



COTTONWOOD

County Historical Society

Monday—Friday 8 am— 4 pm and Saturday 10 am—4 pm by appointment

SPRING 2023

In the Remick Gallery:

“Salmagundi: A Collection”

by Anna Johannsen

The new art show in the Remick Gallery entitled *Salmagundi: A Collection* by Windom artist, Anna Johannsen, recently opened Sunday, May 7. The opening reception brought over 60 friends, family and members to hear Anna talk about her work in the gallery. Anna is a self-taught quilter and fiber artist known for her 3D quilts and wall hangings. In this exhibit she expands into a variety of mediums including watercolors, pencil drawings, oil paintings and mixed media. Her main focus remains beautifully designed textiles of which you will see many. This exhibit is the summer show and runs through August 26.

“Be brave! Expand your experiences by asking yourself, “What if....?” Make art an adventure by trying something different.

...Anna Johannsen, 2023



New in the Gift Shop

Check out our newest addition to the Gift Shop from Mountain Lake artist, Nancy Nelson. She has put together a packet of notecards that showcase Mountain Lake's Heritage Village. Nancy retired from teaching art in Mountain Lake and continues to enjoy art and showcasing the local landscape. Also, we have a few books left from our April speaker Carolyn Sowinski entitled *The Great Storm: Minnesota's Victims in the Blizzard of January 7, 1873.*

REMICK GALLERY

Winners Announced from Give It Your Best Shot

The Cottonwood County Historical Society congratulates the top four individuals whose photographs were chosen by the public in the winter show entitled “Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Celebrations.” The first place winner was Juane Elston with her photograph entitled “Fair Farewell” taken at the Cottonwood County Fair. Second place honors go to Janice White for her photograph “This is Awesome” of an event at Riverfest. Two photographs tied for third place. Sharing the honor is Pat Elston with her photograph entitled “S’more Fun” of two children enjoying a s’more at the Windom Country Club Family Fun Day and Amy Halland with her photograph title “Celebrating a Country Sunset” taken of a farm site off Hwy 30 by Storden. Thank you to the 16 photographers who submitted images and to those who stopped by the museum and voted for their favorite! The photographs from this show will be featured in a book coming out this summer. Stay tuned... The theme for the 2024 Photo Show is “Parks in Cottonwood County”.



“Fair Farewell”
Juane Elston—1st



“This is Awesome”
Janice White—2nd



“S’more Fun”
Pat Elston—tied for 3rd



“Celebrating a Country Sunset”
Amy Halland—tied for 3rd

Winners of the Cottonwood County Student Art Show

Once again the Cottonwood County art teachers brought to the museum the best of their senior high art students work during the month of April. It was an amazing show with over 50 pieces in various mediums including pencil drawings, block prints, acrylic paintings, ceramics and mixed media. The Remick Committee, which is made up of local artists, picked the “Best of Show”, “First Place” and eight “Honorable Mentions” prior to the opening of the show. Visitors to the gallery voted for their favorite. Carmella Whittaker from Red Rock Central High School won the “People’s Choice Award” with her acrylic painting entitled *Those Last Summer Nights*. The top two winners receive Hobby Lobby gift cards while the Honorable Mention winners were given sketchbooks and colored pencils in the hope of encouraging their artistic spirit.



Left: “Among Water & Stone”
Best of Show
By Carmella Whittaker – Red Rock Central HS

Center: “Shy Guy”
First Place
By Carter Beranek – Red Rock Central HS

Right: “Those Last Summer Nights”
People’s Choice Award (also Honorable Mention)

Projects Planned for the Summer



In 1998 the museum completed a major building expansion which added on the Remick Art

Gallery, Exhibit Hall, collection storage, front entry and handicapped accessible restrooms. Now we are looking at 25 years of four outdated furnace/air conditioner systems that need replacing. This summer we plan to replace the heating/cooling systems in the Remick Gallery and front entry.

After that is accomplished, the flat roof of the original building needs replacing. With the excessive snow/rain we had this winter, leaks occurred throughout the old building including in the Meeting Room, Gift Shop, catering kitchen and back work room. The fall fundraising efforts, year end donations and monies from the Arlene Burbank Estate will assist with the costs. In addition, a grant was secured from the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation to help as well.

Lastly, we are upgrading our security system which is also 25 years old. The Cottonwood County IT staff provided an audit of our current system with suggestions on improvements. Those suggestions will be implemented this summer as well.

We are in the process of getting bids for these projects and will begin work as soon as the weather allows. We will keep everyone informed on our progress through the summer. Donations are still being accepted.

Tour Through County History

The 3rd grade students were invited to learn about local history at the museum on May 10 and 11. We contacted the Third Grade teachers of the county in March and all were positive about field trips this year. The various schools scheduled this year included Windom, Mountain Lake, Comfrey, Red Rock Central and Westbrook Walnut Grove. As in the past, the students also toured the Cottonwood County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center. A big thank you to the historic characters, volunteers and CCHS board for supporting this important program.



From the County Newspaper

Local Store Goes on Self Serve Basis—September 1944

Windom's National Tea store plans to give local shoppers their first experience with a grocery operated 100 percent on the self-serve plan. After business last Saturday night the store was closed and will not open until tomorrow afternoon, when shoppers will enter a store completely re-decorated, more roomy because a rear wall has been moved back and with fruit and vegetables displayed on long tables arranged to form a horseshoe. Customers will be given a four-wheeled carriage, on which rests two large baskets, in which various items are placed as they are selected. The purchases will be sacked and a check given the customer who pays at the cashier's desk, located near the door. A turnstyle is also operated by the cashier.

Township History: Ann Township by Wendy Meyer

Early History: The first white settler of the county and township was Karl Zierke. A squatter, he built a cabin on the SE ¼ of Section 25 in 1857/58 along the creek that today bears his name – Dutch Charley. A military road that traveled from New Ulm to Sioux Falls was built in 1861 and went past the Zierke cabin. In 1870, one large township was organized and included Ann, Highwater, Storden and Westbrook Townships. In 1873 the north half split off and named Ann Township named after Ann Anderson who with her husband Hogan were early settlers. Then in 1874, Ann and Highwater split into the two townships we have today.

Board Minutes: The topics that dominated the minute books of Ann Township include discussions on roads, bridges, culverts, grading and dragging. Also to note they discussed grazing & fencing of livestock, property values, Russian thistles in the 1890s, road ditch weeds and small pox vaccinations in 1925.

Rural Postal Delivery: Following the establishment of the mail route between Windom and Lamberton in 1873, the Westbrook Post Office opened in Highwater Township. From 1875 to 1886 this post office was located in Ann Township, likely in the homes of the early postmasters: Hogan Anderson and Ole O. Knutson. With the arrival of train travel on the Currie Branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha in 1900 and the establishment of Westbrook in 1901, rural post offices closed and the Westbrook Post Office moved into the village of Westbrook.

Points of Interest: Ann Township has two country churches, Old Westbrook Lutheran Church and St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The first congregation to organize in the county was Old Westbrook Lutheran which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2020. Beautiful cemeteries also are associated with these two churches.

Wendy Meyer is a museum volunteer who loves to research local history. She also serves as President of the Board of Trustees.

General Fund Donations:

Donations made between February 15, 2023 thru May 18, 2023

Anthony & Heather Smith in memory of Gary Ringler; Arlene Burbank Estate; John & Judy Holt toward Security System Upgrade; Richard & Wendy Meyer; Carol Vought in memory of Ronald Vought; Mark & Christine Thompson in memory of Erma Johnson; Windom United Services (from annual Windom United Drive); Memorial for June Richardson given by her daughters Diane, Karen, Gayle and Wanda; Leland & Marilyn Erickson in memory of Wendell Woodcock; Patricia & Lyman Holmes in memory of Lucy Madson; Michael & Marjorie Eichner in memory of Lucy Madson; Joe & Barb LaCanne in memory of Marlene Mattson; Leland & Marilyn Erickson

Thrivent Donations: Barb & Duane Pingeon; Harry Schuur

CCHS Membership:

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Renewals:

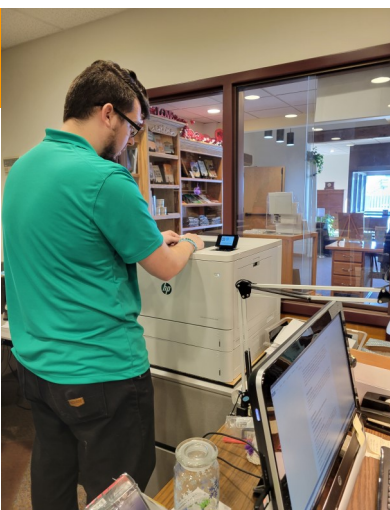
Joan Kaye; Linda Mix; Lindsey & Jane Cartwright; Ryan & Peggy Eichner; Linda Fransen & Thomas Sanders; Jon Ross; Dr. Timothy Klobberdanz; Maxine Duncan; Dale & Laura Tibodeau

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Patron Renewals:

Joanne Kaiser; Eileen Cushing; Kathryn Tewes

CCHS Thanks Our Annual Sponsor Renewals:

Lisa Brownell; Lance Ludvigson; Judith Wrase Nygard



MARCO technician installing printer

Upgrades at the Museum

In the office, we now have a new computer printer which is a great improvement for us. Our old machine died during the pandemic and we limped along until this January. Our new machine is great -- quiet, fast, good quality printing and it prints envelopes! We are living! Thank you to the Saathoff family for donating funds for this improvement. This winter, the museum applied for a South Central Electric grant to replace all the incandescent lighting in the Exhibit Hall with LED's. We received \$400 to change over 60 light bulbs with energy efficient lighting. A big thank you to South Central Electric for supporting us in this manner.



Cody Mischke & Wayne Fisk from Ron's Electric replacing bulbs in Exhibit Hall

Help Wanted

The museum is looking for individuals interested in working Saturday hours for the summer months. Responsibilities include opening the museum, meeting & greeting visitors and assisting with research. Please give the museum a call or stop in for an application.

Cottonwood County Historical Society

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2023 Exhibits & Events at the Museum

May 7 – August 26, 2023
“Salmagundi: A Collection”
By Anna Johannsen

June 10, 2023
Come visit the museum
during Riverfest!

September 17 –
November 18, 2023
“Four Seasons”
By Eva Lopez

December 1 – 23, 2023
Festival of Trees