



Chanhassen Historian

Vol.15, No. 1

A Publication of the Chanhassen Historical Society

Spring 2024

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in Memoriam



Ron Roeser
1933-2024

The Chanhassen Historical Society suffered the loss of one of its most cherished founding members in March. Ron Roeser passed away after a brief illness on March 15, 2024 at the age of 90.

Ron was born (at home) in Chanhassen to Leonard and Lorraine (Jorissen) Roeser on July 21, 1933, in a small house on St. Francis Street (the house still stands to this day on what is now Frontier Trail, across from Chapel Hill Academy). The 3rd of eight children, he spent nearly all of his life in this town, seeing it grow from a tiny farming community to the bustling city it is today.

After serving in Korea in the early 1950's he returned to Chanhassen and married the love of his life, Elaine (Schneider) from Victoria. They raised their children here, attending St. Hubert's Church, playing baseball (an early 1950's Redbird!) and coaching Babe Ruth League baseball. He was active in local government, starting Chanhassen's first Summer Recreation Program, and was also a founder of the Chanhassen Civic Theater which performed many plays locally at St. Hubert's School in the 1960's and 70's.

Ron was a prolific writer of stories about his childhood growing up in Chanhassen (one of his stories is featured on page 2 of this issue of the Historian) and the Chanhassen Historical Society is lucky to have these stories in its archives as a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us in our town. His family was his pride and joy, and he liked nothing better than to sit and visit with people who came to visit the Chanhassen History Center during our events.

A well-known and loved icon of Chanhassen, he will be deeply missed by those who knew him.



Chanhassen Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting 2024

Wednesday May 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Chanhassen History Center, 391 W 78th Street

A short business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation by guest speaker Mark Kaplan on the topic of The Parks Country Day Camp of Chanhassen, which was located on the land adjacent to Lake Ann and Lake Lucy from 1951-1966.

Drinks and light snacks will be served.

Members and nonmembers are welcome!

COFFIN NAILS

A Short Story by Ron Roeser

Sometime in the early spring of the last century, a sailor died.
A boy from the plains of Minnesota – a sailor who had never really sailed.
A boy who, when he reached a certain age, enlisted in the Navy
with his cousin and their friend,
His cousin and their friend sailed from New York,
leaving the sailor in a military hospital,
a victim of the sickness that ravaged the world when the
century was new – called “the Spanish Flu”.

The sailor died.
His body was placed in a wooden coffin,
And was sent back to the town in Minnesota
the sailor called home. It was a very small town.
Everyone in the Village gathered at the station to meet the coffin.
It was World War I, and the sailor had died to make the world
safe for democracy.

The service would be held at the small town’s church.
It was a solemn occasion.
Farmers did not work that day.
Shops and taverns closed.

Lunch would be served in the convent school, in the “big room”.
School benches would be stacked in the hallway.
At the train station the people watched as the sailor’s coffin was unloaded.
Girls from the school in their white dresses and white gloves, holding flowers,
were in the front row.

A rumor had spread that a coffin had recently returned from the War,
containing not the body of a soldier, but the leg of a horse.

It was decided by the Village elders that the coffin should be opened.

The local undertaker would open the coffin.
As he removed the screws from the coffin,
he handed the screws to the tall, red-haired girl in the front row.

The cover was removed. The people saw the gaunt sad corpse
of a sailor from the plains of Minnesota –
the sailor who had never sailed.

The undertaker replaced the cover on the coffin.

The procession moved to the church.

The sailor was Martin Roeser.

His friends were Clarence Geiser and Frank Roeser.

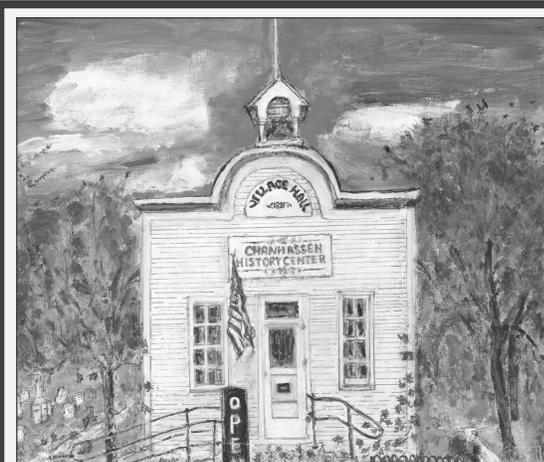
The tall red-haired girl who held the screws was my mother,
Lorraine Jorissen Roeser.



Newly Completed: Chanhassen Historical Society Display at Chanhassen Brewing Company

The public is invited to view a recently completed History Wall at Chanhassen Brewing while enjoying a delicious brew or coffee beverage. The display includes photographs of historic Chanhassen as well as featuring many photographs from the history of the Chanhassen Fire Department.

Chanhassen Brewing Company is at
951 W 78th St. Chanhassen



PUZZLES AVAILABLE!

Local Artist Lee Newcomb of Chanhassen created this watercolor painting of the Chanhassen History Center / Old Village Hall in September.

This beautiful painting will be available for purchase as a jigsaw puzzle – coming this summer to the History Center!

Calling All Trivia Fans!

Upcoming History Trivia Night at Chanhassen Brewery Company

CHS will be sponsoring a special Chanhassen History Trivia Night at the Chanhassen Brewing Company. We're currently in search of relevant ideas for questions and we need your help!

Please submit your ideas for trivia questions (along with answers) to:

contact@chanhistorical.org

Or email directly to Paula Atkins at:

pjatkings13@gmail.com

You can also mail trivia questions to:

Chanhassen Historical Society

PO Box 941, Chanhassen MN 55317

We would love to hear from you!

The trivia event date is to-be-determined so keep an eye out for event details to come!

The Chanhassen Brewing Company is located at: 951 W 78th St. Chanhassen MN 55317



Chanhassen History Center Opens for Third Season!

Opening Saturday May 4th

11am-1pm

And Saturdays all summer!

Come visit the Chanhassen History Center museum, located in the Old Village Hall building at 391 W 78th St.

We hope to see you there!

Join the Chanhassen Historical Society!

It's more important than ever to join or renew your membership.

Please consider an additional donation as we continue to develop the History Center and community events.

Check your address label for current membership status.

Membership automatically includes subscription to Carver County Historical Society's mailing list!

Membership Form

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# () _____ E-mail _____

Individual (\$15) Family (\$25) Additional Donation Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Chanhassen Historical Society, P.O. Box 941, Chanhassen, MN 55317

OR PayPal payments to: contact@chanhistorical.org



Notes from the President

Greetings fellow friends of history! An unusually warm snowless winter allowed me to take my daily walk through the cemetery at the Historic St. Hubert Church in old downtown Chanhassen. I like to visit with the many people I've known who are at rest there, and wonder about those I did not have the privilege of knowing, like John C. Geiser, the architect and builder of the beautiful church on the site.

I'm excited to share that St. Hubert's Parish has obtained a computer program that will allow a mapping of the cemetery and give us better information about the location of the people interned there. We look forward to working with their team on this project. We are also excited about a class in restoring historic grave markers given by one of our curators at Carver County Historical Society this summer.

Summer and fall of 2023 brought more than 300 visitors to the Chanhassen History Center. It is so gratifying to meet with our visitors and answer questions, especially from residents who are visiting the historic district for the first time, and also the many visitors who share stories of past friends and relatives who grew up in this small town.

Last fall our biennial Chanhassen Cemetery Walk brought many visitors to Pioneer Cemetery on Galpin Blvd and the St. Hubert Cemetery. Thank you again to our volunteers, especially those dressed in period costume on that unusually warm day in September!

Looking ahead to this summer, we will keep you up-to-date on several items of interest involving the historic depot and other historic buildings here in Chanhassen, as well as upcoming events.

If you are interested in history please consider joining our Board of Directors! We are looking to fill the Director (formerly known as "president") of the board, as well as Treasurer, Secretary and members at large positions. We meet six times per year. Our main objectives are the collection and cataloging of documents and artifacts along with preserving and maintaining our History Center and hosting events for the public.

Finally, I would like to say a very special thank you to all who donated in the memory of Ron Roeser.

I welcome all your thoughts and ideas and hope to see everyone this summer!

Paula Atkins,
President



Remember!
Your membership includes access to photo archives
from the Carver County Historical Society!

www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Username: cchsApr

Passcode: 68ZBBAMRHT63

Chanhassen Historical Society

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