



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
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**Thursday, September 12, meeting...**

## Ohman kicks off new program year with presentation and book about Minnesota's historic cemeteries

"Cemeteries Of Minnesota", is the title of Doug Ohman's, of Pioneer Photographs, newest research project. For about ten years, members of the Golden Valley Historical Society have enjoyed his high quality photographs and research on various aspects of Minnesota history. Ohman has shared his expertise in "School Houses of



Minnesota", "Courthouses of Minnesota", "Churches of Minnesota" and many other presentations.

This month's presentation will kick off the membership programs of the Society for the 2013-14 season.

The Society's annual meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with election of members to the board of directors and fol-

lowed by Ohman's presentation, at the Society's Historic Church, 6731 Golden Valley Road. Refreshments will be served following the program, which is free and open to the public.

## Board announces nominations for Board of Directors

Society Vice President John Colwell, Chairperson of the Society's Nominating Committee, reports the committee's nominations for a three year term on the Society's Board of Directors. They are: **Don Anderson, Nancy Azzam, Jerry Breth, Betty Crews and Jim Hera.**

Continuing on the Board of Directors with one year remaining on their terms are: **John Colwell and Crystal Boyd.**

Continuing on the Board of Directors with two years remaining on their terms are: **Kenneth Huber, Nancy Kochenderfer, Linda Loomis, Rudi Martignacco, Lyle Mottinger and Peggy Nelson.** DeDe Scanlon is also a member of the Board of Directors representing the Golden Valley City Council. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting on Thursday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m.

## Building program continues forward

The 1,200 square foot addition to the South end of the historic church continues to move forward. The City of Golden Valley Board of Zoning Appeals approved the Society's request for a zoning variance to allow the new addition to line up with the west side of the historic church. The first change that is visible from the street is that nine large box elder trees and one cottonwood tree were removed or trimmed. This work was done on Friday, August 24, by Golden Leaf Tree Service

(Steve Sands). Some of the trees and limbs were viewed as potential hazards to the new structure.

Architect Bob Shaffer (Foundation Architects) continues to work behind the scenes on completing construction plans. The Society Building Construction Committee will be meeting with Shaffer to review those at the Historic Church on Friday, September 6. A call for bids from contractors will soon be just down the road.

## October brings the history of jazz

The history of jazz will be presented, played and sung by Dan Wascoe and his singing partner Baibi Vegners at the October 10 general membership meeting. Music that

accompanied such dances as the Charleston and made Scott Joplin a famous person will be enjoyed by all who attend. Mark your calendar now! Don't miss this event!

## GVHS to celebrate its 40th anniversary

"The Golden Valley Historical Society was chartered in September, 1974, and was the outgrowth of the 1976 Bicentennial Committee of the City. The two main objectives of that Bicentennial Committee were to establish an historical society and a Golden Valley news-

paper. The first Golden Valley Post was published on November 14, 1974 just a few days before the Historical Society had its first meeting." *Quoted from Golden Valley Historical Society Newsletter, November, 1984.*

## History of the Gearty farm on Triton

"The house that sits on the spacious lot at 4900 Triton Drive is the third home to occupy that site. On September 16, 1852, John Gearty began building a house to help prove his claim on 240 acres of rolling farmland, located four or five miles west of the Mississippi River and somewhat North of St. Anthony.

Between 1860 and 1862 a new house was built about 100 yards to the east of the original home. Nine

of the eleven children born to John and Catherine Gearty were born at these homes, five into the first house, four into the second house. Both homes stood on this site until the original house was torn down in 1935. The second house was destroyed by fire in the early 1940's. The farm was then sold for a housing development in 1946."

*Submitted by Barbara Gearty to the GV Historical Society, February, 1983.*

## Historic green and white street signs make great dorm decorations, too

Yes, hanging old street signs on student college dorm room walls is back. College kids are thrilled to have an old street sign from their hometown, and even better from the street that they grew up on in their childhood days. Do you have students or grandchildren going back to college now? Consider purchasing a second generation Golden Valley street sign – green background with white border, letters and numbers, as a gift for your student to hang on their dormitory wall. The Society has lots of second generation signs available for only \$25.00 each.

Contact Secretary Don Anderson (763-588-8578 or email maryanddon3030@aol.com) to order

this unusual gift and help your student be "cool" in their dormitory!

Also available are second generation Golden Valley street signs with names of people, like, Alfred, Harold, Laurel, Mary Hills, June, Lee, Douglas, Kyle, Gregory, Valery, Adeline, Adell, Angelo, Willis, Georgia, Lindsay, Constance, Joellen and Loring. What an unusual surprise gift an official street sign would make.

Consider giving a second generation street sign for birthday, holiday gift, or just because someone you know is a great friend. Contact Sec. Anderson to order your street sign today!

## Pony Express might have used camels

"It was a near miss that we had the Pony Express over a century ago instead of a 'Camel Express'. Camels fared so well, in fact, on a route between Texas and California in the late 1850's that if it had not been for the fortunes of war, we might be using them for transport in rough country to this day.

The Pony Express started on April 3, 1860, and operated for 18 months, replacing the possible use of camels. The transcontinental telegraph then eliminated the need for the Pony Express."

*Quoted from the Golden Valley Historical Society newsletter, March, 1983.*

**Editor's note:** Food for thought - - - So the communications went: Pony Express > transcontinental telegraph > telephones both long distance and local > pay telephones everywhere > home provided telephones > party lines and private lines > cell phones. Gone are pay telephones, gone are the home land line telephones; satellite communications have arrived. So goes the world's communications. Where will they go from here?

## Origin of a phrase

"The stagecoach got its name from the fact that it traveled by stages. In horse and buggy days, a vehicle which journeyed long distances had to stop and change horses. Driving through a stream was also known to every stage rider, for many rivers had no bridges. But to mix the two – changing horses and driving through a stream – was disastrous, if not impossible."

*Golden Valley Historical Society Newsletter, February, 1983.*