



Volume 88 August 2017

You are invited

August 17th, 2017



6:00 p.m.

Bring a unique dish to share
Spouses - prospective members
Welcome

Annual Picnic at the Museum

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

COMING Soon
IN 2017 **CCX** (NORTHWEST CABLE TELEVISION)



PRESENTS

**THE HISTORY OF
MAPLE GROVE**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE MAPLE GROVE

**HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY.
RESIDENTS ARE BEING INTERVIEWED
AND RESEARCH IS BEING COMPLETED!**



Photo from MNHS.org

**An Icon on
The National Register of Historical
Places**

Osseo's 102 year old 100 ft. water tower, was built in 1915 on a borrowed \$14,000.

It will continue to tower over Osseo and be a proud landmark to the surrounding cities as it has been officially added to National Register of Historical Places on June 5th 2017.

The whistle still blows at noon to call the farmers from the field as it did in days past or to alert residents to the noon hour. Since 2003, Osseo has bought its water from the City of Maple Grove.

The Roads well travelled that Charley built

Charley McCrossan Founder C.S.

McCrossan died June 27 at the age of 91.



According to the Obituary in the Star Tribune:

“Charley McCrossan started his construction company with two dump trucks and \$1,000 in savings. He started C.S. McCrossan, a Maple Grove asphalt paving business, during the suburban boom of the 1950s and '60s, tapping into the urgent need for streets, bridges and highways to connect the sprawling Twin Cities .”

“His father died early. The family fell into poverty, so he picked up jobs such as selling newspapers as a young boy. By 17, he had dropped out of school and was shoveling coal into furnaces on a Great Lakes ore boat.

“The war was on and there were jobs,” he said in a 1991 Star Tribune article. “There was money to be made.”,

He fell in love with the water and joined the Merchant Marine, delivering materials to Allied forces during the war. By 1947 he was back in Duluth, where he received an economics degree in less than three years.

He fell in love with a student nurse, Helen Evans, but their plans to start a life together were interrupted when McCrossan was drafted to serve in the Korean War. When he returned, the couple married and moved to Minneapolis, where he planned to study engineering.

But his plans were interrupted again, this time by the birth of the first of their nine children. So he got a job at the Ford plant in St. Paul and ran a side business installing blacktop driveways.

In 1956 he launched C.S. McCrossan. To asphalt paving he added concrete curb and gutter work, then sewer and water, then highways and bridges.

“Charley started out putting in driveways and now we’ve built the interstates and freeways,” said his son, Tom, of Rogers, now the company’s president. “He had that vision.”

Kelly Smith July 13, 2017 Star Tribune

From the C S McCrossan webpage



7865 Jefferson Highway
Maple Grove,
Minnesota

“C. S. McCrossan is a diversified highway/heavy civil general contractor, which provides construction infrastructure services to federal, state, county and municipal transportation departments.”

Thanks from the residents of Maple Grove, who cannot go anywhere in our city without driving over a road or on a bridge that Charley, Built!

Grocery Store Memories

Excerpts were taken from July 2008 article written by Lillian Havel in the MGHPs newsletter.

Grocery shopping in the 1920's and 1930's was entirely different from what it is today. . . You told the store clerk what you wanted. . . he would get your groceries for you. . . Many people charged their groceries during the depression. A record of the customer's purchases was kept in his own little book. . .

My mother often sent me to the Maple Grove store with a grocery list... We lived near the store. It was just west of our cow pasture. Sometimes she would have me take some eggs to trade for groceries. . .

Candy was kept in glass-fronted showcases, or in large glass jars. The stores always had penny candy and bulk candies of many varieties.

The stores had some canned vegetables, fruits and canned soups....

Only a few varieties of ready-to-eat cereals were on the market. Grape-nuts, Shredded Wheat, Corn Flakes, Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice were the first. In the early 30's Cheerios, Kix and Wheaties and Rice Krispies appeared.

You had to grind your own coffee. It was sold in bags of whole beans and you took it home and ground it yourself. . .

Peanut butter was sold in bulk. When you bought some, the grocer would put it in a wooden "boat", cover it with waxed paper, wrapped it in "store paper" and then tie it with string. It came to the stores in big wooden tubs. Because the oil would separate and come to the top, the grocer would have to mix it with a big wooden paddle before he sold it.

Oleomargarine came on the market. . . Most people called it "ole" . . . It most likely had a capsule of yellow food coloring included in the box. Even in the 1950's, Minnesota law forbade them to color it, because it would look like butter. . .

Bananas came in big bunches . . . If you wanted to buy some, the grocer would cut off as many as you wanted,

using a hooked knife. Occasionally, they could find a big banana spider in the bunch. They found one in the Maple Grove store once and put it in a big jar in the window for all to see.

Cookies didn't come neatly packaged; they came in big, square, cardboard boxes. The boxes, with covers removed were placed on a slanted rack with hinged glass covers. . . The grocer would lift the cover, and reach in, most often bare handed, and take out as many as you wanted to put in them in a paper bag.

Flour and sugar came in closely woven cloth bags.

Lard was the only shortening. Crisco wasn't developed til in the '30's.

Vinegar came in wooden barrels. The customers brought their own glass bottles or jugs and the grocers would fill them.

Ice cream came to the stores in tall covered, metal containers . . . In the stores the ice cream containers were transferred to an "ice chest" and again packed in chipped ice. . . You could buy an ice cream cone for a nickel! Usually they had vanilla, strawberry or chocolate flavors. . .

Soda pop came in 6-ounce bottles and cost a nickel. . . In the late 1930's Pepsi Cola came on the market with the first 12 ounce bottle. . . At about the same time the "singing commercials" became popular on the radio. Their jingle went:

"Pepsi Cola hit the spot.

Twelve full ounces, that's a lot.

Twice as much for a nickel too.

Pepsi Cola is the drink for you!"

Kleenex was first available in the 1930's. Before that, women had to wash handkerchiefs. . .

Soap flakes and detergents came on the market in the 1930's, when washing machines became more common. Before then women used bar soap to wash clothes on a washboard in a tub. Vel was one of the earliest detergents and is no longer available.. .

I am sure there are more things that could be included here, but those I mentioned are sure to make you more appreciative of modern day conveniences.

Maple Grove Days Open House

July 16th, 2017



Welcome committee: Farmer Roger McHugh, Virginia Hoppenrath, and Pat Kisch

Did every country store have ice cream cones?

Louise Hanf serving ice cream



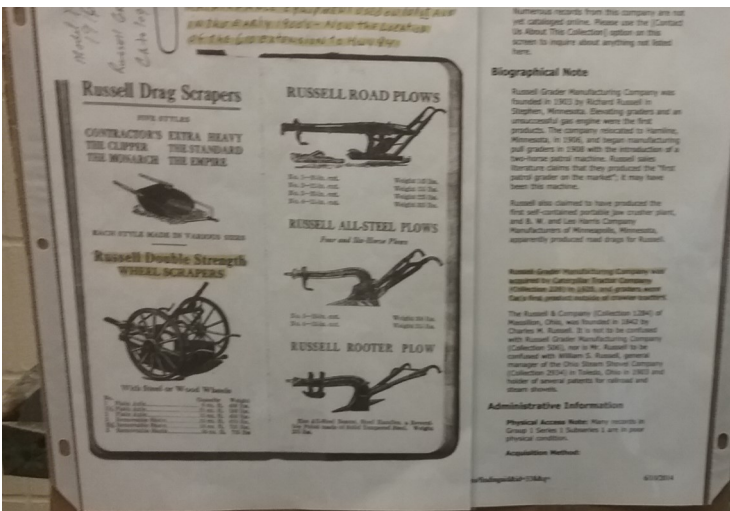
On the lawn at Museum: Virginia Hoppenrath, Al Madsen, Patty Reuter, and Kevin Kisch

Kids enjoying the ice cream and lemonade



Visitors viewing the Public Works Displays

The Museum has a number of heavy metal Directional signs. Visitors and MGHPs members worked at figuring out their street location.



An explanation of implements featured in the landscape outside Museum

Highlighted at Maple Grove Museum— Maple Grove Country Store



Bredenberg's Store 1950's



Gambart Store 1930's



Bertsch Community Store 1940's

Christmas Specials
GRAMBART'S COMMUNITY STORE
Sat., Dec. 19 until Dec. 24

COFFEE, Lover's Lane, per lb.	17c
COCOA, May-flower, 2 lb. can	15c
PEPPER, black ground, No. 1 quality	15c
MATCHES, 6 box carton	18c
JELLO (Jack Sprat) 6 boxes for	25c
PORK & BEANS (Jack Sprat), 1g. 303 can	9c
FRENCH CREAMS, fancy mix, per lb.	15c
OLD TYME MIX, No. 1, pbr lb.	10c
PEANUT BRITTLE, full of peanuts, per lb.	10c
CHOCOLATE DROPS, old reliable, per lb.	10c
CHOCOLATE DROPS, assorted cream centers per lb. 13c or 2 lbs. for	25c
CHOCOLATES, 5 lb. box, Xmas Cheer	89c
EXTRA FINE CHOCOLATES, special quality 5 pound box for	\$1.29
CHOCOLATES (Country Home) lb. box	25c
PEANUTS, fresh roasted, per lb.	10c
JUMBO PEANUTS, fresh roasted @ 13c	2 lb. 25c
WALNUTS, fancy per lb.	20c & 25c
PECANS, paper shell, per lb.	22c

Santa Claus Will Visit Our Store on Wed., Dec. 23
BRING IN THE KIDDIES

Maple Grove country store a memory

... the store stand the old memories...

... in those days... Mrs. Bredenberg... she said she had seen the store in 1938 and that she had seen the store in 1938...

... the store was a good little business for us... Mrs. Bredenberg... she said she had seen the store in 1938 and that she had seen the store in 1938...

... the store was a good little business for us... Mrs. Bredenberg... she said she had seen the store in 1938 and that she had seen the store in 1938...



Patton Fan \$239.95

37" blades, variable speed, reversible motor, ask or demand blades extra. Size 64 Frame \$14.95

Save 12" by getting the 12" blades...
 12" blades...
 12" blades...
 12" blades...
 12" blades...
 12" blades...

LIGHTS ON BROADWAY

4900 WEST BROADWAY, BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55428
 (Across from Knox Lumber)
 GARY & STEPHANIE KRUEGER, OWNERS
 (612) 533-2366



A well dressed woman needs to find a hat to complete her outfit before leaving her living room.

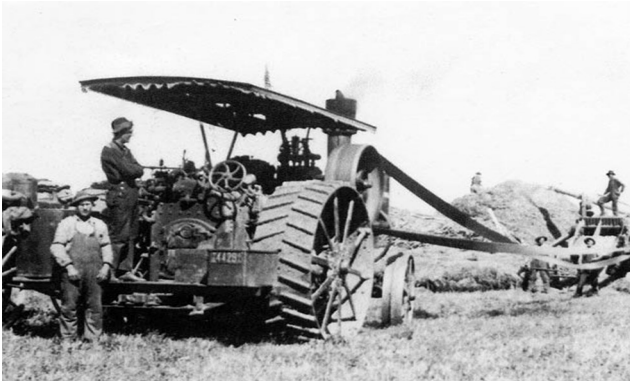
Current displays at the Museum

Below: on display our sewing collection from the days when women made clothing at home and sometimes from feed sacks.



Visitors in front of the "at home display"

PHOTO OF A MAPLE GROVE HARVEST



Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society archives: a 1950s photo.

“The picture was taken at the James Chapman farm, which can now be found on Territorial Road in Maple Grove.

In the early 1900s, Maple Grove was predominantly a farming community. The old-fashioned way of harvesting was to cut grain by hand. So when farmer Con Meyer purchased a threshing rig in the 1950s, he became the neighborhood thresher .”

From “Now and Then” by Breckyn Crocker
Oct 2016 MAPLE GROVE Magazine

Maple Grove Days Parade July 13th. Pat Ruffing and Louise Hanf dressed as Thelma and Louise represented MGHPS. The movie came out in 1991, written by a woman Callie Khouri . She won an Oscar for her best screenplay and Thelma and Louise came to represent grown up women who took men to task for their bad behavior.

Note: Is Brad Pitt driving the 1961 LaSabre Convertible?



500th Anniversary!

2017 is a very special year for Lutherans , as it marks the 500th anniversary of the year Martin Luther made his 95 Theses known to the world , thus changing the history of the church, country, and world forever. In honor of the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Religion by Martin Luther, and Lutheran Church’s long history in Maple Grove, with St John’s Lutheran in nearby Corcoran being over 150 years old, the October newsletter will feature the Lutheran Presence here. Please send in your stories, memories and photos, of Growing up Lutheran, Knowing a Lutheran. . .

October Newsletter to Highlight Lutheran Churches and growing up Lutheran in Maple Grove. Please email

ruffing6467@yahoo.com

Country School

Tamara Hillman (part of her poem)

The little brick school house
where Mama used to go,
sets quietly atop the hill
thru' summer heat and snow.

Blackboards stretch across one end
stained with dust and chalk,
memories those walls would tell
if only they could talk.

Honored places are now faded
where president pictures hung,
Pledge of Allegiance always said
when morning bell was rung.

The old place holds the secrets
of bygone days that passed,
of children growing tall and straight
with rules of life to last.

**Demolished in 2017: Hennessy Hill School
District 45 - Gone - But Not Forgotten**



In front of "Old" Hennessy Hill School
Louise Krause, Frieda Krause, Bill Treptau,
Olga Krause, Alice Kelly, Ralph Devery,
Emma Ruths, Ed Gleason, Florence Ruths,
Walter Treptau, Frances Devery and Elizabeth
Berry (teacher).

"Hennessey Hill School (District 45) was originally located on the banks of Elm Creek south of the bridge on County Road 10. The first school was supposed to have been a log building. Later, a new frame structure was built on the same site. The final structure sat on the hill above the creek and the cemetery and was east of the original site." MG website

School Boys in Knickers



My brother Bill started 1st grade in 1935. My mother sent him to school in Knickers, How did she afford Knickers during the depression? Other boys of that era wore them too. When my brother Jerry started 1st grade in 1937, Bill begged my mother to dress him in long pants, so he would not be embarrassed wearing Knickers, as the small town fashions had evolved!
Pat Ruffing

Needed: Country Schoolhouse Antiques

Do you have a country schoolhouse antique to lend or donate to the Maple Grove Museum for a display in 2018 of Country School Classroom of the past.

Needed: blackboard, world globe, shelves, alphabet, or palmer handwriting script, wall maps, pictures of Washington and Lincoln. Flag with 48 stars. Water pail and dipper, lunch buckets, pendulum clock and a teacher's desk.



Please call Al Madsen 612-581-8704

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM
(Renewable each January)

Annual Membership: (tax deductible)
 \$15 Individual/Senior
 \$30 Family
 \$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: _____