

## First Discussion Held of Possible City Management

by Katie Evans, adapted from minutes taken at the meeting

The first meeting between Lenexa city governing officials and the membership of LHS was Thursday, January 27. Forty people attended. Those from the City were Council members Mike Boehm, Diane Linver, John Ramsey, Jane Klein, and Mayor Joan Bowman. All are also LHS members.

This meeting was to determine whether or not the majority of LHS members favor city management of the Barn.

LHS President Mary Kay Smith, LB Museum Director Peggy Stanton, and Mayor Joan Bowman composed a panel leading the discussion. Mayor Bowman started out by saying that she had been advised by City Staff that while the City doesn't necessarily want to manage LBM, there may be some positives for the City to operate the museum complex. She also said it was her understanding that LHS' ability to raise funds and provide volunteers at the Barn had decreased.

Mayor Bowman assured the members that she is interested in keeping the relationship between the City and LHS as good as it has been in the past. She stated that the entire membership needs to participate in this part of the planning for the museum's future. If LHS prefers other options to City management, they need to be clearly defined and an outline of procedure needs to be made.

The evening's discussion touched on many subjects, such as whom should own the collection, benefits for Barn employees if they were City employees, how other museums are doing which are operated by government as opposed to non-profit groups, and what plans does the City have to increase the transient guest tax, from which funding for LBM comes now.

Peggy stated an intention to talk to a respected and experienced authority, Dan Holt, of the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, on the subject of government vs. non-profit museum operation. In the meantime, she presented some information that she had researched. Some of the benefits of LHS retaining management are:

- Many museum grants are not available to government entities
- A non-profit group is better protected by the law in the event of a lawsuit
- Sometimes governments are less accepting of Museum Standards and Practices if they don't see the value in them

Some of the benefits of City management are:

- LHS funds could be used to improve the collection and related programming for the public

- Probably, more staff could be hired. LBM is understaffed and pay levels don't meet those of the Museum Field.

- LHS could devote more time and energy to other aspects of historical preservation, research, etc.

Peggy suggested that a new museum board be established, comprised of LHS members and City Staff. It would ensure accountability to LHS and the City. It was agreed that that was a good idea, and should be done, if City management occurs.

All those present understood that no definitive answers would come from this meeting. However, it was agreed that a task force to research and discuss the situation be formed. The task force would consist of several members of City Staff and LHS. (A task force has since been formed. See page 2 for related information.)

If anyone would like to read the minutes from this meeting, they can be found at LBM at the front desk in a book marked "2000 Board Minutes." Thanks to Beryl Hennigh, who took very complete notes and wrote the minutes.

### March General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 23

7:00 p.m.

Lenexa United Methodist Church

Wesley Room

9138 Caenen Lake Road

(enter the church from the west parking lot)

All general membership meetings will be on the fourth Thursday this year, with the exception of November. Because of Thanksgiving, the November meeting will be the fifth Thursday.

Our speaker in March will be Pat O'Neill, who will tell us about "The Irish in Kansas City." Mr. O'Neill is the author of "From the Bottom Up: The Story of the Irish in Kansas City." He has done extensive research into the history and impact of the Irish in the Kansas City area in the mid-1840s.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Please bring a friend. This evening will be fun and very interesting!

## LHS News

**Spinach Festival.** The Spinach Festival is September 9. The annual event will feature booths for crafts and antiques. Walt McKenzie, 888-0666, is contacting crafters, and Greg Peterson, 541-8446, the antique dealers.

**Task Force.** A Task Force has been organized to study the possibility of the City of Lenexa assuming responsibility for the operation of LBM. Mary Kay Smith, Ernestine Johnson, Jim Spaith, and Peggy Stanton will represent LHS. Mayor Bowman appointed Council members Dick Dyer and Jane Klein, City Clerk Sandy Howell, and Assistant City Attorney Eric Ambler to represent the City. Recommendations from the Task Force will be presented at the March membership meeting.

**Docent Program.** The Barn's docent program is ready to go. If you would like to volunteer to be a Barn docent, please call Peggy at the Barn.

**Telephone Committee.** For the past two years, the following people have served on the LHS Telephone Committee: Eleanor Boley, Roberta Bridges, Mildred Hunt, Ernestine Johnson, Carolyn Keech, Joan Markman, Jane Schmidt, Jean Seifert, Mary Kay Smith, and Sue Wilson. Pat White and Mary Jo Jones have joined the committee this year.

The callers remind members about meetings and special events and help us all to keep in touch. Their efforts are certainly appreciated. If anyone is overlooked, or if someone would prefer not to be called, please contact Mary Kay Smith, 888-0144.

**Gift Shop.** Our thanks to Bob Rose who recently installed new shelves in the Gift Shop. Although the corner is small, there is a nice selection of pottery by artisans of the Flint Hills and a variety of books, maps, prints, post cards and novelties for kids. Thimbles, spoons and magnets with LBM design will be arriving shortly. Purchases help support LHS activities. Members get 10% off.

A new book by Barbara Swell is entitled "Children at the Hearth." It provides information about cooking, manners, and games of the 19th century. The recipes include hardtack, cathead biscuits, hobo mulligan stew, talking food basket, hoe cake, mud pie, and strawberry fruit leather. It discusses folk remedies, frontier

hygiene, and courting. The book is illustrated with vintage photos, and is available for purchase for \$5.95.

**Herb Garden.** Marie Hormann will again chair the Herb Garden committee. She reports that on the second Tuesday in May, the Lenexa Garden and Field Club will clean up the inside and outside of the garden. A new fence is needed badly.

Beds are assigned to individuals, and there are a number of beds available. Anyone who is interested in adopting a bed should contact Marie at 888-9822 as soon as possible.

**Lenexa BBQ.** The Great Lenexa BBQ Battle: Kansas State Championship will be Saturday, June 24 at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. This provides a fundraising opportunity for LHS. The Society will operate the parking lot south of 87th St., along Greenway. Volunteers to collect money and direct cars should contact Bob Lillie, 888-1476.

**Postcard Exhibit.** An outstanding exhibit from the Kansas State Historical Society is on display at the Legler Barn Museum through March 19. "Postcards from the Past: Preserving the Built Environment" provides historic photos of Kansas landscape. It's well worth a visit to the Barn.

**Newton Smith Memorials.** There have been a number of contributions in memory of Newton Smith, and Mary Kay and her family are grateful. The fund will be used to publish a book, "Historical Firsts of Johnson County." Proceeds from the book will go to LHS.

**Outstanding Volunteer.** Volunteers are essential to the operation of LBM. The list of those who contribute is endless, so each month, we are going to salute one individual. This month, that person is Norm Keech. He volunteers each Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and cheerfully does whatever is needed. He frequently covers the reception desk and telephone. Norm has many skills—computer, handyman, etc., and LHS benefits from all of them. Many thanks to Norm!

**Barnyard Babes.** Since many of our members haven't heard about our free program for preschoolers called Barnyard Babes, here is some information. Three- to five-year-olds enjoy making theme-related crafts. Story telling, songs and finger plays are included in the sessions. Kids make crafts related to the seasons or holiday of the month, and also a little history of Lenexa and LBM. Classes are twice a month on Tuesdays during the school year. So far, it has been very popular, with a waiting list for the eight seats.

**Tartan Day Celebration.** Beginning March 25, LBM will display Scottish Heritage. The exhibit, by Frank Andrews, focuses on the history of Scots and their descendants who emigrated to this area. The exhibit includes histories, traditional Scottish musical instruments, kilts, and tartans. National Tartan Day is April 6.

### Need to Call an Officer/Board Member?

Pres. Mary Kay Smith	888-0144
Pres.-elect Jim Spaith	631-2502
Vice Pres. Angelo Miño	438-3364
Sec./Ex-officio Katie Evans	268-4606
Treas. Norman Keech	648-0438
Frank Andrews	894-1376
Walt McKenzie	888-0666
Bob Lillie	888-1476
Legler Barn Museum	492-0038

## Nancey Makes Good Cookies!

Nancey Spaith made such good macaroon cookies for the January membership meeting that many people asked her for the recipe. Here it is.

### Nancey Spaith's Grandmother's Holiday Macaroons

2 eggs  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/3 cup flour  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon melted butter, cooled  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 2/3 cups coconut

Beat eggs until foamy. Slowly add sugar and beat until thickened, about 5 minutes. Fold in flour, baking powder and salt. Then fold in butter, vanilla, and coconut. Drop from teaspoon or melonballer onto greased and floured cookie sheet (or use parchment paper on cookie sheet.) Bake at 325 degrees until cookies are brown around the edge, about 15 minutes. If you are using two racks in the oven, bake for 7 1/2 minutes, switch racks, and bake another 7 1/2 minutes. Makes 3 dozen. For a festive look, place a candied cherry in the center of each cookie before baking.

## Many Thanks to our Benefactors

The Lenexa Historical Society and Legler Barn Museum are very fortunate to have generous benefactors helping us meet the financial requirements of operating the Barn. They are:

**Amos Family Funeral Homes**  
**Cookbook Publishers Inc.**  
**Hermes Landscaping**  
**Zarda Bar-B-Q and Catering**

Thanks to all four companies for their generosity!

We appreciate **Lenexa Holiday Inn and Sebring Decorating Supply** for their continued support.

**Premier Bank** is now a corporate member of LHS. Please patronize all our corporate friends!

## Thanks for Your Help with the Soup Luncheon

We want to thank all of those wonderful people who helped with the Soup Luncheon. We are indeed grateful to May Kay Smith and the Telephone Committee, and the soup makers and bakers, all great cooks. For so many years, Donna McClure has put all the soup together and added her special touch. She and her kitchen crew does such a great job. We had lots of help this year for dessert, bread and drink table, waiters, set up crew, and clean up crew. You were all great. There were those who sold gift items from LBM and baked items, and those at the door taking money and tickets. Some set up the trays and utensils.

Publicity was good. Lenexa Hy-Vee Sysco and Lipton contributed some of the ingredients for the soup. We especially want to thank all those who purchased and sold tickets, invited guests and supported LHS with their presence. Dave Edwards at Sebring so graciously lets us store equipment and supplies necessary for this project and other fundraisers for LHS. Thanks to Lenexa Parks and Recreation for letting us use the Community Center. Anything worthwhile is worth, so they say. You all made it so much easier. We appreciate your time and effort.

Sincerely, Rita DeBrabander and Pat Lierty, co-chairs.

## Valentine's Day Items Needed

Hi, my name is Sharon Hammontree, a volunteer at the Legler Barn Museum, you know, the lady with the camera attached to her hand. Next year, I am planning a temporary exhibit for Valentine's Day. This is a very special day for a lot of you romantic people and I bet there are a lot of you that wonder, why do we celebrate Valentine's Day?

I need your help. If you have anything that you would like to donate, old cards, stuffed animals, dried flowers, candy boxes, pictures of your most memorable romantic evening—anything that you think would be of interest. Please bring it to the Barn, or leave a message at the Barn, and I will be happy to pick it up. If you have one Valentine's Day that was extra special, write a small paragraph about that day and the person with the most romantic story will win a prize.

# New Traveling Education Trunks Being Formed

by Karla Horkman

I volunteer for the Legler Barn Museum. My background is education and I am currently developing the first of what is hoped to be several traveling education trunks. Our goal is to serve the community by creating a unique teaching tool for the use of educators in Lenexa and the surrounding area.

The trunks are designed to be a complete unit that is teacher-friendly, with a variety of activities that integrate history with reading, math, science and geography in a fun format. The curriculum is scripted so teachers can easily present their choice of sub-topics and select extended activities for more in-depth study of a topic. The trunk contains audio-visual materials such as photographs, maps, charts, videos, and music. Objects, artifacts, and reproductions, will be included to provide visual and tactile experiences for the students. We hope to have the first trunk completed by mid-summer so we can introduce the trunk to teachers as the school year begins.

The first trunk topic is The Santa Fe Trail and while we have been collecting materials, there are many opportunities for patrons of history to assist in this worthwhile endeavor. The following is a partial list of items we need to fill the trunk. Please keep in mind duplicates are welcome as replacements for lost or damaged objects. We also invite readers to make suggestions for appropriate objects for the period of 1820 to 1870. If you can

help by donating an object, or providing funds or services, please contact the museum.

- Trunk, storage container, large cooler or suitcase with wheels and handle
- Old genuine quill and ink well
- Wire-rim glasses
- Medicine bottles
- Wagon wheel spokes or hub (doesn't have to be a complete wheel)
- Tinware or graniteware items, chamber pot, water ladle, etc.
- Sewing kit items
- Old leather-bound ledgers and personal journals
- Small wooden keg (even better if it holds water)
- Wooden spigot
- Cobbler form and stand
- Kerosene lantern
- Hat pins
- Darning egg
- 4" to 6" thick, large foam scraps for packing
- Kansas City Centennial items
- Postcards of Santa Fe Trail sites, the older the better
- Books, video tapes, and music cassettes on the Santa Fe Trail

In addition to specific items, we need funds for laminating paper materials and small display cases for individual objects. We also need a volunteer to type from text, a person to do some calligraphy, and woodworker or craftsman that can do small assembly tasks. Thank you!

## Board Action

At the February meeting, the following 2000 LHS goals were set:

- Develop programs to involve school-age children, thus interesting them and their parents in membership in LHS.
- Put the names and addresses of new members in the next newsletter.
- To publish a new booklet called "Historic Firsts of Johnson County."
- Establish a docent's program. The manual is ready.
- To continue to identify and mark historic places.

After discussion it was decided that the following committees would not be retained: Automation, Strategic Planning, and Long-term Fundraising.

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

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