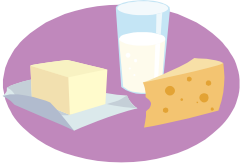


# LAKEVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 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."

March 2014

## The Past Revisited

According to a May, 1946 newspaper article, the Lakeville Creamery, "one of Lakeville's oldest and most successful establishments" has been sold to American Stores Co. of Philadelphia, PA.

The business was celebrating its 50-year anniversary, having been started in 1896 by M.J. Lenihan, who leased the whole milk creamery from the farmers. In 1917 his son John purchased the operation and his son James joined in 1920.

As the story goes, in 1896, a construction firm in the state made a business of selling completely equipped plants for the handling of whole milk. The Lakeville Creamery bought from them and soon had an "up-to-date plant with a steam boiler, rope driven separators, and a table where salt was worked into the butter".

In 1907 fire destroyed the wood frame structure in downtown Lakeville. The business rebuilt again, this time as a cream plant, located in the basement of the Lenihan Building (now Dr. James Lesch, DDS). Farmers began purchasing hand separators and a newly established cream route helped butter production jump to a half million pounds per year.

The increased activity required a larger building to be built in 1919, but as in the past, this building went up in flames in the 1920s.

Again, construction began on what would become one of the most modern plants in the state - built of brick, steel, and concrete, with sky lights and air exchange. The creamery was a leader in developing methods to improve butter standards and won many awards until 1960, when production ended.

*Stop at the LAHS during our open hours to see a more complete history of the Lakeville Creamery, including photos.*

## DON'T FORGET:



### Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time returns on Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to "spring ahead".

### Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your membership? We hope you will consider supporting the LAHS by joining or renewing your membership. The LAHS can only carry out its mission with your help.

### NEW LAHS fundraiser

Stop in at the LAHS during regular open hours to pick up a set of note cards. Each pack costs only \$5 and includes eight cards, two each of four historically significant pictures. Great for gifts or your own notes.

### New display features LME

A new display in the main area features Lakeville Motor Express (LME), started in 1921 by Vincent Wren, who hauled milk for dairy farmers, helped Carl Krause with ice harvesting, did general trucking, and had a house-moving business.

## Welcome New Members

Samuel Conaway  
Rosemary & Gary Mikkelson  
Farm Show Publishing  
Lakeville Chamber of Commerce  
Muller Family Theatres of Lakeville  
Quality Pools  
Safety Signs  
Schneiderman's

## MARCH CALENDAR

- ♣ The LAHS display area will continue to be open on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ♣ The LAHS monthly board meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

## Come by to see the Ice Harvesting Display

The ice harvesting window display is ready!! Our historians have compiled information and gathered artifacts (some on loan from Dakota City Heritage Village). Most of the tools in the display were used by Joseph Weichselbaum, Betty's father, to harvest ice many years ago. Betty still uses one of the ice choppers on her driveway. If



you remember ice boxes, you will likely recall having to mop up the melting ice overflow from the water catch-pan!

## Transitions

The LAHS would like to welcome Patty Ruedy to the Heritage Center. We look forward to working together during upcoming events.

Linda, we have enjoyed collaborating with you on several projects and will miss your presence. We wish you all the best and hope to see you often in the future.