

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MADISON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 14 - NUMBER 54

JANUARY, 1993

2ND QUARTER

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1973

Meeting date and time - 3rd Tuesday of each month not including December  
7:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church - 404 Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE.

OFFICERS: President - Lottie Klein Vice President - Harold Lyon  
Sect. - Marjorie R. Fuhrmann Treasurer - Donald and Dorothy Monson  
Newsletter Editors - Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Allison

DUES: Due September 1 of each year  
\$6.00 for individual or \$8.00 per couple

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After all the many activities, the glitter and pleasant sounds of Christmas - these early days of January almost seem dull, especially the many cloudy days we are having. Spring must be on the way as I have to date received four seed catalogs.

On December 15th, the members and their spouses of the Madison County Genealogical Society had an enjoyable evening at the Golden Corral. The food was tasty and the conversation was light-hearted. But like all typical Genealogists, the care-free chit-chat somehow manages to reach out to our special interest "Genealogy".

May each of you have a great fun-filled and prosperous 1993.

Sincerely,  
*Lottie Klein*  
Lottie Klein

COUSINS BY THE DOZENS

The child of your parent's brother or sister is your FIRST COUSIN

Your first cousin's child is not your second cousin, but is your first cousin, ONCE REMOVED.

The child of your first cousin once removed is your first cousin TWICE REMOVED and his (or her) child is your first cousin THREE TIMES REMOVED.

Your second cousin is your grandparent's brother or sister's grandchild. That second cousin's child is your second cousin ONCE REMOVED and his child is your second cousin TWICE REMOVED, etc.

And your THIRD COUSIN?? This is your great grandparent's great grandchild. The third cousin's child is your third cousin ONCE removed and his child is your third cousin TWICE removed.

The grandchild of your brother or sister is your grand-nephew or grand-niece.

The sister or brother of your great-grand parent is your great-grand aunt or great-grand uncle. Source unknown

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Saxbergs \*SF\* Byrå  
Stefan Saxberg(Dir)  
Post Box:1  
77014 Nyhammar, Dalarna  
Sweden  
.....

Hello!

My name is Stefan Saxberg and i am 24 years old and i live in Nyhammar in the landscape of Dalarna in Sweden. I have a firm who works with professionell family researching. My research cover hole Sweden and i have also bee"n contact with authorities, state archives and church offices in Denmark and Norway to. They are willing to leave out material to me and they are very positive to my project. So maybe can i cover this countries to in a near future with my research.

I write to you at Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society in Fremont, Nebraska therefore i wish and hope you can help me with some advice at my wonderings i write about under here.

I wondering over how i can reach people in USA who should have profit by my services over here in Sweden. You have maybe any adress to any persons or institute their i can reach this people i want to reach with my services. If you have personly contact with any who you think want my help can you gladly tell them about me if you want. It can maybe be people who are descandants to Swedish immigrants who want help to find their root"s over here in Sweden I belive you have many people in your area who are descandants to Swedish immigrants and maybe want a lot of them help to find their root"s over here. People are very welcome to write down their questions and requestions and send it to me.

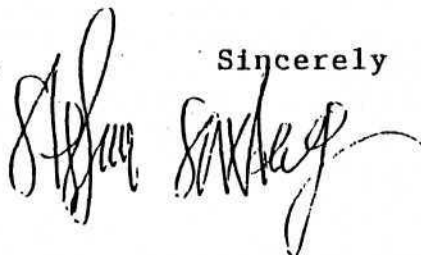
I wondering also over if you have any organized list of professionell researchers in your area. If you have any idea about it can you maybe write down little information about it to me. If you want can you also describe the procedure to me.

I am not after to compete with american researchers. I want only help people to find their root"s over here in Sweden.

I hope you can send me a answer on this letter i sending to you.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely



November-20-92

Greetings from a snowy  
Mid-Sweden.

Best Wishes

Saxbergs \*SF\* Byrå: Post Box:1:77014 Nyhammar, Dalarna: Sweden:

.....  
Source ENGS, Fremont, NE

Did you know that a letter may arrive at its destination more swiftly when:

There is no punctuation in the address

Only two-letter state abbreviations are used

There are all capital letters on the bottom line of the address (preferably through the entire address).

Directions, such as N for North and AVE for Avenue, are used.

For rural addresses, the sender uses RR and the box number on the second line of the address.

It makes little difference if the address was typed unless the writing was totally unreadable.

The extra four digits of the Zip plus four ZIP CODE enable the automatic scanning machine to pinpoint your street and house, making delivery quicker. If you don't know your four-digit code, check with the local post office. Every major post office has a ZIP-plus four book in the lobby for your use. Sources unknown

\* \* \*

There is an 800 number from the Salvation Army to assist you in finding genealogy help if the person you are searching for is listed as a missing person with them.

\* \* \*

**NEW HOURS FOR LDS Library** are Wednesday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays 1000 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Stubblefield at the library will take your microfilm to Omaha and make you a copy of it for 10 or 15 cents a page.

\* \* \*

**NEW BOOKS AT NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY** - cost shared by the library and the Madison County Genealogy Society now ready to be loaned out:

Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary by Maurine & Glen Harris

Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs by Karen Frisch-Ripley

In Search of your Canadian Roots by Angus Baxter

Deutsches Namenlexikon is not available from the publisher.

\* \* \*

**NEW BOOK IN OUR SOCIETY LIBRARY** - The Tri-County Pioneers - Platte, Boone and Madison County. This is a reprint.

\* \* \*

**HOW TO HANDLE THAT RESEARCH** The oldest axiom in planning is "research before you act." If you're considering doing research yourself or commissioning it, keep these guidelines in mind:

Begin with specific objectives. Know how you are going to use the results.

Avoid doing the simply "nice-to-know" research.

Use the data generated. Be open minded to research results, even if they're negative. They're not biased and will tell you what you need to know - not what you want to hear. Source Western Typewriter Office & Supply newsletter 1/93

\* \* \*

My Cousin helped her niece find her living relatives - the father she did not know and two half brothers and a half sister by his second marriage. The interesting thread to all of this is that the niece, her father, step brothers and sisters have all worked for airlines-some for the same Company. JA

Madison County Genealogical Society Membership List  
January 19, 1993

Northern Antelope County Gen Society, P. O. Box 53, Orchard, NE 68764-0053	
Northern Nebraska Genealogy Society, Doris Price, Tres., O'Neill, NE 68763	
Betty Ahrens - 309 North 13th Place, Norfolk, NE	371-5029
Jeanne Allison - 1316 Galeta Unit C, Norfolk NE 68701-2412	371-7503
Laura Allison - 1501 Girard Blvd, S. E., Albuquerque, NM 87106	266-1587
Aage Anderson - 106 Walnut Ave, Norfolk, NE	371-9237
Joyce Barlow - P. O. Box 134, Osmond, NE 68765	748-3429
Mamie Bathke - Leisure Lodge, 407 N 13th St., Norfolk	379-2056
Joyce Borgelt - Rt. 1-Box 188, Battle Creek, NE 68715-9764	375-3665
Arlene Charboneau - 171 N. 18th, Springfield, OR 97477	746-5371
Eunice Coover - 412 Elm, P. O. Box 395, Tilden, NE 68781	368-5509
Lois Craig - 1700 Prospect Apt 915, Norfolk, NE 68701-5659	
Marlene Edens - R. R. 1 - Box 264, Menomonie, WI 54751	
Mildred Ellwanger - 105 20th Circle Drive, Norfolk, NE	371-8591
Margerie R. Fuhrmann - 1215 Meadow Drive, Norfolk, NE	371-3805
Wendy S. Goehner - 1356 N. 54th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208	
Mary A. Goddard - 18525 - 26th Ave., Plymouth, MN 55447	
Betty Huebner - 1006 Meadow St., Watertown, WI 53094	
Mary Johnson - 1327 Hayes, Norfolk, NE	379-2905
Robert D. Johnson - 4316 South Ridge Court, Rosewell, GA 30075	
Lottie Klein - P. O. Box 122, Norfolk, NE 68702-0122	371- <del>9535</del>
JoNelle Linnaus - 2202 Elmers Lane, Norfolk, NE	379-2978
Ardith Logan - 814 So 9th Street, Norfolk, NE	371-2920 or 371-9473
Harold J. Lyon - 604 So 14th Street, Norfolk, NE	371-2589
Dale and Jean Masters - 608 Bluff, Norfolk, NE	371-2902
Ruth McDaniel McClurkin - 4250 Lariat Lane, Grand Island, NE 68803	
Ann McKeehan - 2337 Kwis Ave, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745	
Donald and Dorothy Monson - R. R. 4-Box 57, Norfolk, NE	371-4270
Joan Moody - 503 No 10th Street, Norfolk, NE	371-3713
Gilbert and Edna Nykodym - R. R. 4 - Box 210, Norfolk, NE	371-4357
Edward Otjen - 123 Shoshoni Trail, Applevalley, MN 55124	
Rev. Walter Pinnt - 411 Blaine, Norfolk, NE	371-8196
Bob Plisek - 810 Volkman Drive, Norfolk, NE	371-3468
* Audrey Polenske - 407 N. Birch, Norfolk, NE	371-1928
Jennifer J. Prange - 1529 S 8th St., Lincoln, NE 68502	
* Ann R. Rape' - 3219 W 18th, Grand Island, NE 68803	
Deborah Schilousky, P. O. Box 147, Ewing, NE 68735	
Dee Sewell - R. R. 2 - Box 208A, Norfolk, NE	371-0472
Leatta Stortvedt - 717 E. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, NE	371-7343
* Shirley Voecks - 219 Miller Ave, Norfolk, NE	371-8530
Susan Wattier - R. R. 1 - Box 225, Randolph, NE 68771	337-0138
Duain Weigert - R. R. 2 - Box 86, Wausa, NE 68786	586-2774
Mary Ann Voss - 721 E. Park, Norfolk, NE	371-3029
* UNLESS DUES ARE PAID-THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE	

HONARY MEMBERS

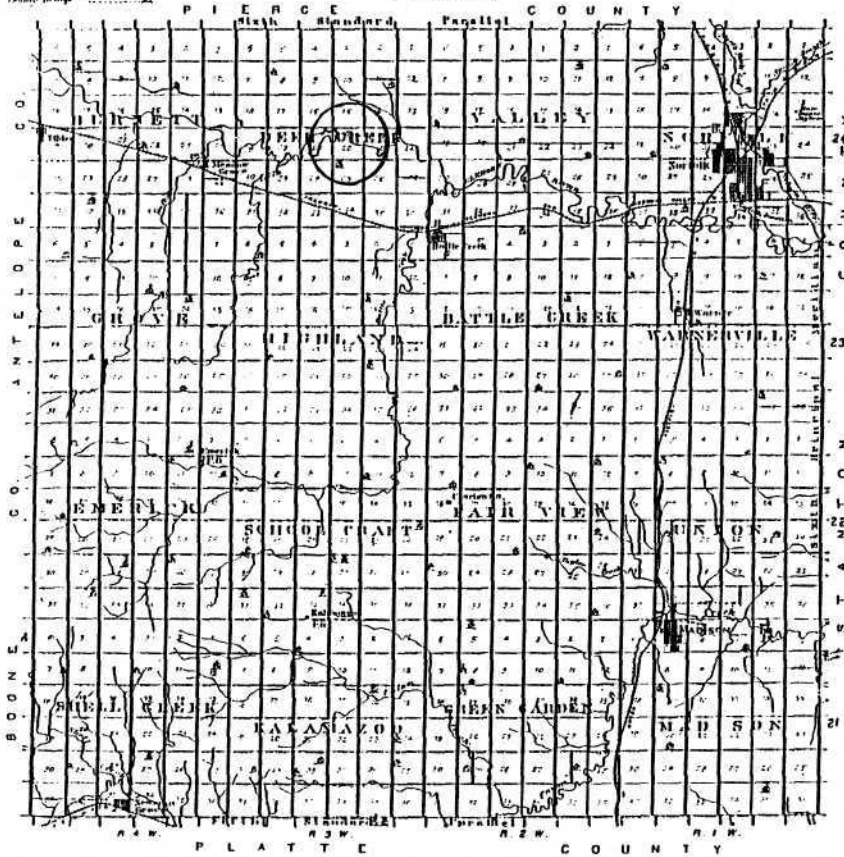
Harlow Butcher - 1006 Logan Ave, Norfolk, NE	371-3897
Mary Carlisle - 1316 Prospect Ave., Norfolk, NE	371-1791
Elvira Geske - 700 S. 4th, Norfolk, NE	379-0540

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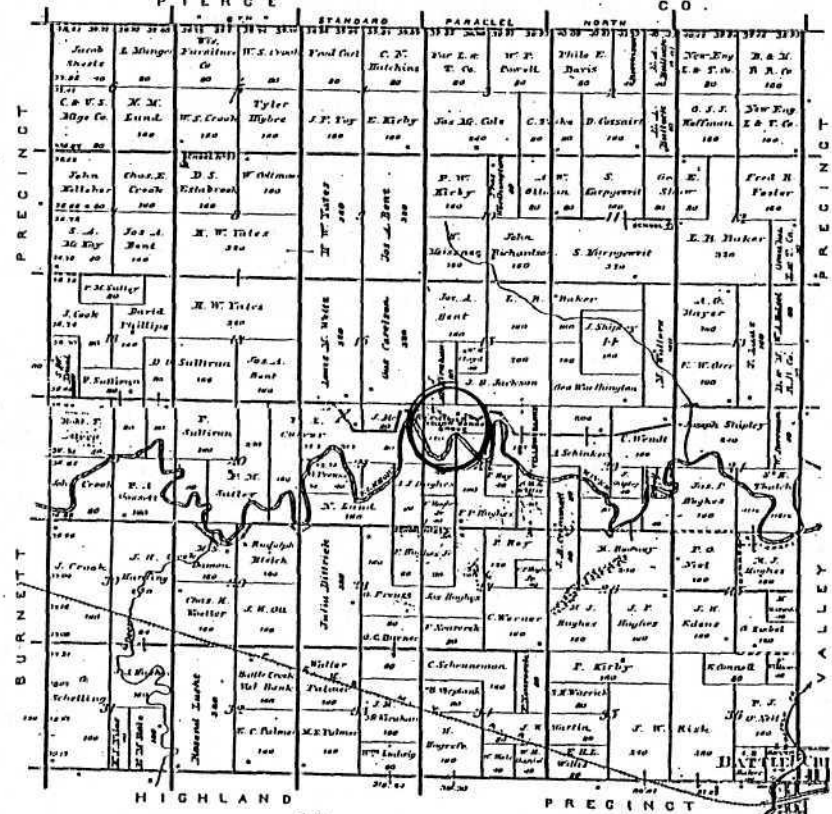
EXPLANATION  
 Section Line  
 Water Course  
 Railroad  
 Creek or Spring  
 River  
 Church  
 School  
 Mill  
 Windmill  
 Cemetery  
 Town  
 Village  
 Post Office  
 School House  
 Mill  
 Windmill  
 Cemetery  
 Town  
 Village  
 Post Office  
 School House

OUTLINE MAP  
**MADISON COUNTY**  
 NEBRASKA  
 1880  
 Scale: 1 inch per mile



PLAT OF  
**DEER CREEK**

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile. Township 24 North, Range 3 West. of the 6th Principal Meridian.



EARLY DAYS AT THE YELLOW BANKS - Section 22 Deer Creek Precinct - Madison County, NE.

Yellow Banks post office established June 14, 1877, discontinued Dec 19, 1879 Probably named for yellow clay banks along a stream (Elkhorn River) near the post office. Source Perkey's Place names - 1982 - - - - I. A. Hutchins - postmaster

Philip Sheets of Meadow Grove, who came with his parents to settle in Deer Creek precinct near the Yellow Banks, told of seeing several hundred Indians camped near Battle Creek on about the same spot where Sam Thatch told that they were camped when Territorial Governor Black and General Thayer and his troops met them in 1859.

Joseph A. Besst, William W. Cloyd, August J. Huebner, and John McKirahan settled in Section 15 and 16. McKirahan was the famous hermit who lived in a cave below the Yellow Banks.

Peter D. Sardan acquired the NE 1/4 of Section 22 and then sold it to J. H. Jackson. Also in Section 22 were Frank P. Hughes, Christian Huebner, August Haase, and I. A. Hutchins who had a post office near the Yellow Banks. Owners of this section now are Harry Werner, Walton Grant, George and June Noah and Lawrence Walz. Source Battle Creek Centennial Book 1867-1967

COUNTRY POST OFFICES

In the early days numerous small post offices were established as rural free delivery routes did not come into being until about 1900. Often besides the post office there would be a small general store, a blacksmith shop and sometimes a saloon. Among these, now mostly forgotten, were: Blakely which was south of Meadow Grove; Warren in the northwest part of the county; Emerich at the head of the Battle Creek, nine miles south of Meadow Grove, Kalamazoo in the south part of the county; Munson south of Norfolk which was later known as Warnerville in Warnerville Precinct; Clarion in Fairview Precinct near the present Fairview Methodist Church and the Fairview School District No. 88; Deer Creek near the Yellow Banks and Gimlet southeast of Meadow Grove. C. H. Reeves and Joe Osborn, not to be outdone by the founders of Gimlet, started a post office, store, blacksmith shop and saloon in Schoolcraft Precinct, which they named Big Auger. Many people of today remember Simon Finnegan who served as state senator during the '30's. He clerked in the store for Reeves and Osborn.

In the old days, the Elkhorn River was about as wide as Buffalo Creek is now and very deep - many times deeper than it is now. There were very few places where they could ford the river. They had no bridges so they had to ford the rivers. The people had high wagons, but sometimes, when they had groceries in the wagon, the groceries would get wet. Now the river is about three times as wide and not half as deep.

The Yellow Banks were several hills, one of which about 150 feet straight down on one side. was the main bank. It was of yellow clay and there was a river at the foot of it. The river kept cutting into the hill until the hill caved in and changed the course of the river. Now, it slopes much more and isn't so long.

The general slope of the land is different than it was fifty years ago. Little hills are almost level and now there are hills where it used to be level.

YELLOWBANKS PARK TO BE OPENED SOON

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, IS DATE SET FOR OPENING OF NEW SUMMER RESORT

Sunday, June 3, is the date set for the formal opening of Yellowbanks park which promises to be one of the most attractive resorts in northeast Nebraska.

Among the features of this place will be the lake covering five and one-half acres of ground, the athletic field which is 375 feet square on the inside, a cafe, cottages, gasoline filling station, barber shop, and the electric lighting facilities.

By the time the park owners have completed the work, the project will represent an investment of between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The owners are: W. L. Maus, Joe Hullinger and A. C. Williams, all of Norfolk, and J. J. Blair, living near Meadow Grove.

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More than one-half mile of continuous board fence has been erected, the distance being 3,140 feet. This immense "bill board" is the longest continuous one in the world, the owners believe.

Otto Ruegge, who lives in the western part of the state, will operate the cafe. He has had considerable experience in this business and is now making plans for the opening.

The barber shop will be operated under the management of Paul Johnson of Meadow Grove. Popcorn rights have been secured by Frank Henninger, Meadow Grove, and the Meadow Grove Oil company will operate the gasoline filling station.

Forty-six cottage sites have already been leased to residents of northeast Nebraska. During the summer months the owners expect the park will be a "little city" in itself.

The Smith Motors team, a semi-pro Norfolk baseball club, will play a number of games at the park during the coming summer. This aggregation is rated as one of the best in this section and will meet some of the leading teams of northeast Nebraska.

A merry-go-round is to be installed by the opening day.

Israel Hutchins had a trading post and a post office at the Yellow Banks in 1877. He traded with the Indians, worked in the post office, and had squatter's rights, but when the area became too populated, he moved out. Joseph H. Jackson followed him as postmaster on May 19, 1879, and the post office was discontinued that same year, December 19, 1879.

Sources:

- Meadow Grove History, 1886-1986
Battle Creek Centennial Book 1867-1967 and
Norfolk Daily News, May 18, 1928

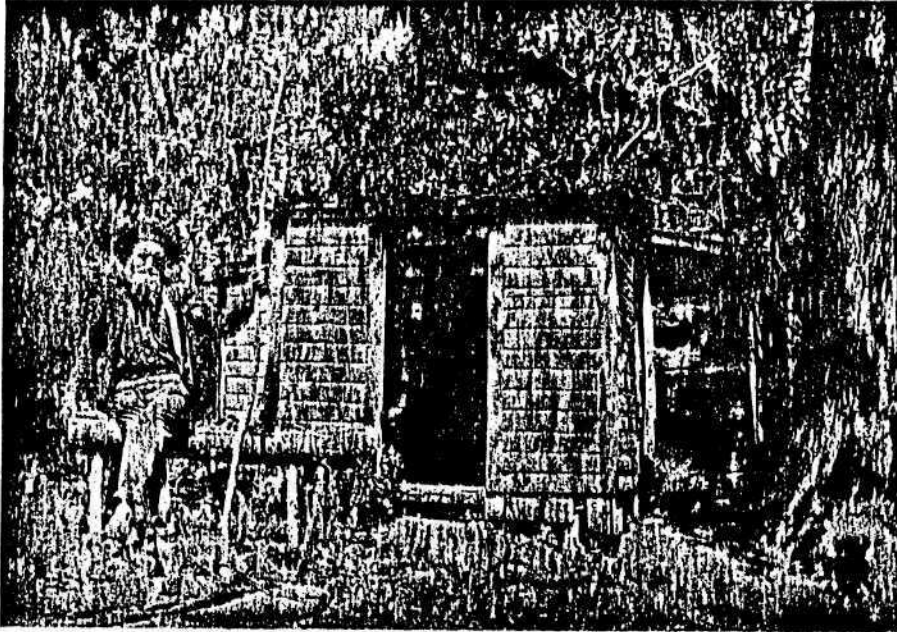


## The Old Hermit of the Yellow Banks

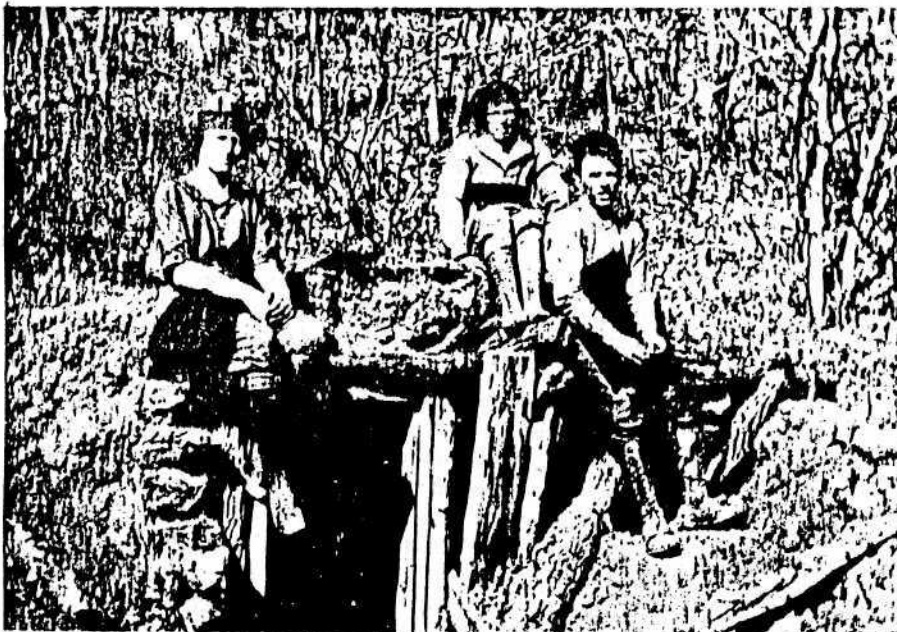
John McKerihan, called "Uncle Johnny" by everyone, had two homes. His log cabin was across from the Hutchins' store and his dugout was about one mile east. He lived part of the time in each place, or wherever his goats would happen to be. He owned eighty acres in Section 21, 120 acres in Section 22, and eighty acres in Section 15, Township 24, Range 3. John D. Neligh, his brother Joe, and McKerihan had been batching together at West Point when they decided to come west. McKerihan was the first county treasurer of Cuming County. He moved to the Yellow Banks and brought the county funds with him, tied in the corner of a handkerchief. When another county treasurer was elected, John walked all the way back to West Point, tur-

ning the money back to them, the sum being just seventy-five cents.

His dugout, in the side of a hill, was located south and a little east of the former Anson place, and was about as big as a cellar. He had a board front and roof on it which could be seen high on the bluff northeast of the river. Johnnie had a herd of white Angora goats and never sheared them. Often he picked the wool off the brush and saved it. When he walked through the woods, he carried a long stick to brush the webs before him. Sometimes he carried an extra pair of shoes on the stick over his shoulder. Usually he went barefoot, but many times he wore a shoe on one foot and a



The Old Hermit of the Yellow Banks, Johnnie McKerihan and one of his homes.



Hermit's Cave, left to right, Onleta Hannen, Ruth Crook, and Clarence Rosenau.

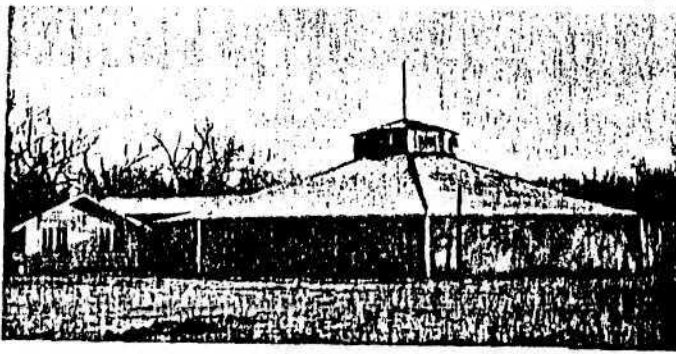
boot on the other. He made most of his clothes out of goat skins.

John McKerihan loved to call on the neighbors, often dropping in at meal time. Some recall that he made neat little mounds of food on his plate and then covered it all with honey.

He would go to the George Hayden house, which was about one mile north, for eggs and milk two or three times a week. One day he brought a little kid goat up to the Hayden's, giving it to Rose, who was five years old at the time. The kid's mother had died and the little goat was about the size of a medium sized cat. It became a family pet. Mr. Hayden's hired man teased the goat, causing it to bunt him. Rose and Dewey were afraid to go out into the yard to play because the goat would bunt them. Finally Mr. Hayden traded the goat for a load of hay.

John Crook said, "Johnnie was a character. He named everything he had. He had a wagon, no wagon box, but a rack of poles such as you would use to haul wood. He called this his "car of Zion." He had a team of horses named "Snagdog and Bony-part." They were well named too, for skinnier horses never lived. He named part of his land, N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section Thirty-Three, and the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section Thirty-Three, the "Wee Tog." (Little Meadow).

In later years John McKerihan was referred to as "The Hermit." He was never married.



The dance pavilion at Yellow Banks Park. The addition to the left is the kitchen and dining area.



The manager's cabin at the Yellow Banks Park occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. (Joe) Blair.

## Yellow Banks Park

The following information was taken from the May 17, 1928 Meadow Grove News.

"For several years there has been considerable talk of putting in a recreation resort and today we find we have one of the most beautiful parks in the State of Nebraska near completion, located for the convenience of the people of Madison County and northeast Nebraska. The development of this park has attracted the attention of several thousand people in the past sixty days, from all parts of the state and adjoining states. During this time, fifty cottage sites were sold and sixty-some billboards for advertising purposes. These billboards represent Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, Madison, Battle Creek, Tilden and Newman Grove, Nebraska. The billboard is one of the most attractive features of the park. The billboard space is 3,200 feet in length and is considered one of the longest in the union. The men back of this project are J. J. (Joe) Blair, A. C. Williams of Meadow Grove and W. L. Maus and J. E. Hullinger of Norfolk, Nebraska. Mr. Blair, who is owner of the land, is president of the Park Company, A. C. Williams is vice-president and also J. E. Hullinger. W. L. Maus is considered one of the leading insurance and real estate men in Madison County.

One year ago, in 1927, Mr. Blair and Mr. Williams came in contact with Mr. Maus, showing him the need and possibilities of this wonderful development. Upon deciding to enter into this venture, Mr. Maus was made secretary-treasurer and promoter of the park. G. H. Blair has the contract to erect the buildings. The resort is located on his brother's land, J. J. Blair, and consists of sixty acres adjoining the Elkhorn River.

A seven foot board fence three-fourths of a mile long has been completed with all space sold for advertising. Fifty cottages, bathhouse, electric light plant, barbershop, eating house, gas filling station, big dance pavilion and a large amphitheatre seating 3,000 people are some of the buildings located at the park.

The river gives ideal swimming, boating and fishing privileges.

The grand opening of the Yellow Banks Park was held on June 3, 1928. The bill mentioned boating, swimming, dancing, baseball, tennis, and croquet courts, four horseshoe courts, merry-go-round and an ideal place for a picnic. A baseball game was to be held at 3:00 p.m. The grand opening dance was held on June 2. Two prominent speakers were on the program at 1:00 p.m., on June 3. The

Norfolk and Meadow Grove bands played throughout the day. Airplane rides were given by Andy Rissor of Norfolk and Mrs. C. E. Tillotson of Battle Creek, the only woman pilot in the state. The Yellow Banks Park was considered a regular little city with a cafe, barbershop, shoe shining parlor, beauty parlor, popcorn stand, two large confectionaries, oil station and many other concessions in the form of amusement.

The grand opening was held, the weather was ideal, cool but pleasant, and by noon the scenic resort was swarming with people from every direction. The crowd was estimated to be 15,000. More than 300 tickets were sold for the dance the night before. Admission to the park was ten cents per car and ten cents per person. It was agreed that the Yellow Banks Park would be a place for large gatherings, picnics, outings or an ideal place for a vacation."

The Yellow Banks Park was located one mile north and three miles east of Meadow Grove along the beautiful Elkhorn River. The park was planned in 1927 and ready for its formal opening on June 3, 1928. Huge crowds came from all over the state to enjoy its facilities ranging from 5,000 to 15,000. Over fifty cottages were erected in the park and many local citizens owned cottages there, including Emmett Warrick and others. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Blair, the managers, lived in a four room cabin on the grounds.

Electricity for this large operation was generated by a large engine that charged up batteries, furnishing power for the lights. Jim Blair served as a deputy sheriff and kept law and order at the park. Flyers were put out over a large area announcing the grand opening of the park, some sent as far as Chamberlain, South Dakota.

The park resembled a regular little town with many shops, concession stands, a cafe, and so on. A large dance pavilion of eighty feet by eighty feet with maple flooring and a kitchen and orchestra addition was in the center of the park. Here "old time" dances were held on Saturday nights and modern dances on Sunday nights. There were dawn dances from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Ladies danced free and the gents for fifty cents. A walk-a-thon dance was held August 1, 1933. The marathon dance ended after almost 100 hours of walking and dancing. Local bands as well as other orchestras furnished music for the dances. Some of the bands were: George Carter orchestra, Quentin Hunt and his six Rhythm Makers, Lawrence Welk, Raggy Ring and his Printer's Devils (the official orchestra of W.J.A.G.), Barney Kremer and his orchestra, featuring Tony and Snowplow from W.N.A.X., Happy Jack O'Malley and Rosebud Kids. The pavilion was used for roller skating on certain nights.

A large cafe prepared food for the crowds. Charles Adcock operated the main cafe building at one time and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Switzer helped to fry hamburgers.

Ball games were regularly held at the Yellow Banks. The ball field was surrounded by the world's longest billboard that measured three-fourths of a mile long. Advertising spaces were sold for the billboard which was featured in "Ripley's Believe It Not." Rodeos and revival meetings were other events. The revival meetings lasted up to a month.

The main event of the year was the Fourth of July celebration which featured roller skating, dances, ball games, a rodeo and concessions. A merry-go-round in the park was run by a gas engine for the children's enjoyment. Airplanes gave rides to people during the day. Boats were rowed up and down the streams. Others played horseshoes, tennis and croquet. It was estimated there were 8,000 to 10,000 people in attendance at the Fourth of July celebration in the new park.

German, Virginian, Farm Bureau, and town picnics were held in addition to the family picnics. On October 5, 1928, a picnic was held for the three towns of Battle Creek, Tilden, and Meadow Grove. A big beef was roasted and served free to the crowd. Other entertainment for the day consisted of band music, ball games, a dance with Happy Jack O'Malley Orchestra and speakers from both political parties. In August of 1929 a big Virginian picnic was held at the Yellow Banks Park. There were 200 cars at the picnic, transporting Virginians from Nebraska and from six other states, namely California, Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, and South Dakota. Every family brought well filled picnic baskets and the afternoon was spent discussing incidents that occurred "back thar" when they knew one another in the mother state. The Virginian picnics became an annual affair.

A German picnic was held in September of the same year with about 200 present. In addition to entertainment, there was free watermelon for everyone. Another German-American picnic was held with over 10,000 people attending at one time.

There were several different owners of the park over the period it was in operation. J. J. Blair, A. C. Williams, J. E. Hullinger and W. L. Maus were the instigators. On November 1, 1928, C. R. Christensen and J. J. Blair bought W. L. Maus' share of the Yellow Banks Park and planned a number of improvements. The Yellow Banks Park opened in 1931 under a new manager, George Miller of Battle Creek, Nebraska.

Times grew hard with the depression in the 30s. People were short of money and so the Yellow Banks Park terminated in December of 1937. John Warrick, Sr. advertised a sale for December 14, 1937, listing the tenant house, bathhouse, engine house, five cabins, a bandstand, eight toilets, and a dance pavillon. Equipment to be sold included a piano, eight mattresses, three kerosene stoves, five row boats, three heating stoves, part of a merry-go-round, eighteen chairs, 100 pair of roller skates, tables, counters, floor sander, a fifteen horsepower Fairbanks Morse engine and water system, a rabbit hut and an entrance sign.

When the dance pavillon was torn down, Cecil Rouse bought the maple flooring and covered the wide boards that were on the first floor of their home. This is now the Willard Gross home. One of the cabins is located just east of the Methodist Church.

If you view the park today, there is nothing to show for it except a few cement foundations. The river has changed its course, and practically all of the park is under water now. Perhaps the depression was responsible for its demise and some might say the Yellow Banks Park was twenty years ahead of its time.

YELLOW BANKS  
NEAR MEADOW GROVE



Yellow Banks near Meadow Grove



Source Meadow Grove History 1886-1986

The sheep they kept in the park had fleas. Anyone who came to the park got the fleas from the sheep.

They had an outdoor theater. They hosted marathon dances at the dance hall. Lawrence Welk played there. A Hawaiian band played on the lake using a boat for their stage. People rented boats and went out to listen to them.

The amusement park contained an old time Merry-go Round. They had a ball diamond with bleachers.

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