THE MINNESOTA HISTORY Interpreter

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Mankato Painter's Historic Buildings Series to Benefit Blue Earth County Historical Society

On March 18, a public meeting on historic preservation issues was presented by the Minnesota Historical Society's State Historic Preservation office. The meeting was held in the historic Lorin Cray House in Mankato, and at the meeting, Mankato artist Marian Anderson spoke of her plan to do paintings of three Mankato historic houses, one of which is the Cray House. Anderson will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the series to the Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS) and to the YWCA.

This series is the result of the successful collaboration of Anderson, BECHS and the YWCA in an earlier series of paintings, called the "nostalgic Mankato" series. Each painting is a collage of images of places and people from the 1950s-1960s and is based on historic photographs. All of these original oil-on-canvas paintings (26 inches x 40 inches) were reproduced as limited edition collector's prints (13 inches x 20 inches).

"Partners in Progress," the first in the Mankato series, began in 1993 when the artist was approached by the chairman of the fund-raising committee for the Mankato Chamber of Commerce, who was interested in raising money to renovate the Mankato Union Depot. Not until Marian decided to paint a

Courtesy Marian Anderson Art Gallery

"Good Ol' Summertime" by Marian Anderson hangs on a wall in the foyer of the Lorin Cray House in Mankato. (The Cray House is owned by the YWCA of Mankato.) The original oil on canvas was reproduced in limited edition prints (13 inches x 20 inches).

collage rather than just the depot did she go ahead with the project. The 715 numbered and autographed prints sold out very quickly, prompting BECHS to ask her to do a second Mankato painting. The second in the series, "Closing Time," is a collage of street and Christmas scenes of Mankato at the close of a day. This limited edition of 650 main edition prints and 65 artist proof prints sold more quickly than the first.

Anderson decided to do a third Mankato fund-raising painting. She approached the Mankato YWCA, then renovating the Lorin Cray House, who welcomed the idea. The third painting, "Good Ol' Summertime," featured the many places in Mankato associated with good times in the summer. (See above.) Its 715 prints, too, sold out within a few months. In addition to limited edition prints, the Mankato series was reproduced as notecards, which are still available for sale.

MHS Grants-in-Aid Programs Workshops

Grants-in-aid programs administered by the Historic Preservation, Field Services and Grants Department of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) include the State Grants-in-Aid Program and the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid Program. Their purpose is to support projects conducted by organizations and institutions that interpret and preserve Minnesota's history, and to support historic preservation projects of a capital nature. Primary recipients of these grants are units of local government and regional, county and local non-profit organizations whose main purpose is historic preservation and/or interpretation.

Grant workshops will be held at three regional locations:

JULY 19: **WINDOM** • *JULY 21:* **BEMIDJI** • *JULY 22:* **ST. CLOUD**

For further information about locations and times of the workshops, grant categories and how to obtain copies of grants manuals, call 651/297-4416. For general information, go to the grants section of the MHS web site, www.mnhs.org/about/grants/index.html.

Mankato Artist's Fund-raising Paintings
Continued from page 1

Previously, Anderson has painted collages of towns in the Mankato area. "Pride of the Prairie" focuses on scenes in Madelia, where she grew up. The images in "The Spirit Lives" are from Sleepy Eye, a project supported in part by the Sleepy Eye Area Historical Society. They include one of Chief Sleepy Eye, for whom the nearby lake is named; the town gets its name from the lake.

"Yesteryear" focuses on the centennial of North Mankato, and includes Belgrade Avenue, bridges, a rainbow, a hockey player, and volunteers making sandbags to hold off the floods of 1951 and 1965. Anderson has been named "Artist of the Year" by the Wildlife and Western Art Exhibition and was inducted into the Collector's Society Hall of Fame in 1991.

Since part of Anderson's purpose in the current series is to increase people's awareness of the importance of historic preservation, she has chosen to do paintings of three historic Mankato buildings—the Oscar Schmidt House, the Lorin Cray House and the Rensselaer D. Hubbard House. The Cray and Hubbard houses, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are still standing and in active use, but the Schmidt House, which was on the Register, was demolished. The painting of the Schmidt house (see above) is scheduled for completion in fall 1999, the Cray House in fall 2000, and the Hubbard House in fall 2001. The present plan is to produce 650 main edition prints of each painting in the "Historic House Series" and sell them for $75 each, and 65 artist proof prints for $150 each. The pictures are 16 inches by 20 inches, oil on canvas.

Anderson and her husband Vince Meyer, a stone mason, live near Mankato in a field-stone home that also serves as her studio. For further information about the artist, contact her at Rt. 1, Box 229, Mankato, MN 56001; 507/388-1793, or by e-mail, marian@mariananderson.com. Contact BECHS at 415 Cherry St., Mankato, MN 56001-3741, 507/345-5566.

Courtesy Marian Anderson Art Gallery

Marian Anderson is shown beside her painting-in-progress of the Oscar Schmidt House in Mankato. The Schmidt House is no longer standing, so Anderson uses historical photographs, clippings and plans. The painting is scheduled for completion this fall. The original oil on canvas will be reproduced in limited edition prints (16 inches x 20 inches).

Ramsey County Historical Society Purchases Gibbs Farm Land

In April, after a year of negotiations and discussions of easements and related matters with the University of Minnesota, the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) purchased the 6.3 acres of land on which the Gibbs Farm Museum is located. RCHS already owned the land on which the Gibbs family home and white barn were located, but had leased the remaining acreage from the university. Jane and Heman Gibbs originally held a land grant of 160 acres, but sold most of it over the years; the university's golf course now occupies most of it.

Now that the land is owned rather than leased, RCHS can make major improvements to the site. The northern half (about four acres) is to be developed as an interpretive area that focuses on the time when Jane, then a small girl, was brought to the area and lived with the Dakota at Lake Harriet. Plans are being made for a section of native prairie, Dakota bark lodges and drying racks, tipi, and the construction of a sod hut similar to the one lived in by the Gibbs family from 1849 through 1854.

For further information, contact Quinn Tierney, RCHS director of development, at 651/222-0701, by e-mail at admin@rchs.com, or check the RCHS web site, www.rchs.com.

(Note: *Jane Gibbs, Little Bird That Was Caught,* published by RCHS, was nominated for a 1999 Minnesota Book Award in the Children's Non-Fiction category. The text was written by Anne Neuberger and Tessie Bundick provided the illustrations.)

Minnesota's 10 Most Endangered Properties • 1999 Preservation Alliance List

Each May, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota calls attention to the importance of historic preservation by selecting a group of historically significant properties that are threatened by destruction, disuse or neglect. The Alliance, the state's only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation, announced its 1999 list of most endangered properties on May 9. Listed in alphabetical order of location, they are:

- Clara City: W.D. Ammermann Homestead (1886)
- Hibbing: Hibbing General/Rood Hospital (1919)
- International Falls: Alexander Baker/Backus School complex (1912, 1936)
- Northfield: historic downtown Northfield, various buildings (1860s–1930s)
- Minneapolis: East Phillips neighborhood, various houses (1880s–1910s)
- Minneapolis: Ivy Tower (1930)
- Ortonville: Columbian Hotel (1892)
- St. Paul: Orpheum Theater-St. Francis Hotel (7th

Above: Logo of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

Place Apartments)-Coney Island buildings (1858, 1888, 1916)
- Stillwater: Stillwater Lift Bridge (1931)
- Taylors Falls area: St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

In his article about the list (St. Paul *Pioneer Press,* May 11), Larry Millett noted that the controversy about the Orpheum Theater area in St. Paul contains lessons for all preservationists. They will not enjoy much success by "rallying around the 'old-is-good' banner. Instead, preservationists must (a) find ways to make a strong public case for buildings they hope to save; (b) become more active in helping to find new uses for old buildings; and (c) pick their fights carefully so as not to alienate the general public by coming across as mindless opponents of progress."

For further information, contact the Alliance about its bimonthly magazine, *Minnesota Preservationist,* call 612/341-8140, or visit its web site, www.mnpreservation.org.

Bay Area Historical Society Assists 7th-Grade History Students

In the "Profiles of Learning," the seventh-grade graduation standard is "People and Cultures—Understanding Interactions between People and Cultures." A Silver Bay seventh-grade class used an innovative approach to satisfy that standard. Silver Bay teachers and the Bay Area Historical Society (BAHS) collaborated on a project titled "Building a Better Bay Area," which involves 60 seventh-grade students, 15 members of the Silver Bay community and resources from the BAHS collections.

Brett Archer, seventh-grade teacher, and Ed Maki, a special education paraprofessional and the president of BAHS, organized the project. They also have been working for some time to create a Bay Area History Center in the William Kelley High School in Silver Bay. BAHS made its collections available for research, provided a list of significant events in the history of the Silver Bay area, and compiled a list of people who would have knowledge of each event. The list included mining employees, businessmen, teachers, former students, fishermen and long-time Silver Bay area residents.

Archer chose 12 topics, and BAHS provided the students with newspapers, photographs, books and magazines so they could make packets of information

about the events. Each student chose an event and wrote a three-paragraph summary, describing the event and showing how it affected the people of Silver Bay. Each student then was required to formulate six questions to ask community members.

The teachers contacted the community members and asked them if they would be willing to answer questions from the students about the events. Fifteen community members agreed, and came to the Kelley High School cafeteria on April 9 to field the seventh-graders' carefully prepared questions.

That, however, was only Phase I of the project. Phase II requires students to collect their materials and the interviews into a binder, choose five events, then construct a colorful, detailed timeline. In Phase III, students are to conduct further in-depth interviews of outstanding citizens, take photographs and write biographies to show how the citizens have made the Silver Bay area a better place to live. Some of the timelines, biographies and photographs will be selected for display in the Bay Area History Center.

Because of its process as well as its historical content, the project has proved to be an effective way to connect the school, the students, the historical society and community members.

New IRS Rules for Disclosure by Tax-exempt Organizations

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued final rules that regulate the ways tax-exempt organizations must make their applications for tax exemption and their annual information returns available for public inspection. The regulations apply to 501 (c) and 501 (d) organizations and organizations other than private foundations exempt under section 501 (a) of the IRS code.

Under the earlier regulations, such organizations had to make Form 990 available for inspection in their offices. Now the organization must make copies of Form 990 for the past three years, as well as its request for tax exemption, available upon written or personal request. Portions of these forms, including lists of contributors and information about unrelated business activities, may be kept private. Organizations may charge $1 for the first page, 15 cents for subsequent pages, postage costs, and may require payment in advance.

If the organization publishes this information on its web site, or allows it to be included in a database of such forms, it may disregard individual requests for disclosure. However, electronic publication must show the form as it appears in "hard copy," which requires software such as the PDF format.

The new rules also specify standards that can be used to determine if the organization is the subject of a harassment campaign, as well as the the procedures to follow for obtaining relief from the requirement to provide copies of documents if it is being harassed.

The new rules are accessible on the Internet. Go to www.access.gpo.gov, then click on "Federal Register," write "page 17279" in the search box, then choose "Public Disclosure of Material..." For further information, contact Andy Finch, American Association of Museums (AAM), Government and Public Affairs, at 202/289-9125; fax 202/289-6578; e-mail afinch@aam-us.org.

Sources: *AVISO,* monthly newsletter of the AAM, May 1999, and "Summary" of the "Public Disclosure of Material Relating to Tax-Exempt Organizations," in the above-noted web site.

Volunteers on the Front Line II: Orientation and Training

by Jacqueline K. Dohn Maas
Volunteer Coordinator, Minnesota Historical Society

In the previous issue, we reviewed the interview process and some of the techniques used to screen volunteers for the front line. This article discusses the training that is needed to make volunteers feel comfortable and confident that they can provide excellent service to visitors.

As visible representatives of the museum, front-line volunteers are perceived as "experts" about the organization. How do we train them to provide appropriate answers to visitors' questions? The first thing is to incorporate materials into the volunteer training to round out their knowledge of the organization. These should include its history, its mission, a description of the permanent collection and its highlights, information about the physical building, dates and information about ongoing annual events, and background on some of its prominent founders and donors. An in-depth tour of the building, its administrative offices and emergency exits, should also be provided.

In order to meet everyone's learning style, develop a multi-layered approach to training front-line volunteers. Aside from necessary hands-on training for specific worksite equipment and procedures, provide them with tip sheets of appropriate responses and actions for the most frequently asked questions or potentially sticky situations. Write step-by-step instructions for opening and closing procedures or create worksheets or training manuals that they can complete and review at home. It may prove helpful to pair a new volunteer with a seasoned veteran for the first few days, helping to form a mentor relationship.

The volunteer needs to understand his or her place within the organization. Be sure to indicate to the volunteer where your department lies within the institution's organizational chart, and describe the department's reporting relationship up and down the chart.

Once the initial training is completed, volunteers should remain involved in ongoing learning experiences such as customer service training. Joint meetings or training sessions for all front-line staff, whether paid or unpaid, will build bonding opportunities that can minimize perceived divisions and build a unified team with the common goal of providing excellent service.

1999 State History Day Winners Chosen

Below are the names of the top three contestants in each category from State History Day 1999, which was held May 1 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The first- and second-place winners will compete at National History Day in Washington, D.C., on June 12-17. For lists of students awarded honorable mention and those who won prizes in the topical categories, visit the History Day web site, at www.mnhs.org/school/historyday/statehd.html.

Senior Individual Paper
Joel Wertheim, Hopkins H.S., Mpls.
Alison Watts, South H.S., Mpls.
Meghan Keane, White Bear Lake High-North

Junior Individual Paper
Mark Thomson, Breck School, Mpls.
Dane Klingaman, Anthony Middle School, Mpls.
Max Bielenberg, Ramsey Jr. H.S., St. Paul

Senior Individual Media
Maren Hadley, Anoka H.S.
Tristen Greenslade, Chatfield H.S.
Mayme Donsker, Mounds View H.S.

Junior Individual Media
Laura Zeccardi, Chatfield H.S.
Elisabeth Charboneau, Ramsey Jr. High, St. Paul
Emily Jacobson, Rosemount Middle School

Above: Minnesota History Day logo.

Senior Group Media
Amy Frye, Brooke Heineman, Chatfield H.S.
Jonathan Otten, Raphael Carlson, Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul
Courtney Istre, Lindsay Kuehn, South H.S., Mpls.

Junior Group Media
Andrew Schwartz, Elise Schwartz, Willow Creek Middle School
Matthew Fishman, Joey Knelman, Valley View Middle School
Chris Martin, Mike Schultz, Maple Grove Jr. H.S.

Senior Individual Performance
Adella Alsbury, Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul
Alison Phillips, South H.S., Mpls.
Stephanie Scheitel, Lourdes H.S., Rochester

Junior Individual Performance
James Bluhm, Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul
Drago Flores, Cedar Creek Community School
Laura Hammond, Rosemount Middle School

Senior Group Performance
Amy Vanderwall, Ava Murphy, Meredith Schonfeld-Hicks. Ingrid Remak, Emily Vicker, South H.S., Mpls.
Molly Denglar, Medina Bethea, Courtney Welton, Vanessa Wilder, South H.S., Mpls.
Elizabeth Buchanan, Danelle Miller, Austin H.S.

Junior Group Performance
Matt Hill, Amelia Graber, Erica Eccles-Radtke, Anna Marschalk-Burns, Ramsey Jr. H.S., St. Paul
Rose Fricke, Amy Gustason, Melody Fiscus, Adam Bluhm, Gloria Carlson, Christ's Household of Faith School, St. Paul
Peter Skoe, Greg Auger, Matthew Schoenek, Bemidji Middle School

Senior Individual Exhibit
Karen Hubbard-Rodo, South H.S., Mpls.
Michelle Pemberton, Vista Academy, New Richland
Devin Dwyer, St. Thomas Academy, St. Paul

Junior Individual Exhibit
Hannah Moos, Washington Tech Magnet, St. Paul
Anna Rice, Randolph Heights Elementary, St. Paul
Nathan Dorschner, Anthony Middle School, Mpls.

Senior Group Exhibit
Hilary Lundquist, Caitlin Reid, South H.S., Mpls.
Anne Dana, Carolyn Wollan, Jessica Chrastil, South H.S., Mpls.
Emily Klejeski, Elizabeth Lietzke, Emily Polnaszek, Church of St. Paul Home Education, St. Paul

Junior Group Exhibit
Dan Ott, John Kinzer, Anthony Middle School, Mpls.
Jessica Nelson, Katie Klejeski, Church of St. Paul Home Education Group
Hunter Scott, Theo Manahan, Chatfield H.S.
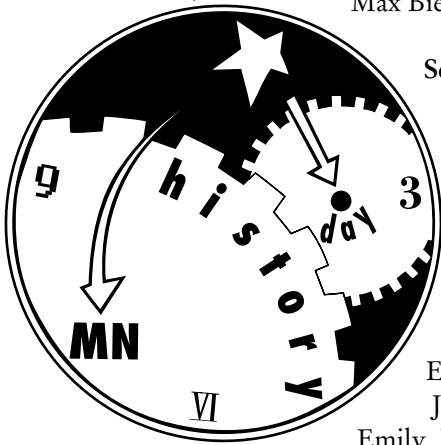
Minnesota Humanities Commission Announces Grants

The Minnesota Humanities Commission (MHC) recently announced grants in two categories. Twelve grants of $6,000 each were made as part of its Learning in Retirement Program, to support education and service for older adults, and 25 Project grants were made in the last two quarters. The following awards might be of particular interest to readers of the *Interpreter.*

- Advocating Change Together, Inc., St. Paul: $3,000 for "Disability History Exhibit," an interpretive exhibit on the history of disability.
- Center for Arts Criticism, Minneapolis: $500 for "The Role of Historian as Filmmaker," a panel on media studies and research.
- Kanabec County Historical Society, Mora: $965 for "The Heart Can Be Filled Anywhere on Earth," a lecture program by author Bill Holm.
- Martin County Historical Society, Fairmont: $300 for "German Genealogy for Beginners," a workshop on the history of German immigration in the area.
- Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, Stillwater: $2,000 for the Society's 1998-1999 lecture programs on topics in art history and archaeology.
- Ramsey County Historical Society, St. Paul: $2,000 for "Archaeology & Education," interpretive activities at the Gibbs Farm Museum site.
- Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul: $2,000 for "Underwater Archaeology Series," lectures on underwater sites around the world.
- Sherburne County Historical Society, Becker: $750 for "Community and Memory," a lecture program by author Bill Holm.
- Upper Midwest Women's History Center, St. Paul: $2,000 for "Minnesota Women's Suffrage Memorial Pamphlet," to develop an interpretive booklet about the memorial on the State Capitol Grounds.

For further information, contact MHC at 987 E. Ivy Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106-2046; 651/774-0105; www.thinkmhc.org.

Above: Logo of the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Special Donations by Lifetime Members

The January 1999 issue of *Museum Messenger,* the newsletter of the Mower County Historical Society (MCHS), includes a copy of a letter from Dorothea Guiney to MCHS in which she had enclosed a $25 check. She said she sent the check "in hopes that it will be used to offset record management and mailing expenses associated with non-renewing memberships such as your Life category." Ms. Guiney, now a resident of Minneapolis, went on to say, "As a museum professional I cannot in good faith reap the benefits of a membership without contributing in some small way. I'm sure many of your other Life members would also be happy to contribute towards the expense of their membership if asked."

The *Messenger* editor thought that Ms. Guiney's suggestion was a very good idea, and decided to reprint the letter in the newsletter. We agree. For further information, contact MCHS, P.O. Box 804, Austin, MN 55912; 507/437-6082.

REMINDER: MAM Meeting June 25

The Minnesota Association of Museums (MAM) will hold its annual meeting on Friday, June 25 at the Minnesota Historical Society's History Center in St. Paul. The meeting begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m., after the third set of concurrent sessions. Tours of area museums begin shortly after 3:30 p.m. Seven affinity groups will meet over box lunches; preferences for affinity groups and box lunches can be selected ahead of time on the registration form. The registration fee is $45/person, which includes conference fees, one-year MAM membership and a box lunch; the fee for students is $35.

For a program and registration form, contact Maija Sedzielarz at 651/221-4554; fax 651/221-4528; e-mail maija@smm.org. The registration deadline is June 10; registration at the door is accepted but will not include a box lunch.

Putting the Internet to Use: Web Site Design

David Nystuen, Minnesota Historical Society Field Services Coordinator, suggests these resources to help you get a web site up and running in a reasonable amount of time:

Getting Started

http://www.bignosebird.com/ is an excellent web-authoring resource. BigNoseBird is an excellent resource sites for the web novice. It offers sound advice on topics from web page design, HTML ("HyperText Markup Language") coding and graphic design, to placing your web site on a web server. It also has help for advanced topics such as CGI ("Common Gateway Interface") scripts and interactivity. If you are still a little intimidated, try a web tutorial: **http://townsquare.means.net** or **http://www.splusnet.com/~evilcow/tutorial/**.

If you would like to practice with different HTML tags and see the result, try: **http://www.ash.udel.edu/ash/tutor/html/testbed.html.**

Software

Now that you feel confident you can get your web page up and running, you will need software. An excellent place to obtain software is: **http://www.tucows.com/**.

TUCOWS is the ultimate shareware site for web site authors. It consists of reviews and links to the best freeware, shareware, and trial versions of commercial software. Its coverage includes HTML editors, multimedia tools, network tools, and a host of other useful software categories.

Editing

An excellent free HTML editor for Windows95 is: **http://www.arachnoid.com.**

An excellent free HTML editor for the Macintosh is BBEdit Lite:
http://tucows.fishnet.com/mac/htmleditmac.html

If you would rather use a WYSIWYG web authoring tool, try **Netscape's Composer,** which is integrated into most recent versions of Netscape's browser.

Help Pages

Some of the best HTML help pages are:
http://science.nas.nasa.gov/Services/Education/Resources/webweavers.html/, or
http://info.med.yale.edu/caim/manual/, or **http://www.sun.com/styleguide**.

For more advanced HTML help, try: **http://www.webdeveloper.com/browse.html**, or
http://webreview.com/wr/pub, or **http://www.infohiway.com/faster/**, or **http://webreference.com/**.

Color

If you want to add color to your site and are not sure what looks good, try these URLs ("Uniform Resource Locator"): **http://www.hidaho.com/colorcenter/cc.html**, or **http://www.infi.net/wwwimages/colorindex.html**.

Scanning

Use this URL to learn more about digital graphics than you probably care to know:
http://www.hsdesign.com/scanning/.

Once you have your scans, the following utility will help you compress the images so they load quickly:
http://webreference.com/services/gw/

Graphics

If you want to create some icons for your site, try this graphic creation utility: **http://www.zyris.com/**.

If you are searching for high quality graphics for your web page, the following site will save you a lot of work and time: **http://www.smithfam.com/graphics.htm**l.

AASLH Workshop in July on Community Relationships

"Making History with Your Community," a three-day intensive workshop sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), will be held at the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck on Thursday, July 29, through Saturday, July 31. The workshop will study methods that paid staff and volunteers of small and mid-sized history organizations can use to improve management, address issues in professional ethics, and build relationships with community stakeholders.

Specific topics include:
• Managing historical organizations;
• Writing effective mission statements;
• Interpretive master planning;
• What is the role of history organizations?
• Writing collections policies.

The registration fee of $200 covers materials, one lunch and one dinner; discounts are available for full-time students, board members and volunteers. For more information, contact Lauren Batte at AASLH, 615/320-3203; e-mail, batte@aaslh.org.

Above: Logo of the American Association for State and Local History.

10th Annual Braham Pie Day
AUGUST 6

The 10th Annual Braham Pie Day is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 6, from early morning until dusk. Events include a pie-baking contest, a pie-eating contest, a pie race, a small-quilt show, and pie in the park. This year's performers include Urban Renewal, Barb and Eb Gillespie, Five Guys Who Sing, and a variety show by Tusen Tack, Braham's second-hand clothing shop.

Braham Pie Day is sponsored by the Isanti County Historical Society (ICHS) and Braham We-Kin-Do, and is supported with funds from the East Central Regional Arts Council and an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature.

To request further information, write Valorie Arrowsmith at ICHS, P.O. Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008; call 612/689-4229; or visit the Pie Day web site, now located in the "community organizations" section of www.braham.com.

Britta Bloomberg, Head, Historic Preservation, Field Services and Grants Department
David Nystuen, Field Coordinator
James P. Smith, Editor

Send address changes to David Nystuen, 651/296-5460; e-mail: david.nystuen@mnhs.org.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**345 KELLOGG BOULEVARD WEST
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102-1906**