



Shakopee  
Heritage  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 46

Fall 2012

*This edition:*

- *Notes from the editor, page 2*
  - *A bit on our April 21<sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker*
  - *Colored Picture Page 3*
  - *More colored pictures and then Clotheslines.*
  - *Meet our Members Page 5*
  - *Our Speaker this month is a member of the*
  - *Lebens family remembering the family.*
- Please join us and bring a friend,  
if any of the following interests you.
- Sharing stories of Shakopee's past.
  - Listening to stories of Shakopee's past
  - Finding the answers to the questions you have.
  - Reminiscing and telling stories of your past.
  - Meeting new people or making a new friend.

*The Shakopee  
Heritage Society's  
Fall Membership  
Meeting will be held  
October 20th 2012*

*At the Shakopee Library  
Downstairs Meeting  
Room at 1:00 PM.*

We hope to see you  
there!

## Editor's notes By Don Wagner

- A. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be a member of the Lebens family remembering their mother father and uncle.
- B. Pat Ploumen is looking for help on the Historic Home Tour committee for 2013. Meetings have started and will continue monthly till next year's event. The present intention is to have a tour of the Pill Hill area. Call Pat if you can help, or if you have suggestions, at 952-445-2002. The "organizational" meeting for the 2013 historic site tour was held at the home of Lois Wendt, 527 Woodside Court, Shakopee.
- C. We all need to thank our volunteers who worked the booth at Derby days. We keep our membership fees low and still do a lot of good and give the SHS some good exposure from what these volunteers do. Thank them when you see them. Jay and Melissa Whiting, Don McNeil, Ken Marschall, Eileen Schmitz, Gerri Heiland, Mona Strunk, Pat Ploumen, Lois Wendt.
- D. The Editor is truly sorry that there was no Newsletter for the July Membership Meeting, but a great number of problems arose and it just could not get done in time. We are working on plans to avoid that happening again.
- E. Don't forget that we have a website [WWW.shakopeeheritage.org](http://WWW.shakopeeheritage.org). Check it out when you can. It is well worth your time. No computer, try the library as they have many and usually have an empty one for someone to use.
- F. Members, who need a ride to get to the membership meeting please call Pat Ploumen at 952-445-2002 and she will make arrangements for your ride.
- G. The SHS Board donated 24 coffee mugs from the SHS (left from the items we sold at the Shakopee 150 year celebration) to the Fire department.

---

### Guest Speaker: Saturday, April 21, 2012

By Eileen Schmitz. See Picture page 3.

Our guest speaker, David Regan provided us with the 114 year history of Scott County Drug store.

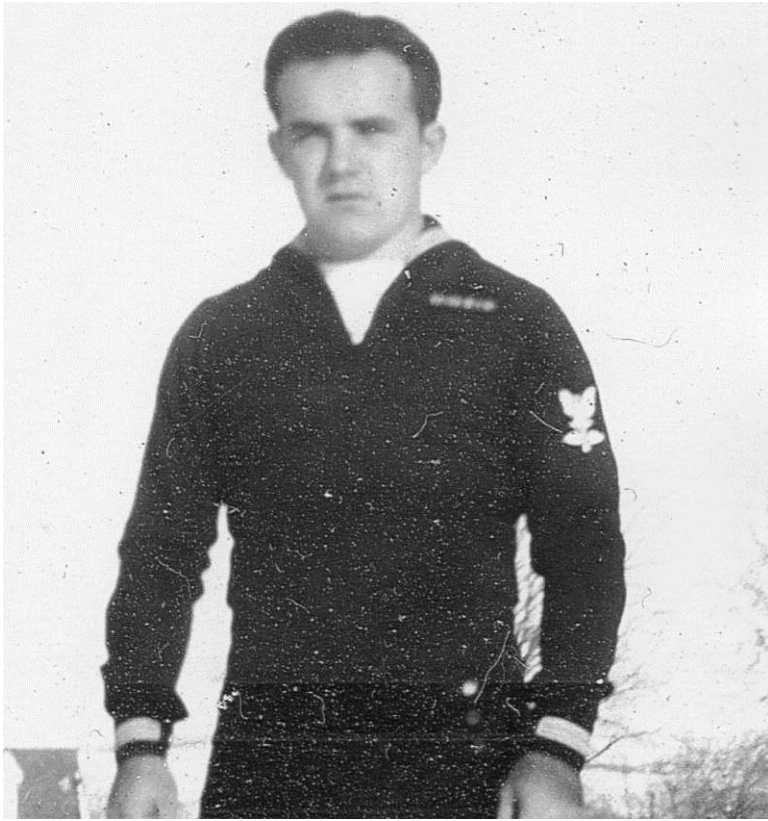
David's father, Jerry Regan owned and operated the Drug Store from 1949 until 1974.

David showed us pictures, newspaper articles and various advertisements from the days that his father owned the store. He also brought with him a display of the dinner ware and fountain items that were used in the store.

Many of our members knew and remember David. They could relate with him and shared their own experiences of the drug store. Lois Wendt, SHS member was not able to be at the April meeting. Lois wrote a brief paper with her memories of the days that she worked at the store during her high school and college years. The paper was read aloud and was greeted with various shouts of "I remember that."

We were very fortunate that David saved so many things from the drug store's past and thank him so very much for coming and speaking to us. It was a thoroughly interesting afternoon.

**Thank you David !!**



Gilbert Delbow in early 1940's on left and Gilbert and his wife ----- on the right above.

April 21<sup>st</sup> Our guest speaker David Regan

July Picnic Pot Luck scene





**The Jordan excursion**

A clothesline was a news forecast,  
 To neighbors passing by,  
 There were no secrets you could keep,  
 When clothes were hung to dry.  
 It also was a friendly link,  
 For neighbors always knew  
 If company had stopped by,  
 To spend a night or two.  
 For then you'd see the "fancy sheets",  
 And towels upon the line;  
 You'd see the "company table cloths",  
 With intricate designs.  
 The line announced a baby's birth,  
 From folks who lived inside,  
 As brand new infant clothes were hung,  
 So carefully with pride!  
 The ages of the children could,  
 So readily be known  
 By watching how the sizes changed,  
 You'd know how much they'd grown!  
 It also told when illness struck,  
 As extra sheets were hung;  
 Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too,  
 Haphazardly were strung.  
 It also said, "On vacation now",  
 When lines hung limp and bare.  
 It told, "We're back!" when lines  
 sagged,  
 With not an inch to spare!  
 New folks in town were scorned upon,  
 If wash was dingy and gray,



**More of the July Picnic Pot luck**

## THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES

1. You hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.
2. You hang pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.
3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging clothes – walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
5. You NEVER hang a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail! What would the neighbors think?
6. Wash day is on Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
8. It doesn't matter if it was sub-zero weather... clothes will "freeze-dry."
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines are "tacky"!
10. If you are efficient, you will line the clothes up so that each item does not need two clothes pins, but shares one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
11. Be sure to take the clothes off the line before dinner time, and fold them neatly in the clothes basket so they are ready to be ironed.

## IRONED?

Well, that's another whole subject! Would anyone want to do a poem, or story, or dissertation, on Ironing? If so let us know. It can be verbal, or written, or a group subject with a few friends. It would be an interesting topic for a guest speaker also.

Does anyone know of any other interesting topics for our guest speaker at the meetings? Let us know

---

## Meet Our Members: Gilbert Delbow

**By Eileen Schmitz** See pictures page 3.

Except for the four years he spent in the service and two years after his discharge from the service Gib has lived in Shakopee.

He was born in 1921 at his parent's home on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, West of Spencer St. The house is still in the same location.

His parents Ed and Rose Speilman Delbow were Shakopee natives. He was one of five children born to Ed and Rose Delbow.

Gib attended St. Mark's Catholic School and Shakopee High School, graduating from High School in 1940.

As a young boy growing up in Shakopee he was most interested in sports and was very active in athletics.

He was on the Shakopee High School Hall of Fame Committee the first 10 years it existed.

When he was a young boy it was not unheard of to have chickens and pigs in the back yards of families in Shakopee. Some people even kept cows in town. His parents kept both chickens and pigs. The neighborhood men would come together to do the butchering of the pigs. Most of the blocks in Shakopee only had two to three houses on them leaving a lot of open space for the children to play.

In 1942 he enlisted in the Navy and served until 1945. He served as a plane Captain in Pappy Boyington's Black Sheep Squadron in the Soloman Islands. After returning to the U.S. he was a propeller specialist at the Naval Station at Alameda, California until his discharge. About 30 years after WWII CBS had a weekly program called "The Black Sheep Squadron." The program showed many of the scenes from the base.

After he was discharged in 1945 he worked in Minneapolis for the Gamble-Robinson Grocery Chain.

After two years he moved back to Shakopee. He married Patricia Schmidt at St. Mary's Church in Shakopee in 1948. They are parents of three children, Linda, who died in 1990, Brenda and Kevin. Gib found employment with Cargill Inc. in Savage after moving back to Shakopee and worked there for 37 years.

Gib's wife Patricia is the daughter of Matt. J. Schmidt and Sadie Anderson. Her father owned an 80 acre farm in Eagle Creek Township, Scott County, which is now the present location of Lowe's.

Gib has been the SHS Guest Speaker on different occasions helping our members to look back in history and seeing what Shakopee was like "back when." He has been a valuable source of past history and we are all so very grateful for his participation and his contribution to our society.

**Thank you, Gib** for all your help in keeping Shakopee History alive.

---

## United States-Dakota War

August 2012 marks 150 years since the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

The war, its causes and its aftermath had a profound impact in shaping Minnesota as we know it today.

Prior to 1862 the Minnesota Dakota, also known by the French term, "Sioux" consisted of four bands known as the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute (together comprising the "lower bands"), and the Sisseton and the Wahpeton (known as the "upper bands" or Dakota Sioux"), all who lived along the Minnesota River. The US-Dakota War of 1862 followed years of broken treaties and promises to the Dakota people combined with a growing white population in the state. In August of 1862, when late annuity payments and the refusal by agents and traders to release provisions found some Dakota facing starvation, factions

attacked white settlements, the Lower Sioux Agency and Fort Ridgely in south central and southwestern Minnesota. A significant number of Dakota were against the war and did not participate. The fighting lasted six weeks. Troops under the command of former Gov. Henry Sibley, now a U.S. Army colonel, were sent to support Fort Ridgely and the settlers. Many books have been written about the war and can be found for sale at the SCHS. One particular book that our society has for sale is "Six Weeks in the Sioux Tepees", a narrative of Indian Captivity by Sarah F. Wakefield, wife of Doctor John L. Wakefield. The Wakefield's were from Shakopee and both are buried at the Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, in the North East part of the cemetery.

---

**Do you know someone who is interested in local history and Shakopee's past?  
Ask them to join us at the SHS or just attend a meeting as a guest to see what we are  
doing, or have them drop in on a board meeting at the library upstairs meeting room.**

**Shakopee Heritage Society  
519 East First Avenue  
Shakopee MN 55379**