



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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Betty Crews 90th Birthday Party July 24th – You Are Invited!

Open invitation to the members of the Golden Valley Historical Society from Betty Crews' children; Richard, Mandy, Betsy, Steve and Kenny, to help celebrate Betty's 90th birthday on Sunday, July 24, 2016, after the 10:00 service at the Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church, located at 7600 Harold Avenue, Golden Valley, Minnesota, from 11:15 – 2:00. R.S.V.P to Mandy Heard – email: mandyheardu@gmail.com or 715-834-5246. Cards can be sent to: Betty Crews, 6500 N. Cortlawn Circle, Golden Valley, MN 55426. No gifts, please.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF TWO LONG TIME MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

JACK LAKE AND RUBY VAN HORN attended many of our general membership meeting programs. They will be missed.

HISTORY OF THE LOGGING INDUSTRY ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEXT MEMBER PROGRAM:

On September 8th, Thursday, Steve Marking will present the history of the logging industry on the Mississippi River, at 7:00 p.m. at the historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley. This is a fascinating talk about how millions of logs were brought down the Mississippi River on lumber rafts by brave and daring men. This was a boom and bust era that saw the beginning of log rafting, the introduction of

steamboats and the end of the beautiful white pine forests, all in the span of one man's lifetime. Mark your calendar, plan to attend this part of our history in Minnesota. Did you know that Scherer Brothers Lumber Co. got their start after WWII by pulling out the deadhead logs stuck in the Mississippi River, drying them and sawing them up for the demand for building housing in our region?

THE STATE LEGISLATURE MADE ALL VILLAGES STATUTORY CITIES:

In 1972, 13 years after the establishment of the council-manager form of government, Golden Valley became a city when the Minnesota legislature made all villages statutory cities. This did not change the form of government. The main intent was to provide uniformity throughout the state, particularly in matters of local elections. The year 1972 was significant not only because Golden Valley became a city but also because voters chose a woman as a council member for the first time in Golden Valley history. Patricia Moberg took office in January, 1973 for a three year term. In November of the same year, Mary Anderson became the first woman to be elected to a four

year council term. In January of 1974, when Anderson took office, two of the five council members were women. Moberg resigned in the spring of 1975 and Rosemary Thorsen was appointed on April 21, 1975, to fill out the term. She ran for election in November, 1975 and won a four year term. That same year Gloria Johnson ran for council and was elected. From 1976 to 1984, there were three female members, a majority, probably for the first time in Minnesota history. In 1979 Rosemary Thorsen ran for mayor and was elected, taking office in January, 1980 as Golden Valley's first woman mayor (60 years after women got the vote.)

A SHORT PEEK AT THE HISTORY OF GOLDEN VALLEY :

Through its first hundred and thirty years, local government in Golden Valley has evolved to respond to the changes that have occurred in a community that grew from a homogeneous farming region of a few hundred inhabitants to a highly developed inner-ring suburb of about 20,000 people. From 1886, the date of its incorporation as the Village of Golden Valley until the present day, local government has grown and changed to meet the needs of a modern suburban community in a commercial and industrial society.

THE INCORPORATION: By a vote taken on December 16, 1886, in the old schoolhouse of School District 21, Golden Valley was formed from Minneapolis Township using the existing boundaries plus Glenwood (now Theodore Wirth) Park. There were 78 votes for incorporation and one vote against. On Monday, January 3, 1887, the village was organized under provisions of Chapter 145 of the General Laws of 1885.

OPEN HOUSE FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRACE MALL/ THEATRE PROPERTY:

Hosted by Wilford Hamilton Fawcett, an open house for redevelopment of the Terrace Mall/Theatre property will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Do you remember the movies that were shown at the Terrace Theatre oh, so many years ago?

THE FIRST OFFICERS: The 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.

FIRST ISSUES CONFRONTING THE NEW COUNCIL: The question of the sale of liquor was voted on for the first time and approved by the voters 101 to 17. Bylaws and ordinances were passed on subjects as disorderly conduct, houses of ill fame, prohibition of gambling, punishing of vagrants, public nuisances, licensing of slaughter houses and stockyards, bowling alleys, and pool halls. One interesting ordinance adopted by the Council in 1895 read in part "It shall hereafter be unlawful to dance on Sundays or at night between the hours of 12 P.M. Saturday and 12 P.M. Sunday in any park, tent, pavilion or in the open air within the corporate limits of Golden Valley." The

punishment inflicted for any violation was fixed at not less than a \$20 fine. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

WHERE THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MET: During its early years, the village council met in the schoolhouse of School District 21 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 nine votes were cast in favor of the project and 131 votes were cast 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. The contractor selected was E.F. Wandersee Co. The little two-story village hall was the center of the community affairs for more than 50 years.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Frank Bohlander and Mark Hall (Best Wishes Floral) 689 Winnetka Avenue North, Golden Valley, Mn 55427; Email: frank@bwfloral.com; Greet them when you purchase flowers from Best Wishes Floral or see them at our general membership meeting programs.

