

# LAKEVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE CENTER, 20110 HOLYOKE AVENUE, 952-985-4680

*"In recognition of the responsibility to past and future generations, the mission of the Lakeville Area Historical Society shall be to document, collect, preserve and teach the history of the Lakeville area."*



## Sea Girt Inn—A Once Popular Lakeville Landmark

Although it's no longer in its place on Orchard Lake, the Sea Girt was once a popular summer inn and resort. Opened in 1923 by LeRoy Scott, his mother, Mrs. Charles Willes Scott, and his sister, Ida Scott, it even was accessible by rail. The

Dan Patch Railroad provided a station on Orchard Lake that allowed access to the resort.

In 1959, after LeRoy Scott died, Hank and Florence Lau purchased the Sea Girt Inn, insulated and improved the buildings, and re-opened it as a four-season business. Under the Laus' ownership, the resort thrived as a dance pavilion and bar with cabins and boats. Countless dances, parties, and fund-raisers were held there until they sold the resort in 1974. After changing hands many times in the 70's and 80's, the resort succumbed to a fire in 1986.

If you are interested in learning more about the Sea Girt Inn and Resort, or if you have information to share, you can visit the Historical Society. As always, we welcome your interest in this and any of our exhibits. Stop in during our open hours to look around, view a video, research a topic of your interest, or to "chat" about Lakeville history.

### An interesting aside:

We (Dianne Lamb, President of LAHS, and family) lived in the now Fleet Farm area of Lakeville for 22 years. During that time, we often stopped at the Sea Girt Inn and happened to be there as a remodeling project was discussed. My husband asked about the fate of the bar and was told that we could have it if we hauled it out. As it turned out, we removed one part of the L-shaped bar the day before fire engulfed the building in 1986. After some minor refinishing, that small part of the Sea Girt Inn lived on in our family room in Lakeville and moved with us to Farmington in 1999. Conversations often turn to "whose elbow do *you* think made that indentation in the top?"

## 'Meet the Fredrickson Family' in new display

The Nels and Emelia Fredrickson family is spotlighted in a new display created by the Lakeville Area Historical Society at the Heritage Center. The window display tells the story of how Nels and Emelia immigrated from Denmark and Norway, respectively, and how they met in a rural setting south of Lakeville.

The family grew to include 18 children, 16 of which grew to adulthood. One panel is devoted to the Fredrickson Brothers baseball team, a team of 12 brothers who played together in 1927-29 against other local teams.

Included are photos, artifacts and anecdotes from family members. Visitors can view the display anytime during the Heritage Center's open hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

## Lakeville History Videos

The LAHS video corner has been under-used! We encourage you to stop in and view one or more of the snapshots of Lakeville's history.

Hopefully, after scanning this list of possibilities, you will find something of interest.

- Antlers Park*..... *Argonne Farm*
- Aviator Walter Bullock* ..... *Bill Studer*
- Blacksmith Bob Christensen* ..... *Creamery*
- Chart House* ..... *Dakota City*
- Dakota Co. Historical Museum* ..... *Fire Bell*
- First Bank in Lakeville* ..... *First Settlers*
- First Water Tower* ..... *Highland Cemetery*
- History of Lakeville* ..... *ISD 194*
- Lakeville Family Bowl*..... *Lakeville Police*
- Legend of Richard McClintock* · *Ole Piper*
- Magnus Miller's Windmill*..... *Pan-O-Prog*
- Railroads of Lakeville*..... *Ritter Farm Park*
- Scofield Farm* ..... *St. John Quilters*
- Sunshine Society*..... *White Funeral Home*
- Taste-Freeze*..... *Weichselbaum Resort*

## LAHS Summer Hours

The Historical Society will have shortened open hours during the busy summer months. Until further notice, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays only.

The LAHS Board will meet on Monday, August 19 at 3 p.m. LAHS members are welcome.