



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1984

VOLUME II

NUMBER I

## SEPTEMBER MEETING SET FOR 26th

The september meeting of the Plymouth Historical Society will feature a slide presentation entitled "OLD TYME PLYMOUTH". The show was put together by long-time residents Mark Eckes and Harvey Schiebe. The Public is invited to the Museum Building (Old Town Hall) Wednesday September 26, 1984 at 7:00 p.m. The address is 3605 Fernbrook Lane No. (between Hwy 55 and Co. Rd. 9, West of I-494), enter in the rear of the building.

Copies of photos, newspaper pictures and documents showing early Plymouth businesses, including the Schiebe store on Medicine Lake and the later building on Hwy 55; Mission Farms area; churches and early school houses of Dist. 95 will be featured along with many other topics. Also included will be a brief governmental history of Plymouth including photos of all the mayors. The presentation will consist of 75-80 slides and will be narrated by the producers. Audience participation and contributions will be welcomed. This presentation will be available to the schools and other interested organizations in the community as a part of the Historical Societies expanding program. The September meeting will be an excellent opportunity to preview this exciting show. Please invite someone you think would be interested.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society is looking for new members who want to preserve and enjoy the past. Annual dues are \$5.00 for individual and \$7.50 for family memberships. Dues and new member applications can be made to Jack Malmsted, 15 Niagara Lane No., Plymouth, Mn. 55441. Be a part of your community. If you would like to just be on our mailing list drop Jack a line.

## FUND RAISING RUMMAGE SALE SET FOR SEPT.

The Plymouth Historical Society will be holding a fund raiser Rummage Sale on

Sept. 20 & 21 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sept. 22 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations of sale items are needed. Call Mark Eckes 545-6168 for pick up or delivery information. Please do not leave items at the building without calling first. A good time to do a little Fall house cleaning and help the Historical Society. Also please bring a neighbor and visit the sale for some great buys.

Funds will be used to improve exhibit space and purchase material to preserve documents.

## PLYMOUTH GARDEN CLUB MAKES CONTRIBUTION

Our thanks to the Plymouth Garden Club for the flowers they planted this year. Their putting in fall bulbs right now in some new flower beds in the back. It's hard to believe but there are touches of red and gold in the Maples reminding us that fall is just about here. It should also remind us that unless we take the time to preserve some of the articles from the past future generations will only read about them and not be able to see them first hand.

## NEWS LETTER BEGINS ITS SECOND YEAR

This newsletter begins its second year with this edition and we hope you have enjoyed the communication and small amount of History we have printed in it. Our sincere thanks for your support this past year. The Editor - Steve Zinnel



EXCERPTS FROM "PLYMOUTH'S FIRST FIFTY YEARS

By: Alice H. Mellen

Among the members of that township board in May 1858 were J.H. Howe, who was elected Town Clerk; Huot, Gorham, and D. Parker, Supervisors. It is interesting to note that each of the major nationalities of the settlers was required to be represented on the board of supervisors,

Shortly after this meeting was over, an Indian raid upsed the peacefullness of the community. After the Chippeways were defeated by the Sioux at Shakopee in June, they retreated north through Plymouth, plundering crops and livestock to ease their near-starving situation, but injuring no one. The local citizens did not try to stop the Indians, as they concluded that they would probably act similarly under the circumstances.

Another account says a family was attacked and all killed. Yet another description of the Indians' actions in the Howe story mentions 'hooping and hollering' and brightly costumed Indians with scalps on poles, but again the family felt that no harm was meant for the white man.

Mail service was inagurated officially in the Medicine Lake area with the opening of the first post office at the home of F. Huot, which later served the northern and eastern parts of Plymouth. In 1860 an office opened in nearby Medina and was called "Lenz" to honor the postmaster and served the northern and western parts of town. The Wayzatta post office served southern Plymouth from 1855. In 1871 an office at Parkers Lake was established, but was closed a few years later.

"Farmers Home Tavern", built in 1863 by N. Bofferding was sold to Carl Schiebe in 1872. As it was half-way between St. Anthony and Delano or Watertown, the tavern was also known as the "Half-Way Tavern" and offered a saloon and sleeping accomodations.

Sometime before 1860, the Winnen family came to Plymouth form Germany via Detroit. It is thought they first settled for a short time near Holy Name Lake, just west of Plymouth and then came to the 160 acre plot in the southwest corner of the township. Michael and Katherine were born in Germany and had sixteen childred who died before they came to America; one son, Peter, survived, however, and came over with his parents. The Winnen homestead was a typical log cabin of the times. After much clear cutting of hardwoods and "brushing out", a prosperous farm was established.

Peter soon married a girl from the Wayzata area, Anna Lacher, in 1859 or 1860. It is told in the Winnen Family History that Peter's wife, Anna, and his mother, Katherine, practiced the art of cupping or bleeding, each spring as a way to thin the blood (similar to the sulphur-and-molasses theory).

Peter soon found he didn't care for farming and moved to St. Paul with his wife and small son to continue his woodworking trade. His specialty was alters and pulpit chairs, and he presented Parkers Lake Church with a small altar in 1869, which was in continuous use until the second church burned in 1947. Another altar is at St. Marks Episcopal Church, Minneapolis. It was during this time also that he built the rustic bridge over Minnehaha Falls.

