



Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter Fall Report 2010

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How
Deephaven
became a
"wet" Village.
The debate
over alcohol.

By Barb
Sykora



Local Historian, Bob Williams to Speak to DHS on October 3rd.

DHS fall program to feature Bob Williams of Excelsior, Mn. Mr. Williams is well known through out the Minnetonka Lake Region as one of the most knowledgeable historians in the area. Mr. Williams is a published novelist in addition to his substantial knowledge of the local history. You may have seen Mr. Williams strolling about Excelsior giving walking tours of the town, pointing out the various historical high lights.

Mr. Williams will speak about the "Great Depression" seen through the eyes of a local I have heard this talk...it is amazing. For those of you who may have been in the area during the great deression, you should enjoy the talk thoroughly!

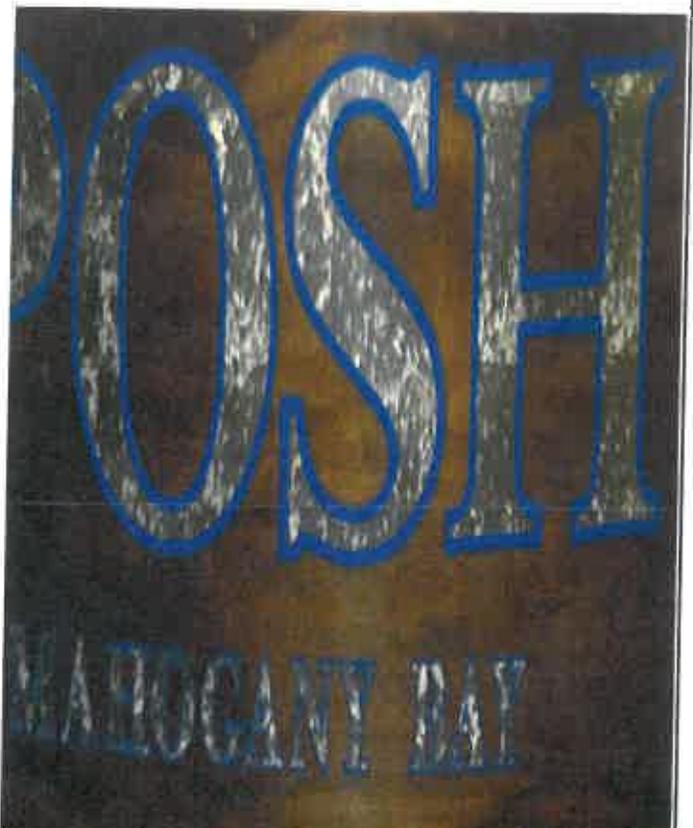
The lecture will begin promptly at 1:00 PM on October 3rd at Village Hall in Deephaven. Although no fees will be assessed, contributions would be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to bring a guest. Seating for 75 is planned.

Debate over Alcohol in Deephaven by Barb Sykora

IS Deephaven "WET or DRY?"

In 1957 this issue went before the Village residents, but not without controversy. By a vote of 296 to 275 the "WET" won. Deephaven Historical Society member, Barb Sykora (Deephaven Park) has spent countless hours researching the history of our village. It is with gratitude we thank her for providing the information for this newsletter. The following are excerpts from the 1957 "ARGUS" newspaper reporting the action of the Village Council regarding the liquor issue.

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Todd Warner and the DHS Members

November 8th, 1957 Post. The Village of Deephaven voters passed the liquor question by 21 votes for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The vote was 296 for "yes" and 275 for "no". In 1954, the Village voted dry by a considerable margin after the wet vote has won an 11 vote victory. The vote does not establish a liquor store but gives the Village Council the right to issue liquor licenses or establish a municipal store. There was a question of validity of the referendum of the liquor vote presented to the Deephaven Council. 33 Deephaven residents presented a signed petition and now this has been passed on to the Deephaven Village legal council.

E.R. Robb became the new mayor of Deephaven with 524 votes. He ran unopposed.

November 8th, 1957 Argus. The question of validity of the liquor vote was presented to the Village Council at last Wednesday's council meeting. A petition signed by 33 voters said that a notice contrary to law had been posted on the bulletin board in the Village Hall. The notice was signed by George F. McDonald which was a document favoring the "wet" view. The law says it is unlawful to post notices within 100 feet of the polling place on the day of election anything that might influence the voters. This document was undetected by the Village officials until 6 PM when Don O'Neil, Village Clerk saw it and tore it down. Action was tabled to get legal opinion from the Mr. Grathwol, Village attorney.

November 29th, 1957 Argus. The "wet" vote in Deephaven is valid according to O'Neil J. Grathwol, Village attorney. He said to the Village council that any further action will have to be taken by bringing court action against the person or persons who posted the controversial notice on the bulletin board on election day. The Council has made no decision but it is understood the Council will let the election stand. Grathwol advised the Council that they do not have the power to invalidate an election.

Mayor Dayton has lifted the dog quarantine in Deephaven last Wednesday. A total of 30 dogs were picked up and impounded at Palmer Animal Hospital.

(Reproduction of articles are literal and are not changed)

Mahogany Bay Tour: An Eye Opener

In July of 2010, twelve members of the DHS responded to a call to take a road trip to Lester Prairie and Winsted, Mn. to tour the warehouse of stored vintage wooded boats owned by Lake Minnetonka resident and nationally known collector of wooden boats, Todd Warner. To say that we were amazed is an understatement. Todd's father began the process of collecting wooden boats 50 years ago. Why and how do you ask? Well, prior to fiber glass boat, wooden boats were left to rot in the side yards of many lake front homes. Once the occupant deemed them useless, they would burn them. Todd's father saw an opportunity and would approach the owners and offer to remove the boats; thus, began Mahogany Bay and son Todd continues the restoration to this day. Todd owns over 200 vintage wooden boats. He has won numerous national awards for restoration. Todd conducted the tour of the shop and storage facilities where the DHS members viewed many historic boats, many over 50 feet in length. I particularly liked the "Guy Lombardo" shuttle. This is a magnificent, fully restored fifty foot wooden boat previously owned by famous band leader, Guy Lombardo. The polished teak and brass made the boat glistens and shine. You had to be there to appreciate. We also went aboard Todd's favorite, his fifty foot beauty, the P.O.S.H. This is a classic cuddy cabin run about, but its fifty feet long. Todd was about to put it in the water as he uses it all summer long. You may have seen it on Lake Minnetonka. The DHS is working on arranging for a personal tour and voyage on the P.O.S.H. By the way, the word POSH has an interesting history...it's nautical in nature. P.O.S.H. stands for "Port Out and Starboard Home". It seems that on cruises to India from England in the 1800's, the view of the shoreline was most appealing, so the price of rooms on the Port Side Out were more expensive than the Starboard. Visa Versa on the way back; thus, POSH which today means luxurious.

1965 Tornado DVD's Available

1965 Tornado DVD's are now available for purchase. The 2010 February meeting feature hundreds of photos and articles about the 1965 big Tornado that hit Deepaven and surrounding communities. They are available at Village Hall the price of \$20 each. A limited number have been produced so get yours' early. If necessary, DHS will make additional copies. Please put you name on a wait list if they are sold out. A big thank you to DHS member, Mark Read for getting the production arranged and completed.

