



Volume 112 August 2023

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

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Al Madsen

Vice President: Pat Ruffing

Secretary: Karen Brajdich

Treasurer: Joyce Deane

Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing

Research: Rosie Gruidl & Karen Brajdich

Inventory/Display: Linda Klapperich, Pat Kisch, Pat Ruffing, Joe Hanf, Dave Hasse & Kate Wotke

Web page designer: Steve Briggs

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 & 4th 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: November:



MURDER, MAYHEM,

MISCHIEF & MYSTERY HAPPENINGS IN MAPLE GROVE

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



SUMMER PICNIC

August 17th 6:00 pm at the Museum

Invite your family and friends

Bring a dish to share



Al Madsen and his toy collection at the July 16th Open House



CCX Media July 14th YouTube video <https://ccxmedia.org/news/weekend-showcase-maple-grove-historical-society-hosts-open-house-with-toy-exhibit>.

In her article in the July 13, 2023 Osseo, Maple Grove, Champlin, Dayton Press “100 years of toys, history: Maple Grove History Museum open during Maple Grove Days” Alicia Miller wrote:

“One of the larger groups of vintage toys out for people to look at will be from Al Madsen, retired Maple Grove city administrator and society member.

Madsen has a large collection of metal toy vehicles, including trucks, cars, die-cast models, airplanes, pedal cars and more. For the past 45 years, he has been collecting vintage toys, which began after he met Dick Welk, owner of the Osseo Meat Market, who has a large collection of toys.

“He and I went to a lot of toy auctions, toy sales, estate sales,” Madsen said of his now 1,200-piece collection.

Madsen’s toys range from being built in 1913 to 1960. He has collected brands from Tonka, Structo, Nylint, Wyandotte, and Ertl. In fact, Madsen has every Structo ever made.

“One of my prized ones is a wind-up Pluto the dog from the 1939 World’s Fair,” he said. “That still works.”

He also has a 1941 fire truck pedal car with the original wooden ladders on it. The car will be on display during the open house.

Madsen also got into restoring some of his collection. He said a company in Chicago has old decals and parts for vintage toys.

“It’s been a lot of fun to collect,” he said.”



Getting ready for the Maple Grove Parade July 13th, 2023





At the Maple Grove Business Expo on July 15th we took part in the Amazing Maple Grove Race.

Two contestants learning how to launder clothes the “old fashion way” in laundry tubs with a scrub board and wringer and then they had to hang them on a clothes line using wooden clothes pins.



Maple Grove Saturday Expo!

Members Diane & Tim Herbst, Karen Brajdich & Dave Hasse

Welcome Committee

Virginia Hoppenrath & Jim Sable



Mary Moyle



The Osseo Yearbooks are always popular

Maple Grove Swat Team

Welcomed visitors in the Parking Lot!



My Teddy Bear by Karen Brajdich



On November 14, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt took part in a bear hunting expedition in Onward, Mississippi. When he failed to find a bear, his aides tracked one for him to kill. Being a true sportsman, Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear. A few days later the political cartoon below appeared in newspapers across the country, capsulizing the incident.

The bear in the cartoon inspired Richard Steiff, in Germany and Morris Michtom, in Brooklyn, NY to create the first stuffed bears. Both creators sought and received permission from President Roosevelt to name their bears, "Teddy's Bears." Years later all stuffed bears were known as "Teddy Bears."



Here is a picture of my Teddy bear. Teddy must be close to 100 years old. He was my mother's stuffed bear and she was born in 1922.. You can tell he's from the Roaring 20s. First: Teddy a Panda bear, not a brown bear. Second: Teddy is wearing a red tuxedo coat with tails. His nose may be scruffed and the glass eyes missing but he was well-loved!





Joyce Deane brought her collection of dolls.
Some have been played with, and some are 100
years old,

Kevin Kisch displayed his military and G.I Joe
toys.

We estimate that 300-400 people visited the July
16th Open House



CCX Video of Museum toys



The Woman Who Dressed Barbie

Here are excerpts from the article in the Mpls .St Paul Magazine by Madeline Nachbar on July 15, 2019 celebrating Barbie's 60th Anniversary and reprinted –this July as the new Barbie movie is released. “Meet Carol Spencer, an MCAD grad from Minneapolis who created some of the iconic blonde bombshell's best looks.”

“1950's“Following the death of her father when she was three years old, Carol Spencer, her mother, and her sister left their home in Texas and went to live with her aunt, uncle, and grandmother in Minneapolis. Growing up, she loved watching her grandmother sew. “My grandmother would warn me that if I came any closer, she'd stitch my nose to her pattern!” says Spencer. She eventually taught herself to sew and began designing pieces for herself and her paper dolls.”

At the time, all of her friends were becoming secretaries, teachers, nurses, or stay-at-home moms... during her final year in college, she applied for a month long guest editor internship position in New York at *Mademoiselle* (a fashion magazine published from 1935–2001). Just weeks before receiving her diploma from MCAD, a telegram arrived at her doorstep notifying her that she had been accepted into the program...”

Later while working in Milwaukee, “She came across an advertisement in *Women's Wear Daily* for a design position at Mattel (the toy manufacturer that had just released the Barbie doll)... Mattel ran another ad for the design job...At the interview, she was handed a Barbie and asked to come back in two weeks with patterns and garments for the doll. Spencer landed the job in 1963...

“and spent the next 35 years designing wardrobes for Bar-



Amanda Hanf Waltz Barbie collections from her childhood and her Aunt Barb's childhood.

bie and her posse—Skipper, Tutti, Todd, Stacie, and of course, Ken. Some of Spencer's favorite designs include an ensemble for the Crisp and Cool doll inspired by Jackie Kennedy (also the first outfit of Spencer's to be added to the collection in 1964), fashions for Barbie and Ken dolls influenced by Farrah Fawcett and Robert Redford in the '70s (part of the Superstar Forever Collection), and a *Flashdance*-esque blue spandex leotard (complete with rainbow-bright striped leg warmers).

Mattel made the Carol Spencer Barbie in 1998 in honor of Spencer's retirement and her 35th anniversary as a Mattel designer.”





Celebrating 100 years of the Osseo Press coming into the Maple Grove Home.

The first newspaper was printed on Nov. 29, 1923. It was 12 pages long and contained local news, feature stories, cartoons, recipes, advertising, a supplement and a patent section. The paper cost 5 cents and 100 years later it cost \$1.50. The Museum was proud to display some of the Osseo Newspapers that we acquired from Werner family owner of the Osseo Press 1966. The Press granted us the use of the article that appeared in the paper on Nov 24, 2022.

The editor and publisher of the first paper was Lester Wilcox. Otto Bohling took over the paper in 1925 and JW Schultz purchased the paper in 1926. Werner Schultz edited the paper from 1938 to January of 1966, when he sold it to Don Larson.

Don and Carole operated the paper from 1966 until 1999. Starting out, Don handled all of the advertising and Carole the news with a part time typist.

(An interesting side note is that when Don Larson took over the paper he asked for help from the American Legion. The Legion needed a new basement roof. The paper subscription drive was successful for both! The Legion was able to build a full Legion Hall and the paper's circulation increased.)

The Larsons mailed the newspapers and delivered a free section. Eventually they bought newspaper tubes, old postal jeeps and hired route drivers. That worked well while the paper was printed in Osseo. By 1999 the Larsons decided the technical changes were coming so fast that they decided to retire.

Today the Osseo, Maple Grove, Champlin, Dayton Press is part of the larger Sun newspaper. Their goal remains the same: "To inform readers of city news, and events as well as sharing stories of what your neighbors are doing" according to Alicia Miller the Editor.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEGGY BAKKEN)
 ABOVE: The former Press and News building, which housed the Osseo-Maple Grove Press, Champlin-Dayton Press and the Crow River News used to be located at 200 Central Ave.



AT RIGHT: Don and Carole Larson stand outside the front doors of the new Press and News building in 1985. The Larsons owned the Osseo-Maple Grove Press from 1966 to 1999. During that time, Don created the Crow River News and Champlin-Dayton Press news papers.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PEGGY BAKKEN)
 Peggy Bakken takes notes while on a phone call.

Peggy Bakken still occasionally writes for the Osseo Press . She has written articles for 50 years!

Inside the museum, visitors could ask and learn from the experts: former owner Carole Larson and former executive editor Peggy Bakken of the Osseo-Maple Grove Press



Remember those toys In the attic?

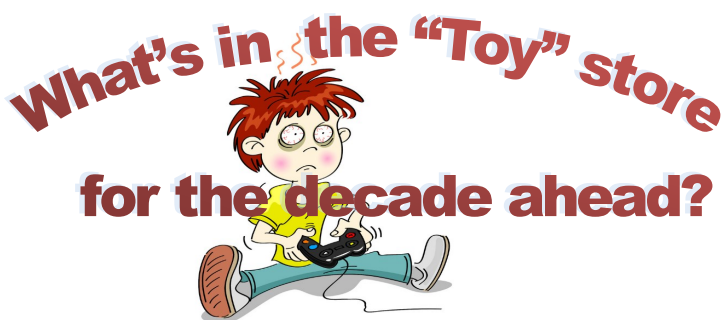
On Sunday, July 16th an estimated 300-400 people journeyed through the retro/antique toy exhibit at the Maple Grove History Museum. They snapped photos of the huge display of toys and games that Minnesota girls and boys received for holidays and birthdays dating back to the 19th century.

Did your great grandfather build with Lincoln logs, tinker toys, or an erector set? Perhaps your great grandmother snuggled with a Raggedy Ann, a Shirley Temple doll or a Teddy Bear. Picture your grandfather walking into the parlor and finding a Lionel electric train set under the Christmas tree, the very one he wished for at the Dayton's department store. Did he marvel amazed as his new slinky "walked" down the steps? Was he hoping that he, not his sister, would get to play with the first toy advertised on TV, "Mr. Potato Head" a plastic model potato, with attachable plastic body parts and clothes? Do you ever wonder why Grandma put away her precious 1950's metal dollhouse and declared that the new adult Mattel doll Barbara Millicent Roberts, a blonde-haired, blue eyed female, known as " Barbie" and her next door neighbor boyfriend Kenneth Sean Carson "Ken" were her best friends?

The day when the Maple Grove farm kid hoped for one toy as a present is long past. Most of your parents' childhoods were spent in a more affluent time, with closets full of toys. What are the chances that you still cling to a prized, tattered toy? If you grew up in the 1980s, your parents may have been desperate to find the 1983 Christmas Cabbage Patch doll for \$25. And years later, you sold that doll for \$1 in a garage sale, along with your Rubik's Cube and other toys (Example: Transformer, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, Smurf, Trivial Pursuit, etc.)

In the 1990's a new age of computer games, like Nintendo dawned, changing the way we played with our toys forever. The world of the electronics transformed wish lists by offering iPods, iPhones, iPads; Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation, and Guitar Hero.

What will our kids born in the 2020s want for presents? Will Maple Grove grandparents cringe when they hear more games and smart phone apps?

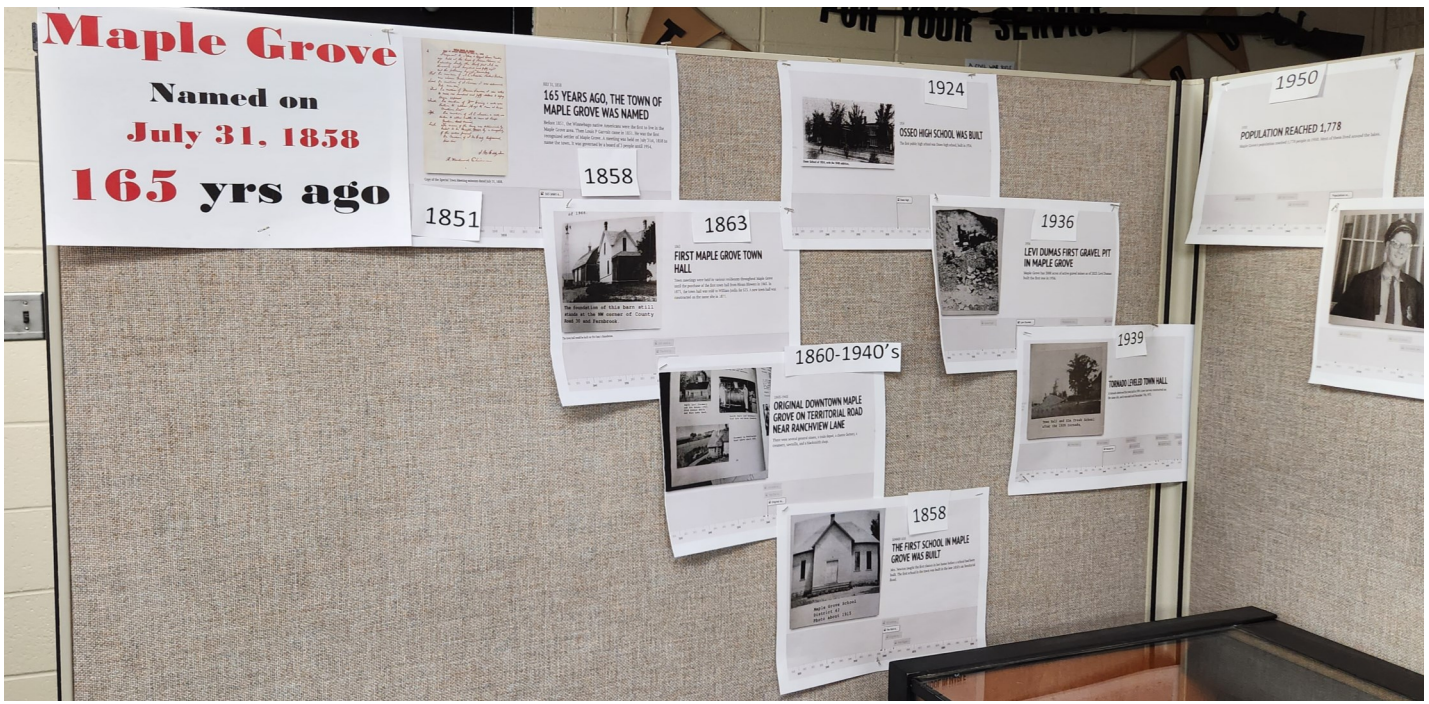


Pat Ruffing as Raggedy Ann in Maple Grove Parade on July 13



Linda brought Klapperich family toys for kids to play with





Sixth The name of the Town was determined by ballot to be Maple Grove by a majority of the voters present On Motion of J. M. Eddy, Acknowledged



Kids enjoying the Territorial "Downtown" Maple Grove miniature display

Ginger By Lois Miller Caswell

Google informs me that the average life expectancy for a horse is 20+ years, with rare exceptions as high as 50, but guess what: my Ginger is 80 something and still going strong!

Now, I must hasten to explain that Ginger is not your ordinary horse. She is kind of a chestnut brown, has black eyes and a green mane. Yes, she is far from ordinary, she is my wooden rocking horse made by my Uncle Wes when I was a very little girl. She is lovingly made of wood and hand painted by him.

I remember having so much fun riding her when I was a little girl. On the farm, the only horses we had were humungous work horses named Colonel and Nellie. They were so big, and we were strictly forbidden from going any where near them. We didn't have them very long before Dad sold them and replaced them with a John Deere Tractor or two, so I don't remember much about them.

After my brother Jerry and I outgrew Ginger, there were many little neighbors and cousins that enjoyed a good ride on her, and they always looked for her when they came to visit. When there were no longer little ones around, she was "put out to pasture" in the attic waiting for the time someone would love her again.

When our three kids came along, out came Ginger and they had so much fun with her, but my Dad Harold, didn't think just one horse was enough, so soon Sparky joined Ginger keeping the kids happy and squealing with joy. They rode them so hard, Ginger had to get an extra strip of wood added to her so they didn't go head over heels over the top. Before we knew it, Ginger and Sparky were "put out to pasture" again waiting for more little ones to come along and play.

Then came Clayton and Claire. They had so much fun with them and they would "bock a bock" for what seemed like hours laughing and giggling and having the best time. Well, that's a lot of rides, but both are still in good shape. Paint is pretty worn, especially on Ginger, and she's showing her age a bit, but they are enjoying their time of rest now in the garage rafters waiting for the fourth generation of riders. Ride on Ginger and Sparky, you will be ready for many more hours of smiles, and laughter. I'm really sure their Mom and Dad will have many stories to share about their days of riding. After all, there is nothing better than old toys made with love.



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 _____

