



Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter Spring Report 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Excerpts
from The
Deephaven
Argus (1939)
by Barb
Sykora



DHS Spring Event
June 13th
12:00-4:00 PM



Consistent with the annual DHS Spring Cruise, this year's theme is once again a nautical one. However, this time it will be on dry land. How is that possible, you ask? Well, it involves a bus ride to Lester Prairie. Sunday, June 13th, the Deephaven Historical Society will sponsor a trip aboard a luxury coach to the Mahogany Bay Boat Works in Lester Prairie, MN, where well-known Lake Minnetonka boat enthusiast Todd Warner restores vintage boats from years gone by. We will tour the facility and hear a lecture about some of the most unique boats ever to prowl the waters of Lake Minnetonka. Mr. Warner has restored such vintage crafts as The Baby Bar IV as well as many Chris Craft and Shepherd vintage boats. We will see some crafts he is working on and hear stories of boats and Lake Minnetonka from an era that has come and gone. Please join us on the 13th. The bus will pick us up at Deephaven Village Hall at noon and will return by 4:00 PM. Boxed lunch will be served on the bus. The cost per person is only \$19. That includes the bus, lunch, tour, and lecture. Please call Nan Nicolle at (952) 473-3682 by June 6th to reserve your place. The trip is limited to the first 45 people to RSVP.

Selections from "The Deephaven Argus" — Summer 1939

One of DHS's most active members, Barb Sykora of Deephaven Park, spends much of her waking hours researching in archives looking for historic data about Deephaven. We are starting a series of reproductions of her fine work for the enjoyment of DHS members. The first installment comes from "The Deephaven Argus" of 1939. The Argus was a community newspaper started by Deephaven High School juniors Hjalmar Rosen and William Owen. "Argus" means 'bearer of good tidings' and the newspaper was received well by the community and was soon turned over to the Minnetonka Herald as the boys found running a newspaper and attending high school made for too busy a schedule!

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The following is an excerpt from a 1939 publication, *The Deephaven Argus*.

June 23rd, 1939 : The water level of Lake Minnetonka is 2.55 feet above the all time low of December 1937. The lake dropped on the average of one foot a year over a nine-year period. The level has risen 1.32 feet since time last year. With the aid of artesian wells and two seasons of plentiful rain, Minnetonka has begun to rebuild her popularity with the tourists again.

For the first time in history, Deephaven is going to participate in a community songfest. It will be held at the Deephaven Athletic Field at eight p.m., June 30 . The field will be lighted with floodlights and equipped with a loud speaker system. *The Minneapolis Journal* with the assistance of the WPA Rural Recreation Project is sponsoring the Songfest. The best songfest in rural Hennepin and Anoka counties will be awarded a trophy by *The Minneapolis Journal*. Local talent will be found in the xylophone playing of William Moeller of Linwood and the whistling of Mrs. B. D. Caughrean who is also from Linwood. Mr. Warren Grathwol of St. Alban's Bay will supply the vocal talent.

For the last few years, the Linwood Road has been in very poor condition and is now undergoing resurfacing. Sand has been spread on one side of the road and recently drivers have run through the sand at high speeds and scattering it into the ditches. To prevent further loss of the sand and labor, Mr. E. A. Shaeffer, of Cottagewood, who is in charge of road repair, asks that citizens of Cottagewood use an alternative route on County Road 5. Mr. Shaeffer and his crew will appreciate this courtesy as well by the residents who have to pay for road upkeep.

The local truck gardeners have opened their fruit and vegetable marts on the local highways. Last weekend city customers were beginning to make their purchases. While the stalls were not loaded with garden produce,

there was an abundant supply of strawberries. Young cabbages, string beans, radishes and spring onions were for sale. Most of the stands had a colorful display of potted flowers. Geraniums, delphiniums and daisies were among the annual and perennial plants for sale. Selling flowers for transplanting is a new venture for many of our roadside proprietors.

July 7th, 1939 : Deephaven's Songfest was a huge success with at least 400 residents attending. From all accounts the singing was excellent and the talent was exceptional.

The proprietors of the "Little Store" in Cottagewood have been the victims of theft and a break-in this past week. It was discovered that the signs that covered one side of a wall had all disappeared. The theft of the signs was passed off as an adolescent prank and then on July 1, the "Little Store" was robbed. Taken were petty goods amounting not over \$10. There was no evidence as to how they got in. It was a shock to the local community. The "Little Store" has been run as a summer only establishment.

This past 4th of July brought throngs of people to Lake Minnetonka. Deephaven had their biggest crop of visitors. Strange cars stood in front of almost every house in our village. Picnic suppers served on the lawn were a common sight. Traffic was heavy on all the roads. The lake had boat lovers of every kind on its waters.

All four of the community fireworks stands, one located in Cottagewood, two at Chowen's Corner and one in Groveland, reported good business. Supplies were sold out by evening. From early morning until late a night the crack and boom of the fireworks could be heard.

August 4th, 1939: For many years, the Burton family has lived in Deephaven. The Burtons granted the land for the old Deephaven School and have hosted the Northwest Tennis matches for almost 40 years. Now, Ward Burton has been honored by the Minnetonka Yacht Club as an outstanding member of the Yacht Club by C. C. Bovey. The "Grand Old Man of Sailing" was awarded a silver cup and a life membership to the Minnetonka Yacht Club. For half a century, Burton has been active in the Minnetonka Yacht Club. Still very active, he showed that he is still a force in sailing. Last week, he still knew how to sail a boat as well if not better than anyone else on the lake when he defeated Eric Savage in the "E" class races last week.

Vine Hill Gardens and St. Alban's Bay residents are getting their roads tarred. Almost gone will be the dusty and the muddy roads. The village has started an extensive road improvement program and all village roads are either being resurfaced or graded. Minnetonka Manor and St. Alban's Bay are not in the village and will not be included in the road plans. The cross road or by road between Vine Hill and St. Alban's Bay which is known for its dangerous sandy curves is still curvy but has lost the heavy sand under a coat of tar. County Road 5 which last year underwent a widening process has been ready since early summer for tarring but due to heavy rains it had never dried thoroughly, thus making tarring it impossible. It is high time that the County should tar their roads making all by ways in Deephaven a network of hard surface highways.

Stay Tuned for more excerpts from "The Deephaven Argus" to follow!

Unique \$1 Gift Given to DHS

Ray Edward Lash is a retired college professor who now resides in Florida. Mr. Lash has an unusual hobby... looking for zip codes in dollar bills. You say, what? That's correct, Mr. Lash scans thousands of dollar bills each year looking for the magical three zeroes at the beginning of the eight digit serial number as a zip code is five digits. So far, the Deephaven "55331" dollar is only the second zip code he has found. The other is in the state of Washington. By Mr. Lash's account, 99.9% of notes are not zip codes.

According to local numberist J Ferm, each Federal Treasury mint districts, of which there are ten, could have minted the same digits in their serial numbers. However, they differ as the letters preceding and following the serial numbers are unique to each mint.

Mr. Lash was kind enough to send the Deephaven Historical Society the dollar bill, which has now been framed and is on display at city hall.



DHS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

This past January, DHS passed a significant milestone in its brief history; ten years of service to the community of Deephaven. Over the past ten years, over 125 families have supported DHS. As a result, DHS has been able to maintain and improve the historical exhibits in Village Hall, sponsor quarterly historical programs, catalog historical artifacts that have been collected over the years, maintain a library of historical books for purchase, and finally, create a social environment for its members. DHS has truly kept to its mission of Historical Preservation.

That being said, DHS is always looking for people who would like to contribute a very small amount of their time and talents in order to sustain the society. As in any volunteer organization, very few assume most of the work; however, at this point, the

very few are getting older or are changing their lives and cannot contribute as much as in the past. So, to all of those who see the value in having an active historical society, please consider contributing two or three hours of your time each month to assist the DHS.

Call our president Bill Robinson, our Vice President Bob Gerlicher, or Vice President Mary Lou Bennis should you choose to volunteer.

Finally, since it is ten years, those of you who signed up for a ten year membership should expect to receive an invoice for another year. Please continue your generous support! For those of you who are annual members, please consider becoming a ten year sponsor for \$100 or a life time sponsor for \$250.

Keep in touch...

Take advantage of the books that are available for sale at City Hall!

The Excelsior Amusement Park	\$11.95
Life in the Early Days of CottageWood	\$ 6.25
A Post Card History	\$25.00
Lake Minnetonka 1850 - 2000	\$32.00
Lake Minnetonka 1905	\$20.00
The 1893 Handbook & Souvenir	\$10.00
Tales of the Steamboat Minnehaha 1906-2006	\$20.00
Minnesota Vacation Days	\$34.95
55,000 Sunsets	\$50.00
Minnetonka Yacht Club Centennial 1882-1982	\$15.95

DHS Committee

Finance

Tom Anderson 952-474-3515

Publicity / Publ.

Bob Gerlicher 952-474-7248

Museum Development

Tim Ahl 952-470-8889

Mark Read 952-474-4091

Newsletter

Bill Robinson 952-473-8130

Meetings held the last Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Deephaven City Council Chambers.

All Members Welcome!

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