



Dodge County Historical Society

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

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Moving Forward



Jack Ekeler has volunteered many hours toward the roofline balustrade project. He made

Thanks to the support and generosity for the "Sponsor a Spindle" fundraiser, project work is tentatively scheduled to begin the end of June.

Jack Ekeler, Roof Railing Committee member, explained: "The first phase is to attach on the roof all mounting brackets and newels, which are large mounting posts. Then roofers will reseal the roof where the newel posts will be. The second phase will include measuring between each newel to get the correct length of spindle and rail for each span between the individual newel posts."

The newels, spindles and mounting brackets will be custom made for each roof location because the roof angle is different at every

Spindle Update, continued on p. 3

Director's Column



Much has happened since our last newsletter, including Pam breaking her wrist on Feb. 10 and me suffering a stroke on Feb. 25. We both appreciate the understanding and support of the Board of Directors, as well as many others, during our time of recovery. Also, we want to thank everyone who offered much encouragement and assistance. A very special thanks to Linda Cochrane for her contributions in assisting both of us. There are still challenges ahead and taking one day at a time keeps us moving forward.

Our annual fundraiser typically would be scheduled for June. Because of the roofline project (see article on first page), the Board of Directors felt it would be best to postpone the event. We enjoy hosting the fundraiser event outside. However, there are lots of unknowns concerning the roofline balustrade project, including the possibility of scaffolding.

We are not canceling the fundraiser, just a postponement. With the new "Transplanted" two-year exhibit, we were excited to begin planning for an Ethnic Festival this summer. Perhaps when the roofline project is completed, we can combine the dedication and the festival — a double celebration.

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Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Jane Kreymborg

Jack & Judy Ekeler
Brian Flakne
Patty & Jim Manhart
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Moore, Jr.
P.E.O. Chapter AJ
Faith Perry
Marianne Simmons
Shelley Pettit Staples
Emma Strahle
Elizabeth Vance
Linda Williams

In Memory of Alex Lamme

Alice Nott

In Memory of Scott Larsen

Alice Nott

In Memory of Donna O'Connor

Jack & Judy Ekeler
Marianne Simmons

In Memory of Sandy Peterson

Milo V. & Cheryl Anderson
John & Katy Bode
Timothy & Ann Crowley
Steve & Lori Dahl
Margo Diedrichsen
Robert & Patricia Diers
Teresa Dose
S.L. Ebers
Jack & Judy Ekeler
Thomas & Brenda Evans
John & Holly Goldsberry
Janis K. Jordan
Ronald D. & Carolyn Kranz
Keith & Ann Lallman
Helen M. Lannin
Charles & Mary Sue May
Marlene T. McClean
Keith & Kathryn Miller
Kerstin O'Connor
Julie O'Hanlon
Patrick J. & Barbara Orr

In Memory of Sandy Peterson

Elizabeth J. Petersen
Steven & Cynthia Pike
Jan Pineda
Dr. David & Anne Sabott
Darlene G. Saeger
Ann Stephens
Joanne Thietje
Ben & Diane Thompson
Carolyn J. Walla
Leonard & Barbara Wilder
Alex & Angela Wolf
John & Linda Wolf
Tom & Deanna Wolf
Dr. Tom & Misti Wolf

In Memory of Jack Schirmer

Jack & Judy Ekeler

In Memory of Marilyn Thilges

Lee & Jeri Gohlmann

Calendar of Events

Tues., June 14, 10 a.m.
Humanities Nebraska
Karen Gettert Shoemaker
"Behind the Meaning
of Names"

Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m.
Annual Meeting

July 8-9
John C. Fremont Days

Saturday, Nov. 26
Cookie Demonstrations

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Christmas Open House
7-9 p.m.

Committee Anticipates June for Beginning Roofline

Spindle Update, continued from p. 1
newel location. Taking in account the pitch of the roof, Jack made 25-30 different templates for the custom pieces. He also is making the mounting posts out of aluminum so they will not rust.

Mark Boschult (Boschult Engineering) is serving as general contractor for the roofline balustrade project. He is coordinating communication with the Canadian company that is making the newels and spindles from a special composite that will not rot or deteriorate.

Deanna Wolf chairs the Roof Railing Committee. Other members include: Mary Buller, Judy Ekeler, Barb Gehringer and Patty Manhart.

Deanna said the committee is thrilled with the responses from community supporters for their unselfish generosity. "This is a unique opportunity for all ages to take an ownership role in preserving this beautiful historic treasure for future generations."

Swedish Spritz Cookies

3/4 c. sugar
1 c. butter
1 egg
1/8 t. salt
2 1/2 c. flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. almond extract

Cream butter & sugar; add egg & extract. Combine dry ingredients and gradually add to creamed mixture, mixing well after each addition.

Force through cookie press on ungreased cookie sheet. Before baking, decorate with colored sugars.

Preheat oven, 375 degrees. Bake 8-10 minutes. (Ovens vary, so check.) Let cool; move to rack. Cool completely before storing in containers.



Gary Johnson, with Lawrence Painting & Contracting in Omaha, scrapes paint above the north entrance last August. Work began the end of last July and continued through September.

Artifacts Still Needed for 'Transplanted' Exhibit

Director's Column, continued from p. 2

A reminder to come see our emerging exhibit titled "Transplanted: The Early Ethnic Settlers of Dodge County." Thanks to those who have contributed immigrant chests, kitchen items, tools, textiles and more. We still welcome artifacts and stories relating to our early eastern Nebraska immigrants.

In each newsletter during the two-year "Transplanted" exhibit, we will include a recipe that our immigrant women would have brought with them. Please send us your recipe that has been a favorite for your own family. Include some background information and we may print it. Please include your name and phone number in case we have questions. Either email at maymuseum@qwestoffice.net or mail to P.O. Box 766. In this issue, Joyce Winfield shares a traditional family recipe for Swedish spritz cookies — always baked for Christmas.

A Well-Stocked Kitchen Includes . . .



Lots of Copper

Used daily on the immigrant's cookstove (Imperial Acorn pictured above) was a teakettle like the two shown in traditional Swedish shapes. Water was heated for coffee or tea, for washing dishes and for taking baths. The water pitcher, upper right, has a handmade wooden handle. The coffee carafe is hand pieced with dovetailed joints. These four hand-crafted vessels are copper and date mid-to-late 19th century.

The German mortar and pestle (lower left picture, back) was used to grind peppercorns for summer sausage and bratwurst. At Christmas, cardamom was ground for special cookies. The sugar nipper (lower right) was used to "nip" lumps from a cone of sugar. The larger pieces would fit nicely in a larger ironstone covered sugar bowl. Two Swedish cookie presses (middle) came with a selection of decorative disks. A Czech poppy seed grinder (lower left) was used when baking kolaches and bread. The German springele (front) and Swedish hardtack (back) rolling pins each made unique designs.



Ready to Bake



Pepper & Cardamom

The two porcelain spice containers from around 1900-10 would have been part of a larger German spice set. Other spices may have included nutmeg, cinnamon and allspice.