



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

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ICONS ON THE FARM – SILOS, WINDMILLS AND TRACTORS



DOUG OHMAN

That program is the latest creation of Doug Ohman of Pioneer Photography and Services, and will be presented at the Society's Thursday, October 13th, general membership meeting.

Travel into rural Minnesota as Doug photographs and learns about these forgotten structures

of the farm. From the earliest wood stave silos to the modern (low oxygen) Harvestore, Doug will share images, stories and information on the importance of these structures to the agricultural vitality of the Midwest. Along with silos, Doug's program also looks at the evolution of wind power. The earliest were simple wooden windmills which access water resources to the farm. Today wind power is an important source of clean electrical energy.

The general membership meeting will be held at the Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program. The program is free and open to the public.

SOCIETY MEMBERS RE-ELECT MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Society members at the September general membership meeting re-elected Kenneth Huber, Nancy Kochenderfer, and Linda Loomis to a three year term on the board of directors. The board now has the following members: Directors with one year remaining on their term of

office: Don Anderson, Crystal Boyd and Scott Goebel; Directors with two years remaining on their term of office: Nancy Azzam and Andy Snope.

At the September 14th board of directors meeting the directors elected Kenneth Huber president, Steve Schmidgall

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

November 10th – The story of the father of the Golden Valley Parks, Council member Ray Stockman, presented by his daughter, Golden Valley Council Member Joanie Clausen.

January 12th, 2017, Barbara Bailey, Golden Valley's first full time Senior Citizens Coordinator from 1977-2005, when she retired after a 50 year career in the Park and Recreation profession, will have a power point presentation of the history of her career in Golden Valley.

February 9th, 2017, Philip Brunelle, a leading American conductor of choral music and opera, a Golden Valley resident, will be at this meeting to share his adventures with music around the world.

All the presentations will be at the Golden Valley Historical Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN. at 7:00 p.m.

vice president, Don Anderson secretary, and Linda Loomis treasurer. Steve Schmidgall is the representative of the Golden Valley City Council and is appointed to the Society board of directors on an annual basis. He also is a member of the Society.

THE STORY OF HOW THE GOLDEN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BECAME THE OWNER OF THE OLDEST CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE/CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

The frame church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, was originally a one room church built by the pioneers. It was a non-denominational congregation served by horseback riding preachers. The preachers soon became members of the Methodist Church and the pioneers also became members of the Methodist Church.

As the arrival of pioneers grew, so did the congregation until it was decided that the frame church was not adequate. The Methodist congregation purchased land and built a new church on Harold Avenue east of Rhode Island and moved into their new church. This now caused the frame church to be vacant.

In the mid 1960's the Christian Science Society of Golden Valley owned a small church at the intersection of Golden Valley Road and Highway 100, when the Highway 100 was a two lane road. The Minnesota Highway Department plan was to make Highway 100 a four lane highway and the little church of the Christian Science Society had to go. The Highway Department

bought the little church and its land and the Christian Science Society bought the frame church from the Methodists. The CS Society continued to meet in their "new" church for about 30 years. But, their congregation numbers began to decrease and in 1996 they decided to sell their church and disband.

The word spread around the City of Golden Valley that the frame church would be put on the market for sale. Some of the members of the Historical Society believed that the frame church would be torn down and the land used for some other purpose. The members of the Society met and discussed the pros and cons of being a real estate owner. By a very close vote the members voted to attempt to purchase the frame church. The next item on the agenda was how will the Society raise the funds to purchase the church? Ideas like having bake sales, hot dish sales, cookie and pie sales were tossed about. However, it was agreed that this method of raising \$86,000 would take centuries to accomplish. Sitting in the back of the meeting room a

little lady asked, "Would it be all right if one person donated the \$86,000 to purchase the frame church?" There was silence in the room! The members all agreed that the little lady could donate the funds. The purchase agreement was drawn up and signed. The real estate title work and closing was handled pro-bono by Equity Title Company. On July 1, 1997, the closing was held and the Golden Valley Historical Society now owned the oldest church in Golden Valley. The goal was to take out all of the pews and turn the church into a museum for the citizens of the community. However, couples began to tell the Society that they had such a cute church, could they get married there? The board of directors said that we were in no hurry and that would be fine. So...20 years later and 192 weddings having taken place in the frame church, the Society has built an addition which will become the museum in the near future.

(Editor's note: The little lady at the back of the meeting room, who donated the funds which made it all possible was Shirley Schultz.)

Fall has arrived! That triggers the fall historic church yard cleanup!

Calling all historic church yard cleanup volunteers! The date is Saturday, October 8th, at the historic church from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Bring your work gloves, leaf rake, leaf blower (gas fired or electric), and branch trimmer. Dress for the weather. Many hands make the job get done quickly. Your two hands are welcome and appreciated.

IN REVIEW:

At the September 8th general membership meeting Steve Marking had a fascinating presentation with power point photos of the logging industry on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers in the 1900's. The old photos showed how the loggers tied together wood rafts on which

cut logs were stacked. These rafts were then floated down the rivers, steered by long oars, to their destination downstream. Shown were photos of the steamboats, which in later years assisted the rafts by pushing them. Lots of "Oh's and AH's from the members and guests attending.