



Saint Anthony in 1982

FOREWORD

The Saint Anthony area has been “home” for over 125 years to hundreds of people. Some of the pioneer families who came to this area remained here, and their descendants still live in the area. Others stayed for only a short time and continued their journey to a new area. Each made a contribution of some kind which served to build what is now the Saint Anthony community.

Attempting to reproduce accurately a history of the area and its people is a difficult task. The relationship of local events to state and national conditions has been pointed out where pertinent, but often the tale is peculiar to Saint Anthony. Stories have sometimes been told so often that through the years four or five versions exist, all very different. The history that has been compiled is as valid and complete as collective memories can provide.

Any history is a history of people. Family stories complement this history of the town and the area, and indicate the background of the people and their contributions to the community. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren marvel at the stories of the intrepid pioneers of the central Iowa prairie, risking their lives and bankrolls that a living might be provided for their families and a community built for their descendants.

Without the destruction wrought by storms and fires, would Saint Anthony's Main Street be different today? Perhaps not—social and economic influences have similar effects on small towns. As is typical of midwestern towns, the coming of the railroad provided the impetus for Saint Anthony's founding. One hundred years later, the railroad is gone, and automobiles and trucks travel on abundant good roads. Many enterprises that depended on the railroad and served the community well in an age of limited transportation have nearly escaped our memory. Education, once provided just across the field from one's farm, is today a centralized effort relying on good transportation.

As the rapidly-changing 20th century draws to a close, and the community's second century begins, one thing remains unchanged—friends and family make Saint Anthony a nice place to come home to.