

MINNESOTA CITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSLETTER – Volume 6, Issue 12: December, 2012

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

Mark Your Calendar

December 8:
“Ring in the Holidays”;
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.;
140 Mill Street

December 20
Minnesota City
Community Readers;
6:30 p.m.; 115 Iowa
Street; Former
Minnesota City
School; Selection:
Unorthodox by
Deborah Feldman

Go “Green”!

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

Rebecca Weiss, Vanessa Butenhoff, Don Evanson, Nora Butenhoff, Lynda Brzezinski, and Jean Gardner. Kate O’Grady will narrate, and the carols will all include audience participation. Debi LaFee has graciously offered materials and installment of holiday decorations.

This year’s program music and recitations will focus on the sounds of the season. A timely carol/recitation will be “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow during the Civil War. The original organ of the historic Baptist Church will be featured in renditions of Jean Gardner, longtime organist at the church and member of the Baptist First Ladies Aid which owns and maintains the building. The Estey organ was purchased in 1880 for \$125.00 according to church records. Photos of organ detail and a panel of material related to bells of area churches (Minnesota City, Rollingstone, Stockton, and Minneiska) will be available for attendee perusal.

Newsletter readers, members and friends of Minnesota City Historical Association (MCHA) and the public are invited to the December 8 annual caroling event sponsored by the Minnesota City Historical Association

This event has become a community wide gathering of attendees to enjoy the presentation and each other’s friendships. With the infusion of historical commentary on a number of selections, residents and friends of Minnesota City in solo and ensemble selections will present an evening of entertainment and information.

The historic First Baptist Church, 140 Mill Street, which houses the archives of the Minnesota City Historical Association is the site of the presentation on **Dec. 8 at 6:00 p.m.** An annual central attraction of the celebration is the presence of the Edwin and Judy Maus’ horse drawn wagon. Assisted by their son, Bryce, the family provides rides through the village following the in church program and caroling. In addition to the horses, children are always interested in the gift and candy bags that are found under the tree, contributed by Rebecca Weiss and Lynda Brzezinski, imitating the custom of celebrations at the Minnesota City churches since their beginnings.

Among the musicians are Camden Webster, Will Krageschmidt,



Rebecca Weiss describes her Canjo, which she will play on December 8, to Vanessa Butenhoff, and Lynda Brzezinski and Gen O’Grady

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“Ringing in the Holidays” - Continued from Pg 1

Attendees are invited to contribute a refreshment for the evening—bars, cookies, etc.. If the food has special significance, accompanying notes describing its heritage will be included in the next months newsletters. Any Jilk descendent might contribute “Divinity” memories. Many of their homes prepared it for the Christmas holiday.

Remember

Remember. Remember long ago.

On a night with a gentle falling snow. Falling Snow.

Falling Snow.

Can we offer you what Christmas dares to know?

Christmas is how in every nation hope is passed

Through generations from old to young.

And sometimes I'm told it's actually passed from young to old.

Across the street we heard an old familiar sound.

It was a multitude of voices from the old church's choir

Singing out about this night and the hope that it inspires. (Trans Siberian Orchestra).

December 8 in U.S. History:

Top ten List?

1863 Abraham Lincoln's Amnesty Proclamation and plan for Reconstruction of the South.

1874 Jesse James gang takes train at Muncie, Kansas

1886 American Federation of Labor (AFL) formed by 26 craft unions. Samuel Gompers elected president.

1909 Bird Banding society found.

1926 NAACP files suit to equalize salaries of black and white teachers.

1940 1st NFL championship on National Radio. Bears beat Redskins 73-0.

1941 US and Britain declare war on Japan, US enters WW II.

1952 1st TV acknowledgement of pregnancy—I Love Lucy.

1987 Occupied Palestinians start “intifada” against Israel.

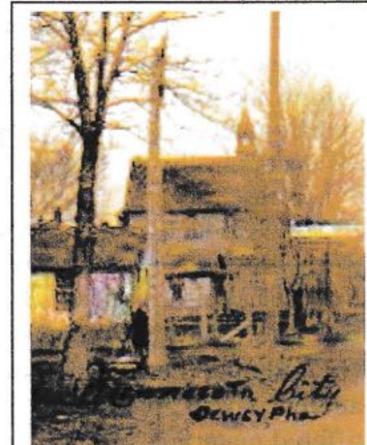
1989 Great Britain performs nuclear test.

Methodist Church, Woodman Hall, an Early Minnesota City Christmas Presence

In 1872, the Methodist Episcopal Church was located on Minnesota Street. Little is known in Minnesota City about this church; the records are scarce. The group was established in March of 1872 and is still referred to in 1904. The group disbanded some time after that date. There are only a few pictures in which the church building can be seen in the distance. It later became the Woodman hall. The building no longer exists. If anyone has information on or pictures of this church, please contact the Minnesota City Historical Association.

(www.minnesotacity.org) In its history, the building was used for a number of community events, especially church events..

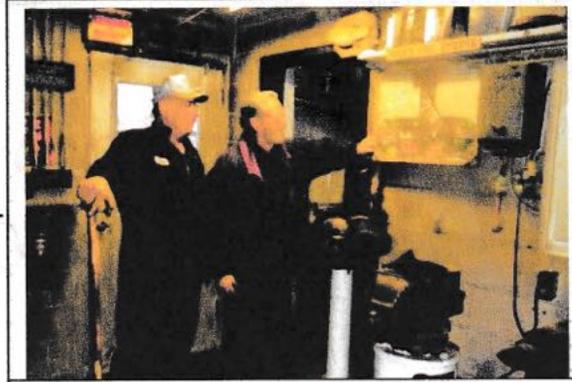
“Plans for the community party in observance of the Christmas season to which the community is invited, have been completed by the Ladies community circle of Minnesota City and will be held at the Woodman hall, on the evening of Monday, Dec. 23. A Christmas tree and decorations will feature the event...Modern Woodmen of America, Minnesota City camp, held their annual election of officers at their last meeting. The following officers were names for the coming year: Consul, Henry Whetstone; worthy advisor, Walter Wockenfuss; clerk, A.J. Tschumper; banker, Herbert Witt; escort, Howard Daering; sentry, August Benck; watchman, Emil Norbye....” *Winona Republican Herald; December 16, 1929.* With minimal research, the Woodmen appeared to be a fraternal organization. According to Wikipedia, one spinoff of the group was The Foresters, a fraternal insurance organization. Information on any of these topics would be valued for addition to the archives files; please send to mgogrady@embarqmail.com.



Methodist Church Woodman Hall in Background. Note the bell tower.

David Kleinbach Retires from City Council

The recent election coverage by Winona media recorded Dave Kleinbach's retirement from Minnesota City City Council after 32 years of service (with only one missed meeting!). "One of the closest elections in the area -- decided upon by a margin of just three votes -- was in the race for two Minnesota City Council seats. Joseph Pellowski and Richard Hohensee each secured a win with 55 votes cast for both, narrowly defeating candidate Dave Kleinbach, who brought in 52 votes." (Winona Post 11/11/2012). Kleinbach had voiced his intention to retire, but when no one had registered with election day close, Kleinbach entered his name, which following the registration of Joseph Pellowski, did turn the council seat election into an apparent "race."



Dave Kleinbach describes for Marvin O'Grady the tractors on a shop bulletin board.

Minnesota City Historical Association, we believed, would add to its archives with information from Dave about this long term of experience. A few notes intended for discussion with Dave proved unnecessary; we didn't get to most of those. Dave gave us comfortable chairs in his truck repair shop where nonstop conversation ensued. Kleinbach is a storyteller with a gift of clear recall and interesting detail. His atlas like recitation of names related to early jobs and life experiences would make him a go-to person for information on a myriad of subjects. Burbach, Pickart, Schumacher, Kreidemacher, Cisewski, Kronebusch, Ramer—and names of current Minnesota City residents. Names connected with his life are a small part of his vibrant recall of work sites and experiences—the home farm, school, the Navy, Winona Ready Mix, his own truck repair service.

Dave probably readily understood some issues of city government because of personal experiences. A Kleinbach home on Lake Street was taken by the government for construction of Highway 61 (later sold by Dave to an individual who removed it), and their current property was affected by the 2007 flood.

A discussion of the recently installed sewer system, annexation issues, space limitations, retention of the post office, historic issues—Bingo, use of the former school building, different approaches to community involvement -- evoked responses from Kleinbach that probably mimic his assessment of the Minnesota City Council meetings and his own participation. "Nearly all meetings," he said, "have been short, harmonious discussions, and have accomplished the agendas." More residents at city council meetings would have been welcome.

During our visit, the attention to the customer coming to the truck repair shop to retrieve his repaired vehicle, Dave's invitation to his wife Judy to join us in the shop, seemed indicative of the ease with which he continues to be navigating a productive, interesting life.

To Dave and all city council members—thank you for serving.

MCHA Extends Sympathy

- To the family and friends of Max R. Clegg, 82, who died in Winona on November 4. Clegg was born in Mankato, Kansas, where he was interred.
- To the family and friends of Anthony Merchlewitz, 75, who died at his home in Faribault, Mn on November 3. Anthony was born in Stockton, the son of Florian and Linda Merchlewitz.

Note: Marianne Mastenbrook's granddaughter, Mara, was misnamed in the November newsletter photo caption. Our apologies.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 P.M.

140 MILL STREET, MINNESOTA CITY
HISTORIC FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

RINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS



*Caroling, Entertainment,
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides,
Refreshments,
Bell History*

*Sponsored by Minnesota City Historical Association
and Baptist First Ladies Aid
689-2440; 689-4103*

Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Association is invited to send \$15.00 to MCHA, P.O. Box 21, 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.

Check Out The Website: www.minnesotacity.org

Continue to check the website periodically. New information is constantly being added. Remind family and friends and former Minnesota City residents to check it out! Thank you to Marv O'Grady and David Eckert for keeping the website updated.