

NEWSPAPER COLUMNS

# Local News... Or Just Gossip?

- Lin Cornelius Strong

*Communities each had a newspaper "correspondent" who reported on news found in each area of the newspaper's distribution area for a "Local News" Column. They received a free copy of the newspaper and postage for their contributions.*

**Special points of interest:**

- Make sure you check out the new technology column on page 9!
- Do you have news to share?
- How about a color pdf copy of this newsletter—you will love it! See page 2.
- Our new photo contest for 2010 on page 8
- Check out the upcoming programs on page 12!

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Several years ago while looking through 1900-1910 era newspapers for an obituary, I ran across a local news column entry "Henry Fokken drove into town today in his newly purchased Model T." Henry Fokken just happens to be my great-grandfather. So why would I care about that item? It adds character to someone who was just a name in my genealogical research.

Even though that news was not earth shattering, it made me realize that the information found in these columns was not only who was visiting who for tea on Sunday afternoon—sometimes there are fascinating pieces of information in them, too.

The local news column was the way people kept in touch—especially before everyone in the area had telephones. The local news columns in the pre-1900 newspapers contained all types of tidbits on what was happening in the community. Those living on farms were quite isolated and really depended on the newspaper for contact with the rest of the world.

From who was born, married or buried—all of it was in this column. Few obituaries were found listed separately as they were in later years.

I was searching for an obituary for a Peter Haiyunga in 1896—there was nothing anywhere! I finally went through the local news column and there was one short paragraph—shown on the below. Note the name is spelled Haienga.

**DIED**—At his home in Rheiderland township, early yesterday morning, Mr. Peter Haienga. Funeral service will be held tomorrow at the house, at one o'clock in the afternoon, after which the remains will be interred in the Lutheran cemetery. Deceased leaves a wife and two small children in poor circumstances to mourn his death. They have the sympathy of the community in this their sad affliction.

This was the only reference anywhere that he had died. The county did not have a death record for him. The family today would like to know how he died as he was not even 40 years old.

With no death certificate, no obituary other than what was in the "Local News" and nothing in church records—that information does not exist.

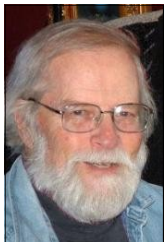
Even partying too much is noted: "Half a dozen young men from Centre City went on a special spree and came over to our News Years dance to kick up a row and make fools of themselves. In the latter they succeeded admirably well, while in the former they were soon quelled. That their love for liquor may decrease, and their wisdom have bountiful additions, is the wish of their friends." January 1889 Chisago Co. News

"When Modin and Berg get together they do make the evenings hideous with their college songs, much to the discomfort of our musically inclined citizens. Our village dogs can bark at the moon these evenings, but we have the noise just the same." Chisago County News January 1889

For some reason, bachelors were a favorite topic—guess romance was always in the air. "E. Nyquist is in Winona on business. Jennie, his daughter, has charge of the business during his absence. We might remark that all of the young men in town go there to trade now." June 1888 Chisago County News.

Lindstrom seems to furnish the most amusement these days, judging from the reports of dances and festivals reported as taking place there the past

Continued on page three



## Remembering Lloyd

“Lloyd Hackl, who retired from Century College in 1997, was at his winter home in Peoria, Ariz., engaging in one of his favorite pastimes, a crossword puzzle, when he died of heart failure on Nov. 21, 2009. He was 73.

Hackl was an expert on author F. Scott Fitzgerald. He led tours in St. Paul in which he gave details of the author's life and haunts.

Hackl was born in Duluth and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the Twin Cities campus of the

University of Minnesota in the late 1950s. He spent a year in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar. He began his teaching career as an English and Humanities instructor at Stillwater High School before he signed on at Lakewood College.

He authored the following books, "Still Home to Me: F. Scott Fitzgerald and St. Paul" and "The Wooden Shoe," a history of Swedish immigrants in the Center City, Minn., area. He also published the Chisago County Historical Society's newsletter for nearly 30 years.”

Hackl is survived by his wife, Barbara Paetznick and daughters Cindy and Debbie and three grandchildren. <http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/78608872.html?page=2&c=y>

*CCHS members would like to express their sympathy for this loss to Lloyd's family.*

## A New Beginning...

With this issue, we start a new era. Lloyd left an amazing legacy of material during his editorial tenure—something that will be difficult to ever match.

- We're looking for an editorial committee to publish this journal.
- Would you like to be involved?
- This publication is yours—what would you like to see in here?
- Can you write articles? We also need ideas for articles that are of interest.
- Do you have letters, pictures, postcards, diaries, journals, business or school records that we could use in here?
- Do you have an idea for a column for the journal?
- Are you good at proofing?
- Do you have editorial skills?
- Many of these job can be completed via email *attachments*. *Don't let distance stop you from helping.*

***Your input is vital to the success of CCHS.***

## Can we send this CCHS Heritage Journal to you electronically?

We would like to send this to you by pdf attachment to your email address. You can open the attachment with Adobe Acrobat Reader which is a free download and most likely already on your computer. Color pictures enhance a publication!

Sending the publication by pdf attachment will save CCHS a lot of time and money and during these times money is needed for many projects. *You will be notified when each issue is online.*

This will not all happen at once! First we need to get current information, including email addresses of our members.

***You can help with that—contact us at 651-257-5310 (leave a message) or email us at [chisagohistory@frontiernet.net](mailto:chisagohistory@frontiernet.net) and give us your email address and other updated membership information. Please do that today!***

You don't have email—no problem! You will still receive your paper copy of the newsletter by bulk mail.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- *Writing articles for this newsletter, editor position available!*
- *Volunteering at the History Center*
- *Program Committee Members*
- *Clean up days at the history center, Gustaf House and Moody Farm—contact us for work dates.*
- *Some of our buildings need painting or other small repairs*  
*Could you donate some of your time for this?*

***Each month the historical society needs volunteer help. If every member gives a couple hours a year—we can accomplish great things! Please call us and have your name put on our volunteer list! Call 651-257-5310 (leave a message) or email us at [chisagohistory@frontiernet.net](mailto:chisagohistory@frontiernet.net). Thank you!***

- *Chisago County Fair & Almelund Threshing Party—more than 20 volunteers needed for these two weekends!*
- *Thanks for considering donating some of your time to help the society!*

**Local News, Continued**

few days, but your correspondent would suggest that it is not policy to let Lindstrom bachelors take our girls away for such proceedings—it might result disastrously to our matrimonial intentions.

Sounds as if his girl left with someone else—or maybe the girl he wanted! Sour grapes, anyone?

*John E. Modin, the versatile and affable gentleman who for the past three years has so ably conducted the Franconia schools, has been appointed deputy county auditor, and he assumed his duties this week. Modin will pay the maidens of Centre City and surrounding county his special attention when time permits, so look out for broken hearts. December 27, 1888 Chisago County News* Is this the same Modin who partied too loudly on the previous page?

Births, marriages and deaths are interspersed with articles about who went to trade shows, accidents, local crime or lack of, city officials, engagements and even information about dead pets.

How many fire departments today would advertise the location of the key in the newspaper? *“The hook and ladder truck belonging to the fire department is stored in the building opposite Henry Frye’s blacksmith shop. The key to the same, in case of fire, will be found in the News office.” January 17, 1889*

Other items of interest include sales in local stores, someone caught stealing fencing and even details about a snow storm and its casualties.

The following paragraph noted the telephone problems that existed. And this was placed at the end of the column. *“The telephone between here and Taylors Falls will be repaired in a day or two. At present the wire lies imbedded in the ice of the Saint Croix river. The managers of the line, when the repairs are made, will probably make the crossing at the bridge, instead of across the river, where it spanned 2000 feet, which caused the broken wire.” Chisago County News February 28, 1889*

All of these tidbits came from the Chisago County News, published in Taylors Falls. June 7, 1888 indicates that the logging was still very active. *“The logs are still running thick in the river. The jam extends now to Cedar Bend, and no earthly show for a steamboat to get to Franconia or the Falls for some months yet. The boom company employs several hundred men at the boom and are getting out the logs at a lively rate.”*

But in February 21, 1889 we find the following: *“The Boom Co. is downed, and after March 1st 1890 will be known no more as a river blockading institution. The blessings from a thankful and appreciative constituency are flowing in upon Representative McKusick with increasing regularity.”*

They didn’t pull any punches—local residents were tired of the logs that blocked the river and made traffic by the river hazardous.

There are other articles about the river, too. *Wednesday morning, a river driver, belonging to McDermott’s drive, lost his life at Big Rock rapids, near town. The boat was overloaded with men and in shooting the rapids, swamped, throwing the men in the water. Fred Babin of Stillwater, not being able to swim, lost his life. The body has not been found. Chisago Co. News 6/27/1888*

The names of county officers in 1889 was published in the paper. (right) The wages were published in another newspaper—anyone will-

**June 21, 1888 Chisago County News**

Some of the young men of this place are commencing to realize that it is leap year, as a certain young lady considers it her duty to escort them along the railroad track occasionally.

Sheriff Andrews and his cousin S. A. Swenson, have planted about 170 bushels of potatoes on Sunrise prairie during the past week. We hope that the results of their labor will bring them a light heart and a heavy purse.

The Wyoming base ball club, Capt. J. Sausen, Jr. accepted a challenge from the Stacy Red White and Blues, on the Stacy grounds, and beat them so badly that they had no stomach for a return game, and did not show up at the appointed time.

S.C. Johnson and J.D. Markham of Rush City made Wyoming friends a call Saturday evening on their way home.

The grand opening of the Lake View Hotel was not as brilliant as anticipated. The attendance was large, but only a few took part in treading the light fantastic toe.

Mr. John Magnuson, a devoted seven day Adventist, of this place, has just returned from the advent camp meeting, which has been in session during the last week, near St. Paul.

G. Lantz has been unusually busy this season putting up water spouts. We understand that he has furnished about 50 houses with spouts this spring.

**COUNTY OFFICERS**

J.P. Nord	Auditor
V.D. Eddy	Deputy Auditor
Chas. H. Bush	Treasurer
Charles Andrews	Sheriff
J.J. Squires	Deputy Sheriff
John Shaleen	Judy of Probate
H.P. Robie	Court Commissioner
Peter Shaleen	Clerk of Court
P.H. Stolberg	County Attorney
Albert Berg	Register of Deeds
V.D. Eddy	Superintendent of Schools
H.V. Ruhmor	Surveyor
E.C. Ingalls	Coroner
Charles G. Strand, Chm’n	
Louis Broecker	Board of Co. Commissioners
Jonas Jonason	
J. Walfrid	
R. Nessel	

January 1889

Local News, Continued

Special Locals.

JANUARY 24, 1888

- All locals under this head 5 cents a line for each and every insertion.
- WANTED—A good smart boy 16 to 20 years old who is not afraid of work, apply at this office.
- Overholt Rye Whiskey for family use at the City Hotel.
- Fresh oysters by the bulk or can at the Pioneer Meat Market.
- Home made bread rolls, cakes and pies to order at Al Knights.

The fees of county officers for year ending December 31, 1888 have been as follows:

Treasurer, \$1,077.15  
 Register of Deeds, \$1,290.95  
 Clerk of Court, \$488.75  
 Sheriff, \$972.49      Chisago County News 1/1889

Minnesota state law forbids first cousins in being united in the holy bonds of wedlock, so Ben Dohling and Miss Winnie Dohling went to Hudson, Wis. last week Tuesday and were made man and wife returning to Clara City on Thursday where they received the congratulations of their friends. Wednesday of this week Miss Gertie Dohling, a sister of the bride, was united in marriage to Menso Heddens of Rice, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Hafermann in the German Lutheran church and in the presence of a large number of invited friends and relatives. After the ceremony, a celebration was held in in the Dohling building next to the post office in honor of both marriages and which was largely attended by friends and relatives of the contracting parties who are well and favorably known in this vicinity and who have the best wishes of their friends for a life of happiness, contentment and prosperity. Clara City Herald, 1911

Most of us might not care about this tidbit of information in the left column, but the great-grandson of this couple was thrilled with the information. The family had known the marriage date, but no one knew where they were married.

The article was included in a local news column between an obituary and a trade show announcement.

Centre City

A. Schlemer left here last week for a month's visit with friends in Iowa.

Chas. H. Bush made a trip up the line last week.

Chas. Boostram, one of our popular bachelors is building a house on the island, just west of town. How is it girls, leap year one week longer.

Albert Berg took in the cities last Saturday.

Plasterers will finish plastering the church in a few days. Aleck Swenson is helping to put on the finishing touches.

Chisago County News 12/1888

ing to work for that yearly sum?

But maybe we don't fully realize what life was like during this time frame. The local columns at that time not only reported the news as they saw it, they listed every manner of news—skating on the river, new exercise for straightening leg muscles, horse racing and sewing circles.

The visits of local residents were interspersed with stories of a local proprietor getting out his gun next to crop information. A few of the rougher element of river drivers here on Thursday, visited the hotel, for as it seemed to demolish both the proprietor and the furniture, but Mr. Abrahamson being prepared for all emergencies, pulled his self cocking Colts revolver on the crown, when they made quicker tracts for the river than they had ever done before.

Chisago County News, February 17, 1889

February 27, 1889 "Marshall Elof Vitalis of Franconia was here Monday with a prisoner by the name of Wilkes who he arrested for timber trespass on lands belonging to Samuel Mathews. The case was adjourned, Wilkes being placed under bonds to the amount of two hundred dollars.

And the following is just a sampling of weather related items. February 7, 1889 noted the following: "Last Monday night was the coldest we have had this winter, and we might say about the only cold night, prior to that time, but not since. The thermometer stood as low as can be ascertained at 24 below. Monday also gave us the only snow storm of any account here this winter, the fall being variously estimated at from 1 1/2 to 2 inches, but it drifted so badly as to be virtually of little account, though a little more wood coming in than before.

This is just a sampling of the treasures that you may find in these newspapers. Each issue has a paragraph or two that may make you shake your head or laugh out loud. Most of these were taken from the Chisago County News as the concentration was on older newspapers, but a future article will include other papers in the county.

All of these older Chisago County newspapers are at the CCHS Research Center, but there is no printer. A list of the newspapers in their collection is on the website. You can use a digital camera to take pictures of the entries of interest to you.

This is the first in a series of articles of interest found in early newspapers.

Newspaper Sources: Chisago County News, Chippewa County or Clara City Herald / **Articles, excerpts were retyped "as is" due to the quality of the paper and print.**

Local News, Continued

**DISASTERS IN THE NEWS**

Details of a fire that leveled a store in Lindstrom are in this article. If C.C. Edman was your ancestor, you might like to read the details about how the fire started. This is not only part of the history of Lindstrom—but it's a family's history, too. Note the differences in spelling—in this article the name is spelled Edman, below it is spelled Ekman and Ekmann.

*A Disastrous Fire*

*C.C. Edman & Co.'s store at Lindstrom was destroyed by fire on Sunday last. A total loss of about \$8000 and no insurance. As near as we can learn the fire originated by the hired man throwing a match—which he had been using for lighting a lamp—on to the floor in the room where they kept oil; benzene, etc. The man said that no sooner had the match left his hand, or before it struck the floor the blaze started and in an incredibly short time the room was all ablaze.* Chisago County News 1888

And in a later issue, we read that “A. Arnquist of Chisago Lake was here Wednesday, soliciting aid for Carl Ekman and family who were recently burned out in Lindstrom. Mr. Ekmann lost everything including his wife and children's clothing. The liberal hearted people of this county are responding liberally to the call for help in his great misfortune. The savings of 25 years went up in the flames and left him penniless. Mr. Ekman leaves next week to accept a position in Minneapolis.”

And did you note the way the articles are written—did Mr. Edman/Ekman/Ekmann lose his wife or his wife's clothing?

**Politics in the Local News Columns**

*Chisago County News, January 1889*

John Shaleen was in this city Monday; he came to buy a hoss rake but he circulated around long enough to say that Gresham is the only one that will stand a ghost of a show in the presidential race as all Fish Lake town will go for him as a unit. Blaine men take warning. “Mack” is very much disturbed because he can't find out who “Sam Jones,” of Wyoming is. Will some one please enlighten the poor unfortunate.

*Chisago County News, February 28, 1889*

Next Monday many of our citizens will celebrate in their own quiet way the inauguration of Benjamin Harrison to the presidency. The U.S. flags will be flung to the breeze, etc.

**BUILDINGS & BUSINESSES**

**IN THE LOCAL NEWS COLUMNS**

The board of directors of the Taylors Falls Improvement Co. met at the Secretary's office, Tuesday, and audited a number of bills incurred in laying the foundation of the (opera) hall. For the benefit of the stockholders and the public generally we can state that the cost of labor and material in laying the foundation is \$450. The directors instructed the secretary to notify and collect all of the stock now subscribed for and place in the hands of the treasurer. About the close of the winter the building committee of the Improvement Company hauled large quantities of rock from the Dalles for the foundation of the Opera Hall. About one half of the people in town said they had about as much again as would be needed; the other half said they had just about half enough. Now the foundation is completed, there is scarcely a load of rock left, which goes to show that the committee knew pretty near, themselves, how much rock it would take to build the foundation. Chisago County News, June 1888

F. H. Wolf, one of our popular merchants, is grading, preparatory to building a store, which, when completed, will be a credit to the town. Mr. Wolf has been in business here ever since the town started, some 20 years ago, and is now one of the solid and influential man in town.

We learned from responsible authorship this week that a new, large and very nice depot will be built at Lindstrom early in the spring. The people of that place are deserving of this and we only hope that the R.R. Co. will not disappoint them. January 24, 1889 Chisago County News

We are informed the Syndicate will commence operations on the new hotel at Centre City as soon as the spring opens sufficiently to justify a commencement. It is to be a mammoth structure and built from the very best plans of modern Architecture. January 24, 1889 Chisago County News

Our town has another grocery store and Theo. Lofgren is the proprietor. He moved over here from Wyoming last week with a handful of goods, being the senior partner of Lofgren & Glyer who started into business there about a month ago. February 27, 1889 Chisago County News

A disastrous fire in August last burned the residence of Ed. H. Folsom, and the brewery owned by Jos. Schottmuller. On the same ground as before Ed. H. Folsom built a residence in modern style, when finished will cost \$2,225, contractor Bullard has done the work. January 17, 1889 CCNews



Click, Contribute.  
Change the World.

You can donate funds to the Chisago County Historical Society by going to this website, or by sending us a check. Your donations are needed and very much appreciated.

A Family Preserves Chisago County History...

## Karl Oskar & Kristina—40 Years on Lindstrom’s Main Street

- Carol Dahlquist

For forty years, baking in sunshine and enduring rain and snow, the sturdy sculptures figures of Karl Oskar and Kristina Nilsson have been standing on their pedestal in front of the Chisago County Press building on U.S. Highway #8 in Lindstrom.

Who knew in 1970’s era that more historic icons would follow this original gift from Willard Smith, president of Plastic Products, at whose company the figures (sculpted by David White of White Bear Lake)

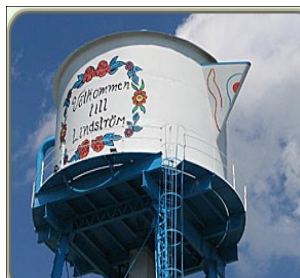


were molded out of polyurethane and covered with fiberglass. Before Smith gifted the structure to the community it rode on the Plastic Products float during Karl Oskar days, paying tribute to the lead characters in Vilhelm Moberg’s four emigrant novels about the Swedish settlements in Chisago County.

When Smith died in 1975, his widow Marlene, became president and owner of Plastic Products and steered the 35 person company into what is today, one of North America’s largest fabric molders with seven plants scattered throughout the nation.

Under Marlene’s leadership, Plastic Products ranks as #3 of the top 100 woman-owned businesses in Minnesota, and Marlene, who married Frank Messin in 1982, is regularly profiled in industry and business magazines. There is one area, however, where this successful business woman prefers to keep a low profile and that is her and Frank’s role in gifting Chisago County with historic icons that include Lindstrom’s old water tower and several historic buildings.

Since 1992, tourists who stop to visit the Karl Oskar and Kristina sculpture have been able to look down the street, turn their gaze upward and enjoy another Swedish inspired site ... a water tower turned coffee pot. Rather than see the 1908 water tower demolished when a new one was built, Marlene and Frank provided the means to not only keep the tower, but by adding a handle, a knob and spout, turned it into a giant replica of a Swedish coffee pot. To ensure a welcome to visitors the exterior was painted with a rosemaled design and includes the greeting “*Välkommen til Lindström.*”



### Historic Buildings Saved

The water tower was just the beginning. Because of Marlene and Frank’s interest in preserving history, several major historic buildings



have been saved and turned over to the community. In December 2002 the Chisago County Historical Society became the owner of the 1879 brick Italianate home that had

been the home of another of Marlene’s successful enterprises, Gustaf’s Fine Gifts and Antiques. By gifting it to the historical society, it morphed into a B & B that also hosts community gatherings and other events, the Messins were assured that this home, now on the National Register of Historic Places, would be preserved and serve the community at the same time.

In 1996, the Messin’s saved a late 1880s Queen Anne house at 13112 Third Ave. No., that was scheduled for a tear-down, had it moved to its present site just a few blocks north of the Lindstrom business district and underwrote the expenses for a walk-out basement, a new roof and other improvements. Though not as elegant as the Gustaf mini-mansion, the more modest, modified Queen Anne style frame home has proved ideal as headquarters for the Chisago County Historical Society and its research library. Previously, the society had operated out of rented quarters. There was a small horse barn on the site that also had to be moved—and that went to the Amador Heritage Center in Almelund and is part of their Swedish Immigrant Log Farm project.



In 1995, Marlene and Frank Messin came to the rescue of still another historical building, a log structure built in 1902. It was built on the shores of Green Lake south of Chisago City, the site of an early YMCA camp. In 1953, the St. Paul Council of Camp Fire Girls and Blue Birds bought the camp and used the building as the main lodge. Called Cheewin Lodge, it was bought by the Messins when the camp closed and the buildings were auctioned.

Continued on page 8—



## *A Community Leader's Giving Spirit*

- Carol Dahlquist

Marlene Messin's interest in all things historical embraces more than saving old buildings. She also is an avid collector of glassware, china, toys, dolls, and primitive farming tools to name a few of the categories she displays in the home and outbuildings where she and Frank live on Olinda Trail in Lindstrom.

She traces her interest in antique glassware back to her mother, Luella Johnson, who purchased the carnival glass punchbowl set (pictured with Marlene) for \$2.50 at an antique shop in the early 1940's. "I was very young at the time," Marlene recalls, "and to spend \$2.50 on something just because it was pretty was not something my mother took lightly."

The punchbowl set turned out to be the nucleus for Marlene's huge collection of sparkling cut glass, colorful depression glass, hand painted china, and elegant glassware of all types and sizes displayed behind glass fronted cabinets to protect them from dust and breakage, while climate control and sophisticated security measures keep the collections safe.

Many of the items (and one of the outbuildings) were purchased when Dennis Magnuson's Yesteryear Farm (Center City) was sold. Marlene is a familiar face at auctions and estate sales over the years and the end result of all this collecting is actually a private museum. Her eclectic collection includes such diverse items as Madame Alexander dolls and a life size cardboard cut-out of actor John Wayne, whose steely-eyed gaze watches protectively over the movie memorabilia section.

Frank Messin shares Marlene's passion for collecting and has a separate building for his collection of model trains...all meticulously cared for and running on time.

Marlene grew up on a farm near Forest Lake where her father Edgar Johnson, operated a well digging business with his brothers. The family also operated a sawmill and did custom sawing for area residents. Her mother "ran the farm" according to Marlene and she helped both parents, delivering lumber, milking cows and showing an early entrepreneurial streak, raised cucumbers for Gedney Pickle Company. Helping her parents in their industrious endeavors no doubt accounts for a business acumen that seems to come naturally to her.

To sum it all up, Marlene's massive collections are as organized as she is. One only has to spend a short time with her to realize the key to her growing the plastic molding and injection business is not only a gift for organization, but the ability to focus, compartmentalize (she manages to spend time with family and friends, too) and delegate responsibility. She is quick to give credit to her employees and to a dedicated personal staff that according to Marlene, "*helps keep everything running smoothly.*"



*"Communities of excellence are created by those who show up and participate. We all can do much for the neighborhoods where we live, work, and play.*

*Marlene is an incredible example of someone who has done just that. Her leadership in providing local jobs, purchasing local goods and services, saving local historic landmarks and artifacts, and generous charitable giving (often anonymously) is commendable."*

*Sherry Stirling, CCHS Executive Director*

## 2010 CHISAGO COUNTY PHOTO CONTEST

*Chisago is noted for its scenic vista's. What you see every day could be noteworthy!*

**All pictures must be taken in Chisago County.** Where will you go? There are two state parks in Chisago County. How about the Sunrise or St. Croix Rivers? Old farmsteads, barns, churches, bridges, streams, log buildings or the Kost Dam? The location must be noted on an index card attached to the photograph along with your contact information. Take your children or grandchildren out for a drive—show them the county through a camera lens.

**SUBJECT:** Buildings / Scenery— 8 x 10 format, framed.

**Must be submitted to CCHS no later than October 30, 2010.**

**Age categories—18 and under / Over age 18**

**All pictures will become the property of the Chisago County Historical Society.**

**Some of the photo's may be used in future calendars or other publications.**

**This contest is open to the public!**



Continued from page 6—

It proved to be a major project to take apart the century old building, move it to its new home at the County Fairgrounds in Rush City and reassemble what was salvageable into a serviceable building used by the County Historical Society.

In addition to gifting CCHS with these buildings, the Messins have continued their legacy to the society, and community, by contributing toward the renovation of the

Moody Round Barn site in Chisago Lakes Township. The barn now sports a new roof and a new coat of paint, but the house needs more restoration before it can be opened to the public. Make sure you visit the barn this year—it is amazing!



When Willard Smith donated the Karl Oskar and Kristina sculpture way back in the 1970's, he had no way of anticipating that other historic features would find their way onto the landscape of Chisago County.

he old farmhouse that Moberg had used as a model for Karl and Kristina's first house was moved from the middle of a field, lovingly restored and moved to Ki Chi-Saga Park in 1995. It is a "must" stop for tourists interested in the history of the area. Indeed, the plain little house takes on an almost mythical quality for devotees of Moberg's books.



Chisago City decided to honor Vilhelm Moberg himself by erecting their own sculpture featuring the author about to hop onto a borrowed bike for a ride around the

countryside to gather material for his four books. Lindstrom's own artist, Ian Dudley, was chosen for this major work, which also features a monument as a base for the sculpture.



Right across from Karl Oskar and Kristin is another, more recent historical attraction—the Veteran's Memorial featuring bricks with the names of men and women from Chisago County who have served in all the wars dating back to the Civil War.

Chisago County is big into history. And realizing that written history is not enough it keeps adding sites that can be touched, looked at, sat on and experienced. It all started 40 years ago when Karl Oskar and Kristina Nilssen were promoted from their gig riding on a float once a year to a permanent job overlooking one of the early Swedish settlements that Moberg visited so many years ago.

*Happy 40th Anniversary Karl Oskar & Kristina!*

### ***Do you have a donation for CCHS?***

***Any and all monetary donations are greatly appreciated—at any time during the year. They help us preserve the history of the county. Add a few bucks with your renewal!***

- \* *Chisago County Family Genealogy Books*
- \* *Records from schools, churches, businesses?*
- \* *Emigrant Diaries?*
- \* *Antiques? Pre-1900 clothing?*
- \* *Art, paintings, Chisago County photographs?*
- \* *A memorial gift honoring a loved one?*

***CCHS is a 501 (c) 3 organization and we take pride in our collection of artifacts.***

***\* Contact us if you would like to leave a gift in your will to the society.***

## Technology 101

*You are not computer savvy, but would like to access some of the best that is on a computer? There are computers in every library and many of them will allow you several hours of use—especially if you are there during slow times. Don't know how to use a computer? Not a problem, check out your local community education programs—or ask your grandchildren! This column will help you use some of the latest technology. What are you looking for? Contact the editor!*

<http://familysearch.org/> This is the website of the LDS Church—Church of Latter Day Saints. They have the largest genealogical collection in the world and what they have is impressive.

**Flash Drives**—Do you know what a flash drive or portable hard drive is? It plugs into the USB port on your computer and you can copy your entire “My Documents” file in seconds. We recently bought an Iomega 350 GB portable hard drive for \$70 from tigerdirect.com. How often are you backing up your hard drive? If you don't do it often, you take a chance on losing all of your data if you contract a virus or your computer is stolen. It takes almost no time—and you will never be sorry!

**Cord extenders—13” mini extension cords** that maximize the number of items that you can plug in, whether you're using a wall outlet or a power strip. Chargers take up extra power strip place—these are just great for giving you additional space. And a set of five will only cost \$10-\$12. [www.shophometrends.com](http://www.shophometrends.com)

From the same company—**full page magnifiers!** You can place it over a telephone book with small print and easily read the numbers. It's great even if you don't need bifocals! And at less than \$10, it's thin and easily fits in your briefcase—you never know when it will come in handy.

And if you may just like the idea of a **portable hands free lighted magnifier**. This is a 3X magnifier with a 5x insert lens. It stands 18” tall and runs on four AA batteries or with an optional AC adapter. The bright LED lights will shine for 100,000 hours. These are available from many catalogs and office supply stores.

**Fan Charts Anyone?** These are really impressive. They put so much information in a document. They do this by using a high definition PDF file. What looks like a meaningless blur becomes clear by zooming in. They are called At-A-Glance fan charts and are available from Millisecond Publishing Company. See <http://www.familyforest.com>.

## If You...

*Okay, I'm going to challenge you to get your children and, if you have them, grandchildren involved in history.* If you don't have children of your own, buy a book for a niece or nephew, but you may want to read them, too! These books are written in a way that draws the reader into a specific time frame.

Have a story night once every week where you read from one of these books. Or if you babysit grandchildren—read one to them when you stay with them. Live too far away? Read to them via tape cassette or webcam! You can find these books in libraries, school book fairs, used and new book stores and on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), too. And most likely on ebay, too! *You might be the catalyst for introducing a child to history—and maybe even to become a professor of history!*

These are some of my favorite books for children—and easily read by a 3rd, 4th or 5th grader—but the topics are not quite that simple and there is a great deal of history in them written in a way that makes it interesting. Last year there was a book review about the children's book ***If Your Name was Changed on Ellis Island***, but there are many more books in that series. *If you have not read that one, look for a copy!*

*Go to a bookstore, find a comfy chair and read it while you are there!*

***If You Lived 100 Years Ago (McGovern, Ann)***—it's a great look at history from a personal stand point. Where did the rich, poor and middle class live? Where did people sleep? What good were clotheslines? What did they wear and look like? What did things cost in the 1890's? What did they eat and do for fun? What was fun and cost 10 cents or less? Doctors, cars, occupations, school, child labor and more! This is a very small sampling of the topics that are covered.

If your ancestors immigrated to the U.S. in the 1880-1900 era, you must get this book. **YOU** will want to read it, too!

***If You Were a Pioneer on the Prairie (Kamma, Anne)***—what was the prairie like? Why did people want to come to the prairie? How would you build your house? What was it like to live in a dugout? How did the pioneers keep their food from spoiling? What did they eat, wear and do to have fun? Would you get lonely? Pioneer tricks? How did you stay warm? Why were the farmers afraid of grasshoppers? What were windmills used for? *Our ancestors lived this life—what better way can you find to tell these stories?*

Some of the other books in this Scholastic Publishing series include:

- ***If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon***
- ***If You Lived with the Sioux Indians***
- ***If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620***
- ***If You Traveled the Underground Railroad***
- ***If you Lived in Colonial Times***
- ***If You Lived During the American Revolution***
- ***If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War***
- ***If You Lived at the Time of Abraham Lincoln***

*There is an index in the back of them and in some books there are other resources for additional information. You can also check out Scholastic Publishing at: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/index.jsp>*

## President's Corner

Welcome to the future of the past. I thank all of the members of the Chisago County Historical Society for keeping the past alive. Here we are in the year 2010. It was a mere 10 years ago we had the "Y2K" millennium dilemma. That piece of history came and went with barely a memory of it today. We never know what will be "historic" at the time. Only after time do we really see history as it is.



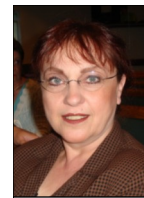
CCHS has a mission, to keep the history of our county alive and well. One of our historic jewels is the Moody Barn, south of Chisago City. This year we look forward to having a fundraiser for the roof of the house at the Moody farm. The funds of the CCHS are modest at best and do not cover all the repairs that are needed at the historic buildings we are responsible for. With a leaky roof, repairs cannot continue forward. If the CCHS, friends and community come together, anything is possible, even a new roof. Look for more details for the May 23<sup>rd</sup> family outing at the Moody Farm. This is a wonderful piece of history that needs some attention today. I am confident that we can enjoy a day at the farm and restore a slice of history for tomorrow.

*Remember to enjoy history, after all, we are living it!*

*President, Brad Rapp*

## EDITOR NOTES . . .

We hope you like the changes in the Heritage. I have stepped into the editor position so there is no disruption of the publication. Lloyd did an amazing job for 28 years—and left quite a legacy of data.



Lin Strong

If any of you would like to serve on an editorial committee, please let me know. We will only have a couple of meetings a year, but email contact works great, too! Brainstorming can be a lot of fun and it's a great chance to meet others with similar interests.

Chisago County has a rich, fascinating history. Do you have stories, diaries or other items of interest that would make a good article? Maybe you'd like to work on the Tech 101 Column? It's a great way to get involved.

*A short introduction—I live in Almelund and am a Amador Town Board Supervisor along with being very active with the Amador Heritage Center and Swedish Immigrant Log Farm. I am a member of the Chisago County Planning Commission and a real estate appraiser. I also edit the newsletter for the Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America and travel to Germany every chance I get. My proudest accomplishments, however, are my children and grandchildren—the next generations.*

***Get in touch with us and let us know how you can help!***

## OTHER CCHS MEETINGS:

**First Tuesday and Third Thursday every month:** Fiber Art group meets from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the History Center (13112 Third Avenue North, Lindstrom). Bring your project – knitting, quilting, spinning, etc and join the group. Stay for an hour or all day. Free coffee and pot luck treats. No fees. Lunch break from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm usually at China Panda.

**Third Wednesday every month:** Genealogy support provided at History Center (13112 Third Avenue North, Lindstrom). Bring your family history questions and we will work on them together. 1-3 p.m. or call for an appointment to use the resources of the research library. *Refreshments served.*

## CCHS Board of Directors:

### Officers:

President: Brad Rapp—brapper987@hotmail.com  
Vice President: Perry Lindberg - perry@perrysautosalon.com  
Secretary: Deb Perry—debandcritters@yahoo.com

### Directors:

Robert Chudek— Robert.Chudek@gmail.com  
Barbara Johnson—barbejohnson@gmail.com  
Neil Gatzow—neil@curecovery.com  
Jim Buelow—651-465-3024

### Executive Director:

Sherry Stirling—chisagohistory@frontiernet.net

***Volunteers are needed to staff CCHS open house events. No experience needed! Please call us at 651-257-5310 and leave a message.***

## Do you know about Yahoo?

*Not the search engine, but a part of Chisago County Historical Society that you will find very interesting!*

*Check this out!*



**http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cchsmn/** - you will need a yahoo account, but that is free. If you are interested, there is no cost to join. This is a great way to exchange data via email—no meetings and no costs involved. Just click on "JOIN THE GROUP". The more people that join, the better the information that is exchanged. There are already 23 members—can you make that 24?

Looking for cemetery information, visit **www.FindAGrave.com** and search for Chisago County, MN. Photos are being added daily. If you like detailed computer work, we can use your help.

**UPCOMING ISSUES**

The Chisago County Historical Society Heritage Journal is published four times each year. Newsletters are printed February, May, August and November and sent by bulk mail.

We are happy to consider any contributions of historical or genealogical information. Whether we can use your material is based on such factors as general interest to our members, our need to cover certain subjects, balance through the year and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all submitted materials for presentation and grammar. The editor will correct errors and may need to determine length of copy.

Contributors are responsible for accuracy, omissions and factual errors. Cite documentation for facts or statistical information and give complete source for all abstracted or transcribed records.

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- What type of information is in U.S. Census Records? Why do we need a census? Tracing a family using Chisago County U.S. Census Records.
- Ancestry.com—a step-by-step guide “how-to” and tips.
- Obituaries, birth records and marriage information found in local newspapers.
- The Almelund Threshing Party & CCHS
- The Coen Brothers & CCHS / Two Serious Men

CCHS Website—<http://www.chisagocountyhistory.org/>

**CCHS CONTACT INFORMATION**

Executive Director: Sherry Stirling  
13112 Third Ave. No.  
P.O. Box 146

Lindström, MN 55045

Telephone: 651-257-5310 (Please leave a message if you reach the answering machine!)

Email: [chisagohistory@frontiernet.net](mailto:chisagohistory@frontiernet.net)

**Do we have your current email address, personal website information?**

**Please contact us with that data for our records! Email us at [chisagohistory@frontiernet.net](mailto:chisagohistory@frontiernet.net)**

**Membership ~**

The Chisago County Historical Society provides a variety of educational programs year around. These range from monthly genealogy workshops to folk art demonstrations at local community festivals to special events featuring food, fellowship and guest speakers. Information about our upcoming programs is published in the *CCHS Connection* (one of our newsletters) and in various local newspapers. The Society also publishes the *Heritage* newsletter which is filled with articles about the history and heritage of the local area. Newsletters are distributed every other month free of charge to our members. Membership is open to anyone interested in furthering the mission and goals of the Society and does not require participation in activities, except as your interest, time and talents permit. Volunteers are always welcome! Consider this your invitation to get involved!

**Your donations are vital to our 501 (c) 3 organization. We appreciate any donation you can include with your membership or any other time during the year.**

**Chisago County Historical Society  
Membership Application/Renewal Form (Please print)**

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

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

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

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

Types of Annual Memberships Available:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ Patron: \$40
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$30
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$20

Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you!

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Chisago County Historical Society** and send with completed form to: CCHS, P.O. Box 146, Lindström, MN 55045-0146

# CHISAGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 146  
Lindström, MN  
55045-0146

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## 2010 Upcoming Programs...

- ***Minnesota's Most Haunted Locations***

***Open to the Public!***

***Friday, March 23, Gustaf House, Lindstrom, 7 p.m.***

The presenter is Chad Lewis, an author, researcher on topics of the strange and unusual. Join us for a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in Minnesota from phantom creatures prowling in the woods to graveyard apparitions. This presentation is complete with photos, case histories, eye-witness accounts and ghost lore.

- ***Filmmaker Karin Green's Film "At Home With Audrey."***

***Thursday, March 25, Chisago Lakes Library, 7 p.m.***

This film is the Stacy resident's first foray into documentary film making and stars her mother Audrey Jensen Green talking about the Great Depression and the later boom. Part of the Minnesota Historical Society series "***Moving Pictures—Shared Stories of Minnesota's Greatest Generation.***" Make sure you bring your friends and neighbors to this event!

- ***Family Farm Fest at the Moody Round Barn Park***

***Sunday, May 23, 2010 — Noon to 4 p.m.*** Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

Pot luck picnic at noon, fishing, live animals, building tours. 24401 Lofton Ave. So., Chisago City, MN

- ***Karl Oskar Days, Lindstrom, MN July 7-11***

- ***Chisago County Fair, Rush City, MN—July 15-18***