



**Waseca County Historical Society**  
315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314  
Waseca, MN 56093

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# History Notes

315 NE 2nd Avenue P.O. Box 314 Waseca MN 56093

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)



## What's Inside:



### Holiday Exhibit

## **All I Want For Xmas and Who Wants to Play?**

*Vintage Board Games and Gifts  
You're Sure to Remember!*



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2021  
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093  
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700  
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

**WCHS 2021 Board of Directors:**

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**Staff:**

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Grant Administration, Programs & Research  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us

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Amanda Larkin, Administrative Assistant  
amandl@historical.waseca.mn.us

Virginia McCarthy, Researcher, Genealogy  
research@historical.waseca.mn.us

**Museum**

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5  
Thursday 9:00-4:30 p.m.

**Bailey-Lewer Library Research**

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

**Traveling?  
Please call ahead.  
507-835-7700**



**Hofmann Apiaries  
Phase I Restoration  
Was funded in part by  
the Waseca Area  
Foundation Community  
Grants  
and Funds provided by  
the State of Minnesota  
from the Arts and  
Cultural Heritage fund  
through the Minnesota  
Historical Society.**

**CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY  
AMENDMENT**



**From the Executive Director  
Year's End** Joan Mooney

Dear Members,

It is a joyous time of year! Although 2021 was still challenging, we have made it almost all the way through, and are making plans for the holidays and a New Year.

And, even with COVID shadowing our days, we are planning ways to be with family and friends in ways we were not able to do last year.

It is easy to romanticize the holidays, especially around our museum! We have artifacts from every decade that are carefully preserved here in our collection, and we can use them to create little displays full of memories to share with you.

This Holiday exhibit is a bit different. I love the fact that the timeline of history has crept forward. We now find ourselves exploring the 1960s and 1970s. Once I had accepted the fact that anything older than 50 years can be considered historic, we began pursuing stories, memorabilia, clothing, photographs and other items of interest to capture the story of life in Waseca County during that period. Many of you have contributed to the WCHS collection, and we are excited to feature a small part of that collection in this exhibit.

I also am a collector. I like really nice old things: the fabrics, the colors, the styles and the quality of goods produced in the mid century years of my early childhood.

I considered myself quite lucky this past fall when I came upon a "Gloria's Vintage" sale on my way out of town. Then I remembered, Lori Pommerenke was hosting a series of sales of the many items her parents had collected over many years, and this sale was it! One of the many delightful "finds" were board games from the 1950-60s. Some of them were familiar some not, but all were very well taken care off. I purchased an armful and they are set up and ready to play in our Holiday exhibit! I'm sharing my toys because it's Christmas.



Thank you to other contributors to the exhibit: Jackie Peters brought in her mink stole as well as a mink scarf and vintage toaster. Neighbor John Teskey brought in a very old child's sled that must have been on the "cutting edge" back in the day.

Please consider this your personal invitation to visit us this holiday season. We have some wonderful stocking stuffers in the Museum Gift Shop as well as books by Minnesota authors you may be familiar with. Oh yes, and how about a WCHS Gift of Membership!

*The WCHS Board of Directors  
and Staff wish you a very Merry  
Christmas, Feliz Navidad,  
Happy Hanukah and all the  
best in the New Year!*





# The Waseca County Historical Society

www.historical.waseca.mn.us | 315 NE 2nd Avenue Waseca, MN 56093 | 507-835-7700

The mission of the Waseca County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of our county and citizens, and to create excitement and interest in our past.

## 2021 Annual Fund Campaign

The Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) has been productive in 2021 in spite of the continuing pandemic. We have been able to continue our services and online access to the collection, exhibits and special presentations! We offer wonderful historical treasures for the Waseca County community to enjoy. Your past generosity has made our museum and research library what it is today.

Donations and memberships are critical for operating support as are appropriations (Waseca County, City, and Township Boards) and our endowments. Operational costs for the Museum and the Bailey Lewer Library average \$12,000 per month. With your support, we can maintain a foundation strong enough to accommodate new programs, exhibits and technology.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, accountable to the state of Minnesota, the county communities, and especially the WCHS members all over the country. Although WCHS maintains a strong partnership with Waseca County, WCHS staff are not employees of the county. One of our goals is to be able to provide a living wage to staff in order to showcase and preserve Waseca County History.

***Please celebrate the legacy of all the people, places and things that have come and gone before us, look forward to our future with a year-end giving donation to help secure the efforts of WCHS. Keep your history within reach! Thank you! Joan, Staff and WCHS Board of Directors.***

All donations will be listed in the next WCHS Annual Report.

The Waseca County Historical Society is a Minnesota Non Profit 501 (c)3 organization.

Your charitable donation may be fully tax deductible. Please consult your financial advisor for tax information.

Please send in the donation slip below or you can donate online: [www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

***Yes! I want to make a donation to support the efforts of the Waseca County Historical Society:***

**Please use my gift for:**

Operations     Special Project     Endowments     Bailey-Lewer Library

**My Contribution is:**

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$ 250     \$500    Other Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute in Memory or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify this individual (s) of my donation:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

## Fourth Quarter Contributions: September 17th, 2021 – December 22nd, 2021

### Renewing Members

Aldrich, Donald  
Bathke, Patricia  
Battenfeld, Myra  
Berger, Doris  
Boyce, Bruce and Takala, Sally  
Byron, Mark  
Byron, Molly  
Callahan, Joseph  
Carlson, Brad and Colleen  
Curran, Colleen  
Cypher, Lynda  
Day, William  
Dobberstein, Deb & Gary  
Erdman, Molly  
Espe, Charles & Kathryn  
Fenelon, Kari  
Fenelon, Pauline  
Fruechte, Neil & Sharon  
Garms Dennis and Linda  
Giesler, Paula  
Gilbertson, Carolyn  
Gilleland, Wayne  
Grable, Sue  
Grams, Rosalie  
Grund, Genell  
Hagen, Robert  
Hasslen, Margaret  
Hunt, Nadine  
Hunter, Robert  
Inman, Steven  
Johnson, Jody  
Jones, Doug and Lela  
Josephes, Richard  
Koechel, Lynn  
Laas, Julia  
Lechner, Karen  
Masberg, Patricia  
Metzdorff, Thomas and Kristin  
Moe, Diane  
Neidt, Millie  
Pope, David and Vanette  
Raimann, Carol  
Rausch, William and Carol  
Ring, David  
Roesler, Neil  
Roessler, Karen

### Renewing Members

Rogers, Clinton  
Rosenthal, Gregg  
Ross, Jackie  
Ryan, Thomas  
Smith, Martin  
Smith, Maureen  
Swenson, Lynn and Susan  
Taylor, Linda and Gary  
Teskey, John  
Tetzloff, James  
Walker, Roger & Roberta  
Welch, Eugene  
Wilkus, Marilyn  
Zimprich, Frank  
Britton Plumbing & Heating

### New Lifetime Members

Roemhildt, Charlene  
Nelson—Deppe, Nancy

### New Members

Bruan Dubbels, Lisa  
Carson, Emily  
Dankert, Mary  
Jackson, Karen  
Janike, Layne  
Mann, Dave  
Mills, Carol  
Nesheim, Leif  
Olson, Sally  
Perron, Mary  
Pettis, Dean

### New/Renewing Sustainer Members

Frederick, Edward  
Galvin, Carroll and Grace  
Gjelten, Ann  
Lucas, Chuck  
Madel Jr., R.P. & Mary Ann  
Miller, Sarah & Bruce  
Nelson, Susan E.  
Purcell, Pat  
Suek, Peter and Teresa  
Thompson, Richard and Jeanie  
Tostenson, Richard E.  
Walbran, Mark Moonan  
Wobschall, Carol

### Memorials and Honorariums

**In memory of Evie Kahnke**  
By Nancy Tollefson  
**In memory of Joel Groebner**  
By Joel Groebner Estate  
**In memory of Judy Kozan**  
By Donna Fostveit  
By Russ Ingram Family  
**In memory of Lois Foels**  
By Nancy Tollefson  
**In memory of Lois Chaffin**  
By Donna Fostveit  
By Jim and Cathy DeY  
**In memory of David Hintz**  
By Marc and Susan Asch  
By Donald and Cleora Gehloff Families  
**In memory of Darlene (Hanf) Kukuczka**  
By Donald and Cleora Gehloff Families  
**In memory of Barbara Kay (Hanf) Gehloff**  
By Donald and Cleora Gehloff Families  
**In memory of Delner Voss**  
By Donald and Cleora Gehloff Families  
**In memory of Donald Clayton**  
By Donald and Cleora Gehloff Families  
**In memory of Virginia Collins**  
By Tim and Audra Boyer  
**In memory of Parents and Grandparents**  
By Laurie Schroeder Velett  
**In memory of Rhea Palm**  
By Nancy Nelson-Deppe  
**In memory of Marge Finley**  
By Mike and Linda Finley

### Appropriations

Blooming Grove All In One Fund  
City of Waseca  
Vivian Township  
Waseca County  
Wilton Township

### Donations

Dunn, Dave  
Boyce, Bruce and Takala, Sally  
Forrest, Daniel and Cheryl  
Johnson, Jody  
Kiesler, Barbara  
Neidt, Millie  
Peters, Jackie  
Ross, Jackie  
Wilkus, Marilyn



**WCHS Word Scramble — Past Mayors**

ILWLMAI WDAR  
 RTERBO MKCCMOCIR  
 RWEARN MHSIT  
 FDGEROTIT RLEHUCB  
 EENUGE LTLOECSE  
 RAI BGEIWRODT  
 D S MUMSNIGC  
 D E REISPT  
 HJNO AMONON  
 SARLHEC A SHIMT  
 OBB EMHZ  
 BOB ESIN  
 EAYRV ODC LALH  
 JYDU NZOKA  
 EESTV NAETMH  
 JNOH NCLESOM  
 MTO ENGAH  
 YRO SRP



Amanda demonstrating Quizziac for Hartley 2nd graders.



Thank you to the Waseca High School Choir and Choir Director Tim Delmay for performing at the Museum for our Holiday Opening. You can catch a video on our Facebook page! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact & Library Curator



**Jan Hunter**

Research & Genealogy



**Virginia McCarthy**

Research & Genealogy



**Amanda Larkin**

Admin. Assistant



**Word Scramble Answers:** William Ward, Robert McCormick, Warren Smith, Gottfried Buchler, Eugene Collester, Ira Trowbridge, D.S. Cummings, D.E. Priest, John Moonan, Charles A. Smith, Bob Zehm, Bob Sine, Hall, Judy Kozan, Steve Manthe, John Clemons, Tom Hagen, Roy Srp

## 2021 Holiday Exhibit

# All I Want for Xmas

The museum holiday exhibit "All I Want For Xmas" opened December 4th and will run through the holiday season. Whether it be new apparel, a game or a toy, the display is sure to stir memories of holidays past.

### Who Wants to Play? Winter break Activity!

The museum has several board games set up, and the staff has been practicing and is ready for the challenge. Here are the board games on display that you can play while viewing the Xmas Exhibit.



### Barbie, Queen of the Prom, Mattel ca. 1960

Put yourself in Barbie's shoes as she navigates the board fueled by the roll of the dice. In order to be crowned Prom Queen, Barbie must earn money for a prom dress, find a boyfriend, get a ring, become school club president and then she will be popular enough to win the crown. Not appropriate for those born after 1975.

### The Goldee Bears, A Honey of a Game, Gopher Game, Forest Lake MN. ca.1955

The little ones will enjoy creating character puzzles when the roll of the dice is in their favor. Not recommended for adults in a hurry.



### Three Little Pigs, A SelRight Game, ca. 1959

Staff was not quite clear in their assessment of the game experience other than, too many steps and too much color matching, however the colors are great and characters are cute. Selchow and Righter was a New York toy manufacturer better known for their games Scrabble and Parcheesi. Not recommended for adults who can't pay attention.

### Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty, Parker Brothers, ca.1959

This game is based on the Disney cartoon film, Sleeping Beauty. The princes must find their way to the tower where they will find the sleeping beauty. The path is determined by the spinner which is loaded with detours, obstacles and danger. This one is adventurous as well as romantic.



Board games were a favorite find under the tree on Xmas morning. Maybe some of you remember **Hands Down!, Mouse Trap, Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Booby Trap, Uncle Wiggly, Sorry, Life, Clue, the Match Game, and Concentration?** Still popular today are, **Ouija Board, Scrabble, Monopoly, Battleship, Operation, Twister, Chess and Checkers!** After all, thanks to our Minnesota winters, we have plenty of time to master our gaming skills.



### Staff Favorite, The Golden Quizziac, A Golden Capitol Game, ca.1960

**Quizziac** has a magnetic brain that can correctly answer more than 300 questions! The magnetic powered memory wheel will answer questions automatically and accurately. Is it magic or is it science? Not recommended for sore losers.

Are you ready for this interactive challenge?

# All I Want for Xmas

Special note: Many of these items on display would not be possible if Lori Pommerenke's mother had not saved these treasures for us to enjoy. The Gilbert Chemistry Set for Girls on display is on loan from Lori as well as all the games. Lori grew up to earn a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Conservation Biology. She is a scientist!

Thank you to other contributors to the exhibit: Virginia (Fell) McCarthy is sharing her "Lazy Day Farm" set. Her brother Clark had one too. Diane Beckmann is sharing her original Barbies and Virginia also is sharing her Holiday Barbie that we are carefully protecting in an exhibit case.



Diane Beckmann's Barbies



Holiday Apparel



Virginia (Fell) McCarthy's Farm Set

The WCHS Staff was asked to remember their favorite childhood holiday gifts.

**Joan** remembers: **Creepy Crawlers**, a 1960 vintage toy that made the **10 Ridiculously Dangerous Toys from Our Past** list!

*"I can still remember the smell of melting plastic and the hot metal molds, but oh, so fun!"*

**Virginia** adored the Teddy Bear brought by Santa when she was a little girl: *"I had her (Honey Bear) forever and I still have her".*

**Amanda** remembers getting her Furby. *"I was so excited to get it, but it never stopped talking. I was so terrified, I buried it in my closet."*

**Pauline** still has the *Old Mother West Wind* books she received for Christmas 1946. One from "Mother" and one from "Daddy".

*"The little nature stories are still fun to read today!"*

