

From the Director's Rolltop, cont.

The Public Relations workshop, originally scheduled for June 2, has been rescheduled for August 25. Sudden serious illness (on his way to Mankato in fact!) of the main speaker caused last minute cancellation. Registrants toured the Hubbard House and Carriage House instead.

Our intern, Denise Schmidt, reported June 1 and has been active in every phase of museum operation - from mopping up water in the basement after a heavy rain, to attending a meeting of the County Commissioners. She has compiled a handbook of information for our weekend employees and is researching dates to mark our cottonwood tree cross section at the fairgrounds.

The Festival of Women's Hands - a joint observance with the YWCA - was held May 18. It happened to coincide with International Museum Day and was fairly well attended. It was agreed to develop and improve on this idea further for next year.

The rummage sale was not as successful this year as in years past. In spite of the donations of cash, merchandise, time and effort, plus good advertising, there weren't as many prospective buyers as we've had in former years. We are most grateful to all those who gave merchandise and cash, as well as those who gave us their time working at the sale.

Many persons have asked about the \$10,000 check presented to the Society by Russell Fridley at our annual meeting. This was the Federal share of the grant we received for the exterior restoration of the Hubbard House and came to us via the Minnesota Historical Society.

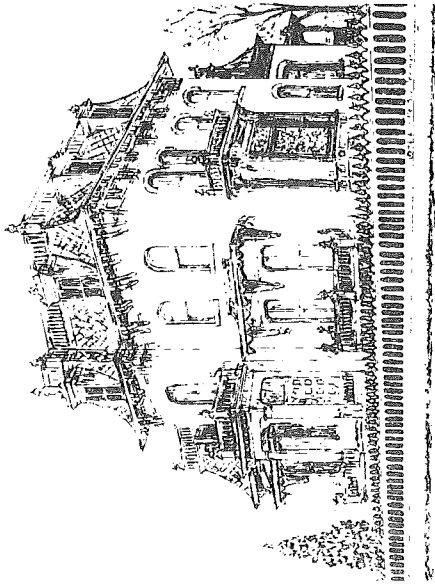
Our Society has agreed to co-sponsor with other area historical societies and Mankato State University a series of Sunday afternoon programs in the fall called **Stories For Our Place** - an interdisciplinary humanities conference.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Tom Champlin of Lake Crystal. He served on the Historical Society Board in recent years.

Please let us know what you think about our new newsletter format. The Board needs your input before making a permanent change.

Marcia T. Schuster

Blue Earth County Historical Society



R.D. Hubbard House

July 1982

It's Fair Time in Garden City!

Plans are underway for the Historical Society exhibits at the County Fair, August 12-15, in Garden City which will once again be located in the Agricultural Heritage Building. Featured this year is a large "slice" of the cottonwood tree from St. Clair. It will be marked with important dates in the history of the county. We hope to show the video tape of the tree being cut down, which was a gift to the Society from KEYC-TV.

Another highlight will be an exhibit of photographs of the county sites which have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The "County Quilt" top will be displayed for the first time.

A continuous slide presentation of old time Blue Earth County farm scenes will be shown.

Museum shop merchandise will be available for purchase, including two maps which were researched by geographer Mary Dooley. They show the Railroad Land Grants in Blue Earth County and the types of vegetation found in the county. They will sell for \$2.00 each.

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New at the Museum Shop

Welcome to New Members

ANNUAL - Lucille A. Fitzsimmons

Charles Pehl

Louise M. Roth

Sally Wagner

LIFE - Marion Henson

(Note: Mary Dickmeyer is a Life Member, not Annual, as reported in the last issue)

THANKS TO Auto Restorer's Club for a generous donation.

MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO:

Melba Miller Schlenk

J. Homer Wright

Tom Champlin

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Quilts and more Quilts . . .

The "County Quilt" top has been completed and will soon be ready for quilting. The quilt depicts the history of the county with blocks representing each of the twenty-three townships. Coordinating the project are Mrs. Leona Bergemann, Mrs. Inella Burns, and Mrs. Jan Green. The quilt top will be on display at the County Fair.

The actual quilting on the "County Quilt" will be demonstrated at the Opening Day Tea at the annual Museum Shop Bazaar on November 7. The quilt frame will be set up in the North Parlor with quilters working throughout the afternoon. A special practice quilt will be available to allow visitors to try their hand at quilting a few stitches. Films on quilting will be shown as well.

A special mini-exhibit featuring quilts in the Society's collection may be seen beginning August 12 on the second floor of the museum. Patchwork, applique, and crazy quilts will be on display, many for the first time.

Books: *The Story of Minnesota* by Jerry Fearing.

Colorful cartoons tell the story of the North Star State from the Ice Age to the present.

A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota by David Gebhard and Tom Martinson. A broad survey of the state's architecture from the early 1800's to the present.

Maps: Railroad Land Grants in Blue Earth County 1864-94.

Vegetation in Blue Earth County 1854-55

Plates: China plates with Lucille Sunderman drawings of the Hubbard House and the Mankato Depot.

Staff Changes

We regret to announce the resignation of Jeanne Kress from two of her long-time responsibilities with the Society. After six years as editor of the newsletter, and as archivist, she has asked to be relieved of those duties because of ill health. She is now recuperating from surgery and will probably be back in a part-time capacity this fall to work on the museum artifacts inventory. We are very appreciative of all the hard work and loyal service she has given to the Society.

Audrey Hicks, of our weekend staff and museum tour guide, has been promoted to the position of full-time archivist starting August 2. She has an extensive background in archives and library work, has compiled and published her family genealogy and worked for three years for the Freeborn County Historical Society.

Calendar of Events

Aug. 12-15 County Fair at Garden City

25 Re-scheduled MN Historical Society Workshop at YWCA Attic

Sept. 11 So. Minnesota Historical Association Annual Meeting, Goodhue County Society. Red Wing

25 Three County Bus Tour -Waseca, Blue Earth and Freeborn

Nov. 7 Museum Shop Bazaar Opening Day Tea

Quilting Demonstration and Films
7-14 Museum Shop Bazaar

From the Director's Rolltop . . .

The new format for the newsletter is designed to bring about more frequent communication with our membership - six times a year instead of four. This will keep you more current with Society affairs and will save us the necessity of sending out as many special notices. In addition to the bi-monthly newsletter, we will publish and distribute to the membership an annual magazine with historical articles such as you have been getting in the quarterly newsletter. We are looking for contributors of articles and photographs from among our membership for this publication. Extra copies of the magazine will be printed and will be for sale in the Museum Shop. We would like your reactions to this change. Surprisingly, costs will be almost the same.

The positions of magazine and newsletter editors are open, and we would welcome inquiries from those interested.

We have just spent a most interesting two days with a consultant from the Nebraska State Historical Society who gave us an objective view of our program and our strengths and weaknesses. His suggestions were extremely helpful and we will set about implementing them as quickly as we can. We were given a grant for this under the Museum Assessment Program operated by the American Association of Museums.

As you must all know by this time, the County Commissioners did not approve our request to bid on Union School as a new museum. However, they want us to meet with them each month to report on our progress in finding a site for a new building. We are grateful to Dave Nystuen and Henry Harren of the Minnesota Historical Society who toured Union School and give us their professional opinions on its suitability.

Completion of the Palmer Centennial Place Gardens is planned for some time this summer or early fall. The Twilight Garden Club and the Mankato Rose Society are assisting with the planning. We have been promised a designated parking area for the museum staff - a long-time need.

Repair of the Hubbard House windows and addition of storm windows - another urgent and long-time need - has just been completed. This will make the building much more habitable as well as cut fuel costs.