

Life in Brook Park



*The story of the Deaver Family in Brook Park
1911 to 2001*



A local history project by:
Pine City Area History Association

Preserve & Share Pine City Area History

Life in Brook Park



*The story of the Dave and Betty Deaver Family
in Brook Park 1911 to 2001.*



Life in Brook Park tells the family history of the Dave and Bettie Deaver family who lived in rural Brook Park for nearly a century. The story came to the Pine City Area History Association when Richard Van Horn, a great grandson of Dave and Bettie Deaver, started looking for a home for his collection of family photos. After a few emails and phone calls Richard decided to send his collection to Pine City to be cared for by the History Association. Richard's collection turned out to be 3 gallon Zip-lock bags full of photos and a few pages of family history. After countless hours of sorting and research by the history association, the Thursday Local History group, and many helpful emails from Richard, this interesting glimpse of life in rural Brook Park in the first half of the twentieth century emerged. Richard comes from a long line of people who have worked to preserve their family history. The Pine City Area History Association is pleased to be able to share their story.



Compiled in 2016 by Judy Scholin as a local history project in conjunction with

Pine City Area History Association

The Earliest Known Deaver History

Two Deaver brothers sailed from Wales, with Lord Baltimore, landed later and settled in a small town twelve miles from Baltimore, Maryland, about the year 1634 . Samuel Deaver, great grandson of one of the two brothers, was born on January 12, 1787, in Maryland, and his family moved to North Carolina in 1799, when young Sam was twelve years of age. Samuel was Dave Deaver's grandfather, and Dave Deaver's great grandfather was a soldier in George Washington's army during the Revolutionary War.

As a young man, Samuel married a widow named Cloa Jarvis, whose first husband had died and left her with two small girls. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Deaver reared five children, Samuel Jr., Rachael, Nathan, Jennie and William. The family moved from North Carolina to Indiana in 1831, and settled on 80 acres of land in Spice Valley Township in Lawrence County. They paid one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for the preemption, (preemption is the right to purchase). Samuel Deaver died April 9, 1843, on the home place. His wife died on the same place in 1862. They were both buried on the old Lape Embry place, one mile south of the village of Bryantsville, Indiana.

Their son, Nathan Deaver, was born on the home place on October 21, 1822. He married Elizabeth Riddle in 1849 or 1850. She was born in Lawrence County, Indiana in 1825. Nathan and Elizabeth had ten children.

Samuel - born 1850, died May 22, 1936 in Missouri

Jane -born June 20, 1852, died January 25, 1916 Tekamah, Nebraska

Kate -born April 1854, died about 1919 Spice Valley, Indiana

David - born June 24, 1856, died October 4, 1942 Hinckley, Minnesota

Bruce -born September 1858, died December 1910 Tekamah, Nebraska

Simpson - born September 1860, died November 1881

Elizabeth - born September 1862, died August 14, 1929 Santa Cruz, California

Nathan - born July 1865, died December 19, 1944 Ansley, Nebraska

Rosie - born June 1867, died April 7, 1931 Tekamah, Nebraska

There are couple of stories about the children of Nathan and Elizabeth Deaver. Simpson had the shortest life. He died when he fell from a building the family was tearing down. He was 21 years old. Sally, the youngest of the family, lived until she was 61 years old. Her first cousin, Alice Dannie Anderson, died on the same day as Sally and a double funeral was held for them.

David Deaver



Dave Deaver
1888

David Deaver was born June 24, 1856 in Lawrence County, Indiana. On February 7, 1889 he married Bettie Wooderson at her parents' home near Carlow, in Davies County, Missouri. Bettie was born on October 8, 1860 to William and Elizabeth Wollard Wooderson.



Bettie Wooderson
Deaver - 1887

William and Elizabeth Wooderson were married in 1838 and immediately bought 160 acres of land, unimproved and covered with hardwood

timber, from the U.S. Government, at \$1.25 per acre, located three miles of Carlow, Davies County, Missouri. They improved the land, raised 14 children, and lived on the place until they died. They were both buried in a church cemetery not far from the home place.

Dave and Bettie Deaver had five children.

Zoa - born June 1, 1891,

Lillian Fannie -born July 7, 1894

Wave -born January 14th, 1897

Emery -born September 29, 1898

Howell - born 1901



Lillian and Wave
October 1897

All the children were born in Tekamah, Burt County, Nebraska. Zoa, the firstborn child, only lived a month and 14 days. She was buried in the Arizona cemetery in Arizona, Nebraska.

In the early 1900's Dave and Bettie Deaver moved their family to a farm near Lansing, Iowa.



Emery & Howell Deaver about 1907



Dave and Bettie Deaver and from left to right: Howell, Wave, Lillian & Emery.

In the 1910 census the Deaver family is listed in Lansing, Iowa, but by 1911, they had relocated near Henriette, Minnesota. They later moved to a farm near Brook Park, Minnesota.



Wave Deaver Iowa, 1910

1910 United States Federal Census for David Deaver

Iowa Allamakee Lansing District 0005

| Name | Relation | Sex | Race | Married 12 Months or less | Married 12 Months or less Children | Birthplace | Father's Birthplace | Mother's Birthplace | Immigrant | Native | Speaks English | Occupation |
|----------------|----------|-----|------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|------------|
| David Deaver | Head | M | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |
| Bettie Deaver | Wife | F | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |
| Howell Deaver | Son | M | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |
| Wave Deaver | Daughter | F | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |
| Lillian Deaver | Daughter | F | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |
| Emery Deaver | Son | M | W | | | Iowa | Iowa | Iowa | | | | |

This 1916 plat map of Pine County shows the location of the Dave Deaver farm.



The Deaver family quickly got to work farming their new land.

This 1911 photo is labeled: "Breaking first sod in Minnesota, Dave, Howell, & Emery."



The Gedney Pickle company was encouraging people to grow cucumbers that would be sold to the Gedney company. Both Beroun and Pine City had special sheds where the cucumbers were collected.



Written on the back is: "This photo was taken in the summer of 1911. The folks raised cucumbers for the pickle factory that year. Charley Pitka took the picture. This was the first crop on new break up of farm by Joe Pitka."

Life wasn't all hard work though.

This photo also from 1911, shows the family having a picnic on the shores of Lake Pokegama at the Wilkie Resort.

An ad for Smith Hardware in Pine City can be seen in the background.



On May 30, 1911, there was some excitement in the neighborhood.

TORNADO TUESDAY

Plays Havoc At Brookpark.
Much Damage Done

3 Lose Their Lives

Tornado Kills Three and Injures Many.
Reduces Holmstrom House
To Kindling Wood

Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock our citizens noticed a funnel shaped cloud in the northwest sky. The tail of this cloud was seen to strike the ground and then raise up and travel for some distance before striking the ground again. Those who witnessed the strange sight were positive that we would hear of damage being done, but all agreed that it was a number of miles away. Imagine their surprise when at five o'clock word was received that the storm had struck the farm house of Chas. Holmstrom, who lives ten miles northwest of here, and that a woman had been killed and several children injured.

Dr. R. L. Wiseman was summoned and immediately left for the scene of disaster. Upon returning home he reported that there were two killed, a man and a woman, and several children injured.

Wednesday a reporter of the Pioneer went up to the place and this is what he found: The Holmstrom house was reduced to kindling wood. Mrs. Holmstrom, who was on the stairs at the time, informed us that she was turned around and round and when she came to herself, she heard one of the Burwick children, who had been spending the day at the Holmstrom home, crying. She at once crawled from the wreckage of her house and went around to the east side of the debris and there found Mrs. Burwick covered with blood. She at once went to the lady and took her in her arms, where she died a few moments later. She then picked up the children, one 14 months old and the other 6 months old, and carried them to the neighbors'. Mrs. Holmstrom was not seriously hurt, although she received a scratch on the arm and a slight injury on her right side.



POST CARD
CORRESPONDENCE NAME AND ADDRESS

*Meteorologist's Wreck Miss
after cyclone, which
suppressed Decoration
May 30th 1911.
about 4 P.M.*

Wade Deaver, age 14,
recorded her account on
the back of this postcard.

The Pine County Pioneer
June 2, 1911

The tail of the tornado then lifted into the air and struck the earth again just a half mile east, demolishing the home of Chas. Cottrel, killing Mr. Cottrel, fatally injuring his wife and seriously injuring six children. The house was taken and carried about ten rods, and all that was left intact was the floor. The tail then lifted and went a mile further east, striking a house, but doing no damage.

The Burwick children were scratched and the oldest received a blow on the back, leaving a black spot about the size of a man's hand.

Mrs. Cottrel sustained injuries about the head and had several ribs broken. At the time of the accident Mrs. Cottrel held a four months old babe in her arms, which did not receive a scratch. The oldest boy, Clarence, aged 16, had his head cut and an arm and leg broken. Laura, a girl of 13, had an arm and leg broken and was otherwise injured. Myrtle, aged 10, had her collar bone broken and received other injuries. Ruff, aged 8, was hurt about the head and is in a very precarious condition. Bertha, aged 5, had an arm and rib broken. Francis, aged 2½ years, was not hurt at all.

Anyone viewing the remains of the two houses can scarcely comprehend how the occupants could escape with their lives.

Mrs. Burwick and Mr. Cottrel were buried in the Brookpark cemetery Wednesday afternoon.

Farming kept the family very busy over the years..



Dave plowing with Babe and Dan. 1920's

Horses did much of the work.



Dave with Babe and Dan. 1920's



Oxen team, Jake & Jim
1915



Haying 1915
Emery, Howell and Ross Cottrel
are in the horse buggy.



Dave in hayloft.



Dave and his pigs. 1920's

Dave & Bettie Deaver



Bettie Deaver
age 65

Bettie Deaver died on December 3rd, 1931, at age 71. Dave died on October 4, 1942, at 86 years. Much of the history gathered



Dave Deaver at the Brook
Park Cemetery

here was collected by Dave during the last ten years of his life.



Dave Deaver
age 85

Both Dave and Bettie are buried at the Brook Park Cemetery.



Dave Deaver and extended
family at daughter Lillian's in
Moose Lake about 1940

Dave and Bettie's children grew up and lived their own lives.

Lillian Deaver Palach

Lillian married Frank Palach on July 23, 1912.



Lillian Deaver
age 16

When Lillian and Frank first married they lived near Braham, Minnesota, and Frank was a hired hand at the Elliot Farm.



Frank & Lillian Palach
1912



Frank & Lillian Palach's Home 1915



Hired help & horses at Elliot's
Farm near Braham - 1915



Emmett Palach July 1914

Their first child, Emmett Marshall, was born in 1913 and must have been a handful. The first picture of him is labeled "15 month old Emmett running away."

Lillian Deaver Palach

Twins Eleanor and Helen were born in November 1914. Unfortunately Helen died a few days later.



Eleanor & Emmett Palach
about 1915



Eleanor & Emmett Palach
1916

In all, Lillian and Frank had seven children:

Emmett - born April 13, 1913,

Eleanor & Helen - born November 30, 1914,
Helen died two days later.

Clarence - born December 17, 1916, died 1917

Robert - born March 16, 1918

Theodore - born August 16, 1920

Vernon - born May 27, 1926



Robert Palach
about 1920

In 1927 Lillian and Frank bought a farm near Moose Lake, Minnesota, where they lived the rest of their lives. Frank died February 11, 1958, and Lillian died January 5, 1968.

Lillian Deaver Palach



Eleanor & Emmett Palach
1918



Ted Palach with Grandpa
Dave Deaver 1935



Eleanor Palach about 1938



Bob Palach
about 1940

Eleanor Palach never married and is the only Palach child to leave no descendants.

Emmett Palach changed his last name to Shaw, so his children have Shaw as a last name.



Vernon Palach
1951



Wave Deaver
1915

Wave likely spent time from 1912 until 1917 helping her sister Lillian.

This photo of Wave and friend Ruth Gronquist was taken at the Braham Studio. On the back of the card Wave mentions working for Lillian.



Wave Deaver

*Myself and Ruth Gronquist
were working for Lillian
taken at Braham Studio
I was around 18 yrs.
16, 17, or 18 yrs.
that was a good picture of me
Lillian was her name.*

In 1918, Wave spent the spring and summer in Coffee Creek, Montana, working for her uncle John Gill. John had married Lulu Bell Wooderson, a sister of Wave's mother Bettie Wooderson. It was the end of World War I. John Gill had a large ranch and help was difficult to find. Wave was the only hired hand that spring and summer. John had four daughters who treated Wave like a sister.



myself and team.

Wave Deaver
Montana 1918

John Gill's daughters: Frances,
Pearl, Jessie, Marie



Wave Deaver Deiner

While Wave was living in Montana, she met and married Anton Deiner. Two daughters were born.

Edith - born May 6, 1920

Paulina - born October 19, 1921



Edith Deiner
1921

Wave divorced Anton Deiner and she and Edith and Paulina moved back to the Brook Park area.



Wave Deaver Deiner in Montana with her daughters, Edith and Paulina. The woman in the cap is a nurse.



Edith and Paulina
& their identical dolls

Back in Brook Park, Edith and Paulina spent time with cousins and grandparents.



Edith and Paulina & their cousin
Bobby Palach



John & Wave Smithson

Wave Deaver Deiner Smithson

Wave met John Smithson and they were married in January of 1929. Edith and Paulina were also soon using the Smithson name.



The Smithson Family 1936



John Smithson removing rocks.

John Smithson started life as a chimney sweep in London, but found his way to Pine County and was a farmer in Brook Park by the 1930's. The family lived on the Alderman farm for about seven years.



John, & Edith with the colts.



Paulina, John, & Wave Smithson bringing in the milk.



Edith and Helen Manick

Wave & John Smithson

John and Wave Smithson farmed in the Brook Park area for many years.



The Smithson Home 1943



Wave Smithson in her garden, above & with her chickens below.

In 1942, George Berg drilled a new well for John and Wave.

Wave having her first taste of the water from the new well.



Paulina, Edith, Wave & John Smithson 1962



John Smithson died in June 1971. Wave died April 4, 1977.

In this photo from 1967, Wave is wearing her wedding dress from 1929.

Edith and Paulina Smithson

Edith and Paulina grew up in Brook Park, attending school in Brook Park and graduating from Pine City High School.



Brook Park High School 1937
grades 7 - 11



Edith and friends from
Grange Youth.



Dave Deaver & granddaughter
Edith at Brook Park Cemetery



Paulina & Edith Smithson



Participating in
breadmaking
demonstration at
Pine County Fair.

Edith Deiner Smithson Mann

Edith went to the Duluth State Teachers College after leaving high school. After college she became a rural school teacher.

Edith took her students on some interesting trips.



Edith at Duluth
1943



Edith and class in
Hibbing.
1944



Edith and class in Red Wing.
1945



Blaine School
Mothers' Club 1944

Edith Deiner Smithson Mann

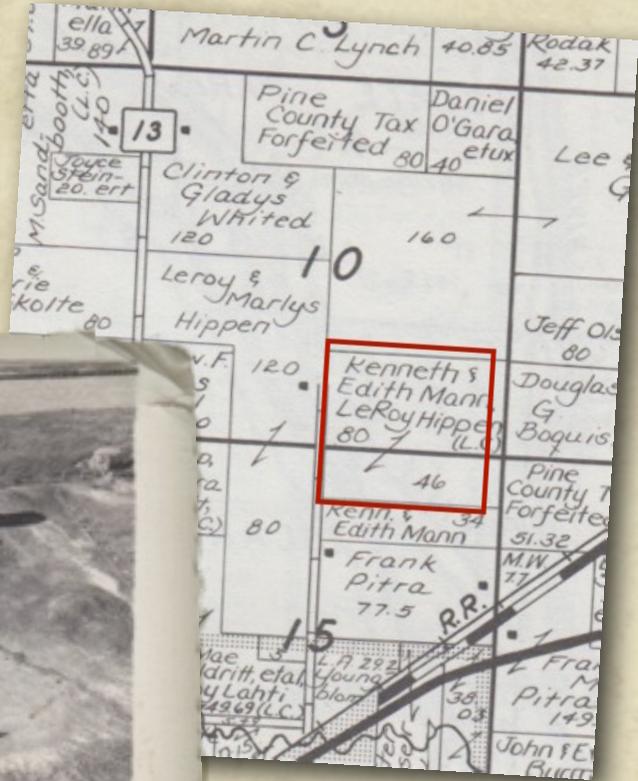
Edith married Kenneth Mann, who was also from Brook Park. Ken served in the U.S. Army from October 1941 until October 1945. Edith and Ken were married June 15, 1946.



Ken Mann & John Smithson
1945



Edith mailing packages to Ken
1944



Edith and Ken's
farm



Ken and Edith farmed in the Brook Park area. They had no children. Edith died in 2001 and Ken died in 2015.

Paulina Smithson Van Horn



Paulina 1939

Paulina graduated from Pine City High School in 1939. She taught rural school for a few years. She married Albert Van Horn.



Paulina &
Albert VanHorn
1943



Albert & Paulina 1949



The VanHorns, Kenneth Manns and
John Smithsons 1950



Larry, Dickie, Bobby 1951

Paulina and Albert had three children.

Albert Richard - born September 26, 1945

Larry Jacob -born September 7, 1946

Robert Paul -born December 25, 1948

Emery Deaver

Emery Deaver, the third of Bettie and Dave Deaver's children, is a bit of a mystery man. Not much is known of his life. He worked as a lumberjack for at least a brief time in the early 1920s.



Emery Deaver in his Lumberjack clothes.

Emery never married, spent some time at the State Hospital in Hastings and in 1941 at the age of 42 years, died of cancer of the liver.

Paulina, Emery, Dave, Edith Hastings, Minnesota



The Pine Poker Pioneer
April 13, 1941

Emery Deaver Dies At Hastings Sat.

Emery Deaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Deaver, passed away at Hastings, about 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 29th. He was taken ill March 20th, and died ten days later from cancer of the liver. At first, it was thought that with good hospital care he could recover, but that wasn't to be. He was 42 years and six months old at the time of his death.

Emery was born at Tekamah, Burt Co., Nebraska on September 29, 1898. His parents moved from Nebraska to Stillwater, Oklahoma in his early childhood. After about a year and a half, the family moved to Alameda Co., Iowa, where they resided until September 1, 1910, when they moved to Minnesota and located at Henriette. Later, they moved to a farm close to Brook Park.

He leaves to mourn his death, his aged father of Hinckley; 2 sisters, Mrs. Frank Palach (Lillian) of Moose Lake and Mrs. John R. Smithson (Wave) of Brook Park; a brother, Howell, of Anchorage, Alaska; 3 nieces, and one nephew in Minnesota, 2 nieces, 2 nephews and one great niece of Alaska; and one nephew on the Pacific Coast.

Howell Deaver

Howell was the youngest of Dave and Bettie Deaver's children, and as so often happens with later born children, there are very few pictures of Howell. In fact, the only photo in this collection that features Howell alone is a photo taken after Howell left home.

In November 1916, America was involved in World War I. Howell was only 16 years old at the time but he went to Duluth and enlisted. He became a regular White House guard and served President Woodrow Wilson for the duration of the war.



Howell Deaver
March 1917

While stationed in Washington D.C., he met Rhea, a government clerk. Howell and Rhea were married in Washington D.C.



Rhea Deaver
on the steps of the
Capitol



Howell & a friend
1918



Howell & Rhea
Deaver's first child,
Barbara, age 6
months.
1922

Howell Deaver

Howell and Rhea had two children.

Barbara - born November 11, 1921

Betty - born January 5, 1924



The family lived for a time in Colorado and later moved to Anchorage, Alaska.

Howell died suddenly in 1949. Wave wrote on the back of the picture below that she hadn't seen Howell since 1916.



Betty & Barbara Deaver
Denver, Colorado



Betty Deaver 1939
Anchorage, Alaska



Howell & Rhea Deaver and twin
granddaughters, children of daughter
Betty

Neighbors and Friends

Through the years, many neighbors and friends appear in the family's photos. In the early 1900's the Pitkas were neighbors and show up frequently.

This 1915 photo includes: Mrs. Chas Pitka's mother, August & Lydia Holmstrom, Barbara, Joe, Frank & Magdalyna Pitka, Thora Opsahl and Margaret & Peter Black



Charley Pitka is often credited with taking the photos and many of the 1911 - 15 ones featured earlier in this account were Charley's work.



This 1912 photo is one Charley took at the Joe Pitka farm. Along with the Deavers and some visiting Wooderson relatives, it includes: Mrs. Fred Schultze & Martha, and a Pitka baby.

This 1912 photo of Wave's friend Harriet Opsahl was taken at the Pine City Studio.

Evelyn Reed & Wave Deaver about 1917



Neighbors and Friends

In 1929, Wave & John Smithson were married at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Phelps, pictured here.



This 1927 photo includes a number of Ellison women, including Bertha, who stood up for Wave at her wedding to John.



In the 1940's the Smithsons were friends with Brook Park neighbors the John Felton family.



LouElla Felton 1940



John & Ruby Felton & Jerome 1940



Bernie Felton & Jerome 1942



A Felton & Smithson picnic 1942



Bernie Felton played ball for Pine City High School 1938 - 40

Neighbors and Friends

Rose Runa was friends with Paulina & Edith for life.



Rose Runa, her cousin & Edith 1930s



Rose Runa 1930s



Paulina, Ken, Edith, Rose Runa Prihoda 1965

Jewel is another Brook Park name that appears in the Smithson photos.



Two Jewels, Mrs. Pearson & Mrs. Oscar Nelson, appear here with Paulina about 1940



Lewis Novak, Oscar Nelson and Jess Jewel are in this photo of men.

Neighbors and Friends

Edith and Paulina were friends with another Brook Park girl, Eunice Kelsey.



Eunice Kelsey,
Paulina, Edith,



Rose Anna 1930s
1930's

This 1952 photo was taken at another Brook Park house, Bergwicks.



Bergwick's 1952

Ole Bergwick is in this 1951
photo.



Daddy, Kenneth, + Ole Bergwick

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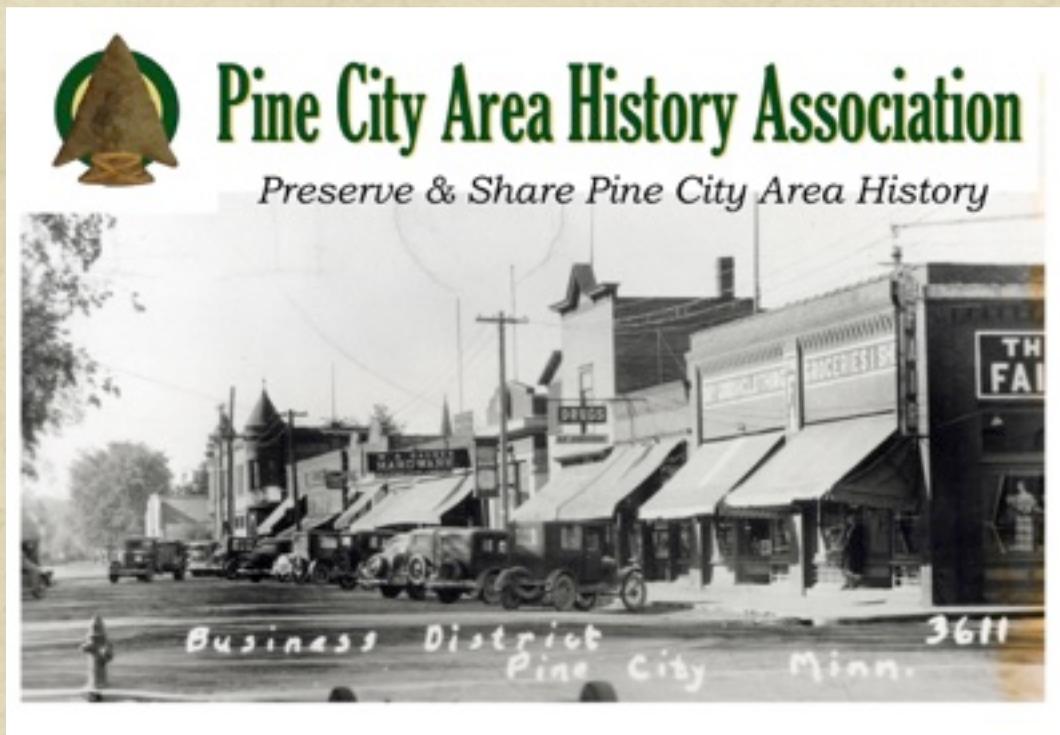


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The Pine City Area History Association is grateful to Richard Van Horn for sharing his collection of family photos. It is opportunities like this that make it possible for us to achieve our mission of preserving and sharing Pine City area history.

To learn more about the Pine City Area History Association, visit us on Facebook at: facebook.com/PineCityHistory

or visit our Website at:
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