

MECCA News & Dues

Museum Encompassing Canby Community Area
A Nonprofit Corporation

Historic Lund Hoel House

Volume 6, Issue 1

April 2010

Special Events

Daily Tour Schedule:
Summer Months
Wed-Sun 2-4 PM

Group Tours Available
&
Special Tours by Appt

Visit our Website:
www.CanbyMuseums.org
--for complete details on
events including:

Annual Meeting:
Third Wednesday in June

Ice Cream Social:
July 15, 2010

Current Directors:

Bud Qualley 1975
Dar Snortum 1975
William Lund 1975
Betty Hanna
Lois Hanson
Don Berndt
LaMorne Wiest
Bernie Miller
Jan Pederson
Eldeen Baer
Maynard Hughes
Laurie Thorston
Jeff Cooper
Nicole Petersen

Victorian Architecture is an Art form

Mrs. Lund had a passion for decorating her home. In 1901, when whopping real estate sales by the Lund Land Agency made John G. Lund famous throughout the state and a bona fide millionaire, Mrs. Lund began adding new rooms, balconies, porches, and greatly expanded the living area. With each room addition, the interior appeared to be haphazard with different woods and trim styles, with woodwork ranging from light to dark colors. The exterior changes displayed none of the distraction of randomly placed architectural elements.

Mrs. Lund was very particular about her 'outside appearances'. Although she didn't care whether there was continuity inside, the exterior was a flowing, intricate style with gingerbread eaves, complex shingle patterns, brackets, friezes, balconies, spindles, a turret, numerous inviting porches, and a simple green and white paint scheme which provides continuity for all the elements.

The Lund-Hoel House is the best representation of Victorian Era architecture in Canby. Included in the abundant traditional "gingerbread" trim, the Lund-Hoel House has seven large, detailed gable fan pieces which hang in the peaks of the seven gables. Each is unique. None of those pieces are the same size nor design. (See page 2 and 3 for additional pictures.)

During the early restoration in the mid 70's, the gable fans

were spotted in the attic of the old barn (now the Carriage House). They were saved by Henry Jemmings when the old barn was razed. They had been stored in the hay mow perhaps by Nella Hoel. At that time, they were repaired, repainted and re-



Est 1891

hung.

Last summer an intricate rebuilding project to completely replace the deteriorated gable fans was undertaken by dedicated craftsmen. The fans were rotted and fragile after almost 110 years of storage and weathering. Each were originally crafted of lathe with hand tools. It was a long but rewarding project. More than 156 hours of labor went into the finished gingerbread fans. That would be almost 20 full 8 hour days. The use of power saws and power nailers made the project easier, and also helped a great deal to cut the time needed in rebuilding them.

We want to thank Don Berndt for his expertise and for supervising the project. Mrs. Lund would be proud of a job well done!

Step back in history with a visit to the Lund-Hoel House.

Architectural History



Without Gable Fans



With Gable Fans

History of Gingerbread Trim

Ginger is an important tuber which is consumed as a spice or as medicine. Ginger bread was brought to Europe in 992 from the Middle East and was used for medicinal purposes. It was usually baked into a cake or a bread form. Swedish nuns were baking gingerbread to ease digestion in the year 1444.

It was the custom to bake ginger biscuits and paint them as window decorations. The first documented trade of gingerbread biscuits dates to the 1500's, where they were sold in monastery pharmacies and town square farmers markets. Gingerbread became

widely available in the 1700's. Known from the Middle East to Russia to Europe to Scandinavia, the most popular form was a Christmas cookie decorated and hung in windows & associated with Christmas.

The popular tales from the Brothers Grimm published in the early 1800's, contained a German folk fable about 2 children, Hansel & Gretel, along with a Witch's House decorated with ornate icing and candy on gingerbread cake. The house Hansel & Gretel visited is representative of the unique and highly decorated 'house' which hung as decorations at Christmas and later attained fame in the Victorian Era architecture.

The style of architectural decoration known as 'gingerbread' did not become widely established until the steam-powered scroll saw and lathe became widely available in the middle 1800's. Then the parts could be easily mass produced. There are a variety of elements making up "gingerbread trim" including swags, brackets and teardrop pieces. Porches and balconies are decorated with turned posts and curving corner brackets. Often a solitary window and gracefully carved ridge boards decorate the roof peaks.



"Gingerbread" is often used interchangeably with "Victorian", a life style named in honor of Queen Victoria. Ornate trim represented a way to decorate houses with individual creativity. "Gingerbread" emphasizes the architectural features such as porches, gables, balconies, etc. Highly decorated houses are sometimes called Gingerbread houses, with few people knowing the origin of 'Gingerbread house' which belonged in a famous fable where the witch lures children to eat her decorative house of gingerbread with candy and icing so she can then eat the children.

Queen Victoria's Influence

Although people often incorrectly refer to a Victorian-*era* house as a Victorian-*style* house, 'Victorian' actually refers to the time frame of the reign of the popular British Queen Victoria (1837–1901). She reigned for over 63 years during years of heavy immigration to America. She was of German decent and was influential throughout Europe, Canada, and the US wherever immigrants settled. She was best known for bringing 'morality and values' to the Royal family.

Houses of this 'era' have a "style" of Gingerbread trim, and a variety of home styles borrowed from every country and every era in history. The large number of immigrants contributed to the diverse architecture of the 1870's and on. They built structures which were eclectic, incorporating leaded glass, balconies, over-hanging eaves, and towers.

The paint industry after the Civil War also contributed to this unique architecture when paint was mass produced. Spindle detailing, wrap around porches, rounded towers, and gables are typical embellishments of the Victorian home --a style often referred to as decorative excess. The expansion of the railroads allowed elements to be manufactured on the East coast at low cost, in standard sizes, and shipped to the building site. Starting around 1910, Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs offered house 'kits' which were the original pre-fabricated homes. Many included house plans with ornate embellishments.

The paints used on ornate houses accentuate the asymmetrical style and highlight the patterns and textures. Homes having three or more bold or contrasting colors are often referred to as "painted ladies".

Unfortunately, the same ornate and spectacular trim which made the Victorian era the most flamboyant and memorable era, was also was the downfall of that style. The time, upkeep, and detail work needed to preserve the ornamentation was costly and time consuming. Soon the decorative elements fell out of favor with the middle class. The onset of the Depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II rationing brought down the most exciting architectural style in a century.



Hanging the Gingerbread



Although the Thompson Crew made the replacement of the Gingerbread 'look' easy, handling the pieces was difficult. Scaffolding, in addition to the ladders on the balconies, was used because of the high and dangerous work. At least three guys

were 'hangers' along with a spotter on the ground making sure the trim was hung evenly before the final attachments were made. Everything went well! **Thank you to a great crew!!!**

Note different sizes and designs 



Membership Dues and Benefits

Dear Friends,

We wish to extend a special invitation to join us as a member of MECCA to preserve the Lund-Hoel House for our future generations. Your generous support is needed and deeply appreciated to maintain the museum!

Annual membership is \$ 15.00 (tax deductible)

Please return your donation in the enclosed envelope. If you receive your newsletter by email, please remit to : MECCA, Inc., %LaMorne Wiest, 405 Oscar Ave N, Canby, MN 56220-1337

In addition: you will receive the following benefits:

- * **Unlimited visits for you and your family and guests**
- * **Participation in annual and other meetings of MECCA**

Please join us in our efforts to maintain this important landmark and Canby's heritage!

THANK YOU!!!



Lund-Hoel House

Est. 1891

St. Olaf Avenue and 4th Street

PO Box 146

Canby, MN 56220-0146

www.CanbyMuseums.org

A song will outlive all sermons in the memory. -Henry Giles

Queen Victoria:

During her reign, family values and morals were promoted. Queen Victoria also started the tradition that a bride wears a white dress to her wedding. Before Victoria's wedding a bride would wear her best dress of no particular colour.

A Word from the Board

Greetings Members,

Another successful year has passed. Our latest project was the Gingerbread restoration. This was completed with the help of many people coordinating their time and talents. We want to thank all the people who assisted in removing, rebuilding, and replacing the gingerbread trim.

The Lund-Hoel House is now 119 years old. Each passing year brings new challenges to keep her in tip-top shape. We also feel the crush of the economy and greatly appreciate the extra donations by our members and other donors.

The board acknowledges and especially appreciates those who keep the 'lights on', Vlaminck Electric and the City of Canby for their promotion and support.

We are eternally grateful for the expertise of our volunteers and Directors who work together to keep the Museum in tip top shape and minimizing the cost.

~ The MECCA Board

The Canby Depot

Please visit our sister organization, The Canby Depot, when you are in Canby. The Depot contains valuable research materials including hosting the Visitor Information Center. The Depot is now home to old volumes of the Canby News dating back to 1885.



Spotlight on Members

Richard Johnson:

One of our most important activities at the museum is keeping everything in repair. Richard can be seen quietly working on different projects. His talent is fine woodworking, and he was probably born with sawdust running through his veins.

Richard's parents, Emil & Veona, lived in the Canby area. Richard's father was a house and farm carpenter prior to becoming a cabinetmaker and opening his own shop. Having learned skills from his father, Richard left Canby to work commercial construction in Sioux Falls until his father asked him to return to Canby a year later. Other than the one year hiatus, Richard has always lived in Canby.

Richard took over his father's cabinetry business in 1969. Richard lent that talent to the Museum reconstruction in the late 70s, working with Roy Grondahl, Oscar Skifte, Sim Melzer, and others to restore the Museum to the way it had been at the turn of the 19th Century. In the Museum, the shelves in the Butler's Pantry were made by Richard to showcase utensils of the day.

The Lund-Hoel House is very lucky to have a very experienced woodworker who is interested in the craftsmanship of the historical house and the history of Canby.

Board Members needed

Although it appears we have a large Board of Directors, the projects we work on do best if we have many talents to draw on. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in history and would like to serve on the board, please contact a board member for information.

