



## From the President

by Katie Evans

I mentioned in the last "Barn Talk" that I was planning to become familiar with information in the booklet we have in our Gift Shop titled, "Lenexa: The First 125 Years." There are slides in our library that accompany this booklet. I am ready to begin offering a presentation on Lenexa history to any civic or private club that asks for it. The presentation is free as a community service. It lasts about 20-25 minutes. Please call me at 268-4606 to schedule a date. I'd be happy to bring Lenexa's history to your meeting.

If anyone else is interested in giving such a presentation, please call me. I am glad to share my notes and scripted narration with you. It would be nice to have several people available so we could serve more of the community.

## New Officers

Because of a vacancy on the Board, we shifted some officer positions at the March Board meeting. Mary Kay Smith was elected President-elect. Angelo Miño was elected Vice President. Susan Hoffman (see page 3) was elected to fill the vacant Board position.

## BBQ Festival Parking

The lot on the corner of 87th and Lackman has been recategorized from commercial use to agricultural for tax purposes. To us, that means it cannot be used for parking at the BBQ Festival in June. In general, it can't be used for anything other than agricultural activities, period. We will not be using that as a fundraiser anymore.

## Spinach Festival Discussion

As I said in the last "BarnTalk," we will be discussing at our May membership meeting whether or not LHS will continue to sponsor the crafts booths at Spinach. I hope a large number of members will come to discuss this important issue.

## July 4th Parade

At April's Board meeting, it was decided to enter the prairie schooner in Lenexa's parade. The theme of this year's parade is "Volunteers: The Heart of a Community." The plan is to have a banner made for the sides of the schooner that says something about how many hours have been contributed to the Barn by volunteers in '98. A chairperson is needed for this activity. If you can help, please call me at home.

## May General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 25  
7:00 p.m

Lenexa United Methodist Church,  
Schneeberger Hall  
9138 Caenen Road  
Lenexa, KS

\*Refreshments will be provided by LHS.

\*There is no need to phone in your reservations. Our Telephone Committee will call you to see if you are coming.

The program this month is titled "Atahualpa, The Last Inca." It is a play written by and performed by our Vice President, Angelo Miño. Angelo is from Ecuador and is the Honorary Consul for Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Arkansas. Angelo will be joined in the program by Francisco Witt, Ecuadorian Commissioner with the Ethnic Enrichment Commission.

The play is in English, Quechua, and Spanish, with a "Whistler" dialect from the jungle. Atahualpa is the last king of the Inca empire. Angelo will appear in a colorful, authentic costume.

The play promises to be unique and interesting. Members, friends, and guests are welcome.

## LHS at Farmers' Market in Old Town

by Pat Lierty

Beginning Saturday, May 8, LHS will participate at Lenexa's Farmers' Market. We hope this will give us exposure and the opportunity to let local residents know about the Legler Barn Museum and our efforts to preserve the rich history of Lenexa.

With this, we would expect to get new memberships and sell our history books. Also, perhaps we can sell some starts of plants in our flower gardens which have multiplied and need to be separated. I have lots of ground covers, sun and shade, that I would exchange for plant donations. Otherwise, they will go to the compost pile. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING WE COULD SELL? We would appreciate the interest and support of our members. Please call Pat Lierty at 888-5645. Thank you!

## Barn News

### 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.

### Thanks to the CVB

Special thanks to the Lenexa Convention and Visitors Bureau for all the many things they have done for LHS and Legler Barn Museum. We appreciate your partnership. Some of the nice things that CVB has done for us are paying for our membership in the Greater KC Attractions Association and other organizations, and for half of our Museum Director's fee in Leadership Lenexa. Thank you!



### Kiersten Graduates Twice

Our museum director, Kiersten Latham, graduated May 5 from

Leadership Lenexa. It is a three-month program offered by the city to develop chosen citizens into potential future leaders. Participants learned about our community, both local and state-wide. Sessions were devoted to such things as developing mental skills and motivational speakers.

Kiersten will also be graduating from KU in August with a master's degree in historical administration and museum studies. She has maintained a 4.0 grade average over the six years it has taken her to complete her degree. Congratulations, Kiersten!

### Barnyard Babes

This June and July, we are starting a free preschool program at the Barn. Barnyard Babes is a new class offered for children ages three to five. Activities will include crafts, story telling, songs and plays about the seasons, monthly holidays or the history of Lenexa and Legler Barn Museum.

Classes will run on two Wednesdays this summer, June 2 and July 7. Choose from the morning schedule, 10:30—12:00, or the afternoon schedule, 12:30—2:00. We are located on the southeast corner of 87th and Lackman, near Hen House Grocery and several shopping centers for convenient errand-running while your kids play.

Reserve a place for your child at least one week in advance by calling 492-0038. If we get good response to this program, we will continue classes into the fall.

### Depot Volunteers Needed

Starting in June, we would like to open the Depot exhibits to the public Friday and Saturdays from 11-3. This will last through September, but, we need volunteer interpreters to help greet guests and answer questions. If we don't get volunteers to help, we won't be able to open the Depot regularly, so give us a holler at the Barn!

### Are You Organized?

The Strang Station building at the Barn complex is full of documents and stuff that needs 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. Please call Kiersten at the Barn if you can help.

### 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

## LHS News

by Mary Kay Smith

### Telephone Committee

We have an active Telephone Committee whose members are Eleanor Boley, Roberta Bridges, Mildred Hunt, Ernestine Johnson, Carolyn Keech, Joan Markman, Jane Schmidt, Jean Siefert, Sue Wilson, and Newton Smith.

The committee calls members to remind them about LHS membership meetings and events. The committee also helps LHS to keep in touch with its members regarding illness, news, change in address, etc. The efforts of the committee are greatly appreciated.

### Rummage Sale

On the day of the Lenexa Barbecue (June 26), we will have a rummage table in front of the Legler Barn Museum. The sale will include discontinued merchandise from the Gift Shop. If members have small items, such as jewelry, books, or knickknacks (NO CLOTHING) to donate, please call Mary Kay at 888-0144.

### New Booklet About Lenexa's Name

LHS has recently published a booklet entitled "Lenexa's Namesake." It includes the research conducted by Jerry Winkelman,

Rodney Staab, and Charles Goslin on the origin of the name of Lenexa. Copies are available at the Barn Museum for \$1.

### New Items in Gift Shop

Newly arrived in the Gift Shop in the Barn Museum is a collection of pottery by a Flint Hills artisan from Marion, KS. This pottery is high quality Kansas art.

Hand-painted magnets and match holders, produced by an artist in Sutton, NE, are among other new items.

The Gift Shop features a nice selection of maps and books on Kansas and local history. A recent addition to the collection of maps is the 1874 map of Johnson County, which are \$3.50.

New toys are available for children. One of the most interesting is Jacob's Ladder. Adults love it, too.

Reminders: LHS members receive a 10% discount, and gift certificates are available. When you make a purchase in our Gift Shop, you are supporting LHS.

### T-shirts

LHS is celebrating its 25th anniversary in September. In preparation, t-shirts featuring the new LHS logo are being ordered. These are 50/50 heavyweight cotton/polyester in an attractive harbor blue color.

A sample will be available at the May membership meeting and also at the Legler Barn Museum. Orders will be taken. Available sizes are S—XL, at \$10 each plus tax, and XXL at \$11.50 each plus tax.

### Herb Garden

Now is the time to clean up the Barn's Herb Garden and do spring cleaning. Marie Hormann and her committee are working and can use some help. Anyone who wants to help should call Marie at 888-9822. Last year, the committee sold herbs and used the proceeds to buy an antique sundial for the garden. It should be installed soon.

### Susan Hoffman Elected to Board

Ten-year LHS member **Susan Hoffman** was elected to the Board in March. She moved here 14 years ago from Wichita, but is originally from Kansas City. She works at General Services Administration in Information Technology Services.



Susan will be filling in on the Board for the rest of the year in a vacated spot. Thank you, Susan, for your service on the Board.

# Kansas, 100 Years Ago

by Katie Evans

In the spring of 1898, young Kansas men were hastily preparing for war instead of planting. Among them was Lenexa resident **William Cornatzer**. He and other men mustered from the Kansas countryside were sent to Camp Merritt in San Francisco, California with little training and no uniforms. They were being prepared to fight in the Philippines in the Spanish-American War.

After the fall of Santiago, the regiment, named the 20th Kansas Volunteers, shipped out to the Philippines and served in Gen. Arthur MacArthur's Brigade. The Kansans were involved in 30 engagements in the campaign, and distinguished themselves with heroics such as hand-to-hand fighting and swimming rivers under fire in order to attack enemy positions.

At one point, MacArthur wired Washington: "Kansas is a mile ahead of the line, I will stop them if I can." The regiment lost more men than any other in the campaign, and after five months on the front line, earned the nickname "The Fighting 20th." MacArthur said they were the backbone of his brigade, and he submitted the names of 10 Kansans for the Medal of Honor.

On October 10, 1899, the regiment returned to San Francisco. Lenexa prepared a reception for its returning son, Quartermaster-Sergeant William Cornatzer, Co. C, 20th Kansas Volunteers. On November 2, the regiment arrived in Topeka, greeted by a 13-gun salute, a nine-band parade, and a reception and banquet attended by 75,000 people.

Sgt. Cornatzer returned to Lenexa November 4. On November 6, one of the largest gatherings in the town's history took place at the Methodist Episcopal Church to honor him. Sgt. Cornatzer was greeted enthusiastically and warmly by the crowd. He was escorted to the stage at the front of the hall while a chorus of young ladies sang "Be My Man or I'll Have No Man at All." A former Lenexa boy, Cpl. Peter Kelly, arrived unexpectedly from California, and was given a seat of honor next to Cornatzer.

The program included more music, a welcome address by Sam Haskins, followed by patriotic speeches by Rev. George Young, John Connor, Dr. G.M. Bower, and Professor Rigney. All brought cheers and applause from the crowd.

It's too bad all our residents who have risked their lives in military service can't be honored personally in such a way.

*Information for this article was contributed by John P. Connor, and can be found in the Barn's Heritage Room in a book titled "City of Lenexa,*

## PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE HUNT CONTINUES Through June 20

Get your official passport to the Fifth Annual Passport to Adventure Hunt at one of 22 participating sites, then take your family on a tour of historic and nature sites around the KC area. Your passport will be stamped at each location you visit. Answer questions about each site (you must visit at least six),

then turn in your passport and answer sheet to be eligible for a grand prize drawing.

Even if you can't make six sites by June 20, your passport is a concise guide to interesting sites right here in our area. Sites are staffed with knowledgeable people who can interpret history and the natural world to visitors.

Participating sites close to home are Legler Barn Museum, Ernie Miller Nature Center, Johnson County Museum of History, Lanesfield School Historic Site, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, Old Shawnee Town, and Wonderscope Children's Museum.

Lenexa Historical Society  
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Lenexa, KS 66215-4135

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