

## REMINDER

The PCHS Quarterly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

### PHELPS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Butz, President  
Eileen Schrock, Vice President  
Joan Burbach, Secretary  
Dick Anderson  
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Mary Payton, Picture Archivist  
Keith Weaver,  
Maintenance Supt.  
Patti Simpson,  
Stereoscope Editor

### HOURS

Monday - Friday, 9 to 5 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

### WEB PAGE

[www.nebraskaprairie.org](http://www.nebraskaprairie.org)

## From the President

By Bob Butz



As the new president of the board writing for the first time in the STEREOSCOPE, I would like to let you know why I think our museum is "one of the best" in the nation. We hear the descriptive phrase, "one of the best" so often at the museum from our visitors from all over the country and we take a lot of pride in the compliments. What makes it "one of the best?"

The Nebraska Prairie Museum is "one of the best" because of the many volunteer hours, the outstanding staff, the high quality and value of the donated items and the generous contributions of money given to the museum. All of this has made us "one of the best", but we are not done yet!!! Bill Perry and a crew of volunteers are just finishing several new additions to the town square. These include a First National Bank, a county land office, a creamery and a tack and leather shop. Bill has plans for a fire hall as a future addition. Also a Christian Children's Home display is being added to the front building. There are plans to replace the 30 year old heating and air conditioning units. The driveway and parking lots need paving and future enhancements for the library and the front of the building are being considered. We hope you share our excitement and pride in the museum.

Obviously it takes a lot of money and work to make all of this happen. We need your help. Volunteer your time. Thanks to the generosity of Roy and Mary Pearson any monetary donation will be matched. Contact the museum staff if you wish to help. Please just come and enjoy our fantastic museum and encourage others to do so. With your help, we can make the Nebraska Prairie Museum "THE BEST".



## Nebraska Prairie Museum Photograph Archive



Mary Payton has been inventorying the Nebraska Prairie Museum's photograph collection for the last few years. This has been an ongoing project for several years. The museum is fortunate to have someone so knowledgeable about our

area and the history of our county.

Some of the photographs are over 120 years old. Keeping the collections in the best condition possible has become a priority as it is vital that these photographs be in good condition for the next 100 years.

The photographs are now kept in acid free boxes and acid free photograph enclosures. Each photograph is labeled and the information is put into a computer program where Mary can search for a subject matter to locate the photographs. Recently the program has been updated and each photograph is being scanned into the computer. Now the description, along with the photograph appears on the screen together. This alleviates taking out the photographs unnecessarily. The computer will also magnify a part of the photograph. This feature is especially helpful when identifying individuals or businesses.

Mary has become very knowledgeable about the photograph collection and now that she is going through the collection another time is able to add more information about the photographs.

Some of these photographs have been used in the Stereoscope, Nebraska Life Magazine, newspapers and are displayed at the museum.

Individuals can also request certain photographs for numerous reasons.

If you wish to donate a photograph, contact Nebraska Prairie Museum staff.

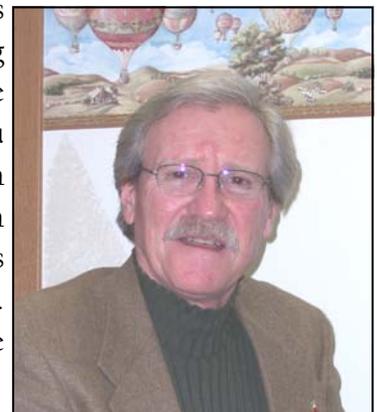
## Executive Director's Message

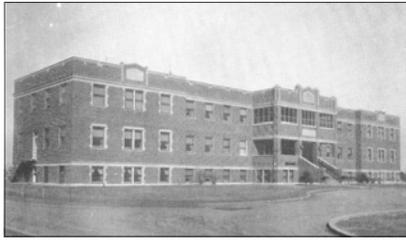
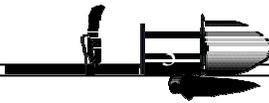
*By Dan VanDyke*

Harry Dahlstrom and I had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska State Historical Society Quarterly meeting. The meeting was held at Senator George Norris State Historic Site in McCook, Nebraska.

Franklin D. Roosevelt called George W. Norris the very perfect, gentle knight of the American progressive ideals. He made McCook, Nebraska his home from 1899 until his death in 1944. One of the great independent politicians of his day Senator Norris was elected to Congress in 1903 and served to 1913. He served in the Senate from 1913 to 1943. The senator fathered bills during his 30 year distinguished service to Nebraska and the United States which created the Nebraska unicameral (1935) Tennessee Valley Authority (1933) and the Rural Electrification Administration (1935). Senator Norris was the sponsor of the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution that abolished the "lame duck" session of Congress and changed the date of the presidential inauguration. George W. Norris became an Independent politician in 1936 after the Republican Party read him out of the organization. The Senator retired back to his home in McCook at age 81.

He completed his autobiography "Fighting Liberal" weeks before he died in 1944. When you travel West on highways 6 & 34 stop in and visit the Norris Home in McCook. Mr. Duane Tappe is the Director.





## NEEDING INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN FROM THE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ken Mosman, in conjunction with Holdrege Area Genealogy Club, is searching for information on the "Kids" who resided in Christian Children's home between 1889 and 1954. Mr. Mosman is compiling a book as a tribute to the children who resided at this home.

The book introduction has this quote. "These children are a part of the history of Nebraska, deserving of our admiration for their stability, adaptability and contributions to our society."

Mr. Mosman would like to hear form any Home Kid, relative of a Home Kid or former employee of the Christian Children's Home.

### Blue Suede Shoes and TieDyed Shirts

Do you remember Elvis singing about "Blue Suede Shoes"? How about "Flower Power"? As we reminisce about cokes after school at Noble Drug or Elston Drug, or the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, we generally have more than our stories to share. Tucked away in some trunk many of us have items from the 50's-60's, and even from the 70's. It is hard to imagine that some of this memorabilia needs to be saved! But it is not too soon for Nebraska Prairie Museum to begin collecting fad items, old clothing, and other pieces that depict those decades that seem too recent to be called "antique." So as you go through your storage, your old trunks and boxes, think of the museum as the permanent home for your treasures. The accessions committee will decide if your offered items will help build a future display which portrays life in the more recent decades.



### Swedish Supper and Tre Kronor Program

Dan VanDyke and the museum's board of directors are pleased with the turnout with 2007's Swedish Supper. The crowd was the largest in the supper's history, and as usual they received many compliments on the food. Most everyone stayed for the Sports Wall of Honor presentation and for the program which followed.

Phyllis Vandell introduced the music sung by Dean and Larry Lindstrom. Their selections were chosen to remind the audience of how blessed all of us are. Wayne Carlson's talk centered on the extreme scarcity early settlers endured as they struggled to make a living and a home here. These stories blended with the Lindstrom's theme of appreciating our ancestors' poverty and persistence so that we can enjoy the freedom and bounty we now have.

## Sports Wall

Four new pictures and stories have been hung on the Phelps County Sports Wall of Honor. On the evening of the Swedish Supper, Warner Carlson presented the new inductees to a large audience.



*Claire Gitchel*

The first gentleman was Claire Gitchel, who could not attend the evening's festivities. Warner gave credit for the information about Claire to Don Lindstrom, longtime sports editor and writer here and in Wisconsin. Don's persistence led to Gitchel's being recognized by the Nebraska School Activities Association for many records established at HHS while playing football there.

He also competed in other sports during his high school years and has been called "a standout athlete" for Holdrege.

Beth Stuart Jurgens competed year round in sports while attending Holdrege High School, but established her records in track. After being state champion multiple years in shot put and discus, she went on to the University at Kearney where she continued her outstanding career in the shot and discus. Her record performances at national meets have earned her the outstanding college athlete award, and the World Herald Athlete of the Year Award. In addition to being on the county's wall of honor, her picture hangs in the University at Kearney's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Steve Larson has also been inducted into the same Hall of Fame. Steve played football for the then Kearney State College, where he earned honors through his years of play. He has continued to provide instruction and leadership to the athletes at Kearney High School where he has helped students develop to the point that their track teams have won 11 consecutive state titles. These efforts have also won him honors as a coach.

Dennis Thorell has also been a teacher and coach in high school. Before starting that career, he served his country in Vietnam. During his teaching years he also officiated on both the high school and collegiate levels, and was proficient enough to make the calls at five state tournaments.

Dennis's athletic accomplishments helped develop and prepare him for years of building character and skills in high school athletes. While attending high school at Loomis he lettered four years in three sports, and three years in baseball, and held several records for his achievements. He played football for the Huskers, and played in several bowl games.

Remarks made by Steve and Dennis are worthy of being heard again, so the Stereoscope staff hopes to have their talks in hand to include in a future issue.



*Steve Larson, Beth (Stuart) Jurgens and Dennis Thorell*



## Unknown Hero Harry Schmidt (USMC)

2007 is not the first time that Holdrege residents have read this name and wondered about the gentleman named in the article. In 1943 the local paper speculated about the origins of this Holdrege native as they read about him being the second in command of the U.S. Marine Corp. "Old-timers in Holdrege, today, with shame-faced expressions, admitted they had almost forgotten the community's most famous man--" And now in 2007 we again read about Gen. Harry Schmidt.

The World Herald dated June 24, 2007 had an article about the name change of Iwo Jima to Iwo To. They reminded the readers of "what happened in February and March 1945, when some 100,000 U.S. troops slowly, bloodily swept Iwo so U.S. bombers could strike the home islands."

"Marine Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt, a native



of Holdrege, Nebraska, was there commanding the 5th Marine Amphibious Corps. Nearly 7,000 Americans died: fewer than 1,000 of the 22,000 Japanese troops lived."

The mention of Schmidt's name started a buzz around town AGAIN, as it did in '43. Who was this commanding general, a man who served his country from 1909 till retiring in 1948?

He was indeed born in Holdrege in 1886 and his parents both were immigrants to this country. His father, William of German heritage, was a baker on West Avenue and, after selling the bakery, "operated the gaming tables in the old Hampton House." His mother, Nettie (Anderson) was an immigrant from Sweden. The family left Holdrege when Harry was about 12 years old. He attended Nebraska State Normal College and served in the Nebraska National Guard before entering the Marine Corps as a lieutenant in 1909.

For Schmidt, most of World War I was spent on sea duty. During the 20's and 30's he was posted throughout the world, from China to the Philippines to Nicaragua as well as having several tours of duty within his native country. In January of 1942 he was appointed Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and his next appointment was when Holdrege first scurried to learn more about this native son.

He served the war years in the Pacific Theater as Commander of the Fourth Marine Division and later as commander of the Fifth Amphibious Corps. Under his leadership, U.S. forces claimed hard fought victories at Kwajalein, Saipan Tinian and Iwo Jima.

During the battle for Iwo Jima, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Distinguished Service Medal for his part in this

*(Hero Continued on page 6)*

(Hero Continued from page 5)

operation. His citation reads in part, "Against determined enemy resistance and incomparable natural defenses, Major General Schmidt skillfully directed the attack of his troops to capture and occupy this strategic island. He handled the various units under his command with brilliant tactical skill. His sound judgment, distinctive administrative ability and unfailing devotion to duty were vital factors in the success of the entire operation." During his sterling career, he was the recipient of over 20 medals and decorations, which

acknowledge the dedication and skills he brought to the corps.

After the war, he and his Fifth Corp were stationed in occupied Japan, and he then returned to the United States where he finished his career as the Commander at the Marine Training and Replacement Command at San Diego California. He retired in that area and died twenty years later, February 10, 1968.

Thanks to a curious Marine who did a Wikipedia search, and to the genealogy staff at the museum for the information in this article.

## Phelps County Historical Society Memorials April 10 - July 11, 2007

### IMO Richard Person

Kent and John Person  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lien  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Abramson  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Sandell  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ostgren  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Wohlgemuth  
Mrs. L.G. Titus  
Harry Dahlstrom  
Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Abrahamson  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Pearson  
Mr. and Mrs. B. Perry

### IMO Jim Lindstrom

Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Abrahamson

### IMO Russ Ambler

Mr. and Mrs. B. Perry

### IMO Marlene Hansen

Mr. and Mrs. J. Nordstrom

Mr. and Mrs. J. Skallberg

### IMO Janice Rosenthal

Mr. and Mrs. L. Lindstrom  
Mr. and Mrs. B. Perry  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Wohlgemuth

### IMO Lewis Lindstrom

Mr. and Mrs. L. Lindstrom

### IMO LeWarren Carlson

Mr. and Mrs. M. Nelson

### IMO Les Shaffer

Mr. and Mrs. H. Lofton Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. B. Perry  
Mrs. L.G. Titus

### IMO Cora Chamberlin

Mr. and Mrs. W. Jacobson

### IMO Dorothy Johnson

Dorothy Johnson Memorial  
Fund

### IMO Harriet Dahlstet

Roxana Lind  
Harry Dahlstrom  
Sandra Samuelson  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Carlson

### IMO Noah and Anna

### Younquist

Younquist Family

### IMO Lavern McConnel

Mr. and Mrs. E. Abramson

### IMO Kay Berry

Jacquelyn Stroup  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Lien

### IMO Sadie (Johnson)

### Kimberling

HHS Class of 1947

### IMO Loretta Franzen

Mr. and Mrs. D. Pearson

### IHO John Carlson

Mr. and Mrs. W. Carlson

### IHO Wayne and Betty Carlson

Mr. and Mrs. J. Carlson

### IHO Mary Johnson

Sandy Samuelson



The Memorial  
Brick Garden has  
a new fountain!  
Stop by the  
Nebraska Prairie  
Museum and  
check it out!



## A Third Letter from ULRICH SCHLOSSMACHER

on his narration of his POW Experience at  
Camp Atlanta



*Note from Nancy Morse:*  
Ulrich Schlossmacher worked on my parent's farm for several months following his arrival at Camp Atlanta. He developed a strong friendship with my parents, Forrest and Violet Morrison. After his return to Europe, first to a POW camp in England and then to his home

area in what used to be East Germany, he lost touch with my parents. The East German Government did not encourage contact between its citizens and Americans. Ulrich contacted me in November 2000 and he and his daughter, Kerstin, visited us in September 2001. We developed a strong friendship and I have since visited them 4 times in Germany.

### THIRD PART OF MY REPORT

From my diary, started on  
3-26-1946 at TIVERTON, Devon, POW Camp  
92:

12-24-1946, 8 p.m. The fellows of our hut wait for the second turn of the Holy-Night Celebration. Because of the lack of a sufficient big hall no common celebration is possible for all inmates of the camp. "It happened to that time... (Lucas 3)" that I had to experience my second Christmas behind barbed wire far from home. Will it be last time? The fellows surely remind of the past. But there are many of them who try to hide their grief behind a kind of grim humor. I feel solace by the thought that my parents and my brother at home can celebrate Christmas in a small circle under the roof they are used to, even with

black shadows on our fate.

Christmas in England cannot be compared with the German way of celebration. It may be compared with any other British holyday. Towards us POWs the conscience of the average Englishman has been awaked, whereas but little of the announcements by the British Government as free moving outside of the camps, conversation with common people, acceptance of invitations has been realized up to now.

One of my truck-fellows is friend to an English woman. Yesterday she expended 10 "Parkdrive" (cheap cigarettes) to everyone on the truck, today two beers. When we had to stop with our truck within Tiverton today, an elder lady threw a 20 cigarettes packate of "Players" into it. Even Mr. Granville, my farmer overcame himself by presenting me with two packages of tobacco, one



Ulrich Schlossmacher

egg and a piece of the traditional Christmas pudding thus causing some holiday mood. From Charly, his civilian farmworker, I got some tooth paste and tobacco. Meanwhile our turn of X-mas celebration has ended. In no one's eyes a spark of joy. I couldn't remind the glorious Christmases of my childhood, free of sorrows. "Holy night, oh pour Heaven's peace into my heart!" (Melody by L. van Beethoven) or the calming sounds of Handel's Largo. All I can wish is that you, my beloved ones at home won't feel the bad circumstances very soon as less as I was allowed to feel this year. Yet

(POW Continued on page 8)

*(POW Continued from page 7)*

"Glow, you golden stars, to you I'd like to flee, heavenwards!" (Beethoven)

*This is quite a short narrative but his fourth and last which will be published in another Stereoscope issue is quite a bit longer. Someone asked Nancy why certain words are all in capitals. She says that is the way Ulrich emphasizes names of towns and people--usually just the first time he uses it in a letter. Nancy types his narratives JUST the way he writes them. In talking with Ulrich's daughter, putting together this story has really caught his imagination and he is quite excited about it.*

*NOTE: Since Ulrich's narrative is so short, Nancy has sent a letter that her dad wrote to Ulrich about 10 months later. We thought it would be interesting to put in the Stereoscope to give some idea of the back and forth communication between Nancy's Dad and Ulrich before Ulrich was expatriated to East Germany and had to cease communicating.*

**Loomis, Nebr. Oct 14, 1947**

Dear friend Ulrich,

Some time ago just after I got your letter I wrote to Care. I sent them a cheque for a food package for your folks, regular standard package and also a package of 21 lbs flour for 4 Dollars. To-day I am very sorry to relate my cheque was returned and they are unable to deliver packages there. I had hoped to send another package shortly by them of 12 lbs. lard for 4 Dollars. They say that as soon as they can deliver there (if they can ever) they will notify me and I will send some packages to your folks. I thought the lard or flour would go as far as anything. I understand, they have some packets of clothing but I have heard they are not so good. I do not know. There are several concerns

like Care. I read an article on them not long ago. However, it put Care at the top of those sending agencies. I know your folks must be in dire need and would be only too glad to send them something. I frequently wish I had some of you boys working for me. My boys who helped me this summer have all gone to school, now. However, they come to help me on Saturday. I bought 128 head of cattle, 6 of them died, got shipping fever. I had a good crop this year, got 28 stacks of hay. Weather has been wonderful. Wheat looks good, only put out 65 acres, but as I say very good. Only had about 1 ½ in. rain since July 6th or 7th. A lot of the wheat on the great Plains is very short of moisture and the prospects for 1948 wheat are not too good. The beet harvest is going strong. A few make 15 tons and a few small patches 20 tons. Acreage is quite large. Have had no frost or snow as soon as yet, are starting to pick corn (maize in America. U.) although I have none. It's not a bad crop here this year. Corn is Dollars 2.25 per bushel - wheat 2.75 per bushel and hogs 27 Dollars per Cwt. (Hundredweight.U.) They are closing the distilleries for 60 days in a Save Grain Plan for Europe. I saw Jake Fahrenbruch and he said his beets weren't too good. I just saw him a minute, told him you asked about them. I go to Bertrand very seldom and sometimes I think I should take a picture of your compound and send to you. Ted no longer goes by as the potatoes are all dug. They were quite good and price was very good. My folks are very well and glad to hear from you.

Nancy May is quite a girl, she can walk quite well and has seven teeth. When you can communicate with your parents tell them of my luck sending them a Care packet.

According to all Newspapers Europe must be in a very bad way for food and clothing. Sure it is

*(POW Continued on page 9)*



*(POW Continued from page 8)*

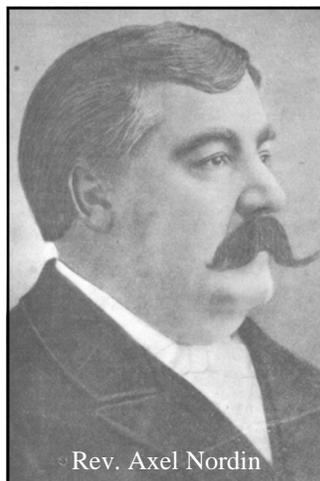
a long time till food grows again. If there should be a severe winter it will be too bad.

I may be wrong but I hate to see England send Churchill on his way as I think he was a great man. We lost Roosevelt and I think he was the world's greatest man in a long time. There are many who do not agree with me, however. Nevertheless, he believed in the common man. I presume England is all a twist about the wedding next month.

Really I don't think you would see much change over this area than when you left. We are still very wasteful, you know, and not careful. Lots of wasted land. Most everyone has plenty of time to play and plenty to eat and an automobile. There is lots of buildings going on here, homes and business buildings, roads, etc.

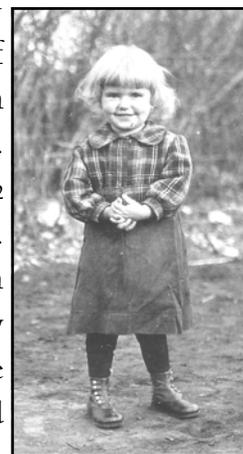
This letter may be returned as you may be transferred or sent home as you talked of being repatriated this fall (autumn. U.) or winter. If not you will get it and if you have gone I am sure you will get in communication with me. We are always glad to hear from you. Violet says her best regards, she is very busy. I am sending 6 snapshots in another letter. 1 of some cattle and myself I fed across the road the summer after you left. 2 of the combine taken the summer you worked here. 1 tearing down the house. Violet says you are on the roof. 1 of Trixie and her pup and 1 view of the stacks taken last summer.

Your friend,  
Forrest Morrison



## REV. AXEL NORDIN Founder of Christian Children's Home

Rev. Axel Nordin was born in Västmanland, Sweden and emigrated from Sweden in 1882. He had been preaching the gospel since he was 16 years old. He came to Phelps County in 1884 and started preaching at "the hall" in Phelps Center and later became a pastor of the Phelps Center Church in Phelps Center, Nebraska. Phelps Center was located 8 ½ miles from Holdrege, Nebraska. He was the founder of Christian Children's Home, but only stayed until 1890 when he moved to Chicago, IL. He died October 27, 1912 and is buried at Moses Hill Cemetery.



## Christian Children's Home Cared for Hundreds of Children

by Sandra Slater  
*(This Information is from the Fifth Anniversary Album)*

## Christian Children's Home 1889-1939

In the summer of 1888, Rev. Axel Nordin took three Larson children home to his mother after their own mother had died. Rev. Nordin

*(Children's Home Continued on page 10)*

*(Children's Home Continued from page 9)*

traveled to Chicago, Illinois the following summer to solicit donations to care for the children, bringing home another orphaned child from Pennsylvania.



The annual meeting of the Free Mission Churches was held in Phelps Center in 1889 and Rev. Nordin presented his plans for the future home as well as its needs. Great interest was shown by the churches as no like institution existed among the Swedish speaking "Free" denominations. Ministers from the different parts of the states gave assurance of their co-operation in seeking to interest the public.



On March 1, 1889 the Christian Orphan's Home was officially organized. The question of financing was given due consideration. As no large donations could be expected, it was felt it necessary to obtain the interest and support of the general public.

A pony team supplied the transportation at the home. This provided a way to get their mail from the Holcomb post office and get supplies from Holdrege.

One of the first steps of the board was to purchase Axel Nordin's Home. With a few additions, this home became the first Children's Home. A severe drought in the 1890's made donations even harder to come by.

By 1892, there was a need for a larger home and a building committee was formed. The new building was sixty feet long and 48 feet wide and also included a basement.

The home was open to any homeless child of any race or creed and the children would be raised in a Christian loving environment. The Children's Home had wonderful support from the local community as well as donations from patrons who resided in the Midwestern states.

The children attended School District 14 "Moses Hill School" for a few years. Then in 1892, an addition was built on to the home for a class room that could hold forty children. The home hired their own teachers. A separate two story school building was built in 1902 and eventually two teachers were hired.



Students received an 8th grade education until 1920 when the older students were driven to Holdrege to attend high school.

In February of 1925 a big fund drive was started to build a new Children's Home just west of Holdrege. Almost half of the funds came from

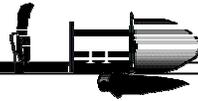


N e b r a s k a with half of that amount coming from P h e l p s County. The building was

completed and on June 21, 1926 the children moved into their new home.

The children attended church services at the Phelps Center Church until this church was closed in 1924. Then for two years the children attended the Holcomb church. When the new

*(Children's Home Continued on page 11)*



(Children's Home Continued from page 10)

home was built west of Holdrege in 1926 the children then attended the Evangelical Free Church.

The home maintained an excellent health record through the years. There were only 4 deaths between 1889 and 1919 and none between 1920 and 1930. Almost all the children came down with the flu during the flu epidemic in 1918 but none died. In 1925 most of the children came down with scarlet fever. No children died. There was a Small Pox outbreak in 1935, but not one child was lost. Several local physicians cared for the children. Dr. Theodore Peterson provided care for the children for many years. The local dentists provided good dental care. Once a month, in the evening, the boys were taken to the local barber shops for haircuts.

Financing this work was of utmost importance. Part of the home's income came from farm land they owned and donations.

The home had a financial agent who found



creative ways to solicit funds. In 1895, a plan was created soliciting a farmer from each township with a team and wagon to call on the farmers in his township to donate part of their crop to the Children's Home. When the farmers brought in the gain, the Children's Home made sure their animals were fed and the farmer was given a good dinner.

Also traveling agents went through the Midwest collecting donations. A membership drive was held in 1897 which added 187 new

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## Nebraska Prairie Museum

Presents an opportunity for you to leave your legacy with a personalized paver in our memorial garden.

Each paver may include up to three lines of text, 12 characters per line including spaces and punctuation (a maximum of 36 characters total). 3"x7" engraving surface paver has beveled edge.

Examples:

IN MEMORY OF  
PAUL & PAT  
PETERSON

HERMAN HEFT  
8-6-88

YES! I wish to order \_\_\_\_ Bricks at \$65.00 each.

Brick 1: 


Brick 2: 


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return you check and order form to:

Phelps County Historical Society  
PO Box 164  
Holdrege, NE 68949

For information call:  
(308) 995-5015



*(Children's Home Continued from page 11)*

patrons.

During the summer of 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Gustin accompanied by one teacher and a dozen home children made two very interesting and profitable trips which will long be remembered. Miss Judith Anderson was the teacher who accompanied them on the first trip which took them as far as Boone, Iowa. On the way to Boone, as well as on the return trip, a number of stops were made. Altogether about two dozen churches were visited in Nebraska and Iowa. At each place a program, consisting mainly of singing and recitations by the children were given. Another trip was taken through Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota a month later.

One important aspect of keeping their patrons aware of the home's needs was publishing a Children's Home newsletter. The first newsletters were published in Swedish and were called "Barnhem Posten." The newsletters were published in Swedish until 1933. Then the "Christian Home Messenger" was published in English. By 1939, 6,000 newsletters were published monthly.

The home children came from Nebraska and throughout the Midwest. Some were adopted and many children grew up to adulthood in the home. Many stayed in Phelps County and raised their families here. Several of the boys went into the service and served their country and a number of the Home Kids went to college. These children came from much hardship and most went on to live happy, productive lives.

*NOTE: All photos used in this Children's Home article were taken from Evelyn Murphy Nelson's person scrapbook. Names of all people in the photos are unknown. If you recognize anyone in the photos, please contact the Holdrege Area Genealogy Club at the Nebraska Prairie Museum Library. Thank you!*



STANDARD MAIL  
U S Postage Paid  
Holdrege, NE 68949  
Permit # 254

P.O. Box 164  
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949  
308-995-5015