



HISTORIC SAINT PAUL PRESENTS



TRIVIA NIGHT



About Historic Saint Paul

Historic Saint Paul is a nonprofit working to **strengthen Saint Paul neighborhoods by preserving and promoting their cultural heritage and character**. We have been around more than twenty years.

We work in partnership with private property owners, community organizations, and public agencies to leverage Saint Paul's cultural and historic resources as assets in economic development and community building initiatives.

Round 1



1. It was one of the nation's greatest retailers and catalog merchants, employer of thousands, located in the Midway. No trace of it remains, except perhaps in memories. What was it?

- A. Munsingwear
- B. Montgomery Ward
- C. Sears Roebuck
- D. Dayton's



2. Who gave Frogtown its name?

- A. James J. Hill
- B. Hubert Humphrey
- C. John Ireland
- D. Roy Wilkins



3. Concord Street on Saint Paul's West Side was renamed to honor a nationally known Latino activist. What is the thoroughfare's new name?

MINNESOTA'S OLDEST MURDER MYSTERY

The Case of ~~XXXXXXXX~~
St. Paul's Unsaintly Pioneer



Gary Brueggemann

4. A lake & creek in St. Paul are named for a man who was probably also our city's first murderer. He had been a soldier at Fort Snelling, then made a land claim near today's downtown with a partner who later turned up dead. This man was prosecuted but not convicted. Who was he?



5. A man from Saint Paul's North End was a professional heavyweight boxer who once lasted fifteen rounds against Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion at the time. He later was elected to four terms as Ramsey County Sheriff. What is his name?

- A. Fred Barker
- B. Jock Malone
- C. John McDonough
- D. Tommy Gibbons



6. What architect designed the Highland Water Tower and Harriet Island Pavilion, among other St. Paul landmarks?

- A. Cass Gilbert
- B. Clarence Wigington
- C. Willoughby J. Edbrooke
- D. Charles Sumner Frost



8. A May 4 newspaper headline read “*Crowds Cheer as First Ford Leaves the Plant.*” The cheers were for the first automobile made in the St Paul Ford Plant. Henry Ford and his son Edsel were there to witness the historic moment. What was the year?

- A. 1901
- B. 1915
- C. 1925
- D. 1929

History Trivia



9. A famed Black playwright came to Saint Paul from Pittsburgh and soon worked with Penumbra Theater. His plays *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson* earned him Pulitzer Prizes. Who is he?



10. In 1935, Cecil Newman, African American founder and editor of The Minneapolis Spokesman and The St. Paul Recorder, initiated a one-year consumer boycott against which industry, one of the most prominent in St. Paul, for its steadfast refusal to hire Black workers?

Check your answers

Let's see how
you did...



1. It was one of the nation's greatest retailers and catalog merchants, employer of thousands, located in the Midway. No trace of it remains, except perhaps in memories. What was it?

A. Munsingwear

B. Montgomery Ward

C. Sears Roebuck

D. Dayton's



2. Who gave Frogtown its name?

C. John Ireland

Frogtown was marshy long ago, and the Archbishop commented on the croaking of the frogs.



3. Concord Street on Saint Paul's West Side was renamed **César Chavez Street.**

César Estrada Chávez was an American labor leader, community organizer, and Latino American civil rights activist. Along with Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later merged to become the United Farm Workers (UFW) union.

He was born in Yuma, AZ and lived most of his life in California.



4. The lake and creek are named after **Edward Phalen**. Phelan, born ~1811 in Ireland, became one of the first settlers of Saint Paul. He was later accused of John Hays' murder, the first ever in Saint Paul, but was acquitted.

He was indicted for perjury a year later but fled to California before he could be prosecuted.



Gibbons second from right

5. **D. Tommy Gibbons** from Saint Paul's North End was the professional heavyweight boxer who lasted fifteen rounds against Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion at the time, on July 4, 1923 in Shelby, MT. He later was elected Ramsey County Sheriff - a position he held for 24 years before retiring at the age of 68. Gibbons died in 1960 in Saint Paul.



6. The architect who designed the Highland Water Tower and Harriet Island Pavilion:

B. Clarence Wigington

Clarence Wesley "Cap" Wigington (1883-1967) grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. After winning three first prizes in an art competition during the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in 1899, he went on to become an architect renowned across the Midwestern U.S. at a time when African-American architects were few. Wigington was the nation's first black municipal architect, serving 34 years as senior designer for Saint Paul. Sixty of his buildings still stand in the city, several of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Wigington's architectural legacy is one of the most significant bodies of work by an African-American architect.

7. The “Western Appeal” ran:

A. 1885 - 1923

This weekly newspaper, founded in St. Paul, was one of the most successful African-American newspapers of its time. The name was changed to “The Appeal” in 1889 and at the height of its popularity the paper was published in six editions in cities across the country.

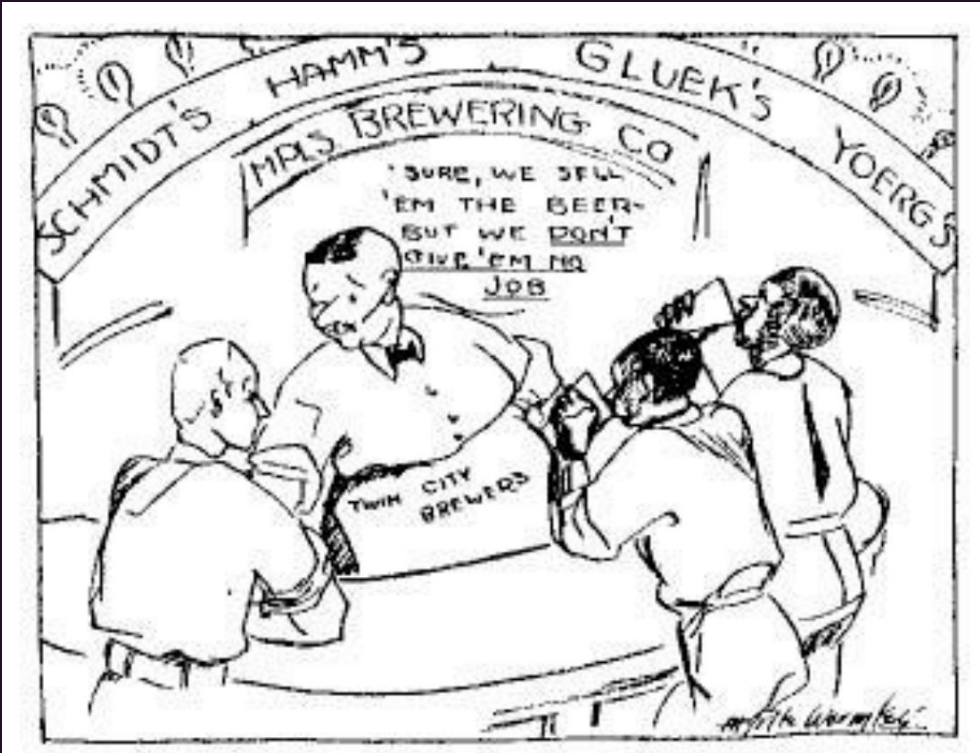
Like other newspapers of the era, it served as a community organizer. It was a place for African Americans to express their frustrations, find common ground, and call for action. After 1900, with the growth of civil rights organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League, the influence and importance of newspapers like this began to decline. Roy Wilkins was one of its last editors before it went out of business in 1923.



8. **C. 1925.** A newspaper headline read “*Crowds Cheer as First Ford Leaves the Plant*” with the first automobile made in the St. Paul Ford Plant. At its peak, the factory in Highland Park employed 1,800. When the last vehicle rolled off its line in December 2011, it was Ford Motors’ oldest factory. About 7 million vehicles were built here over 86 years.



9. Famed Black playwright **August Wilson** came to Saint Paul from Pittsburgh and soon worked with Penumbra Theater. His plays *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson* earned him Pulitzer Prizes. Wilson lived in Saint Paul from 1978 - 1990.



10. In 1935, Cecil Newman, African American founder and editor of The Minneapolis Spokesman and The St. Paul Recorder, initiated a one-year consumer boycott against **breweries**. Despite the boycott and the withholding of federal contracts due to their overtly racist hiring policies, major Saint Paul breweries continued to exclude Black workers until after World War II.

Questions, comments?
& Intermission

Round 2



11. In 2020, this St. Paul nonprofit celebrates 100 years of helping immigrants learn English, prepare for citizenship, and find jobs. What is it?

Hint: If you have been to the State Fair you likely have seen its headquarters building.



12. This is the home of a St. Paul business leader, who created a trust fund in 1889 to “relieve, aid and assist the poor, sick and needy people of St. Paul.” Who was it?

- A. Hallie Q. Brown
- B. John Nassef
- C. Amherst Wilder
- D. Archibald G. Bush



13. When did Nagasaki, Japan became Saint Paul's sister city?

- A. June 20, 1947
- B. December 7, 1955
- C. February 12, 1969
- D. August 9, 2005



14. What is the hottest temperature on record for Saint Paul?

A. 112

B. 104

C. 108

Bonus point if you can name the year!



15. A drive-in restaurant at 1890 University Avenue opened as the first fast food spot on the avenue in 1953. It had red and white checkered walls and a large neon sign of a smiling pig in a top hat. What was its name?



16. The founder of the College of St. Catherine (now St. Catherine University) was a nun known as Mother Seraphine. She had a famous brother. Who was he?

- A. Lucien Galtier
- B. Joseph Cretin
- C. John Roach
- D. John Ireland



17. Debbie Montgomery made St. Paul history in many ways. Which of these is **NOT** one of them?

- A. Ten years as exec. director of Hallie Q. Brown ('92-'02)
- B. First female officer for the SPPD in 1975
- C. Youngest person ever elected to the NAACP (age 17)
- D. Elected to Saint Paul City Council (2004)



18. What is the name of the huge, sprawling Asian market on Como Avenue, near Rice Street and the Capitol, that opened in 2004 in a former lumber yard?



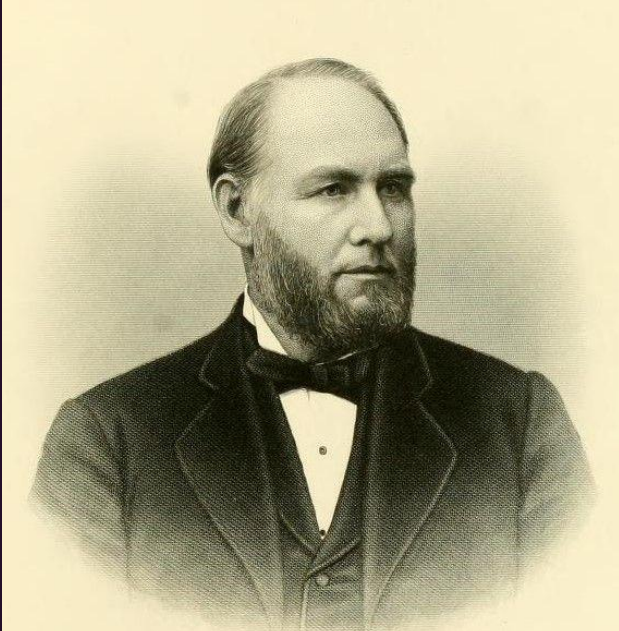
19. In what she calls “the most surprising act of political generosity I’ve ever seen or experienced,” Susan Kimberly in 1998 became the first _____ not just in St. Paul, but the whole U. S.

[*Bonus point:* Who was the “generous” politician Kimberly refers to above?]

Check your answers

Let's see how
you did...

11. In 2020, the **International Institute of Minnesota** celebrates 100 years! It provides services and resources to empower new Americans (immigrants and refugees) in the pursuit of their goals. From language learning and job training to immigration assistance, citizenship classes, refugee resettlement, case management, and the celebration of cultural traditions, the Institute offers new Americans a pathway for a strong start to a new life in our community – something all Minnesotans benefit from.



12. **C. Amherst Wilder**

This Summit Avenue mansion was built in 1887 by Wilder at 226 Summit - kitty corner from the site of the Cathedral. It was eventually donated to the archdiocese which demolished it in 1959 because it was thought too opulent for a rectory. Wilder's business activities included interests in mercantile, real estate, transportation (including freight, stage coach, and railroads), banking, and lumber companies.

Wilder directed the foundation he established be used for the needy "without regard to their nationality, place of residence, sex, color or religious prejudices." Today Wilder Foundation distributes over \$50 million for human service work across 300+ organizations.

13. Nagasaki became Saint Paul's sister city on **B. December 7, 1955.**



It was the first such partnership between American and Asian municipalities. The Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee was commissioned with a purpose to promote beneficial relationships between the American and Japanese people in the two cities and to promote the cause of peace.

FFI www.stpaulnagasaki.org



14. Hottest temp on record: C. 108 F

A two-week heatwave in 1936 brought the warmest high ever recorded in the Twin Cities — 108 degrees on July 14th. The warmest Minnesota temp on record was also tied in this heat wave, when it reached 114 on July 6th, 1936 in Moorhead. It was so bad that many people chose to sleep outside. The 1936 heatwave killed an estimated 900 Minnesotans and ~5,000 nationwide.



15. **Porky's** drive-in was the restaurant at 1890 University Avenue opened as the first fast food spot on the avenue in 1953. The building was dismantled in 2011 and moved to Little Log House Pioneer Village, a 160-acre collection of historical buildings located six miles south of Hastings.

16. D. John Ireland



Mother Seraphine was born Ellen Ireland in 1842 in Kilkenny, Ireland. Her family escaped the potato famine, made the rough journey to the U. S., and lived in Vermont for a year before eventually settling in St. Paul. At age 16, Ellen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) as Sister Seraphine. Religious life was a calling for many in the Ireland family. Ellen's brother John Ireland became a priest, bishop and eventually the first Roman Catholic archbishop of St. Paul. Her sister Eliza became Sister St. John, and cousin Ellen Howard became Mother Celestine — both with the CSJs. She and her brother remained very close throughout their lifetimes, often traveling together for diocese business, and played influential roles in each other's decision-making.



17. **Answer: A.**

Debbie Montgomery made Saint Paul history! She was:

- First female officer in 1975
- Youngest person ever elected to the NAACP
- Elected to Saint Paul City Council (2004)

But not **executive director of Hallie Q. Brown Center**



HMONGTOWN MÄRKETPLÄCE



18. The sprawling Asian market on Como Avenue is **Hmongtown Marketplace** which opened in 2004 in the former Shaw lumber yard. Its many vendors sell housewares, clothing, groceries and delicious prepared foods, and many more things that amount to a visual feast. (Hmongtown acceptable but not Hmong Village.)

19. Susan Kimberly was appointed the **first transgender deputy mayor of a U.S. city** in 1998 by then Saint Paul Mayor **Norm Coleman**. For the first four decades of her life, Kimberly lived as Bob Sylvester before her gender-affirming surgery in 1984. Sylvester was a powerful political force in St. Paul, serving on the City Council (1974-78 including two years as president), advising several mayors, and serving as the head of the HRA. After becoming Kimberly, her political life slowed as she lost election bids for the Saint Paul City Council and Ramsey County Board. Coleman's appointment signaled a strong return. Kimberly also switched, as did Coleman, to the Republican party from being a Democrat. She's quoted as saying, "I lost more friends becoming a Republican than I did becoming a woman." Kimberly later was director of St. Paul Dept. of Planning and Economic Development. She retired as an executive with the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce in 2010. Kimberly wrote a play, "Superman Becomes Lois Lane" – about her transition – which debuted at the History Theatre in February, 2020.



Questions, comments?

All done ~ congrats!

Thank you to our questions contributors . . .

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Steve Trimble

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You can help!

Please send your Trivia questions & ideas to:
info@historicsaintpaul.org

And, as always, we appreciate your financial support!
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And thanks to you for joining us!