



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE

Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter Vol. 14, No. 9 December
2001/January 2002

January Meeting

Monday, January 14, 2002
7:00 p.m. at the Museum

Gretchen Hanson, founder of our local hospice, Tamarisk, will speak of the trials and challenges that she encountered in creating Tamarick, Inc.

Many people have received the loving help from volunteers of Tamarisk in their final difficult days.

Come and bring friends to hear this vibrant woman!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the year draws to an end - it needs to be said - you all know it - as a replacement officer, the year has flown on butterfly wings - an insect of happiness.

We, as an organization, have accomplished much, but there is still much to be done. Do consider more involvement as a volunteer. During my untold years of working and volunteering I have always found the "volunteer" is most important. Your new president, Tom Myhra, will certainly need your support and cooperation. Don't say "No".

There have been some stressful times this year but with that important word "cooperation" by board members and you much was accomplished. I look forward to seeing you all at meetings, special events and casino trips. Thank you for allowing me to be

*Your president
Suzanne*

Accomplishments in 2001

Inroads in areas never before really touched to any degree:

- ...Mayor and City Council
Mayor attended summer events
Mayor and City Council
attended Grand Opening*
- ...Contact with Library*
- ...Columbia Heights Theatre for a
special event or events*
- ...Calls - numerous from other
suburbs regarding answers and
assistance to aid them in setting
up their own museum*
- ...Forgiveness of original loan by
the City of Fridley*
- ...Kitchen cupboards donated by Ed
Meyer and his wife, Barbara
Installed by Jerry Manley and
Chuck Hayes including new sink
- helped to completion by Lillian
Meyer and Pete Bonesteel*
- ...Flagpole installed.
Monument - thanks to Herb
Bacon*

Special Events included:

- ...Lasagna Dinner*
- ...August Fest - ball game and
reception, band, Miss Fridley
and two princesses plus the
Mayor - best crowd ever.*
- ...Monthly casino trips under the
direction of Gloria Hayes*
- ...Ribbon cutting ceremony and flag
raising with reception. Mayor*

- and City Council representation,
Senator Chaudhary and former
Senator Steve Novak with
Mayor Lund cutting ribbon*
- ...Annual Meeting - new officers and
board members*
- ...November 30 - 3 classes of 7th
graders toured museum and
listened attentatively to history
talk*
- ...Arrangements for spring - other
classes to come*
- ...December 8 - Kindergarten
Christmas Open House -
Children's artwork on display
for parents and students -
photos taken and refreshments
served - 350 attended*
- ...Membership Christmas meeting -
Entertainment - Middle School
Choir and refreshments served*

Report on Grant from State Legislature - accomplishments were:

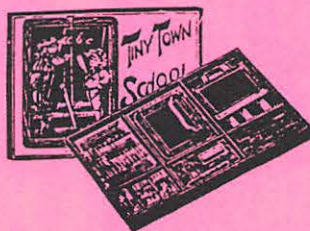
- ...New concrete front steps with
bannisters*
- ...All new windows custom made*
- ...New shades in museum*
- ...New floors in both upstairs rooms
as well as entry hall*
- ...Materials for completion of
kitchen*
- ...Untold hours by board members
and members to complete most
of the above*
- ...The Newsletter, all*



*correspondence, work of
maintenance and so much more
...Special thanks to special people.*

*It would not have happened without
you.*

Suzanne



DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 2002

Your continued support for our historical society is appreciated and needed. Won't you send in your dues for next year now? Just fill in the form below and mail to

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432 or give to
any board member

Membership Renewal/New Member
Application

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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

I would like to add a donation _____

Thanks to Suzanne Miskowic who so willingly stepped in as our 2001 president late last January. She has been a great and innovative leader this year as well as earlier when she served as president for a three year period.

As you have read, much has been done during her term in office. She will be missed as she leaves the board. It is through people like Suzanne that our organization has remained a vital part of the City of Fridley.

Suzanne, you have our sincere thanks and admiration for all you have done!

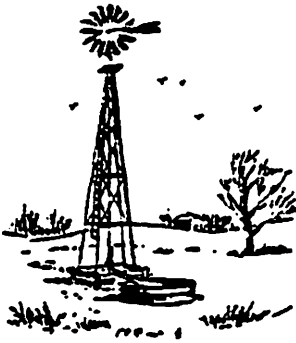


HAPPY

NEW

YEAR!

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, MN 5543
Lillian Meyer, Editor



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street, N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 1
February - March, 2002

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Monday, February 11
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Where: Fridley Museum
Program: Potluck Dinner for members and their neighbors.
BINGO after dinner with **CASH PRIZES**. Bring your own utensils or use plastic ones at the Museum.

MARCH MEETING

When: Monday, March 11
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Where: Fridley Museum
Program: Ralph Messer, Fridley Fire Marshall, will come to talk to us about the history of the Fridley Fire Department. Perhaps he may answer some burning questions you have. Come and show FHS's support for the Fridley Fire Department, for they have been a most generous contributor of many artifacts of early Fridle history.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the new incoming president of the Fridley Historical Society, I truly believe that I am an awfully lucky president. Our immediate past president, Sue Miskowic, and all the other preceding past presidents and officers, have brought us to this point in time.—a solid historical society housed in a Fridley historical building—a building as sound as a silver dollar or as new as the new Sakakwea dollar.

For all these things, and from the present officers, the Board of Directors, and the membership at large, I say, "Take a bow, you've done a great job."

Your current administration has adopted three goals that will build on this solid, established base.

They are:

- 1) We want to bring into our membership more Fridley residents, particularly those who have lived here for the past quarter of a century or longer;*
- 2) We want to get the history of these builders recorded in print, or on tape, or CD, or on video. History unrecorded is history lost—and Fridley has lost too much history already.*
- 3) We want to develop new sources of funding.*

Tom Myrha, President, FHS

Early Fridley Schools

by Meryle Bernston

The following narrative was presented by Meryle Bernston at the Fridley Historical Society meeting on September 11, 1998. Meryle was a member of a panel that took part in a discussion about early Fridley schools. Members of that panel and the school districts they represented were Edna Ask and Earl Johnson of district #6, and Meryle Bernston and Tom Erickson of District #23. Harvey Peterson represented the District #14 School Board.

Minnesota was a territory in 1847. Fridley was known as Manomin at that time. The first school was built in 1870. It was a one-room school built just west of the site of our present library on Mississippi Street.

A second room was added to the school building in 1908 and was used for the primary grades.

The school yard at that time was full of sand and sandburs. The students' laced-on button shoes were filled with sand by the end of the day.

The playground was divided—one side for the girls and one side for the boys. During recess and noon hour the favorite games were pump-pump-pullaway, tag, or run sheep run.

Because of disciplinary trouble caused by the larger boys, the school board hired male teachers. This followed a succession of female teachers.

My cousin, Emma Christenson, taught at the Fridley school in 1909-1910. The first teacher in the primary room was Julies Hayes, also a Fridley native.

A picture of the school class of 1898 was taken, at which time my mother was a student.

An outside well supplied the water for the school with a hand pump. The students couldn't start school until the age of 6. The children were all hurrying to get their drinks at the last minute When the school bell rang. My Aunt Emma and her friend were last in line.

Her friend ran, stepping on a loose, rotted plank. It bounced up and over, and she fell through the opening into the 15-foot deep well. Her brother climbed down the well and brought her up. She will never forget those slippery, slimy lizards crawling all over her.

The school had outside chemical toilets. There were annual school picnics, basket socials, and valentine parties.

Coal room heaters heated the old building. The teachers had to arrive at school early and start the fire to heat up the rooms before the pupils arrived. Miss Doyle, the teacher, came from Anoka on the Anoka Trolley, then walked over to the school in all kinds of weather. The trolley ran on tracks near the East River Road. Miss Doyle taught eight grades. At that time, the pupils had to pass eighth grade State Board exams.

When the second room was added, they had a kerosene burner in the cloakroom. The teacher would make a big kettle of soup for the students at lunchtime in the winter.

Mississippi Street was a two-lane dirt road and it was piled with snow in the winter. We had to walk through drifts to get to school—no bus service.

The old Fridley School continued to be used until 1929 when it burned down. In 1929, the new stucco two-room school was build on Mississippi Street and is now being used by the Fridley Historical Society.. The school building had two rooms and accommodated the pupil load until 1941. the eighth graders were sent to Oakwood School in Columbia Heights. My father was on the school board when the new school was being built.

For seven years the overload was sent elsewhere.

During 1928-1929, school was held at different locations, including Redeemer Lutheran Church. High school students went either to Columbia Heights or Edison. We had to provide our own transportation.

Pizza & Chips

Gloria Hayes

First the chips -- casino chips. The **Hinckley Casino Trip** in January attracted 46 people and earned the Society \$485. It also rewarded some of the travelers handsomely: \$2,800, \$700, and \$300 were the biggest winnings. You could be next!

The trip costs only \$5.00 and this is given back to you. Casino trips are the 3rd Wednesday of most months. Next trips are Feb. 20, Mar. 20, and May 15. The bus leaves The Commons Parking lot at 9 AM and returns by 4 PM. Contact Gloria at 763-571-3727 if you feel lucky. If you don't feel lucky, go anyway; you'll have lots of fun.

FHS has purchased 200 tickets from **Papa Murphy Pizza** at \$1 each, for members to resell at \$5 each. Tickets offer purchasers 8 specials, and if they use all 8 they save \$30. **COME ON FHS MEMBERS AND SELL THESE TICKETS!** Call Pete Bonesteel at 763-572-1009.

Kindergarten Open House

Betty Bacon & Corine Kirkham

Approximately 100 children and parents came to a kindergarten open house at the Museum December 8th. It was fun to see so many Mothers and Fathers, as well as Grandparents taking part.

Participating schools and teachers included Paula Griebel and Debbie Janssen, from Hayes; Janet Jarmann and Kathy Peacock at Stevenson; Terri Tucker, Sara Vegge, Karin Heil and Jenny Bell at North Park.

Thanks to all who brought cookies, and thanks to Lillian Meyer who took pictures of each child after they found their art and posed in front of the Christmas tree. Sue Meyers decorated the tree.



Jerry and Mel Manley helped hang students' pictures and other helpers were Mary and Pete Bonesteel, Esther Campbell, Sue Miskowic, and Tom Myrha.

Weather Permitting

Minnesota History Center Newsletter & 2001-2002 MN. Historical Society Qtly.

No matter what Minnesotans do, the weather is a part of it. A major exhibit on Minnesota weather opened January 20 at the **Minnesota History Center**. The exhibit draws upon the MN. Historical Society's collection that recalls the ordeals, the rituals, and the memories of living in Minnesota.

How many remember the 1940 Armistice Day storm? What about the 1952 and 1965 floods in which many Fridley residents lost their homes?

Everyone who lived in Fridley in 1965 recalls the three tornadoes that did major damage to Fridley and cost lives. The Fridley tornadoes are a major part of the exhibit and include the voices of a number of FHS members.

Those who have been to the History Center say that this exhibit is a must see. The re-creation of what it was like to be in your living room when the tornadoes struck is awesomely realistic, according to Sue Miskowic who visited the exhibit recently.

Plan to attend this must-see exhibit. Call the History Center at 651-296-6126 for the hours the Center is open.

Anoka County Historical Society Moves & Expands

The Anoka County Historical Society has moved. ACHS is now at 2135 - 3rd Avenue North in Anoka. The site is across the street from the County Government Building in the old Anoka County Library.

ACHS has expanded its research space many times over the space they had at Colonial Hall. They have eight separate reading tables, four microfilm readers, one reader/printer, a map table, and two computer stations with Internet access. There is lots of room for books, files and even a volunteer table!

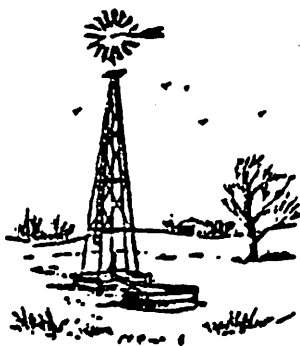
Those of us who use the ACHS facilities for research know what a wealth of material is there. The Anoka County Library is located in the building and has a reading room with about 1,000 books in the browsing collection. Books can be checked out by using the self-check machine.

The Anoka County Genealogical Society is also in the building, ready to answer your questions and provide help in compiling your family history.

Starting February 5, the Society is open from 9 to 5 Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 to 12:30 the first Saturday of each month. In an interview with Vickie Wendel, co-director of ACHS, she commented that there is a great deal of excitement with officers, patrons and staff at the opportunity this move offers residents of Anoka County. Telephone is 763-421-0600.



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



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street, N.E.
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 2
April - May, 2002

APRIL LASAGNE DINNER

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 4:30 P.M. Doors Open
5:00 P.M. Dinner

Place: Fridley Community Center

Program: Annual dinner followed by raffle—our major fund raiser. Selling raffle tickets is easy! Show friends, family and neighbors the donor list and the tickets will sell themselves. **HINT:** use return address labels on raffle tickets. Pick up tickets at Historical Society Thurs. eve., April 4, from 7 to 8 PM, or call Gloria Hayes: 763-571-3727

MAY MEETING

Date: Monday, May 13

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Fridley Museum

Program: Dale Krueger, State Farm Investigator, will speak on insurance fraud.

MAY CASINO TRIP

Date: Wednesday, May 15

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 PM

Place: Fridley Commons Parking
Lot. A bus trip to Hinckley

Program: \$25 ticket refunded on bus plus refreshments, cardo and cash drawing. Call 763-571-3727

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Don't be surprised if a neighbor of yours, knowing that you belong to the Fridley Historical Society, sometime in the near future begins to ask you about our organization.

In my column in the last Society Newsletter, I reported that the Board of Directors had adopted as an annual goal, the expansion of the membership roll. Since that time, each Officer and Director has created a list of people to be recruited for membership. A formal invitation is being sent each of them. Neighbors of yours may have received an invitation.

If you have a friend, neighbor, a club associate, or someone whom you feel would strengthen our Society and would be interested in joining, you can call me at 763-571-3342, or notify any member of the Board, and we will get an invitation to that person.

We are hoping and expecting to welcome to our organization a large new group of members at a reception in the Museum on Monday, May 13, 2002, at 6:30 PM. In the meantime, don't forget about our annual, big time Lasagna Dinner, Saturday, April 27, 2002, at the Fridley Community Center -- excellent food, live music, good conversations, and prizes galore!

Tom Myrha, President, FHS

Fridley's Fore

by Bill Campbell
1914 - 1994

A question rises from the past
Of where we were when men first put
A foot on Fridley's ground and cast
An eye about from limb to root
To dream a dream, a freedom dream
Amongst the bogs and grassland plain,
Along a gentle flowing stream,
Perhaps a field or two of grain.

These men, with wives, looked out afar
An built their ramparts on the hills
With hopes of dwelling 'neath the star
That guided them toward the mills
They knew some day would come to be
To bring surcease from trials of might,
They searched the land for company
To settle down from northward flight.

But we today can little know
The toils, The doubts that plagued their mind;
The tribulations that would flow
To test the strong, the weakly spined.
We only know they lit the lamps
That marked the trails a free
And therewith placed their stamps
On history for you and me.

Today the voices echo down
Through years of untold strifes and pains,
We know there's few that reached renown,
But somewhere mid the written strains
We've found that many a valored heart
Had trod this ground and been elated.
So Fridleyites today, in part
Can search the past and feel related.

Manley's Musings

by Jerry Manley

The lower level furnace quit working in mid-February so I had Sharp Heating and Air Conditioning come to repair it. The bill was not too painful but he did discover a couple small condensate leaks that would be quite costly. When the weather warms up, I'll shut down the furnace and see if I can plug the leak myself.

Dues SOS

The Historical Society has reached a crisis. Almost half of FHS members have not renewed their membership for 2002. Since FHS receives no public dollars, the future of the organization depends on membership dues, donations, and fund raisers.

FHS is grateful for your past support, and would like to count on your continuing support. If you are uncertain about having paid your 2002 dues, look on the lower right hand corner of your mailing label. A red dot will tell that you have not.

If you have not paid your 2002 dues, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Dues are only \$10 (individual), \$20 (church or club), \$50 business. Mail dues to Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. NE. Fridley, MN 55432.

Fridley Facts

Did you know that, in the middle of the 1920's, a New York City movie theater gave their patrons, along with their movie, the deed to a 25 foot lot in Fridley?

New Yorkers came to Fridley in droves only to discover their lots were too small on which to build.

Fridley's Early Settlers —Rognrud Family—

by Lisa Mattson

(Lisa is the great granddaughter of Louis Rognrud)

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

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

In April, 1888 Louis married a young woman named Anna Elsiabeth Benson. She was born in Smalland, Sweden and had arrived in Minnesota in 1884 at the age of 16. Her family had settled in Minnesota several years before her arrival.

Louis and Anna had 10 children together, of which 7 lived to adulthood. All of their children attended District #47 School in Blaine. One son, Wallie (Walter), served his country as an Army Sergeant in World War I. They attended St. Petri Lutheran Church.

Louis and Anna's ten children were:

1. Arthur Rognrud: born in Stoughton, WI. died at age 3 of diphtheria.
2. Baby Rognrud: died as an infant.
3. Teckla Albertina Rognrud: born 3-22-1890 in South Minneapolis. She married John S. Johnson in 1914.
4. Myrtle Rognrud: died at age 1 1/2 of summer complaint.
5. Walter Rognrud: born 1-22-1895 in South Minneapolis. He married Evelyn Therres in 1917.

6. Ruth Adeline Rognrud: born 9-14-1897 in South Minneapolis. She married George Wallin in 1920.

7. Alpha Linnea Rognrud: born 3-1-1901 in N.E. Minneapolis. She married Melvin "Roy" Rickaby in 1930.

8. Mildred Jeanette Rognrud: born 6-14-1904 in Fridley. She married Robert Johnson in 1924.

9. Olive Luella Rognrud: born 12-6-1906 in Fridley. She married Harry Johnson in 1924 and still lives in Fridley.

10. Louis Gordon Rognrud: born 1912 in Columbia Heights. He married Evelyn Bredsten in 1931.

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

In 1904, the family moved to an 80 acre farm near Wood Lake (now called Spring Lake) in Fridley. In 1910 they sold 40 acres to Carl Johnson and rented out the remaining 40 acres. The family moved to Minneapolis. In 1911 they moved to 1007 - 41st Avenue N.E. in Columbia Heights and a few years later moved back to the Fridley farm.

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

They were hard workers who had happy lives. They had 33 grandchildren and today have many descendants.

Your Self-Reliant Historical Society

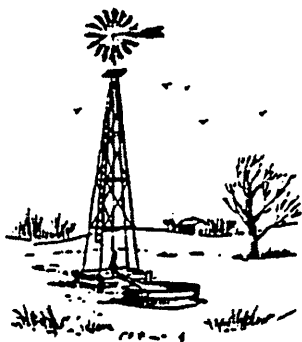
Gloria Hayes

The Fridley Historical Society depends entirely on its members for its financial viability. Here are ways that you can help keep the Society financially solvent and our building in good repair.

1. If there is a red dot after your name on the mailing label below, please pay your dues today.
 2. Come to our 12th Annual Lasagne Dinner and Raffle. For \$7.50, and no tax, you get lasagne, salad, garlic bread, ice cream bars, cookies, chocolate mint, coffee and orange drink. Call Gloria Hayes (763-571-3727) for dinner and raffle tickets or send a check (separate check for dinner ticket and separate check for raffle tickets) to FHS, 611 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432. You can pick up your tickets at the door. If you want tickets mailed to you, also enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
 3. Invite neighbors, relatives and friends to the Lasagne Dinner.
 4. Buy raffle tickets. We break-even on the dinner and earn our funds from the raffle.
 5. Sell raffle tickets to your neighbors, relatives, colleagues at work, and friends. Only \$1 a ticket, six for \$5 and twelve for \$10. And more than 50 items are being raffled. Just show them the list and the tickets sell themselves.
 6. Give yourself a gift—a casino trip to Hinkley and maybe some winnings. Our February Casino trip netted us \$461 and we had another B—I—G winner of \$5,000. The Hinkley trip is March 20 and the final trip before the Fall season will be May 15. Call Gloria Hayes (763-571-3727) for details.
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611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432



Fridley Historical Society

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Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Members' Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 3
July-August, 2002

7th Annual AUGUST FEST

Date: MONDAY, August 12
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Outdoors behind the Fridley Historical Museum, 611 Mississippi St.
Price: FREE
Program:

- Fridley City "Dixie" Band Concert
- Fridley Fire Engine Display
- Old-Fashioned Baseball Game:
The QuickSteps vs. Fridley Historical Society using 1857 rules & no gloves
- Free Refreshments following game
- Bring your own blanket or chairs

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date: Monday, September 9
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Fridley Historical Museum
Program: Minnesota's renowned author, Peg Meier will speak. Peg is an award winning reporter for the StarTribune and author of 5 books including "Too Hot, Went to Lake," "Bring Warm Clothes," and "Coffee Made Her Insane."

SEPT. CASINO TRIP

Date: Wednesday, May 15
Time: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 PM
See Fund Raising Article p.3 for details

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Before reflecting on the very successful spring season you Historical Society enjoyed, I want each of you to mark off Monday, August 12 and Monday, September 9 in your calendars.

*These two dates represent the scheduled times for the 7th Annual August Fest under the leadership of Lillian Meyer, and a highly entertaining September speaker. We have been successful in securing Peg Meier for a special program the evening of September 9. She is author of the Minnesota best-seller, Bring Warm Clothes. *

Peg Meier will capture our interest and attention with a slide show of old, old pictures from another of her successful books, Too Hot, Went to Lake. Her authorship is an important example of the importance of preserving the history of a family, an area, a region or state. She will sell and autograph her books and food will be served.

In April our Lasagne Dinner, under the chairmanship of Gloria Hayes, was a resounding success. We had a great evening of food, fun and frivolity. Best of all, the evening went onto become a top fund raiser of about \$2,700.

In May we concluded our membership drive and welcomed 66 new members into our Society. We had a reception for these new members, and all those who attended shared reminiscences of living in Fridley. Our speaker, Dale Krueger, insurance inspector, gave us some new insights on preventing insurance fraud.

Tom Myrha, President, FHS

Fund Raising

Gloria Hayes

Our May Casino Trip, and last for the summer, netted us \$508.91 for 49 people. I will be making up a list for the September 18 trip the middle of August, so please call me (763-571-3727) if you would like to go. Casino trips are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We serve refreshments and play games on the bus.

Our 12th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle was very successful with great food, entertainment from Fridley High School, 94 raffle items and wonderful friends to meet and dine with.

This is the only fund raiser in which every member can participate in some way, and many did.

We want to thank everyone who lended their support, including Bob Barnette, Tom Myrah, Robert Christenson, Jerry Manley, in legal affairs; Fridley H.S. Woodworking class for building picture frames; sponsors and donors for off-setting some of our food costs (Miller Funeral Home, The Novacks, Chuck Cleland, Gerry Herringer, George Bacon); raffle items donated by Society members including the Manleys, Debbie Johnson, Bunty Shaw, Dorothy Snackenber, Pete Bonesteel); raffle donor solicitors (Doris Bergman, Robert Christenson, Pete Bonesteel, Mary Sue Meyers, Tom Myrah;,, set-up and decorating (Robert Christenson, Tom Myrah, Lillian Meyers, Mary Sue Meyers, Chuck Hayes, the Manleys and Debbie and Jerry Johnson); photography by Robert Christenson; door prize accounting by Lillian Meyers;,, food line organization by Suzanne Miskowic; and special thanks to the "Flying Manley's who did many tasks including slinging Lasagna, announcing raffle winners, selling sports tickets etc. (Jerry, Marilyn, Matt, Mel, Melinda and grandchildren), and my husband, Chuck for transportation: "Thanks, Honey!" And I wrote individual thank you letters to each donor.

If anybody was left out, it was unintentional.

Manley's Musings

by Jerry Manley

During the summer of 1984, the District 14 School Board appointed a committee to determine what should happen to the "Old" Hayes School, aka the "Annex." The committee recommended closing the Annex, but a 40-member "Save the Annex Committee" was formed and was successful in saving the building.

The Fridley Historical Society, an outgrowth of this committee was incorporated in April, 1985. In 1987, the Hayes Annex became available for a long-term lease from the school district for \$1.00 per year. After renovation, the Fridley Historical society Museum held its Grand Opening June 12, 1990.

Since 1987, with donated money, materials and volunteer labor, we have upgraded all the plumbing and electric wiring.. We have spent close to \$150,000 on building and grounds improvements. A new roof was installed, the entire building insulated, two new furnaces and air conditioning units installed. A driveway, parking lot and sidewalks, and a security system put in.

The lower level, in terrible condition, was completely renovated. An additional handicapped access bathroom and a handicapped elevator were installed. All the old wood windows and storms were replaced with new fiberglass insulated ones. New hardwood floors put in classrooms and the rest of the building completed carpeted. A new aluminum flagpole replaced the rusted old steel one. New doors were installed front and back. The decrepit old front steps were removed and replaced.

All of this would have been impossible without the huge donations made to us by the City of Fridley, District 14 School Board, Fridley State Bank, Minnesota Historical Society, Fridley VFW Post, Fridley American Legion Post, and the many Fridley-based companies and individuals who made donations.

The Museum is open every Saturday, 12 - 2 PM except for holidays. And its air conditioned!

12th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle April 27, 2002 - Fridley Community Center



Check-In & Selling Tickets



Matt Manley calling winners
names drawn by Pres. Tom Myrha



Lasagna Servers: (left to right):
Marilyn Manley
Melinda Manley
Mary Sue Meyer

Betty and Herb Bacon.
Herb is Treasurer of
The Fridley Historical
Society.





(L to R) Earle & Adeline Christenson, Alice Hartman and Jean & Wally Ness



President Tom Myrha honoring Gloria Hayes, Chair of event, with corsage.



The Fridley High School Show Pops put on a spectacular musical performance.



(L to R) Norma Lindquist, Debbie Smith & Midge Rotter

≈ Jerry Manley & Grand Daughter selling Vikings and Saints Raffle Tickets to Adeline Christenson

Fridley Scandal - Part 1

Editor Note: This letter came into my possession 40 years ago. It was written by Hugh Gaynor, a Fridley resident, and addressed to Mr. Jerry Utley, President, Minnesota Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. It is dated May 17, 1961. The subject line of the letter is: "Subject: Fridley Scandal."

Dear Mr. Utley:

Attached is my check in the amount of \$135.00 to be applied against Mortgage Loan xx-xx-xx. This mortgage is owned by your good bank on my home at xxxx Buchanan Street N.E. in Fridley. You will note that as per our agreement, my monthly payments were to be, and have been, \$185.00. Fifty dollars per month was to be paid in taxes to the City of Fridley.

Normally I would, and did agree, that this is a convenient manner in which to pay necessary taxes. However, in light of the present conditions in Fridley, I am convinced that anyone who would pay taxes to this city could only be cited for participating in a fraud. I have no criminal inclinations, and refuse to become part of this inept travesty. My advice to you, sir, is that your good organization would withdraw from participation in this scandalous situation by refusing to collect taxes from other mortgagees in this area, or you will find yourself in a similar situation.

I do not know if you have the opportunity of personally seeing each development that you grant mortgages to, so let me draw you a mental picture.

Buchanan Street N.E. skirts the exact top of a ridge, overlooking Central Avenue, just south of Highway 100. Since the beginning of time, nature has managed to drain all water from where Buchanan Street now exists. As a matter of fact it would be quite an ingenious engineering feat to retain water at that height.

In August of 1959, I established contact with your bank through Mr. Phil Hirsch, a reputable contractor. Arrangements were made

to build the house at xxxx. It is a corner location and at the time, there was a very suitable dirt street in front and on one side. We were promised by the Fridley officials that the street would be paved with Tarvia yet that fall. While the house was under construction, that promise was changed to the Spring of 1960. We moved in, January 15, 1960, and in the Spring, the promise was changed to Summer; and in the Summer, it was changed to Fall.

But still there was no need of anger or complaint from myself or our neighbors. We had a very accessible dirt street. It was dry on almost all occasions, as the natural slope could take care of the Monsoons of India. Except for the infrequent complaints of the housewives about a little dust, we were all content to await the very simple job of putting Tarvia on our streets. We assumed our City Planners were burdened by the rapid growth of the area, hence the delay -- but patience would prevail.

How complacent we were! We reckoned without any knowledge of the monumental stupidity of the Bureaucrats of Fridley. Having spent the Spring, Summer, and Fall without ever seeing so much as a grading machine from Fridley, our quietude was rudely broken one cold morning by the arrival of the most decrepit assortment of earth moving equipment one could imagine. Alexander Botts, the inimitable tractor salesman, has never described his competitors' equipment in deprecating terms that would fit this pile of obsolescence. Scoop shovels with no teeth in the scoop, frayed cables and worn engines. Bull dozers that couldn't bull Ferdinand. Pick-up trucks with no "pick-up."

With a great amount of cheers and "laying on of hands", this group of workmen loudly congratulated each other for having successfully gotten these tired, old machines up our hill. The scene was reminiscent of the meeting of the Conquerors of Mt. Everest -- they had achieved the impossible.

This letter will be continued in the next issue.

Fridley Edition: The Record 1965

The Historical Society has every edition of the Fridley Record newspaper for the year 1965. Back then, this was a 24 - 32 page full-size newspaper. We will offer excerpts from our collection of 1965 Fridley Records in coming issues. Editor

Fridley's Reconstruction To Be Televised Fridley Record, Volume 42 #15, September 8, 1965

Fridley Mayor William Nee announced this week WCCO-tv is planning a major half-hour, nighttime television program showing the progress the city has made in rebuilding after the tornado. Filming will start in the city this week.

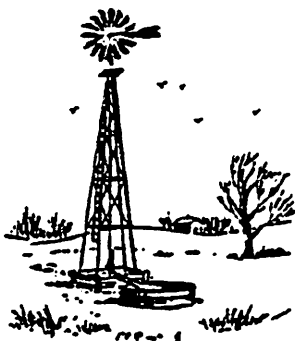
"I suggested this program to WCCO-tv about a month ago," said Mayor Nee, "and I'm happy to announce that the station has secured a sponsor for the program and that they have tentatively scheduled the broadcast for the evening of October 8.

The Mayor went on to call for the help and cooperation of all Fridley residents in the project. "This program is of importance to all of us in Fridley. It will show prospective investors and homebuyers we've bounced back even bigger and better than ever before. It will show the vitality and the determination we have to create good out of the debris of this disaster.

"It's especially important that we spruce up the city," said the Mayor. "Last week we ordered a final swing through the tornado-damaged areas to pick up and dispose of the remaining wrecks and the construction trash that some builders have been leaving on the streets and boulevards. I hope we can count on everybody to help keep the city especially neat for the next few weeks while WCCO-tv film crews are working here."



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Fridley Historical Society

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Members' Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 4
September, 2002

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date: Monday, September 9
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Fridley Historical Museum
Program: Minnesota's award-winning author, Peg Meier will speak. Peg is a reporter for the StarTribune and author of 5 books including "Bring Warm Clothes," and "Coffee Made Her Insane." She will present a slide program of pictures from her book, "Too Hot, Went to Lake," and will sell and autograph books. A light buffet supper will be served. (see page 3)

OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Monday, October 14
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Fridley Historical Museum
Program: Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting is when the Society elects new board members and officers, gathers ideas and recommendations from members, amends the bylaws and celebrates the successes of the past year. There are a number of bylaws changes, so be sure to be in attendance.

SEPT. CASINO TRIP

Date: Wednesday, September 18
Time: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM
See Fund Raising page 2 for details

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

During the months of June and July, Gloria and I spent about five weeks on vacation in Northwest North Dakota, the childhood home area for both of us.

We had a delightful but crowded time living in Gloria's actual home with our children and their families. We ventured out once as far as a 4-day camping trip to Medora, ND. AND we are indebted to VP Jerry Manley, who efficiently and effectively took on all the FHS executive duties, while Agnes Shaw temporarily returned to the Board to assume the secretarial tasks, while our family played full time in the sun.

The Board of Directors as a whole expeditiously carried on as usual. Major events taking place during my absence included the Fridley 49'ers Days and the Miss Fridley Pageant, both events which your Society helped stage; the publication of another Newsletter; and all the preparations for our August Fest. Society member Lillian Meyer headed up this successful event. A local team, the Rum River Lumber lads, fortified by our own Mel Manley, took the Quicksteps to the woodshed. Your prexy is once again assured that hard-hitting beats out pitching and fielding regardless of whether the playing rules are 1890 or 1980 vintage. (See stories pages 4 & 5)

Elsewhere in this publication you will find more information about our September 9th meeting. The Board in early April began planning to bring Peg Meier in as our speaker.

(continued Page 4)

Fund Raising

Gloria Hayes

Are you interested in having a fun day of gaming, lunching and visiting with friends? Gather a group of friends, neighbors and relatives. We've got just the ticket for only \$5.00—which will be returned on the bus.

The Casino trips to Grand Casino Hinckley are our bread and butter fund raisers that pay for the Museum's daily expenses each month and keeps our doors open!

We leave from the Commons parking lot at 9 AM and return at 5 PM. Refreshments are served on board and our own "Cardo" game is played (at no cost to you) for Cash Prizes.

The trips are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Circle these dates on your calendar:

September 18

October 16

November 20

Reserve your ticket by calling Gloria Hayes, 763-571-3727 or if you'd like more information, just give me a call.

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley

The Fridley Historical Society is in the process of developing a Fridley Hall of Fame. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those who, through dedication, work and accomplishment have contributed significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley. Also, to bring to the attention of the public, the city of Fridley by so honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to its success.

Each year nominations to the Hall of Fame will be requested by the Fridley Historical Society. From these nominations the Board of Directors will elect the new inductees. The inductees will be honored at the Fridley Historical Society's annual lasagna dinner in April.

September Meeting

Char Fitzpatrick

The September meeting of the Fridley Historical Society is one that members will not want to miss. Peg Meier, a reporter for the StarTribune, will be the speaker.

Peg Meier is not a stranger to FHS. In 1999, Pam Meyers third grad class at Stevenson School requested that I come and speak to the class about the history of Fridley. It was the year that the Museum put on a new roof.

Jerry Reitter, Secretary of FHS and retired Principal of Stevenson School, wrote a letter to all the educators in District 14 requesting either donations or membership dues to FHS to help pay for the roof. Pam Meyers class got a hold of it and decided that they would make a donation to the roof fund.

They donated one hundred and seven dollars. The children did not ask their parents for the money, but earned it by raking leaves, selling some of their toys, and baby sitting.

I was so impressed with these children and called the StarTribune and Peg Meier called me and arranged to meet with the class. She came out and talked with the children.

Pam Meyer had arranged for a bus so that the children could go and visit the Museum and tour three Fridley historical sites.

Peg Meier rode the bus with them. She wrote a wonderful story about these kids. There is a copy of the article at the Museum. The Time Line on the wall in the lower level meeting room was made by this class.

Be sure to come and hear Peg Meier on Monday evening, September 9th. And bring some friends who could be potential members. They will NOT be disappointed at the wonderful program you have invited them to.

Fridley Scandal - Part 2

Editor Note: In Part 1, the composer of this very humorous letter addressed to Minnesota Federal, describes how he built a house in Fridley in 1959 but had to endure unpaved streets and other ineptitudes of workers.

Questions brought me the answer that (workmen) were there to put in Storm Sewers. I was amazed - the workmen were amazed - our neighbors were amazed - and all we could figure is that the City Planners of Fridley had a poker debt to pay. We needed storm sewers on that hill like we needed extra heads. But like the nurse with the enema bottle -- good or bad -- it is orders from Headquarters, and you're going to get it.

This old Scoop Shovel had lost any ability it ever had to do any scooping in sand, let alone tackle Buchanan Street N.E., now hardened by approaching winter. Not having the guts to tear in and rip out the dirt, it resorted to pounding it into a softened condition and then lifting it out in minute scoops. It was much like the old, toothless man eating a steak.

The constant pounding put cracks in the surrounding homes; broke decorative mirrors; and cracked windows. Because it had to mulch the earth before it could scoop it out, it had to make the ditch three times as wide as would be necessary, which meant ripping up our lawns and driveways. But much like the Ancients who built the Pyramids, they got the ditch dug by mid-winter.

Installing the concrete pipes was an act only to be described by Mark Twain. Their primitive methods involved driving large stakes into all the new sod -- to accommodate the mounting of a \$1.44 level and a 10¢ bob. It took so much time that in the January thaws, mud, snow, water, and sand got into all of the pipes.

The job of back-fill was a classic. The mounds of dirt from the ditch had hardened somewhat and it was really a laugh to watch

the little, tired, old Bull Dozers run up to the piles each morning, come to a complete stop. When the blade hit the pile of dirt, tracks would slip as all the lugs were worn off, the engine would spit for an instant, then cough and die. After a few attempts each day, the drivers would give up and go back to their cars, turn on the motor and heater, and sit all day watching the old scoop shovel mulching away up the street. As the weeks passed, we noticed the drives of the Bull Dozers didn't even turn off their car motors or heaters when they came to work. They knew what was going to happen, so they kept the cars nice and warm.

In the Spring, when the earth thawed out, the tired old Dozers were able to push the dirt back into the ditch, but now the obsolete Graders just don't have the strength to do any grading. So we have ruts you could hide in. Just real dandy for alignment settings and shock absorbers on our cars.

But back at xxxx Buchanan; here we have a dandy. As I told you, it is a corner location, and this is where it all started. Here is where the junction "man holes" are located, and where the storm sewers are to meet with those they intend putting in to a new-planned street going down the hill. Here is where they dug a hole they can really be proud of. As holes go, this is one we will remember all our lives, as it has been ours to look at for so long. Here the piles of dirt that have blocked the street for eight months are so high that any Bull Dozers this outfit owns wouldn't even dare attack. So this crew has adopted a new modus-operandi.

Our home has huge picture windows both downstairs and up. So we can watch this scene from all angles. Each morning, promptly at 7:45, the workmen arrive in several cars. They park in advantageous positions so they can look at their hole. At about 8:10, the foremen arrive. Yes, I said plural. One gets out of his car and goes over to his cohort's. He has parked in a good position so that the two of them can sit and admire the hole.

This letter will be continued in the next issue.

This is bound to be a fun evening as she presents a slide show of Minnesotans, old and young, rich and poor, going about living during the very distinct four seasons that we enjoy. To make the evening complete, Ms. Meier will stick around to sell and autograph her books, and to join us in partaking of a free, light supper buffet.

When you check your calendar to make sure you've kept the Monday, September 9th date clear, turn to the October page and put a red circle around Monday, October 14th, the night set aside for our annual meeting. At that time we'll vote on the newly amended bylaws of the Society, and elect new officers and Board members.

As our president, and as a person with some modest experience in writing a family history, I'm suggesting that any member who is considering doing that same thing (a sizable number of you so indicated on your membership application last spring), should all get together for an informal meeting at the Museum on Thursday, September 19th, at 7 p.m.

There we can talk about what kind of a family history—a genealogy? a collection of memories? a memoir? a taped interview? a video? or simply an account of some particular time (WWII) in some particular person's or family's life.

Over refreshments we can discuss such things as those above, plus who will be the intended reader, what is a reasonable time limit, should we set up some kind of a regularly scheduled writing session, should we seek the help of a professional teacher, and any other question or topic. (On page 5 is information about a "class" of just this type by Kate Kysar of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. Note reduced class cost for Fridley Historical members).

Attending this get-together in no way commits you to any kind of future obligation.

Tom Myhra, President

DEAR MEMBER:

Were You There?

Sue Miskowic, Past President

As I toured the grounds, visiting with old and new friends at our recent 7th Annual August Fest, I was truly disappointed not to have the opportunity to meet at least some of the many new members of the Fridley Historical Society.



The QuickSteps 1857 Baseball Team

As we are all aware, joining an organization gives everyone a chance to broaden their horizons in many ways.

You are all cognizant that on the 9th of September we will have an excellent speaker—author Peg Meier. Do make an effort to attend—and stay a bit longer to enjoy the camaraderie. We would so enjoy meeting you.

The Board of Directors will be presenting soon, for your approval, a slate of officers and board members for the coming year. If you are interested in giving one night a month as a board member, committee member or volunteer—have a knowledge in or specialty you could share, the Board members would be pleased to hear from you. Give this some serious thought, and if you want to be more active, call Jerry Johnson, Chair of the Nominating Committee: 763-572-0238. See you on September 9th!!

Write Your Family History

The Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts (BLCA) is offering classes for those who want to write family histories, or poetry or autobiographies. The classes are held at BLCA, 6666 East River Road, Fridley. All classes are taught by BLCA Writer-in-Residence, Kate Kysar.

"Writing Your Life"

**Two Saturdays: September 7 and 21
9:30 a.m. — 12:30 PM**

BLCA Members (and Fridley Historical Society Members) \$37. Non-Members: \$42

This class is for people who completed the Writing Your Life workshop (call BLCA for details: 763-574-1850) *or* others who are working on writing memoir, family histories, or autobiographies.

This two part workshop will start with some writing warm-ups, then move into a discussion on technique. We will learn how to critique and spend our remaining time workshopping manuscripts. Writers are encouraged to bring copies of a work-in-progress (ten pages or less) to share with the group.

Writers Wanted to Join the BLCA Writers' Group

The group will meet mornings, on the last Saturday of the month. Kate Kysar, BLCA Writer-in-Residence, will help launch the group.

All writing forms are welcome. Group members will provide support, share writing resources, experience, and lively conversation. All levels of experience desired.

Kate Kysar will be available during regular office hours for private consultations after the first two group meetings.

The Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Telephone: 763-574-1850

Email: banfilllocke@usfamily.net

Website: www.banfill-locke.org

August Fest Lillian Meyer

What a fun evening for those who came to our August 12th event at the Fridley Historical Museum: the 7th Annual August Fest!

First we heard the Fridley City Band's Dixieland group play great toe-tapping lively tunes. It really made folks want to hum along!



Fridley Firefighter D. J. Wojtowicz & Admirers

Have you seen our newest fire engine? It was at the Museu and everyone had an opportunity to see every inch of this fine machine.

Mayor Scott Lund came and greeted the audience. He also introduced Fridley's Queen and her two princesses.

Next the "Quicksteps" played 1857-style baseball using rules from that era. (For example, a one-bounce catch was an "out"!) Playing against them for Fridley were the Rum River Lumber Company's team. The ball used is much softer than a baseball or a softball, but these fellows still could hit it a good distance.

Both teams were in uniform. The Quicksteps were in 1857 style garb. The Rum River players wore matching T-shirts.

To top the evening, everyone was invited to refreshments and to chat with the participants.

Editor's Note: The Quicksteps and old time baseball in Minnesota are featured in the September 2, 2002 issue of Fortune magazine.

Fridley Edition: The Record 1965

The Historical Society has every edition of the Fridley Record newspaper for the year 1965. Back then, this was a 24 - 32 page full-size newspaper that sold for 10¢ per copy. Editor

Lead Stories for the Fridley Record, Volume 41 #33, January 20, 1965

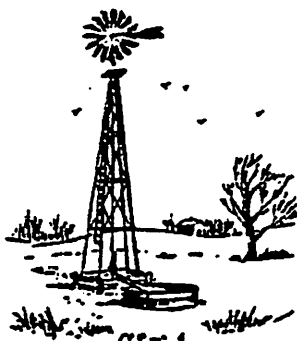
Council Hears Street Gripes Fridley's mayor William Nee said in answer to many local citizens gripes on the number of streets up for proposed improvement, "I have no intention to cover all of Fridley with blacktop." In all, parts of 33 streets were considered and residents along these streets had the choice of a 30 or 36 foot street being installed or if they wanted a new street at all.

Court Battle Presages Stormy Seas for NSSSD Efforts to provide sewer service to communities of the North Suburban area have met with stormy seas, and a court battle that opened this week looks like another gale. . In the first place, both Minneapolis and St. Paul have public water intakes on the Mississippi River in Fridley. . Secondly, the area is located upstream from the core cities causing concern about communities having treatment facilities of their own. . Thirdly, the growth rate in the North area has far exceeded expectations. . Fourth, the cost of providing service to the area is high. Farmers organized into groups and strongly opposed having to pay a share of the cost for this service at this time.

Council Declares War on "Junker" Parking Junky cars are not legal in Fridley the city council has declared in recent action. Now amended to chapter 39 of the city code, "No person in charge or control of any property within the city...shall allow any partially dismantled, nonoperating, wrecked, junked, or discarded vehicle to remain on such property longer than 96 hours...What the ordinance boils down to is that you better avoid calling your car a piece of junk simply because it won't start at 20 below. Somebody might fine you \$100, or throw you in jail, or both!



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Members' Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 5
October 2002

OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Monday, October 7

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Fridley Historical Museum

Program: ANNUAL MEETING

- **Speaker: David Nimmer**

Nimmer is a well-known TV journalist, a professor, a raconteur, and a writer who spots the incongruities of living in a modern world. His presentation is entitled: "On Encountering Middle Age"

- **Annual Business Meeting**

We will be electing a new President, a Secretary, and two board members (see article on page 2). We will also be voting on revising the Society's By-Laws (see article on pages 2 & 3). And we will be conducting other official business. All active members are eligible to vote on the board election, amendments to the By-Laws, and other official business.

- **Potluck dinner served.**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As a kid it always seemed to me that the real beginning of a new year began in the fall when you went back to school in a higher grade and everything took on a new life. I've finally accepted the fact that January 1 begins a new year, but old feelings linger.

In our Society's affairs, that feeling to me is strong. Beginning with the August Fest, the pace of happenings seems moving faster all the time. It's an exciting time for our organization. This month we enjoyed a well-attended September meeting highlighted by Peg Meier's slide show of old pictures she had used in her book, "Too Hot, Gone to the Lake." And immediately after we had to begin planning for the next event.

Coming up on October 14 is our annual meeting. This year we are planning for an extra large turnout. Not only will the members be electing new officers and board members, but will be asked to approval a sizable number of changes to our By-Laws, plus other official business.

But the evening will not be all work. Our program will feature David Nimmer speaking on "On Encountering Middle Age." Nimmer is a professor, journalist, raconteur, and a writer who spots the incongruities of living in a modern world. A pot luck dinner ends the evening.

We are extending a special invitation to this year's new members who will be attending their first annual meeting.

Tom Myhra, President

OCTOBER CASINO TRIP

Date: Wednesday, October 16

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM

Bus will depart the Fridley Commons parking lot. Call Gloria Hayes at 763-571-3727 for more information.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society will take place on Monday evening, 7:00 PM, at the Museum.

Official business includes the election of officers and board members and revision of the By-Laws.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee consisting of Jerry Johnson, Chair, plus Gloria Hayes and Mel Manley, offer the following candidates to be elected as officers. Their term of office will be from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004.

- President: Robert Christenson
- Secretary: Pat Jaakkola

Both candidates are current members of the Board of Directors and have not held office in the Society previously.

Christenson was appointed to the Board in January, 2002, to fill the remaining term of Elaine Reitter. He is a business and health consultant who was born and raised in Fridley. His father, Art, was born in Fridley in 1902 and other family members came to Fridley in the late 1800's. Robert is past president of the Fridley Lions Club, former Executive Manager and board member of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, and has served on various City of Fridley commissions.

Pat Jaakkola, was appointed as Secretary at the September board meeting and now is nominated to be Secretary for an additional two years. Pat was born and raised in Fridley, and her three children all graduated from Fridley High School. Pat is an Executive Assistant at a management compensation firm in Minneapolis.

Other officers not up for reelection are Jerry Manley, Vice President, and Debbie Smith, Treasurer. Both continue to serve as officers until December 31, 2003. Debbie was appointed to the the Board in September to fill the role of Treasurer, replacing Herb Bacon. Debbie Smith

moved with her family to Fridley in 1966 and attended Fridley schools. She has lived in Fridley for most of her life. She is an Information Technology Supervisor for a promotional products company.

Election of Directors

The Nominating Committee offers the names of the following members to serve on the Board of Directors for the term commencing January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2005:

- Pete Bonesteel - current board member
- Robert Christenson -new board member in January, 2002
- Mel Manley -current board member
- Debbie Smith -new board member in September, 2002

Amendments to By-Laws

In July, 2002, President Myhra appointed Robert Christenson (board member) as Chair, Sue Miskowic (Immediate Past President and board member) and Lillian Meyer (former President) to a special committee to make recommendations on any changes deemed necessary to the By-Laws.

The By-Laws Committee proposed a number of amendments which were reviewed at the September board meeting. After making a few revisions, the Board approved sending the amendments to the Society membership for review and to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

Members can view the new By-Laws by coming to the Museum on Saturday, September 28 or October 5, between 12 and 2 PM, or call President Tom Myhra at 763-571-3342, or the Chair of the By-Laws Committee, Robert Christenson at 763-574-7267.

The most significant changes proposed to the By-Laws are summarized on Page 3.

Key By-Laws Amendments (*in italics*)

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

2. *"Persons who become members after August 1 of the year in which they join shall pay 50% of the established annual dues."* Formerly, you paid full dues regardless of what month you joined.

4.b (Dues) *"Family membership is \$15 for two adults of the same household."* In the current By-Laws, all family members pay dues of \$10 each.

"Nonprofit membership \$25" - was \$20

"each non-profit or business member shall designate one member to be voting member." - not specified in existing By-Laws.

Article IV - OFFICERS

The current By-Laws had a number of sections relating to board membership mixed in with sections on Officers. The amended section on Officers now pertains only to officers. We also clarified the role of the nominating committee.

"The president and secretary shall be elected in even number years and the vice president and treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years." Established so that the entire set of officers does not change in a single year.

Article V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"The board shall be comprised of officers and seven directors." There are four officers, so the board is constituted by 11 members. In the existing By-Laws, there are 13 board members. The size of the board is being reduced to be more efficient, while at the same time seeking to gain the participation of more committee members from the general membership.

"The first board meeting of the calendar year will be held on the first Thursday in January (unless it falls on January 1, and then it will be held the second Thursday in January. At this board meeting, the board shall establish the times and places of board meetings for the remainder of the year." In the current By-Laws, each board members had to be sent a written

notice or be contacted by telephone informing them of each board meeting.

9. *"Should a director be absent from three (3) consecutive board meetings during the year, the office may be declared vacant and a new director appointed by the board."* Under current By-Laws, the board had to declare the office vacant if a board member missed three consecutive meetings. It has not been enforced because some board members have excuses for missing three consecutive meetings deemed acceptable to the rest of the board.

10. *"There shall be a limit of three annual terms to which a board member may be elected. After a board member has been absent from the board for one calendar year, then he/she may then be reelected to the board."* Currently there are no term limits for board members.

Article VII - MEETINGS

1. *"The annual meeting shall be held on the second Monday of October in each year."* No specific date is currently set for the annual meeting except that it be in October.

Article VIII - COMMITTEES

1. (new) *"The Society shall have the following standing committees: a Nominating Committee, an Audit & Finance Committee, a Fund Raising Committee, a Membership Committee, and an Archives Committee."* There have been no standing committees until now, and it was felt that the Society would be better served with more active participation in the affairs of the Society by the general membership.

Article XII - SIGNING of OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

(new) This paragraph details who is authorized to sign official documents for the Society (president and secretary, or in the absence of one or the other, the vice president).

There are a number of other changes to the By-Laws that were not deemed as significant as those above. They will be read at the meeting.

Fund Raising

Gloria Hayes

After a really slow start and more telephone calls than I care to think about—we had 45 folks on our September 18 trip to Hinckley Casino. The bus trip is always fun.

After signing in, orange drink and cookies are served. Then we play four or five “Cardo” games and one or two ticket drawings for \$2.00 bills. We give \$12.00 away.

We would love to have someone lead in a sing-a-long on the way back, but so far no one has surfaced to do this.

For all of our new members joining the Society, I hope some of you will join us on our next trips October 16 or November 20. We always go on the 3rd Wednesday.

The bus leaves from the Fridley Commons Parking lot on 61st and 7th Avenue at 9 AM and returns at 5 PM. The cost is \$5.00 which is returned on the bus. Some of the groups go for breakfast while others meet for lunch while comparing their winnings (hopefully).

Please call me (763-571-3727) for more information on reservations. I start taking reservations by the 25th of the preceding month (September 25 for the October 16 trip).

Bob's Produce Fund Raiser

Bob Schroer held a fund raiser for the Society on Saturday, September 21, at his Produce Ranch on University and Osborne Road. There were hundreds of books offered for sale to the public, of which the Society received 20% of all sales.

Lillian and John Meyer, Sue Miskowic and President Tom Myhra manned a table for the event. The Fridley mobile band shell was also parked on the property, with a polka band entertaining all of the shoppers.

Around the County Quilt

The Anoka County Historical Society is creating an “Around the County” quilt. The goal is to have each community within Anoka county represented by a “block” on the quilt.

Each block is an eighteen-inch square onto which some motif has been sewn that suggests its home community. Some communities have selected their city's logo, or a prominent building or landmark.

The Board of Directors is seeking a Fridley resident to sketch the motif, select the fabrics and appliqué the block. If you can help, please call Tom Myhra, president of the Fridley Historical Society. Be part of a project that will create a legacy of beauty representing Fridley, and will be a testament to Anoka County's spirit of community.

Members of the Fridley Historical Society who live in other Anoka County communities can also call the Anoka County History Center, 763-421-0600, if they are interested in a quilt block for their city.

Meier Draws Large Crowd

The Historical Society enjoyed a huge turnout Sep 9th to hear Peg Meier discuss early Minnesota history and show slides depicting what life was like in the early years of Minnesota.



Peg Meier autographs her books for Pat Jaakkola, the Society's new Secretary.

Fridley Scandal - Part 3

Editor Note: In Part 2, this Fridley homeowner described the fruitless attempts of a construction crew to put water & sewer lines in the street in front of his house during the winter of 1959.

"Along about 8:45, the job engineer arrives. Now you can tell he is an Engineer because he has a steel ruler and an Assistant. Also, he doesn't just sit and admire the hole. He gets out of his car right away and with his assistant goes right up to it and studies it with jaundiced eyes.

What they see must scare them, because they quickly run over to the Foremen's car, climb in, and the whole group study the "funny papers." In the construction business, the blue-prints are called "funny papers," and in this case it is an apt phrase.

This daily studying is witnessed in glum silence by the workers. They just sit and stare at their hole. I imagine, though, that they must feel a bit left out of it, as after a while one of them will open the car window, reach a hand out, and if the wind isn't blowing too strong, he withdraws the hand slowly. This, apparently, is a signal to the others, for they all get out of their cars and walk right up there to admire their hole. Their admiration must be great, because they stand and look at it so long. This situation is only varied by rain. In this case, they don't even put the hand out.

By 9:30, the Foremen and Engineers have reached an impasse. They get out of the car with the 'funny papers' and start to argue with much gesticulation. After a while, the Engineer and his Assistant jump in their car and rush off. The Foremen signal the workers, and they leave en masse for the Embers Cafe down on Central Avenue, and their Coffee Break.

At first, we all used to be upset about where the Engineer and his Assistant went. But time has taught us that they go back to the Fridley City Hall to enlist the aid of the Surveyors.

Now this is good. Because after the Surveyors and the Engineer and his assistant have coffee, they all come back. By this time, the workers and Foremen have returned from their coffee, and they all make a real, fine-looking group.

The workers, foremen, and Engineer, with his Assistant, all park their cars right in the deep ruts so they have all of the streets blocked that are not blocked by their hole. But in these strategic positions, they are able to watch the Surveyors to see that they do no serious act to their hole. Also, it makes a nice setting to crack open their lunch boxes, because by the time the Surveyors have gotten a transit sighted on the hole, and the Stickman has climbed to the top of the mounds of dirt, it is lunch time.

This is not meant to be facetious, but by actual count I can prove that this hole has been surveyed more often than the Homestake Gold Mine.

After lunch, the Surveyors consult with the Engineer and his Assistant, while the workers watch them enviously. With their "funny papers" and Surveyor's note pad, they skirt the edge of the hole, even to the top of the precipitous mounds of dirt. Whatever it is they are looking for, they must see, because they all seem happy about this time and decide to let the workers in on it. They all pool cars and the entire group leaves for the afternoon coffee-break at Embers.

When they return, the workers lower themselves into the hole. And forthwith, with the Engineer, his assistant, and the Surveyors cheering them on, shovelfuls of dirt begin to pop out of the hole. The dirt is thrown up on the lee side of our hill, and it makes a fine dam. Because they are expecting rain, which does come, which lets them go home early.

The final episode of this saga will be printed in the next newsletter. This is an authentic letter addressed to Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan. It provides humorous insight to the 1959 struggles of building streets, water and sewer lines in the fast-growing suburb of Fridley.

Fridley Edition: The Record 1965

The Historical Society has every edition of the Fridley Record newspaper for the year 1965. Back then, this was a 24 - 32 page full-sized newspaper that sold for 10¢ per copy with more news than advertising. Editor

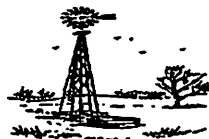
Lead Stories for the Fridley Record, Volume 41 #36, February 10, 1965

Group Aims At Improved City Image; Slogan Contest Slated The Fridley City Image Committee, made up of representatives from various civic groups and the city government, have decided to conduct a contest to create a slogan for the city...Dave Harris, chairman of the committee, said the selected slogan would appear on envelopes and letterheads plus the billboards which will be erected on the outskirts of Fridley when the new highway systems are completed.

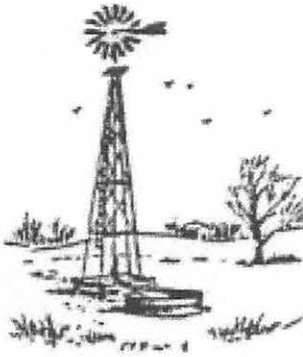
New Census Will Get Underway A mid-decade census will be conducted in Fridley starting April 1 and lasting 10 days announced city manager Earl Wagner. . .The 1960 census figures show Fridley to have a population of 15,173 giving the city a total of about \$45,000 in revenue from the state in cigarette and liquor taxes. The present population in Fridley is suspected to be almost 30,000.

Anybody for Acting? Footlighters Looking Always wanted to be in the theater? Here's your chance. Mrs. William Linton, president of the Footlighters, a local theater group, announced the date for public tryouts for their spring production, "Everybody Loves Opal," this week.

Undefeated Twins Aid Fridley in Title Quest When a coach has a fine athlete on his squad he can usually rest at ease when the athlete is in action. But in the case of Fridley wrestling coach Don Meyers, he has this situation in double with Terry and Tony Sworski. The senior twins are two reasons why Fridley is rated the number one wrestling team in the state. .The two tiger aces have the greatest respect for Meyers. Tony said at a recent practice, "We have really learned a lot about wrestling from him."



Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432
Robert Christenson, Editor
763-574-7267



FHS Record

Fridley Historical Society Vision: 2003 by Robert Christenson, President-Elect

Upcoming Events

**Kids from Fridley
Holiday Choir
Concert
Monday,
December 9,
7 PM
Fridley Historical
Museum**

**Kindergarten
Holiday Open
House
Saturday,
December 14,
11 AM — 3 PM
Fridley Historical
Museum**

See back page for details!

At our November membership meeting, I had the privilege of leading a discussion about the future of the Historical Society and sharing some of my thoughts about structure and initiatives for the coming year.

We had wonderful participation from the members, as you will note below. I began by asking, "What is working really well now?" Responses:

- The Museum
- Socializing of the members
- Participation of the Society in community affairs
- Having well-known speakers at monthly meetings
- Involving kids in Society events
- Loyalty of past and present Fridley residents

Next I asked, "What can we add, change, or improve upon?" Responses:

- Lend our history to other organizations, traveling exhibits, exchanges with other historical societies
- Reach out to recruit younger members
- Publish a book of history of Fridley
- Create a speaker's bureau to tell our story
- Collect more personal fam-

ily histories

- Connect to students and parents through the school system
- Pursue more donations of artifacts while owner's still here
- Publish an article in the City of Fridley newsletter
- Create a special event to tie in to each Saturday Museum open house
- Extend museum hours on Saturdays
- Develop exchange programs with different cultural groups in Fridley
- Develop our own Historical Society web site
- Add more activities to monthly membership meetings
- Produce a cable TV show about the Society
- Participate in the Fridley Lions' Christmas event for seniors
- Resurrect the Fridley Free Press, Fridley's first newspaper

Finally, I shared my A-B-B-C vision for the coming year **Activate the Membership** see article on page 3 regarding *Opportunities to Serve*. We need many more people than just the Board Members involved in plan-

ning and delivering Society services and activities if any of the above ideas are to come to fruition.

Build the Membership: We now have 172 members, and I believe we can grow the Society to 300 members by the end of 2003.

Broaden the Membership: We need many more young members and the programs to attract them. And we need more members from the diverse cultures that are populating our community and adding to its rich heritage.

Celebrate Membership: We need to create ways to both do good for our City and have fun doing it. This includes entertaining activities at monthly membership meetings, annual awards dinner, and special events like tours of historical sites in Minnesota.

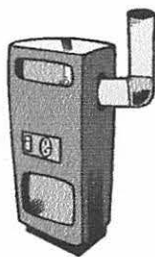
To bring these initiatives to life and make things happen, we need structure and participation. I will be forming 11 different committees to carry out our plan for 2003, and will need broad participation of the membership on these committees if we are to make progress. (see next page)

(from page 1)

For those of you unable to attend the November meeting, please either e-mail me your ideas of what you want the Society to do in 2003 to make your membership more valuable (rchriss@pobox.com), or mail your ideas to "President, Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432."

Together we can make the Fridley Historical Society the leading organization celebrating Fridley as an ideal place to live and a wonderful place to remember. §

"That \$150 in 1948 would now likely be \$1,500. I certainly was a free-roller back then."



Hopefully, our members will consider making a donation to a special fund we could set up to cover the cost of furnace replacement when the time comes.

Casino Trips Provide Re-Education

by Tom Myhra, President

This fall I've been a part of the monthly trips to the Hinckley Casino, an experience I thought never would happen to me.

When I was 18-19 years old, I was lucky enough to get my first job off the farm that paid real money. I was named Assistant County Agent for 4-H Club development, and the salary was \$150 a month. Did I also say that I was single, carefree, and apparently foolish, if not mindless?

Gambling Montana was located next door in Westby, where one-armed bandits lined up shoulder to shoulder. There I went with \$150 cash in my pocket, but not for long. The night was long as I moved from the nickel machines to quarter machines. Then virtual reality appeared, and I realized that I had spent rent and food money needed for the next month. I needed to get my money back and fast, so I moved to the dollar

machines, the so-called silver cartwheel slots.

Common decency tells me I must spare you the details of the final plunge into poverty. My financial picture the next morning was put to shame as though I were the poorest third-world nation. You can guess why I didn't apprise my folks of my dire economics. It took me six months to recover. I began by vowing that I would never again enter the door of a gambling enterprise.

This vow was rattled a bit in graduate school when I encountered C. L. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters." For those of you who have never had this book assigned to you, you need to know that pushing good things to the extreme captures as many folks for Stan as Screwtape wrote to his nephews who did go to casinos, and didn't put a month's pay through the slot machines.

That \$150 in 1948 would now likely be \$1,500. I certainly was a free-roller back then.

But back to the current casino trips. I've gone to several, and they're fun. Snacks, pop, games, and chatter on the bus on the way up. My \$5 fee was returned to me by the casino, which I used for overstuffing myself at an extravagantly assembled buffet that perhaps poses a bigger addiction trap than the slots.

I spend about \$20 of my own money, and if they pay off at 20%, that means I played \$24. I spent time engaged in people watching. I spent time talking to strangers in the Coke bar, and even spent some time writing in my journal.

Thirty dollars for a full day of entertainment is a pretty good deal; you can beat the house after all. §

Museum Maintenance

by Jerry Manley, Vice President

On Wednesday, October 17, Tom Myhra, Pete Bonesteel, Lillian Meyer, and Jerry Manley spent the morning cleaning and setting up the donated file cabinets in the upstairs office and the reference room. The donated desk was also placed there and the old desk was moved to the

reference store room.

On Wednesday, October 24, Sharp Heating and Air Conditioning came in and serviced both furnaces and both humidifiers. The serviceman informed Jerry Manley that our furnaces are rapidly aging and will quite probably need replace-

ment in the near future. This will be an expenditure of major proportions. Hopefully, our members will consider making a donation to a special fund we could set up to cover the cost of furnace replacement when the time comes. §

Opportunity to Serve

by Robert Christenson – President-Elect

Sometime in early December you will be receiving in the mail a letter from our current President, Tom Myhra, along with Membership Renewal and Opportunity to Serve forms.

If you read the article on the front page, it is easy to recognize that such lofty goals will not fulfill themselves. We need every member to participate in some way in bringing new life into the Fridley Historical Society next year, in the same way as each January 1st we commit to revitalize our own lives.

To keep the Society a living, breathing and productive organization that enriches the lives of those who once lived in Fridley and those who live here now, we need your help. Listed below are committees you can add value to, shape their agenda, and help bring their initiatives to fulfillment. And we will find ways for you to have fun participating in this voyage through 2003, and being recognized for your contributions.

Docent (Tour Guide) – Greet visitors to the Museum on Saturdays between 12 and 2 PM, and answer their questions as best you are able.

Finance & Audit Committee – Help develop operating and capital budget, oversee finances, and secure audit of financial records annually.

Newsletter & PR Committee – Secure articles for the newsletter and forward to publisher; handle mailings, and get us positive publicity in the media.

Program & Events Committee – Secure speakers for monthly programs; arrange Society's participation in community events.

Fridley Hall of Fame Committee – Manage the program for honoring past Fridley residents for their contributions to the Society.



"History of Fridley" Book Committee – Publish a book detailing an accurate record of Fridley's history and the people who shaped that history.

Fundraising Committee – Identify opportunities throughout the year for generating funds to keep the Society financially strong and growing.

Membership Committee – We want 300 members by the end of 2003. You can make this happen and help publish our new membership directory.

Archives Committee – Maintain the historical artifacts owned by the Society, secure new artifacts, keep records of artifacts, and do research on artifacts.

Family History Committee – We want to record on audio and video as many family histories as possible of Fridley residents, current and past.

Museum Maintenance Committee – Keep the museum clean, inviting, and in good repair. Develop preventive maintenance programs.

I hope we can count on you to be part of this exciting adventure in 2003. When you receive your membership renewal in the mail, please complete the 'Opportunity to Serve' form and return it with your membership form. We would ever be grateful for your willingness to serve.

Congratulations!

Our Historical Society is pleased to congratulate Senator Satveer Chaudhary on his re-election to the State Senate. As you all know, Sen. Chaudhary was instrumental in getting funding for the Historical Society's renovation (e.g., windows, doors, flooring, etc.) in 2001.

We appreciate his efforts on our behalf.



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Lead Stories for the Fridley Record, Volume 41 #36, January 6, 1965

Hughes Named Fire Chief; New Committees Appointed by Council

Raymond Sheridan and Glenn W. Thompson were sworn into office at the regular city council meeting Monday, January 4. Sheridan, a councilman from the second ward, is beginning his third term. The city council, upon recommendation of Earl Wagner, city manager, appointed Robert S. Hughes the full time fire chief. Hughes had been the volunteer fire chief for the city of Fridley and is a charter member of the fire department.

Council Meets Wednesday to Act on Urban Renewal

The Fridley City Council will meet Wednesday, Jan. 6, to discuss the first steps toward possible urban renewal of a 35 square block area in the central part of the city. The area under consideration contains many small businesses, shopping centers, homes, a farm and the city hall itself. Actually the entire city of Fridley will be considered for possible urban renewal but of primary concern will be the area roughly bounded by 63d and 67th Aves. NE. NE 7ths St. and the Northern Pacific Railway tracks.

Fridley Scandal – Final Chapter

This is the final excerpt of a letter from a Fridley homeowner to Minnesota Federal in 1961 requesting that the bank not make tax payments to the City of Fridley from his mortgage payment because of the "scandalous situation" regarding the City's attempts to install sewer and water lines beneath the street in front of his residence. In Part 3 he described the huge hole in the street in front of his house that remained all winter long.

Now this rain, if it comes in any quantity as it has the

past few week ends, fills up their hole, and for the week end we all have a nice, little lake about the size of the late Cedric Adams' famous "spit Lake."

The lake doesn't bother us too much, for two reasons. First, we know that the daily routine described above will be changed on Monday, because then all of the actors can sit in their cars while a new group pumps out the water. And second, we know we are watching an Engineering Masterpiece. These clowns have managed to retain

water on the top of the hill when Nature never could.

The fact that contractor Phil Hirsch and others cannot get prospects up here to show their new homes, which I assume you financed, makes me feel sorry for them and for you.

The fact that their pounding put cracks in my home and others annoys me – but I intend suing.

The fact that I built my home as a Model Gold Medallion Electrically Heated Home, and intended to use it for display in my business as a salesman of



electric heat, and I can't even have guests, let alone Architects and Engineers, bothers me only a little as I intend to sue.

But the fact that I am to pay taxes to perpetuate this catastrophic debacle in the name of the construction business really sets me on tilt.

Please, I shall continue payments of the mortgage, but do not contribute any of my money to this travesty.

Kindest regards,
HAG

§

The President's Corner

by Tom Myhra

The Fridley Historical Society members who attended the general meeting on Veterans' Day were treated to a "double feature."

Stan Kowalski, George Arnold, and Larry Rundle from the Fridley Veterans of Foreign Wars spoke movingly about their military experiences in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. These soldiers/sailors/citizens agreed that they were proud of that military service and expressed disappointment that too many younger veterans have not joined the VFW or other military ser-

vice organizations.

Following the speakers, the assembled members witnessed the beginning of the transition from the current administration to that of the incoming presidency. St. Paul and Washington DC could well emulate the procedure—smooth, cooperative, constructive, and well-planned.

Using audience participation, flip charts, and subject prompts, Christenson got from the members what they believe the Society presently is doing well, what activities need im-

provement, and what is lacking. He also distributed the committee structure he will be using, as well as an informational sheet describing the committee responsibilities. These two sheets will be enclosures in the membership renewal letter from the President that will be sent to all members.

Christenson ended his planning session with the announcement that his presidential goal for 2003 is to increase the Society's current membership of 177 to 300, and to then help ensure that the society gets the benefits from the multiple strengths that can be found in the general membership.

§

St. Paul and Washington DC could well emulate the procedure—smooth, cooperative, constructive, and well-planned.



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55421

763-574-7267 phone

*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*



FHS

Kids from Fridley
Holiday Choir Concert
Monday, December 9, 7 PM
Fridley Historical Museum

Come to the command performance of the "Kids From Fridley" middle school choir under the direction of Andrea Guetter. This is a very enthusiastic and cheerful group! Kindergarten artwork will be on display in the museum, and the Christmas tree and museum are decorated as they might have appeared during the Victorian era. Cookies and was-sail will be served after the concert. Please invite your friends and family to come and enjoy the music and the museum in the spirit of the season. This is a free event!

Kindergarten
Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 14,
11 AM —3 PM
Fridley Historical Museum

All kindergarten kids, parents, grandparents, family members, friends, and members of the Society are invited to view the beautiful artwork created by Fridley kindergarteners for the Museum. Marilyn Manley has organized this event with help from the kindergarten teachers. Photos will be taken of the children next to their artwork. Refreshments will be served. Free event!