

Remember When

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Volume I, Issue XII

December 2015

125 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Courier*

Dec. 5, 1890

Messrs. Buchanan of the Shakopee Mill Company presented all their employees Thanksgiving eve with a turkey we are informed by Mr. C. W. Newell.

Dec. 12, 1890

When you consider the collection of shells and stones in all their artistic arrangement by your Uncle Gross his old comrades could hardly fail to shy a small rock at him for luck—and see how he will put on the finishing touch to a fancy frame.

Dec. 19, 1890

Have your Prescriptions Compounded at the Old Drug store. The thousands on file leave no room for doubt.

Dec. 26, 1890

Jim Heth is still alive, notwithstanding he had a serious attack of “rush of blood to the head,” but he recovered on time to show up in town that afternoon.

125 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

Dec. 4, 1890

Wanted—At the Peavey elevator 100,000 bushels each of hard wheat, fall wheat, rye, rye and wheat mixed, oats, barley, corn, etc., for which the highest market price will be paid. Thos. Pinches, Agent.

Dec. 11, 1890

Goods suitable for Christmas gifts in endless variety at A. Greenberg's.

Dec. 18, 1890

Skating on the river is being enjoyed this delightful winter by the young people.

Dec. 25, 1890

Last week a hauling bee was inaugurated that supplied F. P. Pond with seven loads of wood which was cut and donated by Thomas Turner.

100 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Tribune*

Dec. 3, 1915

Mr. H. P. Marx, the leading jeweler, who established the business in 1884 has decided to discontinue the jewelry business and offers his entire stock and fixtures for sale at the

invoice price. Here is an opportunity seldom offered to step into an established good paying business. H. P. Marx.

Dec. 10, 1915

Shakopee's foremost business enterprise, the mammoth Flaherty & Lies department store, has another wonderful holiday display window this year, and holiday goods are charmingly and profusely exhibited in their store. Its worth a visit. Keeping Shakopee on the map is their business slogan, and this they are doing all the year 'round, rain or shine. They richly deserve your patronage.

Dec. 17, 1915

A Christmas program will be given in School district 41 next Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Dec. 24, 1915

High School Notes

The Freshmen sewing class had their Christmas celebration Wednesday. Each girl bought or made a present costing not more than ten cents. The gifts were put on the tree and each girl came out with a remembrance in the end.

Dec. 31, 1915

A Regina music box has been put in place at H. H. Strunk's drug store, and “a penny in the slot” will cause it to send forth in remarkably rich tones one or another of the popular airs of the day, such as “The girl I loved in sunny Tennessee,” “Happy Miners' March,” and dozens of others at your own choosing. The old and the young seem to enjoy it, and the little folks now are plunged into a worse quandary than ever as to how to spend their pennies, whether in this or that kind of candy or condiment, or in the realms of art as exemplified in music.

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It's all about

Learning * Having fun * Sharing

Shakopee's Heritage

Details at shakopeeheritage.org/volunteers-membership/

100 Years Ago: From the *Scott County Argus*

Dec. 3, 1915

Shakopee To Have More Electric Power

While the General Electric Company has furnished Shakopee with sufficient electric power for all ordinary purposes, it has decided to increase it by bringing to us almost triple the amount of electric energy supplied now. This additional power will be transmitted from the company's power station located at Coon Rapids, the power furnished us from the Minneapolis station remaining as before. In order to care for this new and very much improved condition the company will erect a sub-station, 16x18 feet, immediately across the bridge from Shakopee. This arrangement is admitted to be of great advantage to Shakopee not only from the fact that it gives it so much more additional electric power, but also because it gives it two distinct and separate transmission lines, so that if perchance for some unlooked-for cause one of the lines became temporarily disabled, it could call upon the other, and the city's service would go on uninterrupted. Shakopee is grateful for this superior and substantial advantage. The city's power rates are as low as the lowest and its commercial lighting costs but eight cents per kilowatt hour.

Dec. 10, 1915

Public Library Hours

Work in cataloguing the school and public library is progressing steadily. The librarian, Miss Schulz, works overtime daily in an effort to get the books into circulation as soon as possible. The fiction of the library is now ready for use, and any resident of Shakopee desiring to draw out books of this class may now do so by securing a library card, which may be had upon application to the librarian. The library is open every afternoon, except Saturday and Sunday, from 1 until 2 p.m., and from 3:30 until 5 p.m. The librarian is in her office from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., also, at which time books may be exchanged, and cards procured. The library room is on the second floor of the high school building and is reached by going up the main stairway at the rear of the building. The public is invited to make the fullest use possible of the books now at their disposal.

Dec. 17, 1915

Christmas exercise will be held on Christmas eve at both the Presbyterian and German Lutheran churches, with trees and programs for the entertainment of children especially. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend.

Dec. 24, 1915

Supt. George and workmen have been getting the ice skating rink in condition and unless bad weather interferes

hope to have it in readiness for Christmas day.

Dec. 31, 1915

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brown of New York, the latter formerly Miss Mamie DeMers of this city, are spending the holidays with their children at the George DeMers home. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are on the vaudeville stage under the name of Larry Moylan & Co. and gave a clever entertainment at the Gem theatre Monday evening. For the past two and one-half years they have appeared in a card manipulating act on one of the largest circuits in the east, and are now booked for a year in the middle west. Mr. Brown is known as "The Dublin Trickster" and is ably assisted by his wife, who appears with him as an Irish colleen. The dialogue accompanying the act is given in Irish dialect and affords much genuine entertainment. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were booked to appear last week at the Princess theatre in St. Paul and the New Grand in Minneapolis, but cancelled the engagements to spend the Christmas season with their family. They expect to leave again Sunday probably for Chicago. The Christmas number of "Vaudeville," a magazine published at Chicago and devoted to the stage and the acting profession, contains a lengthy and interesting article upon "Magic," contributed by Mr. Brown.

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

Dec. 5, 1940

Gutenberg Line Traced To City

Inventor of Movable Type Had Direct Descendants Living in Shakopee.

Some of the older residents of Shakopee will recall the Gutenberg meat market situated on Holmes street back in the eighteen hundreds. An incident which occurred in Seattle a few days ago and publicized in the Minneapolis Tribune, renews the memory of the Gutenberg family that once lived in Shakopee. The item follows:

"The line of Johann Gutenberg, who made possible today's newspapers through his invention of movable type in 1440, extends into Minnesota.

"A direct descendant, John Gutenberg, came to the United States from Germany about 1855 and at one time ran a meat market at Shakopee, Minnesota, where a son, whom he also named John, was born. The latter died in 1910.

"The story of Minnesota's claim to a mite of the Gutenberg history—however small—came out today as a result of the recent national celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of Gutenberg's invention.

"The widow of John Gutenberg born at Shakopee, walked into a display of printing craftsmanship at Seattle, where she has lived for some years, and disclosed her relationship to the man whose memory was being honored.

“One of her cousins, A. C. Austin, 91, a resident of the Odd Fellows home at Northfield, Minn., added the details about the former Gutenberg residence at Shakopee.”

Dec. 12, 1940

C. J. Hartmann Marks Fiftieth Year Here in Market Business

Marking fifty years of business in Shakopee, C. J. Hartmann, in an advertisement in the Argus-Tribune today announces his market is staging a two-day anniversary sale, Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Hartmann entered the meat business December 3, 1890, in association with Joe Voelker in a shop on Lewis street. Later the late Joe Ries bought the Voelker interest and became Mr. Hartmann's partner. This partnership continued for many years until Mr. Ries went into business for himself.

With the exception of six months spent in New Prague Mr. Hartmann was in business in Shakopee continuously throughout the past half century. Looking back over the years and digging into his wealth of memories, those years have given him, he can recall countless incidents of more than passing interest.

Still on the job from early morning until night despite his years of hard work Mr. Hartmann really enjoys the day “behind the counter” and “beside the block.” He recalled Tuesday morning the days when “we used to salt down our summer supply of meat during the winter,” the “big demand and good price for hides in 1917 and 1918” and that “years ago our ice bill was \$50 for the year, now we pay that much a month for electricity to operate our refrigerators.” He has seen many changes in business and business methods and has supplied meat to several generations.

Dec. 19, 1940

Gordon Gelhaye Wins New Honor

Picked for Place on All-Canadian Rugby Team by Liberty Magazine.

Having wound up another highly successful season in Canadian rugby, gigantic Gordon Gelhaye, middle wing (tackle to you), on the Calgary Bronks, arrived in Shakopee, the old home town, Sunday night.

Bearing his new laurels lightly and modestly the 280-pound, 6 feet, 2 inches of good natured Gordon, shyly admitted he had been chosen on Liberty Magazine's All-Canadian mythical team. For this he received a sterling silver cigarette case of which Gordon said, “It's a nice case.”

That the Shakopee lad had the honor coming can not be doubted after a perusal of his crop of newspaper clippings which spread his name like a blanket over the entire Dominion. In an exhibition game at Vancouver, he punted for 45 yards and, just to show the folks he could do it despite his size, raced down the field to recover his own punt.

Out of a total of 660 minutes of play this season Gordon was in there 657, the other three he just wasted catching his breath. The Bronks played 11 games, won five and lost six. They were finalists in the Western Canadian Conference, losing to Winnipeg, 13-6.

If the army doesn't get Gordon or the war doesn't make a mess of professional rugby in Canada, it looks like he may be going back to coach a team for Vancouver. He has the opportunity and may accept; but he might also join the army, he said.

Incidentally, big Gord, as he is called in Canada, registered here Wednesday afternoon. That's his second trip up. He had to do the same thing in Canada just so the government, he said, would be sure he wasn't a fifth columnist...

Dec. 26, 1940

Santa Came, Saw and Conquered

Hundreds of Little Folks Here to Greet the Jolly Old Fellow.

Well, Old Man Santa once more has come and gone; his annual visit to this city was made just as noted in the columns of this paper last week. True to his promise he kept his date to meet the boys and girls of Shakopee and vicinity as he said he would. He invited the little folks of the community to be on hand last Saturday afternoon to meet him—and they didn't disappoint him for they came by the hundreds from far and near. They began to arrive shortly after noon and by one o'clock, the time set for the first movie performance to start, the streets were crowded with children of various ages and sizes whose faces beamed with delight and high expectation.

Shortly after the hour of one o'clock the doors of the Shakopee theatre were thrown open and the boys and girls began to file in until the theatre was filled from front to rear. Just about the time the first show was over Santa appeared on the scene. He had left his deer over at the park and sent word that he had arrived. “Becks” Stang went over with one of the fire trucks and conveyed him into town. At the theatre a number of gifts were given out and he was assisted in this by members of the Civic and Commerce association. We have not the names of all who were fortunate enough to receive gifts of dolls and other toys for the girls and sleds and skis for the boys. Hubert Jeurissen, Jr. of Chaska township, was given the handsome bicycle. And was he a delighted little fellow! Following this came the distribution of packages filled with candy, fruit and nuts, until all at the first show had been given one. A second showing of the picture was given to the remaining group of young folks which again filled the large building. At the conclusion of the picture this group was served with a bag of candy, nuts and fruit, and another Christmas party for the little folks of the community had come to a close. It was a gala affair for those hundreds of boys and girls of Shakopee

and the surrounding territory who participated in it. It was also a joy and delight for the older folks who had any part in bringing happiness and good cheer to them.

To the Ladies' Auxiliary, city police officers, fire ladies, and others who helped the members of the Shakopee Civic and Commerce association to entertain the young guests, the association's appreciation is here expressed and sincere thanks extended.

50 Years Ago: From the *Shakopee Valley News*

Dec. 2, 1965

Kick-Off For Sports Boosters Next Monday

All Shakopee area male sports enthusiasts are invited to attend the kick-off meeting of a Shakopee Sports Boosters club scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. next Monday, December 6, at the Dugout Cafe in Shakopee.

At this initial meeting, the complete coaching staff of the Shakopee Public high school will be introduced with the head coaches of the wrestling and basketball teams giving brief remarks on their sports programs. "Coffee and" will be available for those interested during these informal presentations.

Steering committee members, including Joe Theis, Jim Axelson, John Freund, Dale Vaughan, Al Unze, Norm Erickson, Dick Hullander, and George Muenchow, are hopeful that this will be the beginning of many fine things to come with a broad span of enthusiastic interest and support generated for all Shakopee high school and recreational sports activities for young and old.

According to Temporary Chairman Joe Theis, "men of all ages, interested in sports, will want to be a part of this group."

Dec. 9, 1965

Christmas tree for the Shakopee community is now at First and Holmes, in the traditional location, being erected Monday of this week by the Shakopee Utilities' crew.

Again this year the some 40-foot tree was taken from the Scherkenbach residence at Fourth and Lewis, as was last year's tree.

Now adorning the tree is the 600 blue bulbs, provided by the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce, with the strings of lights also the handiwork of the Utilities' crewmen.

The combination of the tree and the added "Noel" sign at the south end of the Holmes Street bridge, gives the community's Yule decoration an added highlight this season.

Dec. 16, 1965

Holiday Hardwood Tourney Will Be First Highlight Event In New HS Gym

Highlight sports activity of the holiday season to be the initial sports activity in the new Shakopee high school gymnasium on Tenth Avenue will be a Holiday Basketball tourna-

ment on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28 and 29, featuring both Minnesota Valley and Missota conference teams.

Opening Tuesday evening, December 28, the four-team holiday tourney will have two Missota conference basketball fives vieing at 7:30 p.m. Second contest of the evening will be two Minnesota Valley conference teams to meet at 9 p.m.

The following evening, December 29, the Missota conference loser will meet the Minnesota Valley loser in a consolation contest at 7:30 p.m.

Championship game will be at 9 p.m. with the Missota conference winner vieing with the successful first round Minnesota Valley team.

Sponsored by the Shakopee high school athletic department, the holiday tourney is a revived activity for the community. Admission to the tourney sessions is 75 cents for adults and 25 cents for students. Tickets are available at the school or at the door.

Dec. 23, 1965

Wood Carving Proves 'Fruitful Hobby' For Ervin Wolfe, Shakopee Resident

A hand-crafted Nativity scene with all figures meticulously hand painted is the notable result of the woodcarving of Ervin Wolfe, Shakopee Boy Scout adult leader, who now has the attractive hobby display in his home for this holiday season.

The collection includes 15 separate pieces, all carved with a pocket knife, made during the past year. The Shakopee hobbyist, who now is active in the Minnesota Woodcarvers association that meets regularly at the Minneapolis "Y", plans to add more animals in the future.

The figures are first sketched to get the pattern on wood, then they are rough cut on a band saw, with the pocket-knife artistry, along with the painting used to bring the figures "to life." Painting is done in water colors, with the figures then sanded, sealed and waxed to be buffed with an electric buffer.

Rare woods obtained from an importer from New York City are used. The light colored wood in the stable is satinwood from Ceylon; the dark rosewood comes from the East Indies. Also used are basswood and pine. Wolfe and his wife also made the parament that is hand sewn to give he added religious significance to the scene through the use of the cloth adornment.

Wolfe became interested in wood carving about five years ago, first making Boy Scout neckerchief slides. He then graduated to wild-life such as loons and camels and caricature figures.

A figure depicting a Boy Scout with his pack and hiking staff, similar to the one familiar to all who have seen the Boy Scout handbook, won third prize for Wolfe in the hobbyists

competition at the Minnesota State Fair this past summer. He plans to be a consistent competitor in this activity.

What was one of the highlight activities during the holidays? Attending a meeting of the Minnesota Woodcarvers association, of course!

Dec. 30, 1965

Raceway Park Will Re-open In April 1966

Owner and promoter Darwin Hentz announced this week that Raceway Park would open again in 1966.

With the announcement Hentz indicated the most sweeping changes in the history of the track including one class for stock cars and a new incentive percentage payoff giving the drivers a minimum \$1,000 purse against 50 per cent of the ticket gate.

The new single division program featuring Sports-man Stock Cars will give this class the largest purse, ever paid in this area, for this type of car and will afford all competitors, both on an economic and on ability level, one of the most diversified classes ever introduced, Hentz explained.

Hentz also stated that his entire staff of excellent track officials would be back, and that building plans include the covering of the center section of the bleachers and to install all new modern chair seats to protect fans from sudden showers and cool winds and afford the finest in comfortable seating and also give Raceway a facility to lease for programs other than Auto Racing.

Several special events are being considered to utilize Raceway's excellent facilities more fully...

25 Years Ago: From the Shakopee Valley News

Dec. 6, 1990

Dirks expanding

The owners of Dirks Furniture have begun expanding their store at 1038 E. First Ave. in Shakopee. The expansion will give the store twice the showroom space, to 3,500 square feet.

The expansion will allow the store to add more styles to the showroom floor, said Peter Dirks. The store also expects to carry more leather and catalog items that people have asked to see, he added.

The expansion is also being undertaken to promote co-owner Allen Dirks' newest business pursuit – selling custom cedar homes.

The expanded portion of the building will reflect the design of Lindal Homes – in the contemporary, rugged style Lindal is known for on the West Coast. Allen Dirks has bought a franchise in the company, and the expansion will not only

show the style and craftsmanship of Lindal Homes, but will showcase Dirks' furniture.

Dirks' current building was once a marine sales store. Next year the Dirks plan to remodel the entire building in the Lindal cedar style. "We decided to stay at our present location, rather than move because the main drag is ideal for our customers," Peter Dirks said.

Dec. 13, 1990

City Council approves land sale

The Shakopee City Council approved the sale of a parcel of land near Routson Motors at a special meeting Tuesday morning.

The land was sold for \$18,000 to Dan and Teri Routson, owners of the dealership. Although the city owned the land, which is adjacent to the business, the former dealership at the location, Malkerson Motors, had used it as a display lot. The city had long negotiated with Malkerson over the price of the land, which is about 80 feet by 142. The Routsons purchased the dealership earlier this year.

Dec. 20, 1990

Shakopee dance students' routines qualify them for national competition

Students of Shari's Dance Center competed in the Symposium Dance Competition at the Thunderbird Hotel on Sunday, Dec. 9. They competed against students from around the state. Routines that took a first or second place are eligible to compete in the nationals held in Rochester the first week of August.

All of Shari's students took a first or second place, qualifying them for the nationals...

Dec. 27, 1990

District band director leads music session

Barbara Lauer, director of elementary bands for the Shakopee school District, served as a guest clinician and conductor for the 1990 New Music Reading Session. The event was hosted by Schmitt Music and was held at Normandale Community College on Saturday Oct. 27.

Lauer conducted the Normandale College Concert Band in readings of recently published elementary band music. As clinician, she also helped choose which selections were to be played. The New Music Reading Session is annually sponsored by Schmitt Music as a tool for band instructors in the five-state area. Lauer was the only elementary band clinician. Other clinic areas were junior high band, jazz band, and high school band...

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