

Gandy Dancers' Ball Update

By Katie Evans

Did you see the nice article in The Shawnee/Lenexa Star about our Ball? With the help of Bank Midwest, The Star, and merchants who have allowed us to put posters in their windows, word is getting out. In case you are new to LHS, the Gandy Dancers' Ball will be held Saturday, November 3, at the Holiday Inn—Lenexa, 1-35 and 95th Street. Doors open at 6:30 for seating. Dinner will be served at seven.

Tickets are now on sale for the Ball. Please send ticket orders to LHS' new office address, which is inside the Depot at the Legler Barn Museum:

Gandy Dancers' Ball
14915 W. 87th St. Pkwy
Lenexa, KS, 66215

Please indicate how many tickets you are ordering, and with whom you wish to sit, if applicable. Tickets are \$75 each, or you can buy a whole table of 10 for \$650.

Some people are opting to dress in period costumes instead of formal evening clothes. That will make an interesting mix!

Corporate solicitation letters went out September 7. Invitations to individuals will be mailed during the last week of September. We hope to see many LHS members mixed in with other new faces from Johnson County. This will be a fun, educational evening for everyone!

For questions or more information, call me at 913-268-4606 or e-mail me at katiasevans@msn.com.



Additions to LHS Membership Directory:

Allison Elliott
8145 Renner Blvd #12
Lenexa, KS 66219
H: 913-495-9859
W: 913-492-0038

Summit Consulting
Angelo Mino
8926 Summit
Lenexa, KS 66215
H: 913-438-3364
W: 816-769-6337
(corporate membership)

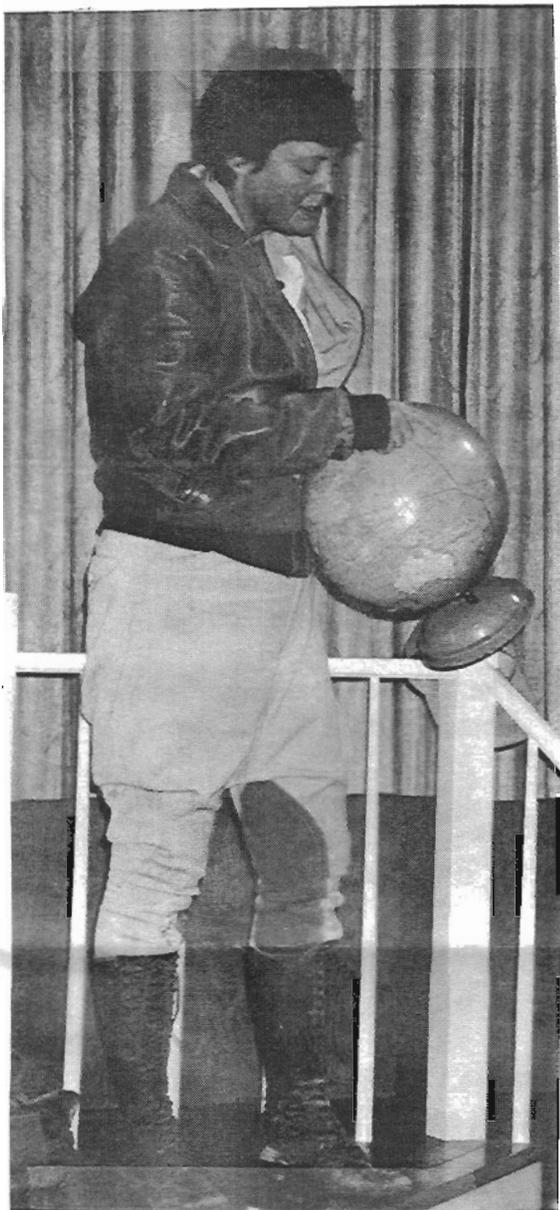
Changes in LHS Membership Directory:

William & Joan Markman
14030 W. 91st Terr Apt 3
Lenexa, KS 66215
(Lakeview Village)
913-888-5562

Joseph & Sue Wilson
12229 Caenen Road
Overland Park, KS 66213
(Stratford Place)
913-402-0456

NOTICE OF THE DEATH..... of Susan Hughes, was received the week of August 7th, by the Museum Staff. Susan was a former staff member assigned to the restored Frisco RR Depot upon it's opening in November of 1988. She was employed here for two years. The family is extended sympathy from LHS friends and staff. Susan's Husband's address is:

Don Hughes
116 East 5th Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601



AMELIA COMES ALIVE!!

By Sharon Hammontree

The July Membership Meeting Program was a first person presentation of Amelia Earhart by Ann Birney, presenter from the Kansas Humanities Council's "History Alive" series. Birney, an independent scholar of American Studies and Co-Director of "Ride into History", is from Admire, KS. The Membership surprised "Amelia" with a beautiful birthday cake; she was born on July 24, 1897 in Atchison, KS.

On the eve of her attempt to fly around the globe (29,000 miles), Earhart spoke

candidly about her ambivalence toward fame, her Kansas childhood, and her love of flying. Her parents encourage her to be curious and try new experiences. Earhart and her sister explored the Missouri River Banks's caves and collected snakes, toads, and spiders. In 1908, Earhart's family moved to Des Moines, IA, where she saw her first airplane. She called it a thing of "rusty wire and wood and not at all interesting". The title of her portrayal was "First Lady of the Air (1897-1937)".

(The picture at the left was taken during the presentation, by Sharon Hammontree, Lenexa Barn Museum Volunteer)

Pioneer Insults

Compiled by Mary Kay Smith

She was as ugly as a mud fence after a hard rain....

Her tongue is tied in the middle and loose at both ends....

He's all vine and no taters....

He's so lazy he won't even scratch when he's got poison ivy.....

He's as slow as a schoolhouse clock....

He was so skinny he had to jump up and down to make a shadow....

He'd steal money off a dead man's eyes....

She was so ugly she could stop a clock....

THE BARN GIFT SHOP....needs to be patronized! It features an outstanding selection of Kansas and local history books (adult and children) maps, magnets, postcards, gifts, etc. All proceeds go directly to the Lenexa Historical Society to support it's programs.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

By Allison Elliott

Each time I am involved in a tourism conference or planning committee meeting the focus is usually directed to some mysterious place in our near future. The place where all things are possible and all our goals are setting up house. However, as we historians do, we prefer to sometimes settle our sights in the other direction and reach back five to ten years to discover what we have learned. Perhaps it is time for all of us to take a little **ten-year trip** back into our past.

Ten years ago in the Lenexa Historical Society...

Then president, Jim Spaith formed a LHS planning committee.

The children's Victorian bedroom was built in the barn loft.

Well-loved bears of every size infested the barn during its Teddy Bear Parade in December.

"Barn Talk" became the official name of the LHS newsletter after the suggestion of Linda Wilcox.

And the woods of Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park where haunted by three masked volunteers in their portrayal of the *Three Little Pigs* during the Enchanted Forest.



Kansas Trivia

By Trivia Professor Walt McKenzie

1. The **first** woman mayor in Kansas (and in the US of A) served in what city?
 - a. Atchison
 - b. Argonia
 - c. Lenexa
 - d. Kansas City, KS
2. What started as Bluemont College and became:
 - a. KSU
 - b. KU
 - c. Washburn University
 - d. Benedictine College
3. The "barbed wire capitol" of the world is located in what Kansas town?
 - a. La Crosse
 - b. Le Compton
 - c. La Grange
 - d. Preckleyville

(answers on last page.....of this issue!)

IT HAPPENED HERE: KANSAS & THE CIVIL WAR.....

Which state suffered the first Civil War casualties? Attracted the most feared terrorists of both North and South? Cast the vote that saved Andrew Johnson from impeachment? Discover Kansas' pivotal role in the battle to preserve the union, presented by Don Coldsmith. Coldsmith is the author of more than 35 books, including the Spanish Bit saga.

The program will be held at:

Antioch Library
Sunday, October 21, 2001
2:15pm.....and it's FREE!!

Local Cow Artist

By Mary Kay Smith

Judy Tuckness, Lenexa artist and LHS member, has created three of the decorated cows in Kansas City's Cow Parade. "Hide, Hide the Cow's Inside" and "Hole-Stein" have been displayed on the Country Club Plaza and "Chocoholic Cow" has been at Union Station. Judy also has been the cow doctor who repaired damaged cows in the "infirmary" located in Union Station.



Flags for our Flagpole

Kansas Rep David Huff, Lenexa, has donated a Kansas Flag for the LHS' flagpole in the park, recently. Rep Huff is a LHS member.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Isadore Hoehn Post 7397 of Lenexa, donated a new US Flag for the LHS' flagpole, in July. Rita DeBrabander, member of the Auxiliary arranged for this donation. She is also a LHS member.

Genealogy Program Coming...

Taken from JoCo Library News

Very Basic, Very Beginning Genealogy, at Cedar Roe Library, 5120 Cedar, Roeland Park, Tuesday,

October 2nd, 6:30-8:30pm. For more information call 913-384-8590.



Telephone Committee

We want to express our appreciation to the following ladies who serve on the Telephone Committee: Eleanor Boley, Roberta Bridges, Susan Hetherington, Mildred Hunt, Ernestine Johnson, Carolyn Keech, Jean Seifert, Lorraine Starr, Pat White. The Committee reminds members about meetings, and special events, and helps to keep in touch with each other.

There ***IS*** a need for one or two additional callers. If you can help, please call Mary Kay Smith at 888-0144.

UPCOMING BOOK SALES

Taken from JoCo Library news

2001 Fall Book Sale

Thursday, Oct 4, 5-8:30pm

Friday, Oct 5, 10am-5pm

Saturday, Oct 6, 9am-3pm

Holiday Book Sale

Thursday, Nov 8, 5-8:30pm

Friday, Nov 9, 10am-5pm

Saturday, Nov 10, 9am-3pm

All sales are held in the meeting room at Antioch Library, 8700 Shawnee Mission Parkway.

Meanderings

By Norm Keech

Rules of The Road Adopted by The Farmers' **Anti-Automobile Society**

Printed in "The Latham Mirror", August 8, 1913

Found at www.ukans.edu/carrie/kancoll

1. Upon discovering an approaching team, the automobilist must stop off-side and cover his machine with a blanket painted to correspond with the scenery.
2. The speed limit on country roads this season will be a secret, and the penalty for violation will be \$10.00 for every mile the offender is caught going in excess of it.
3. In case an automobile makes a team run away, the penalty will be \$50 for the first mile, \$100 for the second, \$200 for the third, etc., that the team runs; in addition to the usual damages.
4. On approaching a corner where he cannot command a view of the road ahead, the automobilist must stop not less than 100 yards from the turn, toot his horn, ring a bell, fire a revolver, hallo, and send up three bombs at intervals of five minutes.
5. Automobiles must always be seasonably painted, that is so they will merge with the pastoral ensemble and not be startling. They must be green in spring, gold in summer, red in autumn, and white in winter.
6. Automobiles running on the country roads at night must send up a red rocket every mile and wait ten minutes for the road to clear. They may then proceed carefully, blowing their horns and shooting Roman candles.
7. All members will give up Sunday to chasing automobiles, shooting and shouting at them, making arrests, and otherwise discouraging country touring on that day.
8. In case a horse will not pass an automobile, the automobilist will take the machine apart as rapidly as possible and conceal the parts in the grass.
9. In case of an automobile approaching a farmer's house when the roads are dusty, it will slow down to one mile an hour, and the chauffeur will lay the dust in front of the house with a hand sprinkler worked over the dash board.

Courting, Frontier style!

By the time a backwoods girl turned 15, or a boy was 17, it was high time to get married. When a boy came to court in the winter, the couple was expected to sit by the fireplace with the entire family looking on. While the father spun yarns and the mother smoked her pipe, the young man was expected to declare his intentions on his first or second visit. After the rest of the family had gone to bed, the young couple would sit in front of the fire, "sparking". If it was especially cold, they would often get in bed together, fully clothed. This practice was called "bundling", and was common the frontier from 1750-1800.

From The Dixie Frontier, by Everette Dick, 1974

LEGLER BARN STAFF....

Has submitted info concerning the city's namesake NE-NEX-SE BLACKHOOF (Lenexa) to Judy Tuckness, Lenexa Arts Council Director. Her Council has been researching and compiling information in regards to the proposed bronze sculpture for City Hall grounds.

Wartime Memories

From JoCo Library News

On Monday's October 8 and November 12, at 2-3:30pm, you'll be able to tell your "wartime story". You can be a part of the Wartime Memories program and the Veterans' Oral History Project. Tell a story, or listen as others do.

Call 913-261-2343 for a reservation if you'd like your story recorded! This project is sponsored by the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.

These gatherings will be held at the Central Resource Library, 9875 West 87th Street, Overland Park.



Since our temporary exhibits are what we hope will draw people to the museum over and over again, I thought I would elaborate a bit on what we will be doing in the next few months by Peggy S.

Belgians and Spinach History in Lenexa, an exhibit that reveals the history of spinach in Lenexa, will be in the temporary exhibit space through October 25th. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to view this exhibit, I advise it highly. Do you know how much Lenexa truck farmers received for a bushel of spinach? Have you any idea how much ice was required to keep the spinach fresh on its trek to the east? Did you know that Joe Van Kiersbilck was spinach king in 1946? This and a lot more information is available in this wonderful exhibit developed by Sharon Hammontree.

Another great exhibit we have been enjoying is Just Add Water, an exhibit about the waters of Kansas. This exhibit is on loan from the Kansas Water Office, and is an extraordinary exhibit created by the Kansas Historical Society. It is scheduled for a short run, so come in soon!

The Quivira Crossing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have a special exhibit in the bedroom on the second level of the museum. Soldier and Mrs. American Revolution are on display for National Constitution Week, which is observed the week of September 17th. The American Revolutionary military uniform of Gene Amos is on exhibit along with a revolutionary period dress. Mr. Amos is a member of the Delaware Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. This colorful exhibit is well worth the viewing.

Beginning in November another exhibit from the Kansas Historical Society will examine the days of the Great Depression.

Between 1936 and 1942 the federal government employed photographers to

create a visual record of the Great Depression. These remarkable photographs go far beyond public relations shots. Powerful images tell the stories of Americans as they worked toward recovering from the Great Depression. The exhibit features rarely-seen FSA photographs taken in Kansas, including Dust Bowl scenes, images of striking miners, farm auctions and 4-H club fairs.

From January 5, 2002 through March 15, 2002 a special exhibit we will be developing from the pictures that are being printed with the grant received from the Kansas Humanities Council. Snapshots from the Past will draw from an extensive collection of photographs showing Lenexa at the last turn-of-the-century. They show Lenexans at work and play. Many are portraits of whimsically posed friends and relatives of the photographer. We believe many self-portraits are also included in this collection. The "snapshot" they provide of a specific era in Lenexa's history is important to students of this subject. The photographer was Edwin Legler, a Lenexa resident and editor of the local newspaper.

You are cordially invited to visit the Legler Barn often. There is always something new and interesting at the barn.

Answers to Kansas Trivia....

1. B....Argonia
2. B....KU
3. C....LaGrange

Thanks again Professor Walter!!

Next **LHS News**

Deadline will be
November 3,
Saturday, 2pm,
PLEASE!

This deadline is set for reasons beyond Editors control...that is, it is just **after** the November Board Meeting, and we need to announce the November Membership Meeting in a **timely** fashion!
Thank you!

LHS NEWS is published by the Lenexa Historical Society.

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Gandy Dancers' Ball Nov. 3

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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit Number 57

SHAWNEE MISSION, KS. 66202.

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Lenexa 66285-4888*

