

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**

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The burning of St. Paul's International Hotel in 1869. See article on "the men who ran with the machine," St. Paul's volunteer firemen, beginning on page 4. "The Mystery of the Leaking Lake" begins on page 18.

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**On the Cover:** The burning of the International Hotel on February 3, 1869, was sketched by St Paul artist R. O. Sweeny and published in *Harper's Weekly* on February 27, 1869.

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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 25, Number 4 Winter, 1990

## CONTENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 Fire on the Frontier—Tradesmen, Merchants:  
The Men Who Ran With the Machine  
*Thomas J. Kelley*
- 15 Christmas Myths, Memories and Our Pagan Past  
*Virginia Brainard Kunz*
- 16-17 Christmas Was For Children Then, Too
- 18 The Mystery of the Leaking Lake: Phalen Park and  
Its Almost-100 Year History  
*Tim Koran*
- 26 'Be Intimate with None. . . .'  
*Ronald M. Hubbs*
- 27 A Matter of Time
- 30 Book Reviews  
*Daniel John Hoisington*
- 35 What's Historic About This Site?  
The West Side's Riverview Carnegie Branch Library

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## A Message from the Editorial Board

**R**amsey County History is your magazine. Without readers who have an interest in St. Paul, Ramsey County and the surrounding area, this magazine cannot be a forum for ideas and discovery about the history of Ramsey County.

Because the Editorial Board wants to encourage and support writing about urban and rural history relating to St. Paul and Ramsey County, we invite you to send us any suggestions or ideas for future articles or topics to be presented in this magazine. Perhaps there is a favorite landmark, person, group or institution that you would like to know more about. Whether your question concerns the origin of a street name in St. Paul or the origin of a neighborhood in Ramsey County, let us know of your interest and desire to learn more. Please call or write our editor, our executive director or the Society's general office in Landmark Center.

—John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board



## Christmas Was For Children Then, Too

*Not much has changed in the years since these photographs were taken. Children then received dolls and buggies, wagons and skates for Christmas; trees, though a bit skrawny, were draped with popcorn and tinsel and children's eyes were wide with wonder then, too, as Luther King (center, right) demonstrates. With his brothers, Frederick (left) and Theodore, he was photographed by Dr. Emil King in their Fulda home in 1909. A toddler (left) struggles with a tree that's almost as big as he is. Christmas at the Munson home (below) was captured by Albert Munson's camera in 1897.*





Children at Wells Memorial House in Minneapolis decorate a tree around 1925. Norton & Peel photograph. In the photograph below by Sadie Ray, Emma Ray clutches her new doll in front of a popcorn-draped tree in St. Paul in 1905, and "Harold's Christmas tree" (left, below) was memorialized in 1901.





*Before the days of boom boxes, canoeists at Phalen Park in the 1920s brought along their victrolas to listen to music. For a history of the park and of Lake Phalen, see the article beginning on page 18.*

**R.C.H.S.**  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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