



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter

Vol. 11, No. 1 January 1998

Monday, January 12, 1998

Program, 7:00 pm at the Museum

JOHN KOBLAS

will speak on the life of Sinclair Lewis. As you will remember, Mr. Koblas came to the museum last March and presented his program and slides on the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald. We are delighted he agreed to come to the museum again. On the 12th he will have slides to augment his presentation on the life of SINCLAIR LEWIS. He uses unpublished photos of the author of "Main Street" provided him by the Lewis family. Many of these vintage photos were discussed when Koblas appeared as a guest of Charles Kuralt on CBS

SUNDAY MORNING during the Sinclair Lewis Centenary in 1985.

John Koblas has written four books on Sinclair Lewis. They are: "Sinclair Lewis: Home at Last", "Selected Letters of Sinclair Lewis", "Sinclair Lewis and Mantrap: The Saskatchewan Trip", and "Sinclair Lewis: Final Voyage".

EVERYONE COME & INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!! This promises to be a memorable evening!

POT LUCK SUPPER

Again this year February will be a good month to gather for a sociable meal and good food.

Monday, February 9, 1998

Time: 6:00 pm



Bring your favorite dish and your utensils (or use our plastic tableware). Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you.

Surprise program: to be announced.

Information for this county has been gathered from the "History of the Upper Mississippi Valley," 1881, in which Anoka county and its civil divisions are treated in pages 222-293; from the "History of Anoka county and the Towns of Champlin and Dayton in Hennepin County," 320 pages, 1905, by Albert M. Goodrich; and from Charles W. Lenfest, county treasurer, Frank Hart, clerk of the court, and Clarence D. Green, real estate agent, during a visit to Anoka in October, 1916.

ANOKA was founded by Orrin W. Rice, Neal D. Shaw, and others, by whom its name was adopted in May, 1853. The "City of Anoka" was incorporated by the state legislature July 29, 1858, and later the "Borough of Anoka," March 5, 1869, but both these acts failed of acceptance by the vote of the township. Finally, under a legislative act of March 2, 1878, this city was set off from the township of the same name, the first city election being held on March 12.

BETHEL was first settled in 1856 by Quakers, and was organized the next year. Its name is from ancient Palestine, meaning "House of God," and was selected for this township by Moses Twitchell, who settled here as an immigrant from Bethel, Maine.

BLAINE township, settled in 1862, was the east part of Anoka until 1877, when it was separately organized and was named in honor of James Gillespie Blaine, a prominent Republican statesman of Maine. He was born in Pennsylvania, Jan. 31, 1830, and died in Washington, D. C., Jan. 27, 1893; was a member of Congress from Maine, 1863-76, being the speaker in 1869-75; U. S. senator, 1876-81; and secretary of state, March to December, 1881, and 1889-92. In the presidential campaign of 1884 he was an unsuccessful candidate. He wrote "Twenty Years of Congress," published in 1884-86.

BURNS township, settled in 1854 or earlier, was a part of St. Francis until 1869, being then organized and named, probably for the celebrated poet. This name was adopted on the suggestion of James Kelsey, who was elected the first township treasurer.

The village of COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, a suburb of Minneapolis, in the south edge of Fridley township, was platted and named by the late Thomas Lowry of that city.

ST. FRANCIS township, settled in 1855 and organized in 1857, bears the name given by Hennepin in 1680 to the Rum river. It was transferred by Carver in 1766 to the Elk river, and now is borne by the chief northern tributary of that river. The name is in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, in Italy, who was born in 1181 or 1182 and died in 1226, founder of the Franciscan order, to which Hennepin belonged.

FRIDLEY, a fractional township comprising only about sixteen square miles, was established by legislative act as Manomin county (meaning Wild Rice), on the same date, May 23, 1857, with the establishment of Anoka county. "John Banfil settled in what is now Fridley in 1847, and kept a stopping place for the accommodation of travelers. Two years later Henry M. Rice acquired considerable land and built a country residence at Cold Springs, giving his name to the creek which flows through the town. . . . A ferry across the Mississippi river was established about 1854." (Goodrich, pages 162-3). This very small county continued nearly thirteen years, until in 1869-70 it was united with Anoka county as Manomin township. The name was changed to Fridley in 1879.

GROW township, settled about 1853, was organized in 1857 with the name Round Lake, which in 1859 was changed to Grow, in honor of Galusha Aaron Grow, of Pennsylvania. He was born in 1823, and died in 1907; was a member of Congress, 1851-63, and again in 1894-1902; was the speaker of the House, 1861-3. "For ten years, at the beginning of each Congress, he introduced in the House a free homestead bill, until it became a law in 1862." This grand public service has caused him to be remembered gratefully by millions of homesteaders.

HAM LAKE township, settled in 1857, was attached to Grow township till 1871, when it was separately organized. It had been previously called Glengarry, a name from Scotland, which its Swedish settlers found difficult to pronounce. The county commissioners therefore named the new township Ham Lake, from its lake in sections 16 and 17, which had acquired this name on account of its form.

LINWOOD township, first settled in 1855 and organized in 1871, received its name from Linwood lake, the largest and most attractive one in a series or chain of ten or more lakes extending from northeast to southwest through this township and onward to Ham lake. The name doubtless refers to the lin tree or linden. Our American species (*Tilia Americana*), usually called basswood, is abundant here, and is common or frequent through nearly all this state.

OAK GROVE township, settled in 1855, was organized in 1857. "The name is derived from the profuse growth of oak trees, which are about equally distributed over the township." (Upper Mississippi Valley, page 285).

RAMSEY, first permanently settled in 1850, was organized in 1857, being then named Watertown; but in November, 1858, this township was renamed in honor of Alexander Ramsey, the first governor of Minnesota Territory, 1849-53, and later the second governor of this state, 1850-63.

In Memory of Ludwig Ask

The Fridley Historical Society is saddened by the death of one of our charter members. Ludwig Ask was a faithful supporter of all the Society's activities. He contributed many stories of early life in the community and enjoyed hearing about other members' tales.

Ludwig Ask died December 9, 1997 at the age of 89. He will be sorely missed.

It's CASINO time again!

Wednesday, January 21, 1998 a bus will be at the parking lot for those who want to try their luck at the slots or the tables, at the Treasure Island Casino. Tickets are available at the Senior Center or you may call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727.

Cost is \$5.00, which you will receive back on the bus. Games and refreshments will be served en route. Come by 9:00 am to the parking lot on 61st and 7th Street. Return is approximately 4:00 pm. The bus leaves promptly, so plan to arrive early.

MEMBERSHIPS are due: Support your Society - Pay your dues now

Your membership in the Fridley Historical Society shows your continuing interest in preserving our local history. Throughout the year artifacts are given or discovered that need preservation, and your society is here to do this. These items are of interest and we encourage the public to come and view what is on display.

Also, we hope this year to have a traveling tornado display available for members and visitors to view and to send to the schools in all four of the school districts in Fridley. Work has started on this display. Many fine programs are being planned for our monthly meetings, and for our Third Annual August Fest.

Your support is vital! Both financial and physically. Offer to serve on a committee. Just a few hours per month would be great!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432

Here is my membership for 1998.

Individual \$10.00, Church or club \$20.00,
 Business \$50.00

Additional donation _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I am interested in serving on a committee _____

Do you have a written family history? _____

Would you or a family member like to be interviewed? _____

Send to the Fridley Historical Society or give to a board member.

HISTORY

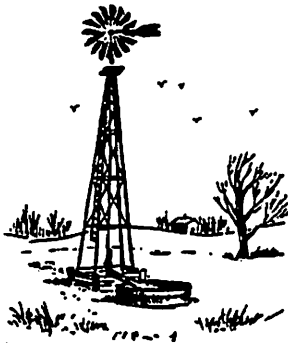
QUILT in the Johanson/Bacon Room

The next time you are in the museum in the lower level, look at the quilt made by students and their teacher, Deb Olson in 1994-5. Fridley Community Education awarded a grant to Ms. Olson that was to involve students in community service, so the Fridley Historical Society was the recipient of her students' interest. Students interviewed Historical

Society members on various subjects. They took notes and later painted their topics on a square of muslin. These squares were sewn together and lined to form a very nice picture quilt of Fridley. Students also wrote summaries of their interviews and these were put together into a booklet and presented to the Historical Society.



*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. 11, No. 2 February 1998

HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF YOU. JANUARY HAS REMINDED US THAT WE LIVE IN MINNESOTA. INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS A LIST OF ALL THE FHS PROGRAMS FOR 1998.

REMINDER

POTLUCK SUPPER MONDAY FEB. 9

TIME: 6:00 PM AT MUSEUM

BRING A DISH YOU WISH TO SHARE

THE ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE

COOKIE PACKER, "THE HAT LADY",

WHO DOES A SERIES OF MONOLOGUES

ON HATS. YES, SHE HAS MEN'S HATS

TOO! COME AND BRING A FRIEND

CASINO TRIP

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS ON FEB. 11 ON

THE BUS HEADED FOR TREASURE

ISLAND CASINO. TICKETS ARE

available at the SR CENTER OR

YOU MAY CALL GLORIA HAYES AT

571-3727. COST IS \$5.00 WHICH

IS RETURNED TO YOU ON THE BUS

GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS SERVED

ENROUTE. BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY

AT 9 AM. YOU MAY PARK IN THE

CITY LOT ON 61st AND 7th STREET.

BUS RETURNS APPROXIMATELY AT 4PM.

KINDERGARTEN HOLIDAY PARTY

THE FHS CONGRADULATES JEANNE

PETER FOR THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN HOLIDAY

PARTY. JEANNE WAS THE LIASON

BETWEEN FHS AND THE KINDERGARTEN

CLASSES OF THE FOUR ELEMENTARY

SCHOOLS IN FRIDLEY. OVER THREE

HUNDRED PICTURES WERE RECEIVED.

CORINE KIRKHAM ASSISTED JEANNE

IN DISPLAYING THE PICTURES AT

THE MUSEUM. A PARTY WAS HELD

AT THE MUSEUM ON DEC. 13 FOR THE

CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS. THERE

WERE 386 IN ATTENDANCE. 179

WERE CHILDREN. OUR THANKS TO

TWO KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS-

PAULA GREIBEL AND MRS. HERMAN.

THANKS ALSO TO THE MANY MEMBERS

FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENING.

MARION ANDERSON, ELIZABETH,

FRISCHMON, CORINE KIRKHAM,

LILLIAN MEYER, JANET PETER,

JEANNE PETER, SUZANNE MISKOWICZ,

ESTHER CAMPBELL AND AGNES SHAW.

IRVING PETER AND MARY SUE MYERS

PROFILES

SUZANNE MISKOWIC

MISKOWIC SERVED AS FHS PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. UNDER HER LEADERSHIP THE SOCIETY HAS GROWN. SUZANNE AND HER HUSBAND WALLY MOVED TO HARTMAN CIRCLE IN 1955. AT THE TIME OF FRIDLEY'S INCORPORATION ERNIE MADSEN SERVED AS BOTH CITY MANAGER AND CLERK. AS THE CITY GREW MADSEN BECAME CITY MANAGER FULL TIME. SUZANNE BECAME CITY CLERK AROUND 1961. SUZANNE SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY UNTIL ABOUT 1964. MISKOWIC AND HER HUSBAND HAD A SECRETARIAL SERVICE LOCATED WHERE THE TARGET REGIONAL PARKING LOT IS TODAY. IN DEC. SUZANNE WAS PRESENTED WITH A CLOCK IN APPRECIATION FOR HER MANY VOLUNTEER HOURS

LILLIAN MEYER

MEET THE NEW FHS PRESIDENT. MEYER AND HER HUSBAND JOHN WITH THEIR THREE SONS MOVED TO ALDEN WAY IN 1964. LILLIAN COMES TO US WITH MUCH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE. LILLIAN IS A GRADUATE OF ASBURY SCHOOL OF NURSING. MEYER HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE FRIDLEY AND STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. SHE ALONG WITH MILADA SAUNDERS WAS INSTUMENTAL IN STARTING THE BROTHERHOOD STORE. THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OWES HER A GREAT DEAL IN THE DEVELOPING OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

DO YOU KNOW?

YEAR THE EAST ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI SAW-MILL BUILT THE BANFIL HOUSE? ①

WHAT YEAR HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WAS BUILT? WHAT MAKES THIS CHURCH SO UNIQUE? ②

IN 1857 MANOMIN SEPARATED FROM FROM WHAT COUNTY? GIVE AREA AND POPULATION. ③

WHO WAS ELECTED MANOMIN'S TOWNSHIP'S FIRST TREASURER? ④

WHAT YEAR WAS FRIDLEY INCORPORATED AND WHO WAS ITS FIRST MAYOR? ⑤

WHO AM I?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

PROGRAM

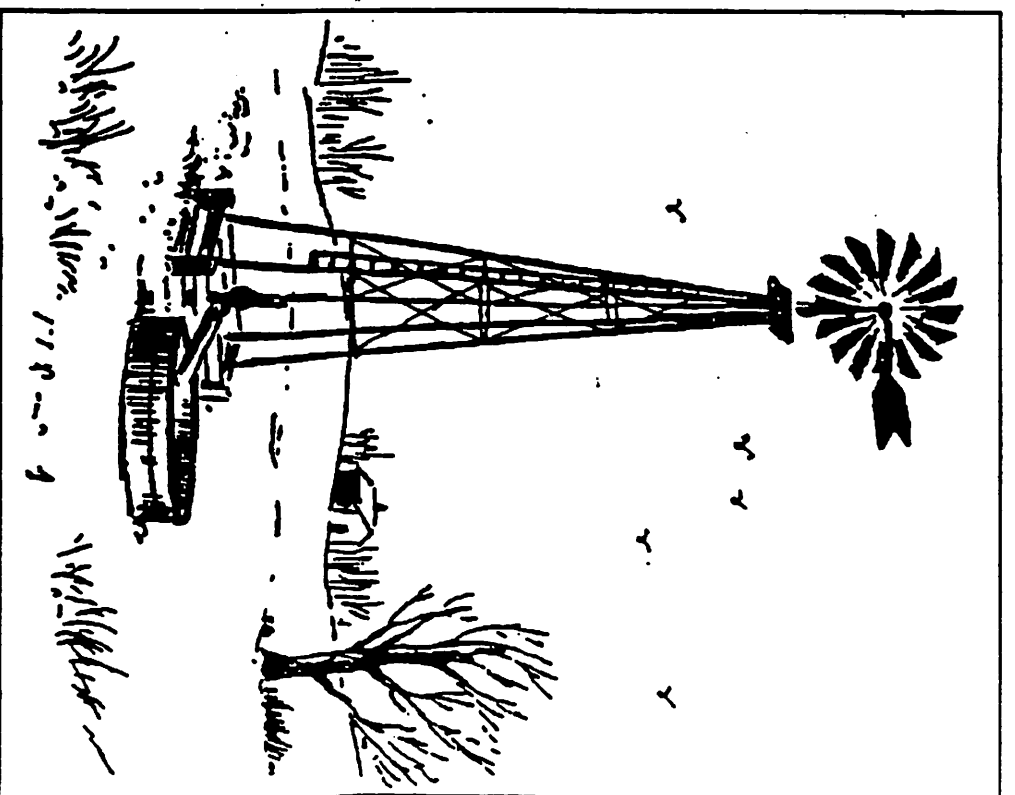
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	LILLIAN MEYER	571-5328
V. PRESIDENT:	CHAR FITZPATRICK	572-9615
SECRETARY:	JERRY REITTER	571-4553
TREASURER:	HERBERT BACON	571-7806

DIRECTORS:

PETE BONESTEEL	572-1009
ESTHER CAMPBELL	586-0643
GLORIA HAYES	571-3727
JERRY JOHNSON	572-0238
JERRY MANLEY	571-6963
MEL MANLEY	439-2949
MARY SUE MEYERS	574-9801
SUZANNE MISKOWIC	571-3493
BONNIE NOVACK	755-6334



*Fridley
Historical
Society*

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432
571-0120

PROGRAMS FOR 1998

AUG. 10 BOB THOLKES - AUGUST FEST!
QUICK STEP BASEBALL_

SEPT. 14 FRIDLEY SCHOOLS PANEL

DIST # 6- EDNA ASK, EARL JOHNSON, AND
TOM ERICKSON

DIST # 23 MARION ANDERSON AND MERYLE
BERNTSON

DIST#14- ARDITH CHESNEY AND HARVEY
PETERSON

OCT. 12 ANNUAL MEETING- POTLUCK SUPPER
JOHN KOBLAS
LIFE OF ERNEST HEMMINGWAY

NOV. 9 AL PETERSON
PRESENTATION ON USA FLAGS

DEC. 14 CHRISTMAS PARTY
MIDDLE SCHOOL SINGERS

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN ON SATURDAYS FROM 12 TO 2 PM.
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR SPECIAL TOURS.
CALL LILLIAN MEYER AT 571-5328

JAN 12 JOHN KOBLAS
LIFE OF SINCLAIR LEWIS

FEB. 9 POTLUCK DINNER-ENTERTAINMENT
COOKIE PACKER. "THE HAT LADY"

MARCH 9 EARL HATTEN
HISTORY OF MEDTRONIC

APRIL 25 ANNUAL DINNER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAY 11 TONY PETRANGELO
MASTER GARDNER

JUNE FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH JUNE 14
FRIDLEY "49'er" DAYS

JULY FROM JULY 6 THROUGH AUG 22 MINN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S TRAVELING
EXHIBIT: " SACRED CIRCLE OF LIFE:
DAKOTAH AND OKBIWAY PEOPLE OF MINN.

SOME THING HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MEETINGS

THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE POOR ATTENDANCE AT OUR MEMBERSHIP'S MONTHLY MEETINGS. SO THEY CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING A DRAWING FOR \$5.00 AT EACH MEETING THE NAMES OF ALL THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PUT INTO A BAG AND ONE NAME WILL BE DRAWN AT THE END OF EACH MEETING. ONLY CURRENT MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN AND YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. IF THE NAME DRAWN IS NOT PRESENT THE FIVE DOLLARS WILL BE ADDED TO THE NEXT MONTH'S DRAWING. OLIVER ERICKSON'S NAME WAS DRAWN AT THE JANUARY MEETING BUT HE WAS NOT PRESENT SO FEBRUARY'S DRAWING WILL BE FOR \$10. A SECOND DRAWING WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER. FOR THIS DRAWING EVERY ONE WHO ATTENDS A MONTHLY MEETING WILL PUT HIS NAME IN A BOX AND AT THE END OF THE DECEMBER MEETING A NAME WILL BE DRAWN. SO THE MORE MEETINGS YOU ATTEND THE GREATER YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE DECEMBER DRAWING. THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE DRAWINGS THE MONTHLY DRAWING WHERE YOU MUST BE A 1998 paid up member and you MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. THE DECEMBER DRAWING WHERE ALL WHO ATTEND FHS MONTHLY MEETINGS. SOOOOOOOOO IF YOU ~~HAVE NOT YET PAID~~ YOUR 1998 DUES DO IT TODAY. THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS VERY DEPENDENT ON YOUR DUES TO KEEP THE MUSEUM OPEN. USE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW.

WISH LIST

ITEMS WE NEED FOR THE MUSEUM
SHELVING
KITCHEN SINK
A TWO DRAWER FILE
VACUUM CLEANER

MEMBERS TIME TO HELP WITH

PLUMBING
TALENT FOR ASSEMBLING DISPLAYS
DOCENTS

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

IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA AT THE BEGINING OF THE YEAR TO REVIEW THE GOALS OF THE SOCIETY. THEY READ THUS: TO CREATE AN INTERST INGATHERING, DOCUMENTING, PRESERVING AND PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF FRIDLEY FOR THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT OF PEOPLE TODAY AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO LOCATE AND COLLECT ANY MATERIAL WHICH MAY HELP ESTABLISH OR ILLUSTRATE THE HISTORY OF FRIDLEY.

TO COLLECT ARTIFACTS WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF LIFE CONDITIONS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE GEOLOGICAL PAST TO THE PRESENT.

TO BE A RESOURCE TO DISSEMINATE HISTORICAL INFORMATION TO INTERESTED PERSONS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE HISTORY OF FRIDLEY AND THE STATE.

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE THAT FHS MAY REACH THESE GOALS?

answers: 1. 1848; 2. 1853-the oldest church in Anoka County; 3. 1857-RAMSEY COUNTY POP 112 & 18 sections; 4. John Sullivan- Jerry Manley's great grandfather; 5. 1949- Carl Hartman; Pat Weible- Fridley's first chief of police; Carl Hartman- first Mayor.

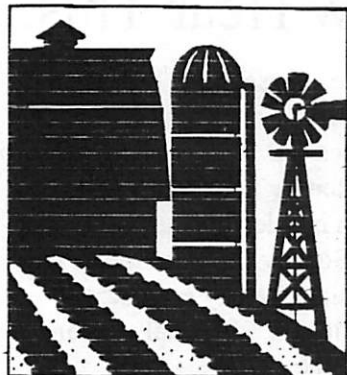
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432



1 LASAGNA DINNER

1 LOTTO FEVER

2 CONGRATS TO BILL HUNT



Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.11

Issue No.3

March 1998

March Speaker

Monday March 9th Earl Hatten will speak on the history of **Medtronics**. The presentation will begin at 7 pm at the Museum.



Mama Mia

That's good lasagna! Tickets will soon be available for the FHS's 8th Annual Lasagna Dinner and Raffle. This perennial favorite is a huge hit among children and adults, so mark your calendars for April 25th. The dinner will be held at the Fridley Middle School and guests will be treated to a delicious lasagna dinner including bread, beverage, and dessert served by the great folks from La Gondola Restaurant. As always, the evening will be filled with great food and conversation along with the chance to win fabulous prizes. You will not want to miss this fun & tasty event; so be sure to call Gloria Hayes (571-3727) or Lillian Meyer (571-5328) for more information.

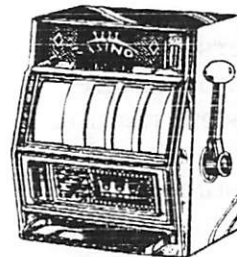
Luck-o-the-Irish

What better way to celebrate St. Patty's Day then by wearing something green... like all the money you could win by joining FHS on its next gambling junket to Treasure Island Casino scheduled for March 18th, 1998.



Tickets are only \$5 and can be purchased at the Fridley Senior Center or by calling Gloria Hayes at 571-3727.

So grab a friend and get on the bus which leaves promptly at 9 am from the Commons parking lot at 7th Street and 61st Avenue. On board you'll be treated to refreshments and get the chance to play games and win prizes. The bus will return home around 4 pm.





And the Winner is...

It could be you! The names of *all* FHS's members are placed in a bag and at the close of each monthly meeting a name is drawn. If the member is present they will win a cash prize of \$5. If the person whose name is drawn is not present, then the \$5 is added to the next month's prize. Don Mittlestadt won \$10 at February's meeting. So be sure to attend FHS's meetings. You're guaranteed to leave a bit wiser and now you may even leave a bit wealthier.

May's speaker will be Master Gardener who will provide gardening tips as well as answer members' questions. So bring the whole neighborhood and begin making plans to make your yard beautiful this summer.



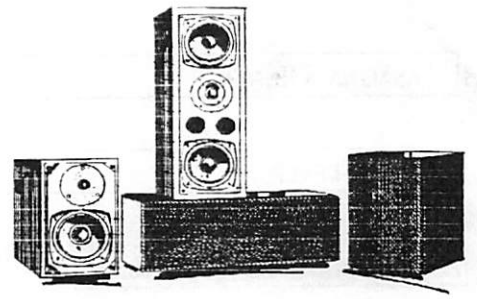
February Visitors

The Museum played host to eleven seniors from **Trinity Methodist Church** of Northeast Minneapolis. Our guests spent forty-five minutes viewing the exhibits and asking questions. Many were puzzled by the Museum's doughnut cutter. They simply would not believe when told that the doughnuts were just rolled out. They were convinced that the doughnuts would turn out oblong. *Marion Anderson can you help us out?* After working up an appetite, the seniors treated themselves to lunch at The Old Country Buffet.

He's a Jolly Good Fellow

The **Fridley Historical Society** wish to extend its warmest congratulations to **Bill Hunt** on his retirement as Assistant Manager for the City of Fridley. Bill's years of excellent service were honored on February 26th at a party in City Hall. Don't worry if you have yet had the chance to congratulate Bill; he has assured us that he intends to continue as a member of The Fridley Historical Society.

The Society is very appreciative for Bill's frequent and generous assistance. Best wishes to both Bill and Margaret as they begin this new chapter and we certainly hope they'll find the time to pop in now and then.



Now Hear This...

No more excuses that "*I didn't hear you say that*" now that FHS has purchased a **P A system**. Thanks to **Jerry Reitter** for his many hours of research in selecting the best system for the Society. He also thinks that we should seriously consider purchasing an additional cord and microphone.



THANK YOU!

Many Thanks

The Fridley Historical Society would like to acknowledge several generous donations it has recently received:

Donald and Mary Savelkaul

Gift of \$500

Senior Crafters

Gift of \$300

Fridley Lions Club

Gift of \$200

Last May FHS also received a grant from **General Mills** of **\$2,500** to purchase two portapanel displays to be used in the development of traveling exhibits. **Lillian Meyer** and **Char Fitzpatrick** are currently developing the inaugural exhibit which will be on the **1965 Tornadoes**. It's hard to believe that a first grade child who experienced that night would now be 40 years old!

We would also wish to thank **Gloria** and **Chuck Hayes** for the countless hours that they contribute to FHS. Gloria's single handed efforts in coordinating FHS's casino trips along with all the work she contributes to scheduling help for the **Lasagna Dinner** and **The Haunted School House** underwrite much of the Society's activities. Chuck along with **Suzanne Miskowic** and **Lillian Meyer** each help to make our many fundraising events a great success. Thanks to their hard work FHS's reserves have tripled. Thanks Guys !

Good as Gold

As Fridley prepares for its 50th Anniversary, **FHS** is there. **Suzanne Miskowic** and **Char Fitzpatrick** have been ask by the City to serve on a task force to help plan this celebration. The task force meets on the second Thursday of each month. Let them know your ideas.



Your Daddy always said:
***"You can't get what
you don't ask for"***

We have compiled a ***Wish List*** of items needed for the Museum. Please keep us in mind when you and your loved ones do your spring cleaning.

- ◆ **Shelving**
- ◆ **Kitchen sink (no joke!)**
- ◆ **Two Drawer file cabinet**
- ◆ **Five foot table with adjustable height for use with the PA**
- ◆ **Members' time to help with:**
 - ✓ **Plumbing**
 - ✓ **Electrical**
 - ✓ **Docents**
 - ✓ **Help with the Lasagna Dinner as well as other fundraising events**

Membership renewals

Please renew your dues if you haven't yet done so. The Fridley Historical Society gets no public dollars; so we are very dependent on membership dues to keep the Museum open. If you know someone who is not currently a FHS member please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join. Our numerous interesting and valuable programs make our modest membership fee quite a bargain. Please take a moment to renew your membership now by using the form below.

Membership Application

Name:

Address:

Phone #

Yearly Dues

Individual - \$10

Non-Profit - \$20

Business - \$50

Mail To:

Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi St. N.E.

Fridley, MN 55432

Char Fitzpatrick, Editor

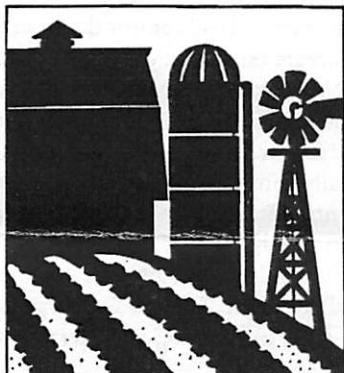
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
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INSIDE:

Learn
How
You
Can
Win
\$5.00

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- 1 LASAGNA DINNER & RAFFLE
- 2 1965 TORNADOES
- 2 MEET MERYLE BERTSON



Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.11

Issue No.4

April 1998

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

**Come
&
Get it...**



A Reminder is hardly necessary for the FHS's Lasagna Dinner and Raffle due to its tremendous popularity. In its eighth year, this event continues garner increasing community support. And it's no wonder, where else can supporting a great cause be so tasty! Your \$6.75 donation treats you to a delicious lasagna dinner which includes bread, beverage, and dessert; all served by the great folks from La Gondola Restaurant.



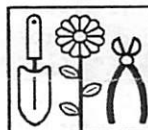
And the evening doesn't end there! The dinner will be held on April 25th and begins at 5 pm in the Fridley Middle School Cafeteria but you will want to get there a little early to enjoy all the festivities; like catching up on old friendships as you tap your toes to Dixieland jazz.



And for those of you that enjoy the occasional game of chance, you'll have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets that may find you leaving with any number of fantastic prizes.

A complete list of these prizes has already been mailed to you; so you already know that you don't want to miss this important FHS fund-raiser. So don't hesitate! Call Gloria Hayes at 571-3727 to get your dinner tickets today.

**Green Thumbs
Instead of
All Thumbs**



Why won't anything grow on the north side of your house? Instead asking the teen-ager at the local garden center, why not ask a real Master Gardener? That's exactly what you can do if you attend FHS's May membership meeting with guest speaker Tony Petrangelo, Master Gardener.

This perennial favorite provides you the opportunity to learn valuable gardening tips as well as ask questions concerning those regular headaches that plague your lawn. So mark your calendars for May 11th and grab a friend and learn together the secrets to having a greener and more beautiful yard. This event begins at 7pm and will be held in the Museum's Community Room.



Border battles precede birth of Minnesota Territory

On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin became a state and the settlers who lived in the area between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers became a people without a government.

The region had formerly been St. Croix County, the westernmost county of the Wisconsin Territory. And with the Wisconsin state government forming with somewhat smaller boundaries, the territorial government ceased to exist.

Two years earlier in 1846, Morgan L. Martin, a Wisconsin territorial delegate in the U. S. House of Representatives, introduced a bill to create the separate territory of "Minasota" in the area between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. Illinois Congressman Stephen A. Douglas of the House Committee on Territories amended the proposed name to the "Itaska Territory." Members of Congress also suggested the names Jackson, Washington, and Chippewa for the proposed territory.

On March 3, 1847, after the name "Minnesota" was selected, the legislation to create a new territory stalled. The measure was tabled after a senator suggested that the region was just too sparsely populated to be a territory, especially if that meant an appropriation for a territorial government.

Later that year, Congress passed enabling legislation that allowed Wisconsin to begin organizing as a state. The legislation included prescribed borders that followed Wisconsin's current state boundaries.

When the Wisconsin constitutional convention met in December 1847, a small minority of the delegates convinced fellow Wisconsinites that they should extend the western boundary further than was allowed by the enabling federal legislation. They decided the western border ought to run from the mouth of the Rum River northeast to the rapids of the St. Louis River. Had that been allowed to remain, much of what is now the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area would be in Wisconsin.

Leaders from St. Croix County were opposed to any change to the borders that Congress prescribed. Joseph R. Brown, Franklin Steele, and William R. Marshall, foreseeing a future Minnesota, lobbied Congress to leave the borders where they were in the enabling legislation.

Brown and others argued that the new border set by the Wisconsin convention would be unfair to any new territory created in the region. The border proposed by the Wisconsinites had been placed up river from St. Anthony Falls, and no river traffic could proceed past that point. Under such conditions, the territory of Minnesota, if it was created, wouldn't have had a single Mississippi River landing suitable for commercial use.

Brown and his cohorts were counting on the fact that Congress would side with them on the border issue, effectively leaving St. Croix County without a government. Congress would be forced to designate the region as the Minnesota Territory.

Congress reinstated the boundaries that had been in the initial enabling act and granted Wisconsin statehood. However, Congress failed to act on the issue of St. Croix County, leaving the area an unorganized region.

In other situations where reorganization created a "no-man's-land," such as was once the case for northeastern Iowa, an adjacent territory was given jurisdiction over the region. States, however, cannot extend authority beyond their state lines. Neither Iowa to the south nor Wisconsin to the east could extend legal jurisdiction into the former St. Croix County.

Residents of the area were confronted with the lack of a civil authority to bind business transactions, civil marriages, and other official proceedings.

Civic leaders met in Stillwater on May 29, 1848, to discuss their plan of action. An interesting legal argument emerged from their discussions. Since portions of the Wisconsin Territory were not included in the organization of the state of Wisconsin, the area left over remained a territory, they believed. The state of Wisconsin and the territory of Wisconsin could exist side by side, each a distinct political entity.



Henry H. Sibley was elected by the convention and later by a general election "to proceed to Washington City to best tend to effect the early organization of the Territory of Minnesota." He was to go to Washington to be seated in Congress as a territorial delegate from the Wisconsin Territory. If for some reason Congress didn't buy the territorial argument and refused to seat Sibley, he was to remain in Washington to lobby for the new territory.

On Dec. 4, 1848, Sibley's certificate of election as a delegate of the territory of Wisconsin was moved before the U.S. House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Elections.

Sibley, who had studied law but made his living in the trading business, argued before the committee that the residents of the new territory of Wisconsin were accorded the rights of the Ordinance of 1787, which created the

Northwest Territory. These rights could not be arbitrarily withdrawn, he claimed.

Sibley won the recommendation that he be seated; however, Congress did not officially recognize a territorial government.

In the early part of 1849, political pressure mounted to create territorial governments in California, Nebraska, and New Mexico, as well as Minnesota. Democrats, Sibley among them, argued for increased expansion into the West, especially considering the development of a transcontinental railroad, which would provide even greater access to these lands. Whigs sought to delay the process so their newly elected president, Zachary Taylor, could appoint the executives of these new territorial governments.

Having recently been elected to the Senate, Stephen Douglas was able to get a Minnesota bill through the Whig-controlled House by linking it to the creation of the Department of the Interior, a measure the Whig Party greatly desired.

On March 3, 1849, the last day of his term, President James Polk signed the law creating the territory of Minnesota; however, President Taylor would make all the territorial appointments. The territory included the present state of Minnesota and the portions of North Dakota and South Dakota east of the Missouri River.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Yearly Dues

Individual - \$10

Non-Profit - \$20

Business - \$50

Mail To:

Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi St. N.E.

Fridley, MN 55432

STORM WARNING



The recent killer storms which devastated St. Peter and Comfrey as well as those which swept through Alabama and Georgia have shown a disbelieving nation the destructive power of tornadoes.

Those of us that lived in Fridley on May 6th, 1965 need no reminder; that's the night the fury of 3 tornadoes descended on our peaceful little community.



That night 425 homes were completely destroyed and another 1099 homes damaged; many of these would later be condemned.

As residents emerged from their basements they would discover that the tornadoes had swept away their City Hall along with Hayes and Woodcrest elementary schools. That which wasn't taken by the storm was left in ruins. Amazingly, our Museum would survive!



Local landmarks like VFW Post 363, Fridley Lumber, & the National Food store were completely destroyed. FMC and Midland Cooperative together suffered over 7 million dollars in damage.



Some like Aero Space Corporation would elect to rebuild elsewhere; taking with them many jobs, families and neighbors. Fortunately, most of the residents of our fledgling community would choose to roll up their sleeves and join their neighbors to rebuild our hometown.

FHS is in the process of commemorating these brave and strong survivors of the '65 Tornado in a new traveling exhibit. If you have a story or a memento from that fearful night please contact us immediately.

What do You Know?

- 1) Between 1844 & 1857 the Red River Ox carts passed through Fridley. What is this road named today?
- 2) Who built the Banfil House and in what year?
- 3) In what year was the first ferry used for crossing the Mississippi River established in Fridley?
- 4) What was the population of Fridley in 1881 & how many thousand acres were under cultivation.
- 5) What year was Moore Lake dredged and Highway 65 routed over it?
- 6) What year did the Village of Fridley receive a Home-Rule charter and who was its first city manager?
- 7) What year was Unity Hospital opened?

ANSWERS TO "What Do You Know"

- 1) East River Road
- 2) East St. Louis, Missouri Saw Mill in 1848
- 3) 1854
- 4) 257 people & 1000 acres
- 5) 1950
- 6) 1957 & Emile Madsen
- 7) 1966



Spotlight on

MERYLE BERNTSON

Meryle is a true Fridley native whose grandparents, Karl & Kristine, emigrated from Norway to homestead a farm on current day Mississippi Street. Here they raised Meryle's mother Camilla who would later marry Herter Nelson and move to North-East Minneapolis. It wouldn't take long for the Nelson's to realize that city life was not for them and return to the family farm.

Here, in a house which still stands on Jackson Street, Meryle would grow up to attend the old District #23 school which once stood where the library stands today. When that school burned in 1929 Meryle would be forced to finish the 7th grade at Redeemer Lutheran Church where she pass her 8th grade exams allowing her to skip to the 9th grade at Columbia Heights Senior High on 41st Avenue; now the home Northwestern Electronics Institute. Here she would meet her future husband Ed Berntson while graduating valedictorian.

Her first job after graduation would be with North American Life for an impressive \$15 a week. Eventually, after 3 years of courting, she and Ed would marry in 1939 and make their own attempt at city life in North-East Minneapolis. But her roots were in the soil, and a year later she and Ed

would return to life on the farm where they raised their two sons Bruce and Gary. Later Ed would open a gun shop which would later be used as Fridley's first polling station after incorporation. The original red, white, & blue polling box used at this polling station is on display at the Museum.

Sadly, Ed passed away in 1992. Please join FHS in recognizing Meryle Berntson; a true community treasure.

Many Thanks!

The Fridley Historical Society could not exist if not for the generous donations by members' of their time and money. We would like to recognize several recent contributors:

Bill Berry

Gift of \$100

Minco, Inc.

\$50 Business membership

Gift \$50

Thanks are also in order for **Jerry & Marilyn Manley's** contribution of an almost new vacuum cleaner.

An extra thanks goes to **Jerry** for all the hard work he's put in both over-seeing the cleaning of the lower level carpet as well as restoring the upstairs' toilets to working order. He's still in there working out all the bugs. The door he installed between the Community Room and the back hall certainly helped make our meetings much warmer this winter.

Thanks guys!

Hoping, Wishing, & Praying



Please don't forget our *Wish List* of items needed for the Museum. Please keep us in mind while you do your spring cleaning or are scrounging around garage sales.

Wish List

- ♦ **Shelving**
- ♦ **Kitchen sink (no joke!)**
- ♦ **Two Drawer file cabinet**
- ♦ **Five foot table with adjustable height for use with the PA**
- ♦ **Members' time to help with:**
 - ✓ Plumbing
 - ✓ Electrical
 - ✓ Docents
 - ✓ Help with the Lasagna Dinner as well as other fundraising events

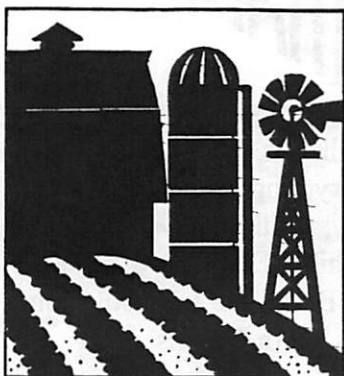
The attached article *A people without a government* was written by Grant Martin and appeared in the March 6th edition of *Sessions*, a weekly publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Editor: Char Fitzpatrick
Fridley, MN 55432
611 Mississippi St. N.E.
Fridley Historical Society

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 LASAGNA DINNER & RAFFLE
- 2 THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
- 3 AROUND THE COUNTY



Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.11

Issue No.5

June 1998

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

This year's **Lasagna Dinner & Raffle** was again a great hit! All of us at FHS should be quite proud of this event which has now become a community event towards which many citizens look forward. Our dinner provides the only opportunity for many friends and neighbors to get together.

This year our guests were drawn into the festivities even as they walked from the parking lot to the lively sounds of **Columbia Heights High School Dixieland Band** filling the air. Credit **Char Fitzpatrick** with booking this exciting group of young entertainers. Perhaps my threat of having Char entertain us by tap dancing on her table provided the necessary inspiration for her to "tap" the talents of Mr. Prout and his talented students. Thanks to all of you for making this year's dinner a toe tapping success!

Thanks to **Mary Sue Meyer** for all the lovely decorations. As always, her talented touch set the mood for all the evening's fun.

Everybody was caught up in FHS's own **Lotto Fever** as names were drawn for what was the best selection of prizes to date. We'd like to thank all of the young people who helped with the prizes:

Janet Peter, Alex Larson, Heidi Nelson, & Bobby Johnson.

The dinner was a great success with 168 tickets sold and 162 dinners served including 15 take home dinners. Thanks to **Ardie Chesney** for selling 22 tickets!

The event was a financial smash as well. The dinner earned **\$469.70** including **\$278** in donations to assist with the dinner. The raffles generated **\$962** with general raffle earning **\$805** and the Baseball Raffle contributing **\$157**. The grand total generated by the Dinner & Raffle was **\$1,431.70**. This was an increase of **\$444.15** over last year. **Great going everybody!**

The Fridley Historical Society would like to thank the following individuals and businesses without whose generous contributions the dinner could not have been a success:

Miller Funeral Home

Gift of \$200

The Blairs

Gift of \$20

Corine Kirkham

Gift of \$30

Marigold Food

Frozen Yogurt

Heights Bakery

10 dozen cookies

Keys Cafe

*Spring Lake Park
8 dozen cookies*

McDonalds

*Holiday Plus
Orange Drink*

Sid's Holiday Plus

Cub Foods

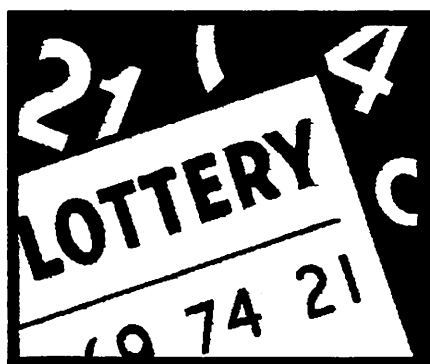
La Gondola Restaurant

Plates & Utensils



Thanks also to the following FHS members for their generous contributions of prizes for the Raffle:

Suzanne Miskowic <i>\$100 cash prize</i>
Char Fitzpatrick <i>One night stay at the Best Western Kelly Inn</i>
Lillian Meyer <i>2 tickets to Minnesota Orchestra's Pop Concert</i>
Jerry Manley <i>4 - Saint Paul Saints tickets</i>



Fridley Historical Society wishes to thank the following businesses for their ongoing support and to encourage our members and friends to show their appreciation by patronizing these merchants.

Best Western Kelly Inn <i>Fridley One Night Stay</i>
Bob's Produce <i>\$25 Gift Certificate</i>
Bombay Bicycle Club <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Friendly Chevrolet <i>Fridley 2 - Chevy Van Banks</i>
Norwest Bank <i>Fridley 2 - 1-dozen Tildist golf balls</i>
Ground Round <i>Fridley Gift Certificate</i>
Twin City Federal <i>Fridley 3 - Coleman flashlights with batteries</i>
Joe DiMaggio's <i>Gift Certificate</i>
La Gondola <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Lamaur <i>6- Hair care gift paks</i>
Little Jack's <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Jax Cafe <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Olive Garden <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Sandee's Restaurant <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Shorewood Inn <i>2 - Gyros Dinners</i>
Schaaf Floral <i>Gift Certificate</i>
Time to Travel <i>Travel Bag</i>

THANKS!

Finally, thanks to all the folks who kept everything running so smoothly, Lillian Meyer, Bunt Shaw, Phil & Bonnie Novak, Mel Manley, Debbie & Jerry Johnson, Debbie's Mom Deloris, John Meyer, Don Mittlestadt, Suzanne Miskowic, Esther Campbell, Sue Meyer, Annie White & John Fitzpatrick, the custodian and cook and last but not least, Chuck Hayes. I'd have been up the creek if not for all of Chuck's chasing around and checking everything out. This year Chuck received a new title "Kitchen Overseer". I really appreciate everybody's help in making this year's Lasagna Dinner & Raffle the huge success that it was.

Gloria Hayes
Fund-Raising Committee Chair

May's Meeting

FHS wishes to thank Tony and Jeanne Petrangelo for their interesting and very educational presentation *Planting in the Shade*. You will be sure to want to mark your calendars next year to attend this valuable program.

PAGES OF HISTORY

Jeanne Peter and **Peter Bonesteel** have been working since February on a 1999 calendar. They have been researching significant dates in Fridley's history and placing them on their corresponding dates. They hope to complete this work in time to have the calendars for sale this fall.



We will keep members posted on the progress of this important project. We are requesting that descendants of Fridley's pioneer families contact us so that we may recognize them in the calendar. If you have an item that you think might be worth noting on the calendar, please contact **Jeanne Peter** at 571-8730.

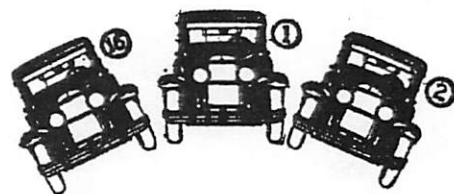
Jeanne Peter has been working hard on preparing a traveling exhibit on schools located in Fridley. In addition, FHS has been asked to prepare an exhibit to be shown at **Colonial Hall** in Anoka as part of the Anoka Historical Society's *Around the County*

program *The Around the County* program has been organized with the intent of bringing representatives from around the county together to share ideas. *Around the County* group met at the FHS's Museum on **May 14th**. The group of eight toured the Museum sharing suggestions and compliments concerning our exhibits. FHS members served a nice brunch of punch, muffins, and assorted fresh fruits. Thanks to **Mary Sue, Lillian, Char, Jeanne & Peter Bonesteel** for hosting this event. Jeanne Peter's exhibit will be on display at Colonial Hall through the month of June.

With spring, comes spring cleaning! This year's annual clean-up day was held on **May 12th**. Thanks to **Lillian, Mary Sue, Char, Jerry Manley, & Jerry Johnson** for pitching in to tidy up the Museum both inside and out. With the lilacs and spirea in full bloom the Museum really sparkled for the *Around the County* event. Way to go guys!

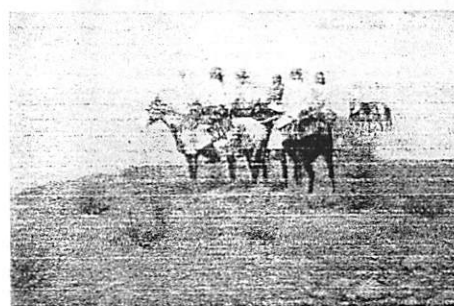
In the
Good Old
Summertime

As the weather heats up the Newsletter is planning a well deserved vacation. Here are a few dates you may wish to mark on your calendars until it returns later this summer.



June 10th - 14th
Fridley 49er Days

Warren Mortenson, Bonnie & Phil Novak will represent FHS in the parade. Our celebrities will wave to the crowds in Warren's 1927 green Ford.



July 6th - August 22nd

Minnesota Historical Society's traveling exhibit *Sacred Circle of Life: Dakota and Objway People of Minnesota* will be installed at the Museum.



August 10th

Bob Tholkes Quick Baseball Team will play our local boys for the FHS's Third Annual **August Fest**. The game will be held at the field behind our Museum.

Casino Trip

The Fridley Historical Society is sponsoring another trip to **Treasure Island Casino** on **June 17th**. The bus will leave the Commons parking lot on 61st Avenue just east of 7th Street at 9 a.m. sharp. Those interested in purchasing tickets should call **Gloria Hayes** at **571-3727**.

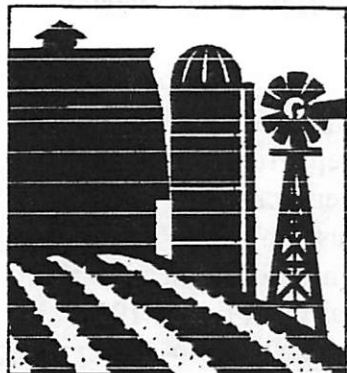


Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432
EDITOR: Char Fitzpatrick



Inside this Newsletter

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2. MEET HERB BACON
3. WHAT do you know?



611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

You're Up!

CITY OF
FRIDLEY

1949-1999

The City of Fridley's **50th Anniversary Task force** is looking for all Fridley related photos of people, events, and buildings to be published in Fridley's golden anniversary magazine.

The magazine is designed to celebrate Fridley's growth since its silver anniversary. If you have significant photos taken since 1974, please send them along with the date and a description to:

Sue Anne W. Kirkham/History
Subcommittee
50th Anniversary Task Force
6431 University Ave. N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432-4383

All submissions must be received by November 15th, 1998. Those wishing to have their photos returned should include a self addressed stamped envelope. Please help make our magazine an important document of Fridley's history.

FHS will celebrate its **Third Annual August Fest** with a wonderful piece of Americana when **Bob Tholke's Quick Step Baseball** and his boys of summer take to the diamond to remember a simpler time when summers were truly lazy.



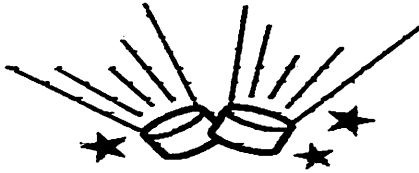
Come watch on **August 10th** as **Jeremy Lach** coaches our local boys against the Quick step boys in their vintage 1860's uniforms. The game begins at 7 pm at the **Hayes Elementary baseball field** directly behind the Museum.



So grab a lawn chair and some Cracker Jack and prepare to enjoy an evening of *singles, doubles, triples, & homers* all played to the strains of vintage music and, of course, played like baseball is suppose to be played; outdoors!

This event has proven to be great fun, so you won't want to miss it. Friends and family are welcome.
See you at the game.

Fridley Historical Society



Spot Light On

Herb Bacon

Although he was born in St. Paul, Herb is truly a Fridley native. He and his family moved to Fridley in 1936, but it wouldn't be long until the war in Europe would take Herb to distant exotic places... like Kokomo, Indiana where he was stationed as a flight instructor in the Navy Air Corp. *Can you keep junior down on the farm once he's seen Kokomo?* Yes! Herb left the corp at the end of the war as a first lieutenant and returned to Fridley with Kokomo's prized jewel; his new wife Betty (only 18 years old when they married).

Once back in Fridley, Herb and his brother Byron would help to rebuild our country by founding *Bacon Electric*. The company would later expand to include their father, Herb Sr.. Together they opened their business on Old Central in 1947.

Herb and Betty bought their house from Charlie Johanson and started a family. They had five children, Bill David, Sandra, Patricia, & Susie.

Not content with success in family and business, Herb began a life of community service by joining Wyman Smith & Mr. Erck to petition to have Fridley incorporated from a village into a

city. This pursuit was delayed in court as FMC fought to be excluded from the incorporation. Finally, on June 7th, 1949 all their hard work would payoff as their dream came true and Fridley became a city.

Herb's father was elected to Fridley's first City Council, while Herb himself served on various city commissions. Herb's family were charter members of **Fridley Methodist Church**. The church held services in City Hall until their building was completed. Herb is a charter member of the **Fridley Chamber of Commerce & Rotary Club**.

Herb, along with Don Savelkaul, Don Harstad, & Bill Berry were the organizers and owners of **Fridley State Bank** until it was sold to Norwest in 1996. The group continues to own and operate **Blaine State Bank**.

Herb and Betty have been married 53 years and now have 12 grand children. They spend their winters Brandenton, Florida, but when in town, Herb uses his years of experience to help FHS grow stronger.

Thank you Herb for all you have done for FHS and your community!

From the Collection

During the past year FHS has been very fortunate to receive a number of significant donations from both individual donors as well as the

City of Fridley along with various additional city government sources. FHS would like to take this opportunity to make its members aware of some of these new artifacts either now on display or currently awaiting exhibition.



In 1997 the **Fridley Police Department** donated several items currently on display in the Museum's City Government Room. Included in their donation were a gas mask (circa. 1960) along with a *Drunk-o- Meter* used by the department from 1956 until the late 1960's. This device was used to test drunk driving suspects; very few of these devices have survived.

In addition, the Museum received and currently displays an example of every **police patch** worn by a Fridley officer to date. Of special interest is their donation of a letter received by **Everette McCarthy** from **J. Edgar Hoover** now on display in City Government Room.



The **Fridley Fire Department** has also been very generous by donating several uniforms, a glass fire extinguisher, as well as a self contained breathing apparatus and numerous photos. All these items are awaiting display due to a shortage of male mannequins. FHS is making a plea for members to keep their eyes out for male mannequins so that we can properly display these important items.

Last fall FHS received a donation from the City of Fridley of more than 1000 photos and slides

documenting various employees and events, most dating from the 1970's. The donation included several reels of slides from Fridley's sister city, **Fourmies, France**. The collection has been sorted and is stored in the Reference Room awaiting display.



Fridley High School has donated several old year books; several of the older books include photos of Fridley merchants. A similar donation was received from **Spring Lake Park High School**. Many citizens are unaware of the large number of Fridley students who attend schools outside the city.

Most recently, **FHS** has received a donation of hundreds of photos from **United Defense**, formally known as **FMC** and **Northern Pump**, covering the building of their Fridley operations along with photos of various facilities throughout the country. The photos require sorting and cataloging.



The **Fridley Police Department Civil Defense Unit** has donated several items. Included in their donation is a civil defense helmet, blasting cap picture, and a radiation detector. All items are currently on display at the Museum. They also donated a civil defense police badge as well as a rescue badge. One item of particular significance is a civil defense police patch believed by the states leading police patch collector to be a one of a kind.

FHS would like to thank all who have contributed items of local

importance and to remind the community that **FHS**, as the repository of local history, is always open to donations of items which document the history of our community.

-Mark Bonesteel-



Fridley Schools

- 1) What year did Fridley vote to have two school districts? What were the two district's numbers?
- 2) What year were these two schools completed?
- 3) Where were these two schools located?
- 4) What are these two school districts known as today?
- 5) What year did district #23 become ISD #14?
- 6) What district served the northern most part of our township?
- 7) Name District #14's first superintendent.
- 8) What was unique about District #23's school?
- 9) Which district #14 schools was damaged during the 1965 tornado?
- 10) How many school districts currently serve the city of Fridley?

R.I.P.



FHS regrets to announce that it has elected to discontinue its **HAUNTED SCHOOL HOUSE** following the Board's recent

decision to remove the attic from this event. **John Fitzpatrick** and **Steve Asche** have previously expressed to the Board their disinterest in mounting this event under these conditions, however, they have graciously offered to consul **FHS** should we elect to run the event under new direction.



At this time **FHS** has no plans to replace this event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank John and Steve for all their hard work and creativity in making the **HAUNTED SCHOOL HOUSE** a tremendous success. During the past three years this event has raised nearly \$3,000 while introducing more than 1,200 people to the **Fridley Historical Society**.

ANSWERS

- 1) 1873. Districts #23 & #32.
- 2) 1874.
- 3) -Main Street near the Columbia Heights border. -Mississippi Street on the former Bronko Music site.
- 4) District #23 became #14 & District #32 became #13.
- 5) 1950.
- 6) District #6; today it is ISD #16.
- 7) Harold Hayes.
- 8) Indoor chemical toilets.
- 9) Woodcrest & Hayes were completely destroyed while Parkview and the Senior & Junior High Schools suffered serious damage.
- 10) Four; districts #11, #13, #14, & #16.

-Editor's Note-

I would like to thank the many of you who have expressed such positive responses to the recent changes in the newsletter's format.

I have received a number of excellent suggestions for improving the newsletter. Some of these ideas have already found their way into our pages, while others will be added in future editions. Please keep the suggestions coming.

-Char Fitzpatrick-

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- 1 AUGUST FEST
- 1 WHO WE ARE...
- 3 LIQUOR STORE HISTORY



Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.11

Issue No.7

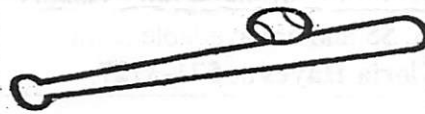
September 1998

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432



FHS would like to thank all of those who helped to make **August Fest** a great success! A big thanks to **Mary & Bob Tholkes** along with their **Quick Step Baseball** team as well as to **Jeremy Lynn** and his Fridley boys who put on a great show.

Thanks to all of those who donated cookies; special thanks to **Lil Meyer & Mary Sue Meyers** for taking charge of the reception which followed the game. All in all, it was a perfect way to spend a summer's evening.



**CITY OF
FRIDLEY**

1949-1999

As we embark on a new millennium many of us have begun to reflect on how our world has changed as well as pondering where we may be headed.

Don Savelkaul has scanned U.S. Census numbers and culled some data which is of particular interest as Fridley prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Population

	Fridley	Anoka County
1950	3796	35579
1960	15173	85916
1970	29233	154556
1980	30228	195998
1990	28335	243641
1997	28419	285271

Fridley is aging...

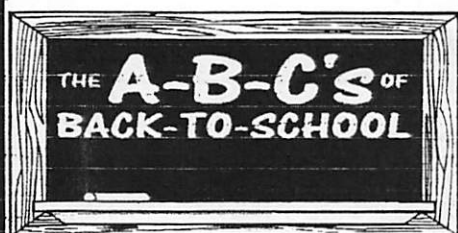
	1980	1990
0-5 yrs	2501	2267
6-17 yrs	6551	4343
18-24 yrs	4791	3396
25-34 yrs	5001	5286
35-54 yrs	7883	7813
55-64 yrs	2127	3020
65+ yrs	1374	2210

Household Composition

	1980	1990
1 person	1848	2244
2+ couple with children	3874	2651
2+ couple without children	2773	3545
1 male parent with children	147	195
1 male parent without children	107	179
1 female parent with children	716	831
1 female parent without children	318	441
non-family households	622	823



FHS returned to its regular schedule with the September meeting which was held on **September 14th** at 7 pm in the Museum's Community Room. September's topic was **Back to School**. FHS hosted a panel comprised of local educators.



The panel included: Dist. #6: **Edna Ask, Tom Erickson & Earl Johnson**; Dist. #23: **Meryle Berntson**; and Dist. #16: **Harvey Peterson**.

OOOPS!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Your Editor begs the forgiveness of Herb Bacon's daughter **Deidre Bacon** for omitting her name from Herb's profile in the last newsletter. I'm truly sorry for the error!

CASINO TRIPS



Please mark your calendars and make plans to join FHS on one of its two **casino trips** planned for this fall. The trips will take place on the third Wednesday of each month; **October 14th, & November 15th.**



As always, the buses leave promptly at **9 am** from the **Fridley Commons** parking lot on 61st Street just East of 7th Street and return around 4 pm. Tickets are \$5 and are available from **Gloria Hayes** at **571-3727**.

The following is a summary of that document.



On September 23rd, 1949 the Fridley City Council adopted ordinance #26 authorizing the establishment of a municipal liquor store. A month later Fridley opened its first off-sale liquor store at **7361 Central Avenue**. The following February the City opened a bar at the same location.



In November of 1953 the City opened a second off-sale store in a building owned by the City at **3710 East River Road**. In 1960 a bar was added.

In 1956 the bar on Central Avenue was closed when construction on the new Highway #65 resulted in a loss of business. The off-sale operation would close in 1964.



In March 1957 the City opened **The Shorewood Lounge & Off-Sale**. The Shorewood was built with city issued bonds that were retired in 1971. The very same year the City elected to get out of the on-sale business resulting in the closing of both the Shorewood Lounge and the bar on East River Road.



The City continued to operate the East River Road

DRINKING STORIES

Recently, while cleaning out some files I stumble across an old agenda of my late husband Ed's from when he served on the Fridley City Council as Third Ward Councilperson. The agenda was from 1977 and included a history of Fridley liquor stores.

off-sale store until 1974 when the closing of the Camden Bridge resulted in a loss of business.



The City continued to operate the Shorewood off-sale site until the need for additional space resulted in the opening of a new store at **6289 Central Avenue** in 1973.



A liquor store opened in 1960 in a former shopping mall at **6481 University Avenue** which rapidly outgrew its facility forcing it to move to **Holly Center**.



This liquor store would later move across **Mississippi Street** into an abandoned hardware store. With the recent redevelopment of this area, the liquor store would be forced to again return to **Holly Center** in order to make way for new townhomes.



Another liquor store operated in **Skywood Mall** from 1965 until it was closed due to slow business in 1973.

In 1961 and again in 1969 **Fridley** citizens voted overwhelmingly to remain in the liquor business.

Today, the City holds no long term debt to support its liquor operations.

-Char Fitzpatrick

Where has the Year Gone?

FHS's 1998 **Annual Meeting** and Potluck is scheduled for **October 12th**.

So grab a friend and leave your spouses in front of the TV watching Monday Night Football while you join us for fun & informative evening.

Bring a dish and join the potluck dinner which begins at **6 pm**. Following dinner the membership will elect two directors. **Gloria Hayes & Mary Sue Meyers** are each nominated to fill these open seats.

The evening will conclude with **John Koblas** discussing *The James' Gang's Northfield Raid*. What a great way to celebrate Columbus Day!

Today in Fridley History

After 8 months of hard work **Jeanne Peter & Peter Bonesteel** have been completed FHS's **Fridley History Calendar**. These 1999 calendars are crammed full of significant events in Fridley history.

The calendars make great and unique gifts and are only **\$8**. Those interested in purchasing a calendar should contact a Historical Society director.

✓ INVITE A FRIEND TO TOUR THE MUSEUM SOME SATURDAY

✓ INVITE A NEIGHBOR TO ATTEND A PROGRAM... IT'S MORE FUN THAN WATCHING T.V.!

*If we
had five
wishes...*

FHS asks that its members please keep their eyes out for items desperately needed to help run our organization.

- ❖ Two drawer file cabinet
- ❖ Kitchen cupboards
- ❖ Kitchen Sink
- ❖ Volunteers to assist with events
- ❖ New members

Fridley Historical Society
 611 Mississippi Street N.E.
 Fridley, MN 55432
 Editor: Char Fitzpatrick

JEANNE & IRVIN PETER
 730 67th AVENUE NE
 FRIDLEY, MN 55432



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- 2 SPOTLIGHT ON GLORIA
- 4 REMEMBERING Fridley's Jubilee



Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.11 Issue No.9 November 1998

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

ANNUAL MEETING

Many of you missed this year's Annual meeting and Potluck Dinner held on October 12th at the museum. The evening was filled with good food and great times.

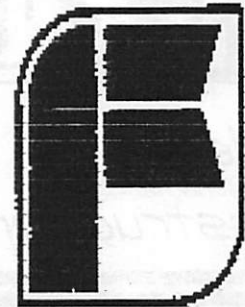
Gloria Hayes and Mary Sue Meyers were each elected to seats on FHS's board of directors.

Since no drawing was held during our September meeting, two names were drawn at October's meeting. Oliver Erickson and Marion Anderson's name were drawn, however, since neither were present it increases the pot for November's meeting to \$15.

As promised, John Koblas fascinated members with his presentation on *The James' Gang's Northfield Raid*. John regaled us with his wealth of knowledge regarding both gang members as well as the town's folks. It truly was an all around enjoyable evening.

NOVEMBER MEETING

You certainly will not want to miss FHS's November meeting to be held on November 14th at 7 pm at the Museum. Alan Peterson will present slides depicting all flags flown during the U.S. Civil War. You will certainly want to be part of this Veterans' Day commemoration; and don't forget, the pot has risen to \$15!



**CITY OF
FRIDLEY**

1949-1999

Peter Bonesteel and Jeanne Peter tell us that their 50th Anniversary calendars are moving fast. If you haven't yet had a chance to purchase your own calendar you will want to contact Jeanne or Peter to do so.

These calendars are packed with pictures along with day-by-day facts concerning the history of your hometown which is certain to become a family heirloom enjoyed by several generations.

The calendars are only \$8 and be purchased by calling either Jeanne at 571-8730 or Peter at 572-1009



Under Construction

FHS's reference room is no longer sufficient for housing the continually growing amounts of material archived at the Museum. The board decided at its September meeting to attempt to alleviate this problem by converting the girls bathroom into a new reference room.

As many of you know, FHS has in recent years spent a significant amount of time, effort, and money maintaining these bathrooms with limited success.

A plumber was hired to remove all the plumbing in both bathrooms. A new toilet has been installed in the boys bathroom which will now serve as a unisex facility.

Additional work repairing holes in the walls and floors has yet to be completed.

Holiday Gifts

Northtown Mall has invited FHS to participate in its Magical Night of Giving. This new event scheduled to be held on Sunday November 22nd is designed to

serve as annual fund raiser for local non-profit organizations.

Organizations are given the opportunity to sell tickets to a private evening of holiday shopping and festivities to include entertainment, door prizes, special sales, and of course, a visit from Santa Clause.

Tickets are \$5 per person with children under 12 admitted free. FHS is permitted to keep all the money from tickets sold by its members; so please make every attempt to sell as many tickets as you can to this special event. You must be present to win a door prize.

CASINO TRIPS



You'll want to make plans to join FHS on its final casino trip of 1998 scheduled for **November 13th**. Tickets are only \$5 which entitles you to a fun filled ride to & from Treasure Island and \$5 in quarters once you arrive. Participants will be treated to refreshments as well as the chance to win prizes along the way. It's not often that you can receive this much fun for \$0.00!



As always, the buses leave promptly at 9 am from the **Fridley Commons** parking lot on 61st Street just East of 7th Street and return around 4 pm. Tickets are available from **Gloria Hayes** at 571-3727.

Spotlight on



Gloria Hayes

Gloria was born & raised in north Minneapolis where in 1952 she and Chuck wed. Gloria was employed at Minnegasco for 15 years where she began as a key punch operator.

Gloria was promoted to meter reading where she supervised all meters in Minneapolis and its surrounding suburbs. Later Gloria would transfer to the Home Services Department where she was in charge of Minnegasco's cooking schools which served as fund-raisers for local non-profit organizations.

Here her duties would include booking schools, designing posters, distributing tickets, as well as assisting groups while they attended the demonstrations.

In 1956 she and Chuck moved to the recently incorporated City of Fridley where they began a family. Gloria and Chuck's daughter Melinda was born on Valentine's Day 1960.

As Melinda grew, Gloria would become increasingly more involved

in her new hometown. Gloria served as both a Brownie and a Girl Scout leader. Later when Melinda joined 4H, Gloria would serve as district chair for Share the Fund committee where she honed her skills as a wily fund-raiser for which FHS is a fortunate beneficiary today.

Gloria has served on the board of District #14 Community Ed for 18 years. It was here that she successfully fought to save the Old Hayes Annex from the wrecking ball. Keenly aware that saving this building was far from preserving it, Gloria helped to found The Fridley Historical Society where she has selflessly dedicated herself to preserving the entire heritage of our hometown.

As a charter member, Gloria served as our very first vice-president and six months later became our second president following the resignation of Leon Madsen.

Gloria's tireless fund-raising activities have literally kept our lights on. Her casino trips alone have raised over \$10,000!

Gloria & Chuck continue to live on West Moore Lake Drive where they share their lives with their four kitties that most of us know as Gloria's babies. In May of this year they suffered the terrible loss of their cat George who was both a long time companion as well as a cherished member of their family.

Their daughter Melinda is married and currently lives in Los Angeles where she and her husband each practice corporate law.

This Veterans' Day we salute Gloria Hayes, a founder as well as tireless soldier in the fight to preserve Fridley's history.

Match the name of the Famous Fridley Resident...

To Their claim to Fame

**Thank you
Gloria**

Who's who

- 1) Ernest Madsen
- 2) Cindy Nelson
- 3) John Banfill
- 4) Fredrick T. Price
- 5) John Sullivan

In Fridley History

- A) First territorial auditor
- B) Husband of
Mary Fridley
- C) First Manomin Town-
ship treasurer
- D) 1990 *Teacher of
the Year*
- E) Fridley's first city
manager

Silver Jubilee date set

Sun Newspaper (1974)



Some Fridley 49ers

QUARTET of residents who remember the days of incorporation in 1949 are Larry Gaten (left), 7400 E. River Road, Herb Bacon, 159 Logan Pkwy., Art Christiansen, 231 Rice Creek Ter., and Bill Weiss, 1282 Mississippi St. Part of the week-long celebration in June will have as its theme "Fridley's 49ers."

Members of the Fridley Silver Jubilee steering committee announced the selection of the third week of June for the city's first celebration.

The week-long event will open with a parade Monday, June 17 and conclude June 23 with ecumenical services.

Long-Time City resident Wyman Smith has been chosen chairman of the celebration

A commemorative coin noting the city's 25th year will be sold prior to the week.

Other events which will be part of the festivities include a town meeting in the high school gymnasium, an open house at city hall, industrial tours, athletic events, park tours, church services, and a theater production.

The **Town Meeting** would be designed to recognized village incorporators and past and present city officials.

Among athletic events proposed are canoe events on Moore Lake and Rice Creek and open skating at Columbia Arena.

The committee is seeking to involve the participation of all area businessmen, the Chamber of Commerce and community organizations.

Henry Peterson was named chairman of the hospitality committee. Several community organizations will have representatives on this committee.

Nominated to serve on other committees were: commemoration committee-Burt Ellis, Gus Doty, John Swanson, and Chuck Sheridan; historical committee- Art Christianson, Charles Johanson, Hazel Hartman, Frank Van Dan, Ray Sheridan, Genevieve Peterson, Robert Buckley, and Tom Myhra; tickets committee-Tony Petrangelo and Bob Schroer.

Leon Madsen was appointed executive secretary.

Other members of the ad hoc committee are Dave Harris, Ollie Erickson, Joe Krauter, Herb Bacon, JoAnn Johnson, JanThureen, Don Harstad, Wayne Wellan, and Jack Kirkham.

Sun Newspaper (1974)

All We want for Christmas is...

- ❖ Two drawer file cabinet
- ❖ Kitchen cupboards
- ❖ Kitchen Sink
- ❖ Volunteers to assist with events
- ❖ New members

Answers

- 1) E
- 2) D
- 3) A
- 4) B
- 5) C

"Magical Night of Giving"

NORTHTOWN MALL

Hwy 10 and University Ave. NE

Enjoy a Private Night of Holiday Shopping

Sunday, November 22, 1998, 7:00-10:00pm

↓ FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION CALL: ↓

Entertainment
Santa Claus Visit
Door Prizes
Specials & Sales

ESTHER CAMPBELL
786-0643



Sue Miskowicz
571-3493

Door Prize Drawing Throughout The Evening
Check Board Center Court - Must Be Present To Win

FUND RAISER TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

\$5.00 Donation **Admits One**
(Children under 12 free)

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432

Editor: Char Fitzpatrick



Happy
Chanukah



Season's Greeting

From

The Fridley Historical Society



Merry
Christmas



Happy
New Year

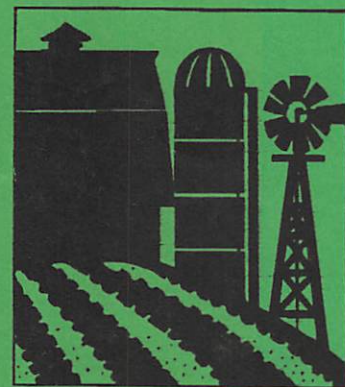


FYI
The Museum Will be Closed:
Saturday December 26th
Saturday January 2nd

EDITOR: Char Fitzpatrick

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432





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Volume No.11

Issue No.10

December 1998

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

CIVICS LESSONS

The halls of the Old Hayes Annex were again alive with the sound of students' voices as the Museum hosted six classes of 6th graders from the Fridley Middle School.

The students visited the Museum on November 11th & 23rd and showed great interest as Lil Meyer and Char Fitzpatrick regaled them with stories from Fridley's past.

Thanks to Jerry Johnson, Mary Sue Meyers, Suzanne Miskowic, & Jeanne Peter for serving as docents. A fun time was had by all!

their holiday picture making this both a very special as well as popular event.

Also on the calendar:

- Monday December 14th the Museum will host the monthly breakfast of Southern Anoka Chamber Commerce.
- Monday December 14th the Fridley Middle School Choir will perform at the Museum for their parents and members. The concert begins at 7 pm in the Museum's meeting room.

Thanks to Jerry Manley for installing a second row of chair rails in the lower level meeting room.



The yards may be bare without snow, but nothing will prevent the holiday spirit from filling the Museum as FHS hosts its annual holiday event on Saturday December 12th.

341 Fridley kindergarten students and their parents have been invited to the Museum to view an exhibition of holiday pictures created by the children.

The open house begins at noon and runs until 3 pm. Thanks to Mary Sue Meyers the mood will be festive as she decorates our halls to capture the spirit of the season.

Each child will get the opportunity to have their photo taken with

**Keep the
Pledge**

FHS dues are now due. Your contributions make it possible for FHS to conduct all of its valuable community services; please pay your dues as soon as possible.