



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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL FROM THE GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD!

IN REVIEW:

On Thursday, November 9th, David Kuball provided a detailed presentation on why our relatives left their homelands (from Germany, Sweden, Norway and Ireland) to migrate to Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas. He talked about the hardships they endured on the long journey via boat and traveling overland to their ultimate destination. Kuball kept the 24 attendees spell bound with his photos and details.



DAVID KUBALL WITH A GV
2ND GENERATION STREET

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE GOLDEN VALLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS USE TO BE HELD ON A MONDAY NIGHT UNTIL. . . .

John Mitchell was elected to the Council. He was the first and only black member to be elected to the Golden Valley Council, and served one term. On the first meeting of the Council in which Mitchell was sworn in, the council went through their agenda as usual. When the mayor asked for any other business, Mitchell told the Council that he was a true Vikings Football Fan as well as the rest of the National Football League, and, he made a motion to change the meeting day

of the council from Monday to Tuesday. After a short debate the Council agreed with Mitchell and changed the meeting day from Monday to Tuesday so they could watch Monday Night Football at the homes. The Tuesday meeting day of the City Council has been the same for several decades. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Thought this bit of history from the City Council would be appropriate with the Super Bowl being held in Minneapolis on Sunday, February 4th, 2018.)

UP-COMING PROGRAMS

Attention all of you Doug Ohman fans, for on January 11, 2018, Ohman will be bringing his newest creation of fabulous photos along with the history of the subjects in his photos, called "On The Road In Minnesota".

The Metropolitan Council, the history of its creation by the Minnesota State Legislature 50 years ago, and, the debates over the years, plus the current status of many arguments from various viewpoints, will be the program on February 8, 2018, co-hosted by the Golden Valley League of Women Voters. All the programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Society's historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. The programs are free and open to the public. Most of the time, cookies and coffee are served after the program.

MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE NOVEMBER 11TH HISTORIC CHURCH YARD AND BUILDING CLEAN-UP: Perhaps a thank you should go to mother nature for providing the high winds which blew some of the leaves into the woods. The live bodies were: Jacob and Tina Breth; Jan and David Kuball; Jenny Brookins; Jean Schultz; Nancy Azzam and Don Anderson.

GOLDEN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2018:

Only the big cities had fire departments in 1943, like Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Robbinsdale. In Golden Valley a situation developed that caught the attention of the 2,048 residents living in about 700 houses. One day there was a roof fire in a home on the northeast corner of Glenwood and Xerxes Avenue, now a part of Theodore Wirth Park. The owner called the Minneapolis Fire Department which responded promptly. A ladder was set against the house but before a fireman could climb up the ladder to the roof the Minneapolis Fire Chief arrived and ordered the ladder removed. Since the house was

not located in Minneapolis he advised that the St. Louis Park Fire Department be called. When they refused to come, Robbinsdale was called. Before Robbinsdale would send out a truck, \$35.00 had to be deposited at the Robbinsdale City Hall. Meanwhile, neighbors formed a bucket brigade and put out the fire. That incident heightened the concern of all the residents of Golden Valley and helped establish the Golden Valley Fire Department. 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, and signed by Council President Raymond Rascop and Village Recorder Gail Wilson. The Village bought a 1923 Oshkosh fire truck formerly owned by the Winstad, Minnesota Fire Department and it was overhauled and freshly painted and the number "1" was painted in large gold numbers on both sides of the shiny red truck. All available creeks and water holes were marked on maps so all firemen knew the location of the nearest water supply. (Source: "Golden Valley 1886-1986" published by the GV Historical Society.)

HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

This is the fifth in a series of a script of a presentation to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966, by Bob Mattison, Golden Valley Class of 1966. In 1970 the District hit its peak of 1660 students, but after that the declines came fast. Budget cuts started in 1974 when enrollment went to 1500. By 1975 the handwriting was on the wall for all to see. Projections showed enrollment of 1100 by 1979, and 600 by the mid-1980's. The board voted to keep Meadowbrook open in 1976, but could not keep the Middle School open – it closed at the end of the 1978 school year, with the district going back to a K-6, 7-12 format. At the February 1978 board meeting, Superintendent Bob Johnson told the board the inevitable: the district could not survive. Consolidation with another district was inevitable.

The board immediately started discussions with the three adjacent districts – St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Robbinsdale. Robbinsdale was not a good candidate for the Golden Valley board – educational quality, the size of the district, and the threat that Robbinsdale High School would close soon (which it did), forcing kids to move again, all made Robbinsdale unattractive. Also, according to Bob Johnston, Robbinsdale did not show a lot of interest, so discussions didn't go very far. Discussions with Hopkins went much better. Hopkins needed numbers to fill its new high school, and liked the quality of the Golden Valley students. Hopkins also agreed to leave Meadowbrook open for at least five years after the merger, which of course was very important

to the Golden Valley folks. In fact, right after the merger Hopkins closed Westview and part of the Westview attendance area went to Meadowbrook. Also, the finances worked out so there was not a big impact to Hopkins or Golden Valley taxpayers. Hopkins taxpayers did not get stuck with a lot of Golden Valley debt because much of it was retired by the sale of the High School and Middle School campuses to Breck. Keeping Meadowbrook open turned out to be a very smart move. Today Meadowbrook is the largest elementary school in the Hopkins district, with over 700 students, and a major feeder of students from the northern suburbs and the City of Minneapolis into the Hopkins District. The final in the GVHS history series will be in the December newsletter.