



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)
& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

Volume XI, Number 4

www.mitchellcarnegie.com

Winter 2018-19

Victorian-inspired Christmas traditions

Christmas at the Carnegie set for Thursday, Dec. 6

Our family heritage and the customs of our times help make Christmas special to each one of us. Have you ever wondered how we form those customs and traditions? Americans freely embrace many of the ideas about Christmas from the Victorian British.

“Christmas at the Carnegie” will take visitors back in time to get the flavor of a Victorian Christmas at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 6, 2018.

The Victorian Era established many of the Christmas traditions

that we celebrate today. Queen Victoria of Britain ruled from 1867 to 1901 and helped bolster the Industrial Revolution. Before Victoria’s time, the British did not have a Christmas tree in every home, Christmas cards, Santa Claus or a holiday off to celebrate Christ’s birth. The traditional meat for Christmas dinner even changed from beef in the North, goose in the South and rabbit for all of Britain’s poor to turkey in most of Britain’s households by the end of the century.

The following brief explanations trace the evolution of some of those

treasured traditions.

Victoria’s German-born husband Prince Albert is given credit for the Christmas tree becoming a standard custom. Although pockets of German immigrants in Britain had Christmas trees for many years and German-born Queen Charlotte had a tree at Windsor Castle, Victoria and Albert’s decorated tree seems to make the practice British. It helped that the *Illustrated London News* published a drawing of the royal family celebrating around the tree in 1848. Decorations for the Christmas tree of the time included fruits,

Continued on p. 3

Village became annual holiday tradition for Janet Martin & family

In memory of Janet Martin

Janet Martin was a tiny but tenacious woman who embodied the ultimate homemaker.

When she wasn’t baking bread from scratch, she was hauling cattle to the sale barn, cleaning with military precision, keeping family books, raising horses, dogs, and



two daughters.

It comes as no surprise that she wasn’t a huge collector of sorts. She was too busy! That is until the Village came along.

It started simple enough. Her two daughters, college students at the time, went Christmas shopping. The Hallmark at the local mall had a small white church on display. You could plug it in and see lights spill from its windows.

Cont. on p. 8

Membership renewal & Reflections of 2018

Time has flown by this year! It is time to renew your membership(s) or purchase a new one! The membership and donation form is included with this newsletter.

The Mitchell Area Historical Society and the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society have been busy beavers

Cont. on p. 10



This photo of Hiroko was taken at Davis Beauty Salon in Dec. 1999. (submitted)

Hiroko Peta well-loved in Mitchell and area

So many of you wrote heartwarming comments on our request for a picture of Hiroko. We thank Ron and Deb Dusseau for sending the picture that accompanies this article.

Ron wrote, "Hiroko learned to play pool at the James Valley Community Center where I was director. She really enjoyed her new talent and stopped in to play at least several days every week. Although Hiroko wasn't active in many things around Mitchell, she was well known, and I believe universally liked. She had a pleasant disposition and was always helpful and accommodating

Cont. on p. 4

Who, What, Where, When?



This section of the Carnegie Courier is dedicated to labeling our "unknown or partially unknown" photographs or items in our collection. We will list known information when possible. The back of this picture says "Mrs. Stade & son Bourret." As yet we have been unable to identify a first name or location for Mrs. Stade. We have also been unable to locate a "Bourret Stade," so it is possible that his last name may be different. We would also like to know where this picture was taken.



STILL WONDERING...

We published the photo above in our Fall 2018 newsletter asking for information on what and who the picture shows. We still don't know who the people are in the picture or what the event may be. If you have any idea who they are, please give the Carnegie Resource Center a call at 605-996-3209 or email us at info@mitchellcarnegie.com.



This is one example of the decorations for Christmas at the Carnegie's Victorian inspired event.

Victorian Christmas *Cont. from p. 1*

sweets, popcorn and paper ring strings, small gifts, folded paper ornaments and feather angels to name a few.

The economical cost of mailing a parcel in Britain helped foster the idea of sending a Christmas greeting through the mail. Sir Henry Cole in 1843 printed 1,000 cards in his print shop which he sold for a shilling. The idea of Christmas cards was born. With the advancement of the rail system in Britain by 1870, the cost to mail became even more economical and sending Christmas cards became a well established tradition.

Before the 1800s, Father Christmas was Britain's mid-winter festival figure. He was usually dressed in green and was a reminder that spring was on the way. Sinterklaas (from Holland) became St. Nich-



This is just one of several displays of the Department 56 New England Villages ready for the viewing public.

olas who gradually became Santa Claus. Somewhere around the 1870s the idea of Santa Claus with his reindeer and sleigh living at the North Pole was accepted into the holiday lore.

A day off at Christmas for workers before Victoria's time did not exist. New wealth generated by the factories and industry in Britain helped make it possible for a two-day holiday celebration. One day was for gathering with family and honoring Christ's birth and the second day was called Boxing Day. It is believed, according to some sources, that this day is to open boxes that families receive from the wealthy or employers. Before this time gifts are given at the New Year.

Dust off your Christmas spirit and come visit us for a Victorian inspired "Christmas at the Carnegie."

Admission is non-perishable food items or cash donation to the Mitchell Food Pantry.

The Mitchell Barbershop Harmony Chorus will be here to entertain us. They may even include such Victorian songs as "O Come All Ye Faithful" written in 1843, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" written in 1868 or "Away in a Manger" written in 1883.

Wanema Wiezorek will also boost our Christmas mood with music on the Knabe Grand Piano. Treats, coffee and spiced cider will be served.

Hope you can come to help us celebrate another "Christmas at the Carnegie."

Citations:

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/A-Victorian-Christmas/>

<http://primaryfacts.com/210/victorian-christmas-facts-and-information/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/victorian-christmas/history.shtml>

Hiroko ...

Cont. from p. 2

when we brought my mother into the shop, called me when she was done, and helped my mother out. Our whole family loved Hiroko.”

Deb Dusseau also wrote, “Hiroko did my mother’s hair for 35 years and when my mom, Alby Dusseau, was in the nursing home in Chamberlain, I drove her 120 miles round trip to have Hiroko do her hair. Hiroko was her one and only hair dresser.”

Hiroko Fujimoto was born April 11, 1935, in Hiroshima, Japan, to Aijirou and Fujie Kanai Fujimoto.

She came to the U.S. by ship in March 1956 at the age of 20 with her step-father, Fred Kern, listed on the ship’s list aged 57 with residence of South Dakota. Her mother is listed as Foji Kamiel Fujimoto. They came from Yukohama, Japan, and arrived in Seattle, Wash. Earlier ships records list a possible sister,(b. Hiroshima) arriving in the U.S. in 1955.

Hiroko attended Stewart’s School of Beauty in Sioux Falls, S.D., graduating in 1957, and lived a short while in Sioux City, Iowa, before settling in Mitchell. She married Raymond Peta in Minnehaha County, S.D., on April 13, 1967. Hiroko and Ray belonged to the Kingdom Hall Church in Mitchell.

Hiroko died on Dec 16, 2001.

Survived by her husband, her mother and a sister Kazu Hino, Chimay, Japan. She was preceded in death by her father. The question now remains as to the location of Hiroko’s burial as she is not buried in Mitchell’s Graceland Cemetery with her husband Raymond. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

MAGS hosts Norwegian author Dag Gunderson Storla



PHOTOS: Main photo, Storla’s three novels. Inset, Dag Gunderson Storla pictured at the MAGS event. Below, a large crowd visited to listen to Storla’s presentation.

MAGS was honored to host Dag Gundersen Storla, from Norway; a Norwegian physician, former medical missionary to Bangladesh and currently working as a specialist in infectious diseases and chronic fatigue, as our speaker on Oct. 22, 2018. Dag has a special interest in the local history of his hometown, Stavanger, Norway, as well as the Norwegian Pioneers of the West, and has written three novels of the Norwegian pioneers as they left Norway and arrived in the West. The first novel, *Snowdrop Waltz*, is a warm defense of poor people in Stavanger in the 1870s. The second novel, *Red Champions*, includes major fraud and unemployment and immigration to America. In the third novel *Watch the Lilies How They Grow*, Josephine has left her hometown Stavanger behind and embarks on the long boat trip to New York, then travels by rail to South Dakota.



2018 Members And Donors

Community Support is vital to the continued success of MAHS and MAGS. Special appreciation is extended to the many members and donors for their generous contributions and dues. Please inform us of corrections by calling the 996-3209 or emailing us at info@mitchellcarnegie.com.

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Grant Awards received in 2018

Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation
 Sam F. Weller Family Foundation

MAGS, MAHS collaboration makes CRC a great resource

By Kathryn Crockett

In 2006, when Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS) became owner of the former Carnegie Library, MAHS asked MAGS to use part of the building.

Twelve years later, the decision, in a small way, has been validated as the correct decision when Andie Sindt loaned a book she had received as a thank-you gift for genealogical research she had done by MAGS to help Ginger Patera to research for ancestors.

The gift is useful for MAHS, too. The author, Jonathon Gawne, has

organized easily accessed information and data about World War II in his 340-page book, *Finding Your Father's War, a Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II US Army*.

Gawne opens the book's introduction with "War is a nasty, gruesome business...and is, as a rule, a waste of good lives." (p. vii). He ends the introduction with, "As a final piece of advice on how to try to learn about World War II, my father (a veteran) once told me that all you have to do is read Ernie Pyle's

stories and look at Bill Mauldin's cartoons." (p. x).

From a broad descriptive background about World War II, including the fact that by 1934 the U.S. Army's entire combat strength could be comfortably seated in Chicago's Soldiers' Field stadium. At the same time, armaments were being increased in Europe.

An example of the minute detail in this book is the information that gasoline-based liquid was used to paint the identifying numbers on military vehicle bumpers so that

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Cont. from p. 1

They thought their Mom might like it. Little did they know, they were on to something. Janet was enamored.

The following year was the Christmas of 1984. Her girls decided to experiment with something similar to the white church they had purchased the year before. It was called The New England Village from Department 56. They bought a piece and it quickly became the beginning of an annual holiday tradition.

It's hard to say what aspect of the Village process Janet loved most. She was like a kid in a candy store each Christmas.

She couldn't wait to open up the gift.

She would painstakingly remove the piece from its elaborate packaging. She and the family would then give the item the "Ooooh" and "Aaaah" it deserved. She delighted in "the reveal!"

Or perhaps, it was the assem-



A portion of the village Janet's family donated to the Mitchell Area Historical Society.

bly of the village she fancied. The forethought she gave to the process was substantial. It was important to place the lake and mill close enough to town so the children could come skate. And the farmer had better not live too far from town or he'd never make it to church.

As much as Janet enjoyed unveiling a new piece each Christmas and planning where it should go, it's likely that her favorite part was when the lights were low, and she could sit back, look at the Village, the people coming and going, and imagine their stories.

Were they hauling their harvest to

market? Who was cooking in their kitchen? How many kids were in the family?

The Village wasn't a collection to Janet. It was an extension of her passion for home.

Janet faithfully set up her village for nearly a quarter of a century until she passed away in 2013. Her daughters, Cindy Krall and Kristy Martin, are grateful for the effort put forth by the Historical Society and its volunteers as they labor to set up and display their mother's village.

Janet would be delighted to know that others are given the opportunity to enjoy it as much as she did.

KORN Radio has long history in Mitchell

Station celebrating 70-plus years serving the Corn Palace City

There was a lot going on July 4th, 1947. The United States was celebrating its 171st birthday. President Harry Truman blasted the Soviet Union's opposition to the Marshall Plan in an Independence Day speech from Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin told a national radio audience the United States was at war with the Soviet Union and losing. And numerous reports of UFO sightings came in from across the nation. The Army and Navy couldn't explain what thousands of people saw but vowed to investigate.

In South Dakota more than 14,000 people gathered in Lemmon to celebrate its 40th anniversary. Locally, more than 5,000 people watched the Jaycee's fireworks display at Lake Mitchell. And the Mitchell Kernels defeated Parkston 21-3 in baseball action at Kernel Field.

Meanwhile, Vera Peta had a lot on her mind as she was waiting for a blessed event: the birth of her daughter.

"So they put a radio in the labor room when they moved me in there," Peta remembered. About the time the baby arrived KMHK came to life as well. "So we had a baby at the same time the radio station was on the air," Peta said.

Two births, a baby girl and a new radio station.

KMHK's story actually began almost a year earlier when the Federal Communications Commission assigned the call letters to the Mitchell Broadcasting Association.

KMHK was equally owned by Raymond V. Eppel, an accomplished organist and leader of the Covered Wagon Orchestra of Minneapolis and James P. Ryan, part-owner of a Minneapolis café where the band performed.

KMHK operated on an assigned frequency of 1490 kilocycles with a power of 250 watts and was licensed to operate from 6 a.m. until 12 a.m. The main studio was located on the second floor of the Mitchell National Bank building on North Main Street with secondary studios at the transmitter site a mile east of Mitchell on Highway 38.

KMHK's original staff included owner-general manager Ray Eppel, commercial manager B. Harland Ohde, chief engineer Donald Dahl, announcer Don Jones, junior operators Ev Ohrt and James Martin, and secretary Mrs. Dorothy Bame.

Music made up a portion of KMHK's early programming and included General manager Ray Eppel at the Master Organ with his nightly feature, "Organ Melodies."

The Mitchell Broadcasting System presented big bands originating across the United States with an occasional

broadcast from the World's Only Corn Palace.

KMHK grew into a premium source of local news, weather, sports and information. The Daily Republic sponsored a weekly presentation of "Know Your Mitchell," the city's human-interest variety show of the air. The program covered a broad range of topics and answered questions such as: "What does Coach Joe Quintal think about the 1947 Conference Championship Mitchell High School Football Team?" or "Does the Corn Palace Committee have fun picking out shows?"

"Know Your Mitchell" also tackled more serious issues such as the city health department and Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 1948, KMHK aired both sides of the debate over whether Mitchell should move to a city manager form of government.

And KMHK proudly presented the play by play of Mitchell Kernel football and basketball courtesy of Rozum's, the Coca Cola Bottling Company and Griggs. In March of 1949, the Mitchell Broadcasting Association re-organized when Ray Eppel acquired James Ryan's interest and became KMHK's sole owner. About the same time a historic change took place as former general manager Mike Edwards remembered.

"They simply got the call letters from a station in (Fremont) Nebraska, and the call letters simply became available," said Edwards. "Ray saw that they were available...and with the Corn Palace here and with Corn Palace Week and all the celebration and everything, that would be perfect for us." Good bye KMHK, hello KORN!

As KORN headed into the 1950's George Blum hosted the "Alarm Clock Club" weekday mornings and along with Wally Overbaugh, hosted the "Culhane's Requestfully Yours" music show featuring "Bessie the Backwards Cow," who said "Oom, oom" instead of "Moo, moo."

In 1952, George helped a young man from Plankinton get his foot in the door in the world of radio. Gary Altman asked George if he could talk to Ray Eppel about hiring the 16-year-old at KORN. When News Director Bob Wood failed to return from a vacation, Gary Altman, later Gary Owens was promoted to News Director. He left KORN in 1956 and went on to a legendary career in radio and television that lasted until his death in 2015.

As the decade of the 1950s closed there were more changes for KORN. Ray Eppel took a step into the world of television as KORN-TV,

Cont. on p. 10

Cont. from p. 8

the numbers could be easily erased when secrecy was needed.

The book is printed on coated paper with color and black and white photographs and illustrations throughout the five chapters and seven appendices of this remarkable assemblage of information about the U.S. Army published in 2006.

For information about WW I, Ginger Patera cited David Allen Lambert, chief gene-

alogist at the New England Genealogical Society and co-host of the Extreme Genes radio show and podcast. He can be found on Twitter - DLGenealogist and his blog The Past Finder.

It is obvious that it really makes sense for MAGS and MAHS to have their collections and workers in the CRC. The research and assistance that the volunteers provide to those who want to learn about their families and businesses is truly invaluable.

Cont. from p. 1

this year. The volunteers have taken on numerous projects which have been funded partially or in full by your memberships and donations.

Some of the completed projects include an upgraded computer system, repair of our wrought iron fence and new shelving for the archives room.

Some of the projects that need additional funding are the climate control for the Archives room, outside repair on the building and the need for additional archival boxes and supplies.

We would like to thank all our members and donors for their support! We couldn't do it without you! From all the volunteers at the Carnegie - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

KORN Radio**Cont. from p. 9**

channel 5 signed on in 1960 and the KORN Radio studios moved from the Mitchell National Bank Building to the television facility along Highway 37 just south of town which is now the site of the Highland Travel Plaza and Mall complex.

The FCC authorized KORN to boost its power to 1,000 watts and eventually operate 24 hours a day. When Ray Eppel sold KORN-TV in 1973, the radio studios located to 319 North Main Street where they remained until our move to 400 North Rowley in the spring of 2015.

Eppel sold KORN to KORN Palace Broadcasting in 1975. Q-107.3 was added in 1979, and ultimately KORN Country 92.1 in December of 2015. During that time KORN remained a full-service station providing news, weather, sports and music until it ultimately switched to news-talk, and is now known as KORN News Radio FM 101.3 and AM 1490.

The stations went through several ownership changes between the late 1990s to January of 2017 when Nedved



Above: Buck Owens, Mike Edwards (former KORN GM) and Roy Clark during a guest appearance on Hee-Haw in 1979. (photo submitted)

Media, LLC of Mitchell purchased the operation from Riverfront Broadcasting, LLC.

What goes around, comes around and KMHK/KORN has completed the circle. It started out locally owned and operated and is now locally owned and operated once more.

While many personalities and owners have come and gone over the last 70 years, our mission remains the same. To serve Mitchell and southeast South Dakota with relevant and reliable news, weather, sports, information and entertainment.

This short passage from the AMC Series "Remember WENN" best describes the relationships that KMHK/KORN has built since 1947: "We occupy a very privileged position in the world of entertainment. From Shakespeare to the circus, from baseball stadiums to the silver screen. Audiences have always left their homes to go to one theater or another. But we in radio are offered the unique honor to enter the homes of our audience. We've spent many a cozy evening in the comfort of your living rooms. We've had a standing invitation for breakfast and lunch in your kitchen. When your children were sick in bed with a cold, we stayed at their bedside and tried to cheer them up. And this evening, if you find yourself alone, know that we've been alone together. That's what radio does to strangers. It makes family of us all."



**J.P. Skelly,
News Director
Nedved Media, LLC
KORN News Radio
FM 101.3 and
AM 1490, Q-1073
and KORN Country 92.1**

Recognize your pioneer ancestors

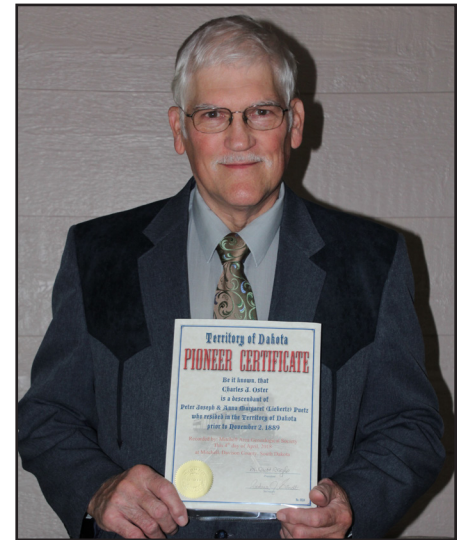
The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society proudly issues South Dakota Pioneer, Early Settler and Century Family Certificates to those who can prove direct descent from any person living in South Dakota at least 100 years ago. Each category of the ancestral certificates has a different time criteria. Pioneer Certificates are for those who have had an ancestor in South Dakota before Nov. 2, 1889. Early Settler Certificates are for those who have had an ancestor in South Dakota on or before Nov. 2, 1909. Century Family Certificates are for those who have an ancestor who settled in South Dakota at least a hundred years ago.

Charles Oster recently applied and received a Pioneer Certificate honoring his two times great grandparents, Peter Joseph Puetz and Anna M. Liebertz Puetz. They came to America from Germany on the E.C. Scranton and landed in New York on May 22, 1857. Wis-

consin was their first destination, but they came to Dakota Territory by wagon train in 1879 along with their son John "Peter" and his family. They settled a mile north and a mile west of Starr (now Dimock) in Hutchinson County. This area and Davison County are still home to many of the descendants of Peter Joseph and Anna. Charles is proud to leave to all future genealogists some vital family history about his South Dakota pioneers. What an asset to future generations.

Charles filled out the application form and provided the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society with a copy of documents and a family tree proving his claim to the Pioneer Certificate. There are several types of proof that can be submitted. Acceptable sources include: Census records, school records, church or Bible records, marriage certificates, death certificates, and county histories. The MAGS group wants only copies of those precious

documents – never originals. The South Dakota Ancestral Pioneers information will become one of the society's most prized possessions in the years to come. Applications can be picked up at the Carnegie Resource Center or downloaded from the Carnegie website <http://www.mitchellcarnegie.com>.



Charles Oster with his Pioneer Certificate from the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society.

Halloween Caramel Apples sales successful



The Carnegie Resource Center volunteers along with Mitchell Main Street & Beyond teamed up to dip and twirl Woolworth caramel apples during the downtown Trick or Treat on Oct. 24, 2018.

They also delivered caramel apples to local businesses on Halloween, Oct. 31, 2018. Total number of apples sold was 448. The profits from this fundraiser are shared between the two non-profit groups.

They would like to say Thank You to all those individuals and businesses that help make the fundraiser a success.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 6.

Christmas at the Carnegie

Jan. 7, 2019 - MAGS Program
Genealogical Webinar

Jan. 21 - MAHS Program
History of Wesley Acres
By Donna Weiland

Feb. 4 - MAGS Program
Genealogical Webinar

Feb. 18 - MAHS Program
History of
Montgomery Furniture

Mar. 4 - MAGS Program
Genealogical Webinar

Mar. 18 - MAHS Program
History of Chef Louie's Steak
House & Lounge
By Carey Fredericksen

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jan. 17
MAHS Business Meeting

Jan. 28
MAGS Business Meeting

Feb. 21
MAHS Business Meeting

Feb. 25
MAGS Business Meeting

Mar. 21
MAHS Business Meeting

Mar. 25
MAGS Business Meeting

Support MAHS by using Amazon Smile

When doing your Amazon online shopping, think of supporting MAHS by visiting:

smile.amazon.com

Type in

Mitchell Area Historical Society
in the search box and select it.

You only have to log on once through Amazon Smile and each time you shop after that, the site will show that you support MAHS.

A portion of the proceeds from all you buy on Amazon will go to the historical society! How cool is that?

Spread the word about this one simple way to give back to your community!

Our ability to serve the you relies on generous donations from the public.

Thank you!

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