The Little White Paper

MUSEUM EXPERT EXAMINES SOCIETY'S "3D" ARTIFACTS AND GIVES HER OPINION ON HER FAVORITE ITEMS:

The Golden Valley Historical Society as a step in the march to develop a museum for the citizens of Golden Valley, hired a professional museum service, Museology,* who sent two professional museum experts to catalog the Society's collections received over the last 45 years.

Linda Lousnbury was assigned to catalog the "3D" artifacts. When she was completed with the entire Society collection of "3D" artifacts, she was asked to name a favorite item.

Linda responded, "I have been asked to name a favorite item, but, that's like asking a mother who is her favorite child. Here's a top ten list, in no particular order: #1 BEST PROFESSIONAL ART: Landscape painting by Elof Wedin (which is now in a locked display at GV City Hall); Runner-up: Rosemeade pitcher; #2 BEST AMATEUR ART: Apron with crocheted border; Runner-up: Pipstone "arrowhead"; #3 TOP CHOICE FOR A HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE: Dentures made by Dr. Dennis Johnson; Runner-up: Jawbone of a horse; #4 BEST WAR MEMENTO: NewTestament carried by Civil War soldier in battle and in prisoner of war camp: Runner-up: First Bunny blanket with pink rabbits Aid kit from WWII; #5 CUTEST: on white background on one side, white rabbits on pink background on the other side; Runner-up: Shirley Temple pitcher; #6 BEST COMMERCIAL TEXTILE: Pair of embroidered pillow cases; Runner-up: Flowered silk scarf; #7 BEST LOCAL PRODUCT: Weavewood bowl; Runner-up: Ewald Bros milk bottle; #8 MOST UNUSUAL GADGET: Skate Sharpener; Runner-up: Back Scratcher; #9 MOST "MAD MEN" ERA STEREOTYPE: Nail file packet promoting "Women's Department" with special "women's tellers" at bank; Runner-up: Point Liquor shot glass; #10 BEST NATURAL HISTORY ARTIFACT: Bison skull; Runner-up: Agate geode."

She concluded by saying, "I've enjoyed working with the collection and look forward to seeing the new exhibit when it opens." * 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."

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

DUES ARE DUE:

Thanks to you members who have sent in your dues renewals. Your continued support of the Golden Valley Historical Society is very much appreciated. Reminder to a few other members, please send in your dues payment today. Thanks.

HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

This is the script of a presentation to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966 50-year reunion, July 30, 2016, by BOB MATTISON, Golden Valley High School Class of 1966.

To really understand the story of how our unique little school came to be in the middle of a large metropolitan area surrounded by huge school districts with huge schools, you have to go all the way back to the year 1851. Before then settlement in Minnesota was largely confined to the area between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. The town of St. Anthony, on the east side of the Mississippi near the great cascading St. Anthony Falls, was the beginning of Minneapolis. In 1851 the treaty of Traverse des Sioux was signed with the Sioux Indian tribes of southern and central Minnesota, ceding land west of the Mississippi for settlement. The floodgates opened, with settlers from the east coming to Minnesota up the Mississippi via steamboat. They were mostly farmers, look for cheap, fertile land. Some of them had names still familiar to us: Sweeney, Turner, Gearty. Minneapolis was growing fast, and towns sprung up to the west. Hopkins (originally West Minneapolis), Robbinsdale, Excelsior, Osseo and Wayzata were all towns long before they were suburbs.

These farmers staked out their farms, endured many hardships, and – of course – had children. Some of them wanted their children to have some education, so they started schools, either in someone's kitchen or in a one-room schoolhouse. Typically there was one teacher for all the kids, usually a single woman who lived with one of the farmers.

As Minnesota grew and became a state in 1958, things got more organized. County governments, which were in charge of the schools at that time, formed school districts with one elementary school – they were called common school districts. A common school district was usually bounded by the property lines of the farms that had children attending that school. These boundary lines have largely remained intact to this day, surviving all the residential and commercial development around them. They look very strange on today's maps.

Meadowbrook School started this way. The original school was built in 1884 near what is now Glenwood Avenue east of Xerxes. In 1884 Minneapolis established its western border at Xerxes, so in 1885 Meadowbrook moved to a new one-room school house at its present location. When Golden Valley became a village in 1887 it had two other one-room elementary schools – Oak Grove to the north and Westview, near Medicine Lake, to the west. Hennepin County drew the borders of the districts, based on farm boundaries, and Golden Valley was split into three parts. Meadowbrook was dubbed Common School District 89, encompassing just over three square miles in the southern part of the village.

The population of Golden Valley at the turn of the century was about 700 people, almost all farming the land. One-room schoolhouses were adequate for most kids, who never went past 6th grade. The very few students who wanted to go further would trek to Minneapolis to continue their education, and ultimately to the University. But surrounding towns – Minneapolis, Hopkins, Robbinsdale, and others- were building high schools. All the common school districts, including Meadowbrook, faced the same problem: do they stay independent or join a district with a high school. The dilemma became more acute as the communities started to grow and a high school education became the norm.

Residential development in Golden Valley started in around 1912, with the population increasing quickly. By 1940 there were over 2000 residents, three times the population of 700 in 1910. To accommodate this growth Meadowbrook built a new schoolhouse in 1922. It was a four-room palace at the time; we knew it as the Annex. The community continued to develop, but it was not until the end of World War II that things really sped up.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: LEARN ABOUT HOW GOLDEN VALLEY WAS RIGHT IN THE PATH OF A DEMOGRAPHIC TSUNAMI! This presentation, by Bob Mattison, to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966, will be continued in the September issue of the newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome Pete and Barb Prestegaard, 115 Eagle Ridgeway, Nanvet, NY,10954; email: petego4it@gmail.com; phone: 845-642-8089;