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The St. Anthony Park Bagle

GIBBS FARM HOSTS HARVEST FESTIVAL

Gibbs Farm, owned and operated by Ramsey County Historical Society, hosts its first annual Harvest Festival Oct. 5-6 from 10-5 p.m. at 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West.

Bob Drake, site manager, enthusiastically outlined the schedule. A blacksmith will make kitchen utensils, a seldom featured aspect of the trade. In addition a tinsmith, a snowshoe maker, a leather worker and a wooden toy artist will display their talent and wares both Sat. and Sun.

Pottery making, quilting, harvest cooking and spinning demonstrations will also be available to interested observers.

On Saturday only, the museum plans to feature candle dipping and weaving on their ancient 2-harness loom. Saturday's schedule also includes a farm produce display from the local plot farmers on the Gibbs Farm property. Unless early frost wiped out participants, a county fair atmosphere will be maintained, including judging of farm produce.

Period music by Here Inc. will add atmospheric flavor by combining the tones of the fiddle, guitar and dulcimer.

A sales room will give the public an opportunity to invest in harvest and demonstration items. Hot cider, gingerbread and roasted chestnuts are offered to compliment the fall chill.

Helping Bob Drake are two full-time Ramsey County Historical Society employees, Sharon Dickson and Peggy Kennon. Bonnie Ellis, a crafts instructor, will also assist.

Visitors should plan to tour the buildings as they relive the pioneer past at harvest time.

LOCAL SITES NAMED

Just this week it was announced that six sites were to be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places when the state review committee meets at Ft. Snelling. The Andrew McGill house at 2203 Scudder and Gibbs Farm are two local sites under consideration.

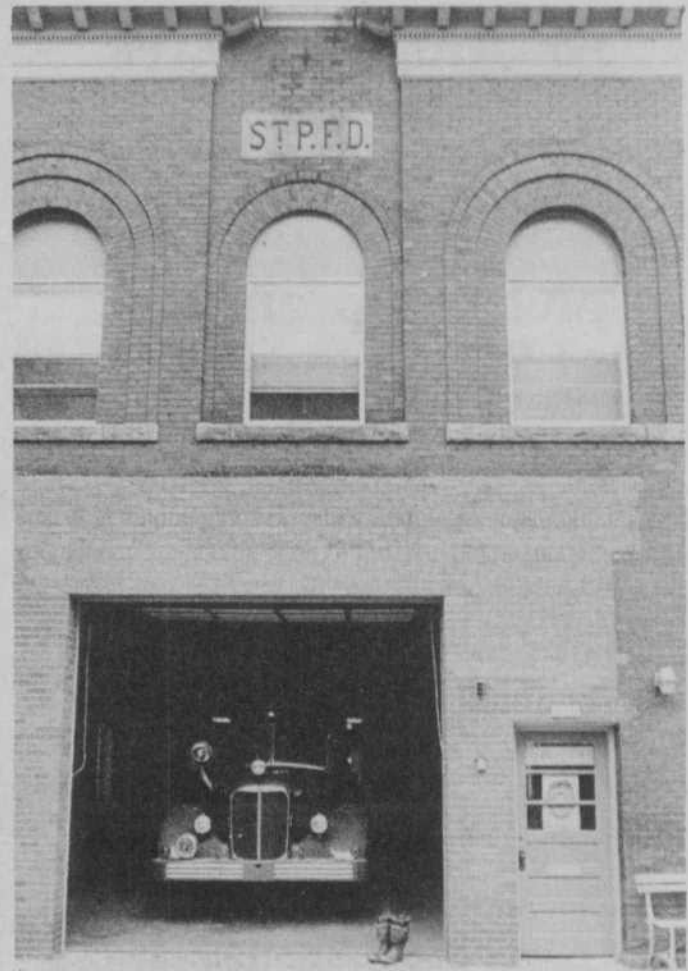
City Needs Citizen Help

Under new legislation, the city of St. Paul will receive \$18.8 million annually for three years, and it is the responsibility of the mayor and council, with citizen input, to allocate these funds.

In the past, these funds have supported such programs as neighborhood development, Model Cities, and open space.

A series of public information meetings to explain the recently enacted Community Development Act will be held at various locations throughout the city.

The meeting, sponsored by the City Council's Planning Committee, for the area of Thomas-Dale, North End, St. Anthony Park, and Como, will be held at 7:30 p.m., October 8, in the auditorium of the St. Paul Technical Vocational Institute, 235 Marshall Ave.



Fire Station No. 13, Corner Hampden and Raymond
Story and photos by Steve Rouch

STATION CLOSED

A few weeks ago City Administrators announced they were considering closing Fire Station No. 13 (Raymond and Hampden) in November due to City budget cuts. The closing date was suddenly moved to October 1, and Fire Station No. 13 is now out of operation, at least temporarily.

Residents in the area have had little time to voice complaints as a result of the speedy decision. Helen Shutta of the South St. Anthony Park Association (PAC) offices said she 'questions the wisdom of this decision due to the heavy chemical and industrial land uses in the area.' Ms. Shutta went on to point out that many people are moving into the new \$3-million Senior Citizens High Rise Complex. That plus the Market Rate Housing site will increase the necessity for adequate fire protection in the area.

An engine house that has been protecting and serving North and South St. Anthony for over 80 years, the loss of No. 13 will be felt both nostalgically and pragmatically. According to a reliable source who asked not

to be named, 'the removal of Fire Station No. 13 could leave St. Anthony Park unprotected if certain foreseeable situations arise. For instance, aside from Fire Station No. 20, the three closest stations also pull ambulance duty, and it is very conceivable that all three ambulance crews could be on the streets at the same time.'

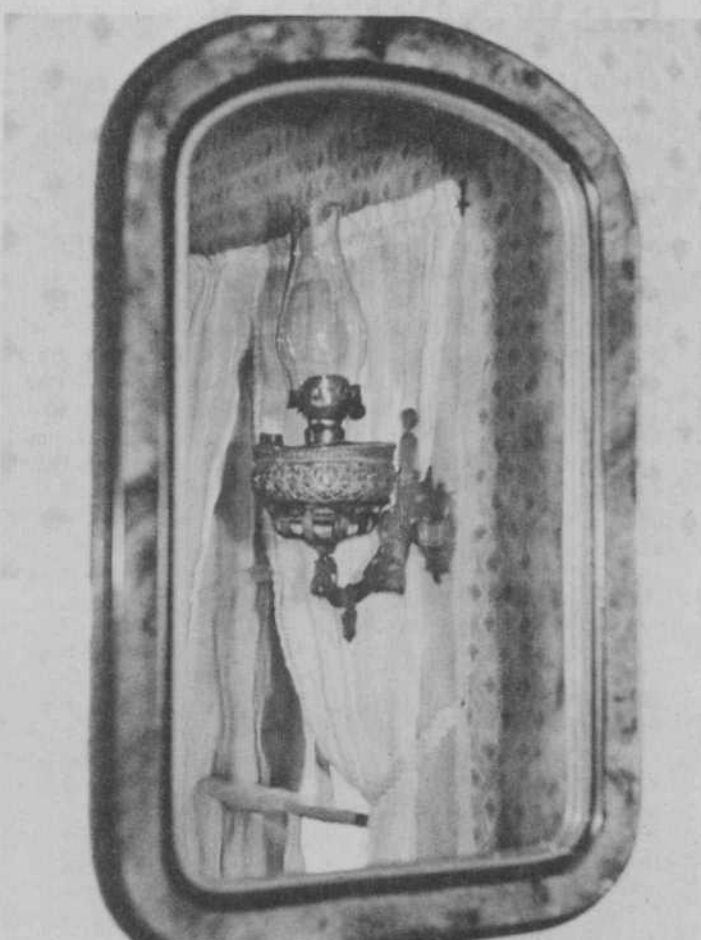
'What that means,' he continued, 'is if a real blazer started in St. Anthony Park and Fire Station No. 20 was on another call, a station clear across town would have to handle the call.'

Another important service that most people don't realize a local fire station provides is 'familiarity.' The crew in No. 13 kept track of what streets might have been torn up in a neighborhood. Such knowledge can prevent having to waste precious time getting to a fire, because access to the house or building is blocked by road construction. Given the massive storm sewer construction program and the natural layout of the streets, St. Anthony Park residents have considerable cause to regret the loss of 'fam-

iliarity.

Another crucial loss will be felt in the 'ready reserve' that Fire Station No. 13 has provided for the entire city of St. Paul. Admittedly a small operation, No. 13 has proven valuable over the years as a unit that could get to a fire in the first stages to control it until other bigger units could be called in. The crew has been called to back up other units clear across on the East side, when other ambulance and fire-fighting crews were already on the street. 'Ready reserve' is important to every man on the fire fighting force. 'When it's 20 degrees below, and you're carrying 200 pounds of protective gear and equipment up an icy hill to a burning house, it's easy to expend more energy in 15 minutes than the average person expends on an eight to five job,' one fire fighter commented. 'If a fire lasts three to four hours, you're going to be dead tired if you don't get some replacements.'

And so the big wooden door of Fire Station No. 13 closes, the final chapter of fire fighting since 1894.



Through the Looking Glass; the school teacher's room at Gibbs Farm

Photo by Rich Kreisman

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Commonwealth Terrace

The Terrace is gradually filling up its new units as they are being received from the contractor. Hopefully, all 102 new units will be filled in Oct.

All residents are looking forward to the opening of the new Community Center in October. Activities are now being planned for the new center.

A new Board of Directors is elected each October. The Terrace was also just divided into 15 political units as a result of a referendum held to decide between plans of 11, 15 and 19 wards.

The annual meeting of residents will be held on Oct. 22. At this meeting, the Board of Directors and the manager will report to the members on the past year's activities. They will also have the opportunity to change policies and give feedback to the Board and staff.

October is co-op month, and Commonwealth Terrace will be sending representatives to meetings and conferences, both in the area and nationwide. CTC hopes to gain experience through interaction with other cooperatives engaged in similar work.

PEOPLE JOHN W. ALLISON

A newcomer doesn't have to spend much time in the park before realizing that this area has some of the most interesting people in the Twin Cities as residents. We asked around for someone who might be interested in doing small profile features on area residents. Fortunately, Ms. Avery Brookins consented "to try a few." We hope she will continue to write up interesting people she knows and meets, and we invite interested citizens to try their hand at it too.

In 1912, two days before the end of the year, John W. Allison arrived in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was an unusually warm and sunny day for December, and Mr. Allison concluded that the climate compared favorably with that of the Southwest from where he had come. Accordingly, he decided to stay. The next day the temperature reverted to more normal levels... fifteen degrees below zero.

Today, approaching the age of ninety-one, 'Pop' Allison is still a resident of our area.

John Allison was educated at the Yale-Sheffield Scientific School; he graduated in 1906, receiving the degree of Ph.B. (That's right, Ph. B.). In 1906 he earned the degree Master of Forestry from Yale University. He spent 1906 to 1909 as a Forest Assistant in the Coconino National Forest, and the next three years as a Forest Examiner in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

His contributions to the forests and the ecology of our state and community are incalculable. He has experimented with many varieties of pine and other trees; measuring the rate of growth, the effects of soil, etc, he led the way to more effective forest management and tree harvesting.

Of interest to all St. Paulites, is Lake Vadnais Forest. In 1914, St. Paul's total water supply came from a series of lakes in the Vadnais area. The city of St. Paul owned the land, but found itself in direct competition with a rather large bovine population for the water. Faced with a dilemma, the city fathers took the suggestion of Forestry Professor, E.G. Cheney, that a forest of trees be planted all around Lake Vadnais. John H. Allison was placed in charge of the project. The overwhelming success of the idea is still apparent today to those who enjoy the fishing or the scenic beauty of the place. Thousands of Norway pine, Jack pine and Scotch pine delight the eye and scent the pure air.

The 'John H. Allison Forest' as it is officially called, covers an area of 300 acres only six miles from downtown St. Paul. Lake Vadnais, a storage reservoir in the St. Paul water system, lies in the middle of this beautiful tract of trees, an everlasting tribute to the man who made it come into being.

NEWSBRIEFS

EFFORTS are underway to organize representatives of the junior and senior high school communities for decision-making about plans to desegregate and consolidate secondary schools by 1976. Representatives are being named to the citizens' advisory committee according to a 'membership profile,' which indicates the range of representation sought. The St. Anthony Park Ad Hoc Committee on School Desegregation is actively pursuing representation on the advisory committee. Interested citizens should be in touch with the ad hoc committee or call the School Community Information Services office at 298-5050.

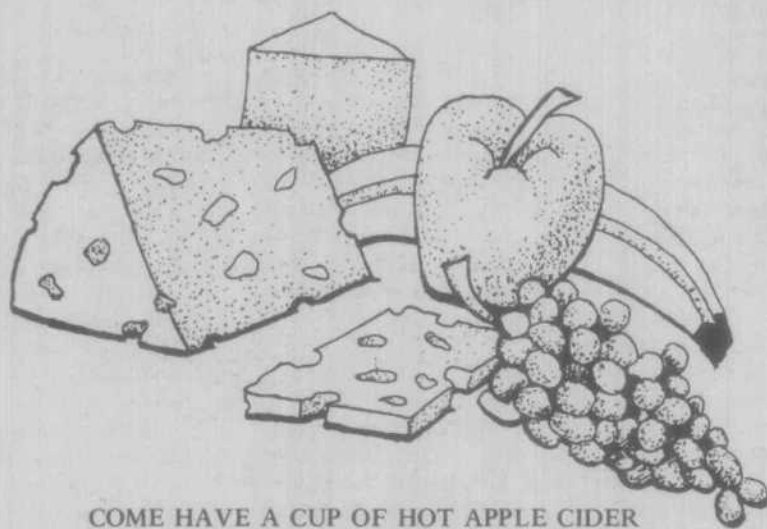
HI-RISE REPORT: A \$3-million contract for the construction of the Senior Hi-Rise at Raymond and Ellis has been awarded by HRA. This contract is subject to approval by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). Because of an increase in construction costs, the original plan for a 17-story building has been cut to 14 stories with a total of 144 units. The ground-

breaking is scheduled to take place this fall, although at this time a date has not been set. Construction should be completed in 18 months.

BUS ROUTE The MTC is running an experimental route, the U-Express Route, Bus 'H.' Since Sept. 23, the bus travels on Raymond Avenue south and north, going to and from the Minneapolis campus. It stops at Como, Kasota and Hampden Avenues at approximately 7:45 a.m., arriving at the campus about 8:00 a.m. Returning, it leaves the campus about 3:00 p.m. and arrives at the 3 stops in the vicinity of 3:15 p.m.

This is not the 'inter-campus' transportation So. St. Anthony Park Association and others have been working to get, and it may not prove to be a feasible route for the MTC to pursue.

For more on new bus routes, read the St. Anthony Park Column. Steve McCormick details the extended coverage of MTC bus route 6B. Effective October 7, the line will continue to Har-Mar and Rosedale.



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AFS WELCOMES VISITORS



Kaija Anttonen



Huber Paulo Coinbra

Story and Photos
Paul Glaeser

American Field Service (AFS) is an organization that finds temporary homes for students coming from overseas and homes for American teenagers going abroad. The AFS club at Murray High School is sponsoring two foreign exchange students, Kaija Anttonen from Helsinki, Finland, and Huber Paulo Coinbra from Victoria, Brazil.

Kaija Anttonen, is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Gene Holmquist and daughter Jocie, a student at Murray High. Kaija arrived in St. Paul on August 23, after a long flight to New York and a longer bus ride (29½ hours) from New York. Kaija was impressed with the size of America in relationship to Finland. She has been at Murray three weeks, and already Kaija finds many differences from Finnish schools. There, Kaija took 11-13 separate subjects compared to 6 courses at Murray. "The classes here are more interesting than Finnish classes," Kaija stated. The teachers also have a more personal interest in the students she felt. In Finland, she took 7 years of Swedish, Finland's second language, 8 years of English, and 2 years of both German and Russian. Kaija is currently involved with the German and the AFS clubs at Murray.

The young Finn signed up to enter the AFS program partly out of curiosity, partly to see just what another country was like to live in, and partly to find out more about herself. Kaija mentioned that students at Murray are very friendly, a nice thing when you're away from home.

Murray's other visiting student, Huber Paulo Coinbra, a native

of Victoria, Brazil, is living with Mr. and Mrs. David Noetzel, whose children Earl and Heidi are currently attending Murray. Paulo said that America is what he had expected. Before departing from Brazil, he had taken a number of classes to prepare him for his stay in America. Once here, Paulo faced 6 hours of classes compared with his normal 4 hours a day. The 5 instead of 6-day school week appealed to Paulo, and he found that his teachers have been patient and helpful in his efforts to speak American English. There is a closeness among students at Murray that is not found in larger schools that Paulo has attended.

When Paulo concludes his visit in July, he, Kaija, and the rest of the AFS students in this area will be taking a two-week tour of the eastern United States. They will then return to New York for their flights home.

When students come to America or go abroad, they need funds. Part of these funds are raised by the participating students, the rest from AFS School chapters and Adult Chapters. Murray has a very active Adult Chapter, which annually sponsors the Chicken Bar-B-Que on the Fourth of July. On October 26, AFS will be holding a rummage sale at a place yet to be announced.

The school AFS Club, with advisor Mrs. Greta Michaels, is also raising funds for the program. Currently working with the journalism classes on a school directory, the group will also sell greeting cards at Christmas time. But it's not all work. The club holds picnics, parties, and get-togethers for the exchange students and club members.



The implementation of the redevelopment plan for South St. Anthony Park's residential neighborhood is continuing, despite the problems of an inflated economy and the separation of the industrial uses from the residential area.

Our common enemy, inflation, recently made its presence felt in rising construction costs, when the Senior Hi-Rise was cut from 177 units to 144. The construction will proceed, however, with groundbreaking taking place this fall.

The separation of industrial and residential uses continues to raise problems. The latest problem in this area concerns the vacation of a portion of Territorial Road and the re-routing of traffic to Charles Avenue. This change is necessary to the residential redevelopment, because it removes heavy truck traffic from both the Hi-Rise and an adjacent Market Rate housing site. The change is opposed by business interests on Charles Avenue because the increased traffic would hamper their loading operations and reduce the street right-of-way now used for parking.

A task force has been established by the City Council, consisting of representatives from the City Administrator's Office, Public Works, and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, to research the problem. This task force will present its conclusions and their proposal at a public hearing scheduled for October 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, at which time the public can present their views.

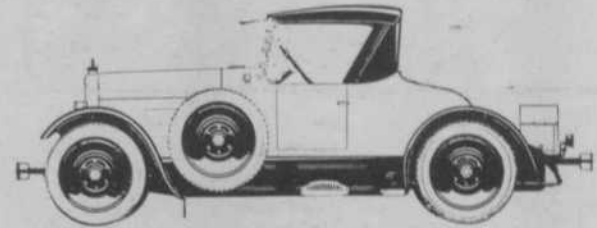
MAYOR COHEN'S proposed budget cuts will result in the closing of several playgrounds throughout the city. If recommendations submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department are followed, no playgrounds in this area will be shut down.

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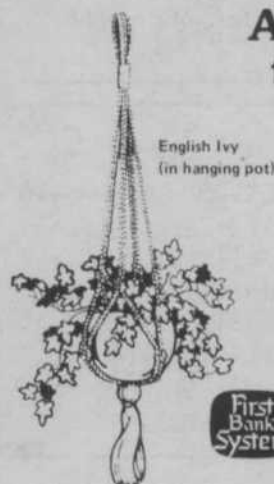
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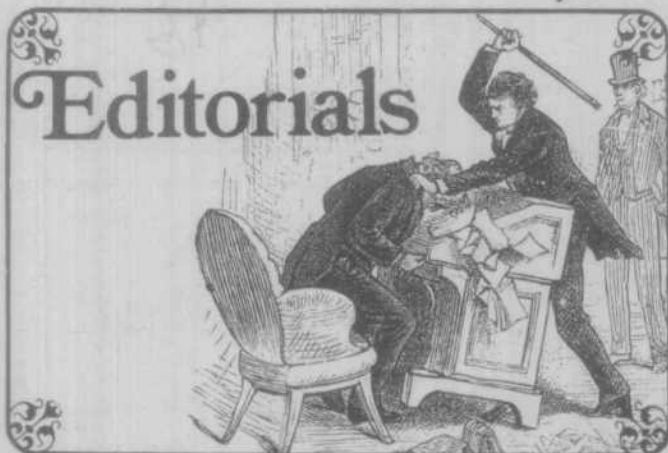
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The St. Anthony Park BUGLE



Editorials

It is a rare individual who goes to work without pay after notification that your job has been abolished.

I write to pay tribute to the teacher aides of St. Anthony Park Elementary School. Knowing that adults are so important to the success of the school program and that the building addition had made it impossible for families new to the school community to have the usual pre-school tour, five aides who had not been rehired were on board on the opening day of school to help children find their way to the classrooms. There was no chance for the 172 bus students to be lost in the shuffle.

With a reduction in aide time from 120 to 61 hours per week, it will be difficult for the Staff to carry on the same program of individualization as last year. Extra aide hours would have been welcome as Baker and St. Anthony Park Schools consolidated. No federal aide hours followed the students from the Summit-University area.

We extend our appreciation also to the seventeen mothers who come at noon to supervise the children as they eat their lunch in the classrooms. This gives the teachers a half hour to eat and relax. As the building program progresses, the multi-purpose room will serve as the cafeteria. Additional space will make scheduling easier, but it is PEOPLE working with CHILDREN that really counts. The strength of our school is the PEOPLE.

Genevieve Nelson
Principal, St. Anthony Park School

Fall's fresh perspective dictates renewal of our concern for the community schools. While the course of both expansion of building and expansion of young minds appears well plotted at the elementary level, plans for Murray High School remain uncertain.

The first meeting of the city-wide Secondary Education Citizen's Advisory Committee will be November 14. Made up of representatives of school staff, student councils, PTAs and

community organizations, this committee is the vehicle for review and possible change of the administration's plan for desegregation and consolidation at the secondary level.

In an attempt to be well-informed, contributing members of this city-wide committee, the local Ad Hoc Schools Committee is studying four alternatives relating to Murray's future. We are soliciting community input in this 'alternatives' study prior to November 14. If you have time to serve - or would like to share an opinion - please write Denis Dailey, Ad Hoc Schools Committee chairman. His address is: 1540 Branton.

Carol Schoen

With the beginning of classes at the University, most students on St. Paul campus have found their housing. St. Anthony Park's cooperation and help in this is greatly appreciated. We in the Off-campus Housing office thank you. We want to take this opportunity to also especially thank the St. Anthony Park Association for their efforts in getting better MTC bus service for this area. A number of students living in Falcon Heights will now be able to use these buses to get to campus instead of driving their cars. Hopefully this will help to alleviate some of the parking problems.

There is an open invitation to visit the office at 190 Coffey Hall. Come in and get acquainted with our staff and operation.



THE ST. ANTHONY PARK BUGLE

2239 Carter Ave., St. Paul Minn. 55108 646-5415
Publisher Roger Swardson
Editor Gail McClure
Photography ... Carl Brookins, Rich Kreisman, Steve Rouch, Don Svendsen
Associates ... Marian Atwood, Avery Brookins, Nick Brubaker, Roger Fuller, Marit Kucera
Steve Rouch, J. W. Skovholt



I called the city budget office to get additional information on the closing of Fire Station No. 13, and found a cool reception. There were mumbings about it "all being in the paper" - go read it. I assured the official that I had read the paper and was calling because of the mayor's statement, "An ancient fire station at Raymond and Hampden Avenues would be closed, but the nine firefighters moved to other stations."

However, thinking I might have missed something, I hung up and bought another paper. The illogic of the proposal kept crashing in on me. Why let fire and police protection lapse while the budget allows for a new civil service department appropriation for employee training and education.

When Fire Station No. 13 closed, effective October 1, I dug out the papers again. Yes, it did say that under the proposed budget the fire station "would" be closed. But wait, the City Council does not complete hearings on the budget until October 11. How can the station be closed already? Isn't it funded until January? Why was it closed so suddenly and so quietly?

One proposed budget item makes sense - the \$25,000 for a complaint handling service in the mayor's office. He needs it badly. Since the station closed before funds expired, why not use his service before funds are allocated. GM



Public Affairs

THE RACES

THE LEGISLATURE

In the first legislative election with party designation on the ballot, the DFL hopes to maintain its hold on District 62 A, an area it has held since 1968. Neil Dieterich, elected with 51.4 percent of the votes two years ago, is opposed by David Bailey, a former candidate for City Council.

"District 62A is fascinating," said Dieterich. "It has city and suburbs. Several colleges are in the area, beautiful neighborhoods and inner-city problems, senior citizens and middle class. There are no automatic elections here. The different groups of people and the diversity keep it interesting."

Bailey challenges for a seat which the DFL has had since Bob North defeated the incumbent six years ago.

In 1972 North gave up his House seat to try for the Senate. North's win plus Dieterich's victory gave the area two legislators backed by the DFL.

Dieterich said he first became involved in politics several years ago, when he joined a non-partisan citizens' group seeking relief in the property tax. "In St. Anthony Park this is crucial. There are a lot of large homes. A rapidly increasing property tax encourages commercial exploitation and can lead to houses being divided into apartments."

Bailey, an insurance agent with offices in St. Anthony Park, objects to the non-rotating ballot which places first the party which won the state office the last election. "There's a five percent vote which goes the party listed first," he said. "I'd be against it even if the Republicans were first. The parties should rotate." Bailey considers himself an independent Republican. In past elections he voted at times for Democrats. "A lot of the issues in government are non-partisan. In the end you have to follow your conscience," he said.

THE COUNTY BOARD

The third district Ramsey County Commissioner race pits an incumbent against a candidate who decided to run on the last day of filing. Mrs. Lois Anderson, 1239 W. Como, decided to be a candidate after several of her friends urged her to run. "I felt the candidates did not offer the voters much of a choice," she said.

She is trying to defeat John Finley, 1050 Mary Lane, Vice Chairman of the Board, who out-drew her with twice as many votes in the primary. He was first elected in 1970, the last time the board was elected on an at-large ballot. Since then Ramsey County has been divided into districts.

Mrs. Anderson has been active as a volunteer in United Way and American Cancer Association drives and has served as an area chairman of a co-op nurses association. In the political field, she has held several party offices in the Republican organization, including a senate district chair. Her husband, John Tracy Anderson, was a member of the state legislature for 14 years.

Finley said he decided to run for the county board while working as a probation officer from 1962 to 1969. "There was so much overlap and fragmentation in the administration of human services that I wanted to get elected and help correct it," he said. For example, welfare and corrections were a shared responsibility of the city and county. "Now corrections and welfare are handled by the county board," he said.

An attorney endorsed by the DFL and labor, Finley admitted he relied upon lawn signs, but added he would be just as happy if they were outlawed for all candidates. "I suppose that's the selfish way to look at it, because the signs make the difference for the unknown, not the man in office."

St. Anthony Park



On Monday, October 7, MTC bus service will begin operating through St. Anthony Park between Roseville and South Minneapolis. An extension of the present Minneapolis route 6B terminating at Como and Eustis, the new service will continue the Minneapolis buses along Como through the St. Anthony Park business district to a left turn at Raymond/Cleveland; North on Cleveland past the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota to a right turn on Larpenteur; East on Larpenteur past Snelling to a left turn on Hamline Avenue; North on Hamline into the South-east corner of Har Mar Mall and finally across the intersection of Snelling and highway 36 into Rosedale shopping center. The return route will take the same path to Como and Eustis, where it will continue along the existing route; on Como, 15th Avenue S.E., 4th St. S.E., Hennepin Avenue Bridge and into downtown Minneapolis, then Hennepin Avenue across Lake St. and down France Avenue to 54th St. or Xerxes to 60th.

This service extension was one of the recommendations of the Northern Ramsey County Route Ridership Improvement Study (one of several for different sections of the Twin Cities performed by the Metropolitan Transit Commission and their consultants under the guidance of project management boards made up of representatives of the MTC, Metropolitan Council, Highway Department, county and local officials and in some cases citizen representatives), and was implemented as a result of approval of the study by the MTC and by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Another recommendation approved for the St. Anthony Park portion of the study area is the installation of bus shelters at Como and Carter, Como and Raymond, and Cleveland and Buford.

St. Anthony Park happens to fall within two study areas, the second one being the University Area Transit Study. While the major thrust of the University study is to examine the feasibility of an automated fast-link between the three Twin Cities campuses and to select the type of system for that, another task of that study is to recommend some level of neighborhood circulation system (small buses, perhaps) to interface with the university and regional systems. While not completed, this study will probably recommend the extension of service on route 16 E, presently operating only during rush hours, to an all-day

operation with smaller buses and possibly some minor changes in the route itself. It presently runs on Raymond Avenue mostly, from University Avenue to about Hendon and back.

This new service seems to us to offer greatly increased independence from the automobile for St. Anthony Park residents, as it provides for the first time direct no-transfer frequent thirty-cent rides to a second downtown and a major regional retail and entertainment center, with excellent late evening and weekend service as well as weekday service. It is on probation, as any new bus route is, for a period of one year. If we fail to make the best use of it, the service will be curtailed or discontinued at that time; one of the cold, hard facts of public transportation in modern America is that a route may lose money at only a certain rate (few if any actually pay their way directly) or it will be impossible to justify its continuation. Please use this service whenever you can.

The Metropolitan Transit Commission submitted a conceptual plan to Amtrak authorities concerning a possible location for the Amtrak station. Their proposed site is on Kasota Avenue near H.B. Fuller Co. The University Area Study, proposing a remote parking site with an express bus on Hwy 280, requires a station system. Thus it appears MTC theoretically views the area as a possible public transportation hub.

John R. Jamieson, Director of Transit Development, stressed that the proposal is only an "initial concept that deserves some consideration." Until now, an area near K-Mart on Pierce-Butler Road appeared favored by Amtrak and city administrators. However, with the final decision to be made shortly, members of the St. Anthony Park Association Planning Committee were sufficiently concerned to meet and discuss the matter.

Several committee members observed that lack of citizen input on such proposals frequently created suspicion and anger in affected neighborhoods. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the nearby area was inadequate for expansion, making it unsuitable, and certainly undesirable to area residents, as a station site. The Mayor, St. Paul City Planning Dept. and Amtrak officials were notified by letter of the Committee's expressed feelings on the matter.

The SAINT PAUL PTSA COUNCIL invites citizens to meet in an OPEN FORUM at 7:00 p.m. with Superintendent of Schools, Dr. George P. Young, to discuss the present and the future of the St. Paul Public Schools. The Apollo Cluster will meet Oct. 21, at Hill school. For further information call 298-5050.



Construction of the storm sewer project will halt shortly and resume in the spring. John Rutford, St. Anthony Park Association President, said that city crews should finish restoration work by the middle of October. If residents are not satisfied with the quality of restoration, they should contact Mr. Rutford. Photo by Carl Brookins

Who is this Jesus?

FOUR PORTRAITS OF JESUS by Dr. James Burtress

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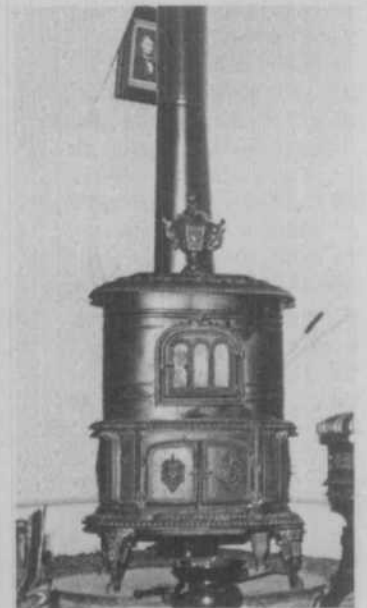
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Top: Jane and Heman Gibbs Below: left, their home; right, the parlor stove

GIBBS REVISITED

The Gibbs Farm House at 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West is one of the few early Ramsey county farm houses still standing. Today it is maintained as a museum by the Ramsey County Historical Society.

The land upon which the museum stands was a part of 160 acres for which Heman R. Gibbs filed in 1849. The original document which granted the transfer of the land from the United States government to Gibbs is on display in the museum. It was signed by President Millard Fillmore and dated November 2, 1852.

It might be said that Gibbs was an early recipient of what we know today as "G.I. benefits." Although not a veteran himself, he acquired his land under an act of Congress, dated February 11, 1847, which provided that a soldier who had volunteered for the Mexican War was to be given his choice of a warrant for 160 acres of public lands or treasury scrip for \$100, drawing 6 per cent interest, until such time as the scrip might be redeemed by the government.

These warrants for land were transferable and the document

at the museum indicates that the warrant issued to Henry Cosmitz of the First Pennsylvania Regiment had come into Gibbs' possession. There is no record now as to what Gibbs paid for the warrant but it likely was not more than \$1.25 per acre.

The filing, by Gibbs, for his 160 acres of land was one of four made in Rose township in 1849. The first three filings in the area already had been made in 1843 by Isaac Rose, for whom the township is named.

The story of the early experience of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs gives a picture of pioneer life in Ramsey County.

Heman R. Gibbs and Jane DeBow Stevens were married in Galena, Ill., in November, 1848. The question with them was, "Where are we going to live?" As the California gold rush was on, there was some thought of going to California. But Mrs. Gibbs had lived with a missionary family in Minnesota and liked that area. So they engaged passage to St. Paul on the steamship War Eagle. When they arrived in St. Paul in April of 1849, they had \$15 in cash.

They went at once to a hotel called the Temperance House (so-called because it had no saloon attached). The proprietor of the hotel was a man named Moffat who had kept a hotel in southwest Wisconsin. Gibbs had boarded with him while he worked in the lead mines there. Mrs. Gibbs worked in the hotel while Gibbs selected his claim and erected a claim shanty. The shanty was eight feet by 12 feet and was largely underground. The roof was of sod. They undoubtedly were a bit crowded.

Gibbs built a wooden chimney so they could have a fire. One stormy day the chimney caught fire. Fortunately, they succeeded in knocking the chimney off the shanty and were able to put out the fire. Then, as it was not available in St. Paul or St. Anthony, Gibbs walked to Stillwater, about 17 miles away, to get a joint-and-a-half of stovepipe so they could be warm through the winter.

They lived in this small shanty until 1854-55 when a one-room house, built partly of tamarack logs cut in a nearby swamp, replaced the log cabin. This sec-



ond house became the kitchen of the present Gibbs house which was built during the years 1867-69. The tamarack logs still can be seen in the ceiling of the kitchen.

Gibbs' bride, Jane DeBow Stevens, was admirably suited to the life of the pioneer. She had been raised by the Rev. and Mrs. J.D. Stevens, missionaries to the Sioux Indians at Lake Harriet.

She was brought west with the family of Mr. Stevens, a Presbyterian missionary, in the fall of 1834, when she was a child of six or seven years.

In the spring of 1835, they arrived at Fort Snelling and early in the summer took possession of the mission house that had been built for them on the shore of Lake Harriet.

An account of her life at the mission follows in part:

"She early became acquainted with the skin lodge or tepee, the sound of the paddle on the lake, the orgies of the feast on the return of the hunters in the spring, the death song, the war whoop and the sight of the painted, half-naked warrior..."

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs' home is described:

"The Gibbs place was on the trail between Lake Harriet and the other lakes, hunting grounds and marshes of the North, the fort (Fort Snelling) and the Indian agency to the Southeast. Mrs. Gibbs' knowledge of the Sioux language, her old acquaintance with the Indians and the attractions of the melon patch and turnip fields brought the Indians to the house frequently and in great numbers. She says she often counted as many as a hundred of them on the premises at one time. Returning from St. Paul, they were frequently the worse for liquor..."

As Mrs. Gibbs was childless during the first six years of her married life, she had leisure to be out-of-doors a good deal. She was a good marksman, which her husband was not,

so she supplied the table with game in the way of prairie chickens, wild ducks and geese. Fish were so easily obtained that, as she put it, "It might have been fish, first, last and always.

The extent of the wide open spaces in Minnesota at the time that Gibbs filed for his claim in 1849 may be appreciated by the fact that, as reported in the 1850 United States census, the total acreage of land in farms in Minnesota was only 28,881 or the equivalent of about one and one-quarter townships with the usual 36 sections or 36 square miles per township.

Frank Gibbs, the couple's only son remembered that in his youth there were wheat fields in what is now the St. Anthony Park section of St. Paul, fronting on Cleveland Ave. A chicken house and granary were not built on the Gibbs farm until the late 1870s, so perhaps there was not much need for grain storage up to that time.

The perils of pioneer life were tragically illustrated by the loss of Willie Gibbs, their 11-year-old son who died from exhaustion after fighting a prairie fire in one of the low-lying areas near the farm.

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