

Legends of Freeborn County
Memories of Visits from School Children Still Linger at Museum
Eleventh in a monthly series of Freeborn County Legends - February, 2001

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This months legend consists of a few selected papers written by Albert Lea sixth grade students following their fall school tours.

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STAGECOACH TRAVEL
by Lana Trent

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I think it would be hard traveling and very rough. They kept lots of stuff with them. They kept their hats in hat holders when they were traveling and they took trunks covered with deerhide or cowhide. The baggage came from England. The passengers put all their luggage on top of the stagecoach. The passengers didn't have cushions to sit on. They had wooden seats. That was one of the reasons why it was so rough. If I lived in those days, I sure wouldn't want to ride on one of those.

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THE KITCHEN
by Melissa Calderon

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The kitchen is very different from what we have today. They had a wood burning stove so they had to go outside to get wood to start the stove so they could cook. They had a wood refrigerator and it wasn't electric like we have today. The people had to pump their water. They didn't have running water like we have today.

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QUILTING
By Crystal Anderson

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When I was at the Albert Lea Museum I took some notes about quilting. There were displays that we took notes on. Now we have to write a one page report. Here's the notes I took. The display was trying to tell you that people actually took the time to make quilts just in fact to keep people warm when there were no blankets. And people also made quilts just for looks. I was reading something and I thought that what it said was very true. It said that there's something about quilts that says people, friendship, community, family, home and love. The display made me feel warm. And as you already know, quilts do make you warm , when you cover up with them that is.

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GIRL'S PLAYTHINGS
by Michelle Forman

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A lot of things girls played with were things needed for playing house. Some of these things are dolls, dishes , a toy dresser, and a toy stove. The reason for these things were girls "always" played house. Some other things were books and stuffed animals. I think the most interesting thing was the little toy stove. The things the girls played with were delicate, pretty things. They were the pastel colors. Some of the things were glass but most things were cloth, wood, or tin. The exhibit that I thought related to mine was BOY'S PLAYTHINGS. They're both related to toys. Comparing with the things I would have been made to play with in the past, I'm pretty glad I'm in the present. The reason for this is because today I have a much bigger and better selection.

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PREHISTORIC INDIAN TOOLS
by Elisa Kermes

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The Prehistoric Indians didn't have power tools, and they didn't have stores that they could

just walk into and buy what they needed. They had to make their own tools, such as arrowheads, hammers, knives, and spears. Just to name a few. The hammers they made were nothing like ours today. They didn't even have handles! They would put the hammer in the palm of their hand. They used the hammer for making other tools. The Indians didn't always make tools though. They would make necklaces out of animal teeth just for fun. I thought that this was very interesting. I also thought that they are kind of gross, but then that's my opinion.

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These descriptions reflect not only the facts related by the guides, but also the opinions of the students.

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