Some NEW BOOKS in Review . . .


Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

MORE THAN seven hundred illustrations and a capable text combine to make this volume a vivid, comprehensive compendium of information about major historic sites in the United States. The work is divided into nine sections, each dealing with a geographic area made up of several states. Accompanying every division is a map and a descriptive list of places to visit. Logically, the contents begin with New England and move westward. Thus, in general, the book contains a chronological as well as a sectional review of certain aspects of national history and culture.

Any work of this size and scope—nearly three thousand sites are pictured or noted—poses a problem of balance. This reviewer feels that it tends to neglect the West, and especially his own Midwest. A bit of simple arithmetic clarifies this point, for while 239 pages are devoted to the East and the Old South, only 130 are assigned to the vast areas largely west of the Mississippi that constitute the Middle, South, and Far West.

Minnesota has been grouped with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin in a section entitled “Lakes and Prairies,” which is further aptly described as the “Heartland of a Nation.” Among the Minnesota sites listed are a number of historic houses, including Oliver H. Kelley’s near Elk River, St. Hubert’s Lodge at Frontenac, Henry H. Sibley’s and J. B. Faribault’s at Mendota, and James J. Hill’s in St. Paul; the Pipestone Quarry; Fort Ridgely; and Grand Portage. The latter, along with the Ken-

sington stone, are the only Minnesota features pictured. Curiously, Fort Snelling, which probably has greater visual appeal than any other site on the upper Mississippi, as well as historical interest of the first rank, has been overlooked. Furthermore, in the list of the state’s historic places, it is erroneously located in St. Paul.

Such shortcomings notwithstanding, the volume’s flaws are overshadowed by its virtues, which include handsome color reproductions, superb photographs, and a narrative enlivened by bits of folklore and sketches of colorful individuals. Certainly anyone seeking information about the nation’s rich historical heritage will find the book rewarding.

LITERARY LORE

Folklore in American Literature. Edited by JOHN T. FLANAGAN and ARTHUR PALMER HUDSON. (Evanston, Illinois, Row, Peterson and Company, 1958. xvi, 511 p. Illustrations. $10.00.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

EVER SINCE the foundation of the American Folklore Society in 1888, there has been a growing awareness of folk beliefs and the need of their systematic collection and use. In the same period the social historian has become interested in the life of the common man and the sociologist has pursued the study of folkways. Perhaps the historian and the sociologist have helped the folklorist enlarge his horizon beyond that of the isolated Ozarks or the Old South, to find treasures among all occupations in all regions. It takes a book like Folklore in American Literature to show that the literary folk have been collecting, using, and even creating lore for many years, for here the reader comes face to face with many familiar writers who have used lore as the touchstone to imagination.

The editors have ranged through American literary history and from forty-nine authors...
have chosen illustrations of the use of folklore in literature. Eighty-seven examples are arranged under these twelve headings: Indians (Longfellow’s “Hiawatha” is one of seven selections used), the devil (Benet’s “The Devil and Daniel Webster,” for example), ghosts (Irving’s “Legend of Sleepy Hollow”), witchcraft (Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark”), buried treasure (Dobie’s “Midas on a Goatskin”), tall tales (Clemens’ “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”), literary ballads (Longfellow’s “The Wreck of the Hesperus”), heroes and demigods (Lindsay’s “Bryan, Bryan, Bryan”), Yankees (Lowell’s “The Courtin’”), Negroes (Harris’ “Uncle Remus Initiates the Little Boy”), songs and ballads (“Joe Bowers”), and folk wisdom (Sandburg’s “The People, Yes”). Among these selections, perhaps a third are by relatively unknown authors. Joel Chandler Harris heads the list with five, but there are thirty-four contributors of single selections. Eleven items—all ballads—are so much a part of the public domain that no author’s names can be attached to them. William Faulkner’s “Spotted Horses” is the longest selection used.

This collection, selected and arranged by two editors of balance and erudition, presents anew the question of what folklore is and the responsibility of the literary artist in its use. It is obvious that writers like Irving and Dobie have taken fanciful beliefs of their time and region and with artistry and integrity created a literature of historical accuracy and charm. It is also known that such gifted writers as those connected with Disney’s studios have created a character, “Mickey Mouse,” out of whole cloth and given him to the folk. Much of Paul Bunyan has been given to the folk by literary and commercial interests. In this volume the imaginative poet of Vermont, Robert Frost, even gives the great Paul a wife. This is folklore in reverse. There is no line drawn between literary lore and folklore either in American thought or in this volume.

Folklore in American Literature blazes a trail through literary history and should be welcomed by all interested in literature and lore, especially by the students in the fifty colleges that offer courses in this field. The bibliographical notes and the rich bibliography will lead anyone into a wondrous land of legend and tall tale, not behind the moon, but in almost any good library.

ENGINEERS IN UNIFORM

Roads, Rails & Waterways: The Army Engineers and Early Transportation. By Forest G. Hill. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957. xi, 248 p. Illustrations. $4.00.)

Reviewed by Arthur J. Larsen

IN THIS slender volume, Mr. Hill has compressed the story of the part played by the engineers of the United States army in building the American nation during the half century between the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Upon the critical need for transportation facilities—roads, canals, and railroads—along with that for the removal of obstacles to navigation in rivers and the provision of safe harbor facilities, hinged the expansion of America during the exciting first half of the nineteenth century. And the people turned to the federal government to help them in opening the great interior of the continent.

It was in response to this need that the corps of army engineers came into being. Without attempting to trace the lineage of the corps in detail, it is sufficient to note that its beginnings apparently are to be found in the American Revolution, and that its mission only gradually became fixed. By 1802 an oddly mixed group of contract engineers employed by the government, had joined the nucleus of a military service to become the “Corps of Engineers.” It was stationed at West Point on the Hudson and directed by Congress to “constitute a military academy.” Therein lies the story of the birth of the United States Military Academy, founded upon the remnants of a series of military schools at West Point which had existed briefly during the American Revolution.

MR. LARSEN of the history faculty in the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota was a member of the Minnesota Historical Society’s staff from 1938 to 1947, serving for some years as superintendent. He is the author of an unpublished study of early roads in Minnesota.

MR. WYMAN, who is professor of history in Wisconsin State College at River Falls, is the author of numerous books and articles on the history of the West. He recently collaborated in editing a volume entitled The Frontier in Perspective (Madison, 1957).
After the War of 1812, under the leadership of Major Sylvanus Thayer, the academy developed as an engineering school, and for half a century thereafter West Point supplied the bulk of training for army engineers, and served, in fact, as the nation's major engineering school. The men who came from that school explored, surveyed, and mapped the West, built its roads, and laid out the routes for its railroads, while performing routine chores in the improvement of rivers and harbors to help carry the commerce of the nation.

The importance of the engineers in opening Minnesota is, of course, recognized by students of the state's history. The construction of roads in Minnesota under the supervision of the engineers of the United States army was a fundamental factor in attracting settlers to the area, and no student of Minnesota history can disregard the role of the engineers in the exploration of the country about the headwaters of the Mississippi during the long, hard years between 1817 and 1849.

PROGRESSIVE THINKERS

The Paradox of Progressive Thought. By DAVID W. NOBLE. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1958. viii, 272 p. $6.00.)

Reviewed by Charles G. Cleaver

FOR YEARS we have been taught to think of the reformers of the Progressive era (from 1890 to 1920, roughly speaking) as men who broke sharply from a faith in the outdated and abstract absolutes of earlier American thought and, armed with Darwin, the new social sciences, and relativistic pragmatism, set forth to make a whole new America. In this book, Professor Noble of the University of Minnesota history department develops an important and persuasive reinterpretation of Progressive thought. Just for the record, certain key essays from this book, which have appeared in various journals since 1951, predate other current reappraisals of the Progressives like Richard Hofstadter's The Age of Reform.

Mr. Noble's interests, unlike those of Mr. Hofstadter and some other recent historians of Progressivism, are in the ideas and assumptions which underlay the social and political reform of the period. He singles out for examination nine social philosophers, including Herbert Croly, Richard Ely, Simon Patten, Thorstein Veblen, and Carl Rauschenbusch, and the central magazine of the Progressives, the New Republic. By concentrating on serious progressive thinkers, he can focus on the logic of the movement at its vital core. This is not a book of unconnected essays about isolated philosophers. By artful organization, Mr. Noble manages to show the interrelationships among the men and to create, as he hoped to do, a sense of the "climate of opinion" of the period discussed. The figure of the historian Carl Becker also unifies the book. Like a kind of chorus, Becker speaks first and last, and hovers in the background throughout the book to illuminate the author's analysis of the paradox he finds in Progressivism. Mr. Noble finds Becker's dilemma to be that of all thoughtful Progressives, and his solution to be one not only for Progressives, but for all modern historians, and perhaps even for all liberal democrats in an industrial age as well.

The central issue of the book is the manner in which morality and modern science were brought to the service of reform. Carefully, Mr. Noble traces the thinking of each of the nine men discussed so that we can watch them encounter and then solve the paradox of their time. Their formulations of the paradox were different in detail, but amounted to the same things: How could one honestly assimilate the theory of evolution to conscious reform? How could one refute the determinism of Herbert Spencer's dangerous and influential extension of Darwin's findings? If, to combat Spencer's individualism, which excused so many of the abuses of the period, one could instill in men a necessary sense of the wholeness of society, how could one keep from crippling men's creative individuality? How could one make use of a pragmatism or a historical relativism that was useful in challenging the old and stultifying orthodoxies without falling into the chaos of anarchic subjectivism? How could one retain faith in progress without using the old measures of progress which tied men to the status quo? How could one retain at the same time two essential American faiths—one in the innate
goodness of natural man, and one in progress, which removes man from his original virtue?

All the thinkers whom the author studies made similar answers. All reasserted the old beliefs in progress and the freedom of man. All became transcendental, mystical, or Christian. All anchored their pragmatism, their historical relativism, their acceptance of Darwin, and their impulse toward reform in old and traditional American faiths.

WESTWARD TREK

West of the Great Divide: Norwegian Migration to the Pacific Coast, 1847-1893. By KENNETH O. BJORK. (Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1958. viii, 671 p. Illustrations, maps. $7.50.)

Reviewed by Paul Knaplund

IN THIS scholarly work, Mr. Bjork presents a synoptic picture of early Norwegian immigration to the Rocky Mountain and Pacific coast areas of the United States. Some of the migrants came directly from the homeland by diverse routes, while others first tarried in Midwestern states. This trek of Norsemen was stimulated by the great California gold rush, by Mormon missionaries in Scandinavia, by intense advertising campaigns of entrepreneurs eager to sell western lands, and by the severe agricultural depression of the early 1890s.

This book contains a story of dreams and visions, heroic endeavors and heartbreaking disappointments, unscrupulous puffing by greedy speculators, and ruthless exploitation of trusting immigrants. Hundreds rest in unmarked graves beside western trails or were broken by the strain of unaccustomed toil in a foreign land. But the majority survived to build homes, found churches, and establish mutual aid societies and musical organizations. The volume under review tells how Norse immigrants made valuable contributions to the building of their adopted country. Some won distinction as sailors and shipbuilders. And it was the intrepid Andrew Furuseth who mobilized brutally exploited seamen in their successful fight for decent treat-

ELECTRIC POWER


Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

FORREST MCDONALD'S challenging study opens a new chapter in American economic history. Possessed of a considerable amount of scholarly courage, he set as his task the analysis of technological, economic, and political developments, both local and national, that conditioned the evolution of the electric utility industry in Wisconsin. His breadth of view is manifest in his statement that, viewed nationally, "the industry's growth to maturity formed a central dynamic element in a technological revolution in utilization of energy, industrial
production, communication, and transportation, of a magnitude that mankind never before wit­nessed.” Although the book may fall short of this affirmation, it is nonetheless a solid achieve­ment in a comparatively fresh field of research.

The study opens in the 1880s, when two firms pioneered in establishing central stations in Wisconsin. The Brush Electric Company, founded as a manufacturer of electrical equipment, created its market by participating in the organization of local companies in Wisconsin, as well as in other states. Through the activi­ties of this company, central stations were es­tablished in Stevens Point and La Crosse in 1881, and in Fond du Lac and Janesville in 1882. The second pioneering firm that encour­aged development in Wisconsin was the Edison Electric Light Company, which established a hydroelectric station in Appleton in 1882. After the introduction of electricity at these points, local companies increased rapidly in number. Although most of them were failures as business ventures, they laid the groundwork for future growth.

The twentieth century brought many changes in the industry. Management passed largely from local entrepreneurs who considered their operations as civic ventures to men of greater vision and skill. The concept of the use of electricity was broadened as electrification of street railways and employment in industry were added to lighting. Problems in technology were solved and skilled personnel developed. The most strik­ing change was the reduction of the number of companies. In 1917, there were 312 companies in the central station business. In 1930, fewer than a hundred firms remained in business, and nine of them served almost ninety per cent of the state’s customers. Eight of the large com­panies were owned by three holding company groups.

Of particular interest to Minnesotans are dis­cussions of companies that operated in their state as well as in Wisconsin. Important among them are the Northwest Electric Construction and Supply Company, a St. Paul firm that sold equipment in Wisconsin; the Consumers Power Company; the Standard Gas and Electric Com­pany; and the Northern States Power Company.

MISS KANE, curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, is espe­cially interested in economic history.

MINNESOTA TODAY

The Face of Minnesota. By JOHN SZARKOWSKI. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1958. viii, 302 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Eugene D. Becker

THIS pictorial work, according to the author’s preface, “is about Minnesota now.” It contains a hundred and seventy-nine photographs in black and white and twenty-four in color taken by Mr. Szarkowski in various parts of the state. The jacket blurb informs the reader that the pictures are “grouped in four sections, portray­ing, respectively, the setting for the Minnesota story, the settlement and life on the land, the social institutions, and the ways in which the people of the state earn their living and pro­vide for the needs of others.”

To supplement this rich pictorial record, the author provides a text which conveys in words his impressions of the state. Therein Mr. Szar­kowski combines “excerpts from the writings of others and critical and explanatory comments of his own which help to interpret the state in its many-faceted character.” Quotations have been drawn from sources of great variety, rang­ing from the writings of T. S. Eliot to those of Richard Bissell.

The pictures, like the text, vary greatly. They show the wide vistas of the Minnesota land­scape and the minute detail of the woodland dell; they depict homes and industrial plants, cities and villages; and they include some striking portrait studies. Outstanding are the photo­graphs in black and white, which seem to indi­cate that Mr. Szarkowski is far more interested in this medium than in color photography. Ex­amples of his monochromatic work reproduced in these pages have a clarity, depth, and beauty that is completely lacking in his color work. Photographers will be especially pleased with the author’s “Technical Note,” which includes a statement of his philosophy.

Although the volume has been handsomely produced, its format is characterized by some inconvenient features. This reviewer feels that the book’s value would have been greatly en­hanced if captions had appeared with each pic­ture, rather than in a single list at the back. Furthermore, the lack of folios on many pages
makes it difficult to locate the titles of some pictures.

The preparation of Mr. Szarkowski's work was made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission. Its publication makes available a permanent pictorial record of the state on the eve of its second century.

**TRAILING HISTORY**

*Minnesota Trails: A Sentimental History.* By Erling Larsen. (Minneapolis, T. S. Denison & Company, 1958. 175 p. Illustrations. $4.95.)

Reviewed by Roy W. Swanson

THIS is another of the many books issued during the current year in observance of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial. It differs from its fellows in being the most personal of the lot. The author, who is a member of the English faculty in Carleton College, Northfield, is perfectly within his rights in calling his book, on the title page, a “sentimental history.”

Here the author presents the story of how he discovered and came to love the state to which he was taken as a boy and has since called his home. The wide-ranging chapters, dealing with such topics as “The High Prairies,” “The Way to the Big Sandy,” and “The Broad, Smooth Rainy,” embrace both the area and the history of the commonwealth from the earliest explorers down to the newest taconite town. Fact and personal interpretation are blended to produce something new and refreshing in historical writing. In other words, this is “sentimental history,” a term which is perhaps yet to be defined.

Numerous maps show the location of places of interest mentioned in the text, inviting the suggestion that *Minnesota Trails* might well serve as a tour book—the most charming of its genre. The many excellent photographs are Mr. Larsen’s own, thereby adding to the volume’s intimate character. Mention should be made also of the small drawings scattered so generously throughout the work. Altogether, this is a beautiful Minnesota book which should solve the Christmas gift problems of many Minnesotans for years after the 1958 celebration is over.

**MIDWEST AMERICANA**

STUDENTS of Minnesota history will find much pertinent information in a handsomely printed Selective Bibliography of Important Books, Pamphlets and Broadsides Relating to *Michigan History*, which has been compiled and provided with elaborate explanatory notes by Albert Harry Greenly (Lunenburg, Vermont, The Stonehour Press, 1958. 165 p. $25.00.). Listed here, for example, are the writings of explorers like Father Hennepin, the Baron Lahontan, Robert Rogers, Jonathan Carver, and Henry R. Schoolcraft, and of captives among the Indians like John Tanner. Notes on these writers and on the various editions in which their books were issued add greatly to the interest and value of the bibliographical information presented. The 125 numbered items listed in the work were issued between 1604 and 1956.

**FRONTIER HEALTH**

A SHORT and readable account of early medicine, quackery, and nostrums on the Midwest frontier is to be found in an address originally presented by Avery A. Craven before the Detroit Historical Society on May 6, 1957, and now published by the Wayne State University Press in a booklet entitled *A Frontier Cycle* (1958. 30 p. $1.00.). A single footnote informs the reader that the author has drawn materials “from state medical histories and the writing of R. C. Buley,” whose book on *The Old Northwest* (1951) is the source for most of Professor Craven’s quotations. He fails, however, to reveal where he found a colorful quotation about the climate of Minnesota. J. T. Dunn

**REBUILDING AN ABBEY**

AN UNSUAL chapter is added to Minnesota’s cultural history in Whitney S. Stoddard’s *Adventure in Architecture: Building the New Saint John’s*, which is based on plans by Marcel Breuer (New York, Longmans, Green and Company, 1958. 127 p. $8.50.). In words and handsome photographs, Mr. Stoddard records the story of the abbey and university at Collegeville and describes its plans for the future. Floor plans and elevations by the distinguished architect who has redesigned this Minnesota institution also are reproduced in the volume.

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MR. SWANSON is the librarian for the St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press.
ONE OF the handsomest books on American art history to appear in many a year is The Charles M. Russell Book: The Life and Work of the Cowboy Artist by Harold McCracken (Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1957. 236 p. $2.50.). Illustrating the work are color reproductions of thirty-five paintings by Russell as well as representations in black and white of other works in oil, water color, pencil, and bronze. Minnesotans will be interested in Mr. McCracken's statement that "As early as 1903 the Brown & Bigelow Company in St. Paul began using color reproductions of Russell's paintings on large calendars," which "proved to be a source of substantial income for the cowboy artist." Furthermore, they "became one of the principal means of making him widely known and led to the private sale of a good many original pictures." Noteworthy, too, is the fact that most of the color reproductions in this distinguished volume were printed by the firm of Brown and Bigelow, which owns the copyright on them.

B.L.H.

AN ARTICLE on "Folklore in the Newspapers" is contributed to the Spring number of the Journalism Quarterly by John T. Flanagan, whose review of the role of folklore in Minnesota literature appears elsewhere in this issue. "By recording and preserving the lore of the folk," writes Mr. Flanagan, the American newspaper "does the American people a service. Moreover, by its allocation of news space, by its selection of stories and by its choice of emphasis, it can produce folklore itself." The examples selected by the author to support his thesis make delightful reading.

ATTEMPTS of American agriculturalists to solve their problems during the last three centuries are reviewed by Fred A. Shannon in a booklet on American Farmers' Movements (Princeton, 1957. 192 p.). Mr. Shannon traces changes in agrarian attitudes which resulted in the farmers' rise to political power from colonial days to the present. Nearly half of the book is devoted to twenty-five contemporary documents illustrating important incidents in the history of the agrarian movement. Of special interest are chapters dealing with the origins and accomplishments of the Grange, the Farmers' Alliance, the Populist party, the Farmers Union, the Nonpartisan League, and the Farmer-Labor party. An index and a short bibliography complete this brief reference book.

THE William Clark notes discovered in 1953 by the Minnesota Historical Society’s curator of manuscripts and the litigation that has revolved about them are discussed in articles appearing in the issues of Manuscripts for the fall and winter of 1957. The first, by Robert F. Metzdorf, deals with the subject from "A Librarian's Point of View"; the second, by Burt Griffin, provides "A Legal Analysis."

TO HIS series of studies of Mississippi panoramas and the men who painted them, Joseph Earl Arrington has added an article on "Samuel A. Hudson's Panorama of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers," which appears in the Ohio Historical Quarterly for October, 1957. From newspaper files and guidebooks describing the gigantic pictures, the author has culled a wealth of information relating to both its contents and its display. Reproduced with the narrative are title pages of two guidebooks issued in 1848 and an advertising playbill of 1849.

"THE STORY of the Negro minority in a Northern state and the relationship of that minority to the dominant white element in the period before 1900" is reviewed by Emma Lou Thornbrough in a book on The Negro in Indiana Before 1900, which has been published as volume 37 of the Indiana Historical Collections (Indianapolis, 1957. 412 p.). Although much of the work deals with the Negro's long battle to secure equal protection under the law, the author does not neglect the economic and educational problems of this minority group, the role of churches...
and social organizations, and the highly significant effects of urbanization. A five-page epilogue summarizes events from 1900 to the present.

A REPRINT of John B. Newhall’s Glimpse of Iowa in 1846; or, the Emigrant’s Guide, and State Directory has been published by the Iowa State Historical Society (Iowa City, 1957). In his introduction, William J. Petersen describes Newhall as the “most influential promoter of Iowa prior to 1880” and reviews his role in advertising the area among prospective settlers. As “Iowa’s leading author before statehood,” Newhall issued several booklets about the area during the territorial era which closed in 1846. The title pages of three such publications, as well as that of the State Directory, are reproduced in the present reprint.

THE WINTER, 1958, number of the North Dakota Quarterly is a special issue devoted to “Prose Writers of North Dakota.” Included are biographical sketches of writers who were born in the state or who worked there, as well as lists of their publications. Among the authors represented are such well-known figures as Maxwell Anderson, Eric Severeid, and Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

RELATIONS between Minnesota and its neighbor to the north are frequently touched upon by John S. Galbraith in his recent study of The Hudson’s Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, 1821-1869 (Berkeley, 1957. 500 p.). The “most vulnerable portion of the Company’s frontier” after 1821 “lay along the international boundary” westward from Lake Superior, writes Mr. Galbraith. He points out that “It was anarchy at Red River which first gave Canada’s government occasion to act against the Hudson’s Bay Company’s chartered rights.” The author carries his story down to the Riel rebellion of 1880-70, which, he declares, “was, in a sense, an appropriate conclusion to the life of the chartered monopoly. Both the proprietary Company and the half-breeds who supported Riel were victims of a civilization to which they could not be reconciled.” Some attention is given to the annexation movement and the activities of James Wickes Taylor of St. Paul.

OF SPECIAL interest to Minnesotans is an article by Selwyn Dewdney on “The Quetico Pictographs,” which appears in the summer issue of the Beaver. In both words and pictures, the author presents the results of an expedition which had for its objective “locating, photographing, measuring and sketching every rock painting or suspicion of one” to be seen along the border waters between Minnesota and Ontario. Included are photographs from the well-known “Painted Rock” of Lac la Croix and and Crooked Lake. Students of Minnesota history will find much valuable material also in the Beaver for the winter of 1957, which is a “York Factory Issue” published to mark the closing of the post on Hudson Bay “after two hundred and seventy-five years of trading with the Indians.” Among the articles included are Clifford Wilson’s “Forts on the Twin Rivers,” Grace Lee Nute’s account of “The French in the Bay,” and Alvin C. Glick’s “The Fading Glory.” The latter writer calls attention to the fact that “The supremacy of York Factory began to fade when an American road arose to challenge its position as the best route to the outside world” from the Red River country. He refers, of course, to the cart trails that connected the Canadian settlements with St. Paul and other Minnesota points.

PICTURES that have appeared in the Beaver during the past decade have been combined with photographs from an earlier volume on The New North in an attractive pictorial Paganant of the North edited by Clifford Wilson (Toronto, The Ryerson Press, 1957. 175 p. $5.50.). This “photographic adventure into Canada’s Northland” portrays many facets of life there, as well as its Indians and Eskimos, its birds and beasts.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

“THE LEGEND of Jim Hill,” the Minnesotan who “built a railroad empire from the Great Lakes to Puget Sound,” is recounted by Stewart H. Holbrook in the June number of American Heritage. The author characterizes Hill as “something of a giant in the vast region where many contemporaries came often to think him less a man than an elemental force.” Presented in brief outline are some of the main events in the Empire Builder’s career, from his arrival at St. Paul in 1856 to his conflict with E. H. Harriman half a century later. With the article appear some excellent illustrations from the files of the Great Northern Railroad.

THE EXPANSION of the Highways of Minnesota from 1921, when the legislature “set up a network of 6,850 miles of the more heavily travelled country roads, designated them as trunk highways, and patterned them into the first stages of a statewide system,” is traced in an illustrated booklet issued by the Minnesota highway department (24 p.). It reveals that “the Minnesota highway system now has grown to a
mileage of 11,790 on trunk roads, 29,038 on county-state aid highways and 920 on municipal-state aid streets."

A USEFUL array of Facts about Minnesota Iron Mining has been assembled for publication in a booklet issued by the Iron Mining Industry of Minnesota (1957. 48 p.). Among the experts who contribute to the text are Ralph W. Marsden, who tells of "Iron Ore and How it Got to the Lake Superior Region"; H. F. Kullberg, who reviews "The History of Discovery and Development of Iron Ore in Minnesota"; B. M. Andreas, who explains "How Iron Ore Is Mined"; and C. R. Knowles, who presents the story of "Minnesota Taconite Development." Pictures of many phases of ore exploitation illustrate the booklet. How some of the raw materials mined in Minnesota are used is explained in a pamphlet on Steel Making at Duluth, issued by the American Steel and Wire division of the United States Steel Corporation (16 p.). In words and pictures, it records the story of Duluth Works, the "Northwest's only steel mill."

THE ORIGINS of the Farmer-Labor party of Minnesota are traced to the period discussed by James H. Shideler in his recent book entitled Farm Crisis, 1919-1932 (Berkeley, 1957. 345 p.). Much attention is focused on the political movements which grew out of the agrarian discontent of the years that followed World War I. Figuring prominently in the narrative are such Minnesota political leaders as Henrik Shipstead, Magnus Johnson, J. A. O. Preus, Frank B. Kellogg, and Knute Nelson.

REMINISCENCES of an unusual career, largely as a reporter of sporting events for Minnesota newspapers, are recorded by George A. Barton in a recent volume entitled My Lifetime in Sports (Minneapolis, 1957. 340 p.). Within the covers of this work, which spans a period of more than fifty years, the author reviews the history of such sports as boxing, football, baseball, golf, and hockey in Minnesota. Of interest, also, are short chapters entitled "Dan Patch Sets a World Record" and "The Growth of the Ice Follies." Students of social history and of journalism will find much useful information in Mr. Barton's book.

MR. RALPH W. KELLER of Minneapolis, executive secretary of the Minnesota Editorial Association, has received an award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. It recognizes his active interest in the history of Minnesota, and especially his support of a program for the preservation of the state's newspapers on microfilm.

TWENTY-EIGHT sketches of daily news sheets, prepared by George L. Peterson for publication in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, have been assembled in a booklet entitled Minnesota's Daily Newspapers (30 p.). Included is information about newspapers, editors, and publishers in the state outside Minneapolis.

REFERENCES to birds in reports of the Long expedition of 1823 are the "earliest authentic records of ornithology in Minnesota," according to Ole A. Finseth, who contributes a brief "Ornithological History of Minnesota" to the March issue of The Flicker. The author notes that lists of birds were compiled by army officers stationed in the area in the 1850s, by Martin Trippe, and by Dr. Philo L. Hatch before Dr. Thomas L. Roberts published his study.

A USEFUL BOOKLET issued in November, 1957, makes available 1000 Minnesota Facts compiled from varied sources under the auspices of the Northern States Power Company (103 p.). It contains information, largely statistical, on such topics as agriculture, climate, education, business, manufacturing, labor, transportation, and population. Copies may be obtained by writing to "Minnesota Counts Its Blessings," 501 Park Avenue, Minneapolis 15.

THE MINNESOTA Historical Society, founded in 1849, is the oldest organization listed in William C. Rogers' recent booklet on Minnesota Voluntary Associations (1958. 62 p.). The work includes a description, an analysis, and a useful directory of more than four hundred state-wide organizations now active in Minnesota. It was compiled by Mr. Rogers in his capacity as director of the state organization service of the University of Minnesota's general extension division.

UNDER THE TITLE Minnesota Pioneers: Word Pictures of Famous Characters and Interesting Events in the Story of Minnesota, Mabel Otis Robison groups sketches of individuals ranging in time from Radisson and Groseilliers to Archbishop Ireland (Minneapolis, T. S. Denison & Company, 1958. 143 p.). Each of the forty-five chapters included centers about a personality. Although the book is attractively produced, the slight sketches that comprise the text are marked by frequent errors of fact and spelling. In the heading of the very first chapter, for example, the name of a Minnesota ex-
plorer appears as "Grosseillers." Such evidence of hasty and careless preparation indicates that the work has little value.

A LOG SCHOOL erected at Sauk in 1903 was the center of interest in a Beltrami County celebration on June 22, when the restored structure was presented to the local historical society. Pictures of the one-room schoolhouse and of a bus used to transport early students appear in the Blackduck American for June 26.

AN ILLUSTRATED edition of the Heron Lake News, published on May 29, commemorates the diamond jubilee of this Jackson County community by devoting many of its fifty-two pages to material about its history. Among the featured articles is a sketch of "J. T. Smith, Founder of Heron Lake," contributed by his son, Morton W. Smith of Minneapolis. It records the story of a Welsh pioneer who settled on the site of the future community in 1871, served as postmaster until 1877, established a general store there, and built a tow mill for the processing of flax straw. Much information about the latter project is drawn from early business records owned by the writer. Among other items of special interest in the issue are articles on the city's name, on the grasshopper plague of the 1870s, and on a prairie fire that threatened the community in 1893, all by Alvin E. F. Glaser, president of the Jackson County Historical Society; on a brick and tile factory that was a "major business" in the city for two decades following 1909; and on "Heron Lake, Hunters' Paradise" of the era of unlimited bags.

A REMINISCENT NARRATIVE of unusual interest and value is the "Story of Theodore F. Koch, Land Colonizer and Founder of Clara City," the first installment of which appears in the Clara City Herald for June 27. The account, which was prepared by Koch "in his later years, from memory and from old business and personnel records" deals largely with his colonizing activities in Minnesota between 1884 and 1905. After arriving from Holland, he and a Dutch partner named Martin Prins promoted the sale of railroad lands, particularly in Chippewa and Kandiyohi counties, where they developed the settlements of Clara City and Prinsburg. The publication of the narrative has been made possible through the courtesy of Koch's son, Mr. Theodore W. Koch of St. Paul.

THE USEFULNESS of official financial records as historical sources is illustrated in an article appearing in the Faribault County Register of Blue Earth for June 17. From a ledger kept by succeeding treasurers of Elmore Township from 1876 to the present, the writer draws examples which contain information about local history, institutions, and people.

THE NEW MUSEUM of the Hennepin County Historical Society, at 2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on May 1. Dr. J. O. Christianson, superintendent of the University of Minnesota school of agriculture, was the principal speaker. The museum formerly was located on Harmon Place.

IN Eighty Years at the Gopher Hole: The Saga of a Minnesota Pioneer (1867-1947), Minnie Ellingson Tapping presents her reminiscences of a lifetime spent on a farm overlooking the Minnesota Valley at Bloomington (New York, Exposition Press, 1958. 228 p.). Various aspects of rural life are pictured, with descriptions of husking bees, political meetings, religious gatherings, and the like. Appropriately, Mrs. Tapping's story of her Minnesota experiences appeared in the year of her state's centennial.

FRANK A. STAFFENSON

OLD MILL State Park in Marshall County, which centers about a gristmill built in 1880, was officially dedicated and opened to the public with appropriate ceremonies on June 1. For restoring the mill, which is operated by a Case steam engine of 1878, the Marshall County Historical Society received an award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Historical sketches and pictures of the mill appear in the Warren Sheaf for May 28.

THE OPENING installment of "A Medical History of Meeker County to 1900" by Harold E. Wilmot is the latest addition to the "History of Medicine in Minnesota" which has been appearing for many years in Minnesota Medicine. The present contribution, in the April issue, consists largely of quotations from other publications dealing with the early history of the county.

"IN AN EFFORT to bridge the gap between 1908 and the present," the Nobles County Historical Society has published a Nobles County History edited by Al Goff (St. Paul, 1958. 279 p.), thus making available the first work on the subject to appear in half a century. For material about the era before 1908, the editor has leaned heavily on a book by A. P. Rose issued in that year. The bulk of the volume, however, is devoted to chapters about later events, with lengthy sections on agriculture and churches. Some chapters, like an account of "The Leota
Settlement” by Charles Mundale, are reprints of articles that appeared earlier in the Worthington Daily Globe. The story of the “Worthington plan” to improve international relations, for which the county’s chief city received the World Brotherhood award in 1958, is recounted in detail. Included is a collection of plats showing the county’s townships in 1914 and 1958.

IN A pamphlet on the History of Early Railroading in Winona County (1958, 29 p.), R. E. Miles reviews the history of the Winona and St. Peter and the Chicago and Northwestern railroads and shows how they contributed to the progress of southeast Minnesota. He also touches on the origins of the Green Bay and Winona, the Chicago and Great Western, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy roads.

CENTENNIAL ITEMS

PUBLICATIONS occasioned by the Minnesota statehood centennial are far too numerous to be completely covered in the limited space available in this magazine. Hereewith, however, appear brief comments on some of the books, pamphlets, and articles of state-wide interest that may well be of value long after the 1958 celebration is over. They are followed by a list of newspapers and other publications of more purely local significance that were issued before July 1. The latter are arranged alphabetically by counties.

AMONG the most useful publications to emerge from the statehood anniversary is a “Centennial Edition” of Who’s Who in Minnesota, edited by Bernice White and Avis Person and published by Hugh L. White (554 p.). Biographical sketches are arranged alphabetically by counties. The work opens with an illustrated “Sketch of Minnesota” by Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society. The volume, which sells for $27.50 until January 1, and for $37.50 thereafter, may be obtained by writing to the publisher at 11384 Forthie Street North East, Seattle, Washington.

FEATURED in the centennial issue of The Farmer, which appeared on April 5, is a survey of “Minnesota’s Century of Statehood” by Dean Theodore C. Blegen. More than thirty additional articles combine to make this magazine a veritable mine of information about the history of Minnesota agriculture. Among the varied topics covered are farm machinery, crops, harvesting, co-operatives, alfalfa, weather, marketing, and fruits. Excellent illustrations add greatly to the value of these historical reviews.

THE Minnesota Editorial Association prepared a “Centennial Supplement” which was distributed to readers of 366 Minnesota newspapers issued during the week of May 5. Featured is an article on the Minnesota Historical Society’s newspaper collection, prepared by its assistant director, Robert C. Wheeler. Included also are articles on Minnesota agriculture by Harold B. Swanson and Phil Tichenor; on natural resources by George A. Selke and J. W. Clark; on transportation by Philip D. Jordan; on public schools by T. J. Berning and Harry M. Lokken; and on Fort Snelling by Russell W. Fridley.

TWELVE monthly radio programs presented under the title “Minnesota Milestones” constitute the contribution made to the centennial commemoration by station WCCO. The scope of the broadcasts is suggested by such individual subjects as “Oxcarts to Rockets,” “Sodbusters to Soilbanks,” and “Pipestone to Taconite.” The series has received national recognition in the form of an award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Texts for all the programs are available in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

AN ILLUSTRATED guide to Catholic Minnesota: Historic Places and Tours (72 p.) has been published by the Catholic Aid Association of St. Paul as a contribution to the centennial. In addition to listing, describing, and picturing historic sites of special interest to Catholics, the booklet outlines nine tours.

A PAMPHLET entitled The People Together has been published by the People’s Centennial Book Committee of Minnesota, of which Meridel Le Sueur is chairman (48 p.). Her own article entitled “People are the Story” is featured in the booklet. Other contributions include an account of the “Farmer Labor Party” by Clarence Hathaway, a report on “The Great Northern Strike of 1894” by Amos Flaherty, a survey of “Milestones of Labor’s First Century” by Carl Ross, and an anonymous sketch of Thorstein Veblen.

A Historical Album of Minnesota contains reproductions of more than a hundred pictures illustrating the state’s past and present (Minneapolis, Historical Publications, Inc., 1957, 80 p.). They are grouped under four headings—the Arrowhead, “Indian Country,” “River Country,” and “God’s Country.” Brief explanatory statements accompany the pictures.

September 1958
INFORMING ARTICLES on the “Postal History of the Minnesota Frontier” by Lorin C. Warg and on “Minnesota’s History of Stamps” by James Taylor Dunn, librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, appear in the May issue of Stamps, where they call attention to the statehood centennial. Stamp collectors also recognized the event by staging a philatelic exhibition in St. Paul from May 9 to 11.

STUDENTS of cultural history will welcome a survey of A Century of Minnesota Architecture by Donald R. Torbert, prepared to serve as a catalogue for an exhibit organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (58 p.). The display, which consisted of photographs by Jerome Liebling, was placed on view in four other centers after opening in Minneapolis in February.

EIGHTEEN sketches, originally published in the programs of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra during the season of 1957-58, have been reprinted in a booklet entitled A Century of Music in Minnesota (20 p.), published by the Northwestern National Life Insurance Company. The opening sketch briefly reviews the story of the Hutchinson family; others describe the careers of musicians like Frank Danz, Jr., Olive Fremstad, and Eugene Ormandy.

A PROGRAM issued for the production staged on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat provides a lasting record of an unusual feature of the celebration. It includes a brief survey of the state’s theatrical history, as well as a note on the “General John Newton,” the craft that was transformed into a showboat.

THE American Swedish Monthly commemorates the centennial by devoting much of its May issue to articles about Minnesota. Featured are accounts of “Swedes in Minnesota” by Roy Swanson, of the Youngdahl family by John Nyberg, of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis by Lilly Lorénzen, and of Gösta af Petersens, Sweden’s diplomatic representative in the upper Northwest, by Paul Swenson.

A TOURISTS’ guide issued by the Minnesota department of business development under the title 100 Years of Vacation Fun (43 p.) includes a list of “Historic Sites you may wish to see.”

COPIES of a pamphlet describing the exhibits on the Minnesota Centennial Train were distributed to those who viewed the traveling display (31 p.). The train, which stopped at communities in eighty-six of the state’s eighty-seven counties between April 19 and September 4, received 633,847 visitors during that period, according to a report in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for September 5.

Benton County

Carver County
Carver County Today and Yesterday (70 p.). A short sketch of county history compiled and published by the local centennial committee.

Chisago County
The History of Franconia, by Judith Johnson Wahlquist (16 p.). An illustrated booklet published by the Franconia Old Settlers Association on the occasion of its twentieth annual meeting, held on July 13.

Cottonwood County

Douglas County
Park Region Echo of Alexandria, June 12. A centennial edition which includes a history of the county by R. S. Thornton.

Alexandria Centennial Historical Program (24 p.). An illustrated booklet issued in connection with a celebration staged from June 13 to 15, and featuring “100 Years of Progress” in Alexandria and sketches of Douglas County townships.

Hennepin County
Greater Minneapolis, January, 1958. The centennial issue of the monthly published by the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, comprising 218 pages and dealing with “15 business, industrial and professional classifications.”

Minneapolis Tribune, May 11. A special centennial edition of more than a hundred pages, plus a Picture Magazine of forty pages featuring “Minnesota’s Glorious Past.” The latter is one of a centennial series which includes elaborately illustrated issues devoted to transportation, January 5; education, February 16; government, March 16; churches, April 6; and recreation, May 4.

Long Lake. A pamphlet (61 p.) issued as a souvenir of a local celebration staged on June 14 and 15 and featuring a sketch of community history by Eleanor Neilson.

Meet Minnetonka (26 p.). A slight booklet apparently published by the League of Women Voters of Minnetonka Village. It includes sections on history, government, education, and the like.
Kandiyohi County
Round Robin of Kandiyohi County, edited and published by Karl and Helen Thurn (Willmar, 1958. 254 p.). A privately printed volume of reminiscent sketches by pioneers of the area, illustrated with contemporary views in color.

Lac qui Parle County
Pioneer Stories, 1871-1958 (48 p.). A collection of sketches assembled under the direction of Melvin S. Wroolie, county superintendent of schools, and published by the centennial committee of the local teachers' association.

Madison Press, June 23. Includes a centennial supplement featuring county history.

Marshall County
Red River Carts Trek: Historic Pembina Trail, by E. Neil Mattson (20 p.). An illustrated pamphlet published by the county centennial committee. The text deals with the trails and the cart trade which once connected Marshall County with St. Paul.

Martin County
Fairmont Daily Sentinel, April 26, May 10 and 24, and twice each month thereafter. Installments of a county history arranged by decades.

Mower County
Austin Daily Herald, May 10. Includes a special centennial section on local history.

Nobles County
“A Tale of One City,” Brewster, by Ethel Krukemeyer (76 p.). A pamphlet surveying “87 years of Brewster’s progress.”

Norman County
A Short History of Norman County (124 p.). A “centennial edition” including sketches of townships, communities, and organizations.

Otter Tail County

Ramsey County

Program for the St. Paul Festival of Nations, May 7-11 (52 p.), the eleventh event in a series staged by the local International Institute. Included is a wealth of information about national groups in Minnesota and St. Paul.

Renville County
A historical sketch of Beaver Falls by Ethel Morse Greenslit, published in the Olivia Times-Journal, June 12 and 19.

Rice County
Faribault Daily News, June 6. A centennial edition featuring the one-hundredth anniversary of Shattuck School, which was marked from June 6 to 8.

St. Louis County
Centennial Roaring Stony Days . . . in Commemoration of Ely 70th Birthday, 1888-1958 (100 p.). An illustrated souvenir booklet featuring a chronology based on newspaper files for the years from 1888 to 1957, and including special sections on “Finnish Pioneers” and on the history of Winton.


Stearns County
A Century of Progress, by Gertrude Gove. A history of the St. Cloud public schools covering the years from 1858 to 1958 (72 p.), including twelve pages of pictures.

Paynesville Press. Centennial features include a serial history of the community, which was still running eight months after the first installment appeared on January 25, and a history of St. Martin Township published in parts from February 6 to June 26.

Traverse County
Wheaton Gazette, June 13. A special centennial supplement of articles on local history.

Washington County
A Century of Fire Fighting (8 p.). An illustrated booklet prepared by William F. Campion for the volunteer fire department of Marine-on-St. Croix.

Winona County
A River Town Is Born, by Sister Mary David Homan (16 p.). A brief review of the history of Winona, issued as a centennial publication by the Winona County Historical Society.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE HOUSE built at Hastings in the 1850s by William Gates Le Duc and long occupied by the family of this distinguished Minnesota pioneer has been presented to the society by Mr. Carroll B. Simmons, who has owned it since 1931. Under the terms of the deed transferring the property, Mr. Simmons will continue for some time to live in the house, where he operates an antique shop. Eventually, however, it will be appropriately furnished and opened to the public as a historic shrine under the society's administration. The present transfer of the property assures its permanent preservation. The society formally accepted Mr. Simmons' generous gift in a ceremony held on the
THE Le Duc-Simmons house, Hastings, 1958 grounds of the house on September 7. More than seven hundred people gathered at Hastings for the event. In addition to Mr. Simmons, who explained why he had presented his home to the society, speakers participating in the program included Mr. Leonard Lampert, Jr., president of the society; Mr. Arthur Naftalin, state commissioner of administration; Mr. Peter S. Popovich, chairman of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission; and Mayor Wallace H. Erickson of Hastings. Members of the audience were given an opportunity to view the interior of this handsome historic house, which is valued at about $100,000.

THE DIRECTOR of the society, Mr. Russell W. Fridley, has been appointed to the council of the American Association for State and Local History, a national organization composed of officers of historical societies and agencies.

THE SOCIETY'S curator of manuscripts, Miss Lucile M. Kane, is one of the "35 distinguished members of their profession" who were designated Fellows of the Society of American Archivists at its annual dinner meeting, which was held in Salt Lake City on August 18. The scholars thus honored were chosen by a committee on professional standards, consisting of eleven past presidents of the organization. Their selection reflects a "review of qualified professional experience of five or more years, advanced educational experience, writings of superior quality and usefulness, and demonstrated initiative, resourcefulness and professional morale." Only six women other than Miss Kane are among the thirty-five newly elected fellows.

FOR THE PUBLICATION of the Gopher Reader, the society and the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission have received a joint award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The award gives national recognition to the volume, which is made up of articles selected from the society's magazine for juniors, the Gopher Historian. The work is now in its second edition.

THE RESIGNATION of Mr. F. Sanford Cutler, who has served as curator of the society's museum since January, 1953, was announced early in August. Mr. Cutler will attend the Church Divinity School of the Pacific at Berkeley, California, where he will prepare for the Episcopal ministry. The associate curator of the museum, Mr. Chester Kozlak, has been named acting curator.

THE SOCIETY'S committee for the study of Negro history (see ante, p. 36) has received $2,000 from the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission to finance the promotion of the project. The grant made possible the appointment of a research associate to prepare a review of the Negro's contributions to Minnesota history. Professor Earl Spangler of the department of history in Macalester College, who was chosen for this work, has completed his research and writing on the subject, and plans for the publication of his manuscript are now in progress.

IN COLLABORATION with the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives, the society is making a concerted effort to assemble records relating to the activities of co-operatives in the state. Various types of co-operative organizations are invited to place their records in the society's custody, thus assembling the raw materials for a future history of this important movement.

A DISPLAY illustrating "100 Years of Minnesota Handicrafts" was assembled by the society in co-operation with the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art, the St. Paul Science Museum, and the cultural arts committee of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission. The traveling exhibit, which had its initial showing at Wayzata on May 15, followed a schedule that took it into many Minnesota communities in the summer and fall months. It was arranged under the supervision of Malcolm E. Lein, director of the St. Paul Gallery.