

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE

From the members of the board of directors, we wish you happy holidays.

January General Membership meeting program to feature author Julian West, author of "*What A Card! Story of Clellan Card and Axel and his Dog*". The meeting will be on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Society's Historic Church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn 55427. More details will be in the January newsletter. Mark your calendar now!

GOLDEN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The Golden Valley Garden Club is the oldest continuing social organization in the City of Golden Valley. Organized May 10, 1939, by Mrs. Clarence Tolg and Mrs. Lillian Seeman, the garden club was chartered. Their first project was to go door to door selling French lilacs at 15 cents a bush to raise money to purchase lilacs to be planted along Highway 100. The first attempt at fund raising was not so successful so they added peonies to their inventory in the door to door sales. This time it was successful and the financial goal was reached. The lilac was adopted as the official flower of Golden Valley.

The club decided that the original settlers of the community should not be forgotten. They purchased a plaque inscribed to commemorate these pioneers. In May, 1940, the plaque was dedicated, and Dr. William Riley, Lena Varner, and Robert Moser represented the original settlers to express their appreciation. The bronze tablet formerly was mounted on a large boulder nestled in the lilac bushes in a little park named Blazer on the west corner of Olson Highway and Highway 100, but in the late 1990's fearing the highway construction would destroy the plaque, several men removed the plaque from the bolder. The plaque now is in the custody of the Golden Valley Historical Society.

During WW II a memorial was erected at the Point Supper Club inscribed with the names of the Golden Valley servicemen. The garden club members thought it looked very bare so again they raised money, bought evergreens and plants for the surrounding grounds, and kept them growing in the hope that all the serving military personnel would come back to appreciate them. Later the memorial was reported to have burned.

The Garden Club organized the Lilac Festival and for many years was the organizer of a children's parade and a picnic at Blazer Park, later expanded the festival with a ball held at Glenwood Chalet. One parade had 1,200 marchers and caused Lilac Way (highway 100) to be closed from Glenwood Avenue to Golden Valley Road.

The club every year plants flowers in the large planters for the city. Other activities of the current club are to have at least one garden tour per year while focusing on gardening at their monthly meetings. They are a group of women who enjoy gardening as well as their friendship and each other's company.

There are currently 24 members in the Garden Club including three original charter members, Janice Johnson, Bets Ruffenach, and Myrtle Dahlin. The Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month, except January, usually at the Brookview Community Center, at noon. The current president is Wanda Heath. the secretary Chris Vorhes. For more information about the Garden Club contact Chris Vorhes at vorhes@comcast.net (612-940-1670) or Wanda Heath (763-253-0115.)

(Editor: Source GV Garden Club Historian Leone Johnson and *Golden Valley 1886-1986*, GVHS.)
Congratulations on your 70th anniversary Golden Valley Garden Club members!

IN REVIEW:

The November 12, 2009, general membership meeting program was Paula Pentel, a teaching assistant at the University of Minnesota, an urban development expert, who told about the rise and fall of the gas stations in the Minneapolis area. She showed photographs of the design changes from the early small box shelter for the gas station attendant to the later modern station designs which included garage stalls and pumps under an overhang shelter.

With the demise of the independently owned gas stations and the corporate chain stations to the now convenience stores plus gas pumps, she showed how the former gas stations have been converted to other types of service or retail establishments.

To augment the evenings program, Ken Huber and Jon Horkey brought gas station items from their historic collections and displayed them around the room, much to the enjoyment of the 31 persons in attendance at the meeting.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

Paula Pentel and her family in the loss of her mother.

The family of Paul Lantto in the death of Paul.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: James Hera, 5630 Westbrook Avenue, Golden Valley, Mn 55422; Please greet Jim at our next general membership meeting.

ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY:

Lyle Mottinger has donated to the Society's historical archives the following Golden Valley related items: A WW II steel American G.I. helmet with the fiber insert, in used condition, which was worn by Mottinger in WW II.

Two Golden Valley Little League base balls signed by the team members: one from 1972 Patriots and the other 1974 Bears team.

Two half pint glass milk bottles, one labeled, "Fairmont".

One pint glass milk bottle dated, "sealed January 11, 1914".

One Elgin Cream Remover, aluminum, "Pat #5123". This was used by inserting in the top of milk bottles to remove the cream which had risen to the top of the milk.

Thanks, Lyle for thinking of the Historical Society for your Golden Valley historical items.

SPEAKING OF MILK BOTTLES. . . In the horse and wagon days, dairy farmers of Golden Valley would deliver milk to their route residences and carry the milk in a container (prior to the invention of the milk bottles) and pour the milk from their container into a container of the residence. Then pasteurization and milk bottles came along and were used which improved on the sanitation of the milk deliveries.