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# BOOK REVIEWS

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*Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building.* By Neil B. Thompson.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. 100 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

THE ANCIENTS have told us it is not easy to turn a sow's ear into a silken purse. Not that the Minnesota State Capitol is a sow's ear, but the telling of its conception and building could have been a mundane, dry report. Neil Baird Thompson's historian's nose found the ingredients for a whiz-bang story in the various archives he probed, seeking to flesh out the construction of the Capitol.

A reader can always hold an editorial series suspect. Sometimes such a series represents mere busy-work for an otherwise idle editorial staff. This time, however, the Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series includes a real winner. It is *Minnesota's State Capitol* which gives a straightforward chronology of the conception, construction, and dedication of Cass Gilbert's monumental official building of Minnesota. Every detail is there for the reader whose interest is just in the building itself. However, the diamond lying almost hidden in the filagree of construction detail is the story of two men of great integrity, talent, and dedication to public service.

The history of the United States is replete with oftentold tales of the scoundrels and blackguards. Too often, the solid, stalwart doers of public service go to their tombs unnoticed but for some weekly newspaper obituary. Mr. Thompson's sharp sense of history and right made him bring Seabury and Gilbert into the core of the Capitol story.

Channing Seabury's (the very name evokes the stern New England ethic) role as chairman of the Capitol Commission must have given him great personal satisfaction. A multitude of trite phrases come to mind: politically skillful, doggedly determined, patiently respectful of others. None does justice to this fascinating personality. Mr. Thompson found one of his diamonds in telling Seabury's role in the Capitol project.

Another diamond, not quite the karat quality of Seabury but more brilliant, was the architect of the structure, Cass Gilbert. The Midwest grows genius by the long ton, usually to suffer the loss of these talented ones to the moneyed eastern metropolitan centers. The story of Gilbert, as spun out by Neil Thompson, sounds almost like a television script: Boy genius architect, stuck in a pioneer town with seemingly no great future, wins design contest and moves on to international fame and fortune. However, as Mr. Thompson well

documents, Gilbert was an aesthetic genius, not above being a bit eclectic when necessary, who was blessed with a good sense of reality, business direction, and plain guts.

One pair of diamonds which Mr. Thompson regretfully did not have space to polish properly were the Butler brothers, the building contractors. The author said enough about these two men to carry out the Capitol building story. He left enough unsaid to make the reader want another chance to read the full story of the Butlers — stalwart men cast in the true "get it done" ideal American mold.

Excellent illustrations — archival and contemporary photographs well-mixed with beautiful, detailed drawings of the building by Gilbert and Alan Ominsky — visually bring along with the text the progress of the construction of the great white structure.

This volume is strongly recommended to any and all who are interested in Minnesota's history, life styles of the turn of the century, workings of social and political maneuvering, or just a good crackerjack of a story. After reading Mr. Thompson's book, I drove to St. Paul and had a long walk around and within the Capitol. It is handsome, triumphal, and certainly enduring.

*Reviewed by JOHN DWYER, who is the publisher of North Star Press, St. Cloud, Minnesota.*

*Reference Guide to Minnesota History: A Subject Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets, and Articles in English.* Compiled by Michael Brook.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. vii, 132 p. \$7.50.)

STUDENTS OF MINNESOTA history and those areas that cross or touch the state's history will welcome this bibliographical aid by Michael Brook. The more than 3,700 titles of books, pamphlets, and articles listed under thirty-two general subject areas is the most comprehensive in print. Broader in scope and content than *Minnesota: A Guide to Reading and Study*, by Theodore C. Blegen and Theodore Nydahl (Minneapolis, 1960), the Brook reference guide includes the many additional materials published since the appearance of that earlier volume and sources of an interdisciplinary nature that were in print at the time but did not find their way into the earlier publication.

The titles listed under each of the general subject areas reflect the comprehensive character of the guide. Included are many works of a socioeconomic, as well as of a social and cultural, nature. Specialists in ethnic history probably will be pleased with the listings in Indian and European immigrant groups. Most emphasis, of course, is given to the state and local scene — the counties as well as the urban areas. Minnesota's role in national affairs and foreign wars is not overlooked. There is also a generous allotment of space to education, religion, the arts, health and medicine, social issues, agriculture, business, industry, commerce, transportation, journalism, publishing, and communications.

Mr. Brook's introduction provides one with a glimpse of the problems a bibliographer faces, the decisions he often has to make, and why he makes such decisions. Mr. Brook has chosen well. He offers so much in such logical and sensible fashion that it is difficult to find fault with a reference tool that will become and remain a handy guide for students of Minnesota history and may even serve as a model for historical societies in other states to emulate. A workable index adds to its utility. Unfortunately the only drawback is the price, which is neither the fault of the compiler nor the historical society but is likely to curtail sales.

*Reviewed by* THEODORE SALOUTOS, *professor of history at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is well known for his work in the fields of agricultural and immigration history.*

***The Alexander Ramsey Papers. A Microfilm Edition.***

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. 70 rolls and printed guide, \$700. Single rolls, \$12.50.)

***Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the Alexander Ramsey Papers and Records.* By Helen McCann White.**

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. 78 p. \$2.00.)

ALEXANDER RAMSEY never attained the stature or reputation of some nineteenth-century political leaders, but he did contribute substantially to the history of Minnesota and the nation. Before he went to St. Paul, where he served as Minnesota's first territorial governor and as superintendent of Indian affairs, he had made a mark in Pennsylvania politics. And before Ramsey's political career had drawn to a close, he had been a congressman, mayor of St. Paul, governor of Minnesota, a United States senator, secretary of war, and a federal election commissioner. These were no mean achievements for a man who, in his early life, had been apprenticed to a carpenter but who was too energetic and ambitious to spend his life as an artisan in a small town. Ramsey invested wisely both in people and in property, and his efforts, if not always crowned with immediate success, were in the long run remarkably rewarding. He could maintain personal and business contacts that crossed political lines, and when many Minnesotans believed that his political or economic fortunes were at an end he proved remarkably resilient. Despite war, costly political campaigns, and financial panics, he gathered a

small fortune. It allowed him to remain active in the political and social life of his city, state, and nation, to live well, if not lavishly, and to ensure for his family a secure life.

Ramsey's papers reflect a life that was rich, full, and long. Politics was his primary concern, but he was a man whose affairs touched land speculation, urban growth, Indian problems, civil rights for Blacks, and a score of other matters. In fact, there was little in American society, aside from the world of the intellectual and the business tycoon, that did not interest him. Ramsey was not an intellectual, and he was not a reflective man; his papers show a man of action, purpose, and vitality. He was, in his own way, a man of high principle.

The Minnesota Historical Society long ago recognized the significance of the Ramsey papers. They have been carefully preserved and well arranged. Now, with funds provided by the National Historical Publications Commission, the society has been able to film the collection as well as the records of Ramsey's gubernatorial stint, which are in the state archives, and to prepare a guide to the entire project.

The result is a first-class job of microfilming and an outstanding guide. Helen McCann White, who prepared the guide, understood the Ramsey papers and also the needs of scholars who might like to use them. Two sections of the guide, the Description of the Papers and the Description of the Records, probably constitute the best introduction to Ramsey's career that scholars now have. No published study matches Mrs. White's analytical power or stylist presentation. If for no other reason, anyone interested in Minnesota history must have this little book. But Mrs. White does more. By closely keying the various rolls of the film to the descriptions, she makes it possible for scholars using the collection not only to know what exists and where but also how this fits into a historical context.

Scholars owe a profound debt of gratitude to the National Historical Publications Commission for underwriting projects of this kind. In this case they owe a special debt to the Minnesota Historical Society and Helen White. *The Alexander Ramsey Papers and Records* is not only a research tool but also the best brief sketch of Ramsey we have.

*Reviewed by* MARTIN RIDGE, *professor of history at Indiana University at Bloomington and managing editor of the Journal of American History. He is the author of Ignatius Donnelly: Portrait of a Politician and numerous articles.*

***Walls Come Tumbling Down: A History of the Civil Rights Movement, 1940–1970.* By Thomas R. Brooks.**

(Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1974. 309 p. Illustrations. \$10.00.)

IN THE PERIOD of calm following the storm, many people have reflected in print upon the tumultuous decade of the 1960s. The events leading to the civil rights movement have been of special concern. Written accounts of the movement have often romanticized those years of "Sturm und Drang" and in the process exaggerated its accomplishments. Some accounts have dwelt upon the strengths and weaknesses of the civil rights leadership, while others have focused upon the

dynamism and direction of various civil rights organizations. Few authors, however, have succeeded in encompassing all of the above in one volume. This is precisely what makes Thomas R. Brooks's work intriguing.

*Walls Come Tumbling Down* is a chronological history of the civil rights movement from 1940 to 1970. The book begins with the threatened march on Washington in June, 1941, by the then militant unionist Asa Philip Randolph and concludes with a chapter suggestively entitled "The Second Reconstruction." Sandwiched between these chapters is a meticulously researched study of Black activism leading to the civil rights crisis of the sixties. Brooks has embellished his account with informative profiles of the principal leaders as well as a detailed discussion of the evolution of the most significant civil rights organizations. In spite of its paucity of references, the book is a credit to Brooks's journalistic prowess.

Unfortunately, the book suffers from several shortcomings, not the least of which is inclusiveness. The proliferation of names, organizations, dates, events, and causal relationship between them makes the account a bit difficult to follow at times. Moreover, the sequential development of any one facet of the movement is disrupted with untimely profile sketches of important leaders. Although very readable, the book is so organized that the reader finds it hard to remember the importance of the material that went before.

Mr. Brooks has long established his credentials in the field of labor history. It is therefore not surprising that portions of his account read like an extension of labor-management relations. Asa Philip Randolph comes across as a dark-hued George Meany whose power, personal prestige, and influence in civil rights circles are pervasive. Bayard Rustin, Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, and others of the national civil rights cadre fare a little better as union negotiators representing the northern ghetto "lumpenproletariat" and the southern oppressed. The mass demonstrations, sit-ins, pickets, and rhetoric of the period suggest a people on nonviolent strike against their employers.

The author's treatment of the civil rights movement in the South is objective, impartial, and clear-sighted. However, he demonstrates a lack of understanding in his discussion of the problems of the northern urban Blacks and their perception of the movement. He expresses a thinly veiled bias against the militant fringe of the movement and reserves special criticism for the Black Muslims and Black Panthers.

His discussion of Black power is informative but not analytical. Moreover, he makes little mention of the resurgence of Black nationalism and the subsequent request of Black America for self-determining status in the wake of disillusionment with the civil rights movement.

Mr. Brooks's central thesis is that Blacks as Americans are striving for inclusion in the mainstream of American social, political, and economic life. Ostensibly, the author implies that integration is the ultimate solution to the American dilemma. The civil rights movement *in toto* and related developments are viewed from the perspective of dismantling those barriers which had heretofore prohibited the Black man from entering the mainstream. The Second Reconstruction to which Brooks refers is a "catching up" time for American Blacks, a switch from protest to politics. It is the author's belief that through the exercise of franchise Black America can consolidate the gains

made by the civil rights activist and assure future integration and vertical economic mobility. For all of its shortcomings, *Walls Come Tumbling Down* is probably the best researched account of the historical development of the civil rights movement from its inception to date. His depiction of the southern campaign is stirring and emotionally moving. Nevertheless, the most disappointing aspect of the work is its singular failure fully to grasp the subtle but complex issues surrounding the northern urban Black revolt of the sixties.

Reviewed by DAVID V. TAYLOR, chairman of the American Minority Studies program and faculty member in the history and political science departments at St. Olaf College. Mr. Taylor is the author of the article, "John Quincy Adams: St. Paul Editor and Black Leader," published in the Winter, 1973, issue of Minnesota History.

***Old Fort Snelling Instruction Book for Fife with Music of Early America.* By Donald E. Mattson and Louis D. Walz.**

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974, xi, 112 p. Paper \$4.50.)

THE PROGRAM of musical restoration at Fort Snelling has been the subject of a great deal of laudatory comment in recent years. In this outstanding contribution, some of the secrets of the program and many of the results of research in historic music are made readily available. The book must be viewed in two ways: as a general research work for the scholar and as an instruction book for playing the fife. From either aspect, it looks good.

The serious student of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries will find this a welcome library edition for two reasons. First, the brief history of the fife as both a musical instrument and a military musical instrument and signaling device is excellent. Its authoritative status is documented by the award of the highly prized approval of the Company of Military Historians, not lightly or casually given. And the presence of the *Old Fort Snelling Instruction Book* offers anyone with even the most rudimentary musical background an opportunity to sit down and tap out on the piano most of the tunes cited in the historical literature. One of the reviewer's continuing annoyances with academic historians is their often limited knowledge of any early American tune less common than "Garryowen."

Viewed as an instruction manual, the book is equally valuable. It covers the standard problems of learning the fife in a lesson plan which moves with remarkable grace from one area of difficulty to the next; the example pieces in the lessons are all historic and not artificially created make-work. Historical notes on the individual pieces are artfully scattered throughout the text, so that the musician working with the book will unavoidably extend his or her background. And the encyclopedic nature of the repertoire presented will make it most worthwhile as musicians begin to tune up their ideas for the coming bicentennial celebrations.

As an instruction book it has other virtues. Only those who have worked with musical literature will immediately

appreciate the production in a ring-bound format which will stay flat on a music stand or piano. The high quality of the paper will survive extensive studio and library use. And the notations are of a size that can be read by several people at once, if necessary.

Of course, no work can appear perfect to every reader. On a strictly subjective basis, the "Garryowen" format, repeating both verse and chorus, deviates from the song, and I would have preferred a transcription earlier than 1901. My own favorite life tune, "The Rakes of Mallow," is not here. And my oboe-playing daughter, who greatly enjoyed browsing through the book, pointed out that military historians might know that the tempos were in a definite range, but that once or twice she was a bit uncertain in this regard.

Such petty and subjective comments as these should not deter anyone from acquiring this excellent synthesis of music and history. Messrs. Mattson and Walz dedicated this work to the field musicians of the Fifth United States Infantry, who served at Fort Snelling from 1819 to 1828. The publication does honor to them and to the series in which it appears.

*Reviewed by* FRANKLIN G. SMITH, *superintendent of Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas, and a fellow of the Company of Military Historians. Mr. Smith has participated in developing music programs for the National Park Service and in the company's Military Music in America Series of recordings.*

***Red World and White: Memories of a Chippewa Boyhood.* By John Rogers (Chief Snow Cloud).**

(Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1974, xvii, 153 p. \$4.95.)

AS IT IS SAID that playing golf spoils a good walk, so reading Joseph W. Whitecotton's foreword spoils this sensitive, straightforward, and informative group of recollections by John Rogers, an Ojibway born on the reservation at Bagley, Minnesota.

Mr. Whitecotton falls into the traditional anthropological trap of trying to apply some sort of pseudoscientific analysis to what is simply a presentation of basic facts as remembered. His discussion of moot points such as "atomism" and "marginality," as though all facets of these phenomena were hard facts, can only lead to misunderstanding by the lay reader. Also, both Harold Hickerson's and Bernard J. James' views on Midéwiwin and Chippewa culture are at best theories based on somewhat shaky findings. In recent issues of *Current Anthropology* Mr. James and Timothy Roufs, both anthropologists, have been debating just these points.

As an Indian, I found John Rogers' memories to be warm and insightful as well as tinged with the melancholy of the contemporary Chippewa condition. Most moving are his descriptions of deaths in his family and the ramifications of these deaths for this personal development and well-being. We can see both sadness and hope as he stands at the grave of his sister:

"At that moment all the gloom that had pressed down on my heart began to drift away. It was as

though Bishiu had indeed spoken, that her spirit had returned from the land of Souls to comfort the one who had been left behind to sorrow. I left this spot that would always remain sacred and returned to the lake shore, knowing then without a doubt that Bishiu would indeed always be by my side until I joined her in the spirit world."

There are philosophical insights in the book, but these are overwhelming only in their simplicity. One of these, which is being noted more and more by non-Indians, can be seen in the following:

"My father nodded understandingly. 'So long as you really understand these things and listen well to His voice, there is no need of what the white man calls a church in which to worship. For our people believe that we enter church when we are born. It is in our body, and in order to keep this church clean and pure, we should be very careful what we put in our mouth, or how we take care of the body that was given us.'"

While we often wonder at the need for so many Indian writers to be designated as "chief," nevertheless John Rogers has created an important work. Though not a "great" book, it is one that makes a contribution to the sorely needed area of better understanding of the red world by the white.

*Reviewed by* ROBERT E. POWLESS, *an Oneida Indian and director of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.*

***Farming in the Midwest, 1840-1900.* Edited by James W. Whitaker.**

(Washington, D.C., Agricultural History Society, 1974. 226 p. \$6.00.)

THIS COLLECTION of thirteen papers, plus comments, comes from a symposium on Midwest agriculture held in 1973 at Ames, Iowa. Geographers, historians, economists, and representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture took part in the discussions. A wide panorama was covered, from historical farm sites and their problems, through rural settlement and its problems, to tenant farming and the problems associated with British investment in American lands. The hated William Scully, who brought Irish landlord methods to 225,000 acres of American land, receives fair treatment and appears as a curious combination of the seventeenth and twentieth centuries.

Of particular interest to Minnesotans are the articles by Hildegard Binder Johnson of Macalester College and Joseph C. Fitzharris of St. Thomas College. Mrs. Johnson is concerned "with the visual perception of the farmsteads and rural towns or villages, and with a topographical approach in its original sense." Law has greatly influenced settlement patterns, she says, and the rectangular shape of fields and the grid system in towns come from the rectangular survey. However, in spite of the nonvarying grid of the survey, Mrs. Johnson points out, land acquisition by settlers was not always

in the form of simple squares but could take many different shapes. Today, contouring and terracing of farm land has changed the old grid concept of fields. That pattern was never applied blindly to towns, and certainly today suburban developments attempt to fit the terrain.

Mr. Fitzharris' article deals with the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station from 1868 to 1910. The early years of agricultural education and experimentation in Minnesota suffered from lack of support and understanding. But in 1885, two years before the great Hatch Act established federal funding for agricultural experimentation, the Minnesota legislature directed the University of Minnesota to establish an agricultural experiment station. In spite of difficulties in administration and personality clashes, important agricultural

research was carried on in the 1890s, including that of Theophilus L. Haecker, the father of Minnesota's dairying industry. The amazing thing about agricultural research at Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station is not the early difficulties but the speed with which important research appeared in the 1890s. Mr. Fitzharris is continuing the story of the station, and one awaits the completion of his study of this great contributor to the wealth of the state.

*Reviewed by* RODNEY C. LOEHR, professor of history at the University of Minnesota, who has written numerous articles and book reviews on a variety of subjects for Minnesota History.

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## news & notes

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AWARDS OF MERIT were voted the Ojibwe Curriculum Committee and the Minnesota Historical Society as well as the Otter Tail County Historical Society by the national awards committee of the American Association for State and Local History. Deliberations took place on September 22-24 prior to the 1974 annual meeting of the AASLH in Austin, Texas.

The curriculum committee and MHS were cited for producing *The Ojibwe: A History Resource Unit*, "a composite of authoritative classroom materials." MHS educational services division staff members researched and prepared the multimedia unit for elementary and secondary schools in co-operation with Indian committee members and the American Indian Studies Department of the University of Minnesota.

The Otter Tail County Historical Society was cited "for building a modern, representational museum and for launching a well-rounded program."

A BOOKLET interpreting one of the state's most unusual historic sites has recently been published by the Minnesota Historical Society. Entitled *Jeffers Petroglyph Walking Tour: A Journey Through Time* (26 p., \$1.50) and written by staff members Gordon A. Lothson and Nancy Eubank, the booklet is designed to help visitors understand the intriguing prehistoric rock art at the Jeffers site. About 2,000 symbols, comprising the largest petroglyph group known in Minnesota, are carved into an extensive quartzite ridge near Jeffers. Their prob-

able dates range from 3000 B.C. to 1750 A.D. The booklet not only interprets the rock drawings but also the area's geological history and the virgin prairie surroundings. Excellent detailed photographs and maps illustrate the text.

DOVER PRESS has republished George Catlin's two-volume *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Conditions of the North American Indians* (\$8.00 paperbound, \$16.00 clothbound) in an edition that is the first to contain both the complete text and photographic reproductions of 257 of Catlin's original oil paintings for the "Letters." When first published in 1844, the work included only simple line cuts derived from the original paintings, since photography was in its infancy at the time. Line illustrations were retained in this newest edition only where a corresponding oil painting could not be found or did not exist. The new edition contains 312 illustrations in all, including six paintings in color on the covers. There is a new introduction by Marjorie Halpin.

LESS THAN two months after the creation of Minnesota Territory, Reverend Edward Duffield Neill arrived in Minnesota in April, 1849. Almost immediately he began promoting and supporting educational institutions. His work led, among his many other accomplishments, to the establishment of Macalester College in St. Paul.

Edward Swanson, head of the technical services department of the Minnesota Historical Society's library, tells about

the many difficulties encountered in the school's early years in an article, "Macalester and Its First Forty Years," in the Spring, 1974, issue of *Ramsey County History*. In 1853 Neill founded Baldwin School, the forerunner of Macalester. The latter was established in 1874, but it was a college in name only. In 1885 it finally moved from being a preparatory school to enrolling its first class of college freshmen. Neill delivered the principal address on that occasion.

In these trying years the school often teetered on the brink of going under. Even in 1893, the year Neill died, the "future of Macalester College was bleak," writes Mr. Swanson. James Wallace, who became head of the school in 1894, provided the leadership that resulted first in the school's survival and eventually in its development into an outstanding liberal arts college.

THE 100-YEAR history of Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis is traced in an article by Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, in a cover story in the Fall, 1974, issue of *Hennepin County History*. Mr. Fridley, in "A City and a Savings Bank," tells of the beginnings of Minneapolis, focusing on its business and financial development. The rapidly growing town's five major industries — flour milling, lumbering, trade, agriculture, and railroad construction — gave Minneapolis the impetus "to become the dominant banking center of the Northwest, later the Upper Midwest."

The article traces F & M's history from its rather shaky foundations following the 1873 panic, through good times and bad, prosperity, depressions, booms, and bank runs, up to the present and into "a future of change and uncertainty."

The article is well illustrated with scenes of early Minneapolis, of the bank's five homes, each reflecting growing wealth and stability, of some of the founders and all of its chief executive officers, and of Farmers and Mechanics' centennial celebration activities.

Lynne Van Brocklin, former research assistant in MHS administration and now a survey specialist in the historic sites division, assisted Mr. Fridley with research for the article.

BIRD WATCHERS of the Midwest will be interested in a new book called *Birding From a Tractor Seat*, by Charles T. Flugum. Mr. Flugum is an Albert Lea farmer who became interested in birds as a youngster. Over the years he has deepened and broadened both his enthusiasm and his knowledge through personal observation, books and reference works, ornithological clubs, and friendships with men and women who share his hobby.

The book is a collection of informal, personal essays about Mr. Flugum's experiences and observations, most of which took place while he was working about the farm. (His book title comes from his discovery that he could approach birds more closely from a tractor than on foot.) Most chapters were written originally as a column for an Albert Lea monthly magazine. Others were taken from notes Mr. Flugum made in a journal over the years. The book, which his son Merlin helped edit, is illustrated with black-and-white drawings by Walter J. Breckenridge. It is available for \$8.95 from Box 30038, St. Paul 55175.

"THE OLDEST remaining structure on the avenue is the red brick house at 727 Grand," writes Donald Empson in an article, "A Tour of Grand Avenue's Oldest Buildings," published in the September, 1974, *Grand Gazette*. John B. Overton, superintendent of the St. Paul Water Works at the time, built the red brick house in 1884, the author says. Today the lower floor is occupied by Louise Music Shop; the upper level is an apartment.

Mr. Empson, a librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, has done research and written several articles on St. Paul neighborhoods, their history, the origin of place names, and related sub-

jects. In the Grand Avenue article he includes such information as when structures were built, by whom, and at what cost. He also tells who lived in them.

FRANCES DENSMORE'S paper, "Uses of Plants by the Chippewa Indians," first published in 1928 in a Smithsonian Institution report, has been republished as a paperbound book. The title has been changed to *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine & Crafts* (Dover Press, \$2.50), but otherwise the illustrations and even the original pagination remain the same.

Miss Densmore, famous Minnesota ethnologist, made her most important contribution in studying, collecting, and preserving Ojibway music. She also studied and wrote about other Indian beliefs, customs, and skills. There is a close connection between Indian music and plants, she explains. Herbs were used in the "working of charms, and songs were sung to make the treatment and the charms effective."

Most of her "informants" were Indian women on Minnesota reservations, although a few men and Ojibway in Wisconsin and Canada also assisted her. The largest sections of the book are devoted to plants used for medicines. They are listed by botanical names, native names, medicinal properties, specific uses, means of preparation, and methods of administering. Another part deals with gathering and preparing foods — grains, fruits, berries, teas, and seasonings. Other chapters tell what plants, along with the formulas, were used in dyeing. Miss Densmore also writes of plants used in charms and in making useful items such as bows, baskets, paddles, floor mats, house frames, snowshoes, and toys and the purely decorative arts such as making birch-bark transparencies.

A PICTORIAL HISTORY of Wisconsin between World Wars I and II is presented in a 1973 book, *Portrait of the Past: A Photographic Journey Through Wisconsin*. Volume II (1920–1940), by Susan M. Smith and the editors of *Wisconsin Trails* magazine. The first volume, published in 1971, portrayed the years 1865–1920. This companion work of 176 pages includes some 200 photographs.

*Portrait of the Past* actually begins in 1917 with scenes of state-based army training camps and home-front war efforts, all pervaded by the superpatriotism of the era. The book is a blend of the somber and the carefree, the headline events and the day-to-day pursuits. Wisconsinites are shown celebrating the Armistice and the end of prohibition,

enduring the depression and welcoming Franklin D. Roosevelt and Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. Wisconsinites, too, are pictured taking part in milk strikes, labor violence, political rallies, Ku Klux Klan "konventions," and book burnings. And they are shown cutting metal, ferrying automobiles, milking cows, and carrying on many more activities.

The book is available from *Wisconsin Trails*, P.O. Box 5650, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. The price: \$14.00.

REMINISCENCES of the ethnic life and heritage of the people of Martin County, Minnesota, have been published by the county's Extension Home Council. Mrs. Jean Hatch was the principal organizer and editor of the project, which resulted in a four-volume ethnic history.

Only the two most recent volumes, published in 1974, are still available. These deal with the experiences and traditions of the men and women who emigrated from the eastern United States, England, Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium. The 241-page paperbound set costs \$6.00 (add 50 cents if ordering by mail) and is available from the Martin County Extension Home Council, 2423 Albion Avenue, Fairmont, Minnesota 56031.

The first volume, published in 1972, dealt with Swedish and German immigrants to Martin County. The second book, published in 1973, was about the area's Norwegian and Polish pioneers.

JAMES J. HILL'S life and work are sketched in a chapter of a new book by Robert Sobel, *The Entrepreneurs: Explorations Within the American Business Tradition* (Weybright and Talley, xv, 413 p., \$12.50). In his introduction the author says that the nine businessmen included in the book were chosen from many "who have not received their proper due from historians."

Mr. Sobel presents the "Empire Builder's" ambitions, career, achievements, and failures in a brief but balanced portrait. The author suggests that, by the time of his death in 1916, Hill was perhaps "an anachronism." The moguls had been replaced by administrators. And Mr. Sobel says that maybe only men such as Hill — tycoons wielding enormous power — could have accomplished so much in the nation's development from the end of the Civil War to the early years of the twentieth century. Although Hill was irascible and heavy-handed at times, Mr. Sobel says of him that he "was the best of the breed, and in most respects the fairest."

**S**ince 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.

# THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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