

Minnesota Politics and Government

By Daniel J. Elazar, Virginia Gray, and Wyman Spano
(Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. 259 p.
Cloth, \$45.00; paper, \$25.00.)

“WE SHOCKED THE WORLD,” crowed Jesse “The Body” Ventura on election night. Many Minnesotans, watching their new governor on television, responded in silent disbelief: “We shocked ourselves.” Ever since that November 1998 night, political leaders in both major parties have reexamined history, the polls, and popular wisdom. They have hoped these modern oracles would reveal the algorithm that Ventura had used to win so that they could use it to steal his success.

Minnesota Politics and Government looks repeatedly through the lens of that election night. No magic formula is revealed, but the authors’ insights into the state that elected a Hubert Humphrey, a Floyd B. Olson, a Rudy Perpich, and an Arne Carlson make the Ventura phenomenon more understandable. The story of Minnesota’s proud outsider, reformer tradition in American politics unfolds as an epic drama in which the election of the new governor is but a small scene.

Minnesota Territory was carved out of the Wisconsin Territory during the prelude to Civil War. Minnesota became a state in 1858, dominated by the new Republican Party. It was the first to send a volunteer regiment in response to President Lincoln’s call to rally behind the Union.

Throughout the nineteenth century Minnesota was geographically isolated from the mainstream of American development. The first immigrants formed a frontier society with the shared moral principle, the authors write, of “serving the commonwealth.” Immigration brought the idealism of exiled European reformists to the state when it lacked an established system to tame their reform spirit. Through wave after wave of nineteenth- and twentieth-century immigration, Minnesotans maintained a belief in the desirability of communal provision of services and a “commitment to using community power to intervene in private activities for the good of the polity.”

Over the years, the authors continue, Minnesota matured into a “moralistic political culture” that on many issues led the way for the nation in passing thoughtful reform legislation. Even during the Reagan era, Governor Rudy Perpich made national firsts: open school enrollment, charter schools, and post-secondary education options. He pioneered concepts such as reinventing government, judicial appointments of women, public-school choice, charter schools, health-care reform, and internationalism.

But, as the 1998 election proved, Minnesota’s political culture continues to evolve. That victory of the Reform Party was a warning to Republicans and Democrats alike. Celebrity Ventura’s election was a protest shot over the bow that pierced the hull of the two-party system.

In Minnesota, preprimary party endorsements and state financing for legislative races reduce the impact of money on elections. But the national trend toward weaker parties and money-dominated primaries is being felt here, too. It is reflected in the decline of the caucus system and party endorsement and in TV-ad-based campaigns that bypass the parties except as places to raise money. These changes mean there is less popular involvement and less organization to hold politicians accountable. This is troubling: while party platforms may be irrelevant to the candidates, the platform issues are what attract the activists whose involvement counters the influence of money.

Included in this book are a thorough index and chapters on the nuts and bolts of elections, political parties, the legislature, the executive, the courts, lobbyists, local government, and the history and workings of state-Indian relations. The text describes the interplay between the personalities of leaders and the constitutional structure of state government. These chapters make this book a worthwhile investment for anyone seriously interested in engaging in the governmental and political life of the state by, for example, working on the passage of new legislation.

But, having defined Minnesota as a moralistic political culture, this book unfortunately avoids examining the political content of that culture. Left out are the aquifers of ideas that percolate to the surface in legislative reforms and the organizations that turn out voters to make the politicians listen: the human rights and civil rights efforts of Hubert Humphrey, grassroots lobby groups like the Minnesota Senior Federation, the labor and peace movements of the 1930s and 1960s, the family-farm movement (from the Farm Holiday to this year’s family-farm crisis), and the African American, Indian, and immigrant press. The book also ignores the prochoice-prolife debate that has been central to the state’s interparty and intraparty politics for three decades. And it glosses over the institution of the precinct caucus that has allowed grassroots activists to overcome money and power in the election process. In an era of front-loaded primaries, soft money, issue-advocacy advertising, and independent campaign expenditures, Minnesotans’ continued practice of citizenship is not a trivial topic.

In Minnesota the prairie fire of politics is still alive in Iron Range communities where voters turn out at rates exceeding 80 percent after community election-night dinners. The soul of Minnesota lives in government

institutions, personalities, and parties. It speaks a language of issues and has maintained its political culture from Gettysburg to prohibition to human rights to pro-choice-pro-life to education and health-care reform. It is these and other issues that motivate popular participation in politics and civic affairs and make Minnesota the moralistic outsider, the reform leader, that it is. *Minnesota Politics and Government* is strong on government but offers only a glimpse at the magic of Minnesota politics.

Reviewed by Mark Anderson, who is a native Minnesotan and a policy aide to Senator Paul Wellstone. He has been active in grassroots politics and government all his life.

Ojibway Chiefs: Portraits of Anishinaabe Leadership

By Mark Diedrich

(Rochester, MN: Coyote Books, 1999. 189 p. Paper, \$29.95.)

OJIBWAY CHIEFS is a welcome contribution to the published reference material on Ojibwe history. Mark Diedrich has clearly done a great deal of digging in the National Archives and the holdings of the Minnesota Historical Society to pull together this collection of biographical sketches on important nineteenth-century Ojibwe leaders. Undergraduate students and the university libraries that serve them will find this a useful resource.

Diedrich's biographical sketches vary in length from three to ten pages. They are accurate, concise, and well written. Concerns that Diedrich may have sacrificed historical accuracy by publishing this work himself can safely be set aside. However, the brief biographies presented here do not provide a level of analysis or depth of historiographical discussion sufficient to make this work especially important for graduate students and scholars of Ojibwe history. It is a reference work, just what the subtitle says—portraits of Anishinaabe leadership.

Language is an area where Diedrich could make some improvements in this otherwise well-researched work. He relied heavily upon *A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* for certain word forms. That was a fine choice, since this dictionary is the standard reference for Southwestern Ojibwe dialects. However, Diedrich did not take the time to check language usage, the plural forms of participles, and the unique patterns of Ojibwe naming. As a result, some Ojibwe words and names in his book are misspelled, misused, or misinterpreted. Also, Diedrich admits to using the *Concise Dictionary* as the basis for spellings of certain Ojibwe names but using other spellings when he was not sure about the forms. It would be appropriate and beneficial for him to tell readers the sources for the different Ojibwe names and words he provides and stick to a common orthography. This work's effort to embrace and

study Ojibwe names and language is important. Ideally, future editions or other works by the author will involve more consultation with some of the many Ojibwe speakers whose language is being referenced.

Ojibway Chiefs is an important book. It is a convenient and approachable reference that will be of use and interest to anyone curious about Ojibwe leaders in the nineteenth century. Diedrich also shows great promise as a future scholar of the Ojibwe. His 25-page introduction provides great insight into the nature of Ojibwe leadership, a subject yet to be fully explored in historical monographs. I hope that *Ojibway Chiefs* will provide not just a valuable resource but also a stimulus for future research and writing by Diedrich and others.

Reviewed by Dr. Anton Treuer, assistant professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and editor of Oshkaabewis Native Journal.

Downtown: A History of Downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul in the Words of the People Who Lived It

Edited by David Anderson

(Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2000. 351 p. Paper, \$29.95.)

KNOWN BY THEIR GLITTERING, zigzagging skylines, downtowns are the centerpieces of cities that beckon those in search of a new life, excitement, or their fortune. Historically, downtowns were often the most visible symbol of a city, the image that came to mind when a city name was mentioned. Downtowns provided a myriad of destinations and a variety of experiences. It is this variety that is explored in a collection of essays on Minneapolis and St. Paul edited by David Anderson.

Anderson assembled more than 40 essays written by a wide-ranging group of authors over the last 150 years. Among the noted writers included are Mark Twain, Brenda Ueland, and Patricia Hampl; the foreword is by the late Dave Moore. The essays are divided into sections on Minneapolis and St. Paul, each further grouped into writings on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Anderson's introductory chapters for each city serve as frameworks describing physical development and changes that occurred within the downtowns. The chapters provide valuable perspective for interpreting the following essays, some of which are quite narrowly focused on an area, a particular street, or even a single building.

The strength of the book is its ability to portray the two downtowns through the eyes of varied observers. A number of reminiscences recall the lumber and flour milling capital that Minneapolis became in the late nineteenth century. Among the keenest observers was Edward Conant, who lived in Minneapolis throughout his 100

years and worked for both T. B. Walker and Thomas Lowry. Conant's essay describes the movement of retail stores from Bridge Square, the impact of the lumber business, and details of such downtown personalities as "Sid the Rat-Man," alongside other well-known Minneapolitans.

To his credit, Anderson chose not only essays that recall the best of Minneapolis but included others that reflect a more troubled past, including one on the 1934 truckers' strike abridged from Charles Rumford Walker's *American City: A Rank and File History*, and several that explore life in the old Gateway District before its destruction through urban renewal.

There are fewer essays about St. Paul, particularly the nineteenth-century period. One, penned by Mark Twain in 1882, calls St. Paul a "wonderful town" with the "air of intending to stay," despite falling behind Minneapolis in population. The recollections of Alice Montfort Dunn offer a more personal understanding of life in nineteenth-century St. Paul and some insight into its inhabitants. Many of the twentieth-century essays are brief, except for a series of columns written by Oliver Towne (Gareth Hiebert), a skilled observer of his home town.

Ultimately, the volume presents a more balanced treatment of Minneapolis than St. Paul. Much more has been written about St. Paul's neighborhoods than its downtown, which may have limited the material available for this volume. Downtown St. Paul's character was, and is, largely derived from the original city plat and its relationship to the early topography of the site. An essay or two explaining this would provide some insight into St. Paul and why it remains a confusing city for most visitors and any metro residents who live outside of its bounds.

Like most histories of either St. Paul or Minneapolis, this volume presents only a brief analysis of the last half of the twentieth century. Both downtowns changed dramatically in those years, and although Anderson addressed those transitions in his introductory chapters, the essays regarding that time are limited. Perhaps as more urban history of the last 50 years is written, that era will be better addressed in another volume.

These are minor flaws, however. Taken as a whole, the volume helps to recreate the sense of place that downtowns once provided. The bulk of these essays were written about the years before 1950, when downtowns were still the centers for shopping, business, and entertainment. The words of the writers over the years subtly remind us that people of every race, class, and age used to visit downtowns on a regular basis. Today, in an era of edge cities, in which suburbs have become their own entities divorced from the central city, metropolitan residents can avoid ever traveling to downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul. The daily connections between rich and poor, young and old, and people of every race in downtown forced some measure of understanding upon those who shared the same civic space. Downtowns also saw their share of strife when streets were the scene of civil unrest

in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Still, downtowns provided a great meeting ground, a civic space shared by all because everyone needed the goods and services supplied there.

In reminding us of the varied roles of the downtowns, David Anderson has assembled an excellent and readable collection that offers insights into the hearts of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Reviewed by Garneth O. Peterson, AICP, Cultural Resources Manager at BRW, Inc. in Minneapolis. Ms. Peterson is an urban historian and city planner who has written extensively about neighborhoods and historic buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad: An Empire in the Making, 1862–1879

By Augustus J. Veenendaal Jr.

(De Kalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1999. 178 p. Cloth, \$49.95.)

THE STORY OF THE SAINT PAUL and Pacific Railroad is one of the great epics of North American railroad history, and the echoes of its spectacular success are still heard today in the recent merger of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe with the Canadian National and all of its American subsidiaries. The 1870s and 1880s found Minnesota at the center of railroad building on the continent. After many delays, work was started on the Northern Pacific near Carlton (first called Northern Pacific Junction) in the winter of 1870. This was to be the second transcontinental railroad in the United States, but its troubled financial and corporate history left it vulnerable to a more aggressive and skillfully managed rival. Rather surprisingly, that rival became the Saint Paul and Pacific, although in the early 1870s it seemed more likely to dissolve in bankruptcy or at best to survive as an inefficient local railroad crippled by a lack of capital. Destiny intervened. Well, perhaps not destiny, but certainly a group of highly motivated and resourceful men—James J. Hill, Donald Smith, George Stephen, Norman Kittson, and John Stewart Kennedy. The story of how the bankrupt railroad was acquired by this group has been told many times. Excellent biographies now exist of all of them with the exception of the old fur trader Kittson, and as recently as 1988 a major study was produced of the Great Northern Railway, the successor to the Saint Paul and Pacific.

With so much already written, is there any need for another account of this dramatic story? Augustus J. Veenendaal's book is distinctive in several ways. Quite apart from his introductory chapters, which provide a useful background to the need for, and development of, rail-

roads in Minnesota, Veenendaal examines two subject areas in greater depth than any of his predecessors. The first is the role of the Dutch investors in the early financing of the railroad, its restructuring, and refinancing under Hill, and the second is the details of the railroad's operations, management, and equipment. Indeed, the book will appeal both to those who are fascinated with the financial history of the rescue of this bankrupt local railroad ("two streaks of rust" on the prairie) and those who want to know that the railroad's first locomotive, the *William Crooks*, was a 4-4-0 with 62-inch drivers, built by Smith and Jackson of Paterson, New Jersey.

Veenendaal, senior research historian at the Institute of Netherlands Research at The Hague, sheds particular light on the Dutch bondholders. Drawn into American railroad financing by the lack of profitable investment opportunities at home, the Dutch became increasingly active in the United States in the 1860s when the Civil War dampened the enthusiasm of the traditional British capital market. By 1864 Dutch investors were buying large portions of the Saint Paul and Pacific's several bond issues. When the Panic of 1873 drove the railroad into receivership, along with many other American railroads, the Dutch were left to salvage as much as they could from their investment. Saul Engelbourg and Leonard Bushkoff in *The Man Who Found the Money: John Stewart Kennedy and the Financing of the Western Railroads* (1996) have told part of this story from the perspective of the New York banker representing the bondholders' committee, but Veenendaal has provided more information and insight into the concerns of the Dutch bondholders themselves and their connections with James J. Hill. This makes more plausible their willingness to trust Hill, to accept his offer of new bonds in exchange for the old ones, and to agree to put up still more fresh capital in order to allow Hill to build sufficient new track to qualify for the state land grant. This information gives a valuable new insight into the incredible story of the takeover of the railroad by the Hill group.

As for the details of the railroad itself, the information about the operations, organization, and equipment provides a vivid picture of how the Saint Paul and Pacific actually ran. Railroads have slipped so far from the experience of people in this day and age that this book is useful in helping contemporary readers understand the magnitude and complexity of this nineteenth-century enterprise. In short, this book will be a great help to all those who are interested in the role of railroads in the opening up of Minnesota and in the building of James J. Hill's Great Northern empire.

Reviewed by Francis M. Carroll, now a Senior Scholar after a career as professor of history in the University of Manitoba's St. John's College, Winnipeg. He has published widely on topics in Canadian, U.S., and Irish history and reviewed the John S. Kennedy book mentioned above for the Winter 1996–97 issue of this magazine.

Peoples of the Twilight: European Views of Native Minnesota, 1823 to 1862

By Christian F. Feest and Sylvia S. Kasprzycki

(Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press. 1999. 315 p. Cloth, \$125.00)

Travelers were the first ethnographers, recording the ways of life of distant peoples in words, pictures, and the objects they collected long before there was such as thing as anthropology. In the nineteenth century, Europeans were among the most usefully observant visitors to the Minnesota region, appreciating the manners and customs of the resident Ojibwe and Dakota long before many Americans were capable of overcoming their prejudices. Included in this book are descriptions of the travels of a number of Europeans in Minnesota during the nineteenth century and their accounts of meeting, observing, and interacting with Dakota and Ojibwe people. The first half of the book consists of a narrative of 11 chapters. The second half, entitled "Illustrations," contains 97 images with extended captions.

The narrative portion of the book details the background and experience of such well-known writers, artists, and collectors as Giacomo Costantino Beltrami, Joseph Nicolle, George William Featherstonhaugh, Adolf Hoeffler, Captain Frederick Marryat, Fredrika Bremer, and Henry Lewis. Also described are more obscure visitors such as Duke Friedrich Paul Wilhelm von Württemberg, Augustin Lamare-Picquot, Francesco Arese, Karl Scherzer, Johann Baptist Wengler, Charles L. von Berg, Aleksandr Borisovich Lakier, Balduin Möllhausen, Johann Caspar Wild, and Franz Hölzlhuber. Profiling the general philosophical beliefs of these and other Europeans about Native Americans, the narrative section also describes native lives, including houses and villages, subsistence activities, warfare, and material culture. Short chapters are devoted to pipes and pipe ceremonies, clothing, and body painting.

The section of illustrations presents a variety of nineteenth-century engravings, reproductions of watercolors and drawings—many in color—and color photographs of some of the objects these travelers brought back. Many of the objects are from collections in Europe little known to American scholars. Accompanying these images are detailed captions that provide a great deal of useful information.

Some readers will quibble with some of the choices the authors made. It is unclear, for example, why Father Friedrich Baraga, mainly associated with the south shore of Lake Superior in Michigan and who spent little time in Minnesota, was included in the text, while Johann Georg Kohl, the author of *Kitchi-Gami*, was not. Kohl traveled in the 1850s along the south shore of Lake Superior but also went through Minnesota as readers of *Minnesota History* (49: 126–39) will remember. Kohl's descriptions of Ojibwe culture are among the most detailed and intelligent of any nineteenth-century European traveler.

Some of the illustrations seem poorly chosen. For example, a number of the paintings are of Fort Snelling, St. Paul, and St. Anthony Falls, which seem not to fit the theme of the book. One of two images of Minnehaha Falls, a watercolor by Franz Hölzlhuber from 1859, makes more sense, given the portrayal of the Dakota encampment next to the falls.

The design of the book is attractive, even lavish. The edition is boxed and has a die-cut dust jacket, which some readers may appreciate. So as to best reproduce text and images, type pages are printed on text stock and illustrations are on coated paper in a separate section. While this layout may make sense in terms of book design or economics, readers would have benefited more from having text and illustrations together, for example, in the detailed chapter on body decoration.

Despite these major objections and the lack of an index, there are many good features in this book, particularly the quality of image reproduction and the detailed annotation, which will assure that this book will be a useful resource for years to come.

Reviewed by Bruce M. White, an ethnographic historian whose numerous publications include "The Power of Whiteness, or the Life and Times of Joseph Rolette Jr.," a prize-winning essay from the Winter 1998–99 issue of this magazine, and "The Regional Context of the Removal Order of 1850," in James M. McClurken, comp., Fish in the Lakes, Wild Rice, and Game in Abundance: Testimony on Behalf of Mille Lacs Ojibwe Hunting and Fishing Rights (2000).

NEWS & NOTES

THE SOLON J. BUCK AWARD for the best article published in *Minnesota History* during 1999 has been won by Elizabeth Raasch-Gilman for "Sisterhood in the Revolution: The Holmes Sisters and the Socialist Workers' Party," which appeared in the magazine's Fall issue.

The Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best article by a Minnesota Historical Society staff member goes to Paul Blankman for "Is It Really the Goodhue Press?" also from the Fall issue.

This year's judges were Jane Lamm Carroll, assistant professor of history at the College of St. Catherine, a previous winner of the Buck Award, and William Keyes, project manager for the historical society's new St. Anthony Falls museum. Each award includes a prize of \$600.

BERNT JULIUS MUUS: Founder of St. Olaf College by Joseph M. Shaw chronicles the life and times of this "flinty pioneer pastor," a principled, intellectual, practical, tough, moralistic, and dedicated man whose saga includes much personal and professional conflict. The Norwegian Lutheran pastor, who emigrated to Goodhue County in 1859 to serve Holden congregation, spent 40 years in that capacity while also founding the school that became St. Olaf

College and ministering to Norwegian Lutheran families throughout southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Doctrinal differences with the Norwegian Synod, coupled with some very public marital troubles (acrimonious lawsuits over his wife's inheritance and then their separation) led to his eventual expulsion from the synod. Shaw's biography (Northfield: Norwegian American Historical Assn., 1999, 393 p., hardcover, \$29.95) does a masterful job of putting the controversy and accomplishments of this pioneer Christian educator into perspective and weaving them together in a form of novel-like quality. The book is also invaluable for the insight it provides into the ecclesiastical infighting that took place among Lutheran church and educational leaders over issues that, to this day, can stir hurt feelings.
—Robert L. Phelps

THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is pleased to announce the opening to research of the Harold Stassen Papers, a manuscript collection documenting the life and career of the former Minnesota governor, presidential contender, naval officer, United Nations charter delegate, and Eisenhower cabinet member.

The principal strengths of the collection lie in its representations of

midtwentieth-century Republican Party dynamics and United States international relations. Included are correspondence and memoranda, speeches, campaign literature, schedules and itineraries, awards and certificates, press releases, press conference transcripts, magazine articles authored by Stassen, news clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, sound recordings, motion films, and video recordings that highlight Stassen's gubernatorial and presidential campaigns, his role in post-World War international diplomacy, and his involvement with civic, professional, and religious organizations.

Although the bulk of the collection relates to Stassen's career before leaving the Eisenhower Administration in 1958, the papers also document his continued work in politics and internationalism throughout the second half of the century. Stassen's interest in international relations is also reflected in a substantial amount of material concerning his participation in various professional and religious associations.

The collection consists of 212 cubic feet with materials from the 1910s to 1999, organized into seven series: Personal Papers; Campaigns and Politics; Naval Service; United Nations; Eisenhower Administration; Organizational Memberships; and Engagements, Speeches, and Publications. An inven-

tory describing the collection may be accessed through the Society's website: <http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00202.html>.

FROZEN MEMORIES: *Celebrating a Century of Minnesota Hockey* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 1999, 176 p., cloth, \$22.95) features more than 300 historical photos and a narrative that covers topics dear to the hearts of avid hockey fans. Author Ross Bernstein briefly traces the evolution of skates, pucks, and the game's early years in Minnesota. He examines the state's most outstanding college and university teams, the 1960 and 1980 Olympic teams (dominated by Minnesota amateurs), and the state's professional teams in their heydays. He also profiles the century's leading players and gives a year-by-year account (including photos) of the popular state high-school tournament. Briefer sections deal with in-line and women's hockey. This is a must-read (or browse) book for readers interested in Minnesota's notable contributions to the sport.

THE LIFE of Jane DeBow Gibbs, a young girl when she was brought to the land that would later become Minnesota in 1834, is told in *Jane Gibbs: Little Bird That Was Caught* by Anne E. Neuberger (St. Paul: Ramsey County Historical Society, 1998, 238 p., cloth, \$15.95, paper, \$6.95), a novel for young readers. Brought west by missionary Jedediah Stevens and his family when caretakers decided that her ailing mother and burdened father could not care for her, five-year-old Jane grew up among Dakota people, soldiers, and missionaries at Minneapolis's Lake Harriet. She made Dakota friends, learned their language, and was given the name Zitkadan Usawin, Little Bird That Was Caught. The story, based on historical accounts and people, concentrates on Jane's childhood experiences and friendships. An epilogue briefly tells of her moves with the Stevenses from Lake Harriet to present-day Winona, Wisconsin, and Illinois, where she married Heman Gibbs at the age of 20 and returned to the newly created Minnesota Territory. The Gibbsses settled in Ramsey County's Rose Township on land that

is now the Ramsey County Historical Society's Gibbs Farm Museum.

READERS FAMILIAR with the Little House on the Prairie series will enjoy learning more about the author's later years in John E. Miller's *Becoming Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Woman behind the Legend* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1998, 306 p., cloth, \$29.95.) Historian Miller, who has written on other facets of Wilder's life, delved into letters, Wilder's unpublished autobiography, and other documentary sources to weave this detailed portrait of her 63 years in Mansfield, Missouri. He skillfully shows how the beloved author blended personal experience and artistic license to create her stories, as well as how her daughter's editing shaped the final product.

HISTORIAN William E. Lass relates yet another chapter in the life of frontier entrepreneur Joseph R. Brown in "Nebraska City's Steam Wagon," published in the Spring 1998 issue of *Nebraska History*. A jack-of-all-trades who came to Minnesota as an army musician in 1820, Brown later turned fur trader, newspaperman, politician, and consummate promoter. Convinced that steam wagons would revolutionize overland travel, he planned to demonstrate the machine's superiority by sending one from Nebraska City to Denver. The story of mishaps and Nebraskans' involvement in the scheme also fleshes out the character of the man known to contemporaries as "Joe the Juggler."

Workers and Unions in Wisconsin: A Labor History Anthology, edited by Darryl Holter (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1999, 294 p., cloth, \$45.00, paper, \$24.95), is an impressive collection of nearly 100 selections from articles and books, labor newspapers and pamphlets, even oral interviews—all detailing the rich and complex history of Wisconsin's workers from the midnineteenth century to the present. This abundantly illustrated large-format book portrays the many faces of the state's labor movement—from early loggers and dairy farmers to the men and women manufacturing hosiery and batteries, automobiles, and paper, as well as

white-collar workers in schools and offices. The reader encounters the early struggles for the eight-hour workday as well as the negotiations for equal pay, safe working conditions, and family leave. This book also chronicles the bitter strikes at Allis-Chalmers, Kohler, Case, Oscar Mayer, and Ray-O-Vac. Drawn largely from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin collections and the state's AFL-CIO archives, the book's illustrations are themselves fascinating documents of work and unionism in the state. What this volume demonstrates is the importance and vitality of labor's legacy in the Upper Midwest.—*Gregory M. Britton*

BUILT BY A SWEDISH IMMIGRANT with "a genius for making money and the house-proud soul of a Småland farmer," a famous Minneapolis edifice is the subject of an engaging new 80-page publication, *The American Swedish Institute—Turnblad's Castle* (Minneapolis: ASI, 1999, paper, \$19.95). The gray limestone residence at 2600 Park Avenue was constructed in 1904–08 by Swan J. Turnblad, controversial publisher of the *Svenska Amerikanska Posten*, once the nation's most widely circulated Swedish-language newspaper. Author Anne Gillespie Lewis profiles aspects of the myth-veiled Turnblad's life and family. Then she tells the story of the 33-room mansion, now on the National Register of Historic Places, that has served Minnesota as an historic house and museum of Swedish culture. She describes the home's architecture and furnishings, including the beautiful porcelain *kakelugnar* (tile stoves) and exquisitely carved woodwork, and answers popular house-tour questions such as "How much did the house cost?" Excellent-quality contemporary and historic photos fill the attractive publication. Swedish visitors will appreciate the book's dual-language photo captions and the 11-page book summary in Swedish. For orders, phone 612-871-4907.

"**HISTORIC DISTRICTS** usually become historicized districts," notes David Hamer in *History in Urban Places: The Historic Districts of the United States* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1998, 277 p., cloth, \$52.50,



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Richard T. Murphy, Sr., *President*
 Martha H. Kaemmer, *Vice-President*
 Donald C. McIlrath, *Vice-President*
 William C. Melton, *Vice-President*
 Eleanor C. Winston, *Vice-President*
 Bruce W. Bean, *Treasurer*
 Nina M. Archabal, *Secretary*

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Arnold C. Anderson
 Lowell C. Anderson
 Charles W. Arnason
 Annette Atkins
 Sharon L. Avent
 Gretchen U. Beito
 Diane Berthel
 Brenda J. Child
 Tobin Dayton
 Charlton Dietz
 Roland P. Dille
 Carl B. Drake, Jr.
 James S. Griffin
 Jean L. Harris
 Marshall R. Hatfield
 Karen A. Humphrey
 Lucy R. Jones
 Lois E. Josefson
 Martha H. Kaemmer
 Sylvia C. Kaplan
 David A. Koch
 Fred Perez
 Peter R. Reis
 Raymond A. Reister
 Kennon V. Rothchild
 Janet R. Shapiro
 Eugene C. Sit
 Paul A. Verret
 Eleanor C. Winston

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jesse Ventura, *Governor*
 Mae Schunk, *Lieutenant Governor*
 Mary Kiffmeyer, *Secretary of State*
 Mike Hatch, *Attorney General*
 Judith Dutcher, *State Auditor*
 Carol Johnson, *State Treasurer*

paper, \$19.95). Exploring the nexus of urban history and preservation planning, the book seeks to place historic districts in their authentic urban context. Included are several Minnesota districts such as St. Paul's Irvine Park and Historic Hill District and Minneapolis's Warehouse District.

AN AMBITIOUS FAMILY HISTORY, *A Slice of American History, 1623-1956*, by Carol M. Fuller (White Bear Lake, 1999, 207 p., paper, \$15.95) chronicles the lives and concerns of the Benjamin F. Fuller family, focusing on the generations living in Minnesota. Readers interested in the temperance and suffrage movements will appreciate the letters and activities of Metta and Frances Fuller Victor. Others will find the story of the rise and fall of the Willard and Fuller families' West Lawn stock farms in Mankato and Redwood Falls of interest. Copies may be ordered from the author at 2641 South Shore Boulevard, White Bear Lake 55110.

TWENTY-FIVE MINNESOTA WOMEN are the subjects of editor Heidi Bauer's *The Privilege for Which We Struggled—Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Upper Midwest Women's History Center, 1999, 176 p., paper, \$12.95). Introduced by Barbara Stuhler, the volume contains short profiles of trailblazers, early feminists, suffragists, and radical twentieth-century militants such as Myrtle Cain.

The revised and reissued *Women of Minnesota—Selected Biographical Essays*, edited by Barbara Stuhler and Gretchen Kreuter (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1998, 448 p., paper, \$15.95), contains longer essays on more than a dozen important Minnesotans including ethnographer Frances Densmore, writer Maud Hart Lovelace, and U. S. Senate candidate Anna Dickie Olesen. New material includes updated information on women in the legislature and more than 100 brief biographies of women active in public life ranging from Loyce Houlton and Winona LaDuke to Leeann Wai-hing Chin and Jane Hodgson. A thoughtful concluding essay chronicles women's accomplishments in

Minnesota over the last two decades.

HAMM'S BREWERIANA collectors and readers interested in St. Paul's Dayton's Bluff neighborhood will enjoy *Louise's Legacy: Hamm Family Stories*, edited by Moira F. Harris (St. Paul: Pogo Press, 1998, 160 p., paper, \$15.95). The book contains a previously unpublished, insider's look at the lives and personalities of Theodore and Louise Hamm (who made many of the company's business decisions) by granddaughter Louise Muller. Photographs, a selection of newspaper accounts about the early days of the brewery, and early brewery newspaper advertisements round out the volume, which is Pogo's fourth to focus on Hamm subjects.

EDITOR Nancy Owen Nelson presents an in-depth look at a regional writer in *The Lizard Speaks: Essays on the Writings of Frederick Manfred* (Sioux Falls: Center for Western Studies, 1998, 229 p., paper, \$15.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling). Essays are grouped into four sections that examine Manfred's early works, his "Buckskin Man" series, his later novels, and his legacy. As editor Nelson writes, the essays suggest Manfred's "developing vision of voice, and place, and the ways in which these elements would figure into his creative process." Copies may be ordered from the Center, Augustana College, Sioux Falls SD 57197.

REMINDER: Handsome, sturdy slipcases, open at the back for maximum protection and convenient storage, keep your back issues of *Minnesota History* within easy reach on your bookshelf. Each container hold eight issues. The maroon-colored cases are embossed with the magazine title and come with a gold-foil transfer for marking the year and volume number on the spine. Available for \$9.95 (MHS member price, \$8.96) plus tax and shipping from MHS Press (651) 297-3243 or 1-800-647-7827 and in the Society's museum store.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).