



April 2004

Volume XXVI

Number 1

A Big May Event In Plymouth

Plymouth History Fest at Parker's Lake on Saturday May 8th

Plymouth History Fest at Parkers Lake Park on Saturday May 8th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM rain or shine. Many activities for the young and young at heart: Voyager Encampment, Antique Car Show, Walton Hollow Petting Zoo, Old Farm Implements, Plymouth Historical Society Display, Bob Gasch – Story Teller, Ash & Ruben Fast Horse - Native American Culture, Car Parade and Old Tyme Refreshments.

The Voyager Encampment is being held May 6, 7 & 8th. The first two days will bring approximately 1500 school students from the local area attending a variety of educational activities going on at Parkers Lake Park. On Saturday the 8th it is continued with added attractions and open to the public at no charge.

See attached flyer with timetable of events. In addition the City of Plymouth is looking for volunteers to help with directing and assisting students on May 6 & 7th. You can contact the Plymouth Park and Recreation Department.

FAMILY HISTORIES

The Plymouth Historical Society would like to tell you about one of the early families. The Edward Reinke family put their roots down in Plymouth in 1892. Edward Fredreg Willem Reinke was born March 15, 1864 in Prussia. He was raised in the village of Butzke in the state Pommern and left his home to come to America when he was 26 years old. He worked his way across the Atlantic not once but twice as a fireman stoking the ships fire before he stayed.

He joined his older half-brothers August and Otto in Minneapolis and worked as a black smith just like his father supposedly had done in Prussia. Edward met Henriette Glau and they were married November 5, 1892 at St. John Evangelical Church, 16th Ave. North and 3rd Street in Minneapolis.

Sometime after 1902 Edward was persuaded by Charles Schiebe to move his blacksmith business from Minneapolis out to Plymouth. The building was located one block east of Schiebe's Half Way House on the north side of the old Watertown Road (County Road 6) across from the present LaCompte Park.



This picture was taken about 1908 and in the picture is Edward Sr., Edward Jr. (7), Otto (5), Minnie (12), Olga (2) and Anna (10). The shop was a busy place in those early days. For the farmers from Watertown and the surrounding country side it was a 1 ½ to 2 day trip into Minneapolis with horse and buggy or wagon. The farmers would spend the night at Schiebe's and continue into Minneapolis on the second day. If the horses needed re-shoeing or the wagon's needed repairing the black smith shop was close by.

He trimmed the horses hoofs and fitted them for shoes. The shoes were heated red hot and hammered on the anvil to get the right shape. The horse shoes were then dunked into a pail of water and they sizzled and sputtered until they were cool. Long horse shoe nails were pounded into the hoof as the blacksmith held the horse leg between his legs. The horses were big work horses and were very strong. Sometimes another person held the horses head as the horse struggled as they were being shoed.

Family lore indicated that Edward and Henriette lived in a house several blocks west of Schiebe's Half Way House on the north side of the old Watertown Road (County Road 6) close to Hidden lake. It was a few blocks west of the West Medicine Lake road across from the present day Baptist Church.



The house is 1 ½ story salt box style home build on top of the ground with flagstone piled up for the foundation. In the picture from left to right is Edward Senior, Otto, Edward Jr., Minne and Anna. Notice Edward's wife, Hennreitte, posing in the window. These children along with another child Amanda who died, were born in Minneapolis. Three additional children were born in Plymouth, Otto, Olga and Adolph.

It is understood that a dispute about land rental arose and the house was move around 1917 to 15 acres that Edward had purchased on what is now called County Road 73. It was reported that the house was pulled by horses to its new location one block south of the intersection of County Road 73 and 15 on the east side of 73. The house stood until 1940 and was torn down after Edward Sr. Died January 27, 1940.

The black smith shop was also built on the 15 acres and Edward Jr. worked in the blacksmith shop and took over the business. He gave up blacksmith trade around 1936-37 and went to work for Booth Cold Storage in Minneapolis. Sometime prior to that in about 1924 Otto added on a feed mill to the blacksmith shop and his brother Adolph helped him for many years. After World War II, about 1946-47, Adolph started his own sheet metal business - A. Reinke Heating and used the old blacksmith shop and feed mill to store his tools, truck and equipment. Adolph retired from the business in 1967.

Florida Craftsman

Gene Hezen is a true craftsman you probably have not met but may have seen his handy work. He had lived in Plymouth for many years and retired to Florida. He volunteered to build some models and in his spare time he has created several old Plymouth landmarks. To date he has created the Luce Line Pavilion, Old Log Cabin by Parkers lake and the Old Town Hall. This winter he has been busy creating Schiebe's Corner (know as Schiebe's Half Way House or Farmer Home Tavern). He is putting the finishing touches on it and will be bringing it up the end of May.

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

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| President | Vern Petersen | 763-559-2313 |
| Vice President | Vern Doseth | 763-559-3777 |
| Secretary | Mable Swanson | 763-545-7705 |
| Treasurer | Harvey Schiebe | 763-545-6127 |



Meetings

The monthly meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Historical Society Building, located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North, Plymouth, MN.



Mailing and Membership List

If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey, 763-559-9366.

The annual dues are:

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| Individual | \$7.50 |
| Family | \$12.00 |
| Individual Lifetime | \$100.00 |
| Family Lifetime | \$150.00 |