

Coon Rapids --

A Fine City By A Dam Site



Leslie Randels Gillund



The 1984 Coon Rapids City Council as they meet in the Council Chambers. Shown from left: Councilman Al Soliday, Councilwoman Susan Green, Mayor Robert B. Lewis, Councilwoman Carolyn Voss, and Councilman at Large Mark Swenson.

COON RAPIDS A FINE CITY BY A DAM SITE

History of Coon Rapids, Minnesota

1849-1984

Funded by the City of Coon Rapids and the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Act under the direction of the Coon Rapids Historical Commission.

—On the Cover—

An aerial view of the Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River looking north over the City. Photo courtesy of the Hennepin County Park Reserve District.

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PREFACE

Coon Rapids, "A Fine City by a Dam Site" -- this title is no accident. This book will excite your curiosity to seek out unrecorded information about this City located adjacent to the mighty Mississippi River. There has been no thorough, recorded and documented history of the City of Coon Rapids written previous to this time.

The Coon Rapids Historical Commission has been promoting the writing of a Coon Rapids history for some time. The research and time required to do this was, however, overwhelming for a volunteer commission. As the 25th anniversary year for Coon Rapids as a City came closer, the Commission had stronger feelings about having a documented history of Coon Rapids produced. As budget time approached in 1983 for the 1984 fiscal year, the Commission decided to request funds for research and to write the history. Through two channels, funding for the project was finally approved. The City Council provided funds in addition to funding obtained through the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Act (MEED).

In December of 1983, Leslie Randels-Gillund was employed by the City of Coon Rapids to research and write the history. Mrs. Gillund is a board member of the Association for Certification for Minnesota Genealogists, Inc. She has compiled and produced a book on **Randels Roots and Branches**, a well-documented history of her family. She has written articles for the **Minnesota Genealogist Newsletter** and has had columns in the **Sun Newspaper** entitled **Roots and Branches**. She has done research work on history for attorneys, authors, and many individuals. Mrs. Gillund was president of the Anoka County Historical Society from 1975 through 1979. While president, she was coordinator and instrumental in publishing the book **Silent Cities**, a book on cemeteries in Anoka County. She also helped in compiling information on two other booklets about cemeteries in Champlin and Dayton

in Hennepin County. Mrs. Gillund is a certified specialist in Minnesota history research.

The history of Coon Rapids is written in three chapters. Chapter I -- In the Beginning -- takes you from 1849 to 1952. It was during this era that Anoka Township (Coon Rapids) was in a very rural setting. There were times within this period that activity flourished, such as the brickyards era and the busy times during the dam construction in 1912 and 1913. Population of the Township in 1952, just prior to the time of the incorporation as a Village, was under 3,000 people.

Chapter II covers the period of time in which Coon Rapids was a Village, October 1952 up to June of 1959. Many things happened during the change from a rural setting to a suburban community. Population of the Village went from under 3,000 to just under 15,000 in the short span of eight years. The name Coon Rapids was now becoming known in the greater Metropolitan area.

The next 25 years of the City's growth, the activities in government and in semi-public development are contained in Chapter III. No city can progress and develop unless it has the help and cooperation of its citizens. Coon Rapids is very fortunate in that respect because many citizens from all walks of life have helped and participated in the government affairs of the City. Those people who have helped in forming the City are mentioned in this chapter.

"The survival of democracy depends upon the ability of a large number of people to make realistic choices in the light of adequate information." This quote by Aldous Huxley is the introduction to Chapter III and precisely identifies why the City of Coon Rapids is known for its progressiveness and leadership in the Metropolitan area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One might credit authorship of this history of Coon Rapids to the name shown on the title page; however, a number of people were responsible for providing assistance in varied capacities, and they should be recognized here. Pat Schwappach, Museum Director/Curator, Anoka County Historical Society; Dixie Mason and Peter Bodley, ABC Newspapers; Roland Anderson, Anoka County Surveyor; Ruth Ellen Bower, Ruby Shields, and Steve Nielson, Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts; Ted Omdahl, Anoka County Recorder; Carolynn Schommer, Teaching Specialist, Sioux Language, Department of American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota; David Wold, Communications Director, Anoka Electric Cooperative; Thelma Boeder, Archivist, Minnesota Annual

Conference, United Methodist Church; Karen Kobey, Interpretive Naturalist, Hennepin County Park Reserve District; Charles Hudrlik, Project Manager, MnDOT; Richard Borson, Pre-Design Engineer, MnDOT; Dick Tollette, Manager/Golf Pro, Bunker Hills Golf Course; Sandi Hitch, Director of Community Relations, Anoka-Ramsey Community College; Douglas Holt, Editor; Betty Bell, Coon Rapids City Clerk; Anne-Marie Anderson and Kim Barck, Coon Rapids City Hall Word Processing; Coon Rapids Historical Commission; Leslie G. Rust, who typed and retyped; and last but not least, Gaylord Aldinger, Coon Rapids Assessor, who offered suggestions, critique, and guidance throughout this effort. Thank you all.

Chapter I

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

"To bring together the records of the past where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people, so to learn from the past that they can gain judgement for the creation of the future."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

THE RED RIVER TRAIL

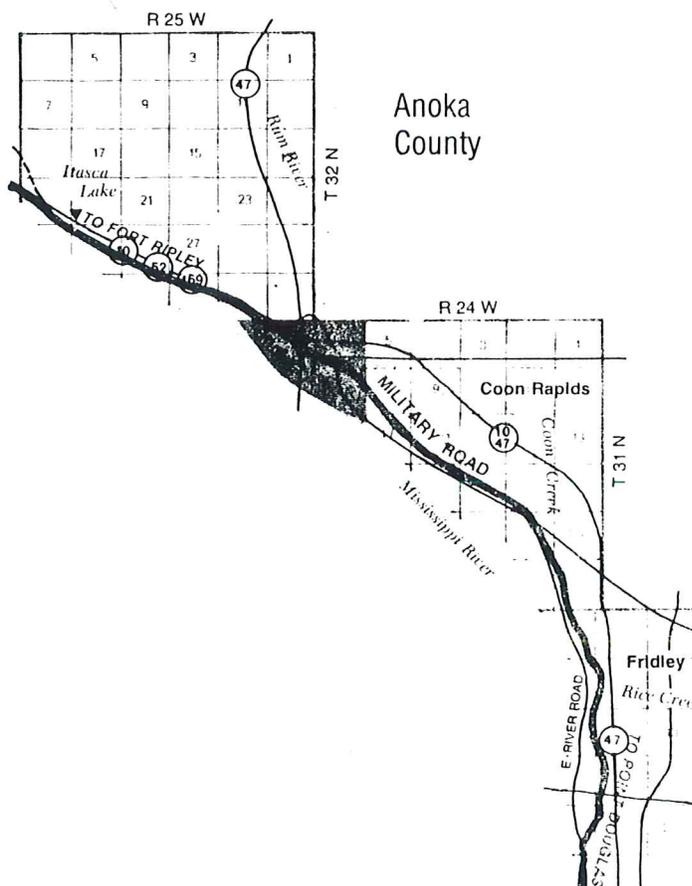
An early reference to the Coon Rapids area is found on a map charted in 1849 by Captain John Pope of the United States Corps of Topographical Engineers shows Coon Creek as "Peterah".¹ Translated as "burning coals" in the Sioux language², this name may have related to the occurrence of fires in the peat bogs along Coon Creek.

The area which is now the City of Coon Rapids was well known to travelers on the Red River Trail as early as 1837. The colorful metis (Indian and European) known as Bois Brule, ("burnt wood"), followed the trail, carrying furs and trade goods to Fort Snelling from the settlement at Fort Garry near Winnipeg, Canada. On the return trip the Red River carts were filled with a variety of supplies which were needed at Pembina and points along the way.

The course of the Red River Trail ran from Point Douglas to Fort Gaines (now Camp Ripley³) entirely on the east side of the Mississippi River and, with few exceptions, within a mile or so from the river. (Fort Gaines was changed in 1850 to Fort Ripley as the name "Fort Gaines" had been selected for a fort in Alabama.)

The United States Military Road was reconnoitered in May 1851 by James Simpson. Construction of the Fort Ripley road began the following year and was completed in 1858. According to Simpson, "The principal rivers to be crossed are, Coon Creek, forty-eight and a half feet wide, a distance from Point Douglas forty-five miles . . ." A letter from J.W. Bond written to the **MINNESOTA DEMOCRAT** newspaper in St. Paul, dated August 26, 1851, states, "The road to Coon Creek, five miles [is] very bad and the country to Rum River [from Banfil's is] uninhabited, flat, marshy and very uninteresting, no prairies, but a thick undergrowth of bushes and oak opening[s]". Another description of the terrain: ". . . from there [the town of Anoka, south] the Red River carts had to battle a succession of severe sandhills along the general course of Anoka County Road No. 1 [now Coon Rapids Boulevard]". After passing Coon Creek, within present Coon Rapids, the carts arrived at Rice Creek, on the south side of which stood John Banfil's well-known house and tavern, built in 1849. This historic inn is being preserved by the Anoka County Historical Society⁴. The trace of the Red River Trail ran through Anoka Township Sections 36, 35, and 26 to Coon Creek. Crossing the creek in the northern part of Section 26, it followed north through Sections 16, 17, 8, and 7 to the Rum River at what is now Anoka. From Section 26 through Section 17 Coon Rapids Boulevard follows within a few feet of the original course of the Red River Trail.

After the Fort Ripley Military Road was no longer used as a main artery to the northwest, the trail continued to be utilized by settlers. While the road ran through farm fields, the property owners allowed "trespassers" as a matter of common practice and their use of the trail was not questioned.⁵



THE RED RIVER TRAIL

This map shows the route of the military road through Anoka County during the 1800's. From **MINNESOTA'S OLD GOVERNMENT ROADS** by Grover Singley, copyright 1974. Reprint permission from the Minnesota Historical Society.

STAGECOACH LINE

One of the earliest stagecoach lines in Minnesota Territory ran between St. Paul and St. Anthony in 1849. Trips were made daily with passengers as well as small amounts of freight. Stagecoach travel in summer and "stage sleigh" in the winter months was the most common form of transportation until the coming of the railroads.

Travel by stagecoach was most uncomfortable and time-consuming, with many stops along the way. It was not

unusual for the passengers to get out of the coach to walk up hills to lighten the load for the horses, nor uncommon for them to push the stagecoach when it became mired after a rain.

Before the railroad, a stage line ran from St. Paul to St. Cloud, the route following East River Road, continuing somewhat south and parallel to the present route of Highway 10.

The trade that had grown up over the Red River Trail between 1820 and 1870 was a major factor in the planning and building of railroads through the area. Travel and freighting over the trails themselves came to a final close in 1872 with the opening of the Northern Pacific to Moorhead.

RAILROAD

The first railroad in Anoka County, the St. Paul and Pacific, was completed from the Twin Cities to Anoka in 1863, was pushed to Elk River in 1864 and reached St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids in 1866. The Coon Creek cut-off between Coon Creek and Hinckley was built in 1898-1899 by the Eastern Railway Company of Minnesota. Both lines passed into the possession of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company. In 1884 the St. Paul and Northern Pacific absorbed into the Northern Pacific. The Coon Creek cutoff was also known as the "Duluth Branch".⁶

"HURRAH FOR THE RAILROAD!" THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION headlines reflected the importance of the arrival of the railroads. The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, successors to the Minnesota and Pacific, was completed to St. Anthony in 1862. By December 6, 1863, passenger trains were running from St. Paul to Manomin (Fridley), with the service extended to Coon Creek by December 9. The trains ran backward on the return trip to Manomin, as there was no turn-around at Coon Creek.⁷

THE ANOKA STAR, of November 28, 1863, reported, "We are told the cars are to run as far as Coon Creek, four and a half miles from Anoka -- tonight! We are waiting to hear the whistle!" On December 12, 1863, the headlines exclaimed, "The whistle of the engine is now heard in Anoka!"⁸

Traveling by train was a good deal more comfortable than traveling by stagecoach, although passengers became covered by dust and cinders. The passenger coach on the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad of the 1870's had upholstered seats, a wood-burning stove, and kerosene lamps.

The cut-off from Coon Creek Junction was laid by the Great Northern in 1899 and this became a switching point which included a large freight house and station. Local brickyards freighted their bricks, and farmers shipped cattle, potatoes, and other farm products from this point, creating a bustling center of activity.⁹

In 1942, the railroad considered closing the station due to declining shipments. The decision was made by fate when a freight train jumped the track, crashed into the station house, which was set ablaze, nearly killing the telegraph operator. The station was a total loss.

FIRST MAIL

Thursday, April 1, 1869, "... Mailed the first letters at Coon Creek Post Office ..." Albert James Caswell Diary, from the Arthur D. Caswell and Family Papers (Minnesota Historical Society).

POST OFFICE

The Coon Creek Post Office was established February 8, 1869, by the Postmaster General of the United States. On the same day, Moody Caswell was named the first Postmaster. He apparently served in this capacity until October 29, 1874, when his son, Albert James Caswell was appointed to the Postmaster position.¹⁰

The Coon Creek Post Office was located at the farmhouse of the Caswell family, which was near the railroad. The mail was "dropped" as the train passed by an arm which was close to the track and caught the mail bag as the mail car swept by.

According to local tradition, A.A. Bergeron became the next Postmaster when he rented the Caswell farm. He served in this position for several years, moving away when the Caswell farm was sold. The Coon Creek Post Office was discontinued October 14, 1893, and transferred to Anoka, until November 6th of the same year when it was re-established. The post office remained at Coon Creek until February 15, 1905, when it was again moved to Anoka.

The first mail carrier was Forrest Hunter, who served for over 30 years from 1902.¹¹

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ALEXANDER W. RANDALL,

POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Whereas, on the 8th day of February, 1869, Moody Caswell was appointed Postmaster at Coon Creek, in the County of Anoka, State of Minnesota; and whereas he did, on the 10th day of February, 1869, execute a bond, and has taken the oath of office, as required by law.

Now know ye, that, confiding in the integrity, ability, and punctuality of the said Moody Caswell, I do commission him a Postmaster, authorized to execute the duties of that Office at Coon Creek, in said State, according to the laws of the United States and the regulations of the Post Office Department. To hold the said Office of Postmaster, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Post Office Department to be affixed, at Washington City, the twenty-fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the ninety-third.

Alexander W. Randall

POSTMASTER'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate was issued by the Postmaster General of the United States appointing Moody Caswell as the first Postmaster of Coon Creek (Coon Rapids) on February 25, 1869. The original certificate is found in the Arthur D. Caswell Family papers located in the Archives/Manuscripts Division of the Minnesota Historical Society and reprinted with permission.

In February 1955 contract postal stations were maintained in stores at Northdale and Coon Rapids shopping centers. In March 1955 the Village Council authorized a letter to the Regional Director of the United States Post Office requesting action toward securing a branch office for Coon Rapids.

In 1961 postal authorities conducted a study to determine space and specifications for a classified postal branch of the Minneapolis Post Office. In February 1963 the Coon Rapids Post Office began operations with two supervisors: Sid Kuykendall, Donald Robinson, and three clerks, all transferred from the Minneapolis Post Office. According to present Manager (formerly titled Postmaster), Daniel Wozniak, this branch at that time served all of Coon Rapids, Blaine, parts of Fridley and Anoka. The personnel of the Coon Rapids Post Office has grown from one person in 1869 to 51 carriers, all of whom are motorized with the exception of one foot carrier in a mobile home park.¹²

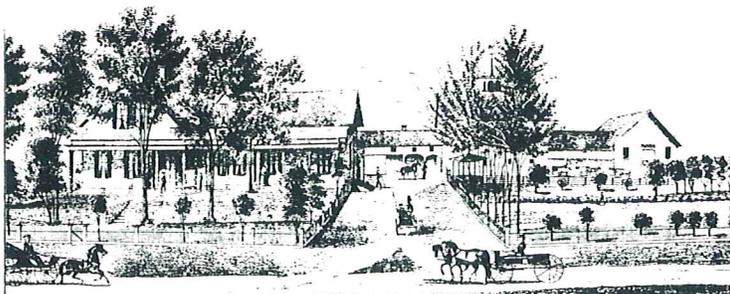
DUNN HOUSE

On what is now the southeast corner of Coon Rapids Boulevard and Egret stood the "Dunn House". This site has had a progression of houses, kept as hotels or stopping places for travelers on the United States Military Road.

Prior to 1872 the property was owned by Mary and Isaac Kimball. Isaac Kimball was an early settler of Anoka County, having purchased the Inn at Rice Creek in Manomin (now Fridley) from John Banfil in the spring of 1853.¹³ He later became the proprietor of the Kimball House in Anoka. In 1872, the Kimball property was sold to Emily P. Campbell, who in turn sold it to John Dunn in 1880.¹⁴

While historical accounts indicate that the "original building on the site was built by a Robert Campbell"¹⁵, it is unlikely that he was actually the builder of the first hotel or inn in that location. Isaac Kimball had been in the hotel business as early as 1853, and would be more apt to have begun such an enterprise on this much-used thoroughfare. By 1872, when the site was sold, traffic on the United States Military Road had trickled to a few travelers, with railway transportation readily available.

Emily Campbell may well have been keeping the house for travelers at the time it burnt, and another hotel begun at the time John Dunn purchased the property.



JARED BENSON RESIDENCE

This is a drawing of the Jared Benson residence and stock farm which was located in Section 17 of Anoka Township (now Coon Rapids) The farm was located in the area of Reisling and Coon Rapids Boulevards. Jared Benson came from Worcester County, Massachusetts, to Minnesota in 1856. The sketch is from the illustrated Historical Atlas published by A.T. Andreas in 1874 and republished in 1979 by Unigraphic, Inc., of Evansville, Indiana.

SCHOOLS

Schools in Anoka County were numbered in order of their organization. District No. 1 was organized in the village of Anoka in November 1855, followed by District No. 2 in Anoka Township in 1856. The original building stood on what is now Coon Rapids Boulevard across from the WCCO transmitter station in Section 17. By 1869 20 school districts were functioning within the County. At this time most of the schoolhouses were built of logs. The average school term was four and one-half months.

It is interesting to note that by 1882 only one log schoolhouse remained in the County. Forty-five were frame and one was brick. (District No. 2).¹⁶

In 1876 District No. 2 built a brick school on the northwest corner at the intersection of Crooked Lake and Coon Rapids Boulevards near the site of an earlier schoolhouse. This brick building and the earlier structure both existed for many years, eventually being remodeled as residences.



DISTRICT NO. 2 SCHOOLHOUSE

This brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1876. The building stood near the present intersection of Crooked Lake and Coon Rapids Boulevards. School District No. 2 was the second school district in Anoka County, being organized in 1856. The photo was taken around the turn of the century.

DISTRICT NO. 2

The earliest available school records are from 1876, at which time the following persons were School District Officers for District No. 2: Jared Benson, Clerk; N. Parks and Jacob Schwab, Directors; and A. Worcester, Treasurer.

Mary Molloy, teacher, opened the school on Tuesday, October 23, 1877, for a term of three months. The teacher for the following year was E.A. Bradeen for a term of four months. Subjects taught included reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, and history.¹⁷

By 1914 the school term had expanded to eight months. The teacher was Mrs. Clare "Casey" Talbot, whose salary was \$52.50 per month. This was a one-room school, the schoolroom being 28 feet by 20 feet with a 12-foot ceiling, two outhouses (20 feet apart) which were scrubbed twice a

year! Total expense for the year was \$490.67 for 16 pupils. The total includes teachers wages of \$420.00; apparatus purchased (a Globe water jar, and primary materials), \$40.61; library books, \$10.00; textbooks \$6.25 and supplementary readers, \$13.81. C.M. Barney was clerk.¹⁸

SCHOOLS

March 1, 1879, "Anoka County Winter Schools, District No. 2. Teacher Mr. E.A. Bradeen, Number present 13; three read well in 4th reader and recite a good review lesson in Geography #1. A class of 6 are dealing in fractions in Arithmetic and are drilled on principles and the meaning of terms. The school is backward and thoughtless. The teacher is holding a steady hand with them, and secures their respect and attention." District No. 15. Coon Creek. "Teacher Miss Mary Tierney. Schoolhouse accommodations in this district until lately have been limited; the house was too small and the seats inconvenient, but a marked change has come over these accommodations. They have now one of the largest and most convenient rooms in the county. The term has been long-four months and the scholars have got tired; they are not showing sufficient interest in their studies. The teacher is capable and doubtless during another term will increase the enthusiasm".

THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION.

DISTRICT NO. 15

Built prior to 1874, District No. 15 schoolhouse was located at the northeast corner of Foley Boulevard and East River Road and was called "Foley School". The teacher in 1876 was Thomas Kelly. School District Officers were: A.J. Caswell, Clerk; Michael Tigue, Director; and Thomas Foley, Treasurer. In 1889 a new building was erected on the site of the original school which burnt in 1919. A temporary building was erected to complete the school year.

The notice of a "Special School Meeting" on October 11, 1881, reads: "To consider a motion which was carried at the last Annual Meeting instructing the Board of Trustees not to pay wages to any teacher to exceed thirty dollars per month"-Signed A.J. Caswell, Clerk. Due to the lack of records for this year, the outcome of the above meeting is not known. One may suggest it failed as school records for 1913 reflect the following: Teacher Alice M. Ryan at a salary of \$50.00 per month for a term of nine months. There were 38 students; 198 square feet of slate board (in good condition); one dictionary (in poor condition); improvements of a foot scraper and cocoa mat; total number of library books, 118; and two outhouses, 24 feet apart with an added note, "have sanitary closets now". Total costs during the school year, \$667.25, which included: Apparatus, \$2.00; library books, \$15.00; textbooks \$12.45; and repairs and improvements, \$187.74 for a new chimney and sanitary closets.

In 1913 a Special School was held at "Coon Rapids in District No. 2 for the convenience of pupils whose parents were at

work on the big power dam across the Mississippi River at this place". The teacher, Margaret Doherty, served for a term of eight months with 39 students at the salary of \$50.00 a month. While there is no information on the location of this school, it is shown to be "large, well-lighted, and heated". A note shows, "Miss Doherty did excellent work. This school was held with the consent of the Department of Education. Mr. Casander was personally on the site and the school was conducted as he suggested".¹⁹

DISTRICT NO. 50

District No. 50 schoolhouse was built in 1884 on Northdale Boulevard, nearly opposite Sand Creek Park in Section 15. The residents referred to this as "Wilhelm School". The Methodist Sunday School and Church which later became Joyce Chapel met in "the Old Wilhelm School house", circa 1900.

State Aid Records for 1913 reveal the following information: The teacher was Josie Goodrich, whose salary was \$45.00 per month for a term of eight months. District No. 50 Clerk was John D. Wilhelm. The schoolroom size was 30 feet by 26 feet and had 100 square feet of slate blackboard in good condition. One dictionary was available as well as a total of 95 library books. The total costs during the school year were \$414.29, of which \$30.00 was spent on paint for the walls and woodwork. There were two outhouses which were 20 feet apart.²⁰

After the destruction of the old "Foley School" in 1919, a contingent of residents of Anoka Township and representatives of District No. 67 in West Blaine met at the home of William Dunn to discuss the organization of a consolidated school district. A committee was named to start proceedings for consolidation.

On August 31, 1920, a special meeting was held in the Anoka Township hall and final plans were made for the consolidation of the four districts to be known as "Coon Rapids Consolidated School District No. 2". Moderator of this meeting was Lyman H. Hoyt. The first Board of Education was elected. The members were: Ed. F. Bryan, L.O. Jacobs, Lyman Hoyt, Stewart W. Laird, Henry Libby, and R.P. Roberts. L.O. Jacobs served on that School Board for over 30 years and later on the Anoka-Hennepin School District No. 11 Board. Some others who served on the Coon Rapids Consolidated School District No. 2 Board were: Rudy Beckenbach, Herbert Gunther, A.T. Dingman, Clarence Anderson, and Donald Womacks.

The school building, which was planned by the first Consolidated School District No. 2 in 1920, is now a part of the L.O. Jacobs Elementary School which was completed in 1922. The school contained four classrooms and a combination gymnasium/auditorium. In 1925 the total enrollment was 100 students in eight grades. By 1950 there were 400 students in four grades.

After a failure to pass a school bond issue to remodel and expand the school building in April of 1950, the School Board scheduled another election relating to a bond issue of \$160,000 "for a school addition in keeping with the present school structure". Votes in favor were nearly two to one, and

in February of 1952 the completed addition was dedicated. It contained ten classrooms, an office, and a library.

On April 8, 1952, an election was held to reorganize 26 Anoka County districts and five Hennepin County districts into one large district. This was approved with voters of Coon Rapids Consolidated School District No. 2 casting 196 yes votes to 89 no votes. In July of 1952, the Coon Rapids educational system became part of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 220.

During the 1950's, several new subdivisions were developed, making housing available in large numbers on easy purchase plans. A large percentage of home buyers were young families with children of elementary school age, and the impact of the rapid surge in population was in the elementary schools. The Junior High School in Anoka, which served the entire District No. 220, would be the next to feel the impact of growth. By 1955 it became clear that plans would have to be made for additional facilities. In 1956 Anoka Junior High School had an enrollment of 1,334.

In April 1955 the Board of Education purchased a 40-acre site on Northdale Boulevard from Alfred and Hannah Bombarger for \$12,000. Toltz, King, Duval and Anderson were retained as architects and the Coon Rapids Junior High School was built at a cost of \$1,452,529 and opened in September of 1958.

In 1957 the Minnesota Legislature enacted a law requiring the State Commissioner of Education to assign a number to each school district within the state with no duplications. As a result, Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 220, was assigned District No. 11.²¹ As more and more development took place, the need for additional schools became critical. Growth within the area is reflected in the following enrollments for District No. 11, kindergarten through grade 12:

1940--430 students; 1950--857 students; 1960--10,755 students; 1970--28,090 students; and 1980--30,822 students.

COON RAPIDS SCHOOLS²²

Elementary schools, the year of construction and first principal: L.O. Jacob--1921, E.W. Every; Morris Bye--1955, Ed Kaiser; Sorteberg (formerly Northdale)--1960, Pauline Chamberlain; Mississippi--1961, Gerald Johnson; Hamilton--1964, Richard Price; Sand Creek--1965, Carroll Strahl; Adams--1966, Clarence Kuefler; Hoover--1966, Ward Wilkins; and Eisenhower--1971, Robert Gander.

High schools, the year of construction and first principal: Coon Rapids Junior High--1958, Garth Lappin; Coon Rapids Senior High--1963, Garth Lappin; and Northdale Junior High--1975, Rolland Kufus²³.

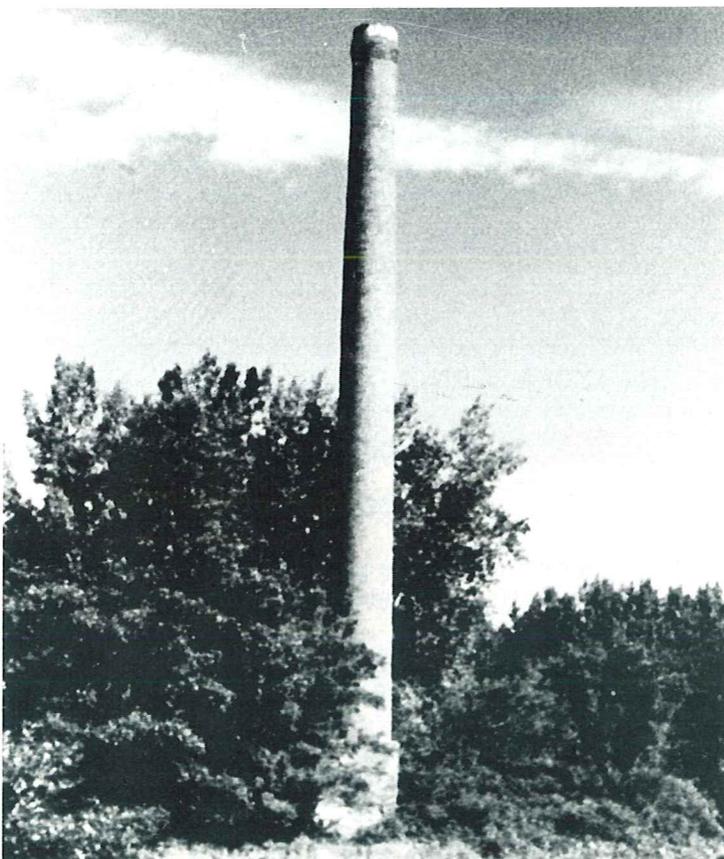
BRICKYARDS

The logging industry provided inexpensive building material in the early years of settlement and residents realized that

fire was a particular danger due to the number of frame houses and businesses. After the fire in Anoka in 1884, which destroyed a greater part of the town, it seemed imperative to rebuild with fireproof material and brick filled this need.

O.A. Benson's brickyard, which began prior to 1880, supplied brick to the area for about ten years and he appears to have been the first brick manufacturer on Coon Creek. There were at least three brickyards in production by 1881 when Dr. D.C. Dunham headed the first stock company, the "Anoka Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company". The yard was located just north of the point where Coon Rapids Boulevard and East River Road intersect. The present City Hall and "clay hole" are in that general area today. Later this brickyard became known as "Dunham and Johnson" which manufactured a high-quality "slop" and "pressed" brick, with an Andrus press which produced 18,000 bricks daily, requiring one man as operator. The old-style press required two men to operate and turned out only 3,000 bricks a day. It closed in October 1888 and all equipment was sold.

The most ambitious of these was the Minnesota Clay Company, which was located in Section 26 having 72 acres of clay deposits which had been bored to a depth of 130 feet without reaching bottom. The company provided a large boarding house and cottages for workmen with families. This brick plant was one of the most modern and well-equipped in the country, and was located on a spur of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Pacific and Eastern Railroads, which facilitated the shipment of bricks. The railroad also freighted



BRICK CHIMNEY

This 109-foot-high chimney was located at 86th Lane and East River Road. The chimney was a silent tribute to a once prosperous brickyard enterprise. It was demolished on July 2, 1980, after being struck by lightning and severely damaged on June 25, 1980.

the required 27,000 tons of coal and/or 81,000 barrels of oil necessary to run the plant each year.

The diary of Albert James Caswell, an early settler and member of the Town Board, wrote on September 15, 1888, "I went to the brickyard near Coon Creek and bought 500 bricks--paid \$3.00".

THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION of July 27, 1909, stated, "The Anoka County Board of Equalization met last week. The Board seemed to be in a peevish mood, for they raised valuations right and left. The concern hardest hit is the brickyard at Coon Creek. The raise there amounted to 400 percent". Many of the red brick buildings in the city of Anoka today were built of brick from the Coon Creek area after the fire in 1884. The demand for a new type of brick for paving city streets began at the turn of the century and some existing brickyards changed from manufacture of building material to that of paving bricks. These bricks were dense and quite large, being about nine inches by three and one-half inches and were both economical and practical for well-traveled streets.²⁴

For many years the chimney of the Minnesota Clay Company stood at the corner of 86th Lane and East River Road--a sentinel of the first locally-based industry in Anoka County. The chimney was severely damaged when struck by lightning during a storm on July 25, 1980, and the remainder demolished in the interest of public safety.²⁵

RAPID THRESHING

"A job was put on the Coleman Brothers of Coon Creek last Saturday. They were threshing wheat with horse power on the farm of George Smith three miles below the city, and some disinterested parties thought it would be a good joke to time the work done without the knowledge of the Coleman Brothers. The suggestion was accepted and at the end of the hour twenty bushels of wheat was found to be the result. Parties who have work done by these gentlemen and their machine say that they never had better work".
THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION, September 9, 1880, p. 5, col. 4

POOR FARM

Earlier generations were brought up with a reverence for God, the hope of Heaven, and a fear of the poor house.

In the years prior to Social Security, Medicare, and financial assistance programs, indigents were cared for in County-sponsored homes which were supported through taxes and other means of revenue. The National poor house population reached its peak in the 1920's, but by 1923, the number of residents, officially referred to as "inmates", showed a decline. However, in this same year, the Minnesota poor house population, which constituted less than one percent of the states aged, was still on the increase.²⁶

Eighty-eight percent of Minnesota poor houses/farms were managed by County officials through a salaried superin-

tendent. This appears to have been the practice in 1904 in Anoka County as John D. Wilhelm is shown as "Supervisor of the Poor Farm".²⁷

The Anoka County Poor Farm was located in Sections 9 and 10 in Anoka Township on land now used as the Coon Rapids High School athletic field, and consisted of 200 acres. The indigent residents lived here free of charge in exchange for assistance with the farm and household chores. All food stuffs were raised on the farm and any surplus was sold for additional income. There was a vegetable garden, a herd of cows for milk, a flock of chickens, and horses which were used in the farming operation. The Anoka County Farm consisted of a large two-story frame house. The manager and family lived on the ground level with the residents occupying the second floor, usually two to a room. On the residents floor was a dining room, cupboard, and sink, as well as separate dishes. Food was prepared by the manager's wife and carried to the second floor dining area. It was also the duty of the manager's wife to care for any immobile residents. The farm buildings included a large barn and a silo which stood for many years.²⁸



POOR FARM

The house and outbuildings of the Anoka County Poor Farm were located on land now known as the Coon Rapids High School athletic field. Photo courtesy of the Anoka County Historical Society.

The first County Poor Farm was on property owned by S. Farrington and leased by the County in 1898. The buildings burnt in 1900, at which time the County Board purchased the Case farm.²⁹ In 1902, there were five residents and in 1923, the number remained the same.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoffman were managers in 1923 and efficient ones. In the previous year there was a revenue of nearly seventeen hundred dollars from the milk alone. The Hoffman's were assisted by their children, Gladys, Frances, Lauretta, Leonard, and Ervin.³⁰

In the 1920's eighty acres of the Poor Farm were leased by the State of Minnesota as a part of an experimental agricultural project. As a result of this project, Canary grass was introduced to Anoka County. Alfalfa was also grown and commercial fertilizer was tested.

The farm manager was William G. Smith from 1926 through 1928 and he was followed by George Chamberlain from 1928 to 1936 when the farm was closed.³¹

The Old Age Assistance Program was passed August 14, 1935, and its impact was felt by county poor houses since it provided grants on a monthly basis to needy individuals 65 years and older if they did not live in public institutions. The average monthly grant was \$18.40.

Almost as soon as the old age assistance became available, many residents moved away from the poor farm in order to qualify for a grant or "pension". Where the number of inmates was small, the farming operation unprofitable, or the buildings in need of extensive repairs or replacement, the County Board simply closed the facility and disposed of the property. Anoka County closed the Poor Farm in 1936.

Those who died while residents were buried in unmarked graves at Joyce Chapel Cemetery, or Oakwood Cemetery in Anoka, in the areas called "Potter's Field".

JOYCE CHAPEL

On the corner of Hanson Boulevard and 115th Street stands a modest frame building which was built in 1902. It was the first church building in Anoka Township.

Many early residents of what is now the city of Coon Rapids were Irish Catholics who attended services at St. Stevens in the town of Anoka. Protestant worshipers also traveled to Anoka or to Champlin to attend the various churches there.

In 1900 James Carter, an Anoka blacksmith and member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Anoka, desired to establish a church for the Protestant farmers east of the City. The Carters taught Sunday Bible classes in the "Wilhelm School" (District No. 50) to farm children after the morning services in Anoka.

Reverend E.C. Clemens, pastor of the Methodist Church in Anoka, held a revival in July of 1901 for this new group, assisted by the Carters, at which 25 persons joined the infant church. These new members were organized into a Bible class with membership in the Anoka church.³²

In December 1901 the quarterly conference of the Anoka Methodist Church incorporated the new rural congregation under the name of Joyce Chapel, after Bishop Isaac W. Joyce, Methodist Bishop of Minnesota. The Anoka conference elected the Reverend William Fielder as presiding Elder and James Foot, Secretary. The first trustees were: B. Shattuck, C.W. Ball, C.E. Pendell, John P. Swanson, Gust Borg, and James Carter.³³

B. Shattuck donated a one-half acre site for the church building and cemetery. In January 1902 the corner stone of the chapel was laid by Joseph Holden of Anoka and the work of building began in earnest directed by Erick Johnson. All labor was donated by the members.

Using a nail keg as a pulpit, James Carter preached the first sermon to members seated on chairs and boxes brought from home. The nail keg was replaced the following Sunday by a "fine" pulpit made and presented by the Reed and Sherwood Lumber Company of Anoka. The Chapel, free of debt, was dedicated on July 17, 1902, by Bishop Isaac W. Joyce.



JOYCE CHAPEL

This is a photo of the chapel as it appeared in 1912. The building was built in 1902 and is now the Lang real estate office at 115th and Hanson Boulevard. In 1954 the Coon Rapids Village Hall authorized its purchase with the intention of using it as a temporary Village Hall.

Dr. Clemens was transferred to the Duluth district in October 1903, and Joyce Chapel was left in the hands of James Carter. Carter conducted the first funeral service in the Chapel for Eugene William, the three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Swanson. This was the first interment in the cemetery adjoining the church.³⁴

Physical ties with the "mother" church in Anoka were severed in November 1909, as Joyce Chapel membership was growing and the congregation was in a stable financial position.

It is interesting to note the pastorates of two women who were "able to stir the congregation to greater activity than ever before". One of these women was Reverend Mrs. Ina Gates Stout, a Free Baptist minister, appointed to Joyce Chapel in October 1912. During her pastorate a unique arrangement was initiated. The Baptists of the area, having no church of their own, were invited to organize a class and worship with the Methodists. This was an unusual but workable cooperation between the two groups. Each group contributed jointly to their local church, but gave separately to their missions. Mrs. Stout served as Pastor from 1912 to 1916, during which this cooperative effort of Methodists and Baptists brought about a number of improvements in the church. Joyce Chapel doubled its membership and added a thousand dollars in improvements to the property. Reverend Stout also organized a Ladies Aid Society, a Christian Endeavor Society, and a Farmers Club.

The other woman pastor was the Reverend Edith Grays, an ordained Methodist minister, who became Pastor when her husband, Reverend Crawford Grays, pastor of the Church of Anoka, became ill and had to curtail his activities. Reverend Edith Grays took over work at Joyce Chapel where she served until 1928. The church and Sunday School flourished under her direction and the church was painted outside as well as wallpapered and painted inside. During her pastorate all outstanding bills were paid in full.

As the area population changed from farms to residential development, a new and larger church became a necessity. The ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the projected church on Hanson Boulevard near Highway 10 took place on June 4, 1953. The corner-stone of the new church was laid in November of that year and worship was held in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 11, 1954.³⁵

In January 1954 the Coon Rapids Village Council authorized the purchase of Joyce Chapel for \$2,500 intended for use as a temporary town hall.³⁶

Today Century 21-Lang Agency has remodeled the church as their real estate office.

Pastors of Joyce Chapel have been³⁷: Ezra C. Clemens--1901, James Carter--1902, A.A. Graves--1907, F.G. Clark--1907, C.L. Kingsbury--1909, Kirby Chapman--1909, Ina Gates Stout--1912, F.J. Johnston--1915, H.A. Erickson--1916, G.L. Powell--1917, Matt Evans--1918, Harry W. Knowels--1919, Elmer E. Shawl--1920, Crawford Grays--1924, Mrs. Edith Grays--1927, O.E. Boyce--1928, Philip Solbjor--1929, Lloyd Halstrom--1932, Marlen Johnson--1936, Paul Neal--1938, Lee Workman--1940, John Blackford--1941, Mr. Allen--1941, Elmer Leach--1941, C.V. Graham--1941, Gust Westmo--1946, A.V. Cary--1946, D.S. McGuire--1946, Irving A. Putnam--1948, H. Thomas Payne--1949, and Roy E. Young--1951.

Continued under the name of Coon Rapids Methodist Church, pastors were:

Ray E. Overmire--1951, Robert E. Annand--1955, Irving E. Putnam--1956, Donald L. Germain--1962, Ralph H. Manwiller--1968, Harold W. Zart--1970, and J. Carlton Forshee--1980.

CHURCHES

Although the Joyce Chapel was the first known church in Coon Rapids, many other churches have sprung up since that beginning. The church of Coon Rapids with the largest congregation today is the church of the Epiphany, a catholic parish.

Epiphany Parish was founded on June 16, 1964, with 250 families forming the Parish, which now numbers 2,600 families and 10,000 people.

Groundbreaking began in April of 1966 for the original church/school complex which served as worship and educational center. In July of 1967, spiritual celebrations began in the complex. Epiphany Elementary School opened in September of 1967, staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who are still there.

With the needs of the Parish expanding, two additions were completed on the school; one in 1970 and another in 1976. The Rectory was expanded in 1970.

Growing pains were felt again by 1981 as the need for more worship space, meeting facilities, and school expansion and the building of a new church, and other facilities were begun. On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 8, 1984, the com-

munity of Epiphany Parish moved into its new worship space. Dedication of the new facilities was held on March 4, 1984.

The new church will accommodate 1,700 worshippers at one time. Kindergarten will be added to the educational facilities in the fall of 1984, at which time Epiphany Education Center will have 840 day students in Kindergarten through 9th grade.

Information about Epiphany Parish was provided by Father Bernard Reiser, Pastor of the Church.

Other churches and their starting dates are: Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church--1953, Faith Lutheran Church--1955, Olive Branch Lutheran Church--1955, First Baptist Church of Coon Rapids--1957, Coon Rapids Church of Christ--1957, Oak Park Assembly of God--1957, Peace Lutheran Church--1960, Presbyterian Church of the Master--1960, Coon Rapids Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses--1962, Advent Lutheran Church--1963, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Day School--1963, Word of Life Church of Coon Rapids--1964, Coon Rapids Baptist Church and Christian School--1964, Friendship Baptist Church--1965, and Hanson Boulevard Church of God--1977.

ELECTRICITY

In this era of microwave ovens, personal computers, dimmer switches, and cordless telephones, it is difficult to imagine an everyday existence without electricity. However, many will remember with great nostalgia such things as the warm glow of a kerosene lamp in the center of the dinner table--or the "good old days" when the family played games in the light of an Aladdin lamp.

The Rural Electrification Administration was created by the federal government in 1935 for the purpose of assisting rural areas to electrify through a loan program which carried a two percent interest.

On January 3, 1936, a meeting was held for all farmers in Anoka County to determine the amount of interest in setting up an organization in association with the REA program. This meeting was held at the Coon Rapids schoolhouse (L.O. Jacobs) and those in attendance determined to proceed. Plans were made to reconvene on January 18 at the L.O. Jacobs farm in Coon Rapids. At this second meeting, elections were held and Harry Edmunds was pronounced President of the Board; L.O. Jacobs, Director at Large; and Ed Swanson, Representative of Anoka Township. The operating capital raised at this meeting amounted to \$26.00 donated by those in attendance who included:

*Ernest Stone, Bethel Township; *George Morris, Burns Township; *Louis Matushak, Blaine Township; *Walter Houle, Columbus Township; *Harry Edmunds, Oak Grove Township; *Oscar Swanson, St. Francis Township; William Loucks, St. Francis Township; Henry Gottwaldt, Fridley Township; Sam Orr, Grow Township; *Dale Clark, Ham Lake Township; Charles King, Linwood Township; C.W. Rogalla (outside territory); Peter Nadeau, Centerville Township (not present); and *L.O. Jacob, Anoka Township (Secretary and Treasurer).

*First directors of the Anoka Cooperative Electric Association with the addition of the following elected in 1937: Edwin C. Swanson, Anoka Township and Carroll Broadbent, Linwood Township.

In order to secure funds from the REA, it was necessary to prepare maps of each township showing the potential number of members and actual number of members secured. This became the responsibility of each of the directors, who agreed to canvas their townships to gain as many members as possible for the Anoka Electric Association.

Because of the extreme financial hardship of farmers at this time (the height of the depression), it was often difficult to get the \$2.00 subscription, but by December of 1936, a membership of 469 was reported, covering 152 miles of line. The estimated cost of this line was \$162,210. An application for funds was forwarded to Washington, D.C. and preliminary work on the first phase of the project was complete.

The Directors of the AEC were notified that approval of the loan was being withheld pending solution to the power supply problem. The question as to the source of the power supply to these initial lines was a difficult one and negotiations began with Northern States Power Company. The REA entered into direct negotiation with NSP on behalf of several Cooperatives in the Twin Cities area and, in October 1936, a one-year contract for wholesale power was signed.

The staking of lines for the first project was under way by March 1937, and in 1938 the Sherburne County Association and a group from the northern part of Washington County decided to join the Anoka Electric Cooperative.³⁸

The first line to be energized was in the Crooked Lake area in March 1938. As of December 31, 1983, 45 years later, the AEC serves 51, 134 members.³⁹

COMMUNICATION

WCCO radio is a familiar household word in this part of the northwest and has been since October 2, 1924.

The original WCCO transmitter building was constructed in Anoka Township in 1924. The location, which the City of Coon Rapids now encompasses, was the site of radio broadcast transmitting facilities and twin aerial transmitting towers which made WCCO, at 5,000 watts of power, the largest radio station west of the Mississippi in 1925. The site, originally surrounded by farmland, is on old Highway No. 10 (now Coon Rapids Boulevard) and as early as 1930 the station was sending its signal out over two 300-foot antennas as far as Honolulu, the Virgin Islands, and Mexico.

A new 50,000-watt transmitter was installed, and by September 1932 WCCO was one of the most powerful clear channel radio stations in operation in the United States. The present familiar WCCO radio antenna in Coon Rapids was constructed in 1939, allowing the station to serve more listeners. This antenna is 654 feet in height.

WCCO celebrated its 50th anniversary on the air in 1974.

The City of Coon Rapids and the entire northwest have enjoyed the benefits of having such a "good neighbor" for 60 years. The distinction and pride felt by the members of this community in having shared in the history of such a fine communications facility is a reflection of the spirit which has resulted in a healthy growth of the City of Coon Rapids.



WCCO RADIO

The Coon Rapids skyline was distinguished by four WCCO transmitting towers in the mid 1930's. The first two towers were constructed in 1925 and were each 200 feet in height. The two 300-foot towers were added in the mid 30's.

The Anoka County Union, one of the pioneer newspapers in Minnesota, was founded by George Gray of Monticello, saw its first light of day Aug. 31, 1865, and has been published regularly since that time.

Two other newspapers, including the Coon Rapids Herald, started publication later and the three papers now fall under the banner of ABC Newspapers and form part of Anoka County Union and Shopper Inc. The Anoka Herald was purchased April 1, 1959 and became the Coon Rapids Herald soon afterward.

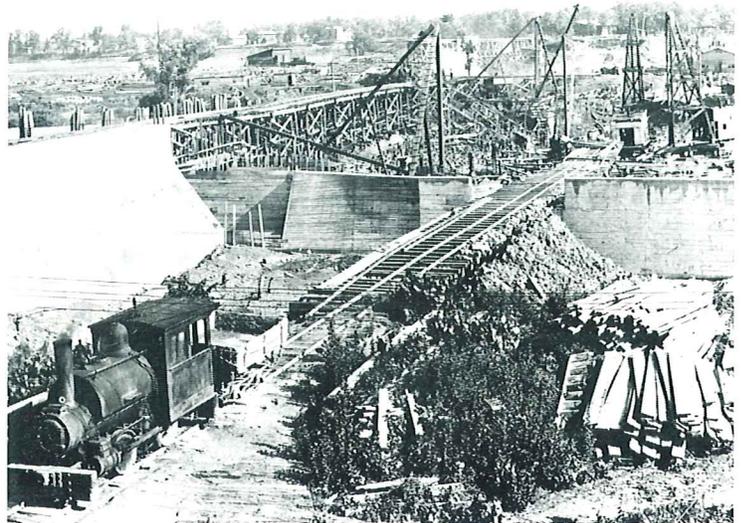
Granville S. Pease, master printer, came to the Union April 2, 1866 and purchased the business in June 1866, continuing as editor, publisher-owner until retirement in 1916. Granville "Dad" Pease was an interesting, prolific and pithy writer, who kept improving the Union until it became a power in early newspaper circles in Minnesota.

T.G.J. Pease, Granville's son, assumed the role of publisher and editor in 1916, managing the newspaper and large commercial printing plant, and, in 1934, started the Anoka County Shopper. In 1948 "T.G.," as he was known, stepped down and his son, Arch G. Pease, purchased the business, remaining active up to the present. Thomas B. Pease became president of the firm in April 1971, succeeding his father, Arch Pease.

The newspaper's first home was a frame building on the northeast corner of Main and Ferry Streets, Anoka, moving a few months later to the east side of the Rum River; another move a year later, then in 1872 a new home was erected across from the present Anoka City Hall. Another move in 1884 to new quarters at First and Jackson; then after a fire in Aug., 1884, to a new building east of the present Thurston's.

In 1907, a new building was occupied on the banks of the Rum on Second and Harrison, which served until January 14, 1953, when the plant was settled in the new Union building on Jackson Street.

The eighth and final uprooting and move was made April 1, 1980, into a new all-steel structure at 4101 Coon Rapids Boulevard, Coon Rapids, across from Mercy Medical Center.



COON RAPIDS DAM

This photo was taken during the construction of the Dam in 1913. A small community sprang up by the site during construction. At completion 800 carloads of crushed rock and 42,000 cubic feet of concrete had been used. The water was raised 15 feet behind the dam.

SHORTLINE

One of the most anticipated developments awaited by the early residents of Coon Rapids was a "Shortline" or "Electric Line" railroad which would provide convenient transportation between Minneapolis, Coon Rapids, and Anoka. For over twenty years residents of the area waited with impatience, and in March of 1898, preparations began with the acquisition of land.

In April 1898, the legally qualified voters of Anoka Township voted to issue bonds for the building of an "electric line" from Anoka to Minneapolis. The bond issue passed by 51 to 3. "Only three lonesome individuals" reported the Anoka papers, "were found among the voters who want to walk."

A meeting was held May 22, 1909, at which the route of the electric line was determined: "to run the right-of-way along the road between Anoka and Minneapolis", and all right-of-way had been secured with the exception of 20 or 30 lots. Those attending this meeting were: C.A. Nelson, C.J. Swanson, Tom Coleman, Charles Gibbs, L.H. Hoyt, C.W. Ball, Adolph Bergeron, Frank French, Joe Simson, John Coleman, Andrew Jenson, William Beckenbach, Charles Barney, Patrick Manley, and the Dunn brothers.

The line was completed to the Coon Creek Dam in January 1913 and supplies for the construction project were being hauled from Minneapolis via the Minnesota and Northern Railway. By June regular trips were made by the gasoline engine-drawn "trains" from Minneapolis through Coon Rapids to Anoka.

It was determined in December 1914 that gasoline-powered engines were no longer feasible and the lines were electrified using power generated at the dam. In 1915 the first electric "trolleys" made seven trips a day through Coon Rapids.

Trolley stations were built along the line in Coon Rapids and were named by neighborhood or area significance such as, "Hanson Station" (on Hanson Boulevard), "Coleman Station" and "Foley Station". These yellow "streetcars" were a familiar sight until 1939.⁴⁰

DAM

While Anoka Township was well recognized in the County, it had minimal identification in the out-state area. With the coming of the railroad in the 1860's and the subsequent naming of "the Coon Creek Cut-off" at Coon Creek, the area gradually came to be called by its most widely known feature. With the proposal to build a dam at the foot of Coon Creek in 1898, the name became more widely used.

The **ANOKA HERALD** of February 4, 1898, illustrates the first local mention of the dam, "A bill to give the Twin City Transit Company permission to dam the Mississippi River below Coon Rapids passed the House . . . so the big scheme is now not only possible but probable".

The ultimate question as to the location of the dam became a issue as the Company preferred placing it in Fridley near Rice Creek. Landowners above the proposed site, however, were using their influence to have it built nearer Anoka.

"Mr. Dunn at Coon Creek practically holds the key to the situation, as his farm would be damaged more than any other piece of property along the river. If the dam were built below his farm he would lose all his rich bottom lands, some of the finest farming lands in the county, and his valuable clay beds would be seriously damaged."

Very little activity took place until 1909, but the project was still "very much alive". In October the following newspaper article appeared: "For the past two years there has been talk of a dam which certain mysterious persons were to construct at Coon Creek Rapids. The matter has been kept very quiet . . . a comparison of deeds filed in Anoka and Hennepin Counties reveal that all land on both sides of the Mississippi River between Anoka and Coon Creek Junction has been purchased by the Great Northern Development Company of Duluth . . . only recently did it acquire the last parcels necessary to its plans. The point at which the powerhouse is to be erected is at one of the narrowest portions of the river,

and the current is not only swift, but there are rapids known as the Coon Creek Rapids”.

Negotiations with John Dunn were successful and 169 acres were sold for the dam site.

The million dollar plant was to be built on the Anoka side of the river, but Hennepin County was designated to receive the energy. The project was delayed for three years, but by December of 1912 all was resolved and 50 men were hired to begin the project. Three months later a village had developed around the dam site including bunkhouses, mess halls, quarters for officials, a school, a hospital, and even its own sewer system. All the amenities of city life were present including fires, weddings, births, deaths, crime, social events, as well as a 30-branch private telephone exchange.

One thousand men were now at work on a round-the-clock schedule, 75 percent of whom were from Anoka County.

Land, water powers, flowage rights, and a federal permit were acquired by Northern States Power on March 15, 1913. Ten days later it was sold to the Northern Mississippi River Power Company, a subsidiary of NSP which carried out the hydro development. Stewart W. Laird was in charge of the construction. Upon completion of the dam he became superintendent of the plant, a position held for over 25 years.

Work on the dam was nearly completed by December 1913, and only a few men were retained through the winter. The numerous camps, stores, offices, sheds, etc. were sold to W.H. LaPlant of Anoka. The “city” by the river was gone and the engineers, laborers, carpenters, and machinists departed.

When completed, the dam contained 42,000 cubic feet of concrete and 800 carloads of crushed rock. The water level behind the dam was raised 15 feet. A force of about 200 men were needed to operate the facility upon completion.

In 1914 wires were strung and the plant was ready to furnish electricity.

The Northern States Power Company purchased all capital stock, assets, liabilities, and property in April of 1916.

Electrical demands, due to the rapidly developing area of service grew so large that by 1966, operation of the plant was no longer feasible. On the 31st of December NSP officially discontinued operation of the Coon Rapids Hydro Generating Station, and generating and transmission equipment was removed from the powerhouse.

Ownership of the land and dam was transferred to the Hennepin County Park Reserve District in 1969 to be developed for public park purposes.⁴¹

The Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park now offers recreational and educational opportunities for the people of the metropolitan area. Visitors may choose from the many activities such as hiking, boating, fishing, biking, and picnicking. Skiing and showshoeing are also popular winter activities.

In 1977 a walkway was built across the pier points of the dam to the west side. This is a popular spot for “river watchers” both winter and summer.

In 1978 a visitor center was opened which houses offices, a permanent display of the dam’s history, many seasonal displays, as well as live animals for the enjoyment and information of the public.

The naturalist staff offer public programs each weekend covering a wide range of topics from edible wild plants to fish fileting. Activities offered are “Catfish Classic”, “Fun Run”, and the tongue-in-cheek “Carp Centennial”.⁴²

WHITE CITY

The period of rapid development in Anoka Township resulted in the demise of farmsteads which had served residents from the time of settlement. In the 1950 to 1960 period, second generation residents of this once agrarian community were reaching the age of retirement and the opportunity to provide security in their “sunset” years by selling their remaining acres to developers was timely. As a result, a very limited number of complete farm settings remained. One of these was the area called “White City” by older residents. On Hanson Boulevard just south of Highway 242 was the site known today as the “Whippel Farm” or “White City”.

The original owner of this property was James A. Lennon, who received a patent from the United States on April 3, 1857. The acreage passed into various ownership until 1929, when it was purchased by Dr. Clarence D. Whipple and his wife Frances of Champlin. All of the buildings and the house were painted white which resulted in the local people calling the area “White City”—a most appropriate name, as the ten buildings covered a wide area and from a distance might appear as a settlement, especially after dark when lanterns lighted windows in various buildings where evening chores were taking place.⁴³

In January 1941, the farm was purchased by the Zawistowski family who lived in the farmhouse until a new home was built on the land.

The farmlands are now platted and will be developed by John Washburn as Cardinal Heights Plat 9. The original buildings were demolished in the spring of 1984.

ROAD TAX

Monday, June 3, 1878, “Ellis is at work on the Road for me today. My road tax is about \$17.50 including Poll Tax 5 mills on a dollar this year.” Albert James Caswell Diary, from the Arthur D. Caswell and Family Papers (Minnesota Historical Society).

TOWNSHIP 1878-1952

Prior to 1878 business relating to Anoka Township was transacted in the village of Anoka. When on March 2, 1878, Anoka gained City status and was removed from Township jurisdiction, the focus of Anoka Township government shifted to the small settlement at Coon Creek. The Town Board of Supervisors met in homes, but when a large attendance was expected, they convened in the schoolhouse.

While the official minutes of the Town Board are missing from 1878 to 1952, one must assume the Board acted favorably upon resolutions and motions which resulted in those developments which would enhance the quality of life for residents of the Township, i.e., railroad, schools, dam, road improvements, etc.

There are possibly few issues which politically polarized the voting community and consequently no urge to replace members of the Board, who were performing in an acceptable manner. Changes (minor ones) did take place, but the Board remained much the same between 1878 and 1898.

A complete list of those who served Anoka Township is not available, however, the following will show a majority of individuals who were elected to office from 1878 to 1952.

1878⁴⁴: The first Township election was held at "Benson School House" (District No. 2). The records show that Jared Benson was elected Chairman with 30 votes, his opposition received 16; C.V. Hines, Clerk, 18 votes; A.J. Caswell, Treasurer, 46 votes (no opposition); C.H. Parlin, Assessor, 46 votes (no opposition); _____ Manley, Supervisor, 31 votes and 15 for the opposition; and John R. Barrett, Supervisor, 46 votes with no opposition. **1880**⁴⁵: Apparently the chairman and supervisors did not run this year. Those elected were: C.W. Bryant, Clerk; A.J. Caswell, Treasurer; Michael Tigue, Assessor; Thomas Foley, Road Overseer; and John Dunn, Justice. **1882**: Jared Benson, Chairman (opposition: Mr. Parlin); John Coleman, Supervisor; Gustav Borge, Supervisor, 35 votes to 18 for opposition; William Dunn, Treasurer; Michael Tigue, Assessor; and Charles Young and Charles Underwood, Constables. **1883**: One person apparently elected this year, J.H. McCauley, as Supervisor. **1885**: Jared Benson, Chairman; Patrick Manley, Supervisor with a total vote of 118; J.H. McCauley, Supervisor; C.H. Fritch, Justice; Frank Lapham and L.E. Purdy, Constables; and John Coleman, Assessor. **1889**: The Chairman elected this year is unknown, however, the following were placed in office: Zachary Taylor Hanson (after whom Hanson Boulevard was named) and L.E. Purdy, Supervisors; George R. Campbell, Assessor; and Thomas Dunn, Constable. **1894**: A.E. Giddings, Chairman; George R. Campbell and George Foley, Supervisors; William Dunn, Clerk; T.A. Preston, Treasurer; and C.H. Fitch, Assessor. **1898**: Zachary Taylor Hanson, Chairman; Nels Bergeron and James Tigue, Supervisors; and M. Powers, Constable. **1900**: James Lemon, Supervisor (replaced James Tigue); Grotius Giddings, Treasurer; and George Foley, Assessor. **1907**: The persons who served in officer positions are unknown, but P.D. Tigue was elected Assessor; Tony Tronson, Frank Bergeron, James Tigue and Irving Smith, Road Overseers; with C. Tronson elected Constable. **1908**: Andrew Monitor,

Supervisor; C.W. Ball, Treasurer; C.E. Pendell, Justice; and C.W. Thwing, Constable. **1909**: J.P. Swanson, and Erick Pearson were installed as Supervisors; Charles M. Barney, Assessor; and Frank Chouinard, Constable. **1910**: C.W. Ball was elected Town Clerk; C.E. Pendell, Justice; and Herman Socwell, Constable. The voters approved \$600.00 for Township roads and \$250.00 for Town purposes. The election of March 1910 created considerable interest. **THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION** of March 10, 1910, carried this story: "In only one town was the liquor question an issue and that was in the town of Anoka. There a campaign had been made against the saloon by the organization of an anti-saloon league, public meetings, outside speakers, etc. The vote was a disappointment to the NO-LICENSE side as the vote stood 20 for NO-LICENSE and 54 FOR LICENSE. The saloon at Coon Creek will remain. This little fight hardly raised a ripple of any kind outside the township in this county, but outside of this county it was watched keenly."⁴⁶ **1911**: T.W. Lang was elected Justice. **1913**: Charles M. Barney, Supervisor; Ned (Martin) Dunn, Clerk; J.F. Wesp, Treasurer; and _____ Land, Constable. **1915**: Two Justices were elected, J. Davis and H. Wanamaker; E.F. Perkins and William Tigue, Constables. Votes FOR Liquor License--22, Votes AGAINST Liquor License--56. (Monies approved for Town Fund, \$200.00, and for the Bridge Fund received \$1,000). **1916**: Funds approved for: Roads and Bridges, \$1,600; Town Fund, \$200. **1919**: The Road and Bridge budget received \$1,500; and the Town Fund \$500. **1923**: Guy Goodrich, Supervisor and Ralph Talbot, Constable. **1926**: S. Bachelor, Justice, W.S. Barney, Constable. **1927**: Oscar Swanson, Supervisor. **1928**: Arthur Medin, Supervisor; B. Beckenbach, Justice; and C.E. Pendell, Constable. **1939**: Mrs. R.J. Talbot, Assessor; J.C. Appleton, Treasurer; A.E. Stevens, Justice; and A.C. Bombarger, Constable. **1940**: A.W. Medin, Chairman; Martin E. Dunn, Clerk; Grotius Giddings, Justice; and Arnold Strand, Constable. Town Revenue Fund, \$400; Road and Bridge Fund, \$1,700.⁴⁷ **1947**: A.W. Medin, Supervisor; Stanley Douglas, Clerk; Mrs. R.J. Talbot, Assessor; J.C. Appleton, Treasurer; and A.C. Bombarger, Constable. ⁴⁸ **1948**: Roy Hodson, Supervisor; Paul Talbot, Clerk; J.C. Appleton, Treasurer; and George Redmann, Constable. **1949**: "The current tax levy of 20 mills will remain in force for another year in the township of Anoka."⁴⁹ **1950**: A.W. Medin, Supervisor; Paul Talbot, Clerk; George Redmann, Constable, and J.C. Appleton, Justice. Budget: \$25,000, an increase of \$10,000. **1952**: Roy Hodson and Joe Nelson, Supervisors; Mrs. Earl Bergeron, Assessor; Mrs. Blanche Nisun, Justice; Zoning Commissioners, Robert Hagen; C. Fournier; Herb Gunther; M. Jacobson; and Arch Pease.

SOCIAL

Friday, January 2, 1874, "Frank Usher and wife called here. We had a Sociable at our place this evening. They had an oyster supper. Elder Galt and Elder Stafford and wife were here. There was 34 horses, 7 double cutters, 19 single cutters. The last of them left about 10 o'clock." Albert James Caswell Diary, from the Arthur D. Caswell and Family Papers (Minnesota Historical Society).

TOWN HALL

The need for a suitable meeting place for the Township Board became apparent, and on March 30, 1894, Joseph Wilson and his wife, Villa, filed a Warranty Deed with the Anoka County Recorder presenting a one-half acre lot in Section 21 of Anoka Township to the Board of Supervisors and their successors in office on which to build a town hall. A token payment of two dollars was paid to the Wilsons for this property.⁵⁰

In April of the same year a special meeting was held at the site of the proposed Town Hall to plan and estimate the cost of the building. The Township officials in attendance were: Martin E. Dunn, Clerk; A. Giddings, Chairman; George Foley and George Campbell, Supervisors. At this time, the Warranty Deed was presented to the Supervisors by A. Giddings.⁵¹

The Town Hall was erected that same summer and was used continuously until 1946 when it was sold to Earl and Ruby Dunn who remodeled it as a residence. The Dunn family lived there until 1979 when the building was damaged by a "runaway" automobile to such an extent that it was considered unsuitable for habitation.

The building stands today on its original site at 2527 Coon Rapids Boulevard, on the southeast corner of Yukon Street and Coon Rapids Boulevard.

From 1946 to 1954 the Board of Supervisors met in a garage near the corner of Hanson and 115th where the township road equipment was stored. (The equipment consisted of a grader and one truck). This building served as a Town Hall, polling place, and community meeting room. Each time a meeting or election was held the equipment was moved outside.

THE ALBERT JAMES CASWELL DIARY

An excerpt from the diary of Albert James Caswell, pioneer of Anoka Township for the month of June 1880, will illustrate typical events and activities a resident of Coon Rapids experienced 104 years ago. Very little or no punctuation was used in the original and it is presented as written, except for minor clarifications in spelling.

JUNE 1880

- 1 Tue - Martha has been down to Mrs. William Foleys a visiting I went down about 1 o'clock pm and brought her home and she has been to Anoka this afternoon Della [and] Hannah McNally Jr road up with her Della rode back with her as far as the old Conklin place It rained a little this afternoon
- 2 Wed - It rained a little last night We have been hauling hay from the new barn into the old Barn It has been a pleasant day
- 3 Thu - We have been at work on the other Side of the Creek digging a ditch this afternoon it rained so we had to quit

- 4 Fri - The trains have all been taking water the Engine at the Junction is out of repairs and they cannot get any water Orville and I have been pumping all day and they have taken 15 feet Since 8 o'clock last night heavy rain this forenoon and Slight hail Storm last night
- 5 Sat - It is raining quite hard this forenoon the Trains have not taken any water this forenoon Mr McNally Mr Manley and I have been down to visit the School Lucy Faherty is the Teacher rainy this afternoon
- 6 Sun - It rained about all night last night and is raining this morning The boys and I have been to Church and the Boys Staid to Sunday School It was cool this forenoon but it was warmer this afternoon
- 7 Mon - We have been hauling Some hay from the new Barn into the Old Barn Mr Barrett was here Assessing and taking the Sensus he assessed my real estate at \$1822.00 Personal Propt. 1046 total 2868.00 Della returned this afternoon
- 8 Tue - Della commenced work again I have been to Anoka took 12 Bus wheat to Mill It is raing [raining] this Evening Heard That J.A. Garfield was nominated for President on the Republican ticket
- 9 Wed - Heavy rain last night The Telegraph Co are putting up another wire on the poles today which makes four that are there now
- 10 Thu - Rainy this morning we have been at work on the ditch near Pfaffs Sinc 10 l'clock A.M.
- 11 Fri - Martha, Herbie and I have been to Sells Bros. Circus It has been very warm this afternoon
- 12 Sat - We have been at work on the Ditch It has been clear and warm
- 13 Sun - It is quite Cool today Martha and Boys and I have been to Church and Sunday School
- 14 Mon - It has been raining this forenoon we have been at work on the ditch this afternoon The Mississippi river is very high it is beginning to flow over Mr Dunns field
- 15 Tue - Orville has been cultivating corn on the other Side of the creek I have cultivated the garden and about ½ an acre on this Side of the creek near the Barn
- 16 Wed - It is warm clear and Still Orville is cultivating on this Side of the Creek Mr. Schwab was here this afternoon
- 17 Thu - It has been a very warm day Martha and Della have been to Anoka this afternoon Mr. Parlin was here this morning and got two pigs

- 18 Fri - Oraville has finish cultivating the corn the first time today at noon and hoeing this afternoon
- 19 Sat - Mr Dunn has fixed the Rail Road crossing in front of our house on the town road this afternoon the fence workers have got the R R fence nearly complete up as far as here
- 20 Sun - The weather has been warm and clear for almost one week the water is falling in the Mississippi it is very warm today we have been to Church and Sunday School it was quarterly meeting
- 21 Mon - Mr Schwab was here his boy John and Nephew Jacob Nigler and a boy by the Name of Horace Winchester have be[en] hoeing for me today and William Harbor has been helping me hoe
- 22 Tue - Jacob Nigler has gone over to Mr Dunns and hired out for two months Oraville and William Harbor have been at work on the road working out my road tax
- 23 Wed - Mr McNally called here a little before ten oclock last night and told us that John Murphy and Murphys wife and Son Frank has waylaid him bruch [back?] on the by-road between the R.R. and Tigues McNally was hurt pretty bad about the face and back Thunder Shower last night
- 24 Thu - Mr Thompson the Chief of Police was here and Supoened me as a witness on the McNally and Murphy case Oraville has been hoeing this forenoon, we have been burning brush this afternoon
- 25 Fri - I have been to Anoka today on Murphy and McNally case it was put off until Wednesday the 30, day of June I took dinner at Almas Mr Putnam and his wife were here to supper
- 26 Sat - Oraville has been [hoeing?] corn on the other Side of the creek I helped McNally fix his pump and then we went up to Mr Bensons
- 27 Sun - It rained quite heavy about 8 oclock A.M. So we did not go to Church Mr M Butterfield and his wife called here today Enquiring about the meadows between the Line and Murphy and Foley
- 28 Mon - Mr Smith came down and has been helping me do Some breaking out near Pfaffs we had quite a Shower about noon the ground is getting quite dry so that it is hard to break
- 29 Tue - Mr C Frost was here and Notified me to appear as a witness in a hay case between Foley and Murphy. I rode up on the 9 AM. Train Thomas Coleman rode up with me I walked home with Anthony McNally. Mr and Mrs. Hines were here this Evening Geo. Smith and Oraville have been Breaking today
- 30 Wed - The ground is So dry that we had to give up

Breaking I have been to Anoka as a witness on the Murphy and McNally assault and Battery case returned home about 7:00 P.M. The case was given to the Jury about 5 oclock P.M. One of McNallys girls came over after we had gone to Bed and Said the Jury did not agree and the case was Dismissed⁵²

1945 OFFICIAL BALLOT

TOWN OF ANOKA

ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1945

	Put an (x) opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for, in the square indicated by the arrow.
Vote For One	For Supervisor for 3 years— A. W. MEDIN
Vote For One	For Supervisor for 3 years—
Vote For One	For Treasurer for 2 years— J. C. APPLETON
Vote For One	For Treasurer for 2 years—
Vote For One	For Assessor for 2 years— MRS. R. J. TALBOT
Vote For One	For Assessor for 2 years—
Vote For One	For Justice of the Peace for 2 years— SAM OMDAHL
Vote For One	For Justice of the Peace for 2 years—
Vote For One	For Constable for 2 years— PAUL TALBOT
Vote For One	For Constable for 2 years—

1945 OFFICIAL BALLOT

This was the official ballot used at the Township election held on March 13, 1945. Anoka Township encompassed the area that the City of Coon Rapids does today.

TOWNSHIP

September 3, 1908. "Al Hilton, who is employed on the farm of his brother-in-law, Irving Smith at Coon Creek, is laid up with several broken ribs, fractured arm, and is in critical condition as a result of the collapsing of the wooden bridge over Coon Creek near the brickyards. Hilton had driven onto the planking when the entire 40-foot span collapsed at once. Driver, load and horses were tumbled into the creek bottom, 15 feet below." September 10, 1908. "The County Commissioners, in special session, voted to install a steel structure here." [County Road No. 1] **THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, July 25, 1876, Section 5, Col. 16.

CHAPTER I Endnotes

¹John Pope, "Map of the Territory of Minnesota, 1849" (Dunwoody Institute, 1976).

²Carolynn Schommer, Dept. of American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota, Sioux Language Specialist.

³Grover Singley, **TRACING MINNESOTA'S OLD GOVERNMENTAL ROADS**, pp. 25-30, (Minnesota Historical Society, 1974).

⁴Rhoda R. Gilman, Carolyn Gilman, and Deborah M. Stultz, **THE RED RIVER TRAILS**, Oxcart Routes between St. Paul and the Selkirk settlement, 1829-1871, p. 83, (Minnesota Historical Society, 1979).

⁵Ibid.

⁶MINNESOTA, WPA, Historical Records Survey Project, **INVENTORY OF COUNTY ARCHIVES, Anoka-2**, p. 18, (Works Projects Administration, 1942).

⁷**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) September 3, 1965.

⁸**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) June 25, 1976.

⁹Newspaper clipping, "Little City at Rapids in 1912", undated, unidentified, in files of Coon Rapids Historical Commission.

¹⁰Arthur D. Caswell and Family Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

¹¹See note 9 above.

¹²Daniel Wozniak, Manager, Coon Rapids Post Office.

¹³Albert M. Goodrich, **HISTORY OF ANOKA COUNTY . . .** (Hennepin Publishing Co., 1905), (Anoka Co. Bicentennial Commission). p. 162 rpt, 1976.

¹⁴Warranty Deed of Mary N. and Isaac Kimball to E.P. Campbell, May 27, 1872 (recorded June 10, 1872), Anoka Co., MN, Deed Book I, p. 368.

¹⁵See note 9 above.

¹⁶See note 9 above, p. 13.

¹⁷County Superintendent's Record Book, 1877-1881, Record of Special School Meetings, Anoka County Historical Society.

¹⁸State Aid Record, Graded Schools, 1914, District 2, Anoka Co., MN p. 79, Anoka County Historical Society.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 80, District 2.

²⁰Ibid., 1913, p. 21, District 50.

²¹**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) July 25, 1976, Section 10, p. 2, col. 5.

²²Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11, Administrative Office, Janet Davenport.

²³Ibid.

²⁴**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) July 25, 1976, Section 5, p.1, cols. 1-3.

²⁵Official Coon Rapids City Council Minutes, July 1, 1980, Resolution No. 80-68.

²⁶Ethel M. McClure, **MORE THAN A ROOF**, (Minnesota Historical Society, 1968) pp. 129-30.

²⁷Map of Anoka County (Northwest Publishing Co., Mpls., MN 1904).

²⁸Patricia Schwappach and Lucille Huston, Anoka County Poor Farm

Research Paper, 1979, (Anoka County Historical Society).

²⁹Transfer Record, Book F (Recorded January 9, 1902) Anoka County Auditor, Anoka, Anoka Co., MN.

³⁰**THE ANOKA HERALD** (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) October 16, 1923. Photocopy in the files of Coon Rapids Historical Commission, no page shown, cols. 2 and 3.

³¹See note 28 above.

³²Reverend Harold W. Zart, **COON RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, (Joyce Chapel) 1973, (Note: Rev. E.C. Clemens said to be a cousin to "Mark Twain" Samuel Clemens).

³³Ibid.

³⁴_____, **SILENT CITIES**, A Survey of Anoka County Cemeteries (Anoka County Historical Society, 1977) p. 48.

³⁵_____, History, Coon Rapids Methodist Church, transcript, updated.

³⁶Official Village Minutes, January 20, 1954.

³⁷Thelma Boeder, Archivist, Minnesota Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, MN.

³⁸**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) July 25, 1976, Section 1, p. 8, col. 1.

³⁹David Wold, Communications Director, Anoka Electric Cooperative.

⁴⁰See note 38 above, Section 5, pps. 2-3, cols. 5 and 6.

⁴¹See note 38 above, Section 5, p. 2, cols. 1 and 4.

⁴²Karen Kobey, Interpretive Naturalist, Hennepin County Park Reserve District, Coon Rapids Dam.

⁴³Abstract of Title in possession of Stanley and Lorraine Zawistowski, owners.

⁴⁴Albert James Caswell diary, March 12, 1878, in the Arthur D. Caswell and Family Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

⁴⁵See note 38 above, Section 5, p. 1, cols. 5 and 6.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷**THE ANOKA HERALD**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) March 27, 1940, p. 5, col. 5.

⁴⁸**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) March 14, 1947, p. 1, col. 5.

⁴⁹**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION**, (Anoka, Anoka Co., MN) March 12, 1948, p. 1, col. 8.

⁵⁰Warranty Deed from Joseph Wilson and Wife to Anoka Township Supervisors, March 28, 1894, (Recorded March 30, 1894), Anoka Co., MN, Deed Book 18, p. 347.

⁵¹Minutes of Special Meeting of Town Board of Supervisors, April 18, 1894, Typescript. In possession of Earl Dunn Family, Coon Rapids, MN.

⁵²See note 44 above, June, 1880.

Chapter II

VILLAGE
1952-1959

"The governments of cities and villages daily touch the lives of the great majority of our people. It is not easy to exaggerate the importance to the people of good city and village government. If a city or village has high standards of integrity and efficiency, the young people who grow up in it will unconsciously learn those standards and transmit them to other communities, to the state and to the nation."

William Anderson
Professor Emeritus
Political Science
Department
University of Minnesota¹

VILLAGE 1952-1959

In order to better understand the transition period when Anoka Township became the Village of Coon Rapids, one must be aware of prior political activities which helped to shape the "personality" of the City as it is today. There is never a fine line of demarcation in the process of political evolution, as today's actions are predicated upon previous events as well as those of the future. The past is truly prologue.

The idea of proposing to incorporate was not a new one to residents of the Township. As early as June 1948, a petition was presented to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners proposing that Anoka Township be incorporated as the Village of Coon Rapids. The petition was validated and an election on the question was scheduled for July 21 when the voters of Anoka Township voted 316 to 141 against the change.

A growing population, home building, establishment of new businesses, and an increasing demand for services convinced Township officials and other local leaders of the need for additional governmental authority than that provided by the township form of government.

In 1950 the Township Board authorized a zoning program, and at a Special Election in April it was approved by a vote of 291 to 191. This was the second attempt to obtain authority to regulate land use and building in the fast growing community. The zoning issue had been voted down earlier, but a popular surge in favor of zoning had taken place.

Five zoning districts were organized and elections were set for naming two members from each district to the Zoning Committee. The results: **District I:** Theodore Buzzelli and Louis Vucin. **District II:** Jack McKay and James Whitehead. **District III:** Erick Hedford and Leland Sorteberg. **District IV:** Joe Nelson and Frank Miller. **District V:** Glenn Haven and Arch Pease.

The Zoning Commission met May 1, 1950, naming Glenn Haven Chairman and Leland Sorteberg Secretary. At the second meeting, a final draft of the building code and zoning regulations was completed. In June 1950 the Township Board named Guy Robinson as the first building inspector of

the Town of Anoka. From that time all building in the Township was under supervision.

Interest in local government was negligible, as illustrated when only 57 voters went to the polls in the March 1951 Town election. (The 1950 Federal Census showed a population of 2,563 residents).

In May 1951 the Township Board authorized the Zoning and Planning Commission members to act in an advisory capacity as Township Councilmen. Suggestions for improvement of conditions in each zone, under this plan, would be submitted to the Township Council for consideration before final action.

Prior to March 1952 certain areas had a considerable concentration of population, including Woodale Park, Coon Creek, Joyce Chapel, and along Highway No. 1 and Crooked Lake Boulevard. One hundred eighty-nine homes were built that summer by Furseth Investment Company of Minneapolis, the addition called "Anoka Gardens", in the area between Highway No. 242 and Coon Rapids Boulevard. The building boom had started.

A formal petition signed by the president of the Federal Cartridge Corporation was presented on May 26, 1952, to the Anoka City Commission. The petition asked that a plot containing 90.65 acres and the Federal Cartridge Corporation in the then Township of Anoka be annexed to the City of Anoka. The petition was approved and given first and second reading and an ordinance regarding the annexation was published.

On June 25, 1952, a "writ of Quo Warranto" was filed by the Supervisors of Anoka Township for a hearing before the Minnesota Supreme Court. At the hearing on July 30 a referee was appointed and a hearing held at the Anoka City Hall on October 14 and 15. From the evidence heard at that time, the referee made his recommendation to the Supreme Court, saying annexation was valid and of legal effect. Anoka Township had lost a considerable tax income with the loss of this suit.

On July 18, 1952, a petition signed by 25 freeholders was presented to the Anoka County Commissioners asking incorporation of a part of Anoka Township as the new village of "Coleman Heights". The petition was not approved as it was

not properly drawn, not having a census of the area attached. The petitioners resided in the area south of Woodale Park, taking in all of the NSP holdings and extended east along Coon Rapids Boulevard, containing 2,150 acres and 523 residents.

At a meeting on October 6, 1952, the Anoka Township Board gave its unqualified support to the effort to incorporate the whole of the Township into the Village of Coon Rapids. A committee to arrange a mass informational meeting for all township residents prior to the election consisted of the following persons: Board members Robert G. Hagen; Joe Nelson; Roy T. Hodson; Paul Talbot; and Guy Robinson, Township Building Inspector. James Whitehead was Secretary of the Zoning Commission.

The Chamber of Commerce carried the issue to the doors of the residents in a house-to-house campaign.

At the polls on October 17, 1952, residents approved the establishment of Coon Rapids Village by a vote of 835 to 209—a total of 1,044. The voting turnout was the largest in the history of the area.

VOTE
NO
on
Coon Rapids
- VILLAGE -
INCORPORATION

1. Don't vote to raise your town taxes—As a village we would have well over 100 miles of roads to maintain. Now the County does much of it.
2. Only the chamber of commerce urges you to become a village so the little business area on Highway No. 10 may get village services—All the rest of us will pay for it by increased taxes.
3. Under present law a township has approximately the same rights and powers as a village—The only result of changing from a township to a village would be—**INCREASED TAXES.**
4. **FEDERAL CARTRIDGE**—Several months ago this company was merged into the City of Anoka. Your present town board is spending hundreds of dollars in court trying to keep this Company in the township. Don't endanger this law suit. We must remain as a township.
5. We understand court action will be taken to challenge the village election—Voters will have to spend more money—Vote NO, avoid more law suits.

Vote "NO" on Incorporation

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1952 AT TOWN HALL. POLLS OPEN 8:00 A. M. TO 8:00 P. M. VOTING PLACE—COUNTY ROAD A AND HANSON ROAD (Across from Joyce Chapel) If you have lived in the township since Sept. 13, 1952, you can vote without registering.

TOWNSHIP FLYERS

The question put to the voters of whether or not to become a Village was a contested issue in 1952 as indicated by the "Vote Yes" and "Vote No" flyers circulated by the proponents of each position. The results were 835—yes and 209—no.

FACTS

Here They Are!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED to vote against the Coon Rapids Village, ponder the request carefully. Here are factual, recorded answers to the statements of the opposition:

1.—**Taxes cannot be raised in a village without a SPECIAL VOTE by yourselves. The county maintains less roads in Anoka Township than any township in the county.**

2.—**YOU have voted your town board members into office. You thereby trust their judgment. Your town board ENDORSES this village 100%.**

3.—**If you want more public services, whether under Village or Township government, you will pay more taxes. TAXES WILL NOT BE RAISED unless you want more public service.**

4.—**Federal Cartridge IS NOT YET part of the City of Anoka. However, we will definitely lose Federal Cartridge Co. and more than 20% of Tax Income unless we become a village. Defeat the village and YOU will raise your taxes by losing Federal Cartridge.**

5.—**Nothing in the OPPOSITION CIRCULAR is clear, much is misleading. YOU AS VOTERS must consider the issues, the sources and true purposes of the people behind these issues. Ask yourselves—WHO PUT OUT THE OPPOSITION SHEET? Why wasn't a signature printed? Do not forget that a township area can lose valuable tax property by annexation to other cities and by the township being broken up by small villages founded by people who do not have the interests of ALL THE PEOPLE in the township or the future of YOUR family. WE MUST BECOME A VILLAGE!**

VOTE YES!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1952 at TOWN HALL. POLLS OPEN 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. VOTING PLACE—County Road "A" and Hanson Road (Across from Joyce Chapel). If you have lived in the township since Sept. 13, 1952, you can vote without registering.

(Prepared and Circulated by the Coon Rapids Chamber of Commerce)

The way was now clear for the formation of Village government, and all Village officials had to be elected within the next four weeks.

The first Village election was held at the Town Hall at Joyce Chapel November 4, 1952. Election Judges were Mrs. Florence Cunitz, Clerk; Mrs. Theodore Dunn; Sam Omdahl; and Mrs. Guy Robinson, alternate. (See those elected at end of the chapter).

One of the immediate actions of the new Village Council was to appoint Wyman Smith as the first Village Attorney. He was retained to assist in the legal work relative to the formation of the Village.

The Council placed the planning of the Village in the hands of the University of Minnesota with the general plan being the responsibility of Joseph Mundi, who was assigned to work with Lloyd Wolf, Joe Nelson, Herb Miller, and A.F. Neutzman of the planning committee.

By February 1953 building permits totaling \$2,859,244 had been issued since the adoption of a building and zoning code on June 5, 1950. During the next few months commercial and residential building would rapidly change the face of the village.

Orrin Thompson, a Minneapolis builder, who had been constructing new housing developments in Richfield and Bloomington planned to begin a 600-house project in Coon Rapids in 1954. The new addition was called "Northdale" on Foley Road and County Road A (Northdale Boulevard).²



ORRIN THOMPSON HOMES
The first large subdivision of the Village was begun in the mid 1950's. Orrin Thompson developed the Northdale subdivision in the Foley and Northdale Boulevard areas.

A significant election was held on May 28, 1953, when the vote was taken on the question of whether the Village should own and operate a municipal liquor store. Votes cast: 225 for and 66 against; however, nearly a year would pass before this project would become a reality. In October of 1954, the Village Treasurer's report to the Village Council included

\$1,504.50 for a liquor tax application. In December of that year, the Council passed Ordinance No. 25 establishing a Village liquor store.³ Alfred G. Herman was appointed manager at a salary of \$400 per month at the Council meeting of March 22, 1955. Wyman Smith, Village Attorney, donated the safe from his law office for use in the municipal liquor store, and a burglar alarm system was installed. One month after opening on July 19, 1955, the sales receipts totaled \$1,198.95.⁴ In August the VFW Post 334 was issued the first private club liquor license.⁵

The first liquor store was located in the building currently housing NSFSC and was shared by the first fire station.



GROUND-BREAKING
In December 1954 the ordinance approving a Village liquor store was approved. The ground-breaking was held on March 4, 1955, at the site of the present Family Center on Coon Rapids Boulevard. The first shovelful was removed by Mayor Glen Haven. Guy Robinson is holding the pick. Frank Miller is on the extreme right standing next to Bert Norberg.

The annual election of November 27, 1953, became one of the most contested since the Village was organized a year before. Five candidates filed for Mayor, three for the single open Council post, and two for the one position on the Zoning Commission. Glenn V. Haven, Chairman of the Zoning Commission since its organization, was elected Mayor. Joe Nelson, the first Mayor of the Village, did not seek re-election.⁶

The Village continued to grow at a rapid pace. During the 47 months of the operation of the Zoning and Planning Commission, a total of 1,179 building permits were issued. The market value of the new buildings was approximately \$6,770,000.⁷

The first building bond issue was approved by voters in November of 1954, by a vote of 768 to 744, to erect the first public building in the village--a fire station on Coon Rapids Boulevard, just west of the "Y", at a cost of \$25,000 (now NSFSC building).

According to the minutes of the Village Council of July 23, 1955, a motion was approved to authorize negotiations with Richard Hipp for a lease of one year for space in the Coon Rapids Shopping Center, in the rear of the barber shop, for use as Village offices. These quarters are now a part of the large dining room in the Sportsman's restaurant. In January 1958 the Village offices were moved around the corner to a small office space next to Champion Auto Store. The address was 9941 Bluebird Street.⁸

In November 1954 Orrin Thompson announced plans to build 600 homes in Coon Rapids the following year. Thompson was said to be the largest developer in the country. The "Orrin Thompson era" in Coon Rapids lasted for over 15 years and was responsible for construction of over 4,000 homes, a central water system, townhouses, a country club with a swimming pool, and parks and recreation areas in the developments.⁹

Some developers of this period were: Daily and Herda, Furseth, Butler, Hipp Construction, Rippberger, and others.

A petition was presented at a special meeting of the Village on January 12, 1954, by residents of the Mississippi Oaks Addition in Fridley who desired annexation to Coon Rapids, as they felt "Coon Rapids was more progressive". On January 20, 1954, Ordinance No. 21 was adopted, making Mississippi Oaks a part of Coon Rapids Village. The area consisted of 191 acres with a population of 141.¹⁰

A new address system went into effect in February of 1956. Rural route numbers 3 and 4 were discontinued and only street addresses were used. Four categories of street names were chosen: trees, birds, flowers and Indian names. The committee to re-name and number the existing roads and streets consisted of Roland Anderson, Guy Robinson, Jim Whitehead, Robert Peterson, Kingsley Bronson, Joe Nelson, Dick Furseth, Robert Hagan, A.T. Dingman, Harold Bartholow, and Robert Hayford.¹¹

The estimated population of the Village in July of 1957 was 9,000 and rapidly growing.

Orrin Thompson proposed in July 1957 that he construct a \$250,000 water system to serve the homes in Thompson Park and offered it to the City as a municipal water system. This proposal required approval, and at the election in August it was voted to proceed to establish a municipally-owned and operated water system. The system, complete with well, chlorinator, pump, and 130 connections was turned over to the Village for operation. Final acceptance of the 500-family capacity water system occurred November 1, 1958.⁹

The fast-growing population, future planning, and provision of services resulted in additional responsibilities for Village officials, who held full-time occupational positions. A clear need for a competent administrative staff was apparent. In November 1957 Coon Rapids voters approved the change to a Standard Plan "B" or Manager-type government. Under this plan, the Village Manager was able to reduce Council's time devoted to administrative activity. At the first Council meeting of January 1958, Robert Peterson was appointed

Village Manager after having served as Administrative Clerk. Upon Peterson's resignation on February 25, 1958. Leslie Mason, Mayor, was named as Village Manager. Burt Norberg was nominated by the Council to preside in the Mayor's absence.

In March 1958 Thomas Forsberg, Municipal Judge of the Village, filed a petition in District Court requesting that a 15-member Charter Commission be named by the judge. The petition was signed by approximately 120 persons over the required ten percent of voters who cast ballots in the last election. By State Statute a Charter Commission member must be a free holder who had lived in the Village for at least five years.

The preparation of the Home Rule Charter was in anticipation of a request for city status. The Charter allowed greater freedom in the exercise of local government, the formation of a ward system, and facilitated a more area-wide representation on the City Council.

The City Charter is, in a sense, a local constitution approved by local voters which is subject to change by them or in certain cases by the Council. An excerpt from the Charter of the City of Coon Rapids defines the Charter guidelines as: "The form of government established by this Charter is the Council-Manager Plan. The Council shall exercise the legislative power of the City and determine all matters of policy. The City Manager shall be the head of the administrative branch of the City government and shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all affairs relating to the City".¹²

A charter may provide for any form of municipal government as long as it is consistent with state laws applicable to home rule charter cities.

Members of the Coon Rapids Charter Commission at the time of its passage on June 9, 1959, were: Kingsley D. Bronson; Constance Burchette; Howard M. Fleury; Marian Fletcher; A.T. Flynn; Robert C. Hagen; Glenn V. Haven; Robert E. Lawrence; Robert M. Lommen; Hartley Medin; Irving Nelson; Blance Nisun; Guy V. Robinson; Leland R. Sorteberg; Paul Talbot, and Thomas Forsberg, Legal Advisor.¹³

The Charter Commission completed its work and study of more than a year and a prepared Charter was presented to the Mayor and Council to be submitted to the voters. Much of the Home Rule Charter was based on the model charter of the League of Municipalities and contained many changes in the local government.¹⁴

The date of June 9, 1959, was scheduled for a special election to determine the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Charter. On this date the voters favored the change by a margin of 172 to 59. A majority of 55 percent was needed to authorize the Village to become a City. The Charter vote carried, with a total of 74.45 percent of the votes cast. The vote was ratified June 13, 1959.¹⁵

Coon Rapids Township had become a City of the Fourth Class.

**CHAPTER II
Endnotes**

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

1952: Joe Nelson, former Chairman of the Township Board, Mayor; Burt Norberg, Trustee--three-year term; Robert Hagen, Trustee--two-year term; R. Frank Miller, Trustee--one-year term; Richard Sorteberg, Treasurer; Paul Talbot, Clerk; Mrs. Earl (Fern) Bergeron, Assessor; Blanche Nisun and Milton Tenold, Justices; and Victor Hodson and Howard Working, Constables. 1,044 total votes. **1953:** Glenn V. Haven, Mayor; R. Frank Miller, Trustee; Howard Fleury, Treasurer; Thomas Forsberg, Municipal Judge; Blanche Nisun, Justice; and Howard Working, Constable. Zoning Commissioners were Antonio Buzzelli, Lloyd Cropper, Eldon Rootes, Lowell Kisor, and Arnold Strand. **1955:** Leslie B. Mason, Mayor; Burt Norberg, Trustee; Howard Fleury, Treasurer, and Darel Bombarger, Constable. 916 total votes. **1956:** Leslie B. Mason, Mayor; Paul Talbot and Irving E. Nelson, Trustees, and H.F. Hutchinson, Constable. 3,000 total votes. **1957:** Leslie B. Mason, Mayor (to May 31, 1958); James W. Dahlman, Trustee; Thomas Forsberg, Municipal Judge, and Howard Fleury, Treasurer. With the new form of government, this office would no longer be elective, but appointive. **1958:** Irving E. Nelson, Mayor; Joseph Craig, Burt V. Norberg, and Paul J. Talbot, Trustees. 1,036 total votes.

¹James M. Banovetz, **PRIMER FOR MINNESOTA MAYORS AND COUNCILMEN** (League of Minnesota Municipalities, Rev. 1974).

²**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION** (Anoka, Anoka County, MN) September 3, 1965, Section 2-c, p. 12, Cols. 1-8.

³Village Council Minutes, December 1, 1954.

⁴Ibid. May 4, 1955.

⁵Ibid. August 3, 1955.

⁶See note 2 above.

⁷Ibid.

⁸**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION** (Anoka, Anoka County, MN) June 25, 1976, Section 5, p. 6, Cols. 4-6.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Village Council Minutes of Special Meetings, January 12, 1954, and January 20, 1954.

¹¹Roland Anderson, Member of the Committee.

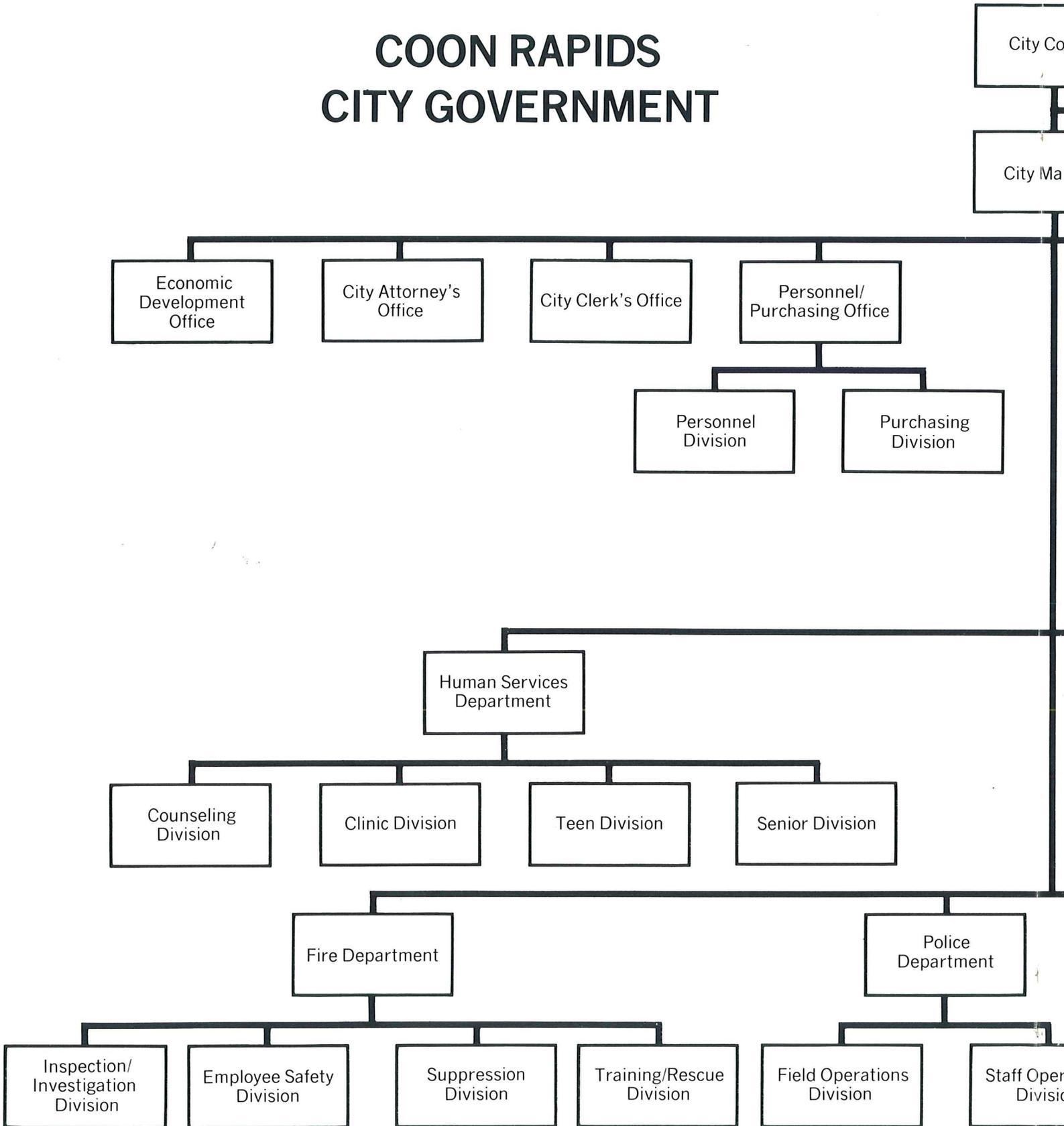
¹²Chapter 1-201, **CHARTER OF CITY OF COON RAPIDS**, Compiled by the Coon Rapids Charter Commission (pamphlet), Approved by the voters June 9, 1959.

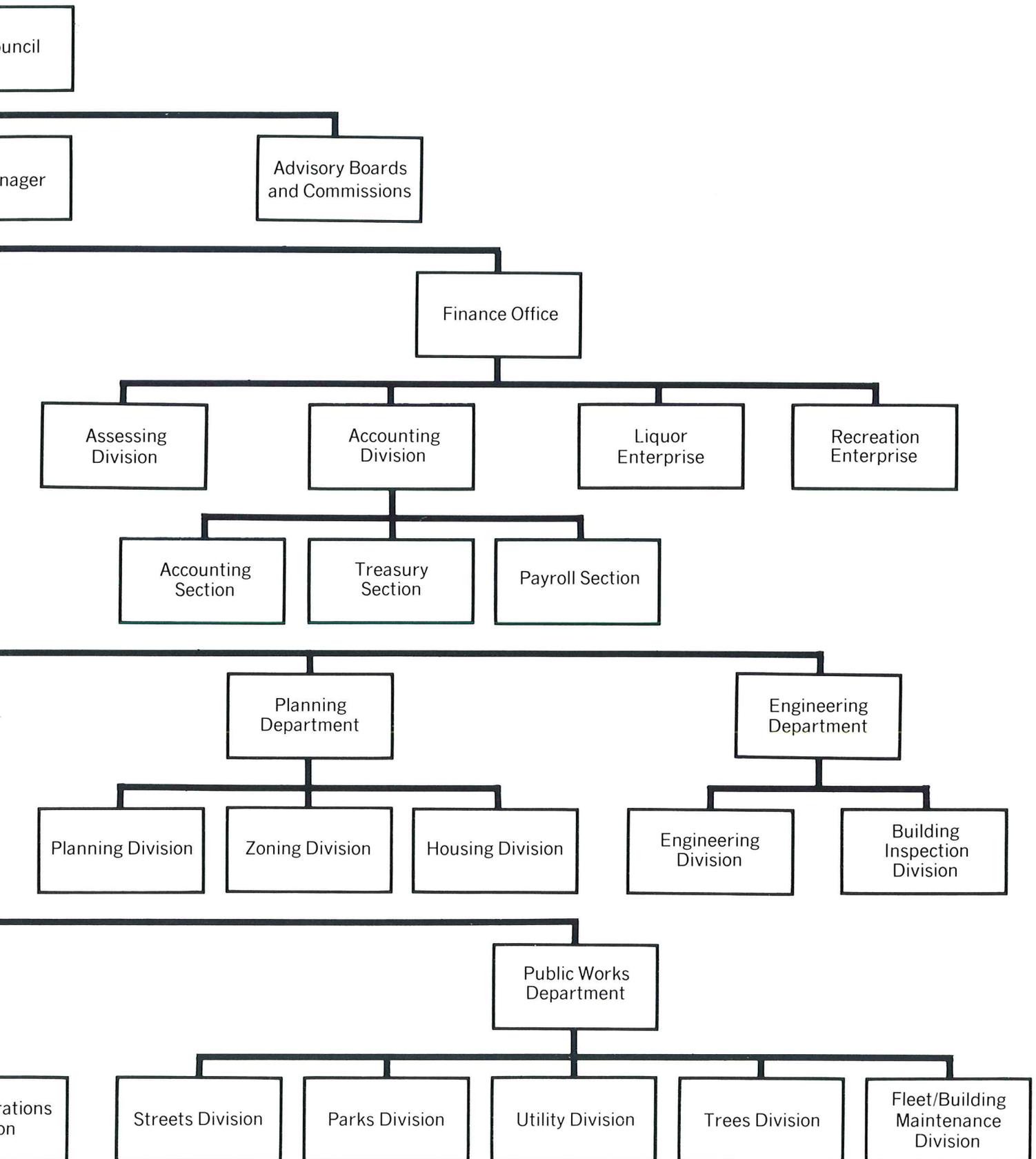
¹³Chapter 1-1300, **CHARTER OF CITY OF COON RAPIDS**.

¹⁴See note 2 above.

¹⁵Election Data, Coon Rapids City Clerk's File (October 1952-1963).

COON RAPIDS CITY GOVERNMENT





Chapter III

CITY
1959-1984

"The survival of democracy depends on the ability of a large number of people to make realistic choices in the light of adequate information".

Aldous Huxley

CITY 1959-1984

From a tiny settlement centered around farming and the brickyard industry in 1880, the area that has become the City of Coon Rapids is perhaps the most progressive and innovative community in the state. This development was distinguished by the preservation of a high quality of life that is to be admired. These qualities did not just happen -- they occurred as a result of a community's vision of the ideal environment in which to live, work, and play. Dedicated men and women have given their time and considerable talent in order to create and develop a community where one could live out one's life -- a rare ideal in a transient society.

The Coon Rapids City Charter prescribes the form of government but it is the people who "make it work". The Mayor and Councilmembers are the key officials. They set policy and determine budgets and programs of services, which have an impact on every citizen as well as on the future growth and development of the entire community.

CITY HALL

An increase in government activity due to growing development in late 1959, made it apparent that larger quarters to house the various City departments was imperative. Rental space in Coon Rapids Shopping Center and other quarters was costing the City in excess of \$6,000.00 annually.

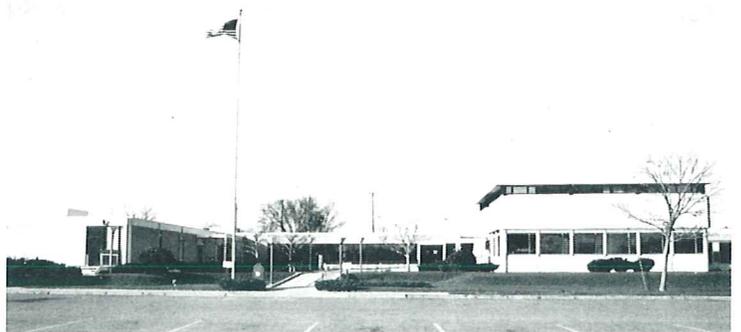
Several public meetings were held to inform residents of this need in late 1959, and a site was selected near or adjacent to the fire station on Coon Rapids Boulevard.

The City Hall Bond Issue of \$152,000 was approved April 12, 1960, by the voters 406 to 398. Construction began that summer on the two-unit City Hall which was occupied and officially opened for business June 1, 1961. The east wing consisted of offices for the City Manager, Water, Finance, Inspection, and Assessing Departments, plus the office of the City Clerk, voter registration, and the City Planner. At the opposite end of a covered walkway, the west wing was divided into three areas: Police Department offices and jail, a combination courtroom and council chambers, the Coon Rapids Branch of the Anoka County Library. Open house was held July 23, 1961.

Plans were completed and construction had begun in August 1964 on an \$83,425 addition. The cost of this second story edition was included in the 1964 budget and bonding was unnecessary. The addition was completed in February 1965.



This photo shows the Coon Rapids City Hall in June 1961. A second story was added in August 1964.



The Coon Rapids City Hall as it will appear upon the completion of a scheduled 1984 face-lifting.

The administration and laboratory buildings of Midwest Breeders Cooperative, plus one of the large barns and four acres of land were acquired by the City in December 1968. This property was donated to the City by Orrin Thompson. The City converted the administration building into a City Hall Annex and it was used for various city offices until 1979 when they were moved to the main building.¹⁰

An addition made to the Police Department quarters in August 1972 was made possible by the issuance of Public Building Bonds in the amount of \$125,000.

The last addition to City Hall took place in 1978, when the two initial units were connected on the north side by construction of additional office space. The move to new quarters took place in January 1979, when the addition was occupied by the offices of the City Manager, City Attorney, Financing, Assessing, City Clerk, Public Works, Fire, Engineering, Inspection, and Planning Departments. Construction costs for the building's addition were \$543,000 through a HUD grant and \$292,794 via City funding.

The ambience of City Hall is not derived so much from its architecture, but the pleasant, friendly, professional attitude exhibited by all City employees.

MAYOR

The Mayor is the presiding officer at Council meetings. Presiding officers recognize speakers for the purpose of debate and for making motions and to rule on questions of Council procedure. The Mayor is recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, and by the courts for the purpose of serving civil process. The Mayor is also responsible for reporting to the Council any neglect, dereliction of duty, or waste on the part of any officer or department of the City.

Every ordinance or resolution passed by the Council is signed by the Mayor, attested to, filed and preserved by the City Clerk.

The Mayor, as the official head of the City, usually represents the municipality before the State Legislature, Federal and State agencies, and other local governments. The Mayor is also considered to be the head of government by local citizens.

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council is made up of five persons, all elected by the citizens of Coon Rapids. There are three Wards within the City. Each Ward elects one Councilmember to represent that Ward. In addition, each eligible voting citizens of Coon Rapids has the opportunity to vote for a Councilmember at Large and a Mayor. The Councilmember at Large and the Mayor are elected for two-year terms, each elected in a different year so that the citizens have the opportunity to vote for at least one Councilmember each year. The Council representatives elected from each ward are elected for a three-year term. The elective process of the Council is such that two Councilmembers are elected each year -- one of the ward Councilmembers and either the Councilmember at Large or the Mayor.

The Councilmembers are the representatives of the citizens. They are to look out for individual needs of the citizens as well as the welfare of the City as a whole. The Council performs many important functions. Some of those functions are: **Approval of warrants** -- No order may be issued for disbursement of municipal funds until the claim has been approved by the Council. The Council's approval is to ensure that: (1) the expenditure is legal, (2) the proper procedure has been followed in incurring the expense, and (3) that the expenditure is consistent with budgetary allotments. **Purchasing and Letting Contracts** -- State law requires that statutory cities advertise for bids on all contracts and purchases which exceed \$5,000 in amount, although a somewhat different rule applies where special assessments are used in whole or in part to finance a local improvement. **Elections** -- Municipal councils are responsible for the conduct of all elections within their jurisdiction. This includes appointing election judges for the actual election and, in some instances, serving as the final judge over the election and qualification of their own membership. **Levying Taxes** -- Within the limits prescribed in their charters and in various state laws, councils have the power to levy taxes and other wise raise revenues for their municipality. **Making Public Improvements** -- Municipalities, through their councils, are responsible for installing and maintaining public im-

provements such as municipal buildings, streets, and parks, as well as water, gas, and sewage mains. Where these improvements result in special benefit to particular parcels of property, the City can use special assessments to help defray the cost of the improvement. **Regulation and Licensing** -- Municipalities are granted authority by statute or charter to regulate and license certain businesses. In addition, under their general police powers, cities may license a wide variety of occupations which affect public health, safety, morals or welfare. They may also regulate, through licensing, potential nuisances within their jurisdiction. Municipalities do, thereby, have the authority to require licenses for liquor dealers, peddlers, auctioneers, dogs, etc.

Other important tasks falling within the Council's responsibility are borrowing money, budgeting, establishing public policy, providing public health protection, undertaking comprehensive planning for the cities' development, preparing periodic reports to the public on municipal activities and progress, ensuring public safety by means of adequate police and fire protection, operating municipally owned utilities, regulating privately-owned utilities, and establishing zoning plans and regulations.

Members of the City Council by year: **1959**--Irving Nelson, Mayor; Joseph Craig; James Dahlman; Burt Norberg; and Paul Talbot. **1960**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Paul Talbot; Burt Norberg; James Dahlman; and Don Johansen. **1961**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Paul Talbot; Burt Norberg; John Andrews; and Don Johansen. **1962**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; John Andrews; Earl Hoover; Don Johansen; and Paul Talbot. **1963**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; John Andrews; Earl Hoover; Don Johansen; and Don Olson. **1964**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Don Johansen; Joseph Cook; Howard Harmon; and Earl Hoover. **1965**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Don Johansen; Joseph Cook; Howard Harmon; and Kenneth Smith. **1966**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Joseph Cook; Kenneth Smith; David Larson; and Howard Harmon. **1967**--Joseph Craig, Mayor; Kenneth Smith; David Larson; Donald Erlandson; and Howard Harmon. **1968**--Robert Voss, Mayor; Kenneth Smith; Joel Jacobs; Donald Erlandson; and David Larson. **1969**--Robert Voss, Mayor; Joel Jacobs; Donald Erlandson; David Larson; and David McCauley. **1970**--Robert Voss, Mayor; Joel Jacobs; Robert Myers; David Larson; and David McCauley. **1971**--Robert Voss, Mayor; Melvin Schulte; Robert Myers; David Larson; and David McCauley. **1972**--Donald Erlandson, Mayor; Melvin Schulte; Robert Myers; Gary Osberg; and David McCauley. **1973**--Donald Erlandson, Mayor; Melvin Schulte; Herman Heine; Gary Osberg; and Eugene Merriam. **1974**--Donald Erlandson, Mayor; Richard Reiter; David Therkelsen (Susan Green, 11/74); Gary Osberg; and Eugene Merriam. **1975**--Donald Erlandson, Mayor; Richard Reiter; Susan Green; Arnold Stull; and Douglas Ryan. **1976**--George J. White, Mayor; Ronald Carlson; Susan Green; Arnold Stull; and R. Douglas Ryan. **1977**--George J. White, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Arnold Stull; and R. Douglas Ryan. **1978**--George J. White, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and R. Douglas Ryan. **1979**--George J. White, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and R. Douglas Ryan. **1980**--David S. McCauley, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and R. Douglas Ryan. **1981**--David S. McCauley, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and Greg Oxley. **1982**--Robert B. Lewis, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and Greg

Oxley. **1983**--Robert B. Lewis, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green, Carolyn Voss; and Mark Swenson. **1984**--Robert B. Lewis, Mayor; Allen Soliday; Susan Green; Carolyn Voss; and Mark Swenson.

CITY MANAGER

The chief administrator of the City is the City Manager. The City Manager is appointed by the Council and serves at its discretion. He/she attends all Council meetings and serves as advisor for and makes recommendations to the Council. Under the direction of the City Manager, through a professional staff, the will of the City Council is put into effect. The duties of the City Manager include: Enforcement of the Charter and the laws, ordinances, and resolutions of the City; the appointment and removal upon the basis of merit and fitness and subject to applicable civil service provisions, if any, the City Clerk, all heads of departments, and all subordinate officers and employees in departments; exercises control over all departments and divisions of the City administration; keeps the Council fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City, and the preparation of and submittal to the Council of the annual budget; the preparation and submittal to the Council for adoption of an administrative code incorporating the details of administrative procedure.

City Managers have been: Robert A. Peterson, January 1958-May 1958; Leslie Mason, June 1958-September 1959; Marlowe McCrady--Acting, September 1959-November 1959; A.T. Flynn--Acting, November 1959-April 1960; Robert Pelscher, April 1960-April 1967; Patrick H. Nelson--Acting, April 1967-May 1967; Thomas Nutting, May 1967-May 1969; Patrick H. Nelson--Acting, May 1969-July 1969; John Cottingham, July 1969-November 1978; Leonard Kne--Acting, November 1978-July 1979; Robert D. Thistle, July 1979 to present.

ADVISORY COMMISSIONS

Because of the increasing number of issues and the growing need for citizen leadership in community affairs, the City Council appoints many public spirited citizens to serve on various advisory boards and commissions. Nothing is so vital to the progress of the City as the interest and activity of its citizens in community projects and City government.

Examples of citizen participation over a period of 25 years include 12 active commissions as well as two statutory commissions and the special ad hoc Budget Evaluation Commission.

CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

This Commission originated by the passage of Resolution No. 73-23 which created a citizens advisory committee for cable television. The Commission retained this status until October 27, 1981, when the Cable Communications Commission was formed. The current Commission is comprised of five members.

The functions of this Commission shall be to act as an advisory board to the City Council on matters relating to cable

communications, to monitor cable communications franchise granted by the City, and to perform such other duties as the Council may refer to the Commission. Al Hofstedt is the current staff liaison for the Commission.

Members who have served at one time or another on the original advisory committee for cable television from its creation in 1973 until October 1981 were: Creston Gackle, Marilyn McCrady, Dennis Belschen, Linda Therkelson, John Nash, Chris Zeece, Beverly Flahertey, Richard Schaller, Reginald Hemmes, Ronald Kolessar, Tim Michaels, Hank Wander, James Francois, and Michael Auger.

Members who are serving on the current Cable Communications Commission are: Reginald Hemmes, Chair; Ronald Kolessar; Tim Michaels; Richard Schaller; Hank Wander; James Francois; and Hank Wander.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

This Committee was established by Ordinance No. 230 on October 3, 1967, and is comprised of ten members: one member from the City Council, one from the Planning Commission, one from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Manager, the Finance Director, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Planning, and three at-large appointees from the general community.

The functions of this Committee are: (a) To develop and periodically review procedures for the handling of capital improvements, whether petitioned for or not. (b) To develop and maintain a five-year capital improvement program anticipating in broad scope the needs of the community, the priorities of improvements, and the ability of the community to bond for these improvements. In the preparation of the capital improvement program the Committee will estimate the ability of the City to bond including annual debt* reduction, take into consideration the bond rating, and compute (with ratios) the immediate maintenance cost for the period covered by the capital improvement program. (c) Upon Council request, review within the allotted time, petitions for capital improvements and the relation of these petitioned improvements to the predetermined priority scheduling, and recommend a course of action to the City Council.

Members of the Capital Improvement Committee: **1967**--Thomas Nutting, Norman Werner, Eugene Lindholm, John Voss, Kenneth Smith and Donald Olson. **1968**--Kenneth Smith, Donald Olson, Howard Harmon, Thomas Nutting, Norman Werner, Eugne Lindholm, John Voss, Ordinance No. 240 4/2/68 (provides for three at-large members), Donald Stein, and David Zapf. **1969**--Thomas Nutting, Robert Voss, Richard Jakobson, Norman Werner, David Zapf, Howard Harmon, Donald Stein, and Donald Olson. **1970-1971**--John Cottingham, Robert Voss, Donald Reis, Norman Werner, Orren Fricke, Donald Stein, Howard Harmon, Donald Olson, and Richard Moore. **1972-1973**--John Cottingham, Donald Erlandson, Donald Reis, Norman Werner, William Otensmann, Donald Olson, Howard Harmon, Donald Stein, and Richard Moore. **1974**--John Cottingham, Donald Erlandson, Alan Hamel, Norman Werner, William Otensmann, Donald Olson, Howard Harmon, Richard Moore, Donald Stein, and Stan Krueger 7/2/74. **1975**--John Cot-

tingham, Donald Erlandson, Alan Hamel, Lyle Haney, William Ottensmann, Donald Olson, Donald Stein, Richard Moore, and Norman Werner. **1976-1977**--John Cottingham, George White, Alan Hamel, Lyle Haney, William Ottensmann, Donald Olson, Donald Stein, Norman Werner, and Jon Stonecash. **1978**--John Cottingham, George White, William Ottensmann, Lyle Haney, Russ Ward, Donald Olson, Donald Stein, Norman Werner, and Jon Stonecash. **1979**--Leonard Kne, George White, William Ottensmann, Lyle Haney, Russ Ward, Donald Olson, Donald Stein, and Norman Werner. **1980**--Robert Thistle, David McCauley, William Ottensmann, Lyle Haney, Russ Ward, Donald Stein, and Norman Werner. **1981**--Robert Thistle, David McCauley, William Ottensmann, Lyle Haney, Russ Ward, Donald Stein, Norman Werner, Donald Olson, and Donna Naeve. **1982-1984**--Robert Thistle, Robert Lewis, William Ottensmann, Lyle Haney, Russ Ward, Donna Naeve, Donald Olson, Donald Stein, and Norman Werner.

CHARTER COMMISSION

Charter Commissions are governed by State Statute. The Commission is made up of 15 members who are appointed by the Chief Judge of the appropriate Judicial District through recommendations of the City Council. The ongoing responsibility of this Commission is to frame and amend the City's Charter as may be necessary. (See Chapter II for further information).

Betty Bell currently serves as the staff liaison to the Commission. Appointed members of this Commission: **1958**--Marian Fletcher, Lowell Kisor (Resigned), Robert Hagen, Blanche Nisun, Glenn Haven, Irving Nelson (Resigned 9/61), Guy Robinson, Fern Bergeron (Resigned 6/58), Robert Lommen, Constance Burchett, Howard Feury, Kingsley Bronson, Paul Talbot, Hartley Medin, Robert Lawrence, Leland Sorteberg, and A.T. Flynn. **1964**--John Andrews, W.G. Moss, Jr., Lorayne Zawistowski, Mrs. Swaney Peterson, John Steelman, Glenn Haven, Howard Fleury, A.T. Flynn, William Magers, Joseph Craig, Hartley Medin, Blanche Nisun (Resigned 11/65), Robert Hagen, William Richards (Resigned 7/64), Thomas Forsberg, and John Troan. **1968**--William Magers, John Andrews, Thomas Forsberg (Resigned 9/68), John Troan, Lorayne Zawistowski, John Steelman, Joseph Craig, LeRoy Johnson, Dr. Dwain Breitbach, Robert Lommen, Donald Stein, Walter Cox, Jr., Robert Voss, Howard Harmon, James Naeve (Resigned 12/71), Don Erlandson, and Elizabeth Fosdick. **1972**--Robert Myers (Resigned 9/73), LeRoy Johnson, Dr. Dwain Breitbach, (Expired 3/75), Robert Lommen (Expired 3/75), Donald Stein (Expired 3/75), Walter Cox Jr. (Expired 3/75), Robert Voss (Expired 75), Howard Harmon (Resigned 5/74), Joseph Craig (Reappointed and Resigned 1/75), Donald Erlandson, Elizabeth Fosdick, David McCauley, Sally Esmay, David Therkelsen, (Resigned 9/73); Ruth Frandle, Carmela Sandell, Elizabeth Dhennin, Joel Jacobs, David J. Larson, Lynnese Hyland, John Speakman, A.T. Flynn, Gary Osberg, Eugene Merriam, and Cynthia Kitlinski. **1976**--David McCauley, David J. Larson (Resigned 2/78), John Speakman (Resigned 3/77), Sally Esmay (Expired 3/77), A.T. Flynn, Eugene Merriam, Lynnese Hyland, Cynthia Kitlinski, Elizabeth Fosdick (Expired 9/77), Elizabeth Dhennin (Expired 3/77), LeRoy Johnson (Expired 3/77), Carmela Sandrell, Gary Osberg (Resigned 10/77), Joel Jacobs; Ruth Frandle (Expired 3/77), Michael Howe (Resigned 11/78), Sherry Sneberger (Resigned 2/78), Kaye

Haenze; Richard Borden, Vernon Kuennen, Eugene Merriam (Expired 3/83), Dianne Johnson, Melvin Schulte (Expired 3/83), Richard Borden, Kaye Haenze, Norman Werner, Lynnese Hyland (Expired 3/83), A.T. Flynn (Expired 3/83), Cynthia Kitlinski (Expired 3/83), Joel Jacobs (Expired 3/81), George White, Carol Harmon, Arnie Stull, Robert Hayden, Isla Fichtner, Jean Racutt, Donald D. Olson, Gerald C. Olsen, John A. Raetz, and Bruce Frank. **1984**--Carol Harmon, Kaye Haenze, Vernon Kuennen, Dianne Johnson, Richard Borden, George White, Arnie Stull, Norman Werner, Robert Hayden, Isla Fichtner, Jean Racutt, Donald D. Olson, Gerald C. Olsen, John A. Raetz, and Bruce Frank.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 394 on June 20, 1972, and is comprised of 11 members. Also, representatives appointed by the Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 and the Anoka County Board shall be designated as non-voting representatives.

The functions of the Economic Development Commission are: (1) to promote Coon Rapids by projecting an image of a community with a high quality of life that provides an excellent environment for raising a family and where community pride encourages industrial and commercial development; (2) to coordinate the development of the City with the Planning Commission to assure the highest possible land use for the community; (3) to bring about balanced economic development by the location of industrial and commercial concerns in the City of Coon Rapids; (4) to promote and give priority to the development of that industrial land already served with utilities and bearing substantial assessments; (5) to attract a broad spectrum of job opportunities; (6) to strengthen the City's existing industrial and commercial enterprises; and (7) to recommend general policy direction and to advise the City Council on matters pertaining to industry and commerce. Joe Grillo is the current staff liaison officer.

Members of this Commission: **1970**--David Collins, Chair; Thomas Engfer; Donald Johansen; John Johnson; Ronald Carlson; Richard Moore; Marlowe McCrady; George White; Mike Casey; Walter "Pat" Cleath; Harold G. Jurgensen; Charles E. Gallagher; William Johnson; Donald Pertinen; John W. Allen; and Harold McCarron. **1971**--George White, Chair; Thomas Engfer; Donald Johansen; John Johnson; David Collins; Ronald Carlson; Marlowe McCrady; Mike Casey; Walter "Pat" Cleath; Harold G. Jurgensen; William Johnson; Donald Pertinen; John W. Allen; Harold McCarron; John Branstrom; and Richard Cords. **1972**--Walter "Pat" Cleath, Chair; Thomas Engfer; Donald Johansen; John Johnson; David Collins; Ronald Carlson; Marlowe McCrady; Mike Casey; George White; Donald Pertinen; John W. Allen; John Branstrom; and Richard Cords. **1973**--Marlowe McCrady, Chair; John W. Allen, Vice Chair; Thomas Engfer, Vice Chair; John Johnson; William Pieper; Mike Casey; George White, Gary Westerlund; Larry Harrison; Leon Barnier; Richard Hebert; John Mertz (NSP); Richard Nelin; Richard Raveling; Richard LaFleur; John Tully; Leonard Beckman; David Linner; John Heidgerken; and Arnie Stull. **1974**--Marlowe McCrady, Chair; Thomas Engfer, Vice Chair; John

W. Allen, Vice Chair; William Peiper; Mike Casey; George White; Gary Westerlund; Larry Harrison; Leon Barnier; Richard Hebert; John Mertz (NSP); Richard Melin; Richard Raveling; Richard LeFleur; John Tully; Leonard Beckman; David Linner (TOTC); John Heidgerken; and Arnold Stull. **1975**--John Ranck, Chair; Marlowe McCrady; K.C. Neilsen; William Pieper; Mike Casey; Gary Westerlund; Larry Harrison; Richard Raveling; Leonard Beckman; John Heidgerken; Steven R. Anderson; Carlyle Davidsen; Donald Sparks; Grover "Skip" Tweedy; Llarrie G. Nettum; John Erickson; Arnie Stull; Dr. Erling Johnson; Steve Askew; and Ed Riebow. **1976**--John Ranck, Chair; Marlowe McCrady; William Pieper; Gary Westerlund; Larry Harrison; Richard Raveling; Leonard Beckman; John Heidgerken; Steve R. Anderson; Carlyle Davidsen; Richard M. Carlson; Donald Sparks; Grover "Skip" Tweedy; Llarrie G. Nettum; Bruce Frank; Lawrence A. Ell; David R. Borden; K.C. Nielsen; Ed Riebow; Susan Green; Dr. Lewis Finch; and Ralph McGinley. **1977**--John Ranck, Chair; K.C. Nielsen; Larry Harrison; Richard Raveling; Jon Stonecash; William Goodrich; Dick Carlson; Don Sparks; Llarrie Nettum; Bruce Frank; Frank Burg; Thomas Green; Phillip Rootes; Diane Weber; William Pieper; Vern Weiss; Robert Hayford; Leonard Beckman (NV); Frank Wernecke (NV); Adelaide Robinson (NV); Bryan Hill (NV); Susan Green; Dr. Lewis Finch; and Ralph McGinley. **1978**--Frank Burg, Chair; John Ranck; Larry Harrison; Mike Mulrooney; William Goodrich; Dick Carlson; Don Sparks; Bruce Frank; Thomas Green; Phillip Rootes; William Pieper; Vern Weiss; Robert Hayford; Bryan Hill; Brent Hofmann; Jerri Pieper; K.C. Nielsen; Leonard Beckman (NV); Jim Stewart (NV); Dr. Lewis Finch; Ralph McGinley; and Susan Green. **1979**--Frank Burg; William Goodrich; Dick Carlson; Don Sparks; Bruce Frank; Thomas Green; Phillip Rootes; William Pieper; Vern Weiss; Robert Hayford; Bryan Hill; Brent Hofmann; Jerri Pieper; Jim Stewart; Barry Morton; K.C. Nielsen; Mike Mulrooney (NV); Leonard Beckman (NV); Dr. Lewis Finch; Ralph McGinley; and Susan Green. **1980**--Bryan Hill, Chair; Frank Burg; John Smoluch; Richard Ruud; Robert Monetti; Bruce Frank; Thomas Green; Phillip Rootes; Robert Hayford; Brent Hofmann; Jerri Pieper; Barry Morton; K.C. Nielsen; Mike Mulrooney; Patrick Pelstring; Dr. Lewis Finch; Ralph McGinley; and Jim Stewart (NV). **1981**--Bryan Hill, Chair; Richard Ruud; Kenneth Barr; Bruce Frank; Donald Taylor; Robert Elsenpeter; Brent Hofmann; Jerri Pieper; Karen Rosar; and Philip Pippo. **1982**--Bryan Hill, Chair; Kenneth Elsenpeter; Brian Fitzgerald; Kurtis Mayer; Richard Ruud; Karen Rosar; Donald Taylor; and Kenneth Barr. **1983**--Donald Taylor, Chair; Kenneth Barr; Brian Fitzgerald; Richard Lang; Kurtis Mayer; Barbara Peterson; Richard Ruud; Karen Rosar; Karen Schroeder; Daniel Schyma; and Harland Wyvell. **1984**--Donald Taylor, Chair; Kenneth Barr; Brian Fitzgerald; Richard Lang; Kurtis Mayer; Barbara Peterson; Richard Ruud; Karen Rosar; Karen Schroeder; Harland Wyvell; and Daniel Schyma.

FINE ARTS COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 461 on February 19, 1974, and is comprised of 15 members.

The purpose of the Fine Arts Commission is to advise the City Council in the area of extended cultural opportunities. Its functions are: to promote local cultural productions, encourage young people to consider a career field in cultural

areas, assist in the identification of cultural needs in the community, organize the community in an awareness program of cultural needs, bring together resources to assist in providing cultural opportunities for the community, develop a recommended plan in carrying out the goals and objectives of the commission, recommend a financial budget for carrying out approved projects, and such other programs as the Council may direct. Colleen Klipstein serves as the present staff liaison.

Members of this Commission: **1974**--David McCauley, Chair; Mary Peloquin; Shirley Weiss; John Kotlark; Iris Westerberg; Ann Sidoti; Carol Schiebold; Audrey Brett; Vern Weiss; Stewart Dahl; Joel Koemptgen; Arch Pease; Margaret Laux; Wanda Green; and Karen Weitzel. **1975**--Shirley Weiss, Chair; Jan Westcott; John Kotlark; Phillip Nielsen; Carol Schiebold; Audrey Brett; Vern Weiss; Sharon Sufka; Joel Koemptgen; Wanda Green; Karen Whitesell; Rev. Ron McDuffie; Clarice Koffski; Connie Halpren; and Stewart Dahl. **1976**--Shirley Weiss, Chair; John Kotlark; Phillip Nielsen; Carol Schiebold; Vernon Weiss; Sharon Sufka; Wanda Green; Karen Whitesell; Rev. Ronald McDuffie; Clarice Koffski; Connie Halpren; Helen Brown; Peter Bodley; Diane Lee; and Sheila Henderson. **1977**--Helen Brown, Chair; Shirley Weiss; Wanda Green; Karen Whitesell; Carol Schiebold; Vern Weiss; Sharon Sufka; Peter Bodley; Clarice Koffski; Joe DeFoe; Phillip Nielsen; Diane Lee; Sheila Henderson; Douglas Johnson; and Shirley Krueger. **1978**--Helen Brown, Chair; Sharon Sufka; Peter Bodley; Clarice Koffski; Joe DeFoe; Phillip Nielsen; Douglas Johnson; Shirley Krueger; Colleen Warkentin; Carol Schiebold; Vicki Krueger; Cecil Lester; Bill Menkevich; Dorothy Johnson; and Eunice McClurg. **1979**--Helen Brown, Chair; Peter Bodley; Clarice Koffski; Joe DeFoe; Douglas Johnson; Shirley Krueger; Colleen Warkentin; Eunice McClurg; Vicki Krueger; Cecil Lester; Bill Menkevich; Dorothy Johnson; Jeanne Zetah; and Bruce Lee Dynes. **1980**--Helen Brown, Chair; Peter Bodley; Patricia Hobot; Katherine King; Mary Kay Javener; Colleen Graber; JoAnne McPherson; Vicki Krueger; Cecil Lester; Bill Menkevich; Dorothy Johnson; Bruce Lee Dynes; and Cheryl Kristufek. **1981**--Helen Brown, Chair; Peter Bodley; Katherine King; Mary Kay Javener; Bill Menkevich; Dorothy Johnson; Cheryl Kristufek; Jeanne Schneider; Doris Pease; Pat Plant; and Richard Bauer. **1982**--Helen Brown, Chair; Richard Bauer; Dorothy Johnson; Katherine King; Cheryl Kristufek; Bill Menkevich; Doris Pease; Pat Plant; Gloria Gunder; Paul Droweiler; Larry Stockstad; and JoAnne McPherson. **1983**--Helen Brown, Chair; Paul Droweiler; Kitty Joyner; Lucy Kender; Katherine King; Cheryl Kristufek; Ann Kunzi; Doris Pease; Pat Plant; Barbara Rudnicki; Joseph Rudnicki; Nancy Santala; and Carol Schiebold. **1984**--Helen Brown, Chair; Paul Droweiler; Kitty Joyner; Lucy Kender; Katherine King; Cheryl Kristufek; Ann Kunzi; Doris Pease; Pat Plant; Barbara Rudnicki; Joseph Rudnicki; Nancy Santala; Carol Schiebold; and Betty Mae Williams.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 489 on September 17, 1974. It is comprised of nine members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Anoka County Historical Society. Gaylord Aldinger has been Staff Liaison of this Commission since its inception.

The Commission acts as an advisory board to the City Council in matters relating to the preservation of buildings, lands, areas, or districts which possess historical or architectural significance and which will promote the educational, cultural, and general welfare of the City. They recommend to the City Council the acquisition and maintenance of those things which have been determined by the Commission to be of historical or architectural significance and which may reflect the history of the City. The Commission also assists in planning and coordinating all City activities relating to the Bicentennial celebration, Silver Anniversary of the City, and other such programs and activities as the City Council may direct.

Members of the Commission: **1974**--Waneta Berges, Chair; Joanne Olson; A.T. Dingman; Mary Dweller; Nancy Lee; Lorayne Zawistowski; Adelaide Robinson; Arnie Strand; Owen Hyland; and Rick Reiter, ex-officio. **1975**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Waneta Berges; Joanne Olson; Robert Fode; Mary Dweller; Nancy Lee; Lorayne Zawistowski; Arnie Strand; and Adelaide Robinson. **1976**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Mary Dweller; Nancy Lee; Lorayne Zawistowski; Arnie Strand; Adelaide Robinson; Doug Frich; and Robert Fode. **1977**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Adelaide Robinson; Roland Anderson; Lorayne Zawistowski; James Whitehead; David Rolph; Nancy Lee; and Arnold Strand. **1978**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Adelaide Robinson; Alice Otis; George Otis; Lorayne Zawistowski; James Whitehead; David Rolph; Nancy Lee; and Roland Anderson. **1979**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Adelaide Robinson; Alice Otis; Lorayne Zawistowski; James Whitehead; David Rolph; Nancy Lee; and Roland Anderson. **1980**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Adelaide Robinson; George Otis; James Whitehead; Roland Anderson; Alice Otis; Lorayne Zawistowski; David Rolph; and Helen Potter. **1981**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Alice Otis; Roland Anderson; Howard Sutton; Lorayne Zawistowski; Helen Potter; Adelaide Robinson; David Rolph; James Whitehead; and Jerome Lubbers. **1982-1984**--Owen Hyland, Chair; Roland Anderson; David Rolph; Adelaide Robinson; James Whitehead; Howard Sutton; Jerome Lubbers (deceased 1983); Lorayne Zawistowski; and Evelyn Krove.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 815 on February 2, 1982. It is comprised of nine members, five of whom shall be appointed by the City Council from the community at large. In addition, the Planning Commission, Capital Improvement Committee, Economic Development Commission, and the Human Rights Commission shall appoint one of its members to the Commission.

The functions of the Commission are to assist the City Council in determining priorities for the Community Development Block Grant (C.D.B.G.) Program, to provide a forum for the collection of public input on C.D.B.G. programs, to make recommendations to the City Council on the use of program income for eligible projects, and to consider such other programs as the Council may refer to the Commission.

Prior to organization as a standing commission, this Commission was formed as an ad hoc committee. Those who served in **1981** were: Carol Ogden, Chair; Parry Poplin;

Charles Gallagher; Norman Werner (Capital Improvement); Donna Naeve (Planning); Patrick Pelstring; Kenneth Barr; Marian La Plume; William McLean; and Don Levens, Staff Liaison. In **1982**: Carol Ogden, Chair; Kenneth Barr (EDC), Bettyann Croteau; Charles Gallagher; Eileen Hyland (Human Rights); Marian LaPlume; Donna Naeve (Planning); Parry Poplin; Norman Werner; and Joe Grillo, Staff Liaison. In **1984**: Carol Ogden, Chair; Kenneth Barr (EDC), Bettyann Croteau; Charles Gallagher; Eileen Hyland (Human Rights); David McCauley; Donna Naeve (Planning); Parry Poplin; Norman Werner (CIC); and Joe Grillo, Staff Liaison.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 252 on July 16, 1968. It is comprised of nine members, at least one of whom shall be a high school student and at least one of whom shall be 55 years of age or older.

The purpose of this Commission is to secure for all citizens equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, and education, and full participation in the affairs of this community by assisting the State Department of Human Rights in implementing the Minnesota State Act against discrimination and by advising the City Council on long-range programs to improve community relations in the City of Coon Rapids. Staff liaison of the Human Rights Commission is Jeff O'Neill.

Members of this Commission: **1970**--Tell Yelle, Chair; Rev. Ronald McDuffie; Mrs. Leone Carstens; Mrs. Jerry B. Dhennin; Ralph G. Powell; James Phillips; Mrs. Marilyn Buchman; Charles Adleman; and Mrs. Eileen Kuennen. **1971-1972**--Tell Yelle, Chair; Rev. Ronald McDuffie; Mrs. Leone Carstens; Ralph G. Powell; James Phillips; Mrs. Marilyn Buchman; Charles Adleman; Mrs. Eileen Kuennen; and Clair Holmgard (student). **1973**--Tell Yelle, Chair; Charles Adleman; Josephine Bigelow; David Hammargen; Eileen Kuennen; Tina Holm; James Phillips; Mrs. John Ostby; Martin Rosenhamer; and Douglas Ryan. **1974**--Charles Aldeman, Chair; Mary Blackstad; Donna Ellingworth; Eileen Kuennen; Gary Bray; James Phillips; Silvia Ostby; Martin Rosenhamer; and Douglas Ryan. **1975**--Mary Blackstad; Donna Ellingworth; Gary Bray; Betty Kaster; Silvia Ostby; Martin Rosenhamer; Wayne Brademan; Chela Ryan; and Cheryl Knutsen. **1976**--Donna Ellingworth, Chair; Patricia Neilsen; C. Patrick McKenna; Mary Blackstad; Betty Kaster; Chela Ryan; Rosemary Martin; Kathy Patnoe; Bruce H. Hinrichs; Robert Wilton; and Pam Gustafson. **1977**--C. Patrick McKenna, Chair; Chela Ryan; Mary Blackstad; Bruce Hinrichs; Rosemary Martin; Kathy Patnoe; Bob Wilton; Betty Kaster; Sandy Senkyr; and Lucia Anderson. **1978**--Bruce Hinrichs, Chair; Chela Ryan; Mary Blackstad; Robert Hazelwood; John Orber; Sandy Senkyr; Bernie Reeder; Kimberly Korbel; and Sandy English. **1979**--Bruce Hinrichs, Chair; Chela Ryan; Mary Blackstad; Robert Hazelwood; John Irber; Abel Cartwright; Sandy Senkyr; Lucia Anderson; Bernie Reeder; Kimberly Korbel; and Sandy English. **1980**--Mary Schmitt, Chair; Clarence Norrbom; Robert Hazelwood; John Irber; Abel Cartwright; Tom Matthews; Sandy English; Jeanne Schneider; and Fr. Robert A. Moore. **1981**--Mary Schmitt, Chair; Clarence Norrbom; Jennifer Webb; Ken Blissenbach; Abel Cartwright; Tom Matthews; Kathleen

Speggen; Joseph Lehn; and Judy Sutter. **1982**--Mary Schmitt, Chair; Ken Blissenbach; Jim Gorski; Eileen Hyland; Joseph Lehn; Clarence Norrbom; Kathleen Speggen; Judy Sutter; and Alice Wyness. **1983**--Mary Schmitt, Chair; Ken Blissenbach; Cheryl Chappuis; Jaqueline Davis; Eileen Hyland; Dave Kuennen; Todd Rapp; Judy Sutter; and Alice Wyness. **1984**--Sandra English, Chair; Ken Blissenbach; Cheryl Chappuis; Jacqueline Davis; Eileen Hyland; Dave Kuennen; Todd Rapp; Mary Schmitt; and Judy Sutter.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 506 on October 15, 1974 (NSFSC), and Ordinance No. 652 on January 17, 1978. The Commission is comprised of seven members, one of whom shall be a physician residing in Anoka County. When appointing other members, the Council shall take into consideration the varying aspects of human services furnished in the community by governmental and private agencies and shall make an effort to have the commission as representative as possible of all such aspects. Such groups may include youth, senior citizens, the handicapped, lower income, private enterprise, management, the trade unions, the professions, homeowners, and renters without any specific number in any category.

The purpose of this Commission is to act as an advisory body to the City Council on all activities pertaining to the delivery of human services by the City government and other community agencies, to advise the City Council of new activities which might be desirable to initiate and of existing activities which might be reduced in scope or eliminated, to advise the City Council on community concerns with regard to the delivery of human services, to coordinate its activities and undertake its studies whenever appropriate with other affected commissions of the City government and other community agencies, to provide input to the City Manager in the preparation of budget priorities for the City Council, to advise the City Manager on implementation of activities when requested, and to undertake such other programs and activities as the City Council or City Manager may refer to the Commission. Terri Melnychenko serves as the current staff liaison.

Members of this Commission: **1975**--Youth Commission: Debbie Gessell; Peter Beberg; Dennis Arthur; Tim Barnes; Margie Myers; John Hultberg; and Liz Werner. **1975**--North Suburban Family Service Center: Sherry Sneberger, Chairman; Felix Mannella; Joanne Poplin; Kelly Retter; Dick Lang; Dana Enger; Patricia Knotz; and Todd Rapp. **1976**--Youth Commission: Tim Barnes, Chair; Peter Beberg; Debbie Gessell; Dennis Arthur; Penny Maish; John Hultberg; and Liz Werner. **1976**--North Suburban Family Service Center: Sherry Sneberger, Chair; Joanne Poplin; Kelly Retter; Patricia Knotz; Todd Rapp; Felix Mannella; Richard Lang; Dana Enger; and Dr. Joseph Wethington. **1977**--Youth Commission: Debbie Gessell; Peter Beberg; Dennis Arthur; Penny Maish; and Liz Werner. **1977**--North Suburban Family Service Center: Sherry Sneberger, Chair; Joanne Poplin; Todd Rapp; Felix Mannella; Dr. Joseph Wethington; and Richard Lang. **1978-1979**--Human Services Commission: Marlowe McCrady, Chair; Joanne Poplin; Felix Mannella; Dr. Joseph Wethington; Richard Lang; Rev. William Mauldin;

Linda Ragland; Juanita Mills; Thomas Larson; James Bowman; Patricia Knotz; Mary Moore; Cheryl Storm; Spencer J. Sokolowski; and James Felix. **1980**--Human Services Commission: Patricia Knotz, Chair; Marlowe McCrady; Joanne Poplin; Felix Mannella; Dr. Joseph Wethington; Richard Lang; Earline Martin; Linda Ragland; Juanita Mills; Doris Gordon; James Bowman; Mary Moore; Spencer J. Sokolowski; and James Felix. **1981**--Human Services Commission: Marlowe McCrady, Chair; Joanne Poplin; Felix Mannella; Dr. Joseph Wethington; Earline Martin; Linda Ragland; Bob Mills; Doris Gordon; Spencer J. Sokolowski; and James Felix. **1982-1983**--Human Services Commission: Marlowe McCrady, Chair; Doris Gordon; Linda Ragland; Cathy Saba; Spencer J. Sokolowski; and Dr. Joseph Wethington. **1984**--Human Services Commission: Marlowe McCrady, Chair; Joyce Naughton; Linda Ragland (Resigned 5/84); Cathy Saba; Dr. Joseph Wethington; Betty Wilbur; Judge James Morrow; and Doug Spurgeon.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 266 on February 4, 1969, and is comprised of ten members.

Among the functions of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan for the development of parks and recreation within the City. The Commission conducts hearings and makes recommendations to the City Council proposing ordinance changes which are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also studies and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding programs and practices of the Parks and Recreation Department in the area of utilization of facilities and the coordination of the Department's long-range plans with the County, the Metropolitan Council, and the State of Minnesota. They are also concerned with licensing procedures and concession practices as well as recommending to the City Council those guidelines which they feel will ensure proper coordination of the City's park and recreational program with other public agencies, which include Anoka-Ramsey Community College, the Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District, and with private organizations offering recreational programs.

Members of this Commission: **1970**--Robert Lewis, Chair; Elizabeth Werner; Jack Blesi; Mike Auger; Jerry Ray; Bill Reinfelt; and Walter Coleman. **1971**--Robert Lewis, Chair; Elizabeth Werner; Mike Auger; Jerry Ray; Bill Reinfelt; Walter Coleman; and Greg Reinhardt (student). **1972-1973**--Robert Lewis, Chair; Elizabeth Werner; Mike Auger; Mark Swenson; Bill Reinfelt; and Jack C. Johnson. **1974**--Robert Lewis, Chair; Elizabeth Werner; Mark Swenson; Jack C. Johnson; Bill Reinfelt; Gordon Morris; Harold Brace; John Guenther; and James Ellison. **1975-1975**--Robert Lewis, Chair; Elizabeth Werner; Mark Swenson; Jack C. Johnson; Bill Reinfelt; Harold Brace; John Guenther; Jim Ellison; and Gordon Morrison. **1977**--Jack C. Johnson, Chair; Robert Lewis; Elizabeth Werner; Mark Swenson; Bill Reinfelt; Brian Hill; Gen Sand; and Dorothy Andrews. **1978-1979**--Jack C. Johnson, Chair; Robert Lewis; Bill Reinfelt; Gen Sand; Dorothy Andrews; Sharon Recker; Mary Lou Hecht; Isla Nater; and Bryan Hill. **1980**--William Reinfelt, Chair; Jack C. Johnson; Robert Lewis; Gen Sand; Dorothy Andrews; Sharon

Recker; Mary Lou Hecht; Isla Nater; and Mary Ellen Ordahl. **1981**--William Reinfelt, Chair; Jack C. Johnson; Robert Lewis; Gen Sand; Dorothy Andrews; Sharon Recker; Mary Lou Hecht; Mary Ellen Ordahl; Duane Lilja; and Ralph Brauer. **1982**--Mary Ellen Ordahl, Chair; Dorothy Andrews; Ralph Brauer; Mary Lou Hecht; Jack C. Johnson; Duane Lilja; Sharon Recker; William Reinfelt; Gen Sand; and David Soltis. **1983**--Mary Ellen Ordahl Chair; Tim Arntson; Mary Lou Hecht; Denise Ann Klint; Duane Lilja; Sharon Recker; William Reinfelt; Gen Sand; David Soltis; and Jack Johnson. **1984**--Mary Ellen Ordahl, Chair; Tim Arntson; Charles Gallagher; Mary Lou Hecht; Denise Ann Klint; Duane Lilja; Sharon Recker; William Reinfelt; Gen Sand; and David H. Soltis.

PLANNING COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Ordinance No. 66 on March 4, 1959, and is comprised of seven members.

This Commission proposes comprehensive plans for the development of Coon Rapids, conducts hearings, and makes recommendations to the City Council in regard to proposed changes in Land Development Regulations, proposed subdivisions, developments, and special use permits. (See Chapter II for further information.) Lee Starr serves as the current staff liaison to the Planning Commission.

Members of this Commission: **1959**--Arch Pease, Chair; Mel Jacobson; Carey Winne; Bob Hayford; Robert Lommen; John Andrews; and Harold Frantz. **1960**--Arch Pease, Chair; Mel Jacobson; Carey Winne; Harold Frantz; John Andrews; Robert Lommen; and Bob Hayford. **1961**--Arch Pease, Chair; Harold Frantz; Carey Winne; Bob Hayford; Burt Smith; Mel Jacobson; and Robert Lommen. **1962**--Arch Pease, Chair; Robert Lommen; Bill McLean; Don Olson; Eldon Rootes; Mel Jacobson; and Jere Poston. **1963**--Arch Pease, Chair; Robert Lommen; Kenji Horita; Bill McLean; Ken Smith; James Swisher; and Robert Dircks. **1964**--Arch Pease, Chair; Ken Smith; Robert Lommen; Kenji Horita; Fred Bryck; Bill McLean; and James Swisher. **1965**--Arch Pease, Chair; Dave Allen; Robert Lommen; John Troan; Bill McLean; Don Olson; and Kenji Horita. **1966**--Arch Pease, Chair; John Troan; Robert Voss; Don Olson; Robert Lommen; Dave Allen; and Bill McLean. **1967**--Arch Pease, Chair; Don Olson; David McCauley; Robert Lommen; John Troan; Robert Voss; and Bill McLean. **1968**--Robert Lommen, Chair; Tom Tuggle; David McCauley; John Troan; Bill McLean; Don Olson; and Jerry Stevens. **1969**--Robert Lommen, Chair; Donald Olson; William McLean; John Troan; Ronald Strand; Ron Carlson; and Clarence Decker. **1970-1971**--Donald Olson, Chair; William McLean; Ronald Carlson; Clarence Decker; David Zapf; Charles Gallagher; and Ronald Strand. **1972**--Donald Olson, Chair; Jerry Stevens; Ronald Strand (Donna Naeve 7/5/72); William McLean; David Zapf; Ronald Carlson; and Charles Gallagher. **1973-1974**--Donald Olson, Chair; Ronald Carlson; Bradley English; William Fournier; Jerry Stevens; Donna Naeve; William McLean; and David Zapf. **1975**--Donald Olson, Chair; Ronald Carlson; Bradley English; William Fournier; Donna Naeve; William McLean; and David Zapf. **1976-1977**--Donald Olson, Chair; William McLean; Carol Ogden; David Zapf; Bradley English; Donna Naeve; and William Fournier. **1978-1979**--Donald Olson, Chair; William McLean; Carol Ogden; David Zapf; Bradley English; Donna Naeve; and Bill Fournier. **1980**--Donna Naeve, Chair; William McLean; Carol Ogden; David Zapf; Janet Nelson; Bill

Fournier; Carlyle Davidsen (4/80); and Larry Ragland (9/80). **1981-1982**--Donna Naeve, Chair; Larry Ragland; Carol Ogden; David Zapf; Carlyle Davidsen; Janet Nelson; and Bill Fournier. **1983-1984**--Donna Naeve, Chair; Carlyle Davidsen; Bill Fournier; Michael Kocon (9/83); Janet Nelson; Carol Ogden; Larry Ragland; and David Zapf.

POLICE AND FIRE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

As provided in Minnesota Statutes accepted and adopted: Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 419 and 420, as amended, known as the Police Civil Service Commission and the Firemen's Civil Service Commission.

A single Commission shall serve as both Police and Firemen's Civil Service for the City of Coon Rapids as provided by M.S.A. Section 419.02, Subdivision 2. Established by Coon Rapids Ordinance No. 138 on February 3, 1960.

The Commission shall consist of three members who are citizens of the State and residents of the City, and who are appointed by the Mayor of the City, the appointment of each Commissioner shall be confirmed by a majority of the governing body (Council). The term of each Commissioner shall be three years. No commissioner shall, at the time of appointment or while serving, hold any other office or employment under the City, the United States, or political division thereof, other than the office of notary public or member of a civil service commission for foremen or other municipal personnel. Colleen Klipstein serves as the current staff liaison.

The powers of this Commission shall be: From and after the appointment of the Commission provided for in said laws, the Commission shall have control and supervision over the employment, promotion, discharge, and suspension of all officers and employees of the Police and Fire Department, as provided by law.

Members of this Commission: **1970**-- John Andrews, Chair; Thomas Cooper; and Robert Ellison. **1971**--Robert Ellison, Chairman; John Andrews; and Thomas Cooper. **1972-1973**--Robert Ellison, Chair; John Andrews; and Owen Hyland. **1974**--Gerald Wright, Chair; Robert Ellison; and Joseph Craig. **1975**--Joseph A. Craig, Chair; Robert Ellison; and Gerald Wright. **1976**--Robert Ellison, Chair; Joseph A. Craig; and Gerald Wright. **1977**--Gerald Wright, Chair; Joseph A. Craig; and Carolyn Voss. **1978**--Joseph A. Craig, Chair; Gerald Wright; and JoAnne Hazelwood. **1979**--JoAnne Hazelwood, Chair; Joseph Craig; and Gerald Wright. **1980**--Gerald Wright, Chair; JoAnne Hazelwood; and Joseph Craig. **1981**--Joseph Craig, Chair; Gerald Wright; and JoAnne Hazelwood. **1982**--JoAnne Hazelwood, Chair; Joseph Craig; and Gerald Wright. **1983**--Gerald Wright, Chair; Shirley Saaranen; and Joseph Craig. **1984**--Joseph Craig, Chair; Shirley Saaranen; and Gerald Wright.

SAFETY COMMISSION

This Commission was established by Resolution No. 68-24 on May 21, 1968.

The Community Safety Council is comprised of 11 members and its function is to deal with safety in all phases of community life.

The Traffic Safety Commission is comprised of nine members, all members of City staff. The function of this Commission is to improve traffic control and increase the public's understanding of traffic and pedestrian safety in coordination with the Community Safety Council. Bill Thompson has served as staff liaison for the Safety Commission since 1974. There was no designated liaison officer before that time.

Members of this Commission: **1969**--Walter "Pat" Cleath, Chair; Florian E. Gutzmer; Newell Chester; Stanley Ryhn; Wilfred Revering; Wayne Enos; Dorothy Lund; Ted Buzzelli; Jacqueline Mortenson; and Katy Schraufnagel. **1970**--Walter "Pat" Cleath, Chair; Florian E. Gutzmer; Dick Sartell; Judy Johnson; John Mills; Wayne Enos; Nona Kalisch; Don Hawk; Jacqueline Mortenson; and Katy Schraufnagel. **1971**--John Mills, Chair; Walter "Pat" Cleath; Florian E. Gutzmer; Dick Sartell; Judy Johnson; Wayne Enos; Nona Kalisch; Don Hawk; and Katy Schraufnagel. **1972**--Florian E. Gutzmer, Chair; William Bottemiller; Wayne Enos; Sam Gruenhagen; Judy Johnson; Raymond Johnson, Jr.; Nona Kalisch; Ralph Kays; Dick Sandell; Dean Stensrud; and Harvey Mattson.-**1973-1974**--Florian E. Gutzmer, Chair; Thomas Zwick; Peter Beberg; Sam Gruenhagen; Jerome Jacobson; Raymond Johnson, Jr.; Walt Duggan; Ralph Kays; Marilyn Cole; Virginia Murphy; and Loren Cybyske. **1975**--Florian E. Gutzmer, Chair; Thomas Zwick; Peter Beberg; Jerome Jacobson; Ray Johnson; John Unze; Marilyn Cole; Vernon Weiss; Peter Grondahl; Roger Glans; and Duane Weiner. **1976**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Jerome Jacobson; Ray J. Johnson; John Unze; Vernon Weiss; Peter Grondahl; Roger Glans; Duane Weiner; Marc Little; Lloyd Isaacson; and Greg Oxley. **1977**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Jerome Jacobson; Ray J. Johnson; Peter Grondahl; Duane Weiner; Roger Glans; Lloyd B. Isaacson; Greg Oxley; Walt Duggan; and Robert J. Hunt. **1978**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Jerome Jacobson; Ray J. Johnson; Peter Grondahl; Duane Weiner; Roger Glans; Lloyd B. Isaacson; Greg Oxley; Walt Duggan; Robert J. Hunt; and Arnie Alderman. **1979**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Jerome Jacobson; Ray J. Johnson; Peter Grondahl; Roger Glans; Lloyd B. Isaacson; Greg Oxley; Walt Duggan; Robert J. Hunt; and Arnie Alderman. **1980**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Ray J. Johnson; Peter Grondahl; Roger Glans; Maurice McKee; Charles Gallagher; Walt Duggan; Robert J. Hunt; Arnie Alderman; Thomas Teale; and John Davis. **1981**--Peter Beberg, Chair; Ray J. Johnson; Peter Grondahl; Roger Glans; Maurice McKee; Charles Gallagher; Walt Duggan; Robert J. Hunt; Arnie Alderman; John Davis; and Steve Ahrens. **1982**--John Davis, Chair; Steve Ahrens; Arnie Alderman; Walt Duggan; Charles Gallagher; Roger Glans; Peter Grondahl; Ray Johnson; Maurice McKee; Donald Lucas; and Mylon Stark. **1983**--John Davis, Chair; Steve Ahrens; Arnie Alderman; Shirley Amundson; Nancy Carlson; Walt Duggan; Peter Grondahl; Ray J. Johnson; Ron Lawrence; Maurice McKee; and Greg Olson. **1984**--John Davis, Chair; Steve Ahrens; Arnie Alderman; Shirley Amundson; Nancy Carlson; Walt Duggan; Peter Grondahl; Ray J. Johnson; Ron Lawrence; Maurice McKee; and Greg Olson.

TAX LEVY LIMITATIONS COMMISSION/BUDGET EVALUATION COMMISSION (AD HOC)

The Coon Rapids City Council has, when necessary, created ad hoc¹ commissions to make in-depth studies of various subjects which may require clarification or where additional information is needed to enable Council to act upon the question in an informed manner. The most innovative of these ad hoc commissions is the citizens Tax Levy Limitations Study Commission.

In 1975, the level of expenditures for City services were increasing more quickly than revenues, and the City Council and staff were in need of input by residents as to the resolution of this dilemma.

In order to increase levy limitations, a city must successfully pass a referendum to that effect. Prior to such action, Council felt it wise to explore the alternatives via a citizen study committee. A Chairperson and a Steering Committee of seven was appointed. The five areas of government to be explored and evaluated were: General Government, Public Safety, Human Resources, Community Development, and Maintenance Services. A special Community Survey Subcommittee was organized whose purpose was to develop a community survey which would be mailed to each residential address within the City. In addition to this Committee, a Revenues Subcommittee was appointed to review all revenue with the eventual possibility of generating additional revenue through a change in procedure.

Each of the Steering Committee members were assigned to one of the seven subcommittees. A call for citizen volunteers went out. Approximately 60 persons responded, and took their appointed places on the subcommittees. The seven individual study groups met five or six times to examine and evaluate the various departments involved in the budgeting process. As an example, the Public Safety Subcommittee reviewed the operation of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Protective Inspection. In their analysis, they examined the activities of each department and its manager, how each activity was maintained, what resources were needed and used, as well as the projected resources necessary for the future.

All study committees had ready access to City staff, Council, established boards and commissions, who assisted in answering questions, documenting, and the preparation of reports. The citizen participants gave approximately 1,500 hours to investigation, deliberation, and preparation of recommendations to the City Council. This does not reflect the many hours the City staff gave to the project.

The result of this effort was the ability to advise the City Council in the areas where money might be saved in City operations as well as a recommendation that some service levels be increased. The study also revealed means by which revenues could be increased to such a degree that the current level of service would be maintained without an increase in the tax levy.

In 1981, the Steering Committee was re-activated to review the City's activities, what services and programs were

BUDGET EVALUATION COMMITTEE (formerly Tax Levy Limitations Citizens Committee)

wanted, what additional services were needed, and what could be afforded. At this time, the name of the Committee was changed to "Budget Evaluation Commission", as the objective was no longer related to the tax levy question.

Each year the Steering Committee meets with the City officials to review annual budget proposals and compare them with Commission goals.

The entire Commission was again recalled in March 1984 to consider: each activity level of service and determine whether it should be increased or decreased, determine revenue sources, identify alternative means of providing services, examine staffing levels, and finally to prepare a report looking at short-term needs and projected needs over a five-year period.

This is a very time-consuming project; however, it is a very effective vehicle for citizens to become involved in local government. The judgment regarding the wants and needs of Coon Rapids residents is no longer a staff and Council decision, but that of an informed citizenry who have hands-on knowledge of local government in action.

It is not known as a certainty, but it appears that few, if any, cities have a Budget Evaluation Commission with the involvement of its citizens as does Coon Rapids. Budget hearings are commonplace in most cities but by the time the hearings occur the budget is in place and difficult to change.

As Mayor Bob Lewis said, "I don't think we (the Council) feel we are totally bound by it (the Commission's report), but you better have a very good reason to deviate from it."

Steering Committee--1981: Alan Hamel, Chair; Donald Stein; Beth Dhennin; Robert Hayden; Phillip Nielsen; Wayne Howell; Richard Moore; Bob Mills; and Lyle Haney, Staff Liaison.

Steering Committee--1984: Alan Hamel, Chair; James Bock; Robert Hayden; Mary Ellen Ordal; Mel Schulte, Laurie Skifstrom; Don Sparks; and Lyle Haney, Staff Liaison.

Revenues Subcommittee: Jim Bock, Chair; Erling Dokken; Joel Jacobs (ex officio); Carl L. Kristufek; David McCauley; Gene Merriam (ex officio); Todd Rapp, Don Stein; Arnie Stull; Norman Werner; and Lyle Haney, Staff Liaison. **General**

Government Subcommittee: Mel Schulte, Chair; William Dignan; Daryl Gustafson; Sally Hall; Janet Nelson; Walter Petschle; and Betty Bell, Staff Liaison. **Public Safety Sub-**

committee: Don Sparks, Chair; John Allen; Nancy Carlson; John Davis; Sandy English; Allen Erickson; William Lahr; Jean Racutt; and Len Kne, Staff Liaison. **Human Resources**

Subcommittee: Laurie Skifstrom; Chair; Maxine Campbell; Sandra Erickson; George Gillespie; Robert Gordon; Rosie Haben; Peter Odgen; Elaine Vargas; and Robert Thistle, Staff

Liaison. **Community Development Subcommittee:** Mary Ellen Ordal, Chair; Ken Barr; William Farb; Jack Johnson; Lawrence Johnson; Darlene Landrus; Robert Lommen; Daniel Sadowski; John Sundet; and William Ottensmann, Staff Liaison. **Maintenance Subcommittee:** Robert Hayden,

Chair; Walter Cleath; Robert Gorder; Joseph Hecht; Richard Owens; Ron Sandstrom; Margaret Spurgeon; Roger Vadnais; James Whitehead; and Miriam Porter, Staff Liaison.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

1976 TAX LEVY LIMITATIONS CITIZENS COMMITTEE (Changed in 1981 to Budget Evaluation Committee)

Steering Committee: David McCauley, Chair; Donald Stein; Wayne Howell; Beth Dhennin; Bob Voss; Dave Borden; Larry Ell; and Jim Stewart. **Revenues Subcommittee:** Donald Stein, Chair; Robert Myers; Neil Polaski; Vern Plaisance; Bill Menkevich; Bill Brown; Jim Bock; Senator Eugene Merriam; and Representative Joel Jacobs. **General Government Subcommittee:** Wayne Howell, Chair; Mel Schulte; Evelyn Oxley; Jan Nelson; Sally Esmay; William Morris; and David Larson. **Public Safety Subcommittee:** Beth Dhennin, Chair; Donald Erlandson; Cynthia Kitlinski; Marcel Kitlinski; Owen Hyland; Don Sparks; Joanne Hazelwood; and Dick Lang. **Human Resources Subcommittee:** Robert Voss, Chair; Carol Schiebold; Al Soliday, Carl Speichert; Sherry Sneberger; and Robert Lewis. **Community Development Subcommittee:** Dave Borden, Chair; John Ranck; Dee Christensen; Dennis Doolittle; John Hartley; Ron Carlson; Jim Schrantz; Geoff Olson; and Janet Kleinheksel. **Maintenance Services Subcommittee:** Larry Ell, Chair; Doug Frich; Tom Green; Jim Whitehead; Bob Hayden; and Bob Williams. **Community Survey Subcommittee:** Jim Stewart, Chair; Phil Nielson; Joanne Poplin, Carlyle Davidsen; Helen Brown; Alan Hamel; and Carolyn Voss.

This Board was established by Ordinance No. 17 on July 17, 1953, and was amended by Ordinance No. 66 on March 4, 1959. The Board is comprised of five members.

The responsibility of the Board is to conduct hearings for the purpose of granting or denying variances of the Zoning or Building Ordinances. It also considers and decides appeals resulting from the decisions made by the Building Inspector or Zoning Administrator.

Past and present members of this Board: **1968--**Tell Yelle, Chair; Robert Hagen; Jim Wolfe; Douglas Frich; and Robert Lommen. **1969--**Tell Yelle, Chair; James Wolfe; Keith Howard; Robert Hagen; and Robert Lommen. **1970--**Tell Yelle, Chair; James Wolfe (David Olson 4/6/71); Keith Howard; Alan Beers, and Robert Lommen. **1971--**Tell Yelle, Chair; David Olson; Keith Howard; Alan Beers (Fran Hawk 11/16/71); and Robert Lommen. **1972-1975--**Tell Yelle, Chair; David Olson; Keith Howard; Robert Lommen; and Fran Hawk. **1976-1980--**Tell Yelle, Chair; David Olson; Fran Hawk; Robert Lommen, and Stan Gibbs. **1981-1983--**Tell Yelle, Chairman; David Olson; Robert Lommen; Frank Hawk; and Sharon Gilbert. **1984--**Tell Yelle, Chairman; Deborah Esmay; Robert Lommen; Barbara Olsen; and Barbara Peterson.

CITY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The City Attorney is the chief legal officer of the City and is responsible for the administration and supervision of the overall legal activities of the City. The City Attorney represents the City in matters concerning land acquisition and property condemnation as well as advising the Council and administrative staff on legal procedures and requirements involved in conducting City affairs.

In addition the City Attorney serves as a member of the City Manager's top level management team and Budget Review Committee. The City Attorney also acts as negotiator for the City with recognized bargaining units and serves as chief administrative officer of the City during the absence of the City Manager.

Full-time municipal service was authorized in Coon Rapids when provision for that office was included in the 1970 City budget. Prior to this time the City's legal concerns were handled on a retainer basis with private attorneys. Provisions for an Assistant City Attorney were included in the 1973 City budget.

Leonard Kne is the current City Attorney and has held that position since June 18, 1973. Al Hofstedt is Assistant City Attorney. His tenure, since May 30, 1972, includes a number of months as Acting City Attorney. Ron Erickson was the first City Attorney (1970-1973). Legal services for the City were performed by Wyman Smith and William Merlin on a retainer basis before that time.

Germaine Krein has been Legal Secretary since June 28, 1976. Joanne Mueller was Germaine's predecessor in that position. Dave Rollwagen is the part-time Law Clerk for the Legal Department.

CITY CLERK

The City Clerk's responsibilities fall into three categories: elections, maintenance of official records, and licensing.

The responsibility for conducting and supervising special, primary, and general municipal elections are in this office. The City Clerk also maintains all files containing official City records. Included in these records are ordinances, projects, resolutions, and Council minutes. The licensing of all those activities for which a license is required by City ordinance is a function of this office. The City Clerk reviews all applications for licenses to ensure compliance with ordinance provisions as well as issuing the licenses.

The City Clerk also acts as the staff liaison to the Charter Commission and is responsible for the publication "Community Challenge". Other duties include supervision of the City Hall front desk and of the Word Processing Center.

Paul Talbot was the first Village Clerk and his tenure (October 1953 to August 1962) spanned the time of Coon Rapids' transition from Village to City status. Margaret Fensand was City Clerk from August 1962 to August 1963

followed by Norman Werner from August 1963 to January 1968. Mary Ness held the position from January 1968 to December 1970 after which Norman Werner was again City Clerk from January 1971 to April 1974. Betty Bell was Deputy City Clerk from January 1971 until April 1974 at which time she was appointed City Clerk, a position she currently holds.

Presently, the City Clerk's staff includes Lorraine Menege, Burdon Ruhlow, Barbara Williams, Anne-Marie Anderson, Loretta Buckska, and Kimberly Barck.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Coon Rapids City Council adopted an economic position statement on May 4, 1976.

An Economic Development Commission is assisted by an Assistant Planning Director in the development promotion of the City. The Assistant Planning Director assists in planning and coordinating the activities of the Commission and engages in development prospecting through contact with commercial and industrial concerns. Contacts with landowners and developers who could assist in developing industrial and commercial endeavors are maintained. The Commission and Assistant Planning Director also work with the City Planning staff in matters relating to national, state, and local economic trends, industrial and commercial development, and related research.

The City has expressed its position attitude toward economic development in a policy statement which includes: (1) maximize opportunities for personal growth and participation in community affairs; (2) monitor commercial and industrial development in the best interests of the City, (3) project and promote a health and vigorous community image, and (4) establish working relationships with all amenities important to the economic well-being of the City.

The present Assistant Planning Director is Joe Grillo. Past Economic Development Coordinators have been Pat Pelstring, Don Levens, Mike Mulroony, and Duane Leisinger.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The City Engineer is responsible for administrating and directing the activities of the Engineering Department and the Inspection Department. The activities of the Inspection Department are coordinated through the Chief Building Official, who is responsible for daily operations of the Department. The Engineering Department consists of the City Engineer, the Assistant City Engineer, and a Design Engineer, all of whom are registered professional engineers, as well as eight Engineering Aides and one Secretary. The Engineering Department is responsible for all public construction including utilities, streets, and public buildings. The Department also keeps all records of existing facilities.

The current City Engineer is William Ottensmann, the Assistant City Engineer is Douglas Vierzba, the Design

Engineer is Tom Mathisen, Engineering Aides are Ron Sample, Chet Conger, Tim Hallberg, Gary Beckenstein, David Full, Jim George, Mike Manners, and Mike Sheehan. Chris Monetti and Cheryl Ridout are Department Secretaries.

The Chief Building Official is responsible for the enforcement of the building, plumbing, and housing codes as they apply to the City of Coon Rapids both by personal inspection and direction of the staff.

The Building Inspection Department is headed by Chief Inspector Jack Dorholt. Ben Amborn is the Building/Mechanical Inspector and Tom Flynn is a Building Inspector. Sandi Michels is the Secretary of this Department. Joe Prause was formerly Chief Building Inspector and retired in 1980.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The City's Finance Director is responsible for administering, supervising, and directing the financial activities of the City. Divisions of the Finance Department which are directed by the Finance Director including Assessing, Accounting, Liquor operations, Ice Arena operations, Golf Course, Utility Billing, and Treasury Management.

The Director is accountable for preparation of the annual financial report, assisting in preparing the annual budget, and ensuring compliance with state and federal accounting regulations in the handling of the City's money. The Finance Director is designated as the chief administrative officer in the event of the absence of both the City Manager and the City Attorney. Under the Finance Director's supervision is Management/Budget Analyst Kay Schudlach.

There have been only two Finance Directors since the office was created in July 1960. Lyle Haney succeeded Norman Werner in that position in 1969.

One of the functions of the Finance Director is supervising the Assessing Division. This Division, under the direction of the City Assessor, maintains the Assessing and Utility Billing operations of the City. The City Assessor coordinates and supervises the technical and clerical employees involved in the appraisal and assessment of all real property in the City. The preparation of special assessment rolls, coordination of Utility Billing operations, and condemnation appraisals are functions of this office. The City Assessor also serves as staff liaison to the Historical Commission.

The present City Assessor, Gaylord Aldinger, has served in that position since February 1969. Lyle Haney was City Assessor (1967-1968), having taken over the position from Fern Bergeron who had been Assessor since the Village days. Members of the Assessor's staff are Dennis Montague, Doug Holt, Judy Dold, Eileen Knowlton, Adrienne Hedman, and Anita Schramm. Sharon Marquart does the utility billing and Maxine Bates the accounting. Mary Ness serves as part time terminal operator.

The Accounting Division, also a function of the Finance Department, is composed of three sections--Accounting, Treasury, and Payroll. This Division is presently headed by Ruth Franklin, Director of Accounting/City Treasurer. The

Payroll section is under the direction of Shirley Herness. The Accounting and Treasury functions are under the direction of Ruth Franklin, with the assistance of Assistant Treasurer Kevin Vouk and Accounting Clerk Selma Erlandson. Walter Shepard was City Treasurer from 1967 to 1981.

The City's liquor and recreation enterprises (see City Enterprise section) are also under the direction of the Finance office. Richard Johnson directs the liquor operation. His assistant is Mary Ness. Store employees are Lillian Kroll, Gerd Rapp, and Diane Fitting. Steven Krogstad is in charge of the Ice Arena. Dick Tollette manages the Golf Course and Jim Nicol is the Groundskeeper.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The science of fighting fires dates to early Roman times. Hand operated pumps, first developed in Egypt during the second century B.C. served as the chief means of fighting fires in Europe for many centuries. A crude leather hose was devised in Holland during the late 1600's, and the first fire engine, with treadle-operated pumps, went into service in England about 1725. Steam-operated pumpers pulled by horses became popular in Europe around 1850.

In colonial America, the first fire protection was provided by bucket brigades, made up of lines of men passing buckets of water by hand. The earliest paid fire department was established in Boston in 1680. The first volunteer fire department was organized in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin about 1735. Thirty years later, George Washington imported the first fire engine from England, and presented it to the volunteer fire company of Alexandria, Virginia, of which he was a member.

Although the process of firefighting has changed as modern technology developed, one ingredient remains much the same--the hardy citizens who serve in either volunteer or paid positions.

Anoka Township, through Council authorization, had a mutual aid agreement with the North Suburban Mutual Aid Association as early as 1948. The intention of this agreement was to augment the quality of fire service to the township.

Ordinance No. 9, passed by the Village Council in December,



Members of the Coon Rapids Village Fire Department in 1953 were front row from right to left: Harold Bartholow, Lester Palmer, Robert Hayford, Wesley Swanson, Walter Eberhart, Howard Fluery, Leo George, Herbert Gunther, Glenn Haven, Frank Miller and Donald Jacobson. Back row from right: William Doolittle, James Whitehead, Arnold Strand, Tom Scheie, Ralph Nelson, Don Olson, Norman Beckwall, John Mieko, Russell Mueller, George Lamberton, and Vernon J. Brock.

1952, established a fire department in the village. A Chief, Assistant Chief, Fire Marshal, and not less than 15 men were designated as personnel. The organization of the Fire Department and five fire districts was announced on April 12, 1953. The roster at that time included: Harold Bartholow, Chief; Leo George, Assistant Chief; Frank Miller, Second Assistant Chief; Frank Miller, Second Assistant Chief. **District I**--Larry Beauchaine, Captain; Robert Lawrence, Lieutenant; Lloyd Cropper; E. Pariseau; and Harvey Harmen. **District II**--Larry Zagar, Captain; William Mallery, Lieutenant; Nyle Emmons; James Whitehead; and H.F. Hutchinson. **District III**--Louis Hermes, Captain; Tony Sienko, Lieutenant; Clarence Yunger; Ronald Greenlun; Herb Gunther; C.E. Waldeen; Will La Bounty; and Robert Wallum. **District IV**--Russell Mueller, Captain; Howard Fleury, Lieutenant; Don Johnson; Lester Palmer; Emil Rieder; Edward Beech; J.V. Brock; R. Dingman; George Doolittle; Owen Hyland; Donald Jacobson; Ralph Nelson; Ken Ysteboe; and Brian Lundquist. **District V**--Paul Talbot, Captain; Don Olson, Lieutenant; Arnie Strand; Wayne Janzig; C.A. Nygaard; V.W. Hendricks; Walter Gadbow; and Ernest Shank. The Firemen's Association elected Norman Beckwall, President; Don Johnson as Secretary; and Howard Fleury as Treasurer.

Until 1953 the Village contracted for fire services with the City of Anoka. In April of that year the Volunteer Fire Department was organized and continued to function for three years with no pay. The official Village Council minutes of October 1, 1953, reveal that the Fire Chief's annual salary was \$300.00. Volunteers first received pay for firefighting in 1956 at \$1.00 per fire to help replace clothing and to reimburse the men for gasoline used in responding to fires.

In November 1954 the voters approved construction of the first fire station in the Village, to be built on Highway 10, across from the Coon Rapids Shopping Center. The station was completed in 1955.

Volunteer pay in 1958, was placed on a point basis to be paid for time the men were out on call. The pay scale was determined by the amount of money budgeted to the "call-out" account. A firefighter was credited with one point for each fire he attended. At the end of the year, the amount of points accumulated by the entire department was divided into the monies available. This would determine how much each fire call was worth. The amount of the individual fire calls was then multiplied by the number of fire runs with which an individual was credited.

In 1959 volunteers were assigned night watches at the fire station to assist in fire and ambulance calls. At that time the rate was raised to \$15.00 per night, while on duty.²

A special election was scheduled for April 12, 1960, to vote on a bond for construction and equipment of a fire station not to exceed \$51,215.00 (Fire Station No. 2). The result was a vote of 576--YES to 225--NO. (City Clerks File, Citation: "Election Data, October 1952-1963, printers affidavit of publication). See Police and Fire Civil Service Commission for further data.

On March 18, 1964, the Council moved to accept and award the bid on a new fire rescue truck to Art Goebel Ford in the

amount of \$4,166.00. The next large equipment purchase was approved by the Council on February 16, 1965, when the bid was awarded to the General Safety Equipment Company for an International Harvester fire truck and pumping apparatus for \$24,433.00 (Official Council Minutes, February 16, 1965, Item 4.) At this time (1965) there were seven men on full-time duty. By January 1969, the full-time staff included 12 full-time men with 32 "call men", and in 1971 the full-time personnel had grown to 17, with 28 volunteers.³ In 1972, volunteer pay was raised to \$5.50 per fire call, for the first hour, and \$2.25 per one-half additional hour. The men were also credited with \$5.00 for each training session. These monies were payable at the end of each calendar year.⁴

Fire Station No. 1 was closed in July 1975. Fire Stations Nos. 2 and 3 are still in use. No. 2, located at 401 - 115th Avenue was built in 1960, at a cost of \$51,215.00. Fire Station No. 3 at 2831 - 113th Avenue was first occupied in September 1970. Citation: Richard L. Mowan, Assistant Coon Rapids Fire Chief. The cost of this station was \$155,930.00.

The Coon Rapids Fire Department, in its 30 years of existence, has been served by many dedicated individuals. While it may be impossible to name each person who has served, an attempt is made here to enumerate those pensioned firefighters shown in the 1983 Annual Report of the Coon Rapids Fire Department. They are: Harold Bartholow (1953-1974); Norman Beckwall (1953-1974); Russell Bednar (1974-1980); William Dunn (1972-1982); Herb Gunther (1953-1974); Horace F. Hutchinson (1953-1975); Owen Hyland (1953-1978); William Leach (1966-1982); Richard Michaelson (1973-1978); Ralph Nelson, Sr. (1953-1974); Lester Palmer (1953-1974); Burton Peterson (1962-1981); Doug Peterson (1956-1970); John Ponting (1959-1978); Joseph Prause (1953-1974); Glen Rogers (1953-1974); Arnold Strand (1953-1974); James Whitehead (1953-1974);, and Kenneth Ysteboe (1953-1974).

There have been two Coon Rapids Fire Chiefs in the 32 years of the Department's existence which illustrates their competence and dedication to the community. The first, Harold Bartholow served from 1953 to 1973, the period of immense population growth and consequent need for solid planning of the Fire Department. The present Fire Chief, William F. Thompson, has served since March 1974, during which time the Department's equipment has been upgraded and a necessary increase in personnel has taken place.

At the present time, there are 24 men employed full time including Chief Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief Richard L. Mowan, and Fire Marshal Michael O'Connor. The two fire stations are manned 24 hours a day by three, seven-man shifts. The current firefighters are: **"A" Shift:** Captain Frank Bednar, Inspector Timothy Farmer, Richard Jeffers, Robert Ktytor, Ronald Nevala, Curtis Parman, and Thomas Winiecki. **"B" Shift:** Captain Robert Neumann, Inspector Charles Schiemo, Dean Murray, Clint Nagel, William Peterson, and Neill Pullis. **"C" Shift:** Captain Ralph Kays, Inspector Guy Johnston, Robert Bollin, Jeffrey Brennan, Robert Camp, Robert Davidson, and John Piper.

The full-time firemen are assisted by 20 public spirited volunteers who serve "on call" as necessary. They are: Jerald Botko, Douglas Boxeth; Lewis Brostrom, Michael

Brozek, Walter Doege, Bret Gageby, Larry Gloe, Donald Hoemberg, Clifford Krauss, Brian Lubbers, Lowell Luebeck, Ronald McManus, Andrew McPherson, John Mersereau, Donald Moe, Norman Novak, Robert Rehberger, Stephen Ward, Leif Westrum, and Jeffrey Young. The Department Secretary is Karen Knies.⁵

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Human Services Department is composed of four divisions: Counseling, Clinic, Teen, and Senior Divisions.

The Director of this Department is responsible for administering and directing the activities of the North Suburban Family Service Center (NSFSC). Activities in which the Center is engaged include the operation of a Teen Center, counseling programs, the Nucleus Clinic, Trailblazers, and the Senior Citizens Division. The building housing this Department is located at 1323 Coon Rapids Boulevard.

The current Director of the Human Services Department is Terri Melnychenko. A staff member since January 1975, Melnychenko succeeded Don Wegscheider as department head in July 1981. The Associate Director is Jacky Frentz.

The Counseling Division functions under Rule 29, and is a State-approved mental health center. The Center provides individual marital and family counseling to the residents of Anoka County. Under the direction of Terri Melnychenko the Counseling staff includes Jacky Frentz, Pat Rygg, Clay Sankey, Pat Peverill, Stan Rosenthal, and Bill Routt, M.D.

The Nucleus Clinic is a teenage medical clinic providing low-cost health care to Anoka County residents. Pat Rygg is the Clinic Coordinator and is assisted by Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Schmidt and a group of approximately 40 volunteers.

The Teen Center is coordinated by Jacky Frentz. Lee Johnson is the Director and is assisted by Dan Sadowski. This Division is operated as a recreational drop-in center for Coon Rapids youth.

Another program operated at this facility is the Trailblazer Program. This Program provides work experiences for the 14 and 15 year olds of Coon Rapids. The Program is coordinated by John Havern, assisted by a staff of four. Approximately 155 Trailblazers are busily occupied in work-related experience through this program each summer.

The Senior Activity Center is an educational, recreational, and nutritional program center for senior citizens. The current Senior Center Coordinator is Sandy Senkyr. Debbe Hibler held this position until March 1984.

The Senior Center Activity Planner is Connie Dussl. The Coordinator for the Outreach Program is Arlis Twaddle and senior transportation is coordinated by Jean Wagener. Mary Disch coordinates the Well Senior Clinic Program.

Support staff for the Human Services Department include Receptionist Edith Sheldon, Secretary Carole Mathena, and Typist Laurie Holden.

(See North Suburban Family Service Center for a history of NSFSC.)

PARKS

In the past, metropolitan areas were developed without benefit of city planning, and the tendency was to build on all available land. The result was vast residential areas without any type of park. Very little or no thought was given to the resident's need for "breathing space" and the recreational opportunities offered by parks. Coon Rapids in its progressive, forward-thinking manner has, since its formation, seen the importance in providing open areas for leisure activity. Efforts to create local parks for the enjoyment of residents and provision of safe play areas for youth have been a priority for City planners. Prior to large scale development, open areas were readily available to the comparatively low volume of population, but as builders acquired and developed larger areas, the City planners recognized the need for off-street recreation areas. The Planning Commission as early as 1954 required a percentage of each total development area be set aside for neighborhood parks. The original percentage of 7 percent has increased to 10 to 18 percent of the total land within each new addition. A park dedication fee may be paid in lieu of actual park property, based on unimproved land value. Park property is also required by the City through tax forfeiture.

Scattered throughout the City are plots of undeveloped parkland which may be sold to pay for park expansion. These areas may be used by people just as they would use any other City park and they offer a unique opportunity for those interested in nature study. Many of these sites are suitable for hiking, picnicking, and informal games.

There are 27 developed and seven undeveloped city parks. Developed parks are: Acorn, Alder, Burl Oaks, Crooked Lake Beach, Delta, Erlandson Nature Center, Al Flynn (formerly "City" park), Hoover, Kennedy, Mason, Mercy, Moor, Nelson, Parkside, Peppermint Stick, Pheasant Ridge, Prospect, Riverview, Riverwind, Rockslide, Sand Creek Athletic Field, Sand Creek (largest in the City), Thorpe, Towerview, Twin Field, Vineyards, Woodcrest (first City park), and Woodview. Undeveloped park areas are Lundgren Park, Robinson (formerly Egret Park), Sherbrook, Woodland Heights, and Epiphany. Most recently acquired is the 35-acre site at 129th and Verdin, plus four unnamed unimproved park areas.

Park equipment is purchased by bond issue or dedication fees which are set aside for improvements of existing park sites and purchase of additional property for parks.

In addition to parks, other recreational opportunities provided by the City include: Coon Rapids Bunker Hills Golf Course (among the best public golf facilities in the United States); outdoor swimming at Crooked Lake and Clayhole Beaches; indoor pools at Riverwind, Northdale and Coon Rapids Junior High Schools; and the Coon Rapids Cook Ice Arena. (See information on Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park--Chapter I).

PERSONNEL/PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

The Personnel and Purchasing Departments are combined into one office. The Director of these departments is Miriam Porter, Assistant to the City Manager, who joined the City staff on August 16, 1982.

The Assistant to the City Manager, in the capacity of Personnel Director, performs many administrative duties including the supervision of the City's personnel activity. Additional duties of the Director include assisting department heads as part of the City's negotiating team, assisting in preparation of the annual budget, and other administrative tasks as defined by the City Manager. Others who have served in this administrative capacity in the past are Kevin Frazell (1978-1983), Robert Middaugh (1976-1978), and James Main (1972-1976).

Also in the Personnel Department is the position of Personnel Technician/Administrative Aide. Colleen Klipstein currently holds this position and has been a staff member since September 7, 1971. Sara Tollefson is Clerk/Typist for the Department.

The Purchasing Department is responsible for purchasing on an informal or contract basis, including writing and revising specifications, writing requests for Council action, expediting back orders, and maintaining a current file of price lists and catalogs of equipment and supplies. The Purchasing Agent maintains contacts in the trade field, explaining the City's position on purchasing procedures and bidding. The Agent also maintains current insurance information upon which the City relies to make insurance coverage decisions. He/she also receives all purchases and processes all invoices. The present Purchasing Agent is Mickey Ferrian. She has been on the City staff since September 5, 1978.

The Assistant to the City Manager, in the capacity of Purchasing Director, supervises this Department. William Fettes was Purchasing Director from 1973 to 1978.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Planning Department consists of three divisions-Planning, Housing, and Zoning. The Director of this Department is responsible for directing the activities of the City's Planning Department, which involves professional planning and zoning. These activities include the preparation and maintenance of the City's Comprehensive Plan, development of long range plans, review of plats and plans for new developments within the City, Code enforcement, and zoning. The Director is also responsible for preparation and administration of Federal, State, and County grants dealing with community development. The Director serves as the staff liaison to the Planning Commission.

The current Director of the Planning Department is Lee Starr, who has been on the City staff since May 1980. Planning Department staff members are Joe Grillo (Assistant Planning Director/HRA Administrator), Richard Packer (Planner), Evelyn Turner (Associate Planner), and Cheryl Bennett (Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator). Joe

Grillo directs the Housing Division with the assistance of Yvonne Schwartz. Diana Rite is Secretary for the Planning Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In early times the public peace was guarded by military bodies. When the Normans conquered England in 1066 they found the country divided into Counties, or Shires, with a Shire-Reeve at the head of each. The Normans turned this situation into a system of public safety, making the Shire-Reeve, or "Sheriff", the chief law enforcement officer in his county.

The slang term "cop" is often applied to a policeman in the United States. One explanation is that in earlier times, when policemen were called Constables, an officer, when writing his report would write C.O.P. after his name, meaning "Constable on Patrol".

During the Township and Village periods of Coon Rapids, protection of the residents was the responsibility of two Constables, who apparently served two-year staggering terms. (See Chapters I and II for names of Constables, 1882-1956).

As residential development took place and the population grew, the problem of domestic crime accelerated.

In February 1957, a meeting of local leaders and representatives of the Coon Rapids area was called to discuss the possible formation of a full time police department. This meeting was prompted by a series of break-ins at the Coon Rapids Shopping Center, Thompson Park Homes, and Anoka Gardens. Vandalism in village parks was also a problem. Darrell Bombarger and Horace F. "Hutch" Hutchinson were village Constables at the time, and the County Sheriff's office also provided regular patrols via sheriff's cars.

One month later the Council of the Village of Coon Rapids voted unanimously to offer the position of Chief of Police to Al



Shown in this 1959 photo of the Coon Rapids Police Department are Chief Al Bombarger, seated, and Blanche Nisen; Back row, left to right, H.F. Hutchinson, Marty Ganser, Tom Mevissen, and Darrel Bombarger.

Bombarger. A long time resident, Chief Bombarger was highly qualified, having been a full-time deputy with the County Sheriff's office since 1950. He served as the first Anoka County Probation Officer in 1955 after having been Anoka Township Constable for nine years.

In January 1957, Constable Horace F. "Hutch" Hutchinson was made an active patrolling Constable at \$50.00 per month, plus mileage of 7 cents per mile for use of his personal car in the performance of patrolling duties, the same as Constable Darrell Bombarger.¹¹

During the first three months, 8,817 miles were patrolled, 297 radio calls were received, 45 arrests were made, and 152 complaints were answered.

The Police Commission, organized in April 1957, consisted of Thomas Cooper, Frank Miller, and Arthur McCauley. Due to growth and development, deer hunting in the village was prohibited in November.¹⁴

Robert Mevissen was named as the first full-time patrolman in March 1958, and in September 1959, Chief Bombarger headed a force of five men: Robert Mevissen, Marty Ganzer, Darrell Bombarger, and Horace F. "Hutch" Hutchinson, a part-time officer. In January 1960, Dick Super became the sixth member of the police force.

The police report of 1960 showed 2,831 radio calls answered, 1,232 complaints investigated, and 537 arrests.

In three years, 1960 through 1963, the population had grown to the point where the Police Department had to employ additional personnel. There were now 6 special police officers, 28 Civil Defense policemen, 10 regular patrolmen, 1 Juvenile Officer, 1 secretary, 2 patrol cars, and 1 investigation car. This car was purchased via bid from Burke Studebaker for \$1,715.24.

Chief Al Bombarger, resigned May 5, 1965, and Sergeant Gerald "Jerry" Nelson was appointed the next day (the day of the Fridley tornado) to Interim-Chief until Patrick Nelson was appointed to that position. A year later the police force consisted of 20 persons. In 1970, Gerald Nelson was named Police Chief, succeeding Patrick Nelson, at which time the department had a roster of 28 and three police dogs, "Bruno", "Sarge", and "Ivan". Today the Department consists of 43 sworn personnel, 10 civilian personnel, 21 fully-equipped police cars, one motorcycle, and one snowmobile.

Around-the-clock patrol is provided as well as traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigation, and emergency response. The investigation staff of three persons work closely with the Anoka County Major Crime Investigation Unit (M.C.I.U.). The one K-9 unit is helpful in building searches and tracking.

In addition to routine duties, the Coon Rapids Police Department is involved in the School Liaison Program, Speakers Bureau, Operation Reassurance (for those persons who live alone or are handicapped), Operation Identification, and instruction of first aid to residents through the Com-

munity School Program. A Police Reserve Unit which provides traffic control at large functions such as football games, parades, etc. is of great value and assistance to the Department and the community.

In the metropolitan area the Coon Rapids Police Department enjoys favorable recognition by other police agencies as a well-administered department and a strong local feeling of public trust is apparent.

Those who have served the Coon Rapids Police Department in the past are: Chiefs Al Bombarger and Patrick H. Nelson; Martin Ganzer; Darrell Bombarger; Beverly Anderson; Larry Olson; Paul Shephard; John Melde; Williard Johnson; Roger Foss; Betty Hayes; Gary Pasch; Helen Gutzmer; Carol Warrington; Pam Wurscher; Judy Greenhoe; Cecil Melton; Pam Lofgren; Inez Lovegreen; Rick Potts; Roger Willette; Gary Johnson; Ernest Dickenson; Jan Trick; Betty Vibrat; Cinda Darrington; Blanche Nisun; H.F. Hutchinson; Bob Drowns; Bob Rolfe; Bob Selness; Dick Lang; Bob Mevissen; Dave Moden; Mike Auspos; Curt Wussow; Dave Korus; James Gass; Sue Maddison; Jared Richardson; Duane Wiener; Patti Steman, and Ronda Burgess. Current Police Department employees are: Gerald D. Nelson, Chief; William J. Morris, Captain; Dick H. Super, Captain; William O. Estenson, Sergeant; William F. McPherson, Sergeant; O. Leroy Anderson, Sergeant; Alan A. Nemchik, Sergeant; Lonnie G. Haase, Sergeant, and Steven F. Ahrens, Sergeant. Patrolmen: Dale R. Yunker; Gordon W. Seymour; Donald P. Gorder; Stanley Kolodjeski; John Swedlund; Manley Thorson; Peter Beberg; Kenneth Glotzbach; Craig Gorsuch; Terry Bryers; Michael Phillippi; Richard Barland; Frank Moinicken; Thomas Teale; Dennis Preston; Richard Campion; James Swanson; Paul Johnson; Gregory Andrie; Robert Durenberger; Joseph Hunt; John Alden; Timothy Snell; Steven Wells; Kirby Beck; Andrew Kuzmich; Steven Bluml; Richard Lafean; Michael Dunkley; Michael Keller; Terry Niles, Wayne Schwartz; Cary Parks, and Martin Heilman. Civilian Personnel: Jacqueline Sabin, Administrative Secretary; Sharon Peck, Records Clerk; Darlene Urban, Receptionist; Kathy Hill, Receptionist; Jan Boyer, Clerk-Typist III; Kandy Anttila, Clerk-Typist III; Andrea Skelton, part-time, and Angela Liljenberg, part-time. Community Service Officers: Steven O'Konek; Steven Meyer; Greg Levendowski, and Jeffrey O'Neill, Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Director of Public Works is responsible for administration and supervision of the public works maintenance activities of the City. Primary duties of the Public Works Director include the planning, organizing, and coordination of all public works maintenance activities as well as direct supervision of the Streets, Trees, Parks, Utilities and Building and Fleet Maintenance Divisions. Additional responsibilities include sitting as a member of the negotiating team in establishing labor agreements between the City and the Public Works bargaining unit. The Director also serves as staff liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The current Public Works Director is Russ Ward who has been a member of the City staff since January 1978. Bill Ottensmann was the previous director. Marge Miller is Secretary to the Public Works Director and was employed by the City on June 3, 1976.

The Foreman of the Streets Division is Eugene Gage. As of June 1, 1984, Gage had served the City the longest. His employ began on October 2, 1959. Present members of the Streets Division are Vernon Weiss, Donald Card, Dick Michaelson, Chris Gorseger, Jeff Nemerov, Harold Richardson, Larry Gloe, Robert Hostetler, and Charles Nevala.

The Parks Division is presently headed by Foreman Dick LaBeau. Members of his Division are Donald Lord, Eugene Becker, Conrad Bahe, Harold R. Johnson, David Johnson, Art Powley, Jerold Jorgenson, Ronald Main, Charles Geringer, Jerry McDaniel, Robert Larson, Gerald Beckwell, and Randy Christensen.

William Dunn is the Foreman of the Utility Division. The present employees in this Division are: LeRoy Moon, Douglas Frich, Virgil Bates, Bruce Johnson, LeRoy Sibell, Gary Dahlberg, and Michael Kieley.

The Trees Division is under the direction of Foreman Lowell Luebeck. George Christy, Jerry Skottegaard, and Doug Meyenburg are members of this staff.

The Fleet/Building Maintenance Division is presently composed of eight members under Foreman Glen Rogers. mechanics are Craig Borchardt, Tom Dahlheimer, Stephen Yost, and Greg Cronin. The Building Maintenance crew is composed of Jerry Hollom, Ken Phelps, and Lloyd Tyge.

CITY ENTERPRISES

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR

In accordance with the establishment and operating procedures as contained in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340.353, and the City Code Chapter 5, Sections 204-206, Coon Rapids opened the first City-owned liquor store in May 1955.

The location of Coon Rapids Municipal Liquor Store No. 1, was in the building now housing NSFSC, and was shared with Fire Station No. 1 until June 10, 1975, when Highway No. 10 was widened and the store was closed. Receipts from sales from this store the first year totaled \$5,248.00.

Northdale Shopping Center was the original location of the second municipally-owned liquor store which opened in April 1962. After 20 years the store was moved in October 1982 to a new site at the corner of Northdale at Foley, where a free-standing City-owned building was erected for this enterprise.

Municipal Liquor Store No. 3 was opened in the Red Owl Family Mall in May 1967, and while the liquor store has since

changed locations within the Mall, it has been operating in that area for the past 17 years. This store is included in the City's plan to build a free-standing, City-owned building to house Liquor Store No. 3. At this time (1984), the City is looking at properties in the area in order to facilitate construction of an appropriate building.

Village 10 Shopping Center was the location of Municipal Liquor Store No. 4, which opened August 1971. When the larger store was built to house Store No. 2, it was determined to be in a common trade area which created an overlap of customers. This situation and the necessity to cut costs was a factor in closing Liquor Store No. 4 on January 14, 1984.

The rationale for the establishment and location of liquor stores was based upon economic market theory of supply and demand. Supplies are purchased from private wholesalers and sold in the Municipal Liquor Stores at a competitive retail price.

The City is moving toward a "discount liquor concept" at this time. Selling at discount prices will increase volume and at the same time will lower the percentage of rents and labor costs. Dick Johnson, manager of the two remaining municipally owned Coon Rapids Liquor Stores, feels that the population has become price-conscious due to the economy, and as surrounding municipalities have moved toward the discount liquor concept it is beneficial for Coon Rapids to follow this trend.

Since 1955 in excess of \$1,700,000 has been transferred to the City's General Fund from liquor profits for general operating expenses of the City. Liquor profits then continue to be substituted for property taxes to provide City services.

COON RAPIDS BUNKER HILLS GOLF COURSE

The Coon Rapids City Council authorized a 99-year lease with Anoka County on April 5, 1966, for property within Bunker Hills Regional Park for development of a golf course as a City enterprise. In August of that year, Mr. David Gill, golf course architect of St. Charles, Illinois, was retained to design the course. A resolution ordering issuance and advertisement of the sale of \$350,000 of Recreational Facility Revenue Bonds was passed by the City Council at a meeting on August 2, 1966. Approximately 160 acres comprised the land area of the golf course upon its opening on July 8, 1968. An 18-hole course, over 7,000 yards in length, and a combination Pro/Coffee Shop was available for public use at this time.

On April 3, 1973, the Council authorized issuance and sale of \$520,000 worth of General Obligation Revenue Recreational Facility Bonds for improving the course facilities including construction of a clubhouse and a nine-hole golf course. An additional 35 acres were leased from the County to build the Executive nine-hole, par 32 course, which opened in 1975.

Foursome, Inc., owner of the Seasons Restaurant, leased a portion of the clubhouse in March 1973. This privately-owned public restaurant enjoys a Countywide reputation for delicious cuisine, an elegant atmosphere, and a panoramic view of nature through floor-to-ceiling windows. Russell Weaver, general manager and principal investor since 1979,



This view of the greens at the Bunker Hills Golf Course was photographed at the Course opening in July 1968.

states "the close working relationship with the Coon Rapids City Council has been of great importance to the success of the establishment".

Bunker Hills was awarded the National Public Links Championship in 1976. The National Car Open Tournament is held each year at Bunker Hills Golf Course. This three-state open championship is limited to the 150 top qualifiers out of approximately 400 aspiring contestants of professionals, or those with a five handicap or better. Not the prize, but the prestige gained from participation in the "open" is much sought after.

Coon Rapids Bunker Hills Golf Course's Dick Tollette has been the "pro" since the course was opened. In 1980, he was named "Three Section Professional of the Year" and in 1983 he received a similar award in relation to the Junior Golf Activities at Bunker Hills Course. Coon Rapids is noted nationally as having one of the best Junior Golf Programs.

Golf Digest magazine ranked Coon Rapids Bunker Hills Golf Course in the "top 50 public courses in the United States" in 1981, and the manager was recently advised that the National Car Open Tournament was committed to extend through 1990, at this location.

In the 15-year history of the municipally-owned golf course, 870,000 golfers have used the facility.

JOE COOK ICE ARENA

Upon recommendation of the Capital Improvement Committee in 1972 the Coon Rapids City Council approved the issuance and sale of \$560,000 in Gross Revenue Ice Arena Bonds for the construction of Joe Cook Ice Arena.

The Arena initially provided year-round ice skating, but in the late 1970's energy costs became prohibitive and it was determined to close the facility for the spring and summer months.

Ice hockey constitutes 100 percent of Arena use from October to March. The largest user is the Coon Rapids Athletic Association. The Coon Rapids High School hockey teams utilize the arena as well as community teams. When first built, Cook Arena was used by Blaine and Anoka High School hockey teams as a practice area.

The Ice Arena is supporting its operating and maintenance expenses; however, the City collects approximately \$50,000 annually from property taxes, which is used to pay off the bonds that were issued to finance the construction of the Arena.⁹

NORTH SUBURBAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER

In the spring of 1971, a group of high school students and teacher Mike Babcock of Coon Rapids Senior High School organized Workshop, Inc. The main concerns were youth employment, crisis intervention, low-cost medical service, drug prevention, diagnosis, and education. John Melde of the Coon Rapids Police Department and Dr. William Rodman of the Unity Hospital staff were early supporters of the organization and instrumental in gaining community acceptance.

A Teen Medical Clinic was opened which soon evolved as the Nucleus Clinic in space provided by Anoka-Ramsey Community College. All equipment was donated and an all-volunteer staff consisted of Dr. William Rodman, Donna Kittelson, Medical Technician, with Norm Nelson and Judy Toensing of ARCC serving as volunteer counselors. They were soon joined by volunteers, Char Fitzpatrick, Lab Technician, and Dr. William Carr of the Silver Lake Medical Clinic. Dr. Carr became Chief of Staff of Unity Hospital in 1973. Unity Hospital provided laboratory services and today continues to serve the Clinic in that function.

In 1972 a Law Enforcement Assistance Act (LEAA) grant application was approved. With the grant funds the organization purchased the Orrin Thompson business office at Riverwind. The County provided \$2,500 to move the building to 103rd and Hanson where North Central Gas Company provided a site at one dollar per year.

Through funds provided by the Coon Rapids City Council and the LEAA grant in 1972, a staff was hired. They were: Don Wegscheider, Director; J. Patrick Breslin, Coordinator of Volunteers; and Karen Robinson, Part-time Coordinator of the Clinic and Board of Directors which included Debby Bigelow, Kathy Antus, Mark Gwinn, and Carl Theorin.

After the grant was approved, the name was changed to North Suburban Youth Service Center, with Joel Koemptgen as Executive Director and a paid staff of four persons. The Center served an average of 150 to 200 people per month.

John Carlstrom, Youth Coordinator for the City of Coon Rapids and liaison to schools and community organizations, was hired to work with the teens in 1973. Debby Krovitz-Davis joined the staff in 1976 as Family Counselor and was also in charge of the "Creative Play Time" program. Jacky Frentz, Family Counselor since 1978, is now Associate Director. Terri Melnychenko replaced John Carlstrom as

Youth Coordinator in 1975, and is presently the Director of Human Services.

The fall of 1977 saw the move to the "new" building, which previously had housed Fire Station No. 1 and the municipal liquor store on Coon Rapids Boulevard.

In 1975 the LEAA grant expired at which time the NSYSC became a City program and the name again changed to North Suburban Family Service Center. Edith Sheldon was hired as receptionist, and became known as "Resident Mother" to the staff and volunteers. LeLand Johnson has been Teen Center Director since 1980.

The programs today are somewhat different than those originally offered. The job program was dropped when the County C.E.T.A. Program for teenagers began and others were integrated into community programs.

Services currently offered are: **Family Counseling**--Which includes: Individual psychotherapy, marital counseling, family therapy, group counseling, divorce counseling, psychological testing, chemical dependency, after-care counseling, and community education. The therapy staff includes: Jacky Frentz, MALP; Terri Melnychenko, MALP (Director of Human Services); Patricia Peverill, MSW; Stan Rosenthal, Ph. D. LCP; William Routt, M.D.; Patricia Rygg, BS; and Clayton Sankey, MSW, ACSW. **Trailblazers** - A short-term summer job and recreational opportunity for 150 Coon Rapids youth 13 to 15 years of age. Trailblazers work six hours daily, four days per week for three weeks. In addition to helping maintain City parks, participants also have the opportunity to take part in recreational programs such as picnics and trips. **Nucleus Clinic**--The Clinic serves the target population of Anoka County with a special emphasis on serving women 21 years and under. Services include pregnancy testing and decision counseling; V.D. testing and treatment, birth control and education. The Clinic is open three nights per week and serves approximately 1,900 persons annually. **Teen Center**--Cooperative teen programs are offered in association with the Community School Programs and in 1983 the Teen Center served 600 participants. A drop-in center for Coon Rapids teens is maintained in the NSFSC building. **Senior Activity Center**--The Center opened its doors in 1980 with Debbe Hibler as Senior Activity Coordinator. A congregate dining program serves 15,000 meals annually and 600 seniors enjoy crafts, bingo, cards, and other recreational programs, including trips. A van is provided through the joint efforts of Jerry Wright, President of the First Bank of Coon Rapids, and Grant McKay of Coon Rapids Chrysler-Plymouth. The City of Coon Rapids provides van driver and maintenance.

In 1981 the counseling program at NSFSC was approved by the Department of Public Welfare, State of Minnesota, to become a Mental Health Center.

The goal of the Center counseling program was reached in 1983. The goal was to run the counseling program without cost to the City, except for the per-unit charge for Coon Rapids residents. In 1983 the City paid \$19,000 for City residents receiving counseling.

Coon Rapids City Councils have been very supportive of the NSFSC through the years, another example of the City government's recognition of community need.

ANOKA-RAMSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The story of an institution like Anoka-Ramsey Community College is really a story of people-- those who were committed to making it a reality and those who continue to contribute to its improvement and excellence.

Anoka-Ramsey's "people" story really goes back to before 1962 when civic and education leaders in the Anoka County area were striving for a way to combat juvenile delinquency. In 1962 the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, at the specific request of the superintendents of school districts in the County (Anoka, Hennepin, Spring Lake Park, Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Centennial), formed an Anoka County Youth Employment and Training Program Committee, which later became the Youth Employment and Education Program Committee. On the Board at that time were Edward Fields, Mike O'Bannon, and Al Kordiak.

Irving Barrett, Director of Youth services for Anoka County, was appointed to this Committee along with County Attorney Robert Johnson, State Senator Vern Hoium, State Representative Connie Burchett, Superintendents Morris Bye (Anoka), Edward Knalson (Spring Lake Park), Howard Jensen (Columbia Heights), John Hanson Fridley), A.P. Bergee (Centennial), District No. 11 Board member Leland Sorteberg, and other interested citizens.

Their 40-page report supported their commitment to seeing that a junior college be built in what was, in their opinion, a "college-void" area.

To further their cause, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners in December 1963 appointed a site committee and voted to purchase the land when the site was selected and give it to the State for a campus. Members of the Committee were residents of the five County Commissioner districts: Arnold A Kelling, Harvey Peterson, D.H. Gregerson, Wayne Anderson, and Donald Harstad. Irving Barrett, Youth Services Director for Anoka County, was named to work with the group.

City Councils of Anoka, Coon Rapids, Blaine, Fridley, Circle Pines, and many civic groups and private citizens also participated in these initial efforts and meetings.

The site selection committee met with groups throughout the County, and on October 12, 1964, presented seven sites in Anoka County to the State Legislature, with County Attorney R.W. Johnson speaking on behalf of the Anoka County delegation. In December Anoka County was chosen as a junior college site. Centennial School District in Circle Pines opened its doors for the temporary home of Anoka-Ramsey in the fall of 1965 while a permanent location was being chosen.

The Minnesota Junior College Board investigated the seven sites and in November 1965 selected the "WCCO Radio" site on the Mississippi River, largely because of the student

population, traffic flow, and the aesthetics of the area.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the purchase of 65 acres from Arthur McCauley and 20 acres from Wilfred Leitschuh and to give it to the state.

Construction began in the spring of 1966 and continued while second year enrollment at the temporary location grew to over 1,000. During the summer of 1967 students and faculty devoted weeks to moving to the new campus.

Anoka-Ramsey officially opened the doors of the new facilities to 1,400 students on September 16, 1967, becoming the first permanent junior college campus in the metro area.

Programs grew and others were added in cooperation with the new Anoka Area Vocational-Technical School which also opened in 1967. The initial Anoka County Youth Employment and Training Program begun in 1962 had also been instrumental in bringing the Anoka AVTI to the Anoka Hennepin District No. 11.

The first plans of construction included the College Services, Library, Science and Humanities Buildings. The Gymnasium/Activities Building was finished in 1969. Phase III--the College Center, Fine Arts, and Business/Technology Buildings--was finished in 1972. In 1976, the Theatre Building completed the campus as it now stands.

During this growing process, the State Legislature also changed the names of its junior colleges to community colleges.

Programs have grown, changed, and started over the years. Community services have expanded and an extension center, Cambridge Center, was opened in Cambridge in 1978. Beginning with 579 students in the first year, enrollment at Anoka-Ramsey has increased considerably; e.g., in 1967-1968 there were 1,373 full-time students; in 1969-1970--2,126; in 1971-1972--1,745; in 1973-1974--1,473; in 1975-1976--1,785; in 1977-1978--1,673; in 1979-1980--2,092, and in 1982-1983--2,557. Anoka-Ramsey, as the oldest community college in the metro area, now enrolls an average of 2,450 full-time students a year. Adding part-time students to the total, Anoka-Ramsey had more people taking classes (7,875) than any other community college in the state system in 1980-1981. That head-count total remains high.

Many people of the area maintain a strong commitment to Anoka-Ramsey. Cooperative agreements between Anoka-Ramsey and the Anoka AVTI and between Anoka-Ramsey and the City of Coon Rapids provide educational programs and athletic facilities for area students. Other local agencies and organizations make use of Anoka-Ramsey services and facilities on a regular basis. A few examples are the Anoka Theatre Ensemble, the Outdoor Summer Concert Series, the Arts Do-It Day, and the Social Studies Current Events Contest for high school students.

Recognition has come to Anoka-Ramsey as a result of outstanding work by advisors and students in academics, activities, and athletics. Full accreditation has been granted by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the

National League for Nursing and the Engineering Council for Professional Development. The joint programs in the health services with Anoka AVTI are accredited by their respective organizations.

Committed service area residents have served on the Anoka-Ramsey College Advisory Committee since it began. A total of 38 people have been named to that committee over the years. Another 11 people serve on the Cambridge Center Advisory Committee.

The staff of the college has also shown long-standing commitment to the institution. Those who were part of the original 22-member faculty and are still instructors at Anoka-Ramsey include Bill Jackson, Ron Hunter, Phil DeWolfe, Mary Weltman; Bob Glaser, and Loyola Thiltgen. One, Bob Cutting, recently retired.

The Personnel Officer, Norma Paulson was also there at the beginning in 1965.

Prior to the selection of Dr. Neil Christenson as President in December 1975, administrative heads were Dr. Emil Wilken and Dr. Ronald Denison.

The students, staff, and area residents continue to help Anoka-Ramsey grow and update priorities to meet the changing needs of the people it serves. The "people" story continues.

The foregoing information on Anoka-Ramsey Community College was prepared by Sandi Hitch, Director of Community Relations for the College and is presented here with permission.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAM

In November 1971 the Coon Rapids City Council and Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to share in the establishment and funding of a Community School Program. The objective of the Community School Program is to bring together the schools and the community in an effort to share resources to the benefit of all.

Each designated school building, grounds, special facilities and equipment are used by the entire community. Human resources are channeled into the schools where they are made available to the entire community.

The Community School concept consists of three main components: recreation, education, and enrichment for youth, kindergarten through grade 12. Programs are developed to meet local needs as determined by the citizens.

Neighborhood advisory councils assist in forming a meaningful program and they are a vital asset in bringing together people from all walks of life; i.e., representatives from the business community, teens, churches, schools, community organizations, and parents.

Under the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement, the City pays 70 percent of the cost of salaries for the Community School Coordinators and a supplemental dollar amount to

each community school to offset program costs for youth participants. The School District pays 30 percent of Coordinators' salaries, the salary of a full-time director, all District support staff, all support clerical staff, as well as all fringe benefits.

At this time there are six full-time and four part-time participating community schools within Coon Rapids. Full-time elementary schools are: Adams, Mississippi, Morris Bye and Sorteberg. Part-time elementary schools are: Hamilton, Hoover, L.O. Jacobs and Sand Creek. The two secondary schools which participate on a full-time basis are Coon Rapids Junior High and Northdale Junior High.¹³

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

In November 1963 the Ray Swanberg property south of Coon Rapids Boulevard was the site of a gathering of people who had dedicated many years to the dream of a modern community hospital. As the earth mover scraped off the sod and the first layer of dirt, the chilled spectators were warmed by the knowledge that their sustained efforts were reaching fruition.

In the mid-1950's the first meeting of the Anoka Community Hospital Association was held and officers were elected. Plans to operate the dining hall at the Anoka County fair as a fund raising project were made by the Women's Auxiliary. Proceeds of this effort were designated to purchase material for hospital gowns, bedding, etc.

A community survey was developed to define the area to be served by the projected hospital cost, cost of operating the hospital, and other factors. A donation of \$5,000 was presented by Charles L. Horn of Federal Cartridge Corporation to facilitate the survey. The survey was completed in March 1956 and showed the need for a 65-bed hospital in the Anoka area. Investigation of sites and possible plans for financing the hospital took place during 1956 through 1958.

At the annual meeting in September 1961 the Hospital Association of over 700 members discussed various methods of financing, resulting in a \$1,000,000 bond issue for hospital construction. The issue was defeated.

The Anoka Hospital Board voted unanimously on January 30, 1963, to accept the offer of Glenwood Hills Hospital to build a 100-bed hospital for the Anoka-Coon Rapids community. Mayor Joseph Craig of Coon Rapids was named Vice President of the Board at this meeting.

At a meeting February 25, 1963, the membership of the Anoka Community Hospital Association voted to increase the number of directors from 17 to 27. This action was taken to allow the addition of nine members from the City of Coon Rapids and two members at large. The Board met on February 27 to approve the following directors from Coon Rapids: Arnold Wichterman, John Steelman, Hugh D. Putnam, Howard Nordstrom, Henry Goldstein, Mrs. Lee Stauffer, Don Olson, Leroy H. Johnson, and Harold Bartholow.

An agreement between Glenwood Hills Hospital and the Anoka Community Hospital Association was signed March 20,

1963. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to build a 300-bed hospital on the Ray Swanberg property. Swanberg donated four acres to the hospital project and the remaining ten acres of the tract were purchased.

A contest was held to select a name for the hospital and on May 24, 1963, the announcement was made that the new facilities be named "Mercy Hospital". The cash prize of \$100.00 was split four ways, as four people had submitted the same name.

A fund drive over the preceding months had raised \$500,000 of the necessary \$600,000 to let bids. Federal Cartridge Corporation agreed to donate \$50,000 upon the total reaching \$550,000 to bring the funds to the necessary amount. In November 1963 the Finance Committee Chairman announced that a total of \$609,033.93 had been collected or pledged. In November 1963 bids for construction of Mercy Hospital were opened and contracts awarded. That same week, a new Board of Directors were elected at the annual meeting. Those placed on the Board from Coon Rapids were: Harold Bartholow, LeRoy Johnson, Mrs. Norman Beckwall, Ivadell Cornelius, and Joseph Craig.

The date for the official opening of Mercy Hospital was scheduled for March 22, 1965, and all was in readiness for that event, but fate had other plans. The need for the hospital was clearly demonstrated on the night of the 17th, when inclement weather prevented an expectant mother from reaching the nearest Minneapolis or suburban hospital. The baby, Merci Jeannine Melton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Melton, was born on March 18th, and the hospital was off to a running start!

At the end of 1965 Mercy Hospital had reached its capacity of 144 beds. In 1970, Mercy Hospital became a division of Health Central, Inc., a diversified non-profit health care management and service organization headquartered in Brooklyn Center. A \$12,000,000 six-story addition was completed in 1974.

On the tenth anniversary (March 17, 1975) the Mercy Hospital Board of Governors changed the hospital name to Mercy Medical Center to more clearly reflect its increased medical services and facilities.

The Adult Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Units were opened in the fall of 1976, and adolescent services were first offered in September 1978. A Home Health Care and Hospice Program was developed in 1979. In 1981 the CT Scan was purchased and a new Short Stay Surgery area was opened.

The current Board of Governors are: Albert Bailey (Chairman), Sherwood Cleveland, Lee Carlson, Neil Christensen (Vice Chairman and resident of Coon Rapids), Joseph Craig (former Mayor of Coon Rapids), Donald Esmay (resident of Coon Rapids), Daniel Janiga, MD, Naomi Johnson, Ruben Kravik, Ed Lynde, John Wingard, Ronald Villella, MD (ex-officio), Shirley Weidner (ex-officio), Jerry Blume (ex-officio Chief Executive Officer), and Charleen Sheilds (ex-officio).

Mercy's Development Foundation Board consists of: William Bunker, Chair; Naomi Johnson; Robert Koons; Edmund

Babcock; Jerry Wright; William Thompson; Donna Naeve; Joyce Paul; Erling Johnson; Richard Travis, MD, and Mick Johnson (ex-officio).

COON RAPIDS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PARKS

In conjunction, but not associated with the City Parks and Recreation Commission, is the totally volunteer organization of the Coon Rapids Athletic Association (CRAA). This private, non-profit corporation was organized in 1964 with the dedicated purpose of developing recreational activities for City youth. It is governed by a Board of Directors, elected from the membership which is made up of parents whose children are enrolled in any of the programs offered. It is one of the largest all-volunteer athletic associations in the State of Minnesota. The Coon Rapids Athletic Association Auxiliary is a large group of mothers who volunteer their time in the areas of registration, team photos, operation of the concession stands, and coordinating the annual sales of candy and mixed nuts. Through the fund-raising efforts of these important volunteers, registration fees are kept to a minimum. The Auxiliary has generated an average of \$20,000 annually for a five-year period. The CRAA Board of Directors work closely with the Coon Rapids City Council, City staff, the Community Services Department of Anoka-Hennepin School District No. 11, and the Community School Directors. No direct tax money is received by CRAA; however, the City's park facilities are utilized for all recreational programs. The City of Coon Rapids and the School District supply administrative and clerical assistance. The CRAA uses 1,400 square feet of space in the City Garage for storage of athletic equipment through a Joint Powers Agreement. A concession building was erected by the organization at Sand Creek Park for use during their activities. Programs offered by CRAA include softball, soccer, football, basketball, hockey, wrestling, and track. In 1968-69, registration totaled 2,105 and in 1980 had grown to 4,130 participants. Over 200 men and women volunteers serve as referees, umpires, and groundskeepers. Maximum participation is emphasized rather than competition.

HIGHWAY NO. 610 RIVER BRIDGE

While the first official reference to a bridge over the Mississippi River in Coon Rapids is found in the Coon Rapids City Council Minutes of March 16, 1965, rumors of such an event abounded as early as the 1950's.

City Council minutes reflect the preference regarding the location of such a bridge in 1965 was at the foot of Hanson Boulevard. At this time Resolution 65-11 was drawn by the City Manager, at Council's request, and the Planning Commission was charged with the study and submission of their recommendations. At the culmination of this activity, it was determined that no funds were available for such an undertaking and the matter was dropped.

In 1970 several communities from Hennepin and Anoka Counties, the Counties of Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey, the Minnesota Highway Department, and the Metropolitan Council discussed the steps necessary to initiate the river crossing. The Metropolitan Council was requested to serve as the lead agency for a cooperative study between all the governmental units and agencies. A study team composed of

administrative officials from each of these governmental units and agencies was selected. A technical task force composed of professionals was created to provide ongoing technical direction. In July of 1971, a Study Design was prepared by Bather-Ringrose-Wolsfeld, Inc. describing major work tasks to be conducted in the course of the river crossing. The Design Study stressed citizen involvement and environmental concerns. A contract was executed in March of 1972 between the Metropolitan Council and Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc. on behalf of the other agencies to conduct a further study. Over the course of the next few years, all the governmental units and agencies met several times to discuss the study and various problems associated with the river crossing.

Through a study made by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in early 1973, the location of the bridge was decided and impact studies determined that no monies from MnDOT, the County, nor the City of Coon Rapids were available for bridge construction at that time. In the late 1970's MnDOT removed Highway 35 from the Interstate System which freed funds for Minnesota and other projects through the Interstate Substitution Fund. A percentage of this fund was reallocated for immediate impact areas within the metropolitan scope. In other words, this fund created a "whole new funding pot", according to Chales Hudrlik of MnDOT.

The location of the bridge in Coon Rapids is approximately one mile south of the Coon Rapids Dam, or at about 88th Street, angling southwest across the Mississippi River to 95th Street in Brooklyn Park in Hennepin County.

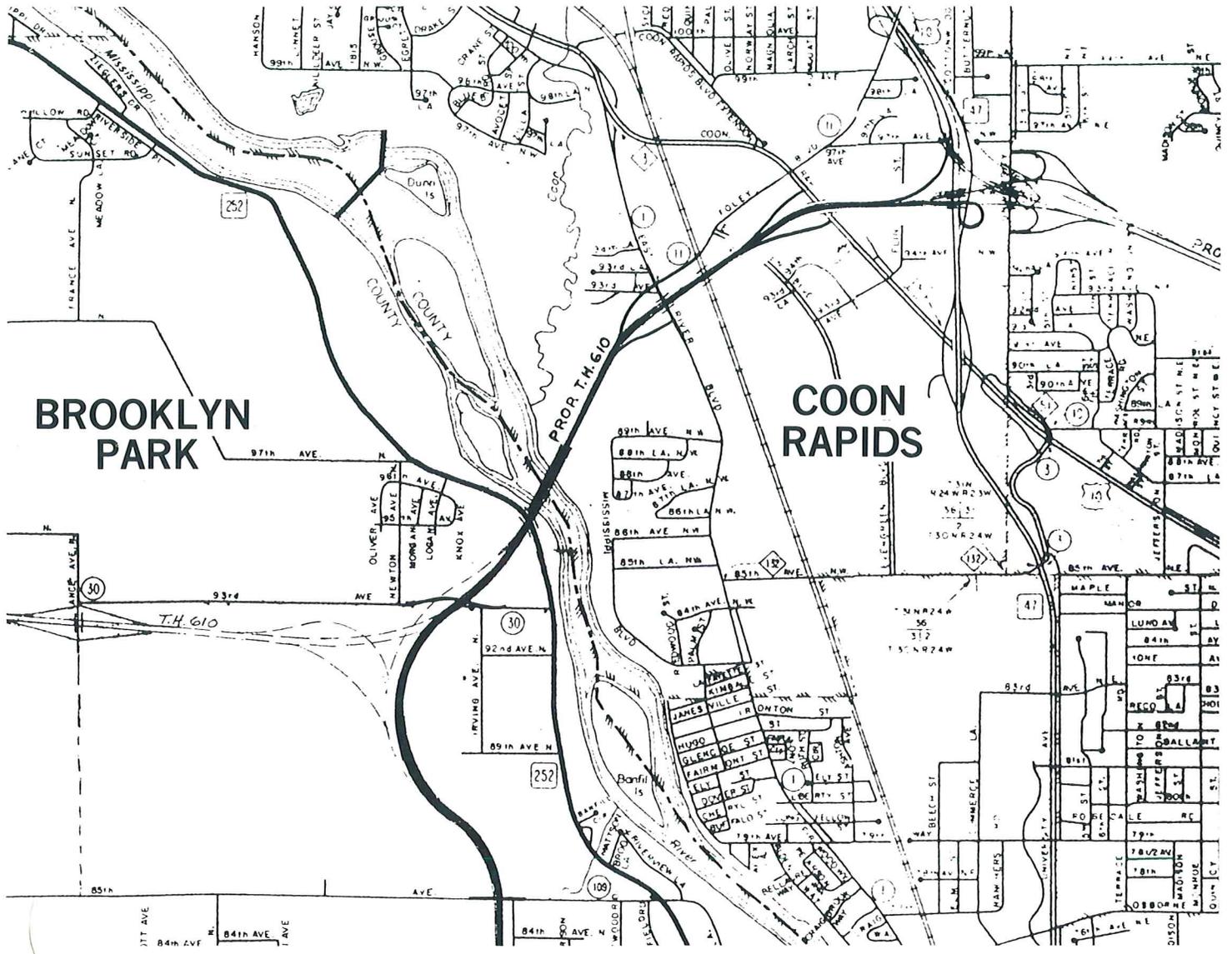
The final location of the bridge is not ideal from an engineering viewpoint, but the most desirable location--south of the Coon Rapids Dam and the adjacent residential district--would have required the removal of the homes in that area to accommodate the bridge approach.

The bridge will ultimately accommodate six lanes of traffic, however, the initial phase of construction will allow four single lanes with the future second phase of construction being an identical span parallel to the existing structure which will provide the additional two lanes. Phase two is a planned future project with the construction dates not available at this time.

The bridge approach will over pass Coon Rapids Boulevard, East River Road and the railroad tracks with a major interchange at Trunk Highway No. 10 and No. 47 (same road). Off freeway south bound access to the bridge will be at both Coon Rapids Boulevard and East River Road, egress off the freeway at the same locations will be northbound only.

As the eastern bridge approach crosses an area of wetlands, it is estimated that 500,000 cubic yards of fill material will be needed.

The bridge, designed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will be constructed of pre-stressed concrete and of a simple functional design. It will contain 11 spans for a total of 1,325 feet, and the height from water level to the top of the structure is approximately 30 feet.



This is the proposed right-of-way for Highway No. 610. The route crosses the Mississippi River linking Coon Rapids with Brooklyn Park.

Ultimately the freeway from the bridge will extend eastwardly from Highway Nos. 10 and 47 through Blaine and will be the new route of State Trunk Highway No. 10 through the County. The total impact of the freeway and bridge on the City of Coon Rapids is impossible to gauge at this time but it will undoubtedly enhance commercial, industrial, and housing development by providing fast, efficient access to the Twin Cities area and to the interstate system. It will provide a fast route south to people of the north suburban area who work in the Twin Cities. An increased flow of traffic is expected on East River Road, however the traffic will be decreased south of the system. Total cost of Phase I of the project is approximately \$25,000,000. The date for completion of the project is late 1987. Coon Rapids City Council's 18 years of continued interest and determination was finally successful. The bridge over the Mississippi River at Coon Rapids is to become a reality.

CHAPTER III

Endnotes

¹New Standard Encyclopedia (Standard Education Society, Inc., Chicago, 1967); Vol. 5.

²**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION** (Anoka, Anoka County, MN) June 25, 1976, Section 5, p. 5, Cols. 5-6.

³Ibid. Section 5, pg. 6, Cols. 1-3.

⁴Coon Rapids City Policy Manual, p. 1-223.

⁵Coon Rapids Fire Department Annual Report, 1983.

⁶J. Patrick Breslin; Terri Melnychenko, MA, Director of Human Services, NSFSC.

⁷Dick Johnson, Manager, Coon Rapids Municipal Liquor Stores.

⁸Dick Tollette, Manager/Golf Pro. Bunker Hills Golf Course.

⁹Betty Bell, Coon Rapids City Clerk, and Lyle Haney, Coon Rapids Finance Director.

¹⁰See Note 2, Section 3, p. 2, Cols. 5-6.

¹¹Betty Bell, Coon Rapids City Clerk.

¹²Bill Ottensmann, City Engineer; Charles Hudrlik, Project Manager, MnDOT; Richard Borson, Pre-Design Engineer. MnDOT.

¹³Tom Larson, Assistant Director, Community School Program.

¹⁴**THE ANOKA COUNTY UNION** (Anoka, Anoka County, MN) June 25, 1976, Section 8, p. 1, Cols. 4-6.

¹⁵Ruby Bruzer, Community Relations, Mercy Medical Center.

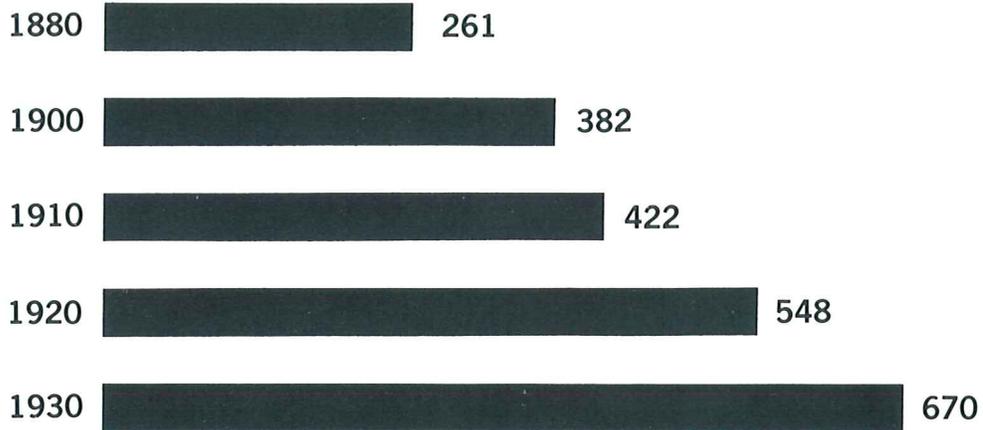
COON RAPIDS FIRSTS

- First - Post Office in what is now Coon Rapids, 1869.
- First - Postmaster, Moody Caswell, 1869.
- First - Locally based industry in Anoka County--brickyards at Coon Creek, 1879-80.
- First - Church and Cemetery at Joyce Chapel, 1902.
- First - Consolidated schools in Anoka County, 1920.
- First - Organizational meeting of AEC, 1936.
- First - Mayor of Coon Rapids Village, Joe Nelson, 1952.
- First - Building bond passed in village, (Fire Station No. 1), 1954.
- First - Mayor of City of Coon Rapids, Leslie B. Mason, 1959.
- First - City Ordinance passed (No. 76) Amending zoning ordinance, 1959.
- First - City resolution passed (No. 59-3) relating to new court facility for Anoka County, 1959.
- First - IBM Votomatic voting machines tested in Coon Rapids (and Bloomington), 1965.
- First - Permanent Junior College in the metropolitan area, 1967.
- First - City designated park, Woodcrest, 1954.
- First - City in Minnesota to pass split-liquor, 1969.
- First - Woman elected to Coon Rapids City Council, Susan Green, 1974.

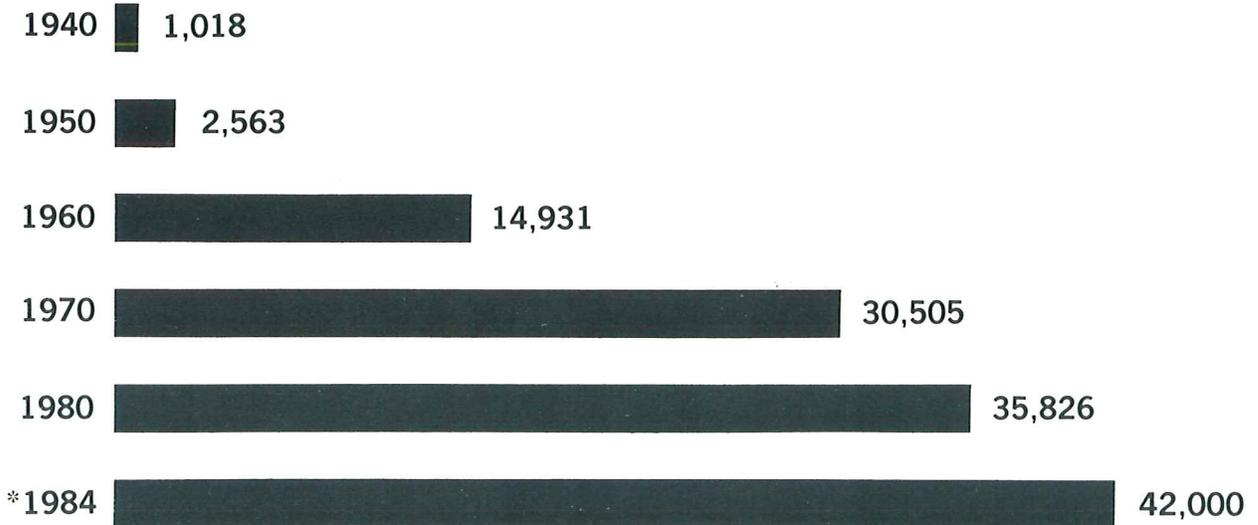
Personal Notes

Coon Rapids

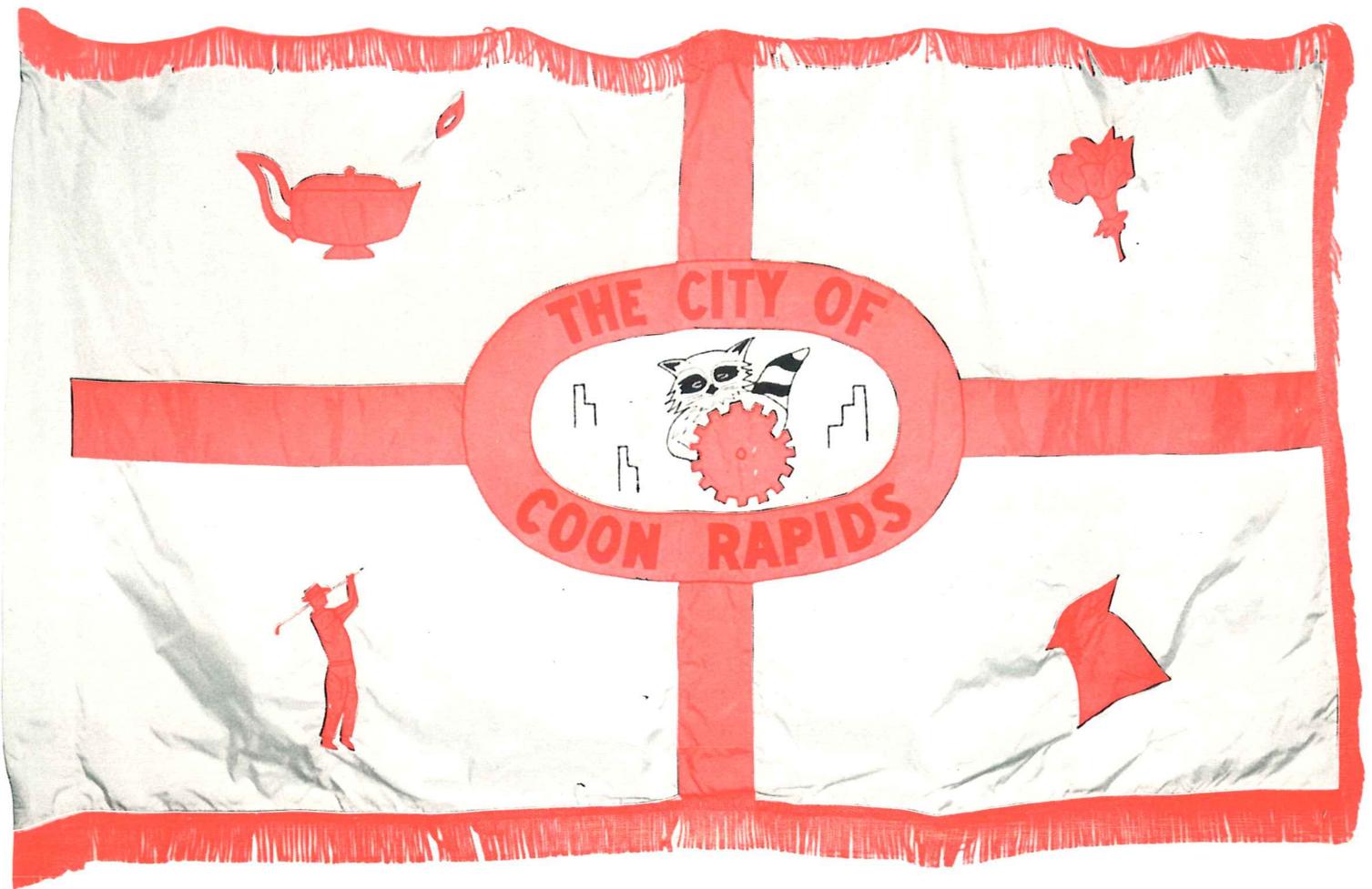
POPULATION GROWTH IN HUNDREDS



POPULATION GROWTH IN THOUSANDS



* Estimate - City Planning Department



The official flag of the City of Coon Rapids was designed in 1969. Members of the Flag Committee were: LeRoy Johnson, Chair; Jack Blesi; Garth Lappin; Jack Dorholt; and Joseph and Gladys Cook. The flag was presented to the City by American Legion Post #334. The official presentation was made to the City Council by Post Commander Orrin Randall on March 17, 1970.

Historical Commission 1984

Owen Hyland, Chairman
Roland Anderson
David Rolph
Adelaide Robinson
James Whitehead
Howard Sutton
Lorayne Zawistowski
Evelyn Krove