

The Re-ECHO

St. Louis Park

A Newsletter for the members of the St. Louis Park Historical Society

Start or Renew your 2006 Membership

Palm's Bakery

The Re-ECHO is published quarterly by the St. Louis Park Historical Society and is written by Robert C. Reiss. Its purpose is to acquaint the members, volunteers and friends on how the activities, programs and resources of the Society are used to preserve the history of St. Louis Park. The name was inspired by the ECHO newspaper published by and for the students of St. Louis Park High School since 1917.

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On November 12, 2005, Palm's Bakery closed. Son Dale suffered a stroke and LeRoy could not do it alone. The St. Louis Park icon of many years will be missed. Every day hundreds of people stopped by to pick up their bread or sweet roll and get a friendly "good morning." The following article from the Spring 2004 Re-Echo is being rerun in fond memory of Palms.

Palm's Bakery has been operating from a small store at 6416 Lake Street for over 50 years. Today it is one of the few independent bakeries still in business, as well as one of the oldest businesses in St. Louis Park.

Since 1950, there have been three generations of Palms involved. The shop is now owned by LeRoy and Marlene. LeRoy's father, Enord, opened the bakery at this location after owning another for 20 years at a Minneapolis location. LeRoy and his brother, Gordon, were the bakers until Gordon died. Then LeRoy's son, Dale,

stepped in. Now LeRoy, Dale, and Dale's brother, Roy, start at 2:30 AM to fill the shop's shelves for the day. Every thing is made fresh daily from scratch and donated if not sold. Their food is made to be eaten, not preserved. The recipes have been handed down but never written down. Palm's is known for its Scandinavian specialties but also offers a complete line of breads, pies, cookies and pastries. A favorite ingredient is a unique spice called cardamom that adds sweetness to the breads. Palms is a true family business. Marlene, LeRoy's wife, is a constant behind the counter with the help of an occasional grandkid. Joyce Anderson, although not official family, has worked there for over twenty five years. They know most of their customers and the customers know them. They know what peoples' favorites are.

To paraphrase what it says on their shop window "Get your buns in here."

The Emil Pearson Family

Emil Pearson was one of four sons of Peters Son or Pearson. Peter Son was a carpenter and builder. When he moved to St. Louis Park he built a group of homes for his family on Dakota Avenue just north of the Dan Patch tracks.

In 1916, Emil graduated from St. Louis Park High School and went to the University of Minnesota. He was accepted to the mission field in 1918, and in 1919 he

was ordained.

Emil met his wife, Daisy, when he was taking a crash course in medicine while awaiting transportation to Angola, Africa. Daisy was also a fully trained missionary. They were married in March 1920 and left for Africa in June.

They were headed for the Ngangels region of Angola. The journey to inner Angola took 115 days. They traveled to

Pearson Family

Livingston by train. From there they traveled around Victoria Falls for four days by ox cart. Next they traveled by flat bottom barges, rowed by natives. This leg took 26 days and then they had to hike another 13 days on foot.

Emil and Daisy loved Africa and assimilated the culture quickly. Emil picked up the language in six weeks. They recognized the secret of the culture that they felt was better than ours. The African people take care of each other by unselfishly sharing.

From 1920 until 1966, Emil and Daisy opened and taught in a large number of missions. Emil became very fluid in the local unwritten Luchazi language. To help his missionary work, he translated the Bible, prayer books, and wrote a dictionary. To record the previously undocumented customs, tales, and culture he wrote several original books in Luchazi and several more in English. They had two daughters, Edla and Regina who grew up to join them. Although Edla was never able to walk, she taught in the mission for many years even after her folks retired. Regina became a medical doctor, married another, and both served the missions.

The Pearson family spent a sabbatical year in St. Louis Park during the late 1930's. During this year, Emil became

friends with C. Ed Christy who owned a gas station and small sporting goods store at Lake Street and Dakota Ave.

When Emil went back to Africa, Christy gave him a gun as a present. There is a letter in the Historical Society from Emil to Christy thanking him for the gun and relating an incident with a lion in which Emil had to kill the lion with the gun in order to protect himself. In a 1989 newspaper article, Emil said he shot and killed no fewer than 14 lions. He thought he had probably killed more lions than any other white man.

In 1966, Emil and Daisy retired to Seal Beach, California. Edla and Regina continued the missionary work in Africa. They were forced to leave Angola in 1975 for Zambia because of a revolution.

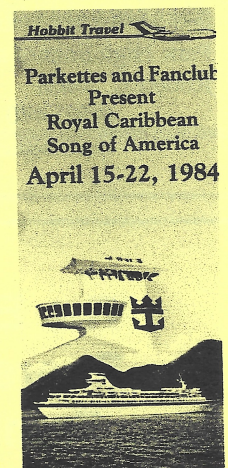
Emil and Daisy visited Zambia for three months in 1978 where they visited Edla, Regina and many former Angolan refugees. They found that there was still a great need for more literature in Luchazi. Emil returned to Seal Beach with several assignments from Edla. Regina died in 1983, Daisy and Edla in 1988, Emil in 1990.

More information on the Pearson family is available in the article "A Swedish Family in St. Louis Park" in the book "Something in the Water."



50th Reunion
Parkettes, parents and Fan Club
 Join the fun, relive the memories, see old friends, hear the music

Downtown Marriott Hotel
April 22, 2006



Advice to Park Seniors

Roland Larson, St. Louis Park guidance counselor, was a Minnesota delegate to the five-day White House Conference in Washington, D. C., called by President Eisenhower in 1960. Prior to the conference on Children and Youth, Roland invited well-known persons to respond to the question.

"What bit of advice would you consider most significant for young people, generally, over the next decade."

Mr. Larson received a number of responses that were read as a part of Leadership Conference for St. Louis Park senior high students. This is an encapsulation of some of the responses.

Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt (On a personally typed reply):

Work hard to develop their abilities to the maximum and work hard to see that the free world wins the struggle between the ideologies of the free world and the communist world.

Werneher Von Braun, Rocket Scientist:

They should apply themselves diligently to their studies as a through preparation was absolutely necessary for a successful career.

Marion Anderson, Opera Singer:

Get as much education as possible and consider school not just an obligation but a privilege.

Richard Nixon, Vice President:

Be aware of current events so they were fully informed on the problems of national and international affairs.

Ralph Bunche, Under Secretary to the United Nations:

Induce youngsters to adapt their own set of values and principles. To be forward looking, a little bold and nonconformist.

William O. Douglas, Justice of the Supreme Court:

Pick at least one, and preferably two, foreign languages in which to become an expert.

Norman Vincent Peale, Evangelist, and Author:

Decide whether to maintain the moral standards of Christian teachings or whether they should be cast aside and replaced.

J. Edgar Hoover, Head of FBI:

Accept responsibility in an insecure world which is the target of an enemy eager to exploit your idealism, credibility and inexperience.

Beehive Update

A preliminary planning meeting was held on November 4, 2005 to develop a timeline, process, and budget to relocate and maintain the stone WPA historical artifacts. The meeting was called by Rick Birno of the St. Louis Park, Parks and Recreation Department. Representatives

of the City of St. Louis Park, Sunrise Rotary, SLP Historical Society, and MnDoT were present.

A second meeting is scheduled for January 2006 and representatives of Hennepin County will be invited.

Select the membership category that best suits you.

Member \$25.00

Student Member \$ 5.00

Clip this form. Make sure the mailing address on the back is correct. Add a winter/summer address if applicable.

Please send your check and the 2006 membership/renewal to:

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

This and That

If you enjoy reading the Re-Echo, we invite you to become a member of the St. Louis Park Historical Society. The newsletter is mailed to nearly 1000 people. The cost of mailing is provided by the approximately 150 members. We need you to be a member.

Don Sorko passed away in November. Don was a talented artist. He created the sketch of the Depot that the Historical Society uses as a logo. We thank him for this contribution and will miss his talent.

Byerly's St. Louis Park restaurant has completed its remodeling. For their wall decorations they used scenes of early St. Louis Park. All of the pictures are from the collection of the St. Louis Park Historical Society. Visit the restaurant and check them out.

Do you know anyone in the armed services that has an interest in St. Louis Park? Send us an address and we will send them the Re-Echo.

Who We Are

The St. Louis Park Historical Society was founded in 1971 to record and preserve the history of St. Louis Park. The archives of the Society are located in the Depot at Jorvig Park and at the Lenox Community Center. The Lenox site is open on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 AM through 12:00 pm. A more convenient visit can be arranged by calling the Society or any of the listed Trustees.

The St. Louis Park Historical Society's mailing address is at the Rec. Center building at:

3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

To call us phone 952-934-2538. Leave a message and someone will call back. If your need is urgent, call one of the Societies Trustees.

Jeanne Andersen maintains a website

time line with a great deal of information on St. Louis Park. It is currently accessible through www.jeanneandersen.com. The Re-Echo is written and distributed by Bob Reiss. He can be contacted through the Society or at 952-470-1762 or Rcreiss@aol.com. Bob Reiss also distributes the St. Louis Park history book "Something in the Water."

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Have you renewed your membership for 2006?

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