



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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Don and Mary Anderson...

Generous benefactors seed GVHS expansion plans

Dear Faithful,

As I greet you during this most festive holiday time of year, I am pleased to report a most propitious event that has happened to our little Society, worthy of Charles Dickens.

Veritable paupers though we may seem at times, scrimping and scraping as best we can through our weddings, antique appraisal shows and related fundraising activities, it seems that a certain husband and wife team, who have been members of the Society for many years now, have very suddenly and with-

out warning announced a matching gift to the Society Building Fund of \$100,000.00!

As with Young Pip, our 'great expectations' were at first bequeathed anonymously, but now our benefactors have been revealed: no, not Ms Haversham – but none other than our own Don and Mary Anderson!

And so now it is time for us to do our part. Please do not make me send around Jacob Marley to visit you, moaning, groaning, and rattling chains. I'm calling for a mass Ebenezer Scrooge-like epiphany,

in which our members arise from the Lazy Boy recliner as one, and with the warmth and fellowship that only the holiday season bring, go to the checkbook and send in an amount – any amount- so that we can match these funds, and finally break ground on our long awaited museum building project!

The ghost of Christmas-yet-to-be has already shared the vision with me, and folks, it looks pretty damn good.

Kenneth Huber, president

Society seeks funding to construct museum addition

The Golden Valley Historical Society was organized by 70 citizens of Golden Valley in 1973. The mission statement said that the purpose of the organization was to "Find the heritage of the Village of Golden Valley, Preserve and Educate the community about that heritage." For almost 40 years the Society has collected and preserved heritage items of our fine Village and City. They came in slowly at first, those photos, books, maps, family photographs, neighborhood histories, organization histories and memorabilia and were stored in boxes in the basement of the home of Dorothy and Fred Wandersee. When Dorothy and Fred became frail and needed to sell their home,

the collections had to be moved somewhere. Would it be possible to store the archives of the Society in the basement storage room of City Hall? Yes! The idea brought a smile to Fred Wandersee's face when he was told that a large van would come to pick up the heritage of the City of Golden Valley from his basement. One day, Harry Mustard, Bill Varner and Don Anderson arrived at the Wandersee home, carried out a large storage cabinet and many boxes and transported them to the basement of City Hall.

For several years, donations to the Society continued to be dropped off at a member's home, picked up by a Society member and transferred to a box in the basement of

City Hall.

Then, in 1997, a most generous member of our organization, Shirley Schultz, was the beneficiary of her mother's estate. She donated \$86,000 to the Society from her inheritance, allowing the Society to purchase the oldest church in Golden Valley! After the Society took possession, the Society finally had a permanent home! Shortly thereafter, the city asked if we could move our collections out of their storage room as they needed the space. Again, most happily, the transportation crew of the Society backed up the van to the rear of City

**Museum
continued on back**

Museum

continued from front

Hall and pulled many more boxes out than were originally moved in from the Wandersee basement, and hauled them to our new home, the oldest church in Golden Valley. Then we had a large project ahead of us. All heritage materials needed to be inventoried, item-by-item, marked with a box code number, boxed and put into storage at the historic church. A volunteer crew of members accomplished that and stacked the boxes on top of each other. More recently, shelves were donated and the boxes reorganized on the shelves.

Over 17 years of ownership of the oldest church in Golden Valley, funds were raised to make the old building handicapped accessible, safe for kids, and fire-safe with automatic sprinkler systems throughout the building and a dedicated water line from the city main. Maintenance projects included a new furnace/AC, repair of the front stained-glass window, new sidewalks and steps, roof shingles and gutters, fresh paint on the

Program review...

Butler supporters celebrate 60 years

On December 13, Society members and guests were treated to a presentation of the history and current programming of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. J Pam Weiner, president of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, shared a video prepared for the Friend's 60th anniversary celebration, which may become an annual event, and knowledgeably answered questions about the effects of recent storms, invasive plants, and de-watering following

main floor, new window wells and drain tiling and regrading around the basement. Everything Golden Valley City Fire Marshall Ed Anderson recommended to make the museum safe for visitors has been completed. So, where are we going from here?

We have now reached the time for a new addition the rear of the church building, a place where the heritage of Golden Valley can be displayed and where children and adults of our community can view exhibits that will bring the past of the Village and City of Golden Valley to life.

Don Anderson has been the Society's volunteer secretary for the past 21 years. It has been almost a full time job, organizing antique appraisal shows, answering calls from brides looking for a place for a small wedding, showing the historic church to them, hosting the weddings, setting up for the weddings, cleaning up after the weddings, etc. The historic church has become known as the "coolest" place in the Twin Cities for small weddings and commemorative events and is now on track to host 40 to 50 wed-

ding a year. Monthly membership programs continue to bring in new members.

Collectively, volunteers have come a long way to make the Society a success and a benefit to the community. Mary and Don have hopes that their donation will encourage others in the community to contribute to the museum fund to build an addition suitable for displaying heritage materials that have been collected for almost 40 years. An initial design for a museum addition has been completed, compliments of Robert Shaffer of Foundation Architects, who is providing his services pro-bono for this project. Now is time to raise the necessary funds to build it! That is where we are going, but your help is needed. Please help TODAY!

Upcoming programs

Thursday, January 10: Tales of the Mississippi River, as seen from a small boat, will be presented by Doug Ohman, owner of Pioneer Photography, beginning where he last left us at Hastings, Minnesota. Part three of his story will take us down river from Hastings to the Iowa border.

Thursday, February 14: The history of Ewald Bros. Dairy and the Ewald family will be presented by the great grandson of Chris Ewald, founder of Ewald Dairy.

Programs begin at 7 p.m. at the historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, and are free and open to the public. Come join us, bring a friend, and meet your neighbors.

New member

Crystal Boyd, 11653 Horizon Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337; 612-242-5283; email: crystal.boyd@colorado.edu

For more information about Garden activities, refer to the online newsletter, The Fringed Gentian, at www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org.

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