

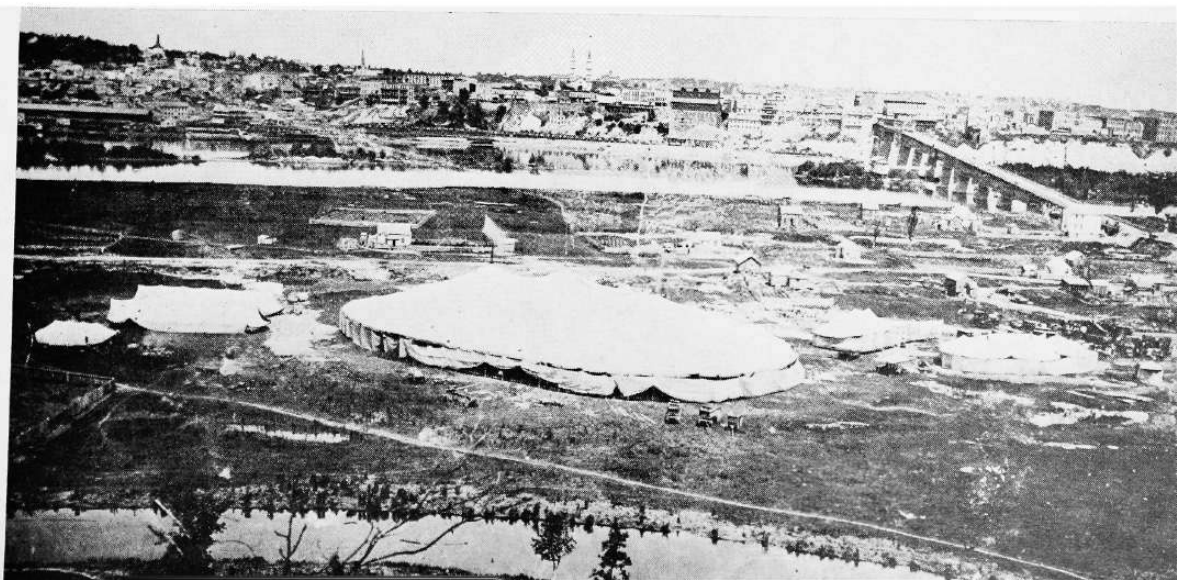
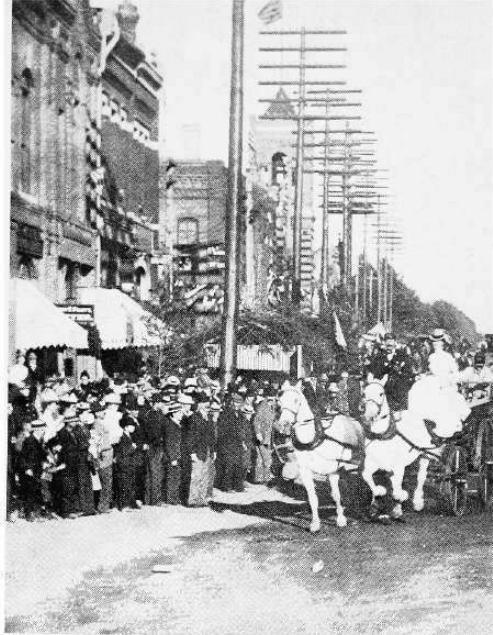


## PARADES -- a potpourri

"A handful of vets, a line of cadets. . . . The blare of a horn, a bright uniform" signified a song writer's love of a parade, a love shared by Minnesotans in many parts of the state. And summertime was the season of circuses and carnivals as well as Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Pictured above is a 1909 sample of the latter being celebrated at Bigfork in Itasca County. Memorial Day, 1912, was the occasion for frills and furbelows in Redwood Falls (below), but perhaps a more typical small-town parade was that held in Henderson (opposite page, top left) when that Sibley County settlement celebrated May 30 in 1904. Certainly it lacked the verve of the horses high-stepping down an Anoka street on Independence Day at the turn of the century (opposite, top right).

When the circus came to town in the early 1900s it could have been the Coleman Brothers, Gollmar, or Forepaugh's Wild West Show. Around 1908 these gilded wagons (opposite, center) titillated Minneapolitans. And in the 1870s Barnum and Bailey set up their tents on St. Paul's west side flats. Those were the good old days.







Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).