

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

The Story of
Yoerg's Final Decades,
1933-1952

Page 16

Summer, 1996

Volume 31, Number 2

St. Paul's Renowned Ensemble

The Chamber Orchestra's First Ten Years

Page 4

SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Leopold Sipe, Conductor



BONGO DIVERTIMENTO
GENE GUTCHE OPUS 35

A COMEDY CANTATA
NOTHING BUT NATURE
OGDEN NASH PAUL FETLER
with the Hamline University Choir • Robert Holliday, Director

SYMPHONY IN D MAJOR
JOSEPH HAYDN "THE HUNT"

HIGH FIDELITY

Jacket for The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's first recording on January 24, 1965. By that time the orchestra had taken root in the community. The recording was made to increase its national recognition, its touring, and its size as an ensemble. See article beginning on page 4.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

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John W. Larson

A Message from the Editorial Board

St. Paul and Ramsey County have had a long tradition of support for the arts. Today, for example, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) is world renowned, with a reputation and stature that reflects its musical excellence. However, as Glenn Perachio shows in his history of the SPCO's first ten years (1959-1970), which leads this issue, the orchestra definitely has had its ups and downs in coming to earn this respect and support. Our Summer issue also celebrates the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Swedish mass immigration to North America with John Larson's reminiscences about his grandfather, Joel, a Swedish immigrant who spent his working life in St. Paul. Rounding out this issue is Jim Bell's close-up look at the last years of the nearly forgotten Yoerg Brewery—a St. Paul landmark for much of the first half of this century.

John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board

Letters to the Editor

Not the Claim Cabin

The photo on page 18 of the Spring issue is not the Gibbs log and sod home, which was abandoned before this picture was taken around 1915–1920. The photo was submitted by my mother, Ruth Phipps, and it shows her aunt, Lillian LeVesconte Dickson, a Gibbs granddaughter, in the doorway of a structure similar to the 1849 cabin. The photo may be of a root cellar or shed elsewhere on the Gibbs property. Also, I think Jane Gibbs, my great great grandmother, may have been about forty, not sixty, when her picture (on the cover) was taken. And I question the statement that the archeological dig turned up reminders that St. Paul was at the crossroads of an international trade system in 1849. Goods were coming in but not much was going out as a “crossroads.”

Karen Bluhm, St. Paul.

We are most grateful for the corrections and clarifications. However, in his archeological report Dr. Carl Blair was correct about the “crossroads.” Hundreds of bales of furs came through St. Paul from what is now Canada and were shipped out again to the East and Europe before and after 1849. The drivers of the Red River ox carts that hauled them then loaded up with supplies in St. Paul to take back north.

That Intriguing Doorway

Thank you very much for publishing my article on the archeological dig at the Gibbs farm. While it does not show the original Gibbs claim cabin, the picture of the young women in front of a dugout is interesting since it shows a structure which resembles the Gibbs shanty. But this dugout was built into a side of a hill, so the door led out to a level area. The



Not the first Gibbs home. As the letter at left points out, the log and sod claim cabin Heman Gibbs built in 1849 was abandoned before this photograph of a similar structure was taken almost seventy years later. Photo from Ruth Phipps.

Gibbs cabin was built on level ground. It is this feature of the Gibbs shanty which makes the puzzle of the placement of its doorway so intriguing.

Thomond R. O'Brien, St. Paul.

A Well-told Story

What a treasure the Spring *Ramsey County History* magazine is! It was with great interest and pleasure that I read the articles about Jane DeBow Gibbs. Some years ago I did research on Roseville history and read many of the sources listed in the articles. I wondered how the Ramsey County Historical Society could neglect such a fascinating person's history. I've told parts of her story when I do programs on Roseville history, trying to bring back something of the pioneer days for school children the age of Jane when she came to the Territory. Congratulations on telling Jane's story so well. May it be a regular part of the Gibbs house story for those who

visit the museum.

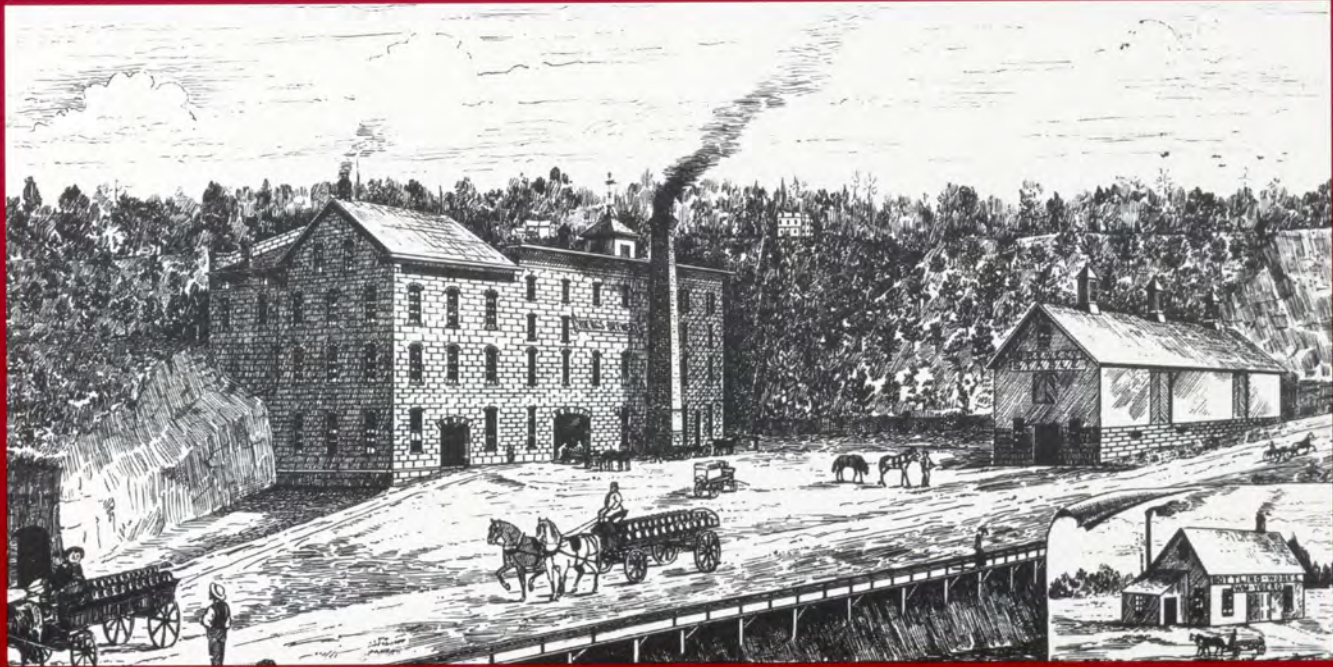
*Florence H. Carr,
Roseville Historical Society*

Where are the Tracks?

I very much enjoyed Ray Barton's piece in the Spring issue about growing up on the East side. This kind of memoir is wonderful for preserving a bit of what ordinary life was like in a time that already seems a different world. Barton calls Payne a “typical ‘streetcar’ shopping area,” and I had long supposed that Payne was a streetcar artery. But your back cover photo of Payne Avenue in 1931 shows neither streetcars nor streetcar tracks. What gives?

Paul Nelson, St. Paul.

Good question. Old maps show a streetcar line running along Payne from York to Minnehaha and ending before it would have reached Jessamine, where this photo was taken.



Anthony Yoerg's brewery as it looked in 1886. From Northwest Magazine for November of that year. Minnesota Historical Society photograph. See article beginning on page 16.

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

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