

The Thirty-second State: A Pictorial History of Minnesota. By BERTHA L. HEILBRON. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1958. xii, 306 p. Illustrations. \$8.95.)

Reviewed by Theodore C. Blegen

THE STATEMENT on the jacket of *The Thirty-second State* describes this book as a "fitting culmination of Miss Heilbron's long professional career," and this it is without question. But it is much more. It is a fitting culmination of the Minnesota statehood centennial—the most original, substantial, and long-lasting contribution of the centennial year to the understanding of Minnesota history through three centuries.

For several reasons this book is a major addition to the literature of American history. The first is that the author has succeeded in weaving narrative and pictures into a unified history. This is no mere collection of pictures; nor is it a text with some graphic illustrations. It is a wedding in which the two—text and pictures—are partners, each supplementing, aiding, and interpreting the other. This in itself is a high achievement. Recent years have witnessed the publication of many pictorial works, but few, if any, have attained the interrelatedness that marks full maturity in the art of interweaving narrative and pictures. *The Thirty-second State* sets a new standard in this art.

Another facet of distinction in this work is the thoroughgoing research that it reveals from first page to last. This is no potpourri of pictures drawn together in a hurry and for an occasion. The author has made the pictorial history of Minnesota her specialty for more than a quarter of a century. As long ago as 1932, she brought out the Frank B. Mayer diary under the title *With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier*, and four years later she edited the Henry Lewis journal, as part of her studies of pioneer artists and panoramas, in a volume entitled *Making a Motion Picture in 1848*.

DEAN BLEGEN of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis is the author of a history of the state entitled *Building Minnesota* and of many other works on regional history.

The nearly five hundred illustrations in her new book are the results of a stubborn and remorseless hunt for pictorial materials through three decades—a hunt that has bagged game (drawings, maps, paintings, prints, daguerreotypes, photographs, newspaper and magazine illustrations) not only from the vast collections of the Minnesota Historical Society but from many and varied sources elsewhere. Her travels have taken her to Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal; to Boston, New Haven, New York, and Washington; to museums, galleries, libraries, archives, individuals, and a variety of regional and local institutions. She lists eighty-three "picture sources" and gives more than a hint of the thousands of treasures that she investigated and of the rigorous study that ensued. The result is a fine selectivity fitted to the larger framework of this book.

This larger framework, in turn, touches a third major distinction of *The Thirty-second State*—the comprehensiveness of its coverage. Thirteen chapters tell and illustrate the story of Minnesota from unexplored wilderness to statehood, the period from 1654 to 1858. Representative titles are "The Fleur-de-lis on Western Waters," "Exploring under the Union Jack," "Sioux and Chippewa," "The Stars and Stripes Move West," "Civilization Marches North," "Homeseekers and Speculators," "Social and Cultural Frontiers," and "Statehood and Politics." Here is an illuminating survey of the early history of the region, narrative and pictures integrated, and not a few of the pictures original discoveries here reproduced for the first time.

For the century of statehood, from 1858 to 1958, the author adopts a topical approach and in fourteen chapters tells of such matters as the new state and the Civil War, the Sioux War, new people on the land, farmers in the changing economy, natural resources, transportation, the larger cities and main streets, politics, wars, and even "Minnesotans at Play," with due attention to croquet, skiing, boating, fishing, hunting, golf, ice palaces, and Dan Patch. Here again is an interpreted panorama, informing and delightful, its interest mounting as the story merges with remembered things and persons and events of

our own generation. Both the pictorial exploration and the more general research of the author account for many new contributions to the statehood story—new finds, new arrangements of historical information, new interpretations. The closing chapter, imaginatively conceived, is one of “Centennial Contrasts,” with pictures from the 1850s and 1950s placed side by side. All the illustrations, it may be added, are black and white, superbly done. One could, of course, wish for a few in color, such as the portrait of Father Hennepin, but presumably the expense of color reproductions was prohibitive.

In her treatment of both the early and the modern periods, Miss Heilbron has presented a surprisingly broad view of Minnesota history, even though she herself is quick to point out that, because of the stress on pictorial sources, topics that did not lend themselves to illustration inevitably were omitted or given minor attention. But it remains true that the work as a whole is not only the first generally comprehensive pictorial history of Minnesota but, by long odds, the best pictorial history of any state of the Union.

Here, then, is a book of quality, originality, and charm. Artistically designed and printed, it is a delight to read and study. It is a permanent enrichment of Minnesota history and merits a wide audience of readers not in this state alone but also nationally. For its solid contributions and its distinctive quality, I should suppose that *The Thirty-second State* might prove a contender for the Pulitzer prize in history. And I may add that the centennial-year library, already enriched by such books as the *Gopher Reader*, *A History of the Arts in Minnesota*, *The Face of Minnesota*, and *Minnesota Trails*, has become genuinely impressive with the addition of *The Thirty-second State*.

RUNE STONE RIDDLE

The Kensington Stone: A Mystery Solved. By ERIK WAHLGREN. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1958. xiv, 228 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by T. J. Oleson

THIS book represents the most thorough treatment of the problem of the Kensington runic inscription ever to appear. Not only does it carefully discuss in several chapters the historical,

geological, linguistic, and runological aspects of the problem, but it goes further and breaks new ground.

In a chapter headed “The Nature of the Problem,” Professor Wahlgren states: “The problem in our day is no longer one of showing that the Kensington carving cannot be of ancient origin, for the runologists have already established this. The problem is merely whether one can successfully dispose of certain alleged stumbling blocks to the treatment of the carving as a modern lithography. If it can be shown that the carving of such a document as the Kensington stone in the late nineteenth century was not only possible, but in fact quite easy, and that the commission of such a hoax during that period in Scandinavian-populated Minnesota, far from being the inexplicable phenomenon that is so regularly postulated, was the eminently logical outcome of various cultural circumstances . . . then the original linguistic arguments will regain the hearing they deserve and it will not be necessary to go further.” He adds: “*It is possible to construct a satisfactory genealogy for the inscription and even a reasonable motive, the two constituting a unified whole without inconsistent details.*”

This the author has attempted to do in a number of chapters. As a preliminary, he writes a very interesting and penetrating study of “Mr. Holand as Investigator,” the purpose of which is “to establish outright . . . that Holand is not an investigator upon whom one can rely for competent, impartial, and accurate presentation of the rune stone matter.” Mr. Holand does not emerge very well from this study.

Other chapters contain much new material (to this reviewer at least) on the cultural milieu from which the Kensington stone emerged in 1898. There is an excellent discussion of the books which Olof Ohman and others in Minnesota concerned with the stone possessed or had access to, and of the topics which they found of interest (as shown partially in the scrapbook found on the Ohman homestead and only brought to light in 1938, although it must have been available long before that time). There is also a chapter on Ohman himself. Another deals with various “hoaxes,” such as the Cardiff Giant, the Piltdown skull, the Glozel artifacts, and some runic inscriptions.

MR. OLESON is professor of history in the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg.

The explanation of the mysterious AVM on the Kensington stone seems very plausible, but less so possibly is the explanation of why the year 1362 was chosen rather than some other date. Interesting, but perhaps a bit farfetched, is the discussion of whether "the numerals employed in the Kensington inscription were intended by their author to have some special significance." The chapter on "Rival Versions of the Inscription" is effective.

In the opinion of this reviewer, Professor Wahlgren has indeed established, by his thorough examination of the environment and interests of individuals in the neighborhood from whence came the Kensington stone, that the runes could very well have been the work of some person living in Minnesota in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Professor Wahlgren refuses to name the precise individual, although many of the facts supplied by him point to the "discoverer" of the stone, Olof Ohman, as the author of the inscription.

The book contains some thirty illuminating illustrations and a useful bibliography. It is a pity that such a handsomely produced work should be marred by lumping the footnotes, which are numerous and valuable, at the end of the book.

BACKGROUND IN CULTURE

A History of the Arts in Minnesota: Music and Theater, Books and Authors, Art and Architecture. By JOHN K. SHERMAN, GRACE LEE NUTE, and DONALD R. TORBERT. Edited by WILLIAM VAN O'CONNOR. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1958. 63, 40, 62 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Donald Z. Woods

MORE SYNOPSIS than full-scale history, this small book is a collection of interesting tidbits and important facts concerning the development of the arts in Minnesota. A pleasant and informally informative publication, sprinting from the press just before Minnesota's centennial year draws to a close, the book brings together three short pamphlets, each written by a different person and each covering—as discretely as possible—its own specific assignment.

In the sixty-three pages allotted to cover "Music and Theater," John K. Sherman, arts editor of the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*,

moves along at a rapid pace. His enjoyment of his assignment is patent, but the economy with which he is forced to treat each facet of his dual subjects prevents him from building solid impressions for his reader. Mr. Sherman swiftly traces Minnesota's musical development from prehistoric Indian chants to the current interest in Dixieland jazz, and he reviews the state's theatrical history from the garrison performances at old Fort Snelling to the drama groups of today's suburbs. It is to his credit that he covers the ground as thoroughly as he does, touching briefly on salient events and still finding space for bits of anecdota to provide the flavor of the times. Assuming that the book is for out-of-state as well as local consumption, one wishes that the author had been granted an extra page in which to mention native or part-time Minnesotans, like Lenore Ulric, George H. Broadhurst, and S. L. ("Roxy") Rothafel, who gained various degrees of national fame for their work in the theater.

To chronicle the writing about Minnesota and Minnesotans is the task of Grace Lee Nute, professor of Minnesota history in Hamline University and Macalester College. Miss Nute is authoritative and interesting in dealing with men and manuscripts of Minnesota's earliest days. Later writers, perhaps because there are more of them, are treated in roll-call fashion, and critical comments are limited principally to ratified judgments. But as Miss Nute herself says, with just "three dozen or so pages" at her disposal, "only the barest outline" could be given.

Donald R. Torbert, associate professor of art in the University of Minnesota, contributes the section on art and architecture. Since he has fewer men and events to deal with than his co-writers, Mr. Torbert is able to pace his material more leisurely, dig deeper, and analyze more trenchantly. He makes it clear that Minnesota, preoccupied with the business of "getting on" and pursuing progress, has in many ways been dishearteningly indifferent to its artists. A realist, the author does not optimistically predict that the state is about to mend its ways, but he feels that with many men and women of real talent available, Minnesota may some day fully

DR. WOODS, who is now on the staff of Cargill, Inc., was formerly associate professor of rhetoric in the University of Minnesota. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the history of the theater in Minneapolis.

recognize them and utilize their abilities more thoroughly.

Bringing these three short pamphlets together in one book is commendable, but the opportunity to give them a degree of unification was, unfortunately, lost. Although the editor's foreword is pertinent, its graceful aloofness from the task at hand allows the three pamphlets to go their individual ways. Even a brief attempt to construct a relationship among the various fields of art, or to show how Minnesota's cultural climate favored one more than another, or was equally harsh or benign to all, would have been both helpful and appropriate. The absence of an index is regrettable, since various men and events are frequently mentioned by more than one writer.

The present book, which was not intended as the final work on the arts in Minnesota, makes good reading and at the same time provides a serviceable outline for future and more extensive studies.

MAN'S VIEW OF MAN

From Ape to Angel: An Informal History of Social Anthropology. By H. R. HAYS. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1958. xxii, 440, xv p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Elden Johnson

IN THIS NEW VOLUME, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft is labeled a "frontier anthropologist" and "the first true field worker in the science of social anthropology." The book, written in the vein of C. W. Ceram's, *Gods, Graves and Scholars*, traces the development of social anthropology, or ethnology as it was called until recently, in much the same way Ceram traced the development of scientific archaeology. Mr. Hays' book, which is very well written and well illustrated, deals largely with individuals and their impact on the development of social anthropology during its brief century of life.

It is a bit surprising to find Schoolcraft placed in the position of the first field anthropologist. Appointed Indian agent by Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory in 1822, Schoolcraft spent nineteen years as peacemaker and father to the red men of the western Great Lakes. In his life

with the Indians and his travels among them, he learned the Chippewa language and many of their customs and myths, discovered the source of the Mississippi River, negotiated the treaty of Prairie du Chien between the Chippewa and the Sioux, and placated many fur traders and unhappy Indians in his capacity as an administrator.

It is true that Schoolcraft developed an appreciation for and a knowledge of Indian society and culture during his nineteen years among the red men. He knew that to deal with them successfully he must understand their way of life and their comprehension of their world. That he did have tremendous knowledge is apparent in his writings, particularly in his six-volume work entitled *Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States*, published in 1851 and illustrated by Seth Eastman.

Picking "firsts" in any field of endeavor is hazardous, particularly so in ethnology, since Europeans back to Herodotus found fascination in the customs and behavior of "savages." The measure of a true originator and founder lies in his impact on succeeding scholars in the development of a particular discipline. Here we must part company with author Hays and with Schoolcraft, for the latter's impact on the development of social anthropology is negligible. His works are a mine of data on Indian life, often scrambled and disorganized to be sure, but they are not firsts in any sense of the word.

Readers will find the sketch of Schoolcraft interesting and the remainder of this book fascinating. I hope they will not, however, elevate Schoolcraft to the position that Mr. Hays has given him.

SOLDIERS IN THE WEST

Army Life on the Western Frontier: Selections from the Official Reports Made Between 1826 and 1845 by Colonel George Croghan. Edited by FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958. xxxvi, 187 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Richard G. Wood

FATHER PRUCHA, author of *Broadax and Bayonet* published in 1953, has continued his studies of life at western army posts by editing selections from the reports of the inspector gen-

MIR. JOHNSON is assistant professor of anthropology in the University of Minnesota and director of the Science Museum of the St. Paul Institute.

eral. For many years (from 1791 to 1849), the inspector generalship was a one-man department presided over by Colonel George Croghan. It was his duty to inspect the western posts, annually if possible.

In editing the colonel's reports, Father Prucha has abandoned the original strict chronological sequence and has rearranged the documents in six broad categories: military policy, the posts themselves, administration and services, supplies and equipment, the men, and Indian affairs. Some of these topics, in turn, are subject to further breakdown. Under each major subject the reports are arranged by post and year of inspection. The comments on the whole era from 1826 to 1845 are brought together in an index, which includes forty entries for Fort Snelling alone. The editor has added a sketch of Croghan's life, a bibliography, and a list of inspections. In these efforts he has made liberal use of records in the National Archives and manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

Croghan was a "no nonsense" soldier who did not hesitate to find fault with the locations and defenses of the frontier army posts. For example, he wrote: "Fort Atkinson is certainly the weakest, and Fort Snelling the strongest work which I have visited." He railed against the soldier turned farmer to such an extent that he neglected his military duties. Croghan felt that the upkeep of a post should not be slighted: he found that at Fort Snelling, twenty years after its establishment, there were leaks in all buildings except one; at near-by Fort Winnebago he reported too many bedbugs. He thought the army was fed well at Fort Snelling, and he commented: "No soldiers ought to desire to live better than they have always done at this post. The government ration is sufficient of itself, and to it may be added the abundant supply of vegetables at all times to be had from the gardens of the several companies."

Croghan was concerned with record-keeping at the posts; he found that the contents of the record books were correct enough, but he deplored the lack of uniformity in book size and in the form of entries. In the field of equipment, the inspector general believed that the sawmill

at Fort Snelling was not operated efficiently, and he condemned the flour and pork at Fort Atkinson. Croghan manifested concern for the common soldier and was of the opinion that drunkenness increased in proportion to restrictions laid upon him. In contrast, Father Prucha discovered that there were temperance societies at Forts Howard and Snelling, a fact not mentioned by Croghan. If drill was not perfect, Croghan judged that the men at some posts (Snelling and Winnebago) necessarily spent too much time hauling wood and hay.

Students of Mississippi Valley history should be grateful that Father Prucha and his publisher have made available these interesting documents.

AIDS TO HISTORY

In Support of Olio: Essays in Memory of Herbert A. Kellar. Edited by WILLIAM B. HESSELTINE and DONALD R. MCNEIL. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958. x, 214 p. Portrait. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by K. Ross Toole

A SLIGHTLY too facile title should in no way detract from the general excellence of these essays. As descriptions of "aids" to history, they are thorough, sparsely written, and, surprisingly enough (in spite of the fact that they border on the technical), interesting.

Lucile M. Kane's "Manuscript Collecting" is remarkable for the ground it covers without being either pedantic or ponderous. This essay has charm, content, and pace. Whenever you can say that of a scholarly work, you have said a great deal.

All the essays, and there are nine of them, are carefully done and well written. As I read the book I was repeatedly impressed by the fact that it will be of real value to graduate students in history. This is not merely because the essays are without exception informative; it is also because the philosophy (or a philosophy) of methodology is at least implicit in each of them.

Anthologies are too often catchall books, done in haste and without a central theme that mat-

MR. WOOD, who was formerly on the staff of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., is now director of the Vermont Historical Society at Montpelier.

MR. TOOLE recently resigned as director of the Historical Society of Montana at Helena to become director of the Museum of the City of New York.

ters much. This volume is an exception. To be sure, the reader must get by the preface, which, like most tributes, has its full measure of turgid sentiment, but the body of the book itself has value, felicitous writing, and substance, particularly for the young historian.

The titles of the essays, which in most cases belie their interest, are: "The W.P.A. Historical Records Survey," by David L. Smiley; "Manuscript Collecting," by Lucile M. Kane; "Public Archives in the United States," by G. Philip Bauer; "Mechanical Aids in Historical Research," by George L. Anderson; "Foundations and the Study of History," by Richard D. Younger; "Historical Organizations as Aids to History," by David D. Van Tassel and James A. Tinsley; "The Growth of Agricultural History," by Wayne D. Rasmussen; "The Historian as Editor," by Lester J. Cappon; and "Historical Restorations," by Edward P. Alexander.

FUR TRADE LETTERS

Hudson's Bay Copy Booke of Letters Commissions Instructions Outward, 1688-1696. Edited by E. E. RICH, assisted by A. M. JOHNSON. With an introduction by K. G. DAVIES. (London, The Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1957. lxii, 357 p.)

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

THIS volume continues the publication of the central records of the Hudson's Bay Company's London activities and policies which began with three volumes of *Minutes* (1671-86) and a book of *Letters Outward* (1680-87). Like those four volumes, this one is full of interest and value for Minnesota history. For example, pages 166 to 182 give a sort of résumé of Pierre Esprit Radisson's career up to the year 1692. There are also many other references in the book to Radisson, his brother-in-law Groseilliers, his nephew Jean Baptiste Chouart, Henry Kelsey, and other persons connected in one way or another with the history of mid-America in the seventeenth century.

Of special interest in the excellent introduction is a discussion of the validity of the monopo-

listic features of the company's original charter, the reasons for Parliament's refusal in 1698 to re-enact its own 1692 statute sanctioning the charter, and later attempts to quash the company's right to an exclusive trade under the charter of 1670. Since at one time the firm claimed that this charter gave it possession of a large part of western and northwestern Minnesota, the bearing of this matter on Minnesota history is obvious.

In format and scholarship the book maintains the excellent standard that has characterized the publisher's earlier productions.

FROM HORSECARS TO BUSSES

Transit and the Twins: A Survey of the History of the Transportation Company in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. By STEPHEN A. KIEFFER. (Minneapolis, Twin City Rapid Transit Company, 1958. 60 p. Illustrations.)

Reviewed by Frank P. Donovan, Jr.

IT IS a delight to review this capsule history of public transportation in the Twin Cities because of its balance and scope. In sixty two-column pages, the author covers almost every significant aspect of transit development. In addition, he skillfully weaves in a background of economic and social history, leaving the reader mindful of each period and its problems.

We see the colorful horsecar era merge into a short period of cable haulage and "steam-dummy" transportation. Because of its hills, St. Paul pioneered in cable operation. On the other hand, Minneapolis experimented with steam traction on the so-called "Motor Line" to Lakes Calhoun and Harriet. By 1881 boxed-in locomotives of the Motor Line were running to Lake Minnetonka. Neither the cable lines nor the steam traction routes were an unqualified success. But they served as an interregnum between animal and electric traction.

In 1889 the electric streetcar appeared, and within a decade trolley lines were blanketing the Twin Cities. Soon suburban lines were reaching White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Hopkins, and Excelsior. The blueprint for growth and unification came largely from Thomas Lowry, who led the

MISS NUTE, an authoritative writer on the fur trade, is a member of the history departments of Macalester College and Hamline University at St. Paul.

MR. DONOVAN, a free-lance writer who lives in Minneapolis, is the author of numerous books and articles on transportation history.

street railway system to an enviable reputation among local transportation lines. This book traces the trolley to its zenith and then to its eclipse in 1954, when busses completely replaced the cars. One chapter covers today's bus operation and the problems of declining patronage.

The author's text is peppered with unusual items and curious incidents. The Nicollet carshops and later those at Snelling, for example, built nearly all the trolleys for the Twin Cities and the Duluth and Superior systems. In addition, they produced cars for Chicago, Seattle, Grand Rapids, Chattanooga, and other cities. The shops also built "streetcar boats" when the Twin City Rapid Transit had its fleet on Lake Minnetonka. Mr. Kieffer nostalgically relates how Tom Lowry made available his private trol-

ley so President William McKinley could tour St. Paul and Minneapolis in comfort and privacy. And how many Twin Citians know that there were two lines which never charged a fare!

The publication is illustrated with many photographs and contains nearly a score of maps. There are a few minor errors in the text, apparently stemming from revamping the original study (which was a University of Minnesota honors thesis) for popular appeal. The key for the map on page 11, for instance, should have "Horsecar and Electric Lines" and "Routes of Motor Line" transposed. The mistakes are not serious, however, and do not prevent this study from being an excellent brief history which shows much thought, solid research, and fine organization.

. . . on the *HISTORICAL HORIZON*

GRAND PORTAGE became a national monument under the provisions of a bill passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President late in August. The measure, which was introduced by Congressman John Blatnik of Chisholm, assures the preservation of one of Minnesota's most significant historic sites. As a national monument, the area will be developed and maintained by the National Parks Service, which is authorized to spend some three hundred thousand dollars for improvements and has been granted thirty-five thousand dollars annually for administration. Included in the monument, are the site of the eighteenth-century North West Company post on Lake Superior with its restored stockade, the nine-mile portage trail long used by voyageurs and traders, and the site of Fort Charlotte on the Pigeon River at the western end of the trail.

"THE GREAT Carrying Place" of Grand Portage is the subject of an interesting article by G. Hubert Smith in the fall issue of *Naturalist*, the handsome magazine published by the Natural History Society of Minnesota. Other contributions of special historical interest in the issue include an account of pictographs in the border lakes country by Selwyn Dewdney, a survey of "Minnesota State Forests of the Border Country" by Elizabeth M. Bachmann, and a sketch of "John Tanner: Captive of the Wilderness" by

P. G. Downes. The fall number is the first of a series of issues devoted to Minnesota's border lakes area.

MANY Minnesota men and events are sketched against a national background in Eugene H. Roseboom's *History of Presidential Elections*, which undertakes to present a "connected account of the history of national politics built around the quadrennial struggles for control of the office of President" (New York, 1957. 568 p.). The author analyzes campaigns and reviews political developments between election years in the light of subsequent voting returns. Among Minnesotans who figure in the narrative are Ignatius Donnelly, James J. Hill, Hubert H. Humphrey, and Harold Stassen. Included also is information on third parties and their activities in the state, with special stress on the Non-partisan League and the Farmer-Labor party.

A STATUE of Maria Sanford, a member of the rhetoric faculty in the University of Minnesota for three decades following 1880, was unveiled in Statuary Hall of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on November 12. The sculptor was Evelyn Raymond of Minneapolis. A sketch of Miss Sanford and the story of her selection for the present honor are included in an article by Melva Lind in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 19.

LACK OF SPACE makes it impossible to complete in this issue the survey of Minnesota Statehood Centennial publications and events begun in the September number of this magazine. Comments on *The Minnesota Centennial Story*, Virginia Kunz' *Muskets to Missiles*, Gene Bluestein's "Statehood Centennial Album" of Minnesota folk music, and similar items will appear in the March number.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

MORE THAN a thousand people traveled a combined total of about five thousand miles as members of one or more of the ten historic tours arranged by the society during the summer of 1958 in commemoration of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial. Some tours, like that to the Northwest Angle, were so popular that it became necessary to repeat them. In view of the appeal of the expanded tour program, it is likely that four or five will be conducted in 1959, in contrast to the single tour that marked most seasons before 1958. In financing the Centennial tours, the society received aid in the form of a grant from the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission. Many of those who participated in the 1958 tours assembled in the Weyerhaeuser Room of the Historical Building on Sunday, December 7, for a reunion and a special program.

THE CLOSE of the archaeological explorations at old Fort Snelling, conducted by the society during the past year under a grant from the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, is the occasion for an illustrated article by Mr. Fridley in the *Picture Magazine* of the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 5. The writer describes the "remains of the picturesque and sturdy limestone fortress" unearthed by John Callender, the society's archaeologist, and members of his crew. Among the illustrations appearing with Mr. Fridley's account are an imaginary view of the post "as it probably looked in 1824" drawn by Mr. Kozlak of the society's museum staff, and a contrasting picture of the area as it looks today from the air, both reproduced in color.

TO MARK the publication of Miss Heilbron's pictorial history of Minnesota, *The Thirty-second State*, on November 17 the Women's Organization of the society arranged an autographing party and tea in honor of the author, who is editor of this magazine. As a feature of a brief program which preceded the event, Dean Blegen evaluated the new volume, presenting the review which is published elsewhere in this issue.

BEFORE a luncheon meeting of the Twin City Book Round Table in Minneapolis on November 18, Miss Heilbron described some of her experiences while collecting pictures for her newly published book, *The Thirty-second State*. The society's librarian, Mr. Dunn, who is president of the group, presided at the meeting.

MR. DUNN is one of a committee of six Twin City librarians who have prepared for publication by the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission a bibliography of Minnesota authors. The work, which is scheduled to appear before the close of 1958, will contain brief biographies and lists of the writings of some seven hundred individuals. The society's librarian also helped prepare for publication a volume of sketches by Gareth Hiebert, "St. Paul Is My Beat," which will include material from his column in the *St. Paul Dispatch*. A talk on St. Croix Valley history was presented by Mr. Dunn before the annual meeting of the St. Croix County Historical Society at Hudson, Wisconsin, on October 12.

FOR THE sixth annual teachers' institute on Minnesota History held under the auspices of the society, more than three hundred teachers assembled in St. Paul on October 9. Sessions were held in the auditorium of the State Office Building and in the Weyerhaeuser Room of the Historical Building. Professor Philip D. Jordan of the department of history in the University of Minnesota addressed elementary school teachers on "Pioneer Life in Minnesota," and the Very Reverend James P. Shannon, president of the College of St. Thomas, described "Life on the Prairie" for the secondary school section. The visiting teachers had opportunities to see three recently produced film strips about Minnesota, to view special school exhibits, and to examine books about the state and its history.

UNDER the title "Minnesota's Memory," Robert C. Wheeler, the society's assistant director, contributes an illustrated article about the organization's history and activities to the autumn number of "*By-Lines*" Magazine, a publication issued at irregular intervals in Mankato.

ON NOVEMBER 5, Mr. William K. Gamber was named curator of the society's museum, succeeding Mr. F. Sanford Cutler, who resigned in August. A native of Fergus Falls, the new curator is a recent graduate of the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and he served for more than a year as an assistant in the society's manuscript division.



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