

Heritage Happenings

Woodbury Heritage Society

Winter 2007–2008



Happy 40th Birthday Woodbury

The Woodbury City Hall dedication of the newly remodeled building and 40th birthday celebration was held on October 27th, and the city was requesting assistance from the Heritage Society. John Seemann, our president, assigned members of the board to sit on the City Hall committee to make preparations for the celebration. The city had requested a Timeline from the Heritage Society and thought it would be appropriate to have the Heritage Society room available for the invited guests on the day of the celebration. John Seemann assembled a committee to prepare the requested Timeline of Woodbury, and the city helped to move all of the Heritage Societies artifacts that were being stored during construction out of storage. Kathryn Ho (the Heritage House Master Gardener) volunteered to unpack and move those items to their proper places in the Heritage Society room. Kathryn also moved boxes that were being stored at Vonnie Stutzmans' home back to the Heritage Society room. Kathryn Ho then proceeded to set up, meticulously arrange and went to great lengths to get everything in order for the building re-opening. Saturday, October 27, 2007, City Hall was re-opened and

visitors were welcomed to tour the building and visit with all the dignitaries. Cake and coffee was served and newspaper articles and buttons were also given to touring guests. The Heritage Society received a lot of curious guests, and many questions concerning the history of Woodbury. There were various questions being asked concerning the past settlers, schools, churches, and they even had questions about some of the older homes and barns that are still dotting the landscapes of our community. Children were particularly

interested in some of the artifacts, such as the Cabbage chopper, old spectacles, wedding gowns and a unique old pickle fork that some folks wish they had in their kitchen utility drawer today. The children couldn't imagine not having electricity or running water, but are so very thankful they have them today. We enrolled some new Heritage Society members, sold some Woodbury Community Club Cook Books, and a few "Woodbury a Past to Remember" books. The day ended with the Woodbury Heritage Society making a lot of new friends and many people with more interest in the history and the heritage of Woodbury.

Ruth Duncan
Secretary WHS



September 21, 1975
"New" City Hall is dedicated

In this issue:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Woodbury Celebrates 40th Birthday | 1 |
| Heritage Garden Attracts Throngs | 2 |
| Bernice Rath's Bielenberg | 3 |
| WHS Annual Potluck and Coming Attractions | 4 |



Heritage Garden Hosts Crowds Despite Construction

We welcomed almost 200 visitors to the garden on July 8th when the Woodbury Heritage Garden was included in the 2007 South Washington County Garden Tour. Although construction on Radio Drive and Lake Road cut off access to the driveway for a major portion of the summer, we were able to have it opened for just that day with the help of the County's Construction Coordinator, Gary Wisbar and his crew. It was a sweltering day, but the constant stream of visitors enjoyed seeing the house and grounds as part of the tour that benefited the Youth Service Bureau. As a result of the ongoing construction, most of the Open House dates for the summer were canceled. We were able to host our annual field trip groups from Middleton Elementary School in the fall, since they walk to the garden. Over 125 third-graders visited in late September and learned about Woodbury's pioneer days from Heritage Society volunteers. Trying out the corn planter is always a popular activity during the field trips. When you next visit the garden, you will notice a new garden bed that was installed in the early summer. Just behind the house, the bed features native plants like Prairie Smoke,

Compass Plant, and Big Blue Stem. Many thanks go to Washington County Master Gardener Kris Tott for designing and installing the garden. We also enjoyed the help of some Junior Girl Scout volunteers in the garden over the summer who sometimes even hiked in after the driveway access was removed, in order to help weed and water the plants.

*Kathryn Ho
Volunteer Master Gardener*



Girl Scouts having fun while helping with the Heritage Garden



Board member Ruth Duncan demonstrating some facets of pioneer living.



Coming Attractions

The spring issue of the Happenings will feature an article on the former Oehlke home. The home has been moved to a new site at 2775 Woodbury Drive. The home has been updated, while preserving its historical significance, by the current owners Jim and Stephanie Kivel.

The WHS is in the process of publishing a full color calendar featuring the historic barns of Woodbury. It will be available in the spring and is for the year 2009. It will make a great gift!



Heritage Happenings is distributed quarterly by the Woodbury Heritage Society President –John Seemann Vice President–Bud Urtel Secretary–Ruth Duncan Treasurer–Richard Pribnow

Heritage Happenings is edited and published by Bill Schrankler, contributions from members are welcomed. Contact Bill at 651.738.1836 or email: bschrankler@comcast.net. Email or snail mail is preferred in the interest of accuracy. 6821 Lydia Lane Woodbury, MN 55125



Grandma's Apron Reminds Us of a Special Member

Bernice Raths Bielenberg, one of the Woodbury Heritage Society's founding members, passed away on July 5th. Bernice served the Society tirelessly, and was especially instrumental in the setting up of our record keeping and filing system. Bernice worked for years in the Heritage Society's office, making it available for visitors doing genealogical research and carefully cataloging our resources and accessions. In addition, many of the Heritage Plants in the garden were

donated by Bernice. She was a gentle and giving woman who valued her roots in Woodbury and wanted to share it with others through her work with the Woodbury Heritage Society. While on the board, Bernice shared the following article. Whenever you see an apron, remember Bernice.

Kathryn Ho
Volunteer Master Gardener



Bernice Raths Bielenberg
WHS Board Member Emeritus

Grandma's Apron - Author unknown, based on a poem by Tina Trivett

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot

wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of second. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.



The Woodbury Heritage Society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization founded in October 1983 because of the interest in Woodbury's history.

Ensuring A Future For Our Past By...

The Woodbury Heritage Society mission is to: Collect, Preserve and Disseminate the history that relates to the people, properties and events of the City of Woodbury.

If you support the work of the Heritage Society we invite you to become a member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my check payable to:
Woodbury Heritage Society
8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

\$6 per individual

Additional gift

Donations are tax deductible

Woodbury Heritage Society

**8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651.714.3564**



Printed on
recycled paper

*Woodbury's Heritage Society Members and Guests Potluck**



If you are interested in continuing your membership with the WHS, please pay your dues of \$6.00 for 2008 as soon as possible. Checks can be payable to:

Woodbury Heritage Society

8301 Valley Creek Road

Woodbury, MN 55125

Date: Sunday, January 6, 2008

Time: Twelve o'clock Noon

Contact person: Bud Urtel @ 651.3392



Program

Lisa Clinton, Woodbury Girl Scout, will present her recent work on the history of some of the original street names in Woodbury.



St. John's Lutheran Church

Valley Creek Road and St. John's Drive

**Bring a dish to share*

