



FABLED FALLS & FORGOTTEN WALLS QUEST



What is a Quest?

A Quest is a means to explore local community treasures and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage. Movement clues will lead you around the Mississippi Riverfront and other clues will reveal the stories of the river. Collect the letters asked for in the bold clues and fill in at the end to uncover a secret word. The quest will take approximately one hour.

Quest overview:

The Mississippi River is a River of Life – starting in northern Minnesota and flowing over 2300 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. More than just a ribbon of water, the River collects much of the rain and melting snow from 31 states and two provinces of Canada. From a bird's eye view, the river is a flyway guiding millions of birds flying north and south each year.



St. Anthony Falls, known as Owamenah to the Dakota, is the only waterfall found on the Mississippi River, and has played a central role in the natural and human history of the area. For the Dakota, the Falls were sacred. Later, the Falls became the source of different kind of power. Millers harnessed the force of falling water to power saw mills, textile mills and flour mills.

The power and history of this area continues to shape our community to this day. Discover the stories of this site for yourself as you explore the fabled falls and forgotten walls of the riverfront.



To get there: This quest begins at a wooden bench at the west, or downtown, side of the Stone Arch Bridge.

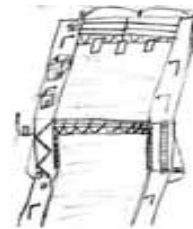
From Washington Avenue, turn towards the river (away from downtown) on Portland Avenue. Proceed to the second stop sign at the bottom of the hill. Turn left onto West River Parkway and immediately right into the parking lot. Look for the yellow box – pay for parking here.

This quest begins at the wooden bench at the downtown side of the Stone Arch Bridge.

Sit on the bench, look up high
See many words floating in the sky.
Now walk to the left, and on that side count ten lights
Up ahead you will find a powerful sight.
It's the Mississippi River we want to show
You might be lucky and see a barge pushed by a tow.
You'll stop when you see the entire waterfall,
Then take a few minutes and reflect on it all.



*The falls were downstream in St. Paul back in the day,
But sandstone and limestone eroded away.
Over 12,000 years Owahmenah migrated upstream
A powerful place the Dakota did deem.
For the mammals and birds this was a home
Their needs supplied by this river of foam.
Later, Father Hennepin ventured here
He called the falls "St. Anthony", 1680 was the year.*



*Just to the left you'll see a huge lock
It is here that barges and boats do flock.
Filling from bottom to top in nine minutes flat
Nine million gallons is an incredible stat.
Massive doors open to send travelers on their way,
The Corps of Engineers wish you a happy day!*



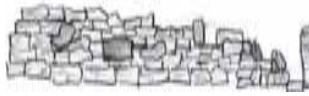
**Look to the east bank for a red familiar name.
The company's second letter is the first clue in the game.**

_____ (2)

Now start walking again: southeast you will go,
The black telescope an "upclose look" will show.
Then, look left and right for runners and bikes,
At this point cross to the other side . . . Yikes!
Follow the pebblepath towards the North Star,
Walk past six light posts, then stop where you are.



Built long ago with the brawn of horses and men
 These mills made flour to feed a nation back then.
 The power of water made the machinery turn
 Watch out for a spark or the building will burn!
 The flour of Pillsbury, General Mills and more,
 Put Minneapolis at the top, wow did it score!
 But times did change and the mill walls came down,
 Buried for years – only later to be found.



Move to exit the bridge at four large rocks,
 Take a hard left – go down the zigzag walk.
 Pass under the stone arch and to the right
 You're getting close to a historic site!

Be careful as you cross the street,
 Down the hill another arch you will meet.
 Keep your eyes open, you'll need the right angle,
 The next clue has many words in a sooty rectangle.



**On a Minneapolis Union Railway sign,
 a challenge for you; a letter to find.
 The vice president's name is in view,
 The 4th letter of his last name is your clue. _____ (3)**

Keep following this black railing to the end
 Then hop down the gray steps, and take a right bend.

Walk upstream against the flow
 Mill tailraces put on a great show!
 "What's a tailrace?" you might shout,
 It's where water from the mills comes flowing out.
 Now, look up to the embankment's top,
 From this height the water did drop.
 In between the turbines would spin,
 Powered by falling water rushing in.
 Turbines turned the millstones round,
 As a result the flour was ground.



You'll follow gray slats to reach concrete,
 Passing many tailraces – eight you will meet.
 When you get to a person and bicycle on blue,
 Stopping to look is what you should do.

To build a bridge that would last through time
 In 1883 James J. Hill used Roman design.
 The arches carried people from cities grand and plain,
 To Minneapolis on the passenger train.
 Although changed due to navigation, trains and travel,
 The bridge's original purpose did not unravel.
 In 1981 the last train crossed over,
 Paving the way for feet, bikes and your pet Rover!



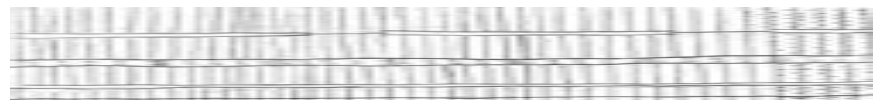
Stay on the sidewalk as it gradually winds
 Back under a stone arch you will climb.
 Pass carefully under the arch with 1883
 And stay to the left for your own safety.

From "No Parking" a last glance at the ruins for you.
 Then turn around to see the old and the new.
 A circle of stone once ground wheat into flour,
 But change was "king" in a mill and stone tower.

Named for a new type of grinding machine,
 The Crown Roller Mill was one of the finest ever seen.
 Other mills were plain, so ordinary did architects find,
 A brown mansard roof here improved the design.
 Moving from millstones to rollers made of steel,
 This leap in technology was a very big deal!
 Over two dozen mills caused water to run low,
 So Crown also used steam power to make the mill go.



Up to the corner, there look down,
 A walk made of lumber is easily found.



Beneath the planks of the wooden road we see,
 Once flowed water from the mighty Mississippi.
 The water gave the mills their incredible power,
 And resulted in tons of edible flour!
 Trains once moved right above where you now stand,
 Loaded with goods to be sold across this great land.



An overlook lies on your riverside,
 Step up and follow the black rail as your guide.
 With your back to the rail look to the sky,
 Count ten black stars plus one red up high.

Women workers mostly at the North Star Mill,
 Making wool blankets to keep off the chill.
 Dying and weaving was a hot dirty chore,
 And washing wool in the basement was a job to abhor.
 Disguised as a mill worker, Eva Gay went underground,
 The St. Paul Globe reported the conditions she found.

**At the top of the brick tower you'll see a sign.
 We want the last letter from the first line. _____(5)**

From the North Star Woolen Mill Co.
 Downstream along the planks towards Gold Medal you'll go.
 Hear the wood underneath your feet,
 And stop at the second slab of concrete.
 Use this cement bench as a rest for your knees,
 Gaze at a tall building behind a small grove of trees.



Round water sprinkler tanks sit on the top,
 This was the Washburn A Mill's machine shop.
 Women packed five pound bags of flour,
 Eating in "No Man's Land" during lunch hour.
 On the 11th floor, bags were cleaned and made,
 Although now condos, history won't fade.

**The lines of writing in letters of gold,
 Record the last one, now do as your told!**

_____ (1)



Take 50 steps toward the bridge to nowhere,
 Then cross the street with extra care.
 Above the stone arch you will find a sign,
 With names of workers who perished, to read line by line.



Largest in the world, the Washburn Mill stood,
 Grinding wheat into flour as fast as it could.
 Flour dust exploded in 1878,
 Destroying the mill, 14 died in its wake.
 The mill was rebuilt with added frills,
 To become the company we know as General Mills.

Travel past massive columns that once stored wheat,
 When you get to the steps, here's your final feat.

**Steps to the past, future and fun,
 Sedimentary rocks, named one by one.
 The last letter of all three stones you see
 Is the end of our historical mystery. _____(4)**

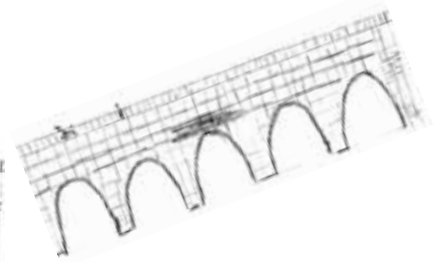
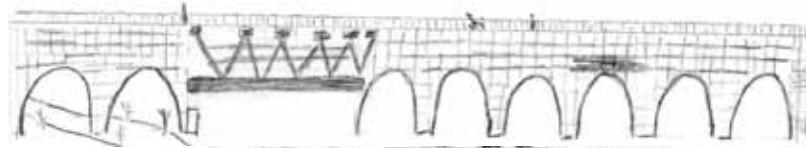
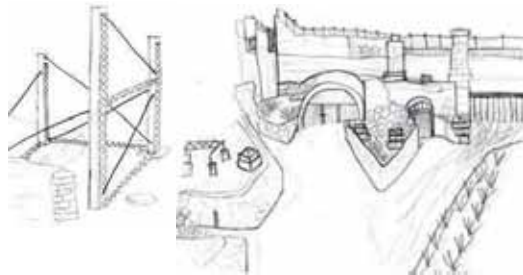
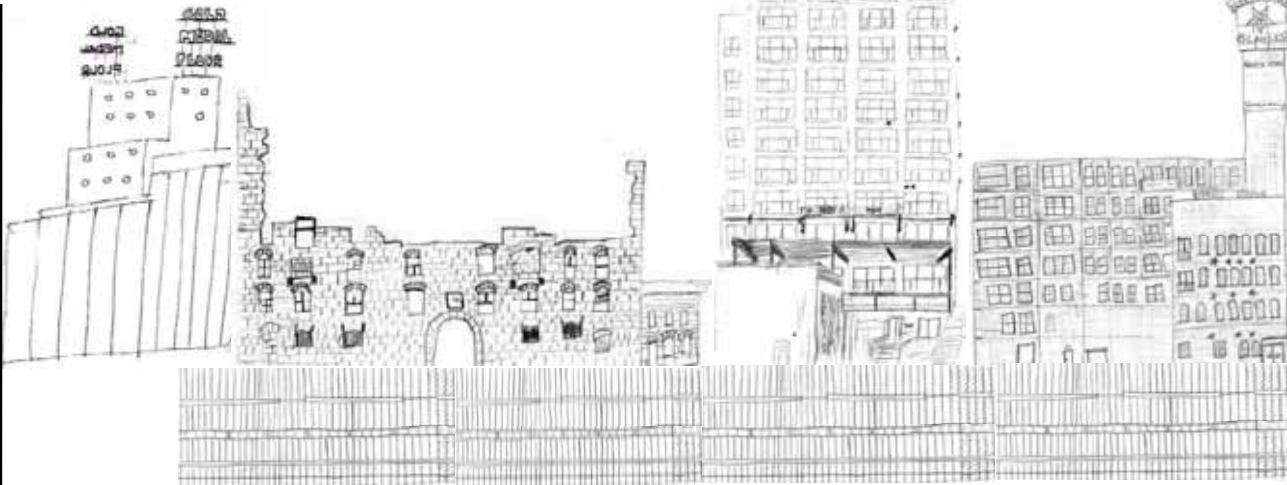
We hope this Quest has brought you pleasure,
 And remember it's the

 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

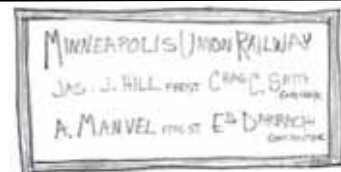
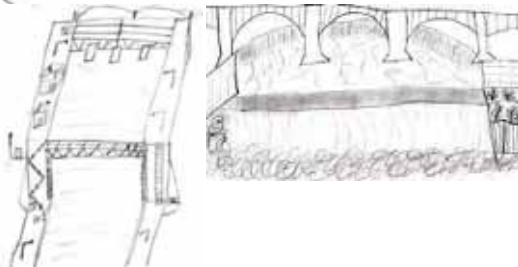
that brings us together!



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Pillsbury's
BEST FLOUR



GOLD
MEDAL
FLOUR