

Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

N E W S L E T T E R

January, 1990
Volumn 3, No.1

LION'S CLUB DONATION

The President of the Lion's Club contacted Moe recently to say that they have \$7,500. set aside toward installation of the lift/elevator, with the requirement that that amount be matched by \$7,500. from some other source. We immediately called the MS Society and they sounded interested in matching the amount, but at the present time the MS Society is not releasing any grant money. A big thank you to the Lion's Club and we will try to find matching funds so that we do not loose their donation. If we can find matching funds, we can order the elevator.

Minnesota Historical Society Grant

Last summer Moe applied for a grant from MHS for money toward installing air conditioning and humidity control in the building, and also a security system and smoke and heat detectors. In January, we received \$2,655. from MHS. This amount is half of the total cost, and has to be matched by funds from some other source. The Fridley VFW Post #363 then donated the matching funds of \$2800. The VFW has been very generous in the past also, and we are very grateful to them. Work is now being done to install the Air Conditioning, Humidity Control, Fire Detectors and the Security System.

Telephone

Telephones have now been installed at the Museum. The phone number of the Fridley Historical Society is 571-0120. If no answer, call 571-5041.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Feb. 12, 1990 at 7:30 PM at the Museum at 611 Mississippi St. N.E. Cathy Nelson and some of her students will put on a program.

SENIOR CRAFTERS DONATION

The Senior Crafters recently donated \$200. to FHS. We are very grateful for such help from a small organization. At a Special Board meeting called by Moe on January 22nd, it was decided by the board that we now have enough money and other donations to start finishing off the basement room. This room will be used as a media room and will also be rented out to groups in the community. The following people are on the building committee:

Charlie Johanson
Rodney Johnson
Jerry Manley
Earl Johnson
Fern Moe

Progress Luncheon

Two members of the Fridley Historical Society, Bill Hunt and Wyman Smith, were honored at the annual Progress Luncheon put on by the Chamber of Commerce of Fridley on January 11th. They are very well deserved honors to both of them. They have been very instrumental in the growth and progress of Fridley. Guest speakers at the Luncheon were Peggy Burress, a teacher from Columbia Heights Middle School, and Cathy Nelson, a teacher at the Fridley Senior High, who has recently won national recognition for her work in developing an extensive history curriculum.

Bake Sale

The Fridley Historical Society held a bake sale at Skywood Mall on December 9, 1989. Thank you to all of you for your generous donations of baked goods. The sale was a tremendous success and the Society cleared \$355. The board has decided to have another bake sale before Easter. It will be held at Skywood Mall, and will be from 9AM to 4PM on April 7th.

Class Presentations:

On January 5th, Moe was invited by Josh Lund, son of Scott and Cindy Lund, to speak to Mrs. Sweeney's 7th grade class at the Middle School, regarding the early history of Fridley. The class seemed very receptive. Moe has also been invited by 3rd and 4th grade classes at Hayes School and is working on a pictorial presentation at the present time. On March 14th, Moe is planning to talk to Debby Nystrom's Blue-bird group at the Museum about the early history of Fridley.

No Regular Meeting in March:

According to the By-Laws of the Fridley Historical Society, there is no regular meeting scheduled for the month of March. However, we want to remind you that our annual Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for March 9th. Some other dates to remember is the Bake Sale on April 7th, and the regular April meeting, which will be on April 9th. We are planning a panel discussion like we had in May of 1987. The meeting will be at the Museum, and the following people have agreed to be on the panel: Bob Barnette, Christine Gerrity, Margaret Mulcare. We are waiting to hear from Larry Garten, Everett McCarthy, and Mary VanDan. Another date to put on your calendar is the annual Garage Sale on April 21st.

Women's History Month in March:

Moe was invited by Cathy Nelson of the Fridley High School to help in planning activities for Women's History Month. The first meeting was on January 10th, at which time the planning group did alot of brain storming on a number of local history projects. Traditionally women have played a big part in the development of history through the years, although they usually were unaware of contributing anything of value, and were seldom given due recognition.

Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee of the Fridley Historical Society, which was composed of Jerry Johnson, Jerry Manley, and Glenn Theorin, met on January 15th to complete the annual audit of the Society's financial status. They found the books to be in order.

Phone Call From Scott Fridley

Moe recently received a phone call from Scott Fridley of Baltimore, Maryland. He was trying to trace his geneology, and wondered how Fridley got its name, and if there were people living here by the name of Fridley. I explained to him that Fridley was named after Abram McCormick Fridley who came here in 1851, but he was born in Steuben County, N.Y. in 1817. Moe asked that he share any information with us, should he find that he is of the same lineage as Abram M. Fridley. Later Moe wrote to Scott, giving in more detail the information that we have on the Fridley family. The Fridley family (Abram and Betsy Ann) had three sons. The oldest son, Henry, never married, and lived in the family home until he died. The next son, Frank, married and settled with his family in Becker, Minnesota. I have not been able to find any information about this family. Please someone, help me. The youngest son David, married Lena Sloan, and they had two daughters who never married. There is mention of a Mary Fridley who was married to a Fred Price, and was later murdered by her husband. I do not know how she was related to the other Fridleys.

Thoughts while quilting:

When I was a child, we lived on a 40-acre farm, and money was scarce, and we had seven children besides our parents, so everyone in the family wore homemade clothes. The men and boys wore homemade shirts and we girls and mom wore homemade dresses, aprons, slips, and panties. And because we had a chicken farm, most often our clothes were made out of feed sacks. The feed sacks came in lovely print colors and we girls were instructed to go to town with dad to pick out enough sacks of various prints to make dresses for everyone. The white sacks with printing on them were very useful, too. The printing washed out, usually...at least partially, and the sacks were used to make slips, panties, dish towels, and many were even sewed together to make sheets and tablecloths.

Changing your clothes, or dressing, in the winter was a major operation and not to be undertaken lightly. Unless you wanted to run the risk of having a caller or the Raleigh man barge into the dining room in the middle of your "toilette", you had to disrobe in an icy bedroom. The dining room had the only heater in the house and we had the choice of joining the little kids to dress in the dining room or in the privacy of our ice cold upstairs bedroom, which we four girls shared. At any rate, you got dressed for the whole day in the morning and simply skinned out of your school dress and into your everyday dress after school, without disturbing the basic layers.

The underneath layer was a shirt of heavy combed cotton, with long sleeves and a high neck. The lower extremities were taken care of by a pair of long-legged under-drawers with a drop seat. Forgive me for going into such intimate detail, but those long drawers were a source of great annoyance, not to say pain. The buttons were always coming off in school and you had to ask the teacher for a safety pin, a very embarrassing necessity, but it was very difficult to pin it oneself, and this had to be done everytime we needed to drop the flap.

Pulling on your long ribbed cotton stockings over the long stretched-out pant legs took more time and trouble than all the rest of getting dressed put together. You folded the pant-leg tightly about your ankle and tried to work your stocking smoothly, so that your leg would look like something faintly human. You were never very successful, and when you finally put on your shoes you seemed to be a victim of elephantiasis, in spite of your best efforts.

Over the shirt and drawers you wore a Ferris waist--also made of white feed sacks--a vest-like affair with long elastic garters to hold up the stockings. Over this on the lower half, we wore bloomers made out of a feed sack. Then a slip or petticoat made out of feed sacks and sometimes mother put a layer of ruffles at the bottom. Never any lace like the town girls had because lace was expensive and if we ever did have a little lace it was used where people could see it...on our dresses.

I was always having embarrassing underwear problems, it seems. If a button would come off from my drawers and fall unto the floor in school, I would never claim it because then others would know it came from mine. But those buttons were scarce and hard to come by, so I would try to slip into the room earlier than my classmates after recess so I could pick up my button when no one saw me. One Christmas time we were all to do something for the Christmas program and I had worked long and hard on memorizing "The Night Before Christmas". That afternoon finally came when we were to put on our program and one by one the parents arrived and sat on "big people chairs" in the back of the room. Soon it was my turn to get up on the stage

and recite my poem. In the middle of everything the elastic on my bloomers broke and my bloomers fell to the floor. My teacher, Mrs. Engler, picked me up in her arms and whisked me off to the cloak room where she pinned my bloomers. And I came back on stage and finished my poem, very embarrassed because everyone laughed.

We always looked forward to the few trips we took to Alma, Wisconsin to visit our Aunt and Uncle and their three girls. They owned a Hotel, Restaurant and Bar. They were "city people", and their girls wore "city clothes". And we were always lucky enough to go home with a big box of their cast-off clothes and what a joyous time we had trying them on to see what would fit us and what could be altered to fit us. While we visited them, we always ate in the restaurant and this was our first and only experience at such a meal "out", because at home we never went to a restaurant. And if we were going on a trip, we would pack sandwiches to eat along the way. I remember only once eating in any other restaurant. That was when I went with dad to Minneapolis to peddle fresh-dressed chickens and eggs on a route he had established. We had a bowl of chili in a little 10X14 ft. "hole in the wall", and we sat up to the counter on stools.

Death of Wiley Pope

We were saddened to learn this week of the death of Wiley Pope, 48 years old, who was a reference librarian for the Minnesota Historical Society, and was our guest speaker at our annual meeting on October 7th, 1986. This meeting, you will remember, was preceded by a Spaghetti Dinner. Wiley also joined us for dinner. During the dinner we were entertained by the Ramblin' Rythms, and then went to the library at the Community Center to listen to our speaker, Wiley Pope. Wiley suffered a heart attack at his home in St. Paul last Tuesday. He is survived by his wife, Juanita, four daughters and two sons. He wrote many guide books on researching family history and published pamphlets and articles, as well. He taught classes on how to do family histories. He was past president of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and at one time edited the Minnesota Genealogist magazine.

REMEMBER THAT YOUR 1990 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE. Pay them promptly, please.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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NEWSLETTER

March, 1990
Volumn 3, No.2

MS SOCIETY DECLINES GRANT

It was one year ago this month that Moe received a call from a person who identified herself as working for the MS Society, and in her words, "We are going to be your Santa Claus". "We are going to help you purchase the elevator/lift for the museum, because that is exactly the sort of thing we like to fund." Since that call, Moe has talked to Alex Kitto at the MS Society every two to three weeks, and always he has assured her that they intend to fund our grant application, but not quite yet. The blame was placed on the governors handling of the tax on charitable gambling organizations. The Star Tribune this week stated that the MS Society was one of two organizations that had the largest gambling profits in 1987-89. However, now they claim to have discontinued all grants, and in addition are cutting back on personnel. This means that we have to find another source to raise the \$7,500 to match the same amount promised to us from the Lion's Club. The grant received from the Minnesota Historical Society of \$3,750 in December 1988 stated that the elevator/lift must be installed by December 31, 1989. Moe got a four month extension to that when it became apparent that we could not meet that deadline. Now, the final date for installation is April 31st, 1990. Moe has been in touch with the Minn. Historical Soc. and it seems possible to get another extension. We have had many requests from the schools, private parties, and other groups to view the artifacts in the Museum. It is very unfortunate that we have not been able to raise the money to make our building accessible to the handicapped. We must continue to try. We have only \$7,500 to go. However, we have wasted a whole year, believing that the MS Society would help us.

OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS HELP SUPPORT US---PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM-----

The following local businesses have been members of the Fridley Historical Society for many years:

Bob's Produce
Sears Outlet
Fridley State Bank
Maple Lanes Recreation
Sandee's Restaurant
Shorewood Inn

Please give them your business.

Spaghetti Dinner

The annual Spaghetti dinner of the Fridley Historical Society was held on March 9th at the Fridley Comm. Center. The crowd was larger than usual, and the Silent Auction was a good success. Over 30 local businesses donated items and gift certificates, which were auctioned off. Ron Walker and his wife, and Ed Walker (Ron's cousin) and his wife provided the entertainment... Some terrific guitar music and great singing, too. Bob's Produce donated the ground beef for the sauce. The Old Country Buffet donated 20# of lettuce salad mix. Holiday Plus donated the Brownie mixes, and the French bread. In addition to that, many members of the Society donated their time: Rodney Johnson, Fred Schultz, and Gloria Hayes called on businesses and received door prizes and items for the auction. Marian Anderson helped Fern and Mahlon Moe in the kitchen. Connie Anderson, and Lillian Meyer spent a long time in the dishpan. Jerry Manley, Jerry Johnson, Lil Meyers, Gloria Hayes, and Mahlon Moe helped with setting tables, etc., Earl Johnson arranged for the ice cream purchase, which was donated by Gary Rognrud. Glenn Theorin and Jerry Manley helped with the finances. Many hands made light work and a fun time.

PRESERVATION OF ARTIFACTS

A grant was received from the Minnesota Historical Society in January, 1990 for installing an air condition and humidity control system in the Museum. This is very important in order to preserve the condition of the documents and artifacts that have been, and will be donated in the future. You may argue that most of those artifacts & documents have never been in that type of atmosphere up until this time, however, we are looking to preserve these items for hundreds of years, and in order to do that it is very important to provide a preservation climate.

The air conditioning and humidity control has been installed, and the security system and the smoke/heat detectors go in next week. I must add that a matching donation of \$2800 from the Fridley VFW made this project possible.

BAKE SALE April 7th

The Fridley Historical Society is planning another bake sale on Saturday, April 7th at the Skywood Mall from 9 AM to 4 PM. This is a good time to purchase some terrific goodies for the Easter holidays. The table will be located in the same area where it was last December...in front of Lee Wards.

Annual Garage Sale

The Fridley Historical Society is sponsoring an indoor garage sale on April 21st at the Community Center at 6085 7th St. in Fridley. Hours will be from 9AM to 4PM. There will be tables of antiques, collectibles, baked items, crafts, and garage sale items. Tables and a 12 ft. space are available for rent for \$15. Interested people may phone 571-5041 or 571-5328. The sale will be well advertised, and coffee and hot dogs served.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 9th at 7:30 PM promises to be an interesting meeting at the Museum. A panel discussion is planned with the following people on the panel:

Bob Barnett
Larry Garten
Christine Gerrity
Everett McCarthy
Margaret Mulcare
Jack Kirkham

The audience will field question of the panel about the former days in Fridley. We have had a program like this once before, and it made for a very fun and informative evening.

MRS. FRIDLEY IN THE CLASSROOM

One of the history projects planned for Women's History in March has been that various women in the community have dressed the part and portrayed various women who contributed some valuable things to the history of the country. Fern Moe chose to portray Mrs. Abram Fridley (Betsy Ann). This couple moved to this area in 1851, & it was Abram who proposed to change the name of this area from the Territory of Manomin to the Township of Fridley. This was when he was a member of the State Legislature. Moe and her husband Mahlon Moe talked to the sixth graders at the Middle School and to the fourth graders at the Hayes Elementary school last Friday. The students responded with lots of good questions, and seemed very eager to learn about the local history of our City. Fern wore an old-fashioned gown, which she had made. Mahlon accompanied her, and wore his black outfit and his black hat. It was not a top hat, but rather a cowboy hat, and I am not sure about the gallon capacity! Subjects covered were the Oxcart trail, the grasshopper invasion, women working outside the home, Whiskey Scripts, as well as the Fridleys and their three sons.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

Talk of light rail transit reminds us that Fridley was served by a streetcar going between Minneapolis and Anoka in the early 1900's. The Museum has a picture of the streetcar.

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING:

When my sister, brothers and I were growing up, we began looking for signs of spring soon after the Christmas holidays. While we impatiently awaited the first robin, the groundhog always seemed to be working against us. He'd pop out every year if only for a moment and condemn us to six more weeks of winter confinement. Dad would say that "Spring is just over the hill", but he never said what hill he had in mind.

Before the early robin had hopped gingerly about over the still frozen ground in search of food, we had used up just about all of our goodwill toward one another. We were seven active children in our family, and the winter had just been too long. Our discontent led to frequent squabbles, and I am sure mom's nerves were worn to a frazzle.

Finally, the weather warmed, and we begged to go outside. We older ones had no choice, because we had chores to do...pigs to feed and cows to feed and milk, and the hens looked for their feed twice a day, too. And always, the terribly clingy mud came into the house with us when we were through. The younger ones would go out but wouldn't stay so long because there was still a bite to the wind, but you could be sure they were out long enough to get in the mud, too. Many a time we would hear one of them screaming at the top of their lungs, and realize they were stuck in the mud, and when we would rescue them, their boots would come off and remain in the puddle and muck. The kitchen floor was continually a mess.

One big event in March was a phone call from the depot saying that the baby chicks had arrived that dad had ordered in February. This was the only sure way of having fried spring chicken for the 4th of July picnics. We would watch down the road for the old green panel truck, and race out to see boxes and boxes of peeping baby chicks. They arrived in cardboard boxes, which had many many small holes around the sides. As I remember, there were 50 chicks to a box. Dad usually ordered 600 chicks, so it was a noisy place. Dad had the chicken coop all ready. The floor had been scraped and the walls and the floor had been creosoted, which was a disinfectant as well as a wood preservative. Then the floor was covered with clean straw. Feeders and jars of medicated water were placed on the floor.

Dad emptied those little yellow balls of fluff into this big room, and many of them would just stand there and peep in distress because the environment was so huge and uncrowded from what they had ever been used to. The first weeks we would use some short mesh wire fencing to keep them confined to an area directly under the heat lamps. If the weather turned real cold, we had to check on them often, because if they got the least bit chilled, they would cuddle together, and those underneath would smother.

These chicks had been hatched in a large mechanical incubator in a commercial hatchery, but we also had a few chicks that were hatched by setting hens. A good setting hen was a "broody hen", that was often called an "old cluck". About this time of year, natural instinct prevailed among many mature hens, to make them want to set on a batch of eggs. As a matter of fact, they often got so broody that they would set on anything from an old door knob to a corn cob.

Back in the days when farmers produced as much of their food as they could, it was a sure sign of the permanent arrival of spring, when the housewife put a setting of eggs under an "old cluck" so the eggs would hatch. An old bushel basket or large apple box was the ideal nest for a setting hen. Lined with hay or straw, the setting of eggs were kept at the right temperature by the "old cluck" for the three weeks necessary to hatch the eggs. Generally the setting hens were isolated in an old shed and only left their nests long enough

for them to get a sip of water and eat some of the feed grain set out for them. The Plymouth Rocks and the Rhode Island Reds were naturally good setting hens. The Leghorn breed of chicken had the reputation of being poor mothers and were more interested in laying eggs.

Other spring activities that we enjoyed were kite flying, April Fool fun, and gathering maple sap for syrup. It took a gallon of sap to make about a ½ cup of syrup after it was boiled down. Large trees could be "tapped" in three or four places and would yield a gallon or more of sap at each "tap" every day.

49er Days

Ardie Chesney and Esther Campbell are the 1990 representatives of the Fridley Historical Society on the 49er Day Committee. Thanks to both of you for being the liasons, as we plan for a good and fun time again during 49er days, which are June 13 - 17.

Ludwig and Edna Ask Donate More Artifacts

The Asks, Ludwig and Edna have been antique collectors for years, and have been very generous in donating many of their collections to the Museum. The latest donations are an old trunk from the "old country", two straight edge razors, a spittoon, and a floor lamp stand. We are very grateful to them for wanting to share a bit of the past with all of us.

Basement Room

Charlie Johanson, his son, and his son-in-law have gotten a good start at finishing off the downstairs room that will some day be a media center, and a meeting room. We are very much in need of this room, so that both rooms upstairs can be used for displaying artifacts and documents. A great big thanks to Charlie and his helpers for donating their time in this manner.

Quilt Raffle

The Board is in the process of obtaining a quilt for a raffle again this summer, with the drawing at our annual meeting in October. Watch for more information on this in the next Newsletter. An unlicensed raffle may be conducted by any organization if the value of the object being raffled does not exceed \$750. Moe is submitting the required form for approval. All expenditures and income must be itemized and kept on record for three years.

Your 1990 Memberships are past due. Please pay them promptly.

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NEWSLETTER
MAY 1990

Volume 3

Number 2

MEMBER ON GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE

FHS member John Meyer has been appointed by Governor Rudy Perpich to the newly formed State Buildings Task Force, which will review the need for state government buildings and recommend guidelines for locations, quality of building materials, and decisions to build, lease or buy. Good going, John!

ELEVATOR/LIFT ORDERED

The Fridley Jaycees have matched the \$7,500 commitment made last summer by the Fridley Lion's Club for the purchase of the elevator/lift for the Fridley Historical Society Museum. These gifts, along with a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, \$500 from the Fridley State Bank, and other, smaller donations, make it possible to finish the handicapped accessibility project started three years ago.

A tentative date of June 14th - the Thursday of 49er Days - has been set for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. That evening, from 7-9, the North American History Theater will present a play on the mobile stage in the yard of the museum. If the elevator is installed on schedule, we will hold the ribbon-cutting ceremony prior to the play. If there are any manufacturing or installation delays, we may have to postpone the ceremony. After the elevator is installed, the Museum will be open to the public for regular hours.

LANDSCAPING

The FHS Board recently purchased two Scotch Pines and had one planted on each side of the Museum's south entrance in keeping with plans drawn up last year by professional landscaper Betty Ann Mech Addison. To complete this project, board members Gloria Hayes and Lillian Meyer will order rose bushes and arborvitae for planting before the end of May.

BASEMENT ROOM

Members of the building committee, including committee chair Charlie Johanson and his son, Donald, have made tremendous strides in refinishing the basement room. The insulation and walls are in and ready for drywall taping. Herb Bacon and Jeff Savelkoul have helped with the electrical work. A great big "thank you" to all of the volunteers who have worked so hard on this project.

APRIL 9TH PANEL MEETING

The April 9th meeting was a great success. It was fun and informative to reminisce about the past, and comments from those attending were very positive. Panel members included: Jack Kirkham, former Mayor of Fridley; Everett McCarthy, Fridley's first and only Chief of Police; Chris Gerrity, former school bus driver and former school board member; Evalene Hermann, former teacher at Parkview and Hayes Elementary Schools; and Robert Barnett, formerly a teacher and presently a counselor for the Fridley School District.

A wide variety of events and people were discussed: Was Dr. Jay Jedrezewski the first doctor to practice in Fridley - most of those present thought so - and did anyone remember the open-heart massage he did on a man who was nearly executed? Who was the first person murdered in Fridley? It seems it was not Mary Price, the daughter of the Dave Fridleys, as she was murdered in Minneapolis, near the Ford Bridge. What about the food poisoning incident during those years when Fridley students were bussed to the Twin City Arsenal for classes? After covering these and many other subjects, the meeting adjourned for coffee, cookies, and further reminiscing.

SPRING FUND-RAISERS

The two Bake Sales and the indoor Garage Sale netted over \$800 for the Society. The profits from these events are essential to pay the ongoing operating expenses of the FHS Museum. Many thanks to all who donated baked goods, sale items, time, and door prizes to these functions.

The next fund-raiser will be the Quilt Raffle, planned for the night of the annual meeting in October. As soon as the quilt is finished, pictures will be taken of it and tickets will go on sale. The quilt will also be on display for public viewing at various locations.

SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLED

A security system has been installed in the Museum building, and is working well. The system includes a master control unit (to monitor both the front and back doors), motion detectors inside the building, fire and heat detectors, an internal siren, and a phone hook-up to the monitoring company. The company, in-turn, notifies the appropriate parties - the police department, fire department, or board members.

AIR CONDITIONING AND HUMIDITY CONTROL UNITS INSTALLED

Two air conditioning units and two humidity control units were also installed this spring. In addition, a fence has been built around the condensers at the back of the building to protect them from damage. It is now possible to control the heat and humidity - the silent enemies of documents, photos, and artifacts.

The security, air conditioning, and humidity control systems were all goals set for 1990 at the November 14, 1988, FHS Special Board Meeting for setting goals for the Society.

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

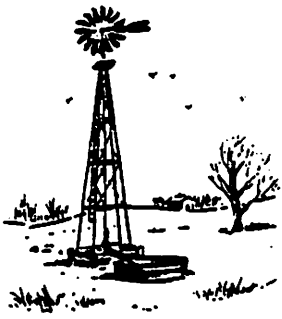
Fridley, at one time, was a small country town. This got me to thinking about country towns. I lived for six years while I was growing up in a small country town of about 450 people - Cologne, Minnesota. Everybody knows everybody, and sometimes in very familiar ways, because they live so close together. The children play and fight together. Adults compete with adults across town for the best garden, or nicest flowers. Even every dog knows every dog. There is a sharing unlike anything in a huge city. If someone is sick, neighbors bring in their favorite dishes to help out. The small town is a community in which neighbors are the most important life support.

The volunteer fire department is important to those towns and their survival. When the siren sounds, volunteers drop whatever they are doing: a store clerk holding up a shirt; a druggist about to fill a prescription; a butcher with a chunk of beef. It is a total town effort. In the early days they pulled a hose cart and ran down the street with the dogs happily howling behind them. Neighbors were already at the house helping to remove the important items.

One of the most important social events in the town used to be at the bandstand in the town square. In the days before radio, television, records and cassettes, people had to make their own music. Every Saturday night the band would perform familiar music, and the town square would be surrounded by wagons and buggies full of parents taking their ease after the day's work, children restless with sitting still, but happily anticipating a penny or two from the adults so they could get a treat from the dime store. The band concert would bring farmers into town to do their weekly shopping, and also to see their friends, who had probably been born on a farm, but moved into town to run a store or a grain elevator. Most everybody came to the band concert, because there was nothing else to do in those little places, and it was most people's only chance to hear music other than in church. Stores always stayed open Saturday night until 9 p.m.

If a small town had a doctor, usually he spent his whole life in the town, and delivered all the children, and later delivered their children. People were born at home and died at home. The doctor made house calls night and day with his satchel full of miracles by today's standards, desperately inadequate. His horse was crucial to his career. It took him in a buggy in summer and in a sleigh in winter. He had to be a professional with an instinct because his scientific knowledge was limited. Often a doctor was paid in produce. For delivering a baby, he might be paid with a quarter of beef or a half a hog. Sometimes he would be asked to wait for his pay until summer, and then would be paid with a pair of dressed chickens and a basket of vegetables or apples. After a midnight house call, at the end of a long day of handling human crises, the doctor would wearily crawl into his buggy, gently slap the reins, and go to sleep while the horse pulled him home, sometimes never waking up until the horse would stamp his feet when they arrived outside the barn door.

It is easy, here in the city, to make a fast trip to the store; strangers don't stop you to talk. But in a small town walking is slow because you know and stop to talk to almost everyone you meet. If you don't, you might be called uppity, and that is one of the severe sins, only a little below the carnal ones. The conversation isn't important - you needn't try to settle the world's affairs - but it is important that you take the time to say hello and discuss anything from the first sprouts of beans in the garden to the case of an old resident who is dying.



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NEWSLETTER
July 1990

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Number 4

THE LATEST ON THE LIFT

In July, 1988, our architect submitted a request for bids on a Cheney Lift (said to be the "Cadillac" of lifts); Medical Aids, Inc., submitted the lowest bid. By April, 1990, when the Society finally had raised enough money to make the purchase, Medical Aids had sold out and we were referred to a company called Access Mobility. Their sales representative said they had a Cheney franchise, that they would honor the original bid, and that they would install the lift in time for the Grand Opening on June 14.

On June 11 we were informed that the lift had been damaged in transit and could not be installed in time for 49er Days. Following a ten-day delay, Fern Moe called the Cheney manufacturer in Wisconsin and learned that our lift order, placed in early April, had been canceled. Further investigation revealed that Access Mobility's sales representative had ordered a porch lift for us from American Stair Glide in Kansas City, and apparently planned to install that without notifying us of the change.

Based on the fact that Access Mobility did not actually have a Cheney franchise as they had led us to believe, we immediately canceled our order with them. They have sent a check refunding the \$600.00 down-payment, but have asked us to hold the check until there are funds to cover it. We have now ordered the actual Cheney brand from Access Lifts, Inc., a subsidiary of Apollo Elevator Company, which does have a Cheney franchise.

As the saga of the lift comes to a close, the new projected installation date is the first part of August. In the meantime, Charlie Johanson, Warren Woods, and other volunteers are working to adapt the shaft to accommodate the the 1990 model of the Cheney Lift, whose manufactured size has - of course! - changed since 1988.

TORNADO VICTIMS TO BE INTERVIEWED

Members of the Fridley Historical Society plan to locate and interview 25 families who lived through the 1965 tornado to find out how this local disaster affected their lives. As part of this project, photographs of the devastating effects of the tornado will be collected, copied, and returned to their owners. Both the photos and the interview texts will then be published in a history booklet to be made available to the public.

It is estimated that twenty-five percent of the homes in Fridley at the time were destroyed by the tornado's damaging winds, so there must be many residents with stories to tell. Anyone willing to share their experiences is asked to call Fern Moe at 571-5041 to schedule an interview. The FHS has applied for a grant to cover the costs of this project.

MUSEUM'S "OPEN HOURS"

At their June 4th meeting, the FHS Board voted to open the museum to the public from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays, and by appointment. After volunteers were lined up for several weekends, the hours were posted in front of the building. Due to difficulties in finding volunteers, and due to the small number of visitors, the Board has now decided to open the museum from 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Anyone willing to greet people at the museum on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon is asked to call the museum at 571-0120 and leave a message to that effect.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

On September 10th, at 7:30 p.m., a guest speaker will talk about retirement planning, wills, and living trusts.

On October 8th, at 7:30 p.m., Matti Kamps will present the program "**Finns of the Country, Finns of the Town.**" This presentation is funded and sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Commission in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature.

Both meetings will be held in the basement of the museum. The back entrance to the building is accessible to handicapped individuals.

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

by Fern Moe

In the last newsletter I stated that I would write later about the changes that have taken place in the grocery store in the last 50 or more years. I have just come from the super market, and while there I tried to imagine what my grandmother would have thought of such a place.

In grandmother's day the stores were not nearly so large or well lit, nor equipped with such nice, wide aisles. However, they were social centers; a meeting place for all the neighbors and friends when they came into town. Here, they would congregate to discuss the weather, the crops, their children, and the issues of the day. They might even do a little bit of gossiping. Consequently, the grocer was often the source of news before it ever appeared in the local newspaper. It seems there were no regular hours for storekeepers. Farmers usually came to town on Saturday evenings, and the store might then stay open until midnight, or later, to accomodate lingering customers.

The store was where you bought things for the whole family. It was wisely called the "general" store because you could generally get any item needed there. The storekeeper, who usually wore black sateen sleevelets over his shirt from cuff to elbow, greeted every customer by name.

One of the first things you noticed about the store was its blend of odors. There was a red coffee grinder, which released that dark aroma into air already filled with the smells of vinegar, cheese, smoked meat, pickles, roasted peanuts, dried fish, and an assortment of spices. The tobacco area had an odor of its own. That was the tobacco era. No cigarettes, but lots of cigars in boxes with remarkably underdressed women on the insides of their lids. For some reason, cigars were named after race horses, presidents, and Cleopatra. Chewing tobacco often came in long, hard lengths wrapped in thick lead foil, and during the First World War the foil was saved as a patriotic duty.

A country merchant advertised various commodities for sale and gave notice that he would take all kinds of country produce in payment. If he had butter for sale, it was not made in a creamery, but by a neighborhood farmer's wife, and it was sold in 5 or 10 pound stone crocks. There was quite a rivalry among the women as to who made the best butter, so when people bought butter, they often asked who had made it.

People didn't have a lot of money to spend in those days, and as a result many storekeepers "carried" their customers. After selecting groceries and dry goods, the customer would often just tell the grocer to "write it down." Unless the family experienced some kind of disaster, the grocer would then be paid after harvest and before Christmas.

The country store offered all the necessary staples. There was flour, sugar, salt, oyster shells - all in 100 pound cloth bags. The food did not come in by truck as it does now, but was shipped in by railroad. A grocer would advertise that a carload of flour was due in on a certain date and everyone would buy their year's supply of flour right off the railroad car. The sturdy cloth bags that the staples came in would later become pillow cases, sheets, handkerchiefs, dish towels, etc. A shopper bought supplies and then went home to do her own baking, as there were no bakery or pastry items on the shelves of the grocery store.

Lard came in 100 pound drums. However, farmer's wives seldom had to buy lard. Pigs were much fatter in those days, and there was usually ample fat from the family's own farm animals to grind and render for lard. Many other things came in barrels, too: vinegar, molasses, pickled herring, candy, and other items. The barrels were as useful to the store as the cash register and scale because they provided a place for the husbands to sit and trade gossip while their wives shopped.

Within the space of one small building you could buy soap, shotguns, dishes, shoe blacking, ham and bacon, poultry feed, crockery, pots and pans, yard goods, and sewing notions. If you wanted a pair of shoes, the store had them, but the selection was limited; if you wanted a dress, you bought the fabric and did your own sewing. In the men's department there were overalls with multitudes of pockets and a noose on one leg to hold a hammer. In addition there were long-legged underwear and boots and gloves made of cloth, cowhide, or goatskin.

One of the most popular areas was the patent medicine counter. Here you could find strong liniments recommended for man OR beast and Hostetter's Celebrated Stomach Bitters. (Surely there must have been a lot of stomach discomfort needing bitter relief.) Female Tonics were also big sellers in those days before obstetrics and gynecology had reached their present brilliance. Often a woman would shop for these items herself and write out the name on a piece of paper because she was too shy to speak the words "Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

In each general store there usually resided a cat, and that cat was generally fat. You sometimes wondered if the cat got fat eating mice or maybe some spilled cream or butter - or possibly from sampling food out of an open barrel. It was also a familiar sight to see a team of horses tied to the hitching post in front of the store with the farmer's dog lying beside it waiting for his master to return. Because it was so common for farm dogs to follow the team when it traveled to town, there was usually a congregating of several dogs outside the store - which meant a fight among them was predictable. Sometimes a timid dog would follow his master inside the store to avoid a fight, and the sleepy cat would pounce from its barrel top. Pandemonium would follow until the dog was put back outside.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

YEARLY DUES

Individual: \$10 Club and Church: \$20 Business: \$50

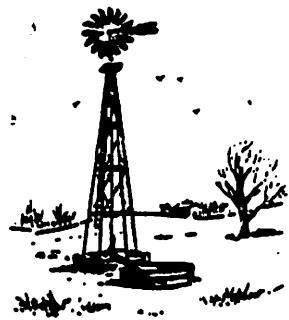
Individual memberships entitle only the person applying to membership privileges; they are not transferable within the family.

Please mail your application to:

Fridley Historical Society; 611 Mississippi St. N.E.;
Fridley, Minnesota 55432.

Newsletter Editor: Sue Anne W. Kirkham

Please call 571-4902 with items for inclusion in the next issue.



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

Number 5

MAPLE TREES DONATED

The Society would like to thank Hazel Hartman, wife of Fridley's first mayor, Carl Hartman, for donating money for the purchase of three red maple trees to be planted on the museum grounds. The red maple is a slow-growing variety which should enhance the site for many generations to come. We are now looking for a way to install a permanent donor designation marker by each tree which could be designed to withstand the heavy flow of student traffic around the building.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting on retirement and estate planning was well attended. Guest speaker Dale W. Hedstrand addressed such concerns as protecting family assets when one spouse requires nursing home care and planning for the future so that all we have worked for need not go to taxes and attorney's fees in the end.

Following the presentation - the first meeting held in the basement room - coffee and cookies were served to members and guests.

BOARD MEMBER HOSPITALIZED

We have learned that Rodney Johnson suffered a stroke on Sunday, September 16, and is now resting comfortably at Unity Hospital on Osborne Road in Fridley. Rodney, a charter member of the Fridley Historical Society and one of its original board members, was released from the intensive care unit on September 20. Get well messages may be mailed to him in care of Unity.

OCTOBER MEETING PLANS

Matti Kaups, internationally famous speaker and historian, will present the topic "Finns of the Country, Finns of the Town" at the October 8, 1990, meeting. This program will cover the life of the Finnish people in their own country, their immigration to this country, and their customs and cultures, and was made possible by funding from the Minnesota Humanities Commission in Cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature. The Humanities Commission is an operating foundation that supports and promotes education in humanities subjects statewide.

There will be a formal question and answer period at the end of the talk and further opportunity for informal discussion when coffee and goodies are served afterwards. All 1990-1991 meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the FHS Museum, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley. A 1990 meeting schedule is included in this newsletter. A 1991 program schedule will be published in the November newsletter.

ADVERTISING TO THE PUBLIC

Charlie Johnson, who is in the real estate business, has volunteered to mail 500 FHS promotional brochures when he does his next bulk mailing, allowing the FHS to reach non-members with information about the museum and the Society without the large postage costs. We appreciate Charlie's gracious offer.

INTERVIEWERS WANTED

The Society is seeking people willing to conduct interviews for several projects. We will be locating and interviewing both long-time Fridley residents and people who sustained damage to their homes as a result of the 1965 tornado.

Anyone interested in being an interviewer should contact Fern Moe at 571-5041.

FERN MOE RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT

The board of the Fridley Historical Society has accepted the resignation of Fern Moe, who has been FHS president since 1986. Mrs. Moe will stay on as an advisor to the Board of Directors and will continue as curator for the museum, accepting artifact donations and arranging for their display. In addition, she will be responsible for all transactions that have to do with the museum itself, such as ordering and showing traveling exhibits.

LANDSCAPING

You may have noticed that the lawn of the museum site looks 80% better than it did last year at this time. We have many new plantings, the weather has been kind, and the board members have taken turns watering the newest flowers and bushes. Because of a purchase guarantee, the one Scotch pine tree which didn't survive will be replaced by the grower who planted it, at no cost to the Society.

AN UPDATE ON THE BASEMENT ROOM

Charlie Johanson has worked throughout the summer on the large room in the basement of the museum, insulating and installing sheet rock. Chuck Hayes, Jerry Johnson and Glenn Thorien did the painting.

Carpeting has also been laid and the room will soon have emergency lighting and exit signs in place. As time and money permit, the ceiling and new lighting fixtures will be installed. Stop by and take a look during our weekend "open hours."

QUILT RAFFLE

The Fridley Historical Society has purchased a \$350.00 queen-sized, hand-stitched quilt from "The Rainbow Works," owned by Helen Jean Hammernick of Fridley. Each newsletter mailing for September includes six raffle tickets to be sold by members for this fund-raising effort. Extra tickets are available through any FHS board member or by calling the museum at 571-0120. The sale of tickets will extend through the winter months, and the drawing for the lucky winner of this lovely heirloom will take place at the annual spaghetti dinner in March, 1991. Proceeds from ticket sales should be turned in to the museum. The quilt is now on display at the Fridley State Bank.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Watch for some especially interesting traveling exhibits to be shown at the museum during the coming months. Fern Moe has ordered "Baggage, Peltry and Squeak" for the first part of October. This display represents life on the Red River Ox Cart Trail, which stretched the full length of Fridley, following very closely the path of East River Road. Future newsletters will give details of exhibits scheduled for the months to follow.

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

by Fern Moe

The summer is soon ended, and many of you - like us - have taken car trips this past season. In July we drove to New Orleans, Louisiana. Because of a shortage of time and a busy schedule at the School Food Service Conference on the other end, we drove over 1,000 miles one day. It seemed like a long day, and my husband and I were both very ready for a good night's sleep that night. But you know, one of the things that I miss as we travel along are the Burma Shave signs. Remember them? They used to be posted along all of the highways, and they were often good for a laugh. Some gave warnings, too. Each message was painted on six small wooden signs spaced about a hundred feet apart. On a long trip everyone in the car looked eagerly for the jingles, and many families would read each sign in chorus. My favorite one was, "She kissed a hairbrush by mistake; she thought it was her husband, Jake." The last sign always said "Burma Shave." Another one was, "Hardly a driver is now alive who passed on hills at 75." And, "Don't stick your elbow out so far; it might go home in another car." Remember ... "His face was cool and smooth as ice; and Oh, Louise! He smelled so nice." Or this one: "Before I tried it, the kisses I missed. But afterward ... Boy! The misses I kissed."

How about some more? Any of you who remember some I haven't included here, please give me a call at 571-5041. It will be interesting to see how large a collection we can come up with. I've heard that there were over 7,000 sets of these signs along the roadsides in the United States. In 1963, the Burma-Vita Company sold out to Philip Morris Company, and the signs were discontinued. Rather than leave the signs to decay, sign crews went about the country and took down every sign.

When we travel, I often get a bottle of pop when we stop for gas. That "bottle of pop" phrase came so naturally and seemed so right, but actually, you'd have a hard time finding a bottle of pop nowadays. It's all in cans. However, at the museum we have a wooden case of pop bottles. and I don't even remember some of the brands ... don't remember ever tasting them. Do you remember the Go-For brand and the Lemmy brand? They were both bottled by the Gopher Bottling Company of Austin, Minnesota. Then there was the Frostie (was that root beer?) and M & S, which stood for mellow and smooth, and Fleck's, "Since 1856," bottled by the Quality Beverage Company at Fairbault, Minnesota. I heard recently that pop bottles with the name "Whistles" are worth over \$1,000.00 today. (I believe that was orange pop, wasn't it?)

That day that we traveled over 1,000 miles, we traveled freeways the whole time, an endless ribbon of concrete. You don't dare take your eyes off the road and look away from that hypnotic gray surface for very long. I would much rather travel the country roads and go past farms where people and animals live in their quiet places; savor the smell of fresh mowed hay, and occasionally come to a roadside market where we could buy a watermelon, which they would gladly "plug" for you to prove the succulence inside. Traveling on a country road, you must always wave at every car you meet. Everyone waves. And the roadside ditches are often full of wild flowers. They are often the nesting places for pheasants and quail, too, because of the long grass that offers protection. The sounds along the country road are different, too. Instead of the sound of tires on concrete you hear birds calling, pigs grunting as they butt their snouts against the snow; you hear horses hooves and the clang of the harnesses as the horses pull a wagon or sleigh. You may even hear a calf bawling for her mother or a tractor traveling back and forth over a field.

At the museum, we have an Etiquette Book that was published in 1930. It gives the Do's and Don'ts of correct social customs. Here is some advice if you are traveling in a strange city: "When you are traveling and want to ask a question, find a man in uniform, a station attendant or a policeman. It is better for you to take a bus or a street car, if you can, rather than a taxicab; then you will be sure of being taken to the place where you expect to go. The best behavior in public is always that which is least noticed. Just as it is cheap to force attention on oneself by loud laughing and talking, so it is to draw attention to oneself by conspicuous clothes. The well-dressed woman on a trip of any kind wears quiet, dark clothes which do not soil easily and do not look as if they were made to take every eye. Even one's baggage is in better taste if it is not conspicuous in appearance."

Guess times have changed in that regard, also.

I will conclude this by again asking you to call me if you remember some other Burma Shave signs. I will print any I hear in the next newsletter. Let's see how many we can get.

REMAINING 1990 PROGRAMS

October 8: "Finns of the Country, Finns of the Town." Speaker, Matti Kaups. Annual Meeting - Election of Officers

November 12: "The Totino Story." Speaker, Rose Totino. A wonderful story - from poor immigrants to a multi-million dollar business.

OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

The nominating committee of the Fridley Historical Society has compiled the following slate of nominees for 1991. Ballots will be cast at the annual meeting on October 8. Those unable to attend the meeting may mail their ballots to the Society at the return address indicated below.



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, No.6
November, 1990

ROSE TOTINO, SPEAKER IN NOVEMBER

The Fridley Historical Society is very fortunate to have been able to finally book Rose Totino as our guest speaker for Monday evening, November 12th, 1990, at the Museum. We have tried before to get her to speak to us, and her schedule has been too full. Rose and her husband, Jim, started a little business in NE Minneapolis in 1951. Twenty years later the company moved into a new plant in Fridley. Later the company merged with Pillsbury. Rose is still employed by Pillsbury, and is currently Vice President of the Pizza Group of Pillsbury. Her husband, Jim, passed away some years ago, but Rose continues to reside in Fridley. She and her husband were very instrumental in the founding of the Totino-Grace High School in Fridley. Rose is a very interesting speaker, and has quite a story to tell. The meeting is open to the public, and we hope to have a good turn-out next Monday evening at 7:30 P.M.!

MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum at 611 Mississippi St., in Fridley, is currently open from 2 to 4 P.M. on Saturdays, and can be open at any other time by appointment. We are pleased that people are taking advantage of making appointments during times that are best for them. This month we have had classes from the school district, girl scout troupes and individual families who have made special appointments to see the museum. The traveling exhibit entitled "Baggage, Peltry and Squeak: Life on the Red River Trails" will be going back to the Minnesota Historical Society this week.

Thankyou's are in order for those who manned the Museum recently during the 2 - 4 P.M. shift on Saturday: Oct. 6, Jerry Manley; October 13, Fern Moe; October 20, Earl Johnson; November 3, Jerry Johnson.

BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 30th

The Fridley Historical is holding its annual pre-Christmas bake sale this year on November 30th at the Fridley State Bank. This is a Friday, and the hours are from 8:15 to 5:00 P.M. Those wishing to donate baked goods are encouraged to bring their donations in during the morning hours. This is a good time to buy nutbreads, decorated cookies, bars, and other goodies for during the Holiday Season. You will also find such things as Rosettes, Sandbukkels, and other specialty items. Mark this date on your calendar!

NORTHTOWN FRIDLEY CHAMBER FAIR

Thankyou to those who manned our booth at Fridley Chamber Fair at Northtown on November 3rd and 4th: Jerry Johnson, who also helped set up the booth, Jerry Manley, Corrine Kirkham, Jack Kirkham, Marian Anderson, Mary Beverage, Lillian Meyer, and Char Fitzpatrick. The booth was a great success. We had many people stop by and pick up the Fridley Historical Society folder, and the history of the Museum sheet. We also gave out many membership applications. So many people expressed interest in joining and also in sharing their bits and peices of Fridley History.

PHONE NUMBERS:

Museum - 612-571-0120

Tours - 612-571-5041

President - 612-572-9615

ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the annual election on October 8th were as follows:

President - Char Fitzpatrick
Vice President - Charlie Johansen
Treasurer - Jerry Johnson
Secretary - Lillian Meyer
3 year Board of Directors:

Marilyn Manley
Marion Anderson

1 year Board of Directors, taking the place of Earl Johnson, who resigned:
Fred Schultz

Fern Moe will keep very involved as the curator of the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There has been some controversy about when the membership dues are due. The membership year has always been from January 1st to December 31st, and will continue as that unless the Board takes action by changing the By-Laws. By-Law changes can only take place in August of each year, and members will be asked to vote on By-Law changes in October at the annual meeting.

THIS YEAR EACH MEMBER WILL BE EXPECTED TO BRING IN ONE NEW MEMBER. WE MUST TRY TO DOUBLE OUR MEMBERSHIP THIS NEXT YEAR.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CURATOR:

The Museum has been the recipient of a number of interesting and old artifacts recently. Kathleen Cunningham, who earlier donated a dress and a large vase that is over 100 years old, has recently donated a number of old kitchen articles, and a lovely old music box that plays beautifully. Milton and Bonnie Hoffa of Fridley donated a number of World War I artifacts, including a trench coat, gas mask, caps and scarves. These artifacts were used in the recent armed forces display at the Fridley State Bank. George Antinozzi recently donated a number of artifacts: a tax statement made out to D.B.A. Tonay's Market at 6005 University Ave. N.E., dated 1956; a license from the Village of Fridley to sell cigarettes, dated Sept, 1950; a license to sell cigarettes at retail, from the state of Minnesota, dated May, 1951; and a license to sell non-intoxicating malt liquor "off sale" in Fridley, dated 1951. Anyone wishing to make donations can contact Fern Moe at 571-5041, or contact any of the Board members, or call the Museum.

1990

RAMSEY HOUSE VICTORIAN HOLIDAYS HOLIDAY TOURS:

Experience preparations for a Ramsey Holiday with Augusta the upstairs maid

WEEKENDS: November 24 to December 30
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TOURS START EVERY HALF HOUR

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Tours for Children's Organizations, Scouts, etc.
Wednesdays - December 5, 12, 19

TOURS START AT 3:30 - 4:00 - 4:30

GALA BALL TOURS:

Celebrate the Holidays with music and quadrilles danced by the Historical Dance Ensemble in the Ramsey's parlor

EVENINGS: Friday & Saturday
December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TOURS START EVERY 15 MINUTES

WEEKDAY TOURS

Traditional Holiday fare is prepared daily in the Ramsey Family Kitchen

WEEKDAYS: Monday through Friday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

TOURS START EVERY HOUR

**CALL EARLY FOR RESERVATIONS
(612) 296-8760**

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING:

This time our thoughts again turn to Thanksgiving Day, and what we will do, where we will go, or what we will fix to eat. My early memories of Thanksgiving are of trips to Grandma's house, where we celebrated the happy occasion with aunts, uncles, and cousins. We usually had a turkey, and sometimes also a goose. These were birds that Grandma and Aunt Pearl had raised. Then we always had potato sausage, made by Grandma, and to this day, none of us have been able to spice it just right as we remember that Grandma's was. Yes, we asked her for the recipe, but it was a pinch of this and a pinch of that, and the cup measure was a tea cup, and probably a different size than mine is. We always had a variety of pies made by Aunt Pearl. Aunt Edna made the best baked beans. Then, of course, there were plenty of mashed potatoes, and various vegetables, all of which were home grown, and home-canned pickles and relishes. After a big dinner, we children had a fun afternoon romping with our cousins.



While thousands of Americans this year will sit down to a feast of turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and other fixings, my thoughts have turned to the first Thanksgiving that was celebrated by the Pilgrims, and the Wampanoag Indians, with whom they had made a peace pact. I read again about those days and I felt that the early account of that first harvest feast is a good way to keep things in perspective today. We know from early accounts that the first year was one of extreme hardship. They suffered severe weather, hunger, Indian attacks, and worst of all, a devastating plague that killed over half of the settlers that had arrived on the Mayflower. How did those 52 people that survived feel after that hard journey, and that arduous year? I am sure that they were heartsick and homesick. Yet in the autumn of 1621, they had food stored for winter, their small houses were reasonably warm, and Governor Bradford proclaimed that there should be a "harvest feast", a time for giving thanks and having some fun. The Pilgrims were ready to put aside, probably temporarily, their sorrow, and celebrate their survival and progress.

Continued on back page.

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, MN. 55432

Individual memberships are not family memberships.

Thoughts While Quilting, Cont.

Only five women survived the plague, so, along with some of the older girls, they prepared the harvest feast. They invited Chief Massasoit to come, along with a few of his Indians. When Chief Massasoit arrived, he brought 90 of his people with him! We do not read of there being a shortage of food. Governor Bradford had sent four men a-fowling, so there were wild turkeys, and likely other wild fowl. According to Governor Bradford's diary, there was also cod and sea bass. Then there were cranberries, squash, corn meal cakes baked in ashes, pumpkins, nuts, berries, and Indian pudding. From all accounts the harvest feast was a great success. The settlers and Indians shared the food, and then joined in foot races, arrow-shooting, and wrestling.

History tells us that after 1621 the Colonists continued to suffer much privation. Other Colonists arrived with no food, so the food that had been "laid by" grew scantier still. Today we are reminded of the abundance of food choices that we have, and the many blessings we share in this land. Best of all, is sharing this satisfying dinner with family and friends. If we follow the example of the first Pilgrims, there will always be room for a few more at our Thanksgiving table. Try to remember those who are less fortunate than you are, and invite them to share your feast.

The Thanksgiving Feast was formalized under President George Washington, who set aside Thursday, November 26, 1790, as the first official day of Thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of the Almighty God." It wasn't until 1863, however, that Thanksgiving Day became an annual holiday, decreed by President Abraham Lincoln.

By: Fern Moe

There are still many quilt raffle tickets available. I hope you saw the quilt when it was displayed at the Fridley State Bank. It is a lovely queen-sized hand-stitched heirloom, and it will surely be a lucky person who wins it. The oftener you enter the drawing, the better are your chances. Also, there will be additional prizes offered at the drawing, which will be on March 9, 1991, at the annual Spaghetti Dinner, and you need not be present to win. The quilt is now on display at the Museum.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
611 Mississippi St. N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

