

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 7, Issue 3: March, 2013

“Minnesota City: A Past that we honor; a Present that we give meaning; a Future that we build together”

Mark your calendars!

March 9: Saturday;
9:30 a.m.; MCHA
monthly meeting;
Minnesota City
School Building,
115 Iowa Street.

March 21: Thursday;
6:30 p.m.;
Minnesota City
Community
Readers; Minnesota
City School
Building, 115 Iowa
Street; Selection:
Conrad’s *Lord Jim*

May 18: Minnesota
City Day; Various
locations

MCHA Bylaws Revisions Completed and Approved

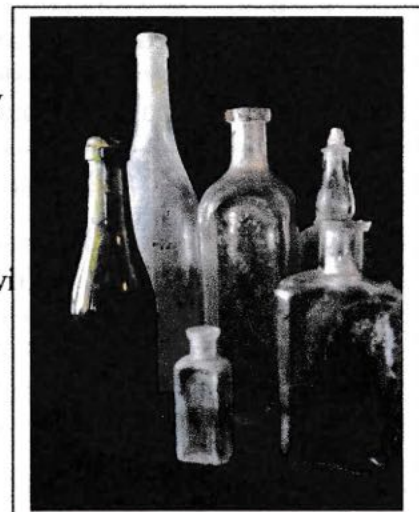
Following three work sessions, MCHA members have completed their current work on Association bylaws revision and have voted to accept the recommended changes. Marvin O’Grady presented the revisions for approval at the February 9 meeting. All present agreed to accept the changes. Article II on community membership was changed to include “and membership dues are paid.” The section on Governance was amended to read “Governances shall be by a Board of Directors consisting of not less than four nor more than nine Association members.” Don Evanson volunteered to assist in the production of a tracking document for MCHA Bylaws; this will be helpful for any future revisions of the bylaws. Copies of the Bylaws are available from Brenda Eckert, Association secretary.

Response to Membership Drive Gratifies Association Organizers

January letters related to membership in the Minnesota City Historical Association were sent to many newsletter readers and friends of the Association. The response has been a high return of membership and donation monies (\$1350.00 by February 9). **Apologies are extended to any persons who mistakenly received or did not receive letters.** Please relate any difficulties, confusions, or questions about membership to Brenda Eckert, 689-4103, or to O’Grady’s, 689-2440. The support through membership sustains the expenses of the Association related to program and communication costs.

Interesting Glass Added to Archives

Thanks to the digging efforts related to the installation of the Wastewater Treatment project, the archives was again the beneficiary of a box of glassware (bottles), all in sound condition. The archives now has a collection of some size that would be greatly enhanced by organization and research by a knowledgeable curator. Although the archives are not heated in the winter months, when weather warms, Association personnel would be able to view the collection with interested person who could improve the information files on this material. A most interesting bottle just added to this collection is the tallest one in the photo, labeled F.A.M.W. Co. Winona, Minnesota. Anyone with information on this company is asked to contact MCHA. Other bottles in this collection are Wildroot, Dr. Peter Fahrey & Sons. Co.: Albenkrauter Bluteleber. Some material about these products has been located and placed on file in the archives. In this last collection of bottles, hair product bottles predominate.



Recent additions to glass collection

Stockton Valley Family Photo in Fredrickson Book



Jilk children in grain field in Stockton Valley (circa 1929)

When Author Gordon Fredrickson and his wife Nancy presented a storytelling and reading session for MCHA in October 2012, they requested photos for an upcoming “coffee table book” which they were producing. An MCHA photo panel in the archives included a photo which Nancy Requested be sent to them; children’s participation in “work,” in this case threshing, is a focus of the book. The photo is of two children of August and Sophia Kilian Jilk in a shocked (grain) field on the family farm in Stockton Valley. This land, now a century farm, has continued to be farmed by family members, currently held by Ed and Nora and Mike and Vanessa Butenhoff. Ed is a grandson of August

and Sophia Jilk; Mike is a great grandson. Fredrickson’s fundamental purpose in writing, he said, is intergenerational communication. His use of authentic detail is a contribution to an accurate history of rural life.

MCHA expresses sympathy to:

-the family and friends of Edna Albrecht, 88, Winona, who died in Winona on Feb. 6. Mother of Joan Albrecht, Minnesota City.

-the family and friends of Betty Sandstede Sulla, 80, Harbor Drive, who died at her home in Minnesota City on Feb. 10. *

-the family and friends of James Hoffmann, 90, Rollingstone, who died on February 14 in Winona.

-the family and friends of Danny “Dusty” Speltz, 59, Rollingstone, who died on February 26 in Lewiston.

*Betty Sandstede Sulla is an “old” Minnesota City resident. Her father, John Sandstede immigrated from Germany and worked as a farmer, a miller, a tavern operator and at the time of Betty’s birth, his occupation was listed as a confectioner. The Sandstedes were a significant family in Minnesota City history. Betty was born in the building at the foot of Iowa Street, and attended Minnesota City School. She prepared for a career as a commercial major at Winona Senior High, taking the Minnesota Civil service clerk-stenographer exam in 1950, an exam that included general clerking, typing and shorthand transcription.

Readers Response to Newsletter

Nearly every newsletter draws several responses from readers. Some are thank yous. Some are interesting comments. Last month, e.g., Pam Aune commented on the Anne Bradstreet poem: “Thank you for quoting the poems from my 9th great grandmother, Anne Dudley Bradstreet, in this month’s newsletter! That was such a pleasant surprise. I suspect there were more than a few men who would have liked to have put her in irons in the town square for writing such “nonsense.” Thank goodness her husband was so well-respected that no one dared to mention those thoughts out loud.”

Jean Gardner responded to the story on attendance at the “old” school. “I was reminiscing about how the Perfect Attendance was always so important. It was almost equal to academic achievement. I wonder if it was because it was not always easy to get to school, especially if one lived in the country. No buses. I know Sunday Schools had lots of gimmicks for attendance - stickers, prizes, etc.”

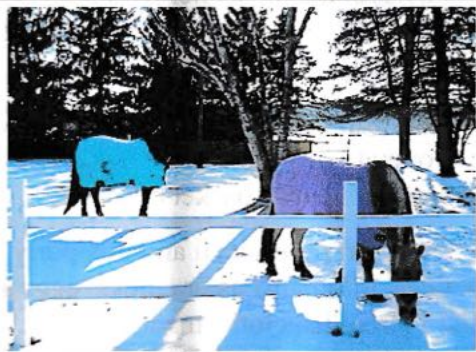
Minnesota City Website Links Inform Residents: www.minnesotacity.org

Persons who check the Minnesota City website will find information on a variety of issues that concern them. Persons interested in **YOUTH BASEBALL** (check the current information!), **City Council** information and announcements, **Oakland Cemetery** information **Minnesota City Historical Association** and **Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund** events, and announcements and information from the **churches**. Additionally the site carries information about the **Fire Department**, the **First Responders**, and data about some **Minnesota City businesses**. Any businesses with websites are invited to submit them for the business listings. Attempts are made to keep the information current, but if readers find information outdated or inaccurate, they may call the website "masters"—Marvin O'Grady, 450-0201 or David Eckert (689-4103).

!Calendar Keeper Needed for the Website!

Since the initiation of the MCHA Newsletter, Marvin O'Grady and David Eckert have been the caretakers of the website, while Andrea Church and Susan Althoff have 'kept the calendar'. We all value their work. Someone is needed to take over the task of calendar keeper. This will be a valuable contribution to Association efforts. Many dates are "fixed," some are received from the newsletter, and some are contributed to the calendar keeper as they occur (birthdays, meetings, reunions, etc.). The calendar can be viewed on the website, www.minnesotacity.org, linked from Calendar. Please notify mgogrady@embarqmail.com or call 507-689-2440 if you can help with this work. Previous calendar keepers will help initiate a volunteer

County Road 23 Splashes of Color

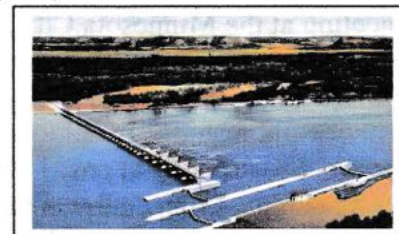


Drivers on County Road 23 to Stockton on cold snowy days may be pleasantly surprised to see the splash of color on the Kevin and Jane Menke horses. Ginger is the dun colored Fjord, and Benny is the Morgan Mustang. Their bright colored blankets distract the observer from the cold which animals and people have been experiencing in recent days. Many readers will have seen or heard of Morgans and/or Mustangs. The Fjord is less familiar to many of us. It is a strong draft breed from Norway, one of the world's oldest breeds.

Lock and Dam 5 Statistics (Data from Winona Radio, February 22)

In "old" newspaper accounts, stories of Whitman Dam often related the information about its construction or about the itinerant workers who were housed in local hotels or attended local schools. This recent story on Winona Radio relates the great amount of activity experienced at the Dam.

"There were nearly 3,000 lockages at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District's Lock and Dam 5, near Minnesota City during the 2012 navigation season. The total lockages, 2,977, included 1,208 from commercial navigation; 1,697 recreational boat lockages and 72 additional lockages from government watercraft or a similar group. There were 3,631 recreational vessels that were locked through. Typically, the lock operator will allow multiple recreation boats within the chamber during a lock.



LakesnWoods.com (photo)

The commercial navigation industry transported 7,851,166 tons of commodities through the lock during the season. That's about 300,000 more tons than during the 2011 navigation season. The 2012 season ended when the Motor Vessel Show Me State was locked through Lock and Dam 2, near Hastings November 28th. The season opened March 17, 2012."

St. Patrick's Day Celebration 110 Years Ago Precedes Box Precedes Current "Themed Basket Auctions"

It would be difficult to find anyone connected with a number of philanthropic efforts today who has not heard of "theme baskets." Many have donated them to fundraising efforts or won them in silent or live auctions. As early as 1903, Minnesota City was holding basket socials to raise money and to connect with neighbors. The Winona Republican Herald carried accounts of many of them.

(1903) Minnesota City, March 17—"The basket sociable at Woodman's Hall last Friday night for the benefit of Rev. Mr. Anderson was a great success. There were about twenty-six baskets more or less, beautifully decorated, and containing "Mary Anns" and other nice things and they brought at auction over \$21. One gentleman, who is too modest to have his name mentioned bought five baskets for which he paid over \$5. G.W. said there was one basket he was bound to have. He knew it was trimmed red, and that is all he knew about it, so he bought every red basket that was put up. Much amusement was created when Geo. and Mr. Beebe got to running on a basket and Geo. finally put to Mr. Beebe for \$1.50. Of course Beebe did not care about this, because it was all for the preacher.

Probably much of the success was due to the hypnotic spell which the auctioneer threw over the audience. We never knew just what Quimby Burley was good for before. He knocked down the last basket to himself for \$1. No need of sending for Sam Melvin or Lon Baldwin to do auctioneering any more: Burley is good enough. A.C. Loomis presided with great dignity as clerk and cashier. There was a good crowd and had there been even more baskets there would have been more money taken in, for lots of the small boys had from 25 to 50 cents to spend.

Mr. Anderson of Stockton has been preaching to us every Wednesday evening all winter for love only. He is much liked by all the people, and they took this way of showing their appreciation, and they will turn over twenty dollars to him at his next visit." (*Winona Republican Herald: March 17 1903*).

If any reader knows what the "Mary Anns" were, please let us know. Minnesota City PTA records for 1934-35 record that "In February, a box social was given to raise money to buy a piano for the school. Later, a piano was bought." The 1935-36 PTA minutes records sponsorship of a basket social.

In 1961, the Winona Daily News of March 10 carries this story: "An old time social and box party with prizes for the most artistically decorated box or basket, (Mrs. Glen Alleman-Easter chicks, eggs and Easter bunny) the one with the most comic theme (Mrs. Nathaniel Pierce-dishcloths made into miniature trousers) and the basket or box best depicting an historical idea or event (Evelyn Bambenek - a soldier, cannon and flags) is planned by the Winona County Historical Society for its March 21 meeting at the Minnesota City School." Women attending the party meeting were asked to bring basket or box lunches in gaily decorated containers to be auctioned off, the men bidding got the lunches. Coffee will be furnished. Alvin Kohner will be auctioneer... Money from the auction will be used to provide old fashioned wall to wall carpeting for the Bunnell House. Vern Stelplugh has agreed to weave the carpeting at cost. Entertainment at the social will include old time fiddling by John Schuh, Rollingsone, Minn., augmented by an accompanist. An exhibit of historical articles from Minnesota City will be on display. The museum committee requests that any objects such as pictures, furniture, dishes, farm equipment and like items having historical significance for the Minnesota City area be loaned for the display. They may be taken to Witt's Market at a time from now until March 19, and the articles will be stored at the town hall until that date when the museum committee will take them to the school to arranged in an exhibit." (*March 10, 1961 and March 25, 1961, Winona Daily News.*)

Today's "themed baskets" include a wide range of gifts and a wide range of monetary value, from candles to cruises. Interestingly, next generation Kohner auctioneers are still heard hawking the wares at these fundraisers.