

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

*Stanford Newel, Proposal Rock,
and Newell Park Widows*

**Newell Park Celebrates
Its Centennial**

Winter 2009

Volume 43, Number 4

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Courthouse Sculptor

Lee Lawrie

Paul D. Nelson

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*Two of Lee Lawrie's architectural sculptures,
Liberty (top) and The People, on the façade
of the St. Paul City Hall and Ramsey County
Courthouse, Fourth Street entrance.
Photo courtesy of Paul D. Nelson.*

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 43, Number 4

Winter 2009

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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 20, 2007:

The Ramsey County Historical Society inspires current and future generations to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program of presenting, publishing and preserving.

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Publication of Ramsey County History is supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr. and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon

A Message from the Editorial Board

How often do we drive past a familiar scene and fail to appreciate the history behind it? In this issue, three writers take us on a tour of places we think we know but whose rich stories are rarely told. Paul Nelson gives an in-depth look at Lee Lawrie's architectural sculptures on the exterior surfaces of the St. Paul City Hall and Ramsey County Courthouse. More famous for his artwork at Rockefeller Center in New York City, Lawrie's Courthouse sculptures combine graceful forms with a sense of purpose as they illustrate concepts such as industry, justice, and liberty. Nelson will be giving a talk and guiding a tour of St. Paul architectural sculpture on March 29 at the St. Paul Central Library—join him if you can.

Susanne Sebesta Heimbuch takes us back to the early 1960s with her evocative look at Catholic education at Our Lady of Peace High School, which occupied the current site of William Mitchell College of Law. And Krista Finstad Hanson revisits the story of Newell Park, which for a time in the 1920s and '30s was a neighborhood gathering place buoyed by vigorous community support. Thanks to the efforts of many, today this revitalized park serves as a jewel in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. Explore your county's roots, and discover new perspectives from your armchair!

Anne Cowie,
Chair, Editorial Board

2008 Donor Recognition Roll

The Ramsey County Historical Society extends warmest and most sincere thanks to all supporters of the Society in 2008, who allow us to offer high quality programs to the community.

A special thank you goes to the Board of the Ramsey County Commissioners for their continuing and loyal support. Their patronage through the years gives the Society a solid foundation on which to build. Thanks to Jan Parker, Chair; Tony Bennett, Toni Carter, Jim McDonough, Victoria Reinhardt, Rafael Ortega, and Janice Rettman. Special appreciation goes to former County Manager, David Twa, and to current County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt and to countless members of the Ramsey County staff for their excellent professional assistance.

R.C.H.S.
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If you would like to become a member of RCHS or make your own contribution to the organization, please call 651-222-0701, or visit our web site www.rchs.com.

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The Memoir Project is a new book publishing initiative of RCHS. It reflects the mission of the Society to preserve the heritage of our community. RCHS helps families, individuals, companies and organizations record and preserve in book form their story and their history. RCHS is delighted to receive 2008 support to publish the following books:

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In 1909 someone named Clara, who lived on Capitol Avenue, sent a postcard (top right) of the Frog Pond that once existed near Hamline University to a friend in North Dakota. That Frog Pond was then located on the site of today's Newell Park in St. Paul's Hamline-Midway neighborhood. The postcard and the adjacent photo of Newell Park on a fall day in 2008 show just how much this park has changed in 100 years. Postcard courtesy of Steve Trimble; photo courtesy of Krista Finstad Hanson. For more on the centennial of Newell Park, see Krista Finstad Hanson's article on page 11.