

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
*A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society*

**Summer 2011**

Volume 46, Number 2

*A Garden Inspires  
A Community*

With Style, Grace, and Pride:  
The Gardens at the Minnesota  
Governor's Mansion

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Minnesota Territorial pioneer Auguste Louis (“A.L.”) Larpenteur (1823–1919) came to St. Paul in 1843. This photo from the late nineteenth century shows him decked out frontier-style with his rifle, knife, and other hunting equipment. Photo courtesy of John W. Waters.

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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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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 46, Number 2

Summer 2011

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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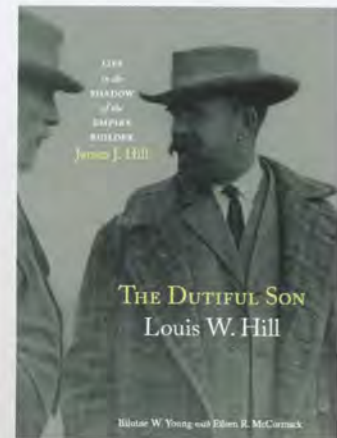
*Publication of Ramsey County History is supported in part by a gift from  
Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr.  
and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon*

## A Message from the Editorial Board

This month, let the magazine be your guide as you tour the streets of St. Paul. While driving down Larpenteur Avenue, consider the hard-working Auguste Louis Larpenteur, who came to St. Paul in the 1840s, had productive careers in trading and retail, provided important support to the Catholic community in early Ramsey County, and with his wife had a family of ten children. Michele Murnane has dug into Larpenteur history and provides us with a fresh look at A. L. and his influence on the area. Susanne Sebesta Heimbuch writes an evocative memoir of growing up on Rondo Avenue in the late 1940s. And Summit Avenue, street of impressive houses, holds smaller treats as well: Karine Pouliquen and Lori Schindler review the history of the gardens at the governor's mansion, which have evolved to reflect the tastes of different eras and the first families who lived in the former Horace Irvine home.

On a related note, share our pride that Biloine (Billie) W. Young and Eileen R. McCormick's book, *The Dutiful Son: Louis W. Hill; Life in the Shadow of the Empire Builder, James J. Hill*, previously excerpted in this magazine, has been honored with a 2011 Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History—the fourth time an RCHS publication has received this national honor. We are thrilled that a wider audience is coming to appreciate the consistent quality of history we have long shared with you, our members. Thanks for your continuing support.

Anne Cowie,  
Chair, Editorial Board



## The Dutiful Son: Louis W. Hill Life in the Shadow of the Empire Builder, James J. Hill

by Biloine (Billie) W. Young and Eileen R. McCormack

When James Norman, eldest son of James J. Hill, departed St. Paul for the brighter lights of New York City, it was second son Louis Warren (1872–1948) who took his father's place managing the portfolio of railroads that became today's Burlington Northern Santa Fe. When James J. died without signing his will, it was Louis who executed his father's vast estate.

Louis was a worthy successor to his empire-building father. He looked beyond railroads to the nation's natural resources and identified the value of the iron ore deposits in northeastern Minnesota and the wealth inherent in the vast tracks of timber in Oregon. Louis' efforts led to the establishment of Glacier National Park and the Great Northern Railway, under his leadership, became its developer.

Louis rejuvenated St. Paul's Winter Carnival and led his community in relieving the suffering brought on by the Great Depression. His example of leaving a major portion of his fortune to a foundation, today's Northwest Area Foundation, inspired two of his sons' philanthropic efforts—the Jerome and Grotto Foundations.

Author Biloine (Billie) W. Young and researcher Eileen R. McCormack depended almost entirely on archival sources to produce this first full-length biography of Louis W. Hill. They reveal the complex personal and business influences on Louis as he succeeded his celebrated father in the management of a vast transportation empire and dealt with the dynamics surrounding his parents' estates and his siblings' disputes. In *The Dutiful Son*, Young and McCormack provide an insightful portrait of a conscientious, generous business leader who left a legacy of continued service to communities from the Mississippi to the Pacific along the route of the Great Northern Railway founded by his father.

Published by Ramsey County Historical, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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## A Garden Inspires a Community

# With Style, Grace, and Pride: The Gardens at the Minnesota Governor's Residence

Karine Pouliquen and Lori Schindler

What a sight it must have been, strolling through the gardens of the Horace Irvine estate in the early 1900s, with its roses, fruit trees, multitude of climbing flowers, small bronze statues, and elegant pools all framed in the formal Victorian style.<sup>1</sup> The design and grace of this garden was balanced with the personal touches of the family that lived there: a clothesline outside the kitchen door; a vegetable garden; and a croquet course for garden parties.<sup>2</sup> At the time of its construction, the residence was considered "way out in the open prairie," but over the years it would become one of the most celebrated houses on Summit Avenue.<sup>3</sup> This article presents in historical perspective a brief account of the mansion that the Irvine family donated to the people of Minnesota with a focus on that residence's magnificent gardens and the many different families who have occupied this grand old house at 1006 Summit Avenue.

Since 1965 when the Irvine home was given to Minnesota, the gardens have been transformed many times. Over the years, volunteers have donated their time and labor in the gardens and have been inspired by this very public house. Today the spirit of giving that the Irvines exemplified still enthuses the people of Minnesota.

A description of the gardens' progression through time follows along with a discussion of the plant materials and techniques used and, where possible, anecdotes from those who experienced these grand gardens illuminate this account. More than forty years later, the gardens still flourish. Families change, but the commitment of Minnesotans is strong, steady, and focused; they volunteer, give, and care for a place that symbolizes style, grace, and pride. In the ever-changing pace of today's world, it has become rare to see a community showcasing its prized jewel: the Governor's Residence and its gardens. The aim of this project is to reveal how interested citizens, sharing common goals, banded together in an effort to create a beautiful venue, welcoming the governor, the first family, and the people of Minnesota.

### A Grand Residence

In October of 1907, a newly married young couple, Horace and Clotilde Irvine, set off on a seven-month European holiday on the majestic ocean liner *Amerika*.<sup>4</sup> Like so many wealthy young aristocrats of the time, they were influenced by the art and culture of the Old World. Between the Irvines' return in April of 1908 and spring 1910, drawings for gardens and a grand estate on Summit Avenue had been completed by architect William Channing Whitney.<sup>5</sup> The lumber businessman Irvine had bought the five and a half lots where the estate would be built for \$7,000.<sup>6</sup> Victorians "favored neoclassical design idioms . . . as appropriate means of advertising wealth and status."<sup>7</sup> The English Tudor Revival-style brick-and-stone home would be complemented by Victorian gardens with a French and Italian flair, a reflection of the Irvines' cosmopolitan adventures.<sup>8</sup>

Imitations of European elements dictated that strong geometrical lines would divide the garden along a central axis. Adornments like urns, birdbaths, sundials, and ornate benches would accessorize the abundant "lavish, patterned

floral displays" that were characteristic of the Victorian aesthetic.<sup>9</sup> Even though the original Victorian-style garden plans were never fully carried out, some elements from the "official" unimplemented plan had been used in the garden, such as wrought-iron gates, fences, bronze statuary, a reflection pool, arbor, and pergola.<sup>10</sup> Plantings included hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), *Cosmos*, seasonal bulbs, a rose garden, evergreens, elders (*Alnus glutinosa*), and apple trees (*Malus communis*).<sup>11</sup> These more formal gardens were located in the backyard.<sup>12</sup> The front yard was characterized by a lush carpet of "velvet sod," seeded at a heavy rate of one pound per 1,000 square feet, potted plants of boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) on the terrace, ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) climbing up the balustrade, and elm (*Ulmus Americana*), birch (*Betula L.*), and maple (*Acer L.*) shade trees.<sup>13</sup> There is evidence that elm trees from the front yard were saved and moved to the backyard.

Victorian-style gardens were known for novel and unique plant specimens. At the Irvines' estate, one could find weeping elm trees (*Ulmus pendula*) grafted onto ash (*Fraxinus L.*) rootstock.<sup>14</sup> This was Minnesota's answer to England's hothouse palm trees. The post-Victorian age saw the construction of impressive glasshouses built to show off exotic plants. With the exception of the foundation plantings, which were another sign of great wealth, the front yard maintained a vastness of elegance, which dwarfed the three Irvine children in a 1915 photograph taken outside the residence.

Horace and Clotilde Irvine's four children, Olivia, Elizabeth, Clotilde (known as "Coco"), and Thomas, grew up in the house at 1006 Summit Avenue. Olivia Irvine Dodge remembered her father as a "staunch



When this 1915 photo of the residence of lumberman Horace Irvine at 1006 Summit Avenue in St. Paul was taken, the gardens surrounding the home reflected a Victorian aesthetic. Standing adjacent to the twenty-room mansion's front walk are, left to right, Clothilde E. (Coco), Elizabeth H. (Libby), and Thomas E. (Tom) Irvine. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.



A 2008 photo of the former Irvine home taken from nearly the same location as the one from 1915 appears to be almost-identical as the earlier one except there are no children gracing the lawn. The two flagpoles, however, signal that this home is now the Minnesota Governor's Residence. Coco Irvine and her sister Olivia donated it to the state in 1965. Photo courtesy of Pete Sieger.

Republican" and mother as "a dyed in the wool Democrat."<sup>15</sup> The progressive Mrs. Horace Irvine was involved in her community and instilled in her children a philanthropic spirit. Mrs. Irvine was an early member of the St. Paul Garden Club, which was founded in 1927. A 1931 roster lists Mrs. H.H. Irvine as an active member.<sup>16</sup>

Since statehood in 1858, Minnesota's first families had been responsible for their own lodging. "This was taxing for many governors, as those who did not live in the capital city had to maintain two households during their administration."<sup>17</sup> Donated in 1964 by Olivia and Clotilde Irvine to the State of Minnesota, "the people's house," was meant to be a ceremonial showcase.<sup>18</sup> The Irvines' "gracious style of community-minded influential living remained their hallmark as the world went from horses and buggies to high-powered automobiles; from open prairie country manor living to metropolitan city life, from floor-length dresses and elaborate hats."<sup>19</sup> Continued contributions from the community have kept the spirit of generosity and pride alive over the last four decades.

### Early Site Planning

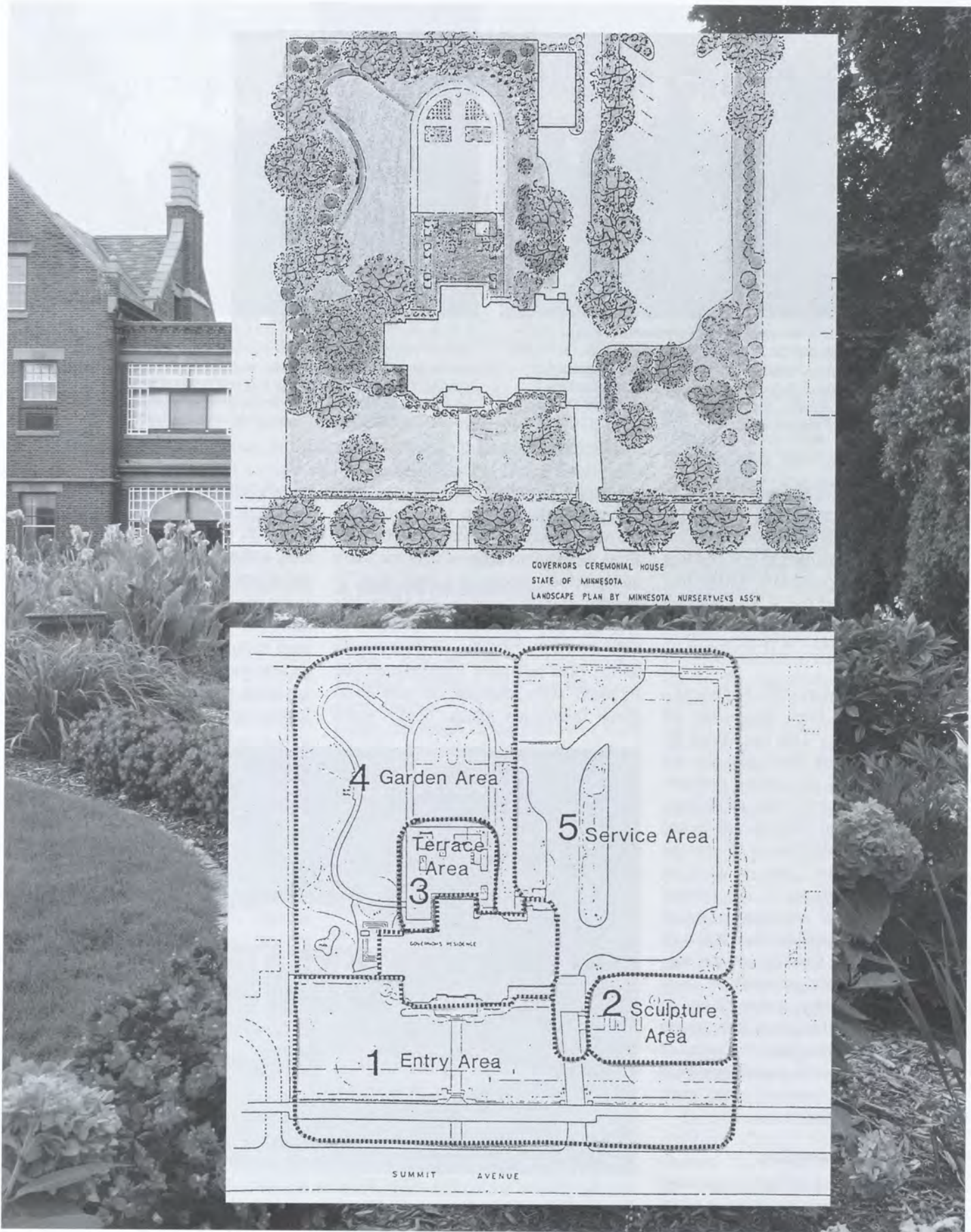
Governor and Mrs. Karl Rolvaag and their children were the first beneficiaries of the Irvines' gift. Although renovations were

necessary, Governor Rolvaag declared, "Minnesota has reason to be proud of the new Governor's Residence, which reflects the gracious hospitality of the warm and gracious people of a great state."<sup>20</sup> Shortly after the donation, the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association was involved with drawing a site plan. In 1966, much of the plan had been implemented and included such additions as new evergreen foundation plants, honey locust

(*Gleditsia in triacanthos*) trees planted around the new terrace, a formal flower area with walkway, a wildflower garden area, a shade garden with water features, and screen plantings in the parking area.<sup>21</sup> In the previous year, 1965, the pergola, a reflecting pool, and a small terrace had been removed to update the property for its new uses: hosting state functions, entertaining visitors, and being a home for families with young children.<sup>22</sup>



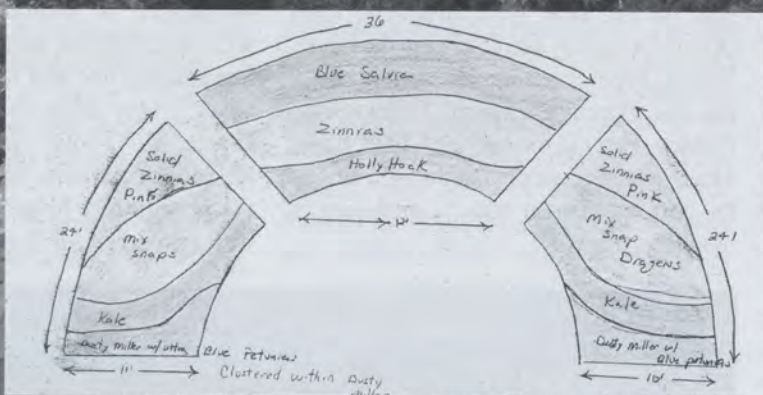
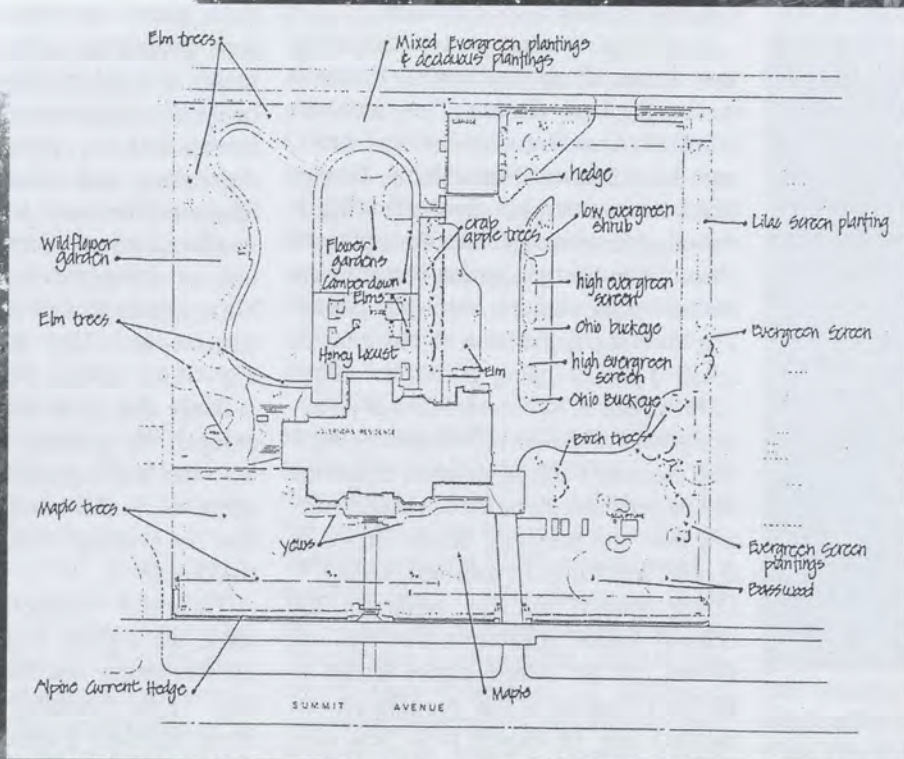
This fountain with its classically inspired putti sits adjacent to the terrace at the rear of the Governor's Residence. The terrace and fountain are the centerpieces of the outdoor entertaining area in the rear portion of the garden area. Photo courtesy of Pete Sieger.



GOVERNORS CEREMONIAL HOUSE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
LANDSCAPE PLAN BY MINNESOTA NURSERYMEN'S ASS'N

- 4 Garden Area
- 5 Service Area
- 3 Terrace Area
- 2 Sculpture Area
- 1 Entry Area

SUMMIT AVENUE



When the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association prepared a site plan, opposite top, for the gardens at the Minnesota Governor's Residence in 1966, the goal was to give the grounds new elegance through the planting of evergreens, the introduction of more flower beds, the development of a wildflower area, the construction of a new terrace in the rear of the home, the installation of a shade garden with a waterfall pool, and the addition of plantings that would screen the service area and parking lot in the rear and right-hand side of the site.

In 1980 Wehman Chapman Associates prepared a new site plan, opposite bottom, which identified public, private, and service or transition areas for the grounds at the Residence. This plan built on the work that had already been completed based on the 1966 plan by adding a Sculpture area where Paul Grandlund's piece *Man-Nam* (1970) was installed. This location allows for the artwork to be visible from the front sidewalk on Summit Avenue. The 1980 plan also included, top, a blueprint that identified the locations of various species of trees, flowers, and hedges.

At the bottom of this page is the St. Paul Garden Club's hand-drawn plan from 1988 in which various annuals are identified for planting in a semicircular area that surrounds the fountain at the rear of the Residence. The 1966 and 1980 plans are from the archives of the Governor's Residence and the 1988 drawing is from the archives of the St. Paul Garden Club.

For many years prior to these alterations, the garden had not changed. It was as if it was frozen in time. Over the years when the property had belonged to the Irvines, the formal flower garden, which was centered along a main axis, had been laboriously maintained by a small staff. In addition, watering was done by hand. Old or sick plants, however, were not replaced because no procedures had been in place.<sup>23</sup> The vision of the Nurserymen's Association refreshed the neglected grounds; and invigorated and enthusiastic citizens became involved, just as Olivia Dodge had envisioned.<sup>24</sup>

During the administration of Governor Harold LeVander, a Minnesota native wildflower garden was created and installed thanks to gifts from the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association, the Campfire Girls, and the Minnesota Horticultural Society.<sup>25</sup> His wife, Iantha P. LeVander, also received appropriations from the legislature for other garden additions like a bubbling fountain and pool, a rock garden, and formal rose garden.<sup>26</sup> In 1968, Mrs. LeVander commissioned a competition for local artists for a garden memorial to recognize the sacrifices made by Minnesota's citizens in the Vietnam War. Artist Paul Grandlund's sculpture *Man-Nam* was installed at the Residence in a dedication ceremony in September of 1970, "to commemorate all Minnesotans who lost their lives during service in the Vietnam conflict."<sup>27</sup> The addition of this contemporary design contrasted with the formal English Tudor style of the house but was in line with the new effort by Americans to beautify the nation. During the tumultuous late '60s, America's first lady, Lady Bird Johnson, expressed the upheaval of the times: "Ugliness is so grim. A little beauty, something that is lovely, I think can help create harmony which will lessen tensions."<sup>28</sup>

As another first family, the Wendell R. Andersons, moved into the Residence in the early 1970s, new energy and new garden plans emerged. Notes from Mary C. McKee Anderson's staff suggest "if possible the existing plant material should remain and be incorporated into the new plan," relocating some sculptures perhaps, providing "an appropriate setting for the art. The outdoor spaces must be

designed to accommodate the functions that are common at the residence."<sup>29</sup>

Over time, gardens evolve, and every year brings fresh challenges. Research in the St. Paul Garden Club archives, Minnesota State Historical Society Library, and the Anderson Horticultural Library failed to unearth more than a few hand-drawn garden plans and little description of plant choices and placement. Novel trends dictated plant choices and color palette. The evolving appearance of the grounds reflected the changing occupants' tastes.

For instance, Mrs. Anderson was particularly fond of daisies (*Chrysanthemum*).<sup>30</sup> Staff member Faith Manchester suggested that "several species be used in abundance" and that "the perennial Shasta daisies in double and fringed types add variety."<sup>31</sup> Disappointingly for Mrs. Anderson, the bells of Ireland (*Hermerocallis* 'Bells of Ireland') in the cutting garden tended to fall over, and so it was strongly recommended they be moved to a "less conspicuous" location.<sup>32</sup> Unfortunately, the year before, there were almost no roses (*Rosa*) for cutting and display in the house, having been replaced by annual flowers like *Petunias*, *Zinnias*, *Cosmos*, and *Dahlias*. Early in the spring of 1973, it was Mrs. Anderson's hope that the area around the pool be planted with "a profusion of blooming plants."<sup>33</sup>

## Guests Enjoy the Gardens

As a guest, one can imagine the gardens beckoning with their restorative scents and colors. Before and after the house was donated to the state, the well-known address played host to various dignitaries and celebrities, including Eleanor Roosevelt, who was interested in seeing young Olivia's great collection of President Roosevelt memorabilia; Crown Prince Harald of Norway; Senator and Mrs. Edward Kennedy; and Chief Justice Warren Burger.<sup>34</sup> It is likely that these distinguished guests enjoyed the gardens as well. After all, who has not suggested to their friends on a warm Minnesota summer night that the evening should be spent in the backyard?

Governor Wendell Anderson captured the unique relationship between the Residence and its symbolism, stating: "This beautiful and stately old house provides a wonderful background for the warm hospitality for which Minnesota is famous. Guests come with anticipation and respect to 1006 Summit Avenue and many say they will never forget their visit to Minnesota's House."<sup>35</sup> Those involved in the Residence gardens take great pride in the opportunity to be associated with a well-respected Minnesota symbol.



A small pool with water lilies that is bordered by beds of flowers provides a quiet spot within the gardens. Photo courtesy of Pete Sieger.

## The St. Paul Garden Club Assists

During the first administration of Governor Rudy Perpich, the St. Paul Garden Club continued its involvement that had begun during the LeVanders' time. The native wildflower garden installed under Mrs. Levander's direction showed signs of great decline and efforts were made to restore it.<sup>36</sup> In the St. Paul Garden Club's 1978 Annual Report, Alice Harrison wrote that "efforts to create a wildflower garden at the Governor's Mansion are showing good results. Plantings from the spring of 1977 have become well established. We have . . . prepared the soil for planting of the state flower, the showy lady slipper."<sup>37</sup>

During the interim years when Governor Albert H. Quie and his family lived at the Governor's Residence, the relationship with the St. Paul Garden Club continued, and a proposal was offered in 1982 for the installation of a perennial garden on the east side of the backyard that would "beautify the yard and will provide for continuous blooms to be picked for floral centerpieces."<sup>38</sup> The proposed design was a collaborative effort involving Ed Reid of Park Nursery, the St. Paul Garden Club, and Gretchen Quie.

Upon Governor Perpich's reelection in the early 1980s, renovations were proposed to make the gardens more functional and modern while still preserving the English Tudor style as a representation of an era of elegance and prosperity. In fact, Lola Perpich was fond of old-fashioned looking flower gardens, particularly rosebushes, cosmos, bachelor buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*), irises, columbines (*Aquilegia*); however, she was averse to formal rows and cockscomb (*Celosia*).<sup>39</sup> Updates included a "marvelous donation" from the Nurserymen's Association of evergreens along the fence and azaleas (*Rhododendron*) from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.<sup>40</sup>

Sadly, an elm tree was removed in the spring, an all-too common occurrence due to the persistence of Dutch elm disease. The perennial garden, originally planted in 1982, had become overgrown and, six years later, needed divisions, replanting, and rearrangement.<sup>41</sup> The part-

nership between Park Nurseries, the St. Paul Garden Club, and Lowell Bersell, the Residence gardener, would be productive and long-lasting. Direction and guidance would also be provided by the Governor's Residence Council (GRC), formally established by the Legislature in 1980. The main objective of the GRC was "to adopt master plans for the house and the surrounding grounds that ensure that the long-term integrity of the house is more important than the taste of the incumbent family."<sup>42</sup>

In the spirit of continued community involvement, several other organizations and businesses have given their time, talents, materials, labor, and skills to care for the gardens at the Governor's Residence, thereby providing all Minnesotans with a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. In the late 1980s, the St. Paul Garden Club, the Minnetonka Garden Club, master gardeners from University of Minnesota Extension, Chicago Lake Floral, Park Nursery, and Krech's Garden Center were just a few of the contributors of material and time at the Residence.<sup>43</sup> For the earliest members of the St. Paul Garden Club, historian Deni Svendsen explains that "volunteerism was their vocation."<sup>44</sup>

Over the last eighty years, the St. Paul Garden Club has donated countless resources to beautifying St. Paul's parks and neighborhoods and looking back on their association with the Residence, the Governor's Garden committee chairs Sally Ross and Betty Tiffany saw "tremendous benefits from such a hands-on project and recommend that our club be watchful for other opportunities that bring members together in a meaningful way to learn additional gardening skills and at the same time make a significant community contribution."<sup>45</sup> Still very dynamic in the community, the St. Paul Garden Club has been involved since 1927 in a myriad of projects across the region, establishing and maintaining gardens. The Club has played a critical role in preserving and conserving natural resources and historic sites.

## The Children's Garden

One of the most memorable additions to the Governor's Residence gardens was conceptualized by first lady Susan



The east side of the Residence includes paved walkways bordered by beds of flowers. In the background, a small terrace abuts what was originally a screened porch with a second-story sleeping porch for use on hot summer nights in the days before modern air conditioning. Photo courtesy of Pete Sieger.

Carlson and inspired by a garden she had seen at the White House in Washington, D.C. Snuggled in the St. Paul backyard, a charming garden full of life sprang up.<sup>46</sup> As a kid, it would have been delightful to run down the curved flagstone path to reach the little pond surrounded by large rocks and maybe find a frog or a dragonfly among the lush *Hostas*, hens-and-chicks (*Sempervivum tectorum*), orange sneeze-weed (*Helenium autumnale*), or pincushion flowers (*Scabiosa*), all identified with their scientific and common names.<sup>47</sup>

Chainsaw artist Dennis Roghair carved a whimsical statue from one of Park Nursery's maple trees (*Acer*) that had split during a storm and needed to be cut down.<sup>48</sup> This vignette integrated a cutting garden area, where multicolored flowers collected and used for decoration in the house intermingled graciously with native flowers, ferns, Indian grasses (*Sorghastrum nutans*), big blue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*),



prairie roses (*Rosa setigera*), and wild ginger (*Asarum canadense* L.); each plant selected "specifically to interest the children who visit the garden."<sup>49</sup>

Designed by Kevin Norby, this garden ensured that all kids, including children with disabilities could access, enjoy, discover, and dream like youngsters should. Norby, a landscape architect who worked with a group of volunteers and donated funds, was happy to offer his time and expertise because "it's a good opportunity, a chance to do something different."<sup>50</sup>

Besides Norby's enormous commitment, an outpouring of support came from individuals and businesses from Olivia Irvine Dodge to the Pillsburys, the Bachmans, the Carlson Company, and the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Their gifts reaffirmed the earlier spirit of giving and embellishing the Residence for the greater good.<sup>51</sup> Additionally, the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association was instrumental in the layout of the children's garden. The irrigation plan, donated by Scott Wickstrom, was installed by Albrecht of Roseville. Fish for the pond in the Children's Garden were donated by the Minnesota Association of Cold Water Fish.<sup>52</sup> The dream shared by so many and realized by an important group of donors continues to inspire, and this magical patch of whimsy "will remind future governors of the commitment the state has to improving the lives of our children."<sup>53</sup>

### Recent Changes

Since the mid-1990s, minor garden renovations have taken place. The majority of efforts in the garden have been devoted to maintaining the spaces, caring for the health of the trees and plants, and coordinating the different areas of the yard. Some plants have been replaced. A notable addition is *Ulmus carpinifolia* 'Cathedral', a Cathedral elm planted in 1998.<sup>54</sup> A storm-damaged American elm had been removed. A University of Minnesota introduction, *Acer rubrum* 'Northwood' was planted in the Tim Bowe Memorial in 1998.<sup>55</sup> The garden space is dedicated to the memory of state trooper Timothy Bowe, killed in the line of duty in 1997. In the Children's Garden, a Norway maple, *Acer platinoides*

'Crimson King' was planted in 1998.<sup>56</sup> Endless Summer hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Bailmer') was added to the Children's Garden in 2006.<sup>57</sup> In 2008, an upgrade and expansion of the rose garden included the new Easy Elegance line. Nearly twenty different roses from the line from 'My Hero' to 'Centennial' to 'Grandma's Blessing' add variety, hardiness, and color to the long-enduring rose garden.<sup>58</sup>

Today the experience of visiting and living at the Residence follows modern trends of creating rooms in the garden. A balance has been achieved using "function" as a main concept in each area of the garden: private family area, terrace, service area, entry, and sculpture area, including memorials and other artwork. The modern view from the terrace area looking out on the Old-World pool and fountain and Victorian-era bronze putti still evokes the charming feel of bygone times.

In the current decade, Minnesota's regional plant societies are the latest to contribute to the gardens at the Governor's Residence. Since 2008, the North Star Lily Society, Minnesota Peony Society, and the Federated Garden Club of Minnesota have all donated their time, talent, or materials to this great Minnesota house.<sup>59</sup> Over twenty varieties of lily (*Lilium*) were donated in 2008 by the North Star Lily Society. 'America,' 'Carmine Diamond,' and 'Suncrest' are just a few of the cultivars.<sup>60</sup> In the same year, the Minnesota Peony Society gave *Paeonia* 'Leda,' 'First Arrival,' 'Chocolate Soldier,' and 'Coral 'n Gold' among others.<sup>61</sup> Plant societies that have partnered with Residence groundskeeper Lorinda Balfanz include the Twin Cities Rose Club, the Minnesota Water Garden Society, the Minnesota Hemerocallis Society, the Minnesota Hosta Society, and the Minnesota Chapter of the Rock Garden Society.<sup>62</sup> In 2009, *Hosta* varieties 'North Point' and 'Lake Superior' were donated and joined the ranks of seven other varieties.<sup>63</sup>

Recent plantings at the Residence showcase offerings from the Daffodil Society of Minnesota. In fall 2009, members planted bulbs from Michigan grower John Reed; nearly 2,500 daffodils (*Narcissus*) accented the front and back-

yards in spring 2010. Denese Erickson of the Daffodil Society of Minnesota commented on what it has meant to partner with the Residence to provide materials, time, and labor, stating, "The Governor's Residence Gardens offer an opportunity to showcase the rich horticultural heritage of Minnesota."<sup>64</sup> Together, the societies hope to plant as many cultivars hybridized in Minnesota as possible. The characteristic spirit of giving exemplified by the Irvine family continues through horticultural organizations, garden clubs, businesses, and citizens.

Olivia Irvine Dodge's legacy, vision, and the camaraderie created when a community works together for the greater good should be remembered by visitors to the Governor's Residence. The early years at the Residence reflected the Victorian influence common in the 1900s. Olivia and Clotilde Irvines' donation of the house to the state in 1965 stirred garden enthusiasts around Minnesota to get involved with renewing and reviving the landscape. In this new century, the beautiful and charming gardens at the Governor's Residence, once way out on the open prairie and now contained within a metropolitan city, are for us all to visit, share, and enjoy.

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

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*This recent photo of a section of the gardens at the rear of the Governor's Residence on Summit Avenue in St. Paul shows how they have flourished. In the foreground are pinkish Hydrangea macrophylla along with bright red Begonia and green-hued Hosta and orange Canna in the background. For more on the history of these gardens, see page 14. Photo courtesy of Pete Sieger.*