



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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YOUR ANCESTORS – WHY THEY LEFT AND WHY THEY CAME... IS THE TITLE OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE NOVEMBER, 2017 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

One of the greatest time periods for migration to the United States was around 1820 to 1914, with the majority of immigrants coming from Europe. The path of many families in Minnesota may have included New York, Ohio or many other eastern states, but their first trip most often started in Europe.

As we think about our own family history, we have to ponder what prompted our ancestors to want to leave their homes in Germany or Sweden, an example, and travel to the United States. Consider moving all the way to Golden Valley which is practically in the middle of the North American Continent. Consider that it is a similar distance to travel from Berlin to Paris as it is from Minneapolis to St. Louis. The size of the U.S. had to be overwhelming to people who had probably lived in the same village all their life.



DAVID KUBALL

David Kuball will help us understand the motivation for these families to make such a move and will help us to appreciate the opportunity they gave us – the future generations. Kuball has a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota. The general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th, 2017, at the Society's Historic Church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program. The program is free and open to the public.

UP-COMING PROGRAMS OF THE SOCIETY:

January 11, 2018, Doug Ohman, one of Minnesota's highly recognized photojournalist/historian, will present his latest creation, "On The Road In Minnesota". With quality photos, Ohman investigates the history of the site. Great program.

February 8, 2018, the Golden Valley League of Minnesota Voters will have experts who will relate the history of the Metropolitan Council. All the meetings are held at the Society's historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN., at 7:00 p.m.

A SUMMARY OF THE SOCIETY'S 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. CONTACT SECRETARY DON ANDERSON TO OBTAIN A COPY. (MARYANDDON3030@AOL.COM)

HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT: (CONTINUED FROM OCTOBER ISSUE)

The population of our little three- square miles continued to grow, with more development and more young folks moving in and starting families. And , of course our parents weren't done having kids, so the district continued to grow. Almost immediately the board saw the need to expand. The Middle School was opened in 1963 and the unique 4-4-4 format was adopted. An auditorium (replacing our very weird "cafetorium", which we somehow made work) and swimming pool were added to the complex. Golden Valley High School and District 275 were unique in the metro area, and indeed in Minnesota. Our school was unabashedly college-prep, and compared favorably to the best private schools.

But by 1970, changes in school funding and demographics combined to bring about the demise of our wonderful little high school. The first blow came in 1971,

when the State of Minnesota, in what was dubbed the "Minnesota Miracle," made a radical change in how schools were funded. In the name of equal education for all, the state became the main resource for school revenue, based on how many students were enrolled. The amount school districts could levy in property taxes was also limited. The baby boom lasted until 1959, after which birth rates dropped quickly. Golden Valley became fully developed and the population leveled off at about 21,000. Our parents stopped having kids, but many didn't move – after all, Golden Valley is a great place to live. (EDITOR'S NOTE: BY 1975, THE HANDWRITING WAS ON THE WALL! This presentation by Bob Mattison, to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966, will be continued in the December issue of the newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society.)

HISTORIC CHURCH FALL YARD CLEAN-UP SCHEDULED:

Mother Nature has provided the incentive for the leaves to fall to the ground and blow around. However, the Society volunteers need to clean up the Historic Church yard once again. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 11th from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Please help. Bring your leaf rake, work gloves, pruning shears, and work clothes for the temperature. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

2017-2018 SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED:

The members of the board of directors elected officers. They are: President Kenneth Huber; Vice President Steve Schmidgall; Secretary Don Anderson; and Treasurer David Kuball; Current members of the board of directors are: Jenny Brookins; Nancy Kochenderfer; Nancy Azzam;

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE CO. (PIC) BECAME GOOD NEIGHBORS TO TYROL HILLS IN 1950'S:

Past Society President Robert Provost reported at a membership meeting on 3/9/2000, that PIC had a policy to make its presence with a 10 -story building adjoining Tyrol Hills good neighbors. Here is what the policy was: 1. Encouraged employees to buy homes in the area by offering financial aid to do so; 2. Made sure that the PIC traffic did not go through the residential neighborhood; 3. PIC built a large auditorium in their building and encouraged the Tyrol Hills Association to use it for their events. 4. PIC made sure the landscaping of their grounds were of the best quality; 5. The kids of Tyrol Hills were encouraged to use the PIC vehicle parking lot for their games and riding toys; 6. PIC made sure sound barriers were erected to cut down on traffic noise; Summary, in other words, the PIC did the maximum to gain the support of the neighbors of Tyrol Hills area. PIC built the 10- story building on 32 acres located on the North side of Brownie Lake (the westerly chain of lakes in Minneapolis composed of Brownie, Cedar, Calhoun and Lake of the Isles) purchased from the Minneapolis Park Board. The 1,500 jobs created did have a tremendous economic impact on Golden Valley.