

P3 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Farewell and thanks to long-serving Board members.

P4 / SUGAR BEET Timeline continues its sweet stories.

P9 / DONATED PHOTOS of state's first beet sugar plant start here.

P12 / MORE BEET PHOTOS Interior photos show adapted Esterly Harvester buildings.



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PARK HISTORY TODAY

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Volume 22.2

Summer 2023

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As food expert Michael Pollan has written, humans have evolved to seek out sweetness for its survival value; the highest energy substances attract us most. We have been keeping bees and harvesting honey for all of recorded history. Refined sugar became a commodity only a few hundred years ago, and Minnesota has led the U.S. in sugar production from beets for the past 30 years.

Unlikely as it seems, the sugar beet revolution in Minnesota started in St. Louis Park in 1898. Last Fall the Society received a gift of historic photographs from a North Dakotan, documenting the repurposing of the Esterly Harvesting Company's abandoned manufacturing plant – bankrupted in the Panic of 1893 - from making farm machinery to making pure, white sugar from beets.

We use the classic timeline format to tell the story of an intense couple of decades on a swampy, 40-acre patch of ground in the Park as the 19th Century yielded to the 20th. We consult the three Minneapolis daily newspapers of the era, *The Minneapolis Tribune*, the *Journal* and the *Times*. And we share some of the fantastic photos of Minnesota's dawn of the sugar beet industry, gifted to us by Mr. Vince Gordon.

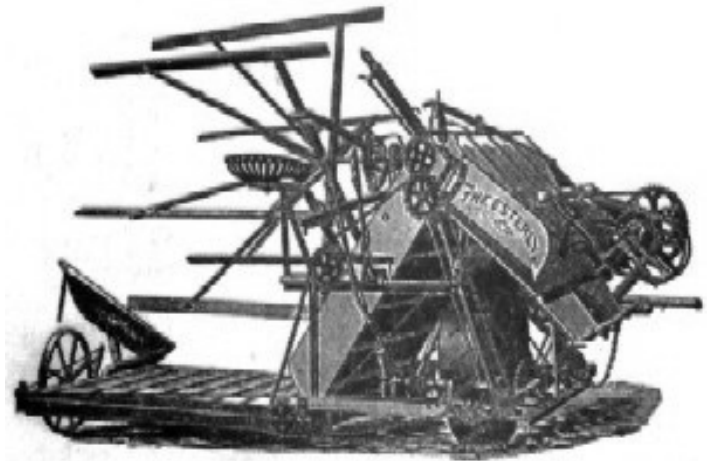
HOW SWEET IT WAS

1800 – 1890

1800 – German chemists explore the sugar beet as an economic source of sucrose in Europe,

1803 – The Louisiana Purchase expands the U.S. to include the site of future St. Louis Park, MN

1844 – George Esterly Sr., a Whitewater, Wisconsin farmer, patents an improved reaper, better than Cyrus McCormick's earlier version.



1849 – Minnesota Territory is incorporated by Congress

1852 – Treaty of Traverse des Sioux transfers legal ownership of large areas of Minnesota Territory, including the Park, to the U.S.

1854 – Ideal growing conditions for sugar cane attract investors to Hawaii, creating a plantation economy.

1855 - First official land surveys of St. Louis Park make lands available for purchase; farmers flock to the Park;

1856 - George Esterly begins manufacturing farm equipment and furniture in Whitewater, WI, employing 500 men;



>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

1858 – Minnesota becomes a state

1860-64 – The Civil War and the Dakota War of 1862 stall progress in the newly-minted state.

1870 – First successful commercial production of beet sugar in the U. S. begins in central California;

1871 – SLP gets two Granger railroads, side-by-side; the Minneapolis & St. Louis and the Hastings & Dakota (later, Milwaukee Road, 1885),

1875 - U.S. and Hawaiian governments sign a reciprocity agreement giving Hawaii duty-free access to export sugar to the United States; Hawaii's sugar industry can only serve American markets, making Hawaii economically dependent on U.S. trade.

1884 – Democrat Grover Cleveland elected U.S. President.

1886 - St. Louis Park becomes a village; northern boundary is Minnetonka Blvd.

1888 – Republican Benjamin Harrison elected U.S. President.

1890 – Minneapolis Business Union names Thomas B. Walker as first President; Walker decides that St. Louis Park will be the home of his industrial vision, patterned on Pullman, IL, and buys, options, and replats 1,700 acres of the newly minted Village.

1891 – 1895

1891 - Queen Liliuokalani, a Christian woman fluent in English, tries to break Hawaii's economic dependence on the United States and restore the political rights of natives. The planter elite decide she must be deposed.

1891 – T.B. Walker poaches two farm machinery manufacturers from Wisconsin for his new industrial venture; convinces George Esterly to relocate to St. Louis Park for superior railroad access; because the wheat monocrop quickly exhausted the soil, the “wheat frontier” had moved to MN and the Dakotas;

1892 – In his “Rearrangement of St. Louis Park” replat, T.B. Walker creates the “industrial circle,” a railroad roundabout straddling the parallel Minneapolis & St. Louis and Milwaukee Road rail lines with a proposed link to the Great Northern (never built);



1892 - Esterly and the Monitor Drill Co. are two of the largest businesses in the Park; Walker builds Esterly a new 140,000 SF plant at the north end of the “Big Swamp.”

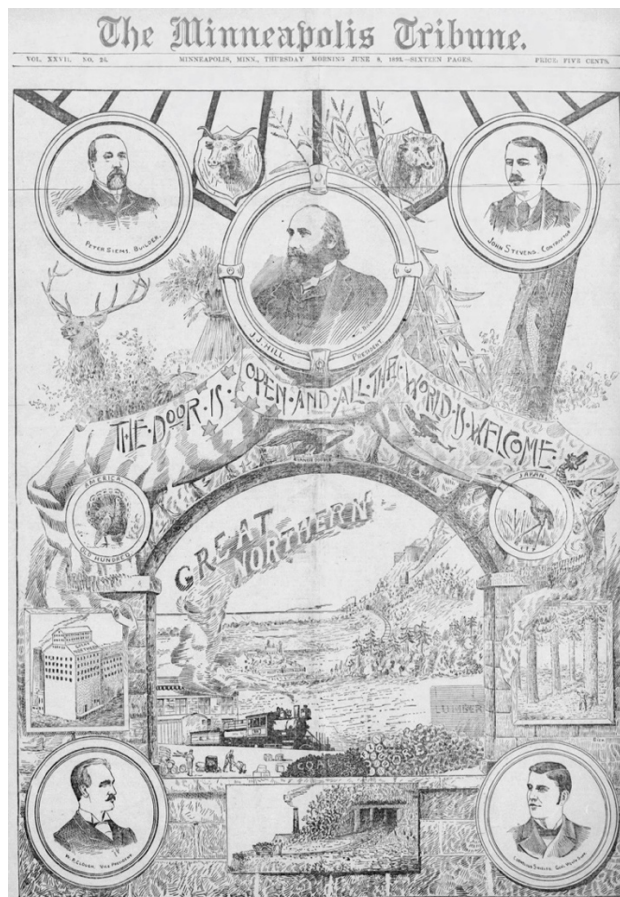
1892 - Democrat Grover Cleveland elected U.S. President for second, non-consecutive, term;

Jan 1893 – U.S. sugar trust businessmen in Hawaii overthrow Queen Liliuokalani's regime at gunpoint; Sanford B. Dole, the son of Protestant missionaries, assumes presidency of the new republic of Hawaii and makes an immediate appeal to lame duck U.S. President Harrison for annexation.

Feb 1893 – Esterly machinery transferred from Whitewater plant is being installed; foundry is already operating; View from Southeast, near The Block, below.



June 8, 1893 – Minneapolis Tribune entire front page celebrates James J. Hill's achievement in connecting the Great Northern RR to the west coast; the Twin Cities, mortal enemies for years, are one big happy family for a day.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I want to take this opportunity to thank two outgoing Board Members who are retiring at the end of their term in September – Jane Hagstrom and Jim Robbins.

With their departure we have a couple openings on the Board and would welcome any interest in stepping up into one of these leadership roles. Just reach out via email if you would like to learn more about the Board.

Jane Hagstrom joined the board in 2015. Jane brought an energy to our public events, always looking for creative ways to engage people in activities like fundraisers and public fairs.

She also volunteered hosting office hours on Saturdays and was great at welcoming people and encouraging them to share their stories and memories from living in St. Louis Park. Thank you, Jane for your years of service and commitment to the Board, we will miss your infectious energy and warm spirit.

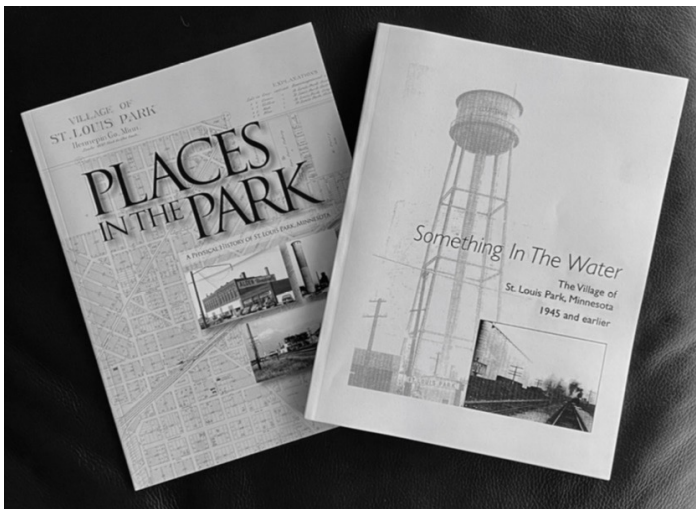
Jim Robbins joined the board the same year I did, in 2014. In his time on the Board he has been an avid learner and sharer of stories about the St Louis Park School District having gone through the school system in the boom years of the 1950s and 1960s.

Jim has volunteered hosting office hours on Saturdays, manning information booths for us at Parktacular, and giving presentations about the history of our city. Thank you, Jim for your years of service and commitment to the Board, and for your love of The Park!

Again, if you would like to learn more about how to get involved with our Board, to make an impact like Jane and Jim have, please reach out!

With Park Pride,

Ted




CONNECT WITH US

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Founded in 1971, the St. Louis Park Historical Society collects, preserves and shares the history of St. Louis Park. The *ReEcho: Park History Today* is an official publication of the Society.

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1893 –The Panic of 1893 arrives - 15,000 companies and 500 banks fail and 19% of the nation's workforce is unemployed; thousands lose life savings from failed banks; Over 100,000 miles of new rail construction more than doubled all existing trackage after 1878; by 1893, one fourth of all rail mileage in the country is in receivership, including Jay Cooke's St. Paul-based Northern Pacific, a plum eventually snapped up by Hill in 1901. The nation's money supply itself is in the middle of a small war. President Grover Cleveland severely contracts the money supply by repealing the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890.

February 2, 1894 - United States v. E. C. Knight Co., the "Sugar Trust Case," severely limits the government's power to pursue antitrust actions under the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Jan 15, 1895 – Esterly Company is declared insolvent with assets of \$892,344.59 and liabilities of \$351,519.69;

Jan 10, 1895 – Minneapolis Land and Investment Co. advertises Esterly's "fine manufacturing plant" fully equipped, in St. Louis Park for lease or for sale

July 1895 – Esterly Company building complex and all manufacturing equipment sold in sheriff's foreclosure auction

1896 - 1900

1896 – Republican William McKinley elected President; McKinley officially endorsed Hawaiian annexation in his presidential platform. Members of the sugar trust, particularly the Western Sugar Refining Company of San Francisco, feel threatened by McKinley's willingness to grant tax advantages to Hawaiian sugar interests, fearing it might endanger their sugar monopoly in the United States. Despite their opposition, McKinley resubmits the annexation treaty to the Senate.

January 16, 1897 – Unable to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority to pass it, pro-annexationist Senators tried to bypass the constitutional requirement and pass the treaty through joint resolution, requiring only a simple majority from both the Senate and the House, but fails again.

Jul 15, 1897 – *Times* reports on Republican ticket proposed by J.J. Hill, including Charles Pillsbury for U.S. Senate and T.B. Walker for mayor of Minneapolis – "Everything Arranged to Suit the Great Northern"

Aug 2, 1897 – T.B. Walker interviewed on the possibility of a beet sugar plant in St. Louis Park, and the general building up of the sugar beet industry in America by exempting it from taxation and protecting it with bounties (subsidies);

Jan 1898 - Senators Gustav Theden and Keller ask the SLP village council for twenty acres on which to locate a sugar factory. Council refers problem to T. B. Walker's Minneapolis Land and Investment Company.

Feb 15, 1898 – U.S.S. Maine explodes and sinks in Havana, Cuba;

Mar 29, 1898 – First annual meeting of the Minnesota Beet Sugar Manufacturing Company held on Mar 28; President, G. Theden, VP and General Manager; Henry Keller.

Apr 24, 1898 – *Times* reports that the MS&L Railroad announced purchase of farmland for 80 families to be relocated from Nebraska to Minnesota to grow sugar beets.

Apr 25, 1898 - U.S. declares war on Spain; - McKinley calls annexation of Hawaii a necessary war measure noting benefit from using Hawaii as a coaling station and naval base.

Jul 24, 1898 – *Tribune* reports that C.F. Saylor, U.S. Department of Agriculture agent from Des Moines, comes to town to inspect the SLP plant and says, "I am now under the impression that the United States is destined to become the great sugar producing country of the world."

Aug 1898 – Minnesota Beet Sugar Manufacturing Company, in danger of shutting down before starting up due to lack of operating capital, is rescued by New Yorker F.W. Fink with large stock purchase and cash infusion; articles of incorporation revise name to Minnesota Sugar Company (MSC); Fink takes charge of the plant as General Manager on October 1. Operations start October 17.

Nov 6 – Sunday *Tribune* contains feature article on the SLP plant, "in complete operation," explains Fink rescue capital to make it a reality. Fink adds 12 wells to the 8 existing wells from 75-90 feet deep for a total of 20; capacity is over 4 million gallons per day for process water. [Current SLP water usage averages about 5 million gallons per day for the entire city. – Ed.]

Nov 12 – *Times* runs full-page photo essay on how farmers should best grow sugar beets;

Nov 27 – Announcement in Sunday *Tribune* that a meeting of all stockholders in the company is called for December 10th to amend the articles of incorporation.

Dec 1898 – MSC is operating in the former Esterly buildings; officers announce production of 2,310,514 pounds of sugar in maiden season.

Jan 2, 1899 – *Times* runs full-page feature on the men behind the plant and large artist's drawing of the sugar beet plant in the Park.

Jan 26, 1899 – Legislature debates two version of sugar beet bounty bills.

Feb 24, 1899 – *Tribune* reports that Governor Lind severely condemns sugar beet bounties in his veto message.

Mar 1, 1899 – *Times* reports a Minneapolis man complaining that beet pulp is being fed to dairy cows and notes that that the sugar beet plant is using Minnehaha Creek as a dumping ground for its wastes; “Even now, the stuff sends up a stench, and as soon as summer sets in it will be something awful.” [The origins of the moniker, “Skunk Hollow,” for the creek/swamp area where beet waste was dumped? – Ed.]

Mar 3, 1899 – *Journal* publishes a long letter from Gustave Theden appealing for sugar beet bounties.

Mar 9, 1899 – *Times* reports “Day of Slaughter” at the legislature; two sugar bounty bills killed.

Mar 26, 1899 – *Tribune* surveys the history of the world sugar beet industry, now 100 years old.

Mar 30, 1899 – *Tribune* editors weigh in on sugar beet bounties, claiming the plant is in Minneapolis, and notes that “Minneapolis leads the way, as usual, and the rest of the state will follow.”

May 4, 1899 – *Journal* reports that the plant has contracts with local farmers in Belle Plain for 400 acres of sugar beets, and that 100 Russians will be sent there to cultivate them.

May 5, 1899 – *Times* reports that Theden has hired men and families from the Bohemian Flats area of the city and will move them to farms, give them a rent-free house, and pay \$19/acre for beets.

Oct 29, 1899 – *Tribune* ad for beet pulp used as feed stock.

A NEW CATTLE FOOD
Sugar Beet Pulp

It contains all the necessary elements of an ideal food for the dairy cow. The dairy men of Denmark feed it to their cattle.

Result: Denmark produces the finest Butter in the world. It brings the highest prices in all the markets of the world. It stands up under the strain of exportation to all parts of the world.

350 TONS
Of Sugar Beet Pulp is made every day by the Minnesota Sugar Co., at St. Louis Park, Minn.

50,000 TONS
Of Sugar Beet Pulp is made during the manufacturing season by the Minnesota Sugar Co. at St. Louis Park, Minn.

MINNESOTA SUGAR CO.,
St. Louis Park, Hennepin County Minn.

Dec 1899 - SLP plant officials announce production of 4,341,166 pounds of sugar after second year of operation; sugar beet pulp marketed as excellent feed for dairy cows.

Feb 28, 1900 – *Tribune* reports that City of Minneapolis has struck a deal with Minnesota Sugar Company to construct a sewer extension to the city limits for exclusive use of the sugar

factory, whereby the Company will lend the city \$21,000 interest-free for a period of three years, repayable in three annual installments.

Nov 7, 1900 – William McKinley reelected president.

1901

Jan 1 – MN Attorney General Douglas declares sugar bounties of one cent a pound passed by the legislature illegal, calling into question payment of \$19,000 to the Minnesota Sugar Company, (MSC).

Jan 10 – Due to the adverse tone of Governor Lind’s messages, G. Theden says MBSC will ask legislature for a \$20,000 appropriation in lieu of seeking another bounty.

Apr 27 – Unable to collect previous sugar beet bounties voted by the legislature, the MSC pushes its agenda hard across the state; “The Company’s Officials Make a Statement of Their Positions Anent Sugar Bounties.”

Jul 16 – President G. Theden of the MSC writes to the City of Minneapolis requesting the return of the \$20,000 it lent for construction of a sewer connecting to the city limits to serve the sugar beet plant.

Aug 10 – *Tribune* reports that “Minnesota is a sugar beet state,” and has raised 50,000 tons of beets this year, double last year’s totals.

Aug 18 – MSC plant will be able to secure all its previous years’ experienced workers; factory to run night and day starting Sep 16; 300 men on the day shift and 300 at night.

Aug 28 – *Tribune* reports that the sugar trust has lowered prices in California in an attempt to starve out the nascent sugar beet industry.

Sep 1 – Vice President Teddy Roosevelt’s makes his “Big Stick” speech at MN State Fair.

Sep 6 – President McKinley shot in Buffalo, NY by Leon Czolgosz, who had lost his job during the Panic of 1893.

Sep 14 – McKinley dies; Teddy Roosevelt is President.

Oct 9 – *Journal* reports that six hundred MN farmers ride the Milwaukee Road to visit SLP sugar plant to review operations.

Oct 10 – *Tribune* editors weigh-in on the sugar wars: “In operations that are going on, the sugar trust seems to be adopting the well-known methods of the Standard Oil Company, of crushing out rivals by reducing prices below the cost of production...” Warns that the beet sugar folk have established plants across the country and have wide support.

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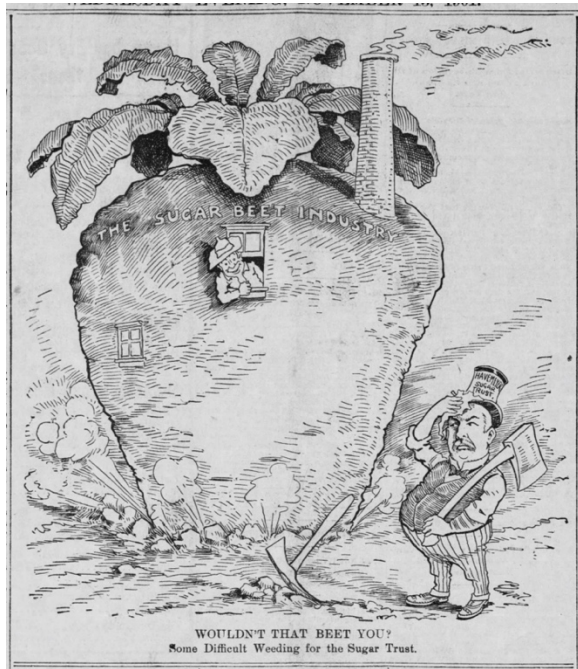
Oct 16 – Congressman F.C. Stevens of MN opposes reciprocity with Cuba but notes that every U.S. president and secretary of state since independence had proposed annexation of Cuba.



Oct 20 – *Times* reports that the fight between the sugar trust and the sugar beet men is heating up.

Nov 12 – *Journal* reports that “nearly all the questions now pending before the government of the United States have to do with our relations with other countries. The U.S. has been drawn into the world’s affairs and been forced to take part in most of the world’s international politics...Free Admission of Cuban Sugar Would Make the Power of the Sugar Trust Absolute.”

Nov 13 – *Tribune* editorial cartoon.



Dec 31 – Letter from a Buffalo, MN farmer to the editors of the *Journal*: “I am a farmer. I am not a Chinaman. Neither am I a Spanish Fillpino. Neither am I a Spanish Mestizo. I cannot produce my sugar beets as cheap as the Chinaman in the Philippines can produce his sugar cane...If the war with Spain is going to bring the farmers of the Northwest into competition with the half-breeds of Cuba, then I have no blessings for our leaders.”

Jan 11 – *Journal* reports “TACTICS OF TRUST TO BEAT THE BEET – How Cane Sugar Interests Are Trying to Kill Beet Sugar Competition,” according to G. Theden.

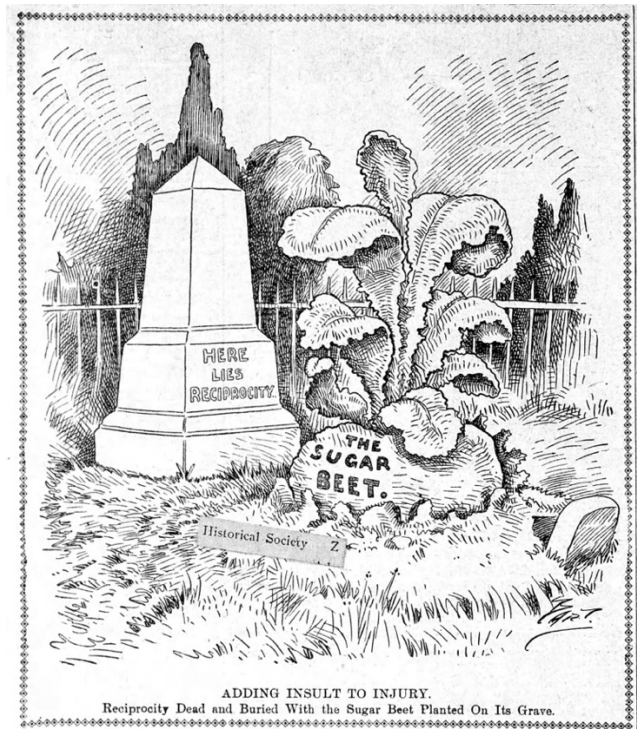
Jan 18 – *Tribune* reports that “SUGAR BEET RAISERS REBEL” threatening to lobby for reciprocity on Cuban sugar as the only leverage in their price negotiations.

Jan 22 – *Journal* reports that G. Theden disagrees with Mr. Oxnard that the sugar beet industry has shown net profits of \$3.00 on every \$7.00 of cost and can survive without tariffs under absolute free trade.

Jan 22 – Letter to editors of the *Journal* from W.H. Fruen: “Question: Is it wise for any government to tempt its citizens to leave profitable employment, in which they can compete in the markets of the world, to engage in an employment in which they cannot compete in the markets of the world, and can only exist when given a monopoly of the home market, and get 100 percent more for their goods from their fellow countrymen than they - their fellow countrymen – could buy them elsewhere?”

Apr 15 – *Journal* reports that G. Theden offered \$5,000 to Governor Lind if he could prove the MSBC factory was owned by the sugar trust.

Apr 25 – *Tribune* editorial cartoon.



May 6 – Minneapolis residents object to \$1.50 per front foot assessment for MSC sewer running from 27th Street down Irving to Lake Street then west on Lake St. to city limits.

May 29 – *Journal* reports “Work Done by City For Naught.” MSC is still using Minnehaha Creek as a drain for its effluent, as the company has not yet built its local connection to the sewer extended by Minneapolis to the city limits at France Avenue. F.W. Fink thinks he might build a connection next year, notes the need for a sewer to accommodate growth in the plant’s processing capacity. Meanwhile the MSC has sought to remove the main pollutant, ammonia, from its discharges to the creek by treating it on site. An injunction to stop dumping its waste into the Creek would cost the MSC a year’s lost production.

Jun 15 – 4,000 farmers gather at Dassel at Beet Picnic.

Aug 14 – *Journal* editorial: “How stupid and unbusinesslike the policy of hostility of reciprocity with Cuba is...the business side of the ledger alone, to say nothing about the moral question involved, Minnesota has more – infinitely more – to gain by the inauguration of a policy of reciprocity affecting her farms and mills than by narrowing the question to one of extravagant and unnecessary protection for a single industry represented in this state by one little beet sugar factory.”

Sep 7 – F.W. Fink addresses the political discussion among the state’s Republican candidates for Congress, favoring continuation of sugar tariffs to protect the fledgling sugar beet industry. MN Governor Lind reportedly had claimed that, “...the beet sugar industry was closely allied to the ‘big mitt’ industry, that the St. Louis Park factory was nothing but a lot of buildings to look at, and that the joke of it was that the sugar trust owned the plant...”

Oct 29 – Trib reports that “John Lind Fails to Make Good His Vicious Attack on Beet Sugar Factory...in meantime 400 men are working at the St. Louis Park Institution.”

1903

Feb 10 – A group of farmers in Carver County introduced a set of resolutions at the legislature question the \$20,000 bounty requested by the MSC as they, the farmers, are being cheated by that company in the weighing of their beet crops.

Mar 25 – *Tribune* reviews merger of Minneapolis and St. Paul to resolve sewage system connections, noting only western connection is to SLP.

Apr 10 – Sugar Bounty bill is killed in the state Senate.

Sep 2 – F.W. Fink returns with his family from a three-month tour of Europe to report that German sugar from beets was an inferior product, and that the American sugar beet industry will prosper with a protective tariff for a few more years against competition from Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Sep 30 – *Times* reports that Lake Calhoun overflows and floods Dean Blvd at Hastings & Dakota tracks; sewer connection cut off during construction of sewer constructed two years ago for MSC plant.

Oct 15 – Minnesota Supreme Court hears arguments on the constitutionality of the sugar beet bounty/subsidy passed by the legislature in 1895 and modified in 1899. Minnesota Sugar Beet Company attorneys note that in five years of operation, the St. Louis Park company had processed 228 million pounds of beets, creating 21 million pounds of sugar.

Dec 5 – MN Supreme Court declares sugar beet bounty law unconstitutional.

Dec 23 – Gustave Theden sues MSC for unpaid salary and interest of \$4,000 due since 1901.

1904

Apr 26 – G. Theden withdraws lawsuit for back pay; plans to amend the complaint and refile it.

Jun 5 – *Tribune* reports “BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY IN CRITICAL CONDITION.” Due to downward price trend of sugar on world markets.

Jul 15 – *Tribune* reports that Sen. Gustave Theden is in Canada representing a syndicate of investors planning a beet sugar plant in Calgary.

Jul 19 – G. Theden returns from Canada and says if the Canadian Pacific accepts his proposition, the largest sugar beet plant on the continent of 700 ton capacity will be built at Alberta.

1904 – P.C. Reilly of Indianapolis establishes a branch of his Western Creosote Company on the Minneapolis riverfront, next door to a fine source of coal tar – the Minneapolis Gas Company, later, Minnegasco - with the intent to manufacture wood block street paving.

Aug 1904 – A major tornado hits the western Minneapolis suburbs and causes significant damage to the Minnesota Sugar Beet Company plant in the Park, just as processing of that year’s crop begins;

Oct 16 – Theden re-sues MSBC for back pay.

Dec 4 – Theden’s lawsuit settled out of court.

1905

Apr 27 – *Journal* reports that the sugar beet industry at St. Louis Park is expanding; F.W. Fink says they have contracted with farmers for 3,290 acres to be planted this spring...last year there were 2,673 acres...In order that more acres could be planted, the company has sent for families of immigrants, and paid their carfare from as far away as Sioux City.”

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May 2 - MSC plant in the Park burns to the ground, with \$400,000 loss estimates against \$240,000 insurance coverage.

May 3 - *Times* reports on fire at sugar beet plant that village volunteer FD had to draw water from Minnehaha Creek; "Had the sugar factory been supplied with sprinkling apparatus or an internal fire-fighting system, the plant might have been saved...It was the pioneer sugar beet factory and was a good deal of an experiment to the eastern and local capitalists who put their money into the enterprise."

May 4 - *Tribune* reports that F.W. Fink of the MSBC has a controlling interest in the firm and dictates policy; the plant was able to process 400 tons of beets per day to make 150,000 pounds of sugar; last year its output was 8 million pounds of sugar; Scenes of plant after fire on later pages

May 18 - *Tribune* reports that St. Louis Park plant may be rebuilt, pending results of insurance reports, according to F.W. Fink, speaking from Board meeting held in New York.

Sep 26 - *Journal* reports that "CHASKA TO HELP SWEETEN US UP," by moving the most modern manufacturing equipment from a plant in Michigan; the MSBC in St. Louis Park not connected in any way.

Dec 13 - *Journal* reports that Minnesota is to have the largest sugar factory in the northwest in Chaska. [Where it could draw process water directly from, and dump wastewater directly into, the Minnesota River - Ed.]

1906 - 1916

May 6, 1906 - F.W. Fink, President of the Minnesota Sugar Company, arrives at the West Hotel in Minneapolis from New York, and tells reporters that his company has disposed of all

its interests, selling assorted equipment and fixtures to the new sugar beet company in Chaska.

May 11, 1906 - Major fire at the West Hotel kills ten; F.W. Fink, still a guest there, is not among them.

1909 - Minnesota Sugar Company is dissolved as MN corporation.

1912 - New sugar beet company in Chaska takes the name, Minnesota Sugar Company.

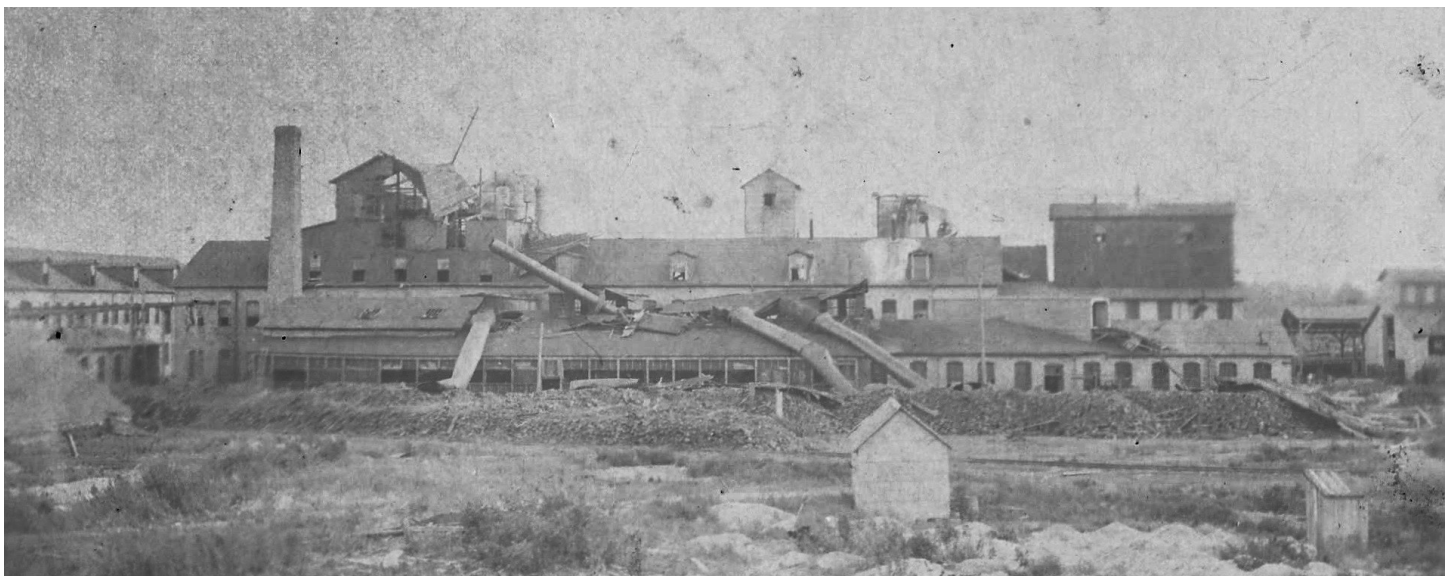
1916 - Republic Creosote Company moves from Minneapolis riverfront to the Esterly/MSBC site in the Park.

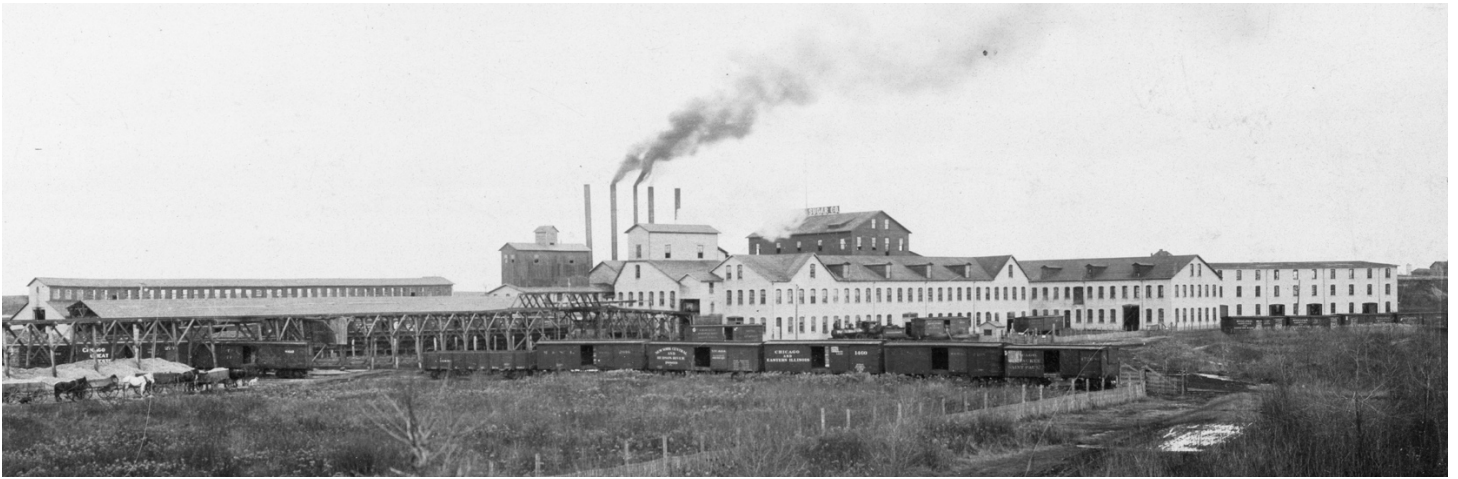
EDITOR'S ENDNOTE:

We were unable to determine if the two-mile sewer to connect the MSC plant to the Minneapolis system was ever built; we suspect not. We have no idea what happened to Mr. Fink after he left Minnesota, smelling of smoke, in 1906. We wonder why the fire that destroyed the MSC plant reportedly had to be fought with water from Minnehaha Creek, when the MSC pumphouse had 20 wells with capacity of 4 million gallons of water per day. We wonder how many of those wells were properly capped and sealed by 1916 when the Republic Creosote Company began a half-century of dumping coal tar derivatives on its grounds, gifting to the Society a fine future book called "Something in the Water."

Below: Photo from Society collections of the MSC plant after the tornado of August 1904, which came just as processing of that year's crop was beginning. The damage was a huge setback for the company, which was forced to send its contracted beet supply elsewhere for processing, surely an economic loss that was hard to survive. The fire of May 1905 finished the place off, before another beet could be processed.

Photographs on the following pages, donated to the Society by Vince Gordon in October 2022, are attributed to the Huebinger Co. of Peoria, Illinois.



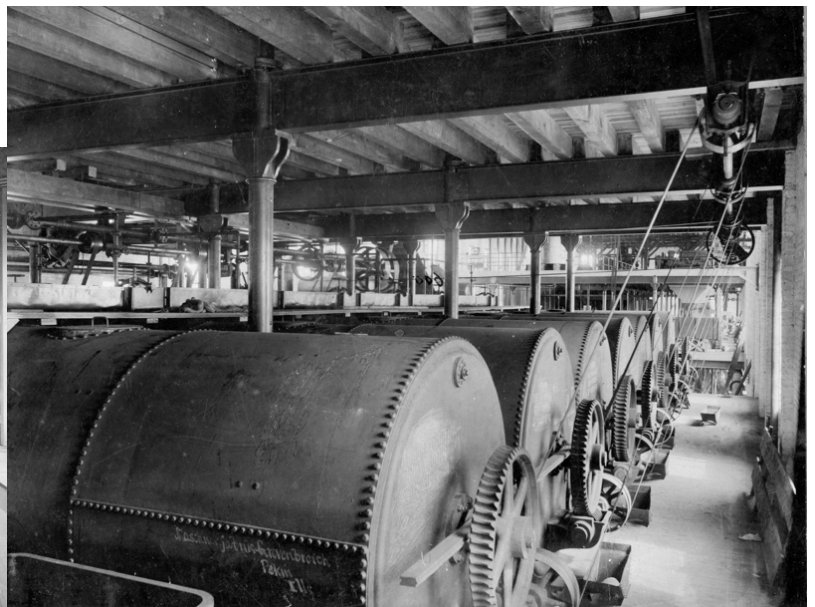


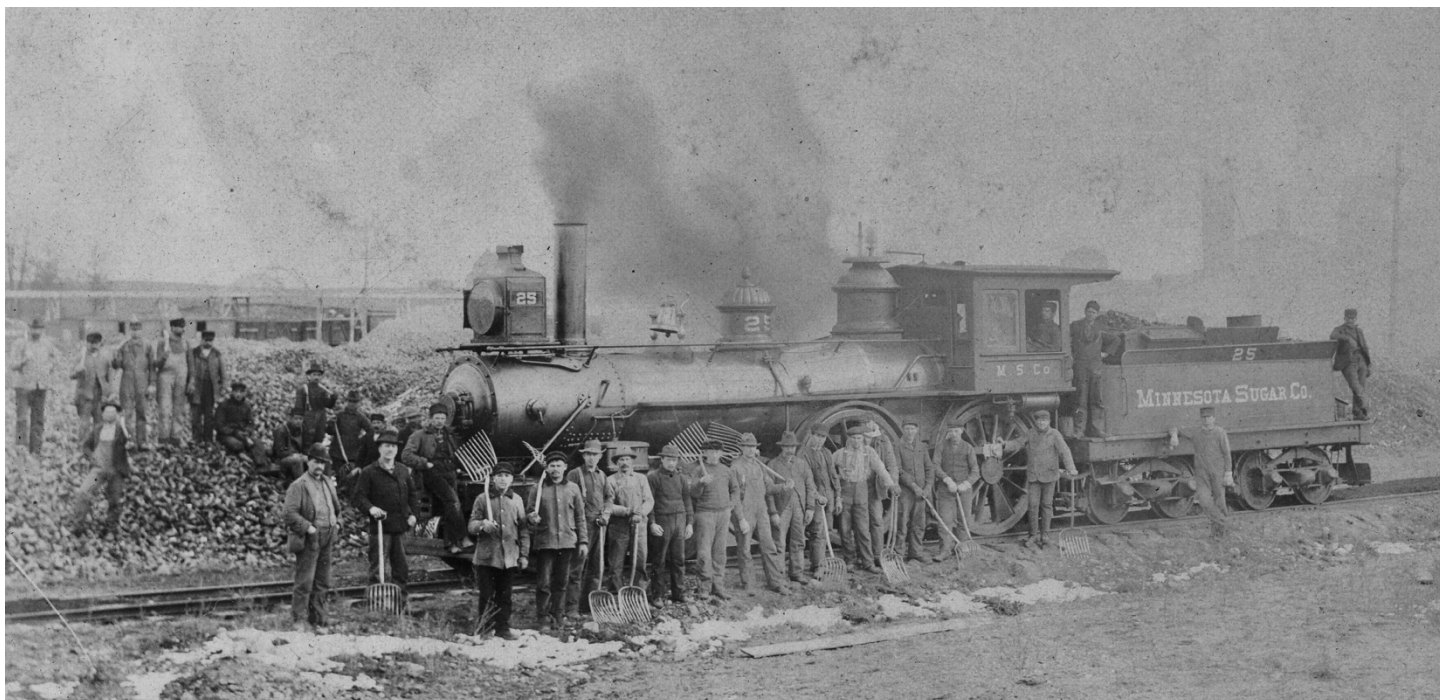
Above, View "B" of the MSC plant taken from the southwest. Esterly and the Monitor Drill company (map, lower right) were both lured from Wisconsin in 1892 by Thomas B. Walker, and together employed nearly a thousand men. View "A" is the location from where the photo of the Esterly complex on page 2 was taken. Bottom, local farmers lined up to load the shredded beet leftovers of sugar manufacture which proved to be a fine feedstock for dairy cattle.





In the packing room (above), the final product of refined sugar is loaded into barrels and bags for shipment around the country. Below left, a view of the Laboratory, "where the entire process is controlled." Below right, evaporators and filter presses, also showing robust building structure of cast iron columns supporting steel beams, topped by closely spaced heavy timber purlins and wood decking.





The Minnesota Sugar Company purchased its own steam engine, above, to haul boxcars full of harvested sugar beets from scattered farms around the region to the plant for processing. Below, beets are piled between rail spurs awaiting processing. Large quantities of manpower were required to load the beets onto conveyor troughs filled with water to float them into the plant.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MORE SUGAR BEET PHOTOS

We replace our typical Dispatch Lookback feature with more of the photos donated to the Society. Below left, "Vacuum Strike Pans, Boiling to Grain." Below, right, "Evaporators and Filter Press" showing typical building roof structure of timber and wood decking, with dormers for natural light. Bottom left, "Diffusion Battery," and bottom right, unspecified interior view showing building structure of cast iron columns, steel beams and heavy timber purlins and wood decking.

