



Buffalo Tales



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Buffalo County Historical Society

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The Love Letters of Bertha Alice Haug and Ora Oscar Hayman

Part III

Bertha is passing the summer away in July of 1904 waiting for her fiance', Ora, to return from his travels and studies in Illinois. The following selections from three letters written in the first weeks of the month give us a glimpse into simple summer days of life in Shelton, which revolved around piano lessons, canning, poetry and conversations with friends.

**Letter #16 Mailed: Saturday,
07/02/1904**

**To: Prof. Ora O. Hayman,
829-1/2 Spring St.
Quincy, Illinois**

From: Shelton, Nebraska



My dear Boy:

My letter tonight may be a little broken in spots! Two medicine men just came asking to spend the evening with us. Of course we were delighted. Company of that kind is always so pleasant. I do enjoy having my friends with me but to have two men appear at 9 o'clock asking you to get supper for them and prepare a bed for them etc. is more than I appreciate. But mamma is going around with a smiling face. She has the chance to play the good Samaritan once more. I sometimes wish I could be half as good as my mother but I don't expect to reach that for a while. Everything comes to those who wait and strive.

Let me give you another example of goodness. Coming home from town one morning a couple of weeks ago I was astonished to see 5 tramps sitting out on the grass north of the house. When I got in the house I found mamma working away getting them something to eat. Think of it! Just 5. And, things as this constitute our chief source of amusement, excitement etc. at present for as usual there is not a thing to go to except church.

I feel I am becoming very important. Last Sunday was election of officers in Sunday School and Young Folks Meeting. I was honored by being elected as organist at Sunday School. It is needless to say I refused with more haste than tact. In the evening I was elected leader of the Young Folks meeting, an office I can fill only as far as dimensions are concerned. There really ought to be a good righteous person in such a position, one who has more religion and christianity than I have.

Have I told you that we have the piano tuned at last and that I have begun my lessons. I am taking (*piano lessons*) from Mr. Bone of Gibbon. He is fine. I know that I shall learn a lot from him if I just improve my time as I should. Have practised over 2 hours a day so far but do not know how long I can keep it

WITH THE SOCIETY

A Note from the President:

The new year has sure been nice as far as the weather goes. If we are going to experience cold weather I hope it happens soon, because when Spring gets here we will have to hit the ground running with all the activity that will be going on at the Trails & Rails Museum.

We are very excited to be approved by the Transportation Enhancement Selection Committee and the Department of Roads for funding our application to upgrade the former Shelton Depot and the Loup River Freighter Hotel on our museum grounds. There is some obligation to the Society though. We are committed to providing a non-federal cash match of 20% of the total cost of the project. The project must be at the 90% design completion point and the local cash match in place by December 2002. More about this project may be found elsewhere in this issue.

We are very grateful to the family of Virginia Parish for naming the Trails & Rails Museum for her memorial gifts.

I would like every member to put Sunday, April 17, 2002 on your calendar now as this is the Historical Societies Annual Meeting. More about that later.

-Larry Nansel, President

A Note from the Director:

We are pleased to announce that two buildings on the Trails and Rails Museum grounds have been selected for funding as part of the Transportation Enhancement Program from the Nebraska Department of Roads. The total amount of this funding is \$101,779 and it is to be used for engineering and construction improvements for two historic transportation buildings located at Trails and Rails Museum.

The first building to be updated is the former Loup River Freighters Hotel built in 1884. This building was originally located at a midway point on an overland freight trails between Kearney and Broken Bow. This hotel was used as a family residence and as a boarding house for overland freighters. The improvements consist of climate control, window and door replacement, electrical upgrade, insulation and exterior painting. The second building to be upgraded is the former Shelton Depot. Constructed in 1898, this depot served Union Pacific passengers and also transported freight. The improvements consist of climate control, electrical upgrade and insulation. Additional funds will be used for repair of ADA accessible ramp, and the installation of a fire sprinkler system to meet life safety standards.

As with much good news, there is one small catch....these projects require a 20% cash match, or \$25,445 and this money must be raised and available by December 12, 2002 when the project is to be 90% complete. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Any contributions towards the completion of this project would be greatly appreciated!!

Any amount will help. If you can contribute, please make a check out to *Buffalo County Historical Society* and either on the check or in any accompanying note indicate that this contribution is for the Transportation Enhancement Program. Remember, all contributions to the Buffalo County Historical Society are tax deductible! Now is a good time to give! Thanks!

(continued from Page 1)

up. I enjoy the work however and am glad I can take of so good a teacher. I wish that I had been given a little bit of genius. It would be a little bit easier to make oneself interesting to the world in general.

I have been quite busy this week. We canned some cherries and some mulberries. Don't you want some of the latter? I don't. I get some of them every time I look at my hands which are black as dirt, all covered with stains that will

not come off.

Our medicine men and papa are talking so out in the dining room that I am getting all nervous and can not think of anything to write.

I have been sewing some this week. It is quite interesting.

I have a new piece of music "The Fragrant Rose". I think it will be quite pretty when I learn it. Am taking it now.

I believe, my boy, that you told me we would have no pansies this year. If I can just remember I shall send you some white pansies, hearts' ease, you know.

I found this little poem the other day that interested me very much. It is good, I think but it does not sound to me anything like Rudyard Kipling. I have not read very many of his books though. Have you? The last stanza I like so well.

"And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame,
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of working, and each in his separate star,
Shall draw the thing as he sees it for the God of things as they are!"

'Each for the joy of working and each in his separate star.' Isn't that a fine thought? To feel that the Master knows just what one thing we can best do and will give us that task.

Morning

Mamma sent me to bed last night about 11 so I will have to close my letter this morning. Excitement is waning. The medicine man is trying to sell mamma some liniment etc. before he departs. Soon he will go and then we will have a calm for awhile again.

Well, Ora, I must close this letter as Saturday morning is rather a busy time for housewives and daughters. C. I shall try to write you Sunday or Monday and take it in Tuesday. You see I have made up my mind to write very often. I am glad however that it will only be a few weeks longer until you are back.

So, goodbye for this morning my boy. Will write again in a day or so and tell you of the weather etc.

Mamma says she would send you her love only she don't know what you could put it in when you get it.

Your little girl,
Bertha

Letter #19 Mailed: Tuesday, 07/05/1904

**To: Mr. O.O. Hayman,
829-1/2 Spring St.
Quincy, Illinois**

From: Shelton, Nebraska

My dearest Boy,

The great 4th of July has come and gone. I missed my boy yesterday and tried to console myself with other friends but did not succeed to my remarkable extent. I met quite (kiss) a number of old friends yesterday and had good visits with them, among them being 2 women who had the honor of teaching me as a child. They tried to make me be the little girl again but were not successful. But they say I have improved.

I am to take dinner and spend the afternoon with one of them next Tuesday when I go to take my lesson.

I was in Gibbon this morning. Enjoy taking my lessons very much. Mr. Bone is such a patient old fellow he does not lose his temper as one would expect in

to those who work and wait. It's a good thing I have something to console me occasionally. Am trying to practise 3 hours a day this week, but I get so tired. I just have to make myself work.

You ought to be quite a good boy by the time you come back. You see it does you good to be away from that girl in Holdrege who used to keep you away from church sometimes. I used to tell her she should be ashamed of herself but she was such a careless creature she would not always listen. Oh! I beg your pardon. I forgot for the time being that I was talking about your little Holdrege girl. But you know I can't be blamed for I am a little jealous of her. Someone tells me though that she left Holdrege so when you go back again what will you do? Console yourself with writing to the Shelton girl?

I am so glad that your trip is doing you so much good, but will be glad to see you back again.

I must stop as papa is ready to go to town. The folks send their best regards.
Your little girl,
Bertha

P.S. Good for 25 k_____ from your sweetheart.



Street scene of Shelton, Nebraska.

Solomon D. Butcher 1910 Nebraska State Historical Society

GIBBON, NEBRASKA - 1952

Jacci Spencer - Kearney, NE

The pool hall, the hatchery, the grocery store
the hotel. We pass the school; where I will
be a new student this fall. Reaching our new home.
I sit in the car with my cat, Junior. There is no swimming pool,
no TV reception, no sidewalks, dirt roads.
I feel I have moved to the last town on earth.

The car is surrounded by kids, inviting us to attend
the neighborhood circus. There are clowns, a fat
lady, a trapeze artist. By night time, we have
seen most of Gibbon; the movie theater that cost only a dime,
the hatchery that sells frozen malts for a nickel, the
children's wading pool at Davis Park. As I settled
down to sleep, my bed begins to shake.
The trains in Gibbon are awakened.

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Dr. Roger P. Davis, Editor

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- Institutional Membership \$20.00
- Supporting Membership \$30.00+

Life memberships are \$150.00 for individual; \$200.00 for husband and wife.

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 2002: James R. Ganz, Sr., Larry Nansel, Dan Speirs and Robert W. Goldenstein.

Term expiring June 1, 2003: Dora Day, Jan Fern, Joyce Sullwold and Mitch Humphrey.

Term expiring June 1, 2004: Edward Anderson, Wilma Harder, John Shafer and Paul Brodine.

Officers (1 year term)

- President Larry Nansel
- Vice-President Dora Day
- Secretary John Shafer
- Treasurer Joyce Sullwold

TRAILS & RAILS MUSEUM

Winter seems like a slow time but many things must be done in order to be ready for Spring and I really appreciate this catch up and planning time. January is gone and the school children will be coming soon. It's also time to get ready for the Summer opening and Wagons West. We will be lining up volunteers for these activities.

If you are willing to help with any of these activities or have ideas, please let me know. We soon will be calling and help is always appreciated. Often people say they are interested in helping with something and it slips by when the time comes. Don't be bashful-you are needed!

We will again be taking part in Kids Explore which will be held at the Hockey Arena this year.

-Margaret Hohnholt, Volunteer Director
mhohnholt@aol.com
bhhs@kearney.net

Trails & Rails Museum 706 West 11th Street (308) 234-3041

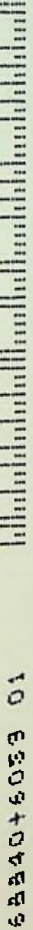
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