



A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society

LHS News

May/June 2007

Volume 25, Number 3

A Presidential Letter

A letter from Alan Uhl



In this letter I would like to salute the Lenexa Historical Society Board of Directors. I want to tell you something about what is going on with your Board and how each member is contributing to the overall effect.

By the time you read this Lenexa will be in, or just finished with, the weeklong celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of Lenexa's incorporation as a city. We'll all be taking part in this, but Sue Cunningham, Sharon Hammontree and Connie Andrews have been particularly busy in the planning. I won't go into the details of the events and activities, but I do want to cite Connie and Sharon for designing the beautiful commemorative plate, a limited and numbered edition, which we're selling for \$25.00.

The two positions on the Board that require continuing, ongoing work are Secretary and Treasurer. These spots are ably filled by Ed Bowman and Sonny Miller. I can't emphasize too strongly the importance of these two jobs and how much we as a board depend on these members.

The Legler Barn will be observing its 25th anniversary in May of 2008. That's a year away but Van Rose has accepted the responsibility of starting the planning for this event. We're looking forward to a truly gala celebration of this important milestone in our history. Van has also agreed to be in charge of our continuing program of designating historic houses and other structures in Lenexa.

As you know, we have recently acquired a new computer system. This would not have happened were it not for the expertise and hard work of Terry Clark, Sonny Miller and Connie Andrews. In addition, Terry has put together a grant application to the Johnson County Heritage Trust Foundation which can bring us several thousand dollars. We will use this money in digitizing for the computer the approximately 5,000 pictures in our collection.

Sharon Hammontree has been in charge of our 4th of July Parade entry for several years. This year she asked for someone else to take it on. Our newest director, Tom Gryska, who helped make soup for the recent Soup Luncheon, has agreed to do it even though he'll be in Alaska on parade day itself. Tom has been involved in the parade the last few years and will do a great job of planning.

Sharon is our creative genius. She is responsible for conceiving and executing the exhibits in the Legler Barn Museum. She recently became concerned about the removal, for purposes of development, of the Veterans Memorial on Pflumm in Old Town. We're now involved in an effort to relocate it to another spot.

There is much, much more I could write about. These members are diligent and faithful in their attendance at our monthly meetings. In these sessions they are businesslike and focused on what it is we're doing. The Lenexa Historical Society is fortunate to have this fine group of people working for it and I am blessed to be able to serve with them.

Thursday, May 24, 2007
Lenexa United Methodist Church
Schneeberger Hall
91st and Caenen Lake Road
Call for reservations 913-498-8117

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE FIRST KANSAS TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE
AND THE BEGINNING OF THE BORDER WAR
Presented by Charles E. Clark
See the inside flyer

LHS Board of Directors

Alan Uhl
President
913-856-8205

Connie Andrews
1st Vice President
913-894-1376

Sue Cunningham
2nd Vice President
913-492-8735

Ed Bowman
Secretary
913-888-1147

Wilbert (Sonny) Miller, Jr.
Treasurer
913-888-3762

Sharon Hammontree
913-498-8117

Terry Clark
913-894-1211

Van Rose
913-631-8661

Tom Gyska
913-888-4445

PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISION

Your Board of Directors proposes that Article III Section 5 of the By-Laws be revised. This section deals with the handling of memorial contributions to the Society. We have recently received a few such donations which have prompted a look at the wording of this section.

The present language makes no provision for segregating these funds and calls for consultation with "next of kin, if any" on proposals for disbursement. We feel that "next of kin" could prove difficult, especially after the passage of time. Therefore we propose consultation with "the families of the honorees, if possible".

To comply with the requirement of at least 10 days notice to the membership of proposed By-Laws changes the existing and proposed sections are shown below. This will be voted on at the May Membership Meeting.

EXISTING

Memorial Contributions, unless specifically designated by the donor at the time of the contribution, may be used for any Lenexa Historical Society purpose as determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the next of kin, if any, of the deceased.

PROPOSED

Memorial Contributions will be held in a separate fund and will be identified as to the honoree and the dollar amount.

Unless specifically designated by the donor at the time of the contribution, such funds may be used for any Lenexa Historical Society purpose as determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the families of the honorees, if possible. A record of attempts at such consultations will be kept.

This is probably a good time to urge you to remember the Lenexa Historical Society when it is appropriate to make donations "to your favorite charity". Also we need to think about instructing our survivors to include the Society when listing charities in our obituaries.

**Schedule for the May LHS General Meeting
Potluck Dinner**



A - I Vegetable or Salad Dish



J - R Meat Dish



S - Z Dessert or Fruit Dish



Lenexa Historical Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2007
Lenexa United Methodist Church
Schneeberger Hall
91st and Caenen Lake Road

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7:30 p.m.

The First Kansas Territorial Legislature And The Beginning of the Border War

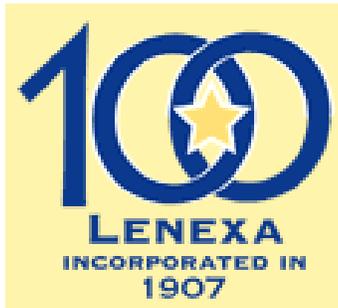
Presented by Charles E. Clark



*Charles E. Clark is a Prairie Village City Council member and
a volunteer researcher at the Shawnee Indian Mission.*

Call for reservations:
913-498-8117

Free Will Donation
Everybody is Welcome!
Bring a guest and receive a gift.



B100STERISM

By Bill Nicks, Jr., LHS Member

I think Craig Denny, Shawnee Mission School Board Member, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce President, Lenexa Parks & Recreation Board Member and Grandfather to Hayden, has been channeling Kansan William Allen White. You see, Craig is also the Chairman of *Lenexa's 100th Anniversary Celebration*. In that role he has embraced the boosterism of Emporia's famed editor.

Craig/White's boosterism is not the commonly held notion of boosterism. It is not the wide-eyed huckster claims found on small town flyers during the expansion of the American West. No, the boosterism dealt in by White, and now by Denny, is one described by historian Sally Griffith. That style is a "(boosterism)... which combined hard-nosed qualities of efficiency and rationality with appeals to loyalty and community spirit."

Craig's professional training is in engineering. At times he is Dr. Craig Denny Ph.D. He deals in soils engineering..... and the Ph.D. is from KU, hence his double and triple meaning vanity plate; "ROCDOC". Soils engineering! How's that for being grounded (sorry) in hard-nosed efficiency and rationality?

His leadership of the *Lenexa 100th* (May 5-12) will display and increase community spirit through; a street fair, a talent show, 4 days of carnival, an international fair, a hot air balloon launch, an Ecumenical Camp Meeting re-enactment, an old fashioned field day, a children's choir, an ice cream social, a military band concert, an art show and a skateboard clinic. The event venues are scattered across our 12 mile wide city in an effort to keep us whole. One city... celebrating together... throughout the whole area... for a whole week... but ending before Mother's Day... See -- he is rational!

His loyalty to Lenexa and to his committee chairs is unwavering. It is best displayed in the confidence he places in each one of those chairs. His mantra seems to be; *go figure out the event details, and then report back to the whole steering committee. We'll be here when you need help.* Each event listed above has a committee chair. Four overarching committees (publicity, volunteers, finances, and fundraising) supported each of the events.

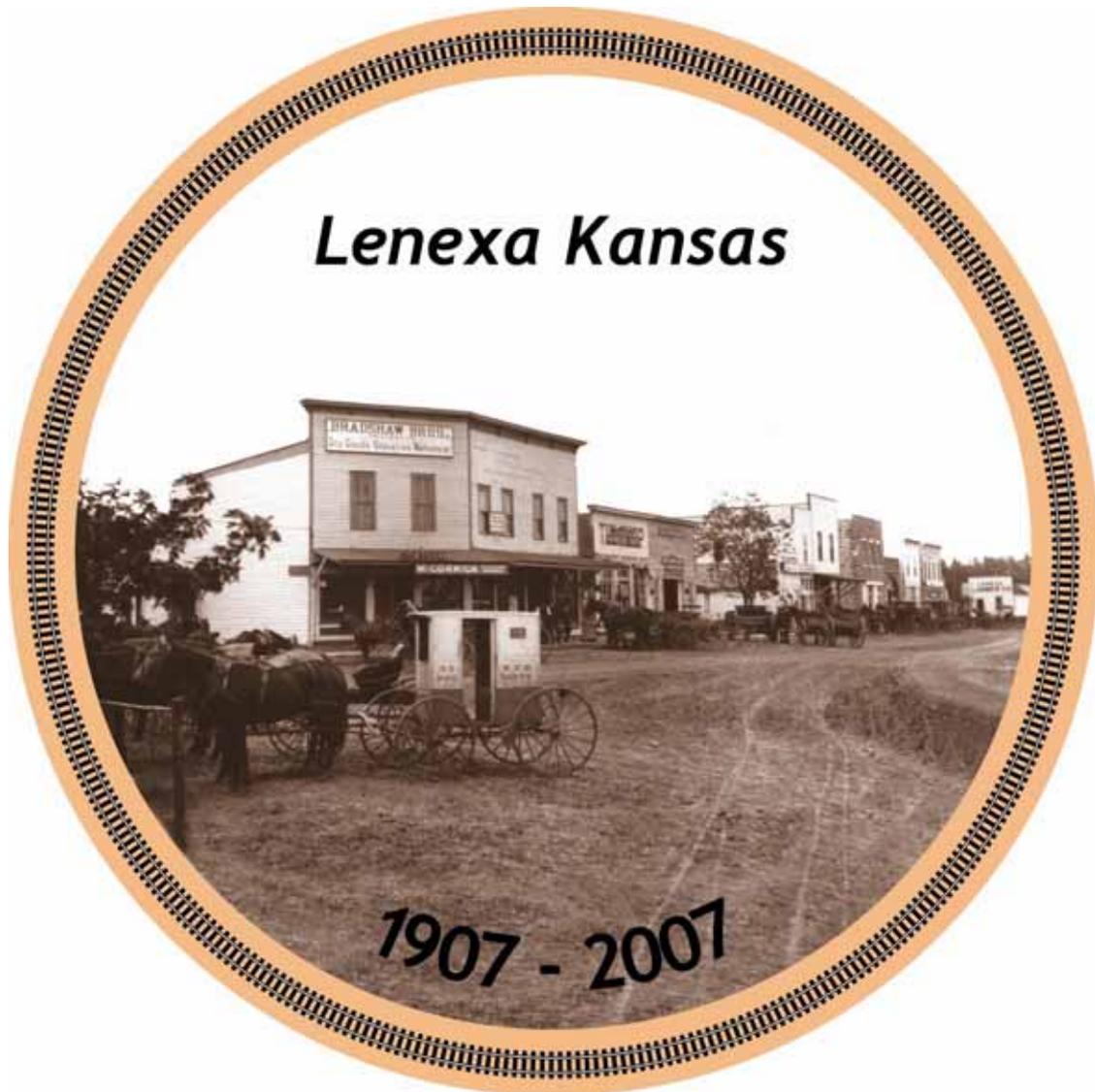
Craig will point to all the sponsors, volunteers, committee chairs and others as the one's who made it work. He'll be right, to a point. All those workers needed a leader who combined loyalty and community spirit with efficiency and rationality. And they found that leader in Craig Denny. I can think of no better title, to add to Craig's already long list of titles, than "Lenexa Booster". Thank you Craig.

POLICY REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Effective March 1, 2007 Lenexa Historical Society is acknowledging in writing all gifts, whether of money or other considerations. In the case of memorial contributions, both the donor and the family of the donee, if known, are notified.

This is the right thing to do.

Alan Uhl



Bordered by railroad tracks these special edition plates of old downtown Lenexa can be purchased for \$25.00 per plate. These Lenexa Centennial plates are numbered and have historical information on the back.

Make check payable to: Lenexa Historical Society.

The Lackman-Thompson house will open for tours
Saturday, May 5th
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



"BE MY VALENTINE"
at the
Annual LHS Soup Luncheon
February 14, 2007



Photo Gallery

by Susan Hammett



LHS 2007 Calendar of Events

Sunday	May 6	2:00-	Ecumenical Camp Meeting Re-enactment at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Thursday	May 24	6:30 pm	LHS Membership Meeting, "The Bogus Legislature and the Border War" by Charles Clark at the Lenexa United Methodist Church
Fri. & Sat.	June 22-23		Great Lenexa BBQ Battle at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Wednesday	July 4		Fourth of July Parade starting at 10:00 a.m.
Thursday	July 26		LHS Membership Meeting, "Patriotic Times" at Lenexa United Methodist Church
Saturday	Aug. 4	5-9 pm	LHS Ice-Cream Social at the Water Fest at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Saturday	Sept. 8	9-5	Lenexa Spinach Festival at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Thursday	Sept. 27	7:15 pm	LHS Membership Meeting, "The Four Greatest US Presidents" by Theo Krebs at Lakeview Village
Fri. & Sat.	Oct. 19-20		Chili Challenge in Old Town Lenexa
Thursday	Nov. 29	6:30 pm	LHS Membership Meeting, "Christmas on the Prairie" with Deborah Buckner as Elizabeth Bacon Custer

LHS 2007 Directory Updates

Bryan, Reverend Jennifer **913-888-5600**
 Lenexa United Methodist Church
 9138 Caenen Lake Road
 Lenexa, KS 66215

Hoehn, Art & Betty **913-441-8035**
 7315 Martindale
 Shawnee, KS 66218

Morris, Don and Katy **913-492-7158**
 9401 Noland Road
 Lenexa, KS 66215

Stuke, Mandy **913-492-9519**
 13301 W. 91st St.
 Lenexa, KS 66215 stukefamily@yahoo.com

Add the above and changes below.

Hagan, Carol **785-542-3568**
 919 Birch (phone #)
 Eudora, KS 66025

Hoffman, Rick & Nancy
 26675 W. 100th Place (address)
 Olathe, KS 66061-8476

DECEASED

Hagan, George
 919 Birch
 Eudora, KS 66025

LHS LIFE MEMBER AND FORMER BUSINESS OWNER MEMORIAL

George Harold Hagan died at the Good Samaritan Center March 3, 2007, in Olathe, Kansas following a two-year battle with lung disease. His family moved to Lenexa in the summer of 1944 when he was 10 years of age, to the Aycok Estate on the southwest corner of the 95th Street and Santa Fe Trail Drive intersection. At that time Santa Fe Drive was US 50 Highway and today this corner is occupied by the Smith and Loveless Corp., who came to Lenexa in the 1950's.

Soren and Ona Schmidt operated Smitty's Cattle Sale Facility at the Lenexa address from 1952-1959 and also owned a Country Style Restaurant on these grounds from 1952-1963.

George was born to Ralph and Ona (Ferguson) Hagan of Kansas City, MO in 1934.

George attended the Lenexa District 46 Elementary School on 94th Street, Olathe City High School, and the Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas.

He served with the United States Marine Corps in the Korean War from 1951-1953. From 1953-1962 Mr. Hagan was engaged in the field of construction. Following this he and partner Ron Groshong ran an "INSURANCE REPAIR CO." Beginning in 1972 he formed the HAGAN CO., INC. and was active in this corporation for 30 years.

A Lenexa resident for 33 years, 1944-1977, Mr. Hagan was a very active leader in the City of Lenexa serving on the Lenexa Planning Commission, President of the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce – 1968, Lenexa City Council – 1967-1971 when encouragement of Commercial Development began to flourish in the city, and he also was instrumental in the beginning of the city's Parks and Recreation Dept.

George was a Shriner, a Life Member of the Lenexa Historical Society and the DeSoto VFW Lenexa Lodge #135.

In 1977 the family relocated to DeSoto, Kansas where he developed a subdivision of 14 residences. He and family lived in Eudora the past two years.

Mr. Hagan married Carol Curtis of Tonganoxie in 1961. Carol survives at the home and children surviving are: Wesley Jon Hagan, Kansas City, MO; Bradley Curtis Hagan, Kansas City, KS; Ramsey Scott Hagan, Eudora, KS; Kristin Hagan Lowe, Olathe, KS; and six grandchildren. Internment was in the DeSoto, KS cemetery.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS may be made to the LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 14907 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215-4135.



2007 Ice Cream Social

by Katie Evans, Chairwoman



Plan to come to our Ice Cream Social August 4th at Sar-Ko-Par Park. It will be held in conjunction with Lenexa's WaterFest. We will serve delicious ice cream and cake. We will be located in the same spot as last year, across the driveway to the south by the caboose for greater visibility.

Instead of serving frozen custard, we will be using gallon buckets of vanilla ice cream purchased elsewhere. It is less expensive than the custard.

WaterFest starts at 5:00. We will serve from 5:00 to 7:30. This is when we had the most customers last year. If you can help, please call or email me: 913-390-5131 or katiesevans@sbcglobal.net. Here are the times you will be needed. If you have a preference, please specify. Otherwise, I will assign people as needed.

- *Five people for set up, from 4:15 to 5:00.
- Three people for serving, for each time period:
5:00-6:00, 6:00-7:00, 7:00-7:30 or 7:45 if we are still busy
- *Five people for clean up, from 7:30/7-45 to 8:00

*Men are needed to carry tables and chairs from the museum to the serving site.

Last year, we served 186 people. This year, I am going to try to increase that number to 250. All LHS members can help in several ways:

- Those with email can send an invitation to friends, neighbors, and relatives. I did that last year, which resulted in 10 adult sales.
- Take a flyer to your church, workplace, or any place that allows postings.
- Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives well ahead of time so they will mark it on their calendars.

To serve 250 people, we will need 12 cakes cut into 20 pieces. Not all customers ask for cake, so that should be sufficient. We need only chocolate cake with chocolate frosting or white with white frosting. There will be a limited number of free cake mixes at our next membership meeting, along with volunteer sign-up sheets. I hope all who volunteered last year had so much fun that you will want to participate again this year. If you missed it, volunteer this year and have fun with us. Any time or cakes you volunteer will be most appreciated!

Whatever you do, just come to eat some delicious cake and ice cream. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and enjoy a pleasant evening at the park while supporting our beloved LHS! Thank you!

DEADLINE for next issue, July/August, *LHS News* articles is 10 a.m. June 20th.



Join the Lenexa Historical Society or Renew Your Membership

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

- Single \$20
- Single Life \$200
- Family \$30
- Family Life \$300
- Corporate \$250
- Corporate Life \$2,500

Name _____

Authorized person, if corporation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please mail to: LHS, 14907 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215

Make checks payable to: Lenexa Historical Society. Thank you!

Enjoy Breakfast with LHS

Join us for FOOD and FUN conversation

Where: Hy-Vee, 87th and Pflumm

Time: 9:00 a.m.

When: the second Saturday of each month

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| May 12 | September 8 |
| June 9 | October 13 |
| July 14 | November 3* |
| August 11 | December 8 |

*This is the first Saturday of the month. Hy-Vee provides a free breakfast for all veterans on the Saturday nearest Veteran's Day, which should be November 10th, our usual meeting day. Seating is scarce that day, thus a different meeting day.

The Lenexa Historical Society would again like to express their heartfelt thanks to Dave Edwards, Sebring Company and staff for continuingly

LHS News is published six times a year by the Lenexa Historical Society.

Editor: Becky Emmerich, 913-492-0038
bemmerich@ci.lenexa.ks.us

Mailing: Katie Evans

Centerfold Photography and Layout:
Sharon and Marvin Hammontree

Contributors: Katie Evans,
Sharon Hammontree, Bill Nicks,
Mary Kay Smith, Alan Uhl

The gala opening of the
Legler Barn Museum

at

Sar-Ko-Par Park

will celebrate its

25th Anniversary

in

May 2008



LHS News

Return Service Requested

Lenexa Historical Society
14907 W. 87th Street Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66215-4135
www.lenexahistory.org

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 57
Shawnee Mission, KS
66202-9503