



THE MUSICIAN'S GAZETTE



No. 8

WALKING BOXES PRODUCTIONS

RISING FROM THE SWAMPS OF YORE

The piece of land where Betsy's Back Porch Cafe is currently situated was once in the midst of the swampy farmlands of Richfield. A map drawn in 1873 shows it to be such. That map, perhaps drawn after several years of plentiful rain, shows quite a bit of land in the area under water. By one account told, during dry years these shallow lakes could turn into swamps. One person tells of crossing Diamond Lake by jumping from muskrat house to muskrat house. Turn to page 2 to take a gander at the 1873 map and then look to page 3 to see how the land has changed.

VISIT WALKING BOXES ONLINE

To keep up with all the happenings at Walking Boxes Productions, log on to www.walkingboxes.com. You can check there for upcoming shows, get on the emailing list, browse through the show & CD archives, and listen to music samples.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Walking Boxes Productions will be featuring two upcoming performances in April at the Acadia Cafe & Cabaret (just north of Betsy's on Nicollet & Franklin.) The shows will be on Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 23rd. Flyhard Jenkins will be back to kick off both performances with his "live-off-the-air" musical variety radio show which will be followed by the latest production from the crew that brought you Donovan's Brain. They've switched from radio to cinema for their unique new show: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. Turn to the back page to learn more...

THANKS

In addition to all our great sponsors (please support them with your business,) Walking Boxes wishes to publically thank: Paul Cameron, Steve Roth, Betsy & her crew, Jess Kelnhofer, and special musical guests: Aaron Spence, Sharon Roth, and Pat Bauer.



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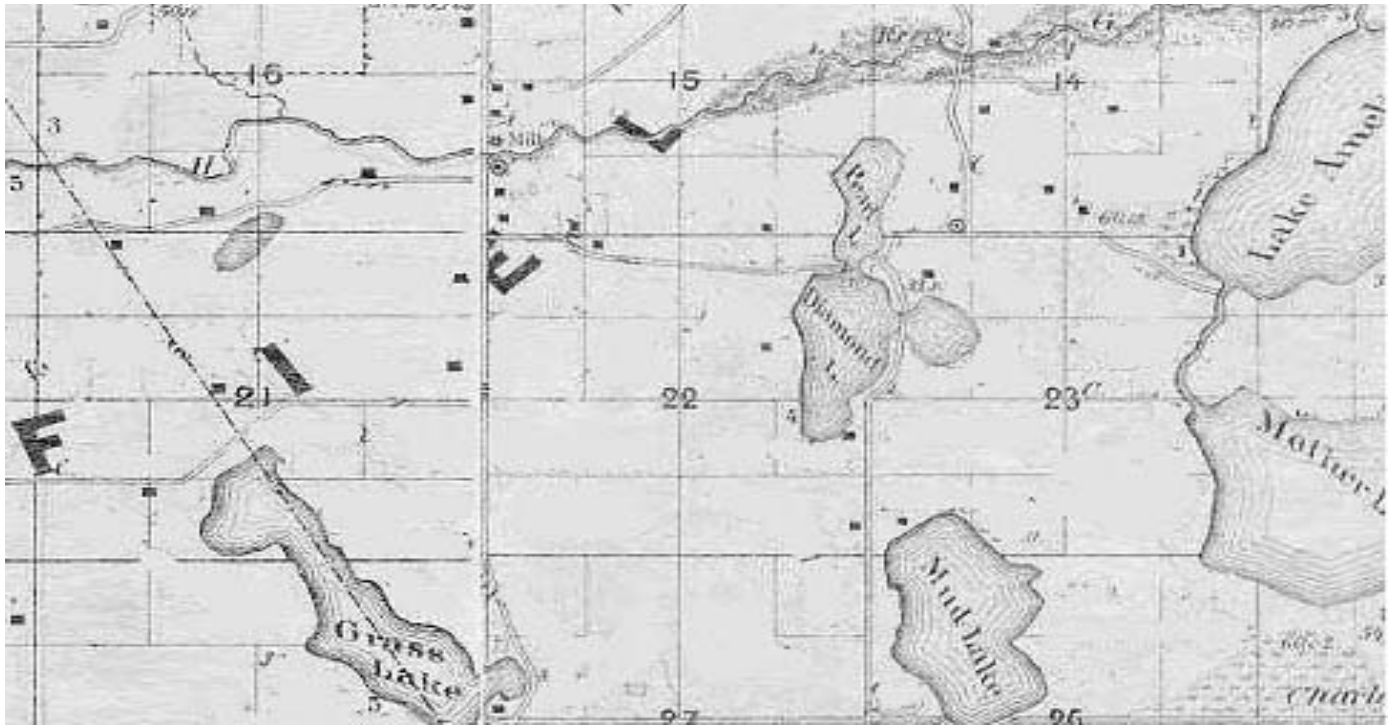
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DIAMOND LAKE AND ENVIRONS IN 1873

This map, drawn in 1873, shows what the area around south Minneapolis looked like at that time. Visible are the large letters "FIEL" which are part of "RICHFIELD", which this area was considered at the time. It's interesting to see that Diamond Lake Road (54th St.), Lyndale Avenue and part of Portland Avenue date back to that time (the thinner lines on the map are not roads, but property dividers.) There's a gristmill listed on the northern side of the creek on what is today 50th & Lyndale. It's been told that farmers would come from as far as sixty miles away to get their wheat ground to flour there. By this time there was also a school, a store, two churches, and a blacksmith. The black squares on the map seemingly represent these and scattered homesteads. Reputedly, farmers, cows and chickens were common in the area through the '20s. View this entire map online at: <http://www.mnhs.org/collections/digitalmaps/>

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DIAMOND LAKE AND ENVIRONS IN 1873

Obviously much has changed in 133 years, but perhaps most interesting is to see what has become of the lakes pictured in the 1873 map. Pearl Lake was transformed into Pearl Park. The eastern arm of Diamond Lake is now Todd Park. Mud Lake has become Veteran's Memorial Park. Mother Lake is a mere pond to what it once was with Taft Park occupying part of its former bounds. Grass Lake has met a similar fate with Richfield Lake Park taking over its former southern half. Most of this draining of the lakes and transforming them into parks apparently occurred in the years following WWII. By several accounts, those lakes now gone were quite shallow, swampy and no doubt unwelcoming to human habitation, but who can deny a longing to take a stroll through the land as it was in 1873? One final note: Lake Amelia (named for a Fort Snelling officer's daughter in 1819) was renamed Lake Nokomis in 1910 for a character in Longfellow's epic poem: "Song of Hiawatha".



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THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI

Yes, you know Dracula, the Mummy, Frankenstein, and the Wolf Man, but do you know Dr. Caligari and his precious Cesare? If not, then you should come out and see his classic silent film made in 1919. Considered by many to be one of the greatest films of all time, Walking Boxes Productions will be presenting this vintage gem with a new original script and soundtrack. It's a rare opportunity for the audience to view a film as all its dialogue, music, and sound effects are created live right before them. The whole production has a novelty quality to it, but be warned – it's no comedy – it is a psychological thriller set in a world that seems to have been created by the brushstrokes of some twisted cousin of Van Gogh. There have been some intriguing showings of old silent films with live music around Minneapolis recently, but none have attempted to bring in vocal actors dubbing lines and sound artists creating effects at the same time the music is played. Does the experiment work? We think so, but you'll have to tell us...

FLYHARD JENKINS LIVE-OFF-THE-AIR

Flyhard is back and will be hosting two different shows in April featuring a total of eight different musical acts. Underground copies of two of his shows (featuring Horace Greeley and Srazhalys) have been circulating and Walking Boxes has put some clips from these shows on their website for you to sample (www.walkingboxes.com/discography.html) Flyhard's latest shows will also feature his brand new theme song: Flyhard's Formula.



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SRAZHALYS & THE MUSICKER

Dmitri Andreyev of the ensemble Srazhalys appeared as a Russian-Roma(Gypsy) soldier during WWII in the production of The Musicker's Tribunal back in 2004. We did not see him in episode two: The Musicker's Lantern, but rumor has it that the third installment of the Musicker series is slated to premier this fall and that the episode is to be completely devoted to further telling the story of the character Dmitri portrayed in episode one. Dmitri says he's been hard at work creating the soundtrack for the new show, so if you enjoy the music of Srazhalys, watch for upcoming information about that next installment of the Musicker's misadventures. For a sneak preview of one of the new songs for that show, come see Srazhalys perform on April 23rd at the Acadia.

THE ERSTWHILISTS

The acting troupe that brought you the retro-style stage shows Donovan's Brain and Caligari have been newly named: The Erstwhilists. Rumor has it that these purveyors of nostalgic and novel dramatic forms are at work creating a new radio play in the fashion of a 1950s detective drama with a sci-fi twist. From the age when the "Sputnik crisis" had many Americans frightened that the Soviets had technologically surpassed the U.S. and were conquering space, what kind of tales were heard on the radio? The Erstwhilists plan to tell such a story which may not seem as naive and outdated today as one might think. Watch for this show's premier in the Fall.

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