

## Rogation Shrines and Praying for Crops



This beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus came from the 1<sup>st</sup> log church that was built in 1856 or the 1866 Millside church. It is believed to come from this time period because there was horsehair found inside of it, which dates back to 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Rogation chapels were set at each corner of the town of St. Michael. These were used to pray for the crops. People would pray at each shrine. Each one facing east, west, north and south. There is one shrine that remains intact at the home of Bernard Hackenmueller. Every year, on a Sunday morning in the month of June, St. Michael's Church celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi, an old-country custom. A procession of fifty to a hundred worshipers walked through the village, starting at the church. Leading the procession there was a group of young girls, all dressed in white, carrying baskets of peony flower petals which they scattered in the path of the procession.

Next came the servers in their cassocks and carrying lighted candles, then Father Micks in full vestments of the day, proceeding under a canopy carried by four men, one at each corner; the worshipers followed immediately behind. There were four or five small, permanent chapels adjacent to the sidewalks which were used only once a year, on this feast day. When the procession arrived at these buildings which had previously been opened and decorated with bouquets of flowers, with statues and a crucifix in place, Father Micks would give the people his blessing and benediction. One of the chapels was located close to Hackenmueller's house, one near Barthels' home, one near the Blakes, and one near Mrs. Miller-Barble's house. The chapels have long since been removed and disposed of

Info from Darlene Haus Lambercht and *The Crow River* a book by Leon Brixius

## Preserving Our History



### *Our Mission*

People of the present day can learn about how to direct the future of the City of St. Michael by revisiting the path taken by those who came before us. Honoring the contributions of our forefathers and mothers and preserving their artifacts can help us remember their hard work in establishing our City's strong foundation. We hope it can inspire us to persevere in the work they began.

### Special points of interest:

- Rogation Chapels
- Mission Statement
- Bernings Mill
- We need your farm photos
- Memoir of a Country Boy
- Sign up for Membership

### *Meetings for 2007*

Mar 5, 2007

April 2, 2007

May 7, 2007

June 4, 2007

Meetings 7:00 at City Hall.

Anyone is welcome.

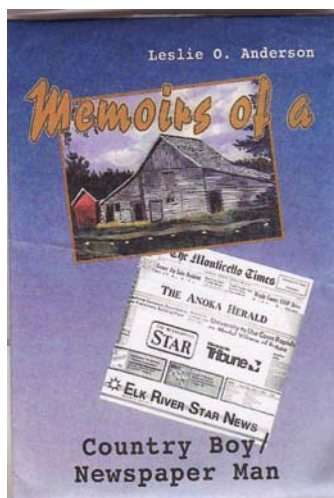


## “Village at Dusk”

Our first fund raiser, the selling of a print that depicts a St. Michael Street Scene from 1910 called “Village at Dusk.” was very successful. We sold 210 prints. This historical rendition includes the Golden Corner Hotel and Saloon ; the Old Telephone Building ; Zachman-Blom General Merchandise Store and Post Office; Village Hall ; H.W. Dick Implement ; St. Michael State Bank; Church Rectory ; and the Historic Church of St. Michael .

Thanks to all who participated!

## Local Author Leslie O. Anderson Message about Writing Our Stories



At a St. Michael Historical Society meeting on March 5, 2007 Leslie Anderson will tell why he wrote his book and why he thinks it is important for all of us to write our life stories down, not just for our families, but for future generations. Anderson was born in 1928 on a farm near Princeton, Minn. The Great Depression and the drought of the 1930's was in full swing during his youth. He tells of the hardships and the good times of the era. The farm on which Mr. Anderson grew up provided all the vegetables, fruits, meat and dairy products to feed the family of five.

He and his wife Elaine have lived in Elk River for 38 years. He has published two other books, "The Homestead" and "My Life With Polio." Several other stories have been written and are awaiting publishing. Anderson has been in the newspaper business for 59 years with the first newspaper being the "Monticello Times." Anderson is available to speak at any gathering. He will be available for book signing. He can be reached at 763-441-2612.

## Farm Photos Needed

We have received about 40 farm photos for the St. Michael Historical Society Farm Photo Scrapbook so far. There are still a few out there that have not been submitted. If you'd like your farm photo to be included, please call us soon. Former farms that are now housing developments would also be welcome. If you know of any existing photos, please call St. Michael Historical Society at [763] 497-2041. We will make a copy of your originals and return them to you. We would also welcome family and historical photos and stories of people who have lived in this area for a long time.





The first Crow River wooden bridge was built in the late 1800s by horse drawn wagons and equipment. The second iron bridge was built in 1932 by hand labor. The workers paid 25 cents an hour. The new one was built in the Fall of 2006.

The Berning Brothers, Joseph and Bernard [Ben] built a dam and a mill on the Crow River, near the old bridge and the Millside Tavern. The dam was installed to provide water power for Bernings' Mill, where they ground grain into feed for the farmers, and milled flour which they sold to the stores in the neighboring towns. They also had a sawmill for sawing lumber from logs bought by the farmers. It was operated by water power from the flume in the dam. A flume is an inclined channel for conveying water for power.

The original flour mill built in 1881 was three stories and torn down in 1942. It was leaning and unsafe. Later the second mill was used strictly for grinding feed for cattle—mostly corn. The second mill closed in 1998. Anthony Berning, the father of Joseph and Ben was one of the early settlers of this area. He was appointed as the first postmaster in 1858 when there was a regular stage line that ran from Dayton to St. Michael, which was originally called Frankfort. Ben's sons, Leon and Everett worked the mill and sawmill next to it. There was also a thriving ice business on the river that provided ice for St. Michael, Albertville and Dayton. The last ice was harvested in 1945. Everett married Loretta Hofmann in 1940 and they had two sons, John and Ralph.

## *Historical Society News*

The first meeting was April 11, 2005. We had a booth at Heritage Day and Fall Festival September 2005 and 2006. Tours of the Historic Church and a video of the 1990 Centennial celebration were shown. New members joined and photos were shared. Bob Zahler presented slide presentations of St. Michael in 1900 and 1954 for several group discussions. We have received several photos of Home Talent Plays and Actors Play Books. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 we began collecting photos of farms. The Society has accomplished much in the first two years. Our Village at Dusk fundraiser in November of 2006 proved to be very successful. We would like to thank the St. Michael American Legion for a very generous donation in January 2007 and the St. Michael Lion's Club for their donation in February 2007.

We welcome new members any time. Our current membership includes over 40 households. If you are interested in joining the St. Michael Historical Society and/ or have any suggestions please call 763-497-2041 ext. 300. Leave a message and someone will return your call shortly. Our Upcoming Fundraiser is a box of note cards depicting ten different scenes of historic St. Michael that will be for sale in the future for \$15.00 a box. A must have for all to use and collect.



**Bernings Mill**