

The Prairie View

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPRING 2018



Members & guests are cordially invited to

EDEN PRAIRIE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Annual Meeting

Thurs., April 12, 2018 • 6:00PM

Cummins-Phipps-Grill House

13600 Pioneer Trail • Eden Prairie

SOCIAL & REFRESHMENTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Adam Kaeding, PhD, RPA
ARCHAEOLOGY MANAGER

The Eden Prairie
Historical Society invites you
to tour the charming
Cummins-Phipps-Grill House
and shop vintage treasures,
antiques and garden items,
jewelry, watercolor art
& unique finds!



Thurs. 12-7 • Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 10-2
SO 13600 PIONEER TRAIL • EDEN PRAIRIE OR



MARGARET HECKER TALKS TO CONNIE WILLIAMS

The Oral History Project is an ongoing volunteer endeavor of the Eden Prairie Historical Society. The committee is interviewing and recording oral histories of the men and women who lived the Great Depression, World War II and Eden Prairie's 1950's post-war economic boom. They have unique opinions and observations. Their numbers are dwindling. Their stories are priceless.

On this taped April 13, 2015 oral history, interviewer Connie Williams introduced 103-year old Margaret Hecker. Margaret's daughter Marlene Lawson accompanied her mother for the interview.

Mrs. Hecker, Margaret, tells us that she and her husband Harold Hecker moved to Eden Prairie from Richfield in 1956. "While we lived in Richfield we met and became friends with Martin and Mildred Grill," recalled Margaret. "Now, those are really two Eden Prairie old-timers ... and they said ... come out and live near us." So the Heckers bought "62 acres by the airport from Mr. Grill." "Oh, we had a house up on the hill and we could look over the whole valley. It was a pretty spot, still is a pretty spot. And the river below us was the Minnesota River."

"The airport was an important thing in our lives, because we owned two airplanes. My husband Harold liked to fly," chuckled Margaret. "Oh dear. And Harold would take us up because he had a flyer's license. And we'd fly around here and occasionally to down to Faribault at night, you know, it was so pretty. And then we'd stop, once in awhile and get a steak sandwich or something like that. You made your fun in those days."

"Harold was Lions governor twice. But so were some of the other men, presidents and all that kind of thing. They were very good about giving their time. It meant a lot. And then the families would pitch in. When the Lions had lunches and events the women would step in and help. I mean, people were very kind, very open. I really liked Eden Prairie."



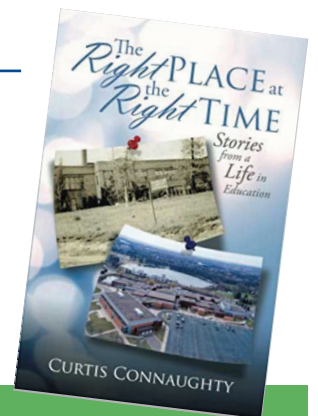
"Did you tell them that Daddy built the first schooner, the Eden Prairie schooner?" Marlene asked her mother. "He built it", Marlene continued. "He was the Lions Club president when Schooner Days started and he built the first schooner. I mean, he could build anything!"

Sadly, six weeks after the interview, on May 29, 2015, Margaret Graziano Hecker passed away.

The Historical Society is interested in hearing from people who would like to be Interviewers so we can capture more stories like Margaret's. Volunteers will be introduced to the project, be trained to use our recording equipment and coached on taking the interviews. If interested in learning more, please e-mail committee co-chair Alison Noble at clionoble@aol.com.

Curt Connaughty was at THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Enjoy "The Right Place at the Right Time: Stories From a Life in Education" chronicling Eden Prairie High School sports teams which Curt Connaughty coached throughout decades as Eden Prairie transformed from a small rural community to a large, metro area suburb. The book can be purchased at the History Center and Museum for \$14.



Mark Your Calendars

- **Annual Meeting:** April 12, 6:00 at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House with Guest Speaker Adam Kaeding
- **Story of A Historic Children's Camp:** May 10, 5:00 at Camp Eden Wood with Guest Speaker Mary Krugerud. Hosted by the Eden Prairie Historical Society and True Friends
- **Fifth Annual Cummins Farmhouse Market & Vintage Sale:** May 10-12 at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House
- **Appreciation-for-all-the-folks-who-help-at-the-CPG-House Picnic:** June 7, 3:30 at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House.

If you're interested in getting involved with the CPG House Committee, please let us know.

president's message

LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS SPRING

Dear members, I am thrilled to share with you the exciting events we have to offer this Spring!

Our **Annual Meeting at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House** will be held on Thursday, April 12: 6:00 for social time and refreshments; business meeting at 6:45. At 7:00 we are proud to present Adam Kaeding PhD, RPA Archaeology Manager for the CSAH 61 project. Come hear about what historic artifacts were discovered around Robert T. Anderson Park and Lion's Tap.

Eden Prairie Historical Society and True Friends are coming together with the City of Eden Prairie, Eden Prairie Heritage Preservation Commission, Lions & Lioness of Eden Prairie and the Eden Prairie Community Foundation to tell the "Story of A Historic Children's Camp" on May 10 at the National Register-designated Camp Eden Wood. Special guest speaker will be Mary Krugerud, documentary writer and co-producer of "From Beginning To End: Glen Lake Tuberculosis Sanatorium and Oak Terrace Nursing Home" and author of "Interrupted Lives." The evening will begin with tours of the historic children's camp at 5:00, followed

by refreshments provided by True Friends and a cash bar by the Lions and ending with words from John LeBlanc, President & CEO of True Friends. This is a unique and very special evening being offered to our members first! The site can hold 90 people. Please RSVP to me at kc.case@comcast.net or call me 952-949-0915 ASAP. Leave a message, I will call back to confirm.



And mark your calendars for the **Annual Cummins Farmhouse Market & Vintage Sale** over Mother's Day weekend, May 10-12.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Kathie Case, EPHS President

the whole community worked hard to provide education to its children

GOULD SCHOOL

The original Gould School, built early in 1858, was named for Aaron Gould who donated the land. It was a one-room building constructed of tamarack logs, located at the northwest corner of what is now the intersection of Pioneer Trail and Eden Prairie Road. Against the walls, there was plank seating with more planks attached, which served as the student desks. A stove was in the center for warmth. Students ranged from 6 to 25 years old. The children's parents supplied wood and water for the school and boarded the teachers. For the first years, class was held only during the three months of winter. But the log building was used year-round for other community events. For instance, on May 11, 1858, the day Minnesota achieved statehood, the citizens of Eden Prairie met at Gould School to organize their newly-formed township's governing body and elect Eden Prairie's first Town Board. And the Methodist congregation held services at the school until a church was built in 1872.

There were three other one-room schoolhouses in Eden Prairie. The Wolf School was located near the present site of Pax Christi Church. The Jarrett School was near Round Lake and the Anderson School stood in the present-day Sears south parking lot at Eden Prairie Center. All four

schools were remodeled or rebuilt between 1870-75. The new buildings were a source of community pride and luxurious compared to the log buildings. The new white clapboard buildings had real desks, a stove with a jacket around it and a method of ventilation through the chimney. The outhouses were still outside, see doorway at the back of the building, above. The school year by the 1870's had lengthened to 7 months. Each of Eden Prairie's one-room schools educated about 35 children/year, first through 8th grades.



After years of debate, Eden Prairie consolidated the school districts and the four one-room schools were decommissioned in 1924. Gould School was remodeled as a house and moved to 16361 Pioneer Trail in 1950 by Harry Rogers. The house was burned down in May, 2005.

our library has evolved
MINNEAPOLIS ATHENAEUM

The Athenaeum was originally organized by Minneapolis businessmen in 1859 as a private subscription library. The Athenaeum became a partner of the Minneapolis Public Library when the library was established in 1885.

Today the Minneapolis Athenaeum is a nonprofit corporation, housed within Special Collections at Minneapolis Central Library. Special Collections is dedicated to acquiring and preserving books and manuscripts and making them available to the public. Highlights of the collection include an original hand-colored edition of *Audubon's Birds of America*, a collection of early editions of *Aesop's Fables* spanning 300 years, and many important early books with descriptions and photographs of Native American peoples of North America.

Since January 1, 2008 the urban Minneapolis Public Library has been part of the suburban Hennepin County Library system.



The first central library of the Minneapolis Public Library (also known as the main library) was built in 1889 along Tenth Street and Hennepin Avenue about six blocks south of the current building. The building was demolished 1961.

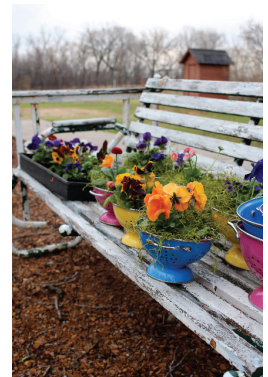
hard working and fun loving
EPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Front Row L-R: Katie Qualey, Kati Simons, Ann Higgins, Kathie Case and Chris Honaas-Wildfang. Second Row: Jan Lacy, Valerie Ross, Tracy Hope, Jeanne DeSanctis, Norm Rogers and Barb Kuhlman. Standing: Paul Thorp.

a special thank you to
MARSHALL'S FARM MARKET

For many seasons over many years, Marshall's Farm Market has been decorating the outside of the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House. "We often use natural items we grow on our Eden Prairie farm or fun and unique items from our farm market to blend with the historic property," says owner Carrie Marshall who serves on the CPG House Committee. EPHS Board Member Tracy Hope does a beautiful job creating a warm welcome and "curb appeal" with her lovely arrangements that usher in each season and for special events. Thank you both.



Marshall's Farm Market, open every day July through November, sells fresh homegrown fruits, vegetables, flower bouquets, farm and vintage decor and their own naturally raised meats and eggs.

With the responsibility to protect its past, the Society's mission is to: gather, preserve and protect Eden Prairie's historic artifacts and memorabilia; share the stories of its people and places with audiences of all ages; and foster an understanding and appreciation for historic preservation.

The Prairie View. Editor Betsy Adams, betsyadams@comcast.net. Eden Prairie Historical Society, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Website: www.edenprairiehistory.org. Please let us know of changes or corrections to your mailing or e-mail addresses by leaving them at info@edenprairiehistory.org.

