Winona
River bluff country

Winona, a city of nearly 25,000, sits in the Hiawatha Valley on a giant sandbar created by the meanderings of the Mississippi River. Steamboat Captain Orrin Smith founded Winona in the fall of 1851, naming it after We-No-Nah, an Indian maiden who, legend says, jumped to her death rather than marry a man she didn’t love.

Winona became a city in 1857; a seven-member city council governs the city today. In 1978, Winona earned the All-America City award in recognition of sound management and citizen participation in city affairs. In 1988, the Department of Energy and Economic Development named Winona a Star City, a mark of distinction for cities that complete 11 economic development projects.

The city’s diverse industry includes some 120 manufacturers of products ranging from knitted garments and stained glass to plastics and electronics.

Winona, a campus town with three institutions of higher learning, offers cultural and entertainment attractions such as the Winona County Historical Museum, Bunnell House, Watkins Art Gallery, Polish Cultural Institute, and Julius C. Wilkie Steamboat Center, and Steamboat Days, an annual celebration.

Highlights

Winona town meeting

Hundreds of residents from Winona and surrounding areas occupied St. Cecelia’s Hall on the College of St. Teresa during a Sept. 14 town meeting. Those taking the microphone during the informal forum expressed concerns to state legislators on various issues.

One resident told lawmakers that environmental education should be part of the curriculum in schools and asked for direction from the Department of Education (DOE) to meet this goal. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) told the audience that the Legislature considers that issue important. She believes that environmental education should be a part of curricula at all levels. Kahn agrees that aspect of education should become a crucial part of the DOE.

Other speakers indicated concerns about levy limits in human services, taxes on charitable gambling, drug prevention and awareness, recycling, and abortion.

Lawmakers met with residents in small groups after the discussion to talk about other issues.

SOCS

Lawmakers got a first-hand look at a state-operated community services (SOCS) facility Sept. 15 while visiting the town of Byron during the recent legislative mini-session.

SOCS opened its first facility in August 1986 with funding from Title 19 Waivered Services, a federal funding program for people with developmental disabilities. SOCS aims to habilitate severely mentally retarded people in a community setting. The facilities are licensed as adult foster care homes.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), chair
of the Appropriations Committee’s Health and Human Services Division, told the tour group that the Legislature is committed to opening and funding approximately 24 more SOCS facilities by 1991, each housing four to six clients, and a total of 95 homes by the year 2000.

The Byron SOCS home has three clients with an approximate staff-client ratio of one to two, working shifts over a 24-hour period. Byron staff members told tour participants that minimal staff turnover is one reason for the program’s success.

SOCS clients take part in the Olmsted County Day Program on weekdays. Once home, their responsibilities include doing laundry, making meals, and shopping for groceries.

The state has similar facilities in Braham, Dodge Center, Faribault, Farmington, and two in Mounds View.

Math, science school

Talented students in the state would have a chance to excel, says Dr. Darrell Krueger, president of Winona State University, under a proposal state legislators discussed during a Sept. 13 meeting at Winona’s College of St. Teresa.

Lawmakers heard testimony from supporters of a plan to establish a residential high school of science, mathematics, and international studies in Winona.

The school would serve as a symbol of Minnesota’s commitment to excellence in math and science, says Charles Sambs, interim superintendent of Winona Public Schools. And it would give talented students a challenge and an opportunity to fulfill their potential.

A Winona task force proposal refers to the school as the Minnesota Academy for Science, Mathematics and International Studies. The proposal also suggests free room, board, and tuition for Minnesota resident students to ensure attendance of qualified students from various financial and cultural backgrounds.

Courses from three academic divisions—science and math, humanities, and international studies—would make up the school’s curriculum.

Riverboat gambling

Rollin’ on the river. Minnesota lawmakers gathered on location to hear background testimony on riverboat gambling from a member of Iowa’s House of Representatives. The General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee met Sept. 14 in the Grand Salon at the Wilkie Steamboat Center, an old riverboat that’s now permanently stationed at a pier in Winona.

Iowa State Rep. Tom Fey says his state first introduced its riverboat gambling law in 1986 and passed it earlier this year. The bill allows riverboats in Iowa to conduct casino gambling on excursion trips on rivers and other inland waterways.

When drafting the law, Fey says he followed the North Dakota model of low stake, casino gambling for nonprofit organizations. The intent was not to raise money for the state, he says, but to increase tourism dollars and business for the private sector. About 60 percent of the money gambled comes from outside of Iowa, according to Fey, and estimates project that riverboat gambling and related spending could amount to $1 billion a year.

Iowa allows blackjack, dice games, roulette, slot machines, and video games of chance on riverboat excursions. The maximum wager is $5, with a maximum loss of $200 on each excursion per person. The games feature a cashless system, with players using only chips or tokens to place bets.

Tax increment financing

Downtown Rochester suffered from a lack of business investment causing some major retailers to leave and open stores in local shopping centers, according to Mayor Chuck Hazama. Tax increment financing (TIF) turned that trend around.

Hazama and other local government officials spoke to the Taxes Committee’s Property Tax Subcommittee about TIF at the Rochester Community College Sept. 16.

Rochester used TIF to rebuild its downtown business area and build low and moderate income housing units, says Hazama. TIF provides money to help local firms expand and stay in Rochester, and to clean up blighted housing around the downtown area. Hazama warns that restrictions on TIF could lead to a deteriorating inner-city infrastructure similar to New York City’s experience.

TIF is also important to small cities, says Bryan Reed, Kenyon city administrator. He told legislators that TIF may be
the only development help available and without it small cities couldn’t attract businesses. Kenyon used TIF to upgrade the local supermarket, attract industrial development, and remove blighted housing. Reed wants legislators to check abuses of the program, but says small communities can’t afford new TIF restrictions.

Lee Luebbe, Winona County commissioner, says she supports TIF but that abuses do occur. Winona created its first TIF district in 1979; now there are 12 districts. She says the county has lost millions of its tax capacity base, and holds TIF bonds too long, causing a negative countywide impact.

TIF is a good tool for commercial/industrial development, according to Paul Double, Minnesota School Board Association. But retail, residential, and rental property uses are suspect. Creating and keeping jobs in a community are the best reasons for TIF, he says, suggesting that development bond profits should be available for various uses such as school district needs, and not just more tax increment financing.

Private data

A recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling is confusing and has weakened the state’s open meeting law, according to Mark Anfinson, Minnesota Newspaper Association. He and other media representatives spoke to the Judiciary Committee’s Privacy Subcommittee Sept. 13 in Winona.

In January 1989, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in Annandale Advocate v. City of Annandale that a government body can’t discuss private data at an open meeting.

The case concerns a police chief’s personnel file which the city council used during a closed disciplinary hearing. After the meeting, the council denied the Annandale Advocate’s request for findings on the case.

The court ruled that the city council’s action wasn’t necessarily a final disposition (after which private data can become public) since the police chief could appeal the decision. Therefore, the personnel file should remain private data.

The ruling concerns news media groups. Tom van der Linden, Houston County News, in a written statement to the subcommittee, says he finds himself protecting local officials who mistakenly disclose private data. He edits such information out of his newspaper to protect them from lawsuits. “Soon, our local boards will have to close their meetings...to protect themselves,” he says. And that would “remove open government from small town Minnesota.”

The court’s decision doesn’t involve any constitutional issues, says Deborah K. McKnight, legislative analyst and attorney with the House Research Department. She says legislators could amend either law to remove conflicts.

Grasshopper control

Grasshoppers are stripping vegetation in many parts of Minnesota. In past months, various organizations and environmental groups have discussed ways to control the plant-eating insect. Legislators heard more testimony and suggestions Sept. 15 at a meeting in Rochester of the Agriculture Committee’s Select Subcommittee on Grasshopper Control.

Steven Thorne, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deputy commissioner, presented the DNR’s suggestions to legislators about the grasshopper problem. The department wants county weed inspectors and township officials to attend training sessions and become certified in grasshopper control methods, pesticide use, and grasshopper identification.

A 1989 law makes private landowners eligible for a 50 percent cost-share reimbursement for grasshopper control methods the commissioner of agriculture approves for use on areas in the grasshopper control zone. The DNR says the state should cost-share with only those landowners who have documentation from a certified grasshopper inspector that a critical infestation exists and poses an economic threat to cropland.

According to a recent Mankato news article, 712 Minnesota townships in 42 counties are grasshopper-infested. The state Department of Agriculture reports that those counties have spent almost $3 million trying to control the insects.

Beekinders also testified on their concerns about the pesticides that counties use to kill grasshoppers. One speaker told the subcommittee that beekeepers would like notification about chemicals sold for such uses and scheduled spraying times. Minnesota beekeepers cited three major concerns:

- crop sprays while bees are in the field;
- spraying flowering crops, e.g., soybeans and alfalfa; and
- restricting harmful pesticides.

Local government elections

Minnesota leads the nation in voter turnout in the last four presidential elections, according to Secretary of State Joan Growe. But, she notes, voter turnout in local elections is less than 10 percent. Local governments hold elections at varied times and polling places, which contributes to voter confusion and frustration, and low turnouts.

Lawmakers heard testimony on a proposal to create a uniform election day for local governments at a meeting of the...
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee’s Election Division Sept. 13 in Winona.

Growe spoke in favor of the bill, saying that uniform elections would reduce the need for election judges, polling places, and ballots, and thus reduce costs.

The proposal would require cities, towns, school districts, counties, and all other political subdivisions to elect their officers and present questions to voters on a Local Government Election Day. This election day would fall on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd years. The draft bill would set the first Local Government Election Day for 1993, and would permit local governments to extend elected officials’ terms so they would face election at that time. The bill would also require local governments to establish uniform precincts and polling places for all state and local elections.

Rep. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park), division chair and author of the bill, says she plans additional hearings on the bill this year at upcoming mini-sessions in Worthington and Moorhead. She hopes the Legislature will pass the bill during the 1990 regular session.

International trade

Minnesota businesses are getting more involved in international trade, and the Department of Trade and Economic Development’s Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) tries to help them overcome some obstacles. At a Sept. 15 meeting in Rochester, Dr. Richard Bohr, MTO executive director, told the Economic Development Committee’s International Trade and Technology Division about his office’s activities.

State manufacturers currently export about $4 billion worth of goods (7 percent of the state’s manufacturing output) to 145 countries, according to Bohr. These exports support 100,000 jobs in the state’s economy. The office recently expanded its services to better link small- and medium-sized businesses to international trade. And Bohr says, the office has success with its seminars, workshops, publication services, and one-on-one export counseling sessions.

Local businessmen also talked about their experiences with the MTO. Larry Laber, Harvest States Cooperative, says his company helps farmers in 16 Midwest states export their goods worldwide. He’d like the MTO to initiate contacts and evaluate credit ratings to help open markets in Eastern Europe and Third World countries.

Cattleman Marshall Johnson, Hayfield, got involved in exporting after meeting with trade representatives in 1986. He says involvement in exporting is good for the state and farmers because farmers get a better price for their cattle and, in turn, hire more farm workers and buy more supplies from retailers.

Pro bono service

Most states allow courts to appoint lawyers for defendants who can’t afford to retain their own. But some people question the legality of requiring lawyers to provide legal services to clients unable to pay. If the state requires pro bono service (“work for the public good”), it should provide some reimbursement, they say.

Legislators heard testimony on this question Sept. 15 at a meeting of the Judiciary Committee’s Civil Law Subcommittee in Winona.

Jane Tschida, Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, says lawyers regularly perform pro bono service either voluntarily representing a client unable to pay legal fees, or offering free advice over the telephone. Even so, she says, the demand for such service is a growing problem that free legal aid organizations can’t handle.

Tschida also questions whether it’s fair to require lawyers to provide free services while not requiring other professionals such as doctors, accountants, and educators to do likewise.

Paul Brosnahan, a Winona lawyer, cites some problems lawyers may encounter if pro bono becomes mandatory:

- Lawyers who specialize may find it awkward to offer advice in areas they know little about;
- Lawyers face malpractice lawsuits while providing free services even though their malpractice insurance doesn’t cover services provided at no cost; and
- Small offices lacking professional and support staff could face disproportionately larger burdens than offices having the additional staff.

Recent court cases challenging mandated free legal services could violate certain amendments to the federal Constitution dealing with due process, equal protection, and involuntary servitude, according to a legislative research study.

The term ‘session’

In the Minnesota Legislature, the term “session” has several meanings:

- session: the biennial (two-year) period during which the Legislature meets, e.g., the 76th Session.
- daily session: a meeting of the House or Senate in their respective chambers. Used interchangeably with “legislative day.”
- joint session: a meeting of the House and Senate together. Same as “Joint Convention.” (Joint Convention: combined meeting of the two bodies of the Legislature to transact certain business; or to hear addresses by the governor or other distinguished guests. The speaker of the House presides as president of a Joint Convention; the House chief clerk is the secretary.)
- mini-session: a concentrated series of legislative committee meetings during the interim (the period between the two regular sessions of the biennium). At this time, lawmakers may consider proposed legislation and recommend action on bills.
- regular session: the annual meeting of the Legislature between the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, and the first Monday after the third Saturday in May. Often shorter in even-numbered years.
- special session: a session held for extraordinary reasons after the Legislature adjourns its regular session. The Minnesota Constitution provides that only the governor may call the Legislature into special session. But the Legislature controls the agenda and determines the length of the special session.
ON SPECIAL SESSIONS

When the Minnesota Legislature meets in a special session, it's for "extraordinary" reasons.

Under the Minnesota Constitution, only the governor may call a special session, but the Legislature controls its length and agenda.

While the Constitution limits the number of days the Legislature can meet in regular session, it doesn't limit the length of special sessions. The shortest special session lasted one day; the longest, in 1971, lasted 159 days when legislators passed tax, spending, and reapportionment bills.

The governor may call the Legislature into special session as often as he/she deems necessary. In 1981 and 1982, Gov. Albert Quie called three special sessions each year. The 1981 sessions lasted 52 days; the 1982 sessions lasted only 6 days.

The Legislature last met in special session in 1987. An out-of-state group tried to purchase the Dayton-Hudson Corporation, which prompted legislators to hold a one-day session to strengthen corporate takeover laws.

Special Session Tentative Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. For more information, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public.

Monday, Sept. 25
9:30 a.m.

HOUSE/SENATE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE
15 State Capitol
Chair: Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Proposed tax bill.

TAXES (time to be announced)
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Proposed tax bill.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

TAXES (time to be announced)
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Proposed tax bill.

Wednesday, Sept. 27
(time to be announced)

The House will meet in Session in the Senate Chamber (tentative).

Capitol cover-up. Bryan Peterson, left, worked to cover the Quadriga at the base of the State Capitol dome Sept. 13. His employer, McPherson and Towne Co., Minneapolis, is spraying a stone strengthen on the exterior of the Capitol building. The cover-up will prevent damage to the Golden Horses.
From a pontoon deck, Environment and Natural Resources Committee members gain insight on concerns of habitat and pollution on and around Mississippi River islands. Winona State University officials planned the Sept. 14 excursion.

Broadcasting live from the Winona Senior Center, Roger Metz, chief administrator, Winona Community Hospital, testifies before the Health and Human Services Committee on affordable health care access in Greater Minnesota. Winona Cable TV carried two other hearings besides the Sept. 14 meeting.

Dense fog didn’t prevent members of the Appropriations Committee’s State Departments Division from hiking through the woods in O.L. Kipp State Park Sept. 14 with John Witzbacher, park manager.
The city of Winona viewed from the scenic overlook at Garvin Heights.

The Fillmore County Resource Recovery Center is the state's first facility to recycle, then compost the remaining trash. Rep. Elton Redalen (IR-Fountain) fields questions from members of the Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources committees on tour of the area Sept. 15.

John Tracy Anderson, former state representative, describes how he, as a freshman legislator in 1957, opposed the suggested design for the state flag and called for a more heraldic one. His testimony on Sept. 15 at the Governmental Operations Committee meeting in Rochester supported Rep. Gil Gutknecht's (IR-Rochester) proposal to study the state flag.
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
- Heard HF984 (E. Olson, DFL-Fosston) proposing a Minnesota packers and stockyards act; heard tax proposal relating to farmers.

Joint meeting with Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Winona)
- Toured a recycling and trash composting center, shiitake mushroom growing operation, tire recycling operation, and wood pulp log manufacturer.

Grasshopper Control Subcommittee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
- Discussed and suggested methods of controlling grasshoppers in the state. (See Highlight)

APPROPRIATIONS

Agriculture, Transportation & Semi-State Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Heard reports from Southeast Minnesota regional arts groups, including musical, dance, and theater presentations.

Education Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Held discussion with Winona Technical College officials regarding their need for a new aviation training center; heard update from Winona State University (WSU) on the Health and Applied Sciences Building; and heard discussion on the need for a new library at WSU.

Saturday, Sept. 16 (Rochester)
- Heard overview on Rochester postsecondary systems; received technical college bonding requests; and toured Rochester Community College.

Health & Human Services Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Discussed hospital closures in rural areas; heard Department of Health report on access to hospital services.

Friday, Sept. 15 (Byron)
- Toured the state-operated community services (SCOS) facility in Byron. (See Highlight)

Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
- Heard information on Mayo Clinic’s medical practice style.

State Departments Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Toured O.L. Kipp State Park.

COMMERCE

Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Discussed tourism in southeastern Minnesota.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Stabilization & Economic Development Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Viewed Department of Trade and Economic Development slide show “Enhanced Community Development.”

International Trade & Technology Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Coverage information unavailable at press time.

Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
- Heard information from the Minnesota Trade Office and business people on international trade promotion for small- and medium-sized businesses. (See Highlight)

Enterprise Development Subcommittee
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
- Coverage information unavailable at press time.

EDUCATION

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
- Discussed the proposed Minnesota high school for math, science, and international studies. (See Highlight)

Education Finance Division
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
- Heard testimony about the Winona State University-Rochester Public Schools Graduate Induction Program.

Higher Education Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Coverage information unavailable at press time.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Heard recommendations for waste management initiatives; and toured Mississippi River islands.

Joint meeting with Agriculture Committee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Winona)
- Toured a recycling and trash composting center, shiitake mushroom growing operation, tire recycling operation, and wood pulp log manufacturer.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & HOUSING

Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Heard Community Reinvestment Act recommendations.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Heard overview of Iowa’s riverboat gambling laws. (See Highlight)

Elections Division
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
- Heard testimony on a uniform elections bill. (See Highlight)

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
- Heard Community Reinvestment Act recommendations.

Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
- Discussed issues of pay equity in the work force.

Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
- Discussed HA2 (Gutknecht, IR-Rochester) a proposal to study the state flag.
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
• Heard testimony on providing affordable health care to all Minnesotans.

Joint meeting with Judiciary Committee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
• Heard background information on Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Missouri abortion case.

INSURANCE
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
• Heard testimony relating to infertility and insurance coverage policies.

JUDICIARY
Joint meeting with Health & Human Services Committee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
• Heard background information on Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Missouri abortion case.

Criminal Justice Division
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
• Heard testimony on issues relating to certification of juveniles to adult court.

Civil Law Subcommittee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Winona)
• Discussed mandating pro bono for lawyers. (See Highlight)

Privacy Subcommittee
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
• Heard opinions on the Minnesota Supreme Court Annandale decision concerning the Data Privacy Act and the Open Meeting Law. (See Highlight)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
• Heard recommendations concerning the state workers' compensation system.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
• Took testimony on a proposed zoning and planning bill.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES
Saturday, Sept. 16 (Rochester)
• Heard opinions about Rochester's problems with service area boundaries.

TAXES
Thursday, Sept. 14 (Winona)
• Heard public opinions on property tax issues.

Property Tax Subcommittee
Saturday, Sept. 16 (Rochester)
• Toured tax increment financing projects in Rochester.
• Heard pros and cons of tax increment financing. (See Highlight)

TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
• Coverage information unavailable at press time.

Air Transportation Subcommittee
Friday, Sept. 15 (Rochester)
• Heard testimony on how airports impact a local economy.

RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE
Wednesday, Sept. 13 (Winona)
• Discussed delivery and reimbursement problems in rural emergency medical services.

Rochester
Medical mecca, computer capital

Rochester, home to more than 60,000 residents and the Mayo Clinic, nestles amid wooded, rolling hills about 80 miles southeast of the Twin Cities.

Known throughout the world for its high quality medical care, the Mayo Clinic developed about 100 years ago from the practice of a pioneer physician, Dr. William Worrall Mayo, and his sons, Dr. William James Mayo and Dr. Charles Horace Mayo. The city hosts several hundred thousand Mayo Clinic patients and visitors each year. Among them are such notables as former president Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Adlai Stevenson, and the kings of Nepal and Saudi Arabia.

The Mayo Graduate School of Medicine has trained more than 12,000 residents and fellows in some 50 specialty areas. These men and women practice medicine in 64 countries.

The computer industry considers IBM Rochester the small and intermediate computer capital of the world. Small businesses are also strong in Rochester with 1,200 businesses belonging to the Chamber of Commerce.

The city boasts many restaurants, hotels, shopping malls, and recreational opportunities. Rochester has its own art center, four community theater companies, and a historical museum, and offers a variety of musical entertainment.

Upcoming Mini-Sessions:

• Worthington
Oct. 18 - 20, 1989

• Moorhead
Nov. 15 - 17, 1989

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<tr>
<td>55B McPherson, Harriet A. (IR)</td>
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*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St Paul, MN 55155
**All area codes are (612)

September 22, 1989

Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office
175 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298 • (612) 296-2146
Take a legislator to dinner. Winona residents Tom and Mary Ann Renz and their daughters, Laura and Emily, invited Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) to dine with them in their home Sept. 14.