



Chanhasen Historian

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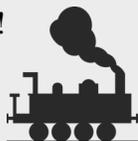
Spring 2018

A Little Bit of History...



1882

Milwaukee Railroad builds a small depot in Chanhasen connecting the township with Minneapolis to the east and Cologne and Young America to the west, resulting in many new businesses and the future development of downtown as we know it today!



1896

On April 21st, 35 men gather in John Geiser's carpenter shop where they vote to incorporate a Chanhasen village government



1926

Chanhasen's first indoor bathroom with pressurized hot and cold water is installed at the John Kerber farm



Frontier Days: The Wild West of Chanhasen

By Paula Atkins

Picture this: Being 7 years old and hearing a rumor that Jesse James and his gang are in town to rob the Post Office!

Your grandmother, wearing an 1870's dress and hat, actually hurries you out the door. Where are we going Gramma? To the Post Office, of course! We walked (Gramma never drove a car).

This was summer of 1963 in Chanhasen, and the post office was in the area that is now the Chanhasen Dinner Theater, nestled in near what would later become Chuckwagon Charlie's.

I remember men on horses – masked men, with guns! Riding down Main Street to the Post Office. I swear I could hear their six-shooters firing into the air, and the bandits demanding the

money. The postmaster, Dutch Pauly came out with his hands up!

Now, I found this quite interesting. When the law came to apprehend the bandits (also on horseback), two of them looked strangely familiar. One looked just like my uncle Bernie Schneider, the banker, and one looked just like Ed Hjermstad, my best friend's father (also the proprietor of Ed's Round-Up Superette, at the time.)

I have heard the tableau ended with the bandits being strung up. I somehow missed that spectacle, but I suspect they were escorted out of town with ropes around their necks (these were business men after all, not law men and bandits.)

See **Frontier Days** on P2



John Kerber, Paula and Mark Roeser
Frontier Days, 1963

Frontier Days—From Page 1

These were exciting times for a small but growing township. Chanhassen Frontier Days was the brainstorm of the city fathers at the time. I suspect a great deal of the credit went to Herb Bloomberg, who had recently built the Frontier Center, which included Frontier Lumber and Hardware and Frontier Furniture. (Later came the Dinner Theater which also housed the famous Bronco Bar.)

Our little town embraced Frontier Days every summer for about ten years. It was a big deal – a giant parade, a kiddie parade, big tents with the Beer Garden, and a real carnival with rides came to town! This was the highlight of my summer. The costumes are what I remember most. I still have the dress my grandmother wore that day, and

a photo of her wearing it is preserved in on the Chanhassen History Quilt. Outfitted in matching cowboy costumes, my brother and I were pulled in a mini covered wagon by cousin John on a tractor. My cousin Claire in her Bo Peep costume (complete with a LIVE sheep) won first place in the costume contest!

Over the years the Frontier Days site moved from place to place as the town grew. Ed's Round-Up Superette became Ed's Super Fair. One memorable year during the festival he even hired a helicopter to give rides over Chanhassen – the only time I have ever been in a helicopter! The Post Office moved to larger digs, schools and banks were



Claire Robling and her little lamb
Frontier Days, 1963

built and eventually downtown Chanhassen took on a whole new look. The surrounding land turned from farms and fields to homes and industrial parks.

Many of these traditions fade as towns become cities, but the spirit of our old festival is alive and well in Chanhassen's 4th of July Celebration which revived the essence of Frontier Days in 1983.

For more on Chanhassen's rich history and traditions, see *Chanhassen, A Centennial History* (available at City Hall, \$10)

Upcoming Event! German Lecture Series at the Hospital Auditorium in Waconia

Join us beginning June 2 and continuing through December on the first Saturday of each month at 11 am (sponsored by the Carver County Historical Society)

Tractor Show at the Peterson Farm!

Saturday June 2 from 10am to 5pm

Activities include:

- ◇ Music
- ◇ Animals
- ◇ Crafts & Activities
- ◇ Food
- ◇ Silent Auction

Entry Fees:

- \$5 entry for non-members
- \$3 for members
- Free for children under 12!



Check the Carver County Historical Society Facebook page for more details, bands, and added attractions!

Event co-hosted by The Carver County Historical Society & The Scott

Join us! Saturday May 5 from 12 pm – 3 pm

A unique interactive experience. Discover the history and value of your item!!



Chanhassen Recreation Center
(at Bluff Creek Elementary)

All are welcome to attend.
Free Admission.

Treasures Uncovered™

Presented by
Chanhassen Historical Society

ASM Appraisal Specialists Midwest

See enclosed flyer for entry form and more info!



This year's Cemetery Walk had over 150 attendees who had the opportunity to learn about Chanhassen's history in a fun and engaging way! A huge thank you to our actors, volunteers, and sponsors for another successful event!

GET INVOLVED!



Board Members Wanted!

As a board member you have the opportunity to:

- ⇒ Attend bi-monthly meetings
- ⇒ Volunteer for fun, history-driven events that fit your schedule
- ⇒ Help further our mission to educate and engage our community through the sharing and preserving of its history
- ⇒ Have fun and meet new people!

No experience required!

Contact Paula Atkins
952-934-0501

<contact@chanhistorical.org>

Annual Membership Meeting

- **When:** April 17 2018
- **Time:** 6:30—8pm
- **Where:** Maple Room, Chanhassen Senior Center, Chanhassen City Hall

Enjoy light refreshments while special guest Kathy Spence Johnson, a professional archivist and amateur genealogist, presents a program, "How to care for your Family Archives." She will discuss practical ways to archive family mementos including photographs, letters, documents, china, fabric, dolls and other items!

Join the Chanhassen Historical Society!

Your membership will help with the preservation and restoration projects of Chanhassen's historic buildings, plus educational programs about our community's history. You also automatically become a member of the Carver County Historical Society!

Membership Application

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# () _____ E-mail _____

- Individual (\$15) Family (\$25) Bronze (\$50-\$100)
 Silver(\$101-\$125) Gold(\$251-\$500) Platinum (\$500-\$1,000)

Make checks payable to: Chanhassen Historical Society

P.O. Box 941, Chanhassen, MN 55317

Notes from the President

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that our organization is financially healthy! This is due in part to the great work of our treasurer, Nancy Simpson. Over the year we have hosted several fundraisers, kept spending to a minimum, and worked to be an enriching presence in our community.

Now the bad news: Nancy will be resigning her position as treasurer on the Board as of April. She, along with her husband Lynn, have put in many hours at our fundraisers. She has been an asset to our organization, from treasurer and volunteer duties to writing monthly articles you see in the Villager. Nancy is a gifted writer and researcher and volunteers her time and talents throughout our community. We are losing two additional Board members to resignation this April. Ken Smith has

served two 3-year terms as Vice-president and has been a welcome presence on our Board. Claire Mitchell has served three terms on our Board, two of them as Secretary. She has brought much to the Historical Society over the years: finding speakers, organizing educational community events, and keeping our meeting records.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these three for their dedication and service over the years – they will be greatly missed!

I am currently in my third term on the board – 5 of those years as President. While our organization is financially healthy, our membership numbers have continued to decline over the last ten years. This is due to members moving out of town, passing away, and young families having a myriad of commitments in their lives.

While this decline in membership is troubling, the continuous success of our outreach and fundraising events preserves my optimism that our services are valued by the community. We are open to any ideas that could stimulate involvement and help our organization grow and move forward. So, help spread the word – no experience necessary, just a desire to preserve our history for future generations!



Paula Atkins, President

Chanhassen Historical Society

P.O. Box 941

Chanhassen, MN 55317

Board of Directors

Paula Atkins, President

Phone: 952-934-0501

contact@chanhistorical.org

Ken Smith, Vice President

Mary Jo Kamerud, Secretary

Nancy Simpson, Treasurer

Sally Atkins, Newsletter Editor

Claire Mitchell, Art Mason,

Ron Roeser

Chanhassen Historical Society Website:

chanhistorical.org

