



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 1

January-February 2008

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Burns
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

Stories of Support and Service — Joyce Paul



Joyce, second from left, in Germany, 1951.

“You couldn't help feeling good about what you did for those men who were so far from home.” Those were the words Joyce Paul used to describe the role she played in supporting those in the military from 1950 to 1952. Her role was a unique one. Joyce was hired by the Army's Special Services to work in Europe providing extra services for the military personnel stationed there. Joyce's first assignment was in a small village in Germany. The six women who were hired for the job there worked two shift, covering the day from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Special Services provided a recreational outlet for those stationed in Germany in the years after WWII. Some of what they provided were craft rooms, drama and photography clubs, a pool room, a card room, a dance floor, a snack bar that was always open, tennis courts, ski hills, lounge area for relaxing or writing letters, and other similar kinds of activities. Special Services also held “events” for the troops and sometimes the dependant families living there. “Style shows were popular,” Joyce said. “The boys liked to see American girls dressed up in the latest styles!”

One big part of their duties was to hold dances for the men. “It seemed as if we got the outsiders,” Joyce explained. “The ones who were just by themselves, the ones who didn't fit in as well socially as some of the others.”

Special Services operated like the Army in structure. The women in Special Services got periodic pay raises as their responsibilities increased. The women wore uniforms and operated in a rank-like organization. They earned 23 vacation days per year as well as “comp time” for extra hours put in during a week. When asked if they were paid well, Joyce just smiled and said, “It was enough to travel on!”

Joyce took advantage of the opportunities to see Europe and spent her free time traveling around Europe to see Italy, Austria, and Switzerland.

A yellowed clipping in a scrapbook spoke of one of Joyce's proudest achievements while she was working for Special Services in Germany. The clipping was from a newspaper and described the first-ever Girl Scout day camp in Germany organized for the daughters of dependents. “I had the support of a general's wife and a sergeant's wife,” said Joyce. “It crossed the boundaries of rank and that was one of the reasons it was so successful.”

After working for Special Services for two and a half years, Joyce returned to the U.S. She began teaching speech and theatre at Anoka High School in 1959 and moved here soon after. Under her direction, the school held the first of many musicals, *Brigadoon*. This became a yearly tradition. Joyce retired from teaching after 18 years and remained a very active member of the community. She is a long time member of ACHS and has it is great fun to highlight her hiSTORY!



Joyce, December 2007.

Joyce's story and the stories of many other Anoka County women are part of the newest exhibit in the military gallery, *We Can Do it — Women in Wartime*, opening on January 29, 2008, at the Anoka County History Center. Their stories of support and service are often the hidden background of military history and this is their time to shine. Be sure to join ACHS for the opening of the exhibit. Bring a friend along and introduce them to the fascinating history of Anoka County!

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

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History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director's Desk...

By Todd Mahon

We had a monumental year celebrating Anoka County's sesquicentennial. All year long, the *History Center News* and my column have previewed and recounted our success and excitement. Ray Steinke's column does a great job recounting the events we had in December to cap off the year. I would like to wrap up my thoughts for the year by thanking the people and organizations that supported the sesquicentennial with their generous donations.

We started raising funds for the celebration in 2006. As I recall, the first major contribution came from the Anoka County Fair Board, when they agreed to donate the use of the Anoka County Fair Grounds for the May celebration. That donation really gave us some legitimacy. Shortly after that, Anoka County finalized their contribution and we had the seed money to solicit more funding.

The first project for the celebration was the publication of the book, *Picturing Anoka County*. Village Bank, Connexus Energy and Mercy and Unity Hospitals fronted the money and we were able to produce a fine photo book about Anoka County and its rich history.

With the book in the works, we began approaching corporate donors and each city and township in the county, asking for support. I am proud to say that 19 of the 21 cities and townships came forward and offered financial assistance. At the same time, donations from the business community began to come in. Barna, Guzy & Steffen were the first to join us, after that, we received commitments from Wells Fargo, Grosslein Beverages, and the Anoka Hennepin Credit Union.

It is nearly impossible to keep track of all of the in-kind contributions, but I would be remiss for not mentioning the donations that Bromley Printing, ECM Publishing, The Ponds Golf Course, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, and Starcom Inc./BOB 106 provided. The services that they offered were just as vital as cash contributions in the production and promotion of our celebration.

The members and friends of the Anoka County Historical Society played an important part as well. At the end of 2006, I asked all of you to help us produce a photograph exhibit that would show at the Anoka County History Center and travel throughout the county. Your contributions helped us install that exhibit and a traveling version that went to every single city and township in our county.

We finished the year with our Sesquicentennial Hangar Dance at the Golden Wings Museum. Oppenheimer & Co. made this event possible with their generous donation. The Golden Wings Museum gave us a substantial discount on their rental fees.

Fundraising is never easy, but when you have broad public support for something like the sesquicentennial celebration, it's a much easier sale to make. Each contribution builds on the previous one, and garners more support for the next request. I thank every person and organization that made this year such a grand success.

From the President...

By Ray Steinke

I hope everyone had the best of holidays and are, like me, looking forward to the start of a new year!

Yes, we are at the start of a new year, 2008. It is also the end of Anoka County's sesquicentennial celebration year at the same time as it is the beginning of the state sesquicentennial celebration.

Just because the year was winding down, doesn't mean ACHS wasn't busy! On November 10, we closed the Vietnam exhibit with the help of many of the veterans who had their stories told in it. We appreciate their help very much in all you did to make this exhibit a success and record their stories for future researchers to find.

In keeping with the "wartime theme," the next event was the Civil War Christmas in Columbia Heights. Did you get to visit Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights on December 2? I know the day before we had a storm and it was cold, but those who came had a real treat. If you did not make it, watch for ACHS to present this program again in the future. I have been a part of this event twice. It was fun and interesting. This year I was able to hear Vickie Wendel's lyceum about Christmas in the 1860s. I learned about the person I was portraying, St. Nick or Santa. In the 1860s, Santa was dressed in red & white striped pants with a blue coat bearing 36 white stars (one for each of the 36 states of that time). We also heard how many of the other things we celebrate came to be a part of our Christmas celebrations today.

December 4 was the decorating of the County Tree. This year Anoka County supplied the ornament, the topper for the tree. I missed the event itself, but have since seen it and it is perfect. There is a picture on page 6. It is a pyramid bearing the county's official logo with ribbons running down from each corner. Each ribbon has the names of the 21 communities that make up our county.

Did you get to our last event of the year, the hanger dance at the Golden Wings Museum, on December 7 at the Anoka County Airport in Blaine? I know it was cold, but hearts were warm and we had a great turn out. The planes were wonderful, most built before 1940—and I forgot my camera at home! Many of our guests dressed for the day—Pearl Harbor Day—in 1940s clothing or uniforms from WWII. It was a great way to close out an incredible year of celebrating Anoka County's history!

Stitches In Time Quilt Exhibit

Closing Leap Day, February 29, 7:00 p.m.

Wrapping up the Sesquicentennial year of Anoka County with the *Stitches in Time* quilt exhibit will warm your heart and your toes with a series of fun events. The details of these events are still being worked out, here are some of the projects in the works:

County Shop Hop
Participants visit quilt shops around Anoka County to explore new fabric and be eligible for a special prize drawing.

Watch the ACHS website and local newspapers for details to be announced after the holidays.

Join the fun!

Stay warm and think quilts!

Quilts and Their Stories
A program about the historic quilts in the ACHS collections—who made them, why, when, and more. One quilt in the collection won a prize in the Minnesota TERRITORIAL fair and is nicknamed the Courting Quilt! Find out why at this program.

“Stash-n-Cache”
Quilters bring fabric they thought they’d use, but never have, and trade it with other quilters in the same predicament!

Leap Day Quilt Exhibit Closing
All of the quilters who have displayed their quilts in the exhibit will be invited to once again share the story of their quilts with visitors before taking their quilts down and taking them home.

Sesquicentennial Quilt Raffle Drawing
The winning ticket will be drawn on February 29!



Anoka County Sesquicentennial Quilt Raffle

Purchase your tickets at the Anoka County History Center or call 763-421-0600.

- Tickets \$1.00 each or seven for \$5.00
- Drawing held on Feb. 29, 2008.
- Quilted by Maria King, co-author of *Stitches in Time: The Anoka County Sesquicentennial Quilt*

Quilt Raffle Rules

1. Name and contact info must be printed clearly.
2. The person with the winning ticket must provide proper identification and be at least 18.
3. The winner must produce the winning ticket stub within ten days of notification. Failure to do so will result in a new drawing.
4. The winner does not need to be present at the time of the drawing.

Proceeds benefit the Anoka County Historical Society and its programs.

The Story of an Artifact

On December 11, Anoka County lost one of its most beloved and internationally recognized citizens when Dr. Bill Andberg died. Most people that knew Andberg, or knew of him, knew of his long list of athletic accomplishments. He was a world-record holder in 30 different running events. His early morning training runs thorough Anoka’s cemeteries, wearing a gray sweatshirt, earned him the nickname “the Gray Ghost.” The Anoka Halloween Gray Ghost Run bears his name not just because of his athletic achievements, but also because of his commitment to the youth of the Anoka area.

However, Andberg’s impact on Anoka County went far beyond athletics. He was one of just a few veterinarians practicing in the Anoka area. He began his practice in Anoka in the 1950s. The practice had rather humble beginnings. When he first arrived in the city, he lived in the Jackson Hotel and advertised his services in the newspaper. Eventually, he and his wife Ruth moved into a home on Park Street in Anoka. It was in this home that he established his office, but early on most of his work was calls to local farms. At this time, the area surrounding Anoka was largely made up of farms and the vast majority of his work was treating farm animals. Doc Andberg made many “barn calls” to care for ailing animals—after all, bringing a half-ton dairy cow to the vet’s office just wasn’t practical, especially if the animal was in some sort of distress.

As the decades passed and much of the farmland around Anoka was turned over to housing development, the nature of Andberg’s practice changed with the times. By the 1980s, most of his practice centered on the treatment of domestic pets—cats and dogs. Many of these animals were treated in the basement of his home, on an examination table he designed and built himself (see photo). The design and construction of the table was practical and functional, designed to be mobile.

As the community mourns the passing of Dr. Andberg and remembers his athletic accomplishments, take a moment to consider what brought him to Anoka, how the county’s suburban development affected his work, and how he adapted to those changes.

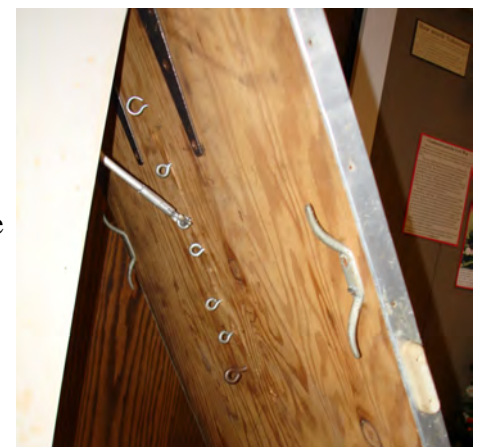
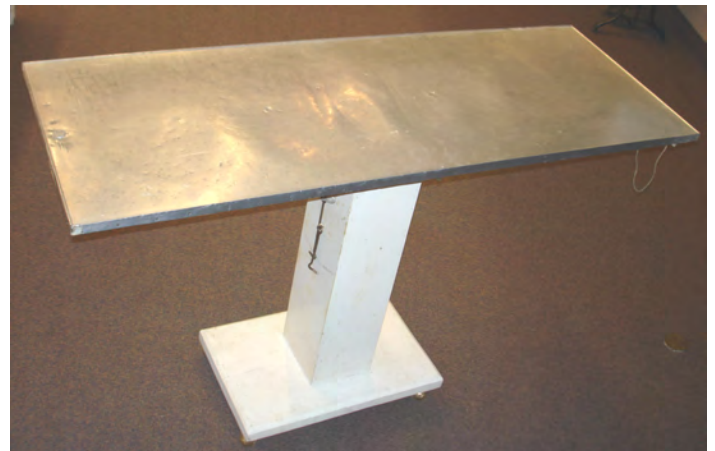
In October of this year, Dr. Andberg donated his veterinary exam table to ACHS. Andberg used this table in his practice for many years. It is a fitting artifact to help interpret his impact on the community even as it grew and changed away from traditional farming and veterinary practices.

Andberg built the table himself with his own needs in mind. The table is wood construction with stainless steel



molded over the exam surface. The table is on casters and rolls easily. Under the tabletop is a series of hooks and eyes to hold the table top in a fixed position in a variety of angles. There are cleats on the bottom of the table to which ties are attached.

For a common procedure such as spaying or neutering, Andberg tied the back feet of an anesthetized cat or dog to the cleats, and tilted the table up so the head was pointing downward and the back of the animal was at the top. Gravity caused the animal’s organs to settle away from the area of the incision and the procedure was made easier for both patient and doctor.



Close-up view of the angle adjustment mechanism on Dr. Andberg’s table.

Contributions & New Members – Thank you

COMPUTER FUND

DONATIONS

Through December 14

Katherine Allquist
Jan Anderson
June Anderson
Roy and Beryl Anderson
James Andre
Anonymous
Richard Bergling
Matt and Debi Billing
Harry and Jeanette Blair
Charles Boos
Orlaine Boshea
Marlys Burman
Lee Carlson
Roger and Dottie Carlson
Jeannine Chamberlain
Shirley Christenson
Marlys Chutich
Katie Clark
Cary and Teresa Cleveland
Sandy Connor
Carol Dordan
Roy Downs
Alton Drury
Ken Dufresne
Betty Erickson
Paul and Laura Estby
Netha Feist
John Freeburg
John and Alice Ganter
Randy and Alice Getchell
Donald and Ruby Greenberg
Jerry Hall
Edward and Lora Hamilton
Grace Hawkins
Bernadene Heath
Beatrice Hoppentrath
Guila Ann Hunt
Mary Jablonski
Jim and Jan Johansen
Terry Johnson
Nellie Klein
Jim and Jane Knoll
Villa Konen
Mike and Wendie Lapham
David Legrid
Becky Loader
Mel and Alicia Manley
John and Lillian Meyer
Jean Morehouse
Donald Mowery
Harold Netkow
Roy and Virginia Newcomb
Nowthen Historical
Power Association
Roger and Avis Oppgard
Joyce Paul
Robert Powell
Bill Prugh

Gene and Anna Rafferty
Gary and Eileen Rathbun
Will and Gina Ridge
Michael Ritchie
Kenneth B. Robinson
Steven Ruud
Donald and Joyce Bonnell Sage
Dick and Dody Schanhaar
Jean Seaborg
Bob and Phyllis Seath
Charlie and Mary Sell
Lorraine Soderquist
Millie Sorenson
Jean Seaborg
Gary and Ann Steen
Douglas Stein
Carl and Sharon Steinwall
Marjorie Strouse
Deborah Sundeen
Rodger Sundstrom
Jim and Lee Swisher
Ralph Talbot
Barb Thurston
Chester Tollefson
Catherine Vesley
Vietnam Veterans Chapter 470
Wesley and Cheryl Volkenant
Jill Weaver
James Wennerlund
Janet Wilcox
Peter Wojciechowski

GENERAL DONATIONS

Through December 14

Ameriprise
Kellie Anderson
James Bauer
Richard Caswell
Lyle and Elsie Elverud
Dan Frank
Karen Hand
Joyce Hollinder
Jim Johnson
Dick Lang
David and Donna Legrid
Charlie and Mary Sell
Vi Smith
Mandy Wendel

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Carol Bangsund
Mike Brey
Mary Caine
Phyllis Lahn
Dottie & Roger Lund
Karen & Wesley Mand
Joyce Paul
Lou Paulson
Marion Schulz
Barb Scottston
Catherine Vesley
Tom Ward

Welcome New Members!

OCTOBER 19-DECEMBER 14 2007

Jeff and Joleen Crotty (Coon Rapids)
Mike Dunlap (Fridley)
Lyle and Elsie Elverud (Fridley)
Janet Hall (St. Francis)
Helen Hlavinka (Blaine)
Dan and Therese Hogan (Andover)
Lefty Hyde (Blaine)
Katherine King (Coon Rapids)
Bob and Terri Mueller & family (St. Francis)
Jay and Stacy Overby (Spring Lake Park)
Maude Ruth Watson (Anoka)

The Anoka County Historical Society wishes to impart our sincere condolences to the families and friends of

Donald Parrott,

who died in June 2007.

He was an ACHS member and Korean War Veteran.

Audrey (Pat) Johnson,

who died October 31, 2007.

She was a long-time ACHS member, and wife of ACHS member Henry (Red) Johnson.

Lowell Swisher

who died November 1, 2007.

He was the brother of ACHS member Marion Welton.

Hannah Ward Loehlein,

who died November 4, 2007.

She was a long-time ACHS member, and wife of ACHS member Albert Loehlein.

Arnold Steen

who died November 26, 2007.

He was the father and father-in-law of ACHS members Gary and Ann Steen.

Dr. William Andberg

who died December 11, 2007.

He was a supporter of history and donor of artifacts to the ACHS collections.

2007 Holiday Tree Topper

For many years, ACHS has continued the tradition of asking one community within Anoka County each year to present an ornament for the County Tree. Every community in the county is represented on the tree either with their ornament or a velvet bow for those that haven't yet been asked for an ornament.

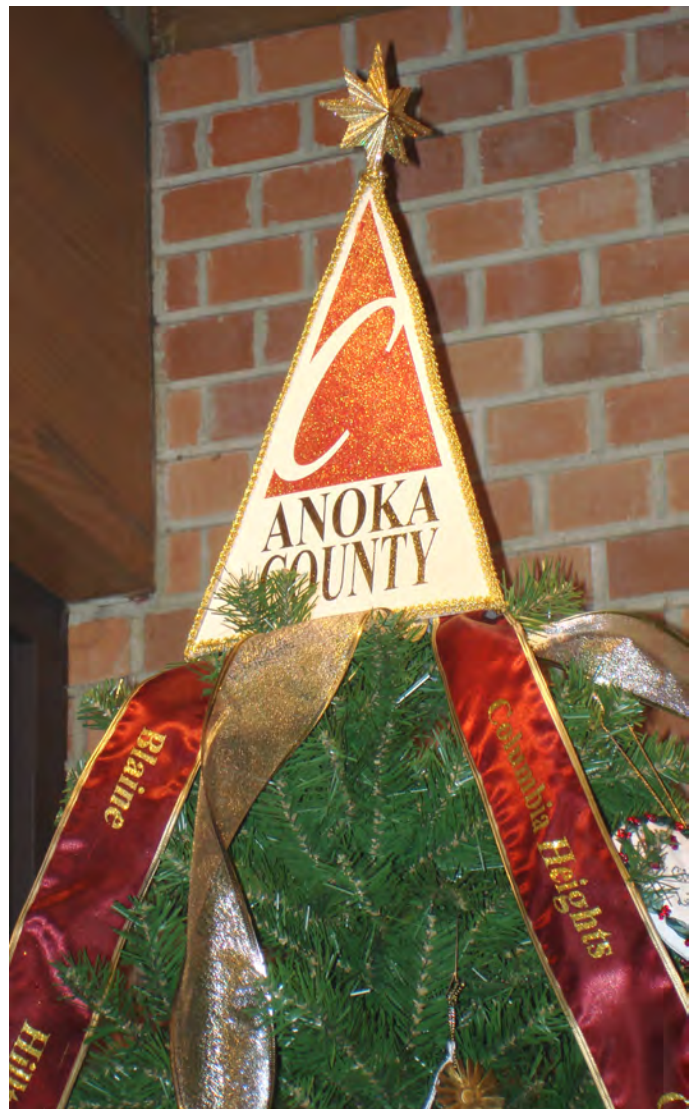
But how could one community be chosen over another to place the ornament on the tree for the Sesquicentennial year?! Since there was no good answer for that question, the idea came to suggest that Anoka County itself place—not an ornament—but a tree topper to represent uniting the entire county with the spirit of the holiday season.

Commissioner Robyn West took on the project and gathered a crew of people from the administrative staff to help her. Commissioner West admits to several ways they learned how *not* to make a tree topper before they had something they were happy with!

The topper was placed on the tree and the ribbons arranged prior to the event, where, on December 4th, Commissioner West read a poem before she pulled the veil off the topper to the delight of everyone present.

The topper bears the county logo with a little modification in the shape and elegant burgundy ribbons flowing from each corner. The ribbons, trimmed in gold, bear the name each of the 21 cities and townships in Anoka County. The construction crew even thought ahead to 2008 when it is expected that Burns Township will incorporate as the City of Nowthen and provided a replacement ribbon with Nowthen listed instead of Burns.

Thank you, Commissioner West and crew, for a great addition to the tree!



Anoka County Sesquicentennial Merchandise Clearance Sale!

Prices good while supplies last!

- Limited edition covered wagon.....\$51.90
- *Stitches in Time: Sesquicentennial Quilt Pattern & History Book*...\$7.98
- *Anoka County Union 150th special edition*.....75¢
- T-shirts.....\$8.25
- Golf shirts.....\$15.00
- Coffee mugs.....\$3.75
- Afghans/Throws Available only at Serendipity in Andover

Up To Date

Announcements and News

2008 ACHS Board Meeting Schedule

All ACHS board meetings are open to the public and are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Anoka County History Center and Library meeting room.

January	10	July	10
February	14	August	14
March	13	September	11
April	10	October	9
May	8	November	13
June	12	December	11

Please help!

Get your hours in to Maria by January 15th.

We try to track all volunteer hours carefully, but a few still slip by. If you signed your hours on the sheet in the staff lunchroom or if your volunteer assignment was scheduled by Maria, then your hours are recorded. If you were scheduled by Vickie, or worked at an event that wasn't scheduled in advance or worked off-site, or worked with Jan Anderson on the music research, please check your hours. We want to make sure no hour goes uncounted and no volunteer overlooked.

Opportunities abound!

The photo project is finished with all our photos in tidy acid free folders, except the outsized ones that will not fit into a file drawer. Volunteers are needed to custom make a Mylar envelope for each one. We'll train you!

Obituaries will be saved in a new format after the first of the year. Volunteers will be needed to eventually bring all the old obits into the new format to ensure uniformity.

After Christmas, all our ornaments will need to be taken down and stored away. It's also a great time to rethink our storage plan so that items are available in the order needed.

Volunteers with sewing skills are needed to make doll clothes for the spring American Girl tea. Two door prizes are offered at each tea, so roughly 20 outfits per year are needed. We could offer more tea sessions if we had enough clothes for door prizes!

We need a mailing committee! Anyone who can stuff envelopes is eligible! Mailings occur about 10 times a year, so it's not a huge commitment.

Data entry, cut and paste, and filing tasks are always available for those who wish to volunteer an hour here and there, or on a regular basis.

Call me and I'll find a volunteer task suited to your skills and the time that you have to give us. Maria at 763-421-0600.

Appreciating our Volunteers

Sometimes, good intentions have unexpected results and I may be guilty of doing just that. It was never my intention to hurt anyone's feelings, but that may have been the case in instances where I have tried to honor those who dedicate so very many hours to ACHS. In doing so, I may have neglected to acknowledge the contributions of those who volunteer only a few hours a year, but who, none the less, contribute significantly to programs, events, and ongoing projects. Volunteer Nancy Martin pointed it out to me and has agreed to let me share her thoughts with you.

"I think EVERY contribution is important. Some of us might have donated more hours than others this year, but those who give less hours are just as important. It all works together for the good of the whole. All those hours taken together are an enormous contribution to ACHS, and every hour matters. It's a gift - a sharing of gifts - that make the whole thing work. With each gift of time and talent, it seems to me the History Center is enriched enormously. No one at the bottom rung of that "hours" ladder should be made to feel their gift is nothing.

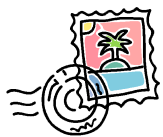
At the volunteer appreciation event, those who had given the most hours were given certificates (even though most weren't there), and applauded, and I left feeling that what I had done was nothing compared to them. Yet I had worked hours on transcribing tapes AFTER having put in 10-hour work days, had given up Saturdays and Sundays, and did the best job I could to ensure the integrity of each tape's transcription.

I think we have to be careful to not give the impression that those with hundreds of volunteer hours are important to us and everybody else is just okay. There has to be a way to make everyone feel whatever they gave made a difference. As members, we ARE community - all of us - and in a community ALL help to weave the fabric that ultimately becomes our history. EVERY story, EVERY gift, EVERY effort matters.

I have come to see that my history is woven into the tapestry that is Anoka County. All the farmers, all the soldiers, all the pioneers I listened to on all the tapes I've transcribed validated that for me. We all matter, and each story is important. So everyone should know that one hour is as important as 500, because if that hour were missing, there would be a hole in the fabric. We have an excellent group of volunteers eager to share in the history of the county, and to do what they can to ensure others do, too. That's not a small thing."

Thanks, Nancy, you are so right! I couldn't have put it better myself. With the year of 2007 behind us, a giant pat on the back goes out to EVERYONE who helped make it a great year and a wonderful sesquicentennial. **Thank you to each and every volunteer for every minute you helped preserve history!**

Anoka County Collects



It's been held over! We've had so much fun displaying collections in the lobby cases that we've decided to extend the series! There will be a new collection and collector highlighted each month into 2008. Each display will include a brief profile of the collector and some history about their collections. If you have a collection you would like to display in the lobby for a month, please contact Vickie at 763-421-0600. We will take a photo of you with your collection, do a brief interview about you and what you collect, and help set up the display. All collections loaned to ACHS are in locked exhibit cases for security.

January will look at something we all remember, but is becoming almost obsolete with all the new smoking rules—ashtrays! Jerry Brown from Blaine will highlight some of his very best pieces.

February has not only an extra day, but an antique camera collection! Wait until you see what "develops" with this collection from Don and Jean Stauffer!

Come in to see what's on display and enjoy everyone's history!



Coming Events

January Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) We've held over the "collections" exhibits to run into 2008 and the first up is Jerry Brown and his ashtray collection. Remember when every coffee table had an ashtray on it and kids made them as gifts for Dad every Fathers Day? Jerry does! With smoking on the decline, ash tray are becoming harder to find. Come "remember when" with this fun collection.

Anoka County Collects — Jerry Brown & Ashtrays

January 29, 7:00 p.m.

(Anoka County History Center.) The newest exhibit in the military gallery will look at the roles played by Anoka County women during times of military conflict starting with the Civil War and ending with Iraqi Freedom. Join in on the opening night to meet some of these women in person as we look at their special stories of support and service.

Exhibit Opening — *We Can Do it! Women in Wartime*

February.

(Anoka County History Center) Don and Jean are naturals for having a camera collection as Jean produces for a local cable TV channel and Don has volunteered his still camera talents to ACHS on many occasions. Their camera collection of old and antique cameras just "developed" and they are looking forward to sharing it with everyone.

Anoka County Collects — Don & Jean Stauffer with Cameras

February.

(Anoka County History Center and other locations) There is a lot for quilters and those who love history all through the month. See page 3 for more information and get in on the fun of celebrating a day that comes only once every four years!

Quilts and Quilters in a Celebration of Leap Year

February 29, 7:00 p.m.

(Anoka County History Center.) The quilters behind these fascinating quilts will be on hand to talk about their works of art one last time before this exhibit closes on Leap Day! The drawing for your very own Sesquicentennial quilt—if you hold the lucky ticket—will be held at the conclusion of the evening. See page 3 for more information.

Leap Day!! Exhibit Closing — *Stitches in Time Quilts*

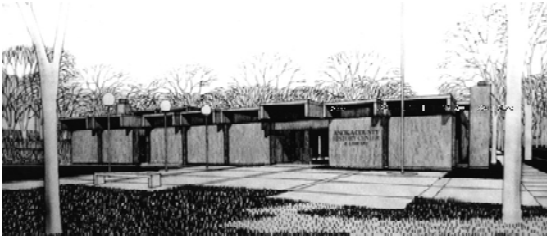
Last weekend in March

Save the date for the ACHS Annual Meeting to be held in the Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood! The annual meeting is a great time to catch up on what has happened at ACHS and look forward to what the next projects will be as well as getting a look inside this historic building. Mark your calendar!

ACHS Annual Meeting

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Anoka, MN 55303
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History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 2

March-April 2008

A Look at Linwood...

by Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

SERVING:

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- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

Linwood was not one of the original townships formed when Anoka County organized in 1857. The area that is now Linwood Township was carved out of what was then Bethel and Columbus townships in 1871. Linwood is one of only two townships left in Anoka County and, if proceedings go as planned for the incorporation of Burns, Linwood will be the only township left by the end of 2008.

When the first settlers arrived in the 1850s, they found a landscape dotted with swamps, lakes, marshes and some timber on the higher ground. Joseph Sausen, a German immigrant who is believed to be the first white settler in Linwood, arrived in 1855 with his family and they chose land in the southeast part of the township. Most of the early development in Linwood was in the northern part of the township and by 1880, it included a steam saw and feed mill. The combination of a saw mill and a feed mill sharing a frame building of 16 x 40 feet sounds unusual, but this operation could put out 8,000 feet of lumber per day by sharing the 25 horsepower engine in the basement where the feed mill was located.

School district #4 organized in the northern portion of the township in 1860 and the population had risen enough that in 1874, another school was added on the south end.

A boom in settlers came after the end of the Civil War in the late 1860 and early 1870s. Some of Linwood's well known families arrived in the scene in these years. Part of the influx of settlers was due to the Homestead Act that allowed settlers to claim land for a total of \$18 in filing fees. Some of the families arriving then included the Broadbents, Kings, Ridges, and Grants—descendants of those names still appear as residents of Linwood today.



The farmland available in Linwood continued to draw settlers. In 1890, Victor Allquist arrived and settled on land in section 25, the far northeast corner of Linwood Township.

A traveling photographer took the photo at left of the house with the family members sitting under the trees in 1898.

Another settler in Linwood didn't arrive until 1897, but he helped make some big changes in the township. He was Stephen Carlisle and he was a "land dealer," so his business of buying

and selling Anoka County property helped to spur development in the area. He built a fine new house that still stands near the intersection of 217th Avenue and Viking Blvd.

These people made up some of the first generations to call Linwood "home." The township has grown from the 227 residents in the 1880 census to 4,668 in 2000.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
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Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director's Desk...

By Todd Mahon

If you thought things were going to slow down at the Anoka County Historical Society because the sesquicentennial celebration is over, you couldn't be more mistaken. There's plenty to keep the staff, board, and volunteers busy as we begin several projects. But many of these projects won't be as obvious to the public as they are occurring behind the scenes.

You may recall a column I wrote last year that raised the issue of objects in our collection that are candidates to be deaccessioned from our collection. We now have the opportunity to address some of these instances directly.

Beginning with this issue of *History Center News*, each issue in 2008 will feature an object or collection of pieces that we are considering removing from our collection. I personally feel strongly about bringing these examples to our membership and supporters in order to demonstrate our responsible stewardship of Anoka County's history.

This issue's article, found on page 3, takes a look at a group of chairs in our collection that are believed to come from the old Anoka City Hall. I hope you'll read the article and gain a finer understanding of the objects in our collection, how we care for them, and how we use them to interpret our county's history.

These articles will look at items that have poor documentation and provenance, are in disrepair, or are duplicated and over represented in our collection. We hope that educating the public about these matters will help us continue to grow our collection in a responsible way and offer the best care possible for all of our collections.

ACHS will still bring you many of the fun and quality public programs you have come to expect from us over the years, but this year we will be doing a little more introspection than we have in the recent past as we address collections and facilities issues. These matters are just as important to preserving and interpreting Anoka County's history as our award winning exhibitions and events are. I am interested to hear what the membership's and public's reaction will be to these issues and encourage your feedback on these matters. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the ACHS staff and board of directors.

From the President...

By Ray Steinke

Well, here we are, just about at the end of my term as your President. It seems like it was just yesterday that I took office, but in looking back over all the different Sesquicentennial events we successfully completed in the past year, it seems like it was much longer! It must be more than just one year because we did soooooo much! Waiting for some of my favorite events was the hardest.

Our final sesquicentennial event brought us all the way into the new year with the quilt exhibit. We ended it on Leap Day with a county wide "quilt shop hop" that had five shops participating all over Anoka County. Did you get in to see the quilts? I hope so! They were great! My favorite was the one that had all of the communities in it.

One happy-but-sad event we held was the retirement party for our office administrator, Lois Spadgenske. We are very happy that in her retirement, Lois has the freedom to travel, play with her grandchildren, and do just what she chooses, but we certainly miss her!

Did you come out on that really cold night to be a part of the opening of the newest exhibit, *We can do it! Anoka County Women in War Time*? I was there and it was wonderful to just act like a fly on the wall, listening to the women telling their stories. I admit, I did do quite a bit of visiting with women featured in the exhibit and it was really a great evening. The exhibit is something of a timeline, starting with a quilt top made by a woman on the home front during the Civil War and following military history through to today.

I happened to stop by the History Center while the exhibit was being constructed one day and got quite a treat. Program Manager Vickie Wendel, was working with a uniform that had come back from Iraq last August—there was still sand in the boot laces and you could smell the desert! If you know where to look, you can even see the hole worn in the uniform from rubbing on the weapon Shantell Hoff carried while she was serving in the Army National Guard in Iraq for 22 months.

On March 29, I will pass the office of President to Catherine Vesley at the Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood. It has been an honor to serve history this past year and I look forward to the annual meeting so I can thank each of you for your continuing support. See you there!

The Story of an Artifact

Or in this case, the lack of a story... by Todd Mahon, Executive Director

In nearly 75 years of collecting, the Anoka County Historical Society has gathered about 16,000 three dimensional objects into its collection. In 2008, almost all of these objects have been cataloged into our electronic collections database, a project that began in 2001 with the move from our previous home in Colonial Hall to our current home in the Anoka County History Center and Library.

The cataloging of these objects revealed many mysteries that do not have easy remedies. There were accession records that had very generic and non-descriptive one word descriptions (such as “rug,” yet we have many rugs in the collection, which one does the record connect to?). There are also a fair number of items that indicate the object was never intended to be a part of our permanent collection.

Before our much celebrated move to the History Center, ACHS made the move to Colonial Hall in 1971. Before Colonial Hall, we were in the Banfill-Locke House in Fridley, which is now the home to the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. That building was, and still is, owned by the Anoka County Parks Department. When ACHS operated there, the furniture and equipment was owned by the Parks Department and when we made the move to Colonial Hall, we made a public appeal for furniture and equipment that could be used (not collected) by our staff, volunteers, and the public. The public responded and offered us furniture that was appropriate for the 1904 home.

Donations were received with the implicit declaration that the items were not to be a part of the collection, but instead were to be used at ACHS’s discretion. However, many of these items were fully accessioned into the collection, but were noted to the original intentions in the accession record. This was a well-meaning, but misguided practice. Once an item is accessioned into our collection, we have strict policies about its removal—or deaccessioning. In other words, we don’t just throw things away here (for good reason). As we begin a long process to clean up our collections, these types of items are among the easiest to identify (when the accession record says more than “rug”).

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1531-6-96
CLASSIFICATION: _____
OBJECTS: Seven "Fiddle Back" chairs from Old City Hall.
DESCRIPTION (including condition): Fiddle Back chairs, Oak, Seven chairs in all, 2 chairs have broken spindles and legs, Donated by Mrs. Edward Larson with the understanding that the chairs will be used by the Historical Society, chairs are from the Old city Hall, possibly refinished.
INFORMATION: at one time.

A fine case in point is a collection of seven chairs that were brought to us in 1996 by Mrs. Edward Larson of Anoka. These oak fiddle-back chairs were given to ACHS with the expressed intent that “the chairs will be used by the Historical Society.” During their use in board meetings and at public events, two of the chairs were broken from general wear and tear. The fact that the chairs were said to have been used in Anoka’s old city hall complicates the matter only slightly.

Do these chairs really tell us the story of politics and city government in Anoka, and if they do, do seven of them tell the story better than one does? The fact that the chairs were never intended for the permanent collection helps us with these questions. We’re interested in your answers to these questions, too. As the stewards of Anoka County’s history we feel it is important to present these situations to our membership and the greater public and look forward to continuing this series of articles throughout 2008.



Contributions & New Members — Thank you

All lists are current to February 15, 2008

YEAR END APPEAL DONATIONS

Edmund Babcock
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Sandra Karasch
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Jerry Newton
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SPECIAL DONATIONS

In Honor of Vickie Wendel,
given by Janet Wilcox

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Anoka County Board
Dennis Berg
Marvin Christenson
Judith Hubmir
Irene Parsons
Eileen Rathbun
Judith Reimnitz
Barb Scottston
Cary Thelen

Welcome New Members!

Rosie Herdina (Linwood)
Thomas Hilliard (Overland Park, Kansas)
Kim Holbrook (Brooklyn Park)
Richard & Krista Johnson (Blaine)
Scott Lepak (Andover)
Robert Locker (Fridley)
Dottie McKinley (Blaine)
Frank & Janice Moinicken (Coon Rapids)
Joseph Pelawa (East Bethel)
Steve Roman (Circle Pines)
Terry Scott (Andover)
Tom Sherohman (Columbia Heights)
Lorraine Spears (Champlin)
Kent & Mary Tabako (Coon Rapids)
Larry Turnquist (Anoka)

***The Anoka County Historical Society
extends our sincere sympathy to
the families of:***

Katie Talbot Clark

who died January 9, 2008.

*Katie was a long-time ACHS member,
mother of ACHS member Norah Wynian,
sister of ACHS member Ralph Talbot,
and cousin of ACHS member Phyllis Lahn.*

Rod Larson

who died January 13, 2008.

*Rod was a long-time ACHS member, and wife of ACHS member and
summer kitchen guitar player Maxine Larson.*

Janet Paulson

who died January 15, 2008. She had been an ACHS member since 2005

Marilyn Glenn

who died January 19, 2008.

*Marilyn was an ACHS member, wife of William Glenn, and
mother of ACHS member Brian Glenn.*

Up To Date

BALLOTS

Everyone with paid-up ACHS memberships was mailed a ballot to vote for the ACHS Board of Directors during the last week of February 2008. If your dues are paid up and you did not receive a ballot, please give us a call at 763-421-0600.

Those paying their dues before Friday, March 7, 2008, will also be mailed a ballot. All completed ballots must be received by ACHS by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2008. The name and address of EACH VOTER MUST be on the return envelope. To preserve anonymity, nothing should be written on the ballot envelope itself.

The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting on March 29, at the Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood.

E-Newsletters soon available

ACHS is always looking for ways to reduce expenses without compromising our level of service to our members and our communities. One way to do that is to send our newsletter to members via e-mail instead of postal mail.

The idea isn't for everyone, and we realize that some people will prefer a paper copy. That's fine! We'll continue to send you a newsletter, just like we have in the past.

Those who would like to get their newsletter by e-mail will have that opportunity very soon. By doing so, members will save ACHS, not only the expense of paper and postage, but also the time and labor required to fold, tape, address, sort, and mail them. (This is done by faithful volunteers, so the financial impact of their contribution is evident.) E-newsletters will allow members to archive their newsletters on the computer instead of the book shelf. You can still print the Coming Events page to hang on the refrigerator!

There are several easy ways to add your name to the e-mail list:

Send an e-mail from the e-mail address where you want to receive the newsletter. Send your request to maria@ac-hs.org.

Send the label on the front of this newsletter, write your e-mail address on it, and bring it or mail it to ACHS.

Be very clear in printing the address with the capitals, underscores, numbers and letters written properly!

Happy Retirement, Lois!

ACHS staff, board, volunteers, members and friends gathered on the evening of January 26 to wish our office manager, Lois Spadgenske a fond farewell and a happy retirement.

Lois began working as the ACHS office manager in 2002, a few months before the grand opening in our current building. She was in on part of the move from Colonial Hall and all the many events, changes, reconstruction, and more that went on at ACHS in the past six years. Lois was responsible for all of the meticulous details of the membership lists, the daily cash flow, monetary donations, book keeping, supply purchases, and so much more.

While everyone wishes Lois the best days of her life in her retirement, we will miss seeing her everyday!

Volunteer Opportunities

By Maria King, Volunteer Coordinator

Over the last few years the volunteers have completed countless small projects that required indexing, sorting, moving, and filing. Now the challenge has changed! New projects require volunteers to use our Past Perfect museum software to achieve the following:

- Add the oral interviews from the Korea and Vietnam projects and their corresponding transcripts to the computer to create new records.
- Re-enter the existing oral history project tapes and change their home location and collection name.
- Carefully examine garments that currently have an incomplete record; attempt to match each garment with a description already in the system; if necessary, create new record.
- Cross reference names that currently appear in the descriptions of group portraits.
- Enter e-mail addresses into a folder on Microsoft Outlook for mailing newsletters.

For non-computer users, we have opportunities to help with the American Girl Teas. These very popular programs require at least 3 adults to help set up, supervise the craft, supervise the serving, and help wash up afterwards. We also offer a door prize at each tea—an outfit that will fit the American Girl doll (18inch doll). We are always looking for those talented seamstresses to whip up a few more doll clothes! Patterns provided.

There is also a training session for Ghost Tour guides coming up! See the back calendar page for more info.



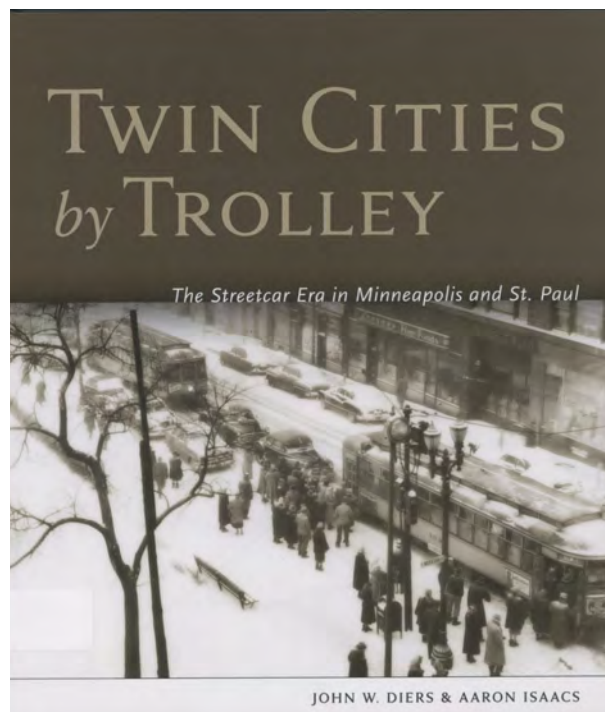
The Streetcar Era in the Twin Cities

Everyone is invited to a special presentation by John Diers on the Twin Cities street railway system and its Anoka connection on Saturday, April 19 at 1:30PM in the Anoka Community Room, located in the lower level of Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North in Anoka. The city hall location was chosen for this talk because it was built on the site of the street depot in downtown Anoka.

Few nineteenth century inventions did more to shape the growth and development of the modern American city than did the electric streetcar. For the first time land use could be planned and zoned with residential neighborhoods organized near open spaces—parks and lakes and industry and manufacturing near transportation—railroads and rivers. People could buy homes located away from commercial activities and travel to their jobs. Neighborhoods could develop unique identities and still be a part of a greater community through a common transportation system that gathered people with different ethnic backgrounds, wealth, and social standing for all their separate errands. From 1890 until 1954 the electric streetcar was synonymous with the Twin City Rapid Transit Company (TCRT). At its peak in the 1920's TCRT's 523-mile system carried 238 million passengers. It was regarded as one of the finest electric railway systems in America.

John Diers will talk about the TCRT system and the Minneapolis Anoka & Cuyuna Range Railway, an electric line, which carried passengers between Anoka and Minneapolis.

Mr. Diers, a 35-year veteran of the transit industry, is co-author of *Twin Cities by Trolley*, published by the University of Minnesota Press (2007).



The front cover of John Diers' book. He has donated a copy of the book to the ACHS library and it contains information on Anoka's street cars.

Jewelry of Sentiment Workshop

A "Hair Workshop" will be held at the Anoka County Historical Society on Monday, **March 10 from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.** It will explore many of the traditions and stories behind the making of human hair into jewelry or decorations for the home and—for those willing to try their skill—provide some hands-on experience in making your own "parlor ornament."

Do you have a lock of baby hair tucked carefully into an envelope or book somewhere? Many people do and it is not a new custom to save a snippet of hair from a precious baby. Hair in history has held a special place. For centuries, a lock of hair has been a reminder of its owner, even more precious in the time before photography was available. Many mothers cut a lock of hair from a deceased child as the only keepsake she had of the child. Those women, however, did not just tuck the lock of hair away and forget it—they worked it into jewelry and wore it proudly.

It was not always at death that hair was saved, classes of girls were known to swap locks of hair with their friends to make "memory wreath." The strongest mourning and death association to hair jewelry didn't come along until Montgomery Wards catalog advertising. Women also used their own hair to make watch chains for their husbands or sweethearts to wear as they went off to fight in the Civil War or Spanish American War.

ACHS staff person, Vickie Wendel, will lead workshop participants through weaving hair as well as the history behind the art as a celebration of March as Women's History Month. Vickie has been doing hair work for nearly 20 years and has collected unique examples of the art from centuries past. These sentimental works of art will be on display at the History Center throughout the month of March.

Materials will be provided for participants who wish to make a parlor ornament of hair as a part of the workshop fee. Participants may bring their own hair to work (hair must be six inches long) or hair will be provided at the workshop. The cost for the workshop, including materials, is \$10.00. ACHS members receive a \$2.00 discount.

The workshop is **limited to 20 participants**, so preregistration is required. Those wishing to attend may reserve their place by making their payment in person at the History Center, mail the payment to ACHS clearly marked HAIR WORKSHOP, or by phone with a credit card.



2008 ACHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 29, 2008

1:30 pm—3:30 pm

The Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood

\$10 for members, \$12 for non-members

Located next to the Linwood Town Hall,
28217 Typo Creek Drive NE, Linwood.

Join the Anoka County Historical Society for our 2008 Annual Meeting in the historic Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood.

William Kepler from the Living History Society of Minnesota will present a history of the Grange movement and what they hoped to accomplish. Politics, money, and some famous Minnesotans all fit into the history of the Grange movement. History of the Crescent Grange Hall itself will also be highlighted. This is your chance to see inside this historic building!



2008 ACHS Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Attendee(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Tickets--\$10 members/ \$12 non-members

Member tickets: _____ Non-member tickets: _____

MasterCard and Visa Accepted!

You may call in your reservations by using your credit card to (763) 421-0600 during ACHS business hours!

Ticket subtotal: \$ _____

Additional donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Reserve your seat by returning this form and your payment **by March 21, 2008** to:

Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

Your reservation(s) will be waiting for you at the registration table the day of the event

Coming Events

March Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) This is jewelry *made* with hair, not clips or barrettes to put *in* your hair! This fascinating art form was highly popular in the mid 1800s. Vickie's collection includes both "personal ornaments" and "parlor ornaments."

March 10, 7:00 –9:00 p.m.

(Anoka County History Center and Library) Cost is \$10 for non members, \$8.00 for ACHS members. The fee covers workshop and all materials. The workshop is **limited to 20 participants—preregistration required**. See page 6 for details.

March 29, 1:30—3:30

(Crescent Grange Hall in Linwood) Hear the latest news about ACHS, the wrap-up of our sesquicentennial year, provide your input, hear the election results for the ACHS Board of Directors, and have a lot of fun. See page 7 for more details.

March 27, 28, 29

(Anoka County History Center and Library) Welcome in the sunny days of spring with Molly, the American Girl of the 1940s. Tea Party activities will highlight experiences familiar during WWII in Anoka County. Girls, their dolls, and grown-ups will have a tea party to wrap up the event. **Reservations required**. Thursday evening, March 27 at 6:00, Friday evening, March 28 at 6:00 and several sessions on Saturday, March 29. Ask for times when making your reservations.

April Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) Cute and cuddly, elegant and stately, or just plain fun, these panda bears are sure to delight everyone who sees them! Be sure to stop in during April to check out this latest edition in the Anoka County Collects series!.

April 5, 1:00

(Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd.) If you volunteered in 2007, watch for your invitation to this special day set aside just for you! Look for your invitation to arrive in the mail in early April with all the details of the time and place where ACHS honors YOU!! If you didn't write your volunteer hours on the calendar at ACHS, please call Maria to get those hours recorded ASAP. We'll add your hours to the total and get your name on the invitation list. You can reach Maria at the History Center, 763-421-0600.

April 19 Time 1:30

(Anoka City Hall Community Room) Hear more about the streetcar era in the Twin Cities in a talk by John Diers co-author of *Twin Cities by Trolley*, published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2007. See page 6 for more details.

April 24, 6:00 p.m.

(Anoka County History Center and Library) ACHS will be offering TWO different ghost tours this summer, so there is room for twice as many guides! Come learn the techniques for giving an educational and thrilling tour during this training session. Questions? Contact Maria by email at maria@ac-hs.org or call 763-421-0600.

Anoka County Collects — Vickie Wendel & Hair Jewelry

Hairwork History and Workshop

ACHS Annual Meeting

American Girl Spring Tea Party

Cathi Weber and Panda Bears

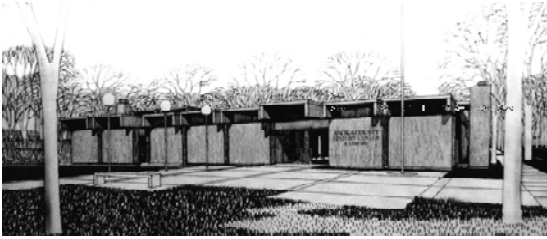
Volunteer Recognition Day

The Streetcar Era in the Twin Cities

Docent training for NEW and Revised Ghost Tours

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History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 3

May-June 2008

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- Centerville
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- Columbia Heights
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- Coon Rapids
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- Ham Lake
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- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

Minnesota's Sesquicentennial... by Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

Minnesota will celebrate its 150th birthday on May 11, 2008, the sesquicentennial of the nation's 32nd state.

Yes, Anoka County is older than the state—57 of the present 87 counties were organized before Minnesota became a state. The statehood process began with an enabling act passed by Congress in February 1857. This allowed the territory of Minnesota to begin the process required for statehood—starting with a census. The census was needed to establish proper representation in Congress and at the local level. The representatives were necessary to write a state constitution that had to be approved by popular vote before it was presented to Congress and then approved by the President with an act of admission.

The Enabling Act set the boundaries for the new state. At one point, Wisconsin—with an eye toward all the timber lands they could gain—wanted to set their western border at the Rum River rather than the St. Croix. That failed, but more controversy came in the question of where the northern and southern borders of the new state would be placed. A wide, narrow state extending to the Missouri River with Iowa on the south and a line just north of St. Paul was favored by those who sought a strong farming economy. A narrower state reaching to the Canadian border and stopping at the Red River had broader economic possibilities with timber and mining playing a larger role. Politics were, of course, the driving force behind the state's borders and the commerce area around St. Paul was powerful enough to resist all attempts to move the capital to another location or set borders that could reduce its importance.

One location considered as a site for the capital of the state of Minnesota was in Itaska, a settlement in the township of Ramsey in the southwestern part of Anoka County. The

village was a thriving place at the time with a ferry to Dayton across the Mississippi, several homes, a hotel, and a trading post. It was a stopping point on the Red River Ox Cart Trail and continued to be a resting place when the Military Road was built connecting Minnesota's frontier forts. There was enough credibility in the rumors for land speculators to invest in the area. Men such as Alexander Ramsey, Henry Rice, Oliver Kelley, and others bought land in the area of Itaska, in the hope of making money should it become the capital for the new state.

But St. Paul hung on to the capital and the growth of the town of Anoka at the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi Rivers overshadowed Itaska until it quietly disappeared. It's doubtful if much money was made by the land speculators, but that is the nature of speculation—it doesn't always pay off.

Little remains of Itaska today, but it is an easy site to visit. The land of the village is on Highway 10 at the wayside rest between

Ramsey and Elk River. There are remnants of a protective dugout, possibly built by Native Americans, near the river, an archeological area, and geological interpretation. It is a quiet place to wander, contemplating how different Anoka County's history would be if that site had indeed become Minnesota's capital.



A stirrup from a saddle found in Itaska. It is one of the few objects that remain from the village in the ACHS collection.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director's Desk...

By Todd Mahon

In March, ACHS held its annual election for its board of directors. I was extremely pleased to see 145 ballots returned as we welcome two new board members and three re-elected board members.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the time and expertise our board members offer to the Anoka County Historical Society. As we held our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Andover Senior Center on April 5, I was reminded that our board members are volunteers for our organization. While they are charged with greater responsibilities, they do it at the expense of their personal time and receive no monetary compensation for those activities.

The board members have legal responsibilities as the stewards of a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, but just as important, they provide their expertise and experience. ACHS is fortunate to have fourteen board members who have unique passions and talents to lend to the organization. If we need a person to help install exhibits, fine tune the wording in our human resources policy, or make that last phone call to raise funds for a special event, one of our board members is willing (and just as important) capable of doing so.

With that in mind, I want to welcome our two newest board members, Dick Johnson and Tom Sherohman. Dick comes to ACHS with a wealth of experience serving on non profit boards. He's from Blaine and has lived in Anoka County for over ten years. In the past he has served on the boards of the Anoka Technical College Foundation, the Twin Cities United Way, the Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission. He has served as the president of the C.W.A. Local #7200, Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomington, and the Minneapolis Central Labor Union. I'm sure with that experience, Dick will have a lot to offer ACHS.

Tom grew up in Columbia Heights and has served on the Columbia Heights Public Library Foundation Board, where he helped organize fundraisers and secure grants for library programs. He has been a professional actor and director for over forty years. Already, his connections have paid off in finding artifacts for our Anoka County music exhibit, *Sounds of Anoka County*: and the bands played on, which opens this summer. All of the members of ACHS owe a debt of gratitude to the fourteen members of our board of directors. Each one of them has stepped forward to do what they can to help us achieve our mission to preserve and promote Anoka County's history.

From the President...

By Catherine Vesley

Dear ACHS members,

It is an honor to be your new Board President. I appreciate the support of the membership, and consider it a terrific opportunity to work with a Board and staff of this caliber. After the huge effort that centered around the Sesquicentennial last year, this year should be quieter; though the upcoming exhibitions and events on the schedule promise to be very interesting as always.

I was asked how I became interested in history and local history, in particular. I suspect my route into this area was a common one. I have always loved to read, and started on the Laura Ingalls Wilder books very young. Her picture of early life in the Midwest stayed with me for years. Later on, I went through Willa Cather, etc... and a whole series of well written novels about "pioneer days" before actually tackling the historical tomes themselves, in and out of classes. The interest was reinforced by family road trips. We never passed up a local historical site or museum, and the family car came equipped with guide books.

To this day, I stop at any and all historical things I pass on the road, and have often gone miles out of my way to take a look at a town with an interesting Historic District, or an important site. It's a very egalitarian sort of thing, with the subjects running from covered bridges, to Civil War battlefields, to fish hatcheries, to old wagon ruts in a meadow, etc... I also have found that the people who staff sites are so interesting. They invariably know everything about their communities, not just the particular history involved with the site. You meet a group of very smart and well read people.

So what started out as a childhood and later academic interest, became a lifelong area of study. The neat thing about it is, that there are so many aspects, so many areas of specialization, and that they tend to reinforce each other. Architectural History leads you into urban design, garden history and structure, historic horticulture, materials science and transportation history and onward. As your interests change and develop, you appreciate the range of material open to you. I will always be reading and looking at some aspect of it all, and I am sure you will, too.

The Story of an Artifact

The Importance of Provenance... by Todd Mahon, Executive Director

Throughout 2008, History Center News will feature articles on collections items that are candidates for deaccessioning, or removal from the ACHS permanent collections. These articles are meant to educate and prepare the public and our membership for the possibility of deaccessioning in the future. We hope these articles will spur discussion and teach about the responsibilities of caring for our collection. Any questions about these, or any other articles, can be addressed to ACHS staff at 763-421-0600.

When an object is donated to the Anoka County Historical Society in 2008, careful notes are taken about the object's physical description and the history associated with the object. In the professional museum world, the history associated with the object is known as the provenance. It should tell who the object belonged to, how it was used, and why it is important to the collection. At ACHS, our Collections Policy guides us in the types of objects we collect and the provenance needed to be accepted and accessioned into the collection. The physical description includes a basic description of its appearance, overall condition, and often includes physical measurements. Once all of this is recorded, the object is given a unique accession number and it is placed either in storage or on exhibition. Each object is labeled with the accession number in a manner that does not permanently alter the objects' appearance and will not contribute to premature degradation or affect its proper conservation. This might mean an acid-free paper label tied to the object with a cotton string, or paraloid in acetone in an inconspicuous location, with the accession number written over that.

For example, take a circa 1900 black sun umbrella that was donated to ACHS in 2007. The record clearly states that it was donated by Bernice Glines of Princeton, Minnesota. Ms. Glines purchased the umbrella from Toni Foell in 1984, and Ms. Foell received it as a gift from Mary Brandell of Anoka. Ms. Brandell used the umbrella to shade herself from the sun on

horse and buggy rides into Anoka. The story line is clear for this object.

However, in the past, these procedures were not standard to accessioning procedures at ACHS. We are not unique in this situation. Historical societies of all sizes, but especially ones like us, have records that are decades old, with poor physical descriptions and little or no recorded provenance. It is not uncommon to find an accession record in the ACHS files dating back to the 1950s that merely reads "rug," "sewing machine," or "chair" in the description field. Worse yet, there are rugs, chairs, and sewing machines in the collection that have no object ID number on them to link them back to an accession record, regardless of how poorly documented it is.

When these situations occur, ACHS staff and volunteers have a number of methods to track and connect an unlabeled object to an unattached accession record. In the past, we have been successful combing through old newsletters and minutes from the board of directors. We have even discovered information in old newspaper articles.

An example of this in the ACHS collection occurs with a number of sewing

machines. During the move from Colonial Hall to the current Anoka County History Center in 2001, objects that had no accession number on them were given a standardized number that helped keep track of them during the move. Among these items was an 1875 Wilcox and Gibbs sewing machine. ACHS staff was able to match it to Accession Record 428 based on a general description. The item was not labeled, but there was just enough description in the record to learn that the machine was donated in 1977 by Mrs. J.B. (Margaret) Hills. We got lucky.

On other items our luck has run out. Without any way to identify the provenance of an item, we are left to wonder about its connection to Anoka County's history and its place in our collection. As our collections continue to grow, we need to ask if an unidentified object we have several duplicates of, really merits keeping it or if our collection would benefit by removing it.



Pictured above are a 1875 Wilcox Gibbs (right) sewing machine donated by Mrs. J.B. Hills and a sewing machine (left) with no known documentation or provenance. Both reside in the collections of the Anoka County Historical Society.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

All lists are current to April 12, 2008

GENERAL DONATIONS

American Legion Auxiliary of Anoka
Ameriprise
Florence Arnoldy
Maureen Battistella
June Bendix
Orlaine Boshea
Maureen Brown
Dan Frank
John Gallovitch
Larry Hall
Judy Hanna
Mr. & Mrs. John Harwood
Donald Huizenga
Pat Johnson
Dorothy Linse
Roger and Avis Opegard
Jim Plouman
Rum River Lumber
Richard Schanhaar
Donna Smith
Ralph Talbot
Mary Ward/John Ekerholm

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Anoka High School
City of Columbia Heights
Melvin Dupre
Tim Farmer
Floyd Freeman
Dave Hoagland
Bob Johnson
Brad Letourneu
Muriel Nelson
Spring Lake Park Fire Department

Welcome New Members!

Bryan & Janet Benskin – Coon Rapids
Shannon Boie – Andover
Michael Gerard – Elk River
Peggy Herman – Coon Rapids
Michael Knight – Andover
Delores Martinson – Anoka
Paul Pierce, Jr. – Anoka
Cindy Ruschy – Fridley
Donald & Carin Huizenga — Anoka

The Anoka County Historical Society extends our sincere sympathy to the families of:

Doris Pease

*who died February 8, 2008.
ACHS member and artist.*

Molly Caine

*who died February 28, 2008.
mother & mother-in-law of ACHS members Jon and Mary Caine.*

Scott Niles

*who died March 26, 2008.
Son of ACHS members and volunteers Dave and Elynn Niles*

Law Enforcement Memorial Day

May 14, Noon

Anoka County Government Center

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day; the week containing May 15 was designated National Peace Officers Week. During this week, law enforcement agencies around the nation host activities to honor those law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty and to offer support to the survivors of those officers.

In recognition of National Peace Officers Week, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office will host a Law Enforcement Memorial Service May 14, 2008. They will be recognizing all peace officers killed in the line of duty in Anoka County, and the 181 men and women who were killed protecting communities across the nation in 2007.

Sheriff Andersohn is extending an invitation to the public to attend this event honoring the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and to honor those who chose law enforcement as their career. The service will take place in the Government Center atrium at noon. The Government Center is located at 2100 Third Avenue in Anoka. At 11:45 am, there will be a procession of squad cards down Main Street in Anoka to begin the ceremony. The keynote speaker is Dr. Janis Amatuzio of the Anoka County Medical Examiner's Office.

The public is also invited to attend the opening of the newest ACHS exhibit featuring law enforcement and firefighting in Anoka County, *Law and Ladders*, immediately following the memorial ceremony. See page 6 for more details.

Up To Date

ACHS ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report for ACHS was presented at the Annual Meeting in Linwood on March 29. If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of the report, it is posted on our web site at www.ac-hs.org. If you would rather have a paper copy, stop in to ACHS and pick one up, or call us at 763-421-0600 to have one mailed to you.

HELP WANTED

Part-time Clerical Support/ Patron Assistance

The Anoka County Historical Society is looking for someone to staff the front desk every other Saturday, and the occasional weekday. The position includes helping researchers, reception duties, and helping to catalog the collection.

Send a letter and resume by May 16 to:

ACHS
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

If you have any questions, please call
Todd Mahon, Executive Director at 763-421-0600.

ACHS Board of Directors Election Results

On Tuesday, March 25, Todd Mahon and Marilyn Anderson tabulated the ballots cast for the Anoka County Historical Society Board of Directors.

The slate of candidates mailed to the ACHS membership had Paul Pierce III (Vice President), Dick Johnson (District #3), Tom Sherohman (District #4), Jan Anderson (District #5), Dan Frank (At-Large B), and Tom Ward (At-Large C). All positions had boxes for write-in candidates.

There were 145 eligible ballots cast. In addition to the eligible ballots, ACHS received a number of ballots that were spoiled because they had no return address on the outside envelope (9), or were illegible in their intent. These ballots were opened and checked. They were not included in the final count and if they had been cast correctly, would not have affected the outcome of the election.

The results of the voting are as follows:

Vice President:

Paul Pierce: 131 votes
Shirley Christensen: 1 vote
Ed Larson: 1 vote
Bart Ward: 1 vote
Ellen Ward: 1 vote

District #3

Dick Johnson: 123 votes

District #4

Tom Sherohman: 127 votes

District #5

Jan Anderson: 130 votes

At-Large B

Dan Frank: 132 votes

At-Large C

Tom Ward: 138 votes

Tombstone Preservation Workshop — May 20



Caring for the graves of departed family members is a tradition for many people, especially around Memorial Day. ACHS would like to help with this Gravestone Preservation Workshop. The workshop will teach participants how to judge whether a tombstone is stable enough to clean, how to clean it, and tips on photographing grave markers. The types of material grave markers are made from will be discussed—have you ever heard of “white bronze” for markers? Examples of some common materials used for markers will be pointed out.

If time and light permit, the workshop will include some history of Forest Hill Cemetery and some of the traditional meanings for the intricate carvings often found on older grave markers. One special stone will be visited—that of Jonathan Emerson. He ordered his own grave marker and it contains over 1,500 words engraved on it! We’ll also talk about where his choice went wrong.

Join ACHS for a lively discussion of stone, stone work, and preservation in the oldest part of Forest Hill Cemetery in Anoka.

Forest Hill Cemetery’s gate is on Church Street, the south side of the cemetery near Ward Park.

TICKETS ARE LIMITED, so get yours in advance at the History Center. Prices are: ACHS members \$5, non-members \$7



New Exhibit Opening!

May 14, 12:30



Law & Ladders

History of Anoka County's Fire, Police, & Sheriff

Members & Friends
"Sneak Peek"
May 13, 7:30 -9:00

Join us for the opening of our newest exhibit on Anoka County's Police, Fire, and Sheriff history, May 14th, immediately following the Law Enforcement Memorial Service at the Anoka County Government Center. (Service starts at noon, the public is welcome!)

Artifacts, photos and history have been gathered from fire departments, the sheriff's office, and police departments across the county. The exhibit includes stories to make you laugh—and cry—as the history of fighting crime and fires in the county unfolds.

Tuesday, May 13 — Sneak Peek, 7:30 -9:00pm

Wednesday, May 14 — Grand Opening, 12:30

(Please park in the Parking Ramp next to the History Center on May 14 as there will be no parking on 3rd Avenue and only limited parking in the ACHS lot that day. Ramp entrance is off Jackson Street or 2nd Avenue.)

ACHS Volunteers make the difference!

In 2007, over 150 people put in over 7,200 hours! That is the equivalent of almost 4 full time staff workers! If you use the U.S. Department of Labor figures for calculating the value of a volunteer, the time given to ACHS is worth \$131,463.87 last year alone! Our volunteers really do make the difference in what we are able to accomplish in gathering, preserving and promoting Anoka County's history!

Thank you to each and every one of you!

HERMANSTORFER, SAM	965.75	MCINTYRE, CAROLYN	19.25	BELLOWS, PATTI	5
NILES, DAVID	658	ZIEGLER, LESTER	19	CLARK, MIKE	5
WARD, BART	424	ZIEGLER, SHIRLEY	19	CLEVELAND, CARY	5
MARTIN, NANCY	401.5	THEIS-MAHON, NIKKI	18	LEGRID, DAVE	5
ELRITE, LUCILLE	354.5	BURKHOLDER, CAROL	17	LEROM, SUSAN	5
MUNDEL, LINDA	340	SCOTTSTON, BARB	15.5	LEROM, KIRSTEN	5
SKUBITZ, KAY	279.75	HILSE, AUDRA	15	LOPHAM, WENDY	5
ANDERSON, JAN	245	SERRYN, PAT	15	PIERCE, MARY	5
TALBOT, MARLYS	198	WALLACE, DEBBIE	14	SOLHEIM, AMANDA	5
STOCKHAUSEN, SHARRON	191	WALLIN, EVONNE	14	SWANSON, JOYCE	5
SPADGENSKE, WES	187.5	ESTBY, LAURA	13	BRECKENRIDGE, BARB	4
WARD, ELLEN	166	SPADGENSKE, LOIS	13	DERESCHUK, JAN	4
HETLAND, AMY	150.5	STEEN, ANN	13	GAMBLE, JOAN	4
GREB, GARY	148.5	LADWIG, BRIANNA	12.25	HAIN, MARYJO	4
BEARL, DARLENE	129.5	OVERBY, STACY	12	KEOGH, JOANNE	4
TAYLOR, MARTHA	126	BERG, DARLENE	11.5	KRAHNKE, TARA	4
SELL, CHARLIE	105	CHRISTENSON, SHIRLEY	11.25	LUNDBURG, BRIANNA	4
PIERCE, PAUL III	97	ERICKSON, DEBBIE	10	MANN, EVONNE	4
REYELL, BRUCE	86.5	GRAVES, RON	10	MOODY, JOANNE	4
GETCHELL, RANDY	84.5	GRAVES, TANYA	10	NELSON, CLIFF	4
HANNA, JUDY	76	LEVENS, DARLENE	10	NELSON, JOANNE	4
STEINKE, RAY	75.75	REDNING, ANNABELLE	10	RATHBUN, EILEEN	4
DEHN, BARB	74	REDNING, PAUL	10	ROCHA, BRIANNA	4
KING, MARIA	65	STAUFFER, DON	10	TONG, EVELYN	4
CLEVELAND, TERRI	62	WATKINS, CONNOR	10	WARD, MYRNA	4
AUCHTER, MARIAN	56.5	WATKINS, ELIZABETH	10	WOIZESCHKE, SHARON	4
CONNOR, SANDY	54.75	YEAGER, SHANE	10	BERGLING, DICK	3
FRANK, DAN	54	KING, MICHAEL	9	GREENBURG, DON	3
ANDERSON, MARILYN	51.5	NIGH, CHANELLE	9	KNUTSON, AMBER	3
STENER, ROSE MARIE	51.5	KIRCHBAUM, DAVID	9	POWELL, BOB	3
YEAGER, LORI	44	MACH, CHRIS	8	WINFIELD, BARB	3
THORSEN, SANDY	43.5	OVERBY, JAY	8	WREN, EMMANUEL	3
KNOLL, JORGETTE	41	TESCH, ARLENE	8	ZARLING, CAROLYN	3
VESLEY, CATHERINE	41	WEISSER, TANYA	8	ZARLING, DANIEL	3
PAULSON, LOU	40	BERG, DENNIS	7	BALDWIN, BARB	2.5
MILLER, LAURA	36.25	CHRISTENSON, ROBERT	7	MCCLELLAND, BRIAN	2.5
SMITH-RUE, BARBARA	33.5	MARSOLAIS, JIM	7	BURMAN, MARLYS	2
DORDON, CAROL	31	WENDEL, RON	6	GREENBURG, HARVEY	2
WENDEL, MANDY	30.5	CHUTICH, MARLYS	6	LAMPSON, MICHAEL	2
MORPHEW, KATE	28	DEMARCO, KATIE	6	WILLIAMS, PAULA	2
RICKERT, LYNNE	27	KETTER, LINDA	6	ETTER, KIM	1.75
KURAK, PATTI	25	SAKRY, TAMMY	6	MEYER, GEN	1.5
CHEVALIER, WAYNE	24	SMITH, VI	6	BATOR, FRAN	1
FRANK, JUDY	24	WILBUR, BETTY	5.75	NEWSTROM, ASHLEY	1
PRUGH, BILL	24	WOIZESCHKE, ERNIE	5.5	NEWSTROM, KELSEY	1
WARD, TOM	24	BRUCE, NEIL	5.5	BRAASTAD	.5
JONES-KOST, BETHANY	23	LOADER, BECKY	5.5		
MCARDLE, ROD	22	RITCHIE, MICHAEL	5.5		
WENDEL, VICKIE	22	THORP, DIANE	5.5		
HALL, AMBER	21	WENDEL, SALLY	5.5		
THURSTON, BARB	21	BELLOWS, KEVIN	5		

*Volunteers are unpaid,
not because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless!*

Coming Events

May Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby). Naomi Miezwa is completing her work required for the highest award in Girl Scouting, her Gold Star! Come see the work she's done as a volunteer for ACHS and what it takes to be a Gold Star Girl Scout.

May 10, 10:00am & 1:00pm

(Whispering Aspen Community Center, 24225 Pierce Path in East Bethel). Girls are invited to bring their dolls and an adult to welcome spring with a tea party based on the popular *American Girls* story books. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for girls—dolls can come free! Reservations are required. Call ACHS to reserve your place. 763-421-0600.

May 13, 7:30-9:00pm

(Anoka County History Center and Library) Members and friends are welcome to get an early sneak peek at the newest exhibit in the ACHS Exhibit Hall: *Law and Ladders, Anoka County's Police, Fire and Sheriff History*.

May 14, 12:30pm

(Anoka County History Center and Library) This is Law Enforcement Memorial Day in Anoka County and this exhibit honors not only those who have lost their lives while protecting Anoka County citizens, but paints a picture of how fire fighting and law enforcement has evolved in the county. Equipment, uniforms, photos, and more from past and present are on display. See page 6 for more details.

May 20, 7:00pm

(Forest Hills Cemetery, Anoka). What is the best way to clean a tombstone without a risk of damaging it? Should you use shaving cream to get worn letters to stand out for a photo? Why do so many old stones have ivy carved on them? These questions and more will be answered in a lively workshop in the older portion of Forest Hills Cemetery. See page 5 for more details.

June Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby). These are not just camels to sit around collecting dust, they have to DO something according to this collector. If they just sit, he's not interested! Come see what camels can "do" in this fun exhibit.

June—first and third Thursday & Saturday

Meet at the History Center. Tickets required. These special Ghost Tours take guests to places where something unexplained has happened and lets them decide what it might be! The tours are just over a mile long and are in the twilight and evening hours. Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and children under 18 years. Offered on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each summer month. May tours by appointment. Get your tickets early as we sell out of these popular tickets *fast!*

Ongoing in the Exhibit Hall

We Can Do It! Anoka County Women in Wartime; Roots to Roofs: Anoka County Communities; The Winds of Change, Anoka County Agriculture from 1844 to 1900.

Anoka County Collects — Gold Star Scouting

(Anoka County History Center Lobby). Naomi Miezwa is completing her work required for the highest award in Girl Scouting, her Gold Star! Come see the work she's done as a volunteer for ACHS and what it takes to be a Gold Star Girl Scout.

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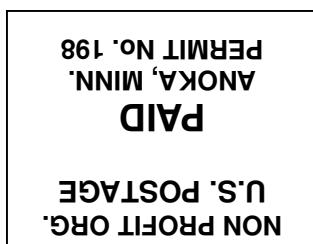
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Meet at the History Center. Tickets required. These special Ghost Tours take guests to places where something unexplained has happened and lets them decide what it might be! The tours are just over a mile long and are in the twilight and evening hours. Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and children under 18 years. Offered on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each summer month. May tours by appointment. Get your tickets early as we sell out of these popular tickets *fast!*

Ongoing in the Exhibit Hall

We Can Do It! Anoka County Women in Wartime; Roots to Roofs: Anoka County Communities; The Winds of Change, Anoka County Agriculture from 1844 to 1900.



Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 4

July-August 2008

SERVING:

Andover

Anoka

Bethel

Blaine

Burns

Centerville

Circle Pines

Columbia Heights

Columbus

Coon Rapids

East Bethel

Fridley

Ham Lake

Hilltop

Lexington

Lino Lakes

Linwood

Oak Grove

Ramsey

St. Francis

Spring Lake Park

Anoka Heritage Home & Garden Tour

This favorite tour has returned to the city of Anoka and is hosted by the Anoka County Historical Society and the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission. This year's tour will take guests on a delightful tour of the Whiskey Flats neighborhood—known by that name because of the stories and folklore handed down about its connections to temperance and prohibition!

This is just a sample of the history, beauty, and elegance featured on this year's tour.



1845 Green Avenue This house reaches back to the earliest days of Anoka's settlement, having been built before 1856. A pair of brothers named Hugh and Peter Donnelly came to Anoka by riverboat. It appears Hugh built the house, but Peter lived there and for a time, their sister, Catherine, joined them. They were Irish immigrants, perhaps leaving Ireland because of the potato famine. When Hugh died in 1868, he willed the house and lot to his father, John. John never left Ireland, so after his death in the 1870s or 1880s, Peter inherited the property. The property was eventually bought by Sam Chambers in 1920. The house had already been added on to by the time Chambers bought it as they called the kitchen and living room the "new" parts of the house. Porter Olson bought the house from Chambers and it remains in the Olson family today.

One special claim to fame for this property was the Catholic Mass said here by Father Francis Hurth in August of 1856. He was serving the people in Anoka as a mission outreach congregation. This was the first Catholic Mass said in Anoka.

320 Benton Street James Gilligan and his wife, Mary, bought his lot in 1873 and the house was built soon after. The couple were Irish immigrants and this neighborhood was home to other Irish families, perhaps a reason for choosing this lot for their home. James was an enterprising man, working at various jobs throughout his life. He owned a livery stable, operated a milk route, and was a mail carrier. He died in 1926, but Mary survived him. She lived to be 106 years old! While it is not known for sure, it may have been Mary who placed a mirror frame under the boards in the attic. Steve and Lana Hallman, the current owners, found the frame, restored it, and hung it in the downstairs bathroom.

Some of the original items in this beautiful home are the oak stair rails and baluster with hand-carving, the round window on the second floor, the etched glass door panel, and the stained glass in the front windows, not to mention the spectacular wrap-around spindled porch!



624 Benton Jesse Jett's vegetable garden isn't out of place behind his 19th century farmhouse. Built on the old Shaw's addition of Anoka, Jett has lived here since 1947 and planted the large garden in the spring of 1948. While most gardens are subject to regular movement and turnover, many of the dahlias found at the end of the vegetable rows were planted that first spring that the garden was created out of a field of unattended grass. One of the highlights is the large elm tree in the backyard. The age of this beauty certainly predates the house and garden. Be sure to also check out the walnut and maple trees on the east side of the house that Jett planted.

The garden is managed entirely by Jett. This year's plantings include and will include squash, corn, peas, carrots, beets, Swiss chard, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and more. As vegetable gardens enjoy resurgence in popularity, this gardener has a bit of advice for those wanting to try it for themselves: Do things when they have to be done; don't wait.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763) 421-0600

Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

As I write this column, we are busily preparing for our fifth annual Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour. This event, a personal favorite of mine, features open house tours of historic homes and gardens in Anoka. The event was created by Kevin and Patti Bellows and brought to the Historical Society as a partnership with the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission. Proceeds from the event are split equally between ACHS and the Anoka HPC.

This event is not always easy to put together and this year's tour has been particularly challenging. As you might imagine, asking someone to open their home to as many as 300 strangers is a lot to ask. For various reasons, we had a harder time finding people who were willing to share their homes with the public this year. Several homes had to back out after other commitments took over. More than once, the committee seriously considered cancelling this year's tour.

In putting together this event, and many of our other events, we reach out into the community and look for sponsors to help fund the costs of the event (printing and promotional costs). Unfortunately, many of our most consistent and reliable sponsors of the Home and Garden Tour were not able to help us this year. Just another casualty of the tough economic times we are facing.

So why do I bring up all of this? Because it made me realize that we cannot take these programs for granted each year. We've been so successful in recent years at engaging the public and producing fun and innovative programming, that it's good to have an occasional reality check.

I'm hoping people will make this year's version the success it deserves to be. We have nine sites confirmed for this year's tour that focuses on the Whiskey Flats neighborhood and on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. I know the tour we have lined up is a great one and people will enjoy it immensely. Three of this year's sites are featured on the front page of this issue.

The sponsors for this year's tour deserve special thanks for their dedication to Anoka County's history. I'd like to thank Tom Conneran of Edward Jones, the Weaver family, Plants and Things, the Christian Hill Neighborhood, Fifth Avenue Dental, Ticknor Hill Bed and Breakfast, the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Oliver Kelley Farm, BOB 106 FM, the Artique, and Gould's Diamonds and Jewelry. I hope everyone reading this column will join us for this great event.

From the President...

By Catherine Vesley

Recently, on a wet Spring Saturday, I was honored by being asked to be one of the jurors of the Windago Park Chalkfest. It was a lesson in the transience of art, as we watched the lovely sidewalk murals dissolve in the rain, but it reminded me of the vitality of the Arts in Anoka County and its "grassroots" nature. The Historical Society has a new Arts & Music Committee which is working on an upcoming exhibition about bands that promises to be great fun, with all sorts of neat artifacts appearing, and some great music planned.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with the late Doris Pease for many years. She and June Anderson founded the Anoka County Arts Alliance in 1992 to provide a nonprofit consortium of performing, visual, and literary artists, arts groups and organizations, and arts-related businesses. It provides support and promotes the activities of the Anoka County arts community, and was an offshoot of the years that Doris worked in dance. It has also increased the awareness of the variety of arts activity in our county. We now boast two Art Centers (Banfill-Locke and Sandhill) as well as the Lyric Theatre, a Studio Art Crawl, Art Councils, etc. Yet, the general perception has always been that our region is not known for much in this area, but that is just wrong. We may not have a Walker, or a Guthrie, but there are arts activities all around Anoka County.

One of the problems with major institutions historically is that they often ignore local talent. The West Lake Gallery in Minneapolis was a perfect example of a local response to that problem. It was founded in 1964 by Jo Rollins, Betty Olson, and Joyce Bleigan who were all professional artists who couldn't get a show anywhere. They were good. Jo was a U of M professor, who had directed the Stillwater Art Colony since 1934 and had a long exhibition history with numerous works in major collections. Their only recourse was to establish the first Co-op Gallery in the area. It was a success and was later followed by the Minnesota Artists Association Gallery on Marquette and WARM in the Warehouse District in the early 1970's. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts does now include curatorial department which is artist directed and was a response to the general disaffection with the status quo.

Sometimes it is better to have a vibrant local arts scene with lots of variety, professional and non professional, like the one we are developing here in Anoka County.

Enjoy summer and stop by the History Center.

The Story of an Artifact

Ask anyone who played or marched in a high school band and a whole book's worth of special memories will come spilling out. The long hours of practice, the sweaty uniforms, and cold fingers, all blend with the good times until band is one of the best high school experiences.

Anoka High School



A Marching Tornado jacket, ca. 1990s.

The first documentation found thus far for high school bands in Anoka County is in an Anoka High year book. The high school had an orchestra as early as 1911, but the first band noted was not until 1927. According to the yearbook, the band played for both school and community events.

The tornado that ripped through the city of Anoka in 1939 gave rise to the Tornado name for the Anoka High School teams. The band was no exception. The Marching Tornadoes appeared in parades all over the metro area as well as special trips to Washington D.C., where the band played at the 1977 Presidential Inauguration.



The Anoka High School Band at the 1977 Inauguration, Washington D.C.



C.R.S.H. 1ST. VARSITY BAND 1966-67

Coon Rapids High School began their band program right along with the high school. Their first Varsity Band was directed by Mr. McCartney. Their goal in 1965, the year of the first graduating class from Coon Rapids High School, was to raise enough money to buy band uniforms. In 1966-67, the band had 26 members. The Cardinal band grew with the school, and the Marching Cardinals were soon in parades and playing for events in the school and community. Though the program has had its ups and downs in numbers of band members, the current band is vibrant with an expected 60+ members for the 2008-9 school year. Their motto states, "Attitude is more important than ability" and the band has no "second string" members. Every band member contributes to the effort of making music for everyone to enjoy.

Blaine High School

The building first housed students in grades 7 through 9 and was the temporary home of Northdale Junior High until that school was finished. Blaine's first graduating class was in 1976, and Oliver Melting was the school's first band director. By 1986-87, Blaine's marching band had 130 members, in addition to having two concert bands, a varsity band, a jazz band, and a pep band.

In 2007, the Marching Bengals were invited to perform at the 96th annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C., a testimony to their skill and dedication. Blaine High School currently has four concert bands, two jazz bands, orchestra, pep band, and a drum line comprising one of the largest extra-curricular activities in the school.



Blaine marching band hat, ca. 1990s.



Blaine band jacket, ca. 1990s.

Want to learn more about music in Anoka County? Visit the History Center to see the newest exhibit, opening on Saturday, July 12, 2008, Sounds of Anoka County: And the Bands Played on!

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, July 13, 2008

1:00pm to 5:00pm

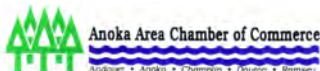
Tour all sites
for only
\$12.00

Purchase tickets at the Anoka County History Center, 2135 Third Avenue North, Anoka. (763) 421-0600. Visa & MasterCard welcome.

Nestled on the east bank of the Mississippi River and the west side of the Rum, this area was first thought to be the prime place for a community to grow. Early settlers believed the main growth, the downtown area of Anoka, would be on the west side of the Rum. Abstracts for land hold many prominent names in Minnesota's history: Robert, Rice, Shaw, Woodbury, Farnham, and others all invested here in Anoka's early years. The Donnelly home on Green Avenue held the first Catholic Mass in Anoka in 1856.

Hosted by the Anoka County Historical Society and the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission

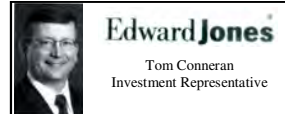
Proudly Sponsored by:



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Museum of American Finance

(The following article appeared in *Weekly Newspapers, Inc.* on Thursday, February 13, 2008. It was written by ACHS board member Bart Ward. He has been writing a column called "The Corner" for that publication since 1993.)

After reopening earlier this year, the Museum of American Finance, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, has settled into its spectacular venue located at 48 Wall Street. This historic location is just down the street from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). It is the former headquarters of the Bank of New York founded in 1784 by Alexander Hamilton. The site also serves as the "defacto visitor center for the NYSE", according to NYSE Euronext CEO, Duncan Niederauer.

The Museum was moved from approximately 2,000 square feet (at 26 Broadway) to 30,000 and is housed in the majestic banking hall with a state-of-the-art financial education center, auditorium, library and research facility. The space, which was restored and renovated, features permanent exhibits on a multitude of topics and disciplines including the financial markets, money, banking, entrepreneurship and Alexander Hamilton. There are a number of galleries for rotating exhibits, a theater and educational resources.

More than anything, it is the people that Museum founder John Herzog and President/CEO Lee Kjelleren have been able to recruit that makes this effort so special. The Museum has a great site, a good collection, state of the art exhibits and a development operation. However, these don't come without dedicated people who are committed to executing this vision.

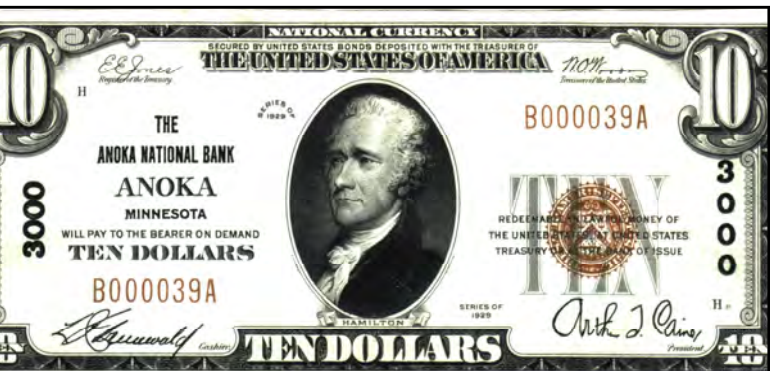
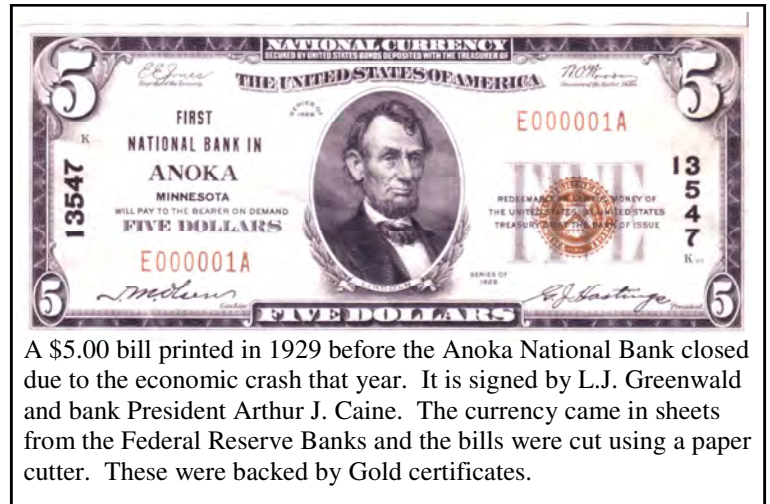
Kjelleren, a no-nonsense ex-Morgan banker, has a keen sense for the financial needs of the Museum. Communications Director, Kristin Aguilera, has been key in making sure that media outlets, both traditional and non-traditional, have been informed right up to the grand reopening. The Museum has attracted Richard Sylla, Henry Kaufman, Professor of History of Business and Financial Institutions at NYU as Trustee, and Guest Curator. Jeanne Baker Driscoll is Director of Development and Robert Vinci is Director of Exhibitions. These and others make up this small, dedicated group that is helping to row this boat.

According to Kjelleren, the move to 48 Wall Street was more like "opening a brand new museum," as opposed to just moving an existing operation. "As the only public and independent museum of finance, we are proud to be a guardian of America's collective financial memory, while we are also serving as an interpreter of current financial issues," Kjelleren said. "We look forward to taking our place among the major destinations on Wall Street."

Prior to the reopening, Herzog kept many supporters across the globe apprised of the progress being made and has continued with regular updates. Herzog is legendary as a second generation Wall Streeter who for several decades has been dedicated to the ownership and stewardship of institutions and companies associated with financial historic preservation, memorabilia and auction houses. Herzog and the operations he is involved with are known for their stellar reputations and are trusted in their dealings. He played a major role in the reopening events, which included a gala, media event, a pre-opening for supporters and the general public reopening.

Besides the location and interior renovation work, what is so unique about this space is that the exhibits located on the floor can be wheeled out of the way so the space can be used for a variety of special events. In fact, the pre-opening gala was held on the floor space just days before the general opening to the public. The interior of this building yields a historic and majestic atmosphere right in the heart of the Wall Street district.

Finally, this museum will appeal to adolescence with the myriad of interactive exhibits featured. So don't leave the young folks home. The educational aspects are not only informative but also entertain those twelve and above, while keeping them engaged. In short, whether you live in or near New York or are visiting, put the Museum of American Finance on your list to visit, at 48 Wall..



Another of the Anoka State Bank bills. Both of the bills pictured here are in the ACHS collections.

Up To Date

Announcements and News

♦Just a reminder that the July 10 ACHS Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. The August 14 meeting will also be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

♦Ghosts of Anoka Tours are back in full gear! Check the Upcoming Events section on the back of the newsletter for dates. Order your tickets early as these tours sell out quickly! The tours are offered on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each summer month. Tours for private groups are available—Call 763-421-0600 to set up a special private tour for your group!

Meet Pat Snodgrass

Next time you visit the Anoka County Historical Society look for Pat Snodgrass, our new office administrator. Pat lives with her husband, Randy, in Brooklyn Center on Twin Lake with their Portuguese water dog, Luke. Her daughter, Brenda Malone, and grandsons, Carl Malone and David Larson, live next door, while her oldest son, Richard Snodgrass, lives in Champlin. Anoka has a special place in Pat's heart. Having lived in Champlin for seventeen years, she attended Church of St. Stephen and worked at Thermo-Serv, Inc. in Anoka.

Pat recently took an early retirement from the University of Minnesota where she worked as the coordinator of supervisory training. In addition to her new position and homemaking responsibilities, Pat is the president of the Brooklyn Historical Society. With a master's in writing, her passion is writing history. She is currently writing, "A History of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center" for Arcadia Publishing and "The Brooklyn Patriots: The Suppressors of the Great Slaveholders Rebellion, Part II" with a group from the Brooklyn Historical Society.

If you're related to the Blairs, Pauls, or Lessards, stop by to ask Pat about her French-Canadian genealogical research.

Welcome Back, Carol!

While we are sad to see Pat Montgomery leave our ACHS family, we are excited to welcome a familiar face to work weekends and evenings—Carol Dordan! Carol worked those same shifts in 2002 when we first opened the History Center. She had to leave ACHS for a while, but now she has returned and we are very happy to have her back.

Oh, just in case you still see him at the front desk, Pat has agreed to be an "emergency call" fill-in for ACHS! It won't be a regular thing, but Pat has not left ACHS completely.

Volunteer News

By Maria King

A warm welcome goes out to our new Ghosts of Anoka docents: Rosa Edholm, Jeri Bates, Barbara Smith-Rue, and Jeorgette Knoll. In addition, all of last year's docents are back: Darlene Bearl, Wayne Chevalier, Gary Greb, Lynne Rickert, and Ann Steen, with Jan Anderson and Don Johnson for emergency backup. Ghost tours have gotten a good deal of publicity lately, so we anticipate another busy and successful year.

Sandra Connor, of the Anoka Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, requested judges for their annual essay contest. Todd Mahon, Paul Pierce, and I volunteered. We are delighted to hear the local Minnesota American History Essay contest 6th grade winner, Jesse Roberts, was selected as the National DAR 6th grade winner! Both Rachel Hertzberg (5th grade) and Marissa Lynch (8th grade) were division winners. They are sponsored by the Anoka Chapter DAR which meets at the History Center.

Regretfully, we are losing volunteer Amy Hetland, who for two years has come in each week to update the index of the manuscript files. Amy has decided to return to school and will no longer be available to volunteer. We wish her every success, but she will be sorely missed.

Volunteers Needed!

The Heritage Home and Garden tour is coming up and so is the Anoka County Fair. Both events are major volunteer opportunities, so please check your calendar and call Maria to schedule a shift. The Home Tour will be held on Sunday, July 13th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to welcome patrons, provide security, and share historical information with participants. Volunteers also get to preview the homes in the morning before the event is open to the public.

The Anoka County Fair is another important outreach. It runs Tuesday July 22 through Sunday, July 27, with set up on Monday, July 21. Volunteers are needed to staff the farm house, greet patrons, and answer questions. In addition, I want to schedule demonstrations of old fashioned crafts, so if you know how to spin, weave, or make something that is no longer a common craft, I'd love to add you to the schedule. The fair is scheduled in half day shifts and we provide a gate pass so you don't need to pay to get in. Call 763-421-0600 to get in on the fun!

The City of Nowthen!

Congratulations to the newest city in Anoka County, the City of Nowthen! Burns Township has completed the process for incorporation as a city. The incorporation will be effective following the special election, scheduled for Monday, June 30, 2008, and the newly elected city council members are verified.

This newest city serves to highlight how important it is to preserve and record local history. A mere 60 years ago—less than one lifetime—the number of cities in the county could be counted on a person's fingers. With the addition of Nowthen, there are 20 cities in Anoka County, leaving only one township left—Linwood.

You can help ACHS keep up with the changes in our county by bringing in photos of new buildings under construction, changes in landscapes, storm damage, and new developments as well as old photos of things that no longer exist. Many hands make light work and can certainly help ACHS keep more history.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to June 16, 2008.)

DONATIONS

David Dietz
Edward B. Cutter Post #102
Lorelei T. Foss
Eloise A. Graham
Guila Ann Hunt
Janice Joyce
David Legrid
Bonnie C. McDonald
Howard & Dorothy Rosenwinkel
Greg & Barbara Ann Smith
Carl & Sharon Steinwall
Thomas & Linda Sullivan
Bertha Szyperski
Herman & Lavonne Talle
Dominick A. Washington

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Tom May
Ralph Messer
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Oak Grove Fire Department
Dan O'Brien
Stacy Overby
Ramsey Fire Department
St. Francis Fire Department
St. Francis Police Department

HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP

Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce
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BOB 106 Radio
Christian Hill Neighborhood
Tom Conneran—Edward Jones Co.
Fifth Avenue Dentist
Gould's Diamonds & Jewelry
Plants and Things
Ticknor Hill B & B
The Weaver Family

Welcome New Members!

Claribel Berghorst (Champlin)
Russell A. Kampa (Elk River)
Danny C. Martin (Blaine)
Doug Rising (Andover)
Pat Snodgrass (Brooklyn Center)

***The Anoka County Historical
Society extends our sincere
sympathy to the family of:***

Marilyn Glenn
who died January 19, 2008.
She was a loyal member of ACHS.

Keeping Your House History

Putting together the history of a house can be a daunting task, but a little care taken as changes are made can help tell the story of any house. Here are some tips ACHS can suggest to help you document the history of your own home.

- ◆ *Make sure you know where your abstract is!* This is a legal document that traces the ownership of the property on which your house is built. If ever the property is sold, you will need to have the original abstract or you may end up paying thousands of dollars to have it recreated. Your abstract is also an excellent place to start when looking for the history of the property as each owner is listed on the abstract. Look also for a big jump in the property value—this is usually an indication of a major improvement to the property and may help in dating the age of the house.
- ◆ *Write down any stories a previous owner may have shared with you about the house or the property.* Time goes by very quickly and it is easy to forget or confuse the details. Writing it down as you hear it also helps to clarify the story and provides an opportunity to ask more questions if necessary.
- ◆ *Document changes you make to the house.* Take before and after pictures of any remodeling project and write down the date, cost, builder, reason, or other information about the remodeling project. Take a few pictures during the reconstruction, too. These are not only fun to look at, but help document how the project was done, the tools used, and the person who did the work.
- ◆ *Document the people who live in the house now—your history!* Why did you choose this house, where do you work and what do you do? How many people live in the house and who are they? When did you move in?

A great way to keep this house history is to make three copies. Put one with the abstract for a future owner, donate one to ACHS, and keep one for yourself. While it's not a guarantee that the history you create will always stay with the house, we can guarantee the copy at ACHS will be here for future researchers.

Coming Events

July Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) Joan Gamble loves this popular cartoon character from days past and has amassed quite the collection! Come visit Betty in the free lobby display during the month of July.

July 3, 5, 12, 17, 19, 7:00 p.m.
August 2, 7, 16, 21 7:00 p.m.

Anoka County Collects — Betty Boop

Ghosts of Anoka Tours

(Meet at the History Center.) Tickets required. This special Ghost Tour takes guests to places where something unexplained has happened and lets them decide what it might be! This tour walks just over a mile and is in the twilight and evening hours. Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for ACHS members and children under 16 years. Get your tickets early as we sell out fast on these popular tours! Remember, we accept VISA and Mastercard.

July 12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Anoka's Riverfest & New Exhibit Opening

(The Anoka County History Center and Library.) Stop in at the History Center to see the newest exhibit, *The Sounds of Anoka County: And the Bands Played On*. Two featured bands will be playing on the lawn of the History Center during the day, so be sure to spend some time listening to them as well as checking out the newest exhibit. Don't forget to stop by our booth on Jackson Street to get your Ghost Tour and Heritage Home & Garden tour tickets.

July 13, 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Anoka Heritage Home & Garden Tour

(Anoka.) In conjunction with the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission, ACHS is proud to present the 5th annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour! Nearly a dozen beautiful, historic homes and gardens are featured on this year's tour, most in or near the Whiskey Flats neighborhood. Tickets are available at the History Center for \$12 to tour all of the homes and gardens. You can also purchase tickets at the Anoka Riverfest celebration on July 12th at our booth on Jackson Street and 2nd Avenue in Anoka. (See pages 1 and 4 for more information)

July 22—July 27

Anoka County Fair

(Anoka County Fairgrounds.) The Anoka County Historical Society will continue our tradition of bringing life to the Old Farmhouse. Call us to volunteer and be sure to stop by to see what is happening when you are at the Fair!

August Lobby Exhibit

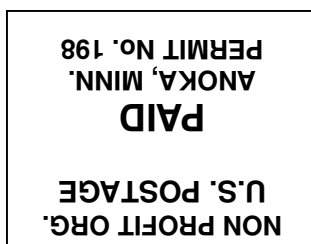
Anoka County Collects — Dolls

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) The sure way to any little girl's heart (and many big girls, too!) is with a doll. Come see the doll collection of Marjory Strouse in the lobby during August.

August 15—17

Nowthen Threshing Show

(Nowthen.) In partnership with the Nowthen Historical Power Association, ACHS will staff the General Store on the threshing show grounds. Stop by the General Store to purchase candy and pickles, or catch up on the latest gossip!



Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 5

September– October 2008

It's the city of where?!

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

By Vickie Wendel, ACHS Program Manager

Anoka County had the whole country—maybe even the world—talking in July when the Township of Burns completed the process to incorporate as the City of Nowthen. News services picked up the story and reported on the event across the nation. Most of the stories focused on the name, wondering how such an unusual name came about.



James Hare

The story of the name Nowthen starts with James Hare. He lived in the area and held various offices in the township. A post office in Burns had been established in 1876, but was discontinued in 1894. When the post office was going to be reestablished in 1897, the name Burns was not available—it was already in use by another post office in Minnesota. Several suggestions were made including Hare's Corner, Gibbsville, and Haresville. James was present at the meeting to discuss what to call the post office and he wrote the letter to the Postal Department with the suggested names. James had a habit of starting many sentences with, "Now then..." and he wrote just like he talked. He used "now then" probably more than once in his letter to the Postal Department. Imagine the surprise when the name for the post office in Burns came back as "Nowthen!"

History says the first settler to live in what would become Burns was a Mr. Derigan, but his first name and the year he came here has been lost in history. It would have been early in the 1850s.

When Minnesota became a territory in 1849, one of the first acts of the territorial legislature was to divide the territory into three counties: Washington, Ramsey and Benton. The Rum River was the dividing line and what would be Burns was in Benton County. Everything east of the Rum was in Ramsey County.

In 1856, Sherburne County was formed and the future Burns Township land was reorganized to become a part of Ramsey County for a short time—less than a year—until Anoka County was organized on May 23, 1857.

Anoka County was originally divided into eight townships: Anoka, Centerville, Grow, Watertown, St. Francis, Columbus, Oak Grove, and Bethel. Grow is now Andover and Watertown is now Ramsey. What would become Burns was part of St. Francis Township until it became its own township in 1869.

Settlement at this time was mostly along the northern edge of the township. This was probably due to the growth and development of St. Francis—a place to sell produce and buy supplies. The need for men to serve in the Civil War brought the Homestead Act and this act helped settle Burns Township. The act said any person 21 years of age and the head of a household could homestead 160 acres of government land, live on it and improve it for five years, pay a total of \$18 in filing fees, and the land was theirs. It was a great incentive and many men took advantage of it when the war was over. Anoka County was on the edge of the frontier at the end of the war and there were many, many acres of good farm land to be had.

Farming became the industry of choice in Burns. The 1881 agricultural report listed 15,410 bushels of wheat, 1,135 bushels of oats, and 7,634 bushels of corn in addition to lesser amounts of rye, barley, potatoes, beans, sugar cane, apples, wool, butter, and nearly 1,500 tons of hay.

The population in 1880 was 522 people. By 2000, 3,357 people called Burns Township home.

Join Burns—ahmm, the City of Nowthen—at their first city celebration on September 20 for a day filled with heritage and fun. ACHS is setting up a display on the history of the community in the Town—oops, CITY—Hall. Remembering to call this community by its new name will take a bit of getting used to!



Putting up straw on the Anderson farm in 1936. Located on present day St. Francis Blvd. in Nowthen.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

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www.ac-hs.org

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Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

Join Us At the Harvest Time Barn Dance!

The Anoka County Historical Society's annual fundraiser will soon be upon us. That's right, the Harvest Time Barn Dance happens on Saturday, October 4 from 6pm to 10pm. Always an enjoyable event, the Barn Dance is returning to its autumn date after being held in May last year to help celebrate Anoka County's sesquicentennial. Now it's back to Harvest Time and this year's event is shaping up to be the best one ever.

Held at the Anoka County Fairgrounds, the Harvest Time Barn Dance features a delicious harvest meal from Those Pork Chops, music and dancing with the band, *Buggy Whipp*, and live and silent auctions. This is your chance to bid on lots of great travel packages, decorative art work, services from local businesses, and more.

New this year is a raffle for a two day stay in LaPointe, Wisconsin on Madeline Island on Lake Superior's south shore. Raffle tickets, with the winning ticket drawn at the dance, are on sale now for \$2.00. The winner will enjoy a two night stay at the Brittany Cottages, dinner for two, museum passes, round trip ferry passes to the island, and a copy of *LaPointe: Village Outpost on Madeline Island*.

The Harvest Time Barn Dance wouldn't be possible without the support of its sponsors. This year's presenting sponsor is Main Motors. We are also proud to be sponsored by Barna, Guzy & Steffen, BOB 106 Radio, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Pierce Refrigeration, Top Line Credit Union, Village Bank, Anoka Hennepin Credit Union, First National Bank of Elk River, North Country Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, and Top Line Credit Union.

Advanced tickets for the biggest historical event of the year are on sale for \$20.00. Stop in to the Anoka County History Center, or just give us a call at 763-421-0600. Don't forget to buy a Madeline Island raffle ticket while you're there!

Funds raised through this event support the general operations of the Historical Society.

I hope to see you there as we kick up our heels for a good cause!



From the President...

By Catherine Vesley

I was volunteering at the Society's house at the Anoka County Fair last month and searching for an activity that would interest visitors. I don't weave or sew or make soap etc, but I do a lot of pen & ink sketching with watercolor wash. These often serve as inspiration for later oils, but can usually stand on their own. As I explained to our guests, early journals were often illustrated by their writers.

Travelers in the 19th century particularly liked to stop at an interesting view and sketch it. The examples are literally endless in historical collections and range from the expert illustrators to the barely competent. Virtually all the "Big Names" produced them, Bodmer, Catlin, Eastman, Audubon, Clark ,etc., and the illustrations provide a wonderful record of early America.

A year ago in Nebraska, I looked at a lovely pioneer woman's notebook. She liked to do prairie flowers as they traveled and filled her book with exquisite small studies in watercolor that ornamented the small notebook. As I turned the pages, there was less and less text and more and more flowers. She clearly loved painting them and did it beautifully. Very little was known about her, yet she left us this quiet record of a sensitive soul traveling West to an unknown fate.

One of my clients recently brought into the studio another type of early visual record. It was an early, small and darkly toned 19th century painting of a market hunter. These were the individuals who supplied game for domestic consumption in early settlements. In the picture he is sitting on the ground, smoking his pipe, in front of a cord strung between two trees from which hang an assortment of ducks, geese, rabbits, etc. There is a deer lying limply in the foreground. The painting is not a comment on hunting or conservation or anything of that nature, it merely records a way of making a living in post-Civil War Minnesota. It qualifies as folk art, and gives us a realistic rather than a romantic view of the period. It is not intended to be pretty, merely as accurate as the abilities of the painter allowed. In this case, the detail is there, but not the proportions or composition. The figure looks a bit strange, the deer (understandably) depressed. Nevertheless, the whole thing is reflects its era, as do the journals, and the long tradition of sketching life as we see it.

Wonderful events are coming up this fall at ACHS. Come and enjoy them with us.

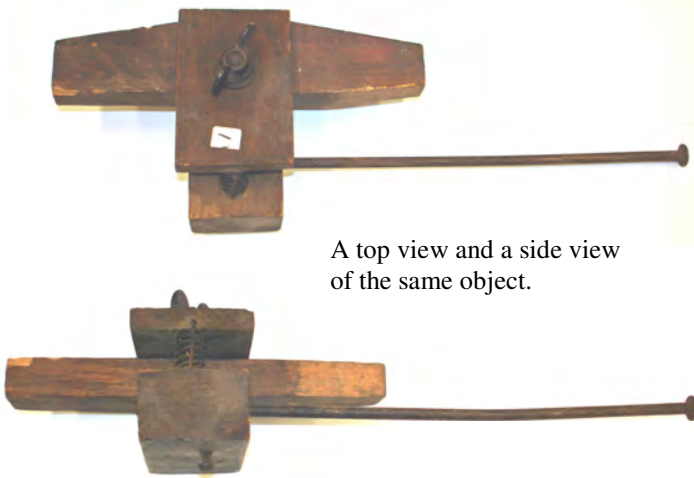
The Story of an Artifact

By Todd Mahon, Executive Director

Throughout 2008, History Center News is featuring articles on collections items that are candidates for deaccessioning, or removal from the ACHS permanent collections. These articles are meant to educate and prepare the public and our membership for the possibility of deaccessioning in the future. We hope these articles will spur discussion and teach about the responsibilities of caring for our collection. Any questions about these, or any other articles, can be addressed to ACHS staff at 763-421-0600.

Among the thousands and thousands of objects found in the Anoka County Historical Society's collections are objects that not only have weak provenance, but are completely unidentifiable to our staff and volunteers. In nearly seventy five years of collecting, ACHS has accepted a few items that were either part of a larger collection and did not have as much documentation as the rest of the collection, or were brought in as curiosities and the stories and possible identifications were never recorded because "everybody knew" what they were—but the stories somehow did not get passed on and are now lost.

Two fine examples of these kinds of objects are a pair of unidentified tools that have no known provenance and only guesses at their utilitarian purposes.



A top view and a side view of the same object.

The first item is what appears to be a hand made tool. Seen in the picture at left, you can see that it is made from three blocks of wood, has a ten inch nail pounded into it, and two of the wood blocks are drawn together with a wing-nut and bolt with a mild spring to provide resistant tension. But what was it used for? Again, we can only guess. It seems logical to conclude that this piece could attach itself to another object and clamp down by tightening the nut. But that still doesn't tell us much. We can tell that the metal pieces are cast metal because of the clean and uniform edges, but not much more.

The second object, seen in the picture on the right, presents many of the same problems. Measuring nearly thirteen inches across, it is a flat, iron hook, with two metal pieces separated by a six inch spring. One piece is fixed to the hook while the other slides back and forth. Each piece has loops for a thumb and finger to draw them to one another. Above the loops are tabs or hooks that were likely used spread apart something. The letters "TAF" are lightly scratched into the sliding metal piece. Are TAF the initials of the original owner? Or are they something else entirely?

These objects have been in the ACHS collection for years. Previous attempts to identify them have failed. Without any identifiable provenance, we have a hard time justifying them taking up valuable space and resources in the collection. We collect items that are specific to Anoka County and its history. Without knowing what these objects were used for or who used them, they are natural candidates for deaccessioning.

Today, when objects are offered to the ACHS collections, our staff collects and records information, not only on the nature of the object, but what its connection is to the county. In the earliest years of the Historical Society, the reasons for collecting objects and the care and housing of the objects were not the same as they are today. Many historical societies began as repositories for anything that was "old," antique, or unique. ACHS, like many other museums and historical societies, is still coming out from the shadow of these collecting practices—yet many of the best pieces from our collections were brought in those early days and due credit must be given to those first collectors of local history.

If you can identify these pieces or where they came from, we would be glad for the help. Call ACHS at 763-421-0600 with information or questions.



Kick up your heels and come on down to the
Anoka County Historical Society's
Fifth Annual

Harvest Time Barn Dance

Presented by Main Motors

Saturday, October 4, 2008
Anoka County Fairgrounds
6:00pm to 10:00pm

\$20
Advanced
Tickets

Join us for a bountiful **harvest feast**, catered by "Those Pork Chops," and then put on your dancing shoes for the live sounds of **Buggy Whipp**. Waltz your way over to the auction table and walk away with a "barn good" **auction item**. From gift certificates to fine art—there's something for everyone. Proceeds from this event will provide operating support for the Anoka County Historical Society.

Dinner and Dance Tickets:
\$20 (advance) ♦ \$25 (at the door)
Dance Tickets (after 7pm): \$10
More Information:
(763) 421-0600 ♦ www.ac-hs.org

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Monuments to Life

Cemetery Tours

Explore the stories of those who reside in our “silent cities” during the Anoka County Historical Society’s *Monuments to Life* cemetery tours. These tours are evenings filled with stories, traditions, characters, history, and symbolism.

Thursday, October 9—Glen Cary Cemetery, Ham Lake
Saturday, October 11—St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis
Tuesday, October 14—Calvary Cemetery, Anoka

Come to one or come to all three!

Tickets for individual tours are \$6.00 (ACHS members)
\$8.00 (non-members)

Ticket Packages 3 Tours for \$15.00 (ACHS members)
\$21.00 (non-members)

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance!

You will receive maps with your ticket purchase.

Get your tickets at the Anoka County History Center,
2135 Third Avenue, Anoka,
or by calling 763-421-0600 with your VISA or Mastercard

All tours begin at 7:00 p.m. and go on rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Be prepared to do some walking and standing as we visit graves and hear the stories they have to tell. Tours last about an hour.

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the September 11 ACHS Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. The October 9 meeting will also be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

◆Ghosts of Anoka Tours continue! Check the Upcoming Events section on the back of the newsletter for dates. Order your tickets early as these tours sell out quickly! The tours are offered on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each month with many more in October. Tours for private groups are available—Call 763-421-0600 to set up a special private tour for your group!

Volunteer News

By Maria King, Volunteer Coordinator

The Anoka County Fair was particularly delightful this year. We were spared the stifling heat of prior years, so the porch swing on the farmstead was a great place to be. There were new faces, and familiar ones, and we all had a great time.

Also in July was the annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour. Some 25 volunteers staffed the sites to check tickets, interpret, and welcome participants to each site. Ticket holders, homeowners and volunteers all agreed that it was a resounding success. Perfect weather again played a role, and ticket sales were excellent.

August finds ACHS staffing the 1920 store on the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds during their annual event. We tell stories, share history, and sell hundreds of pieces of penny candy and pickles! Thanks to those intrepid volunteers at the store—we hope the pickle smell has finally faded from your clothing and hair!

Several new volunteers have been introduced to ACHS. We welcome Faith Kammerdiener, Dawn Keenan, Chris Ningen, and Janet Hall. An especially warm thank you goes out to Carl Malone, who proved invaluable at the fair, putting in 30 hours!

We've resurrected the Purple Line tour. You may recall that this walking tour of downtown Anoka was researched and compiled by Chad Brassil, who was working on his Eagle Scout award in the early 1990s. His booklet was published in 1992, and a purple line was painted on the sidewalks to guide tourists on their way to the historic sites. The purple line has long since faded, but the tour is interesting, historically accurate, and a great way to spend an afternoon! Lois Spadgenske updated it in 2004 and took new color photos of each stop along the route. You can purchase your own copy for \$7.50, then stroll the two mile trip and read about the homes and other places that hold a significant place in the history of this great little river city.

Our Ghosts of Anoka tours are another great walking tour. Four tours are scheduled each month with additional tours for private groups as needed.

Summer is whizzing past, and as you read this, I will be on my own vacation. I'll be thinking of new and exciting projects while I bake my body on the beach. Until then, here are a few upcoming opportunities:

—We need an inventory and an updating of our costume collection. It will involve laundering, repairing, ironing, and storing each costume in a labeled plastic bag. The collection has grown, and we are grateful for contributions, but our storage space is finite. A better system is needed.

—We need someone to scan obituaries. They have already been sorted, copied, cut, pasted into date order and the source recorded. After scanning, they need to be moved to fill up a page and then printed. A separate project indexes them by name and date.

—The Barn Dance is coming! Keep an eye out for potential donations for the silent and live auction.

—Any number of topics could be researched if we had volunteers to do so. Call the History Center and we'll describe the most pressing question of the day. Then we'll invite you to see what you can find!

Display Case Opportunities

The Rum River branch of Anoka County Library has display cases available for community groups, clubs, and individuals wishing to share items and information with the public. Feeling this will be of interest to ACHS members, the library is placing this notice to publicize that spaces are still open for scheduling displays in 2009.

Past displayers have included social service, government, recreation, and mutual support organizations, presenting items and information to promote awareness of their activities. Individuals also have shared their personal collections, artwork, and cultural items via the display cases, which may be a particularly good fit for some members of ACHS.

Items may be displayed in Rum River's locked cases on the glass shelving, bulletin board backing, or a combination of the two. While we are now especially seeking displays on diverse cultures, immigrants, and foreign countries, other themes new and old are welcome.

Highlights of the library's remaining displays for 2008—beyond October's usual Halloween exhibit by ACHS—include the following: basket weaving (September); League of Women Voters (October); World War II historical items (November); and a large collection of Christmas tree ornaments (December).

For a display application, visit the information desk at Rum River Library located at 4201 6th Avenue, Anoka, or call (763) 576-4695.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to August 20, 2008.)

DONATIONS

2nd MN Battery Lt. Artillery, Inc.
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John & Janet Galvin
William & Ardys Hoogestraat
Janice Joyce
LeORa Kroger
Orval & Jo Anne Leistico
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Mary Farrier
Jim Johansen
Penny Quast,
Resurrection Lutheran Church
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Pat Snodgrass
Chester Tollefson

Welcome New Members!

Carmen Berlinerblao (Andover)
John Novack (Coon Rapids)
Wm. & Shirley Sorenson (Zimmerman)
Michael Theisen (Brooklyn Park)
Linda Yudka (Las Vegas, NV)
Jan & Gary Solmonson (Ramsey)

***The Anoka County Historical
Society extends our sincere
sympathy to the family of:***

Lorraine Hanson

who died August 17, 2008.

She was the mother-in-law of ACHS

Past President, Ray Steinke.



The Battle of the Pumpkin Patch

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

Nearly everyone knows Anoka is the Halloween Capital of the World and that it all started with a city celebration to give people something other to do than play pranks. It was so successful that there has been a Halloween celebration every year since, with the exception of the years of WWII. It didn't take long before Anoka was known as the Halloween Capital of the World, so when the city fathers were challenged about who could provide the biggest pumpkin, they couldn't refuse.

It was 1972 when the City of Blaine issued a challenge to the City of Anoka. Blaine Councilman Jim Gedney challenged Anoka to come up with a bigger pumpkin than what Blaine could produce. Mayor Elliot Perovich accepted the challenge. It was only one week before Halloween, so the efforts were to find a pumpkin rather than grow one.

It was agreed that the entries were to be presented at the Miss Anoka pageant on Saturday night and the winner of the contest donated their pumpkin to the other city. City officials from Anoka may have smelled a rat as they were asking questions and getting only evasive answers from the Blaine officials. Blaine was very secretive about the whole matter. No one saw Blaine's pumpkin in a patch, though rumor said there were many of Anoka's citizens who went out for a "drive" and just happened to pass every pumpkin patch in the county—especially those in Blaine!

The big night arrived and the pumpkins were to be placed on the high school stage during the Miss Anoka pageant. Newspaper reporters were there and everyone was waiting to see which city had the biggest pumpkin. After all, it wouldn't look good for the Halloween Capital of the World to lose out to Blaine for the biggest pumpkin!

Anoka's pumpkin was brought out. It was a mighty pumpkin—one that would have made Charlie Brown and Linus look twice to see that it wasn't the Great Pumpkin.

Then it was Blaine's turn to bring out their pumpkin. Councilman Jim Gedney and another citizen from Blaine were laughing and talking and didn't even pay attention to the Anoka pumpkin. The whole audience was quiet, waiting.

Finally, the men from Blaine brought out their pumpkin. It took both of them to carry it. It was huge. It had a jagged toothed smile, a triangle nose and eyes. One eye even appeared to be winking! There was a gasp from the crowd! Blaine's pumpkin measured EIGHT FEET ACROSS!!

And it was made of glass! Ron Lueck was a glass sign blower in Blaine. He had made a huge neon pumpkin as a gift to the City of Anoka to recognize them as the Halloween Capital of the World. Blaine's city fathers decided to have some fun with it by challenging the City of Anoka to a pumpkin duel. That was why they stipulated the rule of the winner donating their pumpkin to the loser—Blaine knew they would have the biggest pumpkin and they wanted to be sure the City of Anoka got it.

Take a drive down Main Street in Anoka during October and look up to the roof of Anoka's City Hall. Now you know the history of the pumpkin that has blinked and winked on Anoka's roof for over 30 years, thanks to the City of Blaine!

Coming Events

September 4, 6, 16, 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Ghosts of Anoka Tour

October 2, 4, 16, 18, 27, 28, 29, 30, 7:30 p.m.

Meet at the History Center. Tickets required. This special Ghost Tour takes guest to places where something unexplained has happened and lets them decide what it might be! This tour is just over a mile long and is in the twilight and evening hours. Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and \$3 for children under 18 years. Get your tickets early, as we sell out of these popular tickets *fast!* Remember, we accept VISA and Mastercard.

September Lobby Exhibit

75 Years of Collecting

(Anoka County History Center Lobby.) A preview of the newest exhibit that takes a look at the process of collecting and preserving the history of Anoka County. Highlighted are the collections gathered over the 75 years of existence of the Anoka County Historical Society. Even members will be surprised at what resides within the ACHS collections!

September 6, 7:00 p.m.

Linwood Family Fun Day

(Linwood Town Hall) This family fun event is a Linwood tradition and ACHS will be a part of it this year with a special display. Open to the public and everyone is welcome.

September 20, 9am—7:00 pm

City of Nowthen Heritage Day

(Nowthen City Hall, 19800 Nowthen Blvd.) Celebrate the history and heritage of our newest Anoka County city, Nowthen! The day begins with a pancake breakfast starting at 7:00 am and is filled with historical displays, crafts, food, games, music, and more until the day concludes with fireworks at dusk.

October 4, 7:00 p.m.

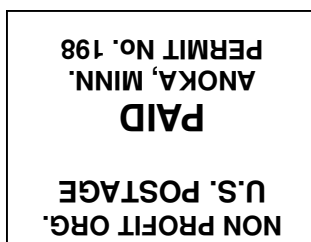
Harvest Time Barn Dance

(Anoka County Fairgrounds) Dust off those dancing shoes and come for a great meal, wonderful music, fun, and fabulous auction items at the Historical Society's biggest event of the year! This is a not-to-be-missed event, so get your tickets now! For more information, see page 4.

October 9, 11, and 14, 7:00 p.m.

Annual "Monuments to Life" Cemetery Tours

The 6th annual Monuments to Life cemetery tour series. **Glen Cary Cemetery in Ham Lake on Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m.** **Saturday, October 11th, at St. Francis Cemetery in St. Francis at 7:00 p.m.** The final tour in the series will be in **Anoka's Calvary Cemetery on Tuesday, October 14th, at 7:00 p.m.** Buy a single tour ticket or save money with a ticket package for all three! See page 5 for more details.



Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 38 No. 6

November-December 2008

The Federal Cartridge Story

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By Holly Broden, Contributing Writer

For more than 90 years, Federal Cartridge Corporation has been a fixture in the Anoka area. From its first 320 x 60 foot fire-proof building near the eastern edge of Tyler and 10th Avenue in Anoka, to its current site, there is little doubt of the impact the company has had on the community, its citizens, and the local economy.

In 1917, a Herald newspaper representative touring the plant wrote, "The north and south wings are given over to the comfort of employees, the north for women, the south for men. Each wing is equipped with locker rooms, shower baths and lunch rooms. The main room is one huge assembly of machinery with one hundred twenty five machines. The entire plant is operated by electric and heated by steam. This is a huge building and the first of several units planned for the future. The industry will mean a great deal to the growth of Anoka." By 1918, the first shells, smokeless powder and chilled shot for 12-gauge shot-guns were in production with the company manufacturing 175,000 shells per year.

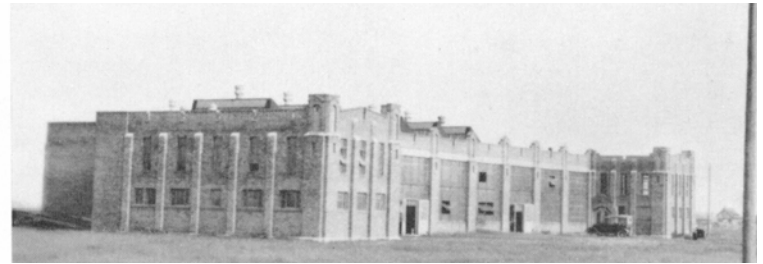
There were uncertain years for the company, too. In 1916, the company was organized under the umbrella of several business men from Minneapolis and then reorganized again in 1917. Despite these reorganizations, the company began to encounter difficulties and in 1920, shut down with minimal operations ongoing. Shotgun shell orders, at that time, were filled on an order-by-order basis. This system of operating continued for nearly two years.

During those lean years John Haller, employee number one, was hard at work. Originally from Wood River, Illinois, Haller is credited with inventing many of the early machines used at Federal Cartridge including the shot shell trimmers, knurlers, wad winders, and loaders. He was promoted from plant manger to superintendent with the arrival of Charles L. Horn in 1922. After arriving at the company, Horn, a young business man from Ida Grove, Iowa, found it difficult to break into an already competitive ammunitions industry. He soon recognized that unique marketing strategies would be needed if the company was to survive.

Under Horn's direction and persistence, shotgun shells and dry goods were soon being sold alongside each other in grocery stores. Filling stations were pumping gas and selling shells. Barbers were cutting hair and carrying shells in their shops and soon became Federal dealers in many small towns. This marketing strategy soon proved successful with Federal shells gaining popularity among shooters. In 1923, the company had 15 employees and was producing 45,000 shells per day.

During World War II, manufacturing of shells was curtailed when the focus was placed on producing ammunition (mortar ignition shells, and skeet loads for military) to support the war effort and running the Twin Cities Army Ammunitions Plant (TCOP) in Fridley. In 1950, the company was again contracted to make ammunition for the Korean War and in 1965 for the Vietnam War. When government contracts terminated, focus switched back to the Anoka facility and the production of shotgun shells.

As the success of the company grew so did its impact on the community. Many Anoka County citizens were Federal Cartridge employees. Names like George Humphreys, Gladys Moebs-Barstow, and Irma Cooper round out the first five employees with thousands more names to follow. Charles Horn embarked on efforts "to give back to the community" long before it was a popular slogan. He is credited with raising funds to help build the former Anoka Municipal Pool (Charles Horn Pool), now the site of the Anoka Aquatic Center, Anoka City Hall, and Mercy Hospital.



Federal Cartridge building, 1922. The car parked in front of the building belonged to John Haller.

The Federal Story continues on page 8.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

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Carol Dordan

Janitorial—Sandra Thorsen

The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

On September 23, the Anoka County Historical Society lost a dear friend and great supporter when Charlie Sell passed away. A well known face around Anoka, Charlie annually volunteered hundreds of hours with the Historical Society, beginning in 1995 when he first came through the doors of Colonial Hall looking for photographs of past commanders of the American Legion.

In the years since, he became a dependable and influential part of ACHS. He helped identify thousands of photographs in our collection and assisted in entering them into a searchable, electronic database that the public and ACHS staff uses on a regular basis to research and study Anoka County's history. His uncanny memory for names, dates, and personalities, made him one of the most relied upon sources of information we had. Whenever we were looking for a starting point in researching a topic, Charlie was often one of the first people we turned to.

But the charm of Charlie was not only the fact that he knew the story, but that he told it so well. I first met him in December of 2005 at an event the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission held at the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse in honor of Bob Ehlen, former Anoka mayor, executive at Federal, and personal friend to Charlie (Charlie worked for Federal Cartridge for over 30 years). I was about to become the executive director at ACHS and Charlie immediately sought me out to make me feel welcome, sharing stories about Ehlen, Federal, and Anoka. In the last weeks, I have been reminiscing with staff and friends about Charlie and how we all looked forward to his Wednesday appearance at the History Center.

To those that knew Charlie and would like to help remember him, ACHS is asking for people to write down their memories of Charlie and send them to the Anoka County Historical Society at 2135 Third Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303. Help us preserve his memory.

We've also been wondering what we will do to fill the void that he left behind. Not only with ACHS, but with his other passion for the City of Anoka's calendar produced by students at the Fred Moore Middle School Center for the Arts. Charlie can never be replaced, but if we all pitch in, we just might be able to equal his impact.

That's really the best way to remember him, by honoring his commitment to service and community.

Thanks for another life lesson, Charlie. You will be missed and remembered.

From the President...

By Catherine Vesley

It seems to me that everyone I meet with a real interest in history likes to read, and often the best books are those recommended or loaned to you by friends. The more eclectic your assortment of friends, the wider your reading.

At dinner recently, the conversation among the guests turned to Eastern Europe and specifically Poland. A friend is going there, and bringing along a grandchild, to show him the home village and introduce him to the surviving relatives. It is expected to be a wonderful experience for them both.

Poland and Columbia Heights, my hometown, have a close relationship. The town of Lomianki and Columbia Heights are Sister Cities. There is an active group in the Heights that holds successful fundraisers every year to buy books for the library and equipment for the hospital in Lomianki. Many members of the group have traveled to Poland and representatives from Poland have come over here. It has been an enriching experience for all and a great program.

I have no Polish roots, but the friend insisted I read a book he thought was wonderful. It is Charles T. Power's novel, *In The Memory Of The Forest*, set in Poland about 40 years after WWII at a time of wrenching economic and social dislocation. I began reading and on the first page ran into these lines: "My father once told me that our history is like a force behind us, pushing us along, unacknowledged or even unknown, but dictating the way we live our lives".

Any author who has things like that to say deserves to be read! The book is a lovely read, a *New York Times* notable book, and the author's only effort. He was a journalist for the *Los Angeles Times* and served as Bureau chief in Warsaw from 1986 to 1991 before retiring to Vermont and writing his book.

Thank you my friend for insisting. So often a fine novel brings a period to life in a way a history cannot. When I taught, I always included some fiction on the reading list and the students enjoyed them while getting a great feeling for the period. As the weather changes and the gardens go dormant, enjoy your fall reads, and stop by the History Center to check out a new book or browse an old one.

Charles O. Sell

1931—2008

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

Only once in a great while does a person come along who touches your life in such a way that you know they have changed you and made you better for having known them.

Charlie Sell was one of those rare people and his death is felt by many people across the entire area. He will be missed in so many ways.

Charlie quite freely admitted that he never thought much about history until one day in about 1994 when he came to ACHS looking for photographs of past Legion Commanders from Anoka. The staff pulled out the photograph index and inventory, handed them to Charlie with an explanation of how to find what he wanted, and that was it. Charlie was hooked.

The photograph collection was Charlie's special love and he dedicated hundreds upon hundreds of hours to the collection. It was with Charlie's influence that a grant was written to begin the labor intensive project of cataloging the thousands of photos in

ACHS's collection into a computer database. His dream was to be able to enter what a person wanted into the computer and it would respond with a list of photos matching the search, then show that photo on the screen.

As time went by, the photo project continued to the point where patrons can search the ACHS photo collection on the computer. There are many photos yet to be entered, but Charlie used the system to find photos for patrons and staff on a routine basis.

Charlie was tireless in his quest for accurate history and he spent many days entering additional information about photos beyond what had initially been known. He often knew the information personally and had the resources to verify it. Staff members at ACHS often teased Charlie, saying that if he told them it rained half an inch on the 12th of September in 1957, we would believe him without question because if we took the time to look it up, we'd find he was right.

One thing about Charlie that drove the staff a little crazy was his volunteer hours. He was good about writing them down until the year he was recognized as one of the top volunteers. After that, he wouldn't write down all of his hours because he wanted someone else to get that recognition. Charlie would have been in the top five every year.

The love of "old photos" went beyond just ACHS. Charlie began doing a "Then and Now" look at the city of Anoka. He hunted for photos from the 1940s and 50s, writing every bit of history he could gather about the subject and putting it into a notebook that grew thicker by the week. The next step was to go out to the same location as the old photo and take another photo of the same thing today and write up its history. Charlie kept saying he had to work on it to get it finished, but in the next breath, he'd tell us it would never be done as he was off talking to someone else about yet another old photo of something in Anoka. ACHS has a copy of that notebook and it is a phenomenal resource—just not as good as having Charlie.

That was how we got to know Charlie, but his friendship went far beyond the work he did. Charlie was a sounding board for ideas, a resource for where to find information, someone to just talk to about anything, historical or personal. He was an excellent listener and had a rich sense humor with an infectious laugh. He was also an exceptional story teller—if only we had written down all the stories he told us!

One of the highlights of the last years was his work with the Calendar Kids from Fred Moore Middle School. Charlie guided the students through the process of writing the history and choosing photos for the yearly Anoka city calendar. When it was done, he'd take the kids to Billy's for hamburgers, then they'd walk to City Hall to present the calendar. The kids loved him and he loved them.

Charlie was so many things to so many people in the community. He served on the city council, was elected the mayor on a write-in campaign, was the commander of the Anoka American Legion Post, served on countless city commissions and committees, and an active community member. Charlie took part in the community, appearing before councils and boards to accomplish something in the community where he lived his entire life. He was a born Anokan, and proud of it.

ACHS director Todd Mahon said, "This guy was beloved, revered. Charlie is like that guy from that town that seems fictional. He's perfect. He's the town ambassador. He's the town historian. He's everything."

Most of all, he was a dear friend who will be missed terribly by the staff at ACHS for many years to come.



Charlie with the tee-shirt ACHS staff gave him for his birthday one year—it was an accurate label!

The Story of an Artifact

Throughout 2008, History Center News has featured articles on collections items that are candidates for deaccessioning, or removal from the ACHS permanent collections. These articles are meant to educate and prepare the public and our membership for the possibility of deaccessioning in the future. We hope these articles will spur discussion and teach about the responsibilities of caring for our collection. Any questions about this, or any other articles, can be addressed to ACHS staff at 763-421-0600.

Does it really belong here?

By Todd Mahon, Executive Director

The Native American presence in Anoka has generally been a fluid one. The county is geographically located in an area that was traditionally a buffer zone between the Dakota and Ojibwe. Before James T. Elwell brought the Elwell Grade to eastern Anoka County, much of that side of the county was uninhabitable marsh and swamp land. There are many examples of temporary encampments, but permanent and long-term settlements were rare in Anoka County. As a result, the Anoka County Historical Society's Native American collection is rather small, but even within that small collection are examples of pieces that may have better homes elsewhere.



A leather Eskimo ball.

Found in the ACHS collection years ago was a box titled "Indian Artifacts." Among the items housed in the box were various baskets and a bulky, leather piece decorated with fur and hair accents. None of the objects had any identification with them as to where they came from or who donated them. In November 2002, while preparing to move from Colonial Hall to the Anoka County History Center, ACHS staff gave the objects accession numbers and created records for them that contained the very limited information we had (essentially that they were found in a box labeled "Indian Artifacts"). A few years ago, while preparing an exhibit on early Anoka County agriculture, we wanted to include some objects that helped tell the story of the first people to make a living from the land that would become Anoka County. ACHS staff contacted the Minnesota Historical Society's Archaeology Department and showed them some of the items on which we needed more information. The results ranged from being unable to make any determination about an object, to definitively ruling out a piece as Native American, to identifying it as Native American.

But even some of those items that were linked to Native Americans brought revelations. Several of our pieces are from Alaskan tribes. One basket was identified as being made by a Yupik weaver from Southwest Alaska. It is coiled with rye grass leaves over a rye grass bundle. And the leather piece mentioned earlier? That's Alaskan, too. It's called an Eskimo Ball.

So how did it get here? That is a mystery, and while we have some theories (one individual who donated many items in the collection did work in Alaska for a time), the answer to that is not likely to justify its place in our collection. ACHS is dedicated to telling the story and interpreting the history of Anoka County. How do Alaskan tribal items tell that story? Wouldn't it be better to find a museum or organization that does collect these items and offer these pieces to them? We think so.

As we prepare to embark on our collections project, these are typical scenarios we are finding in our collections. Of course, the vast majority of items in our collection are positively identified and have the appropriate provenance for our mission. *No object that has a donor and provenance connecting it to Anoka County will be removed from the collection!* Only those items that truly do not belong here will be removed, providing room and resources for continuing to collect the items that tell the stories of Anoka County's people.



Basket made by a Yupik weaver from Southwest Alaska. It is coiled with rye grass leaves over rye grass bundles.

Join us on December 2 at 7:00 pm for the opening of our newest exhibit, 75 Years of Collecting, to learn more about the process and procedures professional museums use to manage their collections. Many of these items we are wondering about will be featured in the display. We promise you will learn a lot about how objects become artifacts—and maybe you can even help identify some unknown object we have not been able to figure out! See page 6 for more.

By Todd Mahon, Executive Director

AUCTION!

CLOSING OUT SALE OF THE GRAND OLD PARTY

As our lease with Uncle Sam will expire on March 4th, 1933, and our titles to the political Jack Pot will be transferred to the "Sons of Wild Jackasses", we have decided to hold an Auction Sale on the White House Lawn, Washington, D. C. on

NOVEMBER 8TH, 1932

And will sell to the highest bidder, all our political machinery and our entire stock of supplies now on hand, to wit:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Political Machine, 1921 Model, badly in need of repair. | 14,000,000 Moonshine Stills, all operating by everybody. |
| 1 Moss grown Platform with all its farm planks broken. | 700 Rum Running Vessels, just learning to swim but know all dives. |
| 1 Large ever-bearing Mellon Vine with several small branches frost bitten. Classed as frozen assets. | 11 Million Dinner Pails. All empty |
| 1 Billion Dollar Crime wave, made to order Old enough to wean. Sired by Volstead and damned by everybody. | 21 Thousand Miles of Breadlines, without vacant space. |
| | 1 Seat on Board of Trade, good for any amount of wheat. No profits guaranteed |

Should the Present Prosperity Continue We Reserve the Right to Sell Under the Hoover Moratorium Plan.

Free Lunch at noon. Doughnuts, extra large hole, will be served by the Farm Board. The Board of Temperance, Prohibition, Public Morals, Society of Reforms will serve Roast Crow to the Wickersham Committee. The Army, Navy, Coast Guard and all available Stool Pigeons will be in formation at the lunch to assure Dolly Gann of her rightful place at the table. If the chief executive arrives in time to assist at the sale, it is respectfully requested that all present who still have a hat, stand uncovered while the band plays "God Help the King".

TERMS: See your banker before the sale. Positively no foreign bonds accepted, although they are O. K. ed by the State Department. The boys just put the O.K. on them so that Coon Lobe, Jaypee Morgan and some of the other international bankers could slip them to the suckers. It really amounts to \$14,000,000,000 and all our Wall Street friends are rid of them, so we are no further interested.

The G. O. P., Owner

PETE HERBIE CAULEY, Auctioneer

HANZ J. COBSON, Clerk

Printed and circulated by order of Joseph Wolfe, Democratic National Committeeman, St. Paul, Minn.

With all the attention on the presidential campaign this fall, the Anoka County Historical Society has taken the opportunity to dig into the archives and uncover this little gem from a collection of materials belonging to the Gallagher, Paisley, and Mahoney families of St. Francis. These were donated this past year by Lila Horn. The staff all agreed this satirical "G.O.P. Auction" poster from the 1932 campaign pitting incumbent Herbert Hoover against New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt was one of the most unique pieces in the collection.

Just as in 1932, the 2008 campaign features a troubled economy with a stock market in turmoil, and a president with historically low approval ratings. Both the 1932 and 2008 campaigns made easy use of the phrase "change." Unlike the 1932 campaign, this year's election does not include an incumbent president.

This poster, printed in St. Paul and circulated by Democratic National Committeeman Joseph Wolfe, makes one wonder if the current complaints of negative campaigns would have been met with guffaws in 1932. Sarcastically claiming that the Republicans, predicting the expiration of their lease with Uncle Sam, were auctioning off everything—fire sale style—including "1 Political Machine, 1921 Model, Badly in Need of Repair."

We'll let you draw your own conclusions as to how much things have changed and how much they remain the same!

New Exhibit Opening! 75 Years of Collecting

Preserving History for 75 Years
1934-2009
Anoka County Historical Society

A group of Anoka County citizens gathered on Saturday, September 15, 1934, with the purpose of forming an organization to preserve Anoka County history. Eleven people signed up as the first members and nearly all of them were assigned “jobs” within the fledgling organization. One job was assigned to a committee—that of gathering and safeguarding the historical documents and papers they society hoped to gather. They limited their collecting to photos and papers as they had no place to keep objects at the time.

From that day onward, artifacts and papers were preserved. From a case in in the courthouse to an historic house in Fridley, to another historic house in Anoka, and finally to the current History Center building, history was preserved.

Come celebrate those early efforts, see how collecting has changed and how professional museums handle artifacts entrusted to their care.

This fun exhibit gives visitors a sample of the tools, techniques, and language used by museum people, and even asks visitors to help! It’s an exhibit sure to generate a lot of conversation!

Why do we have an Eskimo ball in the collection?

Do we really need six treadle sewing machines?

What *is* this thing?

PROVENANCE!!!

Were these 37 white plates brought in to use for a dessert event or were they to be added to the collection?

**Conservation
&
Preservation**

All on
December 2
7:00 pm!

ACHS Membership Meeting

This will be a short meeting to discuss and vote on proposed by-law changes. All voting members are encouraged to attend! December 2, 7:00 pm.

2008 Holiday Ornament from Nowthen!

City officials and community members from Nowthen will present the 2008 Holiday Ornament for the County on Tuesday evening, December , 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at the Anoka County History Center.

This holiday season is the thirteenth annual "Anoka County Holiday Tree" celebration at the Anoka County Historical Society. Just as each state is invited in turn to provide the National Christmas Tree in Washington, each community in Anoka County is invited in turn to provide an ornament for the County Tree. Each ornament reflects a unique aspect of its community, along with the year of presentation. The Nowthen ornament will not be shown to anyone until the ornament is presented on December 2nd, so come get in on the surprise!

Right: The ornament presented by the City of Lino Lakes in 2005. It was made from the fabric of the real balloon flown by Mary Alice Divine and it carried the city’s logo. Commissioner Erhart quipped that when the balloon was flying, it made Lino Lakes the only Anoka County community with its own air force!



Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the November 13 ACHS Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. The December 11 meeting will also be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

◆The membership meeting to vote on proposed by-changes for ACHS will be held on Tuesday, December 2, as a part of our events that evening. All proposed changes will be on the ACHS website, www.ac-hs.org, after the November 13th board meeting. Members without internet access may request a written copy of the proposed changes by calling the History Center. 763-421-0600.

Heritage Lab

By Maria King, Volunteer Coordinator

During October, I had the opportunity to take part in Heritage Lab at Wargo Nature Center. In the pristine forest during the cool October weather, it is not difficult to imagine the world of Minnesota's earliest pioneers. Groups of school children, mostly fourth and fifth grades, were rotated through eight outdoor teaching stations to learn about life in early Minnesota.

This year's focus was the Ojibwa and Dakota Indians. Learning stations taught medicinal herbs, the art of Seth Eastman, Ojibwa legends, and the symbols painted on horses. Children were engaged in interactive hands-on learning activities, such as animal tracking, playing Indian games, and throwing Indian weapons.

My station took students through the process of harvesting wild rice. We ended with a taste of the rice, sweetened with maple sugar and dried blueberries. The rice, sugar and berries were all harvested right there in Wargo!

This is a very effective outreach for ACHS. In 15 days, Heritage Lab reaches about 3,222 children. They go away from the experience with a real sense of the hardship that early pioneers took in stride and of the tremendous effort required to build the infrastructure that we enjoy today. And, hopefully, they learned how to harvest wild rice!

ACHS By-Law Changes Proposed

The Anoka County Historical Society's Board of Directors is looking to make changes to its bylaws. The changes concern the length of term for the positions of President and Vice President and issue of term limits. The bylaws were last amended and restated in 2004. Those changes created the office of Past President. They state that the Society's Board have a leadership of Vice President, President, and Past President. Each term lasts for one year and the Vice President is annually elected by the Society's membership. After serving for one year, the Vice President automatically rotates into the President's office and the President becomes the Past President.

After working with this system for the last four years, the board has found that it has been difficult to tie up three board members in the President track and find that there is little option for the Director that rotates out of the Past President position. The Board of Directors is proposing to three main changes to the bylaws and some minor adjustments to clean up anachronistic and confusing language.

The major changes are:

The elimination of the office of Past President.

Two year terms for the offices of Vice President and President.

Eliminating the current term limits for Directors.

The Board of Directors is finalizing language at their November 13 monthly meeting (all ACHS Board meetings are open to the public). The plan is to present these changes to the Membership for their approval at a public meeting on December 2 that will coincide with our annual event when one of Anoka County's 21 municipalities presents us with a unique ornament for our holiday tree (this year the county's newest city, Nowthen, will be presenting the ornament).

A copy of the current bylaws and the proposed changes will be posted on the Society's web site at www.ac-hs.org after approval at the November 13th board meeting. Printed copies will be mailed to those members who request them.

Amendment of the bylaws requires a meeting at which at least fifty (50) Members with voting rights or ten percent (10%) of the members with voting rights, whichever is less are present and an affirmative vote by a majority vote of those Members present.

Please mark your calendar to attend this special member meeting and event on December 2, 7:00 pm. at the History Center.

The Federal Story

Continued from page 1

In addition to building for the community, Horn also built for his employees. One of the buildings meant for the benefit of Federal employees is the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse, 1954, that featured a trap and skeet range. It's a recognizable fixture, with its hunting lodge styling, in the Federal Cartridge complex. The clubhouse, the ammunitions buildings, the manufacturing site, and Hoffman Engineering, easily seen along northeast Main Street, are part of the more than 31 acre site. The deer herd encamped inside its fenced borders never seems to lose its special hint of irony.

The Federal Cartridge story has been told for many decades in Anoka County. From the advent of shotgun shell production in 1922, the introduction of the 1946 disintegrating shot shell Topwad, the 1965 marketing of the first plastic shot shell, to a series of buyouts in the 1990s, the company has weathered both strong and uncertain times. Now, approaching its centennial year, "The Federal" story is continuing to be written not only for the citizens of Anoka County, but also for those people who work in today's global market community--people who have never or may never step one foot in Anoka, but know and carry Federal shells.

(Article details taken from ACHS archives including The Monark and The Anoka County Union newspapers)



Volunteer News

By Maria King, Volunteer Coordinator

By the time you read this, the Ghost Tours will be over, and another successful Halloween season will have drawn to a close. ACHS gave some 36 tours during the month of October alone. Most tours average 25 people, so -do the math- we reached a lot of people and shared a lot of history. A very heartfelt thanks goes out to this year's Ghost Tour docents, without whom the tours would not be possible. Gary Greb, Darlene Bearl, Tanya Weisser, Ann Steen, and Lynn Rickert are seasoned guides. They were joined by new docents, June Anderson, Geri Bates, Rosa Edholm, and Faith Kammerdeiner. Everyone did a fabulous job!

There are always new and exciting volunteer projects sprouting up as the need arises. With the heart-breaking loss of Charlie Sell, our photo project needed a new champion to direct it. Several boxes of photos have been identified and scanned but needed to be entered into our Past Perfect software in order to become accessible to researchers. Don Stauffer has graciously agreed to take on the task.

We have been fortunate for many years to have Sharron Stockhausen to write a regular history column for the ABC newspapers. Sharron is giving up her column and, beginning in January, Randy Getchell will write the history column. Randy has been researching in anticipation.

We've been recently blessed with two new volunteers. Terri Briggs, who hopes to find a job in the museum field, is sharpening her skills by working for us. She assists Marilyn Anderson with some of her curator responsibilities, including building storage mounts for better long-term storage of artifacts.

Holly Broden is a talented writer and will help with articles for our newsletter. Look for her work in this issue! We'll be seeing more writing from Holly in the future.

Gary Zieglmeier has taken on the task of reading the probate records and entering them into our database. It's a huge undertaking because all the names need to be cross-referenced.

Kate Morphew cut and pasted all the obituaries from the year to date. Now we need a volunteer to type them into Excel. This could be done at home or here at the History Center. Familiarity with Excel is all that is needed.

With the new exhibit on 75 years of collection, the staff is identifying objects that are missing provenance. A savvy researcher is needed to gather whatever information is available about each item. Good internet skills are needed for this task. Dan Frank will take this on, but there is plenty of work for those who wish to help.

Meanwhile, ongoing projects like the manuscripts have fallen behind. Volunteers are needed to cut, paste, copy, enter, and file the manuscripts. Additional hands are always welcome at our mailing meetings, which occur once every two months when we send out a newsletter. Our costumes need a patient person to launder, iron, mend, and fold our dresses for storage. We are looking for someone with graphic design skills to rework several of our brochures. Other things pop up from time to time requiring a volunteer from our database and your skills might be just what we need.

If you can help, please call Maria at the History Center, 763-421-0600.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to Oct. 28, 2008.)

DONATIONS

Anoka County Vietnam Vets Chapter 470
Robert W. Akin II
Judith Hansen
James and Sandra Karash
Tom and Patti Kurak
Robert and Marveen Minish
Linda Murray
Leeanne Patchen
Dorothy L. Peterson
Andrew Revering
Donna Smith

MATCHING GIFTS

Ameriprise Financial

BARN DANCE SPONSORSHIP

Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd.
Main Motors

BARN DANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Advance Automotive Care
All About Dogs & Cats
Janis Amatuzio
Jan Anderson
June Anderson
Marilyn Anderson
Anoka County Parks
Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Anoka Municipal Liquor Store
Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts
Dennis Berg
Billy's Bar & Grill (Anoka)
Billy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill (St. Francis)
BOB 106 Radio
Lyle Bradley
Brittany Cottages on Madeline Island
Shirley Christenson
Columbia Heights Public Library
County Market
Carol Dordan
Dan Frank
David Housewright
Duluth Depot
East Bethel 10 Theaters
Goose Lake Farm & Winery
Gould's Diamonds and Jewelry
Great Lakes Aquarium
Green Haven Golf Course
Green Valley Greenhouse
Greenberg Implement
Guthrie Theater
Heights Theater
Sam Hermanstorfer
J. O'Donoghue Books
Ketter Canoeing
Patti Kurak
Lyric Arts Theater
Madeline Island Ferry
Todd Mahon and Nicole Theis-Mahon
Tracee Mahon

(Barn Dance Contributions, Con't)

Gen Meyer
Mickman Brother's Nursery
Minnesota Thunder
Bob Minish
Northwoods Bar & Grill
Nowthen Nursery
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Party Papers
Paul's Barbershop
Plymouth Playhouse
The Pickwick Restaurant
Pond's Golf Course
The Pub Restaurant and Wine Bar
Red Ox Café
Paul Reifenberger
Rum River Inn
Running Aces Harness Park
St. Francis American Legion
St. Francis Barbershop
St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Foods
St. Francis True Value Hardware
Serendipity
Stages Theatre Company
Natalie Haas Steffen
Tasty Pizza
Laarni Sta. Teresa
Rachael Theis
Sandy Thorsen
Theater in the Round
Tom Conlan Photography
Top Line Federal Credit Union
Trade Winds Co-op
Twin City Attorneys PA
Catherine Vesley
Vickie Wendel
Viking Meadows Golf Course
Visit Minneapolis North
Water Street Inn
Ward Wilkins
Windego Park Society
Wisconsin Historical Society

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka Masonic Lodge #30
Robert Blewett
Ken Croteau
Chuck Drury
Carol Freeburg
John A. Freeburg
Bill & Barb Gow
Judy Hanna
Lila Horn
Dennis Johnson
Phyllis Lahn
Lenwood Lambert, Sr.
Beverly Mercil
Schmidt Family
Pat Schwappach
Lorraine Peterson Soderquist
Sandra Thorsen

MEMORIALS

In Honor of Charlie Sell,
given by
Roger & Dorothy Carlson
Mariano Lucero
Rod & Lois McArdle
Jean Seaborg
Ron & Vickie Wendel

Welcome New Members!

Lyle and Jerene Anderson – Ramsey
Mark and Lorri Emerson – St. Francis
Tara Johnston – Anoka
Robert and Virginia Koehler-Barner -
Fridley
Robert and Marveen Minish - Fridley
Mark and Rita Nupen – Anoka
Gwen Quick – Ramsey
William and Jeraldine Schulz – Elk River
Jan and Gary Solmsonson - Ramsey
Patricia Titterud – Ham Lake
Suzanne Wirz – Elk River
Linda Yudka – Las Vegas, NV

***The Anoka County Historical Society extends
our sincere sympathy to the families of:***

Clarence Monegar

An ACHS member from St. Francis who recently passed away.

Charlie Sell

who died September 23, 2008.

He was a loyal ACHS member, volunteered hundreds of hours each year, and a dear friend of the staff.

Donald Hostetler

who died October 20, 2008.

He was the father of ACHS staff person, Sandra Thorsen.

Coming Events

November 26, 12:00 noon to 1:00

Celebrating PIE!

Anoka County History Center and Library. Bring your favorite holiday pie for all to sample as we share stories and history about a holiday favorite—PIE! Being the day before Thanksgiving, pie is certainly a logical choice of topic to discuss. Many people will be baking pies for the big meal the next day, so bake one early, and come share some fun history about pies during this informal discussion. The format is a roundtable discussion where everyone is welcome to share their own stories about PIES they've made or eaten. It's okay to eat dessert before your lunch—after all, life might be short and you'd hate to miss out on dessert! We'll provide the coffee and no one is allowed to count carbs at this special lunch time history event.

December 2, 7:00 p.m.

75 Years of Collection Exhibit Opens County Holiday Ornament Presentation ACHS Membership Meeting — By-law Changes

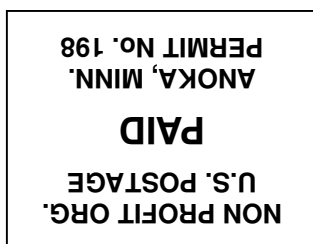
Anoka County History Center and Library. This is a busy evening, so mark those calendars now! The newest city in Anoka County will present their ornament for the County Tree, the City of Nowthen. Members of ACHS will be asked to comment on and vote on proposed changes to the ACHS by-laws (see page 7 for more info). The newest exhibit will also be opened for the first time this evening. Called *75 Years of Collecting*, this exhibit features some of the more unusual things in the ACHS collection as well as giving visitors a glimpse at what it is like to work in a professional museum. See page 6 for more on this day's events.

December 4 & 6

American Girl Christmas Tea Party

Anoka County History Center and Library. Come to the History Center for a tea party to discuss the *American Girl* story, and to learn more about daily life in Anoka County during that time period. Celebrate the season with Julie, the American Girl of the 1970s. Activities will highlight experiences that would be familiar during these turbulent times in Anoka County. Girls, their dolls, and the grown-ups will have a tea party to wrap up the event and be expected to stick out their pinky fingers in much the same way as Julie might have done! **Reservations required.** Thursday evening, December 4th and several sessions on Saturday, December 6th. Ask for times when making your reservations. Tickets for girls are \$7, adult tickets are \$10, dolls are free!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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