

# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

34/2: Spring, 2013

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Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America  
Presents

## The History of Women's Hats

Why do we wear hats?



What is a plumassier?

What is a milliner?

You don't need to look far to find the answers these and many other questions about hats. Hats are the topic of the new exhibit at the at the Willkommen Heritage Center in Norwood Young America.

Although women from an early age were always expected to have their heads covered by veils, kerchiefs, hoods or caps, it wasn't until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century that women's structured hats began to be seen.

The word "Milliner", a maker of women's hats, was first recorded in 1529. Millinery has existed in Britain since the 1700's. By the mid 1800's, Swiss and Italian straws, imitation straw made from paper cardboard and horsehair were available to women, also at that time velvet and tulle were introduced. Plumassiers were feather workshops, where feathers were dyed and added to hats. Plumes have always been a status symbol and a sign of economic stability. During the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, the bonnet dominated women's fashion, large hats adorned with many ribbons, flowers, feathers and gauze trim.

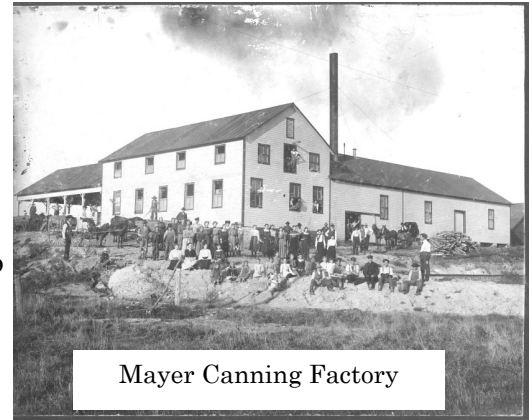
The Willkommen Heritage Center is located at 102 E Main St. in NYA. We are open 10:00 to 2:00 Thurs., Fri. and Sat. If you would like to call and set up a private tour, call 952-467-4227.

# SNIPPETS

## *Hola mis amigos*

Wendy Petersen Biorn

I wish I knew Spanish. In college, I learned a little German and can still say, “Mein Deutsch ist nicht besonders gut.” Translation, “My German is not very good.” A friend of mine recently mentioned that he was traveling in Europe and two people were trying to communicate. One in Danish and the other in Swedish. The two languages have a common base, but the difficulty in communicating finally caused the two men to solve the problem in English. While English seems to have become a common language for communication, it is not the only one spoken in the United States. It was not long ago that church services, in Carver County, were held in German or Swedish.



A language that has been overlooked, in Carver County, is Spanish. Part of the reason could be that the Spanish speaking population immigrated to the U.S. much later than Europeans. The first Hispanic immigrants are recorded in the 1920 census. Raymond Cruz, his wife Concepcion and their daughter Mary arrived in 1918. They are re-

corded as being laborers at the sugar company in Chaska. Raymond and Concepcion were born in Mexico, Mary in Illinois. By 1930, the Hispanic population had increased to 60.



Amels and White Canning Company

In order to interest our Spanish speaking population, Curator Eve Weipert, board member David Porath and volunteer Danielle Forner combined their skills to design a new traveling exhibit which is written in both Spanish and English. The exhibit is about migrant workers and the impact that Spanish speaking population had on this industry.

Migrant workers were an unseen population that worked for Gedney, Crystal and in the fields near Watertown. While

mostly, an unseen part of the population, they were and are an important part of the agricultural economics in the county.

This exhibit would not be possible without the help of Danielle Forner and her brother-in-law who translated into Spanish and David Porath who spent many hours researching. The exhibit is set to open early this summer in our temporary exhibit space. It will then travel to various places in the county. If you know of a place that you would like to see host, or if you would like to host the exhibit, please contact Eve Weipert at the Carver County Historical Society.

Contact Eve at [eweipert@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:eweipert@co.carver.mn.us) or 952-442-4234.



Migrant workers hoeing sugar beets  
Chaska

# News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

## *Watertown Area Historical Society*

Presents

### **2013 Rails to Trails events**

During Watertown's Rails to Trails summer festival, the Watertown Area Historical Society, in collaboration with the River City Theatre Company, will present a dramatization of the city's founding in 1856. There will also be a display highlighting Watertown's early years. The events will take place at the Community Center. Dates and times are:

**July 19:** Exhibit is open between 1:00 and 7:00 P.M. **July 20:** Exhibit is open between Noon and 4:00 P.M.  
Performances at 2:00 and 6:30 P.M. Performances at 12:30 and 3:00 P.M.

## *Coming Chanhassen Historical Events*

### **The Chanhassen Historical Society Family Day: Seminary Fen - A Living Museum**

When: Saturday, May 11, 2013 Noon - 2 pm

Where: Chanhassen Library, Thornton Wilder Meeting Room, 7711 Kerber Blvd Chanhassen, MN

Description: In partnership with the Chanhassen Library and Carver County Historical Society, Heidi Gould of Carver County Historical Society will present a brief history of the site of the Mudcura Sanitarium which later became the Assumption Seminary and is now the protected natural site known as Seminary Fen in Chanhassen. You'll find out the importance of this rare wetland to the ecological balance of the Minnesota river watershed. Information on getting outside and visiting the Seminary Fen, including bird watching check lists and fun family activities.

**Free.** New members welcome! Volunteers needed. Contact: Lynn Murphy, 952-353-4547

## *News from the Chaska Historical Society*

1. The Chaska Historical Society will receive a \$7000 Legacy Grant to do research and create a display dealing with how innovative ideas cause economic and technological change-and how Chaska exemplifies this. Museology, a museum research, design and fabrication firm headed by Larry Hutchings, former Carver County Historical Society Curator, will put the display together.
2. Speaking of 7,000-That's how many photographs we have cataloged, entered into the PastPerfect computerized database, and archived in our collection. Sonja Deis is the volunteer responsible for the data entry.
3. The Society continues the arduous work of cataloging, numbering, sorting, photographing, and entering the information about each of the artifacts of the collection into PastPerfect as well. This project keeps a good half-dozen volunteers VERY busy, but there has been visible progress!
4. Jim Faber's *View from a Bench in City Square* historically informative columns (1990-1994) have been bound into book form and are available at the Chaska Historical Society for a donation of \$15. This 264-page book includes photographs from our collection. Its production was supported by a \$10,000 gift for this purpose from Chaska native Rodney Forristall.

## Amazing History Race



"Race" through 5 exciting activities within Carver Park Reserve that Lowry Nature Center and Carver County Historical Society staff have created. Station activities will include trying pioneer chores and games, fishing the old-fashioned way, practice hunting like a native American and visit a tepee, learning about Carver Park's early farmers at a pioneer cemetery, and finding wild animals and plants that pioneers may have eaten or used.

Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy before the event and end at Lowry Nature Center with some fun craft activities to do and take home!

**Reservations required.**

**Date:** Saturday, May 4th

**Time:** 1pm-4pm

**Location:** Lowry Nature Center, Carver Park Reserve

**Cost:** \$5/person



## HISTORIC CARVER WALKING TOUR

Tour Historic Downtown Carver, part of the National Register of Historic Places. This tour will be led by Carver-on-the-Minnesota expert John Von Walter. Come on out and learn the interesting facts and fascinating details of this historic river town. We will meet at the Church by the River.

**Date:** Saturday, June 8th, 8-10am

**Cost:** FREE

## *Seeking Education and Program Intern!*

The CCHS Education Department is seeking interns for Spring/Summer 2013. Over that time, staff and interns will be researching and writing new school programs to implement in Fall 2013, testing programs, and gathering supplies. Interns may also be asked to assist at summer camps: helping with crafts, helping monitor kids, assisting during snack and clean-up, providing supervision outside the museum, etc. If interested, contact Heidi at (952)442-4234 or [hgould@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:hgould@co.carver.mn.us).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Are you looking for a way to contribute? Do you enjoy working with kids? The CCHS is looking for volunteers to assist with activities and programs during the summer months. On Saturday, May 4th, 1-4pm, volunteers are needed to work at station activities at the "Amazing History Race" event. During the weeks of June 24-28, July 8-12, July 22-26, and July 29-August 2, volunteers are needed to assist at the four CCHS summer camps. Camp themes are Arts in Carver County, Junior Archaeologist, and 2 different weeks of Pioneer Camp. If interested, contact Heidi. See above for contact details.