

# ❖ Heritage Happenings ❖

Volume 19, Issue 2

Newsletter of Woodbury Heritage  
Society

October, 2002



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## WOODBURY HERITAGE SOCIETY FALL MEETING

October 29, 2002



*Bruentrup Heritage Farm*

Arrangements have been made with the Maplewood area Historical Society to tour the Bruentrup Heritage Farm and buildings located at 2170 East County Road D between White Bear Avenue and McKnight Road on October 29, 2002.

To carpool, we will meet at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Heritage House on Lake Road. There is a parking lot east of the Bruentrup barn on the farm.

After the tour, beverage and treats will be served. At this time we will have an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with members of the Maplewood Historical Society.

### Flower Gardens

A new flower bed has been added along the fence in the northeast section of the Heritage House yard. Lillian Elm has contributed a bleeding heart; Inez Oehlke some mums; Beatrice Radke, Phlox; and Carol Raths, Lambs Ear. Lloyd Josephson gave some snowball bushes, mums, asters, and primroses. We appreciate these gifts. Our flower gardens were great to see this summer.

We thank the City of Woodbury for helping by supplying dirt and compost for the flower beds and especially Paul Lindner of the Parks and Recreation Department for his help in coordinating the work.

### Memorial Tree Park

To date, twenty-three trees and forty-three steppers have been ordered. The locust trees and ash trees have been planted and the markers have been placed by the locust trees. The trees are an added attraction to the yard and will be for many years.

### Heritage House

The House has closed for the season as of the fourth Sunday in September. Attendance was good this summer. Framed wedding pictures from the 1800's and 1900's were on display.

### Brownie Troop

On a recent Sunday afternoon ten Brownie Troop girls and their four leaders stopped by the Heritage House and Gardens. Vonnie Stutzman and Ken Wolterstorff were there to meet them. They enjoyed the house and outside exhibits and took pictures of the gardens and gave copies to the Society.

### 2001-2002 Annual Meeting

The financial report through April 30, 2002 shows:

Money Market Savings Account - \$5,519.41  
 Money Market Checking Account - \$8,435.09  
 Total Revenues - \$8,717.93  
 Total Disbursements - \$3,015.97

Richard Pribnow, Lorraine Raths, John Seemann, and Vonnie Stutzman were re-elected to serve on the Board. Other members of the board are Ken Wolterstorff, Vera Wagner, Margaret Slater, Don Lindeman, Ferd Stoltzmann, Bernice Bielenberg, and Bud Urtel.

Shawn Schlottler, Assistant Scientist of the St. Croix Water Research Station, which is part of the Minnesota Science Museum, gave an interesting talk on Prairie Restoration.

### Election of Board Officers

Board officers were re-elected at the May 9th Board meeting as follows: President - Ken Wolterstorff; Vice President - Bud Urtel; Secretary - Vonnie Stutzman, and Treasurer - Richard Pribnow. Eileen Krueger is chairman of the refreshment committee. Della Pribnow puts the newsletter on the computer, and Bernice Bielenberg attends the Heritage Room.

### Accessions

The following gifts have been given: Two photos of the Margaret Urtel home, formerly a Riemenschneider home, given by Lillian Elm; photos of the demolition of the Afton Road Fire Department Building by the Fire Department; a Shaving Mirror on stand, a Crumb Catcher, and a framed pencil sketch of the former George Wolterstorff farm given by Ken and Betty Wolterstorff; and two books, America's Heartland and The Last Whole Earth Catalogue, given by Chuck Steinmaus.

### Woodbury Days

This year Gene Gross and Mike Sheak drove their antique cars in the Woodbury Days Parade and Bud and Emily Urtel, Lucille Kargel, and Nicholas Sheak rode in the cars.

### Memorials

Memorials have been given for Lois Wolf, Fred Meyer, Virginia Triebold, and Lowell Fredin. Plates will be engraved and added to the memorial plaque.

Winter is Coming!

The following is an article written by Darocha Mahle and Louise Schilling after visiting with Vernon Richter on May 1, 1995. Vernon years ago plowed the roads of Woodbury. The story follows:

Times have changed and few know it with greater certainty than Vernon Richter; and while he cherishes his memories, he would decline the opportunity to relive the past and nights when he, Edgar Nippoldt, and Carl Dick plowed the country roads and wrestled with drifts as much as 18 feet high.

On a recent May afternoon, Vernon relived some of those road-weary days of sixty years ago when Edgar provided the Caterpillar tractor and Woodbury Township invested in a "V-snowplow with wings." That was in about 1935 Vernon recalls.

In the beginning, the tractor didn't even boast a cab so operators were exposed to the elements. Nevertheless, the tractor was an improvement over the methods previously used for digging out. According to Vernon, before the Caterpillar, farmers fashioned snowplows out of boards pulled behind horses. With the tractor, Woodbury modernized and Edgar, Vernon and Carl were digging out residents in Woodbury, Afton, Lakeland, Denmark, St. Marys Point, and St. Croix Beach.

They were plowing roads from Hudson Road (1-94) south to Cottage Grove and from East County Line (Century Avenue) east to the St. Croix River.

Vernon remembers specifically the winters of 1935 and 1936. They were severe, he said, and there was an abundance of snow. In February of one of those years the Caterpillar was never shut off. It was one of those nights, with snow blowing and nearly zero visibility that the tractor was running low on fuel and the weather was so severe a fuel truck could not reach Edgar and Vernon. They decided to try to plow their way home.

(Continued on page 4)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION 2002

The Heritage Society Membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31. Please review the membership categories which are shown below. Please check the number of memberships and send your check payable to the Woodbury Heritage Society to Richard Pribnow, Treasurer, Woodbury Municipal Building, 3301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125. Contributions to the Heritage House Project may also be sent to Treasurer Pribnow.

Individual Membership \$6 per year \_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Heritage Happenings

Woodbury Heritage Society  
Woodbury Municipal Building  
8301 Valley Creek Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125



Heritage Happenings is the newsletter of the Woodbury Heritage Society



Eileen and Bill Krueger  
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October 2002 Issue

## Winter is Coming continued:

Edgar manned the controls and Vernon stood on the "V" of the plow pointing the way for the driver. His guideposts were the tops of the telephone poles lining both sides of the road. The pair made it home and after sitting out the storm for two days, finally plowed their way to a filling station on Highway 12 (I-94) and gassed up.

Telephone poles also played a part in another situation brought on by a combination of country roads and heaps of snow. One night when Vernon was plowing Buttermilk Road (Glen Road), the deep snow and narrow, curvy course combined to create problems. Vernon put the wings on the snowplow as high as they would go, but as he continued down the road, he suddenly realized he was snapping off one telephone pole after another.

In the summer, Vernon was back on Buttermilk Road, grading with a new grader purchased by the township.

The newfangled tractor was, of course, a major improvement over the boards and horses, but not without its own set of problems as every vehicle owner can imagine.

The lights were unreliable, breakdowns were plentiful and one winter, the "plow boys" were treated to a batch of bad gas.

(Continued in next issue)