

◆ Heritage Happenings ◆

Volume 15, Issue 1

Newsletter of Woodbury Heritage Society

October 1998



OCTOBER MEETING WOODBURY HERITAGE SOCIETY 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 27, 1998 St. John Lutheran Church 1975 St. John's Drive, Woodbury

- Our speaker of the evening will be Jerry Fritsch of Newport who is an interpreter at Ft. Snelling. He impersonates Colonel Josiah Snelling. It should be a great evening!
- We have a number of photos of the July 26th Open House that you will be able to look at. If you have any, please bring them along.

Come join us for an interesting evening. Refreshments will be served after the program with time to visit with friends.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1997-98 MEETING OF THE WOODBURY HERITAGE SOCIETY

For those of you who were unable to attend the 1997-98 Annual Meeting of the Heritage Society, the following summary of activities of the last year will bring you up to date:

Financial Report through May 15, 1998:

Money Market savings balance of \$1,255.75. Money Market checking balance of \$5,476.48.

History Research Room:

Thirty-eight items were accessioned to the collection of the Heritage Society housed in the History Room at Woodbury City Hall. These included a District #27 photo of students and teacher, Miss Chilton, ca. 1900, by James Mahle and a glass lamp and curling iron from Ruth Wessman. Individuals and newspapers requested information from records of the Heritage Society. Artifacts were furnished to one of the elementary schools for children to identify

Heritage House and Garden Project

During the 1997-98 Heritage Year, work related to the Heritage House included repairing and painting walls and ceilings, woodwork, and floor. The entrance to the house was completed. In the spring of 1998 final preparations were made for the open house to be held in July.

New business:

Eileen Krueger and Ken Wolterstorff were reelected to the Board. Orville Bielenberg chose not to be on the ballot and a replacement for Julie Seemann was needed. Don Lindeman and Margaret Slater were selected to fill the vacancies.

For the program at the annual meeting, Ed Robb of Afton talked about his book Afton Remembered. It was interesting to hear.

In this issue:

Summary of 1997-98 Annual Meeting

Heritage House & Garden Open house

Heritage House Needs

Board of Directors

Memorials Received

Memorial Plaque

HERITAGE HOUSE AND GARDEN OPEN HOUSE**JULY 26, 1998**

Saturday preparations for the open house consisted of putting up two large canopy tents, getting boards to go across the bales of hay for seating, working on last minute things in the house and garden. Our garden was just beautiful. The next day pictures were taken of the garden with the house in the background.

What a wonderful day we had on Sunday for the open house. All the planning could never have given us a better day. It dawned sunny and with a breeze. On Sunday morning, the area was buzzing with last minute touches here and there. The extra furniture that Len Czikkalla had promised arrived—what a nice addition! (We bought the dry sink.) The eight tractors came, five old cars, and a horse and buggy. These were all placed outside the fence on the bank. The smaller items were inside the fence as were the two canopy tents.

Before noon approximately fifty people were stopping by to look it over. The open house wasn't to start before 2:00 p.m. The door was closed at 1:00 p.m. so last minute things could be done.

At 2:00 p.m. the Dedication and Ribbon Cutting was held. Short speeches were given by Co-Chairmen Ken Wolterstorff and Bud Urtel, Mayor Bill Hargis, Community Development Director Dwight Picha, and Parks and Recreation Director Bob Klatt. At this time, it was estimated we had 250 to 300 people on the grounds. What a tribute to all the work that had been done by so many people in the last three years.

Gerald Heinbuch brought the baby-sitter for the afternoon—a hand corn sheller and seed sorter. The children couldn't get the two bushels of corn shelled fast enough—no amount of coaxing could slow them down. (We should have had an extra bushel of corn.) They sorted seed all afternoon with two pails they poured it in and caught it and started all over again.

In the house was a very fitting picture exhibit of the Rath Family who built the house in 1870 and the Stutzman Family who bought it in 1903. A lot of history was made in that house as it served as a temporary home for different families in the early years. This house was an add-on to a log cabin. (The cabin was gone before any of our people could remember it.)

We had a table where we had things to sell:

- Woodbury a Past to Remember
- Woodbury Community Club Cook Books
- Note Cards

Displayed near the registration table were garden produce and small antique articles.

We had on hand thirty-five books of A Past To Remember which sold out completely along with our cook books. In fact, people were signing up on a list to get either or both of these at a later time. We had to make a second printing of the cook books which are now almost gone, too. It seems to be a very popular item.

The "Fresh Squeezed Country" band played old time music for an hour. The stories of several Woodbury women were read as a tribute to mothers by daughters, a granddaughter, and a grandson.

(continued on page 4)

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HERITAGE HOUSE

Woodbury Heritage Society received a gift of money to be used to purchase extra things we need to have in the house for open houses. So far many of the items on display were loaned for the day and then taken home.

If anyone has any of the following items they would be interested in donating or selling to the Heritage Society, please call Ellen Krueger 436-6558. (It would mean more if they were from Woodbury.)

We need small items for shelves such as:

Old spice cans
Bottles
Vinegar jug
Kitchen tools

Furniture:

Small rocking chair
Small table to use beside chair
Small rug

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Woodbury Heritage Society met monthly and semi-monthly over the summer months, much of the time spent making plans for the open house.

In May officers of the Society were elected with Ken Wolterstorff chosen as President, Bud Urtef as Vice President, Bernice Bielenberg as Secretary, and Richard Pribnow as Treasurer. Bernice Bielenberg remains as coordinator of the History Research Room at City Hall and Ellen Krueger as Refreshment Coordinator and Board Representative to the History Network. Additional Board members are Don Lindeman, Lorraine Rafts, Lloyd Schoel, Margaret Stater, Ferd Stoltzmann, Vonnie Stutzman. Della Pribnow assists with the newsletter.

Annual flowers were also planted this summer and two grape vines were added to the arbor.

Please call Ken Wolterstorff (455-3840) if you would like more information on any topic.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

The Heritage Society wishes to acknowledge memorial contributions in recent months in memory of Mildred Bielenberg Toogood.

Thank you to those who made these contributions.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

A plaque in memory of Julie Seeman has been placed by the ornamental crab tree which has been donated by her sisters. Many people also gave memorial money in Julie's memory to the Woodbury Heritage Society.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION 1998-1999

The Heritage Society membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31. Please review the membership categories which were adopted at the Annual Meeting and are shown below. Check your membership preference and send your check payable to the Woodbury Heritage Society to Richard Pribnow, Treasurer, Woodbury Municipal Building, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125. Contributions to the Heritage House Project may also be sent to Treasurer Pribnow.

Membership Categories: Individual Membership \$6 per year ____ Family Membership \$10 per year ____

I would like to support the Heritage House Project with my donation of _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ PHONE _____

(Heritage House Open House - continued from Page 2)

We had several demonstrations:

- Popping corn over a wood fire
- Making Ice Cream
- Sawing wood (a fallen tree was left by the City for this demonstration)

We served cookies, lemonade, water, and coffee. Water was the drink of the day.

There were many good comments on the displays and demonstrations that day as well as on the house and gardens. There seemed to be a great deal of interest by the newer people of our community about the house in particular. Some said they had either driven by or walked on the nearby trails and wondered what the story was on the house. They were pleased now to be able to go through it.

At the registration table we were able to record approximately the number of people attending which was a little over 400.

After we closed, homemade ice cream was enjoyed by the committee.

All in all it was a very successful day.

Heritage Happenings

Woodbury Heritage Society
Woodbury Municipal Building
8301 Valley Creek Road
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Heritage Happenings is the newsletter of the Woodbury Heritage Society



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