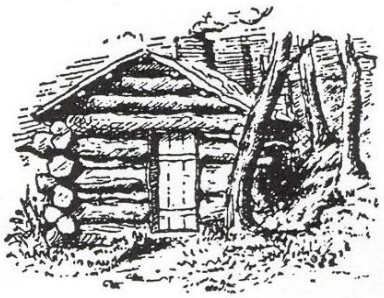
JUNIOR PIONEERS
OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



Vol. 33 / No. 2 **JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER** FALL 2019

Junior Pioneers Annual Meeting
FRIDAY, October 25th

Turner Hall, New Ulm
5:30 Social Hour
6:00 Business Meeting
Dinner and Program to Follow

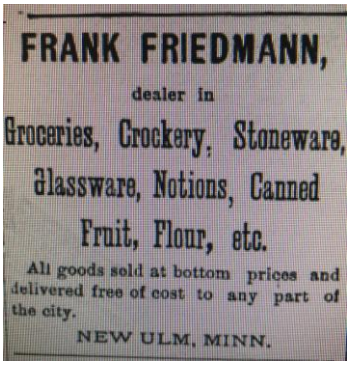
"History of Grocery Stores in New Ulm"

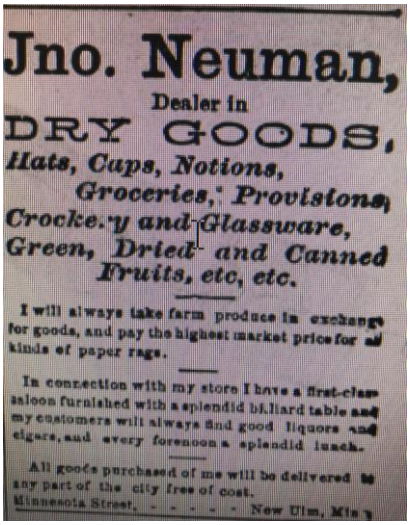
presented by: Terry Sveine

Author of books of short stories, Terry Sveine has a way of sharing the unique history of our town with poignant stories and laughs too! You'll enjoy Terry's description of the History of Grocery Stores! Along with photos, there will also be former employees' stories of life before the scanner!

Terry was born and raised in New Ulm and has spent most of his adult life (except for 13 years) here working in the travel business and the Chamber of Commerce. Now that he is retired, he is spending time with various civic groups and cultivating his writing and narration of history.

This will be a wonderfully interesting topic—and with Terry, it will be very entertaining as well!





Junior Pioneer History:

The First Steamboats up the Minnesota River[1]

Submitted by Gary Wiltscheck

[Note: Although these eye witness accounts occurred just a few years prior to the arrival of Brown County's first settlers, they give the reader a vital glimpse into early travel in 1850. It'd still be a year until the Dakota would cede their territory; land travel was achieved via trails, not roads; the railroad and telegraph had not yet come to Minnesota; the quickest means of travel was still a fast horse; and many Dakota had not even seen a steamboat. Other than Dakota villages, Traverse des Sioux (located two miles north of present-day St. Peter) was the only river settlement in the area. The only white residents were a few missionaries and French fur traders. *GJW*]

In June and July, 1850, occurred the four noted steamboat excursions up the Minnesota, which proved the river a navigable stream. Two of these steamers, the *Anthony Wayne* and *Yankee*, ascended the river beyond Traverse. General Eli Huggins gives this interesting description of the arrival of the "*Wayne*" which as a boy he witnessed: "She arrived on July 19th, 1850, and was the first boat ever seen at Traverse des Sioux. She was a fine side-wheel boat and she was literally crowded with passengers, all in holiday attire. She came unheralded and her arrival naturally created intense excitement among the Indians and few white residents. Among the passengers were Mr. & Mrs. Richard Chute. The steamboat landed a few hundred yards from the mission houses and the captain and the Chutes came and introduced themselves and invited the Huggins, Mrs. Hopkins and the children to take a trip up the river. The children of the two mission families were hurried into their best 'duds' and went on board to experience what was to them a stupendous and almost incredible adventure. Soon after leaving, the steamer made a short stop and four deck hands worked furiously with axes to replenish the fuel supply. They went to near where Mankato stands and posted a shingle with date and steamboat name that the *Anthony Wayne* was the first steamer to reach that point. This honor was short lived, however, for the *Yankee*, leaving St. Paul, July 22nd, 1850, touched at Traverse des Sioux and ascended to a point a little above the present village of Judson."

The ***Yankee*** Trip

The editor of the St. Paul Pioneer was of the party on board the *Yankee* during this trip, and describes Traverse des Sioux as follows: "At length we came in sight of the missionary station, Traverse des Sioux, on the north side of the river situated up on a slope of prairie which rose gradually from the banks of the river and extended far back, covered with luxuriant grass. Three neat white buildings belonging to the mission, and several Indian tents and lodges were distant a few rods from the bank, 'midst fields of well cultivated corn, beans, and potatoes- as promising crops as we ever saw. Also, a patch of wheat just reaped looked plump and heavy. Ascending the river here we passed Turtle Bend (about 15 miles below Blue Earth River) passing the '*Wayne* shingle'. Above there we saw tracks of buffalo on the banks. The weather was very hot, 104 degrees that day at Traverse. The third night, July 24-25, we were near the mouth of the Cottonwood River, nearly 300 miles from St. Paul. Could have possibly gone 80 miles further, but the boat was too long for sharp bends and the mosquitos were very bad. July 25th at 7 A.M. we determined to return. We had on board three musicians of the Sixth Infantry and aided by a violinist, we had cotillions, etc., on the banks of the river. Ran a few rods up the Blue Earth, intending to visit the spot where Le Sueur had his mine in 1700-02, but there was not water enough for our boat. Proceeding down the river we stopped again for the night at Traverse des Sioux and got fine cold water from the well of Rev. Hopkins. The 5th day we returned to St. Paul."

[1] Hughes, Thomas. *Old Traverse des Sioux* Nicollet County Historical Society 1929

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Or, Junior Pioneer Parks Blog: http://juniorpioneerpark.wordpress.com

*Deceased Members

Floyd Alwin

*New Members

Name	*Ancestor*
Patrick Castor	Castor
Christopher Schroeder	Mack/Meyer
Shari Schroeder	Mack/Meyer

* Memorials & Donations

In memory of Joel Ahlbrecht:
Charlene and Jerry Dannheim

In memory of Joel Albhrect:
Jyneal McCrea

In memory of Bruce Fenske:
Fenske Family Trust

3M Gives to their Employees/Retirees: Larry Mack and David Weldy

If we have forgotten or miss-credited anyone concerning; Memorials, Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify the President Lori Otis at 507.359.2320 or any Board Member and we will correct it.

*Elections To The Board Will Be Held

Three board members' terms are up this year. They are: Ruth McCrea-Simpson, Lori Otis and Kathleen Berg. Ruth has the ability to serve an additional term. Lori and Kathleen have served the maximum terms allowed. The nominating committee of Mark Furth, George Downs, George Glotzbach, Jim Kretsch and Carolyn Marti-Smith will offer nominations at the Annual Meeting. Nominations will also be called for from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Please remember if you nominate someone from the floor they must be present and a current member of the Junior Pioneers. The business meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. following the social hour.

Great Gift Idea!!!!!

Looking for a gift idea? How about a Junior Pioneer Membership!!

Junior Pioneers 2019 Annual Meeting Reservation and Dues Payment Form

Name(s): _____

Banquet Tickets(s): Number Attending: _____ $30.00 each: _____

Reservations are Due by Tuesday, October 22nd

Payments can be made at the door, but reservations are required prior to October 22nd
You can also send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions?Reservations: Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

2020 Annual Membership fees are due October, 2019

Single Membership	$20 ____
Joint Dues (*Husband & Wife both qualify for membership*)	$30 ____
Surviving Spouse	$20 ____

Send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions? Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

Park Report *by Lori Otis, JP President/ Park Manager*

After a long winter, a late spring and short summer, fall has arrived in the park. We have completed our installation of the fencing at the park. We have received many compliments on the appearance and care of the park from residents and visitors alike.

After 8 years of care, with the help of many volunteers, Junior Pioneers, friends and family of Junior Pioneers, my term of 'Park Manager' and President of the Junior Pioneers, my term/s have expired. We have worked very hard, and have the scars to prove it. I wish to thank all of you for help and your support of this worthy project. 'In the early 1870's fourteen settlers purchased this beautiful spot on the north bank of the Big Cottonwood River and named it Yagers Ruhe (Hunters Rest). The objective of this group of hunters was to preserve this property for their children, and their children's children.' The Junior Pioneers purchased this property in 1923 for $700 and continue the mission.

Junior Pioneers
P.O. Box 22
New Ulm, MN 56073
(Address Service Requested)

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2019

Lori Otis, President	**Cheryl Beussman**	**Ruth McCrea-Simpson**
Kathleen Berg, Vice-President	**Mark Furth**	**Gordon Palmer**
Rose Mary Dittrich, Treasurer	**Jim Kretsch**	**Dave Weldy**
Lisa Besemer, Secretary	**Larry Mack**	**Judy Zahn**