

Curator's Choice

When Admiral George Dewey steamed into Manila harbor in 1898 aboard the *Olympia* and sank the Spanish flagship *Reina Cristina*, he sailed into the public's consciousness unlike any warrior since Generals Grant and Lee. The hero of the Spanish-American War returned home to find his mug on, literally, mugs, jugs, and handkerchiefs. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Dewey's image was also placed upon a new form of home entertainment—the photograph album. In the years before television and radio, people often entertained themselves by reliving memories through photographs.

Although celluloid, a plastic, was patented in 1869, almost three decades passed before celluloid photograph albums became popular. The hard cover of the album was topped with a chromolithographed image overlaid with a clear sheet of celluloid. The celluloid protected the cover and made the colors appear more vivid. Cover images were usually romantic, with muted colors and beautiful, if somewhat pensive, women. Patriotic fervor, however, has its own demands. This album with the admiral's visage and its bold red, white, and blue color scheme is unusual.

This album contains photographs of members of the Ulven, Peterson, and Gullickson families of Lanesboro, in Fillmore County, Minnesota, and Clear Lake, South Dakota, as well as a few photos of family members from Norway. The album was donated in 1970 by Berdyne Halse of Clear Lake. —CLAUDIA J. NICHOLSON, curator, museum collections



PHOTO BY PETER LATNER/MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FRONT COVER: Autumn is in the air in this artful image of a young man and woman harvesting seed corn and pumpkins in about 1915. The photograph is attributed to St. Paul commercial photographer Kenneth M. Wright (1895–1964), whose career spanned 50 years. Wright became the official photographer of the St. Paul Winter Carnival in 1916 and the Minnesota State Fair in 1924. His Kenneth M. Wright Studios, Inc., was a fixture on St. Paul's Cedar Street for many years. This photograph is in the MHS collections; the detail on the cover was digitally colored by Lois Stanfield.

Book Reviews

MIXED HARVEST: THE SECOND GREAT TRANSFORMATION IN THE RURAL NORTH, 1870–1930

By Hal S. Barron

(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. 301 p. Cloth, \$49.95; paper, \$18.95.)

Writers of local and regional rural history face the dilemma of deciding the context in which they should cast their work. Their usual dedication to the particular—the microcosmic—leads them to be accused, not without justice, of being parochial and even anti-quarian. Conversely, when they do focus on how the large dominates the small, they are charged, again not unjustly, with betraying the richness of the particular to the macrocosmic forces and incomprehensible generalizations of contemporary times.

So, if only for the sake of finding a middle ground, local and regional historians should welcome Hal Barron's *Mixed Harvest*. This work identifies a northern rural region reaching from Maine to Maryland and stretching westward to the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Barron's argument is direct enough: the rural north did not passively accept what the emerging national capitalist economy and centralizing federal and state governments proposed. Instead, rural northerners responded with open opposition, protracted conflict, and compromise. In other words, modernization proved to be anything but a one-way street and a non-negotiable itinerary into homogenous contemporary society.

Barron illustrates his argument in six lengthy chapters divided into three parts of two essays each. Under the rubric "Citizens," he discusses roads and schools. He shows that rural residents before the First World War fought long and hard to retain control of their own roads. At the same time, they equally resisted having to pay for the network of highways and paved roads advocated by the states and road enthusiasts. However, the sizeable influx of state funds (in many states) and the discovery of the usefulness and pleasures of the automobile (despite the damage it rendered to local commerce and the conscientious chaperoning it required) weakened rural resistance. The countryside capitulated after

the First World War when the federal government offered to help build a network of paved highways that at one and the same time constituted a national good, a progressive legacy, and a local convenience.

The battle for control over rural schools was fought more tenaciously and successfully. Indeed, the one-room schoolhouse—and all that it stood for in terms of local control of buildings, teachers, and curriculum—remained, Barron notes, "a fixture in the northern countryside throughout the first half of the twentieth century even after decades of educators' active campaigning for consolidated schools. As of 1920, the overwhelming majority of rural schools in the North were still one-room schoolhouses." At that time, 7,668 of Minnesota's 9,077 schools were typical country schools, a ratio roughly equalled in other midwestern states.

In "Producers," Barron offers vignettes of two farm conflicts. In one, he demonstrates how triumphant farm organizations eventually betrayed the very locales that gave birth to them. To fight for a place in distant markets, farmers built organizations whose success transformed them into institutions and bureaucracies with abstract interests different from those of their local creators. Barron corroborates this struggle with the history of farm co-ops, focusing on the ongoing battle in the countryside between the Farmers Union and the Farm Bureau. The Farmers Union sought to defend local elevators against outside markets, while the more centralized Farm Bureau, whose membership dropped precipitously throughout the 1920s, struggled to serve the interests of grain and agricultural-goods distributors and processors.

In "Consumers," Barron takes up the matters of mail-order buying and consumer culture in the 1920s. Local resistance against mail-order business proved to be a losing battle. However much the local merchants touted town pride and the local economy, rural folks indulged their tastes as far as their wants and wallets would carry them. Oblivious to local boosters, they followed catalog pictures, page by page, price by price, down the road into full membership in an integrated national economy. Acknowledging that they could not carry the range or sell the volume of goods that a city store could, many local merchants surrendered as decisively as Lee had

at Appomattox: They placed a catalog on their store counters.

By the end of the 1920s, wanting goods, driving cars, and listening to the radio meant you weren't going to keep them (or at least their appetites) down on the farm after they had seen "Gay Paree." Even if rural folks claimed that they listened to their radios for weather and crop reports and that they made "more practical use" of their car than city folks, they still wanted a lot of stuff cheap, just like everybody else. Nevertheless, Barron contends, the surrender of rural life was not complete. The countryside developed new translocal and transregional, rather than national, tendencies. It still affirmed traditional values and made appeals to utility and gender difference, with women literally taking the backseat when driving and buying. All of this, he argues, formed a unique, hybrid rural consumer culture, even though this same case might be made for urban ethnic neighborhoods.

In sum, Barron's *Mixed Harvest* excites local and regional rural historians to elaborate on the story of the continuing transformation of countryside. They must extend his argument in themes and time, asking about assimilation and resistance in such matters as the adoption of agricultural crops, horticultural practices, technological innovations, and the use of new materials, as well as the acceptance of medical care, professional services, recreation, and other amenities. (At first glance, it would seem that rural people took to things that decreased pain and increased pleasure.) In turn, local and regional rural historians must examine the instruments, the agencies, and the perpetrators of new ways and goods. Of course, to tell the story well, they must make keen distinctions between rural ethnic groups, rural generations, social classes, types of agriculture, and sizes of villages and towns.

Finally, historians will have to consider Barron's attempt to tie the resistance of rural people to their individualism and republicanism. Even though such ideologies did play a large rhetorical role among Yankees and other defenders of the countryside, simpler reasons can perhaps better explain the resistance of local communities and institutions to intrusion and control by outside forces. These simpler reasons are older and more universal than American ideologies and go to such basic matters as people's desires to control their own lives, to fight the unknown, and to distrust strangers. Indeed, farmers and town people worried about more than their daughters. They grasped that economic bondage and bankruptcy were common prices paid for relationships with distant and powerful merchants and officials.

In that sense, Barron has written the story of the northern countryside as an exclusively American national story. He has written it without reference to the fact that the transformation of the countryside in this period is surely a European and Western phenomenon as well. Indeed, writing local history in the world after 1870, as Eugen Weber implied in his magisterial study of the modernization of France from 1870 to 1914, *Peasants*

into Frenchmen, is to encounter macrocosmic transformations in remote microcosms.

Reviewed by Joseph A. Amato, *professor of history at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and a founder and active member of his regional Society for the Study of Local and Regional History. He is the author of books including* When Father and Son Conspire: A Minnesota Farm Murder (1988), *The Decline of Rural Minnesota* (1993), *and The Great Jerusalem Artichoke Circus: The Buying and Selling of the Rural American Dream* (1993).

A WILDERNESS WITHIN: THE LIFE OF SIGURD F. OLSON

By David Backes

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. 387 p. Cloth, \$24.95.)

In this beautifully composed biography, David Backes presents readers with a compelling portrait of Sigurd Olson (1899–1982). With this and the paperback editions of Olson's writing recently published by the University of Minnesota Press, the public now has easy access to a full understanding of the life and thought of this important American conservationist.

Several themes provide a foundation for the entire book and reveal its value. Though ostensibly Olson's official biographer, Backes is forthright about the personal life of his subject; much of his analysis derives from the detailed journals that Olson kept until 1947. Experiences as a teacher and dean at Ely Junior College, an outfitter for wilderness trips, a trained ecologist, and, later, a professional conservationist garnered him friends and social standing. But the journals reveal that this was not enough. Olson desired to be a successful writer, and the psychological turmoil and strain of his literary quest led him to a brush with mental illness, health problems, and an often difficult family life. Backes carries this candor through his careful discussion of the myth-creating 1970s, when Olson reconstructed himself as a romantic and utterly sympathetic figure—a modern day voyageur.

Moreover, Backes advances a brilliant interpretation of the sources and evolution of Olson's environmental philosophy or "wilderness theology." He traces Olson's career from his first efforts as an outdoor-magazine writer in the 1930s to his acme, found in *Singing Wilderness* (1956), *Listening Point* (1958), and *Reflections from the North Country* (1976). The commentary on *Singing Wilderness*, Olson's first book at age 57, is particularly fascinating. Backes compares the "land aesthetic" Olson outlines in this work with that of Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* (1949), the bible of the environmental movement. Leopold is the Old Testament prophet invoking the God of power and preaching ethical environmental behavior; Olson is the New Testament

evangelist inviting his readers to experience the God of love, made manifest in nature. Backes further asserts that *Singing Wilderness* was probably more influential in popularizing conservation at the time than *Sand County*. Unlike Olson's book, however, *Sand County* was released in paperback, a format that encouraged its use in university classrooms by the late 1960s.

This biography affirms the centrality of a sense of place in environmentalist consciousness. When Olson first walked into the north-woods wilderness outside Nashwauk, Minnesota, in 1920 he found his immutable listening point, a place from which to take stock of the rest of the world. And despite a career that sent him to Europe and embroiled him in conservation issues across the United States and Canada, Olson always returned to northern Minnesota to think and write. Backes does a good job of developing this idea, in the process introducing the reader to the many interesting Minnesota personalities who knew Olson. The author also provides an excellent overview of the debate about preserving the wilderness character of the Quetico-Superior region from the 1920s to the 1970s, the animating spark in Olson's life. Indeed, in Olson one can see the essence of an Upper Great Lakes or north-woods environmentalism, a regional ethos different from the Big Sky-western monumentalism or the urbane eastern intellectualism also prominent in the movement. This variety of environmentalism has touched nearly all of the great conservation leaders in the United States, Sigurd Olson and Aldo Leopold not least among them.

Finally, Backes offers a powerful depiction of the political transformation of a pioneering environmentalist. Olson belonged to a group of thinkers and activists who bridged the turn-of-the-century, end-of-the-frontier conservation mentality and the modern environmental movement. Backes states that he has only sampled the issues in which Olson participated; that is appropriate, since a full discussion of Olson's conservation efforts would require a book twice as long.

Nevertheless, Backes implicitly shows that Olson's professional career and writings embody the large-scale shift in American society toward environmentalism. His life also symbolized the ambiguities that fueled this social change. Some of Olson's opponents, especially in the Ely area, considered him dogmatic and extremist; his most fervent admirers saw in him the personification of environmental purity. The truth, of course, was somewhere in between. Olson was in many ways innately conservative, regarding himself as a Republican—a Republican who breathed a tremendous sigh of relief when Stewart Udall became Secretary of the Interior in 1961. Many of Olson's personal actions and beliefs—his dislike of hippies, his use of DDT, float planes, and motorized portaging on canoe trips, his introduction of exotic fish into the Boundary Waters, his ardent love of hunting, his ownership of mining-company stock, his limited appreciation of the science of ecology—do not diminish his accomplishments as a nature writer and environmental activist. They merely emphasize that no

life is clear cut and without ambivalence. All disciplined biographers walk the line between hagiography and disparagement; David Backes has done that admirably. This is an outstanding book.

Reviewed by Thomas R. Huffman, the author of Protectors of the Land and Water: Environmentalism in Wisconsin, 1961–1968 (1994). Dr. Huffman lives in Avon, Minnesota, and is currently writing a social and environmental history of Reserve Mining Company and the taconite industry in Minnesota, 1947–89.

FARM BOYS: LIVES OF GAY MEN FROM THE RURAL MIDWEST

Collected and edited by Will Fellows

(Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996. 352 p.

Cloth, \$27.50; 1998 paperback with a new afterword, \$14.95.)

No work could demonstrate more clearly the mythic mission of History than does *Farm Boys*. It is a collection of interviews with (or in a few cases, essays by) “gay men who grew up on farms in the midwestern United States during the twentieth century,” most of whom have moved to cities. The collection is intended to give such men a history for the sake of identity—community identity, personal identity, sexual identity. The postscript added to the 1998 paperback edition offers evidence of the book's success in its primary purpose, as numerous readers have written to say something like, “That's *my* life.”

One dust-jacket blurb for the original edition asserts, “The diversity of these voices precludes easy generalization.” That is completely wrong. Certainly, all the writers are individual voices with their own stories, but they seem to realize it is the commonalities, not the variations, that are important in the enterprise of mythic History. Knowing their own individuality, they take care to provide the basis for generalization. What is required is not a babble, but a chorus.

Most of the singers, then, render certain key themes, including: the steps in becoming aware of one's homosexuality; the taste or distaste for farm work, often coupled with attitudes toward animals and nature; relationships with parents, peers, and elders; the phenomenon of overcompensation, trying to be the most exemplary and dutiful son possible; the process and ramifications of coming out; and the tension between rural and urban life.

Mixed feelings about rural roots abound. A man from southeastern Minnesota, living in Rochester, says, “I enjoyed living on the farm, but I absolutely hated all the work that was involved.” That is not exactly a defining statement. More notably, numerous narrators recount their discomfort with traditionally gendered roles in work and play. “There was no way I could integrate

being gay into my life as it was,” reflects one fellow from Wisconsin. “I had to leave my former life and start this new life.”

The collector of the narratives, Will Fellows, has arranged them according to age cohorts—men coming of age before the mid-1960s, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, and from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s. This is a good arrangement, as there are some definite trends over time. The older men had much more difficulty facing the fact of being gay and generally went through dismal heterosexual marriages. The younger ones worked things out sooner and came out earlier. They also seem more at home with home, more able and likely to remain in a rural setting or at least visit. Indeed, the older and middle-aged men are likely to trash rural society bitterly.

One perplexing difference related to age has to do with veracity. Several of the older narrators recount the most fantastic sexual escapades, things not at all credible (especially to anyone who knows anything about livestock). Why do they tell these whoppers, and why would the compiler include them? On reflection it becomes

clear what the compiler is up to: he knows these fellows are blowing smoke, but the fact that they do so is an important phenomenon to be documented. There must be some reason why these urban gay men with farm roots feel compelled to concoct a prurient past.

To all appearances successful in its mythic mission on behalf of gay men, *Farm Boys* also raises a disturbing question for the rural society that most of them left behind. Fellows teases at the issue in his afterword, asking what farming communities have lost through the urban migration of gay men. By and large, his subjects, because of their meticulous and nurturing habits, would have made model farmers and businessmen. “In losing many of their gay sons to the cities,” he concludes, “farming communities had lost solid citizens”—this at a time when every town in the Midwest was trying to figure out how to stem population loss and economic decline!

Reviewed by Thomas D. Isern, a professor of history at North Dakota State University, specialist in agricultural history, and author of “Plains Folk,” a regional newspaper column about life on the Great Plains.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

Publication title, *Minnesota History*; publication number, 0035-1660; filing date, August 20, 1998; frequency, quarterly; no. of issues published annually, 4; annual subscription price, \$15.00 or \$35.00 with membership in the Minnesota Historical Society; publisher, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; editor, Anne R. Kaplan, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; managing editor, none; owner, Minnesota Historical Society.

Actual no. copies issue nearest filing date, 16,785; paid or requested circulation (not mailed), 489, mail subscriptions, 15,409; total paid circulation, 15,907; free distribution by mail, 27; free nonmail distribution, 62; total free distribution, 89; total distribution, 15,996; copies not distributed, 789; percent paid circulation, 99%.

Average no. copies preceding 12 months, 15,885; paid or requested circulation (not mailed), 403, mail subscriptions, 14,913; total paid circulation, 15,316; free distribution by mail, 32; free nonmail distribution, 61; total free distribution, 93; total distribution, 15,409; copies not distributed, 476; percent paid circulation, 99%.

News & Notes

SESSQUICENTENNIAL: 1999 marks the 150th anniversary of the creation of Minnesota Territory. In recognition of this watershed event, the next issue of *Minnesota History* (Winter 1998–99) will be a special publication, longer than usual and with more color. Articles will examine the people, the politics, and the promotions designed to lure settlers to the region; shorter vignettes will portray a day in the life of residents from varying walks of life. Objects from the era now in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and sites or landscapes that can be seen today will also be profiled. Members and subscribers will receive this special issue at no extra charge; additional copies will be available in book form.

JEAN Shafer Hansen realized the importance of her mother's papers while reading Mary Losure's article "Motherhood Protection and the Minnesota Birth Control League" in the Winter 1995 issue of *Minnesota History*. Describing the difficulty of uncovering information about the Motherhood Protection League's early activists, the article states: "President Elizabeth H. Shafer appears in the 1923 *Dual City Blue Book* of the 'best families' of the Twin Cities, but she left few other traces in the historical record."

Hansen, Shafer's eldest daughter, who resides in California, contacted the Minnesota Historical Society to inquire about possible interest in her mother's papers. MHS was pleased to accept these records of the first president of the Motherhood Protection League, which formed in 1928 and incorporated as the Minnesota Birth Control League. The collection covers the years 1928 through 1948 and includes biographical information, minutes, speeches,

pamphlets, clippings, a photograph, and a notebook. —*Craig Wright*

IN THE summer 1998 issue of *Minnesota History*, the footnotes in William D. Green's "Minnesota's Long Road to Black Suffrage, 1849–1868" did not adequately reflect the article's indebtedness to Gary Libman's 1972 dissertation "Minnesota and the Struggle for Black Suffrage, 1849–1870." We regret this omission.

THIS YEAR marks the centennial of the discovery of the Kensington Runestone in west-central Minnesota, and for almost all of that century debate has raged over the stone's authenticity (see article on page 120). Elwin E. Rogers's *Labyrinths of Speculation: The Kensington Rune Stone, 1898–1998* (Freeman, So. Dak.: Pine Hill Press, 1998) adds another voice to the debate. Using numerology, not in an occult sense but as a pure "numbers game," according to the author, the book investigates the numbers in the runic writing and finds patterns that suggest the stone was carved in 1894. Rogers further detects a possible anagram that may divulge the identity of the carver. This 62-page paperback, which includes a short bibliography, notes, and illustrations, will surely intrigue readers interested in the controversy. It is available from the author for \$6.95 plus \$1.45 for postage and handling from Labyrinths, P.O. Box 1423, Fargo, No. Dak. 58107.

MARLEY BRANT'S *Outlaws: The Illustrated History of the James-Younger Gang* (Montgomery, Ala.: Elliott and Clark Publishing, 1997, 224 p., hard cover, \$29.95) clearly sympathizes with one of the most notorious and most written-about outlaw gangs ever. The book

reads like a TV documentary that never made it to the small screen. *Outlaws* seems intended for a popular audience, as if any hint of a footnote to back up the author's assertions would scare away potential readers.

Brant portrays the James-Younger gang members as a vanquished, vengeful lot. The Civil War never ended for them; refusing to accept the Confederate defeat, they considered their actions totally justified. The book skillfully tackles the intricate historical interactions that allowed the James-Younger gang to form, flourish, and eventually fall apart. Brant then offers an interesting, although simplified, psychological approach, trying to reveal the inner workings of each gang member.

Outlaws has serious flaws as an illustrated history, however. While the book cover is well designed and inviting, anyone who follows the subject has already seen most of this volume's illustrations in other publications. The few new ones are mainly of houses or relatives of the gang members. Most of the illustrations are small and cloudy, and the page layout is visually monotonous and predictable. —*James Moss*

IN 1897 the Minnesota legislature created the nation's first state-funded hospital for indigent, handicapped children. Steven E. Koop's copiously illustrated book, *We Hold This Treasure: The Story of Gillette Children's Hospital* (Afton, Minn.: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998, 179 p., cloth, \$49.00), recounts a century's worth of care that remained consistent even as treatment methods changed. To supplement the hospital's own valuable archives (it had retained every patient's case file), the author and his research assistants

launched an ambitious oral history project, interviewing and corresponding with more than 400 former Gillette patients and their relatives. When added to the institutional history, their vivid reminiscences—for instance, of separation from family; of surgery, casts, traction, and braces; and of strict regimens and kindly nurses—make this an eminently readable social history.

HISTORIAN H. Roger Grant takes a new look at an industry in *Railroads in the Heartland: Steam and Traction in the Golden Age of Postcards* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1997, 181 p., cloth, \$29.95). An essay on the steam and electric railroads in the Midwest introduces the book's five chapters on railroad landscapes, depots, other railroad facilities, people and the iron horse, and electric interurban lines. Each chapter in this primarily visual study is a collection of postcards, one per page, with a meaty caption explaining the view and some background to set it in context. In all, more than 100 postcards taken between 1905 and 1915 document this age of railroading in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and northern Missouri.

THREE new resources from Park Genealogical Books are now available for family historians and other researchers. *The Flandrau Papers: Treasure Trove for Mixed Blood Dakota Indian Genealogy* (1997, 44 p., paper, \$15.95) opens with three short sections about Charles F. Flandrau, the contracts he wrote to restore annuity payments to the Dakota after the 1862 war (reserving 10 percent of each for himself), and the usefulness of these contracts to genealogists. The contracts document the Dakota heritage for more than 400 families that had begun assimilating, often had Anglicized names, and did not live on a reservation.

James E. Erickson's *Declarations of Intention (1847–1852) of 262 Minnesota Pioneers* (1997, 20 p., paper, \$10.95) transcribes information from the Minnesota State Archives on citizenship intentions filed in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, which later became Minnesota Territory and present-day Washington County. The information includes, among other details, age, birthplace and date, place and date of arrival in the U.S., date of declaration, jurisdiction, and citations to both the Minnesota territorial census of 1850 and J.

Fletcher Williams's *History of the City of Saint Paul to 1875*.

Index to the 1865 Minnesota State Census for Chisago County, compiled by Jay Liedman (1998, 62 p., paper, \$12.00), integrates all names in one alphabetical list with township and family number. Given the county's large numbers of unrelated Scandinavians with the same last name, this system eases the genealogist's job of searching and winnowing. In addition, the compiler has added maps showing changes in township boundaries, land-owner plat maps for two heavily populated areas in 1865, and notes on spelling variations and name changes.

All three books are available from the publisher, P.O. Box 130968, Roseville, Minn. 55113-0968; add \$3.00 shipping for the first book, 50¢ for each additional volume, and sales tax for Minnesota residents.

A NEW edition of Sarah F. Wakefield's 1864 publication *Six Weeks in Sioux Tepees: A Narrative of Indian Captivity* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997, 173 p., cloth, \$27.95) includes photographs plus editing, annotation, and an introduction by captivity-narrative scholar June Namais. The wife of a physician to the Dakota at the Upper Agency (Yellow Medicine), Wakefield was abducted along with her two young children as she fled toward Fort Ridgely during the Dakota War of 1862. Her story of fear and horror is tempered by her defense of the Indians who protected her from their compatriots, and her charge that the warfare was the fault of the U.S. government was sensational in its time.

Editor Namais's annotation, bibliography, and introduction add depth and perspective to Wakefield's personal account, supplying ethnohistorical context, background on captivity narratives, information on the Wakefield family and Sarah's personality, and an understanding of the concepts of nineteenth-century womanhood and moral force.

ILLUSTRATED, two-page spreads chronicle half a century of activity in Ross Bernstein's *Fifty Years, Fifty Heroes: A Celebration of Minnesota Sports* (Hopkins, Minn.: the author, 1997, 128 p., cloth, \$19.95). Beginning with basketball legend George Mikan and the birth of the Minneapolis Lakers and ending with Bobby Jackson and Clem Haskins

in 1997, "The Gophers Go to the Final Four," the book highlights one player and his or her team or sport per year. Each entry is accompanied by a timeline of other Minnesota sports events of that year, tributes to the player, and extracts from interviews. A foreword by Bud Grant, afterword by Kent Hrbek, and periodic pages of Minnesota sports tidbits round out this large-format volume. It may be ordered from the author, P.O. Box 5597, Hopkins 55343-0492 for \$19.95 plus \$1.30 sales tax and \$3.00 postage and handling.

FROZEN IN SILVER: The Life and Frontier Photography of P. E. Larsson by Ronald T. Bailey (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1998, 287 p., hard cover, \$44.95, paper, \$24.95) tells the story of Swedish immigrant photographer Per Edward Larsson (who changed his name to Larsson in 1904). Larsson learned his trade in Minneapolis from Charles O. and Emil C. Oswald, who hired him in 1885 as a photographic assistant. In late 1887 Larsson purchased his own equipment and moved north to the small lumber town of Cloquet. In summer he took traditional studio portraits; in winter he carried his cameras across the snow to photograph logging camps and operations. After a brief stint in Duluth in 1889, Larsson moved west, eventually photographing in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Alaska. He is best known for his visual record of the great stampede to the Klondike at the turn of the century and his record of hard-rock mining in Goldfield, Nevada.

THE AROMA, the flavor, the memories—Saint John's bread has delighted students, alumni, and visitors at Saint John's University for generations. *The Loaf That Became a Legend: A History of Saint John's Bread* by Kenneth M. Jones and Diane Veale Jones (St. Cloud: North Star Press, 1997, 131 p., \$14.95) is an affectionate look at the brown bread that has been a staple in the diets of the Benedictine monks since they established their Collegeville, Minnesota, community in the 1870s. This illustrated and footnoted history focuses primarily on the decades since the 1950s when the bread was taken to the marketplace to fund, among other expansions, architect Marcel Breuer's new campus buildings.

From the Collections

The venerable sport of curling, which can be traced to the 1500s in Scotland, has thrived in Minnesota for more than a century. Avid players took advantage of the state's frozen rivers early on; the St. Paul Curling Club formed and built its first clubhouse in 1885; and by the mid-twentieth century, curling joined the pantheon of boy's intramural sports. This equipment, clothing, playoff schedule, team photograph, ribbon, and trophy are from the 1966 Minnesota State School Boy Tournament, when Bemidji triumphed.

Played on ice (but without skates), the game involves two opposing teams of four players, each of whom slides two 42-pound, polished granite stones down the length of an ice sheet toward a target (called the "house"), 12 feet in diameter. Players grasp and throw the stone from its gooseneck handle with a slight turn to the right or left, so that the stone curls its way down the ice. Broom-wielding teammates sweep the ice ahead of the traveling stone, producing friction that slightly melts the ice and allows the stone to travel farther and straighter. The opposing team alternates in sliding their stones toward the same target. Game strategy involves landing one's stone closest to the center of the target by either knocking opponents' stones out of the way or skillfully sliding and "curling" a stone around the others and inside the circle. Points are counted as in horseshoes—only one team scores from its stones that are closest to the center of the target. This is repeated eight to ten times per game.



PHOTO BY ERIC MORTENSON

Minnesota Historical Society

OFFICERS

Karen A. Humphrey
President

Richard T. Murphy, Sr.
First Vice-President

Sylvia C. Kaplan
Vice-President

Joseph S. Micallef
Vice-President

Raymond A. Reister
Vice-President

Bruce W. Bean
Treasurer

Nina M. Archabal
Secretary

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Arnold C. Anderson

Lowell C. Anderson

D. H. Ankeny, Jr.

Charles W. Arnason

Annette Atkins

Sharon L. Avent

Gretchen U. Beito

Charlton Dietz

Roland P. Dille

Carl B. Drake, Jr.

James S. Griffin

Jean L. Harris

Marshall R. Hatfield

Lucy R. Jones

Lois E. Josefson

Martha H. Kaemmer

David A. Koch

Elizabeth S. MacMillan

Donald C. McIlrath

William C. Melton

Fred Perez

Peter R. Reis

Kennon V. Rothchild

Janet R. Shapiro

Eugene C. Sit

Paul A. Verret

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Arne Carlson
Governor

Joanne Benson
Lieutenant Governor

Joan Anderson Growe
Secretary of State

Hubert H. Humphrey III
Attorney General

Judith Dutcher
State Auditor

Michael McGrath
State Treasurer

M O R E F R O M

Minnesota History

Slipcases

Now you can keep your back issues of *Minnesota History* within easy reach on your bookshelf. Handsome, sturdy slipcases open at the back for maximum protection and convenient storage. Each holds 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. Order one or several; newly available in the History Center's museum store.

\$9.95; MHS Member price: \$8.96

Consolidated Index to *Minnesota History*

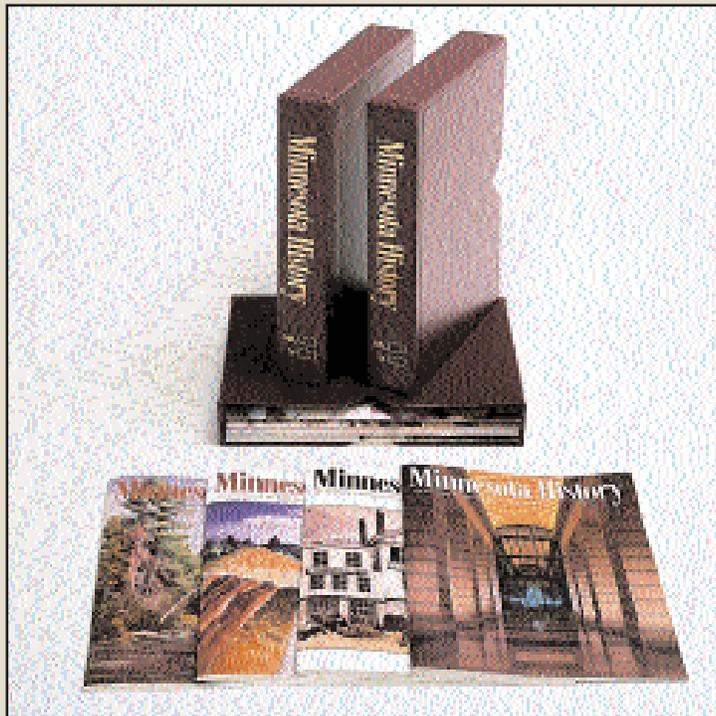
VOLUMES 41–50 (1968–87)

Containing entries for hundreds of authors and thousands of people, places, and topics important to understanding state and regional history, this index is an essential guide to the wealth of historical research in these 80 issues of *Minnesota History*.

136 p., Cloth, \$35.00

MHS Member price, \$31.50

Indexes to volumes 1–10 and 11–40 are available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, P.O. Box 1467, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. To inquire about available back issues of the magazine, call the MHS Press Order Department.



AVAILABLE FROM

Minnesota Historical Society Press, Order Dept. 600
345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906
651-297-3243 or 1-800-647-7827

Prepaid mail orders should include 6.5% sales tax (St. Paul residents 7%) and \$3.00 postage and handling, plus \$.50 for each additional item.



Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102-1906
www.mnhs.org

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

NO ENDORSEMENT



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](#).