

From the President's Corner

by Mary Kay Smith

Volunteer Recognition

Since volunteers are so important in all of the activities of the Lenexa Historical Society, I welcome the opportunity of recognizing one each month. Tribute this month is paid to Katie Evans. She is one of the newer members, but it didn't take long for us old timers to realize that "Little Katie" is a mighty powerful force.

She has spent many hours at the desk in the Legler Barn Museum, maintains many of LHS records on computer, is immediate past president of LHS and is currently secretary. In the past four years, she has given 14 presentations to community groups to promote Lenexa's history and LHS. What's more, she is editor of "Barn Talk." Whenever a new project comes up, Katie responds enthusiastically, "I'll help."

Many, many thanks to Katie Evans.

Barbeque Parking

The Lenexa Historical Society received \$2,400 thanks to the efforts of a group of our volunteers who managed parking at the Lenexa Barbeque. Bob and Dorothy Rose coordinated the activity, and Pat and Bill Lierly, Bob Lillie, Jean Seifert, and Doug Bartley made up the team. This was a major fundraiser for LHS. Thanks to these volunteers.

Herb Garden Fence

Installation of a new fence for the Herb Garden has just been completed. Walt McKenzie managed the project with the help of a group of friends: Paul Aita, Tom Robben, Larry Creemer, and Terry Clark. They did a terrific job. The Lenexa Field and Garden Club and LHS volunteers are maintaining the garden. Visit it soon.

Spinach Festival Coming Up

The next big event will be the Spinach Festival on Saturday, September 9. LHS activities will include the Big Spinach Salad, the Spinach Cafe, and Wimpy Burgers. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers at our July 27 membership picnic, or you can call Mary Kay Smith, 888-0144.

**Spinach Festival
September 9
9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Crafts, Antiques, Food, Fun!**

July General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, July 27
Potluck Picnic: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7:00
Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy.**

Join us for our summer picnic in the park, followed by another interesting program arranged by our Program Committee. (No information was available on the program when the newsletter had to be printed.) As always, friends and neighbors are welcome.

Future meeting dates for 2000 are September 28 and November 30. The November meeting will be on the fifth Thursday instead of the fourth, due to Thanksgiving.

LBM News

Exhibits

"Bicentennial Quilt: Lenexa Yesterday and Today." This quilt was made for the country's bicentennial in 1976 by the Lenexa Historical Quilt committee.

It is made of 17 blocks. The center medallion features Na-Nex-Se, the Shawnee Indian woman for whom Lenexa was named, the Feed and Grain Elevator, and a Strang trolley car. Other blocks depict churches, schools, homes, Old Town businesses, and streets.

"Lenexa Yesterday and Today 1907-2000." This exhibit shows the activities and development in Lenexa from its incorporation in 1907 to the present. It includes interesting early maps.

"Lenexa's Business/Residential Boom from the 1970s to 2000." See the tremendous growth of this period.

Next up: "Belgians and Spinach History in Lenexa." September 2 through October 29.

Visit the Legler Barn Museum

History on the Internet

by Norm Keech

Anyone who is a history buff with access to the internet might look at some of the sites listed below. Early Kansas history and books long out of print are available on the site at the University of Kansas. You will also find local history such as Quindaro, Johnson County, and the first pioneers in Kansas, the Indians.

Editor's Note: Some of the addresses wouldn't fit on one line. There are no spaces between letters on the first and second lines.

- www.merriam.org—Some Merriam history.
- kcsun4.kcstar.com/schools/overlandparkhistoricalsociety/—Overland Park Historical Society.
- www.cityofshawnee.org—History of Shawnee, Holliday, Zarah, Monrovia, Monticello.
- kcsun4.kcstar.com/schoolsjohnsoncountymuseums/—Johnson County Museums.
- www.kshs.org/research/index.htm—Kansas State Historical Society.
- www.ukans.edu/carrie/kancoll/books/cutler—KU, A.T. Andreas Kansas History.
- www.ukans.edu/history/VL—KU, central catalog.
- history.cc.ukans.edu/kansas/wn—KU, Wyandotte Indian history.
- raven.cc.ukans.edu/heritage/kssights/europa4.html—KU, Historical Kansas.
- www.nursehealer.com/hist.htm—American history resources.
- www.hartford-hwp.com/gateway—Links to Gateway to World History.
- www.historyplace.com—Links to History of the World.
- www.overland.com—Links to Old West and Overland Trail.

Need to Call an Officer/Board Member?

Pres. Mary Kay Smith	888-0144
Pres.-elect Jim Spaith	631-2502
Vice Pres. Angelo Miño	438-3364
Sec./Ex-officio Katie Evans	268-4606
Treas. Norman Keech	648-0438
Frank Andrews	894-1376
Walt McKenzie	888-0666
Bob Lillie	888-1476
Legler Barn Museum	492-0038

Spinach Festival Quilt is Ready!

by Thelma Moyer, Legler Barn Quilters

Do we ever have a spectacular quilt for you this year! For the year 2000, we wanted to produce an extraordinary beauty for our drawing, and we think we've done it.

"Millennium Fantasy" is designed with six vibrant blue prints and solid white. It is 95" X 212" in size. Donations are \$1 each or six for \$5. We are enclosing your tickets with this newsletter, and we sincerely appreciate your support. All of our funds are donated for the Lenexa Historical Society Building Fund. **The drawing will be held at the Lenexa Heartland Spinach Festival on September 9.**

Please return all donations and stubs to the Legler Barn Museum. Additional tickets are available here. Thanks for your support, and good luck!

—Legler Barn Quilters

Jeannette Burrus, C.J. Cook, Rosemary Garrity, Jennifer Hunter, Sally Kennedy, Sue Locher, Linda Mooney, Thelma Moyer, Ruby Nelson, Elaine Pegram, Jeanne Poore, Fran Price, Elaine Sparlin, and Wava Stoker-Musgrave.



Thanks to the Legler Barn Quilters for their hard work on this beautiful quilt. Stop by the Barn to see a color picture of it at the front desk. It's gorgeous!

Read All About It!

Lenexa History from our Heritage Room Library

From "The Lenexa News," June 18, 1909

"In Lenexa, the Lutheran and Methodist churches are located near to each other. One Sunday morning recently the Lutherans were heard singing: "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?" The next moment the echo came from the Methodists: "No, Not One."

From "The Lenexa News," December 18, 1908.

Advertisement (right).

"Wednesday morning of last week roller skating was started by the pupils in the basement of the schoolhouse.

"O.G. Patterson has improved his cottage by adding a new porch.

"Mrs. A.M. Walker and sons, Charles and Bert, moved to Kansas City Monday...Lenexa loses a good family."



Look Here

Southwestern Farms of 40 Acres and up at very low prices

COME and go with me the first and third Tuesdays of each month. 30,000 acres of farm, ranch and oil lands, improved and unimproved, in Wagner, or seventh district, Oklahoma; good soil, fine climate. Also 50,000 acres in Kansas, Missouri and Texas. Fine bargains in Lenexa, Kansas City and Westport residence property; also a fine lot of choice vacant lots, all of which I will sell at reasonable figures. Write me for literature and full information.

Jabez F. Bradshaw

Lenexa, Kansas

Home Phone 18.



Does anyone recognize these early Lenexans at the swimming hole? If you can identify the people, place, and approximate year, please call Peggy or Beryl at the Barn. This picture can be found in the archives on the last page of a book marked "Water Maintenance...Recreation."

Read All About It!**COME TO LENEXA**

The Best Little City on Earth for a Home

The following is an article that appeared in the "The Lenexa News," December 18, 1908. It extols the virtues of taking up residence in our town. Many pages of that issue can be found in "City of Lenexa, Scenes 1900-1920," in our Heritage Room. Check out the ads, too—they're as interesting as the articles.

"The average man of the middle west who seeks a location, is not looking for a place of retirement from work and worry, a place to spend some idle time, nor is he hunting for a fountain of perpetual youth, but he is looking for a location to better himself by using his God given powers and to make the years of his life as happy and free from sorrow as possible. To such a one we extend a glad hand and invite you to make a home at Lenexa, the best spot on earth.

"That Lenexa has advantages over the average town of 400 inhabitants, you will be compelled to admit even if you have lived here all your life and grown thin sitting on a dry goods box by a gas fire, paid for with another man's money, and cracked jokes not your own. If you intend to lead that kind of a life, or have ambitions to start a factory that would put Andrew Carnegie to shame, don't come to Lenexa, we are not ready for you at the present writing. It is the man who treads the middle plank we are looking for.

"Lenexa is located in one of of the most prosperous farming communities in the U.S. and at the same time within sight of, and easy access to Kansas City, by steam car and trolley, would make a desirable home for the most fastidious.

"With plenty of town property for sale at prices reasonable, when looked at by a city buyer, plenty of gas to burn at all times in homes, business houses and small factories, you are prepared at all times for either winter or summer weather.

"With a new entirely modern school building, centrally located, and a corps of excellent teachers, your children

would have every advantage to secure a good liberal education.

"With excellent local telephone connections and low rates to all adjacent points, with nine mail deliveries a day, two weekly newspapers, you have the record of the twentieth century girl broken when it comes to talking back.

"Come to Lenexa and build a home. The Lenexa Lumber Company can furnish the lumber, lime and sand, and the Lenexa Cement Block Factory can furnish you with cement blocks, if you desire that kind of a house and E. A. Legler and T. A. Brown will furnish the paint.

"Come to Lenexa to live, as you can buy your groceries and provisions (including the best of country produce fresh from the "factory") from any one of the six grocery stores, at bargain counter prices; or you can get your meals set out in good shape at either of the hotels, or at its bustling bakery and restaurant.

"Here at Lenexa, your life and property are safe, as no community has a more peaceful and law abiding class of citizens. Your money will be safe, either in the Farmer's State Bank or invested in Lenexa real estate, and your soul will be safe if you join forces with any one of the three Lenexa churches and place yourself in the care of one of the esteemed ministers of the gospel.

"The Lenexa Mill will furnish feed for your horses or the livery barn will furnish you with an outfit at a normal figure.

"With all these, and many more inducements, how can you turn a deaf ear to our pleading voice? Come and we will do you good."

Sympathies from LHS

LHS extends its heartfelt sympathies to the families of **Ralph Schweiger, Wayne Vandever, and Maxine Zahner.** Ralph passed away in June. He is the father of LHS member Robert Schweiger. Wayne passed away in May. He was a life LHS member. Maxine passed away July 5. She is the sister of LHS member Berniece Zahner Lichtenauer.

Many Thanks to Our Benefactors

The Lenexa Historical Society and Legler Barn Museum are very fortunate to have generous benefactors helping us meet the financial requirements of operating the Barn. They are:

Amos Family Funeral Homes
Cookbook Publishers Inc.
Hermes Landscaping
Zarda Bar-B-Q and Catering

Thanks to all four companies for their generosity! We appreciate **Lenexa Holiday Inn and Sebring Decorating Supply** for their continued support.

Premier Bank is now a corporate member of LHS. Please patronize all our corporate friends!

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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 57

Lenexa City Hall
 C. Sturgeon
 PO BOX 14888
 Lenexa KS 66285-4888