



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 1 March 1993

NOTES from your PRESIDENT

This is an up-date on the activities that have taken place at the Museum for the last two months.

The Kindergarten classes at Hayes School drew holiday pictures that decorated our school room during the Christmas season. The Society invited the students to bring their relatives and friends to the Museum on Saturday, Jan. 16th to view their works of art. Cookies, cocoa, coffee and hot cider were served to the 70-80 people who came. It was very nice to hear all their positive comments.

We were fortunate enough to have a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society for three weeks. It was called **Her Works Praise Her: Inventions by Women.** We sent out 750 flyers to the teachers of all three Fridley School Districts. Over 370 children from District #14 visited the exhibit.

The Historical Society is so pleased with the relationship that is forming between the Society and District #14 schools. In total about 425 people viewed the exhibit. LOOK for FUTURE TRAVELING EXHIBITS!

This exhibit was beautifully displayed thanks to Sue Meyers and Jean and Irwin Peter.

If you have not paid your membership dues for 1993, please do so soon. We count on that money for operating expenses. Also remember to get your tickets for **the Lasagna Dinner on March 13.** If you have any questions, call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727.

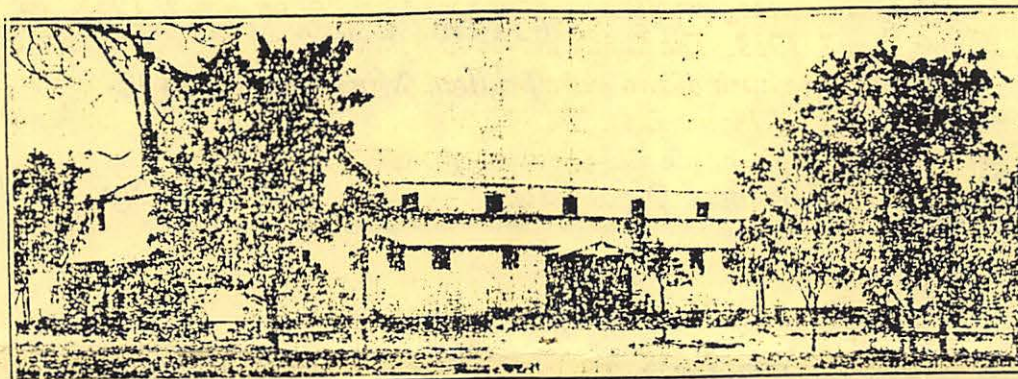
I hope 1993 is a vintage year for all of you!

Char Fitzpatrick



LASAGNA DINNER Saturday, March 13, 1993

Come and join us for a delicious Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, March 13, 1993 at the Fridley Community Center, 7th Street and 61st Avenue at 4:30 p.m. Each year the Fridley Historical Society invites members and friends to dine and bid on the many items in our Silent Auction. These items or services have been donated by the merchants in Fridley. Cost for the dinner is \$5.50.



Oak Grove Country Club

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Norma Scherer Lindquist wrote a brief note relating to the Oak Grove Country Club which was located, until the early '50's, at the juncture of Mississippi St. and Highway 65:

This is an is an original menu from the Oak Grove Country Club. The story is that John Dillinger and many other notable criminals of the 20's and 30's frequented the place. There were underground passages that enabled such persons either to hide out or skip out another entrance unnoticed.

Ole Ness and Ray Granlund (Ole's son-in-law) purchased this building and the adjoining 5 acres for \$1500 (back taxes) in 1936. We lived in the kitchen area until our home was far enough along to use. Ole's, Ray's, and John Granlund's houses and garages were built from the lumber torn down from the Country Club. Also a small barn and some other outhouses, etc. The rest of the lumber was sold.

Ole and Ray's homes were removed in the early 50's to make room for Highway 65.

Oak Grove Country Club

MENU

Heart Celery	50c
Stuffed Celery	75c
Radish Celery	35c
Sliced Tomatoes	45c
Green Onions	25c
Green Olives	35c
Ripe Olives	40c
Stuffed Olives	40c

One-half Fried Chicken, Country Style.....	\$1.25
Oak Grove Country Club Spaghetti (Italian).....	75c
Filet Mignon and Fresh Mushrooms	\$1.50
Double Sirloin for two, with Bacon	\$3.00
Lamb Chop, Breaded	\$1.00
Spanish Omelette	\$1.00
Chicken a la King, Casserole	\$1.25

FAMILY HISTORY

Ernest R. Madsen became the first Village Manager of Fridley on Jan. 1, 1955. He was born in Sheffield, Illinois Jan. 7, 1913. The family moved to Askov, MN in 1916. Within the first 7 years the family experienced the birth of two more children, the deaths of Ernie's older brother and his mother, and the rage of the Moose Lake fire. With the death of his mother, Ernie (at 11 years of age) became the chief cook, bottle washer, and mother of the family, besides helping with the farming and outside chores and still going to school.

In 1932 he took over the operation of the Co-op station and tank wagon at Hinckley. This was the beginning of a very long and dedicated involvement in the cooperative movement. The following year he helped organize the newly formed Mpls. Co-op-a gas station and fuel oil business. In 1937 he developed and implemented the "keep fill" method of fuel delivery. Theirs was the first company in the Twin Cities to adopt this now universal program. He was hired as the first manager of Federated Co-ops in Cambridge in 1942; and in 1944 was asked to come to Co-op Services in Mpls. as General Manaager, where he served until 1948. On Valentine's Day 1934 Ernie married Elizabeth Buck of Askov. They had two children: Leon and Karen. In 1944 they moved to Anoka County and lived in a number of communities. Ernie's list of accomplishments for Anoka County was limited only by his untimely death at the age of 50. His initial impact was in the early development of Circle Pines as a community.

He and his family moved to Lexington in 1951 where he was appointed to the office of Village Treasurer in 1953. The job was only part-time but he thoroughly enjoyed it, and it turned out to be a stepping stone to his future. In July 1954 Ernie became Fridley Deputy Clerk, and on Jan. 1, 1955 became the first Village Manager of Fridley. During his tenure as Manager, Fridley developed a comprehensive zoning program, water and sewer construction, and attracted many industries, businesses and residential developments.

Ernie was a founder of the Fridley Commercial Club, which later evolved into the Chamber of Commerce; he had a part in the development of Holly Shopping Center and the Industrial Park; he first induced the State of MN to dredge Moore Lake and form a new Highway 65, which resulted in an improved recreation area; he worked to get Dr. Jay to locate there as the first doctor; and he solicited investors to start the first bank. Due to health reasons he resigned as Village Manaager and entered the land developing business. Rice Creek Plaza and Melody Manor were his two main residential developments in Fridley, along with Starlite Vista in Circle Pines. In 1960 he was elected to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Failing health in 1962 again forced him to reluctantly resign from public office; and in July 1963 he died of a heart attack.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Yearly dues: Individual: \$10; Club & Church \$20; Business \$50

Mail to Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432. Membership is from January 1st to December 31st.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

From the Feb. 7th minutes:

Board discussed the value of a budget and the difficulty in projecting income and expenses for our Society due to an uncertain income.

Discussed having a Family Membership. Consensus was to keep membership fees the same....minor children are included with parents....

From the Feb. 4th minutes:

Thanks were expressed to Jerry Manley & Irvin Peter for installing the picture railing in the lower level room making it possible to display the Traveling Exhibit from the Minn. Historical Society.

Special copies of the Newsletter were sent to 353 people in Jan. inviting them to see "Her Works Praise Her."

Discussed again our goal to work on early-resident family histories....again stated our wish for an original map of Fridley as it was before the north and south portions were taken off....

Sue Meyers agreed to represent FHSoc. on the Fridley 49ers board.

....**Lasagna Dinner** posters need to be posted at various places in the community....

In Memoriam

We all miss two of our long-time members. **Ed Berntson** was an active member of our Historical Society Board at the time of his death. We miss him and his valuable contributions to our Society.

A second original member of the Society, **Gladys Mortenson**, died last month. She too will be missed.

THANKS for your help!

Our volunteers are a wonderful group! Special thanks to Herb Bacon for all his work in installing the lighted Exit lights on both levels of the Museum and for installing the ceiling fans upstairs.

CORRECTION:

Margaret Hayes Kirk is the person who donated the white enamelled kitchen table.



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Lillian Meyer, Editor



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 2 May 1993

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here are a few thoughts I have in stepping down as president of the Fridley Historical Society. It has been a wonderful and learning experience. Especially in building management. I want to thank all the members of the Fridley Historical Society for your strong support. Many of you have volunteered many hours; we could not have accomplished what we did without you. I am greatly pleased with the interaction we have with District #14, Hayes Elementary School, and the Middle School. These young people are future members.

Now I want to introduce our new President. His name is **Phil Novack**. He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Coon Rapids. Phil grew up in Fridley and attended school at the Hayes Annex.

We welcome you, Phil and Bonnie. You have many plans for us and I know it will be a great year!

So, at the May potluck dinner in May, introduce yourselves to the Novacks.

Thanks again to all of you.

Char Fitzpatrick

POT LUCK SUPPER

Monday, May 10, 1993

6:00 p.m.

at the Museum
611 Mississippi Street, Fridley

Bring your favorite food to share!

Dedication of the Lower Level Room

Following our Pot Luck Supper, there will be a formal dedication of the Community Room at the Museum. This is a very special night for the Fridley Historical Society!

Through the efforts of very dedicated people, this room, which was a disaster area when we first moved into the Museum, has become a most pleasant, serviceable, attractive area.

HISTORY

The Dam at Coon Rapids

from Historical Mural 1857

The construction of the Coon Rapids Hydroelectric Power Dam began in Jan. 1913 by the Northern Mississippi River Power Co. on choice acreage of the M.E.Dunn farm on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River in Anoka County near Coon Creek for generating electricity to be used in Anoka and Hennepin Counties. The Coon Rapids Dam was completed in late March 1914. The hydroelectric power station house was completed in the late summer of that year and went into service on August 1, 1914....

The Dam is made of earth and solid concrete construction resting on steel and wood piling, founded on river sand and a hard pan layer of firm clayish subsoil over bedrock. The total length of the Coon Rapids Dam from the end of one embankment to the end of the other is approximately 2,150 feet.... Over 42,000 cubic yards of concrete went into the Dam and over 800 carloads of crushed rock were required. The concrete spillway section is 1,070 feet long with 28 gates, each 33 feet wide, with four sluice gates and one log sluice. The height of the Dam above the lowest point of the original bed stream is 13 feet. The normal differential between the headwater and the tailwater is 19 feet....

In 1916 the property and rights of the Mississippi River Electric Power Company were purchased by Northern States Power Co. and they leased out the property to the Mpls. General Electric Co., who later merged with NSP. As time passed, this Dam and its hydroelectric power station served Anoka and Hennepin County citizens.... well into the present era. However, by 1966 electrical demands grew so rapidly that the

hydroelectric power station was no longer economically feasible and so its use was officially discontinued on Dec. 31, 1966. After 52 years of operation and service the electric generating and transmission equipment was removed from the power house.

In Dec. 1969 the ownership of the land and the Coon Rapids Dam was transferred to the Hennepin Co. Park Reserve District. This became the basis for developing the Coon Rapids Dam and surrounding 360 acres of land, 225 of which are on the Anoka County side, into the **Coon Rapids Regional Park** completed in mid Sept. 1978. The County Public Park facilities feature a 1,070-foot concrete walkway with an elevated observation deck spanning the entire Mississippi River between Hennepin and Anoka Counties, giving visitors an intimate, exciting, and breathtaking view of the immense force of the water rushing through the spillway gates on its way southward to Minneapolis.

(Editor's note: This park is very nice. There are picnic areas, shelters, paths, a visitor's center, etc. If you have not been there it is well worth a visit. There is a road so you can drive if you do not want to walk.)

Tidbits

(Editor's note: Char will be having knee replacement in early May. She is looking forward to further activities following this surgery. What a great leader and inspiration she has been for all of us! Our best wishes for a speedy recovery!!!)

MORE HISTORY

Clay Hole and Chimney

from Historical Mural 1957-

The Clay Hole and Chimney...are reminders of a once successful brickmaking venture. When clay deposits were discovered, Dr. D.C. Dunham organized the first brickyard in 1881, known as the Anoka Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company. It was located at the site of the present Clay hole swimming area. The digging of clay from this source was terminated when diggers hit a spring at about 90 feet. The clay hole...remained utilized up to the present time by several generations of swimmers.

The other remnant of a long-gone brick company was a chimney, 109 feet tall, located on 86th Lane and E. River Road. It stood in lonely dignity on a plat of land surrounded by trees. It aroused curiosity in passers-by, but offered minimal clues to its worthy past. In later years the brick chimney served no practical purpose other than a silent tribute to a once prosperous enterprise. Lightning struck and severely damaged the top of the old brickyard chimney during late evening thunderstorm on Wed., June 25, 1980. The following Wed., July 2, 1980, the storm-damaged brick chimney was taken down. It was

demolished for public safety reasons. The demolished chimney brought down the curtain on the last remembrance of the brick factory operation that was a prominent part of Coon Rapids in the early 1900's.

CALENDAR:

May 6, 1993 FHS Board Meeting

May 10, 1993 Pot Luck Supper
Dedication

June 12, 1993 Miss Fridley Candidates will visit the
Fridley Historical
Society Museum

June 16-20 49er Days Parade

The Museum will be open
during the week-look for
schedule!

The Fridley Sr. Crafters will
have their **Craft and Bake
Sale** at the Museum during
49er Days.



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49er Days Schedule

by Sue Meyers

Wed.. June 16 **49er Days Parade** at
6:30 pm

Thur.. June 17 **Variety Show** and
Wrestling

Fri.. June 18 **Fashion Show** at
Northtown
Street Dance at night

Sat.. June 19 **Pageant** in the evening
at the High School
Street Dance at night

Sun.. June 20 **Street Dance**

In addition to the schedule above, there
will be a **Carnival** from Wednesday
through Sunday.

There also will be a **Craft Show** Saturday
and Sunday at the Plaza.

Among the many **children's activities**
there will be a **Teddy Bear Band** at the
Plaza.

Circle your calendars so you don't miss
any of these attractions!

Review of Minutes

Phil Novack was appointed to serve the
unexpired term of President, thus filling the
vacancy which has existed since January. The
Board approved unanimously and welcomed
him. Suzanne, a representative from Burger
King told of a plan which would give us 20%
of receipts...the plan sounds good and we will
set up a day for this.

Bake Sale to be held at Skywood Mall, Sat.,
Apr. 3rd.

Sunshine: Cards were sent to Edna Ask and
Charlie Johanson.

Reviewed Lasagna Dinner. It was a great
success. Board complimented Gloria Hayes
for a job well done.

Budget: Sue Miskowic, Chuck Hayes and
Lillian Meyer will work on a budget for this
year to present at the next board meeting.



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611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Lillian Meyer, Editor





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611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 3 June 1993

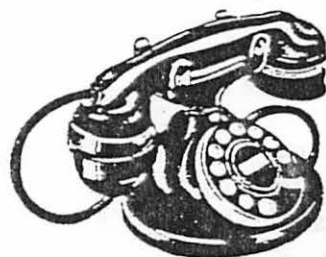
MEMBERS GARAGE SALE

Date: June 17 & 18

Where: Museum lower level

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Who: Open to the public



Every member is asked to bring items which can be sold to benefit the Museum. Bring your items on Tuesday June 15 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring miscellaneous type items, but **NO CLOTHING**.

We need volunteers to help with sales. Call Gloria at 571-3727 and offer your services-even an hour will be appreciated!

BENEFIT NIGHT for the FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fridley Burger King, 6410 University Ave., will sponsor a benefit night, Saturday, June 19 from 4-9 p.m. They will donate 20% of all sales to the Fridley Historical Society.

Enjoy your evening meal and benefit the Society at the same time!

REVIEW of the LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

by Gloria Hayes, Chair

After getting a really slow start on the sale of tickets and putting me in a real tizzy, we broke all records and had a very successful event! Here are the facts and figures compared to last year (which was bigger than the previous year):

	1993	1992	Change
Tickets sold	225	210	15
No. served	200	176	24
Food cost	\$645.21	\$485.61	\$159.60
Donations	\$114.00	\$88.00	\$26.00
Auction	\$1167.50	\$943.05	\$224.45
Total	\$1926.71	\$1516.66	\$410.05
No. of donors	116	92	24
Auction units	149	142	7
Door Prizes	13	7	6

INCOME

Tickets: 211 sold early, 14 at the door=225:	\$1237.50
Extra food sold:	94.00
Donations:	114.00
Auction	<u>1167.50</u>
Total	\$2613.00

EXPENDITURES

To LaGondola (lasagna)	\$ 661.05
This includes tax \$40.35 -first time	
Placemats, napkins, cups	25.24
Total	\$ 686.29

TOTAL PROFIT REALIZED \$1167.50

This is not just a 1 or 2 person committee-it takes everyone! From selling tickets, meeting with the donors, getting all the items ready for the auction, setting and cleaning the tables & chairs, and, of course, putting them back, taking the tickets both at the door and selling the extra food from the kitchen, making coffee and orange drink, salads, sundaes & cookies, calling off the winning names and collecting the money from the auction items= everyone just pitched right in with whatever needed to be done. I thank all of you and really appreciate all of your help! **BUT**, please, next year, buy your tickets earlier so I don't have to be in such a whirl. You probably don't know that I had ordered 204 dinners and less than 3 weeks to the dinner only 56 tickets had actually been sold!

Fred, only you and I know the thrill of contacting the donors; how great it is when they say "yes" the first trip. But then they don't often say "no" to you. This goes for tickets too! Selling 26 is no easy job. Couldn't do it without you.

Special thanks to all the wonderful helpers: Glen and Jeanne Thorein, Corine Kirkham, Sue Miskowicz, Ardie Chesney, Esther Campbell, DeLoris Schultz, Jeanne and Irwin Peter, Sue Meyers,



Chris Gerrity, Meryl Berntson, Bunty Shaw, Char Fitzpatrick, Jerry and Marilyn Manley, the Manley kids, the Fitzpatrick kids, the Theorin kids and everyone else who helped!

Glen Theorin is my absolute side-kick at the auction table. He's the best calculator in the business!!

And thanks to my husband, Chuck, who sat in the car when it was cold waiting on me at the donors' businesses for 1/2 hour at times, who carried all the stuff over to the Community Center and who kept saying it'd all work out when I was so worried we wouldn't reach 104, let alone the 204 we did reach!



DEDICATION of the JOHANSON/BACON ROOM

On Monday, May 10, 1993, President Phil Novack presented a plaque to Herb Bacon in recognition of all the work and contributions he has made at the Museum. Charlie Johanson, who has also done a great amount of work and has made other contributions was unable to be present, but his plaque was accepted in his stead by his sister, Marion Anderson.

NOTES from your PRESIDENT

I love history and learning all about my family and friends and their past. I was raised in this area. When I first moved out here there were just a few farms, a very few homes, and the sand dunes.

Fridley had beautiful wild blue crocuses and an abundance of wild sticker plants. You couldn't walk even a short distance and not get your pant legs full of stickers. Walking anywhere barefoot was definitely a 'no-no.' Those stickers were worse than walking on broken glass. With all of the

development over the years, there are very few of these plants left anywhere in Fridley.

I can remember the sand storms here. They blew sand right through the doors and windows.

Now I am back many years later and am your new President. Some of our members I remember from when I was a pup. I hope to serve them and Fridley to the best of my ability.

Phil Novack

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

When: Saturday, June 19th

Where: Fridley Historical Society

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Fridley Senior Crafters will have crafts and bakery goods for sale.

Come and see these hand-made items!
Come to savor the goodies!

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

June 15	Bring garage sale items to museum 8-12 & 6-8
June 16	49er's Day Parade 6:30
June 17	Garage Sale 8-5 at Museum
June 18	Garage Sale 8-5 at Museum
June 19	Museum open 9-5 Sr Crafters Sale 9-3 Elizabeth Frischmon Art Show 9-3

ART WORK on DISPLAY and for SALE

Elizabeth Frischmon, a member of our Society will have her paintings on display and for sale on Saturday, June 19th in the lower level of the Museum.

TIDBITS

As we experience a very cool, wet spring and early June, here are a few numbers you might remember. These are from a scrap of paper given to us:

Temperatures and dates in 1936:

July 6	104
July 7	101
July 8	101
July 9	96
July 10	106
July 11	106
July 12	106
July 13	105
July 14	108
July 15	98
July 16	98
July 17	99

No doubt we would all like to see some warmer summer weather, but not like this!!



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Lillian Meyer, Editor





Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 4 September-1993

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our first meeting this fall will be at the Museum on Monday, September 13, 1993.

We are fortunate to have Commander Rudy Nessman as the Fridley Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 363, as our speaker. He will talk about the history of the Post-how and when it was organized.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Come and bring your friends!!!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our current display, **Keep the Home Fires Burning - WW I Midwest**, will include memorabilia from both WWI and WWII. If you have any articles, clothing, etc. you would be willing to loan for this display, which will be up until October 3, 1993, please call Jeanne Peter at 571-8730, or Sue Meyers at 574-9801.

CALENDAR

September

2nd, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
13th, Mon. Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Commander Rudy Nessman, speaker

October

7th, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
11th, Mon. Pot Luck Dinner, 6:00 pm
Annual Meeting & Election of
Officers and Directors

November

4th, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
8th, Mon. Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
John Haines, former Administrator
Unity Hospital, and Elizabeth
Frischmon, Unity Hospital
Auxiliary, speakers

December

Victorian Christmas Celebration

January

6th, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
10th, Mon. Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Jack Kirk, Fridley Parks and
Recreation Department, speaker

HISTORY

The following was excerpted from the booklet, Anoka, 1889, by Alvah Eastman:

"Any article on Anoka county would be incomplete without special mention of the booming town of Fridley. This town has been making great business progress within the past few years, and is already quite a manufacturing centre. Here are Ball & Naylor's Pump Factory, Fridley Soda Works, Clayton Plow Works and others. Fridley Park is but a few miles from Minneapolis and will soon become a suburban residence point for that great city. Within a short time a motor line will be built. Parties desiring to invest in realty should be careful to see what they are buying, as a few miles out are several worthless so-called additions to Fridley, which are put on the market by scheming real estate swindlers. Deal only with well known and reliable agents."

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The following is the total amount of taxable property in Anoka county, as assessed in 1888:

	REAL.	PERSONAL.
City of Anoka.....	\$1,039,135	\$419,515
Town of Anoka.....	133,901	25,270
" Bethel.....	60,379	16,262
" Burns.....	85,660	13,212
" Blaine.....	117,696	10,879
" Centreville.....	86,238	14,491
" Columbus.....	67,439	6,694
" Fridley.....	432,623	39,371
" Grow.....	95,970	24,896
" Ham Lake.....	69,910	19,343
" Linwood.....	63,569	5,978
" Oak Grove.....	56,197	12,915
" Ramsey.....	98,573	18,232
" St. Francis.....	41,682	9,590
	<u>\$2,448,972</u>	<u>\$637,178</u>
Grand total of both.....	\$3,086,150	

Also from Anoka, 1889 is this table. As we pay our taxes this fall, we can imagine how much these taxable properties have increased over the years!

CURRENT DISPLAY at the MUSEUM

Courtesy, Minnesota Historical Society



KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING: WORLD WAR I IN THE MIDWEST

Keep the Home Fires Burning looks at home-front activities in the Upper Midwest during World War I through photographs and posters from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Developed by Steve Lassonde while a student at Normandale Community College, the exhibit raises issues of dissent and support for the war, ethnic hostilities and sympathies, farm politics and government policies which were common in

midwestern communities. Political groups such as the Non-Partisan League and the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety are shown to suggest the unique qualities of middle America at the time of the war while descriptions of draftee roundups, Liberty Loan drives and the Armistice celebration place the region into a national perspective. **Keep the Home Fires Burning** focuses on what was once believed to be the "war to end all wars."

Water Water Everywhere...

Here is a picture
taken in the
spring of 1936
and found in the
scrapbook kept
by Margaret Toner.

No, NOT in
1993,
This was in
1937!!

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS TAKES TO BOATS



—Tribune Staff Photographer.

Boats were in order Wednesday in flooded lowlands at Forty-third and Central avenues northeast, Columbia Heights. At least that's the way this one householder got about.

CORRECTION

Several of you noticed that the total profit realized from the **Lasagna Dinner** should have read **\$1926.71** instead of the figure of \$1167.50 that was given. Sorry. Your editor goofed!

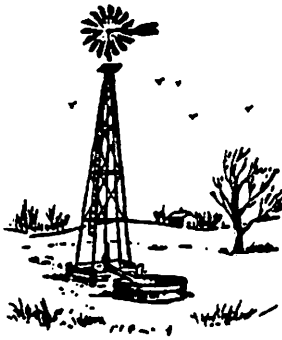


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Lillian Meyer, Editor



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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 5 October 1993

OCTOBER POT-LUCK SUPPER AND MEETING

- What:** Annual Meeting
Election of Officers and Directors
Fred Schultz will show slides taken
in Fridley from the 1920's & 1930's
- When:** Monday, October 11, 1993
- Where:** Fridley Historical Society Museum
611 Mississippi Street
- Time:** 6:00 p.m.
- Bring:** One pot-luck item to share, plates and
utensils for your own use



PROPOSED SLATE of OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President:	Phil Novack
Vice-President:	Char Fitzpatrick
Treasurer:	Jerry Johnson
Secretary:	Esther Campbell

Directors for 3 year terms: vote for 3

Jeanne Peter
Fred Schultz
Merle Berntson

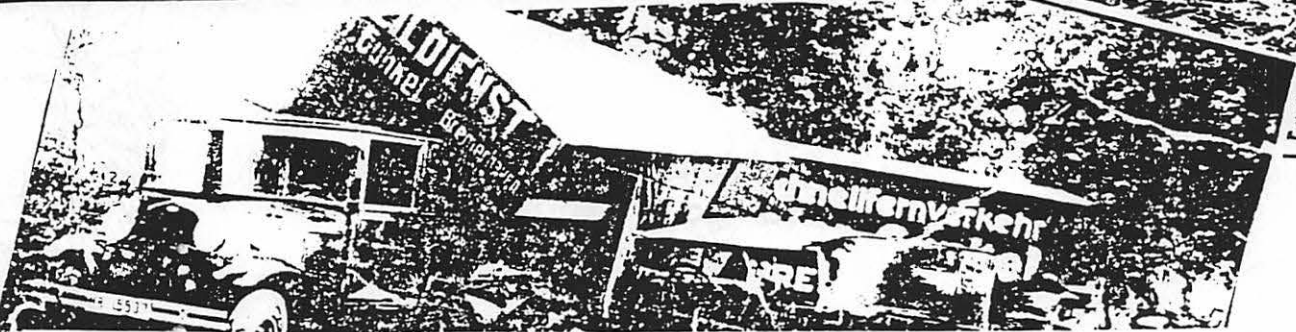
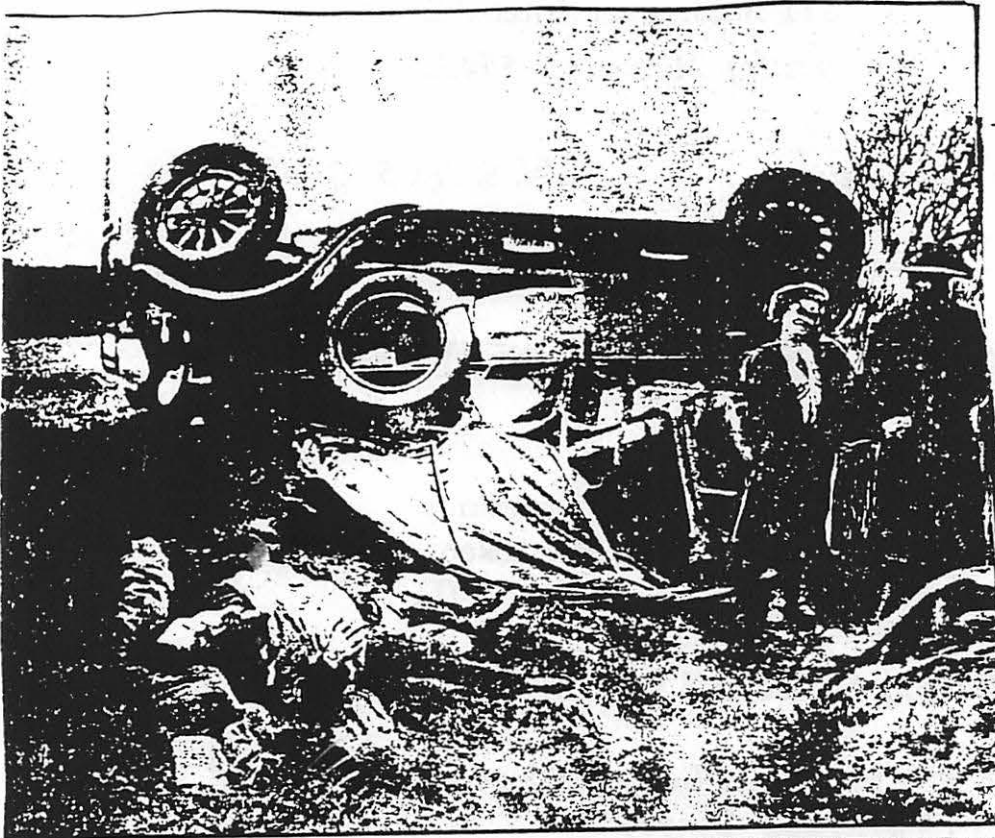
Presented by Nominating Committee Chair,
Gloria Hayes

Your help is needed! Do you have any pictures, brochures, any memorabilia from a trip to view the Statue of Liberty that you would be willing to loan to this display for the month of October? If so, contact **Jeanne Peter** at 571-8730, or **Sue Meyers** at 574-9801.

Can You Explain These Amazing Accidents?

In addition to these three, more than 100 automobiles were wrecked at this same point in less than a year.

These pictures and article were found in Margaret Toner's scrapbook. (She died it 1929-1930)



you'll probably be acclaimed the world's master detective if you can solve this mystery. The clues follow:

In a period of less than a year, more than a hundred mysterious automobile accidents occurred at precisely the same point on a new hard-surfaced highway between Bremen and Bremerhaven, in Germany. The road was opened to traffic in the late summer of 1929, and almost immediately cars began to have trouble at Kilometre Stone 23.9, on a stretch of perfectly straight highway. Survivors of the accidents told the German police that as they reached the stone marker they suddenly felt a tremendous thrill, and that the next instant some terrific force seized their cars and swerved them off the road. The climax of the terror was reached on September 7, 1930, when nine automobiles were wrecked at this point in a single day. Scientists professed themselves baffled by the accidents, but Carl Wehrs, a professional water-finder who lived near the Kilometre Stone, suggested that a magnetic current, generated by an underground stream, was responsible. He undertook to prove his theory. Holding a steel divining rod in his hand, Wehrs started across the road. At a point 12 feet from the kilometre post and directly opposite it in the highway, the rod was suddenly torn from Wehrs' hand and hurled to the side of the road, while Wehrs received a shock which spun him half around. Wehrs then buried near the base of the stone post a little copper box filled with star-shaped pieces of copper, with the points of the star turned upward. The box remained in the ground for a week, during which time all cars passed the post safely. Then it was exhumed-and the first three cars that attempted to pass were wrecked. The box was immediately reburied-and since then there have been no accidents at Kilometre Post 23.9. But farmers nearby complain that the devil of the road has entered their radios. Their sets now deliver nothing but violent static.

LIBERTIES with LIBERTY

Liberties with Liberty, a 20-piece poster exhibition, was organized in honor of the Statue of Liberty Centennial by the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City together with the Xerox Foundation. America was depicted by artists as a female figure for over 300 years before there was ever a Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Included in the exhibit are highlights of the changing image of Liberty as the personification of America from 16th century engravings portraying America as a savage Indian Queen; to the friendlier Indian Princess used in the 18th century as the English settlements grew; then to the Greek Goddess "America" after the colonies broke away from Britain; and finally, the 19th century "Liberty" that has become the country's permanent symbol and has dominated popular and folk art ever since.

This Traveling Exhibition, from the Minnesota Historical Society, will be on display at the Fridley Historical Society from **October 8 to 30**.



HISTORY

From the book History of Fridley by Gen Rasmussen, pgs 29 & 30

(Editor's note: There has been much interest lately in the repair of the Locke Lake Dam, which, I believe, is near the site of the old mill which Ms. Rasmussen describes in her book.)

"These were boom times and Manomin was becoming a boom town. Minnesota's troops were home from the war, immigration from foreign countries was heavy, and railroads were bringing growth and prosperity. The Fridley Family sold so much of its land that Henry kept an account book labeled, "Record of Land Sold by Henry C. Fridley from 1871."

A flour mill was constructed near the mouth of Rice Creek in 1871 by W. H. Hale of Pennsylvania. Some remains of the foundation can still be seen. Damning the creek provided power for the mill and created

a mill pond.

The original dam provided a fifteen foot head of power for the flour mill. The Territorial Road (East River Road) passed over by way of a bridge built over the dam. A 1922 map shows a railroad crossing the dam site. Maps of 1936 and 1952 show no mill pond. The MN Dept of Natural Resources has concluded from the available data that the original dam was removed some time between 1922 and 1936 and replaced by a concrete box culvert, which was modified by the Village of Fridley to again function as a dam in 1955. The East River Road now passes just west of the dam."

CALENDAR

October

7th, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
11th, Mon., **Pot Luck Dinner**, 6:00 pm
Annual Meeting & Election of Officers and Directors
Fred Schultz shows slides of Fridley from the 1920's and 1930's

November

4th, Thur., Board Meeting 7:00 pm
8th, Mon., Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
John Haines, former Administrator
Unity Hospital, and **Elizabeth Frischmon**, Unity Hospital
Auxiliary, speakers
19th, Friday, **Bake Sale** at the Fridley State Bank, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

December

14th, Tues. **Victorian Christmas** 7:00 pm
This is the first time we will have a regular meeting in December. Let's all share the beauty of the season!

January

6th, Thur. Board Meeting 7:00 pm
10th, Mon., Regular Meeting 7:00 pm

A fund raiser **BAKE SALE** has been planned for Friday, November 19 from 9-5 at the Fridley State Bank.

Please help by baking your favorite goodies to sell. Thanks to all of you who have baked and sold these tasty goodies in the past! Will you again share your expertise?

Review of the September Minutes:

Building: All the plastic on the screens has been checked and replaced where necessary.

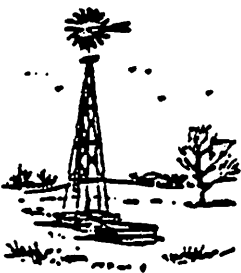
*Museum: The current display, **Keep the Home Fires Burning: WWI in the Midwest** will be up until Oct.*

Docents needed for Saturdays to be at the Museum during hours we are open: 12:00-2:00.

Funding: More projects are needed to bring in funds for the Museum. We will have a bake sale at the Fridley State Bank on Fri., Nov. 19, from 9-5.

The Museum now has a refrigerator. It is a large one and a good used appliance.

The Museum will be open for the Victorian Christmas on Mon., Dec. 13th.



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Lillian Meyer, Editor



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 6 December 1993

*Come and join us as we celebrate
a VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS!!*

Tuesday, December 14, 1993

at the Museum at 7:00 pm

Program: The Victorian Chamber Singers

Refreshments! Cookies and cider

Invite your family and friends!!!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

(Your editor thought you might like to see what was being printed in a local newspaper column during December starting 60 years ago.)

In 1964 the Fridley Rotary Club prepared and sponsored a book called Prestemon's Points to pay honor to O. H. Prestemon, a weekly columnist for the Columbia Heights Record.

The following are excerpts from his columns which appeared in the RECORD:

Dec. 15, 1933: One of the proposals before the legislature is to permit cities to go into the liquor business as a municipal undertaking.....An official sampler or taster will have to be appointed in order to insure quality stuff. When applications for this job are received, the council meeting will be held in the High School auditorium and admission restricted to applicants to prevent overcrowding.....

Dec. 9, 1938: It looks as though Pres. Roosevelt is really going to cut WPA to keep within the appropriation....There is something radically wrong with WPA. All the evils inherent in the competitive capitalistic system seem to be just as pronounced in WPA as in private employment. There is no recognition of varying needs.... Nevertheless it has served its purpose, faulty as the system may be.....

Dec. 11, 1942: The other day I had an appointment in Wyman Smith's law office and found myself alone for a half hour....I looked around for some reading matter to while away the time.

A law office is crammed with ponderous tomes from floor to ceiling but somehow I haven't developed a taste for this sort of reading.....I thought: here within these books is the system of rules designed to bring the conduct of the individual into harmony with the recognized practice of his fellowmen. This gives direction to our actions and is certainly essential to our welfare. In fact it is the basis for what we call civilization. Out of the social habits and customs of people there has evolved one of the great branches of law-the common law.....

Dec. 24, 1948: Christmas-day finds most churches filled to



capacity....No doubt, in the years ahead, more and more people will be attracted to all of the numerous functions of the church; functions that down through the ages have been largely responsible for the development and growth of the moral fibre of this nation....Through the medium of the churches we can expect to develop better neighbors, better communities and a better America.

But, having said this we must nevertheless recognize that America is not a Christian country. There are Christians in America. Christian influence went into the building of our nation and the impact of Christian truth is still felt to some extent in our national law and life, but America is essentially and predominantly pagan.

....Some sacrifice everything to greed; avarice is their god. They are the devotees of wealth. Others are mastered by their appetite for drink. Many live to serve the lust of flesh and worship the base passions of their nature.....

The teachings of great leaders down through the ages emphasize the same lesson: be kind to one another, then there will be no strife, no war, no evil. Then, and only then, will there be "Peace on earth and good will towards all men."

Dec. 22, 1950: Another Christmas is with us again...But one is caught short with the black pall of headlines and the disturbing voice from the radio: "Taft-Mr. Republican, says he will not cooperate with the administration as long as Truman is president", McCarthy calls Drew Pearson a Communist, Mao says we must recognize Communist China, get out of Formosa-or else. "Drop the Atom Bomb"; "Fire Acheson"; "South Koreans massacre hundreds of their own countrymen"; Judd says, "Starve the Chinese and drop bombs on their coastal cities", build billions of dollars worth of bomb shelters all over the U.S."

Is all this just a nightmare? It is all interspersed with Christmas anthems and the retelling of the Christmas Story of the Birth of the Prince of Peace. None of the people walking along the streets or



shopping for gifts or busy at their desks, want to fight anybody or threaten anybody-and that is true of all the plain people in the whole world. But we have nothing to say about it...

Dec. 15, 1955: *Objections to federal aid to schools is generally centered on the dangers inherent in federal control of education. Of course, we have had federal aid to schools of some kind or another for many years and I have never heard of any evil effects of any controls that may be imposed. In fact the only control is an occasional audit; aside from this there is little or no supervision. Federal payments go to states and are channeled to the school districts, which provide the actual instruction....*

Whether it is public roads, welfare or schools the work of most state officials and agencies goes on from day to day and year to year without any national supervision, much less any national interference despite the fact that more than two billion dollars are distributed as grants in aid....

Dec. 20, 1956*My ancestors left Europe in protest against official and clerical authority. They did not get free air transportation. There was no modern home complete with furniture and TV awaiting them. They were indentured slaves bound by debt to the corporation that advanced their fare for passage. They endured unspeakable hardship and saw some of their children die from lack of proper care and medical help. There was no Red Cross or other help. They lived in dugouts. It*

was a matter of survival or death. There was no appeal to the conscience of mankind. They either came through or they didn't. Many of these immigrants made it; many didn't. Their graves often as not have been obliterated.

Conditions in Europe a hundred years ago were such that these people gladly exchanged them for all the hardships they had to endure here. Here the enemy was nature, not man's inhumanity to man. But they were free. Often that freedom meant only freedom to struggle and suffer, but it was not imposed on them by tyrants, it was of their own choosing, and always there was hope. That sustained them and they built incomparable America.



HISTORY

from Margaret Toner's scrapbook:
A news article from 1932:

A White Christmas, But No Joy to the Motorist

"....Minneapolis found a new and strange phenomena to worry about on Christmas morning. That is, maybe it was new. Nobody seems to settle that aspect. It looked like lightening and perhaps it was. But then again maybe it wasn't.

That was about as far as university professors would go Sunday night in explaining the weird flashes of light that flashed and faded in the western sky Christmas morning, while thousands of early churchgoers were pushing through the heavy snowfall.

It wasn't the *aurora borealis*, one university professor decided, because the aurora would be to the north and of different color. Two other professors tried and both fell back on the lightning theory."

(The article goes on to say there had been 8" of new snow after a day of rain and sleet.)

"It was a gift that not only provided the traditional 'white' Christmas at the last moment....

It was a gift also to garages, taxi cabs and tow cars. Scores of them had more business than they could handle"

(Fridley undoubtedly was affected by the same snowfall.)

CALENDAR

Dec. 14

Victorian Christmas
7:00 pm

Dec. 18

Open House for
students from Hayes and
Stevenson kindergarten classes.
Father Christmas will be at the
Museum from 12:00 to 3:00.
Cookies and cider will be served.



Jan. 10

Pictures drawn by these two
classes will be on display in the
Museum from mid Dec. until the
18th.
Jack Kirk will speak on the park
and recreation program in
Fridley.

Jan. 1994

The display, "**Till the Cows Come Home**" will be available for
viewing.

Feb. 14

A speaker from the
Oliver Kelly Farm will talk about
the farm.