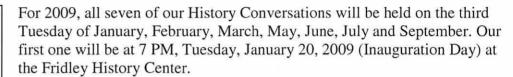
Volume 22, Issue 1



"Remembering Fridley in the 1940s" History Conversation #21

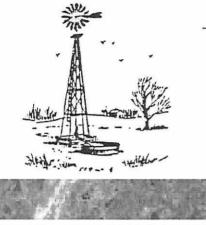
By Robert Christenson



The 1940s were a key decade in Fridley's history. It was the decade of the 2nd World War and the decade in which Fridley first became incorporated. In 1949, Fridley citizens voted to incorporate Fridley as a Village, emancipating the town from dependence on Anoka County for road maintenance, public security, and a host of other services. In return for our independence, we now had to pay municipal taxes.

With the war, we were coming out of the depression years but still had to live prudently to support the war effort—gas rationing, saving tin foil and tin cans, no new cars manufactured and buying savings bonds. But such difficult times generated so many interesting stories, some sad, some funny and many stories of self-determination in difficult times.

Please join us on Jan. 20 and share your stories of what life was like in Fridley in the years of WW2.



Upcoming Events



Tuesday, January 20 7—8:30 PM Fridley History Center History Conversation #21: "Remembering Fridley in the 1940s"

Saturday, January 24
Open House
12 – 3 PM
Fridley History Center

Tuesday, February 17
6 PM Potluck Dinner
7 – 8:30 PM
Fridley History Conversation
#22
"Shopping in Fridley"



New Book on Fridley's History

By Robert Christenson Dorothy Gargaro, Chair of the Society's City History Committee announced in mid-December that after six years of diligent work by her committee, a new book on Fridley's history has now been published. "Fridley

Its History and People" is a 260-page collection that tells the stories of the local history of Fridley including over 100 family histories.

This new book is available for only \$19.95 + \$4.50 for shipping. You can save the shipping charge by purchasing a copy at the History Conversation at 7 PM on Jan. 20, or at the Open House 11 - 3 PM on Jan. 24. You can order a book to be shipped by calling 763-571-0120,



Fridley Historical Society Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm.

Officers

Secretary Treasurer Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Open

Hall of Fame

Open

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting December 3, 2009

President Pro Tem Mel Manley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton, and Vicki Rockwell. Jerry Manley was absent.

Action Items:

Donation from John and Lillian Meyer: Anderson made a motion that we accept a \$3,100 check donated by John and Lillian Meyer for publishing the History of Fridley book; the motion was seconded by Rockwell and approved.

Donation from sale of "The Night the Sirens Blew:" Allen Taylor presented a check for \$500, half of the \$1000 promised as proceeds from the sale of his book. President Pro tem Mel Manley accepted the check.

Discussion items:

Changing the meeting night: The possibility of changing the general meeting night to the third Tuesday of the month was discussed.

Filling board positions: Christenson presented a plan for distributing the role of the president among the board and membership. He is willing to maintain the Society's website and conduct history conversations.

Committee Reports:

Fund Raising: Christenson read a letter he wrote and is considering sending to the City Council requesting \$1 per Fridley citizen annually, which would provide funds for the Society to hire an administrator. Rockwell commented that the letter was well written and made a motion that it be approved and sent to the City Council. Bonesteel seconded the motion and it was accepted.

Archives Committee: Christenson reported that The Comics Camp, working with Fridley High School students, has started the comic strip of Fridley's growth in the 1950's.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

December 9 Special Board Meeting

Secretary and acting President Grace Norton called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Mary Sue Meyers, Dorothy Gargaro, Pete Bonesteel and Robert Christenson were also present constituting a quo(Continued on next page.)

* **



rum. Mel Manley, Jerry Manley, Vicki Rockwell and Judy Anderson were absent.

Members of the City History Committee, JoAnn Johnson, Lillian Meyers, Suzanne Miskowic, Tom Myhra, Barbara Hughes and Elizabeth Hitomi were present. Mary Bonesteel was also present.

The meeting was called to review proofs of "Fridley—Its History and People" to be sure there was nothing in the book that would put the Society at risk for litigation.

The Minnesota Historical Society informed Christenson that we are required to pay a sales tax for the book, and obtain a sales tax permit from the Minnesota state internal revenue service. It was agreed that the sales tax would be paid from the \$19.95 cost of the book.

Christenson made a motion that we accept the proof pages and allow the City History Committee to make any editing needed. A list of the current Board of Directors is to be included and the book is to be copyrighted in the name of the Fridley Historical Society. Christenson agreed to secure the sales tax permit. Gargaro seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Christenson commended the Fridley History Committee on their outstanding work in getting the book ready for publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Grace Norton, Secretary

Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair

Saturday, December 6 Kindergarteners from Stevenson and Hayes Schools came with their families to see the display of their holiday art work at the History Center. Each child had a picture taken as they proudly displayed their art work in front of one of the Christmas trees. They each received a copy of their picture when they returned to school in January. Cookies and hot cider were served.







Jacob Johnson



Matthew Nordin



Grace Moore



Charrisa Millar



Joey Ritter



Martin Santiago-Ojeda



Erika Moselle



Cameron Wilkox



Annual Christmas Concert

The Kids From Fridley vocal ensemble of middle school children led by Blair Berger presented a concert of Christmas music on December 15. The History Center was packed with a full audience and the music was delightful. Mary Sue Meyers' wassail and the Christmas cookies were delicious.



Kids From Fridley performing at Christmas Concert



Director, Blair Berger



Part of Audience



Mary Sue Meyers' Carolers decorated



Table of Treats

Fridley Cub **Scout Meeting Held in History** Center

Fridley Cub Scout Troop 3020 held a meeting at the History Center in November.



Getting a feeling for past school days in the west classroom



Working on a project



Welcome New Members

NEW - Individual, Senior, & Family Bob & Mary Barnette

Membership Renewals and Donations

Thank you to the following for continuing to support the Fridley History Center with their membership.

Individual, Senior, & Family Re-

newal Ron Allard

Bob & Jane Barnette Don & Susan Blakeslee

Elaine Butorac Ester Campbell

Dick & Lee Carson

David & Yvette Christensen Dean & Carmen Coleman Robert & Betty Comer

Bud Dauphin & Marcia Schaaf

Geneva Duffy Suzanne Edinger Gloria Egan

Steve & Mary Eggert

Bill Erickson
Earl Fredrickson
John & Alice Ganter

Dorothy Gargaro Mary Ann Haines Elsie Hanscom Dave & Jan Harris

Charles Hayes Craig & Eileen Hohensee

Richard Jefferson & Alice Johnson

Margaret Jewison
Don & Jo Ann Johnson

Sonja Granlund Johnson

Julie Jones

Roger & Joanne Kaye

Jim Kordiak Dorothy Linse

William & Hazel Linton

Martin Lueders

Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh

Joseph & Irene Maertens Don & Audrey Mahr Bernadine Matushak Jack & Lillian Meyer Don & Mary Sue Meyers Tom & Gloria Myhra Wally & Gene Ness Jeri & Annette Oman Andrea Oman & Pat Billig

Gordon & Angela Sangster Agnes Shaw Karen Sheldon

Katie Simon-Dastych &

Jerry Dastych Kathy Smith

Carl & Adele Swanson

Allen Taylor

Richard & Ann Teskey

Glen Theorin

Brian & Joanne Toews

Cindy Torfin Mary Van Dan Patricia Vant Pat Whittlef

Lenny & Ann Witucki

Terri Wolfe

Thank you to the following for your generous donation.

Donations up to \$25

Ron Allard Elaine Butorac Dick & Lee Carson Robert & Betty Comer

Geneva Duffy
Suzanne Edinger
Bill Erickson
Earl Fredrickson
John & Alice Ganter
Dorothy Gargaro
Craig & Eileen Hohensee

Richard Jefferson & Alice Johnson

Don & Jo Ann Johnson

Don & Carole Miller

Jim Kordiak Dorothy Linse

William & Hazel Linton

Martin Lueders

Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh

Don & Audrey Mahr Bernadine Matushak Jack & Lilliam Meyer Tom & Gloria Myhra Andrea Oman & Pat Billig

Agnes Shaw Allen Taylor Glen Theorin Cindy Torfin Mary Van Dan Patricia Vant

Lenny & Ann Witucki

Terri Wolfe

<u>Donations \$26 - \$50</u>

Steve & Mary Eggert Sonja Granlund Johnson

Karen Sheldon

Donations over \$50

Joseph & Irene Maertens Don & Mary Sue Meyers FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

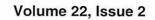
A New History of Fridley

It was 55 years ago that Emma Christenson Carlson penned the first manuscript of Fridley's history. She published "Fridley: My Home Town" in 1953 in for the Fridley Old Timer's Reunion. It told the story of Fridley's beginnings in the 1840s and the lives of Fridley's first 50 families.

Now we have our long awaited sequel. About 6 years ago our Fridley Historical Society's City History Committee commenced a project to update our history to the 21st Century. The efforts of many years of hard work and countless meetings have come to fruition with the publishing in December of "Fridley—Its History and People." This is a truly magnificent book of very interesting stories, many photos, old maps, and over 100 family histories.

Well deserved recognition for this book goes to Committee Members Esther Campbell, Dorothy Gargaro, Barbara Hughes, JoAnn Johnson, Lillian Meyer who with husband Jack donated the funds for printing the book, Suzanne Miskowic, Tom Myhra, and Beth Werking. Elizabeth Hitomi was engaged to do editing and design. Our Board of Directors also assisted with final proofing and allocated funding for the editing.

See the front page for information on obtaining your copy of the book. Only 250 books were printed, so be sure to get your copy while they are still available.





February History Conversation Postponed

The potluck, history conversation and general membership meeting scheduled for February 17 has been moved to March 17 because Robert Christenson, who conducts the history conversations, has been called out of the country on business.

The history conversation which was to be on retail businesses in Fridley will be held Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. following a potluck at 6:00 p.m. This will give everyone more time to plan what to bring for the potluck and to think about local retail businesses, past and present. We will focus on businesses that sell hard products. Grocers have been covered in the past and restaurants and businesses that provide services will be covered in the future.





Saturday, February 14 11 AM — 3 PM

History Center Open House Free to members,: Visitors, \$3

Tuesday, February 17 Postponed until March 17

Saturday, February 28 11 AM — 3 PM

History Center Open House Free to Members, Visitors \$3

> Tuesday, March 17 6 PM Potluck Dinner 7 – 8:30 PM Fridley History Conversation #22 "Shopping in Fridley

Second Printing of "Fridley — It's History and People" Ordered

It's not too late to get your copy of this informative and interesting book about the history of Fridley. The first printing sold out quickly. A second printing has been ordered and will be available soon. "Fridley — Its History and People" is a 260 page collection that tells the stories behind the history of Fridley and includes over 100 family histories.

You can purchase the book for \$19.95 at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi St., during an open house held the second and fourth Saturday of every month, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This month's open houses will be Feb. 14 and 28. The book can also be purchased at a monthly meeting. You can order a book to be shipped by calling 763-571-0120. The shipping charge is \$4.50.

Allen Taylor's book, about the May 6, 1965 tornadoes, "The Night the Sirens Blew," can also be purchased at the Fridley History Center, or at Schaaf's Floral Shop. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the History Center.



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Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

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City & Family History

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Open

Hall of Fame

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

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Vicki Rockwell-763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting January 5, 2009

Vicki Rockwell, Membership Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley and Grace Norton were present. Mary Sue Meyers was absent.

Action Items:

- A motion was approved that the board continue to meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
- A motion was approved that we pay Elizabeth Hitomi \$1,000 at this time for her work on the Fridley History book, leaving a balance of \$2,700 owed to her.

Discussion Items:

- Since there is presently no president, board members will rotate duties as president pro tem. Jerry Manley will lead in February and August; Dorothy Gargaro, March; Pete Bonesteel, April; Vicki Rockwell, June; Mary Sue Meyers, May and July.
- Planning was begun for the Lasagna dinner and silent auction.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: The last meeting for the 2008 dinner will be held soon. It has been suggested that unless some large donors are found for the dinner a hiatus might be taken this year.

Programs and Events: Jerry Manley will look into the American Legion as a location for the Lasagna dinner.

City and Family History: 250 "Fridley: It's History and People" books were ordered and arrived December 23. 118 books were sold right after delivery. A book will be presented to the City Council meeting this evening, January 5.

Archives: Robert Christenson donated an abstract for land his father had purchased. The original entry was in 1840 by John Banfield. A later entry referred to John Banfill.

Membership: Vicki Rockwell reported that as of January 3, 94 renewals have been made bringing in \$878.50 in dues and \$724 in donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Donation: Thank you to Bill Beery for a generous donation of \$1500.



In Sympathy

We offer our condolences to member, Earl Hatten whose wife Charlene passed away January 6 and son Craig passed away suddenly as the result of a stroke on December 13. Charlene taught swimming at the Fridley Middle School for several years and taught many Fridley children how to swim. Craig worked at Dave's Sport Shop, was an avid bowler and an active member of St. Philips Lutheran Church.. He was known for his warm smile and sunny disposition. We Craig and Char will be greatly missed by Earl and many others.

Welcome, New Members

NEW - Individual, Senior, & Family Dana Harrington

2009 Membership Renewals and Donations

Thank you to the following for continuing to support the Fridley History Center with their membership.

Individual, Senior, & Family Renewal

Judy Anderson

Ray & Virginia Anderson

John Banholzer Don Betzold

Mark Bonesteel

Peter & Mary Bonesteel Adeline Christenson Robert Christenson

Char Fitzpatrick
Carrol & Mavis Hauge

Betty Hendrickson Eric & Pat Jaakkola Corine Kirkham

Gary & Bev Larson

Albert & Susan Madison

Jerry & Marilyn Manley Melinda Manley

Charles Martin Lucy Mickman Suzanne Miskowic

Roger & Gween Nawrocki

Ruty Ollila Wendy Plum Duane Prairie

Art & Norma Swanson

Catherine Voss Gloria Vye Thank you to the following for your generous donation.

Donations up to \$25

Ray & Virginia Anderson

Robert Christenson
Dana Harrington

Carrol & Mavis Hauge

Eric & Pat Jaakkola

Corine Kirkham Garv & Bev Larson

Jerry & Marilyn Manley

Lucy Mickman Catherine Voss Gloria Vye

<u>Donations \$26 - \$50</u>

Mark Bonesteel

Albert & Susan Madison

Donations over \$50

Char Fitzpatrick Kathy Johnson

Melinda Manley

Roger & Gwen Nawrocki





History Conversation #21

Remembering Fridley in the 1940s

Our History Conversation on the 1940's brought forth many memories of what Fridley was like during the decade of the Second World War and Fridley becoming an incorporated Village. It was the best of times and the worst of times.



Gwen Nawrocki: "During the war there was lots of rationing., I remember we couldn't use sugar, and we would tell on each other if we put sugar on our bread, which our family liked to do. Gasoline was also rationed so we did not take many trips. When there were black outs we had to put our lights out and pull our shades down which were green on one side and white on the other. Herder Nelson was the Air Raid Marshall. He would walk the streets during a black out to see if he could see any flicker of light. My parents said this was very important because we lived between the arms plant in New Brighton and Northern Ordinance in Fridley. My dad, Warren Clark, was the constable in Fridley, and whenever anybody came to visit us, they were invited to go out on patrol with him. My dad's eyes were cocked

in two directions so you didn't know in what direction he was looking, which confused people. When my kids found out he was constable, they said, "He was blind! How could he be the constable?" When he arrested someone he took them to Ed Bernston, our local Justice of the Peace to pay their fine

Gloria Vye: We moved here in 1949. We lived in a trailer. There were a few trailers parked over at 4040 Marshall Street near a gas station. Our trailer was parked right next to the water works and the tents were there. It was very different back then. Trailers were not the way they are made now. They were very small but it was all we could afford.





Mary Sue Meyers: We lived in Columbia Heights in the 1940's next to Alice Dahlberg (who was in the audience). During the war I remember we had a victory garden and grew lots of vegetables. We had to save tin cans, remove the lids and step on them to flatten them. My father could not buy parts for the car; we could not buy tires. Gas was rationed. Everybody had ration books, even little kids. I still have my ration book. Going for a Sunday ride was a big treat. The neighbors would get together to bake a cake with each putting in a little sugar. I remember the Air Raid Warden coming around wearing his helmet. People pulled together. Nobody complained very much. Many houses had gold stars on the windows indicating they had a family member in the military. When the war was over, the boys came home and everybody was running around, hollering and doing cartwheels. It was wonderful!



Grace Norton: My brother joined the navy the day he turned 17. I remember being out in the garden working with my folks when the sirens went off because the Japanese had signed the peace treaty. My brother was still in boot camp, and they were so relieved that he wouldn't have to fight in the war. Roy Dean Scherer got a pony and would ride in the sand dunes where we all liked to play. That is about where I live now. I can remember helping Herder Nelson's wife Camilla bring the cows in from the pasture. We used to ski in the winter on Ness's hill near our house and on motorcycle hill by Hwy. 100, which was very steep. I only did that once. We also played round robin softball in the summer and went ice-skating in the winter. Some people went swimming in Moore Lake, but there was a story that there was quicksand there,

and a farmer and his team of horses went into the lake and were never heard of again. I also remember a neighbor over on Channel Road getting a TV and a bunch of us kids, about 12 of us, sitting on the floor waiting to watch Kukla Fran and Ollie and watching the test pattern for about 15 minutes before the show started.

Virginia Christenson Anderson: We used to get many home deliveries in the 1940s. The Bambi Man delivered bread, doughnuts and rolls. When you bought so much, you earned points and got prizes like a set of bowls. A Clover Leaf milkman delivered our dairy products. When one of their trucks was very old, my uncle Art Christenson knew the Nelson's who owned Clover Leaf Creamery, and they donated the truck to my mom and it became my playhouse. Then there was the Watkins man and the Raleigh man that sold spices, wonderful vanilla and the magic salve for rheumatism, arthritis and those kinds of things. We had oil delivered for our furnace and others got coal delivered. There were merchants with carts that went door-to-door selling shoelaces, shoe polish, pots and pans and linens, and collected food and rags. There was also the knife sharpener who came with a big round stone on his cart. Rather than electric refrigerators we had iceboxes in our basement, and the iceman came regularly delivering the ice blocks.





Pete Bonesteel: I went to Nathan Hale School in Minneapolis and they had a Boy Scout troop. All of the Tenderfoot boy scouts, including me, were going to spend a weekend at the camp by the Banfill House. The first thing they had us do was catch frogs so we could have frog legs to eat. It tasted like chicken and I way over ate. I woke up that night and thought I was dying. They put me in a car and took me back home. That was my first experience in Fridley. I have a lot of respect for frogs and hope they have a lot of respect for me.

Mark Bonesteel: The Minnesota Historical society has evidence that there were two train depots in Fridley, right across from each other on 77th between East River Road and University Ave. One was a Northern Pacific.



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FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

EESTERBIA COZO

انظرار النسال بالثلاب الشاطران الساليا بالبارات المارانا

Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



"Hard Times for Nonprofits"

The news media these past few weeks have been reporting on the difficult road ahead for nonprofit organizations that depend on philanthropy, member donations, grants and other traditional means of support. Our sinking economy is leaving no one immune to what appears to be a long recession.

The Fridley Historical Society is also facing hard years ahead, and we are so very grateful for all of the donations we received with your membership renewals. We annually either just break-even financially or are a few hundred dollars plus or minus. This will be much more difficult to accomplish during the years to come.

What would really be of help, and what would take nothing out of your precious current funds, is to please consider including the Fridley Historical Society in your will. All you need to add are the words: "I bequeath the sum of \$xxxxx to the Fridley Historical Society of Fridley, MN" or "I devise and bequeath xx% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to the Fridley Historical Society of Fridley, MN."

The past always shapes the present, and the present is what shapes the future. What we give after we are gone can still benefit future generations in ways we cannot imagine.

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The Record

Volume 22, Issue 3

The Retail Shoppes of Fridley Fridley History Conversation #22

Upcoming Events



Saturday, March 14 11 AM — 3 PM History Center Open House Free to members: Visitors, \$3

> Tuesday, March 17 6 PM Potluck Dinner 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Conversation #22 "Shopping in Fridley

Saturday, March 28 11 AM — 3 PM

History Center Open House Free to Members: Visitors \$3

Saturday, April 25 19th Annual Lasagna Dinner Raffle & Live Auction

5:00 p.m. Fridley American Legion Hall



Our next history conversation will recall the history of some of Fridley's most well-known retail shops. It will be held at the Fridley History Center on Tuesday, March 17. We will begin with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the conversation at 7:00 p.m.

60 years ago we had very few retail shops. Much of our shopping was done at the big Minneapolis depart-

ment stores (Dayton's, JC Pennys, Donaldsons, Powers and even Mrs. Johnson's department store on Central Avenue.) Being we are a first ring suburb, it was a short drive, or street car ride to all of the retail shops in the Central Avenue and Lowry area. There even a number of shops in Columbia Heights like Trench's Five and Dime, Chet's shoes, Al & Wally's Drugstore to mention a few.

So please join us on St. Patrick's Day evening to hear the stories of some of Fridley's early retail shops, some of which are with us even today, like Schaaf's Floral and Maple Lanes Bowling. If you have a business that has been in Fridley more than 20 years, come and tell your story as well.



In the future, we will have History Conversations on Fridley's service businesses, wholesalers, auto sales and service, and restaurants.



The potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share if you are able, but come even if you are not able to bring a dish. Beverage and dishes will be provided



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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Officers

Secretary Treasurer Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell Allen Taylor

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Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

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City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Open

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor 763-422-3878

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell-763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting February 5, 2009

Jerry Manley, Maintenance Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers and Grace Norton. Allen Taylor was also present. Vicki Rockwell was absent.

Treasure's Report: Anderson reported that the annual audit was completed on Jan. 15. There is a balance of \$3,470 in the checking account.

Action Items:

Gargaro made a motion that we award Mel Manley and Robert Christenson with plaques for their dedication and work as past board members. The motion was seconded by Meyers and approved.

Welcome to Allen Taylor: Manley made a motion that we appoint Allen Taylor to the board as Hall of Fame Chairman. Motion was seconded by Anderson and approved by the board.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that the Lasagna dinner, raffle and live auction will be held at the American Legion Hall and catered by Marino's on April 25. Robert Christenson will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets will be sent out the first week in April.

A motion was made by Meyers that the cost of the dinner be raised to \$12 The motion was seconded approved.

Meyers is making arrangements for a unit in the 49ers' parade in June.

City and Family History: A second printing of 250 "Fridley—It's History and People" has been ordered and will arrive in time for the Feb. 14 open house.

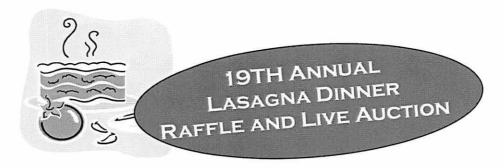
Archives: Bonesteel reported that he was able to get five adult and two children's mannequins from the Northtown Gap when it closed. They will be used to display period clothes in the museum. Gargaro suggested one be put on the front step open house days.

Fundraising: Taylor will work on fund raising for the Hall of Fame Dinner. Anderson suggested that we think of a fundraiser to cover expenses from August through December.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Fridley Historical Society's



Dozen's of great prizes!

Saturday, April 25, 5:00 p.m. At the Fridley American Legion Hall

Tickets will be mailed the first week in April. Help support the Historical Society. Send in the form you receive in the mail with your check for the dinner and raffle tickets early! Members, if you would like to donate gift certificates, gift cards, gift baskets, game tickets or other attractive items of value that would be suitable raffle or auction prizes, please call the History Center (763-571-0120) and leave a message. Someone on the board will get back to you.

Welcome, New Members

NEW - Individual, Senior, & Family Kathy Johnson Warren Olson James Peterson Carole Schaaf

2009 Membership Renewals and Donations

Thank you to the following for continuing to support the Fridley History Center with their membership.

Individual, Senior, & Family Renewal

Robert Aldrich
Marion Anderson
Rosemary Biedron
Leon Madsen
Matt & Sandy Manley
Mel & Alicia Manley

Grace Norton

E.A. & Jeanne Petrangelo Beth Werking

Warren & Karen Woods

Thank You to the Following for Your Generous Donation.

Donations up to \$25 Marion Anderson Grace Norton

Donations \$26 - \$50 Matt & Sandy Manley Mel & Alicia Manley

Donations over \$50 Kathy Johnson

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



In Memoriam -- HERB BACON

In the history of every organization, there are people who stand out for the key roles they played in its birthing and critical stages of growth. Herb Bacon was one such person who gave generously to the Fridley Historical Society even up to his passing. In the funeral notice in the Star Tribune, he requested memorials to the Society.

Herb was there at the beginning of the Society, as he was there at the beginning of the Fridley Boosters Club, Fridley Chamber of Commerce, Fridley Lions Club, Fridley Rotary Club, charter member of them all. For our Historical Society, he did all of the electrical work as the District 23 School was being converted into a museum in the late 1980s. He served on the Board for a number of years as well as being our Treasurer. He and his wonderful wife Betty were very active in faithfully attending our events, and were very generous financial benefactors as well.

Herb was our only Honorary Lifetime Member, and he was installed in the Fridley Hall of Fame the year it was created. I have known Herb for over 60 years, and I can lovingly say that he will be sorely missed, both as a friend and as one of those precious strands of the thread that weaves the life of Fridley into the beautiful city it is today.

Volume 22, Issue 4



19th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes & Live Auction





Saturday, April 11 **History Center Open House**

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Saturday, April 25 19th Annual Lasagna Dinner Sweepstakes & Live Auction 5:00 p.m.

Seating begins at 4:15 p.m. Fridley American Legion Hall 7365 Old Central

Saturday, May 9 **History Center Open House** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19 **History Conversation Getting Around: Fridley** Transportation in the Last Century

7:00 p.m. At the Fridley History Center



The Annual Lasagna Dinner, our major fund raiser of the year, is happening Saturday, April 25. It will be held at a new location this year to allow for more seating. The location that has been chosen is the Fridley American Legion Hall at 7365 Central Ave. (sometimes called Old Central). There is plenty of parking if you park around in the back off of Onondaga St.

Seating will begin at 4:15 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. This is a time to enjoy visiting with friends and enjoying good food. You may even win some prizes in the sweepstakes and get a bargain at the auction. The dinner will be catered by Marino's. The menu includes lasagna, salad, garlic bread, cake, punch and coffee. Marino's is known for great catering and good food. A bar is available if you would like wine with your dinner.

Be sure you register at the door when you come in. The raffle has been changed to a sweepstakes to satisfy requirements by the post office. The sweepstakes and auction will begin about 5:45 p.m. There will be a lot of great prizes and items to bid on.

Watch for your tickets and reservation form in the mail soon. Dinner tickets are \$12 and sweepstakes tickets are \$1 each. Send them in early, before the dinner is sold out! We were sold out last year. If you need more tickets, call the Fridley History Center, 763-571-0120. Someone will get back to you.





Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm.

Officers

Secretary Treasurer

Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting March 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Dorothy Gargaro, Chair of the City Family & History Committee. Other board members present were Allen Taylor, Pete Bonesteel, Vicki Rockwell, Mary Sue Meyers, Jerry Manley, Judy Anderson and Grace Norton.

Treasure's Report: Anderson reported that Beth Hitomi had been paid in full for her work on the city and family history book and we have enough funds to pay present bills. A motion was made seconded and passed to accept the treasure's report

Change of date for Hall of Fame Dinner: After checking the availability of the North Aire Events Center Meyers made a motion that we change the date of the Hall of Fame dinner to Sept. 12. The motion was seconded and approved.

Reports:

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that forms to nominate Hall of Fame inductees for 2009 will be made available at the Lasagna Dinner April 25.

49ers Day Parade: North East towing will provide a truck and trailer. The Fridley City Band will play on the unit. Manley will put the chairs for the band on the truck.

August Fest: The Fridley City Band will play on the stage; the fire dept. will bring a truck. The Quick Steps baseball team and Fridley royalty will come.

City and Family History: The second printing of the History and Family books are selling quickly. The possibility of ordering another printing well be discussed at the next board meeting.

Archives: Bonesteel reported that he attended the groundbreaking for the North Star Rail Station in Fridley and picked up materials for display. He and son Mark are presently working on other displays

Membership: 155 people have renewed their membership. Those who have not renewed will be contacted soon.

Action Items:

The new lease from School District #14 for the History Center was emailed to members, read, and signed. Robert Christenson was commended for his work negotiating the lease.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Welcome, New Members

NEW - Individual, Senior, & Family Helga Bode Johnson Shirley Schleiss

2009 Membership Renewals and Donations

Thank you to the following for continuing to support the Fridley History Center with their membership.

Thank you to the following for your generous donation.

Donations up to \$25 Jim & Jan Golden

Individual, Senior, & Family Re-

newal

Lyle & Elsie Elverud Jim & Jan Golden Lynne Grigor Earl Hatten

Virgil & Shirley Herrick

Harriet Hiort Carol Hoiby

Eleanor & Byron Jensen

Jim Lawrence Scott & Cindy Lund Stan Mack II & Margaret Leibfried Lynne Grigor Dr. Maurice Meyer

Sig & Marti Reckdahl

Midge Rotter

Business Renewal

Ricky's Embers

Earl Hatten Virgil & Shirley Herrick Warren Mortenson Harriet Hjort Vicki Rockwell Eleanor & Byron Jensen Scott & Cindy Lund Dr. Maurice Meyer

Donations \$26 - \$50

Lyle & Elsie Elverud

Midge Rotter

Notice of By-Law Change

Currently our by-laws state that the president and secretary are authorized signatories to all legal documents. It does say that the vice president may sign in the absence of either one with board approval. Unfortunately, we currently do not have a president or vice president. That would leave only the secretary as authorized signatory. In order to allow for an additional authorized signatory as some documents require two signatures, the following motion was made and approved at the March board meeting.

"I move that we amend Article XII-Signing of Official Documents to authorize the treasurer to sign legal documents in absence of president and/or secretary."

The bylaw would then read:

The president and the secretary are authorized as signatories to all legal documents. All legal documents must be approved by the board of directors prior to the president or secretary signing such documents, except in cases of emergency in which not signing the document would cause major harm to the Society. If the document requires the signature of both the president and the secretary, the vice president or treasurer may sign in the absence of either one with board approval. When both the signatures of the president and the secretary are required, every effort must be made to obtain the signatures of both the president and/or secretary prior to the board substituting the signature of the vice president or treasurer.

There will be a short business meeting at the beginning of the Lasagna Dinner to vote on this change.



Plaque Presented to Robert Christenson in Recogniton of His Years of Service



Robert Christenson & Jerry Manley

Because of all he has done for the Society and to let him know how much we appreciate his past work the Board of Directors of the Fridley Historical Society presented Robert with a plaque at the last general meeting, March 17.

Robert has been a member of the Fridley Historical Society for many years and he has served as the president for a number of years. Actually, he served a couple more years than he wished because no one has been willing to step forward and take his place. Consequently, the position is presently vacant.

Under Robert's watch the Fridley Historical Society has vastly extended its recognition and influence in Fridley. He established our first web site and continues to maintain it. He reached out to the Fridley business community and made

contacts that the rest of us never thought possible. He made it a point to become known to both city and school district officials, many who have become his personal friends. He has gently pushed the rest of us to accomplish more than we ever thought possible. He constantly comes up with new ideas that we can use to enlarge and improve the Society. He continues to serve as moderator and sets up for our monthly Fridley History Conversations. Which he also records on video.

The press of his own consulting business has forced him to step back from taking an active part in the day to day operations of the Society. He still helps out as much as he can whenever he is called upon.

The plaque states "Robert Christenson, in appreciation for your many years of dedicated service, 2009, Fridley Historical Society."

Portions of Robert's letter in response to receiving the plaque:

"Thank you most sincerely for the honor you bestowed upon me at the History Conversation Tuesday evening. This was totally unexpected. . . .

The most precious rewards I have received from my service on the board have been the wonderful relationships and friendships formed for 7 years. I have such great memories of all the programs we delivered together to Fridley residents, the challenges we faced and overcame, the additions to our collection in the History Center, the exciting fundraisers, and the lives we were able to touch by preserving memories and honoring those who lived them in our Hall of Fame.

Thank you for trusting me with the leadership of this Fridley institution for so many years. I will never leave the Society as a member. A part of me resides in the History Center, even dating back to 1942 when I started school in the same building. Every time I am on the grounds there are many school memories, fragrances, and feelings that return from those bygone days. So it is a special privilege to return time and time again to these boyhood grounds.

Thank you again for this honor, which I share with all of you. I have every confidence that the Society and History Center are in very competent hands that will continue to fulfill its mission and preserve its role in the betterment of life in Fridley."

History Conversation #22 The Retail Shoppes of Fridley

A sumptuous St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner combined with a great turnout and wonderful stories about shopping in Fridley in years past made for a very successful History Conversation on Marc 17 at the Fridley History Center. Below are some of the memories shared by participants.

Robert Christenson, the moderator, organized the history conversation to recall retail businesses that have been in Fridley more than 60 years and more than 50 years.

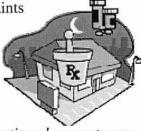
For retail shops over 60 years in Fridley, he included:

- Cabinet Shop in Hyde Park
- Central Feed which later became Central Hardware & Feed
- Frank's Used Cars
- Shorty's Used Cars
- Used Cars on 62rd and University
- Gertzen Hardware
- · Holiday Discount Store
- Northern Cabinet
- Piano & Furniture Store on Onandago & Central
- Sandy Hook General Store
- D W (Don) Harstad Construction
- Saint Anthony Gun Club
- Christenson Corner
 - -DeSoto, Chrysler, and Willys Dealership
 - —Fridley Sports Shop
 - -Fridley Hardware & Home Appliance
 - -Fridley Gift Shop
 - —Fridley Drug
 - -Pat & Sadie's Bakery
 - -Ben Franklin



Over 50 years:

- Shorewood Mall
- Skywood Mall
- Moon Plaza Shopping Center
- Vince's Bait Shop
- Fridley Lumber
- Berry Home Builders
- Carl Bennett Construction
- BenArco Construction
- Heights Marine 64th & University
- Moderne Radio and TV 91 66th Way
- Graves Interiors
- Donlin's Dairy Queen
- Maple Lanes Bowling
- 100 Twin Drive Inn
- Columbia Millwork
- Fridley Liquor
- Spartan Discount Store (Arden's)
- Fridley Gift Shop
- Central Auto Parts
- Berntson Gun Shop
- N.E. Trailer Sales
- Holly Center
 - —Holly House
 - —Lieb's Store for Women
 - -Olson Shoe Store
 - -Snyder Drugs
 - —Gambles
 - -Nelson's Wallpaper & Paints
 - —Beverly Shop of Holly



History Conversation continued on next page.



Page 6

Retail shops of Fridley continued from previous page.



John Banholzer

John Banholzer recalled the St. Anthony Gun Club which was located on University Avenue about where Moon Plaza is now. Dan McGinnis ran the club which offered trap shooting. It goes back to the 1940s. People from Robbinsdale and the northeast used to come and practice target shooting. Later it moved to Armstrong Ranch and then Federal Cartridge bought it. It still operates today in Anoka County in Ramsey, Minnesota. Dan used to put out decoys on Moore Lake to hunt geese.

Jerry Manley also spoke about going with his Dad to the St. Anthony Gun Club in Fridley on Saturday morning. Dan would give Jerry popcorn and orange pop, so Jerry didn't mind being there all morning with those refreshments. He also spoke of 100 Twin Drive Inn Theater right across from his boyhood home. He worked there for the first summer when they first opened. It was built by Chet "Dig-Dig" Herringer.



Jerry Manley



Robert Christenson

Robert Christenson told of the shopping center on the S.E. corner of University and Mississippi Street which began as Fridley Motor Service started by his Dad, Art Christenson and Uncle Alder Christenson, in the early 1940s. Over the years it expanded by his Dad adding a DeSoto, Chrysler Willys dealership, Fridley Sports Shop, Fridley Hardware & Appliance, Fridley Gift Shop owned by his Mom Pearl Christenson. Other shops who leased from Art were Pat & Sadie's Bakery, Fridley Drug, Theisen's Market, Fridley Café, Phil's Barbershop, Brunkow Music, and Canterbury Inne & Pub.

<u>Tom Myhra</u> spoke of Frank's Used Cars on 57th and University. Frank had a sign in front of the building offering immediate credit but he spelled it IMEDIATE CREDIT. He later learned Frank misspelled the word on purpose.



Tom Myhra



Gwen Nawrocki

<u>Gwen Nawrocki</u> shared her memories of Nelson's Wallpaper & Paint store (where she was a frequent customer) in Holly Shopping Center that originally opened next to the Piggly Wiggly grocery store and then moved to another location in the shopping center, where it remained until it recently closed. It was started by the grandfather, Carl Nelson, and then owned by his son, followed by the son's daughter Joy and then they sold it to Joy's brother.



You do not

need to be

present to

win!

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

19th Annual Lasagna Dinner Sweepstakes & Live Auction

Date Saturday, April 25, 2009

Time Doors open at 4:15 p.m. Dinner served at 5 p.m.

Catered by Marinos

Place American Legion Post 303

7365 Central Ave. N.E.

Fridley

Sweepstakes

Over 100 items, including

Cash prize of \$100

Live Auction

Many unique items starting at \$50, including Eye Care Center

certificate

Frid levi Friends!

Must be 18-yearsold or older to purchase ticket or win prize.

Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes.

Purchase will not increase odds of winning. Odds of winning are 1 in 35 based on 100 prizes & 3500 tickets.

Dinner tickets: \$12 each

Sweepstakes tickets: \$1 each

For information on how to order dinner or sweepstakes tickets, call 763-571-0120 leave a message and someone will return your call.

Order early: Limited seating!

www.fridleyhistory.org

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



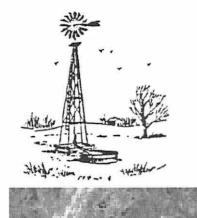
Remembering Esther Campbell

Another of the long-time and very vital members of the Fridley Historical Society, Esther Campbell, passed away on March 3 at age 89. Esther was a long-time member of the Fridley Historical Society and a resident of Fridley for 65 years. One of our very active members, she served on the City History Committee that produced our new history book of Fridley.

Esther was the beautiful silver-haired lady who served coffee or cider at some History Conversations, Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair and the annual Christmas concert. Esther and her late husband Bill moved to Fridley in 1944 and lived on a farm on Mississippi Street, a couple blocks east of my boyhood home. They owned the Campbell Grocery Store on East River Road beginning in 1950. Bill was a long-time custodian at Fridley schools.

She led the Girls Campfire Club and the 4-H Club for a number of years. Since 1981 she was the force behind many Fridley senior organizations. She has been in charge of the Senior Craft Club that provides money for charities, lunch programs, and senior clubs that need assistance. Esther won the Most Outstanding Volunteer award at the Anoka County Fair in 1991, and the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Fridley Chamber of Commerce. She was past president of the Friendly Fridley Folks senior club. Esther, we miss you.

Volume 22, Issue 5



The Record

Fridley Tansit: From the Early Days Forward History Conversation #23

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 pm Book signing event for "The Night the Sirens Blew"

> Commemorating the May 6, 1965 tornadoes At the History Center

Saturday, May 9 History Center Open House

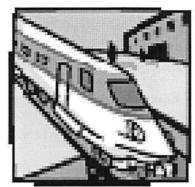
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Tuesday, May 19 History Conversation #23 Fridley Transit: From the Early Days Forward 7:00 p.m.

At the Fridley History Center

Saturday, May 23 History Center Open House

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3



Our 23rd History Conversation Tuesday, May 19, 7 PM at the History Center will focus on the history of transportation in Fridley. Mayor Scott Lund will deliver a visual presentation on the new Commuter Rail Station being built in Fridley, and what commuter rail means to our fair city.

Fridley has a rich history when it comes to transportation. In the early years, one of

the major wagon trails, which later became East River Road, went through Fridley. Two major railroads had stations in Fridley, one with a roundhouse on the northeast corner of present day East River Road and I.S. 694. A trolley traveled on separate tracks from points north with stops in Fridley. There were also stagecoach stops in Fridley. And Fridley children were transported to schools in Fridley, as well as other schools in the metro area, since 1940 on the orange school buses of the Fridley Bus Service.

For private transportation in the 19th and first half of the 20th century, we had horses to ride, horse drawn buggies, bicycles, ice skates (yes,

there were days people skated to school or work), motorcycles and motor scooters, cars and trucks, put-puts and WWII jeeps. Some people hopped boxcars and hitch-hiked.

This should be a very interesting and informative history conversation you will surely want to attend.



It's time for Hall of Fame nominations. See article on page 3.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm.

Officers

Secretary Grace Norton
Treasurer Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

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Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell-763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting April 2, 2009

Pete Bonesteel, chairman of the Archives Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Members present: Judy Anderson, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton, Vicki Rockwell and Al Taylor.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events:

Lasagna Dinner: Plans and preparations were discussed and made.

August Fest: Meyers reported preparations are going well.

May 6 event: Meyers reported that there will be a book signing event on May 6 at the History Center, conducted by Taylor. Taylor will publicize the event by email. Refreshments will be served.

Hall of Fame Dinner:

Taylor reported that some companies that have donated prizes for the Lasagna Dinner may donate funds to the Hall of Fame Dinner.

City and Family History:

Gargaro reported that there are 53 "Fridley—It's History and People" books left. It was decided two should be kept for the History Center. Rockwell reported that we need to pay a sales tax for each book sold. Anderson said it would be an annual tax.

Manley made a motion that we sell the last 50 books at Bob's Produce for \$30 each, plus sales tax. The motion was seconded by Rockwell and passed by the board. There will be an event publicizing and selling the book at Bob's Produce on May 2.

Discussion Items:

The need to fill the positions of a president, vice president and an open board position was discussed. Taylor said he would relinquish his position as Hall of Fame Chairperson if someone was found to replace him.

Manley reported that it will cost between \$800 to \$900 to replace the A coil on the air conditioner. Further discussion was postponed until next month

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary



In Sympathy

We offer our condolences to Jim Lawrence, whose wife Delores passed away on April 22 after a long illness. Jim and Delores had been married for 51 years. The service was held April 27 at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights.

COME-SEE-HEAR!!

Allen W. Taylor will bring a presentation/discussion of the May 6, 1965 Twin Cities tornadoes on May 6th, 2009 at the Fridley History Center at 6:30 pm. A PowerPoint presentation with stories about the worst tornadoes ever to strike the Twin Cities will be shown. Mr. Taylor is the author of "The Night the Sirens Blew," a book with accounts of people who lived through the tornadoes and documented information from a metrological point of view. After the presentation, Mr. Taylor will be available to sell and autograph his book for any interested parties. This night will be the 44th anniversary which brings back many memories for many people who endured those horrific storms. Hear many stories that have never been told about those storms! Remember, a portion of the proceeds from the book will go back and benefit the Fridley History Center! Hope to see you there!

THE NIGHT THE SIRENS BLEW: A fascinating book about the May 6, 1965 tornadoes that left a trail of devastation and memories that linger today! A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the Fridley Historical Society. If interested, please contact Al Taylor at (763) 422-3878 or email 1965tornadobook@comcast.net. The cost is \$25.99 plus tax. Mailed copies of the book are also available upon request.

Hall of Fame Dinner

The Historical Society is seeking nominations for inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Dinner will be held Sept. 12 this year at the North Air Events Center. Because it is earlier than in the past it is crucial that nominations are entered as soon as possible. Nominations will be accepted from anyone who sends in a completed form.

To obtain a form, call the History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a message. A form will be mailed to you. They will also be available at the History Center open houses and events. Open houses this month will be Saturdays, May 9 and May 23., 11a.m.—3 p.m. Forms can be returned to the Fridley History Center, 611Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432.

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. Each inductee will be presented with an award and their picture and plaque will become part of the Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.



19th Annual Lasagna Dinner was a great success

The dinner was held at the Fridley American Legion Post, April 25, and was catered by Marino's. In spite of concerns over collecting prizes because of the down turn in the economy the sweepstakes and live auction were a great success.

There were 95 sweepstake prizes and eight auction items. 115 dinner tickets were sold. 1975 sweepstakes tickets were sold. Everyone on the board put in many hours organizing, mailing, collecting prizes and preparing for the event. Thank you, to members who contributed prizes and sold multiple sweepstakes tickets.

Thanks to Mary Sue Meyers' decorating talents the American Legion Hall never looked so festive as it did that night. Robert Christenson was busy as Master of Ceremonies, photographer and auctioneer. Bud Dauphin did a lively job of calling the sweepstakes winners. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated and made the event a success.

The event began with a short business meeting. It was moved by Norma Swanson to amend the bylaws Section XII, third sentence to read: "If a document requires the signature of both the president and the secretary, the vice president or treasurer may sign in the absence of either one with board approval." Seconded by Bill Linton. The motion was carried by voice vote with no nays.

Everyone welcomed the announcement that Vicki Rockwell has agreed to serve as president of the Historical Society. Her nomination was approved by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.



Left to right: Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, Kathy Taylor, Vicki Rockwell and Bud Dauphin conducting sweepstakes drawing.

Below, left to right:: Bill Linton, Bob Barnette, Judy Anderson and Grace Norton at registration table

Alicia and Mel Manley selling sweepstakes tickets







Page 5

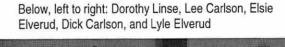


Left to Right: Shirley Schleiss, Helga Bode Johnson, Norma Swanson, Art Swanson, Chuck Hayes, Warren Woods, John Ganter, Alice Ganter, Hazel Linton, Bill Linton and Marty Lueders

Left to right: Angela Sangster, Gordon Sangster, Dorothy Linse, John Banholzer and Phyllis Banholzer

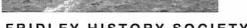


Bob & Marilyn Anderson.





Picture to left, left to right: Carol Christenson, Bernadine Matushak, Sonja Granlund Johnson, Adeline Christenson and Judy Anderson.



FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone www.fridleyhistory.org Grace Norton, Assistant Editor Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Vicki Rockwell



First, let me say I'm honored (and a little nervous) to be serving as the new President of the Fridley Historical Society. Robert Christenson left behind some big shoes to fill (figuratively speaking of course.) In no way do I intend to fill them but instead plan to lead the society the best that I can. We have a wonderful board. They not only lead their committees very well but assist with other board responsibilities as needed. It is because we have such a great team that I accepted this new role.

As a result of me taking this officer position, we now have an open board position. In fact, after reviewing our bylaws, it turns out we were already short a board member. So we have two open board positions that need to be filled. We do have one person interested (to hopefully be revealed in next month's article) but are in need of another. If you would like more information or are interested in serving on the board, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other board member. I can be reached at 763-571-3669 or by email at vr331@comcast.net

Again, thank you for this opportunity.



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 6

History Conversation #24 Keeping the Community Safe: Fridley's Police Department

By Robert Christenson





Saturday, June 13 History Center Open House 11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m.

Free to members: Visitors \$3

Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.
At the History Center
History Conversation #24
Keeping the Community Safe:
Fridley's Police Department

Saturday, June 27 History Center Open House

11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Saturday, July 11 History Center Open House

11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3



Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m., at the Fridley History Center Don Abbott, Fridley's Director of Public Safety, will deliver a presentation on the history and capabilities of the Fridley Police Department.

For the first 100 years, Fridley was protected by the Anoka County Sheriff's Department and

the Minnesota Highway Patrol (today, the Minnesota State Patrol). The Highway Patrol was organized in 1929. In the 1930's and 1940's it had two officers assigned to Fridley and adjacent communities: Officers Leduc and Johnson. They were a familiar sight in Fridley enforcing the law on their high-powered Harley Davidson motorcycles.

We had a few constables before the Fridley police department was formed, and you will learn from some of our members who remember them who they were and some of their escapades in the early years. Our first police chief was Carl Hartman who also was our first Mayor.

We are sure many Fridley residents have great stories to tell about the Fridley Police and we welcome you to the microphone to share your memories on June 16 following Don Abbott's presentation. We also have a very informative collection of police memorabilia and photographs you can view at the Fridley History Center in the West Room on the main level when you come to this captivating History Conversation.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm.

Officers

Secretary Treasurer

Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963 Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting May 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the President, Vicki Rockwell. Members present; Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley and Grace Norton. Members absent: Mary Sue Meyers and Allen Taylor.

President's Report: Rockwell became president last month by unanimous vote of the board. She reported that she does not intend to fill Robert Christenson's shoes, but will do the best she can. Manley said he would help her with school district contacts.

Action Items:

Switch to Integra Phone Service: Rockwell reported that Christenson had made arrangements to switch to Integra phone service from Qwest, which would save \$7 a month. The phone number and all services would remain the same. Term of service is 36 months. Manley made a motion to approve the switch, seconded by Bonesteel and approved.

Discussion Items:

Evaluation of Lasagna Dinner: Over all it was considered a success. Good attendance and attractive decorations by Meyers. Only negative comment was lack of parking for early arrivals, those arriving after 4:30 had no problem.

Open Board Positions: The need for volunteers to fill open board positions of Vice President and Membership Chairman was discussed.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events: Everything is prepared for 49ers Day Parade unit and AugustFest.

City and Family History: 12 books were sold at Bob's Produce on the May 2 book promotion event. Bob's Produce will pay the sales tax.

Archives: Bonesteel reported that his son, Mark Bonesteel, has new materials to submit. to the committee.

Membership: Rockwell reported that we have 187 individual members, 14 businesses and 6 non-profits. Finding new members is the responsibility of all of the Society members. Rockwell would like to be relieved of the chairmanship if a new chairman could be found

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Grace Norton



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEW: Individual, Senior, & Family
Barney Buss
Cathy Fritz
Rosemary Hofstad

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & DONATIONS

Thank you to the following for continuing to support Business Renewal the Fridley History Center with their membership. Dunn Brothers

the Fridley History Center with their membership.

Individual, Senior, & Family Renewal
Satveer & Dee Chaudhary
Ed & Arlene Hamernik
Chester Hayes
Jeffrey & Jacqueline Hed
William & Margaret Hunt
Caroline & Dennis Johnson
Linda Pearson
Mary Rozmark

Dunn Brothers
Two Stooges Sports Bar & Grill

Thank you to the following for\
your generous donation.

Donations up to \$25 Cathy Fritz Ed & Arlene Hamernik Rosemary Hofstad William & Margaret Hunt Linda Pearson

Hall of Fame Nominees Deadline July 31

The Historical Society is seeking nominations for inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Dinner will be Sept. 12 this year at the North Air Events Center. Because it is earlier than in the past it is crucial that nominations are entered as soon as possible. Nominations will be accepted from anyone who sends in a completed form. The deadline for nominations is July 31.

If you know someone who has contributed to the quality of life in Fridley and would like to nominate him or her, to obtain a form call the History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a message. A form will be mailed to you. They will also be available at the History Center open houses and events. Open houses this month will be Saturdays, June 13 and June 27, 11a.m.—3 p.m. Return the form to the Fridley History Center, 611Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432.

•

Correction: In the May Record Dick Carlson and Lyle Elverud were wrongly identified as each other in the picture caption. I apologize if this caused confusion.



History Conversation #23 Fridley Transit: From the Early Days Forward

By Robert Christenson

Mayor Scott Lund was the Moderator for this Roundtable and provided a capsulated history of transportation in Fridley. Council Member Bob Barnette did a comprehensive presentation with maps and pictures on the to-be-built Fridley commuter rail station.

Public and private transportation in Fridley has undergone massive changes in the past 160 years. Yet there is a common theme: rich, diverse, and leading edge. Evidence of this are the many types of public transportation in Fridley over the years: covered wagon trail, ox cart trail, a ferry running between Fridley and the west bank of the Mississippi River, a railroad with two roundhouses in



Mayor Lund and Bob Barnette

Fridley, Anoka-Minneapolis-Cuyuna Range Railway with a stop in Onondaga Park in Fridley, buses, taxis and now commuter rail.

Mayor Lund commented history repeats itself. The peak of streetcar traffic nationwide was in 1920 with 14 billion passengers. Streetcar management back then believed that buses could not replace streetcars, could only be an ancillary feeder service. Now in 2009, with the rapid growth of light rail and commuter rail, buses are beginning to return to their earlier role of being a feeder for fixed rail.

Also headquartered in Fridley is TAXI 2000, which someday hopes to offer personal rapid transit, using their futuristic Sky Web Monorail Express. The Society held a meeting at TAXI 2000 in 2005 where we were to ride a pod car on a mock setup, but the meeting quickly ended when there was a thunderstorm and power failure.



Mayor Lund and Loren Martin

A member of the audience, Loren Martin, an individual who possesses a rich history of railroads, commented on the photo we have in the History Center of the Anoka-Minneapolis-Cuyuna Range Railway. He said that there were two engines. An engine was like a trolley car, with the engineer, seats for passengers and a luggage compartment combined into a single unit. It was powered by a gasoline internal combustion engine. One engine was named Minneapolis and the other Anoka. Later the engines were converted to electric with power lines overhead.

The line ran from Anoka to about 31st and Lowry where it connected onto a streetcar line. It ran under the Soo Line Bridge. Northern Pump bought the line in 1939 to transport workers to their plant in Fridley (now BAE Systems). Northern Pump also purchased special buses from the 1936 World's Fair that had porthole type windows for transporting employees.

Fridley City Council Member Bob Barnette, has been Fridley's representative on the Executive Board of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority for the last 6 years. Bob shared that back in the late 1990's a group of us from Anoka County, Sherburne County, Benton County, Stearns County and Hennepin County envisioned a better transportation system to catch up with other counties in the U.S. It was to be a rail system on existing rails from Rice, Minnesota north of St. Cloud to downtown Minneapolis, a distance of 85 miles.



Page 5

It would not be a light rail system that runs every 10 - 12 minutes. Commuter rail would be five trains that run south in the morning, one over the lunch hour, and five that run north in the evening.

The rail line will share right of way with existing Burlington Northern railroad tracks. The station in Fridley would be near 61st and Main Street. The north end of the line was shortened from Rice to Big Lake, Minnesota when the federal government said that estimated ridership from Rice did not justify the funds they would contribute, but from Big Lake it was fine. It is now a 40-mile line.



Audience member Dennis Johnson

Then they tried to eliminate the station proposed in Fridley because Great Northern felt it was too close to their switchyard. But we got good support from Columbia Heights represented by Bruce Nawrocki and from Gene Mason in Spring Lake Park. Finally, the federal government agreed to the Fridley station.

What is unique with the Fridley station is that there will be parking on both sides of the tracks providing access from both University and East River Road. Bob provided color aerial maps of the area. A tunnel was built under the railroad tracks for providing access to and from the parking lots. The station is located in the middle of five sets of tracks. The Metropolitan Council will own it.



The Audience

The cost for a one-way trip is \$3.50. There is parking for 360 cars on the University side and 290 cars on the East River Road side. The park-and-ride lots will include automated ticket kiosks, bike lockers, and on-demand heating in covered and enclosed platform shelters. The planned opening of the line is this November.

"The Night the Sirens Blew" book signing at Bob's Produce Ranch



Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. come meet Allen W. Taylor at Bob's Produce Ranch on Osborne and University Ave. in Fridley. Allen is the author of this very successful book about the worst tornadoes ever to strike the Twin Cities. If you haven't had a chance to acquire this this book, the time is now! A portion of the proceeds go to benefit the Fridley History Center and the Minnesota Historical Society.

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Vicki Rockwell



We had a great History Conversation last month on Fridley Transit. Mayor Lund did a wonderful job presenting information on transportation in the early years up to modern day. Councilmember Bob Barnette gave us a lot of information about the new Northstar Commuter Rail coming to Fridley. How exciting it was to hear about this great addition to our community. Personally, I am looking forward to taking the train downtown, whether it be for a sporting event, dinner, a show, or shopping. I will gladly pay the few dollars it will cost and save myself the stress of driving downtown. Am I the only person that always seems to have a hard time finding my way out of downtown?

I hope everyone has a chance to attend some of the events scheduled for Fridley 49er Days. The dates this year are June 25-27. This is different from previous years when it was held on Father's Day, it is now the weekend after. Events start with the parade on Thursday (look for the Historical Society's float) and conclude with the crowning of the new Miss Fridley followed by a fireworks display. You can find more information and a complete schedule on the city's website, ci.fridley.mn.us or posters in area businesses.



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 7

14th Annual AugustFest Coming August 3

Upcoming Events



Saturday, July 11 History Center Open House

11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Saturday, July 25 History Center Open House

11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Monday, August 3 14th Annual AugustFest

6:00 p.m.

History Center parking lot Quicksteps 1860's Style Baseball game, Fridley City Band Fridley Royalty, Brats, Hotdogs, etc.

Saturday, August 8 History Center Open House

11:00 a.m. —3:00p.m. Free to members: Visitors \$3

Come for summer fun at our annual AugustFest,
Monday, August 3, 6:00 p.m. outdoors at the Fridley
History Center, 611 Mississippi Street. There will be
fun for the whole family. For a comfortable seat, bring
your lawn chairs. Brats, hotdogs, Sprite, Coke, Diet
Coke and bottled water will be for sale. You can park in
the Hayes School parking lot.

6:00—6:45 p.m. The Fridley City Band will play rousing patriotic music. At 6:50 Mayor Scott Lund will introduce the new Fridley Royalty crowned at the 49ers' Days Miss Fridley Pageant.

There will be an aerial ladder fire truck for the kids to see up close and

sit in the cab. They can talk to real fire fighters.



At 7:00 p.m. the QuickSteps team will take
the field in their 1865 style uniforms and play an old
style base ball game with the Fridley Men's Team.
The QuickSteps team will have their original players
who have been together for years. The Fridley Men's
Team will be recruits from the Fridley police, fire department, parks and recreation, public works and ad-

ministration employees. After the game, free cookies and lemonade will be served in the History Center.

July History Conversation Canceled

The history conversation and general meeting scheduled for July 21 has been canceled because Robert Christenson, who conducts the History Conversations, may be out of the country on business. We will see you at AugustFest!



Fridley Historical Society

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President Secretary Treasurer

Vicki Rockwell Grace Norton Judy Anderson

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Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

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Hall of Fame

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Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell-763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting June 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the President, Vicki Rockwell. Other members present were: Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Grace Norton and Allen Taylor. Members absent were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel and Mary Sue Meyers.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events: Meyers was absent but sent a report that everything was ready for our unit in the 49ers day parade and AugustFest.

City and Family History: Gargaro said she would like to encourage the people who do not have their histories in the Fridley history book, published last fall, to write their family histories for the archives. She reported that 10 books have been sold this month at Bob's Produce. She did a display at the Mississippi branch library for 49ers Day and included the book in the display.

After publishing the city history book, most of the members of the committee would like to retire from it. Since it is a standing committee it would be inactive until new committee members are recruited.

Membership: Rockwell reported that we have a total of 189 members, including 16 businesses and six nonprofits. Taylor said he would help Norton write an article encouraging members to actively recruit new members.

Maintenance: Manley said the irrigation has been repaired and prepared for the season. Thank you to Craig Hohensee did the work pro bono. The shrubs in front of the building have been trimmed by the Maintenance Committee and the air conditioning has been repaired.

Fundraising: Taylor said since he will not be involved in teaching this summer he plans to concentrate on fundraising.

Announcements:

Art and Norma Swanson wrote a letter of appreciation for the Fridley history book, "Fridley – Its History and People" that Gargaro read to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary



Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner to be held September 12, Nominations Sought



2008 Hall of Fame inductees: Bob Barnette, Char Fitzgerald whose husband Ed was inducted posthumously, and Bob Cook.

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. If you know a person you would like to nominate to the Hall of Fame, please contact Allen Taylor, 763-422-3878, or call the Fridley History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a message requesting a nomination form with your name and address. A nomination form will be sent to you. Nominations will be accepted from anyone who sends in a completed form by July 24.

The sixth annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner will be at noon, Saturday, September 12, 2009. The event will

be held at the North Air Banquet Center (also known as the Knights of Columbus Hall) 6831 Highway 65 in Fridley.

Please show your support for Fridley and the Fridley Historical Society by attending this event; your participation will be appreciated. Tickets are \$25. To purchase a ticket, call Mary Sue Meyers, 763-717-7987. Tickets must be bought in advance.



Please Make Our History Complete

By Dorothy Gargaro

As most of you know the Fridley Historical Society published a history book, "Fridley—It's History and People," in December, 2008 with many lovely family histories and histories of some of the businesses and natural development of Fridley. It took us from sand dunes and tumble weeds to what it is today. In trying to get all of the stories of the first families of Fridley, many notices were sent to the families and requests were posted in the newspapers, etc. This was done over about ten years time. We decided to go ahead and publish what we had.

It is still our hope that we could get more family histories and business histories that are not part of the recent book. Please take time to write your family history if you've lived here a while and have seen the city grow and change. Mail them to the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432, bring them to a meeting or drop them off during an open house on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. We will preserve these stories in our archives, and they will be part of the next history book published. Thank you for helping to make our history more complete

Fridley History Conversation #24 "Keeping the Community Safe: Fridley's Police Department"

By Robert Christenson



Our June History Conversation on Fridley's Police Department was orchestrated by Don Abbott, the City's Director of Public Safety. Don presented a magnificent slide presentation that detailed the history and current capabilities of our police force. Don has been a member of the Fridley police force for 25 years. He was formerly on police departments in Battle Lake and Parker's Prairie in Ottertail County and in Big Lake, Minnesota.

He showed a slide of badges worn by Fridley law enforcement officers over the years including the original Marshall's badge, and slides of officers' uniform patches, guns, and various police vehicles. One of the early police cars driven by Carl Hartman was an Oldsmobile, and Gene Gottwaldt drove a 1953 Ford Mainline.

He stated that when we were Manomin Township we did have a Constabulary that continued after we became Fridley. One of the Fridley Constables in the 1940's was Warren Clark. We had a Village Marshall from 1949 – 1951. The Fridley Police Department was formed in 1951. The first officer was Pat Weibel, followed by Simonson (1951) and Gene Gottwaldt (1952 – 1954).

Mayor Carl Hartman was Fridley's first police officer who began service when Fridley was a village in 1949. When the Police Department was formed, its first police chief was Everett McCarthy beginning in 1954, he served in that position for 20 years. After McCarthy, the police chief position was abolished and replaced with Public Safety Director. The first Pubic Safety Director was Jim Hill who served from 1972 to 1993, followed by Sallman from 1993 to 2003, and Don Abbott assumed that position on May 4, 1993.

He showed a police department picture with photos of all of the officers sometime in the 1950s that included Chief Everett McCarthy, Don Allard (present at the meeting), Tom Kennedy, Neil Duncan, Linus Fritiz, Erickson, Howard Rick, Dick Huss, Dick Kausler, Herbert Voight, Bob Cook, John Oden, John Anderson, Stan Smith (Crusher Kowalski), and Mrs. Berry (staff). Today we have 40 police officers working for Fridley.



Be appreciated; Be a Fridley Historical Society Volunteer

Members of the Fridley Historical Society contribute many hours of volunteer time to keep it a leading non-profit organization serving Fridley. We receive no tax dollars or grants to operate our History Center, therefore we have no funds for staffing and must depend on volunteers.

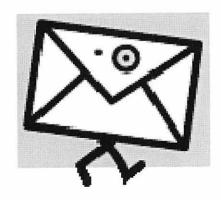
In 2008 our volunteers published the book "Fridley—It's History and People," a major accomplishment. To name a few more accomplishments they produced several history conversations and other events, acted as guides at History Center open houses, helped maintain the building and grounds, organized the fifth annual Hall of Fame Dinner, published 11 issues of the newsletter, invested hundreds of hours in administrative work, scanned and digitized hundreds of photos for preservation, added new exhibits to the History Center and undertook three fund raising projects, including the Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes and Live Auction.

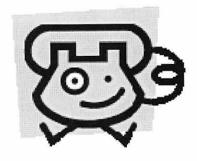
More volunteers are needed. Here are some opportunities for which you can volunteer and share your talents.

- 1. Help with mailings.
- 2. Administrative tasks such as filing, correspondence, returning phone calls and scanning photos.
- 3. Be a docent (guide) for museum open houses, the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. It's a great way to get to know people.
- 4. Fill a vacancy on the board, such as Vice President.
- 5. Volunteer to be on a committee. Any of the committees listed on page 2 can use new members.
- 6. Do graphic arts for brochures, flyers and the newsletter.

Something each member can do is recruit new members for the Historical Society. Encourage your neighbors and friends to join. Let's keep growing.

You are needed to help keep one of Fridley's most active organizations on the track of fulfilling its missions: the collection, preservation and dissemination of Fridley's history in a way that is valuable for every citizen of Fridley. Call the History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a voice mail with your name, phone number and how you would like to serve. Yours will be a welcome voice.





FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Vicki Rockwell



It seems that one cannot watch the news lately without hearing of the passing of one of several iconic figures. Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett, and Michael Jackson were all individuals that will be remembered by millions. Whether you liked them or not, agreed with them or not, you knew who they were. This has made me, and I'm sure I'm not alone in this, pause and reflect on life. I am sure that most of us cannot touch millions of people as these individuals have, but we can stop and ask ourselves "have I done, or am I doing my part to make a lasting effect in others lives?" Maybe it's helping someone in need or maybe it's serving our community in some way. Fridley has several wonderful non-profit organizations. We have the Fridley Lions, Fridley Women of Today, League of Women Voters, and of course the Fridley Historical Society. And I am sure I have missed an organization or two and for that I'm sorry. But I encourage everyone to get out in the community and do their part.

Now I know that we have several members that have done a lot for this community and even the History Center. To those of you I say a heartfelt thank you. To everyone else I encourage you to get involved.

Whether you are young, old, or somewhere in between, let us not forget that every day is a gift. Let us enjoy each and every day!



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 8

Sixth Annual Hall of Fame Dinner Coming Saturday, September 12

Barney Buss, Constance Metcalf and Suzanne Miskowic will be inducted into the Fridley Hall of Fame, Saturday, September 12, 12:00 noon. The dinner will be at the North Air Banquet Center (Formerly the Knights of Columbus Hall) 6831 Highway 65 in Fridley.

Here are a few of the ways these inductees have contributed to the growth, success and quality of life in Fridley:

Barney Buss is a longtime resident of Fridley who has served on the Senior Advisory Board and devoted considerable time and energy to restructuring the Fridley Senior Program. He has been president of the voluntary VIP Club, worked with the Blood Mobile, the American Diabetes Association, Lions Club projects, was on the Fridley 50th Anniversary Task Force and SACA Board of Directors. In 2003 he was Anoka County's Male Senior Citizen of the Year.

Constance Metcalf is being recognized for extensive work in the field of recycling. She helped form SORT the forerunner of the city's curb-side recycling which she was instrumental in starting. She is a charter member of the League of Women Voters and the Michael Servetus Unitarian Church.

Suzanne Miskowic is a longtime resident of Fridley. She has performed outstanding acts of volunteerism for the Fridley Historical Society, League of Women Voters and St. William's Church. One of the projects Suzanne helped bring to fruition was the Fridley history book. Her extensive work in the building of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce is on of the many accomplishments for which she is being recognized.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by sending a check, made out to the Fridley Historical Society, to the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432. Tickets will be sent to you by return mail. Please show your support by attending.

If you have questions, please call Mary Sue Meyers, 763-717-7987

No tickets will be sold at the door.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, Sept. 12 Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner

North Air Banquet Center 6831 Highway 65 12 Noon (doors open at 11:30) Tickets \$25 To reserve a table of 8, call Mary Sue Meyers, 763-717-7987

Saturday, Sept. 26 History Center Open House

11 a.m.—3 p.m. Free to members; visitors, \$3

Saturday, Oct. 10 History Center Open House

11 a.m.—3 p.m. Free to members; visitors, \$3

Tuesday, Oct. 20 Fridley Historical Society Annual Meeting

At the History Center Potluck, 6 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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Officers

President Secretary Treasurer Vicki Rockwell Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

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City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 p.m.

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

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Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 p.m.

Membership

Vicki Rockwell-763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting

July 9, 2009

Allen Taylor, Chairman of the Hall of Fame, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. in the absence of our President, Vicki Rockwell. Present were Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers and Grace Norton. Judy Anderson, Jerry Manley and Vicki Rockwell were absent.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Allen Taylor donated \$500 from the sale of his book, "The Night the Sirens Blew," for the Hall of Fame Dinner. He said the committee has met several times and will meet again July 15, 4:30 p.m. His son and friends will provide music for the dinner with a string quartet playing classical music.

City and Family History: One of our history books, "Fridley—its History and People," is left for sale at Bob's Produce. Taylor brought a check of \$688.85 from Bob's Produce from the sale of the books.

Gargaro sent an article to the Focus newspaper requesting that people who have lived in Fridley for several years write their histories for the archives.

Programs and Events: Plans were finalized for August Fest. The annual meeting and potluck will be October 20 at the History Center.

Archives: The committee is doing a display at the Mississippi St. branch library in October. Gargaro offered to help. They also will do a display in February 2010.

Norton offered to donate her husband Lowell's, World War II Army uniform to the Historical Society. Bonesteel said that would be the first World War II uniform in the History Center

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary







Memorial Tributes



Jim Lawrence

Jim passed away July 4, about two and half months after Delores, his wife of 51 years, passed away. Jim was a longtime Fridley resident and a Fridley Historical Society member. He will be missed at our meetings which he attended regularly. Jim was a valued volunteer at Hayes School and Fridley middle school where he gave many hours. A service was held at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights July 10.

Karen Woods

We offer our condolences to Warren Woods, whose wife Karen passed away July 27 after a 10 year battle with cancer. She was a longtime resident of Fridley and she and Warren were charter members of the Historical Society. Karen will be greatly missed by Warren, her husband of 48 and a half years, and their children, Scott, Shelly and Stephen, five grandchildren and a sister, Debbie. A memorial service was held at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View on July 30.

Old??? How Old?

Someone asked me the other day, "What was your favorite fast-food when you were growing up?

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow."

"C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called "at home," I explained. "Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it. Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card The card was good only at ...Sears & Roebuck. (or Daytons or Donaldsons) Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 5. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

(Excerpts from an internet article.)



AugustFest 2009 was a Great Evening

AugustFest 2009 was celebrated Monday, August 3, 6 p.m. .at the History Center. A good crowd attended and the weather cooperated with a beautiful evening. The Fridley band began the evening with lively patriotic music. The Fire Department brought their ladder truck, Fridley Royalty was introduced by Mayor Scott Lund and Mango the Clown was a hit, entertaining youngsters of all ages with balloon animals. The Fridley team donned 1860's style uniform tops to play the Quicksteps team and played to an 8 to 0 victory. The evening ended with cookies and lemonade in the History Center.



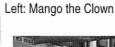
The Fridley City Band playing on the Show-Mobile



Left: Mel Manley grilling Chicago Dogs and Brats. Allen Taylor is in the background.



Right: Mayor Scott Lund Introducing Fridley Royalty





Alyssa Paradise and Kate Parrott and Miss Fridley, Alyssa Carlson



Amber Boettcher and Katie Hagen (to Amber's right) investigate the instruments on the fire truck.







The Game



The Quicksteps Team: Kneeling left to right: Rich Arpi, Cary Smith, Stew Thornley and Jerry Janzen. Standing left to right,; Mary Tholkes, Howard Luloff, George Rekela, Fred Buckland, Gregg Nelson, Phill Lindsay and Bob Tholkes.



The Fridley Team: Front row left to right; Kevin Titus, Eric (unknown last name), Tom Roddy, and Jessica George. Back row left to right; Zak Chlebeck, Steve Monsrud, Nick Knaeble, Brian Weierke and Ryan George.



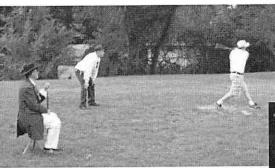
Right: Bob Tholkes, Tally-Quicksteps-kept fans informed of the score.



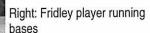
Right: Fridley Police Captain Brian Weirke snags errant throw as Quickstep player reaches first base.



Left: Mary Tholkes, Throng Relations-Quicksteps.



Left: Fridley player safely hits to left field.





Below: Quicksteps congratulating Fridley players



Above: Fridley players adjust 1860's style uniforms

Right: "The Throng," enjoying the game and a beautiful evening.

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone www.fridleyhistory.org Grace Norton, Editor Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Vicki Rockwell



Our Annual Hall of Fame dinner is fast approaching. I hope that several of you are able to help celebrate the induction of three very deserving individuals on Saturday, September 12th. Thank you to everyone that submitted nominations. For many years it has been a struggle to get enough nominations, but this year the committee was excited to receive several.

Coming up in October is our annual potluck and membership meeting. It's at this meeting that we vote on any new or returning board members as well as officers. When I accepted the position of President back in May it was with the understanding that I would serve this year and would decide by the annual meeting about next year. Due to several other personal and family responsibilities I have decided not to continue as President after December 31, 2009. I feel that this position deserves more time and attention than I can give it at this point in my life. I will continue my term on the board as a committee chair.

So, you know what that means. We are looking for a President and a Vice President for 2010. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me.



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 9

Harvest Potluck Dinner and 2009 Annual Meeting



Our Annual Meeting and Harvest Potluck dinner will be held at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 20.

If you able, please bring a dish or other food to share, but contributing a dish is

optional. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. Bring your appetite and be ready to enjoy good food and a good company.

The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Each member of the board will bring a report including a financial report from the treasurer. There will be an opportunity for Society members to ask questions, share ideas and offer any comments on the operations of the Historical Society. If you have ideas on how volunteering can be encouraged please be ready to share them.



Beth Hitomi will be presented as a nominee to a board position. Beth did the layout and cover for "Fridley-It's History and People." She grew up in Fridley and graduated from High School in 1974. After moving away in the 1980's she returned to Fridley in 2004. Her career started with data processing for the Ties Company when she was still in high school and included working as a systems analyst. She is a widow and mother of two children and stepmother of one. Beth will be a welcome addition to our board.

Make the Museum Sparkle for the **Holidays**

Volunteers are needed Saturday, November 28, to clean the History Center before it is decorated for the Holidays. If you can help please call Mary Sue Meyers, 763-717-7987.

Upcoming



Saturday, Oct. 10 & 24 **History Center Open House**

11 a.m.—3 p.m. Free to members; visitors, \$3

Tuesday, Oct. 20 **Fridley Historical Society Annual Meeting**

At the History Center Harvest Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 **History Conversation Fridley Service Organizations** 7:00 p.m.

At the History Center

Saturday, December 12 12—3p.m.

Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Show Fridley History Center



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

Officers

President Secretary Treasurer

Vicki Rockwell Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 p.m.

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 p.m.

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting September 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Dorothy Gargaro, Family and City History Committee Chairman, in the absence of President Vicki Rockwell. Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Sue Meyers, Grace Norton and Allen Taylor were present. Jerry Manley and Vicki Rockwell were absent.

Discussion Items:

The open board positions of Vice President and President after the first of the year were discussed. No prospects to fill these offices have been found.

It was discussed and decided that the Kindergarten Art Fair should be moved from December 5 to December 12.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Taylor and Meyers reported that plans for the Sept. 12 dinner are progressing well.

Programs and Events: The annual business meeting of The Fridley Historical Society will be held at the History Center Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009. It will begin with a potluck at 6:00 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Each member of the board will make a report. We need to make a push for nominations for the board.

City and Family History: Gargaro reported she sold a slightly defective book, which was requested and accepted as is.

Archives: Bonesteel mentioned that he is doing the Mississippi Branch Library display for October. What could go into the display was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary

See Fridley Historical Society Display at Mississippi Branch Library

Pete Bonesteel, Chairman of the Archives Committee, and Dorothy Gargaro will be setting up a display of Fridley artifacts in the foyer of the Mississippi Branch Library for October. Be sure to stop by to see it.



The Maintenance Committee is Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

By Jerry Manley, Maintenance Committee Chairman

Help!! The FHS Maintenance Committee is now down to just three members plus myself. Surely among our almost two hundred members there must be six or eight people who can find the time to serve on the committee. It is responsible for maintaining the building and grounds and does not require you to be a highly skilled tradesman.

Generally all you are asked to do is to trim the shrubbery two or three times in the warm months. With six or eight people you can be done in half an hour. In the winter we shovel the sidewalk if it snows. Everyone is responsible for one week at a time. If it doesn't snow you have nothing to do. With ten or twelve members total, you may only be responsible for two weeks all winter whether it snows or not. With only four members, as we have now, we are each responsible for one week a month all winter long. That can add

up to five weeks in a bad winter!

Occasionally there may be some interior painting or minor repair work but with a larger committee all the work would not fall on just two or three people. Please consider volunteering a little bit of your time to help out so that just three or four members do not have to do all the work for two hundred members. Please call me if you can help. My phone number is 763-571-6963

The 2009 Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner

Three deserving people were inducted in to Fridley Hall of Fame at the sixth annual Hall of Fame dinner held at the North Air Banquet Center Saturday, September 12.

The Hall of Fame recognizes and honors individuals who, through dedication, work and accomplishment have contributed significantly to the quality of life and growth of Fridley.

The 2009 inductees are:

Barney Buss, a longtime resident of Fridley who has devoted considerable time and energy to restructuring the Fridley Senior Program. He has been president of the voluntary VIP Club, worked with the Blood Mobile, the American Diabetes Association, Lions Club projects, was on the Fridley 50th Anniversary Task Force and SACA Board of Directors. In 2003 he was Anoka County's Male Senior Citizen of the Year.

Constance Metcalf was recognized for extensive work in the field of recycling. She helped form SORT the forerunner of the city's curbside recycling program which she was instrumental in starting.

Suzanne Miskowic is a longtime resident of Fridley. She has performed outstanding acts of volunteerism for the Fridley Historical Society, the League of Women Voters and St. William's Church. One of the projects Suzanne helped bring to fruition was the Fridley history book.

(Pictures on following page.)



Page 4

Photos are by Eric Jaakkola and Robert Christenson. Eric Jaakkola has also produced a video of the Hall of Fame Dinner





















(1.) Inductees; Connie Metcalf, Suzanne Miskowic and Barney Buss with plaques which will be hung in the History Center Hall of Fame. (2.) Master of Ceremonies, Mayor Scott Lund (3.) Hall of Fame Chairman, Allen Taylor (4.) Allen Taylor, Barney Buss, Robert Christenson (Past President) and Scott Lund. (5.) Allen Taylor, Robert Christenson, Connie Metcalf and Scott Lund (6.). Allen Taylor, Robert Christenson Suzanne Miskowic and Scott Lund. (7.) Musicians from Coon Rapids High School and Middle School provided the entertainment: Carole Braschayk, Ann Waskosky, Nick Luciow and Jacob Taylor (8.) Left to right: Beth Hughes Hitomi, Diane Merritt, Donald Rachner, Larry Leitschuh, Jeannie Rachner, Helen Sampson and Suzanne Miskowic (9.) Left to Right: Barney Buss, Ardella Buss, Doug Buss, Michael Buss, Ron Neil, Beth Neil and Eric Buss (10.) Jacob Taylor playing solo and demonstrating his skills blind folded.

(All pictures are left to right.)(1.) Connie Metcalf, Kam Metcalf, Barb Ficke, Kim Metcalf, Laren Metcalf, Megan Metcalf, Briana Metcalf, Pete Metcalf (2.) Rev. Dana Reynolds, Merle DeNuccio, D'Ann Prior, Carlotta Stomberg, Ben Withhart, Laurie Young, Kathy Burek, Edward Burek (3.) Charlotte Jensen, Barbara Kuhnley, Sharon Atherton, Larry Atherton, Judy Prentiss, Cindy Anderson, Robert Scott, Patti Kondziolka (4.) Don Meyers, Bill Beery, Bud Dauphin, Grace Norton, Dorothy Gargaro, Marcia Schaaf, Sue Meyers (5.) Marlyce Bailey, Gladys Kowaliw, Susan Witt, Eleanor M. Jensen, Stanley Selin, Meradie Selin, Agnes Shaw, Char Fitzpatrick (6.) Marcia Marks, Les Schimelpfenig, Kate Kemper, Dick Kemper, Donna Bahls, Gretchen Zell, Ruth Schimelpfenig, Robert Marks (7.) Gwen Nawrocki, Roger Nawrocki, Marty Lueders, Warren Woods, Mary Bonesteel, Pete Bonesteel (8.) Melinda Manley, Sandra Manley, Matt Manley, Mel Manley, Alicia Manley, Marilyn Manley, Jerry Manley (9.) Bob Barnette, Tom Myhra, Gloria Myhra, Phyllis Banholzer, John Banholzer (10.) Jack Meyer, Lillian Meyer, JoAnne Nelson (not visible) Karen Madsen Jacobson, JoAnn Johnson, Ed Meyer, Barbara Jackson (11.) Sue Edinger, Barbara Hughes, Jack Lisowski, Mary L. Larson, Ross G. Larson Jeanne Peterson, Jean Saxton.

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

Past President's Perceptions

by Robert Christenson



"History is Sticky"

It has been said, "the past is prologue to the future." Therefore one could assume that without a past there is no future. Stated another way, without the foundation of the past, there is nothing to build the future upon.

I am writing this on my birthday. As I reflect on my life of 73 years, I cannot escape the fact that who and what I am today is a product of my personal history. As we age, we realize that our personal history that defines us has been shaped by our early conditioning, our experiences, our successes and failures, and our beliefs.

Does this mean I am stuck with my past for better or worse? In one sense, yes, because I cannot change the past. Yet in another sense it is also my foundation to a future filled with unlimited opportunities. Every error of the past was a learning experience and every accomplishment was a motivation to push my horizons.

So today I celebrate my birthday with appreciation and gratitude for a sticky past, a history I wish I had recorded. Maybe I should start now before it fades away. How about you recording your history? It will be of immeasurable value to future generations of your family, and you can share it with the Fridley Historical Society for our archives.



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 10

The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs: Their Service to Fridley

History Conversation #25

At The Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. meeting the lime light will be on the Kiwanis, Golden Kiwanis and Rotary service clubs and their contributions to Fridley. Representatives from the three clubs will update us on their activities.



Saturday, November 14
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

History Center Open House
\$3 admission, free to members

Upcoming

Events

Tuesday, November 17
History Conversation #25
Kiwanis, Golden Kiwanis
& Rotary Clubs
7:00 p.m.
At the History Center

Saturday, November 28
9 a.m.
Cleaning and decorating the
History Center for
the Holidays.
History Center Open house
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Saturday, December 12
12— 3p.m.

Annual Kindergarten

Holiday Art Show

Fridley History Center

Tuesday, December 15
Annual Christmas Concert
7 p.m.



Kiwanis

Kiwanis, through guidance and example, works to develop future generations of leaders. Services to the community include camping for kids, scout programs and scholarships. Tom Myhra started the

Fridley High School Key Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis, in 1979 which now has over 100 members.

In addition to youth programs they provide rides for the blind, counseling for the aging on senior citizens' homes and income tax services.

The Golden Kiwanis

The Golden Kiwanis, chartered in 1984, welcomes men and women over the age of 55. Their goal is to promote human, and spiritual values, to form enduring friendships, and to build better communities. Their projects have young children, youth and seniors as their focus.



Rotary Club

Rotary is the world's first service club organization They work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace and eradicate polio under the motto, "Service above Self."

The goal of the Fridley—Columbia Heights Rotary Club is to improve their communities and give assistance to our youth in the area of education. The Rotary is also a forum for networking with community leaders and business people. It supports the "Values 1st" program and sponsors foreign exchange students. The Rotary has participated in the "Strive" program for the lower third of the class at Fridley High School and provides scholarships to Fridley High School graduates.

Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

Officers

President Secretary Treasurer Vicki Rockwell Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

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Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 p.m.

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Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 p.m.

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Help Make the Museum Sparkle for the Holidays

Volunteers are needed Saturday, November 28, 9 a.m. to clean and decorate the History Center for the Holidays. Come and help create a festive atmosphere for the season. Call Mary Sue Meyers, 763-717-7987 and let her know you can lend a helping hand.



Summary of Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, October 1, 2009

President, Vicki Rockwell called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. All members of the board were present.

Committee Reports

Programs and Events: The Kindergarten Art Fair will be December 12 rather than December 5 because of conflicts with peoples' schedules. Each board member will bring three dozen cookies. After the Art Fair it will be decided if more cookies are needed for the Christmas concert on Dec. 16.

Family and City History: Gargaro said the Ramsey County Library requested two copies of "Fridley—It's History and People." We are out of books and unable to fill the request.

Archives: Bonesteel and Gargaro put up a display of Fridley artifacts in the Mississippi Branch Library today.

Maintenance: Manley reported a workday was held in the yard on September 10. The HVAC system has been switched from air conditioning (summer) to heating (winter).

Hall of Fame: The September 12 dinner was a success with about 120 people attending. The only problems were sound system and the table arrangement with a large opening in the middle for the dance floor because of a wedding following our event.

Fundraising: At the Hall of Fame dinner Char Fitzpatrick gave us the name of Nina Archibald at the Minnesota Historical Society as a person to contact about a possible grant. Taylor will follow up on contacting Ms. Archibald.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary



Fridley Historical Society 2009 Annual Meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2009

President Vicki Rockwell convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the Board of Directors. Present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton, Allen Taylor was absent.

Jerry Manley made a motion that we approve the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting. It was seconded by Tom Myhra and passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Anderson reported we have \$5,072.18 in our checking account and \$12.16 in our savings account. The January through September income was \$20,727.19, which included the members dues, donations, the Lasagna Dinner, Hall of Fame Dinner and sales of our history book, "Fridley—Its History and People." Total expenses through September have been \$20,395.22, leaving a net income of \$330.97. \$2,950 was spent on installing a badly needed new air conditioner.

Anderson thanked the members for their donations and pointed out how significant they are to the operation of the Historical Society.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: Vicki Rockwell reported for Allen Taylor that Barney Buss, Connie Metcalf and Suzanne Miskowic were inducted into the Hall of Fame at a dinner held at the North Air Events Center September 12. The event was held in September rather than the second Saturday in November in hopes of raising the attendance, which will be evaluated before the 2010 Hall of Fame.



Programs and Events: Mary Sue Meyers reported that the Lasagna Dinner was held on April 25 at the American Legion Hall and was catered by Marino's. We had a float in the 49ers' parade with the Fridley City Band on it. AugustFest was August 3 with good weather and good attendance. The Fridley Men's Team won the ball game against the Quick Steps. Members are urged to volunteer, especially to help gather items for the Lasagna Dinner sweepstakes and auction.

Mary Sue Meyers, Program & Events Chair

City and Family History: Our history book, "Fridley—Its History and People," was published in December. Two printings of 250 each were sold out. We are hoping to receive donations so that a third printing can be ordered. Members whose family histories were not in the book are urged to write their histories and give them to the Archives Committee. Hopefully in the future another book can be written.

Dorothy Gargaro, City & Family History Chair





Archives: Pete Bonesteel reported that he and Dorothy Gargaro have done a display of Fridley artifacts at the Mississippi Branch Anoka County Library for the month of October. In February the committee will do a display for Presidents' Day. The school display in the west room of the History Center is completed and the church display is near completion.

Pete Bonesteel, Archives Chair



Membership: Vicki Rockwell reported that we have 194 individual, 14 business and 5 non-profit memberships. Members are urged to encourage friends and families to join.



Jerry Manley, Maintenance Chair

Maintenance: Jerry Manley reported that the Committee consists of Bill Linton, Marty Lueders, Al Madison and himself. They kept the front walk and steps and back sidewalk free of snow in the winter. This summer they maintained the landscaping and had three clean up and trimming days.

In May the Board approved the replacement of the lower level air conditioner. It was 20 years old and it would not have made financial sense to repair it. The lawn irrigation system was repaired and started up by Craig Hohensee, a friend of Mary Sue Meyers, at no cost to us. The sprinkler heads along the street sidewalk are too close to the sidewalk and are in danger of being hit by the sidewalk snowplow. The heads should probably be moved away from the sidewalk.

Newsletter and Public Relations: Grace Norton reported that 11 issues of the "Fridley Historical Society Record" have been sent to about 200 recipients since the October 2008 business meeting. She became the editor beginning with the July/August issue. Robert Christenson still does the photography. We have a good relationship with Paul Rignell, the editor of the Fridley/Columbia Heights Sun Focus newspaper. He has been very generous about running articles for us. Members were encouraged to contribute articles. The deadline is the third Friday of the month. They were also encouraged to volunteer to help with mailings.



Grace Norton, Newsletter And Public Relations Chair

State of the Fridley Historical Society



Vicki Rockwell stated that we have had five history conversations led by Robert Christenson this year and will continue to have them. She thanked the volunteers who have made all of our activities possible. She pointed out that the position of vice president is open and that she will be stepping down from the position of president at the end of 2009. She introduced Beth Hitomi, who compiled "Fridley—It's History and People," and has volunteered to serve on the Board.

Vicki Rockwell, President & Membership Chair

Actions taken

Rockwell placed in nomination Beth Hitomi to serve on the Board of Directors for three years from 2010-2012. The motion was seconded by Tom Myhra and passed by voice vote of the membership.

Rockwell placed in nomination Dorothy Gargaro to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors from 2010-2012. The motion was seconded by Tom Myhra and passed by voice vote.

Rockwell placed in nomination Judy Anderson to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors from 2010-2012. The motion was seconded by Carol Christenson and passed by voice vote.

Rockwell placed in nomination Judy Anderson to serve as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for another two-year term from 2010-2011. The motion was seconded by Barney Buss and passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. Grace Norton, Secretary



Page 5

Harvest Potluck Dinner Photos



Left to Right: Gwen Nawrocki, Roger Nawrocki, Bernadine Matushak, Chester Hayes & Mary Sue Meyers filling their plates with a delicious variety of foods



Left to right: Marty Lueders, Chuck Hayes, Barney Buss, Tom Myhra, JoAnn Johnson, John Banholzer, Ardella Buss and Chester Hayes.



Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak visiting with Dorothy Gargaro.



Clockwise, starting at bottom of picture: Alicia and Mel Manley with son, Grant, Margaret Jewison, Ray Anderson, Virginia Anderson hidden behind Ray, Grace Norton, Paul Rignell, Roger & Gwen Nawrocki, Marilyn & Jerry Manley.



Mary and Pete Bonesteel



Grace Norton on the left and Roger Nawrocki on the right visiting with Paul Rignell, Editor of the Sun Focus Newspaper.

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

Past President's Perceptions



by Grace Norton, filling in for Robert Christenson

Preserving Magical Memories

We talk a lot about recording our memories and I have recently experienced how meaningful it is. My mother was a good storyteller and we recorded some of her memories just two years before she lost her memory. I am so glad we did.

The Christmas of 1997, when my mom was 91-years-old, my niece's husband recalled a few years earlier when she had told about her memories of childhood Christmases. He remembered it as almost a magical evening. He was ready to relive it and made sure the family was ready to capture it. He interviewed her while my brother-in-law recorded the conversation.

While talking about Christmas the conversation went to naming the family members and their birth order, what the family home was like and how it was heated. The family went to Christmas Eve services, that led to how they traveled to church and what their church was like. Talking about how they got to church led to how they got to school. Her father, who was a horse fancier and had several, was the school bus driver; a wagon in the fall and spring and a large sled with foot warmers in the winter.

My nephew recently transferred it from tape to DVD's and distributed several to the family. I watched it last month with my daughter who was visiting from Oklahoma and this week with my cousin who was visiting from California. We all felt like we were enriched in the knowledge of our family's history after watching it, and each time I see it I glean new insights into my mother's life.



The Record

Volume 22, Issue 11

Enjoy Holiday Art and the Music of the Season at the Fridley History Center

The Holiday Season is here and members of the Fridley Historical Society have made the History Center festive with trimmings of the season, including two Christmas trees with decorations that bring to mind years past. You'll want to be sure to see the decorations and come and enjoy our two holiday events.

Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair

Saturday, December 12, 12 Noon to 3 p.m. come to see the holiday art of the kindergarten children from Hayes and Stevenson Schools on display in the west classroom and the lower level. Art teachers Paula Clegg and Moni Slatten guided them as they created cut paper and paint pictures of symbols representing the holiday season. Photos of the children proudly displaying their art work will be taken in front oft the Christmas trees.

Dorothy Gargaro, City and Family Committee Chairperson, is organizing the event this year. Free hot cider and Christmas cookies will be available for all visitors. This is a free event, a gift to the community from the Fridley Historical Society.

The Kids From Fridley Christmas Concert



Tuesday, December 15, 7 p.m. come and be entertained by he Middle School Kids From Fridley vocal ensemble as they sing the songs of the Christmas season. This enthusiastic, talented group of young singers is led by their director Blair Berger. Come early to get a seat.

Mary Sue Meyers, Programs and Events Chairperson, will serve her delicious beverage of the season, Wassail. There will also be coffee and plenty of Christmas cookies for everyone.

Upcoming

Events



Saturday, December 12
12— 3p.m.

Annual Kindergarten

Holiday Art Show

Fridley History Center

Tuesday, December 15
7 p.m.

Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday, January 9
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
History Center Open House
\$3 admission, free to members

Tuesday, January 19
7 p.m.

History Conversation
At the History Center

Saturday, January 23
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
History Center Open House
\$3 admission, free to members



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

Officers

President Secretary Treasurer Vicki Rockwell Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Beth Hitomi Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080 Meetings: 1st Thursday, 4:05 p.m.

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 p.m.

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, Nov 5, 2009

President Vicki Rockwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present; Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Beth Hitomi, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton. Absent; Judy Anderson and Allen Taylor

Discussion items

A. The 2010 calendar was discussed. The proposed date for the Lasagna dinner is April 24, 2010 at the American Legion Hall.

AugustFest will be August 2.

History conversations will be held January, February, March, May, June, July and November on the third Tuesday of the month.

The 2010 annual meeting will be October 19.

Committee Reports

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that Gargaro will be in charge of the Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair December 12. Gargaro has contacted the kindergarten teachers. There will also be an open house on that date.

Help is needed to pick up the risers and set them up for the Christmas Concert.

City and Family History: A list of people who would like "Fridley— Its History and People" books is being kept. Hopefully a donation will come in so more books can be ordered.

Archives: Bonesteel reported the October display at the Mississippi Branch library has been taken down and he is preparing a display for February in commemoration of Presidents' Day.

Membership: Rockwell plans to get the 2010 membership forms in the mail in early December. We have 194 individual memberships, 14 business and 5 non-profit memberships.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary



We Offer our Condolences



We offer our condolences to Warren and Betty Mortensen whose uncle, Arthur Mortensen, passed away October 27. Arthur was born in Fridley and grew up on the family's dairy farm. As an adult he operated the farm along with his father and brothers Walter and Harry. Later they operated farms in Blaine and Ham Lake. After retiring he touched many lives while selling hay to local hobby farmers and sharing the bounty of his vegetable garden. Services were held October 30 at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Arthur Mortensen and Lowell Norton both grew up in Fridley and were lifelong friends. They are pictured here trading hats while Lowell was home on leave during World War 2. Arthur was deferred from the armed services be-

cause his work on the family farm was considered a necessary service. Lowell served as a medic in Italy, France and Germany.

Membership Committee Update

Watch for a letter coming to you soon giving you the opportunity to renew your membership in the Fridley Historical Society for 2010. Each and every one of you are truly appreciated and we hope that you make the decision to renew. When you receive your letter please respond promptly.

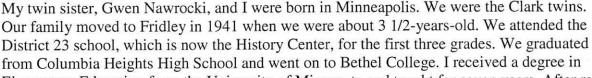


Do you know someone who would enjoy being a member? You could share this opportunity with them or consider giving them a membership as a gift.

The Membership Committee is looking for more members. If you would like to be part of the committee please contact Vicki Rockwell at vr331@comcast.net or 763-571-3669.

Meet the Editor, Grace Norton

When I came on the board I was told that I should write an article introducing myself. It's been a little over a year and I just happen to have some space to fill so it's good time fulfill that duty.





Elementary Education from the University of Minnesota and taught for seven years. After raising my family I worked as a secretary at our church, Salem Baptist in New Brighton, now GracePoint Church..

I was married to Lowell Norton who passed away in January, 2008. Our three children all graduated from Fridley High School. I have a son, Eric, and two stepdaughters, Becky and Roxanne. They have blessed me with seven grandchildren.



HISTORY CONVERSATION #25 "Rotary & Kiwanis Service Clubs"

Gordon Backlund, Secretary, Fridley - Columbia Heights Rotary Club



"We were organized as the Fridley Rotary Club November 29, 1963. We grew to 68 members at the max. We used to meet at Sandee's and later moved to the Shorewood, and currently meet at the Old Country Buffet. We added Columbia Heights to our name in 2003.

We are part of Rotary International which was formed in Chicago in 1905 by Paul Harris. It is now worldwide with 1.2 million members in 20,000 clubs meeting weekly. Each member is in a classification because we wanted to have a cross-section of the community represented.

We have four avenues of service: international, community, vocational, and club service. In international, we have a foundation we all support to do good works around the world. An example is Polio Plus which was to eradicate polio worldwide and currently only four countries have polio cases.

We have student exchange, whereby we send students to other countries and they send students to us for a year's visit, staying with host families for three months at a time. We are involved in many other projects internationally like water wells in India, sending books to the Philippines and Africa, and "Fast for Hope," sending meals to third world countries.

In community service, we sponsor the Fun Run every year before the 49ers Day Parade, sponsored the high school message sign on 61st & W. Moore Lake Drive. We also sponsor a program for seniors at Fridley High called Strive to help students raise their grade point average and provide scholarships. We have an essay contest in Fridley and Columbia Heights High Schools and provide dictionaries to third graders.

In Vocational programs, we have a group study exchange program with business leaders in other countries, a scholarship program for studying abroad. In Club Service we have a golf outing with trophies, wine tasting and an auction to raise money and boat excursions on the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.



Gordon Backlund, Secretary and Fred Bische, President with Rotary Club exhibit

Dale Schuetz, Past President, Columbia Heights - Fridley Kiwanis Club



You may recognize our club by our annual August Tree-Ripened Colorado Peach sale and at Rainbow Foods in September for our annual Peanut Day. You may also recognize us as the monitors of the Columbia Heights Recycling Center.

Kiwanis is a global organization dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International began in 1915 as a civic businessman organization for interacting and interconnecting. Later it changed to become a service-focused organization intent on striving to relate to and meet the needs of the children around the world.



The six objects of Kiwanis are: 1) to give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than the material values of life; 2) to encourage the daily living of the golden rule in all human relationships; 3) to promote the adoption and application of higher social, business and professional standards; 4) to develop by precept and example a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship; 5) to provide through Kiwanis clubs a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities; and 6) to cooperate in creating and maintaining sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

As members of Kiwanis clubs, we have an obligation to provide an opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, time and love and service to community and fellow individuals. Another obligation is the prestige of Kiwanis membership. We enjoy fun, fellowship and evidence of true friendship with those who meet with us.

We have a variety of clubs that focus on different age groups. We have K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Club in high schools. Our Key Club has over 200 members. There are also Action Clubs, Classic Clubs and the Kiwanis Club itself.

Our club just recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary, chartered in 1959. Our current treasurer has been with us all 50 years. Malcolm Watson, former City Manager of Columbia Heights has been a member for 49 years. In the 1980s we added women. We are involved in many service projects in the community and have scholarship programs. We have an "Adopt a Family" project every Christmas. We also support the Fridley Youth Safety Camp.

Kathy Welle, Secretary, Columbia Heights - Fridley Kiwanis Club



Kathy presented a number of items made by the Club to serve troops in Iraq including a tie filled with polymer crystals to keep soldiers cool. She

said "We also make valentines for troops and candy treats. Five years ago we started a special project called 'Keep Cool' with special apparel for soldiers. We invested \$6,000 in this project to serve 150 soldiers and received a recognition flag from the Pentagon."



Card from Battery E in Iraq

Don Rosell, President, Fridley - Columbia Heights Golden Kiwanis



We were chartered in 1984 with 29 members. This club has senior members. We sell peanuts and metro dining cards, build wheel chair ramps for people in need, and are active with youth in the Key Club. We work with the Builder Club kids in Junior High. We also package food for kids in one-day service projects. Thirteen local Kiwanis clubs in April completed the packaging of 61,000 meals and our club actively participated.

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

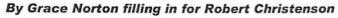
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Grace Norton, Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

Past President's Perceptions





Do you remember Christmases when you were young? If you are as old as I am you'll remember the stores didn't bring out their Christmas decorations and merchandise until after Thanksgiving. It was a big event to go downtown and see Dayton Department Store's window displays of Christmas themes and then go in and see Santa.

Christmas trees were all real. It was a big decision whether to get a balsam, fir or scotch pine. Most of the trees were decorated with tinsel and there were always discussions of how to put it on; on piece at time or just stand back and toss a handful on each branch. Of course the trees didn't go up until just a few days before Christmas and you had to keep the base watered so they didn't dry out.

We celebrated Christmas at school with Christmas programs and actually had nativity scenes. I was always an angel and longed to be Mary just once. Our teachers read "A Christmas Carol" and "The Night Before Christmas" to us and we never got tired of hearing them.

We gathered around the piano and sang Christmas Carols instead of gathering around the TV to watch football games. We can't bring back those days and some of the changes are improvements, but let's all remember the most important part of Christmas is family and friends..