

BHS NEWSLETTER

B L O O M I N G T O N H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

A New Collaboration with Bloomington Schools begins

VISIT US!

- Wednesday 1-5 pm
- Thursday 1-8 pm
- Saturday 1-5 pm
- By appointment: call 952-881-4114 to schedule your visit.

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This spring we were delighted to form a new collaboration with Bloomington Elementary Schools. Through the efforts of Family Literacy Specialist Trisha Adkins, the Bloomington Historical Society had a table at three school spring family nights.

The theme was Transportation in Bloomington. Students and their families were challenged to put photos of methods of transportation used in Bloomington into chronological order. Participation won them a bookmark prize, and some newly gained knowledge about Bloomington history.

There were 48 visitors to our table at the Washburn Elementary family night on May 5th. A better location in the Indian Mounds Ele-

mentary School gym on May 9th brought 88 visitors to our table. With success at these two events, we were invited by the PTA president at Oak Grove Elementary to have a table at their outdoor family event on May 19th. We had 94 visitors there.



Volunteers Rose and Barb at Indian Mounds Elementary School



Volunteers Barb and Jerry at Washburn Elementary School

Information about upcoming events for families at the Pond House was passed out to parents, along with information about visiting the Old Town Hall Museum.

Bloomington Schools will be giving students a packet of information about family friendly and free places to visit for educational experiences this summer. We are excited to be included in the booklet, and look forward to more families visiting this summer.

What's New in the Museum?

Bloomington Civic Theater scrapbook

In March, 2023 the family of Donna Utecht donated a scrapbook of programs and clippings from the earliest years of the Bloomington Civic Theater. Donna was a founding member and remarkable actress. Our volunteers are in the process of scanning the pages of the scrapbook to preserve the fragile newspaper clippings.

Bloomington Police Dept. 70 years of history

On May 20th the Bloomington Police Department held an open house to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Following their event they plan to donate several boxes of memorabilia from the early years of the Police Department to our collection. We are honored to hold these items in the public trust for the citizens of Bloomington.



Upcoming Events

John Philip Sousa Concert at the Pond House: Sun. June 18th, 4 p.m. We will be selling Dairy Queen Dilly Bars at an ice cream social that will accompany a wonderful outdoor concert by the John Philip Sousa Memorial band. International Dairy Queen headquarters is in Bloomington since (year.)

Nine Mile Creek History Walk: Sat. July 15th, 2 p.m. Walk with a BHS guide from Old Town Hall along Nine Mile Creek to the former site of the Scofield/McAfee grist mill. A 2-mile round-trip hike.

Speaker: "Caring for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed" Mon. July 24th, 7 p.m. Watershed District education staff member Gael Zembal will take us through the 60+ year history of the Water-

shed District and changes to Nine Mile Creek which flows through Bloomington on the anniversary of the July 24, 1987 historic rainstorm and flood.

Bloomington Heritage Day Open House: Sat. Sept. 16th, 1-5 p.m. We have some special activities planned at the Old Town Hall Museum. Try your hand at box hockey and join in the fun.

Speaker: "Chasing Ghosts" Sat. Oct. 7th, 1:00 p.m. James Koepke, nationally recognized expert on the John F. Kennedy assassination, will talk about what happened to him when he conducted his personal research in to the death of JFK.

RECENT RESEARCH: TRANSPORTATION IN BLOOMINGTON

Dakota Territory: Pre 1850

Walking was the main transportation method of the Dakota people. Heavy loads could be lashed onto a travois and pulled by horse or dog. The Dakota also used the Minnesota River as a transportation route, bringing furs and goods up and down the river in dugout and birch bark canoes.



in Bloomington to serve pilots who gave rides, taught flying lessons and performed airplane stunts to delight crowds.

The Boom Years: 1940-1980

The highway system through Bloomington was completed in 1956. Bloomington had both Highway 494 and Highway 35W as main transportation routes. The Dan Patch railroad had ceased to be a passenger rail line, and



carried only freight. Nearly every family owned an automobile. The entire Twin Cities area was quickly and easily accessible from Bloomington. The Minneapolis St. Paul International



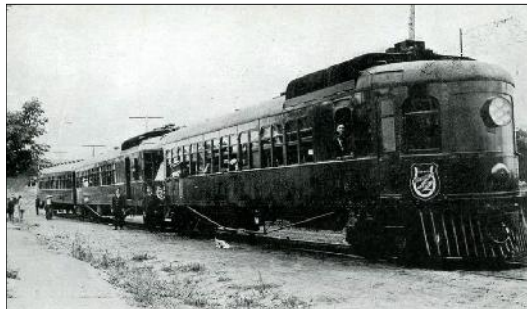
Airport was built, and air travel became common. Metro Transit bus service to downtown Minneapolis served commuters.

The New Millennium: 1980-2020

Roadway and highway systems in Bloomington were fully developed. Light Rail transportation from the mall of American to downtown Minneapolis began in 1994.

Pioneer Farming: 1850-1900

People either walked, or took a horse and wagon. Bloomington roads were all dirt roads. Bloomington had at least three blacksmith shops to make horse shoes and repair wagons and farm equipment. Riverboats came up the Minnesota River to landings in Bloomington before the railroads were built. River crossings were by ferry boat before bridges were built over the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.



Turn of the Century: 1900-1940

The Dan Patch Electric Railroad began service from Minneapolis through Bloomington to Lakeville in 1910. People could more easily go into Minneapolis for school or work. The automobile made its appearance, and roads were gradually improved. Main roads like Cedar and Lyndale Avenue were paved. Mr. Scott opened a Ford dealership at Cedar and Old Shakopee Road to sell automobiles and gasoline. Three small airports sprang up



Photos: Dakota Traveling painted by Seth Eastman, Haeg family horse and wagon, Northwest Airlines passenger plane, Dan Patch Electric Railroad, Scott Ford Motors on Cedar Ave.

BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1964, the Bloomington Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the City of Bloomington.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and hold in the public trust the many artifacts, photographic images, memorabilia and life stories of the people who have lived in Bloomington.

The organization is run entirely by volunteers. We depend entirely upon your donations for our operations, programs and displays. We are grateful for your ongoing support which makes it possible to offer free admission and free programs to all.

Old Town Hall Museum

Penn Avenue at Old Shakopee Road

Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Thursdays 1 to 8 pm

Additional open hours by appointment



Bloomington Historical Society
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431