



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 41

Summer 2011

This edition:

- *Notes from the editor page 2*
- *Our Speaker for July Page 2*
- *Colored Picture Page 3*
- *Meet our members; page 4.*
- *75 years ago, Page 4*
- *Former Mayor Clarence J. Czaia. page 5*
- *Which one is George Sherkanbach Page 6*

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 Summer Membership Meeting And Pot Luck Dinner Will be held at The Home Of Jay And Melissa Whiting 520 3rd Avenue East in Shakopee.

Note that the above is a change from our usual place to meet.

Hope to see you at the Whiting's.

Editor's notes

By Don Wagner

Please take note that the Membership meeting location has changed. You will be going to Jay and Melissa Whiting's home at 520 Third Avenue East in Shakopee. It is just a few blocks east of the Library, on the same street as the Library. Starting time is 6:00 P.M. As always bring a friend to the meeting, no dish to share is needed for the friend. Members please bring a dish to share and a chair to sit on if possible. For those who do not have a way there please contact Pat Ploumen at 952-445-2002 and arrangements will be made to get you a ride there and home again.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Kathy Siler who will relate her information on the Buch House which was torn down a few years ago. Something we tried very hard to stop but failed at in the end.

This year we will have a member attending that we do not normally see at our meetings, Mr. Clarence J. Czaia A former Mayor of Shakopee. See the Letter from Clarence later in this issue of the newsletter. Some members of his family will be there with him.

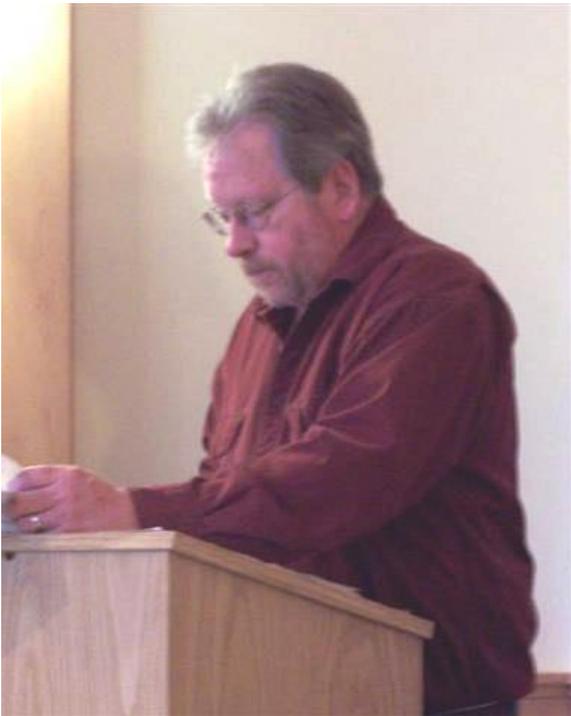
When you get a chance to get to the Shakopee Library, look at the telephone booth on display on the first floor. This is the telephone booth that was in the old Pelham hotel in downtown Shakopee for years and years. Donated by Jerry Klein it is on display at the library for an extended period. Does anyone know where we could find a pay phone of that period to put in the booth? If you think of something let any board member know.

Another surprise this year was a Phone call from Frank Hutchinson in Maine. He had called the Scott County Historical Society and talked to Betty Dolls at the SCHS who gave him my name and Phone number. He is the great great grandson of Daniel Storer's uncle and has been reading and enjoying the Daniel Storer Diary that we printed some years ago. He wanted to let us know that he actually owns and lives on Nathan Storer's farm in Maine. Nathan was Daniels brother. If you read the diary you know that Nathan was here in Shakopee quite a while working with Daniel in the construction business. He would return home to Maine then come back again and he eventually returned to Maine and stayed there. The farm that Nathan owned and lived on the rest of his life in Maine is the one that Frank Hutchinson now lives on. It is connected on one side to the old homestead that Daniel grew up on. Both homesteads are located on Storer Hill in Maine. Frank thought of calling us a few times in the last couple of years and finally did so This June. I will be calling him back and checking with him to see what he might have in the way of pictures of some of Daniel's ancestors, as well as of Storer hill, or the old homestead from years ago, and any copies of letters that Daniel wrote home. Can any of you think of other things to ask Frank about when I contact him? Just call Don Wagner 952-445-1196 with any suggestions, or leave word for any director at our website.

Remember the Rock Spring Truck That Jay Whiting purchased from the Society? Well after much investment of his time, money, and pride, he has it on the road. Jay hopes to put the final touches on it before Derby Days this year. It sure gets a lot of WOWS when he ventures out about Shakopee with it. Remember that Jay is looking for old Rock Spring pop cases for it.

Pat Ploumen and her crew are busy working on a list of houses for the Bi-annual home and site tour. It is beginning to look pretty impressive again. They can still use some more help however, so if you can spare some time, contact Pat Ploumen at 952-445-2002.

Don't forget that we have a Website WWW.shakopeeheritage.org. There are many things to see there, among them the newsletters. If you want copies of an article from our newsletter, or copies of the whole newsletter, go to our website and find it there. You, or your friends, can print out just one page or the whole newsletter. **You can leave any of the board members an e-mail message there also.**



Our Speaker for April was Glenn Vange, who told us about his house on the corner of Third Street and Somerville. Most of us remember it as the Beckrich Home.
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Imagine that its 1941. Photo above Remember the Rock Spring Truck That Jay Whiting purchased from the Society? Well after a large investment of money and a larger investment of time, he has it on the road.

**Betty Dols was the recipient of a Lifetime Membership Award at our Last Membership Meeting in April.
Congratulations Betty>>>>>**



Verna Rein circa 1940's, This Months Meet our Members subject.



Meet Our Members By Eileen Schmitz

Verna Rein is a Shakopee resident not by birth but through marriage. Her birthday is March 23, 1920. She was born and raised on her parent's 240 acre farm eight miles south of Sleepy Eye, MN, in Brown County. She is the youngest of 11 children. Her parents Joseph Hillesheim and Margaret Mertz Hillesheim named their daughter Veronica but her older sisters preferred the name Verna and that's the name that stuck

Both her parents were born and raised in the Sleepy Eye area. All engaged in farming. Her Mertz relatives are from Luxembourg, her father's father German, his mother Swiss.

Verna says she loved the farm and actively worked the farm with her parents and siblings. She describes the farm as being very beautiful, rolling hills, green pastures with the Small Cottonwood Rives meandering through the farm. Horses were the main source of power in those days and Verna was no slouch when it came to helping with the farm chores. She said that "milking cows" was her least liked chore.

She was educated in a one room school house in Iberia, MN starting school at the age of 5 because she asked to go and they allowed her to start. She went to St. Mary's Catholic School in Sleepy Eye one year to receive her education prior to reception of her First Communion, then High School in Sleepy Eye, graduating in 1937.

When she was nineteen Ben Mertz, a cousin from Jordan, MN visited with her family and told them that he needed help with his Hotel and bar business in Jordan, the Mertz Bar and Hotel. Verna's dad said. "Verna could do that." So that was the beginning of Verna's Scott County MN connection. She lived in the hotel and tended bar from 3 PM until closing.

She met Jerome Rein, who was from Shakopee, in Jordan and after a short courtship they were engaged and married in May of 1941. After their marriage they lived in a cottage on Spring Lake, MN. One month later, June of 1941 Jerome was drafted. Verna did not stay behind, she opted to stay with Jerome in the service which was not an easy thing to do. Army pay was \$21.00 a month for the service man, nothing for the wife so Verna had to find jobs and a place to stay. The army moved Jerome every three months. They lived in MO., CA. and Arizona. Verna found employment where she could working in a dry cleaning establishment, Chinese restaurant, the PX, and was a nanny to children. When Jerome was sent over sea's Verna, who was pregnant, moved back to Sleepy Eye to stay with her parents.

In June of 1945 Jerome was discharged from the service and they moved back to Shakopee, first living in the east end of Shakopee near the railroad tracks. Then they bought an old brick house on Fourth Ave. remodeled it and stayed there until 1950 when they built a house across the street. Verna sold that house last year, 2010 and moved into her apartment in downtown Shakopee.

She and her husband raised four children, Jerry, Dan, Nick and Becky Cartwright. After her children were raised and gone Verna found employment as a Banquet manager for the Ramada Inn, worked in Lancer's and Stable clothing store in the east Town Square Shopping Mall and was active in volunteer work, Girl Scouts, Cancer Society, Blood Mobile, VFW Auxiliary to name a few.

Verna has a penchant for antiques and has collected a houseful of beautiful antique furniture. She has been a valuable resource for our Society and has many interesting stories of Shakopee's past. We thank her for her hours of service to our society and sharing her history with us.

Shakopee News for 1936, 75 years ago. All excerpts taken from The Shakopee Argus Tribune

By Eileen Schmitz

February 1936: Malting Plant to be erected in Shakopee. Cepro Inc seeks site here after weeks of investigation. Dr. J.B. Dunn one time local physician in Shakopee from 1883-1893 has died at his home in St. Cloud, MN. The double header extra freight train crashed into the rear of freight #24 on the Omaha line, 4 Enginemen Die.

March 1936: For the first time in the school's history, Shakopee High School "Cagers" take their first District Championship: Defeat Chaska 25-22 in the final. The Minnesota Rives is in flood Stage. The East End Macey "Court House" is submerged with only it's battered tin chimney protruding.

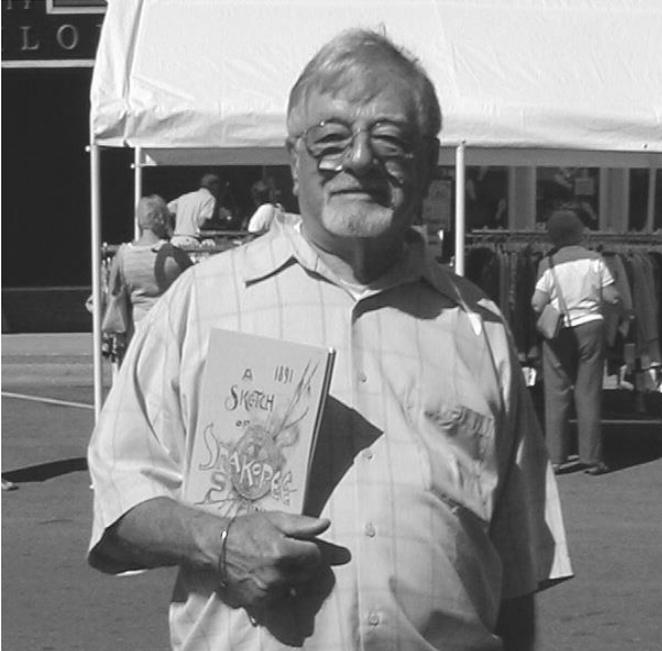
April 1936: Fifteen men are engaged on three WPA projects in Scott County.

May 1936: Graduation exercises for the Shakopee High School is the largest class in the school's history. Twenty seven to get their High School Diplomas.

June 1936: Last Tuesday at the County Fair Grounds in Shakopee, was the occasion of the first community consignment sale ever staged. It was a big success with the sale netting \$3000.00. The first truck load of rye (6140 pounds) was delivered to Northwestern Distilleries. The rye was grown south of Shakopee by John F. Bandy.

July 1936: Two Relief Corps opened for boys. The camps are located east of Shakopee. 240 boys from the age of 10 up to 16 years are in the first group. The heat wave that began July 6 has brought hardships to man and beast. Temperatures in MN ranged as high as 112 degrees. Pastures, gardens, corn, grain, fruit and vegetable crops have suffered from the prolonged drought -----

Some years ago, while working our Derby Days booth for the Heritage Society, I had the pleasure to met Clarence Czaia.



Clarence is a former mayor of Shakopee, The youngest mayor ever elected to office in Shakopee at that time. He signed up as a SHS member even though he lived in Florida then as he does today, and he has remained a member eve since. Clarence remembers much about Shakopee from those years. In recent communications with Pat Ploumen, our SHS secretary, he wrote the following letter and we asked his permission to print it in the newsletter.

Dear Patricia:

Enclosed is my check, no 3949, for my 2011 dues. On February 11th, I'll be 90 years old. Therefore, I remember many

of Winnie Hill Andersons Relatives which were featured in the recent news letter. As a small boy I can remember Mr. Anton Phillip sitting outside of his store located on first street smoking a corn pipe. Also, he had a small grey mustache.

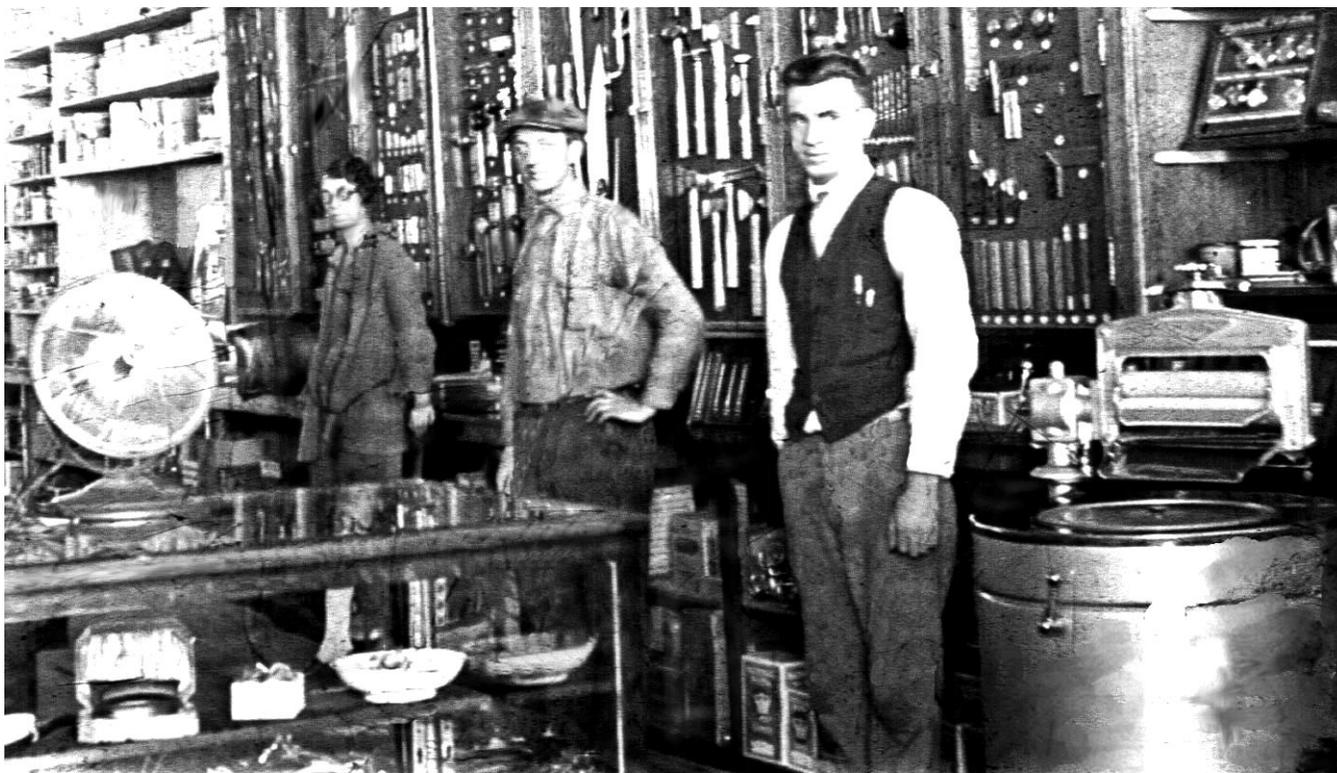
Do you know that Josephine Phillip Played the Piano, every night, before the silent movies were shown at Dawson's Gem theater. Josephine and Laura were country school teachers and taught in the one room country schools. I can't recall if they taught at Marshall's and Eagle Creek schools. But it was in Schools that were located very close to Shakopee. I remember Phill Hill but I never had the opportunity to meet and know Winny.

It is a wonderful article and brings back many memories.

Sincerely

Clarence J. Czaia

This year Clarence will be in Shakopee with some of his family, (he often comes back to Shakopee), and they will all come to our Membership and Pot Luck meeting in July, so Say hello to them when you get a chance.



Sherkanbach Hardware Lewis street East Side.

Which person above is the owner, George Sherkanbach? That is our picture question for this time. Bring your answer to the Pot luck dinner and Meeting. See you there.

Shakopee Heritage Society
519 East First Avenue
Shakopee MN 55379