



Volume 83

May 2016

9030 Forestview Lane North Maple Grove, MN 55369 425-2279 Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month 1-4 pm



*Minutes From*  
*The Secretary's pen*  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Deane, Secretary

### March

Our Guest speaker was Kurt Kramer of the MG Fire Dept. Kurt gave a very interesting presentation on weather /storm patterns over the years. Kurt will be helping us with our weather presentation during Maple Grove Days.

We will be in the parade with Pat and Louise riding in the vehicles in vintage clothing.

Business Expo (July 16) needs a coordinator as well as volunteers for 2 hour shift

Kurt will check on Channel 4 Mobile Weather Unit. Items/stories about weather related events in Maple Grove will be on Display. A military display with items of interest will also be set up.

Al suggested that we try to visit local museums within an hour of us.

**The July Open House will be Sunday, July 17 which is during Maple Grove Days. Al is working with Scott Anderson for the Weather events in Maple Grove display. He will check on the availability of the Channel 4 Mobile Weather Unit. Stories, pictures, etc. are needed.**

### February

July MG Days Parade –Don will provide vehicles, Pat and Louise will dress in vintage attire to ride as our representatives.

July Business Expo --- a coordinator is needed, display articles, promotion of Sunday open house

Pat suggested we have a card to hand out with information on the museum, open house, tours, etc.

Volunteer hours should be recorded and reported.

The Cub Scout tour on February 17. –a group of 30 parents and scouts were very interested in our museum. Louise did the introduction, thus engaging The scouts in questions and answers, using a question sheet to be use during the tour, with the scouts finding the answers. Scouts appeared to really enjoy the tour.

**April**

Caroline needs you to give her items and stories about the weather related events for the July Open House.

Military display for fall- do you have items?  
Contact Caroline at 425-2279.

The cataloging of inventory of Museum items is progressing weekly by Mary M, Louise H, and Pat R working on it.

A committee reported on a new sign for the ox cart site and possible inscription on the rock at the site.



Maple Grove Village Hall from  
MG Museum Achieves  
July 5, 1966



Donated Mrs. Duane Farr



A VOLUNTEER'S SHIRT ON  
DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM

**Winter Storm**  
By Walt Schumacher

In the 1950's we had lots of winter storms that blocked east and west single lane road at Lawndale and 149<sup>th</sup> Ave, that had high earth banks. The snow drifts were up to five feet deep. Too deep for the V-plow to get through.

Mr. Beach had the snowplow to plow the Dayton Township Roads. He picked up about four farm boys with ten inch grain shovels to shovel a path in the middle of the road about 18 inches deep than Mr. Beach drove the snowplow into bank until it stopped. We than shoveled the plow out before Mr. Beach could back up. We repeated and repeated the shoveling and plowing until the road was open.

**We need you to**



Roger Mc Hugh with?

**Name this tool** Send answer to  
Maple Grove History Museum.  
P.O. Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN  
55311



<http://www.kidstudies.com>

By Pat Ruffing

## Mud Vacation

Oh! How I remember the days of my childhood in the 1940s and 1950s, when school was cancelled for Mud Vacation-The rural version of spring break! As kids, we hoped each spring that the superintendent would call off school, because the dirt roads had turned to mush! They were too soft and rutted, so the bus could not get through the country roads with houses spaced miles apart. At times, we were required to, pull on our overshoes, boots or rubbers, so we could squish thru the mud to the main paved road, where the school bus could pick us up! The more wondrous days were the vacation days when we could giggle and play in the fresh mud; break the last fragile coat of ice on the ruts; and use sticks to engineer the water into the little streams we designed. We smelled like dirt and our clothes were mud splashed. Did we care if the deep frost in the ground made the ruts? Or was it the April showers? Or the amount of snow winter had brought? The “weather reason” didn’t matter for the glorious days of mud vacation! !! Oh yes, Mud Vacation!



postcard in museum  
Needed **YOUR MILITARY MEMORIES TO PUBLISH IN OUR AUGUST NEWSLETTER.**  
Please submit to Joyce Deane or  
send to: Maple Grove History Museum.  
P.O. Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN 55311



## Do you remember May Baskets?

baskets Museum archives



As a child I remember hanging a May Basket on Miss

Setzler’s door and running--

One year I had pulled up sweet Williams for the basket from the woods behind Grandpa and Grandma Trombley’s farm. The roots were intact, so Miss Setzler planted them along her house. Many, many years later when I was visiting her in another house, she said she wanted to give me some plants. With her instruction I carefully put the spade into the ground of hostas, and then this cluster of Sweet Williams. It was then she told me the story of how she received them in a May Basket from me many, many, many years ago. I don’t know as she probably would not have caught me anyway. The basket was usually cone shaped – paper curled into a cone with crepe paper flowers glued on to the front. Hopefully the handle would hold on the door knob without tearing. We either put candy in the basket or now my neighbor Missy Deisting hangs a basket on my door, rings the bell, runs and hides. I usually know where she is hiding so I don’t have to look far to thank her for continuing the May Basket tradition. By Joyce Deane



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## Famous Winter Storms from DNR website

**Feb 13-15, 1866...** one of the worst blizzards in Minnesota history, lasted 3 days, drifts to 20 ft. buried barns in western counties.

**Jan 7-10, 1873**, a mild day... people outside, blizzard struck drastic temperature drop, 70 deaths, hundreds of cattle lost, trains stuck for days in high drifts.

**October 16, 1880**, earliest blizzard in Minnesota, struck SW and WC counties. Huge drifts exceeding 20 ft. . . .

**Jan 12-13, 1888**, started as a mild day. . . , abrupt cold wave struck with blinding snow, temperature fell to -37 degrees F. Children sent home early from school, but many died. Deaths totaled 200.

**Mar 8-9, 1892**, one of Duluth's worst blizzards. 70 mph winds, blinding snow piled drifts over 20 ft. high, blocking second story windows in some buildings..

**Nov 9-11, 1913**, one of the worst November storms ever on the Great Lakes. .. three ships lost on Lake Superior.

**Nov 11, 1940**, Armistice Day Blizzard, mild day ..., hunting season ..., 17 inches of snow MSP, 27 inches at Collegeville... 49 deaths, plus 59 sailors lost on Great Lakes.

**Dec 5-8, 1950**, blizzard ... 25.2 inches of snow to Duluth.

**Nov 28, 1960**, severe storm and blizzard, dubbed a no'eastern hammered the Lake Superior shoreline, producing 20 to 40 ft. waves which destroyed shoreline property. Three feet of water flood the streets of Grand Marais, MN. Winds gusted to 73 mph and Duluth recorded over 1 ft. of snowfall. .. pulpwood washed into Lake Superior.

**Jan 10-12, 1975**, perhaps one of the worst blizzards and strongest storms. Closed most roads in the state, some for 11 days, 20 ft. drifts. ..14 people died in blizzard, and 21 more from heart attacks

**Nov 10-11, 1975**, a severe winter storm with 71 mph winds created 12 to 15 ft. waves on Lake Superior, sank the **Edmund Fitzgerald**...

**Nov 19, 1981**, heavy snow with near blizzard conditions. Over a foot of wet snow caused the inflated fabric of the **Metrodome** to collapse and rip.

**Jan 6-8, 1989**, one of the worst ever blizzards in the Red River Valley delivered up to 26 inches of snow.

**Oct 31-Nov 3, 1991, Halloween Blizzard.** Over 28 inches at MSP, nearly 37 inches at Duluth..... Perhaps one of the largest and longest lasting blizzards in state history. For more information contact: [climate@umn.edu](mailto:climate@umn.edu)

5 Minutes of Fury



Anoka  
Tornado  
June 1939

GenDisasters.com  
Photos That Touch Our Ancestors' Lives

“Funnel cloud struck near Corcoran. It hit a car with 4 people, tossed them 200 yards into a field and and killed several of the occupants. It dipped into Champlin, killing one man, and cut a swath diagonally thorough Anoka. Five people killed. 250 Homes Ruined. 200 Are Injured. “Gov. Harold Stassen came here within a few hours after the storm struck, and took full charge of caring for the injured and homeless, clearing the debris from the streets, and beginning the work of rebuilding.”

### VOLUNTEER!

Museum  
Open House  
May 8<sup>th</sup> June  
13<sup>th</sup>

July 17<sup>th</sup>  
Aug14<sup>th</sup>

MAPLE GROVE DAYS Expo

July 16th- 9am -4pm



www.clipartof.com : 1109011

# Kickerenos!



Sears Catalog Winter 1958

In 1954, when money was scarce, as it always was with a large rural family, my mother decided to it was luxury time – she needed new winter boots to survive the long cold winter with her perpetual chilblains. Kickerenos were new lined winter boots a lady could shove her feet into! Mom ordered -Kickerenos – they came in black, brown or red- and most assuredly my mother would go for a sedate color. They arrived by train! Imagine my mother’s shock when they were **RED!** No decent woman would be seen in such siren red boots! SO - I became the 1<sup>st</sup> girl in 6<sup>th</sup> grade with Red Kickerenos! by Pat Ruffing

## Historic Mega-Rain Events in Minnesota

Minnesota is no stranger to heavy rain. The DNR climate office has assembled a list of so-called "Mega-rain" events:

- ... **August 6, 1866 Southern Minnesota** Known as the **Wisel Flood**,... this killed 16 people, 3 members of the Wisel family in Fillmore County. 10.30 inches of rain fell... in Sibley County. The story of the Wisel family in peril appeared in the Harmony/Mabel/Canton News Record Newspaper December 2011 to January 2012
- **July 17-19 1867 Central Minnesota** Estimated at 30-36 inches in 36 hours... Known as Minnesota's **greatest flash flood**.
- **July 20-22, 1909 Northern Minnesota** Highest one day rainfall total was 10.75 inches at Beaulieu in Mahnomen County (11.10 inches for the three day total.) Duluth -killed two children in the city when they were swept out of their mother's arms.
- **September 9-10 1947, Iron Range** 24 hour totals of 6 inches or more at Hibbing...
- **July 21-22, 1972 Grand Daddy Flash Flood** 10.84 inches fell in 24 hours was set at Fort Ripley.
- **July 23-24, 1987 Twin Cities Superstorm** 9.15 inches at International Airport

- **June 9-10, 2002 Northern Minnesota** 48 hour rainfall totals topped 12 inches in a some areas of Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties.
- **September 14-15, 2004 Southern Minnesota** 10 inches of rain fell in 36 hours Faribault and Freeborn Counties.
- **August 18-20, 2007 Southern Minnesota** The 15.10 inches measured one mile south of ...for more information contact: [climate@umn.edu](mailto:climate@umn.edu)

## The Trick was not a Treat in 1991

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> dawned with the kid anticipation  
Of Halloweening down the streets  
In costumes of their making  
Hoping, for a pillowcase full of sweets.

The snow –a maybe foot  
The nasty weatherman predicted  
But-He’s always wrong  
But just in case- coat and boots were enlisted

The sputtering jack o lanterns on the porch.  
Groaned in the 8 inches of snow  
Parents insured that dangerous pranks were escaped-  
And their kids got favorite treats and dough!

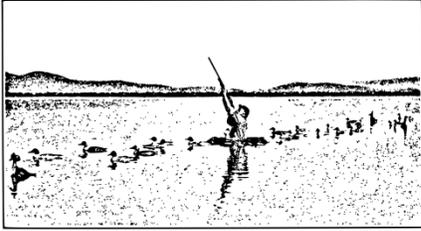
On the most fun night of the year  
Came awful ruts of ice and snow  
Forced every business to retreat  
Mom and dad housebound- couldn’t go

The Halloween weather trick  
Weatherman missed by 37 inches  
What deadly and a costly treat that blizzard!  
Dressed like the winter grinch.



from CBS local gallery

## Remembering the Many Hunting trips On Maple Grove Farms:



by James Sable

When I drive west on County Road 30 from the freeway, past Menards, Walgreens, WalMart, Sam's Club and the list goes on, it's hard to remember when that was farm country. I get especially nostalgic when I go past the spot the Herman Priebe farm was. The big slough on the northeast corner of Lawndale Lane and County Road 30 brings back lots of memories. It's hard to see it with a walking path complete with chain link fence alongside of it.

Priebe's Slough was a magnet for ducks. In winter when it froze, pheasants called it home. Lots of pheasants! As Bruce Hansen and I reminisced about it the other day we said "We didn't know how good we had it until we didn't have it any more." The first time we were going to venture into Priebe's Slough, Alfred Scutte told us to carry a short board with us in the game pouch of our hunting jackets. "That slough doesn't have a bottom. If you start getting pulled into the muck, unless you have a board to kneel on and pull your feet out, you're a goner", Alfred cautioned.

Sure enough, Bruce and I were slogging through the slough when a blue-wing teal jumped up. I shot at it with my 20 gauge pump and down it came. I went to retrieve it. When I got to the duck and stopped to pick it up, I began sinking in the mud. Pull as I might I couldn't get my left foot out of the mud. I took the board out of my game pouch and knelt on it. I pulled and pulled and the mud would not release my foot.

I was wearing hip boots. They had a strap around the belt in my pants. I unstrapped the strap and pulled my foot out of the boot. I pulled and pulled but the swamp would not give up my boot. I picked up my board and duck and Bruce and I made our way out to the gravel road and headed back to the Koehler farm. Walking down the road with one hip boot and one wet stocking foot is the thing memories are made of.

Years later people from the highway department learned the hard way what Alfred Schutte had told us about Priebe's Slough. Werner Schulz recorded this event in the Osseo Press.

Folks from the highway department chose to ignore the warnings about the slough having no bottom. After burying not one but two caterpillars in the slough, they changed their minds and abandoned the project they were working on.

Ah, the stories that slough could share if only it could talk. The people walking around it for exercise would never believe them. Of course there is no reason to venture into the slough anymore, unless of course, I think I might be able to get that hip boot back!

**Doug Ohman**

Author\* Photographer\* Storyteller



**Saluting the Civil War**

Minnesota's Role

October 6 2016 - 7 PM

Maple Grove Council Chambers

"Saluting the Civil War" as a way to commemorate the first veterans from Minnesota by Doug Ohman.

"He worked on cemeteries in Minnesota project and realized how many Civil War Soldiers graves there in the state."... "We sometimes forget our state's history goes back to the 1850s and 1860s. We were just a young state... It was the boys from Minnesota who did such an important part." At the time of the Civil War, Minnesota was fighting on two fronts — in the South and on the home front — against the warring Dakota Sioux. Ohman does about 150 presentations a year.. Civil War program, .. has become "very, very popular . . .

By KAY JOHNSON

[johnson@hutchinsonleader.com](mailto:johnson@hutchinsonleader.com) 2014

## Why This Cornerstone?



Did you know St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church 7180 Hemlock Lane in Maple Grove, near the Maple Grove Middle School and Perkins will celebrate 40 years in Maple Grove?

The Church was founded in 1870 in North Minneapolis to serve German Catholics in that area. It was staffed by Benedictine monks from Collegeville, MN for its first 106 years. In 1976, when I-94 was built, the State acquired the property; and a new Church was built in Maple Grove to accommodate the growing number of Catholics there and was named St Joseph the Worker, due to other St Joseph Catholic Churches in the area.

Morsching Farm was on this site before Perkins Restaurant and the Catholic Church –the geese still think the farm is there!



Morsching Farm

## My favorite Smell by Sharon Wolma

Every time I smell apple blossoms it takes me back to a time when our family rented an old farm house in Maple Grove from a Mr. Frank Herman. The house itself sat across the road from Morshing's pond in Maple Grove. Today's location is around 73rd Ave. North and Hemlock Lane,

That rental house had several apple and plum trees along the west edge of the property. The blossoms smell was always so sweet. But it isn't only the remembrance of those apple trees that my smell memory triggers. The 1st memory that it triggers happened one day during a walk, in the nearby woods with my Mom.

Our mother loved to go out for walks. In those days, living out in the country, one did not have a block to walk around or a close by park to walk to. One just left the back door, headed out past the garden, where the rhubarb leaves seemed gigantic, continuing past the shed, the outhouse, the chicken coop and then out across the fields and into the woods.

The woods were always a magical place. Momma would point out blooming wild columbine, blood root and trillium. She always had a story to tell about each one. One day she even pointed out a Jack-in-the Pulpit and then explained how it got its name.

During one days relaxed walk in the woods Mom said we had better head home and get supper started real soon.. As we were leaving the woods to start back across the fields to the house there was a smell so powerful I stopped in my tracks.

Momma I said. What is that smell?

An apple tree she said. I looked above me and sure enough there it was, a pink blossomed apple tree not white but pink. When I looked again I realized I could see our farm house off in a distance through the trees branches. It was a picture that is still so clear in my mind.

Today I walked out into our front yard. The fragrant smell from our apple tree in blossom was wafting across the yard past my nose triggering memories of the old rented farm house, those maple Grove apple blossoms and a walk in the woods with my Mom.

**Sharon Hopkins - Maple Grove memories  
2016**

The following photo was shot on my first day of school 1948 under one of the farm houses apple trees. The girls in the photo are neighbor Carol Siebert, Myself Sharon Hopkins and fellow class mate and best friend Kathy Mckee. The little girl in the front row is my sister Dianne. Seen in the photo and behind us is the old gravel road (now 73rd Avenue) and Morshing's pond. My folks always pronounced the name as Mershings.



MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1180  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
(Renewable each January)

Annual Membership:  
\$15 Individual  
\$25 Family  
\$10 Seniors/Students  
\$100 Supporting Member

I am interested in helping with:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_