
Reviewed by Ralph D. Casey

MR. HAGE'S scholarly account of the frontier newspapers of Minnesota is a model of press history. It neither places undue stress on the editorial thunderers of the pioneer society, nor does it become a sociological treatise ignoring the significant role played by the irrepressible crew of journalists who helped to make Minnesota articulate. The author has recognized that the press was not an independent agency. His history is a balanced account of the reciprocal relationship between journals and journalists and the setting of which they were a part.

The task of extracting historical nuggets from the mine of "jumbled, disparate and mainly trivial details" in the newspaper files must have been a heroic one. It was necessary to comb thousands of newspaper pages in order to interpret the outlook and behavior of the early editors, as well as those of a later generation which are touched on in an epilogue chapter devoted to the development of the modern Twin City dailies. Official documents, biographies, letters, diaries, and other records aided him in arriving at judgments on how well or ill the press served its readers.

Detachment, candor, and fairness mark the author’s reconstruction of the changes in the newspapers over a decade. Their constructive endeavors are recalled, but Mr. Hage tells also of their misdirected zeal and their lack of restraint during pitched political battles. He reports entertainingly on the panegyrics written to persuade prospective settlers and townsmen to migrate to Minnesota. Characteristic of these are editor James M. Goodhue’s florid enthusiasms in the columns of the Minnesota Pioneer. Even on the brink of the 1857 depression in the Northwest, the Minnesotian’s spokesman rejected pessimism and cited "happy examples of Western speculation and Minnesota’s full harvest."

Intent on impressing officialdom in the nation’s capital, and impelled to sing the praises of the Minnesota area, the editors always wrote with one eye on the eastern papers, with which they exchanged their own. Meantime, they neglected the news at their own doorsteps. If they thought seriously about local reporting, the Minnesota writers no doubt rationalized that the average pioneer would not miss the account of local events, as he would quickly learn of them without the help of a paper.

Where the frontier press consistently failed, Mr. Hage writes, was in “any sense of involvement in the great conflict that was building up in the nation in the 1850s.” Faint echoes carried to Goodhue’s journal, he adds; other papers were indifferent to the crisis. He describes the frontier press as an “activist press,” and fears “that if its editors had paused in the headlong rush to ask what is progress and why, it is doubtful that anyone would have been listening.” Yet he understandably stresses that the early press did serve as a force in developing community cohesion in Minnesota; that over the years editorial pages gained sobriety, the news took a more dominant place, and the press assumed something of its present form.

Mr. Casey is professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Minnesota.
He leaves his reader with a sympathetic understanding of the problems of editing and publishing in a sparsely settled pioneer environment.

The author’s vivid portraits of the editors that march through the narrative and his enthusiasm in recording their stories capture and hold the reader’s interest; the careful research that underlies the work and the author’s professional knowledge of the ways of the press result in a sound interpretation of the development of Minnesota newspapers. The book is livened throughout by Mr. Hage’s skill as a trained writer and his engaging sense of humor.

Photographs of early Minnesota publishers and editors, of political leaders who were prominent in the news, and of newspaper pages, advertisements, and early printing shops—all add interest to the volume. It also contains a useful list of Minnesota newspapers published between 1849 and 1860.

AGRICULTURAL WEST


Reviewed by Hiram M. Drache

Professor Fite in the preface and Ray Allen Billington in the foreword both point out the purpose of this book: to give a broad history of the frontier farmer west of the Mississippi. In one sweep the author covers the movement of the agricultural frontier across the western United States. Chapters that may at first seem repetitious move with the pioneer settler from one area to the next, following the endless struggle with nature that differed only according to geography and how the battle was won or lost. But Mr. Fite has a knack of making history come alive; he knows how to look for and write about the human side of it. Through the use of personal incidents he shows much of the joy, sadness, and hardship of frontier farm life.

In the years when a large majority of the country’s population was engaged in farming, there was a tendency to neglect the history of that commonplace occupation in favor of more colorful pursuits like fur trading, cattle raising, and mining. Today, possibly, the tide has turned; with only a small proportion of Americans actively engaged in farming, its history seems to have become more appealing. In his previous books dealing with various aspects of agriculture, Mr. Fite has championed the cause of agricultural history. If the present volume lacks the depth usually found in his works, it is because of its very purpose. Leaving the more detailed accounts for presentation in selected monographs, he here devotes himself to the broad story.

Even in this survey, however, Mr. Fite’s knowledge of the sources of agricultural history becomes obvious when one reads the thirty-seven pages of notes and the bibliographical essay. He seems to have listed the most significant works on each phase of the frontier, as well as having personally explored some of the best primary sources in those areas. The text is written in such a manner that the words fairly flow, making for pleasant as well as interesting reading. The index could have been more complete, and a few more maps could have been used, but the book is attractively illustrated with novel western farm scenes. If the other volumes in the Histories of the American Frontier series are as competently done, they will serve the cause of history well.

FRONTIERS REVISITED


Reviewed by David W. Noble

This book is the synthesis of Professor Billington’s long concern with, and many writings about, the frontier. It is a defense of the validity of the Turner thesis in explaining the history of the United States. It may be the last important defense of Turner. Professor Billington may be the last important historian of the West. It has been increasingly clear since World War II that the West as a significant area of

Mr. Drache is professor of history at Concordia College in Moorhead and the author of The Day of the Bonanza (1964).
specialized study has been disappearing in history departments to be replaced, perhaps, by specialists in immigration. As long as American historians were persuaded of the Turner belief that the frontier had created a new man, they focused their attention on the West as the matrix of that new birth and neglected the cultural influences brought by the European immigrants.

While no historian today doubts that there is a unique American national culture, many would claim that the national culture has a unique pattern within the larger framework of western civilization. Repeatedly, Mr. Billington states his recognition of the roots of American individualism, or materialism in the middle-class society developing in western Europe, but his analysis usually slips away from that recognition and back into Turnerian isolation. Thus he states that it is an American frontier trait to have a migratory impulse in contrast to the absence of such an impulse in Europe. His emphasis, then, is on Americans moving west from the eastern seaboard rather than Europeans moving west from Europe to America. In outlining four major American national characteristics — ambition for upward mobility, inner direction, competition, and individualism as products of the frontier experience — Mr. Billington does not seriously consider the possibility that these are middle-class traits to be found wherever the middle class is a significant part of society.

There is a final irony in the author’s attempt to bring a variety of social science tools to the description of Turner’s frontier. In postulating the difference between the European and the American as the difference between a man shaped by complex culture and a man in simple harmony with physical nature, the Turner thesis would seem to suggest that cultural studies would apply to Europeans and not to Americans. That Mr. Billington is concerned with cultural anthropology, social psychology, sociology, and behavioral political science as means to describe the American character seems to suggest a greater complexity of American culture than the Turner thesis would lead us to expect.

Mr. Noble is professor of history at the University of Minnesota and the author of Historians Against History (1965).

LITERARY EMIGRANTS


Reviewed by Roy W. Meyer

VARIOUS “Wests” have railed against eastern colonialism from the 1660s, when the Tide-water planters tried to deprive the frontier settlers of their rightful voice in the Virginia legislature, to the 1960s, when North Dakota and Minnesota wrangled over dual grain inspection. On the literary level eastern dominance long manifested itself in a near-monopoly of the publishing business, a state of affairs that obliged aspiring authors to go East and adapt their writing to the tastes of the dominant section. Mark Twain, Bret Hart, Edward Eggleston, Hamlin Garland — Westerners by birth or by temporary residence — all found in the East the outlet they needed. And all in some degree falsified the West that they wrote about.

The thesis of Robert Edson Lee’s suggestive reinterpretation of the literary treatment of the American West is that in writing for an eastern audience the authors romanticized their western experience. This was not simply a matter of editorial arm-twisting; it was done willingly, in some cases unconsciously, by the authors themselves. Thus the romantic clichés that color Francis Parkman’s view of the West were not due to bowdlerizing of The Oregon Trail by his eastern friends but were natural to a Boston Brahmin who had read James Fenimore Cooper.

Aside from a few early Spanish chroniclers, only nine writers are treated by the author, seven of them Easterners who commented on a land they saw only briefly: Lewis and Clark, Timothy Flint, James Hall, Washington Irving, Parkman, and (Missouri being east in Mr. Lee’s geography) Mark Twain. All but Lewis and Clark prettified their accounts to make them more palatable to an eastern reading public, and Nicholas Biddle did the same for the two

Mr. Meyer, a professor at Mankato State College, is the author of The Middle Western Farm Novel in the Twentieth Century (1965).
captains' journals. Only two authentic Westerners are discussed: Willa Cather, who wrote a few incisively realistic tales before the influence of the East and of Europe overwhelmed her and she turned to idealizing the West in novels like *O Pioneers!*, and Bernard De Voto, who came along too late to make the great contribution which he was potentially capable of giving.

If there is a weakness in Mr. Lee's stimulating book, it is that he restricts his selection to authors who support his thesis. Mari Sandoz, mentioned only by way of contrast to Willa Cather, might be cited as proof that a western writer could reach print without compromising his integrity. Parkman might similarly be offset by Lewis H. Garrard, whose *Wah-to-yah and the Taos Trail*, a product of the same "year of decision," was much less influenced by the genteel tradition.

But such criticisms can be leveled at any book that breaks new ground, as *From West to East* assuredly does. It documents and gives order to a theme before dealt with only in fragments and in unsystematic fashion. It does so in a lively, direct style that contrasts strikingly with the calculated obscurity of much literary scholarship. It is the kind of book that can be read with enjoyment, pondered with profit, and refuted only with difficulty.

The author's introduction is an expansion of chapter eight of his previous contribution to the Anvil series, *The North Atlantic Civilization* (1957) and constitutes a very abbreviated general account of the history of immigration to the United States. There is nothing new in it, and the reader would be well advised to consult in addition the bibliography at the rear of the book, a list which is itself abbreviated and incomplete.

The principal merit of the little volume lies in the series of documents and readings illustrative of the immigration experience, but the reader is advised to use also Oscar Handlin's *Immigration as a Factor in American History* (1959). The readings in the Kraus paperback range from the coming of the Pilgrims to the immigration law of 1965. They include American letters, comments by contemporaries, immigrant reactions, and some ballads and poems illustrative of the immigrants' experiences. They are well selected and useful. The editor has emphasized the experiences of the immigrants themselves, and this is all to the good.

As a short introduction to the history of American immigration, this paperback can be profitable reading.

**CONDEESED IMMIGRATION**


Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

THERE is undoubtedly a place for telescoped history in this age of plane-ride paperback reading. It has even some usefulness for high school and college undergraduate instruction. For the specialist in any field covered, such books have little merit. Within the limitations of its kind, however, this Anvil paperback fulfills its function.

Mr. Qualey is head of the history department at Carleton College in Northfield.


Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

WHEN STEPHEN LONG retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1863, his memory encompassed service to the United States government extending from the War of 1812 to the civil conflict. Recognized early as a "gentleman of large mechanical ingenuity," he soon proved that he was also sensitive to the needs of a nation that was unifying itself with bonds of transportation, acquiring information about its natural resources, and making its tortuous way into the West.

The most dramatic phase of the engineer's career was the period between 1816 and 1823 when he explored the West. Three major trips made in these years took him to the Falls of
St. Anthony in 1817, to the trans-Mississippi West on the "Yellowstone Expedition" in 1819-20, and to the Minnesota and Red rivers in 1823. Journeying by foot, horseback, canoe, skiff, and steamboat, Long and his companions gathered a harvest of information about regions that still piqued the imagination of Americans. Their adventures were broadcast in two works — classics in the literature of exploration — produced by expedition members Edwin James and William H. Keating.

Had it not been for Mr. Wood's vision, Long's historical reputation would have rested, as it has since his death in 1864, on his exploits as an explorer. Seeing the subsequent years as something more than a dreary postscript, the author has given substance to the engineer's contributions in designing steam engines and bridges, building roads, railroads, and steamboats, and improving the navigation of rivers. Although the exploration period is symbolized by Long's Peak, a shining mountain in Colorado named in his honor, and the years devoted to inventions and internal improvements are marked only by a snag boat, also named for him, his biographer has successfully contended against such odds to present Long's career in focus.

Writing this biography was a difficult task. Long seems to have left no personal papers, and, a devoted servant of government, he reveals himself in his official writings only by implication. Despite this handicap, Mr. Wood, who died shortly after publication of this volume, produced a good book. He was a master of the intricate public records in the National Archives, and he diligently scouted peripheral sources that somewhat illuminate Long's personal character.

The author's work can be applauded for what it does and what it tries to do, but commendation of the publisher must be more reserved. Although the book is handsomely printed and illustrated, the editing is inept. The first major biography of Stephen Long surely deserved more solicitude from the wielders of blue pencils who can do so much to improve the quality of historical writing.

Miss Kane, the society's curator of manuscripts, is co-recipient of a McKnight Foundation research grant to edit the 1817 and 1823 journals of Stephen Long.

SALVAGING HISTORY

Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo. By EDWIN C. BEARSS. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1966. xii, 208 p. Illustrations. $5.95.)

Reviewed by Robert J. R. Johnson

AT 11:55 A.M. on December 12, 1862, the Union ironclad "Cairo" made military history. It became the first warship ever blasted to the bottom by an electrically fired mine, a Confederate secret weapon. A fellow officer immortalized the historic meeting between the skipper of the "Cairo" and the mine (torpedo): "On December 12 Lieutenant-Commander [Thomas O.] Selfridge of the Cairo found two torpedoes and removed them by placing his vessel over them." In a mere twelve minutes the "Cairo," one of the earliest ironclads built in the Western Hemisphere, slipped beneath the muddy waters of the Yazoo River in Mississippi. No lives were lost, but the vessel, commissioned less than a year before, was gone. Its stacks and staffs were pulled down to hide its grave from the Confederates, for it carried loaded guns and a grand collection of personal and military equipment.

Edwin Bearss, a research historian for the National Park Service working at Vicksburg National Military Park, found the "Cairo." He and two friends examined maps and records, then used a magnetic compass to locate the ironclad. Having found it, he persevered; with the help of everyone who could possibly be enlisted, the vessel was raised. This book is the story of the "Cairo" — of its career as a man-of-war that rarely got anywhere in time for the action and of how it clung tenaciously and expensively to the mud of the Yazoo.

Mr. Bearss discussed the "Cairo" project at the first Conference on Underwater Archaeology, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul in 1963. In this book he goes farther, telling the story in rich detail. The first half is devoted to the history of the Western Flotilla, an army-navy force established to secure the Mississippi River. Seven ironclad gunboats,
named for river cities, formed the flotilla’s iron fist. The big, heavy, well-armed boats were manned by sailors and soldiers who stood inspection in a variety of Union uniforms. But the ironclads were not invulnerable. They were slow and subject to attack by rams. They also proved susceptible to damage from glass and black powder mines.

Divers, both civilian and military, free and hardhat, made it possible to recover the “Cairo.” They worked in bitter cold water in utter darkness. Techniques were tried and abandoned, plans made and discarded. Time, money, and heavy equipment were needed for the job; weather and the river fought the salvagers. From almost the very first dive, however, they began adding to knowledge of Civil War men and machines, and on December 11, 1964, the “Cairo” was out of the water, ready to surrender its “time capsule” of Civil War history to scholars.

Artifacts are one thing; several hundred tons of waterlogged ironclad gunboat are another. The future of the vessel remains to be resolved. The goal is restoration and public exhibit, but who is to do it and how much will it cost? When Hardluck Ironclad was published, the National Park Service seemed willing to take over the “Cairo,” but no money for restoration had yet been allocated.

TREASURE HUNTS

Lost Bonanzas. By Harry Sinclair Drago. (New York, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1966. xii, 276 p. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Helen McCann White

Harry Drago has read exhaustively about the lost gold and silver mines of the American West, as his bibliography attests; he has prowled the mountains and deserts interviewing many an old settler and prospector who had a story to tell about the rich treasure that someone glimpsed once just over the next hill. When dealing with lost mines, he writes, “one rule takes precedence over all others: if you believe it, it’s so.”

Mrs. White, who is on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, is the author of Ho! for the Gold Fields (1966).
best-known heroes, Frank and Jesse James. He came across the fiction readily enough. He even pinpointed the day (September 29, 1872), the writing (an editorial in the Kansas City Times), and the author (John N. Edwards) who sketched the first halo around these two gunslingers as latter-day Robin Hoods.

The fact came harder. It was the author’s bad luck to follow a cold trail through neighborhoods that in the 1860s and 1870s did not encourage blabbing to outsiders. The James boys doubtless hinted that any other policy forfeited much chance for health and long life. He did find enough facts to show the Robin Hood legend to be without basis and to judge his subjects plain crooks and murderers, but he could not find much about the James boys as live individuals. Faceless and grim, they would not step out of their hazy background.

This little history’s real value as Americana lies in showing how sentimental legend grew out of hard politics. To put it baldly, Democrats in post-Reconstruction Missouri found they could stay in office indefinitely by merely shedding tears for old Rebels who claimed that war atrocities hounded them into postwar crime.

The James boys were alive and fairly well known, and their friends made such a claim for them. Heavy infusions of fiction made them into a convenient legend at hand for every Missouri office seeker to use. The truth was not only irrelevant, but a hindrance. (The James boys’ shadows had quite an influence on Minnesota politics, too, in the years after 1876.)

Mr. Settle sticks to historians’ methods, keeping away from the gunplay and gush which make so much of the writing on this subject worthless. Everything important is footnoted; anything doubtful or missing is noted; and James fans can profit from bibliographical comments which review at length the tons of secondary material available.

The author has apparently done all his work in Missouri. Minnesota newspapers, for instance, are quoted only if reprinted in some Missouri journal. He also relies almost wholly on newspapers for critical points. In Minnesota, for instance, laws, resolutions, orders, and other public records have printed material he does not seem to be familiar with, and the Minnesota archives have unpublished material he does not cite. Other states, and state historical societies in addition to that of Missouri, may have something to offer.

One question: Dammit, Professor Settle, were the James boys in Northfield on September 7, 1876? Yes or no?

FINANCIAL HISTORY


Reviewed by Hugh D. Galusha, Jr.

THIS BOOK belongs with John Clay’s autobiography, My Life on the Range (1924), for they have a common accomplishment. Together they should lay to rest forevermore the canard about the Scottish people, which usually depicts them as unimaginative and conventional investors. This statement was made by Clay: “The Scotch, who are supposed to be one of the most thrifty races on the globe, are on the other hand the most speculative. Not the speculation you see at Monte Carlo, French Lick or Palm Beach — their young men reach out from inclination and necessity. They are progressive and aggressive, and they will venture anywhere in the pursuit of commerce.”

George Smith was just such a Scotsman as Clay had in mind, and in many ways their lives had dimensions in common. Like Clay, Smith spent part of his life as the United States agent for Scottish capitalists and was an imaginative investor who not only represented his principals well, but contributed tremendously to the development of his part of the United States. There the similarity ends, however. George Smith focused his attention on the upper Midwest, and after he had made his fortune, he returned to the old country for the last third of his life. There he lived aloof from the world with no degree of involvement — other than a remote financial one — with the region in

Mr. Galusha is president of the Ninth District Federal Reserve Bank located in Minneapolis.

Mr. Tremerry, a St. Paul attorney, is the author of Murder in Minnesota (1962), which contains a chapter on the Northfield raid of 1876.
which his enormous fortune had been made. His business life was a record of almost continuous financial success with, as the author points out, no time permitted for family, friends, or diversion from the making of money. John Clay, on the contrary, was a vital member of the total community in which he moved, and he died a beloved figure.

Alice Smith has done an extraordinary job of documenting a financial history, for this is really what the volume is. George Smith remains in death as shadowy and remote a figure as he must have been in life — less a figure than a column of impressive figures. But for anyone interested in the processes of finance in any age, this book is a must. And for those who are interested in regional economic history there are remarkable insights furnished into banking and investment practices of the Midwest during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

**MEDIC AT MAYO**


Reviewed by Robert Rosenthal

ALTHOUGH the Mayo Clinic and its famous founders have been the subjects of many articles and books throughout the years — especially at the time of the Mayo centennial in 1964 — there has not been before an intimate, autobiographical account by a surgeon who trained at the clinic. In 1963 Dr. Waltman Walters published his memoirs, *Forty Years of Surgery at the Mayo Clinic,* but that volume lacks the personal touch which lends such informal charm to this book.

Dr. Nagel’s reminiscence is not a history of surgery, nor is it an account of the clinic’s growth. Written by a distinguished surgeon nearly forty years after he left the clinic and after sufficient time had elapsed for him to evaluate in mature manner his experiences between 1922 and 1928, the book is one individual’s impression of the clinic’s formative years. The first five chapters set the background of Dr. Nagel’s Mayo experiences — from a discussion of the status of surgical clinics throughout the country, to a short but pleasant history of the clinic that includes the somewhat unusual career of William Worrall Mayo, the founding of St. Mary’s Hospital, and the mounting fame of Drs. Will and Charles Mayo by 1922 when the author began his training.

Subsequent chapters tell of the doctor’s association with individuals who were to make surgical history and describe the first hard years of the young “Fellow” who finally won his way into the surgical department. This, perhaps, is the most important section of the book. The author is expert and at his best when describing the tremendous changes that occurred in surgical techniques and proceedings.

The book is so well written that laymen will find it entertaining, and what could be dry facts become fascinating because the narrative is illuminated with anecdotal stories. The delineation of Dr. Nagel’s chief, Dr. E. Starr Judd, and his accomplishments is skillfully done; in addition to making the purely medical portion of the book understandable, the author has included a variety of nonmedical experiences such as a European trip in 1928, vividly recorded by this trained observer. Perhaps he gives too great attention to general medical history, dwelling overmuch on Rudolf Virchow, Louis Pasteur, Joseph Lister, Florence Nightingale, and John Hunter. But his comments will be valuable to the young student or doctor.

The book ends with some of Dr. William Mayo’s comments delivered at the tenth annual meeting of the Alumni Association of the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation. They are a fitting close to a penetrating and delightful little book which physicians will enjoy and which is an imperative for young Fellows at the clinic.

**SOCILOGICAL STUDY**

*Germania, U.S.A.: Social Change in New Ulm, Minnesota.* By Noel Iversen. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1966. 188 p. $5.50.)

Reviewed by John Sirjamaki

HOW German immigrants, refugees from the revolution of 1848, founded New Ulm, Minne-
sota, in 1856 and became an upper status group there which survives into the third generation is told by Mr. Iverson, a native son, in this excellent community study. These settlers belonged to the Turnverein, a German liberal social and political association transplanted by immigrants to the United States. The organization, headquartered in Cincinnati, established a colonization society to assist German immigrants in contending with nativist hostility and in founding new towns or rural settlements. Several Cincinnati members, with funds supplied by the colonization society, chose New Ulm. There they discovered a few German families from Chicago in the process of founding a settlement, and, joining forces, built it as the city of their hopes.

Motivated by Turnverein principles of social reform, the settlers tried to establish New Ulm as a socialist society. They formed a German Land Association to acquire the land on which the town stood and to operate a number of community enterprises. The failure of these ventures within a few years forced the settlers to give up their efforts at socialism and ended their attempt to exist as an ethnic colony. Subsequently they developed New Ulm as a prosperous Minnesota city and, with a Turner hall as the center of their activities, emerged as social and political leaders.

Mr. Iverson has reviewed the early years of New Ulm to 1859 and has skimmed its later history in a well-written, highly condensed narrative which occupies the first half of his book. In the second half he has provided a sociological analysis of the settlers and their descendants (the Turner group), following their transformation from an ethnic to a status group and assessing the changes among them by means of class, status, power, and assimilation factors.

This sociological analysis of New Ulm is tightly structured and carefully pursued. The author has compared two generations of Turner families with corresponding generations of non-Turner families by questionnaires, interviews, and observation, and has constructed scales to measure differences between them. Community studies carried on so systematically are not numerous, and this one is a model.

The evidence which Mr. Iverson has assembled clearly attests to the major role that Turner families played in developing New Ulm and to their prominence in its social, economic, and political activities. Their importance today, although declining, is still considerable. Many younger members, moreover, are now gaining wider eminence in the state and in the nation.

SUMMER NOSTALGIA


Reviewed by James Taylor Dunn

THE LATE William Gray Purcell, distinguished Minnesota architect, compiled an agreeable book of warm memories culled from his grandfather's published works and from his own pleasant reminiscences of a summertime boyhood spent in the pine-forested, lake-studded region of northwestern Wisconsin. About half the book contains carefully chosen selections from William C. Gray's popular column which first appeared during the late 1800s in The Interior, a Chicago-published Presbyterian paper he edited; later they were collected in several books like Camp-fire Musings: Life and Good Times in the Woods (1894). Skillfully interwoven with Grandfather Gray's contemporary accounts are Willie Purcell's own recollections of the good times at Island Lake along the trail which once connected the St. Croix Valley with Bayfield, Wisconsin. Perhaps outstanding in this quiet book are the stories of the valley woodsmen and Chippewa Indians who inhabited the region; here is the "crystallized sunshine of other days." In old age Purcell could well conjure up what he called the "magic spell" of his wilderness home. And the reader, too, after finishing this book (an exceptionally handsome volume, by the way) feels as though he, like Grandfather Gray, has just stepped through his cabin door "upon that familiar path, softly carpeted with silky red needles, where for fifteen years I have walked and returned."

Mr. Dunn is the author of The St. Croix: Midwest Border River (1965).

Mr. Sirjamaki is professor of sociology at the State University of New York in Buffalo.
St. Croix Trail Country is a book of everyday events, simply but well told. It adds up to good summertime reading for those of us lucky enough to have had similar childhood experiences among the lakes and woods and along the rivers of the Northwest.

CULTURAL CHECKLIST


Reviewed by Donald Z. Woods

IT IS NOT difficult to find a kind word to say about this work, but it is difficult to find one that has not already been said on the dust jacket. Fortunately, the author's preface will remain long after the jacket has departed. The publisher heralds "this scrupulously researched book," but the author states, with the modesty and honesty of the true historian, that "a few of the entries scattered throughout the book have not been checked for accuracy, and a few are incomplete."

The jacket proclaims the book to be a "bibliography . . . as functionally planned and executed as the new Chicago Civic Center." Mr. Gohdes, in the preface, says that his work is "more accurately . . . [a] checklist." And that it is — a good, usable, workaday, brought-together checklist, one that can lead the beginner quickly to the basic readings on literature and the theater of the various geographical areas in the United States.

Some questions will occur to the reader: Why does the author settle for "literature" and "theater"? In his preface he "notes with dismay that many of the recently published histories of American cities and states, more often than not, make little or no mention of music, literature, or the theater." Why was music omitted from the study? Why was the word "literature" not used as a title for the sections on that subject? Each of the segments on drama is headed with the word "theater," while the literature sections drop in regularly but unannounced.

Mr. Woods is associate dean of the general extension division at the University of Minnesota.

The volume is a handy roadside marker, saying in effect, “Straight ahead to the best-known and most serviceable books and articles on literature and drama in this part of the country.”

LIGHT ON CATLIN


Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

A TRADITIONAL "little old trunk, tucked away in attics" over many decades, has yielded the "personal archive" on which this delightful and informing book is based. Hitherto "completely unknown to students of Catlin's life," 174 letters written from 1798 to 1870 by or to the artist and members of his family have here been explicated by a granddaughter of George's youngest brother, Francis. After patiently transcribing the letters, Mrs. Roehm not only drew upon them to reconstruct the story of her distinguished great-uncle's personal life — a topic that for lack of information has been missing from earlier biographies — but she provided the charming connecting text that gives the narrative unity and makes it excellent reading.

Because George Catlin played such an important role in the history of American art and ethnology, Mrs. Roehm has allotted more space to him than to other members of his family, reproducing in full his thirty-five letters and quoting at length from those written to him or commenting on his activities. Notable among the latter are those penned by his father, Putnam Catlin, who regularly reported current news about his numerous clan. There emerges a picture of a devoted and close-knit family, whose members were deeply concerned for the welfare of the elder Catlins, their seven sons and daughters, and their offspring. Letters written in the autumn of 1836 provide examples of special interest to Minnesotans, for they follow the artist's announcement, dated at Prairie du Chien on August 1, that he was "starting to-

Miss Heilbron has written numerous books and articles in the field of western American art.
morrow morning for the Red Pipe Stone Quarry which will be a pretty hard trai­pse from here on horseback.” Months passed before he was again heard from, and his father’s letters reflect the worries endured by those dear to him before his safe return from this “long, very tedious and hazardous” journey.

As indicated in the subtitle, the western adventures of the Catlins did not end with George’s journey to southwestern Minnesota in 1836. The upper Midwest, especially, figured prominently in the lives of other members of this Pennsylvania family. George’s sister Eliza and her husband, Anson Dart, pioneered in the Green Bay area of Wisconsin in 1840, following his “financial downfall” after the Panic of 1837. This would be a “notable work,” writes Dale L. Morgan in his “Foreword,” if it contained nothing more than the letters relating to the Darts’ failure in the East and their struggle to establish themselves on the Wisconsin frontier. Touching upon pioneer life in the St. Croix Valley are numerous letters addressed to Francis Catlin after his appointment in 1849 as register of the land office at Hudson, then called Willow River, Wisconsin.

For those concerned with George Catlin’s books on the red men, there are numerous comments relating to their publication, especially the two volumes of Letters and Notes on the . . . North American Indians issued in London in 1841. The artist tells, too, of his unsuccessful efforts to sell his Indian gallery and his so-called “cartoon collection,” and Mrs. Roehm explains how they eventually were added to the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. It is gratifying to learn that the letters, which are listed in a useful appendix, have found a permanent home in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

... on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

THE FIRST of two projected volumes entitled Early American Winters by David M. Ludlum has been published by the American Meteorological Society with headquarters in Boston (1966. 285 p. $10.00.). While it does not reach as far west as the Minnesota area, the book brings together useful and considerable weather data for the period from 1604 to 1820. A second volume announced for 1967 will carry the record forward from 1821 to 1870. Divided into nine sections and containing a good index and bibliography, the volume offers a variety of source materials gleaned from printed works as well as letters, diaries, and ships’ logs. It is especially helpful for the states of the Northeast and Southeast, and it offers useful summaries of the winters of the Revolutionary War period and the War of 1812. One chapter, devoted to “Early Winters in the Old Northwest,” is largely composed of Ohio and Detroit data. A concluding section entitled “A Winter Anthology” ranges from excerpts from Samuel Sewall’s diary of 1705 at Boston to St. John de Crèvecœur’s “A Snowstorm as It Affects the American Farmer” (1775), to Lewis and Clark’s weather observations at Fort Mandan in 1804-05, and a description of springtime in Quebec in 1816. June D. Hølmquist

THE EXAMINATION of Thwaites’ Jesuit Relations Errata and Addenda by Joseph P. Donnelly, S.J. (Chicago, Loyola University Press, 1967. 269 p. $14.00) is not for casual readers. The book’s chief value will be, as far as historians are concerned, for persons wishing to translate very accurately French documents of the seventeenth century. For them it will be most useful. For example, in connection with Thwaites’ translation, “But Armand, wishing to save a chapel that the Father was carrying,” the author points out that the French word chapelle should be translated as “Mass kit,” not as “chapel.” He even lists the kit’s contents. The author explains why Thwaites should have translated chanteur as “recite our litanies,” instead of “sing” them; for, he says, “Jesuits do not sing the litanies said daily, but recite them in a normal tone of voice.” Both these examples and many more will be of special service to persons attempting to translate documents relating to the early exploration of the Minnesota country and adjacent areas. Father Hennepin’s book of 1663 is a case in point.

A further aid to scholars is rendered by the fine bibliography at the back of the book, covering publications “pertaining to the Jesuits and New France which have appeared since 1906.”
The author pays Thwaites this compliment: “Though Thwaites did not claim it . . . [his] bibliography [of 1906], for all practical purposes, was definitive.” Father Donnelly’s bibliography covers more than fifty pages and is especially rich for secondary sources and periodical literature. Grace Lee Nute

A RECENT product of the reprint industry, Guide to Reprints, 1967, edited by Albert J. Diaz (Microcard Editions, Inc., Washington, 1967. 88 p. $4.00), contains some 12,000 entries but somewhat fewer titles, as many books have been reprinted by more than one publisher. The scope of the work covers periodicals as well as books, and the basic condition for inclusion is that the reprint should contain no new composition apart from additional information on the title page. Books reprinted by the Minnesota Historical Society are listed, including one volume which does not conform to the criteria laid down. It is Five Fur Traders of the Northwest edited by Charles M. Gates, which was reprinted in 1965 with an entirely new transcription of Peter Pond’s journal. A number of articles reprinted from Minnesota History are not listed. Material likely to be listed in Paperbacks in Print is excluded. About a seventh of the entries deal with United States history, broadly interpreted. The arrangement is by author or by title in the case of periodicals. The edition and date of publication of the original book are frequently omitted.

Michael Brook

IN A SERIES of articles appearing in the Reporter and Farmer of Webster, South Dakota, on October 19, November 2, and December 7, 1966, and in the Watertown (South Dakota) Public Opinion of September 15, November 3, and December 14 and 23, Herman P. Chilson tells of efforts to locate the sites of camps established by Indian scouts who patrolled the Minnesota-South Dakota border region in the years following the Sioux Uprising. Under the direction of Joseph R. Brown, serving as “special military agent at Fort Wadsworth” in 1865, these scouts, according to Mr. Chilson, occupied a line running from Lake Benton in Lincoln County to the Big Sioux River, up that to Lake Kampeska near present-day Watertown, north to Enemy Swim Lake in Day County, South Dakota, and thence to Lake Traverse. Among those who served in the area the author lists Pierre Bottineau, Gabriel and Victor Renville, Solomon Two Stars, and Samuel J. Brown. In the Reporter and Farmer of November 2 he describes conflicting manuscript references to the camp near Enemy Swim Lake and recounts a recent interview with William De Coteau, a ninety-three-year-old resident of the area, who recalled that there had been “a scout camp . . . in the woods” near the shore of the lake. A map accompanying the article shows the probable location. Two earlier camps, somewhat to the west of the 1865 line, were tentatively located by Mr. Chilson in Lynn and Scottland townships of Day County.

A NEW SERIES entitled Classic American Historians under the general editorship of Paul M. Angle has been initiated by the University of Chicago Press. Each of the four published books of the projected eight-volume series has been abridged and provided with an introduction by a recognized scholar; documentation, however, has been eliminated because, Mr. Angle says, “books in this series were designed for reading, not research.” The available volumes are: The History of the United States of America from the Discovery of the Continent by George Bancroft, edited by Russel B. Nye (Chicago, 1966. xxvi, 366 p. Cloth, $8.50; paper, $3.45); Abraham Lincoln: A History by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, edited by Paul M. Angle (Chicago, 1966. xix, 394 p. Cloth, $8.50; paper, $3.45); The History of the Conquest of Mexico by William H. Prescott, edited by C. Harvey Gardiner (Chicago, 1966. xxvi, 413 p. Cloth, $8.50; paper, $3.45); and History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 by James Ford Rhodes, edited by Allan Nevins (Chicago, 1966. xxvi, 576 p. Cloth, $10.00; paper, $3.95). The works of Francis Parkman, Henry Adams, Moses Coit Tyler, and John B. McMaster are planned for future publication.

“GREY NUNS Voyage to Red River” is the title of a historically based story by Robert George Barclay, published in the Winter, 1966, issue of The Beaver. The article describes how four nuns of the Sisters of Charity, at the urging of Bishop Joseph N. Provencher, traveled in 1844 from Montreal through the Great Lakes, Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, the Winnipeg River, and finally “the muddy Red River” to Lower Fort Garry and, ultimately, to St. Boniface. The journey of nearly two months duration was undertaken by the sisters so that they might continue the school teaching at that settlement which had been begun in 1829 by Angelique Nolin, daughter of a North West Company trader.

AN ODD collection of balloon lore, pasted together in a sort of crazy-quilt scrapbook, has been published by the Beacon Press under the
title With Brass and Gas: An Illustrated and Embellished Chronicle of Ballooning in Mid-Nineteenth Century America (Boston, 1967. 238 p. $6.00.). The man with the scissors and paste is Munson Baldwin, and the drawings—which add much to the book’s attractiveness—are by Owen Wood. Other embellishments include a variety of type faces, column widths, ornamental borders, and page arrangements, planned “to impart the flavor of the period.” The volume is strictly for those who relish the quaint and curious without continuity or factual reference; the history-minded reader will feel like the unnamed balloon passenger who found that “there are no intermediate points by which the eye can be gradually conducted downwards; so that the impression of height upon the senses—which causes dizziness—is indefinite, vague.”

A list of sources is given, including books, magazines, and newspapers, but none of the extracts used is identified. All appear to be from the 1850s. The arrangement and cutting make them seem like a babble of voices interrupting and shouting each other down, yet one draws from the clomor a feeling of the popular excitement stirred by balloons and the strange blend of science and showmanship that inspired the nineteenth-century aeronaut. Midwestern balloonists are well represented, among them John H. Steiner, whose visit to Minnesota in 1863 was the second attempt at aerostation in the North Star State. Steiner’s race with the French aeronaut, Eugene Godard, in October, 1858, from Cincinnati, is covered in a few breathless quotations without mention of place or date.

Rhoda R. Gilman

THE LETTERS and journal of Henry A. Boiler: Missouri River Fur Trader, edited by Ray H. Mattison, have been reprinted from the 1966 Spring and Summer issues of North Dakota History (Bismarck, 1966. 171 p.). Dated between 1857 and 1860, the letters comprise the first two-thirds of the book and were written chiefly on board the steamer “Twilight” or from Fort Atkinson. The journal covers the months of September through December, 1857, and was kept while Boiler was stationed at Lake-a-Fishhook-Village near Fort Atkinson. Boiler was for a time a partner of Charles Larpenteur and visited St. Paul in 1860; he was also, as Mr. Mattison points out, “articulate and highly literate,” and his writing describes “in great detail his life as a fur trader among the Indians.” Illustrations, principally by Karl Bodmer and Philippe Régis de Trobriand, accompany the text.

JOHN PARKER, in a 1964 Burton lecture published by the Historical Society of Michigan, tells of The Great Lakes and the Great Rivers: Jonathan Carver’s Dream of Empire (Lansing, Michigan, 1965. 18 p.). The annotated booklet draws largely from the unpublished manuscript journals that Carver kept before writing his Travels through the interior parts of North America. After describing briefly the area traversed by the explorer in 1766–67 during an unsuccessful attempt to find a northwest passage, Mr. Parker examines Carver’s map that defined eleven proposed provinces of “a great inland empire,” and his plan for using the waterways between the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Mississippi River for commerce.

A LONG-FELT NEED has been answered by the publication of Dissertations in History: An Index to Dissertations Completed in History Departments of United States and Canadian Universities, 1873–1960, compiled by Warren F. Kuehl (1965. 249 p.). In the introduction, Mr. Kuehl points out that he has included only doctoral theses for which degrees have been conferred by a formally organized history department; that closely related fields such as American studies and American civilization are not considered; and that no indication of publication is provided—primarily because length became prohibitive and because of “the seemingly impossible task of determining what constitutes publication.” The “Numerical Survey” cites the University of Minnesota as having granted 144 doctoral degrees in history, beginning with two in 1898. The subject index has 33 entries under the Minnesota heading.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE FIRST adequate published record of the many historic markers to be found along Minnesota’s highways was produced this winter by the Minnesota Historical Society. The booklet, entitled History Along the Highways: An Official Guide to Minnesota State Markers and Monuments (1967. 66 p. Illustrations, maps $2.00), was compiled by June Drenning Holmquist, Sue E. Holbert, and Dorothy Drescher Perry, all members of the society’s publications staff. It is the third booklet to appear in the Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series financed by appropriations from the Natural Resources Fund.

In it are included the legends of 166 markers and monuments, divided into three groups (historical markers, state monuments, and geological markers) and numbered for easy location on the booklet’s six full-page maps. The oldest group represented is the state monuments—
each created by statute between the years 1873 and 1929. Many of these are located in cemeteries and all are more commemorative than informative. By the 1930s the automobile had become a leading means of recreation, and in this decade the first 112 highway markers were erected by the state department of highways in cooperation with the historical society. These were aimed at a traveling public more interested in facts than veneration.

In an informative introduction, Mrs. Holmquist reviews the rather hapless history of the program since 1940—a record of divided responsibility and inadequate funding that ended with the passage of the Minnesota Historic Sites Acts of 1965, which gave full responsibility for authorizing and erecting markers to the historical society and provided funds for development of the program. A measure of the confusion that had been generated over the years was the fact that no single agency possessed an up-to-date list of historical markers in existence, not to mention an accurate record of the legends appearing on them. The task of preparing the present booklet was therefore a formidable one, and despite “diligent efforts,” the compilers admit that “it is very possible that some significant markers may have been missed.” A practical acknowledgement of this appears at the end of the book, where blank forms are provided for the use of the reader who may stumble upon an unrecorded legend at some bend of the highway.

ADDITIONS to the ever-growing list of business histories include four of special interest to Minnesotans: Sunlight on Your Doorstep: The Minneapolis Tribune’s First Hundred Years, 1867–1967 by Bradley L. Morison (Minneapolis, Ross and Haines, Inc., 1966. 149 p. Cloth, $3.95; paper, $1.75); Cargill Beginnings . . . an Account of Early Years by John L. Work (Minneapolis, 1965. 154 p.); In Quest of Quality: Hormel’s First 75 Years by Richard Dougherty (Austin, 1966. 357 p. Illustrations. $3.95); and The Unique Voice of Service: The Story of the Kahler Corporation by Clark J. Pahlas (Rochester, 1964. 166 p.).

Among the co-operatives in the state which have noted anniversaries by publishing commemorative booklets are: the Twin City Milk Producers Association with 50 Years: An Anniversary History (n.p., 1966) of the organization which covers dairy producers in twenty-two counties in Minnesota and ten in Wisconsin; Roseau Electric Cooperative, Incorporated: 25th Anniversary 1940–1965 (Roseau, n.d.), the story of that group’s furnishing of power to 2,500 members in Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau counties; and Out of the Dark Ages: A History of the Agralite Cooperative by Harold Severson (n.p., 1965. 32 p.), that recounts the same general information about the Benson-based organization which supplies electricity to nearly 4,400 members in Swift, Stevens, Big Stone, and Pope counties.

An attractive thirty-five-page pamphlet entitled A Century of Service: The Centennial Story of the St. Paul District, Army Corps of Engineers (1966) by Franklin J. Ryder traces the development of that group’s work from the preservation of the Falls of St. Anthony through dam building, flood control, and harbor improvement.

A HANDSOME and substantial-looking volume by Richard S. Prosser has appeared under the title Rails to the North Star (Minneapolis, 1966. 283 p.). While the full story of the vital part played by railroads in the development of Minnesota has never been told, this book will do little to fill the gap. The first 115 pages are devoted to an annotated history of the state’s railroads from territorial times to 1962. As the author acknowledges in his introduction, it was hastily done and is far from complete. The main sources used were the records of the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission, a number of reminiscences from the Minnesota Historical Collections, and fifteen or twenty books of varying reliability. No manuscript sources were used, nor was there any systematic examination of scholarly work already done on this large and complex subject. Although it is claimed that the book deals “with all facets of railroad development,” it is mainly an account of railroad construction in the state. The financial history and economic impact of the railroads is scarcely touched upon; the author attempts to deal with regulation, but he would have done better to avoid the subject. His claim of factual accuracy must also be denied. For example: the “virgin voyage” of the “Virginia” in 1823 was not made on the Minnesota River; the Hudson’s Bay Company “of Canada” did not use “water entirely for shipments from St. Paul”; work on the line from Winona to St. Peter in 1864–70 could hardly have been slowed by “hard times and harassments from the Indians,” for this was a period of prosperity, and virtually all Indians had been removed from southeastern Minnesota in 1863; finally, Jay Cooke failed in 1873 not 1893.

The miscellaneous information presented in the second half of the book is probably its most substantial contribution. Fifty-six pages
are devoted to an alphabetical "Summary of Railroad Companies Which Built in Minnesota," based on the records of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission and giving incorporation date, stated purpose, building record, acquisitions and mergers, and present ownership of all lines. There is a similar summary of corporations which built street and electric railways in the state, as well as alphabetical listings of those companies of both kinds which were incorporated but did not build. The researcher will no doubt find these to be useful check lists, especially in regard to dates of building and the extension of lines to specific places. An interesting map section shows the growth of the state's railway network by decades from 1870 to 1960; the growth of individual companies now operating in the state; taconite mining railroads; logging railroads; and transit and interurban lines. This is followed by miscellaneous documents, a short picture section, and a list of state statutes "Governing Regulation of Railroads." The bibliography is so incomplete that it is virtually useless. The serious historian will find that the book must be used with great care; the ordinary reader will find it attractive but confusing and poorly written.

Rhoda R. Gilman

THE OLMS TED County Historical Society's acquisition of Mayowood, the home of Drs. Charles H. and Charles W. Mayo in Rochester, is noted in the Summer, 1966, issue of the Quarterly of the Midwest Museums Conference of the American Association of Museums.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE Solon J. Buck Award for 1966 has been presented to James L. Clayton for his article on "The Growth and Economic Significance of the American Fur Trade, 1790-1890" which appeared in the Winter, 1966, issue of Minnesota History. Mr. Clayton, who has been visiting professor of history at Dartmouth College during the past year, will resume his academic duties at the University of Utah this fall. His winning article was chosen by a committee consisting of Kenneth Carley, author of The Sioux Uprising of 1862, Clarke A. Chambers, professor of history at the University of Minnesota, and Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of the magazine, who announced the award at the society's annual meeting in St. Paul on May 11.

THE MINNESOTA Historical Society's annual McKnight Foundation research grant for 1967 has been awarded to Lucile M. Kane and June D. Holmquist, who will use the funds for research leading to editing of the 1817 and 1823 journals of Major Stephen H. Long. As a member of the United States Corps of Topographical Engineers, Long traveled up the Mississippi from St. Louis in 1817 to pinpoint the future site of Fort Snelling. On his second journey in 1823, also made under army auspices, he surveyed the Minnesota and Red rivers and crossed the present Minnesota-Ontario lake region and Lake Superior. His journals of both expeditions are owned by the society, which published the first in unedited form in 1860 and reprinted it in 1890. The journal of the 1823 trip has never been published. Miss Kane is the society's curator of manuscripts; Mrs. Holmquist is its associate editor.

IN CO-OPERATION with the Fort Snelling State Park Association, the Minnesota Historical Society has prepared a booklet entitled Old Mendota: A Proposal for Addition of Land to Fort Snelling State Historical Park (St. Paul, 1966. 22 p. Map, illustrations). The report, which suggests a seventy-five-acre addition to the Fort Snelling park, was presented to the State Department of Conservation and to the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission; if it is approved by these groups, "appropriate legislation will be introduced into the 1967 session" of the state legislature. In addition to a brief history of Mendota and a look at the future of the area, the publication includes two appendixes and a bibliography.

RUSSELL W. FRIDLEY is the author of Historic Sites of North Dakota: A report on Their Preservation, Development and Interpretation (n.p., 1967. 30 p.). The pamphlet was prepared for the North Dakota Historical Society in cooperation with the North Dakota State Outdoor Recreational Agency and deals with "historic sites . . . that visibly portray the heritage and which uniquely belong to the Flickertail State." Mr. Fridley examines the sixty existing sites preserved in the state — fifty-one of which are administered by the historical society — in the light of their significance, their geographical distribution, their maintenance, and their interpretation. The booklet concludes with specific recommendations for a state-wide historic sites program. A helpful map augments the text.

IN the Fall issue of Minnesota History incomplete information was given by the editors as to the availability of Heather Gilbert's book, Awakening Continent: The Life of Lord Mount Stephen. The book is readily obtainable from the Aberdeen University Press, Aberdeen, Scotland. The price is $6.00.

MINNESOTA History