

# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

35/1: Winter, 2014

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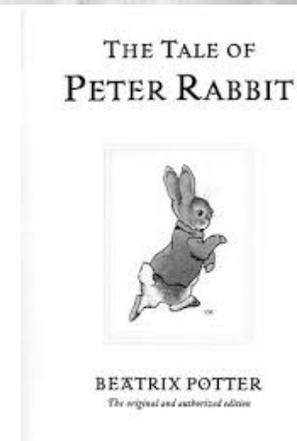
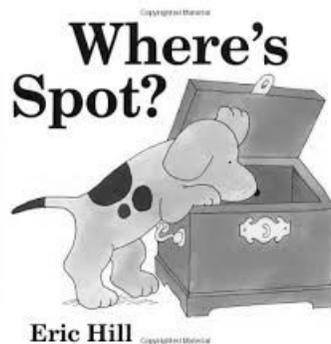
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June 7th-September 20th, 2014

Featuring:



**Coming soon!**

**Traveling Exhibit at the CCHS!**

**Opening June 7th!**

# SNIPPETS

# IN REMEMBRANCE

## Wendy Petersen Biorn

Every year, it seems, we lose some of our friends. This year was a particularly difficult one. We lost not just one or two, but many of our long time friends. Betty Tobin is a name many might not recognize but to our staff, she will be forever remembered for her many hours of volunteerism. She spent many hours adding labels to garments in the collection. She also helped document the tens of thousands of photos we have in the collection.

I honestly don't even know where to start when talking about Ward Holasek. Ward was the owner of the Rock Isle Farms, also known as the Historic Andrew Peterson Farm. He was a life member who cherished history as much as the staff at the CCHS.



Ward Holasek

About a year ago, we had a youth worker help document some of the many artifacts Ward had. The young man was to find an item that he did not know, and document it. The item chosen stumped the youth worker and staff alike. Ward explained that the item crimped metal. He continued by telling us where he had gotten the item from, when he had gotten it, who used it, where the previous owner had gotten it, etc. I couldn't help but stand back and have even more admiration for this man than I already had. Here he was at 70+, able to tell me all about each item in the building, but I, 20+ years younger, couldn't remember what I had for breakfast. His friendship, knowledge of his artifacts, and sheer love of history cannot be replaced, and will be forever missed. Ward had placed his acreage in a Life Estate with the CCHS as the beneficiary some time ago. He said it was his gift to the community. He entrusted us to be its caretakers. We are very appreciative of that gift and will do our best to honor his expressed wishes. Two days after Ward's funeral, I received notice that we had won a \$28,500 Legacy grant to do long range planning for the farm. Ward and I had both hoped that he would be around to participate in the planning. It is too early to say more than that, but stay tuned, we will be asking for public input in the near future.



David Porath was the CCHS treasurer and former Chanhassen Historical Society treasurer. David lived a life that we should all admire. The day following his passing I received a call from his son, asking what he could do for us. I was taken aback, and asked him what I could do for him. David always put others needs first. This thoughtfulness for others clearly had been taught to his son.

David was the type of person whom we all aspire to become. He had a long loving marriage and reared two wonderful and caring children. After retiring from the Post Office, he volunteered his time at St. Hubert's, the Chanhassen Historical Society, and the Carver County Historical Society. He was not the type of person that was front and center or sought out accolades, but rather worked quietly, making a positive impact wherever he went. Following David's death, I looked to see when his term was up on the board. Just like David, he finished his term 2 weeks before he died.

My heart and prayers are with the families of those we lost these last few months. Please know they were loved and cherished by many and will be missed.

# News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

## Visit Chaska History Center's Newest Display:

### *Vintage Toys*



The Chaska Area History Center and Chaska Historical Society has introduced a new exhibit . *Vintage Toys* celebrate beloved toys and the play of children. Think back to your childhood days as you wander the toys, and remember the fun you used to have.

## News from the Wilkommen Heritage Center

### Heritage Highlights

The busy Holidays are over, and we have all turned the calendar into another year. The calendars we plan to turn out are not from 2014, but rather from as far back as 1905. We have several of the old fashion Victorian style calendars which have been donated by several of our local residents. In the early 1900's calendars were given out by businesses and they were more of an art piece, than as the calendars we hang on our walls today. If you have an old calendar and would like it displayed, please contact us. Paperwork will be filled out to make sure you get your "treasure" back again.

The Heritage Center has been asked by the Stiftungsfest Committee to do another display in the Heritage Tent during Siftungsfest 2014. We are looking for ideas. Is there something that was located here in NYA that you would like to know the history of and would make an interesting display?

We are always looking for new members. The nominal membership fee, and the stipend that the Stiftungsfest Committee pays us, is what we survive on. We are also looking for people to come into the Center and help during our Open hours. If you have any spare time and like history and visiting with people, please call the Heritage Center.

**February 13, 2014 will be the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society.** The public is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at the Heritage Center, located at 102 E Main St., NYA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect Board members, and approve the financial report from 2013.

The Heritage Center is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – 10:00 – 2:00. For a special tour or if you have questions, our phone number is 952-467-4227.

Lavonne Kroells

# Oh, the Weather Outside is Frightful . . .



By Heidi Gould

The winter of 2013-2014 has so far been a cold one, with what weathermen are calling a polar vortex hitting most of the U.S. with freezing temps. Doused in snow, with bitter cold, car batteries dying— not the most pleasant of Minnesota winters. But we Minnesotans are a hardy breed, and this winter isn't the worst on record.

Few winter storms have possessed the fury of the Armistice Day Blizzard of November 11, 1940. This storm of rain, sleet, snow and blustery winds dropped a massive 20 feet of snow in some places. Travelers were marooned, railways and highways blocked, and power outages. The storm was blamed for the loss of 60 lives. In Carver County, dozens of extra staff were hired to clear roads, with the entire fleet of “blizzard busters” in use. Snow removal costs for the county were estimated at \$40,000. Several county residents gained recognition for being mentioned in the book, “All Hell Broke Loose”, by William Hull of Edina.

During the winter of 1936, 400 state plows and 100 emergency plows working close to 20 hours a day for nearly all of January and February to clear the huge amounts of snow. Snow fighting expenses neared \$1 million, almost 1/6 of the Department of Transportation's annual budget.

Many storms and winters in the 1900s are compared to the harsh winter of 1888. Between January 1st and January 27th of that year, the temperature reached above  $-5^{\circ}$  only 4 times. The lowest temperature was  $-52!$  In February, it again dipped to  $-40^{\circ}$ . Back in a time before central heating, imagine dealing with the bitter temps for nearly a month? To stay warm, it was common for people to bring everyone into the large kitchen area and close off the rest of the house.

When temperatures hit such low records, how can we enjoy our skiing, ice-fishing, snowmobiling and sledding? It's an unusual winter when you don't see lakes dotted with villages of ice— houses and vehicles as soon as the lakes freeze.



Left: Snow-banks from Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940

Right: Train plowing the tracks after snowstorm

