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St. Lawrence Strait House Grand Opening a Success

A grand opening on May 19 was held to celebrate the restoration of the historic S.B. Strait house by SCHS and the Minnesota DNR.

Visitors included the last residents of the house and descendents of S.B. Strait. Immigrant trunks made by students at Sunpath Elementary School were on display. Activities included the game of hoops and sticks and hiking tours of the area.

The Strait house is the last remaining building in what once was the town of St. Lawrence, settled in 1857.



Located in the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area on County Rd 57, the Strait House is open on weekends .

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Stans Foundation Reneges On Agreement with Society

In the last issue we reported that the SCHS met with the County and Stans Foundation to discuss the future vitality of the museum.

At the wishes of the Stans Foundation, the SCHS board prepared a plan to implement the items outlined by a museum consultant in a recently completed Museum Assessment Report.

The plan included a board retreat (requested by the Stans Foundation) to prioritize the items in the report and subsequent planning document. The plan also included an exhibit plan based on the understanding arrived at the December meeting, at which the Stans Foundation acknowledged the value of the reports and

agreed to its implementation, making specific requests of the SCHS.

This spring, the SCHS proceeded with implementing the plan, in accordance to the agreement at the December meeting with the Stans Foundation.

The Stans Foundation has since reversed its position and has moved to block the SCHS from continuing to address the items outlined in the consultant's report.

The SCHS Board believes their intent to implement the recommendations is appropriate with respect to organizational health, preservation of its collection, and their commitment to honor Maurice H. Stans.

Puppet Show at Area Libraries

Judith Hentges took her pioneer puppet show, "Seasons of the Heart" to the seven Scott County libraries in June. A total of 338 children and 72 adults attended the programs.

The puppet show follows a pioneer family in 1870 through the four seasons of the year including chores, planting, preparing for winter, and dealing with Minnesota weather.

The children in attendance received a chance to try some of the equipment mentioned in the puppet show including a coffee mill and darning egg. As always, the seed planter was the favorite. Does this mean there will be corn growing in our libraries soon?

A new puppet show, "It's Fair Time!" will be a part of our Scott County Fair exhibit. Show times will be posted daily at the fair. The fair dates are July 25-29, 2001.



Recent Donations to the Society's Collection

- Gertrude Stillman: Black and white Shakopee baseball team photographs.
- Sandi Andersen: Polaroid Land Camera 800.
- Harriet Pink: Photographs of St. John's 3rd and 4th graders, political card for Henry Arens, wedding photograph of Frank and Tensi Kleshult.
- Ann Kahle: Wagon wrenches, straight razors, cigar box, Kahle family photographs.
- Jay Whiting: 1994 Belle Plaine Bar-B-Q Days button.
- Claude Sinnen: 1963 Scott County Atlas, photographs of Rahr Malting, St. Mark's convent, Jim and Lucy's restaurant, and Minnesota River flooding.
- Leo Albrecht: Atlas E-Z Seal glass canning jar.
- Jens Bohn: 2001 Dan Patch Days button.
- Betty Dols: Shakopee Post Office pencil and Dan Patch Coins pen.
- Mary Jane Schmitt: Geneology of Schmitt, Pin, Sames families.



Old Time Summer Recipes from the Collection

Two summer recipes just in time for tomato and strawberry season. Sue Melchior and Irene Powers are both members of SCHS. These recipes appeared

first in the 1970 St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women cook book entitled *Mixing Spoons to Stock Pots*, a copy of which is part of the SCHS collections.

Strawberry Bavarian Mold Salad

- 1–3 oz. Strawberry gelatin
- 1/2 c Sugar
- 1 c Boiling Water
- 1/3 c Cold Water
- 1 tbsp Lemon Juice
- 1 c Fresh Strawberries, chopped
- 1 tub Cool Whip
- Dash Salt

Dissolve gelatin, sugar, and salt in boiling water. Add cold water and lemon juice. Chill until slightly thickened. Blend 1 1/2 cups of Cool Whip and strawberries into gelatin. Pour into a 1 1/2 quart mold. Chill until firm, 3 hours or longer. Unmold; garnish with remaining Cool Whip.

From Irene Powers

Gazpacho

- 2 Ripe Tomatoes
- 1 Cucumber, peeled
- 1/4 c Green Pepper, diced
- 1/4 c Onion, diced
- 1 c Tomato Juice, canned
- 1 tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 1/2 tbsp Vinegar
- Dash Tabasco Sauce
- Salt
- Pepper
- Garlic Salt

Put all ingredients in blender and serve cold with a slice of lemon for garnish. Serves 4.

From Sue Melchior

New Exhibits in Courthouse "Link"

In partnership with Scott County, the Historical Society has placed an exhibit case in the lobby of the Government Center. Located in the "Link", the case will be used for displaying items from the museum's collection and exhibits related to county history.

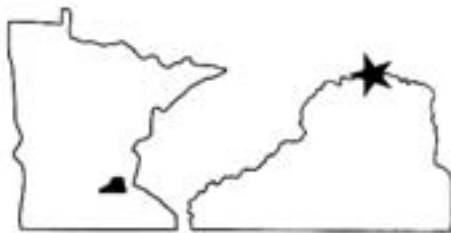
Exhibits have already included immigrant trunks from fourth graders at Sunpath Elementary and an exhibit for Memorial Day by the Scott County Veterans Services Department.

Currently, the exhibit case features typewriters, cameras, a telephone, and other technology from the past. Stop by and see how things have changed.

For more information, please contact Megan, the museum curator, at 445-0348.



**SCOTT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
searching, saving and sharing the history of Scott County



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CO.SCOTT.MN.US/HISTORY/HISTORIC.HTML

Mark Your Calendar: SCHS Upcoming Events

July 26-29

Scott County Fair

Join us at our exhibit every day from 1-6 pm and enjoy a special puppet show. Learn to make corn husk dolls and seed art.

July 26

Monthly Crazy Quilt Meeting

Join the crazy quilting group at their monthly fourth-Thursday evening get-together from 6:30–8:00 pm. Learn to quilt or share your knowledge with others. Everyone welcome.

Sept. 22

City to Country Tour

Join SCHS and Scott County Extension for the third annual self-guided tour. The SCHS site for this year is the round Kajer/Devine barn in New Market Township which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Includes tours, crafts, and demonstrations.

Oct. 16

Family Treasures Workshop and Annual Meeting

Join us at 6:30 pm at the Prior Lake Library for this free workshop at our annual meeting. Join MHS conservator Bob Herskovitz and learn how to take care of your family treasures.

Oct. 20

A History Happening! Family Day

A special program including crafts, games, and a tour of the Stans House. Stop by from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Stay tuned for information regarding the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Scott County. To join in planning this year long event, call 445-0378.
