

Minnesota's Rocks and Waters: A Geological Story. By GEORGE M. SCHWARTZ and GEORGE A. THIEL, with the assistance of PEGGY HARDING LOVE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1954. xviii, 366 p. Illustrations, maps, charts. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Louis H. Powell

THIS BOOK is a worthwhile, readable, and nearly always authoritative popular geological text and regional guide with especial emphasis on Minnesota. Its illustrations are splendid. Such a text has long been needed in our state and should find wide acceptance. Its strength and, unfortunately, its weaknesses are inherent in the history of geological investigation in this state.

It is one of the glories of Minnesota geology that the basic mysteries of the first billion and a half years of the geologic history of this area were successfully resolved. Both authors of *Minnesota's Rocks and Waters* played major roles in solving parts of this taxing geological puzzle in our state.

Small wonder, then, that *Minnesota's Rocks and Waters* is at its best as it deals with the great "basement complex" of Minnesota's rocks. It is replete with the fascinating lore of useful and enjoyable facets of these ancient natural resources of ours—the iron ores, the building stones, and the wilderness country of Minnesota's northland.

The parts of *Minnesota's Rocks and Waters* dealing with the rocks of the ancient and middle ages of life on earth are less adequate. The emphasis in Minnesota during this century has been heavily on economic geology, and the problems presented by the evidence of a varied and fascinating life in our ancient seas have been sadly neglected. These trends are inevitably mirrored in this book, not so much in what has been included as in what could have been

included had the emphasis in Minnesota studies been better balanced.

The portion of the book dealing with the surface soil mantle that constitutes the principal part of Minnesota geology exposed to the average citizen comes off a poor third. It contains inconsistencies and contradictory statements arising from unresolved problems still confronting Minnesota geologists. There are a few errors of fact. These all glaringly point up the inadequacy of the source material on which the authors have, of necessity, relied.

This book splendidly narrows a great gap in the field of popular manuals on the natural history of our state. In its best portions it is well conceived and clearly written. Its weaknesses are those arising from the one-sided emphasis on economic geology in Minnesota for the past half century. Those whose interests lie in other facets of this great science of the earth must still hopefully bide their time.

RED MAN'S CONTRIBUTION

The Book of American Indians. By RALPH B. RAPHAEL. (Greenwich, Fawcett Publications, Inc., 1953. 154 p. Illustrations. \$.75.)

The Real Americans. By A. HYATT VERILL. (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1954. x, 309 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by F. Sanford Cutler

TO MANY PEOPLE the word "Indian" brings to mind the Hollywood stereotype of a Sioux in a long war bonnet charging down upon a wagon train. Upon occasion, tribes whose homes were far from the land of the Sioux have been depicted in Siouan costumes, living in Sioux-like tepees. To counteract this lack of real understanding of the vast differences that existed among the first Americans, Ralph

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Raphael has produced a popular book soundly based upon extensive research. It will be a handy tool for teachers, and it is also the kind of book that parents want to see in the hands of their children.

The author begins with a discussion of the probable routes of Indian migration from Asia. This is followed by an explanation of the language families into which the Indians were divided. The larger part of the first half, however, is devoted to a description of the various cultural areas—the Indians of the Plains, the Woodland tribes, the Southwestern Indians, and the like.

In a short but adequate chapter the lives of great military leaders from Pontiac to Sitting Bull are detailed, as well as the accomplishments of more peaceful figures like Chief Joseph. In the second half of the book the arrangement is topical with chapters devoted to such subjects as family life, religion, and transportation, but there, too, the author is careful to point out the differences between cultural areas. There is also a short concluding section on the Indian today.

The author has obviously made a thorough study of the monographic material and has combed the picture collections of many institutions. There is a careful blending of action shots from movies, copies of photographs of individual Indians from the Smithsonian collections, and paintings by such outstanding artists as Bodmer, Catlin, and White. The author has also included photographs of some of the dioramas in leading museums.

Besides being based on sound scholarship and written in understandable language, this is a book with a purpose. The author feels that the Indian has made a real contribution to American life and that this contribution has not been adequately recognized or acknowledged. It is this conviction which gives to his work a depth of meaning seldom found in similar works.

Far less significant is Mr. Verill's *The Real Americans*. Although the author states in his introduction that the book "is not intended to be a scientific ethnological study," this disclaimer cannot excuse the many factual errors nor the flat contradictions between the body of the text and the glossary. The latter consists chiefly of rewritten summaries of entries in Hodge's *Handbook of American Indians*. Read-

ers looking for an introduction to Indian history should avoid this volume and turn instead to the works of Stanley Vestal or Clark Wissler.

LOUISIANA ADVENTURE

Fleur de Lys and Calumet: Being the Pénicaut Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana.

Translated and edited by RICHEBOURG GAILLARD McWILLIAMS. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1954. xxvii, 282 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Colton Storm

ALMOST ALL books (even novels, sometimes) ought to have prefaces or "advertisements to the readers." Alas! we are told by the experts that few prefaces are read. If they were as rewarding as the two in this book, however, readers would always read them and authors could "live happily ever after." Pénicaut's "advertisement" is so disarmingly simple that the reader falls at once under his spell. The author had no illusions about himself; he realized he had information useful to a number of people, but he knew he was no literary artist. Therefore, he disclaimed "the attractiveness or the amusement given in novels" and set himself to write "a sincere and true account" of all he had seen during his twenty-two years in Louisiana.

The years Pénicaut spent in Louisiana (he arrived with Iberville in 1699) were exciting, for an empire was being built in a wilderness. Pénicaut was one of the builders. He was a ship's carpenter whose services were needed wherever a house or fort or hut was erecting. He was at hand, then, when things happened, and all that came before his eyes went onto paper. Perhaps historians would be happier if Pénicaut had kept a diary (a few of his dates in the earlier years have been disputed), but he did not preserve a daily record. His account is a report of what he remembered of those twenty-two years. Fortunately, his memory was excellent.

In his admirable "Editor's Introduction," Mr. McWilliams observes that the first printed version of the original French text did not appear until 1883, more than a hundred and sixty years after Pénicaut put his story in order.

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What little remains about the author (other than his personal account) the editor has collected neatly; Pénicaut was almost forgotten and it is not much to wonder at that facts about him are scarce. A fragmentary English translation of his account was published in 1869 by Benjamin F. French, but the whole important narrative has not been available in English until the present edition. Historians have used Pénicaut's *Narrative* frequently, sometimes giving the original author credit, but often omitting his name or claiming as their own Pénicaut's words. At last, in a fine translation, the *Narrative* can be read easily, enjoyably, and profitably.

Mr. McWilliams is correct in thinking the *Narrative* is worth publishing. He deserves high praise for an excellent job. His footnotes are informative (see those on pages 203-208 and 211-216), but never verbose. He has the courage to say, "I don't know," when a question is unanswerable. Except for rather unattractive covers and rough-trimmed fore edges, the Louisiana State University Press has produced a handsome volume worthy of the text.

JEFFERSON AS DIPLOMAT

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, volumes 7 and 8, March 2, 1784, to February 25, 1785, and February 25, 1785, to October 31, 1785. Edited by JULIAN P. BOYD. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1953. xxvii, 652, xxix, 687 p. \$10.00 each.)

Reviewed by Jesse H. Shera

DURING THE YEARS 1784 and 1785 Jefferson brought to a close his career as a member of the Continental Congress, thus terminating his last legislative service. At the same time, in the summer of 1784, he began his official duties as a commissioner to France, along with Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. The first of these two volumes, therefore, is largely concerned with social and economic data of which, perhaps, the most important are the "Notes on Coinage" and the "Notes on Commerce of the Northern States." The former is of particular interest because of Jefferson's advocacy of the

decimal monetary system, and for the light that this technical treatment throws upon the amazing breadth and realism of the Jefferson mind.

Perhaps of even greater value to the student of American social and economic history is the collection of replies that Jefferson received in response to his inquiries into the government, labor, and commerce of the Northern states—namely New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The data here assembled were compiled in preparation for his forthcoming commercial mission to France. In addition to the important social and economic intelligence contained in them, they are significant as one of the earliest examples of the use of the questionnaire method in obtaining current information to be employed in the decision-making processes for determining governmental policy.

But in addition to the official and quasi-official papers here presented, there is a substantial amount of personal correspondence of rather special interest. Here, for example, is a newly published letter to Jefferson's kinsman, Philip Turpin, respecting "the discovery [in France] of traversing the air in balloons," to which are added some sketches of these new devices in Jefferson's own hand (7:132-137). To Francis Hopkinson of Philadelphia he writes about both balloons and harpsichords, and with Washington he discusses the navigation of the Potomac and the principle of hereditary membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. There are delightful letters to a brilliant young Dutch traveler, G. K. Van Hogendrop, concerning commerce, tobacco culture, finance, and a variety of other matters. Even the busy days in the Continental Congress did not prevent correspondence on the habits of the moose.

In May, 1785, Jefferson presented his credentials as minister of the United States to the court at Versailles, where he succeeded Benjamin Franklin and thus began one of the richest and most exciting periods of his career. The official papers which occupy the latter parts of volume 7 and a substantial proportion of volume 8 are largely impersonal and are concerned with public transactions, drafts of treaties, and other negotiations which eventually proved to be relatively unimportant in Jefferson's career. Today, they will be of interest mainly to students of American diplomatic history during a period when this country could scarcely be regarded as a major world power.

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To the nonspecialist, the greatest appeal of the second volume here reviewed will lie in the personal correspondence between Jefferson and his friends. Again we find him writing to Washington at Mount Vernon concerning the navigation of the Potomac and the James. He continues his correspondence with Francis Hopkinson concerning the quilling of the harpsichord. To Madison he discourses with feeling about the economic inequalities of the countryside surrounding Fontainebleau. To Abigail Adams he writes with affection and humor concerning the education and welfare of his nephews in Virginia. To Chastellux he expounds his "ideas of the characters of the several states. In the North they are cool, sober, laborious, persevering. In the South they are fiery, voluptuary, indolent, unsteady" (8:468). But he adds that both regions are independent and jealous of their own liberties. Jefferson also writes of the selection of Jean Antoine Houdon to create a statue of George Washington for the Virginia State Capitol, and the arrangements for the artist's voyage to America to complete the commission. Included too is a letter from Martha Jefferson to Eliza House Trist in which Martha reports on her journey to Europe with her father and on her first impressions of life in Paris. Many of the letters contain lists of books which not only reveal the great breadth of Jefferson's reading tastes, but also indicate the diversity of titles that he was sending back to America.

Finally, one can rightfully assume the presence of the same high standards of scholarship in these two volumes that was such a striking characteristic of the preceding six.

MANUSCRIPT HUNTER

Pioneer's Mission: The Story of Lyman Cope-land Draper. By WILLIAM B. HESSELTINE. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1954. ix, 384 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

TO COLLECTORS of Americana and students of American history, the name Lyman Cope-land Draper is touched with greatness. A collector from his early youth, he gathered "the first great collection of private unofficial documents relating to the old Revolutionary bor-

der," now a treasured part of the resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In writing Draper's biography, Mr. Hesselstine has told an adventure story that in its own way rivals the tales of daring of the pioneers that Draper cast in so heroic a mold. Writing letters to hundreds of pioneers, traveling thousands of miles in quest of elusive manuscripts, Draper rescued historical materials that might have been dispersed or destroyed.

Draper lived close to the past he immortalized in his collection. Born in 1815 near Buffalo, New York, he listened to the stories of men who fought in the War of 1812 and in the Revolution. He saw Lafayette at the opening of the Erie Canal and made him the subject of his first school composition. On a trip by steamboat up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Cincinnati in 1835, he witnessed acts of violence which gave "a Western historian . . . new experiences in the direct ways of a frontier democracy." He was a warrior, briefly, when he was caught in the middle of a border dispute between Michigan and Ohio over Vistula (Toledo). A political enthusiast, he worked as early as 1836 for the election of Martin Van Buren. By the time he went to Wisconsin in 1852, he was already a traveler who had covered a large part of the old border, a Baptist tutored in Granville College, an active participant in politics, a firm believer in education that emphasized the American heritage, and a collector who was convinced "it was his Christian duty to rescue historical fact before the old men passed away."

The greater portion of *Pioneer's Mission* is devoted to Draper as the moving force in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for more than three decades. When he went to the society as corresponding secretary in 1854, the library consisted of a few volumes. When he turned his job over to Reuben Gold Thwaites in 1887, he had built a library of 110,000 volumes, had seen the society move to larger quarters, had organized a museum, and had made plans to give the society his own collection.

Engrossed in the work of the society and in his continued collecting, Draper let the years

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go by without producing the books he really wanted to write. From his initial success at seventeen as a contributor of historical articles to the *Rochester Gem*, Draper had fancied himself a writer. But he never wrote the book of "Sketches of the Lives of the Pioneers," which he began to talk about as early as 1839, and the work he did produce did not meet the popular reception he hoped for. Other scholars wrote the books Draper wanted to write—the books for which he built his collection. To Madison "they came, reaping the harvest that Draper had planted, writing the stories of Boone, and Clark, and Kenton, reciting the history of Tennessee from Frontier to Plantation, breathing the smoke of Council Fires on the Upper Ohio, watching the pioneers in the Conquest of the Old Southwest, or piecing together the romantic life of James Harrod of Kentucky. For sixty years they have kept Lyman Draper's promise to rescue the pioneers from oblivion."

Minnesota readers will be interested in the account of Draper's association with J. Fletcher Williams of the Minnesota Historical Society. Though dwarfed by the fame of Draper, Williams is important as the early architect of the Minnesota collection, a persistent collector in a day when few people cared about historical societies or the preservation of Americana.

Pioneer's Mission is a superb book. In it Lyman Copeland Draper emerges as a personality distinct from the collection and the institution which have long overshadowed him. Professor Hesselstine shows that Draper's personal influence was great, for "He created a climate of opinion—a belief that the West and its history was important—and others formulated those opinions into formal postulates of significant historical interpretation."

ART FOR THE PEOPLE

American Academy of Fine Arts and American Art-Union. Volume 1: Introduction; volume 2: Exhibition Record, 1816–1852. By MARY BARTLETT COWDREY. (New York, The New-York Historical Society, 1953. xiv, 311, v, 504 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

IN THE early summer of 1851, a notice in a St. Paul newspaper informed Minnesota pi-

oneers that engravings issued by the American Art-Union were on display in the bookstore of William G. Le Duc, who thus hoped "to induce subscription to that meritorious institution." This is only one of the notices and advertisements printed in early Minnesota newspapers to call attention to a New York organization which from 1839 to 1852 served as middleman between the country's artists and the American people. Payment of a fee of five dollars entitled each subscriber to a "large and costly Original Engraving from an American painting" as well as to a chance in the annual drawing for paintings displayed by the Art-Union and "publicly distributed by lot" among its members.

The story of this organization, which for more than a decade encouraged the growth of a native American art by purchasing and distributing the works of native or resident artists, is told in detail for the first time in these two bulky volumes. The first is a co-operative project, containing an account of the earlier "American Academy of Fine Arts" by Theodore Sizer, a history of "The American Art-Union" by Charles E. Baker, a report on the "Sale of Art-Union Holdings" after the organization was dissolved in 1852 by Malcolm Stearns, Jr., and a bibliography of the "Publications of the Art-Union" by Miss Cowdrey. Apparently she is responsible also for compiling the impressive exhibition record to which the second volume is devoted.

There are listed, in alphabetical order, all the artists whose work was acquired, displayed, and distributed by both the American Academy and the Art-Union. Given also are the titles of the pictures, the dates of exhibition, and the names and in some cases the addresses of the winners in the annual lotteries. An index serves not only as a guide to personal names, but to subjects of pictures. Such entries as "Minnesota, views," and "Sioux Indians" suggest the interest of the work for students of western art—an interest that James Thomas Flexner points up in his "Foreword" when he writes: "we can determine by marking the gradual widening of the area in which native views were painted, the speed with which artists known in New York followed civilization westward."

Among the numerous examples that can be

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culled from this rich listing are many of Minnesota significance. The list of pictures credited to Seth Eastman, for instance, shows that he was first represented in an exhibit of 1839, to which he contributed a "View from West Point." But nine years later he was showing pictorial records of his sojourn on the upper Mississippi. Six of his western pictures are listed for 1848 and a like number for 1849. Among them are such titles as "Buffalo Hunt" and "Sioux in Council." Western travels are reflected in the titles displayed by George Catlin, Charles Deas, Adolf Hoeffler, Charles Lanman, Alfred J. Miller, and many others.

The bulky volumes in which all this material is presented are, unfortunately, wretchedly printed, poorly designed, forbidding in appearance, and clumsy to handle. But as source books on the history of art and culture in America they are priceless. For the American Art-Union not only stimulated artistic production, but it "encouraged the people to regard paintings not as awesome objects," but as something "that ordinary citizens could enjoy as they hung on the walls of simple living rooms." In the words of Mr. Flexner, this work is destined to become a "foundation stone in the study of American culture."

CRACKER-BARREL ECONOMY

The Old Country Store. By GERALD CARSON.
(New York, Oxford University Press, 1954.
xvi, 330 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Louis C. Jones

THIS VOLUME covers the country store from every possible point of view as it developed in our villages and crossroads, from its beginning to its displacement by the mail-order catalogue and the chain stores.

This could have been a very dull book, but Mr. Carson has ever kept in mind the human equations which were behind the economics and the daybooks. He understands and makes us understand the whole environment in which the country store struggled and thrived, and his subject is wisely integrated with the larger pic-

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ture. He enlightens and enlivens his pages with the traditional humor which gathered about his subject, but this is used always to elucidate.

Dividing his book into two periods, 1791 to 1861 and 1861 to 1921, Mr. Carson covers a wide range of topics: storekeepers and their problematic clerks, the system of rural barter and credit, the variety and range of items that were offered for sale, peddlers, commercial morals (that nice sense that knew at what point a shrewd deal became dishonest), the wonderful systems of accounting, the daybooks and records, the part played by the post office in the corner, and the chewers, whittlers, and spitters. Attention is paid to such activities as elections and training day which cast their influence over the goings on around the store and on the front porch. One illuminating chapter takes a storekeeper to New York City to do his year's buying in a wholesale house or mercantile agency.

The second half of the book considers the traveling salesman, sources of merchandise in far parts of the world, the mechanical gimmicks (plug tobacco cutters, for example, and coffee grinders) that came into use, the "setting around," the eternal talk, the galloping folklore that was an important part of the picture and the memory. There is a first-rate chapter on patent medicines, then the "new look," and the changes that automobiles brought.

This is important social history and it is delightful reading. How happy the day when we find both under the covers of one book!

BUCKEYE HISTORY

A History of Ohio. By EUGENE H. ROSEBOOM and FRANCIS P. WEISENBURGER. Edited and illustrated by JAMES H. RODABAUGH. (Columbus, The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1953. xiii, 412 p. Illustrations, maps. \$6.50.)

Reviewed by Philip D. Jordan

PROFESSORS Roseboom and Weisenburger for many years have made the history of their native state a special province. Generations of students at Ohio State University have been introduced by them to the story of Buckeyeland, and scholars have profited from their research. Together they published a *History of Ohio* in 1934. Each prepared a full-length study for the

six-volume *History of the State of Ohio*, edited in the 1940s by Dean Carl Wittke. To this set, Dr. Weisenburger contributed the *Passing of the Frontier* and Dr. Roseboom, the *Civil War Era*. In addition, each has pushed forward knowledge of the Middle West in numerous specialized reports and monographs.

Their most recent history of Ohio is, in a very real sense, a revision and extension of the 1934 volume, with a new chapter bringing the narrative to 1953. A page-by-page comparison of the two books shows that additional material has been inserted in earlier chapters, that corrections of fact and interpretation have been made, that greater emphasis is placed upon the facets of social and cultural life, that new sections discuss music and recreation. Both chapter reading lists and the general bibliography are brought up to date.

The most dramatic difference between the editions lies in physical appearance. The older volume was the typical textbook in format and design; the new publication takes advantage of all the eye-catching changes in bookmaking that have occurred within two decades, including a double-column type page, handsome illustrations, end-paper maps in color, and a brilliant pictorial dust jacket. Much of the credit for these and other changes goes to Dr. Rodabaugh, who also edited the work.

Within the first eleven chapters of *A History of Ohio*, the authors interpret geographic backgrounds, discuss the role of the British and French in the Northwest, move through the periods of confederation and territory, explain problems of territorial government and of early statehood, describe pioneer life and the passing of the frontier, and analyze political and slavery issues. This carries the narrative to the Civil War. A chapter on the war is followed by a discussion of reconstruction and politics to 1872. Attention then is given to economic changes from 1850 to 1880, including agriculture, transportation, and labor. At this point, two chapters carry political issues from 1873 to the turn of the century. Here, of course, is included the colorful Foraker-McKinley era. The

authors then discuss cultural developments since 1850 — arts, science, education, the press, and recreational activities. Remaining chapters are devoted to the progressive movement, the great depression of 1929, world wars and their aftermath, the campaign of 1952, and, finally, recent movements in Ohio for constitutional change.

Within this panoramic sweep, from prehistory to the present, are countless details that mirror the state's past and its relations with the Union. The style is lucid and cogent, and the judgments sound. Not many states can claim such a comprehensive and well-interpreted history of their origin and development.

Despite the general excellence of a book destined to be the primary one-volume text for Buckeyes for decades, there are flaws. The stronger chapters deal with events before 1900; the weaker chapters with the more recent scene. Religion, for example, receives adequate emphasis for the early period, but gets scant attention after that. Although the volume lists outstanding contemporary authors and scientists, it seems to pass over distinguished clergymen. It is difficult to believe that some of the most far-reaching technological changes that the nation has experienced can be adequately handled in a statement like this: "Silent films, talking pictures, radio, and television have played the same roles in Ohio as elsewhere and need no comment here." Although a section deals with transportation from 1850 to 1880, there is no comparable discussion of the more recent period. Hence, the reader looks vainly for extended comment upon today's trucking by van, for the impact of the automobile upon Ohio life and economics, for the development of the airplane, airways, and transportation of both passengers and freight by air. Indeed, the terms "automobile," "trucking," "airplane," "motel," "highways" do not occur in the index. The index, however, does not always serve as an adequate guide to the volume's contents. Although Alexander Graham Bell and the Ford car, for example, are mentioned in the text, they are not listed in the index.

This reviewer realizes, of course, the difficulties inherent in evaluating contemporary experiences and in attempting to pass judgment upon today's events and social trends. It is no easy task to capture a society in flux and pin

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it to the printed page. Not everything can possibly go into one volume. Yet it is his opinion that this distinguished book would have been infinitely stronger had some earlier chapters been cut—not expanded—and the space thus saved been devoted to a somewhat fuller treatment of the more modern period.

Despite these friendly criticisms, there can be no doubt but that this is an unusually sound book produced by most competent craftsmen. The general bibliography and the chapter readings are selected with discernment and will be of decided assistance to those who wish to explore further. The three hundred illustrations were chosen with care and are especially meaningful to the Ohioan. Among the agencies making publication possible are the general assembly of Ohio, the graduate school of Ohio State University, and, of course, the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. Citizens of the state should be most pleased with this co-operative work and will have no choice but to consider with admiration the most recent contribution of Professors Weisenburger and Roseboom.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS

The Catholic Indian Missions and Grant's Peace Policy, 1870-1884 (The Catholic University of America, *Studies in American Church History*, vol. 41). By PETER J. RAHILL. (Washington, Catholic University of America Press, 1953. xx, 396 p. Cloth, \$5.00; paper, \$4.25.)

Reviewed by Colman Barry, O.S.B.

THIS WORK fills a manifest lacuna in the religious history of the United States. Father Rahill supplies the story of Catholic care for the American Indian from the period after the Civil War down to recognized central direction of the Catholic Indian Bureau in modern times.

It is an intriguing story that is developed here. The author traces in a preliminary chapter the Catholic tradition of protection and spiritual care for the North American Indian during the pre-Colonial, Colonial, and early American periods. This was the age of the first missionary giants among the Indians, and their

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labors and accomplishments have been detailed often and for the most part adequately. Then in four successive chapters, the effort for unification of Indian missionary work through a central bureau, its financing, and the struggle for recognition of its need among Catholics themselves is analyzed and documented. This is based on challenging research, and it casts interesting new light on President Grant's peace policy with the Indians, the attitude of American religious bodies toward that policy, and especially the effect of such a short-sighted policy on true religious liberty.

One of the contributions of this book is the light it sheds on the labors among the Indians and achievements of several persons who up to the present have not been placed in their proper historical positions. Especially significant was the work of Archbishops James Roosevelt Bayley of Baltimore; Francis Norbert Blanchet of Oregon City; his brother, Bishop A. M. A. Blanchet of Nesqually; Father Jean-Baptiste Brouillet, the Indian missionary who was first director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian missions in Washington; General Charles Ewing, first Catholic Indian commissioner; Bishop James O'Connor, vicar apostolic of Nebraska; and Abbot Martin Marty, O.S.B., who conducted Benedictine work among the Sioux of the Dakotas.

The author has consulted fourteen archival deposits for this book's background material. Documentation is exact, and the index is complete. Catholic work among the Sioux of Dakota is chronicled in detail as a pilot project. Space did not allow similar examination of activity in other regions during the same period. This remains to be done. The national picture is here, however, and centralization efforts in Washington are described for the first time. That is sufficient for one volume.

FRONTIER IN FICTION

The Oxcart Trail. A novel by HERBERT KRAUSE. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1954. 507 p. \$3.95.)

Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

HERBERT KRAUSE, a native of Fergus Falls and a competent observer of the Minnesota scene, has written two previous novels localized in the Pockerbrush country in the western part

of the state. *Wind without Rain* dealt with the religious and domestic problems of a farm family and *The Thresher* was concerned largely with the process of harvesting grain and with the gradual replacement of horse-driven equipment by steam-driven or gasoline-powered machines. Both novels combined a firm sense of place with an exciting narrative. *The Oxcart Trail*, in which Mr. Krause attempts to recreate Minnesota life in the 1850s, is less successful.

The book has a dual theme, and the two portions are badly fused. The first half is centered in St. Paul during territorial days and manages to convey a vivid impression of the restless young city, the rawness of its life, the constant arrival and departure of travelers, the turbulence of the citizens, and the almost vain attempt of a few to introduce sobriety and decorum. The novel's protagonist, Shawnie Dark, a fugitive from the East because of his role in the underground railroad, is the character who ties the scenes together and enables the novelist to present tavern life, political jockeying, church sociables, and missionary activity. But Shawnie absorbs some of the restlessness of his companions, and when the Red River oxcart caravan "screaks" (a word of which Mr. Krause is inordinately fond) into town, Shawnie determines to return with the drivers at least as far as the Otter Tail country.

The second half of the novel then pictures life on the oxcart trail, with the usual hardships, deprivations, and Indian menaces. Ultimately Shawnie and his sweetheart, a schoolteacher turned missionary who seldom escapes the conventional role of the frontier heroine, elude the pursuit of Dull Knife's band of Pillagers and reach civilization. But Shawnie is determined to establish a homestead on the Western prairies, and this resolution suggests that the author may eventually provide a sequel to his story.

The earlier portion of the novel is the better since the scenes of St. Paul life are colorful, authentic, and at times a little earthy. But there is an annoying untidiness about the plot, produced by the author's failure to bring the various strands together and to explain the outcome of episodes to which he devotes much emphasis and space. The account of life along

the oxcart trail resembles too many other frontier novels and has no special vitality or novelty. Indeed the romance of Shawnie and the green-eyed, red-headed schoolteacher Debbie is rather banal.

Mr. Krause has done better with fictional material which is closer to his own age and experience. His feeling for character here is harmed by his concern with accuracy and authenticity. Despite a certain narrative interest and some freshness in the dialogue, *The Oxcart Trail* smells a little too much of the lamp to be an effective novel. Incidentally, the map of the trail which gives color to the end papers is slightly inaccurate in details. Certainly there is no broad single river which links the Mississippi with Lake Superior.

DAKOTA HORSE RANCHER

Nothing but Prairie and Sky: Life on the Dakota Range in the Early Days. Recorded by WALKER D. WYMAN from the original notes of BRUCE SIBERTS. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. xiii, 217 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by Vernon Carstensen

THIS BOOK contains Bruce Siberts' recollections of his sixteen years in Dakota Territory as a floating laborer, a cattle rancher, and then, more successfully, a horse rancher. Mr. Siberts was born in Iowa and went to the Dakota country in 1890 at the age of twenty-two. He sold out and left for Oklahoma in 1906. These recollections, begun when the author was seventy-seven and concluded when he was eighty-two, have had the benefit of the careful and informed editorial work of Walker D. Wyman, whose book on *The Wild Horse of the West* encouraged Mr. Siberts to write his story of horse raising and to solicit Mr. Wyman's assistance in the preparation of the account. Mr. Wyman declares that he has rearranged much of what Mr. Siberts wrote, but, he adds, "all that I have done in rewriting and rearranging has been to give it a sense of unity, a more orderly development, and upon occasion, I hope, a more readable way of saying something."

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The happy result of this collaboration is an interesting and valuable autobiographical account of one man's experiences on the prairies at the end of the last century. Anyone looking for precise data on horse raising in South Dakota during these years will be disappointed, because this book is made up of things remembered across the span of half a century — recollections softened in places by the patina of time and no doubt heightened in places by repeated and exuberant retelling. One can imagine, for example, that the stories in the chapters entitled "High Jinks on the Prairies" and "Social Life around Pierre" were not told for the first time here. But quite apart from this, the book does reveal attitudes of a time and a place when men used the public domain as if they owned it, put their brands on any "slicks" they could catch, and never killed their own beef to eat if they could find somebody else's stray. Under the circumstances, one of the striking things about this book of recollections is how lightly Siberts and his associates were touched by law, politics, and government.

BANK ROBBER HERO

The Complete and Authentic Life of Jesse James. By CARL W. BREIHAN. With an introduction by HOMER CROY. (New York, Frederick Fell, Inc., 1953. 287 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Jay Edgerton

ON THE MORNING of September 7, 1876, eight desperadoes rode into Northfield, Minnesota, bent on robbing the bank. Seven minutes later, after violence, gun play, and murder, they galloped out of town by the Dundas road, leaving two of their number, Clell Miller and Bill Stiles, dead behind. In those few minutes Jesse James assured himself a dramatic, if relatively minor, place in Minnesota history.

For more than twenty years Sheriff Carl Breihan has made a hobby of collecting Jesse James material. After combing all evidence, he sets the Northfield raid down as the James boys' Waterloo. The blasting they took from the outraged Minnesota citizens effectively crippled the gang. Recruitment was increasingly

difficult. The Younger brothers, important members of the band, were lost behind the high walls of the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater.

Although it is climactic in his story, Northfield gets depressingly prosaic treatment at Sheriff Breihan's hands. He gives credit to J. S. Allen, the hardware store owner who did an on-foot Paul Revere run up Northfield's main street yelling, "Get your guns, boys! They're robbing the bank!" and to Dr. H. M. Wheeler, who killed Clell Miller from the second floor of the old Dampier house, but the whole picture fails to come alive. It lacks pace and color.

In the face of the claims made for this book as complete, authentic, and definitive, it is perhaps ungracious to report it lacking in several requirements for any final book on Jesse James. Candor, however, compels the assertion that Mr. Breihan's treatment of the James brothers' post-bellum and border-country background is sketchy, to say the least. Moreover, the whole question of motivation — "the reason why" behind these gaudy and criminal acts — is begged or so lamely explained it will satisfy no one except Jesse James idolators, who need no explanation in any case.

At the end of the book one comes away with a feeling of having read a catalogue. It lacks the breadth and sweep of life. At no place can one say, "This was a man. This is the real Jesse James." This, of course, is a fault of writing, of presentation. Sheriff Breihan has collected a mountain of dead bones; only a highly talented writer could clothe them with living flesh.

The most valuable section of the book, it would seem, is composed of thirty-one pages of photographs and documents at the beginning. There is an irritating and pointless introduction by Homer Croy, and several pages of letters from various persons, including the late Booth Tarkington, testifying to Mr. Breihan's research activities. The book lacks annotation and bibliography, but has an index.

THE INDEX to the eight issues of *Minnesota History* published in 1952 and 1953 (volume 33) is now available. As long as the supply lasts, copies will be sent to members and subscribers who ask for them. Requests should be addressed to Mrs. Phyllis Sandstrom, care of the Minnesota Historical Society.

MR. EDGERTON is a member of the editorial page staff of the Minneapolis Star.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

SOME recently published articles about Sinclair Lewis will have added interest for those who read the opening article in this issue of *Minnesota History*. In the first, appearing in *Saskatchewan History* for the spring of 1953, D. J. Greene describes a trip "With Sinclair Lewis in Darkest Saskatchewan" in 1924. Based largely on letters exchanged by Lewis and Duncan Campbell Scott of the Canadian department of Indian affairs, the article tells of a journey to the Reindeer Lake and Churchill River area, where Lewis gathered authentic background material for his novel *Mantrap*. Lewis' realistic description of what he saw and experienced there make this novel, according to Mr. Greene, "the only approximation that I know of to an honest contemporary picture of 'the North.'" A map of Lewis' route accompanies the article. Early evidence of the Minnesota novelist's talent is suggested by Franklin Walker in an article on "Jack London's Use of Sinclair Lewis Plots," in the *Quarterly* of the Huntington Library for November, 1953. The writer reports that Lewis sold a number of plots to London in 1910 and 1911. A third narrative revolving about the "Man from Main Street" is contributed by Charles Breasted to the *Saturday Review* for August 14. In this revealing memoir, published under the title "The 'Sauk-Centricities' of Sinclair Lewis," Mr. Breasted quotes the novelist as having said on the eve of his father's death: "'Main Street' condemned me in his eyes as a traitor to my heritage—whereas the truth is, I shall never shed the little, indelible 'Sauk-centricities' that enabled me to write it."

UNDER THE TITLE *Lincoln's Imagery: A Study in Word Power*, Theodore C. Blegen has undertaken the "inviting task" of bringing together "the figures of speech used by Lincoln," and the Sumac Press of La Crosse, Wisconsin, has published the resulting essay in appropriate format (1954. 32 p.). From Lincoln's own writing and that of his biographers, Dean Blegen has drawn scores of examples illustrative of the "homely quality" in his subject's style, of his "almost inexhaustible fund of metaphors and similes out of the common things of life," of "his metaphors and similes from experiences and areas universally familiar," like "illness, pills, and plaster; games and races; and ships and the sea." Lincoln, writes Dean Blegen, "made use of any and all figures that happened to fit par-

ticular needs and occasions," employing "literally hundreds of figures of speech that were part of the common stock of the English language." Every Lincoln collector will want to own this little book, but few can have it, since it was issued in an edition of only 780 copies.

THIRTY-FIVE "oil paintings of Indians and western scenes" by George Catlin are reproduced in a booklet entitled *Indians of the Western Frontier*, recently published by the Chicago Natural History Museum (1954. 78 p.). George I. Quimby of the museum's anthropology department contributes an introduction telling how the pictures were painted and how they were acquired by the museum, and he provides a descriptive text for each of them. He relates that the pictures date from the years between 1831 and 1837, when Catlin was traveling among the tribes of the West, and that shortly thereafter they were acquired by Major Benjamin O'Fallon of St. Louis. From his daughter, Miss Emily O'Fallon, the Chicago museum purchased the collection in 1894. Many of the pictures included here have never before been reproduced. Anyone interested in frontier art and Indian portraiture will be glad to learn that this important booklet can be purchased from the Minnesota Historical Society for fifty cents.

ELEVEN "typical paddling songs for canoe-men" in "The Ermatinger Collection of Voyageur Songs" are discussed by Marius Barbeau in the *Journal of American Folklore* for April-June. The collection bears the name of Edward Ermatinger, a "fur trader who learned and collected these voyageur songs in writing, during the ten years of his service (1818-1828) in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company." His original manuscript, according to Mr. Barbeau, is still in the hands of his descendants, and copies have been made for the Public Archives of Canada. The writer declares that these songs collected by a trader in the Red River Valley and the Canadian West "are the first set of French folk songs of any type ever recorded in the New World," and as such they are of special historical significance. The text and the music of each of the eleven songs is included in Mr. Barbeau's article. The same writer contributes a discussion of "Voyageur Songs of the Missouri" to the April *Bulletin* of the Missouri Historical Society. Since he indicates that throughout the West the voya-

geurs' repertory "was everywhere more or less the same," Mr. Barbeau's article has considerable interest for Minnesota readers.

EFFORTS to catalogue the language peculiarities of people living in the Upper Midwest are reported by Will Hertz in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of May 2. Under the title "How Do You Speak?" he describes the work of Professor Harold B. Allen of the University of Minnesota and his staff, who during the past five years have "interviewed 210 persons and made careful notes of their speech habits." From this research, Mr. Hertz writes, two dialect belts, determined largely by routes of settlement, have been discovered in the Upper Midwest. Examples of speech peculiarities of each of these belts are given in the article.

AGAINST a background of youthful experiences in a frontier Minnesota community, the story of Sir Henry Wellcome is traced in a *Biographical Memoir* published by the Wellcome Foundation of London (24 p.). The booklet, issued in part to commemorate the centennial of Wellcome's birth at Almond, Wisconsin, in 1853, includes an account of his family's removal to Garden City, Minnesota, in 1861. There young Henry obtained his earliest training by attending log schools and working in his uncle's drug store. The present sketch notes that while living at Garden City, "at the age of 16 he was making and selling, through highly imaginative advertisements, his first manufactured product, a 'Magic Ink' of his own devising." A year later he went to Rochester, where he worked for a local pharmacist, and by 1872 he was studying pharmacy in Chicago. Thence he worked eastward, eventually crossing the Atlantic and establishing his own firm in London.

"THE SCARCITY of doctors of any breed and the level of their fees helped keep alive the primary reliance of a frontier people on folk cures and home remedies." Thus writes James Harvey Young in an informing discussion of "Patent Medicines: The Early Post-Frontier Phase," which appears in the autumn, 1953, issue of the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society. Although Mr. Harvey's examples are drawn largely from Illinois sources, he contributes much information of interest to those concerned with both medicine and quackery in the entire Midwest during the early 1800s.

A BOOK on *Antique Guns* by Hank W. Bowman (1953. 144 p.) deals chiefly with the development of hand and shoulder arms in

America. A lengthy introduction, however, tells the story of firearms in Europe and Asia from the invention of gunpowder. Although the text, which is written in simple terms, will appeal chiefly to the amateur, the excellent illustrations make the book a "must" for the collector. Included, for example, are photographs of fifty-eight different pepper-box revolvers. The author also provides a list of some of the important gun collections, public and private, in the United States, though he fails to include any of those held by Minnesotans. F.S.C.

SOME CENTENNIALS

THE ISSUE of the *Red Wing Daily Republican Eagle* published on July 7 to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of settlement at Red Wing is a veritable encyclopedia of information on the history of Goodhue County in general and the city in particular. It calls attention to Red Wing's centennial celebration from July 9 to 11, which featured a historical pageant, an old settlers' picnic, and other entertaining events. The wealth of historical material appearing in the 120 pages of this centennial edition is concentrated largely in seven of its eight sections, which cover in some detail such subjects as education, religion, politics, Indians, government, horticulture, agriculture, health, entertainment, sports, commerce, transportation, and communication. An article dealing with the "two cities and six villages" that have been Goodhue County's principal trading centers brings together much useful information on Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Kenyon, Pine Island, Wanamingo, Goodhue, and Dennison. Of special value is an entire section devoted to a survey of Goodhue County industries. There are to be found integrated summaries, packed with hard-to-find facts, on the area's manufacturing, factory employment, farming, dairying, crops, and specialized local industries like the Red Wing Potteries and the Densmore brothers' foundry. An article of special interest to social historians is entitled "Records Show Pioneer Was Pugnacious Type." In it the archives of the Red Wing sheriff's office from 1859 to 1900 are analyzed to show the types of crimes that were most prevalent in a given year. An annual enumeration is provided, together with additional information on punishments and fines. The entire issue is appropriately illustrated, and even the advertisements contain information of historical interest.

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS held in Cannon Falls at intervals from May 24 to July 5 marked the passing of a century since the community

was founded. The climax of these events was the Cannon Valley Fair held from July 2 to 4, in which a centennial theme predominated. A booklet of *Historical Sketches of Cannon Falls*, prepared by a committee headed by Albert Johnson, was issued for the occasion. All the sketches included were reprinted from the *Cannon Falls Beacon*, where they appeared in installments from February 19 to May 7. From the "Era of the Indian," through the period of town-site selection and early settlement, to the building of trails, hotels, and flour mills, and the development of industries, the narrative surveys a hundred years of progress in the Cannon Valley. Pictures of the community, its streets, its early dwellings, its churches and schools, its mills, and some of its people appear both in the *Beacon* and the booklet.

SIGNIFICANT developments in the first hundred years of Rushford's history are chronicled in a bulky, profusely illustrated book published to commemorate the town's centennial in 1954. The founding and settlement of Rushford, and the growth of its business firms, public services, churches, schools, and clubs are treated in three chronological sections. Biographical sketches of leading citizens and reminiscent accounts of pioneer days also are included.

A SPECIAL edition of the *Minnetonka Herald*, published on August 12, is devoted to a review of the history of the Lake Minnetonka area, with particular emphasis on Wayzata, which celebrated its centennial from August 15 through 19. The issue contains five illustrated sections dealing with "Hotels and Steamboats," "Indians and Townships," "Churches and Schools," "Old Settlers," and "Sports." Under these headings the rise and fall of Lake Minnetonka as a resort area are treated, and many of the hotels that once dotted the lake shore and the steamboats that "churned through Minnetonka's waters at one time or another" are described and pictured. The growth of Wayzata is reviewed, and the ginseng boom which saved the town from early extinction is recalled. Legends concerning the names of such places as Watwatasso Island, Spirit Knob, and Enchanted Island are retold. The paper also contains a number of reminiscent accounts recalling the Sioux who lived in the area, early bus transportation, the building of highways, logging in the Wayzata region in the 1860s, storms, fluctuations in the lake level, and mansions that grew up along the shores "after the decline of resorts." Also included are historical sketches of Medina, Plymouth, and Independence townships, accounts of such sports as

sailboating and yachting, and a list of Indian mounds that have been excavated in the Lake Minnetonka area.

CALEDONIA'S one-hundredth birthday was marked by an ambitious celebration from July 16 to 18 and by the publication of a souvenir booklet, compiled by Georgina Lommen and entitled *The Past Is Our Heritage* (52 p.). The pamphlet includes material on the town's settlement, its Civil War activities, and the development of its churches, schools, and such clubs as the Caledonia Literary Society. A useful list of local business firms and professional people for the period from 1865 to 1900 is included. As the high light of its centennial program, the community staged a pageant based on material in the booklet. Program events are to be found in *The Century*, a sheet published especially for the occasion by the *Caledonia Argus*.

THE HUNDREDTH anniversary of the city of St. Paul on March 4 was marked by a brief program and a special meeting of the city council. Two articles, "Council Meeting to Span Century" by Carl G. Langland and "River Trade Helped Boom City Growth" by Donald O'Grady in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of February 28, commemorate the occasion. The authors review the early years of St. Paul's existence, give the names of men who served on the city's first council in 1854, list ordinances passed by that body, and touch on the city's early dependence on the Mississippi River. Members of the 1954 city council observed the centennial by wearing costumes of a hundred years ago and by re-enacting the first session of the council. Following the meeting, a program honoring twenty-eight pioneer St. Paul firms was given. According to the *Pioneer Press* of March 4, which lists the firms so honored, six of the twenty-eight were in existence when the city charter was adopted in 1854.

A FEATURE of Belle Plaine's centennial celebration, from July 16 to 18, was the publication of an illustrated history of the town by Harold Albrecht. Under the title *This Is Our Town* (1954. 113 p.), the author recounts the story of Belle Plaine from its founding in 1854 by Judge Andrew G. Chatfield, and provides information on its pioneer settlers, schools, churches, clubs, and business concerns. Since the booklet is based largely upon the author's research in the files of the *Belle Plaine Herald*, its text is laced with anecdotes that give the flavor of the community's past.

A SERIES of articles calling attention to the hundredth anniversary of the village of New Auburn in Sibley County, which held its centennial celebration from July 9 to 11, appears in issues of the *Gaylord Hub* for June 4, 11, 18, and 25. Entitled "New Auburn History," the series, which was compiled by I. Trapp, draws on files of the now extinct *New Auburn Herald* for information on the establishment of the town's business firms, its churches, and its schools. Also included are biographical sketches of a few early settlers.

THE LITTLE-KNOWN village of Pickwick in Winona County is the subject of an article by Elizabeth Hatch in the *Winona Daily News* of June 17. Under the title "Quaint Pickwick Village to Mark 100th Anniversary," Miss Hatch brings together information on the settlement's early years and touches on outstanding events in its history. The writer describes the arrival of settlers in Trout Valley in 1854, and calls attention to the flour mill erected at Pickwick in 1856. Although changed, the mill, which was once famous for its Itasca Flour, is still in use. The village celebrated its centennial on June 19 and 20.

COLORFUL and significant segments in the history of the St. Croix Valley are recalled in the centennial edition of the *Hudson* [Wisconsin] *Star-Observer*, issued on May 20. An illustrated feature article on the *Observer*, "one of the oldest newspapers in the upper Mississippi Valley," traces its descent from the *North Star*, a paper established in 1854, and details the various mergers, name changes, and editorial policies of the papers in its ancestry. Although many of the edition's 112 pages are devoted to contributions on various aspects of the history of Hudson, North Hudson, and near-by Somerset, Wisconsin, the paper also contains information on the Octagon House and the Methodist church at Afton on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix, the beginnings of the Andersen Corporation now located at Bayport, the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers Association, the Hudson toll bridge, and the St. Paul firm of Brown and Bigelow, many of whose employees and officers reside in Hudson.

SUMMER celebrations marking the one-hundredth anniversaries of the founding of Superior and Ashland, Wisconsin, saw the publication of a number of articles concerning northern Wisconsin in the *Duluth News-Tribune*. In its issue for June 27, that newspaper sketches the background of the town of Ashland in an article entitled "Ashland Declares Open Season

on History," while Superior's history and its week-long centennial celebration of July 17 to 24 are covered in articles appearing in the issue for July 18. There Superior's tempestuous political history is reviewed by Isadore Cohen in an article entitled "No Kid Gloves"; Jack Kerr provides a sketch of John A. Bardon, "History's Friend," whose recollections the author says are among the "most complete records" of life in early Superior; and the community's plans to defend itself during an "Indian Scare of 1863" are described by Garth Germond.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A LETTER written in 1892 by Archbishop John Ireland recounting his "Experiences as a Civil War Chaplain" with the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry has been edited by James P. Shannon and published in the *Catholic Historical Review* for October, 1953. An introduction by the editor provides the setting for this account of the future archbishop's adventures while serving in the field with a Minnesota regiment in 1862 and 1863. The autobiographical narrative of an early phase of Ireland's career was prepared for another priest who was collecting material for a history of Catholic chaplains in the Civil War. The original manuscript, here published for the first time, is among the archives of the University of Notre Dame.

A USEFUL pamphlet on the *Collection of Water-color Drawings of the North American Indian* by Seth Eastman in the *James Jerome Hill Reference Library* has been prepared by Frances Densmore and issued in mimeographed form by the St. Paul library which owns the pictures (1954. 51 p.). In her introduction, the author describes the collection and reviews the career of the army officer who produced the paintings. Following this are descriptive accounts of forty-six of the seventy items in the collection, incorporating lengthy quotations from the writings of Mary H. Eastman about the subjects pictured by her husband. Included also is a list of the drawings with references locating such as were published in Henry R. Schoolcraft's *Indian Tribes of the United States*. The booklet is of value to all students of Northwest Indian life and lore, as well as to those interested in Midwest art.

AN EXAMINATION of issues involved in the "Campaign of 1896 in Minnesota" is contributed by Carl Chrislock to the May 15 *Bulletin* of the Minnesota Council for the Social Stud-

ies. This campaign, the writer declares, marked the beginning of Minnesota's "unpredictable" political behavior. Since then, Mr. Chrislock asserts, the state's "voters have become known for the ease with which they cross party lines and for the uncertainty of their adherence to either of the coalitions which constitute the nation's two great parties."

AN ERA that began with the installation of horsecar lines on Twin City streets in 1872 and ended when the last streetcars gave way to busses in June, 1954, is reviewed in a booklet compiled by Russell L. Olson and Edwin H. Nelson, issued under the title *Electric Railways of Minneapolis & St. Paul* (Los Angeles, *Interurbans Special* no. 14, 1954. \$2.00). Its eighty-seven pages are devoted to short accounts of the companies that controlled the two cities' street railways, a survey of management policies over the years, an alphabetically arranged list of routes with the dates on which they were inaugurated, and numerous maps and illustrations. The latter depict types of cars, stations, and the like. Both text and pictures give emphasis to the physical aspects of the street railway system. L.M.K.

HIGH LIGHTS in the history of the Minnesota Transfer Railway are provided by Frank P. Donovan, Jr., under the title "Gateway to the Northwest" in the *Railroad Magazine* for May. The author notes that this seemingly insignificant road, which was founded by James J. Hill to relieve the congestion in the Great Northern's Minneapolis yard, now moves "a big chunk of the nation's freight." Although it has only thirteen miles of main line, seven hundred employees are needed to switch "carload freight to and from the 400 industrial plants located beside its hard shining steel," according to Mr. Donovan. The work of the company, its plant, yard facilities, and equipment are described and pictured in the account. Mr. Donovan also is the author of an article on "Railroads of the Twin Cities" appearing in the same magazine for February.

THE RESTORATION of the Heman Gibbs farmhouse by the Ramsey County Historical Society is noted by Bernie Campbell in an article entitled "100-Year-Old Farmhouse to be Historical Museum," in the *St. Paul Dispatch* of April 2. The author sketches the history of the Gibbs house and describes the work of the society in converting the house into a "museum of rural Ramsey County life." A photograph of the present house accompanies the article.

MINNESOTA will have another historical museum if plans outlined by William J. Martin in the July 18 issue of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* are successful. In an article entitled "Once Lively Pioneer Inn to Be Museum," Mr. Martin announces that a two-story stone building near Shakopee will be operated as a museum by the Scott County Historical Society. He writes that the building, which is owned by the city of Shakopee, is to be leased by the county group and transformed into a museum by 1955. Originally operated by Major Richard G. Murphy as an inn on the Fort Snelling-New Ulm stagecoach road, the structure, says Mr. Martin, was dubbed "Murphy's Folly" when it fell into disuse after the coming of the railroad. The varied career of its builder as inn keeper, Indian agent, farmer, and state legislator also is recalled.

THE STORY of Lambert Nägele and Eugen Gerstenhauer, who founded the *Neu Ulm Pioneer* in 1858, is reviewed by Hermann E. Rothfuss in an article entitled "Westward with the News," which appears in the *American-German Review* for February-March. Since the journalistic activities of these two men spanned an area extending from Indiana and Illinois to the Pacific Northwest, their careers illustrate graphically the westward movement of the German-American press. Special emphasis is given, however, to the papers with which they were connected in the Minnesota communities of New Ulm, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Winona.

CHANGES in organized camping since 1918 are pointed up by Virginia Brainard in an article entitled "YWCA's Aging Camp to Have Its Face Lifted," appearing in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of May 2. When the YWCA acquired Elizabeth Lyman Lodge on Lake Minnetonka in 1918, writes Miss Brainard, "women were tiring of a restricted life," and the organization needed a larger site for its camping activities. By reproducing photographs and excerpts from the records of the YWCA, the author indicates some of the ways in which campers, counselors, and camping activities have changed.

IN MEMORY OF Father Jean Aulneau, who died with other followers of the French explorer La Vérendrye in a massacre on an island in the Lake of the Woods in 1736, a log chapel known as St. Mary's Memorial Church was dedicated at Warroad on May 26. The event is the occasion for the publication, in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of May 16, of an article by Earl Chapin entitled "No Longer Is Father Aulneau Minnesota's Forgotten Martyr." He retells the story of

the massacre, notes that Father Aulneau's letters were later discovered and published, and credits Father Emmett A. Shanahan, parish priest at Warroad, with making possible a fitting memorial to the French missionary.

GATHERED IN tape-recorded interviews and edited by Dr. Charles Vandersluis, the reminiscences of Father Thomas Borgerding, a Benedictine priest who has worked among the Chippewa in northern Minnesota since 1888, began appearing in installments in the *Northland Times* of Bemidji on January 8. In the introductory article, Dr. Vandersluis provides pertinent information about the veteran missionary priest and gives the background of the interviews which he transcribed and annotated for the Beltrami County Historical Society. Documentation provided by Dr. Vandersluis appears in the issue for January 22, while other articles deal with early missionary activity in the Lake Superior region as a whole and with the Red Lake Indian Reservation in particular.

THE TREASURE of historically useful information to be found in the minutes and accounts of a unit of local government is clearly illustrated by Walter Carlson in an article entitled "Records Reveal Waverly History," which appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* of January 19. Making use of the clerk's minutes of the board of Waverly Township in Martin County for a thirty-year period beginning in 1887, the author shows that they can be both illuminating and entertaining. He found that "The principal business at half a dozen meetings during 1888-89 was counting gopher tails," since at that time a small bounty was paid on these animals, and that the township books contained such varied information as the cost of road construction, the amount of a bond issue to provide for a railroad right of way, and the license fees set for peddlers in 1897.

THE BACKGROUNDS and future plans of some institutions of higher learning in Minnesota and Wisconsin are sketched in a series of articles by Reub Monson published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* from January 3 to March 28. Included are illustrated accounts of Macalester College in St. Paul, St. Olaf College at Northfield, Augsburg College and Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, St. John's University at Collegeville, Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, the College of St. Benedict at St. Joseph, the Wisconsin state colleges at River Falls and Eau Claire, the State Teachers College at Bemidji, the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, and the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

UNDER THE TITLE "Echoes from Custer's Last Fight," Edward C. Bailly presents "Accounts by an Officer survivor never before published" in the issue of *Military Affairs* for the winter of 1953. A few months before the battle of June 25, 1876, the officer, Second Lieutenant Winfield Scott Edgerly, had married Grace Cory Blum of St. Paul. The material here printed for the first time was found among her effects after her death in 1939. It consists of a telegram addressed to her father, Louis Blum of St. Paul, and dated June 28, 1876; a letter written by Edgerly on July 4, 1876, to give his wife a "full account of what had happened"; and a report of the battle written by Edgerly in 1883. Although Edgerly was with the Seventh United States Cavalry under Custer's command, his company was not among those wiped out in the battle of the Little Big Horn. These documents provide a fresh report from one who was close to the scene of action and familiar with the men involved.

THE FOUNDING of Fort Sully on the Missouri River in September, 1863, was a "direct result" of the Sioux Outbreak in Minnesota a year earlier, according to a "History of Fort Sully" published in volume 26 of the *South Dakota Historical Collections* (Pierre, 1953). The author, Steven Hockman, devotes his opening chapter to "The Sioux Outbreak and the Sibley-Sully Expedition" of 1863-64. For use as a winter encampment, members of the expedition built the fort on the east bank of the Missouri and named it for their commander, General Alfred Sully. Its establishment, the writer points out, was "an integral part of the military activities" that accompanied a period of Indian warfare. After the hostilities ended in 1868, however, the fort continued to house troops until 1894, thus serving to "stabilize conditions on the frontier" and helping to promote settlement.

A BOYHOOD at Morton on the Minnesota River served as a prelude to the adventure recorded by Dr. Bernard F. Ederer in a little book published under the title *Through Alaska's Back Door* (New York, Vantage Press, 1954. 162 p. \$3.00). Reading about the explorers and voyageurs who once penetrated the Minnesota country, trapping with Sioux boys from the local reservation, and canoeing on the Minnesota River were among the experiences that inspired Dr. Ederer's interest in the venturesome voyage described in this book. Excellent photographs taken during the course of the journey

on the Mackenzie and Yukon rivers illustrate this well-written and readable narrative.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE of the sun which Minnesotans had the opportunity of viewing on June 30, 1954, occasioned considerable interest in a similar eclipse of July, 1860, which a group of Boston scientists observed from a point on the Saskatchewan River in northern Manitoba. Articles about the eclipse expedition of 1860 are contributed by Grace Lee Nute to the *Minnesota Naturalist* for May and by Olive Knox to the summer issue of *The Beaver*. Both are based on narratives written by one of the scientists on the trip, Samuel Scudder, who in 1886 published a little book entitled *The Winnipeg Country, or Roughing It with an Eclipse Party*. It describes a journey of three thousand miles by rail, stagecoach, steamboat, and canoe, northward through St. Paul and St. Cloud to the Red River, Fort Garry, Lake Winnipeg, and The Pas. With the travelers as far as Fort Garry went Edward Eggleston, then a youthful Methodist preacher at St. Paul. Some of Miss Nute's material has been drawn from a letter which Scudder wrote to Eggleston after returning from the North.

EXTRACTS from a diary kept by Frances Simpson on a canoe voyage from Montreal to York Factory in 1830 appear under the title "Journey for Frances" in the December, 1953, and the March and summer, 1954, issues of *The Beaver*. Each installment is accompanied by an introduction by Grace Lee Nute, who considers this record kept by the eighteen-year-old bride of the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company "a momentous discovery." Its value, Miss Nute believes, stems from the fact that Mrs. Simpson "jotted down details that fur traders' accounts omit as too well known to be worth mentioning," with the result that her journal is "explicit about everyday life on a canoe journey." Of special interest to Minnesotans is the second installment, for there Mrs. Simpson records her impressions of Lake Superior, the border waters between Canada and what is now Minnesota, and the trading post on the Rainy River that was later named Fort Frances in her honor. In this journal, Miss Nute concludes, Frances Simpson has not only left a picture of the untouched American wilderness, but "she has given us better insight into modes of travel in 1830, the hitherto unrecorded customs of canoe travel in that day, and the character of her famous husband."

JOSEPH Burr Tyrrell's contributions to "the making of the map of Canada" are described

and evaluated by F. J. Alcock in the first of a series of biographical sketches of Canadian geographers in the December, 1953, issue of the *Canadian Geographical Journal*. According to the writer, Tyrrell was largely responsible for mapping western Manitoba, especially the Lake Winnipeg area, and for pioneer explorations and surveys in parts of northern Saskatchewan during the later decades of the nineteenth century.

AN ILLUSTRATED pamphlet compiled by members of the Emerson Women's Institute recounts the *History of Emerson*, a Manitoba town near the Minnesota-Dakota boundary. Founded in 1874 by a colonization party led by Thomas Carney and W. N. Fairbanks of Red Wing, Emerson subsequently became the home of other settlers from Minnesota. The booklet tells of the development of the town's business and rail facilities, its churches, schools, and other organizations. Also included are accounts of steamboating on the Red River, biographies of civic leaders, reminiscences of early settlers, and brief sketches of the near-by villages of Ridgeville, West Lynne, and Dominion City. The value of the booklet for the historian is greatly enhanced by numerous illustrations.

THREE interesting items dealing with the St. Croix Valley have been edited by Willis H. Miller and brought together in a pamphlet issued by the St. Croix County Historical Society of Wisconsin (Hudson, 1953. 39 p.). Included is an account, part fact and part fancy, of a trip down the St. Croix River from Taylor's Falls to Prescott in 1880 on the steamer "Magic." It was written by William H. Dunne and first published in 1881 under the title "Captain Jolly on the Picturesque St. Croix." Also included in the booklet are a biographical sketch of "Henry W. Crosby, Territorial Pioneer," an early settler in the valley; and "Five Letters of Oliver Wendell Holmes," written between 1887 and 1891, dealing with the plans of Dr. I. D. Wiltrout to found a hospital in Hudson named for Holmes.

SOME of the accomplishments of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History are outlined in general terms in *The First Half Century*, a pamphlet commemorating the organization's fiftieth anniversary (1953. 26 p.). The broad program, purposes, and achievements of its archives and manuscripts, museum, and publications divisions, and their growth "from small beginnings to large-scale activities" are sketched in this attractive, illustrated booklet.



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