

Bern Jack
1999



From the President

by Katie Evans

At the January membership meeting, I told everyone a little about myself, since I don't know many of you personally. I'll recap briefly for those who didn't attend. I've lived in Lenexa almost six years, moving here after living north of the river 19 years. I have been an LHS member four years. I quit working full time five years ago, after 19 years at Hallmark Cards. When I left, I was a writer and editor of internal communications for the Graphic Arts division. Now, I have a booth of antiques at Decorator's Showcase Antique Mall. My husband is CEO of Lenexa-based Cookbook Publishers, Inc.

So, what do I have in mind for LHS this year? My feeling is that our focus has gradually shifted over the years to fundraising and away from our mission of preserving and promoting interest in Lenexa history. I would like to see LHS give *more* to the community than we ask *from* it. My suggestion is to provide more free history-related services to the public.

For example, we have in our Gift Shop a booklet titled, "Lenexa: The First 125 Years." There are slides in our library that accompany this booklet. I am willing to become familiar with the information in that booklet and the slides, and do a presentation on Lenexa history to any civic or private club that asks for it. The presentation would be free as a community service.

I think such a service would give people a different, positive impression of LHS. It may also encourage new members.

I invite anyone else interested in this kind of activity to let me know. We could better serve organizations if several people were available. Also if you have other ideas about how LHS could serve our community, historically speaking, please call me or a Board member.

Another idea suggested by Mary Kay Smith is to develop a 10-15 minute skit on Lenexa history to present at community functions and festivals. I think this is an excellent suggestion, and made it one of our goals for the year. Again, anyone interested in participating is invited to call me.

By changing our focus, I hope to interest more members in volunteering for activities that support our mission statement. I also think it may encourage new, and frankly, younger members to join. We need them to pass the baton to for the future of LHS.

When younger potential members ask "What
(continued on page 3)

March General Membership Meeting

ART WALK

The Lenexa Arts Council presents
**A TOUR OF LENEXA ARTS &
A SERIES OF SLIDES**

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Schneeberger Hall in the Lenexa United
Methodist Church, 9138 Caenen Lake Rd.

The City of Lenexa has a significant collection of public art within the city. Judy Tuckness, Lenexa resident and chair of the city's Arts Council, will guide us through a visual tour. She will provide a commentary with a series of slides and the history and background of each piece.

Learn where these pieces of art are located:

- An elderly gentleman creating a frozen confection
- The State Animal of Kansas
- A giant serpent guard of Snake Island
- The symbol of the FOT resides here
- A free-wheeling sextet is an illusion
- A physical fitness example
- An aquatic exerciser
- When the cows came here, the bulls were close behind

COME AND REDISCOVER THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF LENEXA. Wait til the Discovery Channel hears about us!

A few of the activities the The Lenexa Arts Council participates in are:

- awards scholarships to senior high school students who are Lenexa residents and are planning to major in the Performing and/or Visual Arts.
- co-sponsors Art Van Go for community children
- Lenexa Artists' Show, with Premier Bank, in the bank's lobby
- Sponsors the placement of Lenexa artists' works in the State House in Topeka during the legislative session

Lenexa artists exhibiting in the '99 session are Tim Anderson, Keith Coffin, Ron Franzen, Gloria Hawkins, Shannon Manning, Mat McNary, Linda Menges, Karen Poe, and Judy Tuckness.

Refreshments, provided by LHS, will be served at the meeting. Please call 492-0038 to reserve a seat. Friends of members are always welcome!

Letter From Kiersten



*Kiersten Latham,
Legler Barn
Museum Director*

The Museum was awarded a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant in the amount of \$5,430 to \$6,190 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Heritage Preservation. This grant will allow us to hire two consultants, a collections specialist (conservator) and a historic architect, who will spend two days thoroughly assessing the museum's conservation needs.

The conservation assessment is a broad study of the policies, practices, and conditions that affect the care and preservation of our museum's collections. When the site visit is complete, the assessors will produce a report about their visit and make suggestions for improvement or reorganization. It is an important grant to receive, as it will give us a very important professional perspective in our long-term planning for the museum.

Additionally, we received an incredible donation from KU's Museum of Anthropology in the form of 12 museum exhibit cases and a podium. These cases, if we were to purchase them on our own, could cost us around \$8,000. We are extremely lucky to be the beneficiaries of this thoughtful gesture. Already, we have installed four of them in our "Lenexa Boom" exhibit, and plan to re-install several other permanent exhibits using these wonderful cases over the next few months.

In addition to the above, we are planning our museum education programs and policy, working on the 2000 budget, and creating a marketing plan for the museum to get the word out to our community, the Greater Kansas City area, and to the U.S. tourists.

Need to Call an Officer/Board Member?

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

Special Thanks to KU

The Legler Barn Museum and Lenexa Historical Society would like to express their gratitude to the Museum of Anthropology, University of Kansas for their incredible donation of over a dozen museum-quality exhibit cases. We could never achieve our goals at the museum if it weren't for kind donations such as this one. THANK YOU!

Barn News

Passport to Adventure Hunt at the Barn May 16 & 17

Join the fun the weekend of May 16-17 as 22 unique sites from the Interpretive Site Coalition of Greater KC offer you a passport to adventure! The "Hunt" is a great opportunity for families and other groups to get a taste of the tourist sites in your own backyard. You can pick up your passport booklets starting May 16 at any of the 22 sites, including Legler Barn Museum Complex, and proceed on to as many of the museums and interpretive centers as you'd like. Opening weekend, we will feature door prizes, including a drawing for the grand door prize, a special "site basket" from one of the other 21 Passport to Adventure sites. If you have bigger goals, visit at least six other sites in the Hunt, correctly answer their hunt questions, turn in the answer sheet by Father's Day, and you will be eligible for HUGE and WONDERFUL PRIZES! Passport to Adventure Hunt ends Father's Day weekend, so be sure to start on Mother's Day kick-off weekend. Hope to see you around!

Volunteers Needed

We are planning to open the Depot to the public on a regular basis starting this June and lasting through the end of September. Right now, we bring people over as requested and on tours.

Fridays and Saturdays from 11-3, we need volunteers to host the Depot and its exhibits. Those who can work on a regular basis are most desired. We will provide training about the Depot exhibits and greeting guests. Please call Kiersten if you are interested. If we don't get volunteers, we probably will not be able to open the Depot on such a schedule, so please call!

President

(continued from page 1)

will LHS do for me if I join?", the answer can be, "We'll help you learn more about history, and help you encourage others' interest, and not ask you to volunteer hours or days of your time for a fundraiser." Hopefully, this will help swell our membership with new faces, which is another goal for '99.

New Officers

Mary Kay Smith was elected Vice-President at our February Board meeting. Our by-laws require that the vice-president also take the Membership Chair. As such, Mary Kay is currently working on her first priority, that of producing a new directory this year.

Nancy Heeney was elected Secretary.

Board Resignation

Bernie McNichols resigned from the Board Feb. 15, and also from all other LHS activities. Since she was President Elect, we will have elected a replacement for her at the March Board meeting. (This is being written and printed before the meeting.) We will also have voted on a replacement Board candidate. The last position to fill due to Bernie's resignation is that of Spinach Festival Crafts Booth Chair. The Board is currently looking for someone. Since this is our biggest fundraiser, it's most urgent to fill this post. PLEASE consider volunteering if you have any experience on the committee, or if you just have an interest in crafts.

Spinach Festival Discussion

I will be out of town for our March Membership Meeting. At our May meeting, I want to hear your opinions on whether or not LHS will continue to sponsor the crafts booths at Spinach. It is a big job, and the whole committee has only four volunteers, one of those not even being an LHS member. So far, no one wants to be Chairman of

the crafts booths. (Greg Peterson is Chairman for the antique booths.)

Am I to assume that the lack of volunteers for such a big undertaking means we no longer care about it, and are through with our commitment to it? Am I to tell Lenexa Parks and Recreation that they may have it from now on? You tell me. If you feel strongly about it one way or the other, come to the meeting, but be warned: if you think LHS *should* continue to sponsor the booths, be prepared to volunteer for this year's committee, and beyond. Otherwise, if the consensus of the membership is to discontinue sponsorship, I will tell Bill Nicks the booths are his. I've already had a preliminary discussion with Bill. He said P&R would take over the responsibility in 2000.

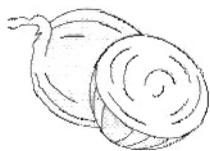
Plant Sale Canceled

As the year progresses, I plan to review with the Board our current fundraisers. I want to discuss the ratio of dollars and positive public service to time and volunteer energy spent. If the latter doesn't outweigh the former, I will urge the Board to discontinue them.

At the February Board meeting, we had such a discussion about the Plant Sale. Chairman Bernie McNichols reported that the supplier we had used in previous years was no longer willing to supply small sales. She spent hours on the phone trying to find another who would sell to us at affordable prices, plus take back unsold plants as our previous supplier had. Bernie was unsuccessful.

It was also pointed out that many schools and clubs have plant sales, and raising the prices to cover our costs may not be good for business. The Board took all that information into consideration, in addition to the annual problems of storing the plants overnight, and finding volunteers to staff the three-day event. Even though the Plant Sale has in the past made \$1400-2000, the volunteer hours and current obstacles don't justify having it. As a result, we voted not to have the Plant Sale this year.

Successful Soup Luncheon



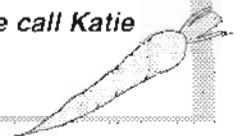
We knew the Soup Luncheon was a success when we ran out of soup with 20 minutes left of serving time. The total net profit was \$2,149.74.

During the luncheon, the Gift Shop took in \$111 and the Bake Sale garnered \$95. One new member joined that day.

Thanks to Chairman Pat Lierly, her right-hand-woman Rita DeBrabander, and to all the

many volunteers who cooked, baked, donated items and money, ran errands, served, bussed, washed, greeted, set up, cleaned up, tore down, and sold items. We appreciate your yearly generous, enthusiastic response. You made our luncheon happen!

If anyone left a white dinner plate with a gold rim at the dessert table, please call Katie Evans, 268-4606.



A Brief History of the Scherman Family

by Katie Evans

Since the Walter Scherman Farm, known as Mill Creek Stables, at 8440 Renner has been sold and is being developed into lots, here is a little history of the family.

The Lenexa Scherman family began in Geresdorf, Hungary, with the birth of Andrew in 1846. Originally, his name was VonSchermann. He arrived in Lenexa in 1867. Andrew worked on the railroad, hauling ties for the Frisco Railroad, driving a mule team for \$20 a month. He received a \$5 per month raise when ice formed regularly in his gloves.

Upon his mother's death, he inherited \$400. Andrew bought his own mule team and wagon, which he later sold to buy 40 acres from August Baumgardner.

Andrew married Magdalena Catherine Bleier in 1870. She, too, was from Hungary, born in 1844. At 22, Lena, as she was known, and her parents came to New York, where Lena worked as a domestic. The Bleiers came to Kansas in the late 1860s, buying 80 acres in west Lenexa.

Lena and Andrew were married in Father Pickler's Shawnee church. The county clerk misspelled her last name on the marriage license, writing it phonically as Blair. The Schermans had nine children between 1871 and 1888: William, Francis, Mary Ann, Andrew, Albert, Walter, Sophia, George, and Magdalena (Helen).

One of Andrew's grandchildren remembers him as having "squeaky shoes... and liked to grow flowers."

Andrew farmed and raised horses all his life. When he retired, his sons Walter and George stayed on the farm. Walter married and bought his own farm. George married, too, but stayed on the family farm.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 57
Shawnee Mission, KS

Lenexa Arts Council presents

Art Walk

Walking Tours of Sculpture in the Park

April 3 11:00—1:00

Sar-Ko-Par Park

(In case of rain, a slide presentation will be given)

This tour is in conjunction with the

**Legler Barn Museum's
temporary exhibit**

**"Pinnacles of the Plains:
Public Sculpture in Kansas"**

Runs April 3—May 23

Bernice F. Harvey died February 21 at Delmar Gardens in Overland Park. She was a charter member of the Lenexa Historical Society, and served as Lenexa Postmaster for a number of years. The Historical Society extends its sympathy to Bernice's family and friends.

Lena died in 1920, and Andrew followed a year later. The Scherman descendants have married other old Lenexa family names, such as Boehm, Honn, Macher, Zahner, and Linn. Some Schermans have chosen to drop the "c" and the second "n."

PASSPORT TO
ADVENTURE HUNT
KICK-OFF WEEKEND

May 8 & 9
Door Prizes!
Family Fun!
Adventure!

Stop by the Barn
for your Passports