

News Release - supplement
Washington County Historical Society
Contact: Brent T. Peterson, Executive Director
Phone: 651-439-5956

Runk Film to be shown at Stillwater Library October 26th

The Washington County Historical Society in partnership with the Stillwater Library will be showing the film, "*An Ode to Stillwater: The John Runk Films*," in the Margaret Rivers Room at the Stillwater Library on Tuesday October 26th at 6:30pm.

The films have been a critical hit since its premiere in August. Truly a "home movie of his home town," John Runk put together these 8 mm films to document the growing community of Stillwater from the late 1940s to the early 1950s.

Among the many distinct historic scenes that Runk took were those of the Marine Ferry Crossing in operation; a Loggers' baseball game against St. Paul Park; the Stillwater Country Club; Stillwater's downtown business district just after the end of World War II; Pioneer and Lowell Parks; ice cutting on the St. Croix River and much more.

Runk also took film of events elsewhere in the state. Included in the footage is film of the Minnesota State Fair from 1949-1951 including film of Kitty Middleton, a wing walker, whose plane crashed and she and the pilot were killed just past the grandstands. Also, there is footage of the last day the trolley cars were running on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis.

The Washington County Historical Society received grants from the Minnesota Historical Society to transfer this rare film footage to a digital format and then received a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Grant from the Legacy funds and one from the Elks #179 of Stillwater, to put the film into a short documentary about Runk and Stillwater.

The film, "*An Ode to Stillwater: The John Runk Films*," was written & produced by Paul Creager of Square Lake Productions. Music by treVeld, who provided the music for the DVD, will be playing prior to the start of the showing. It will be shown at the Stillwater Public Library in the Margaret Rivers Room on Tuesday October 26th at 6:30pm. There is no cost to attend and copies of the DVD will be available for sale during the event.

For more information about the films or the film night contact the Washington County Historical Society at 651-439-5956 or visit www.wchsmn.org.

Washington County Historical Society collects, preserves, and disseminates the history of the county and state of Minnesota. Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 750 individual, family, and business members.