



# 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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Don Anderson, Editor

763-588-8578;

email: maryanddon3030@aol.com

## **“FROM BREAD BOARDS TO AWARDS” IS THE TITLE OF THE JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PRESENTATION:**

Barbara Bailey was the City of Golden Valley's first full-time Senior Citizens Coordinator from 1977 to 2005, when she retired after a 50-year career in the Park and Recreation profession. She organized a comprehensive program for all senior residents of Golden Valley, and the Senior Citizens Center housed at the Brookview Community Center.

She began working at the young age of 12 years old in her hometown of Hibbing, MN., for the Hibbing Joint Recreation Board by teaching tap dancing at the playground, where she grew up. She was also a Playground Leader, and Playground Supervisor for the City of Hibbing.

She graduated with a BS degree with high distinction in 1960, from the University of Minnesota. As an intern student at the U of M,

she started the senior citizen's program in Bloomington, MN. After graduating from college, she worked for the Minneapolis Park Board as a Recreation Center Director and also worked with nine senior clubs located in recreation centers in the city. Barb has been recognized as an outstanding professional and has received many local, state and national awards of distinguished service in the Recreation and Aging fields. Currently, she serves on several committees and participates in activities at Calvary Center Cooperative, a 55+ residence located in Golden Valley. She is also the immediate past president of the local GFWC Golden Valley Federated Women's Club.

Her presentation will be held at the Golden Valley Historical Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden



BARBARA BAILEY

Valley Road, Golden Valley, on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program, which is free and open to the public.

## **GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANTS FROM THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND THROUGH THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

The Society has signed a grant agreement for its Design, Fabrication, and installation of Permanent exhibits project in the amount of \$139,950. with the Society's match of \$45,000. This project will result in the completion of the museum addition

of exhibits of the heritage of Golden Valley. A second grant agreement for Collections Inventory in the amount of \$9,986. with the Society's match of \$400. This grant will allow the Society to inventory its collections and put them in an electronic

format. Both projects have a deadline for completion in late 2017. The Society's projects director is Crystal Boyd, who is a volunteer member of the Society's board of directors and holds a master's degree in Museum Management

## **DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW GOLDEN VALLEY STARTED A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT?**

It was in the atmosphere of WW II that the Golden Valley Volunteer Fire Department first came into being. The 1940 census showed that the village had a population of 2,048 and there were about 700 homes. New residents to the village were acutely aware they lacked the fire protection they had enjoyed in larger cities.

About that time there was a roof fire in the Lynde home, on the NW corner of Glenwood and Xerxes Avenue, now a part of Wirth Park. Mrs. Lynde called the Minneapolis fire department. The firemen arrived promptly and put a ladder against the house. Before any men could climb the ladder, the fire chief arrived and ordered the ladder removed. The house was not located in Minneapolis. Mrs. Lynde called St. Louis Park Fire Department and they refused to come to the home. She called Robbinsdale and was told that before that department would order a truck, a \$35.00 deposit would have to be paid and then they would furnish one truck

and three men. In the meantime the neighbors formed a bucket brigade and extinguished the roof blaze. That incident heightened the concern of all the residents of Golden Valley.

The owner of the local lumber yard, Fletcher Olson, is credited with spearheading the initial organization. The lumber yard was located on the NE corner of Winnetka Avenue and 6th Avenue North, the present site of the Golden Valley City Hall. The village passed an ordinance providing for "The establishment and government of a volunteer fire department for the Village of Golden Valley," dated March 2, 1943. Men of the age of 21 years and not more than 55 years at the time of their election to membership, were recruited. Many men volunteered to be firemen but soon dropped out when they found out how much work and time was involved. This new department was all volunteer with concerned citizens wanting to only help their neighbors.

For \$400 the village purchased from Flour City Truck Company a 1923 Oshkosh, four-wheel drive, 250 gallon per minute pumper fire truck. The number "1" was painted in large gold letters on both sides of the shining red fire truck. The Oshkosh truck was slow and the fire chief complained that kids on their bikes would reach the fire scene before the fire truck did. And, funds were collected (\$4,500.) to purchase a second fire truck. The Flour City Truck Company made the used International into a beautiful new fire truck that made everyone in the village proud. The completed truck was presented to the council in May, 1944. Maps of all the ponds in the village were made as the firemen were dependent on pumping water from the closest pond to the fire scene. (Source: The History of the Golden Valley Volunteer Fire Department, "Looking Back From 1980," by Ruth Fahrendorff.)

## **SOMETIMES IT IS BETTER TO DO IT YOURSELF?**

A farmer raised chickens that roamed his farm and crossed to road to other fields. As time went on more housing developments were created and more traffic going by the farm. His chickens were being killed by the fast-moving cars. He called the sheriff and told him about the fast moving traffic. The sheriff said he would put up a sign to slow down the traffic. "School Crossing – Slow Down" was put up. The sheriff called the farmer and was told that his chickens were still being killed as they crossed the road. Another sign put up also had no effect in

slowing down the cars. The farmer asked if he could put up his own sign? He was given permission to do it. Later, the sheriff called the farmer and asked about the traffic. The farmer said he had solved the problem and his chickens now were able to cross the road safely. The sheriff decided that maybe he could use the same sign in other areas too. So, he drove out to see what the farmer's sign said. He was very surprised to read, "NUDIST COLONY – WATCH OUT FOR THE CHICKS."

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

Jenny Brookins, 1355 Oak Grove Circle, Golden Valley, MN 55422; 507-398-7357; email: jenny.murray6@gmail.com Greet Jenny at the January general membership meeting.