

## Volunteer With Event Planning

Do you enjoy planning events and participating in behind-the-scenes activities? Become a member of the Event Planning Committee. This committee will plan events that promote SCHS such as exhibit openings, lectures and special programs. Possible events include a historic house tour, chamber orchestra recital, and bus trip. If interested, contact Cathy Isles at 496-5031. The Event Planning Committee will meet in late September to discuss ideas and then will meet on an as needed basis as events occur.

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## Spotlight On Stans Museum Public Programming

Plans for the second half of 2002 and the beginning of 2003 are currently being developed at SCHS. The Historical Society's relationship with Shakopee Community education continues with more programming this fall. The Lunchbox Lectures are the second Wednesday of each month beginning in October with topics including Rock Spring Bottling Company and Shakopee stoves. Other programming includes a genealogy class taught by Betty Dols and a junior high history hunt in Shakopee.

Visitors are certainly getting their money's worth when touring the museum. Judith Hentges, the education coordinator, shares stories and fun facts with visitors. Visitation to the Stans House has also increased and with it efforts to develop an interpretive plan for the site. Volunteers are



needed to fix the first floor restroom and make period-appropriate kitchen curtains. Tours are available during the week and by appointment.

A logo for the museum was adopted this summer (see above). The design incorporates the Historical Society logo with the name of the museum. The logo reflects the close relationship between the two entities but allows each to maintain its own identity.

## Local Authors and History Featured in Book Sales

The most recent addition to the book sales at the Scott County Historical Society is a book of poetry by Jordan author Jesse Coghill. *Voices Are Calling* includes reflections on life, relationships, and the loss of loved ones.

Joe, Mike, and Pat Huber share images from their postcard collection and others in the book *Shakopee Scrapbook: Photographs and Postcards of Shakopee*. The book, also for sale, offers a glimpse into Shakopee's past including bars, hotels, and fires.

Retired teacher Tom Melchior interviewed teachers from around the state

for his book. *They Called Me Teacher: Stories of Minnesota School Teachers and Students* recounts tales of one-room school houses.

Amazed by the stories in the current circus exhibit? *Tales of a Small Town Circus Legend* tells the stories of Leo Albrecht as he lived the life of a circus performer from Belle Plaine. Written by his son and grandson, the book includes photographs from the families collection.

These books and more on the history of Scott County are available for sale at SCHS.

## Annual Meeting & Film Preview

The annual meeting of the Scott County Historical Society will be Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stans Museum in Shakopee. The agenda for the meeting includes updating and amending the by-laws and the election of three board positions. Members will have an opportunity to meet the Board of Directors and share in the vision for the upcoming year.

Following the annual meeting, members will receive a sneak preview of a new historical documentary. To mark Scott County's sesquicentennial anniversary March 5, 2003, a video on the history of Scott County is being produced. Professional media producer Ossian Or has spent much of the past year trooping across the county filming events, interviewing residents, and gathering information for the production. In addition to presenting parts of the film, Mr. Or will discuss his experience and related issues of the creative and technical process of producing it.

Members will receive more information regarding the by-laws and elections, including a sample ballot, in the mail. For more information regarding the annual meeting, the history video, or the celebration of Scott County's 150th anniversary, contact SCHS.

## Stans House Receives Make-Over



With the financial aid of a federally funded Community Development Block Grant, the Stans house has received a much-needed face-lift. Based on paint analysis, the house has been returned to the original 1908 paint colors. Repairs to the house included replacing water-damaged fascia, soffets, and the cedar shake roof on the front porch.

A separate project included the trimming and removal of several trees; this helps ensure adequate sun and air flow to enable the wood roof and siding to last.

## Sugary Floss and Ballyhoo Music Mark Largest Exhibit Opening Ever

The last Saturday in June proved to be sunny and hot as 250 visitors ate cotton candy, had their faces painted, and played games in the Stans Garden Park. It was the opening of *LAADIES & GENTLEMEN: The Albright Circus* exhibit. Never before has the Scott County Historical Society put on such a large exhibit opening event and the large crowd was ample reward.

Ralph Schultz of Belle Plaine brought his Ballyhoo to the event and its organ music filled the park. Leo Albrecht, Jr. spoke fondly about growing up in the circus and his wife Gloria, also a circus performer, kept the crowd laughing. Circus lovers of all ages filled the cool, air-conditioned museum. Husbands and wives tested their knowledge of circus lingo, moms and dads tested their strength, and kids danced in front of the funhouse mirrors.

Thanks to the volunteers who set up tents and tables, greeted visitors, played games, and handed out treats.



## Looking Back: Street Fairs and Circus Acts Perform in Scott County

*Scott County Argus*  
September 26, 1901

At 2 p.m. the program of sports, which could not be carried out in the morning, was begun. LaDare, a trapeze performer, did some hair-raising feats on a trapeze in front of Schaefer's café, and his balancing nets brought forth much applause. Matthews and Norman, in the unicycle and revolving globe act, followed, on the bandstand at the Argus corner. Next came the high wire act by Williams & Williams.

*Scott County Argus*  
September 21, 1899

Yesterday morning was virtually the beginning of the fair proper...The program of the day proved entertaining, with perhaps the exception of the much heralded tight rope performance, which was about the flimsiest thing that could have well been given. The managers have seen to it that the performance today shall be worthy of the name. The acrobats will give their slack wire and juggling exhibition in full at the hour named for the high rope walking.

...In the evening Prof. Torley gave a good exhibition of fancy cycle riding, the scene being lighted up by Greek fire, gas jets, torches and lanterns, following which event the lantern parade and drill of the cyclists was given. ...The slack wire exhibition given on Bridge square today was very clever, and Willard brothers restored themselves to favor in the eyes of the public and the fair managers.



*Belle Plaine Herald*  
June 6, 1900

Gollmer Bros. circus drew an immense crowd of people here yesterday and gave two good performances, especially the one in the afternoon when they had the largest attendance, about twice the seating capacity and gave a far more lengthy program. They gave a good parade and their entire outfit has bright clean appearance about it that attracts attention. The horses and animals also show that they have the best attention.

*Belle Plaine Herald*  
June 18, 1902

Gollmar Bros. & Schumans circus proved to be better than ever. This circus keeps right on enlarging and their fourth visit to Belle Plaine Thursday plainly showed that this is the largest wagon show now traveling in the Northwest. There is nothing to excel them now excepting the largest railroad shows, which visit only the principal cities. Gollmar Bros. have a very good selection of animals now and with their two ring circus and staging between, performing in three places at the same time is as much as the largest shows do. The managers are a gentlemanly lot of people, allow no gamblers or fakirs on their premises and have the reputation of giving one of the cleanest shows traveling. The town was crowded with people from the surrounding country to see the parade which was the best seen here in many years. Both the afternoon and evening performances were well attended.



## SCHS Summer Includes Rain, Antiques, Quilters, Puppets, and More

Two hours of steady rain on the roof of the education building on the last night of the county fair was a loud adventure. Many of those who were trapped inside decided to quilt. Quilting on the sunbonnet sue quilt was a huge success all four days of the fair. Men, women, boys, and girls all did some stitches. Even candidates running for office—governor included—worked on the quilt. It was fun having a team of volunteers there. Thank you to Jay and Melissa Whiting, Cathy Isles, Tom Melchior, Dr. Pistulka, Bob Sorensen, Sandi Andersen, Ethel Jacobson, Harriet Pink, and Mary Beckrich.

Over 100 people had items appraised at the Emma Krumbes Appraisal Fair and Antiques in the Orchard event on the morning of July 29. Darrah Williams from Darrah's Auctions in Burnsville volunteered her time and expertise to the crowds. SCHS curator, Megan Schaack, was on hand to lend advice on how to care and preserve the antiques and heirlooms.



Tiffany and Courtney Collins

(Did you see her on Good Day Minnesota or hear her on the radio?) The proceeds from the appraisals were donated to SCHS. Look for the now annual event next year.

Once again the pioneer puppet family performed at all seven libraries in Scott County this summer. Approximately 270 children and adults watched the shows. This time the family was preparing for the Scott County Fair in the show "It's Fair Time". What will the family do next?

## Recent Gifts to the SCHS Collections: Thank You Generous Donors

- **Tom Melchior:** Ice tongs and saw used in Belle Plaine for ice fishing on the Minnesota River.
- **Edmund Monnens:** Inkwells, pens, and typewriter once used by the clerk at the county courthouse.
- **Leo Albrecht, Jr:** Sts. Peter and Paul's Parochial School report card, Albright Circus memorabilia.
- **Constance Notermann Johnson:** Photograph of Ellen Winker.
- **Theresa Brenke:** 4-H ribbons, secretary's book, program schedule, and certificate of leadership.
- **Loretta Lebens:** Numerous photographs taken by LeRoy Lebens.
- **Harry Notermann:** Book, *On the Farm* by Isabelle Notermann.
- **Dr. Rolland Pistulka:** Book, *History of Czechs in America* by Jan Habenicht.
- **Tom Koskovich:** 1931 Photograph of parishioners for St. Mark's Diamond Jubilee in Shakopee.



Photograph by LeRoy Lebens

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## Stans Advocated Changes in Accounting Profession 50 Years Ago

In this time of corporate mistrust and reporting scandals, one recalls a Minnesotan who advocated standardized accounting principles to increase transparency and trust in corporate America. While perhaps best known nationally for his role in President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign, much of Maurice Stans' career centered on the development of the accounting profession. He wrote articles and spoke nationally on the social responsibility of the accounting profession and its vital role in maintaining America's free enterprise system. "Accounting can well become a...means of creating understanding, confidence, and rationality in economic affairs." His call to standardize accounting practices further led to reforms within the profession.

From 1941 to 1955, Stans dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort to his profession. In 1943 and again in 1945, he testified before the Senate Finance Committee on tax matters. Gradually, he became increasingly concerned with the lack of professional accounting techniques, which he felt if allowed to continue could only lead to government regulation.

In 1947, Stans began to speak publicly on the social responsibility of accounting, saying "those who deal with financial accounting should help to establish strength for the system by permitting no compromise with either independent truthfulness or with a vocation to serve the public interest." Stans felt strongly that permissible variation in practice needed to be narrowed and the meanings of terms and the applications of principles made uniform.

Stans believed the changes he advocated would allow financial data to be "relied upon by all those interested, including investors, bankers, the general public, labor unions, legislators, and government agencies." "This, in turn," he wrote, "would build a base for confidence in the system by eliminating misunderstandings of the wage-cost-price-profit-capital relationships and by correcting erroneous impressions as to the size of earnings, the impact of taxation, or the benefits received by owners."

Another area Stans identified in need of change was the use of reserves for possible future losses. Many companies used this technique to hide profits in good

times and pad them in poor times. Stans attacked the practice in an article in the *Journal of Accountancy* in March 1948 and quickly saw the procedure end.

In 1950, Stans proposed and oversaw the production of the *CPA Handbook* by the American Institute of Accountants, a first effort to codify accounting standards. Because of his efforts, the institute awarded Stans the annual gold medal for outstanding service and elected him president. (In 1957 the institute became the AICPA, which continues to promote the professionalism of the accounting profession through conduct and licensing standards.)

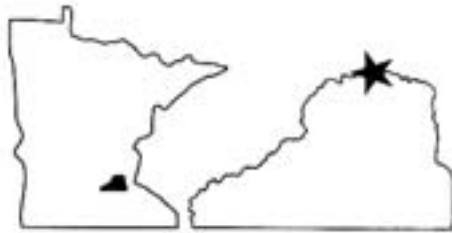
Accounting change did come, but slowly. In 1973, the Financial Accounting Standards Board of accountants, businessmen, and government officials formed to establish standards for accounting and reporting. Moreover, as Stans had worked to achieve, "Public accounting was recognized as having a responsibility to all segments of the society rather than merely to a select clientele." Questions have recently risen about the public's trust in the American financial markets. The advocates for greater scrutiny of corporate accounting and auditing seem to echo Stans' calls of nearly one half century ago. Indeed, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is currently proposing expanded government oversight of accounting much as Stans predicted.

Maurice Stans was born in Shakopee in 1908. He grew up in a small house next to the railroad tracks, graduating from Shakopee high school in 1925. Stans left Shakopee to attend Northwestern University in Chicago. While there, he began performing audits for the accounting firm of Alexander Grant & Co. During the Great Depression, he worked in the New York office investigating insurance claims. By 1940, he was the sole owner of the firm. When he left in 1954, Alexander Grant & Co. had offices in 20 cities and over 400 employees.

To learn more about Stans' career as an accountant, Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, visit the Stans Museum in Shakopee. Stans' boyhood home is also available for tours during the week and by appointment.

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



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## Remember Not to Miss Everything Happening At SCHS This Fall

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| <p><b>Sept. 14</b>      <b>City to Country Tour</b><br/>Join us from noon to 4:00 p.m. for this drive-yourself tour of five local sites. SCHS will be at the Samuel B. Strait house in Jordan. See insert for details.</p> <p><b>Sept. 18</b>      <b>Lunchbox Lecture: Rock Spring</b><br/>Local collector John Rademacher shares his enthusiasm for Rock Spring Bottling Company memorabilia. Noon to 1:00 p.m. Free.</p> <p><b>Sept. 21</b>      <b>Dozinky Day</b><br/>The annual festival includes a parade and pastries. Visit the SCHS booth for fun and games from 10:00 to 5:00. Please call SCHS to volunteer.</p> <p><b>Sept. 26</b>      <b>Crazy Quilters</b><br/>Join the group every fourth Thursday at the museum for quilting. No experience necessary. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Oct. 9</b>      <b>Lunch Box Lecture: Shakopee Stoves</b><br/>Join Nicole Murray as she shares information from her research of the Shakopee stove works. Nicole is a graduate student at St. Cloud State University. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Free.</p> <p><b>Oct. 10</b>      <b>SCHS Annual Meeting</b><br/>The annual meeting includes elections and changes to the by-laws. See a sneak preview of a film about the history of Scott County. Everyone welcome. 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Dec. 10</b>      <b>Holiday Tea at Stans House</b><br/>Share songs while eating cookies and sipping tea at the 1908 Stans House. For more information and to register, contact Shakopee Community Ed at 496-5029. Fee: \$5.</p> |
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**The Stans Museum will be closed  
Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving holiday.**

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