

SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter ~ June 2021

Volume 31, Issue 1

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From the President:

Making History! The Sibley County Historical Society had its first ZOOM Annual Meeting in April 2021. Vicki Stock, SCHS Vice President and Mike Reinhardt, Board Member at Large have both accepted another term uncontested. We also warmly welcome our new Board Member at Large, Diane Fredin of Winthrop.

Other grateful news is the Sibley County Historical Society & Museum is now open for the 2021 season! The Museum opened on Memorial Day which has been tradition since 1949! We ask guests to wear masks and hand sanitize upon entering the entrance hall and social distance at six feet apart in keeping with Covid standards. Policies will be reviewed and updated to follow the CDC Covid guidelines.

Our long time friend, Del Olfert has retired his lawn mower after years of keeping the SCHS grounds beautiful. We will always be forever grateful to Del for his dedication. Our esteemed volunteer Lowell Nagel has new volunteers, Joe Strobel of Gaylord and Marie Hoffman of Gibbon to assist with building and grounds. A warm welcome to both Joe and Marie.

Constant repairs continue as some of the slate roof has been repaired thanks to Ian Sing. Currently the front porch and steps need more than just paint so we are always grateful for donations to make this happen. Thank you for your membership support and for your dedication in preserving history of Sibley County.

Please don't miss seeing our exhibit at the Sibley County Fair August 4-8 2021.

Cheers,
Jeff DuCharme
SCHS President

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Board of Directors:

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WELCOME TO 2021 MUSEUM ENTERTAINMENT



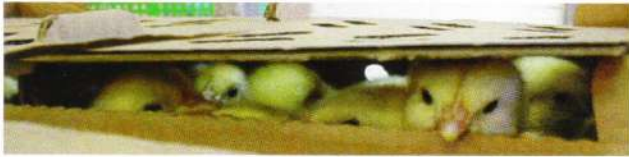
Look who snuck into the Museum to join the summer festivities. A trio of 1980 Cabbage Patch kids came from Nebraska.

And even Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy from Iowa are in the Parlor. They were handcrafted in 1961 by Gigi who did not forget to add that "I Love You" heart. The SCHS Board hopes you will come on a summer Sunday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 to enjoy new displays.



Peeps in the Post Office

By Arlene Busse



Once a rite of Spring was seeing a farmer heading to the post office to pick up a big box of 100 peeping, day-old chicks. Ready at his farm would be a secured space in a corner of the chicken house. A chicken house or hen house was often a long low building with roosts for night use and a row of nest boxes where the flock of adult hens would each deposit three or four eggs per week for several years. Some farmsteads had a small building called a brooder house.

That small building or the chicken house, prepared for the chicks, would contain a "brooder" for warmth. There were several styles of brooders. Each provided a cover under which the chicks could huddle. There would have been a source of heat: a kerosene burner or an electric heat lamp on a modernized farm. Food and water feeders were filled and waiting for the very hungry chicks.

Baby chickens still arrive at post offices with only eight to ten in the boxes. These chickens may be raised as 4-H projects. Some families raise them in back yards and value them as pets and as egg producers. In recent years, visitors to the poultry barn at our Sibley County Fair in Arlington have seen the great variety of fancy chickens now living in this area.

Visitors to our County Museum in Henderson will see an old incubator in the basement. This incubator was once used at an area farm to keep fertile eggs at an optimum warmth until the baby chick growing inside each egg was big and strong enough to peck an opening in the egg's shell. During embryonic development the chick grows an "egg tooth" on the upper beak. This tooth hardens as hatching time nears at about 22 days. It is possible to listen to the egg and hear the hard working baby as it pecks an air hole. Then the baby rests before pecking an opening large enough for it to kick its way out. The no-longer-needed egg tooth falls off.

Newsletter readers with memories of the typical diversified farm of several generations ago will know about "cluck" or "broody" hens. In the spring or early summer, one of the egg producers might instinctively decide to become a mother. She would sit on a few eggs that had accumulated in a nest box and refuse to leave. Interfering with her would result in a serious assault on the intruding hand!

There was a "cure" according to a SCHS volunteer with the

childhood task of doing "chicken chores each day". This cure was grabbing the protesting hen and dunking her head-first into a pail of cold water. Next came isolation of that hen for a day or two. Online research show the water bath still practiced in other countries as well as in the US. The science behind this "cure" is the reduction of the hen's temperature. Her underbody temperature had been raised to incubate her "clutch" of eggs. An online video has been found showing a broody hen being held gently in a picnic cooler of water for 3-4 minutes. Her body temp dropped. She was "cured".

Maybe this additional bit from poultry development scientists will be of interest. Although the eggs under a hen or in a small home incubator may have been laid over quite a few days, the baby chicks inside listen to each other and manage to peck their way to freedom within a three day time span.

More than you ever wanted to know about chickens? The role of the rooster has not even been mentioned!

From Henderson Then and Now 1852-1994 page 264

In the early 1900's artificial incubation of eggs became common. According to the 1962 year-book of agriculture, about 100 makes of kerosene-powered incubators were on the market in 1909 with a 50 to 200 egg capacity. Parcel post delivery of live chicks began in 1922. The 1945 ad from Henderson Independent includes "Leghorns \$13 per 100".

Getting little chicks to a carefully prepared coop takes a lot of people. The process all starts with ordering through a mail-order catalog. Lehmann's 2020 catalog, Kidron, Ohio, lists Buff Orphington Baby Chicks, Straight Run (8) \$39.99 or Females (8) \$49.99. An additional \$35.00 shipping surcharge required.

Even the local post office has to be prepared. "Yes, the chicks are here. Would you please come to Get Them? They are chirping so loud!" A noisy delivery represents a new home.

Our museum has just added a Red Wing pottery-chicken-water feeder. This unique donation was from June Arnold McCarthy. It is located near the museum's incubator.



TEA LEAF PATTERNED EGG CUP



Although not part of the permanent collection at the Sibley County Museum, the stately cup is owned by Arlene Busse. Its pattern name is Tea Leaf by Alfred Meakin, an English Ironstone China manufacturer. It is unmarked but matches other marked pieces having the same distinctive

copper luster Tea Leaf motif. The mark also indicates it was made before 1897 when Ltd. was added to the company name. There are plain pieces of heavy, white ironstone dinnerware in the kitchen cupboard and in use in the SCHS log cabin. There were many other makers of ironstone china in Europe and some in the US.

This egg cup came from the kitchen of Minnie Tschue, a long time Gaylord resident. She used it in the 1960's to keep tokens handy for the Marigold milkman, Harlan Roepke. Minnie acquired the egg cup from the home of her in-laws, the August Tschue family of Sibley Township.

A SCHS member has a collection of egg cups, many acquired as souvenirs on vacation trips. She has provided the following information mostly gleaned from "The Collector's Book of Egg Cups" by Pat Stott and from "An Illustrated History and Price Guide" by Brenda C. Blake.

"Pocilovy" is the name given to the hobby of collecting egg cups. It comes from the Latin "pocillum" for small cup and "ovi" for eggs. A silver egg cup was discovered in the ruins of Pompeii in 79 AD.

The art of boiling an egg is as old as the ability to boil water.

It was the morning meal that called attention to the egg container—now known as the egg cup. A special scissors (egg decapitator) was designed to remove the top of the egg after it was placed in the cup when setting the table.

People living in the first half of the 20th century made the eating of boiled eggs in to a fun thing. Inexpensive, novelty egg cups appeared on the market. They were on family tables and taken for granted as part of each place setting.

Some family members had their own special egg cup. Elaborate ones were given as birth gifts. When discussing egg cups with the public, some people commonly say, "I wonder what happened to mine?"

German families still used them for their "Fancy Breakfasts" in the 1960's and 70's. These meals were usually enjoyed on weekends. Their children grew up, got married and periodically experience these "Fun Breakfasts" today.

Most egg cups are made from ceramics, glass, metal, china, and wood. Some were designed in various shapes including animals, birds, transportation pieces, buildings, boots, etc. China companies made them to match their dinnerware patterns.

In the late 1950's cheap cups were made of hard plastic. If they splintered or cracked they were merely thrown away.

Besides the traditional shape of a cup mounted on a pedestal there are bucket (no pedestal) doubles with an egg-sized cup on top and twice the size on the bottom. Many cups have a design molded to the side of the cup. There are thousands of different ones. No matter the shape, the intent is to provide a cup where the top of the cooked egg can be removed and the egg contents spooned from the shell and eaten.



Clever styles of egg cups are from the private collection of Eldrene Ebert, Gaylord.

NEST EGG

One more fun chicken thing enters into museum discoveries. Resting near the Tea Leaf cup in the kitchen cupboard is a WOOD EGG. When chicken coops were more common in backyards than barbecues, many folk knew how to use a NEST EGG. Slipping a wooden egg into a nest just might induce a hen to start laying her eggs in the hen house instead of somewhere in the yard.



CHICKEN ORDINANCES

The seven towns of Sibley County were contacted regarding their ordinances to raise chickens in-town. Three replied with no references to an old rule which would seem bazaar today.

These three were all similar asking that chickens be a neighborly endeavor. General restrictions such as size of pen, area to roam, noise, cleanliness, odor need to be followed. No town said "No".

Winthrop noted Ordinance 506.01, .02, .03, .04 specifically for chickens which are allowed on any lot with a single family residence that had received a permit from the City. Roosters are not permitted. A permit is not transferable with the property. The City is authorized to inspect a permitted chicken facility.

New Auburn clarified that it is unlawful to permit any animal to run at large in public places. Violations of Ordinance 501 could lead to penalties defined by MN Statute. Chickens are in the farm animal category.

Green Isle shared details of Ordinance No. 2007-03 to Promote Public Safety, Health and Welfare. Farm animals-chickens- are only allowed to be kept or housed in portions of the City zoned as Agricultural Zones. In section 7.F. animals should be restrained or housed only in the rear yards of lots in the City.

ZYLPHA and SILBENA from Winthrop

BY Lesley Klenk PhD

With the recent passing of Sibley County Historical Society member, Zylpha Mueller, our family discovered a cache of antique books and memorabilia collected over her six decades of living in Sibley County, most frequently in Winthrop, her childhood town.

Zylpha saved her mother's hundred-year-old composition book in which were handwritten recipes, newspaper clippings, and doodles in children's handwriting: Silbena Remus, born in 1912, married Bert Mueller in 1933, and settled on a farm in Bismark Township. Although she claimed her first attempt at making bread was unfit for the pigs, she started collecting recipes and chronically them in an old school notebook. Her side comments –"a cup of sugar (maybe a little more)", "include butter the size of an egg", "bake in a moderate oven", and "include a lump of spry the size of walnut" make it a delightful read.

Karen Klenk, Zylpha's sister, says that their mother's composition book of pudding, cake, and cookie recipes is unusual that it survived, because women began using the "Betty Crocker Cookbook" and church cookbooks and were attending extension classes in cooking and baking by the 1950's.

Silbena's handwritten recipe book shows both independence and creativity. She collected and transcribed recipes that may have been lost if it had not been for her decision to capture them in an old notebook she kept long after she completed school. Interested in making Mock Angel Food Cake, Apple Cream Roll, Quick Cake, Date Pudding and Butterscotch Pie? Silbena's one-hundred-year-old composition book contains all the ingredients and instructions.

There are blank pages in the composition book of recipes, and it makes one wonder what other sweet confections Silbena served her eight children outside the pages of the recipes. One thing is known for sure, Zylpha, the second Mueller daughter, made her mother's butterscotch pie her specialty. She cooked the batter until it was thick, adding two table-spoons of butter just at the end to make it glossy, and set it gently in the oven to allow the meringue to brown. Nieces and nephews requested the rich pie for birthdays, special occasions, and Sunday dinners.

We will miss our Zylpha, but thanks to her, Silbena's handwritten composition book of recipes is safe in the hands of a family. There is one thing missing, however: Silbena's caramel roll recipe. It is a comfort to know Zylpha and Silbena are enjoying them now together.

Thanks to Karen Klenk and Denise Johnson for revitalizing the Kitchen and Summer Kitchen displays!!



Remembering Mom's Clothesline

Submitted by Sharon Haggemiller

You have to be a "certain age" to appreciate this.....If you don't even know what clotheslines are... better skip this one. YOUNGER ones can now read about "The GOOD ol' days"!!

I can just hear my mother now.... THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES

- * You had to hang the socks by the toes...NOT the top.
- * You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs...NOT the waistbands.
- * You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes—walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
- * You had to hang the clothes in a certain order and always hang "whites with whites and hang them first.
- * You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders—always by the tail!
- * Wash day is on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
- * Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y' know!)
- * It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather...clothes would "freeze-dry".
- * ALWAYS gather the clothespins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!
- * If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
- * Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.
- * IRONED????!! Well, that's a whole other subject.

There is one thing that's left out. We had a long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) didn't brush the ground and get dirty.



A Clothesline Poem by Marilyn K. Walker



**A clothesline was a news forecast, to neighbors passing by.
There were no secrets you could keep, when clothes were hung to dry.**

**It also was a friendly link, for neighbors always knew,
If company had stopped on by, to spend a night or two.**

**For then you'd see the fancy sheets and towels upon the line;
You'd see the company tablecloths, with intricate design.**

**The line announced a baby's birth, to folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes, were hung so carefully with pride.**

**The ages of the children, could so readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown.**

**It also told when illness struck, as extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too, haphazardly were strung.**

**It also said "Gone on vacation now", when lines hung limp and bare.
It told "We're back!" when full lines sagged, with not an inch to spare.**

**New folks in town were scorned upon, if washing was dingy grey,
As neighbors carefully raised their brows, and looked disgustedly away.**

**But clotheslines now are of the past, for dryers make work much less,
Now what goes on inside a home, is anybody's guess.**

**I really miss that way of life; it was a friendly sign,
When neighbors knew each other best, by what was hanging on the line.**

UMBRELLAS OR MILK FILTERS

What type of museum item interests YOU? Your Sibley County Museum has lotsa, lotsa objects listed on a computerized inventory. They deserve attention: researching, showcasing or an article for this newsletter. Contact us if you can volunteer to adopt an item and write its "biography".

Umbrellas

For many years, a typical Victorian era, black umbrella has been hanging on a hook in the hallway to the upstairs of the museum. Why? Perhaps a long ago volunteer thought, "It looks as if one of the Poehler family could have hung it right there."

This museum building itself has a long history: first as the August Poehler home and since 1948 as our county museum. It houses many collections with items displayed in appropriate rooms. This means that the kitchen has a stove and two bedrooms contain beds. The dual role of staying in character as a stately Victorian home and as a place for showcasing the amazing items in the collections has been well done for over 70 years.

Back to Umbrellas, has anyone watched the Mary Poppins movie? She is the Victorian nanny that travels with her own black umbrella. Hers is very similar to the one still hanging in the upstairs hallway!

What is the meaning of the word umbrella? Research may say...symbolizes the canopy of the heavens...shelter and protection...sun and shade. Is parasol the same thing for an umbrella? "Brolly" or "bumberchute" are these OTHER real names.

Milk Filters

The museum has a new donation of KenAG milk filters. The donor's comment is "I have had that box for years. I used the disks for straining fruit juice for making jelly." Printing on the box, in part, is KenAG 6 1/2 in Disks, Clean Milk, Fast Filtering, Low Cost.

In the museum's basement is a hand-crank, cream separator and a milk strainer. The box of filters will accent that display. Curiosity about the age of the box led to an email to the manufacturer. A prompt reply from KenAg Inc. President, Doug Patton, asked for a photo of the box. He responded, "The design of that box, if it has an Ashland, Ohio address, indicates it has been in circulation since 1990." That is the Ohio address found on the bottom of the box.

Trivia? Yes. Such information helps plan for a completed display to feature (YOUR ADOPTED) objects at the museum.

Special Welcome to Ava

This talented student from Minnesota New Country School has just volunteered to be of service to us.

Ava Strand looks forward to learning more about the museum and how she can apply her skills that will enhance our programs. Thank you, Ava!

Chicken Meets Road

from another very old Reader's Digest

FUNNY:

Why did the rooster cross the road?

To prove he wasn't chicken.

FUNNIER:

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To show the possum it could be done.

FUNNIEST:

Why did the chicken stop crossing the road?

She was tired of all the jokes.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR

Let's Make Some
Memories

At the

AUGUST 4-8, 2021

Visit us at the
SCHS building and
view our exhibit.



New Displays at the Sibley County Museum...

Visit the Sibley County Museum to see the new displays. Volunteers have been hard at work designing and setting up new displays for visitors to enjoy. The displays feature toys, dolls, cook books, and women's right to vote. As you are drifting around the museum, be sure to notice the mini-exhibits.

THIS AND THAT

I have been on our farm since the summer of 1985, yet I just recently noticed the small, clear glass globe filled with a liquid. It was a fire grenade suspended in a little metal rack in our old garage.

Then I forgot to mention that the 13 buttons in our sailor's story, represent the 13 original colonies.

Another wonderful recent event was to be in touch with two USS Sibley sailors. Pat Murphy, (CA) and Harold Rodin (FL/Chicago) are doing ok. They both have made contributions to the USS Sibley display in the museum's Military Room.

One just never knows what each day will bring. Staying alert to the blessings coming from museum contact can enhance our days.

Holly Harjes, Editor

The Board of Directors of the Sibley County Historical Society would like to get to know our members just a little bit better. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below.

Return it to the SCHS at P.O. Box 407, Henderson, Minnesota 56044.

We appreciate you for letting us know who you are. All information gathered will be used by SCHS only.



SCHS LITTLE QUESTIONNAIRE Sibley County Museum In Henderson May 31 to October 31, 2021

What was your favorite childhood:?

TOY: _____

BOOK: _____

SONG: _____

GAME: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



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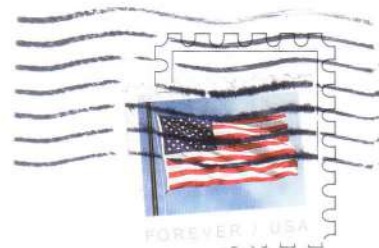
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6/25/2021
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SCHS Paid Membership April—June 2021

Dan and Nancy Hislop	Barb & David Herry	Karen E. Helfert	Edward & Arlene Pinske
Beverly Christensen	Dave & Mary Ann Tesch	Roland & Denise Pogatchnik	Brad & Brenda Tews
Pat Steckman	Jeff & Amy Franke	Pat & Larry Klunder	Leo Berger
Marta Kurak	Elden Egesdal	Colleen Dies	Davis Biebl
Rosetta & Art Blomquist	Mary Krska	LaVerne Almquist	Bernice V Hanson
Eric V Larson	Maurice McMahon	Keith & Paula Anderson	Neal & Bobbie Harder
Sharlene Friederichs	David Sefcovic	Leo Fischer	Edward P. Kruse
Elizabeth & Ray Jacobson	Karrie Hanson	Fred W. Lobitz	Karl Lieske
Pat Keating	Richard & Diane Isakson	Rodney & Alicia Nelson	Doug & Iris Parrott
Karen & Ray Klenk	Valerie Rocheleau	Elaine Nelson	LaDonna & Gene Rodewald
Sue Osten	Joanne Zachow	Darlene Weckwerth	
Donna & Bill Grunwald	Arline Karels	Birdine Battcher	
Chester & Mary Aldrich	Wayne & Louise Quast	Barb Boisen	

Thank you for your support for the Sibley County Historical Society. Your membership is very important to us. It helps us maintain the museum building and grounds, and helps support the activities of the Society. The benefits of a current member include free access to genealogy research, free admission to the museum, and four issues of the newsletter each year.