BOOK REVIEWS


(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1984. 1,302 p. Illustrations, maps. 2 volumes, boxed. $60.00.)

THIS is the most important history ever published about the formulation of federal Indian policies in the United States. Drawing information from reliable sources, it surveys main themes and developments from early colonial years to the present. Where published materials permit, it describes policies designed for particular states and regions—especially those in the trans-Mississippi West. It traces the course of cultural imperialism — called "civilization for Indians" by policymakers. It deals adequately with treaties and unilateral "agreements" as vehicles for government-tribal relations. It monitors federal withdrawal from responsibility for Indian needs—which in recent years is labeled "Indian Self-Determination." This two-volume work contains some information about every major theme in the formulation of federal Indian policies throughout American history.

The Great Father is reliable because it is authored by a person who is recognized widely for expertise on this subject matched by only one other historian: who is respected for evenhanded judgment on past relationships between federal officials and tribal groups; and who is known by other historians for his exhaustive research, careful interpretation, and clarity of style. With predictable integrity, Father Prucha has shared a body of knowledge with more value than any to appear in a single work since scholars began to treat Indian history as a legitimate specialty some 30 years ago.

This is an encyclopedic work that one should not attempt to read and digest in a sitting, or even a week. Focus on policy formulation and detachment from reservation conditions is mentioned only to apprise a prospective reader of the nature of contents in Father Prucha's work, and not to detract from its value. Choice of subject matter is an author's prerogative. And although the paucity of information about the impacts of policies at the grass roots is somewhat distressing, the resulting objectivity is refreshing. There is no polemicism here, but a dispassionate treatment of major policy themes that makes this an essential acquisition. Surely there is no polemicism here, but a dispassionate treatment of major policy themes that makes this an essential acquisition.

As an encyclopedic work, it dehumanizes the subject of Indian history somewhat. A reader learns about the motivations and intentions of officials, reformers, and businessmen who have tailored policies to control the affairs of Indians.

One is told how policies have been implemented through higher offices of government for application in hinterland places. Here and there, one gains some insight into managerial techniques used by leaders with regional responsibilities. But a user of this text learns little about the means by which policies have been implemented at the grass roots, and how they have affected Indians and their white neighbors in remote places.

Detachment stems partly from emphasis on the formulation of policy in Indian history, but it results from the selection of materials related to the impacts of policy, too. A chapter on the 1920s, for example, deals with the administration of Indian affairs by Commissioner Charles H. Burke, describes the Pueblo lands controversy, and dwells on the importance of the Meriam Report. Nowhere is there analysis of Burke's important Industrial Survey reports, however, or explanation of their meanings and consequences. Nowhere is there discussion about reservation problems that resulted from long-term exposure to acculturationism—excessive use of alcohol, growing psychological depression, crime. Similarly, narrative on the 1930s concentrates mainly on intentions and strategies behind the Wheeler-Howard (Indian Reorganization) Act, the Arts and Crafts Board, and the educational policies of New Dealers, and marginally upon the systems that mattered to numerous Indians at the time: the Roads Division work, tribal agrarian enterprises, the very significant Indian Relief and Rehabilitation programs, and others. The propensity to dwell on issues in detachment from reservation life even affects the selection of illustrations; a reader is exposed generously to bureaucratic portraits, but is starved for access to fascinating photographs of reservation conditions, which are available by the tens of thousands in federal archives alone.

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should acquire it immediately. Some scholars and general readers will add it to their personal collections now. Doubtless others will wait for a paperback edition at lower cost.


THE TASK that the author has set for himself is that of a biography of a building, one of America's most admired structures of the 20th century—Louis H. Sullivan's National Farmers' Bank of Owatonna, which opened in 1908. At first glance, this might seem an easy and enjoyable task, for the Owatonna bank has been illustrated and written about for well over half a century, and its architect, along with Henry H. Richardson and Frank Lloyd Wright, has long occupied a pre-eminent place in America's pantheon of heroes. And yet the history of this small-town bank building has never been fully known and told, even with writer Larry Millett's excellent volume we are still left with a number of questions unanswered.

Millett's approach is to provide the reader with biographical background material, relating not only to the bank's patron Carl K. Bennett, its architect Louis H. Sullivan, and his associate George Grant Elmslie, but to a succession of figures who have been connected with the bank up to the present. Much of this background material, especially that relating to Bennett, constitutes a significant new ingredient for our understanding of the building. A great deal of the information pertaining to Sullivan and Elmslie has been acquired from previously published writings—from Hugh Morrison's 1936 volume on Sullivan to Robert Warb's 1972 article on the Bennett house projects of Sullivan and Purcell and Elmslie. It goes without saying that a broad understanding of Bennett, Sullivan, and Elmslie is helpful for our comprehension of the design history of this building, but the author has extended this aspect of his presentation too far; especially in the case of Sullivan and Elmslie, he has attempted a series of minibiographies—and the results are only marginally successful. And one is not quite certain what the chapters devoted to Sullivan's and Elmslie's later work add, in the final analysis, to our appreciation and understanding of the Owatonna bank building.

Though difficult to obtain at this late date, it would have been more to the point in the biography of the bank to have sought out the user's reaction to it. Was this indeed perceived as a "democratic" building, meant to be responded to by America's midwestern middle class, or was it in its own way as elitist and authoritarian as the usual classical Beaux Arts image bank buildings then being constructed in countless numbers throughout America? For in its concept, plan, and functional qualities, the National Farmers' Bank was not essentially different from the classical-image bank buildings of its day. Its only differences—and these major—had to do with its inventive external and internal image, and above all with the quality of its design as a work of art.

Though the author has considered the question of Bennett's and the bank's finances, we are still left with an uneasy feeling that the bank's eventual bankruptcy is not fully explained. This is an area that might have been expanded by looking into the varied financial conditions of midwestern small-town banks during the late teens and twenties. Was the failure of Bennett's enterprise due to his (and his family's) handling and/or lack of financial sophistication? Why (even in Owatonna) did a number of midwestern banks go under in the mid- to late 1920s (before the 1929 crash), and others did not? The explanation that America's farms faced a crisis from 1919 on, and that the small-town banks held many of their mortgages, does not provide us with a critical analysis of how Bennett's banking practices fit into this total picture. And what was the relationship (if any) between the building and the eventual failure of the bank? Did the bank's visual image and quality of design contribute to its demise, was it neutral in this regard, or did it contribute something of a positive nature?

Finally, it would have been of great benefit to the reader if the author had provided a chapter on the historiography of the building, discussing, for example, what has been written about it over the years, and whether our perception of it has changed.

The author's last chapter is in many ways one of the most interesting, for here he follows the history of the building from 1929 to the present. What happened to one of America's major landmarks as it continued to be used for its original function? How sensitively and insensitively did those involved with the building respond to its design integrity? This tale of some 45 years has its dismal moments as well as its successful events. In this late biography of the building it would have been helpful to set each of these episodes within its contemporary scene—how at a given moment architects and patrons were looking at existing buildings and their alterations, and how the concept of historic preservation has undergone appreciable changes over the years. Millett's reservation about Harwell H. Harris's 1957-58 remodeling of the building should be viewed within the context of the time, especially the dominance of International Style modernism, and its proponents' antipathy toward contextuality and preservation. Surprisingly, Millett has very little to say critically about the most recent remodeling of 1982.

The author and the publisher—the Minnesota Historical Society Press—must certainly in the end be commended for the production of this volume. Millett's sensitive response to one of Minnesota's foremost landmarks is evident throughout the text, and this is supplemented by the wonderful selection of colored plates.

Reviewed by HERBERT T. HOOVER, professor of history in the University of South Dakota, who has recently served as acting part-time director of the Center for the History of the American Indian at the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Reviewed by DAVID GEBHARD, professor of architectural history at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who is the author of R. M. Schindler (1980).

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1984. 350 p. $25.95.)

OUR INTERPRETATION OF Indian-white relations during the 1880-1933 era has seemed straightforward. A policy of assimilation, by which individuals were to be “freed” from their tribal identities and absorbed into the greater American society, replaced the policy of warfare and separation. Discovering by the early 1930s that the policy was more successful at freeing Indian peoples from their lands and livelihood than in expanding their life chances, policymakers led by John Collier made a New Deal and advocated tribal incorporation into a pluralistic society. In retrospect, the flaws in the policy of assimilation seemed so obvious that little effort went into analyzing the forces behind the devastating consequences. The explanations focused on the interactions of naive reformers, greedy whites, and helpless Indians and differed only in emphasis as to the influence of the reformers or the land grabbers.

Frederick E. Hoxie’s Final Promise challenges the conventional view. Dissatisfied with an interpretation that treated Indian policy in a vacuum or as a subfield of western history, Hoxie has sought to place the assimilationist era in its broader context. To do so, he probed beyond the ideas of the assimilationist reformers and the interests of western movers to analyze the way in which an industrializing society’s search for order shaped its approach to diverse peoples. This wider view has allowed him to demonstrate that “the assimilationist campaign consisted of two distinct phases.”

Beginning in 1879, the campaign for assimilation represented an outgrowth of the antislavery reform zeal. While the policy of rapid incorporation attracted support from those eager to acquire tribal lands, egalitarianism was the dominant theme; indeed, the implementation of the land policy of allotment dramatically slowed the assaults on Indian lands. The moves toward guaranteeing citizenship and the development of a system of Indian education further demonstrated the sincerity of this “final promise” to compensate the victims of American expansion “with full membership in a ‘civilized’ nation.”

The pledge lasted only a generation. By the early years of the new century, “[o]ptimism and a desire for rapid incorporation were pushed aside by racism, nostalgia, and disinterest.” Hoxie devotes the bulk of his study to tracing in persuasive detail the transformation in approaches to land tenure, education, and rights of citizenship from 1900 to 1920. While the rhetoric of assimilation continued, policymakers reflected a growing pessimism about the ability of Indian peoples to change. This pessimism conveniently coincided with easing the access to Indian resources and diminishing the obligations owed them. The rhetoric carried some meaning. On the one hand, it meant the maintenance of some protections, albeit at the expense of tribal and individual autonomy. More negatively, the claim to policy continuity maintained the image of opportunity for Indian peoples even as it undermined it.

Hoxie’s most important contribution is the weaving of Indian policy into the narrative of broad social transformation. This shift of American Indians to the periphery of national attention corresponded to a more general pattern of pessimism in American social thought concerning cultural diversity. No longer believing that America’s institutions, strained by expansion, industrialization, and urbanization, could promise “the old goal of complete homogeneity and equality,” policymakers envisioned a society whose economic and racial stratification coincided. The Final Promise also reveals, by demonstrating the brevity of the assimilationist phase, a central difficulty in the experience of Indian peoples: predicting the policies of the surrounding society.

A penchant for the ironic pervades Hoxie’s work, even illuminating a serious omission in his analysis. The observation that the ferment in social science theory—while a step toward cultural pluralism—had the immediate effect of strengthening racism enlightens us concerning the uneven path of change. Yet his suggestion that the collapse of the more egalitarian assimilationist policy actually assisted the survival of Indian communities distorts the experience and reveals an unintentional irony. It distorts in that it neglects the destructiveness of the assaults on both resources and political autonomy. Moreover, while Hoxie has written elsewhere of the struggle of tribal peoples to chart their own course, in this study he neglects the goals and behaviors of Indians. Had he paid attention, he might have been more cautious in drawing a silver lining behind the cloud of pessimism. Recent studies of tribes attempting to manipulate the first stage of assimilation suggest that they were achieving some success in adapting their communal polity to the larger order. Moreover, the story of their adaptations would seem to be a crucial ingredient in understanding the emergence of the second distinct phase.

To his credit, Hoxie has demonstrated that forces beyond Indian inertia or white greed obstructed the hopeful if ethnocentric vision of assimilation. We can hope that he will next turn his analytic talents and stylistic skill to the Indians’ role in shaping their and this nation’s future. Only then will we know the full dimensions of this hitherto hidden era in the history of Indian-white relations.

Reviewed by Wilbert H. Ahern, professor of history at the University of Minnesota-Morris, whose field of special interest is the study of race relations from 1850 to 1920.


NO SINGLE EVENT has preoccupied the thoughts of Americans about American Indian-European relations more than Wounded Knee. The killing of Lakota men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in the 1890s by a re-established 7th cavalry is an extraordinary event. It is extraordinary, not
in its specific details, since such events were more common than most Americans care to remember. It is extraordinary as an event in its ability to transcend time and space to provide focus and meaning for Indian and European experience in America.

The essential authority and popularity of such books as *Buried My Heart at Wounded Knee* and *Black Elk Speaks* have not been based upon their scholarly descriptive renditions of historical fact, but on their ability, each in its own way, to illustrate the central metaphors of Indian-European experience. The theme of death and rebirth of the traditional life is such a powerful theme among American Indians, it seems in retrospect, that contemporary American Indian political activities inevitably had to find symbolic fulfillment in a return to Wounded Knee. In this sense, there could not have been a second incident at Wounded Knee without the first.

It would seem from the subtitle that the thrust of Dewing’s book would provide a discussion of the meaning and significance of the second Wounded Knee. It does not. Instead, the book attempts to detail, in as balanced a presentation as possible, the events surrounding Wounded Knee II. This particular orientation to history caused the author to offer an apology, saying that people with strong views would not always be pleased.

The nature and strength of these views, of course, provided the dynamic which propelled the events Dewing described. The ability of this book to provide a sense of meaning and significance to the events is diminished by the author’s attempt to walk the middle ground.

Despite the book’s inability to live up to its subtitle, it is nonetheless a rich compendium of information and facts on the happenings surrounding the second incident at Wounded Knee. The author utilizes many unique, important, and heretofore unused sources that range from Gerald Vizenor’s editorials in the *Minneapolis Tribune* on the American Indian movement, to the 8,000-page F.B.I. file, to oral interviews. It is in this compilation and summary of the sources that the book’s real significance lies.

Reviewed by David Beaulieu, manager of the Indian Education Section of the state department of education, who served as assistant professor and director at Sinte Gleska College in Rosebud, South Dakota, in 1983-84 and before that chairman of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota.


(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1985. 382 p. Illustrations. Cloth, $24.95; paper, $12.95.)

Pleasure Travel, an almost universal feature of modern societies, represents a deliberate effort by people to encounter new places. Therefore, the geographer John Jakle argues in this significant book, the study of tourism can reveal much about how people view the world and their relationships with places. Scholars have too often viewed tourism as a superficial activity, without merit as a subject for investigation. As a step toward remedying this oversight, Jakle focuses on the impact of the automobile on North American travel habits from 1900 to 1960. During this period, the car became the chief transportation for pleasure travel, and tourism changed from an elite activity to a pastime of the masses. Early in the century the automobile promised people an unparalleled opportunity to learn firsthand about their surroundings, but, instead, ignorance of place seems to have risen in proportion to increased mobility. In his investigation of this paradox and other questions, Jakle relies heavily on excerpts from published travel accounts, which enliven the work throughout.

The Tourist is divided into three sections. First, Jakle reviews scholarly contributions by various disciplines to the study of tourism. He describes motivations for travel and types of places tourists seek out: contrived attractions designed for them and common, unselfconscious places that allow the diligent tourist to understand how people live and work.

The most rewarding part of the book surveys the modes of transportation available, with the most effective analysis directed at the automobile. Pre-automobile travel by rail and steamship, and the car’s contemporaries, the bus and airplane, receive only brief coverage, although the reader does learn that the first intercity bus service in the United States began in 1912 between Hibbing and South Hibbing, Minnesota, to transport workers to the mines. When it first appeared, the auto brought freedom of movement and direct contact with the landscape unavailable to railroad travelers. Terrible roads, lack of roadside services, and the unreliability of early cars ensured intimate contact with local people and places. The popularity of such touring helped to bring about massive road improvement efforts. Between the World Wars, better highways and more comfortable vehicles permitted higher speeds and began to cut motorists off from their surroundings. The travel experience was evolving into a set of destinations connected by straight lines.

Post-World War II construction of the interstate highway system completed this evolution away from early motoring. Tourists became obsessed with covering long distances, their attention to the passing scenery distracted by the need to watch traffic and road signs, and by the living-room-on-wheels comforts of stereo-equipped highway cruisers. Along the way standardized motels, gas stations, and restaurants became commonplace throughout North America, further insulating the auto tourist from local and regional variations. Some comment from Jakle on changes induced in tourist attractions themselves by automobile travel would also have been useful in these chapters.

The final section of *The Tourist* surveys major themes sought out by vacationers: nature, the region, the city, and history. The themes of nature and history are treated most successfully. Jakle again uses travelers’ accounts to good effect as he traces the evolution of the tourist’s pursuit of nature from the early days of elite resorts to today’s mass migrations to national parks. The interaction of present-day needs and values with past history to produce our contrived historic attractions is also handled well. Less satisfying for me are the chapters dealing with region and city, which seek
unfocused and overly long; geographers and other students of landscape will find most of the ideas therein familiar.

The Tourist is a stimulating work, which deserves a wide audience. Numerous errors in spelling, punctuation, and data presentation are annoyances that should not have reached publication, however. Jakle bemoans the apparent decline in intelligent tourism at a time of unprecedented physical mobility. By citing the accounts of responsible tourists from the early days of automobiling, he seeks to show that there was an art to effective travel. He tries to stimulate readers to assess their own and past motoring habits. The Tourist will be enjoyed by scholars, reflective members of the travel industry, and by all who wish to make their own experiences more enlightening and rewarding.

Reviewed by Michael D. Albert, associate professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, whose interests are the cultural and historical geography of the United States. He is the author of "The Japanese" in the MHS volume. They Chose Minnesota (1981).


Just a few weeks ago, a couple of friends and I fly-fished the south branch of the Whitewater River in southeastern Minnesota. It was a day of wonderful sport and gullible trout, a greening landscape, lightly overcast skies, and purple spring wildflowers.

Because it had been in and out of my hands for several days, I could not help but think as we explored our river of Robert Barnwell Roosevelt and his book Superior Fishing, newly reprinted by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Roosevelt, a lover beyond any measure of doubt of the good air of the outdoors and the sounds of rivers, would have relished our day on the Whitewater.

His book, first published in 1865, is a significant and delightful addition to the already large library of fly-fishing literature. It is one of those irreplaceable connections our generation has with the sport and the spirit of those times, and it is one worth preserving.

In the early narrative of the book, Roosevelt describes his passage from New York to Cleveland and from that city by water to Sault Ste. Marie on the northeast shores of Lake Superior. With wit and perceptive good humor, he characterizes the stops along the way: boardinghouses where uncultivated guests "gobble down one's victuals, regardless of digestion or decency; feeding like animals"; the odorous fish markets of Detroit; and the special aura of industrial Cleveland, "which seems to be drawing itself the business of the other cities of Lake Erie, and, cannibal-like, to be growing fat on their exhausting lives."

From the Sault, Roosevelt, his dapper traveling companion Don Pedro, and their American Indian guides ventured out in canoes to explore the rivers and shores of the "big sea water" of 19th-century Lake Superior with fly rods and unflagging curiosity. Their explorations are memorable, and the book rich in Roosevelt's sophisticated imagery. He gives us a strong taste of the food they ate, the liquor they drank, the smell of campfires, the rages and calms of Lake Superior, the thrill of the robust sport fishes of the inland rivers.

And, there are occasional references to Minnesota, including the "Upper Mississippi where there are black bass and mackerel [sic]." Most of the storytelling, however, involves the northeastern shore line of the lake, and the narrative flows smoothly and richly with skillfully crafted descriptions of rivers where the bottom was "literally black with fish," abandoned Indian campsites, and just plain awesome scenery.

Perhaps most remarkable was Roosevelt's keen sense of humankind's sad need to exploit its natural resources. In an age that perhaps knew little of limits in its relationship with fish-filled waters, this author/adventurer resolved "not to kill more than we could eat." And in other passages, he challenged the fly-fisher to have "higher aspirations and nobler gifts; he must look beyond the mere result to the mode of effecting it; perhaps the means more than the end."

Roosevelt was no doubt a compelling personality, and his vision unquestionably prophetic. That personality is given flesh and career and depth in an introduction to the volume by Ernest Schwiebert, a respected writer of fly-fishing stories and a popular chronicler of fly-fishing history. It also must be mentioned that the Minnesota Historical Society Press went to the trouble of adding an index to this interesting volume. Its work is commendable.

There are so many things to say about this book, and the telling of the Lake Superior experience takes but a third of it. There is more: a lively discussion of Lake Superior game fish, evaluations of trout and salmon fly patterns, insights into the vagaries of entomology, and even a section on cooking. I have read Superior Fishing twice; those readings will not be the last.

Reviewed by Tom Heggeson, a part-time editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch who has fly-fished the rivers of Minnesota and Wisconsin for two decades. He is the co-owner of Bright Waters, a fly-fishing specialty shop in Minneapolis, and has published several articles about fly-fishing.
THE SOLON J. BUCK Award for the best article to appear in this journal during 1984 goes to Wilbert H. Ahern for his article in the Fall issue on “Indian Education and Bureaucracy: The School at Morris, 1887-1909.” The award carries a purse of $500.

Patricia C. Harpole receives the Theodore C. Blegen Award of $400 for the best contribution from an MHS staff member. Her work on “The Black Community in Territorial St. Anthony” appeared in the Summer issue.

This year’s awards judges were John Parker, curator of the James Ford Bell Library in the University of Minnesota; Carol Crawford Ryan, administrative faculty member of Metropolitan State University who is also completing her doctoral work in American studies; and Mary D. Cannon, editor of this journal.

THE James Jerome Hill Reference Library announces that it will award a number of research grants of up to $2,000 to support scholarly research in the James J. Hill Papers. The deadline for applications is December 1, 1985. Grants may be awarded for any time during the calendar year of 1986. For more information, contact W. Thomas White, Curator, James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Fourth & Market Streets, St. Paul, Minn. 55102.

THE PIE LADY of Winthrop and Other Minnesota Tales by Peg Meier and Dave Wood (Minneapolis Neighbors Publishing, 1985, 237 p., $8.95) is an anthology of neighborhood vignettes both amusing and interesting. Published originally in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, all of the stories are about regular people. It is safe to say that social historians of the future will value these accounts of traders, farmers, teachers, housewives, and small-business owners.

In order to test the validity of the reporting, this reviewer and a caterer friend visited the “House of Breakfasts: Making Everything From Scratch” in Minneapolis. The signs on the wall gave a choice of more than 50 omelets, ranging from “Super Truck” to simply “The Stud,” but we ordered pancakes made of freshly grated potatoes. Our research included three very large pancakes, with coffee, for a minimal sum.

Among the subjects that authors Dave Wood, books editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, and Peg Meier, feature writer for the “Neighborhood” section of the newspaper, explore are the closing of Central High School in Minneapolis; the home of “Juicy Lucies”; the funeral director in Kenyon; and Irvine and Lillian Dubow who give scholarships to nice persons. All of these tales reveal a part of Minnesota, and a good part.

Of timely interest is “Main Street, U.S.A., Home of Minnesota’s Nobel Laureate,” Sinclair Lewis, whose centennial occurred this year. And how about the “Pie Lady of Winthrop,” Mina Peterson? As of January, 1985, Mina, now 94 years old, was back baking pies one day a week at Lyle’s Café. Returning home from the “House of Breakfasts,” we drove by “Kaplan Bros. Dept. Store” and were delighted to note that after 60 years you can still buy work gloves and four-buckle overshoes there.

Their original slogan, heard daily on the radio in the early 1930s — “BUY AT KAPLANS AND SAVE” — still holds true.

What a delight to read about positive people in this era of cynicism. The book restoreth our faith.

Jeanne Fischer

THE manufacture of paper, a neglected topic in Minnesota history, is the subject of Donald L. Boese’s Papermakers: The Blandin Paper Company and Grand Rapids, Minnesota (Charles K. Blandin Foundation, Grand Rapids, 1984, 366 p.). The story starts with the first of the three papermakers — the town of Grand Rapids. One thread Boese traces is the town’s development from its lumber village beginnings to its position as a commercial center in the 1980s.

The second papermaker was the company — the Blandin Paper Company and its forerunner, the Itasca Paper Company. Boese explains that Grand Rapids was a natural site for paper manufacturing because of its river location. He details company growth concertedly and informatively as it met the various challenges in papermaking: where to obtain an adequate supply of wood; how to run the plant when the river level was low; how to market the product — newsprint — and make a profit in an era of falling prices. The switch from making newsprint to turning out coated, groundwood paper for...
magazines is a fascinating part of the story.

The third papermaker was the man, Charles K. Blandin, who had learned a great deal about the paper industry when he managed the St. Paul newspapers. He bought Itasca Paper Company, gave it his name, and saw it through the shaky depression years. He raised wages and introduced benefits to avoid unionization of the plant. After World War II, when newsprint production became unprofitable for all but the largest companies, he changed to groundwood papers and pioneered the manufacture of coated stock. Always he emphasized quality and built a reputation for the company as a dependable producer of a high-grade paper. Finally, he created the Blandin Foundation to carry on his twin pursuits — making fine paper and contributing to the welfare of Grand Rapids through a system of grants.

Boese has thoughtfully written the intertwined story of the three papermakers. The book is illustrated and has an index and bibliographic notes.

PRETTY Red Wing. Historic River Town by Patricia Condon Johnston (Johnston Publishing Company, Afton, 1985. $12.95) is a slim, hardcover volume of 93 pages and four dozen black-and-white photographs. The author seems to have two purposes for this book. The first is to present an overview of the town's history, the second is to cheer on, in the author's words, Red Wing's "well-timed revival to refurbish her Victorian image." Unfortunately, Johnston's zeal for the latter over influences her presentation of the former.

Historians and scholars will find nothing new in this unannotated volume, which is drawn from secondary sources. The book is mostly written for visitors to Red Wing who desire some background on the town and its past. As Red Wing grows increasingly popular with tourists, there is a need for such a survey of the town. That intended audience also explains the book's focus: The history of the St. James Hotel, destination of many of those tourists, fills the same number of pages as the history of the Dakota Indians who have made the region their home for several hundred years.

Red Wing's past is largely recounted through the lives of the town's successful entrepreneurs and the architectural legacy of houses and businesses they left. In the chapters "Speaking of Heroes" and "A Talent for Genius," famous citizens are introduced: the politicians, generals, inventors, and scholars who have made their homes in Red Wing.

Regrettably, little of this information is set into a historical context of greater significance, and few connections to events outside of Red Wing are made. Pretty Red Wing contains information about the town's major events in the last half of the 19th century, but little information about what life then might have been like. Overall, however, it is a readable account that will appeal to the town's residents and its visitors who want a reminding glimpse of pretty Red Wing.

Thomas C. Thompson

THE LIBRARY BOOK: Centennial History of the Minneapolis Public Library by Bruce W. Benidt (Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center, 1984, 250 p., $19.95) celebrates and illuminates the first hundred years of this important institution. From the private library societies of the 1850s to the demise of the bookmobile, the history is readable and enjoyable. Benidt does not get stuck in the annual report approach — how many books were cataloged by 1917, or the number of reference questions answered by staff in 1982. Rather he concentrates on the cultural, intellectual, and social growth of Minneapolis, how it resulted in a public library, and how that library affected the community.

An example of this weaving of local and institutional histories was the censorship fight that erupted in 1970. Through the 1960s the Minneapolis library had been collecting left-wing serials like the Berkeley Barb and the local radical paper, Hundred Flowers. The conservative mayor, Charles Stenvig, threatened to cut off funding if the collecting policy was not changed.

Director of the library and civil libertarian, Ervin J. Gaines, reached a compromise with the mayor to keep these underground newspapers underground; adult patrons would have to request to see them. Within the city the library and its directors often seemed to be at the forefront of issues such as this.

Photographs from the Minneapolis Public Library collection enhance the story. Five images of children at the Seven Corners Branch in the 1920s help explain Director Gratia A. Countryman's missionary zeal to educate youngsters and to use libraries to bring about "better social and moral conditions."

P. C.
history found scattered all around the lakeshore" are explained in the early pages, but the bulk of the volume "focuses on locations to help people traveling the shoreline understand the historical relation of the lake to the great open spaces of natural beauty and to the development of lakeside cities, towns, and villages." Starting at Chicago and moving north counterclockwise, Bogue provides historical information and selected "sites of interest" for 182 places. In addition to well-chosen illustrations, this handsome guide offers a selected bibliography, an index, and a large map that is keyed to the numbered locations and pocketed inside the book.

"TRADITIONAL tribal people imagine their social patterns and places on the earth, whereas anthropologists and historians invent tribal cultures and end mythic time," writes Gerald Vizenor in The People Named the Chipewa: Narrative Histories (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1984, 172 p., cloth, $22.50, paper, $12.95). His narrative collection appears to combine imagining and inventing which takes the reader from the "imaginative recollections" of Anishinaabeg origins to brief sketches of the modern Chipewa in urban and reservation settings. He offers creative sketches of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, Indian agent at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Thomas Loraine McKenney, the first commissioner of Indian Affairs. The book concentrates on the many roles played by the half-breed or mixed-blood Chipewa, as they were called in recent history. A chapter entitled 'Three Anishinaabeg Writers' provides sketches of the mixed-bloods William Whipple Warren, George Copway, and Peter Jones, and Vizenor also includes vignettes of modern leaders such as Dennis Banks of the American Indian Movement. The book is enhanced by a good selection of photographs and a bibliography of recommended readings and other titles mentioned in the text.

THE PROMINENCE of Minnesotans in the field of wildlife art is clearly demonstrated in a recent book by David P. McBride, The Federal Duck Stamps: A Complete Guide (Piscataway, N.J., New Century Publishers, 1984, xv, 206 p., $34.95) lists Minnesota artists among the top three winners no less than 25 times in the 50 years of the duck stamp program. To raise funds for the purchase of wildlife habitat areas, hunters have been required since 1934 to purchase federal stamps and affix them to their state hunting licenses. Artists' designs chosen from annual competitions make the duck stamps and the prints based on them immensely popular collector's items. McBride's account of the duck stamp's origins in depression-era politics is spiced with anecdotes and the cartoons of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling of Iowa, a Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, chief of the U.S. Biological Survey under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and designer of the first duck stamp.

McBride approaches the philatelic aspects of duck stamps with thoroughness: his discussion of stamp production and grading is clearly written and well illustrated. The bulk of the book is found in 102 pages of "data sheets," full-page listings of each year's winning designs, production data, and judges. Notes on each competition make additional points, such as the fact that the first, second, and third place winners in 1980-81 and 1982-83 were all Minnesotans. The page facing each data sheet illustrates that year's winning design and the stamp engraved from it.

As a reference tool, the book has shortcomings. The slipshod spelling of artists' names, place names like Owatonna, and even species of birds is a serious flaw. The consistent misspelling of *tempera* (a paint medium utilizing egg yolk) as *tempura* (a batter-fried seafood or vegetable dish) is as annoying as it is ludicrous. Nonetheless, The Federal Duck Stamps is a useful study, and McBride's enthusiasm warms the account, without sinking into indulgence. Thomas O'Sullivan

AN ARTICLE written by John M. Wickre, an archivist at MHS, may have escaped the notice of most readers of Minnesota History. "Fishing for Fissures: Sources for the History of Rail Testing Cars, 1827-1960" appears in the March, 1985, issue of Materials Evaluation, the journal of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (vol. 43, p. 372-379). The article traces the development of railroad cars capable of detecting rail fissures that are not apparent through visual inspection. As Wickre points out, "Hundreds of lives (passengers, crew, and bystanders) depend on the smooth functioning of the railroad system, yet a single rail breaking at the wrong moment can turn a train into a jumble of crumpled steel and twisted bodies."

The author drew upon files in the Northern Pacific and Great Northern records at MHS and on other sources (particularly those provided by Sperry Rail Service of Danbury, Connecticut) in preparing a study that brings the society's holdings to the attention of what probably is a new audience. The piece illustrates one of the many and varied uses that can be made of the railroad records, and it reflects Wickre's interest and expertise in historical industry and technology.

RAILROAD buffs will be happy to note the publication of Frank A. King's latest book, Locomotives of the Duluth Missabe & Iron Range (Edmonds, Wash., Pacific Fast Mail, 1984, 319 p., $39.50). This is a picture book, heavily illustrated in black and white, with some color reproductions as well. But informative captions, well-written text, and numerous charts which catalog the railroad's locomotives make this a reference work of impressive detail.

GEOLOGY and history are briefly and accurately summarized in Up on the River: An Upper Mississippi Chronicle, by John Madison (New York, Schocken Books, 1985, 276 p., $17.95). It is Madison's personal acquaintance with the river people—a vanishing breed colorful as the cowboy—along with the fish, muskels, sloughs, birds, and seasons that make this an original book about one man's river. In a lively style, nostalgia is reinforced by ecological data that presents a strong, if despairing, case for the preservation of the life of the upper Mississippi River. Martha Bray

"FOR TOO LONG," writes Robert C. Wheeler, "the professional historian neglected the three-dimensional object as of little or no use in the understanding of man's past." His new book, A Toast to the Fur Trade: A Picture Essay on Its Material Culture (St. Paul, Wheeler
Looking at a map of North America one is struck by the number and variety of place names on the land. The origins of these names have long been part of the study of the history and geography of the continent. Otto Robert Landelius' Swedish Place-Names in North America (Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press, 1985, 372 p., $24.95) introduces us to those place names in the United States and Canada that originate from pre-existing place names in Sweden, from Swedish people, or from Swedish culture. Over 1,000 such names are listed, many with detailed explanations of their origins. The Upper Midwest is strongly represented — particularly Minnesota with over 300 places noted, more than any other state or province. Other regions with a high frequency of Swedish place names are the mid-Atlantic states, the Pacific Northwest, and Alaska. In addition to being a useful reference tool, the work is also enjoyable in its own right. The chapters are well documented, there is an extensive and useful bibliography, and it is carefully indexed.

Jon Walstrom


These stories are a valuable resource for linguists, anthropologists, folklorists, historians, and all those interested in Ojibway history, language, and culture. Unlike many collections of ethnic stories or folktales, these narratives are not edited or doctored up for easy reading; they are stories as storytellers tell them. As such, the texts teach two lessons. They offer information on the daily round of Ojibway life, but they also yield insights into the form, structure, and language of a story. Finally, Nookomis Gaa-naajimotawid also helps document and preserve part of the repertoire of Kegg, 77 years old at the time of publication. The book may be ordered from the Indian Studies Program, Bemidji State University, Bemidji 56601.

FOLLOWING on the heels of Minnesota History's publication of Gary Phelps' article, "The Eugenics Crusade of Charles Fremont Dight" (Fall, 1984), The New Yorker has published a four-part series by Daniel J. Kevles entitled "Annals of Eugenics." The article appeared in issues of October 8, 15, 22, and 29. The lengthy piece (263 pages) is particularly strong in explaining the status of scientific knowledge (or ignorance) informing eugenics discussions from the last half of the 19th century to the present. Although "eugenics" is passé, the threads of the past are found in present debates taking place around new discoveries, experiments, and possibilities in biology and genetics. They occur around the role of the state in reproductive choice, zero population growth, recombinant DNA, cloning, in vitro fertilization, the heritability of criminality, surrogate motherhood, the controversial conclusions of Arthur B. Jensen and ideas of William Shockley.

The New Yorker series also gives extensive background on the social, demographic, and religious contexts in which eugenics activity waxed and waned, especially in Great Britain and the United States, and discusses the movement's relationships to racism and nationalism (especially vis-a-vis Jews in Germany and blacks in America). It provides interesting biographical material on the leading proponents and opponents of various eugenics positions.

Minnesota's Dight Institute is mentioned in the last of the series. "Reform eugenics, in its efforts to encourage the use of genetics for medical purposes and to improve the biological quality of human populations, had helped bring about the establishment of facilities devoted explicitly to genetic advisory services. . . . The second [such clinic in the United States] was probably the Dight Institute." The author credits Sheldon Reed, the institute's director from 1947-1977, with inventing the term "genetic counselling" to describe what others sometimes called "genetic hygiene."

The third and last of a series of books compiled from conferences sponsored by Concordia College at Moorhead is A Heritage Fulfilled: German-Americans (Moorhead, 1984, 237 p., paper, $6.00). In the introduction, editor Clarence A. Glasrud points out that the title is not meant to imply that the heritage of German Americans is completed or achieved, adding that "research and publication on German immigration . . . is only getting underway at the present time." The topics covered in this volume advance the scholarship. They include German contributions to New World discovery, science, and literature; German newspapers, banking, clubs, and social organizations; Germans in the Civil War, in the priesthood, and in the Lutheran church; German Jews in Minnesota; an immigrant frontier family; genealogical research; and German immigration to the United States as social protest. The book is annotated and indexed, and embellished by many illustrations.

Under the general editorship of James H. Madison and Thomas J. Schlereth, the Indiana University Press announces a new publication series, Midwestern History and Culture. The editors plan to publish important new writings in the fields of history, American studies, folklore, geography, architecture, and literature, focusing primarily on the Old Northwest but also defining the region's geographical boundaries in new ways. Inquiries are invited.