

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

Winter, 1996

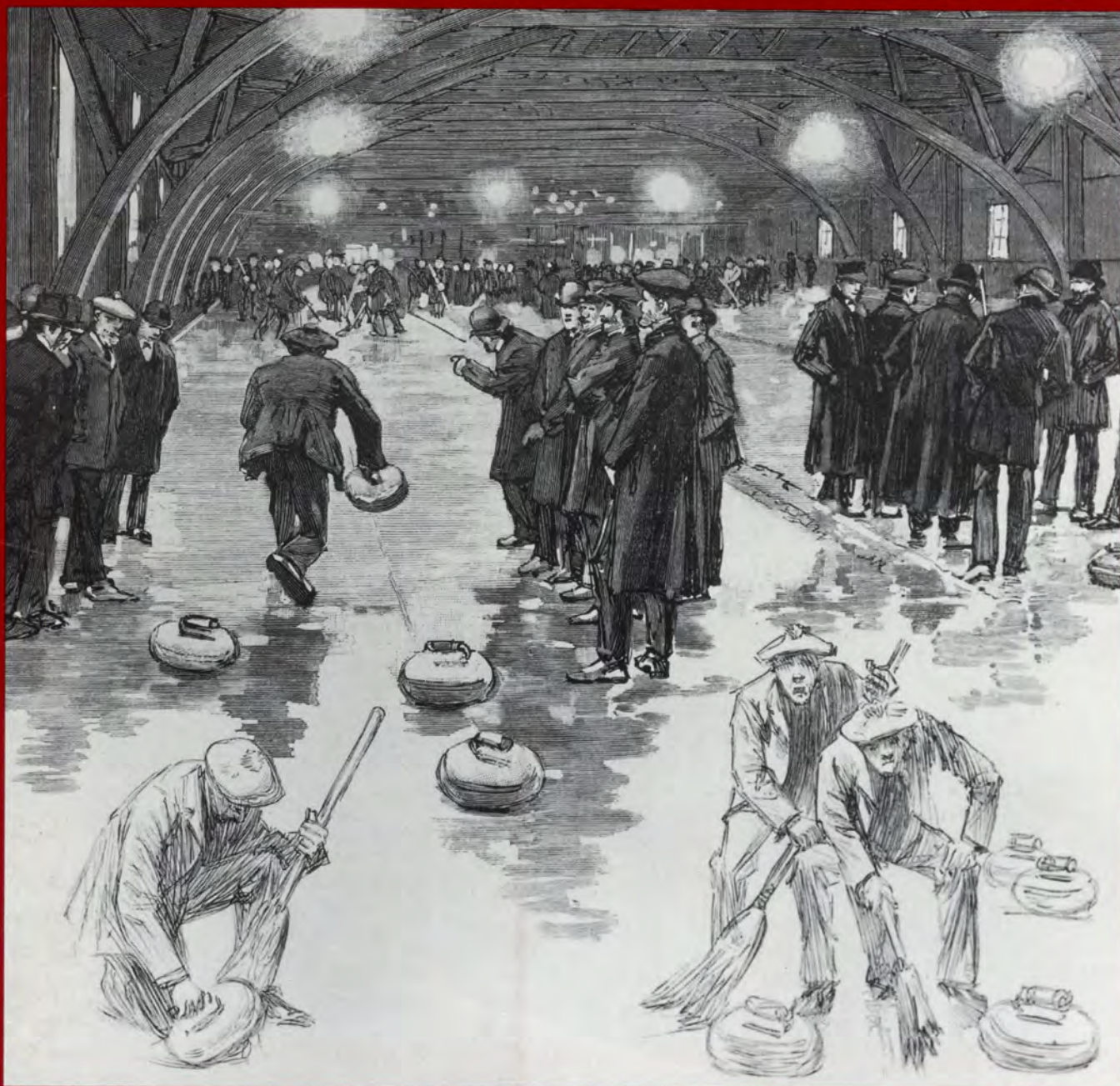
Volume 30, Number 4

The Bungalow Craze  
And How It Swept  
The Twin Cities—

Page 15

St. Paul Curling Club's Colorful History—

Page 4



The St. Paul Curling Club in 1892, a sketch by T. de Thulstrup for Harper's Weekly. See page 4 for the history of curling in St. Paul.



## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Executive Director

Priscilla Farnham

Editor

Virginia Brainard Kunz

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne A. Englund

Chairman of the Board

John M. Lindley

President

Laurie Zenner

First Vice President

Judge Margaret M. Marrinan

Second Vice President

Richard A. Wilhoit

Secretary

James Russell

Treasurer

Arthur Baumeister, Jr., Alexandra Bjorklund, Mary Bigelow McMillan, Andrew Boss, Thomas Boyd, Mark Eisenschenk, Howard Guthmann, John Harens, Marshall Hatfield, Liz Johnson, George Mairs, III, Mary Bigelow McMillan, Laurie Murphy, Richard T. Murphy, Sr., Thomond O'Brien, Robert Olsen, Sally Robins, Vicenta Scarlett, Evangeline Schroeder, Charles Williams, Jr., Anne Cowie Wilson.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

John M. Lindley, chairman; Thomas H. Boyd, Thomas C. Buckley, Laurie M. Murphy, Dr. Thomas B. Mega.

### HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Elmer L. Andersen, Olivia I. Dodge, Charlton Dietz, William Finney, Clarence Frame, Otis Godfrey, Jr., Ronald Hachey, Reuel D. Harmon, Robert S. Hess, Ronald M. Hubbs, Fred T. Lanners, Jr., Don Larson, George Latimer, Lewis Lehr, David Marsden, Robert B. Mirick, Samuel H. Morgan, Marvin J. Pertzik, J. Jerome Plunkett, Peter S. Popovich, James Reagan, Rosalie E. Wahl, Donald D. Wozniak.

### RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hal Norgard, chairman  
Commissioner Susan Haigh  
Commissioner John Finley  
Commissioner Rafael Ortega  
Commissioner Richard O'Connor  
Commissioner Brenda Thomas  
Commissioner Richard Wedell

Terry Schutten, manager, 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 (612-222-0706). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright, 1996, 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. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 30, Number 4

Winter, 1996

## CONTENTS

### 3 Letters

### 4 Bonspiels, Skips, Rinks, Brooms, and Heavy Ice St. Paul Curling Club and Its Century-old History *Jane McClure*

### 15 The Bungalows of the Twin Cities, With a Look At the Craze that Created Them in St. Paul *Brian McMahon*

### 19 Growing Up in St. Paul Down St. Albans Hill in a Wooden Coaster Wagon *Arthur Mc Watt*

### 23 Books, Etc. Seth Eastman, A Portfolio of North American Indians Dahkotah, or Life and Legends of the Sioux Around Fort Snelling *Reviewed by Colles Baxter*

## A Message from the Editorial Board

**F**amily roots are an important part of the texture of history in St. Paul and Ramsey County. Recently the Board of Directors of the Ramsey County Historical Society learned that the late Mary Daggett Sheehan (Mrs. Cyril Sheehan) made a bequest to the Society in her will in memory of her grandparents, Daniel W. and Mary Collins Kelly. Born in Ireland in 1839, Daniel Kelly came to the United States about 1844. Initially he and his brothers lived in New Jersey, but four Kelly brothers, including Daniel, migrated to St. Paul in 1856. There Kelly completed high school and then worked as a contractor hauling supplies to the West. Later he was successful in the hotel, real estate, and insurance business. Daniel Kelly died in 1922.

The Ramsey County Historical Society greatly appreciates the generosity of Mrs. Mary D. Sheehan. The lead article in this issue of our magazine tells the story of the St. Paul Curling Club. Given the population of St. Paul in the 1880s, many of the early members of the Curling Club probably knew Daniel Kelly as a business associate. Together the memory of Daniel Kelly and our article recall a prosperous era in St. Paul's history that could enthusiastically support the formation of a sporting institution such as the Curling Club just over a century ago.

*John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board*

## WARREN SCHABER 1933 - 1995

The Ramsey County Historical Society lost a good friend when Ramsey County Commissioner Warren Schaber died last October at the age of sixty-two.



*A thoughtful Warren Schaber at his first County Board meeting, January 6, 1975. Photo courtesy of Jan Geisen, Ramsey County Records manager.*

The Society came to know him well during the twenty years he served on the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners. We were warmed by his steady support of the Society and its work.

We remember the big things: the long series of badly-needed restoration projects at the Gibbs Farm Museum, which

he steadfastly supported, both as chair of the County Board's Finance Committee and as chair of the board itself. We also remember the little things, such as the time squirrels, trapped in the schoolhouse, chewed through the window sills and emergency funds were desperately needed for repairs. That brought a chuckle from Commissioner Schaber as he supported our request.

While he was skilled at directing the County's budgetary process, he also was a warm, generous man who understood the role history should play in the community he served so well. One of his great loves was the City Hall/County Courthouse, and he was the driving force behind the \$48 million restoration of that art deco jewel where he spent his political life. For our part, we documented the restoration, as well as the history of the Courthouse itself, in the Fall, 1993, issue of *Ramsey County History*.

He also was instrumental in negotiating with West Publishing to have the current Government Center West building donated to Ramsey County. The center houses Ramsey County's records, whose preservation is of immense importance to historians.

Warren Schaber was, in the words of John Finley, his fellow commissioner, "... the best of what you see in Ramsey County and St. Paul." He epitomized what people think of Minnesotans, and he will be missed. V.B.K.



## *Bonspiels, Skips, Rinks, Brooms, and Heavy Ice*

# The St. Paul Curling Club and Its Colorful Century-old

*Jane McClure*

**T**he roar of granite curling stones echoed on the Mississippi River ice below the old Wabasha Street Bridge. Men in colorful wool blanket coats and knitted caps concentrated on their delivery and busily swept the stones along. Hundreds of curious spectators watched along the riverbank and on the ice beside each curling sheet. More sportsmen and spectators crowded inside an odd building upon stilts on nearby Raspberry Island.

It was January, 1893, and St. Paul was in the midst of the first annual Northwestern Curling Association bonspiel. A *Harper's Weekly* magazine reporter commented on the popularity of the event:

So large was the number of rinks entered in the lists that it was found necessary to play several of them in the open, and fine clear places on the broad river's bosom afforded an admirable opportunity for out-o'-door play, the kind which, no matter how fitting may be the appointments of the enclosed rink is always more satisfactory to your true curler. Interest may run high inside a covered rink, but it rises to flood tide on the rink whose only roof is the sapphire sky of a Northern winter day.

The *Harper's Weekly* reporter also noted the "striking" costumes with their "bright and sometimes bizarre hues." Old Winter Carnival costumes apparently were pressed into service as warm curling wear.

St. Paul's curlers no longer take to the ice of the Mississippi River and seldom play beneath the sapphire sky of a northern winter day. For the past eighty-three winters, the roaring game of curling has been played in a comfortable clubhouse on St. Paul's Selby Avenue. It is the home of the St. Paul Curling Club, and a special place in the hearts and minds of

The story of curling in St. Paul is a story of families and friendships that have endured over the years and sometimes miles. It is a story of generations sharing the enjoyment of a game that is

rich in tradition and history. Curlers like to emphasize the team cooperation, sportsmanship, and fellowship that permeate their game, both on and off the ice. They cite the spirit of curling, a creed that stresses rules, equipment and behavior. Above all, they say, a true curler would prefer to lose fairly than to win unfairly.

It is also a story about thousands of people who have repeatedly rolled up their sleeves to do what they could to keep their cherished club open, against what sometimes were daunting odds. Much of the work to build and improve

the curling clubhouse at 470 Selby has been done by volunteers. Today the club is the largest in the United States, with more than 700 members. Open curling at the clubhouse has helped many others learn about and enjoy the sport.

The roster of families with long ties to the St. Paul Curling Club is impressive. The Ordway family, starting with Lucius P. Ordway, has curled for five generations. The names of Griggs, Lightner, Bremer, Mairs, Yoerg, Villaume, O'Leary, Defiel, Cameron, McFarlane, Murray, Clark, Dunbar, Dunlop, Anderson, Walshes, Klawitters, Armstrongs, Masons, Taylors, McGoughs, Kleffmans, Schoellers, Gardners, Airds, Muellers, Ruggs, McCann, Clasen, Cory, and countless others show up in the pages of club scrapbooks, newsletters, and score sheets. Current Curling Club president Tom Froistad is a second-generation curler himself.



*St. Paul curlers checking the Mississippi River ice below the Wabasha Bridge in 1891. In 1885 they built a clubhouse on Raspberry Island for indoor curling. They would flood the rink, open the windows and wait for ice to form. Minnesota Historical Society photo.*



# History

St. Paul businesses and industries have also left a mark on the Curling Club, as curlers have introduced their co-workers to the game. Longtime West Publishing executive, civic leader and curler Homer P. Clark was often acknowledged as the "father" of all of the West employee curlers.

The origins of the sport of curling are a matter of debate. Some argue that curling may have started in Europe and moved to the lochs of Scotland, while others contend the sport began in Scotland. Stones that date from the 1500s have been found in Scotland. Wherever it began, the game made its way to North America in the 1700s.

Transplanted Scots are said to have inaugurated curling in Minnesota on the Maple River near Mapleton during the winter of 1856-57. Wooden blocks served as makeshift curling stones, although one history mentions that flat irons were also pressed into service. For many years, curlers in the area held an annual bonspiel on poet Robert Burns' birthday. Each bonspiel was followed by a haggis dinner.

No one knows for sure when curling stones were first thrown in St. Paul. Some published accounts refer to "old timers" curling on the Mississippi River ice in the 1870s. No documentation can be found for those games, but given the number of transplanted Scots and Canadians in the city at that time, it is likely that curlers did play here then.

The 1880 census shows 1,757 foreign-born Canadians and French-Canadians in Ramsey County. That number peaked at 5,097 in the 1890 census. Scottish immigrants were counted along with those born in Great Britain and Wales. Ramsey County had 987 natives of those countries in the 1880 census, with that number climbing to 3,198 by the mid-1890s.

The first incarnation of the St. Paul Curling Club was incorporated on November 16, 1885. The event drew scant



*Curlers at the St. Paul Winter Carnival in 1886. Minnesota Historical Society photo.*

mention in newspapers of the day. More attention was focused on what many claim was the first curling match ever played in St. Paul, on Christmas Day, 1885. The match was played on Mississippi River ice near Raspberry Island. Duncan C. Murray, the only original curling club member still active when the current club held its twenty-fifth anniversary dinner in March, 1936, played in the 1885 event. Club president Archibald McLean and vice president S.E. Dana skipped rinks against each other.

The St. Paul Curling Club got its start at a time when organized sports were increasingly popular in the Twin Cities. The Nushka Club and St. Paul Curling Club were just two of dozens of winter sporting and social clubs formed during the 1880s. Many of those clubs got their start with the St. Paul Winter Carnival in 1886. Hundreds of club members donned colorful wool costumes and "blanket coats" to march in parades, ride toboggans, tramp on snowshoe treks, ski, skate and, yes, curl.

Curling was a featured event at the earliest Winter Carnivals. A Minneapolis team skipped by Thomas Hastings won the first-ever Carnival bonspiel in 1886, upsetting the highly-regarded Crusaders of Portage, Wisconsin. Four generations of Hastings family members would go on to curl for Minneapolis and St. Paul clubs.

Curlers during the 1886 Winter Carnival played on eight sheets of ice in Central Park (southeast of today's state Capitol) near the ice palace. St. Paul rinks did better than expected, according to news

accounts of Carnival events. "The St. Paul curlers were comparatively without practice," a *Pioneer Press* article stated, "but they crossed the 'hog' line\* and 'sooped 'em up' like old-time veterans. Cheers for St. Paul echoed and re-echoed over the grounds. . ."

Warm weather made the curling ice slushy or "druggy," according to the article.

It appeared to be a contest of strength, the men using every muscle to sending the curling stones anywhere near the desired goals. McLean presented the winners with ornate medals and a challenge cup provided by the St. Paul Winter Carnival Association. The Minneapolis curlers. . . took charge of their trophy yesterday afternoon. They celebrated their victory by a visit to an establishment where cider and ginger ale are sold, and carried their prize cup with them.

Most of the Carnival clubs did not last beyond the first Winter Carnivals of the 1880s and 1890s. The Nushka Club and the original St. Paul Curling Club appear to be exceptions. The Nushka Club was formally organized on December 21, 1885. (The word Nushka was said to be an Ojibway word for "Look!") Club colors were red and black. The club emblem was a polar bear framed by a large "N."

Club histories and newspaper accounts of the day indicate that the Nushkas soon became one of the city's more fashionable clubs, with a membership list that historian Virginia Rahm described as

*\*For a glossary of some curling terms, see page 7.*





*The Northwestern Curling Association bonspiel held at the old Raspberry Island clubhouse on January 20, 1898. Unless otherwise noted, photos are from the St. Paul Curling Club.*

a “Who’s Who” in St. Paul society. Nushka Club scrapbooks at the Minnesota Historical Society show a group determined to have fun. The club grew in numbers, and varied its offerings to include summer outings, dances, parties, and costume balls. The group held most of its activities in the Ramsey Hill neighborhood, with a skating rink at Summit and Western Avenues and get-togethers at the Carpenters’ Lookout inn at Summit and Ramsey Avenues. During the winter of 1890–91, the Chauncey Griggs house at 476 Summit Avenue served as a clubhouse. After the turn of the century the Nushkas evolved into a winter sports organization, fielding hockey teams and curling rinks. Ice skating was also an ac-

tivity for club members.

John G. “Smokey” Ordway recalls his father John’s stories about the Nushka Club. The Ordways had a sailboat named Nushka in honor of the group. “My father said they would play hockey after school and then they would go curl,” he said. He also remembers that the Ordway and Griggs families would regularly curl against each other on Christmas Day.

The original St. Paul Curling Club also enjoyed a boom in membership at about that same time. By the late nineteenth century it had as many as 250 members. Duncan C. Murray is given credit for inspiring the construction of the Raspberry Island club building in about 1891 and working with veteran ice maker, Bruno

Schramm, to create an alternative to river ice. The 165- by 90-foot building contained five sheets of ice, a warming room and a viewing “parlor” for spectators. Electric lights were installed. The building was placed on wooden pillars so that it wouldn’t be damaged by river flooding.

An 1892 newspaper account describes club members joking about the need for a toboggan slide from the Wabasha Street bridge to the Raspberry Island clubhouse. A stairway from the bridge, with more than 100 steps, provided access to the club. The toboggan slide idea may have been wishful thinking on the part of some weary curlers. Curling Club historian Bill Farbelow points out that carrying 42-pound stones up and down those steps



was a daunting task. After all, those were the days when curlers furnished their own stones.

St. Paul curlers joined with other clubs in 1892 to form the Northwestern Curling Association. St. Paul already was part of the Grand National Curling Club of America, which included many East Coast clubs.

January 17, 1893, was a proud day for the St. Paul Curling Club and the city as a whole, when the first annual Winter Bonspiel of the Northwestern Curling Association began on the Mississippi River ice and in the Raspberry Island facility. The club had hosted bonspiels since the 1886 Winter Carnival, but this event drew much regional interest.

Thirty sheets of ice, five in the clubhouse and twenty-five on the river, were pressed into service. Rising temperatures and sticky ice failed to put a damper on the four-day event, which drew hundreds of curious spectators. As the temperatures rose, the curlers had to stop sweeping the stones along. The busy brooms were kicking too much water onto skips and spectators.

By the turn-of-the-century the popularity of curling had spread throughout St. Paul. Many neighborhoods had small ice rinks for curling and skating. One of the most popular was at the University Club at Summit Avenue and Ramsey, which regularly hosted curling matches.

Some of the interest in curling may be credited to the arrival of Robert Dunbar, Sr., in St. Paul in 1900. Known as the "Lion of the North" and "the one and only Bob," Nova Scotia native Dunbar was acclaimed as the world's greatest curler. He had been initiated into the sport by his Scottish family, and curled for years in Canada before coming to the United States. His exploits were faithfully covered by St. Paul's newspapers. Dunbar won the state championship Merriam Medal nearly a dozen times, and still holds the world record of 66 out of 72 points scored in the old points game. (The Merriam Medal was named after Minnesota Governor William Merriam, who awarded the first prize of that kind. The world record stands because the way of scoring curling matches has changed.) In 1908, Dunbar became the first skip from the United States to lead a rink or

## Curling Glossary For Non-Curlers

**Bonspiel:** A series of competitions with each event producing a winner.

**Brooms:** Used by the players for balance in the delivery of a stone, and in moving the stone across the ice. Sweeping the stone along is done by two players of the same team. Players glide or slide alongside the delivered stone and at the skip's signal vigorously ply their brooms in front of it. Sweeping may add as much as 15 feet to a stone's distance, and can also be a factor in the direction a rock travels. The first brooms were twigs tied to a stick. Early St. Paul curlers used brooms that could have been borrowed from a kitchen. Today's curlers use narrower brooms with longer, soft straws, or specially designed push brooms. Curling brooms have shorter handles than a typical household broom.

**Curling widow or widower:** A spouse or significant other of a curler.

**Hack:** The toe-hold or foot support used by the player in delivering his stone at each end of the ice.

**Heavy:** A stone delivered with more weight than desired or called for.

**Heavy ice:** Ice that requires a stone to be thrown with extra weight to reach the rings. Heavy ice can be caused by warm weather and melting, frost or too much pebbling.

**House:** Area within the outer edge of the 12-foot ring at either end of the ice sheet.

**Hog line:** Cross line in front of the house. A played stone must clear the hog line to remain in play unless it strikes another stone first.

**Kid rink:** A reference to a rink or team made up of young players. "Kid rinks" were great favorites of curling spectators and sportswriters many years ago.

**Lead:** The first player on a team who delivers the first pair of stones each end.

**Rink:** A four-person team of curlers, with a skip, lead, second and third.

**Second:** The second player on a team who delivers the second pair of stones each end.

**Sheet:** The ice surface on which a game is played.

**Skip:** The captain, leader and strategist for a rink. He or she directs the play of the other three members and usually plays the last two stones for the rink.

**Stone:** The rock used by the curlers. Often referred to as a "stane," as a nod to Scottish dialect.

**Swingy ice:** Ice on which the fall of a stone is greater than normal.

**Third:** The third player on a team who delivers the third pair of stones each end.

team of curlers to Winnipeg and grand aggregate bonspiel curling titles for the most wins overall at the event. Dunbar's teammates were Lambert Defiel, Frank McCarthy, and W.J. Elliott.

Another factor in curling's popularity was the arrival in North America of Scotland's famed Royal Caledonian Curling Club, which made a whirlwind tour of Canadian and United States curling hot spots in February, 1903. The Scots paid a visit to Minneapolis and St. Paul, curling with the Minneapolis Club and the Nushka Club. The Reverend John Kerr, a noted Scottish curling historian, wrote a book about the group's tour, in which he praised the clubs of the Twin Cities. At a banquet in St. Paul, Lucius P. Ordway of the Nushkas presented the Scots with a handsome loving cup to commemorate

their visit. The guests also were serenaded by a bagpiper.

"The Minnesota Club witnessed one of the merriest nights of the winter in the banquet given last evening by the Nushka Curling Club of St. Paul to the Royal Caledonian Curling Team from Scotland," a *St. Paul Dispatch* article stated. The newspaper added that the Scots' wish for something "substantial" to eat and drink was amply rewarded with a many-course meal and a "liberal supply of champagne and Scotch whiskey." A few historical and news accounts note that the loving cup was filled with Scotch whiskey, much to the delight of the visiting Scotsmen.

The Nushka Club and the St. Paul Curling Club were St. Paul's two organized curling groups when Dunbar ar-





Members of the original St. Paul Curling Club with their prizes. Left to right: W. G. Fraser, skip; J. Shaw, third; W. H. Rourke, second; H. Nelson, lead. They were winners of the Grand Carnival prize in St. Paul in 1887; the Sir D. A. Smith Cup and President's Medals in Winnipeg, also in 1887; the President's Cup at Winnipeg in 1888; and the Walkerville Tankard and Medals in Winnipeg in 1888. Fraser also won first prize in points competition in St. Paul in 1888 and the Russell Cup, points competition, in Winnipeg in 1889.

rived here, and the Royal Caledonian Curling Club paid its famous visit. A third group, the Aberdeen Club, was organized in about 1903. The group purchased lots on Selby between MacKubin and Arundel to erect a clubhouse. Nothing came of those plans, and the property was later transferred to the Nushka Club who built a five-sheet ice facility there. Renewed interest prompted talk of other curling clubs forming in St. Paul. Dayton's Bluff residents tried to organize the Anawa Club in 1905. One group of Merriam Park area residents met to discuss a curling and skating club in late 1907. Little came of either effort.

Despite the growing interest in curling, the original St. Paul Curling Club folded in 1904. Its clubhouse was torn down. Declining membership apparently

was a factor, as were the costs of maintaining an aging facility. In a letter written in the 1902s, longtime club member C. Milton Griggs recalled that "The old rink on Raspberry Island had served its purpose, had introduced the game, but its inaccessibility in that location had become too apparent and burdensome for continuance."

Curlers involved in the old club found other groups to play with. Four young men — Charles McGregor, Evan Rees, and Jack and Sam Ordway — made up the "kid rink of the Nushka Club" that defeated the great Bob Dunbar, Sr., rink twice in 1904. The young men ranged in age from sixteen to twenty. (Dunbar skipped a rink based at Flour City Curling Club of Minneapolis that year.)

The Capitol City Curling Club got its

start in 1905, with several members of the old St. Paul club on its roster. Those members included the famous Dunbar. Some Nushkas, who were unhappy with their club, also joined. Capitol City curlers hosted four rinks from Winnipeg as one of the club's early events. Not long after the Capitol City club opened, author Jack London stopped by to visit and throw a few stones.

The Capitol City Curling Club had its four-sheet facility on Smith Avenue between Ramsey and Sherman Streets, a site now occupied by the United-Childrens Hospital complex. Like its counterpart on Selby, the clubhouse had an area set aside for spectators to sit and watch curling. In March of 1907 the Capitol City Curling Club hosted an "all-nations bonspiel," with curlers of eight nationalities. Curiously, the *Pioneer Press* account listed the nationalities as "American, Irish, German, Dutch, Danes, Canadians, Scots, and Yankees."

Capitol City and Nushka curlers competed avidly. "There is hardly a night that the stones are not roaring at the two rinks, and the keen and friendly rivalry between the two local clubs is resulting in popularizing the sport to an extent hitherto unknown," a *St. Paul Dispatch* article stated in 1907.

The two clubs traveled together to out-of-town bonspiels and joined forces to host bonspiels in St. Paul. In 1908 and 1909 the clubs staged the Northwestern Curling Association bonspiel. Not only did that mean preparing the ice and stones for play, it also meant entertaining guests. Visiting curlers attended a performance at the Orpheum Theatre and dined at Carlings Cafe in 1909.

The decision to merge the Capitol City and Nushka clubs was made in the spring of 1912. Declining membership and the need to replace deteriorating facilities were key factors in the merger. The name, St. Paul Curling Club, was chosen for the organization, which busied itself with plans for a new facility at 470 Selby. The old Nushka clubhouse was torn down to make way for the new structure.

The new clubhouse opened its doors at Christmas, 1912. Nearly 100 club members curled on Christmas Eve, with



an additional 100 friends and family members looking on. Spirited contests featured rinks of Irish versus Scots. Club officers also skipped teams against one another, although president Thomas McDermott had to bow out due to illness. Only four sheets of ice were available for the curlers that opening day. It seems that the crew painting the new clubhouse had dripped ice onto two other ice sheets, rendering them unfit for play.

In January, 1913, the new club hosted the twentieth annual Northwestern Curling Association bonspiel. Twelve sheets of ice were readied for as many as 400 curlers, six sheets inside and six sheets outdoors under huge canvas tents. It was the largest bonspiel ever held in the United States. Club booster Louis W. Hill donated a large traveling trophy for the competition. (That trophy can be seen today at the clubhouse.) Area industries, businesses, and other prominent families donated merchandise prizes and trophies, in a tradition that continues today.

Curlers from throughout the Northwest flocked to the new facility. One delegation from Western Canada brought along two bagpipers to herald its arrival at St. Paul's old Union Depot. An Ontario rink had a less auspicious entrance into the United States, held for a time at the border by a U.S. Customs agent who apparently was puzzled by the group's curling stones.

Dunbar came through for St. Paul at the 1913 bonspiel, racking up his second perfect record in the competition in twenty years. His previous win had been as a skip for the Thistle Club in Winnipeg. By now, Dunbar wasn't the only St. Paul Curling Club celebrity. The beloved Ker Dunlop Dunlop and his four sons Con, Fred, Stuart, and Don were starting to make their presence felt. All of the Dunlop sons curled for many years, and Don Dunlop served as Curling Club manager for a time. Today, Dunlop's granddaughter, Paula Dunlop Arnold, her husband, Dick Arnold, and their son, Mark Arnold, continue the family's curling tradition.

Ker Dunlop was a native of Ayrshire, Scotland. He and his family lived in Iowa before coming to St. Paul around the turn-of-the-century. Dunlop joined the Nushka Club in about 1910 and was a

charter member of the St. Paul Curling Club when it was formed in 1912. Dunlop told newspaper reporters in the 1920s and 1930s that he had thrown his "first stane" in Scotland in the late 1870s. But his interest in curling didn't take off until he moved to St. Paul.

Dunlop's words come alive today in Curling Club scrapbooks on file at the Minnesota Historical Society. His penned-



*Ker Dunlop, the first of four generations to curl in St. Paul.*

in notes on the weather, the lack of media coverage given to curling, and corrections to press accounts are informative and often amusing, such as:

"No 'dope' on local curling games has appeared in the press since the Merriam Medal games — up to 3rd March 1919. Press-man must have gone to sleep! Or maybe he is on a 'bat'!"

The St. Paul Curling Club became an integral part of the 1916 and 1917 Winter Carnival events. Open air curling at the University Club and huge bonspiels at the Curling Club were very popular. A rink led by noted Minneapolis skip, George Labatt, won the 1916 overall title, although there was some grumbling that Labatt's winning rink was made up of three skips and one lead.

At the 1917 Winter Carnival, the effects of World War I already were being felt. About twenty-five young curlers, including two Dunlop sons, were in the

military. "The club has been hit hard," a 1917 club history stated. That year Bob Dunbar, Sr., led a "kids' rink" with his son, Bob, fifteen, at second; Tom Hastings, eighteen, at third; and Oakes Miller, fifteen, at lead. Right after the 1917 Carnival bonspiel, Ker Dunlop took his own "kids' rink" to compete at Winnipeg. Oakes Miller was the lead, with Con Dunlop at second and Don Dunlop at third. The "critical international situation" meant that many St. Paul businessmen had to cancel all travel plans, even trips to the popular Winnipeg event.

World War I was just one challenge the club faced in those early years. During the 1920s, two mortgages taken out on the Selby facility put the club in dire financial straits. The club's debt exceeded the funds taken in with annual \$15 dues and modest rental fees.

In the spring of 1922 club president A.M. Lawson outlined the situation in a speech to members. "We have reached a crisis in our affairs and the action taken here tonight will undoubtedly decide whether we are to continue as a club or disband," he said. But he added that "to disband as a club is unthinkable." He and others brought forth a number of ideas to help the club pay off its mortgages and provide a stable source of income. Dues were increased from \$15 to \$20. A membership drive was launched. A \$15 fee was assessed to each club member, with \$10 of that fee applicable to a new member's dues.

Larger cash donations also were sought. Longtime curlers rallied to save the club, including men who had not curled for many years. Homer P. Clark and C. Milton Griggs were among those who contributed. Lawson may have made the greatest sacrifice of all. He moved his business, the Eades Robe Tanning Company, from Seven Corners to vacant space in the clubhouse. He then paid rent for his business and served as a volunteer club manager. For his efforts, he was voted the club's first "life member" in 1929.

In a 1964 newspaper interview, a longtime club member, J.J. Cory, recalled that Lawson brought in two other tenants, a chauffeurs' club that met upstairs and a small fruit store on Selby Avenue. The club also voted to rent its vacant land to



the St. Paul Public Schools as a playground area. Sadly, while Lawson's leadership saved the club, the move proved disastrous for his business, and the Eades Robe Tanning Company folded.

More tenuous times followed. In 1929 curlers cast a wary eye toward Congress, where a proposed \$30 tariff on every set of curling stones imported was causing controversy. U.S. Representative Robert Carss of the Farmer-Labor Party and other Minnesota congressmen successfully argued that the tariff would make it cost-prohibitive for many curlers to play the game.

The Great Depression pinched at the club's roster. Rental revenues reached an all-time low in 1935. In a letter to members that year, president William Reifler pointed out that only operating expenses could be met, with no funds to pay the mortgage. Reifler called the situation "deplorable" and presented a strategy to bring in new blood. Twelve club members were appointed as captains of recruiting teams. Each team was to bring in at least five new members. The club also held a stag picnic and booya to lure new members.

Still, the 1930s held many bright spots. The return of the Winter Carnival in 1933 brought renewed interest and attention to the sport. Under the leadership of Roy Moritz, W.A. Patterson, and Reifler, the club was able to pay off its \$24,000 mortgage in January 1938. One hundred and fifty curlers cheered as the mortgage was burned. Charter club members Homer P. Clark, Ker Dunlop, Moritz, and Patterson were on hand for the event.

The highlight of the decade occurred in 1935-1936, when the club marked its twenty-fifth anniversary. Members celebrated with a gala dinner at the old Angus Hotel (now the Blair Arcade). They dined on tenderloin steak with mushrooms, French fried potatoes, green beans, vegetable soup, relish, fruit aspic salad, hot rolls, and apple pie. Fifty-year curlers Ker Dunlop and Duncan Murray were honored. Both men were still actively skipping rinks. Murray, a member of the first curling club formed in 1885, shared local curling history with fellow curlers.

The 1930s and 1940s were a time of more great changes for the St. Paul Curling Club. About twenty curlers were in

the armed forces in World War II. About thirty others had to give up their sport due to gasoline rationing.

Many longtime Curling Club companions heaved the stones for the last time. The 1930s marked the end of curling days for Bob Dunbar, Sr., Ker Dunlop, and Duncan Murray. Dunbar had moved to Eveleth in 1920, but remained an active curler until 1934. He died in 1937, as did Duncan Murray, who at the age of eighty-seven was considered the oldest active curler in the world.

Ker Dunlop outlived his two friends and his son, Fred, who died in 1936 at age forty-two. Ker Dunlop passed away in 1941, but not before racking up many achievements. In 1930, he became the first member of the St. Paul Curling Club to be made an honorary lifetime member of the prestigious Manitoba Curling Association. (Robert Dunbar, Sr., had been tapped for membership in 1920, but as a member of Eveleth Curling Club.)

Dunlop was a favorite of curlers, curling fans, and the news media. The *Winnipeg Free Press* said of Dunlop in 1933, "He is loved by all and we hope he comes here forever." In 1933 he and Bob Dunbar, Jr., drew media attention in Manitoba when they curled together.

In 1936, the *Pioneer Press* wrote an article about Dunlop's attendance at nearly 3,000 St. Paul Saints games. The seventy-seven-year-old fan, who never attended games on a free pass, shunned the box seats in favor of a spot by right field. On Sundays, he sat behind home plate.

Dunlop also enjoyed tennis and swimming. As a young man in Sibley, Iowa, he had played on a baseball team. In 1937, the seventy-eight-year-old Dunlop had taken a record 237 dips in Lake Elmo. He enjoyed a reputation as the first swimmer in the water every spring and the last one out every fall. But this Scotsman never played golf. "It would take time from baseball," he once told a reporter.

Another pastime for Dunlop was monitoring the weather. Financial and wartime-related woes weren't the only problems St. Paul curlers faced. From 1912 until the early 1940s, curlers read the forecasts, watched the skies, and

prayed for cold weather. Some club scrapbooks contain more weather news clippings than curling articles.

In the days before artificial ice, making a proper sheet of curling ice was a skill. Perhaps the most thankless task at the St. Paul Curling Club was that of the ice maker. Volunteer stints on the Ice Committee also may have proved frustrating at times. One 1907 newspaper account described how to make a curling rink the old-fashioned way. Boards were put in place on the bare ground to create sheets of playing ice. Then the ground had to be soaked with cold water prior to a hard freeze. After the saturated ground froze, the area was flooded with cold water. Hot water then was poured onto the cold water to prevent air pockets or bubbles from forming. The finishing touch was pebbling of the ice, using a hose or large sprinkler to spritz hot water and create frozen, bumpy little droplets on the ice surface. (A proper curling surface is often described as feeling like an orange peel.)

Robert Dunbar's brother, Alex, was acknowledged as one of the area's premier ice makers. The much-loved Bruno Schramm also handled ice making duties for many years, first serving the original facility on Raspberry Island and later at the Selby Avenue clubhouses.

Weather could make or break a curling season in the days of natural ice. "A few more days of near-zero weather and the curlers will be in their glory," a November, 1915, newspaper article stated. Some cartoonists poked fun at curlers for wanting cold weather when everyone else was already shivering. In all of the club's scrapbooks, only one note about too-cold weather can be found. It dates from 1936 and is unsigned:

"All games for Wednesday January 22 1936 called off because of severe cold spell. 33 degrees below zero. That is one for the book!! A curling match called off, due to extreme cold!!!"

Of the 1929-1930 season, Ker Dunlop wrote:

"There were 3 sheets of ice ready for curling with the rings scratched but not colored, on Thursday 28 November 1929 — Thanksgiving Day — which is the earliest date on which curling has started





Winners of the Black and Armstrong trophy at the bonspiel held in Winnipeg in 1928. Samuel Mairs, skip, is at left in front, Ker Dunlop at right. In back (left to right): J. J. Cory, A. L. Anderson, M. C. Lightner, Lionel Wood, D. C. Dunlop, and W. A. Patterson.

in St. Paul since the present rink was built in 1912.”

But the ideal weather would not last. No curling took place on New Year’s Day or on Washington’s Birthday in 1930. Dunlop noted that February temperatures of 49 degrees made the ice “swingy.” As the mercury rose to the 60-degree mark, “swingy” ice was melting into puddles of water. “Saturday February 22 1930 Beautiful spring day,” Dunlop wrote. “Sun shining clear and bright!”

Woe to the Ice Committee, who had to move the annual Wareham Cup match with Minneapolis Curling Club from Minneapolis to St. Paul. The weather also forced postponement of the Merriam Medal competition in Hibbing. The weatherman did not smile on the St. Paul Curling Club in 1930–1931 either. It was the second-warmest winter in 111 years of record keeping. “A day or two before Thanksgiving, the weather started to get quite cold,” Dunlop wrote. “Prior to that time, the weather in the forepart of November was more like September than November.”

“Sunday 1 February 1931. Clear, warm, bright, sunshiny day — more like a day in May than one on Feb. 1,” Dunlop wrote. “Wind is again in the south and no possible chance of any curling today. Unless this warm spell comes to a speedy end, there is great danger of the ice being all lost at the curling rink.”

The years 1930–1931 and 1931–1932 went down in history as the first seasons with no holiday curling, according to Dunlop. Curlers didn’t play the game on New Year’s Day, 1931, Washington’s Birthday, 1931, Christmas Day, 1931, and New Year’s Day, 1932. “This constitutes a record which I believe will hold for a very long time,” he wrote. A 1932 club banquet program tried to point out the humor in the situation, with a cartoon Scotsman declaring “Anither season like this and we’ll hae to get stanes that float.”

Not surprisingly, discussions of artificial ice began in earnest in 1931. The issue was one that divided club members. A committee studied the issues before bringing recommendations back to the full membership. Members voted in

March, 1932, to install artificial ice at the club. “Future curling in St. Paul will not wait for cold weather,” the *St. Paul Daily News* declared.

But curlers would wait for nearly ten years for that to happen. One key factor was expense. Eight sheets of artificially frozen ice had an estimated cost of \$11,000. The club had other pressing needs and money would only go so far.

The first two sheets of artificial ice were installed in 1939, on what president J.J. Ahern called a trial basis. Four more sheets were fitted with ice-making equipment in 1944–1945. “What’s the latest on artificial ice?” the club’s 1944–1945 newsletter asked. “That’s what every St. Paul curler has been asking recently.” Club members were working with the Crane Company to install the pipes and add four more sheets of artificial ice for curling that season. A push to revamp the final two ice sheets was stalled by wartime shortages. The seventh ice sheet was retrofitted for artificial ice in 1947.

The St. Paul Curling Club wasn’t the only place with artificial ice in the city, which prompted curlers here to sponsor an unusual event in the 1940s. The new St. Paul Auditorium had the ability to create artificial ice for skating, hockey games, ice shows, and curling. The world’s first-ever summer bonspiel was held the weekend of July 4th, 1943. Sixty rinks competed in that historic event, including eighteen from St. Paul. The overall bonspiel winner was Ken Watson, from Winnipeg a man known as “Mr. Curler” by his peers in the St. Paul Curling Club.

The summer bonspiels were the brainchild of St. Paul curlers R.G. Dillon and John McGrath. The events drew much media attention and large crowds. The bonspiels continued through 1947, but were dropped due to high cost and high humidity.

The 1950s were marked by the emergence of women curlers at the St. Paul Curling Club. Paula Dunlop Arnold and Joanne Schwab are two charter member women curlers still active with the club. Curling for women had been popular in Canada for many years. The 1916 St. Paul Winter Carnival bonspiel featured one female competitor, a Mrs. Kermott of Minot, North Dakota. “She is some



skip," the newspapers declared. When Mrs. Kermott returned for the 1917 bonspiel, she was greeted with loud cheers.

That year women also took to the St. Paul Curling Club ice for a Red Cross benefit bonspiel. Two rinks of women were led by former Winter Carnival royalty. James Ridler, Boreas Rex I, skipped one ladies' rink. Charles Elmer skipped the other.

One news account from the 1920s mentions an Evelyn Bermel of St. Paul, who wished to start a women's curling group then. She was a native of Minnesota's Iron Range and had participated in curling there. But until 1951-1952, curling in St. Paul was a man's game. Occasionally, a woman newspaper reporter would be enticed into trying the game and writing a first-hand account about her experience. But most of the news coverage of curling that mentioned women would be considered patronizing at best and insulting at worst by today's curlers.

In a 1935 newspaper article headlined "Curling Stars Sweep Any Time Except at Home," a scribe twitted: "This is a note for curling widows. If your husband can't be tempted to touch a broom to the basement floor or a snowy front porch, don't harass him for his lack of ambition. He may be a curler and saving himself for one of those bitter battles at the St. Paul Curling Club."

A 1953 newspaper article written after the Bonnie Spielers formed asked, "And who should know more about curlers than women?" But soon the women would command respect for their abilities on the ice.

Joanne Schwab was introduced to the sport of curling by her husband, Jerry, who curled in Milwaukee before moving to St. Paul. "To tell you the truth, I wasn't that interested," she said. But Jerry and the late Ellie Cafferty prevailed. Joanne Schwab still remembers Cafferty saying, "C'mon down, we're going to throw rocks. Your husband has said he'll come home and baby-sit for you so you can come."

"I had no way out!" Joanne Schwab laughed.

Schwab in turn would teach others, including Alex Ordway Bjorklund, the

finer points of the curling game. Bjorklund had been a curling spectator since childhood, watching her father, Richard Ordway, and other family members curl. She remembers her father coming home with prizes, which might even include a ham or a case of tomatoes.

Bjorklund golfed and bowled and was eager to learn to curl. Her active curling days began in 1966 with a helping hand from Joanne Schwab. "Joanne said 'You are on my team and I will teach you to curl,'" said Bjorklund.

With her family's history, it's no wonder that Paula Dunlop Arnold has also been an avid curling fan and spectator since childhood. "I always went to the Curling Club with my mother to watch my father (Stuart Dunlop) curl," she said. She recalls the marvelous presents the Dunlop children received after the men had trekked to the Winnipeg bonspiels.

The Bonnie Spielers group got its start during the 1951-1952 season. Forty-eight women turned out for the first meeting. Ellie Cafferty was the Spielers' first president. Today there are two groups of women curlers, the Bonnie Spielers and the Cairn Lassies.\*

The Arnolds recall that not all of the men at the Curling Club welcomed women or mixed curling, which began in the 1950s and was awarded club status in 1962-63. The Arnolds helped organize the first Winter Carnival Mixed Bonspiel in 1963.

"But there were other men who were very supportive and instructive," said Paula Arnold. One of them was club manager Wally Young, who was described in one newspaper article as an ardent supporter of the women curlers. "They have come a long way in the sport in a short time," Young said. "You'd be surprised at the ability they have. Yes, I think they will be a big boost to curling in St. Paul."

Interest in women's curling began to grow, and more women joined the club. In the 1953-1954 season, the Bonnie Spielers sent its first rink to an out-of-state competition. Jean Braun, Margaret

\*Cairn Lassies still are an active women's group and a separate club from the Bonnie Spielers.

Aitkin, Muriel Walker, and Frances Dillon made up that rink. In 1957 the women hosted the St. Paul Curling Club's first national US Women's Curling Association bonspiel.

The women curlers got their start at the same time the Curling Club members were hosts to the first annual American/Canadian Goodwill Trip, a tradition that continues to this day. For most curlers, part of the fun of curling is traveling to bonspiels all over the United States and Canada, and entertaining visitors to St. Paul.

Another important development at the St. Paul Curling Club in the 1950s was the start of junior curling and the crowning of the first junior curling champions during the 1958-1959 season. Bob Collins, Jim Beliske, and Don and Tim Reasoner took the honors. Mike Rugg is credited for his patience and enthusiasm in teaching countless numbers of young curlers the game. Rugg, Cy Schwab, and Ed Cafferty led the first junior program.

One new feature for young curlers is the Curling Club's annual Kyle Satrom Memorial Bonspiel. Kyle, son of curlers Donn and Linda Satrom, died of cancer in July, 1993. Kyle had battled cancer for much of his life, but found that he could compete as a curler despite health-related physical problems. His mother told a *Pioneer Press* reporter in 1994 that Kyle had many friends at the Curling Club.

One of the club's major accomplishments of the 1960s was the conversion of the eighth and final sheet to artificial ice. That sheet, the last natural ice sheet at the club, had been notorious among members in recent years. Like the natural ice sheets of days past, sheet eight had a tendency to thaw when temperatures rose.

The 1960s and 1970s also brought challenges. Membership was again at an ebb. Moving the club out of St. Paul and to a suburban location was discussed. Sites in Eagan and Mendota were studied, and at one point the 1972-1973 curling season was announced as the last in St. Paul. Efforts were also made to organize a curling club at an Arden Hills racquetball club, but that ended in the early 1980s when the space was no longer available there.

After much deliberation and study,



club members decided to stay in St. Paul and improve the Selby Avenue clubhouse. Bill Farbelow, who joined the club in 1969, recalled how curlers pitched in financially and donated their labor to revitalize the club. He and former president Donn Sault are not likely to forget the day in 1982, when the call went out to help tear down the building that enclosed sheets seven and eight.

"We had 120 volunteers show up," said Sault. "It was amazing." The old building went down in no time. A new addition houses ice sheets seven and eight, and locker facilities.

One of the leaders of the efforts to renovate the clubhouse is John "Jack" Ordway, a fourth-generation curler. Interestingly enough, his own curling days began through a friend and coworker of his wife's. "They needed a couple to curl with, so we filled in. We thought it was kind of fun."

"I had absolutely no idea that my family had ever curled," he said. His father, Smokey, had curled with a family rink of Robert, Richard, and John Ordway. (Richard and John Ordway, Sr., were brothers.) But Smokey Ordway's curling days ended prior to World War II.

John Ordway, III, continued to curl on his own, after he and his wife, Marla, started their family. Now son Erik, eleven, is curling, too. John Ordway spearheads many of the volunteer clubhouse renovation projects. "The building had really become rundown during the 1950s and 1960s. It had suffered from deferred maintenance for many years, so by the time we got around to fixing things up, everything needed fixing up," he said.

He sees the 1982 project as a turning point for the club. "There was a real question as to whether the club was going to survive in that location," he said. "I think that's the project that really saved the St. Paul Curling Club. The volunteer spirit and effort really transformed the club and we've tried to do a summer project every year since then."

The curlers would eventually put well over \$200,000 into improving their facility. Former club president John Shober once estimated that the volunteer labor was worth three times as much. The Curling Club has also become part of the re-



*The St. Paul Curling Club on Selby Avenue around the time of World War I.*

talization of Selby Avenue in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood, as its renovations have coincided with the growth of many new businesses. One Cathedral Hill restaurant, Costello's, is not only patronized by curlers, its owners are from a curling family. Curling Club members say that it's important for the club to re-establish ties with its surrounding neighborhood and with Selby Avenue businesses. "That's helped the club and the neighborhood," said Sault.

The final major project is refurbishing the Selby Avenue building facade, and converting old storefronts into locker rooms and handicapped-accessible restrooms, said John Ordway.

Much has changed at the St. Paul Curling Club in eighty-three years. Veteran curlers note that those changes have been good for the club and the sport of curling. Dick Arnold, whose first Curling Club membership was a gift from father-in-law Stuart Dunlop in 1949-1950, said the club has gone from being a "fairly exclusive men's club" to a club that is open to everyone. The rules of the game itself have been modernized and club rules changed to make it easier for curlers with busy schedules to participate.

Dick Arnold and Smokey Ordway both said that getting people involved in the sport sometimes takes a little talking. But once most people start curling, it's a sport they stick with.

"It's the silliest-looking game in the world for people who've never seen curl-

ing before," said Smokey Ordway. "But once you get into it, there's a lot of science and skill involved."

"It looked like a rather strange sport," Arnold said. But Arnold found he enjoyed the competitive and skill aspects of the game.

Bill Farbelow, who admits he fell in love with the game his first time out, left his job at Brown and Bigelow to work at Control Data so his schedule could better accommodate curling. Farbelow's love of curling has led him to a career in the sport. He is technical director for the Curl America organization, and jokes that his house is "filled with curling," including books, pictures, and memorabilia.

Farbelow, a former club president, now is its historian. He enjoys learning all he can about the club's history and sharing it with others. "The sport is all I do," he said.

Bud Krueger, who has been a curler for more than thirty years, drives almost 100 miles from Danbury, Wisconsin, to St. Paul to curl. A self-described "Rice Street kid," Krueger got interested in curling when he was a boy. He recalls that a neighbor participated in the sport and that piqued his interest. Krueger began curling as an adult and credits the late Carl Twedt with helping him and other novices learn some fundamentals of the game.

"It has always been my goal to find one new curler each year," said Krueger.



### How the Game Is Played

Curling gets its name from the fact that the stone, when delivered or thrown, is always given a slight turn to the left or right, causing its path to rotate or "curl" its way down the ice. A good delivery has between two and one-half to four turns traveling the length of the sheet of ice. Without this curling rotation, there is no control of the stone's path. Also, other stones often lie in line, preventing a straight shot.

An in-turn causes the stone to rotate to the right, an out-turn to the left.

Curling is played on a level sheet of ice marked with a twelve-foot circle at either end. Each circle has two smaller circles inside of it. Viewed from above, the circle looks like a target.

The four players comprising a team or rink play two stones each, alternating with the opposing team. Each player has a specific task. The lead or first curler must be most accurate for around his shot the entire strategy of the "end" is planned. The second curler must guard the lead's stones, push them ahead or bump out opponents' stones. The third curler often must break up a combination of opposing rocks to permit a clear shot at the circle for the fourth player, the skip.

Until he plays his stones, the skip directs his teammates from the opposite end of the sheet behind the target circle. The skip is often the key player in determining points for his or her team. He calls the shots and gives the other curlers various signals before a stone is thrown. The skip uses his broom or his hands to give some signals and calls out others.

After a stone is thrown, curlers use brooms to move the stone along. Two curlers on a team will slide alongside every delivered stone and vigorously ply their brooms on the ice in front of the stone. Sweeping is a matter of debate among curlers. However, it has been found that good sweeping can move a stone 12 to 15 feet beyond the distance it was thrown. There are claims that proper sweeping can control a thrown rock's direction and distance within a few inches.

During a game of curling, the stones and sheets of ice must be kept clean. Even a small piece of debris can affect a stone's path. Curlers clean their stones with their brooms, turning the stone on its side and "scrubbing" it.

When throwing a stone, curlers place one foot in the hack. The hack is embedded in the ice and serves as a brace for the curler when he throws the stone. Hacks are in the ice for left and right feet, to accommodate left-handed and right-handed curlers.

Throwing or delivering the stone is done by putting one's foot in the hack, grasping the stone's handle and sliding the stone forward. Curlers can use a broom to brace their bodies during a throw. Effective delivery is a matter of good muscle coordination, a free and natural swing of the arm, and a relaxed follow-through.

When two rinks or teams curl, they use stones with different-colored handles or other marking to distinguish the teams. At the St. Paul Curling Club, red and yellow-handled stones are used. One point is given to the rink for each stone nearest the center of the circle. Each stone represents a potential point as long as it is anywhere inside of or touching the rings. To count, a yellow-handled stone must be closer to the center of the rings than any red-handled stone. Even if there are five or six red-handled stones in the rings, if there is a yellow-handled stone closer to center, the yellow-handled stone will count for one point. The red stones are then nullified by the yellow stone's position.

If neither team scores during a match, this is called a "blank end." If there is a perfect score, that is called an "eight end."

His sister, Char Krueger, also participates in curling and is a Curling Club member.

Sault admits he didn't like curling that much during his first season in 1951-1952. A friend talked him into curling. "Frankly, in my first year," Sault said. "I was just an average, crummy curler. But in my second year, I made a lot of new friends, learned more and started working my way up the ladder." He has since held all of the club's elected posts, including that of president.

Farbelow, Sault, Larry Pieper, Gerry Gustafson, Irving Nathanson, Otto Thomssen, Don Dunlop, Joseph J. Cory, and Robert Dunbar, Jr., are the honorary Manitoba Curling Club members who have followed Ker Dunlop into the ranks of that prestigious group.

And how do today's curlers, the inheritors of a long tradition, look at this colorful winter sport?

"Curling really makes the winters fly," said Joanne Schwab. "And it's fun to keep up with old friends and find new ones."

"It's a sport you can continue to enjoy as you get older," said Paula Arnold. "It's not so physically demanding."

Most curlers cite the skills, anticipation, finesse, and sportsmanship as attractions of curling. Farbelow points out that curling does not require great physical strength.

"The game is competitive as well as sportsmanship-minded," said Dick Arnold. He and Paula Arnold stress that the sportsmanship aspects of the game should not be lost to the desire to win. "This is one of the few games where you toast your opponent, win or lose," Dick Arnold said.

Paula Arnold believes that increased emphasis on skill and competition should not overshadow sportsmanship. "It's nice to be skilled, but to me, the bottom line is the people you meet and play with," she said. "It would be an awfully lonesome winter without curling," a statement with which her grandfather, Ker Dunlop Dunlop, would no doubt agree.

*Jane McClure is a frequent contributor to Ramsey County History and a freelance reporter and feature writer for neighborhood newspapers in St. Paul.*





*Easy to build. This is a partially finished bungalow in St. Paul in 1906. Minnesota Historical Society photo. For more about the bungalow craze of the early years of this century, see page 15.*

**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