



Volume 95

May 2019

9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983 Open 2nd Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

## 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.maplegrovmnhistory.org>



Maple Grove from "letting the cows roam"  
to a significant city "Then to Now"  
Open house July 14, 2019 1-5 pm

### **Finding the Real Pierre Bottineau**

Pierre Bottineau has been found!!! Pierre Girard and Prof. Emeritus Virgil Benoit presented the history of Pierre. Approximately 100 guests enjoyed the afternoon at St. Joseph the Worker with the lovely appetizers; the photos of Pierre and Martha Gervais, that the Osseo Historical Society provided; and we sold \$77 of our publications!

May 2019

**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:**
  - Aug., 2019 Then and Now and development of Maple Grove from a cow path, to a village to a city in the gravel pit.
  - Nov., 2019 Maple Grove lakes for 4 seasons
  - Feb., 2020 Prohibition, stills and moonshine in MG
- ◆ **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.

# IS SHE SMILING DOWN ON US?

In Remembrance of my Dear Friend Jean Morehouse  
May 28, 1927-January 25, 2019.

Jean's family farm was just across Elm Creek from our farm. The year was October 1947. Jean and I quickly became friends and at least twice a week we would meet and walk toward what would be the new road bed for the future Rd 81. We would walk to Osseo and back. We had time to share many things about ourselves in our conversations.

Jean was an amusing person. She was quiet, funny, sometimes stoic, very reserved, and she had a remarkable interest in serving others, all in a very humble way. Jean was my lifetime friend, and oh she also kept secrets well!

Jean attended District 100 Country School grades 1 through 8. Her sister Lucy remembers that she had 2 gold stars on her eighth grade certificate. Even then she was being recognized for her accomplishments. She went on to complete her secondary education at Osseo Sr. High School. Jean was valedictorian of her graduating class. She had received a generous scholarship to the University of Minnesota, which she declined accepting as she already had plans for her immediate future.

The Superintendent of the school district had recognized earlier that Jean had the potential to accept a position in Washington D.C. with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or F.B.I. She wasn't allowed to share the information with anyone except her parents. She served one year in the F.B.I. at a crucial time in American History during WW II. Her job actually was fingerprinting with the Bureau of Engraving. It was Jean's way of serving her Country. Yes, this experience was a secret she continued to keep during her lifetime.

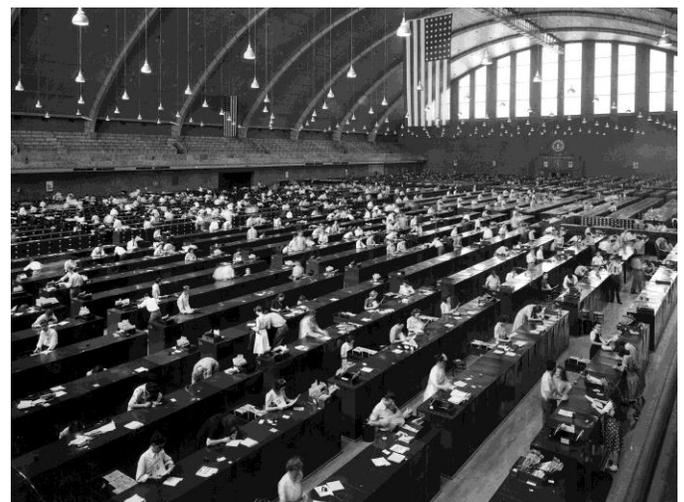
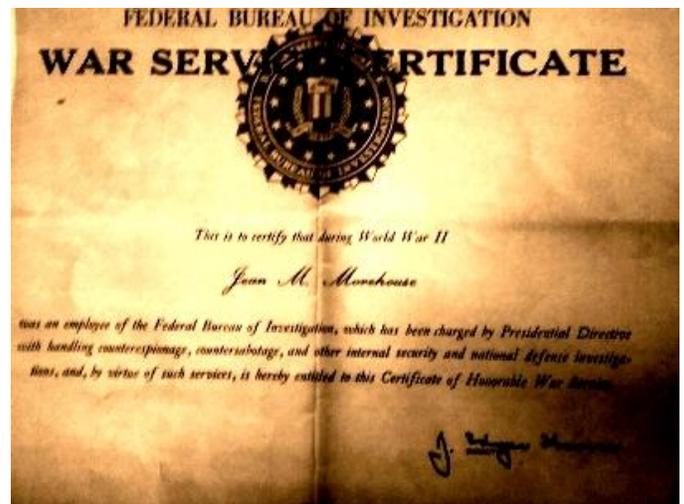
Jean returned home and enrolled in classes at the Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing where she studied to be an X Ray Technician. She realized her dream and worked the next 15 years for Pilot City in Hennepin County and she worked a second shift at Mercy in Anoka.

Jean had a quiet and gentle personality and she was very fond of children. She was wonderful to my 2 children as they were growing up. They still have very fond memories of her. She loved it when she became an Auntie to her nieces and nephews.

In retirement Jean did some traveling usually accompanied by a niece.

Several years ago she became involved as a volunteer with the Maple Grove Historical Society. She worked tirelessly with Dorothy Schoenmann identifying, and labeling donated items for the museum. This was a task that she really enjoyed. She was thrilled when the Museum finally became a reality.

Her family told me she was strong willed. I believe this is a key ingredient to get things done. She will be remembered by her family, her working acquaintances and her friends for her generosity, the privilege of having known her. God bless her memory. By Virginia Hoppanrath.



During WW II , more than 1000 employees worked 6 day a week, 10 hours a day at the Amory in Washington D.C. to process and file fingerprints for military, law enforcement, immigrants and even, John Dillinger . Wikimedia

# F irst Jobs

## **A Soda Jerk** ---My First job . – Starting at .40 an hour. By Joyce Deane

It all started after I graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Vincent's ... I thought I needed a job and being somewhat of a shy person, my brother Jerry paved the way for me. He asked Vince Kenjoski at the Drug Store if he would need help. As girls graduated from high school, positions would open up. Vince said he would give me a try... One of the first things we learned was how to make change. The cash register did not tell you like the ones today... If the item cost \$2.43 and you received a \$5.00 bill, change was given out counting it as you went... \$2.45, \$2.50, 2.75 \$3.00 and 2 \$1.00 bill make \$5.00.

We all wore white aprons which had to be folded with a tuck around the waist to shorten it up, as one size fit all. They were heavy ones, when one side did not look fresh they were reversed and eventually went to the commercial laundry.

Working as a soda jerk was fun because everyone liked to hang out there. Myrt called the guys "drugstore cowboys". Cherry cokes and malts were some of the first things we learned to do. Malt cans had to be hooked a certain way to the machine or it went flying. Malts usually were thick depending on the amount of ice cream and malt powder. Everything was served in a glass and there was a sink in which we washed all these glass containers.

We could sell anything to customers that they requested. Cigarettes were .22 and .23 a pack depending on if they were regular or extra-long. The cigars were kept in a case with a humidior. This kept them somewhat moist – it was a nice smell when the case was opened.

Nuts were also kept toasty warm by a light bulb in the case. Filling the trays was a favorite- Spanish peanuts, blanched peanuts, cashews, and the best mixed assortment was in a rotating tray above all the rest. Candy bars were a nickel or dime and there were many different kinds which are no longer available. The nickel Hershey bars was the same size as the 50 cent one today.

If a radio or TV tube burned out customers would bring that tube in to test. We would stick it in the charger to see where the charging dial went ---bad or good. Usually it was replaced with a live one.

Vince's was unique in that they made their own ice cream... Elinor Ukasick had that job until she retired and then Dee Hadrath took over. It was wonderful when it was churned and she would give us cones of soft ice cream before it froze. It had flavor. Then it was put into the boxes and frozen. Occasionally someone would order slices for a party... This meant opening quart containers and making 1 inch slices, placing them in parchment and repackaging them.

The drug store had a storage room for toilet paper, napkins -anything big and bulky which was usually piled very high. That room had a toilet and sink. We used to joke, saying "if we did not appear within a reasonable time when using that room, come looking as we might be buried under cases of paper".

Our shifts were right after school and 6:30 – 10:30 at night. Before the shift ended the store aisles had to be swept using sweeping compound to keep the dust down. The front sidewalk was always swept as well. We had to make sure the mechanical horse which children rode was not sticky. If we seemed to be taking too long out in front, Myrt would check to see how many drug store cowboys were helping?????

Frequently Vince and Myrt would take us to Hamilton's Drive in after work where we were treated to a pronto pup and orange drink. Plus the bonus was seeing other friends, who were car-hops or who was with who, on a date.

## **Concordia College -1964**

I started working at the front desk at the Concordia College Library for \$.85 an hour. I could not receive financial aid due my parent's income. If I could have, I would have earned \$1.25 an hour! My pay scale did advance to \$1.25! The year was 1967. The year I graduated! I never did get my dream student job at the library. I wanted to learn how to catalog library materials!  
By Carolyn Schaefer

## Hamilton's Drive In

I was brought up on a produce farm in Brooklyn Park. So my day job was at home; any other job had to be in the evenings. It also had to be close to home as I wasn't old enough to get a driver's license. So my first job away from home was at the Hamilton's Drive In. It was located where Walgreens and White Castle now reside in Brooklyn Park. It was close to my home so I biked to work and my parents picked me up after closing as it was dark.

I took food and beverage orders from customers as they sat in their car. I wrote the order on a green pad and took it to the order window. When the order was completed I picked up the tray took it to the car and tried to balance it on the half rolled down window. I also picked up the trays when customers were finished.

I could walk several miles on a busy evening. A hot summer evening or in the fall after Osseo High School football games players and parents would stop in. The trays would be very heavy filled with hamburgers, hotdogs, fries etc. And their famous frosted root beer filled mugs. That was also the time to make the most tips. If you received a quarter or more that was big money.

It was the only drive in or root beer stand around for miles. It was before gas stations and restaurants where built and farms disappeared. Also it was a time when you knew many customers. Knowing the people was the fun part of the job. The Hamilton's were also well known in the community and people were loyal to them.  
By Pat Kisch

## My first job became present when I was 8 years old and lasted until I was 18.

My mother unexpectedly had twin boys and then 3 more babies after that. We ended up being a family of 9 children. So, since I was the oldest in my family, at 8 years old I learned to change diapers, feed, bathe, dress, hang diapers on a clothes line with the use of a stool, for all for the babies. The best thing was taking the babies for a buggy ride. My mother must have been tired or she trusted me. I loved it. To take care of the babies was such an exciting time that I did not even know it was work. I look back now and think how lucky I was.  
Rosie Gruidl



## Pulling Radishes! By Joe Hanf

My very first job when I was about 12 or 13 was pulling radishes from the farm field behind the house we lived at in Brooklyn Center. I remember getting paid about \$3.00 or \$4.00 for a week of picking. Pretty good for a twelve year old in 1958.



My next job was delivering the paper, at 14 or 15, daily was 160 papers in the morning and about 140 in the afternoon after school. On Sundays it was around 240 papers. The paperboy had to collect the money from the customers at that time. Some would tell me to come back at another time or day or make some excuse and so I would not get paid. This lasted for one summer! The brand new Schwinn bike I had, would break down (too many papers) And I never did get rich!!

# You Could Hear Him Before You Could See Him!!!

By Gary Walker

Bessie Smith was my mom. Her dad Henry Schmidt and his brothers, William and George, had moved to Princeton, MN, where I was raised. I didn't realize I had any connection to Maple Grove until 1974, when I was contacted about moving my Great Grandparents, and Goetlieb Schmidt and Johanna Radintz from the Cemetery near Mama G's. I thought my connection to Maple Grove was the job Gene Barton hired me for when I was 18, newly graduated from high school and had my chauffeur license. I was earning \$1.90 an hour driving a truck in Wisconsin on building I 94. My buddies in Princeton urged me to get hired by Gene Barton, as he was starting in doing concrete. He had brand new R190 International 6 cylinder, 5 batch gravel trucks. I was hired on August 17, 1959.

My first job was Hwy 494 at France. Later that fall, we worked by the old Met Stadium. We could deliver a load in an hour. In 1960, we worked in Rochester. There were many days it rained and interrupted our work. Our checks came from Osseo on Friday Morning-no direct deposit in those days!

I can still picture that Saturday morning in 1962 working on the Crosstown. The pay was time and half. 45 trucks were lined up to deliver, when the leveler would not start. Gene's big old Buick pulled up and he and his brother Dewey, who was in charge of the project, got into a physical fight!

Over the years we worked on Hwy 694 from New Brighton to Arden Hills. We hauled the dirt from behind Wards to build I-94 in St Paul. I was married and living in Fridley, when in 1966, one of my buddies I rode to Rosemont with to the job site, finally talked me into being an insurance agent.

I will always remember wild and crazy Gene Barton! You could hear him before you could see him! What a bark he had! I met him in Larson's Hardware in 1968. He asked if I wanted to come back to work for him. He must have liked me, because in 1960 in Rochester, when I drove passed the flag, where I was supposed to deliver my load, he told me that if I couldn't do it, "I could pick up my paycheck and leave!"

# The Barton Contracting Company

According to the Tiller website: the Barton Contracting Co. began in 1946. They were "a road construction company focused on building Minnesota's interstate highway system. For more than 20 years, Barton Contracting Company worked in all phases of highway construction including grading, concrete and bituminous paving, curb and gutter manufacturing and sewer and water installation. When highway construction activities began to subside in the late 1960s, Barton Contracting Company shifted its operations from road construction to materials supplier." In 1981, Tiller Corporation was founded to act as a holding company for Barton Sand & Gravel Co., Commercial Asphalt Co. and Barton Enterprises, Inc."

## From Potatoes Fields by Anonymous

My very first job was as a potato picker. The potato farmer would come and pick up the city kids in Osseo to help harvest the potatoes.



**To Parts Person** My second job was as a parts person at Osseo Motors. I cleaned the parts and handed them to the mechanic. I found parts for customers and I also was a parts delivery person.



Osseo Facebook on yahoo

**WHAT DEVELOPED????** The Star Tribune on April 12, 2012 by Don Jacobson noted a Hot Property. Osseo Motors was the Iten Chevrolet Building at 226 Central Ave. built in 1950. It was the Iten showroom until 1960, when Iten moved to Hwy 694 and Brooklyn Blvd. For 20 years the building was a medical clinic. The Iten family donated the building to City of Osseo. A real estate developer proposed making it into an Iten heritage new unique eatery.

# We Had Our Own "911"

Back in the days of the party line, the telephone was a big, brown wooden box fastened to the wall. You had to stand very close to talk into the mouth-piece and hold the receiver to your ear to hear. You couldn't use it to take pictures, surf the net, nor send a text message. You used it to make telephone calls, you talked, you listened, you had a conversation. To make a telephone call you would turn the crank on the right hand side to make one short ring. This would alert "central" in the telephone office. You gave the telephone number to her and she connected you to your party.

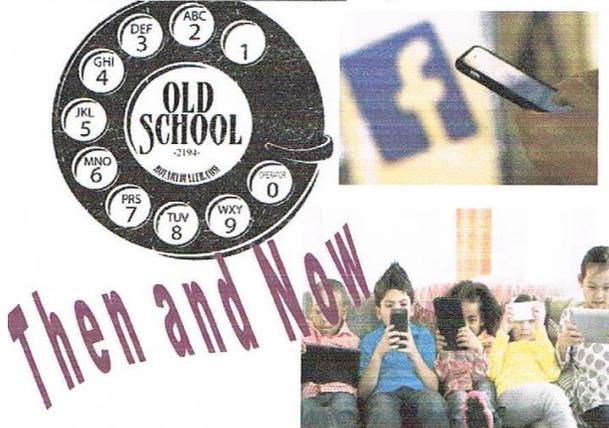


Things were quiet at night. Carol Gelle Emmans often worked nights while attending high school. Because things were slow she usually napped on a cot in the office. Should she have any trouble she was instructed to turn on the light above the outside door. Jack Heesen, the Osseo policeman, would check it out when he was on his nightly patrols. These were the days when everyone was on a party-line.

There were as many as 10 families sharing one telephone line. We had 8 parties on our line, including 2 businesses and the local pastor. Each party had its own ring. It was an important message! Depending on the seriousness of the problem, other party lines were also alerted with the message. I remember hearing 5 long rings only once.

Clara Lange was concerned that her husband had not come in from the field for supper that evening. She requested a search party to look for him. My uncle joined the search party while my dad did the chores. Many wives did the milking that evening.

They found Chris Lange had driven too close to the bank of Rush Creek. His tractor had tipped, plunging Chris in the water of the creek and pinning him. He died by drowning. Emily Koehler Amann



Then and Now

**Museum Open House**  
**Maple Grove Days**  
**Sunday July 14th, 2019**  
**1-5 pm. Come help host the event!**  
**Invite your friends!**

## Princeton Liquors

Recently the Maple Grove Osseo Press featured an article about 75 years of Princeton Liquors. Looking at the Princeton Liquors website, William and Cora Princeton purchased an old tavern and turned it into a popular restaurant and confectionary at 341 Central Ave. in Osseo in 1926. When Prohibition started, the tavern closed, and reopened at the repeal of prohibition. In 1966 an off-sale store was added next to the tavern. Joel continued the family business when his parents died. In October of 1979, Joel and Susan and their three children Kim, Kelli, and Bill opened a second store at 12790 Bass Lake Road in Maple Grove, Over the last few years, Bill, and Kelli's husband Nick have become active in the family trade and represent the third generation of Princeton's to run the business.



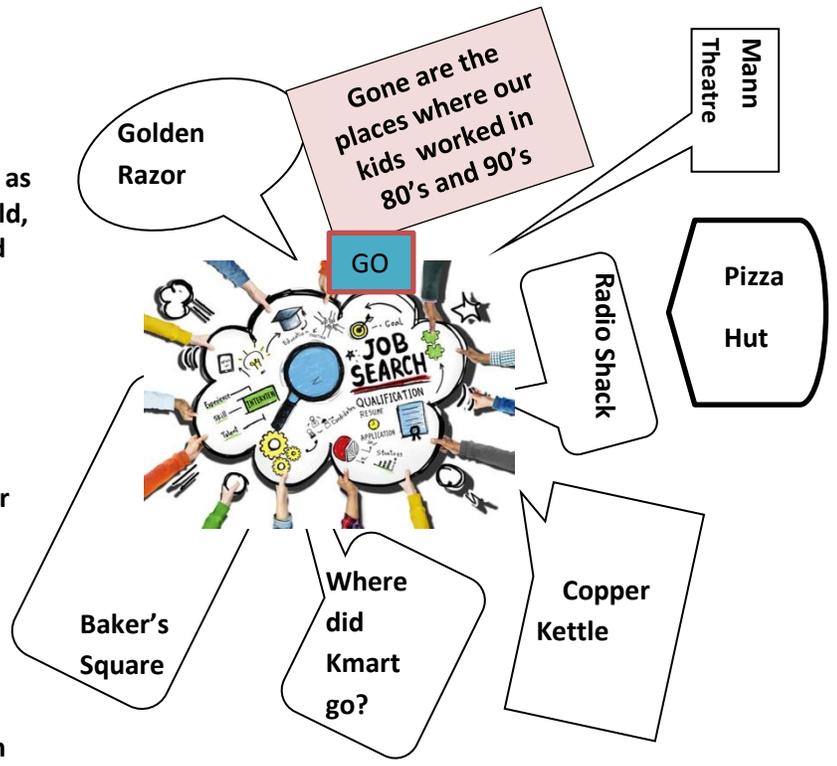
Women Suffrage Display

## Part Time at Perkins

My first job was a part time job at Perkins in Anoka as a waitress. The year was 1971 and I was 18 years old, newly graduated from Coon Rapids High School and thrilled to be working. I attended Anoka Ramsey Community College during the week and worked Fridays and Saturdays, the 5 pm to 1 am shift. That meant I worked the dinner rush and the bar rush. I loved working!

I earned a pay check and spending money to pay for car and gas needs, and spending money. I learned how to interact with co-workers, the manager and the restaurant's clientele. Best of all, I earned tips!

It was the first of a string of waitressing jobs and before a full time career switch to working in Photo and Small Appliances at Shopper City in Coon Rapids. By Karen Brajdich



## Catholic girls Boarding school – here I come!

In 1957 the cost was \$400 for nine months of boarding. My parents could not afford it, as my Dad was a disabled farmer, having originally sustained back injury in the WWI removing dead soldiers from the battle field. My Mom was a homemaker at the time and would later take a job in a local Hartz Grocery Store.

For my mother her “wild child” attending the same French Nuns boarding school she attended in Crookston, MN. St Joseph’s Academy was a dream come true. How did she fund such a venture? The school had a work program were a girl could work off \$200 of the \$400 tuition which included room and board and most everything except personal need items. Plus I wore the same uniform for 4 years!

My four years blend together, but I did classroom and dorm cleaning, k.p. in the kitchen, and was a laundry helper, and corrected elementary school papers. Since many of the other “boarders” were working at the same tasks, it was mostly enjoyable and we were able to know the nuns we worked for very well, and sometimes play tricks on them. All was great fun and I received a good education. Pat Ruffing

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_