



RE-ECHO

Newsletter of the St. Louis Park Historical Society

Volume 9 No. 1

Issue No. 36

THE WORLD'S ALL RIGHT



A HILARIOUS COMEDY OF LIFE IN A RADIO BROADCASTING STATION

ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN.

Sponsored by Ladies' Circle Brookside Community Church

ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN.

ALL STAR CAST HEADED BY EARLE AINSWORTH,

MISS VIVIAN DRAKE, Director

Sure these are "tough economic times," but consider 1932. The Great Depression was on, businesses failed, and grasshoppers and dust took care of the crops. But from what we can conclude from the flier (top portion) reproduced above, the Universal Producing Co. went from town to town putting on shows designed to cheer us all up. In our case, the ladies of Brookside Community Church (presumably) provided this wonderful diversion featuring all of Park's leading citizens. In fact, most of Park's citizens must have been in the show. Village Assessor Earl Ainsworth played the announcer and owner of a radio station. There was a "Hill Billy Number," "Stars and Stripes Revue," and special musical numbers, including "Smile, Smile, The World's All Right," "Whistle and Blow Your Blues Away," "Harlem High Steppers," and "The Vagabond King." Must have been a huge production and great fun!

MEMBERS WANTED

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their memberships for 2010. Membership is on a calendar-year basis, so it's time to renew. It's easy – just fill in the form included with this Re-Echo (the form is also on our web page) and send it with

your check for \$20 to the address on the form. Memberships and donations make up over 70 percent of our income, and allow us to carry out our programs. Thanks again to all of our wonderful members!

DUDLEY AND ME

This is a personal tribute to my friend, J. Dudley Moylan, who passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 88. Dudley was an avid supporter of the Historical Society for many years and was dedicated to our mission. He donated the flagpole that sits in Jorvig Park in 2002. More personal to me, he donated a stack of Park directories from the 1960s, which I've used over and over to research families and businesses.

I've known Dudley since I was a teenager. He and my mother served on City commissions, and I met him at City Council meetings I attended with my mom. He was a charter member of the Park Housing Authority, working to increase the amount of affordable housing in the city – an issue that was close to my heart as a HUD employee for 15 years.

To my surprise, when I was a freshman at the U of M, he turned out to be the Kiwanis Advisor to our Circle K Club (collegiate service organization) in 1975. Dudley represented the Downtown Kiwanis Club, 350+ strong, and made sure we had the resources to make us one of the best clubs in the country. Because of Dudley's endorsement, the Kiwanis Club provided funds that allowed me to serve as an International Vice President, an experience that served me well the rest of my life. Dudley attended our meetings and parties, too – he gave me my first taste of a martini – yech!

Dudley was a war hero. He spent 52 hours in shark-infested waters after his destroyer was torpedoed in the Battle of Leyte. The story is told in the book *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors: The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour* by James D. Hornfischer. He loved to go to reunions with his old Navy buddies, as well as reunions at his beloved Duke University. Although he taught English for a time, when I knew him he seemed to have no visible means of support, and I supposed that he lived off of his investments – a kind of dapper man-about-town. He always went to Florida in the winter and the Adirondacks in the summer. He never married.

Dudley came to St. Louis Park in about 1952, where he was one of the first residents of the then-new Meadowbrook Manor. He lived there about 50 years, until he became one of the first residents of Excelsior on Grand. This was perfect for him – they took good care of him, and McCoy's was walking distance away. He became a fixture there, holding court twice a day, and his picture is on the wall. I'm sure Bunny's missed him when he made the move. A gathering of his friends was held at McCoy's after his funeral, a fitting tribute to his memory.

Shortly before he died he called and said he was cleaning out his stuff and did we want his collection of newsletters. That was just like Dudley to think of the Historical Society when he must have been at least very uncomfortable. Dudley was a great guy and I'll – we'll – miss him.

Jeanne Andersen

By Request.....

LINCOLN DEL CHOCOLATE PIE

Thanks to Bunny (Horwitz) Mitchell and Pearl Heitke for supplying this recipe:

¾ c. powdered sugar
¼ lb. Butter
¼ lb. Chocolate chips
½ tsp. Vanilla
3 eggs
1 pt. Cream for whipped topping

Cream butter and sugar; beat in melted choc. chips. Add vanilla; beat in 1 egg at a time. Beat well, pour into baked pie shell. Chill well, top with real whipped cream. Eat, call 911, and don't sue the Re-Echo for advising you to eat raw eggs. There's a reason it's so good!

DONATIONS RECEIVED

The Historical Society does not have a museum, only administrative space at Lenox and some unheated storage space at the Depot. We hope, of course, that some day we will have a museum and will be able to make our artifacts collection available for the public to see. In the meantime, we will gladly accept donations of materials pertinent to St. Louis Park History as we have the capacity.

Carol Hartvigsen sent us many photos and papers pertaining to the pioneer Hanke family, including a bound history of the family. Carol has been very generous to the Society over the years, giving us many photos and artifacts from this important early family.

Rebecca Templeton donated a Lincoln Del menu from the early 1960s. She said it must have been a special date for to have saved it, but she can't remember who it was!

Carol Hays donated to aerial photos of her family home in the Minikahda Vista neighborhood, taken in the 1930s and '40s.

Deanna Senander Podratz donated a chalkboard that was used in the old Lincoln School. Her grandfather, Francis "Franny" Senander, was the

first police officer in the Park and the police department was located in that building (which was also City Hall). Her father, City employee Richard Senander, brought the (very heavy!) chalkboard home when the building was demolished. This will be a great artifact to display when we get a museum!

Joseph Holasek donated pictures from Oak Hill School from the 1930s. He also came by and let us scan pictures of his grandparents' home and farm, which used to be at the northeast corner of Minnetonka Blvd. and Texas. We had not known that there was a house and farm there, but it was confirmed in the directories. We think that the house, which was built in 1916, was moved to 2840 Pennsylvania in about 1952, and a gas station took its place. See the picture on our web site at www.slphistory.org/history/mtka7916.asp

Steve Steuck donated a t-shirt from the now-defunct Timothy Christian Day School.

Mark Olson donated items he found in his home while undergoing renovation that had belonged to Pearl Malmstrom Alexander. If anyone is in touch with her sons Gary, Michael, or David, please let us know.

CENTURY HOMES

We are getting very excited about our Century Homes project, where we plan to place plaques on qualifying homes that are 100 or more years old. We've updated our web site (WWW.SLPHISTORY.ORG/HISTORY/OLDESTBUILDINGS.ASP) to include buildings built in 1910 and 1911. As we receive information, we're putting in additional information, such as if the building was moved or demolished and who built the house. Also noted will be whether the building is a Walker or Monitor house. (See WWW.SLPHISTORY.ORG/HISTORY/HISTORICHOUSES.ASP) If your house is on the list, get out your abstract (if you have one) and bone up on its history so we can place a plaque on it! The application is posted at

WWW.SLPHISTORY.ORG/ABOUT/CENTURYHOUSE.ASP We'll be glad to help you as best we can, but the first Park directory wasn't published until 1933, so our resources are limited. And to make it more of a challenge, the names of most of the Village's streets were changed in 1933. Those changes are posted at WWW.SLPHISTORY.ORG/HISTORY/IMAGES/STREETCHANGES.JPG

Also note that we are planning walking tours of the Century Houses this summer, focusing first on the Elmwood neighborhood with Brookside and Oak Hill South (North Street, Edgebrook, etc.) to come later.

WHO WE ARE

The St. Louis Park Historical Society was founded in 1971 to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The archives of the Society are located in the Historic Depot in Jorvig Park (37th and Brunswick) and at the Lenox Community Center (6715 Minnetonka Blvd.). Office hours at the Lenox site are Thursdays from 10 to noon, and by appointment. Our mailing address is:

3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Our email address is

history@slphistory.org.

We do not have a central phone number, but you may contact a member of our Board:

President: John Olson. 952-929-6156
jrocnrw@juno.com

Vice President: Robert Jorvig. 952-938-6553
rjorvig@comcast.net

Secretary: Kathy Johnson. 952-926-5040
drjksj@msn.com

Treasurer: Megan Crosby. 952-933-1399
mcrosby@mrmf.org

Trustee: Barbara Reiss. 952-830-9676

Trustee: Don Schimmel. 952-890-7107
donaldkschimmel@comcast.net

Trustee: Faye Ross. 952-929-7423
fross@braunintertec.com

Trustee: Doug Johnson. 952-926-5040
drjksj@msn.com

Trustee: Jeanne Andersen. 612-396-6292
jeanneandersen@comcast.net

ABOUT THE RE-ECHO

The Re-Echo is published quarterly by the St. Louis Park Historical Society. Its purpose is to share information about the City's history and the Society's activities. The Re-Echo was started by Robert C. Reiss. The name was inspired by the *Echo* newspaper, which has been published by and for the students of St. Louis Park High School since 1917.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The flier reproduced on Page 1 was found in the files of late member Don Swenson, who must have found it while doing research on his book "Something in the Water." We'll post the entire flier on our web site under www.slphistory.org/reecho/default.asp - if you're an old-time Park resident, take a look and see if you recognize any of the surnames.

JOIN US!

The St. Louis Park Historical Society is a nonprofit organization and is wholly dependent on membership dues and donations for its operating costs, including the cost of mailing the Re-Echo. You don't have to be a member to receive the Re-Echo, but we need new members, especially active ones. Meetings are at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month, and are open to all. They are held at Lenox Community Center October-May and at the Historic Depot June-September.

The St. Louis Park Historical Society Invites You To Renew or Become a Member Now

Membership in the St. Louis Park Historical Society is on a calendar year basis, so it's time for everyone to send in your membership for 2010. Membership dues are only \$20. We do not get any kind of financial support from the City, County, or State, and we rely on memberships for operating expenses such as website and email, mailing of the Re-Echo, and office supplies. Won't you help us out and sign up today?

Your financial support is not the only way to contribute - we want your stories! We encourage you to write down some of the experiences you've had along the way. Younger generations can't imagine what life was like before Miracle Mile and Texa Tonka. Were you there? Tell us about it!

You can also share your time as a volunteer:

- **Planning special events**
- **Video interviews**
- **Cataloging the collection**
- **Historical research**

And, of course, we need active members to attend our meetings and pursue projects of your choosing. Our board members study such topics as railroads, old houses, and the history of the St. Louis Park basketball team! We encourage you to come to our meetings and find your niche.

GOALS FOR 2010

- **Create walking tour(s) of historic homes**
- **Present Century Home plaques to owners of houses that are 100+ years old**
- **Convert our VHS videos to DVD and catalog the collection**
- **Update videos to identify the pictures and places shown**
- **Enhance the Historic Depot**
- **Tape interviews with longtime and notable Parkites, to be shown on Community TV**
- **Obtain funding through public or private grants**
- **Sign up 400 members**
- **Long term: Find additional/alternate space which is available 24/7 and has room to display artifacts and store the collection.**

**ST. LOUIS PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE-STOP-SHOPPING FORM**

Annual Individual/Family Membership: \$20

**Business and Individual Benefactor Member Donation:
\$50, \$75, \$100 or other amount**

Name(s): _____

Address _____

Email address: _____

During winter months from _____ **to** _____ **:**

Address _____

Check all that apply:

_____ **I wish to join/renew my membership;** enclosed is \$ _____
(membership is on a calendar year basis)

All membership donations are tax-deductible.

_____ **I wish to purchase a copy of *Something in the Water*; enclosed is \$20.**

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Re-Echo Delivery Options:

_____ **I wish to continue to receive the Re-Echo through the mail.**

_____ **I wish to receive the Re-Echo via E-mail.**

_____ **I will read the Re-Echo on the SLPHS web site at**
www.slphistory.org/reecho/default.asp

_____ **I do not wish to receive the Re-Echo.**

Mail to: St. Louis Park Historical Society
3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-2671

Our email: history@slphistory.org

KJ BR JA MC FR

You'll Cheer Up When You See

THE WORLD'S ALL RIGHT

A COMMUNITY JUBILEE
Copyright 1932 by The Universal Producing Co.
SOMETHING DIFFERENT & SHOW SET TO MUSIC

150 PROMINENT LOCAL PEOPLE 150

A HILARIOUS COMEDY OF LIFE IN A RADIO BROADCASTING STATION

ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN. Sponsored by Ladies' Circle Brookside Community Church ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN.
ALL STAR CAST HEADED BY EARLE AINSWORTH, MISS VIVIAN DRAKE, Director

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jimmy Waddell Earle Ainsworth
(Announcer and owner of radio station)
Jane Rogers, (Jimmy's secretary and sweetheart) Margaret Shaw
Joe, Lloyd Wessling
(Office boy, who becomes a radio entertainer known as Lovin' Sam)
Mr. Dinkell (owner of Dinkell Pickles, Inc.) Geo. Williams
Bill Collector Earl Clark

SPECIAL LEADS

Gertie Green Gladys Anderson
Melody Miss Mildred Rutledge
Skipper Erickson J. L. Duncan
Reader Dr. F. E. Day
One-Minute Speaker Kleve J. Flakne
Quartette—Bill Harper, Carrol Jackley, Sunny Applequist, Don Harvey

HILL BILLY NUMBER

Hiram Zilch Earl Clark	Maud Herman Dirks
St Perkins F. B. Finnigan	Susan Dan Whalen
Frankie Clayton Hutchins (A good gal)	Jess R. Thurston
Johnnie Carroll Jackley (Her man)	Grandpap D. M. Thompson
Nelle Sunny Applequist (The Village Vamp)	Guitar A. E. Rutledge
Smokey Joe Don Harvey	Banjo Tom Reed
Dan Tucker Hilbert Knutson	Robert Allen
	F. M. Harrington
	R. Thurston
	Clinton Blodget

STARS AND STRIPES REVUE

Uncle Sam Herbert Bolmgren
Columbia Gay Dickensheets
Revolutionary Soldier Albert Lundberg
Hero of the North Edward Ludwig
Hero of the South Nels Nelson
Mother of Blue and Gray Mrs. Andrew Nelson
Soldier of A. E. F. C. E. Christy
Sailor of Battleship Texas
Red Cross Nurse Katherine Martin

CHORUS GIRLS

Alice Blanchard	Genevieve Chapman
Evelyn Lenthouser	Marion Sorensen
Katherine MacKenzie	Ruby Nelson
Marjorie Rainey	Jane Mason
Olive Whitfield	Kathryn Dunn
Evelyn Clark	Betty Peterson
Doris Melstrom	Lucille Larson
Doris Dahlquist	Bernice Langford

30 VOICES

Audrey Ohme
Geraldine Leland

Mary Rita Johnson
Harriet Bronsdon
Audrey Graff
Irene O'Connor
Marjorie Davidson
Dorothy Berdan
Jerry Stone
Jackey Hitchcock
Edith Redmen
Charlotte Hurd
Dala Rae Sewall
La Verne Nelson
Kathryn La Vegne
Odelle Dunn
Ann Leogering
Lillian Tracy
Anna Finstad
Helen Attwood
Myrtle Boostrean

VESTED CHOIR

COLONIAL MEN AND WOMEN

Inez Campbell
Mary Campbell

SUNSHINE GIRLS

Beatrice Maylone
Jullett Johnson
Anna Fagerseram
Esther Larson
Mary Jane Reilly
Audrey Graff
Shirley Peters
Marguerite Rolf
Flora Lundberg
Cleo Merfeld
Lucille Thorpe
Marian Santrizos
Cella King
Ada Campbell
Lois Anderson
Doris Anderson
Royal Silverman
Lucille Werner
Mildred Kolsmoe

TINY TOT PARADE

Tell Me A Story Earlene Ainsworth
Mother Mrs. A. C. Rice
Father Mr. A. C. Rice

SPECIAL MUSICAL NUMBERS

"Smile, Smile, The World's All Right" Girls' Chorus
"Whistle and Blow Your Blues Away" Girls' Chorus
"Old-Fashioned Garden" Girls' Chorus
"Wait 'Till the Cows Come Home" Girls' Chorus
"Harlem High Steppers" Girls' Chorus
"The Vagabond Kings" Famous Male Chorus and Ensemble
"Stars and Stripes Revue" Entire Ensemble

PIANIST—MARJORIE CHRISTIANSON

**HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM**
St. Louis Park, Minn.

Admission - 35c
Curtain at 8:15—Sponsored by
Ladies' Circle of Brookside
Community Church

Friday - Saturday
Jan. 26th - 27th