ST. LOUIS PARK'S CITY PARKS

Acting on a suggestion by member Steve Steuck, we scoured the files at Parks and Rec for the stories behind the City parks that are named after individuals. Here are the results. Read more about the parks on the web at www.slphistory.org/history/cityparks.asp. If you have any additions or corrections, please contact us.

Ainsworth Park, 7700 W. 28th St. at Quebec, was named after S. Earl Ainsworth. In the 1920s, Ainsworth served the Park as City Assessor, and from 1944 to his death in 1966, he served as a Hennepin County Commissioner.

Carpenter Park, 3001 Raleigh Ave. at Minnetonka Blvd., was located on the site of the current City Hall. Some of the land was donated by the Carpenter family.

Creekside/Isaac Walton League Park, 7341 Oxford at Meadowbrook Blvd., was renamed in 1988 to include the civic organization that preserves and maintains Minnehaha Creek.

Elie Park, 3429 Xylon, had been known as 34 ½ Street and Wyoming, Tower Park for its water tower, and also Xylon Park. In 1952, Alfred and Nora Elie donated some of their 10 acres of land. In 1994, the park was named for the Elies.

Freedom Park/Paul Frank Field/Gorham Ave. Athletic Field, 3261 Gorham (adjacent to the library), is essentially a field for the Pony/Colt league, which was started by Parkite Paul Frank.

Hannon Lake, 9505 Cedar Lake Road, is a protected wetland, located between 28th Street and Cedar Lake Road, east of Highway 169. It was named after an adjacent property owner.

Hurd Park/Carroll Hurd Rotary Park, north of Cedar Lake Road between Nevada and Pennsylvania, was named for Carroll Hurd, Rotarian and former Mayor of St. Louis Park, in 1976. In 1980 the name was changed to Caroll Hurd Rotary Park, reflecting work the SLP Rotary Club had done to make improvements. In 1990, the Rotary Club requested that its name be removed from Hurd Park and added to Northside Park instead.

Jackley Park/Brookside Park, 4215 Brookside Ave. The M.X. Jackley family allowed the City to use part of their land for a park, and in 1957, Mrs. Jackley sold some of her land to the City. When Mrs. Jackley died in 1968, the City bought the rest of the property. It was renamed Jackley Park in 1969.

CITY PARKS, CONTINUED

Jorvig Park, 6100 W. 37th at Brunswick, was probably the park that the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad gave to the Village in exchange for naming the Village St. Louis Park. It has also been known as Bandstand Park, Firemen's Park, and Central Park. It was named for Torval Jorvig, who served on the Village/City Council from 1934 to 1961.

Justad Park, 5917 Cambridge Ave. at Alabama, was named for Joe Justad in March 1963. Justad served the community as City Recorder and City Clerk for almost 26 years. Read more about Jorvig and Justad in *Something in the Water*.

Kilmer Pond, 1684 Kilmer Ave. So. at Highway 169, was apparently named after Joyce Kilmer, who wrote the poem "Trees."

Lamplighter Park and Pond, 1800 Pennsylvania Ave. So., is said to be haunted by the caretaker of the adjacent Silver Fox Farm, whose lamp light can be seen decades after the Fox Farm closed.

Medora Woods, 2144 France (22nd St. and Ewing Ave.) is .undeveloped open space. Medora Woods was actually the name of the person who donated the land in 1996.

Menzel Park, 2701 Glenhurst, was named for neighbor Arthur Menzel. In 1944, Menzel, a furrier, was on the Minneapolis Park Board, which granted permission for St. Louis Park to use the triangle at France Ave. and Cedar Lake Ave.

Nelson Park, 2500 Georgia Ave. was originally called Edgewood Park. On November 8, 1962 the park was named for Dorothea Nelson, the City's first Recreation Director, who served from 1946 to 1962.

Otten Pond, 1440 Dakota (15th and Hampshire) is named for the developer who owned the land adjacent to the pond.

Texa-Tonka Park/Lake Victoria/John Ross Field, 2750 Virginia Ave. was donated by Adoph Fine in 1955. John Ross developed the Braille Sports Foundation, and organized Beep Baseball tournaments.

Westling Pond, 28th and Boone Ave., was named for R.J. and Marlys Westling, who lived on and developed the land in this area.

Wolfe Lake Park/Johnson Lake, 3700 Monterey Drive at Beltline, was originally called Westmoreland Park, the name of the plat. Johnson Lake was owned by gravel pit operator Glenn Johnson. In 1964, Johnson Lake was renamed for Mayor Ken Wolfe, who did so much to develop the lake and park.

PARK'S _REAL_ OLDEST CHURCH BUILDING

In the March issue of the *Re-Echo*, we chronicled the life of the church building at 3208 Xenwood as the oldest church building in the Park. (not the oldest church – that is Union Congregational.) Alert member Lucille Thornsjo gently reminded us of Brookside Church (now St. Dunstan's), on Brookside Avenue. Of course! Here is its history.

Brookside Community Church (Methodist Episcopal) was built at 4241 Brookside Avenue in 1915. Members had first met in a cottage and opened a Sunday school in 1913. The 24' by 40' building was enlarged in 1927 and 1934.

In 1946, Brookside Church merged with the Methodist Meeting House, and the combined church was renamed **Aldersgate**. In 1949, part of the Baston farm was purchased for $6,500 for a new church at 3801 Wooddale.

In 1950, the original Brookside church building became the **First Church of Christ Scientist** of St. Louis Park. Due to dwindling membership, Christmas Day 1988, was the last day of services.

On March 12, 1989, 84 members dedicated **Anglican Church of St. Dunstan**. The congregation had been meeting in the Edina-Morningside Community Congregational Church and purchased the small building.

SAVE THE BEEHIVE
And other Roadside Park Structures

The plan to move the Beehive and other stone structures from Lilac Park to Roadside Park has been approved, and work is scheduled to start in the spring of 2009. A **BIG** thanks for so many donations: we now have over $6,000 of the $30,000 we have been challenged to raise (of the $220,000 total cost). This summer we hope to canvass Park businesses, asking them for the history of their business and for a donation to the Beehive fund. We have a long way to go, so if you are interested in saving this Park landmark, we'd love to hear from you. Again, THANKS to everyone who has donated so far!

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2008 BEEHIVE DONATION FORM

Amount of Contribution: $ _____

Name(s): _____

Address _____

_____

Mail your contribution to:

St. Louis Park Historical Society
3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Phone: 952-924-2550   **Donations are 100% tax deductible**
history@slphistory.org   **www.slphistory.org**

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Thank you to everyone who brought us donations since the last Re-Echo. We apologize if we left anyone out.

Dr. Robert A. Green, one of the original 11 doctors that started the St. Louis Park Medical Center, donated a copy of The Bulletin, Vol. 33, No. 2, 1989, Park Nicollet Medical Foundation. It includes a history of Park Nicollet written by Dr. Green.

David Hughes sent materials on the class of 1956's 60th reunion.

Beverly Johnson donated her 1940 high school gymsuit!

Peter Knable, developer of Westling Estates, found a 78 rpm record made by the St. Louis Park "Oriolians." Peter also donated a DVD player.

Roland Pearson gave us a copy of the ribbons he won at a SLP Children's Roller Skating and Bicycle Derby in 1940. He says it was held on the street on the east side of the Beehive site; does anyone else remember?

Nancy Rose donated a postcard picture of Lincoln School.

THIS 'N' THAT

WESTLING HOUSE UPDATE: Good news! The property has been sold to a buyer who is interested in preserving the original part of the house, which dates back to 1874. Kudos to Peter Knable, the developer, who has altered his plan in order to save the house and barn. He even renamed the new subdivision Westling Estates. By the way, is the Westling barn the only one left in the City? If you know of another, please let us know.

PARKTACULAR: As this edition of the Re-Echo goes to press, we are looking forward to participating in the Parktacular Parade and Share Fair on June 14. This year our goal is to recruit owners of antique cars to carry us down the parade route. The idea to dress in period costumes was quietly abandoned. As we did two years ago, we plan to hand out pencils with our web site address on them. At the Share Fair we hope to provide information about the Beehive and hopefully collect more donations.

AQUILA SCHOOL celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 3 with an open house. All but one of the former principals were there to greet former students and their parents. The City donated a ginkgo tree to the school grounds, and the neighborhood association donated a "peace pole." The school was built in 1957 with 27 classrooms. 900 students attended in the first year. An addition was built in 1967. The school has been recognized for its diversity of students.

THE HISTORIC DEPOT at 37th and Brunswick will be open to the public every Saturday this summer (except June 14 for the parade) from 1 to 4 pm. Come chat and look at railroad artifacts.

Note to Calendar: September 20 is the date of the Historical Society's annual Ice Cream Social at Jorvig Park.

ANNUAL MEETING: The SLPHS held its annual meeting on June 3, and all of the officers whose terms had expired were re-elected to their spots. The board voted to move annual meetings from May to September. The bylaws will be updated to include this change. The next annual meeting will be held in September 2009.

SUGAR FACTORY HOUSES? Virg Hofstrand mentioned the Sugar Factory houses in Oak Hill. We know about the Monitor houses and Walker Houses, but this is new to us. The Sugar factory was on the site that became the Creosote plant (now Louisiana Oaks). It operated between 1898 and 1905, and we certainly have many houses of that age. If you know anything about these houses, please let us know.

If anyone uses #10 ink in their printer or copier, please contact Jeanne at 612-396-6292.

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 Mondays and Thursdays from 10 to noon, and by appointment. Our mailing address is:

3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

To contact us by phone, call 952-924-2550, leave a message, and someone will return the call. Our email address is **history@slphistory.org**.

You may also contact a member of our Board:

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Vice President: Robert Jorvig. 952-938-6553
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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 SLP High School since 1917.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In this issue we have experimented with different sizes of type, in order to fit more information in. If you have any opinion on this, please let us know. Also note that if you want to do research or otherwise use the facilities at Lenox, we are open by appointment. Just contact one of our board members. To date we have 119 members. Although you don't need to be a member to receive the Re-Echo, we need membership dues in order to operate, so we hope you will...

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.