



SPRING NEWSLETTER April, May, June, 2018

646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048
cchoism@windstream.net
402-296-4770

website: www.casscountynemuseum.org/

2018 Board of Directors

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

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Douglas Duey, Chairman

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MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

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.*

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

Springtime is trying to get a foothold here in Cass County. This morning I saw a small flock of Mallard ducks on my pond and have noticed that songbirds are returning also. This past winter, the activities centered on deer and squirrels. It's amazing to me that squirrels can find their buried black walnuts under a foot of snow. I've watched them dig them up. About a fourth of their food is stolen, however, by birds and other squirrels because they typically use the same hiding places over and over. Squirrels are protective of their young and will adopt orphan babies as well. Springtime brings forth new vitality to us and the world around us. I can imagine that our early pioneers were even more enthusiastic than we are to see the end of a long cold winter. Perhaps it was the advent of springtime in 1935 that inspired our Cass County, Nebraska, pioneer author Bess Streeter Aldrich to write the romance novel Spring Came on Forever.

I've been reflecting about how small town America has changed over the years. Following WWII there was a surge of growth in small businesses across America. Even the smallest of towns in Cass County had a business district that provided at least the necessities. Cedar Creek had Ault's General Store, and South Bend had a general store as well. Plattsmouth had Soennichsen's Department store which provided one stop shopping for the most part. There were many other stores, including shoe stores, hardware stores and lumber yards throughout the county that are now long gone. The large discount centers now seem to dominate the retail sales, but on-line purchasing is pushing some of those aside recently. I grew up the son of a merchant. Following his service in WWII, my father obtained his watch-making certificate from the Kansas City School of Watch Making. Bank credit was not easily obtained back then so he worked two jobs until he saved up \$700, enough to purchase a small inventory with which to open a jewelry store. My brother and I had our chores to do, including hanging paper billboard signs along the highway. He hated the job but I sort of enjoyed it, particularly when the wind came up and the paper got loose from him and wrapped him up like a mummy. He didn't appreciate my laughter very much. Back then communities didn't have trash hauling services, so on Saturdays my brother and I would load up the back of the 1947 military jeep with boxes and trash from the store and haul it to the city dump. Once again, I don't think he liked it as much as I did. He was 16 and able to drive and I was 3 years younger, simply the co-pilot on those trips. Work picked up for everyone in my family as my father acquired a chain of stores in Kansas and Nebraska. Sadly, only one of those stores remain open today. Change is inevitable, sometimes positive and sometimes perhaps not. Retailing has changed in so many areas.

I remember, as perhaps many of you do, the first time I ate at a McDonald's. The sign under those golden arches advertised hamburgers for ten cents and claimed that a million had been sold. That was the advent of the fast food establishments that swept across our nation, changing the dynamics of family life. The kitchen range and dining table weren't used as often. Our family had fast food as we took family vacations, it was food that came out of a wicker picnic basket. As we traveled across Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado back then there weren't any fast food restaurants and so to save time we looked for a picnic area near the highway. Those were common 60 years ago, much like rest areas on the Interstate Highways today. Besides keeping an eye out for picnic stops we also watched for "Burma Shave" signs which were installed along our highways from 1925 through 1966. The signs were legendary for their roadside humor. For instance, one read "If huggin on highways is your sport, trade your car for a davenport "Burma Shave". Or, "You can drive a mile a minute, but there is no future in it". Here's another, "A beard that's rough and overgrown is better than a chaperone".

Enjoy springtime in Cass County. For my part it would be fine if "Spring Came On Forever". Stop by the museum when you can and bring along a friend.

Temporary Exhibits

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

**History of Cass County:
Paintings and Prints by Cass County Artists
March 27 - June 3, 2018**

We have selected from our storage several works of art by Cass County Artists that reflect the history of Cass County.

**Mini Exhibit: Spring in Cass County
March 27 - June 3, 2018**

Visitors enjoyed our exhibit of photos of past winters, so we will continue with the seasons. This display includes photographs of wildflowers by Linda Duncan and postcards of several locations in Cass County in the Springtime.

**Remembering Beautiful Merritt Beach
June 5 - August 26, 2018**

This exhibit of photographs and memorabilia will bring back many memories of the recreation area located just south of the Platte River on the east side of highway 75. Merritt Beach was in operation from the 1930s through 1989. Most of the objects on exhibit were donated by Nancy Merritt Martin.

**LIVING HISTORY DAY
Saturday, April 28
See special insert for details!**

Brown Bag Programs

The programs begin at 12:00 and are free and open to the public. Cookies and coffee are served.

**Tuesday, April 24
"George Lininger: The Man"
Speaker: Doug Lewis**

Mr. Lewis has researched the life of George Lininger, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. You might have read the recent article in the Omaha World Herald about the Lininger family Bible that recently made its way back to Nebraska. Mr. Lewis will talk a little about the Bible, but also about the amazing man, George Lininger!

**Tuesday, May 8
"Recent Acquisitions"
Speaker: Margo Prentiss**

"New" items that relate to the history of Cass County are always being donated to the collection. The Museum Curator will show and talk about some of the items that have been donated recently.

**Tuesday, June 12
"Remembering Merritt Beach"**

In conjunction with our exhibit, we will show the interview conducted in 2013 with Kenneth Johnson and Lyle Wood about their experiences at Merritt Beach.

Summer Hours

**On April 8, we return to Summer hours and will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00. (We will be closed Saturday, March 31 and Sunday April 1 for the Easter holiday.).
Summer hours continue through October.**

Saturday & Sunday Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to work with Linda on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00. We have a volunteer for the first Saturday of each month, but we need volunteers for the other weekends. 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.

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

Received between February 1 and March 28, 2018. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

MEMBERSHIPS **CORNERSTONE CLUB**

Granite

Plattsmouth State Bank
Lori Schneider, Pres.
David Schneider, Vice-Pres.

Sandstone

Cass County Bank
Dennis Oschner, Pres.

Edward Jones

Brad Ksiazek

Great Plains Realty Auction Co.

Randy Fleming

MEMBERSHIPS

Century

Beverly J. Hirz
James A. Kraeger, ILL
Melvin H. Luetchens
Dean & Marilyn Meisinger
John Miller, Oxbow Farms LLC
Jerry & Mary Reinholt
Paul & Susan Rice
Grace Wiles Simard
Roy & Sharon Smith

Promoter

Dave & Vicki Chebatoris
Frederick Eriksen, new
Jean Howland
Jan Matisco, CA
Nancy Olson
John S. Schleicher
Norman & Meredith Schoch
Emerson & Norma Wiles

Booster

Sara Thimgan Begley, IA
Steve & Marlene Rishel
George & Joanne Swarbrick

MEMBERSHIPS

Friend

Marcia K. Beck
Janice Benoit, LA
Diana Capaldi, PA
Honey Lou Cole
Maxine Hild
Betty Holmstedt
Bud & Linda Lewis, gift
Maureen E. McGrath
Linda A. Rice
Larry & Rita Vallery, gift
James & Lois Witte
Bob Wynn

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.)

DONATIONS

Kathleen Bestor, CA
Daisy Richards

DONATIONS

Caboose Fund

Joy Haswell.

Genealogy Donations

James M. Hobbs, OH
Becky Martin
Barbara Northrop, OR
Carol Ponec-Nemec

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

LaVonne Beil

Roy & Sharon Smith

Margaret Coschka

American Legion Auxiliary

LaVonne Fusaro

William & Sandra Allgeier
Douglas Duey
Roy & Sharon Smith
Diana Strokan

Alyce Green

William & Sandra Allgeier
American Legion Auxiliary
Cass County Retired Educators
Douglas Duey
Richard & Carol Ellington
Doris Landon
Paul & Susan Rice
Bruce Roberts, MO
Roy & Sharon Smith
Ted & Carol Wehrbein

Bob Piper

Carl & Jayne Ofe

Harold "Gene" Sivard, Jr.

Doris Landon

John Todd

Paul & Susan Rice

Lon Widler

Doris Landon

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 _____

