



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society

7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427

November 2009

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**November meeting...**

## Pentel describes spread of gasoline stations

The question, "What's left?" will be the topic of the next Golden Valley Historical Society general membership meeting on November 12, 2009, 7:00 P.M. at the Society's Historic Church.

The gasoline station is one of the icons of the American Vernacular landscape. Like roadside restaurants, the function of the gasoline station is immediately apparent. This talk will discuss the rise in automobile ownership, gasoline marketing, and the style and diffusion of gasoline stations in Minneapolis. The expansion of stations to neighborhoods was part of the larger diffusion of commercial ventures from the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul that began

in the 1880's.

The presenter will be Paula Pentel, whose thesis on Gasoline Stations fulfilled her requirements for a Masters of Arts (MA) degree from the University of Minnesota. Pentel has a life-long fascination with studying the built environment and uses her interests in her position as a teaching specialist and advisor in the Geography Department and the Urban Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. Paula regularly teaches the Geography of the Twin Cities and Understanding the Urban Environment. She is a 24 year resident of Golden Valley and currently serves on the Golden Valley City Council.



Paula Pentel

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program. Bring a friend to this historic program and invite them to become a supporting member of the Society.

## Fall cleanup day scheduled Nov. 7

Building and Grounds Chairperson Jerry Breth is calling for members help to clean up the leaves and other yard debris from the Historic Church on Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please bring a rake, leaf blower, work gloves and your willingness to help with the chores. If there are enough volunteers and shovels, we may also tackle some more of the invasive weeds and buck-

thorn on the property. Questions? Call Jerry Breth at 763-545-3155.

## January program

The January general membership meeting program will be Author Julian West presenting "Clellan Card and His Dog." The program will be on Thursday, January 14, at 7 p.m. Mark your calendar so you don't miss this entertaining program!

## Remembering Edward Gearty

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Edward J. Gearty who died on September 25, 2009. He had a long career as a lawyer, state senator and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He is a descendant of the pioneer Geartys who were among Golden Valley's early settlers. He will be missed.

# Recognize loved ones with memorial gifts

The holiday season is a time when many of us especially remember loved ones and dear friends. Our Historical Society welcomes gifts "In Memory of.., In Honor of.. , or In Celebration of.." should you wish to recognize that person and support

the work of the Society in this manner. An envelope is enclosed with this newsletter for that purpose. Just complete the information necessary and include your check payable to the Golden Valley Historical Society. We thank you.

## Thanks to board members

We can never stop recognizing the men and women who voluntarily serve on our Board of Directors. Please also thank them when you see them at our meetings, at Byerly's or the hardware store. They are:

**Kenneth Huber**, President  
**Don Anderson**, Secretary

**Nancy Azzam**, Vice President  
**Joanie Clausen**, Treasurer

**Harriet Betzold**  
**John Colwell**  
**Jon Horkey**  
**Rudi Martignacco**  
**Lyle Mottinger**  
**Cathy Waldhauser**

**Jerry Breth**  
**Betty Crews**  
**Gloria Johnson**  
**Donald Minor**  
**Robert Provost**  
**Mike Freiberg**

**From the archives...**

## GV parks honor city mayors

Many former Golden Valley mayors are remembered by the parks which have been named for them.

They are **Scheid** (on Duluth between Toledo and Regent), **Sweeney** (on Hidden Lakes Parkway just off Golden Valley Road), **Gearty** (on Regent between Triton and Lowry), **Seeman** (on Phoenix between Hampshire and Florida), and **Stockman** (on Adell between

Major and Lee) .

Many of the current parks in Golden Valley are on land that was considered unbuildable in the earlier days of the developing city and so were donated to the city by the developer. Today, because Golden Valley is fully developed, redevelopment projects may be assessed a Park Fee that is then available to acquire property or maintain existing parks.

## New membership roster enclosed

The Golden Valley Historical Society 2009-2010 membership roster has been updated and is enclosed with this newsletter. Contact Secretary Don Anderson at 763-588-8578 with any needed changes.

## Annual report available by mail

The annual report for the fiscal year September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009, has been completed and is available to any member in good standing. Contact Secretary Don Anderson (763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com) if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.

## Rahn donates book to Society

Kenneth Rahn has sent a book, "Memoirs of Kenneth Rahn" to be added to the Kenneth Rahn collection in the Society's archives. Thank you to Mr. Rahn for thinking of the Society.

## Zdon entertains

The October 8, 2009, general membership program speaker was Al Zdon, State Editor of the American Legion Newspaper. His presentation was about slang terms of WW II, of which, "Kilroy was Here" was one. Twenty-one members and guests enjoyed this entertaining program