



NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2011

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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
Fall
Membership
Meeting*

*Will be held
At the Shakopee
Library
Downstairs Meeting
Room, on Saturday
October 15th at 1:00 PM.*

See you there.

Editor's notes

By Don Wagner

Winners of Prizes at the Derby Days booth this year are;

The framed map of old Shakopee was won by Dean Dallmann, 1055 S Spencer St., Shakopee. He was born in Excelsior, after marriage lived in Chaska and out of state, and has been in Shakopee about 4 years now.

A copy of the Shakopee Story was won by Richard Kempf, 120 Main St. N. Shakopee.

Richard said he was surprised to find a brick wall when he was trying to vent a fan in his bathroom! He asked about the historic tours and said he and his fiancée are getting the abstract so they have the history of the home. He was thrilled to get the book.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our members and the many others, who stopped to sign up, ask questions, give us a suggestion or piece of history, or just say hello.

The Historic Site/Home Tour on Saturday 9-10-2011 was a genuine success again. I talked to a number of enthused tourists who had good things to say about the tour and the society. I learned a couple of new things about the Lawyers house, for instance Clarence Veirling gave Tap Dancing lessons for a while in the early 1950's at that house. See the colored picture page for a view of some of the tourists at Babes place, you will recognize a couple of them and you can see a couple of the youngest tourists, who I hear found something of interest at almost all the sites. Pat Ploumen will have all the sales and profit loss details ready for the meeting, but it looks like total ticket sales will be near 135. Pat and her whole group can be very proud of the entire event. Their group spends almost a full year arranging this event every two years.

Kathy Siler was the Speaker at the July Pot Luck Dinner which was held at Jay and Melissa Whiting's House. Her subject was The Frank Buch House .We learned much more about another piece of lost Shakopee history.

I think everyone enjoyed Having Shakopee's Past Mayor Clarence J. Czaia and his family who attended our July Pot Luck and membership Meeting. Hope they will stop by again the next time they come back to Shakopee.

Do not forget the Next membership meeting which will be Saturday, October 15th at 1.00 PM in the Library downstairs meeting room. Hope to see you there.

Our guest Speaker for the meeting will be **Gilbert Delbow** with some recollections of local Bars.

I found this on line, Author unknown. Just had to pass it on. The Editor

Most kids today don't know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because Grandma only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids, and when the weather was cold Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the field's to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

People would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think any of us ever caught anything from an apron- - but love.



Former Mayor Clarence J. Czaia (picture above left and right) was in attendance with his family at the July picnic at the Whiting's home. Kathy Siler (above right) filled us in on her memories and some history on her grandparent's home on the corner of West Fourth Avenue across the street from Saint Marks. Kathy's grandparents were Minnie and Jack Abel. The house was built by local contractor Frank Buch's in 1875. The house was torn down by the county to make room for a parking lot.



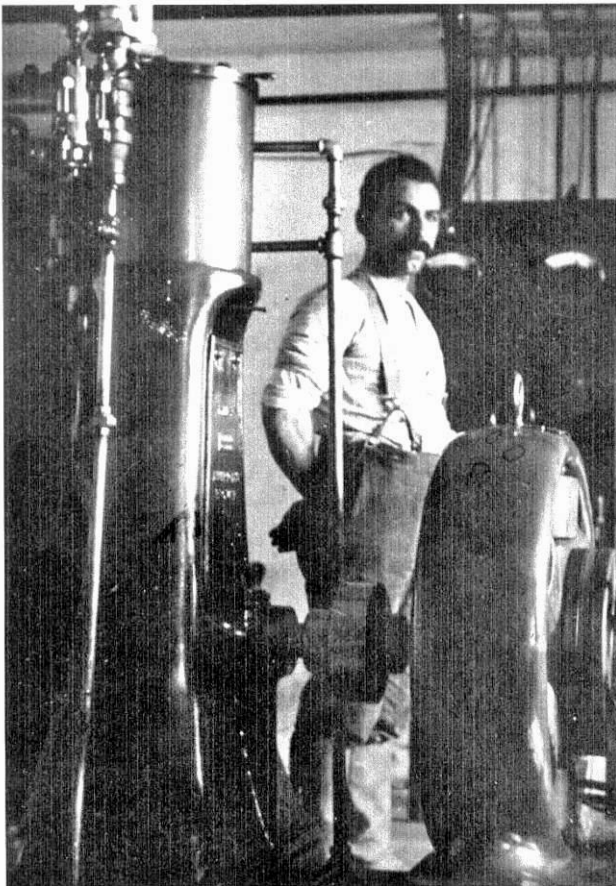
<<left
At babes after the
Tour of sites.
It looks like these
two could have
done it twice.



<< left
Probably our
youngest
tourists, they
had a good day,
found
entertaining
moments at
every site and
enjoyed the
refreshments at
babes as well.



^ Above. Gertie Siebenaler Roepke
Our Meet our Members choice for this Quarter.
See article on page 5.



<<Left. Do you recognize this photo? We will ask at the meeting if anyone knows where this photo was taken, what business or landmark in Shakopee is this. This is a hard one to guess. We have an easier one for you below



(Above) Most of you should recognize this place of childhood delights.



Help. This picture says Good Fellows Club, Kopps Lovely Park, and October 15th, 1916. I do not know where this park was. Does anyone recognize the park or the area? We would like to find out more.

Meet Our Members:

Gertie Siebenaler Roepke, a name that is well known and recognizable by most people in our community. Gertie worked for the school district as the secretary to the school superintendent and school board for 43 years retiring in 1984. She was born August 6, 1919 on her parent's farm in Vermillion Township, Dakota County MN to Leo and Lena Girgen Siebenaler. Gertie is number seven in a family of sixteen children. The Siebenaler's ancestry is Luxembourg and the Girgen's German. Her parents married in 1909 and farmed until they moved to Shakopee.

In 1920 her father's brother Frank asked him to go into the ice business with him so her parents moved to Shakopee settling in the East end of Shakopee in a house on Minnesota Street and Fourth Ave. Few houses were located in that area back in 1920. It was a more rural area. The Siebenaler property consisted of a two story red brick house with a barn and silo, chicken coop, pig pen, granary and enough acreage to plant grain and corn for the livestock which consisted of cows, pigs, chickens. They also had room for a big garden. Mr. Siebenaler was a gifted craftsman and as the family grew in number he added onto the house and modernized it in the succeeding years. Their property abutted the Jacob Menden property on Fourth Avenue who was our SHS member Jerry Klein's maternal grandfather. Other neighbors were the Millers, Joe Rein and the Manske family. Gertie's father, Leo Siebenaler and his brother Frank purchased the Shakopee Ice Company from the Veight Bros. changing the name to Siebenaler Bros. Ice Dealers. They supplied the ice to private homes and businesses in Shakopee until the coming of the electric refrigerator. Because of the demand for ice cubes by the various beer and liquor places in town the brothers made two ice cube machines that cut the cubes out of a block of ice.

With sixteen children in the family Gertie was busy helping her mother with the household chores and helping look after the children. Her father played the accordion, he loved to sing and dance. All the children learned to sing and dance with him and their mother. Gertie and her siblings all attended St. Mark's parochial school. When she was still in high school she worked at the Rock Spring Café. Mr. Leonard Ayd owned the establishment at that time. She worked from six p.m. to 10 p.m. taking her school books with her so she could get her homework completed for the next day. She graduated from Shakopee High School in 1938. She and Lorraine Hauer Ries were employed at the café at the same time. Gertie was able to work more work hours after Lorraine quit the job to get married to John Ries who owned the Alley Cat Bar on First Ave. Gertie was saving her money so she could go on to business school.

Between her 8th grade and freshmen year Gertie missed a year of school due to osteomyelitis, a bone infection. It first attacked her right shoulder and years later a second bout affected her right leg. She spent quite some time in bed with a cast on her leg. After the infection cleared she spent the next 3 months in therapy to loosen the muscles in her leg so her knee would bend and allow her to walk again. Gertie was surprised to meet the doctor who managed her therapy care; the doctor was one of her customers at the Rock Spring Café.

From January to August of 1941 Gertie attended The Minnesota Business School enrolling in the private secretary course. Superintendent Metcalf hired her in September of 1941. She worked in that capacity for 43 years; in that time period she worked with four superintendents, John Metcalf who was superintendent when she was in high school, Al N. Wurst, John J. Feda and Robert Mayer.

In 1965 Gertie was awarded a Professional Standards certificate, issued by the National Association of Educational Secretaries in recognition of her experience, education and professional activity of office personnel in education.

John Roepke and Gertie knew of each other and would see each other around Shakopee and Chaska but it wasn't until Gertie's sister Rita made "arrangements" for the two of them to go on a date that their friendship blossomed.

They started to date in the fall of 1941. The relationship was interrupted by WWII while John served in the armed forces. They married in March of 1947. After their marriage they lived in various apartments in Shakopee. They built their house on Fourth Ave. in 1950. John was a career law enforcement officer and a trooper for the Minnesota State Patrol. He died in 1990 at the age of 66.

Her Siebenaler family has remained a close knit group, together celebrating life's occasions, helping one another and enjoying getting together for family events.

Gertie has been involved in various civic minded organizations and over the years has kept herself busy with volunteer work. She's enjoyed traveling, sewing and reading. She adds much to our history probing quests and is a most appreciated member of our society. A "Big Thank You" Gertie for all your good will and your willingness to share Shakopee history.

Do not forget the next membership meeting on Saturday October 15th at 1.00 PM in the Library Downstairs meeting room. Hope to see you all there.

Shakopee Heritage Society
519 East First Avenue
Shakopee MN 55379