



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427
Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley
December 2013

Don Anderson, Editor

763-588-8578

e-mail: maryanddon3030@aol.com

Board notes...

Society experiences growth and change into 2014

Linda Loomis is working on a Society project to convert the VHS tapes that have been made over the years of our general membership programs to DVD using the equipment that the Society owns. The goal is to put some of the programs on the Society's website/You Tube for access by the public. This is a time consuming project but the end result will be greater viewing of the historic programs by the public.

Dr. James Hera has volunteered to be the Director of Buildings, taking over from Jerry Breth who held that position for many years until his recent illness and death. Dr. Hera is a retired dentist and his skills drilling and sanding teeth shows in his skills with woodworking. He has

big shoes to fill in replacing Jerry Breth in that Society position. The Society thanks him for his services.

The Building Construction Committee met to review three bids from building contractors for the addition proposed for the historic church. After reviewing the details of each bid with architect Bob Shaffer, the committee recommended that the lowest bid contractor be asked to prepare a formal contract. That contract was then forwarded to the Society's lawyer, Lee Mosher, for his review. The board of directors will then review the legal opinion and proceed from there. The goal is to break ground for the addition yet this year. The addition will allow the display the Society's

archive collections on site.

Speaking about archival collections, when the addition is completed the Society will need furnishings for displays, such as bookcases, shelving, store type counter displays, etc. If you have a display type item and wish to donate it, call Secretary Don Anderson (763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com.)

The board of directors has changed the date of their regular monthly meetings from the third Wednesday to the second Wednesday of the month, still at 7:00 p.m., at the historic church. This was done to allow one member of the board to be able to attend the regular meetings.

Cox brings Gettysburg battle to life

The general membership meeting program on November 14 brought out the Civil War hobbyists as John D. Cox in a very animated way told about the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg. Cox himself worked for the National Park System and for eight years was a Gettysburg National Park guide. He was excellent in his descriptions of the hills and valleys, military tactics and officers and soldiers of both the Union Army and the Confederate Forces.

Cox shared many stories about military individuals, their valor,

their wounds, and their deaths or recovery for a future life. When he was guiding a group through the Gettysburg Battle grounds, a woman asked him, "Why were all the battles fought in National Parks?"

During his animated presentation Cox maintained a steady pace up, down and back and forth, to and from the aisle, stage area and back. Must be his method of getting walking exercise.

It was an excellent program and the 39 members' and guests' attention was firmly held by Mr. Cox.

Programs for the new year planned

The Society will not be having a general membership meeting in December.

January 9, 2014 – "The Music and History of Irving Berlin" will be presented by Dan Wascoe and Baibi Vegner.

February 13, 2014 – The program has not been confirmed.

March 13, 2014 – The Sacred Harp singers will demonstrate singing music from the 1800's to the 1900's.

Remember the White House

“Nostalgic Memories” by Fred Wandersee, past president of the Golden Valley Historical Society, from the April 1991 Society newsletter. Fred and his father were local building contractors.

“Before the advent of the 18th amendment, ratified January 16, 1919, an important part of our environment was the old fashioned saloon. The area west of the City of Minneapolis had its share of these places and in retrospect they were probably not as evil as pictured by our avid ‘drys’ or prohibitionists.

Golden Valley had its share of saloons and one such place occupied the area at about 4900 Olson Memorial Highway, (later and formerly the White House). This place was built sometime before 1912 and was owned and operated by a German fellow, Max Pollags (the a in Max was pronounced ah as in father).

The old pre prohibition bars were very practically furnished. The only frivolous item was the mirror over the back bar, usually

trimmed with intricate moldings. Other than the bar itself a prime necessity was the spittoon. The better bars had polished brass spittoons with mats to allow for inaccuracies of some customers. No customer ever stood up to the bar without one foot on the rail.

My dad had built the first saloon for Max and my first memories of the place were in the 1920’s during prohibition. Max kept his place open those years supposedly selling only near beer. We remodeled the houses in the rear in about 1925 and Max generously sent Julius, his bartender, out with pitchers of beer that had quite a wallop. In the barroom he kept a bottle or two of some sort of ‘hooch’ which never poisoned anyone but it did other things. It was sold for about 25 cents per drink and only to people he knew—this included practically everyone.

Repeal of prohibition or the 21st amendment on December 5, 1933, produced a new era. We were still in the middle of the great

depression but the old saloons were opened again and remodeling and redecorating these places provided jobs for the various construction people who had been struggling since the 1929 market crash.

Max sold his business to Pete Doran who, with his wife, Amy, ran the business. Pete Doran was a new name in Golden Valley and his tavern did not enjoy the popularity of Hub Schuller’s tavern two miles to the west, however, he did do well enough to do some repair work, cleaning up and painting. The slot machines in the back room probably boosted his profits somewhat.

In about 1935, Pete Doran acquired a partner named Jack Ennis. They planned a large dance hall on the west side of the tavern and, as usual, we got the job of building it. They advertised it as the largest tavern-connected dance hall in the area at that time. Our contract for the building amounted to \$3,500.” (Editor’s note: Fred Wandersee entered the service in 1941 and lost ties with the enterprise. When he returned in 1946, it was extensively remodeled and soon burned down.)

Cleanup crew

A big thank you to the volunteers who came to the historic church on Saturday, November 2, bringing rakes, pruning devices, work gloves and dressed for the weather. In about an hour and a half they had the yard looking “spic and span”.

The volunteers were: Ken Huber, Crystal Boyd, Brian Boyd, Darren Boyd, Linda Loomis, Nancy Azzam, Leone Johnson, Justin Breth, Jacob Breth, Stan Waldhauser, Jim Hera, Tim Perry, Isaac Lueetke, Simon Petrick, and Willie



Anderson, who brought his wife and two children.

Now the bad news: the next day the grounds looked like they had never been cleaned up! Mother

nature brought winds that blew the remaining leaves off the abundance of trees on our land and the neighbors’ to restore the leafy landscape that had just been cleared away.