



*A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society*

# LHS News

May/June 2008

Volume 26, Number 3

---

## A Presidential Letter

*A letter from Alan Uhl*



The celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the Legler Barn in May of 1983 came off as planned on Saturday, May 3. A committee consisting of Connie Andrews, Linda Landreth, Sharon Hammontree, Barb Zook, Jennifer Bryan, Rod Booth, Marc Lassalle, Van Rose and Angelo Mino has been working on this for the last year. Because it was a first for us, we didn't really know what to expect. We feel we had a successful event and we're satisfied with the results.

After sweating (or shivering) out the weather, May 3 turned out to be clear, cool and, unfortunately, windy. But everyone's prayers for no rain were answered which made everything OK. The celebration ran from 10 AM to about 4 PM and included a number of interesting features. In no particular order, there was an exhibit of antique cars, our Conestoga wagon and Olathe's stage coach (thanks Olathe), the annual Methodist's Merle Sparlin Kids Fishing Derby, the First Annual

Methodist's Merle Sparlin Kids Fishing Derby, the First Annual Pie Baking Contest (big hit) and various kid's field games and events. Also a performance by the Spirit Singers from the Methodist Church of an original composition "I like Lenexa" as well as a performance by a group playing hammered dulcimers. We had barn tours, depot tours and a Barn Trivia contest. We had a short ceremony featuring an invocation by Rev. Jennifer Bryan, remarks by Mayor Mike Boehm, Alan Uhl and Bob Legler, great grandson of barn builder, Adam Legler followed by refreshments - cake, lemonade and coffee. Last, but definitely not least, Bill Nicks gave his interpretation of legendary Civil Engineer Octave Chanute who, among his many other accomplishments, platted the City of Lenexa (all 42 acres of it) in 1869.

So you can see we had an interesting and entertaining day. The ability and willingness of the people of Lenexa Historical Society to put on an event like this - with no models or guidelines is, to me, inspirational. This is the kind of thing that helps make Lenexa, which is actually getting to be a big city, a delightful small town in which to live, work and raise a family.

Of course, an event like this can't happen without the contributions of multitudes of volunteers and, so very importantly, the City of Lenexa. Thank you to everyone involved.

---

Thursday, May 22, 2008  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91<sup>st</sup> and Caenen Lake Road  
Call for reservations 913-498-8117

## GROWING UP IN THE 1800'S

Presented by Kandice Walker

*See inside flyer*

ALL ARE WELCOME

**LHS Board of Directors**

Alan Uhl  
President  
913-856-8205

Connie Andrews  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
913-894-1376

Marc Lassalle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
913-310-0949

Ed Bowman  
Secretary  
913-888-1147

Doug Bartley  
Interim Treasurer  
913-541-8267

Sharon Hammontree  
913-498-8117

Terry Clark  
913-894-1211

Van Rose  
913-631-8661

Tom Gryska  
913-888-4445

# VOLUNTEERS

Accurate data entry people needed at the Legler Barn Museum. Flexible schedule during museum hours.

Volunteers also needed to label artifacts - will be trained.

Museum hours are 10 – 4 Tuesday through Friday and 1 - 4 Saturday and Sunday.

Contact Becky at (913) 492-0038 or  
E-mail: [bemmerich@ci.lenexa.ks.us](mailto:bemmerich@ci.lenexa.ks.us)

## Schedule for the May LHS General Meeting



**A – M Meat Dish**



**Celebration Anniversary Cake**  
(being provided from Legler Barn Museum's 25<sup>th</sup>)



**N – Z Vegetable or Salad Dish**



# *Lenexa Historical Society*

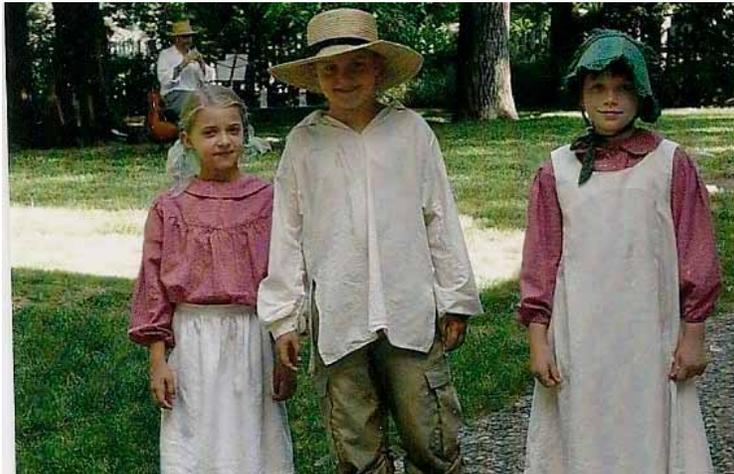
## *Membership Meeting*

Thursday, May 22, 2008  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91<sup>st</sup> and Caenen Lake Road

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
Program: 7:30 p.m.

## **GROWING UP IN THE 1800'S**

Presented by: **Kandice Walker**  
Education Coordinator of the John Wornall House Museum



Ms. Walker will talk about childhood on the Missouri Frontier during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. The John Wornall House was a key figure in the Battle of Westport. Young Frank Wornall, then nine years old, left writings and stories of the battle from his perspective, in addition to speaking in general about childhood. Kandice will share some of Frank's stories.

Frank Wornall, who was born in the North Building of the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway on September 28, 1885, was the grandson of the Rev. Thomas Johnson.

Call for reservations:  
913-498-8117

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

# BIOGRAPHY OF JEANNE POORE

Jeanne is an international quilt instructor, lecturer, fabric and pattern designer and author. She also judges quilt shows. She is the fourth generation of quilters in her family. She has lived in Overland Park, Kansas since 1966 and was raised in Kansas City, Kansas. She is an active member of the Starlight Quilters Guild, Kansas Quilters Organization, Missouri State Quilters Guild, American Quilter's Society, International Quilt Association, National Quilt Association, Heartland Quilt Network and Legler Barn Quilters. She also was a member of the Liaison Committee for all volunteers for Quilters Unlimited Showcase and Coordinator for the Kansas City Quilting and Sewing Expo. She was an instructor for the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department for six years. As a staff member at Prairie Point Quilt Shop in Shawnee, Kan since it opened in 1995, she has designed numerous block-of-the-month pattern series.



Jeanne is an expert on the Star quilt patterns. The Star's first official book on the patterns -- "Star Quilts -- The Legendary Kansas City Star Quilt Patterns" -- featured patterns redrafted by Jeanne. Jeanne in turn lectures widely about the patterns.

Her newest book "Kansas Spirit" was published in the fall of 2006. She also wrote "Santa's Parade of Nursery Rhymes" and "Fan Quilt Memories" books. Her quilts have been published in numerous magazines and been featured in over a dozen other books. She likes redrafting and making old fashion traditional patterns using lots of fabric—the more the better. Although she would like to be able to hand quilt all her projects, there are not enough years left in her lifetime to attain that goal. But best of all she really enjoys sharing her quilts and instructing quilt making.

E-mail Jeanne at: [jepodesigns@everestkc.net](mailto:jepodesigns@everestkc.net).

## The Rose farm for years, now it's Sar-Ko-Par park

The following article by Robin Rivers was in the August 24, 1994 *Shawnee & Lenexa Star*.

Bob and Dorothy Rose call themselves the "new old-timers" of Lenexa.

New isn't the word that comes to mind for a family that has lived in the community more than 40 years. But, next to their former neighbors, the Roses are newcomers.

Bob and Dorothy began their Kansas life in 1954.

The Madison, Wis., natives had moved south with Bob's job and bought a 50-acre farm at 87<sup>th</sup> St. and Lackman Road to call home.

They quickly came to know their neighbors – Carl Taeschner, The Zahners, the Schweigers and many others of the long-standing families that were Lenexa's foundation.

The Rose name is not often mentioned in the Town's history books.

However, no Lenexa family's property could have the claim to fame theirs does.

What once was their family homestead has become the center of Lenexa's activities and history: Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.

The intersection of 87<sup>th</sup> and Lackman was a country dirt road in the 1950s. Surrounded by farmland and country side, the Roses recalled the site as one of the most peaceful places they had been.

cont'd on page 10

# QUILTING NEWS

by Jeanne Poore

Legler Barn Quilter

I have had a passion for scrap quilts since childhood, due in all probability to being around quilting for as long as I can remember. My maternal and paternal grandmothers and my paternal great grandmother with whom I spent time influenced my thoughts and ideas about using fabrics from many sources to create quilts. Therefore, scrap quilts were and continue to be a part of my life. Scrap quilts today come from leftover fabrics purchased for other projects or the now popular fat quarters instead of feedsacks from Grandma's back porch of the farm and leftovers from garment construction.



Thinking about my scrap quilts led to remembering the tales of Charm quilts, aka Odd Feller quilts and Beggar quilts. The definition of a charm quilt is one made of a thousand different pieces. A name also associated with this style of quilt was No-Two-Alike. The patterns commonly used to make charm quilts are Applecore, Thimble, Honeycomb, Pyramids, Squares and Triangles—all one-patch designs. There have been three major times of interest in recorded history about these unique and colorful quilts—the Victorian era (late 1800's early 1900s), the mid 1920's to 1930's and greeting the 21st century with millennium charm quilts which were to have 2000 different fabrics.

Charms quilts are believed to be a variation of the button string. In Victorian times, one story goes that a young girl would collect buttons on a string. Receiving the 100<sup>th</sup> button meant the end of girlhood and the advent of matrimony as the 100<sup>th</sup> button was from the man the girl would marry. Some articles suggest that the number of buttons was 1000 which is the magic number of fabrics for charm quilts.

My favorite story that has come down over the years about charm quilts is that a mother would make her quilt of different fabrics except for two identical ones. On a large bed quilt it would take a bit of searching to find the matching pair. What a perfect activity for a bored bedridden child recuperating from an illness.

Collecting the needed variety of fabric for these Charm quilts is easier today than in the Victorian times or the mid 20's and 30's. Quilters have participated in fabric swaps through magazines, friends and the Internet. Borrowing fabric is a concept that I have always found amusing. The definition of Borrow—Use somebody else's property; make use of. When we borrow fabric, we use part or all of it and there is very little if any to return. Therefore, I prefer the term Beggar quilts because that is what we as quilters are doing when we ask for fabric from our friends to complete a project.

Next time you are browsing through an antique shop or garage sale take a careful look. That ordinary looking scrap quilt may be charmed. It could be a true charm quilt with a wonderful array of period fabrics.



## Donate an Artifact



We would like for you to be a part of the new permanent exhibit at the Legler Barn Museum for kids. It will be called, "***It's a Small World Corner***". The exhibit will be a touchable, child-friendly exhibit of artifacts from many nations, offering children an important opportunity to learn about and develop an appreciation for other cultures. You can be a part of this by donating a piece of artifact that you have collected in your travels to other countries. You can bring it to the Legler Barn Museum or contact Sharon Hammontree at 816 804-6322.

We delayed this issue of the newsletter in order to cover the 25th Anniversary of the Legler Barn Museum.

The July/August newsletter will be arriving the second week in July so all can appreciate highlights from the Great Lenexa Barbeque at the end of June.

# Photo Gallery

by Marvin and Sharon and Hammontree

# Bill's Fest

## LHS 2008 Directory Updates

### New Members

**Fletcher, Kathy**                      **913-894-4203**  
8013 Hallet                              [fletchfam@kc.rr.com](mailto:fletchfam@kc.rr.com)  
Lenexa, KS 66215

**Zook, Barbara**                        **913-322-0421**  
13205 Oak St.  
Lenexa 66215

### New Address, Phone # &/or Email

Velma Bogina  
**5-02 Bergen Ave.**  
**Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-1232**

Foster, Ann & Diana                    **913-579-9048**  
424 S. Chestnut                        [dlf1960@accessus.net](mailto:dlf1960@accessus.net)  
Olathe, KS 66061

**No longer members**  
delete from directory

**Elliott, Allison M.**  
13205 Winchester Ave.  
Grandview, MO 64030-3221

**Feagins, Merry**  
10201 Bond  
Overland Park, KS 66214

**Hursh, Don & Jane**  
10820 W. 56<sup>th</sup> St.  
Shawnee, KS 66203

### Deceased

Eddie Bass  
1300 Veterans Road  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Ralph Hoehn  
11729 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Shawnee, KS 66203

Pat Marshall  
6624 Craig  
Merriam, KS 66202



Marcie & Bill Nicks



Beryl & Bob Hennigh



Nancy Becker

Mayor Mike Boehm and Eric Wade



ROSE FARM now Sar-Ko-Par Park - cont'd from pg. 4

Dorothy was pregnant in 1957 when she and Bob began building the home where they would raise seven children. They lived in an old stone house on the property for several weeks.

Many years later, Dorothy remembers going out to the stone house to collect things, only to find snake skins hanging from the rafters.

"No box came inside my house," she said. "I wasn't going to have snakes in my house."

Children, on the other hand, were not a problem.

At one time or another, just about every kid in Lenexa skated on their pond.

"Being from Wisconsin we were ice skaters," Bob said. He wanted everyone to be able to skate. Whenever he saw a pair of skates at a garage sale, he bought them.

"I could outfit every kid in the city with ice skates."

Summer brought hoards of youngsters plunging into the pond or doing a little fishing.

The family barn, which still stands in the park, also was the site of many an indoor basketball game or dance with children coming from all around to hang out.

So it seemed appropriate that the land would become a place where people gathered for recreation.

"When we sold the property, there was a rumor going around our piece was going to be sold to Kmart," Bob joked. "It's nice to see the park land there."

He and Dorothy grew wheat, alfalfa and corn, and maintained about a dozen cattle and a few horses on that land for three decades.

They often had dinner with the Zahners, who lived just down the road, and visited with the Taeschners, with whom they shared a property line.

But as urban Lenexa closed in on their farm and Bob came closer to retirement, the couple began to yearn for the quiet they remembered from when they came to Kansas. "We liked the open space and farm and we began to watch it crowd," Dorothy said.

The Roses began selling the farm in pieces in the 1970s.

The first portion went to the Lenexa Fire Department in 1974. "It was funny to see cows wandering around the Fire Department," Bob chuckled.

Country Hill Christian Church bought another section in 1982 and remains in that location today.

They sold the remainder to the city in 1983 and gave themselves 10 years to relocate.

Today the Roses are active members of the Lenexa Historical Society and the United Methodist Church.

Bob served many years on the Shawnee Township Board and was instrumental in helping form Johnson County Community College.

The couple still keep tabs on their old neighbors, including the Schweigers and Carl Taeschner's daughter, Hildred Reents, who is one of the few descendants of Lenexa's founding fathers to still live on original property.

Several years ago the Roses found a new spot to call home, about five miles west of Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.

But the land that was their first Kansas home always will have a place in their hearts.

Said Dorothy, "It was the best of both worlds."



### 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. 87<sup>th</sup> 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, 87<sup>th</sup> and Pflumm  
 Time: 9:00 a.m.  
 When: the second Saturday of each month

2008  
 May 10  
 June 14  
 July 12  
 August 9

2008  
 September 13  
 October 11  
 November 8  
 December 13

### DEADLINE

for next issue

July/August

*LHS News* articles

is 10 a.m.

July 1st

**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:** Sharon Hammontree,  
Jeanne Poore, Mary Kay Smith and  
Alan Uhl

*The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation and promotion of Lenexa's Historical heritage.*

# Kansas State Barbeque Championship

## June 27 & 28

Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park in Lenexa, KS  
(87<sup>th</sup> St. Parkway and Lackman Road)

Friday evening teams prepare their giant cookers.

**Saturday:** Judges taste test and winner chosen in the afternoon. Live entertainment, children's activities, recipe tips, and a food court are offered.



# LHS News

*Return Service Requested*

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

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