

Volume 16, Issue 1 Copyright 2003

FHS Record

Upcoming Events

Membership
Meeting
Monday,
January 13,
7 PM
Fridley Historical
Museum

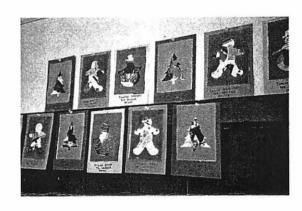
Casino Trip
Wednesday,
January 15,
9 AM —5:30 PM
Fridley Commons

Kindergarten Holiday Open House by Robert Christenson, President

The museum was really decked out in beautiful art for the holidays, thanks to the contributions of over 270 kindergartners. Marilyn Manley and other Society volunteers did a magnificent job of organizing this event that was attended by over 250 people.

This wonderful event would not have been possible without the willing cooperation of Fridley kindergarten teachers. From Stevenson School, the teachers were Janet Herman and Kathy Peacock; teachers from Hayes School included Debbie Jansen and Kara Jaceles; and from Northpark School the participating teachers were Jerri Tucker, Sara Vegge, Heather Helbreck, and Sara Wiggin.

See more photos inside.



Just a few pieces of holiday artwork created and donated by Fridley Kindergarten students

January Membership Meeting Speaker

Adam Herbst, State Farm Insurance Company Auto Theft Specialist, will speak on auto theft, how it affects your insurance rates, and things you can do to avoid being a victim of auto theft. He will speak for 15 to 20 minutes and then answer any questions from the audience. Herbst will bring some brochures on how you can reduce the possibility of having your automobile stolen. Refreshments served.









Allison Coehlo, a Kindergarten artist, with Dad Barney, mom Jen, and brother Luke

Music by The Kids from Fridley!





FHS
members
and guests
enjoyed the
concert and
the artwork!



Manomin County wants secession from the Union

Note: In 1857, Ramsey County was divided into three counties, with the northern two counties being Anoka and Manomin and the southern part being Ramsey County. Fridley was then known as the town of Manomin and existed in Manomin County until 1870 when part of Manomin was added to Anoka County. The name of the town of Manomin was later changed to Fridley Park.

This tongue-in-cheek article was provided by the Anoka County History Center and was originally published in the "Falls Evening News" 20 December 1860, in St. Anthony, Minnesota. In 1855, St. Anthony Falls had three times the population of Minneapolis.

Startling News by the Pony Express! / DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION! / Tremendous Excitement at Manomin!! / SUCCESSION MOVEMENT ON FOOT / Government Officers All Resigned! / GOVERNOR FRIDLEY HAS CALLED A CONVENTION! / REPUBLICANS ORDERED TO LEAVE THE COUNTY! / FORT SNELLING THREATENED! / WAR EXPECTED!

As we were going to press, we received by the pony express, intelligence of the most startling character, from Manomin. Secession sentiments are spreading into the North; Manomin County has already determined to secede before the first of January. It will be remembered that this county at the last election cast its full vote for Breckenridge. Gov. Fridley has called a mass Convention to meet on "Christmas Day," to take final action; whether to form a new government, or to be annexed to South Carolina. A monarchical form of government is strongly favored by the masses; the Federal officers have all resigned except the Postmaster. Preparations are now being made to take Fort Snelling, as soon as the new government is formed. Republicans have been all ordered to leave the county forthwith. Gov. Fridley has ordered the army to be increased to one hundred thousand able bodied men, in case of War.

LATER. The Mississippi has been blockaded opposite the city of Manomin. Steamers belonging to other States are not allowed to pass that port.

The Ferry Boats have stopped running. Great excitement among the people. Two abolitionists hung by a mob. Four barrels of Bassett's whiskey captured at the mouth of Coon Creek. A military post established at Pleasure Creek. The exportation or native rice stopped for the present. The rails of the Pacific Railroad have been torn up in the excitement and intercourse with other States entirely cut off.

Old Abe Lincoln burnt in effigy at Rice Lake. There appears to be no opposition to the secession feeling, and large delegations from different parts of the State are expected to meet at the City of Manomin on Christmas day when a State Constitution will be adopted.

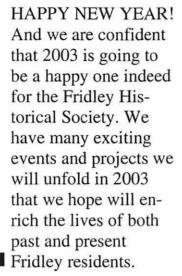
STILL LATER. As these are exciting times, we have kept our paper back, to lay before our readers the latest news. Great preparations are still making for the secessionists to dissolve the Union. Property floating on the Mississippi is by no means safe at this time. Gov. Fridley has issued a proclamation, forbidding any one from navigating the river opposite the city of Manomin, before the first of April, without permission from His Excellency.

The steamer H.M. Rice is undergoing a heavy expense to fit her for the Lumber Yard; Commodore Harmon will command her, in case of war. Saltpeter has advanced two hundred percent in the last twenty-four hours. The Banks have all suspended for the present. A large crowd assembled last evening in the Public Square; speeches were made and the city illuminated with gas. Pork is declining rapidly.



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President's Corner by Robert Christenson



We will be developing a "History of Fridley" book, a web site, establishing a Hall of Fame to honor past and present Fridley citizens, creating an archive of family histories in many different formats, and sponsoring some very exciting events. I will share more as the year moves forward.

You probably noticed that the newsletter has a new look which was instituted with the November issue. Fridley Historical Society member Andrea Oman did the design for us, and she is in

charge of placing all the copy. Sue Miskowic is handling the distribution of the newsletter. If you have suggestions for other design changes, or if you would be willing to offer me some assistance in writing stories for the newsletter, please give me a call (see last paragraph).

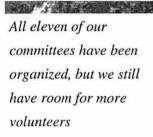
The Society sponsored two major events in December. On December 9, we had a packed house at the Museum to hear the holiday music offered by "The Kids from Fridley" Choir under the direction of Andrea Guetter. See photos, page 2. They are a very energetic group of entertainers and will do Fridley proud as they tour other communities with their wonderful music.

Saturday of the same week we sponsored our annual Kindergarten Open House. Kindergarten teachers from three schools in Fridley had their students create beautiful art to hang in the museum over the holidays. Over 250 people came to view the art and partake of cider and Christmas cookies. See front page.

All eleven of our committees have been organized, but we still have room for more volunteers. We could especially benefit from members who have interest and or skills in public relations, newsletters, website development, special events, fundraising and publishing.

If you could offer a small amount of your time in helping us with any of the above needs, please call me at 763-574-7267. We would be most grateful for any assistance you can provide.





Musem Maintenance

by Jerry Manley

December was a quiet month as far as maintenance is concerned. Outside of a few routine preventive procedures, not much has happened.

But in the first week in January the upstairs furnace broke down. A service company was called on a Saturday, and repairs were to be made by Monday, January 6.

As I mentioned in the

November December issue our furnaces are rapidly ageing. One has a badly rusted burner and the other has a condensate (water) drain system that is starting to leak. It is not feasible to repair either furnace because both are close to the end of their normal lifespan. I was able to repair a couple of leaks in the one furnace with silicone seal but that is only a temporary fix. If any Society member is considering where to make a charitable donation please keep the Society in mind. Two new furnaces will probably cost about \$6,000.00 and that is \$6,000.00 we cannot afford to spend.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW!

As of the end of December, we have received only about 50% of membership renewals. We will begin telephoning all members who have not renewed. So if you do not want to have your dinner interrupted by a solicitation from a Fridley Historical Society board member asking for your membership renewal, get it in the mail now!

We have a special membership bonus this year. Two people from the same household over 18 years of age can renew

at our Family Rate for only \$15. In prior years, each would have needed to renew separately at \$10 each.

Once all the renewals are in, we should have about 175 members. Our goal is to sign up 300 members by the end of the year. You can help us out by inviting your neighbors to join (if you live in Fridley) as well as inviting friends and family members who no longer live in Fridley to become members.

The larger our member-

ship, the more programs, events, services and displays we can offer you. We are hoping to do a re-design of display space in the museum in 2003 and offer many more events. But we need a larger membership base to accomplish this.

Will you help us out?

Our goal is to sign up 300 members by the end of the year.





FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55421

763-574-7267 phone

Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future



FHS

CASINO TRIPS

by Gloria Hayes

Our November Casino Trip to Grand-Casino Hinckley had 45 people going, netting us \$452.03.

Please join us for a fun-filled day of gaming, lunching and visiting with friends. It all starts on the bus with our own "Cardo" game (which is free) for "Cash Prizes" and refreshments.

We leave from the Fridley Commons parking lot at 9 AM and return by 5:30 PM. This trip is just \$5.00 which will be returned to you on the bus. The Price is Right!

We plan our trips for the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our next trips are:

- January 15
- February 19
- March 19

For reservations or more information, call Gloria at 763-571-3727.



Volume 16, Issue 2 Copyright 2003

FHS Record





Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting Monday, March 10, 7 PM **Fridley Historical** Museum

Casino Trip Wednesday, March 19, 9 AM -5:30 PM **Fridley Commons**

April Fundraiser Dinner & Raffle Saturday, April 26 5-7 PM **Fridley Community** Center

Feeling Years Younger

We are very fortunate to have secured noted physician and national speaker, Dr. Dale Anderson to address our March 10 membership meeting. He will teach us how to play the happy childlike role well at every age.

His presentation is based upon his latest book, Never Act Your Age. Laughter is a guaranteed experience at this meeting! Dr. Anderson is a Minnesota surgeon who keeps you in stitches and who teaches you how to put on a HAPPY face for the sheer HEALTH of it.

A past board member of the American Association of Therapeutic Humor, Dr. Anderson is well qualified to share insights on how humor can positively affect our health. His other books include Act Now, Muscle Pain Relief in 90 Seconds, and The Orchestra Conductor's Secret to Health and Long Life.

Dr. Dale Anderson is the coordinator of the Minnesota A.C.T. project, which is a coalition of dramatic artists who think medically-and medical artists who think dramatically. He is a board-certified surgeon, a boardcertified emergency physician, and is



Dr. Dale Anderson

a board-certified and Founding Diplomat of the American Board of Holistic Medicine. He is past president of both the American Medical Speakers Association and the Minnesota Speakers Association.

Dinner is potluck, so feel free to bring your favorite dish.





Committees in Action!

The following is a series of activity reports from the Historical Society's nine active committees. The members and chairperson of each committee are listed, plus the chairperson's telephone number. The president of the Society is an ex-officio member of all committees and attends many of their meetings.

If you find the activities of any of these committees of interest and would like to participate in their activities, please call the chairperson for the times and dates of their next meeting.



Fundraising Committee

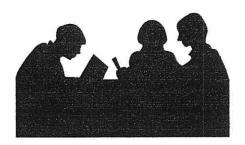
Gloria Hayes, Chair 763-571-3727 Members: Mel Manley, Pete Bonesteel, Suzanne Miskowic

Mission: Provide the financial means to keep the museum in top condition, to expand member services, keep the Museum available to members, and to ensure the ongoing viability of the Fridley Historical Society.

January 2003 Casino trip to Grand Casino Hinckley was attended by 45 people and raised \$452.02 for the Society. The February trip had 47 travelers and netted \$461.07. The next outing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19. Call Gloria if you would like to be part of this fun-filled trip.

A major fundraising goal for 2003 is to create initiatives to build up a capital reserve fund for acquiring more artifacts, for improving display cases, for maintaining the building, and for purchasing equipment that can be used for creative events at the Museum. We will undertake these initiatives in concert with the work of the Membership Committee and Finance Committee.

This committee is responsible for executing all the details of developing, promoting, and holding the annual fundraising dinner and raffle. Additional members are welcome! If the work of this committee appeals to you, contact Gloria Hayes, Chair, for details on the next committee meeting.

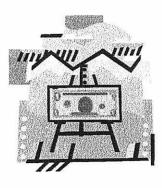


Finance & Audit Committee Debbie Smith, Chair 763-633-0848 Members: Gordon Christenson, Mel Manley, Suzanne Miskowic

Mission: Oversee the Society's financial affairs including accounting practices, operating and capital budgets, expenditures, financial reports, tax obligations, insurance, investments, and audits.

The Committee is currently working on the 2003 audit, the 2003 budget, and developing a new accounting system. We will acquire a safe deposit box for important documents. We are also reviewing the Society's financial filing system, current investments, and insurance coverage. And we will establish a fund for capital improvements. All expenditures in excess of \$300 are reviewed in advance by the Finance Committee which then makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors relative to the effect of that expenditure on the Society's annual budget.

To add your financial acumen to this committee, call Debbie Smith, Chair.





Museum Maintenance Committee

Mary Sue Meyers, Chair 763-717-7987 Members: Stan Mack, Jerry Reiter, Bill Linton, Al Madison

Mission: Keep museum clean, ensure that all electrical and mechanical systems are in good operating order, undertake preventive maintenance, and ensure that the building structure is well maintained.

The committee will have its first meeting in March. Call Mary Sue Meyers to join this committee.

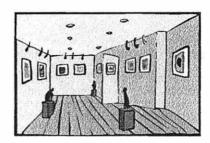


Archives Committee

Pete Bonesteel, Chair 763-572-1009 Members: Mel Manley, Jerry Johnson, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic

Mission: Catalog all acquired artifacts and keep the Museum well organized.

The committee currently meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Committee members recently removed some old carpeting in one of the reference rooms. Ed Meyer donated a replacement floor. A new filing system is under consideration.



Hall of Fame Committee

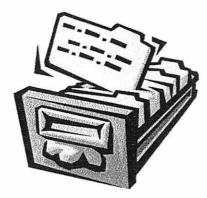
Mel Manley, Chair 763-493-2949 Members: Jerry Manley, Suzanne Miskowic, Lillian Meyer

Mission: Develop and manage the Society's Hall of Fame.

This committee was formed to recognize exemplary citizens of Fridley who over the years helped shape Fridley's culture, its institutions, commerce and industry, places of worship, and its government. All former and current citizens who have made major contributions to Fridley's quality of life and who have helped give Fridley a past to be proud of are eligible for awards to be given by the Fridley Historical Society.

A plan is being developed that defines "Why a Hall of Fame," "Who will be honored," "What will comprise the Hall of Fame," When the annual Hall of Fame installation event will occur," "Where the Hall of Fame will be located," and "How the Hall of Fame will be developed."

You are invited to join this committee to help work out the details of developing a Fridley Hall of Fame. Just call Mel Manley, Chair.



City & Family History Committee

Tom Myhra, Chair 763-571-3342 Members: Don Savelkoul, Mel Manley, Warren Woods, Earle Christenson, Laura Moore, Mary Rozmark, Bob Barnette, Mark Bonesteel, Corine Kirkham, and Jeanne Morin

This committee will focus on three major projects:

- To publish a book of the authentic history of Fridley.
- To collect family histories of Fridley residents for archiving at the Museum.
- To publish a book that offers short narratives contributed by former and current Fridley residents of their experiences of living in Fridley and raising a family in Fridley.

The Committee will have its first meeting Tuesday, March 11, 7 PM, at the Museum. Call Tom Myhra, Chair, if you would like to be part of this Committee.



Membership Committee

Jerry Manley, Chair 763-571-6963 Members: Esther Campbell, Carol Christenson, Doris Bergman, Warren Woods, Tony Petrangelo, Susan Madison

Mission: Recruit new individual, family, business, and non-profit organization members, recover delinquent members, and maintain membership records.

The immediate focus is to develop a plan to recruit more business members. The Society currently has fewer than six business members, and there are over 600 businesses in Fridley with revenues of more than \$500,000 annually. The Committee will also be looking at creative ways to attract individual and family members.

In addition, the Society is exploring ways to raise funds to cover capital expenditures for display cabinets, office equipment, furnaces, audio visual equipment, signs, and other needed items that are important to attracting new members. A program is under discussion to engage business members to underwrite a number of these capital expenditures.

Contact Jerry Manley, Chair, if you would like to add your ideas and time to help this Committee fulfill its role.

Newsletter & Public Relations Committee

Robert Christenson, Chair 763-574-7267 Members: Andrea Oman and Suzanne Miskowic

Mission: Publish the Society's membership newsletter, *FHS Record*, and provide press releases to the media reporting on major activities of the Fridley Historical Society.

Andrea Oman does the layout and design of the *FHS Record*. Suzanne Miskowic prepares each issue for mailing, including labels and postage.

There will be nine issues published of the *FHS Record_*in 2003: January / February, March, April, May, Summer, September, October, November, and December. Press releases with photos are provided to the *Fridley Focus* and *The Northeaster* weekly newspapers.

If you have an interest in writing for the *FHS Record* or recruiting writers, please contact Robert Christenson to become a member of this committee.

President's Corner by Robert Christenson

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships! Membership cards will be mailed this month. And to the other 20% who have put off sending their renewal until "sometime later," that sometime just arrived, and we need your renewal now. If you have lost your form, call me (763-574-7267) and I will send you a new one. After we have your renewal, I will ensure you get no more phone calls from our Membership Committee pestering you to send in your renewal.

The Society is really building up momentum! I invite you to read the article Committees in Action that reports on the exciting work that is going on this year in each of our nine committees. And if you find one of these committees to be a good fit for your talents and expertise, please call the Chair, and volunteer to help out. Only by more members involved can we continue to upgrade our services and make everyone's membership a higher value.

We have a great speaker again this month. Dr. Dale Anderson is a close friend of mine and is one

of the most entertaining speakers I've every heard. His presentation on Never Act Your Age will be well worth your time to come and hear. And, if you are able, bring some food; there is a potluck dinner before his talk. Potluck dinners are beginning to fade from the landscape, and the Society wants to keep this old-time tradition alive, at least in our Museum for membership meetings.

We have a stove that was donated to us, but we are unable to use it because it is 220 volts. If you have need of such a stove or know someone who does, please contact Jerry Manley, Vice President, at 763-571-6963, and we will donate the stove to them, but they will have to arrange to pick it up.

What would you like to be different at the Museum or different in how the Society functions? I welcome any and all ideas! Just call me at 763-574-7267, e-mail me at rchris@pobox.com, or write me at the Museum: 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. We want to your Fridley Historical Society membership to be one of the best purchases you ever made.



The Society is really building up momentum!

Annual Fundraiser Dinner & Raffle!

Attention! Attention! Circle Saturday, April 26, for our Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Raffle to be held at the Fridley Community Center. In addition to a great dinner, we will have a 30-minute concert presented by the Fridley High School "Show Pops" student musical group. And after the concert, there will be hoards of prizes to be won in the raffle.

More information will be coming soon. One thing can be told: we are holding ticket prices at \$7.50 AND plan to serve beef stroganoff. What a deal! We will give you more information on the raffle items in the April issue of the FHS Record.







Items Needed

The Society is currently in need of the following items. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to donate one of these to the Society, we would provide a certificate to the donor so that the item may be deducted on their taxes. Call Robert Christenson, 763-574-7267, if you can provide either of the following:

- Business copier machine with a sorter
- Little Giant ladder



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

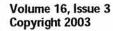
611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55421

763-574-7267 phone

Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future



FHS





FHS Record

Upcoming Events

Annual
Fundraiser
Dinner & Raffle
Saturday,
April 26,
5 - 7 PM
Fridley
Community
Center

Membership Meeting Monday, May 12, 7 PM Fridley Historical Museum

Annual Fundraiser Dinner & Raffle

Our 13th annual fundraiser dinner will be Saturday, April 26, at the Fridley Community Center, 7th Street and 7th Avenue. Doors open at 4:30 PM, and dinner is served at 5:00 PM.

NOTE: Seating is limited! Tickets are sold on a first-come basis!

This year we are serving beef stroganoff, salad, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Best of all, when everyone else has raised their prices, we're holding at the same as last year at \$7.50!

We have a fantastic list of raffle items, with more coming in every day! Look over the list of items and show it to your friends and neighbors. Everyone will want to participate! The list will sell the raffle tickets! Raffle tickets are \$1 each. You can use your preprinted return address labels. And bring your return address labels to the dinner as well, just in case you choose to buy more raffle tickets after you arrive!

Please make dinner ticket checks payable to the Historical Society and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your dinner tickets. Mail to Gloria Hayes, 840 West Moore Lake Drive, Fridley, MN 55432.

The raffle tickets and dinner checks can also be sent to me along with the dinner check. But PLEASE make out two checks—one for dinner and one for the raffle tickets. It makes for easier bookkeeping. Thanks!



Our March casino trip to Grand Casino filled the bus—45 people! We netted \$462.02. No casino trip is planned for April, but there is one May 21. Call Gloria Hayes for tickets. 763-571-3727

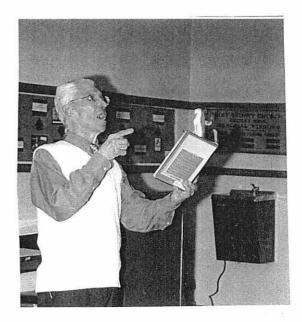


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Dr. Dale Anderson Entertains!

The Society had one of its best monthly meetings ever, according to all who attended the March membership meeting. Dr. Dale Anderson had everyone laughing and learning how to feel younger playing the childlike role. The photos tell the story best.













FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

13th Annual Fundraiser Dinner & Raffl



Saturday, April 26, 2003 at the Fridley Community Center 7th Street & 61st Avenue Doors Open 4:30 PM
Dinner Served 5:00 PM
Salad
Beef Stroganoff
French Bread
Dessert
Beverage

Dinner Tickets: \$7.50 (tax included)

Raffle Tickets: \$1.00 each Exempt #X33474-03001

90 RAFFLE ITEMS - THIS IS JUST A PARTIAL LISTING - MORE TO COME

CRACKER BARREL - 2 Dinners up to	\$35.00	JAX CAFE - Sunday Brunch for 2	\$43.80
TGI FRIDAYS Cert		PERKINS Cert	
TGI FRIDAYS Cert	10.00	PERKINS Cert	35.00
DEALS Cert	25.00	AX MAN Cert	
MAPLE LANES BOWLING 7 Games		AX MAN Cert	10.00
MAPLE LANES BOWLING 7 Games	24.50	CHANTICLEAR PIZZA Cert	11.65
MAPLE LANES BOWLING 7 Games	24.50	CHANTICLEAR PIZZA Cert	
EYE CARE CENTER Cert	200.00	SANDEE'S Cert 2 for Lunch	15.00
FRIENDLY CHEV Cert - Lube Job	29.95	JOE DIMAGGIO'S SPORTS BAR	15.00
FRIENDLY CHEV Cert - Lube Job	29.95	JOE DIMAGGIO'S SPORTS BAR	
FRIENDLY CHEV Cert - Lube Job	29.95		
TIMBER LODGE Cert	20.00	BAKER'S SQUARE for 1 PieBAKER'S SQUARE for 1 Pie	10.99
LITTLE JACKS'S 2 Dinners of Month-	25.90	OLIVE GARDEN Cert	15.00
APPLEBEE'S GRILL Cert	20.00	LA CASITA MEXICAN REST	15.00
APPLEBEE'S GRILL Cert	20.00	SIGN LANGUAGE Pen & Holder	21.95
TCF - 20" Rolling Carry On-	79.99	SIGN LANGUAGE Pen & Opener	24.95
TCF - 20" Rolling Carry On-	79.99	J. MANLEY Pr. Vikings Tickets	
GROUND ROUND Cert	20.00	SEASONS - 2, 2 for 1 up to	30.00
US BANK - \$50.00 Bond	25.00	SEASONS - 2, 2 for 1 up to	
US BANK - \$50.00 Bond	25.00	SEASONS - 2, 2 for 1 up to	30.00
SPIKERS MINN SPORTS BAR Cert	20.00	SEASONS - 2, 2 for 1 up to	30.00
COTTAGE TREASURE STAMP BASKET	25.00	SEASONS - 2, 2 for 1 up toGREEN MILL Cert	10.00
NICKLOWS Cert	10.00	J. JOHNSON '50-'60s Wind-Up Lionel Train	
NICKLOWS Cert	10.00	NW ATHLETIC CLUB 1 Month Family Mbshp.	
COUNTRY BUFFET - 2 Dinners	19.00	P. BONESTEEL - 5" TV Radio	25.00
COUNTRY BUFFET - 2 Dinners-		GANDER MOUNTAIN Cert	10.00

TURN PAGE OVER TO SEE MORE RAFFLE ITEMS

Call Gloria for Tickets: 763 - 571 - 3727

90 RAFFLE ITEMS WITH MORE TO COME (Continued List)

WELLS FARGO BANK - \$50.00 Bond\$25.00	MAIN EVENT Cert	\$10.00
WELLS FARGO BANK - \$50.00 Bond 25.00	MAIN EVENT Cert	10.00
HALF PRICE BOOKS 15.00	K. HOLMGREN - Kemps Metal Semi -	
LUTHER AUCTIONS "Morning Mist" Painting 150.00	Trailer Truck	40.00
BRIDGES GOLD - 2 Rounds of Golf 32.00	HAYDEN HILLS - 2 Rounds of Golf	26.00
OLD COUNTRY BUFFET - 2Dinners 19.00	HAYDEN HILLS - 2 Rounds of Golf	26.00
OLD COUNTRY BUFFET - 2Dinners	OUTBACK - Dinner for 2	45.00
DON PABLOS	QUIZNOS, Fridley	10.00
HEIGHTS THEATER - Pair of Tickets14.00	QUIZNOS, Fridley	10.00
HEIGHTS THEATER - Pair of Tickets14.00	RED LOBSTER	10.00
HEIGHTS THEATER - Pair of Tickets14.00	DUNN'S - Coffee & Cup of Coffee	
EMBERS, RICKEY'S - Fridley	DUNN'S - Coffee & Cup of Coffee	
EMBERS, RICKEY'S - Fridley	PAPPA MURPHY'S -Pizza	14.00
FANTASTIC SAMS 10.00	PAPPA MURPHY'S -Pizza	
FANTASTIC SAMS	PAPPA MURPHY'S -Pizza	
RONS'S BARBERS & STYLISTS - Bath Set 27.00	SCHAFF - Toiletries	
BRIGHTWOOD GOLF COURSE - 2 Rounds 28.00	RIVERSIDE CAR WASH - Regular Wash	11.00
BRIGHTWOOD GOLF - 2 Buckets of Balls 28.00	RIVERSIDE CAR WASH - Regular Wash	
PANERA10.00	TEQUILABERRY'S - 2 Sunday Brunches	19.90
10.00	TEQUILABERRY'S - 2 Sunday Brunches	19.90

Call Gloria for Tickets: 763 - 571 - 3727



Historical Society Initiates History Book Project

By Tom Myrha

The Society has established as a major goal the production of a book about the history of Fridley. A second book will be a collection of family histories of Fridley residents.

The City & Family History Committee is seeking your help. It is planned that the writing of the history of the City of Fridley will be the work of a single author with participation of current and past residents who played a significant role in the city's development. Contributions will be solicited in the areas of government, business, economics, religion, education, fine arts, medicine, entertainment, and athletics, among others. It will cover the time span from 1870 to the present.

Even more community help is being sought for the family history volume. Any family who now lives in Fridley, or has lived here in the past, will have the opportunity having their history plus one photo in the book without cost. We see the major divisions in the book being: 1) Fridley's pioneer families; 2) pre WWI families; 3) the building years; and 4) the maturing years. Descendants will write the accounts of their ancestors. Examples of other family histories, a Saturday orientation and in-service session, and editing support are some of the resources the History Committee will provide families to help them get started. A large number of contributors is expected, so the length of each history will be limited.

Please complete the form below and mail it to the Society if you want your family history included.





Fridley Historical Society

Name	
Address	
Phone	E-mail
(Check all that a	ipply)
	ly have a family history, and we'd like to have it included in the ley History book
We'd like	to see an example of a family history.
We'd like	to talk to someone about getting started on a family history.
We'd be in	nterested in a Saturday training session.
I and/or m	ny spouse have parents who live or have lived in Fridley. Their names
are:	

Please complete and mail to:

City and Family History Committee Fridley Historical Society 611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



This is the month we have all been waiting for! Our annual dinner and raffle is set for Saturday, April 26, at the Fridley Community Center.

And it will be new and improved again this year. We are offering a great dinner of beef stroganoff for only \$7.50! And Gloria Hayes, our Fundraiser chairperson, and her committee have lined up some valuable raffle prizes including two Vikings tickets, a one month family membership at the Northwest Sports and Health Club, \$200 certificate for new eye glasses, a Lionel train valued at \$100, and more than 85 other prizes from restaurants, car washes, banks, bowling alleys and other local businesses! Think about it. Can you afford NOT to attend?

And coming up May 12. we have two great speakers for our Membership Meeting. Diane and Wade Savage, Fridley residents, were in Iraq a couple months before the war began and will tell of their experiences in that country.



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55421 763-571-0120 phone

Look inside for raffle tickets, annual dinner info, and March meeting pics!



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future



Volume 16, Issue 4 Copyright 2003

FHS Record



Upcoming Events

Membership
Meeting,
Monday,
May 12,
7 PM
Fridley
Historical Society

Casino Trip
Wednesday,
May 21
9 AM—5:30 PM
Fridley Commons
Call 763-571-3727
for tickets

Baghdad Diary

We are very privileged to have as speakers for our May Membership Meeting Wade Savage, Ph.D., and his wife Diane. Dr. and Mrs. Savage were in Iraq earlier this year as part of an academic delegation invited by the University of Baghdad. They will show slides of their visit and discuss the experiences they had working with the Iraqi academic community and interacting with the Iraqi populace. Dr. Savage is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Minnesota.

13th Annual Fundraiser Huge Success!

The Society's 13th Annual Fund Raiser Dinner and Raffle generated \$2,897 in revenue before expenses. We sold 130 tickets to the beef stroganoff dinner held April 26th at the Fridley Community Center. There were 96 raffle items donated by local businesses. After the dinner, winning tickets were drawn and prizes were distributed to lucky winners. Gloria Hayes chaired the event for the 13th straight year, and there were many volunteers and board members on hand to make this event a joyful one for all who attended. See pictures inside.

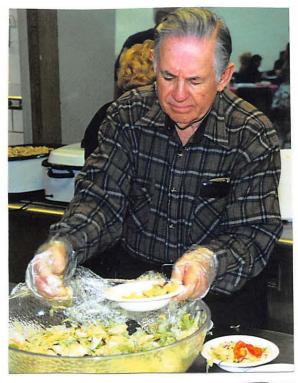




Fun, food, and prizes at the FHS 13th Annual Fundraiser















Page 3

















FHS Record

Volume 16, Issue 5 Copyright 2003

August Fest!





Upcoming Events

Fridley Day
Anoka County Fair
Saturday, July 26
10 a.m.—9:30 p.m.
Anoka County Fairgrounds

August Fest
Monday, August 4
6—8 p.m.
Fridley Historical
Museum
Old Tyme Base Ball & more
Refreshments for sale
Parking at Hayes School
Bring a lawn chair

Membership Meeting,
Monday,
August 11
6—8 p.m.
Medtronic Headqtrs.
Speaker: Earl Bakken,
Medtronic founder
Light meal served
Pre-registration required
Limited seating

Come with your family, and invite your friends and neighbors to the Fridley Historical Society's 8th annual August Fest on Monday evening, August 4, from 6—8 PM, at the Fridley Historical Society. The even is free, but bring your own lawn chair for seating.

One again, Ye Olde Tyme Base Ball Game will be played with the Quicksteps facing off against Rum River Lumber. The Quicksteps, featured in FORTUNE magazine last year, travel the US competing with local ball teams playing according to the rules of 1860. The game will take place in the ball field behind the Museum. The Quicksteps appear in authentic-looking uniforms from the years ago. A hand-stitched ball is used which a seamstress keeps in repair during the game.

The AUGUST FEST includes music by the Fridley Band, Miss Fridley and her Princesses, Mayor Scott Lund, a Fridley fire truck for the children to explore, and hot dogs, ice cream, and soft drinks at modest prices. Come and enjoy Fridley fun!

August Membership meeting at Medtronic

We are very fortunate to have the founder of Medtronic Corporation, Earl Bakken, as our August 11 Membership Meeting speaker. Earl will speak on how his invention of the cardiac pacemaker became the seed that grew into a world-class, worldwide medical technology corporation.

The meeting will be held at Medtronic's corporate campus at Highway 65 and I-694 in Fridley and will begin with a light dinner at 6:00 p.m. There is no registration fee. Attendance is limited. You must pre-register. All registrations must be sent by mail, and will be accepted in the order they are received until all available seats are filled.

Medtronic security will check all names against the registration list for admittance onto their property. You can request to bring a guest, but the guest must purchase a membership in the Society to attend. This is a members only event. See page 3 for the registration form.

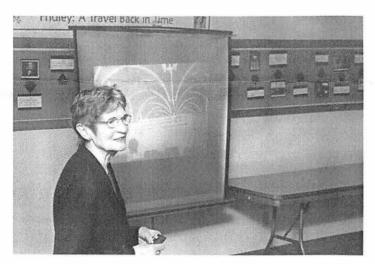


Baghdad Before the War

We had a well-attended May Membership Meeting with Dr. Wade Savage, Ph.D., and his wife Diane presenting a wonderful slide show presentation on what Baghdad looked like just prior to the war. Dr. Savage is a professor at the University of Minnesota, and he and Diane are Fridley residents who attended an academic conference in Baghdad in January of this year.

Their presentation offered us valuable insights into the Iraqi culture going back thousands of years. We were treated to beautiful photos of Iraqi artifacts in museums, and the city architecture and photos of the citizens of Baghdad. And we learned about the state of the average Iraqi mind prior to the invasion and how attendees at the conference viewed the threat of war facing Iraq.

Wade and Diane brought some items from the conference which they shared with the group (see photo). There is much we can learn from the history of other countries, and it is a special privilege to have local residents of Fridley that can share first-hand their experiences in foreign lands. We hope one day that the Fridley Historical Museum can be a resource to Fridleyites who travel in search of historical places to visit.





Guest speaker, Diane Savage

(left to right)
Guest
speaker,
Wade Savage, Ph.D.,
New FHS members,
Janet Nelson & Don
Nelson,
Diane Savage





Fridley Day at Anoka County Fair

July 26 has been designated as "Fridley Day" at the Anoka County Fair historical exhibit. In the historical section of the fairgrounds, **Old Farm Place** has various exhibits of early life in Anoka County. The Fridley Historical Society has offered to provide the docents (guides) at the **Old Farm Place** on Saturday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

We need 6 more FHS members to participate as docents. If you would like to be a docent, please call the Society at 763-571-0120 and leave your name, phone number, and the shift you would like to work.

Three docents are needed at the each of the

following shifts: Second Shift from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. A brief orientation will be offered each shift when they arrive so they can be helpful to visitors. Those who volunteer will be given free tickets to the fair.

The exhibit representing Fridley will be the 1965 tornado display that now is in the lower level of the Museum. Other **Old Farm Place** exhibits include life on the farm in centuries past, demonstrations of soap making and churning butter, and testing the kids' knowledge in the annual spelling bee. We hope to see you at the fair on Fridley Day, and be sure and visit us at the **Old Farm Place**.

Medtronic Meeting Registration Form

If you plan to attend the August 11th membership meeting at Medtronic Headquarters, complete the form below and mail promptly to: **Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55421.** Confirmed attendees will be determined in the order Registration Forms are received. The first 60 members whose Registration Forms are received will be sent a letter of confirmation with a map to the location of the event and other details. A light dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with Earl Bakken speaking at 7 p.m. Earl will sign copies of his autobiography. **There is no charge for this meeting.** If you wish to bring a guest, they will need to complete a membership application and pay \$10 annual dues.

Active members as of July 1, 2003, will be given priority.

	Medtronic Meeting Registration		
Name:			
Address:			
Telephone:	e-mail:		



Fridley Edition: The Record 1965

The following are excerpts from articles in the Fridley Edition of The Record of July 7, 1965.

Authority Requests Time to Develop Renewal Plans

The Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority last week asked for an August 1 extension of time to determine the general planning layout of the University Ave. project.

Authority members showed some concern over the rebuilding of parts of the urban renewal areas such as the request of Gift House Stamps to rebuild National Tea, the request of Red Owl to build a Cashway store on the northeast corner of Mississippi and University, and the request of Phillips 66 for a service station ok. It was felt that pretty soon they would be doing a very piecemeal job and not really accomplishing a thing.

Lake on University To Go Down the Drain

The University Ave. "lake" will be no longer following a resolution passed by the Columbia Heights City Council last week and a similar resolution is expected to be passed by the Fridley council at its Tuesday, July 6 meeting. The resolution calls for agreements to be drawn up between Columbia Heights, Fridley and the state of Minnesota for the purpose of constructing a storm sewer adjacent to the new highway. The state will construct the storm sewer on T.H. 47 from 52nd Ave. to 53rd Ave. This is a portion of the Sullivan Lake outfall and also serves part of the T.H. 47 right of way.

Building Permits Rise in Fridley

In Fridley 145 permits having a value of \$1,375,568 were issued during May 1965 for new buildings, repairs and alterations. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, this was an increase from \$755,596 for 57 permits issued in May 1964. The cumulative total for the first five months of 1965 show that 245 permits valued at \$4,701,799 were issued compared with 176 permits valued at \$3,669,300 last year.

Testimony Ends on 9th Day of NSSSD Trial
After nine days of testimony, seven by the North
Suburban Sanitary Sewer District (NSSSD) witnesses and two of those of the Water Pollution
Control Commission (WPCC), a trial that could
mean \$12 million to area residents ended its open
court phase last Friday. . .NSSSD has been working toward construction of a sewage treatment
plant for several years. WPCC has continually tried
to discourage and prohibit this action.

Currently under construction by the district is a sewer interceptor system designed to transport sewage from Coon Rapids, Blaine, Mounds View, Spring Lake Park and Fridley. In addition, it has capacity to serve outlying communities not in the district. The interceptor system will be connected to Minneapolis sewer lines late this fall. NSSSD has a contract until 1970 to discharge sewage into its system and down to the Minneapolis-St, Paul Sanitary District treatment plant at Pig's Eye Lake.

WPCC has set standards for the Mississippi River that prohibit the deposit of any sewage effluent into the river between Anoka and Pig's Eye. These standards prevent the district from construction of their own treatment plant, NSSSD contends. The appellants further set out to prove the standards exceed the authority granted to the WPCC. They presented witnesses in an attempt to prove it would be providing better water pollution control and cost far less money to have a treatment plant in Fridley.

WPCC contends a sewage plant in Fridley would be a threat to the Minneapolis water supply, would endanger the health of Minneapolis residents should the plant be sabotaged, bombed or break down, and would cost more in the long run than a large central plant at Pig's Eye.

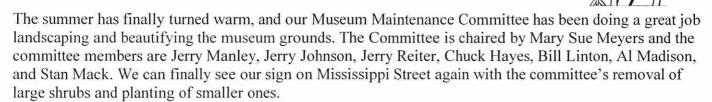






President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



The Maintenance Committee is also pricing two new furnaces that will be needed this fall to replace the existing ones that are not repairable. And we are looking at purchasing some additional chairs, tables, a copy machine and computer. If you know of a business that might donate any of these items to the Society, please let us know by calling 763-571-0120.

There are two issues on which I invite feedback from our members. One is the low attendance at our Monday night monthly membership meetings. We have 180 members, and our usual Monday evening turnout is 12 to 20 members even though we have booked some excellent presenters, including two programs this year featuring nationally known professional speakers.

The second issue is that very few people visit the Museum from 12 to 2 on Saturdays. Many Saturdays, no one comes to visit, and other Saturdays 1 to 3 people at most.

I am seeking suggestions on how to remedy these situations. For example, we could have the Museum open only two Saturdays a month and extend the Museum hours from 12 to 2 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our monthly membership meetings could be on the first of those two Saturdays from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

During our extended hours, we could show old-time movie comedies as done for Fridley kids back in the 1940's in this very same school building. We could have residents give oral family histories and exhibit family heirlooms. We could have guest speakers telling stories about the "old days" in Fridley. We could have long-time local companies sharing their history in Fridley. And we could have demonstrations of how museum artifacts were used years ago.

It has been suggested to me that monthly membership meetings may draw a larger attendance on Saturday during the day because a number of our more senior members have difficulty attending night meetings during the winter months because of driving conditions and darkness. We would continue to meet on Monday evenings for our Annual Meeting in October as required by the bylaws, for our Annual Holiday Concert in December, and for August Fest. The remainder of meetings would be on Saturdays.

Please let me know your ideas regarding increasing attendance at membership meetings and attracting more visitors to our Museum. Write a letter to FHS or leave a voice mail at 763-571-0120, or you can email me at rchris@pobox.com.

To build greater awareness of our Museum and the Society, I am in the process of developing a website for the Society. If you would like to participate in its creation, please leave a voice mail or send me an email and we can discuss how you can be involved in this exciting project.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society will be October 13, 2003, at the Fridley Community Center from 6 p.m to 8 p.m. We have chosen a larger location for this year's event because will have special entertainment, the **Kitchen Kut Ups** musical ensemble. The **Kitchen Kut Ups** perform using musical instruments made from kitchen utensils accompanied with the more traditional piano and accordion.

For the business segment of the meeting, we will again be considering changes to our bylaws. A copy of the bylaws is available for you to review at the Museum on Saturdays between Noon and 2 p.m., or a copy can be mailed you. If you wish a copy of the bylaws or have changes to recommend, please call the Society at 763-571-0120 and leave a voice mail message, including your name. Bylaw changes to be considered at the Annual Meeting will be reported in the September FHS Record.

Board members and officers will also be elected at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to recommend someone to serve on the Board, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Sue Meyers, at 763-717-7987.



Monday, October 13 6 - 8 DM Kitchen Kut Ups performing





FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55421 763-571-0120 phone

> Registration Form for Medtronic Meeting Inside



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future



FHS Record

Volume 16, Issue 6 Copyright 2003

Finding Your Family History



Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting,
Monday,
September 8
6:45—8:15 p.m.
Fridley Historical Museum
"Finding Your
Family History"
Speaker: Brigid Shields
Reference Librarian
Minnesota Historical
Society

Casino Trip
Wednesday, September 17
9 a.m.— 4 p.m.
Fridley Commons Park,
Norwood Square,
& Village Green
\$10 fee
\$5 returned at casino
Turtle Lake Casino

Annual Meeting
Monday, October 13
6 — 8:15 p.m.
Fridley Community Center
Potluck
Entertainment:
The Kitchen Kut Ups Band

Every family has a history that someone, some day, will likely be interested in. But not every family has recorded their history or undertaken a genealogy. Many family members know but scant details of prior generations, and would be amazed to learn some of the details of the lives of people they are related to. They may even have been in their will!



Once a matriarch or patriarch of a family passes away, then we wish we knew more about what their life was like. But after they are gone, it is no longer possible to have a conversation with them. Yet there is still information about them in places we may not ever have thought about.

Brigid Shields, Reference Librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, will speak to us at our monthly membership meeting on Monday evening, September 8, at the Museum. She will share a wealth of information on the resources available to each family about the history of their ancestors and how that information can easily be accessed. This is a meeting that you won't want to miss!

BETTING ON A GOOD TIME

Once a month more than 40 people board a bus to travel to a casino in Minnesota or Wisconsin for a very affordable good time. Many are regulars on the bus, and every month new people come aboard.

There are a number of different groups that offer casino trips, but the Fridley Historical Society's is the best value for the money. Unlike other trip sponsors that charge \$5 per person and give nothing back, FHS charges \$10, gives back \$5 at the casino, provides free refreshments on the bus, plus conducts Cardo games during the bus trip.

The next casino trip is to Turtle Island Casino in Wisconsin. Bus leaves Fridley Commons Park at 61st Street and 7th Avenue promptly at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Sep. 17. After leaving the Commons, the bus stops at Norwood Square and Village Green in Fridley.





Destination: Turtle Island Casino!

Board Members & Bylaws

At our Annual Meeting in October, we will elect board members and officers for the coming year. The Nominating Committee of Mary Sue Meyers, Chair (current board member), Suzanne Miskowic (Past President) and Tom Myhra (Past President) nominated the following members for 3-year terms on the board: Jerry Johnson, current board member whose term is expiring; Lillian Meyer, a former president of the Society; and Marilyn Manley, former charter board member. Nominated for Vice President is Mel Manley (current board member) and for Treasurer, Marilyn Manley. The committee received no nominations from the membership as was requested in the last FHS Record.

We also have changes being proposed to our Bylaws. A copy of the current Bylaws can be reviewed at the Museum on Saturdays during Museum hours or by calling and arranging a time to come to the Museum. The following changes will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting:

Article III - Membership. Paragraph 7: Move to Article III, Paragraph 4 as subsection C.

This refers to honorary members and it was decided to move this paragraph to the section dealing with membership categories.

Article IV – Officers. Paragraph 2: Second sentence change "September" to "August" and third sentence change to read "The names of the individuals recommended for officer positions will be included in the September newsletter sent to members or in a separate mailing one month prior to the annual meeting."

This paragraph is being revised to remove a conflict with Article VIII, Paragraph 8.

Article IV, Paragraph 4: Add to last sentence "and/or have worked in Fridley."

As it now reads, "All officers must be residents or former residents of Fridley." It was decided to expand this to include those who may not have resided in Fridley but worked in Fridley for some period of time.

Article V – <u>Board of Directors</u>. Paragraph 1: Add after last sentence: "Board member terms will be staggered so that 3 directors are elected twice every three years and 4 board members elected once every three years. Three board members will be elected in 2003, three in 2004 and four in 2005. The immediate past president will serve until a new president is elected." This will ensure that the Board always has approximately 2/3 of its membership with three or more years of experience as Board members.

Article VI – <u>Duties of Officers</u>. Paragraph 2: Change the last sentence to read: "The vice president shall also chair one of the society's standing or special committees as appointed by the president, and oversee membership retention and recruitment." *Currently, the vice president is in charge of both programs and membership recruitment.*

Article VI – <u>Duties of Officers</u>. Paragraph 3: Eliminate redundant paragraph on page 3.

This is a typo due to the first three lines of the paragraph on page 3 being mistakenly repeated on the following page.

Article VI. Paragraph 4: Change to read: "Proposed expenditures exceeding \$300 must first be approved by the board of directors prior to purchase, and approved again by the board of directors prior to payment."

As currently written, no board approval is needed for proposed expenditures over \$300, only board approval of the bill after the expenditure has already been made.

Article VII – Meetings. Paragraph 3: Add at end of sentence: "and in June, July and/or August with board approval."

This permits us to have membership meetings in summer months when special opportunities arise, as was the case when our request to have a membership meeting at the Medtronic World Headquarters with Earl Bakken speaking was approved.

Article VIII - Committees. Paragraph 1: Add at end of sentence: "Maintenance Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and Program & Events Committee," and eliminate the word "and" before Archives Committee.

The past year has demonstrated an ongoing need for these two additional standing committees, which have been ad hoc up till now.



The Ervin & Gloria Bjorngjeld Story, Part 1. The Early Years By Tom Myhra

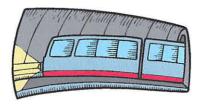
Ervin and Gloria Bjorngjeld are long time residents of Fridley, having lived at their home at 5909 Main Street for over half a century. During that time they raised a family of two children, have seen them grow up and leave home. However, both Dennis and Karen and their families still live in Anoka County. Ervin and Gloria are both retired and live in the same house that he built in 1947.

Ervin was born nearly a century ago, and has lived a full life filled with many experiences, including a variety of vocational and avocational jobs. But let's have Ervin tell us about it in his own words.

"I was born in 1912 in northwestern North Dakota on a farm outside a little town called Columbus. My father had homesteaded there in 1903. I grew up and was educated there. In 1932, near the beginning of the drought and depression years, I was working part-time in a coal mine four miles south of Columbus for 20 cents an hour. It was an open strip lignite mine named Truax Traer.

In the fall of 1933, the foreman of this mine came to our little farm and told me I could come to work full time on Monday. I asked him what they were paying, and he said 20 cents an hour. I said forget it, I can make that much money playing for dances and house parties. I played the banjo, and my brother Oliver was a super accordion player.

In the spring of 1935, we discovered that the farmers around Conrad, Montana, were doing a lot of hiring and were paying \$30 a month. These farmers had irrigation. During the summer when we didn't find work, we rode the freight trains from place to place. We traveled thousands of miles riding the side-door Pullmans.



In the fall of 1941, my friend and I thought that the war was just over the horizon, so we went to Seattle, as that town had what it took to fight a war. The Boeing bomber-making factory was there, as well as lots of shipyards. I went to work for Boeing for 62 and half cents an hour. Then I quit there and moved to a shipyard where I worked for \$1.15 an hour.

Gloria LeDoux, a young woman from Brainerd, MN, was also working at the shipyards. We met, began dating, and in 1944 we got married. The following year our son Dennis was born, and two years later our daughter Karen came along.

In the meantime, we had moved to Minneapolis in 1946. I had two brothers living there. We first lived in an apartment on West Broadway. The best job I could find paid 70 cents an hour. It was at Baker Iron, and I didn't take it. Then in the middle of May, Mr. Baker of the company told me that on June 1 the Union was raising the scale to 90 cents an hour. I told him that I would wait and think it over, but if I couldn't find anything better, I would take it. I didn't, so I went to work for Baker Iron.

Mr. Baker had been in business before the war, but closed up for the war. He had bought another, better building, and had moved his machines and equipment into it for the duration of the war. I was the first man to go to work for Baker Iron. I told Baker that I had built grain elevators in the state of Montana, and built B-29 bombers at Boeing, and ships at the shipyard, therefore I could read and work from blueprints. Being as I how I could do that, he said that as soon as we could get the shop straightened out, he would hire some men and go into business. I was all set with a good, long-term, permanent job."

Stay tuned for Part 2!



Page 4



Photos from Medtronic meeting



Earl Bakken signing book for Norma Lindquist Earl Bakken (seated) and Steve Mahle

August Fest Photos!















More August Fest Photos!











611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone

August Fest & Medtronic Photos Inside!



President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



This year's 8th Annual August Fest attracted more than double the attendance of last year. We had perfect weather and great entertainment: a highly talented Fridley City Band; two super clowns, Gypsy and Arica Rogers, who did face painting, balloon animals, and magic; Fireman D.J. Wojtowicz entertaining kids on the fire truck; a highly competitive base ball game with Rum River Lumber narrowly defeating the visiting Quicksteps; board members Debbie Smith, Pat Jaakkola, and Mel Manley serving hot dogs, ice cream and pop in the Pepsi wagon provided by Bob's Produce; Mayor Scott Lund and Miss Fridley Zoe Bucksa, and Princesses Katie Young and Sarah Marckese-Jass giving the event an authentic Fridley flavor.

Our membership meeting at Medtronic World Headquarters was a rousing success. Over 60 members attended, feasted on gourmet food, and heard Medtronic founder Earl Bakken tell of the company's origins and how his fascination with electrical devices (and Frankenstein) let to the development of the cardiac pacemaker. Earl kindly remained after the meeting to autograph free copies of his book, "One Man's Full Life."

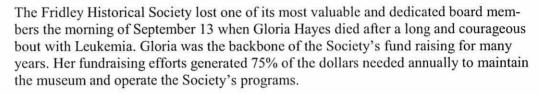
Our other speaker was Steve Mahle, SVP & President, Cardiac Rhythm Management, who extolled the wonderful corporate culture at Medtronic during his 31 years as an employee. He showed us a sample some of the new medical technology that is currently being developed by Medtronic.

FHS Record

Volume 16, Issue 7 Copyright 2003

GLORIA HAYES

In fond remembrance



Gloria was a founding member of the Fridley Historical Society and served on the Board of Directors from its inception. When her health had deteriorated to the extent where she could no longer make the 100+ telephone calls she made every month to recruit people to attend the casino trips, she very reluctantly resigned from the board so another person could take over her duties.

On June 9, 2003, the Society's Board of Director passed the following resolution:

A resolution of the Fridley Historical Society to recognize and honor the contributions made by Gloria Hayes over the years that in large part strengthened the viability of the Fridley Historical Museum.

Whereas, Gloria Hayes is a founding member of the Fridley Historical Society, a founding and current member of the Board of Directors, and is Chair of the Society's Fundraising Committee; and

Whereas, Gloria Hayes has served as the Chair of the Annual Fundraising Dinner for all 13 events since 1991; and

Whereas, in 1990, when there was but \$700 in the Society treasury, Gloria Hayes personally led the effort to strengthen the financial status of the Society by holding fundraising events in which she invested significant time and effort, and which contributed in large measure to the financially strong Fridley Historical Society of today;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Directors of the Fridley Historical Society that a museum artifact display cabinet be acquired and located in the Museum, and designated "The Gloria Hayes Memorial Display Case."

Two copies of the resolution were signed by each board member and framed. One copy was personally delivered to Gloria at Fairview Hospital the day following its enactment. The other copy hangs on a wall in the Museum. The Maintenance Committee is searching for a display cabinet worthy of Gloria to be dedicated and installed at the Museum.

Peace and happy recollections to the memory of Gloria Hayes, one of Fridley's finest citizens, one of the Society's most valued board members.





Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting
Monday, October 13
6 — 8:15 p.m.
Fridley Community Center
Potluck—bring your
favorite dish
Entertainment:
The Kitchen Kut Ups Band
Short business meeting
(see page 2)

Casino Trip
Wednesday, October 15
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Turtle Lake Casino
Pick up locations:
Fridley Commons
Norwood Square
Village Green
Banfill Crossing
\$10 fee; \$5 returned
at Casino
(see page 2)

Fridley Cable TV Show
Sundays
September 21 & 28
Channel 15 (Fridley only)
1-hour program on recent
August Fest

Casino Trip to Turtle Lake

Our next casino trip will be to Turtle Lake Casino in Wisconsin, Wednesday October 15.

The bus will leave Fridley Commons Park at 61st Street and 7th Avenue at 9 a.m. and stop at Norwood Square, Village Green and Banfill Crossing in Fridley. It will arrive at the casino at 10:30 a.m. and leave the casino at 2:30 p.m., arriving back in Fridley at 4:00 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per person, with \$5 in quarters being returned when you leave the bus. To sign up for this trip, mail a check for \$10 to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street N.E., Fridley, MN 55432, or drop an envelope with your check in the mail slot at the Museum, or call the Society at 763-571-0120 and leave your name and phone number. We must have your check no later than October 7. Tickets will be mailed to you.

September Membership Meeting

Society members had one of the most informative meetings on historical research ever held at the Museum. Brigid Shields, Reference Librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, provided a very comprehensive and interesting presentation on how to access genealogical information on Minnesota residents back to 1865. She used many overhead transparencies to demonstrate the various processes that can be used to undertake research on people whose vital statistics you want to unearth.

The Minnesota Historical Society has a large library divided into two reference rooms: the Weyerhaeuser Reference Room with books, audio and video tapes, photographs, maps and a copy service department; and The Ronald M. Hubbs Microfilm Room has newspapers, censuses, death records, tax lists, plat books and self-service microfilm and microfiche readers. Best of all, staff is on hand to provide assistance.



Brigid Shields, Reference Librarian for Minnesota Historical Society, spoke at our September meeting

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society will be held on Monday, October 13, from 6 to 8:15 p.m. Because we will have as many as 18 members of the Kitchen Kut Ups Band entertaining, we needed a larger meeting space. So our Annual Meeting will be take place at the FRIDLEY COMMUNITY CENTER.

The Kitchen Kut Ups perform using kitchen tools as musical instruments plus a piano and accordion. They have been performing for 17 years. There are 23 in the musical ensemble, with 16 to 18 usually at each performance. A number of skits are incorporated into their program, so the audience is given the full repertoire of music, laughter, and nostalgia.

Food will be potluck, so please feel free to bring your favorite dish. However, bringing a dish is not a requirement for attending the meeting. The Community Center has requested that we do not bring any dishes with red sauces that could stain their carpet in the meeting room.

The agenda for the meeting will include election of new board members, election of officers, approval of bylaw changes, financial report and 2004 budget, a report on new programs and events planned for 2004, and some special awards.

New Board Member

At the September board meeting, the board elected Verna Campbell to replace Gloria Hayes who resigned the end of August due to illness. Verna is a Fridley resident and a Realtor with Counselor Realty. She was born and grew up near Hibbing in Buck Lake, Minnesota, and moved to Fridley last year.

Verna served on the Economic Development Authority (EDA) board of directors for Keewatin, MN; on the Iron Range Economic Alliance board for the Iron Range area; on the Itasca County Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Agency (IRRRB) board of directors; and the Itasca Work Group board which secured housing for people in Grand Rapids, MN. In addition, she has experience in securing grants for nonprofit organizations.

Verna will also take over Gloria's role as chair of the Fundraising Committee with help from Carol Christenson and board member Jerry Johnson who will chair the Casino Subcommittee. With a wealth of governance experience, Verna is a valuable addition to our Board of Directors.



The Ervin & Gloria Bjorngjeld Story, Part 2. Moving to Fridley

Continuing Ervin Bjorngeld's story in his own words:

"In 1947 we decided to look around for some land on which to build a house. Our son, Dennis, wandered into the auto traffic on /his bicycle--we knew we had to get out of the apartment we were renting. Somehow, we heard that Donald Crooks, who lived at 59th Avenue and 2nd Street in Fridley, had some lots for sale at \$100 dollars a lot--so we bought three. We had a lot split on the middle lot, so we wound up with two 60 ft lots.

I built a house in the summer of 1947 on the south lot. But even before moving into it, we decided it was too small. Someone wanted to have it, and bought it for \$3,000 dollars-\$500 dollars down, and \$30 a month payments. I had \$900 dollars in the house including the lot costs, but not the value of my labor, and I needed to get the other lot ready for building by having a well drilled and a sewer system installed. There went the \$1500 dollars we had saved up during the war.

I had bought the lumber for the first house from Miles Lumber in Camden, so I went back to them to talk about getting materials for the second house. He told me that he could get a loan for me to pay for the lumber. During that winter of 1947-48, I made blue prints for the proposed house and a list of the lumber and materials needed, and gave them to the manager at Miles Lumber. He figured it out, and told me that I would need a loan of \$1,312 dollars, and that I could pay it off monthly with 41 payments of \$32 each. He delivered the lumber, but found out later I couldn't get that kind of a loan, since it was for remodeling a home, not building a new one. Miles Lumber agreed to finance the loan.

I had plenty of help building this house. My two brothers and a brother-in-law helped. It got built, but we again ran out of money, and the house needed painting. So I went to my banker to get a loan, and he wondered where the house was located. I'd asked Don Crooks when I bought the land what the address would be, and he said that the number was 5909 and the street was Van Buren. Then the banker got back to me and told me that he had to see the house. He'd gone looking for it, but the address I gave him, put it in the middle of Moore Lake. That was when I found out that the wagon trail in front of our house was Main Street.

To the west of this Main Street was a pasture that ran all the way from the street then called Mississippi Avenue on the north to Highway 100 on the south and lots of cows grazed there. The farmer lived just east of the railroad tracks and just south of Mississippi Ave. From our house at that time, I could look in all directions and within one mile I could count all the houses on one hand--and two of them were farmers. There was a pig farm to the north, perhaps a bit north east of where the Moon Plaza is today.

There was only one tree I could see. It was a big tree and it still stands today in Henry Melikowski's yard. We used to sit east of our house and watch the movies at the 100 Twin Outdoor Theater. Now the area in that direction is filled with a lot of trees and looks like a forest. The theater is long gone, but it never mattered, for long ago Don Crooks built a house on top of the basement house he lived in, and it blocked our view of the outdoor movies.

I used to worry about the sand dunes three blocks north of us, for when it was windy, they blew about. But as the city grew, some contractor leveled them out, and I think he covered them with clay and black dirt. Now there are beautiful homes built there. One would never know that that once there was a sand dunes area there.

When we moved so happily into our new home in 1948, the nearest grocery store was Thiesens down on Broadway. Then someone else built a store in Columbia Heights. A few years later a George Antonozy built a store at University and 60th. This was more convenient to us and we always shopped there. Forty years later I belonged to a senior citizen golf club. Once after a round of golf, we were having coffee at a table in the clubhouse. A stranger sitting across from me asked me my name. When I said I was Ervin Bjorngjeld, he said that years ago he had a grocery store, and a faithful customer by that name. He said his customer always charged groceries during the week and paid the bill each Saturday. That was, of course, me, and after a half century we met again. We have been become good friends."

Ervin and Gloria are retired and live in that same house. Gloria jokes that when her husband built that house, nothing was said about living in it for 60 years. They are adamant that Fridley was a good place in which to bring up children, and their kids grew, were healthy, and well educated in Fridley. During this time, Fridley also grew and prospered. They watched the cow paths and wagon trails become paved streets, new stores of all kinds came on the scene, other big, big businesses joined FMC, the shopping areas became malls, the hospital and medical clinics came on the scene, parks and play areas became located throughout the city, new schools were erected, and, of course, houses, houses, and more houses were built.

Your reporter visited Ervin and Gloria recently. That homebuilt house is still trim, neat, well cared for, and an excellent place to spend retirement years. Ervin in the last year has given up driving because his eyesight is not as it was, but the Cub grocery store is close, and their son and daughter are great about taken them where they need to go. They keep well informed about what is going on in the world, and Ervin even keeps up on events in Columbus, his boyhood home, by subscribing to the local newspaper.



Hall of Fame Committee Report, by 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 most 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.

The Hall of Fame committee was established in January 2003. The committee members are Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic, and Jerry Manley. With the help of Society President Robert Christenson they have been busy working on the creation of the Hall of Fame. Their plans call for the Hall of Fame to open with its first inductees in April of 2004.

The Hall of Fame will be located in the entrance hall of the Fridley Historical Society Museum. Each inductee will have their own plaque on display honoring them. Beneath the plaques there will be a book containing further information about each inductee.

The process that will be used each year to induct new members into the Hall of Fame is as follows:

At the annual members meeting in October we will announce that we are accepting nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame. Nominations will be made by filling out a Hall of Fame nomination form. If you are interested in picking up a nomination form they will be available at this meeting.

We will also publicize that we are seeking requests for nomination forms through newspapers and newsletters throughout the Fridley area. Anyone interested in receiving a nomination form will be instructed to contact the museum.

Nominations will be due by January 31st. From these nominations the Hall of Fame committee will select that years inductees with the approval of the Society's Board of Directors at the March board meeting.

The inductees will be honored at the Fridley Historical Society's annual dinner in April. The Society will present each inductee with an award and spend a few minutes telling why they were chosen. Their plaque will then be added to the museum's Hall of Fame.

Programs & Events Committee Report

by Robert Christenson

We have been very fortunate this year to have had many top-notch speakers at membership meetings, including Dr. Dale Anderson ("Never Act Your Age"), Annie Glasgow ("Get Your Name Off The 'Best-Stressed List"); Diane & Wade Savage ("Baghdad Diary"); Earl Bakken & Steve Mahle ("The Medtronic Story") and Brigid Shields ("Finding Your Family History").

For October, we have booked the highly popular Kitchen Kut Up musical ensemble to entertain us, and we have a special speaker we will tell you about in the next newsletter for November. And then in December we will have our special Holiday Concert featuring a Fridley High School musical group and a beautifully old-time Christmas decorated Museum with artwork from Hayes Elementary Kindergarten students.

Our special events have been very successful as well. Gloria Hayes produced another spectacular fund raising dinner and raffle and our August Fest with the QuickSteps, the Fridley Band, clowns, etc., had one of the largest turnouts ever.

Newsletter Committee Report by Robert Christenson

The FHS Record will be published a total of 9 times in 2003. This represents 3 more issues than 2002, and we hope to continue this in 2004. We now also publish the FHS Record in an e-mail format. If we have your e-mail address, you should be receiving the newsletter in a PDF format for viewing on your computer.

The main advantage of having the newsletter e-mailed is that all the graphics and photographs are in bright living color. Those who do receive the newsletter by e-mail could agree to forego the mailed edition and save the Society many dollars in printing and postage over a year's time. So if you are not receiving the FHS Record by e-mail now, just e-mail me at rchris@pobox.com and I will add you to the e-mail list. And also please let me know if you are willing to receive only the e-mail version or if you need to receive both.



Tamarisk Resources Inc. founded in 1993 by Gretchen Hanson, a 40-year resident of Fridley, provides compassionate non-medical care to the terminally ill in the north suburban area. In 1997 Tamarisk purchased the Gottwald House, one of Fridley's oldest and finest homes built in 1883, and named the home the Tamarisk House. It is located at 1282 Mississippi Street and serves as a business facility as well as a place of training and healing. Tamarisk is recognized world wide as a unique model of caring for the dying and their loved ones.

Tamarisk Mission

Tamarisk's mission is to provide non-medical volunteer support to enable terminally ill patients to remain in their homes as they travel the final stage of their life's journey home. Tamarisk Volunteers are caring and competent individuals who understand patient and caregiver needs. Key to Tamarisk Resources' program is the training of its staff and volunteer caregivers. Great emphasis is given to developing competent compassionate volunteers who walk alongside people who are dying as well as their loved ones who care about them. Tamarisk Volunteers offer friendship, support, caregiving, and resources to meet the patient's end-of-life needs.

Volunteer and Patient Overview

Since its inception in 1993, Tamarisk has trained over 150 volunteers to assist with the mission of Tamarisk. These trained Tamarisk volunteers provide compassionate non-medical care for terminally ill individuals who reside predominantly in Anoka County. Yearly, Tamarisk Caregivers provide over 3000 hours of compassionate care for the terminally ill and their loved ones. In total, nearly 1000 families have now been cared for by Tamarisk.

Tamarisk recruits volunteers (both men and women), who have a desire to help ease the difficulties in other lives. All volunteers for Tamarisk are required to complete the 40-hour comprehensive training program provided on-site at the Tamarisk House. Professionals who are licensed members of the medical, hospice, and social services communities provide volunteer Training.

Funding and Support

Tamarisk provides its services without charge. Tamarisk has been concerned from the beginning about excluding no one for financial reasons. It depends on donations and gifts to meet its expenses. Funding is always uncertain when it relies on the generosity of others, but to date community members have shown they value having Tamarisk's services available by their donations.

Despite good medical care and home nursing options, persons facing terminal illness and their families often feel overwhelmed by the emotional and physical burden the illness places on their time, energy, and abilities. Tamarisk Volunteers can step in to help families and ease their burden by providing in-home compassionate care.

Tamarisk trained volunteers are an important link between our community and terminally ill persons. Tamarisk creates that link through the time and talent of its dedicated volunteers.

"Every human being has a great, yet often unknown gift to care, to be compassionate, to become present to the other, to listen, to hear, and to receive. If that gift would be set free and made available, miracles could take place. Those who really can receive bread from a stranger and smile in gratitude can feed many without realizing it. Those who can sit in silence with their fellowman not knowing what to say but knowing that they should be there, can bring new life in a dying heart. Those who are not afraid to hold a hand in gratitude, to shed tears in grief, and to let a sigh of distress arise straight from the heart, can break through paralyzing boundaries and witness the birth of new fellowship, the fellowship of the broken."





611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone

Annual Meeting Details — page 2!



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



There is a big empty space in the hearts of Fridley Historical Society board members, as well as Society members, casino trip travelers, and many others with the passing of Gloria Hayes on September 13. There was no more tireless worker than Gloria. She single-handedly organized 13 fund raising dinners, making personal visits (with husband Chuck as chauffeur) to over 50 Fridley businesses asking them to donate raffle items each year. For each fundraiser, she personally called every single member of the Society to see how many dinner tickets and raffle tickets they wanted to buy.

Every month she made about 80 initial telephone calls to sign up people for casino trips, and then called them back a second time to make sure they would attend. She almost always filled the bus with 46 casino-goers.

She was a faithful board member, rarely missing a board meeting or a membership meeting or a special event. Three people have volunteered to help take over her fund raising duties, but we will definitely need more. And I recruited an individual with strong board experience who also has fund raising and grant writing skills (Verna Campbell – see story page 2) to take her place on our Board of Directors. Even so, it will be a huge challenge to maintain our fundraising absent Gloria's leadership, and our board and membership meetings will never be the same without her.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to husband Chuck, Gloria's family and close friends.

FHS Record

Volume 16, Issue 8 Copyright 2003







Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting Monday, November 10 7-8:30 p.m. **Fridley Historical Museum** Speaker: Flo Scholliergedes. Photographer Extraordinaire Topic: Country Barns and Old Things

different themes. For our meeting, we selected a historical theme, of course, Country Barns & Old Things. The photos will include, besides barns, one-room schoolhouses, machinery, and old houses.

Our November Membership Meeting will feature Flo Scholljergedes, a retired Registered Nurse and Commander in the U.

S. Navy who turned professional photographer. Flo presents breathtaking slide shows, of which she has developed 10 to 12

Flo judges both local and international photographic competitions. She is a member of the Photographic Society of America, Women's Color Photography Club, Minnesota Nature Photography Club, and the Twin City Council of Camera Clubs. She has used a camera much of her life, but says that before retirement she snapped pictures, and now she takes photos. And for the past 20 years she has taken some of the most amazing photos of very interesting subjects.

And the program is not just her photos. Flo tells entertaining stories about each photograph providing a stimulating journey in pictures of icons of rural Minnesota and Wisconsin. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum. This will be an evening we are certain to enjoy.



Casino Trip to Turtle Lake

Our next casino trip will be to Turtle Lake Casino in Wisconsin, Wednesday, November 19.

The bus will leave Fridley Commons Park at 61st Street and 7th Avenue at 9 a.m. and stop at Norwood Square, Village Green and Banfill Crossing in Fridley. It will arrive at the casino at 10:30 a.m. and leave the casino at 2:30 p.m., arriving back in Fridley at 4:00 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per person, with \$5 in quarters being returned when you leave the bus. To sign up for this trip, mail a check for \$10 to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street N.E., Fridley, MN 55432, or drop an envelope with your check in the mail slot at the Museum, or call the Society at 763-571-0120 and leave your name and phone number. Tickets will be mailed to you or prepaid tickets can be picked up at the Fridley Senior Center.

Fridley's First Kindergarten Teacher



Kindergarten in Fridley did not commence in a local school until the late 1950s. But for a number of years prior to kindergarten in a Fridley school, Gen Duffy conducted kindergarten in her home on Talmadge Way.

Gen's kindergarten class included 12 to 18 children who met three times a week for half a day in her basement. Some of the children's parents included Herb and Betty Bacon, the Wyman Smiths, the Gartens, and others. There was no lack of teaching experience in her background. Before moving to Minnesota, she taught in oneroom schoolhouses in Corson, Crooks, and Beaver Valley, South Dakota. Each schoolhouse had 8 grades, one teacher, no running water, and no electricity. Students carried water each day from town as needed.

When Gen, husband Earl, and children came to Fridley in 1950, she discovered kindergarten was not offered in the public school. In 1954, she was asked to teach kindergarten in her home. Duffys had six children then, with three who were not yet school age. The three of school age (Michael 6, Kathryn 7 and Patricia 9) all attended private school. Gen felt that discipline was very much lacking in public schools during that era.

Every year she held a Christmas party for the kindergartners and their relatives, and she was able to accommodate 100 people in her basement for the event. The children begin preparing for their Christmas program Thanksgiving week each year.

It was her experience that kindergarten put the children about 6 months ahead of other students who did not go to kindergarten. Her kindergarten curriculum included penmanship (including writing each child's own name), counting, spelling, art, drama, poetry, and dancing to a phonograph. Gen, (which is short for Geneva, her middle name), loved folk dancing, and her husband Earl would take her folk dancing at least once a week.

When asked what she used for teaching materials, she said, "Imagination, mostly." She had two blackboards in her basement schoolroom, some school desks, and for paper she acquired used paper that already had printing on one side from businesses.

She also had a duplicator, a Tower Copy King Hectograph Gelatin Duplicator, sold only by Sears Roebuck and which printed in purple. She would copy exercises and art from magazines published expressly for schoolteachers and distribute them to the children. Gen has generously donated this duplicator to the Fridley Historical Museum.

After Fridley began offering kindergarten in 1958, Gen ended her home kindergarten school

and began teaching at Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights.

Gen still lives in the home they purchased in 1950, which sits on a beautiful 2-acre site on a creek near Osborne Road and East River Road on which deer frequently roam and eat her hostas.



Annual Meeting Photo Recap October 13, 2004















Archive and Reference Room Committee Report

by Pete Bonesteel, Chair

Two separate rooms make up this segment of the Fridley Historical Society. The Reference room volunteers include Lillian Meyer and Suzanne Miskowic who are currently working on setting up a new type of filing system similar to the one used by the Anoka County Historical Society. This is a very complex type of system, and it is expected that it will be several years before becoming completely operational. It is a very slow, tedious, and often boring task building this type of database. The power of the database is impressive, and we thank Lillian and Suzanne for doing this work!

The Archive room has been completely renovated and just reopened in the past thirty days. Complete with new flooring, lighting, a new paint job, and some new shelving, this room is ready to begin accepting new artifacts to be incorporated into our museum displays. Volunteers Jerry Johnson and Pete Bonesteel are now working on sorting through a huge assortment of old pictures, slides, old books, catalogs, and other miscellaneous items.

The goals for the Archive Committee members for the year 2004 will be as follows:

Reference Room:

- 1. To continue to set-up a viable filing system that all can understand.
- 2. To set up new categories as required for "immediate use" such as Personal Histories for our forth-coming Fridley History Book.

Archive Room:

- 1. To get as many "new items and pictures" on display as soon as possible.
- 2. To implement and start using our new forms and policies relating to donations and loans to the Fridley Historical Society.

History you can use!

Maintenance Committee Report

by Jerry Manley, Chair

It has been a busy late summer and early fall for the Maintenance Committee. On August 26th, Bill Linton and I had

an outdoor cleanup of the grounds. All of the shrubbery needed trimming, and the weeds were cut all around the building.



On September 13th, we had an inside trash removal day. Thanks to volunteers Tom Myhra, Warren Woods, and Mel Manley, we were



able to clean out the attic, basement storeroom, and basement office. We just about filled a fifteen-yard dumpster.

In mid-September, I took over as Maintenance Committee Chairman, and I had to draw up the Maintenance Committee proposed budget for the year 2004.



On September 29th and 30th, Dave's Heating and Air Conditioning installed two new Trane furnaces and on October 1st, Mickman Bros. Landscaping winterized our lawn irrigation system.



On October 9th, I purchased and installed CO (carbon monoxide) detectors in both upstairs classrooms, and

on October 11th Bill Linton used his pickup truck to haul all of our old electronic equipment to the recycle center.

On October 30th, we had an indoor cleanup day to prepare the Museum for the holidays.

I have set up a snow removal schedule for the Maintenance Committee running from November 2nd through April 3rd. With seven committee members, each one will only be responsible for three weeks the entire winter, one week at a time. No one should have to wade through deep snow to reach the front or back doors all winter.



City & Family History Committee Report by Tom Myhra, Chair

The two main goals of the Fridley Historical Society's City & Family History Committee for the current year are:

- 1) To sponsor and oversee the professional writing of the history of Fridley, and
- 2) The coordination of a book of histories of the residents of Fridley, past and present.

A number of meetings of the Committee have occurred, particularly regarding the Fridley history book, and the members have interviewed professional writers about the writing assignment. A published writer from Roseville has been chosen, and a writing contract is being developed.

In the meantime, the members of the Committee are studying means of financing the endeavor. Once completed, the book sales are expected to cover the cost of publishing the book. The writer has written many articles and books, including a very good history of Marshall, Minnesota.

How quickly the Committee can accomplish its second goal of a book of family histories depends almost entirely on how quickly the residents of Fridley can be encouraged and motivated to write about their forbears, as well as their own immediate family. The Committee recognizes that someone who has lived in Fridley for only a short while, past or present, might be reluctant to write, but ancestors that lived here in the past, or residents who were here for the big '65 tornado, or have raised a family in Fridley, or have had a community leadership role, all have histories that need to be recorded.

A number of accounts have been written, or orally developed by taped interview, or even captured with a video camera. If you have already written a history, or would like to begin one, contact the Committee by calling 763-571-3342, the phone number of Tom Myhra, Chair.

Fundraising Committee Report

by Someone

We lost a very powerful fundraiser when Gloria Hayes passed away. Gloria was the entire Fundraising Committee for many years. Fortunately, Past President and Charter Board Member Suzanne Miskowic has agreed to step in and provide the leadership for fundraising beginning November 1 and continuing through 2004.

At the Board of Directors 2004 Planning Meeting held October 26th, the following goals were presented by Suzanne Miskowic for the Fundraising Committee for the coming year:

- 50% increase in total dollars raised through fundraising events in 2004, provided that casino trips remain viable.
 Many casinos are drastically reducing the funds they offer nonprofit organizations that bring busloads of members to their facilities.
- 2. A target ridership of 45 people for each casino trip. Even at 45 people, the Society will only net \$450 per trip, which is \$100 less than such trips in the past. The casino trips have provided 40% of the revenue needed to pay for the Museum's operating expenses.
- 3. A new major fundraising event in 2004 in addition to the annual Fundraising Dinner and Raffle which is held the last Saturday in April each year. Chair Suzanne Miskowic has a specific new fundraising event in mind, provided we can find a location that can accommodate 300 people at an affordable price (preferably, free).

The Fundraising Committee definitely can use some additional members. This is our most important committee, for without generating revenue in addition to our annual dues, we would not be able to continue to operate the only community-based historical museum in Anoka County. If you would be willing to serve on the Fundraising Committee, please call Suzanne at 763-571-3493.



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone

Photos from Annual Meeting — page 3!



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



The Board of Directors held its 2004 Planning Meeting at the Museum on October 23. The meeting included both current board members as well as new board members elected to serve in 2004.

Key outcomes of the Planning Meeting included:

- A. Setting benchmarks by which to grade the Society's performance each year.
- B. Identifying our Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities.
- C. Establishment of Key Objectives for each of the Society's nine Committees to accomplish in 2004.
- D. Development of three Major Goals for the Society for 2004:
 - 1. Improve attendance at Museum open houses and Society sponsored events.
 - 2. Increase membership by 25% (grow from 200 to 250 members)
 - 3. Increase revenue to show a net income in excess of expenditures and maintain a fund balance equal to 6 months budgeted revenue at a minimum.



We are most fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated Board of Directors. This was a very productive planning event, and the Board left the meeting highly enthused about the coming year.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2003

Volume 16, Issue 9 Copyright 2003







Upcoming Events



Membership Meeting
Monday, December 8
6—8:15 PM
Fridley Historical Museum
Entertainment:
Kids of Fridley Chorale
Potluck Holiday Dinner
Bring a dozen or two
Christmas cookies for this
meeting and the
Kindergarten Open House

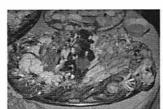


Kindergarten Open House Saturday, December 13 Noon—3:00 PM Fridley Historical Museum Christmas cookies & hot cider Kindergarten Art Work



Come to the Fridley Historical Society Museum for two great holiday events the week of December 8! These are both annual affairs and always draw many Museum visitors from our membership, from the families of kindergarten children, and from the community.

Once again we have the privilege of listening to the Kids



From Fridley Chorale as they fill the Museum with great music on Monday evening, December 8. Come early, and bring you favorite holiday dish for the pot luck dinner beginning at 6 p.m. It will

be a true Christmas Smorgasbord with hot cider,

Christmas cookies, and many other delights. (If we are very lucky, maybe even Lutefisk!)



And then come back again on Saturday the 13th from Noon to 3 p.m. for the annual **Kindergarten Open House**.

Kindergarten kids from Fridley schools are excitedly creating beautiful pictures for our membership to view throughout the Museum. The Museum is decorated for an old fashioned Christmas, and the students will have their individual photo taken

next to their masterpiece. Christmas cookies and hot cider will be served.

As you begin baking your Christmas cookies for the holidays, add a couple dozen more to bring to our membership meeting Monday, December 8, for that evening and for the Kindergarten Open House on Saturday, December 13. Homemade cookies are preferred, but we do not refuse store-bought cookies either! We need quite a few dozen cookies, so bring as many as you can Monday night.

Don't miss this annual holiday celebration!



Great Membership Meeting November 10!

We had another great turnout for our October Membership Meeting. Flo Scholljegerdes provided a breathtaking photo tour of old barns, machinery, school houses, and other buildings located mostly throughout rural Minnesota. Her narrative of the places she visited and photographed was as interesting as the color slides themselves. There were 33 members in attendance, and all agreed we wanted to have Flo return next year to present another of her 12 photographic theme programs.



Membership Renewals



2004

All memberships are up for renewal at the end of December. You will be soon receiving a membership renewal form in the mail, so be sure to respond promptly. There are some special goodies for those who renew by the dead-line listed in the renewal letter you receive. And if you want to continue receiving the <u>FHS Record</u> newsletter, you must renew before the end of December.

We also invite you to fill out the Volunteer Form enclosed with your renewal. We have nine committees, and they all need more volunteers. Your time and talents are of great value to us, so please consider joining one of the committees below. Plus, you will make some new friends, have fun times, and learn new things when you serve on a committee. You can also contact a Committee Chair below directly if you would like to participate on any of these committees next year.

Archives Committee – Pete Bonesteel: 763-755-7934 peterlbonesteel@aol.com >

City & Family History Committee: Tom Myhra – 763-571-3342

Finance Committee – Marilyn Manley: 763-571-6963 <jerrymanley@msn.com>

Fundraising Committee – Suzanne Miskowic: 763-571-3493

Hall of Fame Committee – Mel Manley: 763-493-2949 <melmanley@comcast.net> Maintenance Committee – Jerry Manley: 763-571-6963 <jerrymanley@msn.com> Membership Committee – Verna Campbell: 612-702-7387 <vernamcampbell@aol.com> Newsletter & PR Committee – Lillian Meyer: 763-571-5328 <lnmeyer@mn.rr.com> Program & Events Committee – Mary Sue Meyers: 763-717-7987 <dammsm1@aol.com>

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Debbie Smith



Currently, the Finance Committee is made up of 4 members. Debbie Smith is the chairperson, Gordon Christenson is the recording secretary, and Mel Manley and Sue Miskowic are the other 2 volunteers. Our goals for 2003 were to establish an operating budget, a capital expenditures budget, a design for financial reports, and a bookkeeping process. We have met all the goals we established. The new formats for the financial reports and the bookkeeping process should greatly aid the auditing process for 2003.



We have stayed within our budgeting goals for operating expenses and capital expenditures. Our Wells Fargo investment account for \$10,327 was liquidated to pay for some capital expenditures. A much needed furnace was purchased and installed. A new cabinet was purchased in memory of Gloria Hayes. The remainder is reserved for future improvements. Our beginning fund balance was \$20,600. The ending fund balance will be approximately \$10,065 if we purchase all of the equipment budgeted for acquisition in 2003.

Our committee met in September to draw up the budget for 2004. The budget was then presented to the board at the October 2 board meeting. After some discussion, it was voted on and unanimously approved. It is a very aggressive budget, and its success will depend upon the involvement of many of the Society's members in helping to meet the goals established by all the committees.

The Finance Committee is always looking for new members. If you have any financial experience, enjoy working with numbers, or would just like to help out in some way, please consider volunteering for this committee. New and fresh ideas are always appreciated and necessary for progress. The books for 2003 will need to be audited in January. This sub-committee will consist of a board member and a member of the society. If you can help, please contact the Fridley Historical Society.

20th Anniversary of an Idea

Your editor discovered this letter in the archives of the Fridley Historical Museum. It was this letter and the creative ideas and support of other Fridley citizens that inaugurated the birth of the Fridley Historical Society and Museum twenty years ago. The Fridley Historical Society finally incorporated two years after this letter was written. The letter was originally written by our Immediate Past President and long time board member Tom Myhra.

July 21, 1983

Mr. Gordon Sangster, Chairman Board of Education Independent School District No. 14 6000 West Moore Lake Drive NE Fridley, MN 55432 Hayes Annex

Fridley Historical Museum



Dear Mr. Sangster:

I'm writing this letter to you as a resident of District 14 only and not in my capacity as district administrator.

It is my feeling that the school district would be making a mistake if they razed the Hayes Annex. It is my feeling that we have a basically sound building, recognizing that the Building Committee was accurate in saying that it lacks insulation, etc.

At the time we were leaving the building as its last tenants, we were asked by the City of Fridley to estimate the cost necessary for continuing its use during the winter months of heating.

At that time we estimate the cost at \$80,000 with most work to be done by either school or city crews. Among the items of cost were shingles (since repaired by horticulture teachers), new windows, repair of sewer tiles at street exit, and repair to back shed, etc. There was not evidence at that time (8 years ago) that the building was not structurally sound.

Since that time damage has occurred to the hot water system, and the back shed is gone. Additionally, the furnace, never very good to begin with, likely is beyond redemption.

Having said all that, I still believe the building has some exciting possibilities. I would like to see it become an educational museum which would be open only during non-heating months. The two rooms at top would become classrooms to be use in the manner of the Cahill School in Edina. The basement would become a museum for local history.

I have discussed this idea with a number of Fridley residents and I have received very positive answers.

If the Community Education Advisory Council does get involved in studying possible future uses for Hayes Annex, one proposal I will put forward will be that a group of citizens incorporate, seek to buy the annex for \$1.00, raise funds to clean it up and do the necessary repair work preparatory to turning the building into an educational museum.

Signature (Tom Myhra)



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone

Membership Renewal Reminder Inside!



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



At the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society in October, the following new members were elected to the Board of Directors:

Marilyn Manley. Marilyn was elected to the Board as our new Treasurer. Marilyn has chaired different committees in the past, such as the Kindergarten Open House, a project she is in charge of this year

Lillian Meyer. Lillian is a past president and a long-time member of the Society. Lillian will be chair of the Newsletter & Public Relations Committee.

Suzanne Miskowic. Suzanne is also a past president and has served for many years on the Board. Suzanne will be chair of the Fundraising Committee.

Current board member Mel Manley was elected for an additional three-year term and also elected Vice President.

The remainder of the board members include Pat Jaakkola (Secretary), Pete Bonesteel, Verna Campbell, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Tom Myhra, and Robert Christenson, President.

This will be the last FHS Record I will be editing. I have had the immense pleasure of publishing the newsletter the past two years, and now Lillian Meyer will become editor. Lillian brings great experience to this role, having been editor of the Society's newsletter in the past.