



Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2009

This edition:

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- *Shakopee news 125 years ago*
- *Storer Diary 150 years ago*
- *SHS tenth year is ending.*
- *Meet our members; Irene Sinnen Powers*
- *Guest Speaker Fall Meeting*

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
At The Shakopee Library
Downstairs Meeting
Room*

October 17th at 1.00 PM

The Guest Speaker will be
Dick Jonkowski.

Dick will give a talk on his
take of Shakopee history.

Don't miss out. Be there.

Notes from the Editor Don Wagner

As a reminder to our members we publish this newsletter four times per year prior to the four **Membership Meetings**; January, April, July, and October. We try to get them in the mail 1 to 2 weeks before the meetings. If you do not get one, let us know as soon as possible. We will mail you another one. It also may help us track down what is happening with the mail. If you notice that your copy has a label coming off or the tape is coming off allowing it to open up during delivery let us know. We never get any back from the Post Office, or any complaints from the Post office. There are just mysterious missing newsletters. Thanks for your help.

The 2nd Biennial Home/Sight Tour will have been held but was too close to print time so please attend the Fall Meeting to see how it all came out.

The Winner of the book “The Shakopee Story” at Derby Days was Donna J. Cline, 400 Cedar Terrace, Shakopee MN. Congratulations to Donna, a newer Shakopee resident who said she was glad to get the book and be able to learn more about Shakopee.

The Shakopee Heritage Preservation Advisory Commission (a City Commission) is working to help the Shakopee Heritage Society get ownership of the railings from the Holmes Street Bridge when they are removed to be replaced with new ones. We will have more on this as and if it happens.

The Bopple Soda Fountain, a piece of Shakopee history that the SHS obtained in 2003 from the widow of Carlos Luis will be on exhibition at the Stans Museum. It was located through the work of Betty Dols and has been kept in storage since 2003. Recently we removed it from storage so the Scott County Historical Society could use it in their 1950's display for approximately the next year. Try to see their display; it is well worth the effort to get there.

Congratulations to us, we are ending ten years of collecting, Saving, distributing, and even making a little, history of Shakopee.

Shakopee News 125 years ago, 1884

By Eileen Schmitz

Taken from the Shakopee Courier, Published every Thursday by C.A. Stevens.

- 1-17-1884** Mrs. Major Strait has been very ill with bronchitis the past eight days, but is now improving.
- 1-23-1884** Grand Leap Year Ball will be given by the ladies of Shakopee at the Reis' Hall tomorrow night, Friday January 24. Admission is 75 cents per couple, gents without partners, 35 cents.
- 2-14-1884** On Thursday evening, the two prisoners in jail here, broke out through the roof and escaped. Sheriff Weiland took the St .Paul passenger train that eve and 3 miles of Mendota he found the runaways.
- 2-14-1884** Mr. John Kauth of the St. Paul Hotel, in the First Ward will give a Ball at his fine hall adjoining hotel on Thursday eve.
- 2-21-1884** Married at the Lutheran Church in this city, January 4, 1884 by Rev. C. Mende, Mr. Henry Westermann to Miss Mary Strahlow, all of this city.
- 3-06-1884** The Prohibitionists of Scott County will hold a mass meeting at Jordan, March 10th, 1884---for the purpose of organizing a party.
- 3-13-1884** **NOTICE:**—It is hereby given that all persons indebted to me must come and settle up their accounts within 3 weeks as I am going to Washington Territory—John Reis.
- 3-20-1884** Milo Apgar son of Captain Apgar, having sold out is Alabama possessions is back here to stay.

- 3-20-1884** “The German American Bank” of Shakopee, has commenced doing business as a National Bank.
- 4-3-1884** Gardening has begun, the ground being in good condition to plant.
- 4-3-1884** Quite a number of Indian teepees are now erected in E. Shakopee just beyond the foot of 1st Street.
- 4-3-1884** The following offices were elected in the city election.
Geo. F. Strait—Mayor; Julius A. Coller--Recorder; Nick Berens—Treasurer; Alderman; 1st Ward--John Linhoff; 2nd Ward--Jacob Ries; 3rd Ward--H. Schroeder.
- 4-24-1884** Chief of Police, Adolph Schmitz is reappointed for another year.
- 5- 15-1884** The Merchants Hotel by J.J. Ring has ample accommodations for stabling in the O’Dowd Barn adjoining premises and fronting on Lewis Street. Ring’s old barn was razed by fire last month.
- 5-22-1884** Charley Storer has accepted a position in a large grocery store in Mpls.
- 5-29-1884** Last week John Hirscher went fishing down to the river bank and hooked a 52 pound, 5 foot 7 inches sturgeon.
- 6-26-1884** Storer and Son are selling out to close business
- 6-26-1884** Mr. Joseph Strunk says “it is a little girl and all is well.”
- 7-17-1884** The new Skating Rink will be opened Saturday night.
- 7-24-1884** The Shakopee Club defeated the St. Paul & Omaha Shops of St. Paul here yesterday after 10 innings, 15-14.
- 8-7-1884** Crops of Scott County are heavy with wheat and oats being cut.
- 9-4-1884** Dr. James H. Dunn desires to inform his old patrons that he has returned from his studies in the hospitals of Europe and will resume his practice of Medicine and Surgery with his brother, Jno. B. Dunn.
- 9-18-1884** It rained hard Sunday evening and we have had high winds since, indication of fall weather.
- 9-11-1884** **NOTICE:** John Reis is selling his dwelling properties of two lots and two houses situated on 5th, between Lewis and Holmes Street plus all saddlery goods will be sold---A good stable with room for 4 horses and buggy shed is on the properties---He is leaving Shakopee by Oct. 1, 1884.
- 10-9-1884** Hubert M. Marx has opened a Jewelry establishment in Judge L. M. Brown’s late office.
- 10-9-1884** **DIED:** Capt. Samuel Apgar, on Friday October 3, 1884. He was born in New York October 26, 1801, coming to Shakopee in the spring of 1852, made a claim adjoining the town site, where he resided until 1875.
- 11-6-1884** Cranberries seem to be very scarce as it is impossible to buy a quart in Shakopee.
- 11-6-1884** The Minnesota River is patronized to a certain extent by Steamboats, one coming up yesterday for brick at Schroeder’s Yard.
- 11-13-1884** Mr. Coller will control “Argus’s Columns” during Geo Hinds’ absence, he having gone south for his health.
- 11-13-1884** Jno. P. Ring will go to New Market to teach in School District #59.
- 11-27-1884** Turkey shoot going on over the river.
- 11-27-1884** Fire Alarm; the Mill whistle will give the alarm of fire---It will blow quick, sharp whistle, stop, then repeat, etc.
- 11-27-1884** Weather has turned colder, with snow last Saturday and temperature down to 20 below zero.
- 12-11-1884** The Wampach Wagon Factory resumed business last week
- 12-11-1884** Fresh oysters, every day at Marx’s Restaurant, received direct from Baltimore.
- 12-18-1884** Reed, Rattan and Willow goods just received at Philipp’s Furniture Store.
- 12-18-1884** Walking Bear, one of the best toys for children at Mike Berens Store.
- 12-18-1884** Died: Leo Berens, 1 year old son of Matt Berens Jr., December 14, 1884
- 12-24-1884** Good maple wood can be bought for \$3.50 -\$4.00 a load.

12-24-1884 The family of C.C. Spoons of Spring Lake have been suffering for a couple of weeks with Scarlet Fever.

12-24-1884 Johnny Kopp contemplates a trip to the sunny south, going direct to New Orleans.

**Excerpts from Daniel Storer's Diary 150 years ago.
By the Editor Don Wagner**

August 11th 1859. Hot as fire almost. I was over to D. P. Spaulding's today. He has a field of corn that averages almost 12 feet high.

Daniel Storer was busy building the Courthouse in Shakopee as well as other projects. The attempt to move the courthouse to either Eagle Creek or Jordan was just settled in favor of Shakopee and Daniel was back at work on the courthouse. The Jail for Scott County was a part of the courthouse and was located in the basement. On October 9th of 1859 the following entry was in the Diary.

Sunday October 9th 1859. Went up this morning to put a lock on the jail door. They have got a prisoner by the name of Souls of Spring Lake.

No mention is made of what Mr. Souls was being jailed for, but he evidently holds the dubious distinction of being the first prisoner locked up in the new Scott County Jail and courthouse complex.

Meet our members

By Eileen Schmitz

IRENE SINNEN POWERS____ has been a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society since its conception having become interested in Shakopee history and wanting to know more of the history of Shakopee.

She celebrates her birthday on April 30, having been born in 1923 on her parent's, August Sinnen and Anna Stelten Sinnen's farm in Chanhassen, MN. The farm was located on the south side of Highway 5 and east of Highway 101. Her parents farmed there for over 60 years. A large medical building and small mall now occupy the site. She attended St. Hubert's Catholic School and Chaska High School, graduating from High School in 1941. After High School graduation she came to live in Shakopee with her Grandma Stelten obtaining her first job with Dr. Nevin as his dental assistant. No formal education was required for that position at that time, Dr. Nevin trained Irene "on the job." In 1945 she married Joseph Powers moving to Chanhassen and then returning to live in Shakopee three years later. Irene and her husband are the parents of two boys, Greg, who lives at home with Irene and son Joe Thomas who lives in Pennsylvania. In 1965 Irene was employed by the Minnesota State Correctional Institute as a Correctional Counselor in charge of the Security Unit. She retired from there after 20 years of service retiring in 1985. Her husband Joseph died in 1981.

Irene recalls with fond remembrance her Grandparent Stelten's home which was located on the corner of Scott and 4th Ave. They moved there after selling their confectionary store. They lived on the second floor; the first floor was rented out. The house has since been demolished and a parking lot now stands in its place. The Stelten's raised chickens for sale as well as eggs. West of the house was a huge apple orchard and south of the house was a garden filled with peony plants. They also had a big vegetable



garden. Irene's father August Sinnen was born and raised in Chanhassen on the farm where he farmed for 60 years. His parents, John and Mary Jungblut came to America from Luxembourg. Irene's mother, Anna Stelten was born and raised in Shakopee. Anna's parents, Godfried Stelten and Magdalen Heinen came from Holland.

Magdalen Heinen Stelten came to America with her parents, Gregory and Mary Ponseng Heinen when she was 18 months old. Their home on 3rd Ave was demolished in the late 1940's so that the Page and Hill Plant could be built on the site.

Godfried came to America alone as a young man at the age of 19. Both families, the Stelten and Heinen's settled in the Shakopee area.

Her grandfather Stelten owned and operated the Eureka Confectionary Store on Holmes Street between First and Second Ave. They lived above the store until they sold it to his brother-in-law John Heinen in the 1920's. At one time the Shakopee Library was located in the back of the store. Lady Di's Antique's occupies the building at this time. Irene has been an active member of the SHS working with Betty Dols in the past inventorying the cemeteries in Scott County and some in Carver County. She's volunteered for the various events held by the SHS and has many stories to share regarding Shakopee. She is an avid gardener, having a large well-kept garden south of her house and loves to quilt having made 35 full size quilts which she hand quilts and over 50 quilts of various sizes. We thank her for her continued interest in the SHS and all the hours she's given to our group.

This is the end of our tenth year for the Shakopee Heritage Society under its present structure, and we cannot let it pass without at least a mention of the first decade of our existence. We need to acknowledge all the officers, board members, volunteers, and our membership who have assembled and worked in many ways to make us a better organization during that time. SHS has collected and published, recorded and passed on and in some ways even added to the History of Shakopee. We have accomplished a lot in ten years, but I am sure we can find even more for the next ten.



Picture at left is of a Shakopee farm about 1915. Donated by Marie Stay it is one of many great photos Marie has donated.



**The old telephone office on Holmes Street. Where City Hall stands today.
One of many Donated by Jerry Kline**

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