

Al & Alma's Boat shuttles from Mound Bay Park to Lake Minnetonka Regional Park Saturday & Sunday for Spirit of the Lakes Festival on July 15th and 16th.

*As an educational society we will provide a continuous history of the Westonka area for those who follow after us...*

## Let us introduce you to the Westonka Historical Society Board



*by Dr. Pam Myers, Vice President of the Westonka Historical Society (WHS)*

My first meeting with the WHS folk was at Kirk Besse's talk about our school history at the Depot during the All-School Reunion festivities, April-June 2000. The All-School Reunion events really intrigued me, with connections to decades of graduates from our school district. I heard grads tell bits and pieces of their memories. When I took a leave of absence from my position of Superintendent in the Westonka Public Schools in 2002, I planned to search out those graduates. I wanted them to tell me more of their stories, so that we could preserve their memories for future generations of students and teachers, and for our community.

Before coming to the Westonka Schools, I had never worked in one place more than four years in a row. I had taught in Richmond (VA), in Amherst (MA), and in Denver (CO), before coming to MN. I was an intern in Columbia Heights, a Dean of Students in White Bear Lake, and an Assistant Principal in Minnetonka, before coming to Mound. But from 1982 to the present, I stayed put, and I am delighted to have become a part of the Westonka community. I was the Assistant Principal at Grandview Middle School, "the law" as I often say, for a half-dozen years. Then I became the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, working with dozens of committees of teachers, parents, and staff, for a dozen years, working to always improve our terrific educational program for children in all grades. My last seven years I served as Superintendent of Schools. I stayed long enough to know a second generation of students, and even a second generation of teachers. I guess I put down roots. My brother smiles when he comes to visit me, as people, from parents and school board members, to the police chief and the UPS driver, wave at us as we drive through Mound. Everyone who worked with me on unending school and community committees became my family-away-from-home.

Every year at graduation, as I congratulated the seniors on their successes, I met their families, and learned that many of the parents, and sometimes grandparents, had graduated from Mound, too. And they were so proud of their education and their school. I couldn't wait to write down their stories. Guess I'm a natural "history detective."

In 2002, there were openings on the WHS Board, and I was asked to be a board member, because I was working on the school history project. Ever since, the board has graciously supported my research, keeping me supplied with names of people to interview, audiotapes for interviews, and paper and printer ink for creating copies. They even loaned me a transcribing machine to make the task so much simpler.

I've enjoyed participating on the WHS board. I'm humbled by board members who can recall decades of local history. I love conversations with those who have devoted their time and energy to preserving our community's history, even without a building to house our growing Tonka Toy collection and many family donations.

Next issue we will meet our Secretary - a Secretary from the beginning of our organization.

# Call for help with cataloging of WHS collection

by Pam Myers, WHS Vice President

We're just beginning the task of setting up the "card catalog" for the documents and objects in the collection of the Westonka Historical Society. We start by giving a number to each document/object: one newsletter, one newspaper article, one map, one plaque, one photo, at a time. That process organizes the documents/objects so that: (1) We know who donated the object/document and when it was donated; (2) We know where the object/document is located, so that we can find that object again; and (3) We know details about the object/document for research.

For instance, in one collection, donated by Lloyd Laumann, we have the entire series of *Tonka Today*, the Tonka Toys, Inc., employee newsletter. Are you interested in the history of a particular Tonka Toy? Are you curious whether your mom/dad/aunt/niece/cousin ever worked for Tonka Toys? When this relative of yours worked part-time at Tonka was his/her photo among the graduates' faces printed in these newsletters? You might find this information in one of these newsletters.

Once a document has a number ("is accessioned"), then it is officially part of the WHS collection. However, the details included in the document still need to be recorded. That includes entering the names of the people/places/things mentioned in the document, so that, in this example, the researcher can locate a specific Tonka toy, or a specific person.

## **This is where you come in.**

Are you willing and able to type information into the computer? We would provide the training you would need to use our museum software program, and a location to work at the Visitor Center. Your duty would be to read carefully through a document, and enter names/objects. Your work would benefit future researchers, and will give access to the details hidden in the wonderful WHS collection.

This is only one example of projects related to inventorying the collection. Another example relates to oral history. Are you willing and able to listen to tape recordings to create a brief record of what topics

are discussed on each section of the tape, adding this information to the tape's description in the catalog? A third example relates to photographs. Are you willing and able to scan photos found in documents, adding the image to the information in the catalog? In each case, training would be provided, and the equipment would be located at the Visitors' Center. There will, no doubt, be other examples as the project unfolds.

If any part of this project appeals to you, please contact me at [pjmyers@TIES2.net](mailto:pjmyers@TIES2.net) or 952.474.1601.

## A Mystery for You To Help Solve!



We received a donation from Joan Heitz of this patch for the GlenIsle Skating Club of Mound, MN. We have no information of what this club is, when it is from or who would have been involved in it. Do you know anything? If you do, please contact the WHS by calling us at 952.472.9800 or write to WHS, 2325 Commerce Blvd., Mound, MN 55364, or visit us on Saturday from 10-2 at the Visitor Center. We would love to know more information.

# Mound's Incredible Festival Retains 30 Years of Tradition While Continuing to Grow

by Bob Blake - Festival Chair

**Our Lady of the Lake Church** continues to host its **Incredible Festival**, and every year it grows and improves. But even as it grows, many of the things that were found at the first festivals still hold true for this year.



The Festival's origin started as a Silent Auction, organized by Mound resident and parishioner Don Able. The Silent Auction grew, and it became know as an "Incredible Event" with "Incredible Deals." Irene Spalding, another Mound resident and parishioner, felt a chicken dinner would be a welcome addition, and so things began to grow and change.

**The first official Incredible Festival was held October 1978**, and Don Able stayed on the job for ten years. It started with a Saturday night dance and went into Sunday. There were a few Kiddie rides, and a tent for a dance. A trio played "old tyme music" for the dance, which was attended by

about 200 people. Those who attended this first event remember that it was very cold. Over time, more events were planned, more entertainment was sought out and, of course, more food was made available. On the **Parish's 75th Anniversary** Vern and Shirley Anderson of V&S Jewelry in Mound, donated a 75-point blue diamond pendant for the Festival's first raffle.

As the **Festival nears its 30th Anniversary**, it is now a three-day event, kicking off with Youth Night on Friday night and finishing with a cash drawing for over \$6,800 in prizes on Sunday. The Silent Auction now offers everything from useful household and outdoor items to timeshares, and tickets to sporting events. The chicken dinner continues to be a traditional favorite. Items like french-fries, egg rolls, ice cream, burgers, a beer tent and more were added. Giving the Festival a wider variety of things to enjoy, the kiddie rides at the first Festival have grown to a carnival with rides that come directly from the Minnesota State Fair.

What once started out as a parish get together with 200-500 people attending has now grown to a multi-community event, drawing close to an estimated 7,000 people. A spokesperson for this year's event said, "I have met people that came out for the Festival and ended up moving to the area once they were exposed to the community's charm – You have to love that."

**The 2006 Incredible Festival will be held September 8th, 9th, 10th.**

### OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES

The incredible photographs on pages 4 and 5 of the May/June 2006 WHS newsletter of the book signing by Marjorie Douglas were taken by Julie Benz and copies were very generously donated to the WHS. We apologize that credit was not give to the photographer in that newsletter. Copies of those photographs and many more taken at that event may be purchased from Julie at Photography by Julie Ann in Mound, MN, or you may reach her at 952.270.6693 or on her webpage at:  
<http://www.photographybyjulieann.com/>

### Welcome to new and renewing members

John Briggs	Mound
Nancy & Gerry Dodds	Mound
Steven & Pauline Erickson	Spring Park
Gunnar Gidlow	Wayzata
Patricia Guttormson	Mound
Margaret & David Holste	Wayzata
Sharon Provost	Plymouth
Carol L. Rice	Mound
Teri Turner	Mound
Waynette R. Wing	Minnnetonka
Matthew Wood	Independence

# Spirit of the Lakes Festival

## July 13 - 16, 2006

### Thursday, July 13

**7pm:** Music in the Park - The New Pop Singers  
At the Mound Bay Park

### Friday, July 14

**12pm:** 1st Annual Mound Wrestling Organization  
Golf Tournament

At Lakeview Golf Course

**5pm to 8pm:** Pork Chop Dinner  
Mound American Legion

**5:30pm to 7pm:** BBQ Chicken Dinner  
At the Gillespie Center

**7pm to 9pm:** Square Dancing  
Hosted by the Westonka Whirlers  
At the Gillespie Center

**9pm to Midnight**  
Dailey's Pub Street Dance  
with Red Dot Garage &  
The Tim Mahoney Band  
At Mound Marketplace

### Saturday, July 15

**8am to 2pm:** Brawl at the Beach  
Mound Wrestling Org. Takedown Tournament  
At Mound Bay Park

**10am to 5pm:**  
Business Showcase  
Lake Minnetonka Regional Park

**10am to 5pm:**  
Spirit of the Lakes Art Fair!  
Lake Minnetonka Regional Park  
Hosted by:  
Three Rivers Park District

**2pm (time tentative):**  
Antique Boat Show  
At Mound Bay Park

**6pm (time tentative):**  
Water Ski Show by Bald Eagle Water Ski Club  
At Mound Bay Park

**6pm to 10pm:** Music Program  
At Mound Bay Park

**10pm:** Fireworks!  
Cook's Bay  
*Sunday is Rain Date*

### Sunday, July 16

**9am:**  
St. John's Outdoor Worship Service  
At Mound Bay Park

**11am to 3:30pm:**  
Mini Golf Tournament - To register call 952.472.9292  
Big Stone Mini Golf & Sculpture Gardens

**10am to 2pm**  
Brunch at Gillespie Center

**10:30am**  
Storyteller Bob Gasch Stories of Minnetonka  
Boating and Historic Exhibits  
Sponsored by the Westonka Historical Society

**12pm to 5pm:**  
Spirit of the Lakes Art Fair!  
at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park

**1pm to 3:30pm:**  
Free Fishing Derby for Kids  
Centerview Beach  
Register: 952.491.8047



# WHS sponsors Bob Gasch for the Spirit of the Lakes Festival

by Carol Senn, WHS Contributor

The Westonka Historical Society is sponsoring a Bob Gasch presentation for the enjoyment of young and old. He will be weaving tales of early Lake Minnetonka at the Gillespie Center during the brunch on Sunday, July 16, 2006. Brunch serving starts at 10 am, and Bob will begin his presentation around 10:30.

Bob grew up on the western shore of Maxwell Bay and spent his boyhood journeying through the woods and under the bridges connecting Stubbs Bay, Crystal Bay, and North Arm. A favorite spot for play was in the woods on the Noerenberg property on the Maxwell Bay side. Rather than bicycle to the small grocery stores in the area, it was easier to go by boat. As a youngster, Bob's favorite mode of transportation was a small rowboat powered by a 7 1/2 hp Scott-Atwater motor.

A graduate of Orono High School, Bob's varied interests have led him to become an educator, professional storyteller, historian, and collector. He is active with a number of historical societies including the Western Hennepin County Pioneer Association, Inc., in Long Lake. Bob had the good fortune to have a close relationship with Avery

Stubbs (of the pioneer Stubbs family) and had access to the many stories and materials Avery collected throughout his lifetime. Bob is an avid reader, researcher and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others.

The historical society display cases will be filled with summer-at-the-lake pictures and other items from bygone days. We'll also have our books and the Lake Minnetonka puzzles for sale and will be delighted to enroll new society members. Bring your friends to the brunch and help support the Gillespie Center, and the Westonka Historical Society, and learn about Lake Minnetonka history.

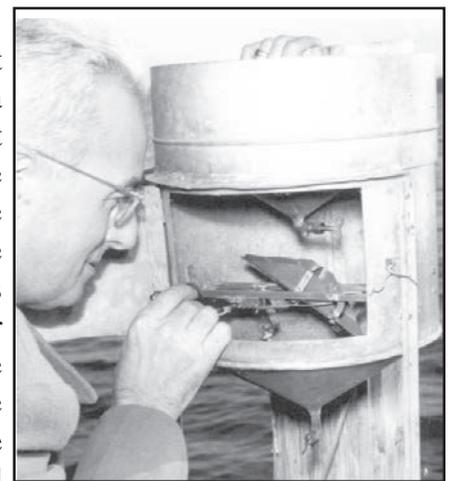


## History of Mound Continues to be Collected



by Jeanne Brustad, Editor

Were you aware that the home at **3615 Tuxedo Road in Mound** had a rain gauge and weather height measuring device? From this device Paul Cross (who lived there from the late 1940s through 1960) supplied the information to Cedric Adams for his column in the Minneapolis Star Journal? Did you know that there were



still out-houses on Island Park until the mid 1950s? This is just some of the information that was supplied by David Cross to the WHS with many more pictures about the history of this address. David is a grandson of Paul and Mabel Cross. He reports that another grandson also lives in the area on Birch Bluff. Thanks, David, for helping the WHS collect our community's history.

**How about your house and its history?**



# THE HISTORY DETECTIVE

School Memories: Reflections and Connections

by Dr. Pam Myers, Vice President of WHS

## Connections-Lyndale School and Lee School

Identifying students in grade school photos from the 1910s and 1920s is quite a challenge. That's almost 100 years ago. Even the children of the children in those photos, ages 6 to 12 or so, would be in their 80s or 90s. Unless we've been wise enough to keep childhood photos of our parents and grandparents, it's really a challenge, almost impossible, to be sure of their faces in these charming photos from decades ago.

Even though Earl Taylor (MCHS 1940) attended Lee School as a grade school student, he has collected photos of many local grade schools for the Independence Town Hall Museum. Among these is a photo of students at Lyndale School dated 1916. A few faces are labeled in these photos, but most are not. The teacher's name is Florence C. Halkin. A 1924 photo has two students labeled, Milton and Ruth Bosell. I like nothing so much as a good challenge, but I could see that finding the names of the unidentified children would be quite a stretch.



LYNDALE SCHOOL CLASS OF 1916

Florence C. Hallsin-Teacher Front row, second from right-Ruth Bosell Photo courtesy of Earl Taylor, MCHS Class of 1940. Caption courtesy of Earl Taylor and Alice Kuntz Noreen, MCHS Class of 1936.

Alice Kuntz Noreen (MCHS 1936) took a first try, but she would say that 1916 was, of course, before her time. I had a conversation with Margaret Jorgensen Zoldahn (MCHS 1938). Even though Margaret can no longer see, her memory is sharp enough to tell me that her sister Fern couldn't be in this 1916 photo as a six- or seven-year-old, because Fern wasn't born until 1913. So, some of the names in the label on Earl's copy of the photo are not correct.

Alice suggested connecting with Ruth Bosell's daughter, Shirley Mae, who lives in California. By calling Helmer Hansen and Velma Gast Wolff, Alice found Shirley's email, voice mail, and snail mail addresses. So began my marvelous cyberspace correspondence with Shirley, who has done quite a bit of family history research. At 72, she's delighted that we're collecting history of her mother's grade school. I sent her copies of the photos I had, and some were new to her! Still, no luck in identifying the students in the 1916 photos.

Shirley Mae suggested I talk with Ilynne Zahrendt Cornell who is in the 1924 Lyndale School photo. Ilynne is 92 and lives in Annandale. We arranged to meet at her home on Lake Augusta. What a delight. She had her grade school report cards, and valentines exchanged with every student in the school as well as her teacher.

Perhaps the gem of Ilynne's collection is a photo which I'll copy for Earl Taylor's collection, since Earl is a Lee School grad. It turns out that Ilynne's mother, Jennie, taught at Lee School, in about 1898, and Ilynne has a photo of Jennie with her class in front of Lee School!



LEE SCHOOL, ca. 1898, Jennie Hillstrom teacher. Photo courtesy of Ilynne Zahrendt Cornell, daughter of Jennie Hillstrom.

So, I'm no further forward with identifying the children in the 1916 photo, but perhaps someone will recognize them in the future, someone who has kept photos of parents and grandparents when they were youngsters.

# Other activities in our surrounding communities

**The Wayzata Depot turns 100 this year!** Special activities are planned to coincide with J. J. Hill Days, September 9th and 10th. Steam engine #261 will be on-hand both days, providing rides in the morning to Minneapolis and back, and in the afternoon to Howard Lake and back. Three levels of service will be available - Coach, 1st Class, and Premier. Details on more activities, pricing and ticket availability will be posted at: <http://www.wayzatahistoricalsociety.org> in the near future. Don't miss this great chance to treat the family to a memorable day on an historic piece of Americana! The Wayzata Historical Society museum resides in the waiting room and depot office areas of the Wayzata Depot, located along Lake Minnetonka in downtown Wayzata. The depot was constructed by James J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad in 1906, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**The Carver County Historical Society features five local history exhibits and an exhibit honoring veterans.** The local history exhibits are primarily thematic and tell the story of our county's heritage. The objects on display are used to help tell these stories. Exhibits or parts of exhibits change regularly. Scavenger hunts are available for children of all ages who are visiting the exhibits.

## *Veterans' Exhibit*

The Veterans' Exhibit honors America's veterans and pays special tribute to Carver County's servicemen who died while protecting our nation. Formerly displayed at the Waconia American Legion, this exhibit features artifacts from every American war since Carver County was settled, starting with the Civil War.

## *Immigrant Experience in Carver County*

This exhibit highlights the history of immigration to Carver County. Historically, the principle ethnic groups that settled in the county were Germans and Swedes. Trunks, books, cooking utensils, personal belongings and photos all help to tell the immigrant story.

## *Toolin' Around Carver County*

Hammers, axes, planes and other tools are the focus of this exhibit. Many of the tools are still common today while others are less common.

## *From the Collection*

Objects that are not displayed frequently are featured in this exhibit. Currently on display are typewriters, musical instruments, fine china and laundry equipment including washers and irons.

## *Snapshots of Carver County History*

This exhibit examines various aspects of Carver County's past including natural history, agriculture and industry, Jonathan Carver and recreation. Other topics that are being planned include Native Americans and early settlement.

### Books and Puzzles for Sale

#### **Tonka**

by Lloyd Laumann and Dennis David - \$30.00

#### **Barefoot on Crane Island**

by Marjorie Myers Douglas - \$16.00

#### **Lake Minnetonka Puzzle**

1934 map of Lake Minnetonka - \$20.00

#### **When I Was A Boy**

by James Ryder Collins - \$25.00

#### **Minnetrasta Memories**

by Mildred Krenke Banks - \$11.00

#### **Historical Backgrounds of Mound Minnesota**

by Melvin W. Gimmestad - \$6.50

#### **Eggs in the Coffee, Sheep in the Corn**

by Marjorie Myers Douglas - \$16.00

#### **Guide and Map of Lake Minnetonka**

Advertising Booklet Reprint - \$7.00

#### **Historical Tour of the Westonka Area - Year 2000**

by Jeff Magnuson - \$8.00

#### **Picturing Lake Minnetonka: A Postcard History**

by Jim Ogland - \$35.00

#### **Several Books by Leo Meloche**

##### **American Lotus Note Pad**

Color photo by M. Magnuson - \$2.00

##### **Sollie Note Card**

1960 Watercolor by Audrey Holmquist Evans - \$3.00

##### **Books also available in Mound at:**

• Larson Printing • The Threshold •

• True Value Hardware • Jubilee •

And in Navarre at: • Gallery Navarre •

The puzzle is available at Lakeshore Interiors.

For a complete description of books

with order form, write to

2325 Commerce Blvd. Mound, MN 55364

<http://www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org>

### **Membership Information**

Senior/Student.....\$ 10.

Family/Individual.....\$ 15.

Annual Contributing.....\$ 25.

Business.....\$ 50.

Patron.....\$ 100.

Special Donation - Donor's Choice

*Membership dues and special donations are tax deductible. Donations of photographs and artifacts related to the Westonka area are graciously accepted.*

**Contact any board member for more information.**

### **Westonka Historical Society**

Sue Cathers, President 952-472-4893

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Lavonne Adams, Secretary 952-472-1885

Lorrie Ham, Assistant Secretary 952-472-0439

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**2325 Commerce Blvd  
Mound, MN 55364**

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**<http://www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org>  
Visitor Center  
2325 Commerce Blvd. Mound, MN 55364  
952-472-9800**

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### **Calendar of Events:**

**July 13, 14, 15 and 16th** - Spirit of the Lakes, Festival of the Arts in Mound and Lake Minnetonka Regional Park. More information on pages 4 and 5

**July 16** - Bob Gasch, Storyteller, at the Gillespie Center during their brunch. More information on page 5.

**August 25th** - September/October newsletter deadline - NOTE EARLY DEADLINE

**September 9th and 10th** - James J. Hill Days. More information on page 7

**September 8, 9, 10** - Mound Incredible Festival. More information on page 3

**June 21, 2007** - Tentative date for Island Park Celebration

*Reminder: The date on your address label is the "expiration" date of your membership in the WHS.*

### ***Purposes and Goals of the Westonka Historical Society***

1. Document, preserve, and classify early historical records.
2. Provide children and adults with history of the area accessible to them.
3. Make tapes and recordings to preserve and interpret material unique to our Westonka history.
4. Gather artifacts and reproductions for exhibiting the story of the area.
5. Involve our children with a living program of historical significance to make history "come alive" to them.