

THE CENTER PIECE



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Brandon Summerfest Event to Feature Local Artist/Author



Hulda Rossum of Brandon will be the featured artist/author during the 2012 Brandon Summerfest celebration. Hulda is known for her beautiful poetry, ceramic creations, and painting. Many area residents have her work displayed in their homes.

Who is this talented woman? Hulda was born on a very blustery winter day in 1921 about eight miles

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west of Inspiration Peak. She has written an autobiography for her family which shows that faith and family are most important to her.

Hulda's poetry and other writings express love and advice to those she holds dear. They describe events in her and husband Charlie's lives and reveal the humorous side of her personality. Her words paint nature and God's creation, much like her paint brush does. If you stop to visit her, you will most likely find her composing at her computer or painting one of her masterpieces.

Charlie and Hulda have 4 children, 14 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, 39 great-great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-great-grandchildren. Can you imagine her family get-togethers?

Hulda is also a flower garden enthusiast and learned to play the harmonica at age 82! She has been a friend and a second mother to many.

Please join Hulda at the Brandon History Center on Saturday, August 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. for a cup of coffee and one of her favorite cookies! You never know—she might send you home with one of her compositions. Samples of her writing and painting will be on display.

From the Past . . . Remember the MXC? -- How it began --

In the closing hours of the 1969 Legislature, the Minnesota House and Senate authorized a study of the Minnesota Experimental City. The MXC was the brainchild of a private partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Federal government—an idea never before tried on such a large scale.

The study focused on America's "urban crisis" and projected population growth.

The study listed concerns about continued growth of metropolitan areas; difficulty of governments to meet demands of urban growth; threat of urban decay; decline of central cities; greater pollution of air, water, noise, and land; limitations on housing

and jobs in peripheral areas for poor and minority populations.

The study recommended creating the Minnesota Experimental City Authority of 11 members, who would work with the Departments of Economic Development, Natural Resources, and State Planning. Only three members were from rural Minnesota, one of whom was David Dziuk of Alexandria. Mr. Dziuk was appointed later in the process and was not on the first Board.

Dziuk was quoted as saying that while he liked the MXC concept, he was "wholly uncommitted as to where it should be located."

Duties of Minnesota Experimental City Authority

Some of the major duties of the Authority were to: develop criteria for the selection of a site for the Experimental City, with the final designation of a site to be in the state of Minnesota; conduct ongoing research into the requirements for the construction of the city; prepare a comprehensive plan and final report for consideration by the 1973 legislative session; apply for grants, gifts, services and any other assistance from state or federal governments or private sources; enter into contracts.

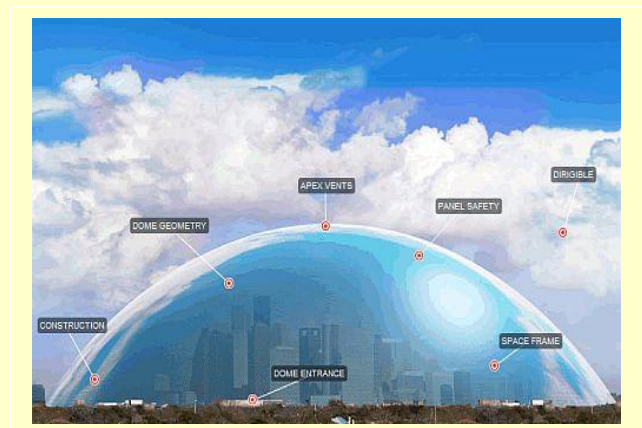
Prior to land acquisition, the Authority was to have the right to prohibit, restrict, or postpone the sale,

transfer or other disposition of public lands within the chosen site; prohibit or restrict plans for capital improvements by any political subdivisions or state agency in the affected area; with these powers to be in effect for four years.

Eminent domain would have been used to obtain lands within the MXC site if landowners would have been unwilling to "participate."

The initial population for the MXC was estimated to be 250,000 on about 75,000 acres.

One controversial feature of the MXC was the absence of schools. Instead, lifelong learning would be practiced, where everyone is considered a teacher as well as a student.



A geodesic dome would have partially covered the MXC. The design was incredibly strong and would have been tornado-proof. The city was to be car-free, with cars parked at the edge, and people-movers running into the city.

Local Reactions to MXC

The MXC Authority selected two potential sites: one in the northwest corner of Douglas County and one in Aitkin County. Public meetings were held in both Counties by the Experimental City Authority. State Representative Dave Fjoslien organized a protest outside the Brandon City Hall opposing the potential selection of Douglas County as a site for the MXC. Approximately 150 people attended the protest. Several hand-carried signs read “We don’t want no MXC,” while a few high school students carried a sign reading “Class of ’73 is for MXC.”

The most elaborate sign at the protest was one made and carried by Annette Korkowski of Brandon which showed tentacles of an octopus (representing the MXC) grabbing and devouring the virtues of rural life.

Protests also took place in Aitkin County and at the State Capitol. News stories reported that opposition to the experimental city seemed to be more intense

in Douglas County. Many residents, however, in Aitkin County supported the development of the Experimental City. Aitkin County was eventually chosen as the MXC site. Seven members of the MXC Authority, including David Dziuk of Alexandria, voted in favor of proceeding with the project. Two members were absent from voting. The Aitkin County Board voted 5–0 in favor of MXC.

Planners expected that 130,000 jobs would be created, mainly in research-based industries such as environmental technology and communications. Farms would have been mixed with factories to provide a “rural-urban balance” throughout the city.

Aitkin County resident Barbara Hansen asked: “What do we have to lose?” She stated that the job market in that community was very limited and the MXC would give their young people choices for local employment.

What Happened with the Experimental City in Minnesota?

The projected cost of the Experimental City was between \$8 billion and \$12 billion. The Authority was not overly concerned with the cost, as they were confident that private industry would be willing to foot most of the development costs.

Apparently the “living laboratory” the MXC would provide for private industry to experiment and develop new technologies such as waterless toilets, people movers, conducting business and shopping via computers, municipal power plants burning garbage, driverless minibuses, etc., was not enough to convince the Legislature and Governor Wendell Anderson to make the MXC a reality.

Some legislators were of the opinion that the money for the project could have been better spent

in helping existing cities and rural areas with their problems. Other legislators representing the affected areas said they were listening to their constituents who did not want the MXC. People throughout the rest of the state were opposed as well.

In the 1973 session of the legislature, hearing rooms were packed by those in opposition. The Minnesota Pollution Control Board voted 8–1 on a resolution against the MXC. Committee after committee voted to stop the process. In the end, no money was appropriated by the legislature; and on June 30, 1973, the MXC effort died.

Interesting note: Epcot Center and Disney World are considered Experimental Cities.

Notice of Brandon History Center Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center will hold its annual meeting on Monday, September 10 2012, at 7 p.m. in the Brandon History Center.

One of the items of business is the election of board members, who would hold office from 2012 through 2015.

Positions 4 through 7 are currently held by Marcia Bolin, Florence Bitzan, Ruth Plaster, and Hilda Bettermann, all of whom are eligible for re-election. However, anyone desiring to run for any of the positions should feel free to do so.

Other business will include reports from officers and committees.

We encourage you all to attend to discover the wonders of our community history center. Our historical collection is growing; and board members and volunteers are working, as time permits, to catalog them and get them on display.

“Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies.”

[John F. Kennedy](#)

Membership Reminder

This is just a reminder to all that yearly memberships are due. We rely on memberships and grants to fund our operations and projects. Annual memberships are \$10 for individuals; \$15 for family. Single life memberships are \$150.

Besides renewing your membership, you might want to consider making a charitable contribution of \$100 or more. Because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, contributions are tax-deductible. Your gift will be recognized by name on our contributor plaques.

We appreciate the support of our community for the History Center. We are small but vibrant!

Special Gifts to BHC



Display Case donated by Arnie Auel Family

THANK YOU TO THE ARNIE AUDEL FAMILY! THE DISPLAY CASE IS IN GREAT SHAPE!

-----Article continued on page 5

--- Special Gifts to BHC - continued



Pull-down Curtain donated by Moe Twp.

This unusual pull-down stage curtain has been in use at the Moe Town Hall since sometime in the 1940s. The painting is surrounded by 25 advertisers in the area, 17 of which are Brandon businesses. It will find its new home in the Brandon Auditorium. THANK YOU TO MOE TOWNSHIP!



Pictured above is one of the beaches at Chippewa Park.

It was discovered that the Chippewa Park property had been used for two community fairs, in 1923 and 1924. Apparently Alexandria didn't host the Douglas County Fair for those two years. An even older history, circa 1000 AD, was discovered during preparations to build the park entrance road.

Thank you

25th Anniversary of Chippewa Park

Thank you to the following who generously contributed to the Brandon History Center recently:

Leroy and Kay Larson in memory of Sam and Hazel Myers - \$100

Ray and Jean Johnson - \$100

Chris and Cordelia Lorsung - \$100

Kevin Martini-Fuller, in memory of Kathleen Fuller- \$100

June 14, 2012, was a day dedicated to celebrate flag day in the United States. However, in our community, June 14, 2012, was another reason to celebrate.

In 1985, residents of the Brandon community took the initiative to ensure that the scenic and historic property known as "Hillard's Park," which we all used for swimming, picnics, and relaxing, would be enjoyed by future generations. It became a Douglas County Park on June 14, 1987.

Hillard and Delores Nelson very graciously allowed us to use the 37.25-acre property for summer recreation, without expecting anything in return.

As they approached retirement, they wanted to save the park for future use; then the community went to work to help preserve it.

Many thanks to the Nelsons for their generosity and dedication to their community.

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<http://brandonmnhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

BOARD MEMBERS:

Hilda Bettermann
Florence Bitzan
Marcia Bolin
Christella Korkowski
Janet Nelson
Ruth Plaster
Karen Thoennes

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

www.brandonmn.com

Our Mission Statement

To collect, preserve and display articles, pictures and memorabilia from Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

To assist in the preservation of the Historic Brandon Auditorium and other local historic sites.

Visit the History Center during Brandon Summerfest

The History Center will be open on Saturday, August 4, during our summerfest celebration. Please stop in and enjoy pictures, books, histories, and memorabilia from the Brandon and Millerville communities.

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