

# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

31/2 : Spring 2010

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**Veterans Gallery Update**

- October, 1968- Herb and Carolyn Bloomberg opened the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.
- October 11, 1968-The first musical opened◊ *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.
- *I Do! I Do!* ran for 22 1/2 years.
- The Chanhassen Dinner Theatre employs over 300 people.
- 250,000 people visit the theater annually.

## ***The Chanhassen Dinners Theatres 42 Years of Magic***

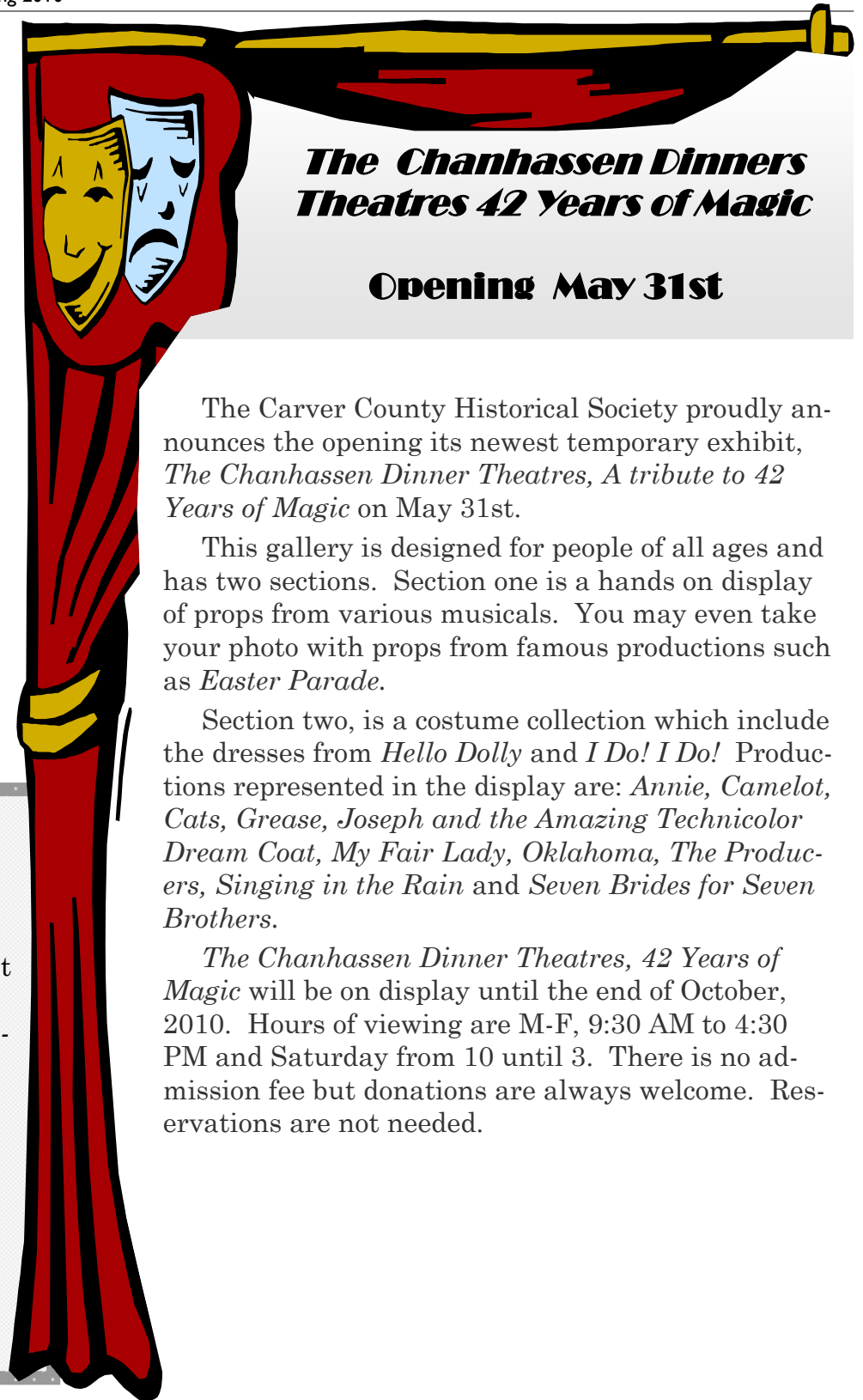
**Opening May 31st**

The Carver County Historical Society proudly announces the opening its newest temporary exhibit, *The Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, A tribute to 42 Years of Magic* on May 31st.

This gallery is designed for people of all ages and has two sections. Section one is a hands on display of props from various musicals. You may even take your photo with props from famous productions such as *Easter Parade*.

Section two, is a costume collection which include the dresses from *Hello Dolly* and *I Do! I Do!* Productions represented in the display are: *Annie, Camelot, Cats, Grease, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, The Producers, Singing in the Rain* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

*The Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, 42 Years of Magic* will be on display until the end of October, 2010. Hours of viewing are M-F, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturday from 10 until 3. There is no admission fee but donations are always welcome. Reservations are not needed.



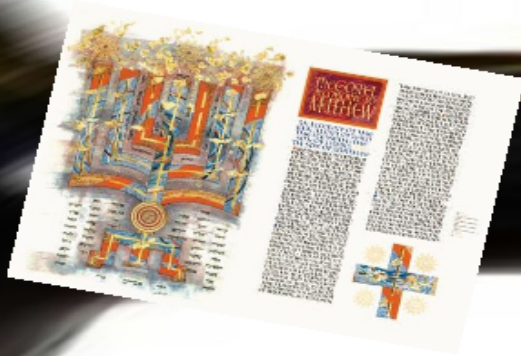
# SNIPPETS



The Carver County Historical Society lost a true friend and supporter on April 2, 2010 when Emmaline “Emmy” Therres died. Emmy was a lover of all things historical and educational and her work with CCHS was one way to tie the two together. Emmy served on the CCHS board from the early 1990s until the mid 2000s when her health no longer made it possible. Leanne Brown, executive director during much of Emmy’s board service, said that she enjoyed watching Emmy evolve as a board member and appreciated her professionalism in that she made it a point to find out the facts and ask good, thought-provoking questions on topics under discussion. Having been a teacher for more than 30 years with the Chaska school district Emmy was an invaluable member of the Education committee while on the board. She worked tirelessly on fundraisers. But her real passion was genealogy. Marlene Magnuson, CCHS librarian, recalls that Emmy and another board member were the founders of the genealogy group. Together they secured board approval and planned the programs for this club that continues to this day. After Emmy’s retirement from the classroom in 2000 she spent many hours in the CCHS library researching her husband’s family in Carver County and her own family from Meeker County. Emmy believed in making history relevant to children. The day the Super Target opened in Chaska she presented the manager with photos of what that land looked like a hundred years ago. It was the farm her husband’s family had owned. Those photos are still on view at the store and remind all of us that we are part of a larger story. Emmy’s story continues through her husband, daughter, two sons and grandchildren and all of those who were fortunate enough to be her friends.

*Correction: Janet Fahey’s biography in the Winter 2010 erroneously noted that she lives on a century farm. It should have read that she lives in a century home. The house was 100 years old in 2009. Our apologies for any problems this may have caused.*

# Wine and Beer Tasting



7:30pm & 8:30pm  
View and learn about the  
St. John's Bible from Jim  
Triggs, Executive Director  
of the St. John's Bible  
Heritage Program

*Tickets on sale now!*  
**\$10/members of CCHS**  
**\$15/non-members**  
Available at:

## Thursday, June 17

### 6–8pm

## Dolce Vita Wine Shop

(On the corner of US-41 and Chaska Boulevard)



**Dolce Vita  
Wine Shop**

**1331 Chaska Blvd  
Chaska, MN  
(952) 361-0044**

Proceeds and 15% of wine and beer  
sales during this event benefit the

**CAKVER COUNTY**  
*historical society*

Sponsored by:



# Mayer's Early Pioneers

By Joanie Buettgen

Have you ever wondered what it was like in the 1800s?

If you have, you're probably apprehensive about researching your favorite topic. Come to the *Carver County Historical Society* in Waconia. Read to your heart's content; our library is jammed packed with interesting books and research materials.

It is our hope in this newsletter to take you on a trip, and visit the lives of Ed Hahn and O.D. Sell. Hopefully, you will be inspired to check up on your ancestors, and maybe learn some new facts that you can share with your children and grandchildren.

The small town of Mayer, Minn. has bits of history that many of the locals know. Do you?

For instance, Hahn was born in Germany on March 8, 1860. In 1884, he moved to Helvetia at 24 years of age, and married Louise Harloff on Nov. 3, 1884. Hahn was a local merchant. He died at 65 years of age in 1925.

Photo Gerber & Hahn Store

The rail line known as "The Great Northern Railroad Company" built the Hutchinson Branch in 1885. One year later, Hahn moved to the railroad location and laid out what is now Mayer. Hahn was a general merchandise businessman and lived in Mayer until 1909. Then, he moved to Minneapolis and again engaged in the same type of business for ten years. Afterwards, he came to Watertown, purchased a home, and a business called "The Barth Store."

Hahn was always cheerful, helpful, and a kind-hearted man. He was a well-known public figure, and was involved in many local organizations.

Helvetia was named for the ancient name of Switzerland, the native land of early settlers in that community. Helvetia's town site was platted in 1856, the origin of Mayer. Helvetia's Post Office was established in 1875. At that time mail was delivered to the Helvetia Post Office by

Photo East side of Main Street

the stage coach which made regular trips to Delano, Chaska via Watertown, and Waconia. This stage coach line remained in operation until 1891. Mrs. O.D. Sell, daughter of August Ninnemann, was postmaster from 1879 to 1894. Mrs. Anna Sell remembered receiving and distributing mail from the stage coach which made two round trips per week. Hahn succeeded Mr. Ninnemann, and held office from 1894 to 1902.

The First Mayer Creamery was established in 1897 when Fred Hein, Hahn, and Gustav Lenz and Fred Foster formed a company and built a creamery.

Another famous Mayer resident was O.D. Sell, one of Mayer's pioneer businessmen. His activities in the Village of Mayer date back to 1896 when he came here to accept a position with Hahn. After being in Hahn's employ for one year, he decided to go into business for himself. In 1897 he built the John Grimm store and became a merchant. The store was a general merchandise/grocery store until 1909. Sell left Mayer to accept a position as floor manager with Powers-Mercantile Company in Minneapolis.

In 1918, he returned to Mayer to take over the business of Louis Bury who was called to serve in World War I. After two years, he sold the stock to G.Leng and the building to Henry Grimm, and accepted a position with Wyman Partridge Department Store in Minneapolis

O.D. Sell Store 1908

He returned here in 1927 and platted Navaho Heights, a tract of land southeast of Mayer comprising thirteen lots. That same year, he built the large brick garage which his son Elmer owned at the time. Approximately \$40,000 of construction work was sponsored by Sell that year, and he was one of Mayer's most public spirited citizens.

The first telephone line was built to Mayer in 1899, by Dr. E.E. Shrader and J.J. Ponsford from Watertown. Many Mayer residents were eager for the telephone service to arrive, and a few made contributions to have the extension from Watertown built. The two who had telephone lines installed were Hahn and Sell.

Photo Village of Mayer

Mayer was incorporated on Aug. 27, 1900. One village official was Elmer Sell-Justice of the Peace.

The Mayer Fire Department was organized on Dec. 12, 1900 when a group of local businessmen met to form a volunteer fire department. Hahn was elected temporary chairman and Sell was temporary secretary.

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking with Marianna Anderson, Sell's granddaughter. "We lived in Superior, Wis., and I would visit my grandfather and grandmother, Anna. In the summer of 1944, we came down to Mayer and I spent the summer with O.D. Sell. There wasn't much for me to do, so I would just follow him around. I went with him taking photos. He had a project with every school house in Carver County. He took pictures of barns and anything else of interest," Anderson said. "We would go to many of the farms, and he would go to the discarded piles of rubbish; and find anything he thought was interesting. We were here during the county fair in 1940. Suzie Hansen, a milliner, made hats from the scraps of material. Later on she gave me a quilt. I donated this log cabin pattern quilt to the Carver County Historical Society."

Photo Mayer Fire Department

Funny stories are always an interesting way to let family members peek into your lineage. Anderson commented on an event, "The only thing that comes to mind is when we would get up in the morning, O.D. Sell would ask, 'Are you up for the day? Or, just for a rest?'"

His grandchildren were quick witted. "We responded with some smart remark," said Anderson. "O.D. Sell always enjoyed the bantering with his grandchildren. I'm the only granddaughter. He had two grandsons, and O.D. Sell only had one daughter, her name Hilda. His daughter-in law was also named Hilda."

Sell became involved with the Carver County Historical Society after his wife died in 1940. "He was lonesome and had to find things to keep himself busy," said Anderson. "He had always been interested in history. He knew so many people and somehow he got the idea to donate some of things he'd collected. He wanted them preserved at the Carver County Historical Society."

Many people may leave their hometown but they always return. "My tax accountant lives in Waconia," said Anderson. "I come out here at times and visit Mackenthun's, Marlene at Carver County Historical Society and visit with my family in the cemetery located in Mayer."

Joanie Buettgen researched this article for the Carver County Historical Society's newsletter. She can be reached at: Email: [joanie.buettgen@yahoo.com](mailto:joanie.buettgen@yahoo.com), Blog: <http://Joanie19.wordpress.com>, <http://twitter.com/joaniebuettgen>, [www.linkedin.com/in/joaniebuettgen](http://www.linkedin.com/in/joaniebuettgen). She has also been published in *Minnesota Moments Magazine*, and the *Kansas City BBQ Society Newspaper* and National Barn Alliance.

# What are YOU doing this Summer?

## **This Summer:**

- **Milk a cow**
- **Make butter**
- **Knead bread**
- **Find your ancestors.**
- **Discover the MAGIC of the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres**
- **Become a curator.**
- **HAVE FUN AND LEARN**

## **Becoming a Junior Curator**

July 12-16 1-4 PM

Location: CCHS

Cost: \$30/members

\$40/non-members

Ages: Grades 3-5



## **Climbing Your Family Tree**

June 28-30 1-4 pm

Cost: \$20/members;

\$30/non-members

Ages: Grades 3-5

Location: CCHS



August 23-25

1-4 pm

Cost: \$20/members; \$30/non-members

## ***The Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, 42 Years of Magic Is coming May 31.***

Watch our website for more information about Saturday Family Day programs.

## **Dairy Farm Family Adventure**

Join us as we visit a working dairy farm in Carver County. We'll meet the farmer, learn about life on the farm, and try our hand at milking a cow. After a picnic lunch at the farm, head back to the Carver County Historical Society for an afternoon of hands-on learning. Call the Historical Society at (952) 442-4234 today to sign up, because there is only room for 20 on this trip!

Date: Saturday, June 26

10am-3pm

Ages: Fun for the whole family!

Cost: FREE/members; \$10/family for non-members



# Special Thanks to CCHS donors

## Welcome to New Members

### Chaska New Members

Myhra Diedrick Hill  
Burton Johnson  
Shirley Kohls

### New CCHS Members

Kim Carlander  
Kay Dickman  
Carol Fetzer  
Ray & Mary Jezierski  
C. Audrey Lano  
Jeanne Lindholm  
Jeff & Linda Mahon  
James Milne  
Sharilyn Nydam  
Marilu Peters  
Barbara Radde  
Gloria Radde  
Helen Radde  
Jan Schwichtenberg Veith  
Eugene & Leone Vogel

### Annual Fund Drive Donors

Jack & Paula Atkins  
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Gary & Ann Delaney  
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Gary & Barbara VanEyll  
Lonnie & Linda Venske  
Olvern Vinkemeier  
Rose Wohlgemuth  
Jim & Rita Zrust

### Designated Library Fund Donation

Dennis VanSloun

### Andrew Peterson Farm

Elsa Carlson Memorial Fund in c/o Sharon Eklund - \$150.00 in memory of Elsa Carlson

### Other Donations

Mary Loehrs – Trinity Lutheran Church & School Years 2002 & 2006 directory books  
Jayne Gehrking – Watertown's Original Catholic cemetery article  
Darlene Fasching – 4 CD's of the Family Tree Maker Software  
Margie Theis – Carver historic district – Design One: Architecture book  
Burton Thilquist – 5 reels of microfilm of Vastergotland, Sweden plus 1 reel of East union News – December 1891 – October 1, 1900  
Emanuel Lutheran church – 2 Emanuel Lutheran Church – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1857 – 2007 books



## The Minnesota Historical Society Awards Carver County Historical Society A Second Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant

Without a concerted effort, our state’s historical and cultural treasures are in danger of being lost to time. The Minnesota Historical Society awarded a second Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to the CCHS in the amount of \$5752. The grant was approved by the Society’s awards committee and will provide funding for research and development of companion school curriculum for the Veterans Gallery.

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are made possible by the Minnesota Legislature from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund created with passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in November 2008. The grants are awarded to support projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state.

“It is wonderful to see so many communities and local organizations benefitting from the Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants,” said Britta Bloomberg, deputy state historic preservation officer. “Minnesotans should be proud of the unprecedented opportunities these grants provide for organizations to preserve and share our history and cultural heritage. The impact of projects supported by Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants will be felt throughout the state for many years to come.”

**Thank you, Veterans Gallery Donors**

Mayer Baseball Club, Inc. - \$500.00  
 Mackenthun’s Fine Foods - \$100.00  
 Carver County Power Hour - \$256.65  
 Jim Rustad - \$100.00 in memory of Ted & Leona Grivelli  
 Eugene Early American Legion Post 121, Watertown - \$1200.00 to sponsor the Korean War section & one American flag



Every time we print a newsletter a large number are returned due to a change of address. This is especially true during the winter due to snowbirds. Then spring comes and the change of address issue repeats itself. There is a way solve this problem. If you have an email address would you consider receiving your newsletter via e-mail? E-mailing the Carver County Historical Society newsletter saves precious resources as well and helps us go green.

P.S. You don’t need to be a snowbird to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

# CARVER COUNTY

555 West First Street  
Waconia, MN 55387  
Phone: 952-442-4234  
Fax: 952-442-2435

www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org  
E-mail: historical@co.carver.mn.us

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### 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

John Varone (President) Chaska  
Kari Myrold (Vice President),  
Cologne  
Lori Lohman (Secretary), Chaska  
David Porath (Treasurer),  
Chanhassen  
Al Bongard, Cologne  
Janet Fahey, NYA  
Mike Fahey, Carver  
Doug Hoese, Watertown  
Joanie Buettgen, Watertown  
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),  
Chaska  
Dan Lund, Chanhassen  
Mary Booth, Chaska

### Staff

Wendy Petersen Biorn (Exec.  
Director)  
*wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us*  
Kyle Tredinnick (Education Coord.)  
*ktredinnick@co.carver.mn.us*  
Larry Hutchings (Curator)  
*lhutchings@co.carver.mn.us*  
Marlene Magnuson (Researcher)  
*mmagnuson@co.carver.mn.us*  
Linda Nelson (Admin. Asst.)

## 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.

