

# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

34/3: Fall, 2013

## Canning, Creameries and Grain Mills

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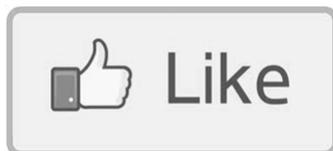
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### Membership Update & Donations

For the most up to date  
information:

Like us on Facebook.



The Carver County Historical Society and the Carver County libraries have partnered up to bring you three new exhibits to be rotated between Waconia, Chaska and Young America.

Several industries that sprung from our farming roots, were chosen to be highlighted. These are the canning industry, grain mills, and creameries. We were quite surprised and dismayed to find that though these were major industries for



decades, we have few artifacts documenting their presence.

Minnesota Valley Canning Company in Watertown became what we commonly see on store shelves – Green Giant. Carver County, “the Golden Buckle of the Dairy Industry”, once had creameries in 16 communities. Today, we have Bongards’, which no longer processes cream but rather cheese.

Today, the mills are gone, the canning factory is gone and only one creamery is in business. If you or someone in your family worked in these industries check your attics and basements for artifacts that you would be willing to donate, ensuring these vital industries are not forgotten.

# SNIPPETS

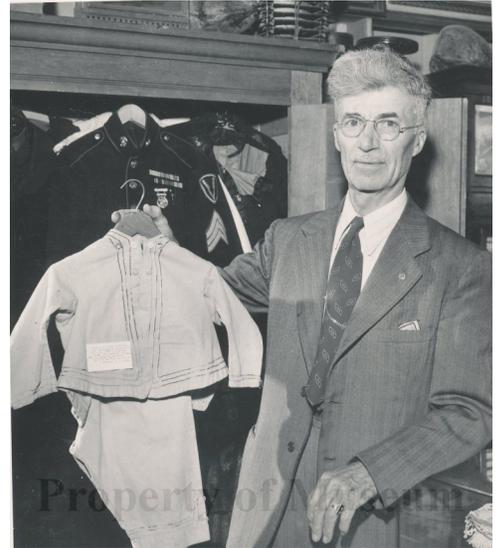
## Wendy Petersen Biorn

This summer has been an educational one, thanks in part to a trip to Birmingham, Alabama.

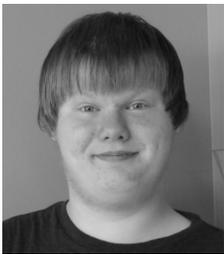
Birmingham is a community known for its turbulent past. Most notably, the 1960s civil rights marches and the 1963 bombing that killed four young black girls at the 16th Street Baptist Church. One evening, I visited the church to listen to a presentation by Carolyn Maull McKinstry. McKinstry was friends with the girls killed, and just a few feet from the girls when the bomb went off. Her presentation could easily have been one of anger, but she focused instead on hope and working toward a better world. It made an impact on all those listening. It was not her speech that was the most memorable event of the evening, however.

Following the presentation, I walked across the street to view the Civil Rights Museum. Here I observed the facts surrounding segregation. The Supreme Court ruling that made segregation illegal occurred in 1962, but the racially motivated killings lasted much longer. The display presented simple facts. By the time I walked out of the museum, I felt for the everyone involved. The exhibit had achieved its goal, getting me to really feel and understand what segregation was and currently is. That is a hard thing to do for a white girl from a small Scandinavian, Minnesota community.

History has uncomfortable periods of time. Those periods are not always pretty. As historians, telling the stories of times past is an important part of what we do. It might be through items, like the suit in the picture above, or it might be through oral history. Whatever method it is, or how difficult the story, it is important to share it with the next generation.



O.D. Sell with the first suit he wore.  
Made by his mother in 1877.



### MY SUMMER ESSAY NOAH JACKSON (CCHS Summer Youth Employee)

I started out this summer nervous, because I didn't know what to expect. This summer there was a plethora of cool days and a dearth of hot days. I work for the Carver County Historical Society as a gardener. The reason why I'm working here is because I had no other interest in a different job. I'm in a summer program that lets me work for the summer, it is called the Summer Youth Work Program for Carver County. It is a fun thing to do. The program gets teens the experience they need for a job. You can start at the age of 14, child labor laws are included. It is located at the workforce center in Chaska. It starts every summer.

I did a plethora of weeding and watering. Sometimes, when it got hot out, I would spray myself with water to cool myself down. I also did some writing/typing this summer. Also I sat at a booth at the Carver County Fair trying to get people to try some sorghum syrup. Not too many people stopped on by, it was a slow work day for me. It was the first day of the fair. It also was fun. I would also help out an employee, a worker here, like cleaning grease off his mini propane tank and moving some wood. I also got to plant some sorghum this year, but sadly the sorghum never grew this year. I also got to work in a booth at a store selling hot dogs, brats, pork burgers and burgers. It was fun I got to do something new for a change.

If I had the choice to pick this job again, I would. I really had a fun time this year. I really liked the new things that I learned. The new things I learned this year are planting some sorghum, selling food in a booth and identifying weeds. I recommend this to your children to do this, it is a great experience.

# News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

## Chanhassen Cemetery Walk Saturday Oct. 5

10 a.m. seated indoors

Chanhassen Senior Center,

7700 Market Boulevard

1 & 4 p.m. bus and walking tours

Historic St. Hubert's Plaza,

381 West 78<sup>th</sup> Street

FREE, but call 952-227-1100 to register

Each tour limited to 50 participants

Cosponsored by the City of Chanhassen and  
the Chanhassen Historical Society.

*Join the Chanhassen Historical  
Society for a Special Event!*

## Fiddler on the Roof at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

*Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013*

*11 a.m.*

*Lunch and Matinee Performance*

*Cost: \$59 (includes gratuity)*

A portion of all tickets sold will  
go to the Chanhassen Historical  
Society!

Please send check payable to:

Kathy Gyorfi

7951 Autumn Ridge Lane,

Chanhassen MN 55317

Questions? Contact Kathy Gyorfi

952-380-0769

or Art Mason 952-472-5346

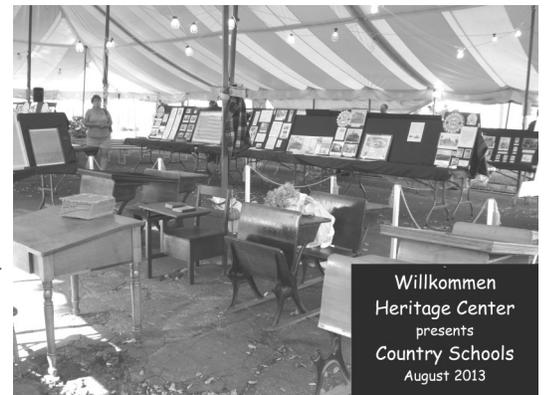
## News from the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society

The Heritage Society has had a very successful summer.

The Bridal display which opened in May and highlighted weddings from the 1930's, 1950's, and 1960's was requested to stay through the summer and into Stiftungsfest.

The Country School display which was in the Heritage Tent at Stiftungsfest was well received. The entire exhibit has been moved to the Heritage Center. If anyone missed it during Stiftungsfest, it will be at the Heritage Center through October. Our hours are Thurs. – Sat., 10:00 to 2:00, with special opening by request. We realize that we have not talked to everyone that attended a country school in I.S.D. #108. So, if you, or any one you know has more information on a country school, we would like to hear from you. The phone number at the Heritage Center is 952-467-4227.

For the Holiday Season we are planning on highlighting decorations used in area churches. Our design team is still in the brain-storming mode. Help is always appreciated; call 952-467-4227 if you're interested in helping with displays, at the Heritage Center.



Willkommen  
Heritage Center  
presents  
Country Schools  
August 2013

# CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Board Members

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## CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please send a gift membership to the name below.  
I understand a letter will be sent to the recipient  
announcing my gift.
- Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ toward your  
annual fund drive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.