



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
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**Thursday, March 13, meeting...**

## Sacred Harp methods teach beginners to harmonize

The **March 13, 2014**, general membership meeting will be a participatory program born from colonial “singing schools,” whose purpose was to teach beginners to sing. Sacred Harp methods continue to reflect this goal. Sacred Harp is a uniquely American tradition that brings communities together to sing four-part hymns and anthems. Beginners and newcomers are welcome—no musical experience or religious affiliation required. Join in for a joyful evening of making music with Golden Valley neighbors. All general membership meetings are held at the Society’s historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow the Sacred Harp sing.

The **April 10, 2014**, general membership program, “Hold Your Breath...Here Comes Trouble!” will be presented by local authors,



John and Joseph Gindele, twin brothers, who grew up in a tenement flat in Yorkville on Manhattan’s ethnic Upper East Side in the 1940’s, 50’s, and 60’s. They later moved to Minnesota, taught grades

K-University for a combined 64 years, and earned doctorate degrees. This, too, will be at the Society’s historic church at 7 p.m.

## Church addition taking shape

Architect Robert Shaffer reported to the board of directors that starting Monday, February 17, roofing would begin, weather permitting. Siding material, already prime-painted, was expected to arrive the following Monday. Once on site, work will begin on the exterior: windows, siding and trim. Once the building is enclosed, the contractor will be able to heat the inside. This will allow them to thaw

the ground and foundation and to pour the concrete floor slab. As with most projects in Minnesota this winter, the project schedule has been delayed by extreme temperatures. Construction is currently about two weeks behind schedule, but Heritage will be trying to make up some of that time. Members, take note that there really is an addition now behind the historic church!

## Recent accession

**Barbara Crolley** has donated a 1930 vintage metal lawn sprinkler.

## In Memoriam

Our condolences to the families of **Eleanor and Ray Johnson** and **Lyle Mottinger**. Lyle was a long time member of the Society’s board of directors and active participant in the Society’s many activities. They will all be missed.

## Your next issue of this newsletter may arrive on your computer via e-mail

With the rising costs of printing and mailing, and public interest in reducing clutter and conserving resources, the Society would like to distribute the newsletter electronically to those who use e-mail and to continue to mail printed copies only to those who are not “connected” to e-mail.

Advantages for e-mail connected members: (1) faster delivery; (2) photos on screen can be viewed in their original color rather than black and white; (3) email distribution to members will allow the newsletter to be enlarged for those who would like a “large print” edition.

For the Golden Valley Historical Society, printing and mailing costs could be reduced by 66%,

freeing up dollars to “keep the lights on” and help operate the new museum addition. The newsletter’s content could also be expanded to include more information at no extra cost.

What do you need to do? Nothing if the Society already has your e-mail address on file, unless you would prefer to receive a printed newsletter by mail. In that case, simply respond to the first electronic mailing, indicating your preference. If the Society does not have an e-mail address for you and you do not provide one, your copy will arrive via U.S. Mail as usual. Your assistance in helping to make the Society more efficient will be appreciated.

## Luce Line RR cut through Golden Valley

On the second floor of the Golden Valley City Hall is a glass display case containing many items representing the history of the city. On the top shelf is a long metal sign that simply reads, “Golden Valley.”

That “Golden Valley” sign was formerly mounted on a wooden 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 tracks ran East and West and were the only form of public transportation available to the people of Golden Valley.

There was no depot and prospective passengers had to “flag

down” to stop the train. Passengers from the Winnetka stop got off at the intersection of 2nd Avenue North and 7th Street in Minneapolis. The trains went west 32 miles to Watertown, MN.

The Luce Line was later purchased by the Minneapolis-Northfield and Southern Railway. This was the best form of bulk transportation until truck lines came into being. That new cheaper form of commercial 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.

The “Golden Valley” sign was donated to the Society in 1995 by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

February review...

## Home cures explained

On February 13, Howard Amundson filled a six-foot table with assorted bottles, boxes, odd shaped containers and items with no container at all, telling his audience a story about each item and the ailment it was supposed to cure. They were old home remedies, mainly very simple household or garden items. Strangely enough, many actually did cure some of the pains and illnesses of those who lived in the years surrounding the great depression. Audience members were able to add their own recollections of many of these remedies.

## More about street names

The first alphabet of street names in Golden Valley included Xerxes, Young, and Zenith Avenues North. There was no special meaning in the names; they were simply selected to fill out the alphabet. Young Avenue was changed to York Avenue North in 1948.

Golden Valley streets in the second – first suburban – alphabet were all Avenues: France, Georgia, Hilltop (changed to Georgia in 1948), Indiana, Virginia (changed to Indiana in 1948), June North (South was added in 1946), Jean (changed to June North in 1946). Ardmore Drive was changed to June Avenue North in 1948 and then from Glenwood Avenue North to the Minnesota Western Railroad back to Ardmore Drive in 1956.

Then there are Kyle and Kyle Place; Lee Avenue (changed from Merribee Drive in 1948), Major Avenue, Major Circle and Major Drive, followed by Noble Avenue. Kennedy Road became Gearty Road, then Vilas, and then Noble Avenue. ....to be continued.