



Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 47

Winter 2013

This edition:

- *Notes from the editor page 2*
- *Obituaries page 3*
- *Colored Picture Page 3 and 4*
- *Meet our members; pages 5.*
- *100 year old Shakopee news page 5/6*
- *Our Speaker for January Mike Huber*
-

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
Winter Membership
Meeting
Will be held Jan 19th
1:00 PM*

*In the downstairs
meeting room
Of the Shakopee library*

We hope to see you there.

Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

1. We lost two members the last quarter of 2012. We of course do not suffer as much as the families but we will truly miss them both. Remember them in your prayers.
2. It is time again to elect officers and members of the board. We need volunteers for most positions. We will ask again at the meeting so think about what position you Might like to fill.
3. If there are no volunteers then the board has agreed to fill these positions with the present members. You will need to vote for each position. If no one steps forward, these present members will run again.

Joe Collins	_____	President
Lois Wendt	_____	Vice president
Pat Ploumen	_____	Treasurer
Eileen Schmitz	_____	Secretary
Don McNeil	_____	Director
Don Wagner	_____	Director

4. The SHS has received memorial funds for Jerry Kline in the form of two checks for \$150.00. The board will have to decide the best way to use this in Jerry's memory. If any of the members have a suggestion the board members would like to hear it.
5. Our speaker for this month is Mike Huber and his wife Pat. Mike will check to see if he can get Jim Wermerskirchen and Les Menden to participate also. They will most likely have visuals as well. This should be very interesting so be sure to attend the meeting.
6. Pat Ploumen and her crew of volunteers are busy working on a list of houses for the bi-annual home and site tour. It is looking pretty impressive again. The group can still use some more help however, so if you can spare some time, contact Pat Ploumen at 952-445-2002. Pat has done a number of these very successfully for us but needs help in doing all the details. Even small things are helpful. Volunteer if you have some time.
7. *Don't forget that we have a Website WWW.shakopeeheritage.org. There are many things to see there, among them the newsletters. If you want copies of an article from our newsletter, or copies of the whole newsletter, go to our website and find it there. You, or your friends, can print out just one page or the whole newsletter. You will find other useful articles and subjects of interest on the pages of your website.*
8. *Our speakers at the last meeting were the Mel Lebems family members speaking about their father, Mel their mother, Delores and their uncle LeRoy Lebens. The children are Barb Osterkamp, John Lebens, and Dan Lebens along with their spouses. We thank them each for their effort.*
9. *And as is true every year, our yearly dues do come due at our January meeting. You can pay directly to Pat Ploumen at the meeting by cash or check or by check later through the US Mail system. I don't think Pat is doing debit or charge cards yet.*
10. ***Your Board of directors hopes you were all blessed with a very merry Christmas and New Year for 2012 and will be for every day of 2013.***



Kathy (Schultz) Siler

Kathleen Ann was born on July 21, 1944 in Shakopee, MN, to parents Donald E. and Elizabeth M (Ablen) Schultz. She was the third of eight children. Kathy's childhood years were spent in Shakopee, graduating from Shakopee Senior High in 1962. After high school, Kathy married William Siler and they were blessed with two children, Marc and Kara, they settled down in Florida. Unfortunately the marriage dissolved. Kathy spent the next 30 years in the sunshine state. In 2002, Kathy moved back to Minnesota to be closer to her family and worked for Mystic Lake Casino for 10 years. Kathy loved holidays, especially Christmas. From top to bottom, her home would transform to represent that season or special occasion. Displaying beautiful pillows, valances and table runners, Kathy's home always celebrated the time and felt welcoming to everyone that entered. The passion in Kathy's life was her family. A loving and caring daughter and mother, she always took great care of everyone. Kathy relished being a grandma and adored her brothers and sisters. A resident of Shakopee, Kathy was 68 years old when she passed away peacefully in the presence of her family the afternoon of Sunday, October 14, 2012 at her sister's home in Shakopee.



Geraldine E. Klein (Jerry)

of Shakopee, died on Saturday, November 24, 2012, at Friendship Manor Nursing Home in Shakopee. She was born on March 10, 1926, in Shakopee, MN, the daughter of Peter and Hildegard (Menden) Fitz. Jerry married Urban A. Klein on September 3, 1947, in Shakopee. She worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for many years, then worked for Shakopee Hardware for over 20 years. She also worked at St. Francis Hospital. Jerry was a proud member of the Heritage Polka Singers, the VFW 4046 Ladies Auxiliary of Shakopee, 50 year member of the Shakopee Sewing Club, and she was a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society. Jerry also volunteered many hours to Church of St. Mark and St. Francis Regional Medical Center. Jerry is preceded in death by her husband, Urban; brothers, Richard and Peter Fitz. Survivors include her sons, Terry (Jeanne), Dave (Kathi), Bill (Anne); grandchildren, Melissa, Jeff (Ashley), Josh, Tessa, Rachel, and Julie Klein, Jennifer (Tim) Groby, Kelly (Mike) Marr, Jenny (Jesse) Zettel; 7 great-grandchildren; best friend, Mary Schlink





Our “Meet Our Members” Selection for this month is Eileen Schmitz, Our Secretary and Chair of the research committee, whose reports on our meetings, are made much more interesting by Eileen’s rendition of those events. Her reporting of the many historical facts and other observations for the newsletter are a large part of the newsletter. Eileens long time membership and contributions are truly admirable.

So when it came time to do this months “Meet our Members” article for this edition of the newsletter we had to twist Eileen’s arm a bit to do hers also.

Thank you so much Eileen for all you do.

← Eileen’s picture from a couple of years ago.

See page 5 for the meet our members article



Just a couple of the many pictures That Jerry Kline donated to the SHS from Shakopee’s Past.

Above is a picture of the Telephone office and at right a picture of Jerry and a friend at the strike of that same telephone office.

Also jerry donated a number of the Macy News articles printed in the local newspaper, describing the east end activities by members of the Macy group.

Then of course if you have been to the Library at all in the last couple of years you must have noticed the fine wooden telephone Pay phone booth, from the Hotel downtown. The booth also was donated by Jerry and her family. So besides being a good and valuable friend to the SHS she left much for all who follow us to observe and understand more of what Shakopee was during those years.

Meet Our Members

Eileen Schoenbauer Schmitz was born in LeSueur County, city of New Prague, MN.

She grew up in a predominately ethnic area and a close knit extended family. All of her immediate family are and were Czech and spoke the Czech language. Her maternal grandfather teased her about being “English” because she didn’t speak the Czech language as well as her older cousins. Her maternal and paternal families came to the New Prague area from Bohemia in 1860 and 1872.

Her father’s trade was first as a farmer and then as a carpenter. During WWII he was too old for active duty but contributed to the war effort as a carpenter in the defense plants and worked in the state of Oregon in the ship yards. After the war he traveled to various states building railroad stations. Her mother was a stay at home mom, an Avon representative and worked outside of the home only a few years during the Second World War. Her father was one of those who were caught in the big Armistice Day Storm. He was hunting near Cedar Lake, Helena Township, Scott County when the storm hit. He was able to find shelter with relatives near Cedar Lake. The next day he walked home, leaving the 1929 Chevrolet snow bound till he could dig it out.

Per Eileen; growing up in the 1940’s in a small community and by parents who lived through the depression was so different from now. There weren’t “housing developments, the professional and blue collar residents all lived in the same neighborhoods. Some were better off than others but it didn’t seem to make a difference to the children. If you didn’t have money for something’s you did without it. Kids had the church bells and power house whistle telling them when it was time to go home for lunch and the evening meals. Children played in their respective neighborhoods, gathered together on the empty sandlots of the town to play softball and met up at the city park for afternoon and evenings of play time. Once a week in the evening there was a band concerts at the park. The Park Ballroom was a favorite meeting place for girls and boys in their teen age and older years. The boys had their favorite “fishing streams” that they’d get to by walking or on their bikes. Many “bullhead” meals came from this endeavor. In the winter there were hills on the outskirts of town that everyone went to for sledding. This was all accomplished without much adult supervision. Most every adult in New Prague knew what child belonged to what family and if things got out of hand the folks would get the message. As a child she could go to the neighborhood saloon and buy ice cream or a pail of beer to carry home for the enjoyment of her visiting grandfather. A note from her neighbor allowed her to buy cigarettes at the grocery store for her neighbor. Grocery shopping was done on foot every other day and you had to be sure you had what you wanted for the weekend as no stores were opened on Sunday. It was a different world then.

After completing 8 grades at St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Eileen attended New Prague High School and after graduation she went on to Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis, MN. Eileen was employed at Northwestern Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. She retired after 40 plus years of nursing. During grade school she babysat and worked as a nanny taking care of a newborn baby. In her high school years she worked in Montgomery at the Green Giant Factory and as a nurse’s aide at Queen of Peace Hospital in New Prague, MN.

When still in high school she met her husband, Richard who lived on a farm in the Marystown, MN. area, approximately 5 miles south of Shakopee. Richard’s paternal and maternal families have been in the Marystown and Shakopee area since 1872. Eileen and Richard married in 1956 and moved to Shakopee from Minneapolis in 1959. Richard worked for Mack Truck for twenty years and then went on to farm the two family farms in the 1970’s. They are parents to two children, Charlotte and Stephen, grandparents to one granddaughter, five grandsons and one great granddaughter.

In fourth grade History and Geography were introduced as subjects and Eileen discovered a great liking for both subjects. This interest carried on into High School. She considered a career as a History teacher but realized that most students weren’t that keen on these subjects so she didn’t carry through with her plans.

Eileen’s interest in researching her genealogy led her to the Scott County Historical Society and then on to the Shakopee Heritage Society. As a member of the SHS she’s taken an active role in the society and has enjoyed learning Shakopee history.

January 1912: One Hundred year old Shakopee News

Following excerpts taken from the Shakopee Tribune January 19, 1912

Lee Gelhaye, Shakopee’s Wrestler will meet Joseph Steinmetz, the “German Giant” of Chicago in a handicap match at Brooks Opera House tomorrow evening, January 20th. P.S. Lee Won!! **George Delbow** has purchased half interest in the Shakopee Creamery owned by his brother-in-law, J.C. Munsch.

Leo Huth and his mother who have been quarantined with small pox for the past week are about again none the worse from their confinement.

Joseph Fischer is busily engaged this week at Jordan doing the cement work on the new sanitarium. A **freight train** wrecked between Merriam and Jordan by a broken rail Saturday night delayed all east and west bound trains about 7 hours. No one was injured.

January 26, 1912

Total of \$189.50 was paid out on the Wolf Bounty in Scott County.

The annual ice harvest began last week. The quality of the ice is fine this year, being very clear and about 23 inches thick.

The following excerpts are from the Scott County Argus January 12, 1912

Minus 42 degrees this morning.

January 19, 1912

A new railroad station has been established on the Omaha between Jordan and Merriman; it is called Mud Baden and is located near the sanitarium of the name.

The following obituary is from the Shakopee Tribune. January 22, 1925

PIONEER DIES AT AGE OF 85

Edward R. Pond, Elder at Bloomington Church, Succumbed Last Saturday

One of Minnesota's early pioneers, Edward R. Pond, cousin of E.J. Pond of this city passed away at his home in Bloomington. Edward was the son of the missionary, Gideon H. Pond, who built the first house in Minneapolis. He also was one of the first white children to be born within the city limits of Minneapolis. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday at 2 PM, in the church established by his father, Gideon Pond, nearly three-quarters of a century ago, the Oak Grove Presbyterian church, Bloomington, MN. Mr. Pond's father and his uncle, Samuel W. Pond, built a log cabin on the knoll overlooking Lake Calhoun in 1834. It was the center of an Indian village. Edward Pond, first of the children, was born there. In 1852 his father moved to Bloomington and built Oak Grove church, of which he was a pastor. In 1864 Edward Pond married and he his bride went to the Dakotas as Indian missionaries for several years. Returning in 1871, they bought a farm and built a house, the last house on the southern end of Nicollet Avenue, in Bloomington. Mr. Pond established a dairy farm, worked with bee culture, writing occasional articles on bees for farm publications. He was elder of the church for 54 years. Up to 30 years ago he taught a Sunday school class of Indians in their native tongue.

Shakopee Heritage Society

519 East First Avenue

Shakopee MN 55379