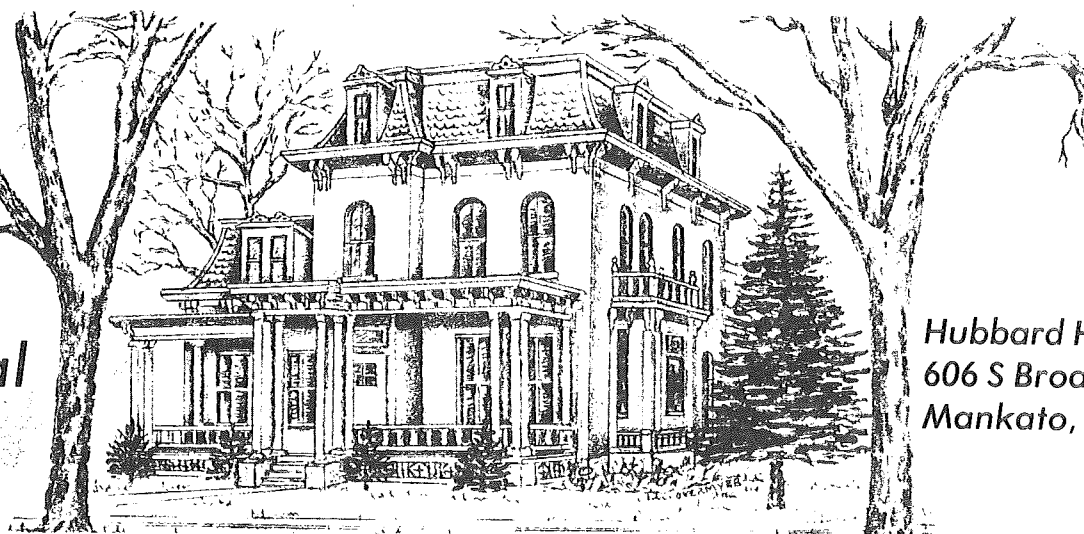
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Volume 6, Number 1

NEWS LETTER

April, 1977

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 20 (WED.) ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PLACE: MANKATO YWCA

TIME: SOCIAL HOUR, 6:00 pm. DINNER, 6:30 pm.

PROGRAM: FOSTER DUNWIDDIE, Hubbard House Restoration Architect,
will speak on "Restoration of R. D. Hubbard's House & Barn"
BUSINESS MEETING will follow Mr. Dunwiddie's talk.

Dinner \$6.50 per person. Reservation form enclosed.

AUGUST 21 (SUNDAY) KATIE HUBBARD BIRTHDAY PARTY - GRAND OPENING OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

PLACE: THE CARRIAGE HOUSE (Next Door to the HUBBARD HOUSE)

TIME: To be Announced

NEW EXHIBITS at the MUSEUM

"THE PRICE OF COFFEE: THEN & NOW"

An assortment of 19th century advertising cards and price lists from the Library collection, together with 20th century advertisements and coupons, displayed on the Hubbard Table in the Dining Room.

"VICTORIAN FRIENDSHIP - SENTIMENT and SENTIMENTALITY"

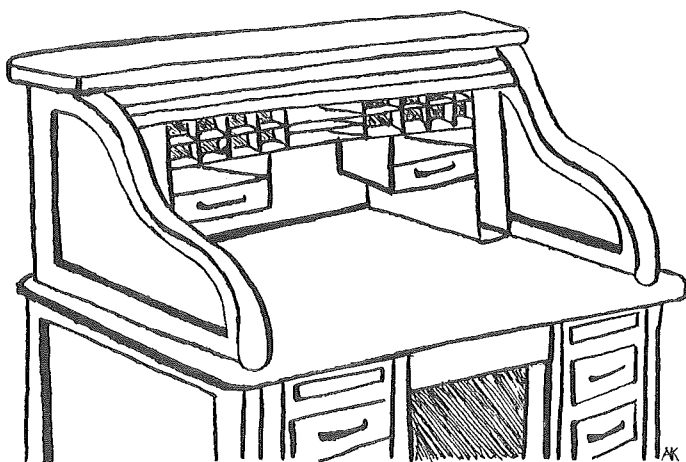
For Valentine's Day and after, a display of friendship albums, cards and candy boxes of the late 1800's and early 1900's, some from Mankato candy companies such as Rosenberg and Currier.

The MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT has been re-done by Janice Krueger, whose description of her work appears on Page Four.

STATE GRANT-IN-AID TO PAY FOR CARRIAGE HOUSE CUPOLA

On February 24 Society President Kathryn Hanson was informed by Senator Arnulf Ueland that the State Historical Society had approved a grant-in-aid of \$3,661 for the reconstruction of the cupola on the Carriage House. The State aid program, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, is "aimed at assisting county and local organizations in the areas of historic preservation and interpretation." This is a matching-fund program. We have already met our required contribution: Members' brick-cleaning labors accounted for part; the rest came from ordinary financial resources.

Senator Ueland commended the Blue Earth County Society for "submitting a strong proposal that competed in a tough league for limited funds."



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP

There have been a number of personnel changes at the Museum ...

Mike Eigen, Carriage House Curator, has come to us, courtesy of CETA funding. His assignment is a large one: to clean and restore Society vehicles now in storage, and to prepare exhibits for the Grand Opening of the Carriage House, August 21.

Mankato State University Interns: Janice Krueger interned with us during winter quarter, learning all phases of museum work. Her assignments included preparing an exhibit and writing an article for the NEWSLETTER. See Page Four.

Randy Munson and Debbie Dahms, Anthropology students, have been assigned to us for the spring quarter. They are working on the cataloging of our Indian collection, until weather moderates and the Carriage House construction work is completed. Then they will assist Mike Eigen with cleaning and restoration of Carriage House artifacts.

Evelyn Schmanski has resigned, and her replacement is Holly Ahern. Coralie Chevalier, former CETA typist, has moved on to another job in the community.

A special welcome to our new neighbor, Doris Berger, who has opened "The Bakery" in the historic Dr. Z. G. Harrington house on Second Street. Doris has attempted to restore and adapt the interior of this fine old house. Unfortunately former occupants had done irreparable damage to some of the woodwork. Dr. Zina Goodell Harrington (1830-1918) was, in the words of an obituary notice, "a splendid citizen and in the practice of his profession was a tireless worker. He was one of the early-day physicians who rendered such magnificent service during the early days when the smallpox and diphtheria scourges visited this section. He was a kind-hearted man, charitable and thoughtful of others."

Two important events are on our calendar: our Annual Meeting and the Carriage House Opening Party. Here are opportunities for you to become acquainted with Society members and to see what the staff is doing.

See you there !

Marcia T. Schuster

ANNOUNCEMENT

A WORKSHOP IN HISTORY - Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, the Winona County Historical Society and the First District Historical Assembly.
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1977, at the
WINONA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 165 Johnson Street, Winona, Minn. (The old armory)

PROGRAM:

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	Researching a Topic: Milling in Minnesota. Robert Frame III
11:00-12:00	Interpreting Historic Houses. Maureen McKasy
12:00-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:15	A Community Survey of Historic Sites. Lynne Van Broklyn Spaeth and Michael Landis
2:15-3:15	New Ideas for Historical Societies. David Nystuen
3:15-	Tour of the Winona County Museum

THE WORKSHOP IS FREE. COST OF LUNCHEON IS \$4.00, payable the day of the Workshop. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. WRITE David Nystuen, Field Services Director, Building 25, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111, or Phone 612-726-1171.

UP-DATE ON THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Since our January report, work on the restoration has included no such dramatic event as the December 9th moving of the entire second story and roof of the building. Activity slowed to a halt during the extreme cold weather, but throughout February work on the interior of the building has gone steadily forward. The floor of the second story has been repaired and the hay chutes and other details of the hay mow have been restored. By mid-February moderating temperatures permitted work on the exterior to be resumed. Repairing and re-roofing the entire building with new slates has continued through several weeks, interrupted by two snow storms.

On March 21st the cupola arrived ! (The photograph was taken five days later.) Readers of Ken Berg's column in the Mankato Free Press already know the story of this striking and at first controversial feature of the restoration. Others may be interested to know that architect Foster Dunwiddie's inclusion of it in the restoration plans was justified by the testimony of Mr. Ed Anderson, who had helped to remove the original cupola back in the 1930's. Its replacement now sits in front of the building, where it is to be completely finished, except for its weathervane, before being hoisted aloft to grace the present bare spot on the main roof peak. This exciting event should take place about April first, Mr. Carlstrom informed us.

The most recent development was the pouring of the concrete floor. It took place on March 25th, an ideal day weatherwise, I was told by the workmen, as I admired the beautiful new trucks of the North Star Concrete Company (sky-blue and white !) and asked layman's questions about the technique of floor-pouring.

The completion of this major item of the reconstruction means that final work on the interior - the restoration of woodwork - will soon be under way.

Jeanne Kress



VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN SOCIETY BYLAWS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

At the March 15 Board meeting, it was decided to submit a proposal for a change in the bylaws of the Society to the Membership at the Annual Meeting on April 20.

The proposed change, which will be adopted if it receives the approval of two-thirds of the membership present at the meeting, is as follows:

PRESENTLY the Bylaws state: "Any person interested in the general purposes of this association may become a voting member of the association upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees and payment of the dues listed below:.."

PROPOSED: Change the underlined portion above to read: "... and payment of the dues as may be set by the Board of Trustees from time to time."

The purpose of this change is to give the Board the authority to change the amount of the dues required for membership.

Marcia T. Schuster
Museum Director

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

The Crowell-Crocodile Edition (paper) of
MAUD HART LOVELACE'S BETSY-TACY BOOKS:
Betsy-Tacy and Betsy-Tacy and Tib

Price: \$1.45

ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE AT THE MUSEUM

Janice Krueger, a Mankato State University student, was an intern at the Blue Earth County Museum during the winter quarter. One of her assignments was to revise the Maud Hart Lovelace exhibit.

This is her report on that experience.

NEW EDITION OF BETSY-TACY: CHANGING THE MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT

Visitors to the Blue Earth County Museum who view exhibits see only the finished products of many hours of thought and planning. Exhibits take a lot of time to set up in interesting and informative ways. I found, when I was given the assignment of re-doing the Maud Hart Lovelace exhibit, that things just do not fall together in the showcases by magic.

Mrs. Schuster, the Museum Director, had several reasons for wanting the Lovelace exhibit changed. First, many photographs and other things were not displayed and could be put out. Second, I needed one big project to do on my own during my internship. Third, a new exhibit was to be set up in conjunction with the announcements that the museum shop now sells the first two paperback books of the "Betsy-Tacy" series, and that the young people's area in the new regional library will be named the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing.

The first step in my project was to find out what the Museum owns concerning Mrs. Lovelace. After many days of looking through the newspaper clippings and photographs, I was surprised to find there was not all that much I could use. The files contained many clippings, such as interviews and book reviews, but it is not easy to mount clippings so they are readable in a showcase. The Museum also owns a few photographs of Mrs. Lovelace and her family and friends. Of items that Mrs. Lovelace used, the most important is her high school scrap book. It contains tally cards from card parties, notes, programs from plays and sports events, and a few photographs. The Museum also owns a 1910 Mankato High School album that belonged to a classmate of Mrs. Lovelace's, which contains graduation photographs of the people in her class; a sewing machine and a coffee mill used by her parents; and a plate given to Mrs. Lovelace, said to be from the first set of dishes brought to Mankato in 1853.

The second step, dismantling the old exhibit, was easy. In fact, the hardest thing



MAUD HART LOVELACE - MUSEUM COLLECTION

about it was trying to open the stubborn doors of the showcase. In the process, Mrs. Schuster and I decided to use a different, larger showcase, the one that held a display of items from Welsh churches in the area. Consequently, we dismantled two exhibits, cleaned two showcases and re-did the Welsh Church display to fit into the smaller showcase which had held the Lovelace items.

It took about a month from the time I first began working on the project until I finally put the new exhibit in the showcase. Of course, it would have taken less time if I had worked at it steadily, but I spent only eleven hours a week at the Museum, and I was working on other things besides the exhibit. When I worried about taking too long on the exhibit, I was assured that I had no idea how long it sometimes took to set them up.

At any rate, one afternoon I sat down by the showcase with an assortment of photographs, clippings and artifacts, and proceeded to try out an arrangement. Considering how long it had taken to get that far, I thought it would take two or three days to get things into place. Surprisingly, however, I put the scrap-book on the center of the bottom shelf, and the sewing machine and coffee mill on opposite ends of the top shelf, and things suddenly did fall into place. When I finished my first attempt at the arrangement, I looked at it from the front and decided it did not look bad at all.

The lack of color was a problem. The old black and white photographs and the artifacts

EXHIBIT (Continued)

are not very colorful, so I chose an orange construction paper to put behind some of the photographs and also behind a small booklet of poems Mrs. Lovelace wrote, which was published when she was ten years old. All that remained to be done was to type up labels identifying the objects in the case.

There was a second part of the display. The Museum owns several large new photographs of Mankato houses where the "Betsy-Tacy" stories took place. These photographs have never been displayed. I planned to set the photos on two large screens, but I ran into problems when I found the wood of the screens so hard that it was difficult to pound nails into it, to prop the photos on. Another problem appeared when the photos fell off the nails I did pound in. Mrs. Schuster finally solved that problem by buying two large sheets of tagboard and abandoning the screens. With thumbtacks, I arranged the photographs on the tagboard and set the tagboard on easels for display. Thus I was able to display the photos without making holes or putting tape on the photographs themselves.

All in all, it took about a month and a half for me to do the new exhibit. It was a fascinating experience to read all the old clippings relating to Mrs. Lovelace's life and work. As well as learning much about the background of the "Betsy-Tacy" books, I learned much about Mankato's history. During my work I saw how many people are intensely interested in Mrs. Lovelace, and I do believe that she is the best-known and best-liked person to come from Mankato.

Janice Krueger

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

The Historical Society has received contributions from the following cities and townships of Blue Earth County:

GARDEN CITY	MANKATO TOWNSHIP
JUDSON TOWNSHIP	CITY OF MAPLETON
LIME TOWNSHIP	MAPLETON TOWNSHIP

Memorials have been received to:

MRS. GEORGE DRAPER
JULIE E. MILLER
AMANDA SALET
LUCIA "BLOSSOM" SPAULDING

OUR SENIOR STAFF MEMBER

Considering that the Hubbard House has seen quite a number of faces come and go in the past year or so, it seemed a good time to note that we do have one staff person who has worked continuously at the Museum for some ten years.

Margaret Kleinschmidt began serving as receptionist and tour guide in 1967, "when Mrs. Broden was in charge," as she puts it.

Though not a native of Mankato, Margaret has lived in the area long enough to recall driving a horse-drawn sled down Thompson Ravine Road in winter, to take a younger sister to the "old high school" on Fourth Street. Now that she lives at the Koppen Gardens Apartments in North Mankato and has given up driving a car, she relies on the Mankato bus to come to the Museum.

In addition to her regular work, Margaret has given many hours as a volunteer. For a number of years she did the work of maintaining the Museum library's newspaper files, clipping the Mankato newspapers and filing news materials.

Though she no longer does this job, her familiarity with people and places in Mankato over the years is a resource for newer members of the staff, who now have the task of locating information for visitors to the Museum and the library.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

A PROOF BOOK of the commercial printing division of the Mankato Free Press, dating about 1900-1920, given by Thomas Frieze, former faculty member of the Art Department of Mankato State University.

TWO MEMORIAL TABLETS (marble, 5 feet tall) from the former club rooms of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, located at 210 South Front Street. The building, which most recently housed the Club Royal, was demolished not long ago. Mr. Tom Volk salvaged the tablets and presented them to the Historical Society.

CLIPPINGS AND PAPERS relating to MAUD HART LOVELACE, given by Miss Vi Panzram of Waseca, former teacher at Franklin Elementary School, Mankato.

ACTIVITIES IN LAKE CRYSTAL

The Lake Crystal Historical Society met Tuesday, March 14. Betty Cords, former director of the Blue Earth County Museum, was the speaker. Her subject was museum policy and the organization and use of collected historical materials. Members also learned that the Lake Crystal society has received a bequest of \$1,000. from the estate of the late Catherine Williams, as well as the gift of some furniture and a large collection of pictures and photographs. (Miss Williams was a former teacher and life-long resident of Lake Crystal, who died in January of this year at the age of eighty-nine.)

Work on the society's historical center building will begin again shortly. The foundation and entrance steps for the Farm House were not finished last winter before cold weather set in; and this in turn prevented work on the interior. Members expect to have the foundation completed as soon as weather permits, with the promised help of volunteers from the Lake Crystal Future Farmers of America for aid in landscaping.

The group expects to have the Farm House ready for opening to the public in mid-summer (July). Present plans are to restore the interior as a farm dwelling of the 1880's, with perhaps one or two rooms being reserved for display of items of a different character from the society's collection.

The next meeting of the group is tentatively set for April 12 (second Tuesday), to consider plans for fund-raising and the projected opening of the historical center. Secretary June Miner indicated that this will be a special meeting, as the group's bylaws provide for bi-monthly meetings.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF MANKATO BEGINS

The City Planning Office has asked the Blue Earth County Historical Society to collaborate in making a community historical survey of Mankato. The survey is being undertaken at the urging of the Minnesota Historical Society, which is responsible for the identification and preservation of historic places throughout the state. Mankato City officials wish to expedite the project in order to comply with regulations governing the disbursement of Federal funds.

Responding to this request, Marcia Schuster, the Society's Museum Director, arranged for members of the State Society's planning staff to meet with Assistant City Manager Phil Shealy and MSU professor John Frey, whose class in environmental studies will do the work of collecting data for the survey.

In accordance with plans made at the meeting, the Mankato State U students will begin the survey by studying the central area of the city during the spring quarter. A committee of the Board of the Blue Earth County Historical Society will consider their data and make recommendations to the State Society on sites and buildings of historic value. The State Society must review the recommendations and make a conclusive report to the City. State Society staff members will continue to be available as consultants throughout the survey process. Direct assistance with research will be provided by Blue Earth County Society staff members at the Museum library. Barb Maher will be co-ordinator of the project for the City of Mankato.

TWO PROGRAMS ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR APRIL 23, 1977, 1 - 5 pm, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, 1851 Marie Lane, North Mankato. Conducted by Mrs. LESLIE TAYLOR (B.S. in Genealogical Research, B.Y.U.), professional genealogist for the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City. PROGRAM: Basic Research, two hours; German Research, one hour; Scandinavian Research, one hour. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Donation \$2.00 per person.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP - Sponsored by the Southcentral Minnesota Interlibrary Exchange. Two all-day sessions: Saturday, April 16 & April 23, in Mankato. Fee \$15. One unit MSU credit available. (Course fees additional) For information, contact Mrs. Marilyn Lass, Center for Minnesota Studies, Mankato State University. Phone 389-6201.

THE MUSEUM'S PIANO HAS ITS VOICE AGAIN !

On March 9th Mr. Larry Paulson finished the restoration of our square grand piano. Thanks to his painstaking work, the instrument is in working condition. Mr. Paulson assured us that though it cannot be treated as a regular concert instrument, the piano can be played for exhibition purposes and should hold up for many years.

He judges that the piano may be even older than previously thought. The partnership of Bacon and Raven, which produced it, was one of many early piano makers, small firms whose owners frequently changed or disappeared, to re-appear in the company of other associates. The Bacon and Raven name, together with the serial number of our instrument, seems to indicate that it must have been made after 1850, but before 1856, when the senior partner, George Bacon, was succeeded by his son, and the name of the firm was changed to Raven and Bacon.

The restoration presented a number of technical problems. Some strings and other parts had to be made to special order, as the size and weight of similar items for present-day pianos are different. Mr. Paulson said that the lightness of the sounding board, as well as its age, and the small size of the pegs which hold the strings, made it inadvisable to tune the piano to standard pitch. When the instrument is played alone or with instruments which can be tuned, the slight deviation will be noticeable only to expert musicians and individuals gifted with perfect pitch.

Another problem was the discovery of damage (presumably by mice at some long-past time) which was not apparent when Mr. Paulson examined the instrument and made his original estimate. He had to make replacements

by hand in the last stage of his work. Therefore the final cost of restoration exceeded the estimated \$465 by \$35.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the HARRY HEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND

Since January additions to the fund have been received from the following individuals and groups:

Blanche Barnhart	Esther Pearson
Hermann Herz	PEO Sisterhood
Jeanne Kress	Rector Putnam
Mankato Music Club	Phyllis Roberts
Mankato Symphony Guild	Merle Sater
Marjorie Meredith	Kiyo Suyematsu
Lyle Parker	Warner Zeno

With the increased cost of the final work, the fund is only \$89 short of meeting its goal. If you have not contributed to this fund and would like to do so, please send your donation to the Museum.

A NOTE OF THANKS

During the past two months Inella Burns has spent many afternoons at the Museum, engaged in the task of making an inventory of the collection of family papers recently given to the Historical Society by R. Dean Hubbard II. She intends next to catalogue the collection. The completion of her undertaking will make the materials a usable addition to the resources of the Society library. The Museum Director and the Board express their thanks and appreciation to Inella for devoting so much time and effort to this important project in the Library archives.

NEWSLETTER of the BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published four times a year by the Blue
Earth County Historical Society, at
606 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001
Editor Jeanne D. Kress
Free to members of the Historical Society
Annual subscription (4 issues) - \$ 3.00

ATTENTION
SOCIETY MEMBERS !

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 20

INFORMATION
and
RESERVATION FORM
ENCLOSED

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



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TOUR SEASON IN FULL SWING

With the return of spring, the tempo of the Museum's education program picks up, to reach one of its two periods of greatest activity. (The other is in the fall.)

Under a long-standing arrangement with Mankato School District 77, kindergarten and third and fourth grade classes visit the Hubbard House during school time, as part of their work in social studies and Minnesota history. For all groups, our guides emphasize how Minnesota people, both white and Indian, lived in earlier times. Particular features of the house and certain displays receive special attention, depending on the questions and responses of the group and the wishes of the teacher. The scope of the tours differs for each grade. The kindergarteners' visit is limited to the main floor, and concentrates on Indians. In addition to the permanent displays they see and can handle a special assortment of tools and articles of clothing, including fur. They also get to paint their faces with Blue Earth River clay. The third graders tour the first floor and the basement, and see a slide show on edible plants of Minnesota. Fourth graders visit all three floors.

Our young visitors' thank-you letters furnish revealing and amusing information on the impact of our guides' presentation. The letters here are typical, and show how widely reactions vary. Handling the fur and the "Indian stuff" makes a great impression. A favorite with all age levels is our Symphonion music player, with its perforated brass disc records.

Dear Mrs. Harten

I liked the shoemaker-
tools the best.
I wish that we could
see the top floor nexts
nexts year can we
see the top floor I hope
so. I liked the
schoolroom too.

Your friend, Jodi

Dear Mrs. Harten,

Thank you for the nice tour
of the museum. I hope I can come
back again. I liked the whole
tour. Especially the log cabin
It was very fun. The recordlayer
was neat too.

The school house was nice too.

Mary

Dear Museum Guide,

Thank you for the
Museum trip. I liked the
logcabin the best and
we are coming back
my family and I.
I liked the school
house to. I loved the
kitchen and the
music room.

Love, Debbie

Dear Mrs. Harten,

I liked the tour of the
Blue Earth County Museum.
I liked the whole thing
especially the school room.
I liked touching the fur to.

Your friend, Todd

Dear Mrs. Harten,

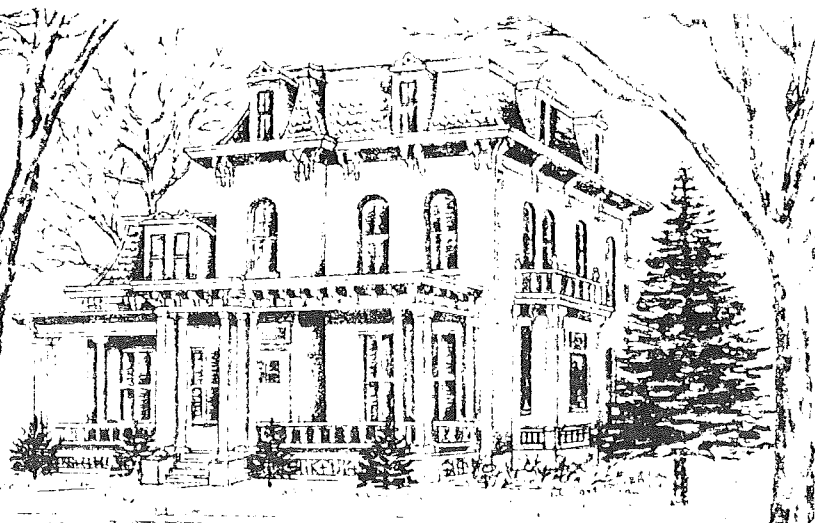
I liked the cabin most.
thank you for the tour of
the museum. I thought the
school was interesting
I liked the records
the way (you) explained evreything
was great I understood evrything

Dear Mrs. Nelson,

Thank you for showing us
the Museum. I liked the rocks
around the fireplaces. You were
the nicest leader I ever had.

Sincerely, David

Blue
Earth
County
Historical
Society



Hubbard House
606 S Broad St.
Mankato, Minn.

Volume 6, Number 2

NEWS LETTER

July, 1977

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 21 (SUNDAY) GRAND OPENING and DEDICATION of the HUBBARD CARRIAGE HOUSE

PLACE: THE CARRIAGE HOUSE (Next Door to the HUBBARD HOUSE)
604 South Broad Street, Mankato, Minnesota

TIME: 1 to 5 pm.

FORMAL PROGRAM: 2:30 pm.

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Bert Burns, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Honored Guests: Mrs. Jean Ervin Fitz Gerald, daughter of Kate Hubbard Ervin

Mr. Ogden W. Confer, Jr., Vice-President, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Honorable Robert Hodapp, Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Blue Earth County

Honorable Herbert Mocol, Mayor of Mankato

Honorable Arnulf Ueland, State Senator

Mr. Russell Fridley, Director, Minnesota State Historical Society

Recognition of Special Guests:

Foster Dunwiddie, Carriage House Restoration Architect

Robert Carlstrom Construction Company Members:

Robert W. Carlstrom, Jon Carlstrom, Lee Carlstrom,
and Fred Arnoldt, Construction Foreman

MUSIC: Sweet Adelines and Mankato Music Association Band

CHILDREN'S GAMES * EXHIBITS * DEMONSTRATIONS * HORSESHOES

REFRESHMENTS ** CUTTING of HER MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY CAKE by
Mrs. Jean Ervin Fitz Gerald

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GUESTS ARE INVITED TO DRESS in TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY STYLES

NEW MAUD HART LOVELACE ITEM in the MUSEUM SHOP

THE BETSY-TACY WALKING TOUR MAP

Revised by Janice Krueger

25¢

CARRIAGE HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED



R. D. HUBBARD'S "BARN"

as it looked on

INSPECTION DAY

Representatives of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the City of Mankato and the Robert W. Carlstrom Company met June 1, 1977, to inspect the restoration, begun last September and now finished after ten months of work.

The event marked the success of the Society's efforts, continued throughout nine years (since 1968), to save the building and make it what it originally was: a fitting companion to the HUBBARD MANSION.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VICE PRESIDENT
OGDEN W. CONFER, JR.
and
ARCHITECT
FOSTER DUNWIDDIE

Leaving the
Carriage House
at the end of
the official
inspection



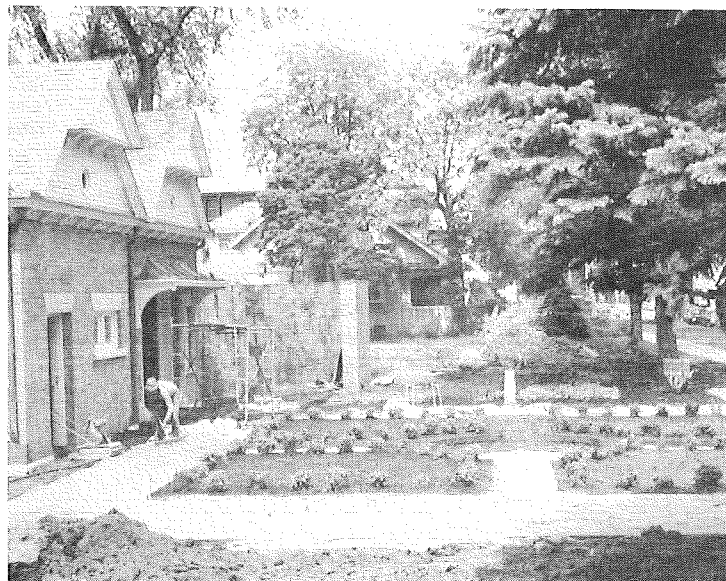
THE CARRIAGE HOUSE
Seen from the Northeast

In the foreground is the principal structure of the Palmer Place gardens: the BRICK ARBOR, and a part of the arbor vitae hedge which forms the walls of the "OUTDOOR ROOM" on three sides. The Arbor is the fourth side, and is also the formal entrance to the Outdoor Room.

BEAUTIFICATION IN PROGRESS

PALMER CENTENNIAL PLACE

with its Victorian gardens and walks, has taken form around the Carriage House during May and June. The entire landscaping project is a gift of the Hubbard Milling Company to the City of Mankato. Buell Brothers, Inc. (West St. Paul) were the landscape contractors. Their workers planted all the trees, shrubs and garden borders in five days!



FILLING IN THE FLOWER BEDS

Flowering plants, workers to plant them, and expert advice have come from several sources:
THE MANKATO COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS
GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTER
HILLTOP FLORISTS

THE HUBBARD HOUSE, NORTH SIDE

In the foreground, a part of the formal garden and the newly sodded lawn. The Hubbard Company's landscaping included sod, trees, shrubs and ground-cover plants all around the house. Another feature of the project, not visible, is an underground watering system.



WHAT'S GOING INSIDE ?

For the past half-year, people have been asking about the Carriage House, "What are you going to do with all that space ?"

The man whose job is to answer that question is Michael Eigen.

Mike is a native of our area; his home town is Comfrey. After three years in the Army, he returned to Minnesota, to continue his studies in anthropology and history at Mankato State University. He is working on a master's degree in historical archaeology, and has been a principal assistant in Michael Scullin's archaeological investigations near Cambria. The Museum is fortunately able to add him to its staff as Carriage House Curator, through CETA funding.

Mike began planning for Carriage House exhibits last April. The building itself defined his theme: horse-powered transportation. His task was to find out what objects the Museum owns which relate to that theme, and use them to develop integrated and meaningful displays.

First, of course, would be the horse-drawn vehicles once housed at Sibley Park, which since the 1965 flood have been stored in various places, under varying conditions. One look at some brought discouragement and immediate rejection. The others all would need restoration, in order to be usable for exhibit. To do this job, Mike has corresponded with curators, collectors and restoration specialists all over the United States. A curator of the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Transportation gave him a good idea of what he was up against, quoting the average cost of restoring a vehicle at \$5,000. His most helpful source of information has been the Carriage Association of America, of which the Blue Earth County Historical Society has become a member.

Considerations of money and time determined Mike's decision to limit restoration to cleaning the vehicles which are in fair condition. Whereupon he faced a new problem: a place in which to work! The County Highway Department (which has been sheltering three vehicles for several years) generously helped with this by allowing him to use Highway Department garage space and facilities.

Mike's research on restoration has led to more information about our vehicles, some

of it in the Museum archives. We found a newspaper account of our stagecoach's history, and an extensive description of restoration work done on it in 1931, in a scrapbook.

Cleaning the vehicle resulted in other discoveries: the restoration job paint washed off with the dust, revealing much earlier gilt decorations and the name of the last operator painted above the doors.



MIKE EIGEN and MARY PONGRATZ at Work

Mike and other staff members have searched the Museum for artifacts used or produced by the many crafts and industries that made up the technology of "horse power" for transportation in the 19th century. We have many items which can be used in the exhibits Mike is designing. Among them are the tools needed to produce feed (fuel for the horse): the farmer's plow and haying equipment. Then other articles for maintaining the power source in working condition: horseshoes and the smith's tools used to make them. Next, the equipment to connect and control the power: the harness-maker's tools and his products. And last, the instruments used to produce our vehicles: the wagon and carriage-maker's brace and bits, saws and planes; the wheelwright's reamers and spokeshaves.

Interest in the restored Carriage House and Mike's search for information on these specialized crafts have brought most timely additions to the Museum collection. One is related to the production of "horse power" in Blue Earth County: a 100-year-old feed cart used by George Lang, a breeder of Clydesdale horses at Mapleton. Another belongs to the history of Mankato's oldest family

WHAT'S GOING INSIDE ? (Cont'd.)

business: Harold W. Schmidt's personal collection of harness-maker's tools, and examples of harness and "horse goods" produced in the days when the present Schmidt's (Luggage and Photographic Supplies) was O.W. Schmidt Saddlery Company, a major manufacturer of harness of all kinds for southern Minnesota.

Mike is selecting items from all these sources for a permanent interpretive display for the Carriage House.

Jeanne D. Kress

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Museum Director Marcia Schuster was among 26 participants admitted by the American Association for State and Local History to its Regional Workshop on Historic Site Interpretation. The workshop was held May 2 to 4 at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

On May 15 Marcia Schuster and Jeanne Kress attended the official opening of the Minnesota Historical Society's newest site, the Harkin Store, at West Newton, Nicollet County. Bert and Inella Burns also made the trip for the occasion.

Jeanne Kress attended a workshop in genealogical research held at Gustavus Adolphus College June 11 and 18. The workshop, sponsored by the Southcentral Minnesota Interlibrary Exchange, was conducted by Arthur Finnell, specialist in genealogy, who is presently Director of the Southwest Minnesota Historical Center at Marshall, MN.

Sally Rubenstein and Virginia Rogers, of the Minnesota Historical Society's Division of Publications and Research, were in Mankato June 20 and 21, to use our archives and those of the Minnesota Room at Mankato State U. They are preparing a revised and up-dated edition of a biographical reference work of the state of Minnesota.

SPECIAL VISITOR AT THE HUBBARD HOUSE

Merion Lovelace Kerchner, New York City, daughter of Maud Hart Lovelace, visited the Museum May 21. Mrs. Kerchner was in Mankato for the dedication of the new Minnesota Valley Regional Library and the naming of the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing, the young people's section, in honor of her mother.

WORK IN ANTHROPOLOGY AT MANKATO STATE

In the study of Indian cultures in our area, Society Board member, MSU professor MICHAEL SCULLIN and his students keep on producing interesting projects.

Their display of designs of an Hidatsa earth lodge house won an award in the "Environmental Design and Native Wit" contest sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota in April-May, 1977. The display shows how this Native American structure could be adapted to contemporary environmental needs. The entry is among the twenty (from more than 200) included in an exhibition which is being circulated throughout the Upper Midwest.

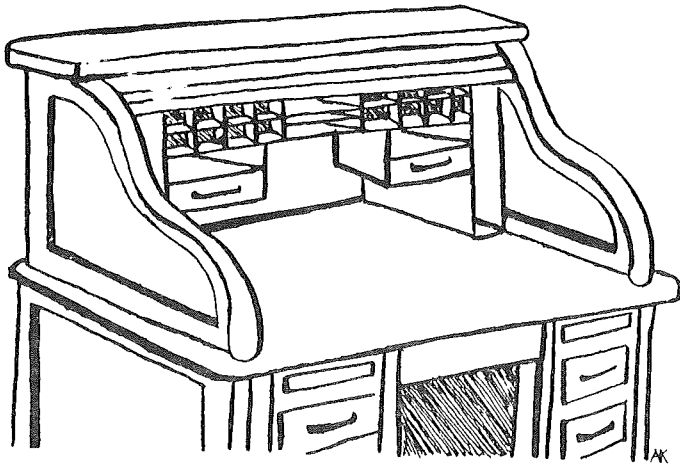
Scullin's archaeological work has recently received attention in a new quarter. The handsome pottery vessel pictured in The Land (Mankato Free Press publication) of June 23, 1977 comes from his excavations and was restored in the Anthropology Department laboratory at Mankato State University.

The current Environmental Institute project is a live study of Indian agriculture, in the form of two gardens located at the southwest corner of the Trafton Science building (South Road, Upper Campus). One plot is an Hidatsa garden similar to the one grown last year on the Farmfest grounds at Lake Crystal.

The second garden, a long border, features plants native to the Americas and domesticated by Indians living all the way from northern Mexico to Peru, some as long ago as 7,000 B.C. The variety is amazing: not only corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and beans of several kinds, but also avocado, pineapple, peanuts, sunflowers and cotton. A most intriguing item is the amaranth plant, (a relative of pigweed), which produces seed about the size of clover seed in such quantity that the Indians of Central America raised it for food. It is said to have a higher protein content than grass-type grains, and was used in amounts equal to corn, to pay tribute to the Aztecs.

The gardens are growing well so far, and should be at their best from mid-July through August. By that time all the plantings will have interpretive labels. Visit the Mankato State campus and see what American Indians were doing for agriculture before Columbus sailed the ocean blue !

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP



THE LONG ARM OF COINCIDENCE

Working in a museum brings many frustrations and worries, but there are also many rewards. One of the most satisfying events of my career here has been to bring some family relics and the members of the family together.

THE STORY BEGINS:

A lady from Mankato phoned, asking if we would like to have certain articles she had - an ox yoke, a railroad lantern, etc. I asked if she had any scrapbooks or photographs. She said she had; and she was going to throw them out, because they weren't worth anything. I asked her to give them to us, and if we couldn't use them, we would dispose of them. She brought them in: two scrapbooks, one photograph album and an autograph album. Since they contained clippings from Edgerton, Minnesota, I planned to contact the Pipestone County Historical Society, to see if they might use them.

A few days later a couple from Colorado visited the Museum, seeking information about the husband's family, who had settled on the Maple River, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Vernon Center. After much digging in the archives, we located the family farm in an 1895 atlas, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Vernon Center, in Lyra Township.

We found a biography of the gentleman's father, which said he had married a lady from Edgerton, Minnesota. The name clicked, so later I checked the scrapbook given us a few days before. It contained a newspaper account of the wedding, including the names of the guests and the gifts they gave!

When the couple returned, I showed them the clipping. They looked at the rest of the book and discovered that it had belonged to his grandmother. The autograph book was hers, and he recognized photos in the album. They were so pleased, they cried. I made them the gift of these books and put them in touch with the lady who had given them to the Museum. She gave them additional family pieces.

The couple visited Good Thunder and Lyra Township, and found the location of the old homestead. The present owner of the land brought out his deed, and the man from Colorado learned the dates of his family's ownership.

I wouldn't have believed that such a thing could happen - the gift to us and the inquiry from the Colorado couple came in proper sequence, and were timed close enough together that the connection could be made. It wouldn't have seemed credible if you read it in a novel; the writer would have been stretching the bounds of possibility!

The couple became life members of the Society and also made a generous donation to the Museum.

Marcia T. Schuster

ACTIVITIES IN LAKE CRYSTAL

June Miner, Secretary of the Lake Crystal Historical Society, informs us that plans for opening the 1880's Farm Home have been postponed, until filling of the foundation and site can be done. The group hopes to accomplish this before the end of summer.

In the meantime, another major project is progressing toward completion. Alice Hollingsworth, after studying the Minnesota Historical Society's record-keeping system for museum collections and also investigating our new system, has developed a records system for the Lake Crystal Society. She and Rosella Norman are working together on accessioning the society's present holdings.

In June members of the group added over \$150. to the society's treasury, the proceeds of a bake sale held during Lake Crystal Rodeo Days.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

The Historical Society has received a bequest of \$2,126 from the estate of

ELLEN SKIBNESS

Contributions to the HARRY HEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND have been received from

BEN JONES

ELSIE GOETZ

MRS. ROBERT (JEAN) CARLSTROM

A memorial has been received to

ALFRED MEYER

524 Byron Street, Mankato

Mr. Meyer worked at the Museum when G. S. Petterson was curator (1959-65).

Other Contributors:

SHELBY TOWNSHIP

MR. & MRS. GEORGE R. SCHROEDER

Colorado Springs, Colo.

(Life Membership & Contribution)

NEW FACES

Government employment programs and Mankato State University internships are providing us with additional personnel on a temporary basis.

Dee Kilchesky is our new CETA typist, working on inventory records.

Mary Pongratz is employed under the Governor's Youth Program as an assistant to Mike Eigen. She has worked on cleaning the interior of the Carriage House and is presently helping to clean vehicles for exhibit in the Carriage House.

Melanie La Duke, whose major is history, is our Mankato State U. intern for the first summer session. She has already prepared a new exhibit for the Museum (see MUSEUM EXHIBITS, this page), and is now assisting Mike Eigen, working on exhibit items for the Carriage House.

Marion Hoffman, a graduate student from the MSU Art Department, will serve an internship during the second summer session.

Berger Anderson, teacher of children with special learning and behavior problems and graduate student at Mankato State U., is working with Mike Eigen on exhibits for the Carriage House. His help, particularly in the line of carpentry, is much appreciated!

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

In line with the idea of acquainting the public with the variety of materials in the Museum, particularly recent accessions, Melanie La Duke (our current MSU intern) has prepared an exhibit entitled "THE DAY FAMILY-MINNESOTA PIONEERS".

Members of this family, descendants of two brothers who came to Blue Earth County in 1856 and settled in Shelby Township (Willow Creek), presented a number of items to the Museum on the occasion of their Bicentennial Year family reunion. Also included in the exhibit are more recent gifts from Mrs. Esther Day Pearson (Mankato), a granddaughter of Thomas Henry Day, one of the original settlers, and photographs and clippings loaned by other descendants, Mrs. William Benton and Mrs. Beatrice Day (Amboy).

The objects displayed show the interests and activities of individual members of a particular family over a period of nearly a hundred years. At the same time they also highlight for us seemingly persistent traits of our national character: The quilt embroidered by ladies of the Day family and their friends - our fondness for elaborate decorative handiwork. Pardon Day's patent for "an improvement on windmills" - our passion for mechanical invention. Homer Day's Bible, a gift from his Sunday School teacher - our abiding concern for the education of our children.

The DAY FAMILY EXHIBIT is located in the left front room, second floor of the Hubbard House.

The MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT was on loan to the Minnesota Valley Regional Library, for display during the opening of the new library building and throughout the month of June.

★ NEWSLETTER ★
★ of the ★
★ BLUE EARTH COUNTY ★
★ HISTORICAL SOCIETY ★
★ Published four times a year by the Blue ★
★ Earth County Historical Society, at ★
★ 606 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001 ★
★ Editor Jeanne D. Kress ★
★ Free to members of the Historical Society ★
★ Annual Subscription (4 issues) - \$3.00 ★

ATTENTION
SOCIETY MEMBERS !

GRAND OPENING
of the
CARRIAGE HOUSE !!

SUNDAY
AUGUST 21, 1977

SEE PAGE ONE

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



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RECENT ACCESSIONS

JOURNAL, 1856-1873, and Portrait Photograph of DR. E.B. HAYNES, first physician in the St. Clair area; also two sets of SADDLE BAGS, one fitted to hold medical supplies, used by Dr. Haynes.
Given by Mr. Harold Woolcott, St. Clair.

U.S. ARMY DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE of FREDERICK C.E. MILLER, JUNE 1865.
Given by Mrs. Fred Miller, Route 3, Mankato.

FUR CAPE and MUFF (BEAR FUR ?), made by Gordon Furs, St. Paul, early 1900's (?).
Given by Mrs. Russell Arthur, Mankato.

CLOTHING and ACCESSORIES, early 1900's, and SUITCASES used in journey from Sweden to the United States. Also a SHOWCASE from the PLUTO SHOE STORE, Mankato (established 1898).
Given by Mrs. Obert Pluto, North Mankato.

TAFFETA WEDDING DRESS of BERTHA BORN, who married George Maxfield Sept. 8, 1885; and Newspaper Clippings.
Given by Mrs. Ella Morphew, Mankato.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE of HOMER DAY, 1902; and TINTYPE of JUDSON NEWELL DAY, about 1898.
Given by Esther Day Pearson, Mankato.

POSTCARDS of EARLY MANKATO BUILDINGS.
Given by Mrs. A. J. Gruenfelder, Mankato.

A "SONNY HUBBARD" FLOUR SACK.
Given by Marion Harten, Mankato.

RECENT ACCESSIONS (CONT'D)

LEATHER TRUNK, mid-19th century, brought from Germany to the United States. Also Hair Pieces; a Soap-saver; and a Cabinet-maker's Wood Clamp.
Given by Emma Wiecking, Mankato.

AN OX YOKE and a RAILROAD LANTERN of the ST. PAUL & OMAHA RAILROAD (first railroad to reach Mankato). Also photographs, autograph albums and scrapbooks.
Given by Mrs. Wallace Gullick, North Mankato.

MANUSCRIPT RECIPE BOOK, inscribed "MRS. CRAY'S COOK BOOK."
Given by Alta Doerr, Mankato.

DRESS PATTERNS & NEWSPAPERS found in the James Willis house, 608 West 5th Street, Mankato.
Given by Barbara Gerk, Mankato.

VELVET WEDDING DRESS of SARAH WIGLEY, who married Hugh M. Roberts, December, 1889, & a photograph of the bridal couple. The dress was made in the shop of Mrs. M. Bohan, Mankato dressmaker, 408 South Front Street.
Given by Mary Lloyd, Tacoma, Washington.

SATIN DRESS of AMELIA HOPPE SCHALOW, about 1918.
Given by Delores Hendrickson, Madison Lake.

FEED-MIXING CART made about 1870, used by George Lang, Mapleton Clydesdale Horse Co., about 1898-1910.
Given by Robert L. Lang, Mapleton.

HARNESS-MAKER'S TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, also HARNESS PIECES & HORSE GOODS, from the O. W. SCHMIDT SADDLERY COMPANY, Mankato.
Given by Harold W. Schmidt, Mankato.