

From the President... *by Marie Dranttel*

As many of you are aware, Mark Morrison has left NCHS for a similar and equally challenging position with the City of Bloomington. My gratitude and appreciation go out to Mark for helping us overcome the many challenges we faced during his tenure with NCHS. He arrived when our financial situation was, at best, difficult. He worked tirelessly to maintain the programming and exhibits we've come to expect and yet at the same time be fiscally responsible and conservative.

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee have already begun the process of searching for a new Director. We are committed to finding the individual that best meets our needs. Past Directors have been

administrators, curators, educators, exhibit specialists and sometimes—maintenance engineers. Our search for the perfect candidate will take time. It is our intent to hire an interim director, and then perform a diligent and thorough search for a new Director. My thanks go out to our remaining staff members, Bob Sandeen, Renee Schmidt, Ceil Headlee, Opal Dewanz, Rex Hendley, and Ron Myers. They have committed to helping us maintain our current offerings while we conduct the director search. Many times they have volunteered their time and talents—always with the goal of providing our guests with the most rewarding experience of their visit to the Treaty Center, Cox House and Harkin Store.

As the director search progresses, life goes on. This summer promises to be full of excitement. NCHS recently received a grant to fund a position at the Cox House. (See related article on page 4.) It is our goal to have one event per month at the Cox House. Please watch for announcements and advertising related to these events. The Cox House and its' gardens are a wonderful asset of the Society. If you have not toured the gardens or the house recently, please do so, it will be an enjoyable visit. Mariah's Garden Club has spent countless hours restoring the gardens with heritage plants and herbs.

Marie Dranttel
NCHS President

Heritage Plant Sale a Success

What makes a successful and fun day at the Cox House? A beautiful, sunny day, many eager buyers, willing volunteers, generous donators of interesting and some unique plants, a master gardener with advice, and gardeners who can also give tours of our historic house.

The annual Heritage Plant Sale, Saturday, May 17, was a big success due to the work of many NCHS members, friends and the Cox House Committee. With

perennial plants priced reasonably from \$.50 to \$5, a few house plants slightly higher, and wooden bluebird houses and finch feeders and suet feeders, the proceeds totalled \$840.

Thanks to Bev Wetherill, Barb Olmanson and Marilyn Robertz who organized the plant sale and ran it with the help of many others who marked and arranged plants and cleaned up afterwards. Renee Schmidt and Marie Dranttel provided administrative support. Ed Wetherill



and Don Olmanson put up the tent and Bill Robertz was the cashier. Bev Wetherill did yeoman duty giving house tours to visiting RV campers on both Friday and Saturday.

We couldn't do it without all the wonderful gardeners who donated potted perennials from their gardens, rhubarb and house plants; also Burt Hoffmann who made and donated the wooden items for birds. Thanks to all.

From the desk of Renee Schmidt...

For those of you who have not heard, Mark Morrison has taken another position. He will be working for the city of Bloomington. During this time of transition volunteers are crucial. I am very thankful for the extra effort put in by Brenda DeBlicke, Marie Dranttel, and Eileen Holz on the newsletter. A special thanks to Bob Bruns and Dave Anderson for taking care of payroll, expenses and everything to do with the accounts. I also want to acknowledge Stan Lindquist, Boyd Headlee, Marolyn Kleinert, Herb Poncin, Arlyce Bussman, Vic Gustafson, Jo and Larry Zambino, Gale Kreykes, Jan Quello and James and Verda Beatty for giving their time and tours. Last, but not least, a huge thanks to all the Cox House ladies. I'll dare to name the volunteers, but please don't think less of me if I missed your name.

Thank you for all your hours of tireless service Jan Hoffmann, Barb Olmanson, Marilyn Robertz, Judy Scholl, Ed and Bev Wetherill, Cliff and Tee Mollert, and Ra Vae Nygard. Finally, a special thanks to the Quilters who have been dedicated to come and volunteer their quilting expertise. The Cox House ladies are also quilters and those not previously mentioned are Dorothy Schultz, Dorothy Paulsen, Onie Isenberg, Ann Henze and Karen Hayes. Another thanks for programs to Lois Annexstad, John Christenson, Bob Douglas, Jane Swenson, Bruce Davis, Edi Thorstensson, and Lavonne Craig. Most people volunteer in more than one area but I only listed people once. If you have volunteered your time and I have not acknowledged you, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your dedication, it is greatly appreciated!

As I am writing this column, the prairie flowers are starting to push their way out, the grass is greening up nicely, and the robins are busy feeding their newly hatched babies. Spring has turned to the fullness of summer with all the vacation and fun family time that summer brings.

I hope that you will remember the Nicollet County Historical Society when you are giving the personal guided tour of our area to your out-of-town guests. Our exhibit, History of St. Peter Schools, is wonderful and will definitely get those memories and conversations flowing.

If you travel to other areas this summer, try to visit their local museum sites and share your reactions with us as we strive to be the best Historical Society we can be. *Have a great summer!*

The St. Peter School Exhibit

by Bob Sandeen, research coordinator

The first St. Peter All-School Reunion will be held in St. Peter from July 2nd through July 6th. In conjunction with the reunion, an exhibit at the Nicollet County Historical Society has been created. The exhibit, which will be in place until September, features photographs, documents, yearbooks, scrapbooks, sports memorabilia, and other items that illustrate portions of the nearly 150-year history of schools in St. Peter.

While it is certainly not possible to create an exhibit that can encompass all aspects of educa-

tion in the city, the exhibit does have much to offer visitors to the museum. Of particular interest are two sets of scrapbooks. A set of 22 scrapbooks that is on loan from the St. Peter public school system contains an enormous amount of information about new teachers who were hired or teachers who retired, sporting events, plays and concerts, and numerous other items of interest covering the years from 1958 through 1986. The second set of 14 scrapbooks, on loan from John Ireland School, contains an abundance of pho-

tographs and a wealth of information about the school during the years from 1970 through 2000.

The exhibit also contains a large collection of St. Peter High School yearbooks, beginning with the late 1940s. Yearbooks apparently were not published in St. Peter prior to World War Two.

The School Board has permitted the Historical Society to examine two large ledgers of School Board meeting minutes, from which a typed set of excerpts has been

School continued on page 3

Yes, I know it is a bad attempt at humor, but have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a volunteer for the Nicollet County Historical Society? As time passes and the demands on our staff grow, we welcome volunteers. Many opportunities exist and no willing individual will be denied the opportunity to contribute!

For example: weekend docents and gift shop helpers are always needed, at both the History Center and Cox House. Spend a few hours enjoying all of the exhibits, greeting visitors and sharing your family history. Mariah's Garden Club always welcomes helpers in the Cox House Gardens. Traditionally, the Gardeners have met on Thursday mornings, but check with Renee to confirm their 2003 schedule. The Quilters meet Wednesday afternoons – a wonderful way to learn a new

*Ask not
what your
Historical
Society can
do for you,
But what
can you do
for your
Historical
Society?*

craft and appreciation for those who are willing to share their knowledge. The Program Committee is always looking for volunteers – this year is no exception. Opal and staff at the Harkin Store never turn down help; it's a wonderful way to spend an afternoon of quality programming and yet be rewarded by being a volunteer.

The Board of Directors is always looking for individuals willing to serve on the Board. The commitment for Directors is at minimum two hours per month. Lastly, if you enjoy fundraising or grant writing—call me (Renee at 934-2160). I'll put you to work immediately! The talents and skills that are needed to maintain the operations and programming of NCHS vary greatly and we need all of your skills and talents.

Memorials

since the last edition of *The Crossing*

In memory of

E. Clayton Davis

Given by

Ed & Bev Wetherill

Eunice Holz

In memory of

Rosemary Rausch

Given by

David & Arlyce Bussman

In memory of

William H. McKenzie

Given by

Malcolm & Donna MacKenzie

In memory of

Bruce MacKenzie

Given by

Eunice Holz

Ed & Bev Wetherill

Cora Sjostrom

Burt & Janet Hoffmann

In memory of

Alvin Havemeier

Given by

Harold & Lorraine Olson

In memory of

Idella Carlson

Given by

Stan & Marjorie Halvorson

Burt & Janet Hoffmann

School continued from page 2

prepared. Included in the excerpts are the names of the teachers who taught in the St. Peter public schools from 1899 through the late 1940s.

Additional information about teachers can be found in the available yearbooks.

Also of interest is a year-by-year list of all graduates of St. Peter High School that has been

placed on display, beginning with the class of 1880. It is a long list that contains the names of numerous members of the Historical Society, as well as the names of many of their friends and relatives.

In addition to images of current schools, the photographs in the exhibit include images of the first public school in St. Peter, as well as images of many other schools that once existed in the

city. For those of you who remember Lincoln School, it may be a surprise for you to learn that there had once been an earlier Lincoln School on the same site and that pictures of it have survived. The earlier school was destroyed by a fire in 1913.

Come and see the exhibit! It should bring back numerous memories of your school days!

Museum Musing... by Ceil Headlee



Nicollet County can boast of a rich history and heritage. At the Treaty Site History Center awareness of past events are presented to visitors through exhibits, photographs, videos, guided tours as well as access to the archive documents, written records and biographical information. What a wealth of information is housed within the walls of the Center.

Schools have released the students to the total care of their guardians, parents and grandparents. Don't let young minds grow stagnant during vacation. Several trips to the Treaty Site History Center will provide an ideal setting to encourage questions, while the staff can provide answers. Stimulate their curiosity about deceased family members. Bob Sandeen can help locate information about places and people who have left a legacy for all time. Help them to learn of the early pioneers who may be a part of their family tree.

In the gift shop, Renee has stocked the shelves with reading material for children of all ages. I suggest *Woodland Indians* and *Early American Trades* by Peter F. Copeland. Both are coloring books with informative text. A bilingual coloring book, *Great Lakes Fur Trade* by Chet Kozlak explains fur trading in an interesting easy style. These are excellent books for the 6–8 year olds. Charles A. Eastman, a full-blooded Indian boy, learned manners, patience and bravery while a member of the nomadic Sioux tribe (Dakota). He writes of his early years in *Indian Boyhood* a book suitable for the 10–12 year group.

Take advantage of our facilities during the vacation months and bring the children often. After visiting the Treaty Site History Center, we suggest you walk the trails leading through the site of the historic town of Traverse des Sioux. While enjoying the walk, you will be introduced to Dakota Indian culture and you too will arrive at “the place of crossing” otherwise known as Oiyuwege by the Dakota.

Parents, remember that “knowledge is power”. Keep the learning process growing. We at the Treaty Site History Center are ready to assist you with that task.

Children 12 years of age and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Members of NCHS are always free of charge.

Congratulations and Welcome Nancy Meyer!

Nancy has accepted the position at the Cox House. If you have any questions feel free to contact her at the following:

Nancy Meyer
40321 Co. Rd. 15
St. Peter, MN 56082
E-mail: meyersthree@copper.net
Phone: #931-1539

A Special Way of Remembrance

Show respect for your past with a memorial to NCHS for Mother's and Father's Days.

Your Mother and Father have given you a lot through the years, so wouldn't it be great to honor them with a gift that lasts?

Memorials to the Nicollet County Historical Society help us continue our work to “collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Nicollet County,” which includes the memory of its people.

Gifts can be designated to the NCHS Fund, Collections, Archives, Cox House, Harkin Store, or General Operations.

Honor your roots today!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Renee Schmidt
E-mail: nchs@hickorytech.net
Phone: 934-2160

–PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS–

Presbyterian Tour

Nicollet County and Presbyterian Church historian Herb Poncin will coordinate a driving tour of former and present Presbyterian sites in this area. Plan to join us on Sunday, June 29 at 2 p.m. for refreshments and introductory remarks at the History Center. Then load your friends and neighbors into your car and follow Herb's written guide to sites nearby. Transportation also available.

We'll See You at the Nicollet County Fair!

Those shadowy characters you met at the crossing last fall will be appearing again at the Nicollet County Fair. Bernard Bornemann, Edward Eggleston, Frank Mayer, Louis Provencalle, Rev. Riggs and others will present their stories of life at Traverse des Sioux. Historical crafts will also be demonstrated, including leatherworking, spinning, weaving and perhaps quilting and lace making. Please plan to visit us in the Johnson Building on Thursday and Friday nights of the County Fair—that's August 7 and 8 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The Program Committee would appreciate any volunteers who can demonstrate historical crafts or assist with arrangements and logistics on those evenings. Please contact Edi Thorstensson if you can help us.

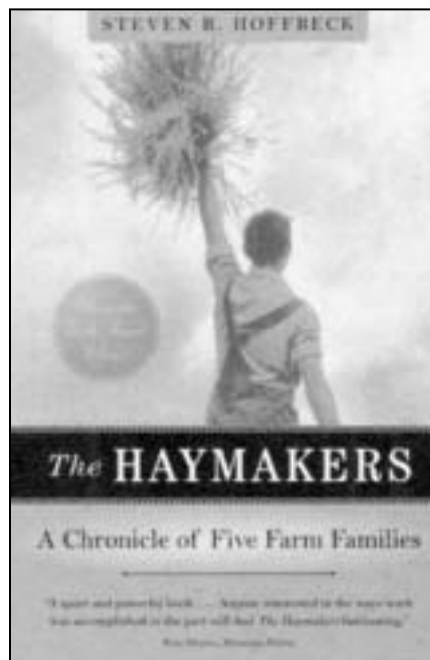
Nicollet County's Very Own Antiques Roadshow!

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of Nicollet County, the Program Committee invites you to share an antique or collectible item which reflects the history of this county. Dig out that unusual item and bring it along for "show and tell and identify"! Bob Herskovitz of the Minnesota Historical Society will be with us to offer identification and preservation hints. We invite you to tell us the story of some item(s) which is unique and/or special to you.

For this program, we're moving to the country. In an effort to meet our rural Nicollet County friends, this program will be held at the Nicollet Conservation Club on Sunday afternoon, September 14. Mark your calendar and watch for more details!

Shadows at the Crossing—2003

This year's great outdoor event is scheduled for Saturday evening, October 11. Meet those characters who once lived and worked in Traverse des Sioux and now return to tell their stories. You met Bornemann, Eggleston, Mayer, Provencalle, Sibley, Rev. Riggs and Nancy McClure last fall. Some of them will return in 2003 and will be joined by others including the Myrick Brothers ("...let them eat grass"), Captain Dodd and Gov. John A. Johnson. Don't miss it!



Haymakers—

Get a head start on our October program. Later in October we plan to host a program by Steve Hoffbeck of MSU Moorhead. Professor Hoffbeck will present a program from his book entitled *The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families*. Copies of his book are available for sale in the gift shop. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase the book, read it over the summer and join us in October for Mr. Hoffbeck's presentation. Watch for confirmed date and more details.

Upcoming Harkin Store and NCHS Programs

Through summer	St. Peter Schools Exhibit	TSHC Exhibit Room
June 15	Quilting Bee <i>Watch quilting demonstrations and learn about the skills necessary to make them in hands-on activities.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
June 29	The Presbyterian Church in Nicollet County <i>Meet at the History Center for refreshments and introductory comments then follow the written guide to sites nearby.</i> 2 p.m.	Treaty Site History Center
June 29	Concertina Party <i>ALL MUSICIANS ARE WELCOME! (Concertina Club) Come and sit-in for an afternoon of fun.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
July 6	Patriotic Celebration <i>Celebrate Independence Day at the historic general store with a cannon salute, music, speeches, watermelon and homemade ice cream.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
July 27	Bagpipes <i>Traditional Scottish and German Bohemian Bagpipe musicians.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
August 3	24th Annual West Newton Day <i>Music and assorted craft demonstrations. Enjoy in the setting of an 1870s general store.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
August 7–8	NCHS at the Nicollet County Fair <i>Come visit our booth in the Johnson Building.</i>	Nicollet County Fairgrounds
August 10	Music by Hummdingers & Cast Choir <i>Common kitchen utensils and washtub bass. Cast choir sing-alongs.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
August 31	Back to School – sale & visit with teachers <i>All items discounted. Rural School teachers and a Spelling Bee for different age groups.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free. <i>Everyone wins a prize!!!</i>	Harkin Store
September 7	Preparing for Winter <i>Demonstrations of common everyday activities pioneers did to prepare for winter, i.e. food drying, making sauerkraut, quilting, etc.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
September 14	NCHS's Own Antiques Roadshow <i>See story on page 5 and watch for more details!</i>	Nicollet Conservation Club
September 28	Button Box Jamboree <i>The Button Box Club from Glencoe will be performing. Any musicians welcome.</i> 1–4 p.m. \$2 for adults; children, NCHS, and MHS members admitted free.	Harkin Store
October 11	Shadows at the Crossing–2003 <i>See story on page 5 and watch for more details!</i>	Treaty Site History Center
October TBA	The Haymakers – <i>See story on page 5 and watch for more details!</i>	Treaty Site History Center

WANTED/NEEDED– Video Assistance

The Program Committee needs your help in preserving a video recording of future programs held at the Treaty Site History Center. Would you be willing to videotape programs for us? Or do you have equip-

ment you could donate—video-camera, tripod, tapes? Our programs are of excellent quality. The committee would like to provide a permanent record for the Society as well as a means for members to view programs which they were unable to attend, either in their home or on St. Peter Public Access.

Approximately six programs per year are held. If you would be willing to record programs with your own equipment or donate equipment for us to use, it would be sincerely appreciated. Please contact John Christenson or Brenda DeBlicke. You may also leave a message at the Center–934-2160.

Membership Application

Name _____ My check is enclosed Please debit my credit card

Address _____ Account Number _____

_____ Expiration _____

Phone (_____) _____ Authorized Signature _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to:
Nicollet County Historical Society

Yes! I would like to support my Nicollet County Historical Society in 2003 at the following level (please circle).

Membership applications should be mailed to:
Nicollet County Historical Society
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082
Telephone: (507) 934-2160

Individual	\$ 30.00	Supporter/	
Family	\$ 45.00	Business	\$ 200.00
Sustaining	\$ 75.00	Benefactor	\$ 500.00
Patron	\$100.00	Life	\$1,000.00

Site Information:

Nicollet County Historical Society and the Treaty Site History Center

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082
 (507) 934-2160 • FAX: (507) 934-8715 • E-Mail: nchs@hickorytech.net

TSHC Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday	10 A.M.–4 P.M.
		Sunday	1 P.M.–4 P.M.
Archive Hours:	Year Around	Tuesday–Saturday	10 A.M.–4 P.M.
		Sunday	Closed

Consider the History Center as a unique meeting place for your group or organization. Contact our staff for information and reservations. Tours and programs are also available.

E. St. Julien Cox House

500 N. Washington Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082 • (507) 934-4309

Hours:	June, July & August	Thursday–Saturday	10 A.M.–4 P.M.
Admission (each site):		NCHS Members	No Charge
		Non-members	\$3.00
	Center and House on same day	Non-members	\$5.00
		Children 12 & under	Free
		Ages 13–18	\$.50

Large group tours arranged by calling TSHC at 934-2160.

Harkin Store

P.O. Box 112, New Ulm, MN 56073 • Phone (507) 354-8666

Hours:	May and September	Saturday and Sunday	10 A.M.–5 P.M.
	June, July, August	Tuesday–Sunday	10 A.M.–5 P.M.
Admission:		NCHS Members	No Charge
		Non-members	\$2.00

Nicollet County Historical Society

1851 N. Minnesota Avenue
 St. Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Gustavus Adolphus College

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Newsletter Coordinator Renee Schmidt
Newsletter Print Designer Eileen Holz
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