

# History Notes

Volume 40, Issue 1, March 2018

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us) / LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PAST



Young William Dais in 1870.



Inside :

**POLIO**

In  
Waseca County

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2018  
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093  
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700  
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

**WCHS 2018 Board of Directors:**

Dave Dunn, President  
Diane Beckmann, Vice-President  
Virginia McCarthy, Secretary  
Dawn Hलगren, Treasurer  
Marty Boom  
Linda Grant  
Dale Groskreutz  
Judy Joecks  
Gregg Johnson  
Jim King  
Al Rose  
Audrey Weiske  
Dave Zika  
Ivan Maas  
Karl Jones

**Staff:**

Joan Mooney, Executive Director  
Grant Administration, Programs & Research  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us  
joanm@historical.waseca.mn.us

Pauline Fenelon, Artifacts/Library Curator  
paulinef@historical.waseca.mn.us

Vanessa Zimprich, Museum Director/  
Curator  
vanessaz@historical.waseca.mn.us  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us

Linda Taylor, Researcher, Genealogy.  
research@historical.waseca.mn.us



The Timeline Project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. WCHS is also grateful to the Carl &



Verna Schmidt Foundation, the First National Bank-Waseca, Principal Financial Foundation-John Priebe, and Bill and Patti Hoversten for match support to the Implementation Phase.



## From the Executive Director

Joan Mooney

Dear WCHS Members,

It's been a hard winter for many. Colds and flu took a lot of folks down for a good many days. Epidemics are not new to us. Typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox, 1918 influenza epidemic, measles, tuberculosis, polio, HIV/AIDS, swine flu, avian flu have all surfaced in Minnesota at one time or another and some continue to do so.

Author Curt Brown contacted us last year while researching his new book "Minnesota, 1918: When Flu, Fire and War Ravaged the State". I realized then, that "epidemics" were another critical topic to be explored while we still have those among us who were directly affected by devastating illnesses.



Most recently, researchers Linda Taylor and Donna Fostveit while indexing the 1950's newspapers, called my attention to the number of polio cases reported in Waseca County. Our featured article "Polio in Waseca County" focuses on the years 1949 -1952. E.W.Spaulding stated no cases of polio were reported in Waseca County in 1955, although since 1945 there had been 74 reported cases, five of them fatal.

It is noted in the article "Polio: Minnesota's Crucial Role" published by the Minnesota Department of Health: "Even if a child of the 1940s and 1950s didn't suffer from polio or didn't even know anyone who did, it affected his or her life."

If you would like to share your memories and stories about this topic we will add them to our files located in the Bailey/Lewer Research Library. Stories can be submitted in digital format or written word.

Thank you Curt, Linda and Donna for your research on this topic.



## From the WCHS Museum Director

Vanessa Zimprich

A new processing room has been established for the museum building! Pauline and I are so excited that Karl Jones was able to fix the walls and paint them white.



With the new lighting installed last year and the white walls it is looking nice and bright! Jon Zimprich and Michael Zimprich invested two of their weekends during the month of February and built custom shelving units for the processing room. Karl Jones made a trip to Menards and purchased a fantastic new countertop which just happened to be on sale! Pauline and I are busy moving our processing supplies into the new space and are happy to have a great work area!



The history center will be updating their website this year. If things go smoothly, the new site should be ready to launch this Spring!

### WCHS STAFF

**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact &  
Library Curator



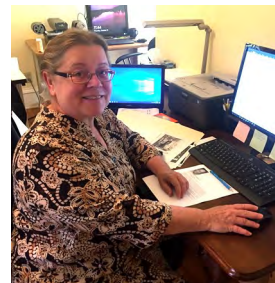
**Linda Taylor**

Research/  
Genealogy



**Jan Hunter**

Research



**Andrew Breck**

Exhibit Design



### At the Museum:

April 2018: **Waseca County and WWI  
E.F.Johnson Company**

June 2018 : **City of Waseca, 150 Years**

On going: **Waseca County Timeline of  
Unique Stories**

### At the Bailey Lewer Research Library:

Ongoing : **Interpreting your DNA Results**

### Events:

April 17&19: **Teachable moments at the Waseca  
History Center**

June 30: **Chautauqua, Trowbridge Park**



Photo credit: Hennepin Co. Library Special Collections

## **POLIO (Poliomyelitis)** by definition:

*A severe infectious viral disease, usually affecting children or young adults, that inflames the brainstem and spinal cord, sometimes leading to loss of voluntary movement and muscular wasting.*

Do you remember lining up for the shot, or waiting in line to get the oral vaccine? If you were born between 1948 and 1957 you most likely do. The first reportable cases of polio in Minnesota were in October 1908. For the next four years annual deaths from polio were reported. The highest death rate in this time period was in 1948 reporting 9.8 deaths per 100,000 people. The death rate in 1910 was almost as high, 9.7 per 100,000. By 1949 the number of cases was once again on the

rise. Nearly 2,000 cases and 110 deaths were reported in Minnesota that year.

In Waseca County, our research to date credits one death to polio in 1947, 2 reported cases in 1950, 36 cases and one death in 1952. State wide annual cases and deaths during the early 1950s would top the epidemic of 1946.

There were treatments available for treating polio victims by 1949, but no vaccines for prevention. The public was terrified of contracting the disease. The Minnesota State Health Board was assigned the charge of producing public health advisory notices with limited information. Not known was the way polio was transmitted. It was difficult for the Board to make recommendations for what, or what not to do to stop the disease from spreading. Suggested factors were mosquitos, flies, and a vulnerability for those having tonsillectomies. It was recommended that tonsillectomies be delayed if not absolutely necessary.

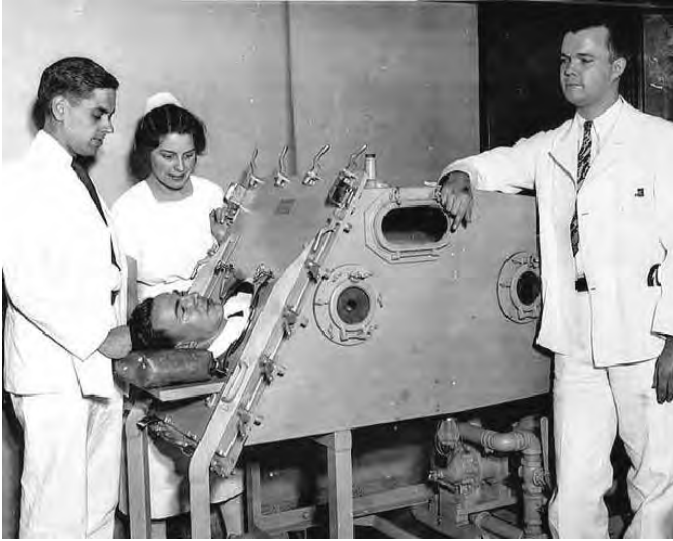


Photo credit: National Museum of Natural History

In 1946, the Minnesota State Fair was canceled. In 1950 when the number of cases spiked, serious consideration was given as to cancel the fair again.

The Waseca County Fair went on as scheduled in 1950. Two reported cases were recorded in that year. But with a spike in cases, the 1952 Waseca County Fair attendance was poor. Polio had struck Waseca just days before the fair started. Bad weather prior to the fair, postponed small grain harvest. Farmers were busy catching up and people were afraid to come in contact with others who may be contagious.

**Iron Lung** *A negative pressure ventilator, often referred to as an iron lung, is a nearly-obsolete mechanical respirator which enables a person to breathe on their own in a normal manner, when muscle control is lost, or the work of breathing exceeds the person's ability, as may result from certain diseases as poliomyelitis.*



*Iron Lung patient and staff. Sister Kenny Institute, Minneapolis, c.1942. Minnesota Historical Society*

The iron lung was invented by Philip Dunker, Louis Agassiz Shaw and James Wilson at Harvard in 1928, and tested at Children's Hospital in Boston. The cost was \$1500. John Haven Emerson modified the design to make production less expensive. The Emerson Lung was produced until 1970. Rocking beds were also used for patients with less intense breathing difficulties.



*Photo credit: RareHistoricalPhotos.com*

Dr. A. F. Lynn, city health official, canceled the annual *On Wheels Parade* held on August 6th as a precautionary measure to stop exposure of the disease among children.

In 1952 more than 21,000 Americans were stricken, 3000 died. In Waseca County 37 cases were covered in the *Waseca Journal* and one person, Ray Trahms died. Once infected, only time and symptom management were available. Often times, braces and splints were put on affected limbs.

People were encased in the metal chambers for months, years and sometimes life.

### **Spinal, Bulbar and Bulbospinal Polio**

Spinal polio is the most common form, usually resulting in asymmetric paralysis most commonly in the legs. Bulbar polio leads to muscle weakness by attacking nerves in the brain. Bulbospinal polio is a combination of bulbar and spinal paralysis.

### **Sister Kenny Institute**

Elizabeth Kenny was born in Australia in 1880. She served in the Australian military as a nurse even though she had no medical training. "Sister" is the military title given to the chief nurse, a position Kenny had earned. Sister Kenny saw her first case of polio in 1911. Unaware of accepted medical treatments, her approach was to treat stiff limbs with heat packs and gentle movement instead of braces and splints. This method was revolutionary in that it taught patients to re-use limbs temporarily paralyzed by polio. Kenny came to the United States in 1940. She and her treatment methods met with much resistance. Not being formally trained, and also a woman, doctors in

New York and Chicago gave her little to no credit. Kenny came to Minnesota to the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota. She began treating acute polio patients using heat packs and movement at Minneapolis General Hospital. Soon Kenny could not meet the demand and began training technicians. She also needed a bigger facility. In December, 1942 the Elizabeth Kenny Institute opened. One year later the clinic became the Sister Kenny Institute. In 1975 Sister Kenny Institute merged with Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

### **Vaccine- Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin**

Jonas Salk began his post graduate work in Virology. In 1947 he began studying infantile paralysis at the University of Pittsburg Medical School. It was then he focused his research on developing vaccine using a "killed virus". Unlike other research at the time using live virus vaccines. The first Salk polio vaccinations in Minnesota were given on May 20, 1955. Out of 112,000 children vaccinated, there were only two cases of paralytic polio during the summer of 1955. This data was the first to support the effectiveness of the vaccine.

**Albert Sabin** accepted a position as Associate Professor at the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, University of Cincinnati. Sabin developed the Department of Virology and Microbiology in 1939. Here is where Sabin developed the live oral vaccine for polio.

Research found that the Sabin strains were more stable. The Salk vaccine was dropped due to the cost of needle injections and difficulty getting individuals to return for 2nd and 3rd doses.

In 1957, The Minnesota State Department of Health Laboratories developed the use of a single oral dose of polio vaccine containing three types of virus. This combination became known as the Cox vaccine, developed by Dr. Harold Cox.

Research continued throughout Minnesota and across the United States. In 1960 the Cox vaccine failed to be accepted for general use and Minnesota's research in polio vaccine ended.

Today the vaccine is called IPV, Inactivated Polio Vaccine. The Minnesota Department of Health Statistics states, "Polio has been eradicated in the United States. The last case of symptomatic polio in Minnesota was reported in 2009."

Polio does still exist. It mainly affects children under 5. One in 200 infections leads to paralysis. Five to 10% result in death when breathing muscles become immobilized.

### **The Global Polio Eradication Initiative**

Currently there is an active campaign and epidemiologic investigation, risk assessment and surveillance where polio has surfaced in Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

The World Health Organization states the importance of maintaining high vaccine coverage, especially in less stable areas with high population.

*Sister Kenny Institute Revolutionized Treatment of Polio Patients* Minnpost-MNopedia, R.L. Cartwright Nov. 27, 2012  
*CIDRAP - Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy*  
Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN



*Sister Kenny demonstrating treatments, circa 1949. Photo credit: AllinaHealth.org*

The following are excerpts from articles appearing in the Waseca Journal (W.J.) and the Waseca Herald (W.H.) 1947 through 1953.

W.H. 10-30-1947

Phillip John Lorig, five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Lorig of Waseca who has been ill with polio at the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis, died Monday afternoon at 2 p.m...He had come home from school on September 9 not feeling well and the doctor diagnosed his trouble as polio the next day. He was immediately sent to the Sister Kenny Institute where he was placed in an iron lung. He had been out of the lung for a week and had spent time out of the ward before his death.

W.J. 1-24-1950

Bernard Linnehan, 511 Second Ave. N.W. was taken to the University Hospital Thursday afternoon by ambulance after he became seriously ill and it was suspected that he had polio...his throat is paralyzed and he is not able to eat or talk...It is reported that he is getting along well as can be expected.

Linnehan is 32 years old and is the father of two children, Katy, 18 months and a three month old daughter.

Bernard Paulson, the nine year old St. Olaf lake boy who contacted polio January 7, is now home and is up and walking around a little...

W.J. 8-21-1951

### **Mrs. Horner, First Polio Victim, Is Buried at N.R.**

Mrs. Horner died Monday of polio, the first polio fatality of 1951 at Rochester. She was taken to St. Mary's Hospital a week ago last Saturday...

W.J. 7-24-1952

Erick Iversen, six year old son of County Attorney and Mrs. Einer Iversen, has been stricken with bulbar polio and was taken to the Kenny Institute in Minneapolis Tuesday forenoon. This is the first such case reported in Waseca County this year. The child was reported to be seriously ill and was placed in an iron lung after entering the Minneapolis hospital...The boy's father recovered from an attack of polio suffered when he was a boy in grade school.

W.J. 8-05-1952

Three new cases of polio have been reported in Waseca, bringing to six the number of cases in the City of Waseca within the past two weeks. No cases have been reported from other parts of the county on Monday afternoon. The three latest cases of the disease to be reported are all being treated at Kenny Institute, Minneapolis. Mark Bruels, the 11 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Bruels of 310 4th Ave.NE...Another 11 year old boy, Bruce Dowlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pischner of 805 Second St. N.W...Seven year old Jimmy Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schmidt of 200 Second Ave N.W.

More stories and newspaper articles can be found at the Bailey/Lewer Research Library. ~



Need help interpreting your DNA data?

## Bailey– Lewer Research Library

401 NE 2nd St. Waseca, just across the street from the museum. Tues.—Friday, 9 a.m.—Noon

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (507) 835-7700



We invite you to make an appointment with WCHS researcher

Lind Taylor for a personalized 1 hour session. This is free to members, non members fee is \$10 per hour. Linda is here Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 507-835-7700.



### Join Lori Pommerenke and Andrew Breck for a walk through the Big Woods forest in Courthouse Park

Biologist Lori Pommerenke will share her vast knowledge of our spring ephemerals that carpet the forest floor as well as other plants making their first appearance of the season!

Mother Nature is responsible for this showing. If the weather looks questionable call WCHS for more info. 507-835-7700



Thank you to the Waseca Area Foundation for supporting the creation of the City of Waseca traveling exhibit "Waseca, the First 150 years", and Chautauqua 2018.

# CHAUTAUQUA 2018

**FREE! Pack a picnic! BYOB! No glass please**

**Saturday June 30**

**A festival of music, arts, and more!**

**11 am-4 pm—TROWBRIDGE PARK, WASECA**

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the **Waseca Area Foundation**

**Waseca County Historical Society**  
315 2nd Avenue NE  
507-835-7700





## MEMORIAL DAY MASS AT

**S**T. JARLATH'S **Monday May 28, 2018**



This photo shows the interior of St. Jarlath's church, with side altars featuring the statues of the Virgin Mary (left) and St. Joseph (right). The body of the church could seat a capacity of about 400. The McShane-Dauk wedding was the last wedding held at St. Jarlath's. Diana and Andy celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2017. *Photos courtesy of Diana Dauk.*



The celebration at St. Jarlath's will be a Mass on Memorial Day, 2018. Masses are held on **Memorial Day** every three years. 2018 also marks the 150th Anniversary of the church. St Jarlath's is located in Iosco Township, Section 16 at the intersections of Reeds Lake Road (Co.Road 35) and Co. Road 22. **Mass is at 11 a.m. Monday May 28, 2018. Everyone welcome!**

### The People of St. Jarlath's

The first burial in the cemetery was that of John Oaks in the winter of 1868 and the second that of John Haley, in April of 1869. Also noteworthy is the burial of the first white child born in Elysian, Cornelius Seha. The most common family names at St. Jarlath's cemetery are: Pfeifer, Haley, Murray, Devine, Jewison, McShane, Miller, Morgan, and Slattery. One will notice the Modern Woodmen symbol on some grave markers. Many of the Irish families that were members of St. Jarlath's trace their roots to Northern Ireland. Some were living in Shullsburg, Lafayette Co., WI before moving to Iosco and another group was living in Franklin, Waukesha Co., WI near Milwaukee. Tipperary, Cork, Mayo, Limerick and other Irish areas were home to others. Some families came to St. Jarlath's after immigrating from Bohemia and countries in that area whose borders were shifting due to wars. They were of German and Czech descent. Many more nationalities would join the parish through the years. Iosco was not spared from the diphtheria epidemic and one family in particular, the Phillip and Mary Purcell family lost 10 children to that disease or cholera in the late 1870s. Many other families were also affected by those diseases. There are many stories about these families—their emigrations, marriages and lives in Palmer, Okaman, Iosco and Janesville. Research continues and is shared on the Dalby Database and Find-a-Grave.com. Many of the researchers also have ancestry.com trees posted online. All the graves that have markers have been photographed and posted on find-a-grave due to the efforts of Mike Linnihan and other volunteers. The Waseca County Historical Society also has a notebook of photographs taken by volunteers who spent several days walking and photographing the cemetery. Thanks to those of you who have already shared your family stories.

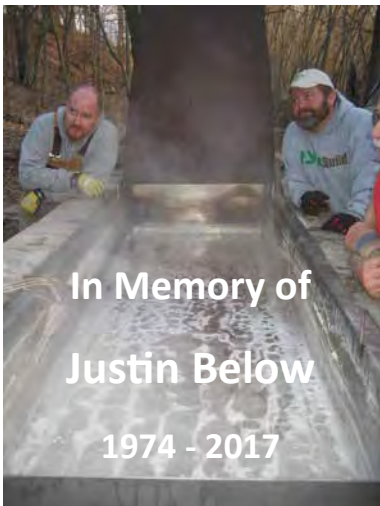
Mary Lou Ihrke, mluihrke@gmail.com 2018

# St Mary Sugar Bush



**Last year at this time I was invited!**  
Thanks Everybody!

Gary Meyers  
Joe Hoehn  
Leo Byron  
Justin Below  
Carly Broughten  
Grace Below  
Jamison & Blue Dog



**In Memory of  
Justin Below  
1974 - 2017**



## Maple Fun Facts from the Minnesota Maple Syrup Producers' Association

- Pure maple syrup is only made in certain parts of North America and nowhere else in the world! Minnesota is one of 19 states in the U.S. and 3 provinces in Canada where maple syrup is made.
- Minnesota is the state with the most northerly latitude which produces maple syrup. Minnesota is also the most westerly state to make syrup.
- Maple syrup is made in the spring, when the temperatures gets below freezing at night and above freezing during the day.
- It takes about 40 gallons of tree sap to make one gallon of maple syrup. The total solids in maple syrup are sixty-six percent [66%]. One gallon of maple syrup weighs 11 pounds.
- Nothing is added to the sap, only the water is evaporated away to make maple syrup.
- Once a tree is large enough to tap, it can be used year after year. Each tap can yield 10-12 gallons of sap during a season (about one quart of finished syrup).

# Membership and Donations

## From January 19, 2018 – March 15, 2018

### New Lifetime Member

Swenson, Dan

### New Members

Kopischke, Molly  
Kramer, Jeanne  
McMorris, Kim  
Olson, Laura  
Quickstad, Terry  
Rowher, Marley

### Renewing Members

Boje, Cory  
Byrne, Robert  
Giesen, Marjorie  
Groskreutz, Dale and Lynn  
Hagen, Tom and Nyla  
Halgren, Dawn  
Houdek, Merle  
Jacobson, Robin Forrest  
Madel, R.P. & Mary Ann  
Pascua, Mary  
Richard, Deborah  
Taylor, Linda  
Tesch, Marty  
Tollefson, Kathryn A.  
Wabner, Dave and Bernadette  
Wesley, Dr. Willis  
West, Tom and Francie  
Wheelock, Greg and Donnette  
Zika, Dave

### Grants

Exxon Cultural Matching Gift Program \$2,000

### Memorials

**In memory of William M. Elliott**  
by Henry and Phyllis Lewer

**In memory of Lorraine Erwin**  
by Donna Fostveit

**In memory of Gene Eustice**  
by Linda Grant

**In memory of James P. Fox**  
by Donna Fostveit

**In memory of Bruce Hering**  
by daughter Sarah Nuernberg

**In memory of Pearl Hoversten**  
by Donna Fostveit

by Carroll and Grace Galvin  
by Pam and Larry Goehring  
by Linda Grant  
by Sherry Jones  
by Sarah and Bruce Miller  
by Gene and Kathleen Rosenthal  
by Nancy Tollefson  
by Francie and Tom West

### Volunteers

Dave Dunn  
Karl Jones  
Jonathan Zimprich  
Michael Zimprich

### In memory of Milton Groskreutz

by Dale and Lynn Groskreutz (Memorial to go towards the Hofmann Honey Farm.)

### In memory of James A. Keller

by Donna Fostveit

### In memory of Jeff Kingston

by Donna Fostveit

### In memory of Loretta Larson McCarthy

by Janette Larson

### In memory of George Porath

by Nancy Tollefson

### In memory of Karla Kamrath Schroeder

by Donna Fostveit

### Appropriations

Janesville Township \$150.00

### Donations

Joyce, Ron  
Ring, Dave and Jimmie  
Servicemaster of Mankato/Waseca  
Wick, Bruce (Ralph) and Lorraine  
Wuger, Pat



A new program started this summer involving museums across the nation. WCHS, as well as most of the SoMN History members will be Blue Star Museums, which means we will offer free admission to all visiting active military and their families. As WCHS already offers free admission to visitors, we will provide each active soldier a free WCHS one-year membership. Value \$35.

### WCHS is a recipient of

### Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$370 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)

### SoMN History Website: So many Stories So Minnesota!

WCHS is collaborating with five other historical museums in southern Minnesota to market history. "SoMN History." is a website with framed tours and information for weekend and mid-week visitors who may be families, couples, retirees, family historians, home-schoolers, and others.

Visit [somnhistory.com](http://somnhistory.com) to see what's happening!





NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WASECA, MN  
56093

**Waseca County Historical Society**

315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314

Waseca, MN 56093

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date



## Donate to the Hofmann Apiaries Improvement Fund

Make your tax-deductible check payable:

**“Waseca County Historical Society”** and write on the check memo:

**“Hofmann Apiaries Capital Improvement Fund”**

Mail to: **Waseca County Historical Society , 315–2nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093**

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mooney, 507-835-7700,

or [program@historical.waseca.mn.us](mailto:program@historical.waseca.mn.us) **Visit: [www.hofmannapiaries.org](http://www.hofmannapiaries.org)**

*Advisory Board:* Larry and Jan Hofmann, Newell Searle, Gregg Johnson,

Boyd Fuller, Jurgen Peters, Colleen Carlson, Jim Jewison,

and Joan Mooney