

From the President's Corner

by Mary Kay Smith

Volunteer Recognition

It has been my pleasure this year to recognize members who have given outstanding service to our Lenexa Historical Society. Now as my term of office draws to an end, I am frustrated because there are so many I still want to write about.

This month I want to start by expressing my sympathy to Mildred Hunt for the passing of Norman Hunt. We remember him so well as the "depot master" of the Depot when it was open on special occasions. Mildred continues to volunteer. She has described her experiences of teaching in a one-room school, helps at the Soup Luncheon and Spinach Festival, and serves on the Telephone Committee.

Two other people who have contributed so much to the Society from its beginning are Dorothy and Bob Rose. Whenever there are dinners, meetings, Soup Luncheon, Spinach Festival, BBQ Parking—in fact, in all of our activities, they are involved. Bob is "Mr. Fix-it." For example, at our last Board meeting, concern was expressed about the condition of the brick walkway around the Strang Waiting Station. The solution: Bob Rose will know what to do about it. The Roses are charter members whose dedication to LHS has never wavered through the years. We are grateful. (The little lake in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park bears their name.)

2001

I have enjoyed serving as President, but I must confess that at times, I felt a little reluctant to aggressively make plans while we were waiting for the recommendations of the LHS/City Task force. At this point, I am now enthusiastic and confident about 2001. Our staff will remain, and I am convinced that Bill Nicks is committed to insuring the continued professional administration of the Legler Barn Complex.

The Lenexa Historical Society hopes to occupy the freight room of the Depot, where it can maintain its own office, files, computer, etc. We will continue to run the Gift Shop, the craft booths at the Spinach Festival, the Soup Luncheon, BBQ parking, serve as docents, help with school presentations, do historic research and publishing and help the staff as we do now. In fact, most of our present activities will continue.

November General Membership Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 30

Program: 7:00

Lenexa United Methodist Church
9138 Caenen Lake Rd.

This month, the program will be given by Jean Chavez. She will discuss Hispanics' influence in this area's history.

Refreshments will be served following the program. As always, friends and neighbors are welcome.

If you have any questions about the program, please call Program Chair Jim Spait at 631-9541.

Future meeting date: The January 2001 meeting will be on the 25th.

I am proposing two major projects for LHS to undertake in 2001. Our number one priority must be to obtain an off-site storage facility for the artifacts which we own and for which we are responsible. Unless space is acquired, a moratorium will have to be imposed on future acquisitions.

Secondly, I propose the restoration of the Caboose. Peggy Stanton has installed a significant exhibit in the Depot, and it will remain there for several years. The Caboose would enhance it, and we receive many requests from visitors who want to see its interior. These two projects are tremendous challenges for LHS in 2001.

Welcome to New Members

We extend a hearty welcome to the following people who joined Lenexa Historical Society in 2000:

John P. Connor, Overland Park

John Hart, Mound City, KS

Mike Hendricks, Lenexa

Jennifer Hunter, Fairway

Larry and Jody Malotte, Lenexa

Cindy McKimms, Lenexa

Jan Melton, Clarksville, MD

Margaret Stanton, Legler Barn Museum Director

We also remember our members we lost through death: Loretta Bass, Norman Hunt, Hildred Reents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schweiger, Newton Smith, and Genevieve Williams.

LHS News

2001 Membership Dues

A new membership directory will be published in 2001. Members' dues for the next year are payable now. The names of all who have paid on or before January 31 will be included in the directory. Please mail or bring your renewal form (found on page 3) to the membership meeting on November 30.

New Publication

A booklet entitled "Historic Firsts of Johnson County" has been published by the Lenexa Historical Society. It includes over 60 odd and little-known facts about Johnson County. It is available for purchase at the Gift Shop for \$1. Also check on "Colorful Characters in Local History." The cost is \$3.

Historic Sites

The Lenexa Historical Society has an ongoing program of designating homes or structures of historical significance in Lenexa. Plaques have been installed on the Chapel of Holy Trinity Church, the Haskin House at 9426 Pflumm Road, the Lackman-Thompson Home at 11801 Lackman Road, the Spartin Home at 9318 Noland Road, and the Crockett Bit and Spur Co. at 18880 W. 87th St.

Buildings in Old Town, the Lenexa United Methodist Church, and the Salem Lutheran Church also qualify. If you know of others to consider, please contact Mary Kay Smith, 888-0144.

Looking for unique Christmas gifts? Stop by our Gift Shop! It is stocked with lovely pottery, interesting books, and local items. LHS publishes a booklet titled "Historic Sites of Lenexa" which is only one of many titles that make excellent gifts. It is only \$5. Remember, LHS members get 10% off.

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

In Recognition of Virginia Owen

Virginia Owen, an LHS life member, was recently honored at an impressive ceremony at the Overland Park Elementary School. Virginia financed and created two photographic exhibits for walls in the school's atrium hallway. One depicts the early history of William Strang and the city, and the other, the aviation history of Overland Park.

Frank Champion was an early day aviator who had an operation in Overland Park. His daughter, Ms. Hazel Masculine, traveled from the state of Washington to participate.

Schools in Lenexa could benefit from historical exhibits, murals, etc.

Board Election

At the November General Membership Meeting, we will be voting on two candidates to fill the two vacancies left by departing members Frank Andrews and Angelo Miño. The candidates are Johnna Lingle and Rick Hoffman.

Remaining on the Board are Jim Spaith, president; Mary Kay Smith, Ex-officio; Norman Keech, Bob Lillie, and Walt McKenzie.

Thanks for the Refreshments

Thank you to Nancey Spaith, wife of Board member and Program Chairman Jim Spaith, for providing the delicious cookies and drinks at all our general membership meetings this year. She made many things herself. Everything was always pretty, tasty, and very much appreciated!

Stop By Our Gift Shop for Christmas



Every Veterans Day, we should call the military veterans we know and thank them for their military service. They deserve our appreciation and respect!

Read All About It!

November Honors U.S. Military Veterans

World War I Hero



Isadore Hoehn spent all of his life in Lenexa and left for the U. S. Army on Sept. 17, 1917. He spent six weeks in Camp Funston, Junction City, KS. He then went to Fort Sill, OK, and left in May 1918 for France. He was in the 137th Infantry of the 35th Division. He was killed on Sept. 26, 1918 in the Battle of the Argonne. He was the only soldier from Lenexa killed in World War I.

Source for all information on this page: "Veterans," LBM Heritage Room Library.

World War II Heroes

Right: Cpl. Paul T. Wise, 31 years old, died August 10, 1944 of enemy rifle fire received on August 9 in combat on the Brittany Peninsula in France. Paul was a member of Company C, 603rd tank destroyer battalion. He was the son of Mathias John and Christine Maurer Wise. Paul was born and raised in



Left: Bernard Kill, son of John and Josephine Kill, died in WWII on July 13, 1944. He was born November 26, 1916. His brother, Leo Kill, also lived in Lenexa.

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 Holiday Inn—Lenexa, Fry-Wagner Moving, and Sebring Decorating Supply for their continued support.

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

Lenexa Historical Society
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