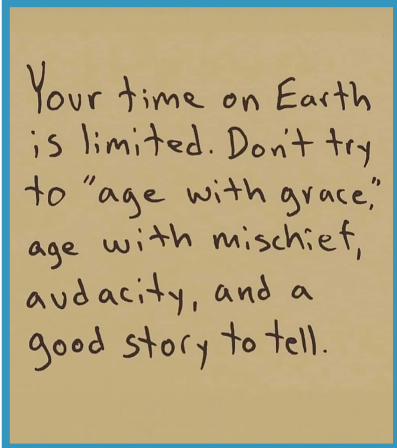


SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Presentation and Annual Meeting

The Shakopee Heritage Society will have our annual meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the Shakopee Library from Noon to 2 pm.


A short meeting will happen, where members will elect board members. Anyone want to join the SHS board?

Then, after a short break for treats, a presentation, **So Groovy! Shakopee in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s**, which will talk about the Stagecoach Museum (1951-1881,) Thew rodeo (1955-1970,) the Puppet Show (1960s-1970s,) the Swimming Pool (1969-Today) and the Little Store (1950-1980.)




The presentation was presented in November for almost 50 people. This presentation will be available on Saturday, Noon to 2 pm. Please attend!


Shakopee Heritage Society
 2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379 952-693-3865
shakopeeheritage.org
 People of Sha K' Pay Bookmarks at: <https://shakopeeheritage.org/people-of-sha-k-pay>




Pathways of Shakopee




Displays




Cemetery Cleanings



Cemetery Tours &
Downtown Shakopee Tours



Presentations



Books &
Bookmarks

Contact the SHS for more information!

Coming Up...

Instigate, Inflamm, and Ignite: Fires in Early Shakopee

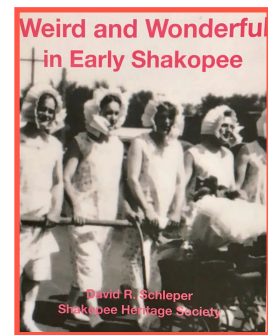
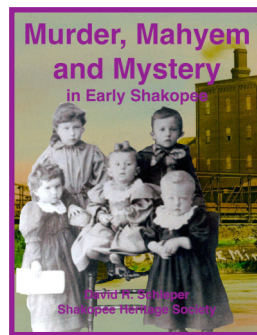
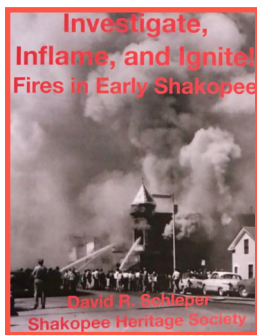
January 14, 2025, 1-2 pm at Shakopee Community Center

Murder, Mayhem, and Mystery in Early Shakopee

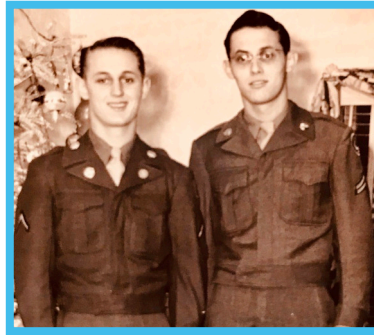
February 11, 2025, 1-2 pm at Shakopee Community Center

Weird and Wonderful in Early Shakopee

March 11, 2025, 1-2 pm at Shakopee Community Center



The Little Store 1950-1980



Hubert J. Pass (Butz) had two sons, Kenny and Leroy Pass. Hubert built the Little Store on 6th Avenue and Sommerville Street for his two sons after they came home from World War II. It was built around 1950, according to Pat Pass.

The two sons started the Little Store, but both Kenny and Leroy decided that they did not enjoy working there. So Hubert J. Pass (Butz) eventually sold it.

Butz sold it to George and Nancy Schmitt Huss, who owned and managed the store had the Little Store from 1953 until 1960.

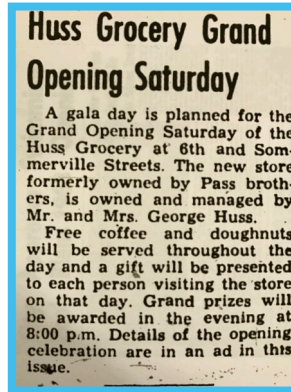


According to Barbara Huss DeMers, her father was a post office carrier. But George was also one of the owners of the Little Store. George and Nancy wanted to adopt a baby. The Catholic Charities, at that time, felt that it was too much to have both jobs, both postman and store owner. And so George and Nancy Huss sold the store in order to adopt Barbara!

“My parents wanted more children but were unable. My Mom came from a large farm family—there were 13 of them. I have 59 first cousins on my Mom’s side!” Barb’s brother, who was not adopted. He was Charles (Chuck) who was 12 and a half years older than Barb.

“I lived right next door. I remember the Wonder Bread (truck) coming to visit the store, and them slicing bologna to order,” said Barb Norring. “My Dad brought in all the Old Dutch potato chips for the store, as well as the carnival caramel apples, and Braach’s candy. Good memories!!”

Debbie Mather noted that “Dick remembers a man from Duncan yo-yo’s would come out every summer and show the kids how to do tricks with their yo-yo’s.” Mona Carpenter remembered Huss’s Little Store. “My parents went on vacation and put our neighbors in charge of caring for us for a week they arranged an account at Huss’s so if we really needed



anything we could charge it there and they would pay for it when they returned. Every day we went there and filled up on candy on our way home from school. My parents were not happy when they returned and saw their bill!”



The Little Store was then bought by Ralph (Pat) and Betty Mingo Christensen starting in the 1960s. The store, which was the favorite for students at St. Mary’s School, which was located across the street, continued until 1977.

Anne Schneider Jefferson remembered, “When I was 3, we lived in a basement apartment on Somerville. My mom told me I walked to Christensen's because I wanted candy. At that age I didn't understand you had to pay for it!”

Janae Larsen commented, “I remember a few times we would write a ransom note to my mom saying we kidnapped the family dog, and we would release him for a dime a piece. With our dime we would ride our bikes down to Christensen's and buy Bazooka Bubble gum.”

“On Saturdays after lunch, we would ask Mom if we could have a nickel for candy. We were all excited when she obliged, and headed up to Christensen's to spend it. My routine favorites were Bub's Daddy bubble gum, jaw breakers, and Sixlets,” said Bill Schleper.

“However, around Halloween, they would have wax horns and wax lips, which were the best! I also loved the "Push-ups", which are basically orange sherbet packaged in a colored toilet paper roll...but they cost 15-cents, so we had to use some of our own allowance to afford that rare treat!”

Bill also remembered “...splurging on buying cans of the ready-made, easy-spread frosting in a can. I would take it home and eat it with a spoon.”

Summer days were hot, and children on bikes loved to go to the Little Store for popsicles. And Ron Von Bank and others remembered Pat Christensen’s popsicle splitter!

Kathy Jefferson explained, “When you would buy a Popsicle (the kind with two sticks), Mr. Christensen had a homemade splitter and would split them which made it nice for you and a friend to share!”



“After school was best. Grab a gum ball to chew when we played baseball, if I had money.” said Laura Lee Mertz. “It always smelled good in there. They had odd looking little boxes of laundry soap and those sticky fly catchers and cans of Campbells soup.”

In fact, Stephen Wiggen remembered buying one of those flycatchers, “thinking they were kind of fireworks. I was very nervous while paying for them!”

Irene TenEyck recalled, "Mom would send us up there to buy the ripest brownest bananas they had for pennies a pound so she could make banana bread, banana pie, banana cookies, banana pudding."

Cal TenEyck, Irene’s sister, recalled "I always felt like a big shot being able to just say ‘Charge it’ and walking out.” And Cal also remembered, “When I was quite young, I followed Irene TenEyck and a couple of her friends up there. Irene TenEyck claims they didn't see me behind them when they were walking in, and the big steel door closed and knocked me backward down the steps, which cracked the back of my head open, and I had to get stitches. I was too young to remember for sure, but I think she pushed me down the steps!”

Irene added that she did not, but “I may have been rather annoyed that mom made me take you along to the store with me and my friends, and wasn't so careful about making sure you made it in the door ok!”

Then she added, “You have a pretty hard head anyway!”

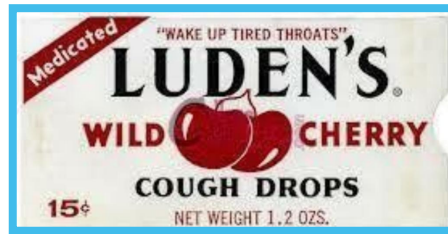
Brenda Schleicher Anderson remembered getting money from the mailman. “We gave the mailman drinks of water out of our hose, and he gave us the change in his pockets. We then saved the money and walked to Christensen's and bought penny candy and then walked back home.”

Marian Breimhorst Nelson said, “The thing that I remember is when my daughter, Rae Ann Lebens Konkol was about six I let her walk to the store alone for the first time. We lived on 8th & Spencer. I walked with her to Sommerville and then stood there to watch her walk the rest of the way there and then home. She was so proud that she could go on her own.” Beth Ecker remembered, “My mom would send us there with a note to get her cigarettes. Then we each got to buy 25 cents of

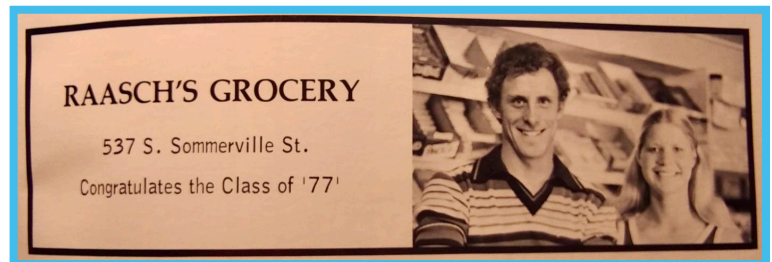
penny candy! It was called Christensen's then, in the mid-60's! Loved having a little brown bag filled with candy."

Beth also remembered the rules that the nuns at St. Mary's set up, including not having candy in class. "I also remember that we could not have candy at St. Mary's school while in class. We would all go to the little store and buy Luden's cherry cough drops because they tasted like candy and they were allowed!!"

Mary Jo Moonen King remembered doing the same thing.



Gary and Sally Raasch owned the store after the Christiansens and before the Stockers. According to Sally, "We were only there a short time. Was fun to get to know so many kids. St. Mary's requested that we open after school started because it was making kids late for school. The biggest crowds were on Wednesday evenings before the CCD classes." The Raasch owned the store in 1977.



Then the Little Store was owned by Stockers. Dottie Stocker was often the person that customers would look forward to seeing. "She was always so sweet!" said Tammy Furrer Bachelor. "Dottie, by far, was the happiest person in the world," said Craig Huckabone.

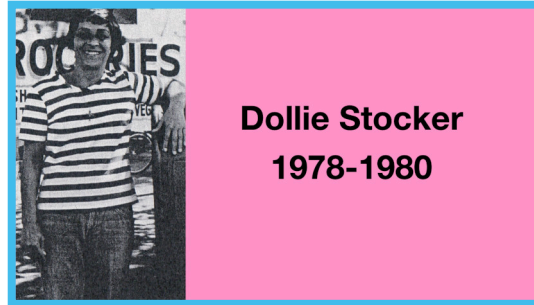
"I remember going there in the morning before school and buying gum so when we went to the (Shakopee Area Catholic Middle School), where I could chew gum in those classes!" noted Kim Tieben.

Laurie Ploof remembered when the store was called Christensen's and then the Stocker's.

"I just mainly remember getting the penny candy.....and I look back and think about the patience! It was all behind the counter, and I'd pick my 10 pieces one by one. Never felt like I had to hurry up or was a pain. Just felt like a real customer!"

Judy Theis remembered, "We would walk the five blocks to the store when we scraped together five pennies for a popsicle and they would split the two pops so my sister and I could share! Two and a

half cent treat on a hot summer day! And we had to brave our way past Bastians' German shepherd to get there! I'm sure he was a nice dog, but he was as big as we were and scared the heck out of us!"



Patric Stillman smiled as he recalled, "I remember being happy to walk block after block to get to the store and purchase a handful of little dusty candy cigarettes, the hard-as-rock strip of gum, the waxy soda bottles filled with some unknowable syrup, paper strips with pastel dots you could eat and red chewy coins."

"Summer never tast-

ed sooo good.



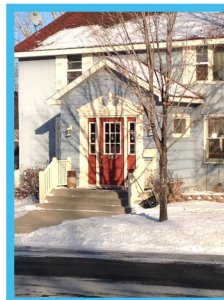
St. Mary's School; The Henderson; Union School, Central School; Legacy Central.

Across the street, St. Mary's School (later called the Shakopee Area Catholic School) is gone, replaced by The Henderson Senior Apartments (<https://thehendersonseniorapts.com/>.) On the next block, Central Elementary School (Union School) was town down, and is replaced by affordable senior housing and modern office space at Legacy Central at <https://scottcda.org/news/ground-breaking-of-legacy-central-and-new-cda-offices/>.

And finally, after more than 30 years, and the rotten teeth of every child growing up around the place, the Littler Store was closed, and the store became a house.

It is still there. And every time people and the fun that everyone still remem-

drive by, the think of the Little Store, bers!





Shakopee Heritage Society
2109 Boulder Pointe
Shakopee, MN 55379

President: David R. Schleper

Past-President: Lois Wendt **Vice-President:** Joanne Musick

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Trustees: Sandy Olson, Dave Regan, Melissa Whiting

Talk to Us!

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