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Grandfather's Day

II *Prices on strawberries*

(Attention Tribune - This is intended for early use - during strawberry season).

Announcement a few days ago that Minneapolis housewives should take advantage of the unusually low price and superior quality of strawberries serves to emphasize the important place in the state's markets that has been attained by this fruit. Its development bears out an early-day statement of the St. Paul Daily Press - a statement made when the strawberry business evidently was in its infancy hereabouts.

After telling of some of the activities of berry growers the paper concluded:

"It will be seen that the cultivation of the strawberry is a profitable as well as a pleasant business."

That was in June, 1866. The paper in preceding statements said:

"Mr. F. Benson, from two and a half acres, sold 4,223 quarts, at an average of 25 cents per quart, amounting to \$1056.25. Average yield per acre, 1,689 and one-fifth quarts. Amount realized per acre, \$422.50.

"Mr. James Sweeney, from one quarter of an acre, sold 40 bushels - 1,280 quarts, amounting to \$260. Average price a little over 20 cents per quart. An acre of such would yield 5,120 quarts, which at 20 cents per quart would amount to \$1,024.

"Mr. Charles Crawshaw, of Inver Grove, raised 800 quarts, which were sold at an average price of 17 cents per quart."

The year before the same paper called strawberry prices "extortionate," explaining that there had been at no time during the season a large supply. The price ranged from 30 to 40 cents a quart.

Strawberry festivals were a means of raising money used by the churches long ago, the same as now; and in one case, that of the First Baptist Church

and Society in Minneapolis, the berries contributed considerably, through a succession of socials, toward erection of a house of worship. A "house built upon sand" may fall, as Biblically indicated, but a church built on strawberries evidently was considered a firm foundation and the progress of this particular church society proved the accuracy of the belief.

In the summer of 1867, strawberry affairs among the churches were so numerous as to be almost a rage and, judging by newspaper notices, competition became very keen. At one time the Baptist, the First Presbyterian, the Universalist and several other organizations were going strong in the berry social line and, admitting the rivalry, the ladies of the Universalist church caused a statement to be printed in the Minneapolis Tribune to the effect that they had "the best strawberries grown this season."

Grandfathers' Day.

II
*First Fourth of July celebration
in Mpls.*

2.

(Attention Tribune - This is special for Fourth of July Issue).

✓ It is a far cry from the 1940 model of Fourth of July celebration in Minneapolis to that first, comparatively unpretentious affair in 1849, the year that Minnesota became a territory. Ant it also was a far cry from that event back to the original fateful day when the Fourth of July made its significant mark on American calendars. It was in 1776, on July 4, the continental congress adopted the Declaration of Independence and John Hancock, president of the congress, signed it. Members of the congress did likewise, subsequently.

Just before the Fourth, in the year Minnesota was organized as a territory of the United States, there was published in the Minnesota Register this information:

"The population of our territory as returned to the office of the secretary by Sheriff Morgan, who was authorized to take it in the absence of the marshal, is about 4,500."

Later the same paper gave this account of the territory's first Fourth, observed formally hereabouts:

"It has never been our fortune to attend a better regulated or more enthusiastic celebration than we had here in St. Paul *** It was numerously attended by the people of both sexes not only those of our town and vicinity but also from St. Anthony, Mendota, Stillwater and other parts of the territory.

"At an early hour in the morning we were awakened by the roar of the cannon loaned for the occasion through the politeness of Col. Loomis, commandant at Fort Snelling; and immediately after breakfast the tall, tapering pine pole prepared *** by Mr. C. P. V. Lull was raised and the star spangled banner thrown to the breeze. At 11 o'clock the marshal of the

day, F. Steele, esq., and his assistants, Messrs. Nobles and Larpenteur, formed the procession in front of the St. Paul House and marched it to the grove in the rear of the schoolhouse *** Gov. Ramsey assumed the duties of president of the day, assisted by Hon. H. H. Sibley and H. M. Rice as vice presidents. The religious services were *** performed by Rev. Mr. Geer, chaplain at Fort Snelling and the reading of the Declaration of Independence was tastefully and audibly executed by W. B. Phillips, esq. The oration by Judge Meeker then followed.

"The procession then marched to the American House where about 200 persons, comprising many ladies, sat down to an excellent dinner.

"After the cloth was removed *** toasts were read by Toastmaster W. K. Marshall, esq., of St. Anthony *** Gov. Ramsey, Hon. C. K. Smith, secretary of the territory, Hon. H. H. Sibley and others were called up during the festivities. The celebration was enlivened by the music of the excellent band of the Sixth Infantry from Fort Snelling. ***

"The celebration was concluded by a grand ball at the American House and a brilliant display of fireworks gotten up by Mrs. O. H. Kelley."

This, then, was the first Minnesota celebration. A sand and safe, without any campaign beforehand to make it so; no grim list of automobile tragedies afterward, no accounts of child deaths from fireworks. Those were the days of Patriotism with a capital P!

II

3.

*Early Transportation.
(Ski + Railroad)*

BEAST? NO, SKI!

Tracks in the snow left by a man on skis baffled everybody, even the scientists, "once upon a time." The incident was thus related in the May 12, 1869, issue of Nordisk Folkeblad, then published in Minneapolis:

"*****When Gullick Knudsen Laugen, one of the very first to settle at Rock Prairie, Wis., travelled on skis to Beloit, the Americans who found the track were at a loss trying to decide what animal might leave an imprint of that sort. The town's most outstanding naturalist ventured the theory that, in western forests, a hitherto unknown beast existed and that its limbs and its mode of transportation caused these strange tracks. He was unable to say how this strange beast managed to get about in the summer, nor could he say whether it might attack and kill human beings."

One does not probe far into Minnesota annals without getting a laugh. Here is one out of the "horse and buggy days" when, missing a train, a man got behind his trusty steed and drove until he caught up with the cars. It's recounted in the Minneapolis Tribune of July 10, 1869:

"The Northern Pacific exploration party left the Minneapolis depot yesterday morning on a special train furnished by President Becker, for St. Cloud.*****The indefatigable George Brackett, commissary of the expedition, was too late for the train and found himself left behind. However he pursued in a buggy and overtook the train just beyond St. Anthony Junction. The engine stopped and he was received on board with immense enthusiasm."

Still another chance to grin---entirely different, but still a smile-provoker. A correspondent for the Toronto Globe, on his way to Red River, in 1870 visited a court in St. Cloud. He wrote his paper:

"He (the judge) was a sharp looking little man, but there he sat chewing tobacco in the most ravenous manner, and squirted the juice about in a way that would have shocked the sensibilities of our prim lawyers***** The prisoner sat chewing tobacco quite as voraciously as the judge. The witnesses chewed and squirted; so did the lawyers and nothing was more ludicrous than to see the lawyer for the prosecution as he rose, walked around, pulled out his paper and offered a chew to the miserable prisoner, who took it in quite a fraternal way."

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II

4.

*Bayard Taylor's 2nd visit
to Mpls.*

POETICALLY VIEWED

Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Anthony, Minnehaha Falls as viewed through poetic eyes and described in the manner of a poet formed the subject for a picturesque panorama written in 1871 by Bayard Taylor, poet, traveler and man of letters, whose verses were much esteemed in his time. Prominent among them were Pennsylvania Ballads, Poems of the Orient and a translation of Goethe's Faust.

Taylor lectured in Minneapolis in the Methodist church in 1859, returning for a visit here in 1871. It was on completion of this second visit that he wrote the New York Tribune:

"I had not visited Minnesota since the spring of 1859. Twelve years in those western cities is usually synonymous with complete change, not merely improvements but growth into something else, and so I found it. *****The looking and semi-savage suburbs were wonderfully transformed into sumptuous residences and gardens---in short, St. Paul seemed to be not only 50 years older but to have been removed *****further south. Its former bleak, northern aspect had entirely vanished. *****I do not suppose the people enjoy more freedom from business cares than those of any place in the west, but there are external hints of possible leisure which are very pleasant to one like myself who is rather sick of hearing nothing else mentioned except the material developments of our great country.*****"

"We visited the sawmills (in Minneapolis) which annually produce lumber to the value of \$5,000,000 and I found to my inextinguishable regret*****that the beautiful Falls of St. Anthony have been sacrificed to business. The place

where they were knows them no more, but several hundred yards further up the river there is a big mill dam covered with plank facing, down which the Mississippi slides with a well-drilled obedience. The wild and ever-changing plunge of the dark waters has gone forever---a useless aspect of nature, the practical man may say---and in its place there is a grand and successful industry which has built up Minneapolis, only a four year old village when I first saw it, into a city of 18,000 inhabitants*****We also saw the wollen mills, which turn out the finest blankets in the world, and an establishment which manufactures seamless bags.*****

"Col. King's farm and his famous collection of stock was our next point of interest. I presume there is no finer company of blooded bulls and cows in the United States, hardly even in England. Devon, Shorthorn, Jersey, Ayrshire, all had their classic representatives with pedigrees like the grandees of Spain*****The collection must be nearly unparalleled for I heard a gentleman whispering of bulls worth \$12,000 and cows worth \$5,000 apiece.

"We drove to Minnehaha.*****Here is a very fair water power that has not been used. After a while Minneapolis will stretch down in that direction and the gorge will be filled up by an immense manufacturing establishment, with the cascade driving its huge wheels. Minnehaha is the luckiest waterfall in the world; it has achieved more renown on a smaller capital of performance than any I ever saw."

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II

5.

*Frank Delano adopted a unique
style to*
(*"BOOST YOUR TOWN"*)

In Grandfather's day they didn't have chambers of commerce and high-powered methods of municipal publicity. It behooved each loyal editor and each loyal citizen to boost his region individually. One Frank Delano adopted a unique style when he wrote under a Stillwater dateline, in January 1854 to the Minnesotian. His letter appeared under the heading "Items From the St. Croix." He wrote:

"I notice now and then items in your journal calling the attention of immigrants to the different locations, each of which appears to be a 'paradise found.' I don't recollect having yet seen any account of a 'paradise lost' in this territory, saving and excepting Milton's and perhaps Carver's, but as both of those fellows would have come under the head of old fogies now that young America has got hold of the lines, paradises lost are evidently kicked out and what few are found up the Minnesota river and about St. Paul and Pig's Eye are laid before the wide-open mouth of the newcomer.

"As a residenter of the river St. Croix I must say that there has not been to my knowledge a paradise lost or found in this vicinity since my residence here. We have been trying to get one up for several years, but as there is so much land to the acre here we find ourselves devilishly out of luck in getting rails to fence with. All we want is a few more rail haulers and plow holders and we shall be fixed to a fraction.

"We are, as you know Mr. Editor, a set of poor devils who have to get our living stealing logs from Uncle Sam and running lumber down the river. But as all the pine lands now in market have been taken * * * we have to go

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it hereafter on the square.

"The land is here within sight of the pineries and mills, land that will produce with ordinary care 50 bushels of corn to the acre, 40 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of winter wheat and of roots and vegetables more with less care than in any other country. Now then, all of you farmers who are coming to Minnesota this spring, I want enough of you to come and squat here to raise and produce the above mentioned, and keep the cash in the country. You can get land at \$1.25 per acre.

"But perhaps you will say I am gassing. Well, my dear Christian friend, don't come here; go up the Minnesota river, loaf around with your hands in your pockets and then go back to New England where you can keep the run of things; where by going round to the neighbors you can find every litter of pigs for the last 200 years chalked down on the barn floor, the birth of every calf ditto, scrape bristles off hogs -- when you kill any -- with a candlestick. Or what would perhaps be better, go down to Illinois among the suckers and shake yourself to death among those mighty savannas of corn, and after death turn to mud!

"Do however, before you kick the bucket, get a copy of Bond's work entitled 'Minnesota and Its Resources,' and refer to its contents from page 85 to 96, and by learning the same by heart you may induce St. Peter to let you in."

* * *

KNIGHTHOOD IN FLOWER

Reminiscent of how they did things when romance was just around the corner in Grandfather's day is an article in the Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 22, 1868, under the heading "Courtship Made Easy." In this less leisurely day of 1940 the model swain, far from resorting to a floral campaign against the defenses of his lady love's heart, is more likely than not to bark "Hey, what's yer name, babe?" and get away with it. But "when knighthood was in flower", The Tribune advised:

"The courtship should be inaugurated by the prospective lover appearing with a bachelor button in his hand, thus declaring himself an advocate of single blessedness. Then, beginning with the lady, for this theory permits the lady to take the initiative, the following flowers should be exchanged in the order indicated:

"White rose --- My heart is free.
"Yellow tulip --- I dare not aspire so high.
"Golden rod --- Encouragement.
"Jasmine --- They gentle grace hath won me.
"Cedar --- I live for thee.
"Red chrysanthemum --- I love.
"Lilac --- My first love.
"Hyacinth --- Jealousy.
"Snap dragon --- Thou hast deceived me.
"Nettle --- Thou are a slanderer.
"Sweet pea --- Grant me an interview.
"Dahlia --- Forever thine.
"Ivy --- Nothing can part us.
"Red carnation --- A token of a pure and ardent love.
"Orchids --- A bridal festivity.
"White camelia --- Perfected loveliness."

It seems to go without saying that when certain of these flowers were out of season the whole love show had to pause a while. Any pair of your modern jitterbugs, scanning this quaint bill of floral fare, might cast it away with an impatient gesture and exclaim: "Oh yeah? How about

finishing up with "Dandelions -- Divorce!"

Now, as before stated, this was all printed in 1868, and is a striking enough routine in itself. But, if Minnesota knighthood was in bloom then, it probably was no more than a bud a decade earlier, when the Red Wing Republican gave to a startled world this bit of information:

"The fourth finger was originally chosen for wearing the wedding ring for the reason that it is not only less used than any of the rest but it is more capable of preserving a ring from bruises, having this one quality peculiar to itself, that it cannot be extended but in company with some other finger, whereas the others may be stretched out to their full length and straightness."

Try that over on your fingers some rainy afternoon.

7.

Grandfather's Day.

'Tennials'

*that this city observed
in 1876*

Because the Minneapolis celebration soon to be staged has such a high sounding, albeit happily chosen name, outsiders may confuse it with centennials held by various cities. The Aquatennial is nothing of the sort — just a plain summer jollification. But the name calls to mind the other kind of a "tenial" that this city observed in 1876. In that United States centennial year the Tribune published, among other things, the following items, in the Grandfather's Day styles:

* * *

"Col. John H. Stevens and Franklin Steele made the first settlements of any importance. That of Steele was on the east side of the river, in 1836."

* * *

"The old suspension bridge was built in 1854 and was the first bridge that ever spanned the Mississippi river."

* * *

"About four years ago (in 1872) two bridges were built across the river at a cost of \$206,000. One was built to connect Plymouth avenue, West Side, and Sixth avenue Northeast, East Side. The other bridge is located at Tenth avenue, south."

* * *

"Our city in 1850 contained but 700 inhabitants. Now (1876) Minneapolis contains a population of 38,000."

* * *

"There are 57 churches and chapels, eight banks, two seminaries, 13 public schools, five parochial schools, 33 lodges."

* * *

"There are two places of amusement, the Academy of Music and Pence Opera House."

* * *

"There are 10 dentists, 46 physicians and 17 drugstores."

* * *

"There are 27 retail dry goods establishments, four wholesale groceries and 114 retail groceries."

* * *

"Sixteen papers are published here."

* * *

Then there was another evidence of progress in 1876, although it was not reported in the centennial review. Said the Tribune, September:30:

"On the 15th. of this month the name of Martha Angle was presented to the court of common pleas for admission to the bar of Hennepin county. The matter was referred to the proper committee and if the report is favorable Minneapolis will probably boast a female lawyer. The lady is from Iowa, and comes highly recommended."

*Hoboes as fertilizer.**(Faribault)*

HOBOES AS FERTILIZER

This was long before there were Community Chests to which you could subscribe and then, when pestered by a mendicant, direct him with smooth confidence to your pet charity organization. To be exact, the year was 1878.

The story gained publicity in a roundabout manner. The locale was in the first place, near Faribault. But it took the Winona correspondent of the Chicago Tribune to see its possibilities. Then the Minneapolis Tribune thought it good enough to reprint, and added its own artistic touches after which the yarn went the rounds of what other Minnesota papers there were then:

✓ "A Minnesota farmer near Faribault has solved the tramp question, in part, at least. He found two of them setting fire to his threshing machine and, taking his gun, he shot and killed both of them and then surrendered himself to the authorities.

"It is needless to say that he was promptly discharged. It has got to come to that at last. These tramps are worse than burglars and have the boldness to do in open day what an ordinary house robber seeks to do under shelter of midnight darkness.

"If a man is justified in killing a thief at night, why may he not deal the same summary justice to the bolder and more audacious robber that has the cheek to do his nefarious work in broad daylight? *.....

"Some of the farmers who reside in districts most infested with tramps are talking of organizing rifle clubs for self protection, and declare their intention to fertilize their land with their dead bodies.

They will stick up placards on their barns with this significant inscription: 'Tramps wanted as top-dressing for the growing crops! '"

In the matter of theft-prevention, the cities had the call on the rural districts. News item Dec. 22, 1875: "The First National bank (Minneapolis) put a Yale lock on its safe yesterday. The lock cost \$400, and ticks. The safe can be opened only when the lock runs down. It is a wonderful piece of mechanism, and defies burglars."

Then there was the Mill City man who, in 1878, wove this grim humor into his newspaper request: "Will Grimshaw wants to see the man that stole his brand new baby carriage from the porch of his residence. If the fellow don't want to bring back the carriage, Will thinks he might call and get the baby, and have the entire institution."

II
9.
WHY LO WAS POOR

Next to the early stories of Minnesota pioneers, frantic efforts to get young women from back east to come out here and marry, there rank in interest the yarns about the wholesale matrimonial ventures of the noble red man. The thought comes to a delver into by-gone marital annals that, considering the number of wives many a Poor Lo had it was no wonder he was poor!

Said the Minnesota Pioneer (St. Paul) on March 20, 1850:

"One-Eyed Dekora, a chief of the Winnebagoes about 70 years old, was in St. Paul last Thursday. He is the same man who, with his band, took Black Hawk prisoner in 1833, and is quite gray-headed. He has had 21 wives."

Which may cause the latter-day henpecked to remark that the wonder is not that One-Eye was gray headed but that he had any hair left.

Also the Minnesota Pioneer, May 30, same year:

"Speaking of polygamy, one who was on his way across between Lake Superior and the Mississippi says he once met Bear Oil, a Chippewa chief, returning from the payment at La Pointe with his family in several canoes, making quite a large retinue.

"Bear Oil had with him three wives and 27 children who all seemed to get along very smoothly. At night when they encamped in the oval lodge (such as the Chippewas always construct instead of the conical lodge of the Sioux) each wife had her own separate part of the tent for herself and children.

"Since then Bear Oil has married more women and now has a very large family."

Minnesota records abound in bit of news calculated to excite the risibilities of those whose funny bones are well developed. Poor Lo and his plentitude of affinities are just one source of such merriment. Along different lines:

The Rev. Mr. Peet, according to the St. Paul Pioneer, preached a "radical" prayer at the Fourth of July celebration in Anoka in 1867. He said: "Oh Lord, if Thou canst, bless the president of the United States!" (The president then was Johnson, who was the object of an impeachment attempt.)

Two gentle reminders of a long-gone feminine style: Minneapolis Tribune, 1868. - "Fletcher has just received another lot of patent adjustable hoop skirts which can be made long or short, at pleasure;" and two years later, an ad. in the Tribune - "For Sale -- Hoop skirt factory."

Veteran theatergoers remember the long run enjoyed all over the country by the ritzy show The Black Crook." Tribune, July 10, 1867: "A lady in speaking of it (The Black Crook) yesterday, said: "My husband shan't go, but I am just the one to see that Crook. If I find it ain't so bad I'll let my husband go to see it!"

*"Rivalry" a comparative estimate
of the population of St. Paul & Mpls.*

Time works great changes. The auto of today is the horse and buggy of yesterday. The plane of today is the ocean liner of yesterday. The blond of today is the brunet of yesterday - if she wants to be.

So one may excuse the exuberance of municipal pride in Grandfather's time even if subsequent events didn't quite bear out what seemed a sure-shot forecast.

On Nov. 18, 1871 the St. Paul Daily Press said:

"Our comparative estimate of the population of St. Paul and Minneapolis, based on the vote in the two places, has stirred up a hornet's nest in that young city. ***

"Within reasonable limits this spirit of emulation on the part of our suburban neighbor is laudable and deserving of encouragement *** The sooner our energetic and handsome young neighbor gets rid of the idea that she is or can be in any sense a possible rival of St. Paul the better it will be for her peace of mind and substantial prosperity.

"But the curious fantasy, so frantically clung to in spite of all the lessons of experience, that she ought to and can supplant St. Paul as the chief commercial center of this northwestern region and that, therefore, her own prosperity depends upon a perpetual and acrimonious crusade against St. Paul, though not without some compensation advantages, is on the whole detrimental to her true interests because it diverts her energies from the direction in which alone the true conditions of her prosperity must be sought to vain, quixotic quests after the unattainable.

"The Press therefore performs the part of a true friend of Minneapolis by demonstrating *** that the future of St. Paul is fixed and solidly established beyond the reach of all possible rivalries from any quarter. And

whenever our Minneapolis friends shall settle down to a realization of this fact they will be in a condition of mind to accept St. Paul as their best friend, instead of treating it as their worst enemy."

Bayard Taylor, eastern poet and traveler, dealt with this matter of municipal rivalry much more temperately when he wrote, earlier that same year, after a visit to this region:

"Minneapolis and St. Paul are bitter rivals and will be so, being so near and so nearly balanced in importance, until one or the other gains an insurmountable ascendancy. There is certainly more industry in Minneapolis and more wealth in St. Paul; more life in the former, more comfort in the latter."

Of course the game was young in those days. Not many innings had been played. But just now, at the hour of going to press, the score stood (latest census): Minneapolis, 489,971; St. Paul, somewhat over 288,000. No hits, no errors, nobody left on bases!

II 11.

*States first retail drug store in
1848. (Dr. John J. Dewy)*

PIONEER DRUGGING

Maybe it was the salubrious climate that persuaded Dr. John J. Dewy, pioneer physician of St. Paul, to launch the State's first retail drug store in 1848. According to the news reports of that period, just plain doctors and undertakers with no other source of income than their regular practice would have been hard put to it to making both ends meet. One such report states that but two men and four babies died in St. Paul in 1849 and gives credit to the atmosphere rather than the local physicians.

However, despite the fact that the doctors of those days in and around St. Paul had to augment their incomes from other pursuits such as banking, fur trading, town lot speculating, etc., they were far from quacks. Most of them were graduates of the best medical schools of their times. And a very good proof that they knew the drug business and its limitations is evidenced in one of Dewy & Cavilier's first printed ads. For in addition to medicines, these druggists announced that they were constantly receiving fresh supplies of paints, glass, varnishes and dye-stuffs.

They carried, too, the old reliables: paregoric, hops and ginger, and "castor oil, without taste or smell." Other items carried in stock by this early establishment were nitrate of silver, mercurial ointment and nutmegs. A soda fountain was installed in 1852 and a newsy press agent announced that a delicious beverage was being served to the crowds that thronged the place.

From the very first the pioneer druggist found he was not without competition, although he owned the only drug store in all of Minnesota Territory. Another doctor, Dr. Barbour, located in St. Paul in 1849 and announced that his remedies were "mild and efficacious, selected principally

from the Vegetable Kingdom." He further stated that he did not use calomel, and that he expected cash for all medicines sold at his office. Then there were the usual crops of home remedies, such as beet pulp to cure lock-jaw, and cranberries for corns, which the newspapers announced as sure things and which must have given the druggists a few pains.

Nevertheless, the population was increasing rapidly and other apothecaries found room to grow up with the town. A modest announcement of June 11, 1855 reads: "Day & Jenks. - This is now the style of the firm over at the corner, across from our office. Dr. Day, in taking into partnership Mr. Jenks, an experienced druggist, and chemist, late of Philadelphia, augments his business and facilities for transacting it into an extent unsurpassed by any other wholesale and retail drug and medicine establishment this side of the Eastern cities."

Patent medicines manufactured in the East were to be found in most of the local drug stores, and once and a while some native genius discovered something new. An item from the Minneapolis Chronicle, January 12, 1867, says: "Our old friend, David Edwards, of St. Anthony, has invented a liniment that bids fair to outrival 'Isle of Spike,' Mustang, Sloans, and all other liniments. Mr. Edwards is a benefactor to his country. This medicine will cure rheumatism, neuralgia, headache, hemorrhage of the lungs, sore throat, burns, scalds, sprains and a host of other disorders that man is heir to." In addition it was added that the remedy was also "good for horses and cows."

GRANDFATHER'S DAY.

Stillwater's \$60,000 fire.
(Old Joseph Wolf brewery)

GONE WITH THE WIND

Stillwater's \$6,000 fire last week, which gutted a landmark, the old Joseph Wolf brewery, calls to mind the time, 70 years ago, when the pretentious structure was built an occasion of civic pride because at that time Stillwater, humble town of but 7,000 souls, had few big buildings. (1)

The brewery discontinued operations in 1925, since which time the place had been used for storage. A firecracker thrown into sawdust is thought to have caused the blaze.

Back in 1872, when the building was two years old and steam was adopted, the Stillwater Gazette commented:

"Stillwater has the honor of opening the first steam brewery in the state. Messrs Wolf, Tanner & co. are the owners. They say they intend to manufacture the best beer in the business." (2)

The institution put out 706 barrels the first year. Uncle Sam got a dollar-a-barrel tax. (3)

Apparently the spacious structure was the forerunner of a building boom in Stillwater, for one reads in the Gazette of 1872:

"Building is progressing in Stillwater more rapidly at this time than ever was known before. One would almost fancy in walking along the streets that Gilmore or some other man had organized another Peace Jubilee, judging

by the ringing and banging and clashing of hammers, saws and things. Every mechanic or laborer of any kind in the place is actively employed at high prices. Probably 40 or 50 more mechanics, particularly carpenters, could find employment at satisfactory rates." (4) *Stillwater Gazette July 30, 1872*

Stillwater had its fire troubles then, as now. That same year, 1872, there were two ^{big} blazes, one in March, one in December. In each case the loss was \$15,000; in the March fire two men lost their lives and six buildings went up in flames. (5) *Stillwater Gazette March 26, 1872*
11 11 Dec 3, 1872

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II
Husband Wanted by Widow.

13.

Early Matrimony

Much has been written about the eagerness of Minnesota's young pioneer men to get married and the difficulties they had in finding wives, despite assistance of immigration agents, railroads, ministers who would perform group ceremonies cheaply etc. Not so much emphasis, however, has been placed on the almost equal eagerness of the ladies.

Under the heading "Husband Wanted by a Widow", a widow made this proposition, which the St. Paul Pioneer printed, March 21, 1869, without bothering to edit the original communication:

✓ "A young and good looking Widow wishes to marry again but as she strongly beleaves in Fate, she thinks that kind Providens * * * will furnish her with a good Husband. All those wishing to stand a chance in being sellected can do so by sending 5.00 Dollars together with Name and card de visit. Name and card de visit will be given in return.

"I am tacking this methode in Requiring 5.00 dollars to accompany the Name that every F O B not wishing to get married will be kept from sending there Names.

"The selection will tak Place by Magnatism on the first day of May next. The persons not winning will after the selection Receive Return Notice of there money sent. The Widow is worth \$50,000 in Cash & Property

* * *

"address A. B. Widow, St. Cloud, Box 193, Minnesota." (1)

(1) St Paul Daily Pioneer March 21, 1869

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In 1872 the St. Paul Press said:

"The Redwood Falls Mail publishes a list of marriageable gentlemen in that vicinity for the information of those ladies who wish to avail themselves of the privilege that leap year confers. Not bad." (2)

In Grand Rapids in 1891 there was cause for rejoicing. Somebody had sure enough lassoed somebody else. Grand Rapids Magnet of July 30:

"The distinction of having procured the first marriage license issued in the county belongs to William H. Lyons and Miss Amanda S. Larson." (3)

✓ Back farther than any of these --- in 1868 --- a girl made this answer in the Sauk Rapids Sentinel to a printed desire on the part of some swain for a bride:

"I'm rosy-cheeked and just 19,
My hair is auburn tinted;
My eyes are sorter hazel tinted
And I always am contented.
I'm sure I'm just the one you want
To comfort and console you,
Through all the trials you may meet,
I'll always try to help you."

It's to be hoped the young lady was a better cook than she was a poetess.

- ***
- (2) St Paul Daily Press Feb 17, 1872
3 Grand Rapids Magnet July 30, 1891
(4) Sauk Rapids Sentinel - 1868
cant locate annual sheet. maybe
filed later under Benton Co.

Grandfather's Day.

*Excursion on the Miss. River
on Dec. 1, 1869*

Summer in Winter

Wasn't it Mark Twain who said that everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it? Anyway, the good people in Grandfather's day (1869) did something about it. On December 1, a balmy summer day in winter, there was a river excursion. Newspaper account the day after:

"The fifth consecutive annual December excursion on the Mississippi river from St. Paul, occurred yesterday. The day was bright and beautiful, and the river free from ice, so that nothing in the elements existed to interfere * * *

"At eleven A. M. Messrs. Cook & Webb's large band wagon left their stable, drawn by six horses, and proceeded to Munger's store, where the Great Western band was in waiting. Taking in the musicians for a time, it proceeded about town, and . . . to the levee . . . soon after a good portion of those assembled were on board the steamer Mankato, which had been generously tendered by the Northwestern Union Packet Company . . .

"The steamer passed down below the band, giving the excursionists a fine opportunity of viewing the work on the St. Paul and Superior and the St. Paul & Chicago Railroads, Carver's Cave, the bluffs, and all other objects of interest . . .

"Having passed several miles below, the steamer was turned around and returned. * * * Along the banks ladies were waving their handkerchiefs . . . The scene at this point was animating in the extreme . . .

"This account will seem like fiction to those who have the notion that we are all frozen up in this latitude, at this season of the

year. It is, however, a very plain and truthful account of what occurred here yesterday. There was nothing to prevent the excursionists from going as far up or down the river as they pleased. All they desired to do was done, viz.: to have a good time and demonstrate the fact that the river was entirely open at St. Paul on the 1st of December, 1869." (1)

And then --- Florida and California papers please copy --- two years later, this information from Alexandria, where, in the month of February, there was a hot time in the old town. Newspaper description said it was so warm that the merchants overhauled their stocks and brought out for sale linen coats and straw hats. Store doors stood open all day and there were no fires in homes or places of business.

* * *

(1) St Paul Daily Pioneer Dec 2, 1869

(2) Feb 3, 1871 - Paper not mentioned
see Chronology file this date.
annals sheet not yet filed.

Grandfather's Day.

Time's Curiosity Shop (sewing machine)

frightful odor in Grand Rapids &c.

Minnesota annals are full of quaint features with humorous twists, including embryo inventions, difficulties of partly organized political divisions and other temporarily irritating problems.

It appears the "improved" sewing machine made its Minneapolis debut in 1870. Describing an exhibition, The Tribune said:

"The machine was fed several layers of heavy cloth to about the thickness of an inch, then, without stopping, it tackled a piece of the heaviest sole leather and one of tin followed . . . Sporting awhile on this kind of diet the machine (without stopping, mind you) was suddenly fed a piece of the thinnest gauze on which as neat and beautiful a stitch was made as if it had been set for doing only such light and dainty duty!"

Even the blase, modern housewife would be at least mildly interested in a machine that sewed tin.

In August, 1891, there was something rotten in Denmark. Or, more strictly speaking, in Grand Rapids. The Magnet of that city:

"There was a recurrence Monday night of that frightful odor which prevailed about town some time since. . . . The smell arose at train time . . . Investigation developed it was caused by Blaker's importation of Limburger cheese. Active measures have been instituted to prevent another season of malodorous, fever-inducing, health prostrating

Grandfather's Day.

effluvia . . . and if Blaker tries to land another dose of Limburger in the village he and the cheese will be quarantined."

Folks who complain nowadays if a neighbor keeps chickens that disturb the morning calm might not agree with this suggestion from the Minnesota Pioneer of April 3, 1850:

"The Pioneer strongly advocates a garden for every residence . . . a shade tree or two for every home . . . and a cow and a hen or two. Do this, suggests the editor, and you may live like a Christian."

In 1873 Nobles county had no county seat. Newspaper statement: "The auditor is on one side of the county and the treasurer on the other, and the remainder of the officers are lying around loose." Which causes one to wonder if they couldn't have lost the tax assessor altogether, had they tried.

A man might just as well not die at all in 1873 in certain spots, because there was no place in his home town to bury him. A Minneapolis press paragraph: "Worthington is another town which has made no provision for the burial of the dead. There are several in the state. . ."

Minneapolis Tribune, Sept. 19, 1878: "A citizen of the east side is possessed of a kitten born with five heads. The unusual commitment of brain power does not seem to bother the kitten."

II 16.

Grandfather's Day.

The "Weaker" Sex

Long before even the most ardent champions of woman suffrage had reason to believe it would become part of the Constitution, there were signs, here and there, of the coming great battle for feminine emancipation. Prophetic was the title of a lecture given in the St. Paul Opera House, March 5, 1872, by Lillian Edgerton: "Woman is Coming." (1)

A step along the path of progress may be seen in this news item from Waseca county, Jan. 3, the year following:

"A man said to be wealthy . . . residing at Jonesville was severely beaten by his wife a few days ago. He was fined \$50. and costs. His wife still lives with him." (2)

Time marches on!

Some five years later, this was in the Minneapolis Tribune:

"Schoolma'ams run reapers during vacation in Douglas county." (3)

In 1891 (time still on the march) the Grand Rapids Magnet told of a modern Amazon --or cavewoman --- thus:

"Mrs. Williams, who is holding a homestead on Pokegama Lake, says that she has only recently discovered how to live among the Indians and feel perfectly safe. During her residence there the Indians have not been friendly, but quite the reverse, and she has thought at times that it would be necessary to use firearms to protect herself. Among the Indians, however, is one who has always been kind to her, and he told her that the only sure way to keep from being molested was to exhibit and threaten to

Grandfather's Day.

use a club. He says that there is a superstition among the Indians to the effect that, to be struck with a club in the hands of a white woman would entail some awful consequences; and while they care little for a rifle, they will not risk being struck with a club." (4)

As far back as 1870, however, woman suffrage was being talked among Minnesota lawmakers. One senator from Meeker county, concluding a public address, burst into poetry to give vent to his anti-suffrage sentiments:

"I believe woman's work to be
Leading little children
And blessing manhood's years;
Showing to the sinful,
How God's forgiveness cheers;
Scattering sweet roses
Along another's path,
Smiling by the wayside,
Content with what she hath.

Letting fall her own tears
Where God alone can see,
Wiping off another's
With tender sympathy;
Learning by experience,
Teaching by example,
Yearning for the gateway,
Golden, pearly, ample.
This is woman's mission!" (5)

- (1) ST Paul Daily Press, - Mar. 2, 1872
- (2) Minneapolis Tribune Jan 3, 1873
- (3) " " " " Aug 19, 1878
- (4) Grand Rapids Magnet Oct 22, 1891
- (5) Minneapolis Tribune, Feb 25, 1870

*Schuyler Colfax gives tribute
to Minnesota,*

A VICE PRESIDENT

(X) In a more realistic vein than that of poets and artists who visited this region in Grandfather's day and wrote about it was the tribute given Minnesota by a vice president of the United States.

The vice president was Schuyler Colfax, serving in that capacity when Grant was president.

After his second visit, Colfax wrote the New York Independent, stressing Minnesota's population growth and commercial advancement. In part, he said:

"Twelve years ago [1859] when its population but slightly exceeded 150,000, and its cultivated area was but 345,000 acres, when it imported food from other States, and had scarcely a million of dollars invested in manufactures, the writer hereof, in a political canvass, visited its various towns and settlements, from Winona as far north as Little Falls. . .

"Not only has this young state advanced so rapidly in the development of agricultural and manufacturing industry, as well as in railroad facilities, * * * but in educational affairs its progress has been equally conspicuous. * * * You will find at St. Paul a mile of nearly continuous brick stores and blocks, crowded with goods. * * * At Minneapolis and St. Anthony's Falls you will find a water-power of the whole Mississippi River falling 64 feet, estimated at 120,000 horse power. * * *

Grandfather's Day

At Duluth you will find five miles of graded streets, handsome buildings, and elevator with a capacity of a third of a million of bushels, substantial wharves, daily lines of steamers * * * where but three years ago solitude reigned supreme. * * *

"Of Winona * * * with its tree-shaded streets and attractive houses; and Rochester, beautiful in situation, with its \$75,000 schoolhouse ... and Faribault, full of business life and energy, the residence of the Episcopal bishop ... as well as many other towns I have not space to write as I desire."

"I must say, before concluding, that the most beautiful country my eyes ever looked upon is the Otter Tail and Becker county region, where Senator Winsom and I struck the Northern Pacific Railroad line. It abounds in lakes of exquisite beauty; and though Minnesota is noted for its thousands of these gems of scenery, there we found them unrivalled in all that makes them attractive."

It is gratifying to note that vice president Colfax, who made his second Minnesota trip "in quest of health," found what he was seeking here - "vigorous health, elastic step, buoyant spirits." ^{TP *} Thirteen years later, on January 13, 1885, Colfax, filling a speaking engagement in Minnesota, died in the waiting room of the Omaha depot at Mankato.

* St Paul Daily Press 1/23/12
* Mankato Free Press - April 5, 1937

Grandfather's Day.

Stillwater

AT LAST ~~has~~ A RAILROAD!

It was a great day for Stillwater when at last it got a railroad.

The date was Dec. 29, 1870, and the event thus described in the Minneapolis Tribune next day: (1)

"Yesterday marked another era in the history of railroad development in Minnesota. Stillwater - the initial point mentioned in the first land grant for this State, after years of patient waiting, and after suffered by the bad faith of those who should have been true to her interests, at last has a railroad, and it was fitting that she should celebrate the event, and celebrate she did in just the style her people know so well how to do it.

"An excursion train of five coaches left the depot at St. Paul at 10 A. M., and each coach was full to overflowing. . . .

"St. Paul was represented by Mayor Lee [and others] . . .

"The young city of Duluth was represented by Dr. Thomas Foster, Mayor Culver [and others] . . .

"We also noticed the presence of . . . H. B. Wilson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and many others from various parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. . . .

Grandfather's Day.

"This road is 12 miles long and has been built in about three months. . . At the depot we were met by the citizens of Stillwater with a fine band of music and were . . . escorted to the Sawyer House . . . The crowd being much greater than was anticipated . . . the excursionists were invited to Concert Hall. Here the meeting was called to order by Hon. Wm. M. McCluer, who announced as president of the day, Hon. JOHN M'KUSICK."

The day was rounded out with a program of toasts by representatives of various communities and by railroad officials.

X X X X X X X X

TODAY'S CURIO - - - "Gray's paper collars are the best in the world and the Boston One Price Clothing Store sells them at lowest prices." (a)

--- Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 17, 1876.

* * *

(1) *minneapolis tribune* Dec. 30, 1870
2 11 11 Oct 20, 1868

Grandfather's Day.

Underworld

SLANGUAGE

"Oh give us back the good old days when slang was never slung," moaned a doggerel artist of a past generation.

Just how many days would have to be skipped back before reaching the outposts of slangdom can't even be calculated. It was a long time before Grandfather's day, however.

Early Minnesota newspapers used slang much more commonly than does the press of today, and didn't always bother to qualify the unorthodox words with quotation marks. Surveys of old papers suggest that it was along in the 1870's that more attention began to be paid to correct English usage. In 1873 the Minneapolis Tribune called attention to the fact that a slang dictionary had been compiled, and one of the police officials recommended it to citizens on the ground that some knowledge of underworld lingo might afford honest men protection against thieves.

Then, as now, all thieves were "crooks". A gambler was a "confidence man. A shady auctioneer was a "Peter Funk." Thieves of higher grade were "crossmen", but an ordinary pickpocket was a "knuck."

An all-round night worker was a "gun", and undertook a wilder range of activities than a "cracksman", who only broke into houses and

Grandfather's Day.

stores. And occasionally jails. Other samples of the "slanguage" of crime then:

Moll	a thief's woman.
Copper	policeman.
Fly cop, or fly bob	detective.
Pince (not pinch)	to take.
Collar	to arrest.
Squeal	to tell a secret.
Swag	property (in unlawful transit).
Sugar	money

Such words as "homework," "boodle" and "stretch" could be worked into a code telling you your pal had been apprehended in the act of robbing a house and had got away with a roll of money but was now serving a sentence.

It may be doubted that many Minneapolitans, armed with their dictionaries of slang, ever confounded a scheming crook. One of them, at least, was a resourceful fellow. The Minneapolis Tribune of December 5, 1877 found him making the most of an unplanned vacation. "Banks, the diamond thief, was asked on his way to the state prison what he expected to do there. He didn't exactly know, but said he wanted to get in the machine shop, so as to learn the trade, and he thought that in three years and a half he could come out and be a first-class burglar . . . They do say he is really at work learning to be a burglar, as he desired."

TODAY'S CURIO --- "A three year old heifer belonging to John Doyle of Wheatland, Rice county, gave birth to three calves at once, all of them bulls." ---St. Paul Pioneer, March 17, 1871. ¹³¹

- (1) Minneapolis Trib Jan 29, 1873
- (2) Minneapolis Trib Dec 5, 1877
- (3) St Paul Pioneer March 17, 1871

(rrc)

II

*"Rivalry" The head of navigation.
St. Paul? Minneapolis?
"LET US HAVE PEACE."*

There are "wars and rumors of wars" as 1940 totters on. But it would seem that at least one war is approaching the vanishing point --- the long hostility between Minneapolis and St. Paul. The latter sends the world's largest drum corps - between 500 and 600 - to march in the Minneapolis Aquatennial and next year the Mill City promises to boost the capital's Winter Carnival.

But the waning hostility of the neighbor cities is a long-standing affair, reaching even farther back than 1869. Ask grandfather. This was what the Republican, of Springfield, Mass., published from a Minnesota correspondent in August of that year, the item being reproduced in the St. Paul Daily Pioneer:

* "There has always been rivalry between these two towns. Our young friend Minneapolis is, perhaps, of the two the most aspiring and impudent. A pretty little manufacturing town of some 11,000 inhabitants, it already imagines itself the biggest frog in Uncle Sam's pond. The farmers, for miles around the falls of St. Anthony, have all got their fields planted out in building lots, and by the time Minneapolis has six or eight million inhabitants, a good many of these farmers will be immensely rich. So it is with St. Anthony on the opposite side of the river.

"We see it gravely stated in the Minneapolis business directory that that town is undoubtedly the head of navigation. Considering that between St. Paul and Minneapolis there are only six miles of extremely dangerous rapids, and that the stream is full of boulders, this may be

regarded, perhaps, as a peculiarly Minnesotian statement. Never mind; it will take two or three million dollars to construct a canal around these rapids, and then the dearest ambition of the Minneapolis heart will be gratified. But just now St. Paul is at the 'head'. Minneapolis, the St. Paulites say, is little better than a vast sawmill; but then it is but a few years since she was little better than nothing at all.

"Her future is sure enough, but that of St. Paul is surer. St. Paul, like its prosperity, is founded on a rock... Whether this rocky foundation... has been one of the things which has given it the hard name which it deservedly bears, is a question which the historical society of this place has not yet decided. Certain it is that the city is steadily gaining a very unenviable fame. After the Fourth, which was celebrated by picnics ... beer, fights and murders, the daily papers read as though there had been a general engagement fought in the city, giving a regular list of killed and wounded. The frequent shootings and stabbings we have here are, perhaps, necessary to prevent a too rapid increase of population, and nobody ever dies here, and if we do not kill off a few there would be a sad monotony, and the art of genteel undertaking would languish."

* ST. PAUL DAILY PIONEER AUG. 3, 1869

Grandfather's Day.

Trains to run on ice.

KEPT ON ICE

Locomotive trains running regularly on the frozen Mississippi river, carrying both passengers and freight--this was a scheme of transportation proposed in those early days when pioneer Minnesotans were concerned over their winter isolation from the settled centers of the East and South. Prepared for in detail, the train on ice seems never to have advanced far beyond the stage of wishful preparation. But the innovation was thus announced on November 15, 1849 in the Minnesota Pioneer.

"Locomotive ice trains prepared expressly for travel on the ice of the Mississippi, with 10 cars in each train, besides the engine and tender cars, with ample arrangements for meals and for sleeping, being now in readiness, will commence running as soon as the ice is sufficiently strong, as follows:

"The Iceland, Capt. O. Smith, will leave Galena (Illinois) on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 o'clock a. m. and arrive at St. Paul and the Falls at 9 a. m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

"The Gladiator, Capt. Morris, will leave Galena on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a. m. and arrive at St. Paul and the Falls on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a. m., until as near as practical to the opening of the river in April.

"Passenger cars will be attached to the train in the rear of the baggage cars, so that passengers may incur as little risk as possible.

Grandfather's Day.

"Prices of freight and passage, for the present, will be the same as usually paid on steamboats in the month of September. The trains will stop at all the usual steamboat landings. As this novel enterprise is attended with great expense it is to be hoped that public will extend to it their liberal patronage. By this arrangement tri-weekly mails will be furnished between Galena and St. Paul."

* * * * *

TODAY'S CURIO--"As long as a woman can attend an auction and bid off three joints of rust-eaten stovepipe for 60 cents she's not going to worry her little head about female suffrage.

Oh let the women's clothes alone,
They're none of your concern;
She never makes no fun of yourn,
So why poke fun at hern?"

Stillwater Gazette, Jan. 26, 1876.

The joining of Mpls. and St. Anthony

GRANDFATHER'S DAY

ST. ANTHONY'S WOOING

It wasn't exactly a shotgun-wedding, but some grouchy opinions were expressed before Minneapolis and St. Anthony finally met at the altar and became one city.

First families are apt to hold their heads high. St. Anthony, comfortably situated east of the Falls and with a population of 3,000 people in 1866, was no exception. She well remembered that close to fifty lovers had settled on her doorstep long before the town was laid out, while she was still under the protecting wing of Wisconsin Territory and before a single squatter had tuned up his ukulele west of the river.

Minneapolis, the west side town, was younger but in 1866 had twice as many people. Some of them boasted that it was a better place to live. However, they wanted St. Anthony to join them in forming a consolidated city where the combined population would be one big happy family of around eleven thousand souls. But when the proposition, decorated with the old argument that the two could live as cheaply as one, was put up to the east side city, St. Anthony decided that single blessedness was better.

She pointed out that Minneapolis would hang on to the post office, and that under a postal ruling of that time it would cost St. Anthonyites an extra cent for every letter relayed to their branch office, a sum total of ten thousand dollars per year. Besides, hadn't Minneapolis confessed (quoting a Minneapolis paper) that "it cost \$46,000 per year to run the Minneapolis schools, and, the system under which they are organized is so radically defective that a child healthy at birth stands but one chance in three of living long enough to finish the prescribed course."

The uniters, however, were insistent and persevering. The subject was brought up again from time to time, but always with the same result. St. Anthony wanted to be alone.

More and more their business became entangled. They were connected by a railroad and a highway bridge. Minneapolis organized the Horse Street Railway to make traveling easier, but the division of opinion continued.

It was not until after a Boston paper, in 1871, referred to the vicinity around St. Anthony Falls, which then boasted a combined population of twenty-one thousand people, as a "howling wilderness" that unity was consummated.

In answer to the Boston slur, citizens of the "howling wilderness" pointed to their up-to-date hotels, which, they declared, could not be surpassed for convenience and comfort by anything in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago or New York. They had fine schools, fine churches, fine buildings. St. Anthony was the home of the State University, "An institution where tuition was free and the doors open to the female sex."

At the next popping of the question, February 13, 1872, the answer was yes. And so it was duly recorded and legalized by the State Legislature. The new City Fathers set up housekeeping under one roof and the young couple lived happily as one ever after.

II
Stillwater

Bunk House Tales

Still water seldom runs deeper than the streams of fancy from which tall tales were dragged in the early logging days. According to an editor's report in the '70's, the first man up in the opening of a tale spinning contest "had no show at all." As an example, he cited that the first big load of logs hauled in the woods was "nearly 4,000 feet, the next over 4,000 feet, the next 5,286 feet." And so it went. (1)

The sky had no limit and the streams had no bottoms, and yet the editors seldom insulted his Bunyanites by a direct contradiction of their statements. "Making sugar in November! Whoever heard of such a thing before?", one article led off, but quickly followed up with, "And yet it is true. Over in Dunn county, Wisconsin, the sap is running and the people are out in the woods making sugar." (2)

As fishermen, the St. Croix river boys had few equals, either in summer or winter. While harvesting the ice crop in the winter of '71 a man was said to have stabbed a shovel-nosed sturgeon that measured four and a half feet, but he hardly compared with a cat-fish another fellow caught which, when dissected, was found to have swallowed a timberman's ax, handle and all. Several witnesses were brought in to vouch for the story and an editor had to recognize it, but he explained that probably the ax had been only a small hatchet when it was first swallowed by the fish and that it had attained the growth of a full size ax while in the fish's stomach. (4)

Tale spinning was not confined to the St. Croix. The Father of Waters produced his quota right on up to Lake Itasca. A story published in the Sauk Rapids Sentinel (December 18, 1868), if true, would lead one to believe that ancient Minnesota produced a race of men with whom the late Robert Wadlow, Alton, Illinois giant, would have found it difficult to compete. In telling of the find the paper said, "The men were excavating when they found the remains of a man imbedded in the sand. The body had been placed in a quadrangular grave, cut out of solid rock, 12 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 deep. The body was petrified, and must have weighed around 900 lbs. His head measured $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the chest 59 inches. * * * From the crown of his head to the sole of his feet was $109\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The thumb and fingers of the left hand and left foot from the ankle to toes were gone, all else perfect."

Presumably as a necessary precaution to ward off bothersome visits of curious investigators, the editor added that the body had been shipped to Boston. And so ended that story of Minnesota's prehistoric giant. (5)

- (1) Stillwater Gazette, March 11, 1873. Norgren #547.
- (2) Stillwater Gazette, Nov. 19, 1870. Norgren #112.
- (3) Stillwater Gazette, Feb. 14, 1871. Norgren #185.
- (4) Stillwater Gazette, June 18, 1872. Norgren #456.
- (5) Sauk Rapids Sentinel, Dec. 18, 1868. Used in History of Benton county, by Jehu. Not in regular annals files.

24.

PRESS RELEASE
from
Minnesota WPA Writers' Project.

PRETTY HUSKY, *three cent strike.*

While our ancestors did not have access to modern scientific knowledge about the many possible by-products of King Corn, they did have one which they used to soften the sufferings of the insomniac. A Minnesota newspaper among those conned by a state WPA Writers' Project worker is an issue of July 27, 1867, which proclaims: "A very large load of corn husks was brought to the city (St. Paul) today, to be sold. Those who tumble and toss these hot nights until their mattresses look like pancakes will now have an opportunity to fill up for the winter."

* * *

COUNTY HAD TO WELCH, *War dance for food.*

The Minnesota Geographic Board, fretted by the endless duplication of place names in the state, has recently enlisted the help of the WPA Writers' Project in a study of geographic nomenclature which looks toward the eventual renaming of scores of Long, Round and Mud Lakes, about a dozen Aastads, and hundreds of other names now applied to two or more different places in the state. But the problem is not new. It appeared as long ago as 1872, project research workers have discovered, that year, the county of Goodhue was required to relinquish the name of Grant for one of its townships because there already was a Grant township in Washington county. Goodhue changed the name to Welch in honor of Maj. Abram Edwards Welch of Red Wing.

* * *

THREE--CENT STRIKE

Once upon a time they had a three-cent strike in Minnesota. Evidently the three cents meant a good deal to those involved. A research worker for the state WPA Writers' Project read about it in a newspaper published in 1872: "The coopers of the barrel factory of Messrs. Doud & Son at Winona and Minneapolis are on strike because of a reduction of three cents a barrel in the price of manufacturing. Doud has telegraphed to Milwaukee for men and the men (the strikers) have declared war."

* * *

WAR DANCE FOR FOOD

Doing a war dance for eats was one of the stunts of Poor Lo in days agone. A research worker, one of the Minnesota WPA Writers' Project field men, has found a newspaper item of 1873 saying: "A large band of Chippewa Indians is suffering for want of food. Old Washington, chief of the camp, proposes to give a representation of a genuine war dance and take his pay in provisions. * * * To those of our eastern readers who have the idea that the pioneer is bloodthirsty and abounds in hatred of the red race, the comment of the Brainerd Tribune will be an agreeable surprise. The Tribune suggests it would be a 'kindness and a charity' for a committee to gather the provisions and sponsor the dance."

* * *

PRESS RELEASE

from

Minnesota WPA Writers' Project.

-3-

THEY WERE "THE BERRIES"

At one time it seemed possible the cranberry business might become very prominent in Minnesota. Better climatic and soil conditions in the east, however, coupled with improved transportation facilities, put a quietus to the prospect, although to this day Minnesota cranberries are nothing to be ashamed of. A member of the research staff of the state WPA Writers' Project has found a statement in a paper of 1872 that the cranberry crop of Blue Earth county that year exceeded 1,000 bushels. Housewives were invited to take their pencils in hand and figure how many Thanksgiving and Christmas pies that would make.

* * *

BUFFALO ROBES

Much has been printed lamenting the rapidly vanishing buffalo, and Uncle Sam is trying to do something about it. Elaborate efforts have already been made to rehabilitate the species, though bison is still a rarity outside circuses. But it was not so "way back when." A state WPA Writers' Project researcher reads in an 1870 issue of the old St. Paul Daily Pioneer: "Yesterday Hill, Griggs & Co. received from Red River 225 bales of buffalo robes, containing about 2,225 skins, valued at \$30,000."

* * *

(falo copy)

OH DEER !

There was something screwy somewhere, concluded the editor of the St. Cloud Journal in 1878. A Minnesota WPA Writers' Project research man finds his comment: "There hasn't been any 'Rocky mountain sheep' offered for sale by our butchers since the first day of the month, (November) but venison has become suddenly plenty. The name is different but there is a remarkable sameness of taste about the meat."

* * *

A PUN-Y WISE CRACK

They made wise cracks long before there were any Jimmy Walkers or Mae Wests. One of the research men for the Minnesota WPA Writers' Project came upon this innocent little one in the Feb. 16, 1878 issue of the Minneapolis Tribune, which at least wasn't as bad as it would have been if it had been worse: "Whom did the pastry cook marry?" "Why, his sweet-tart, of course!" "And the research worker adds, "the paper had the crust to print it."

* * *

A CORKING REBUKE

Among files of Minnesota newspapers a WPA Writers' Project researcher ran upon this in a February 1878 issue, printed as an actual incident: "A minister was preaching in a close and unventilated little church, only one window of which was open and that but partly.

A deacon rose and closed it. Stopping in the midst of his sermon the preacher exclaimed:

"If I was preaching in a jug I believe you would put a cork in it!"

* * *

ON THE FLY

One railway invention that was to have had a try-out in the southern Minnesota area missed fire for an obvious reason after being rather widely heralded. The Minnesota WPA Writers' Project finds in an issue of the Stillwater Gazette of 1875 the account of an inventor who devised a net to swing out from a passenger coach and pick up passengers on the fly. Asked how they were to be unloaded, he replied that was the passengers' business; the railroad contracted only to take them where they wanted to go, not to see that they got off.

* * *

Grandfather's Day.

THE SIMPLE LIFE

Brown county

The quiet country folk of Minnesota have also known the shock of swift and deadly attack. Like so many of their overseas brothers today, Minnesota farmers have seen their fields trampled, their homes destroyed, their families and neighbors cut down on their own doorsteps; Minnesota has had its panic flight of destitute refugees.

Should be
1868

(1) In April of 1862, correspondence from "The Danish Settlement, Brown County, Golden Gate Postoffice," dated April 12 and published in the Minneapolis Nordisk Folkeblad, reflected the rural tranquillity of an early Minnesota community. The placid labor, the simple aspirations, the spirit of a people at peace with the world permeate the account which, translated reads:

"Our settlement is located about 15 miles west of New Ulm and four miles south of Fort Ridgely; its northernmost members live about three miles south of the Minnesota River.

"The first Danish settlers, consisting of five families, arrived here about three years ago (1859). They settled on the so-called Indian reserve land, which the government was selling at \$1.25 per acre. They were soon followed by other Danish families so that the settlement now consists of 30 families which are all settled and in good condition. About the same number bought land here last fall and are expected to move here next spring.

"We will then have a total of 60 families, not counting those that are expected to join us later in the summer; this will then be undoubtedly the largest Danish settlement in Minnesota. We have 160 acres apiece and

do not have to pay until in the spring of 1870. The soil here is of the highest quality, deep, rich black dirt with clay underneath. The land is level, rolling prairie and well suited for farming. * * *

"We all hope that another good crop this year will enable us to purchase needed machinery; some have already bought machinery; the rest of us hope to be able to do so after the harvest.

"We don't have far to go to get wood as the banks of the Minnesota are covered with dense woods but we hope that the forest at the fort will be placed on the market this summer. We have filed a petition to the government requesting the above mentioned forest region to be released. * * * Whatever land there is left here is being snapped up by speculators who last fall went through here like a prairie fire. From them it can be bought at a price of \$500 or \$600 per 160 acres but considering the excellence of the land this price is by no means high, and as it will increase in value with each passing year I think it advisable for anyone that is interested in building himself a home to buy this spring. * * *

"In spiritual respect we are far better off than some other Scandinavian settlements where they have had to do without religious services often because they are too poor to be able to afford hiring a minister.

However the promise of a peaceful home life was forgotten before the crops were harvested. In August of 1862 the discontented Sioux braves swooped down upon the settlements in an effort to drive them out and repossess

the land. Fire, bullets, arrows and the scalping knife swept over Brown
county leaving the fields a smoky mass of charred black stubble. *

1. Nordisk Folkeblad Apr. 12, 1862.

* Minnesota State Guide, p. 55 - Folwell Vol. 2 P. 109.

A \$4 PER MONTH EARL (Old bewlay)

Silver in Minn.

Rainbows that have been chased, bright hopes that have been blasted and bitter personal sacrifices that have been made are scattered along the byways of Minnesota's history. Often the story is told only between the lined of old newspapers, or as one considers it in comparison with or in relation to some other incident.

Much of what otherwise might have furnished the truth that is "stranger than fiction" is lost to the modern reader because the reporters of yesterday did not always faithfully follow up successive links in a narrative. They often left the finale to the imagination.

Time was when it hopefully was thought that silver mining would become one of Minnesota's leading activities. What happened to a man who started out to find silver seems never to have been recorded, but the Anoka Herald in 1892 printed this touching and suggestive fragment: (1)

"Ex-Chief-Of-Police Fairbanks left Thursday evening for the mineral region near Rainy Lake * * * to locate a silver mine which was discovered by his brother 16 years ago * * * In 1876 his brother, with three other men was located somewhere in that region trapping with the Indians, and in some of their explorations they discovered a vein of silver eight inches thick sticking out so that they cut off pieces with their hunting axes. An assay proved it 90 per cent pure. Returning, they loaded a boat with the ore and started back across the lake to Duluth, but a squall came up and all were drowned. Their bodies were afterwards recovered and evidence found of the existence of the mine, but no minutes of its location."

And this is the story, reading like the synopsis of a novel, of a man who gave up a British title and estate to resume work at \$4 per month as a hostler in Hokah, Houston county.

"Old Charley" was buried in the potter's field at La Crosse after passing away in Hokah. In 1891, three years later, an attorney received a bundle of documents from England which revealed that "Old Charley," of whom little had been known at Hokah, was the second son of a British earl. He had quarrelled with his father and come to Minnesota. Shortly after the death of the father, his older brother, the heir, also died. The whereabouts of the next in line, "Old Charley," had been lost, but he learned by accident of the two deaths across the sea and went back to England and to his mother. There, as "Old Charley" discovered, a third son had acquired possession of the title and estate because alleged evidence of the death of the second son in Minnesota had been produced. Probably unwilling to make public a family scandal, "Old Charley," after visiting his mother, quietly returned to Minnesota and his humble position of hostler. For 15 years the familiar, reserved figure held his menial job at Hokah dying, at last in obscurity and poverty. (2)

* * * * *

- 1- Grand Rapids Maquet, July 19, 1892. Jekel # 1145
Reprint from Anoka Herald.
- 2- Mpls. Tribune, Sept. 11, 1891. Ferguson # 1

Circus time in Mpls.

Memories In Sawdust

"---and now lad-ies and gen-tle-men, introducing Madame Marvel Miracle, the world's greatest---" "Popcorn!" --- "artiste in her line in the wurrld! This dainty little lady---" "Anybody else want pop? Ginger ale?" --- "will be one of the many star attractions at the great concert which will follow---" "Hot dogs? Anybody else now?" --- "this performance!"

It's almost circus time again. Time works wonderful changes, but sometimes it seems as if even time had fallen down on the job. Old-time residents of Minneapolis will tell you that, by the mere changing of a few names here and there, the very same posters that heralded circuses in Grandfather's day could be used for the modern affairs. Circus ballyhoo tried out most of its adjectives a long time ago.

The first circus known to wend its noisy way into this area was in 1850. It was the Mammoth Model Troupe which showed in Stillwater in July and then moved to St. Paul by boat. The Minnesota Pioneer said: "Our old acquaintance the steamer Clermont came up around the bend Tuesday morning freighted with the circus. A fine band of music upon the deck imparted a thrilling interest to the scene."

Described as the first "wagon circus" in the state, Maj. Brown's Colosseum played two performances in Minneapolis on August 3, 1857. Other early day sawdust aggregations: Antonio & Carroll's, De Haven's, Cook's, Costello & Van Vleck's.

Dan Rice, classic clown of bigtop history, was popular in this state in the 60s. Like Sara Bernhardt, Dan was a "farewell performance" addict.

Just when the small boy got onto the fact that it was almost as much fun to get up early and see the show come in as it was to go to the circus is not officially on record, but it's a time-honored custom. Yesterday's paint is streaked on the sleepy faces of the "beautiful bebies of glorious girls" as they emerge from the train, and the jaded clowns might be undertakers for all you can tell. But still it's fun to see them. The elephants, for instance, stay up to expectations; their makeup is permanent.

Sometimes the early circuses showed indoors instead of under canvas. In February, 1867, De Haven's played in old Harmonia hall, Second street and First avenue north. The greatest of all showmen, P. T. Barnum, drew the big crowds in this city in 1872, his first appearance here.

One circus maiden found Minneapolis a greater lure than the big top. The Minneapolis Evening Times, Aug. 26, 1873, reported that the "Caucasian Beauty of New York" had thrown away her flaxen wig and taken a job as nurse girl.

Local dogs must have been nervous while Lent's Circus was showing in 1873. The circus offered a pass to every boy who delivered a stray, uncollared dog to the city poundmaster.

GRANDFATHER'S DAY

29.

II

*Back in the days when men were
men and women were not exactly
clinging vines*

GRANDMOTHER'S DAY

Back in the days when men were men, the women were - well, some of them weren't exactly clinging vines. They demanded their rights, too, as revealed in this old news item from the Pioneer and Democrat of January 31, 1861: "We call attention of the police to the fact, that for some time several notorious women have been in the habit of dressing up in male attire, and visiting saloons and other places of public resort, after nightfall. Now, why don't the police do their duty and put a stop to such disgraceful proceedings?" To abate the nuisance the pressman suggested that he be appointed an inspector of customs worn by those frequenting saloons and thus eliminate the outrageous goings-on and preserve the high moral standard of such places. (1)

Then there was the lady in north Minneapolis who was accosted one night on her way home by a man - the paper did not say gentleman - whom she did not know. Instead of screaming for help, this gal, who packed a rod, commenced plunking hot lead at her admirer's feet. The unwelcome swain "jumped ten feet at the first bound," so the paper said, then settled into a dead run, tripped on a snag, fell on his nose and went boom, but recovered in time to escape the female of the species who seemed to him at the moment more deadly than the male. (2)

The old Winslow house, over where the Savage building is about to stand no longer, was the hide-and-go-seek mecca for an erstwhile spook of the 60's. But he didn't get to first base with a young lady who, for some reason or other, decided to camp there herself. When the ghost put in his appearance, this girl, too, pulled a gun and let him have it. The ghost screamed loudly enough to wake the girl's dad but did a fadeaway without leaving behind so much as a bullet hole as evidence for the G-girl's dad to check on. (3)

For sheer strength and daring some of those girls of grand dad's day were hard to beat. One runs across such accounts as that of a St. Paul woman who lifted a barrel of sugar into an ox cart the evening before her twins were born and two days later did a washing for a family of ten people. (4)

A champion hiker was mentioned in the Minneapolis Tribune of May 8, 1874. "A woman 78 years old, living in Sibley county, last week walked 17 miles to receive \$22 from the poor commissioner, and then walked back home." (5)

No, maybe grandma didn't go in for bathing beauty contests, but she had what it took to get there.

"BOHEMIANS. - About two hundred immigrants from Bohemia have arrived in our city the past few days. They are mostly farmers and go to the country. They were all comfortably clothed in woolen goods. The women in their national costumes attracted much attention and looked well despite the absence of hoops."

Pioneer and Democrat Weekly, - August 26, 1864. (6)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| (1) Pioneer and Democrat | Jan. 31, 1861 | Russell # 413 |
| (2) Mpls Tribune | May 8, 1877 | Shepard # 820 |
| (3) " | March 24, 1868 | Brown # 693 |
| (4) " | July 2, 1873 | Kubeshesky # 7 |
| (5) " | May 8, 1874 | Cramer # 465 |
| (6) Pioneer & Democrat Weekly | Aug. 26, 1864 | Potkin # 1399 |

*Hon. G. G. Hartley's compliments
on Grand Rapids.*THE OLD HOME TOWN

The home-town-boy-makes-good chap returned to Grand Rapids, Minnesota and lavished compliments on the old neighborhood in a letter published in the Magnet, November 8, 1892.

Nobody knows just when the "distinguished visitors in our midst" began the affable custom of broadcasting compliments to the municipality, but it appears to be a technique of many year's standing. And one "Hon. G. G. Hartley" knew how to warm up to his theme when he got back home after a decade's absence.

Said he in the Magnet:

"After an absence for over 10 years I revisit the scene of my early experience in the lumber business. In driving over your thriving village, I can appreciate the marvelous change that has come over it. Then it was a mere trading point, but since the Duluth & Winnipeg railroad has come to your midst, progress seems to have marked your every step.

"I look with admiration and surprise at your handsome stores filled with large and excellent stocks of goods, your beautiful homes, well graded streets, your imposing three and four story hotels, the foundations going in for a large hospital and opera house, your well-laid sidewalks which are better and more of them than Duluth had in 1885. Your steel bridge across the Mississippi river, with two steamers lying at the docks below it are evidences of commerce.

"When I look at all these improvements, I can scarcely realize that it is the Grand Rapids of ten years ago.

"I was the first man to help drive logs out of the Prairie river. It is over 20 years ago when * * * myself and others came to Grand Rapids to

work for Minneapolis lumbermen. It was hard work those days and we seldom knew a Sunday, for we always had something to do.

"I notice the boys' heads are turning gray. I saw Ed. Grady today. He is getting old. * * * Fred Bomess, now hauling 40 or 50 millions for himself, used to cook for Ed. Grady. He was an excellent cook, but, would sometimes discourage Con Deenan with the stories he would tell at the dinner table. . . .

"In my rambles around your business houses I found C. H. Marr. He took me back to my schoolboy days when I used to go to school with his mother, and the pleasant landlady of the Hotel Pokegama I used to carry to school on my back over the snowbanks of New Brunswick." (1)

* * * * *

(1) Grand Rapids Maquet Nov. 8, 1892 Jelm & 1171

HE GOT HIS GUN

*- Asleep at the switch,
Judge Vanderburg lost his gun.*

How the "power of the press" subtly was used to get back a doctor's stolen gun and put fear into the hearts of two little pilferers was thus told in two editions of The Minneapolis Tribune in 1877:

April 17 - "Somebody stole Dr. Hatch's ornithological gun the other evening. It is probably the only firearm of the kind in town, and if anyone buys or trades for it he can find a claimant in the Doctor. It is a skeleton affair, and to the novice probably a curious piece of mechanism. It kills without making a noise, and is absolutely as unsafe as dynamite in the hands of any other person than the owner, who is the bird authority in this state, and alone needs such an extraordinary weapon. The Doctor has a few cartridges left, which the borrower of the gun can have on application." (1)

April 18 - "Dr. Hatch had recovered his ornithological blazer. Two small boys read the Tribune last evening and concluded that dynamite was a dangerous thing to have in the house. About 5 o'clock they marched to the Doctor's house and begged him to receive the borrowed property."

Now comes the story of a railroader who, while not exactly "asleep at the switch," certainly wasn't on the job for a time. It is told in the Daily Pioneer of November 28, 1869:

"The evening train on the Superior road, due in St. Paul at 5:30, did not arrive until 8 last evening. The delay occurred from the following cause. On arrival of the train at White Bear one of the brakemen was found to be missing. He was known to be at his station on arrival of the train at Wyoming where some cars were switched off.

"Serious apprehensions were aroused that he had accidentally fallen from the train and been killed. The train was at once backed and the track carefully scanned until they reached Wyoming where the man was found safe and sound, having been left on the cars that were switched off, he not knowing that the cars were to be left at that point." (2)

And here is a pointer for polygamists seeking to stay on the outside. This man's system was ultra-simple. And successful. The December 4, 1877 Tribune told about it:

"Judge Vanderburgh wasn't very busy this morning. He did intend to preside at the trial of Thos. Mullen, who is indicted for polygamy as well as larceny.

"But Thos. was permitted to go out last evening to feed the horses and, disregarding a solemn promise to return, and the fact that he was to have his trial today, he didn't return.

"In fact, he hasn't returned yet, though the sheriff, his deputies, Judge Vanderburgh and several others would be delighted to see him. . ." (3)

Remembering the old adage that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink, one is tempted to wonder whether the errant Thomas took so long trying that he thought 'twas no use returning to jail.

- (1) Mpls Tribune Apr. 17-18, 1877 * * * * * Shepard # 768
- (2) St. Paul Daily Pioneer Nov. 28, 1869
- (3) Mpls Tribune Dec. 4, 1877 LeFebvre # 36

THE FAIR FARES FORTH

Presently an ice cream cone will appear on the horizon, propelled from behind by a small boy---and lo, the great Minnesota state fair will be on!

The old saying that "none but the brave deserve the fair" must be true, judging by the fortitude of those who, years ago, struggled against all sorts of obstacles to get a fair---first a territorial, then a state exposition---as a permanent Minnesota institution.

Lack of rail facilities, jealousy of communities wanting the show, etc., caused no end of drawbacks at first and the exhibition was shifted from hither to yon and back to hither several times before settling down into its present location,

Forerunner of the eventual big event was the decision of the Ramsey County Agricultural Society in 1852 to hold a "cattle show and fair" that fall. That county fair and others elsewhere formed the nucleus from which the state fair sprang. (1)

The Hennepin County Agricultural Society held its first fair two years later, drawing this review from the Minnesota Pioneer: "The agricultural fair at Minneapolis yesterday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the day, passed off finely. Quite a large number of farmers of Hennepin and the adjoining counties were in attendance and no doubt much good will result from the convocation." (2)

Next came the birth of the state fair idea. Minnesotian,

August 1, 1855: "Some of our editorial neighbors engaged recently in stirring up the people to the importance of holding a territorial fair during the coming fall. It appears the executive committee of the Territorial society have failed so far in raising the necessary funds to defray the expenses, but it is yet hoped the amount required (\$1,200) will be forthcoming." (3)

All they wanted in Grandfather's day to hold the fair was \$1,200!

And this is all the space the Minnesotian, October 16, gave to the show: "This interesting event took place yesterday and many people went to Minneapolis to witness it. The display was creditable and, all the circumstances considered, the society may be considered as having done admirably." (4)

The state fair was omitted off and on, particularly during the Civil war, one year principally because Horace Greeley couldn't come to make a speech. Greeley did appear in 1865, however, and was the headliner. (5)

Rochester and Red Wing were chosen for the fair on occasion and it was held at Fort Snelling in 1863. (6) How the fair spirit spread is illustrated by this, from the Minneapolis Tribune of Sept. 29, 1868:

"An enthusiastic farmer from Jackson county, 160 miles distant, arrived at the (Minneapolis) fair grounds with five yoke of working cattle attached to a wagon loaded with pumpkins. He came the entire distance on foot and alone****There is an example for stay-at-home farmers!" (7)

- (1) St. Anthony Express, May 14, 1852 - Patchin # 2182
- 2 Minnesotian, Pioneer Oct 21, 1854 - Hellewell # 16757
- 3 Daily Minnesotian June 11, 1852 - Hellewell # 72
- 4 St. P. 11 Oct 16, 1852 -
- 5 Pioneer & Dem. Oct 9, 1861 - Lebel 1277
- (6) St. Paul Daily Press Oct 5, 1866 -
- (7) Minneapolis Tribune Sept 29, 1868 - Hellewell # 353

see folder
on State
Fairs for
complete
details.

*John M. Hoy, former Minneapolis
Police Officer*

AFTER 'EM!

The death last week of John M. Hoy, former Minneapolis police lieutenant, will recall to many old timers memories of his estimable father, Michael Hoy, who served as marshal of St. Anthony and police chief of Minneapolis. Ex-captain of the Tenth Minnesota Regiment during the Civil War, Michael Hoy, commenced his duties as marshal of St. Anthony in 1867. (1)

There were no stop and go signs in those days, but there was a speed limit and marshal Hoy insisted on its being obeyed. Under the heading, "AFTER 'EM," a Minneapolis paper of April 23, 1868 tells the story. "Mike Hoy, the efficient city marshal of St. Anthony, made a raid on some of the prominent business men of that city yesterday, for trotting across the Hennepin Island bridge. A number of gentlemen have been in the habit of driving faster than the law allows, and yesterday morning, marshal Hoy suddenly stopped two flour men, one lumber man, and one foundry man in their mad career, and took them before Justice Woodbury, who imposed a fine of \$10 each." (2)

Hoy continued as Chief of police for Minneapolis after the two towns were united and grew in favor with the general public, but when he took down the names of the mayor and several aldermen for breaking the speed limit the local editor said he lacked discretion and asked that he be removed from office. However, mayor George Brackett saw no necessity for such action. (3)

One of the best known of the pioneer police chief's adventures was his trip into Canada to bring back the bogus "Lord Gordon," who

had defrauded unwary Americans from humble timber cutters right on up to the mighty Jay Gould. But Gordon's perfidy was unknown to the Canadian attorney General who objected when Hoy, without the consent of the Canadian government, dragged his Lordship bodily from the home of a friend with whom he was visiting, bundled him into a wagon and drove pell-mell toward the Minnesota border. Hoy was overtaken and his prisoner released, and he himself was thrown into jail. His Minneapolis friends spent several months and thousands of dollars securing his release. When Hoy finally got back home, on September 23, 1873, a brass band, a troop of Irish Rifles and a couple of thousand citizens turned out to greet him. ⁽⁴⁾ Hoy discharged his duties as champion of law and order until he had made "the streets safe for pedestrians and decent women could go out alone without being insulted." ⁽⁵⁾ He retired in 1874 but was always ready to offer his services as a volunteer when help was needed by his successors. ⁽⁶⁾ After the James boys' gang raided the Northfield bank in 1876 the Minneapolis Tribune received the following message: "Minneopa, Minn. September 14, 1876, - We came onto the robbers' camp at half-past six o'clock this morning and captured all of their blankets, bridles and coats. We are in hot pursuit." (Signed) "M. Hoy." ⁽⁷⁾

- (1) Minnesota Biographies - 348
- (2) Minneapolis Trib. Apr. 23, 1868
- (3) " " " " Dec 2, 1873
- 4 " " " " July 17, 1873
- 5 Law & order answer to letter of Pine.
- 6 Min. Biog. 348 - also answer to Law & order
- 7 Minneapolis Trib. Sept 14, 1876

WHAT HO, THE STORK!

Performances of the stork drew free publicity in early-day newspapers in Minnesota long before there were routine announcements in the vital statistics columns.

For some now obscure reason there were persons in Todd county who thought too much space was being given the arrivals of the stork. Taking note of this, the Todd County Argus in 1879 passed the buck:

"We understand that certain parties object to the frequent notices of births which appear in our columns. Gentlemen, we are bound to publish everything which indicates prosperity in the community. If such items appear too often, please arrange with the people; don't blame us." (1)

That same year it became the privilege of the Minneapolis Tribune to publicize the following:

"Yesterday Feb. 27 a Mrs. Laird, residing at the corner of Fourth avenue north and Fifth street, this city, gave birth to a female child which in size might pass for a twin sister of Hop O' My Thumb, of the children's story books. It weighs with its blanket only one pound and a quarter, but strange to say has a head of heavy coal black hair and five teeth. So much interest has been excited by this infant phenomenon that the parents have been prevailed upon to exhibit it at the Clark House commencing tomorrow, when all who wish to verify this remarkable story may do so." (2)

✓ One of the stork's "color schemes" was thus noted by the Hastings Union in January 1880, a commentary on certain twins born in Dakota county the year before:

"Two were colored, three Indian, six mixed and one, in Rosemount, 'sort of white.' " (3)

Straying a bit from the annals of the stork, but not too far afield since babies grow into childhood--almost every man can remember how, when he was a youngster in school, he resolved at one time or another to grow up fast and lick his teacher. Those were the days of the smarting ferule, when the rod was not spared and the child, theoretically, was not spoiled. In a January 14, 1880 newspaper appears a wee item proving that at least one chap didn't wait to grow up to get revenge:

"At Owatonna on Monday George Ellis was fined \$10 for assaulting and beating his school teacher, Mr. Marion." (4)

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| (1) Mpls. Tribune | Jan. 17, 1879 | Shepard # 978 |
| (2) Mpls. " | Feb. 3, 1879 | " |
| (3) Hastings Union | Jan. 16, 1880 | Westrum # 868 |
| (4) Mpls. Tribune | Jan. 14, 1880 | " # 861 |

Taxes in early days

THEIR PATIENCE TAXED

Folks squawked about "tax attacks" long ago in Minnesota, the same as they do now. But, even as now, it did little, if any, good.

Stillwater Gazette as long ago as February 2, 1876:

"A taxpayers' meeting was held at the office of Durant, Wheeler & Co. on Saturday evening. A fair representation of prominent taxpayers was present. The meeting was organized by calling Isaac Staples to the chair. . .

"Mr. Durant stated the object of the meeting to be. . .to ascertain if any reduction of the expenses of the city government could be made, either by reducing the number of city officials, reducing salaries or retrenchment in general city expenditures. . .

"Stillwater is rated as one of the wealthiest cities in Minnesota, and boasts of having 122 citizens who pay a personal tax over \$20. Red Wing has 50 citizens who pay from \$100 to \$1,000 personal tax, while the little interior city of Rochester has over 100 persons who pay a tax exceeding \$50 each. . .

"Now if the tax list as published is true, our people are either wretchedly poor or have been exceedingly dextrous in dodging and evading the assessor. . . One thing is certain, the present system of assessment will not do in Stillwater and some other must be devised." (1)

Somehow, this all has a familiar ring.

The Minneapolis Tribune had a municipal complaint of its own, some ten years before, and not about taxes. It said, under the heading "Man Trap":

Man Trap

"We notice that the surgeons and undertakers have all got their eyes on the defective places in the sidewalk on the corner of Nicollet and Second streets, to see who will get the first job from it. It is the best place in the city for some fellow to break his neck or leg of a dark night." (2)

In the winter of 1875, the complaint was about the streets being too icy. That was in Stillwater, too, where Grandmother evidently could take it, if the Gazette's poetic outburst correctly presented the situation:

"The sleighing hasn't been very good, and there being more ice than snow on the streets, pedestrians have often found it necessary to 'look a leetle oud' while doubling some of the street corners. The following very fairly describes what happened on a crossing not long since--

Bowing and smiling she crossed the street,
 With a love of a tied-back on;
 But the crossing was awful, and down she went,
 And then her tied-back was gone.
 She rose from her seat with a martyred air
 And gathered the things she wore;
 She looked like one who was willing to swear,
 But then, she never swore." (3)

- (1) Stillwater Gazette Feb. 2, 1876 Norgren # 1408
 (2) Mpls. Tribune July 11, 1867
 (3) Stillwater Gazette Dec 18, 1875 Norgren # 1314

Grandfather's Day.

History about Grand Portage.

36.

Recent Washington dispatches have carried a statement by Secretary of the Interior Ickes containing the refusal of his department to permit the Minnesota highway department to relocate the Lake Superior North Shore drive so that it would run along the shore of the lake, through Grand Portage. The secretary based refusal on the statement that the relocation would be taking away rights of and property belonging to the Chippewa Indians who people the Grand Portage reservation, in Cook county.

Minnesota historical works in the Minneapolis public library are rich in lore of this romantically historical place, Grand Portage being the oldest town in Minnesota. The attitude of the secretary of the interior calls to mind that in the long ago Poor Lo did not have any government agent to take up his cause - if the white man wanted something the Indian had, he went after it with a shotgun.

Long before 1854 when the United States government set aside land for the reservation, the red men were on the defensive against the marauding whites, but eventually relations reached the treaty stage. The historic stockade at Grand Portage has been restored as one of the chief points of interests to tourists in the state.

The Minnesota WPA Writers' Project publication, "Minnesota, A State Guide", says:

"The story of Grand Portage and of the trail that ran nine miles northwest from the lake to the Pigeon river is one of the most romantic of all frontier history. Even before the Declaration of Independence was signed, more than 1,000 miles away in the heart of this northwest wilderness, there

Grandfather's Day.

was already established a busy settlement with flourishing trade, said to have included shops, French fashions, drinking places and even police. In 1793 the post consisted of a high stockade surrounding 16 log buildings; these provided lodgings for officers and clerks, a huge mess hall, storage for furs and supplies and goods for barter.

"Beyond the enclosure were the camps of the 'pork eaters,' as the tenderfoot canoe men were called, the wigwams of the Indians and a canoe yard that accommodated 150 canoes; about 70 new canoes were added each year. Here foregathered hundreds of Indians, imperturable and watchful; here was the goal of the dashing voyageurs, naively vain and dramatically colorful with jauntily perched plumed caps of red wool, blue capotes and gaudy sashes, bare thighs, deerskin leggings and moccasins, and their ubiquitous pipes."

The Chippewa has remained inviolate in his reservation domain, Uncle Sam always watching over his interests and alert against encroachments such as Secretary Ickes claims the proposed relocation of the drive would involve.

* * *

II

THE ETERNAL FEMININE

The mere man of today who is nonplussed by those things women call hats and who is befuddled by those wedge shoes that make him wonder what's heel and what's sole--the mere man, it is repeated, may take comfort from the knowledge that the position of the eternal feminine as a disturbing factor in the social order is not at all modern.

She's always been a puzzle, and her invasion in these later days of what formerly were considered strictly masculine prerogative has some precedent. In the June 12, 1872 issue of the St. Paul Daily Press, for instance, there appeared this significant little item:

"A woman in New Ulm was arrested last week and locked up in jail for beating her husband. After 24 hours' imprisonment she was tried and discharged with an admonition to leave the poor fellow alone in the future." (1)

Another reversal of the usual form was reported in the Minneapolis Tribune of January 26, 1880:

"Mary Neice of Sauk Center advertises that her husband has left her bed and board and that she will not be responsible for any debts contracted by him." (2)

The trade of the fair sex was sought as assiduously as now, however, and the Stillwater Gazette of June 30, 1875, gave an instance of this competition:

"Rivalry is sharp between the agents of the steamers Knapp and Nellie. This morning the agents . . . were endeavoring to secure a lady passenger to the Falls. The following conversation, in substance, ensued:

"Agent for Nellie--'I will give you passage on my boat to Taylor's Falls and return for 25 cents. . .'

"Agent for Knapp--'I will make you a present of a ticket up and back; it shan't cost you a cent.'

"Agent for Nellie--'I will give you your fare up and back, and furnish your meals.'

"Agent for Knapp--'I will see that offer and raise him one. I will give you your passage up and back, furnish your meals, and give you a berth!"

Remembering, perhaps, the warning against strangers bearing gifts, the lady, it was reported, scorned the last proposition. (3)

Sometimes the eternal feminine even took her stand against the vaunted power of the press. Same Stillwater Gazette, this time January 26, 1876:

"A few evenings since, the Stillwater end of the Minneapolis Tribune [its correspondent] was politely invited to leave a certain room in which was assembled a bevy of ladies who had gathered in solemn conclave to decide what action should be taken, if any, in reference to a leap year party. But the end was particularly and considerably over-anxious for an item and . . . obtruded himself again in the room. One of the ladies, by the tip end of his ear ended him from the room." (4)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| (1) St. Paul Daily Press | June 12, 1872 | Peterson # 699 |
| (2) Mpls. Tribune | Jan. 26, 1880 | Westrum # 293 |
| (3) Stillwater Gazette | June 30, 1875 | Norgren # 999 |
| (4) " | Jan. 26, 1876 | Norgren # 1402 |

THE CLUCKS IN KU KLUX

in Carlton county

In these days of national defense activity warning has gone out from Washington that the citizenry should make careful distinction between vigilance and vigilante in dealing with the fifth column problem. In 1872, the possibility of irresponsible public action also reared its head, and apparently gave the editor of the St. Paul Daily Press something of a shock. In his issue of April 5, that year:

"From Carlton county--away up in the woods toward Lake Superior, wherein lies the Northern Pacific junction--we have received two mysterious circulars accompanied by the following note:

" 'Enclosed please find circulars from citizens of Carlton. Truly yours, VIGILANTE.'

"The circulars are in the following awful terms of warning which, in the printed copy, are emphasized with rough wood cuts of three upright coffins in a row:

" 'MURDERERS AND THIEVES BEWARE! Any person who commits murder or theft in our midst IS OUR MEAT! This is our first and last warning. VIGILANTE.'

[Second circular]

" 'Mr. --- You are hereby ordered to leave ----- within 24 hours from date of this notice, or remain at your peril.' VIGILANTE.'

"We don't know to what circumstances these fearful warnings to murderers and thieves owe their origin; whether a recent eruption of murderers and thieves have put the peaceful and well disposed inhabitants of Carlton

in such imminent and deadly peril that they have deemed it necessary to resort to the extreme remedy of an appeal to Judge Lynch, represented by a vigilance committee, for protection; but we must be permitted to say that the perils of life and property must be very imminent, indeed, and the legal safeguards palpably and incurably inadequate to justify this sort of *kluxism* in Minnesota. . . ." (1)

It is not recorded in the annals that the Carlton correspondents had to make good their threats and apparently Judge Lynch was kept off the bench while the legitimate jurists served the community. The Minnesota newspapers at that time, meanwhile, were proudly noting the march of progress toward a better order of things, commercial and otherwise. The Minneapolis Tribune, for instance, was calling attention to cotton, saying:

"The first carload of cotton ever received in Minnesota arrived in this city yesterday [March 24, 1870] . . . from Memphis . . . for the Minneapolis Cotton Mill, which is just going into operation. This is . . . an event of no little importance to our city and state, and marks the beginning of a new era." (2)

More evolution, also told in the Tribune:

"The telephone exchange is in receipt of a new switchboard which enables the 'shouter' to do his own switching and avoids the confusion incident to a second person doing the connecting between the two lines."

(Note: Bet he could still get the wrong number!) (3)

(1) St. Paul Daily Press	Apr 5, 1872	Peterson # 507
(2) Mpls. Tribune	March 25, 1870	Couper # 931
(3) " "	Jan. 17, 1880	Westrum # 869

II

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FROM THE SCRAPBOOK

War anecdotes are sprinkled plentifully through Minnesota's annals, and some are of particular interest in view of present-day preparedness activity. The St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat, in 1862, printed this communication from a citizen anxious to fight the south but with a nice eye for business:

"I wish to join the patriotic Germans that are enlisting in this City for the protection of their adopted country against the enemies. I will sell my stock of groceries and provisions, and rent my store and take my place among my brave fellow-citizens with the hosts of armed men. In this way I can leave my large and dependent family with a brave heart and stout courage. The store is large and commodious, situated in a good part of the city, with a well established list of costumers, and offers superior inducements to anyone desirous to engage in business. Americans, help your German friends to go to the war. F. Knaugt, Seventh street." (1)

Picked up at random in Minnesota research ---

"Saloon keepers," said the Stillwater Gazette in 1875, "will be interested if not pleased to know that the supreme court has decided that the tax upon them of \$10 for the establishment and maintenance of an inebriate asylum is constitutional." (2)

Fashion hints of 1878:

"A new feature in kid gloves is the polished inside as well as outside

* * * found in all shades . . . mouse gray, shell colors, Bird of Paradise, rosewood, heliotrope, flax and logwood." - - - "Bits of golden silver braid, fastened by bouquets of flowers to harmonize with the costume, are fashionable." - - - "Water fringe is used in place of fur trimmings for mantles." (3)

The Winona Herald that year asked: "Is it right for the wife to wear six-button kids while the husband fastens his suspenders with a nail?" Which caused The Minneapolis Tribune to reply: "Be a man, now; don't parade family affairs before the public." (6)

A "bran new" kind of fuel was announced in the Tribune, January 10, 1879: "A Minneapolis gentleman down from New Ulm states authoritatively that in a steam flouring mill at that place the proprietors use bran as fuel rather than sell it at \$5 per ton. Wood is selling in that Market at \$4 per cord." (4)

The wires must have been crossed in 1880, causing the Benson Times to declare: "It is easier for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven than to get a telegram from Benson to St. Paul in four days." (5)

* * * *

(1) Daily Pioneer & Democrat	Aug 13, 1862	Rice # 516
(2) Stillwater Gazette	Dec 15, 1875	Norgren # 1315
(3) Mpls. Tribune	Jan 25, 1878	Lefebvre # 478
(4) Mpls "	Jan 10, 1879	Shepard # 939
(5) " "	Jan 12, 1880	Westrum # 853
(6) " "	Mar 15, 1878	Lefebvre # 742

Balloons and flying machines
in 1856 & 64.
UP IN THE AIR

Aviation now being so much in the public eye, it is worth noting that Minnesota for a long time has had a finger in the air pie.

It will not be forgotten that Colonel Lindbergh is a Minnesota product, and more recently, the celebrated Prof. Picard chose Minnesota for his stratosphere experiments.

Count Zeppelin, who in 1864 rose 300 feet above the round tower at Fort Snelling and stayed off the ground 30 minutes is usually thought of as being the first air-minded man in this state to achieve note. Before that, however, in 1856, Peter J. Clark of St. Anthony announced he had invented a flying machine in which he promised to soar from St. Anthony to St. Paul and later to San Francisco. Research does not reveal that Clark was successful; but the following year, Messrs. Markoe and Brown are reported to have made a flight in a balloon, during which a height of nearly 3 miles was attained. The Pioneer Democrat Weekly, St. Paul, said:

(1)

"Messrs. Markoe and Brown . . . arrived safely in the city at 5 o'clock yesterday morning . . . from Mr. Markoe, we learn, that on the first attempt to land, which was near Forest Lake, the netting of the balloon and the valve ropes became entangled with the branches of a tree, and a sudden gust of wind tore them loose, when throwing out the anchors one of the ropes parted, but they succeeded in coming down on a rice lake . . . and soon got to the edge of it, when the second anchor broke, and a fresh wind gave them an upward tendency; when Mr. Eaton suggested he could get out and fasten the balloon around a tree, which he

did; but no sooner had he got over the side, than Mr. Markoe called to him to come in again. But at that instant the rope slipped through his hands, and away the balloon shot, nearly straight up, almost as rapidly as an arrow from a well strung bow.

"Mr. Markoe immediately discovered the mishap to his valve ropes, and Mr. Brown took hold of the netting and climbed up through the hoop, around which all cords are gathered, and standing on the hoop, with the end of a cord in his mouth, succeeded in getting a loop on the valve ropes, which were broken nearly up to the mouth of the balloon, when Mr. Markoe had his aerial ship once more under his control, and allowing the gas to escape, came down rapidly, landing on the top of a tree . . . about one and a half miles from the farm of Mr. John Austin, who hastened to their assistance, and in a little time they were safe and sound on terra firma . . . they think they went up the second time nearly three miles and were far above the clouds . . .

"They landed precisely at 12 o'clock, M. The place they landed was about 3 miles distant from Columbus."

When this account has been translated so as to ascertain which were ropes, which balloonists and which something else, and after the commas and semicolons have been unscrambled, it may be imagined that these ascensionists had the time of their lives. The Columbus mentioned is, incidentally, one of the state's ghost towns, long since disappeared, in Anoka county.

(1) St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat * Oct 15, 1857 John * 165

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II

Grandfather's Day. *Fort Gaines changed to Fort Ripley.*
Mock war in 1862.

CAMP RIPLEY

While thousands of soldiers are acting warlike at Camp Ripley these days, everybody knows it's only a mock war. But there have been times when activities there approached the real thing, and no folling.

Fort Ripley originally was named Fort Gaines, in honor of Brig. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines, but official announcement was made in 1850 of the change to Fort Ripley, in honor of Gen. E. W. Ripley, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812. At one time a deal was on to sell the land but in view of the menace of the Indians the secretary of war balked the plan in 1858. The fort itself was built in 1849-50, but long ago fell into disuse and decay until nothing was left but ruins of the powder magazine, the only building of stone.

Much more serious than anything the defense-practice forces are now staging at Ripley was the situation in the summer of 1862, when the Chippewas threatened an honest-to-goodness war. Finally the chiefs decided they did not care to face the three companies of infantry stationed there, and the thing was called off. While trouble was still imminent the fort commander sent the following to Gov. Ramsey at St. Paul: (3)

"Sir -- Men, women and children poured into the fort all night for protection. They are all from the vicinity of the Indians and feel certain that the Indians will attack soon. They say the Indians are determined to take the fort so as to get arms and ammunition. The Indians are reinforced from Leech lake and now number about 300 warriors. Their squaws have all left for the north which shows that they are preparing to fight. Should they commence we will have

400 men here and 200 horses to clean them out entirely. They cannot take the fort but we have not force sufficient to successfully attack them in the woods. The only way is to have half cavalry and half infantry and drive them from the country. They still expect 200 men more in one or two days. I think they will wait until they arrive.

"They had a war meeting last night and one of their chiefs, Bad Boy, was in favor of peace and they threatened to kill him and he made his escape and is here. He says they are for war unless the government will give them all they ask, which is a general overhauling of everything for several years back. He is sure there will be war. He succeeded in getting only three of his band to join him for peace. We use them for advance guards. * * *

"If I had men enough I would order them to disperse and if they refused I would clean them out and not give them a chance to attack the settlers. * * *

"We can get 100 good men here to volunteer to fight them, but they have no arms but shotguns. The settlers here wish to make it a war of extermination if the Indians commence. If they do commence it would be a good time to pay them all we owe them and get a clear title to the land."

On various occasions in its early history Fort Ripley was a shelter for settlers when Indian trouble threatened.

* * *

- (1) Minn Pioneer Dec. 19, 1850
- (2) Pioneer Democrat Apr 8, 1859
- (3) Pioneer & Democrat Aug 27, 1862

Hellebick * 1193
John * 630
Rice * 547

Grandfather's Day.

Ye Olde Conscription

Minnesota fills her quota

In view of the current discussion over conscription, it is interesting to turn back the pages of history to the time when Civil War conscription was in effect, and note what Minnesotans in general did about it.

The selection draft of the World war is within the clear memory of the elders, and Gen. Hugh Johnson, having been an important cog in the machine, makes frequent reference to it in his column in the Tribune.

A feather in Minnesota's historical cap is the fact that this state was the first to offer troops to Lincoln after the fall of Fort Sumter. Gov. Ramsey happened to be in Washington when news of that event reached the capital. He went at once to the war department and offered 1,000 Minnesotans. One day after Lincoln's war proclamation, Ignatius Donnelly, acting governor, issued a call for formation of the First Minnesota regiment. It was assembled rapidly and reached the Potomac in time for the first battle of Bull Run.

Before the final muster out, this state had furnished 21,982 enlisted men. Minnesota was especially on the alert because of danger that the Mississippi would be closed against northern commerce.

In August of 1862 the war department gave notice that, if any state had not filled its quota by the 15th. of that month, the deficiency would be made up by special draft. Minnesota averted conscription by supplying 320 volunteers in excess of its quota of 5,362.

In the light of present-day talk about not sending United States soldiers out of the country, the following from the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat is striking. It quotes a possible recruit:

"If I could only get a hint from Uncle Abe [Lincoln] that we shouldn't be ordered out of the state . . . I'd enlist."

The same paper said in 1862: "We noticed several bright eyed youths yesterday sadly disfigured by spectacles and goggles, and also quite a number who hobbled along with canes in their hands. Come, boys, it's useless to play those old dodges . . . You can't humbug the inspecting physician."

On account of Indian trouble, Gov. Ramsey that year gave notice of intended extension of the time for the proposed government draft so it would take effect until October. Lincoln wired him: "Attend to the Indians. If the draft cannot proceed of course it will not proceed. Necessity knows no law. The government cannot extend the time."

Inducements that would seem odd in this day and age were made to get the boys to join the army. In Stillwater, the women gave each recruit two blankets. Employers in numerous cases offered a bonus.

The old marriage dodge was tried, too. St. Paul Press, March 4, 1863: "Some of our time-worn bachelors are getting alarmed at the danger they are in of being drafted. . . Quite a number have commenced to look for exemption papers in the shape of a marriage certificate."

* * *

Grandfather's Day

*Farming in early days.
3 sisters try it alone.*

Hardihood of girls apparently equalled that of men among early Minnesota settlers, according to a newspaper correspondent's story written in 1869,

The Nordisk Folkeblad, published in Minneapolis, sent P. Hjelm-Hansen on a tour of Norwegian settlements and in an attempt to reach one 10 miles north of Chippewa City --- an attempt foiled by snow --- he found the following to write about, the account appearing in November:

"I might report the fact that there are three beautiful young girls from Nummedal, Norway, that have taken homesteads here and intend to farm it themselves. One is Turi Knudedatter Halvorsgaard, who has taken 80 acres of splendid prairie land and forest on the bank of the Minnesota river, has built both house and barn, has two cows and a pig and has broken and fenced one and a half acre of land.

"The second Jorand Olsdatter Enerstvedt, also has 80 acres. She has built a house and intends to start breaking land in the spring.

"The third, Gunild Olsdatter Enerstvedt has also taken 80 acres, is at present building a house and has started to break land.

"How long these determined young ladies remain single in this farming adventure is difficult to say, but in all probability they will, before long, be persuaded into a state of matrimony."

One is almost inclined to hope that Cupid did not interrupt this saga of feminine fortitude.

In another part of his article, Hjelm-Hansen brings out how speedily the early settlers established themselves. He writes that one Lars Larsen Rudi "came here empty-handed three years ago, now owns 160 acres with some forest, seven head of cattle, a nice house and has broken four acres"; and tells how Ole Halvorsen Ronnevammen, also three years on the land "has 160 acres, has broken 46, and his livestock includes five horses, four oxen, four cows, three heifers, nine sheep and five hogs."

* * * * *

U. S. Mail carriers in early days

Recent editorial comment in the Minneapolis Tribune on the new aerial rural free delivery being tried out in eastern states serves to point out the contrast between Uncle Sam's present smooth-running mail service and the vicissitudes experienced by early-day letter bearers.

Jacob Fahlstrom was one of the first persons in Minnesota entrusted to carry mail. He traveled on foot between Prairie du Chien and Fort Snelling in the early half of the nineteenth century, keeping himself in the good graces of the Indians on his route by talking to them in their own tongues.

First record of private postoffice boxes is contained in the July 28, 1849 Minnesota Register: "Our postmaster, Mr. H. Jackson, has fitted up his new postoffice building ... with great taste and convenience. Every citizen ... can now have a box to himself."

St. Paul Chronicle and Register, March 2, 1850: "The 'train' from Pembina this week consisted of a single board 10 or 12 inches wide and about 10 feet long, and turned up at the forward end similar to a sleigh runner ... Three dogs are harnessed tandem. One of the men walks before and the other behind, there being a strap fastened to the hindmost end for the purpose of holding back when descending a hill... These hardy voyageurs travelled 600 miles in 18 days, their 'train' laden with a heavy mail."

Minnesota Pioneer, September 4, 1851: "We are requested to inquire if anybody can tell why it takes letters six weeks to go from Chicago to Cottage Grove, Minn."

St. Croix Union, November 3, 1854: "The steamboat Galena came up to our post a week ago. Before reaching this place and as they touched Point Douglass, they left the mail belonging to us at that place, thus depriving us of mail for nearly a week."

St. Paul Democrat, December 13, 1854: "On Sunday evening as the stage was crossing Lake St. Croix between Hudson and Stillwater, it broke through the ice. The stage and horses were lost. The mail, including two bags for this city, was saved and is detained at Stillwater until it can be dried."

*Father Lucian Galtier, first
priest to be sent to Minn.*

Regardless of whether St. Paul deserved the title of "Crime capital" applied to it by the G-men some time ago, it appears that in days gone by, small as the place then was, there was a "hot time in the old town."

Father Lucian Galtier was the first priest to be sent into Minnesota to establish a parish. As is well known, he built a little log church and named it St. Paul's, from which the city got its name. Wrote Father Galtier to Bishop Loras of Dubuque, January 6, 1844:

"A quite satisfactory number of soldiers [at Fort Snelling] have joined the temperance society, but offsetting that good, since several days before Christmas, on the St. Paul side especially, there has occurred an orgy of bacchanalian celebration nearly continuous. I intend tomorrow to threaten them with the divine anger if they do not return to their duties. A priest is absolutely necessary in this place. My lord can assure himself by the details I have given previously that the bishop of Milwaukee should be notified. I will take it upon myself to write him when he returns to his premises.

"I am anxious to have charge no longer of these men. It appears necessary to be always among them, studying them, searching within them, combatting them and, with the grace of God, reforming them.

"Easier is it to make miracles and raise the dead than to reform the drunkard. But one cannot always choose his path; it is necessary to suffer adversity."

Research in Minnesota journalistic annals brings to light a consolidation in 1876 which evidently did not meet with unqualified approval. The Stillwater Gazette said, April 19 of that year:

"There has been a startling consolidation out of which springs a new mammoth sheet published at St. Paul, Minneapolis and several other places simultaneously, and to be called the 'Dual City Pioneer Press and Tribune!' That's all the names the concern has up to date; they may hitch on 30 or 40 more after the thing gets in good running order. It will appear in a few days."

* * * * *