



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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WHAT DOES THE RETAIL APOCALYPSE OF TODAY MEAN TO GOLDEN VALLEY?



PAULA PENTEL

The speaker at the February 13th general membership meeting of the Society will be Paula Pentel who is the Program Coordinator, Urban Studies Program, Department of Geography, at the University of Minnesota. Her presentation is titled, From General Stores to Virtual buying. How has retail evolved, and how has it affected places? She will look at the history of retail, the rise of the shopping center and the

retail apocalypse that has changed retail, perhaps forever. What does this mean for places like Golden Valley? Mark your calendar to attend to hear this Urban Geographer. The program is held at the Society's historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn 55427, and starts at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments are served following the program and the meeting is free and open to the public.

IN REVIEW:

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED ON JANUARY 9TH?

A fine time was had by those attending GVHS's Jan. 9 "What in the World (and Golden Valley) Happened in 1886?" history-talk. A local history magician, speaker David Kuball held the audience spellbound during the program and moderated a great discussion with our history-smart attendees afterward. The audience of 28 included soon-to-be Board member Larry Fonnest and some new faces as well. Bring a friend or neighbor to the next program and let's make some history! Jim Elert (jimekert@comcast.net)

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNCILMAN LARRY FONNEST APPOINTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE ON THE SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

This procedure dates back to 1997 when the Golden Valley Historical Society purchased the historic church at 6731 Golden Valley Road from the Christian Science Society of Golden Valley. (Golden Valley Historical Society members, Shirley and Chester Schultz, donated the \$84,000. to the Society which made the purchase possible.) The Society Board of Directors asked the Golden Valley City Council for a \$10,000. grant as seed money to maintain the historic church. The City Council approved the grant but agreed that a member of the City Council should

become a member of the Society Board of Directors and keep the City Council advised as to how those funds were being used. Thus, there has been a member of the City Council on the Society Board of Directors, appointed each January. The last council member to serve in that position was former Councilmember Steven Schmidgall. Fonnest will attend starting with the next Society Board of Directors meeting on February 12th. The original \$10,000 grant was used for educational purposes on the direction of the city council and the last dollar was recently spent.

THE BIES HOUSE – 8401 MEDICINE LAKE ROAD –

Dorothy Wandersee, Historian of the Golden Valley Historical Society, wrote in 1980 about the Bies House at 8401 Medicine Lake Road, which was built about a hundred years ago. "The hundred-year old house stands on a hill overlooking busy Medicine Lake Road, surrounded by modern homes, churches, and the bustling Midland Shopping Center. Like many young people, David Bies was dissatisfied with the hard life in Germany, with little opportunity, he left home. He made his way to the nearest seaport where he boarded a ship for America. After the long, rough journey, he reached New York and traveled across the country and finally reached the land west of the Mississippi that had just been opened to settlers. It was 1855 when the twenty-year old David reached St. Anthony and crossed the Mississippi to stake his claim in what is now Golden Valley. His forty acres lay just north of the present Medicine Lake Road, the site of the Midland Shopping Center. David built a log cabin and worked hard clearing

his land. Meanwhile, the Civil War broke out and on August 22, 1862, David enlisted in the Union Army. He served with Company K of the Eighth Regiment of the Minnesota Volunteers. On July 11, 1865 he was discharged as a corporal and, anxious to return to his home, he hurried back to Golden Valley. When he arrived, he was greeted by his father, mother, and brother and sisters. They all came from Germany and had been caring for David's land in his absence. Other families were soon making their home in the area and the community was rapidly growing. The cabins were small and contained only the bare necessities. The men worked from sunrise to sundown clearing the land. Rocks were dug up and piled around the patch of land to be planted with potatoes, corn and other vegetables. The plow was pulled by oxen who also hauled supplies in heavy, cumbersome carts. Most of the furniture was made by the men when time could be taken from the seemingly endless clearing of the land." (TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MARCH ISSUE.)

VISITORS TO THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM COMMENT ON THE CITY'S 150TH BIRTHDAY:

Museum visitors are asked to comment on what they think Golden Valley will have/be like when the city reaches 150 years old: Here are some of the quotes: "A place where multiple generations support one another and multiple ethnic and racial groups learn from one other's cultures." "More residents, hopefully fewer

cars, Strong sense of community, wouldn't live anywhere else." "The Commons will have a grocery store." "In 2036, Vikings will win the Super Bowl." When you and your friends visit the museum look for the display with the Post-it Pads and give us your vision of the future of our great City of Golden Valley.

GVHS MUSEUM GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY:

Saturday Feb 1 Don Anderson
Thursday Feb 6 Dwight Townes
Saturday Feb 8 David Kuball
Thursday Feb 13 ? maybe you?
Saturday Feb 15 Jim Elert
Thursday Feb 20 Dwight Townes
Saturday Feb 22 Steve Schmidgall
Thursday Feb 27 Judy Hoover
Saturday Feb 29 Don Anderson
The Society's award-winning museum is open to the public on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Greeter Committee welcomes members to become greeters. These winter days new greeters are needed to fill the ranks as many members are traveling, entertaining friends and family, and are not available. For more information about volunteering for one day a month as a museum greeter, contact Secretary Don Anderson. But do it now!. (maryanddon3030@aol.com or 763-588-8578).

MEMBER BETTY CREWS SEEKS NOTES AND LETTERS:

Long time Society member Betty Crews has sent us her new address (through her daughter) and would like to hear from our members. Her address is: Betty Crews, Chippewa Manor, Room 110, 222 Chapman Road, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729.

REMEMBER RED SKELTON? HERE IS A COUPLE OF HIS ONE LINER'S:

Remember, Marriage is the number one cause of divorce. I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always. Can't you just hear him say this? Those were the good old days when humor didn't have to start with a four-letter word. It was just clean and simple fun.