



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2008

Number 1

Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 7th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the 21st 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. A hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving rides for a small fee, 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 6th 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

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*

Oakwood School 50th Anniversary

Oakwood Elementary School, which is located at the intersection of Hwy 101 and County Road 6, will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on Sunday November 16th. There will be an open house from 1-4 PM with a special presentation about the history of the school during the event.

Let's take a look at the history leading up to the consolidation of the old Oakwood School into the Wayzata School District and opening of the new Oakwood School in 1958. The following is a timeline:

- 1857 – Wayzata School District Established
- 1921 – The Wayzata Consolidated School opened which housed all the students in the district
- 1946 - Beacon Heights District 95 consolidated with Wayzata
- 1951 - New Wayzata Junior Senior High opened. The former K-12 school named Wayzata Elementary School
- 1953 - Wayzata Elementary renamed the Halvor Widsten Elementary School
- 1956 Consolidation of Deziel No.47, Pouliot No.63, Oakwood No.104, Egan No.120, and Hamel No.127 into Wayzata School District



District #104 “Oakwood” School

Junction of Cty Rd 24, Medina Rd and Dunkirk Lane (Approx. Taco Bell location)

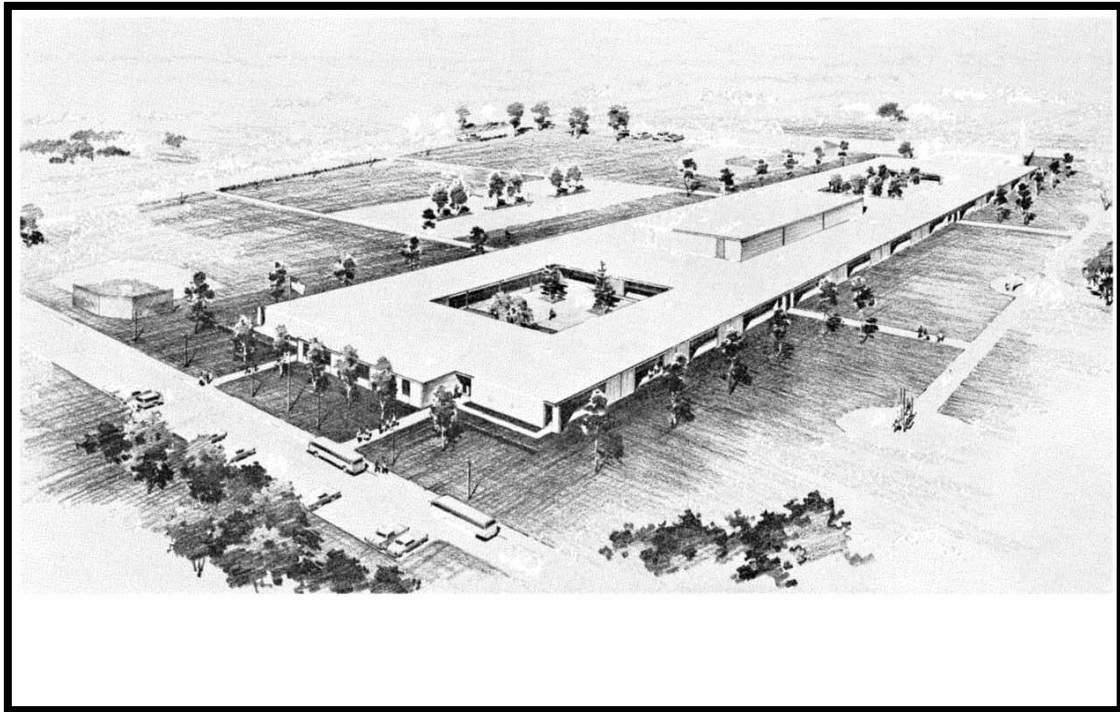
In September 1956 the School Board decided to explore purchasing land for a new elementary school. The guidelines were a plot of land 10 to 40 acres at \$650 per acre or other proposals. On October 14, 1957 they agreed to purchase 41.6 acres at \$1300 per acre for a total price for the land of \$54,080 from the heirs of Gus and Jennie Kreatz.



Gustav Kreatz Farm House

- **Franc & Ferdinand Kreatz settled in Plymouth 1855-1858**
- **Purchased 160 acres for \$1.25 per acre Oct 1, 1860**
- **Built log cabins near Kreatz lake**
- **Franc sold & bought 80 acres east of brother**
- **Both built homes on their farms 1873**
- **Gustave Kreatz born 1873 (Ferdinand's son) in log cabin**
- **Married Jennie Hatcher and had four children**
- **They lived whole life on farm, buried Parkers Like**
- **Sold small parcel of land in 1932 to Herb Johnson for gas station**
- **Sold land in 1957 for Oakwood school**
- **The house and farm building were sold and an apartment built**

New Oakwood School



School Opened in 1958

New Oakwood Staff



The Principle and his “Harem”



Current Oakwood School

2nd Grade Class Tours

Again this September and October the Plymouth Historical hosted the twelve second grade classes from Birchview, Sunset and Oakwood Elementary Schools. The event was organized by Sue Strom – teacher and Bob Gasch – story teller and is getting bigger each year. The children arrived by bus and had two adults for each six students. Their assignment was a history scavenger hunt. They had a checklist with a variety of items that they had to locate in the museum and determine what it was or what it was used for. They were very well organized into 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. Vern Dotseth, Kay Bertrand, Betty & Dennis Jacobson, Ben Broman and Gary Schiebe hosted our young visitors. Before each group left to return to school the 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.

History on Parade

On the morning of October 4th the Plymouth Historical Society conducted their first History on Parade tour. A Classic TCRT 1954 bus was chartered from the Minnesota Transportation Museum and 50 people toured Plymouth for two hours. The tour was narrated and a booklet describing the locations of many past and present buildings was provided to each participant. The tour arrived back at the Old Town Hall in time for people to either watch or participate in the parade.



History on Tour at Mt. Olivet Chapel

Newsletter Writer/Editor

The Plymouth Historical society is looking for a writer/editor to put together the newsletter on a regular basis four or more times per year. It is an easy task with an overwhelming amount of pictures and stories on file at the Plymouth Historical Museum that can be used in the

Newsletter. We would like to hear from you about volunteering for this wonderful opportunity. That will take a minimal amount of time.

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



Donations

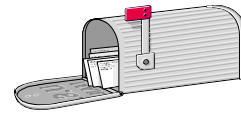
The Plymouth Historical Society wants to thank the following people or groups for their donations:

- St. Mary's of The Lake history book & 1935 Memorial Plate, DVD Ground breaking at Station 73 Park & Ride, News clip 2006 of Park & Ride, Time line of Schiebe's Businesses – Donated by Jerry Schiebe
- Log Cabin Doll House – Donated by Gene Heezen
- Early picture of Old Town Hall taken in 1978 showing the building right next to Fernbrook Lane (Town Line Road) before building was moved back and restored plus miscellaneous Newspaper clippings - Donated by Kay Tart
- BW pictures of the group of people taking the 1st History on Parade Tour, taken in front of the Mt. Olivet Chapel – Donated by Rollie Pavek
- Cook Book that was originally owned by Emma Willis – Donated by Jeanette Kreatz

Meetings

The monthly meetings are 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. 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.

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 2008 annual dues are:

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

*We want to see You at the
Old Fashioned Christmas in Plymouth*