

# St. Michael Historical Society



**Winter 2009**  
**Volume 2, Issue 4**  
**Newsletter**

## ***Meetings for 2009***

March 2, 2009

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

June 1, 2009

**Meetings 7: 00 at  
City Hall.**

**Anyone is welcome**

## **Special Points of Interest**

- **Home Talent Plays**
- **Party Line**
- **Membership Dues**

**Created by:  
Genny Kieley**

## HOME TALENT PLAYS

Home Talent Plays in St. Michael began in the late 1930's and continued until the early 1950's. They were put on by people who lived in the St. Michael area with local directors and local bands. First the group was called the Ushers Club. Later it was called the Dramatic Club. The plays were held in the St. Michael Parish School auditorium. The plays were entertainment at it's best and were mostly comedy and dramas. Large numbers of people came and enjoyed seeing the live performances.

The names of some of the plays were; "Breezy Money, Deacon Dubbs, Always In Trouble, Who Did It? Wives Wanted In Squashville, My Mother-In-Law, The Man From Nowhere, The Flight Of The Gull, The Unguided Miss, Stop Thief, A Pair Of Sixes, It Pays To Advertise, When A Feller Needs A Friend, Kibitzer, and Stalig 17."

Some of the Directors were Al Lauer, Joseph Korte, Leo Welter, and Joseph Huber. The Band for "The Flight of The Gull" was the Schumacher Band. An admission of 25cents; 50 cents and 75 cents was charged to help pay for the new school. For a play in 1938, they collected \$84.00. For a play in 1946 they collected \$505. 60.

Anyone having more pictures, programs, cast books, stories, or information about the Home Talent Plays and would like to share, please call the St. Michael Historical Society and leave a message and someone will return your call. We will be happy to add what you have to our Home Talent Plays Scrapbook.



# HOME TALENT PLAYS

## BREEZY MONEY

A Farce in Three Acts

Presented By

St. Michael's Ushers Club

Directed by Al Lauer

## CHARACTERS

BREEZY, press agent deluxe....Vern Barthel

HOEDOWN, the world's laziest bellhop....Alquin Goeb

CUMMIN, owner of Cummin Inn....Reihard Marx

CARTER MAXON, JR. a millionaire....Al Eull

DICK LANDIS, almost dead broke....Leo Kemmetmueller

JIMMY GALE, completely dead broke....Dale Kessler

COLONEL SOUTHERN, with a young daughter....Harold Barthel

HERBERT WEST, Dick's rival....Al Topkin

NOPS, good on impersonations....Roman Eicher

LONNIE, sheriff and handy man....Louis Bloms

PLACE: The Lobby of Cummin Inn, a summer resort.

TIME: The Present, A morning in early summer.



Cast of Home Talent Plays taken by the lake early 1940s

**Back Row**--Alquin Goeb, Edwin Weber, Mercedes Gutzwiller, Anita Bloms, Man with hat, Oscar Hengels.

**Middle Row**—Leroy Dehmer, Martha Hackenmueller, Irene Gutzwiller, Leo Kemmetmueller, Rita Korte, Elmer Eull.

**Front Row**—Reine Marx, Lambert Eicher, Midred Hengels, Gertrudes Goeb, Verna Hengels, Louie Bloms, Florence Hackenmueller, Harold Barthel

**Sitting in front**—Malita Kasper



**Cast of Home Talent Plays taken in front of St. Michael Parish School mid 1940s**

**Back Row**—Martha Hackenmueller, Lambert Eicher, Harold Barthel, Leo Welter, Oscar Hengels, Willie Becker, Elmer Eull.

**Middle Row**—Gertrudes Goeb, Midred Hengels, Florence Hackenmueller, Bernard Hackenmueller, Ray Eull.

**Front Row**—Reine Marx, Urban Ohrlein, Leroy Dehmer, Leo Kemmetmueller, Edwin Weber.

## **Cast of A PAIR OF SIXES**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1941**

George Nettleton... Joseph Hubor  
T. Boggs Johns... Louise Welter  
Krome... Joseph Hackenmueller  
Miss Saller Parker... Corinthia Schulte  
Tomas J. Vanderhold... Eddie Weber  
Tony Tolar... Rollie Eull  
Mr. Applegate... Roman Becker  
Office Boy... Clarence Eull  
Shipping Clerk... Roman Becker  
Mrs. G. Nettleton... Bernelda Hackenmueller  
Miss Florecne Color... Irene Berning  
Coddles... Margaret Dehmer

## **THE FLIGHT OF THE GULL**

April 7, 1940 at 2:00 and 8:15 PM

### **The Cast**

Captain Bruce, owner of a tugboat... Reinhart Marx  
Snapper Bates, his crony... Lambert Eicher  
Soapy Toolen, another crony... Alcuin Goeb  
Jerry Bruce, the captain's son... Howard Eicher  
Tommy Bruce, his other son... Vernon Eicher  
Cooper, an old salt... Harold Barthel  
Slim Shaw, his pal... Leo Kemmetmueller  
Pasquale Malatesta, an Italian... Roman Eicher  
Uncle George... Bernard Lenz

MUSIC BY THE SCHUMACHER ORCHESTRA

# St. Michael Historical Society

St. Michael City Hall  
3150 Lander Avenue NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376  
Phone : 763-497-2041

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4

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We need your photos and stories

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## Remember the Party Line

The telephone exchange office in St. Michael was on the second floor of the building which housed the pool hall and barber shop. Old Frank Zachman was the manager of the "Central Office", as it was called, and later his daughter, Teckla, was in charge. After she married Leo Schumm, Stella Killian, who was Leo's niece, took over. Tending the switchboard was a 24-hour a day responsibility so a bed was provided close to the board for the operator to use during the night. At that time there were only party lines, no one having a private line except Dr. Ludeman, Father Micks and the business places. (A "party line" is one where each family has its own ring, as, for example, two long and three short rings, or one long and two short, etc.) Some of the busybody phone subscribers, usually the housewives, when they recognized their neighbor's ring, would lift their telephone receiver and listen in on the conversations!

*From The Crow River by Leon Brixius*

### Membership Dues are Payable in January

If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please send your name and address and submit it along with your check to the address provided.

If you are unsure if you are paid up, you can call St. Michael Historical Society at [763] 497-2041 and leave a message. Someone will check your membership status and return your call.

We are always interested in donated artifacts related to St. Michael's history. For more information and how you can help please call.

*We appreciate your ongoing support.*