

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Louis and Maybelle:

*Somewhere Out
in the West*

John W. Larson

—page 13

Winter 2011

Volume 45, Number 4

*“We Can Do Better with a Chisel or a Hammer”
Appreciating Mary Colter and Her Roots in St. Paul
Diane Trout-Oertel, page 3*



Artist Arthur F. Matthews painted the portrait of Mary Jane Elizabeth Colter seen above in about 1890, when she graduated from the California School of Design. Colter subsequently taught art for many years at Mechanic Arts High School in St. Paul and later designed eight buildings at the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. Shown here is Hermit's Rest, located at the westernmost stop on the south rim, a building that Colter designed in 1914. The Colter portrait is reproduced courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, Flagstaff, Ariz. Photograph of Hermit's Rest courtesy of Alexander Vertikoff. Hermit's Rest copyright © Alexander Vertikoff.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 45, Number 4

Winter 2011

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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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A Message from the Editorial Board

Sometimes Ramsey County is a jumping-off point. In this issue, Diane Trout-Oertel examines the career of Mary Colter, a St. Paul-born designer and architect who learned her craft here, taught at Mechanic Arts High School, and later moved west to design buildings and interiors for the Fred Harvey Company at the Grand Canyon. The article traces Colter’s ties with the Arts and Crafts movement and the integration of Native American traditions in her designs. On another level, John Larson portrays an evocative view of his aunt and her husband, who also “take off” for the West as proprietors of a nightclub hotel in a Montana boom town, which flourished during the construction of the Fort Peck Dam. And the use of the mail to move substantial goods became prevalent in the early twentieth century, as shown in Janice Quick’s sketch of the process of buying a tombstone from none other than Sears, Roebuck. Finally, we share a book review and some new perspectives relating to the life of Louis W. Hill Sr., as shown in Biloine Young and Eileen McCormack’s recent book, *The Dutiful Son*. Happy winter reading.

Anne Cowie, Chair, Editorial Board

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- Collections Inventory (2 grants)
- Gibbs Heritage Home School Program Development
- An Archaeological Survey of Gibbs Museum

Momentum Initiative Commitments Lorraine and Harry Hammerly Challenge Match

Lorraine and Harry Hammerly grew up on St. Paul's East Side. They fondly remember and cherish their neighborhood roots. Thanks to their generosity, the Ramsey County Historical Society is pleased to announce the Lorraine and Harry Hammerly \$100,000 Momentum Challenge Match. This grant will be used to match dollar for dollar, three-year commitments of new individual contributions from \$750 and \$30,000 to the Momentum Campaign made before May 2011.:

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