

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
*A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society*

Euphoria Dimmed:  
X-Rays' First Victim

Page 16

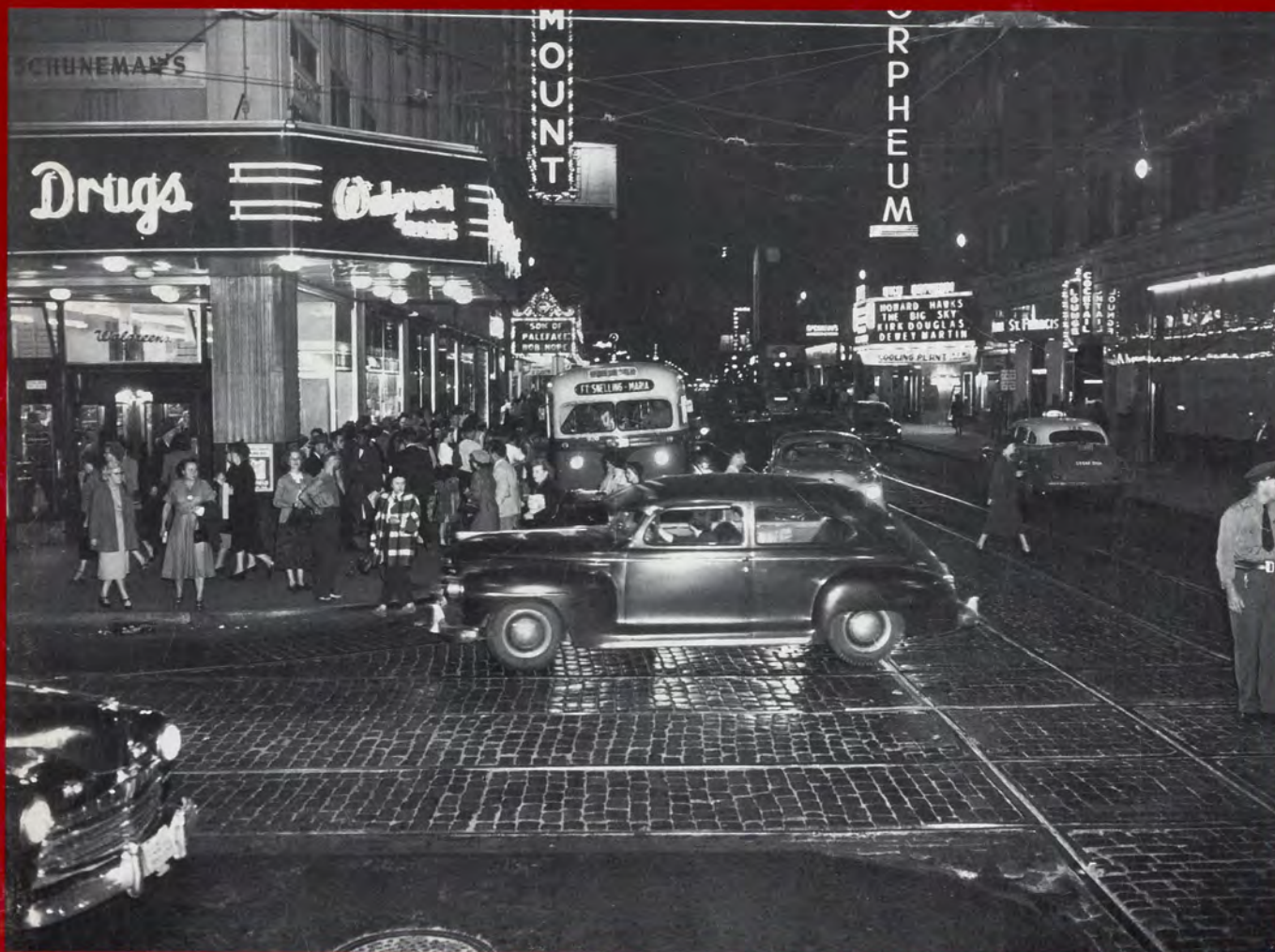
Winter, 1997

Volume 31, Number 4

*Rats, Politicians, Librarians*

Untold Stories of the Old St. Francis Hotel

Page 4



A brightly lighted downtown St. Paul was photographed on the night of September 4, 1952. This view looks west along Seventh Street from Wabasha to St. Peter. The St. Frances is on the right. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

*Executive Director*

Priscilla Farnham

*Editor*

Virginia Brainard Kunz

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John M. Lindley

*Chair*

Laurie Zenner

*President*

Howard M. Guthmann

*First Vice President*

Evangeline Schroeder

*Second Vice President*

Charles H. Williams, Jr.

*Secretary*

Robert F. Garland

*Treasurer*

Arthur H. Baumeister, Jr., Alexandra Bjorklund, W. Andrew Boss, Mark Eisenschenk, Joanne A. Englund, John M. Harens, Marshall R. Hatfield, Judith Frost Lewis, George A. Mairs, Margaret M. Marrinan, Richard T. Murphy, Sr., Thomond O'Brien, Bob Olsen, Marvin J. Pertzik, James A. Russell, Vicenta D. Scarlett, Richard A. Wilhoit, Anne Cowie Wilson.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

John M. Lindley, chairman; Thomas H. Boyd, Thomas C. Buckley, Pat Hart, Laurie M. Murphy, Vicenta Scarlett.

### HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Elmer L. Andersen, Olivia I. Dodge, Charlton Dietz, William Finney, Clarence Frame, Otis Godfrey, Jr., Ronald Hachey, Robert S. Hess, Fred T. Lanners, Jr., D. W. "Don" Larson, George Latimer, Frank Marzitelli, Joseph S. Micallef, Robert Mirick, Samuel Morgan, Marvin J. Pertzik, J. Jerome Plunkett, James Reagan, Solly Robins, Rosalie E. Wahl, Donald D. Wozniak.

### RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Susan Haigh, chairman  
Commissioner Tony Bennett  
Commissioner Dino Guerin  
Commissioner Rafael Ortega  
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt  
Commissioner Jan Wiessner

Terry Schutten, manager, Ramsey County

*Ramsey County History* is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102 (612-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright, 1997, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758. **All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher.** The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 31, Number 4

Winter, 1997

## CONTENTS

### 3 Letters

### 4 Rats, Politicians and Librarians

The Untold Stories of the Old St. Francis Hotel

*Paul R. Gold*

### 10 Growing Up in St. Paul

Everyone Knew the Rules for the Rites of Passage

*Brenda Raudenbush*

### 15 "Empty Nests" and Tea at the Ramsey House

*Patsy Raudenbush*

### 16 When Euphoria Dimmed: X-Rays' First Victim

*George McDonald*

### 20 What's Historic About This Site?

The Saint Paul Building

*Deanne Zibell Weber*

### 23 Books

### 26-27 1996 Donor Recognition

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 Reuel D. Harmon

## A Message from the Editorial Board

**T**oward the end of 1996, Ronald M. Hubbs, a long-time supporter of history in Ramsey County, died. Ron not only had contributed a number of fine articles that were published over the years in *Ramsey County History*, but he also was unfailingly enthusiastic in his support for the Ramsey County Historical Society's publication program. The Society dedicates this issue to his memory and to the great value he placed on history. In it we feature a building—the St. Francis Hotel—and a location—Seventh Place—that many residents and visitors know but little understand in terms of their historical significance to St. Paul. A companion piece tells the story of the Saint Paul Building.

*John M. Lindley, chair, Editorial Board*

## 1996 Donor Recognition

*The Ramsey County Historical Society takes great pleasure in extending warmest thanks to all of the 1996 supporters of the Society. It is they who have made it possible to offer high quality programs to the community.*

*A special thanks to those who are leaving the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners, for their long-time and loyal support: Hal Norgard, John Finley, Richard O'Connor, Brenda Thomas, Richard Wedell; and to those who are continuing: Susan Haigh, chair, and Rafael Ortega. And a warm welcome to the recently elected County Commissioners: Tony Bennett, Dino Guerin, Victoria Reinhardt, Jan Wiessner.*

*Special appreciation goes to Terry Schutten and his staff for their quality professional assistance.*

### Endowment Contributors

#### Warren Burger Inner Circle (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Alice M. O'Brien Foundation

#### Jonathan Carver Council (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts  
Mr. Charlton Dietz  
Mr. Reuel Harmon  
McCarthy-Bjorklund Foundation

#### Jane and Heman Gibbs Pioneer Associates (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall R. Hatfield  
Mr. George A. Mairs  
3M

#### Clarence Wigington Builders Associates (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Mr. Arthur H. Baumeister, Jr.  
Mr. Robert F. Garland  
Mr. Howard M. Guthmann  
Mr. Richard T. Murphy, Sr.  
Ms. Laurie A. Zenner

#### Additional Endowment Contributors

Mr. Thomas Boyd  
Mr. Mark G. Eisenschenk  
Ms. Joanne A. Englund  
Mr. John M. Harens  
Mr. John M. Lindley  
Judge Margaret M. Murrinan  
Ms. Laurie M. Murphy  
Mr. Robert Arthur Olsen  
Dr. Julian G. Plante  
Mr. James A. Russell  
Mrs. Vicenta D. Scarlett  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schroeder  
Western Bank & Insurance Agency  
Mr. Charles H. Williams, Jr.  
Mrs. Anne Cowie Wilson

### Members and Contributors

#### \$1000 and Above

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Bjorklund\*  
Mrs. Reuel Harmon\*  
Mr. George A. Mairs\*

#### \$500 and Above

Mrs. Louise Benz\*  
Mr. William Dircks\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Farnham  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hammerly\*  
Mr. Stanley Hubbard\*  
Mr. Richard T. Murphy, Sr.\*

#### \$250 and Above

Mrs. Frances Anderson\*  
Mr. & Mrs. William Anderson\*  
Ms. Sharon Avent\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Baumeister, Jr.\*  
Mr. George Benz\*  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Andrew Boss\*  
Mr. Charlton Dietz\*  
Mr. & Mrs. W. John Driscoll\*  
Mr. James Taylor Dunn\*  
Mr. Mark Eisenschenk\*  
Ms. Joanne A. Englund\*  
Mr. & Mrs. David Fesler\*  
Mr. Howard Guthmann\*  
Mr. John Harens\*  
Mr. A. Scheffer Lang & Mrs. Pat Hart\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Hatfield\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hess\*  
Ms. Liz Johnson\*  
Dr. & Mrs. James LaFave\*  
Mr. Thomas J. Lamphier\*  
Mr. Fred T. Lanners, Jr.\*  
Mr. Lewis Lehr  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lidstad\*  
Mr. John M. Lindley\*  
Mrs. Mary Bigelow McMillan\*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Musser\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nickoloff\*  
Mr. Eugene Piccolo\*  
Mrs. Miriam Reay\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Solly Robins\*  
Mrs. Vicenta Donnelly Scarlett\*  
Mr. Rick Wilhoit\*  
Ms. Laurie Zenner\*

### \$100 and Above

Mr. Thomas Alexander\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Anderson\*  
Mr. Gordon B. Asselstine\*  
Mr. Walter Bailey\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Banks\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Bathke\*  
Mr. Tony Bechik\*  
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Bell\*  
Mr. & Mrs. John Boeder\*  
Dr. & Mrs. W. S. Brannom\*  
Mrs. Janette Buckbee\*  
Mr. Robert L. Bullard\*  
Mr. Peter K. Butler\*  
Mrs. Patrick Butler  
Mrs. Dorothy Cajacob  
Mrs. Jeannine Churchill\*  
Mrs. Ann H. Clapp\*  
Mrs. Henry Cowie, Jr.\*  
Mr. John R. Cross\*  
Mr. Richard DeLeo\*  
Mrs. Olivia Dodge\*  
Mrs. Elisabeth Doermann\*  
Mr. Robert Dolle, Jr.\*  
Mr. Myron A. Ellingsen\*  
Mr. William Fallon\*  
Mr. Clarence G. Frame\*  
Mrs. R. F. Frey\*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Guenzel\*  
Mrs. Marion J. Handt\*  
Mr. Glenn Hanson\*  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hickey, III\*  
Mr. Gregory Hotzler\*  
Mrs. Mary Anderson Hulings\*  
Mr. Horace H. Irvine, II\*  
Dr. & Mrs. C.W. Jarvis\*  
Judge & Mrs. Robert F. Johnson\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Waring Jones\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Jordan\*  
Mr. Thomas J. Kelley\*  
Mrs. Kathryn A. Kelly\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Klas\*  
Mr. Robert M. Knox, Jr.\*  
Mr. David Lanegran\*  
Dr. & Mrs. John Larkin\*  
Mr. John Larson\*  
Mr. David M. Lilly\*  
Mr. Thomas G. Mairs\*

Mr. Francis P. Markoe\*  
 Mr. Harold Mattlin\*  
 Mr. E. W. McDiarmid\*  
 Mr. Lawrence McGough\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald McNeely\*  
 Mr. Harry G. McNeeley, Jr.\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Megard  
 Mr. J.S. Micallef\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mirick\*  
 Mr. Henry Morgan\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel H. Morgan\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nelson\*  
 Mr. Richard Nicholson\*  
 Mrs. Richardson B. Okie\*  
 Mrs. Ruth Olmer\*  
 Mr. John G. Ordway\*  
 Mr. Ronald Pederson\*  
 Mr. Marvin Pertzik\*  
 Mr. John A. Pfaender\*  
 Mr. James Reagan\*  
 Mrs. Ortha D. Robbins\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Rothchild\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Sands\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Sell\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Shepherd\*  
 Mr. John S. Sonnen\*  
 Mrs. Ella Strauss\*  
 Mr. Kent Thompson\*  
 Mrs. Jane Trosdahl\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Urion\*  
 Mrs. Dorothy Vono\*  
 Dr. & Mrs. James O. Wall\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. F. T. Weyerhaeuser\*  
 Mrs. Patricia Whitacre\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Whitson\*  
 Ms. M.L. Wildung\*  
 Mr. Donald Woods\*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zibell\*

**Foundation & Corporate Members  
& Donors**

American Bank NA\*  
 American Express  
 Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen  
 Foundation  
 Baillon Foundation, Inc.  
 John M. & Elizabeth W. Baker Foundation  
 The Bank of St. Paul  
 F.R. Bigelow Foundation  
 BRW Inc.\*  
 Building Restoration Corp\*  
 Burnet Financial Group  
 Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
 Ceridian  
 Cherokee State Bank\*  
 Cole Sewell Corporation\*  
 Copy-Right Printing\*  
 Cowles Media Company\*  
 Edwin W. and Catherine M. Davis  
 Foundation

Dellwood Foundation Inc.  
 Deluxe Corporation Foundation  
 Doherty, Rumble & Butler Foundation  
 EMC Corporation\*  
 Firststar Bank\*  
 Ford Motor Company  
 Greentree Financial Corp\*  
 Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary  
 Griggs Burke Foundation  
 Gross-Given Manufacturing Co.\*  
 Margaret W. Harmon Charitable Fund  
 Anna M. Heilmaier Charitable Foundation  
 Hubbard Broadcasting\*  
 J.C. Penney Company  
 Johnson Brothers Wholesale Liquors\*  
 Kraus-Anderson Construction Co.\*  
 Liberty State Bank\*  
 Arthur & Martha Kaemmer Fund of  
 The MAHADH Foundation  
 Thomas Mairs & Marjorie Mairs Fund  
 of The Saint Paul Foundation  
 Mardag Foundation  
 McGough Construction Co., Inc.\*  
 McNeely Foundation  
 Merrill Lynch Private Client Group\*  
 Midwest Sign & Screen Printing Supply \*  
 Minnesota Chemical Company  
 Minnesota Humanities Commission  
 in cooperation with the National  
 Endowment for the Humanities  
 and the Minnesota State Legislature  
 Minnesota Street Associates\*  
 Minnesota Wire & Cable Co.\*  
 Murphy Warehouse Company\*  
 National Mower Company\*  
 North Star Ice Co.\*  
 Alice M. O'Brien Foundation  
 Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation  
 Pentair, Inc.  
 Piper Jaffray Inc., Piper Capital  
 Management, & Piper Trust Company  
 Premier Banks  
 Sexton Printing Co.\*  
 Smyth Companies\*  
 St. Anthony Park State Bank  
 St. Croix Foundation  
 St. Paul Book & Stationery\*  
 The St. Paul Companies, Inc.  
 The Saint Paul Foundation  
 St. Paul Garden Club  
 The Saint Paul Hotel  
 St. Paul Pioneer Press  
 Summit Brewing Company\*  
 Tapemark Company\*  
 Target Roseville\*  
 Tilsner Carton Co.  
 University Club of St. Paul  
 U.S. West Foundation  
 Victory Parking Ramp  
 Viking Electric Supply Inc.

Warren Foundation  
 Yocum Oil Co.\*

**In-Kind Donations**

B&J Midway Floral  
 Barr's Flowers  
 Bell Museum  
 Cedar Street Cafe  
 Crocus Hill Flower Market  
 Ellingson Car Museum  
 Mrs. Priscilla Farnham  
 4th Generation Plumbing  
 Great American History Theatre  
 Guthrie Theater  
 Mr. Marshall Hatfield  
 Hermes Floral  
 Historic Murphy's Landing  
 Lebens Flowers  
 Leitners Garden Center  
 Leslie Packaging  
 Lund & Lange  
 Mr. Richard Menk  
 Minnesota Children's Museum  
 Minnesota Fabrics  
 Minnesota Zoo  
 Mixed Blood Theatre  
 Murphy Warehouse Company  
 Robert & Margaret Nelson  
 Payne's Wedding Flowers  
 Mrs. Mary Jean Proulx  
 Rainbow Foods  
 Rosemark Bakery  
 Roseville Bakery  
 Schroeder Milk Company  
 Science Museum of Minnesota  
 Simek's  
 Mr. Robert O. Straughn of McGrann Shea  
 Franzen Carnival Straughn & Lamb,  
 Chartered  
 Theatre in the Round Players  
 3M  
 Twin City Flowers  
 Valspar Paint  
 Walker Art Center

**Bequests**

Alvah S. Bull  
 Frieda H. Claussen  
 Mary Daggett Sheehan

**Memorials**

given by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Cowie in  
 memory of  
 William Chatterton  
 Frieda H. Claussen



*St. Paul's first public Market House at Seventh and Wabasha, about 1870. It was built by Vetel Guerin, a French-Canadian who was the first settler on this tract of land. Minnesota Historical Society photo. See article beginning on page 4.*

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

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society  
323 Landmark Center  
75 West Fifth Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit #3989