



## From the President

by Katie Evans

The final figure for the 2000 budget turned out to be \$58,000.

The Executive Committee of the LHS Board met with Mayor Joan Bowman August 30. This meeting was at her request to discuss how the Board feels about city management of the Barn.

In general, the Board favors it. Some of the reasons given in favor of relinquishing the burden of day-to-day operation were:

- Fewer LHS volunteers to take on tasks, both on-going and short-term
- LHS' diminished ability to staff fundraisers; perhaps apathy is a result of elimination of debt on the Barn? Maybe we're all just tired of it?
- LHS would be free to pursue other historical aspects we're interested in, rather than take all our time and money to operate the Barn

Mayor Bowman asked LHS to make a decision regarding this issue. LHS members will have a meeting(s) with city officials. This will be the time for all members to ask questions, voice concerns, and state opinions. If a majority of LHS members feel that this is the best course of action for the Barn, then the Board will write a letter of recommended action to the mayor. She and city officials will then begin writing a proposal for, more than likely, the 2001 budget.

By the time you read this, the Board will have discussed this issue further at the September 14th board meeting. All members will be notified of the details of the meeting(s) with city officials.

If you are interested in reading the minutes from the meeting with Mayor Bowman, they can be found in a binder labeled "1999 Board Minutes" at the Barn front desk.

## Spinach Festival

The Spinach and Trails Festival is over. We grossed approximately \$2,900 in food revenue. We sold out of 100 pounds of Wimpy Burgers, 200 pounds of Spinach Salad, and all but one gallon of dip at the Spinach Cafe.

The LBM Quilters earned \$1,923 from the raffle of their magnificent quilt. Lucky Lenexa resident Robert Musgrave won it. Coincidentally, his wife, Wava, has been an LBM quilter for years, though she has been inactive for awhile because of poor health. THANKS, QUILTERS!

We took in \$3,700 for 74 crafts/antiques

## September General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 28

Program 7:00

Lenexa United Methodist Church

\*Wesley Room

9138 Caenen Lake Road

Lenexa, KS

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

\*Please enter from the west side parking lot off 91st Terr.

There is no need to phone in your reservations. Our Telephone Committee will call you.

The program is in celebration of LHS' 25th anniversary, founded September 14, 1974. It is presented by Mary Kay Smith and Beryl L. Hennigh, and is titled "Historic Sites and Places in the Lenexa Community." The slide show will include information about historic sites and street names. An informative anniversary booklet on the program will be for sale at the meeting. Thanks to Mary Kay and her committee for providing this most interesting program.

As always, guests and friends interested in history are welcome. See you there!

booths. The combined gross total is \$8,523. I won't guess at the net profit, since I don't have a report yet of all expenses incurred.

Many, many thanks to Spinach Cafe chairman Rita DeBrabander, Spinach Salad chairman Irv Hoffmann, Wimpy Burger chairman Pat Lierly, Antiques Booths chairman Greg Peterson, and LBM Quilters Chairman Thelma Moyer. Thanks, also, to the faithfuls who always agree to volunteer for our fundraisers and other things. YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Now, I want to make some observations about the Spinach Festival. I want to make it clear that these are MY opinions only, and not that of the Board or any Spinach chair.

I am asking you again to make a decision about whether or not LHS wants to continue to sponsor the crafts/antiques booths. There were two volunteers for the crafts committee. (Thank you to them.) Neither wanted to be the chair. Greg's antiques booths committee had one volunteer, and she wasn't even a member.

Because nobody else would do it, I ended up  
*continued on page 4*

## Barn News

### PHOTO NOW!: Call For Photos of 1970s-80s Lenexa Event Scenes

The Barn is calling all members and their families and friends to help us collect photographs of any events that occurred in the 1970s-80s in Lenexa. We know how many pictures people take for their personal collections and we'd love it if you would share them with us. You can donate photographs or we can make copies of yours—it's up to you. Events can be public parades or community classes or they can be of a more personal nature, family picnics or school outings. The only catch is that they must be about Lenexa or Lenexans. Please go through your images and bring them into the Barn. Please call for an appointment first at 492-0038.

### BARNYARD BABES

After a successful summer of full classes, **Barnyard Babes** is continuing into the Fall AND expanding! Preschoolers can now attend twice per month, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 12:30-2:30p.m.

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. Spaces are limited.

### DO YOU LIKE TO GIVE TOURS?

We are beginning our Docent Training Program starting this January. A docent is a fancy word for a *tourguide* and the training program will give all volunteers wonderful information about how to give a great tour at the Barn. The program includes a manual to help you with exhibit content, a training session to help with effective presentation, and regular docent meetings to talk with your co-docents

#### Need to Call an Officer/Board Member?

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

about current issues, problems, and improvements to be made to the tours.

We are hoping to have a large pool of docent volunteers. This will allow you the freedom to give tours when you are available AND allow us to adequately staff a good tour. Please call Kiersten at the Barn if you are interested, 492-0038.

### A SUPER VOLUNTEER GETS US ANOTHER GRANT!

Carl Kawa, who has been working with us at the Barn every week since March of 1998, has landed us his second grant for the Barn. Carl, who is retired from Mobil, can apply for a grant to any institution in which he works a specified number of volunteer hours. Last year, he got us \$250. The money went towards severely needed archival supplies directly related to the work he is doing at the Barn.

This year, his former employer doubled the amount of their gift, providing the Barn with a super grant from a great volunteer and a generous corporation. We are grateful Carl chose us from the multitudes of organizations that ask for volunteers from the Volunteer Center of Johnson County. Not only did we get a nice grant from Mobil through Carl, but we got a special volunteer to share our Thursdays with! Thanks, Carl!

### BARN RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT

Our museum has been awarded a Museum Assessment Program (MAP I) grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through guided self-study and on-site consultation with a museum professional, the grant will enable the Legler Barn Museum to evaluate its current practices, establish priorities to achieve professional museum standards, and plan how to best serve the community.

The Museum Assessment Program is one of several programs offered by the American Association of Museums to help museums actively improve their programs and operations in order to achieve the highest standards of quality and professionalism.

### HOLIDAY INN EXHIBIT OPEN

After many months of hard work, staff and interns at the Legler Barn Museum have finally finished the 5-year installation of "Travel to Lenexa's Past." The exhibit helped spruce up the "storefront" cases at the Holiday Inn, Lenexa, on 95th St. while at the same time giving our museum a bit of exposure. Please stop by and take a look. The exhibit is just off the lobby on the north side.

## Board Members Resign

Josie LeCluyse resigned from the Board in July, and Mary Kay Smith resigned in August. Those two vacancies may or may not be filled, depending on the outcome of the Board vote regarding its size. At the meeting on the 14th, Board members will have voted on a proposal to reduce the number of Board members from 11 to 8.

Since Mary Kay was president-elect, a new one will have been elected at the same meeting.



- One set of metal storage shelves, around 36" high and 13" deep
- Any other set of shelves (we'd have to look at it first), including wall shelves w/brackets
- Small organizing bins
- A large clear "OPEN" sign
- A boom box w/ tape player
- Step-ladder
- Carpenter. We need someone to cut down the counter at the Barn to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Host. A volunteer to help open the Depot exhibits to the public
- Handyman who isn't afraid of heights to install some things up high

If you can help with any of these things, please call Kiersten at 492-0038. Thank you!

Who was the famous U.S. businessman who worked with OP developer William B. Strang in Michigan, circa 1900, and encouraged Strang and crew to join him in an invention he had?

Strang and others did not even respond to this offer, and lived to regret it ever after. Henry Ford was the businessman, and the invention was the Ford motor car.



## In Memoriam

### John Bourquin

John D. Bourquin, husband of long-time LHS member Celina Bourquin, died September 3. John was born in Schurffers Cappelle, Belgium. His parents moved to the U.S. in 1911. He worked as a truck gardener and greenskeeper.

Our condolences go out to John's wife, Celina; their son, Jim Blaise; his wife, Mary; and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

### Mary Younger

Legler Barn Quilter Mary Younger died September 6. She was part of the quilting group for several years. Mary will be remembered for her dedication to coming to quilting sessions despite ill health and difficulty in walking. Our condolences go to her family and many friends.

## Get Your Red-Hot T-Shirts!

Our new t-shirts are in at the Barn Gift Shop. As part of our 25th anniversary celebration, the pretty blue shirts feature our Barn logo, with LBM above it, and LHS below it. They are sharp! Some sizes are available at the Barn, and they will also be for sale at our membership meeting. To make sure you get your exact size, you can order one by calling Mary Kay Smith at 888-0144. Cost for sizes S—XL is \$10 plus tax. Size XXL is \$11.50 plus tax.

## Nominating Committee

It will soon be time for the president to appoint a Nominating Committee to find members willing to serve on the Board of Directors. If you wish to be on the committee, please call Katie Evans at 268-4606. If she calls you to ask you to be on it, please say yes. It's a short-term commitment. Elections are in November.

If you have definite ideas for the future of LHS or the Barn, and want to influence it, please call Katie or any board member and ask to be placed on the list of nominees. The next several years could be a very interesting time to serve!

## President's letter *continued from page 1*

being the chair. I did not enjoy it. It's a very time consuming undertaking, and not one any LHS president should have to do. The president has enough responsibilities, meetings to attend, decisions to make, etc., without adding that.

If LHS is going to continue to sponsor the booths, there has to be a committed, enthusiastic chairman (which I was not) AND committee who are willing to devote time and action to building the number of booths to make it a significant money-maker, since that IS the point of having it.

If nobody is willing to do that, fine, then say so, and let's create another fundraiser that people ARE enthused about.

I have gotten the impression that people aren't volunteering for the booths committee because members have lost interest in it. Are you bored with crafts, or with the festival itself, or are you unwilling to devote that much time to a fundraiser? Tell me, I want to know.

If the members are simply bored with crafts and want another project to become enthused about, here are some suggestions for a yearly fundraiser that could make enough to replace the Spinach booths, and maybe the food concessions, too, over time:

- A black tie ball. Could be a so-much-a-plate dinner, or a door fee for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing.
- A costume ball. Come as your favorite character from history, or in period dress from your favorite historical era. Money comes from same as first example.
- A "Hair Ball." Arrange your own hair, or bet-

ter yet, a weird wig, in the wildest, biggest way possible. Put items in it that represent your interests, like golf tees, musical notes, etc. Money source is the same. This is a popular event in Houston.

- Hire a professional fundraising firm. Don't you wonder how those parties featured in the *Sunday Star* raise tens/hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities? They hire pros, I hear.

Any of these would be fun. It could be our **NEW challenge to make our yearly event THE MOST FUN social event of the year**, one that would attract people from all over Johnson County. Maybe this is the kind of change we need to spark members' renewed interest in LHS, and possibly attract new ones. Maybe you have some other ideas.

I will be asking you to make a decision at the September General Membership Meeting: commit now to either building the festival to its former numbers to make it worthwhile, or turn the crafts/antiques booths over to the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Dept. so it can begin planning for 2000. If you really don't care about it anymore, that's OK! There are alternatives.

I am asking you to make this decision now because preparations for Spinach begin in January, which is not so far off.

Rita DeBrabander would like for someone else to chair the Spinach Cafe committee. She has done it since its inception in 1995. She is willing to stay on the committee and provide a new chair with lists of people, suppliers, quantities, recipes, etc. Please come forward and volunteer. Don't wait to be asked. Save the next president some anxious moments, and many phone calls.

That goes for Spinach Salad chair and Wimpy Burgers chair, also.

If you can't come to the meeting, call me with your opinions, ideas, or theories at 268-4606, or email me at [queenkt@planetkc.com](mailto:queenkt@planetkc.com). Thank you. See you at the meeting.

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
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Shawnee Mission, KS

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to HY-VEE for donating sour cream and Philadelphia cream cheese for the tortilla roll-ups; to PANZON'S for donating grated cheese; to PIZZAMAHER for donating 20 spinach pizzas; to LA SUPERIOR for donating one case of tortillas. We appreciate your support!