



A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society

# LHS News

July/August 2007

Volume 25, Number 4

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## A Presidential Letter

A letter from Alan Uhl



This issue of the *LHS News* is the third since we began publishing it in-house with Becky Emmerich as editor. We are delighted with the results and feel this is another step forward in the progress of your Society.

For several years preceding this change the *LHS News* was produced for us as a public service, and at considerable expense, by ON DEMAND TECHNOLOGIES of 9291 Cody in Overland Park. With our new computer capability and, in particular, our new, large capacity, copier/printer along with Becky's expertise, we are now able to do the job ourselves. Our gratitude and our debt to ODT are profound. Previous *LHS News* editors, Doug Bartley and Katie Evans, sing their praises. On behalf of the Lenexa Historical Society, THANK YOU, ODT.

Please take careful note of Katie Evans' announcement on page 8 of the 2007 Ice Cream Social to be held on Saturday, August 4, at Sar-Ko-Par Park in conjunction with Lenexa's Waterfest. Katie needs some volunteers but, more importantly, she needs some promotional assistance from all of us. First, of course, plan to attend. It's kind of old fashioned and it's fun. If you have email please send an invitation to ALL the relatives, friends and neighbors on your contact list. This is powerful and produces outstanding results wherever tried. Also, pick up some flyers and take them to your church, office, club - any place they can be posted.

Although it is nearly a year away, we are starting the planning for a gala celebration of The Legler Barn's 25th Anniversary next May. Director Van Rose is heading up this project on behalf of the Board and the Society. The City Department of Parks and Recreation and the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce will combine with us to make this an outstanding event in our history. More information will follow.

By the time you read this the 26th Annual Great Lenexa Barbeque Battle will be history. Thanks to all of you who participate in any way whatever in this great event. Hard to believe the Bar-B-Q is two years older than the reconstructed Legler Barn.

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The Historical Society has received a very generous donation from the **Shawnee Mission Questers**. This money will be used to pay for professionals to wax our furniture at the Legler Barn Museum. The restoration should begin mid May and will take some time to complete, but will hopefully be completed by late summer. This project should return the beauty to our antiques as well as help preserve them for the future.

**Thank you Shawnee Mission Questers.**

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Thursday, July 26, 2007  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91<sup>st</sup> and Caenen Lake Road  
Call for reservations 913-498-8117

PATRIOTIC TUNES AND MELODIES

Presented by Jerry Uppman

*See inside flyer*

ALL ARE WELCOME

**LHS Board of Directors**

Alan Uhl  
President  
913-856-8205

Connie Andrews  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
913-894-1376

Sue Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
913-492-8735

Ed Bowman  
Secretary  
913-888-1147

Wilbert (Sonny) Miller, Jr.  
Treasurer  
913-888-3762

Sharon Hammontree  
913-498-8117

Terry Clark  
913-894-1211

Van Rose  
913-631-8661

Tom Gryska  
913-888-4445

You're invited to the LHS

# Ice Cream Social

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m. to 8:00

Legler Barn Museum

14915 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS 66215

Serving vanilla ice cream and  
chocolate or white cake

**Adults: \$3** (2 scoops and cake)

**Children under 12: \$2**  
(1 scoop and cake)

**See you there!**

## Schedule for the July LHS General Meeting Indoor Picnic



**A - I Meat Dish**



**J - R Dessert or Fruit Dish**



**S - Z Vegetable or Salad Dish**



# *Lenexa Historical Society*

## *General Meeting*

Thursday, July 26, 2007  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91st and Caenen Lake Road

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7:30 p.m.

### ***PATRIOTIC TUNES AND MELODIES***

Presented by Gerry Uppman



*Gerry Uppman plays the banjo and sings.*

Call for reservations:  
913-498-8117

Free Will Donation  
Everybody is Welcome!  
Bring a guest and receive a gift.

# Museum Birthday

By Bill Nicks, Jr., LHS Member

OK, the ink is dry on *The Lenexa 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*. So, I guess it is time to begin planning another anniversary party. In America we do anniversaries in multiples or fractions of 100. I've always heard that the rest of the world deals in meters--and that throws off their clocks and the timing of their anniversary celebrations. How else to explain that bull-thing in Pamplona?

The Legler Barn Museum turns 25 next year, one-quarter of a Century (There's that fraction-deal). Twenty-five years... we in The Lenexa Historical Society need to throw a party. We need party ideas (maybe we can get some bulls). We need to honor those early leaders of the museum effort. Leaders such as; Bud, Johnna, Gus, Beryl, Phil. We need every member to be even more active next year. We need to recruit additional new members. The anniversary is in May 2008. Save the date.

During the week of June 25, 2007 a small group of LHS members, led by Van Rose, is planning to meet (have met? when is this printed and mailed?) to discuss the May 2008 celebration. Watch for details and a volunteer/sponsor signup sheet. Only eleven months to go.

Now, a small personal barn story..... I was in the park the day the Legler Barn stones were delivered to the museum site to begin construction. The stones had been stored for 10 years in the Holland Corporation caves on Renner Blvd. They had been in the caves since 1972. That was the year 95<sup>th</sup> Street was widened near Quivira, necessitating the barn's dismantling. The Holland Corporation truck driver, delivering the rocks to the park that day, said he had been the driver that hauled the stones out to the caves in 1972.....in the same dump truck. That is a nice bookend bracketed story. Let's add yet another story to the history of our barn museum. Let's celebrate 25 years in 08.

## A LETTER FROM THE PAST

Harmon Wolfkuhl and Eliza, her age was 16, were married in Mobile, Alabama in 1855. I have their certificate of marriage. They bought land at 103<sup>rd</sup> between Quivira and Pflumm from Humming Bird.

They sold land to Adam Legler in 1864. In late 1862 Eliza Wolfkuhl cooked a meal for Quantrill as he passed by and stopped. I have the dishes he ate on and silverware.

Harmon Wolfkuhl bought a rooming house at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Delaware in 1866 and they lived upstairs. Downstairs they ran a saloon. One night Harmon was leading a parade on a white horse. Someone put him in the river; all they all saw of him was his hat on the river.

Grandma put the place in a lawyer's hand to sell. He sold it but skipped town with the money. Frederick Wolfkuhl came and got Grandma in 1870 and took her to the farm and married her.

In October of 1895 they gave Herman Wolfkuhl 100 acres to marry Anna Baumgartner. Eliza Wolfkuhl died in 1917.

I was born in 1901 was named Mamie Wolfkuhl after Mayme Legler as she took care of my mother.

In 1908 we had the first car in Lenexa, a white Buick without doors and Haskins had the first piano. In 1907 we moved to Lenexa by 93<sup>rd</sup> and Haskins so I could go to public school. Mother ran a grocery store in 1908 a half a block east of Pflumm Road a 2-story lumber building. Boyd Bridges worked for her. I would go into the store with Miriam Haskin and get a bag of candy. My dad, H. A. Wolfkuhl, ran the mill in 1908. He built many houses in Lenexa. The last one was on Haskin across the street from where Mayme Legler lived and the one where Fred Dice lives now. The last house he built for me in 1912 was at 9037 Pflumm where I still live.

He had a filling station at Santa Fe & Noland that's still there. He sold many cars and was the Justice of the Peace and married couples at 9037 Pflumm.

H. A. Wolfkuhl and Anna Wolfkuhl gave their farm and 100 acres to me in 1931 at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

H. A. Wolfkuhl gave the Catholic Church the St. John's Cemetery and they gave him 8 lots, places to be buried in.

*Mary Wolfkuhl Hoehn*

## SHARON HAMMONTREE'S BIO

I was born in Nevada, Missouri; my parents were Frank and Lucille Oyer. We moved to Walker, Missouri when I was very young, really don't remember how old I was at that time. We lived there on a farm until I was 11 years old. Then we moved back to Nevada to a farm south of town and lived there until I graduated from Nevada High School in 1960. I wouldn't change anything about my childhood. It was great living in the country and spending time with my brother Robert and my Uncle Jack who was only a few years older than me. It was like we were the Three Musketeers. I was quite a "tomboy". The small town of Nevada was not for me after I graduated from high school, so I left Nevada when I was 17 years old, headed for Kansas City for a new adventure and went to work at Hallmark Cards, Inc. in the Litho Art Department as a Key Black artist. A few years later I married Marvin Hammontree who was also from Nevada. My career at Hallmark Cards only lasted for about three years. We started a family and I wanted to be a stay-at-home mom. We were blessed with a daughter, Sandy, and a son, Craig, and four wonderful grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Garrett, Luke and Faith.



In 1994 I started volunteering at the Oak Park Library to help out with an exhibit called "The Kids International Corner". The exhibit was later moved to the Lackman library where I volunteered for about three years. The Legler Barn Museum was interested in showing "The Kids International Corner" exhibit. So guess what, I went hand in hand with the exhibit and I have been volunteering ever since for LHS. I love Lenexa. It gives me the small town flavor and I have all the advantages of what Kansas City has to offer. You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl. That's me. In 1997 I returned to Hallmark Cards as a Creative Assistant, where I will work until I am old enough to retire.

**Favorite Lenexa Historic Site:** The Complex at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park, especially at Christmas time when the buildings and the trees are all lit up—it is breathtaking.

**Favorite artifact in the LHS collection:** I haven't seen it all, but the telephone switchboard brings back memories. One of my best friend's mother in Walker, MO was the switchboard operator.

**What exhibit would you like to see at Legler:** What I would like to see is a permanent exhibit for kids called, "It is a Small World Corner", which I am working on now.

**What would you like to change about Lenexa:** There isn't anything I would change about Lenexa. I would like to help preserve the history of Old Town and the surrounding area.

**Most treasured family heirloom:** It would be the old pictures of my family from long ago.

**Favorite family memory:** Whenever relatives came to town they would always come to our house to get together as a family.

**If you could go anywhere in the world where would it be:** I would like to go to Rome, Italy and Paris, France.

**What would you do with a million dollars?** I would buy me a studio or a cottage, so I could paint without being interrupted, and then help out people in need.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** An artist.

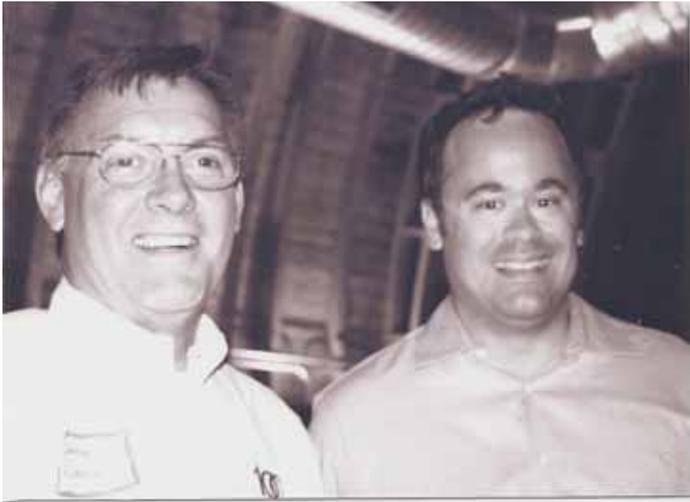
**Favorite childhood hobby:** I didn't really have a favorite one. I think back on my childhood and there were so many things I enjoyed doing.

**Favorite food:** My selection of food has changed so much over the years, growing up on a farm I have eaten just about everything, as my dad used to say, "I have eaten everything but the squeal of a pig". I remember the time I was going to fool my kinds into eating cow's tongue, but before I could get it cooked they found it in the refrigerator. So much for that. I just try to eat food that is good and healthy, as best as I can.

**Favorite quote:** I don't really have one, but this question reminds me of my grandmother Carpenter. She would always say, "The old saying is" and then she would make up a quote to fit the situation.

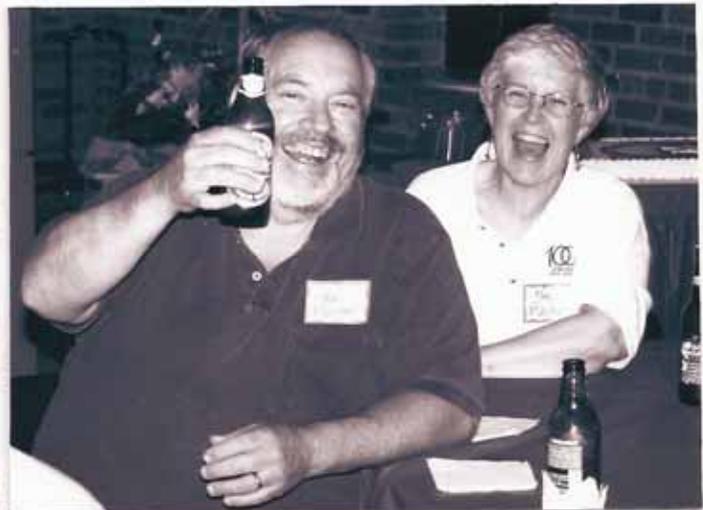
# ***“100th Year Celebration” Steering Committee Appreciation Dinner***

June 6, 2007



# Photo Gallery

by Sharon Hammontree



# 2007 Ice Cream Social

by Katie Evans, Chairwoman

**Plan to come to our Ice Cream Social August 4<sup>th</sup> at Sar-Ko-Par Park** to enjoy delicious ice cream and cake under the shade. It is held in conjunction with Lenexa's WaterFest. We will be located in the same spot as last year, across the driveway to the south by the caboose for greater visibility.

WaterFest starts at 5:00. We will serve from 5:00 to 7:30. If you can help, please call or email me: 913-390-5131 or [katiesevans@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katiesevans@sbcglobal.net). Also, I will have sign up sheets at the next membership meeting. **Some people have already volunteered (thank you!) for specific times, but others are still needed:**

- **Set up, from 4:15 to 5:00.** Men especially are needed to carry tables and chairs from the museum to the serving site.
  1. Doug Bartley
  2. Bob Lillie
  3. Sharon Hammontree
 Two others are needed.
- **These time periods for serving are full:**
- **5:00-6:00**
  1. Bernie McNichol
  2. Sharon Hammontree
  3. Karen Lillie
- **6:00-7:00**
  1. Alan Uhl
  2. Ed Bowman
  3. Connie Andrews
- **7:00-7:30/7:45, three people needed for serving, all spots open.**
- **Five people for clean up, from 7:30/7-45 to 8:00**
  1. Van Rose
  2. Tom Gryska
 Two other men here would help a lot.

Last year, we served 186 people. This year, I am going to try to increase that number to 250. That should be a realistic increase. All LHS members can help in several ways:

- Those with email can send an invitation to friends, neighbors, and relatives. I did that last year, which resulted in 10 adult sales.
- Take a flyer to your church, workplace, or any place that allows postings.
- Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives well ahead of time so they will mark it on their calendars.

**Twelve cakes will be needed.** These people have volunteered so far to bring chocolate cakes with chocolate frosting: Pat Lierly, Sharon Hammontree, Linda Bartley, Carolyn Keech, Connie Andrews, and Alan Uhl. Two more volunteers are needed for chocolate cakes.

These members have volunteered to make white cakes with white frosting: Ann Childers, Karen Lillie, Pat Schroder, and myself.

**Thank you** to all who have already volunteered time or cakes!

# LHS Goes To---

By Katie Evans, Group Outing Coordinator

The coming months offer a wonderful time to see two special exhibits at area museums.

- **The Kansas City Museum. Saturday, August 25th. The exhibit is called “What the Longs Left: Corinthian Hall after 1934.”** Includes surviving artifacts, furnishings and fixtures. The museum is housed in a beautiful 1910 mansion, often described as the "palace on Gladstone Boulevard." Built for lumber baron Robert A. Long, the estate is a remarkable attraction in its own right. Long's daughters donated the house to the city after his death in 1934. The museum has become the Long family's enduring legacy.

Top off your visit with a tasty treat from the 1910 soda fountain, which serves phosphates, ice cream cones, sundaes and shakes.

Admission to the museum is \$2.50 for adults, \$2 for seniors and children 3-17. We will leave at 10:00 from the Legler Barn Museum.

- **The Truman Library, Independence. Saturday, September 22nd. The exhibit is titled “Treasures of the Presidents.”**

It will include head-of-state gifts, campaign memorabilia, first family treasures, historical highlights, great moments on film, and gems from the attic. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for children 6-18. We will leave from the Legler Barn Museum at 10:00.

If you would like to join us in seeing these two interesting exhibits, call me at 913-390-5131 or email me at [katiesevans@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katiesevans@sbcglobal.net). Also, there will be sign-up sheets at the membership meetings.

In mid-January the art studio of Elaine Lierly Jones, daughter of Bill and Pat Lierly of Lenexa, transformed one of Olathe's 6' tall fiberglass boots. There are a total of twelve boots which are a sesquicentennial art project honoring Olathe's history as the home of the original cowboy boot. Her design was one of two selected by the city to be permanently displayed on city property. Her theme was "The City of Governors". Olathe has been home to five governors, three Kansas, one Missouri and one governor of Idaho. Using old photographs, historical documents and books she painted portraits and scenes from Olathe's past. These scenes include the Old Courthouse, the Grange Block and Park-Cherry buildings. Elaine has documented the painting of her boot on her website [www.elainelierlyjones.com](http://www.elainelierlyjones.com). The finished boot is now displayed on the NE corner of Santa Fe and Kansas Avenue in downtown Olathe. Maps showing all the locations are available at Olathe City Hall, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce and on line at [www.olathe.org/olathe\\_cvb/attractions](http://www.olathe.org/olathe_cvb/attractions).



# MEMORIAL TO LORRAINE HILL

Former LHS member



Lorraine (Hall) Hill of Olathe (Aberdeen Village) passed away on May 6, 2007 at St. Joseph's Health Center in Kansas City, MO. Services were held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Amos Funeral Chapel in Lenexa. Burial was at the East Slopes Cemetery in Riverside, MO.

Lorraine was born in Maple Hill, Iowa to Lambert and Elura (Swift) Hall on January 26, 1921.

For many years she was known as "Ma Bell" following her employment with AT&T for 42 years. She retired in 1983.

A very gregarious and generous person, she enjoyed life and being with many friends and groups. Her enthusiasm and zest for travel, sports and miscellaneous community organizations was boundless.

Lorraine was a very supportive and ardent member of the Lenexa Historical Society since its early years. Many of her leisure hours were spent in innumerable projects, presentations and fund raising events through the years. She donated several framed Gary Hawk prints to the Lenexa Historical Society.

She was active in many organizations including: Telephone Pioneers, La Sertoma, Veterans Motor Car Association, Trailblazers, PBX Club, Republican Women's Club of Lenexa, Johnson County Numismatic Society, Brown and God Club of The Johnson County Community College, American Legion Auxiliary Post 370, American Business Women, Loyal Chiefs and Royals fan (season tickets for both).

Lorraine was selected Businesswoman of the year in 1965. She could be seen in many of the City of Lenexa parades in her antique autos.

## LHS 2007 Directory Updates

### New Members

**Blume, Linda** 913-888-5360  
 8942 Summit St. 913-693-8560  
 Lenexa, KS 66215 [germflower@aol.com](mailto:germflower@aol.com)

**DENNY, Dr. Craig & Terry**  
 14609 W. 83<sup>rd</sup> Terrace  
 Lenexa, KS 66215

### DECEASED

**Hill, Lorraine** 913-888-5500  
 17500 W. 119<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 2106  
 Olathe, KS 66061

## DEADLINE

for next issue

September/October

*LHSNews* articles

is 10 a.m.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>



### Join the Lenexa Historical Society or Renew Your Membership

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

- Single \$20
- Single Life \$200
- Family \$30
- Family Life \$300
- Corporate \$250
- Corporate Life \$2,500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized person, if corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: LHS, 14907 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215

Make checks payable to: Lenexa Historical Society. Thank you!

## Enjoy Breakfast with LHS

Join us for FOOD and FUN conversation

Where: Hy-Vee, 87<sup>th</sup> and Pflumm

Time: 9:00 a.m.

When: the second Saturday of each month

- July 14
- August 11
- September 8
- October 13
- November 3\*
- December 8

\*This is the first Saturday of the month. Hy-Vee provides a free breakfast for all veterans on the Saturday nearest Veteran's Day, which should be November 10<sup>th</sup>, our usual meeting day. Seating is scarce that day, thus a different meeting day.

## Thank You

Pam Berry and her brother have finished waxing our furniture at Legler Barn. The furniture looks fantastic. It all has a beautiful shine and some of the pieces like the Old Organ upstairs, the sewing machine and one of the bookcases look like new pieces.

This waxing had been made possible thanks to a grant given to the Historical Society by the Shawnee Mission Questers.

Our thanks to all who have made this possible.

Drop into the barn and see how nice all the furniture looks.

**LHS News** is published six times a year by the **Lenexa Historical Society**.

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Sharon and Marvin Hammontree

**Contributors:** Katie Evans,  
Sharon Hammontree, Bill Nicks,  
Mary Kay Smith and Alan Uhl

**Submissions:** Connie Andrews and  
Beryl Legler Hennigh

*The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to  
the appreciation, preservation and promotion of  
Lenexa's Historical heritage.*

The gala opening of the  
**Legler Barn Museum**

at

**Sar-Ko-Par Park**

will celebrate its

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

in

**May 2008**



# LHS News

*Return Service Requested*

Lenexa Historical Society  
14907 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Street Parkway  
Lenexa, KS 66215-4135  
[www.lenexahistory.org](http://www.lenexahistory.org)

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