



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall Newsletter 2010

TOUR OF HOMES IS BACK

The Clay County Historical Society in Vermillion, SD, will host their annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Friday night, December 3, 2010, from 5:00-9:00 pm. Following the “Christmas Memories” Tour, a traditional reception will be held at the Austin-Whittemore House, 15 Austin Street. This year’s reception will be coordinated by Joe Hoffman. The Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors will be present to assist guests at this event and cordially invite everyone to enjoy the Tour and Reception. Ann Severson and Gloria Barnes are busily the decorating at the House for the Season.

Tickets may be purchased at the Austin-Whittemore House, Nook ‘n Cranny, Vermillion Beauty Shop and Davis Drug in Vermillion from November 15th until the date of the Tour. Advance price is \$12.50 per person and \$15.00 the day of the Tour. Hosts will check off their home on the ticket as guests enter their homes. This ticket is to also be used for the reception following the tour. You may contact the Clay County Historical Society at 605-624-8266 or claycohistory@yahoo.com if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Gloria Barnes, President
Clay County Historical Society

THIS YEAR'S FEATURED HOMES

The Clay County Historical Society is pleased to announce the five Vermillion homes that are “on” this year’s Tour. Cleo Erickson and Gloria Barnes are co-chairs for this event. They are very grateful for Judy Sullivan’s assistance, as she designed the posters and Pressing Matters for printing the posters and tickets. The following homes and locations will be part of the tour

- Jim and Ann Wilson’s home, 1101 James Street, was built in 1968 based on the plans of Des Moines architect John Normile. The owner was Basil Jacobson. It is commonly characterized as Atomic Ranch style featuring large open spaces with a lot of glass. There is 2,000 square feet on the main floor. Special features include an indoor plant atrium with a skylight and a tree growing through the front porch roof.
- Allen and Maxine Johnson, 2111 North University Road. This rural farmhouse is over 100 years old. The Johnsons stress their home is going to be decorated just the way it is every Christmas season – nothing fancy, just things they have collected, received from friends and family, and enjoy each year. It has been owned by many individuals and once was known as the “old dairy farm”. Early pictures show an addition on the east side and no front porch – the old addition has been replaced by a newer one and is now the kitchen and office space. Allen and Maxine have lived in the house since 1976. Since the Johnsons have owned the house, the kitchen, bathroom, and second story have been gutted and remodeled and the front porch enclosed. Collections of Polish pottery, baskets, stoneware pitchers, and miniature houses will be on display for the tour.
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Vicarage, 12 Linden Avenue, has been placed under the care of John and Becca Jordre. The Vicarage--with the heavy wood trim both on the exterior and the interior of the house--could well be sitting somewhere in England. One of the features is a fireplace which invites folks to come and stay for a bit. John is a master baker, so be sure to visit the kitchen to see where he works his bread magic. The home was constructed in the late 1950’s when St. Paul’s Church was built.
- Phyllis Packard, 22 W. Bloomingdale Ave, has a magnificent view of the lower Vermillion valley and Nebraska. Phyllis is a master weaver and needlewoman hence her hobbies and the tools she uses are prominently displayed in her house. A wonderfully comfortable sitting room, surrounded by windows, is in the back of the house just off her kitchen. The front features a long workroom, a dining room, and living room. Many historical family items are displayed throughout the home.
- Brandi Deaver Wyatt and Deb Larson will greet tour participants at 322 Canby Street. The home was built in 1920 for Judge & Mrs. Everett Bogue.

SUMMER AND FALL MEETINGS

Two CCHS members presented programs at the late summer and fall general meetings. The “potlucks” preceding the programs were very successful.

At the summer meeting, Joe Reedy did a presentation on the Honor Flight that he went on earlier this year. He provided great stories about the organization of the flight, what was required of those that went, and what the schedule was like on the quick two day trip to Washington, D.C.

At the fall meeting, William Ranney shared his research about the County Poor Farm (3103 East Main Street). He told the audience about how he helped use ground penetrating radar to find possible unmarked graves at the site as well as providing the history of the poor farm before the county sold the property.

Planned programs for 2011 include

- ✓ Judge Rusch will do a program for us on the Kidder family;
- ✓ the University of South Dakota Archives Dept. will do a program; and
- ✓ Joe Hoffman will do his Antiques Road Show.

Watch the Broadcaster and Equalizer for dates/times.

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FRIENDS OF THE W.H. OVER MUSEUM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Friends of the W. H. Over Museum have completed plans for the oldest continual holiday celebration in Vermillion.

The 45th annual Christmas festival will take place 1:00-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 5, 2010. The event will feature vendors, a bake sale, a hospitality table, and children's activities.

The Time to Remember Gallery will be filled with decorated Christmas trees courtesy of several Vermillion organizations.

The Gift Shop will be open and members may renew their memberships.

There will be separate drawings for door prizes for new members and current members. The quilt raffle winner will be announced during the afternoon.

Maxine Johnson

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VERMILLION SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Watch weekly in the Vermillion Plain Talk for Cleo Erickson's Sesquicentennial Highlights, which usually appear on page 2 or 3. She has excerpted items from the Dakota Republican and early issues of the Vermillion Plain Talk.

The articles started appearing early in 2008 and will remain in the newspaper through this next year and into 2012. As Cleo moves on to the later years in Vermillion, more people should be able to relate directly to the events mentioned. She is now up to 1947, the year the Plain Talk and Dakota Republican merged into one newspaper.

Don't miss out on these great stories. Collect them and save them for future generations.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS BY THE CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- **History of Dakota Territory** (\$15.00) – Originally published in 1869-70 with great information about the six counties in existence at the time along with things such as the county and state representatives at the time and the business in each county. It would make a great Christmas gift and is available at either the Austin-Whittemore House.
- **From the River Valleys to the Rising Bluff** (\$35.00) – Written by local historian Tom Thaden with the assistance from fellow CCHS members Cleo Erickson and Joe Reedy, this book is a limited edition and has pictures of Vermillion that have never been published before. In each chapter, there is a brief introduction followed by the historical pictures with captions describing them. Available at Davis Drug, Nook N' Cranny, Pressing Matters, and the Austin-Whittemore House.
- **History of Clay County, South Dakota** (\$15.00) – Great detailed information about the history of Clay County by renowned South Dakota historian Herbert Schell.
- **Clay County Place Names** (\$7.00) – Everything you wanted to know about how different places in Clay County were named.
- **Hay Country History** (\$12.00) – History covering the biographies of settlers in Meckling and Norway townships in Clay County.
- **Clay Country Rural Schools** (CD) (\$10.00) – Excellent history of all of the rural schools in Clay County done by CCHS member Marion Kryger.
- **Dakota Territory's First Lynching** (\$5.00) – Interesting tale about the first lynching ever in Dakota Territory, that of James Hogan in February, 1866

Note: All publications are subject to sales tax and are available at the Austin-Whittemore House unless otherwise noted.

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NOTE TO READERS

As we look at saving paper and postage, we have distributed this newsletter via e-mail to those whom we have e-mail addresses. Sixty-five will receive the e-mail version (assuming the addresses are current) and 135 will be mailed via US Postal Service.

If you have received this at your USPS address and would prefer to have it e-mailed, please contact Gloria Barnes gloriaverm@yahoo.com or Luann Ouellette louellette@vyn.midco.net

If you received this via e-mail and wish to receive future issues via USPS, please contact Gloria or Luann (e-mail addresses above) or CCHS (15 Austin St., Vermillion, SD 57069) or 605-624-8266.

Clay County Historical Society

Membership Application / Renewal

Membership Year is January 1-December 31*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

_____ **Individual Member: \$15.00** _____ **Family Membership: \$ 25.00**

_____ **Institutional: \$50.00** _____ **Life Member/per person \$200.00**

Please mail check payable to Clay County Historical Society, Inc.

And mail to

CCHS

15 Austin Street

Vermillion, SD 57069

If you have questions about membership or the Society,

please call us at (605) 624-8266

or e-mail us at claycohistory@yahoo.com

***The membership year is shifting from April 1-March 31 since the IRS has advised that our "year" is calendar. We hope this is not an inconvenience to you. Our Annual Meeting will continue to be in April.**