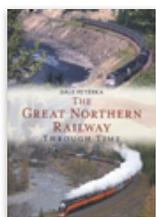


TAKE THREE

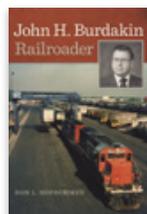
Planes, trains, and automobiles



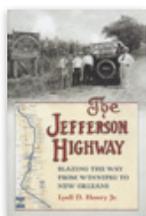
Barnstorming the Prairies: How Aerial Vision Shaped the Midwest, by Jason Weems (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015, 368 p., Paper, \$35). From the start of midwestern settlement by European Americans in the nineteenth century, writes art historian Weems, people employed elevated and bird's-eye prospects as a way to overcome the frustrating openness and seemingly featureless uniformity of the prairie and envision the grid of government-imposed survey lines. In the twentieth century, new sight-lines made possible by aviation enabled both midwestern inhabitants and other Americans to see the region as a dynamic space amid shifting culture and technology. Though the author aims for accessible prose, the book's academic origins seep through. Nevertheless, the in-depth text and the extensive visuals—airial photos and maps, as well as painting, cinema, and architecture—together reveal aerial vision's fundamental contribution to the regional identity of the Midwest.



Three for rail fans: First, **The Great Northern Railway Through Time**, by Dale Peterka (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2016, 96 p., Paper, \$22.99). Peterka has gathered photos of the Empire Builder's route from St. Paul to Seattle taken over the course of 75 years, including early photos never before published. Second, a Midwest railway history expert takes on the significance of management style in **John H. Burdakin: Railroader**, by Don Hofsonmer (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2016, 126 p., Cloth, \$29.95). Burdakin led the Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn Central, and Grand Trunk Western Railroad during the 1970s and 1980s, a time of great change in the railroad industry.



And third, **Twelve Twenty-Five: The Life and Times of a Steam Locomotive**, by Kevin P. Keefe (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2016, 246 p., Cloth, \$49.95), is an "against-all-odds" story of the Pere Marquette 1225, a World War II-era freight locomotive built at the height of the steam era and the determination of two generations of rail fans to keep it running.



The Jefferson Highway: Blazing the Way from Winnipeg to New Orleans, by Lyell D. Henry Jr. (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2016, 220 p., Paper, \$29.95). Early fans of automobiles banded together with can-do optimism to form a "Good Roads" movement at the turn of the twentieth century, seeking to link together the existing pathetic, disconnected, and rutted roads and make them fit for auto driving. Begun by private citizens, the movement included the construction

of 443 highways—each with a name—the most famous and successful being the Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco, completed in 1913. The north-south counterpart to the Lincoln was the Jefferson Highway, which cut through eight states (including Minnesota) on its 2,300-mile journey from Winnipeg to New Orleans. This first book published on the pioneering "Pine to Palm" Jefferson Highway, completed in 1916, focuses on the route through Iowa. By 1940 named thoroughfares were mostly forgotten, casualties of the newly defined federal highway system, which, more prosaically, identified roads by numbers.

NEWS & NOTES

■ Since 1954 *Minnesota History* has called on a panel of judges to select the winner of its **Solon J. Buck Award** for the best article published in the magazine during the calendar year. We're pleased to announce that the award for 2015 goes to **Susan Bartlett Foote**, whose article, "Finding Engla Schey: Catalyst for Mental Hospital Reform in Minnesota," appeared in the Summer 2015 issue. Foote tells the story of Engla Schey, child of immigrants, working woman, passionate crusader, and attendant at three of Minnesota's seven mental hospitals during the 1940s and 1950s. The judges cited the author's masterful job of pulling together sources to portray how an ordinary person was at the center of an important reform movement in Minnesota history, weaving together a number of contexts to produce a perfectly pitched portrait that, they noted, could easily have descended into the saccharine. Foote is professor emerita of public health at the University of Minnesota.

In 1971 *Minnesota History* initiated the **Theodore C. Blegen Award** for the best article by a Minnesota Historical Society staff member. The 2015 prize has been awarded to **David Mather** for "Grand Mound and the Muskrat: A Model of Ancient Cosmology on the Rainy River," published in the Spring 2015 issue. Grand Mound has long been known as a regional monument, sacred place, and cemetery. Mather put forward a new archaeological interpretation that allows us to explore the deep history of Minnesota's largest American Indian earthwork: the idea of the mound as a muskrat effigy, representing the Earth Diver hero of ancient world creation stories. Judges characterized the article as "innovative and engaging," and gave it high marks for the way it weaves together elements of different disciplines, presents new information, and changes our conception of the topic. Mather is the National Register archaeologist in the Society's Heritage Preservation office.

A committee of judges selects the winner for the Buck and Blegen awards. This year's judges were Kirsten Delegard, scholar in residence at Augsburg College and founder of the Historyapolis public history initiative, and MNHS exhibit developer B. Erin Cole. The magazine's editor, Laura Weber, completed this year's panel, serving as a sounding board but not casting a vote. Each award includes a prize of \$600.

■ For the first time, 28 different Swedish American newspaper titles published across the United States between 1859 and 2007 are now widely available in a searchable digital format. The new web portal, **Swedish American Newspapers** (www.mnhs.org/newspapers/swedishamerican), lets people search 300,000 newspaper pages in Swedish and English and includes a keyword search, text correction, and annotation tools. Family historians, researchers, and anyone curious about Swedish American history can explore more about Swedish America through essays, photographs, and recommendations for further reading. Swedish American Newspapers is part of the Swedish American Newspaper Project, a multiyear collaboration of the Minnesota Historical Society, the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga biblioteket), the American Swedish Institute, and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

■ A list of Minnesota's 100 most representative buildings and sites is being added to the critically acclaimed online encyclopedia of American architecture, landscapes, and cityscapes called **SAH Archipedia** (sah-archipedia.org), published by the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) and University of Virginia Press. Compilers are Victoria M. Young, University of St. Thomas professor and chair of art history, and SAH vice president and historic landscape preservationist Frank Edgerton Martin,

in collaboration with a variety of contributors. Ranging from the prehistoric Jeffers Petroglyphs to the contemporary Target Field, the list embraces architecture in both vernacular and high style, natural and industrial landscapes, and classical and modernist styles. The first 50 entries were published at the end of 2016, with the remainder to follow in late spring of 2017.

■ Designed for community members as well as academics, **Open Rivers:**

Rethinking the Mississippi (openrivers.umn.edu) is an interdisciplinary online journal that focuses on the Mississippi River, and on rivers in general, "as a space for timely and critical conversations about people, community, water, and place." The theme of issue four, Fall 2016, is interventions—the changes, and the undoing of changes, done to rivers. Among the features is "Owámniyomni, a Dakota name for 'St. Anthony Falls,'" by Mona M. Smith.

LETTERS

This is a long overdue fan letter. As a MNHS member, I've long admired your quarterly publication, but the Fall 2016 issue is really exceptional (Iron Range strike articles). Not only are the authors' words "readable" for all audiences but what they write is supported by thorough, footnoted research that should make history teachers and professors cheer.

The greatest value is that we can use these examples to help guide our own students in learning how to analyze and combine evidence from documents that range from credible to not-so-much, while understanding that all of them play an important role in showing how culture and the power of the press can drive human behavior.

—D. J. Scholtz, history professor emerita, Minneapolis

@ Contact us

Letters, comments, questions about *Minnesota History*? Send them to mnhistmag@mnhs.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Correction

The Minnesota Historical Society hired its first local history services professional in 1916, not 2016, as stated on page 114 of the Fall 2016 issue.

MINNESOTA HISTORY

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