

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Colorful, Contentious —
St. Paul's 100-Year-Old
Neighborhood Press

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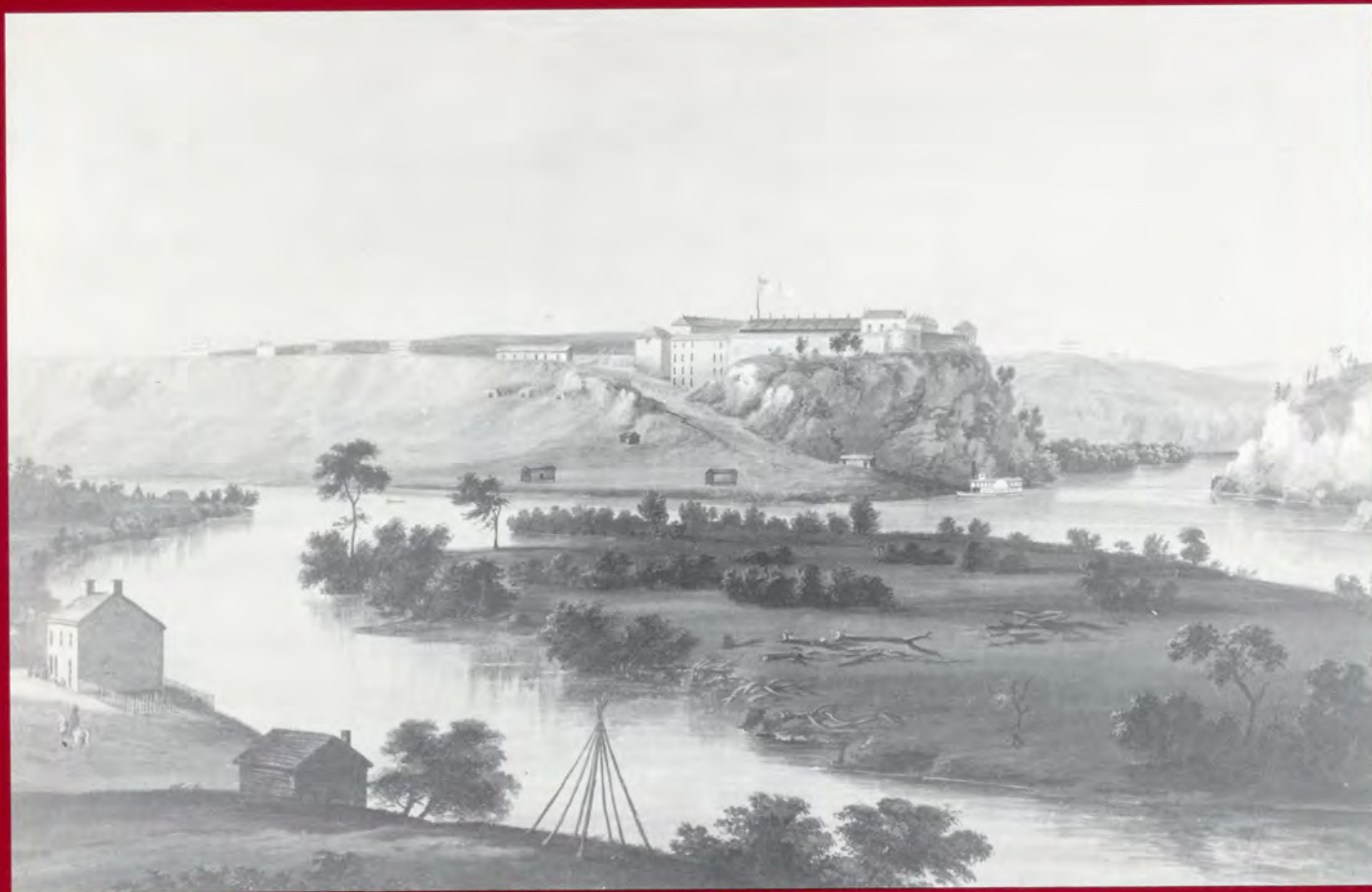
Summer, 1993

Volume 28, Number 2

Birth, Death, Reincarnation

The Story of Fort Snelling and Its State Park

Page 4



Old Fort Snelling in 1844. This water color and gouache painting by John Casper Wild shows the fort a few years before Minnesota became a territory. The many pitfalls in the effort to save, restore and rebuild the fort and create Fort Snelling State Park are described by an active participant, in the article beginning on page 4. Minnesota Historical Society photograph of the original painting, which is in its collection.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

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Minnesota Volunteers* by Richard Moe
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A Message from the Editorial Board

In the past several months the Editorial Board has received requests to reprint articles published in back issues of *Ramsey County History*. This recognition of the editorial strength of our magazine is very gratifying to all members of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

The Editorial Board wants our readers to know that we respond promptly to these requests. We can sometimes provide additional copies of a particular issue when there is enough lead time involved in the request. The cost of reprinting or purchasing additional copies depends on the nature of the request.

While the Editorial Board wants to encourage a wide dissemination of our editorial material, we also are obliged to remind our readers that the magazine is copyrighted by the Society and under current copyright law cannot be photocopied and distributed without our permission.

—John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board

Growing Up in St. Paul

Albert Fuller and the Family Business

Albert Fuller, oldest son of Harvey B. Fuller I, founder of H.B. Fuller Company in St. Paul, was eighteen years old when he started a diary in 1890. Albert's diary is the best source of knowledge of the early years of the H.B. Fuller Company and documents the company's beginnings as the first manufacturer of paste in Minnesota. Harvey Fuller supplied ink to the city's schools, bottled laundry blueing and mixed up batches of paste-to-order for paperhangers and industrial customers such as the Washburn Crosby Company and the Minnesota Shoe Company. Fuller's market expanded to printers, bookbinders, box manufacturers and a wide array of citizens looking for ways to attach labels, secure bundles and fix broken crockery.

Excerpts taken from the 280-page diary and compiled by Liz Holum Johnson, H.B. Fuller Company archivist, not only document the early days of H.B. Fuller Company, but give us a flavor of the life of an entrepreneurial family running a small business in the early days of St. Paul and the Midwest. Albert worked for his father through 1896 and possibly for part of 1897. It appears he left for Pittsburgh during the summer of 1897, started his own paste factory there and operated it through 1906. In parts of his diary Albert refers to his siblings: Gertrude, sixteen, Roger, twelve, and the twins, Harvey and Helen, five—also known as the "babies." In 1890 his parents, Harvey and Ellen, were forty-five and forty, respectively.

January 10, 1890

Went out collecting. Got only \$5.00. Papa went home sick with grip. Had a bad-head-ache and pain all over his body and sickness at his stomach.

January 13, 1890

Pretty cold today. Pipe from boiler to cooker was busted again (by freezing) but

I have mend[ed] it to-gether again. Papa still feeling pretty bad. They are beginning to put up the long wires for the electric cars.

January 21, 1890

Made 5 brls [barrels] Paste. Sent one to *Minneapolis Journal* and to Minnesota Shoe Co. Got in 7 sax flour from Schultz. The Cigar makers moved out to-day thereby breaking their agreement which was to stay til 1st of May. Said it was too cold a place. Awful cold, coldest this winter. 24 or more below zero.

February 8, 1890

Sent a barrel to Food and Schultze Co. Made four barrels paste. There was an explosion in the gas-house about six o'clock this evening, one man was killed and three injured. I heard the explosion at Minnesota St. and saw the sky lit up in the flames and went down. The windows all around were broken.

February 16, 1890

Went walking with Roger on the road across the river in W. St. Paul toward Mendota. They are making a fine drive along the edge of the bluff there. They are beginning to build the bridges now. Papa went to see the panorama and to look for a house to rent.

March 16, 1890, Sunday

Roger and I went out the Grand Avenue electric line on foot and rode back [on] it. Went very fast some of the time.

April 14, 1890

There was quite a big fire, the old elevator near the Union Depot was all burned up. Saw a new kind of fire-engine. It seems to be a sort of centrifugal affair.

April 20, 1890, Sunday

Papa, Gertrude and the babies went out

on the electric cars and they too, say it is a nice country out there. (Went out walking to Dayton's Bluff. There were two or three fishing. One had caught two rather small pike.)

April 21, 1890

One of Mr. Patterson's stone wagons backed into our back door and broke it and they also broke a keg of ink so that 4 and a half gallons of ink ran out. Mr. P. had the door fixed and said to send around the bill for the ink. Went to Lake Phalen for minnows, but didn't see one.

May 16, 1890

Mama still feels bad. [sore throat] Made 15 brls paste and sent off four. Phil [hired help] had a barrel of paste slip off the rope while letting it out the window and it smashed. [To save time and labor, large orders of barrels of paste were lowered by pulley into a wagon in the alley behind the building.] Mr. Kinney next door, as deputy sheriff brought Papa a notice to serve on a guy, but seeing that Papa was a neighbor of his fixed it in some way so that Papa wouldn't have to serve.

May 30, 1890

Went home about 2 p.m. and [watched] the procession. Went to the Capitol and heard the speeches, etc. Saw Archbishop Ireland for the first time. He began the ceremonies with a prayer and made the principal speech. Saw some regular army soldiers and they were a poor looking lot. Went over into W. St. Paul after birds but didn't get any.

June 22, 1890, Sunday

Went over to Mr. Thornes with Roger. Talked on the bridge with an Irish working-man about the big steam-boats taking the excursion trade of the little local ones, Cleveland, Harrison, Sackville-Wishletter, Egan Census, etc. He seemed



W. Third Street location in St. Paul, ca. 1900. Harvey B. Fuller on the left and it is thought to be one of Harvey's sons on the right.

very intelligent and well informed.

July 11, 1890

Took blueing to Rappe and Bergmann Bros. Read Archbishop Ireland's address to the teachers, and one by Mr. Thayer of Wisconsin who took a rather different view of the matter. We talked about it after supper and voted unanimously that the Catholic Church is not to be trusted with public education.



July 19, 1890

Made a rough bicycle on the above plan. It didn't work extra well but I think a well made one on a track would.

July 30, 1890

Worked nearly all day on frame for my velocipede and got the body done. Sent brl paste to H.H. Lascelle. Worked till 8:30 p.m. on bicycle. Papa experimented some on shoemaker's ink.

August 10, 1890, Sunday

Between the dates July 30 and August 10 nothing of superlative importance has happened. Papa has experimented a little on shoemaker's ink and I on mucilage. I worked some on my velocipede and Roger made 2 miniature swings, one of which he

gave to Helen and the other he sold for \$.25. To-day Roger and I walked to Mendota, crossed the Minnesota River to Ft. Snelling, crossed the Mississippi and came home by way of Seventh St.

August 17, 1890, Sunday

All of us went out to end of electric line on Grand Ave. on a picnic. We camped near a little water fall. The babies enjoyed it immensely, paddling in the water especially. The cars are badly crowded coming home. Gertrude and the babies had to come home, had to come on a different car from the one Mamma and Papa were on. Roger and I came home before the rest.

September 12, 1890

Roger and I went to State Fair to-day. Roger and I saw the procession of fire apparatus. The principle feature of the illumination this year is a dome of electric lights at Cedar St. It is all blue except the bottom rows I think would look better if different colors were used. Went over to library look up [a certain mineral substance] in reference to shoemaker's ink.

October 5, 1890

Yesterday Papa signed a lease with Meetz and Irish for the second floor over their place for a year from next May 1.

October 16, 1890

After Papa made out the lease with M & I we began to immediately to get ready for moving. We made up about 20 brls of paste

and got a good deal of the stuff into brls. A man from Rodgers took the fittings from the boiler and on Thursday we got the safe and boiler over. Friday we moved more stuff and Papa was going to let down four brls paste at once. The brake wouldn't hold, the big rope slipped off the wheel and the elevator banged to the bottom. The weight went on up and broke a bearing of one of the drums. We got four brls out of the cellar and were going down to let down two more when the elevator stuck at the third floor and wouldn't go any more. Sat. we had to take the rest of the stuff down the stairs. It was awful hard work. I wrote a letter to the Patent Office for specifications and drawing of the patent for railway velocipede.

Nov. 9, 1890, Sunday

Since October 31: Working a great deal as usual. Tuesday the 4th while Papa was up on a ladder which was on one of the tables, fixing up stove-pipe, the table collapsed and Papa fell striking on a corner of the nail-box. He was pretty badly hurt and I telephoned Dr. Ogden (using a telephone for the first time.) Dr. Ogden thought one of the floating ribs was broken. Papa and I came home in a cab. The Dr. came in the evening again and put a plaster on Papa who has been home the rest of the week.

March 6, 1891

So far this month, paste has been pretty lively. 3 weeks or so ago Papa got gas pipe to take the place of the hose we had to take water to the boiler and paste-machine, made a new sifter and hopper and other improvements so that paste-making is somewhat easier than it used to be.

July 26, 1891

The past week has been an exciting one in St. Paul. Last Monday, Thos. Cochran and others called a mass meeting at Market St. to protest against the Fitzsimmons Hall prize fight taking place in St. Paul. Archbishop Ireland and other big bugs were billed to speak and all good citizens were called upon to attend. Such a chance to see the elephants free of charge and get reputations of being a good citizen was not to be missed; so Roger and I went. Papa went too but started after we did, so we were not together. I thought it would be a fine thing

to look on and smile where my fellow-worms got excited.

When we arrived the hall was "jam" full and we had to stand in the aisle. When we came in a lawyer was explaining the law against prize-fights which he said (or words to that effect) was so plain that it didn't need a lawyer to explain it wherein, it seems to me, it is very different from most laws. It is a very dangerous precedent if laws are made in this way.

After the lawyer came the Archbishop. I have felt pretty faint on hearing some educationists but I think I never before felt as sick and weary as listening to the product of the human mouth. He pranced and gesticulated, roared and ranted about the barbarism and animalism, other generalities, in his beautiful accent, for an inconspicuously long time. His speeches in print don't look so bad, but delivered by the most reverend him-self it was nauseating.

W.B. Dean was to have spoken but wasn't present. A Senator McMillan spoke. He seemed very much in earnest but it looked as though it were hard work for him to speak as loud as he wanted to. Then (I believe this is in order) Thos. Cochran spoke. This speech dealt not in generalities, glittering or otherwise. He spoke exceeding plain and called names; seemed especially bitter against Frank Shaw, called him a black-leg gambler liar among other things and called Mayor Smith a criminal; "at least to all intended".

The meetings adopted the appeal to the governor and amid some confusion decided to go to the capitol and wait till the gov. could be brought from his house and give an answer to the appeal. But Caesar didn't approve of being jerked from the bosom of his family at that time of night and on such short notice, so he sent an answer that he would see them next morning and act on the appeal after consulting his attorney (general).

Next day he issued a proclamation on the proper officers to enforce the law on pain of removal if they didn't. This meant Sheriff Bean, who (rather against his inclinations, I guess) was forced to stop the fight. He called on the gov. for help and the gov. ordered out the Militia who guarded the "Coliseum" "till the daylight did appear" the next morning. When the Athletic Club heard that the Militia had been called

out they decided not to have the fight because the preachers, law and order folks would probably cause a riot and consequently bloodshed. Which showed that the Club is wise in its day and generation and public spirited.

August 24, 1891

Last Wednesday afternoon I went up to



Harvey Benjamin Fuller, ca. 1910.

Minneapolis to see the Art Gallery and the collections of the Academy of Sciences. Mr. Thorne had told me they had two mummies which were pretty good and a horrible collection of birds. They did have some pretty bad birds, but there were also some good ones. I don't think the mummies are very beautiful. I wouldn't give any large amount to be preserved in that style.

September 12, 1891

Business has been pretty good; one hundred and ten barrels for August and more than that, so far this month. A while ago Papa put in a bid for the school ink at \$.45. It was awarded to Wright Bros. at \$.25. Papa went down to see them but they said they could get it from Chicago cheaper than he wanted to furnish it. A week ago today they came down and wanted 50 gals. Tuesday and agreed to get the rest of us, so we will furnish the school ink after all. I guess the Chicago firm didn't sell as cheap as they thought.

A week ago Friday I went down to Inver Grove on the motor. Shot a gray squirrel

but didn't see much else. Had two shots at a big crane, but it was a good way off and I didn't get it. Saw a rabbit but it saw me first and didn't stop to get acquainted.

Roger, Gertrude, Helen and Harvey went to the State Fair Tuesday when ladies and children were admitted free. I went Wednesday, St. Paul day. It seemed a good deal like other state fairs only there were a good many gambling machines. There was a machine to husk corn which was new and interesting. I also saw a real old fashioned shell game played on the sly. There were four or five in the gang and they caught an old farmer to the extent of ten dollars while I was watching them. I stood by and watched him get swindled and then bravely and virtuously went and told a policeman. He went part way over but didn't see them or something for he didn't stop the game. A few minutes later two other policemen came over and scattered the gang, but didn't make any arrests. They said they couldn't unless they caught them in the act, and the shell men kept a sharp look-out so that the police couldn't do that.

October 24, 1891

I have been going to night high school for two weeks taking Chemistry (at the Manual Training building) two hours Monday and Wednesday; book-keeping, one hour, Tuesday and Thursday. Last Monday morning when we went down town we were unpleasantly surprised to find a considerable hole burned through the floor in front of and under the boiler. We were also very glad that the damage was no worse. We made paste Saturday with the grate broken which allowed a good deal of coal to drop through onto the bricks. This coal burned and heated the bricks so hot that they set fire to the floor. The fire was discovered about 7 o'clock Monday morning and must have been seen almost as soon as it broke out through the floor and blazed up for no damage was done to anything besides the floor, except some windows cracked. It must have been smoldering all day Sunday. Everything was ready so that we could make paste Thursday afternoon. Papa had Rodger and Co. arrange pipes so that we could turn the exhaust from the engine into the chimney. It doesn't work as well as we expected but may do some good in making more draft.

November 15, 1891

Yesterday Papa bought a very nice looking over-coat in Minneapolis. The people up there seem to have a peculiar way of charging less money than those in our own town for the same goods. The *same firm* (Haynes) that charges \$4.00 (per day) for pictures there, sells them here for \$6.00. We sell a good deal of paste in Mpls and it is only fair that we should buy something up there, let alone the lower prices.

December 6, 1891

Papa has bought four tons of flour from Mink Bros paying cash for it. This shows how much better off we are than at this time last year where we were glad to be able to pay for things the next month after they were bought.

February 6, 1892

Business was fair last month, 73 brls I think. Papa has ordered (if example is satisfactory) 100 brls flour from Schultz. This is twice as much as ever ordered at once before.

March 30, 1892

We have been making 10 or 12 (one day 15) brls of paste a day for about a week, and counting sales that Papa made to-day in Minneapolis, we are behind our orders. 180 or so brls have been sold this month, which with other business makes the largest month we have ever had.

A week or two ago Mr. E.L. Ames brought Papa a circular relating the merits of a paste that was going to be made in Minneapolis by April 6th. This created something of a commotion, for all the would-be competitors we have had so far have been agents not manufacturers. Papa went up to see them and found that they were people who have had no experience in the paste business. They seem to be in the storage and machinery business now. They said they did not intend to cut the price, and Papa says if they don't do that he is not much afraid of them. Since hearing of them Papa has been working in Minneapolis a good deal, and has drummed up a good many new customers. It seems to be not entirely settled whether this new factory will start or not but even if they do I think we will still keep a good deal of the trade.



Fuller's "Cold Water" Wall Cleaner, ca. 1895.

April 25, 1892

A few days ago Papa went up to Mpls and found the new paste factory just starting. They have a big new machine and are going into the business in fine style. They are not however selling all the paste that is used in the country. Papa has sold a good deal in Minneapolis to new customers and has sold several barrels where they had already sold some. Last Tuesday he went to Stillwater and sold seven barrels. From there he went to Duluth and W. Superior, and although the Minneapolis men had been there before him, he sold over thirty barrels.

June 12, 1892

Papa has seen the Minneapolis Paste men several times. All of them disclaim much interest in the Paste business and say the "other fellow" attends to it mostly. Papa says things seemed very dull around their factory. I think they have waked us up so much that we will have more business than we ever had before, even if they stay, which seems a little doubtful just now.

July 10, 1892

Two or three weeks ago Papa was talking with the Minneapolis Paste man and he offered to sell out for \$500. This shows that he wants to get out of the paste business very much for his plant it must have cost him at least twice that. We have bought a steam fit pump which we expect to use to cook paste, but we haven't tried it yet and

it may not work.

July 27, 1892

Since last entry great events so to speak "has transpired." The Minnesota Paste Co. is no more. Two weeks ago yesterday Mr. Russell came down to St. Paul and offered the entire paste business and plant, the boiler, for \$200.00. Papa accepted the offer and by Saturday we had the whole "shebang" at our place. We will sell enough more paste to make up the \$200 and more, and we will get something out of the machinery.

December 7, 1892

To-day Papa signed a three year lease at \$20.00 per mo. for the store and basement #173 W. 3rd St., rent to begin March 1st but possession given immediately. It is a fine store and will make [a] splendid place for us. Moving however is a disagreeable job. Moving and building our new machinery will completely blockade experiments for two or three months which is pretty rough, for I did think I would have something next spring. It may, though, be a good thing to rest from this kind of work for a short time, as I have been at it steadily now for three years or more.

For my birthday, Papa bought me an Elgin watch, silver case, a fine plush cap and a pair of gloves, and we had a fine turkey and "fixins" for a birthday supper.

December 25, 1892

Since last entry we have been moving. We took down 4 or 5 loads of stuff to the new place before the actual evacuation of the Robert St. place last Thurs., although there are two or three loads of barrels, lumber, etc. down there yet. We have hired more work done this time than heretofore but is hard work and the very cold weather has made it more disagreeable than it would otherwise have been. The getting of the 3rd St. place seems to have been a piece of almost unprecedented luck. Just after signing the lease Mr. Copley told Papa he had rented Robert St. Place to a man who would have the elevator removed which would of course have necessitated our moving. Then when we were moving into the new place, Papa was talking with the butcher next door, and it came out that they were on the point of renting the 3rd St.



The Fuller family at home, 320 Central Ave., 1895. Left to right: Harvey B. Fuller (fifty), Gertrude (twenty-one), Roger (seventeen), Albert (twenty-three), Ellen Fuller (forty-five); in front: Helen and Harvey (ten). All photos are from H. B. Fuller Company.

store for a grocery. They seemed very much put out and wanted to know what Papa would take for his lease. It is a workable coincidence that we got out of the old place and into the new just in time.

February 12, 1893

Friday night I met Alfred Alness [best friend] at this house and we went to a hill a block or two away, and slid down on our skis. This was a nice hill and we didn't tumble down, but this was too tame and we started, alas, to slide down the street cuttings. Alness got along very well and didn't fall once, but I either sat down or took a header about 2/4 of the attempts I made. I finally came to the conclusion that, beside my own constitutional clumsiness, my skis were too short, so Sat. night I went back to the store and worked till after ten o'clock on a new pair and left them to soak over Sunday.

March 19, 1893

We got our machine working a week ago Saturday. It makes paste all right but isn't quite perfect yet, and our boiler ought to be three times as large as it is. We made 36 barrels last Thursday, but it was a big days work. I think with a large enough boiler we could make 75 barrels a day. The principle of the machine is all right but with our present boiler it isn't very much

faster than the old machine.

About two weeks ago, I think, Papa made a three year lease with Mrs. Repass for her house 320 Fuller St. The rent is to be \$30.00 per month which Papa thinks is very cheap for the house.

April 30, 1893

Business for March was very good and the sales of paste amounted to about 220 barrels I think. This was the largest month we had, but this month we sold about 430 barrels. Papa has been on the road a good deal of the time. We are getting ready to move to the Fuller St. house, which is to take place next Thursday.

September 17, 1893

August 4 Gertrude, Roger and I started for Chicago. We arrived about half past nine Sunday morning, went to Cousin Gurden's, didn't get dinner till 2 o'clock and then went to the Fair Grounds. The next 3 or 4 days we tramped around and got nearly tired to death.

Friday morning August 25 but Thursday night I got a telegram from Papa saying that my friend Alfred Alness had died the day before. We started for home Thursday night and I got home in time to go to the funeral. Alness' death made it a pretty sorrowful homecoming.

October 15, 1893

A week ago Saturday we went down to see Mr. F.D. Merwin about getting a patent. Friday Papa paid Mr. Merwin \$45 and the application was ready to be forwarded to Washington. The wall cleaner seems very good and Papa has sold several dozen already. We expect to work up a good trade in it.

December 24, 1893

The children went to bed to-night with great expectations and a not quite absolute faith in a visit from Santa Claus in-the-flesh. I guess this is the last time the old "racket" can be worked on them. They have been behaving abnormally well lately in order to get a large number of "recorded" goods for the inspection of Santa Claus.

February 4, 1894

We had a letter from the Patent office, still rejecting claims 1, 2 & 3 and referring to an English Patent for mucilage. The reference seems ridiculous and Mr. Merwin has written a pretty sharp letter asking the examiner to state specifically his objections to claims 1, 2 & 3.

November 4, 1894

The Wall Cleaner patent was allowed on appeal Oct. 9, the board of examiner-in-chief allowing every claim. We haven't had it issued yet, for we may want to take out foreign patents. Thinking about foreign patents for the Wall Cleaner has given me some ideas, and I have been thinking it would be a good thing to know something of French and German. I expect to register to-morrow night for a class in French to meet Monday evenings at the High School.

January 2, 1895

We haven't applied for any foreign patents on the wall cleaner yet, but probably will pretty soon. I have great ideas of the wall cleaner, soar a little too high at times I guess.

I have been skating at Lake Como several times this winter. Went last Sunday and for my wickedness (or foolishness in not wearing a cap) had my left ear frozen. There is no snow to speak of and I have used the bicycle almost every day so far, and guess I will all through the winter.

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Elmer A. Huset—Managing Editor



Church news must reach us not later than Saturday; letters to
the editor, social news and classified ads by 5 o'clock Monday.

New Owners

As new owners of "The Highland Villager," we wish to take this opportunity to thank the advertisers for their patience and the cooperation accorded us during the transition of ownership. It is our sincere desire, with your cooperation, to make "The Highland Villager" outstanding among papers of its kind.

We welcome news items of interest to Highland Village residents. Mail your news items to the Highland Villager, 418 South Third Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota.

The masthead from the second issue of the Highland Villager, dated March 12, 1953. For the history of St. Paul's colorful neighborhood newspapers, see the article beginning on page 13.

R.C.H.S.
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