



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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Saturday, July 10 from 1-4 p.m.

Come Share a Fremont Story

Sue Reyzlik has a story to tell beginning with her three self-published children's books, including "Tell Me A Story Oma Sue About Three Frogs."

Written for her grandchildren, this book is based on true events to which they can relate.

Sue now has another idea for storytelling and she wants people to participate by sharing their Fremont stories.

This event will be held during John C. Fremont Days on Saturday, July 10 from 1-4 p.m. on the Museum grounds.

Insisting that participation "doesn't have to be a big deal," Sue emphasizes that sharing is the key. Sharing knowledge about past events doesn't mean they occurred a long time ago. "The past is yesterday," she said.



Sue Reyzlik is organizing an event on the May Museum grounds when people can share their Fremont stories. She is holding the book she self-published telling the story about three frogs.

Reyzlik, continued on p. 2

Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



Spring is the promise of new life and is even more meaningful this year as we struggle to emerge from the confusing era of Covid 19. Frequently we are asked about the reopening of the museum.

I discussed the topic with Angie Olsen (Fremont Area Art Association). Since we both have the responsibility to ensure the safety of our docents, visitors and employees, we will follow their policy.

We will reopen when the Three Rivers Community Risk Dial maintains the moderate level for two consecutive weeks. Visitors are welcome to visit the garden and arboretum with no restrictions. We will be part of John C. Fremont Days. A free outdoor concert will be provided by the Pathfinder Chorus (see calendar below).

Our eventual re-opening will be posted on our website at maymuseum.com.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Annual Meeting
(Location to be Determined)

Sunday, June 27, 6:30 p.m.
Pathfinder Chorus
Outdoor Concert at Museum
bring chairs/blankets
free admission

Friday, July 9-Sunday, July 11
John C. Fremont Days
Museum open 1-4 p.m. on July 9, 10
Storytelling Event 1-4 p.m. on July 10

Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Rolin &
E. Gertrude Carlberg
Janet Hofer

In Memory of Marge Kubr
Beta Sigma Phi

In Memory of John Reeves
Jeff Kappeler
Jim & Patty Manhart
Gary & Pam Pettitt

In Memory of Debra Roth
Kay Klevemann

Reyzlik, continued from p. 1

New J.C. Fremont Days Event

Bringing photographs is also encouraged, along with donating them (or high quality reprints) to the Museum. Maybe people have pictures and stories about Fremont businesses, including bowling allies and skating rinks.

Jeff Kappeler, Museum director, reports he has fewer pictures from the decades beginning with the 1950s and older.

“I’m just thinking here, but I bet there are pictures of Fremont out there and it would be wonderful to see and document those places and times,” Sue said.

Bringing photographs and other materials, of course, is optional. Sue envisions just sharing stories about Fremont as the key to bring people together. There will be no designated times for participants to share their stories. Visitors will just stop, engage in conversation, and move on to another storyteller.

Anyone interested in learning more about this event should contact Sue at 402-690-4926. She reminds everyone, “We all have a story!”

The May Museum also will be open to visitors from 1-4 p.m. on Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10.

Volunteers Tend Victorian Garden

Another successful plant sale was held at the May Museum on May 4. Jeff Kappeler, Museum director, said almost everything sold.

Big Give Benefits Area Nonprofits

The May Museum participated in the annual Fremont Area Big Give on May 4. The Fremont Area Community Foundation spearheads this event that lasts 24 hours.

Preliminary numbers from the FACH website reports that \$404,974 from 2,002 donations was contributed to 69 nonprofits.

The May Museum has participated in the Big Give for five years, said Jeff Kappeler, Museum director. Every donation is appreciated and put to good use, such as purchasing archival supplies.

Jeff reminds everyone that contributions are welcomed throughout the year. Monetary donations in memory or honor of someone is also a thoughtful tribute.

Before the first customers arrive at 9 a.m., the Garden Fairies arrive around 7 a.m. They position the potted plants at designated spots on the Museum lawn. Specific signs are placed by the plants that describe, for example, water and sun requirements.

Tending the Garden throughout the upcoming months is a necessary but enjoyable task for the volunteers.

Their work culminates with the plant sale; proceeds are earmarked for maintaining the garden with purchases like mulch and fertilizer.

Next year's plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022.

In the meantime, stop by the Victorian Flower Garden and enjoy what is growing.



Museum hosts DAR Awards

Appreciating a normal event in a year that has not been normal, the Lewis-Clark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held a tea and awards presentation on April 27 at the May Museum.



The awards included the DAR Good Citizen Award that was given to (pictured below) Emily Nau (right), Fremont High School, and Anna Prauner (left), Bergan High School.

Also presented were the Community Service Award and DAR Women in the Arts Recognition Award.

Once the Museum reopens for the season (see Jeff's column on p. 2), people are reminded that the May Museum can be rented for meetings and small gatherings. Call the Museum for additional information.

Business Had Educational Focus

Specializing in educational publications and supplies, Hammond & Stephens was a Fremont business from 1879 until 2013. George Hammond and his son, Frank, began the business as Hammond and Son. In 1882, son Ross joined the business that changed its name to Hammond Brothers. Another change occurred in 1901 when the business was incorporated as the Hammond Printing Company.

A totally separate publishing business was begun in 1894. Dan Vorhees Stephens organized the publishing house of Hammond Brothers and Stephens Company. By 1921, Stephens was the principal owner of the business that extended into many states. When Stephens died in 1939, Hammond Brothers and Stephens Company was one of the largest businesses of its kind in the Midwest.



The button system of school government (above) rewarded students with lithographed buttons for Punctuality, Department (good behavior), and Scholarship. Students who retained these three buttons for 20 consecutive days then received the Triangle Button. The Diamond Button was presented to students after 60 consecutive days. The pamphlet explaining the button system refers to the Diamond Button Pupils as the honored class and “there is no honor so great as wearing it, no higher ambition in the hearts of the pupils than its attainment.”



When Hammond & Stephens Co. ceased business in fall 2013, the May Museum was presented a collection of catalogs (above: lower left and upper right), diplomas, class record books (upper left), award certificates, and buttons. The 1894 sign that hung at the building’s entrance also was donated to the Museum.



A variety of award certificates were available to present students for different achievements. The certificate in the lower left-hand corner given for high grades would be signed by the school superintendent.