

Benton County Historical Society & Museum

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Website: <http://mnbentonhistory.org>

Board Members and Scheduled Meetings

President: Ernie Wollak

Vice-President: Char Dhein

Treasurer: Renee Kampa

Secretary: Melissa Keller

Director: Earl “Butch” Bukowski June 21, 2011

Director: Pat Gerchy July 19, 2011

Director: Randy Schafer August 16, 2011

Director: Merle Stowe September 20, 2011

Director: Lorane Walsh October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011

Benton County Historical Society meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm unless otherwise posted at the museum. The tentative meeting schedule is listed below. Please note that this schedule may be changed with Board motion or due to inclement weather.



May 2011

Benton County Historical Society & Museum



Women Making History 2011

Women Making History 2011 event was held out at Henry’s Catering in Foley on March 27th to honor Benton County women. This year’s honorees were: Carole Mersinger, Foley; Maxine Olson, Foley; Eileen Saldana, Rice; Cecil Wade, Foley and Emilie Ackerman Junior Honoree, Sauk Rapids. We all had a good time sharing a great lunch, some great conversations and then shared in the celebration of the Benton County Honorees.



Left: Treasurer Renee Kampa and Carole Mersinger– Foley



Above: Director Merle Stowe and Cecil Wade-Foley

Women In History Benton County 2011

**Thank you to all
who came to share
in their honor!**



Left: Treasurer Renee Kampa and Eileen Saldana-Rice



Left: Director Randy Schafer and Maxine Olson– Foley



Vice-President: Char Dhein and Emilie Ackerman-Sauk Rapids

Donations From the Community

Lois C. Anderson— 11 3-ring binders, Smith-Korona typewriter

Glenn Ireland-small child's lumber sled belonged to he Whitlow Family of Mayhew Lake, Kitchen utensils-butter paddle, Potato Cutter

Dana Wallak— Leather work boots (early 1900's), Two portable camp stools-(one military, one family), Girls twirling baton. Three Homer Laughlin Plates

Benton County Government— Francis Baron Military Memorial Plaque

Gretchen Leisen-Luxemburg Immigrants to Stearns and Vicinity (Benton County also)

Dolores Supan-Box of Various Books— Sauk Rapids High School yearbook, school books

Rose Schulte-White rotary phone, Metal Tin crackers, Brownie 300 movie Projector, reels and splicer, Dressers scarves and doilies, Kitchen Utensils— ice cream scoops, hand mixer, can openers, potato cutter

Wendy Wheeler -Doll cradle, Infant Jumper, Vintage Wood Medicine cabinet, telephone company first aid kit, 2 Toboggans, Santa— wood cut-out, children's table & chairs, 2 children sleds

Bill & Kathy Holroyd-Armiture & Growler (belonged to Clayton "Corky" Holroyd), small coin purse, postcard with military person

JoAnn Larsen— Shaun radio rechargeable portable radio

Lois Gaetz-fur stole Esther Thomas Family, wedding dress, black & blue dress— Esther Thomas, St. Cloud Library history book, Laundry bag, nurses uniforms, hats and sashes from St Cloud Nurses college, picture "Forward" of nurse celebrating graduation

Cliff Johnson-Nahan Printing plate, Trinity Lutheran picture, Rudolph Implement Knife, Jimmy's Mug, Shot glass and glass from East St. Cloud, Silver Corners tape measure, Sauk Rapids Homecoming, Centennial and Indian Days buttons, Jasper Bond pottery, Gethsemane Lutheran mug, Immaculate Conception Cookbook, Sartell Paper Mill Manuals, Popple Creek Store Promotional Plate, Happy Daze— Wjon, Sok's Car Wash Token, Foley Variety strainer, Midway Iron, Gilman Co-op Creamery, Glendorado-Good Shepherd Cookbook, Petra Lutheran Church, Gilman Creamery syrup dispenser, Schminich Construction, Kelsy Rae CD, items for various surname files research

Tours and Research

The museum has regular business hours of 10am-4pm Monday thru Friday for research and organizational tours. We have also added the first Saturday of every month to our available schedule and will be open on those Saturdays from 11am-4pm. We also are closed on legal holidays and have a bad weather policy for closure when schools close. We realize these hours will not always work with travelers, group organizations and school schedules and you may give us a call at 253-9614, or by email: bchsmus@bentoncountyhistorical.com and we will work with your schedule to arrange a convenient time for you to come in.



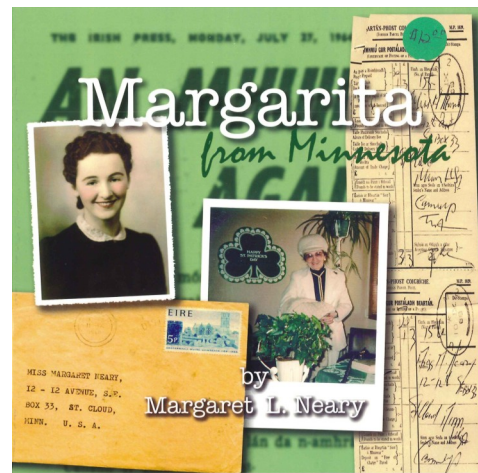
Margaret L. Neary's Book- Margarita

We are pleased to announce that we have Margaret Neary's newly released book *Margarita from Minnesota*.

Margaret is a long time member and friend of Benton County Historical Society's. She has had a tremendous impact on our one-room schoolhouse program (Watab District Number 2) located at the Benton County Fairgrounds with her involvement since the late 1990's. Her passion for teaching has carried over in continuing the rural one-room schoolhouse education experience for others through her life.

Expanding on her teaching she has written a wonderful book, full of her life's experiences with art, teaching, family, pets, and a bit about her Ireland travels.

Cost of the book at the BCHS Museum is \$12.00 and we have copies available for those that are interested.



More Pictures From Women Making History



Many thanks to the people who attend our Women Making History event in the spring! The women that we have honored since 1998 are amazing people in the community who have contributed to making the quality of life for the people around them greatly improved!

We always look forward to new nominations for the next years event. If you know of someone you would like to see honored; please contact the Benton County Historical Society.

To those of you who were at this year's event— Thank you and Hope to see you next year!



*"We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies."
— Emily Dickinson, American poet*

East Side St Cloud Railroad Guard Shanty Project



East Side St. Cloud Guard Shanty
Picture provided by Stearns County
History Center-Myron Hall collection

You may have read before in a former newsletter that we are going to be working on restoration of the East Side St. Cloud Guard Shanty that was on St.. Germain. The shanty was used for many years by the railroad companies as a guard shack . Whenever a train would be approaching the East St. Cloud Depot, the guards would have to come out of the building with their traffic signs and hold the cars from crossing until the train was through. As time went on and new technology became available, wooden stop arms, metal stop-arms and then mechanical arms replaced the guards and the shanty.

This spring we have started on that process hiring and are getting the materials to restore as much to the original as we can.

We are still working on a comprehensive history of the building and so, if you know of someone who remembers it in use, worked in it, or have any details, stories or pictures, please let us know.

We are also taking donations specifically for the restoration of the building, and so if you would like to donate, please contact us!

New and Renewed Memberships and Information

Cecil Wade	Susan Hackman	<u>Benton County Historical Society Memberships Information</u>	
Leslie Schumacher	Patricia Lezer	<u>Household memberships</u>	<u>Business Memberships</u>
Foley Lions Club		Seniors-\$9.00	Annual- \$50.00
Sauk Rapids Herald		Single-\$13.00	Supporting-\$75.00
City of Sauk Rapids		Family-\$18.00	Maintaining-\$100.00
Gilmanton Township		Contributor-\$27.00	Patron-\$150.00
Minden Township		Supporter- \$50.00	Benefactor-\$500.00

New Website update-<http://mnbentonhistory.org>



We are continually adding new items to our research index on our website and will be doing so for the next couple of years. Currently we are finishing a file with over 140,000 new entries of resources that we have, but were not indexed before!

It has been great to hear from people who are living out of state, or out of the United States, who are working on family histories utilizing this great resource.

We appreciate suggestions for improvement and information about corrections that may need to be made. Remember to stop by the website and re-check your surnames and resource items in the future!

Carole Mersinger Women In History 2011

Carole Mersinger started out in the world by being born in Wadena County where her parents were well known. Her story continues that her parents had been married for 17 years and had no children- yet! The baby was a surprise to most and very exciting news! Who would have known that Carole would be making history in Wadena County; as well as Benton County in her lifetime!

Carole's first job after high school was self-employed cucumber farmer. She had a contract with a local pickle factory to raise cucumbers for them. They gave her the seed and she did the work, after her Dad worked the ground with his equipment. Carole says she does not remember how much money she made that summer, but she does remember watching the fruits of her labor slide into the dark, deep wood barrel at the factory, and that it was way too fast and then; they were gone!

The next few years she found herself at many different jobs, traveling to different cities and states. She was meeting people, learning about life and herself. When the time came to marry and settle down, she says she picked her Vietnam Veteran husband and they have been married for 41 years! Along the way of those 41 years, they raised two sons Ole and Hans, and a daughter, Hannah. Carole and her husband have lived in and raised their family in the Foley area for 40 years.

Carole was a "stay at home mom" until the children were in high school, then she worked at Coborn's as a check-out clerk for 5 years. She also was a 4-H leader for 18 years, served on the church council and was a Sunday School Superintendent for 4 years amongst numerous other groups and activities.

She grew up in a time when girls were expected to get married, raise their children, so, college was never an option in her world. Carole and a friend took a college class offered in Foley. She said she did not know why she did it - maybe her friend talked her into it- but she was surprised that she did well and a new door opened for her! A year later, she quit her job at Coborn's and it was not long after that before she found herself walking the halls of St. Cloud State University!

During the time, she attended St. Cloud State, her children were also going to college, Ole was at the University of Minnesota, Hans was at St. John's and Hannah was at her first year at St. Cloud State the same year Carole was finishing. Carole graduated as a licensed Social Worker in 1997!

Carole has written her family history. She bought a printer and a scanner and with the help of Hans, they published the family history book. She said it was a hit at the next family reunion, but what a job it was!

Her next adventure in life was working at First Call For Help, which changed its name to 2-1-1. She learned the skills of phone responder, information and referral specialist and doing database updates. She retired in the Fall of 2009.

She became a member of the first Board for Foley Area Care. That first Board is where the organization got its start, and she is proud of the mission and the accomplishments of CARE. She sat on the Board for many years and served as the Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Carole said she spent the summer after graduating college learning "what it is like to have a degree, but not be employed!" Cross Center was looking for volunteers, so she thought it would look good on her resume'. Evidently, she thought it was great because she is still there after that summer! Thirteen years have passed and she has been helping to provide services to the community. She says that Cross is her passion as the organization makes a difference in the lives of the many families. Carole's nomination came into Benton County Historical Society because of the work she does at the Cross Center. Her nominee, Kathleen Chmielewski wrote; "She has overseen the enlargement and renovation of the Center. I find her a gracious woman whether she is accepting a donation or serving clients. I saw her with a baby in her arms assisting a young woman in finding clothes and food- a picture of compassion. She gives me the impression of a woman to be admired and honored in our community." After she finishes up volunteering at Cross Center, you will also find her involved as a member of the Advisory Board for Helping Hands, or Recovery Plus.

Carole enjoys gardening, both flower and vegetable gardens, and the grandchildren! She says when she has time she likes to read and Sudoku is her newest interest.

Redcoats in Sauk Rapids???

Most of us grew up with stories in history classes about George Washington, the Battle of Saratoga, and the Declaration of Independence. These important people and events seemed distant to central Minnesota until historian Morgan Woodward uncovered evidence that two British soldiers passed through the state in 1789, only six years after the end of the American Revolution and possibly spent the night in present-day Sauk Rapids with a local fur trader. These soldiers were not sight-seers, Woodward argues, but on an official mission of espionage.

If you are interested in learning more about the little known chapter of Minnesota's history, you can find Mr. Woodward's book, *Redcoats on the Upper Mississippi: British Espionage and Diplomacy at Old Crow Wing*, at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum.

Mr. Woodward donated a copy at the museum for people to read, or we can put you in contact with him for discussion, or information.

*Submitted by Morgan P. Woodward for the newsletter-thank you!

Redcoats on the Upper Mississippi:
British Espionage and Diplomacy
at Old Crow Wing



Morgan P. Woodward

Emilie Ackerman Women Making History 2011 Junior Honoree

Benton County Historical Society has been recognizing Junior Honoree's from the Benton County area since 1999. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Sauk Rapids and Foley School systems over the years to recognize these young women for their contributions to the community!

Emily Ackerman's nomination came to us by way of the personnel of the Sauk Rapids school system as a recipient of the Women Making History Award for 2011!

Emily resides in the Sauk Rapids area with her family, which consists of her parents Janet and Joe and a sister, Rachael.

She is very involved in academic and community activities, which include: National Honor Society, Knowledge Bowl, Green Team, Service Club, Social Justice League, Chamber Choir and the Concert Choir, Church activities, which include a 3rd grade catechist, participating on the Parish Council, Liturgy Committee, Youth group and MN MILE.

She truly enjoys all the activities, but has special interests in speech, and church, which she says are her two main activities. She believes that being confident, optimistic, creative, dedicated and determined have allowed her to excel at communicating and speaking which she says is one of her talents! She also likes history, loves antiques, family history, and church history. Social Justice League also is important to her as she has special interest in self-esteem, the environment, and life. Emily has been successful in the areas that she has focused on in her academic and community life! Her success is evident in the leadership positions that she has held in her activities! President of the National Honor Society, Speech Captain, Knowledge Bowl Captain, Vice President of the Concert Choir, and the 2010 Drama Club President are some of the hats she has worn.

Her leadership has not only allowed her leadership positions, but she has also accomplished many awards and extra honors. She has been acknowledged with a Presidential Service Award of 100 hours, 5 years of perfect attendance award, 5 years "A" Honor roll, CLC Honor for Choir, CLC Speaker for Speech and attending the MN MILE Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp.

Emily's plan at this time are to move forward working towards a Master's Degree to teach at colleges and starting a Christian Girls Retreat. She says she will be attending Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin and will be majoring in Biopsychology.

Benton County Demonstrators Needed

The Benton County 2011 Fair will be held this year from August 1-7, 2011. We will be in the Heritage Building with our booth, as well as working with the Retired Educators to keep the Watab District Number 2 schoolhouse staffed.

We have been trying to fill our schedule for demonstrators at the Heritage Building. This year the set-up will be on Monday and Tuesday until Noon. That means we will have more time for demonstrators starting Tuesday, August 2, 2011 from 1:00pm until 9:00pm!

As we have done in years past, we are looking for people who may have skills or a talent that they would like to share. We are anticipating having some of our former demonstrators return. In the past we have had spinning wool, crocheting, knitting, felting, re-enactors of homestead life, cooking demonstrations, and rhubarb leaf bird bath project.

Benton County Master Gardeners will be demonstrating on Friday and Saturday at 2:00pm.

Tri County Beekeepers will be doing demonstrations on Friday and Saturday at 1:00pm

That leaves quite a lot of time open on the schedule! We will be looking for demonstrators for the Heritage Building from 10:00 am– 9:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 1:00pm– 9:00pm on Tuesday and on Sunday from Noon-4:00pm.

Please contact Mary at the museum if you would like to participate in the demonstrators area.



Unidentified Pictures— Grace Episcopal Church

Thanks to Bill Morgan for sending me an email about the Grace Episcopal Church that we featured in the last newsletter. Although this Grace Church turned out to be in Royalton, we were pleased that he sent us the article he wrote for the St. Cloud Times to keep on file. We also were contacted by three others who confirmed the church's status and gave us pieces of information!

Benton County people from Rice and Royalton crossed over into Morrison County for business and personal and so the history is a good addition to the items that are here as we have sent many people to Morrison, as Morrison has sent to us.

We will continue to publish the unidentified pictures as we have room in the newsletter, hoping that more of them can will be identified or additional information can be found on some of the other persons, places and buildings, may be acquired.

A community is a group of people who have come together and they work, and they live, to try and improve the standard of living and quality of life and that is not about money....

William Baldwin

Executive Director's Corner



Lilacs— the flower of May!

Hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy the Spring season with new flowers, leaves back on the trees and green grass back for all of us to enjoy for awhile! I could not resist putting the lilac on the left as I when I drive to work every morning, the old neighborhoods have the sweet smell of lilacs all through their neighborhoods!

The May newsletter is out late as we have been diligently working on trying to get additional items indexed for the database. Not only has the crew caught up on in-house resources, but we also making good timing on the new items that people have brought in! BCHS has some of the greatest volunteers I have ever had the pleasure to work with!

The museum traffic has slowed down some these days. People are arranging their vacation time and it is always increased traffic when travel season come in. We look forward to working with those visitors as they work on their family histories! Interest is higher these days with people having access to multiple sources of information. Genealogy seems to be an old hobby; new gain!

We had more than a few requests for cemetery locations in the past two weeks as Memorial Day gives us all time to reflect on the military personnel that are in our lives. Many thanks need to go out to the local cemetery people who are putting some organization to their records and sharing them with people.

We look forward to working with everyone involved with BCHS and hope that you find the time to come see us too! **Mary Ostby**

Thanks for surprises!

Bob Bullock, one of the BCHS Members stopped by with a check for an extra lawn mowing out at the Mac Gregor Homestead land BCHS owns. Bob planted some flowers out on the land as he has a special fondness for the place! We appreciate the fact that Bob is willing to help us out with a little boost to keep the place looking good! Thanks to Bob for the surprise!

Andy Schwalboski and Meredith DePree deserve a special thanks for the birthday surprise for me on the 7th of May. We were open and it was Mary Ostby's birthday and they brought in carrot cake (Meredith's homemade-no less!) and a great bath set gift for me! Thanks to Andy and Meredith for the surprise!

We can never get a re-creation of community and heal our society without giving our citizens a sense of belonging...

Patch Adams

Eileen Saldana Women Making History 2011

Eileen Saldana's nomination for Women In History honor came from Nancy Anderson of Rice. Nancy is a former honoree and Eileen came highly recommended for the 2011 honor.

We were extremely pleased to honor her today and as we read her biographical information, you will understand why!

Eileen was born in Sauk Rapids Minnesota on December 6, 1932 to Harold and Katherine Damm. She graduated from Tech High School in 1950 but continued her education later when she went to Vo-Tech for a year in 1978-1979.

She married George Saldana on January 24, 1953 and they raised six children; one girl and 5 boys. George died October 18, 1971, but the family kept growing and Eileen is pleased and proud that the family has 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren!

Raising a family was not the only thing on the schedule! She worked at Fingerhut for 13½ years until she retired in September of 1998.

The word "retirement" was meant for work because Eileen did not stop there in her life! She is currently a Foster Grandparent at Rice Elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon! She says it is very rewarding when she sees how much the children improve in the programming.

She also is an active member at the Immaculate Conception Church in Rice. She wears many hats in her church activities: She is a sacristan, weekday lector, host counter, Eucharistic minister and belongs to the Liturgy Committee.

When Eileen is not in school or church, you will probably find her over at the Watab Township Hall. She has been the Watab Treasurer since 1979. She wears another hat in the community being an election judge! She says she enjoys these items because you learn a lot!

She said in her younger days, she also played softball and bowled, and she likes to play cards. What Eileen really would like everyone to know is that she believes that she count not have done all of these things without her wonderful family!

What we would like Eileen to know is that she is an exceptional community member and we appreciate her family, school, church, and community activities in Benton County history!

Volunteers and Staff

Volunteers and Staff

Fred Joesting-Research Specialist

Marjean Keehr- Research

Andy Schwalboski- Research & Displays

Caren Kalenda- Oral Interviews& Data Input

Bob Kalenda-Data Input

Lorane Walsh-Cemetery Support

Wendy Wheeler-Photography

Jan Rothanburg-Photography

Jenny DeWenter- Museum Support

John Stafney—Database Coordinator & Website

Maureen Athman-Transcriptionist

Staff

Mary Ostby- Executive Director

Meredith DePree- Office Support

Miles Christie- Office & Military Support

Jack Toliver- Military Support

Thanks to all our volunteers!



Maxine Olson 2011 Women In History

Maxine Olson has participated in many community activities in the area and her nomination came in from a former Woman In History honoree and current Benton County Historical Society Board Member Lorane Walsh. Maxine sent in her biographical information stating: “Thank you Benton County Historical Society for celebrating National Women In History month. I am greatly honored to be nominated as one of the 2011 Woman Making History.” We are pleased that Maxine is one of the honorees for this year as she has been a valuable person to the local area community!

Maxine Olson has been part of the Foley community since she and her husband, Burton Olson, moved here shortly after their marriage in 1955. Burton became the Benton County Extension Director and they raised a family here. Their children: Deb and Jarle Scott and Paul and Julie Olson still reside in Minnesota along with Maxine’s 5 grandchildren and one great grandbaby.

Some of you will remember her as the Benton County Combined Charities Chairperson for several years. She also served as a Board Member for Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity as well as chaired the Family Selection committee for 8 years for this organization.

During this same time, her activities escalated as she taught Sunday school, which led her into being a Sunday School Superintendent, and then eventually organizing a Daily Vacation Bible School for many years. Maxine is currently serving on the mission board, and has participated on the Board of Deacons, Trustees, and the ruling body of the Presbyterian Church of Session. She says her passion is singing in the church choir; and she has done so 45 years, as “singing for the Lord gives her great joy!”

4-H became part of their family life and she believes that becoming a leader was a good experience. The 4-H exchange program allowed Maxine and Burton to travel many foreign countries around the world. The Olson’s would take their travel experiences one step further upon arriving home by sharing their information and observations through public presentations and talks to expand awareness of life and culture in other parts of the world. Not content to stop there, they also hosted many 4-H exchange people at their home, willing to share our local history, blending the culture and history of others to promote an educational experience.

Maxine taught school in Wisconsin before coming to Minnesota and continued to serve the local area by substitute teaching in the Foley School system during her life here.

Continuing her history of volunteering and participating in the local community, she currently serves on the Foley Cross Board and as Vice-Chair of the Foley Area Care Board. As a volunteer driver for Care, she enjoys visiting with her elderly neighbors who can no longer drive to their appointments in St. Cloud and the surrounding areas, fulfilling yet one more area of need for local residents.

Maxine said, “Looking back, time seems so short but day by day things happen that become history.” Maxine’s history includes being the recipient of the “WCCO Good Neighbor Award” which recognizes persons throughout the State of Minnesota for their community service and contributions.

It is not surprising to any of us that Maxine closed her information by stating: “I consider volunteering a great way to spend some of my time as I enhance my listening skills, find peace, respect, awareness of God, and stewardship to name just a few things I receive by volunteering.”

Benton County Historical Society Resources Wish List

We are always looking for resources for the local city and Benton County research area. Resources can be about Benton County families, individuals, places, businesses, churches, civic organizations, schools, governments and anything that documents life in Benton county history.

We are always in search of school yearbooks, church histories, celebration booklets, city directories, family histories, business histories, pictures and information on the country school system, and plat maps/books for Benton County. If you have any of these items donate, or will allow us to copy/duplicate, please contact us!

Cecil (Dziuk) Wade 2011 Women In History

Cecil was nominated for the 2011 Women Making History award by a couple of nominees this year; Chris Rasmussen, Mary Lou Dugdale, Steve Ostby and Board Member Renee Kampa all submitted her name. Her visibility in the community and the importance of what she has contributed about local history and people over the years was important to acknowledge for the people that nominated her.

Cecil Dziuk was born into the world of Foley in the year 1933.

Cecil’s story continues when she attended a WPS sponsored Kindergarten in Foley before she was enrolled in the first grade. She graduated from Foley High School in 1951, enrolled at St. Cloud Teacher’s College, which is now St. Cloud State, in June 1951. Cecil finished her freshman year in March 1952.

In March of 1952, Cecil married Milo Wade and they made their life together on the Wade farm for the past 60 years. She continues her journey of life on the farm today, but earlier this year, life changed with the death of her husband, Milo in February.

Cecil and Milo’s life journey together included a family, with one son being brought into their lives, named Martin.

She wrote in her biography that she also received her college degree in 1965 and along the way of her life, she also held a position of employment for more than 30 years at the privately owned bookstore at St. Cloud State University.

Cecil kept herself busy over the years not only with family, schooling, a regular job, but by writing a newspaper column, having written and published a novel by the name of “Emmis,” and she also sold several poems and short stories to various publishers.

Cecil is perhaps best known in the Foley area for her newspaper articles titled; “Impulse for Here,” published in the Benton County News for what she says is “a number of years.” Cecil shares with us today that the title of her column was chosen based on a conversation with the late Roy Latterell, who lived in several locations, but returned to Foley because he had an “impulse” for his hometown.

Cecil says she’s “not lived elsewhere, but Roy’s “impulse” continues to fuel her affection for Foley.”

Her hobbies are “chasing down the local history, reading, writing, and gardening.” She says she “is exhilarated when a seed becomes a beautiful flower or a nice vegetable.”

What she left out of her biographical story is that she utilizes that “impulse” and “affection” for Foley by sharing her talent for writing, with other people whenever she can! Cecil is the third member of the Dziuk family who has carried the stories and history of Foley, and Benton County events, people and issues forth into the world with her artistic talent of the written word. She continues weekly to plant many “seeds” of historical knowledge, wisdom, awareness and opinion on area events, people, and life that would have been lost or forgotten without her newspaper column and writings.

Cecil is very focused when she is over at the Benton County Historical Society researching microfilmed newspaper history. We know that the column she writes and the information she will detail, with precision, will be accurate, entertaining, educating and presented into the public domain with only “her knack” for writing the story! Humble, modest and accomplished in information and resources, Cecil has maintained the tradition her family set forth by being active, knowledgeable and willing to share it with others through her writing. It is important to her, and it is important to us as a community.

Although she may not realize it all of the time, her “chasing down history” has planted the seeds to become beautiful flowers and vegetables through her contributions, for many people over the years past, currently and those who will be interested in history in the future! Cecil’s “impulse” and “affection” for her community and the people of it shines with the columns that she writes and in doing so has contributed immensely to the quality of life of many.

Cecil finished her biography sharing that her “dream, (probably hopeless), is that public education will someday praise, nurture and finance programs which accommodate the talents and ambitions of young artists with same fervor now given athletic programs.” She also suggests that her experience as a “local history buff suggests that offering a class, which explores local history, would be advantageous to high school students.” She followed that up with “we are told that our schools should leave no child behind; perhaps the students should not leave their history behind.”

With Cecil’s background in history, her accomplishments and mission in life being to educate, inform and help preserve the Foley/Benton County history of events and people; we do agree that both her dream and her advice should be put forth for serious consideration!