



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 31

Winter 2009

This edition:

- *Annual Membership Meeting*
- *Some pictures from donors*
- *Officer and Trustee Elections*
- *Lifetime membership Awards*
- **Notes from the editor**
- *Our program for January 2009*

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

Annual Membership Meeting

Including the election of Officers and Trustees is on Saturday January 17th at 1:00PM in the downstairs meeting room of the Shakopee Library.

Come to hear the latest news, vote for officers and Trustees, enjoy the program we have planned then grab a few cookies and some coffee, and best of all, enjoy your fellow members.

The Following Article by Eileen Schmitz is 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.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lorraine Ries

Lorraine celebrated her 90th birthday last month. She was born on a farm in Eagle Creek Township, Scott County on December 30, 1918. The farm was located high on a hill at the intersection of county road 42 and 83. At this time the farm is part of a large housing development.



Lorraine (Hauer) Reis

Her parents Peter Hauer and Clara Kopp Hauer raised nine children.

Lorraine was the fourth oldest in the family. Her father, Peter Hauer was born in New Market, MN. His family was from Luxemburg. Her paternal grandmother was a Wagner and her maternal grandmother was a Clemens who married Ed Kopp.

When old enough to start school she attended the district country school that was located where Mystic Lake now stands. She remembers wigwams along the road and a lake on the way to the school.

When she was in 3rd grade her parents sold the farm and moved into Shakopee. They bought a small working farm on First Avenue. The Super America gas station stands on the site of the old homestead.

On her way to school one morning when she was in the third grade she witnessed the kidnapping of Sheriff Brown. She saw Sheriff Brown wrestling with the kidnapers but was confused and did not know what was going on until after the fact.

Lorraine attended St. Marks Parochial school and Shakopee High School. While still in high school she worked at the Rock Spring Café on weekends which was located on first and Lewis Street in Shakopee. Lennie Ayd was the owner of the Rock Spring when she worked there. The present establishment that stands there now is Turtle's Restaurant. She remembers the

back door of the cafe that was the entrance for a room that held "slots." This room was off the café and could not be reached through the café. If a customer in the café ordered a "drink" Lorraine had to go to a door that led into a closet like area to order the drink and then was given the "drink" through a slot in the

door.

She also worked in a café that was owned by Mr Gelhaye on First Ave.

She and John Ries married in 1938. Mr. Ries is also a native of Shakopee. His father and mother Joe Ries and Marion Friedrich operated a farm on 4th Avenue. At the time of their marriage Mr. Ries had a bar on First Ave. east of Lewis Street. Mr. Ries called his bar, “Johnny’s Bar.” Soon after that he went into the plumbing and heating trade.

After their marriage they lived on the ground floor of a house on Lewis Street which is still standing in the same location. After some time they moved to a house that they bought where the furniture store, Timber Creek is now located. They then bought the house on 3rd and Atwood Street, then in later years built a new house on 3rd avenue.

Lorraine and John are the parents of 8 children, 7 boys and 1 girl.

Lorraine has been a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society for over 6 years and has been a valuable source of information regarding the history of Shakopee and a willing helping member of the club.

Notes from the editor

The Shakopee Story by Julius Coller did not get finished by Christmas as we had hoped. We will be getting it done in the spring of this year. It has been a significant effort for all the volunteers and is very close to done now. It is better to have it as good as we can get it, rather than rushing to finish too quickly.

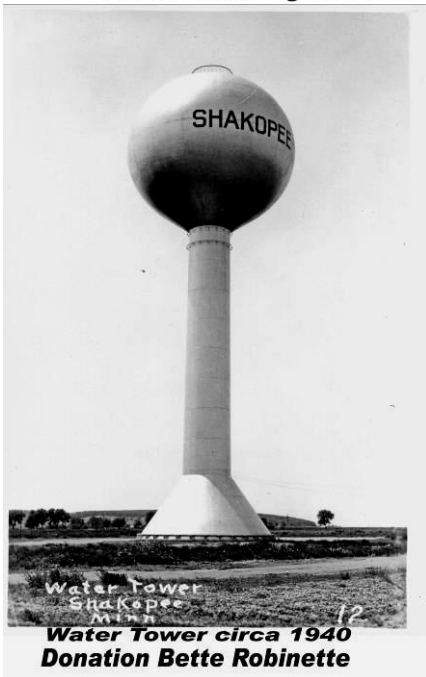


This Picture at the Mill pond fishing hole was donated by Penny Eichoff

I any of you have a picture, an issue, a message for members, an idea for an article, or something of interest to our members, let any member of the board know and we will try to get it in the next newsletter.



First Ave looking East from Lewis Street Donation Betty Dolls

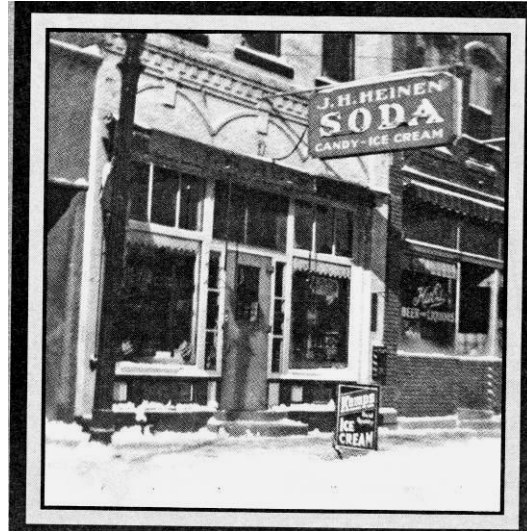


The picture to the left submitted by Bette Robinette is from a postcard she had. Jay Whiting brought to my attention the fact that in 1946 this Water Tower was in the December issue of Popular Mechanics. Named the Silver Mushroom, because it was shaped like a giant mushroom and called a landmark it was described in detail. Today there are many such water towers but Shakopee's was the first to be built. Another interesting point on the water tower is that Edward Fonnier, a local sign painter, was the artist who first climbed up the strange tower and painted Shakopee up there. Mr. Fonnier still lives in Shakopee.

Shakopee Heritage Society Lifetime Membership Status

The Shakopee Heritage Society Board of Directors has selected two individuals from our membership and has voted unanimously to bring those two names before the membership to vote on awarding them the status of Honorary Lifetime Membership. This will be the first time the Board has presented this honor on any of our members.

Harriet Pink, an original Shakopee Heritage Society member, and past board member and officer. Harriet was a volunteer at Derby days that originally did the Craft Fair Scheduling and organization for us. Harriet also did typing and other work on the book *Recollections of Early Pioneers 1925*. She has since done most of the typing on a follow up book that we have not



published yet, but we hope to see it as one of the next publications we tackle. Harriet also did the research work and collected pictures for an article about the Heinen Confectionary on Holmes Street. *See picture above*

Darlene Schesso, another early SHS member and past board member and officer. It was Darlene who did the research on the Shakopee Queens and gathered the pictures and other items you have seen at derby days (in the picture window at Betty Lou's). Darlene has been generous with information on Shakopee's past and with pictures and other memorabilia. Her time and efforts are much appreciated and she continues to be a pleasure to be around.

We mention a few of the efforts by our two candidates and hope you agree with our Board and **unanimously** vote them this status.

Elections for Officers and Board members are to be held at the January Meeting. So far these people have agreed to run. We could use additional directors, or competition for these seats as listed.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Joe Collins | President |
| Don McNeil | Vice President |
| Pat Ploumen | Treasurer |
| Jay Whiting | Secretary |
| Don Wagner | Director |
| Bob Smishek | Director |
| Jerry Klein | Director |

We would like to have any other member who wishes to help, sign up for one of these positions or as a committee member or part time volunteer. We will be asking at the meeting for any additions you may wish to add to the list.

The program for the upcoming January meeting will be a round table discussion of Jack Coller and the Shakopee Story. You may be able to learn answers to questions you always wanted to know about the Shakopee Story or the man. Members of Jack Coller's family will be there to lead the discussion. The family members also have been at all the meetings of the publishing committee and extremely helpful and cooperative in so very many ways.

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