



# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

## NEWSLETTER

January, 1989  
Volumn 2, No.2

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

This is a reminder that the membership year is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31st, so all memberships are now due for 1989. The cost of memberships are the same again this year. Individual memberships are \$10. Only one person will be listed as a member for that price. It is not a family membership. Club and church memberships are \$20., and business memberships are \$50. Please send your checks made out to the Fridley Historical Society, and mail to 611 Mississippi St. N.E., Fridley, MN. 55432

### Grant Applications

Grant application packets have been mailed out to a number of Foundations. Word has been received back from Medtronic Foundation, The Anderson Foundation, Deluxe Check Printers Foundation, and the Bayport Foundation that they will not be sending us money. We are hoping to somehow raise enough money to install the lift before summer, so that we can be open regular hours and do some special things for Fridley's 40th year as an incorporated unit. We still need about \$15,000 to purchase the lift.

### Qureshi Dinner

A number of the members attended the dinner at the Shorewood Inn, honoring our former Fridley City Manager, Nasim Qureshi on Jan. 15th. Those FHS members attending were John and Lillian Meyer, Ed and Char Fitzpatrick, Tom Myhra, Bill Hunt, Steve Billings and Fern Moe. Fern took some pictures that evening to record the event for history. It was an

opportune time to chat with the new City Manager, Bill Burns, the meal was delicious, and the program was enjoyable.

### Donations

Minco Products Company donated a check for \$150. The Senior Crafters donated a check for \$100. John Mathew donated a lovely old trunk.

### Electrician Needed

Is there an electrician amongst the membership, that would donate some free advice, and a little of his time? I have a number of questions about various small jobs at the Museum. Please call Fern Moe at 571-5041.

### Jerry Manley Back

It was great to have Jerry Manley back at the January Board meeting and the regular meeting. He is looking good, although not fully recovered yet from his triple by-pass surgery. He had some complications, so feels lucky to be doing so well.

### Progress Luncheon

Fern Moe was among those who received a Community Service Award at the Progress Luncheon held at Skywood Inn on Jan. 19th. This luncheon is an annual affair sponsored jointly by the Fridley Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fridley. The award was given for her work with the Historical Society. Other members attending were Marian Anderson, Charlie Johansen, Tom Myhra, Steve Billings, Ed and Char Fitzpatrick, and Bill Hunt, plus some business and club representatives who are members.



## Thoughts While Quilting:

These winter days I am reminded of the activities that went on in our home when I was a child. We lived with Grandma for a time, and I remember her carding wool, and then spinning it into thread. She had previously, in early summer the year before, sheared the sheep and washed the wool many times so that it was white as snow. Then, after it had dried, she put it into a clean sack until the following winter. The carders are curved wood brushes with handles. The carding process was to straighten and untangle the wool. It was a slow process, but Grandma became very adept at it, and it looked easy -- until I tried it! Next she would spin the wool into thread. She'd break the yarn unless she held it just right and twisted and pulled the wool as she ran the spinning wheel. The finer the thread became, of course, the finer the material would be. When Grandma wanted wool for knitting she would twist three of those fine threads together and then would wind them into balls from which she would knit sweaters, caps, mittens, scarves, and socks.

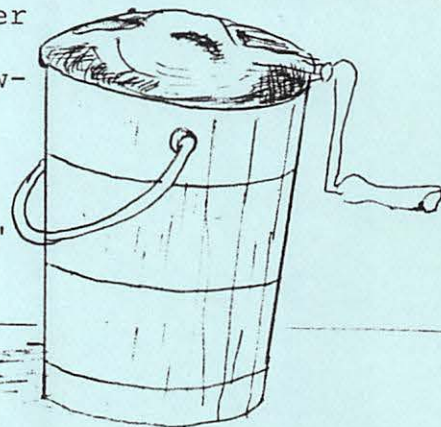
At our February 6th meeting, we will view some films that show the work of making cloth from "scratch". The film entitled "Homespun" was filmed in Northern Minnesota and is a story about a woman who sheared her goats and spun the yarn and wove the yarn into cloth.

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Another day I was thinking about the children of today that have never had the chance to watch the operation of the gas pumps that we used to have. It was fun to watch the gas fill into the glass topped pump as dad pumped the handle on the side of the 7 ft. high pump. The foamy looking gas was then put into the car from a hose attached to the bottom of the glass tank. A gauge at the side showed the number of gallons that went into the car.

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Homemade ice cream was a winter time treat. It was the only time we had ice cream because we did not have electricity and the ice box was not cold enough to keep "store bought" ice cream. Dad and the other men would "put up" ice in the wintertime. They would cut ice from the lake into chunks the size to fit in the top of the ice box. These chunks of ice were stored in the ice house on the farm, and covered with sawdust to keep them from melting. Dad would put a chunk of this ice in a gunnysack and then pound it with a maul to break it into small chunks that would fit in the ice cream freezer, along with some salt. Mother would mix together the mixture of fresh eggs, sugar and plenty of rich heavy cream and milk plus vanilla or strawberries for flavoring. We would take turns cranking the ice cream freezer by hand, until the cranking became very difficult and this indicated that the ice cream was "done". Then the freezer full of ice cream was left to "age" on the north side of the house until dinner time. What a delicious treat!!





## Front Steps

The front steps of the Museum are an "eye-sore" to the building. But not only that -- our insurance carrier is requiring that they be fixed and that there be a center stair rail installed as well as the side rails. This is not the time of the year to pour cement, but we are receiving pressure from the insurance company to get this job done. Bob Schmidt, the current president of the Jaycees has been promising for over a year to fix the steps for us and Wyatt Brother Cement Company has promised to furnish the cement, but so far, nothing has been done. I have made repeated phone calls to Bob Schmidt, and always have been assured that he plans to do the job. I realize that this is a real busy year for him, too.

## Local History Articles Welcome

Many articles about local history could make this Newsletter more interesting. Please contribute articles about memories of events and people for this Newsletter. Don't be concerned about your handwriting or spelling. We will take care of that. What you have to contribute would be of interest to all of us. If you want a personal interview, please call Marian Anderson at 571-6661, or Fern Moe at 571-5041.

## Lower Level Media Room

Charlie Johansen and Rodney Johnson have agreed to plan for and supervise the work to finish off the large room on the lower level. Walter Mortensons have donated \$100. toward insulating that room. Sherer Brothers Lumber Company have agreed to furnish the sheet rock for the room. However, we need to purchase 2X4's and some other things first. We also need some electrical work done down there. At the present time the only "hold up" is our financial situation.

This room will be used as a Community Meeting Room, as well as a Media Room for showing videos, films, and slides regarding the history of the area. It will be a room where students and other groups can come after visiting the museum on the main floor to sit and view films and videos, or listen to speakers tell of local history.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Business = \$50.

Mail to Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. N.E.,  
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# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

N E W S L E T T E R

March, 1989  
Volumn 2, No. 3

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

The date of the spaghetti dinner was changed this year because the "cook" was not able to attend on the original date because of a wedding in the family. When the original date of March 3rd came around, and we had a raging blizzard outside, we were very glad that we had changed the date to Feb. 26. The dinner was well attended and some nice items were on the auction. One of our members, Bob's Produce, donated the ground beef for the spaghetti sauce. The Old Country Buffet donated the lettuce salad for the dinner. Terry Norgaard and his group donated their time and talent to furnish the music for the evening. A big thankyou to all!!

## FUND-RAISING

Char Fitzpatrick, our fund-raising chairperson and Fern Moe attended the Lion's Club Board Meeting on Mar. 1st, and made an appeal to them for help. We still have some Foundation Grant applications pending, but have been turned down by seven Foundations that we have applied to. The Fridley VFW have notified us that they will not help us furthur at the present time. They have been so generous in the past, giving us \$13,500. last year in addition to purchasing our redwood sign, and we do appreciate what they have done.

## PAINTING DONATED

Elizabeth Frischman, one of our members, who is an artist has donated a painting which will be raffled off, along with a number of other articles. The drawing will take place during 49er Days. Watch for furthur notice and tickets for this event.

## DONATIONS

Medtronic Co. donated \$500.  
Edith Thompson donated \$50.  
Fridley State Bank donated \$50.  
Pillsbury-Totinos donated \$200.

## Garage Sale

The Fridley Historical Society will be holding its annual Garage Sale at the Fridley Community Center. The date is Saturday, April 15th, and the sale is from 9A.M. to 4P.M. The Board of the FHS met last Monday night and made final plans for it. It promises to be **bigger and better** than ever before!! The Community Center will be open Friday evening from 6 to 8 P.M. and again Saturday morning from 7 to 9A.M. for setting up the tables.

Spaces, which include a 5 ft. table will be available for a rental fee of \$15.00 to anyone who desires to be indoors while they sell their collectibles, crafts, and garage sale items. The sale will be advertised in the Fridley Focus, the Mpls. Star Tribune and the Pioneer Press Dispatch. There will be signs and flyers also, advertising the event.

There will be a drawing for door prizes every hour on the hour. Coffee pop, hot dogs, and goodies will be available throughout the day.

There are no consignment costs other than the table rental.

FHS will have a bake goods table and also a garage sale table. **Donation are welcome.** Furthur questions can be directed to Char Fitzpatrick: 572-9615 or Fern Moe: 571-5041.

## WANTED: Donations for the Bake Sale

We are having a Bake Sale in connection with, and on the same day as the Garage Sale. Members are asked to donate baked items to be sold that day. Call Char Fitzpatrick at 572-9615 or Fern Moe at 571-5041 in regards to your donations.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

This is another reminder that we cannot continue to send you the Newsletter and call you about meeting notices, unless you pay your membership dues.

The membership year is from January 1st to December 31st, so all memberships are now due for the 1989 year. The cost of membership is the same as last year. In fact, the cost has not changed since 1985 when the Fridley Historical Society was formed.

It has been suggested by a member that we ask every member this year to bring in three new members. Do you think you can do that? It is not an unrealistic goal. When we apply for Foundation grants, one of the first questions is, "How many members do you have?" We have to submit a list of members, of course, not giving addresses or phone numbers. So, you think that you don't count? You certainly do with us!!!

Our goal is to be open for the public by June, and to have an Open House in connection with 49er Days. When once we can be open to the public, there will be a number of reasons why you will be glad you are a member, if you are not already pleased to be one!!

## April Meeting

The April meeting will be on April 3rd. Our speaker will talk about the development of sequencing and time measuring devices from the beginning of civilization. The mechanical time-keeping devices used today are a reflection of yesterday's demands and cultural development.

Let me encourage any of you who have old clocks, or sundials, or other time-keeping devices to bring them that evening to show to the group. Do we have any clock collectors in the membership? Let us hear from you. There were some excellent clocks made in the early 1900's, such as the German Junghaus, the Dutch clocks with porcelain faces, the Japanese clocks made by the Ya Masu Vonole and Company. And let us not forget about the Black Forest cuckoo clocks, made in Germany after World War I. Then there are hundreds of mantel clocks, with oak or mahogany cases, that were made in the 1920's and 1930's. And what about those old pocket watches that father and grandfather used to have. Some of them are still running today. It will be interesting to see what you have, and I will bring mine, too.

## Articles about the Earlier Days -- WANTED

Please submit your thoughts and remembrances of the earlier days. This makes the Newsletter more interesting for those who are young yet. And it is interesting for the rest of us, too, to recall the experiences that you remind us of. If you cannot write well, give me a call. I will come and interview you, and I will write it. I don't write well, either, but this typewriter helps to get the job done. My phone number is 571-5041. Let me hear from you.



## Thoughts while quilting:

The month of March brings thoughts of spring house-cleaning, and sewing a new spring dress or maybe two, and kite-flying.

Kite-flying? Yes--When the March winds pick up, we know it's kite-flying time, and kite-flying time is not just for children!! We likely all have memories of kites we made so carefully when we were children, only to see them break loose and go soaring into the wide blue yonder. What a heart break!

I remember making a nice sturdy kite. I tied together some straight light-weight branches to form a frame. Then I colored designs on a grocery bag and fit it to the frame and glued it. I let the glue dry so that it would not come apart in flight. Next I went to the "rag-bag", (We always had a rag-bag at our house), and found colorful bits of material to tie unto my kite to form a tail. It was a beautiful kite. In my haste now to sail it, I quickly tied a string unto my kite, not taking time or effort to be sure it was tied well.

Finally it came time to launch my kite. The younger ones came out to watch, and to add to my pleasure and pride, I even saw Mom watching out the kitchen window. At first it was frustrating, because my kite loop-de-looped, spiraled and crashed. But I launched it again and it soared high in the sky. But the glory was short-lived. A blustery gust of wind snapped or unloosed the string that held my kite to the earth and it sailed away. We watched, helpless, until it was out of sight. Then we turned and walked back into the house.

As I think of it now--it was like some of our dreams and ambitions today. We plan and we work and we are so enthusiastic. And then we launch our idea and there's so much pride and glory in it, but sometimes ill health comes or other blustery trials of adult life, and our dream fades away and is gone. I think about a man who started a casting business in Crystal. It was a fine business. They were busy. He had good help. But very shortly after he started his business, he was diagnosed to have MS. He ran the business for 15 years, gradually losing the use of his legs and arms. Today he is in a wheel-chair, a quadriplegic. What happened to him was beyond his control. While we have the chance and opportunity we need to be sure that what we do in life has a solid anchor. Something that will last through the tests and trials of life. Something that does not just fade into the wide blue yonder, and we come to the end of life with nothing.

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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.  
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NEWSLETTER

June, 1989  
Volumn 2, No. 4

## DELAY IN NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter normally is printed in May, but due to a two week vacation to Georgia and Kentucky, it did not get done. For that matter, I was also waiting to give you some real good news, which I still can't do. I'll explain: In April I received a phone call from someone who works for the Multiple Sclerosis Society saying that they were going to be our "Santa Claus". That they would be helping us with the money needed to put in the lift. It sounded nearly too good to be true. We hoped to have the lift in by 49er Days, then, especially because this year we are celebrating Fridley's 40th year of incorporation.

Well, then, legislation was passed by the state House of Rep., and Senate stating that gambling establishments would have to pay more tax than previous. (M.S. Society has "pull-tabs"). So we were told that it would depend on what happened with the tax bill, because the money we were to receive may have to go for taxes. Well, after a few weeks, Governor Rudy Perpich vetoed the tax bill. But, now we are told that the M.S. Society is still evaluating their financial situation. So, I still don't know what to tell you. We have applied to 13 other foundations and have been turned down. We are continuing to have fundraisers, the most recent one is the ice cream sales during 49er Days. However, it takes a long time to come up with the \$18,631 needed for the lift, and the building inspector will not allow us to be open for regular hours until the lift is installed.

## MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN - 49er Days

The Museum will be open from 2 to 5 P.M. for the four days, Thurs.-Sunday, during 49er Days. With also, additional hours on Saturday from 10 A.M. to Noon. Only the one room in the building will open for viewing the history display entitled, "Glances into the Past". The individual exhibits are entitled, "Transportation in Fridley", "Yesterday's Children", "Surviving Winter's Blast", "Destruction, Dispare, and Doom" (1965 tornado), and a display of the governing of Fridley through the years. Prior to 1949, Fridley was a territory--first, as Manomin, then in 1879, it became Fridley. Finally, in June of 1949, Fridley was incorporated into a Village. In 1957, Fridley had grown large enough to become a City.

There is also a small display at the library. This display will be up for a month. Take notice of it when you visit the library on Mississippi St.

## CHAMPION SALESLADY!!

Ardie Chesney gets the prize in our eyes for being a champion! She has sold well over \$200. worth of baseball caps in the last month. She went on a trip to California, and even sold her own cap out there to someone!! She has been chosen, along with Esther Campbell, to ride in the Historical Society car in the 49er Day Parade. The car is a 1959 Buick LeSabre, salmon colored, with the big fins. It is a collector car belonging to the Moes.

## Workshop At Blue Earth, MN.

On June 2nd, Lillian Meyer and Fern Moe drove to Blue Earth, Mn. to attend a workshop about planning and constructing sound and effective exhibits on a tight budget. It included selecting appropriate topics, cost cutting measures, and special exhibit techniques. Both found it to be very helpful and timely.



## ANNUAL MTG. OF THE MN. HIST. SOC.

On April 25, Fern Moe attended the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. She attended a session called "Image Building". This session dealt with the image of the Museum in the community. What people notice, looking at the overall scene. Providing a friendly atmosphere, informal but informative. She also attended a session on Fund-Raising. Volunteerism has a credibility in fund-raising. People give because they believe in the organization and the people who are volunteering their time for the organization. It was impressed that things that are neglected take longer to restore and cost more to restore, therefore it is wise to continually be concerned about the restoration and preservation of objects from the past.

## Celebrate Minnesota 1990

While attending the annual mtg. of the Minnesota Hist. Soc., Moe learned about the possibility of receiving money from the state for the landscaping of the grounds of the museum. Governor Perpich has proclaimed 1990 as a year of celebration, and has challenged all communities in the state to spruce up, and plan special events to coincide with the U. S. Olympic Festival in July, 1990. Because of this Grant money was available to member communities, so Moe requested that the City Council authorize Mayor Nee to sign to become a member community, which Mayor Nee did. After spending many hours on the grant application, it was learned that the grant money could only go to communities who had applied last fall. We were not aware of the availability of this money last fall, however, there may be other advantages to being a member community.

## PHOTO COPIES

Mark Meuisen, the graphic arts teacher at the high school, has been a tremendous help in copying the old photographs that have been loaned to us. I am certain that there are other old photographs that we should have copies of. As yet, we do not have pictures of Abram Fridley, of the tornado of 1929, and we could use more pictures of the 1965 tornado. Be assured that any pictures you loan us will be returned to you in the same condition we receive them from you.

## LANDSCAPING

After the experience of last year of planting grass seed, and going every two hours to change the water, and then loosing the grass, anyway, the board decided that it was necessary to first install a sprinkler system before furthur planting. Bids have been taken from Mickman Brothers, Turf Masters, Inc., and Northway Landscaping for a sprinkler system.

Betty Ann Mech, a local landscaper, donated her time to draw up landscaping plans for the grounds around the Museum. We are hoping to get something done with the grounds this summer. We will need to haul in about six more loads of black dirt before we can start any planting. Last summer we grew a tremendous crop of sand-burrs, which we then had to pull up and destroy!!

## FRONT STEPS

The Fridley Jaycees have appropriated money to the Historical Society to install a center rail on the steps and to fix up the sides of the steps. This is another project that we hope to get done in the very near future.



## Vi Gottwaldt Passed Away

We were saddened to learn that Vi, wife of Bill Gottwaldt, a long-time resident of Fridley, passed away last week. She put up a brave fight against cancer. She will always be remembered for her magnetic personality. She was a volunteer at Unity Hospital for many years, and it was always a day brightener to walk past the information desk and receive her friendly smiles and greetings.

My friendship with Vi goes back over 20 years, when we worked together at the Maple Lanes Cafe. During those years she underwent her first cancer surgery and after so many years, we felt that she had it "licked", but it came back a year or so ago. She never complained. I always admired her for that. She had a tremendous sense of humor.

I believe she was at the meeting when I was "railroaded" unto the Board of Directors of the Historical Society. At least, I always suspicioned that she had something to do with it, along with help from some others! We will all miss Vi, and our sympathy goes out to her husband, Bill, who served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society a few years, and their children, Randy, Ellen, and Bob.

## THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

Our logo is a windmill. They are vanishing from our landscapes, but were an important part of our lives when we were growing up on the farm. The windmill's most important job was to pump water, but it had other uses. A climb to the platform might show where a steer was hiding in the brush. Riding the sucker rod up and down was just as good as riding the merry-go-round at the county fair. Pulling the lever to put the great wheel in motion when the wind came up was a thrill.

Farmers and ranchers built milk houses at the base of the mill. Inside, the trough carried clear, cold water over milk cans and cream crocks. Butter and eggs were stashed in wooden cabinets along the trough.

The creak and clatter of the windmill said that everything was alright. If ever we children came home from school and found that the folks were gone, the windmill sounds soothed us until the folks arrived. The windmill told us the direction the wind was blowing, and it also served as a good lightning rod. It was a good place to hand a chore lantern and it was an ideal spot for an aerial if you had one of those fancy new crystal sets.

The coming of the REA with inexpensive electric power in about 1935, spelled the end of the windmill. New electric pumps could do the job so much faster, but lacked the charm of the windmill.

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# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.  
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NEWSLETTER

August, 1989  
Volumn 2, No.5

## MEETING DATES, 1989-90:

The Fridley Historical Society, at its regular Board Meeting in July, made a decision regarding the meeting dates for this next year. They are as follows:

The membership meetings will be on the second Monday of the month of the following months:

September  
October  
November  
January  
February  
April  
May

The by-laws, adopted in 1985, regarding meetings, read as follows:

### Article VII - Meetings

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of October in each year. The board of directors may change the date of the meeting provided two weeks notice is given to all members.

Regular meeting of the board of directors shall be on a monthly basis. Specific dates to be determined by the board of directors.

The regular meetings of the society shall be held in September, (October), November, January, February, April and May. Exact dates to be determined by the board of directors.

Special meetings of the society or the board of directors may be called at any time by the president, and shall be called upon written request by ten members of the society or by the majority of the board of directors.

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We have chosen to again have a spaghetti dinner in March. This year it will be on Friday, March 9, 1990. The annual garage sale will be held on Saturday, April 21st.

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All regular meetings of the society will be held at 7:30 P.M.

## REMINDER:

Members are encouraged to refer people to Charlie Johansen for any Real Estate needs. Charlie has promised to donate \$200. to the Society for each completed deal that is referred to him. This money will be used to finish the lower level of the Museum. Charlie may be reached at 755-1300, or 571-8021, or 574-9576. He is with Edina Realty.

## STATUS OF THE LIFT

Last winter we received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Soc. of \$3,750. toward purchasing the lift. Then in March we received a call from someone with the Multiple Sclerosis Society, saying that this is the type of project that they like to fund, and that they would help us with the rest of the amount that we need for the lift, if we would get a grant application in to them the following day. This I did. Since then, they have reneged on what was first stated to us, and it seems that every week when I call, they will know by the end of that week how much, if any, they will have to give us, but never a firm answer. In the meantime we have explored other possibilities, in addition to making other plans for fund-raising. The lift will cost \$18,631. It is not just a stair lift. It is like an elevator, but only the size to hold a wheelchair plus one or two people. It will have three stops. I called again today, and was given the usual answer, that we should know by the end of this week how much they will fund. It sounds like it will be only a partial amount, if any. We cannot be open to the public until the lift is installed, according to the Fridley building inspector.

Next Regular Membership Meeting is September 11, 1989 at 7:30 P.M. at the Museum. The program is being planned.



## 49er Days:

### Pictures

The Historical Society was requested by the 49er Day committee to take pictures of all events of 49er Day celebration. We now have over 200 pictures of the event!! High school seniors, Dan Vos and Traci Saba did a good job in helping us to accomplish this, in addition to board members, Glenn Theorin, Jerry Manley, Warren Woods, and Fern Moe.

### History Display

The Museum was open for four days during 49er Days to present a History Display of Fridley. Hours were from 2 to 5 P.M., with additional hours on Saturday from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon. We had a real good turn-out, and felt that the exposure was good. Prior to the display, board members put in long hours building and painting display modules, and securing and enlarging pictures of events through the years.

In addition to this display, there was a display at the Fridley Library from June 5th to July 15th of a dress that is over 100 years old and a wedding dress that is 70 years old, ladies high button shoes, fancy hats, button hooks, brooches from that period, etc.

We have had many compliments from the public regarding both displays.

The following people submitted pictures to the Historical Society to be copied:

LaVerne Richter  
Rodney Johnson  
Lillian Meyer  
Hazel Hartman  
Warren Woods  
Jerry Manley  
City of Fridley

A great big thank you to all who helped and to those who loaned us pictures. Also a big thank you to Mark Meussen, the graphic arts teacher from the high school, who took pictures of the pictures, so that we could get copies made.

The City of Fridley also loaned us a monitor so that we could show our historical video tapes during the 49er Days.

## LANDSCAPING

The City of Fridley and the Historical Society have entered into a contract, whereby the City will loan the Society money for 10 years, interest free, to complete the landscaping of the grounds of the Museum. At present, six more loads of black dirt have been hauled in and spread, and a sprinkling system has been installed. When the weather gets cooler, grass seed will be sown, and some evergreen bushes and flowers will be planted.

### FRONT STEPS

The Jaycees donated money this summer to install a center rail on the front steps, and to repair the sides of the steps. That has now been completed. Another big thank you to the Jaycees. What would we do without you??

### FIRST GRANT REPORT DUE

A grant report was due now in August, for the first phase of remodeling the building for the lift for the handicapped, and including the bathroom installed downstairs that is accessible to the handicapped.

Each project funded with the assistance of a state-funded grant from the MN. Hist. Soc.; must be properly reported, with a budget specifying expenses supported by grant funds, as well as expenses supported by matching funds. Good records must be kept to verify all reports.

Moe has completed and submitted the required report that was due this month.

### MEMBER, BOB SHROER HONORED

Historical Society member, Bob Schroer, was interviewed by Ann Burckhardt, and a nice article and pictures appeared in the Star Tribune on July 5th. The history of Bob's Produce Ranch from its beginning in 1959 is valuable. The article has been clipped and added to the file for future reference.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER, ROGER G. SCHMAUS PASSED AWAY

Our community was saddened recently by word of the death of a long-time member of the Fridley District #14 Schools, Roger G. Schmaus. Rog was also a member of the Fridley Historical Society, and showed a real interest in the accomplishments and problems of the Society. My first acquaintance with Rog goes back to the early sixties when I was on his "team" when he was Principal at Riverwood Elementary School in Fridley. I was employed in the kitchen there, along with Gladys Bellows and Ann Engebret. Bill Campbell was the custodian there. Rog often came to the kitchen, where there was coffee, usually some goodies, and always warmth and cheer. We solved many of the world problems around that table during break time!

Later Roger was transferred to Stevenson Elementary School as Principal, and I, by then was the Food Service Director for the district and he worked closely with me in providing a good feeding program for the children there, under the direction of Cecil Garten, Rosa Palm, and Patti Rue (who is now the Director of Food Service for the District).

These last years Roger was transferred to the High School as an Administrative Assistant in charge of Grounds and Maintenance. In this capacity it was his lot to again work with me two years ago in securing a satisfactory lease agreement between the school district and the Historical Society. And many times I have turned to him for advice, when faced with problems that I did not have an answer for. More than once I have called him and said, "Rog, I just want to run this by you and see what your thoughts are on it." I will miss him very much. I have always found him to be very professional, friendly and helpful.

Rog had a stroke earlier this year, and then took a early retirement. He passed away a week ago after suffering a heart attack. His funeral was August 8th. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family. Roger resided in Spring Lake Park.

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## THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

Recently while driving in the Metro area I saw an older man on the street with a sign held up for all to see. On the sign it said, "Will work for Food". I have thought about that alot. How psychologically degrading for a person to admit to all that poverty had set in, to that point, to cause him to beg for work in order to eat. I was reminded of times that my parents talked about in the early thirties, when people often came to the door and begged for work in exchange for food. Sometimes they just begged for food, with no offer of work. Those people we called "tramps". Mother always gave them food, and we always found some work for those who offered to work in exchange for food. It also reminded me of a story my Grandmother told of when an Indian came to the door and asked for something to eat. Grandma and her household had just moved to the Mille Lacs area, and had heard tales of the Indians scalping white people, and she was very frightened. All she had to offer him was some potatoes, and she wondered if that would be enough to satisfy him, but he grunted a thank you and left.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Dues: Individual = \$10.; Club and Church = \$20.;  
Business = \$50.

Mail to: Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. N.E., Fridley 55432





# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

NEWSLETTER

November, 1989  
Volumn 2, No.6

## STATUS OF THE LIFT (ELEVATOR)

As has been the case for the last 1½ years, the purchase of the lift is still our No. 1 priority. Without this we are not allowed to be open to the public. I explained in the last Newsletter that the Multiple Sclerosis Society had expressed interest in helping us with part of the cost of \$18,631. When I called them about it in October, I was told to call again November 1, and surely by then they would have some word for us. When I called in November, they said to call Dec. 1st. This has gone on since last March when we received the first initial call. One wonders if it is their way to trying to get rid of us!! They don't realize how persistent I am! And how badly we need their help. The Fridley State Bank has recently donated \$500. ear-marked to be used for the lift, so we currently have \$4,250. towards it. We need only \$14,381. yet, to make the purchase!! Thank you, Fridley State Bank.

## FUND RAISERS:

**Bake Sale** - The date for the Bake Sale is December 9th at the Skywood Mall. It is a good chance to stock up on goodies for the holidays, and in addition help a worthy organization! An application for a food handler's license has been submitted and we hope it will be approved. Food will be prepared under sanitary conditions. The following items will be for sale: Cookies, including Russian Tea Cakes, Decorated Spritz, Sugar Cookies, Candy Canes, Gingerbread Men, Fudge Bars and others. Then there will be Krum Kake, Rosettes, Sandbukkelse, and Lefsa; Decorated Pound Cakes; Banana, Pumpkin, and Orange Nut Breads, and Muffins. In addition, Candies

## FUND RAISERS, CONTINUED

such as Mint Chocolates, Chocolate Coated Pretzels, Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups, and various kinds of Fudge and Carmel Corn. Come early-- Supplies will be limited.

**New York Research Team** - A New York research team is flying in the weekend of Nov. 11th, and 10 FHS members will be participating in a symposium in which these researchers hope to find out what a typical Midwestern layperson's opinion is on the Aids virus. This group is funded by a grant from the American Medical Association, and will pay \$20. per person for this conference, with the money going into the FHS fund. John Fitzpatrick and his mother, Char Fitzpatrick have worked hard to arrange this fund raiser. Our thanks to both, and to the ones who have agreed to donate their time to participate. We are looking into other such ways of adding to our funds.

## TELEPHONE

It has long been felt that we should have a telephone at the Museum in the case of an emergency on the grounds. Char Fitzpatrick has worked hard to check prices, and to contact possible donors to help with this expense. She has recently received a check from the Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$96., which will cover the installation of a telephone, and is now seeking funding to purchase the actual telephone with a recording/answering system.

## MHS GRANT MEETING

In August application was made to the Minnesota Historical Society for a grant to partially fund a security system, air conditioning and humidity control to protect the artifacts in the



## **MHS GRANT MEETING, CONT.**

Museum. On October 18th, Warren Woods met with the grant committee and gave a short presentation of our needs. We are hoping to receive the grant, which then will have to be matched with funds from other sources to complete this project.

## **Landscaping**

After having six loads of black dirt hauled in, and a sprinkler system installed, we grew the best crop of weeds you ever saw. It was not the right time to plant grass seed, but the weeds really grew. After agonizing over the situation and taking prices on removing or killing the weeds, Mrs. Moe finally consulted Betty Ann Mech, a local landscaper, who suggested letting nature take its course by planting grass seed amongst the weeds. Many of the weeds are annuals, and died with the first frost. A group consisting of Mahlon Moe, Lil Meyer, Jerry Manley, Earl Johnson, Karen Woods, and Fern Moe worked on the yard one Saturday, weeding, planting grass seed, trimming, etc. The grass seed has grown quite well. In the spring we will sow more seed in the bare spots, and plant bushes and roses. Lil Meyer donated a Green Ash tree this fall, which has been planted.

## **DONATION BOX**

Dan Nickles, from Masterpiece Cabinets made a donation box, and it was installed by Warren Woods. Dan is a son-in-law of Warren and Karens.

## **FRIDLEY TRADE FAIR**

The annual Fridley Trade Fair at Northtown was held the weekend of October 28th and 29th. The FHS shared a table with Community Ed, and the following people worked at the booth: Char Fitzpatrick, Marian Anderson, Jerry Manley, Earl Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Bill

## **Fridley Trade Fair, Cont.**

Costello, Gloria Hayes, and Warren Woods worked at the booth for various times during the weekend. A big thanks to each of you for donating your time to draw exposure to our organization.

## **BASEMENT ROOM**

A donor who prefers to remain anonymous has donated \$200. toward finishing off the basement room. Scherer Bros. Lumber Company has offered to donate the sheet rock for the basement room, and the Mortensons, who are FHS members have donated money for the insulation. So little by little we are coming up with enough to finish off that large room.

Last week Mrs. Moe received a call from a group who were wanting to rent the room as is, and would help to clean it up, but after looking at the room, and then looking at the new community room at the Fridley Municipal Center, they chose to rent that one instead. Darrel Clark, the building inspector, did give his approval to rent out the room before the lift is installed.

## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Moe received an invitation from Cathy Nelson, a Fridley High School History teacher, to attend a celebration and a tea at the High School last Nov.6, celebrating the completion of a history curriculum for grades K-12. Mrs. Moe has been invited by Cathy Nelson to be on her history committee, and we will researching local history, in addition to ways to present it, etc. It is Cathy Nelson and a group of High School students who will be on our program for the month of February and will present a skit about Women in History.

## **UTILIZING COLLEGE INTERNS**

Currently Mrs. Moe is looking into the possibility of obtaining help from college interns who are looking for a chance to apply their academic training in a "real world" situation. We can use their help in putting together presentations for the classroom, planning and executing exhibits, conducting research, and keeping accessions up to date.



### Thoughts While Quilting.....

Quilt making is more than a simple folk art. With roots that run deep in the rural home, it is a proud country tradition--and with good reason. Many of the women who lived during the 18th and 19th Century were discouraged from writing and keeping the daily records that men kept. But the records of their daily lives could be kept in the fabrics they stitched together. For many of these women, needles became pens, and their quilts became the parchment where they expressed themselves.

My husband's grandmother taught me to quilt. She had what she called a "Piece Bag". In that bag were scraps left over of dresses she and others in the family had sewn. When she came to the "states" (she was from Canada), she would purchase cotton fabrics because it was cheaper here than in Canada. "Waste not, want not," she'd say with a shrewd glance at the flour sack that stood in the pantry. Surely it could yield some scraps for her collection. She would come to our home and spend two to three months in the winter, and we quilted every day except Sunday, sometimes inviting in a few other ladies for a party of quilting and visiting. "Many hands make light work," she'd say, smiling. But even with extra hands now and then, it was a big job. She often became very upset because the women who helped didn't know how to bury the knots, and at the end of the day she spent alot of time trying to get the knots through to the underside of the fabric. My husband and four children learned very early on how to bury the knots and how to stitch neat hand stitches on the quilts. It was considered nearly a sin to ever machine stitch a quilt, and only the more inferior quilts were tied instead of hand stitched. There was never idleness when Grandmother was here visiting.

A quilt was more than a bedcover. It was a token of thrift and industry. It was a proud bit of family history. It was a spot of beauty in an otherwise plain rural house. It's fun today to look at these quilts and see materials of dresses that I sewed for myself and our three daughters. Quilts were among the few household items over which women had control. Other items were purchased by men, but women owned the quilts. Today, all four of our children have their own homes, and they all own quilts that we all made when Grandma came to visit. Most of the quilts that we made at that time were in the Star of Bethlehem pattern. Since that time, one of the most enjoyable patterns that I have made is the Log Cabin. The pattern itself is made of strips of light and dark scrap material. The strips represent the logs of the cabin and the light and dark colors represent day and night. These strips are sewn together to form individual blocks. These blocks are then arranged, the placement of light and dark areas determining the overall patterns of Barn Raising, Courthouse Steps or Straight Furrow.

In various areas of the country, the same quilt patterns may be called different names. For instance, the bible-minded New Englanders named a particular pattern Jacob's Ladder, whereas on the Virginia plantations, it was known as Stepping Stones. This same pattern was called Wagon Tracks in the prairie states and Underground Railroad in the border states. Another example is the pattern of Bear's Paw. It was known as Bear's Paw by the pioneers of Ohio, Hand of Friendship by the Quakers of Philadelphia, and Duck's-Foot-in-the-Mud by residents of Long Island.

There were certain quilt patterns that had superstitions, too. There is one in particular called Wandering Foot. No self-respecting mother would let her child sleep under it for fear he would develop the wanderlust. Imagine having a son and raising him till he was of age. Then he'd run off and decide to go West to try his hand and be his own boss. You wouldn't hear from him for months or years at a



time. It actually broke up families and that's why there is so much superstition attached to it. After the name was changed to Turkey Tracks, it was perfectly acceptable to use the pattern.

Quilting is not the same as patchwork. The art of patchwork involves piecing together a quilt top whereas quilting is the sewing together of three or more layers in order to provide additional warmth. Quilts today are usually made up of a quilt top, a dacron batt filling and the backing. In the earlier days the filling of the quilt was often cotton, but sometimes women used nap wool, raw or washed wool, bran, flax, hemp, milkweed down, thistle down, swans' down, eider down, down feathers, ravelings, poultry feathers, cattail fuzz, boxwood leaves and even hemlock needles.

Rural traditions were strong, and tradition had it that every girl by the time she was ready to be married had 12 quilt tops in her hope chest, plus a special bridal quilt. When she became engaged, neighbors and friends would help finish them off. This took time. You weren't engaged one month and then married the next!!

There could be more to a quilting bee than just quilting. The day would start early, the women bending over the big wooden quilting frame, stitching and talking. And the day would end late, with the sounds of laughter filling the house. The menfolk would often join them for supper, and music, singing, sometimes dancing and games would follow. It was sure to be a festive day. A day to remember when she looked at those quilts.

As a child, I remember that we often had two or three quilts on each bed, and the weight of those covers were a comfort feeling to guard us against the cold of the night, after the fire in the stove downstairs had gone out. Often in the winter, when we would awake in the morning, there would be a small snow drift right across our bed. Our windows were not tight, and the wind and the snow would blow right through. We would stay in our warm "cocoon" until we would hear dad shack down the coals in the grate of the heater. Then we would scramble out of bed, grab our clothes, and go down near the heater to dress for the day.

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#### DONATIONS

Donation Box from Dan Nickles of Masterpiece Cabinets

A television to use with our VCR from Ernie and Betty Powell

\$500. from Fridley State Bank for the "Lift Fund".

\$200. from our friend from Minco, Inc. to use for finishing off the basement room.

\$50. from Totino-Pillsbury.

\$96. from Knights of Columbus for installation of telephone

BECOME A MEMBER.....HELP BRING HISTORY TO LIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY

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