

Companion's Tour

Historic St. Paul

Monday, October 15, 2007
9:15 AM – 4:00 PM

The tour will start with a fascinating and funny look at the gangland depression and prohibition era St. Paul. A surprising overview of the rogue bank-robbing gangs that preyed upon the citizens of Minneapolis only to return to the safe haven of St. Paul. There was serious well-established organized crime in Minneapolis, too.

Some of the more notable personalities involved are nationally known infamous criminals; names that by whatever turn of fortune became household words in an earlier period of our history. Names that include John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Machine Gun Kelly and Ma Barker and her sons.



A delicious lunch will be enjoyed at the historic Forepaugh's, set in a restored Victorian mansion.

Following lunch you will experience the rich and elegant history of St. Paul. First, visit the Alexander Ramsey House, where Minnesota's first territorial governor lived with his family. You will be greeted by an authentically costumed guide as you take a tour of the French Second Empire style mansion that Ramsey built in 1872. Carefully restored and furnished with original family pieces, the Ramsey house now appears as it did more than a century ago. Walk through its 15 rooms containing black walnut woodwork, marble fireplaces, crystal chandeliers, and a rich collection of china, silver and personal possessions. This home remained in the family until 1964 when it was willed to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Next, travel along mansion-lined Summit Avenue, past historic landmarks including the Governor's Residence, and the Cathedral of St. Paul at arrive at the "granddaddy" of all the Victorian residences, the James J. Hill House. Designed by a prestigious Boston firm, it originally included 22 fireplaces and 13 bathrooms to accommodate the Hill family and their 10 children. Added to this was a massive reception room, full servants quarters and an adjoining dining room able to seat 40. Following Mr. Hill's death the mansion fell into the hands of the Archdiocese of St. Paul, becoming a National Historic Landmark in 1961. It is now owned and maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society.

