



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN HIGHWAY 100 WAS A TWO-LANE HIGHWAY? THERE WERE LOTS OF CROSS STREETS WITH FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS, A GOLDEN VALLEY FIRE STATION AND FARMS. THE HISTORY OF HIGHWAY 100 FROM CONCEPT, TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SOCIETY'S MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

David Kuball is the presenter of the program and will focus on why Highway 100 was built and what was the significance to the history of Minnesota, Minneapolis and particularly Golden Valley? Kuball was a journalism major at the University of Minnesota where he was active in student government. He is a member of the

GVHS board of directors and is the Society's treasurer.

The membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8th, at the Society's Historic Church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.



DAVID KUBALL

IN REVIEW:

In a jointly sponsored meeting between the GV Historical Society and the Golden Valley League of Women Voters, held at the Society's historic church on February 8th, the history of the Metropolitan Council and current issues were presented by Pahoua Yang Hoffman, the Executive Director of the Citizens League. Ms. Hoffman's presentation was very well done from the birth of the Met Council by the

Minnesota State Legislature, describing its original purposes, to the changes in the law by the Legislature expanding the purposes, and relating the current issues being discussed at the present time. The program was recorded by the local cable channel and re-broadcast several times. 34 members and guests enjoyed and learned from the presentation and the questions and answers following the presentation.

UP-COMING PROGRAM:

April 12th—Thursday, Minnesota's finest photo/historian, Doug Ohman will be presenting his latest creation, "On The Road In Minnesota". Historical research of photo subjects is unique.

May 10th – Thursday, Dr. Christina Chang will present to the members a summary of the heritage of Golden Valley which the Society has been collecting since 1974. The programs will be held at the Society's historic church at 7:00 P.M. The programs are free and open to the public.

IT IS THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A used International truck was purchased and Flour City Truck Company made it into a beautiful like-new fire truck. The completed truck was proudly presented to the council in May, 1944 by Chief Lovering.

Near the old round house at the Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern Railroad yards on Olson Highway there was an unused wooden garage. The railroad offered the fire department the use of the building and the Oshkosh truck was stored there. The new International, now lettered in gold as number "2," was kept at the village hall. Having a truck housed at the railroad yards was a safety measure for the railroad as many fires resulted from the coal-fired steam locomotives. In order to keep the building warm, Assistant Chief Gene Thotland went twice a day to fill the coal stoker and Roy Elwell checked several times to see that the furnace was operating properly.

In September, 1944, the volunteers began to be paid while at a fire. The stipend was 75 cents for reporting to a fire including the first hour and 50 cents an hour thereafter. A log book was kept by Assistant Chief Ernie Reiss with

the address of the fire, a list of men attending and the amount of pay for each.

Water is the most important ingredient for fighting a fire. In Golden Valley in the early forties water for the fire fighting came from private wells, chiefly from Reiss' greenhouse, or from the nearest lake or pond. In winter the ponds were usually frozen. During the rest of the year, the trucks often became mired in mud. Tow chains were standard equipment.

In order to have more adequate water supply, there was a need to obtain a third truck number "3," so a 1,000 gallon oil truck was donated by the McGlyn Oil Company. The volunteers repaired and equipped the truck with the assistance of master mechanic and firefighter, Lyle Larsen. They worked evenings and weekends in the basement of the Larsen potato barn since that was the only heated place available. The barn stood in a potato field near Wayzata Boulevard and Louisiana Avenue.

Three bond issues were presented to the voters of Golden Valley in the forties to build a second fire station and each time

they were defeated. The lack of housing for the trucks and the impossible task of keeping the buildings heated in winter prompted the firemen to send a letter to the village council on October 15, 1946. It read, "Effective this date we are serving notice that we are no longer able to provide fire protection for Golden Valley due to the lack of a water supply and a heated building which are number one requirements for winter protection."

Soon a growing community provided more financial resources and in 1948 station 2 was opened at 1001 Lilac Drive. The firemen installed a tall tower beside the station with a siren at the top. Sparrows continually built nests in the siren which interfered with its function and the men would climb the tower to remove the nests. All this work was done with enthusiastic zeal by the volunteers at no cost to the taxpayers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The history of the Golden Valley Fire Department will be continued in the next newsletters. Source: "Golden Valley, Minnesota, 1886-1986", Author: Golden Valley Historical Society.)

REMEMBERING THE PAST LEADERS OF THE SOCIETY:

As the Society gets closer to opening the Golden Valley Museum, it is appropriate to name those individuals who were instrumental in forming the GVHS back in 1974. These were the presidents over the past years: WILLIAM H. VARNER;

FRED WANDERSEE; RICHARD DAHLIN; CLIFFORD SMITH; JUDY MUSTARD; ROBERT PROVOST; and current president KENNETH HUBER.

Five of the past presidents have passed away, but, they would be proud to see what the

Society has accomplished over the years with the Golden Valley Historical Society Museum. The grand opening is planned for June, 2018. Members will be receiving more details on this event.