

NEWS ALERT to DCHS MEMBERS: JULY 1, 2009
SECOND SUNDAY TALK on JULY 12... & MORE!

Douglas County Historical Society – Fort Omaha – 30th & Fort Streets – Omaha 68111
For information on classes, events or services and to make reservations: (402) 455-9990

JULY 12: SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: CONTINUOUS 1-4 P.M.

The Douglas County Historical Society's museum, the General Crook House, will extend its hours for the next Second Sunday Talk on July 12, permitting a continuous showing of newsreel films from 1 to 4 p.m. and a reunion of those mentioned in the films until 5:30 p.m. "Sunday Afternoon at the Movies with Harold Chenoweth, Nebraska's First Motion Picture Producer," will be narrated in the Crook House Education Room by his son Bob Chenoweth, who also will exhibit vintage cameras used by his father.

The schedule of Hal Chenoweth's films, which have been preserved on DVD, and in some cases will be available for purchase on July 12:

- 1-1:15pm "Surviving the Great Depression" (2 min, silent film, continuous run)
- 1:20pm "The History of Butter-Nut Coffee, Uncle Sam & corn huskers" (10 min)
- 1:40pm "Barge Travel During the Great Depression" (11 min)
- 2:00pm "The Tale of a City: Nebraska from 1916-1950" (30 min). (May purchase)
- 2:45pm "New Pioneers: The 1950s" (40 min)
- 3:30pm "Santa Claus Bowl of 1948" (16 min)
- 4:00pm Reunion of individuals in the films and any requested repeats.

Participants and their families from the Santa Claus Bowl, sponsored by Roberts Dairy, will be invited to attend, and the Crook House will remain open after the customary 4 p.m. closing so that they may visit among themselves and with other guests.

Businesses and individuals who are featured in any of the films are invited to attend with their associates or families, and the event is open to the general public. The shows are free with the usual admission/donation to tour the Crook House for non-members of \$5 adults, \$4 students and \$3 children ages 6 through 11. The afternoon is free for DCHS members. Ice cream sundaes, furnished by Roberts Dairy and the National Association of Soda Jerks, will be served to all guests on Sunday. ### ### ###

AUGUST 9: TALK ON MILDRED BROWN, OMAHA STAR FOUNDER

Amy Forss, member of the history faculty at the Elkhorn campus of Metropolitan Community College for the past nine years, will speak on Mildred Brown, the founder of the Omaha Star newspaper, at the Second Sunday Talk on August 9.

Ms. Forss will receive her doctorate degree in African American Studies in December from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln. Her dissertation is on Mildred Brown.

Ms. Forss frequently arranges classroom visits for her Metro students to the Historical Society's Library Archives Center and National Indian Wars Library, and also has participated in volunteer programs. She and her husband have six children.

The talk will begin at 2 p.m. at the General Crook House Museum, and is made possible by the Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss Memorial Foundation. It is free for DCHS members and included with the usual non-member admission/donation to tour the Crook House (\$5 adults, \$4 students, \$3 ages 6 through 11). ### ### ###

ANTIQUES CLASSES TAKE SUMMER VACATION; TO RESUME AUGUST 18

The next series of antique classes conducted by Curator Pat Pixley will begin August 18 and continue Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the next three weeks. Students have a choice of four 2.5 hour classes, beginning: 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Each session concludes with a student's item for "show and tell" and an evaluation. Registration is required: call Barbara Miller for time and costs at (402) 455-9990. During the absence of classes, the Education Room will be painted and refurbished during July and August, a project funded by the Crook House Guild. Chairman is Peggy Wiles. ### ### ###

SEPTEMBER 13: GARDEN WALK & GLASS ARTISTS SHOWCASE

Glass artists will demonstrate and showcase their creations as a special feature of the Crook House Garden Walk on September 13. Visiting hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during this one-day show which includes the glass artists, one-on-one talks by horticulturists from Kinghorn Gardens who design and maintain the Crook House Victorian Heirloom Garden, plus an exhibition and sales by collectors of glassware.

Since this is a fund-raising event, the customary admission/donation will be asked of all who attend: \$5 adults, \$4 students and \$3 ages 6 through 11. The fee includes conducted tours of the Crook House and the recently completed Servant's Quarters, as well as gallery talks on the current exhibit of over 400 pieces illustrating, "Glass: The Opulent Art 1870-1970."

Lemonade and sweets will be available for purchase. The Crook House and all gardens at Fort Omaha are part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. ### ### ###

OCTOBER 10: SATURDAY SELECTED FOR FAMILY ORAL HISTORIES

The customary Second Sunday Talk in October is to be on Saturday, October 10 and will focus on oral histories conducted by youth with a selected parent, grandparent or friend. The event is open to the public, and members of the Historical Society's Early Settlers Club will be invited to attend as part of their annual reunion. Pre-registration is required, in order to schedule time and location for interviews that day: contact Education Director Dan Spiegel at 451-1013, Ext. 109 or Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Miller at 455-9990, Ext. 102.

The event will be held between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at both the General Crook House Museum and Library/Archives Center and National Indian Wars Library at historic Fort Omaha, 30th and Fort Streets. An affordable cost will apply. A briefing on techniques of interviewing will be given by professional staff members who will oversee recording activities. Advisor is well-known oral historian Dr. Dennis Mihelich, former president of the Douglas County Historical Society and recently retired Creighton University professor of history.

Selected recorded interviews will be presented on a pre-published schedule on weekends during Nineteenth Century Holidays. ### ### ###

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ISSUES CALL FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

The Douglas County Historical Society is searching for additional volunteers to assist with summer programs, an increasing number of visitors and tour groups and year-around services at the General Crook House Museum and Victorian Heirloom Garden or the Library/Archives Center and National Indian Wars Library. For information or to register for training, contact Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Miller at (402) 455-9990. ### ### ###

HOLIDAYS TO FEATURE WEEKEND TALKS, PROGRAMS

Patrick Nolan, son of Jim Nolan and Holly Herman, newly elected member of the DCHS Board of Directors, was selected the outstanding entry in the National History Day Junior Division held in Washington, D.C. in mid-June. He represented the State of Nebraska and was one of only 16 entries out of 65 in the Individual Performance Category sent to finals. Patrick portrayed one of Father Flanagan's boys in "On the Right Track: A Journey to Boys Town."

Nineteenth Century Holidays will open Sunday November 8, with free admission for veterans and current military and their families, a tribute to DCHS military heritage and Veterans Day. The Second Sunday Talk that day will be continuous Gallery Walks and Talks between 1 and 4 p.m. in a new historical exhibit in the Education Room Gallery and in the recently completed Servant's Quarters. Photos may be taken for personal use and holidays cards.

Special programming will continue every weekend through December and will include video interviews from the Historical Society's "I Remember" and "In Their Own Words" series made possible by the Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss Memorial Foundation, as well as a presentation by Patrick Nolan of his winning National History Day program and selected oral histories produced during the Historical Society's interview sessions scheduled October 10.

The Second Sunday Talk on December 13 at 2 p.m. will be by Peggy Wiles, who will exhibit her collection and talk on the history of Needle Arts Tools. ### ### ###

EXHIBITS CONTINUE TO ATTRACT VIEWERS

Four exhibits are available for viewing at the Historical Society's General Crook House Museum and Library Archives Center and National Indian Wars Library at Fort Omaha and a fifth is in the midst of summer events at Heartland of America Park. Exhibits at Fort Omaha are:

Servant's Quarters, permanent exhibit at the Crook House which represents the final major restoration of the 1879 frontier general's home. The exhibit is made possible by the David Scott Foundation, the Millard Foundation, Lady Crook Questors, the Crook House Guild, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the generosity of several donors of furnishings.

Fort Omaha, Standing Bear and General Crook, a permanent exhibit at the Crook House dedicated May 17 during the 130th commemorative ceremonies of the landmark trial of 1879. The exhibit was made possible by the Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss Memorial Foundation and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, with assistance from Renze Display.

Glass: The Opulent Art 1870-1970, an exhibit at the Crook House Education Gallery, featuring 400 examples of jewelry, artifacts, costumes and other memorabilia, all made of glass, continues through October 31.

Answering the Bell, an exhibit at the Library/Archives Center on the history of Omaha firefighters, produced from the Historical Society's Collections of images and documents.

Ak-Sar-Ben, an exhibit illustrating Ak-Sar-Ben's history over the past 14 decades and utilizing the Historical Society's Collections, continues at Heartland of America Park, in the Historical Society's 60-linear foot exhibit case on the north shore of the lake. As many as 300,000 are expected to view the exhibit during the numerous ethnic festivals, concerts and special shows.

THE NEXT BANNER NEWSLETTER will be in homes by early September. The Centerfold will contain the talk by local attorney Lawrence Dwyer on the meaning to the law profession of the 1879 landmark trial of Standing Bear v. Crook, which he presented to an audience of over 140 who attended the Historical Society's 130th commemorative program on May 17. Also included will be information on three talks and receptions scheduled at local historical sites and the 130th anniversary event commemorating the completion of the General Crook House. ### ### ###