

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Fall 2012

Volume 47, Number 3

*The Center of the Universe
for Car Buyers:
University Avenue Dominated
the Local Automotive Scene
for Fifty Years*

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Hands-On Historian:

Ethel Hall Stewart and Preserving the Gibbs Farm

Steven C. Trimble

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A 1970s postcard of the Gibbs Farm Museum, showing the east side of the Gibbs farmhouse at 2097 Larpenteur Avenue, alongside a photo of Ethel Hall Stewart from the 1950s. Photo of Ethel Hall Stewart from the Ramsey County Historical Society archives; Gibbs Farm Museum postcard courtesy of Steven C. Trimble.

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Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copy-

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Volume 47, Number 3

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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 20, 2007:

The Ramsey County Historical Society inspires current and future generations to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program of presenting, publishing and preserving.

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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. and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon

A Message from the Editorial Board

Until now, few people associated with the Ramsey County Historical Society knew much about the Society's origins. Some may have heard of Ethel Hall Stewart, but even they were not likely to know what role she played in the Society or how she was able to save the Gibbs Farm. Thanks to historian Steve Trimble, we know who Ethel Stewart was, the part she played in the creation of RCHS, and why she was so determined to preserve the Gibbs farm and turn it into a museum. From rural Ramsey County, we turn to University Avenue in the 1950s with Peter Myers's study of the auto and truck dealerships that once populated that busy thoroughfare. Joanne Englund then gives us an insightful memoir of growing up along University Avenue and how it's changed from her youth to a street that today bustles with all manner of new activity and questions centered on the impact of building light rail transportation there. In our concluding article, Mary Jo Richardson recounts how the alumnae of St. Joseph's Academy, which closed in 1971, keep the memory of their school alive and contributing to the health of our community.

Anne Cowie,
Chair, Editorial Board

A School to Remember

St. Joseph's Academy: The Legacy Lives On

Mary Jo Richardson

Imagine—just imagine that the high school you graduated from closed its doors forty-one years ago. Would you still be active in the Alumnae Association, serve on the board or committees, raise scholarship money for students of other high schools, or help prepare the regular newsletter to send to alumnae members? It's not too likely, but there is a school where this is happening.

It's my old "alma matter," St. Joseph's Academy, or as we always referred to it, SJA. St. Joseph's Academy on the corner of Marshall and Western was in existence for more than a century before it had to close its doors. It actually grew up with St. Paul. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet founded the school in 1851. Originally, it was housed in a log cabin on the banks of the Mississippi River. Then, as St. Paul grew, in 1860 the sisters

purchased a parcel of land on what was then the outskirts of the city, in an area known as St. Anthony Hill.

Three years later the first building was constructed and the rest is history. Today the property is in the heart of the city, just a drum beat away from downtown. As a matter of fact, it's just a few blocks from the St. Paul Cathedral which sits at the top of the hill overlooking the city. When the school closed

in 1971, SJA students, teachers, and friends throughout the city were not only surprised but mourned its loss. The buildings themselves were soon purchased and refurbished as a school and home for Christ's Household of the Faith. A few years later, in 1975, the former St. Joseph's Academy was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Alumnae who were heirs to an Association that started in 1901 said, "We'll find a way to remember SJA and all it meant to us." That's exactly what they did and every year alumnae members receive copies of *Chapter Chats*, the Alumnae newsletter. Reunions and celebrations abound and that's when the stories are told and retold.



The main entrance to St. Joseph's Academy on Marshall Avenue on a snowy day in the 1970s, left. The school building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since June 5, 1975. Today this building houses another school, Christ's Household of the Faith. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

An engraving from 1863 of St. Joseph's Academy, above. The school was continuously in operation from its founding in 1851 until it closed in 1971. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

The Early Years

The first story, of course, goes back to a time before the school was even founded. It goes across the ocean to France where a small group of young women decided they needed to band together to serve the people in their neighborhoods. Their initial focus was to help the poor, to teach low income children who otherwise would not get an education, to serve the sick and elderly, and others in need. On October 15, 1650, in Le Puy in Velay, France, they established a religious community which became the Sisters of St. Joseph. Later, during the French Revolution, their houses were pillaged, records destroyed, and the sisters who escaped went into hiding. Some faced prison and even the guillotine. After the fall of Robespierre, one of the women, who had escaped to the home of her parents, emerged to become a leader of the community.

That woman was Mother St. John Fontbonne who set about reuniting the Sisters of St. Joseph in Lyons, France. She became the director of the Sisters of St. Joseph religious organization. It was from Lyons that six sisters were sent to the United States in 1836. They arrived first in Carondelet, Missouri, and from then on the sisters associated with this community were known as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. From there, four of the sisters traveled by steamboat up the Mississippi River to St. Paul.

In her book, *Academy for a Century* (1951), Sister Elizabeth Marie, who served as the seventeenth principal of SJA, described the arrival of the sisters who established the first St. Joseph's Academy: "They stepped from the boat into a small village of wigwams and log huts, surrounded by snow-covered bluffs, hugging the edge of the river with floating ice, into a population of something over a thousand souls, mainly Indians and French Canadians, with a sprinkling of Irish and Swiss."¹

Sister Elizabeth Marie went on to tell the story of the first St. Joseph's Academy in a log church next to the sisters' living quarters. That log cabin was the forerunner of the St. Paul Cathedral. Since most students had to board at the school, the uncle of one the students had a nearby log cabin refinished to become a dormitory



The high school class of St. Joseph's Academy in 1883. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

for boarders. The niece was Martha Rice and her uncle was Henry M. Rice, one of Minnesota's early U.S. Senators. His name is now familiar to St. Paulites who travel on Rice Street from the Capitol out to the northern suburbs of St. Paul.

In her account of the early days, Sister Elizabeth Marie also noted the names of some of the original students, including Mary Mehagan, who became the wife of

James J. Hill. When the school expanded to a new site to accommodate more than fifty students, two other prominent students joined the rest. They were the daughters of Chief Hole-in-the-Day, an Ojibwe leader who became a good friend of the sisters.

In the beginning, the sisters faced many of the challenges of pioneer life from chopping their own wood, to hauling



Students from St. Joseph's Academy relaxing on the school grounds in 1897. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

Sister Mary Aloysius: Math and Science Teacher

Sister Mary Aloysius, or Sister Mary Al, as the students called her, was an excellent math and science teacher who always believed that girls could excel in these fields. During her twenty years at SJA, she was on the faculty and also served as assistant principal for several years. From 1935 to 1955 she inspired many students with a life-long interest in math and science.

Mary Catherine Ryan, who later became the Director of the Medical Technology program at St. Paul's Regions Hospital, was one of them. "Sister Mary Al gave us a great foundation in science," she said. After graduating from St. Catherine University, Mary Catherine interned in the medical technology program in the department of pathology at the former Ancker Hospital, which later became St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center and today is known as Regions Hospital. By the time the new hospital center was built, Mary Catherine had completed her Master's degree in education at the University of St. Thomas and was ready to take on a new assignment as the director of Regions Hospital Medical Technology



Sr. Mary Aloysius Sherin in the 1980s. Sr. Mary Al, as she was known to students and colleagues, taught math and science. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

program. Although she had many excellent teachers in higher education, Mary Catherine still credits Sister Mary

Aloysius for giving her a good foundation in science and a love of the field. As she noted, "Sister Mary Aloysius was a leader in encouraging girls to continue their studies in science and math."

Sister Mary Aloysius also taught at Holy Angels Academy in Richfield and Derham Hall in St. Paul. She served as principal at Derham in the early days and came back as a faculty member in the 1960s. In honor of her work in instilling in her students a life-long love of math, a scholarship is given each year at Cretin-Derham to a third-year female student who excels in math.

Although she is best remembered as a teacher of hundreds of high school students in the Twin Cities, and a tutor of middle school students in math after she retired, she was also known for her chaplain work at St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1970s.

Sister Mary Aloysius died in 1986. She will be especially remembered by her many students and friends as an early advocate for women in the fields of science and math.

water across Third Street (today's Kellogg Boulevard) from the only well in the community, to sleeping on blankets over layers of hay, and, in the winter, coping with snow drifts. They knew hunger, but that first spring brought a ray of hope. As Sister Frances Joseph wrote in her diary, "The spring was charming. The prairies were in full bloom. Wild ducks were plentiful on the rivers and lakes, and settlers were coming in from all quarters."²

Other stories include the tales of the growth of the school. In 1852 the sisters moved the school to a three-story, brick building. The upstairs had sleeping quarters for the student boarders. It was just as well that the move had taken place because two years later the old school had to be transformed again. This time it became a hospital which housed people who had become ill during the

cholera epidemic. Although this original log cabin chapel was destroyed by fire, a plaque and small metal sculpture mark the spot where it once stood and served as a church, a school, and then a hospital.

(For those who love history, the plaques and markers are on Kellogg Boulevard and Minnesota Street. Look for the arbor which represents the gateway to St. Paul for all those settlers who came up the Mississippi River to Lambert's Landing. Under the arbor are several metal sculptures and plaques that tell the story of early St. Paul.)

Keeping Memories of SJA Alive

As the student population expanded, there was one more move for the school before the final site was chosen. Then, in 1863, the sisters' dream came true. The new

school was built on the site they had purchased on present-day Marshall Avenue. The first building consisted of the southwest section of the current building. It was constructed of yellow limestone and was three-and-a-half stories high. Over the next several decades east and west wings were added to the school. Later, additional buildings were added to accommodate the music wing, the library, auditorium, and other activities.

A name from the early days that most alumnae members remember is Mother Seraphine Ireland, who became the Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the St. Paul Province in 1882. As Ellen Ireland she had attended the Academy and never forgot her alma mater. Her brother, John Ireland, became the first archbishop of St. Paul's Archdiocese, so it was no surprise to learn that he was a

great friend of the sisters and St. Joseph's Academy.

During the ensuing years, the buildings were modernized and the curriculum of the school changed to meet the changing needs of the students and the community. The Alumnae Association grew and established *Chapter Chats* as the official newsletter of the Association. The first volume came out in 1931, and although there was a gap of a number of years, it was reestablished in 1948 and continues to this day with news of the past and the present. The most recent editions announce the times and places for reunions and help keep the members connected.

In the summer of 2010 I interviewed several women who still spend time and energy in keeping alive "The School of Happy Memories," as the chorus of the school song begins. I also read what several members had to say in the spring issue of *Chapter Chats*. From the class of 1926 Beatrice Kaiser Klein wrote, "I celebrated my 100th birthday May 8, 2009, and my sister who graduated in 1928 is still trying to catch up with me." Her sister, Maxine Kaiser Russell, was then 97. Another member, Lorraine Campbell Bender, who graduated in 1937, wrote she celebrated her 90th birthday with a family get together on Lake Superior. Lorraine thanked everyone who works on keeping her up to date with longtime friends through *Chapter Chats*.

Several members gave credit to their own parents and the sacrifices they made to send them to SJA. As Audrey Fleming Fariss, class of 1948, noted "My Thanksgiving prayers include gratitude for the sacrifices my parents made so that I could attend St. Joe's." Many wrote about the lifelong friends they made at the Academy. Kathryn Kludt Gleason, class of 1949, is typical of several members who wrote, "I will always be thankful for attending St. Joe's and for the many friends I made there." Mary Ann Staffa Duffy, class of 1950, sums up what many others say about the work of those who keep the Alumnae Association alive. She writes, "*Chapter Chats* is always a welcome breath of fresh air. You all do a fantastic job. And as many of you already know, I'm looking forward to our 60th reunion. Thank you so very much for keep-



The curriculum at St. Joseph's Academy included math and the sciences, such as this scene in a chemistry lab in the 1930s. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

ing us as a family." Class of 1955 member, Char Madigan, CSJ, who was one of the founders of the Hope Community in Minneapolis, also comments on the theme of keeping connected. "Thanks for all you do to keep us connected. Cheers for all who help make scholarships available for those we love. Gratitude to all who help Hope Community thrive."³

There are many alumnae members who still keep everyone connected and help raise money for scholarships and support other good causes. One of the behind-the-scenes leaders is former Alumnae president, Rita Sweeny Ryan, who has headed the scholarship or grants-in-aid committee for the past twenty-one years. Since 1989, the SJA Alumnae Association has given more than \$770,000 to students to help them with their tuition. In 2010, for example, Rita and her committee awarded \$48,000 to students to help with their tuition in seven Catholic high schools in the Twin Cities area. Fund raising for these grants goes on year round; with part of the dues paid by each member going toward this endeavor. One of the fund-raising events that is most

closely connected with the Academy of the past is a holiday gala, The Silver Belle Ball, which was started by students in the 1950s and continues to this day.⁴

For a school like St. Joseph's Academy that is so closely connected with the history of St. Paul, the role of the historian has become especially important to the Alumnae Association. For the past ten years that volunteer historian has been Mary Catherine Ryan, who also chaired the 150th anniversary celebration of the beginning of the Academy. Mary Catherine keeps the historical journals, mementos, books, including yearbooks, and arranges the historic displays for celebrations. She, and alumnae members who planned the 150th-year anniversary, were pleased that for a school that no longer exists more than 600 alums attended the celebration.

In her speech at the 150th Year Celebration in 2001, SJA alumna Barbara Seng, a well-known Minnesota educator, reflected on the fact that the SJA alumnae benefited from the example of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She pointed out that the sisters began their ministry in education but later expanded their ministries to include

The Legacy of Sister Irmina: Teacher, Principal and Adventurer

Among the excellent teachers of English at St. Joseph's Academy, one stands out for several reasons. She not only taught English, served as advisor for the school newspaper, but also became principal and traveled across the ocean to start another St. Joseph's Academy in the Far East. Sister Irmina Kelehan first taught at the St. Paul St. Joseph's Academy in 1945 and by the mid-1950s left with a new adventure in mind.

A tall, stately woman with unflinching optimism, Sister Irmina was eager to try something new. After World War II the Japanese government welcomed Americans who were interested in investing in schools in Japan. They even offered to pay part of the salaries for teachers, and teachers of English were especially welcome.

Sister Irmina, along with sisters of St. Joseph from several provinces in the U.S., responded to the invitation. In 1956, the forty-four-year-old Sister Irmina arrived in Japan and began planning for a new girl's high school. It was built just southwest of Tokyo in the city of Tsu which is between Osaka and Ise Bay. When asked what she wanted to call the "joshi gakuen" (Japanese for girls' school), she didn't hesitate: "St. Joseph's Academy, of course." The school opened in 1959 with Sr. Irmina as principal. She soon introduced many SJA traditions, including quality academic standards for which the original school was known, and even the forest-green uniforms which had been adopted in the late 1940s in St. Paul.

After launching the new school, Sr

Irmina returned to the United States to become the next principal of the St. Joseph's Academy in St Paul. When she finished her five-year term, Sister



In 1956, Sr. Irmina Kelehan, immediate left, and three other members of the sisters of St. Joseph from around the U.S. set sail for Japan where they would assist in organizing a new high school in the city of Tsu. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

Irmina felt the tug to return to Japan, a country and people she had really enjoyed and had come to love. The best part of this decision was learning that she would teach English again. This time, however, she taught college-level English in Kyoto at a women's college run by the Sisters of Notre Dame. Despite her heavy schedule, she always kept track of the new St. Joseph's Academy and saw it grow and prosper.

Today, the Japanese St. Joseph's Academy is thriving with more than 600 students. Although all of the teachers at the school are now Japanese, the school's yearbook still celebrates their founder, Sister Irmina, CSJ, and features her picture on the dedication page of their annual. When I talked with Sister Irmina in the fall of 2010, she told me she was very grateful for the years she spent in Japan and still has very fond memories of students from both Academies, one in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the other in Tsu, Japan.

A SJA alumna from St. Paul, Jean (Sausen) Brazelton, who taught English in high schools in both Minnesota and California, recalls what a remarkable teacher Sister Irmina was. "She was demanding but always very encouraging. She was certainly one of the teachers who inspired me to be an English teacher and an avid reader all my life." Jean told me that two of their children also became English teachers, so the influence continues.

Sister Irmina resided at Carondelet Village in St. Paul (the former Bethany Center) until she passed away in July 2012. Had she lived two months longer, she would have celebrated her 100th birthday. It was more than 160 years ago that the first four St. Joseph sisters arrived from France to build a school for girls in Minnesota. Their legacy is well known, but for SJA alumnae in both the U.S. and Japan, so is the legacy of Sister Irmina, a gifted teacher, principal and adventurer.

health care, social service, and spirituality. The sisters are known for many things: their work in higher education for women, developing a safe place for runaway youth, and starting innovative health clinics for the poor. Their work goes on and so does the work of the alumnae members of the Academy. She ended her talk by saying, "We have made our contribution to society, and we will continue to do so; we have

shown that we are concerned, that we care, and we will continue to share our time, treasures and talents, and respond to the challenges still ahead."⁵

As a remembrance of the event, artist Bob Peterson drew a sketch of the Academy for those who attended the 2001 gathering. Elizabeth Auge Semotink, an alumna member, constructed a model of the original log cabin chapel for the event.

In the booklet commemorating the celebration, she wrote, "Through deep snow I foraged in my yard for small branches to use for logs and the spruce tree supplied its bark for the roof. After much trial and error the chapel emerged just as I had envisioned it." And probably just the way the original pioneers first envisioned their school which had its beginnings more than one hundred and sixty years ago.⁶

Sister Ann Thomasine and the SJA Glee Club

Long before the popular "Glee" was a hit television series, there was another "Glee Club" that made a name for itself. It was the SJA Glee Club, directed by Ann Thomasine, CSJ. Sister Ann Thomasine was a vivacious nun who taught music, as well as other subjects, at St. Joseph's Academy from 1938 to 1952. Each year she held try-outs for the Glee Club that was not only known for excellence in its own circle of family and friends, but in the wider community. For example, the Glee Club was always in demand for its performance of "The Messiah" which was featured for years at the community-wide St. Paul Choral Pageant.

Sr. Ann Thomasine invited other SJA students, as well as Glee Club members, to be part of the musicals she directed from the "Nutcracker Suite" to the "Pirates of Pinzance" to numerous musicals that called for dancers as well as singers. As one alumna, Jeanne (Hovelson) Broenen from San Jose, California, expressed it, "Sister Ann Thomasine was an inspiration to those of us who enjoyed singing. We count our lifelong love of music from the time we first sang in the Glee Club." In addition to establishing her own business, Jeanne always found time to sing in church choirs, perform in community musicals, and participate in statewide competitive dance contests. This past year, for example, she played the part of Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls," and is presently managing director of her church choir, sings with the community Village Voices, and will be in the spring Readers Theatre Production in San Jose.



A youthful Sr. Ann Thomasin Sampson began her work at St. Joseph's Academy with the music program at the school. Before she retired, Sr. Ann wrote a carefully researched history of her order in Minnesota. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

Not only was Sr. Ann Thomasine an inspiration to Jeanne and many other students while she was teaching at the Academy, but in retirement she continued to live a vital life. She enthusiastically embraced a new line of work. In 1972 she began to retrace the arrival of the first sisters of St. Joseph from St. Louis, Missouri to St. Paul. Only, instead of a steamboat, she chose a tug boat and recorded the challenge of the voyage up the Mississippi River. Once

launched on her new career, she continued an oral history project which lasted for nine years and filled twenty-six boxes for the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

This remarkable sister died in 2008 at the age of ninety-three. She will long be remembered by SJA Alumnae members not only as the singing sister, but as the person who inspired several generations of young women to continue to sing all their lives and to spread the joy of singing to others in their families and communities.



Holiday carolers at St. Joseph's Academy celebrate the joys of the Christmas season. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

Several years after the school closed, Oliver Towne, former columnist for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, wrote an article about the SJA Alumnae Association and how it continues to hold reunions and provide grants to high school students. He noted that the school was a landmark in St. Paul in both education and architectural history. For those who were still wondering why the school had closed in 1971, he offered this succinct explanation, "But the school bent, and finally broke, under the terrific cost of upkeep, mounting debts and dwindling enrollment, plus the changing missions of the nuns who ran it."⁷

Mary Kraft, CSJ, who serves as archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, keeps documents and pictures from the Academy. She provided the pictures of the three sisters featured in the sidebars in this article. Each of these teachers taught for a number of years at the Academy and had a special place in the recollections of students they taught.

SJA's Enduring Value

Last year was the 160th anniversary of the founding of the original school. The Alumnae Association continued its work and renewed its goal to make sure that no matter where the alumnae are now living, they will never forget the education they received at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota. What is important now is that they pass that legacy along to others.

When I asked several alums what they appreciated most about their high school education, invariably they answered, "The talented, dedicated teachers we had, and the expectation of teach-



In the late 1960s, the debate team from St. Joseph's Academy displayed the awards and trophies its members had won. Photo courtesy of the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, Minn.

ers, parents and friends that we would do well. We were challenged to believe that no matter what we did or where we went, women were expected to be leaders, whether in their own homes or in the wider community."

Alumna Mary Louise Klas, who served as a judge in the Ramsey County District Court for fourteen years, had this to say, "At SJA we studied Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, *In Rerum Novarum* [On the Condition of Labor]. It was a life-changing experience. I recognize that from today's perspective, it is gender insensitive, but so is the institutional church. It does, however, contain core Catholic social teachings which are as relevant today as

they ever were. Society cries out for citizens to search for the common good and find ways to protect the poor and vulnerable. SJA and the Sisters of St. Joseph taught me to attempt to answer that cry."

I could not agree more with Judge Klas, but I also want to add one further note that appealed especially to me. That was the sense that we were part of history, a history that began when the first sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet began teaching in that log cabin on the banks of the Mississippi River and named their school St. Joseph's Academy.

Part of the legacy they left lives on through the work of the Alumnae Association. To keep that Association vibrant, Midge McLean, an alumna, is currently the volunteer office manager for the group. She is a recent recipient of the "Gavel Award" for her leadership in St. Paul's north suburban communities. With her efforts and that of dozens of other alumnae volunteers, it is not so surprising that St. Joseph's Academy is a school to remember long after graduation day and long after the school closed its doors more than forty years ago.

Mary Jo Richardson is a loyal graduate of SJA, Class of 1948, who went on to earn a B.A. at the University of St. Catherine and a Ed.D. in education from the University of St. Thomas. Prior to retirement, she had a long career in the field of education that culminated in her service as the executive director of the Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service. A resident of Shoreview, this is her second article in this magazine.

Endnotes

1. Sister Elizabeth Marie, C.S.J., *Academy for a Century: A History of Saint Joseph's Academy Located in St. Paul, Minnesota* (St. Paul: The North Central Publishing Company, 1951), 6.
2. *Ibid.*, 10.
3. Irene Bohn and Barbara Sweeney, coeditors,

St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Association Chapter Chats, Spring 2010.

4. Author interview with Rita Sweeney Ryan, class of 1950, SJA, August 2010.

5. Barbara Seng, Keynote Address, "150th Year Celebration, SJA Alumnae Association."

6. Mary Catherine Ryan, ed., "Commemoration Booklet, 2001 Celebration, St. Joseph's Academy."

7. Oliver Towne, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, "Academy Now Closed, But It Still Plays Part in Education," March 5, 1984.

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Summer nights at Porky's were a University Avenue tradition for nearly six decades. Ray Truelson opened the restaurant in 1953, and his future bride, Nora, began working there a few years later. For anyone who loved cars, cruising the avenue, and stopping at Porky's was the perfect way to spend an evening. The Truelson family sold the property in 2011 to Episcopal Homes, which is planning an expansion of its senior housing campus. Photo courtesy of Nora Truelson. For a nostalgic look at University Avenue as the center of the universe for car buyers for fifty years, see Peter B. Myers's article on page 13.