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Virginia "Ginny" Piper as seen shortly after she was rescued from her kidnapping ordeal in Jay Cooke State Park. Author William Swanson said her personality helped her survive the ordeal. "She was very, very popular. She was beautiful. She was funny. Despite the money, everybody considered her very easy to know and unpretentious," he said.
Contributed / Minnesota Historical Society / Piper family

By [Tracy Briggs](#)

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Editor's note: a portion of these stories were published in October 2021, but the stories have been updated and republished with newly recorded and produced podcasts.

MINNEAPOLIS — In the summer of 1972, police arrested burglars in the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C., Elton John had his first No. 1 album in the U.S. and "The Godfather" was tearing it up at the box office.