



# 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

April 2018

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## **DOUG OHMAN, MINNESOTA'S FINEST PHOTO/HISTORIAN, WILL PRESENT HIS LATEST PRODUCTION OF "MINNESOTA FROM THE ROAD" – part #1 - AT THE SOCIETY'S APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**



DOUG OHMAN

“Minnesota From The Road “ – part #1 – Travel with famous photographer/story teller Doug Ohman as he photographs many of Minnesota’s most interesting landmarks and icons. Doug will share stories of how these landmarks became so famous. His pictures and stories will be sure to entertain and bring new interest in more road trips around

our great state. (Part #1 will focus on Northern Minnesota.)

The presentation will be on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Society’s historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN. The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

## **PLANNING FOR THE OPENING OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY MUSEUM:**

The GVHS board of directors have started to get organized for the future Golden Valley Museum operations. So, here is a “HELP WANTED” advertisement: (Editor’s Note: 27 years ago when I was invited to become a volunteer secretary of the GV Historical Society board of directors, I would never have dreamed that our community would ever have a museum! It is truly a dream come true! – Don Anderson, Secretary, GVHS board of directors.)

**Are you or do you have a friend who is retired, who might be interested in volunteering at the new golden valley museum a**

**few hours each week, to greet the visitors coming to view this new museum? The society would like you to provide yours or your retired friend’s name and contact information. You may email secretary don anderson at maryanddon3030@aol.com, phone the information to 763-588-8578; or, send a note with the contact information to the society’s business address which is 7800 golden valley road, golden valley, mn. 55427. The museum’s grand opening will be in mid june. Send your information today! Doesn’t that sound like a fun part time occupation?**

**SPRING HISTORIC CHURCH YARD CLEANING:** Volunteers are needed to help clean up the GV historic church yard. Winter’s left with stuff that needs to be cleaned up. If you can help, bring a leaf rake, shrub trimmers, a branch saw, work gloves and dress for the climate. The fun event will be on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:00 to 11:00. Many hands make quick work!

**FYI...STREET SIGN SALES...** The article published in the Mpls. Star Tribune in the Variety Section on a March Saturday brought over 600 contacts to Anderson’s email and phone message machine. He and volunteers have been processing the sign requests and providing the second generation Golden Valley street signs to former and current Golden Valley residents.

## **IT IS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Station number 2 became the heart of the department and was the place of many family and social functions. The firemen joined with other departments to exchange information and ideas and the station was used for regional meetings when it was Golden Valley's turn to host.

It is necessary for firemen to work in pairs when entering a burning building and each man's life may depend upon his partner. Often these men are in great danger as firefighting is a most hazardous occupation. As a result, a great bond of brotherhood and camaraderie develops among them. In order that families might become better acquainted, the Golden Valley Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary was formed. Getting together socially helped families understand the pressures and inconvenience of being a "fire" family. It became a tradition for the volunteers to play Santa Clause to the village children at Christmas time. Santa distributed candy as he rode on the back of the fire truck and went

from house to house in his bright, red suit made by the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary.

During the early years of the fire department, most of Golden Valley was open land and grass fires were a major problem in the spring and fall. Firemen fought as many as 23 grass fires in a 24-hour period using all three fire trucks. Peat fires were a special problem as the fire would burn large holes underneath the ground surface. As Neal Rydmark was fighting a fire in the Larsen potato field, he broke through the ground and landed in a smouldering fire up to his armpits. His boots got pretty hot before his partner pulled him out. Fireman Al Witt recalled, "One year was so dry we would go down to the station and sit and wait for a fire call." The Glenwood Hills Hospital switchboard and round-robin method of handling fire calls was not very successful. In 1951 the fire department obtained battery-operated crank type phones and 21 miles of overhead and underground telephone wires

were strung to cover the distance to each fireman's house. More than one case of poison ivy was reported during this process.

Every Sunday morning at 10:00 the fire chief cranked up his phone for a test call, and if a fireman's phone failed to ring, repairs were made. While this unique system was a novelty, (it afforded one large party line) it was difficult to maintain and the men were constantly working on the lines. When a dispatching station was constructed for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department which provided 24 – hour transmission, arrangements were made to handle Golden Valley police and fire calls. In February, 1957, Motorola or Plectron receivers were provided for each fireman and several were kept in the volunteer's place of business. (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.)

### **IN REVIEW:**

At the March 8th general membership meeting David Kuball brought back the history of Highway 100, why it was designed to be a "belt line" around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, what was the significance to the history of Minnesota, Minneapolis and particularly Golden Valley. His power point presentation was very professional as was his narrative. 22 members and guests appreciated and learned from his well-done presentation.

### **UP-COMING PROGRAM:**

**HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS FOR THIS PRESENTATION!** At the May 10th general membership meeting, never before ever seen or presented, Dr. Christina Chang, for the first time ever, will show the heritage collection of the Golden Valley Historical Society, collected over the past 40 years! The premier event will be at the Golden Valley Historical Society's

historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. No, you do not have to have a reservation and you may invite your friends, family and neighbors to this major event presented by a museum professional. Of course, we will have cookies and perhaps coffee and juice following the presentation by Dr. Chang. The program is 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.