



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

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MISS GOLDEN VALLEY – LILAC TIME QUEEN – 1969- IS THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Her name will be familiar to the long time residents of Golden Valley. It was during the time that many businesses and prominent Golden Valley individuals organized an annual Lilac Time Festival which included a Lilac Time Queen contest.

The Golden Valley Garden Club started the ball rolling by organizing a ball. Plans were made and tickets that were scented with lilac perfume were sold. Organizations and businesses were approached and asked to sponsor a queen candidate. A queen was chosen at the ball to represent Golden Valley in the Minneapolis Aquatennial. The ball was held at the Glenwood Chalet and masses of lilacs were gathered to decorate the chalet.

With continuing interest of the community, in 1948, the Golden Valley Lions Club and Lionesses took over the planning of the Lilac Festival. It was their big event of the year and included many different activities each year. Helen Stoffer, the queen candidate sponsored by the Garden Club, was chosen to reign as queen of the Minneapolis Aquatennial.

In 1972 members of the Lions Club asked for support of other civic organizations, and

representatives of these other groups agreed to help with the planning. Out of this was born the Golden Valley Lilac Festival Corporation. Members of the Lion's Club, Lioness', Golden Valley Women's Club, Optimists, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, and many individuals gave much time and good ideas to help with the festival.

For many years the Golden Valley float appeared in the Aquatennial parades and competitions. The efforts of the busy volunteers paid off with a 1973 float which won the Aquatennial Seven Seas theme Princess Award for best animation.

As the years past, the interest of the community waned, and by 1980 the Lilac Festival became a fond memory. (Source: "Golden Valley 1886-1986" Published by GV Centennial Committee, Copyright 1986 by the Golden Valley Historical Society, Golden Valley, Minn.)

The General Membership program speaker will be Carol Van Valkenburg, Miss Golden Valley – 1969. One of her first duties was to speak at the grand opening of the Brookview Golf Course. She also worked for the Golden Valley Recreation Department as a playground leader.



CAROL VAN VALKENBURG

She went on to become Aquatennial Ambassador as Princess 1970. Today she participates as a judge for the Aquatennial picking three 2016 Ambassadors out of 49 candidates. There are 10 local festivals around the Twin Cities that still send girls to the Minneapolis Aquatennial queen contest and events.

The General Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, held at the Society's historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn., at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

SCHEDULED UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AT THE HISTORIC CHURCH:

(Note: the Society does not have a general membership meeting in December.)

January 14th – JoAnn Funk, will present “Pearl Button Boom,” the history of buttons.

February 11th – The popular Nuance/a duo – Dan Wascoe and Baibi Vegners – will play, sing and tell about the history of songs written by or made famous by women composers.

March 10th – Doug Ohman, the best Pioneer Photographs producer and story teller, will give his latest adventure, “The Trail of Henry Sibley in 1863 in the Dakota War.”

All the programs will be held at 7:00 p.m., at the Society’s historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN. 55427 – And, they are free and open to the public.

FALL HISTORIC CHURCH YARD CLEAN-UP IS COMING UP:

The annual fall yard clean-up of the historic church will be held on Saturday, November 7th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please bring a leaf rake, leaf blower-electric or gas fired, trimming shears, work gloves and dress for the weather. The volunteers will be preparing the garden areas for winter and getting the leaves picked up. Questions, call Secretary Don Anderson, 763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com. Thanks for your needed help.

ATTENTION MEADOWBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALUMNI:

One of the many exhibits being planned for the Golden Valley Museum is the focus on one of the first elementary schools in the community – Meadowbrook Elementary School. The organizers of the exhibit are looking for stories of people who attended Meadowbrook, to add

to the exhibit. If you have memories to share about your time at Meadowbrook, please contact either Erin Anderson, Museology Museum Services, 612-568-7386, email:Erin@museology-mn.com; Or Secretary Don Anderson, 763-588-8578; email: maryanddon3030@aol.com.

SECOND GENERATION GOLDEN VALLEY STREET SIGNS POPULAR SURPRISE PRESENT!

With the holidays just around the corner, some are thinking about a special, unusual, and something that is an unexpected gift for a grandchild, son or daughter, sibling or a friend. The Society has available second generation Golden Valley street signs that will fit your gift needs. The order blank with the sign inventory is on the Society’s website, or you can email to Secretary Don Anderson to ask

about your street sign availability. They are also cheap – only \$25.00 each with free delivery to Golden Valley addresses. Now is the time to order your gift! Contact Secretary Don Anderson – 763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com.

SOCIETY’S BOOTH AT THE GOLDEN VALLEY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL WAS DEEMED SUCCESSFUL:

Several days before Saturday, September 26th, the volunteers were working to put together the historic displays to be trucked to the Society’s booth at the GV Music and Arts Festival under the city water tower. President Ken Huber’s collection of antique kids riding toys attracted the most attention and were appreciated by the little folks who rode them around the track. Thanks to the volunteers who made the event for the Society a success: Jim Nielsen; Nancy Azzam; Ken Huber; Rudi and Catherine Martignacco; Nancy Kochenderfer; Betty Crews; Peggy and Scott Nelson; Jacob and Tina Breth and Don Anderson.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Welcome Carolyn Anderson, 3142 Quail Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422, as the newest member of the Society.

DID YOU KNOW?

Byerly’s innovated and magnificent supermarket – the first Byerly’s was started in Golden Valley on Duluth Street and Highway 100, in 1968. It was the first super-market to have wide aisles that were carpeted. A new supermarket innovation by Don Byerly.