

HISTORICAL SHOREVIEWS

It's 'Back to School' - in Another Era

School is back in session in Mounds View District 621.

Kindergarten, elementary, middle and high schools are all filled with students. But let's go back to a time before there were kindergartens, middle schools and even a high school in the area - and even before District 621!

Soon after statehood in 1858, School District #4 was established by an act of the Ramsey County Commissioners. The first school, a brick building known as the "red" school was located north of Highway 96 in current TCAAP property. It served the entire Mound View Township area. After 1941, when the property was acquired by the arsenal, a small school was built on the south side of Highway 96. At one time it was a kindergarten for the district.



District #4
First Mounds View School (1860-1941)
North of Hwy 96 near Hamline Ave.



District #25
J.J. Hill School (1918-1930)
NE corner of Hodgson Rd. & Co. Rd. G2

In the Shoreview area there were three elementary schools: Snail Lake (formerly Hill Farm School), Island Lake (formerly Wilbur Lake) and Turtle Lake. All of these schools were one room schools with students in first through eighth grade. They were taught by one teacher who occasionally boarded with families of a student.

After eighth grade, students had a graduation with commencement exercises held on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. A program from 1922 shows 3 students graduating from District 25 (Snail Lake), one from District 28 (Wilbur Lake) and none from District 35 (Turtle Lake).

At this time, many students quit school because they were needed to help on their family farm.



District #28
Wilbur Lake School (1891-1929)
SE corner of Victoria St. N & Co. Rd. E

If a student chose to go on to school, since there was not a high school in the district until Mounds View opened in 1954, options were limited. Schools attended were White Bear, Washington and Minneapolis Edison.

(Continued on Page 2)

Does Shoreview Have a Cemetery?

Question: What's the difference between a cemetery and a graveyard?

(Answer: At the end of the article!)

Although Shoreview does not have a cemetery, it is affiliated with a church with its roots in Shoreview.

In 1903, Swedish settlers organized Bethany Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The services were spoken in Swedish until 1919 when English and Swedish services alternated every other Sunday.



In 1921, they established a cemetery north of County Road J.

As population started increasing in the area, a suggestion was made that Bethany consider the possibility of merging with the Apostle's Lutheran (formerly Mounds

View English Lutheran Church) located on present day Oak Hill Montessori School.

The two churches consolidated and Incarnation Lutheran Church was born with the first service held in 1963. Their cemetery carries their name - and it is located in Lino Lakes!



Incarnation Church, Present Day

Answer: A graveyard is located on property adjacent to a church and a cemetery is a stand alone property.

It's 'Back to School' - in Another Era

(Continued from Page 1)

Snail Lake School originally began as the Hill Farm School and was located on the west side of Hodgson Road (on Tanglewood Drive). It was built in the late 1800's by James J. Hill on the western edge of his farm and served the children of his farm employees as well as local children of the area. In the 1930's, a new two-story red brick school was built on the northeast corner of Hodgson Road and Highway 96. The original building held two classrooms, the principal's office, a teacher's lounge, lunchroom and stage. It had the largest playground in Ramsey County and it was the site of picnics and festivals.



Snail Lake School



District #28
Wilbur Lake School (1929-1957)

The next school that was built was Wilbur Lake School (District 28). The first Wilbur Lake School was a small wooden building south of the railroad tracks at Victoria and County Road E. In the 1930's a one story brick school was built across the street. This one room school had boy and girl cloakrooms with bath-

rooms and a basement for programs.

It was still operating into the 1950's but closed before 1957 when Island Lake School opened with twenty classrooms.

In 1895, the first Turtle Lake School opened on the east side of Hodgson Road near County Road I. It was a 1 1/2 story structure that had a pump in the front and a long wooden building in back that was a wood shed with boy and girl outhouses at either end.

When enrollment declined in the 1940's, students were bused to Snail Lake School where they were delighted to use indoor plumbing!

Finally, In 1957, a new school was built on the northwest corner of Lexington/County Road I.

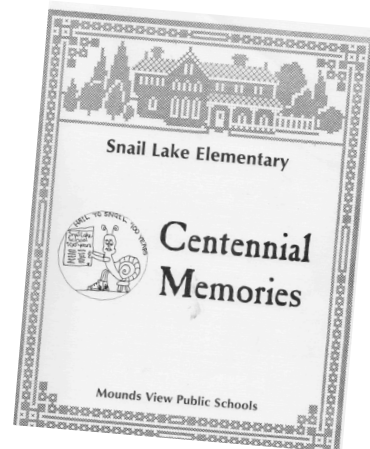


District #35
Turtle Lake School (1895-1950)
NE corner of Hodgson and Co Rd. I



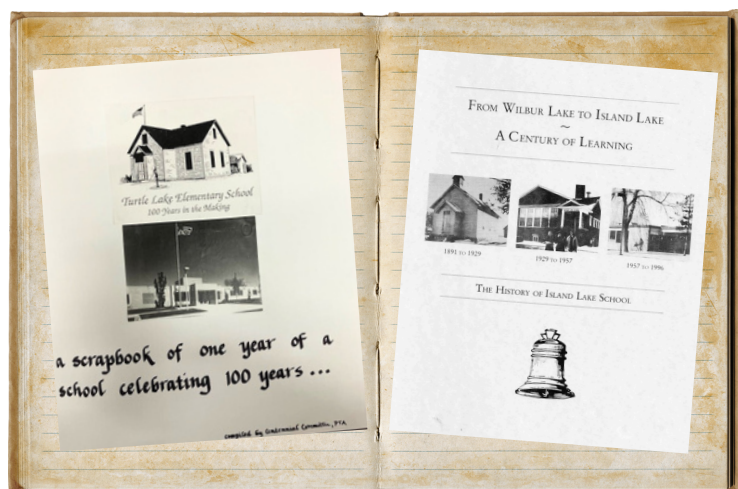
Celebrating *Centennials*

In 1987, Snail Lake (#25) fourth grade teacher Anita Rylander researched the history of that school. She applied for and received a grant from Education Ventures and she and her students began contacting former students and teachers. Interviews were conducted by the students and report cards, personal recollections and memories were collected in the book Centennial Memories. Her students also buried a time capsule which was opened by the students 25 years later.



As a result of Miss Rylander's efforts, both Turtle Lake (#35) and Wilbur Lake (#28) schools researched their school's history and had books published celebrating their individual centennials.

All the schools also presented programs that welcomed many schools alumni.



Minnesota leads the nation in education with a lot of star school districts. But what makes Mounds View Public Schools a *superstar* district?

Learn more at
[youtube.com/@mvpschools](https://www.youtube.com/@mvpschools).



School Spirit

Although it was over seventy years ago, I still remember my excitement of getting to start school and taking a school bus!

At that time, there was no kindergarten in the Mounds View School District for my age group so I was, according to my mom, “chopping at the bit”!

I attended the one room Wilbur Lake School with about 25 other first graders and seven second graders. Our teacher was Mrs. Alta Johnson - who I also had for third grade when I attended Lake Johanna Elementary School.



Jacci's first grade class. She is third from left (in gingham dress)

I remember the large blackboard at the front of the classroom and also the alphabet cards perched above it. I loved reading as I was an early reader. I remember arithmetic - although not as fondly!

Recess was very popular as we went outside in all kinds of weather. I don't remember the playground equipment but I assume it was the requisite slide, swings and lethal teeter totter. Mrs. Johnson called us in by ringing the big brass school bell.

There was no hot lunch program so students brought their own lunches. Sometimes a parent delivered a hot meal for us. Some of my classmates still lived on farms in the area.

I recall walking to Island Lake Park for an end-of-school picnic. At this time there was still an island in the park only accessible by a rickety wooden bridge. In the winter we were able to go across Victoria to the little lake we called Wilbur Lake. Our Christmas program attended by family, was held in the basement of the school.

The old school building is long gone and Island Lake School is in that location. Lucky me! I was a student in 1957 when that school opened! 🚌



by Jacci Krebsbach
SHS President

Educational Component to Lepak/Larson Museum House Tour Appeals to Local Girl Scout Troops

Jessica Reelfs, Turtle Lake grade four Girl Scout troop leader, contacted the Shoreview Historical Society asking if they could attend our September 13th open house museum tour. Eight girls from troop 58344, along with several parents, were all engaged in the museum tour and the Educational tables set up outside after the completion of the house tour.



Each girl scout was given a swag bag, which included our current newsletter, notepad, pen, magnet, vintage marble and a walnut necklace made from the trees on the museum property. They especially liked the four tables we had set up in the backyard filled with donated educational items that could be picked up, looked at and learned about. The grade five troop leader group attended a few months ago.



Our Educational donation program has received many items from members in our community and we are so grateful to have adults and students learn about farm life history.

The final scheduled tour of the season will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 10AM to noon. It is FREE and open to the public.



Ramsey County Historical Society's Collaborative

Over thirty years ago, some local Ramsey County Historical Societies started meeting on a sporadic basis to discuss their own societies.

Topics like membership, funding, museums, and programs were discussed. At the time, the Shoreview Historical Society was in its infancy stage so we listened and absorbed the information being presented. Unfortunately, we didn't continue to meet regularly.

A few years ago, Sara Markoe Hanson, of the White Bear Area Historical Society, reached out to all the societies in Ramsey County to begin meeting again. Some of the societies have hosted us all and shared the stories of their groups.

White Bear has offices in the White Bear Armory but maintains the Fillebrown house and they offer many historical tours throughout the community.

The Hill Farm Historical Society in North Oaks has restored farm buildings that we toured. In Maplewood, we visited the farmhouse and barn that were owned by the Bruentrupp family. These buildings, which were once located across White Bear Avenue from Maplewood Mall, were moved a short distance east off County Road D.

In New Brighton, the tour was held in the restored Soo Line railroad depot. It houses a treasure trove of history! The Little Canada Historical Society museum is located adjacent the the Little Canada City Hall and they have an extensive genealogy collection. In North Saint Paul, their large museum is filled with history of its town.

The Shoreview Historical Society will host this group of historical societies on October 7th. The program will be followed by a tour of the Lepak/Larson home. We're ready for our close up!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The **final** Shoreview Historical Society Lepak/ Larson Museum Tour is Saturday, October 18th from 10AM-12PM.



Don't forget to join the **Friends of Shoreview History** Facebook page, which now has over 2,200 followers!



Each year, The Shoreview Historical Society selects an individual or family that best exemplifies long-term service and involvement to the betterment of the Shoreview community. You can nominate a family [here](#), or by emailing us at the address below.

Meetings of the SHS Board of Directors take place on the second Monday of each month at 5 pm at the Lepak/Larson house (1170 Lepak Court, Shoreview). If you plan to attend, please email: info@shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org or phone 651-303-4667.

ONE
LAST
NOTE...

SHS MEMBERSHIP FORM - JOIN TODAY!



Adult Membership
1 YEAR: \$15
3 YEARS: \$38



Senior Membership
1 YEAR: \$10
3 YEARS: \$25



Family Membership
1 YEAR: \$18
3 YEARS: \$45



Student Membership
1 YEAR: \$10
3 YEARS: \$25



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email(s) _____

Preferred Phone _____

TOTAL AMOUNT*: _____



Please make your check out to
Shoreview Historical Society and mail to:
Shoreview Historical Society
c/o Pat Sullivan
4600 Victoria St N.
Shoreview MN 55126

DONATE
Donate Now!
(tax deductible)

*Please add \$2 to cover postage for mailing the newsletter, if you do not wish to receive newsletter by email.

GO PAPERLESS BY
REGISTERING ONLINE:

[HTTPS://SHOREVIEWHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](https://shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org)

More Information

<https://shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org>

info@shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org

Mailing Address:

Shoreview Historical Society

✉ City of Shoreview

4600 Victoria Street N.

Shoreview MN 55126

Design by JenLeach.com

Printed by Allegra Printing

