



# 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  
July 2014

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## Beginning in September...

### Fall programs feature depression projects, Civil War, and bees

**September 11** – Doug Ohman, Pioneer Photography, will present his latest research, on work projects promoted by the WPA, CCC and other government agencies in the Minnesota area during the 1930's depression. This meeting will also include election of members to the Society's Board of Directors.

**October 9** – Civil War events during 1864 will be presented by Daryl Sennes, member of the Brooklyn Park/Center Historical Society, and author of a book about the Civil War.

**November 13** – Crystal Boyd, entomologist with the Minnesota

DNR and member of the Golden Valley Historical Society Board of Directors will explain the biology of our state's native bees. She will also describe the legacy of bee research in Minnesota, recent pollinator legislation, and the components of a bee-friendly backyard. Boyd is also a bee specialist with the Minnesota Biological Survey. Bee sure to mark your calendar so you can be in attendance!

All programs will be held at the Society's historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Programs are free and open to the public.

### Cable Channel 12 producing histories of local cities

Channel 12 is working on a series called, "Our Town's Story". It will highlight the history of the towns/cities in the Northwestern Suburbs covered by Channel 12.

Here is a link to the trailer that they put together to pique viewers interest: <http://www.twelve.tv/our-townsstory.aspx>

#### Current officers and directors of the GVHS

President Kenneth Huber 763-377-1385

Vice President John Colwell 763-377-1975

Secretary Don Anderson 763-588-8578

Treasurer Linda Loomis 763-545-4659

Directors:

Nancy Kochenderfer 763-544-2676

Rudi Martignacco 763-588-8148

Peggy Nelson 763-544-0369

Nancy Azzam 763-588-3300

DeDe Scanlon 763-545-0669

Crystal Boyd 612-247-5283

Betty Crews 763-544-6382

Jim Hera 763-546-4395

Steven Schmigdall 612-419-8142 (Appointed by the Golden Valley City Council)

### Church addition nearly completed

Architect Bob Shaffer of The Foundation Architects and the project manager for Heritage Construction Company have completed their preliminary inspection of the addition to the historic church.

They inspected both the exterior and interior of the building and noted items that needed to be corrected or fixed before the building will be declared complete and a certificate of occupancy issued by the inspection department of the City of Golden Valley. The finish line for construction of the building is on the horizon! Then comes interior planning and implementation of the museum, a project that will last well into 2015.



Members of the Golden Valley Garden Club planted the annual garden areas of the historic church, donating their flowers and time. Thank you Garden Club for the flowers and help.

## Life in America was very different 104 years ago

The year was 1910, 104 years ago. Here are some statistics for the United States at that time:

The average life expectancy for men is 47 years. Fuel for a 1910 car was sold only in drug stores. Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The average US wage was 22 cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 a year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at **home**. Ninety percent of all doctors had **no college education!** Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as

‘substandard.’

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound. Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo. There was no such thing as under-arm deodorant or toothpaste.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering their country for any reason. The five leading causes of death were: 1. Pneumonia and influenza. 2. Tuberculosis. 3. Diarrhea. 4. Heart disease. 5. Stroke.

The American flag had 45 stars. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Eighteen percent of households

had at least one full-time servant or domestic help. There were about 230 reported murders in the **entire country!** Now try to imagine what it will be like in another 104 years.

## Recent accessions to the Society

Pauline Mariucci, past president of the Golden Valley Lionesses, donated several photo albums and documents from that organization, no longer in service. Thank you Pauline.

## Senior dating ads in Florida newspaper

You can say what you want about Florida, but you never hear of anyone retiring and moving north. These are actual ads seen in “The Villages” Florida newspaper.

MEMORIES: I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our two heads together.

SERENITY NOW: I am into solitude, long walks, sunrises, the ocean, yoga and meditation. If you are the silent type, let's get together, take out our hearing aids and enjoy quiet times.

WINNING SMILE: Active grandmother with original teeth seeking a dedicated flossier to share rare steaks, corn on the cob and caramel candy.

MINT CONDITION: Male, 1932 model, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition, but walks well.

## Skull and bones unearthed in GV in 1988

From the Golden Valley Historical Society newsletter of May, 1988, edited by Fred Wandersee, comes this article: “A hurried call from Bill Varner, Charter President of the GVHS, required a visit to a State of Minnesota Construction Office. Where to go? Well, just North of Rudy Luther's Auto Agency. There's a skull and some bones there, possibly the remains of a buffalo (bison), dug up where machinery was removing some 20 feet of dirt and stones.

Rudy Luther's and the State Office were accessible only by driving through a hazardous construction

area near a place that was once the junction Highways 12 (now I-394) and 18 (now 169). The taurine (bull like) skull and bones were cleaned and on display on a table in the office.

The skull is allegedly between 100 and 12,000 years old and could be prehistoric, but certainly not the remains of an early Golden Valley resident's cow. It was 20 feet deep, and we know that early GV pioneers cherished their cows, but certainly not enough to bury one that deep. Is this archeology, history, or just a relic of the past?”