

Volume 110 February 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: Karen Jaeger

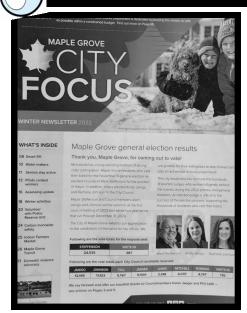
**Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing** 

Research: Mary Moyle, Rosie Gruidl, & Karen Brajdich

Web page designer: Steve Briggs

http://www.maplegrovemnhistory.org

Look for articles by the MGHPS in the Maple Grove City Focus



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

<u>Regular</u>

Open House:

**Events** 

The Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00 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: May- Was/Is the KITCHEN TABLE the

HEART of the family home? Please share your family

stories of what your family

used your kitchen table for.



#### 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.

#### Pay Dues: January





https://ccxmedia.org/

"Maple Grove City Council members Karen Jaeger and Phil Leith attended their <u>last council meeting</u> on Monday night.

Each has served on the council or city commissions for more than 20 years. Jaeger never missed a council meeting or a DARE graduation in her 24 years.

"When you came to the council, we were still a bedroom community, a farming community. From your guidance, we were named one of the best cities to live in America," said Mayor Mark Steffenson.

Both council members received recognition and talked briefly at the end of the meeting. Both remarked on the city's remarkable growth during their time on the council and noted developments like Maple Grove's Main Street or the building of Maple Grove Hospital.

"It was all gravel mining 25 years ago," said departing council member Karen Jaeger. "Just think about what was here."

"When I moved here, there was 31,000 people. There's over 70,000 now. There have been a lot of changes," said Leith.

As for what comes next, Jaeger says she doesn't plan to "sit around with a cat in my lap."

Phil Leith doesn't either, and plans to still be active in the community.

Mayor Mark Steffenson also passed the gavel to Leith, so he could adjourn his final meeting."

Shannon Slatton, reporting.

# Former Mayor Dick Reimer Reflects on Success

BY Rebecca Cooke From the January 2010 issue of Maple Grove Magazine

"A look into the life of our city's first leader Maple Grove's Former Mayor Dick Reimer Sporting a striped button up and navy cardigan with neatly combed hair, 87-year-old Dick Reimer appears dapper as ever in his cozy home office in Maple Grove. A true renaissance man, Reimer has developed entire cities, played drums with the likes of the Andrew Sisters and Peggy Lee, served in the U.S. Navy, and raised a family of five. Reimer sits today tapping his toes as he watches the Classic Big Band, with whom Reimer has played drums for a number of years. A smile spreads across his face as the band strikes up a favorite Glenn Miller tune, "In the Mood."

Reimer grew up in Minneapolis, where he realized his first love—music—at age 6. A dynamic drummer, Reimer shined in the North High School swing band. Upon graduation, he joined the Navy, where he toured from 1942 to 1946.

When Reimer returned from the war, he went directly back to his music-man ways. Among other local gigs, he drummed along on famous broadcast journalist Cedric Adams' popular WCCO radio show *Stairway to Stardom* every Saturday. It wasn't long before Reimer realized it was difficult to make a steady income with a show here and there. "In those days, a three-hour job only paid \$12," Reimer says with a chuckle. Coupling this epiphany with future aspirations of owning a house, Reimer took up a day job at Fireside Realty, moving his music gigs to the evening hours."





Alicia Miller in the pressnews.com VOL.100 Nov 24, 2022 reflects back on her 20 years as a reporter on the growth of Maple Grove since 2002. There were no Shoppes ,the Fountains, and the Village at Arbor Lakes.

"History of the paper". The first edition of the Osseo Press was printed Nov 29, 1923- photo from the paper is displayed on this page. The paper cost 5 cents and issue or \$2 a year. The editor and publisher was Lester Wilcox. Otto Bohling had the paper in 1925 and HW Schultz purchased the paper in 1926. In January 1966 Don Larson purchased the paper. According to Alicia's article, Larson wanted an office for his offset newspaper, which used a picture of the sheet of paper and moved the negative to imprint the page to a metal plate and ink was offset from metal plate onto paper. This move started the February 1966 Osseo Press. Don and Carole Larson owned the Osseo Press until 1999. The Press was taken over by larger corporations, most recently by Adams Publishing.

Note: Don Larson donated to MGHPS his copies of the Press dating back to 1929.





"Framed" eye glass display throughout a century of history MG Government Center



Christmas Presents arriving by train-Museum Display

## Music & Marching Band by Karen Brajdich

It is September, 1958 and a five year old Karen is sitting in the front seat of our Nash Rambler next to my younger sister, Diane. Mom is at the wheel, driving north on Highway 65 in Anoka County. In the backseat sits my older sister and older brother. David belts out a few notes on the tuba he's brought home from junior high school. Then, Val takes her flute out of its case and starts a rivalry practice session. The tuba and flute sound is loud and shattering. Mom stops the music with a few sharp words to the back seat. The face-off ends and the sound stops. The flute and tuba incident were my earliest encounters with live music. I would follow a similar path in a few more years.

Fifth grade (1963) was my "coming out" year. It was the year I learned to make music. I did not want to play the flute, like Val or the tuba, like David. I would walk a different path. Mom took me to Schmitt Music in downtown Minneapolis to choose my instrument. I saw all sorts of instruments: saxophones, trumpets, flutes, piccolos, trombones, tubas, drums and all sorts of music paraphernalia. I chose the clarinet. I would get 4 weeks of clarinet lessons, plus an exercise book and reeds with the purchase of the clarinet. I began my musical journey.

Fifth and sixth grade were all about individual and group practice sessions with other clarinet players. I practiced to improve my fingerings, tonguing, scales and sound. I wanted to excel as a clarinetist and to do that, I had to practice, knowing full well that in seventh grade I would participate in the seventh grade band.

That day did come and I was so excited to be part of the seventh grade band. I learned the protocols of being part of a band. Group practice, on-the-spot auditions but best of all playing with the band. I loved making music and being part of band. In high school, I was part of the concert band. But, I will focus on another aspect of my musical experience, marching band.

Our family moved to Coon Rapids before the beginning of eighth grade. In 1966, I started school at Coon Rapids Junior High School. It was time to learn the "ins" and "outs" of a new school, a new band, a new band director and band members. A few weeks into the new school year, elation struck. The Coon Rapids Junior High School eighth and ninth grade bands would march in the Anoka Halloween Parade! The band had to memorize the marching piece, practice it in the band room, and practice marching outside! The percussion section would beat-out a drum cadence. The whole experience was exciting. Below is a picture of my eighth grade marching sweat shirt. The falcon was our mascot. It is faded. I cut-off the sleeves and



you can see paint smudges on the front, I've still got it! Fast forward to the summer after ninth grade... I was eligible and joined the Coon Rapids High School marching band. A unique drum cadence was written for the percussion section by Mr. McCartney, our band director and instructor. The percussion section played the drum cadence with gusto and precision. The rest of the band practiced and memorized the marching songs. Put us all together, add the drum major, baton twirler, flags and banners, we had a band of 125 members. And, as we marched the streets surrounding the high school campus, little children came out to hear and watch us. And when we played the marches, we were very good. We had moxy and a lot of pride.

Below is a picture of me before going off to march in my very first parade. Each band uniform consisted of an imitation black bear skin hat with a red plume on the side, black overalls and blazers with gold braids and epaulets. A white bib overlay with the embroidered insignia of a red cardinal, the school mascot, completed the look. All members wore white gloves and black shoes with spats.

On parade day and in-dress, band members walked a little taller, held their heads a little higher and our camaraderie grew.



One of the first parades of the marching season: the Aquatennial Parade in downtown Minneapolis. The band marched through Parade Stadium, under the Highway 94 bridge and on to Hennepin Avenue. The percussion section pounded out the drum cadence as we marched under the bridge. It was thunderous and the sound reverberated everywhere. And when we played our song, for the throngs lining the street, the sound it was remarkable. The band took second place in the Aquatennial Parade and we brought home a big trophy for our work.

I continued to play the clarinet into college and I would always relish playing in a band and making music. I never thought I would ever feel that joy, elation and camaraderie I'd experiencedv while marching in the Coon Rapids High School marching band.

But, I came close... Back in 1994, I worked for IDS. IDS was celebrating it's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the elaborate annual conference for the sales force would be held in Minneapolis that July. As part of the anniversary celebration, the concept of a marching band was born. The goal was to create a marching band to march in the Aquatennial Parade. The band would be made-up of visiting sales force members and home office employees. MGHPS member, Rose Gruidl was part of the percussion section.

It took months to refine, coordinate and realize our goal but, the IDS Marching Band, a 600-piece marching unit, billed as the largest marching band in the Aquatennial Parade did happen and it went down in history!



Here is a picture of the IDS 1994 celebration leaders. On the left is Mike Serber, the IDS Marching Band director and in the middle, with the clarinet held in "Benny Goodman" style, is me.

## No. 40

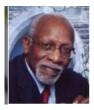
# The Music Teacher

by Lillian Weber Havel It was about 1930, when I was in the third grade, when Miss Pearl Fennefos, the music teacher, first came to Maple Grove School. She came once a week and taught us the fundamentals of music and how to sing in two and three-part harmony. Around Thanksgiving time she taught us the carols for the Christmas program. Sometimes she brought a small phonograph to play music to demonstrate time and rhythm. One of the songs was played so often I still remember the words some 70 years later:

"Six little pigs in the straw with their mother, Bright eyes, curly tails, tumbling on each other. Bring them some apples from the orchard trees, And hear those piggies say, 'Please, please, please'."

Occasionally, when she came that first year, she seemed somewhat different than usual. She didn't remember our names or what songs we had been practicing. We children talked about this a lot. It was a real mystery. Then towards the end of the year, the mystery was solved. One day *two* music teachers came - identical twins! They were both music teachers and occasionally taught each other's classes just for fun!

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## "Hymn Singer"

I found this amazing obituary online at Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapels and wanted to share part of it:

Well known gospel and jazz singer Thomas "Tom" Henry Tipton Jr. of Maple Grove, MN went to be with his Lord on Monday, April 13, 2020, following a brief illness. He was 86. Due to the current social distancing requirements, a public Celebration of Life will be scheduled when safe for all guests at Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Maple Grove.

"Mr. Tipton performed on more than 100 telecasts of the "Hour of Power" from the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California. In his retirement years, he traveled throughout Minnesota singing and speaking at assisted living facilities, senior centers, nursing homes, worship services and veterans' programs performing with his deep baritone voice the old hymns taught to him by his mother. Tom had a magical and deeply spiritual way of reaching out to his audiences, a "touched by the Holy Spirit" connection. His handshakes, embraces and words of faith and encouragement were genuine, caring, supportive and hopeful to all he touched. Once touched by Tom, one became an instant friend for life. Audiences young and old share stories of the first time they met Tom and offer how he impacted their lives. ..

Music was always a guiding light in Tom's life. He often spoke of being a "boy soprano" in his mother's church choir. Born to parents Thomas Henry Tipton Sr. and Lucille Robinson, they made sure he learned his manners (sometimes the hard way) and taught him about respect, faith and love, lessons he would call upon throughout his entire life. In her career as a Washington, DC-based radio host in the late 1930's and 1940's, Lucille introduced Tom to many of the music legends such as Sara Vaughn, Nina Simone, Harry Belafonte, "Dizzy" Gillespie, Isaac Hayes and Roberta Flack, among others. Later, he participated in choirs and theater in high school and college, even working at local dances and clubs in the Washington D.C. area as a solo DJ known as "King Hi-Fi". His musical talent served him his entire life, always with the desire to bring joy to others.

The "Hymn Singer", was born and raised in Washington D.C... Tom served his country in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957. Over the next decade he continued to perform his music and extended his hand into the world of politics, assisting his mother on working committees to support the 1963 March on Washington, which was highlighted by the "I Have A Dream" speech, delivered by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1968, Tom was elected president of the black chapter of the Young Democrats in Washington, D.C. In this position, he met then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Tom moved to Minneapolis at Mr. Humphrey's request to join his campaign for U.S. President in 1968. During this time, Tom's musical gifts became well known through fundraising events and extensive travel on the campaign trail. Mr. Humphrey was diagnosed with cancer in the late 1970's and, near his passing, asked Tom if he would sing at his funeral... Humphrey passed away in 1978 and Tom delivered a powerful performance of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" at the funeral. It was there that Tom was also introduced to televangelist Rev. Dr. Robert and Arvella Schuller. This chance meeting would lead to a long friendship and the launch of his gospel music career as a guest soloist on the "Hour of Power" telecast from the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California.

In the 1970's, Tom launched Vanguard Advertising, the first black-owned and operated agency in Minnesota. Vanguard served corporate clients across the nation, including Land O' Lakes, Pillsbury, Hanes Hosiery, Dial Soap, Greyhound Bus Line and held a major recruiting contract with the U.S. Navy.

Tipton Music Ministries was headquartered in Orange County California from 1980 until 2006. Tom once said he chose to return to Minnesota because, "When you pass someone on the street in Minnesota, strangers greet you, and say 'Hello and Welcome,' they mean it!" Tom also loved to sing our country's National Anthem. He performed the Star-Spangled Banner at college and professional sporting events, including Minnesota Vikings' games, at the Minnesota State Capital and veteran's events.

Tom often told a story from his childhood when Tom Tipton, a shoe-shine boy, was refused admittance to the Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the White House because of the color of his skin. He vowed that in his lifetime he would have the opportunity to sit inside the White House as a guest. And he did: having the opportunity to sing for presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. He referred to the experience as his "Shining Out and Shining In."

Tom's many career opportunities afforded him an amazing public life that he fully embraced.

#### **Music in the Air Music Everywhere**

I grew up in the 1940's – 1960. My dad perpetually sang tunes usually from the 1920's, as he worked around the farm. My aunt had an old upright piano in her living room adorned with sheet music she liked to play. In in my grandparent's day the violins were the instruments of choice for entertainment. My older sister had a record player with 45's and loved to play hits from the 50's. My younger sister liked blasting the radio with whatever was rock and roll was on. My brother Mike liked Elvis!

I remember Sunday afternoon's with Frank Knight was the program's announcer. The introductory theme was the final movement of *Beethoven's 5th Symphony*. The series was sponsored by the Longines-Wittnauer watch company. It then moved to CBS where it was heard Sundays at 2 pm from 1949 to 1957. I think it was actually my mother who turned the radio on to listen as Sunday was a more quiet time at our house.

In my husband's family the relatives gathered at Christmas around the family piano and played various instruments and sang carols. His mother and aunt played the piano in dance hall gatherings. His grandparent's also played the violins and his dad sang in the men's German church choir. Whenever we were visiting Grandparents Ruffing, when our kids were growing up in the 70-80's, Saturday night TV always included "The Lawrence Welk Show".

When our kids were in elementary school, we bought a piano from Schmitt Music in Brooklyn Center and all five kids started lessons at a neighbor's house after school. That did not last long! Only our daughter Rebecca played the piano and received lessons from Mrs. Bode for years. She also went on to play the violin throughout high school at Osseo. Our youngest son Jamie played the cello and graduated from the Perpich Arts High School in Golden Valley in 1999. Today, he favors playing the guitar.



Our piano was finally sold back to Schmitt Music to help pay for Christmas gifts one year. By Pat Ruffing

## His Music Fills My Heart



This very large picture was given to me when I worked for IDS/American Express/Ameriprise. It was hung in the Elvis Presley conference room. They all knew of my love for Elvis Presley. So it was gifted to me. I visited Graceland 3 times and went to the birth place of Elvis in Tupelo MS. This picture hangs in the Elvis Presley Museum in Tupelo MS. Mine is framed much more beautifully than the one at his museum. There were only 100 made I was told......and I have one of them. His music still fills my heart with excitement. One day the picture it will be given to my grandson Anthony Presley. By Rose Gruidl



Display from the past of some Christmas music on a child's record player.

# GE Musaphonic – 1942 By Brad Schlick

I acquired the General Electric Musaphonic at an estate sale in St. Louis Park in 1982. A friend of mine from work (FMC in Fridley at the time) knew of this estate sale. So, I went with him. An old lady had died and the family was selling everything. We looked around at all the various items in the home, but it was the old radio that caught my eye. I love things from the past and this machine is from a special time in our country's history, World War II. You can just imagine a family sitting by the radio to listen a Roosevelt Fireside Chat or listen to the Big Bands, maybe from the Prom Ballroom in St. Paul. It is my guess that this radio has had only two homes in its lifetime, the one in St. Louis Park and mine.

I was also attracted to the machine because it was a classy piece of furniture and a technological star for its 1942 timeframe. The radio has AM, FM and short-wave bands. It even has a record player. This Musaphonic was at the height of its era of such beautiful pieces of work. Within ten years newer technology made this console all but obsolete. Televisions soon took over. But even the in the 1950's televisions were large pieces of furniture. When I was a boy in Northeast Minneapolis our neighbor across the street was a cabinet maker for Setchell Carlson television sets!

Everything on this Musaphonic was functional when I first purchased it. That was a bonus! I last used the radio in the mid 1990's to show our son the function of the short-wave radio. We got radio signals from around the world. It has now been with me for 39 years and has not been plugged in since that time. I hope it is still functional after sitting idle for 25 years.

I am truly pleased that the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society is able to give this piece of history a new home. It will be great to have this beautiful radio to continue to "live" and provide a context for our history.





The Kitchen Table Display at the Museum Baking Christmas Cookies- winter New display- Valentines- February 2023





Homemade Radio in Museum Collection– What music would you listen to on this?

## **Popular music in Minnesota**

In the Winter 1974 Minnesota History Magazine James Taylor Dunn wrote an article about a century of Minnesota Composers and sheet music. "As early 1855 sheet music was being sold in St. Paul then the capital of the Minnesota Territory, and a year later nearby Stillwater could boast 'five pianos, besides flutes, guitars and violins without number'. By the time Minnesota had been a state for 14 years "parlor music and parlor singing delighted almost everyone." Musical instruments were easier to acquire, as cities grew and transportation became more available

Around the turn of the century, sheet music was reprinted in the local newspapers was a way to keep songs and instrumentals before the public. "Tell Her That I Loved Her" was printed in the Minneapolis Sunday Times on November 22, 1903. From 1900 to the 1930's, department and ten-cent stores might have saleswomen playing or singing the latest hits for customers, in hopes of making a sale.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the type of music and lyrics produced slowly changed to a new euphoric mood, "influenced by victory over Spain and the

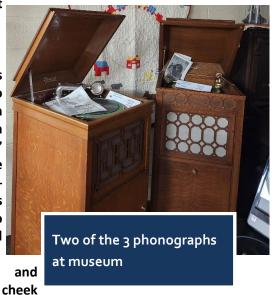


country's new-found imperialism. Old songs had been slow and tearful..."mother" songs.. such as "Silver threads Among the Gold" were giving way to "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet (1909). Rag time tunes were a part of the musical scene "Minnesota Street Rag". The U of M Rouser (1909) and Hail Minnesota(1905) were written. The singing commercial "From land of sky blue waters – now a beer commercial was created in 1909. music from the musical hit "Irene". Most of the sheet music produced 1910-1920 at least 3 dozen songs, were meant to arouse support for the war effort of World War I. "When World II came...song writing for the cause in Minnesota was much reduced..."

"By the mid-1930's the decline in sheet music sales... was hastened by the increased popularity of the radio and the phonograph...the phonograph and radio became status symbols of the parlor."

In the 1920's Americans went "Dance Mad". The fox trot and jazz were the latest fads. William Mac-Phail, Minneapolis music school director in 1926

lashed out at the "atrociously suggestive trash that is present to be found on the pianos in our homes." In the late 1920s frenetic dances gave way to slower and smoother fox trots cheek-to dancing.



In 1927 when Charles Lindberg of Little Falls made the non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic, song writers deluged the nation with songs about "Lucky, Lucky Lindy."

No subject has received move continuous attention than the love of man for woman and vice versa. An all time favorite was "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" 1910.

The Minnesota Historical Society has assembled a sizable or collection of Minnesota popular music. How many more songs and instruments gather dust in basements or attics? And as I reviewed this article I was left to wonder

how many precious artifacts have been dumped, abandoned, neglected, smashed even burnt. Why is this happening, and should we care?

Have I pods and Spotify captured the home along with video games and family tv rooms?



The song "Alice Blue Gown" became popular on sheet

# The Maple Grove School Orchestra

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was one of the programs initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt soon after his inauguration to create work for the unemployed.

In the fall of 1933, a WPA music teacher came to the Maple Grove School and told us that if enough students were interested in learning to play an instrument, he would come once a week to teach us and start an orchestra. Several children had violins, a couple had guitars and one boy had a banjo. I was interested too, but didn't have an instrument. My parents told me to ask the teacher which instrument would be the easiest to learn to play. He suggested a mandolin. My parents managed to find enough money to buy a cheap one from the Sears catalog.

Week after week, we carried our instruments to school, some children carrying them for a mile or two. Most of us had cases for our instruments, but the boy with the banjo carried his in a big cloth flour sack.

The only music we had were a few pieces written by our teacher. One of them was named "The Maple Grove Waltz", and another was entitled "No Name". We practiced these few pieces of music all year, at school and at home. At the end of the year, we

were told that we were to play at the countywide eighth grade graduation ceremonies at the fair grounds in Hopkins.

My father took me to Hopkins. It was a hot, sunny day, at least 100 degrees and there was no shade either in the bleachers or on the stage. When our turn came to play, we sat in the hot, boiling sun, trying to play "The Maple Grove Waltz". I had a headache and felt sick. It was a dreadful experience.

When I got home, I put Vaseline on my red, blistered skin. I felt so sick, I went to bed. I put the mandolin in the corner of my room and never picked it up again.

The music teacher didn't come back the next year.

From MG Newsletter #31 2005



#### 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

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