



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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Golden Valley Days ...

Society highlights GV development

The Golden Valley Historical Society had a prominent location at the small picnic shelter and two adjoining tents in Brookview Park. Volunteers put together many displays from the archives for the enjoyment of visitors. These included two large aerial photos—one taken in 1946, which showed much vacant land, and the other taken some years later when residential development in the city was really evident. Visitors were challenged to locate their current residence on the aerial photos.

Another display showed the farms of Golden Valley, including the name of each landowner and the number of acres in each farm. Again, visitors were challenged to locate their current residence and identify who owned the farm that they now live on.

The concrete floor of the picnic shelter was an ideal surface on which kids could ride the antique kids riding toys owned by Society President Ken Huber. This was the major attraction for both kids and their parents. Huber brought the toys to the park in a rented “you haul” truck and he and other Society volunteers carried the toys to the picnic shelter. The antique riding toys brought back memories for parents and smiles of joy to the kids.

Don Minor and Rudi Martignacco rode and drove Minor’s restored Ford pick-up truck in the parade. Martignacco drove, his left leg and foot getting a real workout as he worked the clutch of the vehicle. Over all we would agree that this year’s Golden Valley Days event was very successful, if windy.

It's time to renew Society membership

Enclosed with this newsletter is a bright red Society membership application/dues renewal for fiscal year 2012-2013. Please complete the information on the form to update your information in the upcoming member roster book and return in the envelope provided. Members who have life-



time membership status do not need to send dues but we would like to have your current information for the roster book, and of course, additional financial support can always be put to good use. Those new members who just joined in the winter/spring of 2012 are paid up for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

10th annual antique show set for June 30

The Society is co-hosting the 10th annual Antique Appraisal Show in cooperation with Heather’s Estates at 2900 Douglas Drive; on Saturday, June 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. Think about items you have at home and often wondered what their value might be. Bring them to the Heather’s Estates on June 30 for an oral appraisal. The cost is only \$5.00 per item – What a bargain! All proceeds go to the Society for building restoration. A flyer is enclosed with more details.

Church gets needed exterior renovations

This spring the Society’s historic church underwent some exterior renovations. G. Gardner Concrete replaced the front steps to the building and replaced the old, cracked front sidewalk. Midstate Seamless Gutters replaced the leaking gutters and downspouts and Kathrode Construction refinished the hand-capped accessible ramp, handrails and steps.

The flowers around the building are in bloom and volunteer gardeners have been busy weeding and pruning. The historic church is looking its best ever thanks to some dedicated volunteers.

Q: Who was the first mayor of Golden Valley?

A: U. R. Wilson, who served as mayor from March 1887 to 1891.

“This is my valley, my Golden Valley.”

One of the first families that moved into the area was the Varner family. In 1854 William Varner and his wife and sons, two year old Lonie and year-old Clark, left their home in Ohio and made the trip to St. Anthony Falls. Leaving his wife and sons in town, William took his hatchet and rifle and headed West to find a home site.

He skirted lakes, slogged through swamps and marshes, climbed hills, and finally came to the foot of a hill so high that he thought it was a mountain. He climbed the hill and looking down he could see the whole valley lush

and green dotted with golden daffodils. In the distance he could see a lake shining in the sunlight and he said, “This is my valley, my Golden Valley. This will be my home and the home of my children”.

The spot on which Varner stood is now the Golden Valley Golf and Country Club with the clubhouse standing on a hill that was much higher before it was whittled down by nature and man. Varner brought his wife and sons to the site, built a log cabin, and homesteaded the land. Source: Golden Valley Minnesota 1886-1986, Golden Valley Historical Society.

Street signs available for purchase

At the May 15 meeting of the Golden Valley City Council the council voted to donate old city street signs to the Society as they are replaced with new reflective signs. The Society now has in its possession some 500 signs from the east side of the city. The signs are being sold on a first come first served basis for \$25.00 each on an as is condition. The signs could be

used for a garden addition, amusement room or office display, birthday or father’s day gift. Details and an order blank are enclosed with this newsletter. The signs will be on display at the Farmer’s Market in Golden Valley and at other events taking place in the city during the summer. For questions please email or call Secretary Don Anderson.

Asphodel, but for a royal lisp?

Well, it’s a long way ’round, but the name of the plant and its flower that we call a daffodil were originally and properly still should be asphodel, though the later name denotes a kind of narcissus rather than a true asphodel. In the fifteenth century, perhaps at first in imitation of some king or prince who lisped, folks began to change asphodel to affodill. Then in the sixteenth century, perhaps to give the word a Frenchified aspect (such as in alter-

ing Albert to D’Albert), the name suddenly gained a new initial, and daffodil was born. The names daffodilly and daffodowndilly are merely poetic substitutions, used as early as the sixteenth century, even by so renowned a poet as Edmund Spenser. So now you know!

Quoted from “2107 Curious Word Origins, Sayings & Expressions” by Charles Earle Funk, copyright 1958, publishers Harper Collins, Inc., New York City, N.Y.

Luce Line Railroad ran through GV from 1912 to 1948

On the second floor of the Golden Valley City Hall is a display case holding a “Golden Valley” sign. The “Golden Valley” sign formerly was mounted on a post on the Luce Line Railroad right of way on the East side of Winnetka Avenue at 10th Avenue North. The sign indicated to the railroad crew that they had reached a Golden Valley stop.

In 1912 the Electric Luce Line Railroad, owned by Colonel D. Luce, was cut through the village. The track ran East-West and was the only form of public transportation available to the people of Golden Valley. There was no depot and prospective passengers had to flag down the train.

The Luce Line was later purchased by the Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern Railway. This was the best form of transportation until trucking came along. This new cheap form of transportation caused a definite decline in the use of the railroad by the villagers. By 1948 there were no passenger runs and only two freight runs through the village.

Passengers from the Winnetka Avenue stop got off at Second Avenue North and 7th Street in Minneapolis. The trains went west 32 miles to Watertown.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad donated the “Golden Valley” sign to the Golden Valley Historical Society on February 20, 1995.