



BARN TALK

LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 13 Number 6

November - December 1996

Ye Olde Gift Shop is Stocked !!

Do your Christmas shopping hassle free at the Legler Barn Gift Shop.

There are many new and unique items available at the Gift Shop that will not only save you shopping time but more importantly you will be supporting the Historical Society as well.

Kansas Pottery, colorful glass bluebirds and cardinals, LHS Quilter's pillows, quilts "jam" and Payne KC tile adorn the shelves. New books include "What About Kansas City", "Trails of Thread-A Woman's Westward Journey", and new in the series by Lynda Hubalek is "Stitches of Courage". For Trail buffs-"The Road to Santa Fe" is a classic.

Many stocking stuffers for the children and even a sales table with bargain items in the Heritage Room!

Too much to choose from? - we have Gift Certificates too!

Come, see us at the Legler Barn Gift Shop. In beautiful Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park, 14907 West 87th St. Parkway.

Happy Holidays from the
LHS Staff !!

1996

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Nov 19 General Membership Meeting

Note: Legler Barn Museum - TUESDAY

Janet Bruce Campbell, Curator
Johnson County Museum of History
"Seeking the Good Life - Johnson
County - 1820 thru' 1996"

Rich Lippincott will make brief
comments regarding the
implementation of a Local Historic

Register of residences in Lenexa

Potluck Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are required - seating is
limited. Call the Legler Barn
at 492-0038.

Nov 25 - Old Town Lenexa Lighting
Ceremony

Dec. 7 Sat. Children's Old Fashioned
Christmas Party 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Legler Barn Museum

1997

February 14, 1997, Soup Luncheon
FRIDAY - 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lenexa Community Center

The HOOKED RUG* PAST AND PRESENT

Rug hooking is one of a small handful of truly indigenous arts. A relatively recent innovation, the making of rugs by securing strips of cloth in a loosely woven base material first became popular in mid-nineteenth-century New England. Yet unlike quilt making with which it shares a humble origin, rug hooking has only recently begun to attract the attention of collectors and curators. Today these graphic, often charmingly naive pieces are highly prized for their striking designs, craftsmanship and social significance.

As with most home-grown crafts, rug hooking was born out of necessity coupled with a desire for creative expression. Just as early American homemakers pieced together scraps of fabrics both old and new to make patchwork quilts, strips cut from worn clothing were used to create hooked rugs. However, unlike quilts, which were subjected to repeated washings and which rarely survived hard use in good condition, sturdy hooked rugs often withstood constant use for a hundred years or more, passing from one generation of the next virtually unaltered.

While rural women originally made rugs to cover bare floors, later rug hookers often created pieces specifically in order to sell them. Many, especially those living in poor or isolated communities, formed cottage industries for this purpose, exporting their finished pieces to more affluent, urban areas. This brought income to families during lean winter months and served to relieve boredom as well. This profitable outlet for hooked rugs led to even greater popularity for the craft.

(cont.)

During the Depression, rug hooking came into its own as a diversion or leisure-time activity. Experts and teachers formed classes to teach the rudiments of rug hooking and women took up the craft as a means of personal expression rather than as a source of income. By the 1940's rug hooking was well established as a hobby and classes became a popular pastime for many women.

* Source:

Hooked Rugs, An American Folk Art by Leslie Linsley
Submitted by Jean Johnson, Local Creator & Exhibitor

BASKETWEAVING CLASSES OFFERED

Robbie Wisdom, who demonstrated basketweaving at the Heartland Trails Festival, will be teaching classes on basketweaving in the Heritage Room at Legler Barn.

Classes will start on February 1, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. and last 4 to 5 hours. Participants will complete their own basket during the session.

The schedule and prices are as follows:

Feb. 1 - Starter Basket at \$23.00,

Feb. 8 - Market Basket at \$40.00,

Feb. 15 - Round Basket with
rope handle at \$37.00.

The price includes the materials and instruction.

INTERESTED? Call **Connie Andrews**

at 894-1376 to sign up for the first or
all three classes.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

At the November General Meeting, LHS Members will be voting on the following persons for two year terms on the LHS Board of Directors. For reelection are Doug Bartley, Rita DeBrabander and Norman Keech. Selected to replace Eleanor Boley and Lorraine Hill are Pat Lierly and Frank Andrews. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

THANKYOU GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1400

It was a bright and sunny day on October 5, 1996, when members of Girl Scout Troop 1400 converged on the Northern Pacific Caboose on the Museum Grounds. The day wasn't any brighter than the sixth graders from Christa McAuliffe School as they attacked the Caboose with ladders, buckets of soap and water and a lot of elbow grease!

Troop 1400's mission that day was to donate their time and energies to the Lenexa Historical Society as a community service project. The big, steel Caboose was rendered slick and clean by their enthusiasm and hard work. If you think washing your car is a chore - try a caboose!

On behalf of the Lenexa Historical Society, I wish to thank the following Girl Scout Troop 1400 members for their efforts:

Gloria Lane - Leader, Janet Arnold - Adult Helper, and Scouts Lindsey Arnold, Kelly Holtz, Molly Girten, Kerry Knight, Nikki Linn, Bri Lane, Laura Pfautch, Megan Delbecchi and Katherine Schupp.

Jim Peterson, Business Manager

SOD HOUSE COMPLETED

The sod house on the Lenexa Historical Society grounds has been completed by members of the Luke Savage Scout Troop 401 and Jon Wear Scout Troop 93. The sod house dates back to the 1860's when pioneers homesteaded on the western plains of Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas where trees were virtually non-existent.

This house is typical of the houses built, with outside dimensions of 12 by 14 feet with 2 foot thick walls of sod. Not much space, 80 square feet, when compared to the typical house today of 3000 plus square feet! There were over a million houses built on the midwest prairie by the pioneers.

Ask Frank Andrews about "soddies" - he's the resident expert!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Just in time for Christmas!!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be sponsored by Lenexa Historical Society again this year. The dates for the project are Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15.

Project Chairman, Doug Bartley, reported that the Book Fair will be held at **Schnucks Market** on 87th St. and Pflumm from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. both days.

Books featured at the Scholastic Book Fair are carefully chosen and special attention is given to find books that appeal to all readers.

Funds generated by the Book Fair will be used by the Society to promote the preservation and appreciation of Lenexa's historic heritage.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO STAFF THE BOOK FAIR. CALL DOUG BARTLEY AT 541-8267 OR LEGLER BARN AT 492-0038

EARLY LENEXA FAMILIES REVISITED

by Beryl L. Hennigh

OTTO & BARBARA TAESCHNER came to the Lenexa community in 1889 near 8630 Quivira Road where they operated a Dairy Business. The Taeschners had six children, Kathryn, Pauline, Otto, Carl, August and Will.

They later relocated to the 13735 W. 87th St. Pkwy. address southwest of the 87th and Pflumm intersection. The stone residence was built in 1909 following a smaller wooden frame home. It still stands today at the above address overlooking 87th St.

The home remains occupied by a Taeschner descendent, Hildred Taeschner Reents, granddaughter of Otto and Barbara Taeschner. Hildred was born in this home and is one of the very few Lenexa residents who can make that statement. She is a talented musician and a retired teacher in the Lenexa District 46 schools.

Lenexa Historical Society
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