

Remember When

Compiled by the Shakopee Heritage Society • shakopeeheritage.org • facebook.com/shakopeeheritage

Volume I, Issue XI

November 2015

125 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Courier*

Nov. 7, 1890

Election Day proved to be a fine one in Shakopee, in regard to the weather, and the law and order observance.

Nov. 14, 1890

The Whistler or Golden Eye, is a specie of duck weighing up to 3 lbs. that is to be found more or less in the late fall and early winter in the open water, although they seem to be scarce here. Walter Southworth shot one Tuesday, below town. It was a big white breasted duck with brownish head and dark back with white and dark wing feathers. They are easier to look at than to shoot.

Nov. 21, 1890

Alderman Schroeder closed his brick kilns this fall with 1,000,000 brick on hand.

Nov. 28, 1890

Thanksgiving all the week and Turkeys in high demand.

125 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

Nov. 7, 1890

Both telegraph offices were kept open until after 1:30 a.m., the night of election, to hear that Scott County, and everything else, had gone Democratic.

Nov. 13, 1890

After this week work will be commenced on the long delayed book illustrating Shakopee. The public is undoubtedly anxious to see this work finished; so are we for we have over \$700 invested in engravings and material and would like to get the money out. It was our original intention to have the work finished early in the summer. After procuring enough orders to assure that the work would be a success and a credit to the city, it was necessary to procure photographs, which consumed weeks. When the order for engravings was placed with Melville, of Chicago, we learned it would be impossible to complete the work when we expected. Then followed our summer vacation, which we were bound to take, whether the book was ever issued or not, and after that came the loss of our foreman, succeeded by conventions, the campaign, ticket printing, election and the result.

About one-third of the cuts have been printed in colored ink but not a line of the short historical sketch has been printed or even written. From now on the work will be prosecuted

day and night. The newspaper will probably suffer. Editorials, after this issue, will be few and short; locals ditto. If we hire another workman to finish the book, the loss to us would be several hundred dollars, and we are already assured of the loss of enough hundreds to suit our ambition and the finances of a country editor.

Nov. 20, 1890

John Hilgers had his right hand and face pretty well filled with powder, last Saturday, by a premature explosion while blasting the big granite boulder in Fourth street in the third ward. By mistake he was using a steel bar, instead of an iron one, to pack the powder. Contact between the flinty rock and steel caused a spark, which ignited the powder and sent the steel rod heavenward and came very near sending Mr. Hilgers with it.

Nov. 27, 1890

Shakopee is about surrounded by cases of diphtheria but at a distance of several miles. A number of deaths have occurred near Waconia, Carver Co.; two at Marystown and one at Hamilton. No cases have been reported in Shakopee, and, if necessary, the strictest measures should be adopted to guard against its spreading and entering town.

100 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Tribune*

Nov. 5, 1915

A pretty Hallowe'en party given by Miss Antoinette Fischer at the Dr. H. P. Fischer home last Saturday night delightfully entertained a party of 22 young people, who were conveyed to and from the party in the Sanitarium and Fischer automobiles.

Nov. 12, 1915

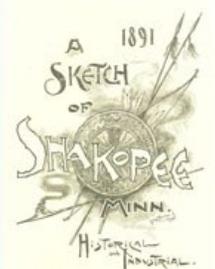
Gopher Stoves Make Their Initial Bow

Last Sunday at the A. L. Hurr store, headquarters of the

1891: A Sketch of Shakopee, Minn.

Descriptive text with hand drawings of historical buildings and people who were part of Shakopee's early settlement. A wonderful coffee table and discussion piece.

This book and others available for purchase at shakopeeheritage.org/sale-items.html



newly organized Shakopee Stove company, there were arrayed for inspection three Gopher Round Oak stoves, and a Gopher steel range, the first finished product of the new stove company located in East Shakopee. They present a very attractive appearance in design and workmanship, and the company states that it has orders for all the stoves it can manufacture during the present winter. At present the company is handicapped by late arrival of machinery, especially the cleaners and nickelling equipment and polishing apparatus; but these are reported on the way, and soon the product will be on the market generally. Without conflicting with the market for the Minnesota Stove company's big line of Coral Stoves and Ranges, which have been manufactured at Shakopee for nearly a quarter of a century, and are marketed all over the Northwest, the new company hopes to be able to take the place of the Eastern stoves that are now sold in the field in competition with the Corals, and thus find an opening without in any way interfering with the signal success of the older and bigger foundry which has been and is today the backbone of Shakopee's prosperity. There is room for both, and the Tribune will rejoice in the success of both.

Nov. 19, 1915

A new kitchen is being added to the Joseph Volz residence. Frank Boehmer has the contract.

Nov. 26, 1915

The thanksgiving dances given by the Minnesota and Shakopee Stove companys in Dawson and Berens halls Wednesday evening drew large crowds who enjoyed dancing until early morn. The range given away by the Shakopee Stove Co. was won by John Walsh Jr.

100 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

Nov. 5, 1915

The biggest shipment of honey that has ever gone out of Shakopee to the writer's knowledge was taken to Minneapolis Monday by Herman Klingelhutz of Chanhassen with his motor truck. The shipment was made by Thos. G. Notermanns and weighed a little over two tons of No. 1. honey. Mr. Notermanns' hobby is bee-keeping and he finds keen enjoyment as well as excellent profit in his employment. Monday's shipment contained only his best grade of honey in the comb and he still has a considerable quantity left. Mr. Notermanns is the father of our local meat market proprietor and moved here recently from Red Lake county bringing his bees with him.

Nov. 12, 1915

Excavation was begun Monday for a new house to be built by O. H. Griffith on his lot adjoining Mrs. Vogel's property on Third street. Mr. Griffith's new home will be in bunga-

low style finished in stucco and 22 x 28 feet in dimension. The house is to be modern and will be ready to move into by April 1st when Mr. Griffith's lease on his present home expires.

Nov. 19, 1915

For Sale—Just one more fine building lot located on Pleasant Hill—sewer connections, sidewalk, apple and plum trees and all kinds of small berries on the lot. Enquire of Aug. Scherkenbach, Shakopee.

Nov. 26, 1915

High School Corn Show Scores Success

The Second Annual Corn Show of the Shakopee high school was held Saturday, November 20th, at the high school building and was attended with good success.

Two hundred and six entries were made, as compared with 80 last year, the large increase being very gratifying to the instructors who have labored to make the Corn Show a leading event of the school year.

The exhibit was attractively displayed and showed to advantage what has been accomplished by the school children in the various departments of the school work. The normal and domestic science work were particularly interesting to the visiting ladies, while the grain, manual training, etc., came in for a larger share of attention from the men visitors.

The university students who came up to present the play "Kindling the Hearth Fire" at the opera house in the evening, were entertained at six o'clock dinner at the high school under the direction of Miss Timberlake, domestic science instructor, assisted by a number of teachers and students.

The play drew a large house and the characters were well portrayed, each of the parts being excellently taken. During the evening the banner awarded to the rural school district winning the greatest amount of money in prizes was presented to Dist. No. 5, in Eagle Creek, presided over by Miss Laura Schwartz, a graduate of Shakopee high.

An informal dance concluded the evening pleasantly, music being furnished by the high school orchestra, which made a very favorable impression on the occasion of its first public appearance.

75 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*

Nov. 7, 1940

5-Year-Old Son of Mr. and Mrs. Math Schmitt Strayed From His Home

Some time Tuesday, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Math Schmitt, of Eagle Creek, strayed away from his home. Becoming alarmed his parents instituted a search. Neighbors and Boy Scouts of Shakopee were enlisted in the search. Happily, the child was found by Ray Huber before it became dark, wandering about apparently unconcerned, in the vicinity of

the Reis Brothers farm. Kenneth, none-the-less disturbed by his experience, was returned to the arms of his parents who, until he was recovered, suffered some anxious moments.

Nov. 14, 1940

Fierce Blizzard, Worst In Many Years, Struck Area Monday Morning

A pre-season blizzard, the like of which has not been seen in these parts for many moons, descended upon this area with all its rage Monday.

The blizzard was preceded by several hours of heavy mist that began early Sunday evening. As the temperature dropped steadily under the influence of a north and north-west wind, the mist turned to rain and then to sleet.

By Monday morning streets and highways were coated with ice and then came the driving snow. Shakopee's first glimpse of the snow was recorded about 7:30 a.m. Monday. As the day wore on the snow and wind increased in intensity.

All through the night and into the late hours of Tuesday morning, the almost tornadic wind and driving snow continued plugging highways, halting traffic, piling up mountainous drifts.

At 7:55 Monday night, a break in the highline between Shakopee and the Twin Cities plunged Shakopee into darkness and for many homes heated with furnace units powered by electricity, it meant a chilly night. It was not until 9:50 a.m. Tuesday that service was again restored. The difficulty, it was learned lay in the fact that it was impossible for service crews to get to the seat of the trouble because of the blockaded highways.

Reports coming in here told of cars stalled along the highways and abandoned. Because of the stalled cars, it was said, snow plows were unable to open highways.

Near Belle Plaine, two men died in their storm-stalled cars. The bodies, removed from the cars Tuesday night and taken to Belle Plaine, were identified as Mark Wells and Carlton C. Saltzman, both believed to be of Minneapolis.

When highway patrolmen here were informed that two cars, with their occupants in them, were stalled near Belle Plaine, they immediately summoned a snow plow. At 4:30 Tuesday afternoon the plow, followed by Patrolmen Dunn and Seidel, left Shakopee. At 6:30 they had been reported through Jordan. At 8:30, word came from Belle Plaine advising the patrolmen had reached that point but the plow had been unable to penetrate a 15-foot drift. The patrolmen were obliged to leave the highway and take to the fields to reach Belle Plaine.

Rescue crews working back from Belle Plaine succeeded in reaching the two cars only to find the men dead. Reports of two more dead came from Mankato, pushing the reported

total of storm fatalities to 38 for the state. Many died on hunting trips when their boats were overturned in the gale.

More than 100 men, women and children, traveling through by car, were stranded here. Every available room in the Pelham hotel was taken and when that supply was exhausted, lodging places were provided in numerous homes. Some slept on floors in business places.

Service and tow cars could not keep up with the calls for help that came from stranded motorists. All of the city's garages were jammed to the limits and lumber yards became the haven of stock trucks loaded with cattle and hogs. Twelve head of cattle were reported frozen to death on a truck stalled on Highway 169, north of here.

Two plate glass windows in the new front at the M. J. Berens store went out during the height of the storm, and the Rahr Malting company, operating at peak, is believed to have been hard hit when the plant went dead as a result of power failure.

Radio reports up to the time the electricity failed, indicated the storm although severe here, was much worse in other states where severe property damage and loss of life was reported. Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois were said to have suffered greatly. Farm buildings and homes were destroyed in some areas in those states taking a human toll.

Many homes were caught without ample fuel supplies and fuel dealers faced the problem of delivery made more difficult by plugged driveways and streets. Behind on Monday orders scheduled to be made Tuesday, the lists of fuel orders piled up as the cold continued throughout Tuesday with little sign of relief in sight.

Shovel brigades were on the job early; highway maintenance crews, caught short without snow removal equipment geared for the unexpected arrival of that much-talked of "old fashioned Minnesota winter," worked furiously to open the highways.

For a time relatives feared for the safety of Catherine Devenney, who teaches in the McCall school east of here. Miss Devenney had left the school Monday afternoon and apparently was unreported until early Tuesday morning, when it was learned she was safe at Carl Zoschke's farm.

Schools were closed Tuesday and Wednesday but authorities expressed the belief that classes would be resumed today. Country roads were expected to be opened in a few hours as snow plow crews went to work on night-long shifts.

Nineteen rural children, pupils in the Shakopee schools, were marooned here Monday night and Tuesday, when it became impossible for the school bus to make the regular trip. The children were returned to their homes Wednesday afternoon.

H. J. Stans and Galen Gellenbeck, returning from St. Paul,

became stranded near Fort Snelling. A telephone call from them assured relatives here they were well taken care of at the caretaker's residence at the national cemetery.

Shakopee was not the only town left in the dark when the "lights failed" Monday night. Chaska, Norwood and Young America, New Ulm and other communities were reported to have experienced a "black out" as a result of trouble on the transmission lines.

Telephone service here, with the exception of some rural lines, remained open, many cities in the state however, were without communication service for many hours. Bus transportation was halted until late Wednesday morning, and trains moved off schedule. The Milwaukee line had not had a train between here and Prior Lake up to Wednesday afternoon.

Nov. 21, 1940

Shak-O-High News

Mock election held November 4 in the high school auditorium nearly brought down the house. Electioneering had been going on all day in the various groups and when the final vote was counted Willkie had carried the popular vote with a small majority, and the electoral vote was an overwhelming number.

Each student in the Social Problems class represented a state. Under his state banner a group of high school students and grade pupils from the four upper grades gathered. Each state delegation was chosen at random and roughly represented the electoral vote of that state. After the speeches were made each state voted as a group and the electoral vote of that state went to the Democratic or Republican column.

Speakers for the Republican party were Weston Dahl, representing Wendell Willkie; Cal Brown, McNary; Mildred Beckrich, Harold Stassen; Mary Lou Hirscher, Shipstead; and Curtis Zarth, O'Hara.

Speakers in the Democratic group were John Brown, who talked in behalf of Roosevelt; Jeanne Dennig, Wallace; Roman Rosen, Regan; and Betty Jean Simpkins, Elmer Ryan.

Many potent arguments were advanced by speakers on either side and were met with jeers or cheers from the student audience.

Nov. 28, 1940

Shakopee Awarded Dist. Golden Gloves Tourney

The Shakopee Softball Association will hold a meeting at the firemen's room in the City hall, Tuesday evening.

All team sponsors, team managers, and players are asked to attend, as Shakopee has been awarded the district Golden Gloves Boxing tournament.

This is one of the outstanding sporting events in Minnesota. The district is composed of parts of Scott, Dakota, Carver

and Hennepin counties, and more than forty amateurs are expected to enter.

It is important that every softball player and boxer interested in taking an active part in staging this show be present. The meeting is called for 8 o'clock.

50 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Valley News*

Nov. 4, 1965

Mertz-Horeish Will Change Location

Mertz-Horeish, Inc., Shakopee real estate firm, 112 South Holmes, was the successful bidder for the present Minnesota Natural Gas company two-story building at 140 South Holmes, when sealed bids were opened at 9 a.m. Monday of this week at the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis.

Richard Mertz of the real estate firm stated that Mertz-Horeish, Inc. expects to occupy the quarters at 120 South Holmes around the first of the year, following necessary remodeling.

Minnesota Natural Gas Company in the specifications for bidding, state possession would be given on December 15. The gas company will move to its new facilities on Second and Lewis, now nearing completion.

Mertz also stated that prospective tenants and buyers had indicated an interest in acquiring the real estate firm's present facilities at 112 South Holmes.

Nov. 11, 1965

City To Negotiate Property Purchases For Public Use

Approved by the Common Council of the City of Shakopee at its regular meeting Tuesday night with all aldermen present were appropriations from the city's capital fund, one of \$10,000 and another for \$25,000, to be allocated for acquisition of real property for public use.

Following unanimous approval by aldermen for the allocation of these funds, motions were also unanimously approved for the city recorder to begin negotiations for specific parcels of land in the two instances with the property to be considered in future planning for off-street parking and for use by the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission.

Following approval of the \$10,000 allocation, the motion was approved that the city recorder begin negotiations for lots six and seven, block four, this being the property of the Leo Ketterer estate, located just behind the City building and fronting Lewis Street.

It was pointed out that this would be a favorable site both for parking and the relocating of the utilities power plant on high ground to avoid possible flooding. It was pointed out that the high water mark in the flood this spring indicated the potential of the power house, just to the west of the Holmes Street bridge, being flooded out in the future.

Following approval of the \$25,000 allocation, the motion was approved that the city recorder begin negotiations for the old flour mill property, located just to the east of the utilities power house and behind Montgomery Ward and to the northeast of the City building.

Nov. 18, 1965

Open House This Sunday To Mark St. John's Lutheran Educational Unit

A public event next Sunday, November 21, will mark the completion of the education unit of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church of Shakopee.

At 10:30 a.m. the new edifice, the third and final step in the congregation's building program to be completed, will be dedicated with the Rev. Fred A. Meske, St. John's pastor, and his nephew, the Rev. Norman Langholz of the parish education board of the American Lutheran church, officiating.

The public is invited to an open house to be from 2 to 5 p.m. The congregation of St. John's extends a warm welcome and an invitation to all of the fine citizens of Shakopee to come to visit and view this newest addition to St. John's the pastor announced this week.

Shakopee has grown from 3,200 population in 1950 to 6,400 in 1965, he added, and St. John's membership has similarly increased. It is not difficult to project a 10 per cent increase each year or possibly larger. With the anticipated growth, the foundation and structure of this educational unit was designed and constructed for future addition on another floor, Pastor Meske explained.

The unit consists of 12 classrooms, a large youth room, a small chapel, a library-board room, a secretarial office, a nursery, a kitchenette, restrooms, several storage areas and a workshop with a walkout door for storage of outside tools...

Nov. 25, 1965

Shakopee Mrs. Jaycees To Delight Young Miss Again With 'Judy'

Shakopee will again have a "youthful visitor that seeks a home" this Christmas season, as the Shakopee Mrs. Jaycees again plan to delight some young miss.

"Judy," the Shakopee Mrs. Jaycees' 24-inch Christmas doll,

will be on display, with her complete wardrobe, at the First National Bank of Shakopee, from Monday, November 22, through Friday, December 3, and at various other stores from then until Friday, December 17, when she will find a permanent home.

The hand-sewn wardrobe is made exclusively by members of the Mrs. Jaycees. The display stand for Judy's clothes was donated by Roger Lambrecht.

The award will be made at 8 p.m. Friday, December 17, at the bank. It is not necessary to be present to win.

Public participation is invited, with donations of 10 cents a ticket or three for 25 cents. Proceeds will be used for Mrs. Jaycees charities. Tickets are available from any Mrs. Jaycee or on request at the stores where the doll is to be displayed.

25 Years Ago: From the Shakopee Valley News

Nov. 1, 1990

New program plugs 'cracks' for students

Students in Shakopee High School who have problems fulfilling graduation requirements are not falling by the wayside or slipping through the cracks.

Instead, they are taking part in a new program, GRAD, or Growth by Responsible Academic Development. The name of the program describes what its goal is - helping students graduate.

Ron Dreier, coordinator of the GRAD program, describes it as an umbrella of an alternative school, which serves to assist students who may have difficulties with standard curriculum requirements...

GRAD does not remove the students totally from the mainstream environment, but it takes them out for two classes that help them deal with their standard course work...

Nov. 8, 1990

Band students learn about music careers

Dr. Barry Kopetz, assistant director of bands and a composer from the University of Minnesota, as the guest speaker for the Shakopee High School band on Nov. 1. Kopetz spoke to the band about various careers in music, his composing career and participation in music after high school. He also took student questions.

Kopetz discussed musical careers in performance, teaching, composing (including commercials, TV, movies and band music), and music therapy. He outlined his own emerging career as a composer and suggested ways for interested students to pursue such a career. Much of his presentation concerned encouraging students to continue their musical study as an avocation after high school, be it in college, community or church ensembles. He also challenged the band students to remain advocates for the arts as the students become adults.

Interested in Shakopee's history?

Why not join the

Shakopee Heritage Society

It's all about

Learning * Having fun * Sharing

Shakopee's Heritage

Details at shakopeeheritage.org/volunteers-membership.html

Nov. 15, 1990

Heavy training

Does might make right? Rick Alex thinks so.

Alex is the Shakopee High School football and track coach. No, he doesn't advocate muscle over mental power. But to ensure his athletes are in the best physical condition, Alex advises them to use the new weight room facilities in the high school.

The spacious weight room, which was built last year thanks to the donations of various local organizations, is open to all Shakopee students. And it's gotten a lot of use, according to Alex.

Last Monday lone, around 30 students used the facilities, said Alex. And the students are constantly under the supervision of Alex, wrestling coach Bill Farmer and physical education teacher Reed Boltmann...

Alex worked hard to get the new weight room installed. "In the last few years, nearly all the high schools have a weight room facility like ours," he said. "We bought the best equipment available. The equipment for the size of our school is perfect."

So Alex hopes the Shakopee students will take advantage of the free training facility during the school year. "In all sports, they can gain a lot by being stronger," he said...

Training in general at the high school "has improved a lot in the last two years," said Alex. "Before, we didn't have anything. It went from no use to a lot of use."

Nov. 22, 1990

No Lie: Band plans gig for song's anniversary

When Jim Donna sat down at the piano one day to write "Liar, Liar," he had no idea it would be the song that would sell over 2 million records for the Castaways, the Minneapolis band for which he played keyboards.

Twenty-five years later, the song that he says "was just one of those things" will be celebrated by the Castaways with a party and dance on Friday, Nov. 30 at the Dan Patch American Legion ballroom in Savage. The event starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each, or \$4 for those who come before show-time...

Donna, who lives in the Sand Creek Township, is the only original member of the Castaways' 1960s lineup. The group broke up in 1967, but Donna decided to start-up the group again in 1971. Since then the group has consisted of Donna on keyboards, his brother Bob Donna on lead guitar, Rick Snider on drums and Ralph Hintz on bass...

Donna says the "Liar, Liar" anniversary dance came about because people in the southwest metro area kept asking

when the Castaways would play again. "We play so many private functions the people don't get many chances to see us, otherwise," he said...

The Castaways never recorded a complete album, but their songs appeared on compilation records of popular Twin Cities bands of the '60s, Donna said. It has also been included in the Time/Life series of '60s music, and Rhino Records' "Nuggets" series, which highlights that era.

At its peak, "Liar, Liar" went to No. 12 on the Billboard music chart, a national survey. In some regions, Donna said, the song went to No. 1. "It was the biggest hit from the Twin Cities until Prince came along," Donna said.

Nov. 29, 1990

Cordes all-state football/academic award recipient

Shakopee's Jason Cordes has received the Minnesota Academic All-State Football Class "A" Award.

The awards are presented to high school students who are top athletes and students. Cordes is ranked first in his senior class with a grade-point-average of 3.959. He is the president of the Student Governing Board and has been a member of the National Honor Society the past two years. He received the Sharp Award the past two years for being a top classroom performer in English, science and Spanish.

A two-year starter at quarterback in football, he was an all-conference member in his junior and senior years. He was captain of the team this year.

Cordes was also an all-conference basketball team member, and was team captain as a junior. He was also named to the all-conference team in baseball as a junior.



Workers at the Schroeder Brick and Lime Manufacturing Co. stand next to a pile of Shakopee bricks. Signs along the Minnesota Valley State Trail near Huber Park reference the brickmaking operations.

Find even more Remember When news tidbits on our website, at shakopeeheritage.org/historic-tidbits/remember-when.html.

Subscribe to the "newspaper" email list by emailing shswreinke@gmail.com.