



# SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# NEWSLETTER

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

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### A FARM BOY'S EXCITING FLYING ADVENTURE

by ROBERT L. WIEMAN

Formation flying was a big part of our B-25 training. When the instructors weren't with us in the cockpit we would often fly so close to the other plane that we could tap our wingtips together and in some cases bump our wingtip into the side of the other plane's fuselage. These were very dangerous stunts, but we enjoyed doing them. This is how I celebrated my 22nd birthday, May 5, 1944 — flying formation in a Billy Mitchell B-25. We were all 21- or 22-year-old cadets having a wonderful time. 50-year-old pilots wouldn't do stupid things like that. That's why pilots being trained for combat missions were always young guys — not yet old enough to resist doing stupid, dangerous things that were fun. Combat missions would always be dangerous, and younger pilots would generally be more willing to take the risks involved. This is probably true for all branches of the military. Instrument flying was stressed. We flew many hours under the hood and got a lot of experience in the Link

Trainer, an instrument flight training device. We would not graduate from Advanced Flight School and get our wings unless we were instrument rated. We plotted cross-country trips all over Texas and were responsible for the navigation that was involved. Often, parts of these trips were flown on instruments only — no visual sightings permitted. With practice, everything we did in the cockpit became second nature and we were slowly becoming qualified U.S. Army Air Corp pilots. The big day finally arrived, June 24, 1944 — my final flight test. Failing this test would mean that all of my efforts during the past year would go out the window, and I would have to give up my dream of becoming a pilot. However, during the test flight everything went well. I was able to satisfy the test pilot's every request. He gave me a big two thumbs up and said, "Congratulations, you've made it." I celebrated that evening by drinking the first bottle of beer I'd ever had. My fellow pilots celebrated with me. It was a great day.

On June 28, 1944, the graduation ceremony took place. On that date I got my silver wings, and I became a genuine U.S. Army Air

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Board Happenings & other musings

by Steve Briggs



Your board continues to meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. Sometimes we gather in the dining room of the museum, sometimes we just pull up chairs around the lunch table in the kitchen area. Both work fine, but I find the coffee and snacks are closer at hand in the kitchen!

Board member Mary Petersen announced her retirement recently. Her two terms ran their course and we find an opening on the board. As of this writing, the opening has not been filled. Since we have terms of other board members that have previously expired, we may work to fill all openings for

voting at the 2017 Annual Meeting. I announced at the July board meeting that I would cut my term short; allowing it to run until the 2017 Annual Meeting. My decision to vacate the President role and the other open positions will allow for a large flow of fresh ideas and enthusiasm to join the activities. Our Nominating Committee is ramping up their efforts!

Eldrene Ebert, Research Committee Chair, proposed we make some needed improvements in our storage capacity. A flat file for plat maps and other large items and two lateral files were part of her proposal. These items would improve the utilization of floor space in the research room. It was also recommended we have our computers and printer/copier networked. And finally, an up-

*(Continued on page 8)*

### Calendar of Events

Check our website for 2016 programs.

Thurs. Sept. 29th Tour to Cities  
Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers  
Memorial Cemetery

Check us out on Facebook

If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events .... Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3434



# Gaylord's Prize - The Courthouse

- became a reality in 1915 when Sibley County residents voted to move the courthouse from Henderson to Gaylord. Gaylord had tried five times beginning in 1897. The main reason for the move was to have the courthouse centrally located.

There were five attempts to move it;

1. There was a petition to move the county seat to Gaylord in 1887, but did not cause an election.
2. A vote to move it to Gaylord failed in 1890.
3. In 1895 the issue came up again. Petitions were circulated for removal by committees from both Arlington and Gaylord. The case was taken to the Minnesota Supreme Court with Arlington given the right of way, but a vote was not held until 1897, when Henderson prevailed by 401 votes.
4. In May 1902 Gaylord tried again and failed.
5. In 1915 a fifth vote was held, this time Gaylord wins.

The county records were moved to temporary quarters in the new Gaylord City Hall on December 1, 1915. The Henderson newspaper called it a "monster funeral". The paper reported that a truck, 30 teams hauling records, files, books and furniture along with county officers in autos formed a procession headed to Gaylord.

The site chosen for the new courthouse and jail was Block 25 in Maass Addition, in the City of Gaylord (290'x300'), providing an ample and attractive setting. The courthouse was to be an asset to the county's public image. The old courthouse in Henderson was sturdy and plain. The new courthouse was to be fancy inside and out. Architects were Burner & Macomber of Minneapolis. Their fee was \$5,000. The sculpture of two women, one on each side of the clock reading a book on the front are very fancy. The plans featured Greco-Roman Style of architecture. The structure was to be faced with Indiana limestone. The inscriptions on both front and back use the vowel U shaped like the modern V in the spelling of county.

In May 1916 a contract was given to a former Severance Township resident, Arlen J. Olson of Missoula, MT. Work was completed in 1917 and dedicated on July 4th with a total cost of \$147,900 which included the jail, furnishings and utilities. The courthouse and jail inauguration and cornerstone laying ceremony was held in July 1916 - 100 years ago.

An open house honoring this 100 year old event was held at the courthouse July 12, 2016. Serving on the planning committee were Roxy Traxler, Marie Main, Judy Loewe and Roseann Nagel. Guests signed in on a discarded bound book that was 100 years old showing that about 200 people attended. The commissioners room was filled with memorabilia supplied

by the Sibley County Historical Society and old things found in the courthouse.

Marie Kreft, an Arlington resident, mingled with the crowd and impersonated some of the wives of the 1916 county officials.

Coffee, lemonade and cookies were served on the courthouse lawn before taking part in the tours of the building.

Tours were conducted by Roseann Nagel, retired Human Resource Director and Eldrene Ebert, Retired County Recorder, both long time employees of Sibley County. Highlights of the tours included showing the rotunda with the marble pillars, heavy doors and terrazzo floors. They ex-



plained how it was restored with historically accurate ornamental plaster and repainted by Mel and Pat Pomplun who actually were on one of the tour groups. They told the group that when they were painting high up in the dome area, they came across a beer bottle. They pulled it down and took a closer look at it. It contained a message in the bottle. Apparently some individuals had much earlier signed a piece of paper, placed it in the bottle and set it on the ledge. Pat was asked what they did with it and she stated that they also signed the paper, placed it back in the bottle and restored it to its original location. So no doubt the bottle still exists someplace in the higher regions of the stained glass dome which was also restored. Dave Schauer the county attorney explained the court system. He explained that the court room has remained the same since 1917, except for the judges bench. There are 20 benches. Twenty cuspidors were purchased in 1917 at \$3.30 each. They are long gone. A detail on a blueprint shows a closet containing a spiral staircase that reached to the Court Administrator's office below. This disappeared in a remodeling project in the late 1950's. The dumb waiter consisting of a rope and shelf to

transfer documents to the office below was still there. The Recorder's Office is the only original office left in the building. A large fire-proof vault stores all the records. It once had a spiral stair case leading to the bottom floor for storage. There used to be a semi circle drive around the flag pole. Both were removed sometime during the 1950's. Many "I remember whens" were shared by the guests.

The courthouse has been photographed thousands of times and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

By Eldrene Ebert



**A Step Not Taken**

The year was 1950, and an invitation had arrived from the Draft Board, (how nice of them to think of me), directing that I attend a function called; "Pre-Induction Physical." The frozen hills of Korea were beckoning! A trip to the Army recruiting office to out-fox the fox resulted in no promise I'd be assigned to the Engineer Corps. My dad had been an Army engineer in World War I, and told me it would be far better than the infantry. So, I headed for home to wait being drafted. I was about to leave when the thought struck me about the Navy SeaBees, their Construction Battalion which I'd probably seen in some Newsreel at the movies. A step backwards, and a turn around, didn't get me into the SeaBees, as the recruiter promised, but sent me off to a 30 year career that had me soaring from high altitudes. I now think back to my youth on the farm, and how little fear I had of height. I'd climb to the top of the windmill and sit on that that little platform with my dear Mom pleading with me to come down.

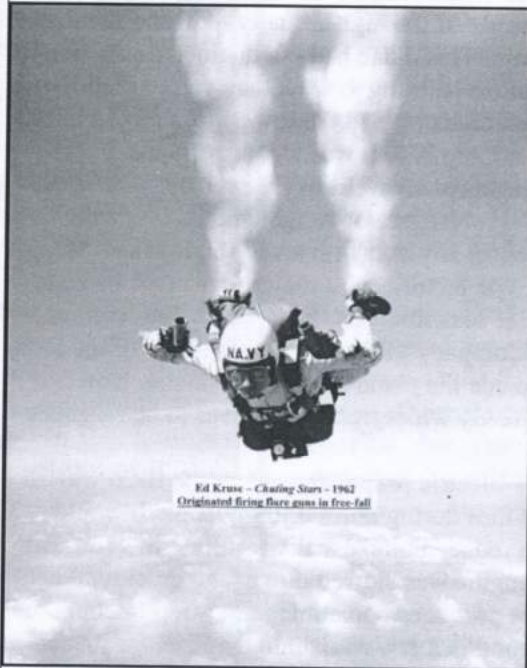
"Boot Camp" wasn't so bad, and then on to duties aboard several aircraft carriers and at Navy shore stations, including Adak out on the Aleutians. I've often said that I'd rather be aboard ship, that rock just sat there and never put into port! In 1958 I was selected for duty as an instructor at the Navy's parachute school. Since the schools establishment in 1924 all students were required to make a free-fall jump with a parachute they packed as proof of trust in their work, and instructors had to lead them out the door at 3,000 feet. In 1959 the Secretary of the Navy authorized off-duty parachuting, giving birth to skydiving. The Navy celebrated 100 years of aviation in 1961, and with it an overly full schedule of air shows for the Navy "Blue Angels." To lighten the load a Navy Parachute Team, the "Chuting Stars," was established, and I was off to greater heights.

To perfect free-fall routines that our team would use at air shows, a training period was conducted during January and February at El Centro, CA. Weather conditions were ideal, and we'd usually do four or five jumps a day. All jumps were conducted from 12,500 feet in which we'd drop 10,000 feet in 60 seconds. In a flat face down position a free falling body travels 120 MPH, but by drawing the arms back close to the body the head and shoulders tilt downward and speeds up to 160 MPH can be attained. This allows for aerial maneuvers, and to overtake another jumper. In a good delta position a body can travel nearly one foot horizontally for each one foot dropped vertically. The free-fall was the show, and in that era of round canopies the parachute was only a means to lower you to the ground. Modern square parachute canopies have opened a whole new dimension to skydiving. I had previously experimented with firing a flare gun while in free fall, and suggested to our training officer, CWO Lew



Vinson, that it could be a specialty in our routines. His immediate response was a definite "NO" based upon the possibility of the disc in the cartridge falling into the audience. Lew had made over 1,000 test parachute jumps, including an eject seat jump, and he was "Mr. Caution." After a little convincing, (that may have included a few drinks at the Club), he finally consented to see what it looked like. During our training period the Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, were also in winter training at El Centro, and a greater bunch of guys I've never known. The Knights Commanding Officer, Captain Jim Perry, was standing with CWO Vinson when I blasted off a flare gun shot in free fall. I landed within a few yards of them, and I was still getting out of my harness when Captain Perry grabbed the flare gun from my hand and said; "I've been trying to think of something like this for years!" For obvious reasons it immediately became a good idea for the Navy Chuting Stars to be shooting stars. How would it be for the Army to get ahead of us? The flare gun shots became an integral part of our air show routines, plus we fired a flare out of the aircraft door before each group of jumpers would exit. This would assist spectators in focusing on the right spot in the sky, which proved to be especially helpful on hazy days.

The system of sea duty / shore duty rotation, employed by the Navy, moves sailors on to other assignments eve-



Ed Kruse - Chuting Stars - 1962  
Originated firing flare guns in free-fall

ry few years, so it was off to other great adventures. In later years I was returned to instructing at the parachute school, and back under canopy again for a hundred or more jumps.

I have donated my parachutes, and the special issue flare gun I was awarded, to the Sibley County Museum, and

perhaps someday my grandkids will visit and say; "That was my grandpa!"

Ed Kruse, Grafton Township native



Corp Pilot. Also, on that date, I became an Officer and a Gentleman — a 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corp — Serial Number 02061544.



## PART 2

Graduation from Advanced Flying School gave me three things: 1) My silver pilot's wings, 2) A Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corp and 3) My only leave in almost four years of active duty. On my trip home to the farm to see my folks, my fiancé and assorted relatives I had a new experience — I was saluted by every enlisted man I met. After having to salute almost everyone in uniform during my first 17 months in the pilot training program, this was a big change. In the Aviation Cadet program we were told to salute everyone because everyone outranked us except the captain's cat and the colonel's canary. My folks had a big July 4th picnic/party in my honor. Relatives from as far away as Chicago showed up. It was fun. I hadn't seen some of these folks in years. After the 17 months of rigid existence the aviation cadet program demanded, these two weeks of freedom at home were a real treat. My mother inquired about what my wedding plans might be. I told her that no date had been set — that she would be informed when my fiancé and I had the chance to sit down and talk.

The two weeks of my leave flew by, and I was on my way to Laughlin Field, Del Rio, Texas. This was a Martin Marauder B-26 Medium Bomber Flight School. It had been determined by someone who makes the big decisions that the newer B-26 Medium Bomber should be replacing the older B-25 Medium Bomber in the various combat zones — therefore, the need for more B-26 pilots. The B-26 had a reputation that was less than wonderful. It was commonly called the "Widow Maker" because of the high casualty rate among pilots in the training program. This plane had the dubious distinction of having killed more pilots learning to fly it than were killed flying it in combat. Once in combat, it had the lowest loss record of any bomber the Army Air Corp had. It was a good airplane, but it was the least forgiving airplane we'd likely ever fly — it wouldn't tolerate any mistakes. Its greater weight and its low wing surface area produced an airplane with a very high wing-loading. This, and its high power factor, was a major reason for its instability during an engine loss situation. After much deliberation, the Martin Aircraft Company increased the wingspan of the B-26 by five feet, which made the plane much more docile. However, its reputation was already widespread, and never to be forgotten by most pilots.

The Curtiss Electric propeller used on the B-26 was an added problem. At times during normal flight its pitch would flatten out causing a reduced bite, usually resulting in a run-away engine. Unless the engine was slowed down, and quickly, the extremely high RPM produced sometimes threw a propeller blade from the hub, and in a few cases into the fuselage just behind the pilot/copilot seats. This was something pilots hoped would never happen while they were flying the plane. During all of my flights in the B-26, the Curtis Electric propellers acted perfectly. I was lucky in that respect.

The new pilot trainee class met with the Laughlin Field Base Commander. His opening remarks to us were as follows: "Welcome to Laughlin Field. As the new class of B-26 pilot

1) Graduation, 2) Elimination or 3) Cremation." That got our attention because we knew exactly what he was talking about. What got our attention even more, was the fact that five people were killed that day at Laughlin Field learning to fly the B-26.

The B-26 was slightly larger, heavier and faster than the B-25. Its wingspan was 71 feet; length was 58 1/2 feet; the height of its rudder was 20 feet; and it weighed 33,000 lbs. It had a normal cruising speed of 200+ MPH. It had two Pratt & Whitney 2000 HP engines, and as I noted earlier, Curtiss Electric propellers.

The day finally arrived — my first flight in the B-26. For our introductory flight the instructor took two of us, my friend Anno VanderKolk and me. I was in the left cockpit seat, the instructor in the right seat and Anno was in the back. The



instructor had me do the take-off. I was surprised that the B-26 acted very much like the B-25 on both the take-off and during level flight. The big difference showed up when the instructor cut one engine. In less than a second the plane was well on its way to rolling over, and only the quick

action of the instructor prevented it from happening. The single engine procedure on this plane was much the same as on the B-25, except with the B-26 you had to be more alert and quicker on the recovery because the rolling reaction was much more violent. The higher wing loading and the extra power was responsible for this difference. An engine was cut several more times during this flight — first the right engine, then the left engine. In each case the plane reacted the same. We were duly impressed with the necessity of the quick action required to prevent a serious problem during any engine loss.

The instructor was giving me more cockpit instructions. Anno was sitting on his knees between us taking it all in. Suddenly there was an acrid smell of burning rubber in the cockpit. The instructor turned to Anno and said, "Go to the back of the plane and find out where this smoke is coming from." Anno said, "I was back there, and the smoke was so bad I couldn't stand it — that's why I came up here." The fact that Anno didn't report the smoke problem when he came up front made the instructor very angry. He went to the back of the plane to establish the source of the smoke. It appeared to be coming from the right wing connection. The instructor cut the right engine, feathered the right propeller and called the tower for an emergency single-engine landing. The landing was quite normal for having only one engine running. We pulled off the runway, parked and cut the other engine. The firemen crawled into the right engine space through the right wheel well and found the problem. The inverter had shorted and the sparks produced had set the storage battery case on fire — thus producing the smoke we smelled in the cockpit.

To be continued in upcoming issues!



THESE ARE CLIPPINGS FROM OLD GIBBON GAZETTES

## BODY FOUND ALONG DITCH

Identified as Being That of Louis Freter, Who Disappeared a Year And a Half Ago.

### SHOT HIMSELF WITH SHOTGUN

Despondency Over Ill Health Thought To Be Cause of Suicide--Remains Will Be Sent To Belle Plaine.

The mystery which has hung over the disappearance of Louis Freter from this place about a year and a half ago was unveiled last Monday afternoon. Carl Nelson, son of K.S. Nelson, while out skating on the ditch southeast of town, was surprised at finding a shot gun sticking out over the side of the ditch. Out of curiosity he went to pick it up but he no more had his hands on the gun when he was terrified at the sight of the dead body of a man, of whom nothing but the bones and clothing was left. The skull which showed forth prominently, added a ghastly appearance to the scene. The boy called his companions who were in turn frightened and they made haste to report their discovery in town.

Upon learning of their discovery, the citizens here all felt sure that it must be the remains of Louis Freter. Constable Oswald and a party of citizens at once set out to look over the remains and were further convinced that they were those of Louis Freter.

About a year ago last summer Mr. Freter suddenly disappeared. He left his boarding place one evening with his shot gun on the back. Several persons saw him go out with his gun, but as he had been a great hunter in his days, it was not a unusual sight for them. He failed to return, and, altho some of our people entertained the idea that he had committed suicide, many thought that he had suddenly made up his mind to leave town and in a course of a year or so would show up again. He had made a previous attempt at suicide but was unsuccessful. Mr. Freter suffered from an ulcer of the stomach which caused him much pain, and in telling of his troubles to his friends often hinted at the idea of him committing suicide some day. But nothing definite

was known until his remains were discovered last Monday. That he was not found before, was due to fact that the place where he lay was until recently surrounded by high weeds. The weeds in the slough and along the ditch were burned the other week, thus leaving the body in plain sight to any one going along the ditch.

The body remained untouched until Tuesday when Coroner Mee of Gaylord arrived here. He in company with Constable Oswald and a jury of citizens dug out the remains, which were sunk considerable in the ground, and examined his belongings. The coroner did not hesitate in giving a verdict of suicide. A double barrel shot gun, which upon examination was found to contain one empty and one loaded shell, lay a few feet from the body with the barrel pointing toward it. A large opening in the right side of the skull showed plainly where the fatal shot had entered. The gun as well as several of his belongings were readily identified by those who had known him. The following articles were found in the pockets of his clothing: One silver watch, one gold watch and chain, part of five dollar bill, \$2.45 in silver, an empty bill book, a memorandum book, four shot gun shells and various other small articles.

The remains were given over to the undertaker, Frank Lubitz, who will have the same sent to Belle Plaine, Mr. Freter's home, and where he still has relatives living.

Mr. Freter was a bachelor of about 40 years and came to this place some 10 or 15 years ago and was since employed at various odd jobs. He was a great lover of hunting and spent nearly every fall in the haunts of game. He was a volunteer in the

Spanish-American war and latter received an honorable discharge. Since then he led a reckless life.

The fate of this man is sad indeed, and the thought of having this dead body lying so close to town for over a year has caused many of our people to shudder.

## ROMMIE STUFFINGS THE GIBBON BALLROOM

Cory, while looking through old Gazettes, was finding all sorts of interesting stuff. The piece on the left tells about a Mr. Freter, an unfamiliar name in Gibbon. He checked and found his grave at the Gibbon City Cemetery. He found his death certificate. Mr. Freter was born in Germany. All unusual. The most unusual, there are always new flowers by this gravestone. Who? Why? Hmm?

He ran across the piece about the girl hanging,

FRIDAY JULY 29TH, 1932

## WELL KNOWN GIBBON GIRL FOUND HANGING

A fatal step may end the most happy life. The most cultured, refined, beautiful and best loved are no exceptions to the same fate. A father's devotion, a mother's or sister's companionship will not shield them when they desire to take the step.

Such was the situation last evening when one of the highest educated, most refined and vivacious girls was found hanging in the home parlor, by all the luxuries that go to make a happy life.

She was missed late in the afternoon, and a search failed to reveal here whereabouts. The telephone was used without results. Her friends were called to help search for her. Finally the almost heartbroken mother returned to the parlor, and there to her horror and surprise she found her daughter hanging.

How sadly that mother must have been affected by what met her gaze. There was the daughter hanging to her sweetheart's neck begging him to subscribe for the Gibbon Gazette in order that he might be better informed as to the current news of the community.

and we wondered who could it be. Hadn't heard of that, and started to read the piece. Surprise ending. Hmmm?

Wake up! We're working on the Ballroom Project here. We both are running into a problem. Cory's is related to the Bruns, Buerkles, Beckers, Kramers and others in our area. There is no Gazette he does not find interesting

(Continued on page 8)

# COUNTY FAIR

By Marie Main

A fun time was had by everyone at the Sibley County Fair, the first week in August. Eighteen volunteers, putting in at

least 350 hours helped visitors, who broke the record as far as numbers, nearly 600 this year, with the hands on displays. We had a number out of state visitors, and one from France. The children were cranking and peddling the many

kitchen appliances, farm tools, office equipment, and even old-time dental office equipment. Quite a number of these items

were loaned to us by Fred Lo-bitz.

We now own a very clean towel, as it was washed at least 100 times using the old-fashioned plunger in a tub of water with the addition of homemade lye soap. Then came the cranking. The towel

was put through the wringer time and time again using arm power. A child would put it through the process, and then later on, be back with a friend to try it again.

That also happened with our grist-mill. Corn was ground, and each participant went away with a bag of cornmeal, after cranking the old mill. Some was taken home for the birds, others fed it to an animal that they were showing at the fair. We hope that helped the animal win first prize.

Believe it or not the old Sibley County courthouse typewriter was a real curiosity for our young

visitors, and even for one father who left a little message using the hunt and peck method. For those who had not been able to go to the courthouse celebration earlier, this was another opportunity to enjoy that display.

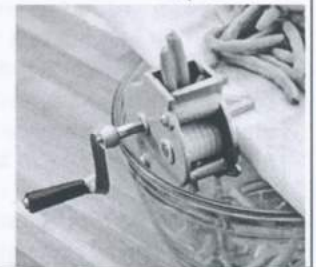
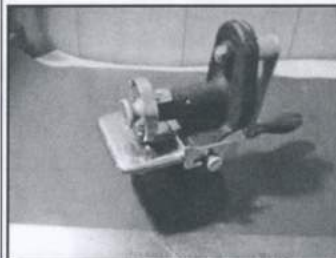
One child as he cranked everything that could be cranked, said "I want one like this", "I want one like this", after



turning the cranks one time after another. Who would know that old-fashioned equipment could be so entertaining.

Books about every community in Sibley County were interesting to young and old. After discovering these treasures, these young people came and shared this with friends.

Our visitors must have thought, if they cranked the two items enough that were our mystery items this year, the answer would pop out, or if they discussed it thoroughly the puzzle would be solved. For a few it was, at least for one item, the French green bean cutter. The cutter for fabric strips to make rag rugs, was a bit more difficult and the closest answers were "fabric cutter." There were a number of people that said each one of those, so we drew from those that had completely filled out their forms. One of each to receive a free year membership for the Sibley County Historical Society. The winners were: Ruth Narr of Henderson and Anna Otto of Shakopee. Congratulations to the winners!



County courthouse typewriter was a real curiosity for our young

## New Equipment at SCHS

By Ruth Ann Buck

We have exciting things going on with SCHS, especially the Research Department. In June we got onto World Explorer **Ancestry**, we have had Ancestry which just covered records in the United States. With this addition we can search the records from many countries like Germany, Norway and Sweden and at least sixteen countries, but not Denmark or the Czech Republic.

I had some information on my great grandfather Wilhelm Apitz, but not his parents or his two brothers and three sisters who stayed in (Prussia) Germany. I had partial names for the siblings but that is all. Because three nephews immigrated to the US around 1910-1915, I found two of their draft records and it said they came from Berlinchen, Prussia. So when we got the Worldwide Ancestry I entered one of the nephew's names and I found his birth record with his parents' names, eventually I found my GG Grandparent's names, Johann Friedrich Apitz and Sophie Wittke and many of my grandma Louisa Apitz Wigand's 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. I am very happy!

The next purchase the Research Department asked

for was a **flat file**, this is a big piece of office furniture, it was needed to store the many large plat books and cemetery plat maps and other large plats that we have. Having a safe place to store them will ensure

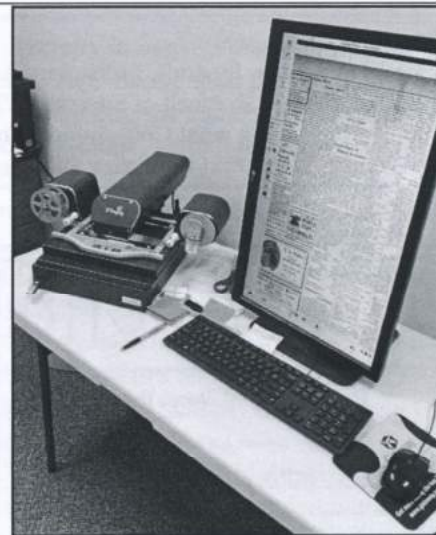


that they will be around for a long time. When you don't have a good place to keep these items they get damaged easily. Rommie found a used one at Furnish Office and Home, a store in Minneapolis. At a cost of \$900, but this was a big saving on what a new one would cost. It came in 4 pieces; it was still a pretty heavy piece, but they delivered it on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and helped get it set up, for a price. The purchase of this file and Ancestry was made possible because of gifts from some of our members who have donated so generously.

The next purchase was the **Digital ST Reader/Printer**, with OCR capabilities. This was made possible from a grant from the Structured Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Program, for \$10,000. We had been working on this for some time, first Sharon H had to apply for the grant, then we had to wait for them to decide if we qualified for the grant and finally we got word that we had the go ahead to make our purchase. We had a salesman, Neil Malowski come on February 27, 2016 to give us a demonstration. Seeing the demo, we were very anxious to get our new machine, but had to wait for the MNHS grant

process to play out for five months.

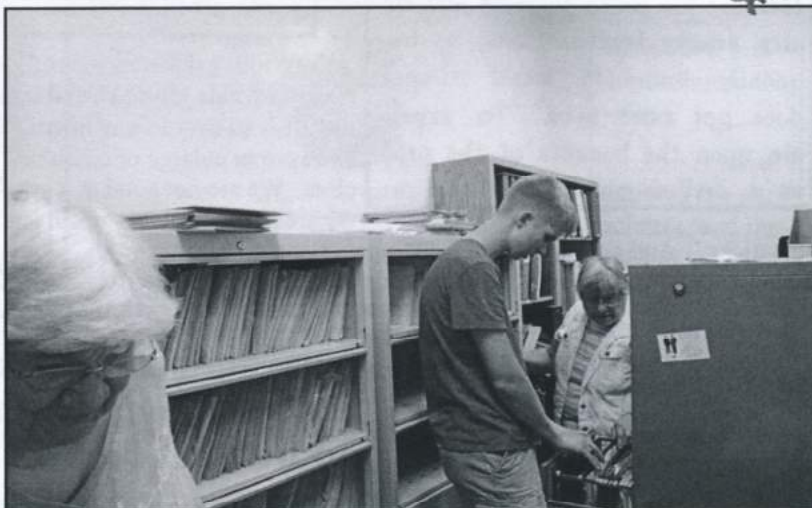
Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> was a very busy day; first we got the flat file, then our new reader along with a computer and large monitor screen came on the same day. Neil, again gave a class on how to use the reader/printer. We were busy with the Sibley County Fair the rest of that week so it was a week before we got to try out our new machine. It was not as easy as it looked. We could load the film and see the newspaper, but we couldn't figure out what to do next, finally we were able to crop an article and print it or save it to a flash drive, eventually we will be able to email it to our home computer. We can also crop and save the headline of the newspaper, the date of the paper and the article and if it is continued on another page we can crop and save that too and then put it all on one page and print it out or save to the flash drive. It will also search for a word or name on a page.



We had a micro film reader, but we were running out of ink and paper for it, which we can no longer get, also it was not connected to a computer so couldn't save articles or send to a flash drive, we could only print.

There are a lot of things to learn on our new machine. Young Cory Becker came to the museum one Tuesday and proved that it really did all of those things that our salesman Neil showed us. Near the end of the day he had about 60 items found and saved on the computer, things about Gibbon, his home town, things about his family and things for our upcoming book about the Gibbon Ballroom, but...he pushed the wrong button and shazam they were ALL GONE! So I guess we all have a lot to learn, but it can be done!

When we get proficient on our new machine we will invite people to come and look at the micro-films we have such as; the Gibbon Gazette, many Henderson papers, naturalization records and census records. The films are expensive and we will need to apply for more grants to get more county newspapers in our file.



File transplanting, from the old blue to the new tan. A little congested in the research room with files, Dorothy, Cory and Eldrene



(Continued from page 5)

pieces; weddings, funerals, births, birthdays, visits, anniversaries and more. Like me, there is so much of interest. What were we looking for??? Oh, Ballroom! Hey! Look what Cory found! The first issue of the Gazette! What Ballroom? In the first issue they talk about the need for a city hall. The New

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1894.

# The Gazette.

Published Every Friday,

— AT —

GIBBON, (Sibley Co.,) MINNESOTA.

A. C. BUCK . . . Publisher.

E. F. KOEHRING, . . . Editor.

Subscription, \$1 per year in advance.

Advertising rates always as low as the lowest, and will be made known on application.

Local notices, 5 cents a line per week.

## SALUTATORY.

Gibbon has a newspaper. This is its first issue. The village is about ten years old and since its establishment has grown slowly but steadily, until now it ranks among the first villages in this section of the state, both in the amount of business daily transacted, and in the industries usually found in prairie villages. We apprehend that our duties as editor will be made pleasant and agreeable by its citizens from the fact that harmony and good will among all citizens seems to prevail. We congratulate the people of Gibbon upon the fact that the petty jealousy and rivalry among business men, so frequently found in small villages, does not exist here. To expatiate upon the benefits of the press as a civilizing influence and as

City Hall was completed the following year and the party celebrating the dedication lasted until 4:30 in the morning. The old timers knew how to celebrate. Notice the publisher is A.C. Buck. I am not sure AC is related to Ruth Ann Buck. I think she is DC.

Within the last few days we have heard some talk on our streets in reference to a Village Hall. Gibbon is certainly a prosperous village and compares favorably with her sister villages in the amount of business carried on and in the wealth and enterprise of her citizens. She has a good system of water works, an elegant school building, but needs more than anything else a good City Hall, where public business could be transacted. The bonded indebtedness of the village is now only \$1000, and no tax for village purposes has ever been levied except the annual poll tax which has not as yet proved a great hardship. The village now owns two excellent lots on First avenue, a most desirable location for a City Hall. The assessed valuation

## Masquerade

-- BALL --

at the

## CITY HALL,

Tomorrow Evening.

\*\*\*\*

This is the last dance before Lent, so let every one turn out and make event a big success.

We are liking this new microfilm reader a whole lot—make that loving. It is so easy to box in articles and save or enlarge or combine clips. We are not good at it yet, but we are hoping “old dogs can learn

new tricks.” And now with all the clippings, I don’t have much room to write. Have a great fall.



## THANKS

We are grateful for donations from the Gaylord Cognizance Club and Becky Briggs. A special thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society for the grant to purchase the microfilm reader and equipment that goes with it.

### Memorials:

In Memory of Mae Ploog, by Sharon Haggenmiller  
In Memory of Delores Hagen, by Sharon Haggenmiller.

(Continued from page 1)

date to our Past Perfect museum software was recommended. All were approved. Though these proposals are expected to assist Research Committee members in their tasks, others will certainly benefit as well. The costs of these purchases and upgrades were easily financed due to some recent generous gifts from members.

Treasurer Rich Nagel was recently working on opening several certificate of deposit accounts. Maybe because of the Enron or WorldCom scandals, he was asked by the bank to provide a “Resolution to Designate Banking and Investment Authority.” In effect, who at SCHS is allowed to open accounts? And they needed to see it in writing! Since our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are silent on the subject, we had to prepare a resolution. Not difficult and not time consuming - just administrative activities.

We now have the proper loan documentation for the Heinrich collection. It was signed and will be sent to the Heinrich family to be signed and returned. The loan agreement form will also be used as a template for future loans, if the need arises. On a tangent topic, we have a new Collections Policy. Keith Anderson reviewed the template provided by the Minnesota Historical Society and we adopted.

We have learned there is a sinking or eroding area in the museum parking lot. Who is responsible for fixing? The museum or the city? We’ll check with the city administrator.

We have most definitely moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Not only do we have one “cloud account”, we now have two! The archaeology team from Mankato set one up for us earlier this year and the recent networking of computers generated another one. We are fairly certain we don’t need both.

Our Collections Committee is planning a moratorium on accepting new items for the remainder of 2016. This is needed so items that were previously accepted, but on backlog, can be properly accessioned. Good day and have a pleasant tomorrow

Ste



**We Want  
YOU!**

**SCHS is looking for prospective board members and someone to take over our website. I think you are the one. Yes you!**





NEW\* AND RENEWED MEMBERS since our last newsletter

Barb	Boisen*	Le Sueur	MN	Karl & Evelyn	Lieske	Henderson	MN
Richard & Gayle	Estenson*	Gaylord	MN	Louis & Peg	Longhenry	Carver	MN
Charlene	Leone*	Fircrest	WA	Eunice	Lueck	Le Sueur	MN
Verlyn	Lundgren*	Wahpeton	ND	Janet	Lundgren	Gibbon	MN
Dale & Paulette	Messerli*	Lafayette	MN	Janet L	Mackenthun	Glencoe	MN
David & Lynn	Sefcovic*	Virgina	MN	Charles & Donna	Meyer	Houston	TX
Lois & Ken	Ahntholz	Ankeny	IA	Elaine	Nelson	Albert Lea	MN
Cory	Becker	Gibbon	MN	Carol	Oelfke	Osakis	MN
Jeanette & Eugene	Bening	Hutchinson	MN	Doug & Iris	Parrott	Gaylord	MN
Allen Co Public Library	Burd, Kathy	Fort Wayne	IN	Harold & Bonita	Pettis	Gibbon	MN
Linda	Cancio	Sacramento	CA	Wayne & Louise	Quast	Arlington	MN
Charlotte	Doudell	San Jose	CA	Delano	Quast	Le Sueur	MN
Jeffrey	Ducharme	Henderson	MN	Carol	Reiter	Henderson	MN
Robert	Fahey	Belle Plaine	MN	Marie	Renneke	Minneapolis	MN
Darlene	Hageboom	Belle Plaine	MN	Verne & Donna	Schlueter	Arlington	MN
Steve & Gail	Herschmann	Gibbon	MN	Sharon & Chuck	Shimota	Arlington	MN
Janice & Eugene	Isakson	St Peter	MN	Gloria	Sinell	Gaylord	MN
John & Dorothy	Johnson	Gibbon	MN	Vicki	Stock	Arlington	MN
Carrie	Johnson	Poolesville	MD	Shirley & Charles	Supplee	Bloomington	MN
Pat	Keating	Oconomowoc	WI	Otto	Templin	Hutchinson	MN
Dori	Kistner	Gaylord	MN	Elaine	Thies	Gaylord	MN
Harry W	Kreger	Ocean View	DE	Robert	Wieman	St. Paul	MN
Ed & Dorothy	Kruse	Apple Valley	MN				
Virgil	Lieske	Austin	MN				

Membership Form  RENEW  NEW

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 206  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arlington MN 55307

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to receive my newsletter by email (in living color!)

I would like to receive my newsletter by US Mail

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.

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

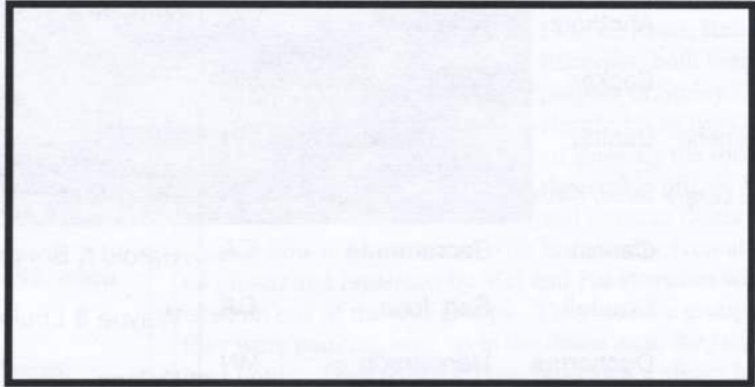
**Check your due date on the mailing label.**

Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to others who are interested.



# SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## USING THE NEW MICROFILM READER

By Cory Becker

My name is Cory Becker and I live in Gibbon, and will be a Junior at GFW High School in Winthrop. My family has lived in Sibley County since the early 1870's, so we have a lot of history here. I volunteer as often as I can at SCHS.. I have written 3 family history books, The Benson family tree, The Fred Becker family tree, and most recently The Theodore and Ella Bruns family tree, all of which I have donated copies to Sibley County and Minnesota Historical Society's, as well as the Gibbon Public Library.

Last year, Rommie, Dorothy and I spent hours searching through the Gibbon Gazette newspapers in Fairfax, the start of the Gibbon Ballroom book. If you are interested in some brief information on the Gibbon Ballroom, I encourage you to download the City of Gibbon app on your smart phone. I worked on the app committee and added all the history to it.

I have been able to use the new microfilm reader a couple times, and I thoroughly enjoy it! The old reader was a great machine, but the screen was rather dark, so when you took a picture of an article, it wasn't clear at all. With the new machine, you can search through the papers, and any article you find, you can crop it down, and then have the option to print, save to a USB, or email it to yourself. I learned the hard way when using the machine the first time, to ALWAYS save everything! I accidentally deleted close to 50 articles, mostly on the Gibbon Ballroom, and a few articles I would find here and there of my fami-

ly mentions, or something Rommie and I were interested in. So the next time I came down to Henderson, I made sure I brought a USB and saved my pictures every time I had 5 cropped. I was amazed when I came back a week later, everybody had heard about it! News travels fast!

It's probably a good thing the State Historical Society doesn't have any new readers, or else I'd be up there more often! ;)

