

# THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

## Polk County Historical Society

May 2008

### THE GLASS THAT GLOWS!

Sandra and Gordon Hibbs are collectors of the Vaseline glass that glows. No, these are not the vessels that petroleum jelly is packed in but a very unique type of glass that actually glows under ultraviolet light. They are pictured here with a 1900-era decanter from Czechoslovakia.

The Hibbs, who have been collecting this special glass for about twenty years, will explain the production and history of Vaseline glass at the Polk County Historical Society on Tuesday, May 27.

Join them at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Balsam Lake Justice Center and experience these treasures. Refreshments will be served.



Will you help dust and vacuum artifacts like this 1800 wedding dress? We need volunteers help to clean the inside of our display cases.



**Sandra and Gordon Hibbs, page 2**

Annual Bus Tour, Friday, June 13

Make reservations today!

Send \$50 payable to PCHS to:

Carl Johnson

307 South St.

Amery, WI 54001

**POLK COUNTY MUSEUM**

**Every day free in June 2008**

**12 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**New Addition Open**

**Tours available by appointment**

**(715) 485-9269**

## **GORDON AND SANDRA HIBBS**

Every family in Polk County has a story, and the Gordon Hibbs' family is no exception. The Hibbs' family line goes back to Colonial New England, but Gordon's parents grew up in Western Wisconsin; mother, Irene Spores near Cumberland, and father, Walter Hibbs, near Indian Creek. Gordon was born in Colorado, but after his father's death when Gordy was three years old, his mother married Clarence Nystrom, who lived in McKinley Township, Polk County. Around the turn of the century Gordon's grandfather, Walter Hibbs, had cleared land and made a farm near Indian Creek in Lorain Township. After attending McKinley rural grade school and Luck High School, Gordon married Sandra Hendricks in the Zion Lutheran Church of Bone Lake. Sandra attended the LaFollette Grade School and Luck High School.

Sandra's line goes back to Norway and Sweden, she said "I'm three-fourths Norwegian and one-fourth Swedish." Grandma Selma Ellingson and Grandpa Ole Johan Svor's parents came from Nordfjord, Norway and settled in rural Benson, Minnesota. Sandra's mother, Tina Rosella, was one of nine children born to them. In 1943 Tina married Oliver Carol Hendricks and raised a family of five. The Hendricks love music. Sandi says that she and her siblings learned how to sing in the barn where they all helped morning and evening. Her beautiful voice is a great gift that she has shared for years at the Zion Lutheran Church, where she is also pianist. In 1964 a beautiful girl, Tatia Rayanne, was born to Sandi and Gordy, their first. Each member of the family was tragically struck with Tatia's accidental death in 1985. Tacia's life is seen among the photographs and mementos in the Hibbs' home. The home radiates love. Nathan Lee was born a year after Tatia and the twins, Jordon and Jane, were born three and a half years later. Now the home is full of the grandchildren, who love to spend time with grandpa and grandma.

About twenty years ago, the Hibbs became interested in a rare glass that fluoresces bright green under ultraviolet light. It is called Vaseline glass because it resembles the appearance of the petroleum jelly sold in the 1920's. Vaseline glass contains a small amount of uranium, some 19<sup>th</sup>-century pieces were made with 25% uranium, but most pieces vary from trace levels to about 2%. Uranium glass was once made into tableware and household items but fell out of widespread use when the availability of uranium to most industries was sharply curtailed during the Cold War. Most such objects are now considered antiques or retro-era collectibles. Modern uranium glass is now mainly limited to small objects like beads or marbles or as scientific or decorative novelties.

Hibbs' Acres in McKinley Township is a show house of hundreds of Vaseline glass items, each one a prized possession proudly displayed.

## 2008 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Speaker/Location
May 27	Vaseline Glass	Gordy & Sandi Hibbs
June 18	Brat Sale	Dick Market, Amery
June 24	The Soo Line	Bill Pfannes at Kennedy Park
July 22	Wisconsin in the Civil War	Michael J. Martin
August 23	Big Band Dinner Dance	Tac Lo Ban
August 26	The Meaning of the Dances	Dan Mosay / Pine Park
September 23	New Garfield Park	JoAnn Hallquist
October 4	Christmas Past	Afternoon at the Museum

## 2008 HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Speaker/Location
May 21	Brat Sale	Dick Market, Amery
June 13	Bus Tour	Wood Carving/Train Dinner
July 4-6	Freedom Fest	Balsam Lake
July 12	Author's Fair	Museum Lawn
July 24-27	Polk County Fair	St. Croix Falls

The Polk County genealogists will staff the new Museum Research Library, located on the third floor of the new addition, every Monday from 1-4 p.m. in June, July, and August. They will be available to assist in helping others locate family history data in the records available.



Polk County Historical Research Library

## **POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Board of Directors Meeting April 22, 2008

**Call to Order:** President, Darrell Kittleson called the meeting to order at 5:30. All Directors except Ralph La Duke were in attendance; others present were Rosalie Kittleson, Jay Bergstrand, Linnea Philipson, Greg Marsten, Lois Hoff, and Patty Young, Marcie Markquart and Mark Johnson from the SEL Society were also in attendance.

**Agenda Additions:** Annual dues

**Secretary's Report:** Approved on a Muriel/Art motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved on a Carl/Joyce motion.

**Director's Report:** Given by Rosalie Kittleson

**Committees:** Darrell asked that all committees have a report for the next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

**Election of Board Position:** Greg Marsten of Luck was introduced and told the Board about himself. His addition to the Board was approved on a Muriel/Diane motion.

**Place Mats:** 14 ads @ \$50 each will be needed to pay the \$700 cost for printing 10,000. A Muriel/Dorene motion to proceed was approved.

The “**POLK COUNTY MUSEUM**” letters were ordered by Darrell so the bricklayers could put them on the wall for us.

**Bus Tour:** Posters are available

**Dinner Dance:** Band and Tac have been secured.

**Volunteers:** Greeters at the desk are still needed.

**Casino Expo:** Carl Johnson and Ralph LaDuke will be in charge; it's on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Security, T.V. Camera:** Performance Alarm will add the new addition to the alarm system. There will be a camera with a monitor and a buzzer to open the door for visitors.

**Museum Work Days:** Every Wed. and Thurs. from 10:00-12:00.

**2009 Regional Convention:** 160-200 people usually attend this Friday-Saturday convention, which we have the opportunity to host in 2009. A Muriel/Larry motion that we host the convention in 2009 was approved.

**Rey Lark Emeritus:** A Carl/Art motion was approved to give Rey Lark the title of Director Emeritus. Muriel will make a certificate and mail it to him along with a letter.

**Author's Book Fair:** Muriel, Helen and Rosalie will work together as organizers.

**Brat Stands:** Will be Wed., May 21<sup>st</sup> and Wed., June 18<sup>th</sup>, at Dick's in Amery. Larry and Linnea have volunteered to help. More help will be needed.

**2009 Ruben Awards:** A chairperson will be needed to oversee the gathering of information and fill out the forms. Perhaps Marge Hallquist will help in some way.

**Dues:** A Muriel/Larry motion to raise the annual PCHS membership fee to \$15 was approved.

Adjournment was at 7:00. Our next meeting will be on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Helen Stoltz-Wood, 386-7537, and Joyce Bergstrand, 268-9523 will be providing refreshments. The program will be "World of Vaseline Glass."

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Young, Sec.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

We are accomplishing many things this month as the addition is now getting the outside bricks on each day except when the weather does not cooperate. The electricity, plumbing, windows and doorways are all completed. We have the clean up in the new addition to finish so that the flooring will go in next. The carpet and tile have been purchased and will be put in place by Specialist Flooring. The elevator inspection was completed Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, by the inspector out of Madison. A training session was walked through and the papers signed and on file. The cleaning of the old addition of the museum is completed and the floors have never looked so good. I will be submitted the bill to our county budget.

Unity and St. Croix Falls high School students gave a day of community service and the work done is so nice and so many things were completed. Please look at the limestone wall improvement, the new painted hand rails by the entrances and the lattice work in the garden. I can not thank the school students enough. The awards night for Unity School was May 5<sup>th</sup>, and we gave five certificates of appreciation to seniors and announced that a grant would be available to the Polk County Schools next year.

We continue to have volunteers help in the school. Ron Anderson and Leon Alden did carpenter work, and thanks to them, the school has screens on all the windows and the laundry room has a face lift of pine wood. Jim Eichten has volunteered for future plumbing and we will soon have hot water tank in the closet with other plumbing fixtures.



We will have had 470 students through the museum with field tours and want to thank the following: Leona Cummings; Dan Mosay; Amy , David, & Jeremy, from Polk County Land & Water Department; tour guides Marge Hallquist, Ralph LaDuke; and Dave & Carolyn Stone for their music at the Pioneer School.

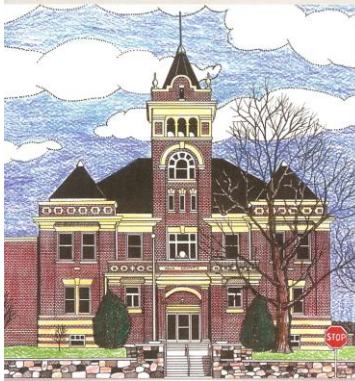
Please remember we need your help with the Balsam Lake Freedom Fest, July 4-6<sup>th</sup>. This is the largest event of the year in Balsam Lake, and we need bars and cookies for the food stand, donations for flea market, and volunteers to help.

Thank you,  
Director Rosalie



St. Croix Fall High School students rebuilt the limestone wall. They also painted the hand railings by each entrance door and the latticed arbor in the back of the garden. We have reason to be proud of our lawn.

Polk County Historical Society  
Box 41  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



## THE POLK COUNTY CHRONICLER

Page 1 ..... May 27 - Vaseline Glass  
Page 2 ..... Gordon and Sandra Hibbs  
Page 4 ..... Events  
Page 5 ..... April Board Meeting  
Page 5 ..... Director's Notes  
Page 7 ..... Research Center Contents

[darose@centurytel.net](mailto:darose@centurytel.net)

<http://www.PolkCountyMuseum.com>

I would like to become a member of  
the Polk County Historical Society:

Lifetime.....	\$100	100
Yearly .....	\$15	
Students.....	\$2	

Name .....

Street .....

City .....

State & Zip.....

E-mail .....

Mail to: Rosalie Kittleson  
Box 41  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810