



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 1 January 1994

The Oliver Kelly Farm Manager

Jim Mattson

will be our guest speaker on

Februray 14, 1994

His presentation will include the history of the Farm

Did you know the Grange was started by Oliver Kelly?

Do you know what the Grange is?

When it was formed?

Why?

Come to this meeting and get answers

History-The Mulcare Family

From the book Anoka County, MN - 1982

"Thomas Mulcare was born in Ireland on Nov. 21, 1826. Bridget Quinn Mulcare was also born in Ireland on Oct. 28, 1832.....their first residence was in New York State where their first son, Thomas, Jr., was born in 1855.

From New York they moved to the area of Kandiyohi County in MN. They settled in this area when MN was still a territory. Four sons were born to them while they lived there-Michael...in 1856, James in 1858, John in 1860, and Jerome in 1862. Because Kandiyohi became a county in Mar. 1858, the census was taken that year, and the census taker told Thomas that James was the first white child born in Kandiyohi County.

In Aug. 1862, trouble suddenly erupted between the white pioneers and the Indians. Before this many of the pioneers were friendly with the Indians, and like most of the neighbors, Bridget Mulcare shared food with them. When the Sioux Uprising occurred, the Sioux did visit the Mulcare home, but because of their generosity, they were spared. When (the Indians) left, Bridget and Thomas gathered their children and fled....to Monticello....Many years later Michael told of the hard winter they spent there and how he would try to get food from the soldiers to ease the burden on the family.

From Monticello, the Mulcares moved to Northeast Minneapolis near Broadway and Central. Bridget refused to leave Minneapolis because she wanted her children to be educated. A son, Willie, was born in 1865 and in 1867 a daughter, Mary, was born. On Nov. 12, 1969 Bridget Mulcare died of scarlet fever at the age of 37. Willie died at the age of seven in a tragic accident. He was playing near a wood wagon and the wood load fell on him. After Willie's death, Thomas moved to 50th and Central Ave. in Fridley with his family and remained there until his death in 1901.....

James remained home and farmed the family farm. He also taught school in Fridley in the late 1870's. He married Margaret Casey on Sept. 10, 1885....James

remained in Fridley for the rest of his life. He was the Fridley Township assessor for many years. He died in 1934....

Jerome also remained in Fridley on part of the family farm. He married Honora Casey and they had three children, Margaret, Maary and Jack. Jerome died from pneumonia in 1980 leaving Honora with three small children. Jack was killed by a runaway horse in 1938 and Margaret and Mary are now living in Columbia Heights. (editor's note: Margaret, a charter member of the Fridley Historical Society, died several years ago.)"

Victorian Christmas a Big Success

Our Dec. 14th Victorian Christmas was celebrated by a large crowd of members and visitors. The highlight of the evening was the presentation by the **Fridley High School Victorian Singers**. Dressed in their Victorian costumes and singing the old songs of that long ago era, they added a very festive note to the evening.

Our thanks to the singers: Sarah Grageit, Lizzie Jacobson, Eddy Guzek, Heather Middlestedt, Larry Overacker, Christopher Brooks, Chris Guth, Rachel Goedde and Heather Gerard.

Kindergarten Drawings and Father Christmas

Kindergarten classes from Hayes and Stevenson Schools made Christmas drawings which then were hung at the Museum. On Saturday, Dec. 18th, the children brought their families to see their artwork and to have their pictures taken with Father Christmas in his costume (Phil Novak, our president.) Children could sit in the sleigh which was graciously loaned for the occasion by Bob Schroer of Bob's Produce Ranch. Goodies and cider were served.

For those of you who missed this display, we urge you to come next year. It is great! These drawings come from the heart.

Till the Cows Come Home



This new display, mounted by Sue Meyers and Jeanne Peter, will be on view in the Museum from January 31st to February 28th. In addition to the Minnesota Historical Society's traveling exhibit, noted below, this display will include pictures and articles our members and friends have had in county fairs or at the Minnesota State Fair.

If you have such memorabilia and would be willing to have it on display during February, please contact either Sue Meyers at 574-9801 or Jeanne Peter at 571-8730.

Till the Cows Come Home, produced in cooperation by the Goodhue County Historical Society and the Minnesota Humanities Commission, tells the story of the American county fair experience. Through historic and contemporary photographs, it portrays the county fair as a unique American folk festival - one in which the local agricultural community celebrated. Originating in New England in the 18th century to promote agricultural interests, the fair moved westward with settlement. County societies organized the yearly events to give direction and improvement to agriculture, horticulture, mechanics' arts, and rural and domestic economy. Over the years county fair exhibits have expanded to include concessions, cotton candy, age guessers, and ferris wheels. Tractor pulls and demolition derbys offer grandstand entertainment for one and all. Till The Cows Come Home follows the county fair's lineage from the pioneers to the present showing viewers the way in which the diverse aspects of county life are put on display once a year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

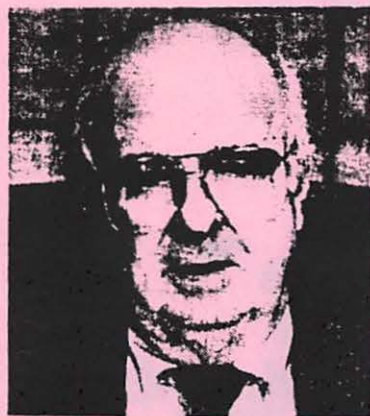
Name _____ Phone _____

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.

Death of a Charter Member



The Fridley Historical Society mourns the death of Ed Fitzpatrick, a friend and charter member of the Society. His contributions of time and support for our Society continued up until his death on December 13, 1993.

Ed was a teacher, a Fridley Councilman, an active DFLer, and an active member of Central Lutheran Church. He strongly supported establishment of the Springbrook Nature Center. These are only a few of the many activities in which he was engaged.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Charlotte, and to his four sons, Charles, James, Paul and John.

LASAGNE DINNER to be held in April

The Annual Lasagne Dinner has been changed from March to **April** this year. It will be on Sat., April 9. Many members and friends are gone during March so your board decided to try April this year. Tickets remain at \$5.50. More details will follow in the newsletter.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today. We need your continued support and your input. Use the handy membership form on the back of this newsletter and mail to

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611 Mississippi St.
Fridley, MN 55432



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Fridley, MN 55432

Lillian Meyer, Editor



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611 Mississippi Street NE
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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 2 March 1994

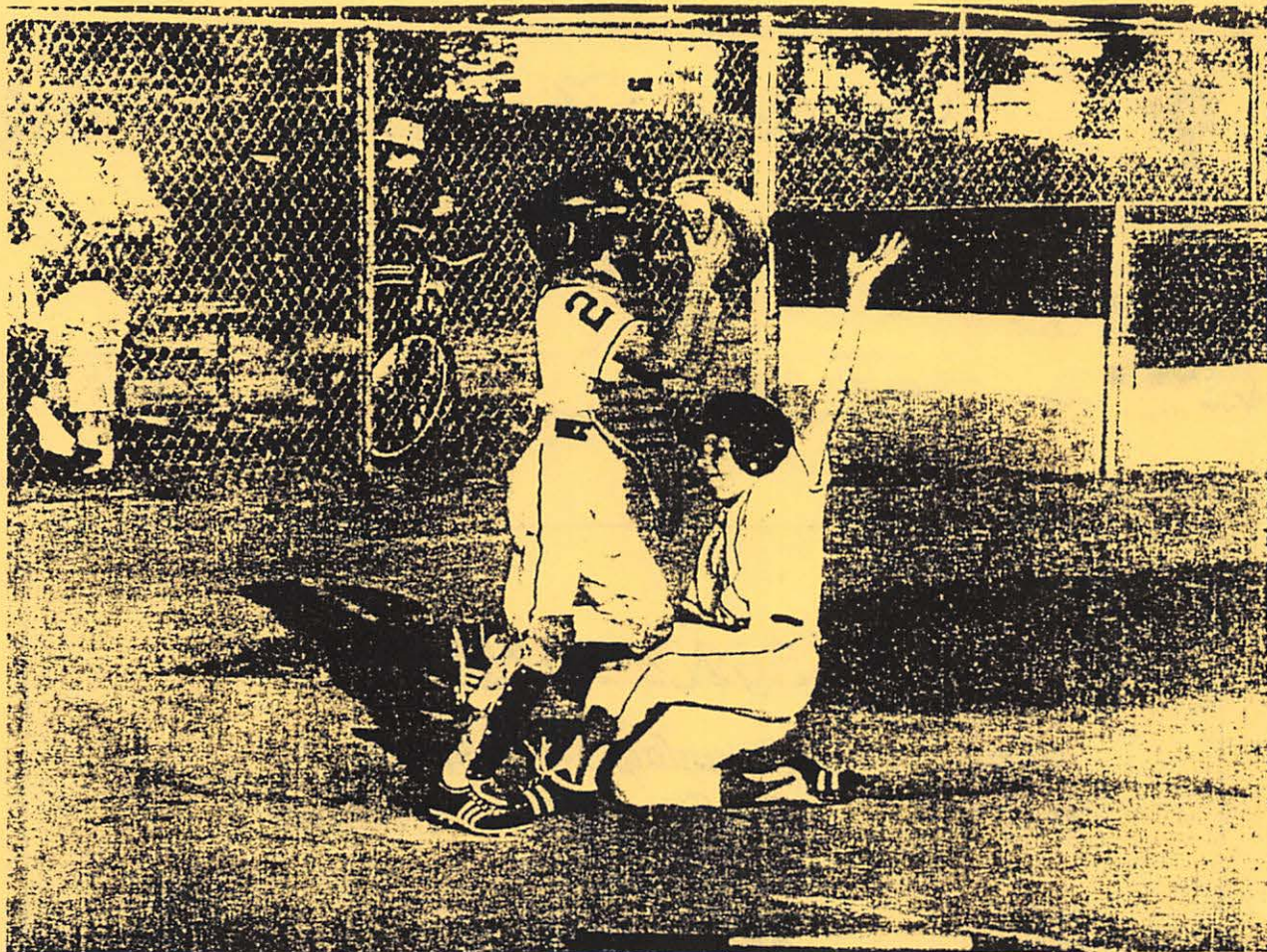
LASAGNA DINNER

When: Saturday, April 9, 1994
Where: Fridley Community Schools
7th Street and 61st Ave.
Cost: Tickets are \$5.50
Time: 4:30 pm for Silent Auction
Bidding
5:00 pm Dinner
6:00 pm Auction.

Invite your family and friends to come to this delicious dinner. This is our BIG FUND RAISER for the year!

Come early and make bids on Silent Auction items.

Please help by selling tickets. Tickets are available from Gloria Hayes. Call her at 571-3727.



FRIDLEY LITTLE LEAGUER WAS SAFE AT HOME, SLIDING UNDER THE TAG

It will soon be time to "Play ball!"

Here is a copy of a picture taken from the June 26, 1964 SUN newspaper.

Calendar

Mon., Mar. 14 at 6:30 Pot Luck Supper
at the Museum

Fri., Mar. 25 Bake Sale at the Fridley State
Bank from 9 - 5

Sat., Apr. 9 Lasagna Supper at the
Community Center. Doors open 4:30

June 16th, 17th, 18th 49er Days in Fridley

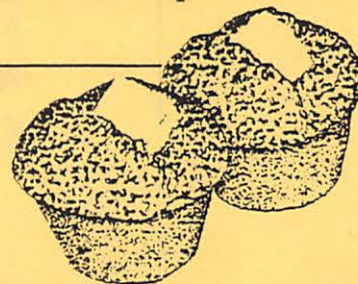
Bake Sale

Fridley State Bank has again offered the use of the Bank for our Spring Bake Sale. It will be held the Friday before Palm Sunday, **March 25, 1994 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

Our last bake sale was very successful. Will you bake again? Doors will be open from 8 am on.

September Display

Next fall, in September, the Display at the Museum will be "School Days." If you have any school artifacts you would be willing to have on display, please contact either Sue Meyers at 574-9801 or Jean Peter at 571-8730.



HISTORY

*from the Fridley Free
Press Sept. 22, 1950:*

Liquor Store Means Money For Village

The liquor store of the village of Fridley promises to be a boon for tax relief to the property owners of the community.

The store was opened in October, 1949, as a package off-sale store in the Carlson block on Central and 73rd.

The village council had taken a vote to decide whether or not the people in the village wanted a liquor dispensary. The vote was in the affirmative and the council then passed the necessary ordinance.....

....Peter Brooks was employed as manager and the success of the establishment has been partly due to his experience and management.

On the first of 1950 a large on-sale liquor store was added.

Carl Hartman, mayor of the village of Fridley reports that the store now is earning net profits of approximately \$1800 per month. He states that the village had no cash with which to operate in the beginning and that "it will take two or three months before we can turn the net profit each month over into the village general funds." The liquor store funds are

now kept in a separate account in the Columbia Heights State Bank.

Hartman said, "The village council believes that the profits of the liquor store will eventually take care of most of our municipal needs. It should pay for our needed fire equipment and the resurfacing of many roads."

The village rents the equipment and building now used by the liquor store and some day hopes to have a municipal building which will house not only the liquor store, but provide space for the council to have meetings, space for village offices, a fire department garage and court room.

"The municipal building would have been constructed long ago," said Hartman, "except that the court litigation by the Northern Pump Company has prevented the village from going ahead."

Pot Luck Supper - Mon., Mar. 14

Bring your favorite food and your eating utensils to the Museum on Mon., Mar. 14, 1994 at 6:30 pm for our regular monthly meeting. This is a good time to socialize while enjoying the wonderful foods everyone brings.

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•Oliver Kelly Farm

For the benefit of those who missed Jim Mattson's talk on the Oliver Kelly Farm, here is a brief review:

The Farm is located between Anoka and Elk River on the west side of Highway 10. Last year 11,000 school children toured the farm and took part in the daily activities of its operation. The program, which is geared to all ages, changes with the seasons.

Oliver Kelly was a "Book Farmer" from Boston. In 1849 he came to St. Paul and became a messenger to the Minnesota Territorial Legislature. He got inside information that the State Capitol would be moved north, so he bought 160 acres of land with the intent of dividing it and selling lots. The Capitol did not move north so, by default one could say, he became a farmer- one who learned by the book.

He was a very intelligent man, and in 1852 Oliver began to organize farmers in the County Agricultural Society. Fifteen years later he organized the Grange. Farmers joined to learn better methods of farming, and to buy and sell in quantity. At its peak the Grange grew to a million members in the United States.

Death of one of our members

We offer our sincere sympathy to Glenn Theorin in the death of his wife, Jeanne, after a short illness.

Jeanne was an active member in the Fridley Historical Society from the beginning of our organization. She helped every year with the Lasagna Dinner as well as with many other activities. She will be missed by all of us here at the Fridley Historical Society.



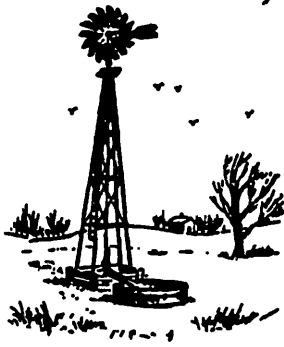
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Please offer your services in getting ready for the Lasagna Dinner. If you would be willing to contact businesses for donations to our Silent Auction or if you can help set up tables and chairs at the Community Center on Sat., the 9th of April, call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727. **Your help is truly NEEDED!**



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Lillian Meyer, Editor



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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 3 June-1994

FRIDLEY '49er DAYS

June 15, 16, 17, & 18

'49ers Parade--6:30 pm

Fridley Senior Crafters CRAFTS & BAKE SALE

at the Museum

Saturday, June 18, from 9 am to 4 pm

HELP!!

People are needed to sell pie-eating tickets every night during '49er Days from 6 - 8 pm. This is a fund-raiser for the Society & should be a fun activity. Call Lillian Meyer at 571-5328 if you can help.

Loss of two good friends of the Society

Within four days in March the Society lost two charter members.

Charlie Johanson was a board member for several years. He was honored by the Society last year when the lower level room was named in his honor.

Wally Miskowic has also been a strong supporter of the Society.

We offer our condolences to their families. These two important members as well as friends will be sorely missed!

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Our Museum has just become the newest **Retired & Senior Volunteer Program** site in Anoka County. Now, as the name implies, the Historical Society is looking for committed retired and senior volunteers who are 55 years old and older.

R.S.V.P. is a federal program that provides volunteer opportunities for men and women. In Anoka County there are over 60 sites, including hospitals, schools, nursing homes and human services programs. We are a part of a large group. Anoka County has over 500 registered volunteers who, in 1993, contributed 94,256 hours of volunteer service to their communities.

R.S.V.P. is part of the National Senior Volunteer Corps, of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Funding also comes from the Minnesota Board of Aging and Anoka County Community Social Services.

Most R.S.V.P. volunteers live on a fixed income. To enable them to continue volunteering on a regular basis, R.S.V.P. provides direct support benefits. These benefits include insurance, travel and meal reimbursement and public recognition.

The volunteer is covered by supplemental insurance, including personal accident, personal liability and excess auto liability, while performing the assignment and also while traveling to and from the assignment.

Volunteers who work a minimum of two hours at a time are reimbursed at 29 cents a mile, up to ten miles a day for travel from home and back again. Bus fare and Anoka County Traveler are reimbursed at cost. If the volunteer works a four-hour shift which includes a mealtime, the volunteer is reimbursed \$2.00 for the meal.

Public recognition in Anoka County is an annual banquet held in April. Every volunteer who has accumulated 24 hours of service in the preceding 12 months is invited to attend. The volunteer may bring a guest, but must pay for the guest's dinner.

Now that you have the background of the organization, The Fridley Historical Society is hoping that you will want to volunteer on a regular basis. Docents are needed for the regular "open" hours of the Museum on Saturdays from 12 noon - 2 pm. Workers are needed inside for general museum work-filing, setting up exhibits, cleaning, etc., and outside for landscape work around the building.

The Society needs your input. Contact Jeanne Peter at 571-8730 and/or Carolyn Jensen, Anoka County R.S.V.P. Coordinator, at 422-7090 to become an active participant in both the Historical Society and R.S.V.P.

Wish List:

If you have any of these items, please call **Sue Meyers** at 574-9801 or **Jeanne Peter** at 571-8730.

Old flatware
Lace tablecloth
Set of dishes
Dehumidifier

Silent Auction & Lasagna Dinner

*Again this year, due to contributions from the community and the attendance of members and friends at the dinner, the **Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction** were a great success!!*

*This is all done through the organizing and direction of **Gloria Hayes**!! She has been the guiding force behind our fund-raiser for the past several years. Since 1991 when we raised \$1010 up to this year when we raised \$2145.42 Gloria has worked diligently on this project. **Thanks, Gloria!!***

We extend thanks to the following for their contributions to the Historical Society's Annual Fund Raiser:

*1st Wok Chinese Restaurant
A New Review Consignment Store
A.J. Formal Wear, Inc.
Abra Auto Body & Glass
Adventures in Video
Airena Golf Center
All Pets Animal Hospital
Arby's Restaurant
Austads Golf
Ax Man
Ben Franklin Crafts
Berger King
Bob's Produce
Bombay Bicycle Club Restaurant
Bonanza Family Restaurant
Bowler's Choice Pro Shop
Bunty Shaw
Buzz's Barbers
Carlson Travel
Champion Auto Store
Chet's Shoe Store
Cinnamon Skins
Close-Out Sports
Cost Cutters
Cozy Cafe
Dairy Queen
Dave's Sport Shop
David Bank Studios
Denny's Restaurant
Dunkin Donuts
Embers Restaurant
Eye Care Center
Fetzek's Central Shoe Repair
First Bank of Columbia Heights
Fridley Dry Cleaners
Fridley State Bank
Friendly Chevrolet
Galaxy Auto Centers
Godfaather's Pizza
Great Clips
Ground Round Restaurant
Hardees Restaurant
Heibeisen Chiropractic Clinic
Heights Bakery, Inc.
Holiday-State Farm Insurance
Hong Kong Kitchen
Jiffy Lube
Joe DiMaggios Sports Bar
Kelly Inn
La Casita Restaurant
Lee Wards
Leon's Supper Club
Lindquist Bakery*

*Little Caesars
Lund's Fridley Office Supply
Lynn's Cake, Candy & Balloon Supply
Majer One Hour Photo
Mannie & Jerry Flowers
Manti's Doll House
Maple Lanes Bowling
MBC Bakery
McDonald's Restaurant
McGlynn's Bakery
Mr. Steak Restaurant
N.W. Racquet, Swim & Health Club
Nelson's Decorating
Northeast State Bank
Northeast State Bank
Old Country Buffet
P.D.Q.
Pannekoken Dutch Family Restaurant Col. Hts.
Pannekoken Family Restaurant Fridley
Payless Shoe Source
Pets by Marie
Pier I
Pizza Hut
Ponderosa Steak House
Powder Puff Beauty Salon
Raiser which was held in early April:
Red Lobster
Richard's Photo
Riverside Auto Wash
Ron's Barbers & Stylists
Ropers Restaurant
Sabas Floral
Sandeas Restaurant
Satin Bow Florist
Schaafs Floral
Shorewood Restaurant
Sign Language
Singer-Creative Sewing
Skyline Veterinary Hospital
Spur Gas
Subway
SuperAmerica
T.R. McCoy's Restaurant
Taco Bell
The Furniture Stop
Tim White Book Seller
Tom Thumb
Twin City Federal Savings & Loan
United Stores
University Station Restaurant
V.F.W. Post 363
White Castle*

We have not had a column from Fern Moe for quite some time. It is with pleasure we present her latest:

THOUGHTS WHILE QUILTING

Through the years I have collected about 25 dolls. My husband teases that it is my second childhood exhibiting itself. Well, maybe so. I had a doll when I was a child. It was a 15" doll with long blond hair. When I was nine years old, that doll burned in a fire that destroyed our home. I had "set" her hair in rags that day, planning that when it dried she would have nice long ringlets. That evening a neighbor called that our house was on fire. I momentarily forgot my doll as my mother and father and we kids rushed outside. We saw that the whole ridge of the roof was on fire. It was as I sat in a neighbors' car watching our house burn that I thought of Pollyanna, my doll, and she was burning, too. By the time the fire trucks arrived the house was nearly to the ground.

I had another doll after that. She is now in the Fridley Museum. She never did take the place of Pollyanna. For a few years after our fire I had a shoe box of paper dolls that I cut out of the Sears catalog. I named each of them, and fashioned a house out of a cardboard box. I made it a two-

story house by using the cover for a floor for the upstairs. Then I made rooms with cut-out windows and doors, curtains, rugs on the floor, and empty spool from thread with a round cardboard glued to one and made a dining room table. Oh, it was great fun and I spent hours and hours at play.

Last summer when we were at Breezy Point, we went to a Goodwill Store in Brainerd. There was a pair of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. They were dirty and bedraggled. The red yarn hair was partly gone and Andy had lost some of his stuffing so he slumped grotesquely, but they still had smiles on their embroidered faces. They were each 3 feet tall. I had always wanted a pair like that so I bought them for \$12.00 and brought them home. Our daughter, who loves to make dolls, offered to repair them. Now they are clean, have new yarn hair, new matching outfits and they sit on the hearth of one of our fireplaces. Today they are worth \$120.00 in the doll appraisal book. One of my greatest joys is to have a little visitor walk into the room, and her face lights up with joy at the sight of a doll just waiting to play.

Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Lillian Meyer, Editor



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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 4 September 1994

KIRSEN ROSTAD

a Fridley High School student

will be our speaker at the

**Monday, September 12, 1994 meeting
at the Fridley Historical Society Museum**

Kirsén took first place in the Senior Individual
Projects division at the State History Days competition

She will tell us about her project, entitled "**Dams & Damages**"
for which she won a scholarship to the University of Minnesota

Her display is currently being shown at the MN Historical Museum

Come and bring a friend. Time is 7:00 pm.

September Display

MINNESOTA SCHOOL DAYS

Come and view the current exhibit from the MN Historical Society, Minnesota School Days. It will be on display during the month of September in the lower level of the Museum.

Death of a faithful member

Bill Costello, a faithful member of the Society since its inception passed away March 6, 1994. He is missed by his many friends in the Society.

**EARLY HISTORY OF THE FRIDLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS** (from a History of the
Fridley Public Schools)

September's exhibit at the Museum will be *Minnesota School Days*, so it is a good time to look at the history of the Fridley Public Schools:

Records are scarce or non-existent pertaining to schools in Manomin County (Fridley) prior to the 1860's, but presumably the people of the county in those very early years operated elementary schools for the education of their children.

We do know that for some time in the 1860's and up to 1868, school was held in the Christenson's pioneer home.

From 1869-1873 the grade school was housed in the Episcopal Church's Holy Trinity Chapel which was located on E. River Rd & Mississippi St.

In 1873 Manomin Township was divided into two school districts and designated Common School District #32 and Common School District # 23. The boundary lines of these districts are difficult to establish, but



Hayes School built in 1931



The first school structure in Fridley.

generally District 32 is now that south portion of Fridley included in the Columbia Heights School District #13. The Fridley District #14 generally comprises what was the old Common School District #23.

The first school built in District #14 was located on Mississippi St. near University Av. By the year 1908 a second room was added. Unfortunately, in 1929 fire destroyed the school and the system was without a building. Parents sent their children to other schools until the Hayes Annex was built in 1931.

This new school had two classrooms upstairs and a gymnasium in the basement. From the beginning the school and particularly the gymnasium served as a community center. Since then at various times the building has been the site of village meetings, court trials, church, church Bible school, Boy Scout activities, the Anoka Day Activity Center, administrative office site for District # 14, as well as for school itself. Today it houses the Fridley Historical Society.

Some interesting facts:

from *A History of MN* by Wm Folwell

In 1850 Minnesota's population was 6,000.

In 1870 Minnesota's total population was 439,706. There were 96,793 children in schools and but 12,747 adults who could not read, and 24,413 who could not write.

By the year 1900, of a population of 1,750,000, there were 600,000 persons of school age (5-20 years of age) and more than one-half attended school. There were 13,000 teachers-of these 11,000 were women. Only 50,000 persons over 10 yrs of age were illiterate and 80% of that number were foreign born.

WORK DAY- Sat., Sept. 10th

If you can help, even for an hour, please come to the Museum.

Hours will be from 9 am to as long as you can stay. Exterior work which includes replacing the heavy plastic over the screens is really needed.

*Interior work such as painting the interior hall on the lower level, organizing the kitchen area, etc. is needed. **COME & HELP!***

Museum gets a new coat-

Did you notice? The Museum looks so fresh and clean since it was painted in late June.

A few other things have been done also. New wood chips have been placed around the bushes in front of the Museum.

There is a new small blue spruce tree planted on the west side of the parking lot.

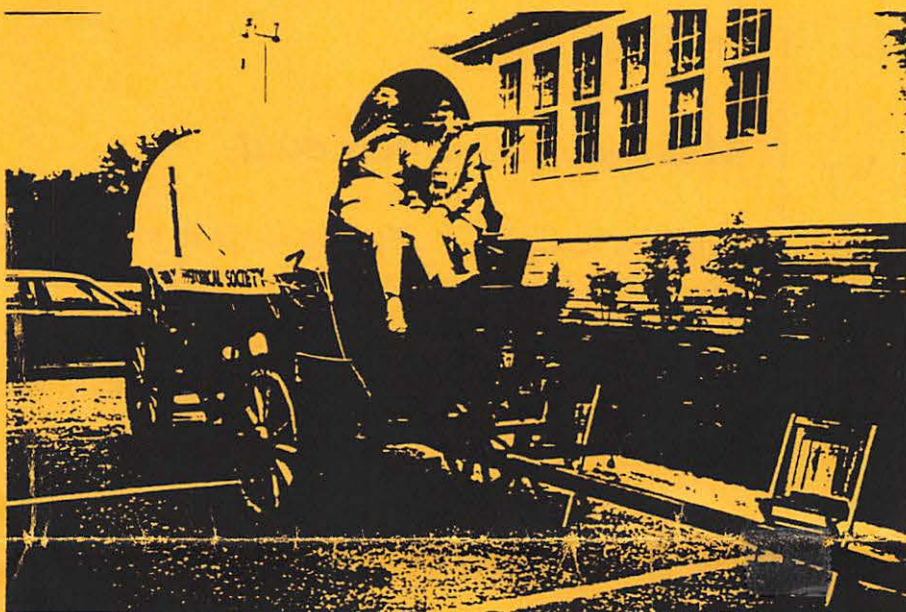
We were sorry to see that one of the red maple trees was broken off at ground level.

Other museums:

If you have not visited the New Brighton Historical Museum yet, I recommend you do so. It is located in Long Lake Park (enter from the Old Hwy 8 side). The old 1887 Bulwer Junction depot has been moved to this location & is serving as the Museum for New Brighton. Among the many artifacts are many relating to the railroad.

The Minnesota Historical Society Museum in St. Paul is an absolutely wonderful facility. It is full of wonderful artifacts and exhibits! You can still see the exhibit Minnesota A to Z plus Boxcar 137356!

The Hennepin History Museum in Minneapolis (now free) has a new exhibit, Women's Creative Pastimes.



During '49er Days, our president brought his covered wagon to the Museum. Many people came to get a closer look. Some even climbed up to try it. Sue Miskowic & Lillian Meyer are doing that & checking on the gun!

WISH LIST:

Old flatware
Lace tablecloth
Set of dishes

If you have any of these items, please call Sue Meyers at 574-9801 or Jeanne Peter at 571-8730.

CALENDAR

Sept. 1	Board meeting, 7:00 pm	
Sept. 10	Work Day at Museum 9	am
Sept. 12	Regular meeting 7:00	pm
Oct. 6	Board meeting 7:00 pm	
Oct. 10	Annual Meeting & pot	luck
	supper	

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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 5 October 1994

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 10, 1994

Pot Luck Supper

Bring your favorite food
and your utensils. Paper plates
and cups will be provided.

Time: 6:00 pm

Come and enjoy good food & good company!!

HELP NEEDED!

You are needed to help repair torn plastic covers on the screens at the Museum. Over the past years the wind and ? has ripped the plastic.

Please come at 9:00 am (or as soon as you can) on **Saturday, Oct. 8th**. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



Editor's note: Here is an article Fern wrote earlier this year.

Thoughts while quilting....

by Fern Moe

In 1949, two months before Mahlon and I were to be married, Mahlon had a car accident with his 1940 Chevie Club Coupe. He had been to see me that evening and on the way back to Excelsior, where he stayed, a drunken man driving a newer car came around the curve on Mahlon's side of the road and they hit, causing Mahlon's Chevie to roll end over end and then side-ways. That car had been his pride and joy, but it was demolished, and the insurance didn't cover what he still owed on it.

A friend of ours sold us his 1931 Model A Ford four-door car for \$50. That is what we drove for the next year. But then, when we could afford to, we bought a newer car and sold that Model A for \$50. It just makes us sick to think that we didn't keep it! We had a lot of fun with that car. It was a four cylinder, and we got about 18 miles to the gallon with it. It was made with costly steel forgings, rather than the less expensive malleable castings. It had a three-speed sliding gear transmission. Going up a steep hill north of Glenwood, MN where we worked, he would have to shift down. Then if it was raining it didn't have enough power to run the windshield wipers, so I had to manually run them from the inside! In cold weather we had to

use the crank to start it. If we didn't retard the spark before we cranked it, it would backfire and "kick". When it kicked, it made the crank go in the opposite direction so that if you had your thumb in the wrong hold, it could break your thumb. We knew of others who got a broken arm out of a "kick" like that.

The horn on it was a standard model and it gave a sound like "ooooga". The front and back doors opened from the opposite way. That is, the front door opened toward the front and the back door opened toward the back. The back doors were called "suicide" doors by some, because if you'd happened to open the door while the car was going, the wind would pull you right out. It had a gravity feed gas tank, and that tank was part of the dashboard. But the gas tank was up higher than the carburetor so we never had to back up the hills like the Model T's did.

Some of you remember Betsy, our salmon colored 1959 Buick, that we drove in the Fridley 49ers Parade a couple of years. We still have Betsy. This home where we live has two double garages - one attached and one separate - so Betsy has a good home, out of the wind and weather. Iowa doesn't have a pioneer license like Minnesota does, so we have to buy a new license every year. Newell (Iowa, where Fern Moe lives) is celebrating its Quasiquicentennial year this summer, so we plan to drive Betsy in the parade. My sister and I drove Betsy down here from Minnesota and we two old ladies never had so many young fellows turn and look at us like they did on that trip. Of course, we pretended they were looking at us not at the car!

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will include a review of activities of the past year.

Following our supper, we will have election of our officers and directors for 1995.

Nominations may be made from the floor if the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Resignation:

It is with regret that the board has received the resignation of Merle Berntson effective January 1, 1995, but we are pleased that she will be able to finish this year.

BAKE SALE-Nov. 18, 1994

Every year you have baked your goodies and brought them for the fund-raiser. Will you do the same for this year?

The sale will be held at the Fridley State Bank on Friday, November 18th. People coming into the bank really appreciate good home-baked goodies! And it is fun seeing and visiting with them! Hours will be from 9am to 3pm. Bring your baked goods early.

Nominating Committee Report:

*President: Jerry Manley
Vice-President: Lillian Meyer
Treasurer: Herb Bacon
Secretary: Char Fitzpatrick*

Board of Directors:

*3-year: Fred Schultz
Jerry Johnson
Sue Miskowic*

*2-year (remaining term of Merle Berntson)
Esther Campbell*

*Submitted by: Sue Miskowic, Lillian Meyer
& Esther Campbell*

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Oct. 6 | Board Meeting 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 8 | Work Day at the Museum |
| Oct. 10 | Annual Meeting & Pot Luck |
| Nov. 18 | Bake Sale at Fridley State Bank |



HISTORY

Here are more excerpts from the book Upper Mississippi Valley printed in 1881. These people were all residents in Fridley at the time this book was written.

"A. B. Barott, the pioneer settler in the south portion of the township of Columbus, is a native of Oswego county, New York, and was born on the 17th of February, 1830. He came to Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1848, and after remaining there 6 years, came to Minnesota and settled at Lake Crystal, Blue Earth county, but was driven from his home by the Indians, in 1862, and returned to Dodge county, Wisconsin. He came to St. Paul the following spring, and in 1864, located his family in Centreville, but continued to work a portion of the time in St. Paul, at

the cooper's trade. In 1872, he moved to his present farm, building a two-story log dwelling, with the back end against a high mound, with large trees growing on its top and sides. From the ground floor of his house he tunnelled into the mound, in pursuance of his original intention to use it for a cellar, but judge of his surprise in finding it filled with human bones, many of which still protrude from the walls of the family cellar. Miss Cynthia Graves became the wife of Mr. Barott on the 24th of September, 1852."



Editor: Lillian Meyer
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Fridley Historical Society

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Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 6 November 1994

BOB SCHORER
*Owner of Bob's Produce
will be our guest speaker
at our Monday*

November 14, 1994

meeting at the Museum

*He will talk about establishing his
market/store in Fridley*

*Come and bring a friend! This should be
an interesting presentation!*



Christmas with Father Christmas

Again this year kindergarten students in Fridley Schools will draw a picture which will be hung in the lower level of the Museum. On Saturday, Dec. 17 the children and their parents are invited to view the artwork and have their pictures taken with their artwork. Father Christmas will again be with us to visit with the children. (There is **NO CHARGE** for pictures. Bring your own camera if you wish.)

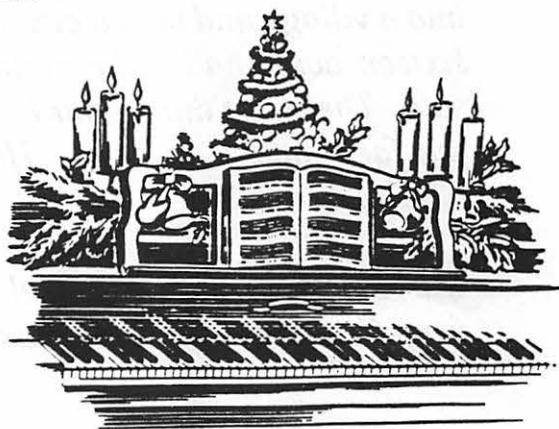
Refreshments and cookies will be served.

BAKE SALE - Friday, Nov. 18, 1994

*This is just a reminder/request for baked goods
for the annual fall bake sale at the Fridley
State Bank.*

*Bring your goodies to the bank starting at 9 am.
Sales are always brisk early in the day.*

*Workers are needed to man the tables during the
day from 9 am to 3 pm. Your help will be greatly
appreciated!*



HISTORY

Taken from the book, Anoka County Minnesota 1982

"Edward and Anna Hartman bought the Ficker farm in Fridley Township in 1907. The house they moved into was one year old and the house, barn and sheds were about one block north of Rice Creek on the East River Road. The Hartmans were truck gardeners and sold their produce in the city of Minneapolis. They raised tomato and other slow growing garden vegetable plants in hot beds. They sold the plants to the stores in the cities as well as to neighbors. The Hartmans had four children. Carl, the eldest, was fourteen when they moved here along with his twin sisters, Caroline and Mable. A few years later, Clifford was born. Mr Hartman farmed for twenty years. When he passed away in 1927, Carl farmed the home place as a gardener until the area around here began to grow into a village and then a city, and the sixteen acres had to be platted and sold. There are thirty-four homes on the farm and it is called Hartman Circle.

Carl Hartman married Hazel Nelson from Constance in 1928. Carl had a

store built on the south east corner of the land. He sold groceries, and the Fridley Post Office was located there. The Post Office was discontinued after a few years, when mail came out from Columbia Heights. Carl and Hazel had one daughter, Alice. She married John Ganter. They live in Ham Lake.....

Mable Hartman married James C. Woods. They built their home on the north east corner of the farm. They had one son, Warren. ...

Carl Hartman was the first mayor of the city of Fridley, and held the office for five years. Many changes have come about, but the boundary lines of the school districts have remained the same. Fridley has six elementary, one junior and one senior high school.

The direct Hartman family have all passed away. Carl's wife, Hazel Hartman, still resides on Hartman Circle."

(Editor's note: Today Hazel Hartman lives in Anoka.)

Death:

From an article in the Oct., 21, 1994 Star/Tribune, we note that a former Mayor of Fridley, Frank LaGrange died. He served as mayor in 1958 and 1959.

Election Results

The following were elected for the 1995 year of the Society:

President: Sue Miskowic
Vice Pres: Lillian Meyer
Treasurer: Herb Bacon
Secretary: Char Fitzpatrick

Directors for 3 years, through 1997:-
Fred Schultz
Jerry Johnson
Corine Kirkham

Director for 2 years, through 1996:
Esther Campbell
She will complete the term of
Merle Berntson who resigned
due to ill health.

RSVP We're Not Too Old

By all practical standards of our society, summer is over. Schools are back in session. Vacations have been taken. Fall sports are almost done. The State Fair is history. It's time to get baack into fall and winter routines.

For a person 55 or older the routine can include volunteering through RSVP. This year, why not consider volunteering at the local school? How about the Fridley Historical Society? Volunteering for 4-H could bring back fond memories or create new ones.

If volunteering away from your home will cause financial hardships, RSVP can be an avenue by which that hardship is lessened somewhat. Some

mileage reimbursement is available for the volunteer.

If concern over liability issues is holding you back, RSVP can again be the way to go. Liability insurance is carried by the program to cover all of the enrolled volunteers traveling to and from their assignment and while they are volunteering.

If being tied down to something is a fear, RSVP can be just right for you. You can volunteer as few as 2 hours per month at an RSVP station and remain an active volunteer and eligible for the annual recognition party.

If you think there may not be a real challenge for you in volunteering, give us a shot. You may be surprised at what you find.

Contact RSVP at 2100 Third Av,
Anoka, MN 55303-2264.



March 1995 meeting

We are fortunate that Jim Young of the Anoka Geological Group has agreed to be our speaker for the March 13th meeting.

Please note his name in your program.

BASEBALL CALENDARS

It has been several years since we last were able to offer this very special **Three-Year Calendar** all about baseball. Those of you who purchased them years ago know how much baseball information there is for each month of the year.

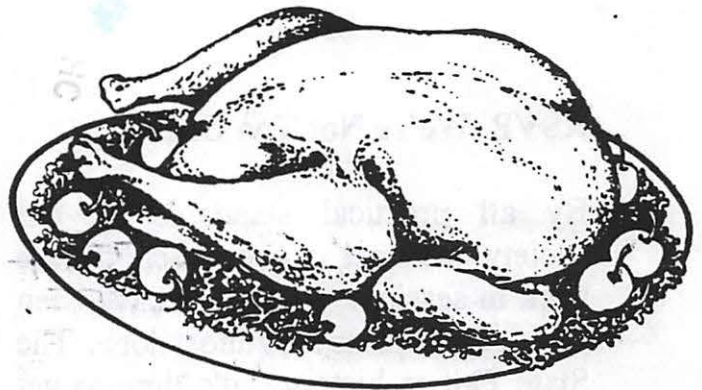
Again this year we are able to offer these calendars for sale at the Museum for \$6.00 each. (The Society is able to keep a large percent of the money.) This is a fund-raiser for the Museum.

We thank member **Warren Woods** for making this possible.

Students tour Museum

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 8 & 9, seven classes from the Middle Schools in Fridley toured the Museum. They were all very enthusiastic and had many questions asked and answered.

Many docents were on hand to assist these enthusiastic young people!



*Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
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Editor: Lillian Meyer

