

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Summer, 1992
Volume 27, Number 2



Members of the Junior League of St. Paul rehearsing for the 1936 Junior League Cabaret, one of the League's more entertaining fund raisers. Left to right are Mrs. John Driscoll, Molly Turner, Betty Evans, Betty Scandrett, Betty Fobes, Edith Shull, Clotilde Irvine, Mrs. Thomas Wheeler, Alice Bartles and Betty Rugg. See article on the Junior League's seventy-five years of service to the community beginning on page 4.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Acting Executive Director

Vera Trent

Editor

Virginia Brainard Kunz

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William S. Fallon

Chairman of the Board

Joanne Englund

President

John M. Lindley

First Vice President

Anne Cowie Wilson

Second Vice President

Robert O. Straughn

Secretary

James Russell

Treasurer

Thomas Boyd, Joan Grzywinski, Lorraine Hammerly, John Harens, Liz Johnson, Judge Margaret M. Marrinan, Dr. Thomas B. Mega, Laurie Murphy, Richard T. Murphy, Sr., Eileen Roberts, Darrell Roonek, Mark Stein, Richard A. Wilhoit and Laurie Zenner.

EDITORIAL BOARD

John M. Lindley, chairman; Thomas H. Boyd, Thomas C. Buckley, Charlton Dietz, Thomas J. Kelley, Arthur McWatt, Dr. Thomas B. Mega.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hal Norgard, chairman
Commissioner Diane Ahrens
Commissioner John Finley
Commissioner Ruby Hunt
Commissioner Duane McCarty
Commissioner Don Salverda
Commissioner Warren Schaber

Terry Schutten, executive director, Ramsey County.

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright, 1992, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

Acknowledgements: Photographs with the Junior League article, pages 4-11, and on the front cover are from the League's archives at the Minnesota Historical Society. Those with the articles on weddings, pages 12-15 and 23-24 and on pages 3, 25 and 27 are from the Ramsey County Historical Society's collections. The photographs with *Growing Up in St. Paul*, pages 16-20, are from the author and those on page 25 and the back cover are from the Minnesota Historical Society's audio-visual collections.

RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 27, Number 2 Summer, 1992

CONTENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 The Junior League's First 75 Years
Follies, 'Friendly Visiting' and Women's Changing Roles
Garneth O. Peterson
- 12 Hope Chests and Honeymoons—
Marriages in America Still Wedded to Tradition
Tamara Truer
- 14-15 A Home Wedding for the 'Timid Bride'
- 16 Growing Up in St. Paul
'Father Begged Feed for His Animals'
Margaret Manship
- 21 A Matter of Time
- 25 Books, Etc.
- 27 What's Historic About This Site?
The Cyrus B. Cobb House In White Bear Lake

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., by a contribution from Reuel D. Harmon and by grants from The Saint Paul and F. R. Bigelow Foundations.

A Message from the Editorial Board

In the early 1960s, a few schools on the cutting edge of higher education began to give special attention to the issue of race relations, and the contributions of racial and ethnic groups in national and local history. By the early 1970s, the contributions of women and the lives of average citizens, aside from those in the labor movement, were also singled out as subfields deserving special focus in the curriculum. However, those fields have long been recognized by state and county historical societies as worthy of attention. When the Editorial Board set about to expand the size of *Ramsey County History* and enhance its scholarly depth and breadth, the magazine already had a tradition of articles in these fields, which we determined to continue.

This issue contains three articles which contribute to the field of women's and family history. Scheduled for future issues are two articles in the areas of minority and ethnic history: the contributions of the Mexican and Jewish American communities to the history of St. Paul, as well as an article on the High Bridge, that vital link to the West Side, a neighborhood that was home to both communities.

—Thomas C. Buckley, member of the Editorial Board



A Home Wedding for

Church weddings tended to be rare in the nineteenth century. It was more common to be married at home. In a quaint commentary on the proper Victorians' attitudes toward marriagable young women, the September, 1894, issue of *Weddings and Wedding Anniversaries* declared that, "Timid brides prefer that their nuptials shall be celebrated at home," the theory being that "house weddings are less fatiguing." For whom, one might ask. Judging from the photographs here, it would seem that someone—servants? the lady of the



The home of the bride—evidently. This major spender, probably in St. Paul. Inside, apparently the Victorian home, a kneeling bench has been placed in front of the fireplace. Ferns and flowers hide the fireplace and drift room (above) gifts cover every surface. Lavis, authorities on etiquette and fashion as Godey stem the tide, then or now.

For the 'Timid Bride'

house? the friendly neighborhood florist?—went to considerable effort to produce this lavishly decorated setting for some bride's nineteenth century home wedding. The photographs themselves constitute something of a mystery. They are from a photograph album in the collections of the Ramsey County Historical Society and are unidentified. The Society has no idea whose home this is, where it was located and whose wedding this was. Readers? Anyone?



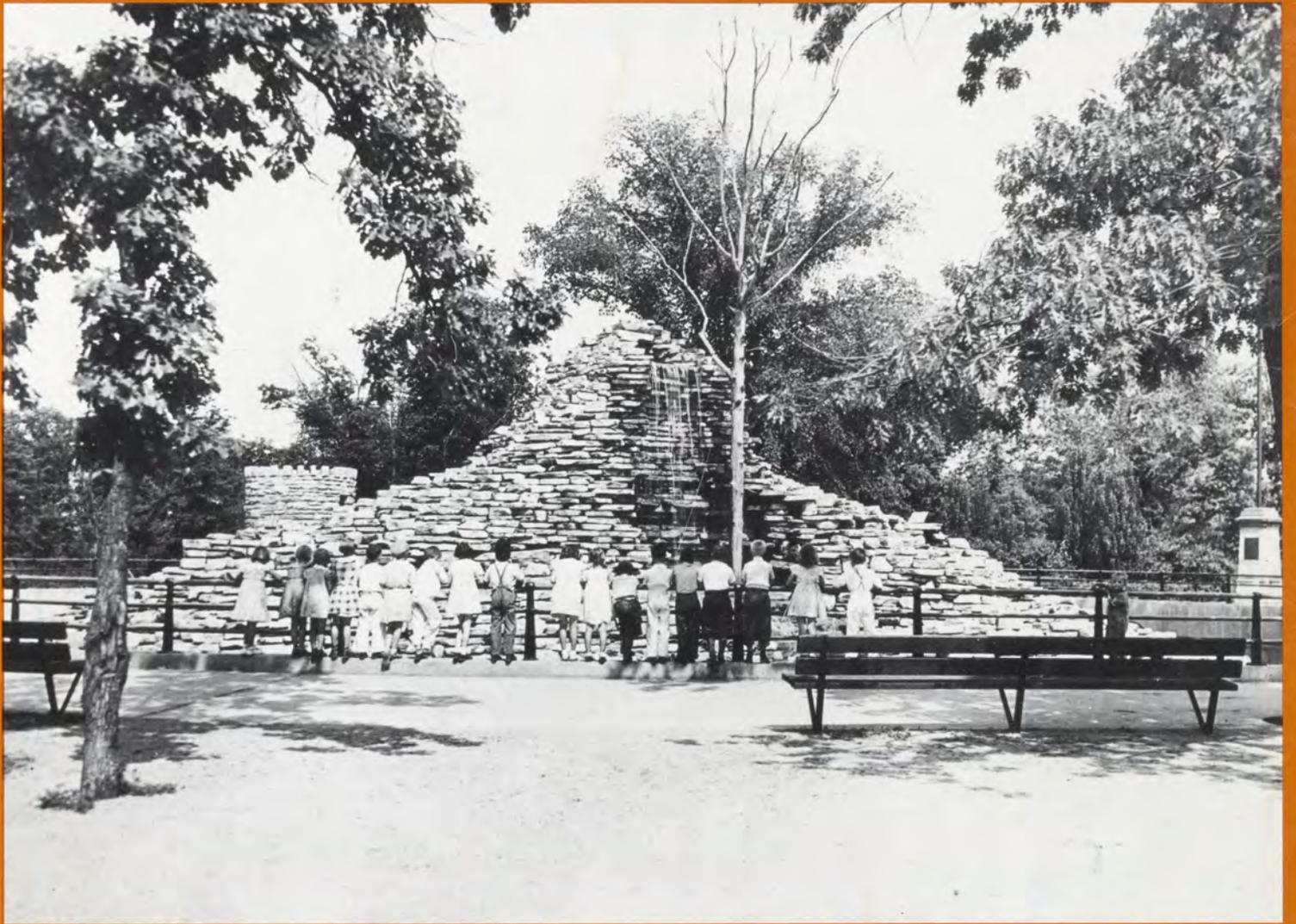
The pipe organ, very likely a prominent feature of this family's household and an indicator of its wealth, stands in a bay, probably in the parlor. Surrounded by more ferns and flowers, it will play an important part in the ceremony-to-come.



...majestic house (upper left) stands in all its apparent splendor in the parlor (left), the showplace of which has been set up beneath a flowered arch. ... and drift down from the chandelier. In the dining room, lavish displays were decreed by such a book as Godey's Lady's Book, but it was impossible to

Another wedding? Another house? The same house? No matter. Here, a small altar has been set up in a parlor or drawing room. Greenery festoons the chandelier and ferns and flowers smother the fireplace. As these photographs indicate, Victorian homes were nothing if not fussy and densely furnished, with or without a wedding to add to it all.





Visitors lining the railing at Monkey Island, the Como Zoo's enduringly popular attraction. This photograph was taken around 1940. See the article on *Growing Up in St. Paul*, beginning on page 16.

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

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul MN
Permit #3989