

MECCA NEWS AND DUES

*Museum Encompassing Canby Community Area
A Nonprofit Corporation*

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2007

Officers:

President: Bud Qualley
V. P: Bernie Miller
Secretary: Bernie Miller
Treasurer: Bud Qualley

Directors:

Lois Hanson
William Lund
Betty Hanna
Bud Qualley
Don Berndt
Dar Snortum
LaMome Wiest
Bernie Miller
Jan Pederson
Doug Hintz

The End of an Era...

This will be my last message to MECCA members and friends as MECCA's President/Treasurer. After 32 years it is time and probably long past time. New officers are elected annually in June, and I will decline any request to serve another term.

In 2007 the floor of the Carriage Shed/MECCA Interpretive Center will be redone and a few other minor projects taken care of. Then the two structures and the grounds will, in my opinion, be in the best condition since MECCA became the owner, and well it should be. In addition to hours of volunteer labor and a donation of some \$800.00 of paint, MECCA has spent the whopping sum of \$48,841.18 for material and labor during the calendar years of 2005 and 2006 for restoration and repairs to the house, interpretive center and grounds. When

you consider that MECCA paid \$18,000.00 for the property, the number becomes that much more impressive.

Nearly 100% of this expense was funded by MECCA's 2005 Buy-A-Bundle

fund raising project so my thanks go out again to the donors including the 59% that came from individuals and companies not located in Canby. So, in spite of these major expenditures, I believe that the financial condition of the corporation remains basically sound.



Lund-Hoel House
Est 1891

~John (Bud) Qualley-
President 1975-2007

The Beginning of an Era...

The Historic Lund-Hoel House and Interpretive Center will be available in Cyberspace with the opening of our new website this month:
www.CanbyMuseums.org.

The site has been in development for quite sometime, and will feature tour schedule, event information, pictures, history, and much more including stories from our own Darold Snortum highlighting his personal history of growing up in Canby. Samples of those stories are included in this newsletter. Additional stories and pictures from Darold and others will be added to the website in the near future.

The Members have been instrumental in providing information, pictures, and input into the development of the website, making it as informative and interesting as possible.

We hope you enjoy the site and give us feedback. Please feel free to share the site with friends and relatives.

Your support of the most famous house in Canby is greatly appreciated!!! Without this support, a large part of the history of Canby would not be available in a public format.

~Jan Pederson,
Advertising & Publishing

Special Events:

- *Annual Meeting:
Second Wednesday in June*
- *Ice Cream Social:
July*
- *VFW Steak Fry*
- *Open : June thru Labor Day*
- *Group Tours: available*
- *Daily Schedule:
To be announced in May...*

Local Tales & Memories

By Dar Snortum

Lake Sylvan

The original lake was 2 to 3 times bigger than it is now (after being dug out in 1988). Shortly after the lake was built a young man drowned, trying to swim across the lake. I can remember sitting on the North bank watching boats drag for the body. Later there was a lifeguard on duty most of the time, with Sam McGorman and Maurice Hunt were two that I can remember. There were Red Cross swimming lessons then as now.

It seems the lake began to gradually fill in every time high water would occur. We could feel a layer of mud beginning to form on the bottom. I would guess that most swimming had stopped by the late 1940s. However, when we were kids it was a wonderful place to swim. In the years that followed the lake filled in more and more until it was basically a slew filled with reeds. In 1988 Kockelman Construction offered to dig out the area to a depth of 4 ft. for a price of \$14,000. This was done and it is felt that because of 3 dams built west of town, the sediment problem should be under control. I feel Kockelman's did this for civic pride because they certainly lost money on the project.

~Excerpt... Full story available on the website.

Kids Play

I'm probably wrong, but I have the feeling that when we were kids we had more fun than kids do now days. The main reason being play wasn't organized like it is now. We could pretty much do what we wanted when we wanted. I can remember warm summer days, lying on my back on the grass, hearing chickens clucking in the background, doing nothing but looking at the different shaped clouds. I wonder if kids now ever do that? We did have plenty to do though when we felt like it.

Neighborhood softball games in the evening, just hating to see it get dark. We'd play double or triple work-up. Two or three players keep batting until one is put out. The out player moves out to right field and every one moves up a position until they get to bat. Do they still do that--I don't know. Our field was railroad property where Nordquist furniture now stands [currently Outland Wind].

There were three distinct spring areas. Always a good cold drink trickling into the creek. Exploring and building small dams were part of the fun. We had to find many excuses for coming home with wet clothes and shoes. We were always trying to build a raft but usually ended up with wet feet. Never could find enough logs to do a good job but we had fun trying.

It was always exciting to stand close to the railroad track and watch the freight trains, steam locomotives, go by. It took a number of years before we dared to stand under the bridge while the train was going over.

I've got to admit that we were probably as hung up on radio shows after school as kids are on TV today. As we got a little older, we would sprawl on the carpet by the radio and be intrigued by shows like "The Lux Radio Theatre, The FBI in Peace and War, Suspense, Edger Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Jack Benny, Fibber McGee and Molly" and many, many more. A good imagination easily took the place of video. I also remember listening to many boxing matches, especially Joe Lewis fights.

You still see premiums offered on products, cereal, candy, etc. Now, most premiums are available with a proof of purchase and a sum of money. Years ago, most promotions were free with a substantial number of box tops or candy wrappers. Sometimes there would be a short cut method with fewer box tops and a little cash. However, if you had patience and pestered your folks to buy the product (and willingly ate the product) you could get quality prizes. Post cereals, Mars, Baby Ruth, Planters Peanuts were some of the prominent products. We always kept our eyes to the ground as we walked, looking for candy wrappers.

~Excerpt... Full stories available on the website.

Familiar Faces and Old Times! The Qualley Connection:



John (Bud) Qualley with his sister, Jackie.

John (Bud) Qualley, who has served the board for 32 years, has been an integral part of the Lund-Hoel House for many years. Bud's sister, June Qualley Duis, and her husband Francis, lived in the Lund-Hoel House from 1944 to October of 1946. At that time there were three apartments contained in house:

Francis and June Duis, along with 2 of their children, Lani and Richard, occupied the apartment on the main floor facing Highway 75. Lani was one of the first new-borns for this old house. Francis put up a short fence within the stone fence for Lani & Jimmy to play in. One day when "someone" left the front iron gate open, the two children were missing. They had wandered up to Haarfager to look things over.

In the apartment facing the park, lived Dan and Clara Crowley. Their daughter, Margaret, lived in the upstairs apartment.

James and Margaret McConnel, along with their son, Jimmy occupied the upstairs apartment in the house. James was in the service at that time, and he was stationed in England. Having Margaret's parents live just downstairs was a great benefit for a serviceman's wife. They were close by for help and support at this time.

More pictures and information on the history of the house are available on the website: www.CanbyMuseums.org.

Please visit our new Website: www.CanbyMuseums.org



Lani (Duis) Cleveland and Jim McConnel. ~Picture taken at the Lund-Hoel House

Membership Dues Information and Benefits

Dear Friends,

We wish to extend a special invitation for you to join us as a member of MECCA to preserve the Lund-Hoel House for future generations. Your generous support is needed and deeply appreciated to maintain the museum!

Annual membership is \$15.00 (tax deductible).

Please return your donation in the enclosed envelope. If you receive your newsletter by email, please remit to: MECCA, %LaMorne Wiest, 405 Oscar Ave N, Canby, MN 56220-1337

In addition: you will receive the following benefits:

- **Unlimited visits for you and your family and guests**
- **Reduced prices on materials and items for sale at the museum**
- **Participation in annual and other meetings of MECCA**

Please join us in our efforts to maintain this important part of Canby's heritage! THANK YOU!!!

MUSEUM ENCOMPASSING CANBY
COMMUNITY AREA
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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Est. 1891

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A Word from the President

Greetings Members,

At the Board of Directors annual meeting in June 2007, I am planning to introduce a resolution to amend the corporate by-laws in several respects. The most important will be to abolish the offices of president and treasurer and create two new offices: 1.) chief executive officer (CEO) who would be in charge of the day to day operations of the corporation and maintenance and operation of the museum, interpretive center and grounds 2.) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) who would have all the duties of the former treasurer and also some of the duties of a financial and fiscal nature previously handled by the president.

It is my hope and belief that my stepping down and the creation of the new offices of CEO and CFO will help in attracting new members to the board and someone new to take over as CEO.

MECCA and myself have been fortunate over these many years to have excellent, hardworking and dedicated board members who head up and serve on the various committees needed to take care of the maintenance and operation of this historic site.

Sincerely,
Bud Qualley, President

The Canby Depot

Please visit our sister organization, The Canby Depot, when you are in Canby. The Depot is in its sixth season and also houses the Visitor Information Center. The Depot is now home to the old volumes of the Canby News dating back to 1885.

MECCA's Newest Board Member

Doug Hintz is married with 3 children (all girls) and 3 grandchildren. His wife, Linda, works at the Canby High School as a Para Professional and teaches piano lessons out of the home.

The family is all music lovers living with the family pets, a dog Mickey and 2 cats, Betsey and Charlie. Doug is an Insurance Broker specializing primarily in Medicare related field working out of his home office. Bailey is the youngest child at age 9, Sydney is age 17, and the oldest daughter Nicole is age 23. Nicole has 3 kids (2 boys and 1 girl) who live in South Dakota.

Linda and Doug have always had an interest with preserving the hard work and ambitions of the past relating to wood construction, homes, etc. They are currently trying to preserve and restore their own home, which was built in 1896. Doug believes it was one of the first houses built in Canby and also has some interesting history, including being a Funeral Home at one time.

Doug says, "The quality and character of older homes is worth preserving, as well as our own heritage. The history of the Midwest is particularly fascinating to me because it is probably some of the least changed and least influenced by the extreme growth we see in other parts of the United States."

As a board member of MECCA, Doug hopes to somehow help preserve a part of ourselves that exist in our past generations.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD, DOUG!

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

If you or any one you know of is interested in serving on the Board, please contact a Board member for information.



**Tree of Life:
Please take time to
view the Linden tree
in the back yard of
the Lund-Hoel House.
It is over 100 years**