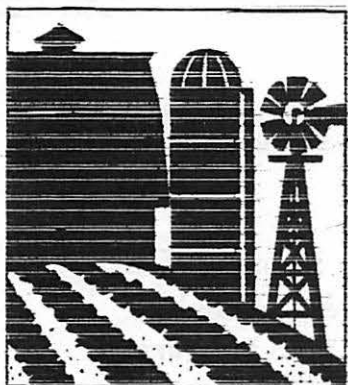


Inside this Newsletter

- 1 HOLIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM
- 2 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

## Only 321 days left until next Christmas

The lower level meeting room was packed to capacity to hear a holiday program presented by the Fridley Middle School Choir under the able direction of Blair Berger.

A spirited crowd of museum members and students' parents were treated to a selection of songs which set a holiday mood.

Students' parents displayed great interest while touring the museum, with several even purchasing History Calendars - We told you they made great holiday gifts.

The whole evening was such a big success that it will now become a holiday tradition!

The entire evening would have never been possible if not for the hard work and strong back of Jerry Reitter who carried the choir risers to and from Hayes Elementary.

Let's have a big "Thanks" to both Blair and Jerry for making this enchanting evening possible.

Thanks to all the FHS members who helped out with the numerous special events held at the Museum during the month of December.

We received such a great response to our call for goodies that we were able to serve the donated cookies & bars at all our December events.

FHS wishes to thank the following for their donations: Marion Anderson, Edna Ask, Betty Bacon, Pete Bonesteel, Esther Campbell, Ardy Chasney, Char Fitzpatrick, Jerry Johnson, Corine Kirkham, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic, Janet Peter, Jeanne Peter, & Jerry Reitter.

A special thanks to Mary Sue Meyers for decorating the Museum.

Finally, both the Kindergarten Open House and the Southern Anoka County Chamber of Commerce's December breakfast were held at the Museum.

I think most of us will be looking forward to some wintry January weather for the chance to catch our breath from December's schedule. Thanks Everybody!!!

Congratulations to Jeanne Peter and Peter Bonesteel for being selected as *Volunteers of the Year* for their work on FHS's *History Calendar*. These two donated eight months of their time to making the calendar the big hit that it was. Thanks Peter & Jeanne!!

# Fridley Historical Society



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.

**Membership Renewal  
New Member Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Dues: Individual - \$10

Club & Church - \$20

Business - \$50

Mail to:

**Fridley Historical Society  
611 Mississippi St. N.E.  
Fridley, MN 55432**

**The Doctor Will**

**See You Now...**

I would like to apologize for the lateness of this month's newsletter, however, I've been recovering from a nasty infection which has kept me homebound for more than a month. I feel much better now and I'm back to tending to most of my chores.

Gloria Hayes is also at home recovering from back surgery. I know that I found all the support from family & friends to be quite a lift while on the mend; so I'm sure that Gloria would appreciate a nice note to remind her how much we care.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery Gloria. No ailment is powerful enough to keep this special gal down for long!!!

**February**

**Meeting**

**Potluck Dinner**

**When: Monday February 8**

**Time: Six o'clock**

**Where: FHS Museum**

Speakers: Bill Burns and Scot Lund to talk about the Fridley Celebration of fifty years of incorporation.

Editor: Char Fitzpatrick

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





- 1 LASAGNA DINNER
- 2 ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR
- 3 HISTORIC MARY FRIDLEY PRICE MURDER
- 4 RAFFLE TICKETS



# Fridley Historical Society

Volume No.12

Issue No.2

March 1999

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

On **Saturday April 17th** FHS will be holding its **9th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle** at the **Fridley Community Center - 6085 7th Street.**

Come and enjoy a good meal and great company at Fridley's newly renovated Community Center. If you haven't had a chance to visit the center since it had its face lift, well here's your chance.

FHS's Annual Lasagna Dinner is always a popular event which provides a chance to break bread with old friends and neighbors.

Dinner tickets are only **\$6.75** which entitle you to a delicious Italian supper including entertainment.

Dinner tickets may be purchased from any FHS board member or by calling FHS's own *ticketmaster*, **Gloria Hayes** at **571-3727.**

Enclosed also are raffle tickets. For only a buck you can buy a chance to win any number of great prizes. **Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.** You do not need to present to win. Fill the tickets out in advance and bring them with you to save time.

Remember! this is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, so gather up the family and grab a friend to join you at this fun and tasty event.



FHS is pleased to announce the release of Fridley's 50th Anniversary booklet to be delivered every household in Fridley free of charge.

This +100 page booklet is filled with fascinating stories and pictures capturing Fridley's half of century progress.

Numerous FHS members worked very hard to make the booklet possible. We hope that it will become a family keepsake.

## Thank You!

FHS wishes to thank the following for their thoughtful contributions:

**Don and Mary Jo Savelkoul**  
for a generous **\$500 donation.**

**John Nance** donated room dividers. **Steve Eckel** and **Jerry Johnson** each contributed display cases. **Jerry Manley** for handling maintenance, including replacing the Museum's dead bolt lock.

**Meryl Berntson** for numerous pictures plus several file cabinets. **Chuck Hayes** for his many contributions of service, including providing juice and helping with the casino trips. **Gloria Hayes** for all her work arranging the casino trips and the Lasagna Dinner.

**FHS wishes the following speedy recoveries:**

**Edna Ask** - Sprained ankle

**Jean Nelson** - Knee surgery

**Irv Peter** - recently hospitalized

**Gloria Hayes** - Mending from back surgery

**Char Fitzpatrick** - Who can finally hear



This article was taken from the 1991 special issue of the Fridley Focus called Fridley "49er" Days June 12th-16th. No author was given.

Dastardly murder mars Fridley's otherwise placid history.

It's January, 1916. Frederick T Price is accused of the murder of his third wife, Mary Fridley Price, who was the granddaughter of Betsy and Abram Fridley.

According to a newspaper article in The Minneapolis Journal dated January 11, 1916, Charles D Etchison, a friend and business associate of Fridley, was the star witness at the trial. The motive was money. Etchison told how Price would gain financially by his wife's death. In his testimony, Etchison described Price's actions. Etchison, Price and Price's wife Mary, went for an auto ride on Saturday, Nov. 28, 1910, following a theater performance of the "The Prince of Pilsen" at the Metropolitan Theater in Minneapolis. Price said he had some lots advertised on Marshall Avenue and suggested the three of them take a drive to look at them. They stopped at the Price's home first to pick up Mary's dog, a small spaniel.

Price drove the car across the Franklin Avenue Bridge then turned to the right and drove down East River Road. About halfway between the Milwaukee Bridge and Lake Street, according to Etchison, Price said the engine was missing and stopped.

"Price suggested Mrs Price get out and exercise the dog," Etchison testified. "She objected at first. Then she said she would, I was at the engine. As she cleared the car Price put his arm out in front of her and touched her arm. As he did that, he ...hurled her over the bank. She went backwards."

Price and Etchison then went down the path to where she lay on the rocks. "We ran down," Etchison said. "There was a plank and (Price) jumped onto it and then we got down to the river bank. We went right to the edge of the river. Then we turned back and climbed up to a ledge, about midway from the roadway to the river. Mrs. Price was lying there, moaning and groaning. There was blood all around her head and some on her clothes. Price said go up and get some help. I started at once. Just as I started I saw Price pick up a stone. As I stepped away, I heard Price hit her in the head with a rock." Etchison testified that prior to the day of Mary Price's death, her husband had discussed his plans for Mary's death several times with Etchison. It was Price's plan to explain his wife's death by saying that the dog fell over the cliff and Mary tried to save it. Price thought no one would question the story because it was common knowledge that his wife was devoted to her dog.

Etchison said he was extremely upset. "I couldn't work, he testified. "I couldn't sleep, and I couldn't even eat. I was sick and nervous."

Price hired a photographer to take pictures of the scene. "(Price) said he was going to sue the city for his wife's death," Etchison said.

But, apparently the jury didn't buy the dog story. He was found guilty and served prison time. The newspaper article that reported Etchison's testimony was found by a Golden Valley man and sent it to the city of Fridley.



## Fridley's 50th Anniversary Community Calendar

### MARCH

27th - Springbrook Kite building Workshop (vintage materials used in the 40's & 50's)

### APRIL

24th - Springbrook Kite building Workshop (another chance to build a contest winning entry)

### MAY

1st - Springbrook's Fridley Flying High - A kite flying contest in Commons Park

15th - Barbecue at Fridley Community Center- Sponsored by the Southern Anoka Chamber Commerce FREE! All welcomed

16th - *Sounds of Jubilation*, concert at St. Williams Church (mass-choirs from 7 churches) Northeast Orchestra, ice cream social sponsored by *Values First* and Fridley City Band (2:30)

### JUNE

1st - Deadline for entries in the *American Legion Essay Contest*

16th - 49er Days begins City Plaza (6:00)

17th - Fridley Lions/49er Days Parade 6:30  
(carnival & food - City Plaza)

18th - 49er Days Street Dance (*White Sidewalls*)  
carnival & Food- City Plaza-7 pm

19th - 49er Days Street Dance (*Rockin' Hollywoods*)  
carnival/Food- City Plaza -7 pm

20th - Miss Fridley Pageant District Auditorium- 6:30 \*

20th - Fridley High School *All School Reunion* (afternoon) \*

25th-27th - Upper Midwest Auto Extraction Competition at Columbia Arena & symposium at Fridley Fire Training Center near Columbia Arena. Spectators are welcomed to watch how a 5 member rescue team organizes itself to free a victim from a mangled vehicle

26th - Horse Shoe Tournament sponsored by the Fridley Horse Shoe Club at the horse shoe pits near Columbia Arena  
(All level of competitors welcomed)

26th - Craft Show & Sale/Flea Market Columbia Arena  
(8:30-5 pm)

26th - Fridley Golden Lions Bingo - Columbia Arena  
(1-5 pm).

26th - Fridley Band Program - Columbia Arena  
(6:30pm)

26th - Wrestling Match \*

Columbia Arena/arena 1 (7- 10 pm)

7 pm - Amateur Wrestling Exhibition \*

10 pm - Professional Wrestling (concluding with a celebrity)\*

JUNE through AUGUST- Springbrook Nature Center Summer Craft Camp- A program designed to allow campers to make useful crafts common during the 40's-50's.

Springbrook will also offer several Saturday afternoon programs featuring the changing landscapes of Fridley through its history:

June 12th - Springbrook's wetlands

June 12th - Springbrook's forest

June 12th - Springbrook's oak Savannah

### JULY

23rd - Flower Garden Contest applications due  
- Sponsored by Bachmans

### AUGUST

1st - Classic 50's Car Show- East Moore Lake Commons

7th - Fridley Historical Society Museum Open House (Noon-3 pm)

14th - Springbrook Nature Center Open House (10 am-1 pm)

14th- Banfil/Locke Center for the Arts Open House (1- 3 pm)

### SEPTEMBER

18th- Community 50th Birthday Party at the Fridley Community Center (6:30 pm) City Band, HUGE cake, filling & sealing time capsule. Celebration concludes with FHS marching band, Commodores Chorus and fireworks FHS football field  
(alternate date 9/19)

### OCTOBER

3rd- Ecumenical Service (Time & Place TBA)

### DECEMBER

31st- Millennium New Year's Eve Family & Community Party at Springbrook Nature Center

Bonfire, Parade of 30's,40's, & 50's Clothing, music and program featuring a 1949 them

\* Indicates "Button Event"  
(entry into event is discounted)



**A Strong Beginning 1949-1999 A Promising Future!**

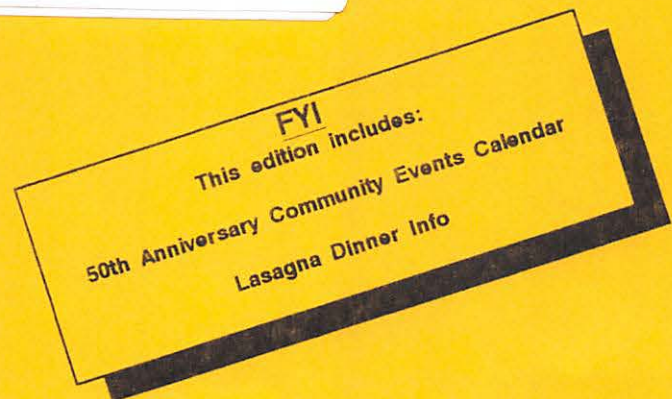
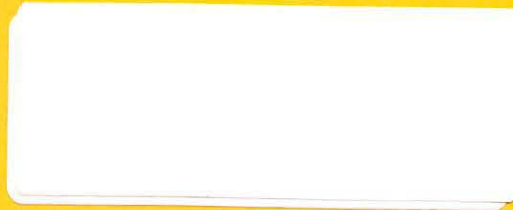
For further information, please call :  
The Fridley Information Line at 612.572.3600



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

EDITOR: Char Fitzpatrick



- 1 FHS's LITTLE ANGELS
- 1 CASINO TRIP
- 1 FHS GETS A NEW ROOF
- 2 LASAGNA DINNER



# Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi St. N.E. Fridley MN 55432

On May 7th Pam Meyer's third grade class from Stevenson Elementary will visit the Fridley Historical Society's Museum. Our Museum was built in 1931 and is badly in need of a new roof; since FHS receives no regular government funds it is the responsibility of the Society's Board to raise the necessary funds to complete this project..

Jerry Reitter, our Board's secretary and a former principal of Stevenson School, wrote a letter to all Fridley School District educators making an appeal for each of them to become FHS members or to make a contribution.

Ms. Meyer's third grade class read the letter and embarked on a class project of raising funds by doing small chores such as raking and shoveling. Their goal: to raise \$50; in the end they exceed their goal by 100%.

These proud little citizens EARNED each dollar without asking their parents for a cent. \$100 is a generous contribution and goes a long way in assisting the Fridley Historical Society in keeping a roof above its head.

Each of us here at the Fridley Historical Society look forward to May 7th when the students will visit the Museum and present their check for \$100 to their former Principal. It's very exciting to be part of this uplifting story which reminds everybody of the great generosity of our community's students.

**Congratulations! Frank Frischmon**

**90 Years young**

**April 18th**

The May Casino Trip to Treasure Island Casino will take place on May 19th.

This fun raiser has been the main stay for FHS and the Society owes a great deal to Gloria Hayes for her tireless efforts to make these trips possible. We also wish to thank Chuck Hayes, Lillian Meyer, Phil Novack, Jerry Johnson, and Suzanne Miskowic for taking care of events on the bus.

Tickets for this event are \$5 which will be returned to you on the bus for you to spend at the casino; you will also be treated to refreshments and games during the ride.

The bus leaves promptly at 9 am from the Fridley Commons parking lot at 7th Street and 61st Avenue and will return around 4 pm. Thanks for your support and **GOOD LUCK!**

The Museum has a new roof. The work was completed by Home Improvements Co.. The two class rooms have been painted and look very nice. A crew has also been hard at work trying to clean the floors in both rooms.

**The 3 Jerry's** - Jerry Johnson, Jerry Manley, and Jerry Reitter rented a scrubber to clean the west room and Lillian Meyer scrubbed the east room on her hands and knees.

Thanks Everybody! for making it possible for FHS to put on a pretty face during Fridley's 50th Anniversary celebration. Please mark your calendars to attend as many of Anniversary events as possible.

**May 10th at 7 pm (Museum)**

Nancy Sonam from Elim Care will be with us to discuss their assisted living facility and senior apartments being built at 83rd & University.



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## OLD TOWN RECORDS DISCOVERED

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*The Minnesota Historical Society  
By Mark Bonesteel*

*The Minnesota Historical Society has always been a depository for artifacts and information. Recently, I discovered a dust covered box with the Fridley town records books. Upon opening the box, I discovered several volumes of Fridley Town records written in long hand. The books covered town meetings minutes, finance and elections.*

*Volume I contained information from 1895 to 1899. At this time the town had a general fund which collected money from various sources such as liquor licenses. The town also had a road and bridges fund. This fund was used to upgrade the roads and bridges in place at that time. Fridley included Spring Lake Park at that time. Town officials were elected and were paid \$2.00 a day when they were working. M.C. Ailes was the first town recorded town clerk.*

*Volume II contain the town records from 1914 to 1922. Town officials received a wage increase to \$2.25 a day. Elected officials included town supervisor, town clerk treasurer, assessor, justice of the peace and town constable. As the population of the town increased so did its tax base. The town's general fund in 1917 was at \$350 and the road and bridge fund grew to \$2000. It is apparent the town board recognized the importance of the automobile because this fund continued to grow.*

*Volume III contains the records from 1928 to 1938. The depression era brought changes in the town's finances. In 1930 the gopher bounty was eliminated and the town also recorded its second year of deficit spending. Going in the hole over \$700 in 1930. Town officials wages were now \$3.00 a day. The town continued to operate in the red until 1944 when its budget finally leveled off. The town value was \$600,762.*

*The final two volumes contain the town records from 1938 to 1954. A town election was held in 1949 asking if the town board should purchase a site for a permanent town hall. The results were 342 yes votes and 163 no votes. Until this vote the town board meetings were held at various locations such as farms and even places outside the town. The last town clerk elected was Mabel Robinson in 1954.*

*Anyone wishing to review these records can do so free of charge. The records are located in the Minnesota Historical Society Reference Room. You will need to fill out a call slip and turn it in. It takes about thirty minutes for MHS staff to get the box for you but the wait is well worth waiting for. Request the following: 102.J.8F. This number written on the call slip will get you the correct box and plenty of good reading.*

### WANTED !!

*Buyers and sellers for a huge community garage sale being sponsored by the Fridley 50th Anniversary Task Force. The sale is to be held on June 26th at the Columbia Arena Parking lot. Buyers mark June 26 on your calendar. Sellers call Tom Myhra at 612-571-3342 for information. No tables will be furnished but your space will accommodate your vehicle. \$5 pre-paid and \$7 a site.*



**Betsy Ann Fridley**



# La Sagna Dinner Reports

	1997 APR 19	1998 APR 25	1999 APR 17
Tickets Sold _____	144 (3 were walk-ins)	168 (3 were walk-ins)	162 (9 were walk-ins)
People Served _____	139	162 (15 were take-outs)	162 (14 were take out)
Dinner Amt Taken In _____	\$1012.15	\$1251.00	\$1120.80
- Dinner Amt EXPENSES -	= 828.60	= 1059.30	= 826.55
<b>TOTAL AMT on DINNER</b>	<b>\$183.55</b>	<b>\$191.70</b>	<b>\$294.25</b>
<b>TOTAL AMT on RAFFLES</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>\$962.00</b>	<b>\$1117.75</b>
Base Ball AMT	141.00	157.00	106.00
Raffle AMT	* 559.00	* 805.00	*1011.75
	(4 raffle items)	(30 raffle items)	(54 Raffle ite
	*value = \$363.50	*value = \$757.50	*value = \$1108.41
<b>DONATIONS of MONEY</b>	<b>\$104.00</b>	<b>\$278.00</b>	<b>\$26.75</b>
<b>TOTAL AMT: DINNER, RAFFLES, DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$987.55</b>	<b>\$1431.70</b>	<b>\$1438.75</b>
	(\$431.49 LESS than 1996)	(\$444.15 MORE than 1997)	(\$ 7.05 MORE than 1998) (were waiting on custodian bill - so figure will be at least \$50.00 less)

Submitted: Gloria  
HAYES



REPORT ON REPORTS by gloria hayes

Our 9th Annual LaSagna Dinner & Raffle was a night of fun and remeniencing and catching up on what's going on with everyone. The light string music lent itself so well to our colorful tables and flowers. The LaSagna was even better than last year. There was an air of expectancy of winning one of those 54 items on the Raffle. THAT WAS A RAFFLE LIKE NO OTHER! Plus lots of door prizes.

As you can see by my report we made \$1,438.75 this year which is \$7.05 more than last year. However, the Custodian charges haven't been sent yet so that means we COULD be at least \$50.00 less. I think the report really speaks for itself. If you have any questions, please call me and I'll be happy to explain.

We should have made much more on the raffle as we had almost twice as many items (54) compared to last year (30).

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

Char Fitzpatrick, Editor



If you didn't get your June 3rd **FOCUS** you perhaps didn't know that FHS received a state grant of **\$50,000** to be used for new windows, doors and repair of front steps which are all badly in need of repair.

Thanks to our **Senator Steve Novak** and **Representative Satveer Chaudhary** for all the their hard work on our behalf.

Call them at their State Capitol offices and tell them how much you appreciate their efforts in getting this grant.

Their numbers are:

**Senators Novak** - 615-296-4334

**Senator Betzhold** - 651-296-2556.

**Representative Chaudhary** 651-296-4331

**Representative Johnson** 651-296-5510

### Dear Members:

Herb Bacon, FHS Treasurer, called to report the results of FHS Secretary's Jerry Reitter's letter appealing for contributions. As of printing \$1350 has come in.

This includes:

- ★ **Don and Mary Jo Savelkoul** - \$500
- ★ **Senior Crafters** - \$300

Those contributing \$100 are:

- ★ **Fridley Columbia Heights Knights of Columbus**
- ★ **Fridley Lions**
- ★ **Fridley American Legion Post 303**
- ★ **Miller Funeral Home.**

\$50 club memberships are **Sandeas, Miller Funeral Home** and **Bill Berry** made a donation of \$40.

Thanks to all these wonderful organizations. Thanks to Jerry Reitter for writing such a convincing letter.

Pete Bonesteel announces that we have more commemorative calenders available. The calenders are \$8.00 each.

Also, we have the Fridley 50th Anniversary Cachet and Proclamation are now available. For \$2.00 you will address the envelope to yourself or to whom you wish it to be sent and we will mail it with a 1999 post date.

The envelope will also have the Fridley 50th Anniversary Logo. For information call Pete at 612-572-1009 or the FHS Museum at 612-571-0120 and leave a message on the machine.

Days are over and they were quite successful. The parade had several Grand Marshalls.

The Community Grand Marshalls were Marion Johanson Anderson, Edna Gottwaldt Ask, Meryle Nelson Berntson and Fred Schultz. They were chosen because they are the oldest Fridley Citizens born and reared in Fridley. We are sorry that Fred couldn't make it because of his health.

Riding in the FHS unit were Warren Mortenson driving his antique car and with him were Lillian Meyer and Bonnie and Phil Novack.

The Quick Step Baseball team under the management of Bob Toklas played a squad of volunteers. After the game the teams gathered at the Museum for refreshment. A good time was held by all.



Letter from Bill Plum to Bill Weise.

Bill,

Thanks much for the calender. Kind of shook me up tho. They showed my folks old store and mentioned some centers but none named Plum- Ha.

My grandfather had the first post office in the store maybe before 1917. My mom would ride her horse to Mississippi Street and the railroad tracks. There was an arm on a post that would some how hook the mail bag to as the train went by.

Carl Hartman was my godfather. He built his store after my folks. Carl and my dad hauled coal etc.

I was the first village police marshall. Carl ran for mayor after I sat with him in front of his store till 1:30 in the morning after a Booster Club meeting coaxing him to run for mayor. After he got in he had me ride with him up and down East River Road trying to get me to enforce a 30 mile speed limit, which I refused to do. Finally he quit and then they hired police.

I gave one ticket to a guy named Bob ---he passed a school bus on Haye's corner and almost hit a kid. Carl called me and said gee Bill, Bob is my brother-in-law.

Wish I had a \$ for every time we pulled the trolley connection.

100 Twins Drive-In brings back memories. Wargo and Wyman were buddies. There was a pig farm where they wanted to build the theater. They paid my iron worker wages to sit in front of the pig farm to get the name of the fellow who hauled the slop to the farm each day. Ed Berntson would move quickly and fine them.

Hitched hiked from Edison one day and here were a bunch of men erecting steel at Northern Pump. I knew all of us who worked for my dad at the NSP Riverside site at one time or another.

Funny you should mention Norman and the broken arm. I was on University Avenue over by Rice Creek and got into a fight with some kids from Columbia Heights. I got tripped over backwards and hit my elbow on the blacktop and broke it below and over the joint. Norman, Bernard Furney and I had our ponies and I was afraid to go home and tell the folks I was in a fight again. We went to Norman's and his mom sent me home.

I have lots of memories of Herder Nelson. Don Olson worked for him after high school. Same as I did and I went there and had it out with Don and did a nice job too. I remember Herder running around yelling "stop!" "Stop!" All for now.

Bill

Editor's Note: Speeding on East River Road goes back a long way. I wonder if the ox carts had that problem too.

CATTLE FARM - 30'S  
DAKES MOTEL - 40'S  
BUS GARAGE - 50'S  
100-TWIN - 60'S

Letter from Dorothy Campbell to Mary Sue Meyers

Mary Sue Meyers,

In response to information you sent my daughter Georgia Theines Steland. Was really surprised at the drawing of the cemetery in Fridley on East River Road. Also, the only mention was of my grandparents & not other members of the McCrady family of which I am sure there were 6 others. The last member I believe was in 1950. Would say 3 were in the 1800's, the rest in 1900's. Can't give you the exact dates other than my grandmother in 1936 and my grandfather in 1928 or 1932.

I'm in question as to the map of the cemetery. From recently visiting it my memory didn't match with the map. Besides, the date of Wm J McCrady's, my grandfather, death is wrong as that stated on the map. Had noticed several places just marked with crosses when there.

Another thing I'm in question about is the records of the past ( in the Anoka County Court House) being either not right or not even there. At One time I looked up my birth record in Anoka and found it was recored wrong. Did have it corrected. Another time a cousin of mine had gone to the Anoka County Court House for some records. Found a lot incorrect or not even there. At one time I was in contact with a woman from the Unitarian Society by mail. Did ask if the Society had the records of Trinty Episcopal Church on East River Road. The answer was no. Had called the office of the Diocese of Minnesota. They didn't have them either. Even called a mortician in Fridley. The only information he gave me was that the cemetery was closed for further burials.

As for the records, would say they may be long gone. In early years in a small community like 36. Fridley used to be , good church membership records were kept. The name that comes to me is Hayes. If I am right I am sure they are all gone. However, the name Carl Hartman is familiar to me. He is mentioned in the booklet put out by the Banfill/Locke Center put out for the 50th Anniversary. The Carl Hartman I would know would be gone, but this one maybe a son.. The Hartman family I knew lived on east River Road a bit beyond Rice Creek on a hill on the west side of the road. I don't know if my daughter told you I was born in Fridley in 1917. Baptized at Trinity Episcopal Church. Was born in grandparents home. My grandfather was the blacksmith of the area. Home and Blacksmith shop was located across the street from the Banfill/Locke Home, now the Banfill/Locke Center.

Knowing how much Fridley has grown and changed in recent years I began to think of the old cemetery and what may have happened to it. Therefore, started my inquiry.

Another name familiar to me is Johanson. I am sure he is of the same family I knew of. If you have an opportunity to talk with him ask if he knew Bud McCrady. Bud is a cousin of mine & he died last year.

Have many memories of Fridley. Feel it is a part of my roots.

Sincerely, Dorothy Campbell

Editor's note: The church records Ms Campbell is seeking perhaps disappeared when a tornado in 1925 blew the roof off the building. Much of the building was destroyed and Fred Schultz donated a spindle from the altar rail which is in the museum. Any one with information concerning Holy Trinity Episcopal Church or its records might call Mary Sue Meyers at 612-574-9801. Also, look for the picture of the McCrady blacksmith shop and Mr McCrady in the museum.



If you like to go to garage sales take in the **Fridley Community Garage Sale** in the parking lot of the **Columbia Ice Arena** on **June 26**.

The sale begins at 8:30 and runs until 3 pm. There will be a Craft Sale in the arena .Several events will take place. The **Fridley Horse Shoe Club** and **Bob's Produce** is sponsoring a Horse Shoe tournament.

This is a fund raiser for **The Make a Wish Foundation**. Continue to consult the calender in your Fridley Anniversary Booklet for a listing of the many events taking place during 1999 to celebrate Fridley's Anniversary.



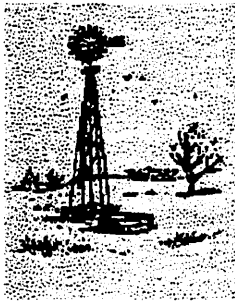
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Editor: Char Fitzpatrick

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



- ⊙ AUGUST 7TH OPEN HOUSE
- ⊙ '65 TORNADO EXHIBIT
- ⊙ 1949 INCORPORATION
- ⊙ COON RAPIDS HISTORY



# Fridley Historical Society

## 1965 Tornado Exhibit

Lillian Meyer has been working for over a year setting up a traveling exhibit of the 1965 tornado. The museum has had many requests from all over the country for information concerning the Fridley May 6, 1965 tornado. Lillian has gone through several boxes of newspaper articles and pictures. She has done research on what defining what a tornado is. The exhibit will open at the museum at an open house on August 7. The hours are from 12 to 3. This open house is an event sponsored by the Fridley 50th Anniversary Task Force. The exhibit will also be a part of the FHS membership meeting on Sept 13 at the museum at 7 p.m.. Mayor Bill Nee has agreed to come and talk to us about that dreadful night.

Plan to attend both affairs.

## FHS Commemorative Calenders

If you have not yet purchased your FHS Commemorative Calender this may be your last opportunity to do so. There are a few still available. Also you may purchase a Commemorative Cachet. The calenders are \$8.00 each and the cachets are two dollars each. You address the envelope to whom you wish it to be sent. We will pay the postage and it will have a 1999 post mark on it. For information call Pete Bonesteel at 612-572-1009.

## COON RAPIDS HISTORY

We were pleased to have Ned Storla, Coon Rapids assessor and staff person to the Coon Rapids History Commission, and their president, Bob Powell and Vice President, Bill Peterson visit the museum in June. They donated An Oral History of the City of Coon Rapids. This was a oral history project in conjunction with the Anoka-Ramsey Jr. College. This book is in the lower meeting room. The full commission will visit the museum on October 21 at 8 p.m. By the way Bill Powell is the son of Betty and Ernie Powell and a Coon Rapids teacher. Bill Peterson became a member of FHS. Welcome aboard Bill.

## Program on Lincoln

The Columbia Heights History Commission has asked us to announce that Monday July 26 at 8 p.m. They will have many noted speakers on the life of Abraham Lincoln. This meeting will be at the Columbia Heights Library, at 820 40th Ave Columbia Heights. I am sure it will be interesting and I might add cool.



## INCORPORATION 1949

Thanks to Don Savelkoul for sending FHS a copy of the Minnesota Supreme Court decision of March 30, 1951 in the case of Northern Pump vs the village of Fridley which upheld the incorporation of Fridley as a municipality. Since the document is several pages long and space does not allow us to print it in its entirety I have highlighted some of the most interesting facts. The entire document is at the museum for those interested in reading it. The decision was written by Chief Justice Loring.

On January 29, 1949 25 legal residents in the territory initiated incorporation proceedings by submitting a petition to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. The Board designated June 7, 1949 as election day. The result was 431 for incorporation and 343 against. On June 28, 1949 officers were elected and ordinances were enacted.

By inadvertence and mistake 48.5 acres already incorporated within the city of Columbia Heights was included in the territory sought to be incorporated as the village of Fridley. This error was discovered prior to the election and no Columbia Heights resident had signed the petition.

On July 15, 1949 Northern Pump and its subsidiary, Northern Ordinance Inc., large plants located within the village area, challenged the legality of the incorporation. A referee was appointed to take testimony and evidence and to make findings and conclusions. Testimony was taken and evidence was introduced. On November 3, 1950 the referee made and filed his findings of fact and conclusions of law that a writ of ouster should issue. The conclusion was based upon the theory that the mistake of 48.5 acres lying within the city of Columbia Heights vitiated the whole incorporation proceedings. The correctness of that conclusion was the first question presented for the decision. It was concluded that the Columbia Heights area was not included in the proposed village territory by an unreasonable attempt to incorporate unsuitable but otherwise eligible land. The Columbia Heights annex was included in the petition by mistake and inadvertence was induced by error in official county maps. Therefore, the court held that the inclusion of the 48.5 acres of the Columbia Heights territory does not vitiate the whole proceedings but that a writ of ouster must issue as the area

illegally included. This brings to a consideration of whether the remaining portion of the territory in the village of Fridley is suitable for incorporation. The referee found that the territory sought for incorporation in the village of Fridley was, as a whole, "suburban in character with houses and places of business somewhat scattered". "And \*\*\* is so conditioned as to be properly subjugated to village government".

The proposed area is five miles long and from one to three miles wide. Contains more than 30 different tracts entirely disconnected from other platted parts. 287 families have vegetable gardens and some 17 families are engaged in small scale farming. At the time of the petition there were 2300 residents. The village lies entirely within the suburban area of the city of Minneapolis. It receives "city mail delivery" rural mail delivery has been wholly discontinued. The population of the area has shown a marked increase during the last three to five years. There is a nucleus of residences in the Hyde Park area and other residences are scattered. There are 60 small businesses scattered throughout the village such as grocery stores, hardware store, taverns, sporting good store and a trap-shooting club.

*Edward M. Berntson*, 931 Mississippi Street. Railway employee, also runs gun shop. Justice for township and village. Elected to both. Building inspector.

*Harvey Peterson*, 1001 Mississippi Street. Resident 3 years. Married, 3 children. House builder. Exserviceman. Most of his house building is within Minneapolis.

*Charles Johanson*, Mississippi Street and E. River Road. Resident 30 years. His father was born in Fridley and lived in Fridley 60 years. Building contractor and builds in village. Elected township assessor. Elected village assessor. Chairman of District 23 school board.

*Bailey Tiller*, 1535 Gardenia, 11 year resident. Employed at Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. as blacksmith. Elected constable by village. Appointed village marshal.

*Herbert Bacon, Sr.*, lives in Flannery's Addition. Resident 13½ years. 8 children. Elected and reelected to village council. Business man. Part owner of Bacon's Electric.

*Charles Arthur Swanson*, 3710 Kenwood St. N. E. (SW corner of village). Born in area. Son of former Senator Charles Swanson of state. Family was in brick and tile business for years.

*Dreue Scherer*, 840 Mississippi Street. 5 children. Resident since 1922. Building contractor. Village building inspector.

*Ednar Erickson*, 1465 Mississippi Street. 4 children. Lived in area 14 years. Carpenter and house builder. No public office.

*Albert William Paulson*, 932 Mississippi St. 2 year residence. Married. 2 children. Assistant Boy Scout master.

*Peter Tema*, lives in Columbia Heights. Newspaper publisher.

*Floyd Wilkes*, 1370 Rice Creek Road. One child. Business man, on District 23 school board 7 years.

*Orville M. Helene*, lives in Minneapolis. Assistant superintendent of U. S. Postoffice, Minneapolis.

*Donald C. Savelkoul*, 6734 Baker. Government employee. Married and one child. No public office. Veteran.

*Elgie M. Norling*, 4703 2½ St. N. E. Deputy village clerk. Two children. Housewife.

*Ward Norling*, 4703 2½ Street N. E. Elected village clerk. Cement worker. Husband of Elgie Norling. Veteran.

*Dennis A. West*, 739 57th Avenue N. E. Operates a retail store in N. E. Minneapolis. Ten years in business. Elected treasurer of village.

*Stanley Douglas*, lives at city of Anoka. Is county supervisor of assessors.



LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES  
OF WITNESSES AT THE 1949-1950  
VILLAGE OF FRIDLEY INCORPORATION  
HEARINGS.

*Carl F. Hartman*, ran store for 17 years, resident of Fridley 42 years, lives 68th and East River Road, town supervisor, constable. Deputy sheriff for 15 years. Elected mayor June, 1949. Reelected December, 1949 (Hartman, page 270) (Hartman, page 504).

*Robert G. Lindbloom*, 6606 Brookview Drive. Co-chairman of Booster Club committee for village incorporation. Bread salesman. No public office. Married. 2 children. Resident 3 years. Ex-serviceman (Lindbloom, page 277).

*Jacob D. Steiger*, 6676 Channel Road. Garage business. 11 years resident. Member of council—reelected in December, 1949.

*William C. Plum, Jr.*, 65th and East River Road. Born in village. Welder and steel worker. Constable township and village.

*William Gottwaldt*, 6300 Baker Avenue. Lived in Fridley 43 years. Family owns 150 acres in village. Contractor and home builder. No public office.

*Richard Gottwaldt*, 6222 Central Avenue. Married with 1 child. Lived in area 31 years. Military service. Village councilman, reelected in December, 1949. Chairman of village building and zoning committee.

*William Weiss*, corner of Central and Mississippi Street. Owner of Sandee Grocery Store, tavern and cafe. Has large investments. President of Boosters' Club. President 13 years. No village office.

*Clarence Peterson*, 969 Mississippi Street. Married, 1 child. Officer of corporation, contractor. Resident 3 years. Serviceman.

*Herbert Bacon, Jr.*, 953 Mississippi Street. Electrician. No village office. Active in Boy Scouts.

*William O'Connor*, 5851 Second Street N. E. (Hyde Park area). On health board. Railway employee.

*Carl E. Sorensen*, resides in Columbia Heights. Real estate.

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

Editor: Char Fitzpatrick





# Fridley Historical Society

## Newsletter

Vol 12 Issue 6

Sept/Oct, 1999

**Inside this issue: FHS annual meeting and potluck dinner and election, October FHS Calender, Annula report of FHS activities in 1999.**

### **FHS annual meeting and potluck dinner and election**

On Oct 11 the regular meeting of the FHS will be a potluck dinner. The dinner will start at 6 pm in the lower level meeting room at the museum.. This is the FHS's annual meeting and election of officers will take place. The following slate is the recommendation of the nominations committee:  
Pres: Char Fitzpatrick  
VPres: John Fitzpatrick  
Treasurer: Herb Bacon  
Secrtry: Corine Kirkham  
For Directors:  
Pete Bonesteel  
Jerry Manley  
Elaine Reitter  
Thanks to the Nominating Committee  
Gloria Hayes  
Jerry Manley  
Bonnie Novack  
The Col Hgts/Fridley Knights of Columbus Male Chorus under the direction of Esther Guzik will perform. The Chorus will be our guests for dinner so please bring

a little extra. Bring your own eating utensils or if you wish use the plastic ones at the museum.

October will be a very busy month at the museum.

### **Oct 20 FHS Casino Trip to Turtle Lake.**

The bus leaves promptly at nine o'clock from the Commons parking lot. Call Gloria Hayes at 612-571-3727 for tickets and information. This FHS's best fund raiser.

Oct 21 some of the 6th grade classes from the Middle School will tour the museum. They will begin to come at ten o'clock.

Oct 21 The Coon Rapids History Commission will visit the museum. Ned Storla, a Fridley local boy is the Commission's staff advisor. Chair of the Commission is Bill Powell, Ernie and Betty Powell's son.

Oct 22 The second group of 6th graders will be at the museum .

Nov 8 Ken Merryman from the Great Lakes Ship Wreck Preservation Society will speak to us. Mr. Merryman's presentation was featured on WCCO's Demention Sept 29

### **FHS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING SOME OF YOUR TIME**

Congratulations to Jerry Manley who was elected to the Central Labor Union Retirees Board.

Jerry Reitter who was elected Grand Master of the Columbia Heights/Fridley Knights of Columbus.

Annie White and John Fitzpatrick who were married on September 25.

The 1965 Tornado Exhibit has been a huge

success. Saturday's 12-2 open houses have shown a record attendance.

Wish list.  
Kitchen sink  
Mannequins  
Storage bins.

If you have not been to the museum recently you will be pleasantly surprised. Under the leadership of our President Lillian Meyer the museum has a fresh new look. The two school rooms, the front and back halls have been painted. Thanks to the three Jerrys- Johnson, Manley and Reitter scrubbed and polished the two school room floors. Lillian even got down on her knees to scrub the one school room floor. Mary Sue and Lillian rearranged the two school rooms. Mary Sue spent many hours trimming and weeding the bushes. We had a new roof put on this spring.

# FHS Annual Report

**Pam Meyer's Third Grade Class at Robert Louis Stevenson School** responded to **Jerry Reitter's** letter by going out and earning the money that they donated to the roof fund. Their contribution totaled up to **\$107.** **Jerry** was the school's retired principal.

**FHS** got word that the **Minnesota State Legislature** had appropriated **\$50,000** for new windows, doors and repair of the front steps. This appropriation was passed in 1998 session but vetoed by Gov Carlson. Senator Steve Novak brought it back to the 1999 legislature and this time it was not vetoed by Gov Ventura. Thanks to our legislators but a special thanks to Senator Novak.

**Fund Raisers.** **Pete Bonesteel** reported that **832** calendars have been sold. There about thirteen calendars and thirty cachets left. This has been a very successful fund raisers. Thanks to **Pete and Jeanne Peter** for the many hours they spent creating the calendar.

**Casino Trips**  
These trips are our main source of revenue. There

will be 8 trips held in 1999. Thanks to **Gloria Hayes** for arranging, scheduling, and seeing that there is full bus. She also prepares the envelopes with the cards for cards and the Five dollar refund. Thanks too to **Chuck Hayes, Suzanne Miskowic, Lillian Meyer and Jerry Johnson** for working the bus.

## **Lasagne Dinner and Raffle**

The annual Lasagne Dinner and Raffle was held on April 19. It was held in the new Community Ed Gym. The acoustics are greatly improved and the whole setting was very nice. We had a string quartet that played incidental music for us. **Mary Sue Meyers** did the center pieces and they were very nice. Thanks again to **Gloria and Chuck Hayes** who volunteered many hours selling tickets, arranging with the caterer and the Community Ed. We are also grateful to the many businesses that donated to the raffle and to the dinner. It was well attended.

## **FHS's Booth at Fridley Plaza**

During "49er Days" **FHS** sold bars. Thanks to **Pete Bonesteel** for lending us his tent. While we didn't make a great deal of money there

opportunity to talk about **FHS** was worth the effort. Thanks to **Jack and Lillian Meyer, Betty Scott, Char Fitzpatrick, Suzanne Miskowic.**

## **Benefactors**

**FHS** is grateful to two very generous donors. They are **Kathy and Bob Schroer** who gave the **FHS \$1000** and to **Don and Mary Jo Savelkoul** who gave us **\$500.** This is the third year that **Don and Mary Jo** have given to us. **Bob** has been most generous to **FHS.** He has donated cookies to the Lasagne Dinners.

**Membership has increased. Our total membership now numbers 135. We are always looking for new members. Bring a friend to a meeting and show off our museum.**

**Does any one work for a company in which that company may be updating their computer system and would be able to donate their old computer and printer. Our computer was bought in 1990. I am told that it is very obsolete.**

## **Events**

**FHS** took an active part in Fridley's 50th Anniversary celebrations. The meeting room was used on May 6

for a reception to honor the authors of the Fridley 50th Anniversary Booklet. In May also the room was used for orientation program for the girls participating in the Miss Fridley Scholarship Pageant. On June 25 **FHS** was host to the **Quick Step Baseball Team.** This was a "49er Day" event. Participants in the "49er's Day" parade were: **Community Grand Marshalls Edna Ask, Merle Berntson and Marion Anderson. Fred Scultz was asked but had to decline because of ill health.** These four people are the oldest residents born in Fridley. **Lillian Meyer, Bonnie and Phil Novack rode with Warren Magnuson in his 1920's car.** Also participating in "49er's" days events were **Suzanne Miskowic and Bonnie and Phil Novack at the Banfil/Locke House.** August 14 **FHS** held an open house as apart of the 50th Anniversary program. This was the opening of the **1965 Tornado Exhibit** which **Lillian** spent over a year putting it together. **Buntz Shaw, Eleanor Jensen and Suzanne Miskowic** helped her. The majority of the work was done by **Lillian.** **This exhibit has drawn in more people than any other exhibit.**



Fridley's first mayor and city manager  
Edward Hartman and his wife Anna  
Ernest Madsen

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

city and the sixteen acres had to be platted and sold. There are thirty-four homes on the farm and it is called Hartman Circle. Carl married Hazel Nelson from Constance in 1928. Carl had a store built on the southeast corner of the land. The Fridley Post Office was located in the store. Carl and Hazel had one daughter, Alice. She married John Gantor. Mable Hartman married James Woods. They built a home on the east corner of the farm. They had one son, Warren. He married Karen Miller. They live in Fridley. Carl Hartman was the first mayor of the city of Fridley. He held the office for five years. He was instrumental in Fridley getting the incorporation of the village and then the city.

ERNEST MADSEN

Ernest Madsen became the first village manager of Fridley on January 7, 1955. Ernie was born in Sheffield, Ill. In 1916 the family moved to Askov, Mn. On Valentine's Day 1934 he married Elizabeth Buck. They had two children - Leon and Karen. The Madsens moved to Anoka County in 1944. The voters of Fridley adopted the Council-Manager form of government at the 1954 general election. Ernie was offered the position of the first Fridley city manager. Fridley took great strides under his leadership: water and sewer was extended and as a result new businesses moved in. Population increased from 4000 to 10,000 in the four years he served. And very important a zoning and platting plan was developed.

Due to health problems Ernie's doctor advised him to resign. Ernie decided to go into land development. Some resulting areas included Rice Creek Plaza, some residential, Holly Shopping Center, a medical clinic, apartments and light industry. In 1960 Ernie was elected to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and took office January 1, 1961. A heart attack in January 1962 forced him to resign from public service. In July of 1963 Ernie's life was cut short at the age of 50. The impact of Ernie's direction in Fridley's early years can still be noted today. Ernie and Betty's son Leon retired as Fridley assessor. Leon and his wife Marilyn (Bush) are graduates of Anoka High School. Leon has been active in the community.

Fridley Historical Society  
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Fridley, MN 55432

Editor: Char Fitzpatrick





# Fridley

## Historical Society

# Newsletter

Vol 12 Issue 7

December, 1999

**In This Issue:** Message from President Meyer  
Dec. 11 Kindergarten party  
Dec 13 FHS membership meeting  
Dues are due Jan 1, 2000

**On Dec 11 FHS will host the 8th annual Holiday party for all the Fridley Kindergarten pupils.**

Jeanne Peter has made the arrangements for this event every year. The children have been busy drawing holiday pictures and thanks to Jeanne and Irvin Peter and Corine Kirkham they are on display now at the museum. The children and their parents are invited to the museum Dec 11 from 12-3. The children will have their picture taken with their drawing and will receive treats and refreshments. Thanks to the following for the donation of four dozen cookies each: Marion Anderson, Herb Bacon, Pete Bonesteel, Esther Campbell, Gloria Hayes, Jerry Johnson, Corine Kirkham, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic, Bonnie

Novack, Janet Peter, Jeanne Peter, Bunty Shaw, Char Fitzpatrick

**FHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING DEC 13 AT 7PM AT THE MUSEUM**

Bruce Messer and the Fridley High School Chamber singers will entertain us. Mary Sue Meyers has been busy decorating the museum for Christmas. Because Dec 13 is St Lucia Day I hope to have a young St Lucia at the museum. In Sweden St Lucia's Day is celebrated as a Festival of Lights to celebrate the return of more day light hours to the dark Swedish winter. The role of St Lucia is played by a girl in the household. She rises early in the morning and puts on a white dress. She wears a crown of evergreens with seven lighted candles. The Lucia girl serves coffee, juice and special Lucia buns. St

Lucia was a Roman girl who had converted to Christianity and when she refused to recant her Roman husband put out her eyes.



January 1, 2000 the new board of the FHS will take on the trials and tribulations of FHS

We say farewell to Suzanne Miskowic although Suzanne has agreed to help Lillian with the financial affairs of FHS while Herb is playing golf in Florida. **THANK YOU SUZANNE!** To Jerry Reitter who has been our past secretary and has been elected Grand Knight of the Columbia Heights/Fridley

Knights of Columbus and to Esther Campbell who has been in charge of publicity. Working with the *Focus* can be a frustrating assignment. We will miss you!

We welcome the new members of the board. Corine Kirkham who is the new secretary, Elaine Reitter as a director and John Fitzpatrick. John will be taking over the newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETING DEC.13**



## To all our Members:

This is the last month I shall have the privilege of serving as your president. These past two years have been busy and rewarding to me and I hope to the Society.

Looking back on some of our accomplishments I see that: the leaking roof was replaced, the two main museum rooms were repainted and rearranged, the 'old girls' bathroom' upstairs was gutted and repainted (it will become our reference room) new room dividers were installed both upstairs and downstairs, both the front and rear hallways were repainted, and, finally, our "1965 Tornado" display was finished and put on display - all in addition to the usual tasks needed to run and maintain our museum.

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one! Special  
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celebrate

Fridley's 50th Anniversary are Pete Bonesteel and Jeanne Peter.

Another vital person has been Mary Sue Meyers who has maintained our museum rooms and has done the decorations for the museum and for our Annual Lasagna Dinner.

Gloria Hayes, who organizes the casino trips and our Annual Lasagna Dinner, and telephones our members and casino people, is another many-hundred-hour

volunteer. Chuck Hayes is a great help with the bus arrangements for the casino trips. What a Great Pair!

Jerry Reitter has been getting our minutes out following each meeting; and Herb Bacon has kept tabs on our finances.

We are appreciative to Jerry Manley who has successfully obtained enough insurance on the museum building so we won't have to pay the entire cost, ever again, for another roof!

Esther Campbell has been faithfully submitting articles to the newspapers and radio stations for the many events we have hosted. She is also one of our callers - a very time-consuming job.

How many times has Mel Manley taken time off from work to meet with various people in order to get estimates for service for the museum?? A lot!

Making sure someone is scheduled to be a docent at the museum every Saturday during the year is a task Bonnie Novack has done.

Our newsletter is a vital link for all of us! Char Fitzpatrick has provided that link - a most important tie for our organization.

All these board and non-board members of our society have done many tasks beside the above mentioned items.

My sincere thanks to everyone for their friendship, cooperation, and good times! I have enjoyed working with all of you and will continue doing so from now on.

Lillian Meyer

*Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!*



The editor regrets that she erred in the last edition by stating that Jerry Manley had been elected to the Central Labor Union Retirees Executive Board. Jerry was elected to the Executive Board of the Minn State Retirees Council, AFL-CIO. The council is a state-wide organization that represents all retired union members in Minnesota.

Jerry also is president of the St Paul Trades and Labor Assembly Retirees Club. The club represents all retired union members at the local level in the greater Metropolitan St Paul area.

He is also Vice-President of the Third Division United States Army, an organization of active and retired personnel who served in the Third Division. He is chairman of the Society's constitution committee as well as Sec/Treas of Outpost #12. The Society's upper midwest chapter.

The museum has been visited by several groups of young people.

Oct 28 and 29 over 300 6th graders had a field trip to the museum. This has become an annual event. Thanks to the docents: Marilyn Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Pete Bonesteel,

Suzanne Miskowic, Lillian Meyer and Buntly Shaw. Marilyn helped on both days. It is always fun to see the enthusiasm these young people bring to the museum. They truly are interested in history.

Early in November Peter Musty visited the museum looking for pictures of Fridley homes that were built in the late Fifties. The Fridley HRA have asked him to come up with a book that will show designs for ramblers to be used in filling in lots where a house has been razed.

On November 15 Den 9 from Cub Scout Pack 169 visited the museum. They were very interested in what was at the museum and asked many questions. Thanks to Jeanne Peter for being here to help answer their questions. It is great to see their enthusiasm and hopefully they will be FHS members when they grow up.

REMEMBER THE FHS MEMBERSHIP DEC 13 MEETING AT 7PM AT THE MUSEUM. MARY SUE HAS DECORATED THE MUSEUM.

The Banfill Crossing, new senior housing in Fridley will open in February. Laurie Pearson, the interior decorator, has asked FHS for suggestions. She has used several pictures of the Banfill House and other early buildings in Fridley. She gave us the negatives for our use. We thank her.

It is quite apparent that we are being used as a resource on the early days of Fridley. We are fulfilling our mission statement. To be a resource to disseminate historical information to interested persons, groups, institutions of the history of Fridley and the State.

Gen Rassmuson in her book Fridley wrote that on New year's Eve Alexander Ramsey and Henry Rice with their wives took off from St Paul by sleigh for the Banfill Tavern. After about a day's journey they arrived at the inn where they feasted and danced until early morning. Finally they went to their sleeping rooms upstairs. The men were in one room and the women were in another room. The men lucked out because

their room was above the kitchen and much warmer than the women's room. On New Year's Day they got back in the sleigh and went back to St Paul.

The Wassail Bowl Ale Games grew up around the Wassail Bowl. For centuries Snapdragon has been played on every Christmas Eve in every English Shire.

Remember the party at Dingley Hall where fingers were burned aplenty? A handful of raisens are placed in a shallow dish and brandy is poured over and then ignited. The trick is to pick up the raisens through the flames. A hearty laugh goes around if the blue lapping fire dragon sears a player's finger. While the game proceeds the song of the snapdragon is sung by the guests.

"Here he comes with a flaming bowl, Don't be mean to take his toll. Snap! Snap! Snap! Dragon...."

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
EVERY ONE. ENJOY  
THE FESTIVITIES AND  
DO BE CAREFUL**



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Char Fitzpatrick, Editor

