History Notes

Waseca County History Center

What's Inside:

"Looking at George's *Post* covers reminded me of many things we did as kids"

- Carl Erickson

Winter in Waseca

View our exhibit online!



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2020

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WINTER HOURS

Museum

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5 Thursday 9:00-3:30 p.m.

Bailey-Lewer Library Research Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

Traveling?

Please call ahead. 507-835-7700





Hofmann Apiaries
Phase I Restoration
Was funded in part by
the Waseca Area
Foundation Community
Grants
and Funds provided by
the State of Minnesota
from the Arts and
Cultural Heritage fund
through the Minnesota
Historical Society.

From the Executive Director

Joan Mooney

Dear Members,
As I write this letter, WCHS is
operating but museum exhibits and
events have been canceled for this
holiday season.



Virginia McCarthy, our researcher is processing research

requests on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5 p.m. Pauline, Amanda and I are conducting business as usual and not so usual! With school visits canceled we have gone virtual. Our 23 minute *North American Indian Artifact* presentation for K-3 is available upon request. We are working on our *Coming to America* program for 3-5th graders. Both presentations are based on artifacts in the WCHS collection. In April we have hosted an event for county 6th graders called *Teachable Moments At the History Center*. Last year Covid forced the cancelation of the event. Although we remain hopeful a vaccine will be available soon, we doubt we will be able to host programs by April 2021. For that reason we will attempt to capture the program for online viewing. What a show that will be!

The fundraising event: **Rock & Roll Review II** is scheduled for **Friday June 18** at The Mill. The **Used Book Sale** will be at Hodgson Hall during the fair in July. Speaking of Hodgson Hall, thanks to the Waseca Area Foundation, E.F.Johnson grant award which enabled us to expand our exhibit space. Fair visitors will have more to explore!

As 2020 comes to a close we are grateful and hopeful. We are grateful 2020 is over and hopeful we will recover emotionally, physically and financially from the trauma inflicted by Covid-19. Our local businesses need our support as do family and friends who are hurting.

We don't know what 2021 will look like but we are in position to continue our services and care for our collection thanks to your support.

We hope you enjoy the online opportunities to explore our history from the comfort of your home or office.

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season.

Stay well everyone!

Joan

Thank you WAF, Cory Boje and Scott Beckmann

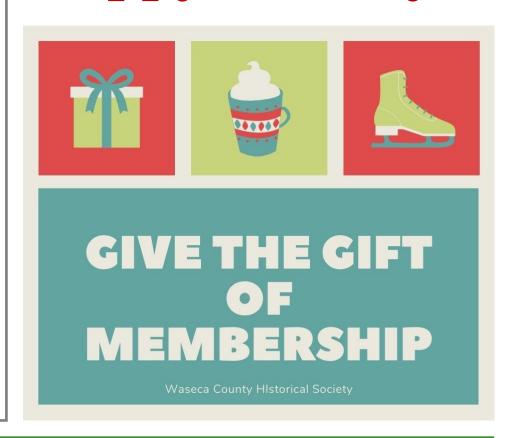
It's still not too late to give a gift of membership!

Annual Memberships begin at \$30! Free luminary with membership!

WCHS Word Scramble

BWNOR NINIPRTG RPBEIE MNLEMPITE **FE OJOHNNSS GAEWINR RSHEBTOR** NARIABA SHEOR MESIT HKMSEI INPIHGBLSU **ETSRHRE ORARDECNPIOT** NCYAD NTHKICE **EKZIRTR LOI MNOCYPA OZMNISSFTIM UTINCGKR** GAI RYREGCO NSSDMEA PSUER VLEAU **ESBDERU IRFCAB FOWL DNA EANIBH** RUESSP BKEA SOPH YUBS EBE FEAC MCERINTI UDGR **CEIMLTLH NTUEUIFRR**

Happy Holidays!



We are currently collecting used books for the 2021 Used Book Sale.
Schedule a Hodgson Hall drop off time.
Please do not leave donations outside. Thank you!

Pauline Fenelon

Artifact & Library Curator



Jan Hunter

Research & Genealogy



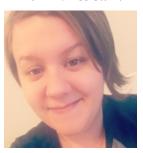
Virginia McCarthy

Research & Genealogy



Amanda Larkin

Admin. Assistant



Word Scramble Answers: Brown Printing, Priebe Implement, E.F. Johnson, Winegar Brothers, Arabian Horse Times, Mishek Publishing, Herter's Incorporated, Candy Kitchen, Kritzer Oil Company, Fitzsimmons Trucking, IGA Grocery, Madsens Super Value, Duebers Fabric, Wolf and Habein, Preuss Bake Shop, Busy Bee Café, McIntire Drug, and Mitchell Furniture

Eugene Iverd

Many great artists come to mind when you think of the 1920s. Georgia O'Keeffe and Norman Rockwell are just a couple of well known names. However, did you know Waseca was the childhood home to one of the popular artists of that era? Under the "brush" name Eugene Iverd, George Ericson was featured on multiple covers of The Saturday Evening Post, McCalls, and Ladies Home Journal magazines. At an early age George's mother Matilda noticed he was drawn to the arts. He could be found drawing anywhere and on anything, even in the church's bibles. Even though his mother was always supportive of his passion for the arts his father never was. However, his second grade teacher was also invested in his passion and would let him draw in class all day instead of worrying about spelling or attendance. His lack of dedication to these skills resulted in him repeating second grade three times. Only when his teacher married and stopped teaching did he go on to the third grade. As George grew older his interest in the arts only intensified. Living in the small town of Waseca made finding art



supplies difficult but that didn't stop him. He decided that one place to find paints would be with the local house painters, and he was often seen following them around while they worked. They taught him about the importance of caring and cleaning your paint brushes, applying a base coat,



how to mix colors, and other tips and tricks he would continue to use in the future. In high school George continued drawing and painting. The town paper would even publish his cartoons from time to time which filled him with joy. When it came time for him to attend college his father pushed for him to study business like his older brother, Albert. Reluctantly George agreed and attended Yankton College in South Dakota. He thought attending business classes was a waste of time and decided to drop out a few weeks into his first semester and move back home to Waseca. He told his father he would not follow the same path as Albert and applied to an art school in St. Paul instead. His father refused to pay for his tuition stating, "No son of mine will become a pauper artist painting in an attic and depending on the charity of others for his keep." George's mother continued to have faith in her sons talent. In order to pay for college George worked as a busboy in the school cafeteria as well as a

shoe salesman. After one year at the St. Paul Academy, George decided he had learned all the faculty had to teach him. He took an educational leap of faith and applied to the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. He was accepted to the academy, but unfortunately, his education was cut short when he joined the Army during World War I. While at boot camp at Fort Snelling George continued to draw and had several of his pieces published in the military paper Reveille. Luckily, the war ended before George could be sent overseas. He spent the next two years teaching art to wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C., While at Walter Reed Army Hospital George was commissioned by the government to make a model of the U.S. infantry men for an exhibit. The sculpture is of a WWI mule-drawn wagon with two drivers and another soldier on horseback leading a mule. This piece is still on display at The Musée de l'Armée to this day. When George was discharged from the military he quickly started looking for a job as an art teacher in Erie, Pennsylvania. Although he had no formal credentials he was hired as an art instructor at one of the public schools. After a short time, he was asked to supervise the art instruction in all of the city schools. This job was



the best of both worlds. Not only did it enable him to provide for his family, it also gave him the opportunity to create fine art at the same time. Another upside to working as a teacher was that he would get to spend the summers solely focused on his art. His family would often go back to Waseca and stay with wife Lillian's family during that time. Five years later George realized that he needed more time for his own work and family and decided to reduce his hours at the school.



Eventually, he guit working for the school all together. He lived his life with compassion which allowed him to look deeply within his models and portray their sorrows, joy, humor, courage and hope. George painted with a deep creative drive and wanted to spread joy through his work. Unfortunately, during the height of his career George started to develop severe arthritis in his hands. In an attempt to keep his hands functioning he went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester in hopes of finding a treatment. They prescribed him with gold injections. Ultimately these injections compromised his immune system and George ended up passing away from pneumonia at the young age of 43. Even though his life was cut short, and he was only able to be a full time artist for three years, he achieved so much throughout his life. He produced over 60 covers for the Saturday Evening Post, and over 150 advertisements, story illustrations, calendars, lithographs.

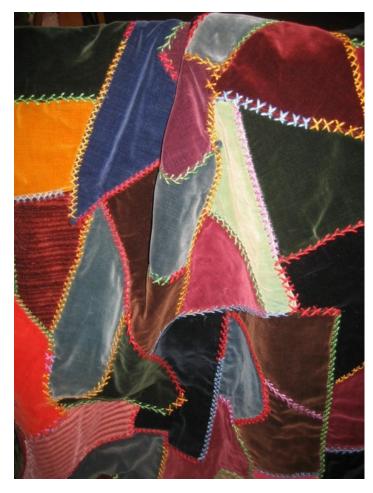
By: Amanda Larkin

Source: WCHS George Ericson/Eugene Iverd Family Papers and WCHS Collection

Winter in Waseca Co.

Unfortunately we will not be having our annual Holiday Exhibit open house this year. However, even though we are closed to the public at this time we have decided to put up images and videos of our winter displays our Facebook page for everyone to enjoy. Here is a sneak peak of some of the artifacts we are using and what we have been working on. Make sure to keep a look out!









Fourth Quarter Contributions: September 24th, 2020 — December 15th, 2020

Appropriations

St. Mary Township Vivian Township Wilton Township

Volunteers

Beckmann, Dianne Buum, Marty Dunn, Dave Groskreutz, Dave Zika, Dave

New Lifetime Members

Klinger, Richard

New Members

Anderson, Julie
Baer, David
DeJager, Cheryl
Erdman, Molly
Hamilton, Jacqueline
Kampf, Brad
Lampshire, Misty
Marshall, Kate
ONeil, Timothy
Sonnenberg, Elizabeth



New / Renewing Sustainer Members

Bickell, Eva
Joecks, Judy
Madel, R.P. and Mary Ann
Miller, Sarah and Bruce
Selvik, Bruce & Debbie
Tlougan, Les and Karen

Renewing Members

Boyce, Bruce and Takala, Sally Callahan, Joseph Cypher, Lynda Dobberstein, Deb and Gary Fenelon, Kari Fenelon, Pauline

Gauger, Barbara Gilleland, Wayner

Grable, Sue Grams, Rosalie

Green, Reginald

Hoversten, Patti & Bill

Hunt, Nadine

Hunter, Robert

Inman, Steven

Johnson, Bradley

Koechel, Lynn

Korsmo-Kennon, Peggy

Neidt, Millicent

Peters, Jacqueline

Purcel, Pat

Roemhildt, Charlene

Roemhildt, Terry

Rosenthal, Gregg

Ryan, Thomas and Mary

Sankovitz, Thomas and Gretchen

Smith, Martin

Smith, Maureen

Swenson, Lynn and Susan

Waggoner, Linda

Welsh, Eugene

Wilkus, John & Marilyn

Wobschall, Ann

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Jim King,

By Dave Dunn

By Linda Grant

By Sheila Morris

In memory of Parents and Grandparent,

By Laurie and Kirk Velett

In memory of Dorothy and Charlie

Gigeay,

By Marjorie Giesen

In memory of Helen Paulson Wendt,

By Bob and Romelle Deef

In memory of Daniel Robert Deef

By Bob and Romelle Deef

In Honor of WCHS Staff

By Peggy Korsmo-Kennon

Donations

Boyce, Bruce and Takala, Sally

Bruesch, Carl

Dunn, Dave and Melissa

Fette, Jeffrey

Grams, Rosalie

McCarthy, Virginia

Neidt, Millicent

Peterson, David A. and Ruth

Welsh, Eugene

Wendt, Caryn

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Membership Renewal Date





