

# Legends of Freeborn County

## Visitors' comments tell museum story

April, 2005 - Story #61

by Bev Jackson

It all started with a comment. "She thinks it stinks."

This insult came from an adult referring to something her small child had said during their trip through the museum and village. We were a bit taken aback. That's normally just the opposite of what we hear from visitors.

Just for fun we decided to keep track of the questions and comments we heard for a few days last summer. Most are complimentary, some are funny, some serious, and all are food for thought. I hope you enjoy them as much as we did.

"Well, it took our lives back about a hundred years. Some of it we remembered, some we forgot."

"I used to be director of a museum in Illinois, and this one is beautiful."

"Where is the restroom?"

"If we'd look at everything it would have taken a lot longer."

"Well, I made it and I didn't get lost."

"You have a wonderful museum here, I thought it would be very tiny but it wasn't."

"This is quite an exhibit. I'm from Rapid City."

"I don't know if I'm a member."

"My grandma had one like that. She brought it on the boat from Norway."

"I've lived in Albert Lea all my life, and this is the first time I've ever visited the museum."

"Is there a rest room on this floor?"

"Do you have rock candy?"

"Where did Albert Lea get its name?"

"Why is the lady in the kitchen pregnant?"

"Could I volunteer out here?"

"We've been to many museums and have never seen some of the things you have on display here."

"Everything looks so neat and clean."

"The people here are so nice and friendly. We're going to come again."

"How do you get out to the village?"

"Hmmm. Albert Lea Lake used to be called Fox Lake. I didn't know that."

"I enjoyed it very much. Thank you."

"Do you have a bathroom?"

"Oh, are these post cards for sale? Only 10 cents?"

"Can we have lunch on the picnic table?"

"Do you have weddings in the church?"

"Where is the Big Island Rendezvous?"

"Where should we park our motor home?"

"Who do we talk to about storing our boat?"

"How do we get the wheel chair downstairs? You don't have an elevator? You mean I have to go back outside?"

"Do I get anything besides free admission with a membership?"

"Where does all of your money come from? This place looks so good."

"The bathroom is downstairs. I just came from there."

"Is the fair office open?"

"Where do we start looking?"

"Oh do you have a library here?"

"We sure enjoyed ourselves. It's very interesting."

"Oh, are you here?" (This one comes during the winter months. Yes, we are here.)

Well, maybe that little one, thought the museum stinks, we'll certainly respect her opinion; but I'm glad that everyone doesn't share it.