

*Walam Olum or Red Score: The Migration Legend of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians.* A new translation, interpreted by linguistic, historical, archaeological, ethnological, and physical anthropological studies. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1954. xiv, 379 p. Illustrations. \$15.00.)

Reviewed by Elden Johnson

FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS a group of scholars have checked the validity and studied the ramifications of the *Walam Olum*, the tribal chronicle of the Delaware Indians. The text of the document itself and the results of this research, which was sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society, are presented in this magnificent volume.

The Delaware past as they themselves remembered and preserved it, their legend concerning the creation of man, their migrations to new and distant lands, and their accounts of the heroic deeds of individuals are found in the *Walam Olum*, perhaps the most important native document north of Mexico. Because they were a nonliterate people, the Delaware preserved this history in their memories, aided by a series of pictorial symbols painted on sticks called the Red Score. Each stick and its symbol identified one of the 183 verses of the chronicle. Though the Red Score itself is no longer in existence, the Delaware text and copies of the symbols themselves are available, thanks to a mysterious Mr. Ward and Constantine S. Rafinesque, a naturalist who collected the epic story from the Delaware in the early nineteenth century.

In this volume each verse of the chronicle, the associated pictorial symbol, and Rafinesque's translation of the verse appear as copied directly from Rafinesque's notebook. Linguist C. F. Voegelin provides a new and more accurate translation of the verse, which is followed by

comparative notes on the pictographs by Eli Lilly and ethnographic notes by Erminie Voegelin.

A series of essays written by the scholars engaged in the research attempts to ascertain the validity of the chronicle and to determine whether modern archaeological, ethnological, and historical knowledge substantiates the apparent course of migration as given there. The authors realize that they are treading on very unsure ground as they attempt to work from the documented termination of the chronicle (the arrival of the white man) back into the dim past. For the most part they are very cautious, though the weight of the contributions varies greatly. Each realizes the great importance of the document, however, and presents a series of statements and hypotheses concerning New World prehistory which must stand until revised by future students.

An important lesson to be learned from the volume is the value of concentrating the efforts of individuals from different disciplines on a single problem. The book also clearly illustrates the tremendous contributions that are possible through the research facilities of such organizations as state historical societies. It is hoped that similar institutions elsewhere will use this model wisely, and that others will attack some of the many remaining problems in the study of man.

#### RED MAN'S CEREAL

*Indian Corn in Old America.* By PAUL WEATHERWAX. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1954. 253 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Jay Edgerton

A NUMBER OF years ago Mr. Weatherwax, professor of botany in Indiana University, prepared a little book on the Indian corn plant. It has long been a "collector's item." Now, with the publication of this opulent, full-dress account of Indian corn in pre-Columbian America, the needs of many students, readers, and

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collectors of Indian lore will be satisfied, even though the smaller, rarer volume remains out of print.

Mr. Weatherwax makes it plain at the outset that this is a book about corn and not about Indians. The author is a botanist, not an anthropologist. It is impossible, of course, to write about Indian corn without bringing in the peoples whose cultures flourished in almost direct ratio to their success with the plant, but the primary emphasis in this book is on the plant and not on its cultivators.

Two fascinating chapters deal directly with the evidence bearing on the origin of Indian corn. From time to time theories have been advanced that corn came from Asia, but Mr. Weatherwax believes that the evidence strongly favors America as corn's original home. This is one of those fascinating historical puzzles that may remain a mystery forever.

The chapter on the author's historical sources is one of the high points of the book. In it, he speaks of the many inquiring and articulate men who visited the Americas in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, observing Indian corn and describing it, sometimes in great detail and with considerable interest. Peter Martyr, priest, counselor, and chronicler of Emperor Charles V, is believed to have made the first identifiable reference to maize in print in 1516. Mr. Weatherwax and others now hold that there was a clear description of the plant in a letter by Guglielmo Coma sent back from the second voyage of Columbus and published about 1495. The author has also dug up and included what is probably the first printed illustration of maize, a fine woodcut from the famous herbal of Fuchs dated 1542.

Corn has had a powerful impact on both red and white men. Europeans have largely shared Gerarde's opinion of 1597 that it is "a more conuenient foode for swine than for men." Mr. Weatherwax points out that those who came to live in America, and had perforce to adopt some of the ways and tastes of Indians to avoid starvation, had a higher regard for corn. Where it has been used on its own merits rather than as a kind of substitute wheat, there it has found the highest favor.

In addition to his discussions of historical

sources, the origin of the plant, its discovery by the Spaniards, and its reception in Europe, the author provides copious information on where corn grew, how the Indians cultivated, stored, and used it, on related plants, Indian improvements, and on the relationship of Indian corn and Indian culture. It is somewhat risky to say that any book is definitive, but this one certainly comes as close to the mark as anything published recently.

The Macmillan Company is to be congratulated on a production job that is worthy of the scholarship of the volume. This is a handsome book, magnificently illustrated, beautifully printed on good paper, and well bound. It is annotated, contains an extensive bibliography, and an exhaustive index. In every respect it is a first-class piece of work.

#### INDIAN MUSIC

*Folk Music of the United States:* "Songs of the Chippewa," "Songs of the Sioux," "Songs of the Yuma, Cocopa and Yaqui," "Songs of the Pawnee and Northern Ute," "Songs of the Papago," "Songs of the Nootka and Quileute," "Song of the Menominee, Mandan, and Hidatsa." Edited and recorded by FRANCES DENSMORE. (Washington, D.C., The Library of Congress, 1950, 1951, [1953]. LP Record Numbers AAFS L22-25, AAFS L31-33. \$4.95 each.)

#### Reviewed by William E. Lemons

WHEN IT IS considered that the professional beginnings of anthropology reach back only a hundred years, the investigations of Frances Densmore in the field of American Indian music not only establish her as the major pioneer in a work first seriously begun by Theodore Baker in 1880, but as a farseeing scientist who did her job before it was too late. Most, if not all, of the Indians heard on these records are now dead, but their recorded songs preserve valuable insights into a former way of life.

The Library of Congress project of issuing, under Miss Densmore's editorship, selected songs of the tribes she visited is a worthy one.

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To date, two sets of recordings of songs from thirteen tribes have appeared. Each of the seven long-playing discs now available includes about thirty songs. The first series of four records, which appeared some years ago, contains songs of the Chippewa, Sioux, Yuma, Cocopa, Yaqui, Pawnee, and Northern Ute. The second, published in 1953, makes available on three records music of the Nootka, Quileute, Papago, Menominee, Mandan, and Hidatsa. The songs were originally recorded on the inferior portable cylinder equipment of a former day. Background noise and a slight distortion of the singers' voices are evident, but these inadequacies did not seem very offensive.

All the records unquestionably contribute first-rate data for the student interested in analyzing culture, for the songs provide information on such subjects as social organization, religion, war, art, and speculative thought. By listening to the singers and by consulting the mimeographed explanatory sheets that accompany the records, the listener can shake the bottle containing the wine of Indian experience, and find the taste of the lees rising into his draught. In this recorded music, one finds something of the spirit of the aboriginal people who once occupied the land where we now live.

In this reviewer's opinion most of the songs in the second series do not measure up musically to the intense and dramatic style of those on the earlier Sioux record, which included Red Bird's "Opening Prayer of the Sun Dance," several dance songs, and a "Song in Honor of Gabriel Renville." But then musical interest alone did not motivate the collecting of these songs, and the editor has tried to offer a selection that is representative rather than musically pleasing. The Chippewa recording offers songs concerned with war, dreams, love, the treatment of the sick, and the Midewiwin. All the other records contain characteristic dance, war, and ceremonial songs of the tribes represented.

Among the thirty Nootka and Quileute selections in the second series, Young Doctor's three canoeing songs seem outstanding, conveying a sense of travel across wide expanses of water. Of the selections impersonating animals, there is one in this group in which the honking of geese is cleverly imitated. Several of the selections include examples of the unexpected phrasing found in all Indian music because of the composer's indifference to measure bars.

In the Nootka and Quileute selections no unified style of song making is manifested, while the twenty-five Papago songs are characterized by straight, passive, nonvibrating tones, a little like those of the Northwest Coast tribes. This style of singing provides a strong contrast to the pulsating vigor of the Plains songs. The Menominee singing resembles that of the Plains, although the radically different language syllables are noticeable. Unique in this respect are the four drum religion songs with their jabbering effect. Only seven Mandan and Hidatsa songs are offered, but three of them — "The Enemy Are Like Women," "Old War Song," and "Butterfly's War Song" — are powerful examples of the martial idiom of the Plains tribes.

### THE ROLE OF FATE

*Rendezvous with Chance: How Luck Has Shaped History.* By WALTER HART BLUMENTHAL. (New York, Exposition Press, 1954 156 p. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Martin Ridge

THIS READABLE LITTLE BOOK is best described by the words of its author, who writes that "It is neither history, science, nor philosophy; yet it impinges on history, science, and philosophy. It is a discourse on Luck — good and bad." Intent upon entertaining his readers, Mr. Blumenthal has ranged widely, but he pays closest attention to the familiar area of the United States to illustrate the role of fate and chance in history. The result is a series of rather disjointed but picturesque episodes.

The professional historian interested in causation will find nothing new in either the material or the conclusions of the author. The historically minded lay reader will probably be disturbed, if not annoyed, by the nonhistorical digressions — such as a discussion of the famous roulette wheels of the world. Perhaps young people will be encouraged to read more widely and deeply in historical literature after being introduced to some of the "critical moments" Mr. Blumenthal mentions.

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Self-admittedly the author is neither a critical scholar nor a consistent philosopher, and he does not ask his readers to accept his "pleasant panaceas" for living in a world of chance. But this polite apology will not satisfy the critical reader, who will feel compelled to violate the author's injunction and take the book seriously. The time has passed when a writer can reiterate the outworn theory of unitary causation and force history to hang on a series of unconnected pegs. The time has also passed when any kind of planning—be it by government or by business—can be glibly condemned as contrary to the nature of things. Man's struggle for survival has been a planned effort to eliminate the variables which affect his life. It is strange in our time to find an author relegating world peace, national security, prosperity, and even peace of mind and soul to the level of games.

### FINNISH TRAVELER

*A Half Year in the New World: Miscellaneous Sketches of Travel in the United States (1888).* By ALEXANDRA GRIPENBERG. Translated and edited by ERNEST J. MOYNE. (Newark, University of Delaware Press, 1954. xv, 225 p. Portrait. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

IT IS CURIOUS that this volume by a distinguished Finnish visitor to the United States should have had to wait so long for translation and publication in this country, for it ranks with the better travel accounts and includes much of value to historians of late nineteenth-century America. Baroness Gripenberg's leadership of feminist and temperance movements in Finland brought her in 1888 as delegate to the international women's congress in Washington, D.C. From there she crossed the continent on a six-month's tour. Her book presents a series of clear and frequently acute impressions that are marred only occasionally by aristocratic bias and by faulty information.

She gives a rather negative impression of the New York of 1888, is enthusiastic about the leaders of American feminist and temperance

movements, is impressed by aging abolitionists' tales, puzzled by the American spiritualists she observed in Philadelphia, and delighted by Niagara Falls, the Cambridge literati, Mark Twain, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. The baroness is also critically interested in Christian Science, is not too impressed by the poetry of Joaquin Miller, and is antagonized by Mormon polygamy. She finds the Republican presidential nominating convention in Chicago amusing, loves Yosemite, is intrigued and informed by a teachers convention in San Francisco and even more by that city's Chinatown, and is rather critical of the Finnish immigrant communities she saw in San Francisco and Ashtabula, Ohio. She apologizes for not having visited the Finnish settlements of Michigan and Minnesota to which "the best part of our countrymen" were reported to be going.

The volume concludes with a general commentary on the "homes and the customs of the New World." There is a good index and a portrait of the author taken in Chicago in 1888.

### IMMIGRANTS IN FICTION

*Unto a Good Land.* By VILHELM MOBERG. Translated from the Swedish by GUSTAF LANNESTOCK. (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1954. viii, 371 p. \$3.95.)

Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

IN *The Emigrants* Vilhelm Moberg depicted a handful of Swedish farmers who, because of economic or social pressure, had decided to emigrate to the United States. In *Unto a Good Land*, the second volume of a projected trilogy, Moberg shows the disembarkation of the group at New York, their slow and sometimes hazardous progress by steamboat, canalboat, railroad, and stagecoach to Stillwater, and the attainment of their goal—the settlement at Taylor's Falls—by walking and carrying their goods along an old logging trail which roughly paralleled the St. Croix River. Arriving there on July 31, 1850, was almost the emigrants' worst trial, since they came too late to clear land and plant a crop. But by pooling resources and en-

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ergy, the men constructed first lean-tos and then log huts, and the families were able to last out their first Minnesota winter on the shores of Lake Ki-Chi-Saga (Chisago).

*Unto a Good Land* is a better novel than its predecessor largely because Mr. Moberg is here less the social naturalist and more the storyteller. Scenes in the fetid, cramped cabins, on the decks of the steamboats, and in the railroad carriages are graphic without being overburdened by detail. The difficulties of travel are neither minimized nor prettified, and the reader cannot forget that this party of sixteen adults and children had an inadequate supply of clothing, tools, and even food, possessed few financial resources, and had at best only a halting command of English.

Mr. Moberg successfully individualizes his characters. If Karl Oskar Nilsson is to some extent the romantic pioneer hero whose versatility is equal to all demands and who always wins out by a combination of strength, endurance, and good fortune, he also has his trials and defeats. Bitter indeed is his chagrin to find that the only midwife he can call when his wife's time comes is Ulrika of Västergöhl, the prostitute whom he and his fellow travelers have barely treated with politeness. Bitter too is his disappointment when his younger brother Robert is lured even farther west by the prospect of California gold. But Karl Oskar has a strong will to survive, symbolized perhaps by his long tramp one winter day from Stillwater to the shores of Lake Ki-Chi-Saga carrying a hundred-pound sack of rye flour on his back.

In general Moberg's picture of the St. Croix Valley Swedish settlement in the 1850s carries conviction. In preparation for these Minnesota scenes, the novelist visited Lindstrom and Chisago City and saw the lakes and woodland which still comprise much of the area. *Unto a Good Land* shows clearly the beginnings of a Minnesota Swedish community. Its sequel will undoubtedly reveal the eventual success of the small group who contracted the America fever in Ljuder parish in the mid-nineteenth century and built an enduring civilization in the New World.

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## ICELANDIC PIONEERS

*Modern Sagas: The Story of the Icelanders in North America.* By THORSTINA WALTERS. With an introduction by ALLAN NEVINS. (Fargo, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1953. x, 229 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

### Reviewed by Valdimar Bjornson

ALLAN NEVINS, professor of American history at Columbia University, picks what is to him "the rarest part of Mrs. Walters' volume" in writing an enthusiastic and discerning introduction to the work. He says it is "the opening description of the home in which she was reared, and of the two rugged pioneers, her father and mother, who made it a shrine of the old Icelandic culture."

Those who know Thorstina Jackson Walters well will find the book as a whole rare not merely because it is the product of her lifelong interest in the Icelandic settlements, kindled by her father's historical writings in the field, but because it was produced under circumstances that would have discouraged others with less loyal zeal and dauntless courage. Although Mrs. Walters has been a victim of multiple sclerosis for years, there is no hint of any such handicap in the patient research, the planning and perspective, or the warm enthusiasm that goes into her writing about her pioneering compatriots and their descendants.

Technically viewed, Mrs. Walters' volume is not the full "story of the Icelanders in North America" that its subtitle suggests. Yet it is more than just a catalogued history of the largest of their settlements in the United States — the one in Pembina County, North Dakota, where the author, her artist-husband, Emile Walters, the Arctic explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and a good many other notables grew up. Inescapably, the author traces back and forth across the Canadian border contacts with Winnipeg and the "New Iceland" settlement of Manitoba, which have been major centers for Icelandic immigrants on this continent ever since the mid-seventies.

For those interested in government efforts to promote migration westward, Mrs. Walters has performed a real service in bringing into her thoroughly readable volume a little-known document. It is a report, in Icelandic, with a

translation submitted to President Ulysses S. Grant in 1874 — the only result of a dream that envisaged "transplanting" Iceland's whole population to Alaska. The colorful editor-poet-politician, Jon Olafsson, carried that rather fanciful scheme so far as to convince the president of the United States that passage to Alaska on a United States naval vessel ought to be provided for him and a colonizing committee to make a survey.

An Alaskan settlement by Icelanders never became a reality, but thriving colonies in Canada and at several points in the United States have made impressive records for so small a group. Mrs. Walters now provides not merely the only historical summary thus far published in English, but she meets standards worthy of an ancestry that gave the world the ancient sagas.

#### A CITY IN PICTURES

*The Story of Minneapolis in Pictures.* (Minneapolis, T. S. Denison & Company, 1954. 96 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

THIS NEAT COMBINATION of 210 pictures and brief captions makes an attractive album that most Minneapolitans will be proud to have visitors take with them as a souvenir. In its pages Minneapolis puts its best foot forward as an important center for industry, commerce, education, culture, religion, and recreation. Within the limited compass of the book's announced purpose — to show high lights in the progress of Minneapolis, not to present a detailed picture of the city's development — it is a competent job, and its three collaborators can take a bow. They are Lawrence M. Brings, editor; Edmund M. Kopietz, art director; and Harry L. Craddick, commentator.

From a number of sources, carefully credited in the back of the book, the compilers have culled pictures that are almost always adequate, as in the case of several building shots, and that are sometimes unusually effective, as in the case of a photo of the Maillol bronze group at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Most of

the offset reproductions are good, although a few are a bit muddy. The captions are, for the most part, reasonably informative, but they are sometimes unnecessarily laudatory.

Emphasis is placed on the present-day industrial and business life of the community. Historical treatment is sparse, superficial, and less satisfactory. A few pictures are included to record the importance of the Mississippi River in the development of Minneapolis — Henry Lewis' 1848 painting of the Falls of St. Anthony, photos of sculptures of Father Hennepin, views of early sawmills and flour mills, and a steamboat picture. The book also reproduces the mural by Richard Haines in the Round Tower museum at Fort Snelling in an effort to depict some of the area's early history.

Like most souvenir albums, the volume is completely uncritical. Nothing mars its view of Minneapolis as a great metropolis and a very desirable place in which to live.

#### WISCONSIN BANKING

*A Century of Banking in Wisconsin.* By THEODORE A. ANDERSEN. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1954. vi, 226 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Arthur R. Upgren

IN THIS BOOK, the author compactly presents the development of banking, banks, paper money or bank notes, and checkbook money in the state of Wisconsin. Students of money and banking will recall similar patterns elsewhere in the United States and in England, where the issuance and excess issuance of paper notes brought the restraining force of the Peel Act of 1844 penalizing the issuing of such notes and bringing about the use of checkbook money in England. The English experience was repeated in Wisconsin.

The development of a respectable and durable banking structure in Wisconsin left a trail strewn with wreckage but, as Mr. Andersen shows, banking there never got quite as reckless as it did in many other states. Wisconsin had its bank failures, and they made at times rather ominous noises, but the losses were

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tempered by lessons learned early in the region's banking experience. About three territorial banks were started and survived a few years until the panic of 1837. Thereafter, Wisconsin would have none of the manufacture of bank notes, and banking was outlawed from 1839 to 1852. From the latter date on, the dilemma citizens of the state faced was whether to rely solely upon a supply of money provided by ingenious people of other states or whether to invent a pedigreed Wisconsin supply. The struggle took a long time, and Mr. Andersen describes it in excellent fashion.

The author gives a clear picture of the rapid growth of banks and bank capital in Wisconsin after 1852, making use of statistical material ably presented. He emphasizes that banks in that state were slow to change to a national banking system. As a result, almost all the securities carrying circulation privileges had been pre-empted by other states, leaving Wisconsin with an insufficient money supply. Earlier state bank note issues were far too scarce, and during the Civil War, Wisconsin faced what Mr. Andersen refers to as a "mal-distribution of national bank notes." State banks in Wisconsin had made a fairly good record and had been sluggish in applying for national charters. Consequently, other states got a head start, and this led to the "mal-distribution."

The history of banking in later years is covered, and the author touches on the growth of group banking after World War I. He speaks of the rise of Northwest Bancorporation in Minneapolis and the First Bank Stock Investment Company in St. Paul. After the bank holiday of March 4, 1933, all the banks in a few states were sound enough to reopen, but the author shows that this was not the case in Wisconsin, where many remained closed.

The central lesson this reviewer gained from the study, which is carefully and interestingly written, is that a country developing its fixed resources — real estate, factories, mines, farms, etc. — tries desperately to create liquidity. The problem, however, is never frontally faced, and as a result the economy of both the country and the state of Wisconsin in its early days was inherently illiquid. Today, this situation has changed. Whether the banking system will again be subject to failures and collapse like those Mr. Andersen describes, only time and careful study can tell.

## MIDWEST BOURBON

*William Freeman Vilas: Doctrinaire Democrat.*  
By HORACE SAMUEL MERRILL. (Madison,  
The State Historical Society of Wisconsin,  
1954. vii, 310 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

THIS VOLUME contains a thorough biography of William F. Vilas, a true northern Bourbon, who led the Democratic party in Wisconsin during the Gilded Age. His many ventures, interests, and political battles are delineated in a book that carries the able Wisconsin lawyer from his Vermont birth to his last years as a prosperous lumber magnate. His political fortunes carried him to the Wisconsin legislature, to President Cleveland's cabinet, and to the United States Senate. Though Vilas was an intimate of Cleveland and a splendid orator, some readers may not be as convinced as Mr. Merrill that he appeared destined for the presidency. While the Bourbons controlled the Democratic party, Cleveland held a firm grip, and the future favored such men as Bryan and Altgeld.

Mr. Merrill clearly sets forth the cause of his subject's political demise — his doggedly doctrinaire stand in the face of rumbling economic discontent that heralded demands for government experiments in relief and reform. Accepting the Bourbon belief in currency based on a rigid gold standard, low tariffs, and a *laissez-faire* climate for business, Vilas breathed a sigh of relief when McKinley, a gold Republican, defeated Bryan and his free silver policies in the election of 1896. But Bryan's emergence signalled the knell of Bourbonism even though Vilas awaited its return. Midwestern farmers and laborers were beginning to reject both major parties and to look for their champions in Populism and Robert La Follette.

Rich sources of manuscripts and newspapers were tapped by the author to illuminate his text. The bibliography contains many sources and suggestions for students of Midwestern politics in the Gilded Age. Mr. Merrill, author of a previous study of Midwestern Bourbons, has added another full-length portrait to the gallery of Wisconsin politics.

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## BACKGROUND OF A RIVER

*Brule Country.* By ALBERT M. MARSHALL. (St. Paul, North Central Publishing Company, 1954. xi, 219 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Maude L. Lindquist

THIS ATTRACTIVE BOOK contains Albert Marshall's tribute to a region not significant on the larger stage of national development but of considerable interest for its supporting role. He says that the "waters of the Brule did not serve the current of events more than to provide a pathway for the pioneer," but that "it made its impress upon those who hurried by." The stories of these people provide a picture of America in the making, and that is the author's purpose in writing the history.

In it may be found a chronological story of the discovery and traffic on Wisconsin's Brule River since 1680. The author records the activities of the French traders and their English successors, of missionaries and of Indians, of Americans and their search for riches, and of summer settlers and permanent residents. The illustrations and maps are appropriately selected and well distributed.

It is obvious that Mr. Marshall had difficulty in determining the boundaries of Brule land, although to its residents these limits are well known. His desire to furnish background history and information about the further exploits of the people who passed along the Brule-St. Croix route often involves detail about other areas and brings in much irrelevant material. On the other hand, forgiving him for the disproportionate number of pages devoted to historical background is quite easy, since he has not slighted the people who lived along, worked on, or touched the shores of the Brule. Moreover, save for a few minor inaccuracies and ambiguities, the author has handled his data well.

Mr. Marshall's readers will be those to whom the Brule country is familiar, and they will take delight in the affectionate language he uses to describe the river, its landmarks, and residents. Certainly, the book fills a gap in the history of this upper Wisconsin region, and its publication should stimulate further research.

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## CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

"AN INDIGENOUS, national Christmas . . . which differed from prior celebrations in the British Isles and in several European nations" developed in the United States in the nineteenth century, according to James H. Barnett, whose little book on *The American Christmas: A Study in National Culture* appeared late in 1954 (New York, The Macmillan Company, 173 p.). Professor Barnett is concerned chiefly with the "secular aspects of the festival" — a subject that previously has "received no systematic treatment." Among the topics touched upon in the opening chapter, entitled "Christmas in the Making," is the "Legal Recognition of Christmas Day." It is worth noting that Minnesota made Christmas a legal holiday during the territorial period, in 1856. One chapter of Mr. Barnett's book is devoted to the "Social Aspects of Christmas Art," including music and drama. And under the heading "Exploiting a Festival," the author deals with the gifts and bonuses that give Christmas its importance in the nation's economic life. Every student of social history and all who are interested in the development of social customs in America will find this work useful.

## PIONEER PASTOR

A BIOGRAPHY of Eric Norelius: *Pioneer Midwest Pastor and Churchman* is a recent publication of the Augustana Book Concern in co-operation with the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church (Rock Island, Illinois, 255 p.). The author, Emeroy Johnson, has based his study on contemporary sources, printed and manuscript, largely in the Swedish language. He points out in his preface that "as a pastor, travelling missionary, church administrator, editor, founder of institutions, and as a personal friend" Norelius was well known to Swedish immigrants, particularly in Minnesota. Indeed this volume was published in the spring of 1954 to mark the "100th anniversary of Norelius' first visit to Minnesota." The chapter titles give evidence of his important role in Minnesota's religious history, especially as it relates to the Swedish Lutheran church. Although his career centered in Goodhue County, particularly at Red Wing and Vasa, his influence reached far beyond county boundaries as a result of his publishing and educational activities.



## . . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

"THE TERRITORIES: Seedbeds of Democracy" is the title of an important article by Roy F. Nichols appearing in the September number of *Nebraska History*. Dr. Nichols presented the paper before a joint meeting of the historical societies of Kansas and Nebraska, held at Falls City, Nebraska, on May 9, 1954, to commemorate the centennial of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The author stresses the "quality of frequent self-renewal which the territorial process represents," pointing out that "From the days of the Revolution down to the present, the process has been constantly repeated. . . . Over a century and three-quarters, thirty-one times have Americans created for themselves, often despite federal supervision, stable and satisfactory self-government." Thus, Dr. Nichols notes, American democracy "is a grass roots operation," which "was never foisted on anybody from above" and which was created by people working "in an atmosphere of as near absolute liberty as it is probably possible to find." After demonstrating that it is "imperative that we keep alive the story" of the territorial experience, the author shows how the need for its wide dissemination "calls for increased support for all forms of local historical endeavors." He contends that "much more work must be done in the field of territorial history and in the political history of the states," since the "strength of democracy comes from these sources, and we must know them." And to make them known, state historical societies should "develop plans for writing adequate history, by supporting research, and by having on their staffs those whose main concern is research and writing."

IT IS the historian's responsibility to "forever contest the control of the past with 'those who control the present'" writes C. Vann Woodward in a provocative article entitled "Can We Believe Our Own History?" which appears in the February issue of the *Johns Hopkins Magazine*. He asserts that Americans "have expected too much of history" by insisting that it serve "as a source of . . . folklore, myth, and legend . . . as a substitute for political theory and a means of self-criticism." The implications inherent in the dictum "who controls the present controls the past" have a corollary, says Mr. Woodward, in the statement "who controls the past controls the future." For that reason the historian "as custodian of the past and keeper

of the public memory" has a duty, in the author's view, "to defend the integrity of history" and "to retain a fundamentally unshakeable conviction that the past was real—however hard it may be to define its nature and write an unbiased record of it."

THAT "LOCAL HISTORY in America is much more elaborately organized, much more lavishly subsidized, more 'in the picture' than is local history in England" is the observation of Professor Denis W. Brogan in the December number of *American Heritage*. In an article on "The Writing of History," this eminent British historian compares the British and American viewpoints. He notes that although "there is plenty of antiquarianism in American local history," at the same time "there is more serious, scholarly, penetrating local history studied and written in America than in England, if only for the reason that no concentration of federal power, no blurring of sectional lines, can reduce either Virginia or North Dakota to being just another county." Professor Brogan's article is only one feature of the first issue of *American Heritage* to appear in a new format under the editorship of Bruce Catton. This magazine "in book form" with hard covers is published under the joint sponsorship of the American Association for State and Local History and the Society of American Historians. Midwest readers doubtless will be especially interested in Eugene Kingman's elaborately illustrated article dealing with "Painters of the Plains" who pictured the American Indians and their way of life.

"THE PROBLEMS which face the historian are not unlike the problems which face the detective in popular fiction," according to Cecil Woodham-Smith, who contributes to the *New York Times Book Review* of August 1 an article entitled "Sometimes Under the Dust of a Hundred Years." "Like the detective the historian sets out to examine a series of events and reveal the truth," she continues, "like the detective he endeavors to unearth new evidence, like the detective he subjects every known fact to minute scrutiny. . . . And like the detective the historian finds his evidence in strange and unexpected places." These may well include attics, musty cellars, and old trunks, which often yield papers of priceless value to the historian—papers whose owners

are not aware of their worth and who are irritated when anyone wants to see them. Nevertheless, as Mrs. Woodham-Smith points out, "such documents are the living material of history," for "no carbon copy, no printed book can supply the place of the original document."

MORE THAN half of the issue of *National Archives Accessions* for June is devoted to an article on "The Continental Congress Papers, Their History, 1789-1952," by Carl L. Lokke. The writer reports that in 1952 the National Archives received from the Library of Congress the main body of the papers of the Continental Congress to be added to others received earlier from the state department. Thus "these important records, which include the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution" are now assembled under one roof.

STUDENTS of western history will be glad to learn that Ernest S. Osgood's valuable book, *The Day of the Cattleman*, has been reissued by the University of Minnesota Press (283 p. \$4.50.). Widely acclaimed when it appeared in 1929, the book has long been out of print. In it Professor Osgood chronicles the rise and fall of the range cattle industry from 1845 to the turn of the century, setting forth the readable and authentic story "of a great and lucrative enterprise" that "laid the economic foundation of more than one western commonwealth."

TRAVEL accounts published in eighteen magazines, including *Minnesota History*, are listed by Robert R. Hubach in the July issue of the *Iowa Journal of History* under the title "They Saw the Midwest: A Bibliography of Travel Narratives, 1727-1850." The author states that the bibliography covers "the states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, and South and North Dakota," and that the "most common types of narratives" included describe river trips "up the Missouri, Mississippi, Kaw, and Platte," exploring and hunting expeditions, and adventures and encounters with the Indians.

INFORMATION about the financing of modern innovations adopted by American railroads in the 1930s is to be found in a letter of June 1, 1954, written by John Barringer of Chicago to the Honorable Jesse H. Jones of Houston, Texas. The letter, consisting of seventy-nine typewritten sheets, has been mimeographed for limited distribution. The writer discusses loans to railroads for the purchase of Diesel

locomotives and streamlined passenger equipment, giving special emphasis to the part played by two government agencies—the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Public Works Administration. According to Mr. Barringer, the First National Bank of Saint Paul loaned funds to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for the purchase of Diesel road locomotives as early as 1937, thus becoming the first bank to finance such a project.

"ALTHOUGH her name has found a permanent place in American folklore, the life story of Annie Oakley has not been generally known," writes Walter Havighurst in *Annie Oakley of the Wild West*, a recently published narrative biography of the famous markswoman (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1954. 246 p.). As its title is perhaps meant to indicate, the book deals also with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, in which Annie and her husband Frank Butler starred. The travels of the troupe and its exhibitions in the capitals of Europe, as well as information on Annie's childhood, her associates, and the ability that made her a legend are entertainingly set forth.

TO BRING together the "interesting, curious and necessary facts relating to the history, manufacture and use of tobacco," Raymond Jahn has compiled a *Tobacco Dictionary* (New York, Philosophical Library, 1954. 199 p.). Although the work includes explanations of such terms as "calumet" and "peace pipe," it curiously omits any mention of "catlinite" or "pipestone." Much unusual information and some interesting illustrations are included in the book.

#### SOME ANNIVERSARIES

ECONOMIC and social historians will be interested in a special feature entitled "Twenty-five Years that Remade America," appearing in the issue of *Business Week* for September 4. To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding, the magazine reviews some of the changes that have taken place in the quarter century since its first issue appeared in 1929. In attempting to show how the economy of the United States in 1954 differs from that of 1929, the article presents much useful, hard-to-find information—largely economic and statistical in nature—on factors that have reshaped American business. Charts and tables on income, population, industrial capacity, output, and raw materials illustrate the text and help to make clear "what happened to business through those 25 turbulent changeable years."

A BOOKLET compiled by Willard F. McCrea was issued in August to call attention to the centennial of the founding of Sauk Rapids — an occasion celebrated on August 14 and 15. It includes a "Compendium of Early Sauk Rapids," which is made up largely of notes on local pioneers. Of special interest are a picture and an account of the Russell House, where stages stopped en route between St. Paul and Fort Ripley.

THE ONE-HUNDREDTH birthday of the city of New Ulm was marked by a six-day fete from August 17 through 22 and by the publication of a 160-page centennial edition of the *New Ulm Daily Journal* on August 17. Said to be the largest single newspaper ever published in Brown County, the issue contains ten sections packed with historical information on New Ulm and the surrounding area. In it may be found data on the settlement of New Ulm by a group of German immigrants; on the career of William Pfaender; on local floods, fires, and blizzards; on the development of schools, government, newspapers, and businesses; and on the Turner Colonization Society, Luther College, and the Brown County Historical Society. Entire sections of the paper are devoted to the backgrounds of New Ulm's churches, to high lights in its sports history, and to the growth of its industries, especially milling and brewing. Several articles deal with the bands that have made New Ulm the "polka capital of the nation." The celebration was also noted in pictorial features in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of August 15, the *Minneapolis Star* of August 18, and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of August 22.

Many details in the life of one of New Ulm's founders are contained in a readable booklet entitled *Memory's Trail*, printed for the centennial by the *New Ulm Journal* (1954. 71 p.). It is described by its authors, Grace Lovell May and Wilhelmina Pfaender Loenholdt, as "an interpretation of the facts" in the lives of William Pfaender and his wife Catherine. Their portraits are among the illustrations.

SOME reminiscences of long-time residents of Wayzata, together with information on the town's observance from August 15 through 19 of the one-hundredth anniversary of its founding, are published in the *Minneapolis Star* of August 16. Under the title "Wayzata Recalls Steamboat Days," Charles Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Dickey, and Mrs. M. J. Paterson reminisce about "the golden days of steamboats and

big resort hotels" on Lake Minnetonka. Additional memories of Mrs. Dickey and Mr. Gibbs of Indians who lived near Wayzata, as well as information on burial mounds in the Lake Minnetonka region, appear in the *Wayzata Herald* of August 12.

LANCASTER'S fiftieth anniversary was marked by the publication of a *Golden Jubilee* booklet prepared for the occasion by a committee under the chairmanship of Edward Johnson. Based largely upon newspaper sources, the informative pamphlet treats chronologically the outstanding and interesting events in the town's history from its birth in 1904 as a railroad village. The many excellent illustrations depicting changes in the town's physical appearance, in its transportation facilities, and in the activities and amusements of its people contribute greatly to the published account of this Kittson County village.

TO MARK the centennial of postal service in his locality, the postmaster of Royalton, Mr. Harold L. Fisher, has prepared an interesting little booklet which bears the title *100 Years as a Post Office* (16 p.). The writer begins with the appointment of Rudolphus D. Kinney on July 1, 1854, as postmaster of an unnamed settlement on the stage route to Fort Ripley. After it developed into the railway village of Royalton, according to Mr. Fisher, it became a distributing point for mail going to near-by communities. Valuable bits of information about local place names, postmasters, and the beginnings of rural free delivery of mail are included in the booklet.

THE CITY of Owatonna, which was founded in the spring of 1854, commemorated its centennial during the week of June 6. A historical pageant, a tour of historic sites in the area, and displays of historic objects in shop windows were features of the celebration. The text of the pageant and a sketch of the city's early history are included in a pamphlet issued for the occasion. The sketch is based on Edgar B. Wesley's history of the community, published in 1938.

A SPECIAL centennial section of the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* of June 25, dealing with "Rochester's 100 Years of Progress," contains a number of articles which give information on the city's development. Largely prepared by Ralph Ellingwood of the newspaper's editorial staff, the section provides valuable material on the Mayo family and on the famous medical center which they founded at Rochester; on

the importance of agriculture in the city's growth; on its churches, businesses, and government; and on the Olmsted County Historical Society.

THE SIXTIETH anniversary of the Hinckley fire, a tragedy which took more than four hundred lives on September 1, 1894, and burned an area of about three hundred square miles, was observed in that community on August 14 and 22, when a pageant was staged under the direction of Emil Besch. Among those attending were about 150 survivors of the holocaust. Reports on the anniversary program, together with survivors' accounts of the fire, may be found in "Pageant of Tragedy" by Isadore Cohen, in the *Duluth News-Tribune* of August 8; in "Hinckley Relives '94 Terror," in the same paper for August 22; and in "Hinckley Plus Sixty" by Brendan J. Connelly, in the *Conservation Volunteer* for March-April.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH anniversary of the founding of Edgerton in Pipestone County was the occasion for a celebration on July 21 and 22 and for the publication of a number of articles on the town's development in the *Edgerton Enterprise* for July 22. Included is an outline of the town's early history, a description of Edgerton published by the newspaper in 1883, and a list of the postmasters and mayors who have served it.

THE DIAMOND jubilee of the incorporation of Crookston was marked by a celebration on August 9 which saw the publication of a souvenir booklet entitled *Crookston's Seventy-five Years* (1954. 60 p.). In it may be found information on the settlement and organization of the city, on the importance of steamboats and railroads in its development, on its schools, churches, industries, and organizations, and on its growth in the twentieth century. Many interesting illustrations depicting changes over the years add much to the publication's value. Additional information on Crookston's backgrounds may be found in the seventy-fifth anniversary edition of the *Crookston Daily Times*, issued on August 9.

A CELEBRATION from June 11 through 13 and the publication of a *Golden Jubilee* booklet (1954. 79 p.) marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the village of Winger in Polk County. Compiled by the Winger Golden Jubilee Historical Committee, the illustrated booklet contains information on the early history of the township and the railroad village of Winger, its schools, churches, and

early settlers. Many interesting photographs of the town's early business concerns, settlers, churches, and schools add much to the publication's value.

TWO ARTICLES commemorating the golden jubilee of the platting of the village of Plummer in Red Lake County appear in the *Oklee Herald* for July 1 and 8. The first, a reminiscence by Mrs. Leonard Brekke, deals with the settlement of the railroad town, while the second, "History of Plummer Recalled," by the late H. J. Enderle, contains a general review of the town's development since 1904.

THE STORY of a German Catholic community in Stearns County is traced in a recently published centennial pamphlet entitled *Jacobs Prairie One Hundred Years* (1954. 76 p.). Like many of its neighbors, Jacobs Prairie can identify its beginnings with the missionary activities of Father Francis Pierz, who encouraged German immigrants to settle in Stearns County and then ministered to their religious needs. Passages from letters written by the pioneer priest in the 1850s are quoted in the present narrative. The work of the Benedictines at Jacobs Prairie is fully recorded in this well-annotated and fully illustrated booklet.

MORE THAN twenty-five hundred people gathered at Tower on July 17 to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the first shipment of Minnesota iron ore in 1884. A feature of the program, which was sponsored by the Vermilion Range Old Settlers Association, was a talk on the history of the Vermilion Range by Fred J. Voss, president of the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway. The program is reported in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for July 18. In the issue of the same paper for July 4 is a sketch entitled "Tower and Soudan Are Rich in History." It touches on the Vermilion gold rush, exploration for iron ore in the area, the development of the Soudan Mine, and the story of the villages of Tower and Soudan.

A *History of St. Charles*, compiled by a local historical committee with L. R. Palmer as chairman, was published in August to mark the centennial of this Winona County community (74 p.). Among the more interesting sections are those dealing with transportation and communication, with business, and with local social life and organizations. The committee was responsible also for a series of reminiscent articles appearing in the *St. Charles Press* in June and July under the title "The Centennial Story."

## THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE HEMAN GIBBS HOUSE, located at Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues on the edge of St. Paul, is one of two historic Minnesota farmhouses recently restored and used as museums. The Gibbs house was restored by the Ramsey County Historical Society, which plans to use the building as its headquarters. An article on this "Farm Home Museum," published in *The Farmer* for November 6, gives information on the formal opening of the house on October 2 and 3. Its furnishings and exhibits are described in a leaflet issued by the Ramsey County society on the occasion of the opening. It traces the evolution of the present house from a one-room claim shanty built in 1849 and gives data on the lives of its builders, Heman Gibbs and his wife, Jane De Bow Gibbs.

The second house-museum, in the Oliver H. Kelley home near Elk River, was opened under the sponsorship of the Oliver Hudson Kelley Pomona Grange on October 3. The event, which was reported in the *Sherburne County Star News* of Elk River for September 30 and October 7, marked the completion of a Grange project to restore and refurnish the home of its founder in the style of the 1860s and 1870s. Official headquarters of the Patrons of Husbandry from 1867 to 1870, the eleven-room farmhouse overlooking the Mississippi River was purchased by that organization in 1935 and was dedicated as a Grange shrine in 1938. The *News* reports that most of the furnishings now assembled in the Kelley home were donated by Grange members. A colored photograph of the refurnished parlor appears in the issue of the *Minneapolis Star* for October 21.

R. F.

A RECENT publication of the University of Minnesota Press entitled *The Ferns and Fern Allies of Minnesota* by Rolla M. Tryon, Jr., supplies botanical information on this well-known type of vegetation (1954. 166 p.). Like other recent publications of the press dealing with the physical aspects of the state, the book is intended for general use and distribution.

FIELD TRIPS to northern Minnesota Indian reservations yielded much of the material on which Sister Bernard Coleman based her article on "The Ojibwa and the Wild Rice Problem," which appears in the *Anthropological Quarterly* for July, 1953. The author does not overlook the historical aspects of her subject, for she shows how wild rice figured in

Chippewa history, as well as in the activities of explorers, traders, and settlers in the Minnesota country. Much of her article is devoted to an account of the red men's harvesting and sale of this native cereal as a commercial product. She gives attention also to Minnesota laws that keep wild rice "harvesting primitive, thereby favoring the Indian" in competition with the white man.

THE HISTORY of the American Swedish Institute of Minneapolis is reviewed in its autumn *Bulletin* by Lilly E. Lorenzen, who traces its founding to Swan J. Turnblad's plan for fostering and preserving Swedish culture in America. The institute also is the subject of a sketch by Magdaline Anderson in the *American Swedish Monthly* for October. The same author contributes an account of the founding of a Swedish colony at Vasa in Goodhue County to the *Monthly* for April. Of Minnesota interest also are articles by J. Oscar Backlund in the issues of the same publication for December, 1953, and January, February, and August, 1954. In the first three, the writer reviews the history of Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, and in the last he tells about Minnehaha Academy, which was founded in Minneapolis in 1904.

THE STORY of the Minnesota Transfer Railway is told by Frank P. Donovan, Jr., in a little book published under the title *Gateway to the Northwest* (1954. 32 p.). In it the author describes the "Mighty Midget" of the St. Paul Midway district, discusses its method of operation, and traces its background. Much hard-to-find information is crowded between the covers of this booklet, which is a welcome addition to the literature of Northwest railway history. Copies may be obtained from the author, who resides at 114 West Forty-fifth Street, Minneapolis.

"HOW TODAY'S Highways Developed" is the title of a brief historical chapter in a report on *Highway Transportation in Minnesota* prepared for the Minnesota Highway Study Commission (1954. 106 p.). It calls attention to the good roads movement of the 1890s, tells of the highway commission set up in 1906, and describes the trunk highway system established in 1921 on a state-wide scale. Information about the development of township and county roads and of city streets also is included.

IN AN ATTRACTIVE and informative booklet entitled *From Land, Sea, and Test Tube*,

Marion E. Cross tells the little-known story of the Archer-Daniels-Midland Company of Minneapolis, one of the world's largest producers of linseed and soybean oil and related grain products (1954. 68 p.). At Minneapolis, the leading American market for rail-shipped flax, John W. Daniels and George A. Archer joined forces in 1905 to form the Archer-Daniels Linseed Company. The author provides factual information on the subsequent growth of the company, on its absorption of the Midland Linseed Oil Company in 1923, on the dramatic rise in the use of soybean oil and its importance to the company, on the organization's expansion into new fields, and on the construction of its varied facilities throughout the United States. The booklet tells, too, of the work of Professor H. L. Bolley of the North Dakota Agricultural College, who in 1912 developed a "wilt-resistant variety" that saved flax as a crop. Published by the company, this readable little book is a useful addition to the printed records of a Minnesota industry. J.D.H.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH of the Webb Publishing Company of St. Paul and a description of its present facilities are available in an illustrated pamphlet entitled *The Inside Story of Webb*, recently issued by the company (32 p.). The booklet reviews the progress of a firm that began at Fargo in 1882 with the founding of the *Northwestern Farmer*, tells of its removal to St. Paul, and describes the gradual expansion of the organization that Edward A. Webb built about the nucleus of this farm publication.

THE REMINISCENCES of a physician whose practice spans nearly half a century in Roseau County are the basis of "Doctor's Story at 'World's End'" by Will Hertz in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of March 14. The physician is Dr. J. L. Delmore, who settled in the village of Roseau near the Canadian border in 1909. He recalls some of the difficulties encountered by a young doctor in the sparsely populated region, describes methods of transportation to which he resorted to reach his patients, touches on the epidemics of influenza and diphtheria that plagued the area, and tells of primitive surgical methods used in years gone by.

TO MARK the completion of its new building, the First State Bank of Sauk Centre issued, in September, a *Historical Sketch of Sauk Centre* in the form of a well-illustrated booklet (70 p.). Indian tribes, the beginnings of settlement, the Sioux War, the organization of the

village, schools and churches, business and the professions are among the subjects touched upon. Noted also are people from Sauk Centre, like J. V. Brower and Sinclair Lewis, who made literary contributions. The story of the bank which published the booklet naturally receives considerable attention. Among the more interesting illustrations included are a picture of the stockade built for protection from the Sioux in 1862, and a street view of 1892 photographed during a political meeting.

THE STORY OF a small village on Lake Minnetonka is told in a booklet entitled *Minnetonka Beach, 1855-1954*, recently published by the Minnetonka Beach Civic Association (49 p.). Although the town was settled by John H. Holmes in 1855, the pamphlet notes that it did not really amount to much until 1882, when it was "chosen by James J. Hill as the site for the Great Northern . . . Railway's first great summer resort, the far-famed Hotel Lafayette." Newspaper accounts and reminiscences are used to chronicle the subsequent development of the village, and a section entitled "Our Municipality" provides information on the present-day tax rates, assessed valuation, current budget, schools, building permits, streets, and fire protection. The booklet also contains the text of the home rule charter under which the village is governed.

LIFE IN Sacred Heart Township and the village of Renville before the turn of the century is recalled by A. R. Holmberg in a mimeographed narrative entitled *I Remember Conquering the Prairie* (87 p.). The author gives an account of his early education under Michael J. Dowling, his teacher in a one-room country school. In a chapter entitled "Signs, Sounds, and Sights," he reflects on some of the intangible sensations of his prairie boyhood—the sight of buffalo wallows and the great fall migrations of waterfowl, the sound of a drumming prairie chicken, and the signs of spring on the prairies. His rich store of memories enables Mr. Holmberg to describe, often in vivid and dramatic fashion, pioneer life on a western Minnesota farm. He tells of the tools, crops, and farming methods of another day; of the Swedish food enjoyed in his boyhood; of holidays, funerals, and other social activities, and of such chores as carding, candlemaking, and soapmaking.

ITALIAN settlement in Stillwater was the subject discussed at a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society on November 30.

According to a brief report of the program published in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* for December 1, the speakers were Louis Fantini and Mrs. Theresa Salmore, descendants of Italian families that settled in Stillwater in the 1870s and 1880s. They recalled some of the reasons why these pioneers left their homeland, described the Italian colony in Stillwater, touched on the work and customs of some of its members, and told the group that Dr. Paul Carli, who "came to what is now Stillwater about 1840 . . . blazed a trail that was followed 40 years later by a large group of his countrymen." Mr. Fantini stated that at its peak, the Stillwater Italian colony "numbered between 400 and 500 people."

THE CLOSING of the old Union Depot at Stillwater is the occasion for the publication, in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 17, of an article based on an interview with its veteran ticket agent, Mr. Joseph Carroll. Under the title "History in Stillwater," the interview is reported by Kathryn Boardman, who notes that when the depot was built sixty-four years ago it served as a gateway for the St. Croix Valley lumber camps.

AN OIL PORTRAIT of Mrs. Catherine Goddard Smith was recently added to the collections of the Winona County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *Winona Daily News* of November 19. The newspaper reports that the painting of this pioneer woman "was made by Mrs. Edward Ely, wife of Winona's first postmaster," and was given to "Aunt Catherine" Smith in 1873 as a birthday gift. It was presented to the county society by Mrs. Smith's granddaughter, Mrs. Henry L. Anderson of St. Paul.

#### BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

THE IMPORTANCE of Indian women "in the white man's exploration of the Canadian West" is the subject of Marjorie Wilkins Campbell's article entitled "Her Ladyship, My Squaw" in the autumn issue of *The Beaver*. By bringing together the comments of explorers and traders like Alexander Henry, the younger, David Thompson, Alexander MacKenzie, and Daniel Harmon, the author indicates many of the essential tasks performed by Indian women. Among them she lists making pemmican, moccasins, and snowshoes, gathering gum and watap for canoes, and carrying loads. That they provided companionship, too, is evident in the series of romantic episodes cited by the writer. Two articles in the sum-

mer number of *The Beaver* are of special interest. In the first, Stephen Greenless provides an illustrated account of the "Indian Canoe Makers" employed in the Hudson's Bay Company's canoe factory at Rupert's House. The York boat formerly used by the same concern in the fur trade is the subject of the second, which was written by Dorothy L. Boggiss.

WILD RICE and corn are the two staples discussed by Wilma F. Aller in a paper on "Aboriginal Food Utilization of Vegetation by the Indians of the Great Lakes Region as Recorded in the Jesuit Relations," which is published in the *Wisconsin Archeologist* for September. The author also reports on the Indians' use of the "famine-food staple, the acorn," and notes the natives' use of various berries, fruits, nuts, and bark.

FATHER Frederic Baraga is the subject of number 27 in a series of *Documents* issued by La Société Historique du Nouvel-Ontario Collège du Sacré-Coeur in Sudbury, Ontario. Written by Lorenzo Cadieux, S.J., and Ernest Comte, S.J., the pamphlet is entitled *Un Heros du Lac Supérieur* (1954. 43 p.). It contains a biographical sketch of Baraga and gives an account in French of the missionary's career among the Indians along the shores of Lakes Michigan and Superior.

HENRY H. Sibley is mentioned briefly by Norris Yales in an essay on "The Spirit of the Times: Its Early History and Some of Its Contributors," appearing in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* for the second quarter of 1954. Writing under the pseudonym of "Hal - a Dakotah," Sibley published numerous tales of Indian life and of hunting adventures in this early sporting journal.

PHOTOGRAPHS of Indians and frontiersmen taken by David F. Barry in the 1870s and 1880s were featured in a special display arranged by the Douglas County Historical Society at Superior, Wisconsin, during the month of August. The exhibit is described by Garth Germond in an article entitled "Frontier in Photos," which appears in the issue of the *Duluth News-Tribune* for August 1. The author tells of Barry's life as a photographer, particularly in Dakota Territory, where he pictured Indian chiefs, cavalymen, and infantrymen who took part in the expeditions against the Sioux, principals in the Custer massacre, and such frontiersmen as William Cody. A number of portraits are reproduced with the article.



"THE PATTERN of Swedish population in America has shifted considerably since the beginning of the new century," writes Emory Lindquist in an article entitled "Swedish Population in the United States, 1900-1950," appearing in the January, 1954, issue of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*. He notes, for example, that according to 1950 census statistics Illinois has replaced Minnesota as the state having the largest number of native Swedes. His analysis shows statistically the shifts in Swedish population by states and regions, the rank of Swedes among the foreign-born, and their proportionate urban and rural residence.

THE IMPORTANCE of regional writing is clearly demonstrated in John T. Frederick's survey of "Town and City in Iowa Fiction" in the February issue of *The Palimpsest*. In reviewing the work of Iowa writers who have found life in that state's towns and cities deserving of fictional treatment, Mr. Frederick notes that Iowa shares "with the whole nation many of the effects of the profound change from farm to factory, from rural village to city, that has transformed American life in the past century." He describes and evaluates the work of twenty writers, from Hamlin Garland to Martin Yoseloff, in the light of its contributions to social history and for "the degree of genuine literary achievement attained." Although much rich material remains untouched, the author concludes that without this body of fiction "our cultural heritage, our understanding of the present, and our appreciation of the past would be immeasurably impoverished."

THE ROLE of Charles A. Lindbergh in the inauguration of air mail service between Chicago and St. Louis, with stops at Peoria and Springfield, in the spring of 1926 is stressed by William A. Steiger in the summer *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society. Under the title "Lindbergh Flies Air Mail from Springfield," the writer records an early chapter in the history of government air mail service.

A CO-OPERATIVE project undertaken by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Medical Society is described by Donald R. McNeil in an article on "Collecting Wisconsin's Medical History," which appears in the July-August issue of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. The writer tells how the Medical Records Project, as it is called, was organized and financed, and he describes some of his own adventures in canvassing the state in a search for medical manuscripts. The

sources collected, writes Mr. McNeil, provide the material from which "local and regional historians may write competent, significant medical histories."

AMONG RECENT contributions to the recorded history of religious denominations in the Northwest is J. Edor Larson's *History of the Red River Valley Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church* (1953. 173 p.). It surveys the development of a church organization that began with a convention of ninety churches at Fargo in 1913.

AS VOLUME 34 of the *Indiana Historical Collections*, the Indiana Historical Bureau has published the *Messages and Papers relating to the Administration of James Brown Ray, Governor of Indiana, 1825-1831* (1954. 726 p.). This voluminous collection of documents has been carefully edited by Dorothy Riker and Gayle Thornbrough.

#### NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

AT A MEETING of the society's executive council on October 11, Dr. Harold Dean Cater resigned as director and secretary of the society, and Dr. Solon J. Buck of Washington, D.C., was named to serve as acting director without compensation. Dr. Buck, who was superintendent of the society from 1914 to 1931, retired recently from his position as assistant librarian of Congress. He remained in St. Paul until the end of October, when he returned to Washington. He continues, however, to give advice on the affairs of the society by correspondence. In his absence, Mr. Russell Fridley, the society's assistant director for the past year, is serving as acting director.

THE Solon J. Buck Award, to be granted to the author of the best article published each year in *Minnesota History*, has been authorized by the society's executive council. The award is named in honor of the man who, as superintendent of the society, established its quarterly in 1915. A committee, of which Dean Theodore C. Blegen is chairman, has been named by the society's president to determine the conditions of the award, which will carry with it a cash prize. If present plans materialize, the winner of the award for 1954 will be announced in the spring issue of the quarterly.

DEAN Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota will review high points of the state's history in an



address to be presented in the Weyerhaeuser Room of the Historical Building on January 27 at 8:00 P.M. The lecture will be open to the public. It is one of a series of events planned by the society's Women's Organization to inaugurate the newly completed auditorium. The room, fully equipped, is the gift of the Weyerhaeuser family. Other programs planned for the same series include a lecture on "The Effects of Disease on History" by Dr. John Fulton, professor of medical history in Yale University, on February 17 at 2:00 P.M.; a talk, illustrated with appropriate slides, on the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway project, by Professor Harold M. Mayer of the department of geography in the University of Chicago, on March 8 at 2:30 P.M.; and an address entitled "History for the Future: Atomic Energy, Weapon for Peace," by Dr. Hubert N. Alyea of the Frick Chemical Laboratory in Princeton University, on April 19 at 8:00 P.M.

THE HISTORY of public health in Minnesota, written by Philip D. Jordan and published by the society in 1953 under the title *The People's Health*, has received an award from the American Association for State and Local History. Funds which made possible the writing and publication of the work thus honored were provided by the Mayo Association of Rochester. The award recognizes the book as one of the most important works of "serious history" to appear in 1953 and commends it for "its high standard of excellence" and "its significant contribution to state and local history as the first history of public health on the state level." Announcement of the award was made at a meeting of the association held at Madison, Wisconsin, from September 9 to 11.

THE SOCIETY'S first "citation for distinguished service in the field of Minnesota history" was awarded to Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing at a meeting of the executive council on October 11. The award was presented to Miss Densmore "for her notable contributions to the knowledge of the music of the Indians and of other aspects of their life and customs."

THIS ISSUE of *Minnesota History* is late in reaching our readers largely because both the editor and the assistant editor were absent from the society for prolonged periods during the past few months. Miss Heilbron spent six weeks in Washington and New York searching for pictorial material relating to the Minnesota area, and during her absence Mrs.

Holmquist was called out of the state by illness in her immediate family. Copies of the more important items found by Miss Heilbron will be added to the society's permanent collection, and some of them will be reproduced in this magazine from time to time. We trust that their appearance will compensate in some measure for the lateness of this issue.

ELWOOD R. MAUNDER, executive secretary of the American Forest History Foundation with offices in the society's building, is the author of an article on "Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck, German Pioneer in the Field of American Forestry," published in the September number of *The Paper Maker* of Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Maunder reviews Schenck's career from his arrival in America to become forester on George W. Vanderbilt's North Carolina estate, where the German founded the Biltmore Forest School. Under the title *The Biltmore Story*, a volume of Schenck's reminiscences is now being published by the society for the foundation.

THE ARRANGEMENTS made in 1906 by nine lumber firms for "Selling Cut-over Lands in Wisconsin" are described by Lucile Kane, the society's curator of manuscripts, in the *Business History Review* for September. The research for this paper was done while Miss Kane was a member of the staff of the Forest Products History Foundation, and it was read at Madison, Wisconsin, before the 1954 annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

IN A LETTER to the society's director, under date of September 30, Dr. Claude B. Lewis of St. Cloud calls attention to certain inaccuracies in the article about the boyhood of his brother, Sinclair Lewis, which was contributed by Sheldon Grebstein to the autumn issue of this magazine. "My father's name was Dr. Edwin J. Lewis and not Dr. Emmet Lewis," writes Dr. Lewis. "Sinclair's proper name was Harry Sinclair Lewis. The Sinclair came from a great friend of my father's, a Dr. Sinclair who was a dentist at New Lisbon, Wisconsin, a town near Ironton where my father began the practice of medicine. The above is not a legend." According to Dr. Lewis, the statement that the "Lewis family tradition was medicine is partially correct, because my father and my mother's father were doctors of medicine. My father at no time made any attempt to influence any of his three boys in the field of medicine. I was the only one who took up medicine following a university degree."



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