



Historical Shore *VIEWS*

www.shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org

Shoreview's 59th Year

'preserving today's history for tomorrow'

July 2016

From the President

Snail Lake Teacher Leaves Us a Treasure

The SHS is a recent recipient of a large collection of ephemera from the decades-long history gatherings of Snail Lake 4th grade teacher Anita Rylander. Over 30 boxes, documented and sorted, depict not only a life-long love of teaching, but more than 30 years of history.

Photos, albums, Shakespeare festival tapes, and boxes and boxes of classroom documentation dating back to 1967 were all lovingly saved by this dedicated teacher.



When the SHS first began in 1991, Anita and I connected because she had recently documented the 100th anniversary of Snail Lake School (District 25) in 1987. Her students had interviewed many long time Shoreview residents --- among them Alice Larson, Ruth Larson, Bill Seabloom, Carl Holmberg and Charlotte Neumann Larson, an early Snail Lake teacher.

Anita shared those interviews with us and helped provide a foundation for the fledgling SHS. One of Miss Rylander's 4th grade classes buried a time capsule which was opened by those former students in a special program in 2012.

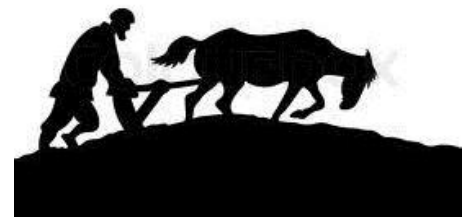
Her enthusiasm about Snail Lake's Centennial encouraged me to research the 100th anniversaries of Turtle Lake (District 35, 1995) and Island Lake (District 28, 1997). Subsequently, each of those schools held centennial celebrations.

Over a quarter century of teaching history saved by a caring teacher and the SHS is a grateful beneficiary of her passion. Some elements of her collection will be on display at the Shoreview Community in the near future. (continued on page 4)

Call for Heritage Family Nominees

SHS is soliciting nominees for its "Heritage Family of the Year" for 2017. The program is over 10 years old, and SHS taking a year off in 2016 to mark its 25th anniversary.

In general, some of the criteria for nomination are that the family--



+ has roots in Shoreview of three generations or more; + has contributed in general ways to the city's vitality and development through education, community service or organizational work; + or the family's land holdings have had a role or were key in the city's progress.

Contact any SHS board member for an application form.

SHS to Tell its 25-Year Anniversary Story at Slice

As has been its custom at city's annual Slice of Shoreview, the SHS puts together an exhibit/booth which is both educational and fun to be a part of. That's true again this year---with an emphasis on SHS's 25 years.

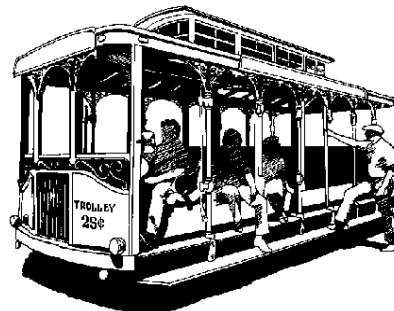
SHS's Lu Slaten and Mike Cunningham are coordinating the exhibit which is located 50 yards into the Island Lake Park site, just past the information booth. SHS members who are interested in staffing the tent should contact a board member.

SHS has taken its place among the area's growing local societies and, in the process, has increased its exposure while building its own resources and capability to better serve the community.

"Like many non-profit and volunteer organizations we always seek more involvement, not just to build our membership but to increase our relevance for our city," says President Jacci Krebsbach. "A lot

of hard work by many has contributed to our growth and we look forward to what the future brings."

Back to the Slice. In the Saturday morning parade, a trolley car will carry several of the SHS past and present directors, noting SHS's 25th year of service in the community. Past directors



interested in riding in the trolley may contact Don Follett, email: dhfcvf29@comcast.net Space is limited.

A Moment in Shoreview History

TV Broadcast Tower Collapses

It was 45 years ago this September when Shoreview endured perhaps its greatest human tragedy when a 1,285 foot television tower under construction collapsed. The accident killed seven workers

It happened the day after Labor day, Sept.6 and the Shoreview mayor at the time, Bill Farrell, remembers it well: "I heard about it on the news. . .and was summoned out there. . . There were seven lives lost. . . we were we firm with the tower's developer. . . .The city was held blameless.....there were \$64 million in lawsuits."

An investigation was started immediately by the Ramsey County Sheriff's office.

The tower itself was capped by a steel beam platform. Atop the platform were three antennas, each 90 feet tall. Authorities said a steel beam weighing 13 tons was being lifted when the accident occurred. The tower was to be used by several Twin Cities television stations. The tower was rebuilt, although shorter and in a twin configuration.

Shortly after the collapse, rumors spread that an accompanying tower was also vulnerable to crashing. Farrell visited a week later and, with an engineer, elected to go the tower's top using an elevator to checked it for safety. One hand held onto the structure—Farrell's other hand held his Rosary.

(The above is from a longer story in Shoreview Reflections, a book of stories recapping some of Shoreview's history and available for sale through the SHS.)

Many Directors Served SHS in its 25-Year History

In its 25 year history, the SHS has had the help of many volunteers who have served on its board. They are alphabetically listed below, with the current board members' names in italics and its original members in boldface:

Charles Bennett, Jim Bucher, Terry Carlson,



Rene Christensen,

Doris Claeys, *Mike Cunningham*, **Nancy Cyr**, *Don Follett*, Dian Gardner, *Carol Gross*, **Jeanene Hayes** (first president), Mary Hilfiker, Ken Hoff, Cathy Juneau, Barb Kast, **Jacci Krebsbach** (*current president*), Dr. Bert Larson, **David Lukowitz**, **Virginia Lundgren**, *Bob Minton*, Lois Pollari, *Michelle Reichow*, Julie Russell, Andy Schwalboski, **Connie Shirkey**, *Lu Slaten*, **Patricia Sperl**, *John Vadnais*, Pam Videen, Peg Wedell, Barb Wegleitner and Ken Wingard.

Several of these folks will be in the Slice of Shoreview parade, riding in a fancy trolley car.

Annual Meeting Reviews 2015 SHS Activities; New Directors Named

At the SHS annual meeting in April, President Jacci Krebsbach reviewed the organization's highlights and activities during 2015.

She noted the group's ongoing membership programs, its growing reliance on new technology, and visited the old theme of the organization still looking for a permanent home.

SHS activities, however, survive and flourish nicely, using the Community Center, the county library as key places of operation, she said.

She conceded the group needs to grow its membership so that it can increase citizen involvement and interest to better meet the its objectives. Krebsbach was saluted by other board members, speaking on behalf of the society, for her long time service to the society, including 20 years as its president.

+ + + +

Lu Slaten, an incumbent director, was re-elected for a three-year term. Dian Gardner and Mike Cunningham, two directors leaving the board, were praised for their service. New directors John Vadnais and Carol Gross were appointed to the board during the first quarter.

SHS Continues 25th Celebration

Author Paul Maccabee Brings Alive Bygone Gangster Era

The city of St. Paul and many suburbs like Mounds View and yet-to-be-born Shoreview in the 1920s and '30s were part of "the fix" --- wherein out of town gangsters of the time lived virtually free from the law, providing they "behaved when they visited our town."

Paul Maccabee, author of the book *'John Dillinger Slept Here'*, and a flamboyant speaker, reiterated that charge, speaking to an attentive Shoreview Historical Society audience of 140, part of the SHS's ongoing celebration of its 25th Anniversary in 2016. "It's hard to believe today a (St. Paul) police department as corrupt as that one in the 30s," he said,

Maccabee, a transplant from the east and now president of Maccabee Public Relations, Minneapolis, was so enthralled about the tales he heard about the gangster era when he came here, that he set out on a 13-year odyssey researching the book,

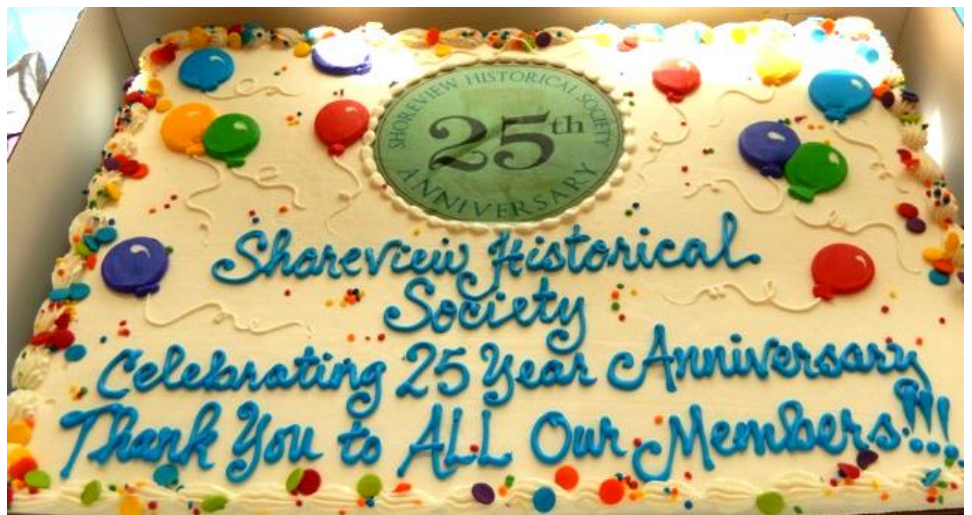
The collection boxes of his research, now stored at the Minnesota History Center, measure seven cubic feet.

His talk was one of the more energized programs in SHS's 25-year history. Maccabee was surrounded after his talk for an hour by interested questioners and gangster fans; many were carrying a copy of his book, published in 1995 through the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Many attendees, he said later, helped fill in some blanks in his knowledge about the outlaws' whereabouts in Shoreview.

Maccabee had a lot to say about the area in now Shoreview, debunking some myths and validating other stories of the time, for example, when the crooks had tunnels built from their homes, perhaps to be used when a quick escape was needed.

The author spoke equally at length about the bureaucratic hoops he had to leap through to pry information from the various levels of government crime fighters, primarily the FBI, then led by J. Edgar Hoover, later to become known for his secrecy.

Dillinger was just one of the bad men that Maccabee researched. Harry Sawyer, Ma Barker, Baby Face Nelson, and others in travels to Ramsey County were discussed as well. It was a great day for gangster lore, and an anniversary party.



SHS members celebrated with this special 25th Anniversary Cake.



Local author Paul Maccabee gave an animated talk about his research and his book *"John Dillinger Slept Here"* which focused on crime back in the 1930s. Photos by Lu Slaten

New Directors Named

Michelle Reichow is a new member of the SHS board of directors, bringing the number of directors to eight. She was appointed in May.

A former Shoreview resident, Reichow lives in East Bethel. Also joining the board earlier in the year are John Vadnais and Carol Gross, both of Shoreview.

NLONG Ready for Summer 'Digging Season' in Area

If discovering Native American artifacts is an interest of yours, maybe the place to be is with the North Lake Owasso Neighborhood Group (NLANG).

The group has an archeological dig planned for the Lake Vadnais shore area. You can join them the weekends of Friday July 9 and Friday July 30. It's family fun and educational, too. Contact either John Vadnais 651-587-2727 or Lu Slaten at 651-482-8435 for the details. NLANG recently was the recipient of a state grant from the Minnesota state legacy amendment.

Historical ShoreViews is published quarterly by the Shoreview Historical Society, (marking 25 years in 2016) 350 W County Rd. 96, Shoreview, MN 55126, for its members and friends. SHS board members are Mike Cunningham, Carol Gross, Don Follett, Jacci Krebsbach, Bob Minton, Lucena Slaten, Michelle Reichow, John Vadnais and Pam Videen.

To join the society, contact Pam Videen, 4305 Parkview Court, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127. To contribute items to the newsletter contact editor Don Follett, Tel: 651-490-7510 email: DHFCVF29@comcast.net

At the Board Meetings

Actions taken at the monthly SHS board meetings earlier this year included—

- + approving appointments of three new directors to the board.
- + drafting a Tree Tribute policy for the selection of recipients.
- + continued the planning for the Slice of Shoreview event; and for final 25th SHS Anniversary events.
- + solidified arrangements with the Northern Lake Owasso Neighborhood group, whose interests center around historical/ archeological digs in the area.

MHC Sponsors TC Tours

The Minnesota History Center continues to offer interesting tours emphasizing Twin Cities' history and landmarks. Contact the MHC for details and tickets.

+ **July 13, Aug 10** - Summit Hill Bus Tour 7 p.m. Tickets \$25/\$20*

+ **July 20, Aug 17**- Historic Downtown St. Paul Tour. Tickets \$25/\$20.

+ **Aug 6** - Bars, Bootleggers & Booze Bus Tour 1 p.m. Tickets \$40/\$35.

+ **Aug 13**- Summit Ave. Walking Tour 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$10/ \$2 discount for MHC members

+ **Sep 4** - Mill City Museum, Minneapolis 1 p.m. \$12-16/\$4 discount for MHC members

*Second listed price for MHC members.

From the President continued-----

As the SHS continues to celebrate its 25th Anniversary, we cannot help but wonder what other treasure troves are out there.

I am grateful to have been on the board for the entire 25 years and I appreciate the dedication of the past and current board members. Remember, we are saving YOUR Shoreview history for YOU and for your descendants ! History Matters ! -----**Jacci Krebsbach**

SHOREVIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/ DUES OR RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

(Please include your email address (this is a private list, we do not sell or distribute) so you will receive your newsletter.

Dues are:

- **Adult** \$15 - 3 yrs --- \$38
- **Sr. Citizen** \$10 - 3 yrs --- \$25
- **Student** \$10 - 3 yrs --- \$25
- **Family** \$18 - 3 yrs --- \$45

— **Add \$2 to cover postage for mailing the newsletter, if you don't include an email address**

Total amount _____

Additional tax deductible donations are welcome.

Please make your *check out to: Shoreview Historical Society, c/o Pam Videen, 4305 Parkview Ct., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127.*

A Historical ShoreViews subscription is included in dues.

The Shoreview Historical Society was born in 1991 when a group of residents took an interest in preserving and recording both the important and informal events in the city, and those that told of our city's growth and deeds of our people. Since its inception, the society has worked to fulfill that mission. If you are interested in participating on a SHS committee or the operating board, please give any director a call.

+ There's still time to pay your 2016 dues; your treasurer is very flexible.

