

MCHS NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2012

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACQUIRES “SLAYTON” BOAT

Thanks to the generous donation from the Arnie Onken family, the museum is now home to one of the few boats made in Slayton during the 1950's. In 1956, "Limited Products, Inc." was established by local business leaders and boats were the first industry they brought to town. Art Olson became the technical head of the company with Mel Risting as President and A.D. Weck as Sec./Treas. Factory space was found at the former Andy Herdman Motors on south Hwy. 59. Fifty boats had been sold by

March 1957 and fifty were completed and in storage. Demand exceeded production and expansion was needed. In Sept. 1957 the operation was recapitalized and name "Slayton Boat Industries". This entity was incorporated in Jan. 1958 with O.E. Klasse-Pres., V.K. Buckles-V.P., and A.D. Weck-sec./treas. Marlow Samp was now the director. The Slayton boat industry came to a crashing end on March 18, 1959 when a fire started and within an hour the entire factory was destroyed. Ini-

tial estimates put the loss at nearly \$100,000. Dr. R.F. Pierson, one of the officers, owned the building. The boat firm had been struggling but prospects looked better for the next year as an order for 30 fishing boats had been received that morning.

Due to stockholders unwilling to invest more funds the boat factory met an untimely death.

Thanks to the Arnie Onken family for this wonderful donation of a piece of Slayton history that many don't know existed.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Murray County Historical Society will hold it's annual meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2012. This years meeting will take place at the historic Dinehart/Holt House at 2812 Linden Ave. in Slayton at 2:00 in the afternoon.

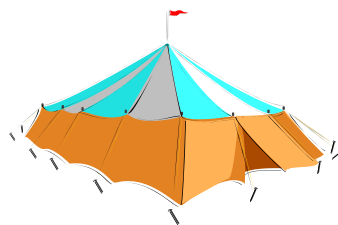
A short business meeting

will be held followed by the election of officers and new board members.

Entertainment will be a presentation by Anita Gaul of Marshall entitled "Homely Girls and Pretty Babies, an Entertaining History of the Fair".

Refreshments consisting of

pie, ice cream, lemonade and coffee will be served after the meeting and program. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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BUSY SUMMER FOR HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

The summer of 2012 was a busy time for the museum, house, log cabin and Sierk bldg. In June a Museum Assessment Program conducted an organizational assessment of the four buildings taken care of by the Murray County Historical Society. Elizabeth Stewart, from Renton, WA visited us and toured the buildings and interviewed present and former staff, board members and commissioners for two days. She then prepared a report on how we can improve some areas and what she thought we were doing great at. It was very informative and we can use

some of her suggestions to better our museum.

July brought the Days of 87 and our *Prom Dress Extravaganza* began at the Dinehart/Holt House. We had many Slayton alumni visit the house as well as local visitors during this weekend. The historical board held a very successful lawn social on Saturday with many in attendance. Thanks to the pork producers for helping us out!

August was, of course, the Murray County Fair and a busy time for all buildings as we are open later hours. Over 200 visitors went

through our buildings during the fair.

In September the Autumn Boutique takes place at the fairgrounds and we had the house open for the prom dress exhibit. Not a very good response but we know women are in town for shopping not looking. We did have around twenty come through and really enjoyed it and said they would be back again.

At the Dinehart/Holt House we hosted six *Tours with Tea* over the summer with tea, coffee and scones. The house was rented for one shower.

REMEMBER

Historical Society memberships are yearly from January until December, so don't forget to renew yours at the start of the new year!! Dues are \$10/person or \$125/lifetime, what a bargain to belong to a wonderful group of people helping to preserve our counties history. If your address has a yellow mark your membership is due.

IF A GIRL IS BORN.....

FROM THE 1889 NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

In January ~ A prudent housewife, given to melancholy, but good tempered.
 In February ~ An affectionate wife & tender mother.
 In March ~ A frivolous chatterbox, given to quarreling.
 In April ~ Inconstant, not very intelligent, likely to be

good-looking.
 In May ~ Handsome, amiable & likely to be happy.
 In June ~ Impetuous, will marry early & be frivolous.
 In July ~ Possibly handsome, but with a sulky temper.
 In August ~ Amiable & practical and likely to marry rich.

In September ~ Discreet, affable and much liked.
 In October ~ Pretty and coquettish, likely to be unhappy
 In November ~ Liberal, kind and of a mild disposition.
 In December ~ Well proportioned, fond of novelty and extravagance.

PARADE OF TREES ~ 2012

The Murray County Historical Society will host its 21st Annual Parade of Trees in December. The open house will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 from 1:00 to

4:00 with music, treats and beautiful trees. The Dinehart/Holt House will also be decorated and open to the public on this day and through December on Mondays and

Fridays. Please help us out and consider decorating a tree for yourself, group, club, neighborhood, etc. Give us a call at 836-6533 or stop in at the museum and let us know.

HALLOWEEN AT THE HAUNTED

Once again the museum will be haunted during the Halloween holiday. This event has proven to be one of our most successful endeavors that we have attempted. It's not a big fundraiser but it sure lets the kids know where the county museum is located and most want to return when we are back to being just a muse-

um!! Last year during the Pumpkin Festival and Halloween night we had 500 visitors through the haunted building. Our thanks to the many scary volunteers we have who (reluctantly!!) hide throughout the museum and help us thrill the unsuspecting crowd. This year we plan to be bigger and better than last year so

make sure to visit us and view the sites. The Haunted Hallway will seem longer and scarier this time around so don't be timid and explore this venture! If any members or businesses would like to help us out we would welcome any donations of decorations, costumes, popcorn, treat bags, etc. Give us a call.



GRANT AWARDED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Minnesota Historical Society has awarded the Murray County Historical Society a \$2000 Historical and Cultural Program grant to help preserve our hard copy newspaper collection. We do have most newspapers on microfilm but have many hard copy newspapers stored on shelves in our newspaper room. The early copies are not bound into hard cover books and

have been secured with flimsy cardboard and tied up with twine string which has begun to crumble the edges, which happens with age but the string is not good for it.

With this grant money one hundred deep lid buffered boxes have been purchased along with unbuffered acid free tissue paper to put between the papers to help pre-

serve the copies. With these archival boxes the newspaper room will be more user friendly and in better order if hard copy newspapers are needed for research. Sometimes the microfilm copies are dark or don't copy well and that is when we turn to the hard copy newspapers. We are very grateful for this grant.

1910 ARTICLE FROM THE LAKE WILSON PILOT

Why are you not blowing your horn harder for Clarence Dinehart?, was asked us the other day by a friend. The main reason is because just at present we don't believe he needs it. We have lived with Clarence Dinehart for more than twenty years, and although he was born with a silver spoon not once did he show it either in work or in deed. Whether in overalls

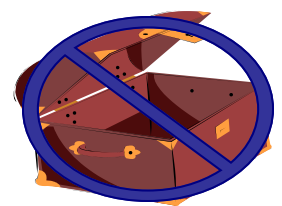
hauling hay or hobnobbing with the powers at the capitol he has always been the same courteous, affable gentleman that he is today. Mr. Dinehart is known by the people who have lived with him as a clean, capable, intelligent young man and to hear him classed as a man of Cannon's stripe is to laugh. No man is better fitted through educational and business training to

represent this district in congress than Mr. Dinehart of Slayton. *L. W. Pilot 1910* Clarence was the son of Christopher and Flora Dinehart and was state treasurer at the time he was running for Congress. He died this same year of a ruptured appendix and his funeral was held out of the Dinehart/Holt House with Governor Eberhart in attendance.

No Longer Accepting at the Museum

We are too full and have to limit items we have enough of, storage issues are always our problem and too many of the same items hinders our cause!

- Rocking chairs
- Military uniforms
- Pianos/Organs
- Magazines
- Tools
- Oil lamps
- Cameras
- Phonographs
- Stoves
- Sewing machines
- Trunks
- Spinning wheels
- Baby cribs/buggies
- Typewriters
- Adding machines
- Wheelchairs
- Washing machines
- Military Books/Plows



**MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

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Phone: 507-836-6533
E-mail: museum@co.murray.mn.us
www.murraycountyhistoricalsociety.org

Murray County Historical Society Membership Dues Notice

The mission of the Murray County Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Murray County. Be a part of this exciting historical experience by becoming a member of the MCHS or renewing your current membership. Membership entitles you to:

- *FREE museum admission
- *FREE in-house assisted research
- *DISCOUNT on photocopies
- *FREE seasonal newsletter

Individual membership dues are a bargain at \$10.00 per year and run from January to December. Lifetime memberships are \$125.00. Please mail a check payable to the Murray County Historical Society and send to P.O. Box 61, Slayton, MN 56172.

Name(s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____