



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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JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM, BY A BIOLOGY MAJOR, TO FEATURE AMAZING LITTLE KNOWN PIECE OF HISTORY!

JoAnn Funk will give a lecture, "The Pearl Button Boom", which is an amazing story of greed, American ingenuity, ecological ignorance, fashion and murder. Before buttons were made from plastic, they were made from European oyster shells. In a quirky twist of fate, from the late 1800's to early 1930s, most of the world's pearl buttons were made from mussels harvested from the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Although a majority of the factories were in Muscatine, Iowa, all those along the river, from St. Paul to Muscatine, became involved in the money



JoAnn Funk

filled frenzy of this short lived boom. Up and down the river, thousands of jobs were created, from harvesting mussels to manufacturing. Until it all came crashing down.

The telling of this incredible story with fantastic pictures, weaves together the

topics of ecology, immigration, manufacturing, the American spirit, labor rights, women's determination and fashion. Funk tells it in a way that is entertaining and non judgemental. There are sober moments but there are funny moments. All those present will come away with new knowledge.

The general membership meeting will be on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at the Society's historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn, 55427, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program. The meeting is free and open to the public.

ANDY SNOPE APPOINTED TO THE SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Andy Snope, resident in the Sweeny Lake area, was appointed by the board of directors to fill the unexpired term on the board of DeDe Scanlon. Scanlon and Nancy Azzam were re-elected to the board for a three year term at the general membership meeting on September 10th, 2015. Scanlon submitted her resignation from the board indicating that she had a conflict on the regular board meeting

times and felt that she could not serve to the degree that she felt she should serve. She will continue to serve on selected committees of the Society.

The board welcomes Andy Snope, a life member of the Society, to the board of directors. The board meets monthly on the second Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. at the Society's historic church to conduct the business of the Society.

ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY:

Susan Moss of 175 Woodlawn, St. Paul, MN 55105, donated two Ewald Dairy milkman's route products order forms (two pads). Interesting items, in addition to the dairy products, Ewald sold detergent in 10 and 25 pounds, and dishwasher soap in 10 pounds. Thanks to Susan for thinking of the Society.

HERE ARE SOME STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1915: (source: unknown)

Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only; Eggs were 14 cents a dozen; Coffee 15 cents a pound; Only 14% of the homes had a bathtub; Only 8% of the homes had a telephone; The average U.S. wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour; 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 per year; A mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95% of all births took place at home; 90% 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.”

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into 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.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet; There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day; Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write,

and, only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner drug stores; Back then pharmacists said, “Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!” (Shocking?)

18% of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help...

There were about 230 'reported' murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A. !

SUMMARY OF THE USE OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH IN THE SOCIETY'S FY 2014-2015:

Organization or event	Number of attendees	Average attendance
General membership meetings (8)	184	23
Weddings (21)	1,320	63
Society Board of Directors meetings (12)	117	10
GV Garden Club meeting (1)	30	30
Society exhibit development committee (6)	30	5
Society nominating committee (2)	2	2
Society garden committee (1)	5	5
GV Rotary Club Board meetings (12)	72	6
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Total attendees using the historic church	1,760	

TOTAL IN-KIND DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY OF GOODS AND SERVICES FY YEAR 2014-2015:

37 individuals/firms donated to the Society goods and services with a total value of \$20,387.88.

SON-IN-LAW'S ADVICE:

A husband and wife and her mother-in-law went on a African Safari. One morning they awakened to find mother-in-law was gone. They went to look for her and came into a clearing and

there she was being confronted by a growling lion. What shall we do the wife asked? Nothing, the husband replied, the lion got himself into that mess - let him get himself out!