



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011

Fall

## Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH”. The purpose of the event is to provide some old fashioned Christmas spirit and activities for families in Plymouth. Children can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be right there to help the Elves hand out candy canes. To celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year live Reindeer will be roaming the park. A hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving free rides, hot cider and cookies will be provided, carolers and making Christmas decorations are other activities for the children.

This year we again have our great story teller back. Bob Gasch will be telling holiday stories, something you don't want to miss! Also the Armstrong Chamber Singers will be singing holiday songs and delighting the children young and old.

On Saturday, December 3rd starting at 9 am, we will decorate the two old fashioned Christmas trees and the building. We are looking for help in decorating and bringing items that could be borrowed for the day to add some more old fashioned Christmas spirit.

If you can help to bring decorations, please call Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889.

So bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 9 months to 90 years young. The annual event has attracted large crowds with some families having a perfect attendance record with their children since it started in 1987. We had a great time last year as we do every year.

### *Activities include:*

*Visit with Santa*

*Live Reindeer*

*Old Fashioned Hay Ride*

*Hot Cider and Cookies*

*Old Fashioned Xmas Decorations*



*Old Toy Train Display*

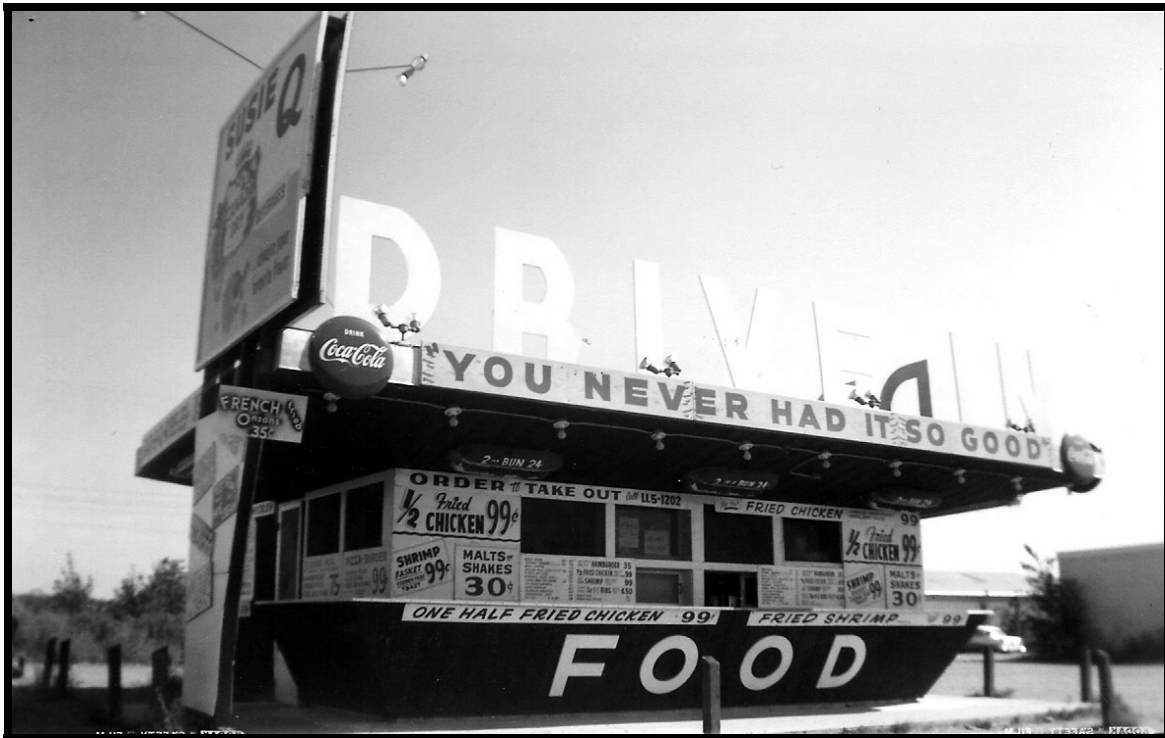
*Crafts*

*Story Telling by Bob Gasch*

*Music Groups  
Armstrong Chamber Singers  
Messiah Recorder Ensemble*

## *A Walk Down Memory Lane to the Susie-Q Drive-In*

The Susie-Q was started by business partners Marvin Sieloff, Bill Sheets and Ken Johnson. Bill and Ken were also the owners of the Food Village grocery store which was located right across Highway 55. Marvin's son Bill, worked at the Susie Q Drive-In in Plymouth. Bill Sieloff of Wayzata provided the pictures and historical information to help us take a walk down memory lane.



Circa 1961

The Susie-Q opened in 1957 and closed in 1967 or 68. It was located on Highway 55 where the car wash is today, between the gas station on West Medicine Lake road and the Dairy Queen which is now Famous Dave's. It had a brief history but played an important roll for Plymouth residents as a great place to bring the family to eat, meet your friends or take your date out as it didn't cost a lot of money.

According to Bill he cooked a "zillion" or it felt like it, hamburgers, ribs, shrimp and chicken dinners. The most popular was the half a chicken for 99 cents. It was a full half a chicken with French fries toast and cranberry sauce. The Susie-Q would get whole chickens packed in crushed ice that came in wooden crates. Bill said they would cut them in half and put a "not to fancy" mixture of flour, salt, paprika and pre-cook them in the oven. When an order came in they just cut the halves in pieces and dropped them in the hot grease.

The grease made all the difference in the taste. It wasn't low-calorie or low cholesterol but 100% pure beef fat. They would get large tubs of beef suet from the Food Village across the highway and then melt (render) it down in the fryers. After screening out any particles it was the best quality and used to cook the French fries, chicken, shrimp, etc.

On hot summer nights with the parking lot full, it required two cooks, a person at the window and several carhops to feed the hungry customers. There were exhaust fans that blew the hot greasy air

outside. But not all of it was vented outside, as the cook's faces, hair and clothes received a good portion which stayed with them on the drive home after a long day.



Circa 1966

### **Plymouth History on Parade Tour**

On Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> the Plymouth Historical Society conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Plymouth History on Parade tour. A Classic TCRT 1954 bus was chartered from the Minnesota Transportation Museum and 50 people toured Plymouth for three hours. The tour was narrated and a booklet describing the locations of many past and present buildings was provided to each participant.

The tour made stops on the east side of Parkers Lake where the Zuhrah Shriner Horsemen had their stables. You could almost visualize the Shriner Horsemen such as Curt Carlson, Ray Ewald and Earle Brown putting their horses through the routines. Then it was a stop on the north side of Parkers Lake where J. B. Gilfillan had his farm called "Ben Avon". It was comprised of about 500 acres from about 1890's to 1923 when it was sold to the City of Minneapolis. The Work House was relocated from the Camden area of north Minneapolis to Plymouth starting in 1923.

Another stop was made at Medicine Lake City Hall. The stop was hosted by Ted Hoshal who provided refreshments. We reviewed all the local historical pictures and artifacts that he has assembled of the Medicine Lake area. Our last stop was Mt. Olivet Chapel, with Ben Broman providing the history of the church and restoration details. Our bus driver had a few "stories" such as when we pulled into the parking lot next to the Chapel. A bar called Ivy's use to be located there and Phil said that is where he met his 5<sup>th</sup> wife! A great time was had by all.



**Tour Group Picture**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class Tours**

**Again this October the Plymouth Historical Society hosted thirteen second grade classes from Birchview, Sunset and Oakwood Elementary Schools. The event was organized by Sue Strom – teacher and Bob Gasch – story teller. The children arrived by bus with two adults for each six students. They were very well organized in groups and toured the museum, carriage house and Bob Gasch took them for a story telling walk in the “Big Woods” with the maple trees in full color. Kay Bertrand, Betty Jacobson, Dennis Jacobson, Vern Dotseth, Ben Broman and Gary Schiebe hosted the young visitors.**



Before each group left to return to school a 1925 Ford Model T Truck was started up and all the horns tooted to the delight of the kids and adults. The Wolf Whistle was the big hit and they were told that young men put them on their cars to attract the attention of young ladies.

### *PHS Fashion Shows*

The Plymouth Historical Society has sponsored several fashion shows for such groups as the Nifty 90's Party, Summerwood etc. These events are made possible by Kay Bertrand, our own runway queen. She has done a great job by working tirelessly to get models of all ages to volunteer. Most of the wardrobe has been donated to PHS and instead of letting it gather dust or sitting packed away in storage boxes they are being seen by many. Kay has mended, restored and brought back to life what was high fashion in days-gone-by. These events have been so popular that she has been asked to line up more fashion shows. If you have classic clothing you would like to donate to PHS or would like to participate in a style show please contact: Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.

Below are just a few pictures of the many models that volunteered their time to help Kay put on the style shows. These events bring history alive for the people of Plymouth.



**Debra and Becca Palmquist**



**Kristen George**



**Kevin Hansen**  
(wearing 100 yr old baseball uniform)



**Gary Schiebe**



Betty Jacobson

## Website

The Plymouth Historical Society has a web site. The address is:

[www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com)

Reba Juetten completed her Geocache project to help people find Plymouth's Historical locations. For her excellent project she received the highest award in Girl Scouting ---- The Gold Star  
 Congratulations Reba

*Check us out!*

## Donations

CCC Blanket, like new Fredricka Thelen

Child's Wooden Sled Arlene Strom

Large collection of Vintage clothing Gert Patterson

Vintage Clothing, Gloves, Hat Boxes Schiebe Family  
 Lions Club Pins/Hats  
 Floor & Hand Vacuum  
 Cleaners, bedspread

Susie-Q Drive Pictures Bill Sieloff  
 File Cabinet

Book Janice Hartness  
 The Ultra Entrepreneur  
 Curt Carlson



## 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 also open the third Sunday of the Month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during the Spring Summer and fall.

## Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Ben Broman	763-559-5721
Vice President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Secretary	Betty Jacobson	763-972-0988
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889

## 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 2012 annual dues are:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Individual Lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

If you would like the newsletter delivered via E-mail please notify Kay Bertrand.