



A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society

# LHS News

September/October 2007

Volume 25, Number 5

---

## A Presidential Letter

*A letter from Alan Uhl*



Next May marks the 25th anniversary of the reconstruction and rededication of the Legler Barn. A little recounting of its history might be in order.

The barn was constructed in 1864 by Swiss immigrant farmer, Adam Legler. It was built of locally quarried native Kansas limestone. A most sturdy structure, it stood for over 100 years on the north side of what is now 95th Street just west of Quivira. A few yards to the east was the Legler farmhouse.

In the mid 1970s the development of Oak Park Mall necessitated the widening of 95th from I-35 to Quivira and the barn had to go. Although it was then in a state of serious disrepair, particularly the roof, it was recognized that it was a historic Lenexa landmark and should, if possible, be preserved. A committee was formed and when the barn was razed the Holland Corporation trucked the stones to its quarry property where they were stored pending reconstruction efforts.

We have talked before about the community activities which resulted in the rebuilding of the Legler Barn, in very much its original exterior configuration, on Lenexa city park property in 1983. An interesting sidelight, The Holland driver who hauled the stones to the quarry also delivered them to the reconstruction site several years later.

The rededication of the Legler Barn, our Lenexa Historical Society's museum, in May 1983 occasioned a large civic celebration. The board of directors feels that we should have another such celebration in May 2008. To that end a committee headed by Barb Zook and Van Rose has been formed and is in the early stages of planning for it. The committee needs ideas AND people who would like to help. Contact Becky at the Barn if you're interested.

In the months to come you will be kept up to date on the progress of this project. It's exciting to contemplate the resurgence of community interest in this lovely facility and the activities of the Lenexa Historical Society that will result from all this.



See enlarged picture next page.

---

Thursday, September 27, 2007  
Lakeview Village – Treetop Room  
14001 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> St. – Southridge Bldg.

Call for reservations 913-498-8117

## THE FOUR BEST PRESIDENTS

Presented by Fred Krebs

*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



**Old Legler Homestead**  
by Elcia Thompson

The above painting hangs in the Legler Barn Museum.

## SEEKING VOLUNTEER VIDEO-TAPING/EDITING

As you may know, our Lenexa Historical Society is the proud owner of a complete video and recording system. We acquired the brand new equipment as a result of the Lenexa 100 Committee, and we owe a debt of gratitude to them. Not only do we have the new recording equipment, but the Board authorized the purchase of a new Hewlett Packard computer which is capable of video-editing. This new computer is located in the Legler Barn.

We used this equipment to video-tape interviews with several of the older citizens of Lenexa during Lenexa's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

This video-taping equipment provides us with a fantastic opportunity to video tape and record historical events or people who have or will play a role in the history of Lenexa.

We have an on-going need to continue interviewing our Lenexa Senior Citizens and, with this new equipment, we are looking for someone who has an interest in video-taping and/or doing video editing for us.

We have an opportunity to make a significant contribution to Lenexa's history ---we just need a little help. If you are interested, please contact Becky, the coordinator at the Legler Barn at (913) 492-0038.

# *Lenexa Historical Society*

## *General Meeting*

Thursday, September 27, 2007  
Lakeview Village  
in the Treetop Room  
14001 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> St. – Southridge Bldg.

Program: 7:15 p.m.

### **THE FOUR BEST U. S. PRESIDENTS**

Presented by Fred Krebs



*A professor at Johnson County Community College, Mr. Krebs has taught U.S. history to communities through his "living history" presentations. Krebs has been an active Chautauqua speaker participating in Chautauqua programs in 20 different states with more than 15 different historical characterizations. He has received the Rotary International Foundation, one of 50 give each year worldwide. His other recognitions include "Patriot of the Year" in 2001 awarded by the Sons of the American Revolution and a Kansas Humanities Council Humanities Award for connecting people and ideas for more than 25 years in Kansas.*

Coffee, tea and cookies will be provided.

Call for reservations:  
913-498-8117

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

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Bio of Carl Kawa

I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. I spent two years in the army, from 1951 to 1953, being sent to Frankfurt, Germany. I joined Mobil Oil in 1953 in Omaha and was eventually transferred to Kansas City in 1969, where I spent my remaining years with them until retiring in 1986.



I volunteer twice a week and sometimes more at the Johnson County Library and the Legler Barn Museum, where I have been since 1998, and other locations as needed.

**Favorite Lenexa Historic Site:** Legler Barn and Shawnee Mission Park.



**Favorite artifact in the LHS collection:** Old telephone operator's switchboard.

**What exhibit would you like to see at Legler?** Unusual collections.

**What would you like to change about Lenexa?** Satisfied as is.

**Most treasured family heirloom:** Picture of crucifixion.

**Favorite family memory:** Graduation of children from college.

**If you could go anywhere in the world where would it be?** Australia and the Holy Land.

**What would you do with a million dollars?** Pay the taxes and then share with family and donations.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Be a success.

**Favorite childhood hobby:** Stamp collecting and reading.

**Favorite food:** Italian, steak, shrimp, etc.

**Favorite quote:** Don't look back -- someone may be gaining on you.

---

In appreciation and for our readers to get to know some of the dedicated volunteers here at the Legler Barn Museum, the *LHS News* will spotlight an individual in the upcoming issues in our new VOLUNTEER CORNER section.

# QUILTING NEWS

by Wava Stoker

It's been quite a spell without quilters' news. You may have heard that Spinach Festival quilts will not be made as 2006 was the very last one. We have celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year and the 20<sup>th</sup> Spinach Festival quilt. We will continue to hand quilt, so if you have quilts you wish to be hand quilted please contact us. We will continue to support the Lenexa Historical Society with our efforts. We welcome hand quilters on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to noon upstairs at the Legler Barn Museum.

We have grown older and most of us lead busy lives, two hours is about long enough for our old fingers. Doesn't the parlor look nice as you come up the stairs? This enables us to have two frames with quilts in and space around them, yes, and quilters too.

Legler Barn Quilters was organized in January 1987 to help retire the debt on the Barn. We still have two original ladies, Elaine Pegram and Sue Locher. Mary McNerney and Thelma Mayer – we miss them. Beryl Hennigh joined the Barn staff in November 1987 to 2006.

Beryl was too busy with Lenexa history to quilt with us. We quilted very early in 1988 a "Flower Garden" that Bob Hennigh's mother made. This past year we have had the privilege of quilting Beryl's "Nine Patch" quilt also probably made by Bob's mother. We wanted to thank Beryl for her love and support during her years at the Legler Barn Museum. We knew she was willing to print Spinach Festival tickets, clear the table downstairs for lunch when we quilted into the afternoon, and we always knew we would have tables and chairs to sell quilt tickets that Saturday in September.

Beryl's "Nine-Patch" was delightful to quilt. The blocks had been "fussy" cut with butterflies, flowers, mice and even scarecrows in the tiny blocks. As Sally Kennedy said, "It's a sweet quilt."

We wish Beryl and Bob well and hope they will feel a connection with Bob's mother and their quilter friends. It will look beautiful on that antique walnut bed and that it will be a treasure with connections to their families in years to come.



*We love you Beryl and Bob!*

*The Legler Barn Quilters*

Bbq pics

# ***Photo Gallery***

*by Sharon Hammtree*

## BIOGRAPHY OF TERRY CLARK, JR.

Born in Texas, I was the oldest of four siblings. Initially raised in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. and then in St. Louis. Following graduation from the University of Missouri, I accepted my first job in Chicago as a management trainee for one of the large hotel chains.



I have had a few entrepreneurial endeavors: The first was a neighborhood newspaper in the fourth grade made using carbon paper and a typewriter. The second was a grass-cutting business in high school consisting of twenty lawns. The third was a photography business in college taking pictures and hiring photographers for college fraternity and sorority parties and parents weekends,

But I did make enough profit to spend eight weeks in Europe hitch hiking and staying in youth hostels in fifteen countries. It was intimidating going through the East German border at night with guard dogs barking and guards with guns at the ready. Going through Checkpoint Charley into East Berlin was just as scary as no one knew that I was going there. In England, I was invited to spend a fortnight on holiday with a British family and in Germany, I was invited to stay over until October to harvest grapes on steep mountain sides, but I didn't have time to do either one.

The fourth entrepreneurial venture was starting and managing a "head-hunting" firm specializing in financial professionals such as CPAs, Controllers, and Auditors. It was the first such firm in the Kansas City area to have computerized data bases for potential candidates and for employer profiles.

Before I was married with children, I became involved with a number of Kansas City area charities such as Chair of the Delta Sigma Phi House Corporation, Chair of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Chair of the Personnel Consultants Organization.

As our children were growing up, I was a volunteer with Stan Cramer's Call for Action, followed by a short time as an intake volunteer at a center for injured wild animals, and am currently a volunteer with Shawnee Mission Hospital, a director of the Lenexa Historical Society, and a director of the Kansas City Theatre Pipe Organ Society with a theatre organ in the downtown Kansas City Music Hall.

I have lived in Lenexa for fifteen years and raised my children here. Currently, my oldest daughter Erin is in her third year of law school at Texas Wesleyan, my son Chris just starting at the University of Kansas, and my youngest daughter Molly is a senior at Shawnee Mission South.

Favorite book: Kite Runner by Khalad Hosseoni

Favorite television program: MI-5 about spies on BBC-America

Favorite Food: Steak

# Ice Cream Social Report

By Katie Evans, Chairwoman

A hot August evening was the perfect time to have ice cream and cake under the trees in Sar-Ko-Par Park. We set up tables and chairs by the caboose. This year, we served 217 people: 119 adults and 98 children. That is up from 186 last year.

I was shooting for serving 240, as that is the number of pieces of cake we had prepared. That was a better estimate in terms of leftover cake. This year, we had only 29 pieces of cake left.

The total profit was \$474, an increase of \$127 from last year. We served vanilla ice cream purchased from Aldi's. All the cakes were made and donated by our members.

Our customers seemed to enjoy sitting in the shade and eating ice cream and cake, so in that respect, it was a success.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to all who volunteered time, cakes, or both:

Connie Andrews	Terry Clark	Karen Lillie	Van Rose
Doug Bartley	Dennis Evans	Diane Linver	Pat Schroder
Linda Bartley	Sharon Hammontree	Bernie McNichol	Alan Uhl
Ed Bowman	Carolyn Keech	Kay Plaster	Pat White
Gladys Carnes	Pat Lierly	Tom Plaster	
Ann Childers	Bob Lillie	Judy Rose	

---

## LHS Goes To---

by Katie Evans, Group Outing Coordinator

**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 [katiasevans@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katiasevans@sbcglobal.net). Also, there will be sign-up sheets at the membership meetings.

## LHS 2007 Directory Updates

### New Members

**Donald & Donna Oppliger**      **913-390-9441**  
9703 Sunset Circle  
Lenexa, KS 66220

**Jon & Jodi Robbins**      **913-341-9540**  
5701 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Terrace      913-281-1903  
Overland Park, KS 66207      [GEAR@IWON.com](mailto:GEAR@IWON.com)  
[drillgal@hotmail.com](mailto:drillgal@hotmail.com)

**Ann & Woody Smith**      **913-825-3588**  
8032 Swarner Dr.  
Lenexa, KS 66219

### New Address

Kenneth & Genevieve Reeves  
**9100 Park, #501C**  
Lenexa, KS 66215

Norma & Michael Wrenn  
**8509 N. Sycamore Ave.**  
**Kansas City, MO 64157-0616**

### Deceased

Rich Becker  
9225 Woodstone Lane  
Lenexa, KS 66219

## DEADLINE

for next issue

November/December

*LHS News* articles

is 10 a.m.

October 24<sup>th</sup>

## Kansas Miler

By Bill Nicks, Jr. LHS member

The *Lenexa Freedom Run*, a 5,000 meter and a 10,000 meter road race, has been part of *Lenexa Community Days* since July 4, 1979. At various times it has been sponsored by The City of Lenexa and Tab, Diet Coke, PowerAde, Quivira Sports and Health and Time Warner Cable. The run (some of us walk it, and there are always around 1200 participants) begins and ends in Old Town Lenexa. Next year is the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual *Freedom Run*. Any ideas on how Lenexa Parks & Recreation can make the 30<sup>th</sup> especially special? If so, call Susan at (913) 541-0209.

The *Sunflower State Games*, an Olympic-style competition for Kansans had a special participant in its 5K and 10K Topeka event: **Jim Ryun**. Ryun, as a Wichita East runner, was the first high-schooler (1964) to break 4 minutes in the mile run, eventually lowering the high school record to 3:55.3. During his running career he held world records in the mile (3:51.1), 1500 meters, 880 yards, 800 meters and the medley relay. He was a 3-time Olympian (winning a silver medal in 1968), named the nation's top amateur athlete in 1966 and the Sportsman of the Year by Sports Illustrated the same year.

Ryun's hard work and dedication inspired generations of people, not just runners. His love of running is emulated every July 4<sup>th</sup> in Lenexa at the *Freedom Run*. Maybe Susan could get Jim Ryun to run in the 30<sup>th</sup> *Lenexa Freedom Run*. That would be special.



### 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

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
September 8	January 12
October 13	February 9
November 3*	March 8
December 8	April 12

\*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.



LHS says **Get Well Soon** to Jim and Nancey Spaith, who were in an auto accident earlier this year. They are on the mend now. We hope to see you soon, Jim and Nancey.

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

**Editor:** Becky Emmerich, 913-492-0038  
bemmerich@ci.lenexa.ks.us

**Mailing:** Katie Evans

**Centerfold Photography and Layout:**  
Sharon and Marvin Hammtree

**Contributors:** Katie Evans,  
Sharon Hammtree, Bill Nicks,  
Mary Kay Smith, Wava Stoker and  
Alan Uhl

*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

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit Number 57  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
66202-9503