

Heritage Happenings



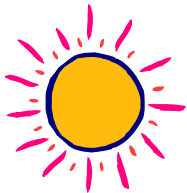
Woodbury Heritage Society

Volume 28 No. 3 Fall 2011

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Click on the WHS website for the latest information.
www.woodburyheritage.org



Shirley Walker is our Sunshine Coordinator. If you have news about members, please let Shirley know at: 651-731-3928 Cell 612-849-2007 or email skwalker@usfamily.net

City KO'S Village Plans



Going...



Going...



GONE!



All that remains of the Bielenberg farmstead is a broken mail box

Bielenberg home gone!

Although the skies were clear on Wednesday, August 17th it was a dark day for Woodbury Heritage Society. Much to the astonishment of the board the Bielenberg home on Bailey Road was demolished on that day without advance notice or warning by the City of Woodbury. The wrecking was done by United Properties, the company that is developing farmstead for the Bielenberg Gardens shopping center.

The Bielenberg house (home of Woodbury's first mayor) was to be the centerpiece of the proposed Woodbury Heritage Village. The last several years and considerable time and monies were spent by the Society in the planning for the Village. Many meetings were held with the city staff – including the City Manager, Director of Community Planning and the Director of Parks. In addition, the Mayor, the former Mayor and the Council were aware of the plans. The Parks Commission had recommended the Valley Creek Open Space (Miller farm site) as the location of Village. Funds had been secured to pay for the moving of the house to the Miller farmstead.

Yet, the Director of Community Planning issued a demolition permit to United Properties to raze the structures on the site. The intentions of the Society were completely ignored. The Director knew or should have known of the Village plans.

As a result of the Director's action the current citizens of Woodbury and the future citizens have lost an irreplaceable structure of our city's legacy. This is a great loss. The lack of transparency and communication

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within the Department of Community Planning is not acceptable. City Hall has accomplished in one day what Mother Nature did not accomplish in over 100 years—the destruction of the Bielenberg home. Hopefully, the Mayor and Council will take steps to insure that tragedies such as this will not be repeated.

What’s New in our “Old” Garden?



The Heritage Garden has survived and thrived the very challenging summer of 2011. From the late cold that had us wearing our winter clothes to get the garden ready to plant, the rain, rain and more rain of the early summer, and the incredible heat and humidity that was all of July, the garden has never blinked and the flowers actually seem taller and more plentiful than ever! We’ve even managed to get a few things accomplished from the ever-present Garden To-Do list, including mulching behind the L-shaped garden in the northeast corner of the yard, which will make trimming a much easier job. The early rains of the summer made moving plants to that new area very successful and we were rewarded with phlox, lilies and peonies blooming in their new spots, along with beautiful gladiolas planted by Tiger Cub Scouts who visited the house in the spring. Japanese Beetles challenged the grapevine at the entrance arbor; those pesky critters gave the vine a run for its money, but it has bounced back and is ready to again challenge visitors to be able to

get through the gate as the grapes begin to turn their beautiful dark purple. In the demonstration vegetable garden, the corn is even higher than last year, the sunflowers are beginning to bloom despite the deer’s periodic pruning, and the pumpkins have once again tried to take over the entire yard! Bud really should start a business starting pumpkins for people, they can’t be beat!

We’ve benefited from help from the local 4H club that helped do some garden work in the spring and made the spiffy scarecrow that has watched over the vegetables all summer. And many thanks to Sheila Hause and her husband, Chris for their help in repairing the split rail fence! Fall means time when there will be more intensive work to do in the garden and get the house ready for winter. We are always looking for volunteers who enjoy working in this beautiful corner of Woodbury set aside to remind us of our agricultural roots. Please contact Kathryn Ho (651) 578-9384, khomecourt@msn.com to learn more about how you can help keep the house and garden looking its best. *Kathryn Ho*

WOODBURY HERITAGE SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

The general purpose and plan of operation of the Woodbury Heritage Society shall be to research and study the history of Woodbury; to provide for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge and information; to provide for the collection and preservation of papers, books, records, relics and other things of historical interest; to display such materials in appropriate exhibits; to acquire, hold, own, operate and provide for the marking and preservation of historic sites and buildings; to publish materials which shall bear upon the history of Woodbury; and in general to carry on all activities appropriate for a Heritage Society.

Heritage Happenings is distributed quarterly by the Woodbury Heritage Society

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Special thanks to Kathryn Ho for proofreading each issue and assisting in the assembling of content.

Click on the WHS website for the latest information.

www.woodburyheritage.org



THE TEACHER MUSES

I wonder sometimes if I taught them
 Just some of the things worthwhile,
 Just some of the things they'll need in life,

Be they peasants, or poets, or kings.
 Have I taught them the value of smiling
 When things are at their worst?
 Have I taught them there's nothing that helps like a song
 When the heart seems ready to burst?
 Have I taught them the value of clean living?
 That Honor is better than fame?
 That good friends are the greatest of treasures,
 Wealth, less than an untarnished name?
 Have I taught them respect to the aged?
 Protection to those who are weak?
 That Silence always is golden
 When Gossip bids them speak?
 Have I taught them that Fear is a coward
 Who is beaten when they say, "I can!"
 That Courtesy ranks with Courage
 In the heart of the real gentleman?
 Have I taught them these things and the others
 That will help make them brave, kind and true?
 If I have, then I care not if they tell me
 That Irkutsk is a town in Peru!

R.J. Gala

POP QUIZ!

Since it is the Back to School season, from the files of the Woodbury Heritage Society we offer you an excerpt from a workbook for the 8th Grade Social Studies Minnesota State Board Questions, copyright 1944. Please do your own work. Begin now.

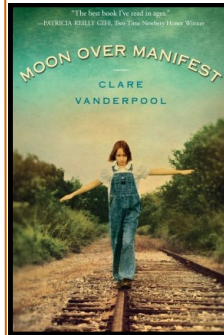
Each of the persons listed in Group II is associated with one of the topics listed in Group I. Show to which topic each person is most closely related by putting the number of the topic in the blank after each name in Group II.

Group I: (1) Progress in education; (2) Efforts toward world peace; (3) The slavery controversy; (4) Important inventions; (5) Development of American literature; (6) Westward expansion.

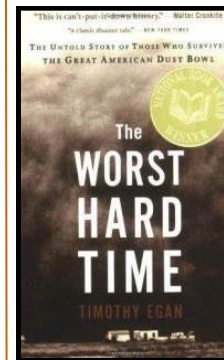
Group II: (a) Washington Irving ____ (b) Elihu Root ____ (c) Horace Mann ____ (d) Stephen A. Douglas ____ (e) Daniel Boone ____ (f) Orville Wright ____ (g) Jefferson Davis ____ (h) Charles E. Duryea ____ (i) Booker T. Washington ____ (j) Alexander Graham Bell ____ (k) Mark Twain ____ (l) John Brown ____ (m) Thomas Edison ____ (n) John Jacob Astor ____ (o) Woodrow Wilson ____.

Turn the Page on History

If you are looking for a good book with some history to it, here are some of my latest reads that I really enjoyed. Please add to this list by writing up a review including title, author, category and a short description and sending it in for a future edition of Heritage Happenings!

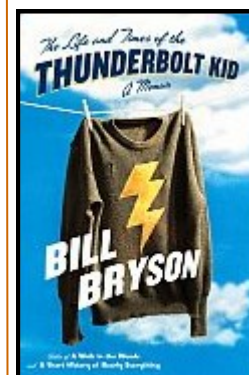


Moon Over Manifest, by Clare Vanderpool (Historical Fiction). You'll want to buy this book for your child or grandchild, but read it yourself before you give it away—it's that good. In telling the charming story of her young heroine, Abilene, Vanderpool manages to weave in many details of the early 20th century that help paint a picture of how complicated a little girl's life can be. *Moon Over Manifest* is the Newberry Award winner in children's literature for 2011.



The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dustbowl, by Timothy Egan, (Non Fiction). Disasters in the form of earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes have been in the news all too often lately, and though they take a long time to recover from, the cause of the disaster is short lived. In contrast, the Dust Bowl was a disaster that just kept on—

for the better part of a decade in some places! Timothy Egan uses his reporter's background to collect information and then present it in a way that brings the "Dirty 30s" alive in a way so striking you can almost taste the dust in your mouth.



The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir, by Bill Bryson (Non-Fiction Memoir). I was interrupted several times while reading this book because I could not see—I was laughing so hard. Bill Bryson recounts the story of his growing up in the middle of the 50s in the middle of the United States in a way that brings back all the good memories of the day. His writing style is like sitting down with a good friend and reminiscing about the best days of your youth.

Kathryn Ho



District 41 school circa 1908

Front row: Agnes Dittman, Agnes Classen, Theresa Scharfbillig, Lena Classen, Mabel Pierre, Ellen Holz, Hilda Moris, George Wilmes, Elmer Riemenschneider, Leo Moris, Ed Pierre, Arnold Pierre
 Second row: Viola Riemenschneider, Amelia Wilmes, Josephine Schiltgen, Emma Beste, Susan (or Mayme) Bies, Julia Pierre, John Classen, Frank Gores, Frank Moris, Leo Schiltgen
 Back row: Agnes Scharfbillig, Margaret Bies, Julia Beste, Mayme Dittman, Alice Brockman, Mr. Kelzer (teacher)

Do you any of these scholars?



Welcome to new WHS member
Dick Fields

Heritage House Summer Schedule
 The Heritage House is located in Marsh Creek Park, on the corner of Radio Drive and Lake Road. The Woodbury Heritage Society will host open houses on following dates:
September 11 and 25
 1 to 4 p.m.