



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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December 2009



ICE HARVEST on CLEAR LAKE
FEBRUARY 10
Public invited!

Membership Renewal Date



From the Co-Directors

Sheila Morris & Joan Mooney

As we come to the end of 2009, we are in awe of so many of our member volunteers. You're the ones who make things happen around here. We speculate that most people driving by our museum and library think it is a quiet, even "dull" place. But, boy are they wrong! We get reminded more days than not, what precious resources and social places your museum and research library are. So many times we plan to get a lot of officework done, and suddenly the day flashes by. Filled with visitors, researchers, friends, volunteers, shoppers, and service people—we accomplish growing relationships within our community. This happens online as well. And so, at this time of the year, we have a great deal for which to be thankful . . .



150th Birthday Gift Capital Campaign 2007-09 Ends
We are so grateful for your financial generosity! You made this campaign successful. When we think about all the needs that escalated early in *Waseca County's 150th* 2007 when we were first hired as Co-Directors, the campaign contributions gave us immediate stability and confidence. A full wrap-up of the campaign and donor list will appear in the next newsletter with the 2009 WCHS Annual Report.



Improvements to Museum and Library
During the last half of the summer, Don Wynnemer, George Kastle, Keith Smith, John Teskey, and Jerry Boumeister all worked in some capacity to rebuild and paint areas of the front/back porches and ramp of the Bai-

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ANNUAL ICE HARVEST on CLEAR LAKE

FEBRUARY 10, 2010

The public is invited to join the area 5th graders in learning how ice was harvested so many years ago on Clear Lake—before refrigeration! You'll learn how to *score* the ice, then how to cut the ice with hand saws. You'll see teams of kids working together hauling huge blocks of ice up the ramps, out of the icy water to the Ice House.

How long does ice last? Come to our July 3 Chautauqua and find out!

This is an annual program of the Waseca County Historical Society—Look Forward to Our Past!
Call Joan Mooney at (507) 835-7700 for more information.



Visit Doll House-Exhibit thru January 16

"Christmas Night at the Museum, A Doll House Walk" Open House was a huge success. We were excited with over 700 visitors from 45 different regional communities, 6 states and 2 foreign countries attending. In all we displayed 21 beautiful doll houses—from Lois Chaffin's artistic Eric Lansdown faux-painted townhouses to the tiny German matchbox house in the WCHS Collection donated by Dr. Wes Rethwill. Donations appreciated.

RAFFLE WINNER!
Dr. Christine Reichl of St. Cloud, MN was the winner of the Doll House Raffle, doll house donated by Carol Rosenthal.



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WCHS HOURS:
Museum, Research Library & Gift Shop
 Closed Mondays
 Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5
Saturdays during special exhibits, 10-2
(507) 835-7700

Waseca Area Foundation Funds Benefit WCHS:

There are 7 funds in the Waseca Area Foundation that benefit the Waseca County Historical Society indicating tremendous support for our mission. The first endowment fund established for WCHS was the **Edgar F. and Ethel Johnson Fund**. The **WCHS Endowment Fund** was started by our Board of Directors and then Executive Director, Margaret Sinn, with a substantial anonymous donation. The **Phil Allen Fund** was established by his family and friends to specifically benefit the Bailey-Lewer Research Library. The **Frank and Barbara Goodspeed Memorial Fund** was started by their niece, Dorothy Moriarty. Our most generous fund came from **Jerry and Linda Rutledge** in 2006. And in 2008 they created a Charitable Remainder Trust in the amount of \$500,000 which will eventually benefit WCHS. At the end of 2008 we created the **WCHS Lifetime Endowment Fund**. The **Wes and Carol Rethwill History Fund** was started as a donation to the 150th campaign by Dr. Wes Rethwill. We are so grateful to all of these individuals for the kind of support that will last forever!

Event Calendar

Guess who's on Twitter and Facebook?

www.twitter.com/wasecahistory
www.facebook.com
 (search: Waseca County Historical Society)

More ways to check for updates and participate!
 Check out our weekly "Blog-istory" at the Waseca County News website: www.wasecacountynews.com

December 16—WCHS Board & Staff Christmas Party

December-January —Doll House Walk exhibit continues during regular hours and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

December 25—*Merry Christmas!*

December 29—Come for Christmas Tea, see Invitation at bottom of page. Call 507-835-7700 for more information.

January 1, 2010—*Happy New Year!*

January 2, 9, 16—Doll House Walk exhibit open weekdays, 9-5 (closed Mondays), and also Saturdays, 10-2

February 10—Annual Ice Harvest at Clear Lake Park—The public is invited to join us, call 507-835-7700 for more information.

March, April & May—Spring Luncheons being planned: Dates and speakers TBA, but count on delicious lunches, interesting speakers/topics and discounts in the Retro Gift Shop—12 noon to 1 p.m., WCHS members \$10, non-members \$12.

Come for Christmas Tea—December 29

Moms and kids, grandmas and grandpas: During Christmas vacation we will host a Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 29. Bring your big and little tea service, favorite teacup, or teapot—we will furnish the tea, cookies and scones. See the ongoing Doll House exhibit, hear Christmas stories, sing carols, and have tea with us! Call 507-835-7700 to reserve.



Help Still Needed for these Projects:

- 1) Our 1920s SOCK KNITTING MACHINE is not workable, we have a manual for it, but we need a mechanical person!
- 2) Office skills to assist with WCHS Membership mailings.
- 3)Volunteers to help with Ice Harvest learning sites. Training available, wear warm clothes—February 10, 2010. Hot coffee, rolls, lunch provided.
- 4) Archiving papers, numbering, filing—ongoing need. **Call 507-835-7700 to volunteer!**

The Waseca County Historical Society appreciates your support!

As of December 15

Donations, Unrestricted:

Linda Grant
 Stacie Lancaster
 Mike & Jean Halvorson
 Liz Corchran
 Boyd Fuller
 ExxonMobil Foundation
 Janet Welch
 Sigri Hecht

Memorials:

In memory of James Klug
 By Jack & Jane Kolars
 In memory of Mike Milbrath
 By Rick & Sheila Morris
 In memory of Marion Miller
 Kirby
 By Doris Berger
 In memory of Joe Lynch
 By Henry & Phyllis Lewer

Donations, Restricted:

Henry & Phyllis Lewer,
 for the Bailey-Lewer porch
 Robert Hunter, for Campaign

Grants Received:

\$6,000 From the E.F. Johnson Foundation, for the 2010 Chautauqua event

\$1,000 From Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, for the 2010 Chautauqua event

\$1,000 From Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, for Spring Luncheons

GIVE-TO-THE-MAX DAY

November 17 Donations:

Joan Mooney
 Sheila Morris
 Rod & Ruth Searle
 Boyd Abbe
 Jane Dunn
 Linda Grant
 Pauline Fenelon
 Laurie Velett
 Curt Lund
 Anonymous
 Benjamin Imker
 Jim Tippy
 Jim King
 Charles Espe
 Joanne Hintz

Appropriations:

Vivian Township

New & Renewed Memberships:

Allen County Public Library
 Armstrong, Wendell & Ruth

Arthur, Anne
 Baker, Donna
 Beckmann, Pat & Manny
 Beseler, Sharon
 Bird, Jerome
 Born, Bonnie
 Born, Donald
 Born, Suzanne
 Boyer, Tim & Audra
 Breen, Lillian
 Britton, Joe & Marge
 Bruner, Rebecca
 Bunch, Jean
 Burns, William
 Byrne, Margaret J.
 Carlson, Arthur
 Cincinnati Public Library
 Clemons, Mike & Beth
 Cochrane, David
 Collum, Rev. Debra Jane
 Connors, Michael
 Conway, Kathy
 Corchran, Liz
 Cunningham, Jane
 Curran, Helen
 Curran, Robert
 Devereaux, Lora
 Dey, Dr. Jim & Cathy
 Dobberstein, Deb
 Don Carlos, Diane
 Draheim, Ardella
 Eckert, Susan
 Engle, Diane
 Erickson, Smila B.
 Eustice, Ron
 Ewert, Glenn
 Ewert, Lavern & Margaret
 Family Search/LDS Library Rights
 Fell, Carol & June (May)
 Fenelon, Pauline
 Ferch, Vernon
 Fischer, Larry & Marian
 Flathers, Elaine
 Flood, Karen
 Foels, Kim
 Forrest, Helen (Sally)
 Frisk, Robert & Kathleen
 Fruechte, Neil & Sharon
 Fuller, Boyd
 Gallagher, Bonnie
 Gasner, Eunice
 Georgas, Peter
 Gilomen, Carollea
 Glynn, Joe
 Grant, Linda
 Grunwald, Delores
 Guentzel, Richard
 Gutfleisch, John & Tracy
 Hansen, Rev. Nancy
 Hardin, Carol
 Hasslen, Margaret
 Hawkins, Bill
 Herme, Barb
 Hildebrandt, Anita
 Hodges, Gregg

Holmes, James G.
 Houdek, Merle E.
 Hoversten, Patricia & William
 Hoversten, Pearl
 Hunt, Nadine & James
 Hunter, Robert
 Jeddeloh, Irene
 Jewison, Joe
 Johnson, Bradley
 Johnson, Michelle
 Kiesler, Kal & Barbara
 Kolars, Jane
 Kunst, Dave
 Lewer, Henry & Phyllis
 Lynch, Darlene
 Machler, Grace
 Manthe, Lois
 Masberg, Patricia
 Matz, John R.
 Matz, John R.
 McCarthy, George
 McCarthy, Jean
 McConnell, Kathleen
 McIntire, Homer & Betty
 McRaith, Dan & Sue
 Meadows, Theresa
 Menke, Loraine
 Meyer, Clark H.
 Miller, Alvin & Donna
 Miller, Emily
 Miller, Ruth Ann
 Neidt, Millie & Gordon Diesch
 Nelson, Susan E.
 Neumann, Otto & Delores
 Nibler, N. Ione
 O'Brien, Daniel
 Penny, Tim
 Peters, Jackie
 Piche, Tom & Cindy
 Priebe, John & Marcia
 Public Library of Cincinnati
 Querna, Marie
 Rampanelli, Jessica
 Reinecke, Thiel K.
 Remund, Trudi
 Roehrs, Marvel B. (Bonnie)
 Roemhildt, Scott & Amy
 Rosenthal, Gregg D.
 Rosenthal, Jeannette
 Ross, Jackie
 Ruhland, Al
 Sahlstrom, Mary Lou
 Sanders, Wayne
 Santelmann, Patricia
 Scheffler, Charlene
 Schmidt, Robert E.
 Schnorenberg, Ellen Marie
 Schwarz, Mert
 Selijskog, Edward
 Smith, Keith & Wilda
 Stauffer, Bruce & Mary Jane
 Steidler, Marlene & Thomas
 Stindt, Loraine
 Suemnick, Phyllis (May)
 Tesch Service Center

Trembley, Lisa
 Tully, William
 Twisselman, Alan
 Waldron, Carolyn
 Wallace, Paul & Lynn
 Wendland, Helen & Ken
 West, Tom & Francie
 Winegar, George & Sharlene
 Yamada, Susan
 Youngberg, Manley
 Zempel, Keith
 Zwach, Don & Fran
 Zwach, Mike

New Lifetime Membership:

Gores, Marjorie L.

BELOW: All from the Doll House Walk Open House—WHS Show Choir sings to the crowd; volunteer Mary Jo Cristallo talks with a visitor; Madison Fondow mixes the raffle cage; and board member Don Wynnemer greets Open House visitors.



WCHS Member—Ron Johnson

Awarded Carl Sandburg Medal

New Richland native Ronald J. Johnson has been awarded the prestigious Carl Sandburg Medal of the Swedish-American Historical Society, in which he has been active for many years.

The medal was presented at the annual meeting of the Society November 14 at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. In 1980 and again in 1984, Johnson received Nils William Olsson Research Fund grants from the society for his continuing work on the history of Waseca County's Vista community. He is the author of a 1976 book on the community and is working on an updated edition. As a director of the Swedish-American Historical Society since 1994, he has served terms as chairman and vice chairman of the board.

Information about the Society is available on its web site:
www.swedishamericanhist.org

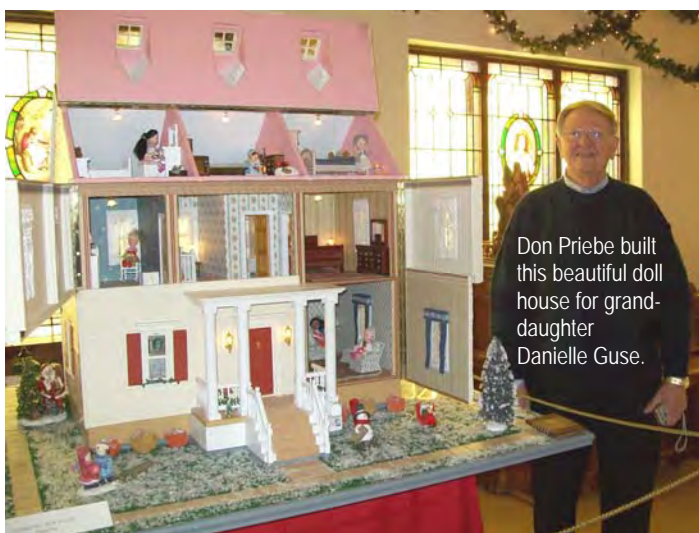
More Pictures of the Doll House Walk



One of only two doll houses in the WCHS Collection is this wooden, two-story made by Howard Deichen for his sister Ruth in the 1920s. Deichen brought the first electrical power to the rural areas of Waseca County. Of course, this little doll house is electrified! Come see it decorated for Christmas!



LEFT: Carol Rosenthal donated this unfinished dollhouse for the raffle, which raised \$139 for WCHS. ABOVE: Susan Knudson, Norma Marzinske, and Lois Chaffin at the



Don Priebe built this beautiful doll house for grand-daughter Danielle Guse.

Thanks to Volunteers

Quilt Show Participants:

- Mary Strand-Host
- Sandy Fitzsimmons-Host
- Dee Appel-Host
- Karen Pettigrew-Host
- Sr. Paulanne Gruber-Host
- Ruth Schoenfeld-Host
- Linda Kunkel-Host
- Millie Neidt-Host
- Marilyn Teskey
- Kit Haag
- Eileen Arvesen
- Kathy Mentjes
- Julie Blom
- Becky Green

Other Volunteers:

- Rod Searle & Ruth Searle
- Don Wynnemer
- George Kastelle
- Donna Fostveit & friends
- Kendall Vance
- Ron Purcell
- Wayne Stuemke

Leroy Shield Saturday Night Dance Event, October 3:

- Roundbank/Roundbank Insurance
- First National Bank
- Brown Printing
- Waseca County News
- American Legion Post 228
- Larry Johnson
- Barb Cliff
- Kathy Flitsch
- Kristi Biehn
- Nicole Howard
- Ginny Bergerson
- Barbara and Jim King
- Cathy and Devin Hoy
- Fran and Don Zwach
- Rick Morris/Waseca Floral
- Jack & Mary Williams
- Audra Boyer & family

2009 Annual Meeting/Supper:

- New Richland City Council
- Wayne Billings & New Richland City Hall Staff
- Blondies Restaurant & Staff
- Rod & Ruth Searle
- Charles Espe
- Mr. Radke
- Bernie Anderson

Doll House Walk Participants:

- Deanna Bendix
- Lois Chaffin
- Jeanette Fell
- Kim Foels
- Mary Jo Cristallo
- Ann Gaytko
- Barbara Lamson

- Linda Lohse
- Andrea Morris
- Norma Marzinske
- Susan Knudson
- Justine Meyer
- Don Priebe
- Carol Rosenthal
- Kathy Rosenthal
- Helen Wendland
- Kris Snow
- Paige Snow
- Norma Witt

Christmas Doll House Walk Volunteers:

- Kathy Rosenthal
- Carol Rosenthal
- Norma Witt
- Jim King
- Tom Piche
- Boyd Abbe
- Barbara Lamson
- Jim Tippy
- Moirra Tippy
- Rod Searle
- Ruth Searle
- Lois Chaffin
- Rebecca Hensel
- Charles Espe
- Harlan Holmquist
- Linda Taylor
- Nancy Nelson-Deppe
- Don Zwach
- Don Priebe
- Norma Marzinske
- Louis Marzinske
- Susan Knudson
- Linda Born
- Julie Anderson
- Gwen Buscho
- Jean Lundquist
- Liz Corchran
- Don Wynnemer
- Mary Allen
- Emily Miller
- Irene Jeddelloh
- Phyllis Lewer
- Fran Zwach
- Pat Purcell
- Donna Bergerson
- Pearl Hoversten
- Janet Priebe

Thanks to Larry Johnson and the American Legion Post 228 for the use of the Raffle Cage!

Thanks to Catherine Lemke for sending high-res scan of Catherine Elsie Prechel Daehn, the newspaper dress lady!

Christmas in Waseca County . . . Year Ago!



Waseca Merchants Trade Festival final prize drawing on December 24, 1936 Here is mainstreet Waseca showing hundreds of people surrounding a platform in the middle of N. State Street with Santa Claus and three men, drawing the winning ticket to win the automobile parked in the foreground. Notice the visible businesses are Sticky's Drug Store, Farmers National Bank, Waseca Hardware and dentists offices.



In 1948 Santa Claus is visiting at Wolf & Habein's Department store. Do you know who's playing Santa?



Posing with Santa in 1961 Nancy and Candy Chaffin, posing for a Christmas portrait in front of a Santa Claus cut-out in 1961. They are the daughters of Bob and Lois Chaffin, and grand-daughters of Edgar and Ethel Johnson.



LEFT: Wolf & Habein's Department Store, 1908, pictured are L-R: William R. Wolf, Wallace Coon, Oscar Anderson, Stub Anderson, and Charlie Johnson; Wolf & Habein closed its doors in 1975; photographed by A. Kloss, Waseca
RIGHT: Unidentified teens at a WHS Christmas Dance, c. 1958



ley-Lewer Library building. Henry and Phyllis Lewer donated funds for the materials.

Liz Corchran donated funds for brand new energy-efficient, UV protected glass doors for the museum main entrance. Waseca Glass installed the doors. We are currently looking for a special vintage suspended light fixture for that now visible foyer. And, it may be a small thing, but we finally have an exterior electrical outlet on the front of the museum—as we can no longer slip an extension cord under the new, weather-stripped doors. It's a good reason to need an exterior outlet to light up our welcoming Christmas wreath.

St. Mary Church Window Project completed

In mid-November the St. Mary Church stain glass window was installed in its permanent place in the museum's alcove in time for the holiday exhibit of doll houses. The window glows again with its beautiful and energy efficient back-lighting. We are so grateful to Don Wynnemer, again, for another completed building project. Thanks also to Keith Smith,, Mason Vance and Rick Morris for installation assistance up the ladder! Our many donors to this project had family ties to St. Mary Church and were very generous, they include: Ann Flood Tandberg, George and Jean McCarthy, M. Joan Byrne and Mariana Byrne Hill, Doug and Mary Carlson, Beverly Conway, Helen Curran, Mayone and Paul Byron, Joyce Beaumont, and Sue Ann Glissendorf.

GiveMN.org and "Give-to-the-Max" Day

WCHS finally has the capability for online giving. Through the efforts of the Minnesota Community Foundation, www.givemn.org was created as a one-stop online giving website for all Minnesota non-profits with 501c3 status. Very simply you can click on our "Donate Now" button on the main page of our website, OR go to www.givemn.org and search "Waseca County Historical Society". Either route gets you to the same donation page. You will need a credit card or Paypal, and the minimum donation is just \$10. When we have other needs or projects, we can create fundraiser pages for your information and response. **To all of you who are online, have email addresses and prefer this method of philanthropy, WCHS is ready!**

And we want to thank all those who gave on **November 17, the "Give-to-the-Max" Day** promoted by the Minnesota Community Foundation and made possible by corporate sponsors who together contributed \$500,000 to add to the donations that day, and to pay for the online credit card processing fees—making it possible for your entire donation to go to each benefiting nonprofit. **WCHS raised \$2,140 in one day!** Remember that this "Donate Now" link is right on the main page of our website—www.historical.waseca.mn.us.



Pictured above: Waseca Glass workmen install the new front doors of the Museum in October.

Pictured at right: Jean and George McCarthy traveled from their home in Albert Lea, MN to WCHS to see the newly installed St. Mary Church stained glass window in its permanent place in the alcove of the museum.



WCHS Membership Grows

We are very happy at the response to WCHS membership renewals. Many of you had not been contacted with reminders to renew for some time. The board undertook to contact all of our lapsed members—and you have responded! Reminders will now go out monthly, instead of quarterly with the newsletter as before. Membership, donations and participation are the best ways to support WCHS. Thank you, members!

You can expect to see Unzie out in 2010 continuing to promote WCHS membership! You can order a poster of Unzie, either the colorful portrait or the collection photo portrait. Just call the Museum Gift Shop, (507) 835-7700.



Oral Histories Online, Thanks to Vanessa!

Unprompted, our dear Vanessa Zimprich, Collections Processor, did something wonderful for WCHS. While at home on maternity leave with baby Aera Marie, Vanessa converted all of the oral histories from tapes to digital sound and made them available on our website! She also transcribed most of them. You can now listen to the histories online on your home computers! We are grateful for her devotion and hard work. *Technology is a wonderful thing, if you have Vanessa around..*



Vanessa Zimprich and daughter, Aera Marie



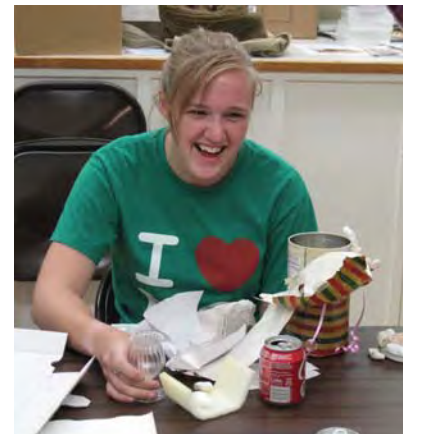
Hawkes family residence, Waseca, MN, c. 1900, part of the MDL Project online.

MDL Accepts More Waseca County Images Minnesota Digital Library website now contains more Waseca County content. This program provides for free scanning and guidance with

metadata to make more and more information and images available for all Minnesotans wherever they are. Most recently, Co-Executive Director Joan Mooney applied to have 143 glass plate negatives of Waseca County landscape scenes and Hawkes family pictures scanned and viewable online. WCHS staffer, Pauline Felonon wrote the metadata for each image. MDL also provides copies of the scans for WCHS use internally. Glass plate negatives are very fragile and over 100 years old! They represent the process of early 20th century photography using the box camera. Some of these images have never been seen as positive prints before this. We are very grateful to the Marian Rengel, director and the Minnesota Digital Library project. **Visit: www.mndigital.org/reflections**

WCHS Intern Goes to Washington

Becci Kohnert, a Waseca High School graduate, volunteered and worked for WCHS during the summer of 2008, and then came to us mid-summer 2009 and filled in when Vanessa had her baby. Becci returned to school this Fall at Luther College, Decorah, IA. We are very happy to announce that she has been accepted as an intern at Washington D.C.'s Newseum for the Spring Semester!



World War I Book to Get Indexed

We have a wonderful volunteer who lives in California, **David Hirscher** who has ties to Janesville, MN. He has graciously volunteered to index the Waseca County in World War (I) including the captions for all the photographs contained therein. We will bring this index to our website and a new resource will be available to our members. Thanks so much to David for taking on this work!

George Herter's Pink Stove Lights Up Again

Ron Purcell took on the job of adjusting the electrical connections of the pink Herter electric stove. We wanted the fluorescent light above the burners to turn on, and not the heating elements. That was accomplished and now, for the time being, it lights up part of the Doll House Walk exhibit of 1940s and 1950s metal doll houses on display!

BELOW: Shown displayed on the pink Herter stove, is Norma Witt's metal dollhouse of the 1950s.

