



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society

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## Geocaching: the modern version of treasure hunting

A geocacher is someone who likes to play a game somewhat similar to “treasure hunting” which was a fun game with a group of teenagers. The 21st century brings us geocachers who look up nearby geocaches on the geocaching website (<http://www.geocaching.com>). Players make use of their GPS unit to find hidden clues and treasures using coordinates listed on [geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

In Golden Valley for instance, a tour will be comprised of historical places to find by following the given coordinates from site to site, answering yes/no questions at each to advance to the next. Coordinates will be revealed only if the player answers correctly. Because answers and 'clues' are processed by a game cartridge of sorts, players have to actually move from site to site to have the next one revealed – in other words they can't just read information on the internet. At each site players will also be given a summary of the history of the place/person/event featured.

For example, coordinates might take a player to the Golden Valley Cemetery, with a short write-up about “Charles Nassig”, then ask the player a question, say, “Charles Nassig was a member of the 1st Minnesota?” Yes or no? If the player answers ‘yes’ they will advance to the next historical site. If they

answer no, they will be sent someplace else or perhaps given a task – like count the number of civil war soldiers buried in the cemetery from the monument there. If they answer correctly, they will then



**This geocacher found the "prize" in Crosby Park, on the Mississippi River in St. Paul.**

advance to the next historical site, which might be at Schuller's Tavern, the bison statue in front of Allianz Insurance Company, or the road directional sign made by the AAA back when cars were first used, which is located in the yard of a GV resident.

There is usually some sort of “prize” at the end of the geocache tour. It's basically a container with a log book inside that people sign to prove they were there. There may also be trinkets inside the container. If a player takes a prize, they are supposed to leave another in its place, a kind of self-perpetuating prize cache. There is no time limit to complete the tour. In one Scott County game the destination sites were found

by 34 different people over a period of two years.

Golden Valley Historical Society member Mike Freiberg is working on the historical Golden Valley geocache tour. If you have any suggestions for sites and stories to be included, contact Mike at [mfreiberg@comcast.net](mailto:mfreiberg@comcast.net). Or, you might want to become a Golden Valley geocacher yourself!

## Former resident Ken Rahn dies

On June 2, 2010, Kenneth W. Rahn passed away peacefully in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., where he had lived for the past several years. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 3, 1917. He spent his early childhood in the northern Chicago suburb of Winnetka, Ill. A navy veteran of WW II, he married Carol Jean with whom he had three sons. They were married 68 years. The Rahns moved to Minneapolis, where Ken began a successful career in the commercial finance business. He was named president of Northern Finance Company in 1966. Ken was known in the industry as an innovator who enabled many small businesses to become large and successful.

In the 1950s, Ken was elected clerk and then trustee to the Village of Golden Valley, where he helped develop city infrastructure that made the commu-

nity attractive to companies like General Mills and Honeywell. He also served as president of the Golden Valley Lions Club and later was a member of the Deephaven Village Council. Time and again Ken demonstrated his desire and ability to serve his community in a leadership capacity, and made lasting contributions to all the organizations he served.

Ken is survived by his sons, Scott (Laurie) of Lake Forest, Ill.; Craig (Karen) of San Juan Capistrano; and Kent (Marilyn) of Duluth; grandchildren Carol (Larry Even), Kim (Joe Terracina), Matthew, Aubrey (Josh Mgeni), Amber, Grant and Spencer; and seven great grandchildren. A memorial service for the immediate family will be held in the Chicago area where Ken will be interred with Carol Jean, who passed away 15 months ago.

## Note these upcoming events

**September 8, 2010 (Thursday):** The Society's annual meeting at 7 p.m. will feature Doug Ohman, Pioneer Photography, with his most recent research about historical libraries of Minnesota.

**September 18, 2010 (Saturday):** The Society will be co-hosting an antique appraisal show at the Woodbury Estates Senior Residence in Woodbury from 2-4 p.m. More details to follow.

**October 14, 2010 (Thursday):** General membership meeting, program to be confirmed.

**November 11, 2010 (Thursday):** Julia Nelson will be presenting the "History of Lakewood Cemetery and Minneapolis" at the general membership meeting at 7 p.m.

The annual and general membership meetings will be held at the historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley 55427.

## Antique show draws full house

There was a full house at the June 19 antique appraisal held at the Heather's Estates Senior Residence at 2900 Douglas Drive in Crystal. Nearly 60 people brought 90 items for oral appraisal. The appraisers from Appraisal Specialists Midwest gave their usual entertaining and educational professional opinions of the value of each article. It was another successful fund-raiser for the Golden Valley Historical Society museum restoration. Many thanks to Heathers Estates manager Judy Brown, Elaine Cohen, the many volunteers who provided refreshments, Byerly's, Godfather's Pizza, Broadway Pizza, Applebee's, and Mort's New York Deli for providing door prizes, and The Golden Valley Sun Post and Northwest Cable Channel 12 for promotional help. A special thank you to the Society volunteers who helped organize the display and pickup of items for appraisal.

## Recent donation

Tim Layeau has donated a Golden Valley Public Safety back pack to the Society. He bought the back pack at a rummage sale about a year ago and thought that the Society should have it as part of our artifact collections. We thank Tim for thinking of the Society during his rummaging activities.