

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

Winter, 1995

Volume 29, Number 4

The Boys from  
the Adams  
School

Page 16

*St. Paul Underground—  
What Happened to Fountain Cave?—Page 4*



*Fountain Cave, pencil and watercolor by unknown artist, about 1850. This is the oldest known graphic depiction of a Minnesota cave. Much of the story of Fountain Cave could have been reconstructed merely from the names inscribed on its walls. Interspersed with the graffiti are the arm-length nesting holes dug by swallows. The natural ledge in the cave wall allowed explorers to stay above the water. Is the squared timber, seen straddling Fountain Creek in the foreground, a remnant of one of the cabins destroyed in 1840 by soldiers from Fort Snelling? Minnesota Historical Society photo.*

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in memory of Henry H. Cowie, Jr.

## A Message from the Editorial Board

**T**his issue of *Ramsey County History* celebrates the memory of Reuel D. Harmon, a supporter of history in Ramsey County. He had long encouraged the Editorial Board to publish something on St. Paul's caves and tunnels. Our lead article here explores Fountain Cave's history. Written by geologist Greg Brick, the article includes research never previously published and is the first in a projected series on "St. Paul Underground". The issue also contains Reuel Harmon's memoir of growing up in St. Paul and a brief history of his grandfather's house in our "Historic Sites" feature. Reuel Harmon made no secret of his abiding interest in history. This issue is a way of expressing our gratitude for his support and encouragement of the practice of history.

*John M. Lindley,*  
chairman, Editorial Board

# Letters to the Editor

## Those Queen Candidates

You asked for the names of the young women who appeared in the photograph on the back cover of the Fall, 1994, issue of *Ramsey County History*. They were Hamline Park Playground's candidates for queen of one of the Midway's Winter Carnivals. Their names then were Lois Hawkins, Lucille Oliver, Alice Hanson, Margaret Frerichs and Florence White. We all went to Galtier School together and we grew up in the same neighborhood of Hamline Park. Later on I went to Wilson Junior High School when it was a new building. We lived near Horton Park.

The history of the Midway district and the Midway Chamber of Commerce, as published in that issue, brought back other memories for me. My husband, Richard, used to work as an artist in the creative department of Brown & Bigelow. My father, Simon Lindgren, was one of the owners of the Midway Varnish Company on Vandalia near University. The freeway came through and took the building. My mother worked downtown at the Smith Candy Store, next to the Metropolitan Opera House on Sixth Street between Wabasha and Cedar. They had a telephone on each table so you could phone in your order.

—Marguerite Carlson, St. Paul.

## Ma Barker and 'Paradise'

Didn't the infamous Ma Barker once operate a roadhouse, or something like it, somewhere north of St. Paul? I seem to remember my grandfather talking about that.

—John Mason, Maplewood.

*That was Paradise Park, a dance hall and roadhouse on County Road G be-*



*Hamline Park Playground's queen candidates. Left to right: Lois Hawkins, Lucille Oliver, Alice Hanson, Margaret Frerichs and Florence White. Photo from the Midway Chamber of Commerce.*

*tween Rice and Lexington Avenues. Prohibition was still in full swing when Barker ran the property, made bootleg whiskey there and stored it in tunnels. In 1930 the property turned up on the delinquent tax rolls. The St. Paul Union Gospel Mission acquired it and developed it into the Mission's Snail Lake Camp.*

## More on Frances James?

Those beautiful watercolors of Lafayette Park by Frances James, published in the Summer, 1994, issue of

*Ramsey County History* aroused my interest in Frances James herself. How can I learn more about her?

—Louise Nelson, Newport.

*Hold on. Marshall Hatfield, who wrote the history of Lafayette Park when it was one of St. Paul's most elegant neighborhoods, shares your interest in this talented artist who was a remarkable woman. He is completing a manuscript about her life that we plan to publish this year or early in 1996.*



*The old Adams School, 615 S. Chatsworth Street, around 1900. For the stories of three young men from the school, and their experiences during World War I, see Paul D. Nelson's article beginning on page 16. Minnesota Historical Society photo.*

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

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