



Chanhassen Historian

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Spring 2015

HISTORY BITS

1954

The original Chanhassen American Legion was built on the site of what is now Axel's Restaurant. In 1959 the property was purchased by A.V. Krueger and Dallas Capesius and operated for many years as the Riviera Supper Club before being purchased by Axel's in 1999.

May 1966

Thirty men signed up to form Chanhassen's first Volunteer Fire Department at a meeting called by Mayor Gene Coulter at the Chanhassen American Legion. Officers elected at the first meeting on May 16 were: Fire Chief Jim Thompson: Assistant Fire Chief Bill Robertson: Fire Marshall Earl McAllister: Tom Klingelutz, Drillmaster.

March 17, 1969

Instant Web opened in Chanhassen. Originally located downtown it was the first major industry to locate in the new industrial park that was created after approval of the downtown revitalization project of 1980. IWCO is still a thriving corporation in Chanhassen.

July 4th 1970

Former Vice-President Hubert Humphrey was the Grand Marshall in Chanhassen's 4th of July Frontier Days Parade. Accompanying him in the car were Loretta Kelm and Emil Pauly.



Sister Leanne Maerz taught large first-grade classes with skill and tenderness as she served at St. Hubert's School during the 1950s and 60s.

Remembering a very special teacher

By Paula (Roeser) Atkins

First impressions mean a lot, and this is especially true for children. These impressions can become lasting memories, indelibly stamped on their little souls, be they good or bad impressions. As a first grader in 1963, I had the good fortune to be indelibly stamped with love and trust, due in part to my first grade teacher, Sister Leanne Maerz.

Many will remember this young Benedictine nun as their teacher or the teacher of their children in the late

1950s and early 1960s. The smiling face and gentle voice of Sister Leanne gave the impression of one of God's angels to my five-year-old mind. Needless to say, my memories of her have always brought a smile to my face. In talking to friends and relatives from that era I discovered I was not alone in forming these impressions of this special teacher.

Nancy (Schueren) Simpson:

"When I came to St. Hubert's School in 1958, Sister Leanne was my first
SISTER LEANNE to page 2

Historical Society Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 23

7 p.m., Chanhassen American Legion

Agenda includes election of officers and board members and sharing stories about items "Kept it All These Years"

Refreshments served.

Photos of Chanhassen for scanned archive welcome.

Current, new members and anyone interested in Chanhassen history are invited.

Sister Leanne

Continued from page 1

grade teacher. My cousin Bonnie Kerber was also in my class. Bonnie was a very social child and would often slide into my desk next to me and start chatting while Sister was teaching. Sister would patiently come over to my desk and gently assist Bonnie back to her own seat. She had to do this many times! Even at the age of six, I realized this person had tremendous patience, gentleness and grace in dealing with children in their first year of school.” When I look back at the year 1963 I realize not only did Sister Leanne look young, she was young. She would have been 39 at that time. She had bright blue eyes and a lovely unlined face, and I remember the gentleness of her hands. Of course, those were the only parts of a nun one could see in those days.

On November 22, 1963 a knock came at our classroom door shortly

after lunch. Sister answered, had a brief conversation with someone outside, then came back and stood in front of the class with a sorrowful face. She announced to us that President Kennedy had been shot. She asked us all to rise for prayers. What she said next was quite confusing to me; she asked us to pray for the man who had done this terrible deed. It took me many years to figure that one out, but I now realize that she did not believe our Catholic president was in trouble with God, but the man who shot him was.

Many of us still have the shadow silhouettes she made of each of us to give our parents for Christmas. The one accompanying this story is of Mark Roeser in 1964. Many children who



Mark Roeser

grew up near the school remember taking wild flowers to Sister, and all

the nuns at the convent in the spring, and how graciously they accepted our small offerings

Ken Smith:

“Sister Leanne was one of the five nuns on staff when I came to teach at Hubert’s School in 1965. We became friends and she shared many of the antics of her darling first graders with me, including the drawing of a well-endowed woman in a red dress – praying the rosary. The twinkle in Sister’s eye as I pointed this out let me know we were kindred spirits. We worked together for three years and remained good friends until her death in January.”

Sister Leanne (Lucille) Maerz OSB was born in Long Prairie, Minnesota, on July 17, 1924. She made her final profession of vows in July of 1945, age 21. She passed from this life on January 25, 2015, age 91. To those of us fortunate enough to have been touched by her presence in this life, she will remain the nun who most resembled one of God’s own angels.

Chanhassen Cemetery Walk Saturday, October 3

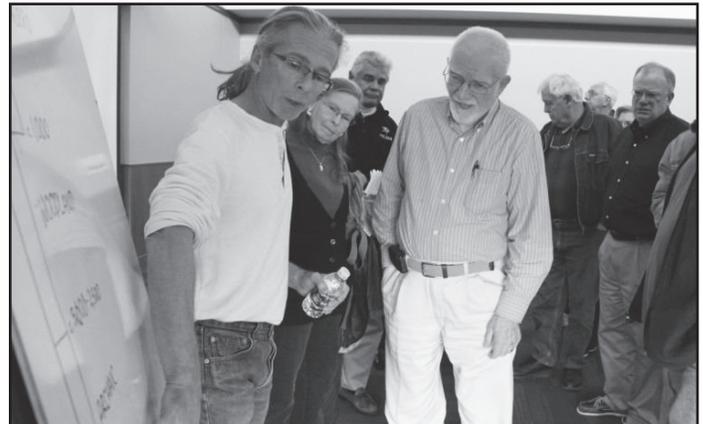
**10 a.m. at Senior Center; 1 and 4 p.m.
guided walk with bus transportation**

Co-sponsored by the City of Chanhassen
and the Chanhassen Historical Society

Chanhassen Cemetery Walk is returning on October 3! Join us as guides lead you on a walk through the Pioneer and St. Hubert Cemeteries. You will meet historical figures who will share highlights of their lives during the early years of Chanhassen.

Board a bus for a short ride to Pioneer Cemetery where you will meet your guide, Theodore Bost, one of the earliest pioneers. He will introduce you to George and Thelena Powers, Henry Lyman (our first Postmaster) and other early residents. Next stop is St. Hubert Cemetery to meet Fr. Fulgence Eich, a Franciscan priest who built the Historic Church. He will guide you through St. Hubert Cemetery while relaying information about early St. Hubertus and the Village of Chanhassen. You will meet Fred Geiser, Gerhard Schroeder (our first Mayor) and other early residents who will share their stories about life in Chanhassen.

This will be a free event, but pre-registration will be required by calling Chanhassen City Hall to reserve your space 952-227-1100.



Archeologist Kent Bakken explained the timeline of the artifacts found at the site of the dig. (Courtesy of Chanhassen Villager)

Archaeological dig event sponsored by Chanhassen Historical Society

By Claire Mitchell

A standing-room-only crowd of about 100 gathered at the Chanhassen Library Nov. 1 to learn about the discovery of several ancient campsites in Chanhassen. The event, which was sponsored by the Chanhassen Historical Society, featured Archeologist Kent Bakken. Bakken and other archeologists explored the site before work began on the Highway 101 bridge replacement project.

Artifacts found at the site include pottery and arrowheads, some of which date back nearly 8,000 years, according to Bakken. He described the artifacts, the history of landscape changes in the area and the challenges of digging at the site in winter. The artifacts are still being studied and will eventually go to the Minnesota Historical Society.

President's notes

Happy Spring!!
Once again it's time to reflect and celebrate the successes of this past year and look ahead to make plans for the upcoming year. As always, we express our



Lynn Murphy
CHS President

appreciation for your support. We know that people of all ages are curious and passionate and want to know about the historical past. These "history buffs" are visionaries who help us see where we are going by remembering where we came from.

The annual meeting is coming up on April 23 and we will once again ask for another type of support. We need your advice in regards to the type of programs you would enjoy attending. We need your ideas concerning events to benefit the community and we invite those interested in developing plans for future endeavors to join our board or volunteer to put on events.

As a community organization that preserves, studies and exhibits the artifacts of a continually changing city, we are grateful for the opportunity to present events and programs. There are many ways to support the work of the Chanhasen Historical Society! Becoming a member, donating, and volunteering help us continue to preserve and educate about the rich history of Chanhasen and the surrounding area. Without your membership fees and donations, our nonprofit organization would not be able to offer education and community events and programs. We thank you for your ongoing interest in delivering our mission. Please save the date!

Bring your photos to the Annual Meeting April 23 so they can be scanned for the Historical Society archives!
If possible, identify who is in them and when they were taken.

2015 planned schedule of events

April 23 - Annual General Membership Meeting, Chanhasen Legion

May - Senior Story Telling Video program – Hosted by Chanhasen Senior Center

May – September, Saturdays: Chanhasen Farmer's Market Booth (seeking volunteers)

May 23, 24, Memorial Day Weekend - Von Hanson's Brat Fundraiser (seeking volunteers)

July 4th -- Parade -- Chan special activity or parade participation (seeking volunteers)

Thursday, July 18, 2 pm
Remembering the Good Old Days

Chanhasen Historical Society will present their 'Sharing Stories of Chanhasen' program featuring a panel of area residents. We'll stroll down memory lane while sipping on root beer floats and sharing our own memories of growing up in Chanhasen. Where: Senior Center - \$5 - **Registration by July 9.** Contact the Chanhasen Senior Center - 952-227-1125 or online www.ci.chanhasen.mn.us/seniorcenter

September - SeptemberFest Community Picnic - Chanhasen Heritage Square

October 3 -- Cemetery Walk - Chanhasen Senior Center and Pioneer and St. Hubert's cemeteries



Join the Chanhasen Historical Society

Your membership will help with the preservation and restoration projects of Chanhasen's historic buildings, plus educational programs about our community's history. You also automatically become a member of the Carver County Historical Society.

Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Bronze: \$50 - \$100; Silver: \$101 - \$250; Gold: \$251 - \$500; Platinum: \$500 - \$1,000
Make checks payable to: Chanhasen Historical Society, P.O. Box 941, Chanhasen, MN 55317

Carver County Historical Society celebrates 75th anniversary; sponsors photo contest

Founded in 1940, the Carver County Historical Society (CCHS) will celebrate its 75th birthday this year. In honor of this occasion, the CCHS has planned a number of events.

The Werner Studio collection is on display now through the end of 2015. We also have a photo display which will change every two months. Come and visit often!

Photography Contest:

This contest is open to adults and youth. We would like to have the artist capture current history to be shared with people 75 years from now. What would you want to say to them or show them about life in 2015. Each photo must be submitted with a one-page essay, explaining why this subject was chosen, its historical value according to the artist, and why it is valuable in a time capsule documenting today's history. An example might be a picture

of a car, then a short one-page essay about your prediction of what or how we will be traveling in 2090.

The categories below were chosen because of their impermanence.

1. Nature or Landscape- natural habitats, farmland, parks, open spaces.
2. Technology- being used by someone- cell phones, computers, MP3, Ipads
3. People- for example generational photos
4. Entertainment- what we do for fun and leisure time, music, sports, books, relaxation
5. What does history mean to you?- What represents history to you?
6. Buildings- architectural features, importance of, material used to build. Change in buildings or building that might no longer exist.
7. Businesses- which will be around in 75 years, why or why not?

8. Fashion- changing fads, returning styles- what was popular in 2015

The top adult and youth in each category will present their piece at our 75th Anniversary time capsule dedication and place their piece inside. The overall top two to three photos will be published in the local paper. All entries are to be submitted to the Carver County Historical Society. Contest Dates: April 1-July 1. Prizes will be awarded to the top winner in each category.

Give your children or grandchildren the gift of history

Carver County Historical Society is offering summer camps for children in kindergarten through eighth grade this June and July.

Information found at www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.com

Chanhassen Historical Society

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