



Chanhassen Historian

Vol.11, No. 2

A Publication of the Chanhassen Historical Society

Fall 2019

Get to know a historic site...



Pioneer Cemetery

- January 20, 1861 : first meeting of Chanhassen Pioneer Cemetery Association, made up of persons who planned to be laid to rest there or had family members already buried there
- Responsible for keeping cemetery records, maintaining grounds, and tending to graves
- Lot price was set at \$1 and labor to dig the grave was set at 75¢ per day

Gravestone Symbol Meanings:

 Angel—Messenger of God

Arrow—Death, Mortality 

 Cross—Christian Faith

Daisy—Hope 

 Heart—Soul, Love, Piety

Lamb—Innocence, Child 

 Lily—Purity, Innocence, Resurrection

Rose—Wisdom, Love, Beauty 

 Wheat—Fertility, Bread of Life

Deeper Stories from the Cemetery—Albert Pauly

Nancy Simpson

Members of the Chanhassen Historical Society along with the City of Chanhassen are eagerly preparing for the upcoming biennial Cemetery Walk to be held Saturday, October 5th. Actors, who have been carefully selected for their parts, are preparing their lines. Costuming and rehearsal details are thoughtfully being considered. We all hope for one of those sunny fall days where the sun shines through the gold and red maple leaves.

Twenty-one actors will each take their place at the headstone of a Chanhassen resident gone by, doing their best to embody life in the early stages of settlement. Eleven actors at Pioneer Cemetery will represent early Chanhassen settlers, many dating back to the mid-1800s, while actors at the St Hubert Cemetery represent a slightly more current era of the early to mid 1900s. The complete Cemetery Walk gives the observer an insightful overview of the history of the town.

One favorite character along the route of the St Hubert's Cemetery is Albert Pauly, as many Pauly decedents continue to call Chanhassen their home.

Like many residents in the early 1900's, Albert Pauly worked on the railroad. In 1914 he took over the local general store run by Henry Kelm. Albert built his first store along the railroad tracks, roughly near today's intersection of Hwy 5 and Great Plains Blvd. This location near the tracks was intended to accommodate the needs of the railroad as well as local residents. Albert carried boots, clothing, pots and pans, oil and coal – just about anything a Chanhassen resident would need in 1915.

In the early 1900's, reuse, repair, and recycle were simply a normal part of everyday life. While working on the railroad, Albert had learned the valuable skill of rope splicing. He incorporated this skill into his new business. The farmers in town looked to Albert to splice severed ropes for reuse on their farms.

Albert was a charming man. He felt that a town business should have only the interests of the residents they serve in mind. Private stories have often been told as to Albert's compassion toward his customers during the Great Depression.

With Albert's store conveniently built near the railroad, it was natural that he would also run the local postal service. The incoming mail bag was tossed from the train without the train even slowing down, then picked up from the ditch by store employees and sorted for the Chanhassen residents to claim when they visited the store.

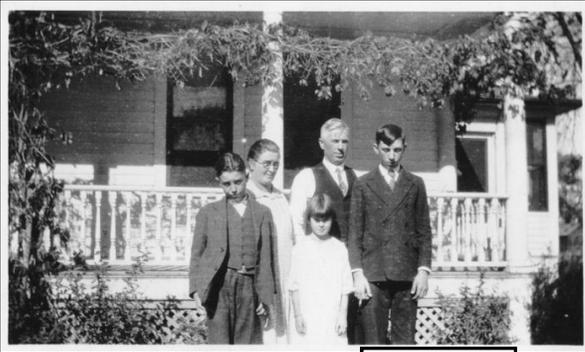
A fire on November 4, 1929 burned the store to the ground. Albert's parents lived above the store and had to be rescued from the blaze. The commotion drew many local residents, who helped recover as many supplies as possible from inside. (Continued Page 2)



Albert Pauly's first general store, 1914



Pioneer Cemetery, Galpin Blvd.



Pauly Family

Deeper Stories from the Cemetery (Continued from page 1)

After the fire, Albert temporarily housed his store in the local Village Hall. His business thrived and soon he built a new store along Main Street near what is now Goddard School. The new store was bigger and better than ever – more supplies such as dry goods and gas pumps were added to accommodate a new era of shoppers. The post office remained a part of the store. Not to go unmentioned, if you wanted to know the local news and gossip, Albert's store was the place to come.

In the 1950's Albert's son, Dutch (Willard) Pauly, took over the family business, running both the store and the Postal business.

Albert's story is just one of many you will experience at this year's Cemetery Walk. Both the Chanhassen Historical Society and the City of Chanhassen welcome you to attend this event. It is free of charge to the public, but you must register to attend. Space is limited so sign up early! See page 3 for even details registration instructions!

Meet Our New Board Member!

Margaret Ann Kerber Tran (Peggy)

I'm very excited to be a board member of the Chanhassen Historical Society for many reasons. First, I'm proud of the fact that I grew up here in Chanhassen, as well as my grandparents being early settlers of this town. Second, I've been privileged to watch it grow into a coveted location to live. History has always fascinated me. Third, our community has been blessed by several famous landmarks: the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, and most recently, Paisley Park. Most importantly are my family memories and the close-knit community I call my roots.

I grew up on one of several farms in Chanhassen - ours was a dairy farm that my father, being actually born in the living room of the old house, bought from his parents, Jacob and Josephine Kerber. I was the fourth of 11 children to my parents, Patrick and Patricia (Schoenle) Kerber.

My earliest childhood memory was my dad bundling me up and carrying me out to the barn in the cold dark winter hours. He sat me on some bales of hay, and I watched him try to thaw out the frozen faucet in the barn so he could water the cattle. Winters were so cold growing up.

It was a simpler life in those days. There were no new fangled washing machines or air conditioners, and most folks could barely afford a black and white TV. No modern conveniences to speak of. I recollect only a few buildings in town on main street: the church, convent, bar, café, feed mill, and gas station. The population was around 200 and everywhere you went in town you knew the people you would see. It created a loving community that worked together, helping one another.

When my grandpa Jake died, I stayed with my grandma one weekend. She taught me all kinds of hand-sewing work, like embroidering and crocheting. It became a hobby which I developed and honed over the years. Eventually with some schooling and experience, I became a skilled tailor. Today I have been with Best Cleaners in Chanhassen as a tailor for over 7 years.

Having a black and white TV didn't mean you could just sit around and watch it-there were chores to be done first. Mom always had a list. If we weren't in the house cooking, cleaning, or ironing, we were outside clearing weeds in mom's garden, thistles or rocks in the fields, or feeding the animals with my dad. Memories of pulling carrots and eating them fresh out of the ground after wiping the dirt off, and eating a raw freshly shucked ear of corn from a barrel just picked are experiences I cherish. At the end of summer, the favorite time on the farm was

bringing in the crop. Using old-fashioned manpower in lieu of expensive equipment was not unusual in a town our size. After baling hay the men would enjoy a cold beer and conversation.

As Catholics, we attended St. Hubert's Church as well as the school. We walked about 5 blocks to and from school each day. We were raised with a strong faith as well as strong work ethic. We prayed grace before and after meals and recited prayers at bedtime. On Saturdays after work was done, we'd bathe and get our hair put up in rags or spooly curlers. On Sundays we went to church, and the only work we did was feeding the animals.

Sometimes we'd pack a picnic lunch and go to the arboretum. I only remember playing on a huge dead tree back then, but today it has become such a beautiful and impressive attraction that people come to visit from all over the world. I like to walk and snowshoe the many trails there.

Having so many siblings, we didn't have many material things like toys and clothes. We wore hand-me-downs and played cards, make-up games, or catch with each other. We had enough love I guess and didn't miss what we never had.

After graduating from Chaska High School, I met my husband of 43 years—a refugee who fought along our soldiers in Vietnam. Years later our four children would visit his family in Saigon. It was a huge culture shock. I thought I was reliving my childhood without modern conveniences. The only thing that helped us get through the heat and conditions there were the amazing people there. Their warm welcoming community also reminded me of home here in Chanhassen. While there, we felt humbled at how much we've been blessed in our country and how much we've taken for granted. We are truly blessed here in America to have freedom and the many advantages our country offers.

Over many years I not only saw countless shows at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, I also worked there. I became friends with the Bloomberg family and came to believe that the theater had put Chanhassen on the map.

I've enjoyed living in Chanhassen all my life and watching the community grow over the years-today the population sign reads 22,700. I wish that everyone could experience growing up on a farm and the values, hard work, faith, and sense of community it instills from a young age. Appreciating family and remembering where we came from can help us when times get tough.



Margaret Ann Tran

**BACK BY POPULAR
DEMAND!**

Cemetery Walk Returns!

Saturday October 5th—Free!

- 10am: Indoor performance at the Chanhassen Senior Center
- 1pm & 4pm: Walking tours from Historic St. Hubert's Plaza
381 West 78th Street

Chanhassen history comes to life on this guided walking tour through Chanhassen Pioneer Cemetery and St. Hubert's Cemetery. Actors portray prominent citizens from our town's past to share Chanhassen history and highlights of their pioneer lives from various eras!



**REGISTER FOR
THE CEMETERY
WALK TODAY!**

Join the Chanhassen Historical Society!

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

**Saturday October 5
10:00am, 1pm, 4pm**

FREE

Limited capacity –

Reserve your space today!

By phone:

952-227-1100

Online:

kmeuwissen@ci.chanhassen.mn.us

Membership Application

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# () _____ E-mail _____

Individual (\$15) Family (\$25) Bronze (\$50-\$100)

Silver(\$101-\$125) Gold(\$251-\$500) Platinum (\$500-\$1,000)

Make checks payable to: Chanhassen Historical Society

P.O. Box 941, Chanhassen, MN 55317

Notes from the President

This has been a year of new growth and development for Chanhassen Historical Society.

We welcome new Board members, Peggy Kerber Tran (featured in this issue) and Sam Aas, a recent college graduate of with a degree in museum studies.

This summer was spent presenting our case for stewardship of the recently vacant Historic Village Hall before the Chanhassen City Council and gathering signatures on our petition to gain support for this endeavor. During the Chanhassen 4th of July festivities we were pleased (and grateful) to be allowed to set up a display of our many artifacts and photographs at the site and open the doors to the public so they could see first-hand what a perfect space this would be to house the Chanhassen Historical Soci-

ety. I cannot say enough about the enthusiasm I have encountered from the Chanhassen community in support of our efforts!

On Saturday October 5 we will again present the Chanhassen Cemetery Walk, our signature event which began in 2008 – and the community will have the opportunity to visit what we hope will eventually become our museum, the Historic Village Hall.

Please join us on October 5 for the Cemetery Walk (Reservations required) or just stop by between 1:00 and 4:00 to visit the Historic Village Hall. We would love to see you!



Paula Atkins, President

CORRECTION

In the article titled "Joe's Place" from our Spring issue of the Chanhassen Historian (Vol. 11, No. 1) it was stated that Joe's glassware was rinsed during the week and washed weekly during chores by his children. We wish to clarify this statement that may have been misleading—the glassware was washed between each use during the week and was additionally given an extra deep cleaning during the weekly chores once a week.

Apologies for the possible misinterpretation of these statements!

Chanhassen Historical Society

P.O. Box 941

Chanhassen, MN 55317

Board of Directors

Paula Atkins, President

Phone: 952-934-0501

contact@chanhistorical.org

Art Mason, Vice President

Lucy Haukoos, Treasurer

Sally Atkins, Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Mary Freeburg Osborn, Ron Roeser,

Peggy Kerber Tran, Sam Aas

Jackson Atkins, Web Editor

Chanhassen Historical Society Website:

chanhistorical.org

