FOR DECADES THE GREAT NORTHERN Railway’s jumbo calendars, sized for the walls of depot waiting rooms, featured appealing portraits of Blackfeet Indians that promoted tourism to Glacier National Park. The years passed, but the art has remained. Calendar pages are now treasured collectibles, while the tempera originals are a prized part of the railroad’s art collection. The Minnesota Historical Society’s collection of GN calendars, printed by St. Paul’s Brown & Bigelow, preserves many of these stunning portraits of Indian men, women, and children.

This calendar, measuring 33 1/2 by 16 inches, shows Middle Rider, a Blackfeet youth, posed in Glacier Park. Winold Reiss, the German-born, New York-based artist, was captivated by the American West. His annual summer pilgrimages to Montana supplied the Great Northern with a wealth of stylish artwork. For more on Reiss and calendars for and by Minnesotans, turn to the article on page 353.

To explore more of Minnesota’s past, see TimePieces at http://events.mnhs.org/TimePieces