

OUR READERS WRITE:

Colette Hyman's article "Survival at Crow Creek, 1863-1866" (Winter 2008-09) elicited many heartfelt responses touching on various of the essay's facets. On the international perspective, Don Westrum wrote:

"If our country is going to continue its mission to protect and enhance the rights of girls and women across the globe, we will need more precise examples and factual information [like this] about earlier atrocities—especially from someone like you who has focused so well on the origins of the problem and the consequences for future generations."

Several descendants of European American settlers expressed similar reactions. As Gayland Hokanson put it:

"I always knew that we immigrants treated the native population badly but never realized the extent of abuse. . . . Thank you for telling the true story of these terrible events."

And, several letters from members of the Crow Creek Longriders, a group of "many different backgrounds and races, and with many different makes of motorcycles as well," add contemporary information to Hyman's account. Joe Spado, "a father of three daughters and grandfather of five granddaughters," for example, wrote:

"We are involved with a yearly motorcycle commemoration ride and 2009 will be the fourth annual. The ride starts at Fort Snelling. . . . We ride four days and follow the route that was used to transport the people to Crow Creek. . . .

"The ride is an idea thought of by a couple of people with Dakota roots. Their vision was to create a Dakota/Winnebago Trail of Tears, to call attention to the atrocities of that journey by riverboat and cattle car. . . .

"We ride to remember and to reflect. We raise a little money and bring it to Crow Creek. Our donations are used for the Boys and Girls Club Youth Center and Project Head Start. What we didn't realize at first is that we brought hope to many of the people of Crow Creek . . . people who have largely thought they were forgotten.

"Education about events and eras like this in our history can only help in the attempt to have a more peaceful world. We will use the article and the fabulous list of resources you have provided to reference ongoing factual education about what happened to the people of Crow Creek. As we learn, we heal."

For more information (the 2009 ride began June 17), visit <http://crowcreeklongriders.blogspot.com/>.

■ Jack Schnettler's paper, "Man of the Hour: How Hubert H. Humphrey Broke the Longest Filibuster in History and Passed the Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964," has won the 2009 *Minnesota History Magazine* Award for the best senior-division History Day paper on a Minnesota topic. Addressing this year's theme, "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies," the paper examines the senator's long commitment to civil

rights as well as his behind-the-scenes strategy that finally enabled passage of the politically fraught legislation. Schnettler attends Blake School in Minneapolis.

■ *Minnesota History* is pleased to announce a new service making research and pleasure reading more convenient than ever. Now available online are free copies of all articles published since the magazine began in 1915 through 2003.

To browse or read, visit www.mnhs.org/mnhistory and select an issue from the archival listing. The digital articles come with a full-text search function, and most are also linked to the online index. A "rolling wall" of three volumes (six years) means that the newest issues are not immediately available online, but annual updates will post ones that move inside the wall as time rolls on.

■ Minnesota plays its part in Wilson J. Warren's *Tied to the Great Packing Machine: The Midwest and Meatpacking* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2007, 317 p., cloth, \$39.95). Examining the last 150 years of the industry, the book relates the ways in which meatpacking has affected the Midwest's economy, culture, and environment. Exploring both rural and urban settings—the huge stockyards of Chicago and Kansas City as well as smaller packing cities such as Austin and Albert Lea—Warren places meatpacking within the larger agro-industrial landscape.

■ Just as he was accepting a Fulbright fellowship to spend a year in Norway, author Eric Dregni learned that his wife was pregnant, but this did not stop the two from taking the trip. Eric planned to delve into his past, researching his great-grandfather's roots while living the Scandinavian way of life. *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008, 195 p., cloth, \$22.95) shows the couple jumping into the culture of Norway: trying the various foods, learning the language, partaking in the local customs, and even staying to give birth on foreign turf. Author Dregni's approach is with gusto, while his wife is a bit more cautious as they eat cheese with an aroma reminiscent of sweaty gym socks and fish the texture of dried leather. With the help of friends, they successfully navigate through the challenges of living in a foreign country. Dregni's humor and enthusiasm bring a creative view of the Norwegian world to the reader. This is a must read for those planning a trip to Norway.

■ Attractive, legible, yet densely packed, the 27 × 38-inch map, *St. Paul's Rondo Neighborhood, 1920–1960*, provides a wealth of information about the vibrant, now-vanished African American district. Acknowledging his debt to community historians and cartographers, compiler James Peter Gerlich has assembled a visual record of private homes, businesses, community centers, schools, and parks, complete with brief information about each address. All sites are described and located on the large map encompassing the area from University Avenue south to Iglehart and from Lexington Avenue east to Rice Street. Photos of people and places also dot this colorful map (2008), which is available for \$14.00 at the Minnesota History Center's museum store.

■ Deaf from birth, Swift County farm boy Esten Hanson was sent to the Minnesota School for the Deaf in Faribault for an education. When he graduated ten years later, he was literate, had learned a trade, and was a highly skilled baseball player. Jim Johnson's book, "*Dummy*" *Hanson, A Deaf Baseball Pitcher's Life in the Hearing World* (Edina, MN: Beaver's Pond Press, 2008, 185 p., paper, \$22.95) chronicles his school days, his amateur career playing for town teams in the early 1900s, and what is known of his life and work—mostly farm labor—between games or baseball seasons. Hanson died at the age of 28 of "brain fever" while threshing in North Dakota.

■ The fur trade, European American settlement and relations with Indian people, and the development of the West are all part of historian William E. Lass's detailed new volume, *Navigating the Missouri: Steamboating on Nature's Highway, 1819–1935* (Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark, 2008, 464 p., cloth, \$45.00). As the most important river corridor in the trans-Mississippi West, the Missouri River and its navigable tributaries were the avenues for migration and commerce reaching as far as

the Santa Fe Trail and the gold mines of Montana. This thorough book covers many aspects of social, political, and economic history in its sweep of a century-and-a-quarter of steamboating.



■ New in the "People of Minnesota" series is Chia Youyee Vang's *Hmong in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008, 93 p., paper, \$13.95). Along with telling the story of the immigrant communities, beginning in about 1976 as the Hmong fled their Lao homelands, the book also presents individuals. Their words clearly convey the struggle to adjust to new environments, build communal life, maintain their culture, and then contribute to government, politics, and the arts in their new homeland.

■ Don Koestner is a man with patience and a passion, which is to paint. In *A Way of Living: The Simple Life and Extraordinary Craft of Landscape Painter Don*

Koestner (Afton, MN: Obiris Books, 2008, 168 p., cloth, \$32.00, paper, \$24.00) author Bill Hakala allows the reader to understand this passion. Koestner's infatuation with painting began as a young boy. After a stint in the service, he returned home and enrolled at the Minneapolis School of Art, where he met fellow artists who would become his lifelong friends. They shared road trips and bike tours abroad, taking in all the beautiful landscapes that foreign vistas offered. Upon his return, he purchased property in Nininger, built a cabin/studio with recycled materials, and began painting impressionistic renderings in oil that capture the both mood and reality of the land. Koestner's work did not go unnoticed; he developed a following, and soon his work was showing up in art galleries. Unfazed by success, he and his wife continued living the simple life, moving to the Silver Bay area, a natural source of inspiration for Koestner's colorful panoramas. *A Way of Living* is available at independent bookstores and at www.obirisbooks.com.

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