



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley
August 2014

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President's message...

Museum wing brings new energy to Historical Society programming

Hi Folks. If you have been out for a walk or a drive on a nice summer evening, and gone by the Golden Valley Historical Society, I'm sure you have spotted the almost completed "Museum Wing."

It blends in so well with the existing structure, that you may have needed to do a "double take." But there it is, all set and almost ready to go. Almost. Next up will be some landscaping outside, and display exhibit planning and installation inside.

We are in the midst of the display exhibit process right now, with the help of an outfit called Museology and some Legacy grant money from the Minnesota Historical Society. With this combo I'm sure we'll be able to mount the best museum exhibits possible for the Golden Valley community to enjoy.

You are certainly welcome to

join us in that planning process. We welcome all those who would like to participate.

And while those wheels will be turning behind the scenes, our more visible monthly "Speakers Bureau" will be starting back up in September. We have a full slate of interesting speakers lined up, and so we hope to see you in attendance there as well. Also look for us at the revamped Golden Valley Days on September 13 on the city hall campus under the water tower.

As you can tell, we will be entering the new fiscal year "full steam ahead", and with your help, I'm sure we'll be able to maintain all of that momentum, so that by this time next year, I am encouraging all of you to make sure you have toured the GVHS museum exhibits!

Kenneth Huber, President

Street signs are very popular gift items

Some 267 second generation city street signs have become a popular gift item. The second-generation city street signs were posted on street corners after WW II. They were metal with a green background and white embossed numbers and letters. Those street signs have been replaced over the last two years with reflector signs and the city, rather than dispose of the

second-generation signs, donated them to the GV Historical Society as a fund raising opportunity. The Society still has lots of signs available for purchase at \$25.00 each. To find out if a sign for your street is available, contact Don Anderson – email: maryanddon3030@aol.com. The Society provides free delivery to GV residents.

Monthly programs resume in September

September 11 – Minnesota area 1930's depression-era projects of the WPA, CCC and other government agencies will be presented by Pioneer Photography's Doug Ohman, a member of our Society. Election of GVHS directors to the board will be held at this meeting.

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 – The legacy of bee research in Minnesota, recent pollination legislation, and the bee-friendly backyard will be reviewed by Crystal Boyd, entomologist with the Minnesota DNR and member of the board of directors of the GV Historical Society. Boyd is a bee specialist with the Minnesota Biological Survey.

January 8 – The lives and music of George and Ira Gershwin will come to the "Carnegie Hall of Golden Valley" – the GVHS Historic Church – presented by Nuance/a duo, Dan Wascoe and Baibi Vegners. Wascoe is a Golden Valley resident and former reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune. They previously shook the rafters of the GVHS historic church with the life and music of Irving Berlin.

All programs will be held at the GVHS historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road.

Residents continue to donate items of historical significance

Ann M. Woodhull of Golden Valley donated the following items that belonged to her father, John (Jack) H. Reiser: Ike jacket from WW II, Golden Valley fire fighters class A jacket, First aid kit (unopened) from WW II, U.S. army backpack from WW II, U.S. army duffle bag from WW II (complete with his army serial number), U.S. army overseas cap, 2 VFW caps from post 5903, and one July 1980

history of the Golden Valley Fire Department. John Reiser was a former owner of Schuller's Tavern in Golden Valley.

Ralph W. Schulz of Golden Valley donated a Bison Occidentalis (skull and horns), approximate age 8,000 – 10,000 years, recovered during construction of I-35E in St. Paul, MN. The skull was buried quite deep. The distance between the horn tips is 788 mm (2 ft, 7 in.).

Ralph W. Schulz also donated an article from the 1940's Minneapolis Star newspaper regarding Dayton's Department Store having nylon stockings for sale and two accompanying photos of the crowd of women lined up to buy them.

Carol Tovar donated a book, "Brownll and Smith, and Related Family" by Carol Tovar, 2013.

The lilac is the official flower of Golden Valley

The lilac was formally proclaimed the official flower of Golden Valley by the village Council in 1938. A special festival commission was authorized at the same time. The idea came to the Council from the village Planning Commission. Paul Seeman was chairperson of both the planning commission and village council at the time. Clarence Tolg, a greenhouse owner and also known as "Uncle Foggy" on WCCO radio, was a member of the Planning Commission.

In addition to naming the lilac as the Golden Valley official flower, the group set up a committee which "shall have full power to set aside a week each year to be known as Lilac Time In Golden Valley and to do everything necessary in connection with this particular Lilac Time to make it a success, and further to urge the residents of the village to propagate and plant lilacs during the fall and spring so that in time the Village of Golden Valley will become the "Lilac Garden Spot of the United States." Quoted from the minutes of the Golden Valley Planning Commission meeting of September 1, 1938.

The first members of the committee were Clarence Tolg, chairperson, Dr. Sylvester Koontz, Gertrude Lamm, and Ben Stewart. The newly organized Golden Valley Garden Club and PTA were asked to turn the lilac promotion into a permanent organization.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The planting of lilacs along the main highways of Golden Valley continues today as one of the ideas that emerged from the Envisioning Golden Valley project of 2003. Dr. C. Dwight Townes is the chairperson of the lilac planting and maintenance committee.)

