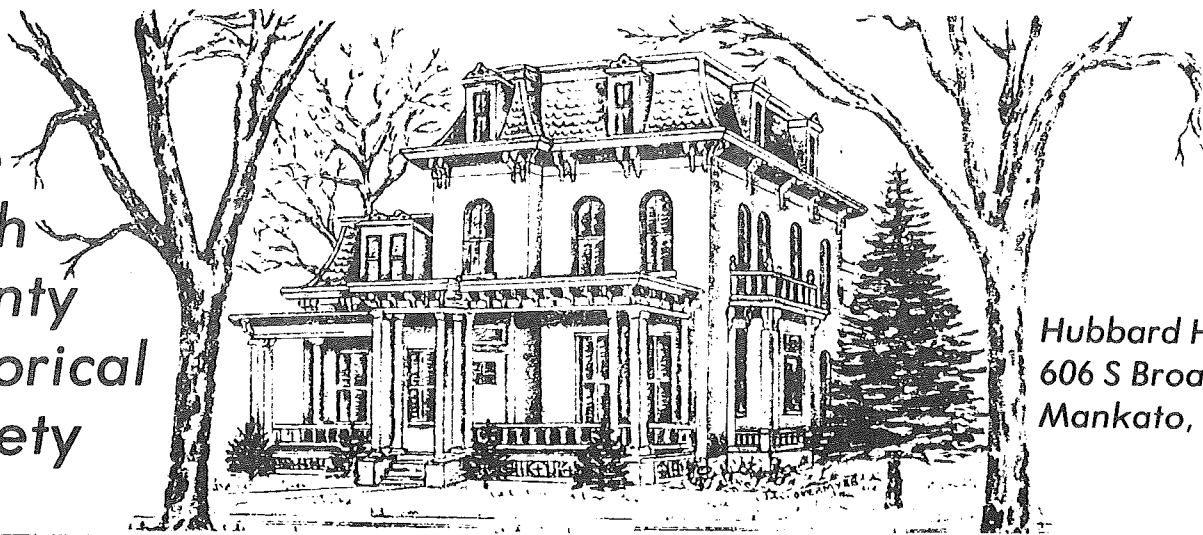


# Blue Earth County Historical Society



Hubbard House  
606 S Broad St.  
Mankato, Minn.

Volume 7, Number 2

## NEWS LETTER

July, 1978

### COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- SEPTEMBER 1 - 3 THE 47th WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU of the UNITED STATES & CANADA  
Where: HOTEL LEAMINGTON, MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
Program and reservation information available at the Museum  
Phone 345-4154
- SEPTEMBER 9 (SAT.) ANNUAL MEETING of the SOUTHERN MINNESOTA HISTORICAL ASSEMBLY  
Where: BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM (OLD POST OFFICE)  
27 North Broadway, NEW ULM, MN  
When: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
- SEPTEMBER 21 & 22 HISTORICAL BRIDAL REVUE of the LAKE CRYSTAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Where: LAKE CRYSTAL HIGH SCHOOL  
When: 8:00 pm  
Admission: \$1.50
- SEPTEMBER 23 (SAT.) BUS TOUR to the NORWEGIAN - AMERICAN MUSEUM (TENTATIVE)  
Where: DECORAH, IOWA  
When: Bus will leave Mankato 7:30 am, return by 8:00 pm.  
Cost: Bus fare, \$8.00. Admission to Museum, \$1.50.  
Open to All Persons. Reservations being taken. Phone 345-4154.

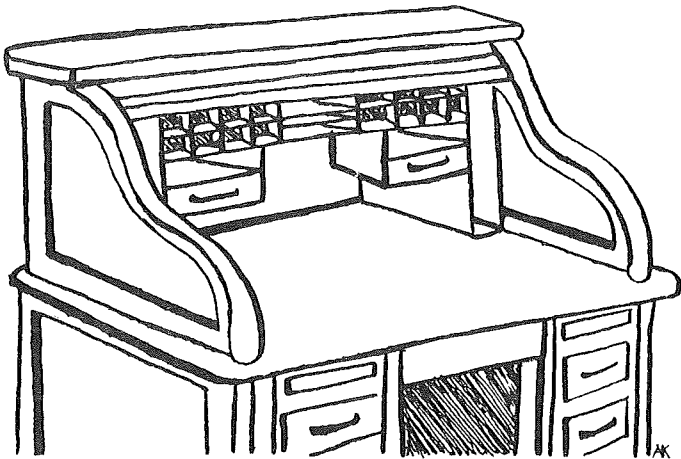
### NEW EXHIBITS

Revision of the exhibit of Indian artifacts is progressing. In the Hubbard House South Parlor, scale models patterned upon the Price archeological site in Cambria Township show a typical excavation and storage pits. Maps, photographs and a diagram of the ecology of the Minnesota River valley explain the Cambria Focus culture of the prehistoric Indians who lived in this area. Actual artifacts - mostly tools - from this and other prehistoric Indian cultures of the area are also on display.

In the North Parlor we have an exhibit of memorabilia of the Hubbard Milling Company. It includes portrait photographs of

the company's co-founders, R. D. Hubbard and George M. Palmer, and photographs of the "big mill" from various periods of its 100-year history. Also included are packaging items (flour sacks, canisters) and articles put out to promote the sale and use of Hubbard products - cookbooks, a thimble, and a paper weight, among others. Original documents of the Mankato Linseed Oil & Tow Company, another enterprise with which both Hubbard and Palmer were associated, are also on display.

In the Carriage House, Mike Eigen has completed the construction of a large free-standing display unit for the center



What does a museum director do when on vacation? Why, she visits museums, of course! This past week, my husband and I visited several across Minnesota, and I'd like to tell you about them.

Driving the North Shore beyond Duluth, we were attracted by two locomotives in a public park: the Duluth & Iron Range "Three Spot" and a Mallet locomotive and tender (weight 596 tons!). We discovered that the old depot there is now the Lake County Historical Society Museum, a cheerful and busy place. Its collections are displayed in an earlier style - articles of all sorts jumbled together, with no theme or "story". One case contained electric meters, pioneer cooking utensils and a Webster's dictionary. We admired the spotless condition of rooms and cases, and were pleased by the friendly welcome.

The Split Rock Lighthouse is being restored to pre-1930 appearance by the Minnesota Historical Society. For its many visitors it illustrates a way of life of another era, for nowadays shippers have electronic navigational equipment and no longer need the light and fog horn, and the lighthouse keeper and family no longer have to live in isolation.

The Ottertail Historical Society in Fergus Falls is housed in a new building (1972), in a lovely park setting. The building is of relatively inexpensive construction (precast concrete), and the inside display area is unfinished. It was a bit disconcerting to look up and see heat-

ing ducts, electrical conduits and other internal workings of the building in full view.

The display area is one large room, with a series of small rooms partitioned off for displays, such as a barber shop, a blacksmith shop and a general store. The displays are creatively planned and for the most part very well executed. (We did wonder about the sap spile and bucket on a non-maple tree!)

It was very obvious that they are already extremely crowded, even in a brand-new building. (They said it was too small by the time they moved in.) We did not visit storage and work areas, but from the exterior dimensions of the building, it was evident that they do not meet the ideal museum standard, which limits display area to 30-40% of total area and retains 60-70% for office, storage and work space.

The archives room serves a dual purpose: for research, and then, with a screen removed, it can be a meeting room, with a kitchenette area. Archives materials are under lock and key; and no one is permitted in the stacks without the aid of a trained person. (This we must somehow work out in our Museum. Our materials are too precious to be handled unnecessarily.)

The central reception and shop area is most attractive. The Ottertail Society makes a strong pitch for donations: "\$1.00 is appropriate for each adult."(!)

The pièce de résistance was The Depot in Duluth. Our visit came about because our Society Board recently sold two artifacts to the railway museum: a railroad handcar and an electric crossing sign, long in dead storage here. Mr. Frank King, of the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway and Board member of the St. Louis County Historical Society, was our guide. He told us how pleased they were to obtain these two pieces. They have tried the handcar out on a track, and it works as it should! They were delighted to find the braking mechanism intact, since this part is missing on their other handcars. Now they have a model from which to reconstruct the missing pieces. The crossing sign is very unusual, they say; and they are eager to know where it came from and more about it. (Please call me if you can provide information about either of these items.)

(Continued on Page 3)

### From the Director's Rolltop (cont'd.)

The fine old Depot (it's on the National Register) houses eight community organizations which decided that their need for space outranked their differences in approach. They operate the building jointly for their mutual benefit. These groups are the Matinee Musicale, the Duluth Ballet, the Duluth Playhouse, the Chisholm Museum, the Art Institute, the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis County Historical Society and the Lake Superior Museum of Transportation (the railway museum). Interim funding for construction of the performing arts addition to the main building was provided by the St. Louis County Commissioners. They are reimbursed \$200,000 annually by the Depot organizations. (Incidentally, annual operating costs are \$300,000, or \$800 per day.)

For the railway museum, the location is ideal. The Amtrack waiting room adjoins the museum, and when the train pulls in, passengers are discharged right at its entrance. What better way to attract visitors than to have them delivered to your door?

All in all, a most pleasant trip!  
We did save some museums for another time!

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Speaking of museum-visiting, Mike Eighen, our Carriage House curator, attended the annual meeting of the Minnesota Museum Educators in Rochester, and visited the Olmstead County Museum, the Mayo Medical Museum, the Rochester Art Museum and Mayowood. Mike's CETA eligibility expires in September; and we're hoping that our grant application for funds to pay him (as well as weekend receptionists for the Carriage House) for another year will be favorably

acted upon. The Society does not have funds for this purpose.

We are delighted that Janice Krueger, who has worked with us as an MSU intern, a tour guide and weekend receptionist, and now as a volunteer archivist (six hours a week), has been admitted to a new graduate program in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Good luck, Janice!

The Garden Club Council of Mankato recently held a tea in our Outdoor Room and gardens, until rain forced them into the Carriage House. Many of the ladies wore period costumes, which made a lovely sight. Our first Outdoor Room wedding was in June. With all the beautiful flowers, the result of many hours of devoted work by Marge Meredith and members of the Twilight Garden Club, Palmer Centennial Place is an ideal spot for such functions.

Along with the good things that have happened, we've had an unpleasant experience. A visitor raided the Museum Shop cash box. Cash taken was \$15, and checks totalled \$163.75. To avoid possible identification, the thief also ripped the page where his name appeared from the guest register.

Many Society members have not yet returned our questionnaire, to tell us how they would prefer to contribute to our up-coming special money-raising projects: the Museum Cookbook and the Christmas Bazaar. Please dig out your questionnaire and get it to us. Your Society can flourish only as its members pitch in and help.

Marcia T. Schuster

### NEWS FROM LAKE CRYSTAL

At a meeting June 26, members of the Lake Crystal Historical Society learned that their Farm Home building, to which much work and money has already been devoted, needs extensive additional work very soon, if it is to be used as a museum.

A recent fund-raising project was a bake sale, held during Lake Crystal Rodeo Days. Another project is now being planned for September 21st and 22nd. This is an Historical Bridal Revue, an evening show of wedding costumes from the 19th century to the present. To suggest a wedding ceremony and reception, music and floral decorations will highlight the presentation, and cake and punch will be served. Admission will be \$1.50.

Mrs. Ellis Norman is chairperson for the event. She and her committee would appreciate help, including the loan of suitable costumes. If you can assist, phone her (726-2701) or Mrs. John Norman (726-2687) in Lake Crystal.



MINNIE SCHOYEN HUBBARD

by  
Inella Burns

Musicians and concert audiences in the Mankato area at the turn of the century would undoubtedly have heard the young violinist, Minnie Charlotte Schoyen Hubbard. A collection of her scrapbooks, with photographs, clippings, concert programs and other memorabilia, was recently given to the Blue Earth County Historical Society by her son, Rensselaer Dean Hubbard II, now residing at Hillcrest in Mankato. From the pages of this collection, Minnie Hubbard emerges not only as an accomplished violinist, but as a widely known writer, teacher, lecturer and patron of the arts.

Born in 1883, Minnie was the daughter of Emil and Marie Schoyen. She began playing the violin at the age of seven, taking lessons from her father in their home at 313 Byron Street. In 1894 she traveled with her mother and her sister Eva to Norway, to visit relatives. Although only eleven years old, she performed enroute as a violin soloist aboard the S.S. Anchoria.

Marie Schoyen's descriptions of their life in Norway suggest that the relatives they were visiting were Norwegian aristocrats. With their aid Marie made contacts

to enable Minnie to continue violin study abroad. She first sent the young violinist's critiques to the Royal Conservatory in Christiania, where an audition was arranged. In a letter to her husband in Mankato, Marie relates the experience and its consequences:

Mr. Hals had called together some of the best violinists and composers, which were O. Olsen and Grieg. I was rather nervous but Minnie didn't seem to be. They had a long talk with her and looked at her wrists and fingers, then she played "Hymn from Don Juan." Then without accompaniment she played "Traumerei" ....they were so impressed that they wanted her to assist at a concert to be given for the King September 6. I promised and felt very proud....but when I told my folks and your folks, they set their foot on it and said that is too American and people would talk about it....she could wait until she was old enough to know it was an honor.

Later in the letter Marie tells of being in Christiania when King Oscar and the Royal family arrived: "Minnie pointed at him and said, 'Oh, Mamma, is that the King?' and he heard it and looked at us and smiled. I tell you I almost cried to think that Minnie could not play for him."

In another effort to further her daughter's career as a violinist, Marie took Minnie to a conservatory of music in Dresden, Germany. After hearing Minnie play, the director agreed to enroll her, but only in a seven-year program, during which she would be thoroughly educated in languages and all aspects of music, including attendance at operas twice a week. At the end of her studies she would leave the conservatory as a first-class artist.

When Marie replied that she could neither afford such a program nor give up her child that long, he said:

American mothers are all alike. They don't think about educating their daughters' hearts, but keep them home until they are too old to learn anything, and then they send them to France or Germany to get a little outside polish. You Americans are only outside glitter."

Thus ended a second effort for Minnie to study abroad. Shortly after, the family concluded their visit and came home.

Upon returning to Mankato, Minnie Schoyen began performing in concerts in the Mankato area. The Mankato Daily Review reports: "Being but eleven years old, she plays the violin with wonderful skill, surpassing in execution many old professionals." When still a child, she appeared in Melius Christiansen and Frederick Lillibridge concerts. A photograph of the 17-year-old Minnie Schoyen appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press of October 21, 1900, with the caption: "She is popular and gives much musical promise."

In 1902 the Schoyens enrolled Minnie in the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she was reported to be an interested and earnest pupil. In addition to her violin study, she frequently attended operas and concerts. In a letter to her parents, Minnie wrote that she had attended a symphony concert featuring Fritz Kreisler as soloist, "and people were wild over him". She added, "I don't care to go to theaters. I want to save up and go to grand opera. ..I want to hear Paderewski."

About this time Minnie Schoyen became engaged to Jay Hubbard, the only son of Rensselaer D. Hubbard, who built the Hubbard mansion that now houses the Blue Earth County Museum. While Jay's letters to her in Boston expressed a desire for an early marriage, Minnie, still in her teens, appeared somewhat apprehensive about the role expected of women in the home in the early twentieth century. She seemed unsure that she could make their home her primary concern. In a letter to her parents, Minnie wrote that, never planning to be married, she had spent her spare time on her music. She loved her violin as a companion because she had been with it so much, she wrote, and wouldn't put it away, never to touch it again.

Soon after her return from Boston, Minnie Schoyen and Jay Hubbard were married, living first on Baker Avenue and later building a spacious home at 137 Lincoln Street, where Minnie and their son R. Dean II lived during the years when Jay Hubbard was in Chicago on Hubbard Milling Company business. After a few years of marriage, their letters began to show the strain of living apart, and in 1908 Jay and Minnie

Hubbard agreed to a permanent separation.

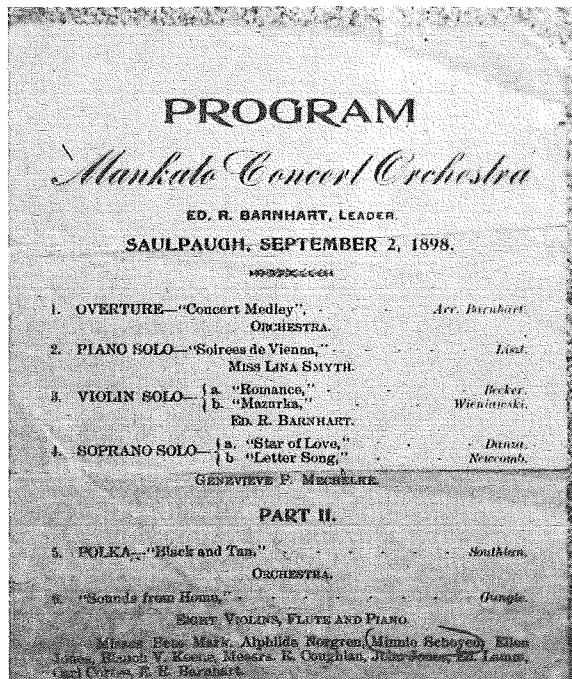
The next ten years were some of the most professionally active of Minnie Hubbard's career. She appeared in frequent recitals and concerts in the Mankato area and occasionally performed in Minneapolis or St. Paul. One of her scrapbooks is filled with concert programs and reviews. As an example, one critic praised her playing as characterized by "richness of tone, perfect technique and a poise of grace and quietness which gives to her playing the charm of appearing to play absolutely without effort."

So much involved was Minnie Hubbard in all things musical that to browse through her scrapbooks is to glimpse the musical life of Blue Earth County in the early twentieth century. Some of the musicians appearing on the same programs with Minnie Hubbard were Anna John, Mrs. Roy Andrews, George Andrews, Julia Hub, Mamie Skuse-Gerlach, Ed Lamm, Leo Carney, Eva Schoyen, Cassius Sandon and Eleanor Rodgers. Giving concerts at that time were such musical groups as the Mankato Harmonia Band, Iverson's Orchestra, the Mankato Concert Orchestra, the Philharmonic Mandolin Club, the Orpheus Club, the Mankato Choral Society, the Mankato Music Club and the Loyola Symphony Orchestra. Performances in those days were often in churches or in the Saulpaugh Hotel. Other

(Continued on Page 6)



concert stages were in the Sandon Theater, the Mankato Opera House, Liedertafel Hall, Hunt's Hall, the Mapleton Opera House and the Amboy Opera House.



When Minnie Hubbard was not preparing for or performing in concerts, she promoted music wherever possible. Through the Mankato Women's Club, she managed an artists series in 1914. According to a Mankato Free Press clipping, "Mrs. Hubbard plans a very pretentious program .. ..artists she proposes to bring to Mankato are names of world renown, artists whom we could not hope to see outside the largest cities of the world."

Unlikely for a woman in her day, Minnie Hubbard was also politically active in the cause of music. In a telegram sent in 1919 to Senator Knute Nelson, she protested the twenty per cent tax on musical entertainments. The New York Sun reported that some senators considered her protest an indication of what they could expect from suffragettes. One senator remarked: "If the musical instruments win, they will know they have been in a fight!"

As a speaker and writer Minnie Hubbard shared her growing knowledge of the musical world and her experience as a violinist. Her photograph appeared on the cover of The Violinist, a national music magazine, and frequently photographs appeared with

news releases and with articles she had written for music publications.

In "The Violin Student's Future", an article published in a 1919 issue of The Violinist, she discussed the need for violin teachers to develop individuality in their students. She believed that many women violinists were not successful because they tried to play like men. She added, "The violin is the ideal instrument for a woman, because her natural sensitiveness, sympathy and feeling aid her in bringing out the most beautiful in the instrument."

In another article appearing in the New York Tribune in 1919, Minnie Hubbard discussed the lack of understanding between the musician, who believes art is the only thing worth living for, and the businessman, who is a speculator, accumulator and developer. She pointed to only one salvation for cultural America - "for the business man and the musician to become acquainted with the work and ideals of each other."

Through her continued concerts and through her articles and resumes in regional and national publications, Minnie Hubbard became increasingly recognized as an artist. In 1927 the Marsh Laboratories in Chicago asked her to test the recording qualities of various rare violins owned by Lyon and Healy, dealers in rare violins. Using a new "electric process recording", she made twelve records, playing four different violins, including the Amati, one of a set of violins made for King Henry IV of France in 1595. The violin, valued at \$12,000, was the only one of the set to survive the French Revolution. The recordings, a number of which are now in the Blue Earth County Museum, were then sold by the E. W. Owen Company and used by Minnie Hubbard as the basis for an illustrated lecture on "Violin Tone Study" advertised

**SOMETHING NEW** Price \$1.00  
 TRY IT

**HUBBARD VIOLIN CLEANER AND POLISH**  
 For all Stringed Instruments—Improves the tone—  
 Preserves the varnish.

For Sale by

H. P. BLAKKESTAD (Violin Shop)  
 Minneapolis, Minn.

MINNIE C. HUBBARD (Violinist)  
 Mankato, Minn.



# The Violinist

APRIL, 1919



as available in 1927. Also advertised in music publications was her Hubbard Violin Cleaner and Polish, that "improved the tone" of the violin. (See illustration, Page 6)

Throughout her career, Minnie Schoyen Hubbard maintained a steady schedule of violin students, teaching more than 20,000 lessons at her home and at Bethany College in Mankato. Among the letters in one of her scrapbooks is an expression of gratitude from Elmer Slama, violinist in the Milwaukee Symphony: "All I know I owe to you and your teaching. I appreciate it and thank you many times over."

Along with her teaching, performing in concerts and writing, Minnie Hubbard found time to travel rather extensively. She visited Europe, Africa, the South Pacific, China and Japan, returning to lecture or write about her experiences. Tucked in her scrapbooks are programs of concerts aboard ship, featuring Minnie Hubbard, violinist. As on that first childhood journey to Norway, her violin still traveled with her.

The collection from R. Dean Hubbard II contains little reference to his mother's later years. According to her obituary, she was one of the first women in Mankato to go into the business of building, buying, improving and selling real estate. This seems characteristic of the independent spirit evident in her personal and professional life.

Minnie Schoyen Hubbard died in 1960 at the age of 77, having contributed much to the world of music and to the cultural life of Mankato.

More complete information on the life and family of Minnie Hubbard, such as additional photographs, published articles, manuscripts and letters, as well as her collection of programs and news releases from early twentieth century musical performances in the Mankato area, is available at the Blue Earth County Historical Society Museum.

Inella Burns

INVEST IN HISTORY &  
HELP YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!  
Now Available in the Museum Shop:

The Hubbard Milling Company:  
A Past to Remember, a Future to Build  
by Vernard Lundin

All Proceeds from the Sale of the Book  
go to the Historical Society.  
(Order blank enclosed)

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Earth County Historical Society, at  
606 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001  
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ATTENTION ALL!!

SIGN UP FOR

ALL-DAY TOUR TO

the

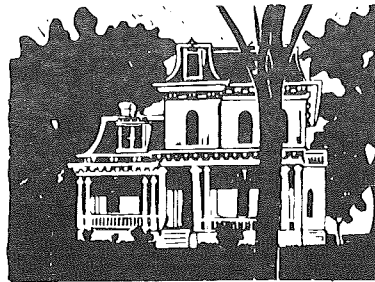
NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

Decorah, Iowa.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1978

(See COMING EVENTS)

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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RECENT ACCESSIONS (April - June, 1978)

1. Photograph of a Mankato Baseball Team.  
Given by Theresa Meyer, Mankato.
2. Atlas of Blue Earth County Zoning Maps.  
(30 maps) 1977.  
Given by the Office of Community Development, City of Mankato.
3. Forty-five Star United States Flag.  
Given by Theodore Lindelein, Mankato.
4. "Mother Hubbard" Flour Sack (100#).  
Given by Vi Panzram, Waseca.
5. Smith & Wesson 38 cal. Revolver - CGT Special. Belonged to Frank W. Cords, Blue Earth County Sheriff 1926-1946.  
Given by Verna Cords Griffith, Lemon Grove, CA, Michael Griffith & Patricia Griffith Squier.
6. Wards & Sears Catalogues (1923) and Memorabilia of St. Clair and Mankato.  
Given by Don Klingbeil, Mankato.
7. Records, Minutes and Scrapbook of the Mankato Woman's Club, 1956-1973.  
Received from Dorothy Otto, club historian.
8. Fur Piece and Muff, and Little Girl's Dress Shoes. Belonged to Jennie Johnson.  
Given by Dora L. Johnson, Mankato, and Minerva Johnson Elam, Marion, Iowa.
9. Dress, c. 1920-1925. Belonged to Mrs. Ed Davis, Truman, MN.  
Given by Roy E. Davis, Mankato.
10. Sugar Bowl and Syrup Pitcher (silver plate); Hair Brush and Hand Mirror (silver). Belonged to Cornelia Mansfield, Mankato. Also Stencil Sign of the Hotel Ben Pay, Mankato.  
Given by Aileen V. Eick, Mankato.
11. Hairdresser's Equipment of the 1930's: Permanent Wave and Hot Oil Machines; Marcel and Croquignole Wavers.  
Given by Allen Linscheid, Mankato.
12. Political Pamphlets, Commemoration of the Sioux Uprising, & Family Histories.  
Given by Ralph Pratt, Mankato.
13. Scrapbook of Blue Earth County.  
Given by Mrs. Wm. Emerson, Tucson, AZ.
14. Dresses (five) which belonged to Ida Rudberg, Mankato dress shop owner.  
Given by Harry Rudberg, North Mankato.
15. Books, including a Reynolds World Atlas, c. 1922.  
Given by Roland Darge, North Mankato.
16. Good Thunder Herald. 936 numbers (including duplicates), 1901, 1914-1937.  
Given by Edward W. Alinder, LeSueur, MN.

NEW EXHIBITS (Cont'd.)

of the second floor. It combines open display panels and glass windows, behind which are large movable cases. Mike is presently assembling materials to fill the new unit. A display on the sport of curling in Blue Earth County already occupies one section. Antique winter sports items will be added to this. Another display, on Blue Earth County doctors and medical care in horse and buggy days, is in progress.