



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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IN 2 YEARS THE GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY – LET’S TAKE A PEEK TO SEE WHAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN UP TO?

The Society received its state charter on October 1, 1974. The first officers were William H. Varner, president; Charles L. Steinmetz, vice president; Wilma Rae Ree, secretary; and John F. Gearty, treasurer.

One of the first projects of the Society was to seek and compile a list of houses in Golden Valley which were built approximately 100 years ago. This list included the Moser, Bofferding, Bies, Smith, Nassig, Miller, and Scheid houses. The Society members wrote the history of several of these houses and the families who built them from their research, and, had printed booklets of these histories. Some of the booklets are still available to purchase.

In 1977 under the leadership of President Fred Wandersee, who served as president for six years, a monthly newsletter was started. The newsletter was mailed to members and prospective members. An oral history project was started and has produced several tapes of the memories of long-time residents of Golden Valley. Newspaper clippings have been gathered and filed and a scrap book of Society

activities has been kept. For the city centennial, the Society authored a book, "GOLDEN VALLEY 1886-1986 MINNESOTA". In 2003, the Society partnered with the Golden Valley Rotary Club who provided \$25,000. to have made a professionally produced history of the city, "CELEBRATE GOLDEN VALLEY - A TRADITION OF SPIRIT AND COMMUNITY VALUES", producer Curtis Laine, Studio 23. The history is in both VHS and DVD and are available to purchase from the Society.

The Society held its membership meetings at various locations over the years. The Golden Valley public library, council conference room at city hall, and the American Legion Club, other local clubs, until July 1, 1997, when the Society purchased the historic church owned by the Christian Science Society of Golden Valley. Through the generosity of Shirley and Chester Schultz who donated \$84,000.00 to the Society, the oldest church in Golden Valley was purchased. It was the intention of the Society to remove all the pews and make the historic church into the museum of Golden Valley. However, before

any of those ideas could be started, members of the public came to the Society and said, "You have such a cute place, could we get married there?" The board of directors agreed that the Society was in no hurry, so, yes let's let the folks get married in the historic church. The museum can be built later. That was 21 years ago and the pews are still in the historic church. This summer the 200th wedding will be held!



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

Ah, but, the directors still wanted to build a museum for Golden Valley and through the generosity of former Society member, Edward Jordan, and several other generous members, funds were available to build an addition to the historic church. The addition was completed in October of 2014. Now came the project of designing the interior, planning on displays, both permanent and temporary, applying for funds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Historical Society. Several grants have been approved and utilized for collections inventory,

structure assessment, cataloguing objects, rehousing and cataloging archives, and many other projects. **These projects have in part been financed with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.** There have been some delays in achieving the goal of having an operating museum but slowly small steps are being taken to reach that goal. Estimates now are for a grand opening to be in the summer of 2018. We have come a long way from when the Society was chartered in October of 1974.

INVENTORY TECHNICIAN'S COMMENTS REGARDING OBJECTS OF INTEREST OR NOTE:

Shannon Erb, Archives Inventory Technician reported as follows: "The largest collection so far has been the "Multimedia Collection" – this includes all of the VHS, cassette tapes and film that are housed in the basement of the historic church – it's incredible how many recordings there are of GVHS meetings! I'm especially intrigued by Chad Lewis discussion (2007) about haunted houses in the Twin Cities, and the Nathan Otten discussion (1998) about gangsters in St. Paul. Another big collection that was just added is the "Sue Webber Papers." Sue was an editor for the Sun Post and donated a large collection of interesting manuscripts and photographs from

the goings-on's around the county/city for almost a decade. To me the most interesting things I've come across in the archives include aerial images of Golden Valley from the 1950's-90s (these are great resources for the future development and tracking landscape change.), the independent student newsletters, "Laughing Gravy and Rack from the 1960's (pretty groovy!), Mary Anderson's Human Rights accomplishments, the bank ledgers from the 1940's, and the John Borchert map from the 1960s. This project has been fascinating – and if I were a citizen of Golden Valley, I'd certainly be very proud of my city, based on what I've learned."

HIRED MUSEOLOGY'S FINDINGS:

GVHS hired the experts at Museology, a professional museum services firm, to inventory the GVHS collection according to applicable policies and standards, and create new catalog records for previously undocumented objects. The collections were then entered into PastPerfect Museum Software, GVHS's collections management software. Two hired collections inventory technicians then carried out this work, one focusing on archives and the other on three-dimensional objects. They created new catalog records for previously undocumented items, including 541 objects, 1,695 archival records, and 92 library volumes.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY:

1974 – 1977 – William H. Varner;
1977 – 1983 – Fred Wandersee;
1983 – 1985 – Richard Dahlin;
1985 – 1986 – Fred Wandersee;
1986 – 1988 – Clifford Smith;
1988 – 1989 – Judy Mustard;
1989 – 1993 – Fred Wandersee;
1993 – 2003 – Judy Mustard;
2003 – 2007 – Robert Provost;
2007 – 2017 – Kenneth Huber;