Some **NEW BOOKS** in Review . . .

**Understanding the American Past: American History and Its Interpretation.** Written and edited by Edward N. Saveth. (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1954. ix, 613 p. $6.00.)

**Reviewed by David Donald**

SO MANY PEOPLE are editing anthologies of American history these days that one wonders whether there's anybody left actually writing history. First came the pamphlets in the Amherst *Problems in American Civilization* series, which now total more than a dozen. Then, almost simultaneously, appeared Donald H. Sheehan's *The Making of American History* and two volumes of readings selected by Thomas G. Manning and David M. Potter. In 1950 an anthology titled *The Making of American Democracy* was edited by B. A. Billington, B. J. Loewenberg, and S. H. Brockunier. Two years later Richard W. Leopold and Arthur S. Link put out their *Problems in American History*.

Mr. Saveth's volume is the latest entry in this rather crowded field, and in certain ways it has a number of advantages over its competitors. Some of his rival anthologists have emphasized primary documents and other extracts from books, but Mr. Saveth, a Columbia-trained historian and a former professor at the New School for Social Research, has relied chiefly upon scholarly articles and essays. Of the thirty selections included in his book, most appeared originally in learned journals, and it is a great advantage to have these interesting and provocative articles collected, rather than buried in the *Publications of the Augustana Historical Society*, the *Political Science Quar-

tely*, or the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*. By selecting articles rather than documents or extracts from books, Mr. Saveth has broadened the interest of his anthology. The space restrictions of periodical publication cause a historian to condense his material, to delete fascinating but irrelevant footnotes, and to make his point clearly and briefly. Such an essay as Carl Becker's "Kansas" suggests a new law of history: the value of historical writing varies in inverse proportion to its length.

Mr. Saveth's anthology is differentiated from its rivals by another feature which is not quite so admirable — his excessive concentration upon contemporary historical writing. Two-thirds of his selections originally appeared after 1940; five-sixths after 1930. Excellent it is, to be sure, to have essays by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Richard Hofstadter, Louis Hartz, and Eric Goldman, but is it not odd that Bancroft, Hildreth, Rhodes, Mahan, Osgood, Andrews, Channing, Van Tyne, Phillips, Beveridge, and Parrington have been forgotten? Even among the many able historians of our own day, Mr. Saveth has made some curious choices; the work of Sydnor, Craven, Perry Miller, Wertemberger, Malone, Freeman, Gipson, Freidel, and Link is not represented here.

An anthology naturally reflects the interests of its compiler, and Mr. Saveth's tastes are not catholic. He is bored by long periods in American history and includes only two selections on the seventeenth century, none on the period from 1800 to 1828, and none on the vital Reconstruction Era. Most of the selections are rather traditional in approach, for Mr. Saveth seems uninterested in psychological or sociological interpretations of our past. All the essays are nontheoretical; any philosophy of history contained in these pages is implicit.

We cannot, then, entirely accept Mr. Saveth's claim that *Understanding the American Past* covers the "major events and developments in American history as told by some of our outstanding historians." But if we take his selec-
tions for what they really are—a group of essays which Mr. Saveth likes—there will be enough good reading for all. Ranging in time from Samuel E. Morison's "The Puritan Tradition" through Louis Morton's "The 'Sitting Ducks' of Clark Field," and in temper from Allan Nevins' dashing account of John Brown to J. G. Randall's sober "Lincoln and the Governance of Men," these essays prove decisively that great history is also great literature.

A unique feature of Mr. Saveth's anthology is his sixty-one page introductory discussion of "Historical Understanding in Democratic America," which, to tell the truth, has little to do with the selections that follow, but which is of considerable interest in its own right. Attempting in this brief compass to outline "certain of the major trends in the writing of American history," Mr. Saveth is not likely to win the "general audience" for which he hopes, but he should become the oracle of a thousand graduate students. In his succinct and accurate summary of American historiography from George Bancroft to the present, they may find just the information needed to pass those dreaded doctoral examinations.

LIVING DOCUMENTS

By These Words: Great Documents of American Liberty. Selected and placed in their contemporary settings by PAUL M. ANGLE. (New York, Rand McNally & Company, 1954. 560 p. Illustrations. $5.95.)

Reviewed by Frederick L. Baumann

THIS HANDY and slightly octavo volume by the well-known director of the Chicago Historical Society, famous for his contributions to the Lincoln story and legend, reverses the usual procedure of using documents to illustrate narrative history. In this book, according to the jacket-blurb, "a vivid stage-setting narrative" is provided to recreate "the scene in which each paper was born."

The forty-six documents chosen by the editor-writer range in time from the Mayflower Compact of 1620 to President Eisenhower's inaugural address of 1953. They have been selected from official documents— or from those originating in an official context— to illustrate two themes in American history: the growth of democratic government, and the evolution and defense of individual liberty. This is a very slight limitation of the field from which Mr. Angle had to choose, for a cursory examination will show that, with few exceptions, almost any of the proclamations, statutes, resolutions, and other documents of American history are clearly within the focus of either personal freedom or government responsible to the people. The drawings of the veteran illustrator, Edward A. Wilson, add to the edge and clarity of the accounts, and suggest that many of the episodes were chosen for their dramatic quality.

It was remarked of Mr. Angle's book of a few years past on the history of "Bloody" Williamson County in Illinois that the author made no sacrifice of scholarship in his extraordinarily graphic narration. A perusal of the present book shows that even in the very restricted space allowed him, the writer exercised the same skill. The historical settings are put forth in clear, simple and, on the whole, remarkably lively style, with no sacrifice of accuracy.

The only question that arises in connection with this book is the important one of what use can be made of it. A degree of maturity, an understanding of major social forces, some comprehension of the life and character of the major participants, a sense of continuity—all these are needed to make the words of state papers something more than magic incantations, which when uttered at critical moments worked the wonders that we behold in our own country and in ourselves as champions of our democracy. Episodical history, even by Mr. Angle, cannot do that for three hundred years of American life.

MODERN FARMER


Reviewed by Reynold M. Wik

THE LIFE OF the American farmer has evoked a voluminous literature, but unfortunately much of it has been either untrue or inordinately dull. The general reader is therefore not quite sure whether farmers are the backbone or the boneheads of the nation. Pre-
quently scholars who see only part of the rural scene write in broad generalizations to glorify the "sons of the sod" as folk heroes possessing all the virtues of rugged individualism, unsophisticated egalitarianism, agrarian liberalism, and a democratic spirit. Fortunately, such historians as Fred Shannon, Paul Gates, E. E. Edwards, Henry Nash Smith, and Earl Pomeroy have exploded many of the myths created by writers who viewed rural life as it might have been, not as it was.

Professor Lowry Nelson, a sociologist in the University of Minnesota, provides a thoughtful analysis of present-day agriculture in this excellent volume on American Farm Life. To determine what is going on on the farm today, the author makes the sensible decision to let the statistical data dictate the conclusions. As a result, his study bristles with specific information. Some of the recent changes in rural living may be anticipated by the reader, but it is nevertheless extremely helpful to have factual evidence based upon meticulous research. The book is timely, skillfully written, and provocative.

Obviously there has been much progress in agriculture since the 1920s. Professor Nelson states that new inventions have increased the productivity of each farm worker seventy-five per cent during the last twenty-five years. Meanwhile the labor requirements for raising corn, wheat, and soybeans have been reduced almost fifty per cent. A Minnesota farmer estimated that labor-saving devices eliminated 138 miles of walking for him annually. In 1950, ninety per cent of the farm families of the United States had electricity, sixty-three per cent owned automobiles, and seventy-two per cent lived on all-weather roads. Yet, the study indicates that modern farmers do not have two Cadillacs in every garage. In 1950, two-thirds of the farm families of the nation had incomes of less than twenty-five hundred dollars a year, while only two per cent received over ten thousand dollars annually.

The author suggests that certain misconceptions about rural America need revision and that some of the so-called rural virtues have been exaggerated. He notes, for example, that the crime rate is rising faster in the country than in the cities; that farm people do not attend church as faithfully as those in urban areas; and that the real "Bible Belt" is in the eastern coastal states rather than in the Midwest. Mr. Nelson also produces figures indicating that almost ninety per cent of farm children under fourteen years of age are illegally employed, according to the child labor laws; that farm work, instead of being idyllic, is one of the most hazardous vocations from the standpoint of accidents; that local county governments are the most unprogressive groups in America; that farm communities pay the lowest teachers' salaries and place maximum censorship upon the free discussion of controversial issues in the classrooms; and that over a million migrant hired men on farms are forced to live at an economic level reminiscent of the days of chattel slavery.

Farm people frequently complain about bureaucrats in Washington, yet numerically the country's greatest bureaucracy seems to reside in the local county farm agencies. For example, in De Kalb County, Illinois, one of the wealthiest agricultural areas in the United States, there are 223 people on government payrolls to administer the local farm programs. Rural folk who like to think they are self-reliant and independent may be a bit shocked by the author's observation that "It can scarcely be gainsaid that the farmers have more service provided for them at public expense than any other occupational or industrial group in American society." Readers who disagree with the writer's conclusions must prefer their own preconceived notions to evidence substantiated by cold facts, like those presented by the author of this convincing study.

VERSATILE DIPLOMAT

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, vol. 9, 1 November 1785 to 22 June 1786; vol. 10, 22 June to 31 December 1786. Edited by JULIAN P. BOYD. (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1954. xxix, 669, xxx, 654 p. Illustrations. $10.00 each.)

Reviewed by Jesse H. Shera

THESE TWO VOLUMES are of particular interest since they include many documents...
which have suffered neglect in previous editions of Jefferson's writings. During 1785 and 1786, when the American minister to France was engaged in negotiating a treaty of amity and commerce with Portugal, striving to maintain American prestige and credit abroad, and endeavoring to deal with the depredations of the Barbary states, his correspondence and papers are still filled with material of importance to American political and social history.

In the pages of these two volumes are recounted the events of Jefferson's only extended visit to England in April, 1786, his presentation to the court of George III, his tour of the English gardens, his inspection of steam-powered gristmills, and his vision of the changes which steam could bring to American industrial life. The period here covered is not a politically exciting one, although it includes such events as a treaty with Morocco, the proposal for a concert of powers to deal with the pirates, and the beginning of Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts. Of interest also is Jefferson's voluminous correspondence during these years with American political figures in the effort to maintain American credit.

Probably of greater importance are Jefferson's relations with the savants of France and America. He maintained a lively correspondence with President Stiles of Yale, and with Charles Thomson and Francis Hopkinson of Philadelphia. He was particularly concerned that French writers should present an accurate picture of America, and to this end he prepared extensive revisions of Déménier's contributions to the Encyclopédie Méthodique.

Students of Jefferson's psychology will find especially revealing the documentation of his romantic affair with Maria Cosway, even though the story can never be completely told for lack of records. The most important letter (written with his left hand because his right wrist had been fractured) is the twelve-page dialogue between his heart and his reason, a struggle in which the latter eventually gained domination. Seldom has Jefferson been so introspective; fortified with such source materials, a psychiatrist could doubtless achieve interpretations which would astonish a layman.

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Jefferson the scientist is again revealed in such letters as the one to M. Le Roy of the Académie des Sciences, in which he discusses the nature of winds with no insignificant display of scientific erudition. In short, through these pages Jefferson once more is revealed as not only the leading political philosopher of his own or any other age, but also a horticulturist, scientist and, through his labors to make accurate François Soulé's Histoire des Troubles de l'Amerique Anglaise, a meticulous historian in the highest tradition.

In the back fold of the dust jacket of volume 10, the publishers announce that a "throwaway" index covering the first six volumes will be "available." An index would indeed be a welcome supplement to this steadily growing shelf of volumes, but if one has appeared, this reviewer has not yet seen it.

LOUISIANA IN PICTURES

Westward the Way: The Character and Development of the Louisiana Territory as Seen by Artists and Writers of the Nineteenth Century. Edited by Perry T. Rathbone. (St. Louis, City Art Museum of St. Louis in collaboration with the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, 1954. 280 p. Illustrations. $3.95.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

THIS HANDSOME volume provides a permanent record of an important Midwest art exhibit arranged to commemorate the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The 224 oil paintings, water colors, drawings, and prints here reproduced were assembled at the City Art Museum of St. Louis by tapping the resources of museums, historical societies, dealers, and private collectors at home and abroad. Collaborating with the St. Louis group in sponsoring both the book and the exhibit was the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis, which presented the show early in 1955, after it closed in St. Louis.

Like the display, the book is divided into six sections, dealing with "The Land" and scenic features of the Louisiana country, "The Indian" who inhabited the area, "The Birds and Animals" found there, "The White Man" who settled the territory, "The Settlements" that evolved with westward migration, and the
means of transportation "By Land and Water" used in reaching the region. In planning both the exhibit and the book, preference was given to "pictorial records that deal with the life and land of the Louisiana Territory during the period of its exploration, settlement and development" before the "closing of the last frontier in the nineties." The pictures were selected by Catherine Filsinger and William N. Eisendrath, Jr., who also chose from the vast literature relating to the Louisiana country the appropriate passages that appear with each visual record in the printed volume. As a result, according to the director of the St. Louis museum, who edited the work, the "story of the opening of the West is told verbally and graphically by many of the gifted men and women who experienced it and felt deeply about it." Mr. Bathbone contributes a general introduction in which he sets the tone for Westward the Way, as well as an introductory essay for each section. The historical background is sketched by Frederick E. Voelker.

Although "art, literature and social history are combined" with notable success in this work, some matters of selection may well be questioned. Why, for example, did the compilers overlook men who made such significant contributions to Midwest art as Edwin Whitefield, Adolf Hoeffler, Frank B. Mayer, and Alfred Sully? Why is so much emphasis and space given to the work of Seth Eastman? Why is Henry Lewis, whose original paintings are easily available, represented only by one small lithographed illustration? Why was an uninteresting black and white lithograph of 1879 chosen for Minneapolis? Why did all but one of the Minnesota lithographs in the show come from the Chicago Historical Society? The reasons for these and other decisions may have been valid, but they are not explained in the editor's statement that many pictures "we had ardently hoped to include lay beyond our reach."

A reprint of the catalogue section on pages 261-272 might have proved helpful to those who saw the exhibit in St. Louis and Minneapolis, for the book, with its hard binding and enamel paper, is far too heavy to be conveniently consulted while viewing an art show. But the very features that interfered with its use-

MISS HEILBRON is the editor of this magazine.

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FUR TRADER'S LOT


Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

IT IS UNLIKELY that anyone will read this thick volume for adventure or excitement, but it will prove highly useful for the historian of the fur trade. Like the diary kept by Hugh Faries at a Rainy River post in 1804 and 1805, it is full of the commonplaces of fort life, the very data usually omitted in accounts of the trade. From it we can learn how the buildings were constructed, what the men ate, how they occupied their days, where and how they secured their food, how often they were ill, and all the other minutiae of post life. The Indians become individuals to us as we read of them by name, day after day.

Though the diaries were kept at Moose Fort on the southern tip of Hudson Bay, they reflect the life at many dependent or adjacent posts, both along the shore and inland. Indeed, there was a very close connection between Moose and Albany forts, on the one hand, and Michipicoten and other trading houses on Lake Superior. The volume mentions a trip to Michipicoten made in 1776 by Edward Jarvis, the surgeon and master of Albany House in the period covered by these diaries and letters, and earlier the master of Moose Fort before the diarist of this volume took charge there. A section of a journal kept by Jarvis on that journey is quoted in a footnote, and supplies welcome information about Alexander Henry, one of the earliest English traders in the Minnesota country. In it the houses of Henry and another trader at Michipicoten are described as "nothing more than logs fastened together by wooden spikes in the form of a small country barn; the roof covered with birch
rind: the Entrance into the Huts was on the broad side, which was towards the lake, and rather towards one end. About a third part was a kind of an outer room where were beds for two men... the Hav is a pallisadoe round each Hut. I observed no kind of fasting capable of keeping out even an Indian... the remaining two thirds is again divided lengthways the lesser half being the Masters room the other the trading room.” It is gratifying to learn more about the type of early English trading posts than has been available heretofore.

Besides the two journals for 1783-84 and 1784-85, the book contains several substantial appendixes. One of them, 186 pages in length, includes correspondence of general interest between John Thomas, master at Moose Fort, and traders at various other posts in 1784 and 1785.

As is usual with the publications of the Hudson’s Bay Company, the volume is well edited, supplied with an excellent introduction and index, annotated with care, and printed on superb paper. Three early maps show the Moose River and its post, the Albany River and its fort, and the Shude River on the east side of the bay with Eastmain House indicated.

PLAINS TRIBES


Reviewed by F. Sanford Cutler

THE LENGTH of this book is deceptive, for in two-hundred pages Dr. Lowie presents a lucid and comprehensive picture of Plains Indian life which justly deserves the much overworked term “definitive.” There have been a number of excellent studies of individual tribes, including the author’s own volume on the Crow, but no one has ever before succeeded in bringing into one focus the varied customs, artifacts, and beliefs of all of the tribes in the Plains area.

The organization of the book is simple. A brief introduction identifying the various tribes is followed by sections on their material culture, social organization, recreation, art, and religion. This descriptive material, occupying about ninety per cent of the text, paints a well-defined picture of both the nomadic buffalo hunters and the more sedentary tribes who managed to maintain an agricultural economy.

Dr. Lowie resists the temptation to draw rigid boundaries for the Plains area, and he compares Plains traits with practices in adjacent regions. The Santee Sioux are included not merely because they were part of the Dakota group, but because Minnesota represented an important transitional area between the Woodland and the Plains.

In two concluding chapters, the author discusses very briefly the effect of white culture upon that of the Indian, and summarizes the prehistory and history of the Plains. There his conclusions may draw some critical fire, for he is convinced that the role of the horse in the development of Plains culture has been greatly exaggerated. Utilizing such sources as the writings of Father Hennepin, he finds strong evidence for an early beginning of many traits associated with the later period. This is a field in which a great deal of work needs to be done. Perhaps restudying some of the early travel accounts in the light of current archaeological discoveries will produce more evidence to support or disprove this theory. There is little else in the book that could be considered controversial. Dr. Lowie does not make the mistake of overstressing the agricultural activities of the Mandan, Hadatsa, and Arikara, and the dependence of the Dakota and Cheyenne upon hunting. He points out that the agriculture-hunting food dichotomy is more apparent than real, since trade between the two groups provided the buffalo-hunting tribes with vegetables and since the more settled village tribes hunted to supplement their agricultural diets.

Particular mention should be made of the illustrations. Although there are a few Bodmer’s and some excellent photographs, most of the illustrations are simple line drawings, large enough to show detail, prepared especially for this volume. Interspersed appropriately throughout the text, instead of being thrown together in sections as has been the practice with several recent works, they add both to the attractive-
ness and readability of the book. The work includes an index and a selective critical bibliography.

As the first study to be published in the Anthropological Series of the American Museum of Natural History, this work sets an almost impossibly high standard for the authors of succeeding volumes.

FORESTRY PIONEER


Reviewed by Robert Y. Kerr

This fascinating and colorful book is of much historical importance, telling as it does the story of early scientific forestry in the woodlands of the United States. It is based upon the recollections and records of Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck, a famous German forester brought to the United States in 1895 by George W. Vanderbilt to take charge of the latter's forestry interests in the mountains of North Carolina.

Mr. Vanderbilt was interested primarily in creating a great landed estate. Biltmore House had forty-eight guest rooms and was surrounded by 120,000 acres of land. Although the earliest objectives seem to have leaned toward elaborate estate landscaping, the plan to develop Biltmore also called for the reforesting of depleted acres. It was in the Biltmore Forests that Dr. Schenck adjusted his German training to the special problems of American forestry and founded the Biltmore Forest School. The book, however, is much more than a technical account of forestry problems and the founding and management of the school. It is rich with recollections of Mr. Vanderbilt, of famous visitors to Biltmore House, of dealings with Southern mountaineers and prominent fellow foresters.

In America, Dr. Schenck found it necessary to modify some of his European forestry practices. He discovered, for example, that American foresters had to know about logging and lumbering and the enormously difficult technique of lumber grading. He felt that forestry, in America, is a business—a business that must justify itself by being financially profitable. Dr. Schenck soon found he could not interest businessmen in forestry solely on the basis of the ultimate value of trees grown from seedlings to saw size, because the time needed in the process was so long. But forestry, as forest management, could be profitable as the easily accessible stands of virgin timber were harvested, creating a scarcity value for those trees remaining. Thus, Dr. Schenck reasoned, an important function of forest management was making less accessible stands of timber available. To do this, a forester must be, among other things, a skilled builder of access roads. "Good roads," says the doctor simply, "are needed to practice forestry." Dr. Schenck clashed at times with other prominent foresters who had then accepted the current French theory that forestry and silviculture were identical, and that silviculture consisted wholly in the art of raising a new generation of forest trees. Schenck considered reforestation an essential but rather small part of the extensive task of forest management.

At Biltmore, Dr. Schenck founded the first forest school in the United States—unique among such schools in that it was associated not with a university but with a forest. The Biltmore school began work in the fall of 1898. Its purpose was to train foresters for private industry, and it was especially interested in attracting the sons of timber owners. Following the example of Sir Dietrich Brandis, inspector general of forestry in India, with whom he had worked in Europe, Dr. Schenck made it a practice to instruct Biltmore students "in localities where things were being done." This meant that students worked in forests where scientific practices were being applied—not only at Biltmore, but in many other forests in America and Europe.

The Biltmore school was disbanded in 1913, when Dr. Schenck returned to forestry work in his native Germany. Years later he attended a convention in New York with many of his former Biltmore students. They were then middle-aged men; some operating their own forest holdings, others holding high forestry

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positions. They had come long distances to see their much-beloved professor. He was a vigorous man, of sparkling personality. He died in Germany at an advanced age as this review was going to press. The American Forest History Foundation and the Minnesota Historical Society have performed a valuable service in making available this warmly personal story of early American scientific forestry.

CHANGING INDIANS


Reviewed by Elden Johnson

THIS HIGHLY READABLE BOOK is a record of persistence and change in the way of life of an Indian group which has been in contact with the white man and his culture for over three hundred years. Professor Wallis, recently retired chairman of the department of anthropology in the University of Minnesota, first met and studied the Micmac shortly before World War I. Much of the material on Micmac culture and folklore in this volume was obtained at that time.

In 1951 and again in 1953, Professor and Mrs. Wallis returned to New Brunswick to restudy the Micmac and to analyze recent changes in their culture. They found that, in contrast to the cultural conservatism present during the greater portion of white contact, rapid cultural changes had taken place in the period following World War I. Culture change is not a simple process, and although many factors have influenced this acceleration among the Micmac, undoubtedly one of the most important must have been modern mass communication.

This book will be welcomed by ethnologists, historians, and Americanists alike, and Professor and Mrs. Wallis are to be congratulated on their successful co-operative venture. The University of Minnesota Press should also receive praise for publishing this most worth-while volume in such competent fashion.

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SEARCH FOR CATHAY

Book Collecting and Scholarship. Essays by Theodore C. Blegen, James Ford Bell, Stanley Pargellis, Colton Storm, & Louis B. Wright. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1954. 67 p. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Elmer L. Andersen

A FEW CENTURIES ago tradesmen sought a shorter route to the gold, fine raiment, and spices of the Far East. While searching, they lived and recorded an epoch of discovery and exploration.

The maps, manuscripts, and books of that period commanded the interest of a modern titan of trade — James Ford Bell of Minneapolis, builder of General Mills. He assembled a collection of great scholarly and historical significance and last year gave it to the University of Minnesota together with provisions for its safekeeping and appropriate use. On October 30, 1953, the university, of which Mr. Bell is an alumnus and a regent, dedicated the James Ford Bell room. The afternoon program of papers on the subject of "Book Collecting and Scholarship," together with Mr. Bell's remarks at the dinner which followed, make up the contents of the attractive volume which is the subject of this review.

Dr. Blegen, distinguished dean of Minnesota's graduate school and former director of the Minnesota Historical Society, selected "A Glorious Court" as his subject. To explain his title, he remarked that "Books collected with considered design are not rare jewels to be guarded jealously in permanently locked cases and closed vaults, but legible pages of enlightenment open to use by responsible men and women trying to understand the meanings of human life in the perspective of time. Books thus collected form the kind of 'glorious court' in which Beaumont and Fletcher liked to converse and counsel with 'old sages and philosophers' and, for variety, with kings and emperors." In Mr. Bell's "glorious court," Dr. Blegen finds Ptolemy and Marco Polo, Columbus penning his first post-discovery letter home, and the

MR. ANDERSEN, a St. Paul businessman who represents the Forty-second District in the Minnesota senate, is a distinguished book collector in his own right.
Jesuits of 1632–73 writing their contemporary reports from the Western World — to name but a few.

Mr. Bell's brief comments trace his interest in the subject of "trade" as "an expression of the world's economy of living" and his collection as "certain fragments of time bound up in books."

In his contribution, Stanley Pargellis of the Newberry Library defines a rare book as one which is important, is in demand, and is not easily available. He stresses the importance of collections like Mr. Bell's, which satisfy the scholars' need for original editions.

The development of "The Specialized Collection" is outlined by Colton Storm, director of the Western Reserve Historical Society and the author of a number of volumes on collecting. He points out that the enthusiasm and means of the collector, together with the guidance provided by book dealers and librarians, combine to produce a specialized collection like Mr. Bell's which is too significant to be dispersed.

In his essay, Louis B. Wright, director of the Folger Library, pays tribute to "American Book Collectors." He calls attention to the fact that a hundred years ago there was not a single adequate research library in the United States. Now we are possessed of some of the finest libraries in the world. American book-collecting philanthropists have brought about the change, and in so doing have immortalized themselves. Dr. Wright draws his examples particularly from the Huntington and Folger libraries.

Book Collecting and Scholarship is a satisfying book with excellent typography and design. It is a completely appropriate memento of the acquisition of the Bell collection by the University of Minnesota.

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

The Nation and the States, Rivals or Partners?
By William Anderson. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1955. xvi, 263 p. $3.75.)

Reviewed by G. Theodore Mitau

THE 1952 presidential campaign re-echoed the many attacks made upon the growing power of the federal government during the last twenty years by those groups, both private and public, which considered the domestic and public welfare policies of the recent Democratic administrations "bureaucratic," "socialistic," "paternalistic," and destructive of the American traditions of "individualism" and "states' rights."

President Eisenhower, only three months after assuming office, urged upon Congress the establishment of the nation's first Intergovernmental Relations Commission "to review and assess with prudence and foresight the proper roles of the Federal, State and local Governments." Particular emphasis was to be placed upon a study of the administrative and fiscal problems surrounding the fields of public health, education, social security, and other grants-in-aid areas.

This book represents an expansion of a working paper prepared for the commission by one of the nation's foremost authorities on federalism, Professor William Anderson of the University of Minnesota, who is himself one of the twenty-five presidential appointees to that important agency.

Professor Anderson's thesis is stated lucidly and courageously. He does not believe that the case against "bigness" and "centralization" in American government has been proved nor that there is any need for fundamental changes in the relations between national and state governments so far as the administration and financing of the grants-in-aid programs are concerned. As long as the people effectively control both national and state government there is no reason to fear bigness for bigness' sake.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Anderson's brief survey of the grants-in-aid programs in actual operation provides rather persuasive evidence that real achievements have been made in federal-state-local administrative co-operation and that the public has been rendered responsible service. In intergovernmental taxation, Dr. Anderson aligns himself forcefully with those people in the field of public finance who prefer a certain amount of federal-state tax overlapping to either rigidly separating sources or dedicating funds.

The challenge that the Founding Fathers would have strongly disapproved such "encroachments" is skillfully met with ample refer-
ences to constitutional authorities and to the *Federalist*, leaving little doubt that the dominant voices both at Philadelphia and later on the Supreme Court itself wished above all to create a vigorous national government with a constitution reigning supremely over an "indestructible Union composed of indestructible States."

The author of this volume presents his case calmly, factually, and constructively in language understandable by a general reader wishing to know more about the complex problems in federal-state relations. "A due comprehension of this double organization," wrote James Bryce in the *American Commonwealth* in 1888, "is the first and indispensable step to the comprehension of American institutions."

**WILD-LIFE TRAGEDY**


Reviewed by W. J. Breckenridge

THE PASSENGER PIGEON may not have been North America's most abundant bird, but its intense gregariousness brought about local concentrations that overshadow anything in our history. This fact and the unprecedented rapidity with which the bird disappeared totally and completely from the American scene "due to the thoughtlessness and insatiable greed of man" make it a most intriguing subject for Mr. Schorger's researches.

This compendium, which might be called the "History of the Fall of the Passenger Pigeon Empire," records such astonishing numbers of these birds that we, with our present-day experience with wild-life abundance, might well refuse to believe them. It reports contradictory "facts" enough to keep scientific ornithologists arguing for years. It relates slaughter stories to make the worst game hog drool. It has heart-wringing accounts of cruelty even the least sensitive sentimentalist. It presents for the use of conservationists and game managers one of the world's best examples of what not to do. It gives crop damage accounts to make farmers thank their lucky stars they do not have to take out pigeon insurance. And last, but not least, it is an outstanding example of a really thorough coverage of historical sources that historians and other writers to come may well emulate.

Since the passenger pigeon is now extinct, it is difficult to evaluate conflicting reports on "facts" regarding its life history. Today's wild-life technicians often find conflicting ideas about game species held by various sportsmen and, with presently existing species, these technicians carry out field studies to clarify such points, but not so with the passenger pigeon. For this reason, Professor Schorger has accepted the challenge to critically amass recorded reports and from these data to discuss as many phases of the bird's life processes as possible. The material is arranged in sixteen chapters of interesting, but often gruesome, reading under such headings as nestings, roosts, movements, food, distribution, migration, methods of capture, and utilization.

The author is continually faced with the problem of sorting the exaggerated tales from the factual accounts. In his words, "The credibility of the estimates of the number of pigeons killed at a particular nesting is clouded by the motives of the contributor. The conservationists overestimated the numbers, while game buyers pursued the opposite course."

In the chapter on "Decrease and Extinction" the author mentions most of the reasonable, as well as some of the unreasonable, theories proposed to explain the final disappearance of this species. These include: persistent persecution by man, disease, marine disaster, forest fires, reduction of mast-bearing trees, unfavorable weather conditions, inbreeding, lack of coordination in individual breeding cycles, migration to other lands, eating of "spiced" baits, and the curses of the French-Canadian priests.

Beyond a doubt, persecution by man, with all his destructive ingenuity, reduced the vast hordes of the middle 1800s to scattered remnants less than fifty years later. The birds' blind, unchanging urge to live gregariously, even when facing extermination, enabled professional pigeoners to continue the destruction right to the very brink of extinction. After evaluating all the proposed explanations, the author concludes that "the passenger pigeon is now extinct."

MR. BRECKENRIDGE is director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Minnesota.
pigeon became extinct through such constant persecution that it was unable to raise sufficient young to perpetuate the race.” In the reviewer’s opinion, this factor explains the reduction in numbers to the point below which the bird could not recover, and thus indirectly it did cause the birds’ extinction. But the exact reason for the disappearance of the last remnants of the species, which were too small to interest hunters, is still not known. Further research on the biology of colonial species may in time throw more light on this tragic event.

To Minnesotans the part played by their state in the “Drama of the Pigeons” is doubtless of prime interest. A distribution map on page 257 outlines the principal nesting area of the passenger pigeon as extending from southern Maine westward to Minnesota, south to southern Indiana, and east to about New York City. Only the southeastern tip of Minnesota is included in this area. Another line, however, encloses the entire area of known nestings. This includes the whole of Minnesota, pushing far to the northwest beyond Lake Manitoba, south to the central Texas gulf coast, east to Florida, and north to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. Minnesota nestings mentioned include “an island in the Mississippi four miles below Hastings” in 1861 and 1862, and “near Chatfield, Minnesota, three years in succession” from 1863 through 1865. Migration dates are listed on page 274 from twenty different Minnesota localities, all south of a line between Duluth and Grant County. In a chapter on “Late Records,” mention is made of one bird taken in 1891 on the Root River in Houston County, and of a male bird, a nest, and an egg taken at Minneapolis in 1895. A more complete compilation of records of passenger pigeons in Minnesota, gleaned largely from local newspapers, was made in 1940 by Mrs. Evadene Burris Swanson for her doctoral thesis on “The Use and Conservation of Minnesota Game.” Unfortunately, this has never been published, but it is available in the University of Minnesota library. It seems obvious from these brief accounts that Minnesota was on the western margin of the area of really big pigeon nestings, and that it actually played a somewhat minor role in this spectacular wildlife drama. In spite of this, some of the Minnesota nestings, notably that near Chatfield, did attract a vast amount of local attention.

In bringing us the recorded history of this phenomenal bird, Professor Schorger has included separate reference lists with each of the sixteen chapters, together with a general reference list, all of which total 2,461 articles. And he adds that “If there were included all the references in the newspapers in the various states, the list would readily extend to 10,000.”

This compilation will probably remain unique among American ornithological works, since no other species of bird has played so spectacular a part in American history. It might appropriately be pointed out that it parallels in many ways Frank Gilbert Roe’s excellent volume on *The North American Buffalo*, for the bison is the one mammal that played a similar role in pioneer days. Fortunately, however, it escaped final extermination, though by a narrow margin.

**RIVER FISHING**


Reviewed by Samuel Eddy

IN THIS BOOKLET, Mrs. Carlander provides an interesting but brief review of past fishing, and attempts to improve it, in the Mississippi River between Carutherville, Missouri, and St. Paul. Since prehistoric times people along the river have eagerly sought its fish and mussels, but the early records, upon which Mrs. Carlander and other writers have been forced to depend, are largely in the form of kitchen middens and scanty bits of early literature.

Like all great rivers, the Mississippi has suffered much from flooding, shifting channels, and man-made pollution. Attempts to correct and stabilize these conditions are described, as are the rather futile efforts to introduce new fish and to rescue fish from isolated sloughs. Also included is a discussion of the commercial use of the shells of mussels for the manufacture of buttons, an important industry that began in 1889, flourished for a decade, and dwindled

Mr. Eddy, professor of zoology in the University of Minnesota, is coauthor of a volume on the fish of the upper Mississippi Valley.
as the supply of mussels was exhausted faster than it could be replaced. The failure of this resource gave rise to the establishment of an outstanding biological station at Fairport, Iowa, where for several decades prominent scientists studied the problems of the great river. Reminiscent of a once prosperous industry are piles of discarded shells and abandoned button factories along the upper river.

Commercial fishermen have seined, netted, and trapped fish from the river since pioneer times, in order to supply near-by towns with catfish, buffalo fish, shad, and carp. Sometimes these fish were abundant enough to send to distant cities, but in recent years the supply has not met the local demand and fish from distant places are now shipped to river towns. The writer surveys the story of commercial fishing, and also shows how anglers have found the Mississippi ideal for such game fish as smallmouth bass and channel catfish, though the river has never attained the fishing reputation enjoyed by many smaller streams. The huge size reached by some of the fish and the wide channels of the river have given rise to such unique angling methods as "jugging" and trot-line fishing.

The legislatures of the various states have, from time to time, passed laws attempting to regulate fishing in the river, but their enforcement has usually been complicated by interstate jurisdiction. The need for uniform regulations has become more and more evident in recent years. To study and gather information on the fish and conditions for fish life in the upper river, the states bordering on it in 1943 created the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, which sponsored and published the study under review. In Minnesota, copies may be obtained free of charge from the state conservation department.

This small monograph is crammed with documented information about the river, but much of the colorful story of fishing in the Mississippi has never been told. Although volumes have been written about steamboating on the Mississippi River, the picturesque record of its fish and fishing remains to be exploited.

Mr. Dorson is a member of the history faculty in Michigan State University at East Lansing. He is the author of a volume on folk traditions of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Making Heroes


Reviewed by Richard M. Dorson

THE PRESENT BOOK immediately calls to mind the study published by the late Dixon Wecter in 1941 on The Hero in America. This volume deals with a number of the same figures treated by Mr. Wecter—John Smith, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Buffalo Bill, and Henry Ford. It considers also pseudo folk heroes like Paul Bunyan and Joe Magerac, and such movie characterizations as those of Douglas Fairbanks and Mickey Mouse. Where the work of Mr. Wecter is generously documented, skillfully presented, and rich in insights, that of Mr. Fishwick is written in a sophomoric prose, with meager references, and little novelty of ideas. His chief thesis is that American heroes are made, not born, and in its support he discusses writers, promoters, and publicists who have established the fame of their particular subjects. According to Mr. Fishwick, the legend of Henry Ford came from a trio of intimate henchmen—his chief engineer, Sorenson, his public relations expert, Cameron, and his finger-man, Harry Bennett. The saga of Billy the Kid is said to rest upon the writings of four sensationalists: Ash Upson, Charles Siringo, Emerson Hough, and Walter Noble Burns. George Washington is indebted to Parson Weems and Sol Bloom, his bicentennial chairman. It seems that folk heroes, especially, are manufactured wholesale.

In the America of ballyhoo and the big build-up, the hucksters undoubtedly contribute to the formation of heroes. The present treatment, however, is itself of the huckster variety, oversimplified and journalistic, with none of the sensitive inquiry into the intellectual premises of a particular period that distinguishes Henry Nash Smith's analysis of nineteenth-century myths of the Far West. Leo Gurko's recent study of Heroes, Highbrows and the Popular Mind pursues one intriguing aspect of American idolatry—the national preference for the virile rather than the intellectual hero. Mr. Fishwick, on the other hand, fails to probe very deeply in any direction. He does not explain why
the publicists of a given hero managed to project successfully to the public and to posterity the particular image they had created. Why should contradictory pictures of Billy the Kid equally attract attention? Did folk tradition or popular literature give Billy his start? Mr. Fishwick refers briefly to oral legends about the Kid, but does not document them.

The writing is studded with such puerile epigrams as "Thought is the alternation between collecting and interpreting [sic] data." Quotations constantly appear without sources. Coleridge is identified as "the English poet," for the benefit of illiterate readers. In his chapter on John Smith, Mr. Fishwick helps himself to Wecker's information, even using the same quotations, without acknowledgment. Writing on John Dillinger, he quotes approvingly from an uninformed article by B. E. Banta to the effect that no top-flight folk hero was ever named John, when on the contrary, it is the commonest of all names for the heroes of Indo-European Märchen.

The subject of American heroes and hero worship has irresistible attraction for the student of American civilization and folklore. This book makes evident the need for careful studies of individual heroes.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

"TOWARD a Reorientation of Western History: Continuity and Environment" is the title of a stimulating article by Earl Pomeroy in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review for March. Decrying what he regards as the prevalent interpretation of Western history based on "the environmental theory and the radical theme," the author remarks that "the historian has himself often operated within a formula, neglecting the spread and continuity of 'Eastern' institutions and ideas to the West." Some of the "channels of acculturation" which Mr. Pomeroy feels need additional exploration are the operation of the territorial system in the West, the influence of the army, and the parts played by the churches and the schools there. Other fields suggested for new scrutiny include the legend of political radicalism in the West and the overemphasis on romantic individual adventures in the economic history of the area.

THE HISTORIAN today "finds himself in an expanding universe of his subject, largely owing to the development of other related subjects such as archaeology, anthropology, economics, and sociology. And this expanding past is helping and forcing him to see his subject in ever widening terms." Thus writes R. Flenley in an interesting discussion of "History and Its Neighbours Today," which appears in the December, 1953, issue of the Canadian Historical Review. The writer suggests that modern industrialism "has brought new issues for the historian," and he notes "the growing recognition by historians of the place of cultural and intellectual history, for a truer understanding of the past."

"THE WORK of the historians has so far only scratched the surface" in studying "Some Consequences of the Urban Movement in American History" suggests W. Stull Holt in the November, 1953, number of the Pacific Historical Review. He believes that "for an understanding of American life and American history from the Civil War to the present no more fruitful interpretation exists than the significance of the urban movement," the effects of which have not been adequately explored.

ONE OF the disconcerting rumors that "complicated the army's problems of western administration" following the Civil War is discussed by Robert G. Athearn in an article on "The Fort Buford 'Massacre'" in the March number of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. The supposed "massacre" at Fort Buford in Dakota Territory was widely "reported as a virtual annihilation of a brave command," according to the author, who points out that the lurid and distorted accounts published in contemporary newspapers contrasted sharply with the "actual background of Indian troubles." The Fort Buford and similar incidents greatly added to the problems faced by General William T. Sherman, commander of the Military Division of the Missouri in 1867, according to Mr. Athearn. Another aspect of the same military leader's postwar career in the West is examined by Mr. Athearn in the February
issue of the Pacific Historical Review. Under the title "General Sherman and the Western Railroads," the author sets forth his subject's views on the construction of the Union Pacific, the Northern Pacific, and other Western roads, and on the importance of railroads in the defense of the West.

AN ARTICLE by Kathryn Troxel on "Food of the Overland Emigrants," appearing in the March number of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, provides interesting firsthand glimpses of "how these resourceful men and women kept themselves alive" on their long journeys to Oregon and California in the 1840s and 1850s. Information culled from diaries, reports, and emigrant guides is used by the author to describe the food supplies and cooking utensils carried by the settlers, their menus, and their methods of preparing food.

PICTORIAL glimpses of farm life during the period from 1865 to 1914 are presented in Down on the Farm by Stewart Holbrook and Milton Rugoff (New York, Crown Publishers, 1954. $5.00.). Here is a nostalgic family album for the hammock reader who likes to think that all life was beautiful in the old horse and buggy days. Although there are many interesting photographic reproductions in this collection, the total result is a hodgepodge of miscellaneous Americana which attempts to be all things to all people and thus suffers the inevitable results. Hasty organization of materials, sketchy comments, questionable selection of items, and inadequate coverage of Southern and Western agricultural scenes tend to reduce the usefulness of the volume. Yet, to a people conditioned to television, these flash backs to the days of the old oaken bucket may provide a brief, pleasant interlude. R. M. WIK

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE has paid a fine tribute to one of its most generous and loyal friends by publishing The John H. Hauberg Historical Essays, compiled and edited by O. Fritzof Ander (Rock Island, 1954. 70 p.). The book contains essays centering about the Lincoln theme and pioneer experiences in the Middle West. Of these, Professor Paul W. Gates' essay on Frederick Weyerhaeuser will be of greatest interest to Minnesota readers. Here is an interesting snapshot of the great logging industry which flourished in the Midwest from the late 1860s through the middle 1890s. Special consideration is given the genius of the man who more than anyone else in his time seemed to sense the role which the vast pineries were playing in national development and who grasped and most successfully exploited the opportunity offered business enterprise. Professor Gates points up the tremendous field for research in this area of American history — an area in which he, Professor Agnes Larson, and Dr. Robert Fries have made a most notable beginning. E. M. MAUNDER

A USEFUL LIST of "State Historical Organizations" appears in the May issue of History News, a monthly publication of the American Association for State and Local History. Names of directing officers and addresses are included.

A CUMULATIVE INDEX to The Beaver, recently issued by the Hudson's Bay Company (1955. 63 p.), is a valuable tool for students of Northwest history. Covering the period from the magazine's founding in October, 1920, to March, 1954, the index makes readily available to scholars and librarians the wealth of material on exploration and the fur trade to be found in the pages of this periodical. The rich store of pictorial material illustrating the magazine also is indexed.

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

THE CENTENNIAL of the completion of the St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal, observed during the current summer with appropriate ceremonies, is the occasion for the publication of a number of articles dealing with this vital waterway linking Lakes Superior and Huron. An important document in the canal's history has been edited by Philip P. Mason and published in the March number of Michigan History as "The Operation of the Sauff Canal, 1857". It is the first annual report of the canal superintendent, Elisha Calkins, to the governor of Michigan, and it provides details on the maintenance of the waterway during its first years, on the receipts and expenditures of its operation, and on the amount of miscellaneous freight and copper shipped through it.

A readable account of the building of the canal is contributed by Walter Havighurst to the April number of American Heritage. Writing under the title "The Way to the Big Sea Water," Mr. Havighurst describes the use of the historic portage bypassing the rapids in the St. Mary's River and reviews the work of Charles T. Harvey, who superintended the construction of the ship canal. Subsequent alterations that have made it "the busiest industrial highway on earth" also are mentioned.

Photographs of the canal today, together with a map showing the location of its locks,
are to be found with a brief article entitled “Century-Old Locks” in the April number of People and Places, a magazine published by the De Soto-Plymouth dealers.

TO CALL attention to the centennial of the death of Giacomo C. Beltrami, Umberto Bonchi retells in Bergamo the story of the explorer’s search for the source of the Mississippi. The Italian periodical in which the article appears is published by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of the city of Bergamo, where Beltrami was born in 1779. The writer exploits Beltrami as a famous native son, crediting him with the actual discovery of the source of the great river. With the narrative is a portrait and a map of the area explored by Beltrami.

THE GOLDEN anniversary in 1955 of the establishment of the United States Forest Service in its present form is the occasion for the publication of an article by L. B. Ritter on “Fifty Years of U. S. Forestry” in the January-February issue of the Conservation Volunteer. The author speaks of the beginnings of the national forest program and its administration by the forest service, of the history of the Chippewa and Superior national forests of Minnesota, of other forestry activities in the state, of the progress in forestry research during the past half century, and of the growth of schools of forestry in the United States.

THE TWENTIETH anniversary of the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration is noted in the Duluth News-Tribune of May 8 under the title “REA Takes New Lease on Life.” The article notes that since the creation of the agency on May 11, 1935, “revolutionary changes” have occurred in the “use of electricity on farms.” It also reviews the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the REA and describes the role it played in “carrying electricity . . . to . . . the nation’s farms.”

THE UNIVERSITY of Minnesota Press has published a pamphlet entitled The Ten-Year Story of IRC, in which Roberta J. Nelson traces the development of the University of Minnesota’s Industrial Relations Center (1955, 40 p.). The writer points out that the center was founded “to study the problems that arise out of industrial relations in a free society.” Its pioneering work in this controversial field, its growth, and the development of its research and training programs and its service activities are described. A complete bibliography of the center’s publications is included.

INFORMATION on a pioneer Pierce County, Wisconsin, religious organization may be found in a Centennial History of the First Congregational Church of River Falls compiled by Walker D. Wyman (1955, 19 p.). Based largely on official church records, this documented study carries the story of the congregation’s founding by Yankee settlers from the period when the Home Missionary Society “cast a long shadow westward,” to the modern era in which the “church has grown up.”

THE GOLDEN anniversary of the Zumbrota Telephone Company’s operation under its present independent management was marked by the appearance of an informative little booklet entitled 50th Anniversary of the Zumbrota Telephone Company. The author is C. F. Marvin, the company’s manager since 1905. He draws upon local newspapers to trace events in the company’s history, chronicling changes in Zumbrota’s telephone service over a half century. Photographs of both old and new switchboard equipment are included.

A BRIEF REVIEW of the history of the Minnesota Union Advocate, a St. Paul newspaper, appears under the title “Union Advocate Observes 59th Anniversary” in its issue for March 24. The article traces the paper’s ownership from its establishment by P. J. Geraghty in 1896 to its purchase by a “corporation made up of the delegates of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly” in 1920. The paper’s quarters and equipment during more than a half century are mentioned.

IN A SKETCH of Carver County’s history, appearing in the Waconia Patriot of April 7, O. D. Sell calls attention to the “100th Anniversary of the County’s Organization.” Mr. Sell mentions the area’s first election and court term, the incorporation or platting of such villages as Carver, Waconia, Cologne, and Young America, the establishment of churches and schools, and the names of early settlers in various townships.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

THREE TALKS on the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway project, delivered before a joint meeting of the Lexington Group and the American Historical Association in December, 1951, have been mimeographed for limited
distribution. In them, G. Wallace Chessman reviews the “Historical Background of the St. Lawrence Seaway through the First World War”; William B. Willoughby discusses four “St. Lawrence Seaway Understandings” arranged between the Canadian and American governments from 1932 to 1954; and F. Kenneth Hare advances “The Case for the St. Lawrence Seaway Project.”

“SO GREAT was the contribution of the steamboat to Missouri Valley history that it deserves equal rank with the covered wagon as a symbol of the westward movement.” Thus writes William J. Petersen in an informing account of “Steamboating on the Missouri River,” which appears in the December issue of Nebraska History. Mr. Petersen characterizes the growth of steamboating on the Missouri in the middle years of the nineteenth century as “one of the most colorful and dynamic stories in the development of the Trans-Mississippi West.” He records the names and the types of boats in the trade, discusses their contributions to the settlement of the West, their part in carrying the traffic of the gold rushes, and the decline of steamboating after the Civil War. The problems of navigation and the kinds of freight transported on the “Muddy Missouri” also are considered.

TO THE March number of Michigan History, Lynn H. Halverson contributes a useful study of “The Commercial Fisheries of the Michigan Waters of Lake Superior.” The author reviews the historical development of Michigan’s fisheries, describes changes in fishing methods over the years, provides statistics on the annual catch, and discusses such present-day problems as overfishing, conflicting regulations, and the appearance in Lake Superior of the sea lamprey. A map showing the principal Michigan fishing stations and photographs illustrating fishing methods and equipment accompany the article.

A REVISED and corrected edition of a booklet entitled The Apostle Islands has recently been issued by the author, Hamilton N. Ross (1955. 24 p.). First published in 1951, this useful pamphlet contains historical information on the Apostles, with maps and condensed descriptions of individual islands.

IN THE SPRING issue of the Icelandic Canadian John B. Meyer begins an account of “Two Icelandic Settlements” located on Washington Island in Lake Michigan and in Pembina County, North Dakota. He writes that both communities of Icelanders had their beginnings in the 1870s, and he describes their origins and notes briefly their subsequent development.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A BILL creating the “Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission” and carrying with it an appropriation of $100,000 was approved by the 1955 session of the Minnesota legislature. It provides that the fifteen-man commission shall be composed of five members of the state senate, five from the house, and five to be appointed by the governor. The commission is authorized “to make plans for the proper observance and celebration” of the centennial and “to execute and carry out such plans.” A report setting forth the group’s proposals is to be submitted to the 1957 session of the legislature.

THE KENSINGTON rune stone is the subject of six articles by George Rice appearing in the Minneapolis Star from April 11 to 16. The author reviews the controversy centering about the stone’s authenticity and calls attention to recently discovered evidence from the library of Olaf Ohman, who found the stone in 1898, suggesting that he may have carved the inscription. While other opponents of the stone’s authenticity have usually stressed its linguistic peculiarities, Mr. Rice is more concerned with proving that Ohman had the motivation and knowledge needed to carve the inscription. The first article of the series is accompanied by illustrations showing the location in which the stone was found and reproducing the text of an alleged first draft of the inscription. Three additional articles in rebuttal, prepared by Harold S. Langland, were published in the Star on May 18, 19, and 20. Mr. Langland stresses the importance of mooring stones in providing supporting evidence of the rune stone’s authenticity and summarizes many of the arguments put forth by the chief student of the subject, Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand. F.S.C.

A WORD PICTURE of significant aspects of the present-day economy of Minnesota and the Dakotas is to be found in “Rich Land of Lakes,” a report by Ralph G. Martin appearing in Newsweek for April 11. The author provides a panoramic view of such Minnesota industries as taconite, forest products, mining, and also on the promise of lignite, oil, and uranium in the Dakotas. Included, too, is data on specific firms like the Minneapolis Honey-
well Regulator Company and the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company with headquarters in St. Paul.

THE EARLY YEARS of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company and the men who founded it are reviewed in Arthur W. King’s article about “Five Men and an Idea” in the Duluth News-Tribune of April 10. The idea referred to in the title was the establishment of a company for the manufacture of abrasives, and the five men listed as founders are John Dwan, H. W. Cable, J. Danley Budd, Henry S. Bryan, and William A. McGonagle. The beginnings of the company on the North Shore of Lake Superior in 1902, the moving of its headquarters to St. Paul, and its development into an organization which now operates fourteen plants in the United States and others in seven foreign countries are briefly outlined by the author.

A PHOTOGRAPH of the “First Iron Ore Loading Dock in Minnesota” appears in Skillings’ Mining Review of March 12. The accompanying text states that it was “the original Dock No. 2 of the Duluth & Iron Range Ry., located at Agate Bay (now Two Harbors),” and that it was forty-four feet high, had forty-six pockets, and a total storage capacity of three thousand gross tons. Alongside the dock may be seen the steamer “Hecla” and the schooner “Ironont,” carriers of the first Minnesota iron ore cargoes. The text states that transportation costs on these shipments “from the mine to Lake Erie” were $2.60 a ton, “the railroad getting $1.50 and the boats $1.10.”

A PIONEERING Minnesota project in the field of industrial relations is discussed by Fred H. Blum in a volume entitled Toward a Democratic Work Process: The Hormel-Packinghouse Workers’ Experiment (New York, 1953, 229 p.). The author provides detailed information on the development and operation of the guaranteed annual wage group incentive plan pioneered by the Austin firm and its workers. He outlines the company’s growth, describes events leading to its unionization in 1933, and reviews the background for the formulation of a permanent agreement between George A. Hormel and Company and Local Number 9 of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO. Mr. Blum is especially concerned with employee motivations, and the book is referred to as “a case study” intended to analyze “the impact of industrial work on workers’ attitudes.”

A VALUABLE RECORD of pioneer church work in Minnesota and Wisconsin has been appearing in installments in the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society since September, 1954. It consists of “Minutes of the Chippewa Presbytery,” with the first installment covering the establishment of the presbytery in 1858, and the second — published in the issue for March, 1955 — carrying the story through April, 1861. The material contains references to Presbyterian congregations in southwestern Wisconsin and in such Minnesota settlements as Winona, La Crescent, Hokah, Houston, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

EFFORTS to introduce “Daylight Saving” in Minnesota are reviewed by Daryle Feldmeir in the feature section of the Minneapolis Tribune of April 10. Some general historical information on daylight saving time and an account of the controversy it has provoked in Minnesota are included.

A NUMBER OF superstitions and stories collected among Mexicans living in St. Paul are recorded by Philip D. Jordan as “Mexican Folklore from Minnesota” in the winter number of Midwest Folklore. The author states that the material is “typical” of the folklore of this national group, which was “first drawn to Minnesota by the promise of work in the sugar-beet industry.”

THE CAREER OF John Norton, a man who “drew the strings together and tied the knots of gargantuan St. Paul real estate transactions” is discussed in an informative article on “St. Paul’s Building History,” which appears in the St. Paul Pioneer Press of March 27. The author, Gareth Hiebert, writes that Norton got his start as a real-estate man in the early years of the present century by acting as agent for the families of George Benz and William Hamm, “who were alternately in and out of first place for the title of the city’s largest real estate holders.” According to Mr. Hiebert, Norton was responsible for transactions which made possible the erection of such structures as the Empress and Riviera theaters, the Shubert, Hamm, and Grace buildings, the Emporium, and the St. Francis Hotel.

AN ACCOUNT in French of a visit made by Vital Guérin of St. Paul to his family in St. Philippe, Canada, in 1850 appears in Mémoires de la Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française for June, 1953. In the eighteen years that had elapsed since Guérin left his family to
enter the service of the American Fur Company, the young Canadian found a degree of prosperity by investing in St. Paul real estate. In this family reminiscence, Guérin tells stories of his adventurous life in frontier St. Paul — narrow escapes from the assassin’s gun, from a party of Indians intent on murder, and from an enormous serpent. The Guérin family, from whom these stories have come, have given Vital a laurel that partisans of Pierre Parrant will no doubt dispute, for they credit Guérin with being the founder of St. Paul. Both the account and the accompanying genealogical notes seem to contain errors.

L.K.

INFORMATION on The Forest Resource of Pine County is provided in a pamphlet recently issued by the Minnesota Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Commission (St. Paul, 1954. 58 p.) Included are statistics on the types of soil and forests in the area, on their size and ownership, on the annual production of the forest industries in Pine County, and on the value of their products.

PROVISIONS for the “protection of the ruins of the Joseph R. Brown historic mansion” near Sacred Heart and for the erection of a memorial plaque there were made in a law passed by the recent session of the Minnesota legislature. The sum of $3,500 was appropriated to preserve and improve the Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park in which the ruins of the house are located.

LEGISLATION increasing the amount of money that may be appropriated for the work of historical societies by county boards was approved by the 1955 Minnesota legislature. The amended law permits the appropriation of $5,000 in counties having a population of 75,000 to 650,000, and a “sum not exceeding$15,000 annually” if the population is 650,000 or more. Other sections of the statute remain unchanged: societies in counties having fewer than 25,000 people may still secure up to $2,000 a year, while those in areas having between 25,000 and 75,000 people may receive up to $3,000.

“ART WORK of Olmsted County Artists — Primitive through Idealistic” was the subject of a special exhibit arranged in the museum of the Olmsted County Historical Society at Rochester in April. Items from the local organization’s collections dating from 1860 to 1912 were included in the display. Among the examples placed on exhibit were tinsel and embroidered pictures of the 1860s, a primitive portrait of Merton Eastlick by John Stevens, and a sketchbook of Rochester scenes of the 1880s by Huber Bastian.

THE Dakota County Historical Society met on April 12 in the junior high school in South St. Paul to give members a preview of the museum exhibits then being arranged in its new quarters there. The displays feature Indian artifacts from the Fred N. Lawshe collection, pioneer household furnishings, farm equipment, and drawings depicting aspects of early Dakota County history. A notice of the society’s work and an appeal for additional museum items appeared in the South St. Paul Reporter of March 29.

THE FIRST of a series of columns by Olga Soderberg on the history of Cook County “as a whole, then of each community” appears in the Cook County News-Herald of Grand Marais for March 24 under the title “Local History.” It deals with the establishment of the county, its organization, boundaries, and early settlers. The second installment, published on April 7, presents material on the first mail routes on the North Shore, gives the names of early postmasters there, calls attention to the county’s first census, describes the building of a breakwater and lighthouse at Grand Marais, and mentions the construction of a road along the North Shore. The third article of the series, which appears in the issue for April 14, contains general information on the industrial development of Cook County in recent years.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE NORTHWEST ANGLE will be the destination of the society’s annual tour, which is scheduled for July 29 through August 1. The caravan will leave St. Paul on Friday, July 29, about 9:30 A.M., stopping first at the Oliver H. Kelley House near Elk River, and then traveling to Moorhead. There an outdoor joint meeting of the Minnesota and North Dakota historical societies will be held in the evening on the banks of the Red River, with Mr. Russell Reid, director of the North Dakota society, as the speaker. On the following morning the tour will proceed to Warroad, stopping at Red Lake Falls, Thief River Falls, and Roseau. Dinner will be served at Warroad, where a local Catholic priest, Father Emmett A. Shanahan, will speak to the group on the history of the Northwest Angle. Sunday’s schedule includes a boat trip from Warroad to the Angle.

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with stops at the site of old Fort St. Charles, Penasse, and Flag Island. The tour will return to the Twin Cities on Monday by way of Grand Rapids. Information on the tour, giving details about accommodations and prices, will be sent to all members of the society. Those wishing to join the tour are urged to make their reservations early, since the number of persons who can be accommodated is limited by the capacity of the boats available. Reservations also will be necessary for those wishing to travel by chartered bus.

UNDER THE TERMS of a bill passed by the 1955 legislature, the commissioner of administration is authorized to "acquire necessary machinery and equipment to provide for the effective preservation of documents by a process of lamination." The bill also provides for the salary of an operator, who will work under the direct supervision of the state archivist. Equipment for laminating documents—that is, covering them with thin layers of cellulose acetate and a reinforcing tissue which preserves them indefinitely—has not been available previously in the Midwest. After the equipment has been purchased and installed, the state archivist, who will supervise its operation, will be able to offer laminating service to state departments and other governmental agencies at cost and to private individuals and concerns at rates still to be determined. Those wishing information about the service and the fees should address their inquiries to the state archivist, Robert M. Brown, Historical Building, St. Paul 1.

TO ITS extensive collection of Jonathan Carver's Travels, the society has added the edition published at Philadelphia in 1792, giving it eighteen of the thirty-nine known editions of this important record of early Northwest exploration. The only collection in the United States that is more nearly complete is that in the New York Public Library, which numbers twenty-four editions.

AMONG MANUSCRIPTS recently acquired by the society is an extensive collection of family papers, chiefly assembled by William F. Davidson, presented by his granddaughter, Mrs. Owen Wangensteen of Minneapolis. The collection, consisting of approximately 350 volumes and 100,000 pieces, supplements a much smaller group of Davidson Papers received in 1932. The recent gift covers the years from 1857 to 1917. It is made up largely of business records relating to the upper Mississippi steamboat trade, which was largely controlled by Davidson, his extensive real-estate holdings in St. Paul, his railroad interests, and the many grain elevators which he operated throughout the Northwest. There is also material on such features of St. Paul life as a dime museum, an opera house, a coal company, and a boom company; and on the Oregon and Western Colonization Company.

FROM Mr. Irving H. Hart of Cedar Falls, Iowa, an extensive collection of archaeological material assembled by him and members of his family in the Big Sandy Lake area of Aitkin County has been received. Included is a sizeable amount of Woodland pottery, some examples of china found in Indian graves in the vicinity, and pieces of trade goods excavated at the site of the North West Company's post on Brown's Point. A few fragments of Mississippian pottery are also present in the collection. The trading post and its location on Sandy Lake were described by Mr. Hart in an article appearing in the December, 1926, issue of this magazine. In the fall the Hart collection will be available to students.

IN MEMORY of Miss Mary E. Palmes, who was in charge of the society's administrative office for more than thirty years, contributions were made to the institution's Memorial Fund by a group of her friends and former associates, following her death in April. The contributions will be used for the purchase of a special collection of books for the society's library, and they will be marked with a bookplate bearing Miss Palmes's name. The collection will be an appropriate and permanent memorial to one who long and devotedly served the Minnesota Historical Society.

A LECTURE on "This Minnesota" presented by Dean Theodore C. Blegen on January 27 as one of a series given in the building of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1954-55 is published in the Congressional Record for February 15. It was read into that publication by Senator Edward Thye of Minnesota.

THE SOCIETY will be host to members of Phi Beta Kappa on September 1, when a session of its twenty-fourth council of united chapters will be held in the Historical Building. The council is meeting at the University of Minnesota from August 31 to September 3. The program presented when the group convenes in the society's building is being planned jointly with the university.