



## SPRING NEWSLETTER April, May, June, 2018

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402-296-4770

website: [www.casscountynemuseum.org/](http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/)

### 2018 Board of Directors

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#### PRESIDENT

**Douglas Duey**, Plattsmouth

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

**Susan Rice**, Nehawka

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**Mel Luetchens**, Murdock

**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

**Bruce Wiles**, Board Member

#### 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.

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**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 Stokan

#### **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* \_\_\_\_\_

