



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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Thursday, February 13, meeting...

An apple a day and other remedies



Howard Amundson was born in a very poor area of northern Minnesota at a time immediately following the depression. There was very little money and going to see a doctor used money that should be spent for other necessities.

When Howard began to tell friends of the remedies he had experienced, he discovered that they were very interested. It was at this point he decided to assemble some of the old remedies and show how very simple, household items were used to cure some very serious problems. He will also address other common medical problems that occurred every day on a farm. Some of the topics will include nail punctures, poison ivy, earaches, toothaches, nosebleeds, hard-to-stop bleeding, pain and many more.

Howard makes the following statement: "Many of the remedies discussed have been used either on me or by me, and the ones which have been given to me by others I assume are authentic. However, I do not recommend the use of any of them. This program is strictly for entertainment".

Amundson's program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. It is open and free to the public. Refreshments will be served following. Due to construction, a few parking spaces are blocked off, but additional parking is available on the North side of Golden Valley Road. If you can make a short walk, please leave parking in the Society lot for those who cannot.

March program will feature Sacred Harp

March 13, 2014 – Sacred Harp is a uniquely American tradition that brings communities together to sing four-part hymns and anthems. It is a proudly inclusive and democratic part of our shared culture heritage. The tradition is a living, breathing practice passed directly to current devotees by generations of singers, many gone and others still living. Beginners and newcomers are more than welcome – no musical experience or religious affiliation required. In fact, the tradition was born from colonial "singing schools", the purpose of which was to teach beginners to sing, and Sacred Harp methods continue to reflect this goal. Sacred Harp "singing" are not performances. There are no rehearsals and no separate seats for the audience. Every singing is a unique and self-sufficient event with a unique group of participants.

Breth, Crews were good friends of the Historical Society

Our condolences to the families of Jerry Breth and Ralph Crews. Both Jerry and Ralph were very active in the Society until their illnesses prevented further activities. They will be greatly missed.

Church welcomed 2300 in 2013

A review of the Golden Valley Historical Society reveals that:

The current membership in the Society consists of three small corporations, 60 family memberships and 63 individual memberships, with 17 being Life Memberships. This means that the Society's current membership is 186 persons.

Other statistics from the Society's Annual Report reveal that for the 2012-2013 fiscal year total attendance at functions held at the historic church was 2,352. Those functions (and attendance) included eight general membership meetings (310), 36 weddings (1,825), 12 board of directors meetings (103), eight Street Name Research Committee meetings (24), three Golden Valley Garden Club meetings (62), three Building Construction Committee meetings (16), one Golden Valley Rotary Club meeting (22)

and one Wedding Review Committee meeting (5).

Of the eight general membership meetings, the best-attended program, at 50 people, was the History of Ewald Bros. Dairy and family presented by Bill Ewald. The next most popular program was Doug Ohman with his Mississippi River photos, with 48 in attendance. Average attendance at the Society's general membership programs was 39.

The Society's board of directors expects that the attendance at the Historic Church in 2014 will significantly increase when the addition is completed and more heritage of Golden Valley can be displayed for the enjoyment of the community. The goal for completion of the new addition is May 2014, assuming that Mother Nature cooperates with the building contractor.

Sign sale continues as great fund-raiser

Society volunteers were kept very busy during December sorting the second-generation Golden Valley street signs and distributing them to the smiling donors, some of whom came to the historic church to pick them up and had a chance to see what a great facility the historic church is. Others took advantage of free delivery to any Golden Valley resident's home. The most heard reason for obtaining a sign: "Our son (or daughter, husband, wife, sibling) is named (the same as the street)."

The second generation Golden Valley street sign project has been a great fund-raiser for the Society, thanks to the City of Golden Valley and our dedicated volunteers.

There are still signs still available. Do you have one yet?

Committee unearths stories behind street names

The Golden Valley Historical Society Street Names Committee has been working under the leadership of Chairperson Leone Johnson to uncover the stories behind Golden Valley street names. The Committee has found that this investigation should have been done 30 or 40 years ago when the original developers were still around!

Many of the streets are part of the alphabet system in effect in Minneapolis beginning in 1887. Golden Valley contains the end of the first alphabet (beginning just west of Lyndale Avenue with Aldrich Avenue), and parts of three suburban alphabets. The Committee has not found out whose idea it was to have alphabetized streets, but presumably it was someone fa-

miliar with Washington, DC where their first alphabet is letters only. The first two Minneapolis alphabets don't have themes, but the next one includes state and Canadian names and the third suburban one has a patriotic theme. Some earlier Golden Valley streets were changed to conform to the alphabet scheme. For example, in 1948 Hilltop Avenue was changed to Georgia and Fairfax Avenue was changed to Louisiana.

A variety of influences brought about street names, or changes of existing street names. Some were named for the ultimate destination like Wayzata Boulevard and Medicine Lake Road. Some were named for the adjoining farm: Farmer Samuel Harold (Harold

Avenue) was Ed Jordan's uncle. Homebuilders named others, some were changed due to pressure from the Minneapolis Post Office to be a part of the alphabet system, and some were changed due to pressure from the Golden Valley volunteer fire department. Streets with the same name in different locations caused confusion about where to go to answer a fire call.

Some streets have much more esoteric names. Valders Avenue is named after the Valders glacier, one of the Wisconsin glaciers in the Ice Age. When the Valders melted, it filled Lake Duluth in the Lake Superior basin.

The report of the Street Names Committee will be continued in future newsletters.