



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:
Writers Project Research Notes.

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I N D E X

T O

GRANDFATHER'S DAY

A N D

FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

- I
- 1 Old Songs
 - 2 Figures showing what water rates were in Minneapolis
 - 3 Booze problems
 - 4 Relief problems
 - 5 Stories told in headlines
 - 6 Early Newspapers in Minnesota
 - 7 Art in early Minnesota life
 - 8 Lodges in the early days (Masons)
 - 9 Organized promotion of new industries in Mpls.
 - 10 How old is an old settler?
 - 11 What the Student had to furnish to go to the U. of M.
 - 12 A short biography of William Henry Seward,
 - 13 Pigs is pigs, over 1,000lbs.
 - 14 Public school problems in Mpls.
 - 15 Some Minnesota fact-lets
 - 16 Indians provided meat for white settlers
 - 17 Albert Lea's name well up in public view
 - 18 War in Europe sends 25 families to Minn.
 - 19 R. F. Jones, the big fish merchant of this city.
 - 20 Picturesque journalism
 - 21 Witchcraft, in Goodhue county
 - 22 Sustenance for the inner man & woman (frog legs) (lettuce & radishes in Nov.)
 - 23 Spelling matches in early days
 - 24 First white child born in Minn.
 - 25 Hitch hiking, not known in early days. (John Latto walked from N.Y. to Minn.)
 - ✓ 26 First Memorial Day observance.
 - 27 National political convention in 1892
 - 28 Rivalry between Mpls. & St. Paul in the 1860's
 - 29 Newspaper editors pestered by amateur poets
 - 30 Old fashioned Minnesota snowstorm
 - 31 Justice was "executed" (Justice Hines & Justice Lashells)
 - 32 Men for military duty,
 - 33 Whoopee in former days in Stillwater
 - 34 Early telephone in Mpls.
 - 35 Police Chief Mike Hoy thrown in jail in Canada
 - 36 Speed Now! and Then!
 - 37 Entertainment in early days
 - 38 Those were the days, doings in Minneapolis and environs.
 - 39 Styles in early days
 - 40 Old-Time Relief.
 - 41 Revival of a theatrical stock company in Minnesota. (Plunkett troupe)
 - 42 "Real sport." Back in the 60s! "hoss euchre"
 - 43

- II
- 1 Prices on strawberries
 - 2 First Fourth of July celebration in Minneapolis
 - 3 Early transportation. (Ski & Railroad)
 - 4 Bayard Taylor's 2nd visit to Mpls.
 - 5 Frank Delano adopted a unique style to "BOOST YOUR TOWN"
 - 6 Courtship Made Easy - with Flowers
 - 7 "Tennial" that this city observed in 1876.
 - 8 HOBOES as fertilizer. (Faribault)
 - 9 WHY LO WAS POOR
 - 10 "RIVALRY" Our comparative estimate of the population of St. Paul & Mpls.
 - 11 State's first retail drug store in 1848. (Dr. John J. Dewy)
 - 12 Stillwater's \$6,000 fire. (Old Joseph Wolf brewery)
 - 13 Husband Wanted by a Widow.
 - 14 SUMMER IN WINTER Excursion on the Miss. river on December 1, 1869
 - 15 Time's Curiosity Shop. (sewing machine, frightful odor in Grand Rapids, &c.)
 - 16 The "Weaker" Sex.
 - 17 Vice president Schuyler Colfax, gives tribute to Minnesota
 - 18 Stillwater at last has a railroad.
 - 19 Underworld SLANGUAGE
 - 20 "RIVALRY" The head of navigation. St. Paul? - Minneapolis?
 - 21 Trains to run on ice
 - 22 The joining of Mpls. and St. Anthony
 - 23 Stillwater Bunk House Tales
 - 24 PRETTY HUSKY - COUNTY HAD TO WELCH - THREE -- CENT STRIKE - WAR DANCE FOR FOOD
 - 25 The Danish Settlement, Brown County
 - 26 FROM THE SCRAP BOOK (Military training)
 - 27 A \$4 PER MONTH EARL ("OLD CHARLEY" a British earl.)(Silver in Minn.)
 - 28 Circus time in Mpls.
 - 29 Back in the days when men were men, the women weren't exactly clinging vines.
 - 30 Hon. G. G. Hartley's compliments on Grand Rapids.
 - 31 HE GOT HIS GUN - ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH - Judge Vanderburgh LOST his man
 - 32 THE FAIR FARES FORTH
 - 33 John M. Hoy, former Mpls. police officer
 - 34 WHAT HO, THE STORK!
 - 35 Taxes in early days
 - 36 History about Grand Portage
 - 37 THE ETERNAL FEMININE
 - 38 KU KLUX in Carlton county
 - 39 FROM THE SCRAPBOOK
 - 40 Balloons and flying machine in 1856 & 64
 - 41 Fort Gaines changed to Fort Ripley. Mock war in 1862.
 - 42 Ye Old Conscription. Minnesota fills her quota.
 - 43 Farming in early days, *three sisters try it alone.*
 - 44 U. S. Mail carriers in early days
 - 45 *Father Lucian Galtier, first priest to be sent to Minn.*

- 1 Ball tournament at Oak Grove, Hennepin county, in 1852.
- 2 FROM THE SCRAPBOOK Human Bones in tree, Grasshoppers in Mecker county *Re.*
- 3 Mr. Braun's elastic farm. 1870 school girls same as 1940.
- 4 Correct pronounciation argument ends in shooting. Police call system in 1878
- 5 First R. R. Sleeper comes to Minn. Time sidetracks B-hounds for G-men.
- 6 Rain and the State Fair
- 7 FERGUS FALLS, the "Coming city". A Lazy club organized in St. Paul
- 8 Sauerkraut day in Springfield, and other Days in Minn.
- 9 The Chines and their laundry in the 70's
- 10 Sauerkraut festival just finished at Springfield, Minn.
- 11 Apples in Winona county
- 12 FROM THE SCRAPBOOK. Overcoats at Valley Forge. Sewing machine prices drop
- 13 Air Field at Grand Rapids. Boosting Minn. is not a new art.
- 14 News hard to find. Walkathons not new.
- 15 Corn Festivals in Goodhue County
- 16 Surgery in early days
- 17 Stillwater prison without bars
- 18 Lumberjack Festival in Stillwater Lake St. Croix
- 19 Stillwater Lumbermen's Festival over. Man to ride an empty barrel across
- 20 Household hints
- 21 Exemptions from creditors
- 22 A Mpls. Editor's outburst against the "Blue Stocking Club".
- 23 U of M Promoters & Entrance exams
- 24 Turkey Day at Worthington, Nobles County
- 25 Days of '49 Celebration (Faribault,) Rice County
- 26 Ben Wilds ran wild in verse (a reporter)
- 27 Early Advertisments
- 28 "Didoes" in horse and buggy days Wash. Ave.
- 29 Man-made Eggs. Bridge Square changed to Bean Park. A new sidewalk on
- 30 The gals' hair-do's and hats
- 31 First telephone line between St. Paul & Mpls. Log-turning Invention.
- 32 Conventions in St. Cloud.
- 33 Liquor sold inside fair grounds without license in 1877
- ✓ 34 Advertising Ideas
- 35 The Settling of Lac Qui Parle county.
- 36 Tribune editors changed. Tenements on Nicollet Island.
- 37 Indian massacre in Murray County. Monument to be erected.
- 38 Early Music in Mpls.
- 39 Agricultural Societies (Patrons of Husbandry) (Granges)
- 40 Dancing
- 41 Growth of the Catholic church.
- 42 Dog-days had dogs in dog house in '69 - 70.
- 43 Potato show parade at (Aitkin,) Minn.
- 44 Chaska to make Halloween a music holiday.

- 1 Short cuts to results
- 2 Samples of major handicaps of pioneering (fifth column)
- 3 Up's & Down's of (Austin,) Minn.
- 4 Recreation in early days.
- 5 Stork battles odds in early days
- 6 From the Scrapbook Two-headed Lady, Paper wheels for Pullman car, etc.
- 7 "Anoka" Temperance & Disasters
- 8 Household hints. Drunks attract crowd. Wicked women contribute to city.
- 9 Thanksgiving Day date in question
- 10 Old Rice House Burns
- 11 Early Minnesota Politics
- 12 Where and What is (Kandiyohi)
- 13 A fair bounty to fill draft quota in 1864
- 14 Col. J. H. Stevens first settler in Mpls. Name selected for city
- 15 "William Crooks" Minnesota's first locomotive
- 16 Good hunting in Itasca County Bow & Arrow to be used
- 17 Lake City and her fires
- 18 "North Pole" (city) in Beltrami County
- 19 Notes from the Scrap Book
- 20 Minnesota a vacation land in '79 - Lake Minnetonka; Minneapolis; St. Paul
- 21 A sleighride Party. Weatherman not needed. 1870
- 22 Minnesota admitted to the Union - Come in Hawaii! - *Minnesota*
- 23 Minnesota went right ahead,
- 24 Pre-election hostility not easily forgotten in early days,
- 25 "Bridges" Construction engineers meet with setbacks,
- 26 Minnesota Snow Storms,
- 27 Railroad crossing accidents.
- 28 "Ice." Red Hot Steamer to melt Channel for wooden vessel.
- 29 Mpls. man "Richard Gale" in Congress.
- 30 Mpls. Scandinavians --- Civilization forges ahead.
- 31 Notes from the Scrap Book.
- 32 "Duluth" a prosperous and pleasure-giving City says J. H. Tuttle.
- 33 in '79.
- 34 A Bear Story from Stillwater.
- 35 Notes from the Scrap Book. *Editor's explain (Who wrote that)*
- 36 Growth of the Parent-Teacher movement.
- 37 Mr. Harlow Gale's Dime Concert a big hit..
- 38 Worthington, looked mighty good to a correspondent of the Press.
- 39 Hebrews began to gain prominence in Minn. before B'nai B'rith was even mentioned.
- 40 Military incidents of other Days
- 41 Hutchinson & Glencoe
- 42 Notes from the Scrap Book --Racketeering, Census takers, Streetcar horses, Iron and Manganese
- 43 Mining in Minn. Manganese and Iron.
- 44 Honey an old Industry in Minn.
- 45 Comets and what they are made of
- 46 Minnesota Negroes contribute to national life

- V
- 1 Counterfeit Money in early days.
 - 2 Minnesota's poultry is something to crow about.
 - 3 Christmas, and Christmas trees in early days.
 - 4 Holy Spirit of Yule has not changed since 1843
 - 5 Faribault like Massachusetts in 1865
 - 6 Home town boosters of (Santiago), (Glendorado) and (Fergus Falls.)
 - 7 "THE BOOK" Kittson County History released to public.
 - 8 Mpls. Schools and U. of M.
 - 9x Pioneer Editors take anything for subscriptions. Evidence of Tom and Jerry in
 - 10 Evidence of Tom and Jerry in early days
 - 11 Newspapers for Bustles, and other od-itees in early news.
 - 12 Rivalry between St. Paul and Mpls. (Railroad)
 - 13 Minnesota Temperance Movement in early days.
 - 14 Comet arrived without advance notice. Geo. W. Peck, to give Sunday lecture
 - 15 LYDIA E. ERICKSON, asked for admission to the bar of Hennepin Co.
 - 16 Notes from the Scrapbook
 - 17 Desire to change County Seats (Yellow Medicine, Grant, and Traverse Co's)
 - 18 Home defense organized in '65
 - 19 Developments of a city (Duluth) at the head of the lakes
 - 20 First session of the legislature in '49. Fire destroys first Capitol
 - 21 Minn. Legislative session 1855
 - 22 Minn. Legislature
 - 23 Plagues in Gopher History
 - 24 MEEKER COUNTY out in front in progressive publicity
 - 25 WILLIAM EDWARDS EASTON, editor of Stillwater Gazette
 - 26 National Guard leaves home. Volunteers in Tennessee in 1865
 - 27 First Postoffice in Minnesota and others.
 - 28 Magicians in early days.
 - 29 Carnival season again.
 - 30 GRAND RAPIDS, capitol of Itasca county
 - 31 TAXES (Dodgers & Collectors)
 - 32 The St. George's Society of St. Paul celebrated its fourth annual reunion in 1869
 - 33 Business is business! It pays to advertise
 - 34 MINNESOTA! A vacation land
 - 35 Notes from the scrapbook. City in darkness. A minister who cut it short. &c.
 - 36 AGRICULTURE! a huge job in Pioneer Days
 - 37 EXCELSIOR! A town grown from a poem.
 - 38 Mpls. Symphony Orchestra
 - 39 St. Paul celebrated 100th birthday
 - 40 St. Paul Y. M. C. A.
 - 41 Messages and News not enjoyed in living room in early days
 - 42 MINNESOTA, one of nation's leading flax-producing states.
 - 43 Picnic Parties and scenes around lake Calhoun and Harriet
 - 44 The hold-for-ransom racket is by no means a modern idea.
 - 45 Bowling in Minnesota

- VI
- 1 Funds raised for public welfare
 - 2 Washington's birthday celebrated in Minnesota as far back as 1850
 - 3 Father of Waters 400th Birthday. St. Anthony Falls.
 - 4 St. Valentine's Day well advertised.
 - 5 Abraham Lincoln's birthday
 - 6 Joseph R. Brown (Joe the Juggler) in Politics
 - 7 MINNEAPOLIS Horse Railway Co.,
 - 8 FORT RIPLEY (Fort Gaines)
 - 9 "Women" in general
 - 10 Minnesota Defense, swung into action as early as 1856
 - 11 Defense in early days
 - 12 Aid to small nations of Europe, 1941 - Greece 1852 - Hungary.
 - 13 Historical Society established in 1849
 - 14 The Twin City Apparel Industries Style show, was different in grandmother's day
 - 15 The made-in-Faribault forum. (Business in the making)
 - 16 ROCHESTER; a new town. MANTORVILLE, Dodge County.
 - 17 Grocers & Groceries
 - 18 Prosperity not always just around the corner
 - 19 Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm.
 - 20 Growth & Development of RED WING, LeSUEUR, MARSHALL, and ST. PETER.
 - 21 Who Discovered Minnetonka.
 - 22 The pros and cons of socialized Medicine
 - 23 Dentistry in early days
 - 24 St. Paul irked when described as crime capitol
 - 25 The public gaze sometimes becomes an angry glare at the Stillwater prison
 - 26 Fish to get new Names. Jawbreaking words used in early Newspapers
 - 27 First Auto Show in Mpls. 1907.
 - 28 "Axemen" in early days at BRAINARD
 - 29 The smith a mighty man is he
 - 30 NAVIGATION, above St. Anthony Falls. (Steamboat Gov. Ramsey)
 - 31 Eggs, a scarce article in early days.
 - 32 FAIRMONT, Martin County. (Frost Frolic)
 - 33 Testing Minnesota as a wool-growing country
 - 34 Sharecropping was of little concern to early farmers
 - 35 New Citizens & New Citizens Day
 - 36 Farmers and their hard times.
 - 37 MINNEAPOLIS has more than even chance to become a city in '66
 - 38 Legislature time always news time
 - 39 Water route from midland to Atlantic via St. Lawrence river.
 - 40 St. Patrick's Day
 - 41 Minnesota Housing situation back in the 50's
 - 42 Statistics Young and Old
 - 43 Memories of General Henry Sibley
 - 44 Business for the Undertaker good and poor 1862 - 63
 - 45 Minnesota Weather! Spring and Winter

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 2 Fruits in Minnesota
- 3 Minnesota to the front for defence
- 4 Only 3 miles from heaven to hell. (Old Gabe)
- 5 McLeod County; 1st church, 1st school and 1st etc.
- 6 Minneapolis got its name.
- 7 Stevens County looked good to farmers. (Morris)
- 8 Adelina Patti visits Mpls. in 1887.
- 9 Italy in headlines of Tribune in 1892.
- 10 Grasshoppers for soup.
- 11 Polk county and how it looked in 1873 (Crookston)
- 12 Mr. Shaw starts a town. (Anoka)
- 13 Womens hats should not be shipped by mail.
- 14 Relief problems always a perplexing issue for the Legislature.
- 15 Clean - up week.
- 16 Strikes! (1883) Cigar maker's and Telegrapher's
- 17 Sportsmen's show as far back as 1857, "the call to the open."
- 18 Wolves increasing in one or two localities.
- 19 Trees to be planted and cultivated for windbreaks on prairies
- 20 Legislature elects a Chaplain 1876.
- 21 Arbor Day observed as early as 1876.
- 22 Minnesota Pioneer first newspaper in the State published 4-28-1849
- 23 Minnesota waters not yet subdued by modern engineering.
- 24 Minnesota's fishing season opens.
- 25 Music added to the 3 R's in public schools
- 26 Hamline University destroyed by fire 1883
- 27 The President and former president visits Mpls. at completion of N. P. R.R.
- 28 Old Fort Snelling.
- 29 Mpls. Host to Minnesota Funeral Directors association
- 30 First Steam Boat on the St. Croix and other transportation
- 31 Traffic safety a problem before motor cars
- 32 Pope county only a "paper county." Elk River well beyond the "paper" stage 1874
- 33 Late Major F. T. Steele whose grandfathers activities were always news in early
- 34 Minnesota laundrymen get together isn't a mere convention. newspapers.
- 35 Development of the beauty industry.
- 36 Navigators south of "The Northwest Angle" have long battled with ice.
- 37 George A. Brackett proposed a plan for springling streets.
- 38 Owatonna, Steele County, 75th anniversary of First National Bank.
- 39 Minnesota admitted to the union May 11, 1858.
- 40 Y.M.C.A. organized 1866 by Russell Herman Conwell.
- 41 Redwood County, called to the attention of the rest of the state 1883
- 42 Mr. Thomas Nast handled without gloves by critics through the press.
- 43 National Hospital Day recently observed.
- 44 Minnesota Territory organized by Gov. Alexander Ramsey 1849.
- 45 The future of man in a mechanized world.

IN GRANDFATHER'S DAY

From Source Material Gathered by the
Minnesota WPA Writers' Project

DEC 26 REC'D

EARLY HISTORY of Minneapolis public schools was declared very difficult to obtain. An article in The Tribune in '81 said that Mrs. S. C. Winchell, school board secretary in 1876, had been at some pains to get it and found her chief source of information to be recollections of old residents, particularly Rev. E. D. Neill. The article continued:

"Before the close of 1849 the people in district 5 erected the schoolhouse the ruins of which still remain on University Av. between Second and Third Aves. S.E. This building was the first public edifice in what is now Hennepin county and was used also as a house of worship....

"In November, 1851, an academy was completed in the square opposite the present Winthrop school building. It was....really the nucleus of the University of Minnesota...."

The article listed the city's public schools that year (1881) as: Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, Winthrop, Madison, Everett, Marcy, Franklin, Adams, Sumner, Jefferson, Monroe, Humboldt and the High school. It continued:

"On the east side of the river at Minneapolis, on a commanding bluff....stands the State university....It was created by an act of the territorial legisla-

ture February 13, 1851.... The first building was a small wooden structure standing just above the mills, fronting on Main St., where in November, 1851, a preparatory department was opened. In 1854 the present site was purchased.

"The institution suffered greatly by the financial reverses in 1857-'8, and in 1864 a special commission, composed of John S. Pillsbury, John Nicols and O. C. Merriman, was appointed, with full authority to sell property and pay debts....In 1867 the legislature appropriated money to renovate the building which had stood empty for nearly 10 years, and the preparatory department was opened in October with Rev. W. Washburn, B. A., as principal, with two assistants. The university really dates its usefulness from the law of February 18, 1868, entitled 'An act to reorganize the University of Minnesota and to establish an agricultural college therein.'"

I

1.

Grandfather's Day.

Old Songs

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast," says the poet, which caused a wag to add that that probably was the reason they put brass bands around dogs' necks. Music of the popular school apparently had no less a hold on the imagination of youth long years ago than does our modern swing. Dick Powell, singing so eloquently to his actress wife, Joan Blondell, about "The Rose in Her Hair," Nelson Eddy, bewitching Jeanette MacDonald with "Will you Remember?" are but modern versions of an ancient technique.

It seems that Grandpa warbled about "The Sweet Black-Eyed Flirt," for Grandma's benefit in 1872, whereupon Grandma came back with "Ask Me Again and I Will Not Say No," or --- of all things --- "You May Pet Me As Much As You Please." Proof positive that the gentle art of petting isn't a latter-day invention.

Grandpa also hummed a little ditty to Grandma entitled: "Her Age Was Red and Her Hair Was Nineteen," --- and this isn't a typographical error, either.

Older folks of the period had their innings with "The Days That Are No More," "My Mother's Sweet Goodby" and "Every Home Has Lost a Darling."

"Kind Words Can Never Die," and "Do a Good Turn When You Can" were popular in 1855 --- the latter long before there were Boy Scouts.

Origin of tunes is often obscure. One song, titled "When You Were Seventeen, Nellie," caused a suspicious investigator to go hunting to see if it might be a steal on "When You and I were Young, Maggie," or

whether Maggie were a steal on Nellie. But the trail was lost.

Anyway, if you remember "Maggie," compare the rhythm with this:

"Your cheeks were like the rose, Nellie,
Your brow neer knew a frown;
Your voice was soft and low, Nellie,
Your hair was golden brown,
Your blue eyes like the stars, Nellie,
Their like was never seen;
When I was twenty-one, Nellie
And you were seventeen."

In musical research, too, if found the account of how a St. Paul music store, in 1869, received back a batch of piano music because a teacher, noting that they were five-finger exercises, said none of her pupils had more than four fingers. Thumbs down!

Figures showing what water rates were in Mnpls.

Figures showing what water rates were in Minneapolis years ago furnish interesting comparisons with present charges.

The Minneapolis city council in the fall of 1868 passed an ordinance placing the municipal water department under the jurisdiction of the city surveyor and establishing a schedule of rates. That that was in the "horse and buggy" age is emphasized by such items as rates for livery stables and blacksmith shops.

The schedule which went into effect in November was:

"For a pipe not exceeding one half inch in diameter for each private dwelling occupied by one family and to be used for domestic purposes only, \$15 per year.

"For each additional family, \$8.

"Stores, offices, shops or manufacturies where water is used only for the purposes of the occupants, employees or hands where the average number thereof does not exceed 10, \$20.

"For each additional hand in excess of 10, \$1.

"Restaurants, eating houses and saloons, \$25.

"Soda fountains, \$8.

"Livery stables not exceeding 10 stalls, \$30.

"Each additional stall, \$2.50.

"Barber shops, \$15.

"Bathing houses, each tub, \$13.

"Blacksmith shops, one fire, \$12.

"Each additional fire, \$7.

"Street sprinklers, each, \$15.

"Steam engines not exceeding 25 horsepower, each horse power, \$5.

"Hotels, boarding houses and buildings occupied by more than two families, and shops or manufacturies where water is used will be charged special rates to be agreed upon by the city surveyor and committee on water works and the applicants."

At the time this ordinance was put into effect some wag, impressed by the H.C.W., otherwise, the high cost of water, stuck up a placard in one of the saloons and the wording reveals that cards seen now and then in taverns of today and bearing the same words have a comparatively ancient origin. This placard read:

"If water rots your rubbers think what it will do to your stomach!"

* * * * *

I
Booze problems

Grandfather's Day.

The booze problem hounded grandfather in his day, as it does grandson today. There were the same issues - the same problem of Sunday observance, the same question of just how many breweries are too many. Prohibition as a national institution was, of course, still a dream --- or nightmare, as taste may dictate.

In distinct contrast to the firm stand of the modern Methodist church against liquor was the action of a Minnesota state conference as noted in the St. Anthony Falls Democrat Weekly on Oct. 15, 1869.

"By reference to another column it will be seen that the (state) Methodist Conference refused to commit itself to legal prohibition."

"A Citizen" thus unloaded himself on the Sunday Liquor issue the following month in a letter to the editor:

"I think I do no violence to the truth in saying that the practice of selling liquor on the Sabbath exists to a greater or less extent throughout our city and it seems to me * * * that men engaged in this business ought to be satisfied with the six days that by divine law are set apart in which for man to do all that he hath do. If you will pass up or down Main street some Sabbath morning you will be reminded more forcibly of what California was in the days of lynch law, to which they were all obliged to resort to protect their lives and property, than of a civilized and Christian community blest with all the elements of civilization.

"Now I have no means to propose by which to rid our city of this highly immoral and destructive practice, but will simply say that it should not be. There ought to be some power or virtue in our municipal law."

Replying, the editor said in part:

"We do not deny that there is immense evil connected with the practice of selling liquor * * * still, we do not see that selling liquor on Sunday is in principle different from selling at other times. We do not believe it is more expedient or right to enforce prohibition on the Sabbath than on a week day."

And so far into the night. Two years later, in 1871, the Minneapolis Tribune quoted this from the Argus, a Shakopee newspaper, forerunner of the present Argus Tribune:

" 'Shakopee has two breweries. Last winter these two breweries made and laid up in their cellars 1,000 barrels of lager beer, intended for a supply of the whole present season. These 1,000 barrels of lager beer have been sold at \$10 a barrel - - - and drank up.' So says the Argus and uses the facts as a text for a discourse on the folly of it. We have use only for the facts! "

* * *

Relief problems, unemployment and oppressive taxes are oldfashioned, after all. As early as 1869, a disgruntled citizen signing himself "Pine" registered his opinion of some city officers in the St. Anthony Falls Democrat:

"Times are hard, money is very scarce, everthing looks gloomy and it behooves us all to put our homes in order and prepare for the worst. I am a poor, hard-working man. The taxes upon my home for '68 were \$15, and I could not sell my place today for \$400. Oh, these taxes! The people of Hennepin have voted for retrenchment, reduction of salaries, etc. Now I want our city fathers to do their duty in the premises. Let us have a change here. What necessity, let me ask, is there for a city marshal at a salary of \$730 per annum, or \$2 per day? Every citizen knows he is not worth 50 cents per day; he certainly does not earn that much."

There were no modern employment bureaus in 1872 when the Democrat said:

"A gentleman advertised for a boy to assist him in his office and nearly 50 applicants presented themselves to him. Out of the whole number he in a short time selected one and dismissed the rest.

"'I should like to know,' said a friend, 'on what ground you selected that boy, who had not a single recommendation.'

"'You are mistaken,' said the gentleman, 'he had a great many. He wiped his feet when he came in, showing that he was careful. He gave up his seat instantly to that lame old man, showing that he was kind and thoughtful. He took off his cap when he came in * * * He picked up the book which I had purposely laid upon the floor and replaced it on the table, while all the rest stepped over it or shoved it aside * * * His clothes were carefully brushed, his hair in nice order and his teeth as white as milk and when he wrote his name I noticed that his fingernails were clean * * * Don't you call those letters of recommendation?'"

Community Chests, too, were as yet uninvented. A Minneapolis publication on Dec. 4, 1874 showed how unorganized assistance worked:

"A few days ago a poor man called at the residence of one of our wealthy citizens and begged the ladies: For God's sake come with me to a poor family that is starving to death. The ladies hastened to the place indicated by the man, a cheap and squalid tenement, and within found a poor woman and six children. There was not a morsel of food in the house * * * The youngest child * * * had been sick with a fever * * * A physician was summoned at once and a bountiful supply of food immediately sent in.

"We mention these cases * * * to show that there is actual suffering for the necessities of life in our midst * * * In these dull times when both work and money are difficult to obtain, it becomes the duty of everyone to look after the poor."

I
Stories told in headlines

Grandfather's Day.

It was no trick at all for the headline writers of yesteryear to follow the fundamental rule, "Tell the story in the headlines." They had one advantage, though, over the boys who try to do the same thing for news-readers in 1940 - they didn't have to crowd the whole story into one or two "banks." Maybe they never went quite so far as to run the headline over into the second column, but somebody on the St. Paul Daily Pioneer came pretty close to that in the issue of April 10, 1865:

"The Year of Jubilee has come
Return ye Rebels to your Home

GEN. LEE And His Whole Army

SURRENDERED!

THE REBELLION DEAD!

* * * * *

THANKS TO LINCOLN!

GLORY TO GRANT!

HURRAH FOR SHERIDAN!

WELCOME TO SHERMAN!

* * * * *

FREEDOM HAS TRIUMPHED!

AND OUR COUNTRY IS SAVED!"

Grandfather's Day.

I 6-

Early Newspapers in Minnesota

Outstanding frankness about almost everything but particularly paying up on subscriptions and advertising characterized the old newspapers in Minnesota. Said the Stillwater Messenger on March 31, 1863:

"As we expect in a few weeks to enter the government service, a settlement of all outstanding accounts with the Messenger office is absolutely indispensable. Settlement must be made at once!"

The forthcoming Stillwater Daily Gazette got this boost from the Red Wing Republican, May 12, 1863, with an implied hint to the Republican's clientele:

"Next Monday the Stillwater Gazette company commences issuing the Stillwater Daily Gazette. They say that if it doesn't pay they will not hesitate to discontinue its publication on short notice. Stillwater, although only a few miles from St. Paul, is a far better newspaper town than Red Wing."

The St. Paul Daily Press was in a genial mood toward its neighbors (including even Minneapolis!) when it said, July 22, 1863:

"Some of our state contemporaries have been greatly improved recently. The St. Anthony News now comes to us in the form of an eight-page paper, well gotten up and neatly printed. Minneapolis seems to be a flourishing place for newspapers."

"The office of the Mankato Independent has passed into the hands of Charles H. Slocum, and he last Saturday issued the first number of the Mankato Weekly Union. It has been increased to the size of the Daily Press and makes a very creditable appearance."

"The Mower County Register is the title of a newspaper started at Austin by H. R. Davidson."

In 1872 the editor of the Anoka Press published the following unique proposition:

"We will send the Anoka Press for five years for one kernel of wheat

for the first week and double it each week for 52 weeks; all wheat may be brought at one time or the kernels each week."

Another editor who concerned himself with wheat kernels was the chief of the Dodge County Express who, also in 1872, declared "there are 1,075,200 kernels of plump No. 1 wheat in one bushel of 60 pounds." He said he counted them himself.

The Minneapolis Tribune, Dec. 8, 1872, announced:

"The Minneapolis Evening Times will come out in new shape tomorrow. All telegraph matter and local news will be printed on the second and third pages, while the first and fourth pages will be devoted to editorials, news and miscellany."

* * *

Grandfather's Day.

I
*Art in early Minnesota
Life*

That art had its place in early Minnesota life is indicated in newspaper annals of the day. Also revealed is the fact that Minnehaha Falls was a focus of artistic attention as long ago as the 1860's.

On Oct. 31, 1867, the St. Paul Daily Press announced:

"M. W. Clark, the artist, has just completed a pair of cabinet pictures of the falls of Minnehaha and Minneimeopa, which are gems of beauty and the only ones of their kind."

That summer the Press had also chronicled:

"Mr. Gilbert Munger, who has been engaged for some time in painting the falls of Minnehaha, yesterday completed his picture and placed it on exhibition at Munger Brothers' store. * * * Mr. Munger has within the past two days, visited the encampment of the Red River traders and taken pencil sketches of their carts and animals. From these sketches he proposes to make a picture which will in some measure illustrate frontier life."

And one result was thus recorded in the Press the following November:

"Gilbert Munger * * * has for some time been working upon another very large picture. It is the bluffs of Trempeleau (in Wisconsin, not far from Winona.) * * * A wealthy Scotch gentleman happened to see it * * * and made the artist a cash offer for the painting. The offer was accepted and the gentleman immediately deposited the money with the First National bank of this city. He left instructions to have the picture expressed to him as soon as completed. He will send it direct to the Academy of Fine Arts at Glasgow."

Five years later Minnehaha was visited by another well-known artist. Says The Minneapolis Tribune of Nov. 13, 1872:

"Jerome Thompson, a landscape painter of note of New York, has upon the easel a poetical composition entitled 'Mimnehaha and Companion at the Falls of Laughing Water.' The scene illustrates a real view of the celebrated falls of Mimnehahain Minnesota. Two Indian girls are upon the rocks in the foreground; one is standing and looking toward the falling water and the other reclines on the mossy carpet which covers the huge boulders. The effect is that of midday, and the spray glistens in the sunlight."

* * *

Grandfather's Day.

I
*Lodges in early days
(Masons)*

8.

Early newspaper reports reveal that the Masonic order was already well established in Minnesota as long ago as 1856. The Pioneer and Democrat of St. Paul said on April 19 of that year:

"Proceedings of the grand lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota at a Grand Annual Communication held in the city of St. Paul, commencing the 7th, day of January, A. L. 5856; A. D., 1856. St. Paul, Goodrich & Somers, Printers, Pioneer and Democrat office, 1856.'

"This is the title of a pamphlet of 50 pages just issued from the Pioneer and Democrat job office. We hazard nothing in saying that it is the neatest pamphlet ever published in Minnesota and that for beauty of execution it is not exceeded by any pamphlet work of the most extensive job offices in the east.

"In glancing over the proceedings of the grand lodge we find that there are in this territory 12 Masonic lodges, viz., two in St. Paul, and one at Stillwater, St. Anthony, Minneapolis, Shakopee, Hastings, Red Wing, Hokah, (Houston county) Faribault, Mankato and Winona.

"Three of these lodges (at Hastings, Red Wing and Winona) were established during 1855."

On July 19 of the same year the St. Anthony Express Weekly said:

"An encampment of Knight Templars was established in St. Paul July 17, by the name of Damascus encampment."

Present at the establishment meeting were sir knights from New York City and Vicksbury, Miss.

* * *

I 9.
Organized promotions of new industries in Mnpls.
Grandfather's Day.

Organized promotion of new industries in Minneapolis was already well under way by the year 1875. In March of that year the Board of Trade issued the following circular:

"The Board of Trade of Minneapolis has provided by resolution that the secretary shall keep a set of books in which all members of the board and all strangers may cause to be entered wants and proposals of a business nature; that such entries shall be made in a book that is private and confidential or in a book that shall be open to the public inspection, according as the person causing the same to be made shall desire, and that the secretary shall on request furnish to all persons who may be entitled to enjoy that privilege as members (or strangers at all times) such information as these books will afford, the object being to give increased facilities for the transaction of business to all members and strangers who may have proposals to make or wants to be supplied. * * *

"Any citizen member who desires to employ a clerk, accountant or agent or to dispose of the whole or part of his business, or desires a partner, or to make exchanges, is invited to have the proper entry made in the books, and any stranger who is in the pursuit of employment, or of investments of any kind of business is welcome to the same privilege. No charge or fee is required in any case.

"All strangers are to have free access to the reading room and the board at all times, and are invited to avail themselves of the privilege without further notice. They will find there all the leading papers of the country. The secretary will be present to confer with them on all matters concerning the city and its business interests.

"To residents of the city the secretary would say that the institution of the Board of Trade is established for the general benefit of the city, and that it is maintained by the annual fee of \$5 paid by members."

I

How old is an old settler

Grandfather's Day

How old is an old settler? And how old are the "old days?" Members of the Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' association perhaps don't know that they were far "out-old-settled" by much earlier groups in Twin City history. In fact, the date on which one meeting of "old settlers" was held seems to brand the present-day organization as just a band of youngsters.

On Feb. 22, 1867 there was held an "Old Settlers' Association grand banquet" at the Nicollet house, Minneapolis, featured by an address by Col. John H. Stevens. The Minneapolis Chronicle, reporting the event two days later, said:

"On Friday evening at 7 1/2 o'clock, over 100 persons, male and female, young and old, belonging to the Old Settlers' Association of Hennepin County, met in the large and spacious drawing room of the Nicollet House, in this city."

And this was not the only "old timer" group of that day. The following June another one met in St. Paul, as related by the St. Paul Daily Press:

"Annual Meeting of Old Settlers - According to appointment they met in the executive room of the capitol on good time to the number of 23 as follows: Gov. W. R. Marshall, Hon. Alex Ramsey, Hon. Edmund Rice, Judge A. Goodrich, John P. Owens, Thomas Odell, William H. Tinker, Bartlett Presley, William P. Murray, Henry F. Masterson, Maj. A. Van Voorhes, Henry L. Moss, N. W. Kittson, Hon. J. D. Ludden, Capt. E. Y. Shelley, A. L. Larpenteur, William E. Hartshorn, E. W. Lott, Charles H. Oakes, J. W. Bass, M. N. Kellogg, B. W. Bronson.

"At 9 o'clock in the evening the old settlers sat down to a very acceptable banquet prepared by Colonel Shaw of the Merchants, where after doing justice to the good things set before them they indulged in rehearsing the history of the early days of the state, going even so far back as to the old territorial days, recounting struggles and difficulties with the Indians,

2 -

personal anecdotes and calling up the remembrance of a thousand interesting events that occurred in the olden time. * * *

"Captain McKusick * * * related some very interesting incidents in his personal history connected with the early settlements of the St. Croix."

* * *

I
11.
What the Student had to furnish to go to the U. of M.
Grandfather's Day.

How would students today at the University of Minnesota like to have to furnish their own furniture "except stoves"?

Yes, except stoves.

That's what they had to do when the university was new, according to the St. Paul Daily Press of Aug. 14, 1867:

"The regents of the university take great pleasure in informing the people of the state that they are at length ready to open the preparatory department * * *

"It will be required for this course that students shall sustain a good examination in reading, writing, spelling, modern geography and that some advancement shall have been made in English grammar and arithmetic.

"Students will be required to provide their own furniture, except stoves.

"For further information address the principal, W. W. Washburn, St. Anthony Falls, or either of the undersigned * * * J. S. Pillsbury, John Nicols, O. C. Merriman."

Inception of University Farm is seen in this note from the St. Anthony Falls Democrat Weekly, Nov. 12, 1869:

"There is a large farm in connection with the school where young men have the privilege of earning something for themselves."

And four years later, expansion of the farm-education idea was noted as follows in the Duluth Tribune:

"Two brothers, students at the state university, have started a dairy on a small scale. They have two cows and sell milk * * * Anything to get an education is the watch word."

And then the military touch, once more from the St. Anthony Falls

2-

paper, late in '69;

"The military department of the university has been organized and the students are exercised daily in the school of the soldier by Prof. of Military Science Maj. Gen. S. R. W. Johnson, U. S. A."

A little later it was announced;

"The university boys are getting their uniforms as rapidly as possible and are to have guns and cannon this week. There has been some difficulty in procuring trimmings for so many - even the St. Paul dealers being compelled to send east for buttons. The uniform, which is dark gray, with a narrow red stripe, gives a sufficiently military appearance."

* * *

I
Grandfather's Day.

*A short biography of William
Henry Seward.*

A Minneapolis woman might have been the wife of William Henry Seward, secretary of state under Lincoln, if Seward's little wood stove fire hadn't gone out.

That caused him to grow chilly while writing to her, and he decided to cut the letter short.

The text of this letter, written by Seward at the age of 20 to a girl he didn't know but wanted to meet, was discovered the other day by a research worker. It had been given to a Minneapolis paper in 1878 by the woman who as a girl had attracted Seward. She was then married to a Minneapolis man. In releasing the letter for publication she stipulated her name be withheld.

When Seward wrote her on Nov. 7, 1821, this girl was attending a seminary in Troy, N. Y. He said his sister Cornelia had described her as of an affectionate nature. In a bashful, halting manner he spoke of his desire to know her. It is hard to believe that these crude, boyish expressions came from the same hand that years later penned smoothly-worded diplomatic letters at Washington.

Suddenly the romantic tenor of the message is broken by a note of stark realism. Seward writes:

"I have a great mind to stop because ~~my~~ stove is cold."

He then described remaking the fire, but the interruption must have quenched the flames of ardor, for ^{he} ended his letter rather lamely by saying he would write a better one next time "as soon as I get a new knife and a load of wood."

Chills, it might almost be said, were a nemesis to Seward. Years later when he negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000, taxpayers vented their indignation by calling the new territory "Seward's ice box."

Seward made campaign speeches for Lincoln in 1860, one in St. Paul, in the course of which he said:

"Here is the central place where agriculture of the richest regions of North America must begin its magnificent supplies to the whole world ***** I now believe that the last seat of power on this great continent will be found somewhere within a radius not far from the very spot where I stand, at the head of navigation on the Mississippi river."

No doubt he was unaware as he spoke that the girl of years ago was now a married woman in Minneapolis. Perhaps she had even stolen over to St. Paul to hear the voice of her onetime boyish admirer. Who knows?

The Seward grade school, Twenty-fourth street and Twenty-eighth avenue South, Minneapolis, built in 1887, was named for the former secretary of state. Several additions have been made to it until now, according to Principal Charles F. Hellberg, it can accommodate 1,000 children.

I
Grandfather's Day.

Pigs is Pigs, over 1,000 lbs.

13.

Pigs is pigs, though sometimes they make hogs of themselves.

Just as the new year 1870 was being ushered in, this news item appeared in St. Anthony and elsewhere about the state:

"Dr. E. E. Park of Goodhue county owns a pair of Chester White pigs 15 months old which weigh 1,100 pounds although they have been fed only 10 bushels of corn during the whole period of their existence. Arnold & Stanton of St. Cloud have a porker whose weight is 638 pounds."

Early day papers teemed with items about farm production. In October, 1867, the St. Paul Daily Press said:

"The St. Paul beef market is better supplied at this time than at any previous period for months past and the beef itself is of superior quality, denoting unusual care and improvement among the stock raisers."

The everlasting H. C. L. was uppermost in many minds then as now. The article concluded:

"There is a prospect for good beef this winter and from the large supply on hand there is reason for indulging the hope that the price to consumers will be a little more reasonable than has hitherto been the case.

Pigs stole the show in 1870, but the next year it was sheep. In the Minneapolis Tribune, June 17, 1871:

"The high price of mutton the past winter and the competition among butchers to secure it for market induced many farmers to slaughter their sheep, some of them going so far as to destroy their entire flocks. This season ***** wool of all kinds is in active demand ***** during the past year many of the mills have lain still, and are now recommencing their operations to produce for the early markets and for the winter season. ***** The new clip is far superior to any ever before produced in the state.

"Mr. Abel Wilson, a farmer in Richland township, has just brought his fine clip weighing 900 pounds and averaging six pounds to the fleece to market ***** the price for his produce, washed, was 40 cents per pound *****

"We mention the names of these farmers and point to their success to induce more farmers to enter the wool-growing business. ***** We assure them that the future is bright with promise of rich harvest to the careful wool grower."

*** **

Grandfather's Day.

I
*Public school problems
in Mpls.*

14.

A squint through old newspaper records reveals that critics of public school management in Minneapolis started leveling their attacks at school board members early in the game.

Quite apparently there was definite hostility to the school management of this city in 1871, when an election of directors was held. The Tribune in its July 4 issue minced no words:

"The city will, tomorrow, go through with the farce of holding an election for the choice of three members of the school board.

"Special elections may in some cases be necessary, but they should be avoided whenever it is possible to do so. ***** There would appear to be no valid reasons ***** whatever why school commissioners should not be elected on the same day with the mayor or the councilmen *****

"As we have said at the commencement of this article, the farce of electing three directors comes off tomorrow. It is understood that the present officers decline a reelection, and the selection of their successors ***** need not be left either to the retiring members or the present superintendent schools. The cost for current expenses of schools ***** is some \$46,000 per annum, and there is a very general feeling that no fair equivalent is received in return --- that the schools are by no means what they ought to be ***** Complaints that we have been hearing every week for two years from leading men in the city who are not given to fault-finding, many of whom have taken their children from the schools in despair and disgust ***** If the taxpayers ***** and those who have children to educate ***** will take the matter in hand tomorrow and ***** vote for a board of commissioners who will give matters an overhauling, they will do a duty to themselves, their children and the public.

"We have been requested ***** to suggest the following ticket to be voted tomorrow, to wit: Dorilus Morrison, Henry G. Sidle, Samuel C. Gale."

Apparently one issue at this election was the board's demand for more money to build more schools. A newspaper statement the month preceding the election had said:

"The board of education wants more school houses to accomodate the large number of scholars, and money wherewith to build the same. The average attendance during May is reported at 1,891; total enrollment, 2,079."

Grandfather's Day, *Some Minnesota fact-lets*

Some Minnesota fact-lets:

In 1700 Le Sueur built a fort on the Blue Earth.

* * *

Father Hennepin visited St. Anthony Falls in 1680 and named them.

* * *

In 1872 when there was an epidemic of chicken disease, the Minneapolis Tribune cited a cure that included charcoal, yeast, sulphur and flour. It quoted from the Farmers' Union.

* * *

"Why," asked the Chatfield Democrat in 1868, "is the Radical party like the railroad between the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis?" It answered its own question: "Because it is running a 'dummy'".

* * *

St. Anthony Falls Democrat, Dec. 10, 1869: "There are 120 patients in the insane asylum (St. Peter) 60 of each sex." Equality of the sexes, even as early as 1869!

* * *

*Indians provide meat for
white settlers 1855.*

Grandfather's Day.

Even in the days when he was being dispossessed of his lands, Poor Lo was not always a tomahawk-wielding, bloodthirsty savage bent on annexing white men's scalpa. At times, indeed he was an honest-to-goodness Good Samaritan to the paleface.

Such a case was chronicled May 18, 1855 in the Emigranten, published at Ingmansville, Wis. It testifies that the redskins thereabouts provided meat for white settlers to keep them from starving and on at least one occasion kept a pioneer supplied with tobacco.

Said the Emigranten: (translated)

"Three Swedes in Minnesota have in letters to the Swedish paper Hemlandet (the land of home) given the following description of the Chippewa and Sioux tribes - - -

"The Indians have built their camp about two miles from our house and the Swedish settlements at Marine Mills and Chicago Lake (probably Chisago) have had several visits from them. We saw them for the first time on Big Lake island on New Years day. A few days later I visited their camp and saw a large group of hunters departing as I arrived.

"They often seek the warmth of our house when they are cold, but have always behaved in a most friendly manner, and although often accused of taking food, they have never left after a visit here without making us a present of deer meat. They show a decided preference to those places where they are treated to food and coffee, and never fail to pay handsomely in deer meat. They also show their gratitude by selling deer meat to their friends as low as 2 cents a pound while the market price is 8 to 10 cents.

"These Indians belonged to the Sioux tribe and were later chased off by the Chippewas.

"I feel compelled to testify to this point, that if the Indians had not been living here when we first came we would have suffered greater wants during the first winter than we did, for every week * * * * * the Indians brought us a supply of deer meat without any recompense. Doubtless they had noticed that we suffered from want of food. We were among the first to settle in this wilderness. Another time an Indian presented me with a half a deer and some tobacco. They were indeed more peaceful and charitable than many a white man.

"How very strange! The white man drives the Indian further and further into the wilderness and gives him whiskey to drink and then complains that the Indian is not peaceful and well behaved. ' "

* * *

Grandfather's Day.

I
Albert Lea's name well
up in public view.

17.

Albert Lea plans to make a big thing of its Col. Albert Lea celebration, to be staged June 5 --8, during which the days of the 19th century are to be relived, with women parading in old-fashioned gowns and men in top hats, beards and frock coats.

An historical note of many moons ago reveals that Albert Lea got an early start in this matter of keeping its name well up in the public view. And a story in the St. Paul Daily Pioneer of Feb. 9, 1870 is illustrative of the extreme ingenuity that was sometimes employed to that end. Albert Lea, according to this story, was projected in a mirage that was seen by the people of Wells, 20 miles distant. For a city situated in southern Minnesota, that's publicity with the capital P.

The Standard of that city, same month, same year as the foregoing, announced that "Mr. Daniel Dills has caught and sold \$200 worth of pickerel this winter."

They were the fish that didn't get away.

* * *

Albert Lea doesn't try very hard these days to compete with more northerly resorts for the tourist whose interest is solely in fishing. In 1870, though, it might well have entertained ambitions even there, according to an announcement in The Standard in February of that year, which boasted that "Mr. Daniel Dills has caught and sold \$200 worth of pickerel this winter."

And \$200 worth of pickerel at 1870 prices must have been quite a tubful.

I
*War in Europe sends 25 families
 to Minn.*

Intensity of local interest in news from the European battle-front is a reminder that all the nations now at war contributed substantially to Minnesota's population.

Holland, for example, was sending her quota as early as 1853. According to the Minnesota Pioneer of Nov. 24, 1853, "A Dutch Colony, of twenty-five families, has settled within ten miles of Minnetonka Lake, at a place called Bavaria Lake. They are direct from 'Faderland', and are industrious, temperate, and several of them quite wealthy." And the same paper Nov. 29, 1854 said this: "Since August, emigration has been pouring in upon us, and large numbers have crossed the river and located in Cass County. The population of Cass and Benton Counties, it is estimated, has increased some two thousand the past year. Among the number are many families of Dutch, who with their accustomed energy will soon have fine and valuable farms.

(Signed by) "O. H. Kelley, Corresponding Secretary,
 Benton county Agricultural
 Society."

(Kelley later founded the Patrons of Husbandry, or as it was afterward called, the Farmer's Grange.)

Again, in the Minneapolis Tribune of May 29, 1867: "Quite a number of emigrants, direct from Amsterdam, arrived in our city yesterday morning, which is but the advance guard of a thousand more in New York, or en route for Minnesota."

The Minneapolis Tribune, Jan. 1, 1876 gives the number of Holland-born Minnesotans as 1,738.

Holland's contribution to Minnesota was not in man power alone. A large fraction of the money which financed the building of Minnesota railroads came from the 'Land of the Dutch'.

* * *

I

*R. F. Jones, the big fish merchant
of this city*

Gilstad: - - -

Minneapolis Tribune, Aug. 21, 1876 - - - "R. F. Jones,
the big fish merchant of this city, was the chief object of interest
on our streets yesterday, or rather, that nobby turnout of his. He
had two handsome bay horses, harnessed tandem to a light wagon.
He had the long team under perfect control, and in style, he vied
with the four-in-hand of the eastern watering places."

Colquhoun & Son
102 N. 3rd St.

I

Picturesque Journalism

Grandfather's Day

Picturesque journalism should logically be found in the annals of a region that is rich in historical interest. And that pioneer Minnesota newspaper The Stillwater Gazette, published in the historic valley of the St. Croix, has not let its readers down in this respect.

Thus, in the Gazette of Sept. 16, 1873 - - -

"That beer sold on the fair grounds last Thursday had a peculiar effect on some of the imbibers. One man who claimed he only took 'seven or nine' glasses drove home at a rate at least equal to six miles an hour and mistook the vaults near one of the breweries for stables, and demanded that his team be placed therein * * * Another party with one hind wheel smashed so the hub dragged on the ground, was found two or three miles from home, headed for Marine. It was with considerable difficulty that he was made to understand that his residence was in Stillwater and not Marine."

* * *

Then there is the story of the "candy kid" who lost his girl friend. Said the Gazette on May 19, 1875: "If the spelling mania isn't cured soon our whole social fabric will tumble. 'He's a nice sort of a boy,' said a young lady yesterday, as she rolled up his photograph and engagement ring for returning, 'but no well brought up girl can be expected to cling to a man who spells confectionery with an a'".

* * *

Could it by any chance have been a grove of live oaks? If it was, the Gazette of July 8, 1874 would scarcely have omitted the fact in its comment: "A Grange picnic was held on the Fourth in Nicollet county at a

Grandfather's Day

place called Coffin's Grove. They had music and dancing and a good time generally, notwithstanding the place has such a sepulchral appellation. If the proprietor of that grove was present it would have been according to the eternal fitness of things that a little 'bier' should have been one of the staple articles in the festivities of the solemn occasion."

* * *

Five Sundays, five Mondays and five Saturdays in one month! Honest. This, said Gazette on May 26, 1875, was the case that month and there is the added note: "This will not occur again in just 3,400 years." One can easily verify the five-Sunday-Monday-Saturday phase by drawing up a home made calendar for a 31-day month with the first day on Saturday. But the 3,400 - year calculation - suppose we just take that on faith.

Witchcraft, in Goodhue county

Witchcraft, it appears, was not without its hold on the imagination of early-day Minnesotans, at least some in Goodhue county. The Red Wing Argus of Sept. 26, 1872, contained a sordid account of how a young housemaid was accused of witchery, was tortured until she "confessed" and of how she then took her story to the county attorney.

In this instance, at least, it appears the old Salem, Mass., folk, had nothing on Goodhue county. The Argus related that in one of the interior towns of the county there lived a "Farmer A and his wife," who had in their employ the young housemaid. The infant of the couple became ill and then the mother. Said the paper:

"Unfortunately the husband and wife and some of their friends came to believe that the baby and the mother were bewitched by the servant girl. Accordingly they determined to subject the girl to an examination, the examiners being Mr. and Mrs. A, Mr. and Mrs. S. and Mr. and Mrs. Y. During the examination Mrs. A. was compelled to retire for a short time and this was taken by the superstitious people present to be a convincing evidence of the girl's guilt. They were determined that she should confess herself to be a witch and that by her evil powers she had made the baby and mother sick."

Thereupon, the account continues, they boiled water and compelled the girl to forced the girl's face into a pan of it so that her lips were scalded. Concluded the Argus:

"Finally the girl's fear forced her to confess that she was indeed a witch and, after a little more ill usage, principally by words only, she was suffered to go free and make her way home.

"The first of this week the girl was in town with her friends to make complaint against her tormentors. The affair as given is as she tells it. We believe that the county attorney has been given charge of the matter and intends to prosecute all concerned in the barbarous treatment of the girl."

* * *

Gilstad: This is an expurgated version of the withcraft yarn. Some of the original edition is deleted by the censor. For your eddification not to say amusement, the straightaway tale from the Red Wing Paper says: They took the urine Mrs. A. had voided, placed it in a pan over the fire to boil and held the girl so she must inhale the fumes arising from it to drive the devil from his possession of her body. While the liquid was boiling hot and the excitement of the tormentors was at its height, Mr. Y. forced her face down into the pan so that her lips were scalded. (Confidential to editors!)

THE INNER MAN.

Sustenance for the inner man--and woman--was as absorbing a subject in Grandfather's day as now. And there were innovations and changes and new dishes long before the advent of the newspaper girls who tell how and when to cook things. The papers scores of years ago constantly contributed to the topic of edibles--and drinkables, too, for that matter.

It was in 1862 for instance, that the notion that frog legs were good eating began to gain a foothold hereabouts. St. Paul Daily Press, that year:

"Frogs are becoming quite popular in St. Paul *****Although the frog dinner is known as a French dish the people in this neighborhood were very dubious in taking the chance in displaying a dinner such as this. When the courage became evident and frog legs became popular" folks referred to this dish "water chicken."

Out-of-season edibles, grown locally, aroused the pride of the growers then as now. One long-ago December a Mrs. E. M. Wilson exhibited a head of lettuce and a bunch of radishes of unusual size, grown in her garden in December from seeds dropped in the fall.

In June 1870 it was cheaper to eat strawberries than potatoes. The berries sold at 10 cents a quart and the spuds, on a comparative basis, at 15.

Of course, the growers had their annual fears of Frosts, but one in 1873 was not at all upset when frost came. Hastings Gazette:

"Mr. Le Sueur of Niniger has five acres of potatoes frozen in the

ground. He does not seem to borrow any grief however over his loss, as he has harvested 5,000 bushels, three of which had gone to market, from which he realized from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per bushel."

Millers were alert to flour price changes the same as now. Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 2, 1877:

"The advance in freight of 10 cents a barrel to Chicago which took effect yesterday seems insignificant to the consumer of half a dozen barrels of flour a year, but it cost our millers \$2,500 to \$3,000 per week."

In connection with liquid refreshment there appeared this curious item in the Tribune of March 14, 1875:

"The Germans of Austin, 'in solemn conclave assembled, passed a resolution that every man must buy his own beer.'"

In the fall that year the Stillwater Gazette announced something that might have made a big hit during prohibition:

"It is said that a **** chemist has manufactured a compound which, in the concentrated form of powder, possesses all the qualities of lager beer. One ounce of the powder put into a gallon of water will produce a beverage that cannot be distinguished from ordinary beer."

Waxing sarcastic somewhat later, the same journal declared:

"Any druggist with a cistern of pure water and a bushel of salt can make money selling mineral water. A very good spring water can be made of eau de bayou flavored with boiled matches and socks."

* * * * *

Grandfather's Day.

I
Spelling matches in early
Days

23.

QUITE A SPELL.

Grandfather remembers with pleasure the old spelling matches and the excitement those affairs brought into the early lives of Father and Mother. It would appear from newspaper files that the competitive spelling mania hit Minnesota full tilt in the year 1875; at least the papers then gave it sudden outbursts of attention.

What might be called one of the opening guns in the spelling warfare was thus briefly noted in the Minneapolis Tribune in April of that year:

"The Plymouth church spelling match netted about \$300 for the church furnishing fund."

Other 1875 newspaper notices:

"Taylor's Falls has got it bad. We mean the spelling school mania."

"The spelling wave has arrived in Stillwater. The Library association and the Second Presbyterian church are making arrangements for matches this week."

"Orthographobia is rapidly spreading in the city [Minneapolis] It's all a ruse of spelling book publishers."

"The great spelling contest in this (Minneapolis-St. Paul) section will come off when the 24 spellers from Minneapolis meet the St. Paul spellers in [The St. Paul] opera house and then in the Minneapolis Academy of Music. A third contest will be held on middle ground and that will be the supreme moment when the orthographical greatness of these two burgs will be determined."

"The Friday night spelling contest at Brackett's Hall (Minneapolis)

netted the Mission Sunday school \$60."

"The colored citizens of Minneapolis will spell at Harrison Hall Monday May 2. The proceeds will go to the benefit of the African M. E. church."

St. Paul "won" the opera house contest but, although the account leaves something to the imagination, it would appear the competition was very close because "St. Paul won by betting on tails in flipping a nickle," from which statement it would appear the toss of a coin, rather than good spelling, was the deciding factor.

Minneapolis account said in part:

"Three hundred ordinary words had been given out. The audience called for extraordinary words. 'Passe-partout' proved a chain shot and took off W. C. Leonard and Prof. McConnell, who dodged, and Mr. McKibbon of St. Paul.

"'Susquicyanide' took with it Lawyer White, St. Paul and Messrs. Sadler and F. C. Carpenter."

I
*First White child born
in Minn.*

THEY WENT---AND CAME.

Getting in on the ground floor has meant a place in history for the first born in every state. Minnesota is no exception. Historians generally credit Charlotte Clark and Elizabeth Snelling the place of honor as Minnesota's first born white children, although that claim frequently has been contested.

Writing to the Minneapolis Tribune July 12, 1873 an old inhabitant named R. S. Spalding said:

"I claim to be the first white child born in what is now the State of Minnesota. On Feb. 20, 1827 I was born inside the walls of Fort Snelling. ***My father, Stephen Snelling, ran a canoe with me in it in 1828 to St. Louis. From that day to the present I have never returned to Minnesota."

Josephine Pagnard, who died at Fort Abercrombie in 1871, at the age of 104 was said to have been the oldest woman living in northern Minnesota at that time. Her age was considered proved by her certificate of baptism, signed by a French priest at Fort Garry in 1779 when she was 12. She was a native of Minnesota, born on the Red river near St. Vincent's. According to the annals it was not old age that caused her death, but too many flap-jacks.

One for the D. A. R. to check on, since it deals with George Washington, is a Tribune item printed Feb. 9, 1875:

"Aunt Hester Patterson, the old colored woman so well known in this city, and who had evidently attained a very old age though she could not tell how old she was, fell dead yesterday afternoon with heart disease. Aunt Hester was wet nurse to Joyce Heth, the nurse of George Washington."

Date of birth of the "oldest" did not catch all the newspaper attent-

ion, however. In 1871 the St. Paul Daily Press manifested displeasure at the unwonted activity of the stork in the Ramsey county poorhouse.

Said the Press:

"The number of inmates in the county poorhouse is 25, exclusive of infants, of whom seven were born out there within a week and 11 within a month, and more in prospect. From this it would seem advisable to change the name of this public charity from poorhouse to a lying-in hospital."

Following a published item about the birth of a baby to a child-wife aged 11, the infant's grandmother wrote from Middleville, Wright county, to the Sauk Center, Stearns county, Herald:

"We are still alive and doing well. You talk of your smart town and your smart people. Think of John and Penolia! On the 27th. day of December they added to their household a daughter weighing seven and a half pounds. Where the smartness comes in is the age of the mother. Her age is 11 years, 8 months and 22 days and her weight before the birth of the child was 80 pounds. It's no use telling you the father's age for you all know John Slaughter is 35."

* * * * *

*Hitch hiking, not known in early days
John Latto walked from N.Y. to Minn.*

LONG, LONG TRAIL.

In Grandfather's day there was no hitch hiking, at least, such as is known now in the horseless age. Nearest approach was when some obliging farmer gave you a bit of a lift along a country road. For the art of the thumb artist was unknown.

Undoubtedly aware of the small stretch of his intended journey he would be able to make by mooched rides in farm wagons, a Finlander, one John Latto, set out, nevertheless from New York City in 1869 for Holmes City, Douglas county, Minnesota, on the old reliable shank's mare.

A research translator finds this account in the Nordisk Folkeblad, of March 17, '69, published in Minneapolis:

"A Finn by the name of John Latto arrived at Holmes City last Saturday evening after having walked the entire way from New York to Holmes City. At the time of his departure from New York he had one skilling, a Norwegian coin, in his pocket, and no knowledge whatever of the English language. He spent six weeks walking and covered 1,700 miles in his little hike.

"Upon his arrival at Holmes City he still had the Norwegian skilling in his pocket."

What a story for the Alexandria Citizen News or Park Region Echo, or the Evansville Enterprise or Osakis Review, Douglas county's lively papers, if they had been in existence when this sturdy pedestrian tramped into Holmes City! Obviously he must have picked up some odd jobs along the way.

The next January there was another Minnesota walking event, but this one flopped. St. Paul Pioneer:

"An humble imitator of Weston named Michael Igo undertook yesterday on a wager of \$50 to walk from Red Wing to St. Paul between the hours of 7:20

a. m. and 5:20 p.m. The distance is some 55 or 60 miles and the time was 10 hours. After accomplishing some 10 miles of the distance he gave in and returned to Red Wing a very tired man."

The trials and inconveniences of country doctors have long been a subject of remark and have taken on a dramatic, not to say a movie aspect since the exploitation of the exciting experience of Dr. Dafoe up in the Canadian wilds that night the five Dionne babies were born. Here is a sample of what early-day physicians in Minnesota had to contend with in getting from place to place. From the Minneapolis Tribune April 1, 1871:

"A Belle Plain physician crossed the Minnesota (river) one day last week to see a patient, but he could not recross as the ice was broken up. He drove up the river, hunting a crossing. He had to go to St. Peter and use the wagon bridge. He was obliged to drive nearly 60 hours to reach home, having left home in a cutter. The snow having disappeared by the time he reached St. Peter, he was having a 'time of it.' "

First Memorial Day observance
(FOR USE ON MEMORIAL DAY OR BEFORE)

If you were too busy to go to the cemetery, you were asked just to leave flowers at the drugstore.

That was all there was to Minneapolis' first Memorial Day observance. It was May 30, 1869 --- only then it was called Decoration Day.

It was a far cry from the meager tribute to the boys in blue to the ostentatious parades, public gatherings, speeches and flar-waving which characterized Memorial Days in this city as the years flew by --- flew by until the diminishing ranks of faded blue have now almost reached the vanishing point.

The idea of setting apart one day each year on which to pay tribute to the Union dead in the Civil War was first proposed officially by Gen. John A. Logan in 1868, when Logan was commander in chief of the then new organization, Grand Army of Republic. The G. A. R. had been established in Minnesota in 1866, George N. Briggs post being organized in Minneapolis in September that year. Southernwomen, even before the close of the war, had already adopted the custom of placing floral decorations each year upon the graves of Confederate dead and, almost immediately a similiar practice began informally in the northern states, an unwritten law fixing the month as May and the day generally as the thirtieth.

It was May 5, 1868 that Gen. Logan formally fixed May 30 as Decoration Day for the G. A. R., and called for strewing of flowers upon graves. General Logan's plan evidently did not meet with instant support throughout the north and the general himself, when presiding over a national convention of soldiers and sailors in Chicago in the year of his proclamation, 1868, appears to have made no reference to it in his address, according to the

archives. In 1882 the G. A. R. formally urged the designation "Memorial Day" instead of "Decoration Day." By 1910 the day had been made a legal holiday in all states and territories above Mason and Dixon's line. In the south the dates generally are from April 6 to May 14.

So far as newspaper files reveal, the first formal observance of Memorial day in this state was by Acker post, St. Paul, in 1870 and it was not long before other Minnesota posts followed suit with programs that included decoration of graves, orations, processions and decoration of crosses of honor for the Union dead buried in souther graves.

But one year before Acker post's exercises --- that is, May 30, 1869 --- and one year after the original proclamation by General Logan, there was the first observance in this city, meager though it was, of the day that was to become a national institution. On that date the Minneapolis Tribune printed:

"Memorial Day --- Those of our citizens, and the returned soldiers of this vicinity who desire to offer a tribute to the memory of our fallen comrades, are requested to meet at the cemetery at 3 1/2 p. m. today. The day is being observed throughout the country as a national memorial day, and those who find it inconvenient to be present at the cemetery and who desire to contribute flowers may do so by sending them to Murison's drugstore at 3 p. m. "

Grandfather's Day.

I

National Political convention 1892

(FOR USE BEFORE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION NEXT MONTH)

The fan-fan and flare-flare of the national political convention is beginning to be heard and, as Minneapolis Republicans along with others in Minnesota prepare to join the hosts that will gather in Philadelphia next month to nominate a presidential candidate, as reports come over the wires of the preparations that city is making to entertain the throng, the thoughts of the older members of the party here turn back the pages of memory to the time when Minneapolis had a Republican national meet.

That was in 1892, when Benjamin Harrison, then president, was re-nominated and later defeated by Grover Cleveland, Democrat, who himself had been president just before Harrison. In that year the voters had the unprecedented experience of choosing between two candidates both of whom had been president.

Minneapolis was agog long before the opening of the event, at noon on June 7. The city went on a colorful holiday. Flags fluttered everywhere. Hotels buzzed with excitement. Crowds lined downtown streets to catch a glimpse of the advance guards arriving. Chauncey M. Depew, noted after-dinner speaker and wheel horse of Republicanism, was among early arrivals, and addressed a meeting in the Swedish Tabernacle Saturday night June 5.

The convention was held in the Industrial Exposition building, more recently the plant of the Savage company, which has housed many notable gatherings since its dedication in 1886 but which, in the "march of time," has fallen on hard ways. Once the embodiment of architectural grandeur, it is now being razed.

Among national figures who came to Minneapolis for the convention were Senator Matthew Quay of Pennsylvania, J. Sloat Fassett, Gen. Russell A. Alger of Michigan, and the rising young Governor of Ohio, William McKinley. The convention was called to order by Chairman J. S. Clarkson.

Delegates and other visitors found Minneapolis a city of large and eager hospitality. Newspaper ads revealed that countless items for sale at the stores were "convention specials." Reporters, bursting with civic enthusiasm, called Minneapolis guests "the fairest and bravest of the country."

James G. Blaine of Maine, defeated for president by Cleveland eight years before and at this time secretary of state under Harrison, had just resigned to run against Harrison for the nomination here. The second day of the big meet there arrived 200 "Cincinnati Blaine Shouters," who preceeded to raise several roofs.

And then the balloting. The delegates had taken time out to cool off at Lake Minneatonka. Harrison was renominated on the first ballot with 536 and one-sixth votes. Blaine ran second with 182 and five-sixths and McKinley third with 182. Whitelaw Reid of New York was named for vice president.

By a coincidence, it was while this national G. O. P. meet was in progress that St. Paul inducted into office the first Republican regime it had had in quarter of a century.

I
Grandfather's Day.

Rivalry between Minneapolis & St. Paul
in the 1860's

28.

"Way back when" researches reveal that the rivalry between Minneapolis and St. Paul was a lively issue in the 1860s.

Furthermore, words were not minced. Minneapolis Tribune, May 14, 1868:

"A silly Falsehood --- The following silly falsehood, originating with the Pioneer (St. Paul) some time since, and which was refuted at the time of its publication, was eagerly seized upon by the infant of the Press (St. Paul) yesterday, and by said infant credited to the New York Evening Mail.

"With its usual enterprise the Press is about two weeks behind the Pioneer. Here's the item:

" 'Several of the largest business firms in Minneapolis are making arrangements to close out their business in that village as soon as possible and go to St. Paul.'

"Instead of business firms closing out, all are doing a heavy business six days out of every seven and the number of our mercantile houses has been increased by many substantial firms since the opening of the season 1868.

"St. Paul is the last place a business man would seek under any circumstances. It is well understood in Minneapolis, and should be in the office of the Evening Mail, that in St. Paul they have seven Sundays each week, and lack sufficient enterprise to support a pop-box factory even.

"The proprietor of said pop box factory, having been compelled to close up his business, is now engaged in building a hotel at Lake Minnetonka, a short distance from Minneapolis."

Grandfather's Day.

I

29.

*Newspaper editors pestered
by amateur poets*

Newspaper editors of years ago were pestered half to death by perennial visitant, the amateur poet. Spring and other garden varieties there were in abundance. Versifiers who were no worse and no better than many of the latter-day bards who deliver their rhymed manuscripts to ye harassed editor.

Probably no worse and possibly a bit better than some other offerings, one found its way into the State Atlas, published in Minneapolis, in 1867. As a matter of fact, it was somewhat widely copied. It was titled "Whine of Peggy's Lover", and ran thus:

"When Peggy's arms her dog imprison
I always wish my neck was his'n;
How often would I stop and turn
To get a pat from a hand like her'n.
And when she kisses Towser's nose
Oh don't I wish that I were those!"

And this little gem got into the St. Paul Pioneer in 1869:

When on the first of his bold trips
Columbus did come over,
And with his old and rotten ships
No India did discover - -
Fernando then, and Isabelle
Came nearly from their senses,
And wept and cried 'Oh what a sell;
This won't pay our expenses!"

Lots of odd things appeared in the papers. It appears there's really nothing new under the sun and that even Mae West isn't original. For read this, from the Stillwater Gazette of July 2, 1875:

"If anybody wishes to buy a lamp let him COME UP AND SEE US. We've a large assortment * * * The price is no object to us; we only want to get them out of the way."

2.

Grandfather's Day.

There were departments, too, where the gentle reader might air his thoughts and ease his feelings, after the manner of the "Letters to the Tribune", today. The opinion of one Robert Jones, published in the St. Paul Pioneer Nov. 30, 1869, would surely get a rise from those who run the spick-and-span school cafeterias nowadays. Wrote Jones:

"I wish the deacon had a balance wheel to keep him from blowing out his silinder heds. I never had much schooling and don't know about writing for the papers, but this new rinkle up to the schoolhouse is a outrage on every poor man who has not got a house full of servants to waite on him and his children. If them young ones all taik their dinners they will make a regular hog pen of that school house and every room as disgustid as that one with the nakid man and the undressed wimin that you blew up so handsum a couple of Sundays ago. I say let them children have time to go home and git some decent vittles and eat them like christians and go back to the books at 2 p. m."

When somebody lost something he was apt not to count the so-much-per-word cost in patronizing the lost and found column. Stillwater Gazette, Sept. 30, 1873:

"LOST - A small handsome red cow. She ambled gently away from her home on Friday morning last according to her usual custom, but didn't come home that evening. As above stated, her color is red but that portion of her body which faces the ground is troubled a little with white, as is also that portion of the lacteal glands which is visible to the naked eye.

"The left horn is all right but the right one has been slightly mutilated in a hand to hand (or horn to horn) contest with some other tough hided bovine,

3.

Grandfather's Day.

which is wrong. A reasonable compensation will be paid to anyone who shall return the wayward brute * * * When not otherwise occupied her residence is on Third street opposite the courthouse."

* * *

I

Old fashioned Minnesota Snowstorm

Grandfather's Day.

'Twas ever thus. The old time weather had its two sides, as now. In some quarters a good old fashioned Minnesota snowstorm was hailed with glee; in others it was a 100 per cent lowdown dirty trick of the weatherman's. The St. Paul Daily Press, March 18, 1870:

"Last night's Milwaukee train brought four eastern mails, the first which have arrived since Monday night. This is the longest delay in the arrival of the mails which has been experienced in this country since the antediluvian days of Walker's tortoise coach lines.

"But it is no fault of the railroads. The snow blockade has been the heaviest and most intractable which has ever been encountered in this region."

On the other hand, whoever has sat behind a spirited steed and paced him along a glistening road in bracing wintry weather will not fail to appreciate the enthusiastic spirit of this writer in the Minneapolis Tribune, March 21, 1875:

"Pell Mell on the Avenue (Hennepin) - Were you out? Two thousand people. Five hundred turnouts. A broad avenue with a perfect snow pavement. Fifty horses capable of knocking most any number of seconds off three minutes. No distinction on account of age, sex or color. A moral and social horse race is exhilarating. A great luxury to people who never visit the fair grounds in the summer time. * * * Yesterday was the gayest day of the sleighing season, and likely to be the last."

Reverting to train service, an idea of what constituted "speed" in Grandfather's time may be gleaned from this, appearing in the Tribune July 30, 1877:

2.

Grandfather's Day.

To show that fast travelling can be done in this country we have the following:

"Phil Sheridan came from Bismarck on the Northern Pacific to Northern Pacific Junction, 424 miles, in 17 and a half hours, or 24 miles per hour. From the Northern Pacific Junction to St. Paul, on the St. Paul & Duluth road, 131 miles, in four hours, or 33 miles per hour. This includes all necessary stops and passing of trains . . ."

The item was reprinted from the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

One personage who in 1871 spurned any form of locomotion but old reliable shank's mare when he had stern business to do was the Hennepin county treasurer. He had no auto to jump into and fly around in - not even a bicycle. Newspaper item April 4, that year:

"The county treasurer is travelling the streets giving the information to delinquents that their personal property taxes are overdue."

Besides death and taxes, there apparently was one other sure thing in those days - the county treasurer.

* * *

(rrc)

Grandfather's Day.

I
Justice was "executed"
(Justice Hines & Justice Lashells)

Justice was "executed" with a vengeance in early Minneapolis, St. Paul and the erstwhile town of St. Anthony. And sometimes the newspapers did not hesitate to speak their minds plainly about the executions. There appeared no fear of lese majeste. The Minneapolis Tribune, Oct. 18, 1873:

"Brilliant Justice - The learned justice of the East Division, who patronizes saloons nine-tenths of his time and imposes one dollar fines on delinquents the remaining tenth showed his deep knowledge of law by the following incident which occurred the other day:

"A party from Plymouth was brought before the Justice Hines on some charge and before the arraignment the counsel for the defense filed an application for a change of venue. Justice Hines then sent the case over to Justice Lashells. Lashells was brought up from one of his haunts, sat down behind his table and the farce began.

"Without arraigning the defendant at all, the justice proceeded with the trial and heard the evidence on the side of the prosecution. The counsel for the defense then coolly rose and moved to dismiss the case on the grounds that there had been no arraignment and the defendant had not waived a jury trial. The learned justice could do no more than dismiss the case, as the blunder was his.

"That he must have been somewhat fuddled is proved by the fact that he did not know whether the prisoner was in court or not, and after the case was dismissed asked to have him pointed out to him. Justice Lashells' term does not expire for six months yet."

2.

Grandfather's Day.

Among other court incidents that year in this city was the case of one McHenry, traveling salesman from Chicago. The printed account says he "got into the same fix as Dillon O'Brien's hero out at Lake Como and, not wishing to walk into the city, borrowed Constable Cullen's horse and buggy and came in. The constable put him in jail for the smart performance."

* * *

Just what were the 1873 regulations about personal cleanliness in Minneapolis were may cause a little wonder. This curious item was published in that year:

"William and Tom Healy bathed within the city limits and will have their trial tomorrow."

Ignorance of an ordinance cost a Minneapolis man \$7, that same year. The press story:

"Joseph Osman pleaded guilty to discharging a gun within the city limits yesterday, which cost him one dollar fine and six dollars extra. The facts seem to be that a neighbor had a vicious dog who scared Osman's horse, causing him to run away. Osman did not like it and shot (but did not kill) the dog; hence the arrest and plea of guilty.

"If Osman had known that there was an ordinance authorizing him to kill the dog he would have been seven dollars ahead."

* * *

I Men for military duty

32.

Grandfather's Day.

Even if she didn't "raise her boy to be a soldier," many a Minnesota mother is likely to discover in the near future that he has been made one, if plans connected with the new national defense program are carried out.

A hitherto little known statute has just been brought to light, enacted by the legislature in 1905, whereby the governor may call out all able-bodied men between 18 and 45 for military duty, should he deem it necessary. The statute takes on added significance with President Roosevelt's recent request to congress for authority to mobilize the national guard.

In this connection an article has been unearthed from St. Paul Pioneer files of 1862, after the outbreak of the Civil war, dealing with the differences in pay at that time between volunteers and the drafted militia. It says:

"A volunteer receives the full bounty, \$25 advance; one month's pay, \$13 in advance and \$75 at the end of his time of service, together with the usual 160 acres of bounty land. Besides all this, his family receives pecuniary assistance during his absence.

"The drafted militia receive but \$11 per month and no bounty. They can be held to service outside the state three months by order of the governor. Let no one, however, deceive himself with the idea that drafted soldiers will serve only three months, for after all the militia are drafted congress can very easily hold them to serve during the war."

Pages of history turn back again with announcement that the historic ridge roads in the vicinity of Warroad, Roseau county, over which predatory bands of warring Indian tribes traveled for centuries, will resound soon with the din of modern warfare practice.

2.

Grandfather's Day.

The war department has just asked for bombing plane targets, planning to send army fliers soaring over the roads. What are particularly wanted are abandoned houses, junked cars, etc., as well as old barges and other craft for practice over Lake of the Woods.

It was in 1734 that the Crees, made bold by possession of French arms, invaded the region of their hereditary enemies, the Sioux, taking the route of the Roseau river, the old war road from Lake of the Woods to the plains.

There are several warroads in Minnesota but this Warroad got its title, according to Minnesota Geographic Names, from the definition: "All countries possessed by any one (Indian) nation where war parties are often passing, is called the Road to War."

* * *

MADE IN U.S.A.

Goodwin-Dixon

Minnesota Writers' Project
28 Northeast 2nd St.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 9, 1941

Mr. J. G. Morrison, Editor
Morris Tribune
Morris, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Morrison:

It occurs to us that the enclosed clipping may be of interest to you and the readers of your community. In Grandfather's Day is a daily feature on the editorial page of the Minneapolis Morning Tribune.

If you should reprint this article, or any part of it, we will be grateful if you will give due credit to the Minnesota WPA Writers' Project and mail us a marked copy for our Project records file.

Very truly yours,

RM:sm
Enc.

Roscoe Macy
State Supervisor
Minnesota Writers' Project

May 8, 1941

Editor
The Peoples Press
Owatonna, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

It occurs to us that the enclosed clipping may be of interest to you and the readers of your community. In Grandfather's Day is a daily feature on the editorial page of the Minneapolis Morning Tribune.

If you should reprint this article or any part of it, we will be grateful if you will give due credit to the Minnesota WPA Writers' Project and mail us a marked copy for our Project records file.

Very truly yours,

RM:sm
Enc.

Roscoe Macy
State Supervisor
Minnesota Writers' Project

I

Whoopie in former days in Stillwater

Grandfather's Day.

Whoopie in former days was realistically described by the Stillwater Gazette on June 3, 1873. It is sometimes asserted that modern writers draw too largely on their imaginations in portraying exploits of the river men of many years ago, but this description is first hand:

"When the husky, weather-bronzed river boys get down from the drive, overflowing with a surplus of latent muscle and a plethora of ducats won by dint of severest toil, many of them are more or less disposed to celebrate their release from arduous labors by what is vulgarly denominated an old-fashioned spree.

"The money flies, you bet. The chest expands and the hat rests jauntily on the back of the head. The hearts expand to that extent that they extend the most cordial and pressing invitation to the whole round world and the rest of mankind to join them in 'taking something.'

"As the drinks multiply they become more fiercely jubilant, and they firmly believe themselves endowed with the strength of 13 or 14 double back action steam engines, and if they don't collide with each other (which is often the case) they stumble against the strong arm of the law as represented by our fearless and sturdy policeman."

Describing a round-up of river men by the 'strong arm of the law', the editor said:

"Some outside sympathizer effected an entrance [to the jail] by the window and pried open the heavy iron doors and set a portion of the captives free. The liberated prisoners immediately hired a carriage at one

2.

Grandfather's Day.

of the livery stables and drove about town, calling at the office of Esquire Van Vleck, but found the hall of justice closed.

"They drove to Dish's restaurant and ordered the most costly viands obtainable. Dismissing the vehicle, they wended their way back to the lookup and, securing the attendance of Justice Van Vleck, they were assessed fines ranging from \$20 to \$50."

It doesn't call for any great stretch of imagination to deduce a connection between such incidents as that related and the following item which the Minneapolis Tribune printed in the fall of 1874:

"The work of putting in the new cells in the Washington county (Stillwater) jail is about completed.

"It is estimated that about 30 tons of iron has been used in their construction."

Thirty tons of iron might mean absolutely nothing at all to Mr. Hitler, of Nazi note, but when applied as a whoopee quietus it probably was very effective.

* * *

I

34.

Grandfather's Day.

Early Telephone in Mpls.

THE LINE WAS BUSY.

"No, you have the wrong number."

This familiar statement, which has become a serio-comic theme in the existence of the great American family, did not come over the phone wire often enough in the early days of Alexander Graham Bell's invention to arouse the wrath of a phone user. Reason: There were at first so few instruments that there were also few numbers, and chances of mistakes were less. Besides, the phone patron then was much more inclined to be forgiving than now, for wasn't this new contraption just simply wonderful?

It was no handy little French affair that you could listen to and talk into while holding it in one hand, no stream-line gadget that had "the whole town talking" when it was nailed onto the wall of a telegraph company in Minneapolis in September, 1877. Description from the Minneapolis Tribune, Oct. 1, that year:

"Mr. R. H. Hankinson, superintendent of the Northwestern Telegraph company, has accepted the agency for Bell's speaking telephone and has one of them in operation at his office. It is run by a strong magnet. It consists of three pieces, the machinery part being enclosed in a case about the size of a red herring box, while the receiving instrument, which resembles a cigar box in size and shape, is provided with an ear trumpet. The speaking tube is not unlike the cup of the cup and ball toy.

"It is rigged with an alarm bell to attract the attention of the person to be addressed. By putting the trumpet to the ear, a person can hear distinctly every word uttered in the mouthpiece of the corresponding telephone.

2.

Grandfather's Day.

which may be located at a distance of 10 miles.

"The cost of the instrument is \$40 a year, the parties renting it to put up their own wires. It is practical and requires no special skill to use it satisfactorially. It would seem that there must be a demand for them in the city."

And the following, five days later:

"The business offices of the Minneapolis Harvester Works in Centennial block have been connected with the shops, two miles off, with a telephone - and business is carried on as expeditiously as though both departments were in peck measure.

"When there is a lull in business the clerical force are said to stimulate the mechanics with a sweet concord sound transmitted over the wire, "Old Hundred" was wafted back from the works yesterday to the delight of Mr. Jones and his assistants. They are convinced that the telephone is a big thing."

In other words, the mechanics were keeping up with the Joneses.

* * *

I

Police Chief Mike Hoy thrown in jail in Canada.

Grandfather's Day.

ACCORDING TO HOY.

Police Chief Mike Hoy, long remembered by Minneapolitans as the energetic officer who in 1873 attempted to kidnap a bogus lord in Winnipeg and bring him back to Minnesota, had plenty of troubles in his hectic police career.

"Lord Gordon Gordon" defrauded the unwary, from humble timber cutters up to Jay Gould. However, his perfidy was unknown to Canadian authorities and they objected to Hoy's method of arresting Gordon. The Manitoba attorney general had Hoy thrown in jail and friends of the chief spent several months and thousands of dollars getting him back home.

On Hoy's arrival in Minneapolis, 2,000 citizens, a troop of Irish Rifles and a band greeted him. The Canadian attorney general later took a severe beating from Hoy on the streets of St. Paul.

Some of Hoy's support vanished, though, after he apprehended prominent citizens in gambling raids and put the names of the mayor and certain aldermen into the record for breaking the driving speed limit. Newspapers of Dec. 2, 1873 called for his removal from office.

But Hoy continued to enforce the law with the reluctant assistance of a justice not in sympathy with his methods. Once he arrested a citizen for fighting and, since the evidence was plain, the justice could do nothing but convict the prisoner. He fined him a dollar, remitted the fine, then told Hoy:

"There, put that in the paper --- you!"

2.

Grandfather's Day.

Later the chief attempted to administer justice himself and was indicted. The importance of the occasion impressed the judge, who had given some artificial stimulation to his authority. Profanely he called the crowd to order.

"Hello, Munger," he said, blinking at Hoy's only accuser, "we're here --- hic --- to try Mike Hoy. So ---hic ---help yer God ---hic ---tell your story!"

Then he dismissed the case as "only another barroom brawl."

Hoy quit the police force in 1874 but joined the posse that caught members of the Jesse James gang after the Northfield bank robbery. His message, to the Minneapolis Tribune from Minneopa, Sept. 14, 1876, said:

"We came onto the robbers' camp at 6:30 this morning and captured all of their blankets, bridles and coats. We are in hot pursuit."

Hoy died in Minneapolis March 20, 1895.

* * *

Speed Now - Then

Grandfather's Day.

SPEED.

It's a far cry backward from Colonel Lindbergh and Barney Oldfield to "speed", as Grandfather understood the word.

What the old gentleman would have thought of ordinary 60-mile-an-hour trains, of streamlined Hiawathas, of planes that go umpty "m. p. h." can only be imagined. But in bygone days speed was something else again.

A few examples:

St. Paul Daily Pioneer, Jan. 23, 1870 --- "Yesterday about noon Policeman Shields arrested a copper colored gentleman on horseback who was engaged in riding up and down Jackson street at a more rapid rate of speed than the ordinances of the city permit. The rider and the horse were taken to the city hall, where justice will probably be done hereafter."

And who remembers the old runaways? That same month the Pioneer chronicled:

"On Friday evening at the corner of Seventh and Jackson streets a cutter and sleigh met, embraced and parted. The horse attached to the sleigh was divorced from the latter and passed down Seventh street briskly."

(Question: How fast is briskly?)

The war against speed went on --- also briskly. In 1873, the Minneapolis Tribune printed:

"An ordinance - That no person or persons shall run or drive or cause to be run or driven, any locomotive engine or engines, railroad cars or a train of cars within the city limits of Minneapolis faster than at the rate of six miles an hour. Any person violating the provision of this ordinance

2.

Grandfather's Day.

shall be punished by law by a fine of not less than \$20 and not exceeding \$75, and cost of prosecution."

If a certain mule belonging to the streetcar company in 1877 felt inclined to step it up, he must have been effectually restrained by his handicaps. He drew this newspaper publicity:

"That mule on the Washington avenue streetcar line was born in trouble and yet he takes his three meals a day just as though the sparks didn't fly upward. The other day he got wedged in between two cars, where any less perverse animal would have kicked the bucket, but he only kicked the car until he got loose, and again more recently he fell into the ditch down Washington avenue, and his ears loomed up like pipes on a Mississippi steamboat. But he is all right once more and is looking for more trouble and ditches to fall into."

Then, here was speed with a capital S, speed which could hardly be equalled at this advanced day. On April 15, 1871, it was recorded:

"A man arrived in this city yesterday morning from Maine, bought a lot, purchased the lumber, built a house and took tea in it last evening. He will do for Minneapolis."

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PIONEER PUBLIC PLEASURE.

Annals of public entertainment in days now long ago in Minnesota show, in contrast to present custom, that dramatic "critics" were more inclined than not to pull their punches. Shows were scarce, so the show was almost always good.

- This particular attraction must have been a knockout, judging by the Minneapolis Tribune's writeup, Dec. 18, 1874:

"A large audience greeted the Camilla Urso troupe last evening on the occasion of their first appearance in Minneapolis. Much was expected of them, and to say that the realization exceeded the expectation is a mild way of expressing it. Madame Urso last evening filled them with rapture by her exquisite playing upon the violin. Her manipulations of that instrument are simply perfect."

Perhaps, since this was in Grandfather's day, the contraption mentioned was Frankenstein's grandfather. A sort of robot. Said the St. Paul Daily Press, June 2, 1870:

"The steam man used in drawing vehicles, the bearded lady, the Circassian queen from Barnum's Museum, with educated pigs and other curiosities are on exhibition at the corner of Third and Jackson streets. The steam man is exhibited in action."

One St. Paul confectioner combined a museum with his candy business. Pioneer of May 18, 1870:

"Schroder's Museum will be open hereafter to visitors day and evening, Sundays excepted. My collection includes a full grown calf with two heads and eight legs and two tails, a Minnesota production. In connection with the museum I have opened a first class fruit and confectionery store through which

visitors will have to pass to see the museum."

Minnesota was right there along with the rest of the country in turning up prehistoric monsters every now and then. This particular fellow didn't constitute a pay-admission show but he must have drawn a lot of attention.

St. Anthony Express Weekly, Aug. 23, 1865:

"The remains of a *dikelocephalus Minnesotensis* were found by Dr. Johnson on Thursday where the workmen were blasting for Rogers & Co's. mill, under the brink of the Falls. The specimen is a very large one. These curious and extinct animals are imperfectly known. Owen the geologist speaks of them as being found in the bluff of LaGrange mountain, near the head of Lake Pepin and also in the Great Slide about five miles below the mouth of the Miniskah river. The first of this remarkable species ***** was discovered on the banks of the St. Croix. *****The specimen may be seen at the office of Drs. Johnson and Le Boutilier."

Annals indicate, furthermore, not so much of a tendency to long-drawn oratory at public events. An instance of nice reticence was described in the St. Paul Pioneer, Dec. 5, 1869, the occasion being the turning on of water pipes on Jackson street before an assemblage of prominent citizens. Judge Goodrich, because of his position as oldest settler, "quietly turned on the faucet and the clear, sparkling water from Lake Phalen poured forth. For a few minutes they gazed upon the miniature waterfall and then turned thoughtfully away and disappeared."

(THOSE WERE THE DAYS!)

doings in Mpls and environs

Truth is stranger than fiction. 'Twas always so, and the fact is emphasized when one cons yesteryear annals of doings in Minneapolis and environs. Picked at random from newspapers of Grandfather's day:

"It is estimated that nearly 300 people were unable to gain admission to the Hennepin Avenue Baptist church Sunday evening. The religious interest increases day by day.--Minneapolis Tribune, April 20, 1875.

"Premiums are offered at the coming county fair for the best pair of stockings knit by a person 80 years old or over; \$1 for the first, 50 cents for the second."--Stillwater Gazette, Aug. 18, 1875.

A letter mailed in this city in October, 1877 and returned from Boston for a better address had this on the envelope: "Aunt Jemina Greenleaf of Main street near Center, right hand side opposite the Market huss and 'tother side the Milliners, Bosting."

"Ole P. Fredell, prompted by the laudable desire for cleanliness, bathed in the water of the Mississippi river but unfortunately selected an unlawful hour--the middle of the afternoon. He was reprimanded and discharged. Peter Oswald and Andrew Stoden took a bath under like circumstances for which luxury they paid \$3 each into the city treasury. Turkish baths are cheaper."--Minneapolis Tribune in July, 1878.

Two lost-and-found items in June, 1871:

"LOST--An ivory four-jointed one foot measure which I have carried in my pocket 56 years. The finder will be rewarded or thanked as he pleases, for its return. John Potts Brown.

"Mr. Shephard of Stillwater lost a pocket book and \$100. James

Devalin, a laborer, found a pocket book and announced the fact, but he couldn't answer the question as to whether or not it contained the \$100 because he hadn't opened it. Investigation resulted in its identification and return to the owner, and the honest laborer was rewarded."

Under the heading "Minneapolis Chemist Shows Some of Them Up," was this article: printed in August, 1876:

"It is well known among medical practitioners that many of our popular cosmetics contain active poisons. For instance, Florida water is composed of acetate of lead, 50, flowers of sulphur, 20 and water, 1,000 parts. Bahama water is very similar but perfumed differently." After exposing a list of other alleged poison cosmetics then on the market the writer closed with the information that an innocent hair dye could be made from green walnut hulls.

Those who haunt Minnesota's famous fish streams and lakes will be interested in learning from the St. Paul Pioneer of April 30, 1870:

"Fishermen are having rare luck nowadays in hauling strange monsters from the muddy depths of the Mississippi and Lake Pepin. Garfish of all varieties, great water salamanders and immense shrimps, slimy catfish and crosses between reptiles and fish which have no name reward the labors of fishermen and excite the wonder of embryonaturalists. The last specimen was a garfish with a dog's nose at the end of its long bill."

*Styles in early days*THESE WERE THE STYLES.

Persons of the masculine persuasion who are prone to make fun today of those things the women are wearing for hats and who despairingly wonder if the fair sex will ever get back again to millinery normally may be comforted by the reflection that their grandfathers also were probably aghast at some of the feminine headgear that confronted them.

St. Paul Pioneer, Sept. 20, 1868, gave the names of some of the new "creations" as "Onwards," "All the Go" and "Ho for the Pacific." If the hats reflected the spirit of their names, they must have been wows. The paper said they were the "gayest of the gay."

Two years later the "Shoo Fly" appeared, being herald in a writeup of spring millinery displays thus:

"All the trimmings, ribbons, flowers, or feathers are perches upon the very top of the hat, falling down in festoons at the back with scanty trimmings of lace and satin folds about the low brim."

Describing the new "Cottage" bonnet, the 1870 article went on:

"Bonnets are a trifle larger, by addition of lace. **** China crapes are used somewhat for bonnets and extensively for bows which are as enormous as ever and generally fringed **** Flowers will be in abundance; feathers in light demand."

Milady of those times was as alert to frills, fripperies and finery as her successors. And she liked jewelry! Minneapolis Tribune, Feb. 8, 1868:

"Diamonds are beginning to be pretty plenty hereabouts and Minneapolis can display some fine ones worn as ornaments. There are three of these gems in the city owned by private individuals, the aggregate value of

which is \$2,400, besides a goodly number of stones ranging in size in the neighborhood of one carat."

The Tribune Oct. 28, same year, contained this terse statement:

"Reversible dresses are the latest novelty for ladies."

Probably well understood in that day, the item leaves 1940 wondering whether the ladies could reverse their ball gowns into night gowns, their house wrappers into cigar wrappers or their street dresses into seal-skin coats.

A bargain sale ad. of a skirt factory "next door to the Tribune building" disclosed:

Ladies' hoop skirts are selling at prices ranging for 50 cents to \$3.50."

"Corsets sell at from 65 cents to \$1.75

Fashion notes in 1872 in this city:

"A boa and a small round muff is the thing. Cuffs are obsolete. Keep in the fashion even if your wrists do suffer."

"Brides in good society nowadays avoid most strictly the traditional gray and brown traveling suits formerly in vogue and dress as inconspicuously as possible so that 'all creation needn't know we've just been married.'"

"The latest spring styles for ladies include birch bark canoes worn in place of bustles."

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OLD-TIME RELIEF.

After all, there's really nothing new under the sun---unless it's parachute armies---and long ago in Minnesota there was a relief problem that took various measures to solve. There were soup houses, job scarcities and the whole works.

Along in the 1870's the following items appeared in Minneapolis newspapers:

"Bassett's soup house has now been in operation about six weeks. The average number per day provided with a dinner has been 125, which makes a total of 5,250 persons who have been fed and would otherwise have gone hungry had it not been for the generosity of Alderman Bassett and a few others."

* * * * *

"Dr. Leonard has enrolled himself among the number whom the poor of this city will long remember. He has informed all who visit the soup house daily that he will be at their services between the house of 3 and 4 every Tuesday and Friday afternoon. Medicines will be furnished and everything will be free."

* * * * *

"Business is very dull at the central committee rooms, No. 14 Nicollet avenue. Eighteen families were supplied with necessities during the day. Up to this time 178 relief orders have been filled. It is desired that the canvassing committee make report of the success attending their efforts on Monday or at least by Tuesday, as supplies are getting low and it is desirable to know how much aid has been pledged which has not already been rendered."

* * * * *

"A generous gentleman who wishes to remain incognito has established a free soup room in the Cataract House. Soup will be dispensed today for the first time between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock. The hungry and destitute are at liberty to enjoy the kindness of this rare gentleman."

* * * * *

"They've got a new job for the poor 'critters' who can't pay their municipal court fines. They set them to splitting county wood."

"The relief committee wishes to give notice to anybody and everybody who may have work to be done, such as sawing wood or other manual labor, that by leaving their orders at the committee headquarters, No. 14 Nicollet avenue, men can be furnished who can do the work at one half or two thirds the common price. They would gladly work at almost any price."

* * * * *

Then there was the case of the hardy Minnesotan who went without eating as a stunt. The exhibition evidently had no bearing on the unemployment problem. Unless, in a way, it demonstrated what a man could do if he was without work and money.

That man was Dr. Tanner of St. Paul and Minneapolis, who gained considerable fame by his fasts. One of them lasted 42 days, which caused a newspaper to remark jocosely that "the produce men are hunting him with shotguns."

*Revival of a theatrical stock co.
in Mpls. (Plunkett Troup)*

Plans now in the making for revival of a theatrical stock company in Minnesota --- plans in which Mayor Leach, Mayor McDonough of St. Paul and mayors of other cities are taking a leading part --- will, if brought to realization, mark the offering of plays by stock companies hereabouts for the first time since the Shubert companies palyed at the theaters of that name here and in St. Paul.

But dramatic stock productions are an old institution in Minnesota. As far back as the 1860's, Minneapolitans enjoyed them, long before anybody had any idea the movies were to come along and "steal the show."

In the sixties the Plunkett company, headed by actor-manager Charles Plunkett, covered a circuit including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Stillwater, Hastings, Red Wing, Winona and Mankato. The performers traveled at first by river boat but, as railroads stretched out tentatively in various directions, they took to steam transportation. Sometimes the actors and actresses went from hither to hence by stage-coach, to appear in Ten Nights in a Barroom, East Lynne, Lucretia Borgia, Fanchon the Cricket, The Lady of Lyons, The Streets of New York, All's Not Gold That Glitters and a score of other presentations, the names of which stir pleasant memories in elderly playgoers.

Sometimes, even as now with the flickering films, the box office wasn't "so good," and the Minneapolis Tribune, ever a faithful supporter of the Plunkett troupe, excused the slimness of audiences by the inclement weather and the "shocking condition of the streets." When playing here the company appeared mostly in the old Pence Opera House at Second and Hennepin, the present Union City Mission.

Mlle. Marietta Ravel, French actress, was a headliner with the Plunketts, a pantomimist dancer and a prime favorite with her public.

The Tribune, April 1, 1868:

" ***** the terrible sword combat between Mlle. Ravel and Mr. Connolly was one of the finest exhibitions of skill and swordsmanship that we have ever witnessed and repeatedly drew from the audience deafening applause, as did Mlle. Ravel's performance on the tight rope, in which, with a single shot, she extinguished a dozen lighted candles."

Probably nowadays, she would be referred to as a "big shot."

Audiences in those days demanded their full money's worth, so Plunkett and the other touring companies included in an evening's bill not only a full length drama but a farce; also on occasion a curtain raiser. During intermissions there were songs, recitations, dances and instrumental solos.

Top prices generally weren't over 75 cents and reserved seats were on sale at Spaulding's music store or at the bookstore of Bolles & Cooks.

*"Real sport." Back in the 60s.
"Hoss Euchre"*

Back in the days of the gay --- not 90s but 60s!

The days of "real sport."

✓ It was "hoss euchre," --- not by any means to be confused with a better known sport entitled "stud poker." Out of the Minneapolis Tribune, in October, 1868:

"Joseph Patwin, one of the old settlers, is erecting a novel building for a novel purpose on First street near the Pacific railroad. Adjoining his house is a amphitheatre 40 feet in diameter which, when finished, will be devoted to what he is pleased to term the 'hoss game,' which he further states is 'almost shoost de same like euchre.'

"Four splendid horses (of wood) are supported at the extremity of our arms and made to revolve rapidly, while those who participate in this game, 'almost shoost de same like euchre', seated in the saddles with minature lances, endeavor to secure a certain number of rings while making a certain number of revolutions. The individual who secures the least foots the bill. In case two players secure the same number of rings, Mr. Patwin says, in proof of his assertion that it is 'almost shoost de same like euchre,' that they 'saw off.'

"Not being versed in either game we will not venture an opinion as to their similarity."

The jocular vein in which this subject was handled was not exceptional in the early newspapers.

Many smaller items of journalistic wit indicate what may - or may not - have caused grandpa to lost a vest button:

Minnesota Pioneer (this was further back, in 1850) "Children are queer philosophers. 'Ma, do combs eat?' 'No, child.' 'What do they have teeth for?' "

Another little gem from the same journal: "A friend observes that he always looks under the head of 'marriages' to find the news of the weak! "

And (if you can stop laughing long enough to read it) this, also from the Pioneer, 1851:

"Why will the people of St. Paul take their dogs with them to church on Sundays? It is no suitable place for quadrupeds to be entertained with dogmas."

Tribune, 1868 --- possibly not meant to be in the least funny ---

"Perfumed toothpicks are a late novelty."
