



Henderson, Minnesota 56044 Ph: (507)248-3434

SEPTEMBER 2010

Volume 15, Issue 3

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#### Calendar of Events

by Judy Loewe

- <u>Sept. 28</u>, <u>AT GIBBON LI-BRARY</u> MN River Valley Scenic Byway- Ron Baldaun
- Oct. 26 Ladies Tourist Club, 112 Years Young by Judy Loewe
- Watch you local newspaper for our 70th Anniversary Bash
- Christmas Open House around Christmas, that's the ideal time
- NOTE NEW STARTING TIMES—7PM
- If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events .... Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3345 Calendar Subject to Change.

# Doris Wigand, Sibley County Volunteer of the Year

By Judy Loewe

The Sibley County Fair has come and gone, but special memories shall linger for Doris Wigand who was given the honor of being the Sibley County Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year. The event is sponsored by the State Fair, the Minnesota Board on Aging, and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs. Doris was nominated by GFWC Ladies Tourist Club President Judy Loewe. Mrs. Wigand gets invited to participate at the State Fair on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at a band shell at 10:30 am. Senior citizens from almost every county will be there. Sibley County had three women and no men nominated by their communities. That happens in other counties too, where one or the other is not nominated to run for Outstanding Senior Volunteer. Many judges go over every nomination form and letters at the next level, to determine who will be the top senior woman and top senior man volunteer, crowned at the State Fair. She gets an invitation packet by mail which includes Blue Ribbon Coupon Book, a ticket to get into the fairgrounds, a pen, and more. A reception follows the senior volunteer presentation.

Doris Brandt Wigand has been a lifelong resident of the Henderson area. Working for, working with, and serving others seems to be her life's blood flowing in her veins. Her purse calendar is absolutely filled with predetermined volunteer dates; unexpected calls to volunteer-like at a funeral and does duty as funeral chairman quite often. She makes egg salad sandwiches "to die for"; she visits the hospitalized; visits the homebound; and keeps track of those friends "missing in action".

Doris retired from teaching as a paying profession in 1991 from the LeSueur-Henderson School District after teaching 31 years, 18 years teaching second grade at Hill-top Elementary School. Doris has been volunteering every Tuesday morning of the school year for four hours. She is an active member

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The Prez Sez by Jerome Petersen

It has been a busy summer at SCHS.

The main event was the dedication and open

house of our new addition in June. We were pleased to have as very special guests, Charles and Donna Meyer, whose initial generous contribution got us on track for the planning stages of the addition. We decided it was appropriate to name the annex in honor of the Meyers. Early on, we con-

tacted Pete Pinske for help in the design and "contact" people; inspectors, surveyors etc.

He was very generous with his time and talent. Meyers offered us another generous donation as a matching grant. An appeal was sent out to our members, and we were overwhelmed and gratified by your swift response. At this point we had 2/3 of the funding needed to finish the project, and we went ahead with the planning, meeting

with Pete and others. The biggest obstacle turned out to be the site itself. Originally we planned to add on to the north side of the building, but the hill was going to add far more to the cost of site preparation, and the plan was abandoned. Pete came to the rescue with a whole new plan, on

the west side of the present building, that we all liked. ...not quite all! It had to be modified a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1) of the Continuing Education Committee of the LSH School District.

Doris has sung in the Sibley County Choral Society choir for 3 years and in her church's choir for over 60 years. She taught Sunday school over 50 years, works at church fundraisers, and has been a member of the search committee to find a new minister and has served on the St.Paul's UCC church council. The Women's Guild is near and dear to her heart- presenting programs, lunch server- she's an awesome cook: and sets up and cleans up without pretense. She also does this for Friends of the Library fundraisers and GFWC events, Pioneer Power two times a year and Sauerkraut Days for 6 hours each year. She is enlisted to be a hostess at the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah to serve the special guest presenters for this fascinating celebration about this beautiful bird held the last weekend of August.

Mrs. Wigand serves on the Henderson City Library Board, a member of the Friends of the Library, is on the Food Share Board and is secretary for each of

them. A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Ladies Tourist Club for 47 years, she's been club secretary for ever, recently made treasurer and has served time as club president a time or two through the years. Her pet project is the Henderson, Then and Now history book. When it was written she made con-

tributions of articles about Henderson. She is in charge of sales and sending the book all over the world, for the club. Doris is active at district level too. She is historian at this time, has been secretary and at state level was nominated and recognized as an "Empowered Woman."

The Red Cross bloodmobiles are a certain involvement for her. Calling donors for appointments, working in the canteen and in the kitchen have earned her many five year increment pins- up to 30 years in fact. Doris is a dependable person on our team of volunteers, which makes organizing a bloodmobile a bit easier, the donor knows her and makes their visit like "coming home". She is saving lives as a volunteer.

Yvonne O'Brien, manager of the Sibley County Food Share had many good reasons why Doris should be considered the top senior woman volunteer.

Doris also volunteers the first Monday of the month for four hours besides being the board secretary- traveling 14 miles one way, two times a month and another 14 for her afternoon of serving resi-



**Doris Wigand Holding Her Award** 

dents of Sibley County. She is dependable, does a great job and gives compassionate help to people needing help. She has done this for 20 years.

The Minnesota Valley Health Center at LeSueur sees Doris serving at the Snack Bar, and helps at events, co-leader of the pie shop at the farm and home expo as a fundraiser for the hospital auxiliary;: helps serve communion to residents; visits shut ins and is a Hospice volunteer and a board member in Le Sueur.

The Siblev County Museum sees Doris greeting museum visitors and relates to them interesting facts about our grand building and its' history. She is also a member of the Society. She was a Sibley County representative to the Region 9 Council and was on the Developmental Activity Center Board in Arlington for 6 years. Wigand served 6 years representing Sibley County on

the Region 9 Council for Aging.

Honors Doris has received in the resent past were: Volunteer of the Year at Hilltop Elementary in 2006; Outstanding Volunteer Certificate for Region 9 Council for Aging in 2005,

recently earned her 30 year pin as a Red Cross volunteer; Empowered Woman recognition certificate in 2010 by Minnesota General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Doris and her husband Sylvester lived on the family farm, established in 1859, where they raised their four children and have 12 grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren. Sylvester passed away in 1994. Doris continues to live on the farm.

Just think how

her hands and help have made the work of all the organizations she works with made a bit lighter.



Laruel Penn, Doris Wigand, Larry Wigand, Lois Tweet, and LaDonna Bender. These are Doris' three daughters and her son.



(Continued from page 1)

little, but it is the plan we approved and our needs are met.

Dorothy Peterson made a framed document with the names of all who contributed to the building fund. It is now on display in the addition. Dorothy made several photo boards with photos of the progress as the building took shape. They are on display in our addition too. We were pleased with the turnout for our dedication. There was a

short program, a ribbon cutting and then everyone was invited to tour the new facility, and the revamped music room. Refreshments were served on the front porch. The specialty of the day was sauerkraut muffins. Who couldn't love them?! The dedication day coincided with Henderson's Sauerkraut Days. There was a crowd in town for the parade, and it *almost* rained!

Ian Sing and his crew at Pinske Builders did an outstanding job. Pete Pinske was our unpaid consultant from the early planning stages, and the design is his work. We are lucky to have the pleasure of working with these gentlemen.

Jack Bovey of Henderson has been helping us with a gamut of jobs. He fixed the dehumidifier, helped me attach the Meyer Plaque, fixed some computer problems and now he has been busy working with PastPerfect. He is fixing errors and consolidating information so each person, whether a member for donor, has one identity number and name. Some have 3 or more.

One guy was entered as Art, Arthur and Archie in 3 different places. When Jack is finished, we can tell you what Arthur has donated to SCHS and when. Jack is a genius!

Arlene has been corresponding with Karen and Charles Erickson. They have sent her transcriptions of a journal that their ancestors, starting with Charles Wesley Woodbury, had written beginning in 1854. Some of the family later lived near Sand Lake south of Winthrop. One entry tells of their seriously ill daughter, for whom they contacted Dr. Mayo from LeSueur (later he went to Rochester). They recorded prices, weather, visitors, crops, livestock, Indian skirmishes and more. What an interesting piece of history. Arlene hopes to convince Ericksons to put an article together for our newsletter.

Thanks to Millie Doering of Minneapolis and Harry Kreger of Delaware for giving us history books of their families. We have many family books in our library. They are a good resource for anyone doing genealogy work and we appreciate adding your history to



A vintage Buick from John Rivers Museum

Judy's summer tour was excellent. I don't know how she comes up with all these unique places to visit and monthly programs, but she does a superb job. The Ergot Museum?? Who would go there? It was fascinating! Julie Lindquist gave a wonderful presentation.

John Rivers? Wasn't he from New Auburn? What would he have? ...an incredible assortment of interesting items from movies to vintage cars to a perfect Doodlebug. Judy outdoes herself every year coming up with such a variety of places to visit.

The Sibley County Fair gave many people a chance to connect with SCHS. We had several hundred visitors in spite of hot humid weather on Saturday and Sunday.

Judy also arranges our monthly programs. The July program Tom

Graham told us about electric co-ops. Chad Lewis had the August presentation. The subject was ghosts and other weird happenings. It was very entertaining. He said there was a haunted house in Henderson, but he would not tell which one it was. There were so many people attending, 125, it had to be moved to the Community Center. Oh Oh! Out of room. And I had so much more to say. Drat!



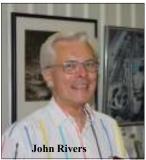
RIBBON CUTTING ON DEDICATION DAY

Jerome Petersen, Ruth Ann Buck, Al Rostberg, Charles Meyer, Sharon Shimota, Donna Meyer, Ian Sing, Judy Loewe, Marie Main, Dwight Grabitske, Dorothy Peterson, Pete Pinske, Sharon Haggenmiller, Lowell Nagel, Bonnie Nagel, Commissioners Harold Pettis and Lee Anderly, Mary Petersen and Millie Johnson

#### **SCHS SUMMER TOUR**

#### **BY Dorothy Peterson**

Sixteen members of the Sibley County Historical Society enjoyed another fantastic Summer Tour on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our first stop was at the "museum" of John Rivers in Maple Lake to see New Auburn memorabilia and a gracious host who seems to really enjoy



entertaining visitors. What a fun place to visit. Sixteen members of the Sibley County Historical Society enjoyed another fantastic Summer Tour on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. What a fun place to visit.

After dinner at Madigan's, we continued on to Annandale to visit the Minnesota Pioneer Park. This park consist of 24 buildings, including a church, a school, a barn, etc., and thou-

mark on Kimball's main street, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1982. Efforts are underway to preserve this historic building.

Our last stop was at the Dassel Historical Museum. This museum is also on the National Register of Historic Buildings where we learned about something most of us had never heard of - ERGOT.

# A description of Ergot from the *Dassel History Center and Ergot Museum Dispatch*;

Ergot is a fungus disease that has been known to infect wheat or rye under certain weather conditions since Biblical times. It is poisonous if ingested by humans or animals but yet is a veritable treasure of pharmacological constituents.

Ergot "harvesting" required a lot of hands on work and was a very tedious job. This job was done in the present day Ergot Museum or by individuals (mostly women) in their own home; it in-

volved picking the ergot particles from the grain by hand. The product was used for some types of migraine headaches as well as being associated with childbirth since the Middle Ages. It met the Eli Lilly & Co. standard of excellence so it was trademarked and soon became the preferred medication in its field and was used in 90% of the hospitals in the US. Drug companies have in recent years gone to a synthetic form of ERGOT, therefore there is no longer a market for the natural prod-

As always, Judy had planned an interesting day for our annual summer tour.



#### THE TOUR GROUP AT JOHN RIVERS MUSEUM

FRONT; Ruth Ann Buck, Marie Main, Orville Beuch, Ethel Beuch, BACK; Rommie Petersen, Leon Stadtherr, Al Rosterg, Judy Loewe, Roman Jaus, Darlene Heise, Sharon Shimota, Sharon Haggenmiller, Marlys Gaucher, Dorothy Peterson, Pete Pinske and Arlene Pinske

sands of artifacts from the past. Many of the buildings are original, while others were built by volunteers. It was a great experience to see the many ways they displayed their complete village.

Then we were off again to visit a Historical Museum in a grand old land-









A dugout on the Pioneer Park Grounds. It was moved in from the country I think.



Look! Every cell equipped with its very own toilet. It was eco-friendly and used no water, never needed flushing.



The Ergot Museum in Dassel



Ergot is the fungus that turns the kernels of wheat black on this example head





Main Street at the Pioneer Park. It had a barber ship, funeral emporium, drug store, jail, school, hitching post, church, jail, depot, barn, dugout and more. You should been there!

#### SIBLEY COUNTY FAIR REVIEW

**BY Dorothy Peterson** 

Despite the heat and humidity, we had a great time at the Sibley County Fair. The building we have been in the past 2 years really lends itself very nicely to a historical display such as ours. It al-

THE SHAKERS

lows us to spread our wings a little and have several different things going on in the building at the same time.

One of the fun activities we shared for kids (but also enjoyed by adults) was making butter. Small pint size jars were used to shake the whipping cream (donated by Organic Valley Farms of Sibley County) until it became butter. We made homemade bread so that people could try the butter after it was "churned", along with a

Baleigh, Kyle, James, Alex and Michael in back

"Mystery Item". Our item this year was a "raisin seeder". Here's what the article that Ruth Ann Buck found on the internet had to say about the "raisin seeder".

When we purchase raisins in 2010 we don't have to worry about the raisins having seeds in them. However, this was not the case over 100 years ago. Then, seedless raisins



and were sold of the raisins. panies manuitems for this

purpose. Here's how they worked: after clamping the item to her kitchen table, the housewife loaded the wet raisins into the hopper at the top. As she cranked the handle, the raisins were squeezed between two grooved rubber and toothed-metal rollers which exposed the seeds. The seeds were forced out a chute at the front and the raisins dropped below the rollers onto the table.

We stumped everyone with this one. One person came pretty close, with a little help. Richard Weckwerth, rural Arlington, was able to read some of the words on the item

> and came up with "for making raisins". Which, since it was the only one even close, netted him a 1 year family membership to SCHS. Numerous guesses were spaghetti maker and vitamin grinder, etc. One that we thought was pretty imaginative was from Gene Rodewald of New Ulm. He suggested it was an "angle worm tenderizer". For that answer, Gene will also receive a 1 year membership.

Of course Harriet Traxler's "Sibley County Barn" books were a very popular item. Harriet did a marvelous job preparing books for every Sibley County township plus several from all the townships together. We really appreciate all that Harriet has done for SCHS by preparing these books. They are a welcome item for us to display both at the museum and at other events.

(Continued on page 7)

display of antique bread making equipment from the museum. We heard the phrase, "oh I remember having this at home" many times from our older guests.

We tried to have something for all ages and interests, so we had demonstrations by Gisela Meyer on spinning yarn, and Bert Karels on sharpening saw blades, in addition to the butter making.

We also had "hands on" quilting projects for people to stitch or tie on. All ages enjoyed putting a few stitches or knots in our quilts. The top of the quilt was pieced by Brenda Pautsch of Gaylord and the quilt was donated by the American Lutheran Quilters of Gaylord and will be given to charity when it is finished. Thanks to Gisela, Bert, Marie & Dorothy for getting the projects & demonstrations lined up.

And of course we can't forget the





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The township books have about 35 pictures of barns from that township plus a few additional photos of other scenes she has come across in her travels through the county. You really have to see these books to understand the beauty of them. The Township books are available from Harriet, or through the museum, for \$20 per book, plus \$5 if you want to have your own farm picture on front and/or back. The larger, all county books are \$40. (Mailing when needed is additional) Thank you so much, Harriet, for all you do for SCHS; you're the greatest! The framed "barn" print, donated by Harriet was won by Ed Anderson of Gaylord.

Thanks to all who visited us at the fair!



Bert Karels with his saw sharpening demonstration



Some guests trying their hand at quilting



Harriet Traxler chatting with guests admiring her books



These feather sox are warm. They make my feet smell like the chicken barn



Visitors had a lot to look at in our Fair Display

"Gisela can make a sweater in a month. It takes me a year to make a new coat"



Preparing for the day; Charles Lundgren, Jan Lundgren, Judy Loewe and Mary Petersen

#### More Dedication Photos



Arlene Busse and Charles Meyer



Helen Ingvaldson, Bonnie Nagel, Ginny Heidmann, Margaret Hoffman, Unidentified



Mary Petersen serving refreshment on the front porch. Jan Lundgren, Mary, Al Rostberg Donna Meyer, Diane Rostberg, Marie Main, Sharon Shimota



Visitors for the dedication.

Becky Briggs saw this at the Country Side Antique Mall in Cannon Falls –a painted sign from 1937 that says "Sibley County District No. 58."

If this was the school you attended, it would be a great memento. The sign was priced \$145.00.

# CHANKS TO

Thanks to Paula M. Nelson, the Arlington Library and Wayne & Louis Quast for their donations. Thanks to Randy's Custom Framing for giving us a "deal" on our framed list of benefactors. Thanks to all who visited us at the fair and left a donation. Again a special thanks to Harriet Traxler who gave us a generous donation and also donated a print for the SCHS fair drawing. Thanks to a couple of *bush-whackers* pictured below; Sharon Shimota and Judy Loewe who trimmed the museum shrubs. A huge branch broke off the ash tree at the NE corner of the museum. One of the branches of the same tree brushed against the roof and bent the lightning rod. Thanks to Al Rostberg for doing all the work necessary to clean that mess up. Al's picture will appear with his upcoming rail-road article.





#### OBITUARY

(Contributed)

the evening shades of Tuesday were falling upon the weary earth, after the sun had bade good night to the drooping flowers and while the birds were still singing their farewell songs from the branches of the whispering trees, the gentle spirit of Joseph Ritter sank silently into that dreamless sleep that knows no earthly awakening. The mystic change came unexpectedly, but beside the silent sea the boatman with the muffled oar was waiting, and with a smile of peace the final signal was obeyed and the last great voyage begun upon the bosom of that mysterious sea whose billows have never yet borne the image of a homeward sail.

Joseph Ritter, son of Joseph and Lena Ritter, was born at Henderson, Minnesota, June 29th 1888 and de-

Marie Main found this flowery segment of an obituary. Aren't these lvrics for a country western song? Another obituary on the same page starts "Another old resident and Civil War veteran has answered the final roll call". Where are those obit writers today?



Gaylord MN

Platteville WI

Fort Wayne IN

### Membership Form

Howard & Frances Armstrong

Paula M Nelson

Allen Co Library

I would like to become a member of the Sibley County Historical Society.

NAME SCHS TREASURER

49858 316 ST

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Winthrop MN 55396-2038

PHONE

E-MAIL

I Individual--\$20, Family-- \$25, Business-- \$50 Send to:



Lee & Jackie Anderly

James Huelskamp

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March thru November at the museum in Henderson. The public is invited. The museum is open to the public for tours on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June thru October and by appointment.

Henderson MN

De Pere WI

Send articles, announcements, photos and comments to the SCHS Newsletter, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or Email: schs1@frontiernet.net

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.





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SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD Jerome Petersen President Dwight Grabitske Vice-President **Dorothy Peterson** Secretary Ray Meyer Treasurer Sharon Haggenmiller Curator Judy Loewe Marie Main Millie Johnson Sharon Shimota Ruth Ann Buck



## Ostrom Project Update - August 2010

by Becky Briggs

I'm thrilled to report that after an absence of almost one year, unknown Ostrom photographs are again appearing in area newspapers!

Ruth Klossner at the *Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger* is now coordinating distribution of the photographs. The *Ledger* adjusts the photos I send so they will look good in newsprint, gets the photo set up in the "frame," and e-mails this to the other participating newspapers.

If you enjoy seeing the Ostrom photos in the paper, please thank Ruth for making the effort to help us – it couldn't happen without her! Also, please thank the editors of the other papers that have agreed to resume printing the photos – Arlington, Gaylord, Fairfax /Gibbon, Henderson, and Winthrop.

Thanks are also in order for Al Giesen of Arlington, who was the previous coordinator of the newspaper project.

Scanning of identified negatives continues. I'm currently working with negatives from 1945.

If your mom threw out the old family photos, we may be able to help you replace some of them! Our photo collection could also be a "gold mine" for genealogists. Contact Dorothy at the museum, and ask her to check our index of names. Prices are reasonable, and the proceeds directly benefit <u>your</u> Sibley County Historical Society.

