

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Ramsey County Historical Society

Minnesota's First Arts School—
St. Agatha's Conservatory
And the Pursuit of Excellence

Volume 24
Number 1



Ramsey County History

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Contents

St. Agatha's Conservatory
And the Pursuit of Excellence - Page 3

Mother Celestine Howard And
Her Provincial Mint - Page 7

Music, Art, Drama and Dance—
The Little Girls Had Long Curls - Page 9

A Day in the Life Of—
Obedience, Poverty and Ice in the Washbasins - Page 15
By Sister Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ

Boats, Boaters and Boat Clubs
Slips Cost 10 Cents a Foot - Page 20

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ON THE COVER: *The log chapel built by Father Galtier on Bench (now Second) Street in downtown St. Paul became the chapel of the Sisters of St. Joseph after their arrival in the frontier village in 1851. By 1884 they had established St. Agatha's Convent and Conservatory at Cedar and Exchange Streets. The large photograph shows the conservatory, which was Minnesota's first arts school, sometime before its closing in 1962. The conservatory's Music Building stood on the right. The conservatory and convent (on the left) still stands. Known as Central Manor for 25 years, it is now the Exchange Building.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: *The large photograph on the front cover, the photographs on pages 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17, and the top three pictures on the back cover are from the CSJ Archives, Sisters of St. Joseph Administration Center, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul. The photograph of the Palmer House on page 6 is from the Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. All other photographs, including the sketch on the front cover and the picture of the boat race on the back cover, are from the audio-visual library of the Minnesota Historical Society.*

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Judge Palmer's house at Exchange and Cedar. See Page 6.



"The Ireland Connection": Sisters St. John, left; Celestine and Seraphine. See page 3.



A play staged by St. Agatha's Expression Department. See Page 13. (Can anyone identify these youngsters?)

Passengers on the steamboat, "Red Wing," docked on the St. Paul riverfront, watch the Minnesota Boat Club bantam four race about 1910. See page 20.

The Gibbs Farm Museum, owned by the Ramsey County Historical Society, at Cleveland and Larpenteur in Falcon Heights.



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