



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society

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Fundraiser for Society... Signs for sale

Old Golden Valley street signs are of interest to current residents and those who grew up in Golden Valley but have moved to other places like Florida, New Mexico, New York, Wisconsin, Georgia and out-state Minnesota.

The Golden Valley City Council approved the purchase of new green reflective street signs to replace the old stamped ones. The Public Works Department is in the process of switching them out, starting with the east side of the city. The Council also approved donation of the old signs to the Golden Valley Historical Society to be used as a fund-raiser for a future museum at the Society's Historic Church.

The street sign fund-raiser has begun with a "fourth of July bang!" Twenty signs have already been purchased by local residents. The first area to catch the street sign "bug" is Tyrol Hills but others are sure to follow.

Although the Society currently has old signs from a good part



Photo by Jerry Breth

of the east side of the city, people are getting on a reservation list for signs from other areas that will become available in the future.

What are people going to do with old street signs? Well, to have a street sign from the location where they grew up is one popular idea. Others are planning to use their purchase as a birthday or holiday gift to a brother or sister, use it at their lake place as a yard ornament augmenting the garden or trees, or give it as a wedding anniversary present. One street sign purchaser said, "What a cool and unusual idea!" We agree.

Former Mayor Linda Loomis put the details about the street signs on her Facebook page, triggering requests from other graduates of the

former Golden Valley High School for signs from where they grew up. Having the actual street sign is very "cool"; don't you agree?

Order blanks can be requested from the Society by contacting Secretary Don Anderson and he will check to see if your sign request can be filled immediately or have to be put on the reservation list. Each sign sells for a \$25.00 donation to the GV Historical Society. Email: maryanddon3030@aol.com.

Reminder: Society dues are now due

As you know, the Society's annual dues are now being collected from the members who are not the "Lifetime" members of the Society. (Those individuals or families who have paid \$250.00 to become a "Lifetime" member are exempt from paying annual dues, although many continue to provide additional financial support.) Thanks to the 75 or so members who have already sent in their dues for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Your support is so valuable and is really appreciated.

Welcome new members to the Society

The newest members of the GV Historical Society are:

Gary Cohen and Margaret Macneal, 4530 Douglas Avenue, Golden Valley, 55416; Phone: 763-377-1468; email: maccohen@comcast.net.

Bob and Sharon Mattison, 1120 Angelo Drive, Golden Valley, 55422; Phone: 763-522-5353; email: Bobmattison@hotmail.com.

Please welcome Gary, Margaret, Bob and Sharon at our September general membership meeting.

We didn't have the Green thing back in our day

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older shopper that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right – our generation didn't have the green thing in our day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so the same bottles could be used over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, which we then reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) were not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then. We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day. Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids

rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad that today's younger generation laments how wasteful older folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then? We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to get our dander up.

Author: anonymous.

Committee seeks nominees to move Society forward

Individuals nominated for the board of directors must be elected by the membership at the Society's September general membership meeting. The board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the historic church. The current board of 12 members brings a variety of valuable skills and experiences to the organization. Future boards will be challenged with the creation of a finished Golden Valley museum in the lower level of the historic church. If you would like to contribute your ideas and thoughts about the museum and how to move it forward, now is your chance to do so by serving on the board of directors. Contact John Colwell, the Nominations Committee chair, at john@colwellcolour.com.