Volume 18, Issue 2 Copyright 2005



The Record

VALENTINE'S DAY MEETING



Upcoming Events

SUPER SATURDAY
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, February 12
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Old-time movies
Fridley History Center

MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, FEBURARY 14
6 P.M. POTLUCK DINNER
(OPTIONAL TO BRING A DISH)
6:45 PM. BUSINESS MEETING
7 P.M. MOUNTAINS, MOODS & MUSIC

SUPER SATURDAY
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, February 26
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Old-time movies
Fridley History Center

Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 14
6:45 p.m. Business Meeting
7 p.m. Bob Comer's video of
1960s school patrol
picnics at
Excelsior Amusement Park

15th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle Saturday, April 30 5 to 7 p.m. Fridley Community Center One of our most popular membership meetings in 2003 was photographer-extraordinaire Flo Scholljegerdes who narrated her slide presentation on "Old Barns & Country Things." On February 14, Flo is coming back with a brand new presentation: "Mountains, Moods & Music."

Flo travels the world photographing the most scenic places imaginable. Her photos of mountains were gathered from trips throughout the U.S. including Alaska, plus trips to Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. Her slide presentation is accompanied by sensuous background music, creating a beautiful environment for Valentine's Day.



This Monday evening meeting will begin at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner (been a while since we had a potluck), so bring your favorite dish – with a Valentine's Day accent without it being a dessert if you can think of one. It is not required that you bring a potluck dish to attend the meeting. A short business meeting of Society members will follow the potluck. Flo will begin her presentation at 7 pm.

Invite your loving friends to this meeting to celebrate Valentine's Day!

Mystery Photo

Can you identify this photo? It was given to the Fridley Historical Society.



New and Renewing Members

If you have not yet renewed, you will find enclosed with this newsletter a renewal application and a pre-addressed envelope for mailing your application and check to the Society

The dues are only \$12 for individuals, \$18 for families, \$10 for Senior, \$25 for Nonprofits, and \$50 for businesses.

The following members are either new members (*) or have renewed their membership for 2005 as of February 1.

Robert Aldrich Betty Aldrich Judy Anderson Marion Anderson **Bob Barnette** Jane Barnette Bill Beery Blair Berger Jennifer Berger Doris Bergman Sen. Connie Bernardy Donald Betzold Rosemary Biedron Bob's Produce Esther Campbell Sen. Satveer Chaudhary Adeline Christenson Earle Christenson Robert Christenson Virginia Christenson Gloria Egan P. Lincoln Eikaas Yvonne Eikaas Bill Erickson Elsie Elverud Lyle Elverud

Post #303
Fridley Senior Crafters
Fridley Lions Club
Fridley VFW Post #363
Elizabeth Frischmon
Alice Ganter
John Ganter
Christine Gerrety (d)
Jan Golden
Jim Golden
Jim Hanson

Fridley American Legion

Betty Fredrickson

Earl Fredrickson

Jim Hanson Gretchen Hanson Earl Hatten Carol K. Hauge Mavis E. Hauge Chuck Hayes Betty Hendrickson Pearl Hicks
Harriet Hyort
Eric Jaakkola
Pat Jaakkola
Barbara Jackson*
Richard Jefferson
Alice Johnson
Margaret Jewison
Charlotte Johnson
Earl Johnson
Debbie Johnson
Jerry Johnson
Kathleen M. Johnson

Barbara Johnson
Lary Johnson
Norma Johnson
Jim Kordiak
Carolyn Kuechle
Valerian Kuechle

Kuether Distributing Company* James Lawrence

Hazel Linton
William Linton
Carole Lueders
Martin Lueders
Scott Lund
Lucinda Lund
Norma Lindquist
Gerald Maeckelbergh
Margaret Maeckelbergh

Audrey Mahr Donald Mahr Matthew Manley Sandy Manley Mel Manley Jerry Manley Marilyn Manley Charles Martin* Bernadine Matushak

Ed Meyer John Meyer Lillian Meyer
Don Meyers
Mary Sue Meyers
Carole Miller
Ruth Ollila
Andrea Oman
Annette Oman
Jeri Oman
Jim Peterson
Ernie Petrangelo
Jeanne Petrangelo

Rite-Way Mobile Home Repair*

Midge Rotter
Mary Rozmark
Robert Scott
Betty Scott
Agnes Shaw
Skin Care Specialists
Arthur Swanson
Norma Swanson

Twin Cities North Chamber of

Commerce*

Twin City Federal - Fridley*

Glenn Theorin Lisa Undershill Patricia Vant

Wells Fargo Bank – Fridley* Wells Fargo Bank – Twin Cities Business* Warren Woods

Karen Woods Dick Zalusky

Join or renew today!

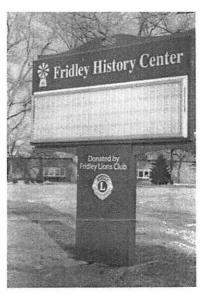


New Sign Installed

In mid-January, on frozen turf, Signcrafters Outdoor Sign Display, a Fridley company, installed our new lighted message sign donated by the Fridley Lions Club. The ground was too hard to put in the underground electrical wiring, so for now we have above ground wiring from a pole to the sign. The wiring will be buried in the spring.

We will be announcing special Historical Society special events, membership meeting speakers, Super Saturday events, and other information about the Society on the sign. Let us know your impression of the sign – leave a message at 763-571-0120.





Maintenance Committee Report

The Maintenance Committee has had a very quiet winter. Keeping the sidewalks clear of snow is usually our only regular task. Because of the lack of snow, there has been little to do. We have an ongoing problem with condensate leaks in both furnaces, but they are still under warranty so they have not cost the Society any money for repairs. But the water leakage is bothersome.

Because of health problems, we will be losing two or three Committee members this year, and are in need of volunteer replacements. Outside of a little landscape work two or three times each summer, and snow removal in the winter, the work is neither hard nor time consuming. With a full Maintenance Committee, the summer work only takes an hour or two each time and you would be responsible for snow removal only two or three times over the entire winter.

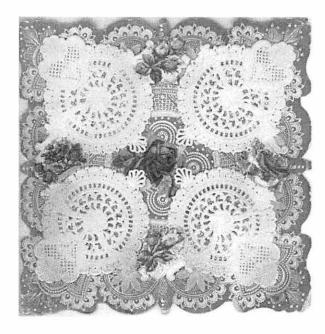
If you can possible devote a little time to be on the Committee, please call me, Jerry Manley, at 763-571-6963. "Many hands make for light work." Please volunteer; with a full Committee very little work or time is involved.



Page 4



Happy Valentine's Day! Gelebrate at the Membership Meeting, Monday, February 14!



Antique Valentine cards courtesy of Mary Sue Meyers



Paper Valentines

By Mary Sue Meyers



Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, when valentines were said or sung. Some historians trace the custom of sending verses on Valentine's Day to Charles, the Duke of Orleans. He sent several rhymed poems or "Valentines" from the Tower of London to his wife in France when he was imprisoned there in the 1400's.

Margery Brews, an Englishwoman, wrote the oldest known valentine in letterform dated 1477. It is still in existence in a British Museum. In 1667 Samuel Pepys in a letter described a Valentine he got from his wife. It became the forerunner of later valentines.

It took another 100 years before it was common to leave a valentine or "message of love" for your sweetheart. Early valentines were often very lacy, hand painted, and decorated with often a sacred or religious-styled heart in the center. Germany produced very elaborate borders and expensive paper for valentines in the 18th Century. Because of the expense, the English began to reproduce their own. Most early valentines were known as "paper pockets" shaped like envelopes and folded over and sealed with wax.

The exchanging of paper valentines began to replace the giving of valentine gifts. The first commercial valentine appeared around 1800 in England. By the 1840s valentines contained delicate and artistic messages. Many were hand-painted. They were often made of fine paper and decorated with lace and satin. They had pictures of arrows, cupids, bleeding hearts, dried flowers, seashells, and other valentine symbols.

Many valentines sent from the mid-1800's to the early 1900's were comic valentines called 'Vinegar Valentines' and 'Penny Dreadfuls'. They sold for a penny and were usually very insulting and the designs were dreadful, rather than loving and flattering. They were usually sent anonymously.

In the 1840's the first mechanical valentines were introduced. A figure could be made to move by pulling a tab. Some had various other three-dimensional features and honeycomb pop-outs. 'Valentine Writers' were also sold. This was a booklet containing a selection of messages that could be copied onto decorative sheets. The verses were romantic, whimsical, and sometimes critical.

During the Gay Nineties, valentines were very elaborately adorned with spun glass, silk fringe, and imitation jewels. The first US made valentines were crafted by a Mount Holyoke College student, Miss Esther Howland around 1830. She began a very successful valentine business.

Valentine Greeting cards today are manufactured on an enormous scale that ranges from sentimental to humorous to sophisticated. Valentine's Day ranks second only to Christmas in the number of greeting cards sent. The practice of creating handmade cards with laces and pretty papers also continues.

The Fridley History Center has a selection of early valentines on display, many from the early 1900's.



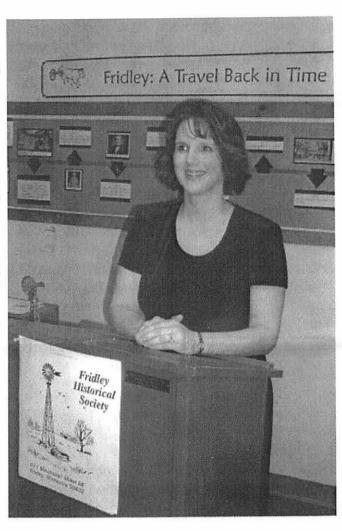
The Life of Today's Teacher

January Membership Meeting Speaker

Karen Larson delivered a wonderful presentation at our January Membership Meeting describing her life as a teacher. Karen, a reading specialist at Stevenson Elementary School with a Master's Degree in Reading Education, was awarded the prestigious Milken National Educator Award of \$25,000 in October 2004. Karen is donating part of her award to a Fridley student as a scholarship

Born and raised and educated in Iowa, Karen thought about being a teacher while working as a nanny on the east coast prior to college. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education in 1994. She began her teaching career as a Kindergarten teacher in West Des Moines and in 1997 and 1998 returned to college to get her Master's Degree. In 1998, she began her work as a teacher at Stevenson Elementary School in Fridley.

Her values were shaped mostly by her family where becoming a teacher was not a tradition. But she learned the value of hard work, honesty, and giving back to the community from her parents. Her mother modeled eternal compassion for everyone and the value of volunteering your time for the good of other people. Her father taught her the importance of working hard, never giving up, and always giving 110%. Her grandparents also positively affected her life.



Her teachers, while growing up, had an extreme impact on her life. They made school a positive experience and safe place to learn. She always enjoyed learning and attending school.

Karen's favorite thing about teaching is the people she has the opportunity to meet and interact with, including outstanding colleagues and students and families from a variety of backgrounds. She particularly enjoys the designated time set aside each day at her school for department colleagues to plan and share ideas. The children she teaches are closest to her heart. They challenge her every day to find new ways to teach and to explain the complexity of the reading process. Plus, she says, they have an innocent view on the world and life.

Karen stated, "In my position, I sometimes work with children for many years. This is not because the child isn't learning or growing, but it is usually children who come to school behind other students continue to stay behind. It is very difficult for a child to make twice as much gains when they start out a year behind other students, even with extra help."



Resources at school are very different from 20 years ago. The role of technology has become huge. Currently, the resources the schools lack are general supplies for classrooms. Teachers have a very small budget of about \$200 to last the entire year for things such as covers, paper clips, staples, tape, new books, teaching aids, etc. What usually happens is that teachers must spend out of their own pocket to purchase some of their classroom supplies.

Karen said, "The life of today's teacher is more than just teaching. Teachers are responsible for communicating with families, setting up community resources, filling out mandatory reports, emotional support for children, etc. A teacher's day is very hectic and busy. You must be an outstanding time manager in order to be a teacher."

She stated that over the last several years there have been many changes in education, especially with the new standards. There will continue to be more accountability through assessments, children evaluation, and teacher evaluation. Because all children are not created equally, it is impossible to have all children performing at grade level by the end of third grade.

"This is because children are not machines. Children are humans. Some come to school ready to learn with their backpack filled with all the supplies they need such as parental support, a stable, safe home environment, a full stomach, and average to high cognitive and social abilities. Unfortunately, there are also many children that come to school lacking the necessary skills to be successful."

Fridley, she says, has a highly mobile student population with a rate of 40%, i.e. 20% leaving over the course of a year and replaced by another 20%. There are 24 primary languages spoken by students in School District 14 other than English.

One of out of every ten students is an English Language Learner, and the number is growing. It takes a child 7 years to be proficient in English, and some come to middle school speaking no English whatsoever. She says, "Can we expect them to do the same work as a student that has spoken English their entire life?" Plus, 35% of students in Fridley come from families that are at free/reduced lunch levels (income under \$35,000 for a family of four).

So what can community members and parents do to support a child's education? Karen suggests, "Stay involved and support teachers. Read with a child, help on a field trip, assist in the classroom, or even work on things at home such as cutting out objects from paper."

She concluded her remarks with two key points. "It is important for the community to support our school in everyway possible. Schools are children's future. Second, it is essential to read to children whether it is your child, your grandchild or your neighbor. Reading is the building block for all learning and is essential for a successful life."









FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



What makes a nonprofit organization successful, and of value to its members and the community it serves? This is a question faced by every one of the 1.2 million nonprofits in the United States.

Research shows that the key essential element to being a successful nonprofit that does not have paid staff is having a strong volunteer base. Volunteers rarely approach an organization to offer their services. They need to be asked. So we are asking.

We need volunteers to serve on the following committees:

Fundraising

Membership,

Maintenance

City & Family History

Archives

Hall of Fame

Newsletter & Public Relations

Finance

Nominating

Programs and Events

If any of these areas are of interest to you, please call 763-571-0120 and leave your name and phone number and what committee you would like to serve on.

The Fridley Historical Society is committed to being of value to our members. But we need to you to partner with us by volunteering, even if only an hour a month. Help us keep the Fridley History Center a growing and thriving resource to our fair city.

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 3 Copyright 2005



REMEMBERING EXCELSIOR AMUSEMENT PARK

Our Monday, March 14th, Membership Meeting will feature a color film of the Anoka County School Patrol picnics held at Excelsior Amusement Park from 1962 – 1965. Bob Comer was the cinematographer, and he will tell personal stories about each of these school patrol outings.

For those of you born before 1960, do you remember the last time you went to Excelsior Amusement Park? The park was built in 1925 on the location of the street-



car docks. These docks served the Twin City Rapid Transit Company that transported people by streetcar over land to Excelsior, and by streetcar-shaped boats around Lake Minnetonka from 1905 – 1926. One of those boats is still there today next to Maynard's Restaurant.

The Amusement Park was a centerpiece for summer entertainment. When it originally opened, it had a roller coaster, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, a fun house, and other attractions. The Park operated for 49 seasons, closing in September 1973. The Excelsior PTC Carousel is now located at Valley Fair.

Kids who visited the amusement park had to prove themselves by riding The Cyclone, the biggest roller coaster in Minnesota. It was a wooden "L" shaped roller coaster built in 1925 by Frank Pearce. Located across the street from the park was the Danceland music hall where the Rolling Stones once performed.

The first locally produced color TV program in the Twin Cities was "Axel and His Dog," starring Clellan Card, who occasionally appeared on stage at the Excelsior Amusement Park. It was Clellan Card we listened to on WCCO radio in the late 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Every weekday morning, in his rich Swedish accent, Clellan offered us a "Birdie" saying, such as: "Birdie with a yellow bill, hopped upon my windowsill, cocked his shining eye and says, 'I don't quite get your angle – worm."



Join the fun Monday evening, March 14, and see color movies of a bygone era when kids and adults enjoyed their favorite summer outings on and by Lake Minnetonka. BONUS: those who attend the meeting can have a free copy of a 125 Clellan Card "Birdies."

Postcards courtesy of Pete Bonesteel



Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 12
Super Saturday Open House
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
11 a.m.: 1940s newsreels
1 PM: Movie - "Casablanca"
Starring Humphrey Bogart and
Ingrid Bergman
Free popcorn and soda pop
Fridley History Center
See story page 2

Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 14
Fridley History Center
7 p.m. Business Meeting
7:15 p.m. Movie on School
Patrol Picnics at
Excelsior Amusement Park
1962—1965
Bob Comer, Cinematographer &
Narrator

Saturday, March 26 Super Saturday Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Time Movies Fridley History Center

15th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle Saturday, April 30 5 to 7 p.m. Fridley Community Center



Super Saturday, March 12



The Fridley Historical Society invites you to join us this Saturday at the Fridley History Center, for free movie and free refreshments day. The Fridley History Center, located at 611 Mississippi Street, will be open from 11:00 until 3:00 on Saturday, March 12.

At 11:00 we will be showing newsreels from the 1940's.

At 1:00 see Casablanca, the 1942 classic, which was an instant success with audiences everywhere and won three Academy Awards including Best Picture. Called "America's most popular and beloved movie- and rightly so" by The Motion Picture Guide, and "The best Hollywood movie of all time" by Leonard Maltin, Casablanca was voted the #2 film in a list of the top 100 films of this century by the American Film Institute.

Set in refugee strewn French North Africa in 1942, Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), a nightclub owner, and his friend Captain Louis Renault (Claude Rains), Prefect of Police, enter into a wager as to whether or not Resistance Leader Victor Laslo (Paul Henreid) will be able to escape Casablanca and reach the Free World. When Laslo arrives in Casablanca, Rick is stunned to find him accompanied by his ex-lover, Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman). Filled with mystery, suspense, intrigue and romance, Casablanca will re-

main a favorite of classic movie lovers for years to come.

Enjoy free popcorn and pop along with the movie and newsreels.

Renewing Members

Listed below are the 49 additional members who have renewed since we printed our last newsletter. If we have not received your renewal, there will be a red dot next to your name on the address label. Please mail your renewal to: Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street N.E., Fridley, MN 55432. Individual Dues are \$12; Family Dues \$18; Senior Dues: \$10; Nonprofit Dues \$25; Business Dues: \$50. Please do your part to keep the Fridley History Center alive and flourishing.

Anoka County Historical Society
Edna Ask
Betty Bacon
Herbert Bacon
Bill Bacon
John Banholzer
Don Blakeslee
Susan Blakeslee
Pete Bonesteel
Mary Bonesteel
Laura Bonesteel
Mark Bonesteel

Carol Christenson
Gordon Christenson
Carmen Coleman
Dean Coleman
E. C. (Bud) Dauphin
Mary Eggert
Steve Eggert
James Ehlert
Margaret Hunt
William Hunt
Eleanor Jensen
Sonja Johnson

Dr. Keith Johnston
Corine Kirkham
Gary Longerbone
Lynn Longerbone
Al Madison
Susan Madison
Irene Maertens
Joe Maertens
Martha Meyer
Dr. Maurice Meyer
Minco Products, Inc.
Jordis Mittelstadt

Gloria Myhra Tom Myhra New Brighton Historical Society Duane Prairie Martha Reckdahl Sig Reckdahl Marcia Schaaf Debra Smith Ann Tesky **Brain Toews** Cindy Torfin Francis Van Dan Mary Van Dan

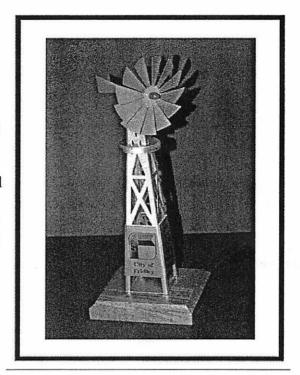


20th Anniversary Windmills

What is the best way we can celebrate 20 years as a very successful historical society and museum. The Board of Directors gave this much thought, and decided we needed some symbol to share with our members to commemorate this event.

For over 100 years, windmills dotted Fridley's agricultural landscape. When the Fridley Historical Society was created in 1985, the windmill was selected as its logo. In December 2004, Fridley artist Charles Martin created a brass replica of a real windmill that now hangs on the Anoka County Christmas tree to represent the City of Fridley.

Now, in 2005, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we are making available a limited number of commemorative windmills, with a rotating windmill top and spinning blades. Each metal windmill is covered with aluminum paint and stands 10 inches high.



On one side is the insignia of the City of Fridley. On another side is the Fridley Historical Society insignia. On the third side is a 20th Anniversary Commemorative Medal. And on the remaining side is the ladder. This impressive windmill is seated on a beautiful walnut base.

We have a special offer for Fridley Historical Society members interested in acquiring one of these valuable collectibles. We will be selling the windmills to visitors to the Fridley History Center for \$25.95 as a fundraiser. However, Society members whose 2005 dues are current, can purchase the windmills for only \$18.95 while supplies last.

We have 200 members and only 65 windmills. If you wish to order a windmill, please make out a check for \$18.95 payable to the Fridley Historical Society and mail to:

Fridley History Center 611 Mississippi Street N.E Fridley, MN 55432.

Send with the check a note with your name, address, and telephone number. Please: only one windmill per member, on a first-ordered basis.

The windmill you purchase can be picked up at the Fridley History Center on Super Saturdays, beginning March 26, between 11 and 3 pm, and thereafter the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. If you want the windmill shipped to you, add \$5.00 to the order for packaging and postage.

Don't delay! These windmills will not be available long.



The Life of Today's Teacher

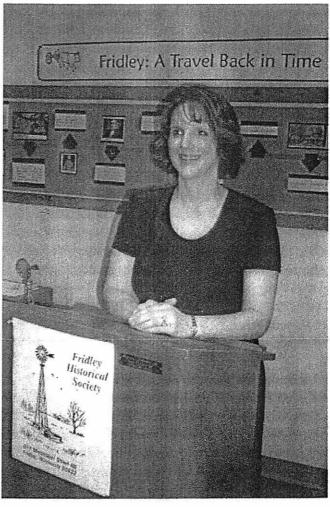
January Membership Meeting Speaker

The Editor apologizes to Kim Larson for printing her name incorrectly in the last issue. We are reprinting her article this

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So what can community members and parents do to support a child's education? Kim suggests, "Stay involved and support teachers. Read with a child, help on a field trip, assist in the classroom, or even work on things at home such as cutting out objects from paper."

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FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

55432+5548279998



President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

We had a great turnout for our membership meeting on Valentine's Day. Flo Scholljegerdes provided us with a breathtaking journey of mountains she has photographed around the world. And, as usual, the potluck dinner was a gourmand's delight. Thanks to all who brought such great dishes.

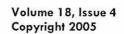
See the article on page 3 about the windmills we have for sale commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Fridley Historical Society. We have a very limited supply, so order yours early.

Mel Manley, Vice President, is in charge of our March 12 Super Saturday and will be showing "Casablanca," the #2 movie of all time (see page 2). Plus, everyone will be treated to free popcorn and soda pop. And two days later, Monday March 14, you don't want to miss the color movies of school patrol picnics at Excelsior Amusement Park 1962 – 1965. Everyone who attends will get a list of 125 Clellan Card "Birdies." See front page story.





FWD



The Record

15TH ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER & RAFFLE Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



The Fridley Historical Society is holding its 15th Annual fundraising dinner on Saturday, April 30. And we expect it will be our biggest and best ever, on this 20th Anniversary of the Society.

Our raffle is absolutely stupendous!!! Last year we gave away 118 prizes with an average value of \$30.32

per prize. And we had 8 prizes valued at \$100 or more. We also had approximately 160 people purchasing raffle tickets, so the odds of winning a prize can be quite favorable.

This year we are thrilled to have the Fridley Dixieland Band performing. And once again, the event will be held at the Fridley Community Center at 61st Avenue and 7th Street in the lower level. You can park either in the front or the rear of the building. Doors open at 4:30 pm, and dinner is served at 5 pm.

Ticket prices will remain at \$9 per person, and raffle tickets are \$1 each. This is our major fundraiser of the year to keep our Fridley History Center in good repair, and to pay all of the utilities and other expenses associated with maintaining a 74 year-old school building.

Buy tickets for yourself and your family. Give tickets as gifts to friends and family members who have April birthdays. Tell your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to buy dinner and raffle tickets by calling 763-571-0120, and let them know they will enjoy a great lasagna dinner and hear wonderful Dixieland music—for only \$9.

Seating is limited, so order your tickets today!

Use the ticket order form on the poster, page 7, and mark Saturday, April 30, on your calendar now.







15th Annual Lasagna
Dinner
& Raffle
Saturday, April 30
5 to 7 p.m.
Fridley Community Center

Saturday, April 9 Super Saturday Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Time Movies Fridley History Center

Saturday, April 23
Super Saturday Open House
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Old Time Movies
Fridley History Center

Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 11
Fridley History Center
7 p.m. Business Meeting
7:15 p.m. "Ask the Master"
Fridley Artist Charles Martin
will display his art and
demonstrate art methods



PETE BONESTEEL: HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

This is the first in a series of articles profiling Society Board Members.

Pete Bonesteel was born in Oklahoma City, OK. Pete and his wife Mary moved to Fridley in 1964, and currently live on Horizon Circle. Prior to coming to Fridley, they lived in a number of different Minnesota towns, and lived in Columbia Heights just before moving to Fridley.

They were in Fridley during the 1965 tornado, which Pete says was one of the most harrowing experiences of his life. They were home when the tornado struck their property twice, with their house sustaining major damage.

Pete was a Staff Sergeant in the Army, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. He made 32 parachute jumps, and his knees today remind him frequently of the impact sustained in all of those landings.

As a young man, his family moved frequently because of his Dad's occupation. Pete attended 18 different schools before graduating from high school. The good news is that he met lots of people from different places. The bad news is that he was never in one school long enough to get his photo in the annual yearbook.



Pete was in radio for seven years, starting as an announcer with KABR Radio in Aberdeen, S.D., then traveled to KMRS in Morris, Minnesota, where he was as an announcer and salesman. He then moved on to KLIZ in Brainerd as salesman and sports director. He returned to KABR in Aberdeen for his final eighteen months in radio as sales manager and sports director. Much of his sports director role revolved around his play-by-play announcing of basketball, baseball, football and hockey games for both high school and junior college.

He belongs to 3 historical societies: In addition to the Fridley Historical Society, Pete is a lifetime member of the Gilbert Historical Society in Gilbert, Minnesota. He is also a Charter Member of the Mesabi Historical Society, and for the first 20 years served as Secretary. As you can tell, Pete loves preserving history.

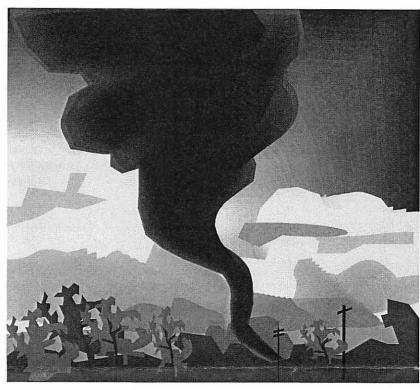
Not surprisingly, Pete also loves to collect. Originally he started collecting railroad memorabilia: china, silver, timetables, matchbooks and the like. When he lived in Marcell, Minnesota, there was a private museum in the township hall. One day a fellow brought him a box of 2,000 postcards. So Pete began collecting historic postcards, at first mostly related to the railroad, but today his collection of 35,000 postcards goes far beyond railroads. He sells his postcards on e-bay, and the sales price can range from \$2 up to a \$100 and more. His postcards can be found reproduced as art in 10 – 12 different books. Authors contact him frequently about acquiring one of his postcards to illustrate a story they are currently writing.

Pete's greatest contribution to the Fridley Historical Society occurred during Fridley's 50th Anniversary (1999). He and Jean Peters were in charge of producing a commemorative calendar of Fridley's anniversary that completely sold out. It was a very profitable fundraiser for the Society, and Pete deserves much of the credit for its success.

Pete Bonesteel joined the Board of Directors in 1998. He currently serves as Chair of the Archives Committee. Even today, Pete continually comes up with fresh ideas of how the Fridley Historical Society can raise funds to keep the Fridley History Center operating, including his establishing of a fundraiser with Papa Murphy's Pizza that earned the Society \$150. We are very blessed to have Pete on our Board.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT TORNADOES



For our July Issue of <u>The Record</u>, we will feature stories about the 1965 tornadoes that destroyed 425 Fridley homes and badly damaged 1,500 others.

We would very much like to include your story. So we are inviting you to write your recollection of May 6, 1965 and mail it to: The Record, Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street N.E., Fridley, MN 55432. We will print as many stories as we have space for. Please enclose any photos you have. All photos will be returned to you.

We will also include all stories and copies of photos submitted in a special scrapbook the Archives Commit-

tee is creating to commemorate that awesome event.

In addition, our July 11 Membership Meeting will feature the documentary video being produced by the Fridley High School students. Those who attend this meeting will also be able to observe newspaper accounts of the tornado, view our tornado display, and see the stories in the tornado scrapbook.

RENEWING MEMBERS

Listed below are the additional members who have joined or renewed since we printed our last newsletter.

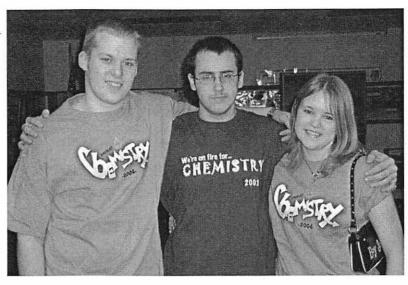
George & Candace Bacon
Anthony Krall
Mirth Langer
Warren Mortenson
Sir Speedy Printing



STUDENTS' TORNADO DOCUMENTARY

Fridley High School student
James Baker contacted the Fridley
Historical Society in February
about a project he and some of his
classmates were planning to undertake. The students were in the
Earth & Space class and wanted
to create a video documentary
commemorating the 40th anniversary of the devastating tornadoes
that struck Fridley in 1965.

Their advisor in the project was Jeff Bullard, a Physical Sciences and Honors and General Chemis-



From left: Joe Motyl, James Baker, Sheila Beall

try teacher who also taught the students in the Earth & Space class. About 30 students in the class were working on the project. After the class ended, there was still much work to do on the video: storyboarding, editing and post production. Three students stepped up to the plate to complete the project: James Baker, Sheila Beall and Joe Motyl

The Society was very willing to be of assistance. Pete Bonesteel, Chair of the Archives Committee, worked with James, Joe and Sheila, all who are Juniors at the High School. Pete provided the students access to the tornado display at the Fridley History Center, as well as many news clippings and books on the tornado.

The students are in the final stages of completing the project with the assistance of Mike Velin of Taho Sportswear in Fridley, who is a weather aficionado. The video is expected to be approximately 35 minutes in length when finished. The premier showing is tenta-

tively scheduled for May 6 at the Fridley High School. They hope to have an outdoor BBQ and show the video in the main auditorium.

The Fridley Historical Society will be showing the video at our July 11 membership meeting.



CHANNEL 4 NEWS STORY ON TORNADOES



Tony Knoss (left), WCCO cameraman, and Dennis Draghiciu (right), WCCO reporter

On March 23rd, reporter Dennis Draghiciu and cameraman Tony Knoss of WCCO Channel 4 News visited the Fridley History Center to gather information for a special report focusing on the 40th Anniversary of the tornadoes that swept Fridley May 6, 1965. Robert Christenson, president, brought his personal copies of the Minneapolis Tribune and Minneapolis Star of May 6, 7 and 8 and displayed them on the tables in the lower level of the History Center for Tony Knoss to video record.

Dennis Draghiciu interviewed Christenson about his personal experiences the night of the tornadoes. Also on hand were Pete Bonesteel, Chair of the Archives committee, and Fridley students James Baker, Joe Motyl and Sheila Beall who are doing a school video documentary on the tornadoes.

The report is expected to be shown on Channel 4 as a Dimension piece either on Thursday May 5 or Friday May 6. The exact times and dates could not be confirmed at the time this edition of <u>The Record</u> went to press.

Don't forget the 15th Annual Lassas Dinner & Raffle - Saturday, April 30!





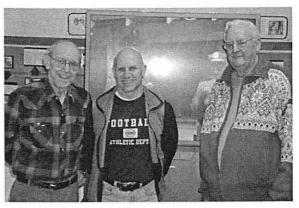


EXCELSIOR PARK RE-VISITED

We had an excellent turnout for our March membership meeting. Many of the members who attended were most interested in seeing Excelsior Amusement Park as it existed in their childhood.

From 1962 – 1965, Bob Comer accompanied the school patrol to Excelsior Amusement Park for their annual picnic. Bob was the Official Photographer for the Fridley Police Department, so was well prepared to photograph these outings.

The video was in color and in amazingly excellent condition. We saw views of all of the amusement park rides in operation, including the infamous Cyclone roller coaster. And there were views as well of Lake Minnetonka in the background.



From Left: Bob Cook, former Fridley Police Officer; Don Traczyk, Fridley resident and former school patrol member, Bob Comer, Cinematographer

Bob Traczyk, a Fridley resident, attended the meeting having seen the message on our new outdoor sign. Bob was a school patrol member when he went to school in New Hope.

Also in attendance was Sgt. Bob Cook, formerly with the Fridley Police Department and a frequent attendee of the School Patrol picnics at Excelsior. We know this for certain, after seeing Bob as he was captured on the film having a great time with the kids and many other law enforcement officers who accompanied the school patrol to Excelsior.

Bob Comer graciously donated the DVD of the school patrol picnics to the Historical Society. Those who missed the showing at the membership meeting, please come to the History Center on Super Saturdays (see front page for dates and times) and we would be happy to show the video again.

ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Don't miss the opportunity to have your family's history represented in the forthcoming Fridley family history book, being produced by the Fridley Historical Society.

Lillian Meyer, Chair of the City and Family History Committee of the Society, has announced that plans are going forward to begin the actual process of developing the book. Therefore, everyone is being encouraged to respond to the call to submit their family history.

The Committee is not expecting a highly detailed history, and except for dates, most likely little research is needed—simple recall will likely give you a two or three page (600 –800 words) account. This account should record biographical data of the family, and the highlights of living and life in Fridley. Don't forget about recording the contributions by your family to the community.

If you have questions about this request, you may call Lillian Meyer at (763) 571-5328 or Tom Myhra (763) 571-3342.

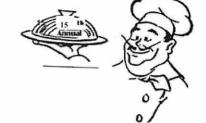
Just remember what Robert Benchley was supposed to have said: "Writing is easy; the hardest part is getting the first word typed." But for your sake, for you family's sake, for the Fridley Historical Society's sake, and for Fridley's sake—DO GET STARTED.

When it is completed, send it to:

Lillian Meyer, Chair City & Family History Committee Fridley Historical Society 611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



15th Annual Fundraiser Lasagna Dinner & Raffle

Support Your Fridley Kistory Center

Date

Saturday, April 30

Time

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner served at 5 p.m.

Tasty Food



Entertainment Fridley Dixieland Band

Place

Fridley Community Center

61st Avenue & 7th Street

RSVP

Return form by 4-23

(see form below)

Raffle

Over 100 items \$1 /chance

Et. Palle	. Finite	adall
Fridley		1116
		LUO:
		اله برات راست برسس

Name:	Telephone #:	
Number of Dinner tickets:	\$9 each =	
	0	

Number of Raffle tickets: ____ \$1 / each = ____

TOTAL = ____

Please complete this form and mail with your check (payable to Fridley Historical Society) to:

Saturday,
April 23
Questions:
Call 763-571-0120

Deadline:

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



One of the most valuable ways that our members can be of service to the Historical Society is by putting us in contact with people or businesses who have the resources to help us meet certain pressing needs. And you, as a member, might also be able to meet one of these needs. If you know of an individual or a company or organization that can help with needs listed below, please call us at 763-571-0120 and leave a message. Your assistance will be deeply appreciated.

Our current needs are:

- 1. An individual who has experience with financial software such as QuickBooks, Quicken, or Peachtree, and will assist with maintaining our financial records and issuing monthly reports.
- 2. Very amateur softball players age 40 and over to help us form a team to compete with The Quicksteps in playing an 1870's style of softball at AugustFest on August 1 at 6 pm. at the History Center.
- 3. A flatbed truck we can use for the 49'ers Day Parade.
- 4. A website developer who can assist us in developing the Fridley Historical Society website.
- 5. Digital still cameras, digital video cameras, scanners, computer, office software—to use to make digital copies of the perishable newspapers, documents, photos, and other historical items being preserved at the Fridley History Center.

WHAT THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 5 Copyright 2005

ASK THE MASTER

Attention: Amateur Artists, Professional Artists and Art Lovers!



Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 11
Fridley History Center
6 p.m. Potluck dinner - optional
to bring a dish
7 p.m. Business Meeting
7:15 p.m. "Ask the Master"
Fridley Artist Charles Martin
will display his art and
demonstrate art methods

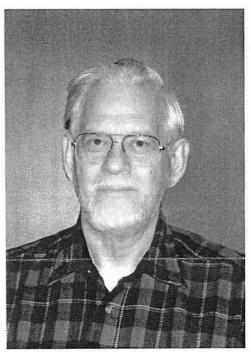
Saturday, May 14 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Super Saturday Open House Showing *The Twister*, a movie about tornado chasers

Saturday, May 28 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Super Saturday Open House Old Time Movies

Monday, June 13
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Experience the Future:
Ride the PRT
(Personal Rapid Transit)
at SkyWeb in Fridley

On Monday, May 9, Charles Martin will display his art and demonstrate a variety of art methods at the Fridley History Center at 7 pm. There will be a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., and bringing a dish to share is optional.

Charles' art display will include oil paintings, acrylic paintings, pencil drawings, ink drawings, mono prints, chalk drawings, sculpture, photography, collage, and watercolor paintings. He will discuss and demonstrate art techniques that affect the success of artwork. He will also answer any questions you pose about art you are currently creating yourself.



Charles Martin

Mr. Martin has a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Minnesota. He has taught at Centennial High School, Irondale High School, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Rochester Art Center, Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, and the University of Minnesota. He has had one-man art shows at the Robin Gallery in Robbinsdale, the Opitz Studio, and the North Suburban Center for the Arts.



Charles Martin is a member of the Fridley Historical Society, and he designed the magnificent brass ornament representing the City of Fridley that hangs on the Anoka County Historical Society Christmas Tree.

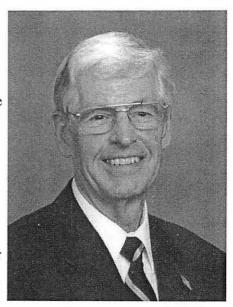


Jerry Manley: HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

This is the second in a series of articles profiling Society Board Members.

Jerry Manley was born in Minneapolis in 1931. In 1933 his parents moved to Fridley and built a home on the original Sullivan family homestead. Jerry's mother was a Sullivan and her grandfather, John C. Sullivan, was one of Fridley's earliest settlers homesteading in the 1850's. He was the first treasurer of the Mahnomen township board even before it was renamed Fridley. Jerry attended grade school at Silver Lake School in Columbia Heights because the Sullivan homestead was on the northern edge of what was then Columbia Heights School District 65.

Upon graduation from DeLaSalle High School in 1949, Jerry went to work for Paper Calmenson Steel, a structural steel firm in Roseville. Except for his service in the Army he spent his entire working life (47 years) with Paper Calmenson. While working, he attended night school for a number of years at St. Paul Vocational Technical School. He started out as a shop helper and ended his career as Chief Engineer.



Jerry Manley

Jerry entered the Army in 1952 at Ft. Riley, Kansas. After basic training and graduation from Combat Leadership School he was assigned as a PFC to the Third Infantry Division in Korea. When the Korean War ended he was a Sgt. 1st Class, temporary, and in command of the 60 MM mortar section of K Company, 7th Infantry Regt. of the Third Infantry Division. He was discharged at Ft. Sheridan, IL., in 1954.

Jerry returned to Paper Calmenson and began his life long involvement in the labor movement. While working at Paper Calmenson he advanced from being a Dept. Shop Steward through various positions up to being an Executive Board member of his union's Midwest District covering most of fifteen states. Upon his retirement he continued his involvement in the labor movement. Currently, he is President of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly Retiree Council and a Vice President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retiree Council.

Jerry is active in his church (St. William's Catholic of Fridley) as an usher, Maintenance Committee member, Knights of Columbus, and Loaves and Fishes volunteer. He is immediate Past President of the Society of the Third Infantry Division United States Army, a worldwide, over three thousand member, veterans' organization and is now a member of its Executive Committee, a member of its Scholarship Committee, as well as Secretary Treasurer of its Midwest Chapter.

Jerry is a Life member of the following organizations. Society of the Third Infantry Division United States Army, 7th Infantry Regt. Association, Korean War Veterans Association, Combat Infantryman's Association, Fridley VFW Post #363, IUE Local 1042, and the Knights of Columbus.

Jerry and his wife Marilyn have six children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild, soon to be two. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in September. Jerry is a charter member of the Fridley Historical Society and has served continuously in one position or another since day one. Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Maintenance Committee. and a member of the Hall of Fame Committee.



BOARD RESIGNATION & NEW BOARD MEMBERS

On March 3 Marilyn Manley informed us that she would no longer be able to continue to serve as Treasurer after April 30. In her letter of resignation she stated that her reason for resigning was that "my eyesight has deteriorated to the point where it is very hard to spend over 30 minutes at a time at the computer." Marilyn has done a remarkable job in keeping the financial records of the Society and she will be missed on the Board of Directors.

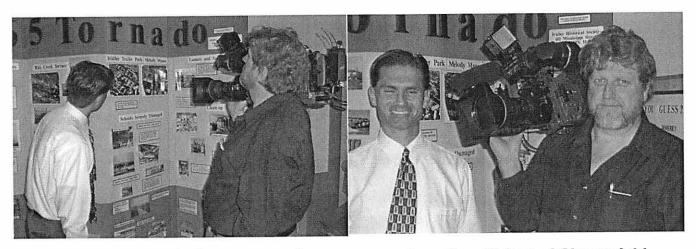
Replacing Marilyn Manley as Treasurer will be Jan Golden, a current member of the Historical Society. Jan and her husband Jim sell engraving equipment. They formerly owned Sign Language, a company Jim started in 1981 and was located in Moon Plaza Shopping Center for 15 years. They have lived in Fridley since 1977.

Our Membership Chair, Jolene Honkomp, had to resign in January because her employer has her traveling 5 days a week out of state. We were fortunate to secure as her replacement James Baker. James is a junior at Fridley High School with a 3.9 GPA. He lives in Fridley with his parents, David and Susan Baker and his sister Elizabeth and brothers Michael and Paul. He was featured in the last issue of <u>The Record</u> which reported on the video documentary he is doing with other Fridley students about the 1965 tornadoes.

MORE MEDIA VISIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Weatherman Dennis Stearnes and cameraman Jonathan Yuhas of Channel 11 visited the Fridley History Center on April 14 to film our tornado exhibit and conduct an interview. Watch Channel 11 News at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, and you will view coverage of the 1965 tornadoes that devastated Fridley.

We have also provided background on the tornadoes to the Star Tribune North Section, and to the Fridley Focus for feature articles



Weatherman Dennis Stearnes and cameraman Jonathan Yuhas of Channel 11



LAST GENERAL CALL FOR FAMILY HISTORIES But Help for History Writers Is On the Way!

The Society's Fridley City and Family History Committee has announced that any family wishing to have its history in the forthcoming book should plan to have it submitted to the committee no later than September 1, 2005.

Several people have stated that they wish to have their family histories included in the book, but find it hard to get started, for they need more information and help to commence the process. To their rescue, a family history-writing workshop has been set up.

On **Saturday**, **May 21**, two identical workshop sessions will be held free of charge. The morning session will be from 9 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m. Those attending should bring with them paper and pen. When the workshop session is completed, at a minimum you will have a working outline for writing your family history along with the information you need to complete the task.

Tom Myhra will be the workshop presenter. He has a background as a writer, reporter, and teacher. He has completed a family genealogy, has written family history for a Divide County History book, and has composed a number of anecdotal writings.

Each workshop session will be discussing content by design, scope, arrangement, length, personal/public, minutia/overblown, style-pedantic/breeziness, community involvement and contribution, national and world events/family ramification, accompanying pictures, general idea-prompts, and editing/spelling/grammar. Refreshments will be served.

Make your choice of session on the form below, and mail to:

Tom Myhra, 6360 Able St. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432

Call 763-571-3342 for questions.



Family History Writing Workshop Saturday, May 21, Fridley History Center



	, ,		
Name:			
Address:			
Phone:			
Check one:	Morning session 9 a.m Noon	or	Afternoon session 1—4 p.m.
Comments:			



The Fridley Hall of Fame

The Fridley Historical Society is seeking nominations to the 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.

Nominations will be accepted from anyone who sends in a completed Nomination Form by July 31, 2005. *Nomination Forms must be fully completed in order to be considered.*

To obtain a Nomination Form, call the Fridley History Center at (763) 571-0120 and leave your name and address. A Nomination Form will be mailed to you.

The Fridley Historical Society will honor the new inductees at the Second Annual Fridley Hall of Fame dinner which will be held at noon on November 12th, 2005 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 Fridley History Center.

Last year's inaugural Fridley Hall of Fame inductees were:

Herb Bacon William Beery Satveer Chaudhary Arthur Christenson Carl Hartman W. Harold Hayes Stan Kowalski William Nee Harvey Peterson Donald Savelkoul

THE NIGHT OF TERROR

The evening of May 6, 1965, six tornadoes swept through the Twin Cities. Three of the largest tornadoes struck Fridley (7:10 p.m., 8:05 p.m., and 8:10 p.m.). All Fridley tornadoes were Category F4 (winds exceeding 206 miles per hour). The six tornadoes left 4,000 homeless, according to the Red Cross. There were two deaths in Fridley and hundreds injured.

Heavy rain and hail fell between the tornadoes, and a major thunderstorm struck at 10 pm. Thunderstorms continued for two days after the tornadoes, adding to the destruction. But battalions of volunteers turned out to remove debris from streets and help people clear up the rubble.

At least 425 homes were totally demolished in Fridley, over 1,500 homes with significant damage, and Hayes School was destroyed. There were 500 people in the Fridley Junior High School for the spring Arts and Craft Fair when the tornadoes struck and the school had severe damage to the gymnasium where many people sought shelter.

The Fridley City Hall and Fire Department experienced extensive destruction. Major industries like FMC Corporation and Midland Cooperatives suffered significant damage, and many retail establishments remained closed from 2 weeks to 6 months after the tornadoes.

Governor Rolvaag ordered over 500 National Guardsmen into the damaged areas to prevent looting, and everyone in Fridley needed a pass to enter any of the areas where the tornadoes had wreaked their vengeance.

A documentary video of the 1965 tornadoes created Fridley students will be shown at the Fridley High School the evening of Friday, May 6, from 5 to 10 p.m.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
Robert Christenson, Editor
Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

and night of May 6, 1965. It

Vividly etched in my memory are the events that occurred the early evening and night of May 6, 1965. It was the night that I experienced the horrendous power of two of the three tornadoes that hit Fridley.

REQUESTED

I drove to our house on Rice Creek Terrace just before the first tornado struck. While surveying that tornado's damage to our shopping center at University and Mississippi Street, Sergeant Linus Fritz recognized me and deputized me to direct traffic at that intersection because power lines were down. He said he would return in an hour.

I actually spent the next 10 hours at that intersection helping injured people to emergency vehicles, sending police cars after looters, and keeping cars and people away from severely damaged areas. When the third tornado struck a little after 8 p.m., I directed onlookers to Theisen's Market and then dove for shelter under a bus bench with my arms wrapped around a cement post and my face in the dirt.

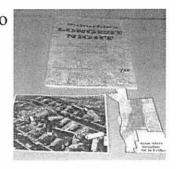
At our July 11 Membership Meeting at the History Center, we will view a video documentary on the tornadoes that was created by Fridley High School students. We invite those of you who have stories to tell of what you experienced the night of May 6, 1965, to please come and share what happened to you and your family that horrendous evening.



Volume 18, Issue 6 Copyright 2005

Remembering Fridley's Night of Terror

Our July 11 Membership Meeting will bring to life the memories of May 6, 1965 when two (or three) tornadoes swept through Fridley doing unbelievable damage to persons and property. We have prepared three highlights for those who attend this 40th Anniversary event.



First, were there 2 or 3 tornadoes that hit Fridley that night? Most people remember 3 either by personal experience or reading about it in the newspapers and from reports on TV and radio. But it recently came to light that A few of the many items of the 1965 tornadoes at the History Center

and radio. But it recently came to light that two members of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Joe Strub and Earl Kuehnast, had revised the number of tornadoes from 3 down to 2 in 1973.

Our speaker will be Todd Krause, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Bureau (and a Fridley resident). Mr. Krause will speak to us about the controversy over the number of tornadoes that struck Fridley on May 6, 1965 and he will add more details about the weather that created the tornadoes that frightful night.

The second highlight will be Board Member James Baker who will show the documentary video that he and his classmates produced earlier this year of the May 6 tornadoes. It is an amazing film to watch!

And the third highlight will be Fridley residents who will be invited to give personal accounts of their experiences surviving that night of terror.





Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 11
Fridley History Center
7 p.m. Business Meeting
7:10 p.m. Speakers:
Todd Krause,
US Weather Bureau
James Baker,
Tornado Documentary Film
Fridley Tornado
Survivors' Stories

Saturday, July 9 & July 23 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Time movies & refreshments View the new Fridley Hall of Fame

Monday, August 1
10th Annual August Fest
Fridley History Center
6 p.m. to Dusk
Old Tyme Ball Game with the
Quicksteps
Fridley Dixieland Band
Fridley Royalty

49er's Day Parade



Fridley Historical Society float with Fridley City Band

The Fridley Historical Society was well represented in the 49er's Day Parade held the evening of June 16. The parade had approximately 100 units and lasted a full hour and a half.

The Historical Society created a "float" that transported the entire Fridley City Band along with Board Member Jerry Manley. Scherer Brothers Lumber generously donated their largest lumber truck along with a trailer and a driver that provided the platform for the City Band. Our "float" celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Fridley Historical Society and the 75th Anniversary of Scherer Brothers Lumber.

May Membership Meeting

Fridley Artist Charles Martin provided an amazingly educational and informative seminar on most all types of art at our May 9 membership meeting. He displayed approximately 30 art objects that he had created, including sculptures, oil paintings, photographs, pen drawings, watercolors, and mixed media among others.

Each piece of artwork he described in detail, using each of them to enlighten his audience about the many ways art can be expressed: through ideas, emotions, and sensations. He explained in easily understandable terms composition, patterns, harmony and the various media used by artists in expressing their talent. Everyone who attended, including those who were amateur artists, commented on how greatly their art knowledge had been expanded through Charles' presentation.



Charles Martin explaining one of his extraordinary works of art



Maintenance Committee Brightens Things Up

The lower level of the Fridley History Center has a fresh coat of paint, thanks to Maintenance Committee chair Jerry Manley and committee members Jim Ehlert and Bill Linton. This was no small undertaking considering all of the photographs, maps and other displays on the walls that had to be removed and restored during the painting process.

The new paint is of a lighter color which gives our membership meeting room a much brighter look.

Left to right: Jim "Ehlert, Jerry Manley, Bill Linton"



Channel 9 Features Fridley Historical Society



Board member Pete Bonesteel being interviewed by Channel 9's reporter Kerrie Gift and filmed by photographer Rod Wermager

On April 27 reporter Kerrie Gift and photographer Rod Wermager of Channel 9 filmed an interview with Pete Bonesteel at the Fridley History Center about the 40th anniversary of the tornadoes which leveled much of Fridley May 6, 1965. They also filmed many of the photographs and newspapers in our collection that recorded the events of that terrible night.

Pete Bonesteel shared with Channel 9 his and his wife Mary's horrifying experience that evening in their home, which was hit by two separate tornadoes. Robert Christenson, President, demonstrated to the reporter the paths the tornadoes took through Fridley using the 1964 map of Fridley that is displayed in the History Center. The story was telecast on Channel 9 news programs on both May 1 and May 5, with the news anchor giving credit to the Fridley Historical Society for their assistance with the story.

June Membership Meeting

Our June membership meeting drew about 25 members to Taxi 2000 Corporation on University Avenue to hear about the personal rapid transit system of the future being developed in Fridley. Unfortunately, about 15 minutes into the presentation, a severe thunderstorm warning and tornado watch went into effect, and then all the lights went out.

Without lights and power for the visual presentation, everyone decided to return to their homes. Hopefully will be able to repeat this program so members will have the opportunity to ride the SkyWeb Express prototype some date in the future.

TORNADO STORIES

In preparation for our July 11 membership meeting, we are printing two personal stories of Fridley residents who survived the May 6, 1965 tornadoes.

<u>"A Baby Arrived – A House Departed"</u> <u>Carole Lueders</u>

Marty, my husband, was in Wisconsin on business when my labor pains began about noon on May 6, 1965. Our 3-year old son was invited to stay with a neighbor while our next-door neighbor took me to Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. Our daughter was born about 1 p.m.

Marty got to the hospital about 3:00 p.m. After "meeting" his new daughter, named Kristan Marie, and visiting with me, we heard sirens going off about 6:00 p.m. I urged Marty to return home and pick up our son Jeff from the neighbors.

It was when Marty began driving back to our house at 6831 Oakley Street that it began to dawn on him how bad things were. It took him two hours to make his way back. He began to see debris in Brooklyn Center. He took East River Road up to Highway 10 and back around Highway 65. "It got so bad I had to stop under a bridge for awhile," he said. A cattle truck tipped over on Highway 10 and cows were wandering around.

He saw ambulances coming out of the trailer court on Highway 65. One ambulance had three flat tires. The floor of a house was blocking southbound lanes on Highway 65. He found out later it was the floor from our house nearly a block away.

During a lightening flash he saw a willow tree that stood in the backyard of our home. And he could also see that the house was gone. Marty's main concern was for our son whom he found at the neighbor's house, safe and sound along with 17 others who had taken refuge there.

Later he inspected the damage to the house we had moved into in 1960 following our marriage. It was totally gone, even a part of the basement wall had been blown away. A water pipe had broken and water was squirting high up into the air.

Ironically, a chest full of clothes for the baby was sitting upright in the back yard perfectly all right. It was a chest that Marty had made in high school.

I didn't hear the news until the next morning when I woke up at 6:00 a.m. with Marty beside my bed. Marty said he had some bad news – our house was gone. I replied, "Oh, is that all? I thought it was something about the baby!"





TORNADO STORIES, continued

"The Windy City" Audrey Mahr

We moved to our present house on 5th Street in August 1964. We had 4 children at the time. One of the first things neighbors told us was that it gets pretty windy in Fridley. We soon learned just how windy!

The day started out warm and sunny, and then early in the evening on May 6 it rained and we had very odd shaped hail. After it stopped raining it got really windy. We had burn barrels in our back yards at that time and there must have been some live ash because fire shot all the way across the backyard. I was doing the supper dishes and looked out the south window and saw a "funny looking dark cloud."

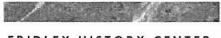
At about this time the kids told me to come into the living room just as construction lumber from St. Williams Church was tumbling towards the house. I turned off the TV and we ran downstairs where the two oldest kids had already spread a blanket in the southwest corner of the basement. It wasn't more than a minute or two and we heard this awful noise. You could hear things hitting the house.

We went upstairs and all the windows were blown out on three sides of the house and the screens were nothing but silken threads. The pictures were on the living room floor while the frames stayed on the walls undisturbed. The clothes pole was gone and so was the double garage, which was stucco. The car was sitting on an empty slab with a crease right down the middle of the roof, missing a back window.



It wasn't long when we heard a sound "like a train" and I yelled for the kids to get back downstairs. When the second tornado hit, you could really hear all the debris (glass, rocks and wood) blowing through the house. When the third one hit, I kept looking up because I thought there was no way the house would hold up under the terrible wind.

The following Sunday was sunny and beautiful and Father Keefe held Mass outside the Fridley High School. It was one of the most moving church services that I have ever been a part of. Oh, one more thing. I kept telling my kids to watch out where they were walking so they wouldn't get hurt and guess who had to get a tetanus shot for stepping on a nail? You guessed it, their Mom.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Blaine is in the process of re-starting their historical society that died in the 1970s. The St. Paul Pioneer Press did a story on June 19 about their current difficulties getting back underway again. In the story they included the following:

"It's an open question as to how much access to history smaller groups can give the public. Fridley Historical Society museum is typical. It has a building other groups envy — an authentic 1931 two-room schoolhouse packed with photos, clothes and tools. Yet, the group can keep it open only four hours on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. In a typical year, about 200 people see the collection. In such groups, volunteers do their best, but without a constant source of funding, they can only offer occasional glimpses at their collections — if they have collections at all."

Our current membership is merely 3/4 of 1% of the total population of Fridley. And our dues are only \$12 per year (\$10 for seniors). We are not ungrateful for having 200 members. But I know we can grow. We can keep the History Center open more days and more hours with more volunteers who will serve as docents (guides). And we can increase our membership if current members will invite a neighbor, friend or relative to join. Together we can prolong the life of the finest community historical society in the County.

For a membership brochure or to volunteer as a docent, call 763-571-0120 and leave your name and telephone number.

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 7 Copyright 2005





Our best AugustFest ever is happening on Monday evening, August 1, from 6 pm to dusk. For the 10th Anniversary, we are pulling out all the stops:

- At 6 pm, the Dixieland contingent of the Fridley City Band will perform, setting a festive mood for the evening's celebration.
- At 7 pm, join other base ball fans shouting their support for a freshly assembled Fridley Fire & Police Department team that includes Mayor Scott Lund and Councilwoman Ann Bolkcom who will be playing the Quicksteps team in their vintage uniforms. The game will be played according to the rules of base ball in 1860.
- Meet the new Fridley Royalty, Miss Fridley Elizabeth Hagmann and Princesses Ashley Quynn & Carrie Moore.
- Bring the kids to meet a Fridley Fireman and explore a fire truck, and be entertained by clowns Mango & Pixie who will juggle, do face painting, magic and animal balloons,
- Satisfy your hunger with tasty Chicago Dogs, soda pop and ice cream
- Bring your own lawn chair.



















Upcoming Events

Monday, August 1
10th Annual AugustFest
6 p.m. to Dusk
Fridley History Center
Old Tyme Ball Game with the Quicksteps vs. Fridley Police, Fire, Mayor,
and Council
Fridley Dixieland Band
Fridley Royalty
Clowns Mango & Pixie
Chicago hot dogs, pop, ice cream

Saturday, August 13 & 27
Super Saturday Open House
11 a.m. to 3 pm.
Fridley History Center
Old Time Movies & Refreshments
View the new Fridley Hall of Fame

Monday, September 12
20th Anniversary
Membership Meeting
6 - 8:15 p.m.
Fridley History Center
Roundtable Discussion with Founders of the Fridley Historical Society
Potluck Dinner

Monday, October 10 Annual Membership Meeting Fridley Community Center Fridley City Band 6 - 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 12 Hall of Fame Dinner Knights of Columbus Hall Noon - 2 p.m.



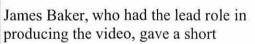
Tornado Meeting Breaks Record

There were 102 people who attended the Society's July 11th membership meeting. This was the largest attendance of any event held inside the History Center.

People came to watch the video documentary of the 1965 tornadoes produced by Fridley high school students and hear Todd Krause, Warning

James Baker, Fridley High student and video producer

Coordination Meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Bureau, discuss the controversy over the number of tornadoes that hit Fridley May 6 forty years ago. A number of residents who survived the tornadoes also gave their first-hand accounts of what they experienced that terrifying night.





Todd Krause of US Weather Bureau

presentation of the challenges the students had to overcome in creating this documentary. He was followed by Todd Krause who offered his thoughts as to why the official weather bureau records of the number of tornadoes that struck Fridley were changed from 3 tornadoes to 2. It had to do with a new theory about multiple vortices existing within a single tornado.

But Krause postulates that the meteorologists who changed the official record back in 1973 seemed to ignore eyewitness accounts and the difference in times of when the damage occurred. Had these been considered, Krause believes the records would not have been changed. Unfortunately, the National Weather Center in Oklahoma has stated they would not consider any more changes to historical weather data regardless of new facts.



Over 100 people attended the July membership meeting and watched the Fridley High student-produced video about the 1965 tornadoes



Tornado Stories - Published in "Fridley - The Record"

Beneath Trap Door, 7 Waited

A trap door in the kitchen is the only entrance to the basement of the little home at 5601 NE 4th St., just across Hwy. 100 in Fridley.

Down that small hole, "barely in time," went Mrs. Marjorie Clayson, her mother Mrs. Esther Johnson, and her five children just seconds before the first tornado hit their neighborhood Thursday night.

That one took the windows and the roof, left every room in the house ankle deep in shredded insulation, slung drawers out of cabinets and knocked the house partially off its foundation.

Crawling out after the blow, the family went down the street to stay with a neighbor when the second funnel touched down and finished the dirty work on the Clayson home.

The children, aged 15 down to 3, were stacking salvaged clothing and personal belongings in the front yard Friday morning as their mother stood by in quiet tears and a sister, cousins and other relatives tried to help.

After the front yard was half filled with stacked possessions, the children then turned around and began taking everything back in the ruined house again.

Why? "There's no place else to put it," their mother explained.

Three Feet Is Close Enough

"Three feet is as close as I ever want to get to a twister," said young Gary Sweet, 5881 W. Moore Lake Dr.

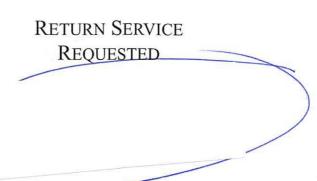
Gary was one of a large number of kids attending the school art fair in the Junior High School when the tornado struck.

"We saw it about 10 miles away," said Gary, "and watched it approach. I wasn't scared until a piece of a wall fell down within three feet of me."

Manager's House Swept Away

- "After the first tornado went through, only the garage was damaged," said City Manager Earl Wagner, "and I thought the storm had been nothing more than a nuisance.
- "It was fortunate, however, because I could not get the car out. If I could have I would have been down at the city hall when the second one hit," said Wagner.
- "When the second one did come we were all gathered in the basement and the house began to wrench and creak. The pressure on your ears was really quite strong,
- "All I could say was 'go go.' I wanted the house to be swept away rather than have it continue to wrench on the foundation caving in pieces of concrete on us. "Wagner stated. The house finally did go, entirely, and the Wagners suffered little more than cuts and bruises.

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

We are now half way through 2005, and I am overjoyed to report that thus far we have had a very successful year. Our 15th Annual Lasagna Dinner and Raffle came in right on budget, raising \$3,500. We have had outstanding membership meetings with excellent speakers: award winning school teacher Kim Larson; Flo Scholljegerdes slide show of mountains and music; Bob Comer's movies of school patrol picnics 50 years ago; and Charles Martin's marvelous art show and seminar.

The second half of the year is underway with gusto as well, with over 100 people attending our July membership meeting. And coming up is our 10th Annual AugustFest Aug. 1, the 20th Anniversary meeting Sep. 12, Annual Meeting Oct. 10, Hall of Fame Dinner Nov. 12, Kindergarten Art Show Dec. 10, and our Christmas Concert Dec. 12.

Our major goals for the second half of the year is to build our membership base to 250 and to have 200 people attend our Hall of Fame Dinner. With your help we can accomplish this, and together we will celebrate a banner year for the Society.

FWD



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Upcoming Events

Monday, September 12
20th Anniversary
Membership Meeting
Fridley History Center
6 p.m. Potluck Dinner
(Bringing a dish is optional)
6:45 p.m. Membership
Meeting
7:00 p.m. Panel Discussion
"Birthing the Fridley
Historical Society"

Saturday, September 10 & 24 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridley History Center Old Time Movies and Refreshments

Monday, October 10
Annual Meeting
6—8:15 p.m.
Fridley History Center
Entertainment by
Fridley City
German Band

Saturday, November 12 Hall of Fame Dinner Knights of Columbus Hall Noon - 2 p.m.

FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

September 2005

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 8 Copyright 2005

20th Anniversary Meeting

20 YEARS AND COUNTING. The Fridley Historical Society was founded in 1985 and today the Fridley History Center exists as the only community-based historical museum in Anoka County. That should really be something to cheer about!

We have gathered the "founders" of the Society and some of the board members from the first two years to share with us their stories about how this wonderful vision of a museum became a reality.

Invited to be members of a panel discussion of "the early years" are:

Marion Anderson

Jerry Johnson

Leon Madsen

Jerry Manley

Glenn Theorin

Warren Woods

Were it not for the commitment of these individual and others in the start-up group who have since passed away, Fridley would have lost many records and artifacts that make up its rich history—and, the Fridley History Center would today be a parking lot.

On Monday, September 12, we will begin at 6 pm with a potluck dinner (optional to bring a dish); conduct a business meeting at 6:45 pm; and commence the program at 7 pm.

Come and join us in honoring our founders and celebrating our 20th birthday! We have much to celebrate and even more to be grateful for. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

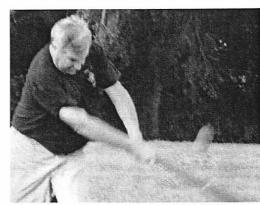


10TH ANNUAL AUGUSTFEST

Over 150 people attended this year's AugustFest celebration at the Fridley History Center. Great music was provided by the Fridley City Band Dixieland Group, articulate speeches by Miss Fridley Elizabeth Hagmann & Princess Carrie Moore, and an exciting ball game between the Quicksteps and the Fridley Fire/Police/City Council members. The Quicksteps won the ball game quite handily for the first time in a few years.



Mayor Lund introducing Miss Fridley Elizabeth Hagmann & Princess Carrie Moore



Capt. Kim Herrmann, Fridley Firefighter, going for the fence



Listening to the Dixieland concert



Fridley Band--Dixieland Group



Ball game spectators

Anne Bolkcom,
City
Councilwoman,
ringing bell
after scoring
a run



Above photos by Eric Jaakkola.



Page 3

Fridley Fire/Police/ Council Ball Team --Photo by Lou Michaels





Quicksteps Ball Team -- Photo by Daniel Baldassare



Society Vice Pres. Mel Manley grilling dogs--Photo by Eric Jaakkola



Photo featured in StarTrib as Photo of the Week - -Photo by Daniel Baldassare



Quickstep batter hits homerun--Photo by Lou Michaels



Clowns Mango & Pixie--Photo by Lou Michaels



Greetings from Miss Fridley
Elizabeth Hagmnann & Princess
Carrie Moore--Photo by Eric
Jaakkola



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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Did you know that only 5 of the 90+ suburban communities in the metro area have their own community-based historical museum—and Fridley is one of these 5?

Did you know that approximately only 2/3 of these suburban communities do not even have a historical society—but Fridley has had one for 20 years?

Did you know that on Monday, September 12, at 6 pm, we will be holding our 20th Anniversary party—and we really need **you** to attend?

We invite your attendance at this meeting so that the original founders of the Society know that the efforts they put forth to create this Society and Museum was really worth their time and energy. Your attendance will also let your Board of Directors know their ongoing volunteer work is very much appreciated. Come to the party and join our celebration!

We have 4 board positions expiring this year and one vacancy. As well, the offices of Vice President and Treasurer are also up for election. If you are interested in serving on the board or as an officer, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mel Manley: 763-493-2949.

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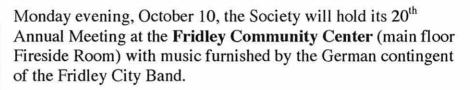


October 2005

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 9 Copyright 2005





The potluck dinner begins at 6 pm. We welcome hors d'oeuvres, salads, main courses, breads, desserts, and any other culinary delights you wish to contribute. The Society furnishes the beverages.

The German Oompah Band will get the energy flowing shortly after 6 p.m. with an hour of polka tunes and other German musical selections. Put on your dancing shoes, but remember, the floor is carpeted in the Community Center.

The annual business meeting commences at 7 pm. The agenda is as follows:

- Call to order
- Approve Minutes of October 11, 2004, Annual Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Board Members & Officers
- President's State of the Society Address
- Committee Reports
- Comments by Society Members
- Adjourn

Bring a big appetite and join your friends and neighbors for a great time at the Annual Meeting October 10!





Upcoming Events

Monday, October 10 Annual Meeting Fridley History Center 6 p.m. Potluck Dinner & Fridley German Band 7 p.m. Business Meeting

Saturday, October 8 & 22 Super Saturday Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridley History Center Old Time Movies & Refreshments View New Fridley Mural

Saturday, November 12 Hall of Fame Dinner Knights of Columbus Hall Noon - 2 p.m.

Election of Board Members & Officers

At the Annual Meeting on October 10, we will be electing board members who will serve from 2006 to 2008, and officers who will serve from 2006 – 2007. The Nominating Committee has not as yet received any nominations from the membership for the 4 vacancies that will occur on the Board as of December 31 or nominations for the current vacancy that exists. The bylaws provide for a total of 11 board members, one of which is the past president. There are currently 10 members serving on the Board, with one vacancy.

Current Board members are:

Officers (Date Officer Term Expires)

President: Robert Christenson (12/31/06) Vice President: Mel Manley (12/31/05) Secretary: Pat Jaakkola (12/31/06) Treasurer: Jan Golden (12/31/05)

Committee Chairs (Date Board Term Expires)

James Baker - Membership Cttee. (12/31/06) Pete Bonesteel - Archives Cttee. (12/31/05)

Robert Christenson - Newsletter & PR Cttee. (12/31/05)

Jan Golden - Finance Cttee. (12/31/06)

Jerry Manley – Maintenance Cttee. (12/31/07)

Mel Manley - Hall of Fame & Nominating Cttees. (12/31/05)

Lillian Meyer - City & Family History Cttee. (12/31/06)

Mary Sue Meyers - Programs & Events Cttee. (12/31/07)

Lisa Underhill - Fundraising Cttee. (12/31/07)

Pat Jaakkola (12/31/05)

The Nominating Committee nominates the following Society members to be re-elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors commencing January 1, 2006:

Pete Bonesteel

Robert Christenson

Pat Jaakkola

Mel Manley.

The Nominating Committee nominates the following Society members to be re-elected to two-year terms as officers commencing January 1, 2006:

Vice President: Mel Manley

Treasurer: Still seeking a candidate

We warmly welcome a nomination for Treasurer as Jan Golden has asked to be relieved of her duties as soon as a replacement can be found. And we are seeking a nomination for another Board member to fill the vacancy by Suzanne Miskowic who resigned at the end of 2004.

Please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mel Manley (763-493-2949) if you would enjoy serving as Treasurer or in another capacity on the Board.



2005 Fridley Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

The Fridley Historical Society will be holding the second annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner at noon on Saturday, November 12th, 2005. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Highway 65 in Fridley.

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 six months, and a large number were received, making the selection process very challenging.

The inductees being honored at this years dinner are:

• John Gargaro (d)	49ers Days Organizer, Lions Club, Cable TV announcer, Parks Commission.
• John K. Hansen	School Superintendent for 25 years, founding member of the Fridley Rotary Club
• Charles Johanson (d)	Helped found Unity Hospital, served on School Board and Chamber of Commerce, built many of the homes in Fridley
Gordon Sangster	27 years on I.S. D. 14 School Board, Jaycees, 4-H, Boys Scouts, Engineers Club
• Robert Schroer	Founder of Bob's Produce Ranch, helped fund many community organizations and events.

Mayor Scott Lund will be the emcee. Each inductee will be presented with an award and their plaque will become a part of the Fridley Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.

Please show your support for Fridley and the Fridley Historical Society by attending the Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner.

To attend, send your payment of \$15 per ticket to the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. Your tickets will be mailed to you. Tickets must be paid in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

If you have any questions or wish to reserve a table of 8, call Jerry Manley at 763-571-6963.



Dedication of City of Fridley Mural



Lund, & Robert Christenson

Steve and Glenna Gudim, the new owners of Dunn Bros. Coffee located at Osborne Road and University Avenue, generously donated to the Historical Society a beautiful mural created by the renowned Twin Cites mural artist Peter Bue whose nom de plume was Fucci. The original owners of Dunn Bros. commissioned Fucci to create a mural of Fridley for when the business first opened in 2002.

Glenna & Steve Gudim, Mayor Scott When Fucci died unexpectedly on June 25 of this year, the Gudims received many requests from art collectors wanting to purchase the mural. Pete Bonesteel, a regular customer and a board member of the

Society, asked Steve Gudim if he would ever consider donating the mural to the Fridley History Center. After the Gudims gave this request considerable thought, they decided that rather than sell it, they would prefer it remain on display in Fridley permanently.

Mayor Scott Lund and State Representative Connie Bernardy attended the dedication with Mayor Lund expressing his appreciation of the mural and recognizing the generosity of the Gudims. The mural can be viewed on the second and fourth Saturday of every month between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. when the History Center is open to visitors.

Art at Rice Creek Celebration

Banfill Arts Center held their annual Art at Rice Creek event on Sunday, September 11, 2005. The Fridley Historical Society was represented with a table display offering some of our attractive windmills for sale to those who purchased a Society membership. Jerry Manley delivered the table and chairs to the event, and Board Members James Baker, Pete Bonesteel, and Robert Christenson greeted visitors to our exhibit.



Pete Bonesteel at our Society's table

Display at Fridley Library

The Fridley Historical Society was invited to create a display for the two showcases in the lobby of the Mississippi Branch of the Anoka County Library located in Fridley. Pete Bonesteel, Chair of our Archives Committee, and his wife Mary, created a display of photos of the first Inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame and other History Center memorabilia. The second display was of historical post cards of Anoka County, which are from Bonesteel's private collection.



Showcase display



20th Anniversary Meeting a Huge Success

We had 35 members in attendance at our 20th Anniversary Celebration. The evening featured a panel consisting of the original founders of the Society and early board members sharing their stories of how the Society came into existence.

The first Officers of the Society were elected April 1, 1985 and consisted of Leon Madsen, President; Gloria Hayes, Vice President; Eleanor Erlandson, Secretary; Warren Woods, Treasurer. The first Directors on the Board were William Gotwaldt, Rodney Johnson, Mary Larson, Jerry Manley and Fern Moe.

The panel discussion began with Pres. Christenson, moderator, asked the panelists to share their recollections of how the Historical Society came into existence with the election of its first Board of Directors on April 1, 1985. Fem Moe stated: "The Society began because there were a number of us who got together and wanted to save the Hayes Annex (the original District 23 School) from being demolished.

John Meyer, a Society member in the audience, recalled that in the winter of 1983, the District 14 School Board appointed a committee of 5 people (John Meyer, Gloria Hayes, Tom Brickner and 2 others) to explore what to do with District 14 schools that had closed. The committee voted to demolish Hayes Annex because of the District's dire financial straits, but Gloria



Panel members photo at right are: Front Row: (L to R)
Lillian Meyer & Fern Moe*. Back Row (L to R) Warren
Woods*, Jerry Manley*, Tom Myhra*, Leon Madsen*,
Glenn Theorin, Jerry Johnson (*Charter Board
Members)

Hayes later became one of the leaders in saving the school.

Tom Myhra recalled how he wrote a letter dated July 23, 1983 to Gordon Sangster, Chair of the Board of Education, in which he said, "If the Community Education Advisory Council does not get involved in studying possible future uses for the Hayes

Lillian Meyer said she attended a meeting at the Minnesota Historical Society in the fall of 1984 when Fridley past and current residents were asked to sign up to be part of the effort to create a local historical society and museum.

Annex, one proposal I will put forward will be that a group of citizens incorporate, seek to buy the annex for \$1.00, raise the funds to clean it up and to do the necessary repair work preparatory to turning the building into an education museum."

Leon Madsen, Chair of the organizing group and first President, was a leader in the effort to establish a historical society, save the school and create a museum. He stated that "in our "due diligence process" we did consider other sites for a museum, 2 of those being, the Locke House and Rod Johnson's old home. The Locke House (Banfill Tavern) would have been a natural, however, it was felt that the cost and energy needed to get it into shape and maintain it would have been prohibitive."

Warren Woods, first Treasurer, stated that the average bank balance in the early years was about \$300, but by 1988 a lot of fundraising and grant dollars came in and the balance grew quickly. There were many fundraisers including spaghetti dinners, silent auctions, caps sold, bake sales, calendars and other events.

Jerry Manley's best memories are the beautiful summer day on June 14, 1990, when the ceremony was held opening the museum and the day in 2001 that the American Legion dedicated the flagpole and he saw the American flag flying in front of the museum.

Glenn Theorin's best memories were the many hours of hard work cleaning up the Hayes Annex that had become a dumping ground for all old equipment and furniture the District had no place to store.

Jerry Johnson best remembers the bake sales held at Skywood Mall, Fridley Bank and Marquette Bank (now US Bank). And Lillian Meyer remembers the large number of people whose lives crossed her path in the early days of creating the Society.



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



The Second Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner is only a month away. On Saturday, November 12, from 12 to 2 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, we will be inducting five more Fridleyites into the Hall of Fame who have made major contributions in shaping our community into the very livable environment it offers residents today.

Order your tickets now. The cost for the dinner is only \$15 for a scrumptious dinner of ham and turkey (you can have both), mashed potatoes and gravy, roasted vegetables, and pumpkin pie for dessert. Entertainment will be provided by a string quartet.

This is also a fund raising event for the Society, so please invite your friends, other family members, and Fridley neighbors to attend the dinner. We are inducting 5 very worthy individuals this year, and you can read about them on page 3 of this newsletter. If you reserve a table for 8, you will get priority seating and be among the first in line for the buffet.

We hope to see all of you at our Annual Meeting on Monday, October 10, at the Fridley Community Center where you can hear great polka and German oompah band music. It is our biggest polluck dinner of the year, and bringing your favorite dish is always optional.

November

The Record

Volume 18, Issue 10 Copyright 2005



Another full year of planning by our Hall of Fame Committee will produce another outstanding Hall of Fame event. The Second Annual Hall of Fame Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 12, from 12 to 2 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Highway 65 in Fridley. Dinner includes baked ham and roast turkey with all the trimmings. We have seating for 200 and 182 seats are already taken.



Mayor Lund will be our Emcee again this year, and entertainment will be provided by the String Quartet of the Northeast Orchestra. There are five outstanding Fridley citizens, past and present, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In early September all Society members received a letter informing them of the Second Annual Hall of Fame dinner. Included with the letter were two tickets for the dinner and instructions on how and when to pay for the tickets.



As the letter stated, all dinner tickets must be paid for in advance. No payments will be accepted at the door and no tickets will be sold at the door. The caterer must know ahead of time how many dinners to prepare.

If you are planning to go to the dinner mail your check today or you won't be able to attend. To order more tickets (\$15 each) or to reserve a table call Jerry Manley at 763-571-6963. Tomorrow may be too late!!





Saturday, November 12
2nd Annual
Hall of Fame Dinner
Knights of Columbus Hall
6831 Highway 65
Fridley
Noon - 2 p.m.
String Quartet,
Northeast Orchestra
Tickets: \$15

Satruday, November 26
Super Saturday Open House
11 am to 3 pm
Fridley History Center
Old Time Movies &
Refreshments
View the new Fridley Mural!
No admission fee

Saturday, December 10 Kindergarten Holiday Art Exhibit & Open House Fridley History Center Noon - 3 pm

Monday, December 12
Annual Christmas Concert
Kids from Fridley
Vocal Ensemble
Fridley History Center
7 - 8 pm



Minutes of 2005 Annual Meeting

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Past President Suzanne Miskowic presented a cake for dessert which was inscribed "20th Anniversary—Fridley Historical Society." She commented on the great progress that has taken place this past 20 years to build the Society into the vital organization it is today. Suzanne was given an appreciative round of applause.

Suzanne presenting anniversary cake





20th Anniversary Cake

President Robert Christenson called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. There were 38 members in attendance eligible to vote. Phil Raaen, Director of the Fridley City Band – German Group, introduced the band members who were given an enthusiastic round of applause for the evening's entertainment. Christenson expressed appreciation for the many delicious dishes contributed to the potluck dinner. He then introduced the current Board of Directors.





(L-R) Back row: John Bolton, Phil Raaen, Harry Harnseth Front row: Myron Yurkew, Carissa Ackert, Fred Hall, Ross Larsen, Jack Krichen, Mark Schmitz, Mary Jane Olson

A sumptuous Historical Society Potluck Banquet

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting. It was seconded and by voice vote, minutes were approved.

Christenson reported for the Treasurer Jan Golden that the final financial results for the year will not be known until December 31, and we currently have approximately \$14,000 in the treasury.

Mel Manley, Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on nominations. He moved that the following individuals be elected to the Board of Directors for terms from January 2006 to December 2008: Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Mel Manley, and Pat Jaakkola. Motion was seconded, and by voice vote, motion carried. He moved that Alicia Manley be elected as Treasurer for 2006 – 2007. Motion seconded and by voice vote, motion carried. Bunty Shaw nominated Mel Manley as Vice President for 2006 – 2007. Motion seconded, and by voice vote, motion carried.

Jerry Manley, Chair of the Maintenance Committee, reported that in 2005 the walls in the lower level were painted, door bottoms trimmed, shrubbery trimmed, upper level floors cleaned to remove excess glue, two new furnaces installed, and fire extinguishers recharged.



Pete Bonesteel, Chair of the Archives Committee, reported that there is a long-term project underway to organize and catalog all the archives in the History Center. Pete and his wife Mary created two large displays of historical postcards, History Center artifacts, and the Hall of Fame for the entryway to the Mississippi Branch Library.

James Baker, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that his committee will be focusing on adding value to having a membership in the Society for 2006, including charging for a number of events, but allowing members to have free access. They will also be focusing on increasing business memberships and publishing a membership directory.

Lillian Meyer, Chair of the City & Family History Committee, reported that 87 family histories have been collected thus far with many people still completing their histories. They have been examining family history books from different part of the country to have a design for the family history book they hope to publish in 2006.

Mary Sue Meyers, Chair of Program & Events Committee, reported that 2005 was a very successful year for the Society. She reviewed all of the monthly speakers at membership meetings at which we had great attendance, our highly successful 15th Annual Lasagna Dinner and 10th Annual AugustFest and she talked about the upcoming Hall of Fame Dinner, Kindergarten Party, and Christmas Concert. The committee's goal in 2006 is to continue to build attendance. She asked members to volunteer to be a docent once a year at History Center open houses.

Robert Christenson, President and Chair of Newsletter and Public Relations Committee, reported that we received great press coverage in 2005 with front-page articles in the Fridley Sun-Focus, articles in the StarTribune, and television news stories on Channels 4, 9 and 11. To date there have been 9 issues of <u>The Record</u>, our Society newsletter, with 2 more issues coming by the end of the year.

Christenson also gave a State of Society address identifying the Society's highlights since the last annual meeting including the installation of our new outdoor lighted message sign donated by the Fridley Lions Club, the first Annual Hall of Fame Dinner with 10 inductees and the installation of the Hall of Fame exhibit at the History Center, the Fucci mural donated by the Gudims, a program or event for the membership every month of the year, our exhibit at the Mississippi Branch Library in Fridley, our July Membership meeting on the 1965 tornado with over 100 in attendance, our Lasagna Dinner with 115 raffle items and an auction, and August Fest that had 150+ people attending.

He said the major challenges for the coming year is to replace our Fundraising Chair and increase our fundraising activities—membership dues only cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. We have had a Board vacancy for the entire year and it is still unfilled. He reported that the Board will have a planning meeting this fall to determine how to increase membership, increase fundraising, add more volunteers, and do more collaborative initiatives with other organizations.

Christenson thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting and their support this past year, attending meetings and events and serving on committees. A volunteer sheet, "A Helping Hand," was distributed to all in attendance and they were invited to select one project they would be willing to volunteer their time and skills in assisting in its fulfillment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



If you were asked to join a team, which would you prefer joining—a winning team or a losing team? Based upon the reports delivered at our Annual Meeting on October 10, you, as a member, have already joined a winning team. Take a few minutes to read the minutes of the Annual Meeting on pages 2 and 3 and you will easily be convinced that the Fridley Historical Society is on a winning streak and continually improving its performance.

This is not due to any one person's effort. It is a team effort that taps the energy, the time, and dedication invested by your Board of Directors and by the Society's 10 committees. But they cannot do it alone. They need the help of members who faithfully attend membership meetings, special events, and fundraisers, and who volunteer for special projects from time to time.

To be a winner requires the effort of every team member. And we are confident you will want to do your fair share in keeping us a winner. Soon you will be mailed your membership renewal. Along with renewing, please review the attached "A Helping Hand" form and select one project you could help with to ensure that the Fridley Historical Society stays on the winning track in 2006. Some members have already set a great example by completing the form at the Annual Meeting, and we are very appreciative of willingness to serve. 400 E

Stay on a winning team: Renew & Volunteer!



December

Volume 18, Issue 11 Copyright 2005



KINDERGARTEN HOLIDAY ART FAIR

Kindergarten students at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools have been hard at work creating holiday-themed art for display in the Fridley History Center. The entire History Center, upstairs and down, will be decorated with the "masterpieces" of these young artists for the public to view on Saturday, December 10 from 12 noon to 3 pm.





An old-fashioned live Christmas tree will also be on display. In addition to viewing the creative artwork, you will also be able to partake of hot cider and Christmas cookies. Each kindergarten student will have their picture taken holding their work of art. The photo will be given to their teacher who will give it to the student when school commences again in January. The event is free, so come and give these kids some artistic encouragement by viewing their colorful drawings and complimenting them.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Monday, December 12 at 7 pm is the return of the Fridley Historical Society's Annual Christmas Concert. And once again we will be musically entertained by Fridley Middle School vocal ensemble, "The Kids from Fridley." We will also have our last membership meeting of the year with a report on the Board of Directors' plans for 2006.

Christmas cookies and hot cider will be served. The event is free and we always have an overflow crowd, so by 6:55 pm it is usually standing room only. The parking lot fills up quickly and you may need to park at Hayes School and walk to the History Center. So come early if you want a seat and a good parking space.







Tuesday, December 6
Anoka County Christmas
Tree Ornament Presentation
7:00—7:45 p.m.
Anoka County History Center
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka
Lino Lakes presents their
Ornament
View the Fridley Historical
Society Ornament on the
Christmas Tree
Admission Free

Saturday, December 10
Kindergarten Holiday
Art Exhibit & Open House
Fridley History Center
Noon - 3 pm
Hot cider & Christmas
cookies
Admission Free

Monday, December 12
Annual Christmas Concert
Kids from Fridley
Vocal Ensemble
Membership Meeting
Fridley History Center
7 - 8 pm



2nd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner Huge Success

The second annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner was held on Saturday November 12th at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall. A sold out crowd of 185 people (210 dinner tickets sold) was on hand to honor this year's five inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame.

The Fridley Historical Society established the Fridley Hall of Fame to recognize and honor those individuals who, through dedication, work and accomplishment, have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the City of Fridley.

The inductees have spent much of their lives making Fridley a better place. These people who have meant so much to Fridley too often received little recognition for their service to the community. We hope to begin rectifying that situation by giving them some of the recognition they deserve.

The Fridley Hall of Fame Class of 2005 in alphabetical order is:

John Gargaro (d):

Mr. Gargaro was a member of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce and held numerous offices including President. He was a member of the Fridley 49'er Days Committee and served in all elective positions including President. A member of the Fridley Lions Club, he held numerous offices including President. His fellow Lions honored him with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

Mr. Gargaro was appointed to the Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission and the Fridley Sr. Center Study Commission. He chaired many fundraisers and events for the Fridley Schools. He received many awards and special honors such as the WCCO Good Neighbor Award in 1992.

Born and raised in Little Falls, Minnesota, Mr. Gargaro graduated from Little Falls High School and attended St. John's University.

John K. Hansen, Ph.D.:

Dr. Hansen was born on June 5, 1926, in Hallock, MN. On his 17th birthday in 1943 he joined the Navy. The Navy sent him to the University of Minnesota where he earned a degree in Naval Science and Tactics. By the summer of 1948, John had earned an additional BS degree from the College of Education. Hired to coach and teach in the small town of Bathgate, ND, Dr. Hansen became Superintendent on his first job when the person they hired resigned.

In 1953, he earned a MA degree from the University of Minnesota in Educational Administration. He also earned a PHD in Education with a Minor in Educational Psychology. In July 1959, Dr. Hansen became Superintendent of Schools in Fridley where he made staff recruitment, program expansion, and curriculum development his main priorities.

Dr. Hansen was a charter member of the Fridley Rotary and served as its President. He was also Vice President of the local Boy Scout Council. He retired in September of 1981. His leadership was crucial in the growth and success of the Fridley School System in the 60's and 70's.



Charlie Johanson:

Mr. Johanson was born on August 14, 1912, and lived most of his life in Fridley. He attended the first schoolhouse in Fridley, which was located just east of University Ave. on Mississippi. After high school he attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis.

On his journey to become a highly regarded homebuilder, Mr. Johanson began his career with his two cousins building homes in Fridley, and then decided to go off on his own. He created what would later be known as "Charles Johanson, Inc." He operated it for over 40 years winning several "Reggie Awards" for his custom built homes. Mr. Johanson was a member of the Fridley Planning Commission, the Fridley Building Standards Committee, and President of the Minneapolis Home Builders Association.

Charlie was instrumental in the building of Unity Hospital and was Chairman of its Board of Governors. He was also Chairman of Health Central which owned Unity and was a 30-year member of the North Suburban Hospital District Board. He was President of the Fridley School Board and a member of the Fridley Booster Club.

Gordon Sangster:

Mr. Sangster was born on April 22, 1929, in Duluth, MN. He attended school in Duluth through High School, Jr. College, and the University of Minnesota Duluth. He then attended the University of Minnesota where he received degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. His Master's Degree was earned in 1953 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For 27 years Mr. Sangster was a member of the Fridley School Board (1964 – 1991). He said, "It was like another career." He served as chairman for many years. During that time the district had to go through recovery from a natural disaster, first with increasing enrollment and then with declining enrollment and from building schools to selling them. He said, "It was an interesting time in the history of Fridley."

Mr. Sangster is active with SCORE (Service Corp. of Retired Executives), a group that provides business counseling to those starting a new business or having problems operating a small business.

Robert Schroer:

Mr. Schroer was born on February 16, 1935, in Hastings, MN. He went to grade school in Hastings and Farmington and graduated from St. Louis Park High School. As a teenager, Bob worked for Green Giant Co., Witts Market and Stillman Foods. He opened Bob's Produce Ranch on East River Road in the spring of 1959. It operated as a seasonal roadside market until 1969 when they moved to the present location and expanded into a year around market, garden center, etc. In 1991 he remodeled and expanded again and became the largest market of its kind in Minnesota.

In the early 1970's Mr. Schroer was President of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce. He has also been Past President and Board Member of the Twin City Fruit Association and member of the Golden Gopher Basketball Support Group. He, along with George Dean of Fridley, headed a volunteer group that painted over 1200 fire hydrants in Fridley.



Page 4

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 are now 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, provided the background on how the Hall of Fame came into existence and how inductees are selected. The musical entertainment for the afternoon was provided by the Northeast Orchestra's String Quartet.

Financial contributors to the event were Kuether Distributing, Unity Hospital, and Miller Funeral Home. The Fridley Historical Society would like to thank them for their support.

Thanks must also go to the entire Fridley Hall of Fame Committee. Without their hard work of over the last year, 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 Manley, Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, Sue Meyers, and Suzanne Miskowic. A special thank you to Superintendent Mark Robertson, who joined the committee for the judging of the nominees this year.



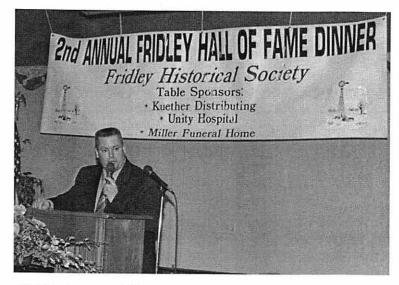
Dorothy Gargaro



John K. Hanson, PhD



2005 Hall of Fame Inductees



Mel Manley, event MC



Gordon Sangster





John Hanson, Bob Schroer, Mrs. Johanson, someone, Gordon Sangster, Mel Manley, Robert Christenson



Mel Manley, Robert Christenson, Pat Johanson, Pat (Johanson) Vant, and Scott Lund



Mel Manley, Bob Schroer, Robert Christenson, and Scott Lund



Hall of Fame audience



Northeast Orchestra's String Quartet



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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



The Board of Directors just completed its Annual Planning Meeting, celebrating its major successes for 2005 (with a pizza dinner) and setting very aggressive goals for 2006.

The reason that the goals may seem aggressive is that the Society must operate without paid staff because we receive no financial support such as is received by county, state, and large metropolitan historical societies. So, to accomplish our goals of providing value to members and fulfilling our mission to the community, we depend upon members who generously donate not only funds, but also their time.

Our invitation to our existing members this month is to do 3 things: 1) renew your membership promptly when the form comes in the mail; 2) consider making a financial contribution to help us maintain History Center; and 3) complete the "A Helping Hand" form. Whatever you can do, if even you help with one small project for 2006, will make a big difference for us when combined with all the help offered by other members. The Board so appreciates our members, and we know you appreciate what others are doing to make this unique Society and History Center a community gem.