



RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Spring

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Contents

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A Revolutionary, A Scientist,
And a Civil Rights Leader — 300 Years of
Pioneering for St. Paul's Colorful Markoes . . . Page 3

Play Ball!
Lexington Park, Home of the Saints Page 12

1924's 'Prime Underdogs' And
Their Two-Title Victory Page 14

The First 'Living Flag' Page 21

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ON THE COVER: He swings — and misses — in practice at Lexington Park, home of the St. Paul Saints from 1910 to 1956.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Markoe coat of arms on page 3 and the picture of Abraham Markoe on page 4 are from an article by F. W. Leach, "Old Philadelphia Families — XVI: Markoe," September 22, 1907, North American, published in Philadelphia. All other pictures in this issue are from the audio-visual department of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Play Ball! Lexington Park, Home of the Saints



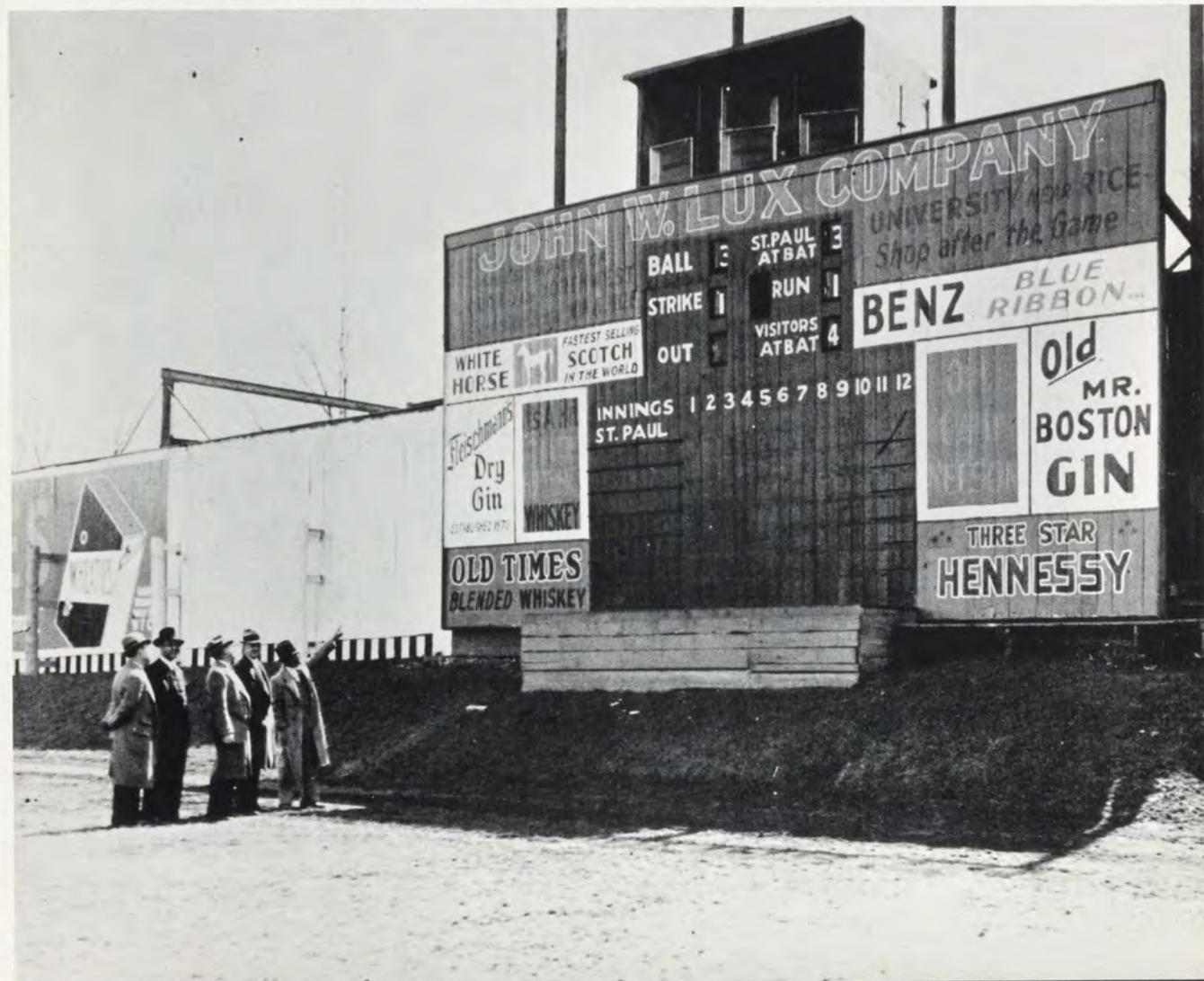
For almost 60 years the St. Paul Saint played a major part in the life of the city. Most of those years, from 1898 to 1956 were spent at Lexington Park, at the intersection of Lexington and University Avenues. At left, workmen using horse drawn equipment prepare the park for the 1915 season. At right, the park was photographed from the air at a considerably later date. The Coliseum ballroom is on the right. Below right, is the park's old scoreboard.

The Saints' 1903 team is shown at right. That was the year they moved from Lexington to the downtown ballpark at Robert and Minnesota, Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets. By 1910, the team was back at Lexington to stay. The players are unidentified, but Mike Kelley seems to be fourth from the left in the second row. Can readers identify the others? Below, cars jammed up for Babe Ruth's exhibition game July 20, 1927. Inside the park that day, below right, there was standing room only as the crowd overflowed onto the field.



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THE GIBBS HOUSE

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

THE 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.