Dinkytown in Transition

By Tom Daly, editor

The Podium guitar shop is gone and the Book House book store has moved to another part of Dinkytown. The House of Hanson is still there, but the owners want to sell and move on. Laurel Hanson Bauer is unhappy with the situation that allows other people’s opinions to affect her family’s fortune and future.

The tide of public and political opinion seemed to be running against the Bauers and the House of Hanson. The zoning and planning committee of the city council voted 3-2 against changing the zoning to accommodate Opus Development Company’s proposed six story apartment and retail building that would replace the House of Hanson and the adjacent property that the Bauers own.

Although city staff members and the Marcy-Holmes Association support the planned development, committee members Lisa Goodman, Cam Gordon, and Meg Tuthill voted against the zoning change. Council Member Diane Hofstede, who represents Dinkytown, also spoke out against the rezoning.

Al’s Breakfast, the iconic hole-in-the-wall breakfast establishment, is just barely beyond the proposed rezoning site. Council Member Lisa Goodman said, “If this gets rezoned, Al’s could be next.”

If Al’s Breakfast were to be threatened, hundreds of Dinkytown supporters would be ready to “go to the barricades!” Students returning to campus would certainly be more willing to “Save Al’s!” than to “Pander to the Wealthy.” “Save Al’s” has a much more, noble ring to it than “Help Opus Development.”

In a not too surprising move on Friday, August 2, the City Council voted in favor of the rezoning plan and rejected both the vote of the zoning and planning committee and the wishes of Diane Hofstede who was quoted in the Star Tribune as saying, “This is a critical issue not just for Dinkytown but for each and every neighborhood in the city of Minneapolis because it goes to the core of who we are as a city.”

While there are good arguments on each side of this debate, it appears that at the moment the big guys won this round in the struggle with the little guys. A lot of us Marshallites have spent quite a few years rooting for the little guys, the underdogs, and we’re not yet ready to change sides. Whether it’s Linden Hills, or Uptown or Dinkytown, I think we’re still in favor of the neighborhoods, the friendly shops and small businesses.

The Star Tribune reported that Opus representatives said that they hope to begin construction of the Dinkytown project during August. They believe that they could complete their planned 140 unit apartment building in August 2014.

Meanwhile across Fifth Street, nothing is left of Marshall High School. The planned apartments and retail spaces are rising higher day after day. Already some parts of the new buildings are four or five stories high. In the not too distant future, I imagine we will be touring the new buildings and wondering where the print shop, or the boys’ gym, or Mr. Satter’s office used to be. Sic transit gloria mundi.
Harvey Johnson and his wife, Audrey, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 7th at Elmwood Evangelical Free Church in St. Anthony, Minnesota. They were joined by many friends and relatives for several hours on that sunny afternoon.

Harvey is rightfully known as the founder of the Marshall Access and Education Fund (MAEF) which is a scholarship fund for disabled students at the University of Minnesota. In 1989 following their 50th Marshall High School reunion, the reunion committee found that they had $286 left over. As chairman of the committee, Harvey suggested that they establish a scholarship for disabled students at the U of M. The committee members agreed and so the MAEF scholarship fund was born.

In the years after 1989, Harvey was the main proponent of the MAEF scholarship. Slowly but surely the fund grew, and Harvey, like an Energizer Bunny, kept going and going, asking and asking for money.

Ruth Stone Stewart, one of the Class of 1939 committee members, suggested that they approach Disability Services at the University of Minnesota about their scholarship effort. When they did, the committee found out that they needed a minimum of $25,000 in order to have an endowed scholarship. At the time they had collected about $9,000.

In 2003, the MAEF committee turned over the money in the fund to Disability Services. In the summer of 2007, MAEF reached its goal of $25,000 and the University Foundation matched the fund with an additional $25,000. In September 2008, MAEF awarded its first scholarship of $1,000 to a young woman who was majoring in economics.

As the scholarship fund continued to grow, the amount of money awarded has also increased. This year three $1,000 MAEF scholarships will be awarded to disabled students at the U of M. The scholarship awards will be presented at the Disability Services scholarship luncheon in September. News of the awards and the luncheon will be in our January issue.

So congratulations to Harvey and Audrey on their 50 years of wedded bliss and to Harvey who spent a lot of those years raising money for disabled students at the University of Minnesota.
The Mississippi River on Bridge 9, the former railroad bridge that has been rehabbed by the city for pedestrians and bikers. Paul Caspersen has biked across the river gorge on Bridge 9 and he declared, “It’s beautiful.” The Star Tribune reported that about 600 bikers and 400 walkers crossed Bridge 9 each day in 2012.

We agree with those who think that this bikeway that runs through Dinkytown should be called the “Dinkytown Greenway.” We hope that those of you who agree will contact Steve Clark at Bike/Walk Twin Cities or Steve Brandt at the Star Tribune. Mr. Brandt’s phone number is 612-673-4438. Let’s hear it for “Dinkytown Greenway.”

TMD

Thanks for the Memories
Jeanne Steindorf Courteau, Jan. ’47

It’s sad to see Marshall torn down. I lived at the other end of 14th Avenue S.E.. The Corbett family lived across the alley and Hap’s (‘49) sister Juanita (we called her Mary Alice) was my best friend. She graduated in June of ’47. Their address was Garfield Street N.E. Also the Simm’s family (of Simms Hardware) lived two doors down from us and I used to babysit their grandchild at one time.

My first real job was at University Florist where we would pick up a box of corsages and walk down to the football stadium (Memorial) to sell them. Then we would go to the White Castle Hamburger Shop and spend our money on hamburgers. I think we were only 14 years old. When I was older, I worked at the flower shop for holidays. I also worked at one time at Dayton’s University Store. I met my future husband, Larry, at Van Cleve Park when we were 13 years old. Larry would graduate from St. Thomas Academy, however, he did attend Marshall High School for a few months. Larry, when he was in 8th grade, was kicked out of St. Lawrence for a minor infraction. He was afraid to tell his parents, so he finished out the school year at Marshall. Larry and I also would meet often at the Varsity Theater. A grandchild took me to Dinkytown last year. One thing we saw was a young lady wearing a wedding dress. I guess they have weddings at the Varsity Theater.

Thanks for the memories.
Ruth Stone Stewart  
1921 – 2013  See additional obit information on page 5.

A June graduate of Marshall High School’s Class of 1939, Ruth was involved in nearly every aspect of life at Marshall. She was in Silver Tri, Blue Tri, French Club, Rooters Club, Inner Circle, Judge Staff, Glee Club, Driving Club, Riding Club, Latin Club, Student Council, G.A.A., and the senior operetta: “Marriage of Nannette.” In the Cardinal Catalogue (popularity poll), Ruth Stone was voted “Dressiest girl.”

Ruth Stone went on to the University of Minnesota where she studied to become a teacher and also met her future husband, Jerry Stewart. Ruth graduated from the U of M in 1944. She and Jerry were married in 1945 while he was serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

After the war, both Ruth and Jerry became teachers in the Minneapolis schools. They settled in Minneapolis and raised their family. Ruth taught physical education and health at Southwest High School. She retired from teaching in 1981.

In 1989 Ruth served on the class reunion committee for the Class of 1939’s 50th Anniversary. Following the reunion, the committee found that they had $286 left over. Harvey Johnson, the committee chairman, suggested that they use the money to start a scholarship fund for disabled students at the University of Minnesota. Ruth and the other committee members agreed and thus they created the Marshall Access and Education Fund (MAEF).

Led by Harvey Johnson, the MAEF scholarship fund grew. Ruth was Harvey’s “girl Friday” and often drove the two of them to fundraising meetings. Because of her familiarity with the University of Minnesota, Ruth suggested that the committee join forces with the Disability Services unit at the U of M. In January, 2003, the MAEF committee turned over the MAEF monies ($9,000) to the university, but they learned that they needed to reach $25,000 in order to create an endowed scholarship. They achieved that goal in June, 2007. The University Foundation matched those funds bringing the total to $50,000. This year three $1,000 MAEF scholarships will be awarded by Disability Services.

Ruth Stone Stewart was justifiably proud of what she and her Marshall classmates created for the benefit of disabled students at the University of Minnesota, but she was also proud to be called mother, grandmother, teacher and friend. A very classy lady, Ruth passed away on July 21, 2013.

TMD

Ruth Stone Stewart
Loved by family, friends, fellow-educators, University of Minnesota MAEF committee. Thanks Ruth for all you were and became. You were so generous with your time...God Bless your soul.

For those who want a printed copy of each issue of the Alumni News  
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LUCKIEST CHILDREN IN TOWN!
By Mary Ann Pearson Barnett

This picture was “featured” in the Minneapolis Star Tribune in the fall of 1939 and was taken in front of Tuttle Elementary School on 18th near Como Avenues S.E., along with an article of the proposed slash of school budget for 1940 in the amount of $1,298,000.00. When I found this old newspaper photo, I called my brother Carl and asked him if he knew the whereabouts of the other three kids in the photo and he informed me we are the only ones left.

We “lucky” kids had a taxi ride to and from Tuttle School for four years…after the St. Paul school board determined we did not belong to the St. Paul school system (after we had already attended St. Paul schools for two years)…Minneapolis claimed us. Even though our addresses were in N.E. Minneapolis, Tuttle Elementary was the closest grade school. When I was in sixth grade the school board assigned the Dowling School for Crippled Children school bus to pick us up, by then there were more children than a taxi could carry. Yes, we were “lucky”, now that I remember those days; our taxi driver gave us kids a candy bar every Friday.

Back then, we lived in “Swede Valley” a community of twelve homes, each with acreage for gardens. The area had been uninhabited before the old Swedes and Norwegians invaded the land. Dad built our home in 1931 in the depression years with the help of “Gust Johnson”, the owner of the Gust Johnson Lumber Company located on the borders of St. Paul and Minneapolis, My dad was very pleased that “Mr. Gust” believed in him and his ability to pay back for all the lumber, windows, doors and finishing products he sold dad on his name only. Dad always said his name was “good as gold”. Northern States Power brought in electricity and then Northwestern Bell brought telephones (three-party lines) to our area in 1938.

Our parents decided to sell the home my dad, Carl Pearson, Sr., built and move to S.E. Minneapolis where my brother Jerome (born in 1938) would be only four blocks away from the same elementary school we were bused and taxied to. My brother Carl and I could walk a mile each way to Marshall High School. Carl graduated from Minneapolis Vocational, I graduated from Marshall in 1950 and my brother Jerome graduated in 1956 from good old John Marshall High School. Yea! Cardinals.

All of the homes were moved in the late 1940s and early 1950s to various locations in S.E. Minneapolis. Longing to be back in the home dad built for his “bride”, he re-purchased their little home now on 26th Avenue S.E. in 1956. Both our parents lived to be 90 years. Our parents celebrated sixty years together with the blessings of our Heavenly Father, June 22, 1929 to June 22, 1989. Mom passed away July 10, 1989 and dad lived in the home he built until he passed away in October of 1991. Today, the Daytons warehouse occupies the acreage that was once “Swede Valley” and yes, the Governor of Minnesota is Mark Dayton of the Dayton family.

Oh, for some of those wild sweet strawberries and fresh asparagus we picked for many years, pheasants in abundance for a lovely Sunday dinner. Our own ski hills to slide and ski on in the winter. I wonder if I went back today to the same area if I could find some sweet red juicy strawberries I picked as a kid?
Coming Class Reunion Celebrations

CLASS REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marshall & Marshall University H.S. Class Reunions–1948, ’53, ’73,

The 1948 class is planning a final class reunion on Wednesday, September 18th at Jax Café. Please plan to attend…attendance has been dwindling…only 37 last year…this will likely be our final reunion…WE ARE ALL IN OUR 80’S and “life is not easy”…so come with your canes, your walkers, your wheelchairs, whatever!!...BUT DO COME… Invitations WITH DETAILS will be mailed in June…If you want additional information call: Dolores Dickson Christensen 763-571-5212, James Patterson 763-657-7063 or Rosemary Perry Casey 763-420-9381.

Marshall Class of 1953 will celebrate their 60th reunion on Friday, September 27th. It will be held at the Ramada Inn, 1330 Industrial Blvd, Minneapolis 55413 from noon till 4:00 pm. Letters announcing the event have been sent to classmates. For more info contact–

Jan Olsen at OlsenJMS@comcast.com
or Bob Daly at–bobdaly1953@yahoo.com
or Marlene Sommers at–sommerzap@yahoo.com

Marshall Class of 1973 “does not currently have a reunion planned”. Any ’73 classmate who might be interested and has suggestions can contact Roseann Yund Parke at:
parkerpoint@aol.com

Remembering our Deceased Classmates

Words of Wisdom

I started out with nothing and still have most of it!

I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.

It’s hard to make a comeback when you haven’t been anywhere.

If all is not lost, where is it?

A Good Investment:
The bonds of commitment are a good investment as long as interest is paid.

At Your Age!

A father was scolding his teenage son for being lazy. “You ought to be ashamed,” he said, “When Lincoln was your age he was busy building rail fences.” The son replied “When he was your age he was President”

Marvin Donley ’47,
Nov 20, 2012. Marvin lived in Las Vegas. His Show Stoppers group performed several times at our Marshall reunions in Laughlin.


An active MHS Volunteer. Grad of June 1939 class.

Jean M. (Meyer) Hoisington, ’48, June 12, 2013 in Shoreview, MN. Cardinal Yearbook said “Pretty to walk with and witty to talk with”. Graduated from Macalster.


Robert (Bob) A. Greer, ’56, June 20, 2013 in Lakeland, Florida. Services held in Richfield.


Harlan Johnson, Class of 1940, passed away on July 31, 2013. Harlan was the brother of Harvey Johnson, Class of 1939. R.I.P.

Kathleen “Kathy” (Scribner) Fee, ’78, August 14, 2013 in Forest, WI as the result of an auto accident. Graduated from U of WI, Eau Claire. Memorial service planned for Sept at Hope Lutheran.
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Thanks for the memories.
Laurel Hanson Bauer on her last day of business at the House of Hanson.

“The Marshall” the new name in the Dinkytown neighborhood.

Al’s Breakfast could be next!