

# RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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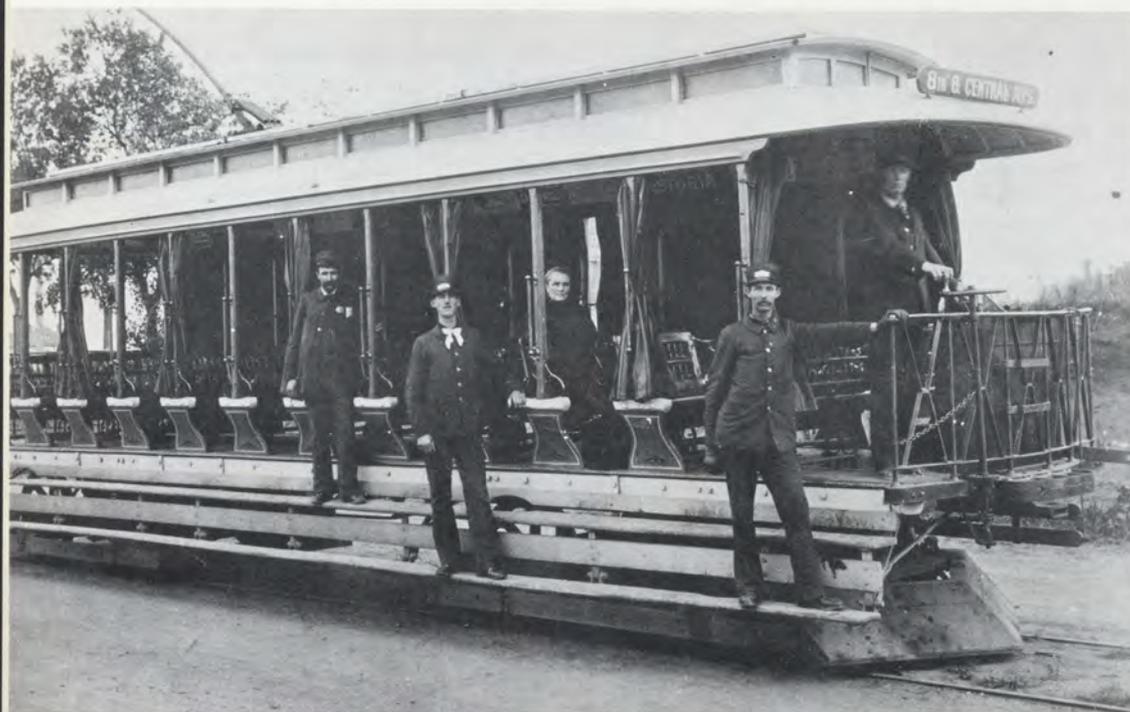
Spring 1970 Volume 7 Number 1	St. Anthony Park: History of a 'Small Town'  Clang! Went the Trolleys, And Memories Echo  St. Paul's Colorful Streetcar Era  Murder Most Foul!  Forgotten Pioneers . . . IX	Page 3  Pages 12-13  Page 14  Page 16  Page 21
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*ON THE COVER: This somewhat romantic illustration, "The Beautiful Moonlight in Dakota Land," is from the equally romanticized, imaginative "history" of St. Paul by Col. Hankins described in the article beginning on page 16.*

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Pictures used with the St. Anthony Park article are from the Ramsey County Historical Society. Those with the stories on the old trolleys and John R. Irvine are from the Minnesota Historical Society. Pictures with the story on Col. Hankins' St. Paul history are from the book itself. The editor is indebted to Eugene Becker and Dorothy Gimestad of the Minnesota Historical Society's audiovisual library for their help, and also to Henry Hall, chairman of the Ramsey County Historical Society's Publications Committee, who reproduced the pictures from Hankins' book.*

# CLANG! Went the Trolleys, And Memories Echo



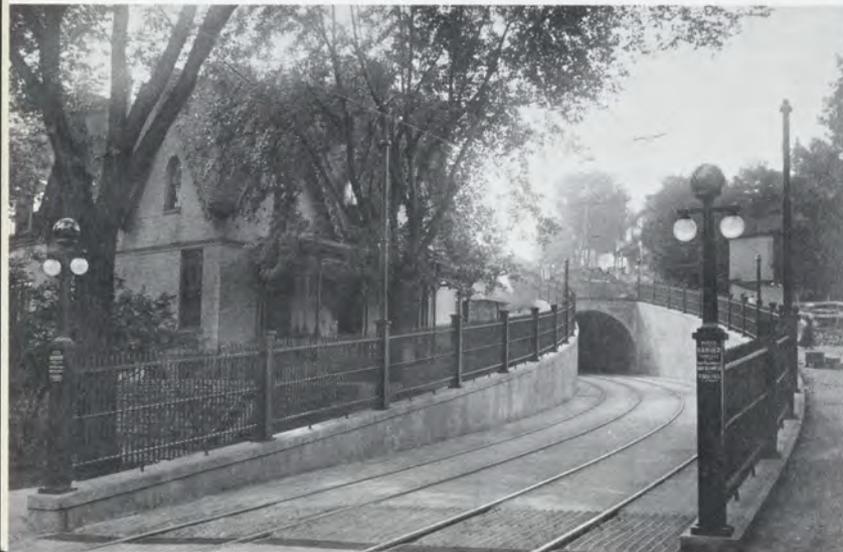
It has been less than a century since the streetcar made its first appearance. In many ways, it is not difficult to imagine the thrill of rocketing along through the Selby Hill. The clang of the conductor's bell, the fly, struggling to make its way from the street to the rear gate, evoke memories of an interesting story.



In 1894, the open car, above, was used for runs to Wildwood Amusement Park. At right it's the 1920's and a conductor collects fares. Below, the car barn at Duluth and East Seventh Street in 1901.



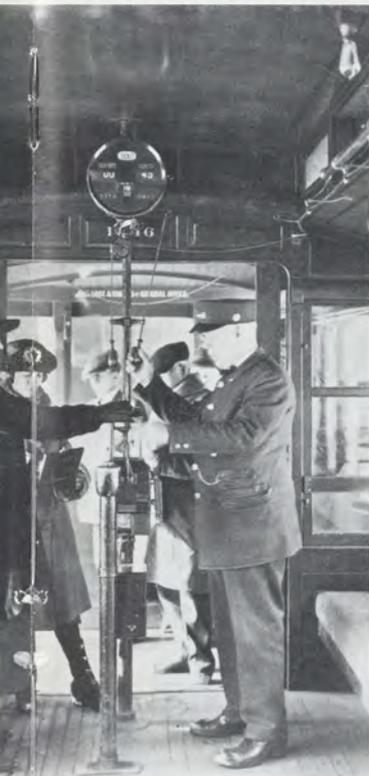
Pushing along through the open countryside, above, was part of the fun of riding the suburban lines which at one time ran from St. Paul to Hastings, White Bear Lake and Stillwater. In the city, however, even electricity couldn't conquer St. Paul's Selby Avenue hill so, in 1907, the famous tunnel, below, was built at a cost of \$415,000.



than two decades since the last  
its final run in St. Paul, but for  
difficult to recall the excitement  
ng through Como Park, or sliding  
elby Hill tunnel; of hearing the  
nductor's bell, seeing the sparks  
o make that long step-up from the  
ar gate entrance. These pictures  
of an era described in the follow-



The era of the horsecar was well into its second decade when the picture above was taken during the 1880's. However, electricity soon was to transform transportation. On February 22, 1890, the crowd, below, celebrated the first run of St. Paul's first electric streetcar. Archbishop John Ireland is seated in front, second from right. Next to him (at right) is Thomas Lowry, founder of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company.



The years of the streetcar were palmy years for many who were in the right place at the right time. This is an interior of the private streetcar which belonged to Thomas Lowry.



*Photo by Henry Hall*

### THE GIBBS HOUSE

*Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

**T**HE Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. During the following years the Society, believing that a sense of history is of great importance in giving a new, mobile generation a knowledge of its roots in the past, acquired the 100-year-old farm home which had belonged to Heman R. Gibbs. The Society restored the Gibbs House and in 1954 opened it to the public as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler.

In 1958, the Society erected a barn behind the farm house which is maintained as an agricultural museum to display the tools and other implements used by the men who broke up the prairie soil and farmed with horse and oxen. In 1966, the Society moved to its museum property a one-room rural schoolhouse, dating from the 1870's. The white frame school came from near Milan, Minnesota. Now restored to the period of the late 1890's, the school actually is used for classes and meetings. In the basement beneath the school building, the Society has its office, library and collections. In 1968, the Society acquired from the University of Minnesota the use of the white barn adjoining the Society's property. Here is housed a collection of carriages and sleighs which once belonged to James J. Hill.

Today, in addition to maintaining the Gibbs property, the Ramsey County Historical Society is active in the preservation of historic sites in Ramsey county, conducts tours, prepares pamphlets and other publications, organizes demonstrations of pioneer crafts and maintains a Speakers' Bureau for schools and organizations. It is the Society's hope that through its work the rich heritage of the sturdy men and women who were the pioneers of Ramsey County will be preserved for future generations.