



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2006

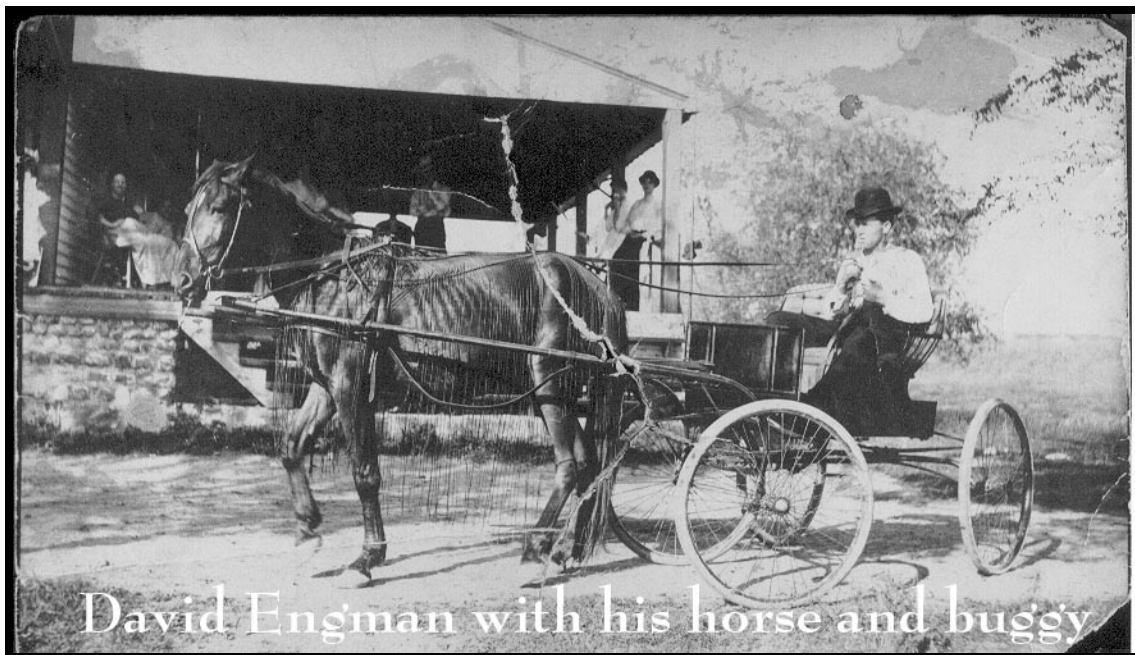
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## History of Medicine Inn

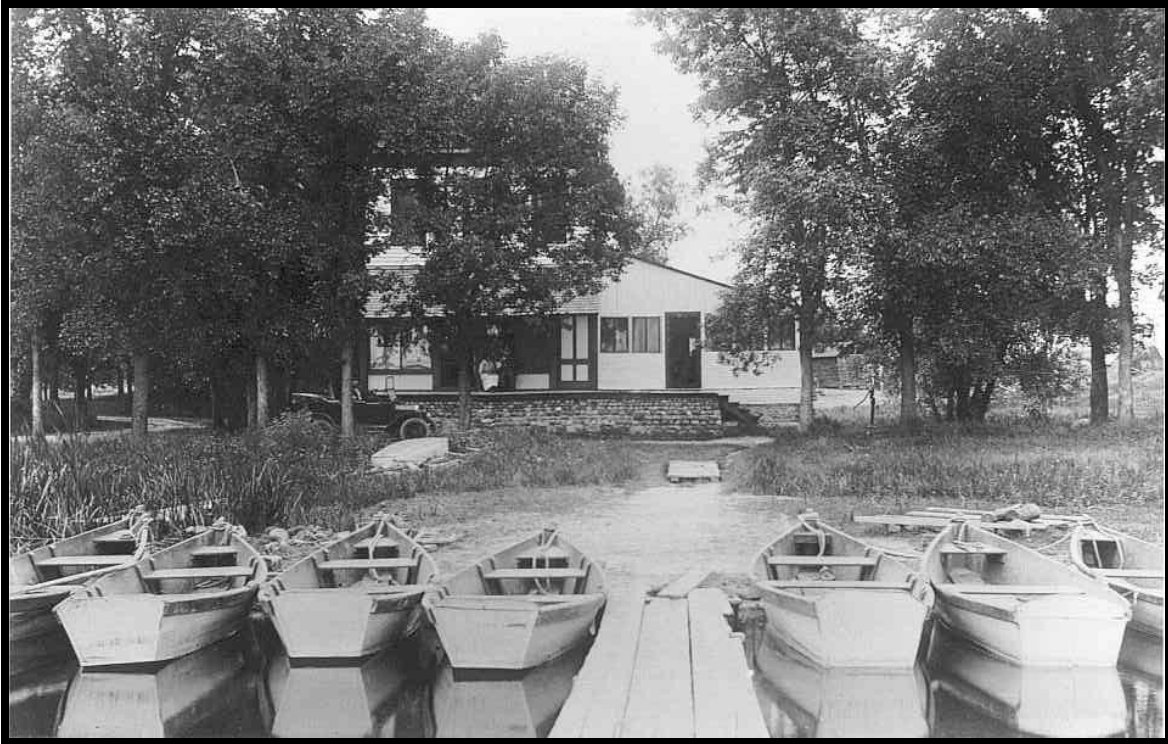
John (Eric) Engman and his wife Johanna emigrated from Sweden to Ishpeming, MI where they met and were married. John Engman was injured in an explosion at a copper mine where he worked and moved with their family to Minneapolis around 1885. They lived at 527 Irving Ave. N. and John worked for the City of Minneapolis and was also a stone mason. Johanna (who took her training at the Univ. of Minnesota) was a Licensed Midwife for the City of Minneapolis.

In 1898 they bought the store and property at the corner of what would now be Nathan Lane and E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Along with their three sons Eric Albert (24), David (18) and Walfred N. (15) they moved to Plymouth.



David Engman with his horse and buggy

They went into the resort business with picnic grounds, picnic tables and 35 rental boats plus farming 40 plus acres of land. They also harvested ice from Medicine Lake in the winter and sold it to Cedar Lake Ice Co. among others.



**Engman's Resort taken about 1917**

**Johanna Engman died in 1913 and the remaining family members ran the business. Later around 1935 after prohibition had ended, part of the building was remodeled and became Medicine Inn. The family ran the business until 1950 when it was leased out to others**



**Picture of Medicine Inn in the early 60's**

**The building and grounds were sold in 1967 and the building razed to make way for the At-The-Lake Apartments.**

In the late 1800's there was a settlement between what is now the 2200 and 2700 blocks of E. Medicine Lake Blvd. It consisted of a Post Office in the former Holmes house (2200 block and is still standing), a store which also had school rooms on the second floor (this was Medicine Inn mentioned above), a blacksmiths shop in a garage type building at 2420 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. (which burned down in 1955) and Hahn's Hotel owned by Henry and Helen Hahn which stood in the 2600 area where Medicine Ridge and Medicine Lake Blvd meet. It was razed in the 1930's by the owner Lonnie Flosseth to make way for several cottages that he built. He also moved a house with a large glazed in porch from the peninsula across the lake ice in winter and not a window was cracked. There were several other houses in the area in the late 1800's some of which are still being occupied today.

**Oral History of the NE Corner of Medicine Lake by: Elvera Engman Kluck  
Photos and information provided by her son Steve Kluck**

**Note:** Gene Heezen who lives in Naples, FL is making a model of Engman's – Medicine Inn. For those that haven't seen his extraordinary model building skills stop into the Plymouth Historical Society Museum. Gene has been very generous to the people of Plymouth by making models of: Parkers Lake Dance Pavilion - Old Log Cabin - Old City Hall - St. Joseph's Church - Mt. Olivet Chapel - Farmer's Hotel (Schiebe's Corner) - Mission Farm Wigwam Dormitory. In a later newsletter we will do an article and show pictures of his skill in reproducing models of some of Plymouths current and past landmarks. These models help bring to life memories of times past.

**Bill Graham Photos**

John Gaveske a Plymouth resident has shared a few photos from Great Uncle Bill Graham who passed away in 1955 and John inherited his Great Uncle's camera and negatives. Bill Graham was a construction worker who liked to bring his camera everywhere he went. He worked on the Foshay Tower and the Armory building among others.

A number of his pictures follow below. One picture shows him sitting on the girders on top of the Foshay. On the Armory picture you can see 4 workers up on the framework and names of the contractors etc on signs seen in the photo. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armory photo you can read "Edwards Motor Co." on a building to the left and "Minnesota Flour" can be read on a sign in the right background.



**Foshay Tower**



**Bill Graham on Foshay Beam**

(Self Portrait – on close examination he is holding cable release)



**Construction Workers on Foshay**



**View from Foshay**



**Armory Under Construction**



Excelsior Amusement



Bill in his Car

A big thank you to John for sharing his family treasure and providing a glimpse into the past of the 20's & 30's. The quality of the original negatives are excellent and shows that Bill Graham was more than an amateur, he was taking professional quality photos. John has donated a large 11" x 14" print of the Foshay Tower during construction and the resolution is excellent.

### Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Vern Doseth	763-559-3777
Vice President	Ben Broman	763-559-5721
Secretary	Mable Swanson	763-545-7705
Treasurer	Harvey Schiebe	763-545-6127



### Meetings

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

The Museum is open the third Sunday of the Month in the afternoon. The next open house will be Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM so please stop by. The Plymouth Historical Society has a comprehensive presentation on the History of Plymouth

### Historical Presentation

The Plymouth Historical Society has a comprehensive presentation about the early history of Plymouth. If a civic, church group or other historical society would like to have it presented at one of their meetings you can contact Gary Schiebe at 763-473-4889 to schedule.

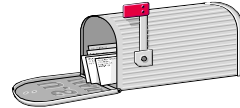
### Donations

The Plymouth Historical Society wants to thank the following people for the donations:

- The City of Plymouth donated numerous items last year as part of the 50 year celebration. Several large framed posters and easel stands depicting the time line of events in the formation of the city. Also red, white and blue bunting with mounting clips that was used to decorate the carriage house during the event and can be used for future celebrations.
- The City of Plymouth Police and Fire Departments filled two display cases with department uniforms, radios and other artifacts that are on loan.

- **John Gaveske** who lives in Plymouth donated two pictures of the Foshay Tower during construction. The photos were taken by his great uncle **Bill Graham** who was a mason working on the building and an excellent amateur photographer. John inherited dozens of negatives and his great uncle's camera. What a wonderful photo time capsule of the 1920's and 30's.
- **Ted Hoshal** a Council Member of the City of Medicine Lake donated a variety of items on behalf of two former residents. **Alan and Adele Klar** donated several pieces of clothing from the **Emil Javne** house and a **Grand Rapids Floor Sweeper**. **JoAn Weiss** donated a number of old newspapers such as one the day after **Armistice Day Blizzard** and a special **Minneapolis Tribune** paper depicting the famous **20<sup>th</sup> Century** news highlights. Ted is a council member and very active historian for the City of Medicine Lake and we will continue to work closely with him to bridge the history between Plymouth and Medicine Lake.

## **Mailing and Membership List**



**If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call: Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.**

**The membership renewal form for 2006 is attached.**

**The annual dues are:**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Individual Lifetime</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Family Lifetime</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>