

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 3, Issue 6: June, 2009

“Minnesota City: A Past that we honor; a Present that we give meaning; a Future that we build together”

Mark your calendars!

June 11: MCHA regular monthly meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Archives Site; 140 Mill Street

No Summer Reading Group Meetings: Next meeting - September 17. Selection - F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

Go “Green”!

If you receive this newsletter in paper form and would prefer to receive it electronically, please call 689-2440.

140 Mill Street Archives Open to Public on June 13

Beginning on June 13, the Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) will have open hours at the Archives from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month. During these hours, visitors will be able to discuss with other interested persons the history of Minnesota City, locate materials on people and events, and will be able to donate any materials to the archives or bring materials to be copied. Through contributions of the City Council of Minnesota City and Winona Foundation grant money, the association has purchased a printer-copier-scanner as well as a laptop computer, enabling exchange and/or reproduction of materials during these visits.

Visit the Archives on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beginning on June 13.

Examine materials, contribute materials, visit with friends.

140 Mill Street, Minnesota City.

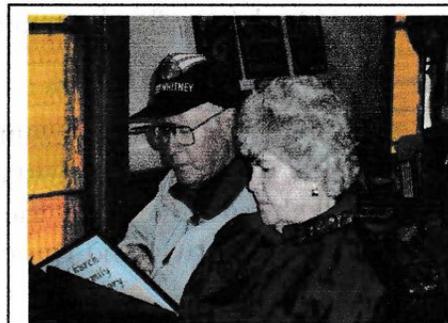
Persons wishing to volunteer for archives work can call 689-2440.

To verify open hours, phone 450-0201.

Increased Involvement of Community Individuals and Groups Contributes to Success of 2009 Minnesota City Day

Two organizational meetings for participating groups and individuals preceded this year's city wide celebration on May 16. The planning at these sessions resulted in the variety of activities, food, and commemorations of the day, permitting many to attend several events. These groups-- Minnesota City Historical Association, Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund, Riverway Learning Community, 16 U Baseball, Barbershoppers, Minnesota City Fire Department, St. Paul's Catholic Church, First Baptist Ladies Aid--all made significant contributions of time and energy to the occasion. Additional friends and family members of these groups contributed to a successful day; all deserve thanks.

As a Winona paper reporter wrote, attendees crammed the First Baptist Church for several Minnesota City Day events sponsored by the Minnesota City Historical Association. These included skits recounting historical realities of early settler men and women and honoring especially the First Baptist Ladies Aid of Minnesota City, children's games, strawberry shortcake with cream whipped on site and flavored with Watkin's vanilla, and the rich sounds of a dozen members of the Barbershoppers.



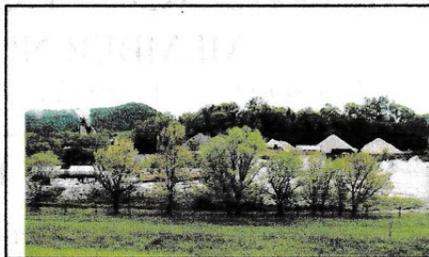
Delwin and Sherrie Tschumper examine materials from MCHA Archives on May 16 Minnesota City Day.

(Continued on page 4 – see **Minnesota City Day**)

Area Highway Work Stories Repeat Uncertain Pathways/ Roads of Projects.

A number of newspaper accounts of highway improvements in past years may encourage or discourage readers to take a realistic view of continual inconveniences and benefits of road improvement. The Winona Newspaper Project is a rich resource of articles on highway work. A July 28, 1926 article "Road to Minnesota City is Open" (subtitled State Highway Paving Being Rushed at Whitman Toward Minnesota City) states that "it is not expected that the paving crew will be able to finish the paving between Minnesota City and Minneiska in less than two months and it may be longer before traffic will be able to go over the completed link of the new paving between

here and Minneiska... making allowances for bad weather, time taken out for moving and from ten days to two weeks for hardening of the concrete, the completed stretch from here to Minneiska will not be open much before October 1." A 1936 report states "Some of the material taken from the cut slope on the side hill next to the highway about two miles north of Minnesota City is being filled into the slough on the other side of the road between it and the river said Mr. Johnson (Wabasha filed engineer). This is being done to fill in a slope to the highway gradual enough so that guard rails will be unnecessary. Sumac and shrubbery are being planted in some sections of the slope on the side hill there to improve appearances of the job and to protect it somewhat from erosion and some trees are being moved back from the highway to screen the pole line of the wires which is to be set far from the road itself." A check of this site two miles north of Minnesota City today reveals a changed, eroding landscape following the construction of the four lane highway.



Blacktopping equipment and materials at Highways 248 and 61 at Minnesota City

MCHA thanks

- Don and Sandy Evanson for the computer modem to enable internet connection.
- the City Council of Minnesota City for the money for purchase of the new Hewlett Packer scanner-printer-copier at the archival site.
- Don Evanson, Jack King, and Jim O'Grady for assistance in "installing" the chemical toilet purchased by MCHA.
- Lori Ledebuhr for donation to the archives of her dollhouse made by Glen Alleman in 1972.

MCHA extends sympathy to

- the family of Grace Tschumper, Elba, Minnesota. Grace died on April 9. The Tschumper family were early residents of Minnesota City, living in the home next to the First Baptist Church, now owned by the Ferden family. Grace was a member of MCHA. Two of her brothers, Delwin and Bryle live in Winona.

MCHA congratulates

- Lucille Blumentritt, teacher of many Minnesota City students, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.
- Byrle and Edith Tschumper on the 60th anniversary of their May 28, 1949 wedding at Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Winona.
- the six May 29, 2009 graduates of Riverway Learning Community: Joseph Biegel, Trina Dienger, Nickolas Hoff, Mitchell Koutsky, Taylor Stoos, and Danielle Thorn.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

The French maxim suggests that apparent change is not necessarily substantial change. With increased populations with Minnesota City addresses in annexed and outlying areas, a perusal of the local media usually includes finding one or more Minnesota City persons named in association with “unsavory activities.” Newspaper reporting of crimes and criminals give readers florid details on the affairs of their neighbors. This practice is not a new one. A June, 1904 Winona Republican Herald paper carried this headline “Houses are Entered,” subtitled “Wholesale Raid Made at the Village of Minnesota City Last Night.” The article informs readers that “The village of Minnesota City was raided by burglars last night, a half dozen places being entered, but aside from a gold watch and two gold chains, very little of value was taken. So far as learned, the occupants of only one house were aroused, and as they gave the alarm, it is probable that this was the last place entered. Those reporting a visit from the burglar are Mr. Hilke of the City hotel, E. Stein, A.R. Klaveter, F. Krugmeier and Mrs. J. H. Adams . . . the burglar had entered by way of a window and after going thru the lower part of the house went upstairs and entered the room of a young man named Bricher, the day operator at Whitman who boards at this place. The watch and chains had been presented to Mr. Bricher only a couple of weeks ago by his parents on the occasion of his twenty first birthday anniversary. Its actual value was about 40 dollars, but on account of its being a present, Mr. Bricher would rather have lost a much larger sum of money. From this room, the burglar entered the room of Miss Krugmeier who was awakened by the burglar’s moving about. “This young lady was plucky and ordered the marauder to leave the room at once, at the same time calling loudly and arousing other members of the family. After forcing his way in thru windows with a small butcher knife in one place and a jack knife in another, he went to the City Hotel and entered by one of the windows into the wine room. Mr. Hilke has a large built dog, a vicious animal. The growling of this animal probably frightened the fellow away, for when Mr. Hilke arose, no one was to be seen.”” A check of police and sheriff reports in local papers this week reveals that readers continue to have at their fingertips the record of stolen potted plants and pool cues, including their values—and cell phone calls and texting that have violated restraining orders. (Editor’s opinion: Fortunately, they did not print the messages for readers.)

Father’s Day History in the U.S.: A Recent Official Holiday (Source: Wikipedia)

In the United States, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. The first modern Father's Day celebration was held on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia or on June 19th of the same year, in the state of Washington. Since then, Father's Day is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of June.

In West Virginia, it was first celebrated as a church service at Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South, now known as Central United Methodist Church. Grace Golden Clayton, who is believed to have suggested the service to the pastor, is believed to have been inspired to celebrate fathers after the deadly mine explosion in nearby Monongah the prior December. This explosion killed 361 men, many of them fathers and recent immigrants to the United States from Italy. Another possible inspiration for the service was Mothers' Day, which had been celebrated for the first time two months prior in Grafton, West Virginia, a town about 15 miles (24 km) away.

(Continued on page 4 – see **Father’s Day**)

Minnesota City Day (continued from page 1)



Cast of the historical skits watch as memento flowers are presented to honored members of the First Baptist Ladies Aid, credited for preservation of the historic church.

historic church where tapes, slides, exhibits and the archival space were examined.

In addition to the persons visiting Riverway Learning Community for the morning free-of-charge pancake breakfast, many also came for the screening of the Garvin Brook developed DVD entitled "In a Flash," interviews of area residents and area officials involved in the 2007 flood.

Check the website www.minnesotacity.org for additional Minnesota City Day photos and other Minnesota City and area news.

This group (the Barbershoppers), organized for the event by Duane Hutton, sang well known favorites including *In the Good Old Summertime* and *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, and joined and/or led the audience in a number of other songs selected for the event. Musicians accompanying the audience were Carla Burton, Kate O'Grady, and Jim O'Grady.

Cool weather encouraged people to spend time in the



Christine Ferden and Kate O'Grady, wearing aprons (and coats to withstand chilly weather), use beaters, Watkin's vanilla, and homemade shortcakes to serve strawberry shortcake to First Baptist church/MCHA Archives on May 16.

Father's Day (continued from page 3)

Another driving force behind the establishment of the integration of Father's Day was Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd, born in Creston, Washington. Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who reared his six children in Spokane, Washington. She was inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts to establish Mother's Day. Although she initially suggested June 5, her father's birthday, she did not provide the organizers with enough time to make arrangements, and the celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June. The first June Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, WA, at the Spokane YMCA. Unofficial support from such figures as William Jennings Bryan was immediate and widespread. President Woodrow Wilson was personally feted by his family in 1916. President Calvin Coolidge recommended it as a national holiday in 1924. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made Father's Day a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of June. The holiday was not officially recognized until 1972, during the presidency of Richard Nixon. (Wikipedia)

***Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to:
MCHA, P.O. Box 41, Minnesota City, MN, 55959.***

All monies will be used to support Association goals.

Separate or additional donations may also be sent to the above address.