

FHS RecordVolume 17, Issue 1
Copyright 2004**Super Saturdays****Upcoming
Events**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, January 10
 Noon—2 p.m.

Fridley Historical Museum
*Updating Grandma's
 Recipes*
 Potluck lunch or
 bring your own

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, January 10
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Old Time Movies
 & Popcorn**
Fridley Historical Museum

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, January 24
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Old Time Movies
 & Popcorn**
Fridley Historical Museum

CASINO TRIP
Wednesday, January 21
 Call 763-571-0120

In January we begin our programs of *Super Saturdays* at the Museum. There will be interesting and exciting events for open houses at the Museum on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. The Museum will now be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on *Super Saturdays* and closed on other Saturdays. Our membership meeting will be the second Saturday of the month.

For our January 10th membership meeting, speaking to us will be a professional cook who will explain how to take those great dishes that our moms and grandmothers and great-grandmothers cooked, fried, and baked for us, and show how to make them healthier dishes without impairing their "deliciousness." Every member is asked to bring a favorite family recipe to share. These will be assembled in a mini-cookbook and mailed to all who contribute a recipe.

Our open houses on January 10th and 24th will feature old-time movies such as the original Lone Ranger, Popeye, Little Rascals, Looney Tunes, Captain Marvel, and others. We have a large-screen TV for watching movies. Fifty years ago movies were shown to kids at this same school. Now we are offering this entertainment again.

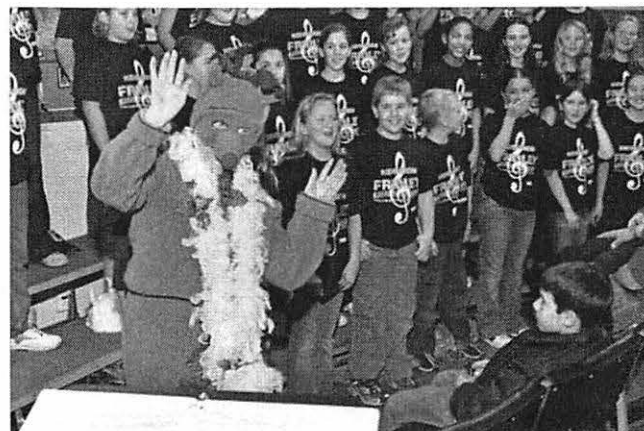
Annual Christmas Concert

We had a packed house—standing room only—for our Annual Christmas Concert on December 8. Board member Sue Ann Meyers and helpers did a great job decorating the Museum and preparing for the potluck dinner. The Kids from Fridley, under the direction of Blair Berger, performed with great enthusiasm, exhibiting extraordinary talent. FHS member Virginia Christenson made a surprise appearance as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. See page 2.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

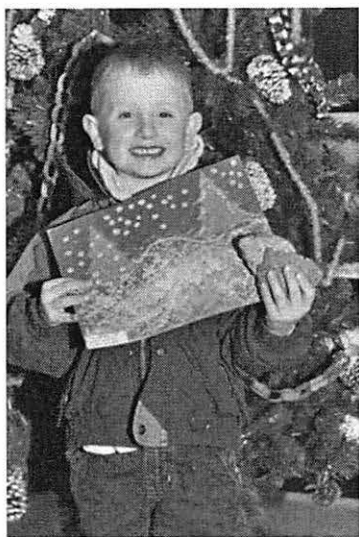
On Saturday, December 13, our museum was visited by parents and family members of kindergarten students who had their holiday art work on display at the Museum. Our new board member and Treasurer Marilyn Manley coordinated the event with the kindergarten teachers, and arranged for Christmas cookies and hot cider for visitors. We had over 200 visitors, including the artists themselves who had their photo taken holding their masterpieces. See page 3.

Historical Society Holiday Concert



Kids of Fridley Chorale

Kindergarten Open House & Art Show



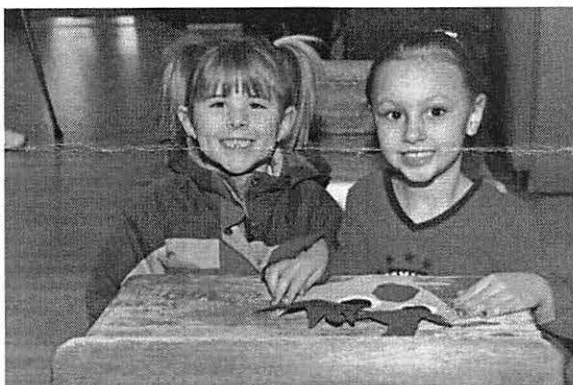
Bradley Goff



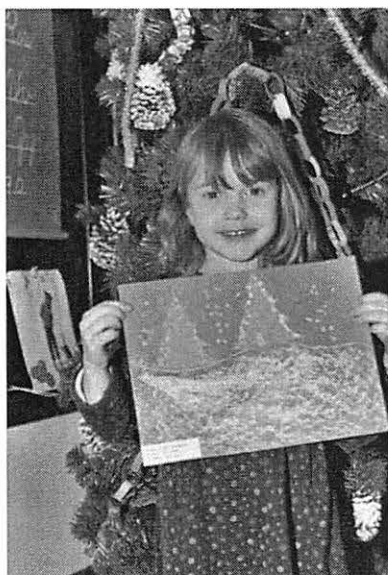
Katie Hiestand



Nicholas Small

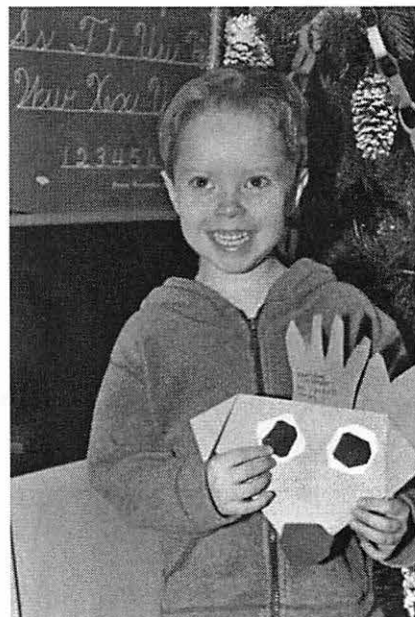


Above: Elizabeth Mertes
(right) and friend



Left: Katie Peterson

Right: Matthew Callander



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



**Holiday photos
inside!**



President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



In this newsletter is our new 2004 membership brochure. We now have 200 members. The Board decided at its Annual Retreat in October that our membership goal for 2004 is 250 members. To meet this goal, we need a Chairperson for the Membership Committee. The current Chair is no longer able to serve on the Board.

Therefore, I have two requests. First, if you are interested in being a member of our Board of Directors and serving as Membership Committee Chair, please contact Mary Sue Meyers, Chair of the Nominating Committee 763-717-7987.

Second, please fill out your membership renewal form today and mail with your check for \$10 Individual, \$15 Family, \$25 Nonprofit and \$50 Business to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55421. We need your dues to keep the Society financially viable and we need your dues to keep our Museum in tip-top shape. Thank you for your support this past year, and we are counting on your membership renewal for 2004. If you bring in a new member, you receive a rebate on your dues (see brochure). And HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FHS Record

Volume 17, Issue 1
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Super Saturday Feb. 14

Museum Open House:

This February we continue our program of **Super Saturdays** at the Museum. As we noted in the January issue, there will be open houses throughout the year on the second and fourth Saturdays when the Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Here is your opportunity to time-travel back to the 30's and 40's by viewing movies and newsreels from that era on our large-screen TV. The candy counter will be open with popcorn, pop, and candy available.

Beginning at 10:15 a.m. and throughout the morning we will be showing actual newsreels of event that made history over 7 decades ago. How many of you are aware (or remember) what was shaping our world back then?

In honor of **Valentines' Day**, our full length special feature starting at 2:00 p.m. after the membership meeting will be **It Happened One Night**. A 1934 classic romantic comedy starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert and directed by Frank Capra.

A spoiled heiress, running away from her family is helped by a man who's actually a reporter looking for a story. But then, he falls for her.....

It Happened One Night was the first film to sweep the four top Academy Awards – winning Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director – and established Capra as the preeminent director of the 1930's.

The American Film Institute in 1998 commemorated the extraordinary first 100 years of American movies by making a "definitive selection of the 100 greatest American movies of all time, as determined by more than 1,500 leaders from the American film community. **It Happened One Night** made the list of greatest movies at number 35.

Don't pass up this one-time only opportunity to see these newsreels and this award winning movie!

Membership Meeting

What a stroke of luck for all of us! To be able to have a very qualified historian of Civil War artifacts speak to us after lunch at our FEB. 14th meeting.

Our speaker will be **Adam Scher**. Adam is a curator in the Museum Collections Department of the Minnesota Historical Society. Adam's

Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting
Saturday, February 14
Noon – 2 p.m.
Fridley Historical
Museum

"Artifacts from the
MN Society's Civil
War collections" by
Adam Scher, Curator
in the MN Hist. Dept.
Potluck lunch or
bring your own

Museum Open House
Saturday, February 14
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Old Time Movies
& Popcorn
Fridley Historical
Museum

Museum Open House
Saturday, February 28
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

talk will highlight "Artifacts from the Society's Civil War collections." The Minnesota History Center's storage facility contains nearly 1,000 artifacts relating to the Civil War and Dakota Conflict including uniforms and equipment, personal items, firearms, artillery, edged weapons, flags, musical instruments, and medical equipment.

LUNCH: Bring your potluck lunch at noon or bring one of your favorite dishes to share.

Open House February 28

Our Open House on February 28th will continue showing old movies, so please come and share these films!

Program Committee Report

—Jerry Manley

Reserve Saturday, March 13th on your calendars right now! On that date, immediately after our monthly membership meeting Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch will be at the Museum to talk to us about the cost of prescription drugs here in the State of Minnesota. There will be a short question and answer session after his talk. This event should be of interest to anyone, regardless of age, who has to spend too much of their income on overpriced drugs in an attempt to stay reasonably healthy. The event is open to the public.

There has been a great deal of publicity in printed material lately about reinstating the death penalty. To give a little history of why MN abolished the death penalty, here is information from the Session Weekly, Vol. 18 #20, May 18, 2001, the publication of the MN House of Representatives.

'Capitol' punishment

by Brenda van Dyck

The death penalty is older than the nation itself and arguments for and against it have been around just as long...

Although MN does not now perform capital punishment, it did at one time.

From 1860 to 1911, 26 people were executed by hanging in the state. (One was a woman.) Additionally, in 1862 the federal government hanged 38 Sioux Indians in Mankato....

An effort to abolish the death penalty failed in 1905, but after Williams' messy execution (see other article), state legislators continued an effort to end the practice. They succeeded in 1911.....

(Williams was the last person executed by the state.)

Botched hanging prompted abolition of state death penalty

By M. Cook

It has been 95 years since the state of MN last put someone to death.

William Williams was executed by hanging on Feb. 13, 1906. However, it was the problems associated with that event that ultimately led to the abolition of capital punishment in MN.

In the basement of the Ramsey County Courthouse, only about 30 people reportedly watched what turned

out to be a landmark day, according to For the Record, 150 Years of Law and Lawyers in MN, by the MN State Bar Association.

Like other hangings, the 27-year-old Williams, who was convicted of murdering a 16-year-old boy, was escorted from his cell to the gallows. Newspaper accounts suggested an "unnatural relationship" between the pair.

Williams' execution did not pass without a last statement. His final words, according to The St. Paul Daily News of that day were, "Gentlemen, you are witnessing an illegal hanging. This is a legal murder. I am accused of killing Johnny Keller. He was the best friend I ever had, and I hope to meet him in the other world. I never had improper relations with him. I am resigned to my fate. Goodbye"

Moments later the trap door opened and Williams's body was supposed to dangle until he died from strangulation. Instead his feet hit the ground because Ramsey County Sheriff Anton Mieson miscalculated the length of the rope. The rope stretched 8 inches, but Williams neck only stretched 4.5 inches. His neck was not broken by the fall.

"Deputies then pulled the rope so that Williams's head was kept up and strangulation could slowly go on," the paper reported. "His feet touched ground all of the time that the death agonies were playing in his mind." It took 14.5 minutes until he was pronounced dead, 21 minutes after leaving his cell. Prior to the execution, Gov. John Johnson had warned Mieson, sheriff from 1905-1907i according to Ramsey County Historical Society records, to observe

statutory restrictions on who could witness an execution. A subsequent investigation of the sheriff allowing media members to watch the event ended as Johnson believed Mieson's explanation that the reporters had sneaked in unnoticed.

Newspapers that published detailed accounts of the hanging were in violation of a state law enacted in 1889. The law said newspapers could only report that someone was executed, not give details.

According to the book, three newspapers were indicted by a grand jury. After a district court upheld state law regarding newspaper accounts of execution, the issue went to the MN Supreme Court.

"On appeal, the supreme court upheld the district court," the book states. "In doing so the high court acknowledged approvingly the Legislature's determination that it is detrimental to public morals to publish anything more than the mere fact that an execution has taken place. On remand, a jury found all three of the newspapers guilty and the court imposed a \$25 fine against each"

Maintenance Committee Report – Jerry Manley

We want to express our appreciation to Fridley VFW Post #363 for generously offering to replace our outdoor flag, which was getting quite tattered. On December 30th I took down the old flag and delivered it to Post #363 for disposal. They in turn gave me a new 5' x 8' nylon flag, which is now up and flying.

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



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Our Super Saturday program is off to a rousing start. We had a front page listing in the Fridley Focus two days before the meeting which brought visitors who had never been at the Museum before. A reporter/photographer attended the meeting, and this resulted in a large color photo on the front page of the Focus and another photo on the first inside page.

We have purchased a large 52" TV and VCR/DVD for showing classic movies. Mel Manley will be bringing some newsreels from the 1930's and '40's and an old feature film that won 4 academy awards to show on Super Saturday Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. He also has a great Civil War speaker, Adam Scher, for the Membership Meeting Pot Luck Lunch on the 14th.

In the January Newsletter, you received a membership brochure and a pre-addressed envelope for your dues. Please send your dues in now to ensure you continue to receive this newsletter and keep informed about all of the exciting Super Saturdays and other events we have planned this year.

FHS RecordVolume 17, Issue 3
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Attorney General Mike Hatch – March 13

Upcoming Events

Museum Open House
Saturday, March 13
Fridley Hist. Museum
10 a.m. – 12 noon
Movie: "Citizen Kane"

Membership Meeting
Saturday, March 13
Noon – 2 p.m.
NO POT LUNCH
Coffee and cookies will
be served

2 p.m. MN Atty. Gen.
Mike Hatch
Speaks:
"The Pharmaceutical
Industry – The Other
Drug Cartel"
Fridley Hist. Museum

Museum Open House
Saturday, March 13
10 a.m – 4 p.m.
Old Time movies
& Popcorn
Fridley Hist. Museum

Saturday, April 24th
Annual Spring Dinner
with raffle prizes &
Entertainment

You will not want to miss the March 14th membership meeting. It will be an outstanding double hitter. When the Museum opens at 10:00 a.m. we will be showing a 1941 Academy Award winning movie **"Citizen Kane"**, starring Orson Welles who also directed the movie. In 1998 the American Film Institute voted **"Citizen Kane"** to be the number one film produced in the U.S. in the 20th century!

Following the film will be the membership meeting at noon. Because of the overflow crowd expected, there will be no potluck lunch, only coffee and cookies served during the meeting. If time allows, a filmed documentary about the making of the picture will be shown after the meeting.

At 2:00 p.m. MN Attorney General, Mike Hatch will speak on "The Pharmaceutical Industry – The Other Drug Cartel". You will be astounded to find out to what extent the drug companies are ripping off the American public. A short question and answer session will follow.

Super Saturday in February

Super Saturday was Super! The Museum's February 14th open house was a great success. In the morning we watched newsreels from the 30's and 40's on the new large-screen TV.

At noon we opened our monthly membership meeting with a pot luck lunch. After lunch we welcomed Adam Scher from the MN Historical Society. Adam gave a great presentation on artifacts from the civil war. The program was not only very entertaining, it was also quite educational.

After the membership meeting we watched "It Happened One Night". A classic movie from 1934 starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert.

If you didn't make it to the museum you really missed out on a fun day.

Dues are now due!

If you have paid your dues, thank you! If you have not, please do so as this will be your last news letter unless we hear from you. Enclosed is a membership renewal form.

Family History – Meryle Berntson

By Tom Myhra

Because of the comparatively recent growth spurts in Fridley's population, it seems unlikely that more than a few residents can match Merle Berntson's four decades of calling Fridley home.

Meryle told your writer that she was born in Minneapolis, but she didn't give the date, and a sense of propriety kept him from pursuing the date. She is quick to state that her Minneapolis residency was of short duration.

Her parents were living in that city where her father, Herter Nelson, was a streetcar conductor. Poor working conditions seem to have brought on ill health, so he and his wife, Camelia, decided he needed to work outdoors in a healthy environment. That they looked to Fridley was not surprising, since they had kept close contact with her family, and with Redeemer Church where she was the first child to be baptized.

A proposed change in Meryle's mother and father's family was occurring at about the same time. The Hanson family had come to Fridley in the late 19th Century. In 1890 they built a big house, a large barn, dug a well and erected a windmill over it (later to be the scene of a tragic death in the family, when a son fell from the tower and died). This house and farm were located on present day Jackson Street, just off Mississippi Street. The house still stands on its original site, and has been occupied continuously since those early days.

The older Hanson family retired, and the younger Nelson couple and Meryle settled in as farmers. The farm continued to thrive, and Herter's health was reestablished. Typical of farmers of that time, the Nelsons had horses to work the farm, cattle for milk and meat, and they raised pigs, chickens, and turkeys. They always had a potato patch to raise an ample supply for eating as well as a large garden.

Much of the food they ate was grown on the farm, and was preserved by water bath canning that utilized placing jars of produce to be preserved in a wire rack that in turn was placed in a boiler of water over a coal stove and heated to the boiling stage. Winter provided the means of preserving food by freezing. During winter her father hauled hand-cut chunks of ice from Long Lake (to the east), and placed them in a special ice house and kept them frozen with saw dust. A milk house on the farm used cold water from the well to cool milk and other foods.

Three girls were born to the family, and all contributed to the family's well-being. Meryle the oldest remembers working hard even as a youngster, as did both her mother and father, but she also remembers a life of joy and fun. She said that she and her two sisters slept upstairs in the big house, and the evening and bedtime were a time of fun and frivolity. She had no brothers.

Meryle's mother was an excellent seamstress, so the girls always had nice dresses and clothing, including a new hat for each Easter that had been bought at Johnson's Department Store in Minneapolis. Later, her mother was to sew her very nice wedding dress.

The girls walked to school located west along "Mississippi Street" to the two-room school that was located where the Target Office building parking lot is today. She remembers walking in deep snow to school, and weather would be cold. Still Meryle remembers with distaste having to wear

long legged underwear to her ankles, and then putting long legged brown cotton stockings on over her feet and then on up over that terrible underwear that insisted on revealing lumps and ridges under the stockings. The whole ensemble was topped off with high buttoned shoes. Upon entering school she had Evelyn McLaughlin as her first teacher; then long-time Fridley teacher, Esther Doyle as her upper grade teacher. During her Seventh Grade the school burned, and the year was finished out at Redeemer Church. She was so advanced in her studies that the Columbia Height's superintendent suggested she take the state 8th grade exam, which she did and passed and thus skipped her Eighth Grade.

Meryle went to high school in Columbia Heights where she met her future husband Ed Berntson, who was also a student there, but they really didn't get to know each other until quite a number of years later.

To be continued in our next issue

April Annual Fund Raiser Dinner

For a special night out with your family and friends plan to attend our Annual Fund Raiser Dinner on April 24th at the Fridley Community Center located at 7th Street and 61st. Doors will be open at 4:30 p.m. You will be able to see raffle items or see the list of these items.

Supper will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner and for raffle items will be available very soon. Your next newsletter will give details.

See you there!!



Fridley Historical Society

611 Mississippi Street NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Enclosed are my 2004 membership dues:

Single member	\$10.00
Family membership Two adults in same household	15.00
Non-profit	25.00
Business	50.00

Please send to Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We thank the following members for renewing their membership in the Fridley Historical Society. This list is current as of February 15. If you have not already sent in your dues, please do so today. The cost is very low: \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. And many members are making a separate donation, from \$10 to \$500, in addition to their dues, and we will publish the list of donors next month plus publish all of the renewals we received after February 15.

Robert Aldrich
Judy Anderson
Marion Anderson
George & Candace Bacon
Herb Bacon
Bill Beery
Blair & Jennifer Berger
Doris Bergman
Connie Bernardy
Don Betzold
Rosemary Biedron
Dr. Don & Susan Blakeslee
Mark & Laura Bonesteel
Peter & Mary Bonesteel
Esther Campbell
Earle & Adeline Christenson
Gordon & Carol Christenson
Robert Christenson
Virginia Christenson
Dean & Carmen Coleman
Gloria Egan
Steve & Mary Eggert
James Ehlert
Lyle & Elsie Slverud
Char Fitzpatrick
Fridley Senior Crafters
John & Alice Ganter
Jim and Jan Golden
James & Gretchen Hanson
Dave & Jan Harris
Earl Hatten
Charles Hayes
Betty Hendrickson
Gerry & Mary Ann Herringer
Harriet Hjort
Eric & Pat Jaakkola
Richard Jefferson &
Alice Johnson
Eleanor Jensen
Margaret Jewison
Patricia Johanson
Earl Johnson

Kathleen Johnson
Lary Johnson
Norma Johnson
Sonjy Granlund Johnson
Dr. Keith & Denise Johnston
Mary Kemp
Richard & Kathleen Kemper
Anthony Krail
Dr. Joe and Mary Ann Lapinski
Jim Lawrence
Norma Lindquist
Dorothy Linse
William & Hazel Linton
Marty & Carole Lueders
Scott Lund
Albert & Susan Madison
Don & Audrey Mahr
Jerry & Marilyn Manley
Mel Manley
Bernadine Matushak
John & Lillian Meyer
Don & Mary Sue Meyers
Minco Products
Suzanne Miskowic
Jordis Mittelstadt
Warren Mortenson
Tom & Gloria Myhrq
Wally & Jean Ness
Ruth Ollila
Andrea Oman
Eurice Pearson
Tony & Jeanne Petrangelo
Duane Prairie
Corinne Prindle
Seg & Martha Reckdahl
George Ripley
Midge Rotter
Mary Rozmark
Don Savelkoul
Frederick Schultz
Bob & Betty Scott

Agnes Shaw
Sir Speedy Printing
Debra Smith
Art & Norma Swanson
Richard & Ann Teskey
Glen Theorin
Gary & Cynthia Torfin
Frank & Mary Van Dan
Patricia Vant
Pat Whittlef

Robert Christenson



THE RED RIVER TRAIL GOING SOUTH, WENT THROUGH THE CITY LIMITS OF ANOKA, CROSSING THE RUM RIVER THREE TIMES IN THAT AREA. IT WENT RIGHT PAST WHAT IS NOW THE OLIVER H. KELLEY FARM, AND NEAR THERE A LITTLE VILLAGE BY THE NAME OF ITASCA SPRANG UP. THAT TOWNSITE DISAPPEARED THROUGH THE YEARS, BUT IT WAS LOCATED AT THE WAYSIDE REST NORTH OF ANOKA.

AFTER PASSING COON CREEK, THE OXCARTS ARRIVED AT RICE CREEK, ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WHICH STOOD JOHN BANFILL'S WELL KNOWN HOUSE AND TAVERN, NOW KNOWN AS THE LOCKE HOUSE. FROM 1848 TO 1853 MR. BANFILL PRESIDED OVER THIS BIT OF THE TRAIL AS FERRYMAN, POSTMAN, STOREKEEPER, MILLER AND HOTEL OWNER. IN 1851, HE LAID OUT THE TOWNSITE OF MANOMIN (WHICH IS NOW FRIDLEY) AROUND HIS ESTABLISHMENT AND BY 1856 THE PLACE HAD GROWN INTO A TIDY SETTLEMENT.

GOING SOUTH FROM FRIDLEY, THE ROAD STRAGGLED ACROSS AN ALMOST UNBROKEN PLAIN TO THE VILLAGE OF ST. ANTHONY. THAT AREA WOULD NOW BE SOUTH OF THE PRESENT CITY LIMITS OF MINNEAPOLIS AND KEPT FAIRLY CLOSE TO MARSHALL ST. N.E.

THE MILITARY ROAD ESTABLISHED IN 1852, FOLLOWED PRETTY CLOSE TO THE RED RIVER TRAIL THROUGH MANOMIN (FRIDLEY).

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Board member Jerry Manley has arranged a great program for March 13. Attorney General Mike Hatch will be at the Museum speaking on how consumers are being ripped off by pharmaceutical companies. See the front page for more details.

Our Super Saturdays are beginning to pick up some steam. We are drawing members to the Museum who have never visited before, primarily to see some of the great movies of yester-year on our big-screen TV. The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays.

Planning is underway for our 13th Annual Fundraising Dinner and Raffle. It will be held at the Fridley Community Center on April 24, so be certain and put that date on your calendar. Once again there will be lots of raffle prizes (we had over 90 prizes last year) and a great dinner. You will receive more information in the next few weeks.

Our membership renewal drive is making headway. About 130 of our 200 members have renewed. If there is a membership renewal form in your newsletter, be sure to write a check and send it in. A list of those members who have renewed as of February 15 is in this issue. If you have already renewed and still receive a renewal form, please let us know by calling 763-571-0120. It is possible your renewal has not yet been processed. Use the extra renewal form to sign up a friend or neighbor, or give a membership as a gift.



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*





FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2004

14th Annual Fundraiser Lasagna Dinner & Raffle



Support Your Fridley Historical Museum

Date Saturday, April 24

Time Doors open at 4:30 PM
Dinner served at 5 PM

Tasty food!

Place Fridley Community Center
61st Avenue & 7th Street

Fridley Friends!

Prizes!

RSVP Return form by 4-17
(see form below)

Raffle

Over ⁷⁵50 items! \$1/chance

- Two Vikings tickets (\$160 value)
- 1-mo. Family membership, NW Sports & Health Club (\$150 value)
- Framed wildlife print from Luther Auctions (\$150 value)



Name: _____ FHS Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of tickets: _____ \$9 / ticket (tax included)

Please complete this form and mail with
your check (payable to FHS) to:
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432

**Deadline: Saturday,
April 17!**

Questions: Call 763-571-3493

Tax Exempt #X-33474-04001

PARTIAL LIST OF RAFFLE DONORS

Many are offering more than one prize

75 Prizes Received Thus Far & More Coming

Northwest Athletic Club
U.S. Bank
Jerry/Mel Manley (2 DVD Players)
JAX Cafe
Maple Lanes
Twin City Federal
Sandeels
Deals
Ax Man
Applebee's
Majestic Oaks
PetSmart
Bakers Square
Minnesota Sports Spikers Café
Joe Dimaggio's
Olive Garden
Little Jacks
Chanticleer Pizza
Riverside Car Wash
Fantastic Sams
Quiznos

Schaaf Floral
Jaakkola (Vikings Tickets)
Luther Auctions (framed wildlife print)
La Casita
Spring Forest Qigong
Dunn's Bros. Coffee
Melinda Manley (General Mills Products)
TGI Fridays
Outback Steak House
Nicklows
Seasons
Ron's Barber
Green Mill
Holmgren Auction Services
Timberlodge
Eye Care Center
Old Country Buffet
Sign Language
Broadway Pizza
Panera

FHS Record

Volume 17, Issue 8
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Upcoming Events

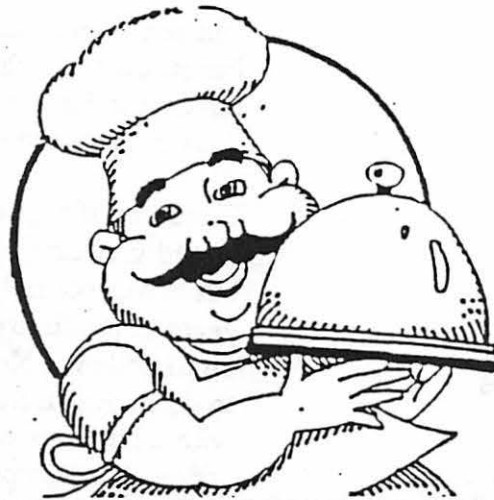
Museum Open House
Saturday, April 10
Fridley Hist. Museum
10 a.m. – 12 noon
"The Flight of the Phoenix"

Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Open House
for visitors

2:00 p.m. The Hinckley Forest Fire of 1894

Fridley High School
Cast members will
Present scenes from a
play, "Out of the Forest of the South Field"

LASAGNA DINNER
Sat., April 24, 2004
Community Center
4:30 doors open
5:00 dinner
Raffle during the
Evening.
Tickets \$9.00



Super Saturday

HUMAN ENDEAVOR & TRAGEDY

The Fridley Historical Society Museum will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 10th with the showing of a gripping, 4 Star rated, adventure film. The classic, "The flight of the Phoenix," has an all-male, all-star cast in a story that pits these men against desert heat, water shortage, sand, and, yes, camel bandits, for their very survival after their WWII plane crashes in the desert. There is no admittance charge for the day's program.

Jimmy Stewart, Peter Finch, George Kennedy, Richard Attenborough, and only half-welcomed German émigré, Hardy Kruger, among others, find it difficult to cooperate or to work together. Personal problems, lack of respect, personality quirks, would

(con't on page 2)

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER

Come and join us as we share another dinner and raffle together! The Lasagna Dinner will be on Sat., April 24, 2004 at the Community Center on 7th St. and 61st Ave. NE. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner tickets are \$9.00 and include lasagna, Italian bread and butter, salad, ice cream and cookies plus coffee and orange drink. Tickets may be purchased from Sue Miskowic at 763-571-3493.

We are offering reserved tables for groups of 10. These tables will be called first to receive their food when the dinner commences.

Members have been busy gathering raffle items from the community and have now collected over 75 raffle items. Will your name be drawn for one of these?

Enclosed is a sheet or sheets of raffle tickets. Tickets are \$1.00 each. Be sure to have your name on each of your tickets. Use a mailing label if you wish. When you arrive at the dinner, give your money and your tickets to persons at the door. They will put your ticket stubs (that have your name, etc.) into our

(con't on page 3)

Human.....

seem to preclude the possibility of forming a team to improve their chances of escape. Would you put your trust in an ego-maniacal, German plane designer?

From Noon to 2 p.m. the Museum will have open house for visitors. Beginning at 2 p.m. will be a program on the Hinckley Forest Fire of 1894 – the worst forest fire in Minnesota history. Tom Myhra will lead a discussion on the elements of the fire, and will provide a list of sources of information. Members of the Fridley High School cast who are presenting a 3-act play on the Hinkley fire on April 15, 16, & 17, will be present to provide some scenes from the play, entitled "Out of the Forest of the South Field". This play is a property of the Minnesota History Theatre, and the Fridley production will be the first by a high school drama department.

Family History – Meryle Berntson

By Tom Myhra

continued

Meryle went to high school in Columbia Heights where she met her future husband Ed Berntson, who was also a student there, but they really didn't get to know each other until quite a number of years later. In high school she took the standard liberal arts course of study of literature, English, mathematics, writing, history, geography,

and secretarial classes. She did so well in her studies that she wound up with top ranking in her class, and was called on to deliver the valedictorian address.

Once out of high school, she hoped to enroll at and graduate from Hamline University, but it was not to be. College loans were yet years in the future, and most girls did not go on to college. Not sure of what she wanted to do in the future, she took employment with a business where she worked in the office. The temporary employment became something more than that, and she continued working in the company offices for a number of years.

In spite of being pressed by your writer that the next event in her life appeared to be too convenient to be totally accidental, though Meryle stoutly declares it to be just that, a breakdown of her car occurred directly in front of the house where Ed lived. She further claims that when the car stopped near a house, she did not even know that it was the home of Ed's parents.

Be that as it may, Ed was home, he offered to help, they became friends, began dating, and the rest is history. They got married at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fridley resplendent in the aforementioned wedding dress sewn by her mother. Meryle and Ed first lived in Minneapolis where Ed was employed in a number of jobs including street car operator, and an officer with the Minneapolis Police Department.

In 1940 they made the decision to move to Fridley. They bought land from her parents, and built a home on it near what would become Mississippi Street. The site of

Meryle's present home. Ed went to work for the railroad, and it became his life's work. From the start they were active in community affairs. Ed opened a gun shop that became a favorite place to discuss community business. He also became the justice of peace to handle local legal matters. Unofficially, he became Fridley historian, and collector of pictures of local people and places.

In a bit of coincidence, Meryle had only sisters in her family, but she and Ed had only boys, Bruce and Gary. Meryle remained at home to raise them. Ed's duties with the railroad often found him away from home over night, so she gave up full-time employment away from home. She did work occasionally as a part time secretary, and helped her father with his public assessment work. As her parents got older, they sold the original family home north of Mississippi Street, but purchased land on the south side of Mississippi, built a home there,

and engaged in raising turkeys. Her mother was still residing there at the time of the 1965 tornado. Her father had died in 1956. Her mother lived on to the same old age as her grandmother.

In more recent times before his death, Ed was a storehouse of old Fridley history, and in 1972 provided information and pictures to the Fridley 25th Anniversary Committee charged with producing a history booklet for the occasion. Meryle, who is a charter member of the Fridley Historical Society, remains a member, but is less active, since she doesn't feel secure driving at night. She continues to live in the house that she and Ed built.

+++++

Lasagna Dinner (continued)

container for the drawings.

Additional raffle tickets may be obtained by calling Lillian Meyer at 763-571-5328 or by contacting any board member.

March 13th Super Saturday

If you didn't come to the Museum on the 13th you missed hearing the presentation by our Minnesota Attorney General. His topic was The Pharmaceutical Industry, the Other Cartel. This, of course, covered the costs of prescription drugs and the availability in Canada.

Another item he talked about was the hunting rights controversy between North Dakota and Minnesota.



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



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



"\$9.00 FOR A LASAGNA DINNER! THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!!" And that was the comment by a person when they were offered tickets to our 14th Annual Fundraiser and Raffle.

Is it outrageous? After all, this dinner is offered as our major fundraising event, not a deal on a meal. We need to charge this amount if we are going to have enough funds to keep our museum in tip-top shape, and if we are going to provide value-rich programs to our members. We charge no admission to the museum and no fees to attend any of our meetings and receive no government subsidies.

In addition, our cost of the meal increased over last year. And our survey at the last fundraising dinner had most saying \$9 - \$10 was a fair price.

You can help by reserving a table for 10, and selling tickets to friends and neighbors to join your table. And we will call reserved tables first to the head of the line. Call Sue at 763-571-3493 to reserve your table, thus helping us remain one of the leading historical societies in the State.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FHS Record

May/June 2004

Volume 17, Issue 5
Copyright 2004



This will be a combined newsletter for May and June 2004

Upcoming

Events

Sat., May 8th, 10-12
Fridley Hist. Museum
Movie "Seabiscuit"
Bring your own lunch
Refreshments will be
served
12:30 Membership
Meeting

Sat., May 22, Old Time
Movies

Sat., June 12th, 10 - 12
Fridley Hist. Museum
Video, "The Mvstery
Of The Sphinx"

Bring your lunch or a
Hot Dish to Share
12:30 Membership
Meeting
2:00 John Meyer will
lead us thru starting
a family genealogy

June 26 Old Time
Movies

Super Saturday May 8, 2004

For those of you who have not either read the book or seen the film of "Seabiscuit," please plan to come to the Museum on Saturday May 8th to view this film. This is an exciting, action-filled movie that has not yet become historic, but probably will be at some point. It is appropriate for all ages to see.



Super Saturday June 12, 2004

Is "Cousin Bill" a first cousin or a second cousin once removed or what? Questions such as this and other Genealogy puzzlements will be examined at the June meeting of the Society.

FHS member, John Meyer, will review the many research aids that are available no farther away than our Fridley Public Library, the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and other sources available to us.



Raffle Prizes

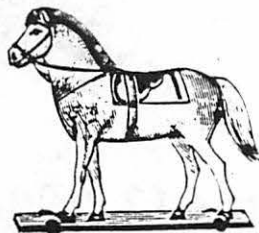
Several raffle prizes are looking for their owners!
The following people need to collect them:

Karin Anderson
Jim Parker
Dave Webb
George Bacon
Steven Waller
Blair & Jennifer Berger

Prizes will be at the Museum on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. When you come, please bring the other half of your raffle ticket. (The government stated we must have both parts of your ticket.) We need to keep these raffle tickets for a period of three years.

Death of Bill Plum

The Fridley Historical Society has learned of the death of Bill Plum, a former resident of Fridley. Born in Minneapolis and raised in Fridley, Mr. Plum, a retired business owner, passed away February 16th at the age of 81 at his home in Spring Valley, California.



Lost: A man's tan spring jacket.

At our Lasagna Dinner someone accidentally took a tan jacket, size 46 long and left his tan jacket size 46 regular. The sleeves are too short on this nice jacket for John Meyer, so he is hoping whoever took his 46 long will contact him at 763-571-5328. Thanks!

Change of address

We have recently received a change of address for Edna Ask. She wants friends to know where she has moved to. It is: Edna Ask
Parkwood Shores
3633 Park Center Blvd. #304
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

HISTORY

DONALD & MARY JO SAVELKOUL

BY Tom Myhra

It's been a good thing for Fridley that college students always don't take the advice of career advisers. For if they did, Donald C. Savelkoul would not have been able to provide the enormous amount of legal advice and help that he has given to the Fridley community over the years.

Savelkoul laughs now when he recalls how the dean of the University of Minnesota law school told him that opportunities for lawyers would be limited, and that he should think about another career.

Donald did follow the professor's suggestion, at least for a time, and went on to graduate from the U of M in 1939 with a degree in economics and political science. Luckily for Fridley, he went back and got his legal education after serving in the Armed Services.

Don was born in Minneapolis on July 29, 1917. His father, Theodore, was a brakeman with the Chicago Great Western Railway. His mother, Edith was a housewife, and they lived in North Minneapolis. Three younger daughters were born to the family.



St. Bridget Catholic Elementary School became the educational choice for Don. It was located 18 blocks from his home, and each day, beginning when he was 6 years old, found him trudging to and from school, equipped with a brown bag lunch in the morning, and school work to show his parents at night. No bus transportation was available for him. This long journey continued for him through the 4th grade, but then his folks moved to a house closer to the school. He continued on with St. Bridget's through the 8th grade.

The family's church was important to the Savelkoul's, and Don's early life was centered around home, school, church and all the activities there. When he was 10 and in the 4th grade, he began taking violin lessons from a nun at the school. He became quite proficient on the instrument and began playing accompaniment for school plays and church musical events. This brought great joy to his parents, especially his mother.

One of Don's main chores at home was securing ice for the family's ice box. The ice house was not too far from the Savelkoul home, so, often, almost every day during the summer, he would take his hand wagon and bring home a 25 lb. block of ice. Don tells us that later when muscles began to appear, he eagerly used a pair of ice tongs to carry manfully the big blocks of ice home.

Don did well in school, and so for his high school education, his folks chose the all-boys De La Salle school. The school was noted for its very strong academic and extra-curricular programs. Don ruefully admits that he was never proficient enough in athletics to make the sports teams, so he turned to the church sport leagues as an outlet for fun and enjoyment. He did continue his strong interest in music, and played in the school's orchestra. The city's bus line provided school transportation while Don was in high school at 10 cents a ride. He further reduced his transportation costs by buying bus tokens at 6 for 45 cents. Thus he reduced the weekly bus fare from \$1 dollar to 80 cents. Don says that he received a very good education.

Again Don did well in his secondary education, and his parents wanted him to go to college. He did so and graduated with honors. But finding resources for college was not as easy. The economics of the situation meant that the University of Minnesota would be his school. It would make it possible for him to live at home, but with three younger sisters, the family could provide very little

finances for books and tuition. Don would need to work to get those monies.

Perhaps this was a blessing in disguise, for Don now states that the part-time and summer jobs provided some valuable real-life experiences, as well as the much needed income. He smiles when he tells you that it also was rich in stress—especially the “jobs” that required selling on commission. One summer he sold subscriptions to the “Minneapolis Journal” along with a tied-in accident insurance policy. Another summer work session found him cold marketing vacuum cleaners door to door. It was hard at times to get up and get going, but the commission policy of “no sales, no salary,” was a great motivation. Often the potential buyer couldn't come up with the down payment, so Don being a good judge of character, would sometimes make that payment out of his commission, and then later collect directly from the buyer. He found reliability in the people of Northeast Minneapolis and Columbia Heights. The last of the selling jobs was a summer job peddling tea, coffee, and other products door to door. His company included a coupon with a product, and accumulated coupons would permit using them to purchase other desirable merchandise. Thus the secret to success with this selling was making that first sale. Don didn't get rich selling, but it got him through college.

Don says that college was interesting, and that he did well scholastically, **—9999, but he's quick to tell that by far the very best thing that happened to him at college was meeting Mary Jo. They both wound up in an algebra class, they began dating, and then both decided that each had met the life partner that was wanted. They got married in 1941.

Prior to that time, Don had gone to Washington, D. C., to work with the 1940 census with the Department of Commerce. Eighteen months before Pearl Harbor he was transferred to the War Department and was assigned to a war plant 20 miles north of Baltimore. Don still displays the awe he felt then when he learned that over 5000 employees were making poisonous gas, gas masks, and other self-defense for us, if a potential enemy decided to use poison gas as they had in WW I. He worked in Personnel hiring.

(This biography will be continued in following issues)

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



"On behalf of the Society's Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who played a role in making our 14th Annual Lasagna Dinner and Raffle a huge success. We sold more raffle tickets than ever before. We had one of our largest dinner ticket sales. And we had a record number of raffle prizes (115). And these great results came about from a very dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers pitching in and carrying out all of the many tasks involved in delivering a quality event.

I especially want to thank our very loyal membership who bought the tickets, spread the word to others about the dinner, and gave us their strong support. We are truly blessed to have such committed members. And we are indebted to the many businesses that contributed the raffle prizes, provided financial support and donated some of the food items.

What was most heartwarming for me was all of the laughter and happy conversation taking place at the tables. People who attended were really enjoying themselves to the hilt. And Board and volunteers appreciated the kind words of gratitude offered by members as they departed. If you missed this dinner this year, you sure don't want to next year."



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



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*



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9th Annual August Fest

Upcoming Events

Museum Open House
Saturday, July 24th
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Old Time Movies
& Popcorn
Fridley Hist. Museum

Annual August Fest

Monday, Aug. 2
6 – 8:30 p.m.
Fridley Dixieland Band
6:00
Old Tyme Baseball game
7:00
Field behind the Museum

Museum Open House
Saturday, August 14
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Old Time Movies
& Popcorn
Fridley Hist. Museum

Museum Open House
Saturday, August 28
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Old Time Movies
& Popcorn
Fridley Hist. Museum

Monday, August 2, 2004, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The Fridley Historical Society invites everyone to come and see the Quicksteps, an Old-fashioned baseball team, dressed in their 19th Century costumes. The Quicksteps and a local team will play an old fashioned baseball game on Monday, August 2, 2004 in the ballfield behind the Fridley Historical Society Museum located at 611 Mississippi Street midway between University & Central Avenues. Last year the Quicksteps were featured in **Fortune Magazine** in an article about revival of old time baseball teams.

Rules of the game include no bunting, no stealing, no leading off, no betting, and, of course, no swearing. Strikes are called only on a clean swing and miss. Foul ticks don't count. **NO GLOVES ARE USED!**

This is a **FREE** event and will be fun! And, there is **FREE PARKING** at Hayes School next to the Museum. Pop, hot dogs and ice cream are available for purchase. Cookies are **FREE!**

Prior to the game the Fridley Dixieland Band will play starting at 6:00 p.m. Miss Fridley and her princesses will join us. For the kids there will be clowns, face painting, animal balloons and exploring a Fridley Fire Truck.

Come early and bring your lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. Last year over 100 people joined us for this entertaining event!



HISTORY

Don & Mary Jo Savelkoul

by Tom Myhra

(Continued from our last newsletter)

In 1943 he went into the Army. He described with chagrin the night he and other men who had registered for the draft, spent a night outside a building wherein bureaucrats were pull[ing] numbers out of a drum to determine the order and timing of being drafted into the Army. He waited until midnight, and when his number still hadn't been called, he knew his entry would not be right away. However, he decided he'd like to become an Army pilot, so he enlisted in its Aviation Cadet Program.

He was on his way, when an argument among Armed Forces came to a head, as to what branch should have aviation. The Cadet program was shut down cold.

He was transferred to the Signal Corps, sent on to Officers School, became an officer, and was sent to Manila, where he worked on plans for the invasion of Japan. The dropping of bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki changed everything for Don, and he went to Japan as a part of a welcomed occupation force. He came to admire the Japanese very much. He spent some months in Japan before being sent back to the States, and subsequent discharge.

After a joyous reunion with Mary Jo, and a time for becoming re-adjusted to civilian life, he went back to work in the Twin Cities for the Labor Department. Their oldest son, Jeff, arrived. Don had never totally given up his dream of becoming a lawyer, so he used his G.I. Bill of Rights to enroll in night/Saturday school at the William Mitchell Law School.

The family moved to Baker Street in Fridley in 1949. They had been looking for a home for some time, and the house on Baker Street seemed exactly right for then, for it met all their wishes. In 1951, Don finished law school, passed the bar exam. He became a lawyer for life, but combined that with part ownership of a bowling alley, still finding time to begin his legal service to the community.

Mary Jo was largely a stay-at-home mother while the three children, Jeff, Jean, and Ed were growing up, but even that did not prevent her from organizing an informal group of like mothers on Baker Street to provide entertainment for the children, and help and social-time for the mothers.

After Don, and the Gottwald brothers, Bill and Dick, formed a company and built a bowling alley in 1955, Mary Jo found time to serve as the treasurer of the organization, became a certified bowling instructor, founder of women bowling leagues, and still supervised the kitchen operation and the child care service at the alley.

Perhaps Don and Mary Jo got a bit more than their dream-come-true with the home on Baker Street. The private well and water system, and the septic tank were not without weaknesses. So when the local government was considering water pipes and sewer lines for Baker Street, Mary Jo took on the task of getting the signatures of all the owners on Baker St. She also became a non-paid gatherer and writer of local news for the Northeast Argus, reporting on bowling news, and community events in Fridley.

Mary Jo and Don were only a couple of the many people that worked diligently to get a hospital for Fridley. Later, Mary Jo became a member of the Unity Hospital Auxiliary. She was active in this organization, taking senior citizen blood pressure tests at Village Green, and the Fridley Center on Osbourne Road. She was also among the members who sought to raise money for Unity with Annual Dinners and Silent Auctions.

After Fridley achieved village status, its "charter" was actually a part of State Statutes. When Fridley decided to move to a "city" designation, a charter commission was appointed to formulate a city charter. Mary Jo was appointed to the commission, and became its secretary. The body did a research study, and had a number of meetings and public discussion. After further revisions and refinement, the document was put to a vote, was approved by the public, and Fridley had a charter.

(to be continued)



ANOKA COUNTY FAIR

Dear Fridley Historical Society Members,

The Anoka County Fair is Tuesday, July 27 to Sunday, August 1, and the Anoka County Historical Society is asking for volunteers to be docents (guides) at the historical farm house at the fair. The Fridley Historical Society had about 6 members volunteer last year.

There are two shifts every day Tuesday through Sunday. The morning shift is from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the afternoon/evening shift is from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Sunday, the morning shift begins at 1:30 a.m. so the shift is an hour shorter.

All you need to do is greet visitors to the historic farm house and answer some basic questions. You will be given a short orientation before your shift begins.

The reason for the length of the shifts is because the Fair will only allow a free admission to anyone who works at least 4 ½ hours. However, if you want to work half a shift, or share a shift with someone else with one person at the farm house while the other is touring exhibits at the fair, that would work also. But one docent may have to pay an admission fee.

If you would be willing to help out at the Anoka County Fair, even for half a shift, please call Maria at the Anoka County Historical Society at 763-421-0600.

Many thanks,

Robert Christenson
President
Fridley Historical Society



Get well wishes to Char Fitzpatrick

We have learned that one of our long-time members has had extensive surgery on her leg and will be in recovery for weeks. She is staying with her son, John Fitzpatrick, at 2309 Grand Avenue, Apt. #2, Minneapolis, MN 55405 should you wish to send a card. Here's to a quick recovery!!



DEATH of DONALD C. SAVELKOUL

Last month the Fridley Historical Society was saddened to learn of the death of a great friend and supporter of the Historical Society, **Donald C. Savelkoul**. From the very beginning of the Historical Society Don has contributed his legal expertise and has been a faithful member. He also has been a very generous financial donor to the Society. Don will be greatly missed.

NEW SCHEDULE for HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Museum will continue to be open the second and fourth Saturdays through the remainder of the year. Only the hours would change to 11 to 3 p.m.

Membership meetings would be moved back to Monday nights except in months when there are special events. Special events' months remaining in 2004 are August (August Fest), October (Annual Meeting), November (Hall of Fame Dinner), and December (Christmas Concert).

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



GREETING
FROM
Far Far Away



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

55421+1700



President's Corner

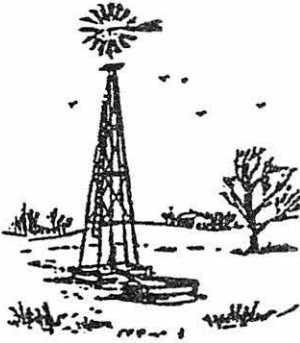


I have an offer which you can refuse, but if you accept it, you can't lose. Your Fridley Historical Society needs to increase its membership. We have 181 members, having lost 10% of our membership through non-renewals. Our goal is 250 members, so we need 79 new members, preferably by August 1 when dues go to half-price for the remainder of the year.

Although our financial condition is very strong, we would rather spend our funds on providing more services to our members rather than doing mass mailings to attract new members. We have many new programs in development but we need more members to serve on committees to implement our programs. We also have a vacancy on the Board.

So here is my offer. Choice 1 is talk to your neighbors--other family members--local merchants--and ask if they are members of the only historical society in Anoka County with a community museum. If they say no, invite them to join at the modest fee of \$10, or \$15 family, or \$50 business. Then just call me (763-574-7267) with their name and phone number and I will do the rest.

Choice 2 is to call me with your name and volunteer to serve on a committee (we have 9 to choose from). Either way, or both ways, you will be making a valuable contribution to your Historical Society and our programming will only get better and better. How can you lose?"



FHS Record

Volume 17, Issue 7
Copyright 2004

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 11, 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum Open House
Saturday, Sept. 25
Old Time Movies &
Post Card Albums
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Museum Open House
Saturday, Oct. 9
Old Time Movies
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, October 11
Fridley Community
Center 6:00 p.m.
Potluck dinner

Cemetery Tour, Sat.
Oct. 16 @ 6:30

Museum Open House
Saturday, Oct. 23
Old Time Movies
Fridley Hist. Museum

Hall of Fame Dinner
Saturday, Nov. 6
12 noon

The annual meeting of the Fridley Historical Society will be held Monday evening, 6 p.m. at the FRIDLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, 61st Avenue and 7th Street. We will have a potluck dinner from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., followed by a concert by the Northeast Orchestra, and ending with our annual business meeting. It is not required, but if you are so inclined, we invite you to bring hors d'oeuvres, a salad, a main dish or a dessert to share. But if food preparation is not your talent, most importantly bring yourself. It will be a fun evening.

The business meeting agenda will include an annual financial report, that state of the historical society, what's in store for 2005, amendments to bylaws, election of Board members and officers, and questions from Society members.

(See inside pages for bylaws changes, election of Board members and officers)

2004 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductees Announced !

The Fridley Historical Society is pleased to announce the first inductees to the Fridley Hall of Fame.

The Fridley Hall of Fame was established to recognize those who, through dedication, work and accomplishment have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley. Nominations to the Hall of Fame were solicited from the community over the past 6 months, and a large number were received, making the selection process very challenging.

The first inductees (in alphabetical order) are:

- *Herb Bacon, Fridley State Bank co-founder, Fridley Historical Society
- *William (Bud) Beery, Fridley State Bank president, Chamber of Commerce
- *Satveer Chaudhary, State Senator, Fridley Human Resources Commission
- *Arthur Christenson (d), local business entrepreneur & developer

(continued on page 2)

(Hall of Fame continued):

- * Carl Hartman (d), first Mayor, member of Police and Fire Departments
- * W. Harold Hayes (d), first Superintendent of Schools
- * Stan Kowalski, community fundraiser, school board, Lions Club, VFW
- * William Nee (d), former Mayor, Parks and Recreation, Chamber of Commerce
- * Harvey Peterson (d), school board, County Commissioner, Booster Club
- * Donald Savelkoul (d), Attorney & Fridley State Bank co-founder, State Rep

These inductees will be honored at the first annual Fridley Historical Society Hall of Fame dinner at noon on November 6th, 2004. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Highway 65 in Fridley. Each inductee will be presented with an award and their plaque will become a part of the Hall of Fame at the museum.

Tickets to the Hall of Fame Dinner are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Tables of 8 may be reserved.

For tickets to the dinner, call Suzanne Miskowic at 763-571-3493 or fill out a ticket application form from this newsletter and mail it along with payment and a self addressed stamped envelope to Suzanne Miskowic at 153 Hartman Circle NE, Fridley MN 55432.

FRIDLEY HALL OF FAME Nominations for 2005

The Fridley Historical Society would like to thank all of those from the community who sent in nominations for 2004. There were many very highly qualified nominees that we were not able to induct this year. If your nominee was not selected this year, please nominate them again next year.

Nomination forms for next year should be available by February or March of 2005. The Fridley Historical Society will then accept nominations from anyone who sends in a completed nomination form by July 31, 2005. Please make sure that you complete both pages of the nomination form. We can only accept nomination forms that are complete.



ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Nominating Committee Recommendations

The Nominating Committee has submitted, and the Board has approved, the following list of candidates to the FHS Board:

1. Jerry Manley, current Board member, for another 3-year term.
2. Mary Sue Meyers, current Board member, for another 3-year term.
3. Lisa Underhill, new board member for a 3-year term. Lisa was appointed to the Board at the September meeting to fill the vacancy created by the death of Gloria Hayes. Gloria's term would have expired the end of 2004. Lisa will serve the remainder of Gloria's term and be a candidate for another 3-year term commencing January 1, 2005. Lisa is an Account Executive at Clark Consulting Health Care Group in Minneapolis, and lives in Fridley.
4. Jolene Honkomp, new board member for a 2-year term to fill the position left vacant by having no immediate past president to fill this position in 2005 and 2006. A proposed amendment to the bylaws addresses this issue. Jolene is a Regional Life Manager at Harleysville Life Insurance Co. and lives in Wyoming, MN (Anoka County).

Nominated as officers were Robert Christenson, current President, and Pat Jaakkola, current Secretary, for additional two-year terms.

The above three candidates and officers will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, October 11.

BY-LAWS CHANGES

The Board recommends to the membership that the following changes be made to our bylaws.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this association shall be the Fridley History Center and its headquarters shall be in the City of Fridley, Minnesota.

We are recommending a name change from Fridley Historical Society to Fridley History Center. Being a society does not make clear we operate a museum (the only community historical museum in the County. Thus being a history center better explains what we have to offer to the public.

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Society shall be the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the City of Fridley to current and past City residents, Fridley school children and to other historical societies, libraries, museums and researchers.

The current mission is three paragraphs long and very detailed. If not changed, it would need to be updated frequently because of so much detail constantly changing. As well, the detail in the mission statement is more about "how" to fulfill a mission, rather than more appropriately stating "what our reason for being is."

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

5. Membership shall include the following categories:

a. Individuals membership: seniors, individual and family memberships: Any person may become a member of the Society by payment of annual dues. Classes of individual members and the dues thereof shall be as follows:

1. Senior members \$10.00
2. Individual members \$12.00
3. Family members - two adults in the same household \$18.00

We are adding a discount member fee for seniors and we are increasing other dues. The cost of operating the museum has increased, and there has been no dues increase in over 15 years. In addition, we receive no funding from any governmental body, while many other historical societies which operate museums do.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

4. The retiring president of the society may choose to become an ex-officio voting member of the new board of directors to act in an advisory and consultative capacity for a two-year period, and as needed, to chair a standing or special committee. If the retiring president elects not to become an ex-officio member of the board, or if the retiring president is unable to complete their two-year term for whatever reason, the board of directors will appoint another member of the society to fill this 11th position on the board. Additionally, if the retiring president's two year term as an ex-officio member has expired and the current president is elected to an additional two-year term, the board of directors will appoint a member of the society to fill this 11th position on the board until a new president is elected, at which time the retiring president may elect to become an ex-officio voting member of the board.

The current bylaw provides for the immediate past president to automatically become an ex-officio voting member of the Board. This can deter individuals from serving as president, for it requires a minimum of a 4-year commitment. We do need 11 Board members to operate the Society and Museum, and under the current bylaw, we would have to reduce the size of the Board to 10 members once the immediate past president has fulfilled her or his term and the president is nominated for a second term.

ARTICLE V - BOARD of DIRECTORS

1. The business of the society shall be conducted by a board of eleven directors who may serve for a maximum of three 3-year terms. After a board member has been absent from the board for one calendar year, then he/she may then be re-elected to the board. The board shall be comprised of four officers and seven directors, of which one director may be the immediate past president. Nominees for directors shall be selected by the nominating committee, approved by the Board, and elected by the membership. Board member terms will be staggered so that three directors will be elected in 2003, three in 2004, and four in 2005, with this sequence repeating in years following 2005.

The two changes in the paragraph permit the immediate past president to choose whether or not they serve as an ex-officio member, and it describes the process for electing directors beyond 2005.

ARTICLE VII- MEETINGS

3. The regular meetings of the society shall be held monthly, except for those months in which a major event is scheduled to which the membership is invited. The board of directors will determine dates and times of all events and membership meetings with the exception of the annual meeting (see VII - 1).

Current bylaws require meetings September through May, with summer meetings optional. We have 5 major events a year: April (Lasagna Dinner & Raffle); August (AugustFest); October (Annual Meeting); November (Hall of Fame Dinner); and December (Christmas Concert & Kindergarten Party). Therefore, regular membership meetings will not be held in January, February, March, May, June, July and September).

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

1. The society shall have the following standing committees: Nominating Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Membership Committee, Archives Committee, Maintenance Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and Program & Events Committee, and a Newsletter & Public Relations Committee.

We added Newsletter and Public Relations Committee as a standing committee.

2. The president shall appoint, with the approval of the board of directors, chairs of all standing committees. Each standing committee shall have a minimum of three members. The president, with the approval of the board of directors, may also establish such special committees as are deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the society, and will appoint the chairs of special committees. Members of all committees will be recruited by the chair of each respective standing committee, and be approved by the board of directors. Chairs of all committees shall, insofar as possible, be appointed by the president from members of the board of directors.

As written now, the president appoints all committee members. It is much more efficient to have committee chairs recruit their own members for their committees, which are subsequently approved by the Board.

The current bylaws have standing and special committees serving only until the annual meeting. Officers and committees operate on a calendar year, so this change provides for committee appointments being also on a calendar year.

This change details the mechanism to be used for soliciting nominations to the Board of Directors and officers from the membership, rather than having just the Nominating Committee solicit board members and officers.

*By Tom Myhra
(Conclusion)*

Busy as Mary Jo was, Don seems to have had even more irons simultaneously in the fire. He often doubled up on his community service commitments, so it is difficult to arrange them chronologically. He was a leader in founding the Fridley Fire Department, the Fridley Firemens Relief Association, Fridley's first and separate Post Office,

St. Williams Church, Maple Lanes bowling alley, and the Fridley State Bank.

Don was appointed chairman of the Fridley Police Civil Service Commission, Fridley Village Justice of Peace, Fridley Municipal Judge, and elected Fridley's first State Representative to the Minnesota State Legislature. He was recognized by the Fridley City Council for his role in securing Fridley's Post Office.

He was attorney for the Archdiocese of St. Paul. He located and arranged for sale of land for the location of Totino Grace High School. He was also chairman of the drive to raise money to build St. Williams. He also secured, and handled without fee, the incorporations for the Springbrook Center, and the Fridley Historical Society, that gave them a tax free status.

He is currently a member of American Legion Post 303, Fridley Kiwanis Golden K, the Knights of Columbus, and the Fridley Historical Society.

Mary Jo and Don had been married for 62 years when she died in July of 2003. Don and Mary Jo raised three children who attended Fridley schools and graduated from Fridley High School. Jeff, a Vietnam vet, married Karen Bjornjgeld, also a Fridley native, and they live in East Bethel and have three sons, Christopher, Michael, and Andrew. Jeff was a casualty during his war service, but has recovered enough to be an electrician. Jean has two daughters, Katie and Bridget. They live in Coon Rapids where she teaches school. Ed is married to Terrie Schack, and they live in Blaine. They have three sons, Matt, Kyle, and Joseph. Terrie works for the Columbia Park Medical Clinic, and Ed is employed as an administrator for the Minnesota Commercial Railway.

Don continues to live in his house built in 1955 along Moore Lake. His eyes give him some eyesight problems, and it keeps Don from driving and being as active as he used to be, and would still like to be.

(This article was written before Don died last month.)





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Annual Meeting



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



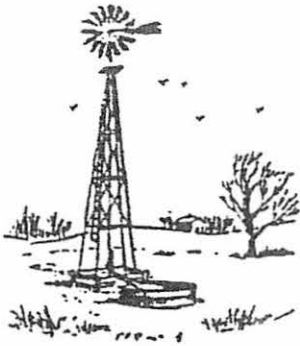
Graveyard Tour

Every year the Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS) arranges tours of old cemeteries in Anoka County on 3 different Saturdays in October. Saturday, October 16, has been selected for a tour of the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fridley.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. There are only 30 tickets available for each tour. Contact the Anoka County Historical Society for tickets. The price for members of ACHS is \$5 and non-members \$7.50. For all 3 tours, the member price is \$12 and non-member price is \$18.50.

The County Historical Society makes this a very educational and interesting event. Research is done on each cemetery in advance. Then individuals dressed in costumes of the period stand at the headstone of different graves and tell the story of the person buried there. A candle is placed on each grave and a respectful ceremony concludes the event after which everyone will travel to the Fridley Historical Museum for refreshments.

The address of the cemetery is 54th Avenue and 5th Street.

FHS RecordVolume 16, Issue 7
Copyright 2003*Christmas Festivities*

Come to the Fridley Historical Society Museum to celebrate the Holiday Season! The Museum will be clad in Christmas colors and artwork by the kindergarten students from Fridley.

Saturday, **December 11, 2004** will be our Annual Kindergarten Day at the Museum. North Park, Stevenson, and Hayes Elebentaery Schools will Participate in this event. Each kindergarten student in Fridley will submit their art work to be on display at the museum. On December 11 parent and child will attend a party at the museum. They will have their pictures taken and will have apple juice and cookies. The party runs from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and the public is welcome.

**Upcoming
Events**

Saturday, December 11
Kindergarten Christmas
Open House
12- 3:00 p.m.
Fridley History Museum



Membership Meeting
Monday., December 13
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Fridley History Museum

Program:
"Kids from Fridley"
Middle School Choir

Membership Meeting

We are delighted to once again present for your pleasure the "*Kids from Fridley Middle School Choir*" They will entertain us with a good selection of songs both old and new.

After their presentation wassail and coffee and cookies will be served. Come and bring your family and friends to hear this fun and enthusiastic group of singers!

Cookies are needed

When you are baking your Christmas cookies, would you make an extra dozen or two to share with all of the children who will be coming to the Museum? They need to be brought to the Museum by Saturday morning the 11th of December. Thanks and have a happy holiday!



Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner a great success

The first annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner was held on Saturday November 6th at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall. Approximately 200 people were on hand to honor the first ten inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame.

The ten inductees in alphabetical order were:

*** Herb Bacon:**

Herb was born on January 27, 1922 in Minneapolis. His family moved to Fridley in 1936 when he was 14.

He founded Bacon's Electric in 1946 and helped to organize the City of Fridley in 1949. Herb played a leading role in establishing Fridley's first bank, the Fridley State Bank in 1962.

Herb was a charter member of the Fridley Lions Club and the Fridley Methodist Church. He also helped in the creation of the Fridley Fire Department, the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, and the Fridley Post Office. Herb played a leading role in the founding of the Fridley Historical Society and served on its Board of Directors for many years. Herb served as the President of the Fridley Rotary Club.

*** William Beery:**

Bill was born on September 11, 1915 in Valley City, North Dakota.

Bill played a leading role in establishing Fridley's first bank, the Fridley State Bank. He served as its first and only President from 1962 until his retirement in 1995. The Bank under Bill's direction was very supportive of the local schools. The Bank also helped in the creation of the Fridley Historical Society.

Bill was a charter member of the Fridley Rotary Club. He is also an active member of the Fridley Lions Club and the Fridley Chamber of Commerce and he has been an active member of the American Legion since 1945.

Bill has helped in the sponsorship of many community events. Through the years he has been supportive of the efforts of the Fridley parks and recreation department. He also helped in the locating of a Post Office in Fridley.

*** Satveer Chaudhary:**

Satveer was born and raised in Fridley.

Satveer has served as a State Representative for Fridley and he is currently serving as a State Senator for Fridley in the Minnesota Senate where he is the Majority Whip. As a legislator Satveer has led the way in passing legislation that has helped in the growth of Fridley. He led the way in passing legislation to expand and secure Medtronic's world headquarters in Fridley, which helped create 1,000 new jobs in the area and increase Fridley's standing as a world-class city.

Satveer is a member of the Fridley Human Resources Commission and he is also a volunteer attorney.

He has been an active supporter in the defense of the Springbrook Nature Center. His leadership has been a major reason that the Springbrook Nature Center has been preserved.

*** Arthur Christenson (d):**

Art was born in Fridley and he dedicated his life to helping Fridley grow from a small farming community of just under 500 residents in 1902 to a full-service charter city with a population of close to 30,000 at the time of his death. Art lived in Fridley his entire life and his contributions encompassed many areas of Fridley's development.

Art founded the first shopping center in Fridley at the S. E. corner of University Avenue and Mississippi Street. Over the years he expanded at this location by starting many additional businesses, which were all the first of their kind in Fridley.

In the 1950's, Governor Freeman appointed Art as Fridley's representative on a special task force to promote industrial growth in Minnesota. He laid the groundwork for the Fridley Industrial Development Commission that attracted Medtronic and a host of other industries to Fridley in the 1960's.

As a charter member, Art played a major role in establishing the Fridley Fire Department.

Art was a very active in community service. He was a charter member of the Fridley Boosters Club, and a charter and board member of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, the Fridley Lions Club (Secretary & Charter Monarch), the Fridley Rotary, the Fridley Commercial Club, and Redeemer Lutheran Church where he served on the Building Committee. Art also served on the Fridley Zoning Board.

*** Carl Hartman (d):**

Carl was born October 1, 1893 in New Brighton, Minnesota. In 1907 when he was thirteen years old, his family moved to a small farm in Fridley.

Carl was active in township government from the early 1920's and served as Chairman of the Town Board. With the incorporation of Fridley as a Village in 1949, Carl became its first Mayor and served in that capacity until his retirement from political life in 1954.

After his retirement as Mayor, Carl became a part-time member of the Fridley Police Department in 1954. He served as such until he reached the compulsory retirement age of 65. Carl was also a volunteer member of the Fridley Fire Department from 1951 to 1958.

*** W. Harold Hayes (d):**

Harold Hayes was born in the early 1890's in St. Charles, Minnesota.

In 1948 he became Superintendent of schools for both District 6 and District 23. In 1951 he started the hot lunch program in the Fridley schools.

Hayes School, which was named after Mr. Hayes, opened in 1950 with 390 students, in Kindergarten through eighth grade. 152 Fridley children in grades nine through twelve attended Columbia Heights High School. In the mid 1950's Independent School District 14 was created.

With the planning completed for the new Fridley Senior High School and Fridley's first high school class graduating from the Junior High School, Harold retired in June 1959.

* **Stan Kowalski:**

Stan was born on May 13, 1926 in Minneapolis.

After graduating from college, Stan became a professional wrestler. From 1950 until he retired in 1976, he wrestled in over 6,600 matches and he held 19 major world titles. Stan was inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1996.

Stan has been very active in the V.F.W. for over 35 years. He is a member of the Fridley V.F.W. Post 363 and he served as the Post Commander in 1997 and 1998. Stan was a V.F.W. District Officer for 4 years and has been the V.F.W. 7th District Commander the last two years.

Stan has been very involved in many other veteran's activities including an appointment as State POW/MIA Chairman, Vice Chair of the World War II Submarine Vets and Co-Chair for Navy Recruiting for Minnesota. Stan is also the State Chair for Operation Uplink, which supplies our troops with phone cards. He was made an honorary Colonel in the U.S. Air Force for his work with the troops. Stan is a Veterans advisor to Congressman Jim Ramstead.

Stan has been a volunteer speaker for the United Way for 43 years. During these many years Stan has given over 12,000 speeches. The United Way named him a "Community Hero" in 1996.

Stan has spent many years raising funds for local schools and youth activities. He has also been very active in raising funds for the Police, the Fire Department, and other city projects.

William Nee (d):

William Nee was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 20, 1925 and grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Bill was the Chairman of the Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission, a member of the Planning Commission and he served as a Ward I Council Member and a Ward III Council Member. Bill was a member of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce for over thirty years and served on the Board of Directors for the Anoka County Community Action Program as their Chairman for many years.

Bill was very active in the community but what he is best remembered for is his many years as Fridley's Mayor from 1963 to 1965 and from 1975 until 1996. The year 1965 stands out as the defining year of Bill's public service career. First, floods in that year ruined many homes. Then on May 6th, major tornadoes devastated the city: twenty five percent of the homes were destroyed and fifty percent of the schools and commercial buildings suffered serious damage or worse. Before the rain stopped on that memorable night, Mayor Nee took charge and kept working until Fridley was rebuilt.

* **Harvey Peterson (d):**

Harvey was born in 1918, in Saskatchewan, Canada. His family immigrated to the United States in 1925, where they settled in Minneapolis. After the war, in 1947, Harvey and his family purchased 5 acres on Mississippi Street. Their house was the one of the first in the area.

Harvey was a founding member of the Fridley Lions Club, Fridley Rotary Club, Fridley Boosters Club, and he was a member of the Fridley School Board, as well as many other community service organizations.

In the early 1950's, Harvey worked on the condemnation process to obtain the land for the construction of State Highway 65, across Moore Lake, and through Fridley. From the 1950's to the 1970's his construction company, Harvey Peterson Company, built many homes in Fridley. He was very active in the reconstruction of Fridley after the 1965 tornado.

Harvey was active in local politics and was elected as an Anoka County Commissioner in the late 1960's. Among his many accomplishments as commissioner, he was very proud of the fact the he was instrumental in locating the Anoka County Ice Arena in Fridley.

*** Donald Savelkoul (d):**

Don was born in Minneapolis in 1917 and he moved to Fridley in 1949.

Don was elected as a Justice of the Peace for the Village of Fridley. In 1952 Governor C. Elmer Anderson appointed him as Municipal Judge, Fridley. Later he was elected as Municipal Judge, Fridley. In 1966 he was elected as Fridley's first State Representative in the Minnesota legislature.

Don played a leading role in establishing Fridley's first bank, the Fridley State Bank, and he served as its Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1962 to 1995.

He played a major role in organizing the Fridley Fire Department and they later recognized him with an Appreciation award for his many years of counsel and guidance.

He received an award from the Fridley Chamber of Commerce for obtaining Fridley's first separate and exclusive Post Office building.

As an attorney, Don did a lot of volunteer work. He handled without fee the incorporations of the Fridley Firemen's Relief Association, the Fridley Historical Society and the Springbrook Nature Center.

.....

The emcee for the afternoon, Mayor Scott Lund, introduced each inductee. The inductees or their representatives were presented with an engraved acrylic award to keep. Their Hall of Fame plaques were shown, which now are on display in the Fridley Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.

Other participants in the Hall of Fame dinner were the Fridley Historical Society President, Robert Christenson who provided the opening and closing remarks. Mel Manley, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee spoke about the Hall of Fame. Harpist Lauri Meinhardt provided the musical entertainment for the afternoon.

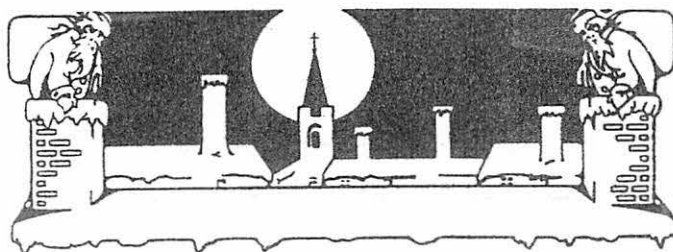
There were also many financial contributors that made the event possible. These include our Platinum

Sponsor, the Fridley Lions Club, who donated \$7,000 for the purchase of a double-sided, lighted sign with changeable letters for the Fridley history center. Our Bronze Sponsor, Wells Fargo Bank, who donated \$1,000 towards the purchase of digital recording equipment.

Other contributors were Twin City Federal, Fridley VFW Post 363, Kuether Distributing, Bob's Produce Ranch, Riteway Mobile Home Repair, American Legion Post 303, Skin Care Specialists, Lisa Underhill, and Suzanne Miskowic. The Fridley Historical Society would also like to thank Virgil Farasyn, for his donation of a bookshelf he made for the Hall of Fame.

Special thanks must also go to the entire Fridley Hall of Fame Committee. Without their hard work of over the last two years, the Fridley Hall of Fame and the Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner would not have been possible. The members of the committee in alphabetical order are, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Johnson, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, and Suzanne Miskowic.

Planning is already underway for next years Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner, which will be held on Saturday November 12, 2005.



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Each year we as a group (Board of Directors) have made a budget to follow for the following year. In 2004 we have 200 members, which is a number we wish to build to a greater membership in 2005. Each Chairman submits their budget for the following year. During the year we can evaluate Budget vs. Actual.

Each month the treasurer gives a report to the Board of Directors on spending detail and income receipts. We can analyze our spending at any time and adjust accordingly. For any purchase that is a large sum of money an approval requisition is made and voted on by the Board of Directors.

We are very pleased to announce that we are in excellent financial condition. We currently have assets of \$20,000.

We wish to continue to grow and preserve the history of Fridley. With the help of the whole community we will attain this goal.

Marilyn A. Manley/Treasurer



Society President Robert Christenson (left) presenting the Platinum Sponsor Award to Bill Erickson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Fridley Lions Club



Mel Manley, Vice President of the Fridley Historical Society and Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee



(Left to Right)

Mel Manley;

Kay Nee accepting Inductee Award on behalf of her deceased husband, Bill Nee, former Fridley Mayor;

Robert Christenson;

Mayor Scott Lund, Master of Ceremonies



First Hall of Fame Inductees
or Their Representative:

(Left to Right)

Ed Savelkoul (for Don Savelkoul)

Herb Bacon

Jen Peterson (for Harvey Peterson)

Bill Beery

Kay Nee (for Bill Nee)

Pat Jaakkola (for Art Christenson)

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary

Stan Kowalski

Mark Robetson (Superintendent of School District #14 for Harold Hayes)

Alice Ganter (for Carl Hartman)

Board Sets Society Agenda for 2005

The Fridley Historical Society Board of Directors met on November 10 to develop the 2005 Plan for the Society. The initial draft of the 2005 Plan is being reviewed (see tentative goals below) and a final plan will be adopted at the December 4th Board Meeting.

The first order of business was to review progress on the major goals for 2004. Our first major goal was to improve attendance at meetings and events. We fell short by being unable to significantly increase attendance at membership meetings and unable to increase the number of visitors to the History Center by any significant amount. But we were able to increase attendance at the Annual Lasagna Dinner, and at August Fest, plus we had excellent attendance at the First Annual Hall of Fame Dinner.

The second major 2004 goal was to increase membership to 250 members. The board member who was to chair the Membership Committee resigned in January and the Nominating Committee was unable to find a replacement but were fortunate to be able to maintain our base of 200 members.

The third major goal in 2004 was to increase annual revenue and maintain a 6-month annual reserve. Our annual revenue increased from \$9,567 in 2003 to approximately \$20,000 in 2004, with \$8,000 dedicated to capital expenditures and \$4,600 to Hall of Fame expenses. Our 6-month annual reserve goal was more than met.

The Board's tentative major goals for 2005 are:

- 1. Increase membership to 250 including business members.*
- 2. Generate \$10,000 in non-restricted funds from fundraising for operating expenses.*
- 3. Generate \$7,500 in restricted revenue for website development.*
- 4. Generate \$6,000 in restricted revenue for digital recording equipment.*

The Board's tentative secondary goals for 2005 are:

- 1. Increase attendance at membership meetings and events.*
- 2. Increase volunteer base with more members on committees, serving as docents, plus recruiting youth to be involved.*
- 3. Develop a funding plan for a part-time executive administrator for the Fridley History Center.*

These are very aggressive goals. But we are fortunate to have an equally talented and dedicated Board passionate about making the Fridley Historical the outstanding historical society in Minnesota for its size. Once the final plan is adopted by the Board, we will share the goals and strategies with the membership.



Merry



Christmas

Happy New

Year!



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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



We Are Renewing – What About You?

It is that time of year again when memberships in the Fridley Historical Society are up for renewal! You will receive a renewal packet in the mail in the next week, and we really would appreciate your timely response.

Your Historical Society is renewing as well. 2004 has been a time of major renewal for us, with wonderful results. We are renewing our Board of Directors with the addition of two younger and energetic members, Lisa Undershill and Jolene Honkomp, and we are looking for a third. We are renewing our museum, renaming it the Fridley History Center, and are hard at work raising funds for digital technology to preserve printed materials subject to deterioration.

We are renewing our commitment to City schools by meeting with school principals to discuss ways we can work collaboratively. We are renewing how we communicate about the events we sponsor, with a brand new lighted changeable letter sign donated by the Fridley Lions and currently raising funds for a website. We are renewing our role serving the community by having launched the Fridley Hall of Fame. And we are renewing our commitment to continuing to be a financially strong historical society by strengthening our membership base and developing new sources of revenue.

Please join us in this exciting program of renewal by renewing your membership this month.