

*"They would stroll home in the balmy air of August night, dreaming along Hennepin and Nicollet Avenues, through the gay crowd. Amory wondered how people could fail to notice that he was a boy marked for glory, and when faces of the throng turned toward him and ambiguous eyes stared into his, he assumed the most romantic of expressions and walked on the air cushions that lie on the asphalts of fourteen." — F. Scott Fitzgerald's "This Side of Paradise"*

## Hard feelings fade as St. Paul celebrates Fitzgerald's birthday

By Curt Brown  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

So much for holding a grudge. A century after F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in a St. Paul apartment building and almost 75 years after he abandoned his hometown for the brighter lights of New York City, Paris and Hollywood, St. Paul buried any lingering hard feelings Tuesday and toasted its homegrown literary giant.

With the city's leading writers and politicians raising candles at Landmark Center, they toasted Fitzgerald's birthday, his work and his roots — launching a weeklong literary lovefest complete with sheets of birthday cake, marathon readings, a new bronze sculpture and postage stamp, Jazz Age dance lessons, flapper fashion shows and a



Star Tribune Photo by Tom Sweeney

To mark the author's birth, Hamline University art professor Michael Price created a life-size bronze statue of F. Scott Fitzgerald, which was installed in Rice Park on Tuesday. The statue's original head is at the left.

Turn to BIRTHDAY on B8

