



Ramsey County Historical Society
"History close to home"
Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

City Hall-
County
Courthouse
50th Anniversary
Issue

Volume 17
Number 1



Ramsey County History

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RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Virginia Brainard Kunz

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Contents

City Hall-
County
Courthouse
50th Anniversary
Issue

The City Hall-County Courthouse
And Its First Fifty Years Page 3

Volume 17

By Dane Smith

Number 1

The Trademarks of Classy Classic Art Deco Pages 12-13

God of Peace: Milles' 'Finest Creation in Stone' Page 17

CORRECTION George Mitsch, Sr., mentioned in the story on St. Paul's early breweries in Volume 16, Number 2, of *Ramsey County History* was born in 1825. His son, George Mitsch, Jr., was born in 1854. Also, it was John Seegar who was president of Bonn Refrigeration.

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ON THE COVER: The St. Paul City Hall-Ramsey County Courthouse is a new addition to the city's skyline in this photograph taken during the middle 1930s. Kellogg Boulevard has obliterated the buildings that once lined the river side of old Third Street, but along the boulevard on the right can still be seen the remnants of 19th century St. Paul.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Photographs on the cover and on page 15 are from the Ramsey County Historical Society's collection. Photographs on pages 4, 6, 9, 10, and 21, are from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. Photographs on pages 3, 12, 13, 17, and 18 are from Ellerbe Associates, Inc.

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THE GIBBS HOUSE

at 2097 West Larpenteur Avenue, Falcon Heights, is owned and maintained by the Ramsey County Historical Society as a restored farm house of the mid-nineteenth century period.

The Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. Its chief function is to collect and preserve the history of the city and the county and share that history with the people who live here. The Society is the county's historian. It preserves those things from the past that are the community's treasures — its written records through the Society's library; its historic sites through establishment of the Irvine Park Historic District and its successful efforts to help prevent destruction of the Old Federal Courts Building, now Landmark Center. It shares these records through the publishing of its magazine, brochures, pamphlets, and prints; through conducting historic sites tours of the city, teaching classes, producing exhibits on the history of the city, and maintaining its museum on rural county history. The Gibbs Farm Museum, the oldest remaining farm home in Ramsey County, was acquired by the Society in 1949 and opened to the public in 1954 as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler. In 1966 the Society moved onto the property a one-room rural country schoolhouse dating from the 1870s. Now restored to the period of the late 1890s, the school is used for classes, meetings, and as the center for a summer schoolhouse program for children.

Society headquarters are located in Landmark Center, an historic Richardsonian Romanesque structure in downtown St. Paul, where it maintains the center's only permanent exhibit, a history of the building during the seventy-five years it was the federal government's headquarters in St. Paul.

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