Cass County Historical Society Museum
646 Main Street
Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048-1852
Special Holiday Newsletter
December, 2013

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phone: 402-296-4770

From the President's Desk:

Autumn is winding down in Cass County Nebraska. The autumn colors were especially vivid this year, with more crimson and orange than I can recall. December brings the Full Moon of the Long Nights. Local farmers are nearing the end of this year's bountiful harvest and the rest of us are preparing for winter with leaf raking and vehicle maintenance. A few nights ago, when it was really chilly, I fired up the pot-bellied stove in my kitchen. I wished that I had some corn cobs. Corn cobs provided the fuel for kitchen ranges and parlor stoves 100 years ago. It was this time of the year when my family and I would fire up the old 1947 jeep for a trip to the woods to pick up black walnuts. We made a picnic of it with a fire and hot-dogs and marshmallows. We'd let the walnuts dry on the garage floor then drive over them with a vehicle to remove the husks. Then the real work began, cracking the shells with a hammer then picking out the nutmeats. I thought it worth the effort with the black walnut fudge and other treats that we enjoyed throughout the winter. Cass County still has quite a few walnut trees but few of us with the ambition to collect them, me included.

Our museum will once again participate this year in the Hometown Holidays celebration in Plattsmouth on December 6th. The Cook family cabin will be decorated for the holidays and will be open that evening, as well as the Burlington caboose and the Museum. Join us for the evening if you can with festivities beginning with the tree lighting ceremony and Christmas Caroling at the Museum which starts at 6:15 pm and tree lighting at 6:30. The Museum, cabin and caboose will stay open until 8:30. Through a successful fund drive the Cass County Historical Society was able to purchase new LED lights for the 40 ft. Blue Spruce in our courtyard. We hope that you enjoy it!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Douglas V. Duey
President

Mission Statement: The Cass County Historical Society shall collect, preserve, and study materials to document, interpret and present the history of Cass County Nebraska to the public.
Temporary Exhibits
Throughout the year, we rotate exhibits in our Davis Conference Room and highlight different aspects of our Collection and County History.

“Don't Forget Your Hat!”
Through January 26, 2014
The donation recently of a straw hat that belonged to Minnie Guthmann, prompted us to look at all the hats in our collection and put together this exhibit from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

“Saturday Evening Post Covers”
by John Falter
through January 26, 2014
Plattsmouth native, John Falter, illustrated over 200 Post covers. This exhibit is a selection of Winter covers from our collection of 70.

“Christmas Cards of the Past”
through January 26, 2014
In the front display case, we have installed an exhibit of antique Christmas cards. The oldest is an 1888 card by L. Prang and the “newest” are from the 1950s.

Logo Contest
The Board of Directors is launching a contest for a new logo design to be used in the newsletter, stationery, signage, etc. The contest is open to anyone living in Cass County. The design must be sent to Cass County Historical Society by February 1, 2014. A cash prize and Nebraska history themed art book will be awarded to the winning entry. The design entry must be rendered on an 8 ½” x 11” piece of paper. It may be in black and white or in color. Each entry should have the artist's name and address on the upper left corner of the back of the entry. If you have questions, call the museum, 402-296-4770.

A fun day with 5th Graders!
Mrs. Lewandowski's 5th grade class from St. John the Baptist School visited on October 17. After touring the museum, they walked down Main Street to the cabin and caboose. During the walk, the museum curator told a little about the history of some of the buildings. The morning ended with the class eating their sack lunches in the Davis Conference Room.

Brown Bag Program
The program begins at 12:00 noon and is free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your sack lunch; coffee and cookies will be served.

Tuesday, December 10
“Christmas Memories”
Bring an antique Christmas ornament or a favorite decoration to “show and tell”.

For updates on museum activities, visit our website www.nebraskamuseums.org/casscountymuseum.htm and our Facebook page.
CORNERSTONE CLUB

Limestone
N&B Henry Rentals
Norm & Betty Henry

Roby Funeral Home, Inc
Keith, Kendall, & Jamie Roby

Sandstone
W-M Farms, Inc.
Robert Meisinger, Pres.

Thank you for your support!

At our Annual Meeting on November 7, Charter Member, Flora Belle Wehrbein, told about attending the first meeting of the Society on May 20, 1936

2014 MEMBERSHIPS

Century
Bill & Susanne Astley
Elton DeLesDernier, VA
Del & Glenda Hervey
Beverly Hirz
Duane Hobscheidt

Promoter
David & Vicki Chebatoris
Jim Elworth, IN
Dale M. Hansen
Dorothy Meisinger
Roy & Sharon Smith
Diana D. Strokan
Ted & Carol Wehrbein

Booster
Louis & Lola Austin
Maurice & Mary Hammons
Ruth Lillie in memory of Harold Lillie
Frank & Joyce Swanson

Friend
Judy Andres, new
Sara Thimgan Begley, IA
LaVonne Beil
Eleanor J. Box, TX
Jeanie Brookhouser
Phyllis A. Ellingson
Doris N. Hirz
John & Marcia Kriskey
Bud & Linda Lewis, gift
Joann Moore
Linda Ries, VA
Ruth Ross
Sharon A. Shelley
Evelyn Stewart
Larry & Rita Vallery, IA, gift
Patricia A. Wagner
Deb Woster, IA
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein
Flora Belle Wehrbein

MEMORIALS in memory of

Corinne Case
Jean Howland

Ruby Lancaster
Wm & Sandra Allgeier
Diane Berlett
Dean & Marilyn Meisinger
H. Margo Prentiss
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein

Ralph Hild
Alyce Green
Norm & Betty Henry
Jean Howland
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Joann Moore
H. Margo Prentiss
Roy & Sharon Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Stoehr
Diana Strokan
Tom & Della Sullivan
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein
Eleanor York

Boyd Roberts
Norm & Betty Henry

Is the date highlighted on your address label?
If so, your membership is due. Please fill out the form on the back and mail or deliver with your check to:
Cass Co. Historical Society
646 Main Street
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

(if you are receiving your newsletter via e-mail, there will be a separate e-mail when your membership is due.)

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Kurt Meisinger
Daisy Richards
Patricia Moreno,
United Methodist Women

Table Favors for Annual Meeting
Douglas Duey

For Use of Conference Room
Cass Co. Retired Educators

In honor of Jim & Jackie Gansemer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Fred & Pat Meisinger

Donation in lieu of gifts for friends
Joann Moore

Donation for Apples for Halloween Parade
Beverly Hirz
Dave & Sharon Lybarger
Paul & Nancy McManis

Donations for Rock Bluffs School Fund
Loren & Gwen Haveman
Charles & Irene Warga

Genealogy Donations
Judy Andres
David Fittro, W.VA
Theresa Ptacek
Patricia A. Wagner

If you have e-mail and would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please send us an e-mail at ccohs@windstream.net and in the subject line put “electronic newsletter”.

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Special Event
Christmas Tree Lighting
Museum Courtyard
Friday, December 6, 2013
6:15 pm Caroling
6:30 Tree Lighting

We will light this tree >>>>>>>>>>
planted in honor of our
first Curator, Alice Pollock Perry:

Well, the tree is a little taller now,
about 40 FEET!
Proceeds from the quilt raffle were used to
purchase 1,000 bulbs!

Afterward, there will be hot apple cider, hot
chocolate and cookies served inside the museum. There will also be a pioneer tree,
Victorian tree and 1960s tree inside. The museum will stay open until 8:30 pm. The
cabin and caboose at the end of Main Street will also be open until 8:30 pm.

This is the Blue Spruce in 2011!
Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting on November 7 was attended by 48 members and 6 non-members. A silent auction of 14 baskets brought in a total of $373.00.

During the business meeting, the following officers were re-elected for one-year terms:
- Douglas Duey, President
- Susan Rice, Vice-President
- Diane Berlett, Treasurer
- Pat Meisinger, Secretary

Board members re-elected for three year terms, expiring in 2016 were:
- Donald Gappa
- Bev Hirz
- Paul McManis

Tickets were drawn for the raffle. The winners were:

1st Prize: QUILT: Diane Strokan, Plattsmouth
2nd Prize: $100 cash: Janice Carnes, Murray
3rd Prize: Mr. Coffee/Keurig: Janice Benoit, New Iberia, Louisiana
4th Prize: Book Saddle Up by Charles Gorman: Lori Pankonin, Louisville
5th Prize Crock Pot: Cathy Brandt, Beaver Lake

The raffle netted $2,000 which was used to purchase lights for the tree in our courtyard.

Volunteers were recognized for 1100 hours of service. The person who put in the most hours was Joan Barnard who worked 330 hours.

The Museum Curator spoke about the many projects currently underway:

- Bylaws revision, Digitization,
- Oral History, Renovation of the shed,
- Placing Markers at the locations of all the one-room schools, Logo contest
- Raffle, and StEPs Program (Standards of Excellence Program for Historical Organizations)

The evening ended on a lively note with a program by David Seay:
“Train Songs and Tales of the Westward Rails”.
Cass County Historical Society, organized in 1936, is dedicated to a mission of telling the history of Cass County since 1854, the year the county was opened for settlement. The Society's first permanent displays were housed in two rooms on the third floor of the Cass County Courthouse. In 1960, the present museum was opened at 646 Main Street in Plattsmouth.

Approximately one third of the museum's budget comes from the County. The rest of the financial support is from Memberships, Donations, Gift Shop Sales, Memorials and Grants.

To renew your membership or to become a member for the first time, please fill our the form at right and return to the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS
April through October:
Tuesday through Sunday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed Mondays and major holidays.

November through March:
Tuesday through Saturday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed Sundays, Mondays and major holidays.

Admission: $2.50 for adults; children under 12 free.
FREE for Museum Members
Donations accepted.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:
Individuals and Families:
____ Patron ($1,000 and up)
____ Benefactor ($500 and up)
____ Investor ($250)
____ Century ($100)
____ Promoter ($50)
____ Booster ($30)
____ Friend ($15)

Businesses (Cornerstone Club)
____ Marble ($1,001 and up)
____ Granite ($501-1,000)
____ Limestone ($251-500)
____ Sandstone ($100-250)

Name___________________________________________
Address_________________________________________
City, State_______________________________________
Zip_____________________
Phone # and e-mail_________________________________