

The Prairie View

EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPRING 2011

a year chocked full of great events and programs

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

The Eden Prairie Historical Society sponsors a number of events for members and their guests. This year we have committed to providing opportunities for you to socialize, be enlightened and entertained. You're going to love what we have to offer for 2011! Hope you'll join us often!

April 14 *Historical Society Annual Meeting and Grand Opening of Schoolhouse Exhibit* at our History Center and Museum (construction at right), City Center. 6:00. Program will feature reminiscences by a number of generations of Eden Prairie school students.

May 1 *Bearpath Tea*. Watch for your invitation this month.

May 22 *Open House at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House* and dedication of the new Milk House Patio, paved with engraved bricks donated to the schoolhouse project and enhanced by new seating, landscaping and interpretive panels. 3:00 dedication with refreshments and tours to follow. Peonies should be in bloom, if Mother Nature does her part. (Peony Garden, center right) 13600 Pioneer Trail

June 11 *Dorenkemper Open House* during "Rocking Riley" at the historic Riley-Jacques Barn. 4:00-8:00. 9100 Riley Lake Road

July 14 Dave Pavelka's *Genealogy 101: Researching and Saving Your Family History*. Dave, an Eden Prairie native, founded Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International 25 years ago. Today the organization has over 3000 members from every state in the union. He has helped many people start their family histories and would like to help you. Watch for more information on our website www.edenprairiehistory.org and the Eden Prairie News.

August 13 *Eden Prairie Antique Fair* at the Smith-Douglas-More House Dunn Bros. Coffee. 9:00-4:00. 8107 Eden Prairie Road

September 10 *Sunbonnet Day* at the Riley-Jacques Farmstead with informal tours and refreshments at the Dorenkemper House.

October 14 & 15 *Second Annual Ghost Walk and Apple Pie* at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House (meet the spirit of John Cummins, from last year's event). Watch for times and reservation information on our website www.edenprairiehistory.org and the Eden Prairie News.

November 10 *Preserving Family Photographs* presented by Dave Kopperl. Photographs provide a very important visual connection to our ancestors but if we do not properly care for them, some of our history will fade away right along with those precious images. Details in our Fall newsletter, on our website www.edenprairiehistory.org and in the Eden Prairie News.

December 8 Christmas Bunco at the Cummins-Phipps-Grill House.



it's that time again

IT'S EPHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

In 1969 a group of Eden Prairie citizens came together to found the Eden Prairie Historical Society with a goal to gather, preserve, protect and share Eden Prairie's historic artifacts and memorabilia. Through programs, events and accessibility to our invaluable resources, we encourage interest and pride in the rich history of our community. EPHS is a private, non-profit organization depending entirely on the generosity of its members to maintain and extend awareness of Eden Prairie history. Included is your 2011 Membership Renewal form. Please take a moment to fill it out, enclose a check and mail to us at 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, 55346. Thank you.



bea's school days

A PEEK INTO THE PAST BY REUEL LONG

Beatrice Glenn Veness grew up in Eden Prairie where she was born May 7, 1912. She lived with her parents, Edith Hill Glenn and Sam Glenn, and her sister Louise on their farm. The farm house was situated at the corner of Baker Road and the-then Valley View Road, now Roberts Drive. She attended the one-room Anderson School from 1919 until 1924 when the Consolidated School opened. In early years, her two mile hike to school took her into woods, over hills and past grazing cows. At the Sam Watkins farm (now Rainbow Foods) she was joined by Art and Frank Watkins. Crossing old Highway 5, they climbed the Oothoudt's hill (now Rosemount Inc.) which always seemed to be muddy and slippery. The last leg was down a gravelled road past Ed Gamble's (now the Water Tower) to the little schoolhouse (in today's Sears parking lot).

Bea graduated from Eden Prairie High School in 1930 and married John Venese in 1931. They had five children. Bea was active in the Eden Prairie Presbyterian Church and a charter member of the Eden Prairie Historical Society. She was the last surviving Anderson School student when she died in 2007 at age 95. Shortly before her passing, she shared some school day memories with me.

"Wind chill" was not measured back then but anything below freezing brought out extra clothing. Bea wore one-piece fleece-lined winter underwear under long black stockings plus a winter coat and extra scarf across her face. The large metal wood-stove in the left front of the schoolroom took a long time to heat up and some days the room never was really warm. And yes, the outhouses were outside, in back.

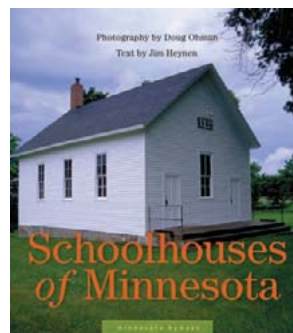
The wall behind the teacher's desk had the long blackboard with a wall clock and alphabet above. Bea remembered having her own desk with an ink well. The smaller desks were in the front. She said that you didn't get a lot of individual attention but with all eight grades being taught in one room, you could pick up a lot pretty quick.

School hours were 9:00 to 4:00 with a half hour for lunch. During the Winter, Bea remembered, the kids would sometimes chow down lunch and hurry over to the lake behind the Gambles, shovel off a space, screw on their skates and just get started when the school bell would ring. There were swings and a flat area for playing ball in the warmer months. One fun game was "Ante, Ante Over" in which they tossed a ball over the school roof to kids waiting on the other side.

Most of the students carried their lunch to school in round, covered metal Caro Syrup cans with handles. Homemade bread with hand-churned butter was the lunch staple with added jelly or a homemade cookie being a special treat, and often seasonal fruit. Bea said that apples preserved in the oat bin would last well into Fall. The students took turns carrying drinking water from an open "rope and bucket" cistern well at the Russell Anderson farm across the road. Bea recalled that when it was her turn during the Winter, she was always afraid of slipping in!

Bea and the others studied reading, spelling, arithmetic, penmanship, geography and history. Fridays departed from the regular routines and they got to enjoy construction projects, art work, nature studies and show-and-tell. With a smile she recalled that long into adulthood, Cal Anderson said I was the "best speller in Eden Prairie."

Bea Veness: A great speller ... and a great friend to the Eden Prairie Historical Society.



There is so much to learn about schools like the Anderson School. Schoolhouses of Minnesota by Doug Ohman is a great place to start. A rich showcase of Minnesota's vintage schoolhouses with stunning Ohman photographs and short tales by award-winning storyteller Jim Heynen.

getting excited about the bathroom

CUMMINS-PHIPPS-GRILL HOUSE PROJECTS

If anyone drove past the Cummins site on Pioneer Trail in late January, they may have glimpsed a monster backhoe working in the driveway. The historic farmhouse is getting city water and sewer for the first time, which will connect to a remodeled restroom. Some people may not be able to imagine how exciting clear water, rosy walls and old-fashioned white tile floor in a bathroom can be, but our Task Force thinks friends will be amazed when the Grand Opening this Spring unveils our upgrades. Walls and lighting are being redone in both sides of the kitchen, along with installation of original pieces from storage, such as the old hired hands' sink and cabinet, where workers would wash-up separately from the family.

The Cummins House is going to be a wonderful business and social space. We will be inviting Eden Prairie to visit when it's ready, around the time the peony garden blooms. Our local contractors will be available for questions.

Jan Mosman, CPGH Task Force

so many good things happening

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Historical Society Board is proud to be hosting some exciting events in 2011! Please check out the highlights on page 1 and add our fun and educational dates to your calendar!

Our Annual meeting is on April 14th at 6:00 in the newly-renovated History Center and Museum. Our Curator Kim Carlander and a team of volunteers have been working tirelessly this Winter to expand and make available our archived resources. The focal point of our new display spaces is the one-room school with vintage desks, books, water cooler and more.

On May 22nd the Cummins-Phipps-Grill Task Force opens the doors to reveal the many updates and interior work accomplished this Winter on our National Register Homestead. And outside, the dedication of the Milk House Patio is planned for 3:00.

This Spring the Historical Society has been working with four Cadettes from troop 11428, Lizzy Crosby, Jackie Armstrong, Jackie Bellefeuille and Maddie Binning to help earn their Silver Award. They will be presenting their project, a scrapbook of "Now and Then" as well as a film documentary of Eden Prairie *as they see it in the year 2011*, at Sunbonnet Day in September.

And, last but not least, thank you for your continued membership. If you haven't sent in your membership renewal card contained with this issue of THE PRAIRIE VIEW, please do so now. Your support ... volunteering, attending and membership ... keeps the Historical Society a happy, healthy place.

Best wishes, Kathie Case

the veness family donation

HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM NEWS

We'd like to thank Bea Veness' children for the wonderful, eclectic collection of artifacts and memorabilia they donated to the Historical Society: from this beautiful wedding photo to rolling pins; from a family stereoscope with stereo cards to Bea's beloved doll. The family says it decided to donate their mother's things to the Eden Prairie Historical Society "because she grew up here and was always so proud of being from Eden Prairie. She spoke of her childhood and going to school here quite often and had many fond memories."



The local newspaper for October 22, 1931 reported the marriage ceremony of Bea Glenn to John Veness. It said, in part, that the vows were spoken "before an improvised altar of autumn foliage and garden flowers" in the home of the bride's parents. "The bride entered wearing a sleeveless gown of egg-shell colored satin, fashioned along princess lines and of floor length. She wore a lace veil of cap effect trimmed with orange blossoms on either side. Her bouquet was of yellow roses, white chrysanthemums and lilies of the valley and her only jewelry was a crystal necklace, a gift from the groom."

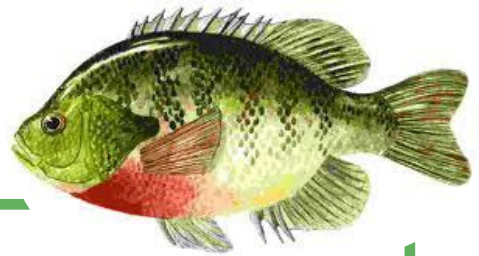
Kim Carlander, Curator

THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON HERE

Whether hiking through a farm field in search of a trout stream or stretching out in a folding chair waiting for the next bite, anglers agree on one point - that the joy of fishing is not so much at the end of the line, but in the lapping of water, the calls of birds and the people met along the way.

It seems that there have always been how-to and insider-tips fishing books. The history of fishing goes back nearly as far as the fish ... to pre-history ... when people fished for food with pieces of bone for hooks and lengths of vine as line. It was 1496 before the first sportsfishing book was published in English (?!), **A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle**, giving specific details on the use of fishing rods and the construction of hooks. (Take note here, ladies, the author was a woman, Dame Juliana Berner!) In 1653 English enthusiast Izaak Walton published **The Compleat Angler, the Contemplative Man's Recreation**; some say the single most influential book ever published about sportsfishing. And in 1921, John Waller Hill wrote the congenial classic, **A History of Fly Fishing for Trout**. So many books, so little time. Paul Schullery, himself an author, quipped, "Many times in my long, checkered career as a fly fisher, I have openly and willfully resisted the fishing advice of my betters. I found their wisdom somehow annoying. The last thing I wanted was someone bugging me with common sense. I just wanted to go out there and thrash around until I worked my way through all this arcane stuff on my own." Even if one is not of the fishing persuasion, fish do seem to wiggle their way into our lives, as evidenced by this fishy trivia quiz.

1. Catfish Row, a tenement in Charleston, SC, is the setting for what George Gershwin opera?
a- "The Tender Land," b- "Street Scene," c- "The Mother of Us All," d- "Porgy and Bess"
2. What actor won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his work in "A Fish Called Wanda"?
a- Kevin Kline, b- Michael J. Fox, c- Joe Pesci, d- Hume Cronyn
3. A talking fish is a character in what Dr. Seuss book?
a- "The Lorax," b- "The Seven Lady Godivas," c- "The Cat in the Hat," d- "Green Eggs and Ham"
4. What TV series was set at the Fisher & Sons Funeral Home?
a- "Charmed," b- "Dearly Departed," c- "The Munsters," d- "Six Feet Under"
5. In 1971, pitcher Catfish Hunter won 21 games and batted .350 for what American League team?
a- Chicago White Sox, b- Oakland A's, c- Houston Astros, d- Baltimore Orioles
6. What actor made his directorial debut in the 2002 movie "Antwone Fisher"?
a- Denzel Wahington, b- Mel Gibson, c- Adam West, d- David Duchovny



Find answers on next page

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.



Fishy Answers to Trivia Quiz



1. d, "Porgy and Bess"
2. a, Kevin Kline
3. c, "The Cat in the Hat"
4. d, "Six Feet Under"
5. b, Oakland A's
6. a, Denzel Washington