

Waseca County Historical Society *History Notes*

Volume 39 Issue 3 Summer 2017

www.historical.waseca.mn.us / LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PAST



JANESVILLE, MINNESOTA
1903 - 1985

Inside :

2017 WCHS Annual Meeting

Sheila's Retirement
Party



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P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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

Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-12, 1-5



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.



Dear Members:

Is the time ever right? I've been putting it off. But I decided to retire. That happened on August 31, after almost 11 years as co-executive director with Joan Mooney, and a total of 17 years on staff here. I'm proud to say I'm leaving the Waseca County Historical Society in better shape, because of great board members, and a great staff - Vanessa Zimprich, Pauline Fenelon, Linda Taylor, and my co-director Joan Mooney. What an adventure this has been!

My personal goal when Joan and I took over the reins in January 2007, was to bring greater visibility and subsequent support to WCHS. I tried to instill a greater level of professionalism, and that happened. I knew we would have to earn your support, and that has happened.

History museums and libraries are perceived to be un-exciting places. If you believe that, you are wrong. I have experienced some of the most satisfying work, and some of the greatest thrills of my life in this job. I have wished that museum study as a vocation had been available to me at a younger age. But then I always realize that someone upstairs was guiding me all the time. I was being prepared for this job in other life experiences and development of skills. I can't begin to list all the people who impacted our work here. You know who you are. You took my breath away. You made my knees buckle. You made things happen. You gave me WCHS accomplishments for me to talk about and advocate. You gave me friendship. You helped make me a better person than I was many years ago.

It was hard to set the date. It was hard to go through the sadness of leaving. But that's done. I have a lot of art-making, book-reading, and memoir-writing to do. I also have two young grandchildren whom I will hug while they will still let me!

I am a lifelong learner, and that will continue. Rick and I are planning to stay in Waseca but with more frequent trips to warm places with golf courses. I live beside a greenhouse. I will rediscover my gardens. Come and see me!

As for you, dear members, please continue supporting WCHS. Visit often, there should always be another good reason for you to visit. Bring family and friends, and talk to each other. Visit other museums and bring back ideas for WCHS. Support this great staff. They will be here for YOU.

Thank you all,

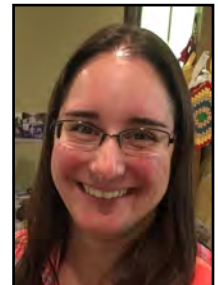
Sheila Chin Morris



Change Is Upon Us

Sheila’s decision to retire is the first staff change WCHS has experienced since 2006. We have been most fortunate over the years to work together as a staff in pursuing new projects and exhibits for WCHS and the people of Waseca County. We have attended many retirement parties in the last few years. Pat Abbe, Joyce Oliver, Marilyn Wilkus, Deb Dobberstein, Mark Bartelt, Pat Beckmann, Theresa Meadows to name a few. How does a community or an organization adjust to losing all these great people and keep positive and productive? Those of us who lead organizations or hold public positions are guided by the public, our bosses, boards and our members. We know how we are doing because you tell us.

WCHS has had a great run and we are in position to carry on with some adjustments here and there. For the most part, it’s business as usual. Pauline Fenelon is our Collection Manager and Librarian, Linda Taylor is our genealogy wizard and researcher. I will remain in the Executive Director chair, which was custom fitted for two, now (temporarily) one. That’s where Vanessa Zimprich steps up. Vanessa has worked side by side with Pauline as a Collection Manager for 11 Years. Vanessa was, and is, the young one, as I was when I started working at WCHS. Vanessa will assist me for the next 6 months, as well as perform her regular duties. Vanessa loves managing the WCHS Collection. We will be crafting a new position and a new title, for Vanessa. Vanessa will be my new management partner and will be in charge of the museum, exhibits and the collection. I look forward to having a partner once again.



Letting Go

Sheila and I began discussing her retirement as we projected ahead planning exhibits, programs and projects. We were about a year and a half into these discussions when the wheels of change started turning, very slowly. We were both reluctant to set a date. With the Board’s help and guidance that day has come.

2017 was an extraordinary year for Sheila. We were all invited to share in her life story in the History Theatre production “The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin”. The story of Sheila’s father Harry’s immigration to America. We were all swept away in the telling. Somehow I knew Sheila would land in a place she’d never been before, and she has. It’s Sheila’s time now and we wish her the best in all the “next steps” of her life. Enjoy Sheila, you’ve earned it!..., however, you will be missed....

Joan, Vanessa, Pauline, Linda and WCHS Board of Directors



S

ummer Time at Hofmann Apiaries

Larry and Jan Hofmann can attest to that. This is the first summer season for Larry and Jan as sole proprietors of Hofmann Apiaries. Spending more time at the farm this season the Hofmanns were able to make significant progress.

Someone's Getting Wet-

*"Every once in awhile we get to witness a spectacular sky while looking south across the lawn from our seats on the patio. This one, late evening in June was a good one!"
From Larry's page.*

The Season began on May 25th with a meet and greet gathering of neighbors, USDA folks and a few bee keepers from the Southeast MN Bee Keepers Association. We thought we should keep the neighbors up to speed and give all a chance to ask questions or voice concerns. It was a lovely evening. Thanks to Janesville Subway and J-Town Liquors for food and refreshments.



The first strip of the **Pollinator Garden** was planted last fall with the help of Master Gardeners Kathy Oftedahl and Gladys Carlson. All of the plants have been donated. Thanks to Sister Mary Goergen, Waseca Garden Club, Don Wynnemer and Max Lande. The utilitarian garden is designed to accommodate visitors with room for observation between the rows.

The Restoration of the Honey House and Wax Shed is in the design review process. SMSQ Architects of Northfield has submitted two of the three design milestone requirements. The third and final construction document review and Scope of Work will be submitted in October 2017. Once we are through the design review process our construction documents will be ready to submit with our Legacy grant request pre-application in May 2018. The final submission will be in July of 2018.
FINGERS CROSSED!



Upgrades to the septic system and painting the machinery shed also took place this summer.



Master Gardeners L-Kathy Oftedahl R- Gladys Carlson
Earning their annual community service points needed to be called a Master Gardener.



The following article appeared in the Mankato Free Press July 17, 1975. Thanks to Doris Berger for holding on to it all these years and bringing it to us.

Beekeeper: Honey boom

by Susan Torgerson Free Press Staff Writer, July 17, 1975

Janesville - At a time when hogs were bringing 2 1/2 cents a pound, Charles Hofmann's father decided there had to be another way to make a living. So, he captured a stray swarm of honey bees and Hofmann Apiaries was born. Seventy six years later son Charles has continued and expanded the business, with some 30 million bees at peak season, producing 60,000 to 80,000 pounds of honey each year. The honey business, Hofmann said, has grown steadily in the past five years, spurred by interest in natural foods and skyrocketing sugar prices. But if demand is growing, so are the problems. According to Hofmann, honey production is

endangered by modern farming trends. The sod pastures and clover fields of the past that were an abundant source of nectar for honey production, have dwindled as more and more acres are planted to corn and soybeans. "With soybeans we're hoping that some of the newer varieties that produce nectar will become a honey source," he said "but that's grasping at straws.".....

Hofmann knows more about bees than Paul Bunyan knew about timber.

He's a man that works close in, braving at least a dozen bee stings a day as an occupational hazard. "Even under the best conditions, you'll be stung a dozen or more times a day," he said, "and on a bad day you may be stung 30 or 40 times."

"A beekeeper never becomes immune to the pain," he admitted, although he has developed a tolerance to the toxic after-effects of stings.

Hofmann has 500 colonies of bees, with 30 colonies in each bee yard. The bee yards are scattered from near Le Center to south of Waseca. Each yard must be at least four miles from the next yard to prevent overlapping of flight territories. Beginning early in the morning, Hofmann, his wife Ellen and an assistant begin servicing the colonies. The work runs in seasonal cycles—insulating the hives for the winter, unpacking in the spring, stocking the hive with nectar and pollen supplement, checking hive activity - "riding herd," as Hofmann called it - and harvesting honey. Honey is harvested during August and the Hofmanns have a special "honey house," where the honey is heated and removed from the combs using centrifugal force. Heating aids honey removal and retards granulation.

Sound like a sticky task? It is, Hofmann agreed. "you have to draw the line, and draw it sharp," he said. "You have to know what can be sticky and

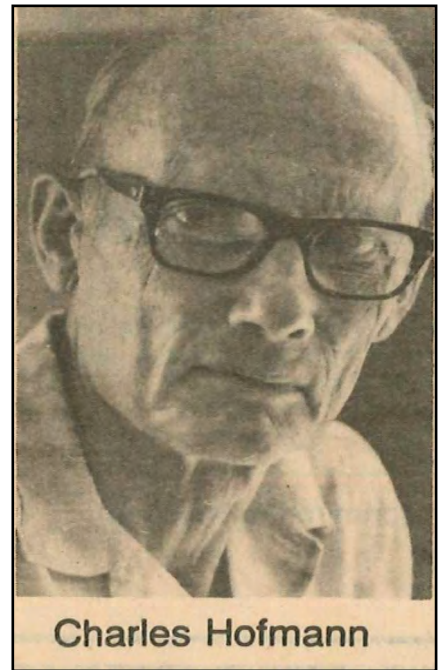
and what cannot, and keep it that way. Because once something gets sticky that shouldn't be, it spreads like fire.

Hofmann sells honey retail and wholesale. He said among his local customers, raw honey (unheated) is becoming very popular. He said raw honey contains enzymes which are destroyed by the heat used to process honey... in the Midwest, some of the distinctive honey types are the mild clover honey, sharper basswood honey and dark, rich buckwheat honey.

Hofmann explained that bees convert nectar to honey through the enzymes in their bodies and by work in the hive. "They can't light a fire under it and cook it down," he said, "so they have to do it the long, hard way."

According to Hofmann, if it were possible for one bee to make one pound of honey, it would have to work all day, every day for eight years, and fly a distance equal to two times around the world. During the summer, he said, a bee lives only about six weeks, dying after the leading edge of its wings becomes ragged from wind resistance.

Bees will fly as far as three miles away from their hives, he said, although once they are filled with nectar their range is only about 1 1/2 miles. June and July are the peak of honey production months. The nectar and pollen which the bees collect is meant to feed the larvae in the hive, which have an enormous appetite. Hofmann said bees in the larvae stage feed 8,000 to 10,000 times and their weight increases 1,500 times in 5 1/2 days. "The equivalent," he said, "would be a human baby born Monday morning and weighing eight pounds, by Saturday would weigh six tons."



Each hive is a rigid society, presided over by a queen bee, whose function is to produce larvae, thousands of the neuter worker bees which collect nectar and pollen and fill the comb, and perhaps 100 drones, the male bees, which Hofmann categorizes as a bunch of freeloaders. "A queen only mates once in her lifetime of two to three years," he said, "so most drones lead an idle existence. They are not equipped to do any work in the hive. There is some mystery about just what their function is."...

Honey is a staple in the Hofmann kitchen. "We don't use a grain of sugar in the house," he said. A basic formula for recipe conversion, he explained, uses two-thirds to three-fourths cup honey for each cup of sugar...

Hofmann said he takes pride in "producing one of the finest food products in the world," or as the company motto reads, "Honey is Nature's Sweets. Absolutely much better than man can make."



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**

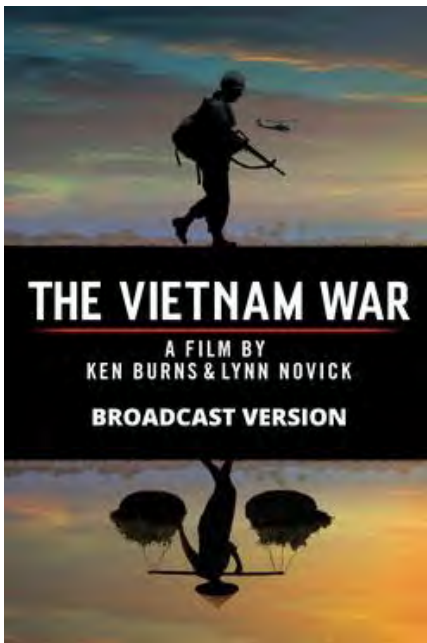
If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mooney, 507-835-7700,

or program@historical.waseca.mn.us **Visit: www.hofmannapiaries.org**

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

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

and Joan Mooney



PBS launched the new documentary series *The Vietnam War , A Film by Ken Burns & Lynn Novick* in September of this year. The ten part series covers the years 1961—1973. The tenth episode will air on September 28. Check your local PBS stations for schedule.

The Waseca County Historical Society is interested in collecting stories, experiences and objects relating to Waseca County residents and the War in Vietnam for our collection. If anyone would like to make a donation we are asking for written memoirs, digital recordings, photographs and artifacts and the stories they tell.

Unlike other wars, we have very little on the war in Vietnam in the Collection. Please consider contributing to WCHS so this war as well as all wars post WWII and the Korean War are not forgotten.

Special Thanks to Tom Hagen for his recent donation of his military uniform, service history and related items. Tom served in the Minnesota Army National Guard/U.S. Army from 1989 to 2016.



SoMN History Website: So many Stories So Minnesota

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 to see what's happening!



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.

We are grateful for so much generosity!

From June 2 to September 1, 2017

These are the quarterly renewals and new members, donations, and acknowledgements. The Annual Report will list all members.

New Members

Aamot, Chris
 Bathke, Dr. Jon
 Barbknecht, Rosanne & Groskreutz, Lisa
 Klein, Paul
 Oswald, Amanda & Kim
 Philipson, Karen
 Johnson, James R.
 Fritche, Darcy
 Berg, Perry
 Paulsen, Lars

Renewed Members

Ihrke, Mary
 Rudolph, Marlon & Audrey
 Miller, Gene & Bonnie
 Flitsch, Kathleen
 Tuttle, Deb
 White, Mildred
 Kugath, LeAnn
 McColley, Dallas & Marsha
 Priebe, Janet
 Johnson, David A.
 Tetzloff, James
 Wynnemer, Jody
 Turner, Marilyn
 Boyce, Bruce
 Takala, Sally
 Born, Larry and Linda
 Rohde, Laura
 Bathke, Patricia
 Callahan, Joseph
 Eisenberger, Jane
 Evenson, Ellsworth
 Youngberg, Katie, Henry, Oliver
 Gauger, Barbara
 Nelson, Doug
 Madel, R. P. Jr. – Sustaining Member
 Nicolin, Jay & Nancy
 Clasen, Joan
 Welch, Janet
 Rose, Al & Valorie
 Johnson, Gregg
 Yamazaki, Stella
 Miller, Jean
 Staley, Jayne
Tully, William - LIFETIME MEMBER !
 Selvik, Bruce & Debbie
 Witt, Norma

Year-end Annual Fund

& Other Donations

Curtis Bagne \$100.00
 Larry and Linda Born \$100.00
 Rohde Family \$100.00
 Wallace and Jeanne Wadd \$50.00
 Audrey Mueller \$50.00
 Susan Mundale \$50.00
 Randall Richard Klebs \$20.00
 Patricia Bathke \$25.00

Memorials

[Corrections from Volume 39 Issue 2 Spring 2017 Newsletter Stated:

In memory of Brian & Jean Krueger

by Bob and Janette Larson
 by Delency and JoAnn Suttief

Should have stated:

In memory of Nancy and Bill Krueger

by Bob and Janette Larson
 by Delency and JoAnn Suttief

Stated:

In memory of Sister Mary Bolduan

by Bob and Janette Larson
 by Delency and JoAnn Suttief

Should have stated:

In memory of Mary Bolduan

by Bob and Janette Larson
 by Delency and JoAnn Suttief

End Corrections]

In memory of Helen Anderson

by Friends of the Family

In memory of Ron Purcell

by Carol Wobschall

by Dave and Melissa Dunn

by Donna Fostveit

by Roger and Cindy Ashland

In memory of Byron "Buster" Broughten

by Donna Fostveit

By Marion Broughten and family

In memory of Dick and Julie Wynnemer

by Jody Wynnemer

In memory of Gloria Pommerenke

by Kathleen Wilkowske

by JoAnn Suttief

by Ruthann Miller

by Janette Larson

by Brenda A. Pommerenke and

Lori L. Pommerenke Families

In memory of John Schaal

by Dale and Judy Joecks

In memory of Judith Cummins Holtz

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of David Ferch

by Russ and Terri Ingram

In memory of Helen R. Bagne

by Rev. Myrwood A. Bagne

In memory of Bernard Frisk

by "The Fostveits"

Honorariums

In honor of Sheila Morris' Retirement

by Rev Myrwood Bagne

In honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Chuck and Tina Noetzel Madson

by James and Mary Jane Tetzloff

Appropriations

Vivian Township \$200

Volunteers

Karl Jones
 Dave Dunn
 Marty Buom
 Dave Zika
 Margaret Hasslen
 Dawn Halgren
 Linda Grant
 Judy Joecks
 Marilee and Milo Reck
 Audrey Weiske
 Jan Hunter
 Gladys Carlson
 Kathy Oftedahl
 Donna Fostveit
 Jim and Barb King
 Katie Youngberg
 Kathryn Engle
 Dale Groskreutz
 Dave Pope
 Gregg Johnson
 Olivia Boyer
 Eleanor Rezac
 Don Zwach
 Mark Gray
 Laura Rohde
 Marilyn and John Wilkus
 Eva Bickle
 Sara Pollard



Hofmann Apiaries Restoration Project— Construction Documents

Boyd Fuller
 Melissa and Dave Dunn
 Donna Fostveit
 Linda Grant
 Pauline Fenelon
 Sheila Morris
 Joan Mooney
 Tony Staloch
 Dan and Cheryl Forrest
 Judy O'Brien
 Kal Perry
 Dorothea Sutter
 Linda Miller
 Waseca Area Foundation
 MN Cultural Heritage
 Legacy Grant



Special thanks to Randy Prange, Waseca Glass, for repairing the glass panel on our E.F. Johnson Weather Vane.



Waseca County Historical Society

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

and

SHEILA'S RETIREMENT PARTY

Thursday, November 2 at the WCHS Museum

315 NE. Second Avenue, Waseca

Annual Meeting 5-5:30 p.m.

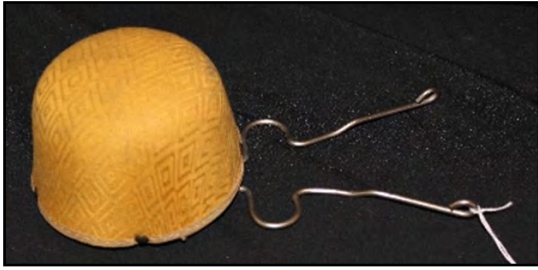
Sheila's Party to follow

Please Join Us!



Tidbits from the Curators

Who Knew it was a Hat Holder?



In June 2014 the Waseca County Historical Society received this item into collection from Thomas Piche.

The WCHS Collections Team, the donor and many members on our social media sites were unable to determine a purpose for this piece. The artifact was entered into the collections database as an unknown unidentifiable object.

Bryan French Photography did a special "Hidden Glensheen" photograph series November 18, 2016. "Hidden Glensheen – Trunk Room" featured an image of an open trunk. The caption stated that the inside of the trunk contained "all these screw-in balls, on every surface. Our best guess that this was for transporting several hats at the same time."

In the bottom of the trunk were these extra hat holders and we recognized them as the same item we have in our collection! Our "unknown" item is a hat holder for use inside of a trunk. Being able to change this item's identity from "unknown" to "Hat Holder" makes our collection database feel more complete. Thanks Bryan French Photography!



*Photograph by Bryan French Photography.
Used with permission from Bryan French.*

Our Unusual Fork



Fred Eichorst of Waseca happened to be doing some metal detecting at Maplewood Park a few weeks ago. He found this fork, bent in a very peculiar way.

Engraved on the handle "Hotel Waseca"; engraved on the back of the handle "The Joesting & Schilling Co. 12 DWT"

The Joesting & Schilling Co. made silverware for many hotels.

Waseca had a hotel formerly called the Grant House which was also known as Waseca Hotel, Hotel Waseca, or Grant Hotel.

Our speculations are running wild! Was the Maplewood Park Hotel ever referred to as Hotel Waseca? Was this fork used at a picnic? Could this fork be from a silverware set used at the Waseca Hotel? How did this fork come to be in Maplewood Park? Why is it bent so uniquely? Did it get bent from being in the ground? Is it a specially made serving fork? Could a Boy Scout have bent it to fit in his mess kit? When and why did this fork get left at Maplewood Park? We may never know.



Exhibit Space Changes Are Happening!

We are working on creating a new space to honor all of the E.F. Johnson Company artifacts. Progress is being made every day. Special thanks to Karl Jones, Dave Dunn, Mark Buker and Dave Blasing.



Before.



Getting ready to work.



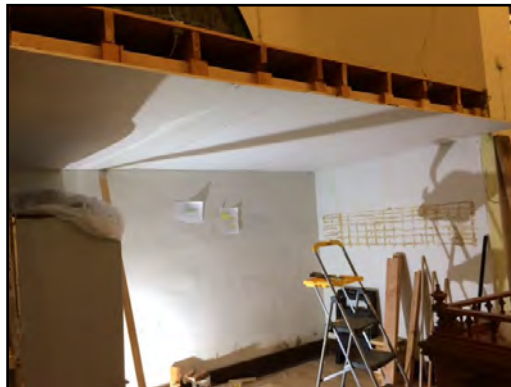
The wall is gone!



New beams!



Light fixtures in place!



Drywall in place!

Stay tuned for future progress!

Support WCHS!

Shopping Online?

[smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Designate "Waseca

County Historical

Society"—and a portion

will be donated!

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SoMN
HISTORY

SO MANY STORIES.
SO MINNESOTA.



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Membership Renewal Date



Waseca County Historical Society
2017 ANNUAL MEETING
and
SHEILA'S RETIREMENT PARTY
Thursday, November 2 at the WCHS Museum
315 NE Second Avenue, Waseca
Annual Meeting 5-5:30 p.m.
Sheila's Party to follow
Please Join Us!



**Hodgson Hall with a fresh coat of paint !
Thanks to Marty Hofmeister and Dave Dunn!**