

◆ Heritage Happenings ◆

Volume 19, Issue 3

Newsletter of Woodbury Heritage Society

April 2003



ANNUAL MEETING WOODBURY HERITAGE SOCIETY

12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 18, 2003

POTLUCK

Salem Lutheran Church
7825 Bailey Road, Woodbury

CALL TO ORDER - President Ken Wolterstorff

2002 - 2003 ACTIVITIES REPORT - Vonnie Stutzman, Secretary

2002 - 2003 FINANCIAL REPORT - Richard Pribnow, Treasurer

The terms of Bernice Bielenberg, Ferd Stoltzmann, and Bud Urtel are expiring on the board. Ferd has elected not to run again. The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates and nominations will be taken from the floor.

Our program this year will be Deputy Steve Pott of the Washington County Sheriff's Department who will speak on the work of the department.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE A NOON POTLUCK INSTEAD OF THE USUAL EVENING ANNUAL MEETING.

HERITAGE HOUSE AND GARDENS

Open house will be held again this summer at the House and Gardens on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The time is 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. from June to September.

As things turn green, the gardens will need attention. We appreciate any volunteer help in planting, weeding, etc. Call Lorraine Raths 651 578-3417 for information.

Annual Meeting

*Heritage House and
Gardens*

Historic Courthouse

Arthur Koerner

*Community Club
Cookbook*

Census

*Winter is Coming -
continued*

Accessions

Central Park Program

Mainstreet Bank

Telephone Number

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

The Historic Courthouse has opened a new exhibit entitled "Let's Have Some Fun: Entertainment at the Turn of the Century." The exhibit features general information on the types of activities that were popular over one hundred years ago, as well as specific information about entertainment in Washington County. The exhibit is free and open week days 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through June 10th.

ARTHUR KOERNER

Arthur Koerner of Woodbury has a history of being nationally recognized in the field of flower breeding.

Mr. Koerner was a pioneer in the art of hybridizing gladiolas. He obviously had a real knowledge of plant breeding and the patience to hand pollinate the flowers to produce hybrids. He had a very great passion for flowers and received many awards.

Some of his flower breeding was done on a small acreage just south of Radio Drive and Lake Road.

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, Minnesota, records that A. C. Koerner was an author of an article entitled Gladiola Seed in the American Glad Society Review, December 31, 1933, (page 45-4).

Mr. Koerner's work on flowers was in the 1930's at the same time that hybrid corn was introduced and was being sold to farmers for the first time.

It would seem very unusual for this interest in flowers when so many of the farm families were raising gardens to feed the family during the depression years.

Written by Lorraine Rath for the Heritage Display at
Central Park - March 18, 2003

From Woodbury Community Club records at the Heritage Room we find the following in the March 11, 1932, minutes:

"Mr. Arthur Koerner made a proposition to the members of the club. He would like to start a child flower club, suggested gladiola club, should get 25 children age nine to fifteen years. He would furnish bulbs, fifteen to each child five varieties--three of each. He would help each child plant them and promised to look after them during the summer, then have a flower show at our social next fall and give prizes furnished by the club. The president appointed a committee of three to get the 25 children and work with Mr. Koerner. The committee: Chairman Mrs. J. G. Fritze, Mrs. Otto Metzger, and Mrs. Roland Mahle."

Mr. Koerner was also an organist and composer.

COMMUNITY CLUB COOKBOOK

We have another printing of the 1923 Woodbury Community Club Cookbook ready. They are available for \$5.00 a copy.

CENSUS

We have purchased the 1930 Federal Census of Washington County on microfilm for use at the Heritage Room. It will be the first census on which some of us will be recorded

Winter is Coming! Continued from last issue:

The lights were unreliable, breakdowns were plentiful and one winter, the "plow boys" were treated to a batch of bad gas. The supplier had hauled a load of fuel oil before bringing gas to Nippoldts and the result was plugged screens on the carburetor. "Unplugging" had to be done with bare hands in temperatures often 30 below zero. To keep fingers from freezing, Vernon recalls, the men dipped their hands in gasoline and lit them.

When the tractor was running, the hot spot was the exhaust pipe and the men used it to warm their coffee.

Winters were tough, so were the times. Driveway plowing was good for ten cents a minute and no one paid more than one dollar. Edgar provided the Caterpillar, operated it, paid the other operators (Vernon Richter and Carl Dirk), supplied the gasoline and made repairs, all for \$4 an hour. Vernon recalls that his wage was 50 cents an hour.

They covered miles of road, and when the road disappeared under many feet of snow, they went into the fields, taking the path of least resistance, fighting the weather, the tractor's headlights and a cranky carburetor all the way. But they made it, Vernon just doesn't want to do it again.

Written by Dorothea Mahle and Louise Schilling

ACCESSIONS

Donations are as follows: The Harmon Jefferson Story by Lorraine Simberg; Walterstorff farm and family photographs by Ken Wotterstorff, Woodbury League of Women Voters 1978 Study on Equality of Athletics in District #833 by Shirley Walker, Letter on Early Woodbury Transportation by Corwin Biehighauser, February 20, 1968, St. Paul Daily Dispatch, and magazine Successful Farming 1955 by Eileen Krueger.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION 2003

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, 8301 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
9737 Neal Ave. S.
Hastings, MN 55033

April 2003 Issue

CENTRAL PARK PROGRAM

On March 18 the Society presented a program at Woodbury's Central Park. Lorraine Rath was chairman. On exhibit were artifacts and information in our possession and a table with a display of Woodbury barn photographs which Earl Rath has taken. Information on Arthur Koerner's work on gladiolas was there for the audience to read.

Sara Jane Minchart, Don Scheel, and Bud Urtel were on the program. Bud spoke of early days in Woodbury, Sara Jane talked to us about coming back to our community after being away for some time, and Don talked about living in Woodbury Heights, Woodbury's first development. Mary Kay Niebuhr told us about her recent project, putting together a cookbook with recipes and pictures from the Rath families. A thank you to all who participated.

MAINSTREET BANK

Mainstreet Bank has made copies of pictures of buildings in our collection and have them on display in their place of business in Tamarack Village.

TELEPHONE

The telephone number at the Heritage Room is 651-714-3564. Room hours are Tuesday afternoons 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.