Minnesota Works Progress Administration: Writers Project Research Notes.

Copyright Notice:

Version 3
August 20, 2018

Grandfather's Day

III

Ball tournament at Oak Grove, Hennepin county, in 1852

Bernie Bierman might have enjoyed the lacrosse tournament at Oak Grove, Hennepin county, in 1852. Chief Shakopee's boys took on the players of Chiefs Good Road, Sky Man and Grey Iron. The games lasted three days, betting ran high, and the event ended in a tied score. The Minnesota Democrat printed a background description for paleface fans:

"A ball is made by a Medicine man. . . into which he infuses the spirit of the god by whom he is inspired. It is made of moistened clay, covered with leather, and painted to suit the caprice of the god, and is about two and a half inches in diameter. . . Each player is provided with a club, which is a small stick about three feet in length, with the lower end bent in a circle, corresponding to the size of the ball, with strings tied across it so as to form a holder by means of which they can pick up or catch the ball and throw it.

"It is not allowed one ordinarily to touch the ball with the hands. The playground in summer is some even place on the prairie, and on the ice in the winter. The bounds are frequently near half a mile apart, and the game is to carry the ball from the center of the playground beyond the bounds, one party striving to carry it one way and the other in the opposite direction.

"In summer the players (if they are men) are generally naked except the belt and breech-cloth, and their bodies and limbs are smeared over with paints, such as blue, white and yellow clay, charcoal, vermilion, etc. Their heads are also ornamented with quills, ribbons and other trinkets, and their legs with the skins of various animals and bells.

"Some of them have a string of small bells around their waist, and not infrequently they have fastened to the belt behind the tail of a fox, wolf or ox, or a long string of pigeon's or other quills.

"Thus equipped, it is not a little exciting, even to look on, as the ball is thrown up in the center and two or three hundred men rush for it as for their lives, running this way, then the other, cheered on by hundreds of interested spectators, some of whom have staked on the issue of the game all the property they can command, not excepting the kettle in which they are accustomed to boil food for their children. It is a severe game in which some of them always receive knocks and bruises from which they do not recover for weeks or months. . ."

Minn. Dem. Wkly (From the Dakota Friend) July 9, 1852
Potekin, Dec 15, 1938

III

Grandfather's Day

From the Scrapbooks

If all the odd items turned up in Minnesota research could be laid end to end, the might easily reach from infinity to eternity.

A misplaced turkey day was chronicled in 1870. Newspaper paragraph on November 26: "A Dakota county farmer celebrated Monday the 21st. as Thanksgiving day with the biggest and best dinner he ever gave, his women folks giving a week of preparation to it, all from a typographical mistake in the Pioneer which printed "21st." for "24th."

In the Brainerd Tribune, 1874: "A few days since, a jack pine tree, solid and sound from top to bottom, was cut down in this town, and some 40 feet from the ground, imbedded in the solid, sound wood, were chopped out several human bones, consisting of joints, ribs, etc. The only theory that looks reasonable is that when the tree was small the remains of a defunct Indian were deposited among the limbs-- as the natives often bury their dead in a tree top-- and as the tree grew many of the bones were grown round about by the wood forming the body of the tree."

Litchfield News Ledger, summer of 1877: "From the best estimates we have been able to make we should judge that in the past eight days there have been from 1,200 to 1,400 of the tar dozers (grasshopper exterminators) running daily in this vicinity. Say there are 1,200 of the running and that they average a bushel apiece each day. (Which is a small estimate.) That would be 1,200 bushels a day

or 9,600 bushels in the past eight days that have been caught in Meeker county alone.."

Then ponder over this fashion note of 1878, which the Tribune printed: " Imperial orange is the name of a new color or dye. It's peculiar property is that the article of dress dyed with it may burst into flames at any moment and be reduced to ashes, together with the wearer."

* * * * * *

Mr. Braun's elastic farm.
1870 school girls same as 1940.

Grandfather's Day.

IT'S QUITE AN ART in the newspaper fraternity, this interviewing of visitors. "What do you think of our city?" is the usual starter, to which the wise interviewer responds "It's got the greatest future of any city in America!" But the outsider has not always rated a flattering writeup. The Stillwater Gazette, for example, handled one of the "strangers in our midst" without gloves, thus, in 1876:

"Braun, the veritable Braun of historical fame, now a resident of Long Branch, or North Branch, was in town yesterday. Braun is an old settler; immigrated to this section at a remote period, nobody knows the particular date, but it was several years before the (other) whites came.

"He has a little farm up near North Branch. He doesn't know the exact number of acres; his estimates vary. In the forenoon he calls it 40 acres, but along about 4 P. M. he usually speaks of his farm as composed of 17 quarter sections, all under the highest improvement except two acres and a half.

"You ought to hear him tell about his cows --- that is, in the afternoon. In the forenoon he isn't sure whether he has any cows or not.

"But if you value your time, don't get him started on his story about shoeing 3,000 pigs before breakfast."

* * * * *

After all, are the 1940 girls so different, in some respects at least, from those in grandmother's day? Minneapolis schools have just reopened and the lassies are tripping along learning-ward. They were doing the same thing in the 1870's, when the Gazette observed:

"Half grown girls, in bands of four or five, trip gaily through out streets to school with their arms full of books, their minds full of boys and their mouths full of gum."

* * * * *

III

Grandfather's Day. Correct pronounciation ends in shooting
Police call system in 1878

ACQUISITION BY THE United States of defense bases from Britain brings a number of proper names into prominence as citizens discuss the move, and question the correct pronounciation of some of them. It would seem there would not be any question about how to say "Newfoundland," but that wasn't the case back in 1876. A Minnesota paper of that year told of a shooting over this trivial issue.

It appears the dispute arose in one of the lumber camps. The two contestants sent a man 10 miles for a dictionary to settle the matter; but he was gone longer than they thought he would be, so the argument which had subsided pending arrival of the book flared up again and this time words simply wouldn't suffice.

One of the lumberjacks took a well-aimed wallop at the other, sending him prostrate. Whereupon the smitten man reached for his trusty gun and shot the other fellow.

* * * * *

Logging stunt of a more peaceful variety: "A young man by the name of Frank Brown lately performed quite a feat on the Mille Lacs river. Starting out on a single log he succeeded in reaching Princeton in one day, having accomplished a distance of some 80 miles. He came on his log until he struck a jam, when he would pass over it, pry out another log, mount it and go on." Newspaper item of May 10, 1640.

* * * * *

Changing the subject, the following from The Minneapolis Tribune of April 24, 1878 presents a striking contrast between primitive police methods of that day and the squad car-radio system in vogue now:

"The chief of police is having a wire stretched from his office to a steam whistle in Brackett's Block. The beats are to be numbered and when a particular officer is wanted the whistle will be blown to designate the number of the beat.

"A sort of diabolical arrangement, to be sure."

* * * * *

(RRC)

III

Grandfather's Day. First R.R. Sleeper comes to Minn. Time sidetracks B-hounds for G-men

STREAMLINED HIAWATHAS and luxuriant airliners with pretty hostesses are taking their place among the everyday things of life, but what a furore they would have created in Grandfather's day when even a plain sleeping car was a novelty! Arrival of the first sleeper to enter Minnesota was thus described in the St. Paul Daily Press, April 19, 1868:

"Notwithstanding the fact that Minnesota has nearly 500 miles of railroad in active operation, a sleeping car has never been used upon any of the railroads. The first one ever brought to the state came up yesterday on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway. It was ferried across the river at McGregor and placed upon the track some days ago.

"Yesterday the train from the east brought it up so as to have it in readiness to go down with the night express which leaves here at 3:50 p. m., Monday.

"The passengers, some of them, availed themselves of the opportunity to take a nap and see how a sleeping car affected them upon Minnesota soil and in our bracing air. Its effect is reported to be quite somniferous.

"This new arrangement will give Minnesotans who desire to go east a chance to enjoy all the luxuries of eastern railroad travel (minus the catastrophes, we hope). We have given this matter some prominence as it is a point in history, an era in western travel that it may be profitable to recall at some future period when we get further advanced in railroad experience."

* * * * *

The Aforesaid Airplanes and the automobile have done much to put Old Dobbin in the shade. Time has also sidetracked the B-hounds, for the most part, in favor of the G-men. However efficient Mr. Hoover's men may be, though, old-

timers will tell you that the B-hound never failed and he could out-detect any lie detector on the market. They packed a wicked whiffer. And they cost quite a bit too, as things were figured by Grandfather. Mankato Record, July 22, 1865:

"The six bloodhounds purchased by Mr. E. P. Evans in Tennessee and entrusted to the care of Captain Potter of the 11th regiment arrived on Monday and are now confined at this place. * * * It seems to us that three of the dogs are nothing more or less than common fox hounds of which there is an abundance in the south. The other three are mixed. The bloodhound predominating." These dogs cost about $150 each, delivered."

* * * * *

(RRC)

III

Grandfather's Day Rain and the State Fair.

STATE FAIR OFFICIALS and the public generally, bewailing the weather during the recent annual Minnesota exposition, will be interested in knowing that on at least one other occasion the fair suffered disastrously, due to rain.

The Tribune made short work of the sad story in its issue of September 13, 1874:

"Financial Failure - The state fair that was honored by three days of rain and one of dust. The last day of the fair was like the rest, a failure in point of attendance. The morning was so 'blue' and cold that strangers threw up the sponge and left on the first train for their sweet homes. . . . The expenses, including $9,000 of premiums, amounted to $12,000. The receipts of yesterday were about $5,500."

* * * * * * * *

Annals tell of divers setbacks of divers kinds when the weather man was unkind to Minnesota. In the same year mentioned, 1874, in June, the Stillwater announcement was made: "It rained 37 different times Saturday, once Sunday, which lasted all day and nearly all night, and 13 times Monday."

Loyally boosting for Minnesota's climate, the St. Paul Pioneer, long before, in 1859, after stating that during a three month period there had been 32 absolutely clear days, 31 partly clear, 21 cloudy and only six stormy, added that that had been "one of the stormiest and filthiest winters within recollection of the oldest inhabitants."

* * * * * * * *

In 1861, the same paper railed against a different kind of weather. The mercury climbed to 105 in the shade and the paper exclaimed: "Shadrack, Meschech and Abednego never felt anything like it."

A very dry year was 1863, with a killing frost in August that ruined tomatoes and watermelons.

Then again, in 1865, "the rains came," and the Daily Press reported: "The flood has been so great up the river that travel has been suspended * * * The Minnesota has risen six feet and the boats are running to Mankato."

For last-minute defelopments - see page one!

III

Fergus Falls, the "coming city"

A lazy club organized in St. Paul

FERGUS FALLS, the "coming city," got a lively boost in the Minneapolis Tribune July 1, 1879 from one George B. Wright, signing himself "Over Northwestern Bank." The following is part of the unique tribute:

"Behold in the west a coming city. The same is the place where Fergus fell. He stubbed his toe on a huckleberry bush . . . He fell. He went down kerchunk. Upon his nose to everlasting smash went he down. . .

"And the place is called Fergus Falls unto this day. . . , Wherefore the river, being green, is called Red. The length thereof is a thousnad Sabbath days' journeys, and the crookedness therof no fellah can find out. . . .

"For it is a mighty river, and is called Red because it is green. And the place of the roaring, the same is the place where Fergus fell.

"And it is the coming city.

"As thou goest astride the iron hoss unto the province of the man Toby /Manitoba/ in the Dohmeeyon, /Dominion/ the land of the Kahnux, /Canucks/ thou shalt tarry by the way in the coming city.

"It is a goodly land, a land flowing as it were with Scotch fife wheat, 62 pounds to the bushel, and potatoes and cabbages likewise. A land flowing also with babies, et cetera, et cetera.

"The coming city is today a city of a thousand, and tomorrow (or thereabouts) of two thousand, and thereafter there may be millions in it, or words to that effect.

"And it everlastingly lumpeth itself.

"For it is the coming city, and the subscriber is its prophet."

* * * * * * *

It takes all kinds of people to make a world, and an early-day issue of the St. Paul Daily Press presented a picture of an organization that evidently was quite far from "humping itself" :

"A lazy club has been organized up town since the present warm spell commenced. We understand that a member was tried yesterday by the secret tribunal for violating the rules. A member testified he had seen him running down St. Anthony hill, quite fast. The accused put up the, defence, however, that he had got going and was too lazy to stop. He was acquitted."

* * * * * * * *

III

Grandfather's Day.

Sauerkraut day in Springfield
& other days in Minn.

(Suggested IMMEDIATE use due to tie-in
with Springfield sauerkraut fete
Wednesday, this week.)

*****

In late summer, special days mark the life of numerous Minnesota communities. Currently featured are Wednesday's annual celebration in Springfield, the "sauerkraut capital of the world," and, on September 22, Montgomery's annual Kolacky Day.

Springfield, just now is talking "of other things," not sealing wax, perhaps, nor kings, but certainly cabbages. With Hopkins' Raspberry Day behind, the coast is clear for the time-honored kraut. The advent of the cabbage into Minnesota is lost in the maze of events since, 117 years ago the first Swiss farmers squatted around Fort Snelling and turned out leafy vegetables for the soldiers. Almost everything in the growing line has been tried in Minnesota, from Chinese sugar to the ginko trees, but the humble cabbage is among the front-rankers in crop successes.

The first Sauerkraut Day formally was celebrated by Springfield in 1911, but long before that there were harvest-time jubilees in Brown County and always an impressive consumption of sauerkraut. When the city's merchants discussed "What can we do to promote better neighborliness and consequently better business?" their thoughts unanimously turned to cabbage. They decided to follow the custom of their sister towns in Minnesota and have a specialty day yearly. The Springfield Advance heralding that first Sauerkraut Day, graced the top half of its first page with a design in green ink. The design, of course, was a cabbage.

As for Montgomery and its Kolacky Day, the event is but a continuation of the social and cultural functions of the Bohemians who settled in Minnesota pioneer times. The St. Paul Democrat Daily, September 4, 1859, noted their arrival thus:

"About 50 Bohemian immigrants arrived here yesterday morning on the Key City. They propose to settle in Carver county, where they have friends who have preceded them in the work of opening farms."

Since kolacky became popularized in this state, the bun has been an ornament and a delight to thousands of others not of Bohemian extraction.

III

Grandfather's Day The Chinese and Their Laundry in the 70's

"THE HEATHEN CHINEE is peculiar," remarked Bret Harte to Bill Nye, and he doubtless seemed peculiar to many others in Grandfather's time because he was not so plentiful in Minnesota then. But he had begun to hang out his sign and also his washing in the '70s. Minneapolis Tribune, July 3, 1876: "Another Chinese laundry has been established in this city, which makes three in all. Sam Lee is the almond-eyed celestial who runs this shop."

Four days later it was noted that the Asiatics were spreading out a bit more in their clean-up canpaign. "Jo Sai, one of the almond-eyed celestials who worked for Wing Lung, has gone back on the boss and established a new opposition laundry on Washington avenue between Seventh and Eighth avenues south. That makes four Chinese wash houses in full blast in the city."

Perhaps Wong Chin Foo decided that enough of his countrymen were dabbling in the suds when he came to Minneapolis in 1877. He found the lecture platform more congenial. He gave a lecture at the Academy of Music on January 5 and won the following review:

"Wong Chin Foo...had another large audience last evening and in return he gave a mighty interesting sketch of Chinese life. The audience was sorry when he quit....There is no gainsaying the fact that Mr. Wong is a pleasant natural talker and that he talks on matters intensely interesting and novel to the average American."

* * * * *

The Japanese, too, came in for their share of wondering and respectful attention. Of a troupe of jugglers who held the Pence Opera House stage in June 1868, the Minneapolis Weekly Star told its readers: "These Japanese look like the pictures of human beings on tea chests, and are very curious as well as interesting people."

III

Grandfather's Day.

Sauerkraut festival just finished at Springfield, Minn.

It was time, the Walrus once said, to talk of cabbages and kings. With kings the world over now busily engaged in doing the vanishing act, there's still cabbage. And Springfield, Minnesota has just finished its annual glorification of the cabbage, its sauerkraut festival.

Almost everything in the growing line has been tried in Minnesota, from Chinese sugar to the ginko tree, but the humble cabbage remains in the front rank of the tasty dependables. Progress of the cabbage in this state is lost in the maze of events since, 117 years ago, the first Swiss farmers squatted around Fort Snelling and raised the leafy vegetable for the soldiers. But it was not until 1911 that Springfield's businessmen decided carnivals took more money out of town than they brought in, and arranged for Sauerkraut Day. It was held that year on October 10. The Springfield Advance heralded the event with a design in green ink that occupied the top of its front page. The design was, naturally, a cabbage.

The feature of that initial festival was the dinner. The menu consisted of sauerkraut, weiners, white and rye bread, johnny cake, pumpkin pie and coffee. It was an 11 A. M. affair, and in anticipation of out-of-town throngs it was announced that townsfolk would not be served.

That Sauerkraut Day was destined to become a great permanent celebration was assured by its immediate success. The Advance reported in part: "Nearly all the exhibits listed were contested for keenly. There were no less than ten entries in the blue stem (wheat) class, with fully as many for corn, and in the potato class there were perhaps more than two dozen entries. During the afternoon music was discoursed on the streets by the Orpheus band, the boys acquitting themselves credit ably."

Prizes were given for superior entries of grain, poultry, vegetables and fruit. C. E. Brown of the University Extension Department delivered a talk on corn and potato growing. And the free sauerkraut dinner was served to 850 persons in the storeroom of the old Gamble building.

Grandfather's Day. Apples in Winona County

WINONA --- the first born girl in any Sioux family.

Those Indian maidens might well have been proud had they read what a correspondent wrote in the St. Paul Daily Press, June 15, 1872, about the proud Minnesota region that also bears their name. The headlines called Winona the county "garden spot of Minnesota."

"I believe," the writer said in part, "it is generally conceded that Winona is the banner county in the production of apples, pears and perhaps other small fruit . . . Rollingstone embraces a good part of the valley of the Rollingstone, named from a creek 10 miles long. On this short creek, five mills have already been built that grind 600 barrels of flour daily . . . Here John Shaw brought [from the East] nearly a keg full of apple seeds. These seeds were planted in two places, the larger portion by Mr. Shaw and a few quarts by Mr. Densmore. From the labor of these two men, many thousand trees were raised.

"Mr. Densmore lived but a few days after the seed was planted, and Mr. Shaw scarcely a few months." So they never saw the gigantic result of their labor. "I measured many [of the trees] and found they were from 32 to 40 inches in circumference . . . In the garden of Mr. John Hart is what he calls the Paradise apple. The tree grows little higher than a currant bush and bears a large apple. * * * The seed from the apple produces the same variety as the parent stock. There is only one other known variety that will do this.

"I see in my rambles up this now beautiful valley men who, 20 years ago, were living in a gopher hole four feet wide and eight feet long, with little dry prairie grass for a bed, today the owners of beautiful, well-cultivated farms, with large stocks of cattle, horses, sheep, fine poultry yards, orchards, fruit of all kinds and indeed, every luxury of an old country home."

Come outside the wigwam, Winona, and take a bow. Give the little girl a hand!

III

From the Scrapbook

Grandfather's Day.

overcoats at Valley Forge. Sewing machine prices drop. etc.

Those valley forgers forged something more than liberty, according to svvotfinh yo a Minnesota news item which appeared just 100 years after Squire G. Washington had done his stuff. (Secretary of War Stimson might take the hint, if there's an army uniform shortage).

The ulster overcoat," said the paper in 1876, "is certainly entitled to be called a centennial garment, as it was invented at Valley Forge, during the darkest days of the Revolution. It consists of a bed blanket with holes to put the arms through, and a mule's halter for a belt." (1)

* * *

The old gag about the immodest sewing machine which was seen "running up and down without a stitch on" may be called to mind when one learns that, in 1876, the machines were down in price to where almost everybody could have one. A stillwater paper told why: "The price of sewing machines seems to have a downward tendency. Congress has refused to extend any of the patents, and as a result machines will soon be furnished 20 percent below present figures. A dealer in Minneapolis is offering 90 machines for $45." (2)

* * *

Half down and the balance on time. "On order", perhaps, would be the 1940 expression. St. Paul Pioneer, July 14, 1871: "The following oath was administered by a notary of this city yesterday to a well known business man who was about to execute a deed for some real estate he had recently sold: 'You do solemly swear that you signed the foregoing instrument of your own free will and accord, without equivocation, provocation or fear of God, and that you will furnish the notary and subscribing witnesses with two glasses of beer each.' The oath was taken and its provisions complied with, half down and the balance on time." (3)

* * *

(RRC)

(1) Stillwater Gazette 3/22/76
(2) " 3/22/76
(3) St. Paul Daily Pioneer 7/14/71 Leslie * 698

Dedicate Wilderness Airport for Tourists

Grand Rapids, Minn., Sept. 9.—A privately developed air field to encourage the visit of airplane tourists, but which also is in line with national defense objectives of increasing landing facilities, was dedicated yesterday at Otis lodge on Sugar lake near Grand Rapids.

The expansive field was carved out of the wilderness during the last five years by Arthur Otis so that flying tourists can drop out of the sky and taxi within luggage-carrying distance of the lodge.

Twelve thousand persons were on hand for the dedication and inspection of 47 planes which were a part of the ceremonies. Among the ships were those of the national guard and naval reserve air squadrons from Minneapolis and a Northwest Airlines passenger liner.

Three hundred fifty-one envelopes were escepially stamped for and mailed to collectors in the country, including one in England and another in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Last year 137 tourists came to the lodge via airplane and state tourist bureau officials said further development of private airfieldsd by resort owners would materially aid in boosting the vacation influx to Minnesota as well as increase the facilities available in case of national emergency.

III

Grandfather's Day.

Air field at Grand Rapids
Boosting Minn. is not a new art.

Recent dedication of an air field at Grand Rapids, to encourage visits by airplane tourists, marks another and ultra-modern step in the campaign to make the traveling public Minnesota-conscious. But boosting Minnesota is not a new art, as a dip into annals shows.

No old-time editor was worth his salt, it would seem, unless he could wield his pen fluently in praise of this region. As far back as 1852 the St. Anthony Express proclaimed: "A more healthy and beautiful place than St. Anthony cannot be found . . . Each gale is fragrant with health-giving delight. Oh, ye poor, fever-exhausted, pallid-cheeked, torpid-livered, disease-haunted invalid wretches of the South and Southeast, come with your diseases --- except guilty conscience, and even this may be palliated --- to this healthful land of ours . . . The waters are pure as dewdrops from heaven and the people are 'a little lower than the angels.'" (1) Chronicle and Register, (a little earlier) in 1850:

"It is a mistake to say that not one adult person has died in St. Paul the past year. Since our residence here, precisely 11 months, there have been two deaths of men, one from delirium tremens and the other from consumption. This shows a sufficiently clean bill of health in all conscience. We can at this moment recollect but four children that have died in all this time. Who would attempt to seek a more healthy location?" (2)

The booster spirit did not flag with the years. Daily Minnesotian, 1858: "One fact is felt and appreciated by everybody, that is the extreme healthfulness of Minnesota . . . The expression 'never felt so well in my life' is the usual answer to inquiries about a person's health. Minnesota is gaining a reputation everywhere for her bracing and vigor-infusing climate." (3)

Even the Minnesota northern lights were exploited. St. Anthony Express, 1860: "On Monday evening we had a beautiful display of the aurora . . . It may be called one of the stock pieces of the company which are always well got up in this latitude." (4)

They didn't have chambers of commerce in grandfather's day. But did they need them?

* * *

(1) St. Anthony Express Weekly 6/11/52
(2) Chronicle & Register 4/27/50
(3) Daily Minnesotian 12/21/58 Rice * 143
(4) St. Anthony Express 13/15/60

(rrc)

News Hard to find. III

Walkathons not new

Grandfather's Day.

Grandfather sometimes rubs his spectacles meditatively and wishes the good old days were back. But perhaps if they were he wouldn't be so happy after all. For instance, if his paper carried no news. That sometimes happened, and sometimes the newspapers were frank enough to admit, that there wasn't anything worth the printer's ink.

Minnesotian, August 13, 1857: "Nothing Going On - - - After a strict inquiry and investigation yesterday we could not discover the least symptom. There had been no news of startling interest, no local occurrences of any note. We were constrained to utter, late in the day, from very disappointment, 'Dull'." So the public read the ads? (1)

In 1870, on December 4, the Tribune itself had a good alibi: "The ocean cable was almost disabled yesterday, which is the explanation of the shortness of the foreign reports in our columns. The graphic World account of a fight on the river Marne [Franco-Prussian war] is given for what it is worth, but we fear that, like other matters from the same scource, it is the result of a severe magnifying process." (2)

* * *

Grandfather knew about walkathons, too, and can testify they are not, after all, inventions of the jitterbug era. Tribune, 1880:

"A walking match between Miss Jennie Cartland, who is called the champion of California, and an Iowa pedestrian is on the sawdust in an unfinished hall on Washington avenue south between Second and Third avenues, and attracts those interested in strength and display of flesh-colored tights." (3)

* * *

(1) Minnesotian Aug 13, 1857 Leslie # 763
(2) Mpls. Tribune Dec. 4, 1870 Lester # 50
(3) " Nov. 11, 1880

(RRC)

III

Grandfather's Day

Corn Festivals in Goodhue County

Festivals and special days in Minnesota are playing the autumn motif, with corn celebrations announced for Kenyon, Amboy and Gaylord. Also, Montgomery is stirring with preparations for its annual Kolacky Day, when the festive Bohemian bun will hold the center of the stage.

Goodhue County, home of Kenyon, had no drum majorettes in the days when Grandfather was agriculturally active and none of the other accessories that brighten the 20th century events. But there was corn. SOME corn!

An 1854 letter to the Minnesotian from Red Wing declared:

"Mr. Dodge, who lives two miles above our town, brought into market last Saturday a load of corn, from which I could have picked more than a bushel of ears that would have counted over 1,000 grains to the ear, and one that I did pick out was 11½ inches long, 9 inches around the large end, with 26 rows and 54 grains on a row, making 1,404 grains to the ear." (1)

The St. Paul Pioneer in 1869 pointed out that Goodhue county produced 246,255 bushels of corn that year. (2)

The Minneapolis Tribune in the '70s aided the Goodhue boosters by reminding the public that it wasn't only corn the county had to brag of. It had a family of 19 children all under 21, an ox 5 feet 8 inches in height, and a potato the dimensions of which were 24½ by 28 inches. (3)

****

Montgomery's Kolacky Day is, of course, sponsored by citizens of Bohemian extraction, natives of that country having started to make the delicacy in Minnesota immediately on arrival here from the old world.

The St. Paul Democrat greeted some of them in 1858.

"About 50 Bohemian immigrants arrived here yesterday morning on the Key City. They propose to settle in Carver county, where they have friends who have preceeded them in the work of opening farms." (4)

And they were all kolacky fanciers.

****

(1) Daily Minnesotian 9/29/54
(2) St. Paul Pioneer 9/19/69
(3) Mpls. Tribune 1/12/71
" 5/15/70
" 10/5/71

(4) St. Paul Daily Democrat 9/4/59

III

Surgery in early days

Grandfather's Day

Today's surgery and the various discoveries and improved techniques that have accompanied the development of medical science have sent into oblivion many of the methods of Grandfather's day. Items at random from the early press suggest the improvement.

"NOW IS THE TIME to have teeth extracted and laugh while it is being done," announced Dr. Simonton in the St. Paul Press, in 1866.

This Minneapolis M. D. played both ends. An ad for a group of "Physicians and Surgeons" in 1867 declared they "used no poisons to kill pains or the patient" and closed: "A. F Elliot, M. D. embalms the dead."

"Medicinal oxygen, the new scientific successful treatment for Nervous Debility... Those unable to visit the office can have the Medicinal Oxygen treatment administered at their residences."---Minneapolis, 1871.

"Opium Eaters---We cure the habit permanently, cheap, quick, without suffering or inconvenience."----Minneapolis, 1873.

"Wanted---At Drs. Kimball & Dunsmoor's office, old sheets, no matter how torn, for bandages. Will pay price of new ones."--Tribune, January 8, 1877.

Tumor removal was something to be gaped at, along about that time. St. Paul Pioneer, 1871; "From an eye-witness we learn that Drs. Murphy and Wharton, assisted by Drs. Flagg, Mattocks and Hand, performed a difficult operation... The patient was a Mr. Johnson from Atwater, Kandiyohi county, and the operation consisted of removing an immense

cvm

bone tumor, commencing from just above the knee and extending nearly to the thigh, at which point it measured fully 25 inches in circumference. The operation was performed while the patient was under the influence of ether. The tumor, with the thigh bone to which it was attached, removed with it, weighed, we are informed, more than 10 pounds."

Flippance over early attempts at humane disposal of unwanted animals appeared in an 1872 paragraph. "A. Weasel, an old resident, died yesterday afternoon from an overdose of chloroform, administered by a prominent physician of this place. The time and place of the funeral have not been announced."

***

III

Grandfather's Day Stillwater prison without Bars

Inauguration of the "dream farm colony" at Stillwater penitentiary, a prison without bars for 250 honor convicts, where they will have dormitories, outdoor work, etc., recalls the brief announcement in the Minnesota Democrat Weekly, May 27, 1851: "The penitentiary has been located on the upper margin of the town plot of Stillwater, near the river, about a quarter of a mile above McKusick's Hill." Thus the Minnesota state penitentiary was built.

Stillwater's messenger announced, February 26, 1861, that there were 16 inmates, as against only four 13 months before.

In 1866 the Messenger waxed facetious, referring to the pen as the "Proctor House," after Warden Proctor, and saying there were now 35 occupants.

During its long history, the prison has had its escape stories. One was chronicled in the St. Paul Pioneer Democrat February 11, 1858: "On Sunday evening last, between 7 and 8 o'clock, four prisoners made their escape from the Penitentiary. . . . They effected their escape by picking a hole through the miserable walls of the prison. . . . Our penitentiary is a humbug."

In 1874, the Stillwater Gazette: "Last Saturday morning about 4 o'clock was the time selected by two convicts in the State Prison, named Ensign Ellis and Clinton Welch, for taking their departure from the institution. They arose early, combed their hair and went down cellar after potatoes or something, and they haven't either of them got back yet."

Sign of changing thought about the treatment of inmates appeared in the Gazette, November 18, 1874: "Warden Reed has recently organized a class among the more profoundly uneducated portion of the convicts, to whom a little learning . . . is dispensed on Sunday afternoons by competent teachers."

In 1874, also, five new cells were added to the "big house" with a capacity for accomodating two persons each. Newspaper comment: "Every convenience and comfort consistent with the rigid exigencies of the peculiar

concatenation of circumstances have been furnished to the unfortunates who are doomed to seclusion of that sequestered retreat. A man might find, without a remarkably long and laborious search, worse quarters than these."

~~III~~

Grandfather's Day Lumberjack Festival in Stillwater

(For immediate use; the Stillwater Festival is September 20---21.)

Esteemed citizens of Stillwater going into character for their annual Lumberjack Festival may believe they have hit the right thing in apparel, appearance, etc. But if they are in any doubt as to how exactly they should act and look, let them read from the St. Paul Pioneer Democrat of July 15, 1858:

"The swarms of lumbermen who issue every spring from the northern pineries to demand the annual tribute of St. Anthony and Stillwater occasion as much consternation in those cities as the Gauls and Goths in their irruptions into old Rome...

"Reckless from the nature of their pursuits, their shaggy beards, their brawny limbs, their self-asserting Yankee swagger...above all, their numbers and frightful gregariousness, inspire a wholesome terror wherever they make their appearance...

"But the lumberman paid and the lumberman unpaid belong to two widely distinct classes of animals. Half-savage from his forest life, money tames him into submission to the conventional proprieties; and with his wages in his pocket, he is a peaceful citizen, though with something of the jolly recklessness of the sailor or soldier on furlough. But withhold his... money, and his ferocity is boundless...He knows nothing and cares nothing for panics [the depression of 1857 was on] and if, while he was in the woods, the mills have become unproductive and their proprietors bankrupt, he holds the municipal institutions, the hotels and saloons of the devoted city responsible for it.

"And the terror-stricken citizens, for their part, are willing to do

anything to propitiate him. It is amusing to be told that at the first performance of the Melodeon troupe at St. Anthony, they were obliged to conciliate the lumbermen by a free admission. And that, the next night, the privilege being denied, the lumbermen threatened to exact it by force.

"One need not be surprised at the tenderness with which the St. Anthony papers deprecate the forcible rescue by the lumbermen of a prisoner from the sheriff's hands, and their retributive incarceration of that functionary himself, in place of his prisoner.

"Signs of resistance, however, to the sway of the red shirts are beginning to show themselves. Stillwater, not long ago, was put under martial law and the lawless violence of the lumberers restrained by the prompt interposition of the authorities, backed by the citizens of the town."

III

Grandfather's Day

Stillwater Lumbermen's Festival over
Man to ride on empty barrel
across Lake St. Croix

The Stillwater Lumbermen's Festival of last week went over, we hear, with a SPLASH! Many splashes, perhaps, if anyone tried to follow granddad's lead, for he was willing to bet an even thousand dollars that he could cross Lake St. Croix standing upright on an airtight barrel. And, commented an editor of 1876, it took experience to balance oneself on a full grown log lying loose in the water. "Let an inexperienced fellow try it," the editor said," and it's a good ten to one bet that he speedily becomes an unwilling covert of the doctrine of immersion."

It was further stated that those who knew their stuff had no difficulty in maintaining their footing even where the streams were swift and broken by eddies and dangerous currents -which, of course, may have put many a river man on his metal to outdo the other fellow and led to some hazardous undertakings.

A reporter of March 29, 1876 observed and recorded an I'll-bet-you proposition as follows: "We listened the other day to a conversation by and between a number of river men, and the question under discussion was how short [a log] of, say a couple of feet in diameter, would sustain the weight of an ordinary man. One man asserted that he could ride across Lake St. Croix on a log four feet long and two feet in diameter. This being, after some mild disputation, conceded, he further asserted that he could produce a man who could stand upon an empty, air-tight barrel, and with a piece of lath or edging, propel himself across the lake on a still day.

Level bets were offered on that, extending from ten to a hundred dollars each, which the party making the proposition pledges himself to take, and he assures us that he is, or will be at the proper time,

prepared to back up his statement to the extent of one thousand dollars."

The editor voiced the opinion that such an event would create more excitement than any boat race previously held in that section. "Unless somebody backs down," he concluded, "there is fun ahead."

No more news of the barrel rider. So it's still an idea for the program committee.

Grandfather's womenfolk read the newspapers just as he did. Like the good homemakers they were, they kept a sharp lookout for household hints. And Minnesota editors, then as now, saw to it that the ladies found what they were after. Here are three, meant to help grandma over the rough spots.

"Elderberry leaves laid on the shelves of a safe or cupboard, it is said, will drive away ants and roaches."- Red Wing Republican, October 30, 1857.

"Add one ounce of alum to the last water used to rinse children's dresses, and they will be rendered uninflammable." - Stillwater Messenger, March 10, 1863.

"Picture frames and glasses are preserved from flies by painting them with a brush dipped into a mixture made by boiling three or four onions in a pint of water." - St. Paul Daily Press, May 12, 1872.

The Goodhue County Republican was consistently helpful. Samples of its helpfulness:

"TO CLEAN PAPERED WALLS - The very best method is to rub them with stale bread. Cut the crust off very thick, and wipe straight down from the top; then go to the top again, and so on; the staler the bread the better." - 1868.

"GREASING THE GRIDDLE - Take a turnip and cut it in halves, and rub the griddle with the inner side. You will find the cakes come off nice and will be rid of the disagreeable odor of burning fat." - 1872.

"TO SEAL PRESERVES - Beat the white of an egg. Take good white paper (tissue is the best), cut it the size you require, and dip it in the egg, wetting both sides. Cover the jar or tumblers, carefully pressing down the edges of the paper. When dry it will be as tight as a drumhead." - 1868.

This, finally, might have been useful to Red Wing housewives in 1857: "Take raw potatoes, pare them, and grate them; place the pulp in a strainer, and catch the water in a vessel underneath. A white substance will be found at the bottom of this vessel. Now turn the water off, and when the sediment is perfectly dried it is starch."

Exemptions -not from the draft but from creditors, who, it seems, thrive after the manner of the regn of Melchezedek, King of Salem, without beginning or end. Grandfather's troublesome dreams may have been eased by the exemptions published in 1876.

"Family bible, pictures, school books and musical instruments. Church pew and burial lot. Family wearing apparel, stoves, cooking utensils, bedding and furniture, not exceeding $500."

And if the housewife was lucky enough to possess it, "One sewing machine."

The old man could hang on to 3 cows, 10 hogs, a yoke of oxen or a span of horses and one extra nag. He could keep 20 sheep and the wool from same, either in the raw or manufactured state of yarn or cloth. He could claim exemption for the wherewithal to feed his domesticated managerie, and was allowed in addition 1 wagon, 1 sleigh, 2 plows, 1 dray and other farming utensils and team tackles not to exceed $300.

Provisions for debtor and his family of feed and fuel necessary for one year was also exempt.

A wage earner might retain the teels or instruments needed to carry on his work up to the value of $400, and no creditor could cabbage onto the implements and library of a professional man if he chose to keep them.

Getting back to the farmer, who then as now was recognized to be the backbone of the nation, he could hold out 50 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of oats, 15 bushels of potatoes, 3 bushels of corn and 30 bushels of barley, provided he needed the same for seed.

Wages could be attached by the process of granishment by the creditor, but the debtor could claim exemption to the amount of $50 earned over a peroid of 90 days previous to the date in which such garnishment was served.

After all said and done, the old boys and gals had some rights, too, back in these good old days even though they didn't have a car.

Grandfather's Day.

a Mpls. Editor's outburst against the "Blue Stocking Club"

Women's social and political and literary activities loom large in the news of today. The achievements of women's organized groups are of imposing importance. And today's respected clubwomen and hermasculine admirers can smile over the skirmishes of their hard-shelled elders. One granddaddy, a Minneapolis editor of 1868, couldn't smile. Witness his outburst against the "Blue Stocking Club" of New York:

"That is a club composed of a number of literary and political females, who are to meet periodically at the Delmonico for the purpose of enjoying a lunch and an interchange of sentiment and conviviality. Among the most prominent members are Fanny Fern, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, Olive Logan, Kate Field, Alice and Phoebe Carey, Gail Hamilton, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Louise Kellogg, and a score or two of others . . . But the real object of these ladies appears to be an ambition to prove their strongmindedness and independence of the male creation by getting up sprees of their own, and displaying their entire disregard of the proprieties which usage has established for the observance of ladies. . . It will be observed that the club is chiefly composed of decayed old maids, bloomless widows, and angular wives whose society is not coveted even by their husbands. He would be a gentleman of very singular taste indeed, who would seek their society while. . . youth and beauty. . . flourish luxuriantly on every hand.

"What can be more vulgar than for ladies to form a 'club' with periodical meetings at a public resturant for 'lunch,' which is no more nor less than the polite name for a 'spree.' Clubs among men are bad enough: to youth, temptations to dissipation; and to middle age, fruitful

sources of family neglect and unhapiness. . .

There is no objection to ladies being literary, but literature should not mar thier womanly characteristics. These literary ladies of New York might surely find equally high enjoymnet, and as broad intellectual development, in social reunions at their homes, in company with their husbands, brothers, and gentleman acquaintances, without making public spectacles of themselves in the attempt to become intellectual Amazons."

One of these "Amazons" has been honored with a U. S. commemorative postage stamp. The Minnesota editorial critic has been forgotten.

III

Grandfather's Day U of M. Promoters & Entrance exams

Learning staggers on, and again the University of Minnesota opens. If one labors under the delusion that Socrates was an ancient philosopher and Benjamin Franklin a colonial handyman, Grandpa, viewing the campus and anticipating how active it will soon be, is ready with a contradiction. Socrates, he will declare, was one of the university regents, and so was Franklin.

Grandpa will recall the presence in university affairs in the early 1850's of Socrates Nelson, and of Ben Franklin, who hailed from Winona and was a regent in 1868.

One of Minnesota's first big-time promoters, Franklin Steele, donated the site for the original Minnesota U, in St. Anthony, east of the falls. In 1854, $6,000 was paid for 25 acres, included in the present university grounds.

Entrance exams were no lark in those infant years of the institution. Mostly entrants revealed their I. Q.'s on their feet, and gave the answers orally. There was usually a good crowd on hand to see the fun. As late as 1870, five candidates were rejected because of deficiency in reading, writing and spelling. Then came written exams. St. Anthony Falls Democrat, December 17, 1869: "The Method is much less interesting to the lookers-on . . . but the advantages are considerable. There is no chance for evasion on the part of the pupil, nor for the professor to help a favorite by a leading question."

The U had its ups and downs, old newspapers files show. Weekly Pioneer & Democrat, March 24, 1859: "One wing of the state university was completed last fall at a cost of $49,000. It is built in the style of one of our famous hotels, with a cupola and a mortgage on top." In 1863 the St. Paul Pioneer complained of "a building going to ruins, lands mortgaged, resources crippled, if not destroyed" and said the university was "without funds, faculty, students or academical organization."

But in the Minneapolis Tribune five years later: "Teachers and pupils are all under one roof and matters are progressing finely."

Matters are still progressing at the U. But the course in melodeon playing, once offered to Grandpa, has been dropped, and students are no longer taxed for fuel and floor-sweeping.

III

Grandfather's Day

Turkey Day at Worthington, Nobles County

The eagle is the American national bird but the turkey is a close runner -up, especially in autumn, Worthington, Nobles county, is getting the jump on the rest of the state this year by paying homage to the Thanksgiving fowl next Tuesday. Birds and bird fanciers will all be in fine feather for the Turkey Day Celebration.

Ever since there was any Minnesota, territory or state, the turkey has had his place in its doings and his price rose and fell, even as now. Away back in 1851 the Minnesota Pioneer moaned: "Holiday luxuries are quite an item of expense this year. We have to pay $1 to $3 for turkeys."

But there was a different story eleven years later, when the St. Paul Press said: "Turkeys were selling yesterday at 5 cents a pound. Who wouldn't be able to give thanks at that rate?"

Worthington also was formerly known as Worthtown, and got this mention in the St. Paul Press, 1872: "Worthtown is the name of a place in Nobles county where an Ohio colony of some 500 families is proposing to take up abode. The Southern Pacific and the projected road from Yankton are expecting to run through Worthtown."

And then a newspaper: Said the Minneapolis Tribune in 1872: "A newspaper is soon to be started in Worthington . . . Rev. B. H. Crever is to be its editor."

Among obstacles overcome: In 1873 goods shipped to Worthington from St. Paul were six weeks in transit, due to snow; in the same year, a grasshopper invasion. Next year flour, wheat and clothing were sent from Northfield for the grasshopper victims.

A Nobles county correspondent had this in the Pittsburgh, Pa., Commercial, in 1873: "One of our settlers from Indiana says 10 years of Minnesota are worth 40 in Indiana. There has not been a single death in Worthington for over a year."

In 1877 the Tribune announced: "Bishop Ireland's colony in Nobles county has purchased 9,000 acres."

Worthington has come a long way and can now talk turkey to the state.

III

25.

"Days of '49 Celebration" Faribault, Rice County

Faribault, Rice county, is all dressed up and has a place to go. Its "Days of '49 Celebration" is being held October 1 and 2. Should anyone try to tell a Faribaulter he has no cause to celebrate because no Minnesota land west of the Mississippi River had been opened to settlement as early as '49, he might reply: "We had a 23-year start on the California 49'ers, brother. Alexander Faribault settled here in 1826. He ran the place alone for 27 years."

It did not take Faribault long to grow out of its trading-post infancy. In 1854 it was "some pumpkins." Minnesota Pioneer: "A Gentleman from Faribault informs us that Alexander Faribault raised the present season a pumpkin weighing 64 pounds. This mammoth specimen of Minnesota vegetation had been partially eaten by hogs before it was weighed, and it was estimated that it must have weighed originally very near 100 pounds."

The community quickly was rewarded for its justified boosting, as witness this from the Daily Minnesotian, the same year. "We had the pleasure of meeting in town yesterday W. H. Colling, Exq., Formerly of St. Paul, but now a farmer of the Straight River valley. He represents that Rice county is filling up by the right kind of settlers with great rapidity."

But the Faribaulters possibly weren't quite satisfied with the publicity their spot was getting, so they started their own newspaper, which moved the St. Anthony Express Weekly to comment: "We are in receipt of the Rice County Herald, published at Faribault, the first number we have seen, although we perceive it has been published some six weeks. "That was in 1856.

Some loyal boosters of Rice county preferred to write in their native language, and one sent a letter to the Folkebladet, Madison, Wis., which, translated, reads: "When I came here I saw fields of much greater promise than I had ever seen in Rock county [Wisconsin]. The corn had already reached a height

of four feet. The soil is brownish black in color and has the reputation of being among the richest in the state."

The Faribault of today and Rice county in general bear witness to the accuracy of Mr. Colling's observation about the "right kind of settlers."

* * * * * * * *

Grandfather's Day

Ben Wilde ran wild in verse. (a reporter)

Back in 1874 a Minneapolis newspaper employed a reporter named Ben Wilde. Which of itself isn't worth calling attention to now. But there is another thing about it. Wilde ran wild in verse, turning his prosaic items into essays in rhyme and meter.

Marital rupture:

"Mrs Bowers wants to quit both the bed and the board
Of her husband. She says she is not now adored
By that man as she was in the good days of yore,
And she wants a divorce from that consummate bore!"

Dead horse:

"He's gone. Electricity. Doc. Hyndman's horse;
No kin to electricity boxed up by Morse;
Though fast in his lifetime he sowed no wild oats
But devoured them and trotted for government notes! "

Christmas in jail:

"Sheriff Grace set up turkeys and 'sich', Christmas Day,
To the hungry scape-graces who in his cells stay;
The boys don't object to this singular freak
And say they won't kick if it's done once a week! "

Church bells:

"The bells for the big church have now reached St. Paul,
And the bishop today consecrates them, then all
Will be placed in the tower to ring out their chimes
Regardless of everything, even hard times! "

Victim of an assault:

"This time it is Tim, he is minus an ear;
Some men made a lunch on it, and now we hear
Justice McIllrath, he of the court of police,
Bound five fellows over, to all keep the peace.
And we think it impossible; he don't provide
Whether one keeps the peace or the whole five divide! "

* * * * * * *

Early Advertisements

Grandfather's Day.

One can read a good deal between the lines of the ads of the old days. They had their human interest as well as their business purposes. And some of them inconspicuous as to typing and space, reveal when scanned in these later times that many things are not new in the classified columns.

There was a St. Paul laundry, though, which had no compunctions about airing the dirty linen of its customers, so to speak, if they proved reluctant to pay what they owed. The Daily Minnesotian of Jan. 6, 1859, carried this:

"St. Paul Laundry --- All persons whose accounts are past due 60 days or more are hereby notified that said accounts will be sold at Kenna's Auction Room if not paid on or before the tenth day of January. Barnicoat & West."

The trick of getting actresses and others of prominence to sign testimonials to the virtues of particular products has an illustrious precedent in the case of no less a personage than Buffalo Bill. He endorsed Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery in the papers of 1874:

"I have now taken four bottles of your Golden Medical Discovery in connection with your pellets, and must say nothing that I have ever taken for my liver has done me as much good. I feel like a new man."

And then those thingumbobs that were hot entertainment in grandma's parlor. They were advertised, of course. "One good stereoptican and 12 beautiful views for $2 at Gaslin & Wales, opposite the postoffice." This in the Tribune, Dec. 23, 1874. (1)

In these days one frequently sees in the Positions Wanted column

Grandfather's Day.

the phrase "not afraid to work," but it isn't new. Here was one Minneapolis lad's ad in just before Christmas that same year, 1874:

"Wanted --- A place to learn a trade, by a boy 18 years old and not afraid to work." (2)

As far back as 1878 there were Minnesota Communists. Because:

"P. O. News Stand. COMMUNISTS! SOCIALISTS! WORKINGMEN! CONSERVATIVES, RADICALS and REFORMERS --- We have papers that tell of the battles you are fighting. Come ye, buy and read!" --- Tribune, June 18, 1878. (3)

(1) Mpls. Pick 12/23/14 Carlson # 375
(2) " 12/22/74 Carlson # 324
(3) " 6/18/78 Lefebre # 1303

(rrc)

Grandfather's Day.

"Didoes" in horse and buggy days

Talk about your horse and buggy days! This is a sample. It's from the Minneapolis Tribune of Dec. 24, 1874 and describes incidents that occurred the night before, when, as present-day reporters would say, "the streets were filled with gay throngs of Christmas shoppers."

"Local Pantomim. Time: Last evening at 5. Scene: Front of Hennepin County Bank.

"Act 1 --Teamster tips up load of mill wood on sidewalk.

"Act 2 --Surprised horse attached to handsome cutter suddenly revolves seven times around an iron post, the sleigh describing a circle in the air. Horse falls down and rolls over, smashing thills, fracturing harness and scaring colored boy badly. Dr. Hill, the owner, appears on the scene.

"Act 3 --Contiguous horse breaks away from contiguous post and prances around, then suddenly waltzes through the alley between Academy of Music and Mail office, turning a somersault over a five-foot pile of mill wood, rolling over once with the sleigh and emerging with harness tangled.

"Act 4 --A thousand people in the street trying to get out of the way." (1)

And that wasn't all. Only two days before there was this upsetting business:

"Greased Lightning, the famous horse which hauls a sleighload of Tom King's copy [reporter's writings] to St. Paul every night and brings back 15 or 20 Pioneers in the morning, thought the Pioneer was altogether too slow yesterday morning and so decided to get up a little runaway. The

result was very gratifying to the horse until it stopped in front of Savory & Whitaker's drugstore and slid on its back a distance of 15 feet.

"The cutter was left a total wreck down Washington avenue about three blocks from where the horse was stopped and another outfit was procured to finish the delivery." (2)

One way to avoid such catastrophes was to hitch up your horse with some other animal not so likely to cut didoes. The Tribune in the summer of 1880 reported:

"Old and new settlers in the southwest counties are this season putting all their means to the bringing of more land under cultivation. Between Windom and Heron Lake passengers on the St.P. & S. C. road daily see an illustration of this, in 'teams' which consist of a small jackass, a large horse, a fat ox and a lean cow." (3)

* * *

(1) Mpls. Tribune 12/24/74 Carlson # 380
(2) " 12/23/74 Carlson # 378
(3) " 6/3/80

III

Grandfather's Day Man-made Eggs.
Bridge Square changed to Bean Park
& New sidewalks on Wash. Ave.

At last the ancient riddle has been solved. 'Twas the egg that came before the hen. In 1893 the Duluth News Tribune told of man-made hen fruit thus:

"Duluth is suffering from a queer invasion. The town in the last few days has been flooded with artificial eggs. A carload was sent here from Chicago and, through a wholesaler, they have been sold to retailers all over the city, and so have found their way into hundreds of homes.

"The eggs are clever work and cannot be detected, except by an expert, and even then would present difficulties. They show the varieties in size and color of shell common to natural eggs and, when broken, in the raw state have a perfectly natural look, even the delicate lining of the shell being carefully counterfeited.

"When cooked the eggs follow the appearance of the real article. Soft boiled, however, they can be detected by a peculiar elasticity in the yolk which, when only partially cooked, turns to something like rubber. It is said the eggs can be manufactured for seven and a half cents a dozen." (1)

While on the subject of food----there are beans. The St. Anthony Democrat of July 8, 1871, must be credited with this:

"Bridge Square, Minneapolis, has been converted into a bean patch and will hereafter be known as 'Bean Park.' If a number of Gen. Andrew's celebrated military treatise on cooking beans were now sown as a top soil on the park, the public might have the beans already cooked when the crop is grown." (2)

It also appears from the annals that Minneapolis in 1879 got an "abstract" sidewalk. At least, it wasn't concrete. Tribune, July 7, that year:

"Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis---That a sidewalk of 15 feet in width, made of pine plank two inches thick, each plank to be not more than six inches wide and well nailed with 20-penny spikes upon four stringers of four-by-four inch dimension timber, is hereby directed to be reconstructed upon and along both sides of Washington avenue from Hennepin avenue to Third avenue north..." (3)

* * * * * * * * *

(1) Grand Rapids Magnet John # 1296 Oct 24, 1893
(2) St. Paul Daily Pioneer 7/8/71 Leslie # 677
(3) Mpls. Tribune 7/7/79 Carlson # 1188

III

The gals' hair-do's and hats

Grandfather's Day

The gals' hair-do's and hats cause stares and comment just now. Away back in 1879, too, the girl friend's coiffure was being discussed in the Minneapolis press. "A very perceptible change is coming over the manner of dressing the hair, doubtless occasioned by the different styles of bonnet now in vogue. The hair is worn neither very high nor very low. The chignon or back hair scarcely reaches the bandeau, and falls only to the top of the nape of the neck.

"The hair is worn close to the head and there is no extra size or bulkiness aimed at. The front hair is cut and fringed, but all exagger-ation is avoided. The hair should never touch the eyelids; if it does the effect is hideous. Then again, if the hair is too short, the fore-head looks bare. The just medium is attained by letting the hair fall to the forehead in the very slightest curly waves possible.

"Plaits are again to be seen. Most people are content with wearing their own hair, but many wear false additions which, to be comfortable, should be as light as possible." (1)

And the hats:

The Stillwater Gazette, June 7, 1876, quoted some authority or other: "The ladies' spring hats are pretty and worn on the upper edge of the left ear, which makes one look arch and piquant, like a chicken looking through a crack in the fence." (2)

Also, a smart gadget was announced in the Tribune in 1879:

"Bracelets with pencils attached are among the latest fancies. These pencils are run through a ring attached to the bracelet when not in use." (3)

Then there was another "style," presumably confined to one person and that person a mere man. St. Paul Daily Pioneer, June 20, 1871:

"Found---On Seventh street between Jackson and College, a small piece of a gentleman's whiskers, tied with a scrap of red ribbon. The owner can hear of the whereabouts of his property by calling at this office." (4)

****

(1) Mpls Tribune July 9, 1879
(2) Stillwater Gazette 6/7/71 Norgren # 1727
(3) Mpls. Tribune 7/2/79 Carlson # 952
(4) St. Paul Daily Pioneer 6/20/71 Leslie # 632

Grandfather's Day

First telephone line between St. Paul + Mpls Log-turning invention

"United At Last" was the headline the Tribune used over announcement of the first telephone conversation ever held between Minneapolis and St. Paul. It was March 2, 1879 when Paul talked to Minnie. On a Sunday morning. The Tribune's account:

"While visiting this office for a monent yesterday noon, the editorial room telephone sounded, and without thinking of the wickedness attending a telephone call on the Sabbath, the writer answered the signal.

"It came from Mr. Watson, in the main office, who stated that telephonic connection had been secured with St. Paul and that Mr. Ryan, the telegraph operator, desired to talk with the Tribune. 'Barkis was willing,' and the connection being made perfect, the conversation started.

"Every word came, clear as a bell, quite as distinct as though Mr. Ryan were in an adjoining room instead of 10 miles away. The batteries worked to perfection, and so precise was the wonderful telephone that every syllable came over the wire well sounded, and every vowel remarkably distinct...

"Thus commenced and ended the first extended conversation ever held between Minneapolis and St. Paul 'by word of mouth' with conversing parties 10 miles distant. The establishment of this line of telephone will prove a great convenience to both cities and will save many trips by rail." (1)

* * * * * *

The machine age in its swaddling clothes then, but that same year, same month, same paper, there was the report of a log-turning invention:

"A new invention for turning logs on the blocks which usually requires the united force of two to four men has been put into operation at

the Pacific mill. It is simply a strong upright in which is placed a number of teeth and situated in such manner in connection with a wheel below the mill floor that simply touching a lever brings up the log roller against the log which required adjusting. The apparatus turns and holds it in proper position while it is spiked into place...It would be a fearful thing to use on log-rolling members of congress." (2)

****

(1) Mpls Tribune 3/3/79 Shepard # 1111

(2) " 5/7/76 Conner # 163

Conventions in St. Cloud

Grandfather's Day.

St. Cloud had to go through the evolution of other Minnesota towns before it got to be a first-class municipality, equipped to entertain conventions like the Catholic Rural Parley, which took 5,000 guests there.

But what would 5,000 have done when (Frontiersman Weekly, of Sauk Rapids, April 26, 1855) it could only be said: "We are glad to learn that several stores are to be erected [in St. Cloud] the coming season. The town was laid out by our friend John L. Wilson last summer, and promises to be an important point." (1)

However, they could hold their own little conventions. There were called to meet in St. Cloud February 20, 1858, the people of Stearns county "for the purpose of devising means to procure seed for next spring for those unable to purchase for themselves." (2)

Delegates to the Catholic Rural Parley traveled in autos or smooth-rolling trains, vastly different from old-time transportation. St. Cloud Democrat, in '58: "We saw a dog sled for the first time last week. One of the emigrants to Fraser river . . . turned back, traveling on a dog sled . . . Three dogs, two wolves and an Indian dog were hitched, tandem." (3)

This party of "tourists" didn't stop for any convention but went right on through St. Cloud. The Democrat again, October 14, '65: "Another large train of Red river carts passed through this place last Monday . . . literally loaded down with robes and furs . . . The almost unearthly creaking of the carts is highly amusing to the many strangers in our place . . . We imagine if [they] were trying to write a local for some newspaper they would conclude with us that said creaking not only possessed little or no music but also partook less of the romance that many people ascribe to it, and ask why

Grandfather's Day.

the owners of the carts don't grease their exles more and their clothing less!" (4)

St. Cloud felt able to furnish amusement for at least a small convention in 1868, if one happened along. St. Paul Press,: "St. Cloud has 18 beer saloons, three billiard saloons, four restaurants and one bowling alley." (5)

But one must have a hotel if one is to play host to a convention. So: Minneapolis Tribune, 1869 - - - "The bonus which St. Cloud proposes to pay for the construction of a hotel has been fixed at $10,000 . . . The citizens will vote on the proposition at a special election." (6)

First agricultural fair held in Stearns county was at St. Cloud in October, 1871.

Finally, it's a mighty good thing to have a nice depot for convention folks to see when they get off the train. So: the Tribune again, January 3, '72 -- "St. Cloud gives the railroad company $60,000 bonds and 20 acres for a depot in consideration of the bridge location there." (7)

Ladies and gentlemen, we now offer you a tailor-made convention city --- the city of St. Cloud!

* * *

(1) Sauk Rapids Frontiersman Weekly 4/26/55 Potekin # 1
(2) ——
(3) St. Cloud Democrat '58 Rice # 135
(4) " 10/14/15 Rice # 1501
(5) St. Paul Press — Frany # 121
(6) Minneapolis Trib '69
(7) " 1/3/72 Creamer # 4

(rrc)

III

Grandfather's Day Liquo - sold inside fair grounds without license in 1877

How a one-time president of the Minnesota State Fair Board forgot to "talk through his hat," thereby causing a tilt with the then mayor of Minneapolis over the sale of ale on the fair grounds and how the matter was adjusted after the Fair official had admitted his forgetfulness and the Minneapolis city council had poured further oil on the troubled waters - all this is an amusing interlude in state annals.

The State Fair at one time was a football among Minnesota cities, several of which had the attraction in various years, but in 1877 it was held in Minneapolis. In December Mayor John De Laittre addressed himself through the Tribune to Col. W. S. King, head of the Fair: "It has been asserted that the reason why Mr. John L. West sold liquor inside the fair grounds without a city license was that you stood behind him, implying that I had promised you that no license was necessary, or would let him go free." (1)

In his published reply, Colonel King said the Fair managers had sold the liquor privilege to West and a Mr. Donnelly of St. Paul and that, although the police had insisted West take out a license, the high cost of the Fair concession made the added cost of a license seem an unfair "hardship." Colonel King went on to explain that West asked him to see the mayor about the matter and left with him a memorandum: "See the mayor about license for John West." Into "the lining of my hat," continued the distressed Colonel King, where I deposit all valuable and important papers," went the memo.

"And I do solemnly avow that the matter never again entered my mind until some six weeks thereafter, when, sitting down one rainy afternoon to explore the treasures of that old hat, almost the first thing I struck was that same memoranda."

King closed by "throwing myself at the feet of my fellow citizens and the city government of Minneapolis which I have so deeply wronged and whose peace I have so rudely disturbed through my unhappy errors but who, if they cannot pardon will, I beg, pity me." (2)

The next month, January, the city council, according to the Tribune, "concluded to refund the fair grounds license exacted by the mayor of John West a few days ago. * * * West paid enough for his privilege without this exaction, and the city could afford to contribute the amount of this license to the state fair, which was the real gainer by the gratuity." (3)

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

(1) Mpls. Tribune 12/14/77 Lefebure ☆ 196
(2) " 12/15/77 " ☆ 199
(3) " 1/3/78 Carlson ☆ 619

The Settling of Lac Qui Parle County and its Oomph Carnival

Grandfather's Day.

Homecomings, corn-husking contests, lumberjack-day revivals, etc. are holding the boards in various Minnesota communities, but it remained for Bellingham, Lac Qui Parle county, to stage an Oomph Carnival, at which, as the society editors say, "a good time was had by all." The dictionary makers have not yet got around to "oomph," a word which is generally understood to be a successor to Clara's "it." The Stillwater Gazette in 1876 took notice of such expressions when it declared that, "much as we deprecate the too prevalent use of slang, one cannot help noticing that the later style of expression has a tendency to cause the person addressed to brace up, as witness the following: 'Wipe off your chin'; 'Fold up your ear'; 'Buckle up your under lip.'"

A very early indication of Oomph in Lac Qui Parle county is found in a statement in the Mankato Independent in 1858. Large numbers of buffalo were reported there.

In 1869 a writer to the Mankato Record said: "The Lac Qui Parle country is settling up very rapidly, and the hardy pioneer is pushing on as far as Big Stone Lake." Blazing the trail for the ultimate Oomph.

But there was much to be desired in 1871, when the Minneapolis Tribune recorded: "The demoralized state of the country in the vicinity of Lac Qui Parle may be guessed when we state that they have no clergyman in the place and advertise through the Rochester Post for a lawyer to settle among them!"

It was in the succeeding year that press agenting began on behalf of the outdoor attractions of the vicinity. St. Paul Press: "The Lac Qui Parle river is a fine stream of sparkling water, abounding in a

great variety of fish and furnishing many excellent water powers." In other words, it had Oomph.

The Tribune, in 1878, thus announced one of a series of development in Lac Qui Parle county: "A new town named Maxwell has been organized in Lac Qui Parle county. The first election will be held on the 27th. inst." Some years later, Madison became the county seat.

It was in 1887 that Bellingham won official recognition and it now flourishes with its weekly paper, the Times. It claims the distinction of being the only community to hold an Oomph Carnival.

---

(1) Stillwater Gazette 6/21/76 Norgren #1762
(2) Pioneer Dem. Weekly 6/24/58 Jehu # 840
(3) Mankato Weekly Record 7/17/69 Jehu # 659
(4) Mpls. Tribune 12/31/71 Fraser #717
(5) St.P. Daily Press 2/3/72 Peterson# 336
(6) Mpls. Tribune 7/25/78 Westrum " 361

CVM

Tribune editors changed. Tenements on Nicollet Island.

Grandfather's Day

Apparently the editor of a newspaper was not quite so awesome a personage to his employes in days agone as he subsequently became. Referring to changes in its staff, the Minneapolis Tribune said on January 5, 1876:

"On Sunday morning we referred to Col. Clifford Thomson's purpose to retire from the editorial chair of The Tribune. We are enabled to announce that this morning the new deal, or reorganization of The Tribune editorial force, is to take effect on or before the 10th inst., when Mr. Thomson severs his connection with the paper.

"John A. Rea, whom we welcomed as city editor two weeks since, has been promoted to managing editor, while his cousin, John P. Rea of Lancaster, Pa., has taken a financial interest in the paper and will fill the chair made vacant by the resignation of Colonel Thomson. (The Reas must mind their P's and A's or they won't know which of 'em is managing editor.) ...

"Charles Hendryx remains glued to the chair of night editor, and Mr. Sturtevant to the commercial, while Mort. Williams, good natured old soul, takes charge of the city columns again; in fact, took charge of them yesterday.

"It is now two weeks since we 'cordially welcomed" a new city editor on The Tribune, and we hasten to cordially welcome Mort. back again. That leaves us just one 'cordial welcome' on hand, and if Capt. John P. Rea will allow us, we will bestow it upon him and take our chances on a future introduction."

cvm

Many Minneapolitans are familiar with the old stone structures on Nicollet Island that were long ago built for tenements. This is from a newspaper of 1876:

"W. W. Eastman, Esq., with characteristic energy and enterprise, now proposes to build a row of 22 stone tenement houses on Nicollet Island, the center of which row, consisting of 10 tenements will be erected next season. Each building will be of three stories, basement and cellar, 24 by 40. The walls will be of stone except the front, which will be of brick, and fire walls will separate the tenements, which are estimated to cost $5,000 each, or $50,000 for the ten already under contract." (1)

They did not have columns labelled "Personals" in the old days, as many papers do now, but there were many extremely personal allusions to citizens. The Tribune in 1860, for instance:

"E. B. West, an adonis who is in the auction business on Washington Avenue South, read in Saturday's Tribune about the new style of dressing the hair for gentlemen known as the capoul bang, and had his silvery locks dressed in the fashionable style this afternoon. Of course he looks as handsome as a picture and goes on record as the pioneer of the fashion in this city." (2)

---

(1) Mpls Tribune 1/5/76 Creamer #761
(2) " 2/16/60 Westrum #938a

cvm

III

Indian massacre in Murray County
Monument to be erected

Grandfather's Day

"The Indians then called for them to come out to them, but they refused to come. They then called for the women to come out. They went out, when they were all shot and killed except Mrs. Douley... They ordered the men out again. Mr. Ireland, whose wife had been killed ... received eight balls in his body, two of which went through his lungs... The county was left in full control of the Indians." - Andreas Atlas. "The formal opening of Slayton's public library will occur Friday, under sponsorship of the Women's Study Club, with financial assistance from the city council." - News Item, Oct. 14, 1940.

The Atlas quotation deals with the Indian massacre in Murray county, of which Slayton is county seat, back in 1862. The second quotation serves as living evidence of history on the march.

From slaughter by savages to marked progress in literary interest is the long trail Murray county has traversed. First white settler there was reported to be a man by the name of Jaques, who arrived in 1854 and built a trading shanty but quit business in fear of the redman. Uncle Sam sent soldiers to the scene after the massacre and the entire county was cleared of Indians.

Journalism's appearance thereabouts was heralded in the Minneapolis Tribune February 16, 1878 thus: "The Currie Pioneer is the name of a new paper in Murray county." It was the forerunner of the present Currie Independent.

On January 30, 1879, the Goodhue County Republican announced that "Steps are being taken to erect a monument in Murray county over the victims who were slaughtered by the Indians in 1862. Eighteen are buried in one grave."

cvm

The same slow but steady progress that attended the city's growth until it has reached the stage of a pretentious public library sponsored by public-spirited women marked the surrounding country. That progress was noted as early as March, 1886 by the Folkebladet, from which this is translated:

"The humble dirt-covered huts have in most places given way to prosperous farm houses and large, imposing barns are rising here and there. Trees and bushes planted in the yards and around farmhouses have improved the landscape in general."

---

cvm

III

Early Music in Mpls.

Grandfather's Day

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast" - to which famous statement some wag has added, "and that's the reason they put a brass band around a dog's neck." Anyway, the delights of music were early appreciated in Minneapolis, and the annals interestingly show music's hold on the people who were building the region into a cultured commonwealth. There were no such finished musical performances then as the Minneapolis Symphony now gives yearly, in preparation for whose next season a financial campaign is under way. But they were musicians, just the same, and good ones, in Grandfather's day.

The Minnesota Republican (St. Anthony) said in 1854: "We believe St. Anthony has the only band of instrumental music in the territory unless there be one in the United States service ... They propose a public concert ... in the Congregational church. Tickets 25 cents. Positively no reduction for size or sex."

Two years later the same paper heralded the coming of a troupe of musicians who "performed wonders on ox horns."

In 1858 the Falls Evening News announced formation of the Minnesota Musical Association, represented by Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Anthony, Cottage Grove, Prescott, Afton, Orono, Excelsion and Marine. A few days after its organization, the Association gave a gala concert to a "respectful and attentive audience." The affair was a success, but the air, according to the News, was "hot and oppressive. Our thanks are due to the man who opened a window."

Next year the St. Anthony Glee Club was formed, and that fall the News announced that the St. Anthony Cornet Band was now a "fixed fact" and

was "wholly independent of fire or military companies" having ordered its own intruments from New York.

Continuing to quote from the same paper, an issue in 1860, praising concerts by this cornet band, said: "We recall vividly the longing we felt when we first came to this new country for the music to which we had been accustomed in the east; when the stirring notes of a good band were a treat only to be heard in the imagination ..."

In 1867 good Queen Esther ruled musically in Minneapolis. The cantata got a great sendoff from the Chronicle. It was presented by the Musical Union here and in St. Paul. After its six resounding performances, the cast in sumptuous costumes was photographed for the stereoptican. And Beal's gallery enjoyed a brisk sale of the admired pictures.

****

cvw

III
Agricultural Societies
Patrons of Husbandry

Grandfather's Day

State convention of the Grange in Duluth represents the apex of an organization achievement extraordinary for rapidity of growth and systematic evolution. The national order, formerly called Patrons of Husbandry, was founded in Washington in 1867 by Oliver H. Kelley, an early settler in Sherburne county and later secretary of the Benton County Agricultural Association.

An early mention of incentive to production among farmers is found in an announcement in the Minnesota Pioneer in 1849, which reported the St. Anthony Agricultural Association would pay $25 and $50 premiums in cash or farm implements "as preferred" for the best crops of Indian corn, oats and wheat.

The farm organization movement was well under way in 1854. The Pioneer that year: "Delegations from various county agricultural societies from various portions of the territory met at the capitol and organized a territorial society."

A first mention of the Hennepin County Agricultural Society was in the Minnesotian in 1854, when the group "voted that the Executive Committee should make arrangements for the annual fair to be held in Minneapolis [in October]."

St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat was skeptical about a Farmers' Protective Union, started in 1861. It said: "This is an organization just established in Minneapolis . . . to purchase a general stock of merchandise to be retailed to the stockholders . . . If the project succeeds we will be surprised; that's all."

cvm

Minneapolis Tribune, 1868: "We learn that a grange of the Patrons of Husbandry is being organized in Minneapolis." That year a state grange was formed in this city and the list of officers included one name subsequently famous in Mill City history - "Treasurer, J. S. Pillsbury."

The Patrons were noted as a flourishing development in the St. Anthony Falls Democrat, in '69: "There are between 40 and 50 granges of the Patrons of Husbandry in Minnesota."

In '71, the Northfield Standard said the Rice County Agricultural Society had "decided to establish a market for the exchange of stock, seed grains, etc."

In '75, the Tribune: "The Patrons of Husbandry have begun to agitate a scheme for insurance of farm products."

And in '77: "The Hennepin County Grange yesterday organized a patrons' aid society, or mutual life insurance company."

****

cvm

III

Dancing

Grandfather's Day

Since the early trail-blazers in Minnesota were joined by their womenfolk, the muse of dancing has had worshippers at her shrine, and their name has been legion. Long before the white man came, for that matter, because the Indians were enthusiastic hoofers. And the dance variations, savage and civilized, seen in Minnesota have possibly reached an artistic climax in the Ballet Russe, soon to perform in Minneapolis.

Important in the evolution of the dance were the folk gyrations brought here from the Old World and still presented at nationality festivals in the state. But before the folk dances were the tom-tom events, sometimes a prelude to bloody outbreaks by redmen who had never heard of Terpsichore. Later, however, the annals tell how Lo, his stomach empty, ceased to dance as an overture to massacre and did it for food and money for the settlers' entertainment. In 1873, the Tribune reported: "A large tribe of Chippewas just east of Brainerd is suffering from want of food. Old Washington, principal chief in the camp, proposes to give a representation of a genuine, full fledged war dance and will take his pay in provisions."

One fancifully inclined may discover in the records forerunners of such a modern event as the Town and Gown Ball. Perhaps it was foreshadowed by an elaborate dinner-dance at the Hotel Nicollet in 1873, a holiday affair attended by "150 prominent citizens and journalists." Certainly it was not suggested by an item in the Minneapolis press of 1875: "Chippewa showmen with their squaws and dogs and papooses paraded several of the thoroughfares last evening, prior to their grand war dance in Harrison Hall."

Minnesota has not been content, either, simply to dance to the other fellow's tune. Now and then, it composed its own. The musical versatility of A. M. Shuey, who composed Jesus Lover Of My Soul, is indicated in this, from the Tribune of 1870: "The 'Minnehaha Falls

Waltz' is the name of a very pretty piece of music recently composed by A. M. Shuey of this city and for sale by S. M. Spaulding . . . It bids fair to become a popular waltz."

Of course, opposition to dancing has cropped up occasionally. It was reported in '68 that the clergy of a major denomination "have officially declared against round dances."

Still, Minnesota has gone on dancing, round and square. The graceful figures of the polka and reel have not been entirely in this age of Madame La Zonga. The Ballet Russe has competition in Minnesota's older, native creations by the Chippewa and Sioux.

III

Growth of the Catholic church in Minn.

It is a far cry from the journey of the intrepid Father Hennepin in 1680 to the great Eucharistic Congress scheduled for St. Paul next year. But annals of the interlude detail the steady growth of the Catholic church in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Pioneer, in 1855, tells of the razing of the log chapel of St. Paul, the structure built by Father Galtier from which that city got its name.

First move toward a cathedral in the capitol city was noted in the Minnesota Democrat in 1851: "The Catholic church owns two blocks of lots on Wabashaw street. Upon one is to be erected a Cathedral, and upon the other a College."

Same paper, same year: "Four Sisters of Charity have arrived from St. Louis and will shortly commence teaching a ladies' seminary in the old Catholic chapel."

Minnesota Pioneer, '54: "Father McManus, on Sunday, pronounced the first sermon in the Irish language ever delivered in Minnesota."

Frontierman (Sauk Rapids), 1855: "Two acres adjoining town have been donated to Father Pierz by Messrs. Geo. W. Sweet and Wm. N. Wood for a Catholic burying ground."

The St. Peter Courier, in 1855, told of a visit to that city by Father De Vivaldi, missionary, who announced his Winnebago Indian school had 210 pupils.

Goodhue County Republican, 1858: "A new Catholic church is being built in Faribault in place of the one destroyed by fire. . . It is to be constructed of stone."

Stillwater Messenger, '65: "Our German citizens of the Catholic faith have purchased the building known as Pugsley's Hall . . . They will hold regular meetings in the hall."

Minnesota Chronicle, '66: Our Catholic brethren of this state may feel proud of the success they have met with during the past year or two - in building churches. Shakopee has two model church buildings almost completed, and churches have recently been built in almost every thickly settled township in the Big Woods in Carver county."

Red Wing Republican: "Catholics of St. Peter have recently purchased a fine bell weighing 1,732 pounds."

Prominent in the list of Minnesota's pioneer builders is the name of John Ireland, longtime archbishop of St. Paul. As early as 1869, he was recognized by the press as one authoritative spokesman for his native state. "Father Ireland, of St. Paul, represents Minnesota in the Ecumenical Council at Rome." - Pioneer and Democrat.

III

Dog-days had dogs in dog house in '69-70.

It was a doggone shame the way some folks felt about dogs in the Twin Cities back in '69-70. Every dog may have his day but the dog-days then evidently had the dogs in the dog house.

Someone on the St. Paul Daily Press felt no kindly feeling for "man's best friend," when he wrote, in the issue of April 21, 1869:

"Cursory View of Curs ---The dog nuisance is the crying, howling, yelping, barking, snarling, biting shame of this city.

"If you go up street, some canine manifests his affection for you by fastening his incisors in the leg of your breeches; if you go down street, some loving specimen of the race gently insinuates the seat of your trousers into his capacious jaws and then braces himself, evidently for the purpose of ascertaining whether you wear shoddy or the best...

"Almost every day an item appears giving an account of someone being bitten by a dog, and yet we hear of no steps being taken to muzzle the brutes or to decrease their numbers."

Someone on the Minneapolis Tribune was of the same mind, next year, apparently. In the May 26, 1870 issue:

"FISHING EXCURSION-- Long Lake, about 10 miles from St. Anthony, was visited on Tuesday by a party of ladies and gentlemen from this city in quest of fish ... They were disappointed when they arrived at the lake in not having boats, and the boat they had was awkward enough to upset the inmates into the water.

"Coming home they shot dogs until they reached the corporation limits ---just where they should have begun! "

The Biblical wise virgins who had oil in their lamps had nothing on Minneapolis postoffice workers of 1879. The Tribune, July 10, that year:

"The employes of the postoffice department were seriously delayed at a most critical period of their annual work by the exhaustion of the meager appropriation made last year for gas, and during the entire month of June, the last month of the fiscal year, they were unable to work at night, as a majority of them would otherwise have done...

"During the month of June a number of the clerks furnished their own lamps."

* * *

III

Potato show-parade at Aitkin Minn.

Coupled with the plebeian sauerkraut as a homely incentive for a festival is the ultra-democratic potato, and Aitkin, seat of the county of that name, has made it an annual custom to mix the unromantic but reliable spud with a fun carnival. Aitkin has just concluded its successful 1940 event, featuring a "potato show parade."

Just when potato possibilities began to impress themselves on Aitkin is a matter for further research. But spuds were not the engrossing thins for a long time after the arrival of the first settler, Henry M. Aitkin, in 1853.

Minneapolis Tribune, 1870: "McGregor [in Aitkin county, of course] has a quarry of marble which, when polished, has the appearance of being inlaid with myriads of shells."

Lumber loomed large. The Tribune, five years later: "In response to a call from the pineries for reading matter, a box is being filled with papers and periodicals to be sent to Aitkin."

Still, there was something at Aitkin to fill the inner man in the '70s - perhaps potatoes. A Minneapolis writer tramping through that vicinity and noting construction work on the Northern Pacific wrote the paper about a "supply store . . . prepared to furnish substantial eatables."

Aitkin had something to go by, however, when it became spud-conscious. As far back as 1852, the Minnesota Pioneer editorialized on profits from Minnesota potatoes.

"We have instanced the crop of potatoes; let us see what the management of one man will accomplish in cultivating that crop. We suppose the crop to be free from rot ... He hires five acres ... pays for the use of it, $3 an acre. He pays for plowing it, $2 an acre. He pays for seed, six bushels per acre, $30. He pays for cross furrowing to plant it, $3.50; for a man and horse, to cultivate between the rows, twice each way, one week $12; for the same labor repeated with a plow, $12; for digging, $3 per 100 bushels; for furnishing two-bushel sacks and for handling ... $10 per 100 bushels. The crop, at the lowest estimate, is 1250 bushels; which at half a dollar a bushel will yield $625."

The editor then added up the costs to a total of $240, which, taken from the estimated $625 yield, left $385 net for about four month's work. He concluded:

"But if the crop can be kept until spring, as it may be with less expense then it costs to buy sacks, then every bushel will sell at $1. The net profits then would amount to $1,010 upon the five acres."

Aitkin, a potato capital, has profited.

III

Grandfather's Day Chaska to make Halloween a music holiday

Ever since somebody invented Halloween, city and village authorities have sought to cope successfully with pranksters. Many communities now sponsor organized entertainment to divert the minds of the roguishly-inclined from depredation. But it has remained for Chaska to make Halloween a music holiday. October 31, Chaska will celebrate its fourth such event with a music parade by organizations from Minneapolis and elsewhere, climaxed by the coronation of a Halloween music queen.

Early mention of Chaska in the annals has no hint of classic Halloween larks. It's a solemn bit about spuds. The Minnesota Pioneer printed a note in 1855 from one T. B. Hunt of Chaska: "I send you five potatoes, known here as the Rachel potato. They were raised by Mr. Ezekill Ellsworth. . . . He has a bushel of the same kind which average one pound and a half each - 33 of them making a bushel."

The Valley Herald, which had come into being in the meantime, noted, in '65, recognition of Chaska as a livestock producer: "Parties are in town this week buying fat cattle for Chicago."

Then it was wheat. The Herald, next year: "It has been determined to put up a large steam mill capable of grinding 500 bushels of wheat per day."

In '67, the music motif became evident. Minneapolis Tribune: "The meeting of the singing societies of the state at Chaska was a very pleasant reunion."

" '68, the Pioneer said, May 28 (a dispatch from Carver): "One hundred guns are being fired in honor of President Johnson's acquittal. . . . Chaska is also using gun powder."

The Herald again, in 1871: "Work on the Hastings & Dakota railroad is progressing nicely. It is expected the iron horse will be running into Chaska by Nov. 1."

In 1878, the Tribune: "There are not enough houses in Chaska to supply the demand."

But that's all been fixed up long ago, and the Carver county seat is ready to care for all comers on Halloween.