



Volume 100 August 2020  
 9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983 Open 2nd Sunday of the month

**Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society**

**OFFICERS**

- President: Al Madsen  
 Vice President: Caroline Schaefer  
 Secretary: Joyce Deane  
 Treasurer: Patty Reuter  
 Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing  
 Web page designer: Steve Briggs  
<http://www.maplegrovehistory.org>

**Join us August 20, 2020**

**6:00 pm**

for a boxed picnic and bottle of water provided by MGHPS.

Bring a chair

Box lunch choices- pick a bread, a filling, a cheese or a wrap – chips & choc chip cookie included.



<u>Bread</u>	Wheat	Mable rye	Cia-batta roll			
<u>Filling</u>	Ham	Roast beef	Salami	Chick-en salad	Egg Sal-ad	Tuna salad
<u>Cheese</u>	Ched-dar	Pep-per jack	Swiss			
<u>Wraps</u>	Veggie on jala-peno wrap	Turkey bacon on herb garlic wrap	Buffalo chick-en on jala-peno wrap	Call Jean McFarlane by AUGUST 17TH at 612-206-1035 WITH YOUR CHOICE		

**Purpose:** To collect and preserve information and artifacts and to educate the community of the history of Maple Grove, MN.



Regular

Events

**Open House:** the Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house on the second Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Monthly Meeting:** The third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

**Quarterly Newsletter: Nov. 2020**

**Maple Grove Cemeteries–**

Coming in a future issue plagues, pandemics, flu, polio, – what is your family’s story?

**Ox Cart site and territorial downtown Maple Grove:**  
 15310 Territorial Rd (0.7 mi. w. of Fernbrook Lane N. Maple Grove, MN.

**Pierre Bottineau House :** Elm Creek Park Reserve:  
 12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.

**4 History Display Cases at M.G. Government Center:**  
 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy N. Maple Grove, MN.

**January:** Annual dues

**October:** Election of officers at regular meeting

## The Bookmobile and Library Programs at Bass Lake Mall

I have fond memories of taking three of my children to the Bookmobile that appeared at the Bass Lake Mall every couple weeks. We could check out as many children's books as allowed, and I would check out novels to peruse and maybe read. The library bookmobile wanted to up the demand for books in our area.



The library also presented puppet and other shows for kids in the hallway outside of the Merwin's Drug Store. The little kids would sit on the floor in the hallway and be enchanted by the puppets or animals or whatever the show.

I became so curious about this memory that I was trying to look it up on the Maple Grove Library site. I did not find what I was looking for, but did find some interesting information from the Gratia Countryman, founder of the Hennepin County and Minneapolis Library Director Collection.

In the 23 page booklet about the history of the Library , page 1 stated that "Around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Minneapolis Library Director Gratia Countryman proclaimed. "The improvement of rural life is one of the major problems before our country." "With missionary zeal she demonstrated her concern for rural residents by taking books to them- in the 1890's... even through the Minneapolis Public Library was not required to provide the service."

In 1915 Hennepin County Commissioners began allocating \$1000 annually to cover costs for non city residents to use the Minneapolis Public Library and order books by parcel post. Minneapolis also provided small book collections in outlying Hennepin County.

In June of 1922 the "book wagon makes its first trip . "The book wagon or bookmobile took a collection of 500 Books to 115 stops and community centers and to 80 schools 92000 books had been circulated or 3 books per 31,000 rural residents."p3).

On p.6 I learned that Osseo created space for the library and the Hennepin County provided the books and funding.

"By 1935, about 89 small rural schools were borrowing from the book truck and the books were worn to shreds the library welcomed help of book menders in 1936 under the

government WPA proved a life saver" to 10,000 books. (P 3)

By the end of WWII the bookmobile was making 300 stops to the burgeoning suburbs. (p9)

In 1987 the Maple Grove Library opened.(p.19) The second Maple Grove Library opened in 2010.

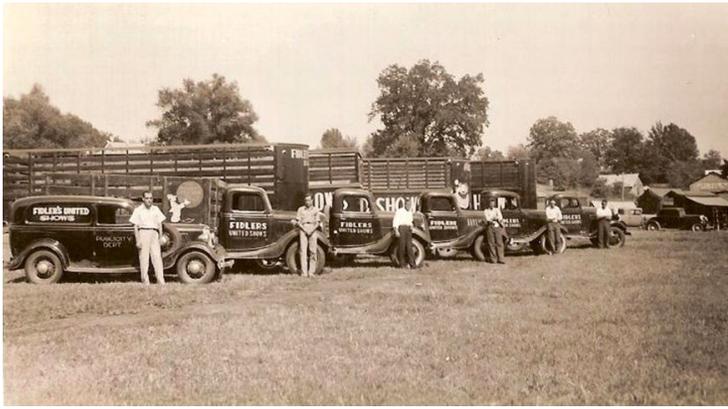


"May 27, 1951 Books in the Barnyard: Hennepin county's bookmobile covers the county every month, bringing good books to old and young readers, alike. A typical stop, above, is at the farm home of Mrs. Viola Tasler, near Maple Grove, in rural Hennepin county. The herd of Holstein cattle placidly greeted the bookmobile's arrival. Mrs. Tasler's neighbors, however, ex-changed books they had read for new volumes."

Please credit: Earl Seubert, Copyright 1951 Star Tribune. Used by permission of the Star Tribune.

The Osseo Maple Grove Press in April of 2008 provided an "Introducing the Class of 2020 with pictures of the children with their teachers. "These words of hope, humor and sometimes wisdom come from several hundred Kindergartners in our local school districts." I kept the paper as my Grandson Gabriel is pictured in Mrs. Swanson's Elm Creek PM Kindergarten Class. Gabriel wanted "to be a firefighter when I grow up. I'll need to have a fire truck, a suit and a hose."

In May of 2020 these kindergartens, now seniors, were asked to respond to the Osseo Maple Grove Press about what they were planning to do now. Gabriel answered that he plans on attending Iowa State to become a mechanical engineer. By Pat Ruffing



## When the Carnival came to town.

While we lived in Maple Grove our father told us, that before he and Mom married he worked in a carnival. The carnival, Fidler's United Shows, was based out of St. Louis Missouri. It traveled throughout several mid western and southern states during the summer months. It was owned and run by Dad's oldest sister Dorothy and her husband Sam. Several of Dad's sisters and brother also worked in the carnival.

This above bit of information brought us to that glorious day the Fidlers United Shows Carnival set up in Osseo. One night all the family folks, who were part of the carnival, came for supper. We were all eating around our big farm table and near the end of the meal Dad brought out a bottle of wine to celebrate the occasion. I remember thinking, what's wine? I knew what Grain belt was (Beer) but wine? HM!! Well whatever it was the adults all had a small glass of it and toasted the meal. Toasted? Ahh!! another new word. The meal was finished, the dishes cleaned up and the company left. Then Dad packed us all up in the family car and off to the carnival we went.

Oh the bright colored lights, the happy music, The barkers (another new word) yelling out words like: "Come see the show" or "Try your luck at this game", "Let me guess your age or weight" or "Win a prize". Oh, so many happy laughing people and so many neighbors saying hello. Wonderful smells wafted from all the different foods being sold, the close by hot butter smell from the popcorn machines, and surprise, surprise something called cotton candy? "spun sugar" Dad said "watch how they make it". Oh my!! The person spinning the sugar winked at Dad and handed each of us kids a great big spun sugar treat. YES!!

As we walked through the magical place that night we stopped to view the Motorcycle wall of death attraction and watched those motor cycles and their riders literally climb the walls as they raced each other in circles to be the first to reach the top. Later we stopped in front of a big beautiful tall wheel thing all lit that was going around in a big circle. Think of what you could see from the top? Dad then asked us the magical question. Did we want to ride on it? Of course we did. The person running the ride put us in a seat with Dad and we rode around to the top and down again several times. Dad said this ride was called a Ferris wheel and if we held on real tight he would rock the seat just a little bit. Oh my how scary but so fun too.

Too soon the incredible evening came to an end. Dad walked us back to the car where Mom was sitting with little brother and sister who had both fallen asleep in the back seat from all the excitement.

So many wonderful memories of that day the Carnival came to town. ...S Hopkins

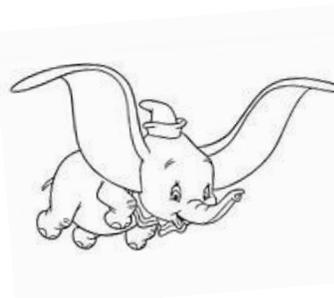
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## Happy Travels



The year was probably 1957. I was 10 years old. My dad packed my brother (13) and my sister (7) along with our mother into the family car and headed west. First stop was somewhere in Colorado to visit his sister and family. Then on we travelled through the Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon.



Our main destination the newly opened (1955) Disneyland Park in Anaheim California. What I remember was riding on Dumbo the flying elephant, and seeing all the Disney characters walking around. This was the first of many family vacations in the car.

By Louise Hanf

What could be better than cold root beer or “sarsaparilla” on a hot summer day? We saluted the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with it; it was buried on the hay wagon to cool the hay stackers. Mom’s annual event was to buy a bottle of Hires



root beer extract at the grocery store. She would mix together the extract with, water, sugar and yeast- and since we didn’t have soda bottles, she would put the concoction in canning jars and cap. Mom seemed to store the jars to ferment in a warm upstairs bedroom. I wonder if Mr. Hires, a chemist ever experience waking up to an explosion in the middle of a hot summer night. A canning jar fermented too much and shattered, with the warm brown sticky drink splashed all over my bedroom. Pat Ruffing

### Memories of Jean McFarlane

I remember as a child looking forward to when the carnival came to town in July.



That was when all the tomatoes were ripening, and we knew we would have BLT’s for supper for that evening, plus s’mores of course, made in the oven by mom for dessert.

My older brother always took me to see the carnival. I enjoyed the ride on the merry go round. We walked up the isles of games of chance, which were many to my little eyes.



Of course my brother always played one and won me a Kewpie doll or other such item.

When we came home later and it was dark, we sat on the back lawn and watched the lightening bugs dance. This was the height of our summer!



Jean McFarlane

### The Start of the School Year 1946-47-48

By Joyce Deane

I wonder how did we make it- knowing what we needed to buy for the school year- as I wander through the stores and see preprinted lists of each school indicating what each grade needs to survive the year.



I love the thought of the return to school. It usually meant a shopping trip to get much coveted pencil box. There were compartments for the pencils, and eraser and sometimes even a drawer with a pull tab (that always pulled off within a month) on the front of it for crayons. It could hold everything we needed for the school year- a ruled tablet and lunch box completed our needs. Getting a metal lunch box was a treasure we were expected to keep for several years.



The items in this photo are on display at the museum

The lumpy Montgomery Ward package which would arrive by truck was always fun to open. Mother would sort all the new clothes out- ... sometimes I got a dress. Girls were dressed in skirts and blouses or dresses...

The start of school did not mean the picture at the bus like one sees today. We went off with a hug and a wave and a wish to have a good day.





Remember when the Lone Ranger wore a mask? I remember my two brothers and I would flop on the floor in front of the radio and listen to "Hi Ho Silver Away. We tried to beat dad to the radio as he liked the 6:30 CBS Evening News with Edward R Murrow.

Now we are the masked people!!!!  
Hi Ho Covid Away! Pat Ruffing

## Happy Baking Days!!!

I love to bake. When I babysat my granddaughter (Grace) we would bake something together. I taught her how to mix, roll out and decorate sugar cookies. We made Easter basket cupcakes. I showed her how to make pie crust from scratch. Then we would make apple pie. She made frosting from scratch to decorate her Mom and Dad's Birthday Cake. When we were done, I would take a picture of her and the finished product. I assembled the recipes and the pictures in a recipe book.

I showed her how to make other things-like finger jello, and corn pudding. As she got older her Mother and Aunts and I ( along with Grace) would get together between Thanksgiving and Christmas and make about 1/2 dozen different kinds of Christmas cookies. Again a picture was taken. On her "Sweet Sixteenth" Birthday, I presented her with the book and recipes. I know she was pleased and really enjoyed looking at the pictures of when she was so young. This would be a Keepsake forever along with Good Times and Happy Memories.

Louise Hanf.

## The magical Carnival came to town -1946 -

??? Joyce Deane

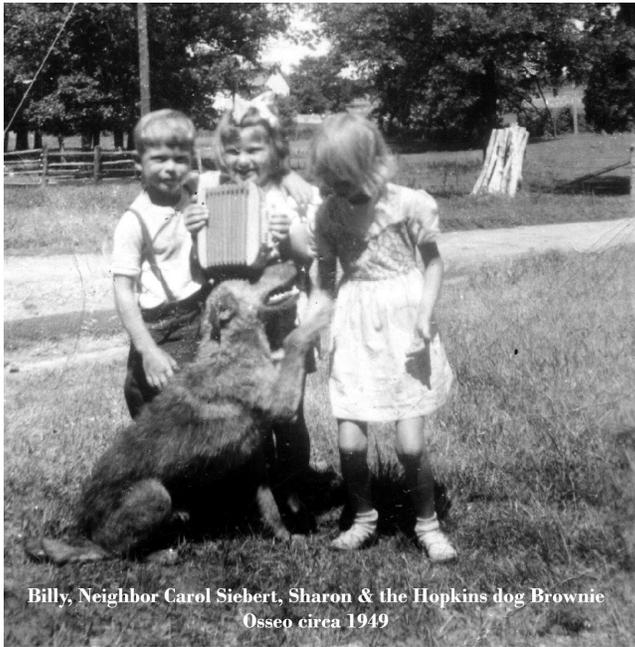
As a child I was excited when the carnival posters began to appear in the Osseo store windows. I loved the sound of the music, the colorful attire of the workers, and the magical lights that were on everything. There were many glass boxes with trinkets with a claw that made it look so easy to pick up something great – but it never did. I always wondered how it would be to travel and sleep in such small trailers.. How could they keep clean after working in the hot summer heat. The carnival moved around Osseo to vacant areas .. One was midway between the current McDonald's and Lynde's Café which was close to my home. After the carnival departed, my brother, Jerry set up his own carnival with games of chance. He marked off an area using saw horses and boards to frame in his games of chance – knock down the milk bottles, hit the bell, whatever he could think of he tried it. One year the polio epidemic had begun and I was sick and the Doctor said I had to stay in bed. I did not have polio, but not only did I miss the Osseo carnival, but Jerry's magical creative reproduction.

## A SUMMER AFTERNOON

About 1940 "The wild raspberries were picked and it was almost gooseberry time." "There were a few afternoons without much kid work...Almost every afternoon my brother Eddie and I would escape to the wonderful world of the creek." (Rush Creek) ..."My brother suggested we go visit Jim Robinson. We walked from the creek up to his farm. He was resting in the shade of the big elm tree that was on the north side of his house. We sat and talked for an hour or so when Mr. Robinson reached in his pocket and gave Eddie some money. He told us to go to the store and treat ourselves to some ice cream...we walked to Parker's Store which was across the street from Robinson's. We had thirty-five cents, an unbelievable amount. I knew my choice... a bottle of cream soda and a Cheerio...We sat on the cement slab in front of the store...Eddie told me that we still had fifteen cents left and that we should go back to Robinson's and give the change back to Jim."

From Will the Chicken be with Grandma pp. 177-178

James Weber



Billy, Neighbor Carol Seibert, Sharon & the Hopkins dog Brownie  
Osseo circa 1949

### Best behavior and cow Patty.

Down the road, now 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave, from us lived our best friend Carol Seibert. Her grandparents were a wonderful older couple named William and Mary Seibert who quickly got called Grandpa and Grandma Seibert by us kids. Now Grandpa Seibert always had a twinkle in his eye and Grandma Seibert was a sweetie. She would come over and help Mom with chores, canning, rug weaving etc. It was always fun to see Grandma Seibert coming down the road to visit.

One day she came in with a big smile on her face and invited us all to their place for a huge picnic of sorts the following Saturday afternoon. The picnic was to be held out in their pasture beside the lake and all the neighbors were being invited.

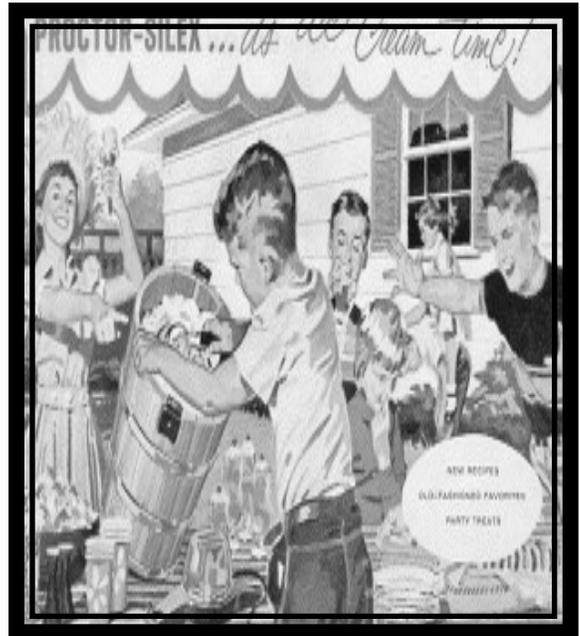
Mom and Dad talked it over and decided yes we would be going. Saturday afternoon arrived and as we were about to walk down the road to Seibert's my Mom said "Mind your manners and watch out for cow Patty. Now we all knew to watch out for the Seibert's bull but which cow, they owned several, was Patty? Needless to say this statement did put a bit of a damper on my enjoyment but hey, really, The Seibert's cows were pretty nice so maybe Patty was too.

The food was great. Every family brought something to share. There were even lots of fun games for the kids. However much fun it was I still had my eye out for cow Patty. As the afternoon dwindled and the cows started coming in on their way to the barn I saw Grandma Seibert and asked her if any of these cows were named Patty. No she said. Now this made sense to me because if I was to watch out for cow

Patty she certainly wouldn't be with all the other cows would she?

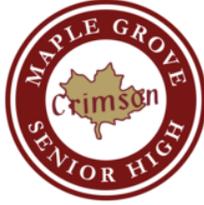
On our walk home my Mom and Dad asked us kids if we had a good time at the Seibert's picnic? I said yes I did but I never did see that cow Patty I was to watch out for. She said well your brother stepped right in one. What I said? Cow paddy she said. What the cows leave after they go to the bathroom. OH THAT!! Well no I never saw one of those I said while realizing I had spent the whole afternoon watching out for a wild cow named Patty who actually never existed.

Sure was a great picnic though.. Sharon H.



I remember so well  
The hot sweaty summer days  
My cousins would come over  
to our house to play.  
Nothing could be cooler than  
Ice cream , mom's way  
With a crank of the handle  
Each kid got a turn  
The custard and vanilla concoction  
Would Freeze in the manual ice cream churn.  
I wondered how cream  
could possibly be so cold as to freeze,  
And it made my head hurt  
when eating a bowl of it for dessert  
Those wonderful memories  
of childhood days of the past  
The ice cream churn is gone  
But the vivid memories still last!

# Crimson Football History



On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1996 the Maple Grove Crimson football team was born, according to their website. Their first coach was Craig Hansen. They won two games in their first two years and the team was composed of underclassmen. But in their 1998 season, their only regular season loss was to Stillwater! They made it to the State playoffs!

On October 18, 2001 they played the first game ever in the Maple Grove Crimson Stadium.

In 2011, Matt Lombardi became their second coach. "Lombo" had been the Wayzata defensive coordinator in the 2000s.

In 2013 the Crimson beat Anoka and Minnetonka on their way to a State Tournament for the first time in 11 years. They did lose 24-21 to the Roseville Raiders at the TCF Bank Stadium.

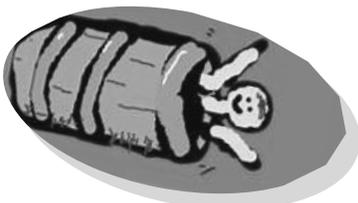
In 2016 Maple Grove Crimson would compete at the State for a 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

The most remarkable game occurred in 2017 where the Crimson came back during a state quarter final game against St Michael-Albertville from 17 points in the hole to victorious in the last minute!

The future of the Crimson football team of Maple Grove looks very promising!

## Roll in the Barrel by James Weber

There are times when you have to make your own fun...There was an old wooden barrel in the woods. It looked like it had been used for mixing white wash. We decided to try to roll downhill in the barrel. I went first. I got in the barrel and braced myself and my brother gave it a push to get it started. The trip down hill was fast and I was dizzy...It was Ed's turn and he got in the barrel...Ed was on his way down, when the barrel decided to go in the wrong direction. The barrel hit a tree and flew apart. There was a cloud of white dust and it was over. Ed wasn't hurt.



Will Chicken be  
with Grandma  
pp.251-252

## My Bicycle by Joyce Deane

After learning to ride my brother's bike, it was with great anticipation that I awaited the time when I would have my own, saving up for weeks until I had the right amount in my savings account. Finally the day arrived when I could go to Larsen's Coast to Coast store in Osseo and select the model, and color of my dream bicycle. It had to be ordered, as stores did not carry a large selection of bicycles like they do now. Finally after what seemed like forever the call came saying that it was in. First to the bank to withdraw the exact amount - \$39.95 and then to the store. They had assembled it and made sure it fit correctly. How excited I was as I pedaled down main street in Osseo, down the service road to my home. My brother, Buddy and I would bike up the big hill to



hope to come flying down, across county road 18 and the railroad tracks all the way back home. I loved the wind in my hair— no bicycle helmets then. That bike with coaster brakes lasted for years.

## When Peter Potts Ruled the Sandbox!!

We shared a large sandbox in our yard- the younger kids in our family. Rick, Mike, Al Bev and I.

A tree shaded the middle and we would play there for hours in summer. It seemed that my brother Mike along with Peter Potts ruled the sandbox!! My brother would have farms and roads and fences and animals in this imaginary world along with his three friends: Peter Potts, Johnny Guts and Lonnie Lutz. The younger kids were tolerated as long as they didn't ruin his world or his farms.

Years later, I was driving out East, near Connecticut and saw a sign for the Peter Potts Farm. Today, I searched on the internet and discovered a series of Peter Potts books! Maybe Mike's friend Peter was real! Pat Ruffing

## Do you know that Hennepin County has a

**County Fair.?** It has been cancelled in 2020 because of Covid 19. One would travel west on rural Bass Lake Road to the western side of the county- to Corcoran- to visit the quaint agricultural fair filled with 4-H kids showing their prize plants, animals and creative activities. Many Maple Grove kids and grandkids have all played on the rides and attend the grandstand events at the Corcoran Lions Park. The fair was in Hopkins until 1986, when it was moved to farmlands near Corcoran. Now the area is an explosion of suburban development just beyond the new Hyvee and housing developments. Soon the fair ground will be a country dwarf with the giant city encroaching. Will the fair change its focus to appeal to the more urban folks in the biggest county in Minnesota?



At the Museum Meeting on July 23rd  
 We learned that we will be the recipients of a \$20,000 historic doll Collection.  
 Also the Museum will be expanding to include more space in the public works building.  
 We are excited to plan for a grand re-opening of the Museum!  
 We will soon be able to do Facebook alive videos!



**Excerpts from Life on the Farm**  
 by LeRoy Bonn

“It was my job to get the horses ready and haul the grain buckets to the thrashing machine. I used the John Deere B tractor to cultivate the corn.

Every two weeks my grandpa George and I would go to Osseo to get coal for cooking and heating. He would treat me to an ice cream cone and bottle of pop. I really loved my grandpa. Sometimes we would sit out on the long porch and watch the sky, Grandpa would tell us about the clouds and what kind of weather to expect.

The radio brought lots of entertainment. On Saturday nights the whole family sat by the radio and listened to B Bar B riders, grand Old Opry, Barn Dance and Slim Jim....

A special memory I have is when my sister Lorraine and Sandra Roeder would walk their doll buggies down the gravel road.



Life’s lessons learned on the farm prepared me for the years ahead. I still appreciate the meaning of family and simple pleasures.

**Did you ever go to the Hamel Rodeo & Bull Ridin Bonanza?**

This has become a popular event for Maple Grovians since 1981. It started in the parking lot of the Medina Ballroom to the Corcoran Lions Park! It has grown into the largest professional rodeo in Minnesota. The rodeo is owned and operated by five local non-profit groups: Hamel Lions Club, Heinzen-Ditter VFW, John Pohlker American Legion, Hamel Volunteer Fire Department, and Lord of Life Military Family Support Ministry. 100% of the proceeds are shared among these organizations.

**Needed for November Newsletter**

**Articles – Memories – of the Maple Grove Cemeteries**

Brooklyn Maple Grove

Immanuel United Methodist

Lord of Life Lutheran Peace Garden

Maple Knoll

Rush Creek

St. Patrick’s

Weaver Lake

And the neighboring ones St. John’s, St. Vincent’s Niggler, or St. Paul’s

**MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

City of Maple Grove Government Center  
 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(renewable each January)

Annual Membership (tax deductible)

- \$15 Individual/Senior
- \$30 Family
- \$100 Supporting Member

I am interested in helping with

- Writing article
- Historic site maintenance
- Displays
- Educational Programs
- Publicity
- Cataloging artifacts
- Calling

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

