



Volume 113 November 2023

9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Web page designer: Steve Briggs
<http://www.maplegrovmnhistory.org>

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

Regular

Events



Open House:

The Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1- 4 p.m.

Monthly Meeting:

The third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

Quarterly Newsletter: **February**—

“The Clothes We Wore.”
SEND PHOTOS AND WRITE STORIES ABOUT YOU & YOUR PARENTS FASHIONABLE OR FAD CLOTHING

History on Display:

- ◆ 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.

Pay Dues: **January**

Election of officers : **October**

Down Through the Chimney with Good St. Nick Christmas Party

December 21st 2023



6:00 pm at the Museum
Invite your family and friends
Bring a dish to share

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT

After an enjoyable evening with family, laughing and sharing news of the coming of a new baby in a few months, Paula and Kenneth Oswald crawled into their bed, peacefully recalling the fun evening and soon fell asleep. Little did they know that soon, their lives and the life of their expected child would be horrendously taken by a habitual criminal turned murderer in the dead of the night.

After their marriage in September 1937, Paula and Kenneth Oswald had moved into Charles Oswald's, Kenneth's father, farmhouse and worked with his father on his farm near Maple Grove. Kenneth's parents had moved to Osseo. Life was very happy for the young couple, that is, until July 7, 1938.

Kenneth's mother had tried to call them around 8 o'clock that morning and five or six more times into the afternoon. When Kenneth's father came in, she told him she was getting concerned so Charles decided to go over to Kenneth's and check on them. Upon his arrival, he noticed the chickens fluttering and scratching in the yard, the horses were whinnying – they evidently hadn't been fed. He also noticed the cows hadn't been milked. When no one answered his knocking, an uneasiness came upon him - something was wrong. He then decided he would get his uncle, Henry Radintz, who lived on a nearby farm. Charles returned with Henry, his son, Alfred, his daughter, Gertrude and a neighbor, Mrs. Elsie Klatt. Cautiously, they entered the house and called to Kenneth and Paula.

There was just silence.

Shortly, a sobbing voice on the telephone came into the sheriff's office reporting the discovery of three bodies at Oswald's farm home. Kenneth, Paula and their twenty-four-year-old hired man, John Kujawa, were dead. Charles, his uncle, and the other folks felt utter disbelief when they saw Kenneth and Paula in their night clothes, heads bloodied, deceased lying on their bed. Further discovery led to the body of John Kujawa, the hired man from St. Cloud, in an upstairs bedroom with a gunshot wound to his head.

Hennepin Co. Deputy Sheriff Fred Kraemer, deputies C.V. Swanberg and Bert Theis, Sheriff John Wall and deputies Jack Kittridge and Stanley Hurley in two cars raced to the farmhouse. Upon arrival they found many shocked and sobbing neighbors standing in the yard. The distressed neighbors couldn't grasp the fact that Paula (23), the youngest child of the five children of Rev. H.R. and Mrs. Klemp and Kenneth (24), the only child of Charles Oswald and his wife were dead.

The authorities rushed inside, passing Charles in the living room, who pointed to the bedroom. The scene was shocking even to seasoned police officers. Upon close examination of the bodies they realized both Kenneth and Paula had three round circled blows to the head as well as a gunshot wound to their heads. Sheriff Wall found a bullet in Kenneth's pillow

from a .32 caliber gun. They determined the circled blow injuries were probably made by a hammer. Who would do such a thing to this well-liked couple?

The police chief asked Charles where was the other, he replied upstairs. The officers found John Kujawa (25) in his bed, also dead from a gunshot wound to his head. Apparently, shot while he slept. Three murders had been committed! While searching the house for more clues deeper sadness ensued, the authorities found a chest full of new baby clothes. Apparently, a fourth murder had also been committed. An unborn child.

As friends and neighbors of the Oswald's came forward, clues surfaced. Charles Oswald discovered their farm truck was missing as well as two cows. The neighbor, Else Klatt said at 5:30 a.m. she heard a truck and thought it was too early for the Oswald's. Lowell Reinking, a 15-year-old neighbor boy, stated he saw Oswald's truck with two cows in it cross the railroad track and head through town a little before 6 a.m. The milkman, Clarence Kottke, had come by at 8 o'clock and found only one can of milk instead of the usual two. That seemed strange to him. A short time later a bloodied hammer that had been taken from the Oswald barn was found in Kenneth and Paula's backyard.

The authorities soon learned a former hired man, Robert McLeod, had been fired by Charles Oswald around Memorial Day for forgery of several small checks and stealing Kenneth's car, a maroon Chevy coupe with red wire wheels. License plates had also been taken from a car of Henry Radintz at that time. McLeod had worked on both farms.

The sheriff put an all-points bulletin out throughout the Midwest for Robert McLeod and calls soon came in reporting numerous past crimes and additional aliases where McLeod was charged or was suspected of a crime in several states. It was now known that McLeod had used aliases and was a habitual criminal, but a murderer – had he lowered himself to that?

When the Minneapolis police heard that McLeod was wanted for murder, they advised the Hennepin Co. sheriff that McLeod had recently been released from the workhouse in Minneapolis for the Oswald forgeries and theft and the car had not been found. The Minneapolis police had been watching him and knew he had been living at a run-down hotel in the Gateway District.

Because of the missing farm truck and the two cows, Sheriff Wall called the South St. Paul stockyards to see if two cows had been brought into sell. Fortunately, the stockyards kept detailed records of their transactions and the employee told the sheriff he would check and call him back.

In the meantime, an Osseo constable called the sheriff and said McLeod had left a black suitcase at the pool hall and had never picked it up. The sheriff retrieved the suitcase and found letters addressed to Robert McLeod in it from different women across the country and a pardon letter from North Dakota State Prison.

Con't from p 2

Upon hearing that McLeod had been pardoned from North Dakota, Ed Goff, Hennepin Co. attorney demanded to know why the North Dakota State Pardon and Parole had allowed this to happen. McLeod was known in North Dakota as August Yaeger and had been sentenced by the courts to life as a habitual criminal. This pardon was based on a North Dakota assistant state attorney's letter saying he had no objection to Yaeger/McLeod being pardoned. Goff assumed McLeod was told to leave North Dakota and McLeod came to Minnesota.

The sheriff received a call back from the stockyards stating that two cows had been brought in on July 7 by a George Evens of Route 3, Anoka, a town 8 miles from Osseo. With this information, the authorities felt that it was probably Robert McLeod who had sold the cows, using an alias name, George Evens. The cows had already been slaughtered but their hides were still at Superior Packing Company in South St. Paul. On July 8, the sheriff called in Charles Oswald to identify the two cows' hides at the packing company and Charles said they were Kenneth's cows as he recognized the hides and the milk clips in their ears.

Authorities learned from the Farmers Union Livestock Commission that McLeod had received a check of \$148.87 for the two cows on July 7. But there had been some bank confusion, and he couldn't get the check cashed that day and he would have to come back. All the local banks were soon alerted by the sheriff to watch for this check which McLeod had received. In the meantime, the Oswald truck had been found abandoned on a Minneapolis street and from this discovery, they surmised McLeod must still be in town.

The State Crime Board had also been working on this case i.e., checking fingerprints, etc., and found a ten-year-old picture of Robert McLeod. They rushed the picture of McLeod to the Farmers Union Building for the employees to identify the picture. Yes, that is Evens (the name they knew him by) several of the employees confirmed. He had been in yesterday. Henry St. Peter, the janitor, looked at the picture also, but he wasn't quite sure; and Henry St. Peter was rushed, as he had to get to the post office to mail some packages. That's when things changed for everyone.

As Henry St. Peter was hurriedly walking to the post office, he noticed a man getting out of a maroon, Chevy coupe with red wire wheels and Henry realized he then recognized the man. It was George Evens, the man he had seen yesterday in the commission firm, who the police wanted. Henry watched the man go into the Drover's bank. Henry dropped his packages and ran back to the Farmers Commission office and quickly motioned for Ehlert, an employee, to come outside. He told Ehlert he had seen Evens/McLeod go into the bank. They ran back to the bank and only got close enough so they could see the door. They didn't want to risk their lives by running into a suspected murderer. They also no-

ticed Zeman, manager of the livestock firm, chatting with someone on the street and then Evens/McLeod emerged from the bank, walking quickly while tearing up a paper. The man got into the maroon coupe and started driving away. Zeman then also recognized Evens and yelled "Police". St. Peter had previously seen Patrolman Ernest Whaley go into the drugstore and St. Peter quickly retrieved him. Henry pointed out the maroon coupe with the red wire wheels to Whaley and Whaley jumped into the patrol car and pursued chase.

After a fast chase through the streets of South St. Paul, Whaley pushed the gas pedal to the floor and sped in front of McLeod and McLeod's car came to a sudden stop. Whaley pulled a startled McLeod from his car and arrested him.

When McLeod was first questioned at the police station by Police Chief E.J. McAlpine of South St. Paul, he denied he was the man they were looking for. But once, Chief McAlpine told him there were many people from Osseo waiting outside the doors to get him, McLeod broke down and began to confess to the Oswald/Kujawa murders. Harold LeVander, the county attorney, was called in to take his statement and Robert McLeod began to recite the details of his horrendous act.

McLeod had taken a bus from Minneapolis to Osseo and then walked to the Kenneth Oswald farm, only intending to steal a few cows. He still carried the anger with him that he thought the Oswalds had owed him \$30 when they fired him. When he realized that the young couple might hear him take the cows, he went into the house carrying the hammer from the barn and struck them both in the head. He then went upstairs to Kujawa's room and shot him in the head with a gun he had recently purchased. Returning downstairs he heard moaning and that's when he shot both Paula and Kenneth in the head. He loaded up the cows in the farm truck and waited for morning light, he then drove to the stockyards and sold the cows.

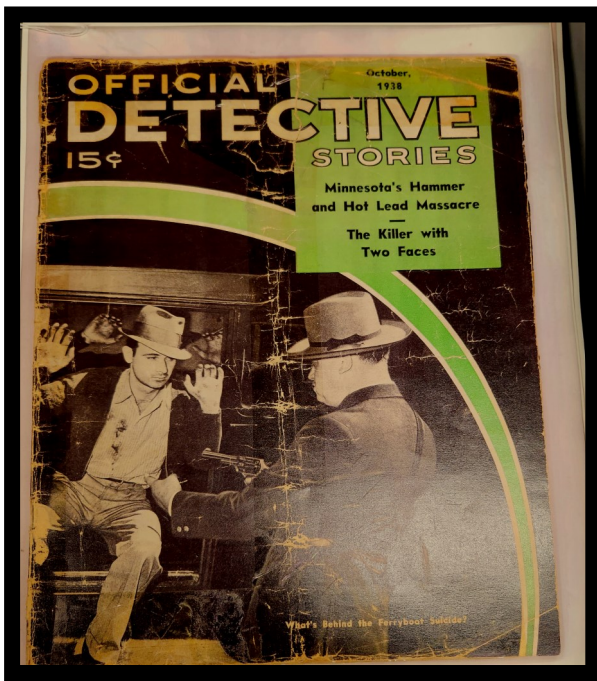
Exactly one week after he took the three lives, McLeod (41), alias, George Evens, and scores of other aliases was sentenced to three concurrent life terms in the State Prison in Stillwater, MN.

Later when family members were going through Kenneth and Paula's things, they found the book of their wedding guests. McLeod was their hired man at the time, and they had invited him also and this is what he wrote in their wedding book:

May all the health, happiness, and prosperity that He who rules above hold in store for His best people be yours throughout your life.

(Signed) Robert McLeod

Thousands attended the funerals of Kenneth and Paula Oswald and John Kujawa. By Kathy Bjorklund



In 1938 Detective Magazine wrote a feature on the Oswald murders. So did eight newspapers.



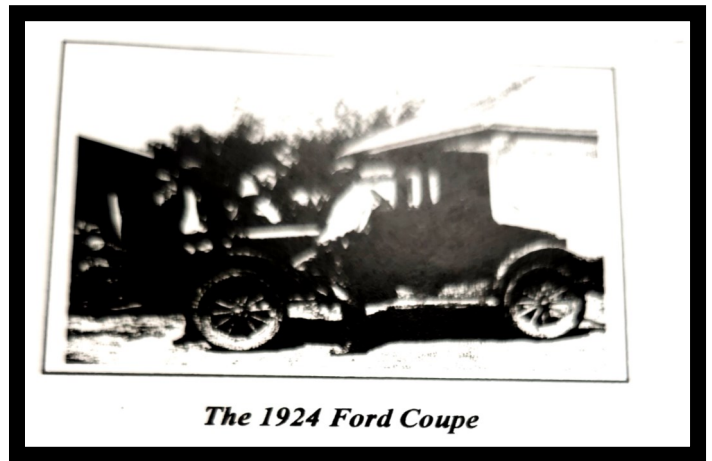
The Big Secret

I don't know just how old I was, but I remember coming across an envelope in my Grandma Miller's scrap book that I was looking through. Of course, I had to look in the envelope and found a newspaper clipping of an article about the Oswald Murder. Wow! right in the middle of Maple Grove. If I remember correctly there was a photo of the two dead people lying dead in their bed. It seems they fired a hired hand and he came back in the night and killed them with a hammer. Wow! I wasn't sure quite what to think, but I didn't say a word, just carefully folded it and put it back so it didn't look like I had ever seen it. As I recall, it was o.k. for me to look in the book, so I don't think I would have been in trouble.

One night at our youth fellowship meeting when we were driving home with one of the guys, he stopped the car and showed us all the clipping. A really big deal! Again, I didn't say a word to my parents about it.

I don't think there were very many kids that didn't know about it. We knew the family that lived in the house now, and I "wonder" if they were ever scared to be there. I don't know exactly when that was, but it was before all the murder shows on TV so it was a big deal.

By Lois Miller Caswell

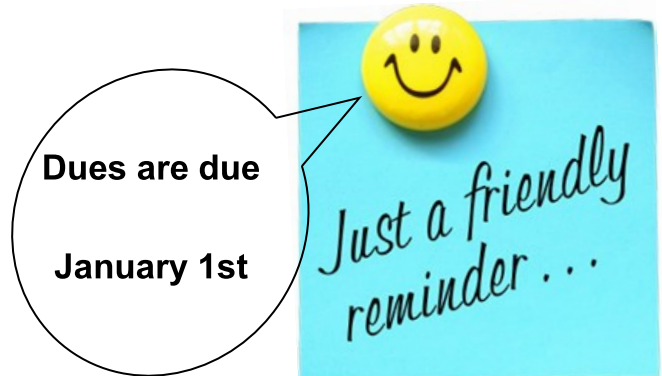


The 1924 Ford Coupe

The body of the car was hauled to the pasture to deteriorate into a pile of rust. But, while it was still intact it became a special place for two little girls. Copies of *True Detective Magazine* were hidden under the seat. When they could steal away for a few minutes, the cab of this old car made a wonderful place to read those forbidden magazines.



Mischief in Maple Grove newspaper clipping in Roger Mc Hugh's scrapbook





Anoka prides itself on being the “Halloween Capital of the World.” Anoka County legend states that “On November 1, 1919, several prominent Anoka County citizens, including the sheriff, began their days with quite the surprise. Sometime in the night, under the cover of a waxing Halloween moon, a number of live cows had been wrangled and left to roam the streets. One was found in the jail, another in the sheriff’s office, and a bull locked inside a school classroom had spent the night munching on math books. The epic prank led civic leaders to suggest a giant celebration for the following Halloween, in part, to keep the band of mischievous, would-be practical jokers otherwise occupied.” (from Anoka website)



In 2019 Anoka had a From “MOO” to “BOO” centennial event: “To All Hallows’ Eve, a cow will be stealthily wandering the streets and locales of Anoka, and it will be your job to find her. Take selfies of yourself with the Halloween Holstein and post them on Facebook and Instagram. Perhaps with your help, we can round her up before she causes as much trouble as her ancestors did!”

My Dad also did his share of Halloween pranks as a kid in early 1900’s in northeastern Minnesota. He greased the railroad track so the train slid through town; reassembled a wagon on top of a building; and overturned an outhouse. So how did the pranking tradition began? According to the Library of Congress: “The Halloween holiday has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of summer, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor saints. Soon after, All Saints Day came to incorporate some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before All Saints Day was known as All Hallows Eve, and later, Halloween.”

(<https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2021/10/the-origins-of-halloween-traditions>)

The Smithsonian magazine describes Halloween in early 19th-century America as “a night for pranks, tricks, illusions, and anarchy. Jack-o’-lanterns dangled from the ends of sticks, and teens jumped out from behind walls to terrorize smaller kids...” “Americans generally lived in small communities and better knew their neighbors; it was often the local grouch who was the brunt of Halloween mischief. The children would cause trouble and the adults would just smile guiltily to themselves.”

“The 1930’s radio programs, such as *The Baby Snooks Show*,

and TV shows, like *The Jack Benny Program*, put the idea of trick-or-treating in front of a national audience. The 1952 Donald Duck cartoon *Trick or Treat* reached millions via movie screens and TV. It featured the antics of Huey, Dewey, and Louie, who, with the help of Witch Hazel’s potions, get Uncle Donald to give them candy instead of the explosives he first pops into their treat bags.” On one episode of *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, costumed kids come to the door, and Ozzie and Harriet are baffled.” Trick-or-treating—child-oriented and ideal for the emerging suburbs that housed a generation of Baby Boomers—became synonymous with Halloween. Reckless behavior was muted, and porch lights welcomed costumed kids coast to coast. But food companies—Beatrice Foods, Borden, National Biscuit Company—quickly took notice and got into the candy business.

From “When Halloween Was All Tricks and No Treats Lesley Bannatyne, Zócalo Public Square October 27, 2017 “

Today, trick or treat has more variants and is for everyone: some schools ban Halloween as a religious event; many places have trunk or treat, where kids go car-to-car in a parking lot asking for candy; the pumpkin patches, city and mall parades for treats, reverse Halloween where kids go in costumes to nursing homes and hand out treat bags. Maple Grove has seasonal costume shops, and city wide events. Hayrides and freak farms abound all over the Metro area. Adult parties grace many drinking establishments. Halloween has become a huge scary but fun holiday, on TV, in concert, in candy, and countless events. According to the National Retailers Association: Halloween candy and costume spending is predicted to reach \$12.2 billion this year!

Now Halloween is tricks and treats, not just for pranksters or kids, for all but ages and of course for commerce!

By Pat Ruffing



1980’S HANF AND RUFFING CHILDREN IN TRICK AND TREAT COSTUMES



A colorful sign outside the new Maple Grove Municipal Hall designates the village clerk's business hours.

The building was completely remodeled after condemnation last year.

Originally this building was a two-story home, but the July 7, 1966 tornado ripped off the entire second floor. At that time the building was condemned as being unfit for human habitation.

Behind the municipal hall is the Maple Grove Village Hall (partially obscured) where the village council meets in its council chambers. Public meetings are conducted in that structure, by an old school building.



From Roger McHugh's scrapbook

Village Hall Arson Case

On Oct. 18 2022, a fire damaged much of the building. "Although determined to be arson, [the] Maple Grove Fire [Department] was not able to determine a suspect," Maple Grove Fire Chief Tim Bush told CCX News. After an arson incident-

Haunted Minnesota: City Hall's Brutal Last Hanging

By @mollieonair
Oct 28, 2018

<https://cities971.iheart.com/content/2018-10-28-haunted-minnesota-city-halls-brutal-last-hanging/>

"John Moshik's 1898 hanging was brutal enough to make it Minneapolis City Hall's last one.

According to [Haunted Rooms](#), Moshik was sentenced to death after murdering a man over \$14. He was hanged...but took three minutes to die.

[Prairie Ghosts](#) says his spirit haunts the fifth floor. Moshik was convicted in the Chapel Courtroom, which earned a reputation for being jinxed and was eventually removed from the floor plan during a remodel in the 1950s. Several other

courtrooms were built into the area.

Cold winds, an apparition of John Moshik, odd movements, and shadows are reported on the fifth floor to this day.

The site where Moshik was hanged is also said to still be haunted. Both the fourth and fifth floors, occupied by inmates of the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center. The hanging location is at the top of an old iron spiral staircase in the south tower - the abandoned "death row." This area had a number of small cells that were suspended from the ceiling by iron bars. The cells have since been removed, but according to [Prairie Ghosts](#), the bars still remain. The gallows were built in the attic next to the death room above what is now the laundry and staff dining room.

Moshik is rumored to show himself in only his undergarments to some of the prisoners on the fifth floor in the middle of the night. Deputies have reported numerous inmate complaints that match this description, but have never seen anything over video monitors."



Minneapolis City Hall, 350 S 5th St, Minneapolis, MN 55415
Photo: Getty Images/Petiallieva

The Haunted Hunted Crick in Maple Grove, Minnesota

A haunted location: Hunted Crick in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Details: there where two cars that crashed and killed 4 people.

And the ghosts still drive by the bridge over the crick and if you get in their way you gets the chills.

Written by: Jane Louis Published on: October 20, 2022 <https://scaryhq.com/haunted-hunted-crick-maple-grove-minnesota/>

3 Murders in Maple Grove!

It was the summer of 1980 when I asked my Mom why there were lifeguards at the beach?? I grew up across the street from Weaver Lake Park and Beach. Of course it is a public park and swimming spot for us locals as we were way out in the country and it was fun and when kids are swimming you need life guards on duty. "Apparently the towers were just for jumping off of and breaking an arm and, my brother Todd, did just that. It was a favorite place to hang out and we could hear our parents yell for us to come home or if your house conveniently had bell tower you were rung for but not that late summer.

Don't they know that there is a body in the lake??? No one wants to swim while they are dragging the lake. Remembering my Mom she probably made a comment that the life guards could then watch them drag the lake and make sure the boats did not run into each other. Then the rumors started were there 6 bags or 7? They never found the final bag and decided not to look any more. Could the fish eat through the bags?? Would a body part float to the surface? What kind of person murders his wife then tries to grind her in the garbage disposal? And his Mom knew about it and kept the kids out of the way...GROSS! I am sure our parents did their best to shield us from the harsh reality but we had a headliner and news crews which never happened way out in Maple Grove. That was for the big city not our small town. I hope the life guards had their entertainment and it was probably easier than making sure us kids weren't trying to drown each other but really who needed a life guard with a dead body floating around.

If it was true that a body was in the lake was there a murder at Up a Tree...

That was my first of 3 close encounters with murder and mayhem in Maple Grove. I, then moved near Cedar Island Lake. I can't remember which order the next two events happened but one was 4 doors down. I was at a friend's Friday night and on Saturday morning another friend was coming to visit. To avoid having to park in my extremely steep driveway she would go around the block to come up to park on my side of the street. What is with the police tape down the street? What I asked??? The house on the corner has a squad car, an officer out front and police tape. When we went to leave my house we decide to go that direction and sure enough. I later found out it was drug related murder and one of two murders in Maple Grove that same day. Another incident too close to home.

The other was at the Maple Grove Community Center. I had been going there for years for water aerobics in the evenings. Always circling the lot trying to get a parking spot that was not taken by a hockey family. Very frustrating! This night was different. With no parking spots close by, I had to trudge a distance to reach the entrance. But this night when I got in there was a police officer in the lobby. It

was the first time in my seemingly hundreds of visits that I saw a police presence. I had been concerned about an intersection that the road sign and road markings did not match so I went up to tell him about it. He did not seem at all concerned but I felt I had done my duty and went to water aerobics. The next morning on the news, lady killed in a hit and run at the Maple Grove Community Center Parking Lot. No wonder the police were there. It was only one officer remaining by the time my class was ready to start so I had no idea. I forgave the officer for his seeming lack of caring and that same intersection still has two different markings.

I had nothing to do with any of these incidents...just three murders and mayhem in Maple Grove in my 50 plus years of living in the village then city of Maple Grove.

Linda Klapperich

\$12,500 Reward

The night of Feb 20, 2003, over 20 years ago ,

Rebecca Nelson died in an unsolved hit and run accident while dropping her son off for hockey at the Maple Grove Community Center. She dropped her son at the arena door for a hockey game, and shortly thereafter was found with severe injuries from a apparent motor vehicle collision at the intersection of the Community Center Lane and Grove Drive.

She died of her injuries that night leaving behind her husband Jim and two young children.

A \$12,500 reward has been offered for information to solve this 2003 unsolved case.

Who is Haunted?



A little old cemetery on the out skirts of Osseo. Photo taken on 9-29-12 during the harvest full moon. - Ghost

picture submitted by J

<https://www.ghostsofamerica.com/5/>

Minnesota_Osseo_ghost_sightingspictures.html

Killed wife, dumped remains in Weaver Lake in 1980

Snippets from various Osseo-Maple Grove Press articles from 1980- 2017 as recapped by Alicia Miller

"An unthinkable crime that took Maple Grove and Corcoran... by surprise has again made headlines. In August 1980, Carol Hoffman, a Corcoran resident, was reported missing by her husband David Francis Hoffman but it was later discovered by investigators that David Hoffman killed his wife. David Hoffman was sentenced to first degree murder Feb. 18, 1981, to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On April 12, 2016, he was granted parole."

"According to Corcoran Police on Aug. 11, 1980 David Hoffman called to file a missing persons report on his wife. He told people she left home on foot the night before. He said he called after his wife's purse was found with the zipper open but the contents intact along County Road 101 and 89th Avenue.

"The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and Highway Patrol used a helicopter to search an approximate 3-square miles around the Hoffman home, the Osseo-Maple Grove Press reported. A rugged area of Maple Grove was also searched around where the purse was found."

By Aug. 19, 1980 Police charged David Hoffman with second degree murder of his then 26-year-old wife, Carol. His mother, Helen Ulvinen, (then 65) was also charged with second degree murder. Ulvinen had lived with the couple for two or three weeks. The Hoffmans were married for 10 years and also had two small children.

According to then Maple Grove Police Chief Bob Burlingame, dragging operations began on Weaver Lake in Maple Grove Aug. 19, 1980, after Hoffman supplied information to the sheriff's office and was brought to the scene. On Aug. 20, 1980, a partial recovery of Carol Hoffman's remains was made from Weaver Lake.

According to the Aug. 28, 1980, Osseo-Maple Grove Press, "the complaint stated Hoffman allegedly told his mother of his intent to kill wife and then choked her to death on the night of Aug. 10 while his mother and children slept. The complaint said Hoffman then awakened his mother and had her sit where she could keep the older child from entering the bathroom where Hoffman took the body with the intention of dismembering it so he could dispose of it in the kitchen sink garbage disposal."

The search warrant affidavit alleged that Hoffman put the bags with his wife's remains on his boat, towed it to Weaver Lake, launched the boat and sank the weighted bags.

The rest of Carol Hoffman's remains were recovered Aug. 28, according to the Sept. 4, 1980, Osseo-Maple Grove Press." https://www.hometownsource.com/press_and_news/news/local/david-hoffman-granted-parole-after-serving-past-35-year



This is a photo of Amy Sue Pagnac in 1989 at age 13. She disappeared from the Holiday Gas Station in Osseo on Aug. 5, 1989.

Amy Sue Pagnac disappeared two months before Jacob Wetterling

According to Fox 9 report on August 5, 2019: It's been 30 years to the day since Susan Pagnac saw her daughter Amy, but the pain is just as raw, as if it were yesterday.

"You still kind of wait for the phone call for someone to say, 'we found her, she's coming home,'" she said.

It was Aug. 5, 1989, when Amy Sue Pagnac went with her father to their family farm in Isanti County for the afternoon. Her father said on their way back, he left Amy in the car so he could go to the bathroom at a convenience store in Osseo. When he came back, she was gone.

"You don't expect them to vanish, and the last thing you ever expect is not only did they vanish, but you don't see or hear from them again for 30 years," Susan Pagnac said. Over the years, posters have shown what Amy would look like as she gets older, and investigators have even served a search warrant on her parents' home in Maple Grove. But, there's still no sign of the missing teenager, and family members believe she was taken against her will.

"She would not have stayed gone. She was quite happy, she was looking forward to starting eighth grade."

After three decades, Pagnac still hopes someone will come forward and help bring her daughter home.

"I know someone out there knows something. They just may not know what they know."

Maple Grove police said Amy's disappearance is still an open and active missing person's case, and they will thoroughly investigate all leads. They also ask anyone with information about Amy's whereabouts to give them a call.

JAMES L GARDNER



Officer Rank: Village Marshal
Memorial Panel: 10-E: 30
Department: Osseo, Minnesota, P.D.
End of Watch: November 1, 1916
Cause: SHOT
Age: 44
Years of Service: Unk

Description: Village Marshal Gardner was shot when he responded to a domestic disturbance call. A woman fled her residence with her children after the suspect doused the furniture with kerosene and called on Marshal Gardner for help. Marshal Gardner arrived at the residence, which by then was on fire, called out to the suspect and knocked on the door. The suspect, who was the brother-in-law of the woman, opened the door and shot Marshal Gardner in the abdomen. Marshal Gardner was transported to the hospital where he died five days later. The suspect was convicted of murder and sentenced to prison.

[Update officers information and/or submit photo of officer](#)

If you aren't logged into the website, you will be taken to a login page and then to the Update Officer Information form.

If you would like to learn more, please visit the [Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association website](#).

END of WATCH

<https://www.discoverosseo.com/departments/police/about-the-osseo-police-department/departments-history>

On November 1st, 1916 Osseo Town Marshall James L. Gardner lost his life while responding to protect a local woman and her children from attack by a relative. On that night in November, Annie Odenbreit ran to the police station to retrieve Marshall Gardner to come to her residence after her brother-in-law Frank Odenbreit had set fire to her house. Annie, who was the only eye-witness to the event, said that after Frank had lit the fire, and left the scene, presumably, to get the gun that would later be used to shoot Gardner.

Marshal Gardner accompanied Annie to her house where he helped to extinguish the flames. Annie said that Marshall Gardner went with her to the barn to check on her children, whom she had left there to make sure they were safe. Annie had taken the lead to the barn, and was in the barn before Marshal Gardner came outside. As Marshal Gardner came out the back door, a form appeared around the corner of the house. Annie stated that she heard Frank say "Is that you Gardner?" Marshal Gardner replied that it was him, and before he was able to do anything else, Frank fired the shotgun. The shot entered the Marshal's intestines, and he fell to the ground. Marshal Gardner was later taken to the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota where he later died of his wounds at 3:00 a.m.

Village officials and neighbors gathered quickly at the scene. The Hennepin County Sheriffs Office was called, and Chief Deputy John Wail and Deputy Charles Budd drove to Osseo immediately and started the investigation. At the same time, the deputies arrested Frank at his residence on the north end of town. Frank made no attempt to resist arrest, nor would he give any reason for his actions that night.

Annie told the deputies of her troubles with her brother-in-law and of the events that lead up to the shooting. Annie said that she had gone to the saloon at about 6:30 p.m. and had induced Frank to go home with her. Once he was at her home, Frank started to "clean up" the place. Frank then threatened her and her children and even hit her on at least one occasion. Following this she called Marshal Gardner, who went to the house, but was unable to locate Frank. Gardner returned to town, but later came back with T.M. Carpenter. Gardner did this so he could have a witness to the "dishelmed" appearance of the house. Annie claims that she feared for the lives of herself and her children and had removed them to the barn for safety. While in the barn, Annie said she saw Frank moving around the house and later noticed flames which she says were started by Frank.

Earlier in the night, Marshal Gardner had been called twice to restore peace at the Odenbreit residence, and he feared serious trouble based on the earlier complaints at the residence. Marshal Gardner was said to have told Fred Roenat that if he was called again to the Odenbreit residence, he would arrest Frank. Gardner believed that Frank was not behaving normal and he feared that he might shoot someone.

Frank Odenbreit is said to have been a considerable trouble maker, and Marshal Gardner had been called on to quell young riots started by Frank during his official connection with the village. Almost six years after the incident, Frank was confined to the State Hospital for the Insane in Rochester, Minnesota for a period of several months. He was subsequently released on recommendation from the hospital superintendent on the condition that he was "normal."



Price Slaughter Startles Community

RED & WHITE STORE, scene of notorious price murder. Atrocities will draw curious throngs as outrage on community-wide proportions.



Food Prices Victim of Slashing

Probably the most astonishing crime ever perpetrated in Osseo against the high cost of living is taking place at the Red & White Store. Dozens of grocery items will go under the axe in a price-cutting spree expected to benefit every home-maker in Osseo and the surrounding territory.

Manager Bob Newton in announcing his criminal intentions, said the big price lowering event will run for a week. He gave two reasons for continuing the price rampage for seven days of selling.

'Teen-Age Totin' Terrors' Named Accomplices

RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPOSITION OF MANY VICTIMS . . . STOCK 'EM . . . SACK 'EM and TOTE 'EM IS A HABIT FROM WAY BACK.

Shoppers visiting Osseo's Red & White Store need have no worries about carrying their groceries long blocks to their cars.

The management explained that Osseo Red & White maintains an efficient Carry-Out service and the customer's purchases are carried from the store to the parking lot or to any other parking area near the store.

Further evidence involving Roger Nelson (Red) on the left and Clifford Lecky (Cliff) on the right shows all to be equally responsible.

Osseo Press

Thursday May 8, 1952

Murder at the Osseo Red and White Store the photo of this paper is a fun addition to our November Murder, Mayhem, Mischief & Mystery Newsletter

Ruthless Slayer Confesses---Guilty Meat Manager Gives Motive

DAVE THOMAS, manager of the meat department at Osseo Red & White Store has admitted that he played a vital part in the planning of the price murder now underway at Osseo Red & White Store. In a signed statement handed to newsmen early this afternoon, Dave confessed his part in the crime and explained the reasons for his conduct.



**Were they her children's footprints
glistening in winter snow
in the light of the setting sun?**
by Mary Anne Thiesen

It was back in the days when all of the yard in front of our grave sites at Maple Knoll Cemetery were empty clear out to Rice Lake Boulevard. The memorial stones had always seemed to me to be huddled together in a welcoming and protecting community, especially in winter snow. Every time I saw it I felt happy and reassured that there would be a community for me on the other side of death. As I drove home at sunset on the boulevard that day, I glanced over to my eventual resting place, as had become my habit. I liked seeing it in the light of the setting sun best. It was at its most beautiful at that time of day. "Its beauty is why I had selected it. It would be the place my family could visit me when I was gone." Driving by or visiting the site helped me accept my eventual death."

"This day my eyes were drawn instead to childrens' footprints leading to a neighboring grave. My neighbor was buried there, even though she was much younger than me." She had been killed by a hit-and-run driver at Maple Grove Community Center, leaving her husband and her two young children to mourn her. My heart seemed to stop for a moment while I grasped who those young footprints maybe belonged to. I cried for their sadness, and for the sadness that my own adult child will feel when my day comes to join that huddled community.



The following article appeared in he March 8, 1951 issue of the Osseo Press as quoted in Issue 21 of the Maple Grove Historical Preservation newsletter March 2004

**Mrs. Ed Jones dies in a blaze
Saturday morning**

Agnes Jones, wife of Ed Jones of Maple Grove was burned to death during the early morning hours of Saturday as Osseo firemen struggled to get through drifting snow.

Mrs. Jones, 62 years old, was found dead in the remains of an empty chicken coop at the rear of her farm home. The coop began to burn about 2:00 a.m.

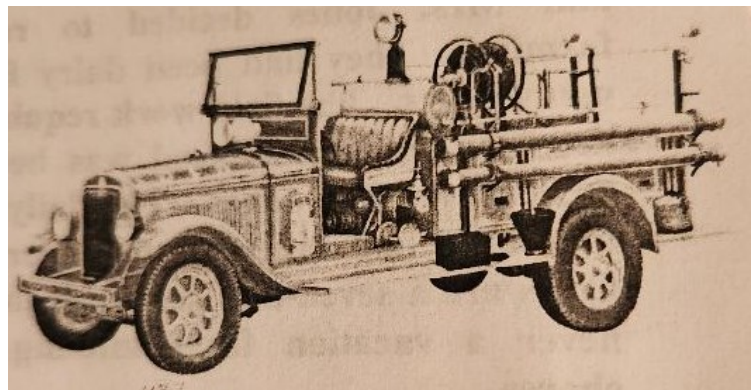
Mr. Jones said he and his wife retired about 11:00 p.m. He heard his wife get up about midnight, but thought nothing of it.

A passing motorist by honking loudly, drew his attention to the burning coop about 2:am

Jones called the Osseo fire department but the coop had burned to the ground before they were able to get to the farm. The severe weather had piled up drifts of snow that made traveling extremely difficult.

...The firemen began a search of all other buildings as well as the neighbors buildings. The fire was searched several times before the remains of Mrs. Jones were found.

Dr. Russell Heim, Hennepin County Coroner, said Mrs. Homes had been ill and restless lately. It was believed she wandered into the chicken coop and may have tried to keep warm by starting a fire...



*The fire truck that responded to the Jones fire in March 1951. Artwork by Louise E. Johnson
Courtesy Osseo Historical Society*

Note: On January 24, 1951, the Osseo City Council opened bids for a new fire truck. The cab and chassis was bid at \$3138 and the fire equipment at \$5400. Just 52 days after the fire the Osseo fire station had the new equipment.

No Gift From Santa

By Lillian Weber Havel

My family owned the house across the road from the Rush Creek Methodist Church. The parishioners were our neighbors and my parents, Ed and Elizabeth Weber, knew them all well. We were Catholic and belonged to St. Martin's parish in Rogers, so we did not attend the Methodist services. I was a young child of about three and a half when this took place. My mother's youngest sister, Philomene, lived with us too, because her mother had died just a few years earlier. Philomene, at this time, was about ten or eleven.

It was Christmas and the pastor of the Rush Creek Church invited my family to the Christmas program at the church. My parents gratefully accepted the invitation.

I don't remember much about the program - the beautifully decorated Christmas tree was the center of my attention. Everything went well until Santa arrived and distributed the little boxes of hard candy and peanuts. There weren't any for Philomene and me. (The pastor had forgotten to tell the ladies who fixed up the boxes that there would be two extra children.) I started to cry and it escalated into a full-fledged tantrum. The older girls shared with Philomene and they offered to give me their boxes, but I refused to take them. I really didn't care about the candy. I was heart-broken, because Santa didn't have a gift for me. I was inconsolable and all my parents could do was to take me home.

We were never invited again.



Murder, Mayhem, Mischief, and Mystery
And a Mishap, Misery, and Misfortune!

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12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

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