



Shakopee  
Heritage  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 32

spring 2009

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*This edition:*

- *Spring Membership Meeting*
- *Meet our members Darleen Schesso*
- *Meet our members Harriet Pink*
- *Local news 1909 (100 years ago)*
- *Notes from the editor*
- *Our program for April 2009 The Pelham Hotel, with guest speaker John Siebenaler*

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*

## Spring Membership Meeting

is on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM in the downstairs meeting room of the Shakopee Library. Come to hear the latest news, enjoy the program we have planned, then grab a few cookies and some coffee, and enjoy your fellow members.

**Membership dues were payable at the January Meeting. Your Editor forgot to mention it in the last newsletter.**

The Following Two Articles by Eileen Schmitz were researched and authored by Eileen. We are very pleased to be able to add the Meet Our Members series to the newsletter. Thanks again Eileen.

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**Darleen Schesso** was born September 10, 1927 in Lake Benton, MN a small farming town in South West Minnesota. Her father and mother were farmers. She is one of eight children in the family, seven girls and one boy.

She became acquainted with our Scott County area through her Uncle and Aunt who owned a café in Jordan MN. The café was called “Broadway Eat Shop” which was in operation in the 1930’s and 1940’s. Maybe some of our members are familiar with the café.

Darleen’s older sister, Mavis stayed with this uncle and aunt and attended school in Jordan. Mavis later found employment in Shakopee in the office of lawyer Harold Flynn so when Darleen graduated from high school she gravitated to Shakopee for her first job which was working in the office of the Riviera Club which was located in the old Shakopee Ball Park. After only a few short months Darleen was called home to help care for her brother and sisters when her mother took ill. Some 12 months later, around 1947, her mother was well again so Darleen came back to Shakopee and found employment at Dueber’s which was like a five and dime store. Duebers was located on the east side of Lewis Street between First and Second Street.

After Dueber’s Darleen worked at the Scott County Court House in the Register of Deeds Department. From there she went to work for the City of Shakopee in the Old City Hall which was located on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lewis. She and Mr. Florian Dircks were the only employees at the time. This building also housed the police department and the Fire Station. This building burned and was a total loss in the 1950’s.

Darleen and Norman Schesso were married in 1952 and after the arrival of their children Darleen retired from working outside of the home until she took the position at St. John’s Lutheran Church as their church secretary. She held this position for 20 years. She also worked for the Chamber of Commerce for 7 years before retiring in 1992.

Darleen’s husband Norman was a member of the Schesso family that owned the Chevrolet Garage in Shakopee. Norman also was part owner of the bowling alley on First Street with Bucky Cavanaugh. Before the bowling alley it was a furniture store. Darleen spent many a hour in that establishment helping out with the running of the business.



Darleen became interested in The Shakopee Heritage Society soon after it was established. She is well acquainted with Shakopee and has enjoyed working on the many projects of the Society.

She was recognized for her role in The Shakopee Heritage Society at our January meeting and was awarded a lifetime membership by the board of directors. We again thank her for her dedication to our society.

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## *Harriet Schmitt Pink*

has a long association with Shakopee, MN. Her paternal great grandfather was a pioneer settler of Shakopee coming from Germany around 1866. Her grandfather Jacob Schmitt married Christina Hauer whose family also were pioneer settlers of Shakopee.

Harriet was born on her parents, George and Mary Kreuser Schmitt's, 160 acre farm in Chanhassen Township, Carver County on November 9, 1925. She is the ninth of 12 children. The family farmstead is still standing on Pioneer Trail with the Bluff Creek Golf Course situated on the farm's upper pasture. As others of her generation she was active in the daily workings of the farm helping with both indoor and outdoor work.

Her first four years of elementary school was in a one room school house, District 14, Carver County. Her family belonged to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee so when St. Mary's built the Catholic school in 1935 she attended that school from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her father transported the children to and from school daily. After grade school Harriet attended Shakopee High School graduating in 1943. Her senior year of high school she made her home with her grandmother Schmitt to be a companion and help mate to her grandmother. They lived on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. West in Shakopee. In 1945 her parents moved to Shakopee living on Lewis and Fourth Street.

Her first job after high school, from 1943 to 1946 was at the Scott County Court House in the Register of Deeds department.

In December of 1946 she married Melvin Pink whose family were also pioneer settlers of the Shakopee area. She and Melvin are parents of four sons. She took some time off raising children before returning to work.

In 1948 she returned to work at the Scott County Court House working for Mr. Bernard Herzog who was the County Superintendent of Schools. At that time there were 20 country schools in the county. She also helped with the newly organized Public Health Nurse office in 1949. After that she went back to work in the Register of Deeds office until 1963. She then went to work for Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan as Administrative Assistant until her retirement in 1985.

Harriet is one of the original members of the Shakopee Heritage Society. She was the Society's first treasurer and has served as board member and officer. She was the Craft Fair Head for Derby days representing our Society, was one of others who wrote and published "Recollection of Early Pioneers", a presenter of our meeting programs and its director and a volunteer at our Derby Day booth and at the Shakopee Showcase. We are lucky to have Harriet as a member and thank her for all her work with the society.

Harriet was also awarded a lifetime membership by the board of directors.



# April 1909 IN SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA

From the Scott County Argus

By Eileen Schmitz

*April 9, 1909 Joseph A. Ring was reelected mayor for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term. (he won by 1 vote)*

*April 16 1909 District 41 School Board adopted a resolution pertaining to the sale of tobacco, liquor etc. to pupils attending District 41 school. This resolution will be strictly enforced.*

*April 23, 1909 Joseph M. Spindler purchased the frame dwelling and 2 lots on 4<sup>th</sup> St. from Mrs. Sophia Gigrich for a consideration of \$1300.00*

*Supertendant T. J. Nickolay became the owner of the Mrs. Benning (formerly Mrs. Annen) property near St. Marks Church. He paid \$1350.00 for a house and eight lots.*

*Born: To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ries April 10, 1909 A Boy*

*Complaint: Numerous complaints have been received by Postmaster Schwartz that the mail in unlocked rural mail boxes have been tampered with.*

*Street Sprinkler: Mr. Heckers offers his team and wagon at a reasonable price to sprinkle the streets of Shakopee this summer.*

## And from The Shakopee Tribune

*April 2, 1909 The funeral for George Ries, age 34 was held at St. Mark's Church. He leaves a mother and five brothers and 2 sisters to mourn his demise. He was born in New Market and came to Shakopee with his parents when he was 18 years old. At the time of his death he was the owner of Cash Meat Market in Minneapolis.*

*The Minnesota River has risen from 10 to 15 feet during the past two weeks. The trestle road is several feet under water and the Sioux Indians have taken up their abodes on this side of the Minnesota River.*

*Senator and Mrs. Julius A. Coller went to St. Paul Monday, where they will remain until the final adjournment of the senate.*

*April 9, 1909 The Schroeder Stone Quarries and Lime Kiln commenced work last week.*

*FOR SALE OR RENT: A good 240 acre farm 2 1/2 miles east of town with good buildings. Brick house, large barn, well with tower and water tank. Inquire of Wm Ryan*

*FOR SALE: Six houses -----Inquire of John Mertz*

*Local Talent Play The play "The Unknown Martyr" will be given at Landers Opera House the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April under the auspices of the St. Rose Y.L. Society.*

*Miss Clara Loganfeil and Winnefred Peck returned to the Mankato Normal after a visit at their respective homes.*

*PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRIES: Try a case of quarts at \$2.00 of the famous Shakopee Brewery's extra fine lager. Brewed and Bottled by Hubert Nysen.*

*The Easter Monday dance was taken advantage of by a large crowd of 98 couples.*

*April 23, 1909 Born--- To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Marschall April 3<sup>rd</sup>, A Boy*

*April 30, 1909 M.A. Deutsch's pharmacy is adorned with a handsome new roll awning, covering the entire big front of the store.*

*Mrs. Ruth Spencer, aged widow of the late Spier Spencer, is very sick and is not expected to survive.*

**Notes from the Editor:**

Since your editor forgot to notify members in the last newsletter that membership dues were due in January, the number of paid memberships is down.

We do need to act like Channel 2 once each year and remind our members that these dues are our basic means of funding for all the other projects we do. Checks should be payable to Shakopee Heritage Society and paid at the April meeting, or sent to Patricia Ploumen, Treasurer, 805 7th Ave E, Shakopee, MN 55379.

**Society Membership**

Individual     \$10

Family         \$15

Supporting     \$25

**Corporate Membership**

Gold Club Sponsor     \$500

Silver Club Sponsor    \$100

Club Sponsor         \$50

The reprint of “The Shakopee Story” by Julius A. Coller II, is still on schedule for release this spring. This is the boldest campaign the Shakopee Heritage Society has undertaken so far. The printing committee headed by Jay Whiting has committed a great deal of time, energy and money on this project. The Coller family members have been a superior part of that effort and have also committed every effort to make it successful. I personally am very pleased the Shakopee Heritage Society was finally able to finance and manage this much deserved project. We will update everyone at the meeting on where we stand.

The Shakopee Historic Preservation Advisory Committee has tried everything they could think of to save the house on 4<sup>th</sup> street next to Saint Marks Church. Scott County has been very co-operative in its efforts to help the committee, and so has The City of Shakopee through the efforts of Mark Noble. Their efforts are very much appreciated. Finding someone who is able to put together a package, find a lot, move the building to a new lot, remodel it, and all those things necessary for it to properly happen, may not come about in time to save it from the wrecking ball. Efforts by everyone will continue until time runs out.

The Shakopee showcase is April 13<sup>th</sup> and the Shakopee Heritage Society will have a booth there and good representation by several board members. Although the main purpose is to represent our society and let more people know who we are, we will also have books for sale and membership brochures available. A sweetener of a few sweets (pun intended) and a laptop computer showing some Shakopee Heritage pictures will be running at our booth. This event will be over before our membership meeting so we can update everyone again at the meeting.

Pat Ploumen is heading the committee for the next Historic Homes / Building Tour. The event requires a lot of work and coordination and only has a couple of confirmed homes committed so far but is working hard for more. Can anyone offer some help or thoughts? The showing is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM.

The planned Speaker for the April membership meeting is John Siebenaler. (son of the former mayor) His subject will be the Pelham Hotel.

Bob Smishek Had to resign from the board this March due to Health problems. We will sorely miss Bobs research and judgment as a board member. We wish him the best and would be happy to welcome him back should he ever wish to return to the Board.

We will update members on these subjects at the Membership meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> at the library downstairs meeting room at 1.00 PM. Please attend if you can.



Some Stove company employees circa 1920? Can you name any of the people?

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