

# Transcending Time

Carver County Historical Society

29/4 : Fall 2008

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## Don We Now Our Gay Apparel

A Holiday Fashion Show and Raffle

ISLAND VIEW  
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
Waconia, MN 55387

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7PM

\$20/TICKET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE  
CARVER COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Win this original  
Audree Sells quilted  
wall hanging

- Win an original Audree Sells quilted wall hanging
- Enter to win great holiday prizes from Department 56®
- Great fashion, food, and festive gifts
- Ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a program by the Historical Society, fashion show sponsored by Clear Water Clothing, and door prize drawing entry
- Cash bar available on-site

# SNIPPETS

Wendy Biorn  
Executive Director

***No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.***

**Heraclitus**



*The Minnesota River in fall. This body of water forms Carver County's southeast border.*

History is often perceived as “old” stuff, be it an artifact, antique or even a person. It is generally understood that something must be at least 50 years old to be an antique. Even a property must be over 50 years old to be considered for the National Register. It therefore makes perfect sense that in order to be historical and “old”, the item in question must be 50 years young.

For those of us who are fast approaching the age of 50 or are already past that milestone, I would like to point out that history is just like the river in the quote by Heraclitus. It is ongoing, today is tomorrow's history.

History can be explained like an old joke. A wife asks her husband if he will do a chore for her. He says he can't today but will tomorrow. The next day comes and goes and the job remains unaccomplished. The day after, the wife returns to her husband and inquires as to why he hasn't accomplished the task. His answer is that today is today, when tomorrow comes he will do the job. The point is: tomorrow never comes.

It can appear that history is only the past and never what is happening today. The truth is, history is today—just as tomorrow never comes, today is tomorrow's history.

What are you doing to make a difference now for our future history? CCHS is planning for the future history of this organization. We recently sent out the annual fund drive letter. Finances are tight for everyone and we are in a period of history that is being compared to the depression of 1929. What can we learn from history to protect the things we care most about? Being proactive is a big part of the picture. While 2009 county budget cuts are manageable, we need to look toward the sustainable future. Queen Elizabeth once said, “Plan for the worst but expect the best.” What we do today *does* make a difference for tomorrow.



*Commissioners Maluchnik and Workman along with the Nordic Group and CCHS work to save the north Andrew Peterson barn.*

## Board of Directors seats up for election January 2009



**Dianne Strandberg**

One of the first things Dianne Strandberg said when she joined the Historical Society's Board of Directors in 1999 was, "What committee can I serve on and when are we going to meet?" For Dianne, being a Board member is much more than coming to monthly Board meetings. It is being actively involved in the events and activities of the Historical Society. It is raising money to support the Historical Society's mission. It is being a tireless "worker bee" when the county turns 150 (and 151 and 152....) It is being a passionate advocate. For these reasons, and so many more, the Historical Society is grateful to Dianne Strandberg for her nine years as a Board member.

Dianne has reached the term limit for a CCHS Board of Director, which leaves her seat open

**David Porath**– Three year term (January 1,2009-December 31, 2011). David is our Chanhassen Historical Society and Hispanic community representative. He is seeking re-election.

**Lori Lohman**– Three year term (January 1,2009-December 31, 2011). Lori is a Marketing Professor at Augsburg College. She is seeking re-election.

**Mary Booth**- Three year term (January 1,2009-December 31, 2011). Mary is currently the CCHS Board of Directors Vice-President. She is seeking re-election.

If you or someone you know would be interesting in running for the CCHS Board of Directors, please have them contact CCHS Executive Director Wendy Biorn.

### **Now Available in the CCHS Library Lester Prairie Newspapers on Microfilm**

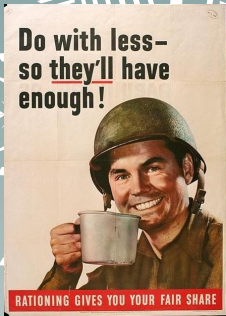
The Carver County Historical Society has recently added to its collection of newspapers on microfilm. The additions to our collection include the Lester Prairie Journal for April 30, 1897 – January 7, 1901 and December 4, 1980 – October 28, 1991 and the Lester Prairie News for June 14, 1901 – November 20, 1980. In all, this acquisition added fifty-four rolls of microfilm to our library. This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society's Grants-in-Aid Program. The remainder has been financed through donations to the Carver County Historical Society library.

## WORLD WAR II WINTER

Keep busy during your winter break from school and experience a World War II Winter at the Carver County Historical Society! Spend the day with Rosie the Riveter and discover what life was like for kids in the 1940s.

Friday, January 2, 9am—4pm

- Listen to popular songs of the day, decipher secret codes, and write victory mail to troops serving overseas
- Broadcast your own radio show, complete with sound effects and authentic scripts
- Be sure to dress warmly, because if there's enough snow, we'll have a snow war of our own!



## Green Gift Gala!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 or DECEMBER 20  
12pm—4pm  
**FREE!**

*Leave your kids at the Carver County Historical Society for a fun-filled afternoon of learning, creating, and most importantly, gifting!*

- Create environmentally friendly wrapping paper, gift cards, and ribbon
- Make gifts for your friends and family using recycled materials
  - Celebrate with no-waste party planning ideas

Call today to sign up! The event is free, but pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, call Erin at (952) 442-4234

To register or for more information, call Erin at 952-442-4234 or e-mail at [eranderson@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:eranderson@co.carver.mn.us).

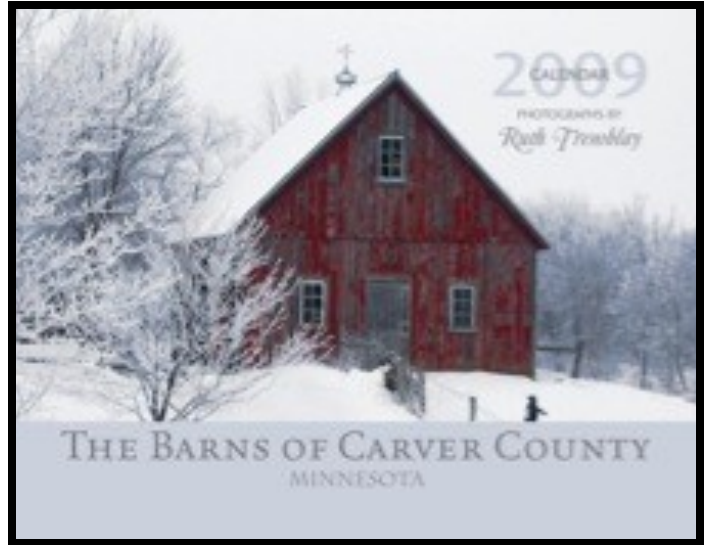




**Barns of Carver County Exhibit  
Members Only Grand Opening  
December 1, 5:00-7:00 PM**

The Carver County Historical Society proudly announces the grand opening of Ruth Tremblay's photographs of the Barns of Carver County. The members only grand opening will take place on Monday, December 1st from 5-7PM. The exhibit will open to the general public December 2 and is free. Visitation hours are Monday through Friday from 10 to 4:30 and on Saturday between 10 and 3:00. The display is scheduled to run through the end of January.

Ruth's work can also be seen at [www.barnsofcarvercounty.com](http://www.barnsofcarvercounty.com)



Barns of Carver County Calendars now on sale just in time for Christmas.

Donations needed for Green Gift Gala:

- Short lengths of holiday lights
- Holiday ribbon, stickers, and fabric
- Holiday catalogs, calendars, and other objects with large photographs
- Gift bags with handles
- Shiny, brightly-colored magazines
- Holiday-themed rubber stamps; red and green stamp pads or markers
- The following bulk size cereals: cereal straws, Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Frosted Mini Wheats, Fruit Loops, Milk
- Used CDs

The Chanhassen Historical Society presents...

**A Musical Celebration of the Christmas Season**

**Historic St. Hubert's Church  
Downtown Chanhassen**

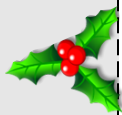
**Sunday, November 30, 4 p.m.**

Featuring:  
Chaska Valley Family Theatre Players  
The CHAN-o-laires  
St. Hubert's Brass Band

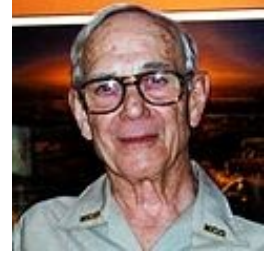
**FREE ADMISSION**

*Special thanks to our sponsors:*

Chanhassen Historical Society,  
Chaska Valley Family Theatre, Caribou Coffee  
Chanhassen and Cub Foods Chanhassen



## CCHS bids a fond farewell to Bill Mihelich



William Mihelich, 83, of Victoria, died Monday, Oct. 6, 2008.

Born March 5, 1925 and raised in Chisholm, he served with the 17th Airborne Division as a paratrooper during World War II. Captured during the Battle of the Bulge, he spent the last four months of the war at Stalag 4-B prison camp near the Elb River in Germany.

Liberated by the Russians, Corporal Mihelich was discharged from service and married his high school sweetheart, Josephine (Jo) Radosevich in 1945. He worked as a crushing plant operator for the Oliver Iron Mining Company before being hired as a conservation officer for the State of Minnesota. In charge of Carver County, he was stationed in Waconia from 1962 until his retirement on May 1, 1994.

His parents and siblings preceded him in death while his survivors include wife, Jo, of Victoria; daughter, Susan Krech of Waconia; granddaughters, Amy Krech of Madison, S.D., Holly Krech Thomas of New York City, N.Y.; great-grandchildren, Nathaniel and Hannah Thomas; nieces and nephews.

Private burial services were held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to CCHS designated for the Andrew Peterson Farm. Bill and his wife Jo were instrumental in getting both Coney Island in Waconia and the Peterson Farm listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Thank You New and Renewing Members!

### Renewing members

Gene Krey  
Helen Hassett  
Elaine Pijahn  
Geraldine Beckmann  
David & Rose Williams  
Earl Bauer  
Gertrude L. Honebrink  
Larry Stahlke  
Wilfred Plocher  
Marilyn Braun  
Laura & Bruce Helmer  
Carol Schneider  
Erwin Wetzell  
Alan & Lori Lohman  
Ruth Tremblay  
Carol Watson  
Jim & Kristin Mocol  
Harold & Mary Larson

Steve & Rita Yetzer  
Celeste Schug  
Shirley Wadham  
Robert Holder  
Frank & Vi Weaver  
Linda Lubansky  
Joan Buhler  
J. Michael & Pamela  
Melchert  
Patick & Ann Kirsch  
Doug & Susan Hoese  
Gerald & Diann Babb  
John & Emma Holm  
Randy Honebrink  
Kermit Ohlsen  
Shirley Jaeger  
Roberta Seefeldt  
Ralph Peterson

### New Members

Joey Reynolds  
Faith Tice  
Kathy Perschmann  
Sarah Bowman  
Susan Reimann Gekas  
Leslie O'Halloran  
Corinne Baker  
William Block  
Rose Wohlgemuth  
Carol Bacon  
Dianne Vojtaskovic  
Reed & Mary Lou  
Erickson  
Ingrid Rimmereide  
Cindy Taronno  
Laurie Beck

Museum and Library Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 10-4:30; Saturday, 10-3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 A musical Celebration of the Christmas Season <i>Historic St. Hubert's Church</i> 4pm	1	2 Fashion Show Fundraiser <i>Island View Golf Course</i> 7-9pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Volunteer Appreciation Party <i>CCHS</i> 11am-2pm	10	11	12	13 Green Gift Gala <i>CCHS</i> 12-4pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Green Gift Gala <i>CCHS</i> 12-4pm
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve CCHS will close at 3pm in observance of the holiday.	25 Christmas Day CCHS will be closed in observance of the holiday.	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve CCHS will close at 3pm in observance of the holiday.	January 1 New Year's Day CCHS will be closed in observance of the holiday.	January 2 A WWII Winter Winter Day Camp <i>CCHS</i> 9am-4pm	January 3



### The "Last Man"

Last October, John Kuenzel brought in a bit of history commemorating World War I veterans from Watertown.

The 75mm artillery shell, engraved with the names of the 48-member "Last Man's Club" of Watertown, contained a bottle of wine and newspapers from the time it was sealed in 1942. In 1986 John's father, Fred Kuenzel, outlived Tony Kaiser to become the last surviving WW I veteran from Watertown. With family and friends at his side, Fred opened the shell and drank a toast to his departed comrades.

Our Veteran's Gallery is slated for redevelopment in 2009. We are looking for stories like the one above to put a local face on the new exhibit. In the more than 150 years of its existence, Carver County has played an active role in many wars. Do you have information about men and women who entered the service from Carver County, or stories about life on the home front? Contact curator Larry Hutchings at (952) 442-4234.

The "Last Man" trophy joins other objects at the museum that belonged to Fred Kuenzel, including his helmet painted with a patriotic shield.

**CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Waconia, MN 55387  
Phone: 952-442-4234  
Fax: 952-442-2435  
www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org  
E-mail: historical@co.carver.mn.us

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 17  
Waconia, MN



**Museum & Library Hours**

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

**Board Members**

Mike Fahey (President), Carver  
Mary Booth (Vice President), Chaska  
Dianne Strandberg (Secretary),  
Eden Prairie  
Doug Hoese (Treasurer), Watertown  
Sarah MacKay, Watertown  
David Porath, Chanhassen  
Val Barlau, Waconia  
Al Bongard, Cologne  
Mary Eklund, Watertown  
Lori Lohman, Chaska  
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),  
Chaska

**Staff**

Wendy Biorn (Exec. Director)  
wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us  
Erin Anderson (Education Coord.)  
eranderson@co.carver.mn.us  
Larry Hutchings (Curator)  
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mmagnuson@co.carver.mn.us  
Linda Nelson (Admin. Asst.)  
lnelson@co.carver.mn.us

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

- Senior Citizen \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family \$25.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- 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 non-profit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.