



Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 36

Spring 2010

This edition:

- *Notes from the Editor*
- *Shakopee news 75 years ago*
- *Photo I. D. new item*
- **Statistics for the Year 1909**
- *Meet our members; jay and Melissa Whiting.*
- *Guest Speaker This month Lorain Ries*

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 Will be Held
At The Shakopee Library
Downstairs Meeting
Room*

April 17th at 1.00 PM

The Guest Speaker will be

Lorain Ries

Telling us some of her
memories on

"Growing up in Shakopee."

Don't miss out, be there.

Notes from the Editor Don Wagner

A new feature for our newsletter; Check the Photo's on page 5 and see if you can identify them both. We will ask at the meeting how many of you were able to recognize both of the pictures.

Have you paid your membership dues? If you have not, please do so at the Membership meeting Saturday April 17th.

We are thinking of a field trip for the membership, See what you think.

See the Article by Eileen Schmitz on statistics for 1909, in this issue of the newsletter

The Bopple soda fountain is still on display at the Scott County Historical Society museum Or Stans museum in Shakopee. The whole display is worth a visit by everyone. Get there if you can.

The Shakopee Heritage Society's new website is up and ready to go; the address is www.shakopeeheritage.org

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By Eileen Schmitz

SHAKOPEE NEWS FROM 75 YEARS AGO, 1935

"Old 41" School, Landmark since 1870; To Yield to Wreckers Soon

A landmark that has long linked the present with the past in Shakopee, the "old 41" school is soon to vanish under the hands of wreckers. Since district No. 41 and district No. 1 were consolidated in 1918 the old building has been a "white elephant" on the hands of the school directors.

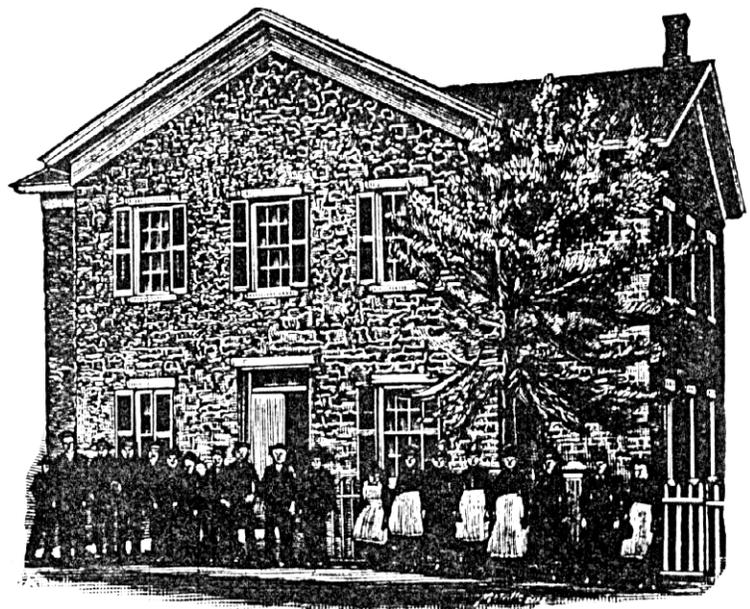
Unsuccessful in many attempts to sell the building school boards have long debated what course to pursue. Time and the elements have played havoc with the building and vandals bent on destruction have demolished portions of the interior.

Now condemned as a hazard to life and limb and looked upon as a fire trap the old two-story lime-stone house of knowledge on 4th street, in West Shakopee, is to be razed, if plans materialize.

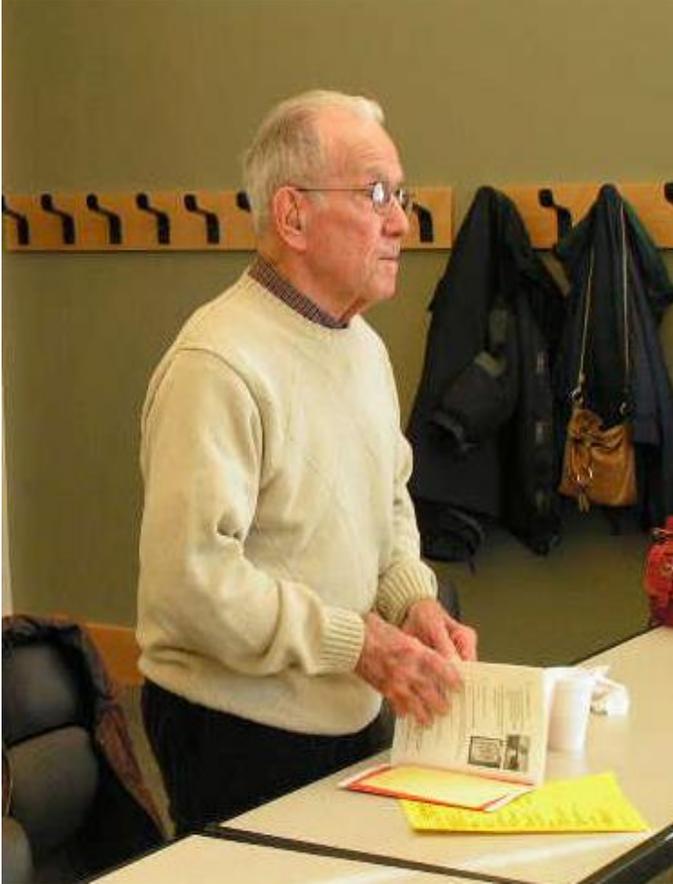
According to R. T. Schumacher, chairman of the board of education, the work will be done with ERA labor under the supervision of Leo Siebenaler. Lumber, millwork and desks salvaged from the structure will be sold and the complete removal is expected to be carried on with our placing any added expense on the district. When the work was to start was not definitely known, but it is expected to get under way this month.

With the contemplated wrecking of the revered institution a handful of Shakopee's older residents will turn their thought to the days they spent within its walls.

Opening in the spring of 1870 with Charles W. Smith as the first teacher, the school was divided into three departments, namely, grammar, intermediate and primary. *continues on Page 3*



DISTRICT 41 SCHOOL



January Guest Speaker Gilbert Delbow.



Melissa and Jay Whiting our Meet our Members couple for this month

Continued from page 2

Mr. Smith's original record of the first class enrolled in the grammar department has been devoutly preserved by Julius A. Collier, one of the first students.

Although the book is marked by age, and its paper spotted with the blemishes of years the teacher's ink is still fresh and clear and his penmanship is a fine example of the art.

Behind each name on the class roll, 50 in all, appears the student's age; the youngest was six years old, and the oldest eighteen.

Some of the class, long since dead, is still remembered; some are still among us; the sons, daughters, grandchildren of many are now Shakopee's citizens.

The names in the register, spelled as their writer recorded them early in May 1870, follow: Mary Thomas, Kate Galvin, Chas. Lincoln, Chas. Parker, Peter Yost, Chas. Schroder, Peter Phillips, Peter Wampach, Anton Phillips, Albert Wright, George Parker, James DePue, Marvin Wright, Spere Schooly, Jacob Ries, John Schwartz, Alois Hirscher, August Collier, Julius Collier, Arnold Strunk, Henry Husman, Elvi M. DePue, Will Parker, Valentine Niedenfuehr, Peter Thomas, Henry Hinen, John Galvin, Arnold Gradfenstatt, Math Theis, Henry Gottonburg, Maggy Schneir, Emma Creasy, Annie Flood, Annie Weider, Celia Roehl, Gilman DePue, Modissa Barnes, Celia Gromish, Matt Mather, Susan Kinn, Nellie Adams, Francis Kooms, Martha C. Kooms, Chas. Entrup, Alfred Wright, John McDonald, Finley McDonald, Adolph Smith, Jerry McCollum.

Shakopee Argus January 1935

**This months Meet our Members couple.
Jay and Melissa Whiting**

Jay was born in Eureka, MN near Excelsior. At the age of five his family moved to Minnetonka until at the age of 14 his family moved to Southern California. Jay returned to Minnesota when he was 17 and graduated from Eden Prairie High School in 1983. Jay has worked in the printing industry since prior to graduating high school. Jay is now the assistant plant manager for B. F. Nelson Corp. in Savage a printing and manufacturer of packaging. Jay has been working on his family's genealogy for years and traces his family name back to the 1435 in England. His paternal ancestors came to America around 1640.

Melissa was born in Minneapolis. She was adopted at the age of two months and two years later her parents adopted two other children. She was told she was of Norwegian decent. After her father, who served in the Army, came home from WWII, he went to work for Ed Phillips and Sons Liquor. Soon after the family moved from Rochester to Little Falls, MN he worked as a bookkeeper for Camp Ripley. Melissa's mother was a homemaker. They lived in the country, on Green Prairie Fish Lake. Melissa says "it was a great place to grow up. Since we lived out of town, I didn't have a regular job. I did some babysitting and worked at the school in the summer". Melissa went on to college at North Dakota State University and earned a major in horticulture and a minor in music. Melissa currently plays percussion in the Minnesota Valley Community Band and also plays for her church, Crown of Glory L. C. in Chaska. Melissa is also active in the Rocks & Pots Garden Club here in Shakopee. Melissa is currently serves as the Archivist for the SHS.

Jay & Melissa bought their Shakopee home at 520 Third Ave E in 1996. The houses most well known former owners were Florian & Erna Dircks. Florian was the City Recorder for Shakopee for a time and died at a fairly young age. Florian's son Frank and grandson Tom recently toured the house for Jay & Melissa grand opening of their latest addition to the house. Frank was full of great stories of growing up in the house.

Interest in their historic home was what got Jay & Melissa involved with history. Through research, at the Scott County Historical Society (SCHS), on their home, both Jay & Melissa became active with the SCHS. Jay was one of the first Saturday volunteers and Melissa was active working in the Stans house gardens. Jay eventually became a board member for the SCHS and was board president for two terms.

Jay is very active in the community including serving on City boards and commissions. He is vice president of the Shakopee Derby Days festival. Jay was Shakopee's 150th celebration chair. He was also the 2008 Shakopee Hometown Hero.

Through a tour organized through the SCHS, Jay met Don McNeil. There discussions, regarding starting a local history group, were the seeds of the Shakopee Heritage Society. Jay & Don along with Betty Dols founded the society with an initial meeting of home owners and interested citizens, brought together with a research project on the oldest homes in Shakopee. Jay was nominated and elected the Societies first president.

The Shakopee Heritage Society is doubly blessed with the very active volunteerism of this Couple.
Thanks Jay and Melissa.

Here are some statistics for the Year 1909: By Eileen Schmitz

The average life expectancy was 47 years. Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower! The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME. Ninety percent of all doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from Entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza.
2. Tuberculosis.
3. Diarrhea.
4. Heart disease.
5. Stroke.

The American flag had 45 stars. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!! Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health' (Shocking? DUH!) There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE! U.S.A.! Plus one more sad thought; 95 percent of the taxes we have now did not exist in 1909.



Take a look at the 2 photos above and see how many of you can identify both of them. We will ask about that at the April Membership Meeting.

Notes from the Editor. Continued from page 2

When you get to the Website check out all the different pages there and look at the links to other WebPages.

Our Guest Speaker for the April membership meeting will be Lorain Ries, Talking about some of her memories while growing up in Shakopee.

Remember to check out if you, or a friend, or relative, has any photographs of Shakopee, its houses, people, business's, neighborhoods, parties, ball games, neighborhood sandlot ball games, disasters, floods, fires etc. We can copy them and return the original back to you. We can also accept them as a donation to the society and see that they get proper storage. In both cases though we need a statement saying we have the rights to use the photographs. All the new copyright laws make it necessary to have that more than ever. We have photos from some of you but no letter of approval. We will be getting back to you with a letter to sign giving us permission to use the photographs we already have also.

Thank you for all the photographs we already have received

See you at the meeting

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