



Dodge County Historical Society

1643 N. Nye Ave. / P.O. Box 766 / Fremont, NE / 68025 / 402.721.4515
www.maymuseum.com

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Julie O’Hanlon, 2nd vice president

Getting to Know Officers

Julie O’Hanlon estimates she has been a member of the Dodge County Historical Society since the mid-1980s.

A native of Omaha, Julie moved to Fremont in 1979. She remembers seeing the May Museum and being intrigued.

“Loell Jorgensen lived in my Barnard Park neighborhood and invited me to visit the Museum,” Julie said. (Jorgensen served as director of the May Museum from 1973-1991.)

Referring to houses in the Barnard Park Historic District, Julie said, “I’ve always lived in older homes and appreciate the historic.”

Appreciating her family heirlooms and “things from the past,” Julie said getting involved with the Museum is a plus.



Julie O’Hanlon is the newly elected 2nd vice president of the Dodge County Historical Society. She is shown with items for sale in the Museum Gift Shop.

O’Hanlon, continued on p. 3

Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



Each day when I arrive at work, I park near the Victorian flower garden. After I get out of the car, I walk through the garden as I make my way to the south office door. It is astonishing to see changes which took place over night. This is especially true early in the spring, but changes continue during the season.

I am not the only one who absorbs joy and comfort from the efforts of our faithful Tuesday morning volunteers. Visitors come on foot, arrive on bicycles, and bring their lunch or coffee and are seated at the concrete table. Others park their car facing the view, while still others look more intently and record images of flowers and insects. Even more visitors choose to record their impressions on social media.

We were saddened this year by the passing of Jan Lutz who added organization to this large, active group. Jan and I often talked about garden plans. You do not miss something until it is gone and I miss Jan. When I do, I wipe my tears and go into the garden. Her spirit is there and what better place to think of her and others who have gone before her.

The wonderful thing about this glorious masterpiece is that it is free, open 24 hours a day, and is a scene which practically changes before your eyes. Take time to visit. We can go to Europe to discover beauty, but some things are right at our fingertips and can renew us in moments.

Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Jan Lutz

Beth & Alan Brewer
Dale & Ronald Brickell
Joan Chesley
Linda & Chuck Cochrane
Margo Diedrichsen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Diers
Patty & Sid Dillon
Brenda Dilts
Tereasa & Boyd Dose
Judy & Jack Ekeler
Julie & Ronald Fechner
Jane & Steven Flanagan
Sally Ganem
Holly & John Goldsberry
Jane & Eric Gordon
Sally & Michael Heaton
Sylvia & George Hermone
Rhoda Holstine &
Kyle Pearson
Jan & Joel Jelkin
Juliann & Gary Jurgenson
Jeff Kappeler
Anita & Richard Kentopp
Carolyn Sue & Ron Kranz
Cheryl & Nick Lamme
Helen Lannin
Patty & Jim Manhart
Carol Martin
Marlene McClean
Debra & Don McCord
Rosalyn & Travis Nelson
Lisa & Brad Novak
Alice Nott
Jane Petersen
Pam & Gary Pettitt
Cynthia Pike
Myrna Puls
Molly Rainey
Daniel & Janet Roberts
Lori & Thomas Robertson
Linda Rohlfs

Neil Schilke
Deb Spicka
Karen Vande Stowe
Judy Vitters
Mary & Paul Wachter
Linda & Randy Wagner
Dr. F.T. & Carol Waring
Pat & Rick Watson
Barbara Wilder
Linda Williams
Joe & Ginny Wojtkiewicz
Laura Wray
Margaret &
Kenneth Zarybnicky

In Memory of Marilyn Otto

Jeff Kappeler
Cheryl & Nick Lamme

In Memory of Jill Watson

Jeff Kappeler

Calendar of Events

Thursday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.

Annual Meeting
at May Museum

Monday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

ENGs meetings resuming
at May Museum

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Museum Open House

O'Hanlon, continued from p. 1

O'Hanlon Urges Museum Visit

Currently serving as 2nd vice president, she also has held the positions of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Julie worked full time for 20 years at Abe Krasne Home Furnishings. She nows works there part-time in window treatment management and also sales.

Hosting activities and events at the Museum are good ways to attract visitors from youngsters to adults.

Julie referred to Day in the Past for Dodge County 4th graders. After the day's activities, she said some of the students would return with their parents.

"People who are now in their 30s say, 'I remember that and enjoyed it.'"

The mother of two adult children and three grandchildren, Julie remembers daughter Caroline being an elf at a Christmas Open House hosted at the Museum.

Julie hopes people who have never been to the Museum will make the effort to do so.

"Fremont is very fortunate to have something of this caliber and I hope more people will take the opportunity to visit."



Pathfinder Chorus Entertains on Front Museum Grounds

The Pathfinder Chorus sang on the May Museum grounds for its first public performance since December 2019. It was a beautiful evening when the men's cappella chorus sang on June 27.

Attendees heard a mix of inspirational, patriotic and contemporary songs. Also singing were two quartets, Hashtag Harmony and Maximum Ring.

Two new songs for the chorus were "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" from Disney's "The Lion King" and "You've Got a Friend in Me" from "Toy Story."

An audience favorite included the official songs for all military branches.

Hoegemeyer Writes During Isolation

Marilyn Hoegemeyer wrote "Listening to the Corn Grow" during the months of staying inside due to COVID-19. The book recalls her memories of living in Dodge County in the 1950s.

The chapters include the history of her family's well-known hybrid seed corn company and attending a one-room country school.

Jeff Kappeler, Museum director, said the book is charming and extremely well written. "Once you start to read this gem, you will not be able to put it down."

"Listening to the Corn Grow" will be available for purchase in the Museum gift shop.

Tobacco Tins Become Lunch Boxes

Attending school in the late 1800s and early 1900s included carrying a lunch box holding the noon meal. Many of the earlier lunch boxes were originally chewing tobacco tin-plated containers. Jeff Kappeler, Museum director, said someone told him of a preacher's wife who refused to send her daughter to school with a lunch box advertising tobacco. So, she submersed the tin in lye so the tobacco company name would no longer be seen.



All of the above repurposed tin lunch boxes are from circa 1870s-1890s. On the lid of the box (middle front), it says Moore's Patented Folding Lunch Box. Charles C. Moore received a patent in 1871. It has a black and red plaid exterior. About 3" tall in its box form, it collapses to less than half an inch when folded. The boxes (back left and back middle) are also collapsible. The box (back right) has in large letters the word LUNCH with a black and gold background.



In addition to tobacco tins, syrup containers also were reused as lunch boxes. Shown in the upper-left corner (above) is an example from Gold-n-Sweet Golden Table Syrup. It is placed on top of a Patterson's Seal Cut Plug tobacco tin. It is gold and black with a basket weave design.

A red and black basket weave design from the P. Lorillard Tobacco Company is shown in back left. Pictured in front (left) is a tin of George Washington Cut Plug from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. It is red, green and blue and features a picture of George Washington on the front side. The orange tin with black lettering (front right) is an example from Brotherhood Tobacco, manufactured by United Brothers Tobacco Company.



Teachers used these two larger examples from around 1900 for their lunches. On the left is a round blue graniteware piece that shows a removable pan. The other tin has a removable lid for a drink. Below the cup opening is another section that could be removed and placed on a wood stove to keep, for example, soup warm.