



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society

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October 2009

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October meeting...

Zdon to reveal origins of World War II slang

World War II slang like "Kilroy Was Here" is going to be the featured program at the October 8 General Membership meeting with Al Zdon. Zdon is Communications Director of the Minnesota American Legion and editor of the American Legion newspaper, the Official Newspaper of the American Legion in Minnesota. The Minnesota Legionnaire newspaper was started as the Hennepin County Legionnaire in 1920. Published monthly by the Minnesota Department of the American Legion, it is now in its 90th year.

Zdon was the long time editor of the Hibbing Daily Tribune and has written two books, "One



Al Zdon is the Communications Director of the Minnesota American Legion.

Step Forward: The Life of Ken Dahlberg" and "War Stories: Accounts of Minnesotans who De-

fended Their Nation." Dahlberg owned Miracle Ear Hearing Aid Company of Golden Valley.

The meeting will be held at the Society's Historic Church at 7631 Golden Valley Road at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served following the program.

New slate of officers elected

The following officers were elected at the first board of directors meeting of the new 2009-2010 fiscal year: President Kenneth Huber; Vice President Nancy Azzam; Secretary Don Anderson; Treasurer Joanie Clausen; These members were nominated for their respective offices by the Society Nominations Committee: Nancy Azzam, Chairperson, John Colwell and Don Anderson.

Do we have a church mouse?

The 1950's vintage Conn church organ in the Society's Historic Church had a minor problem. One black key on the lower keyboard didn't work. A Conn service person came to check that out and see that it was in tune as it was going to be used for a wedding.

The repairperson found that one wire had been touching a "ground" and thus was shorted out. That was quickly repaired

The service person also found that evidently a musically inclined church mouse had been carrying Decon mouse poison pellets from the basement and depositing them in the organ in preparation for the winter! The pellets were vacuumed out and replaced with Cayenne red pepper to deter the musical mouse from resuming its storage project.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse is the one who gets the cheese in the trap!

President Huber describes the state of the Society

The Golden Valley Historical Society is still going strong. We just kicked off our season of monthly general membership meetings on September 10 with featured speaker Denis Gardner, on " Wood, Concrete, Stone and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges. " We will continue to have monthly speakers throughout the fall and winter and all are invited to attend. We're still in the process of squaring away our programs for the latter half of 2010, but be on the lookout for programs on WCCO, 'Axel and His Dog', Mother Theresa (and her connection to Golden Valley!) and more.

We also like to come up with some things of historic interest for kids, so the Cub Scouts will be coming by again, and our collection of vintage riding toys at our booth at "Golden Valley Days" seems to grows more popular with the kids (and their parents) each time we bring it out for play.

This past year was not without its challenges, and it was with sadness that we noted the passing of JACK SCHULTZ. Jack and his wife SHIRLEY are the largest benefactors in the history of our Society, and the reason why the Society building survives for our use today. Jack was also most recently a GVHS board of directors member, and he will be greatly missed.

For the most part, the Society building decided to cooperate in 2008-2009 fiscal year. Unfortunately however, the heat exchanger on the furnaces finally gave up the ghost. But when you're dealt lemons, you make lemonade, so we took the "opportunity" to revitalize the HVAC system to include central air-conditioning, a much needed and appreciated improvement, especially by our many brides.

"Brides" you ask? That's right: brides! You may recall that several years ago we lost the revenue generating cellular "monopole" situated in the rear of the Society property. In an attempt to

replace that lost income, we have stepped up our foray into the wedding business, and it seems to be paying off. We've been upgrading our GVHS presence on the Internet and it seems to be having a carryover effect on our wedding business to the point that on any given weekend, when you drive by the Society building, you may see a happy and festive scene unfolding, with the wedding party taking full advantage of the lovely setting that the GVHS has to offer. We have to keep reminding ourselves that we want to be in the history business, and not necessarily the wedding business, but for the time being, the revenue generated by the weddings helps, and it certainly is a "happy" business to be in.

Another modest revenue generator for the Society that seems to get more popular each year is our annual "Antiques Roadshow". It was literally standing room only in 2009 and we even had to turn a few people away, we had so many objects for appraisal.

While meeting many of these short-term goals over the last year has been fun and rewarding, at the same time, we've also got our eye on the tougher long-term goals: revenue, membership, marketing, building/museum/exhibits, and leadership development are all items that we continue to revisit to make sure the Society stays on track and is headed in the direction that we want it to be going. It's an ambitious program and some of the challenges ahead are formidable. But we remain hopeful for the future, and we're confident that our existing and prospective partners in the Golden Valley community will join us in ensuring the continued success of the Golden Valley Historical Society in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Ken Huber, President