



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427
Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley
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December 13 program...

Eloise Butler garden is Valley gem

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park is the oldest public wildflower garden in the country, established in 1907. The life work of a botany teacher at Minneapolis Central High School in the late 1890's and early 1900's, the Garden is a 15-acre tract of well-tended native plants in woodland, wetland and prairie habitats that also shelters many species of birds, raptors, small mammals, amphibians and insects.

J Pam Weiner, current Board president of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, a group founded in 1952 by Burma Shave entrepreneur

Clinton Odell, one of Eloise's students, will share information about the Garden and the Friends, past and present. She will also address the joys and challenges of protecting this very special place, as well as Friends' projects and the role of volunteers. There will be hand-outs and an opportunity for your questions and comments, too. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, at the Society's Historic Church, 6731 Golden Valley Road. Refreshments will be served following the program. The meeting is open to the public and free of charge.

Gruman documents Winkley history

The November 8 general membership meeting featured Greg Gruman, a fourth generation family member to head the Winkley Company, which has been making artificial limbs since the Civil War. Albert Alfred Winkley, Faribault, MN, amputee due to a farm accident, invented an improved limb due to his dissatisfaction with limbs from Chicago. His were patented in 1885 and 1887. In 1892 the G.A.R. annual Encampment in Minneapolis' Exhibition Hall, (now Riverplace) displayed the Winkley products to Civil War veterans. They were well received, some ordered, and a national reputation followed. Mr.

Gruman presented the history of his company from 1888 to 2012... a fabulous tale with excellent photos that documented the Winkley Company's history. Thirty eight members and friends attended and enjoyed the presentation.

Welcome a new member

John Christensen, 4308 Sheridan Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Welcome John.

GVHS prepares for celebration of 40th anniversary

The Golden Valley Historical Society was formed in 1974, in anticipation of the coming national bicentennial, by a group of 70 Golden Valley residents who saw the need for a local historical society. The objective of the Society was to research the past and to gather and preserve information about the growth and development of Golden Valley.

The Society received its state charter on October 1, 1974. The first officers were William H. Varner, president; Charles L. Steinmetz, vice president; Wilma Rae Ree, secretary; and John F. Gearty, treasurer.

Of the original 70 charter member list, which reads like a "Who's Who of Golden Valley," six are still members of the Society. They are: Judith Hoover, Patricia Moberg, Joan Russell, M. Iona Schuller, Colleen Turner and Edith Varner. We thank those members for their support and contributions to the Society.

Looking forward to 2014 and the 40th anniversary of the Society, 2013 newsletters will revisit some of the Society's past achievements. We would appreciate your thoughts about the City of Golden Valley, too. Send them to Secretary Don Anderson at 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

A dance hall in Golden Valley?...

Society receives two tickets to a dance

Gary Schiebe of the Plymouth Historical Society sent to GVHS two tickets for a dance which read, "Yourself and Ladies are cordially invited to attend a "Complimentary Dance" given by the Golden Valley Village Council, at Golden Valley Hall Easter Monday Eve., April 3, 1899. Presented by JOHN SCHEID". And as a second ticket, "to attend our Second Dance of the series given by Golden Valley Social Club, Saturday Evening, November 5th, 1898, at Golden Valley Hall. Tickets 5 cents each."

He asks if we have any information about the history of the dance hall. Was it located on the second floor of the City Hall? There was a dance hall at Schiebe's Corner in the 1920's that was very popular. O.K. folks, think back to your youth, or to your grandparents. Do you remember any mention of a dance hall in Golden Valley? Got any old photos of it? Contact Secretary Don Anderson if you can shed some light on an early dance hall in Golden Valley.

Gifts enhance the Society's collections

Ralph and Sharon Schulz donated two hand mirrors to replace the one that came up missing from the bride's emergency kit. One hand mirror was a gift from Ralph to Sharon over 50 years ago. Tim Layeau donated a Tennant Company cup holder advertising their 130 years in business, a recipe book from the Good Shepherd Church, and two 2011 Golden Valley Days

ball point pens. A neighbor of Betty Crews donated two long-handled garden weeding tools, circa 1900. Dr. Dennis Johnson donated an American flag presented to the next of kin of veterans buried at Fort Snelling from Edward Jordan's memorial and burial ceremonies. It nows flies on the William Varner memorial flag pole in front of the historic church.

Consider street signs for unique holiday gifts

Gift hunters are contacting the Society to ask about buying an old Golden Valley street sign to be given as a surprise holiday or birthday gift. You have to admit that not many people would be expecting an old street sign from where they formerly lived in the city.

If you are wondering about whether the Society still has your needed street sign, contact Secretary Don Anderson at email: maryanddon3030@aol.com or phone 763-588-8578.



photo by Jerry Breth

Program schedule through March '13

January 10, 2013: Doug Ohman with part 3 of his Mississippi River boat trip from Hastings to the Iowa border.

February 14, 2013: Bill Ewald and the history of the Ewald Bros. Dairy and family.

March 14, 2013: Barbara Britain with a DVD she produced, "Return to Shetek, The Courage of the Fool Soldiers." Two powerful stories from the past transform present day relations between the descendants of Native Americans and white settler families of 1862.

Society gets 5% off

Kudos to Jerry Breth and Jim Hera for their repairs of the front step landing. They traveled to St. Bonifacius, MN to the Mid West Boat Appeal Company in search of marine grade plywood for the repairs. There they met the owner who told Jerry and Jim that he was active in the Carver County Historical Society, and, hence, gave them a 5% discount on the purchase.