



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
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## WORK PROJECTS BY WPA AND CCC DURING GREAT DEPRESSION IS FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Doug Ohman, of Pioneer Photography, will show his photographic research on the projects created by the men in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930's. The great depression had come to the United States and to help provide jobs for workers, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration. The projects of Minnesota have been researched by Ohman. Ohman has been one of the favorite presenters at the Society's general membership meetings over the past 12 years. His photographic research of Minnesota includes schools, churches, lake cabins, the Mississippi River, and other subjects. It is not only the beautiful photography that provides the viewer enjoyment, but, Ohman's researching the history and details of each photo subject.



Doug Ohman

The presentation will be on Thursday, February 12, at the Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn 55427, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the presentation which is free and open to the public.

## IN REVIEW:

Dan Wascoe and Baibi Vegners, Nuance / a duo, warmed up the audience at the January membership program with the life and music of George and Ira Gershwin. The cold weather did

keep some of the members from venturing out to the historic church but 26 members and guests braved the cold and were rewarded with Wascoe and Vegners excellent performance.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

**March 12**, Marshall Tanick, Golden Valley resident and legal history expert, will describe how Minnesota laws were changed as a result of World War I. 7:00 p.m. at the historic church.

**March 28**, Saturday, the Society in cooperation with The Heather's Manor Senior Residence at 3000 Douglas Drive, Crystal, Mn., will hold an "Antique Appraisal Show" at the Heather's facility from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to bring up to 5 items to be professionally appraised. There is a \$5.00 donation per item for the verbal appraisal. The donation is a fund raiser for the Golden Valley Historical Society. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION DEEMED A SUCCESS:

24 members and non-members of the Society met on Sunday, January 11th for an exchange of ideas as to how the new museum addition should be developed. Thanks to the participants and Museology representatives who hosted the interesting event.

## THE FOUNDING OF THE VILLAGE OF GOLDEN VALLEY:

On December 16, 1886, the resident men of Golden Valley voted for incorporation – 78 votes for incorporation, 1 vote against. (Women were not allowed to vote.)

On Monday, January 3, 1887, the Village of Golden Valley was organized under the provisions of Chapter 145 of the General Laws of 1885.

Officers were elected for the balance of the council year which ended in March. The officers were: Uriah Wilson, president; John Scheid, Michael Rey, James Sweeney, William H. Varner, Jr., and William H. Varner, Sr.

At the annual election in March, the same officers were elected for the year beginning April 1, 1887. The question of the sale of liquor was also voted

on for the first time in this election and approved by a vote of 45 to 4. The liquor question was not an issue at an annual election until 1910 when a vote for licensing the sale of liquor was approved 101 to 17.

During the first year the council passed by-laws and ordinances on such subjects as disorderly conduct, houses of ill fame, prohibition of gambling, punishing of vagrants, and public nuisances. They also made provision for village contracts, prevention of the spread of contagious diseases, and the licensing of slaughter houses and stockyards, bowling alleys and pool halls.

The village council met in a school house but as the village grew, a more suitable meeting place was needed. The question

of building a village hall was submitted to the voters at the annual election of 1890. Since only 9 votes were cast in favor of the project and 131 votes against it, the council continued meeting at the school.

When the village hall question came up again in the 1908 election, the proposal was approved by a vote of 53 to 17. The council was authorized to expend not more than \$2,500 in the erection of a building.

\*This information came from the Golden Valley History Book, "Golden Valley 1886-1986 Minnesota", copyright 1986 by the Golden Valley Historical Society, published by the Golden Valley Centennial Committee. Copies of the book are available in the Golden Valley Library.

## NO RAILING ABOUT THE RAILS THROUGH THE VILLAGE IN 1912:

In 1912, the Electric Luce Line Railroad, owned by Colonel D. Luce, was cut through the village. The tracks ran east and west and were the only form of public transportation available to the people of Golden Valley.

There was no depot and prospective passengers had to flag down the train. The Luce Line was later purchased by the Minneapolis Northfield and Southern Railway. This was the best form of transportation until the truck lines came into being. This new cheaper form of transportation caused a definite decline in the use of the railroad by the villagers. By 1948, there were no passenger runs and only two freight runs through the village.

Passengers from the Winnetka Avenue stop got off at Second Avenue North and 7th Street in Minneapolis. The trains ran west 32 miles to Watertown, Minnesota.

The "Golden Valley" metal sign at Winnetka Avenue and 10th Avenue North crossing was mounted on a post on the Luce Line Railroad right of way on the east side of Winnetka Avenue. The sign indicated to the railroad crew that they reached a Golden Valley stop. The "Golden Valley" sign was donated to the Golden Valley Historical Society on February 20, 1995, by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The sign is on display at the city hall second floor display cases.

## ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY:

Susan Haggberg-Miller has donated to the Society an oak case wall telephone with a crank on the side and hand held ear piece, a Dean Electric Telephone Apparatus from Elyria, Ohio, USA.

