

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

The Great Railroad
Excursion
of 1854
—Page 14

Spring, 1995

Volume 30, Number 1

From Iceboxes to Freezers:
The Seeger Refrigerator Company—Page 4



A view of the Seeger Company's Arcade Street factory, ca. 1930. The last building remaining at the company's site was razed in April, 1995. See article beginning on page 4. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

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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

This Spring issue of *Ramsey County History* offers two stories about grow-
ing up in St. Paul. The first is an institutional and corporate history of the
Seeger Refrigeration Company written by James B. Bell. The other is a per-
sonal and individual account written by Frieda Claussen of her coming to adult-
hood and launching her career as a medical technologist at Miller Hospital.
While the Seeger Company was located on the East Side of St. Paul from 1902
to 1984, Frieda Claussen's professional life spanned forty-two years in the de-
velopment of modern medical practice. Unlike the Seeger Company, which has
passed from the local scene, Frieda Claussen and her sister, Clara, have made
sure their experiences will enrich others in their willingness to value local history
and to tell their story in our magazine. For this, we thank them.

John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board

Letters to the Editor

The Adams Boys

Thank you for publishing my article about the Adams boys. ("Who Were the Boys from the Adams School?"—Winter, 1995, issue). To my eyes, at least, it was presented wonderfully well in the magazine. I was far more impressed, though, by the article on Fountain Cave, which is truly outstanding, far better than mine. My compliments to the author and to you. I had never heard of Fountain Cave, so the whole thing was a marvelous revelation for me—made all the more so by the fact that all of the fathers of the Adams boys worked right on top of the cave for decades. There was one error in the Adams article. The school pictured on the back cover was not at 615 South Chatsworth. That's where the current school is. The old one was at Armstrong and View.

—Paul D. Nelson, St. Paul.

More on Fountain Cave

Thank you for sending the Winter, 1995, issue of Ramsey County History with the cover article on St. Paul's Fountain Cave by Greg Brick. As custodian of part of Brick's resource material, and as a current St. Paul resident, I found the article very interesting (as was the entire publication). I will forward this publication to the Public Works Department's library so that it will be available to others.

—David J. Dickhut, St. Paul.

Where is Water Street?

Didn't St. Paul once have a Water Street fronting on the Mississippi? I saw a reference to it in an old newspaper I was reading.

—Margaret Linholm, South St. Paul.



The old Adams School at Armstrong and View, not 615 South Chatsworth. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

The Minnesota Pioneer wondered about this, too, back in 1850. The City Council's Committee on Streets asked the City Attorney to locate Water Street, if there was such a street. The report, according to the *Pioneer*: "Water Street, in St. Paul, like the equinoctial line, is rather imaginery, being principally in the channel of the [Mississippi] river at the foot of the bluff. The first actual street in [St. Paul], parallel to the river, is Bench Street, on the bluff; the next parallel to the river, is Third Street).

Frontier Temperance

I know that St. Paul once had a strong temperance movement. Perhaps, with the advent of chemical dependency programs, it has long since disappeared. But what about the early years?

—Howard Olson, Hastings.

The Sons of Temperance, formed in St. Paul in the very early 1850s, was one of the pioneer temperance organizations.

The Minnesota Pioneer reported in its November 27, 1851, issue that "The Sons are building a two story house on Third Street; the upper story a Hall for the Society, and the lower one to be let...As we are not aware that the Sons hold any meetings now, we beg to hint to them that they ought to meet, if only for financial purposes. Besides that, they have a great work before them in St. Paul. There is still much unadulterated, unwholesome liquor brought to this town, the sale of which ought to be stopped."



St. Paul around 1869 was still a rather rude frontier town and not exactly the "second city of magnificent distances" described by the Eastern press who descended on the village in 1854. This view of a muddy Jackson Street looks north from Third Street. The St. Paul Hotel, right, was built in 1846-1847 and developed into the Merchants Hotel. See article about the Great Railroad Excursion of 1854, beginning on page 14. McLeish & Pasel photo, Minnesota Historical Society.

R.C.H.S.
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