
ALTHOUGH recent history has always been difficult to write, with major challenges presented by lack of perspective and of source materials, American historians have usually jumped eagerly into contemporary subject matter, even when it proves to be as slippery and alive as a Minnesota walleye. In writing recent state history, however, scholars have been less venturesome than in other fields. For most of the American states there exist detailed treatments of the early beginnings but only sketchy outlines of their 20th-century past, especially the decades since 1945.

Now comes Minnesota with a serious challenge to the other 49 states. In separate essays, 17 scholars grab for the slippery fish in the deep lakes of recent Minnesota history. The essays do not avoid controversial subject matter or shy away from the darkness of the recent past but instead range heroically over the social, economic, political, and cultural history of 20th-century Minnesota.

This large volume begins with editor Clifford E. Clark, Jr.'s introduction, which assesses Minnesota's image as an innovative, forward-looking state and suggests that there is some reality to be discovered in the myths of Lake Wobegon. Thomas J. Baerwald's essay shows how people have modified the landscape of farms, forests, mines and cities. John R. Borchert traces the evolution of the state's urban network, while Thomas Harvey assesses the special place of small towns, and David L. Nass writes about life in rural Minnesota. Arnold R. Alanen provides a close look at the volatile history of the Iron Range. Three labor conflicts—the northern strikes of 1916–1917, the 1834 teamsters' strikes, and the Hormel strike of 1985–1986—provide points of analysis for Peter Rachleff. Kirk Jeffrey outlines the development of manufacturing, and D. Jerome Tweeten studies the equally important business of agriculture. George S. Hage's essay traces change in newspapers, radio, and television. Daniel J. Elazar's treatment of the machinery of government shows the moralistic quality expected by 20th-century Minnesotans at state and local levels. John E. Haynes analyzes the state's politics, focusing on such distinctive movements as the Farmer-Labor party. In his history of Minnesota's Indian people, David Beaulieu tells an often tragic story but concludes with a hopeful suggestion that the hard winter is over and that Indians are now prepared to do more than just survive. Marjorie Bingham's essay on women pays particular attention to the state's tradition of energetic women's organizations. Clarke A. Chambers draws on his wealth of historical understanding to analyze the challenges in education, while Richard M. Chapman considers the vital and diverse patterns of religious belief and behavior. The last essay is Karal Ann Marling's informative and delightful look at leisure, seeking to explain cultural markers such as butter sculpture and the forms of "sly, shy humor" favored by Minnesotans.

Seventeen essays, even essays as good as these, do not add up to a full history of 20th-century Minnesota, of course. This is not the carefully integrated, analytical, narrative history that Minnesota and all states need. Not all subjects are treated fully, and there are overlaps as well as gaps. Nor do all authors write from a uniform perspective or use similar method and style.

Collections of essays are inevitably disjointed, but each reader of this volume will come away with large ideas, questions, and conclusions. For this reader the grand theme is simply stated: Minnesota is profoundly different. The state is surely unlike Indiana, for example, even though both are midwestern states. That Minnesotans are not Hoosiers, even
in late 20th-century America, leads to a larger point: if we are to know our past as Americans we must continue to know the history of our states, not just their territorial and pioneer periods, but their 20th-century history as well. We need to know what makes Minnesota distinctive. Are images popularized by Time magazine or Garrison Keillor real and important? Do such images obscure other realities? How can a state continue to have an identity and a meaning in the face of relentless pressure for national and even international homogenization? In touching against and sometimes grabbing such slippery questions, these essays give readers pleasures equal to a good day fishing at the lake.

Minnesota in a Century of Change is a first-class book because skilled and hard-working people did their jobs well. Editor Clark recruited the experts who wrote well-researched and well-crafted essays. Accompanying the essays are excellent illustrations (tipped into the text at appropriate places), superb maps, and extensive notes to guide further research. A comprehensive index extends the usefulness of the book. Recognition should be made of the editorial and research contributions of the Minnesota Historical Society staff and the financial support of The St. Paul Companies for helping produce a book that will rouse the envy of 49 other states. All thoughtful Minnesotans will want to read these essays. Historians of 20th-century America will want to read them as well, for here is a chance to see how one distinctive state's recent past contributes to and differs from larger contexts of national history.


The Middle West: Its Meaning in American Culture.
By James R. Shortridge.
(Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989. 201 p. Cloth, $25.00.)

THE MIDDLE WEST is a remarkable system of resources and settlement, people and institutions sweeping from the western base of the Appalachians westward to the 100th meridian, from the stony land beneath the northern Great Lakes forests to the rougher land southward from the Ohio and Missouri. The region can have an objective definition. It can serve as a tool for analyzing and understanding the geographical world. But the Middle West is also an idea in American culture. In this humanistic study in geography, Professor Shortridge seeks the "meaning, essence, and character"—the subjective aspects of place—as they are embodied in the term, "Middle West," in the popular writings about the region. The book is a coherent, interesting, informative, wide-ranging, provocative review of fictional and interpretive writings—historical, geographical, journalistic, artistic.

His opening chapter examines the many contradictory images of the Middle West in the popular literature historically—the seemingly unresolved problem of "fitting a simplified, anachronistic image to an increasingly complex region." Three subsequent chapters explore the origins of the regional name in the 19th century; the idea of the Middle West as America's Heartland after the early 1900s; the anomaly of a predominantly rural image and decline of the idea that the Middle West was the American ideal, in an increasingly urbanizing nation after 1920.

Chapter Five examines the place of the Middle West during re-emergence of a need for pastoral values in an epoch when "sense of community and family is seen to have declined, and so have connections to the rhythms of the seasons and other connections to the natural world." He discusses the growth of nostalgia, of alienation, environmentalism, the rebirth of yeoman traits. In this chapter he also introduces a series of maps that show the core and the gradients of degrees of Middle Westernness in the minds of various groups of individuals and institutions. The maps help to reinforce his essential argument: the popular term originally applied to an area centered in Kansas and Nebraska; it was enlarged eastward into the appropriate parts of Michigan and Ohio in the heyday of midwestern pride and self-assurance in the early 20th century; and it has contracted to a core within Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas as a result of the new national elevation of pastoral values. The next chapter regionalizes Middle Western culture by means of a state-by-state survey of popular literature. The result is an interesting comparison of views from the heart of the region and from the northern, eastern, southern, and western fringes.

The final chapter is an essay on the Middle West as metaphor. Shortridge argues that a pastoral image is useful, if not essential, to the self-image of the United States as a whole and that the pastoral image of the Middle West has given the region a role as depository of national values. He drives the point home with a quote from a contemporary high-profile political columnist and TV commentator who claimed that God was "at heart, a Middle Westerner."

In reflecting on Professor Shortridge's analysis, I found myself most perplexed by two aspects of the body of literature he has reviewed so sensitively and readably. One is the persistent contrast and conflict which he notes between imagery and reality. Are the discrepancies measures of culture, or of ignorance, or of both? And what are the root causes of the phenomenon? A second aspect is the irrepressible, widespread use of states as elemental building blocks for geographic description. The patterns and processes that created the region have continental and global dimensions. State boundaries are superimposed and largely irrelevant. To be sure, the states are communities in their own rights—means of coping with larger forces. What are the distinctive cultures of those state communities? Except for limited approaches by the political writers, most do not seem touch that question but persist in treating dialects, religions, folkways, farming practices, or prosperity as though they change mainly at state boundaries, which, of course, they do not.

SEVENTY YEARS after its passage, the legislation enacting the “industrial program” of the Nonpartisan League (NPL) in North Dakota continues to have a fascination for people in public policy. This retelling of the story of the founding of the nation’s only state-owned bank is by a political scientist, not an economist or historian. And, like other accounts, this one too is fascinated by that experiment with “economic democracy”—a state using its powers in ways that ran directly against the mainstream of American economic organization. This last major American populist uprising and the remarkable decade that culminated in the 1919 legislative action by 1975 against too aggressive a bank—is the newest revision of the story of the founding of the NPL program, and specifically the bank, became a model for people in “progressive” politics all across America who were looking for “alternative state and local public policies.” Advocates for this populism—urban by then—produced Northern Lights, an idealized film version of the founding of the League.

Can such policies succeed? Did they succeed, in North Dakota? For anyone moved by results rather than by intentions, finding those answers is probably the reason for picking up a history. In this case the answer, it seems, depends partly on your point of view and partly on the period of the bank’s life you are examining. The act was passed and the bank was established, but political reality required it to redeposit its funds in the private banks of the state and to give up the idea of statewide branches. Its early program of loans to farmers died in the agricultural depression of the 1920s and 1930s; the 1940s were spent collecting loans and selling the farms acquired through foreclosure. In the 1950s its major contribution was to help small cities in North Dakota finance sewer, water, and other improvements, underbidding the private bond houses.

A state institution, as the author notes at several points, is always political. The Bank of North Dakota had become unaggressive during the period of Republican control that was, ironically, a product of the Nonpartisan League strategy—not to become a third party, but to take control of the majority party by winning its primary elections. By the 1940s the League could no longer win in the Republican primary, so during the next decade the old NPL merged with the Democratic party. That realignment produced a Democratic governor—Bill Guy—in 1960 and revived the bank. The story of the way Guy secured the resignation of Ted Sette as manager, of the way his successor, H. L. Thorndal, modernized operations, of the way the state legislature then expanded its responsibilities—and, again, of the inevitable reaction by 1975 against too aggressive a bank—is the newest (to most readers) and probably the most important section of this book.

Unfortunately the volume ends there. The last research seems to have been done in 1979. (Why do people take so long to get a book written and published?) So there is no account of how the bank, after the boom years of the 1970s, fell into trouble along with the agricultural and energy economy of North Dakota in the 1980s. And no answer to the reader’s question about the effect on the state and on the bank of the deregulation of financial institutions and the growth of interstate and international capital movements in the last decade.

In the 1980s most states are trying to achieve their own policy goals, struggling against the influence of capital decisions made now in centers even outside this country. It may be that the Bank of North Dakota is no longer the unusual experiment it is still taken to be. The kinds of programs moved through it in recent years are common in states that do not own a bank—witness the Housing Finance Agency in Minnesota and the economic development organizations in other states (not to mention the Port Authority in St. Paul and the city council in Minneapolis). It would have been helpful for a political scientist and policy analyst to have set the story of North Dakota’s bank in the context of the various state and local governmental enterprises borrowing and lending now for social—state and community—purposes.

Reviewed by Ted Kolderie, a senior associate in the Center for Policy Studies in Minneapolis. He covered North Dakota for the Minneapolis Tribune from 1957 to 1959.

The Plains Cree: Trade, Diplomacy, and War, 1790 to 1870.
By John S. Milloy.
(Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1988. 159 p. $24.95.)

UNTIL RECENTLY, historical writing on the Indian tribes of the Canadian plains has been limited to John C. Ewers’s The Blackfeet: Raiders on the Northwestern Plains (1958) and a few other works that have either dealt with aspects of Canadian Plains Indian culture or with the lives of individuals. In the past few years, the University of Manitoba Press has launched a series of monographs that seek to rectify this deficiency of published material. Jacqueline Peterson and Jennifer S. H. Brown’s The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Métis in North America (1985) and Paul C. Thistle’s Indian-European Trade Relations in the Lower Saskatchewan River Region to 1840 (1986) have both been useful additions to our knowledge of Canada’s Indian peoples.

John Milloy’s The Plains Cree deals with perhaps the most influential and widespread of Canada’s Indian groups. The western, or Plains, Cree are a people that made their appearance late in the 18th century. Before that time, the Cree territories were concentrated in the wooded uplands around Hudson’s Bay, extending no farther west than Lake Manitoba. The acquisition of large stocks of firearms from their English and Canadian trading partners and horses from their Assiniboine allies, however, allowed some Cree bands to accompany the Assiniboins on the plains and adopt the ways of true Plains Indians.
The gradual movement of the Gros Ventres (or Apsáni) southward from the Saskatchewan River Valley to the upper Missouri Valley opened up new lands for the Cree and their allies, bringing them into conflict with the powerful Blackfeet Confederacy of the Alberta plains. New allies, the Plains Ojibway, joined the Cree, but the growing Plains Cree strength began to ebb by the 1850s as the vast buffalo herds declined. The thirst of American traders for buffalo robes, as well as the need for food, precipitated this crisis as the Cree and other tribes slaughtered countless bison to barter their robes for white trade goods.

Coupled with this dependence on buffalo and European trade goods was the continuing desire to expand tribal horse herds. The eastern Canadian plains were not good breeding grounds for horses, and neither were the Cree skilled breeders. Only by stealing horses from enemy tribes could they hope to maintain or improve their herds. Inevitably, this led to further conflict, which, in turn, led to greater exploitation of bison herds for robes with which to purchase more guns. The end result was starvation due to the extermination of the buffalo and military defeat at the hands of the Blackfeet. After 1870, the Cree were dependent upon their old enemies for their dwindling supplies of buffalo meat and on the Canadian government for beef rations.

Milloy's work is an excellent account of the rise and fall of the Plains Cree. Information on their disastrous participation in Riel's second revolt might have shed further light on Cree cultural disintegration in the late 19th century, and a longer work would have given a more complete understanding of Cree history and culture. However, The Plains Cree is enjoyable reading and the author uses his sources well. Milloy's work will be a welcome addition to any library.

Reviewed by Thomas F. Schilz, formerly co-ordinator of American Indian Studies at Mankato State University, who is the author of two books on American Indian history. He currently resides in San Diego, California.

Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide.


NOTHING PLEASES a researcher more than to have a user-friendly guide to the records of a particular repository. The staff of the Library and Archives Division in the Minnesota Historical Society has provided exactly that—a guide to its genealogical holdings that is simple to use as well as easy to comprehend.

Several factors contribute to this success. First and foremost is the straight alphabetical arrangement of subjects or topics, from Adoption Records to Works Progress Administration (WPA) Resources, with over 100 entries in between. Second, many entries have cross-references, indicating that information concerning an entry either is described elsewhere in the guide (for example, BURIAL RECORDS see Cemetery Records), or that additional information can be found under different entries (for example, CEMETERY RECORDS see also Correctional Facilities Records, Hospital Records, Newspapers). Third, since MHS resources currently are physically stored in three facilities in St. Paul, each entry notes in which collection information about it can be located: the main building at 690 Cedar Street houses books, serials, censuses, newspapers, maps, atlases, and audio-visual materials; the Research Center at 1500 Mississippi Street stores the manuscript collections, the state archives, and museum collections; and the inventory of historic properties, held by the State Office of Historic Preservation, is found at the Fort Snelling History Center.

Following the table of contents and acknowledgments is a most helpful one-and-a-half-page section on “How to Use this Guide,” must reading for all. As obvious as that would appear, most of us recognize those individuals who, in their eagerness to get to the meat of their research or just to find shortcuts, tend to skip such steps as reading instructions! For example, the reader learns that the guide is not for genealogists alone but for other historians as well, particularly those studying the new social history. This “how to” section also describes the guide’s alphabetical arrangement and what information can be found in each entry—content, location, and means of access. The latter is particularly significant, as it refers to the various finding aids available. These include a catalog for all publications and serials in MHS’s custody; a catalog and other finding aids for the manuscript collections, reflecting the uniqueness of each collection; and the state archives notebooks. These notebooks consist of detailed inventories of documents and are arranged by name of state or local agency. Knowledge of how to use the guide contributes to effective research.

A contributing factor to the user-friendliness of Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society is the presence of three appendices. The first, “Selected Sources for Historical and Genealogical Research,” consists of a bibliography nearly seven pages long of sources helpful in Minnesota genealogy. These are divided into Minnesota historical sources, guides to collections of MHS and its regional centers, guides to other collections in North America, ethnic sources, religious sources, and genealogical sources. Appendix 2 notes helpful and necessary information about MHS, such as location (a map is provided), telephone numbers, and days and hours of operation of MHS facilities. Their services, such as reference, interlibrary loans, and photocopying, also are listed. There is even public transportation information. The third appendix offers general genealogical information about Minnesota, the most important item being that MHS does not have the vital statistics records for the state. They are kept by other governmental organizations, which are listed, with copying costs, including all 87 Minnesota counties, county seats, and zip codes. Other historical and genealogical organizations are mentioned: the Regional Research Centers (and the counties for which they have records), Iron Range Research Center, Immigration History Research Center, Minnesota Genealogical Society, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Family History Centers. This appendix is completed with the ever-helpful and handy map of Minnesota showing counties and county seats.

If there are any criticisms of Genealogical Resources of
the Minnesota Historical Society, they are comparatively minor with perhaps one exception and are overshadowed by the overall effectiveness and superior quality of the guide. MHS has an outstanding collection of New England resources, a fact that should have been mentioned and given some attention. While the emphasis is on Minnesota, and rightly so, such a significant collection should not be overlooked. The guide's title refers to genealogical sources (a somewhat generic term) of MHS and not Minnesota genealogical sources of MHS. It would help readers of the guide and users of MHS facilities to know that they do not have to travel to New England to study its resources. Perhaps the addition of a fourth appendix, dedicated to important non-Minnesota sources at MHS, could be considered for future editions.

The guide's alphabetical approach and lucid presentation are its main selling points. The use of photographs, strategically located throughout the guide but not overbearing in quantity, adds a warm and personal touch. Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide belongs on the reference shelf or desk top of any library or archives that has a serious interest in Minnesota history. Every genealogist or historian with a Minnesota connection should be aware of the guide and have ready access to it. The guide is more than a compilation of resources; it is a resource itself.

Reviewed by Peter W. Bunce, director of the National Archives-Great Lakes Region, headquartered in Chicago.

Marine on St. Croix: 150 Years of Village Life.

By James Taylor Dunn.


James Taylor Dunn has written a wonderful book. In fact, it is several books. It brings together and augments two earlier books tracing the history of the fascinating village, known for much of its life as Marine Mills. It is one of the examples of the character of the community and its people that, although the post office department changed the name of the village in its records in 1914, only about 25 years later did the community accept its new title.

Located on the west side of the St. Croix River between Stillwater and Taylors Falls, the village has a lovely situation between wooded elevations toward both the north and south. Dunn's carefully crafted work is a chronological history, telling, year by year, in meticulous detail, the activities of the people, the rise of lumbering, the growth of other industries and businesses, the interplay of forces, and gradual though sometimes reluctant entry into modern life—always retaining a special charm based on a reserved quality of life and a cherished individualistic culture. Cleaned from diaries and interviews, public records, newspapers, and illustrated largely from the author's photograph collection, the lives of people and organizations are thoroughly documented.

We get closer to the spirit of the book by recognizing that Marine is a microcosm of America. It is the story of the coming of people, eager to harvest the forest lands made available by treaties with the Indians. It is the story of the weak and the strong, the boisterous and the quiet, of the ups and downs of the national economy generating boom and bust. There is hard work, but also music and dancing, river trips, hiking and hunting—and sorrow and death. It is the story of a tiny settlement, never growing very large, but gradually being pushed into a modern society—the coming of electricity, roads, churches, schools, motor cars, libraries, banks. It is truly the story of all America—the hard beginnings, the strenuous work, the vision, the disappointments and the successes, the joys and happiness interrupted by depressions, wars, and yes, even murders and suicides. All of life is here and the reader is caught up in the story of Marine Mills knowing that a vaster story is being told, and well told.

Marine on St. Croix is also a source book for story lines for writers. There are the biographies of people followed through the years, some for their entire lives. There is historical verification of the development of the lumber industry, of traffic on the river, of the beginnings of government, and the human scenarios of the people who appear on the pages—some who came and went, many who stayed.

It is an inspiring book with the evidence that, however difficult circumstances sometimes became, recovery brought greater opportunities than before. Those who persevered through the tough times prospered. There are examples of how the mighty can fall and the glorious satisfactions of the simpler quiet life.

When I first noticed that it was chronological, with the insignificant mixed in with the more important, I wondered how interesting and readable it would be. As the various threads of documentation emerged and intertwined, I became more and more involved and read with excitement and anticipation. Marine on St. Croix is a fine history, it is a thrilling account of the struggle of people in a new land, their vitality, their adventurous spirit, and their patience in adversity. It is this universality that gives it special worth. I was fascinated by the book and felt enriched to have read it.

Reviewed by Elmer L. Andersen, former governor of Minnesota and a former president of the Minnesota Historical Society.
NEWSPAPER & NOTES

EDITED by Frederick E. Hoxie, Indians in American History: An Introduction represents an effort "to bridge the distance between specialized scholarship and the world of teachers and students." It consists of 13 essays, ten of which were originally presented at a series of conferences held at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian organized around the theme of "The Impact of Indian History on the Teaching of U.S. History." Written in response to the need for better materials expressed by college teachers at the gatherings, the chronologically arranged essays can be read together or in conjunction with a survey text. Richly illustrated with photographs, maps, and other documents drawn from the Newberry Library collection, topics range from "America before Columbus" to "Modern America and the Indian." Contributors include James Axtell, R. David Edmunds, William T. Hagan, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Alfonso Ortiz, Theda Purdue, Charles E. Wilkinson, and other leading scholars. Each essay is followed by a short section on recommended further reading. Major dates in U.S. and American Indian history from 1400 to 1890 appear in a chronology.

On the strength of excellent individual essays, this book is highly recommended. Used as a unit, the work has a number of flaws. Although intended "to provide an introduction to the Indian side of the usual narrative," some of the selections fall short of the stated goal. Chapter one, if anything, begins with the most usual of narratives, "the earliest immigrants" making their way to the New World across the Bering Strait. In contrast, Alfonso Ortiz makes the point that there is a need for more respect by historians for oral traditions because "there is much to be gained from tribes' own accounts of their origins." Introducing "the Indian side" also presents problems in some essays, which, instead of focusing on particular bands, tribes, or confederacies with diverse native perspectives, deal with the "abstract Indians or Indianness" warned about in another point made by Ortiz. Other flaws, such as a few errors in numbers and dates, are more minor. My preference would be to make selections from the essays and use them in conjunction with other materials.

Since the volume is an introduction, it is hoped that future publications will include print and nonprint materials developed in reservation and urban communities through American studies programs, curriculum development projects, and tribal councils.

Paulette Fairbanks Malin

WHITE EARTH: A HISTORY, compiled by the reservation's curriculum committee (Marshall Brown, Jerry Rawley, Georgia Wiener, and Everett and Kathy Roy Goodwin), offers an overview of the north-central Minnesota reservation that was created by treaty in 1867. Basing their work on written history, oral traditions, and archaeology, the authors begin their account with the creation of the world by Kitchi Manido; describe the clan system of the Anishinabe (the "original people"); trace the long conflict between the Chippewa and Dakota tribes; and depict life through the four seasons. One chapter deals with the "great land grab" that ensued with the coming of Europeans. Two other sections tell of the reservation's establishment and of how by 1910 the White Earth Indians would lose "more than 80 percent" of the land. The final chapters of the 32-page publication examine "Rebuilding the Reservation" and "White Earth Today." In addition to historical photographs and a map, the text is enhanced with drawings by Steve Premo, Carl Gawboy, and Duane Goodwin. The book is available for $7.50 from The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, P.O. Box 217, Cass Lake, Minn. 56633.

MINNESOTA PEOPLE and programs figure prominently in a new book by David H. DeVorkin, curator of the National Air and Space Museum. Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America (New York: Springer-Verlag, 1989, 406 p., $39.50) begins with the 1931 flight of Auguste Piccard from Augsberg, Bavaria, which set the stage for a series of efforts through the decade to claim conquest of the stratosphere.

Several themes weave through the author's story. One is the still continuing debate over sending humans into space as against simply flying scientific instruments. Another is the changing role of military sponsorship, as balloon flight moved from its traditional realm of personal adventure and public spectacle toward becoming a serious scientific prologue to space travel. A third theme is the part played for 20 years by members of the Piccard family—not only Auguste, but his twin, Jean, who followed in his brother's footsteps, and Jean's wife, Jeannette, who overrode the skepticism of male scientists and military officers to pilot her husband's balloon and become the first woman in the stratosphere.
Like other historians, DeVorkin credits the Piccards with bringing ballooning to Minnesota and, in the 1940s, launching the state as a center for research projects like Helios, Skyhook, Stratolab, and Manhigh. Other Minnesotans whose roles are discussed include Otto C. Winzen, T. R. James of General Mills, and Professors Charles L. Critchfield, Edward P. Ney, and John R. Winkler, associated with the University of Minnesota's High Altitude Balloon Project. There is, however, little specific information on the series of manned ascents over Minnesota in the 1950s whose record-making altitudes were so soon surpassed by rockets and satellites.

Rhoda R. Gilman

THE FOREST HISTORY group of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations has issued a call for papers to be presented at the 1991 conference to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, February 17-22. Sponsored by the Forest History Society and the Organization of Tropical Studies, the meeting is intended to address a broad range of topics to include environmental issues that are pertinent to the history of land uses and policies; it focuses on Latin American forest and conservation history. Proposals should be sent by March 31, 1990, to Harold K. Steen, Forest History Society, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, N.C. 27701, or to Richard P. Tucker, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, Dana Building, 430 E. University, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103.

LEONARD G. WILSON, professor of the history of medicine at the University of Minnesota, is the author of Medical Revolution in Minnesota: A History of the University of Minnesota Medical School (1989), an absorbing and well-written account based on archival records, medical literature, and early newspapers. Much more than a mere recounting of the school's 100-year administrative history, the illustrated, 612-page book juxtaposes medical progress with the pioneering advances in such areas as cancer treatment, open-heart surgery, and organ transplantation, to name a few, that made the university world famous. Author Wilson makes no bones about the discord and dissension that inevitably arose during the century, and he notes that "even through its best periods, the school has been underfinanced." His book will be welcomed by laypeople as well as members of the medical world. It is available from Midewiwin Press, 797 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul, 55105 for $35.00 plus $2.50 shipping cost and 6% sales tax for state residents.

THE SPECIAL Spring, 1989, issue of the Journal of American Ethnic History is devoted to exploring various facets of the lives of immigrant women. Midwestern readers may be particularly interested in Joy K. Lintelman's article, "America is the women's promised land: Swedish Immigrant Women and American Domestic Service," and Charlotte G. Borst's discussion, "Wisconsin's Midwives As Working Women: Immigrant Midwives and the Limits of a Traditional Occupation, 1870-1920." The remaining three articles focus on immigrant women in New York: Italian shoeworkers in Endicott, the German working-class movement in late 19th-century New York City, and the education of Jewish women in that metropolis, 1900-1934. Three review essays and a healthy number of the single-book reviews are also focused on the topic.

ELEVEN PUBLIC universities and colleges and five private ones receive biographical attention in From Idea to Institution: Higher Education in South Dakota. Under the editorship of Herbert T. Hoover, Ruth Ann Alexander, Patricia M. Peterson, and Larry J. Zimmerman, the 228-page study offers essays by 15 authors who examine the past and present and assess the future of the state's monuments to advanced learning. There are chapters on the board of regents, the private colleges, and "collateral institutions" that have been "interwoven with higher educational facilities." Particularly informative is the section on South Dakota's "hidden colleges," five tribally controlled institutions—Sinte Gleska, Oglala Lakota, Standing Rock, Sisseton-Wahpeton, and Cheyenne River, the last three being community colleges. According to author Janette K. Murray, the development of these tribally controlled colleges "is not in any way separate from tribal values," a distinct and "rich culture based on the traditions of its ancestors and their beliefs." The success of the colleges is "a great source of pride for the Indian tribes." The annotated, indexed, and illustrated 1989 volume is available for $24.95 from the publisher, the University of South Dakota Press, Vermillion, So. Dak. 57069.

MILITARY HISTORIANS in particular will relish the wealth of data gathered in a recent book, Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota, Jamestown, by Bill A. Brown (Jamestown, N.D., VFW Post 769, 1989, 84 p., $10.00). In addition to recounting the history of the fort, which existed from 1871 to 1877 and was under the command of Alfred H. Terry, the book provides a day-by-day account of life at the military post and a complete listing of the men and officers who served there. The book may be ordered from the Fort Seward Interpretive Center, 605 10th Ave., Jamestown, N.D. 58401.

TWO VOLUMES published in 1988 by the Centre for Research and Teaching of Canadian Native Languages at the University of Western Ontario, London, initiate a new series, entitled Texts in the Interpretation of Canadian Native Languages and Cultures. The first book is "Statement Made by the Indians: A Bilingual Petition of the Chippewas of Lake Superior, 1864," edited by John D. Nichols. This petition, which was presented to representatives of the federal government in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Ojibway of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, spells out the Indians' understanding of the treaties they signed with the United States, beginning in 1825. Nichols's edition presents the original bilingual document and adds an interlinear retranscription in the Ojibway language, an introduction, and an English-Ojibway glossary. The
numerous theories to account for the societies about everyday life in ancient societies. The video emphasizes that the early archaeologists, having little to go on, could only ask “What was here?” By so doing, they amassed a data base that has allowed later generations to frame more specific, problem-oriented questions.

Changing Visions of the Past is a good introduction for newcomers to archaeology. It combines on-site interviews and contemporary footage of archaeologists at work with historical photos and paintings and readings from the works of 19th-century explorers and missionaries, and the original music adds a pleasant touch. It may be ordered from the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, 3300 University Avenue S.E., Suite 202, Minneapolis 55414; the cost for individuals is $29.95, institutions, $45.00.

The focus of the video, however, is on the questions archaeologists ask of their data and how these questions have changed over time. Early explorers and scientists were captivated by the burial mounds that the civilization left behind and advanced numerous theories to account for them. Later archaeologists shifted their inquiries from the mounds and death/burial practices to questions about everyday life in ancient societies. The video emphasizes that the early archaeologists, having little to go on, could only ask “What was here?” By so doing, they amassed a data base that has allowed later generations to frame more specific, problem-oriented questions.

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THE LAST Contrary: The Story of Wesley Whiteman (Black Bear) by Warren E. Schwartz (Sioux Falls, Center for Western Studies, 1988, 146 p.) is a valuable addition to the small but growing collection of Indian narratives best exemplified by Black Elk Speaks. Whiteman was a Northern Cheyenne from Lame Deer, Montana, and, as the title indicates, a member of the Clown Society, who had powers as a healer and religious leader. He also had a large fund of traditional stories, personal narratives, and songs, which he imparted to Schwartz in the course of their five-year friendship. These Schwartz has faithfully transcribed, annotating them at times to provide readers with scholarly documentation or opportunities for further reading. Although most of the words are Whiteman’s, Schwartz’s voice is also present, giving the circumstances under which he collected some of the material and reflecting on the life and times of his friend. Musical transcriptions for the songs and illustrations round out this volume, which is not only a contribution to knowledge, but a good read as well. It may be ordered from the Center, Augustana College, Box 727, Sioux Falls, So. Dak. 57197 for $12.95 plus $1.50 postage and handling.

MAVIS A. VOIGT is the author of Courage: The Story of Courage Center, which traces the history of one of the nation’s leading rehabilitation organizations. Established more than 60 years ago as the Minnesota Association for Crippled Children, the center has been in the vanguard of improving every aspect of life for persons with physical disabilities. The author takes care to describe changes in the rehabilitation field (both locally and nationally) and their effect on Courage Center. This well-researched, 112-page, hard-cover book is further illuminated by a number of oral interviews, by more than 100 photographs, many in color, and, happily, by an index. The volume may be ordered from the center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minn. 55422 for $14.95, tax included.

THE MID-CONTINENT Railway Historical Society, with a bow to the sesquicentennial of photography, has published a review of railroad photography since the 1890s. Focus on Rails by John Gruber, based on the author’s five-part series in Railway Gazette, looks at the work of many, usually amateur, photographers and the growing technology that enabled Phil Hastings, for example, to break “fresh interpretive ground . . . the essence of a fleeting moment.” The 50-page booklet includes more than 30 photographs and is available for $4.50 plus $1.50 handling from Mid-Continent, P.O. Box 55, North Freedom, Wis. 53951.