



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011

Spring

Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen

Finding old pictures and uncovering interesting stories about Plymouth's past, makes history come alive. Who knew that the Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen got their start in Plymouth back in 1947? These pictures and information were provided by Dick Rindal who is historian for the Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen and Ron Snook life long Plymouth resident who lives across Cty Road 6 from the Zuhrah Horsemen's stable.



Plymouth Stables from 1948 to 1955

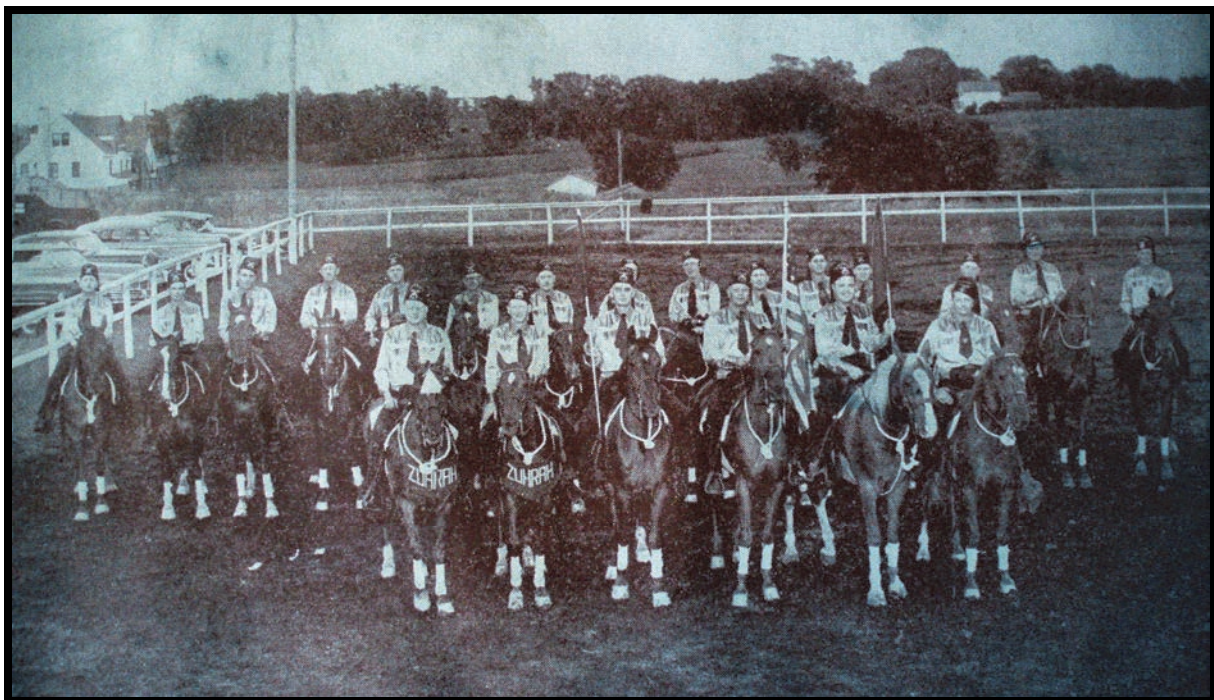
In 1947 the Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen were established at a meeting held at J. C. Eide Farm in Plymouth, by laws approved August 13, 1947. Their first public appearance was in the 1947 Aquatennial Parade.

For 6 months they stabled their horses at the Rosolt Farms just west of Hwy 100 and Cty Road 62 (now the Crosstown). In 1948 the Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen purchased the Golden Valley Riding Academy September 29, 1948 for \$18k. It included a large barn, fenced riding area, bunkhouse, two houses and 13 acres. It was located in Plymouth, just east of Parkers Lake on south side of Cty Road 6 where Fernbrook intersects Cty Road 6.



First Group Picture at Farm in 1948

It was expanded to 23 acres by the purchase of 10 acres for \$3500 from Earl Brown. Earle Brown donated \$1000 and Shiner's raised \$2500. By 1951 the barn/stable housed up to 40 horses and one of the houses was turned into a club house. The stalls and doors for the expansion of the barn were purchased from the Minneapolis Park Riding Academy located at 28th and DuPont.



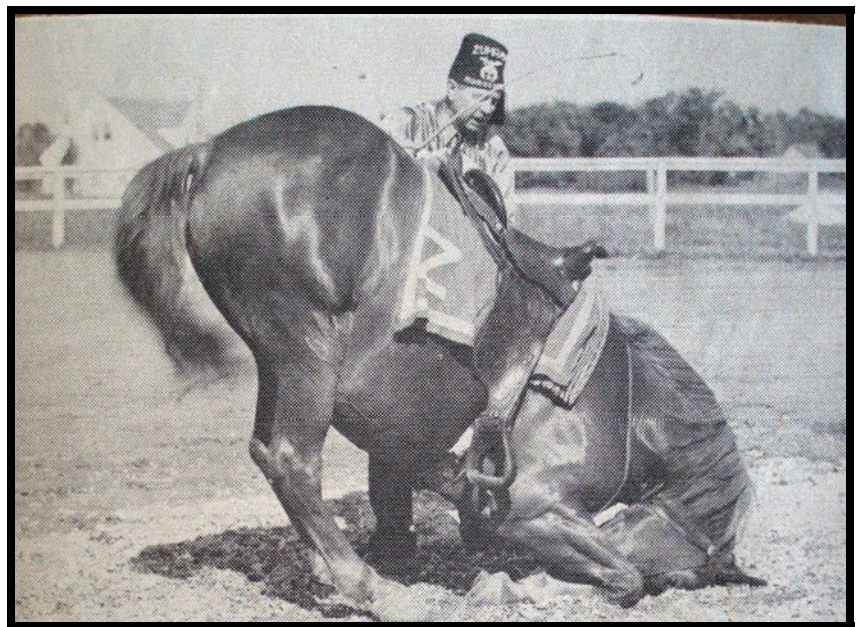
Sunday Sept. 17, 1950 – Show-deo in Plymouth

The Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen started a horse show called “Show-deo” The first one was held in Hopkins at the County Fair Grounds in 1948 and the admission charge was \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children. The next two years in 1949 and 1950 the Show-deo was held in Plymouth at their farm. The next year it was back to Hopkins but they had rainy weather.

In 1952 and after it was held at the Minnesota State Fair Hippodrome. In 1955 they moved their operation to the Masonic Farm in Bloomington which provided them with a much larger stable and many more acres to ride. The Plymouth farm was then sold for housing development.

The Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen developed many of their intricate routines as the result of a member named Curt Carlson. During his many business travels he had opportunity to attend horse shows. As an example he took notes about the formations and home movies of such organizations as The Canadian Mounted Police and The Royal Dragoons of the US Calvary at Madison Square Gardens.

GRAND ENTRY PARADE—Shrine Horsemen	
Earl W. Anderson	Robert O. Howell
Otto G. Batzli	Harry H. Jensen
Klayton W. Blodgett	Norton T. Johnson
Earle Brown	Roy C. Johnson
Lloyd Z. Bye	Robert H. Knowles
Curtis L. Carlson	E. H. (Tony) Leitte
Rowland E. Dobbins	Earl J. Maxwell
Ernest B. L. Eckberg	Frank D. Mitchell
John C. Eide	Stanley E. Morine
Wallace A. Eide	Alfred R. Nelson
Graydon R. Ewald	Conrad A. Nordquist
Ray Ewald	Clifford T. Odegard
Harry L. Fankhanel	Clarence C. Owens
Milton L. Grandquist	Harold W. Partridge
Phillip L. Griffin	Ralph G. Peterson
Hilmer C. Guntzel	Thornton J. Pope
Allen C. Halgren	Lester C. Rufferidge
Ralph Halgren	Arthur V. Storm
George Hartzell	DeLloyd G. Ulander
Peter R. Hones	Henry Wessner



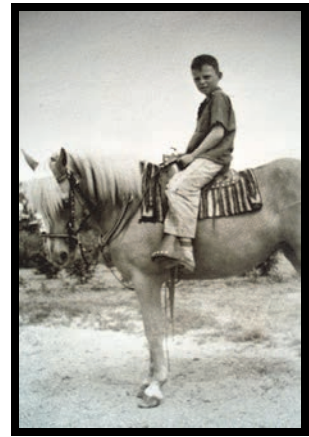
The first picture is a list of the horsemen. Note Curt Carlson and Earle Brown’s name on the list. The other picture is of Dinah, a horse that would face east and kneel. It was quite a dramatic piece of showmanship. The horse would enter the Hippodrome, kneel and the lights would dim way down as the “Horse Prayer” was read. In the dark the horse would exit and when the house lights came up everybody wondered what happened to the horse.

Today the Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen own a 93 acre ranch west of Minneapolis near Lake Rebecca. Here is a link to their current facility: <http://www.zuhrah.org/ClubUnit/Units/Horsemen/ZHPRanch.html>

Ron Snook who grew right across from the Zhurah Horseman’s stable provided pictures and stories about helping out at the stables. He spent time with Foster Weatherly who managed the stable. He was called “Foss”, hired in 1951 and paid \$100 per month, \$30 food money and stayed in the bunkhouse along with another hired hand named Frank. Foss died in January 1953 and the Shriners hired Harry Hetelvedt in Jan 1953. Harry was also the Wagon Master and drove antique stagecoach with 4 horses. The Stage Coach was on loan from the Winnipeg Free Press and opened shows for years but is now back in Winnipeg at a museum.



Winter Chores in 1952



Ron riding a pony



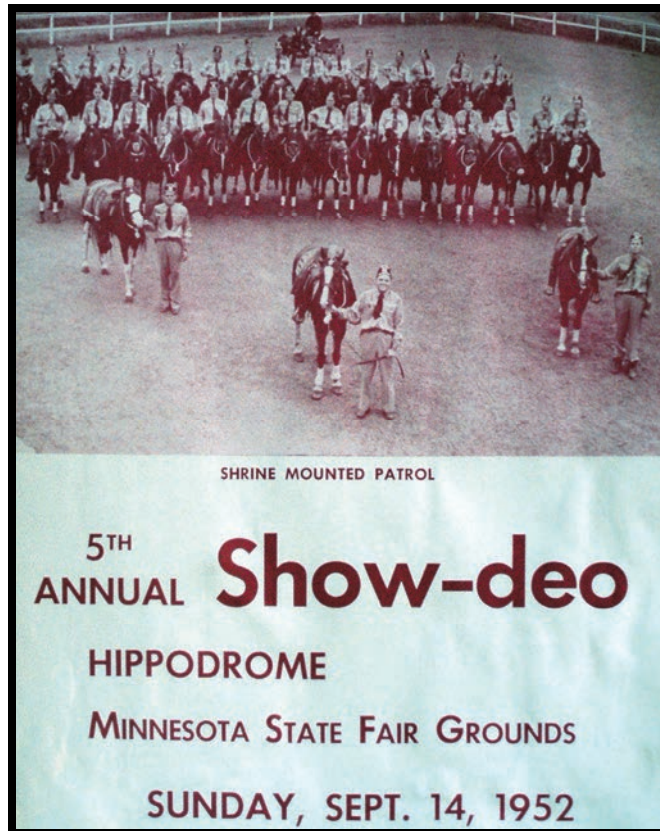
**Edina Girl Scouts enjoy sleigh ride
Mrs. Nat Johnson driving Feb. 12, 1953 at the "Barn"**



Ron helping with new colt



Girls riding a Painted Pony



Program Cover for Show-deo
(note cover picture taken at Plymouth)



Z stands for Zuhrah

PS – What was the history of the Golden Valley Riding Academy? There was a riding stable there in the 1930's owned by the Willette family, what was it called then, when was it built, so many un-answered questions.

Plymouth's Softball Team 1939

Genevieve (Ernst) Lane provided this great picture of Plymouth's Softball Team taken in 1939. She said the picture was taken on an open field on the east side of Parkers Lake. That field is now the neighborhood park. The uniforms were Blue and Gold gabardine fabric and the ball players are listed below. They played teams from around the area such as Dayton, Brooklyn Park, etc.

How do we know all this information? It was because Genevieve did a great job of documenting the information on the back of the picture. If all of us would document our life experiences like this, future generations wouldn't have to say - interesting picture but we don't have the foggiest idea who these ladies are or what they did. Many pictures like this get tossed in the dust bin of history because know body has any information about the picture.



**Back Row - Goodura Melberg, Lorraine Begin, Anorie Kanduth. Second Row - Doris Schiebe, Viola Haprsen, Genevieve Ernst, Margy Hanson, Dorothy Giebenhain, Charlotte Nelson, Emma Mengelkoch
Front - Dorothy Ernst.**

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.

PHS Website

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

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

The site is expanding and Reba Juetten has completed a Geocache project to help find Plymouth's historical locations.

Check it out!

Donations

Wooden Ironing Board, Carpet Sweeper, Electric Clock	Ted Hoshal
Plymouth Pictures	Kay Tart
2 Banners – Money Mag. #1 Best Place to Live	City of Ply.
Tiddley Winks Game Circa 1920's	Rose Smeltzer
Antique Butter Churn	Gary Schiebe
\$50 Donation	New Comers Club West Suburban



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 2011 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.