



# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, Minnesota 55432

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*Members' Newsletter*

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*Vol. 8, No. 1 February 1995*

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Our guest speaker for the February 13, 1995 meeting  
will be

**Tony Petrangelo, Master Rose Gardner**

It is time for us to think spring and Tony will  
give us information on when and how to plant  
and care for roses.

We've all asked how much work does it take?  
How do we get the most beautiful flowers?  
What is the timing on all this?

**Come and bring your friends!**

Time: 7:00 pm  
at the Museum

## **Please Note:**

Your membership and support of the Fridley Historical Society are greatly appreciated. Will you take a few minutes now and renew your membership? This is only a reminder that **your dues are due for the current year 1995.** As you remember, our year runs from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st. A handy form is included inside this newsletter.

If you have already paid your 1995 dues, **THANK YOU!!**



## FAMILY HISTORY

*Submitted by Lisa Mattson (great granddaughter of Louis Rognrud):*

### **Rognrud Family**

*Many immigrants who came to America changed their names as if to symbolize the changes occurring in their lives. Louis Rognrud was no exception. He was born on Oct. 3, 1862, in Christiania, Norway (now Oslo) and was named Louis Olsen. In 1880, at the age of 18, Louis set out for America with his 2 sister, Louisa and Lena. They settled in Mpls., MN. Louis chose the name Rognrud which was the Norwegian name for a type of tree.*

*Louis worked in Minneapolis, MN at his Uncle Edston's fishing industry. He saved up his money so that he could send for his parents in Norway. Lena married Halvor Barhall and Louisa married Bernhard Opstad.*

*In April of 1888 Louis married a young woman named Anna Elisabeth Benson. She had been born Dec. 10, 1867 in the Province of Smaland, Sweden. She had arrived in Minnesota in 1884 at the age of 16i. Her family had settled in Minnesota several years before her arrival.*

*Louis and Anna had 10 children together of which 7 lived to adulthood. All of their children attended District #47 Blaine School....*

*Louis and Anna were active people. In Norway Louis had enjoyed skiing, skating and hunting. Anna was a good seamstress. She made home-made rugs and did crochet work. Louis worked for a time in Menomonie, WI as a wagon builder. He owned a tobacco farm in Stoughton, WI. He also owned his own furniture store on Cedar Ave. in Minneapolis. He hauled milk, coal, wood and other small items to neighbors. Louis and Anna were well liked and had many friends.*

*In 1904 the family moved to an 80 acre farm near Wood Lake (now called Spring Lake) in Fridley. In 1910 they sold 40 acres to Carl Johnson and rented out the remaining 40 acres. The family moved to Minneapolis. In 1911 they moved to 1004 41st Ave. NE in Columbia Heights and a few years later they moved back to the Fridley farm.*

*In 1925 they sold the 40 acre Fridley farm for \$5,000 and moved to Columbia Heights. In 1939, Anna...died at the age of 71. In 1943 Louis died at the age of 80.....*

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The Legislature is in session now. Here's an article from the Jan. 13, 1995 Session Weekly:

### **DO YOU KNOW?**

It's true lawmakers sometimes need a break after some particularly hectic legislative sessions. Fifty-five years, however, is a little extreme.

That's what Thomas Smullen, a former lawmaker from Le Sueur County, took between his terms in the Legislature.

When Smullen began in the Minnesota House in 1875, the state was still a teenager-railroads had expanded rapidly, farms numbered 46,500, and lumber and flour mills were big employers.

Smullen left only to return about 55 years later, serving in the Senate during the 1931 and 1933 sessions, an era of the Great Depression. At the time there were multiple Minnesota bank failures, farm prices were in a slump, and 70 percent of Minnesota iron range workers were without jobs.

Smullen was born in New York City on April 14, 1852, and came to Le Sueur County in 1863, according to the Minnesota Legislative Manual. He was 22 when he began his legislative career and when he returned, 78.





# DISPLAY at the MUSEUM

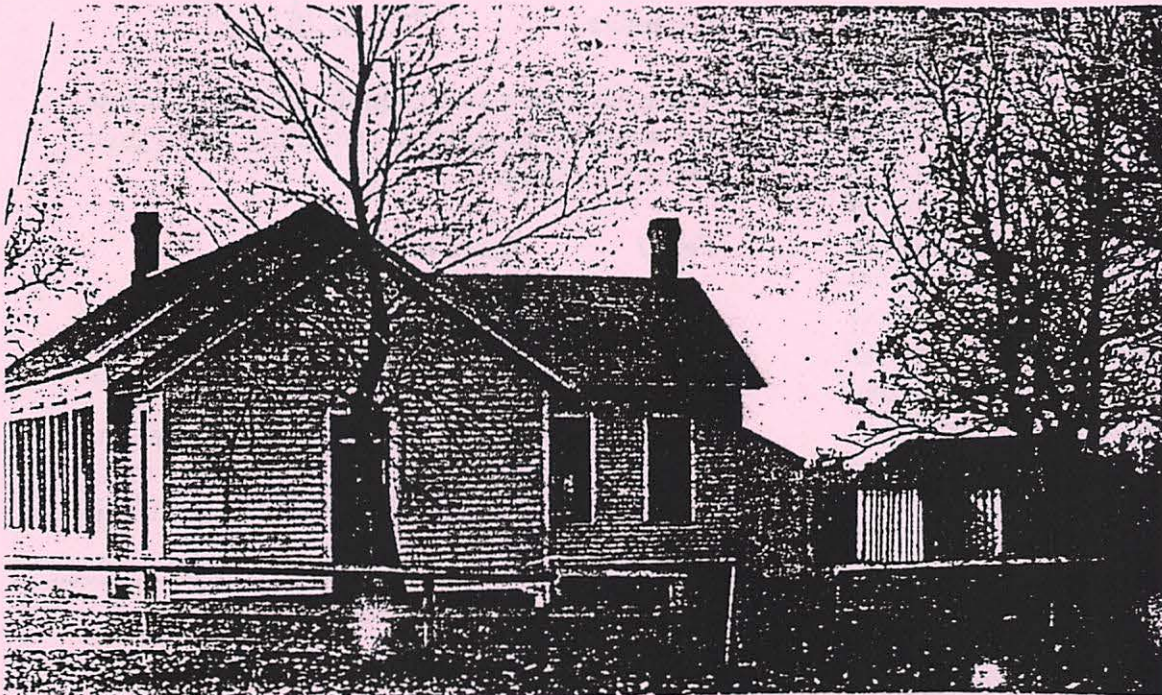
Come and view the new display on loan from the Minnesota Historical Society which will be at the Museum from Mar. 1-15, 1995. It is

## Minnesota School Days

Minnesota School Days highlights a dynamic period of education in Minnesota. The years from 1880-1920 saw many changes in people's attitudes toward public education. Quickly disappearing were the days of McGuffey Readers, the three R's and one room school houses. It was a progressive era, and Minnesota was in the forefront of reform.

The photographs in "Minnesota School Days" focus on innovations. Some of these were simply physical improvements: better classroom equipment, more modern buildings. Other innovations were ideological: vocational training, extra curricular activities, training in health and morals. Still others were a result of the increasing role of government: school consolidations, the establishment of state normal schools.

**Note:** If anyone has photos, artifacts to supplement the exhibit, please contact Sue Meyers at 574-9801 or Jeanne Peter at 571-8730.



The original schoolhouse in Fridley. It was located where the current Target Center Office Building is located on Mississippi St. east of University.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



From a letter sent from Redlands, Feb. 16, 1893:

Dear Brother,

I received your letter yesterday & wish I could tell you that I am improving but it is the other way. I have lost five pounds in the last 2 weeks. I have lost my appetite. It has been good always till lately. No, Jim, I am not given to imagining if I had admitted it was consumption sooner it would have been better for me. I had thought of going back there in the spring, but Jerry told me about Mamie and one unfortunate is enough in one place. I am awful sorry about Mamie. I don't know what to think about it. Jim, if you can, I wish you would tell me what amount of stuff I have af(does he mean from?) my lungs in 24 hours. You would think so to the pains in some cases dont amount to anything. It is most always pleuricy. It is bad enough when a man has to cough as much as I do. I had another hemorrhage last week. Not a very bad one though a few mouthfulls of blood at first and spitting it up with the sputem for a few days after. I am tired of living this kind of a life and am ready to go anytime. You cannot blame me. No one can (be) sick and suffering all the time and no hope of any change. I am not downhearted no more than ever I was, but I have looked the matter in the face and am reconciled to what must be. You need not be uneasy aabout me. I am not much different to

what I have been. I wanted to tell you how it is with me and dont think that I am a croaker because I will give up. I want to get to Montana in the spring if I can. I will be better af there if I get af my feet. Well good bye, Jim. from your  
Brother,

Jack Mulcare



### Calendar

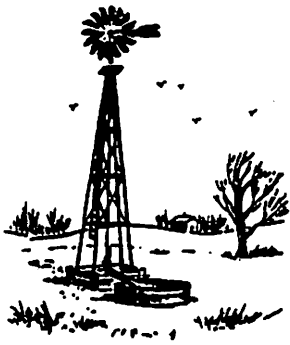
There has been a change in the schedule because the weather necessitated cancelling our regular January meeting.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 7  | Board meeting  |
| Feb. 13 | Regular meeting: Tony Petrangelo will be our speaker   |
| Mar. 13 | Regular meeting: Fred Schultz will relate his experiences in 13 different army camps during WWII |



Fridley Historical Society  
611 Mississippi Street  
Fridley, MN 55432

Editor: Lillian Meyer



# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

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*Members' Newsletter*

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*Vol. 8, No. 2 March 1995*

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## **Fred Schultz**

**who was in 10 army camps  
will tell us what those camps were like**

**Monday, March 13, 1995**

**at the**

**Fridley Historical Society Museum**

**at 7:00 pm**

**This is the 50th year celebration of the ending of World War II.**

**Come and hear what our army camps were like during the war.**

## HISTORY

from a newspaper article with a picture that looks like it might be from the 1950's: "Being a 'Sub' Next to the Real Thing for Veteran Teacher"

*Although Mrs. Agnes Gallagher won't admit it, she couldn't stop teaching if she wanted to. This veteran teacher-substitute is devoted to her charges and her life with them is ever busy.*

*She knows a substitute's role is not easy - "you can't smile from the time you walk in until you go out or they'll walk all over you," but she enjoys every minute of it.*

*"It's the only thing I really enjoy; the only thing I've ever done in my life is teach," she declared. The one drawback is not following through with the children she has come to know when she has to step back and let the regular teacher have the class again.*

*Substitute teaching in District 14 is no small matter to the school budget running up to \$11,291 last year. Substitutes earn \$3 an hour or \$22 a day.*

*The school has a call list of 54 names, seven of them men, to assist when a teacher is ill or has to be absent for some other reason such as school functions, institutes, conferences and extra-curricular assignments.*

*Statistics show that the average number of days per school year a teacher will be absent is three to five. With 237 teachers last year averaging four days absent, that would mean 948 substitute days were needed.*

*Mrs. Gallagher is not particularly typical of all substitutes as she has many years of teaching in her background but she began her substitute days like many others when her first child was born.*

*Prior to that she had taught for 13 years in Fridley, beginning in 1933 when the school district was called District 23 and was only two or three years old.*

*There were about 48 youngsters, she recalls, attending what is now called the Hayes Annex. After eighth grade, they were bused to Columbia Heights.*

*She quit teaching when her son was born in 1946 only to return as a substitute when her second son was three years old in 1954. She used to bring him with her and put him in his brother's room.....*

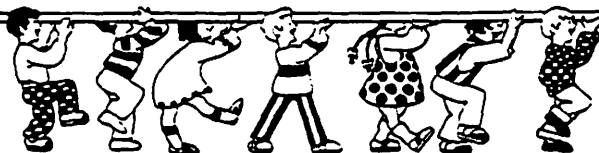
*Mrs. Gallagher is really one of Fridley's early residents. She was born "practically across the street" from Hayes School and went to school through eighth grade in a little white, two-room school house that burned down in 1927.*

*She took the old Anoka street car after that to attend Edison High School in Minneapolis. She began her teaching career with training at Anoka and St. Cloud. Her first teaching jobs were at Ham Lake and in Blaine before she came back to Fridley.*

*Hardly a week goes by, she said, that she doesn't teach at least one day and sometimes she takes long-call jobs.*

*I'll continue as long as my health lasts," she said with a smile.*

## **LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION**

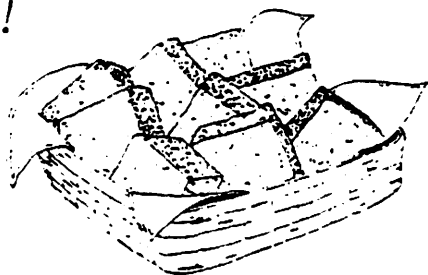


*Circle April 29 on your calendars now!*

*That is when the Historical Society will have it's **FIFTH** Annual LASAGNA Dinner!*

*Tickets will be available at the March 13th regular meeting. They are only \$6.00.*

*Help sell as many tickets as you can. This is our biggest yearly fund-raiser! Invite your friends and neighbors and relatives. The lasagna is very good. You can socialize, have a good meal, and support the Fridley Historical Society all at once!!*



## **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED**

If you have a new item you would be willing to donate for the silent auction at our Annual Lasagne Dinner, please contact either Sue Miskowic at 571-3493 or Lillian Meyer at 571-5328.

The auction at the Lasagna Dinner, which will be held on April 29th, is our biggest fund raiser for the year, so if you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please list the price of the item and bring it to the Museum on Saturdays when the Museum is open. Donations should be brought in at least one week before the dinner and silent auction.

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## ***Current Display at the Museum is:***

### ***Minnesota School Days***

*This display will be at the Museum from Mar. 1-15. Stop in and view it!*

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEWMEMBER APPLICATION**

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

Yearly dues: Individual: \$10.00  
Club & church 20.00  
Business: 50.00

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





**FRIDLEY PUPILS ATTEND MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOLS** — Elida Jorgenson, Minneapolis, teacher retained by the Fridley, Minn., school board, holds an impromptu class outside Bremer school, Emerson and Lowry avenues N., as some 70 third and fourth grade pupils from Fridley become paying "guests" today of the Minneapolis school board. The youngsters were detained outside until

equipment could be installed in the classroom. The pupils will attend the school for the balance of the year. The Fridley district only has a two-room school. Since school opened in Fridley last Tuesday, 200 school-less children have been kept at the Oakwood school awaiting arrangements for their instruction in Minneapolis schools. Columbia Heights has arranged to take most of the 200.

*This picture was taken in 1953.*

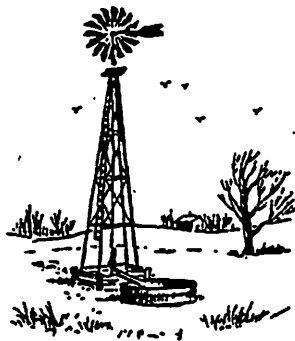
*Thanks to Phil Novack  
for letting us copy it.*



*Fridley Historical Society  
611 Mississippi Street  
Fridley, MN 55432*

*Editor: Lillian Meyer*





# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

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*Members' Newsletter*

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*Vol. 8, No. 3 April 1995*

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## ***LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION***

***When? SATURDAY, April 29, 1995***

***Where? Fridley Community Center***

***Time? 4:00 doors open for everyone to look at Silent Auction items***

***Dinner: 5:00 pm. Lasagna Dinner catered by LaGondola***

***Cost: \$6.00***

***This is our biggest fund raiser of the year!  
Come, have a good time, bid on items, and enjoy the food!***

***For tickets call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727***

***May Meeting:***

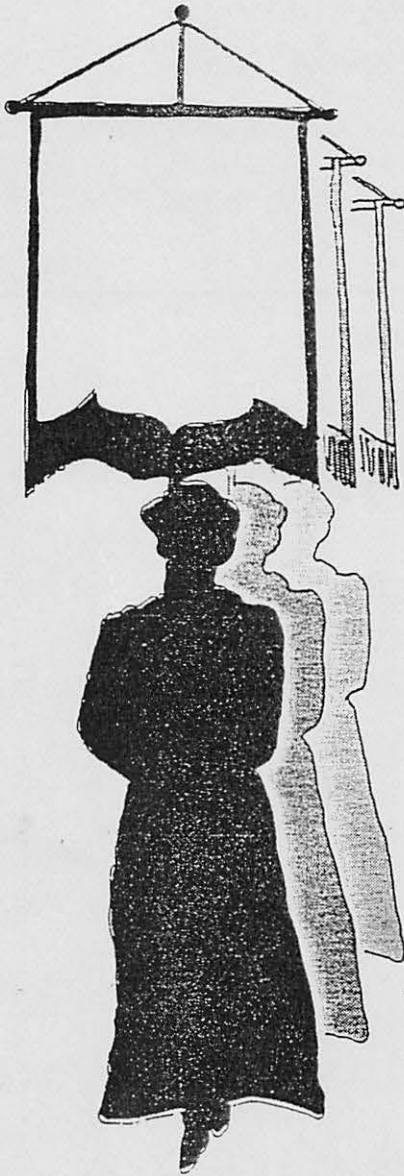
***Monday, May 8, 1995 at 7:00 the Museum***

***Lillian Meyer will show her slides  
of her trip to South Africa.***

## ***Failure is Impossible: Women Win the Vote***

*Failure is Impossible: Women Win the Vote* traces the history of women's struggle for the right to vote. From its very beginning in 1787, with the realization of the necessity of the ballot, the suffrage movement included such diverse groups as the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, and the National Woman's Suffrage Association, founded in 1869. Under the dedicated leadership of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and hundreds of others, women held hunger strikes, picketed the White House, endured arrest, and organized dramatic silent marches under banners proclaiming, "Mother Trains the Voter Why Not Vote", and "Failure is Impossible." With the movement of women into traditional male jobs during World War I came the economic momentum needed for the 19th Amendment - the Anthony Amendment - to be passed by the U.S. House and Senate and signed into law on August 26, 1920. And in 1922, the first wave of women were elected to the Minnesota Legislature: Mabeth Hurd Paige, Hannah Kempfer, Myrtle A. Cain and Sue Dickey Hough.

This exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society will be available for viewing from **May 1st to June 3rd** at the **Fridley Historical Society Museum**.



### ***Calendar:***

***Saturday, April 29 Annual Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction***

*Doors open at 4:00, dinner at 5:00.*

***April 18 -New exhibit at the Minnesota Historical Society: Women in Action: Rebels & Reformers 1820-1980. This traveling exhibit marks the 75th***

*anniversary of the League of Women Voters and women's suffrage.*

***May 1 - June 3 Exhibit: Failure is Impossible***  
*available for viewing*

*at the Fridley Historical Society Museum*

***May 8 - Regular membership meeting. Lillian Meyer will show her slides and talk about her trip to South Africa.***



### *Thoughts While Quilting:*

*Is frugality a virtue? I asked myself that as I went through my dear old Auntie's bureau drawers after she passed away. Trying to decide what to sell, what to keep and what to give to charity. The nightie that lay across her bed was faded, tattered and plain, but in the bureau drawer were carefully stacked boxes of nighties never worn, gifts from family and friends. Lacy ones that I suppose were too fancy to wear. Why did she save them? I pondered that question. Then I went to her linen closet. There I found towel sets in their original boxes, while the towels in her bathroom were worn and unmatched. There were other linens that had never been used.*

*None of us care to do up linen tablecloths. In fact, I long ago gave mine to charity, because in this day and age, there are lovely fancy tablecloths that never need to be ironed, doilies that never need to be starched and stretched.*

*Frugality is the virtue of being thrifty. These days in most peoples minds the word means "tight wad" or "cheap skate". Frugality isn't very popular among the younger set, and I admit that we older ones get "carried away" with it sometimes. We're from the old school, where our possessions and clothes get saved for "Sundays best". But when Sunday comes it is so easy to grab the everyday Corelle dishes, rather than get out the good china, though the good china is closer to the dining room table and just as accessible. Of course, china is easily broken, but what are we saving it for?*

*That day in Aunties apartment, I learned a lesson I hope I never forget. Now when we have company, we use our good china and silverwaare. I wear my good "Sunday best" clothes, because I have found that the clothes I've bought for special occasions go out of style before they have a chance to develop the least sign of wear. We do practice frugality in other ways. We do not throw out perfectly good food. We use leftovers. We do*

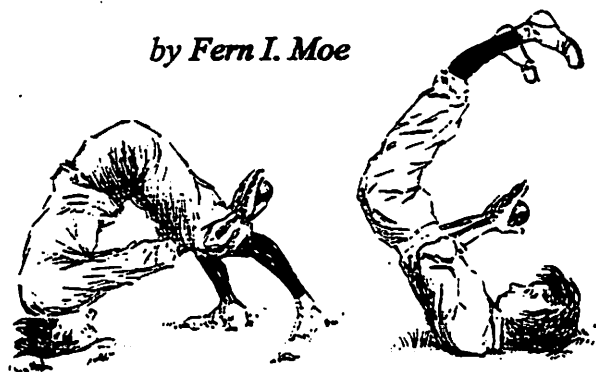
*not buy a new car just because it looks better. We repair the old one for awhile longer.*

*The grandkids say that unless they wear certain brands of shoes and clothes they never get compliments at school, and if they do not wear labeled clothes they are asked why not and the peer pressure is even worse for grownups. We judge people by how successful they are, and we judge how successful they are by the clothes they wear, the cars they drive and the kind of home they live in. We live in a consumer society.*

*People who have spent time in some of the poor countries return with a determination to make material things less important in their lives. They say that those people are richer in the things that really matter. They often have closer family ties, a stronger sense of community, lasting friendships.*

*So, I plan in the future to weigh frugality and practicality on a somewhat differnt scale than I have in the past.*

*by Fern I. Moe*



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Business: 50.00

Mail to: Fridley Historical Society,  
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MN 55432

## **Kudos to Fridley Historical Society Members:**

**Donald Savelkoul & James Kordiak** who were both named to the list of **Alumni of Notable Achievement** by the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts. Congratulations! (Taken from an article in the Fridley Focus.)

**Esther and Bill Campbell** were recognized for their many volunteer activities by **RSVP** in their winter publication **Just 4 Volunteers**. Esther and Bill have been active volunteers with RSVP for 14 years. Esther is currently Chairperson and has been on the RSVP Advisory Council since 1990. Two years ago, she was chosen as outstanding senior woman for Anoka County at the fair. For the past three years Esther and Bill have coordinated the card tournaments at the Anoka County Fair. Esther is also on the board of the Fridley Historical Society.

Bill has organized a variety of recreational activities for seniors: cribbage games,

horseshoes, golf league, etc. He has been a volunteer driver for the Anoka County Transit Department, has delivered meals-on-wheels, has written for the Senior Newsletter and has written poetry for special occasions at congregate dining.

Thanks for all your efforts!

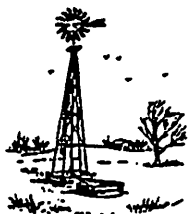
(Taken from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program newsletter, Winter 1995)

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## ***Donation for the Silent Auction***

***If anyone would like to contribute a new item for the Silent Auction, please let Sue Miskowic know at 571-3493. Please price the item.***

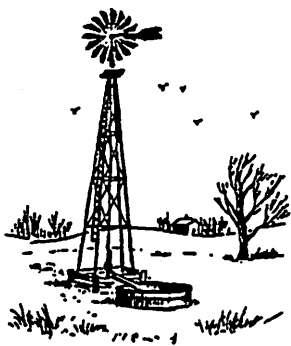
***Items should be donated one week before the Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction. You will receive a receipt for your contribution. Thanks!***



*Fridley Historical Society  
611 Mississippi Street  
Fridley, MN 55432*

*Editor: Lillian Meyer*





# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

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*Members' Newsletter*

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*Vol. 8, No. 4 June 1995*

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## *Fridley 49er Days at the Museum*

*On Thursday evening June 15, 1995 during the 49er Days Parade, the Museum will be open. So, stop in and see the new exhibit, Minnesota: Images of Home.*

*Lemonade and cookies will be served.*

*As you watch the parade you will see 3 of our members Fred Schultz, and Irvin and Jeanne Peters representing the Society in a 1926 Huckster owned and driven by Warren Mortenson.*

*This year the 49er Days activities will start on Thursday, June 15, 1995 and run through Sunday, June 18, 1995*

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### **Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction**

Thanks to all our members and friends, the Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction were again a great success! We raised over \$2000! This is our biggest effort to raise the funds needed to continue operating our Museum, and as before you all were great supporters!

**See you next year!**

## *New Display at the Museum*

### **MINNESOTA: IMAGES OF HOME**

**Minnesota: Images of Home**, a touring exhibit on loan from the Minnesota Historical Society, shows the strength of the collaborative effort between photographer Jim Brandenburg and writer Paul Gruchow to describe and define a familiar place-Minnesota.

The exhibit opens on June 3, 1995 in the Johanson/Bacon Room in the Museum and continues until June 24, 1995.

The work of Brandenburg and Gruchow presents a case for the preservation of our home place and heightens our environmental concern for all places. According to Curator Bonnie Wilson, their work is "More than just a pretty picture book. **Minnesota: Images of Home** combines the artists' voices in a subtle song of precaution and praise.

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### **First Fridley 49er Days**

It was in 1974 that Fridley celebrated Fridley 49er Days for the first time in order to mark the city's 25th Anniversary.

# *Stitching Together Fridley's History*

*May 5, 1995, was a special day for eight Fridley Historical Society members and sixteen 6th grade students from the Fridley Middle School.*

*Mary Beverage, Agnes Shaw, Fred Schultz, Jerry Johnson, Merle Berntson, Corine Kirkham, Warren Woods, and Jeanne Peter were asked to participate in a program called, "Stitching Together Fridley's History" with sixteen interested students recruited from the entire 6th grade by Debra Olsen, Special Education teacher.*

*Ms. Olsen had applied for and been granted a Youth Service Learning Mini-grant by the Community Education Advisory Council. These grants were developed for the purpose of encouraging and supporting Fridley School District staff as they plan for youth service learning projects in their classes. YSL has two parts: a service activity, where students meet the needs of others in the school or the community and a reflective part where students utilize thinking skills to make sense of and extend the formal learning after they have had a chance to do the service activity.*

*We, as Fridley Historical Society members, were part of the service activity. The students picked an historical topic from our brochure, "A Brief History of Fridley." The eight volunteers picked out the topic on which they would like to be interviewed. After the interview, the students plan to create quilt squares that will reflect their own individual interview. After the quilt squares have been painted, they will be stitched together into a quilt which will be presented to the Society.*

*On May 5th, we traveled to the Middle School office where we were met by Ms. Olsen who escorted us to the "Interview Room." We didn't know what to expect, but we were delighted to see the eight tables scattered about the room, for our interviews were to be on a one-to-one basis. Each table had a different centerpiece. The "coffee"*

*table was decorated with items from Ms. Olsen's antique collection. It was so inviting! We felt very comfortable right away. We were interviewed by the first eight students from 9:30 to 10 and by the second eight students from 10 to 10:30. One of the goals of this activity was to have the generations meet and socialize. We enjoyed being with the students. They were interested, polite, very good hosts, and a credit to themselves and to their school.*

*The Fridley Education Association was also pleased with the project and our involvement, for each volunteer received the following letter the next day:*

*Dear Outstanding Layperson in Education,*

*Congratulations! One or more of the staff in the Fridley School District has nominated you to be a recipient of the 1995 Outstanding Layperson in Education Award presented by the Fridley Education Association.*

*Children are our business, and we put all of our talent, thoughtfulness, creativity and knowledge together to provide them with the very best possible education. We encourage our students to do their best and to prepare themselves for the future, because we realize that children are the future of the entire world.*

*We could not do the job that needs to be done without the continual support of volunteers in the schools such as yourself. Through your unselfish donation of time and money, we feel as though we are working in a partnership to create the best possible learning environment for every child.*

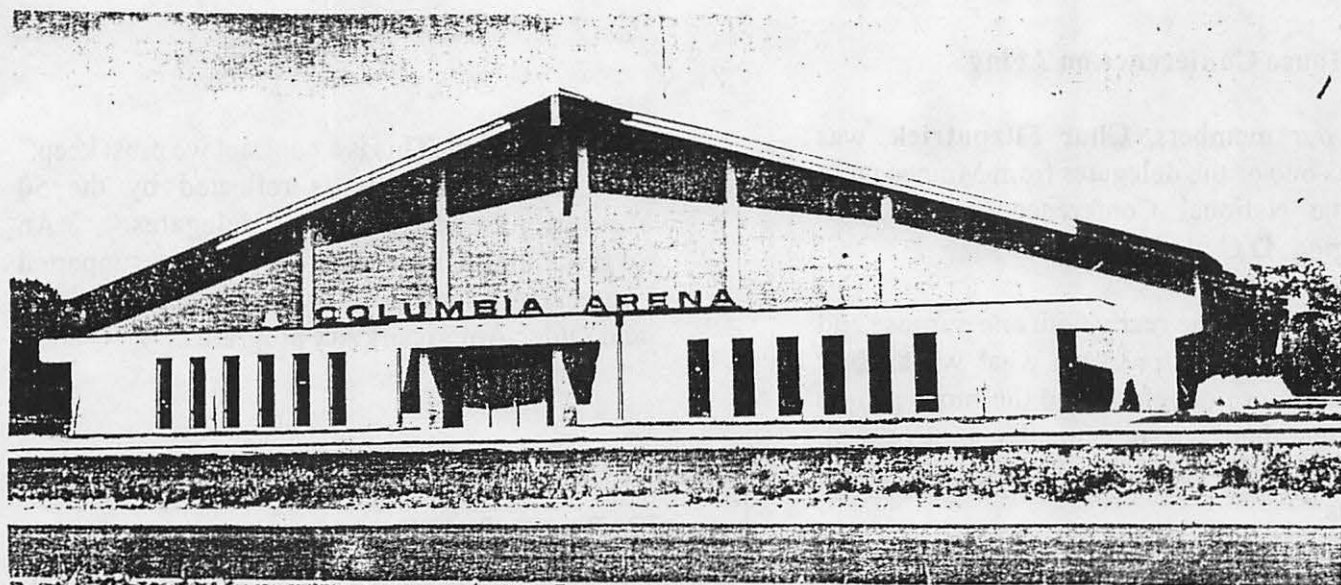
*To honor you and the other recipients, a tea is being held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, in the Fridley Middle School cafeteria. For your enjoyment, the Middle School Jazz Band, directed by Scott Prescott, will provide music for us. We hope to make this a very special afternoon for each recipient.....*

*All in all, it was a very pleasant experience!*

*Jeanne Peter*

*(The quilt will be on display at the Museum.)*





COLUMBIA ARENA

## History

from a Sun Newspaper, Wed., June 25, 1969

June 29, 1995 will mark 36 years since the dedication of the **Columbia Ice Arena**, the "Gem of Anoka County."

Festivities which took place on Sunday, June 29, 1969 began at 10 am and lasted until 10 pm. In the morning there was long blade skating. The first hockey game was played at 1:45 pm between bantam teams from Fridley and Coon Rapids.

Formal activities began at 1:30 with the ribbon cutting ceremony. On hand for that event was County Board Chairman Harvey Peterson, Fridley, and Commissioners Lauren Turnquist, Anoka, Robert Burman, Cedar, Albert Kordiak,

Columbia Heights, and LeRoy Johnson, Coon Rapids.

Other ice activities were Zamboni rides, precision skating and baton twirling, an Old Timers Hockey Game, a skate demonstration by a dance group, figure skating and open skating for the public.

Chuck Lilligren, an Anoka County native and WCCO radio announcer, was master of ceremonies for all the events.

Hostesses were the Fridley Hockey Association Mothers Club under the direction of Mrs. Alcie Benson, chairwoman.

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## Clean Up Night

Thanks to the volunteers who came to help spruce up the areas around the exterior of the Museum and to the others who spent time doing the same in the Museum: Sue Miskowic, Irvin and Jeanne Peter, Char Fitzpatrick, Jerry Manley, Jerry Johnson, and Lillian Meyer.

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## First graders visit the Museum

On Friday, June 2, 1995, 52 students visited the Museum. First grade students in Mrs. Alden's class had developed "pen pals" at Meadow Creek Christian School and invited them to come to their classroom and then to visit the Museum.

## White House Conference on Aging

One of our members, Char Fitzpatrick, was chosen as one of the delegates from Minnesota to attend the National Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. the first part of May.

Char said, "We came really with one purpose and that purpose was to preserve what we already have. The more people talked the more people realized that there are some tough choices ahead. But it shouldn't be at the expense of senior programs."

The White House Conference on Aging has been held once a decade since the 1960s. The goal is to set a national agenda for older Americans for the next ten years. Previous conferences have resulted in landmark legislation such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Supplemental Security Income Program and nutrition and home care programs.

Fitzpatrick says the message she took to the conference is to preserve America's contract with its older citizens. "It was made 60 years ago with Social Security, and it was amended 30 years ago with Medicare, Medicaid and the Older

Americans Act. This is a contract we must keep," she said. Her view is reflected by the 50 resolutions adopted by delegates. An overwhelming majority of delegates supported preserving Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and Older Americans Act programs.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Acquisition of a History of the 1965 Tornado

Through the efforts of Laurie R. Johnson, a booklet of the effects of the 1965 tornado on the Rice Creek Terrace neighborhood has been assembled, "A Neighborhood Remembers...The 1965 Fridley Tornado." Laurie lived on Rice Creek Terrace that fateful night. She contacted people who had resided there and asked them to answer sheets with questions relating to that terrifying night. Then she assembled these sheets into a booklet. She very kindly gave one to the Fridley Historical Society. It will be available in the reference room at the Museum.

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### *Fridley Historical Society*

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





# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

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*Members' Newsletter*

*Vol. 8, No. 5 September 1995*

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## *SEPTEMBER MEETING*

on Monday, Sept. 11, 1995

will feature a

**Panel Discussion**  
with

**Mary Sheilds, Dan Sullivan & Fred Schultz**  
sharing their experiences growing up  
in Fridley

**Come at 7:00 pm and share your experiences  
with us also**

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### **Turtle Lake Casino Trip**

Everyone is invited to have a fun-filled day of gambling sponsored by the Fridley Historical Society. This is a fund-raiser for the Society as well.

The bus will leave from Commons Park at 8:00 am and will arrive at the Casino

at 9:15 am. You will receive \$5.00 in quarters when you arrive at the Casino.

The return trip leaves the Casino at 2:15 pm and arrives home at 3:30 pm. Tickets are only \$10.00. Call Gloria Hayes for tickets at 571-3727.



## 75th Anniversary of Women Get the Vote

On August 26th this summer women all over the U.S. celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Celebrations took place in many places. Here in Minnesota a "Women Win the Vote" day, July 26th, was commemorated by a day-long series of activities at the Minnesota State Fair. These included a parade, speeches, costumed women mingling with the crowds, singing, etc. Quite a celebration!

To give you a bit of history found in Gen Rasmussen's "History of Fridley", here is a quote from her book:

"The same year that Manomin County became Manomin Township (editor's note-1870), Anoka County, Abram Fridley introduced in the state legislature a bill extending limited suffrage to Indians and half breeds who had adopted white people's ways; the same rights were to be granted to females under the bill. Women's votes were to be collected in a separate ballot box and tallied separately, however. The bill passed the Senate, 12 to 9, and the House, 33 to 13, but never became law. Major Fridley seemed to be ahead of his time in that respect, at least."



### CALENDAR

Sept. 7, Thurs. Fridley Historical  
Society Board Meeting  
Sept. 11, Mon. Regular Meeting of the  
Fridley Historical Society  
Sept. 20, Wed. Turtle Lake Casino trip  
Oct. 5, Thurs. FHS Board Meeting  
Oct. 11, Mon. Annual Meeting & Pot  
Luck Supper. Election of  
officers.



## New Book at the Minnesota Historical Society

**John Dillinger Slept Here** by Paul Maccabee is **A Crooks' Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936**. There were killers on the lam, cops on the take, openly operated brothels and gambling dens, shootouts, kidnappings, and gangland assassinations. The author shows how Minnesota's capital city gained a reputation as a safe haven for such infamous mobsters as John Dillinger, Katherine "Ma" Barker, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis and Al Capone.

Maccabee, who counts St. Paul's most intriguing gangsters as Edna "the Kissing Bandit" Murray (she distracted drivers by smooching then during trucking heists) and "Ma" Barker says we still feel the results of the city's years as a gangster haven. "St. Paul was dramatically changed by the corruption of the '30s," he observes, noting how the criminal collusion of Police Chief Thomas A. Brown soured city residents on the selection process that gave law enforcement power to such a man. "The process that ensures the selection is done on merit was codified in '36 as a result of the corruption."

Maccabee will take visitors inside the bank robberies, gangland assassination and police intrigue of St. Paul's 1920s and 1930s gangster era during a free talk at the Minnesota History Center Sept. 9 at 1 p.m.

Information from the MN Historical Society Sept. Member News.

(This new book is available for \$24.95 as a paperback. Copies can be purchased at the MN History Center Museum Store or ordered by phone by calling 297-3243.)



### Fridley Rotary Club Visits

In July, the Fridley Rotary Club had its monthly meeting and luncheon at the Fridley Historical Society Museum. Following their meeting members toured the Museum.

Char Fitzpatrick, one of our members, was a guest and gave a presentation on the history of Fridley. Rotary Club Members were very interested in both her talk and in looking around the Museum.

Thanks to Herb Bacon who was instrumental in inviting the group to our Museum. Many of our members helped prepare tables, chairs, and acted as docents for this event. Thanks to all of them!



## History - Proving a Land Claim

*Have you ever wondered how the early settlers here proved their claim to a parcel of land in the early 1850's and on? From the book Fridley--Our Home Town by Emma Christenson Carlson we read:*

*"The manner in which claims were made in those early days is interesting. First, the claimant had to pick his quarter-section of land. Then he had to file his claim with the government, then pay for his 160 acres at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. He could not preempt more than one quarter-section and he was required to make certain improvements to the amount of \$50.00, such as building a house or cabin which must have a floor, window and door with lock upon it. He must also break up some of the fallow ground. Then after having 'settled' on his land (he must really stay on it, or it could be jumped) for three years, he obtained a patent which he*

*had to file, and then the government would survey and plat it for him. At the end of five years he obtained his deed for the land. Then he could throw it open for sale and get as high a price as possible. Any land unsold would be subject to private entry at government price."*

### *Death*

*Drue L. Scherer, 86, died at the end of July this year. He was the city's first building inspector as well as a contractor who built several hundred homes in and around Fridley.*



*Fridley Historical Society  
611 Mississippi Street  
Fridley, MN 55432*

*Editor: Lillian Meyer*



# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 8, No. 6 October 1995

## Annual Meeting

### OCTOBER - ANNUAL MEETING

Pot luck Supper

Monday, October 23rd

Election of Officers & Directors

Vote re Change in our By-Laws

Time: 6:00 pm

Bring your favorite dish to share

Coffee will be provided

If you wish to bring your own cups  
and dish and utensils, please do so.

However, plastic plates and utensils  
will be available

Note change in date of our pot-luck!!

### NOVEMBER 13TH MEETING

We will meet at the Michael Servetus Unitarian Society

6565 Oakley Drive NE, Fridley

7:00 pm

Eidith Thompson, member of Michael Servetus will  
present the history of the church

It is the oldest church in Fridley and was  
originally the Episcopal Church

The church has been moved from its original  
location and additions have been made

This is a good opportunity for us tour this lovely facility

## Celebrate our 10th Anniversary in October!

It was 10 years ago that the Fridley Historical Society was formed. So much has been accomplished in these 10 years:

- new roof
- two new furnaces & climate control system
- completion of the Johanson/Bacon room
- parking lot
- landscaping & lawn
- sprinkler system
- electrical work on both levels
- installation of a "lift"
- interior painting on both levels
- insulation of the building
- many displays in the museum

This is an incomplete list, but all of this was made possible by many volunteers and the wonderful support of the community and the city of Fridley. Our sincere thanks to all of you!!

There are many projects that still need to be done or completed. Please offer your support through your talents/time and through contributions. **Thanks to all of you!!**



## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society to be held on October 23, 1995 it will be proposed to amend several articles in the By-Laws of the Fridley Historical Society as follows:

(Underlined words would be added)

### FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

#### ARTICLE II-Object Mission Statement

The object Mission Statement of the....

#### ARTICLE III- Membership

7. ....a two-thirds vote of the members board members, present at any regular meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV -Government Officers

2. Each officer shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot by the membership, ~~for one (1)~~ a two (2) year term...
6. The retiring president of the society shall automatically become an ex-officio voting member of the new board of directors (non-voting) to...

#### ARTICLE V- Board of Directors

1. The business of the society shall be conducted by a board of directors who shall be elcted for a. The term of office shall be staggered so that no more than two (2) directors shall be elected in one election. Tenure for the first board members shall be as follows: One shall serve one year, two shall serve two years, two shall serve three years. Successive elections shall be to full three-year terms.
4. Directors shall meet at regular intervals, such intervals to be determined by a special meeting of the board of directors held immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting of the society. The schedule of those meeting will be posted for the memberships information and will be open for their attendance.
5. 4.
6. 5.
7. 6. Board members shall receive written notice or telephone call from the secretary informing them of each board meeting. Notice shall be given no less than five (5) days prior to each meeting.
8. 7.
9. 8.
10. 9.



11.10

#### ARTICLE VI -Duties of Officers

4. ....The treasurer shall be bonded with sufficient security. Checks shall be issued only by the treasurer; or by the president in the absence of the treasurer, or in case of absence of both, by the vice-president.

#### ARTICLE VII - Meetings

3. The regular meetings of the society shall be held in September, through November, January, February, April, and May. No regular meeting will be held during October, the month ~~of~~ annual meeting. Exact dates will be determined by the board of directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES, and BOARDS, and BUREAUS

2. ...other boards and bureaus as....boards and bureaus shall be....
3. ...boards, and bureaus shall.... All committees, boards, and bureaus may... ..of a committee, board, or bureau..
4. ...boards, and bureaus, except...
5. ..boards, and bureaus, shall.... .boards, or bureaus at meetings...
6. When obtaining a bid for an expenditure of over \$300 a minimum of three (3) bids must be presented to the board except in emergency situations.
7. Restricted memorials shall be placed in a separate account and not be used for operating expenses.

#### ARTICLE IX - Disposition of Collections Artifacts

#### ARTICLE X - AFFILIATION with the STATE SOCIETY

The society shall be enrolled as an annual member of the Minnesota Historical Society, paying the established dues one year in advance, and as such it shall, whenever feasible, send a delegate to represent it at the meetings of the state society, and shall make an annual report thereto as herein before provided.

By-Law Committee:

Don Salvelkoul  
Gloria Hayes  
Lillian Meyer  
Char Fitzpatrick

# *DISPLAY at the MUSEUM*

## **New Roots: Families Who Came to Minnesota II**

This exhibit tells the stories of five Minnesota families with diverse heritages. It is a travelling exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society and will be at the Museum until mid-October. Stop in and view this interesting wall-hung display with a hands-on activity panel.

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## **Memorial Donation**

Thanks to the family of Drue Scherer who have very graciously given several hundred dollars to the Fridley Historical Society in memory of their father. This fund will be used in remembrance of Mr. Scherer. The family will be consulted re possible uses of the donation.

## *Election of Officers and Directors*

*At our Annual Meeting on October 23rd we will elect officers and directors for the 1996 year.*

*The proposed slate is:*

*President: Suzanne Miskowic  
Vice-Pres: Lillian Meyer  
Treasurer: Herb Bacon  
Secretary: Char Fitzpatrick*

*Directors (for 3-year terms)  
Mary Sue Meyers  
Gloria Hayes*

*Submitted by the nominating committee:*

*Jerry Johnson  
Jeanne Peter  
Herb Bacon*

*Nominations can be made for any office at our Annual Meeting if you have the approval of the candidate you are proposing.*

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



# *Fridley Historical Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

*Members' Newsletter*

*Vol. 8, No. 7 November 1995*

## **CHRISTMAS MEETING for MEMBERS & FRIENDS on Monday, Dec. 11, 1995**

**Entertainment:** The Fridley High School Chamber Singers will again this year raise their voices in joyful Christmas melodies. We have had the pleasure of their singing for the past number of years.

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Refreshments:** Wassail and cookies will be served.

Circle this date on your calendar today!



## **JANUARY MEETING**

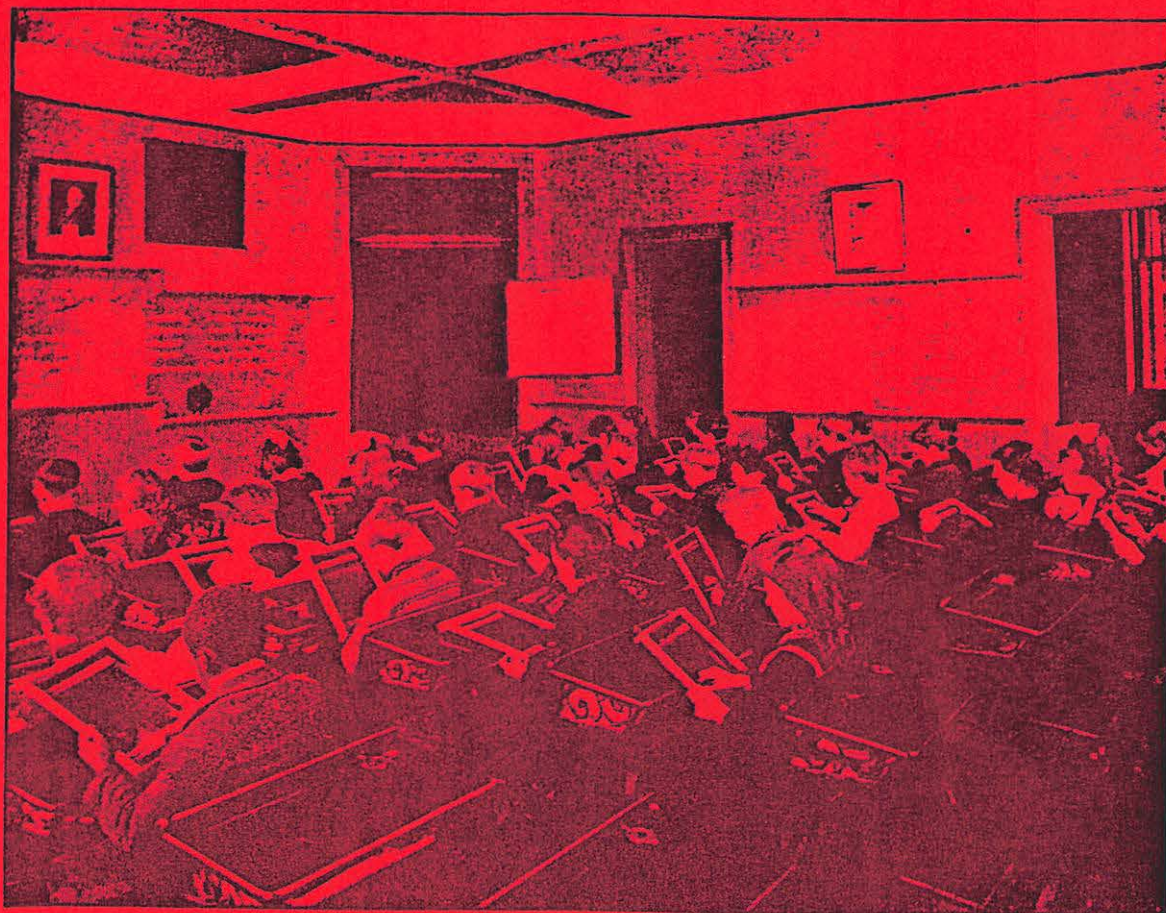
One of our own members, Alice Nelson, will show her slides of **India** and the **Taj Mahal**. She visited India a few years ago and is willing to share this experience with us.

**Date:** Monday, January 8, 1996

**Time:** 7:00 pm.

Bring your neighbors and friends for this exciting presentation!





### **NEW EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM in January**

This traveling exhibit comes to us through the Minnesota Historical Society

### **MINNESOTA SCHOOL DAYS**

Minnesota School Days captures the flavor of school life between 1885 and 1925. At the turn of the century, the growth of normal schools for training teachers and the passing of the era of the one-room schoolhouse marked a transition in Minnesota education. Teachers were becoming professionals, and schools were becoming larger. The curriculum, no longer limited to the three R's,

included training in art, vocational, and physical education. Progressive reforms stressed "hands-on" learning in the classroom, and schools extended their supervision into extra-curricular activities. MINNESOTA SCHOOL DAYS depicts life at school in an era of change—a bridge between a promising beginning and the continuing commitment of people in Minnesota to education.

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### **DOCENTS NEEDED**

We are in need of docent volunteers to man the museum during its hours of operation: Saturdays, 12-2. We have a group of reliable docents, but we need more. Ideally, there should be two docents on duty at all times. The job is not strenuous or complicated, and it offers the opportunity to help others learn about our history. Please call the Museum or contact any board member if you are interested.



## **How Many Students were in Fridley in the Past and Where Did They Attend Class?**

This info is from a paper of the Anoka County Historical Society:

During 1923-24 the school population was 41. In 1940-41 there were 84 and they all attended school in the Hayes Annex (now the Fridley Historical Society.) Over time, the school became too crowded so from 1941-48 some pupils were "farmed out" to Columbia Heights and Minneapolis. In 1948-49 first grade pupils attended school in the Hayes Annex. Children in Grades 2 through 6 had school in the administration building of the Twin Cities Arsenal while grades 7-12 attended the Columbia Heights High School.

By 1950 there were 390 enrolled in District 23. Another 152 were enrolled in high school classes at Columbia Heights.

By the 1957-58 school year the school enrollment had grown to 1,400 students (this included the secondary students.)

And the district grew for several years before attendance dropped as school age children declined in number.

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**Welcome to our new officers and directors** who will be directing the Fridley Historical Society for the next year! They are: Suzanne Miskowic, Pres., Lillian Meyer, Vice-pres., Herb Bacon, Treasurer, Char Fitzpatrick, Secretary, and directors for the next 3 years M. Sue Meyers and Gloria Hayes. Continuing on board will be Corine Kirkham, Jerry Johnson, Mel Manley, Jeanne Peter, Esther Campbell and Fred Schultz.

## **Kindergarten Open House at the Museum**

On Saturday, December 16, 1995 from 12 noon-3:00 p.m. kindergarten students, their parents and relatives are invited to view the holiday drawings the kindergarteners have created. These art works will be hung and may be viewed in the Johanson/Bacon Room.

Refreshments will be served.

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## **Death of Hazel Hartman**

On November 20th Hazel Hartman, wife of the first mayor of the City of Fridley, died. She has been an honorary member of the Fridley Historical Society since the inception of the society. She would have been 98 years old in January.

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## **DUES are due in January**

Due to increasing expenses for postage for the newsletter, any donations over and above your dues would be greatly appreciated.

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are:	Individual:	\$10
	Club & church	\$20
	Business	\$50

Just fill out the accompanying form and bring or mail to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432



## CASINO DAY is Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1996

Those of you who have taken one of our earlier casino trips to Turtle Lake Casino said you enjoyed a day of sociability and the games (and prizes) that were played during the bus trip.

This trip to Turtle Lake Casino is a fundraiser for the Fridley Historical Society, so in addition to the enjoyment you will have, you will be earning monies for the Society.

Tickets are \$5.00. Time is 8:00 a.m. Date is Wednesday, January 17, 1996. We will again meet at the Commons Park parking lot. When you arrive at the casino you will receive a \$5.00 roll of quarters. There will be games and prizes and refreshments en route.

Several of us ate our breakfast when we arrived at the casino.

## In Sympathy

Elma Feit, Mother of M. Sue Meyers, passed away last week at the age of 90. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sue and her family.

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## Calendar

- Dec. 7 FHS board meeting
- Dec. 11 Christmas Member Meeting-  
Fridley Senior High Chamber  
Singers  
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Kindergartener's Open House  
12-3 p.m.
- Jan. 4 FHS board meeting  
7:00 pm
- Jan. 8 Alice Nelson will show her slides  
of India and the Taj Mahal
- Jan. 16 Casino trip
- Feb. 9 Bake Sale at Norwest Bank  
(former Fridley State Bank)
- April 13 Lasagna Dinner



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