preceding it are available on microfilm in the society's reading room.

Because the scanning columns are set up to be blank under ordinary circumstances, the communication of routine or negative information is handled by blank spaces. Thus the presence of any notation at all in these columns serves as a flag calling immediate attention to some exceptional or especially significant feature of a newspaper. The result is an increased scanning speed far beyond that possible with the card files used in the past.

Terry Nordenstrom not only assigned and encoded the entries for the "class" and "decades" columns but also had a major share in working out the systems of notation used in these columns. Details of these and other features of the finding aid are available at the society's newspaper division.

Because the typical user of the society's collection of community newspapers is a person trying to find contemporary local accounts of some event which occurred in a given place at a given time, it is a matter of great convenience to be able, through the new finding aid, to determine quickly which newspapers are held by the society from any specific time period or geographic area and whether they are in fact community newspapers at all.

RONALD WALBARTH
Newspaper Curator

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Boyhood on the Upper Mississippi: A Reminiscent Letter.** By Charles A. Lindbergh.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1972. xiii, 50 p. 50 illustrations. Hard cover $4.50.)

IN THIS REMARKABLE reminiscence letter, written in installments over a period of more than four months from late October, 1969, to February, 1970, Charles A. Lindbergh has given us a vivid picture of what life was like in a small Minnesota community during the early years of the twentieth century. As unusual as the letter itself is the fact that it was written at odd moments and in such diverse places as a steamy hut in a remote part of the Philippines, the Army and Navy Club in Manila on the island of Luzon, Frankfurt, Germany, and a hallway on the tenth floor of a building in New York where Lindbergh was marooned when elevator service failed him on a chilly Friday evening in late December. His account of his boyhood days on a farm on the banks of the Mississippi River was finally finished as he made an inspection trip, between New York and London, of the recently inaugurated Boeing 747 of Pan American Airways (he serves as a member of the company's board of directors).

The intent of the letter was to furnish information to aid the Minnesota Historical Society in making a complete restoration of the Lindbergh homestead near Little Falls, which was first designated as a state park by the Minnesota legislature in 1931. By that time the home itself had been vacant for almost a dozen years, many of the structures built to house livestock and farm equipment had already disappeared, and the house itself had fallen into a sad state of disrepair. During the next decade, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Division of State Parks of the Minnesota Conservation Department began to renovate the house with funds available through the Works Progress Administration. By 1937, the house had been restored and

a strong fence constructed to protect it from souvenir hunters. Many original family possessions were collected and returned to the home in the years that followed, particularly after Lindbergh's mother, Evangeline Land Lindbergh, died in 1954. By 1957, six rooms on the first floor had been restored and an exhibition area set aside in the basement. It was about this time that the home was opened to the public during the summer months.

In 1969, the Minnesota legislature transferred the administration of the house and seventeen acres of land adjacent to it to the Minnesota Historical Society which undertook to restore the house, as well as its furnishings, to its condition from 1906 to 1920 when it was the home of the Lindbergh family.

For anyone of Lindbergh's vintage, this account of life on a Minnesota farm in those early years of this tumultuous twentieth century awakens strong and nostalgic memories. Lindbergh begins his account with a resume of happenings before his own recollections of events, as related to him by his mother. From 1905 until 1920, the account moves more rapidly as his quick memory furnishes sharp details of his life in Minnesota. The result is the kind of letter that most men wishfully wish they had been capable of writing. His description of his years as a farmer during the time before World War I stirs memories which charm and sadden one at the same time. His account of the effort to teach his father to drive the family automobile awakened memories in this reviewer of his own father as he tried to learn the mysteries of the automobile after a lifetime of driving horses. Lindbergh's adventures on the Mississippi River with his homemade rowboats have a Tom Sawyer flavor to bring up happy and sad memories of the way of a boy in the carefree days of childhood.

It should be pointed out that the letter was not intended for publication. However, it has such obvious charm and is so revealing, not only of the times but of the...
character of the author himself, that publication became almost imperative. The appeal of the resulting book is enhanced by its design and by the use of numerous snapshots almost imperative. The appeal of the resulting book is enhanced by its design and by the use of numerous snapshots of Lindbergh and others through the years. This revealing document is not only a tribute to the society that chose to make it available to the reading public — it also reflects the generous gesture of one of Minnesota's distinguished citizens.

Reviewed by ARTHUR J. LARSEN, former professor of history at the University of Minnesota at Duluth. He retired last summer.

Almost to the Presidency: A Biography of Two American Politicians. By Albert Eisele.
(Blue Earth, Minnesota, The Piper Company, 1972. 459 p. Illustrations. $10.95.)

Private Faces/Public Places. By Abigail McCarthy.
(Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1972. 448 p. Illustrations. $8.95.)

THE KEEN PERCEPTIONS of a competent journalist and an intelligent wife are the substance of these two election-year books. Read separately or, better yet, in tandem, they make a very substantial contribution to our understanding of the collision course charted by Hubert H. Humphrey and Eugene J. McCarthy in their contest for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. Almost to the Presidency provides the necessary political prelude leading to the climactic campaign. Private Faces/Public Places, which covers the same period, offers a more intimate, though by no means an apolitical, view.

Albert Eisele, a native Minnesotan and national political reporter for the Saturday Review, relied primarily on his own knowledge and observations, existing literature, and interviews with living witnesses. He neither delved into the primary sources to be found in the Humphrey and McCarthy papers nor, to the despair of future historians, did he fully document his sources. Even so, he has put together with clarity and witty imagery an impressive political biography.

It is hard to detect a bias on his part. He judges Humphrey to be “the symbol of the American dream to many of those who have not yet realized it” but asserts that this strength was also Humphrey’s weakness, for “he was too absorbed in the visions of the Great Society and in his own unfulfilled yearning for the presidency to recognize that the Vietnam War was a great moral evil that could destroy everything he dreamed of.” As for McCarthy, Eisele credits him with showing that “it is possible for one man to make a difference in a democratic society” but faults him for his “unorthodox behavior since 1968.”

In her memoir, Private Faces/Public Places, Abigail McCarthy gives a full and rich description of Eugene McCarthy as a young man. Both native Minnesotans — she from Winona, he from Watkins — they first met as high school teachers in Mandan, North Dakota. McCarthy asked Abigail Quigley to marry him in 1939, but their engagement was indefinitely extended, a time span generated by depression economics, World War II, and McCarthy’s uncertainty about his destiny. After much soul-searching he decided to become a priest, then left the monastery at St. John’s in Collegeville when he feared that the novice master perceived in him an unflattering “intellectual pride.” Rejected by the draft, he concluded the war years as a cryptographer in military intelligence, and he and Abigail were married in 1945. They separated in 1969.

Private Faces/Public Places is a mix of story, history, and political biography. The story of Martin Luther King’s funeral is eloquently told, perhaps because Abigail McCarthy is Coretta King’s friend. As for the 1968 presidential primary, Mrs. McCarthy is frank to admit that she was troubled by the senator’s decision to challenge President Johnson. When she asked her daughter, “Does your father have to be the one to do it?” Mary replied, “Mother, that is the most immoral thing you ever said.” The troubles Mrs. McCarthy anticipated — and some she did not — materialized, yet she understands that through the campaign “I crossed the barrier into the world of my children and all of the young people to whom this world really belongs.”

Albert Eisele and Abigail McCarthy have given us what may prove to be the best contemporary accounts of the 1968 campaign and the events and issues which produced the political careers of these two Minnesota Democrats who have made their mark on American politics. Neither author, however, offers a satisfactory explanation of why McCarthy let his campaign run down after the assassination of Robert Kennedy. Eisele merely quotes McCarthy’s daughter Mary: “Oh, he’s feeling alienated.” Mrs. McCarthy writes as if there were no change, although she acknowledges that “in the days after the funeral, Gene seemed deeply depressed and almost unreachable.” Perhaps that same pride which jeopardized his standing as a novice, and caused him to drop out of the priesthood, motivated his final defiance toward the candidacy.

Political enthusiasts will delight in these books, Minnesotans more than most.

Reviewed by BARBARA STUHLER, former vice-president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

(Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1971. xv, 590 p. $15.00.)

“SONS OF THE WILD JACKASS” studies have always stirred interest among students of history, and Richard
Lowitt's biography of George W. Norris will be no exception. In this second of a proposed three-volume study, the author concentrates on Norris' "independence of all ties save that of conscience." He follows Norris' career in the Senate—from the years of Woodrow Wilson's New Freedom, when Norris' progressivism went further than the president's and focused on issues not yet current to American politics, to the Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover administrations, when Norris' independence repeatedly cast him in opposition to the leadership of his own party. Motivating the senator's actions, according to the author, was a Midwestern-progressive mind which exhibited an agrarian bias against Wall Street, banks, wealth, and high society. This attitude led Norris to oppose American entry into World War I, not because of pacifistic sentiments, but because he suspected the motivations of moneyed interests and the profits they would reap from a war effort. Similar suspicions surfaced in the 1920s, when Norris blamed the difference between low prices received by debt-ridden farmers and high prices charged consumers on profit-seeking middlemen. The willingness of Republican administrations to bow to the wishes of business increasingly incensed Norris, and he became the common man's most vociferous spokesman against exploitation of natural resources by corporate interests. He endorsed Alfred E. Smith in 1928 and campaigned for Franklin D. Roosevelt four years later, hopeful that his candidates would reverse the probusiness trend.

All this Lowitt weaves into a coherent, well-written study. He justifiably notes his protagonist's most admirable characteristics: "his perfect sincerity, his utter fearlessness, his almost complete lack of partisanship, and his almost complete personal disinterestedness." Readers might question Lowitt's scholarship in the first third of the book, where a scarcity of Norris' correspondence for the years 1913 to 1925 forces the author to rely heavily on the senator's speeches for his analysis. But doubts are partially allayed as the Norris files improve for subsequent years and show that the Nebraskan usually said in public what he thought in private.

Weighing the influence of a political maverick, however, is another matter, and here Lowitt's contentions become dubious. It is difficult to conceive of any candidate winning re-election three times to the United States Senate without a home-state political organization, merely because his sincerity and independence appealed to voters. Nor does Lowitt prove that Norris played an "important role" in taming a hostile Congress, subduing powerful interests, and retiring or defeating antagonistic presidents. That he played a role is true, but, as the cited evidence indicates, the role amounted to little more than frequent harangues from the periphery of power politics. One might just as easily conclude from Lowitt's research that the depression defeated Hoover, tamed Congress, and softened powerful interests, only coincidentally changing Norris' role to one of importance when a more sympathetic president took office. Nonetheless, Lowitt has written an admirable work depicting two decades of American history through the eyes of one of the foremost Republican insurgents.

Reviewed by WAYNE A. WIEGAND, who is a doctoral candidate in history at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West, 1540-1854. By Louise Barry.


MISS BARRY'S impressive compilation pertaining to preterritorial Kansas was originally published as a series of articles entitled "Kansas Before 1854." The articles ran in the Kansas Historical Quarterly over nearly a seven-year period from 1961 to 1967. Although this book is essentially the same as the articles, it has been appropriately retitled to emphasize the significance of Kansas in the broad spectrum of westward movement. Additionally, it includes a sixty-page index and incorporates a number of changes and corrections. More importantly, it brings the material together in a much more convenient form.

These annals will prove to be an indispensable source for students of the American frontier. Miss Barry researched exhaustively in manuscripts, newspapers, government documents, books, and other sources to find literally thousands of references to the history of the area encompassed by the present state of Kansas. She reports the Kansas events and activities, which include items about the fur trade, Indians, exploration, and overland migration, as they happened—in strict chronological order with each occurrence an entity. Her summaries are written clearly and succinctly, and many of them contain well-chosen quotes. Each entry is followed by source references, so that the reader has a preliminary bibliography readily at hand. While this book could be enjoyably and profitably perused as a narrative, its greatest value will be as a reference tool. For some, the summaries may be an end in themselves, but most scholars will use the book as an aid in establishing basic chronology and bibliography.

Over the years this will no doubt be one of the first books used by researchers in the history of Kansas and the Great Plains, and scholars will long be indebted to Miss Barry for her prodigious work. She must have devoted a substantial portion of her career to this study, and it is regrettable that she did not see fit to write a preface in which something was said about the inspiration for the project and her research and writing experiences. Such a preface would have been both interesting and instructive to readers and researchers.

Reviewed by WILLIAM E. LASS, professor of history at Mankato State College, who is currently doing research on Minnesota's northern boundary line.
LEADERS in historical and marine archaeology from several countries will take part in an important joint conference at the Hilton Hotel in St. Paul January 11-13, 1973, under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Science Museum, and the University of Minnesota. Meeting in an unprecedented three-day concurrent session will be the Sixth Annual Conference for Historical Archaeology and the Fourth International Conference on Underwater Archaeology. Robert C. Wheeler, the society's associate director and chairman for the marine program, said the conference is planned "to bring people up to date on current research data and give them a broad view of past and present activities in both areas of archaeological study."

Among participants in the underwater archaeology sessions will be Ole Crumlin-Pedersen, marine architect from the Danish National Museum in Roskilde; Peter Marsden of Guildhall Museum, London; Elisha Linder of the Center for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel; Canadians Walter A. Kenyon and Walter Zacharchuk; and a number of marine archaeologists in the United States.

Alan R. Woolworth, the society's chief of archaeology and program chairman for the historical archaeology conference, has announced that the keynote address on "The Crisis in American Archaeology" will be given by Ivor Noel Hume, chief archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. Serving as chairman for sessions on "Archaeology and the Law," "Contract Archaeology: The Challenge and Opportunities," and "The National Register: Its Implications for Archaeology" will be, respectively, Charles R. McGimsey III, Robert L. Stevenson, and Robert M. Utley.

Registration fee for the joint conference is $12.50 for three days. A special one-day registration fee will be available. Registrants will be able to attend the sessions of either organization.

FOR THE SECOND TIME in four years an article appearing in Minnesota History has been named the first winner of a new national contest. Newell Searle's "Minnesota National Forest: The Politics of Compromise, 1898-1908" from the Fall issue was judged the best 1971 article on a forestry subject in that part of the Forest History Society's new awards program for scholarly journals other than Forest History. Mr. Searle was presented the Theodore C. Blegen Award, with a cash prize of $250.00, at the society's twenty-fifth annual meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on October 2, and Minnesota History was given a certificate. Mr. Searle also won the Minnesota Historical Society's $125.00 Blegen Award for the outstanding Minnesota History article by a staff member in 1971.

In 1969 Roy Meyer's "The Canadian Sioux: Refugees from Minnesota," which had appeared in the Winter, 1970, issue of Minnesota History, was the first winner in the Western History Association's annual contest to determine the best article on Western history.

ONE OF the leading features of the May-June, 1972, issue of the Minnesota Volunteer, a special edition on Minnesota state parks, is "Strands in the Web of History" by June Drenning Holmquist, managing editor of publications for the Minnesota Historical Society. In the article, Mrs. Holmquist presents succinct, interesting historical backgrounds for a number of state parks, including Fort Snelling, Itasca, Mille Lacs Kathio, Frontenac, Jay Cooke, Crow Wing, Interstate, Forestville, Old Mill, Banning, Charles A. Lindbergh, Tower-Soudan, and Split Rock Lighthouse. She also covers several waysides.

Among other history-connected articles in the issue are "The Story of Our Minnesota Earth," a discussion of geologic heritage in our state parks by E. Merle Harris, professor of natural sciences at the University of Minnesota, and "Parks as Preserves of Prehistory," a useful roundup of archaeological sites in the parks by Elden Johnson, professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota and state archaeologist.

MALVINA BOLUS, retired editor of The Beaver, has edited People and Pelt: Selected Papers of the Second North American Fur Trade Conference (Winnipeg, 1972, 161 p. $4.25). The hard-cover book is a compilation of nine of the fifteen papers given at the October, 1970, meeting in Winnipeg and includes Rhoda R. Gilman's "Last Days of the Upper Mississippi Fur Trade." The author won the Minnesota Historical Society's first Blegen Award for the article, which appeared in the Winter, 1970, issue of Minnesota History.

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

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