



From the President

by Katie Evans

Well, the Barn budget talks continue among the city administrator, LHS, and the Lenexa city governing body, and the figure will change again before all is said and done. The figure I gave you in a letter sent in early July is NOT the final amount the city is giving the Barn.

However, the postage wasn't wasted, because I felt it was important to tell the membership as soon as possible that the proposal to take the Barn in-house in 2000 had been withdrawn for the present. It could be made again in the future, and probably will.

At our May membership meeting, I told members that we would be having a meeting with city administrators in June to talk about it, and since that didn't happen, I wanted to explain why. I thought waiting until this newsletter came out or our July membership meeting was too long. The Executive Committee agreed that sending a letter was the best course of action.

I will update you on the situation as much as I can at the July membership meeting. A decision should be forthcoming in late July.

History Presentations

So far, I've given two slide presentations to area groups, and have two more on the calendar (one is in 2000!). It's fun to meet new Johnson County citizens and inform others of Lenexa's interesting history. So far, I've gotten a free meal out of the deal, so who says there aren't any perks to it?

The first presentation I gave was at Lakeview Village. There were many in the audience who told me so many interesting things about Lenexa's past that weren't in the slide presentation. I learned a lot that night myself. Special thanks to Genevieve Williams for her many fascinating anecdotes!

If teaching others about Lenexa, and learning things yourself, sounds like something you'd enjoy, call me at 268-4606. I would be glad to share my notes and scripted narration with you.

BBQ Festival Parking

Because we couldn't use the lot at 87th and Lackman for a fundraiser this year, Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department offered us the

July General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 27
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:00
Legler Barn Museum
14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy.
Lenexa, KS

THIS IS A PICNIC MEETING.

This is our only meeting with a meal this year. There is no need to phone in your reservations. Our Telephone Committee will call you to see if you are coming and what you'd like to bring.

The program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council. Cathy Ambler will present "Why Save the Past? Communities and Historic Preservation."



This should be a very interesting program. As always, guests and friends interested in history are welcome.

revenue from another lot east of the Barn (near the pool) on Wednesday before the event. Bob and Dorothy Rose quickly gathered a group of volunteers and staffed the lot the night before the contest and the day of. They took in a whopping \$1,900!

Thanks very much to the following volunteers who agreed to work on short notice: the Roses, Bob Lillie, Frank Andrews, Bette Wasser, Paul Coole, Pat and Bill Lierly, and Jean Seifert.

Thanks also to the LP&R for the opportunity. We appreciate it!

July 4th Parade

Because a flat-bed trailer that was long enough to haul the prairie schooner couldn't be found, we had to cancel our entry in the Community Days parade. We appreciate, though, the many hours Kenny Reeves and Angelo Miño devoted trying to find one.

Barn News

T-shirts in the Gift Shop

T-shirts featuring the new LHS/LBM logo are now available at the LBM Gift Shop. These are 50/50 heavyweight cotton/polyester in an attractive harbor blue color.

Orders are also be taken at the Barn and at membership meetings. Available sizes are S—XL, at \$10 each plus tax, and XXL at \$11.50 each plus tax. Stop in and order yours today!

Photos Needed

Please help us with our new program to get a "Snapshot in Time" of Lenexa as it leaves this century. If you are interested in driving around the community taking pictures (outside and inside) of regular everyday things happening in Lenexa, please call Kiersten at the Barn, 492-0038. We can provide you with camera and film. Call today, it should be loads of fun!

Call for Spinach Photos of the Past

We sorely need any photos from past Spinach events. The older the better (but new ones are good, too!) If you have negatives or original photographs that you think we'd like to copy, please call the Barn, 492-0038. As always, if you have artifacts from past Spinach events, we would take donations of those as well. Even funny things like napkins with logos, to signs, can help us out.

Need to Call an Officer/Board Member?

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Pres. Katie Evans | 268-4606 |
| Pres.-elect Mary Kay Smith | 888-0144 |
| Vice Pres. Angelo Miño | 438-3364 |
| Sec. Nancy Heeney | 888-4059 |
| Treas. Jim Peterson | 648-2043 |
| Frank Andrews | 894-1376 |
| Susan Hoffman | 894-5379 |
| Josie LeCluyse | 888-5103 |
| Bill Markman | 888-5562 |
| Jim Spaith | 631-2502 |
| Kenny Reeves | 894-9426 |
| Ex-Officio Pat Lierly | 888-5645 |
| Legler Barn Museum | 492-0038 |

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for attending the Depot on Fridays and Saturdays after July 30. The hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 both days. It would be ideal if someone could commit to the same day every month—once a month is good, twice is even better.

Also, a Sunday front desk attendant at the Barn is needed for August 8 and 15. The person who regularly does it is going to be gone.

If you haven't yet been contacted by our Telephone Committee, but would like to volunteer, please call Kiersten at the Barn, 492-0038.

The Strang Station building at the Barn complex is full of LHS documents and stuff that need to be sorted. If you are good at organizing and have a few hours a week to spend, please consider volunteering for this important project. It is important because the significant items in that building need to be stored properly. Kiersten will give you some direction on what to save. Please call her at the Barn if you

In Memoriam

Long-time LHS member **Hildred Reents** died June 24. Hildred was the daughter of Carl and Lulu Taeschner. She was born in the stone house on top of the hill on 87th St., where she lived at the time of her death. She is survived by son Ronald, of Massachussettes, and daughter Judy, of Lousiana, plus 12 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our condolences go to her family and friends. Hildred will be missed by many.

Spinach and Trails Festival

September 11 • 9:00-5:00

Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park

87th and Lackman

Food • Crafts • Antiques •

Demonstrations

Don't miss it!



Our Museum Director, Kiersten F. Latham, was named the person who had done the most to promote tourism in Lenexa in 1998. She was given the award at the Convention and Visitors' Bureau picnic celebration May 19 at Shawnee Mission Park. CVB Director Jan Peters praised Kiersten for her tireless efforts in informing others about the improvements at Legler Barn Museum, and about Lenexa in general. Every LHS member congratulates Kiersten for a job well done!

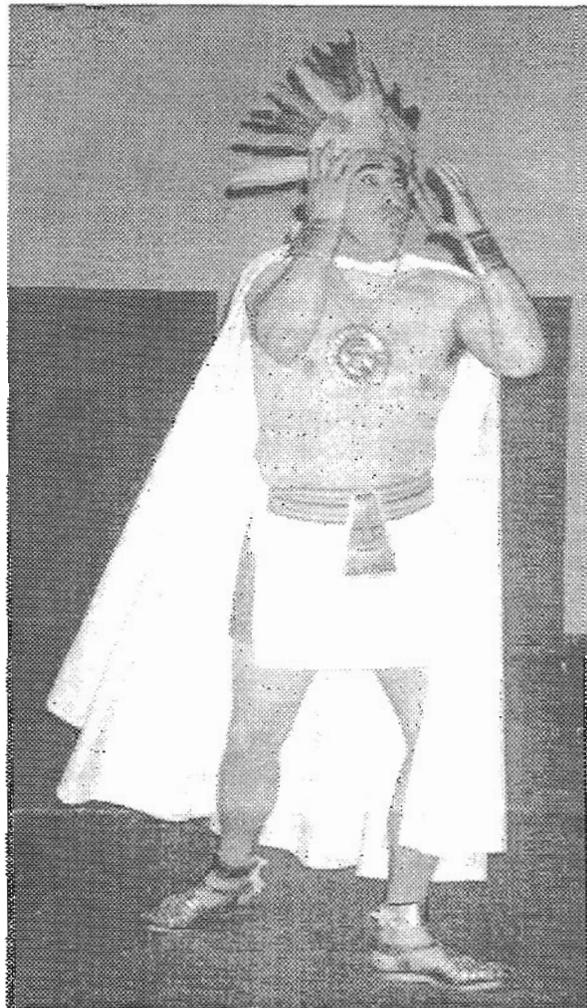
You're Invited

How long has it been since you attended an LHS membership meeting? If you can't remember the last time, it's time to reacquaint yourself with us. This year, we have taken the suggestion from members to have only refreshments instead of a meal. This month's picnic is the only exception.

Meetings start with the program, then refreshments, followed by any LHS business. Meetings generally last around two hours.

It's a great time to visit with old members, and get to know new ones. Find out about volunteer opportunities. The programs are always interesting and informative, and the cookies and brownies are not to be missed!

Please come to our next meeting. Guests are always welcome. We'd love to see you again, or for the first time!



The program at the May membership meeting was a one-man play written and performed by our Vice President, Angelo Miño. The play was titled "Atahualpa, the Last Inca." Angelo portrayed Atahualpa, who told the tale, sometimes poignantly, sometimes passionately, of the Incas' life before and after the invasion of the Spanish. The play incorporated music, and intricate whistling by Angelo. The unusual whistling was a dialect from the jungle. Photo by Sharon Hammontree, LBM volunteer.

LHS wishes a speedy recovery to **Newton Smith**, who has been in the hospital since June. Get well soon, Newton, from all your friends at LHS!

July 4, 1908, Lenexa, KS

by Katie Evans

In the summer of 1908, Adam Legler's grandson, Ed, was 12 years old. For two months, Ed chronicled his daily activities in a red diary. His descendant, Edvina Legler, typed it verbatim, where it can be read today by visitors to the Legler Barn Museum's Heritage Room. The diary itself is on display on a wall in the Depot.

Edvina's task was surely laborious, since Ed spelled phonically. His grammar, too, reveals a shortchanged education. For ease in reading, I have translated Ed's words into modern spelling in the following excerpts from his diary. His vernacular, however, is original.

If you have time, read Ed's diary in its original form. It is not only a fascinating window into early 20th century daily life, but also into our very own town's past, and that of the Leglers, Wulfskuhl's, and Brashlers, whom Ed knows.

Sat., July 4. Hooray for the fourth of July and it didn't rain and we didn't have to cut oats. Me and Dolly jumped out of bed this morning before Pa called us to get up and the sun wasn't yet up, and then we shined our boots til they was as bright as the sun pretty near, and put on our Sunday clothes and then we popped some fire crackers and breakfast was ready and we ate in a mighty hurry...and then me and Dolly run lickety cut down to Uncle Bill's and Grip and Slogar had done done their chores and ate breakfast and was dressed up...Lou Brashler come and he had his pockets full of fire crackers and we popped some more. Charley Baker and Uncle Henry and Clark Moore and George Brown come along a riding their ponies and they stopped in front of the house. Pa and Ma come in the big wagon and Uncle Bill and Aunt Margaret come and Mr. Brashler and his children and his wife and a lot more come and then about nine o'clock Dolly yelled jiminy gosh its a coming, lookey lookey, and we run out in the big road ... and the procession was pretty near a mile

long, and they had banners a waving and flags a flying and the crowd cheered and cheered and cheered and shot loose some fire crackers. We then got into our wagons and followed the procession til we come to Craig's timber where the picnic was to be held...Then some fellers built a stand and made bright red lemonade and had prize boxes and pop corn and peanuts and candy and cigars to sell. George Brown got on a stump and yelled Right this away to get your red lemonade made by a old maid with a rusty old spade...Then some fellers climbed trees and put up a swing and me and Lou Brashler got in a swing and commenced to pump up til we was a going so high some women got scared and said gee ain't them fellers reckless and ain't they a going mighty high up but we didn't pay no attention to 'em and went right on til we was so tired we couldn't do it no more.

It was then dinner time and they all spread pretty red table cloths on the ground and got their baskets from the wagons and put down the virdles, and we had the best dinner I ever seen. We had 6 kinds of pie. Right after dinner them Wulfskuhl fellers come to the picnic and they had on shoes.

About 1 o'clock we all crowded around the big platform and Mr. Murray the preacher made a mighty fine speech about the fourth...and when he got through we all sung a song which was called "America" and then a pretty girl...read a long story about something which was done pretty near a hundred years ago in Philadelphia or some town and Morton Murray says it was the Declaration of Independence, and then we sung another song which was Columby the Gem of the Ocean. Mr. Gillett then made a short speech and Mr. Hampton sang a song by himself and 2 fellers and a couple of girls sung some pieces and that was about all...We went down to Little Injun creek which was not far and went in a swimming, and them Wulfskuhl fellers went too...

Then we went over to a hornets nest to rob it. Lou Brashler took a stick and snuck up to it, and just as he was a going to stick it in the hole the watchman flew out and Lou Brashler run like the dickens. Then Herman said...let me do it and he done it but he got one of his eyes swelled shut a doing it.

We went on and as we come to a rock pile, old Watch was a smelling around and wagging his tale pretty much and we knowed he had got something chased in the rocks..We commenced to move the rock pile and pretty soon old Mart said great gehosephat it must be a dozen stink cats in there...Old Watch who was a warching grabbed 2 little stink cats and shook 'em til they was dead and they made a terrible smell and we then went to the picnic and everyplace we went we could smell stink cats and some old women turned their noses up and said pew.. Uncle Bill smelled us and he said plague on it you been a killing polar cats again...Pa looked mighty mad too and I thought we was a going to get licked but we didn't.

Lenexa Historical Society
14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy.
Lenexa, KS 66215-4135

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