

## From the President

by Pat Lierly

The Lenexa Historical Society and its museum has come a long way in 15 years of growth and activity. You are to be congratulated!

**THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN MAY.** Instead, on May 17, please plan to visit the Legler Barn Museum Open House between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. (and take a tour of the Lackman/Thompson Home from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.).

We are excited about the Barn's updated exhibits. Kiersten, Beryl, our interns, Board members, volunteers, and others have been working hard to have some changes completed for this event. There are still many projects to complete and many volunteer hours still needed to continue plans for 1998. Then, there will be 1999.

Please make plans to come by on the 17th and let us know your thoughts and suggestions. Since the Passport to Adventure Hunt (see page three for more details) starts on the 16th, there will be lots going on. Join us!



Thanks to Seaton Van Lines for moving many, many heavy objects for the museum at no charge. Here, movers manage a long glass case by placing it on wheels.

Congratulations to Ed and Loretta Bass of Lenexa's Penny Green Subdivision on the observance of their 50th wedding anniversary on April 17. The Bases have been life members of LHS for many years.

Please join the  
Lenexa Historical Society  
in celebrating  
**Legler Barn  
Museum's  
15th Anniversary  
at an Open House**  
Sunday, May 17  
noon to 5:00 p.m.

### Planned activities:

- See **NEW** exhibits
- Descendants of early Lenexa settlers will talk about their family heirlooms
- Watch a spinning demonstration in which children can participate
- Hear the history of hot-air ballooning
- Enjoy lemonade and cookies

LHS Members and the public  
are welcome!

**UPCOMING LHS EVENTS AT  
SAR-KO-PAR PARK:  
LENEXA BARBEQUE CONTEST  
JUNE 27  
SPINACH TRAILS FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER 12**

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING: JULY 28**

## Letter From Kiersten



*Kiersten Latham,  
Legler Barn  
Museum Director*

Wowee Zowee! Have you seen the Barn lately? Things are coming along very nicely with the new exhibits. We should be good and ready for the upcoming 15th Anniversary Celebration on May 17. Why are we re-doing the exhibits at the museum, you ask? Well, there are several answers to that question.

First, we thought the 15-year anniversary would be a great time to revamp things. What better time than an anniversary to spruce things up? Second, we wanted to make the exhibits more interpretive (tell stories) and specific to the history of Lenexa. Doing this helps visitors understand what the museum is all about. It also

makes things easier for the local students that come in with homework for their history classes.

Third, by improving the exhibits aesthetically, the community of Lenexa will have a museum they can be proud of, one that looks professional and sparks interest in local history. By enhancing the exhibits we can (hopefully) generate more tourism in our city. Good exhibits can also help increase repeat visits (especially by local residents) and provide a sound basis for receiving grants and donations.

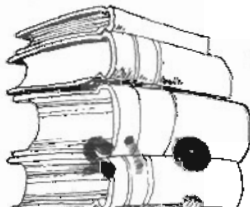
So, you see the benefits of revamping exhibits? Once all exhibits are redone (Barn and Depot this year/Strang Station, schooner, caboose in 1999), we will have a top-notch museum. These new "permanent" exhibits are scheduled to last for five years. We will also have a temporary exhibit space that will rotate every six months, and the Hands-On Corner, which will change once per year. If you don't get a chance to come to the Open House on May 17, stop in another time and see the updated museum!

## Have You Read—

### *Books from the Barn's Gift Shop*

*Kansas Trivia, compiled by Barbara Bruckman. Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville TN. Reviewed by Mary Kay Smith.*

This book is the who, what, when, where, and how book of the state of Kansas. It is filled with interesting questions and answers about well-known facts concerning the people, culture, places, geography, and history of colorful Kansas. It will provide hours of entertainment and education and is readily adaptable for use with trivia-format games. Available for purchase at the Legler Barn Museum Gift Shop for \$6.95 plus tax.



The Gift Shop has a good assortment of books about Kansas history for adults and children. Gift certificates for any amount are also available.



*The hat display that had been on the Barn's second floor has been removed. Connie Andrews inventoried each one before placing them in storage. She and her husband, Frank, have volunteered many hours over the last few months at the Barn doing anything that needed to be done.*

## Wish Wish Wish List



The museum needs all kinds of items and maybe you can help.

Check your garage and attics for items below. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

• Tapes of historic music, American folk music (i.e. Civil War music).

- Children's books on history and/or prehistory
- Historic toys (reproductions, too)
- Small set of 3 or 4 shelves
- Children's small wooden table
- Sturdy metal shelving for storage

### We need these services:

- Carpenter or cabinetmaker
- All-around fix-it person

Call the Legler Barn Museum for specific details about these items and services.

### Call For Artifacts!

Search your closets! Scan your drawers! Check out your garage! The Barn is putting together **an exhibit about YOUR history**. We are interested in collecting items from Lenexa that are a part of its major period of growth, circa 1970-1990. Items such as advertising objects/papers, photographs, and other things that show the growth and change in Lenexa are what we need. If you think you have an artifact we could use, call Kiersten at the Barn, 492-0038.

### Passport to Adventure

Looking for something to do when school gets out? Join us for the kick-off weekend of Passport to Adventure Hunt (PTAH), sponsored by the Interpretive Site Coalition (of which we are a member). PTAH is a month-long program designed to get everyone to enjoy the tourist sites in their own back yard. There are 20 sites in all, and you can pick up your passport book at any one of them, including Legler Barn Museum,

starting May 16. During the kick-off weekend, there will be door prizes, historic demonstrations, and other goodies. (On the 17th, we will also be celebrating the Barn's 15th Anniversary Open House.) Your goal for the 1998 Passport to Adventure Hunt is to go to as many of the 20 sites as you can and **qualify for an exciting grand prize!**

### Gift Shop Feature

Have you lost your marbles? Well, if you feel the need to refill, come get our latest inventory at the Gift Shop. Teach your kids the fun game of marbles with this set made locally in Bonner Springs, KS. What a steal for family fun at only \$3.00!

### Librarian Wanted

**The History Resource Room in the basement of the Barn needs some loving care.** Anyone who has some familiarity with organizing a card catalog for a library would love this job. Our Resource Room has different kinds of media, such as books, files, audio tapes, and video tapes. Depending on the amount of hours worked weekly, this could be a nice summer project for someone interested in organizing and tidying things up. If you have any interest, please call Kiersten at the Barn.

### Recent Acquisition

In February, LHS was the grateful recipient of a generous donation from **Premier Bank**. They thoughtfully **gave their entire collection of Lenexa pictures** that once hung in the bank. Consisting of 45 pictures ranging from small to huge, the images from Lenexa's past are completely framed. Many of the pictures will be used in our revamped permanent exhibits. Thank you to the folks at Premier!

### New Member Benefit Approved

At the April meeting, the Board approved a new benefit for LHS members: **10% off items in the Barn Gift Shop**. Stop by and see our selection of new items, and get 10% off anything you buy, anytime.

*Note: The new logo that appears at the top of this page was designed by graphic artist **George Stanton**, son of one of our interns, **Peggy Stanton**. Thank you to George for donating his services.*

## Historical Programs Presented to Area Students

by Beryl Hennigh, Historian

The LHS staff and volunteers have partnered with the city of Lenexa in an effort to familiarize third grade students with the history and government of the Lenexa community. This program was started several years ago by **Brant Gaul**, Planning Department, and **Bill Nicks**, Director of Lenexa Parks and Recreation.

Seven elementary schools are visited each school year, with 400-500 students participating. Bill, who portrays **Octave Chanute**, accompanies LHS staff and volunteers. You'll recall that Chanute bought 50 acres from Squire Charles Bradshaw and platted the town of Lenexa in 1869.

Bill dresses in a black formal business suit, top hat, and sports both a moustache and goatee as Chanute did more than 100 years ago. He shows maps to the students, and discusses Chanute's French background, his famous bridge-building over the Missouri River, and his interest in flying.

LHS' restored prairie schooner is taken to each school by P&R employees. LHS volunteers explain the function of the wagon and its contents. Approximately 50 items that a family would have taken in a covered wagon when going West in the 1800s are lain on a cover on the floor, which students sit around. The items are passed around for a closer look.

LHS members and friends who have assisted me include **Bill and Joan Markman, Bill and Pat Lierly, Norman Keech, Bob Rose, Bob Hennigh, Ernestine Johnson, Joe Ryckert, and Frank and Connie Andrews.**



*Another piece of Lenexa history was lost to the bulldozer April 20. The Rosner farmstead, a familiar landmark on the corner of 95th and Lackman for years, was destroyed to make way for development.*

### From the Lenexa Newspaper 1981

"The Lenexa Historical Society, in cooperation with the City of Lenexa, began reconstruction of what is now known as the Legler Barn-Museum. The museum will be a close replica of the Old Legler Barn which was part of the Lenexa landscape at the northwest corner of 95th and Quivira Road from 1864-1972. The museum has been a community effort. Funds have been raised by LHS, and from many businesses and individuals."

Lenexa Historical Society  
14907 W. 87th St.  
Lenexa, KS 66215-4135

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 57  
Shawnee Mission, KS

Bill & Pat Lierly  
13105 Logan Lane  
Lenexa, KS 66215

## New Exhibit at JOCO Museum Now Open

The Johnson County Museum of History opened its new exhibit "Seeking the Good Life" to the general public Saturday, May 2. This newly created attraction covers the history of Johnson County from the 1820s to 1990s. A special feature is the 1950s All Electric House. For more information, call 631-6709. The museum is located at 6305 Lackman Road in Shawnee.