

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

"The Voice of the Community"

Photo by Robert Johnstone

Volume 17, No. 8

www.daytonsbluff.org

October 2004

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Vote for your Community Council representative

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Annual Meeting and Election will be held on Monday, October 18. Polls are open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret.

A Pot Luck will be held between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. The annual meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. where the results of the election will be announced.

Come for the Pot Luck Supper, bring a dish to share, and stay for the annual meeting. Find out what the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is all about and have supper at the same time.

Any Dayton's Bluff resident age 18 or over is eligible to vote. Voters can cast ballots for their Sub-district Representatives and for an At-Large seat. Write-in candidates are also permitted.

Absentee ballots may be requested. All requests for absentee ballots must be made at least ten (10) days prior to the election, in writing and signed by the voter. All absentee ballots shall be mailed by the Council at least seven (7) days before the election to the residence of the voter requesting the absentee ballot.

Each ballot is accompanied by two envelopes prepared so that the larger is return addressed to the Election Overview Committee and marked so that the name, address, and signature of the voter should be written on the back of the envelope.

The smaller envelope, which contains the ballot, should remain unmarked. Put the ballot in the smaller envelope, put the small envelope in the larger envelope with the Council's address on it and return it. The unmarked small envelope will be put in the ballot box.

Absentee ballots must be received in the Community Council office by 7:00 p.m. on October 18, 2004.

Earl St. Bridge nears completion



Photo by Toni Thomas

The new Earl St. Bridge is scheduled to open this November after being closed for nearly two years.

2004 Community Council Board election candidates profiles

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors totals 18 members of which 16 represent four sub-districts and two are At-Large positions. Sub-District representatives must be residents of that particular Sub-District while the At-Large Director can be either a resident of Dayton's Bluff, a business owner, or even the manager of a local business or organization.

All of the current Board openings are for two (2) year terms. Following is a list of this year's candidates and the information they provided about themselves.

At-Large

Donavan Cummings

Donavan moved into Dayton's Bluff in 1988 and became a Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board member in 1989. Over the years he has represented the Community Council on a number of city committees including the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee and the Phalen Corridor Steering Committee. Donovan's goal is to continue work on the Phalen Corridor and CIB committees. He will work on the mixed-use redevelopment of the 7th and Atlantic area in the next 2 years. He sees coming up with the right mix of housing and new jobs, and funding for the Community Council as challenges facing our community.

Sub-District B

Jean Comstock

Jean has served on the board for one term. She has lived in Dayton's Bluff since 1982 and currently resides on the 700 block of 6th Street. She has a BA from North Dakota State University in Computer Science. She has worked as a technical writer for 30 years. While serving on the board she would help diverse ethnic communities work together on community goals, continue improvement in appearance of the neighborhood, support existing local businesses to improve appearance and encourage new businesses. Challenges the community is facing: She thinks the community is becoming more and more diverse. She believes the Community Council can do immense good in helping these different groups to get to know each other, and come together as a united community to improve neighborhood appearance, neighborhood safety, and help all our children.

Erin Stojan

Erin has lived in St. Paul for more than six years and recently moved to Dayton's Bluff. She is currently employed as an Energy Program Organizer with Minnesotans for Energy-Efficient Economy and residing on the 600 block of Bates Avenue. She graduated from Hamline University with a BA in Political Science and Environmental Studies. While serving on the board she would like to learn more about the neighborhood, work with her neighbors, and give back to the community. Challenges the community is facing: housing, zoning, crime, greenways.

Sub-District C

Greg Auge

Greg is a returning candidate. He has served on the board in the past. He attended Harding High School and has lived on the Eastside for 53 years. He currently resides on the 900 block of Conway Street and works with Cub Foods as a Department Head. While serving on the board he would like to improve communication with parishes on the Eastside. Challenges the community is facing: vacant homes and crime

Paul Godfread

Paul has a BA from Saint Olaf College and has lived on Wakefield Avenue for 2 years. Paul is an active member of Greening Dayton's Bluff and has helped out with the Neighborhood Clean up. Paul's goals as a board member include helping lower the vacancy rate of buildings in Dayton's Bluff, increasing community involvement, bringing new businesses in and encouraging local business. Crime and distressed properties are the challenges that Paul sees the community facing.

Krystal Myers

Krystal resides on the 900 block of Euclid Street. She was born and raised in Austin, Minnesota. She moved to Dayton's Bluff in 2001. She is currently employed at Fairview Medical Center as a Registered Nurse. While serving on the board she would like to help out and get involved in the Arts and Culture Committee and do whatever she can to help the organization. Challenges the community is facing: crime and safety, youth values, restoration, housing, and new people in St. Paul.

Jody Parr

Jody has lived in the Twin Cities for 11 years and currently resides on the 900 block of Third Street. She graduated from the

Barra returns for another District Council fundraiser

There is no need to wait until St. Patrick's Day to enjoy Irish dance music. Back by popular demand, St. Paul's favorite Irish band Barra returns to the Mounds Theatre this October, once again presenting a traditional Irish ceili.

It all happens on Saturday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Rd. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. Children under 12, accompanied by adults, are free. This concert is being held as a fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. For information or tickets, call Karin at (651) 772-2075.

If you attended the show in March, you already know how much fun an Irish ceili can be. If you missed the last show, now is your chance to experience Irish music and dance at its energetic best.

Barra (Gaelic for *summit* or *top of*) has a focus on performing traditional Irish dance music as well as ballads, songs and listening tunes with the design of carrying on the ceildh band tradition.

The band features Karie Oberg (vocals); John McCormick (accordion and bagpipes); Deborah Martin (fiddle); Paul Garding (guitar/vocals); and Dave Cammack (bodhran/tinwhistle/accordion/step dancing).

University of Minnesota with a Bachelors Degree and a Master of Education. She has been a schoolteacher in St. Paul for the past two years. She recently bought her first home in Dayton's Bluff.

While serving on the board she is interested in creating and expanding programs for youth (both educational and recreational) and in crime prevention and building neighborhood community. Challenges the community is facing: She believes we, as a community and as individuals, don't know or understand each other. There is a lack of trust. She would love to see stronger block clubs and other activities that bring people together. Drugs/drug use and the sale of them are huge problems. Nuisances like slashed tires are also important to address.

Pamela Yang

Pamela recently moved to the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood and resides on the 800 block of Fourth Street. She has a Bachelor Degree in Management Information Systems and a Masters Degree in Software Design and Development, and is GIS technician certified. She would like to see residents work together and get the block she is on cleaned up. Challenges the community is facing: lack of participation and involvement.

PROFILES, page 5

New Metropolitan State University Library opens October 9th

Metropolitan State University will hold the Grand Opening of its new Library and Learning Center on **Saturday October 9** at 10:30 a.m.

There will be many exciting family-oriented activities such as food galore (including ethnic desserts), kid's games, local celebrities, storytellers, live music and art exhibits.

Other activities will include: IT and online learning demonstrations, alumni/faculty networking, special exhibits from the Saint Paul Police and Fire departments, tours of the new Library and Learning Center including the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library, and a walk through the largest book you've ever seen.

Register to win fabulous prizes including a trip for four to Disneyworld, home and family electronics, family memberships to the Science Museum and Minnesota Zoo and many, many more.

The first 500 people in attendance will receive free book bags.

You will not want to miss this historic event.

The Grand Opening is being sponsored by the Metropolitan State University Foundation, 3M Foundation and the University Activities Board.

Rummage sales

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

The Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center at 800 Conway will hold a community garage sale on **Saturday, October 2nd**, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mounds Park United Methodist

Mounds Park United Methodist at Euclid and Earl will hold its fall rummage sale on **Saturday October 9th** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. As usual it will have lots of clothes and household items for sale and include Auntie's Attic, a bake sale, lunch and the Oval Room. For more details call 774-8736.

St. John's Catholic Church

St. John's Catholic Church at 977 E. 5th St. will hold a rummage sale on **Friday October 15th** and **Saturday October 16th**. For more information call 748-8533.

Happy Birthday, Lyman Dayton



Photo by Karin DuPaul

It was a small but spirited group that attended Lyman Dayton's 194th birthday party. Left to right: Sage Hoben, Steve Trimble, Heather MacLaughlin, her son Henry MacLaughlin Johnston, and Chris Geurts.

The sounds of "Happy Birthday, Lyman Dayton" rang out near Third Street and Mounds Boulevard at the end of August. In spite of the damp weather, a small but spirited group of neighborhood residents, some of whom are shown in the photo above, were celebrating the 194th birthday of the man for whom the area is named.

It was the inaugural event of what is hoped to be a series sponsored by the recently formed Dayton's Bluff Heritage and Happiness Club. The activity took place on the grounds of what used to be the Lyman and Maria Dayton home, located in the empty lot above Mounds Boulevard between 3rd Street and Conway.

Those who showed up shared potato salad and other food, swapped stories and discussed plans for future gatherings. Other communities have large, well-attended festivals. Dayton's Bluff used to, and it is hoped that get-togethers such as this might spark an interest in re-starting the "Festival on the Bluff" or some similar event in the future.

Mounds Park pavilion party

As most of you know, the historic prairie style pavilion at Earl and Mounds Boulevard in the heart of Mounds Park has undergone major renovation and people can once again go in the handsome brick structure. The work has been completed for some time, but there has never been any event to mark the work that has been done.

That's why the Dayton's Bluff Heritage and Happiness Committee has announced the second in its series of neighborhood celebrations—the "Pavilion in the Park Party." It will be held on **Tuesday, October 12th**, which by happenstance is also (or used to be) "Columbus Day." It will start around 6:00 p.m. and go until dusk.

Everyone is welcome. It will be a potluck, so please bring a dish or two to pass. You will also need to provide your own plates, blankets or chairs, etc. People are encouraged to bring guitars or other instruments for an impromptu talent show. If there is interest, there may also be a short Mounds Park history walking tour.

Let's have a good turn out for what will probably be the last outdoor event until spring. For more information call Karin DuPaul at 772-2075, or just show up at the pavilion. Reservations are not necessary

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday October 31. Remember to fall back 1hr.

October 16 is Bosses' Day and Sweetest Day. Huh?

Fall festivals

Saint Casimir Church

Saint Casimir Church at Forest and Geranium will hold its Fall Festival on **Sunday, October 3** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction, raffles, games for the kids and a roast pork dinner (\$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids 6-10).

First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria, will hold its annual Fall Festival on **Saturday October 16** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be games, crafts, food and a silent auction. For more details call 651-776-7210.

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Join us on **October 2** for the next hike.

We hike from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park and then walk the length of the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail to its end, near Phalen Park.

The hike is about 6 miles with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available near Johnson Parkway and Maryland to return to Mounds Park or you may hike back if you wish.

Join recreational trail supporters and explore this recreational trail. The paved trail runs from East 7th Street and Payne Avenue through Swede Hollow to Phalen Park. Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike started in December of 1990 and over the years hundreds of people have attended these events.

For more info, call 776-0550.

Next Grocery Give-Away is October 16

A Grocery Give-Away will take place on **Saturday, October 16** from 10:30 to noon at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Euclid and Earl. Free produce, dry goods and bread items will be given to anyone who can use them. No registration or sign-up necessary. Sponsored by United Methodist churches on the East Side.

October 11 is Columbus Day (observed) in the United States and Thanksgiving Day in Canada. Turkeys in the U.S. are breathing a sigh of relief.

Church Directory

First Lutheran Church

463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210

Located one block north of Metropolitan State University
Sunday Services:

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Christian Education for children and adults
9:45 a.m. Fellowship
Supervised Nursery
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome!



To place your church in the Forum directory, call 651 772-2253

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
FAX: 651-774-3510
E-mail: KarinDD@msn.com

Monthly Circulation: 6,000. Also available online at www.daytonsbuff.org This is a publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. and is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Guest articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to KarinDD@msn.com or faxed to 651-774-3510. The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home in the Dayton's Bluff area. If you live outside this area, subscriptions cost \$12 and may be arranged by calling 651-772-2075.

Board of Directors: Allen Clausen, Greg Cosimini, Robert Johnstone, Debra Vos, and Karin DuPaul. Editor: Greg Cosimini. Layout by Greg Cosimini. Next issue: November 2004. Deadline for material: October 10, 2004.

GREGORY W. LE MAY
FOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



I believe all human life has value...from an elderly person in a Nursing Home to the unborn child. I support " Traditional Marriage " ...a union between one human born male and one human born female. I support effective funding of our Police and Fire Departments along with our State and Country for its defense. I support " The Second Amendment "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed. I support fair wages and safe work environments for both Union and non-Union employees. I support the young entrepreneur and the job opportunities they create. I support accountability of our Government and all its agencies. I believe..."less Government is a better Government". -Greg Le May

www.citizensforlemay.org

Prepared and Paid for by Citizens for Le May 215 McKnight Rd. S. St. Paul, MN 55119

“Land of Oz” offers a mystical and enchanted evening



Dress up in your Halloween best and hit the yellow brick road! At HealthEast Care Center & Residence – Marian of Saint Paul’s annual Land of Oz, kids are invited into the magical world of Dorothy, the Wicked Witch of the West, and all the other characters from the Wizard of Oz. If you stopped by last year, you know what a wonderful time your children had.

Residents will be passing out tricks and treats to kids 12 and under on the evening of **Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** No one over 12 years of age will be allowed to trick or treat. **Admission to the event is donation of a canned good item or \$1.00 per child.** All proceeds go to the local food shelf at the Merrick Community Center.

If you would like to donate wrapped candy or help set up the props for this event, please contact Robert Johnstone or Jody Auger at (651) 771-2914. Thank you in advance!

HealthEast Care Center & Residence – Marian of Saint Paul is located at 200 Earl Street.

Drive carefully on Halloween. Trick or Treaters will be thinking about candy, not watching for cars.

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure at recent Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up



Photo by Nachee Lee

Depending on your definition of treasure, this man struck it rich by finding a slightly used Budweiser sign at the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up.

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up was held on September 11th. Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Board members, residents, friends, and Reentry Services Sentence to Service played an important role in the clean up. Neighborhood participation was very low this year. We are looking for ways to make the clean up more successful in the future. Let us know if you have any ideas. Email Karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075 with your ideas.

The day started with a long train blocking the entry into Ray Anderson and Sons yard with a line of people wanting to get to the clean up. Once the train moved the clean up got rolling. The weather was great for the clean up and all of the volunteers did an excellent job. Some people did find treasures in the Free Stuff reuse area.

Volunteers included Paul and Miranda Godfread, Cassandra and Chip Moe, Carla Riehle, Jean Comstock, Chee Vang, Steve Duerre, Jacob Dorer, Donovan Cummings, Sharon McCrea, Dave Murphy, Ed Overmeyer-Kolb, Nachee Lee, Greg Le May, Roger Schaefer, and a Sentence to Service crew. Dianna from Eureka Recycling was on hand to answer questions about recycling and Eureka’s other programs. If I missed anyone I am sorry and please let me know. We appreciate everyone that helped.

A number of local businesses supported our efforts by supplying food, beverages and services. We would like to express our appreciation to Subway Sandwiches at East 7th Street and Willius, Burger King at East 7th Street and Maria, Cub in SunRay Shopping Center, M and H Convenience Store, Byerly’s at 1959 Suburban, Culver’s at 2065 Old Hudson Road, and Holiday Gas Station at 1477 East Minnehaha.

Throughout the year Sentence to Service crews have picked up trash and litter from the streets and parks here in Dayton’s Bluff. Earlier this year we had a mini clean up in a Good Neighbor Code Enforcement area in Dayton’s Bluff. All and all a lot of clean up activities have happened in Dayton’s Bluff this year. We could not have done it without all of the help!

Lake Country Chorus presents “Secrets of the La La Sisterhood” at the Mounds Theatre

Join Lake Country Chorus as we present a fabulous musical review set in Harmonyville as the Secret La La Sisterhood plans its first annual sequin ball. The show is packed full of entertaining toe-tapping music, side splitting comedy, lively dancing, intrigue, dazzling costumes along with a special guest appearance by FRIENDS, a vocal group of distinction comprised of eight married couples ready to entertain you. Remember, Sequins Are a Girl’s Best Friend!

Our program will be held on **Saturday, October 16th** at the newly renovated Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road in St. Paul, MN. There will be two performances at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$14.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for Children 12 & under. Tickets are available through the Mounds Theatre Box Office at 651-772-2253, Mary Ann Karrick at 651-426-8782 or Luveme Johnson at 651-770-7732.

Lake Country Chorus is the White Bear Lake Chapter of the Sweet Adelines. It has been in existence since March 19, 1968, when it began life as the White Bear Lake Chorus.

Lake Country Chorus is committed to teaching, performing and perpetuating barbershop harmony. We perform a variety of music from contemporary to golden oldies and traditional barbershop.

October 18
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Election,
Pot Luck and Annual Meeting

Cub Scout Pack 217 annual popcorn fundraiser begins October 2

On **Saturday, October 2**, Cub Scout Pack 217 will launch its annual product sale fundraiser. Cub Scouts will be out and about in their neighborhoods throughout the month of October, selling Trail’s End Popcorn. Most Scouts will have product available for delivery at the time of the sale. Seventy percent of every dollar sold goes to support Scouting at a local level, half of which will return to Cub Scout Pack 217, where it will be used to support a quality, year-round program. Some of the funds will go directly to help the boys pay for periodic activity fees, Cub Scout day camps, and a weekend trip to Phillippo Scout Reservation next summer. Pack 217 hopes to raise \$14,000 for operational funds and camp fees by selling \$20,000 worth of popcorn.

Cub Scout Pack 217 is chartered by Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid St., and has been serving the East Side since 1954. Cub Scouting is a program for boys in first through fifth grades that encourages good citizenship, character development, and physical fitness through fun individual, group, and family activities. Boys are welcome to join at any time.

For more information on Cub Scout Pack 217, joining Cub Scouts, or our product sale, please contact Eric Buck (772-6836) or Marie Riemer (772-6836).

A Short History of Dayton's Bluff *By Steve Trimble*

Chapter 3: The Confluence of Cultures

Popular media often portrays the interactions between Native Americans and pioneers as one of hostility. Lately, however, researchers have looked more carefully at the evidence and have found that there was usually a time during which the power relationships were generally balanced and interactions were mutually beneficial.

Historians use the term "Middle Ground" to describe this short-lived era. With fairly equal power, relationships were usually friendly and mutually beneficial. The people of Kaposia — the Mdewakanton band of the Dakota — generally welcomed the newly arrived soldiers and settlers, traded with them and frequently visited the frontier city of St. Paul.

The "Middle Ground" period in the St. Paul area probably extended from the 1830s to the late 1840s. But what is the reality behind the academic label? Who were the people who lived in the bend of the Mississippi? What were they like? What did they do? How did different cultures get along? Answers to these questions are hard to find, but examining the available biographical information provides some idea of the residents and their interactions.

The social relations included romance and as a result there was some intermarriage. The mixed blood population came to be called the Metis and their culture was a combination of European—usually French— and Indian. One of the most well known Metis was Joseph Renville, who was born in Kaposia in 1779 to a Dakota mother and French trader.

Renville was educated by a priest in Canada and his ability to read and write several languages let him work with a variety of people. He first worked for an English fur company, traveling and buying furs and living in Kaposia during the winter. He helped found the Columbia Fur Company in 1822 and when it was purchased by the American Fur Company he went to western Minnesota.

As an officer with a contingent from Kaposia, Renville fought in the War of 1812. They were on the British side. He helped translate portions of the Bible into Dakota. Historian Edward Neill said that "previous to the ratification of the Treaty of 1837," Renville was, "perhaps the most prominent citizen in Minnesota."

This treaty was a turning point for the city of St. Paul and the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. As more and more European settlers came to what would become Minnesota, the power relationships shifted and the Dakota world began to change. The hunting and trapping was no longer good because the growing population exhausted the supply of deer and beaver.

The Dakota began to feel that it made sense to cede the land east of the



Minnesota Historical Society

A Dakota village painted by Seth Eastman (1808 - 1875).

Mississippi in exchange for promises of food and cash annuities. Big Thunder, Kaposia's leader, headed a Native American delegation that signed the finalized agreement in Washington D. C. in September 1837. Kaposia was then moved to the west side of the Mississippi.

Even before the treaty was signed, European settlers were starting to encroach on Native American land. On June 9, 1837, a delegation from Kaposia came to Fort Snelling and complained to Major Taliaferro, the Indian agent, that that people were moving into the Dakota territory before the treaty had been ratified.

Years later a man named Isaac LaBissoniere confirmed that as early as 1836, a few people had illegally squatted along the river below Dayton's Bluff. LaBissoniere—sometimes spelled LaBisnier—was born in Pembina in 1823. His father was a Canadian fur trader who married a Dakota woman. Sometime around 1837 the family settled on the bottomland near the old state fish hatchery when Isaac was around fourteen. There was no official survey, so they just put up a sign saying the land had been claimed. They lived there for eleven years.

In an interview given to the *St. Paul Dispatch* when he was in his eighties, LaBissoniere described what seemed to be a subsistence life style. "Why should we work? Nobody had to work by Jimminy. The morning I got out, I shoot the duck, the quail, the prairie chicken! The family they tire themselves of the birds, I go over on Dayton's Bluff, near Mouseau's and I bring back the fine deer! There was berries, too, and we could buy flour whenever we much need him."

The man mentioned by LaBissoniere was Charles Mousseau—sometimes spelled Moussoa—native of Canada. At the age of 20, he came to Minnesota in 1827 or 1829 to work for the American Fur Company. Mousseau married a woman named Fanny Perry at Ft. Snelling in 1836 and in the fall of 1838 or spring of 1839 made a claim in Dayton's Bluff. After that he farmed and made a living doing carpentry work. The family sold their claim to Eben Weld in 1848 and moved to Hennepin County.

Eben Weld was a prominent man in the early history of the community. In fact, when a newspaper editor mentioned the area where he and others

resided in 1849, it was referred to as "Weld's Bluff." He was born in New Hampshire in 1815 and as a young man ran a fur trading post near La Crosse, Wisconsin. Able to speak Dakota, Weld was appointed as the agricultural teacher at Kaposia under the provisions of the 1837 treaty.

Weld is one of the few of the earliest settlers of our neighborhood whose papers are preserved. In a letter to relatives, he said: "Taking everything into consideration this is the most advantageous country I have ever lived in. The soil can't be beat for Wheat and Potatoes and all kinds of vegetables. Wild fruit is plenty of all kinds, Plums and Apples in abundance. Strawberries and

blueberries are also plenty in their time."

William Evans, a native of Ireland, may have been the first European resident of the community. Around 1838, upon his discharge from his soldiering, one source stated, he took up a claim on top of the bluff. Evans, his wife, and her five children from a previous marriage lived in a cabin overlooking the river on "one of the most desirable sites for a dwelling about St. Paul."

The exact location where they lived for over a decade is unknown. One writer said the former Ft. Snelling soldier "selected for his claim a spot on Dayton's Bluff near the Dayton mansion." Another person was more specific, suggesting that the Evans family located north of today's Seventh Street.

Evans seemed to have been fairly prominent in early city life. For instance, in the 1840s, Evans was elected one of three commissioners who would "survey and locate" a road from St. Paul to St. Anthony. In July 1842 he was one of a group selected to lay out a road from his farm to the St. Croix River at Stillwater.

According to one pioneer writer, they "lived happily a number of years on the bluff, when they sold the claim to Lyman Dayton."

1849: Goodhue reports on the Bluff

Pioneer Press, September 19, 1849

"Turning around Robert's corner at the lower landing, we pass down through a heavy growth of timber, cross Trout Brook, and McLeod's Creek finding the good path for a horse, most of the way. Ascending upon the first table above the river, we come suddenly, upon the grounds of the *Indian Encampment*, which has elicited some speculation for a few days past it being distinctly in view of St. Paul. We found the frames of a dozen lodges that the proprietors had left the day before, and one lodge covered by skins, and occupied by a family.

They were awaiting their friends from Little Crow....you will probably receive a greeting salutation from the inmates, many of whom return your 'good morning' in plain English.

The Bluff. We scramble up the bluff, and pass the house of Mr. Evans, one of the most desirable sites for a dwelling about St. Paul. A half a mile beyond, we arrive at the house of Mr. E. Weld. His lands are beautifully situated, as everyone can see, looking from St. Paul....

Here are some artificial *Mounds*, upon which we must stay and speculate. Some twenty mounds, extending a mile from Mr. Evans' along past Mr. Weld's are a subject of wonder and admiration. They are about fifteen feet high and rounded hemispherically, as with a trowel. Their ancient and inscrutable origin baffle even conjecture. The present race of Indians knows as little of them as ourselves.

Passing some hundred yards from his house, by the old and picketed grave of a Catholic Frenchman, who was forbidden a burial in the churchyard, for a spirit of impenitence shown his last confessor.

Pig's Eye extends in one street, some two miles... It has some forty families and about the same number of able-bodied men, who are usually in the employ of the Fur Company, as voyageurs. They are Canadian French. Though husbandmen, after having planted their fields, they hold themselves in readiness, as minute men, to attend the call of their employers, up the river; leaving the culture of the crops to the females....

The view from Mr. Weld's extends down the glistening channel of the Mississippi.... a magnificent scene. Directly across the river, the Sioux lands lie far and wide to the view.

At one point on Mr. Weld's farm, the eye compasses, from the smooth hills beyond Ft. Snelling, to the limits in the south, an extent of some forty miles.... Carver's Cave, which is now choked with an avalanche of gravel, remains for notice hereafter."

‘Night of the Living Dead - LIVE!’ at the Mounds Theatre

The classic George Romero and John Russo horror film comes to life on stage. A satellite probe shot to Venus returns to Earth carrying a mysterious radiation that transforms the unburied dead into flesh-eating zombies. Seven people trapped in an isolated farmhouse, held hostage by the ravenous ghouls, begin to turn on one another as the dead encroach.

“Night of the Living Dead” is a gripping, terror-filled monochromatic play that brings all the fright of the cult classic to life. This blend of thrilling horror laced with touches of black humor envelopes the audience in the action and unfolds into a shocking theatrical ending.

The play is directed by Jefferson Fietek, with scenic design by Don Eller, costume design by Nadine Collins, and lighting design by Ursula Bowden.

We know that not everyone in the play comes out alive. Will you?

Ghost tours of the Mounds Theatre will follow selected performances.
WHEN:

October 7 and 8 at 8 p.m.*

October 9 at Midnight*

October 14 and 21 at 8 p.m.*

October 22 and 23 at 7 and 10 p.m.*

*Ghost tours immediately following performance for an additional fee of \$3 (see other article on this page).

WHERE: The Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106
TICKET INFORMATION: Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students (under 18 or with valid student ID). Reserve tickets by calling the Mounds Theatre Box Office at 651-772-2253 or visiting us at www.moundstheatre.org and downloading a mail-in ticket order form.

PROFILES

(continued from page 1)

Sub-District D

Linda LaBarre

Linda has lived on the Eastside of St. Paul most of her life. She recently moved to Dayton's Bluff and resides on the 60 block of Maria Avenue. She graduated from Metro State U with a BA in Social Science. She is currently employed as an office manager with Friends of the Mississippi River and is a member of the Minnesota Frisbee Association. While serving on the board she would like to turn the vacant lot near Mounds Blvd and Mounds Street into a community garden or park area and put a stop sign on Mounds Blvd. Challenges the community is facing: growth in area, airport violations and regulations.

David Murphy

Dave has been on the board for around 6 years. He has served as a member and as president. He grew up on a farm near Belle Plaine, Minnesota. He went to college at Southwest State University. He has lived in Dayton's Bluff for 20 years with his wife Jane Prince and son, Sam, who is now attending college in Maine. He currently resides in Mounds Park. While serving on the board he would like to help clean up the neighborhood so Dayton's Bluff would be one of the best areas in St. Paul to live in.

Mounds Theatre Ghost Stories

The man who wasn't there

By Koa Choua Vue, 15 years old

It was Thursday night and she walked out of her house, got into the car and drove to the Mounds Theatre. She had been a volunteer for a good number of years during the renovation and had been in the theater alone on many occasions. This particular evening she was going there to sit quietly in the auditorium, listening to the great “nothingness”, without any distractions. It had been a very stressful week and the idea of just putting around in the peace and quiet of the theater would probably do wonders for her now, as it had in the past. She needed solitude.

It was a very hot day and besides the stress, she had just listened to her air conditioner at home exhale its last breath of cold air before it died. She didn't want to take the time to fix it, nor did she want to go buy another one.

Driving up to the theatre, she quickly exited her car and ran to open the doors to escape the heat. It was then she heard a voice behind her. It was a man's voice and he appeared to be saying something, although she couldn't make out the words. Peering around the corner of the building, she saw nothing. Dismissing the voice, she turned the key in the lock and went inside. After entering the theater, the temperature dropped suddenly. It was almost too cold. Had someone left the air conditioning on? Walking over to the thermostat, she looked at the dial. It was in the “off” position.

She turned back to make sure the door was locked securely. No sense taking a chance with unwanted visitors. Not today, she was too tired. Checking the lock, she noticed something outside. There was an old man approaching and he appeared to be floating in a thick gray mist. She blinked her eyes, looked up again and he was gone. Had she been imagining things?

Slowly she turned on her heels, went through the lobby double doors and walked into the main auditorium, sitting down on the seat near the large mirror in the gathering space. Everything was dark and the only light provided was behind the closed doors from the lobby. She sat and thought about the old man she had just seen and then suddenly she remembered reading about the “Ghosts at the Mounds Theatre” and a paranormal team that had investigated them a number of years ago.

The coldness of the theater again made her shiver. The theater is usually hot and humid, on these warm summer days... not cold. This was very unusual. Did the coldness she feel have something to do with the apparition she just saw, or thought she saw? Was the ghost still in the theatre with her? Suddenly, she heard footsteps on the back steps leading to the balcony. They were coming loud and fast and seemed to be gaining speed as they descended the stairs. Slowly she got up from her chair and moved towards the lobby area to see if possibly the other two volunteers that she worked with had been in the theater all of this time and were coming down to talk to her. But there was nobody there. At least nobody that she could see.

Gathering her wits about her, she screamed “LEAVE ME ALONE”. Someone had told her that if she took charge and didn't appear scared, ghosts would leave her alone. Ghosts were

The face in the window

By Jamie Thao, 17 years old

It was a cool night and the clouds were gathering. It was about 8 p.m. when I was dropped off at the Mounds Theatre. When I walked in two other volunteers were already there, packing up and about to leave. A friend of mine was cleaning up the theater for a wedding that was taking place at the theater the next day. I had come to help her.

I started right to work. My friend and I started sweeping the stairs and cleaning the windows. I looked up and saw a man's face in the reflection of the window. I turned around quickly and no one was there. I got scared and called out to my friend. Minutes later she answered, “What”? I dropped everything and ran to her. She was halfway down the stairs and asked again, “What”?

I told her what I had just seen and she laughed and said, “Maybe he just likes you”. So I brushed off that creepy feeling I had and went back to work on the windows.

About ten minutes later my friend called out to me and asked if I had heard anything. I yelled back that I had heard nothing. She came to me and said she swore that she heard a man laughing and felt someone watching her. I told her to quit that because I thought she was making fun of me for telling her I had seen a man in the reflection of the glass doors.

We both panicked and decided to leave. We would come back in the morning and finish cleaning. It was about 10:30 p.m. We grabbed our bags and left. The next day, we both went back to the theater. The two volunteers that had been at the theater yesterday were again there and were talking and looking at the newspaper. We told them what we had seen the night before and one of the volunteers assured us that we should just forget about what we “thought” we had seen. It was then I glanced at the paper they were reading and my gaze fell on a picture of a man. I looked again and recognized the face... it was the old man I had seen in the reflection on the theater's glass doors.

I read the whole article and it said something about this man being shot at the theater over 50 years ago and that the case had never been solved. One of the volunteers said that this had to be impossible, as she had just seen this same man, looking around the theater, just a few days ago.

This really “freaked me out” and my friend and I left. From that day on, I never wanted to be alone anywhere and especially not at the Mounds Theatre.

supposed to gain their energy from the fear that they instilled in people.

She walked to the cooler for a Coke and opened it. The hiss from the can made her jump. The theatre was getting colder and now she felt a presence standing beside her... an evil presence. She felt uneasy but she knew that whatever was in the room with her, didn't especially appreciate her visit and wanted her to leave.

“I'm not going to be scared,” she murmured under her breath. “I have worked too hard to save this theatre and there is nothing here that can make me leave.” Something was now pushing her, but she refused to budge... standing her ground. Picture frames on the wall started falling and the lights in the lobby

Mounds Theatre ghosts revealed!

See them for yourself

You've read the articles and heard the stories. Now come and see for yourself. The Mounds Theatre is giving you nine chances to learn firsthand about its ghostly residents.

For those of you attending “Night of the Living Dead – LIVE!”, the Mounds Theatre presents “The Ghosts of the Mounds Theatre: A hands-on tour of its haunted history.” Following the final performance of the play each evening, audiences will be part of a hands-on presentation of the haunted history of the theater. Audience members will hear eyewitness accounts, hear reports from psychic mediums brought in to cleanse the theater, see artifacts connected to the hauntings, examine unexplainable photos and tour parts of the building sealed off from the public for over 40 years. The dates and times of these presentations are: October 7 and 8 at 9:30 p.m.; October 10 at 1:30 a.m.; October 14 and 21 at 9:30 p.m.; and October 22 and 23 at 11:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$3 at the door.

For those of you not attending the play, or who can't stay up that late, or who want a longer, more in-depth look at paranormal activities at the Mounds Theatre, an expanded version of the “The Ghosts of the Mounds Theatre” will be presented on October 19th and 20th, beginning at 7 p.m. Never before seen photographs taken in and around the Mounds Theatre will be presented on the theatre's big screen. Decide for yourself if they prove that the theatre is haunted. Whether you are a believer or a skeptic, come for an interesting evening of spirited discussions.

In addition, we would like to have you bring your own ghostly stories to share and discuss, as well as any pictures you have taken to support your ghostly sightings. Contact the Mounds Theatre for details regarding picture formats.

Tickets are \$10 for either night. Ghosts are free. Due to the nature of these presentations, it may not be advisable for small children and those easily disturbed by such matters to attend these shows. Please call the Mounds Theatre to reserve your tickets at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106.

flickered and then died. This ghostly presence was obviously getting enraged. Should she leave?

In the darkness, she heard a scream. It appeared to come from a little girl but it was distant, probably near the stage. Walking into the auditorium she looked at the vast, empty space. There was nothing there. She knew it was time to leave, as there was going to be no way for her to rest in this type of environment. She turned, unlocked the door and left. Behind her she saw the old man, staring back at her from behind the glass. He had won, but only for the present.

Are these stories fact or fiction or a little of both? You be the judge. Read another Mounds Theatre ghost story on page 7.

The Clothes Line – *Ghosts in my closet*

By Sarah Ryan

Determined to clean out the closet, I grasp the doorknob firmly. Suddenly I'm on the floor with what feels like a dislocated elbow and a broken tailbone. Before I can get up, I'm rushed by a mob of ghosts wearing my old clothes. Demonstrating and disorganized, some of them shout slogans like, "Get Rid of Me Now!" and "Burn the Photos!" Others hold up signs: "You Can't Let Go!" "I'm Staying Put!" and "We Remember!" As they begin to chant in unison, I cover my head with my hands. "Where are we going to go? Where are we going to go?"

Then I'm in Paris. The year is 1292, and I'm a tax collector. I think, "I'm not a tax collector. And I don't speak French. What am I doing here?" But it's only a dream so I play along and glance at the papers in my hand. There are 366 shoemakers, 214 furriers, 197 tailors, 86 weavers, 54 hat makers, 45 purse makers, 24 tanners, and 21 glove makers. "Ah, here they are," I hear myself say as my finger comes to rest at the bottom of the list. "43 laundresses and 121 registered old clothes dealers." My ears start ringing and I think, "Ice cream truck? Impossible. It's October and the earth is flat. Alarm clock? No. It's only — what time is it?"

Saturday afternoon. I wake with a start. The book about "Life in a Medieval City" that I got from Marty's Second Hand Store for a dollar falls to the floor as I sit up on the couch and scramble for the phone. Wrong number. I rub my eyes, shake my head, and notice three piles of clothes in the hall: the ones that don't fit, the ones that would really look better on someone else, and the ones that I just can't bear to get rid of, like the pink wrap around sweater I've worn every winter for at least the past decade that my grandmother bought at a garage sale before I was born. As I get off the couch, I trip over a roll of plastic garbage bags. Darn cat.

A recent conversation with friends convinced me that I'm not the only one with ghosts in my closet. Lou was complaining about the expense of having to have his suit altered for an upcoming wedding. "Just buy one that fits at a local thrift store," I suggested. "Then you only have to pay for cleaning." He said his wife had actually purchased the suit for him at

a local thrift store and that's why he was having it altered. Phyllis asked, "Why didn't you go with her so you could try it on first?" Lou frowned and admitted that he just doesn't feel comfortable wearing "some dead guy's clothes."

"Don't be so squeamish," I said. "How do you know the suit came from a dead guy? Maybe it just didn't fit anymore. But if you don't want to wear it again after the wedding, just donate it back to the thrift store." We all felt a little uncomfortable when Phyllis, whose mother recently passed away, said she's heard that sometimes clothing donated to second hand stores is shredded for rags before anyone has a chance to wear it again.

Clothing often has sentimental value, and that can make closets hard to clean. Well-constructed garments can easily out-live their makers, their wearers, and the styles or purposes they were made to serve. One way or another, old clothes are almost always re-incarnated: looking just the way you remember them but on someone else's body, as reclaimed fiber in a form you'd never recognize, or even as the electricity that lights the bulb in the hallway in front of your closet.

When you're ready to exorcise the ghosts from your closet, there's help. The newest recycling choice for Dayton's Bluff residents is the U'SAgain company's red collection box at Old Hudson Road and Earl. They accept donations of clean, bagged clothing and paired shoes for resale in developing countries (where, it seems, many of my clothes and shoes were made). For curbside pick-ups, contact the Disabled American Veterans, the Epilepsy Foundation, or the Lupus Foundation. If you prefer, bring donations to your favorite thrift store. The Animal Arc, Salvation Army, Goodwill, St. Vincent De Paul, Unique, and Savers stores all accept clean, reusable items. Local consignment stores like TurnStyle will pay you for your best clothes if they can sell them and return them to you if they can't.

As I bleed the radiators, I'm thinking, "Now what did I do with that old pink sweater?"

Sarah Ryan lives in Dayton's Bluff. You can reach her by e-mail at sr@lakecast.com or send mail to the Dayton's Bluff District Forum office, 798 E. 7th Street, 55106



My summer vacation in Sturgis



Photo by Rich DuPaul

When this many motorcycles park on Main Street in Sturgis, South Dakota, it can only mean one thing: it's time for the annual Sturgis Bike rally.

By Karin DuPaul, Community Organizer

On August 6th we started our pilgrimage to the Sturgis Bike Rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We took US 212 to get there so that we could stop and visit some of my relatives on the way. West of the Missouri River the towns are farther apart and there are more and higher hills.

We stopped at a gas station/restaurant in Selby, South Dakota. Lots of people came out of the building and stood in small groups in the parking area. It turns out they were approximately fifty farmers from Australia who were here to learn about farming in the United States. We came across a town named Lantry. I had to stop and take a picture of the sign to send it to our city council person Kathy Lantry. Then we left US 212 and headed into Sturgis. The closer we got the more motorcycles we were seeing. The business streets in Sturgis were lined with vendors selling all kinds of motorcycle related wares. Thousands of motorcycles parked along the street and people were everywhere.

All of the Black Hills area caters to the motorcycle visitors. Main Street in Deadwood does not allow parking on it except during the Rally. Hundreds of motorcycles line both sides of the street. A number of towns with wide main streets allow motorcycles to park a row in the middle of the street as well as along the curb. Many places in and

near the Black Hills double the cost of lodging during the Rally. During the Rally all the lodging was full.

Our second day we had to put together our screen tent. We started to put it up and seven people from a nearby campsite came over to help us. It was up in no time. These people are from a rural community in Iowa and all work in law enforcement. There were two sheriff deputies, one running for County Sheriff, 2 EMS and a 911 operator. We had some interesting conversations about law enforcement and the difference between city and small towns. In their rural community the night shift is very slow.

This year during the Sturgis Rally an estimated 514,951 people attended; 705.87 tons of garbage were generated; 133 marriage licenses were issued; 863 vendor licenses were issued in Sturgis; 222 vendors licenses were issued in Meade County; and there were four Rally related deaths in South Dakota, according to the Rally Newsletter.

We put 1,300 miles on the motorcycle during the time we were in the Black Hills.

The beauty of the Black Hills is even more beautiful on a motorcycle. It is a wonderful experience riding along the road up and down and around on a motorcycle.

As the Rally ended, the sound of motorcycles was replaced by the sight of RVs filled with families climbing the hills.

Sacred Heart School Celebrates 50th reunion

The Little Oven on Minnehaha and White Bear Avenue was the venue for the gathering of twenty-six of the 64 classmates of the Class of 1954 from Sacred Heart Grade School. For many, it was the first time since their 8th grade graduation ceremony that they had seen each other.

The evening was spent reliving old memories, catching up on current lives and getting reconnected. Letters from former classmates and teachers were also a highlight of the evening. Although many still live in the area, class attendees came from as far as Arizona for the reunion. Old pictures and memorabilia were the highlight of the evening in addition to lots of picture taking.

The Committee starting gathering names last fall and had a wonderful time planning for the group's arrival on August 21. Many thanks to the planners for initiating the process and bringing the group together.

If other classes of Sacred Heart, St. Casimir, St. Patrick or St. John are interested in planning a reunion, they can contact the Alumni Office at Trinity Catholic School, the consolidation of these schools, at 651-776-2763 x. 249. It's time to start planning for the classes of 1955 and 1980.

Left: The Sacred Heart Class of 1954 at their recent 50th reunion.

*A Mounds Theatre Ghost Story***A close encounter of the ghostly kind**

By R.A.R

There are many stories concerning the ghostly residents that seem to have made their home at the old Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road in Saint Paul, MN. In all, there are three known entities: a young girl who on occasion skips gleefully across the stage, bouncing a small rubber ball; a middle aged man, who moves around the projection booth, seemingly distraught over long forgotten events; and an usher, dressed in a red uniform, who continues to direct people to their designated seats in the auditorium.

The story I'm about to tell is an actual account of my encounter with two of them. However there are many more experiences that are now etched permanently in my mind. Take note, it is immaterial to me whether you do or do not believe in ghosts, as I know in my mind that they DO exist. In reading the following account you have to judge for yourself.

After opening the door I walked cautiously into the darkness over to the light switch on the wall in the ticket office. The overhead lights sprang on and I stood in the eerie glow of days gone by. I had just entered the Mounds Theatre, a 1920's silent movie house forgotten in time since the 1960s.

Sidestepping the rubble on the lobby floor I made my way to the entrance of the main auditorium. As my hand touched the door's cold metal handle, the hairs on my neck stood up. What was waiting for me through this small single door? I was about to find out.

Slowly the door creaked open revealing the piles of debris that had accumulated over the last 40 years, all of which was piled high on the tattered, dusty theater seats.

After my eyes became accustomed to the dim lighting, I made my way down the aisle of the main auditorium. There were empty popcorn boxes on the floor along with various candy boxes strewn throughout the seats, sitting as they did when the doors of the theater were hurriedly closed in the late 1960s. I had to wonder: why did the last owner slam the doors shut and leave in such a hurry? It was all very curious.

As I stood in the small theater aisle my breathing suddenly became labored. The air rushing into my lungs was now thick and musty and I found myself choking. As I became accustomed to the stale air, I began surveying the mounds of "treasures" piled high by the present owner who had been using the theater as a warehouse for the last 40 years.

I forced myself to walk and proceeded down the aisle, making mental notes of the theatre's contents. There were old organ parts - hundreds of them, piled high, one on top of the other. Old boxes were strewn about spilling out their contents onto the seats... invoices, time sheets and personal information that dated back to the 1920s. My curiosity now aroused, I began sifting through the papers only to have them turn to dust in my hands, trickle through my fingers and then merge with the ancient layer of dust already accumulated on the cold cement floors.

My gaze now fell on the stage. The old, yellowing projection screen hung tattered and torn from its riggings in the ceiling. Small pieces of the black masking appeared to be moving through some unforeseen force. With my gaze transfixed on the movie screen I could see the vague outline of a person, but I'm sure it was only my eyes playing tricks on me... or was it?

It was then I heard it. Something or someone appeared to be skipping across the back of the stage behind the rows of computers. I stood frozen, my eyes straining to see if there was someone else in the building. Logic however told me that this wasn't possible as there was really only one main entrance to the building. The skipping finally stopped abruptly and I heard a ball bouncing down the back stairs connected to the stage. First one step and then two and then total silence. I looked down and at my feet was a small rubber ball. My instincts told me to bolt but I was unable to move, my feet feeling like lead weights attached to my legs, which were now starting to tremble.

The skipping sound brought me back to reality and my gaze again was transfixed back to the stage. There I saw a young girl, possibly six or seven, dressed in a pink gauze dress that seemed to float around her as if a slight, unseen breeze was moving the transparent material slowly around her body. It appeared as a pale pink mist. Her hair hung in golden ringlets, bobbing up and down as she moved, making her way to the door at the opposite end of the stage. She then stopped suddenly, turning to look at me. Her crystal blue eyes locked on mine and it appeared that she was trying to tell me something, as the ache in her eyes was truly evident. She then vanished from sight as if swallowed up in the black abyss waiting to engulf her at the opposite end of the stage.

After regaining my composure I stood for a while in the darkness, not wanting to believe what I had just seen and heard. Who was this young lady and why had she chosen to reveal herself to me? I then looked down at my watch, knowing full well that I had only been standing there for a short amount of time. But I was wrong... I had been transfixed in time for a good two hours and knew I had to leave.

I took one more glance over my shoulder to the stage area, hoping to again catch a glimpse of the little girl whose eyes had beseeched me to stay. This was not to be, at least not on this particular visit. Turning on my heels, I walked slowly towards the dimly lit exit sign guiding me back to the theater lobby. I jerked open the lobby door and walked through, listening for the door to close behind me. It closed with a thud. Walking over to the box office I switched the lights off and set the ancient alarm system that had been watching over the theater for many years. It was the silent sentry on duty that called in an alarm at the hint of any unwanted intruders. The button flashed green. It was time to go.

Standing in total darkness now, I made my way to the front door. It opened slightly and it was then that I felt two cold hands push down on my shoulders and begin pulling me back into the building. I lurched forward, propelling myself out the door into the sunlight. I whirled to lock the door and with one desperate movement the lock finally went through the hole in the old metal clasp. My day's ordeal had finally ended but I knew that it was only for the present time.

In a daze, I walked slowly to my car, turned on the ignition and began driving away. In passing the theater I looked up at the window in the projection booth. There I saw a man looking straight at me. I blinked my eyes but the apparition continued to stare down at me. A thin smile appeared on his gray, transparent face and then he was gone.

Next month: An encounter with the ghost in the projection booth.

Dayton's Bluff ECFE Program celebrates 30 years at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School!

How should I discipline? How do I get my child to sleep? Are imaginary friends normal? Why do they always ask why? Will my child ever be potty trained? Parents ask these and many other questions. For thirty years parents in the Early Childhood Family Education Program at Dayton's Bluff have been exploring the answers.

The beginning years of a child's life are crucial. Intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth occur rapidly from birth to age five. In the belief that learning begins at birth, and that parents play the key role in creating a loving, nurturing, learning environment for their children, the Minnesota Legislature in 1974 enacted legislation authored by Senator Jerome Hughes that created six pilot ECFE Programs across the state. This legislation created the first program in the nation designed to support all parents of children from birth to school entrance. One of the six new programs was assigned to a brand new school – Dayton's Bluff Elementary where Don Lackner was principal.

From the beginning under the leadership of Ann Legg, the first program director, the emphasis was on parenting knowledge and skills. Parents who attended the program had time to explore with each other and with a parent-educator, topics that are always challenging.

Children's classrooms offered choices and activities which supported many kinds of learning - large and small motor toys, books, puzzles and

other math and reading readiness materials, dramatic play as well as a balance of structured and free choice times. The children's program also provided a kind of laboratory where parents could play and learn with their children, observe how their children interacted with other children and adults, and learn what kinds of toys and activities they might want to use at home.

Some aspects of the Early Childhood Family Education Program have changed or been assumed by other agencies, but the heart of the program has remained remarkably consistent.

The Dayton's Bluff Program is the only one of the original six still located in its original site. Parents and their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers come to Dayton's Bluff Achievement+ Elementary once a week during the school year. They spend some time learning and playing and singing together. Then they separate and children continue their play with staff that understand and enjoy helping them grow and learn. Parents continue a conversation that informs and supports them, making the education, support, and networking offered by Early Childhood Family Education Programs even more important.

A very early video about the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program listed a number of the challenges which families faced in the 1970s and concluded, "This program helps!" It still does.




Above: Dorothy Petrie, the first staff person hired in the Dayton's Bluff ECFE Program with some of the first toddlers and preschoolers who came to class in the newly opened Dayton's Bluff Elementary School, Spring 1974.

Below: Sam and his mother delight in a printing activity in a Birth to Three Class at Dayton's Bluff ECFE Program in the Spring of 2004.



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Dayton's Bluff District Forum. Fun job, no pay. Adobe Pagemaker experience useful. Call 651-772-2075

Wanted: Crafters and Bakers
Mark your calendars! HealthEast Care Center & Residence – Marian of Saint Paul is getting ready for the annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale on Friday, November 19, 2004. We are looking for individuals and vendors to display and sell their handmade items from all over the community. Last year was our biggest year ever! All tables are reserved at only \$20 each, so you don't want to miss out.
Marian of Saint Paul is located at 200 Earl Street, across from Indian Mounds Park.
To make reservations or get more information, call Robert Johnstone or Jodi Auger at (651) 771-2914.

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Thanks for your support.

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Sheldon Johnson**

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