



“Today we acknowledge four almost-forgotten souls. Their lives clearly were not lived to their greatest potential, their dreams and aspirations probably unfulfilled,” said Department of Correction Commissioner Tom Roy.

The prison is now called the Minnesota Correctional Facility—Shakopee.

“They did most likely put a smile on a mother’s face, and had some moments of joy and happiness.”

DOC Commissioner Tom Roy



And as they added the tombstones, Tom Roy noted, “But they did walk the face of this Earth, breathe this air as we do now, so many years later.”



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**SHAKOPEE  
HERITAGE SOCIETY**



**Bert  
Schumacher  
1922-1922**

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2022



**“We are not saints. We are just a bunch of hurting, broken people looking for a way to put the pieces of our life back together again.**

**G.R.**

The Women’s Reformatory began in Shakopee, Minnesota in 1920. They purchased 167 acres of land at the edge of Shakopee.

More than 20 firms bid to built a barn at the State Reformatory for Women. P.J. Gallagher would build the barn for \$414, according to the **Shakopee Tribune**, Oct. 6, 1921.



The barn at the Minnesota Correctional Facility—Shakopee in 1927. It was located near Sweeney Elementary School.

Nobody wants to be forgotten.

Four tombstones are at the Catholic Cemetery.

Prison staff helped to identify who was buried there — two inmates and two infant children of offenders from the old State Reformatory for Women in Shakopee.

Three of the deceased died in the 1920s and the fourth died in 1954.

The old gravestones were only marked by prison inmate numbers.

In 2014, Shakopee inmates committed to raising funds to purchase four proper headstones for the cemetery.

Through freewill offerings, the inmates raised enough money to

the markers, and offenders in the Challenge Incarceration Program, an intense boot-camp program to rehabilitate non-violent offenders, placed each headstone at an event on Nov. 18, 2014.

Bert Schumacher was born by an inmate on August 12, 1922. A little over one month later, he died. Now, Bert has a tombstone at the Catholic Cemetery.

