



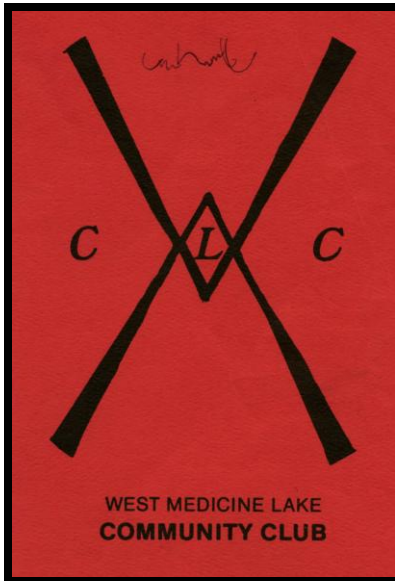
PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014

Spring

West Medicine Lake Community Club

The following is a brief history of the West Medicine Lake Community Club.



(Early Logo)

The West Medicine Lake Community Club was founded on February 2, 1948 as a non-profit organization by a group of local people. The purpose was for the betterment of the community. Their vision is they wanted a place where they could hold social functions. They also wanted to provide youth with a place for recreation and by working together would make this neighborhood a better place in which to live. The following is a timeline of some of the important events:

- A 5 ½ acre tract of land was purchased costing approximately \$4000.
- In 1951 a 40 x 40 cement block building was erected. Most of the labor was donated by the original charter members.
- In 1952 the Women's Unit was formed.
- In 1962 the dance floor was built.
- In the early 1960's the WMLCC Players was organized to entertain at banquets and various club events.

- In 1966 Marge Menard wrote the club song “Thanks for the Memories”.
- In July 1966 the entire club was destroyed by a fire which caused an estimated damage of \$47,000.
- In 1967 the members rebuilt the club through determination and a good deal of hard work.
- In 1968 Art Ankers and Kathy Michaelson designed the logo and purchased club pins
- In 1972 the outside addition was built.
- In 1974 Art Ankers designed and donated the club flag.
- In 1975 a garage was built.
- In 1978 the old garage was made into the club room.
- Many additional improvements were made in the 1980’s such as new lights in main room, new pavilion and extra parking was made available.

During the 65 plus years the West Medicine Lake Community Club has served the community with great dedication. The Club provided a place where countless number of dances, wedding receptions, anniversaries, meetings, carnivals, etc. were held. In addition they provided recreation activities for families and children. They built a ball field on the grounds, a play ground and one of their early projects was to clean up the beach at Charlie’s Store (this is now West Medicine Lake Park). The club not only cleaned up the beach but constructed a floating raft and built changing buildings. This was long before Plymouth’s Park & Recreation was established who now provides so many wonderful children and family activities.



westmedicinelake
C O M M U N I T Y C L U B

<http://www.wmlcc.org>

(Today’s logo)

An interesting piece of Plymouth history is the street (Forest view Lane) you enter to go to the club was the old right away for the Luce Line spur that ran from the mainline to a small platform by Medicine Lake that was called Elmhurst. The purpose of the Elmhurst Junction spur was to take passengers from Minneapolis to the lake for picnics and to cabins. It also served two large ice houses that were built just west of the current road around West Medicine Lake Park.

Holy Name Cemetery

By: Fr. Andrew Stueve

The Holy Name Cemetery is the final resting place of many people who resided and worshipped in the communities of Medina, Plymouth and beyond. Our parish community is a revelation of God's love for His people. Our God allowed those early families from Germany, Ireland and Canada to immigrate to this community. They were then inspired to establish a parish to make His love known. Our cemetery serves, in part, to remind us of the many people who established this parish and those who resided and worshipped in this community over the past 160 years.

Beginning in 1854, and for about the next 10 years until the parish was formally established, the ancestors of those who currently worship here first came to this community. Those families include: Hansmann, Reiser, Merz, Stumpf, Scherer, Lenzen, Ditter, Jordan and so forth.

As one walks through the beautiful cemetery, he/she can imagine the many stories that could be told. Here are a few stories of interest:

1. The first known burial was that of Helena Thies. She died on May 24, 1864.
2. Another early burial was that of Fr. John Henry Keil, former pastor of HNOJ. He died in a tragic drowning at Holy Name Lake on March 25, 1908.

The grave of FR John Henry Keil,
former pastor, who drowned in
Holy Name Lake in 1908



3. Francis Stumpf was the first to be baptized at Holy Name of Jesus. He is buried in the cemetery, along with his parents and godparents.
4. Johann Thies was denied burial next to his family because of his infrequent Mass attendance. This is something we'd consider uncharitable today.

5. Charlie Brown, the real-life friend of Charles Schultz (founder of the *Peanuts* comic strip), is buried in the cemetery. He died on December 5, 1983.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus...and a real Charlie Brown!

By: Catherine Brown Pracher, daughter of Charlie Brown

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”...and yes, there was a real Charlie Brown!

Charles Schultz (the originator of Peanuts) and my brother, Charlie Brown, worked together at Art Instruction in Minneapolis. Schultz asked my brother if he could use his name and a caricature of his face for a comic strip he was creating.

Schultz endured many rejections of the strip, but he refused to give up. Finally, one paper published a single cartoon. The rest is history.

People may have doubted there was a real Charlie Brown, though for a fact he rode in the Aquatennial Parade, aired on the radio, and was published in the local metropolitan newspaper.

So, yes, Virginia, there was a very real Charlie Brown. He died young at the age of 57, and because he was laid to rest at Holy Name in your lovely church cemetery, you can claim him as your own.

The grave of Charlie Brown, the real-life friend of Charles Schultz, founder of Peanuts.



Note: These two wonderful articles about our local history were published in the Holy Name Parish life Newsletter. These are excerpts reprinted in the PHS newsletter with the permission of Fr. Andrew Stueve and Catherine Brown Pracher.

Holy Name is celebrating their 150 Year Anniversary serving Medina, Plymouth and the surrounding areas, the following is their logo commemorating that historic milestone.



“History on Parade Tour of Plymouth”



On Sunday October 5th from 1:00 to 3:30 PM the Plymouth Historical Society will again be having the “History on Parade Tour” of Plymouth in a Classic Twin Cities Transit bus. The tour will leave the Old Town Hall (Plymouth Historical Museum) in Plymouth Creek Park and visit selected historical sites and return back to the Old Town Hall. The tour will be narrated and a pamphlet with historical pictures and notes about the locations of farms, homes, schools and churches that have been the foundation of the growth of Plymouth will be provided.

So you and your family come and join us to relive the past – hurry make your reservations to get your tickets since space is limited to 50 people on the tour.

Hurry don’t miss out on this special event. For reservations please contact Gary Schiebe 763-473-4889 or via e-mail garyschiebe@isp.com.

Date: Sunday October 5th

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Cost: \$11.00 per person, payment required in advance to assure you or your family a place on the bus.

(Note you must arrive at Plymouth Creek Park by 12:45 PM and be ready to board the bus since it will leave promptly at 1:00 PM. We will make at least one rest room stop during the tour and the Plymouth Historical Museum will be open before and after the tour for those that would like to spend time in the Old Town Hall.)

“Our Town’s Story”

Channel 12 is working on a series called "Our Town's Story". It will highlight the history of the towns/cities in the Northwestern Suburbs covered by Channel 12. Below is a link to the trailer that they put together to pique peoples interest.

<http://www.twelve.tv/ourtownsstory.aspx>

Website

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

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

Check us out!

Note: All past newsletters dating back to 1986 are available on-line in PDF format for viewing or printing.

Donations

Donated by District #284:

- \$125.00

Donated by Plymouth Lions Club:

- \$1000.00

Donated by West Medicine Lake Community Club:

- CLC Banner
- Presidents Tie (Red, White and Blue)
- WMLCC Orientation Booklets
- Volunteer Banner
- Record Book 1991-2001
- Pictures

Donated by Gene Heezen:

- Model of Fur Trading Post (1600-1850)
- Model of Logging/Lumbering Camp with Paul Bunyan



Meetings

New - The Museum is also open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during the Spring, Summer and Fall.

The monthly business 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.

Open by special appointment in January, February & March

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Vice President	Kay Bertrand	763-249-0138
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 2014 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 or send an e-mail to: info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

If you do, it is a plus for both of us. When you receive via e-mail it will be in color. When sent by mail it is in black and white and costs PHS about \$2.00 per copy to print and mail