



SPECIAL HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER **December, 2017**

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402-296-4770

website: www.casscountynemuseum.org/

2017 Board of Directors

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Jon Oliver, Weeping Water

Roger Schuette, Plattsmouth

*The Board usually meets the fourth
Tuesday
of the month at 7:00 pm.*

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Douglas Duey, Chairman

Pat Meisinger, Secretary

Leigh Jean Koinzan, Treasurer

Dave Pankonin, Board Member

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MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

From the President's Desk..... by Douglas V. Duey, President

The Thanksgiving Holiday made me curious about whether our Cass County pioneers celebrated on Thanksgiving. I went to our museum and read through many of the Furlong diaries which date from 1861-1915. They are beautiful tiny leather bound books and are a treasure for our collections. What I found in my research, however, was that the author and his family didn't apparently celebrate any holidays like we do today. I found that the author worked literally 365 days each year. As I walked through the museum I stopped by a show case that contains children's toys that span 130 years. Looking at those toys brought back memories of Christmas, 1957. It was that year that my brother received a Lionel train set from Santa and I received a build-it-yourself transistor radio. My dad and I had fun building it and it is something I've kept all of these years.

After leaving the museum, I walked down main street in Plattsmouth and looked at the holiday decorations, the dozens of Christmas trees lining the street and the street lamps entwined with pine boughs. I glanced up at the 50 ft. spruce tree in the museum courtyard and remembered that within a few days it will be draped with Christmas lights which will be lighted following a caroling session the evening of December 2nd. I drove around the county and found that even our smallest communities have decorations going up in their business districts. All of this caused me to consider that not so much has changed over the past 60 years when it comes to small communities celebrating the holiday season.

In 1957 outdoor decorations were a bit sparse compared to today, but my father was determined not to be outdone by our neighbors that year. He purchased a dozen 6' stovepipes and when assembled they looked like candy canes. He painted them white then wrapped them in stripes of red scotch-brite tape. He staked each candy-cane near the street curb on street-side of our corner-lot house and they glowed brightly as car headlights illuminated the red tape. That same year he made a life sized sleigh, containing Santa, pulled by two reindeer, out of plywood and then attached the ensemble to the edge of our roof. I was proud of what he had accomplished that holiday season.

Other Americans were beginning to get back into a Holiday mood as well in 1957. After a deep depression that lasted a decade, followed by WWII which lasted 6 years and claimed the lives of many millions, Americans were beginning to get back to a more normal life. In fact the 1950's experienced phenomenal economic growth in America. This was at least in part due to the GI Bill which enabled returning soldiers to obtain homes and educations. Subdivisions for homes were introduced as well as backyard barbeques. In 1956 President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act which ushered in the construction of our interstate highway system. In 1957 cars had bigger tail fins, more lights and more powerful engines. The average car sold for \$2,749. The average cost of a home was \$12,220, Average monthly rent was \$90. Average yearly wage was \$4,550, gasoline was 24 cents and children's shoes were \$5.95. Black and white televisions introduced Perry Mason and Maverick that year and Lucy and Ricky as well as Ozzie and Harriet and Leave it to Beaver were popular TV shows. Slinky toys and Hoola Hoops were all the rage as well as Frisbees which became available that year. Little Richard and Elvis Presley made the news regularly and the baby boom was in full swing.

It seems to me that even during times like these with tremendous social and political division in our country that the holiday season brings Americans back together. Let this season be a time of healing, love and peace for all. Happy Holidays to you!

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

Exhibits are rotated in our Davis Conference Room and highlight different aspects of our Collection and County History.

"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of Nebraska"

A shortened version of the exhibit will continue through the year in the front display case.

"Advertising Cass County"

October 31, 2017-January 6, 2018

Calendars and souvenir china from the late 1800s and early 1900s are displayed along with a brief history of the businesses they advertised.

"Photographs by Emil Weyrich"

October 31, 2017-January 6, 2018

Weyrich was a pharmacist in Plattsmouth and operated Weyrich and Hadraba Drug Store on Main Street from 1909 until the early 1940s. One of his many hobbies was photography. For this exhibit we have chosen photos that relate to life in Cass County.

Winter Hours

On November 1, we returned to Winter Hours and are open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00 and closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Oral History Project

We now have several oral histories installed on our touch screen computer. The interviews are about 15-30 minutes in length. Visitors can sit down, simply touch the screen, and listen to memories of long time Cass County residents! The interviews were conducted by members of the oral history committee, Sandra Allgeier, Diane Berlett, Pat Meisinger and Susan Rice. Computer "techs" Sandra Allgeier and Dakota Compton spent many hours loading the histories onto the computer.

Christmas Tree Lighting!

Saturday, December 2

Caroling: 6:15; Tree Lighting 6:30

We will light the tree in our courtyard at 6:30 on December 2. Caroling will start at 6:15. Afterwards, hot apple cider and cookies will be served in the museum where other trees are decorated. The log cabin and caboose will also be open.

Last Brown Bag Program of 2017:

Tuesday, December 12, 12:00 noon

Christmas Caroling

Take time out from shopping, and come sing Christmas Carols! Florene Nickles will be playing our 1893 Packard Reed organ. Coffee and cookies will be served and you can bring your lunch and sit in the conference room afterwards and eat!

Saturday Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to work with Linda on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00. We have a volunteer for the first Saturday of each month, but we need volunteers on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays. Duties include greeting visitors, answering the phone, selling items in the gift shop, and helping Linda with registration or office projects. Please call the museum if you are available.

Annual Meeting Results

Officers re-elected to one year terms during the November 9 meeting are: Douglas Duey, President, Susan Rice, Vice-President, Diane Berlett, Treasurer, Pat Meisinger, Secretary. Sandra Allgeier, Mel Lutchens and Jon Oliver were re-elected to three year terms expiring in 2020. Susanne Astley and George Eledge were elected to fill the terms of Paul and Nancy McManis who retired from the board. Volunteers were recognized for their service. Altogether, 39 volunteers donated 700 hours. The evening ended with a program by Dan Holtz, celebrating Nebraska's 150th anniversary.

Cornerstone Club....Memberships....Donations....Memorials

Received between September 29 and November 21, 2017. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

MEMBERSHIPS

Cornerstone Club

Sandstone

Jeff Henry Chevrolet
Jeffrey Henry

N & B Rentals
Betty Henry

McKnight Family Dental
Dr. James McKnight

Steube's Thriftway #909
Donald Steube

Century

Tom & Kathy Copmann, FL
Elton E. DeLes Dernier, VA
Charlene Schwemmer (new)

Promoter

William & Susanne Astley
Roger & Linda Behrns
Dick & Mary Berner
Jim Elworth,IN

Kristin Friedrich, CA (new)
Tom & Della Sullivan
Charles & Irene Warga

Booster

Louis & Lola Austin
Millard & Janice Carnes
Mike & Shelia Coen
Brian & Nancy Heineman,IA
John & Jill Lokke, (new)
Terry & Georgia McCarl
Gene & Evelyn Meier
James & Deloris Pollard,CA
Dee Schuetz
Frank & Joyce Swanson
Renee Hart-Thakur
Steven L. Tutt, KY
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein
Virginia Wickham,MO (new)

Friend

Judy Andres
Jeanie Brookhouser
Butch Bouvier, IA (new)
Rae D. Cacioppo (new,gift)
Dakota Compton (new,gift)
Judi Cook (new)
David Duey (new,gift)
Natasha Duran,NM (new,gift)

Friend,continued

Myrna Esluer (new,gift)
Kyle Forrest (gift)
Greg & Rita Hartel
Doris N. Hirz
Shirley Beine McDonald,CA
Steve & Barb Molck (new,gift)
Jesse W. Nownes (new,gift)
Jack Preston (new)
Jo Ann Pryor, CA(new)
Mary Frances Reinke
Bill Rishel (new,gift)
Margaret Rhylander
Minnie Mae Sayers
Julie Schmale (gift)
Laura Strickland, NJ (new,gift)
Mike Tabler (new,gift)
Chuck & Sherry Talbitzer
Bill & Brenda Todd
Sophia Vinduska
Patricia A. Wagner

Membership Renewal Time???

Is the date highlighted on your address label? If so, it means that your membership is due! Please fill out the form on the back and mail with your check to the museum. (Those who receive the newsletter by e-mail will receive a notice when your membership is due.)

Need a Christmas Gift?

Consider giving a Cass County Historical Society Membership! We will send a card notifying the recipient of your gift. A "friend" membership is only \$15 !

One of our members is interested in obtaining a 1904 cookbook published by the Women of the Weeping Water Congregational Church. Please call the museum (296-4770) if you have one.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of LaVonne Beil

Bill & Sandra Allgeier
Diane Berlett
Betty Henry
H.Margo Prentiss
Diana Duey Strokan
Tom & Della Sullivan
June Wagner

Mary Jane Beins

Janet Moore, CA

Leland Meisinger

Carl & Jayne Ofe

Jean Mueller

H. Margo Prentiss

Robert Nickles

Thomas Carneal, MO
June Wagner

Jeanene Wehrbein

Janet Moore, CA

DONATIONS

Chuck & Sherry Talbitzer

For Paper Products

Kola Curttright
Janet Moore

For a Basket for Annual Meeting

Jan Matisco, CA

Genealogy Donations

Jo Ann Pryor,CA
Jane Textor, IL

Cabin Fund

Del Hervey

Caboose Fund

Joy Haswell

In Remembrance

LaVonne Beil, who served on our Board of Directors from 1989 to 2009. passed away October 10. LaVonne also worked as a receptionist during special events such as the Harvest Festival and baked cookies for the brown bags and Tree Lighting.

Jean Mueller, who served on our Board from 1995 to 1998 passed away October 21. Jean also worked as volunteer. She indexed several of our scrapbooks and copied the early records for Lewiston cemetery. These are resources we use almost every day when helping people with genealogy.



1907 Christmas Postcard
donated by
Maude McCulloch

Thank you for your support during 2017 and best wishes for the holidays and 2018 !

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 out the form at right and return to the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS:

November through March:

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

April through October:

Tuesday through Sunday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed 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 _____

