



*Shakopee*  
Heritage  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 35

Winter 2010

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*This edition:*

- *Notes from the Editor*
- *Shakopee news 100 years ago*
- *Storer Diary 150 years ago*
- *A page of colored pictures*
- *Meet our members; Don McNeil*
- *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  
Winter Membership  
Meeting Will be Held  
At The Shakopee Library  
Downstairs Meeting  
Room*

*Jan 16th at 1.00 PM*

The Guest Speaker will be

**Gilbert Delbow**

Telling us a about  
growing up in Shakopee.

**Don't miss out.**

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## Notes from the Editor Don Wagner

It is that time again; January is the month to pay our dues for the year. A single membership is \$10.00 and a family membership is \$15.00. You can pay this at the meeting in January or send it by mail to Shakopee Heritage Society, 519 East First Avenue, Shakopee MN 55379.

Gilbert Delbow has agreed to be our guest speaker for the January Membership meeting and he will discuss growing up in Shakopee. We expect he will save some time for questions from the group.

Worth mentioning again; 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 for several months.

If you can get there you will find a very interesting display including the Bopple fountain. If you have a long enough history in Shakopee, you will probably remember Mary Hart behind the counter while it was at Bopples Drug.

The Rock Spring truck, now owned by Jay Whiting, is still getting its needed restoration. In Checking with jay he says he has finished rebuilding the motor and it is back in The brakes are rebuilt and he is now re-wiring the cab. Its possible it could be done for next spring summer.

Look at the picture of last Octobers Guest Speaker Dick Janckowski on [page 3](#)

Notice also the Picture of the tenth anniversary cake from October's meeting, also on [page 3](#)

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## **Shakopee News January 1910**

*By Eileen Schmitz*

**Taken from THE SHAKOPEE TRIBUNE & SCOTT COUNTY ARGUS**

**January 7, 1910:** Yesterday dawned the coldest day of the season. A heavy blizzard preceded the cold leaving several inches of snow on the ground.

Dr. P.M Fischer and family arrived in Shakopee this Wednesday from Remus, Michigan. Dr. Fischer has formed a partnership with his brother, Dr. H.P. Fischer for the practice of general medicine in Shakopee.

**January 14, 1910:** 32 new names were added to the list of phone subscribers since last May.

H.C. Hussman and August Koeper spent several days in the twin cities, purchasing four fine horses in St. Paul and witnessing the boxing match in Minneapolis.

Jos. Koeper was the first to cut ice this winter. The blocks numbering to one thousand are 20 inches thick. Continued [page 4](#)

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### **From the editor**

#### **A little history from Daniel Storer on January of 1860. (150 years ago)**

January 4<sup>th</sup>. Cold. Went to St. Paul today with Gardner. Stopped at the Merchant's Hotel. Went to a Minstrel Concert in the Eve. St. Paul has grown a good deal since I was down there 4 years ago.

7<sup>th</sup>. Warm and snowed some. Went out to L. Neuman's place today. They have prospered finely I should judge. 9<sup>th</sup>. Went to Stillwater, and out to Rutherford's place at night. They have a family of six children but I am afraid Rutherford went into speculation too big when times were good and will have a hard time to get out. They had a little party at Albian's in the eve. I played for them. John Taft, who used to live in Weld, Maine, was there. His wife was Col. Neuman's daughter.

10<sup>th</sup>. Cold. I was very sick the last part of the night and for part of the day. Vomited over 12 hours right along.

11<sup>th</sup>. Cold. Stopped last night at James Rutherford's. He also went into speculation too big in good times. His daughter Eliza is married and has one child. Was down to Mrs. Bishop's place today. They have got along first rate. Continued on [page 6](#)



*Continued from page 2*

**January 21, 1910:** Peter Barr has purchased the ice house and wagons from G.H. Hattenberger and will go into ice making next week.

A sewing circle is being organized by some of the young ladies, to meet every second Tuesday. The first meeting was held with Miss Laura Coller, the next to be held with Miss Margaret Buchanan.

Miss Eliz. Scherkenbach has accepted a position as book keeper for the Shakopee Creamery and Produce Co.



**January 28, 1910:** County attorney W.N. Southworth entertained a party of twenty-five skat players at his handsome new home Saturday evening. (See picture to left 1906 Skat tournament) I believe that Skat was a card game still popular in certain areas in the USA and overseas. If anyone knows more about the Skat tournaments here in Shakopee please let Don Wagner know.

Herbert Strunk, local artist had a sketch of his accepted by the "Journal Junior" for last Saturday's edition.

T.J. Nickolay visited with friends in Benedict Tuesday.

John Berens' store is selling ladies, misses' and children coats 15 to 30 percent off.

The comet seen in the sky between 6-7 o'clock is not the Halley's Comet as most people suppose. It is called a "tramp" comet and little is know about the phenomenon. It was first seen in South Africa and more than likely will be named the Johannesburg Comet.

## Meet our Members

By Eileen Schmitz

**Don McNeil** a member of the Shakopee Heritage Society since its conception grew up in south Minneapolis in government housing, called "the projects." They're now known as "townhouses." He attended Central High School in Minneapolis where he played hockey and then went on to continue his education at Mankato University graduating in 1969 with a Degree in Business Marketing. As a college student he also played hockey. During his junior high and senior high school summers he worked on his uncle's farms in Waterville, MN which was, to quote Don, "an experience he'll never forget", "a positive experience." Don served in the armed forces, attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Special Forces and was in the Army Reserves for 27 years, rank of Master Sergeant, deployed once.

He and his wife, Marge have been married for 21 years raising 4 children and now reap the advantage of 6 grandchildren. He was employed with the State of Minnesota in the area of employment and training to include Unemployment Insurance. He worked in Scott, Dakota, Ramsey and Hennepin County over a period of 32 years.

Before moving to Shakopee in 1991 he and Marge lived on a 10 acre "hobby farm in Belle Plaine, MN. They both share an interest in period and historic buildings and that's what they looked for when they wanted to buy a house, eventually settling on the Dressen/Vierling farm house which was built in 1874. The farm was originally 160 acres that was given to a soldier who served in the New York Militia in 1812. Highway 169 and the Cub Food Store would have been a part of the pasture of the farm. The street they live on is Naumkeag, an interesting name which means "fishing place" in the Indian language. They discovered this little known fact while traveling in Salem, MA Learning that Salem's original name was Naumkeag. The Vierling family were German immigrants coming to the Shakopee area in the late 1870's. In 2006 their home sustained considerable damage due to a house fire. They had to vacate the house for 5 months while it was being remodeled. It is now a grand "old house." So much so that it was featured in the first Shakopee Historic House Tour in 2007. Marge and Don were gracious "hosts" and enjoyed the many guests who came to tour their house. They have an extensive back yard garden which is a labor of joy to them and vision of beauty for all. The stain glass arched window on the west side of the house was made by Don, stain glass being a hobby of Don's.

If any of you happen to drive to the east end of Shakopee off of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. during the Christmas season you will see a "glow" coming from Naumkeag Street. Don has decorated his home with "to many to count" lights and various themes for a number of years and has won lighting contests. Their home is in the Twin Cities House Tour. He uses LED bulbs and long since stopped counting the bulbs or the electric bill.

While participating in a House Tour in Chaska he met Jay and Melissa Whiting. Don was interested in starting a Historical Society in Shakopee and found that Jay and Melissa were of the same mind. That was the beginning of the Shakopee Heritage Society of today. They also started the Shakopee Heritage Preservation Commission with the hopes to address the historical houses and business destruction. The commission is working on instituting an ordinance.

Besides being a valued and active participant in our society holding many of the offices at different times Don is evolved in Habitat of Humanity, Shakopee Telecommunication Advisory Commission, The Lions, Shakopee Downtown Business Group, Friends of the Shakopee Library, Community Education Advisory Board, Board member of the River Valley Theatre Company, volunteer to The Landing, New Options volunteer, CAP agency volunteer, and volunteer with Scott County seniors (Helping Hands.) He has produced

over 180 television programs for Shakopee Cable TV and continues to produce shows as a community volunteer.

He is a member of the Masons, Scottish Rite, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Shriners. A **“BIG THANK YOU”** to Don for his dedication, participation and continued interest in our society.

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Daniel Storer **Continued from page 2**

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Warm. Stopped last night at Mr. Taft’s house, and today came over to Saint Paul with them. Put up at the Merchant’s hotel. Was at Moses Greenleaf’s house in the eve. He lived in Shakopee last year. Mrs. Wilder lives with them this winter.

14<sup>th</sup>. Saturday. Worked part of the day in the old Bucklin store for Reynolds building wheat bins. He is buying wheat now.

15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Warm. Wife got home the 15<sup>th</sup>. Wheat is now worth 75 cents a bushel.

19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Warm. Worked some in the shop on a wardrobe for Mrs. Hunt.

22<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday. Warm and pleasant.

**Daniel was afraid that January the year before (1859) was so warm that the ice would all go out on the river. This year (1860) was so warm again in January that it was getting close to that for a second year, but then it cooled down as you can see below.**

29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Warm the 29<sup>th</sup> but the 31<sup>st</sup> the mercury was 18 degrees below.

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