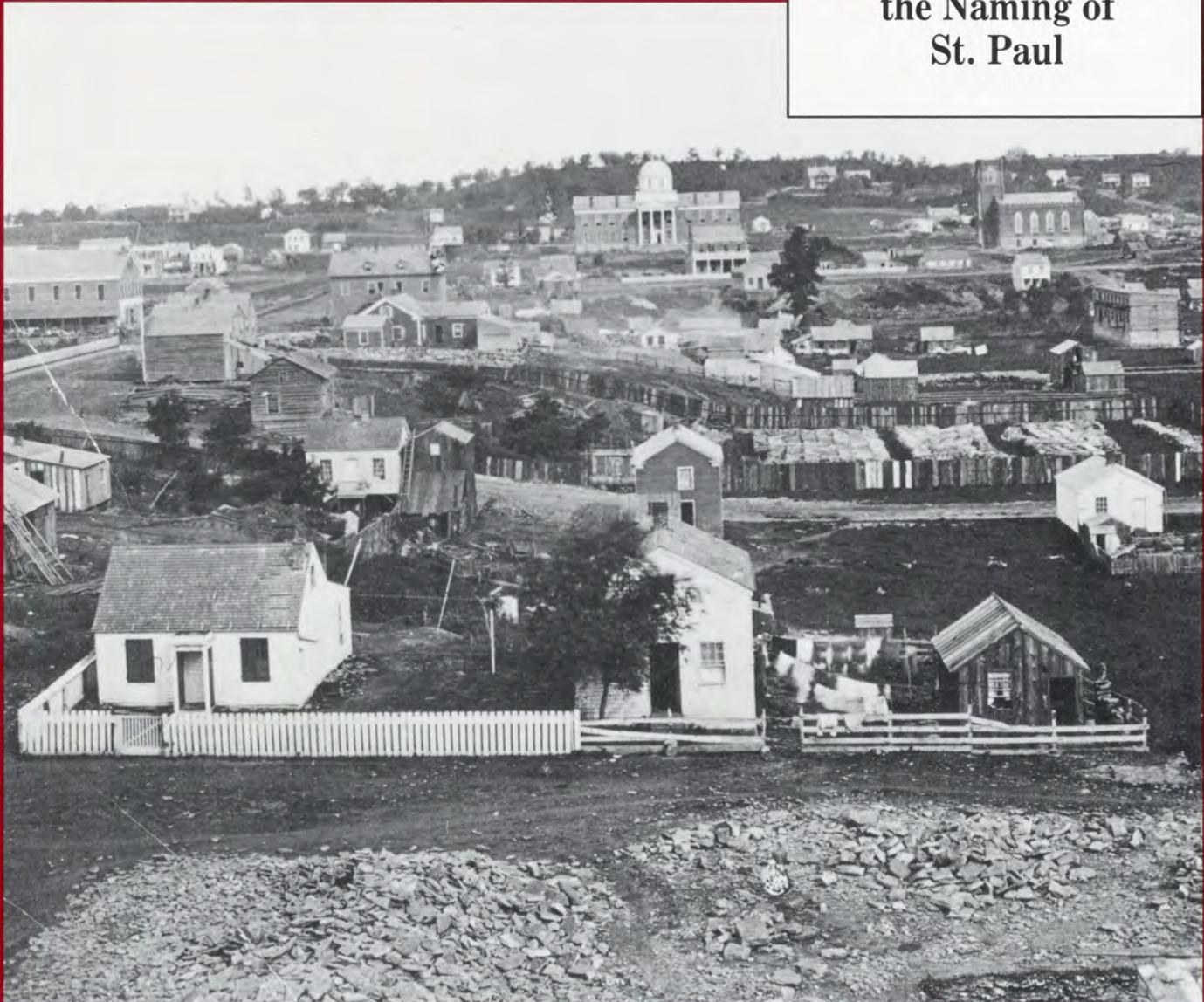


RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Fall, 1991
Volume 26, Number 3

Special Issue:
150th Anniversary of
the Naming of
St. Paul



St. Paul in 1857. This is one of nine panoramic views shot that year by B. F. Upton from the roof of the Ramsey County Courthouse at Fourth and Wabasha streets. In this view to the north, the building with the pillars and the dome is the territorial capitol at Tenth and Wabasha streets. The articles beginning on page 4 are published in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Paul and trace the early history of the settlement on the Mississippi that once was known as Pig's Eye.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

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Virginia Brainard Kunz

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On the Cover: St. Paul was the capital of the Territory of Minnesota, when this view was photographed by B. F. Upton from the roof of the Ramsey County Courthouse in 1857. See articles on St. Paul's early years beginning on page 4.

Acknowledgements: The photograph on page 3 is from the Ramsey County Historical Society's photo collection. The map on page 10 was created by the design firm of Rummel, Dubs and Hill. Photographs of the Davern house in 1990 on page 23, the Daverns on page 24, Dr. Colvin on page 27 and the Colvin house on page 28 are from the author's collection. The Fuller family photograph on page 25 is from the H. B. Fuller Company. All other photographs in this issue are from the audio-visual collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

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CONTENTS

- 3** Letters
- 4** 150th Anniversary of the Naming of St. Paul; Rush to Settlement—1840 to 1880
Virginia Brainard Kunz
- 17** Who WAS "Pig's Eye" Parrant, Anyway?
Ronald M. Hubbs
- 19** Forgotten Pioneer: Abraham Perry and His Flock
Patrick H. Martin
- 22** What's Historic About This Site?
Highland Park's Davern and Colvin Homes
Robert J. Couser
- 29** A Matter of Time
- 31** Books, Etc.
Daniel John Hoisington

Publication of *Ramsey County History* is supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie, Jr.

A Message from the Editorial Board

Four members of the Society's Board of Directors and Editorial Board have had the good fortune to serve on the St. Paul History Sub-committee for the writing of *Saint Paul—The First 150 Years*. The sub-committee came together under the auspices of The Saint Paul Foundation to assist the book's author, Virginia Brainard Kunz, with comment and criticism of her manuscript that celebrates the history and cultural diversity of the people of St. Paul. The opinions of the committee members were as varied as their ethnicity. The group included representatives from the Native American, Southeast Asian, African American and Mexican American communities of Ramsey County, as well as those of European ancestry.

The book that Virginia Kunz wrote reflects the experiences of their people and their vision for St. Paul and its cultural richness. Featured in this issue of *Ramsey County History* is a section of the book along with special articles on "Pig's Eye" Parrant, Abraham Perry's family and the Davern house, an early farm house set within an Irish community in what is now Highland Park. Together they all contribute to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Paul.

—John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board

Books, Etc.

Saint Croix Notes: River Mornings, Radio Nights

Noah Adams

New York: W. W. Norton, 1990.

ISBN 0-393-02905-0

Radio announcers have a special place in the heart of Minnesotans. Recordings of the voice of Cedric Adams evoke a time and place as surely as any museum artifact or photograph. In the 1980s, St. Paul became the center of a new radio broadcasting empire—Minnesota Public Radio—based on aggressive management by Bill Kling and the wonderful voice and presence of Garrison Keillor. When Keillor took his leave from “A Prairie Home Companion,” MPR tried to fill his slot with a new program, “Good Evening”—an experiment that lasted a single year.

The host of that program, Noah Adams, shares his weekly monologues in book form in *Saint Croix Notes*. Most of the essays center around his home in the St. Croix valley. Yet, he drops wonderful little insights into life in St. Paul, home of the World Theatre. He visits the James J. Hill home, for example, and tells us,

I try to imagine it . . . I would come in here after dinner. Someone would bring me a brandy on a silver tray. I'd light a cigar—a lot of my fantasies involve smoking a good cigar. I'd stand appreciatively for a long moment in front of Corot's “*Springtime of Life*” . . . And the doorbell would ring. I wonder what James J. Hill and his wife gave out to trick-or-treaters on Halloween?

The best radio announcers create an intimacy between the distant studio and the listener in his living room or car. This book has the same feel. Noah Adams' es-

says read like a good letter from an old friend. Maybe in twenty years, we will see history books written about the golden age of radio in the 1980s.

America's Northern Heartland: An Economic and Historical Geography of the Upper Midwest

John R. Borchert

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987

ISBN 0-8166-1498-9

According to John Borchert's book, the sphere of economic and cultural influence of the Twin Cities closely parallels the radio audience for the Twins baseball team—east and south to Tomah, Wisconsin, where the Brewers, Cubs, and White Sox take over, and west into the plains area of Montana. In one map, Borchert shows the frequency of long distance phone calls to metropolitan areas. The geographic range of calls to the Twin Cities is an exact match to the Twin's audience. Why do regional phone calls come here? Borchert writes, “People placing orders with wholesale distributors, transferring payments, arranging professional services, reserving seats for games or concerts or foreign tours, reserving hotel rooms for meetings, catching up on the affairs of migratory friends and relatives, and of course talking about the weather.”

America's Northern Heartland is a book full of charts and maps telling the story of the development of the Upper Midwest and provides insights on every page. For example, what does it say about a region that has the highest church membership in the United States, com-

bined with the worst national image of livability? The book opens many doors for historical inquiry about the relationship of St. Paul to the region.

Good Living Among Good People: A History of North St. Paul

Videotape produced and directed by Monica Rangitsch.

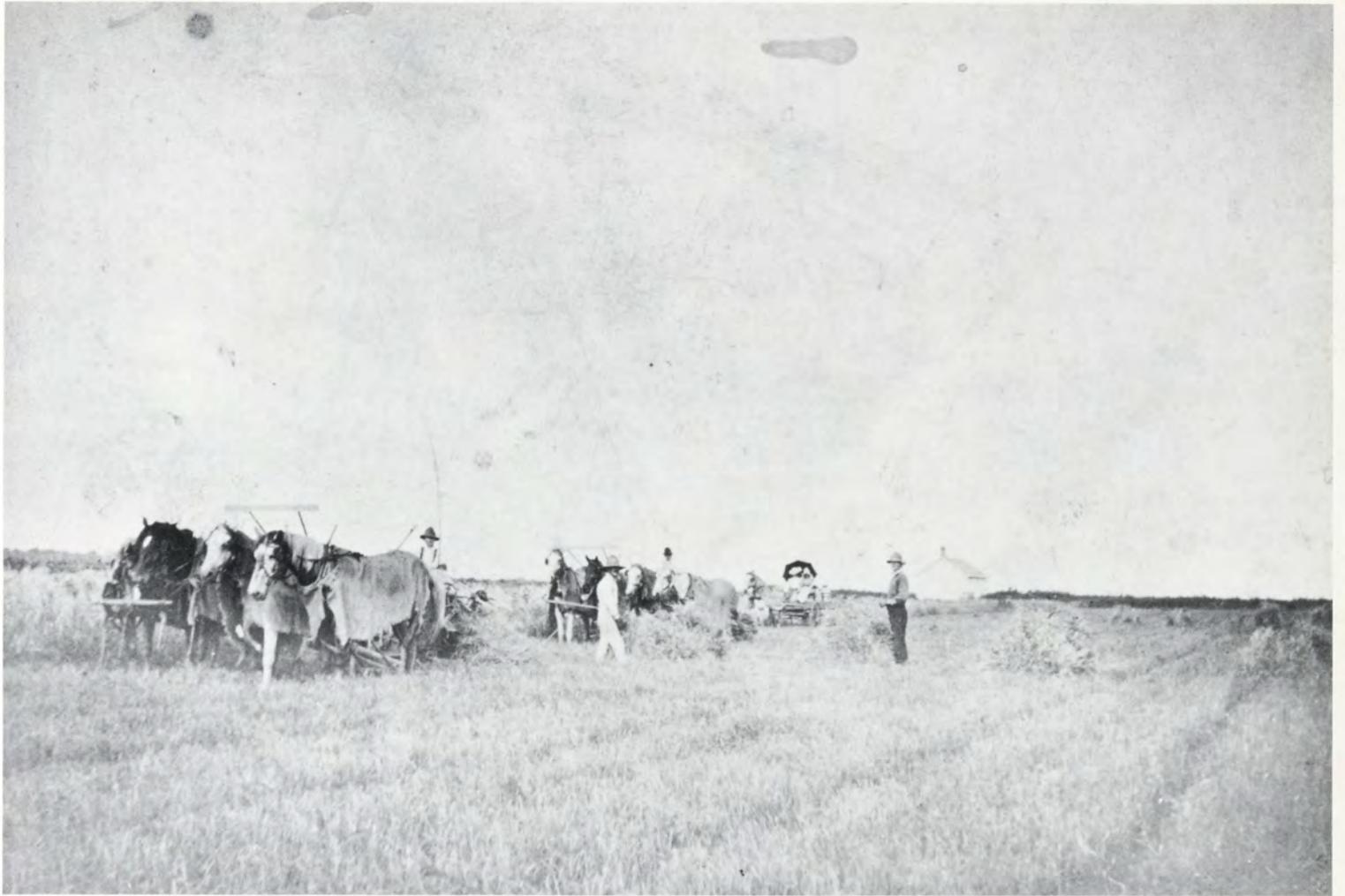
North St. Paul Historical Society, 1991.

History is sometimes a big story—national or statewide in scope. But each town and neighborhood has its own special story to tell. Monica Rangitsch has produced a fine half-hour television program about North St. Paul that introduces us to Henry Castle and his dream of a planned industrial community. Captain Castle is a larger than life figure who is the central character in the program. But Rangitsch brings in other stories as well—how Neumann's Bar was founded and when the snowman made its debut.

I enjoyed her interview with Olga Bowman, a longtime resident of the city. One of the joys of working in a historical society is having the opportunity to hear older people tell about their lives. Bowman brings a nice perspective to the rapid changes that have taken place over the past decades.

The North St. Paul Historical Society is to be commended for this project.

—Daniel John Hoisington



The Davern family working in the field north of their farm house, late in the nineteenth century. Today, this field is a residential neighborhood southwest of Montreal and Snelling avenues. See the article page 22 on the families and the homes of the Daverns, who were among the Irish immigrants who settled in what is now Highland Park in 1849, and on the Colvins who followed them.

R.C.H.S.
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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