



# 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 2015

Don Anderson, Editor

763-588-8578;

email: maryanddon3030@aol.com

## **GOLDEN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB IS THE OLDEST ORGANIZATION IN GOLDEN VALLEY:**

77 years ago in 1938 Mrs. Clarence Tolg and Mrs. Lillian Seeman decided over a cup of coffee that Golden Valley needed a garden club. They contacted friends, set a date for the first meeting, and by the spring of 1939 found themselves in an enthusiastic, chartered Golden Valley Garden Club.

The club, with characteristic zest, decided to undertake the project of landscaping the Beltline (Highway 100), with special attention to the little park called Blazer on the west corner of Olson Highway and the Beltline. The group approached the Minnesota Highway Department and found that the MHD was receptive to the club wanting to be personally involved in the project. Members purchased quantities of lilac bushes and sold them door to door for 15 cents a bush to raise money for the project. Later on they added peonies to their door to door inventory. The financial goal was reached and they planted hybrid lilacs in the little park at Olson Highway. The lilac was adopted as the official flower of Golden Valley. The goal was to also have Golden Valley become the lilac capitol of the United States.

Other projects over the years were to purchase a bronze tablet to commemorate the

original settlers of Golden Valley. In May, 1940, the plaque was dedicated and the tablet was mounted on a large boulder in the little Blazer Park. During WW II a memorial was erected at the Point Restaurant inscribed with the names of the Golden Valley servicemen. The Garden Club members thought it looked very bare so again they raised money, bought evergreens and plants for the surrounding grounds, and kept them growing in hope that all the men would come back to appreciate them. The Garden Club members continued planting lilacs along the Beltline and it became known as "Lilac Way," launching a civic event that became a tradition in Golden Valley. The Annual Lilac Festival started modestly with a children's parade and a picnic in Blazer Park, and the next year the Garden Club decided to have a ball. 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. The parade with 1,200 marchers caused Lilac Way to be closed from Glenwood to Golden Valley Road. In 1951, Helen Stoffer, the queen candidate sponsored by the Garden Club, was chosen to reign as queen of the Minneapolis Aquatennial. Other community organizations

joined together in 1972 to create 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. As the years passed the interest of the community waned, and by 1980 the Lilac Festival became a fond memory. Meanwhile the Garden Club continued to beautify the village. (Source: Golden Valley 1886-1986 Minnesota.)

## **VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED:**

The Golden Valley Historical Society is looking for volunteers to serve part time in several capacities: Serve on the Wedding Host Committee; Serve on the team that publishes the monthly newsletter; and serve as a volunteer assistant secretary to accomplish various interesting projects from time to time. If you are interested in becoming a part of the administrative volunteers, please contact Secretary Don Anderson, 763-588-8578 or email [Maryanddon3030@aol.com](mailto:Maryanddon3030@aol.com) for more information.

## THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Here are the members of the 2014-2015 board of directors:

|                           |           |              |                                    |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| President Kenneth Huber   |           | 763-377-1385 | email: Huber1420@comcast.net       |
| Vice President James Hera |           | 763-546-4395 |                                    |
| Secretary Don Anderson    |           | 763-588-8578 | email: maryanddon3030@aol.com      |
| Treasurer Linda Loomis    |           | 763-545-4659 | email: Linda.Loomis@comcast.net    |
| Don Anderson              | 3 yr term | 763-588-8578 | email: maryanddon3030@aol.com      |
| Crystal Boyd              | “ “       | 612-247-5283 | email: crystal.boyd@colorado.edu   |
| Betty Crews               | “ “       | 763-544-6382 |                                    |
| James Hera                | “ “       | 763-546-4395 |                                    |
| Kenneth Huber             | 2 yr term | 763-377-1385 | email: Huber1420@comcast.net       |
| Nancy Kochenderfer        | “ “       | 763-549-2676 |                                    |
| Linda Loomis              | “ “       | 763-545-4659 | email: Linda.Loomis@comcast.net    |
| Rudi Martignacco          | “ “       | 763-588-8148 | email: martnaco@cpinternet.com     |
| Peggy Nelson              | “ “       | 763-544-0369 |                                    |
| Nancy Azzam               | 1 yr term | 763-588-3300 | email: Shazzam 45@aol.com          |
| John Colwell              | “ “       | 763-377-1975 | email: john@colwellcolour.com      |
| DeDe Scanlon              | “ “       | 763-545-0669 | email: dedescanlon@comcast.net     |
| Steve Schmigdal           | “ “       | 612-419-8142 | email: steventschmidgall@gmail.com |

## THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH IS DECKED OUT WITH FLOWERS:

Thanks to the Golden Valley Garden Club, the flower gardens at the Historic Church are looking good. The Garden Club donated the flowers to the Society and Garden Club members Linda Loomis and Jean Johnson planted them. The Historic Church yard is a favorite location for family wedding pictures and especially around the sign in the front yard where we put the first names of the bride and groom and the date of their wedding. Wedding number 178 recently occurred since the Society purchased the Historic Church.

We thank the hard working members of the Exhibit Development Committee under the chairmanship of Crystal Boyd. They are working with the experts at Museology Museum Services to design the interior layout and plan the exhibits to be displayed on a permanent basis and those exhibits planned to be displayed on a rotation, temporary basis. The staff of Museology have been

spending many hours going through the Society's collection of the heritage of Golden Valley. By the way, if you have some Golden Valley historical items that you would like to donate to the Golden Valley Historical Society, Secretary Don Anderson would like to make an appointment with you at the Historic Church to receive them and have you sign our donation form, giving you a receipt for the item(s) you donate. Because of storage space limits, the items need to be about the Village, City of Golden Valley or resident of the Village or City.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE AGAIN:

With the coming to the end of fiscal year 2014-2015, and the arrival of the new fiscal year, 2015-2016, member's dues are due again, with the exception of those members who have chosen to become Lifetime Members with the payment of a one-time \$250.00,

and those newest members who joined this past Spring.

Dues for a single membership is \$20.00, for a family membership - \$25.00; student membership - \$10.00; Lifetime Membership - \$250.00; Non-profit organization - \$25.00; small corporation (less than 100 employees) - \$50.00; large corporation (with more than 100 employees - \$100.00.)

Dues statements are being sent via U.S. Postal Service to all members along with a return envelope. Please check off the line "I give permission to email to me/us the Society's monthly newsletter: check the "yes" box or the "no" box. And fill out the name section at the top with any changes of address, email, etc. This July newsletter will be sent via email to those members who have been receiving it via email and the newsletter is being sent via postal service to those who have been receiving it by this means. Thank you for your continued support. The Society is entering a new exciting phase.