



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 1 February 1996

PERSONAL SAFETY-February 12

Rosie Griep from the Fridley Police Department will present information on how to increase your personal safety in your home, in your car-anywhere you are.

In these days of higher crime, we all need to do, to the maximum, everything we can to increase our personal safety.

**Monday, February 12, 1996,
7:00 pm at the Museum**

FRIDLEY HISTORY SKITS

March 11, 1996

Fridley Students will present short skits on historical facts about Fridley. Four areas they will cover are:

**The Pole Yard
The Hayes Annex
The Banfill/Locke House
The 1965 Tornado that damaged Fridley**

Invite your family and friends to come with you for this stimulating and informative evening! Many of you will have comments to add regarding all of these items. We welcome them!

CURRENT EXHIBIT

Minnesota School Days

Come and see the current exhibit from the MN Historical Society, *Minnesota School Days*. It will be on display in the lower level of the Museum until March 10, 1996.

This is the second time we have had this exhibit, so those of you who might have missed it earlier will have plenty of time to view it now. (That is, if the weather ever moderates and we get rid of all the ice!)



TREASURE ISLAND CASINO TRIP

Thursday, February 29, 1996

You asked for a different casino and here we go! The Fridley Historical Society is sponsoring a casino trip to Treasure Island February 29th.

We will leave the Commons parking lot (7th & 61st St.) at 9:00 am
arrive at the casino 10:15.
leave at 2:15 pm
& get home at 4:00.

Please note: departure time is at 9:00 am.

Tickets are \$5.00. You will receive \$5.00 upon arrival at the casino. Games on board with refreshments.

Hope you all will join us on our Leap Year Day trip. This opportunity can only happen once in every 4 years.

Call Gloria Hayes-571-3727 for tickets or more information.

SURVEY of MEMBERS

Many of you have attended the casino fund-raiser trips the Society has planned. Now we need input from you. Would you be interested in going to Shooting Star Casino in Manomin on an overnight trip?

Costs would be \$105 for a single, \$85 each for a double, and \$80 each for a triple. Included in this price is the bus trip, the hotel room, one continental breakfast and two lunch buffets. You would also receive \$60 in gambling coins.

Let Gloria Hayes at 571-3727 know what your thoughts are-either favorable or unfavorable.

VALUES FIRST RALLY-History Night

Come and see students from Columbia Heights and Fridley in several short skits depicting important events/times in our communities! Students from Fridley High School will role play four historically important happenings in Fridley: the tornado of 1965, the pole yard, the Hayes Annex, and the Banfill/Locke House.

The Rally will be held at Murzyn Hall, 530 NE Mill Street, in Columbia Heights on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

Our up-to-date By-Laws are available at the Museum and may be picked up whenever you are there. There were several changes made at our annual meeting, so do take a copy at your next visit.

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED !

What is a docent? He or she welcomes visitors, directs them to special exhibits, and answers questions or directs them to someone who can give them the information they seek.

You will always be with another person. Usually a board person will be there with the docent. You would 'man' the museum normally on Saturday from 12 noon to 2 pm, so you would be there for only 2 hours. On special occasions, docents are needed, e.g. during 49er Days. Docents can set their own schedule.

It is fun meeting and learning from visitors. Everyone it seems has stories of their own to tell. You will enjoy these tidbits of personal history you will hear that are not yet in any book. Squeeze some time from your busy schedule and volunteer! Please call or leave a message at the museum or with Lillian Meyer at 571-5328.

THE MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope which can be used to remember a friend or family member who has passed away. If you would like additional memorial envelopes, please contact the museum at 571-0120 or Lillian Meyer at 571-5328.

RESIGNATION

It is with great regret that the board accepted the resignation of Corine Kirkham. She has been very active through all the years the Fridley Historical Society has been in existence. Most of those years she served on the board in a number capacities.

Thank you for your devotion to the Society! We look forward to seeing you at the museum although in a less active role.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Mary Sue Meyers whose Mother, Elma Feit, died in early December.

Memorials to the Fridley Historical Society

*in memory of Elma Feit:
Suzanne Miskowic
John & Lillian Meyer
Charlotte Fitzpatrick*

*in memory of Hazel Hartman
Judge & Mes. Gabe Giancola
Chuck & Gloria Hayes
Philip & Carol Bentrud
Alice Ganter*

DUES are now DUE!

Membership in the Fridley Historical Society makes you a part of a group that is trying to preserve local history. There are many things that need attention in an endeavor such as this.

Perhaps you are interested in learning more about the community and its past. This is the place to come.

Are you artistic? There is need for such people to help with displays, posters, etc.

Do you enjoy painting (walls, that is)? You are needed!

Are you a handyman/woman? Carpentry, sewing, etc. are always needed.

Do you enjoy writing or interviewing people? This is vital as we try to capture individual histories.

If you can answer affirmatively to any of the above, you need to become an active member of the Fridley Historical Society.

Send in the membership application and your dues now!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER 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

CALENDAR

- Feb. 1** *Board meeting*
Feb. 11 *Regular meeting-speaker will be
Rosie Griep speaking on Person
Safety*
Feb. 27 *Values First History Night-at
Murzyn Hall*
Feb. 29 *Treasure Island Casino Day*
Mar. 7 *Board meeting*
Mar. 11 *Regular meeting-Fridley
students will present skits of local
historical importance*
Apr. 4 *Board meeting*
Apr. 13 *LASAGNA DINNER*



BAKE SALE

Can you smell it yet? I mean the goodies you will be baking in your kitchen for the Feb. 9, 1996 Bake Sale?

Every time there has been a bake sale you have brought absolutely yummy goodies. Our customers think so too! Your response has always been great for our fund-raiser bake sale. Will you bake again?

The Bake Sale will be at the Norwest Bank Fridley (the former Fridley State Bank) from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Items can be brought to the museum on Friday from 6-8 pm or to the bank on Saturday morning before 9.

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



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 2 April 1996

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER

Saturday, April 13, 1996
at the
Fridley Community Center
7th Street and 61st

Doors open at 4:30 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm

Cost: \$6.25

THIS IS OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER!

This year there will be **NO** Silent Auction. Instead, there will be a **drawing** of 3 raffle tickets for the 2 Pops Concerts and for the Series E Savings Bond. See info below. These tickets may also be purchased at the Lasagna Dinner.

There is an additional raffle that will be held on the 13th. We know many of you will want to take advantage of this. We are delighted to have two tickets for 3 games of the **St. Paul Saints Baseball Game**. As you know, the tickets are all sold out, but one of our members obtained these tickets and donated them for a raffle at the **Lasagna Dinner**. You may purchase a raffle ticket for these baseball tickets at the door for **\$1.00**. You must be present to win!

RAFFLE TICKETS

Each of you should have received in the mail a letter explaining the purpose of the raffle tickets and a book of raffle tickets - 11 in all. If you sell 10 tickets, the 11th is free. Tickets are **\$1.00 each** or **\$10.00** for the entire book of tickets. **You do not have to be present to win.**

Tear off the part of the ticket where you have written your name and address and send **with your check** to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432.

Your name will then be put into the box for the drawing on the evening of the **Lasagna Dinner**.

Raffle items are:

1. **2 tickets** to the Minnesota Orchestra Pops concert: **Bravo Broadway Today (\$48)**
2. **One \$100 Savings Bond**
3. **2 tickets** to the Minnesota Orchestra Pops concert: **In the Miller Mood (\$42)**

If you find you are unable to attend these concerts, you may exchange these tickets at Orchestra Hall for other pops concerts.

As this is our biggest fund raiser of the year, please try to sell as many tickets or books as possible.

COME to the LASAGNA DINNER and have a good meal and invite your friends and family to join you.

CASINO TRIP -Tuesday, April 30

You asked for it and so we made the arrangements for another trip to the **Treasure Island Casino** on **Tuesday, April 30, 1996.** Those of us who went to the casino last month enjoyed the day no matter whether we won or lost a few pennies. So, let's try it again. **For tickets, call Gloria Hayes -571-3727.**

Welcome to our new members

We are happy to greet the following new members of the Fridley Historical Society:

**Fredrick & Diane Ask - Fridley
Mark Bongsteel - Mounds View
Maureen Gaddings - Edina
Neil Hayford - Fridley
Randall Manderschied - Fridley
Kay Bonner Nee - Fridley**

Please come and meet other members at our monthly meetings. Come to socialize and to contribute your talents to help make our society more vital to the community.

Thanks are due to these members

When these members renewed their 1996 memberships they also donated additional funds in support of the Fridley Historical Society:

**Char Fitzpatrick
Phyllis Forsberg
Chuck & Gloria Hayes
Norma Johnson
Mirth Langer
Eleanor Jensen
Tony & Jeanne Petrangelo**

A hearty "Thank you" to you all! These funds will be well used.

Calendar

Mar 20 - May 10 Meeting Ground Display at the Museum
Apr 4 Board Meeting - 7 pm
Apr 13 LASAGNA DINNER & Raffle Drawing
May 2 Board Meeting - 7 pm
May 10 Members display of Art at the Museum
May 13 Regular monthly members meeting
May Bake Sale
June 13-16 Fridley '49er Days

Members' Art Works

An all member art work display is planned for the month of May. If you have any kind of art you can show, please contact **Lillian Meyer - 571-5328.** This can include paintings, sculpture, wood carving, needlework, photography, etc. We welcome all types of art!

Are your dues paid for 1996?

Your support is vitally needed! If you have not paid your 1996 dues, please pay them by return mail. Thank you!!!

Memorial Gifts

If you have used your Memorial Gift envelope which was enclosed with your newsletter last month and need additional envelopes, please pick one up at the Museum or call **Suzanne Miskowic - 571-3493.**



CURRENT DISPLAY at the MUSEUM



Meeting Ground: Photography from the Minnesota Historical Society

Meeting Ground: Photography from the Minnesota Historical Society presents the best of the Minnesota Historical Society's photo collection, illustrating that the collection is a meeting ground for art and history, commerce and aesthetics. The theme of this selection is the meeting of rural and urban, nature and technology, emphasizing the workplace and exhibition space as a meeting ground. *Meeting Ground* opens with Frank Goehlke's 1983 bird's-eye view of a Dakota County farm, the mark of technology only subtly visible. It proceeds through images such as the 1918 Stillwater Market Company by John Runk in which echoes of the urban skyline are felt in rural landscapes. The exhibit closes with Paul Shambroom's 1986 C print of a hermetically sealed lab at American Medical Systems, Minnetonka, the epitome of the technological workplace. Through these selected images *Meeting Ground* presents the viewer with the often striking correspondences between fine art and historical photographs, fostering resonances between them and enriched perceptions of each.

Thoughts While Quilting:

While dusting my mustache cup this week, I decided that might be an interesting subject to write about in the Newsletter. It seems that Great Grandfather was as vain as your teenage daughter and his mustache cup will prove it.

The flowing mustache became the feature of each man's face after the Mexican War. Proper care of the mustache included curlers, oil, dye, brushes, combs, and even hair nets to hold it curled at night. After all of the care of his mustache, no man wanted to dip it in hot coffee and spoil his looks. The mustache cup is a large coffee cup with a porcelain ledge near the rim. The curled mustache could rest on the ledge, safe from the dangers of hot drinks.

These cups were made after 1850 and went out of style with the mustache by the 1900s. Although mustaches are back in style, I have

not seen mustache cups back on the market. Maybe they have come up with something better now-a-days!! ...

Fern Moe

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Lillian Meyer, Editor



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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 3 May 1996

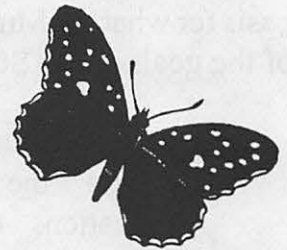
Fort Snelling National Cemetary

Monday, May 13, 1996
at 7:00 pm

Our **Regular Meeting** will feature a speaker from **Fort Snelling National Cemetary** who will tell us the history of the cemetary, why it was established, famous people who are buried there, who may be buried there, what the regulations are, and other bits of information about the cemetary.

Memorial Day is on **May 27, 1996** so it is very timely to have a speaker from the National Cemetary come to speak with us.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Monday, May 13th!!



CASINO TRIP

Another CASINO TRIP will be taken on **Wednesday, May 15, 1996** to **Treasure Island Casino.**

Those of us who have visited the Casino have had an enjoyable trip down and back with games on the bus and good fellowship.

The bus leaves from the parking lot across the street from the Community Center on 7th Street and 61st at 9:00 and returns at 4:00.

There is still time to get the few remaining tickets for this venture from **Gloria Hayes** at **571-3727**. Tickets are **\$5.00** and on arrival at the casino you will receive **\$5.00**. We will continue to offer these casino trips for your pleasure and as a fund-raiser for the Fridley Historical Society. Thank you for your participation.



ARTIFACTS are Desired

Over the past few years the Fridley Historical Society Museum has received several artifacts from community members. These donations formed the basis for what the Museum has today. One of the goals of the Society is:

To collect artifacts which will provide the community with illustrations of life, conditions, events, and activities from the geological past to the present.

We are anxious to preserve as much history of Fridley as possible. And to do that we will need your help. If you or a friend, neighbor or relative have item/s that should be preserved for the community, please let us know.

It is too easy to misplace or lose invaluable, historically important papers or artifacts, so if you have any artifacts that you have been thinking of donating to the museum, please contact either the Museum at 571-9120 or Jeanne Peter at 571-8730.

Every potential donation will be looked at by the Artifacts Committee before any items are accepted.

HELP

Young people, adults, senior citizens (both male and female) to become involved in a gardening project for community betterment and beautification.

The Senior Citizen Sub-Committee of the Values 1st movement in Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop is sponsoring a gardening project that will match young people with adult and senior citizen mentors to plant and maintain garden/flower plots in a number of locations, including sites in the community such as the Fridley Historical Society Museum, the District 14 Community Education Center, and the Crestview Nursing Home.

If you are interested in volunteering, or want more information, contact Tom Myhra at 571-3342.

Tornado Remembrance-May 6, 1965

Those of us who lived in Fridley on that memorable day have a variety of memories. The day was hot and humid and at supper-time the dark clouds started to roll in. The sirens blared. The wind grew stronger and stronger. Tornado!

Not just one, but several tornadoes struck Fridley and other communities before the night ended. What a night!!

We never want that night to be repeated here!

CURRENT DISPLAY at the MUSEUM



PORTRAIT OF THE CHIPPEWA

Portrait of the Chippewa portrays a little-known way of modern Indian life through 100 contemporary photographs of the Red Lake Indian Reservation taken by Charles E. Brill. Supported in part through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Brill lived and worked with the Chippewa at Ponemah, Minnesota, on Red Lake between 1964 and 1969. With the approval of the Tribal Council, Brill selected these images from the 5,000 negatives he took at Red Lake. "From the beginning," Brill writes, "I felt an urgency to record what still remains of the old ways. I also wanted to capture on film the daily activities of a people living as they want to live." Freedom — the essence of the Red Lake Indian way of life — is perhaps the most outstanding theme conveyed through these photographs. Brill also speaks of a second theme that emerges: "Contrast — evidence of the dramatic transition from old to new underway within the boundaries of Red Lake."

WORK DAY at the Museum

Everyone is welcome to come to the Museum on Tuesday, May 21 to help clean up the yard and shrubs. Bring your snippers to help trim some of the bushes. Time: 6:00 pm.

FRIDLEY 49er DAYS

Again this year we are delighted to be able to be in the 49er Days Parade. Warren Mortenson has offered to drive his 1917 Ford Touring Sedan with our signs and a couple of our members as riders.

The parade will be on Thursday, June 13 starting at the Fridley Senior High School. Come as you are and enjoy a very colorful, tuneful, and exciting evening!

JUNE 19 CASINO TRIP

LASAGNA DINNER and RAFFLE

Our Annual Lasagna Dinner, and for the first time, Raffle, was a great success thanks to all you wonderful supporters!

We realized a grand total of \$1419.04 income from this event. We thank all who came and all the members and community members who worked to make this event possible.

Winners in the Raffle for 2 tickets each to the Minnesota Orchestra's Summer Pops were **Michelle Hynnek** and **Jerome Manley**. Winners of 2 steak dinners each at the Veterans of Foreign Wars #363 were **Phillip Novack, Jr** and **Norma D. Johnson**. Winners of one pair of baseball tickets to the St. Paul Saints were **Bunty Shaw**, **Glen Theorin** and **Alison Manley**.

Plan now to go with us to Treasure Island Casino on June 19th. Cost is \$5. On arrival at the Casino you will receive \$5. The bus will leave from the parking lot by Commons Park (across the street from the Community Center) at 9:00 am, and will return at 4:00 pm.

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Lillian Meyer, Editor



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611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 4 July 1996

AUGUST FEST

August 12, 1996 - Monday

This will be our first "Fest". There is something for everyone from the youngest to the oldest. We have planned a program that we hope everyone will enjoy.

Program: Outdoors at the Museum



6:30 - 7:00 Fridley City Band will play spritely numbers
Directed by Phil Raaen

7:00 - 7:30 Fridley Fire Chief, Chuck McKusick, will be our guest speaker. His talk will include the history of the fire department, the training involved, and a bit about the transportation of hazardous materials through Fridley

Two fire engines will be on display. One is a Fridley fire engine. The other is an antique on loan from the Fridley VFW. Be sure to look at both!

7:30-7:45 The City Band will play

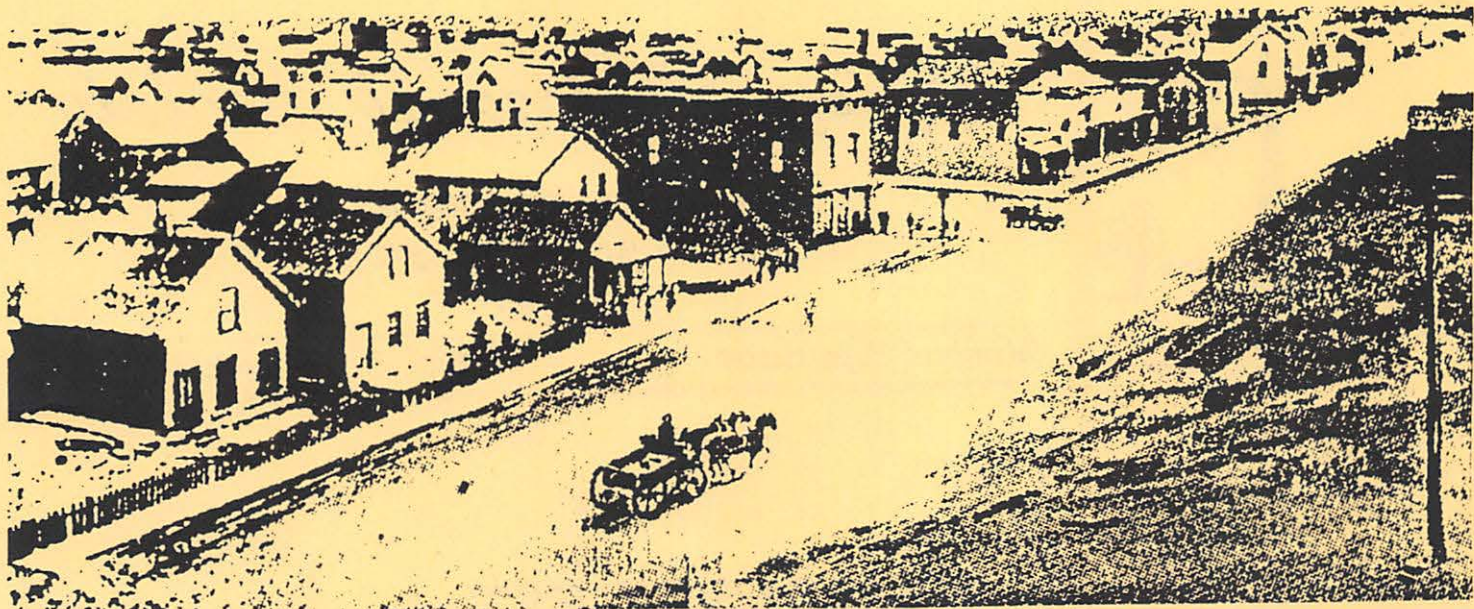
The Museum will be open the entire evening to give people an opportunity to see our new exhibit; THE GREAT HINCKLEY FIRE.

7:45 - on Visit the Museum.

Join us for lemonade in the Johanson/Bacon Room



Bring your family, neighbors and friends AND your blankets or chairs to sit on and enjoy this summer celebration!



HINCKLEY BEFORE THE FIRE

THE GREAT HINCKLEY FIRE

Information from the Hinckley Historical Society

"The volunteer fire department on September 1, 1894 was summoned to the engine house by the fire gong which had rung at noon. Fire Chief Craig was concerned about the fires in the south and the southwest although at that point he felt there was no danger. As he told his men, "We just want to be prepared for an emergency." The fire came and all was in readiness but the wind blew so strong that it was impossible to throw water any considerable distance against it.

Fire Chief John Craig finally gave up and told his workers to run for their lives.

The fire had turned into a firestorm, an inferno that was seen as far away as Iowa and made it necessary to turn on lamps in Duluth because of the darkened conditions. The firestorm sent balls of fire

into Hinckley where houses were exploding into fire from the intense heat.

Escape was imminent. People ran for the St. Paul & Duluth Depot where the Limited (train) was due at 4 p.m. That train however, had stopped just one mile out of town, afraid to proceed any further south because of the smoky conditions and the heat.

When the train didn't arrive and the depot caught on fire, about 150 passengers ran north up the track to meet the late train. They told engineer Jim Root about the destruction happening to Hinckley and asked that he please save them. Root, realizing finally what was happening, threw his engine in reverse and backed up north, hoping to reach a small body of water about five miles away called Skunk

Lake-and safety.

The train cars caught on fire, but Skunk Lake could finally be seen through an occasional clearing. The passengers unloaded with the help of the train crew and were saved in the muddy waters.

Back in Hinckley, the Eastern Minnesota Railroad was the site of a rescue train made up of a passenger train and a freight train engineered by Edward Barry and William Best. These two engineers had found themselves in Hinckley just in time to witness the inferno that would destroy the town. Best and Barry decided to couple their trains, adding box cars to make room for the many people who needed to escape the fire. They loaded about 500 passengers on the train before pulling out of the town with the fire just behind them. The train then went on to Sandstone and eventually ended up in Duluth that evening.

Those who did not board the trains were left in the gravel pit. This was a three acre site which had been dug by the Eastern Minnesota Railway when the track for that railroad was laid. A spring in the bottom of the pit kept water in the area. At the time of the fire, there was about on acre of water that filled the depression. It was here that animals, wild and domestic sought shelter from the fire along with people who were left in town, and it was here that they were all saved.

When the smoke cleared the next morning, and the damage could be seen, the sight was a 'sickening one'. Nothing was left, except the roundhouse and water tank at the south end of the town. The railroad tracks were twisted making entry into the town impossible except by (railroad) hand car or push car.

Where before was a flourishing town was now ashes."

The display of The Great Hinckley Fire will be at the Museum from July 15 to September.

The Fridley Historical Society has purchased two books about the Hinckley Fire. These are available for use in the Museum. The two books are:

"From the Ashes" by Grace Stageberg Swenson

"The Hinckley Fire" by Antone A. Anderson and Clara Anderson McDermott

49er Days Parade

Thanks are due to those people who participated in the 49er Days Parade on behalf of the Fridley Historical Society.

Thanks to

.Warren Mortensen who drove his antique car and to his son who drove the mini car behind his dad

.to Phil and Bonnie Novack who rode with Warren

.to Ludwig and Myrtle Ask who also rode with Warren

People in the audience loved the two cars!

In Memoriam



The Fridley Historical Society misses an old friend and charter member of our organization. Rodney Johnson died in May of this year.

He served on the board for many years and was always active until his stroke. Even after that he continued to support the Society by attending many of the events the Society sponsored. His friendly smile will be missed.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Our Bake Sale in June at First Bank Columbia Heights was a great success due to all the people who baked and or contributed monies. They are: Janet

Peter, Alice Nelson, Caroline Holzheu, Corine Kirkham, Esther Campbell, Bill Donahue, Jeanne Peter, Buntly Shaw, Lillian Meyer, Harriet Johnson, Shirley Herrick, Marian Anderson, Elaine Ritter, Carol Hoiby, John Fitzpatrick, Chuck and Gloria Hayes, Sue Miskowic, Myrtle Ask, Eleanor Jensen, Mirth Langer and Mary VanDan.

Despite the day being cold and wet business was brisk and sales workers found customers were friendly and talkative. We raised \$323.25 though your help. A good day all around!

*Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
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Lillian Meyer, Editor*



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
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Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 5 September 1996

CANDIDATES MEETING

What do you want in Fridley? Are you satisfied with local government? What would you like to see in the future for Fridley?

If you have questions or suggestions for Fridley's future or would just like to meet and get to know the people who are running for office, come to our **Candidates Meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 1996 at the Fridley Historical Society Museum at 7:00 pm.** Candidates for Mayor and Council-at-Large will speak. You will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Mayoral candidates are: Craig Gordon, Nancy Jorgenson, Richard Lewis and Richard Wolfe.

Council-at-Large candidates are: Bob Barnette and Dave Kondrick

THIS MEETING WILL REPLACE OUR USUAL
MONDAY SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING.

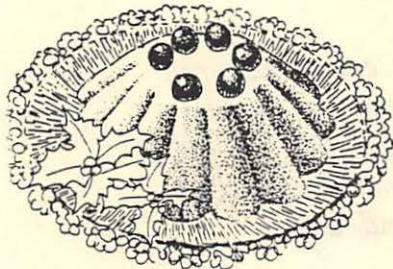
*Sponsored by Fridley League of Women
Voters*

POTLUCK SUPPER

Monday, October 14, 1996
6:00 pm
at the Museum

Bring your appetite and a dish to share at our Annual Potluck Supper. Refreshments will be provided, but bring your own utensils and cups.

This is always a good time to renew friendships and share information.



AUGUST FEST is a big success!

Our first August Fest was attended by a total of 153 people. We are delighted that so many friends from the community came to help celebrate!

Thanks are due to the many people who donated their time and energy to seeing that everything went along well. They are: Herb & Betty Bacon, Don & Mary Sue Meyers, Chuck and Gloria Hayes, Buntly Shaw, Corine Kirkham, George & Candy Bacon, Ludwig & Edna Ask, Mel Manley, Mark Bonesteel, Pete Bonesteel, Phil & Bonnie Novack, Harriet Johnson, Suzanne Miskowic, and Lillian Meyer.

Our special thanks to the Fridley Fire Chief, Chuck McKusick, who took time from a very hectic day at the fire station to speak to us. Also, special recognition to the three firemen who drove three fire engines to our Fest for the audience to look at and to answer our questions.

The Fridley VFW very kindly drove their antique fire engine to our parking lot for all of us to see and to sit on. Thanks!

And, lastly, a hearty thanks to the Fridley Parks & Rec Department for arranging for the band shell and public address system to be available for the Fridley City Band to use.

What wonderful support you all give!

MORE CASINO TRIPS

Three casino trips are planned for this fall. The first will be to Treasure Island on Tuesday, September 10, 1996. To get tickets for this venture, call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727.

Other casino journeys will be October 8th and November 2. So---note these on your calendar so you don't miss out.

In Memoriam

Long-time member, Bill Campbell, passed away Aug. 23, 1996. He had been a faithful member of the Fridley Historical Society. He had health problems, but these didn't keep him away from meetings and activities of the Society. He will be missed.

DISPLAY at the MUSEUM

*It is not too late to view the current display at the Museum: **The GREAT HINCKLEY FIRE**. It will be at the Museum until the middle of September.*

These pictures show the enormous area the fire encompassed, and the damage done both to structures and people. September 1st this year marks the 100th Anniversary of this horrendous fire.

These pictures are a MUST SEE! If you don't see them here, you will have to

travel to Hinckley to view them. We are most fortunate that the Hinckley Historical Society has allowed us to keep this display for the fire's centennial .

Thanks, late, to:

Debbie Johnson whose name was not included in the last newsletter. She worked all morning at our First Bank Bake Sale in June. It is people like you who keep us solvent. Thanks!

BITS of HISTORY

The first trolley car that went through Fridley was a gasoline motorcar and was used on June 11, 1913. The fare was \$.02 per mile, or \$.30 for one way. When the Coon Rapids Dam was built electrification was available and by Oc. 1, 1915, the electric trolleys served the area from Minneapolis to Anoka 7 times per day.

Trolley stations were built along the electric line in various locations. These yellow suburban streetcars operated until 1939.

Interesting facts: Fridley Township began in 1879 and included Spring Lake Park and Hilltop. The population in 1880 was 257, and in 1890 was 324. Much of the history has been lost.

from articles by Charlie Johanson

MORE HISTORY

WCCO at 830 Kh is a familiar household word in this part of the Northwest, and has been since way back on October 2, 1924, when it opened to the public after a silence of two months under the new call letters of WCCO Radio. The Washburn-Crosby Company had been persuaded by executives of the Twin Cities Civic and Commerce Association to take over the old WLAG "Call of the North" station located in the downtown Minneapolis Oak Grove Hotel. The old WLAG would be known by its new call letters of WCCO.

The new highly-powered radio station would have ten times the power of earlier radio stations in the Twin Cities and would broadcast on a regular daily basis. It was to be advertised as a Gold Medal Station. A new era in radio broadcasting was about to begin.

The original WCCO Radio Transmitter Building was built two miles southeast of Anoka, MN, in 1924. Later on, the location of the WCCO radio transmitter would be known as Anoka Township, then the Village of Coon Rapids, and finally in 1959, the City of Coon Rapids. WCCO Radio studios were leased and located on the 12th and 13th floors of the new Nicollet Hotel in downtown Minneapolis and the broadcast transmitting facilities and twin aerial transmitter towers in early Coon Rapids made WCCO the largest radio station west of the Mississippi in 1925.

The ground on which this new station was

built occupied a 500 by 700 foot tract of land near Anoka, surrounded by farmland and adjacent to old Highway 10, which is Coon Rapids Boulevard today. Two aerial towers, each 200 feet high, at either end of the first transmitter building with the Gold Medal Radio Station sign in between would transmit the first all new original WCCO radio signal on March 4, 1925, with 5000 watts of power. Local programs, especially musical entertainment and news interviews, were carried along with commercial programs from the NBC Network in New York. WCCO later attempted to exert its commercial independence, leading to an open break with NBC.

A new 50,000 watt transmitter--the maximum power licensed in the United States--was completed on 10 additional acres of land by September 1932 at the present location with the first of a new type of transmitting equipment built by Western Electric. These newer facilities would make WCCO Radio Station one of the most powerful "clear channel" broadcasters in the United States, complete with special emergency and

remote broadcast communications apparatus. "Clear channel" means that only one full-time radio station could operate on the assigned frequency of 810 kilocycles as in the case of WCCO by order of the FCC. Two new additional 300 foot transmitter towers were added to the local skyline in the 1930's to boost the broadcast radio signal, sending it as far as Honolulu, the Virgin Island, and Mexico.....

from Historical Mural 1857 -

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER 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 Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Lillian Meyer, Editor





Fridley Historical Society

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Fridley, Minnesota 55432

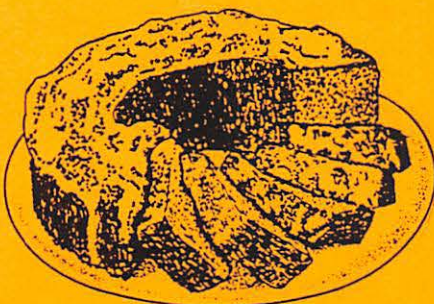
Members' Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 6 October 1996

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 14, 1996

6:00 pm



This is our annual Pot Luck dinner. Please bring your favorite food-enough to share with others. Bring your eating utensils. Cups and plates are available.

Come and have a couple of hours of enjoying each other while dining on some very good food!!

At our Annual Meeting we will be electing three (3) board members for the next three years. There will also be one position for a one-year term to fill the unexpired term of Fred Schultz who has been unable to attend meetings. (He is in a nursing home).

CANDIDATES FOR THREE YEAR POSITIONS ARE:

*Mel Manley
Esther Campbell
Pete Bonesteel*

CANDIDATE FOR THE ONE YEAR TERM:

Leon Madsen

Submitted by the nominating committee:

Lillian Meyer, Corine Kirkham, and Phil Novack



CASINO TRIP

There is still time to get your ticket for the Tuesday, **October 8, 1996**, trip to the Treasure Island Casino. Stop by the Community Schools senior's room to purchase your \$5.00 ticket. (You will receive \$5.00 on the bus before arriving at the casino.)



HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE

Friday, October 25, Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 1996 we are having our Second Annual Haunted House.

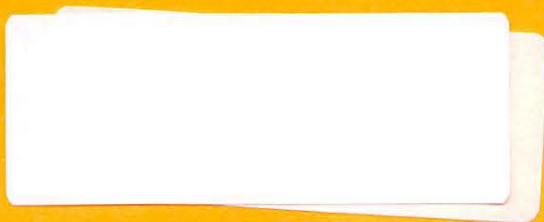
Last year attendance was great--and we made a good amount of money while having a good time. The boys and girls and their parents were very enthusiastic about the 'spooks and goblins' and other scary things at the musuem.

Fridley Historical Society members who manned the doors and helped with other matters had a great evening! The excitement and expectations of the young people was very contagious. Squeals of delight (and perhaps some fright?) were heard throughout the evening.

John Fitzpatrick has been the driving force behind the ideas, and has worked tirelessly to prepare the museum for this fun event. Offer your services for one of the evenings or for Sunday afternoon. You will find it a lot of fun just being around the young people!

Let Suzanne Miskowic or any board member know you are available. Thanks!

*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. 9, No. 7 November 1996

November 11, 1996 Regular Meeting

Panel Presentation

7:00 pm

Tom Myhra who will talk about the history
of the Fridley Public Schools

Herb Bacon who will tell us about
starting his own business in Fridley

Leon Madsen has worked for the City of Fridley and
will give us background on city

Marion Anderson has been a life-long resident and will
share some of her life experiences with us

This meeting will be most interesting for all of us.
Bring friends and neighbors to meet and hear this panel.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION



Vickie Wendel

Co-Director, Anoka County History Society
will be in costume and present

an ***Old Fashioned Christmas***

Monday, December 9, 1996 at 7:00 pm

We are most fortunate that this popular
presentation is available for our members to see and hear

This is another **CAN'T MISS** evening you will want to see
What a great evening to share with your
family during the holiday season



Welcome to our newly elected board members:

For 3 year terms:

Mel Manley

Esther Campbell

Pete Bonesteel

To complete the remainder of Fred Schultz's term (1 year):

Leon Madsen

The Society is very happy to have these people on board! We look forward to input from you. Thank you for being willing to serve for the next period.

2nd Annual Halloween Haunted House

This was our second Haunted House for the community. As before, it was a great success! Four hundred thirty-nine children and parents came to experience the thrills and chills of the Haunted House.

The great cooperation of 24 members of our society who volunteered during the Haunted House helped make this fundraiser fun for the guests and for themselves. As the workers said, "I love seeing and hearing the children as they threaded their way through the maze of scary things."

We were very fortunate to have 24 young people as volunteers also. They were from the Fridley Police Explorers and from The Zone. These teens were in costume and helped create an atmosphere in keeping with Halloween. They entered

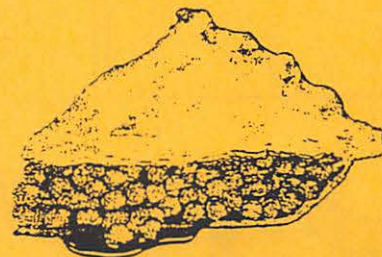
enthusiastically into the spirit of the night.

This whole event was under the able direction of John Fitzpatrick who spent uncountable numbers of hours preparing the displays, the sound and the decorations. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Total gross income was \$1033. For those of you who missed this event, do try to come next year. Comments from visitors/parents and children were complimentary. Everyone seemed pleased.

CASINO TRIP - Nov. 12

The last casino trip this year to Treasure Island Casino will be on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1996. As of today, there is one ticket available at the Community Senior Center.



BAKE SALE

We are most pleased that **First Bank of Columbia Heights** will let us use their lobby to have our fall bake sale on **Friday, Nov. 22**. So, will you again bake your goodies and bring them over to the bank that morning?

Hours are 9 - 4 pm.

You have provided such wonders of baking that everyone who has seen, smelled and bought your products will be delighted to again be our customers.

HISTORY

from Prestemon's Points

December 13, 1956

Carl Hartman, first mayor of Fridley Village and present lay member of the Anoka County Welfare Board, operated a truck farm at 6760 East River road for many years. The land is now platted and new homes are being erected. The land is located at the confluence of Rice Creek and the Mississippi River.

The area is rich in early Minnesota history. Of special interest to Mr. Hartman are traces of the first Territorial road built by the federal government in the early 1850's. It is referred to as the Point Douglas and Fort Ripley Road and was completed just a century ago, 1856. The only record about the building of the road are reports of the Corps of Topographical Engineers that are included in the annual reports of the secretary of war. In September, 1854, J. H. Simpson, who was supervising the work, reported that the road had been surveyed and staked out its entire length and the portion just beyond Rice Creek was completed. He mentions bridges over Coon Creek, Rum River, Elk River and Rock Creek. Mr. Hartman says there was no bridge over Rice Creek. Crossing over this stream was by fording which was, probably, hazardous at high water.

Mr. Hartman's garage driveway is a part of the Point Douglas-Fort Ripley Road and the ford is located just west of the present East River road. The garage sets at a lower elevation than the street but Mr. Hartman has a feeling that, actually, using the

original surface of the old territorial road is worth preserving. This indicates a sense of history rather lacking among us westerners. In Europe and, to a lesser degree, among people living in Colonial America it is stronger. With its developing strength our attachment to our country grows stronger and our appreciation of what our forefathers accomplished is strengthened.

Second thoughts are often the best and there is plenty of reason for regret that Eisenhower didn't carry the Republican party with him to victory November 6. At least it would have been possible to fix responsibility for policy and action in the next four years. All the election proved is that the Republican party is unpopular.

Democrats should carefully avoid any sounding off on foreign policy matters because no matter how good the suggestions may be the administration, if they are first suggested by a Democrat, will promptly and automatically reject it....

(Editor's note: He continues discussing politics and foreign affairs.)

Decorating the Museum

If you have some free time to help decorate the Museum for Christmas, we need your help. Plans are to do this on **Saturday, Dec. 7th.** Call **M. Sue Meyers** at **574-9801** and make your offer. Thanks!

SACA - CHRISTMAS

As the holiday season approaches, we think of people who have less than we do. One way we can help families have a better Christmas is by providing gifts for children or money that will be used for food & toys for dis-advantaged families in our community. The address is 627 38th Ave. NE.

If you know of any disadvantaged family call 789-2444. Application deadline is Dec. 4th.

Kindergarten Open House

Again this year through the contacts made by **Jeanne Peter** the kindergarten children in Fridley will make art work to be posted at the museum for Christmas. There will be 3 classes from each of our elementary schools who will participate. Then on **Saturday, Dec. 14** the children are invited to bring their parents to view their art work and to have cookies and apple juice.



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