

## Jerry Shaw of Kansas Humanities Council Speaks November 18

by Beryl Hennigh

Jerry Shaw, an instructor of the Minority Studies Program, Wichita State University will be the guest speaker at the Tuesday, November 18 Dinner Meeting of the Lenexa Historical Society. This type of program is made possible by the Kansas Humanities Council.

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**Times:** 6:30 p.m.—Potluck Supper  
7:30 p.m.—Program by Jerry  
Shaw

**Where:** Schneberger Hall of the Lenexa United Methodist Church, 9138 Caenen Lake Road in downtown Lenexa.

**Reservations:** LHS members and friends are welcome, but are asked to call in their reservations to the Museum Office, 492-0038.

Prof. Shaw will be speaking on: "Freedom to Worship: Native American Perspectives." For over 90 years, Native Americans have sought to overcome societal misunderstandings and laws that have restricted their freedom of religion. This



*Jerry Shaw*

talk explores Indian religious values and controversial issues such as the use of peyote in the Native American Church and the preservation of sacred lands.

Prof. Shaw is an instructor in the Minority Studies Program at Wichita State University, where he has taught since 1972. A graduate of Kansas State University, he received an Excellence in Teaching Award from Wichita State in 1991. He also received the Leo Reano Memorial Award from the National Education Association in 1985 in recognition of his service to young Indian people.

Prof. Shaw is a member of the Osage tribe and was elected to the Osage National Council in 1994. He served for 10 years as a board member of the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita and is active in numerous community service organizations. Prof. Shaw makes more than 50 educational presentations a year to museums, schools, and conferences on Indian history, arts, dancing, and health. He joined the Kansas Humanities Council Speakers Bureau in 1995.

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# Letter From the New Museum Director

Greetings to all "Barn Talk" readers! I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself: I'm **Kiersten F. Latham, the new Museum Director at the Legler Barn Museum complex.** I've only been here for a couple of weeks, and already I love it! The museum holds such great resources and the members of LHS are super people.

Originally, I am from southern Michigan, near Detroit. But I have been in Kansas since 1993 and recently married a Kansas native, so I consider Kansas my home (not to mention the fact that I love this state). I received my bachelor's degree in anthropology in 1992 from the University of Michigan, went overseas to work for a year, then returned to the states, where I began graduate school at the University of Kansas. Currently, I am finishing up a master's degree in museums studies at KU.

I discovered my love for museums at an early age and it was no surprise when I became interested in them as a career. I have taken some detours here and there, but nothing that ever brought me far away from museums. My background in museums includes eight years of experience: I've been a curator, program coordinator, and researcher, among many other things. I've been employed by or volunteered in so many museums, I can't even count it anymore. In addition, I am one of those lucky people who has experienced not only museum work in several states in America, but in other countries as well, including South Africa and France. My travels have brought me much knowledge about all types of museums, large and small.



**Kiersten Latham**

For me, museums are the best vehicle for preserving our past and surroundings while educating the public about these things in an interesting (and hopefully, enjoyable) way. I've been proud of every museum I have worked in, and I suspect that will be true of my experience at Legler Barn Museum as well. I look forward to being a part of the growth and success of the Legler Barn Museum complex. The future of this museum is exciting and I hope everyone can share in the excitement of the days to come.

If you get a chance, stop by the museum and introduce yourself to me. I'd love to meet and chat with all the readers of "Barn Talk."

—Kiersten

## Sympathy Extended to the Family of Howard William Boehm

by *Beryl Hennigh*

Memorial services and interment for longtime Lenexa Historical Society member Howard William Boehm were held October 23 from the Amos Chapel South in Lenexa. Burial was in the Lenexa Protestant Cemetery, 8805 Plumm Road. He is survived by his wife, Jerry Boehm; one daughter, Cindy Kirschner of Olathe; two grandchildren, Adam and Amie; sister, Gladys Blackwell; two brothers, Harold and Arthur Boehm, all of Olathe. Family has requested memorials to the Leukemia Society or the Olathe Medical Center Hospice.

# From the President

by Irv Hoffman

The remaining months of 1997, and 1998, promise to be an exciting time for our organization. For the first time in our brief history, we have a professional to head our museum.

**Kiersten Latham** is a bright young woman who will bring new ideas and exceptional expertise to our museum. She is an energetic and personable woman with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. We are very fortunate to have found such a person. All of you will have an opportunity to meet her at the November 18th General Meeting.

For the record, we interviewed 12 candidates for the role of Museum Director. All had degrees in history and/or museum director. Needless to say, the Executive Board made a great selection.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of six candidates for the General Meeting. Five are for two-year terms and one will fill the unexpired term of Doug Bartley. Doug will be missed. He always brought new ideas and was a willing worker and a team player.

Our business meeting will follow the program at the General Meeting because myself and some other board members will be attending the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting of the City Council. The Committee will be discussing the Pay for Performance Agreement with the Historical Society. Last month's meeting of the committee was very productive. Hopefully we will have a new agreement in effect by year's end.

In other news, we have extended the museum's hours of operation on Wednesdays to 6:30 p.m. to accommodate students.

We have reached an agreement with the

Chamber of Commerce and the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department on Lackman-Thompson House Tours. The tours will be held on the third Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on the third Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00.

The Off-site Storage Committee of **Norman Keech, Pat Lierly, and Bette Wasser** inventoried and identified several items to be moved to **Sebring (Old Lenexa Hotel)** for storage. We are thankful to **Seaton Van Lines**, who provided free moving services and to **Dave Edwards**, owner of Sebring, for donating the space. Also a special thank you to **Frank Andrews** and **Norman Keech** who arranged the first move, and to **Bob Rose** and **Norman Keech** who arranged and moved all the materials in the second move.

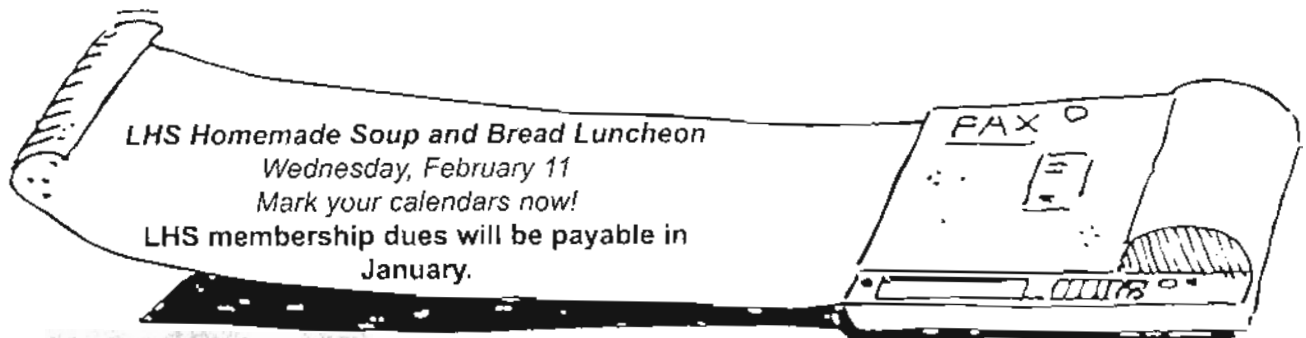
As a result of their efforts, the quilters have additional space on the second floor and we have partially solved our space problem. The Board elected to discontinue rental of the Heritage Room to provide additional office and archive storage.

We are very fortunate to have two wonderful employees in **Beryl Hennigh** and **Elaine Taylor**. When our business manager took a new job on very short notice, **Beryl** and **Elaine** were life-savers. Elaine learned an entire new business and accounting system and agreed to work 30 hours a week. For the past three months, she has proven to be a very effective business manager.

**Beryl**, in addition to her duties as Historian, took on extra responsibilities and lent her years of knowledge and expertise to the effort. Our thanks to both of them for their dedication.

See you at the General Meeting.

—Irv



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*The following poem was contributed to LHS by John Connor of Overland Park, who is the great-grandson of the author. The poem first appeared in the "Lenexa News," November 1908.*

### **The Presidential Election**

by John Connor, Lenexa resident

The battle is over, the smoke cleared away,  
Which gives a clear view of the field;  
William H. Taft is the hero today  
While Bryan, reluctant, will gracefully yield.

The will of the people expressed at the polls,  
The country is bound to obey;  
As returns come in, the majority rolls,  
Taft has sure won the day.

The battle was fought in broad, open day;  
Each party had marshaled its clan;  
Well drilled and equipped, prepared for the fray,  
Marched every available man.

Ballots, not bullets, were the weapons used,  
In the great bloodless contest just o'er;  
I hope the great Franchise was not abused—  
Each man has one shot and no more.

The battle is over, we are all at peace,  
The people have chosen their man;  
The party defeated, accepts with good grace,  
As only Americans can.



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