



Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39/3: Summer, 2018

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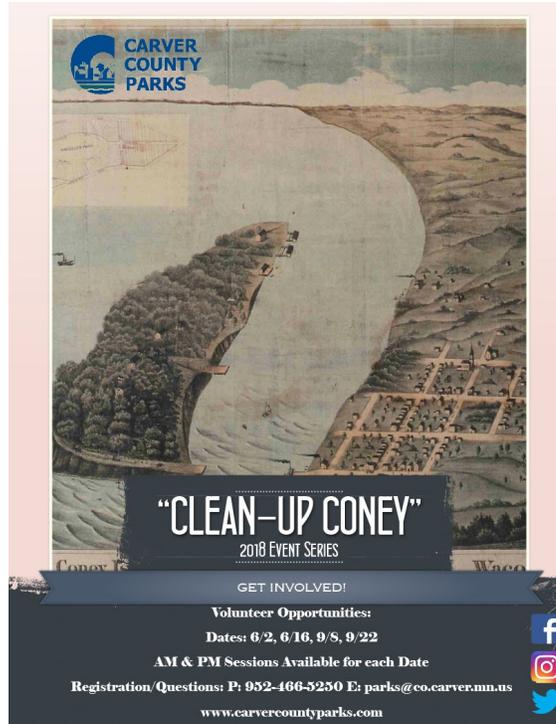
Membership Update & Donations

“Every moment happens twice: inside and outside, and they are two different histories.”
— Zadie Smith



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Coney Island of the West



With Phase I and Phase II archaeology complete on Coney Island, plans are moving forward. The Carver County Parks are hosting “Clean-Up Coney” events, open to the public. The next two events will be held September 8 and 22.

The CCHS is the designated repository for archaeological materials found around the county. As such, Coney Island materials will become part of our collections. To share these finds with the public, the display in the historic log granary at the Carver County Fairgrounds will focus on the history of Coney Island. One side will cover the history and development of the hotel and resort. The other will focus on archaeological findings from the recent digs.

Be sure to stop by the CCHS log granary during the Carver County Fair to learn more about the history of this amazing piece of Carver County!

The fair will be held August 8-12, 2018. The log granary is located just west of Machinery Hill.

SNIPPETS

Wendy Petersen Biorn

The last week of May, I spent traveling through the National Parks in the Southwest states. In total, I visited six national parks and one national monument including: Canyonlands, Arches, Escalade National Monument, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, the Grand Canyon, and the Capitol Reef National Park. The National Parks and Minnesota's state parks never fail to amaze me with their diversity and beauty. It was the second time I hiked the Grand Canyon.



Hiking allows me time away from phones and emails. It gives me a time to think without interruptions. I come up with brainstorming and novel ideas such as, “I wonder what the early explorers thought when they saw the Grand Canyon or any of our national or state wonders for the first time?”

Fourteen miles and nine hours later, I found myself back at the top of the Canyon, exhausted but very proud that I had once again made the trek down to Indian Gardens and out to Plateau Point. The views were worth each step. The whole journey gave me a chance to reflect on the journey with the farm and all the accomplishments we have had due to the hard work of so many people.

I often tell my children, that things always work out. Not as we might want it to happen or as fast as we want it to happen, but in the end it does. The difference between when we want it, and when we get is a lesson in patience. The last 12 months have been a lesson in patience.

Early this year, our Curator Adam took a better paying job in Mankato at the U of M. It was sad to see him go, but we are happy for anyone who has the opportunity to move up in the world. For us it meant that we were once again without a Curator. But, Adam had written a grant which provided us with two talented Collections Specialists for 15 months, who have been doing a wonderful job inventorying the collection. With two grant funded collections persons on staff, the decision was made to use some of the money saved, to hire Corvus North. They are the development organization which will guide us through the capitol fundraising campaign starting with a feasibility study. The study is needed to provide the Jeffris Foundation with an accurate estimate of how much we feel we can raise.

The CCHS board has decided that we will put our efforts into saving the middle 1917 barn at the Peterson farmstead. Plans are to use it for community events and as an interpretive/welcome center. This is contrary to MacDonald & Mack's recommendation to “deconstruct” the barn, because it was built after Peterson died. We heard loud and clear from you, that it should be kept.

This summer I am working with intern Dan Rhodes to complete a business plan for the farm. It is a large exhaustive process, but when done should give us excellent guidance for about 10 years. Dan will begin his senior year at St. John's this fall. His parents live in Duluth. While here he has been staying with his grandmother near Bloomington. I am so blessed to have him at my side during this massive process.

Taking steps, whether on a project, or hiking into and out of the Grand Canyon can be very hard and exhausting, but when completed the feeling of pride and accomplishment is undeniable.

News from Around the County

Chanhasen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society Waconia Heritage Association



Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Following the success of the 2017 Tour of Historic places in Norwood Young America for Stiftungsfest, another tour is being planned.

Tours will leave the History Center from 1:00 – 6:00. Sites of interest will include buildings that were once grocery stores, a meat market, bank and many more. Also included this year guests will hear about private homes that still exist today that were moved in the early 1900's to promote future business in town.

The History Center is open Thurs., Fri., and Sat. 10:00 – 2:00, or upon special request for a different time. Call 952-467-4227 for more information.



August 24 - 26, 2018

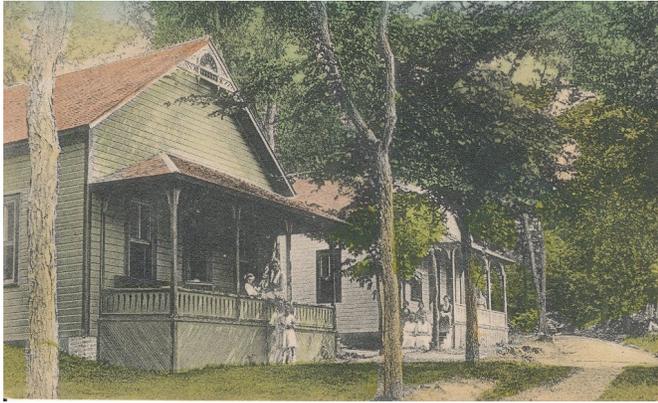


We're celebrating 90 years of the Chaska Cubs Knocking Them Out of the Park—and 50 Years of the Founding of the League of Women Voters in Chaska—Something for Everyone!

During River City Days on Friday, July 27th and Saturday, July 28th you'll find us both at the historic Brinkhaus Livery Stable and in City Square Park. We'll have Chaska Historical Society membership forms and volunteer opportunities, books celebrating Chaska history on hand, and an opportunity to order your copies of the newly reformatted *Chaska: A Minnesota River City, Prehistory to 1950* by LaVonne Barac and the forthcoming *Chaska: A Minnesota River City, 1950-2000*.

There's always room for more volunteers at the Chaska History Center—Come check us out between 1-4pm on Tuesdays-Fridays at 112 West Fourth Street in Chaska.

Coney Island of the West: Colorized Postcards from it's Heyday

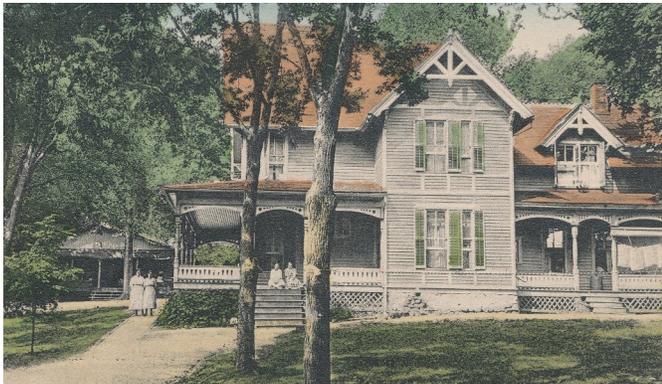


Top left: Coney Island resort cottages

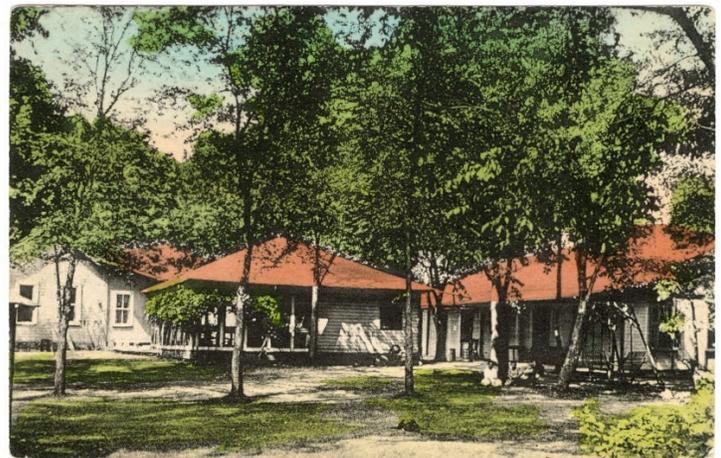


Top right: Coney Island Hotel (1st hotel, later staff dormitory and caretaker's residence)

At right: Coney Island Summer kitchen, dancing pavilion, and dining room



Coney Island Hotel
(2nd hotel)



We'll miss you, Cindy!

After 4 years in the Library, Cindy is moving on to bigger and better things. She wanted to say thank you to all the staff, volunteers, members and researchers who made her job so great and helped her learn so much.

“I have learned much about Carver County, its places and families, which she never knew before. I will miss everyone here and hope to come back and visit on a volunteer basis!”, says Cindy.



Coney Island of the West: A History

While Waconia already had several hotels such as the North Star, Lake House, and the Sherman House Hotels, Coney Island Hotel and resort (not formal) became, by far, the most popular of all of Waconia's hotels and contributed to Waconia being a favorite summer resort town.

Lambert Naegele developed the island and was the one to name it "Coney Island of the West". Where this name originated is unclear. Some claim it is named after the Coney Island Entertainment center on the East Coast. Others, that it is named for the large numbers of "coney", or rabbits, that lived on the island. Finally, one group claims "Coney" is just a shortened version of Waconia. There is not enough evidence to support one of these claims over the others.

As part of his initial development, Lambert Naegele divided the island into lots, parks, and streets. He named the streets for famous German authors, such as Goethe, Uhland, Schiller and Lessing. He sold plots he laid out to private owners. Naegele also built a large hotel and private cabins, for either rent or sale. In 1886, a new hotel, later known as the boarding house or dormitory, several more cottages, and a boathouse were added. In 1889, Naegele sold the hotel complex to Reinhold Zeglin, whose family had taken possession of it at the end of the summer season in August 1888.

Zeglin, a German immigrant like Naegele, made plans for a third hotel, designed to sleep one to two hundred guests. With this added space, numbers of hotel guests began to rise. Part of the draw was Zeglin's addition of a bowling alley and Sunday concerts to amuse his guests. He also added a laundry, dining room, kitchen, and pavilion to his new hotel.

The resort's reputation was growing. Guests came to stay for periods of weeks or months, with many remaining all summer. Some, like Emile Amblard, "Duke of Clearwater Lake", stayed permanently. Amblard, a French winemaker and businessman, came to visit and loved the island and town so well that he remained the rest of his days. Guests came from nearby Minneapolis/St. Paul and elsewhere in Minnesota. Others came from New York, Ohio and Illinois, or as far away as Europe and South Africa. There were even some famous guests. The guest register from June 20, 1896 shows silver-screen movie star Sarah Bernhardt staying at the hotel. Between 1903 and 1905, the University of Minnesota Gopher's held pre-season practices on the island's football field.

Zeglin's sons took over the resort in 1909. However, business was beginning to slow by 1919 due to outside factors. The car allowed people to travel further with more ease than trains. With this new flexibility, vacationers traveled further and longer, spending summers in other states rather than locally. In 1927, the name was changed from Coney to Paradise Island, to encourage more guest visits. The name would not last. The Zeglin family sold the resort in 1939 to Frank Dvorak.

Frank "Shorty" Dvorak bought land on the island in 1939, soon adding a dance hall, a restaurant, and more cabins. The island became a weekend dinner/dancing spot, rather than a resort. Dvorak sold the complex to the Day Camp Company in 1959. The island deteriorated due to lack of proper maintenance, and their contract defaulted back to Dvorak in 1960. He was the last owner who operated the island as a place for entertainment.

Since 1960, the island has had many private owners. Vandalism and time took their toll on the island. In 1975, efforts were started to rehabilitate the island, lead by the Waconia Bicentennial Committee's Island Committee. In 1977, a study was conducted by Dunwiddie Architects on the island and its possible uses. A year later, Coney Island of the West was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the twenty-first century, there have been many ideas on restoring the island, but so far, high costs have prevented development. The current owner has plans to turn the island into a public park.

Written by: Heidi Gould,



Learning may lead
to new insights
and fun!!!

Education and Exhibit News

With Heidi Gould



Wedding Dress Fashion: Decade by Decade



Now On Display
Through
December 2018

Free Fair tickets!

Want a chance to hang out and socialize with a fun group of people? Want a free admission ticket to the fair?

Be a CCHS fair volunteer. August 8-12, Wednesday-Sunday. 2 hour shifts. 2 volunteers per shift. Sign up with a friend for even more fun.

Call (952)442-4234 to sign up– ask for Heidi

**Special Thanks to CCHS Donors,
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April-June 2017**

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Timothy Crain
Sandie Deighton
Charlene M. Edwards
John Engler
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John C. Luecke
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Vickie L. Spindler

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**thank
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CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

555 West First Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Phone: 952-442-4234
www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org
E-mail: historical@co.carver.mn.us

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

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Staff

Wendy Petersen Biorn (Exec. Director)
wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us
Heidi Gould (Curator Education/Exhibits)
hgould@co.carver.mn.us
Marilyn Braun (Researcher)
mbraun@co.carver.mn.us
Linda Nelson (Office Mgr.)
lnelson@co.carver.mn.us

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

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- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please mail me my newsletter.
- Please accept my donation of _____ toward your annual fund drive.

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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.