



Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of the Woodbury Heritage Society



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Margaret Wachholz
Carl Anderson
Tom Bielenberg

8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651.714.3564
www.woodburyheritage.org
heritagesocietywoodbury@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Carl James Anderson

carljanderson@comcast.net
19320 Claremont Drive
Farmington, MN 55024

Miller Barn News

We are waiting for the spring and the construction on the park to be finished so we can begin to enjoy the refurbished Miller Barn!



What the work on the barn looked like during construction.



Heritage House Open Dates for 2022

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| June 12 | June 26 |
| July 10 | July 24 |
| August 14 | August 28 |
| September 11 | September 25 |

Hours are 1 to 4 PM. We hope you will come and see this piece of our history!

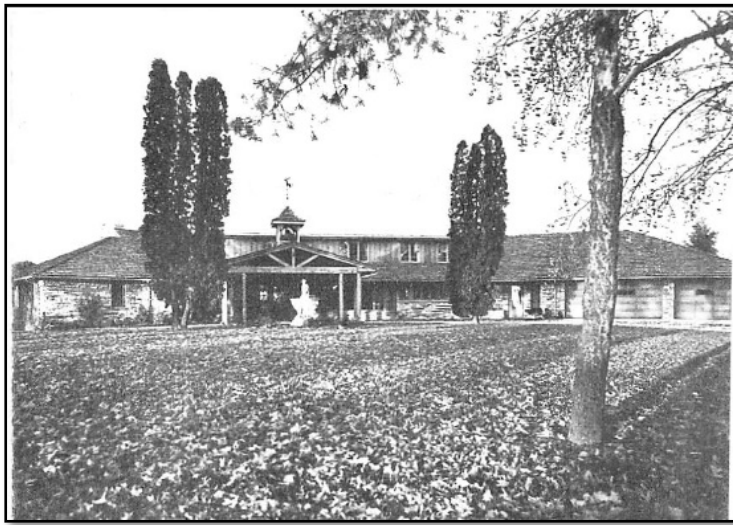


A History of Powers Lake

By Larry Morgan

(The first section of this history was published in our June 2021 issue, the second in our September issue, and the third in our December issue).

An existing “French Farmhouse” on the property was demolished to make way for the mansion. The Kindy mansion included a large fireplace/hearth on the first floor and six additional fireplaces distributed throughout the house; a handball court and pool table were located on the lower level and an indoor swimming pool on the main level. The family room on the main level sported two-story windows which provided an excellent lake view. It had a semi-circular driveway and a carport at the front door.



The Kindy Mansion as Viewed from the Front Lawn



The Kindy Mansion as Viewed from Powers Lake



One of the Seven Fireplaces



Two-Story Windows in the Family Room Provided an Excellent View of the Lake



Swimming Pool on the Main Floor



1969 Aerial Photograph of the Kindy Mansion



1957 Photograph of the Kindy Family.

Left to right: Laddie (the family dog), Sue, Norma, Phillips Senior, William (Monty), James (in the hat), Phillips, Jr. (Skip) and Chris.

The Kindy home was featured in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune on December 27, 1959. The article headed the Home and Hobby section of the paper (see the following photos).

[illegible]

By Stephanie Brown

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

People who have visited the Phillips Kindy home call it "fantastic," "magnificent" and "incredible."

Said one person, "My whole house would fit into their family room."

The lady of the house sums it up this way: "It is big—and it's different. But we certainly live in it."

And Mrs. Kindy is right. The family of seven does "live" in the home—nestled in an isolated-looking farm 12 miles east of downtown St. Paul in Harmony Hills, Newport.

"Incredible" is an appropriate word for the home's facilities for leisure-time activities. It isn't often one finds as many sports facilities in and around a home in this area.

Inside the three-story Kindy home are a swimming pool, rifle range, combination volleyball, badminton, handball and basketball court, Trampoline, pool table and table tennis outfit.

Around the 10 acres, which adjoin the home, is a stable for the Kindy's four horses and two colts.

"On our lake (Harmony lake at the foot of their home) we sail and water ski in the summer and skate in the winter," said Mrs. Kindy.

"We hope to clear some of the sloping area for the beginning of a cross-country ski run," she added. "Then all we'd need would be snow.

"I never think of us as a sporting family, but I guess we are. We do everything—except golf. That's for old age."

2022 Annual Meeting

We are still planning for our WHS annual meeting. If it occurs before the June issue, we will notify the membership via email.

Woodbury Expo April 2nd

The Woodbury Expo is happening on April 2nd! We would like to encourage everybody to attend, and to visit our WHS booth. We will have displays about Woodbury history and items for sale, including *A Past to Remember*.

REMINDER

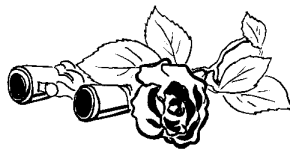
2022 memberships are due. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. Contact our treasurer, Rick Osborn, to get yourself up to date and to continue to enjoy the Woodbury Heritage Society! Thanks!

The Heritage House will be Getting a Facelift!

One of our projects for this year involves making some repairs and improvements to the Heritage House and its environment. We will be looking for people to help with this work. We need to scrape the doors and repaint them. We also need to repair and reinforce the ramp at the back, clean and weed the areas around the house, and plant new perennials. We would gladly accept donations of paint or plants (or money). If you are interested in participating in the preservation of this historical site, please contact Joyce Flynn at joyce_flynn@msn.com.

Emily Wolterstorff

Emily Wolterstorff, a lifelong resident of Woodbury, passed away at the age of 97 on January 15, 2022. She is survived by her children Dennis (Julie), David (Karen) and Nancy (Ian); grandchildren Erin, Michael (Molly) and Nate (Katie); great-grandchildren Jonathan, David, Emily, Isabelle, Savannah, Alexa, Michael, Emma and Alice as well as nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert; grandson Robert Christopher; parents George and Edith; and her brothers Earl and Ralph. The burial will be at the Cottage Grove Cemetery at a later date.



A Glance to the Past - Woodbury Roads

Life in Woodbury – submitted by Joyce Flynn. Excerpt taken from “Woodbury: A Past To Remember” by the Woodbury Heritage Society.

The first road laid in Woodbury was the old Military Road, running from the southeast corner of the town on the line between Woodbury and Cottage Grove to the east line of Section 33, then northwest through Sections 33, 32, 29, and 30 to St. Paul, known as the St. Paul and Point Douglas Road. This was surveyed by Captain Stimson in 1849.

The first road laid by the town was surveyed in 1852. Running from the east line between Sections 24 and 25, on the same line to the west line of the town, this road is now known as Bailey Road. The next road, known as the Afton and St. Paul Road, was run from the southeast corner of Section 22 diagonally across the town to the northwest corner of Section 6. A road on the north line of the town, known as the St. Paul and Hudson Road, was a territorial road. Dirt roads were built and all fields well-fenced to protect the fields from roaming cattle which were then allowed to feed on the road sides.

In 1860 the first money was levied for the building of roads in the township. These roads were usually along section lines, running north and south, east and west. Many times it was impossible to follow the exact line and many curves were in the roads because of sloughs, lakes, and hills. Sometimes roads were shifted one-fourth mile either direction to serve previously built homes, or because of the terrain which made construction impossible.

In some instances the roads were located to service a particular area where residents traveled frequently, such as the east-west road that extends from what is now Tower Drive to the Town of Newport. It was built primarily to shorten the distance for the farmers who hauled their whole milk to Newport for processing and brought back the skim milk to feed their animals. Therefore, it was known as the Buttermilk Road for many years. Sunnyhill Drive, a little-used road at the present time, obtained its name from the hills that it traversed. It also shortened the distance to Langdon, which was an active business area for the farmers to patronize. Other roads usually obtained their names from people who lived along the road or from some characteristic of the area. An example would be a main road in Woodbury which at one time was called the Poor Farm Road because it extended into Ramsey County to the Poor Farm. Woodlane Drive, at one time called Pig Tail Alley by many of the residents, derived its name from the very hilly and crooked nature of the terrain.

According to the records what is now Radio Drive was not built until about 1905, thereby completing approximately thirty-five miles of road. As years went by, some of the roads that were built were not used extensively and became merely trails. As the methods of road construction improved and the automobile traffic became more evident, some of the curves were removed and leveling of the hills was made possible.

Many times during the winter months roads would be made through the fields because of the heavy snow. In the early days automobiles could only be used in the summer and the sleighs would again be used in the winter. Gradually the roads were upgraded, using horses or mules on the equipment and the farmers contributing their work as part of paying off their tax obligation. Scrapers were used to make ditches and the gravel was hauled from the areas where gravel was located throughout the community. Gravel was always pitched on to the wagon by shovel. It was not unusual for many farmers to spend many days throughout the year working to improve the roads.

The Town Board appointed road supervisors, usually farmers who lived in the area, to be responsible for the upkeep. They saw to it that the roads were dragged to close ruts, snow fences erected, road sides mowed, and generally kept in passable condition through the spring and summer. Some roads were designated by the County Board as county roads.

With the advent of more automobile traffic in the early 1920s, it became necessary to attempt to keep the roads passable throughout the year. Some of the first attempts made at plowing them were done with a sled and plank or plow pushing the snow to the side. During 1925-1930 the township and county hired men with caterpillar tractors with a V-plow in the front. This was a time-consuming process and many times the roads could not be opened before they were blown shut again. It was not unusual for many farmers to be snowed in for weeks at a time, thereby making it quite an event to see the snow plow coming down the road so that you could go to town to get supplies such as food, coal, and feed for the animals.

The first snow plowing with heavy equipment was done by Clarence Hoekstra, Bill Hudson, and Edgar Nippoldt. As the winter deepened and the drifts became larger, often it was nearly impossible to plow the roads and many of the farmers had to go out with shovels to help the snow plows get through the drifts.

During the 1930s trucks also came into use for plowing, oftentimes speeding up the plowing. In 1951 after an unusually heavy snow, especially in the month of March, it became necessary to hire more highway contractors to clear the roads at great expense to the township. The Town Board then initiated a program to upgrade all the township roads so as to eliminate a lot of the snow problems, especially over the years. With the upgrading, the problems were greatly reduced.

In the mid-thirties the first blacktop road was constructed. It was the Afton Road extending from what is now Century Avenue eastward to what is now Woodbury Drive. As time went on, more roads were blacktopped by Woodbury. One mile of Tower Drive was the first road blacktopped and at a cost of \$7500. Since that time Woodbury has blacktopped additional roads as finances have permitted. Until 1935 all the roads were maintained by the farmers. About 1940 the township purchased its first motorized grader which was operated by Ben Wolterstorff. After several years this grader was traded in and another with snow plow was purchased to maintain the roads throughout the year.

In 1955 the first residential areas began developing and also people (who commuted to St. Paul and other areas for work) began coming into the area. The development of this area, and additional areas since that time, have greatly increased the number of miles of street maintenance. As of today we have 55 miles of road.

Dream of a Vision

The poem in the night
Catches light
In a silver vase,
Shining in remembrance
Like a star
Strung in space.

Carl James Anderson

The Washington County Heritage Center and the Woodbury Heritage Society exhibit

By Carl Anderson

The Washington County Heritage Center is a genuine pleasure to visit! I had the opportunity to go there recently. I went mostly to see the display by the Woodbury Heritage Society, but I also toured the entire facility. The building is spacious and comfortable, and very welcoming. The historical displays are beautifully arranged, with informative signs explaining the artifacts, some innovative interactive displays, and aesthetically pleasing layouts.

The location is easy to get to, and there is plenty of easy and free parking. The staff is friendly and helpful, and they have a very nice gift shop with many interesting books and pieces of historical memorabilia.

I was very interested in a display they had about John Runk, a Stillwater photographer who captured the history of the town throughout his life. The photos were fascinating, as was the life's story of this unique chronicler of history.

There were also displays of local Native American artifacts and culture, and local minor league baseball.

And, of course, a colorful presentation by the Woodbury Heritage Society, full of compelling reminders of the mostly agricultural history of that area.

I highly recommend that anyone interested in history take advantage of this lovely center! You can find it at 1862 Greeley Street in Stillwater, MN. The phone is: 651-439-5956.



Our President, Wayne Schilling, at the Exhibit

Update on our Interpretive Planning Process

Our current Interpretive Assessment project, funded by a grant through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, will help identify stories to tell moving forward and ways to best engage the public. The process will result in a consultation report that provides an evaluation of the current visitor experience, assessing Why We Interpret (mission, goals, vision), Who It's For (audience), What It's About (stories), and Where We Stand (resources such as the site, primary sources, and partnerships) and make recommendations that support the Who to meet the Why.

This document is the outcome of the first step in the assessment process. Before deciding on media to use to deliver Woodbury's history, we need to understand the foundations described above: Why We're Interpreting, Who It's For, and What It's About. We also need to take stock of Where We Stand, with some review of strengths and weaknesses.

To review those foundations, WHS contacted a group of 39 community leaders. Together with board members, this group was provided with an open-ended survey coming at those foundational questions from different angles. The results helped seed two Zoom-based workshops: with community members on January 27 and with members of the Board on February 4.

During those workshops, polls were taken that provided some additional focus. Though the sample sizes are small, we found this information helpful to our discussion.

Our Next Steps: The 106 Group will address comments from this review and move forward into suggestions for interpretive media: programs, events, tours, exhibits, and waysides. The Woodbury Heritage Society's goal is to engage the public in Woodbury's heritage in order to strengthen the community's bonds to each other and to this place.

Website Update

We are still working with our bank to be sure our electronic payment system will function correctly. We apologize for the delay. We hope the website will soon be accepting applications for membership, subscription fees, and donations. Thank you for your patience!

Help us Preserve our Heritage!

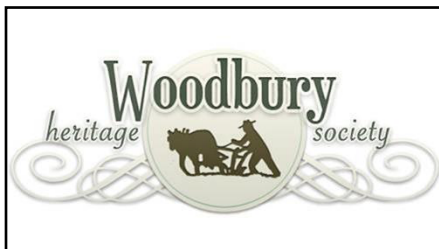
The Woodbury Heritage Society will gladly accept donations to help us preserve our history. We have agreed to help the city with the maintenance costs of the Miller Barn after it has been restored.

We would really appreciate your assistance!

Historical Quotes:

There is no life that does not contribute to history.

— Dorothy West, "The Living Is Easy" (1948)



8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Woodbury Heritage Society

2022 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please check appropriate line)

_____ \$30 per individual (Annual Dues for the Calendar Year)

_____ \$35 per household

_____ \$1000 lifetime membership

_____ Additional Gift

Areas of interest: _____

Donations are tax deductible. Send application & check or money order to:

Woodbury Heritage Society
Rick Osborn, Membership Chair
City Hall
8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125