

The Irish in America. By CARL WITTKE. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1956. xi, 319 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

DEAN WITTKE of the graduate school of Western Reserve University, an experienced historian of American immigration, has filled with this book on the Irish a gap long existing in the literature of the history of immigration. Although some immigrant groups have produced their own well-trained historians, the Irish have not been as well served. The publications of their principal historical organization have been notoriously filiopietistic. Although some monographic studies of merit have been issued and certain university seminars have been productive of publications, until the appearance of Dean Wittke's volume no adequate general history of Irish immigration was available. The author makes no pretense of having written a definitive work, but his documentation and bibliography indicate conscientious coverage of available published materials and some use of Irish-American newspapers.

Much of the book deals with the Irish after their arrival in the United States. In fact, only the first of the twenty-six chapters comprising the volume deals directly with the background of Irish emigration, digesting the significant works of John E. Pomfret, William Forbes Adams, and Frances Morehouse, to whose studies the reader is referred. It is understandable that the author did not wish to duplicate material already covered, but the relatively limited accessibility of these studies makes it regrettable that a fuller treatment of the important background of Irish emigration was not included in the present volume. The title of the book is therefore accurate, for it deals with the Irish in America.

After presenting this introductory background, the author proceeds in short, readable chapters to tell of the frequently ghastly Atlantic crossing, the swarming of the Irish in the eastern port

cities, their exploitation in the labor gangs that built early canals and railroads, the early impressions of rowdiness and intemperance that they gave, the avidity with which they joined companies of militia, firemen, and police, their mixed success as farmers, the disturbing influence of refugees from the Irish revolts of 1798 and 1848, the important role of the Catholic church which had its first large growth in the United States with the influx of the Irish, and the aptitude for politics these people displayed from the very first.

The author points out that Americans were dismayed by this flood of impoverished Catholics from Ireland, and explains their friction with other laboring groups, especially the Negroes. The story of the Irish regiments' heroic service in the Civil War makes exciting reading. A chapter is devoted to the unhappy Fenian episodes of the post-Civil War period, and the continuing disturbances in American politics and foreign affairs caused by Irish nationalism is dealt with in succeeding chapters. Group rivalries with Germans and other immigrants are set over against the sociability of the Irish. The author also includes accounts of Irish journalism in America, the Irish in the labor movement, in business and professions, in literature and song, on the stage, and in sports. The volume concludes with the controversial role of the Irish in World War I and with the end of an era in the creation at long last of the state of Eire.

Illustrations, charts, and maps would have added greatly to the value of the book, but there are none. The index is inadequately done. These deficiencies, however, should in no way obscure the fact that Dean Wittke has performed a great service in writing this scholarly, comprehensive, and entertaining volume about the Irish.

MR. QUALEY is professor of American history in Carleton College, Northfield. He is currently engaged in writing a history of European emigration to the United States.

ORGANIZED LABOR

History of Labor in Minnesota. By GEORGE W. LAWSON. (St. Paul, Minnesota State Federation of Labor, 1955. 623 p. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by George B. Engberg

FOR FORTY YEARS Mr. George W. Lawson served as secretary of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, and in that time he became an outstanding citizen of the state as well as the leading authority on the federation. His service spanned two world wars, a serious depression, and the coming of age of the American labor movement. Mr. Lawson has drawn on his vast experience and his ample records to give us a detailed account of the activities of the federation, convention by convention, and legislative battle by legislative battle.

For readers whose memories run back a generation or more, this book contains reminders of problems long past—the opposition to early unions, labor's fear that a state highway police force would become a strike-breaking constabulary, the serious unemployment of the early 1930s, and the struggle to make mandatory the installation of belt hooks on buildings to protect window washers working above the second story. Those who are not acquainted with the breadth of matters dealt with by organized labor may be surprised at the consideration which the federation gave to the regulation of loan sharks, water levels in the Rainy River watershed, and conditions in various state institutions. After an inspection of the St. Cloud Reformatory a committee appointed by the president of the federation criticized the plan to install a twine plant on the grounds that such an installation would give the impression that "graduates" of St. Cloud, instead of being reformed, were only being prepared to run similar machinery already in use at the Stillwater penitentiary.

The pioneering work of the federation in two dissimilar fields is indicated by quotations showing its early concern with the Nazi threat and the dangers of automation, long before the latter word became a part of our vocabulary. Equally significant was the determined work of leaders

of organized labor in the fights for woman suffrage, the initiative and referendum, free employment bureaus, the eight-hour day, and the elimination of the practice of allowing private employers to use penitentiary inmates as contract labor in competition with free labor. The importance of two major problems is indicated by the allocation of more than a hundred pages each to accounts of the struggle for an adequate workmen's compensation law and the various bills leading to passage of the Minnesota Labor Relations Act in 1939.

This lengthy book would have been far more valuable to historians and of greater interest to the general reader if Mr. Lawson had drawn more heavily upon his own experiences and impressions. Had he done so, he could have contributed much valuable information on the inner workings of organized labor and on the power and policy struggles inside and outside its halls. The inclusion of tables showing the growth of membership and listing constituent unions and officials would have provided helpful and important data. As it stands, this book is exceedingly difficult to use for the proofreading was not carefully done and there is neither an index nor a table of contents. Marks to indicate quoted materials (a five-page excerpt from this reviewer's master's thesis, for example) and some form of annotation would be of value to the serious student of labor history. We can hope that Mr. Lawson will give us another and more personal account of his experiences in a half century of devoted work for the laboring men of Minnesota.

FRONTIER FORUM

The American Lyceum, Town Meeting of the Mind. By CARL BODE. (New York, Oxford University Press, 1956. viii, 275 p. Illustration. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Philip D. Jordan

PROFESSOR BODE boldly calls his most recent book *The American Lyceum* and gives it a fascinating subtitle—the "town meeting of the mind." The topic is, indeed, worthy of investigation, for the nineteenth-century lyceum played a dynamic and popular role in instruction and entertainment in a day and age when communication was difficult and when there was genu-

MR. ENGBERG, a member of the history faculty in the University of Cincinnati, is the author of an unpublished study of Minnesota labor from 1850 to 1890.

ine desire, in some minds, for learning. Both the lyceum and the Chautauqua influenced public opinion, stimulated interest in education, disseminated knowledge of a developing science, introduced authors and their writings, and brought new visions to far-flung frontier communities. The history of the lyceum and the lecture system, as facets of national cultural activities, is most significant.

It is disappointing, therefore, to discover that this volume with its comprehensive title actually deals only with the early decades of the movement—to the Civil War—and interprets this span superficially. This once-over-lightly approach may be understood from a close examination of the author's bibliographical notes and acknowledgments. He seems not to have labored in the vineyards of state historical societies, but has been content to have delivered to him samples of their fruit—newspaper clippings and extracts from the press. The only source he mentions for his inadequate comments on the lyceum in Minnesota is a "term thesis" prepared at Hamline University. For Ohio, he relies heavily upon David Mead's excellent *Yankee Eloquence in the Middle West*, and for Iowa, he puts his trust in another superior study, Joseph Schick's *The Early Theater in Eastern Iowa*. There is no indication that he utilized the resources of the state historical societies in any of these states. There is abundant evidence, however, that he mined the research of others—doctoral dissertations, masters' essays, and undergraduate papers written, for example, at Dartmouth.

Professor Bode is more convincing when he writes of the lyceum and literature and when he discusses the relation of the library movement to the lyceum. He has a chapter also which strikes off vignettes of such outstanding performers as John Lord, Wendell Phillips, John B. Gough, and Henry Ward Beecher. And he discusses, rather briefly for so large a subject, the economics of the movement, including dues, admission costs, and fees paid to lecturers. These data, however, are based primarily on New England record books, treasurers' reports, and personal accounts.

Yet this volume, with its defects, does make a contribution: it demonstrates the imperative

MR. JORDAN, who is professor of history in the University of Minnesota, is the author of numerous historical studies of the American scene.

need for a study of the American lyceum, the "town meeting of the mind," based upon thorough and comprehensive research. Such a study, when it comes, will carry the story to its close in the years after the Civil War and will describe and interpret the movement in areas excluded from Professor Bode's book.

TRADE GUNS

The Northwest Gun. By CHARLES E. HANSON, JR. (Lincoln, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1955. xii, 85 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by F. Sanford Cutler

OF ALL the articles stocked by traders, the gun was most coveted by the Indians. A good gun enabled its possessor to obtain food more easily, increased his ability to secure hides for trading, and was of immense value in warfare.

Although the importance of the "trade gun" in modifying Indian culture has long been recognized by anthropologists and historians, the guns themselves have been neglected both by scholars and collectors. This has permitted the spread of what Mr. Hanson calls "fanciful fiction" concerning them. For example, because of a large number of authenticated incidents of trade guns exploding or becoming useless soon after they were received, some historians have concluded that most such guns were poorly constructed. This conclusion fails to recognize that few Indians were ballistics experts and that no foolproof firearm had been invented. Mr. Hanson's close examination of trade guns preserved in museums or private collections has convinced him that most of these guns were reasonably well made.

The author also explodes the myth that these guns were made with long barrels to satisfy the greed of the trader, since the payment required of an Indian was a pile of skins equal to the height of the gun. This story is doubly demolished, according to the author, for the long barrel was as popular among frontiersmen as it was among the Indians. Moreover, the records reveal that gun prices were set, in most cases, at a fixed number of skins.

Although this monograph is primarily con-

MR. CUTLER is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum.

cerned with the Northwest gun — strictly speaking the firearm developed by the North West Company after 1784 and traded by the Hudson's Bay Company after the merger of the two companies in 1821 — the author also describes earlier French, Dutch, and English trade guns. In addition, trade guns distributed by the American Fur Company and the Indian bureau are considered in some detail. This booklet will be useful to historians seeking information on a neglected subject, and collectors and archaeologists will find the illustrations of great value in identifying specimens.

LUMBER BARON

Minnesota Gothic. By WALTER O'MEARA. (New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1956. 314 p. Illustrations. \$3.95.)

Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

WALTER O'MEARA'S third novel with a Minnesota setting, *Minnesota Gothic*, is localized largely in the northern lumber town of Mokoman — presumably Cloquet. In Mokoman Jesse Jannison erected a Gothic mansion, "a massive conglomerate of heavy stone walls, wide porches, steep slate roofs, turrets and towers," and to this edifice, appropriately called Castle Danger, he brought his young bride. The heroine of the novel, who bears the incredible name of Dorcas Dubois, married Jannison partly because of his insistent courtship and partly because of the collapse of the Dubois family fortunes in St. Paul. But the marriage was loveless, and Jesse's frequent absences on business or pleasure left Dorcas virtually a prisoner in her grim home. After Jesse's violent death the novel deals chiefly with Dorcas and her son Peter, who quickly becomes infatuated with a young Finnish girl whom Dorcas employed as a secretary despite her fears that she might prove to be Jesse's illegitimate daughter. But incest is avoided by plot trickery, and the younger Jannison can anticipate a happier life than his father lived.

Mr. O'Meara does surprisingly little with his Minnesota setting. The background, which could have been rich, is nebulous, and the author passes over opportunities to portray a lumber

town of the early 1900s. Nor is the characterization much better. Jesse Jannison, admittedly a ruthless, self-made lumber baron, is surely too intelligent to use the language the author puts into his mouth when he courts Dorcas: "Well, I like class. You've got class, chum." Of the three women involved in the story — Dorcas, her sister Victoria, and the young Christina Dahl — only Dorcas has much vitality, and she is stiff and imperfectly realized.

Minnesota Gothic is unfortunately superficial. The setting requires more substance and the characterization needs greater depth. Despite genuine narrative gifts, Mr. O'Meara is unable to overcome these deficiencies.

MINNEAPOLIS CENTENNIAL

Minneapolis, City of Opportunity: A Century of Progress in the Aquatennial City. (Minneapolis, T. S. Denison and Company, 1956. 229 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$1.00; cloth, \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

ISSUED to mark the city's one-hundredth anniversary, this official commemorative book was sponsored by the Minneapolis Aquatennial Association and the Minneapolis Centennial Committee. It was produced under the editorship of Lawrence M. Brings, with the assistance of Jay Edgerton as editorial director and Edmund Koppitz as art director.

The volume is not intended as a formal history of the city. Its editors announce that the book aims "to sketch in words and pictures something of the color and romance, the vivid personalities and the growth of business, industry, government, education and the arts that have marked the city's story."

An account of the successive ownership by France, Spain, and England of the land now embraced by the city opens the book. Treated episodically are the explorations of the area by Pike and Long, the establishment of Fort Snelling, the development of water power at the Falls of St. Anthony, the naming of Minneapolis, its commerce and industry, its government, its

MISS KANE, who is curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, is currently at work on a history of the Twin Cities.

MR. FLANAGAN is professor of American literature in the University of Illinois at Urbana.

people, and its social and cultural life. Breaking the narrative are excellent biographical sketches of such interesting historical figures as Lawrence Taliaferro, Philander Prescott, Josiah Snelling, John H. Stevens, Pierre Bottineau, and Franklin Steele.

The text by Jay Edgerton is exceptionally well written. Had he been given the space in this volume occupied by a hundred pages of advertising, he might have produced a model centennial history of a city. As it is, he has had space only to record some of the more exciting aspects of the city's past. These episodes make easy and pleasurable reading for nonspecialists interested in the broad sweep of Minneapolis history.

The book is illustrated with appropriate sketches, portraits, maps, paintings, and photographs. Included, for example, are portions of Richard Haines's mural in the Round Tower at Fort Snelling, Frank Mayer's portrait of Little Crow, Seth Eastman's view of Fort Snelling, and Lawrence Taliaferro's map of the St. Paul-Minneapolis area in 1835.

PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

Patriotism on Parade: The Story of Veterans' and Hereditary Organizations in America, 1783-1900. By WALLACE EVAN DAVIES. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1955. xiv, 388 p. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Erling Jorstad

ONE of the most significant phenomena in American social and political history is the vigorous role played by the many and varied patriotic organizations—the Grand Army of the Republic, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and others. In this book, prepared originally as a doctoral dissertation at Harvard University and issued as the latest of the notable series of *Harvard Historical Studies*, Dr. Davies presents a thorough history and analysis of the development of these groups from the founding of the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to the complex array of organizations existing in 1900.

Basing his findings on exhaustive research at the all-important local level, the author sketches

the societies and their many activities—their rituals and uniforms, their social functions, their efforts in state and national politics, their conventions, and their press. From the author's work, the reader may gain a deeper insight into the nature of these bodies, and, in turn, into certain aspects of American patriotism.

Two especially important conclusions might be noted. Dr. Davies believes that the extraordinary early popularity of such societies was due to the fact "that an industrialized urbanized society was dissolving the standards, mores, and bonds of a simpler rural order and instead was producing a land more and more diversified in national origin, religion, and cultural inheritance, with no national church or royal family or other cohesive traditions and symbols." As a result, he feels that many people "turned to patriotism as a sort of secular religion to unite the American republic." Secondly, the author carefully distinguishes between the activities of national leaders of patriotic groups and those on the local level. The latter societies, he finds, were interested mainly in providing a social outlet, based on the American love of uniforms and ceremonies. These activities, he demonstrates conclusively, had no selfish or reactionary ends. On the other hand, many national leaders were full-time pension and claims agents who stood to profit personally from large governmental pensions and benefits to veterans. These men gave such organizations a rather tarnished reputation as self-seeking militant pressure groups.

Dr. Davies believes that patriotic organizations made their most important contribution on the local level. "But it would be equally incorrect to suggest that these organizations made no impress upon the American nation," he adds. "The veterans' groups in particular left their marks upon the statute books. The most conspicuous example was the drive for pensions, but they were even more successful within the states, winning veterans' preference laws, the erection of monuments, the establishment and maintenance of soldiers' and orphans' homes, and the appropriations for the G. A. R.'s expenses. These activities inevitably drew the old soldiers into politics until they constituted an important, though probably not decisive, element in the Republican party. In fact, the lure of pensions probably confirmed more veterans in their Republicanism than it converted."

MR. JORSTAD is a member of the history faculty in St. Olaf College, Northfield.

The total effect of the book is impressive. It represents an enormous amount of research, the style is unencumbered and clear, the conclusions are soberly drawn. The volume makes a sound contribution toward a better understanding of the meaning of American patriotism.

WISCONSIN SCHOOLS

The Founding of Public Education in Wisconsin.

By LLOYD P. JORGENSEN. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1956. viii, 252 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Frederick E. Ellis

THIS is a brief work dealing with the establishment of free schools in Wisconsin. The author, a member of the faculty of education in the University of Oklahoma, treats such aspects of the problem as territorial schools and their support, the legal basis of the state school system, educational thought on the frontier, the development of district schools, and teachers and their training. Little is said of the development of higher learning as a facet of the over-all growth of Wisconsin's system of public education.

The book provides a good general treatment of the founding of public education in Wisconsin, but it is not exhaustive. The late Professor Ellwood P. Cubberley bequeathed to the professional study of education an emphasis and spirit which to this reviewer has, unfortunately, penetrated this volume. The picturing of the sweep of events, the recounting of anecdotal material, and the chronological unfolding of the story of public education in Wisconsin do not do justice to the theme. Insufficient attention is paid to the beginnings and evolution of ideas generated on the Western frontier which had much to do with the gradual development of what was to become a system of public schools. To be sure, the latter task is an infinitely difficult one, but the subject is worthy of attention. Educational histories have suffered from the telling and retelling in the manner of Cubberley without sufficient focus upon the stream of ideas, the ethos of a people, from which their thinking on education was derived. It is to be hoped that the author will take up this aspect in a future volume.

MR. ELLIS is associate professor of education in the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis.

A CITY'S STORY

Zumbrota: The First 100 Years. (Zumbrota, The Zumbro Valley Historical Society, 1956. 398 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Reviewed by William C. Christianson

THE authorship of this volume is not attributed to any one individual, but to the Centennial Book Committee of the Zumbro Valley Historical Society.

The first part of the book contains an interesting account of the settlement of Zumbrota by a group of sturdy and intelligent men and women from New England, who were induced to go west by an organization known as the Strafford Western Emigration Company of Lowell, Massachusetts. Against this background, the volume traces the growth and progress of the community from the arrival of the first settlers to the present. A series of chapters deal with such subjects as village government, churches, organizations, schools, businesses, and veterans' and military groups.

The book also includes a "Feature Section," and another designated "Items of Interest from 1854-1956," both of which contain much that older or former residents of Zumbrota will read with interest and nostalgia. These sections will bring back tender associations of childhood or recall the scenes, the trials, and the experiences of early manhood and womanhood.

The volume draws heavily on official and other contemporary records, making considerable use of day-to-day accounts of events in the community contained in the local newspapers and in the newspapers of near-by towns and cities. The committee also acknowledges the help of older residents, some of whom took part in events described in the book. An interesting narrative is thus achieved, without sacrificing accuracy.

Inasmuch as the story of Zumbrota's development has its counterpart in countless communities in the state and nation, this well-told story of Zumbrota's first hundred years is a valuable contribution to the historical records of our state and country. For as Bruce Catton has said, "Our heritage is best understood by a study of

JUDGE CHRISTIANSON, who has long been interested in local history, serves on the bench of the first judicial district at Red Wing.

the things that ordinary folk of America have done and thought and dreamed."

HISTORIC RIVER

River of Destiny: The Saint Marys. By JOSEPH E. and ESTELLE L. BAYLISS, in collaboration with MILO M. QUAIFE. (Detroit, Wayne University Press, 1955. ix, 328 p. Illustrations. \$4.75.)

Reviewed by F. Clever Bald

THIS book consists of two parts. The first, entitled "The History of the River," was written by Milo M. Quaife; the second, on "Local History with Recollections of Persons, Places, and Events," was prepared by Joseph E. and Estelle L. Bayliss.

Dr. Quaife, whose numerous writings on Michigan and the Old Northwest are well known, deals with events in the St. Marys region largely in chronological order, but some topics, such as the building of the locks at the Sault, are treated in separate chapters. One, entitled "The Perfect Crime," recounts the career of John Tanner and tells of the attempts that have been made to solve the murder of James L. Schoolcraft.

This section of the book contains interesting biographical sketches of important persons who helped make the St. Marys a "River of Destiny"—the Schoolcrafts, Alexander Henry, General Hugh Brady, Charles T. Harvey, Father Jacques Marquette, St. Lussou, the Reverend Abel Bingham, and others.

In Part 2, Mr. and Mrs. Bayliss, almost lifelong residents of the area, have written of the country and people they know and love. A chapter entitled "The River and Its Islands" contains a sort of gazetteer of the region. Other sections deal with Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and its larger sister city across the river, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Having grown up in the former town, Mr. Bayliss contributes many boyhood recollections of persons and events there.

The last chapter is devoted to the interesting story of Mr. Bayliss' adventures in the Klondike during the gold rush of 1898. It was included, apparently, because a group of local men grub-

staked the author on this venture. Even though he returned no richer in money than he set out, he believed that he had gained a million dollars' worth of experience.

Altogether, the book provides a very human account of a region of which too little is known.

PREHISTORIC SITE

THE WEALTH of archaeological data that can be discovered by intensive study of a relatively small area is illustrated in a report compiled by Elden Johnson and Phillip S. Taylor and issued by the Science Museum of the St. Paul Institute under the title *Spring Lake Archeology: The Lee Mill Cave* (St. Paul, 1956. *Science Bulletins*, number 3, part 2. 31 p. \$1.00.). Aided by a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation, members of the museum's staff spent three summers excavating a cave and other sites at Spring Lake on the Mississippi River near Hastings. Fragments of pottery, animal and fish bones, and stone tools were found.

Although part of the surface had been disturbed, excavators were able to distinguish some stratification. Fish bones, all of similar size, at the lower levels indicate that the early inhabitants of the site had developed fishing methods that enabled them to be selective in their catch. Pottery fragments found at the upper level suggest that the cave was used by a people in transition from the hunting and gathering Woodland culture to the Mississippian, which included primitive agriculture. The presence of a fragment of maize on the upper level supports this contention. The absence of bison, fox, or bear bones at all levels is puzzling. Also surprising is the fact that only one bone artifact was discovered, since most sites associated with Mississippian cultures have yielded a considerable number of bone tools.

F.S.C.

TANNER NARRATIVE

THE FOURTH VOLUME to appear in the series of reprints issued by Harlow Ross of Minneapolis is the long out of print *Narrative of the Captivity and Adventures of John Tanner*, edited by Edwin James (Minneapolis, 1956. 427 p. \$8.75.). First published in 1830, Tanner's account of his thirty years' captivity among the Chippewa has been much sought after by students of Indian history. The reprint contains a new introduction by Noel M. Loomis.

MR. BALD, a member of the history faculty of the University of Michigan, is the author of a recent history of that state.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

A STIMULATING appraisal by William M. Neil of "The Territorial Governor as Indian Superintendent in the Trans-Mississippi West" may be found in the September issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. From 1787 to 1871 "the time when Indian affairs were of crucial importance in the territories of the trans-Mississippi West," writes Mr. Neil, "the old pattern . . . was still adhered to, and Janus-like, the territorial governors presided over the affairs, and the quarrels, of both the Indians and the whites." Although the author does not mention the work of Minnesota's territorial governor, Alexander Ramsey, in this connection, he draws on the correspondence of many others in similar positions to shed light on the complex dual task they were called upon to perform.

A USEFUL survey by Ray H. Mattison of "The Military Frontier on the Upper Missouri" from the period following the War of 1812 to the 1890s appears in the September number of *Nebraska History*. The author gives a clear and readable summary of shifting government policy toward the Indians of the region, major expeditions and military engagements, the establishment of forts in the area, and the army's attempts to protect overland routes.

RICHARD Dorson has examined a vast collection of material on Paul Bunyan in newspapers and other mass media, looking in vain, he reports, for substantial evidence of an oral tradition for the Bunyan legend. Dorson presents his findings on "Paul Bunyan in the News, 1939-1941" in the January, July, and October issues of *Western Folklore*. He declares that stories about the lumberjack giant are of comparatively recent origin and that "Journalism, not folklore, has nourished Old Paul in the hearts of his countrymen."

A DOCUMENT of interest to economic historians, Oliver Evans' memoir "On the Origin of Steam Boats and Steam Waggon" has been edited by Arlan K. Gilbert and published in the September number of *Delaware History*. According to the editor, the value of this work, which originally appeared in *Niles' Weekly Register* in 1812-13, "lies in the autobiographical information" which it provides about Evans, "one of America's most important early engineers," and the man "who revolutionized the process of flour milling and introduced the high-pressure steam engine into commercial manufacturing."

EDIZIONI Documenti Lombardi has issued a new Italian edition of the travel narrative of Bergamo's distinguished son, Giacomo C. Beltrami. Entitled *La Scoperta delle Sorgenti del Mississippi*, the edition is a translation of the French text published at New Orleans in 1824 (Bergamo, Italy, 1955. 237 p.). Luigi Fenaroli contributes a biographical sketch of Beltrami to the new work, which is illustrated with paintings by George Catlin and Carl Bodmer, sketches from Beltrami's collection of Indian clothing and tools, and maps from the 1828 British edition of Beltrami's narrative.

"TO CORRECT numerous erroneous statements and false impressions" concerning *Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Pathfinder and Patriot*, a brief biographical sketch has been privately published by its author, Harvey L. Carter, professor of history in Colorado College (Colorado Springs, 1956. 32 p.). He has searched especially for evidence connecting Pike with the Burr-Wilkinson conspiracy, and, finding none, he concludes that Pike was not involved in this affair.

THE CHARACTERISTIC songs used in various American presidential campaigns are discussed by Gilbert Millstein under the title "The Political Hit — and Miss — Parade" in the September 16 issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. Quoting liberally from numerous pungent and florid campaign songs of the past, Millstein reports that, as a whole, they are now "as obscure as losing Vice-Presidential candidates."

A USEFUL and illuminating autobiography describing *Fifty Years of Country Storekeeping* was published recently by Manville A. Johnson of Larimore, North Dakota (1955. 241 p.). In it he recalls his experiences in operating small general stores in Michigan, North Dakota, in the first quarter of the twentieth century, and his narrative is a rich source of little-known details concerning such establishments. The author, who spent his childhood on a homestead in Clearwater County, Minnesota, also includes much incidental information about pioneer life in that area and about his uncle, Marcus Johnson, prominent nineteenth-century Minnesota business and political figure.

CONSIDERABLE information on the development of the Lutheran church in the Northwest may be found in *A Basic History of Lutheranism in America* by Abdel Ross Wentz, recently pub-

lished by the Muhlenberg Press (Philadelphia; 1955. 430 p.). A chapter on "The Development of the Augustana Lutheran Church" traces the effect of post-Civil War Swedish immigration to the upper Mississippi Valley. Other sections of interest deal with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, German Lutheran groups in the Northwest, and the Missouri Synod. The Minnesota aspect of the latter organization's development is presented by Gilbert A. Thiele in the fall number of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* under the title "Glimpses of One Hundred Years of Missouri Synod Lutheranism in Minnesota."

FELLOWSHIPS for 1957-58 carrying stipends of from two thousand to thirty-five hundred dollars will be awarded to doctoral candidates in the American studies program at the University of Minnesota. The grants are also open to students in the department of history and other participating departments of the social sciences and the humanities. Application must be made by March 1, 1957. Additional information and forms may be obtained from the Program in American Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A UNIQUE museum—Lumbertown U.S.A. on Gull Lake near Brainerd—was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on August 27. A private enterprise operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Madden, Lumbertown is a re-creation of an 1870 northern Minnesota lumbering community. When completed, the town will consist of twenty fully equipped buildings, many of which are of considerable historic importance in their own right. Already moved to the site and open to the public are the Headquarters Hotel, the first frame building erected at Brainerd, the famous "Last Turn Saloon" of Brainerd, a sheriff's office and jail, dental and barbering shops, a well-stocked general store, a school, an ice cream parlor, and a pioneer residence. Dean Merrill E. Jarchow of Carleton College was the principal speaker at the dedication ceremonies. Photographs of this noteworthy attempt to bring to life an important segment of Minnesota's past may be found in the *Minneapolis Star* of August 28.

THE FINDING of the skeletal remains of Minnesota Man in 1931, Brown's Valley Man in 1933, and Sauk Valley Man in 1935 is reviewed by Bob Murphy in a series of articles entitled "They Were Here First," appearing in issues of

the *Minneapolis Star* from July 30 through August 3. The writer suggests that the discovery of four ancient human skeletons near Turin, Iowa, in 1955 points to the possibility of "other important finds within our upper lakes region," and he explains the Minnesota law governing archaeological discoveries and excavations.

MINNESOTANS will be especially interested in the letters and extracts from the diary of Lev-erett Brainard, included in a small collection of the *Travel Letters of Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley and Leverett Brainard* published recently by Newton C. Brainard (Hartford, Connecticut, 1955. 40 p.). In them, Brainard tells of his trip in 1865 by stage and rail from Chicago to St. Paul.

THE MAKING of sorghum syrup, a widespread practice on the Minnesota frontier, is the subject of an illustrated feature, "Sorghum Business Hums" in the *Minneapolis Star* of October 18. Pictured and described there is a present-day sorghum mill on the Joseph Wartman farm near St. Bonifacius. A second operating mill at Teegarden, Wisconsin, is discussed and pictured by Earl Chapin under the title "Sorghum Up North" in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of October 21.

TEACHERS will find useful a mimeographed source book on the state's constitution issued by the Minnesota League of Women Voters under the title *The State You're In* (Minneapolis, 1956. 83 p.). Included are chapters on the making of Minnesota's constitution in 1857 and later amendments to it, information on the need for revision of the present constitution, and helpful, simply written summaries of the work of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the state government.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY is the subject of a contemporary survey of *Intergovernmental Relations at the Grass Roots* by Paul N. Ylvisaker recently published by the University of Minnesota Press (Minneapolis, 1956. 186 p. \$3.00.). The author examined the functioning of local, state, and federal governments in the county, where he found a hundred and fifty-five units of local government and again that number of state and federal agencies operating "without unified plan or singleness of purpose." In analyzing the work of these multiple agencies in the areas of agriculture, health, highways, education, social welfare, and finance, Mr. Ylvisaker concludes that co-operation is needed to reduce waste and confusion. The pamphlet contains

only incidental information on the history of local government, the character of the population, and the economy of the area. L.K.

THE well-known tale of the Northfield bank robbery in 1876 is vividly retold by Homer Croy in a new biography of the *Last of the Outlaws: The Story of Cole Younger* (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1956. 242 p.). In addition to its information on the James-Younger gang, the author's vivid narrative contains chapters on Younger's term in the state prison at Stillwater and on his later years as a traveling tombstone salesman.

THE *Catholic Bulletin* published at St. Paul devotes a large portion of its issue of October 13 to a review of the life and career of the late Archbishop John G. Murray. Included is data on his early life and his work as archbishop of the St. Paul diocese from 1932 to 1956, numerous anecdotes about him, and excerpts from his speeches over the years.

RECOLLECTIONS of "Early Days in Minneapolis" by Anna Erb Graber were published recently in mimeographed form by the Sigma Rho Study Club of Minneapolis (7 p.). In them, Mrs. Graber describes childhood games, books, school days, social events, horse-drawn streetcars, and other features of day-to-day family life in Minneapolis before the turn of the century.

GATHERED in tape-recorded interviews and edited by Dr. Charles Vandersluis, the recollections of Charles L. Wight, a timber cruiser with wide experience in Minnesota and Wisconsin, have been issued in mimeographed form by the Beltrami County Historical Society under the title "Reminiscences of a Cruiser." Considerable material on logging in the Bemidji region about the turn of the century is included.

THE DEDICATION of the Rahilly Museum at the Mower County Fairgrounds on July 29 was arranged by the Mower County Historical Society, which installed the exhibits. Vehicles used in pioneer days are a special feature of the transportation display. Another unusual exhibit is a replica of a country store, complete with merchandise and equipment.

PROFESSOR Theodore L. Nydahl of Mankato State Teachers College was the principal speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Olmsted County Historical Society on October 23. Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, superintendent of the society, reported that its museum had ten thousand visitors during the past year.

THE STEAMBOAT "James P. Pearson," a ninety-six-foot stern-wheeler, has been purchased by the Winona County Historical Society from an Illinois firm. The fifty-eight-year-old steamer was towed up the Mississippi to Winona, where it will be rehabilitated and placed in Levee Park as a reminder of the area's pioneer river days.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

THE IMPLICATIONS of James Dickson's filibustering expedition of 1836-37 for the Red River settlements and the Hudson's Bay Company are vividly reviewed by Margaret Arnett MacLeod in the summer number of *The Beaver*. The author outlines Governor George Simpson's strategy in meeting the threat presented by Dickson's invasion. Pertinent illustrations and the words and music of Pierre Falcon's ballad "Le Général Dickson" accompany the article.

WRITING under the title "Imperial Protection for the Trading Interests of the Hudson's Bay Company," in the June number of the *Canadian Historical Review*, Alvin C. Gluek, Jr. sheds new light on the stationing of British troops in the Red River settlements from 1857 to 1861. The author points out that the growing influence of American commercial interests, the annexation movement, the "apparently irresistible expansion of free trade, and the accompanying deterioration of its authority throughout Rupert's Land" led the fur company to request aid from the crown. He traces the advantage to the firm of having a company of Royal Canadian Rifles stationed in the Red River district and notes the dissatisfaction with which certain of the soldiers viewed the assignment.

LEIGH P. Jerrard characterizes *The Brule River of Wisconsin* as "a short river with a long history" in a recently issued pamphlet on that historic waterway (Chicago, 1956. 44 p. \$1.85.). By means of maps, charts, and readable text, the author describes the geology of the Brule, its historic importance as a canoe route, its proximity to the old Superior-Bayfield road, the Percival mine, and the English colony of Clevedon, its use as a logging stream in the 1890s, and its superb trout fishing. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the author at 522 Willow Road, Winnetka, Illinois.

UNDER the general title *Chronicles of Wisconsin*, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is publishing a series of sixteen illustrated pamphlets for use in the state's schools (1955-56). The author, James I. Clark, covers a broad

range of topics and deals with many aspects of state history. After opening with a booklet on *Wisconsin, Land of Frenchmen, Indians, and the Beaver*, he continues with accounts of the British in the area and the War of 1812, the *Wisconsin Lead Region*, admission to statehood, the Civil War, agriculture, logging, Robert M. La Follette, and *Wisconsin Women Fight for Suffrage*.

THE WORK of M. W. Thatcher and the development of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association of St. Paul is touched on by Mildred K. Stoltz in a recently published history of the Montana Farmers Union entitled *This Is Yours* (Montana Farmers Union, Great Falls, Montana, 1956. 501 p.). The author traces the growth of the Montana organization's co-operative activities in the fields of rural electrification, insurance, agricultural education, and the marketing of livestock, oil, and grain.

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

AMONG the many notable anniversaries celebrated recently by Minnesota communities were the following, which were marked by the appearance of special publications:

Austin. The *Austin Daily Herald* of April 17 commemorates the city's centennial. A special section of the paper is devoted to material on the community's early years and on the growth of such leading business concerns as the Hormel Company.

Bear Creek. A brief pamphlet *History of Bear Creek* was issued to mark the centennial of this Norwegian community in Clearwater County (37 p.).

Bigfork. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary on July 4 of the founding of the village, the Bigfork Commercial Club published an illustrated pamphlet entitled *On the Banks of the Bigfork* (56 p.). It contains an excellent account of the timber-farm-timber cycle that has characterized the development of this Itasca County community.

Kenyon. This community's centennial was the occasion for an enlarged issue of the *Kenyon Leader* of September 14, which contains material on the growth of the town and on the development of Goodhue County.

Springfield. The *Springfield Advance-Press* of August 9 commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the community. Its well-illustrated pages contain considerable data on Springfield's early years as a village, including

an account of its government based on the minutes of the village council.

Vista. An unusually complete record of a small Scandinavian community in Waseca County is available in a substantial centennial history of *Vista, 1856-1956*, published by the Vista Centennial Publicity and Historical Committee (138 p.). The booklet is largely composed of genealogical and biographical data on families of the area.

Warren. A vivid picture of life in a growing prairie town is to be found in a pamphlet entitled *Warren—Plains to Plenty*, issued in connection with the town's diamond jubilee celebration on September 6-8 (120 p.). Edited by Lloyd G. Melgard, the profusely illustrated booklet contains reminiscent accounts, a list of important events in the community from 1880 to 1956, and information on the schools, the government, and the agriculture of this Red River Valley area.

Young America. A centennial history of this village by Charles Mayer may be found in the issue of the *Norwood Times* for August 23. Included is a sketch of the Pionier Maennerchor, a men's chorus and social group founded at Young America in 1861.

AN ILLUSTRATED booklet marking its 25th Anniversary as a co-operative wholesaler of farm supplies, chemicals, and petroleum products was recently issued by the Farmers Union Central Exchange, Incorporated, of St. Paul (1956. 68 p.). Included is considerable data on the origin and growth of the organization, its plants, its financial structure, and its extensive operations in Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Wyoming, and Idaho.

"RAILROAD Day in St. Paul," a celebration on July 20 commemorating the hundredth anniversary of James J. Hill's arrival in the city, is the subject of comment by Frank P. Donovan, Jr., in the September number of *Wheels*. The author sketches high lights in Hill's career and describes the special exhibits installed for the celebration in the Union Depot and the First National Bank of St. Paul.

THE HISTORY of the *St. Paul Structural Steel Company, 1915-1955* is reviewed in a booklet recently issued by that firm to mark the completion of "Forty Years of Steel Fabricating" (47 p.). The narrative is based largely upon interviews with Thomas M. Comfort, who, together with Harry Palmer, founded the company in 1915.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

ON OCTOBER 8 Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye handed down a memorandum decision in the long pending suit to quiet title to Captain William Clark's field notes of 1803-06. The court found "that the Government has not sustained the burden of proof in establishing its claim" to the papers. "Therefore," the court ruled that the government's "claim of a paramount title thereto cannot be, and is not, sustained." On December 6 the government filed notice of its appeal to the United States Court for the Eighth Circuit at St. Louis. It will be recalled that the Clark notes were discovered in January, 1953, in a St. Paul attic by Miss Lucile Kane, the society's curator of manuscripts. The suit was initiated against the society by the heirs of General John Henry Hammond, among whose effects the Clark Papers were found. Because Clark was on a government-sponsored expedition, the United States government intervened in the suit. Testimony in the case was heard at Minneapolis before Judge Nordbye in December, 1955.

THE LATEST book to be published by the society is a reprint edition with some corrections of volume 1 of William Watts Folwell's *A History of Minnesota*, which has been out of print for many years. First issued by the society in 1921, this invaluable source of information on the development of Minnesota from the period of French exploration to 1857 is again offered in a handsome cloth-bound edition with new illustrations and maps. It is fitting that this book should again be made available to scholars on the eve of Minnesota's statehood centennial. A limited number of copies of volumes 3 and 4 of Folwell's four-volume history are also obtainable. Copies of the reprint of volume 1, as well as the older stock of volumes 3 and 4, are priced at \$6.50 each. A brief review of the new edition of volume 1 will appear in a future issue of this magazine.

TO ALLOW her to prepare a pictorial history of Minnesota for publication in 1958, Miss Heilbron has been temporarily relieved of her duties as editor of this magazine. Mrs. Holmquist, the society's book editor, will serve as acting editor of *Minnesota History* for the next few months.

MISS Poatgieter, editor of the *Gopher Historian*, is coauthor with H. Nat Johnson of an elementary conservation textbook entitled *Outdoors*, published by Houghton Mifflin. Other recent publications by staff members include Mr. Bab-

cock's evaluation of "The Papers of Lawrence Taliaferro," which appears in the *Proceedings* of the Minnesota Academy of Science for 1955; Miss Jerabek's article on the "Library of the Minnesota Historical Society," in the September issue of *Minnesota Libraries*; and an account of "John Till, Somerset's Plaster Doctor," by Mr. Dunn in the summer number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*.

AFTER Mr. L. A. Rossman's death in May, 1956, the preparation of material for his weekly news release entitled *The Minnesota Story* was undertaken by members of the society's staff. Begun by Mr. Rossman while he was a vice-president of the society in 1954, *The Minnesota Story*, which features interesting bits of Minnesota history, has been widely used by newspapers throughout the state. The release currently appears semimonthly rather than weekly. It is printed and distributed through the generosity of Mr. George A. Rossman of Grand Rapids and Mr. Carl W. Jones, former president of the society.

THE SOCIETY'S Staff Organization is sponsoring a class in Minnesota history taught by Dr. Maude L. Lindquist, chairman of the history department in the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota. The course, begun in September, consists of ten monthly meetings at the Historical Building from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. A fee of \$10.00 payable in advance was charged for the course.

A PAPER on "Lamare-Picquet in North America" was read by Miss Nute, the society's research associate, before an international conference on French contributions to the study of North American flora from 1700 to 1850 held at Paris on September 11. Miss Kane, the society's curator of manuscripts, was elected to the national council of the Society of American Archivists at its convention in October.

THE personal papers of Judge Aaron Goodrich, covering the period from 1828 to 1890, have been presented to the society by Mrs. C. O. Kalman of St. Paul. Included are letters, clippings, membership certificates, reports, campaign materials, and other items dealing with Goodrich's military career, his service as chief justice of the supreme court of Minnesota Territory, his relations with William H. Seward, and his publication of a book on Christopher Columbus. The papers also contain information on the expedition of Joseph N. Nicollet in 1837.



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