Sibley County Historical Society Newsletter

December 2017
Volume 22, Issue 4

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

Our featured church this issue is Trinity Lutheran Church,
Sibley Township, rural Gaylord

See pages 4 & 5 for more pictures of the 2016 pageant

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Upcoming Events

SCHS Holiday Event Sunday, January 7, 2018 at the Sibley County Museum, Henderson.

Other County-wide Holiday events

9th Annual **Arli-Dazzle at Arlington**, **Saturday, December 2**
Full day of events with parade beginning at 5:30.
Arlington Historical Society will be open 9-12 A M.

"Christmas in the Barn" **Sunday, December 24**. Three services, 11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM sponsored by **Trinity Lutheran Church, Gaylord.** (*Directions on poster above.)*

Winthrop Historical Museum will be open on **December 2** for 'Christmas in the Country' from 10 to 2.
During winter months we are open only by request. Anyone who wants to visit. Call 507-647-2322 or 507-766-0895.

Looking back through History

A history compiled from 125th and 150th Anniversary books of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sibley Township by Dorothy Peterson, SCHS Newsletter editor, with help from Richard & Joyce Plaman, David Kahle and Pastor Scott Richards.

Beginning in the 1850's, pioneers of German decent started arriving in the Kelso and Sibley Township area of Sibley County to establish a new life. Shortly after they had built homes, they were visited by non-Lutheran missionaries. However, the true Lutheran settlers remained faithful to their belief.

In the early 1860's Pastor Gottlieb Fachtmann, a traveling missionary of the Minnesota Synod, came to Henderson MN and wholeheartedly dedicated himself to the Lutherans in the area. Under his leadership, the Kelso-Sibley Lutherans organized a congregation on March 21, 1877, with the name "The German Evangelical Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Kelso and Sibley". Today it is know as Trinity Lutheran Church, Sibley Township. There was no church building at this time so the members met in private homes.

In March 1866, Henry Otting offered to give a parcel of land, consisting of three acres on which the present church stands. One dollar and a vote of thanks were given Mr Otting for his unselfish gift.

Exact date of construction of the first church, which was a log building, is unknown; it is presumed that it may have been in June of 1869, when the congregation mortgaged the land to Henry Prior for $200. This loan was repaid in 1877. For 18 years the congregation met in that building to hear the Word of God and to receive the sacraments.

Pastor F Kopelke was installed as the first pastor. The first parsonage was a small log house; there is no recorded date of its construction. In early years, the pastors salary was quite meager, so he kept a cow and some chickens to provide him and his family with milk, eggs, and meat. The parishioners provided the hay and feed for his animals. Records show that the pastors salaries included free housing and firewood.

The second parsonage, a six room, two story house, was built in 1867.

The first recorded baptism was that of Pauline Therese Christine Hedrich in 1870. In 1869 Ferdinand Wendelschafer and Minna Kusske were the first couple to be married. The first recorded confirmation class was in 1872, and it had nine members.

Eventually the congregation outgrew the small church so a new, larger church (present church) was built in 1885. The log building (the first church) was then used for a school house and meeting place for the congregation. A custom observed for many years was the seating of members during worship services — men on the north side and women on the south side.

In 1896, the congregation unanimously voted to purchase an organ equipped with 230 sounding pipes and pedal base; this was used for 46 years. A choir was formed as well as the Concordia Band in 1897, which occasionally provided music for the church services.

During Pastor C Schreiner's years at Trinity, the first church, which was being used as a school house and meeting place, was replaced by a larger building with a hall at the entrance. Dedication took place in 1913.

A cyclone in 1925 damaged the church's tall steeple and was replaced by a tower from which the bell purchased in 1885 still rings. The church of 1885 was completely remodeled and the sacristy added; pulpit, pews and altar were replaced by those, which are still used. Two ceremonies marked the dedication of the newly remodeled church held on July 20, 1930; a German service in the morning and an English service in the afternoon.

For 65 years services were conducted in German. As English became more predominate in the community and schools, a gradual change from all German to German and English services was started in the 1930s. A Sunday School was organized with about 90 enrolled which increased to 109 during 1934. Classes were held prior to the church services throughout the whole year.

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In 1938 a modern eight room, two story parsonage was built.

A parish hall with an auditorium, kitchen, Sunday school rooms, basement restrooms and storage space was built.

During the early 1950s, the pastors salary was approximately $3,000 a year, plus the congregations payment into the Pension Fund and a year-end bonus.

In January 1968, the women of Trinity were given the privilege to vote at the congregational meetings.

In 1987 Trinity voted in favor of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) merging with the Lutheran Church of America (LCA) and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) to form a new Lutheran Church named the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Recent pastors who have served and years served were: James Lehman, 1980-1985; Kathy Newsome/Gauger, 1986—1991; Tom Schwartz, 1991-1998; Karl Jacobson, 1999-2002; Mary Dodgson, 2003-2008; William Nelsen 2008-2011; Scott Richards, 2015-present.

In 1998 a committee was chosen to consider sharing a pastor with St. Paul's of Gaylord. A call Committee was selected and guidelines on expenses to be share with St Paul's were set.

As is customary, there are many service projects: quilting, soup and sandwich luncheons, and food shelf, plus they have also come up with some unique ones of their own. They deliver lunches to area farmers during harvest, have regular fishing outings during the summer, ending with a neighborhood fish fry. They hold Campfire Church on summer Sunday nights as well as a neighborhood cookout.

In conjunction with the St. Paul's church in Gaylord they hold hymn sings at EJ's (a restaurant in Gaylord) periodically; the most popular being "Beer & Carols", in December.

A Country Western Service was added to the spring potato pancake dinner in 2009, another popular event.

The first annual "Harvest Blessing and Tractor Roll-In" was held in 2009. During this fall outdoor service, members are invited to bring their farm tractors, combines etc. to church where each farm family receives a blessing by the Pastor.

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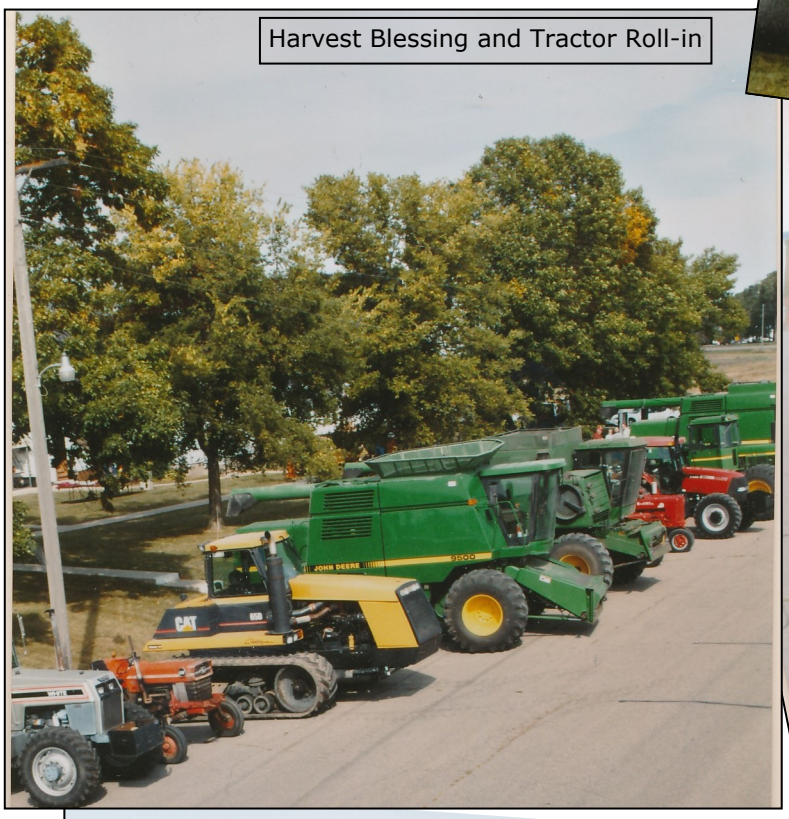
All of these activities have helped bring new growth to the church. The Sunday School and confirmation classes have grown in recent years; there are now 22 Sunday School students and nine confirmands.

Trinity's newest event is "Christmas In the Barn", which was held for the first time in 2015. (*pictures on next page)*



Harvest Blessing and Tractor Roll-in

Scenes from previous "Christmas in the Barn " presentations.

The program is held in the lower part of the barn with overflow room in the hay barn above shown on a large screen. Although the barn is reasonably warm, winter outer wear is advised.

There are no reservations. Come early for best seating.

This year there will be 3 presentations on Sunday, December 24:

11 a m 1 p m 3 p m

Searching for my Birth Mother

My name is Tom Wiprud and I live in Hutchinson, Minnesota. I was born July 12, 1949 and was adopted as an infant shortly after by Roy and Dorothy Wiprud. At that time they lived in Duluth, Minnesota. My father worked as an engineer for Westinghouse and had several job transfers during his career. After Duluth we lived in St. Louis Park, MN where I attended grade school and then moved to Glen Ellyn, IL where I graduated from High School. My father retired in 1970 and my parents moved to Bothell, WA. My mother died in 1997 at the age of 90 and my father died in 2015 at age 100. They were wonderful, loving parents.

While in active duty in the Air Force, I met my future wife, Debra. She was born in Glencoe and grew up in Hutchinson and that is how we ended up living in Hutchinson. A few years ago we decided to pursue a search for my birth mother through the adoption agency, Children's Home Society (CHS) and in the spring of 2016 I learned that my birth mother had passed away in 2008. Her name was Minerva (Minnie) Beseke Sims. I learned many things about her, but the most surprising was that in her later years she lived in Arlington, MN, only 30 miles from Hutchinson! I was a few years too late to have the possibility of meeting her.

I learned that Minerva had attended the Swedish Institute of Nursing in Minneapolis and became a nurse, she was in the Peace Corps, and traveled to Cuba and Africa. I learned that she loved birds and had several bird feeders and that she painted china with her mother. She served in the army as a nurse and attained the rank of Lieutenant and while serving in Germany, she met her husband, Sergeant David Sims. They had one daughter, Phyllis, who was born in 1969. Again through CHS I tried to reach out to Phyllis, only to find out that she had passed away in 2014 of stomach cancer. Another setback. I did learn, however, through CHS that Phyllis' husband, Dennis, lived near Kansas City and after several emails and phone calls to Dennis I was able to meet him last spring when my wife and I drove down on a mini –vacation, taking in the sites of Kansas City and getting to know Dennis. He shared lots of Minerva and Phyllis stories and gave me several photos and personal items; the flag presented to Phyllis at Minerva's funeral, and a beautiful plate Minerva had painted (shown at right.)

Minerva wearing her Swedish Hospital Nurses Uniform.

Earlier we had learned where Minerva and her parents are buried in Arlington and I have visited the graves in the City of Arlington, MN. We also learned from Dennis that Minerva had donated several items to the City of Arlington and uniforms to the Sibley County Historical Museum in Henderson.

A few weeks ago my wife and I took a drive to Henderson to check out the uniforms (and take in the Tuesday night car show). We were greeted by Sharon Haggenmiller and later Arlene Busse. We were able to see the many items Minerva had donated. All were carefully wrapped in tissue paper and stored in a labeled box. It was especially interesting to see her Swedish Nursing School of Minneapolis uniform since Dennis had given us a photo of Minerva taken in it 70 years ago! Arlene treated us to a mini tour of the museum and we plan to return January 7, 2018 for the Holiday Open House. We have since learned that some of Minerva's uniforms are now on display. That will be very special to see. Arlene asked my wife, Deb, and her friend Joy Berg and Joy's daughter, Debra, to sing and perform at the January open house. They are really looking forward to it! *More details about that event are on 12.*

Tom Wiprud, proudly displaying the uniform he recently discovered at the museum, which his birth mother wore while serving as a Lieutenant in the US Army.

Christmas Memories

Ruth Ann Buck

I like reading or hearing about how people celebrated Christmas years ago. Recently when Henderson celebrated Heritage Days, my aunt, Doris Brandt Wigand, wrote some of her memories of growing up on a farm just outside of Henderson. Doris was born in 1925 and is 92 years old. Here are some of her memories of Christmas.

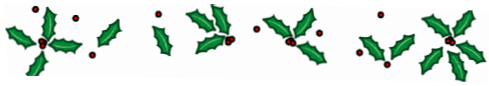
"We *always cut a wild cedar tree from our woods for a Christmas tree. It was trimmed with some ornaments, popcorn and paper chains and lots of silver tinsel. Candles fit into clip-on holders that were put on the tree but were lit only on Christmas. We eventually did get a string of lights to replace the candles. Santa always came when we were at church on Christmas Eve, where we had our program. Each of us memorized a "Christmas piece" and had to go up in front and say it when the minister's wife called our name. We just got one present, maybe two small things, if we were lucky.*

In town, the Ladies Tourist Club had planted a tree near where the bulletin sign is now. It was decorated with electric lights that were lit each night before Christmas. Then in the evening, December 23, there would be a "Community Sing". Adults and children would gather to sing Christmas carols and the kids would get a popcorn ball from Santa."

Looking through our files at the museum I found more memories of Christmas. Here are memories that were in the Arlington Enterprise in 2002. Three students, Cody Brockoff, Kim Quast, and Ashley Thomes interviewed Clara Bullert Brockoff of Green Isle, (1909-2005) she was 92 years old at the time. They asked Clara how they celebrated Christmas years back. This is what she shared with them:

"*The school children got one week for Christmas break. She remembered how she and her mother would make lots of cookies for the occasion. They always had a real tree that they would cut down and decorate. They usually celebrated Christmas for two days. On Christmas Eve, they went to the country church by Green Isle (Zion's Lutheran Church), at which the children of the congregation put on a Christmas Program. During that time, the sermons were preached in German. The men sat on one side of the church and the women and children sat on the other side. Then on Christmas Day they went to church in the morning and would have a big dinner, with roast duck and all the trimmings. Following dinner, they got to open presents from Santa, which consisted of two or three gifts. The cost of these gifts were about $3 to $5. Santa did all of his shopping at Nevins store, located in Green Isle."* Clara said her favorite gifts were dolls. She enjoyed playing with her dolls and making clothes for them.

From a Nagel Family history, Elaine Joann Nagel Nelson (1931) formerly of Arlington and now of Albert Lea, shared this Christmas memory: "*Our family consisted of ten children and I always enjoyed the solitude of being by myself at home. It was some time before Christmas one year and everyone left to go somewhere. I stayed home. I knew the presents were wrapped in boxes in the back of Mom and Dad's closet. I got them out and unwrapped them carefully to snoop at all the gifts. Come Christmas Eve I did not have any gifts under the tree. After enough tears, Dad told Stanley to look out on the front porch. Santa had left my gifts in a gunny sack out on the porch."*



I also found the memories of Elsie Otto Boelter (1891-1981). Elsie lived in Blakely and her grandparents John and Clara Wigand lived just outside of Henderson. Here is a Christmas memory she wrote about:

"*One year, when I was about eight years old, we knew quite early in the fall that we were going to spend Christmas with our grandparents.*

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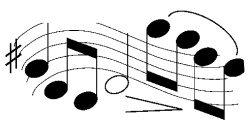
My sister Loretta and I coaxed our parents to teach us to sing "Silent Night" in German to surprise grandma and grandpa. We spent weeks having our little practice session right after supper. Mamma and Dad were very strict and once we started on the song we had to continue to practice. At last the long awaited Christmas Eve arrived. It seems as if there were many people there and I remember well the tree. It was not very tall but bushy and ablaze with candle light. It nearly filled the corner where it stood. Uncle Albert stood guard with a bucket of water and a dipper. He soon had someone on the other side of the tree to assist him; a very careful watch was kept on that Christmas tree.

I think we started out all right on the song "Silent Night", but soon I could hear Mamma and Dad who were sitting right in back of us pick up the tune, so I suppose we were coming up with sour notes. There were visitors that lived below the hill, I do not know anything about the family background but they seemed to be more educated than the average family in the neighborhood. One thing they knew was music.

I do not know if it was with the words or the music, but out of the blue, the oldest daughter of this family broke in and actually took "Silent Night" away from a bewildered youngster who had wanted very much to surprise her grandparents; and it looked very much as if we did. It couldn't have been a complete failure, for grandma very suddenly had to wipe her glasses and grandpa brought out the big blue handkerchief and loudly blew his nose. Aunt Clara was smiling and Mamma reached out her hand and drew me close to her. I am certain that she understood how I felt. Loretta had kept on singing; she had a better singing voice than I did, and I'll warrant she also did better on the German words! The girl from the other family knew her music and first thing you know she was getting everybody to join in the singing. She directed and "Silent Night" was sung as it was meant to be sung. They sang all the Christmas songs, many of them strange to me; one they sung was "O Tannenbaum", which has a very beautiful melody and can be sung with deep feeling. I don't wish to take anything away from those girls below the hill, they were good and I know everyone greatly enjoyed that Christmas Eve at my grandparents, but to this day, I can't sing "Silent Night" in German and I will tell you something else, I can't even sing!"



Memories of Rommie Petersen
Our family did not have any special Christmas traditions, but I do have memories of some events.

My parents took our family to the LIndstrand school, located a few miles from our farm, for their school Christmas program. Anna Lager, a good friend of my parents taught there. Although it was nearly 80 years ago, I still have a vivid memory of that occasion. We were sitting at the desks watching the program on a makeshift stage. I don't remember many of the details other than this: they said Santa Claus would be coming to the school tonight. Not long after, we heard the bells on his sleigh as he landed right outside the schoolhouse. He actually drove his reindeer there and parked outside. I SAW it! It was not made up! And in a few short moments, sure enough he came in with gift bags of goodies for each of us. After handing them out, he left and drove away with his reindeer back to the north pole. What a thrill! I heard and SAW it all happen.

Midnight mass was a Catholic tradition. That meant mass started at midnight. We were kids and probably slept on the way to church, during church, and on the way home. But, hey, we got to STAY UP till the wee hours.

My mother came from a rural Gibbon family of 8 kids and they all got together for every birthday, anniversary and holiday. Christmas was usually a feast at my great aunt, Kate Eckert's home in Gibbon. All the aunts, uncles and cousins were there for a big supper with card playing later and a big lunch following before everyone headed for home. Sometimes it worked out that Augustana Church, across the street, was having their Christmas Program the same evening and the kids would go to that. Maybe Kate insisted we go to that and be out of the house for an hour or two; she was a spinster, and I am sure when that night was over she was very glad. Having a dozen kids running throughout the house would be nerve wracking. I remember somehow chipping the open stair corner balustrade at one of these gatherings. I pointed it out to the lady who now lives in the house. The chip is still there.

When I was in elementary school we had a Christmas Operetta each year. As we waited for our turn to be on stage practicing for our part, we studied in the hall. One Christmas I was Good King Winter and Beverly Olson was Queen December. For the next 60+ years when we met on the street we would sing to each other "Good King Winter, Queen December, you should know, you should know, if there is a Santa, if there is a Santa, you should know."

It wasn't a Holiday Program, it was a Christmas Program. Christmas vacation followed. When did all that change? WWII was going on at that time, ending when I was twelve.

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Excerpts of Chri*stmas memories of the past from a 2006 newsletter,*
written by Donald Sander and submitted by Karen Helfert

Christmas Eve and a program at the Ebenezer M E Church, made for a very special night of the year. It was a celebration to end a year of anticipation and waiting.

The steeple rose far above the farms scattered about as far as you could see. It vied to be highest in the sky with two Lutheran churches on the horizon.

Christmas Eve was preceded by tedious Sunday afternoon rehearsals. Little tots and self conscious youngsters waited nervously for their turn to be called to leave the comfort of the pack and venture out all alone up on the platform to give their recitation.

On the Sunday before Christmas some very important things had to be done. One was the trimming of a tree, usually about 12 to 14 feet high. Rehearsal for the Christmas program was always interrupted as the big red can containing the ornaments was dusted off and opened. The Christmas celebration officially began as the cover came off.

There was another procedure, however, that was of much more importance to us children, which we watched with an increased intense self interest. That was the filling of the brown Christmas bags. It was the custom for the parents to contribute to the purchase of nuts, fruits and candies for these bags. During the afternoon many open bags were lined up on the benches and trusted members of the congregation counted out an equal number of peanuts, walnuts, almonds, brazil nuts, hazel nuts and either an apple or orange for each bag. Others counted out colored hard candies for the smaller bags that went in on top of the nuts. The anticipation of those bags made it worthwhile trying to get words out as fast as possible at an audible level.

Christmas night began late in the afternoon when my father would walk across the snow banks in the meadow to the church and start the fire in a high barreled stove, which stood tall like the boiler of a stationery steam engine. It was partially surrounded by a metal shield to protect people and benches from scorching when the stove became red hot. And a red hot stove was needed at times to off-set the icy blast of winds that swept across the plains uninterrupted from the Canadian border.

After chores and a lot of hair brushing, dressed in our best, the family would arrive at the church earlier than others to shake up the fire and light the lamps. The soft glow of those kerosene lamps has never been equaled in modern times. As families left for church these lamps became the only visible light in the countryside. Some distant jingling of real sleigh bells meant that the congregation was arriving out of the darkness. There were no snow plows then, so with the first big snow storm, usually in November, drifts were formed that stayed until spring. Autos were then put up on blocks to stay there until spring.

Sleigh bells were a prized possession of the families that could afford them. When teams were unhitched and either tied in the barn or to a sleigh box where they would munch on hay during the program, there followed a shedding and stacking of big coats in the back of the sanctuary. Gradually the congregation settled down on the hard benches and the service would begin.

With the formalities over, Mr. Breitkreutz would solemnly call on Clarence Budke and Joyce Sohm, the two tallest boys, to light the tree. This was done with candles fixed on long poles. The congregation sat hushed and silent as with considerable dexterity they sought out each candle tucked away in the boughs. Soon the aroma of wax candles and singed evergreen needles filled the air. That same aroma even today still has a charm and evokes a feeling of anticipation.

When, finally, the top candle carried a flickering flame, the program could proceed. First several hymns were sung, then my Dad would read the Christmas story. Next followed the moment of truth for the fidgeting youngsters as each dutifully trudged up to the platform and faced the congregation, reminding himself all the while that a bag of nuts and candy were not far away.

Soon the last "piece" had been recited, and then followed an old ritual that was tiresomely repeated for generations. The Superintendent of the Sunday school blithely informed the congregation that the program was over and that they could all go home now. Humor? Not much. The gasp of incredulity from the youngsters was sure to follow and the apparent oversight was quickly corrected as names were called and little arms of all sizes shot up tensely awaiting a brown Christmas bag. Now we could go home to await the last few hours before Christmas morning.

A Lovely Light
Clara Bell Thurston

A candle's but a simple thing. . .
It starts with just a bit of string .
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand.
Until complete and snowy white,
It gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string. . .
Each deed we do a simple thing
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient heart and hand,
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,
And gives at last a lovely light.

Yule Log a tradition of Scandanavia

Scandinavia is a historical and cultural region in Northern Europe comprised of the kingdoms of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Scandinavia is known to be the birthplace of "Yuletide" traditions. Yuletide means 'the turning of the sun', celebrating harvest, fertility and birth.

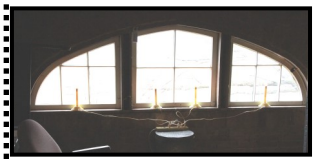
The dark, cold winters inspired the development of these customs that would go on to become one of the most important traditions in Christmas around the world. The 'Yule log' was initially an entire tree, which was carefully chosen and brought into households with great pomp. One part of the tree was eventually fed to the fire, and the log would be used for the entire season.

The Christmas season in Scandinavia starts with Advent, which begins the first Sunday of December. At this time, the first candle in the advent candleholder is lit. On each subsequent Sunday, another candle is lit, so that on the fourth Sunday, there are four candles, all of which are placed in the candelabra as a part of ancient Christmas traditions. The candelabras and candles are traditionally decorated with twigs, ribbons and berries.

And even though December is the darkest month in these countries, the lights during the festive season offer warmth and colors to the festival.

Decorating for the Holidays!

It takes a special someone to crawl around in attics and around all kinds of accessions to put the candles in all of our windows. We're lucky to have just the gal. Sharon Shimota is in charge of the "light brigade"!



The tree trimmers shown below are Lowell Nagel, Mary Ellen & Rommie Petersen and Marie Main.

Meanwhile, Arlene Busse & Marlys Gaucher are working on getting our new exhibits ready.

They are all part of the Tuesday volunteers.

Albert "Bert' Karels *by Rommie Petersen*

SCHS lost a good friend recently. I have known Bert for 20 years or so, and feel very honored that I knew and worked with him on a variety of projects. Laid back. Smart. Inventive, Intuitive. A craftsman.

One project we worked on was installing a phone line to the upstairs office. Using the pipes that went through the ceiling and floor as a guide for alignment, we drilled through the ceiling and floor of the office, trying to get the wire from the hole in the ceiling to the hole in the floor. Poke and fish. Poke and fish. It was not working, until we discovered the pipes did not go straight through, but had an elbow in. Good for a laugh. After that discovery we made the connection.

We worked on the microfilm reader that was so old it was impossible to get parts. We made a clutch for the film drive from the plastic of an ice cream pail.

David Main and I took the attic windows out so Bert could repair them and Dave could paint them. The company that was installing thermopane windows in the museum told us to save them as it would cost hundreds of dollars to replace each of the curved frame windows. Or, Bert could repair them. I think they were assembled with wooden pegs 130 years ago.

Bert could fix the unfixable. There was an old wooden tub wash machine, all in parts. Arlene Busse suggested having Bert look at it. He brought it back in working order, all the slats of the tub in order. An old kid's wagon was falling apart; Bert fixed that too.

When he was a "kid" he served as a member of a B-24 Bomber crew in WWII He told us about his experiences during the war as a teenager, not even old enough to vote! . . .and part of a crew that was bombing the Nazi war machine industry. He was narrowly missed by a shell coming through the plane and damaging his flight suit. He showed me his personal log of each bomb run the crew was part of: outside temperature, target, destination, etc.

He showed me the silk map of Germany that the crew carried and could use to find their way if their plane was shot down, (map shown in background below with the replica he built of the B-24 bomber they flew in).

Bert and Arline were very generous to SCHS. He served as treasurer, Arline was secretary. They were faithful attendees at our programs and regulars at our porch parties.

I want to say again how honored I was to know Bert, and how grateful I am that I could work with him and just to know this great humble man.

May he rest in peace.

NEW* AND RENEWED MEMBERS

*Donna & Bill Grunwald, Apple Valley, MN
*Michael Toenies, Henderson, MN
*Marian Pfarr-Saxton, Gaylord, MN
*Annette J. Zimmerman, Glencoe, MN
Lois & Ken Ahntholz, Ankeny, IA
Darrel & Jackie Alsleben, Arlington, M**N**
Davis Biebl, Gibbon, MN
Myra Bushard, Fairfax, MN
Steve Carlson, Brooklyn Park, MN
Cathy Creech, Henderson, MN
George Doheny, Prior Lake, MN
Elden Egesdal, Gaylord, MN
Karol Erickson, Olympia, WA
Joyce & Dick Gardner, St. Peter, MN
Dick & Diane Isakson, Gibbon, MN
Carol E. Jackson, Eden Prairie, MN
Karen Klenk, Winthrop, MN
Karl Lieske, Henderson, MN
Myron Lindeman, Redwood Falls, MN
Arlene Moore, Gaylord, MN
Rich & Roseann Nagel, Arlington, MN
James & Ruth Ann Nytes, Henderson, MN
Sue Osten, Scandia, MN
Leslie & Diane Pettis, Winthrop, MN
Raymond (Ted) Pinske, Gaylord, MN
Carol Reiter, Henderson, MN
Val Rocheleau, Rochester, MN
LaDonna & Gene Rodewald, New Ulm, MN
Lavonne Sanderfeld, Williamsburg, IA
Larry & Sharon Sickmann, Arlington, MN
Elaine Thies, Gaylord, MN

Memorials and Donations

During this season of giving thanks, we are especially thankful for all of our members, visitors, our volunteer guides, weekly volunteers, and Board of Directors. We are looking forward to a great 2018.

And once again we say thanks to you, Donna & Charles Meyer, Houston TX, for your friendship, encouragement and support. The Board of Directors appreciated having an opportunity to meet you on your recent trip to Minnesota.

Memorials

Organizational sponsors

Mary Bakeman

In memory of Anton & Rosina Rost

Contributing Sponsors

Lois & Ken Ahntholz In memory of Leah Enbom
Carol & Thomas Jackson In memory of Leah Enbom
Ruth Ann Buck In memory of Bev Alfson
Dorothy Peterson In memory of Edmund Larson
Dorothy Peterson In memory of Earl Brockhoff
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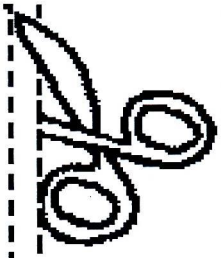

The museum is open to the public for tours beginning on Memorial Day and then Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, June thru October and by appointment. Volunteers available to do research or call the museum to set an appointment to do your own at $5.00 per hour.

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

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated above. Mail to:
SCHS Treasurer, P O Box 206
Arlington, MN 55307

SCHS HOLIDAY EVENT

You are invited to a special free Holiday Event at the Sibley County Historical Museum at Henderson on Sunday, January 7, 2018, beginning at 1:30 PM. Debbie Wiprud & Joy Berg of Hutchinson will begin each of 2 programs by singing their favorite Christmas songs, accompanied on our Allanson piano by Joy's daughter, Debra Olsen, also of Hutchinson. They will then lead the audience in Christmas carols. This will be repeated again at 3:30. We will also tell several short stories about, and show some interesting recent gifts to the museum. There will be time to see our new displays, as all areas of the museum will be open for visitors.

Following each program or museum tour, guests will be invited to move to the office area of the museum, where they will be offered a variety of treats including lefse, rosettes and sandbakkelse. Decorations, food service, and demonstrations are being arranged by Roseann Nagel, with demonstrations by Betty Rud on making lefse, and Maxine Rickard, on making sandbakkelse. Roseann with granddaughter, Miana, will show how to make ornaments of straw.

Tuesday volunteers at the museum will have Christmas trees up and other decorations in place. There will be an emphasis on a display of toys from the past, all from the Children's Room. A Holiday Open House at the museum happens every other year, many wonderful items come down from storage in the attic for these events. Helpers are many and include Jerome and Mary Petersen, Dorothy Peterson, Gibbon; Marie Main, Gaylord, Sharon Shimota, Marlys Gaucher and Lowell Nagel, Arlington; Sharon Haggenmiller and Arlene Busse, Henderson. David Tesch, President, and the Board of Directors of the Sibley County Historical Society, join all museum volunteers in extending this invitation.

Seasons Greetings from all of us at SCHS

SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Henderson, MN 56044
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E-mail: schs1@frontiernet.net

The Stamp of Approval

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