



Shakopee
Heritage
Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 58

Fall 2015

This edition:

- *Notes from the editor, page 2*
- *Colored Picture page, page 3 and 4*
- *Guest Speaker for October Is Marge Elftmann sharing information and stories about Raceway Park.*
- *Meet our Members starts page 4 and is about Marge Elftmann.*

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
Fall Membership
Meeting Will be
Held Saturday October
17th At 1:00 PM
in the Shakopee Library
Downstairs
Meeting room***

We hope to see you there.

Editors Notes

By Don Wagner

1. *Has anyone heard any more about the ghostly presence at St. Francis Hospital? Or any other stories of ghosts there?*
 2. *If you know of anyone who might be interested in the SHS and or becoming a member please ask for a brochure from a Board member to give to them. It has a signup sheet if they want one.*
 3. *We remind you again that you are welcome to bring a friend to our meetings and also that we are anxious for any hints from our members on how to improve the newsletter or what topics our speakers might cover for you.*
 4. *The City and County are done working on the trail and the area around and under the bridge near the Mill pond. The Shakopee Heritage Society had pledged money to build a kiosk in that area a few years ago. Joe Collins, our president, who is heavily involved in this project will update us at the meeting on any new progress.*
 5. *Our Fall Meeting takes place in the downstairs meeting room of the library Saturday the 17th at 1:00 PM.*
 6. *Our speaker is Marge Elftmann with information and stories about Raceway Park. Marge has written two books on this old racetrack and is loaded with information on the subject.*
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Our old friend Daniel Storer was not too wordy for the fall of 1865, (150 years ago) but we leave you with his penned thoughts for October of that year.

October 1st to 5th. Pleasant. Trade is pretty good. Burglars broke into my store the night of the 4th. They did not steal a great deal but a nice gold pen that Nathan gave me they took. I was pretty well satisfied who it was but the fellow got away before I could get him arrested.

6th to 12th. Hot as fire almost. Eddy Moore came to help me in the store again the 6th for all winter.

13th to 16th. Cooler. Mrs. Wm. F. Weiser died the 15th. Also one of Mrs. Gage's children. M. P. Greenleaf got badly kicked the 16th by a horse.

17th to 31st. Cold as Greenland the last few days. Trade rather dull. The night of the 28th there was a little babe left on Stephen Lyons doorstep.

November 1st to 5th. Cool and trade very dull.



These top two pictures are of some of the SHS members who volunteered their time at the booth this year.



We appreciate the efforts put forth by our volunteers each year, sometimes in pretty hot sticky conditions

Some of them can make it look like no work and no heat at all.

Top picture is of Melissa Whiting and Joe Collins and the middle photo is of Lois Wendt and Don McNeil



One of the many rides at the Derby Days event in the park

The event even produced a little income for the SHS this year.



If you can get to the Minnesota Trail System here in Shakopee this is an excellent time to see the River, the Strunk Brewery, The remains of the lime kiln and the wonders of the fall season. It is worth the effort.



MEET OUR MEMBERS
A series By Eileen Schmitz

Marge Sarazin Elftmann

Not only is she a member of the SHS but she is our October Guest Speaker. Because she has an interesting story to tell she was a good candidate to be the SHS speaker.

Being born in Shakopee, the fact that her great grandparents were pioneer settlers of Shakopee, her interest in

genealogy and Shakopee history prompted her to join the SHS. She's been a member for five or more years.

Marge's paternal great grandfather Francois Nicholas Sarazin (original spelling is Sarrasin) and his wife Marie Lucretia Copt were from Switzerland. In 1849 they emigrated to America and settled in Shakopee, MN. They purchased 120 acres of land southeast of O'Dowd's Lake, cleared the land and started farming. Their homestead is off of Marschall Road, Eagle Creek Township. They had two children, a son, Pierre Louis Sarazin and a daughter, Mary Sarazin

Her paternal grandparents, Pierre Louis Sarazin and Catherine Schmitt also were farmers. They farmed on the original farmstead and farmed there until their deaths. Louis's in 1912 and Catherine in 1924. Catherine Schmitt Sarazin's family, were also pioneer settlers of Shakopee and emigrated from Germany to America in 1864. They first settled in the Chicago, IL area later coming to Shakopee, MN in 1866.

Pierre Louis and Catherine Schmitt Sarazin had four children, Frank, George, Mary and John. John Sarazin is Marge's father. George and Mary (brother and sister) continued to farm the original homestead. Mary Sarazin was the last member to live on the homestead. She later moved from the farm and lived in Shakopee , MN.

Marge's father, John Sarazin married Genevieve Scharf, daughter of Louis and Augusta Haase Scharf, October 6, 1925 at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Shakopee, MN.

Marge's maternal grandfather Louis Scharf's and his wife Augusta Haase Scharf farmed in Jackson Township. Their farmstead was off of County Rd #15 (Marystown Road)

The farmstead was originally the Nic Majerus farm. After the Scharf's retired the farmstead was purchased by Norbert Theis.

Marge was born to John "Jack" and Genevieve Scharf Sarazin in Shakopee, MN on a farm off of Valley View Road. She is the youngest of three girls. Her two older sisters are Lorraine Schleicher and Catherine Henry.

When Marge was a year old the family moved to a 73 acre farmstead off of Gorman Road in Shakopee, MN. The present day Presbyterian Church stands on what was once part of her father, John Sarazin's farm. A car wash is now on the homestead. The Milwaukee Railroad was south of the farmstead.

Through Marge's foresight at the time land was being developed around her old homestead she was able to have a street named, SARAZIN STREET. I think we all have traveled on this street at one time or another.

The Sarazin farm was a typical farm for the 1940's. Her father grew corn, beans, milked cows, raised pigs. Horses were used for farming. (Pearl and May were the horses' names.) Later her father had tractors to do the field work.

With no boys in the family Marge and her sisters helped with the farm work. Marge was adept at driving tractors for her father. Besides the house work her mother raised chickens and sold eggs. Her mother's customer base was all over Scott County and into the twin cities. Marge said by the time she left the farm she didn't think she could eat another egg. When her parents retired they moved to the east end of Shakopee on Third Avenue.

Marge attended St. Mary's Parochial school and Shakopee High School. After her freshman year in high school she moved to Elk River to help care for the children of her cousin. She attended Elk River High school graduating in 1957.

After high school she moved to St. Paul, MN working at Earls Restaurant on University Ave. She married Glen Trebesch in Las Vegas, Nevada. Glen was in the US Army and was stationed at Camp Desert Rock near Las Vegas. After his discharge they moved back to Minnesota. They are parents to five children, Debra, Ronnie, Scott, LeNita and Janelle. Marge and Glen divorced in 1980 and in 1985 she married Denny Elftmann. Marge and Denny lived in Bloomington, MN. He worked for Koch Refinery and was a fireman for the city of Bloomington, MN. When they retired

they moved to northern Minnesota, Palisade, MN moving back to Shakopee when Denny became ill. Denny died in 2012.

Besides her five children Marge is grandmother to ten (10) and great-grandmother to seven (7) with number eight (8) great grand child on the way.

Marge has a great many interests. One of which is auto racing. Her sister Lorraine and brother-in-law Wally Schleicher raced at Raceway Park for years and as a gift for their 50th wedding anniversary Marge wrote a history of the races at Raceway Park. She was so fascinated by the racing stories that she went on to publish two books on Raceway Park a major feat. This is the subject of her "talk" for us at the Fall Meeting.

Note of interest is the fact that Marge's father farmed the land where the last location of Raceway Park stood. He grew soybeans on the land and always had a good crop from the land.

Besides auto racing her other interests include music, old time, (she belongs to a polka dancing club) vintage country and 50's-60's music. She is a big Twins fan, is interested in genealogy and has written her families history's, plays bingo at Little Six, belongs to various organizations, and spends much time with her family.

Her varied interests lend interest and information to the SHS and we thank her for her dedication to Shakopee history and her involvement with the SHS.

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