

Hidden America. By ROLAND WELLS ROBBINS and EVAN JONES. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1959. 263, viii p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Elden Johnson

THIS IS a delightful book, perfectly suited to stimulate the interest of readers of this journal. It contains descriptive accounts of the location and excavation of a series of archaeological sites, most of them located along the Eastern seaboard of the United States and the majority dating from the early Colonial period. Some of these sites may be familiar to readers. The reconstructed Saugus Iron Works in Massachusetts, for example, is known to many. Even if the reader has visited the site, however, he will find the description of the original excavations at Saugus and Robbins' account of the difficulties involved of great interest. Other sites, such as the precise location of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond, the location of a seventeenth-century Dutch harbor on the Hudson River, or Thomas Jefferson's birthplace in Virginia, will be less familiar and perhaps even more interesting.

Mr. Robbins conducted excavations at the majority of the sites described in the book. Beginning with an avocational interest in local Massachusetts Colonial history, he soon began archaeological testing to locate some of the less well-documented sites, and through this developed into a competent historic site archaeologist. The coauthor, Mr. Jones, is a Minnesotan and a journalist whose article on Mr. Robbins for *Collier's* magazine led to their collaboration on this book. Mr. Jones is a member of a distinguished Minnesota newspaper family, and it is his lucid and easy style of writing which makes this book such a pleasure to read.

Mr. Robbins himself is apparently one of those rare individuals who combines a zeal and

enthusiasm for field archaeology with outstanding ability and interpretative judgment. His approach is that of the scholar, and his message on the significance of the archaeological approach is seen throughout the book. He is interested in historic site archaeology not simply to recover objects from a bygone era, though this is obviously important. Nor does the "thrill of discovery" become an end in itself, though this, too, is again very important. Mr. Robbins demonstrates again and again that careful excavation can sometimes solve a perplexing problem in Colonial history and, if not providing a solution, does produce information vital to the understanding of a historical event. For Mr. Robbins, historic site archaeology supplements and amplifies the written record, and it is the information gained through digging that is significant.

Nowhere in the book is this more clearly illustrated than in the chapter titled "Who Discovered America"—a chapter which, incidentally, should be of more than passing interest to many Midwestern readers, for it discusses the problem of pre-Columbian Norse voyages to the New World as viewed archaeologically. Without anticipating the book for the reader by giving Mr. Robbins' conclusions to this archaeological detective work, I can only recommend wholeheartedly the caution used in sifting the evidence and the care with which conclusions are drawn.

The value of historic site archaeology in the United States will be apparent on reading this book. While the upper Mississippi area does not have the numbers of important historic sites found further east or in the Spanish settled American Southwest, it does have sites that lend themselves to this approach. In Minnesota, through past efforts of the Minnesota Historical Society, work has been done in such localities as Grand Portage and Fort Snelling, for example. Much more needs to be done, however, particularly with regard to the earlier French period. Madeline Island in the Apostle Island group of Lake Superior off Bayfield, Wisconsin,

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contains sites which show very early French contacts with the Indians of the Western Great Lakes. Information gained through careful excavation there would be very useful. Sites like Le Sueur's post near Mankato, earlier and unnamed points in the border lakes country, and others too numerous to mention cry for careful work.

In Hidden America Mr. Robbins and Mr. Jones reflect a growing popular interest in New World historic site archaeology and they also illustrate the increasing role of the serious amateur in careful archaeological excavation. Most readers of this book will be ready to join them.

EXPLORING SCIENTIST

Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of St. Peter's River, Lake Winnepack, Lake of the Woods, &c., Performed in the Year 1823. Compiled from the notes of Major Long, Messrs. Say, Keating, & Colhoun, by WILLIAM H. KEATING. In one volume. (Minneapolis, Ross & Haines, Inc., 1959. xxiv, 458, vi, 248 p. Illustrations. \$8.75.)

Reviewed by Wyndham D. Miles

THE ORIGIN of this *Narrative* can be traced back to April, 1823, when the war department ordered Major Stephen H. Long, one of its best explorers, to journey into the Minnesota country and bring back a firsthand account of the region. He recruited William H. Keating and Thomas Say, scientists, and Samuel Seymour, artist, led them west from Philadelphia, picked up James Edward Colhoun, astronomer and topographer, at Columbus, Ohio, and proceeded on to the Mississippi, Minnesota, and Red rivers, and Lake Winnipeg, and returned via Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, and other border waters.

Upon arriving home in October after a six months' journey of forty-five hundred miles, Keating began an account of the trip. Working steadily at a salary of two dollars a day in a small room rented by the government, he managed to finish the story and have it ready for the printer in the summer of 1824. After the *Narrative*

MR. MILES, who is a historian for the United States Army Chemical Corps at Army Chemical Center, Maryland, contributed a sketch of Keating to the December, 1959, issue of this magazine.

appeared, copies found their way to Europe, where publishers, benefiting from the absence of international copyright laws, issued two editions in London and a German translation at Jena. Then the work went out of print, and it has since been obtainable only on the secondhand book market at prices of twenty dollars and upward, when the collector was lucky enough to find a copy.

From the first London edition, the publishers have made this sturdy, one-volume reprint. Why they chose the London instead of the original Philadelphia edition, is not known to this reviewer. Except for the plates, it does not greatly matter, although it should be noted that the British editor made what he thought were a few improvements in phraseology. The American edition, however, has fifteen plates, while that issued in London and this reprint have only eight. Minnesota readers doubtless would have liked the seven additional plates.

Into some seven hundred pages Keating packed information that he felt would be useful and interesting to the general reader, the government official, and the American scientist. There is much on the Indians (indeed, many now feel that this is the most valuable contribution of the book), the geography, geology, natural history, and curiosities of the region. Those who want to know what Minnesota looked like something more than a century and a quarter ago will find the answer in Keating's *Narrative*.

FRONTIER IN PICTURES

The Great American West: A Pictorial History from Coronado to the Last Frontier. By JAMES D. HORAN. (New York, Crown Publishers, Inc., 1959. 288 p. Illustrations. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by John Francis McDermott

WHEN James D. Horan set out to tell in one volume "the whole story" of the American West "from Coronado to the Last Frontier," he decided that in a book intended for the general public "the pictures were the heart of the matter." During a ten-year search he had exciting successes in finding rich stores of early photographs. The book he has made from these and other materials, however, is disappointing.

The narrative from its scope is necessarily a simplified one, but however reduced to summary, it ought to be accurate. Sample checking

throws grave doubt on its reliability. The Lewis and Clark expedition left its winter camp for the Missouri River on May 14, not March 14, 1804. Forty years of the history of St. Louis and upper Louisiana, of fur trade and exploration, should not be summarized out of existence with the statement that "except in southernmost Louisiana, there was very little white settlement." It is wholly inaccurate to say that "Beginning about 1800, Manuel Lisa and his Missouri Fur Company operated all over the Southwest, the Missouri and Arkansas country and the Rocky Mountain area." It is rash to assert that "there was no organized program of frontier defense until 1845."

Of particular concern to Minnesotans will be the misinformation supplied about the Sioux War of 1862. The Indians attacked the town of New Ulm, not a nonexistent county of that name. In 1861 the German language paper published at New Ulm was the *Pionier*, not the *Pioneer*, and, far from being "Minnesota's only newspaper," it was one of more than a hundred papers published in the state. The Camp Release episode occurred in September, 1862, not in "the winter." Three hundred Sioux were condemned to be hanged, not eighty-five. The discovery of so many errors in two brief sections of the book will disturb any critical reader.

For the book to have value as a pictorial history the illustrations ought to be on-the-spot work. Mr. Horan has made but slight use of the great store of authentic sketches and paintings available, but he has included such an imaginary creation as Dean Cornwell's "Gold Mining at Sutter's Mill" and such a twentieth-century painting as Louis Bouché's "Eads Bridge." The half-dozen Currier and Ives prints lack authenticity, for they were by artists who never saw the subjects and scenes they were "recording." Lacking a picture of Coronado, the author has supplied two representations wholly unfounded in fact. Frequently the portrait photographs are quite unsuited to the text; those of Frémont and Parkman, for example, date far later than the events in the West with which they were asso-

ciated. And, finally, although owner credits are given, there is seldom a credit to an author or to original publication.

These are serious faults in a book planned so ambitiously. Nevertheless, Mr. Horan's years of searching did uncover good things and he has poured forth many photographs illuminating the nineteenth-century West. His views of Omaha, Tucson, and many other Western towns, of military posts and troop life, of the building of the Union Pacific, of Mormon emigrant trains and Indian warriors, of cowhands and ranches do provide authentic new materials.

PICTURING THE RED MAN

George Catlin and the Old Frontier. By HAROLD McCracken. (New York, The Dial Press, 1959. 216 p. Illustrations. \$18.50.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

FOR MIDWESTERNERS, this big and handsomely illustrated book is the most significant of the works on American artists thus far produced by Mr. McCracken. His biographies of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell center in areas far west of the Mississippi, and reflect his special qualifications for his present role as director of the Whitney Gallery of Western Art at Cody, Wyoming. While much of the present narrative deals with Catlin's travels among the Indians of the Great Plains, his journeys of 1835 and 1836, which took him into the Minnesota country, are not neglected.

The author treats his subject as the "Documentarian of a Primitive Race," stressing Catlin's passion for producing a visual record of "every aspect of the Indians' daily lives and ethos" before the red men were contaminated by contact with white civilization. Mr. McCracken points out that Catlin's work, with all its detailed realism, must be judged as "documentary art," which he declares is "an area of art in itself," and he concludes that Catlin produced "the most comprehensive pictorial record we have" of the American Indians in their natural state.

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The present work is concerned largely with the six years when Catlin was traveling in the American West, painting, sketching, and collecting materials for his Indian Gallery. Of the twenty-two chapters into which the book is divided, fifteen are devoted to the travels that began with the young portrait painter's arrival in St. Louis in 1830 and ended with his dramatic visit to the Minnesota Pipestone Quarry in 1836. Only briefly sketched is the "second phase of his life's work," when he was displaying his gallery in the East and in Europe and attempting without success to sell his pictures. Catlin's valiant efforts to retrieve his fortunes in England and France and his hazardous travels in South America and among the Pacific coast tribes of North America are touched upon even more lightly, though they carry the story well past the mid-century mark.

Much of the narrative is based on Catlin's own writings, particularly the *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Conditions of the North American Indians*, first published in London in 1841. The circumstances under which this two-volume work and Catlin's other books were written and published are described in the closing chapters, which also tell of the preparation of his many series of paintings and drawings. The fact that the author traces the history of these pictures and locates the more important collections enhances the value of the book for students of Western American art. Located also are the originals of the 36 color reproductions and 131 black and white illustrations which so greatly enrich this work. A useful bibliography of "Publications by and about George Catlin" supplements the text.

One disappointing feature of the book is the annotation, which often is sketchy and inadequate. This reader would like to know, for example, the source for the account on page 201 of Catlin's meeting with Henry R. Schoolcraft in London and the enmity between the two men which followed. In any case, a total of 141 notes could not be expected to cover adequately a text of such length and scope as that here presented. The index, too, leaves something to be desired. Identification of more of the people and places mentioned by Catlin would have been helpful. Minnesota readers doubtless would be glad to know that the Le Blanc encountered by the painter on his trek to the Pipestone Quarry was Louis Provençalle.

Such drawbacks notwithstanding, this is by far the best book on Catlin that has yet appeared. By dressing it in handsome and appropriate format, the publishers have added substantially to the pleasure of reading and owning it.

SOLDIERS WITHOUT HALOS

They Who Fought Here. Text by BELL IRVIN WILEY. Illustrations selected by HIRST D. MILHOLLEN. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1959. vii, 273 p. Illustrations. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Walter N. Trenerry

THIS IS a book about the Civil War soldier, meticulously following his steps from that emotionally charged moment when he enlisted under a glorious banner to that lonely instant when he forced himself to walk toward the enemy. The text is matter-of-fact, showing the soldier as he actually was, and it is complemented by an excellent group of photographs.

The soldier is seen fighting bravely, carrying out orders, practicing temperance, protecting the helpless, attending religious meetings, and dreaming of home and wife or mother. He is also seen running away from battle, mutinying and killing his officers, drunk as a hog, robbing the wounded, endlessly "God-damning," and patronizing any and all black or white ladies of the evening available. This soldier is not a crusader, but a man hardened in a bloody business. The Union soldier cares nothing about freeing the Negroes and sees accurately that New England agitators have forced the policy of liberation upon a shaky new administration. The Confederate soldier cares nothing about constitutional arguments for secession, or Dixieland as a new nation or a noble experiment, but looks at the Yankee as an unjustified invader determined to wreck Southern homes.

The book delights the reader by giving minute items of specific information like these: about one Union soldier in twenty was foreign-born,

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but in the Confederacy, so tremendously concerned with purity of blood, the ratio was one in four; Union Army rations included dehydrated vegetables, which the troops detested and refused to eat; the armies experimented with rocket artillery and General Benjamin F. Butler's troops used flame throwers in action; chaplains were often illiterate nuisances and many had to be dismissed for chronic drunkenness; the Union Army had 197,036 reported cases of venereal disease during the war; and a popular song which was revived in another war went:

Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning,
Oh, how I'd like to remain in bed!
But the saddest blow of all is to hear the bugler call,
"You've got to get up, you've got to get up,
You've got to get up this morning!"

The photographs, chosen specifically for this book and not mere reissues of the familiar ones in the *Photographic History of the Civil War*, build the composite picture by giving a quick succession of detailed views. There is no glamor. Belt buckles, buttons, arms, ammunition, shoes, surgical equipment appear among numberless other minutiae of military life. Wounded men in baggy hospital gowns lie in the sun and lazily watch the photographer. An embalmer's tent is ready for work; orders will have to come from families rich enough to pay for embalming and shipping. An infantry captain, wearing a checked flannel shirt, is caught asleep in his tent; some practical joker has carefully posed a whisky bottle on the bed. And so, through the armies.

The authors have brought the Civil War soldier down from the monument labeled "For the Union, 1861-65," or "The Confederate Soldier, 1861-65," as the case may be, to show him as a rollicking contemporary who will be recognized by all old soldiers. It is a pleasure to see him without a halo.

MILITARY EXPLORERS

Army Exploration in the American West, 1803-1863. By WILLIAM H. GOETZMANN. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1959. xx, 509 p. Illustrations, maps. \$6.50.)

Reviewed by Francis Paul Prucha, S.J.

WHEN the United States acquired Louisiana in 1803, almost nothing was known of the geo-

graphical characteristics of the vast region. And the lands that lay beyond toward the Pacific were equally a *terra incognita*. It is true that the trappers and hunters of the Rockies, the famous "mountain men," soon obtained a practical knowledge that enabled them to carry on their operations, but they never saw large areas and the knowledge they did obtain was not transcribed to maps for the use of others. The painstaking process of exploring the wilderness with scientific precision and then entering the data on carefully drawn maps, which in printed form made the new knowledge common property, was largely the work of the United States Army Topographical Engineers. It is the story of this small group of expert and devoted officers that Mr. Goetzmann tells in his well-written and handsomely published volume.

Originating as a special group within the corps of engineers, the topographical corps from 1838 to 1863 emerged as an independent unit, subject directly to the secretary of war. Then, with another reorganization of the army, it was absorbed again by the engineers. But the years of its separate existence were the crucial period in Western exploration, the time of the first scientific mapping of the West.

The exploits of the topographical engineers make an exciting story -- as does any venture into the unknown. Whether searching out the source of the Western rivers, probing for new passes through the mountain barrier to the Pacific, or exploring the arid wastes of the Southwest, the officers of the corps returned with new geographical knowledge and extensive botanical, paleontological, and geological information as well. The officers were motivated, no doubt, by romantic ideas of manifest destiny as they moved toward the beckoning West, but they were a part, too, of the scientific elite of the nation and knew personally the learned scientists of the East, who received and catalogued the specimens and data taken back by the explorers.

The topographical engineers were of critical importance in running the boundary line on our

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Southern border after the Mexican War, in laying out a network of wagon roads in Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, and the Pacific Northwest, and in directing the multiple surveys for a trans-Mississippi railroad to the Pacific. It is unfortunate that in the process of accomplishing these tasks they became so deeply involved in political issues that their scientific work was somewhat obscured.

The work of the topographical engineers — like Frémont's expedition to the Pacific in 1843-44, the Southwestern explorations of Emory, and the Pacific railroad surveys of the 1850s — resulted in printed reports which Mr. Goetzmann has summarized into readable scope. He has illustrated his volume with numerous maps, which show the routes of the exploring parties, and has included in a cover pocket a valuable series of reproductions of maps drawn by the topographical engineers or their assistants. A group of pictures presented as an appendix to the book adds further interest.

Mr. Goetzmann complains in his preface of the oblivion into which the topographical engineers have faded. He has now remedied the situation. Other writers have told in part of the work of the corps, but he brings together into a convenient whole the full story of their activities in the West. The book has a number of factual and typographical errors, which put the reader on his guard, but it is nevertheless a fine tribute to the topographical engineers and a fascinating story.

FIREARMS AND HISTORY

The Fireside Book of Guns. By LARRY KOLLER. HAROLD L. PETERSON, historian; HERB GLASS, gun consultant. (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1959. 284 p. Illustrations. \$12.95.)

Reviewed by Robert C. Wheeler

ACCOLADES to the author, publisher, and staff of nine specialists for producing the most readable, fascinating, and thoroughly informative book on guns published to date. The reader is introduced to each firearm used in America from the cumbersome, slow, misfiring match-

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lock of the early Spanish explorers to today's precise and powerful sporting rifle. But this work is much more than a book about guns; it is also a delightful adventure in rough and raw American history. The cutting edge of an expanding civilization in which the triumvirate of ax, rifle, and plow served as the blade, is revealed in this beautifully illustrated and dramatic story.

Author, historian, firearms expert, and artist-photographers co-operate in acquainting the reader with the guns used by Boone, Crockett, Carson, Cody, Billy the Kid, Earp, and countless other familiar border figures. Each handgun, rifle, fowling piece, and new development in the evolution of American arms is carefully described and dated. Weak points and strong are meticulously underscored in language readily understood by the average reader, and not just by gun buffs and authorities in ordnance and ballistics. Each firearm, each singular development in the several ignition systems, is carefully and chronologically placed in history by associating it with some well-known figure and incident. For example, British Major Patrick Ferguson's breech-loading flintlock, which figured in the Revolutionary War, is tied into a story about George Washington.

This work puts the reader on speaking terms with matchlocks, wheel locks, flintlocks, fowling pieces, duelling pistols, derringers, and the single-action Frontier Colt. New dimensions are added to the battles of King's Mountain, New Orleans, Antietam, and the Little Big Horn. Among questions clearly answered are those relating to rifles versus smoothbores, percussions versus flintlocks, muzzle-loaders versus breech-loaders, single shots versus repeaters, and what caused the firearms used by Custer's men to jam.

The full scope of American military and civilian arms is covered and indexed. This, of course, makes the book especially valuable for historians and museum curators. Gun collectors, military men, hunters, and even the occasional target shooter will delight in it, and it will hold the attention also of a reader who doesn't know the breech from the muzzle. Although some of the handsome illustrations may seem sumptuous, they nevertheless are valuable for identification purposes.

This reviewer questions the accuracy of certain statements about the performance of the Kentucky flintlock, and he is disappointed by

the author's failure to mention other matters like the invention of the rainwater drain on the flintlock and the development of the self-priming flintlock. Greater attention might well have been paid to the extremely accurate false muzzle target rifle of the last half of the nineteenth century. A more serious omission is the failure to deal with the subject of rifling—the cutting of lands and grooves in the bore.

It should be added that the *Fireside Book of Guns* treats not only guns, but ammunition. The reader will enjoy the bonus story of the intriguing evolution of ammunition from black powder and ball to the powerful magnum cartridge. In the opinion of this reviewer the book is a landmark in a long list of publications on a popular subject, and it is highly recommended to a wide audience.

MEDICAL FAKES

The Golden Age of Quackery. By STEWART H. HOLBROOK. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1959. viii, 302 p. \$4.95.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

"MY mother-in-law was not able to shut one of her hands for twenty-three years. She got a box of your Ointment and put it on a few times and now she can shut her hand with ease. She also suffered from Gout in the feet. Your Ointment was used a few times and now she can run a mile."

Thus reads a testimonial from the day when the gifted quack looked after the public health. Young readers today may wonder how grandfather survived the era when there were so few doctors and so many medicines. In this book, Stewart Holbrook proves himself again an able craftsman and an honest historian of American curiosities. The work should appeal to those interested in social history, to people over fifty who have been fooled, and to students of propaganda and hallucinations.

The eleven parts or divisions have intriguing titles which include "Manhood Was Lost," "Therapy by Pipe and Wire," "The World of Medicine Shows," and "Back-Country Healers."

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The thirty-one chapters on such subjects as "The Natural History of Swamp Root" and "Around the World in Forty Years: or, the *Odyssey of Perry Davis's Painkiller*" tell the story that Mr. Holbrook calls "The Great American Fraud." He opens this look backward with the *Collier's* exposé of 1905, and describes one by one the frauds against the public health, largely after 1865. There is found Dr. Hartman's Peruna, about which a doctor wrote: "I have in the last two years met four persons who drank Peruna in large quantities. They were treated under my care as simple alcoholics." There are also the vegetable products such as Dr. Easterly's Sarsaparilla, which was said to have cured "25,000 cases of disease, including 3,000 of scrofula, 2,000 dyspepsia, 1,000 gout and rheumatism, 2,000 general debility, 2,500 liver complaint, dropsy, and gravel; 1,500 female complaints; and 6,000 syphilitic or venereal coughs." The phenomenal record of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is told. This remedy, which presumably gave comfort to so many millions of women, was, in the words of one of the Pinkham boys, a "real stem-winder," and it survived the exposure in 1902 that the great Lydia had not answered the mail since 1883. In China the compound sold only to married women until it was learned that in translation the title became: "Smooth Sea's Pregnancy Womb Birth-giving Magical 100 Per Cent Effective Water." The sober records of Soule's Hop Bitters and Dr. Abram's Electronic Reactions and dozens of others prove in detail that America has been a land of opportunity for the inventive and the resourceful.

Why did the "Golden Age of Quackery" pass, if it has? Perhaps a people who munch vitamins, who drink Geritol, and who recently spent \$75,000,000 on Hadacol (produced by the manufacturer of Happy Day Headache Powders) cannot answer the questions "if" or "why." This would be a more complete book if it answered both.

THE INDEX for volume 36 of *Minnesota History* will be published sometime during the coming summer. Copies will be sent to members and subscribers who ask for them as long as the supply lasts. Requests should be addressed to Mrs. Phyllis Sandstrom, care of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul 1.

... on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

ACCORDING to the jacket blurb of the *American Heritage Book of the Pioneer Spirit* (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1959. 394 p. \$12.95.), the book presents an "illustrated account of Americans' unremitting push to discover themselves" while moving westward and into new realms of ideas. An examination of the work, however, reveals that it contains a rather curious array of miscellany relating largely to the Atlantic seaboard, the Rocky Mountain country, and the Pacific coast area. Almost completely ignored is the upper Mississippi Valley, including Minnesota and Wisconsin. Among the few explorers of the area to be mentioned are Zebulon M. Pike and Stephen H. Long, though their adventures in the Rockies are stressed. True, Pike's unsuccessful attempt to find the source of the Mississippi is noted, but Schoolcraft's discovery of 1832 is overlooked. Names like Hennepin, Nicolet, Cass, Beltrami, and Nicollet likewise are conspicuously missing. A view of Fort Snelling is included in a "Special Picture Portfolio" which is intended as a "Portrait of the Western Frontier." Unfortunately, the painting reproduced, which is in the collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, is erroneously credited to Seth Eastman. It is to be regretted that no use was made of the scores of authentic Eastman water colors which picture the upper Midwest of the 1840s. Representing Minnesota of a later day are Ignatius Donnelly and James J. Hill, both of whom are portrayed. The work is lavishly illustrated with almost five hundred pictures, a hundred and fifty in color.

THE ADVENTURES of the Jesuit priests who accompanied La Vérendrye are described in some detail in an article on "Catholic Missionary Labours on the Lake Superior Frontier, 1667-1751," which the Reverend Francis J. Nelligan contributes to the Autumn issue of *Ontario History*. The setting for the narrative is the country stretching westward from Grand Portage and Fort William to the Lake of the Woods and central Manitoba. Figuring in the account are Father Charles-Michel Mésaiger, who went west with the French explorer in 1731 and a year later erected a pioneer chapel at Fort St. Charles; Father Jean-Pierre Aulneau, who was one of a party of La Vérendrye's men massacred by Indians on an island in the Lake of the Woods in 1736; and Father Claude-Godefroy Coquart, who went as far west as Fort la Reine in 1743.

ENTRIES dating from January 1 to June 21, 1798, comprise the concluding section of the "Journal of Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez" in the Fall issue of *Ethnohistory*. With annotations and comments by Harold Hickerson of Indiana University, the journal does much to enrich the story of the fur trade in the Red River Valley and the border lakes area. At the end, the editor presents an "excerpt from a letter in Chaboillez' handwriting, probably directed to the partners of the Northwest Company," and dated "Grand Portage 26th Aug. 1797."

WITH THE publication of the first volume of the *Papers of John C. Calhoun, 1801-1817* (Columbia, South Carolina, 1959. xlii, 469 p. \$10.00.) the University of South Carolina Press and the editor, the late Robert L. Meriwether, have made a significant contribution to American history. This welcome new edition of the papers of the antebellum South's foremost political thinker and statesman covers the period of Calhoun's preparation for his long and notable career, which embraced services as secretary of war, vice president, and United States Senator. Included are letters to and from Calhoun that provide valuable information about him as a student at Yale and at the Litchfield Law School; about his marriage to his cousin, Floride Bonneau Colhoun; as a member of the lower houses of the South Carolina legislature and of Congress; as a collaborator with Henry Clay in leading the party that steered the nation into the War of 1812; as a vigorous advocate of a philosophy of political and economic nationalism in Congress that crystallized in an ambitious program of internal improvements; and as architect of a plan for the defense of the West after the War of 1812. The volume concludes with Calhoun's appointment as secretary of war by President James Monroe. R.W.F.

THE American Association for State and Local History has issued a *Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada*, compiled by Clement M. Silvestro and Ardelle J. Hough (1959. 63 p.). Listed in the booklet are fifty-eight Minnesota organizations, with the names of directing officers, addresses, and type of activity. Copies may be ordered from the association at \$1.25 each.

A GUIDE to *Picture Sources* edited by Helen Faye and published by the Special Libraries

Association (New York, 1959. 115 p.) is intended, in the words of the preface, as a "research tool for picture researchers, librarians, editors, artists and all other professional users of pictures." Included are brief statements about 398 collections in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and abroad. Minnesota is represented by the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minneapolis Public Library, and the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*.

A SURVEY and an evaluation of *The Art of Seth Eastman*, prepared by John Francis McDermott and published by the Smithsonian Institution, includes a catalogue of the sixty-eight paintings and drawings in the latter's current traveling exhibition of the frontier artist's work (34 p.). In three chapters, the writer reviews Eastman's career at "Fort Crawford and West Point, 1829-1840"; "On the Frontier," including Fort Snelling, during the decade that followed; and in Texas and as an illustrator for Henry R. Schoolcraft's work from 1849 to 1855. Brief statements about Eastman's late work and about the significance of his contribution to frontier art conclude the narrative. A brief bibliography is included, and ten of Eastman's pictures are reproduced in the booklet. In St. Paul, the Smithsonian's Eastman show was displayed at the Science Museum from January 6 to 24, and Professor McDermott came from St. Louis to speak at the opening.

AMONG the "Towers of Manhattan" discussed by Earle Shultz and Walter Simmons in their recent book on *Offices in the Sky* (Indianapolis, 1959. 328 p.) is the building designed by Cass Gilbert for Frank W. Woolworth. The structure, which was completed in 1913, is described by the authors as "undoubtedly the tallest and most beautiful of the towers built in this period." They point out that the advertising value of a "building that would top the Metropolitan Tower and perhaps stand for years as the tallest in the world" was fully appreciated by Woolworth. He presented the architect from Minnesota with a "new kind of architectural problem," and the result was a "cathedral-like structure [which] possesses rare grace and charm." This is the only example of Gilbert's work mentioned by the authors, who confine themselves to buildings in only a few of the nation's urban centers. In another recent work dealing with *Architecture USA* (New York, 1959. 216 p.), Ian McCalum notes and illustrates Minnesota examples of the work of two famous architects. Both the exterior and the interior of Louis Sullivan's bank at Owatonna are pictured, and several views of

buildings designed by Marcel Breuer for St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, are included.

THE COLORFUL career of Ernest Brown and the remarkable collection of some fifty thousand negatives which he built up at Edmonton during the decades following 1904 are described by John Patrick Gillese in the Autumn issue of *The Beaver*. Indians, Eskimos, frontier forts, pioneer settlers, early vehicles — all are represented in this definitive collection, which embraces not only Brown's own work, but that of numerous other photographers of the Canadian West. Both his vast accumulation of pictures and the objects assembled for a museum which he called "The Birth of the West" are now preserved by the Alberta government at Edmonton.

A MOVING PANORAMA of "Battles Scenes of the Rebellion" by Thomas Clarkson Gordon has been added to the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn. Included in a booklet issued by the museum on the occasion of the first showing of the panorama is an account of the painting by Joseph Earl Arrington. He presents a biographical sketch of the artist, describes his preparation of the huge canvas in 1885 and 1886 at Spice-land, Indiana, and tells of the showings of the picture in the years that followed. The fifteen paintings in the series, each of which measures about seven by fourteen feet, are reproduced in the booklet.

MINNESOTA people and places figure prominently in John Harnsberger's article on "Railroads to the Northern Plains, 1870-1872," which appears in the Summer, 1959, issue of the *North Dakota Quarterly*. Portions of the narrative center about St. Paul and Duluth, and the activities of such leading Minnesotans as Alexander Ramsey, Ignatius Donnelly, and James Wickes Taylor are stressed. Featured, too, are Jay Cooke's elaborate plans for the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad westward from Duluth — plans which were not greatly influenced by "discussion concerning the building of a Canadian transcontinental railroad, entirely on Canadian soil." The latter road, according to the writer, "became involved in politics and the Canadian campaign in 1872 nearly destroyed the projected line."

STUDENTS of railroad history, particularly the transcontinental lines stretching westward from Minnesota to the Pacific, will be interested in August C. Bolino's article on "The Big Bend of the Northern Pacific," which appears in the Summer issue of *Idaho Yesterdays*. The writer traces the story of the road back to 1853 and the

survey made in that year by Isaac I. Stevens, noting that the latter's "explorations indicated an economically feasible route for a railroad from Saint Paul, Minnesota, to Portland, Oregon . . . by way of Lake Pend d'Oreille" in Idaho.

A LANDSMAN'S guidebook to what is now "our fourth seacoast" is provided by Dr. Frederick L. Whitlark in his *Introduction to the Lakes* (New York, 1959. 256 p.). The first half of this volume, devoted to shipping and commerce, includes a concise and well-illustrated section on the evolution and variations of the Great Lakes steamship, "a type of vessel different from any other ship on the seven seas." A separate picture section presents some fifty pages of photographs covering all types of lake craft from ore carriers through railway ferries and tugboats. The final chapters consist of a quick historical and geographical survey, beginning at Duluth-Superior, "the head of the Lakes," and proceeding eastward, to close with a brief description of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Effects of the seaway's first season of operation upon the port of Duluth-Superior are assessed in a series of five articles by Bob Murphy, appearing in the *Minneapolis Star* from November 16 to 20.

"THE manufacture of a twentieth-century folk hero can best be seen in the success story of Paul Bunyan," according to Richard M. Dorson's recently published work on *American Folklore* (Chicago, 1959. 328 p.). "A slender trickle of oral tradition can be detected beneath the torrent of printed matter about Paul Bunyan," writes Mr. Dorson, who asserts that "Old Paul first entered print in a feature article written by James McGillivray for the *Detroit News-Tribune*" in 1910. Supposedly it was based on tales the writer heard in a Michigan lumber camp of the 1880s. From this point, Mr. Dorson traces Paul's progress by way of W. B. Laughead's advertising pamphlet of 1914 to the flood of stories that now surround the lumberjack hero, causing resorts from Michigan and Minnesota to California to "bid lustily for the giant's playground, 'Paul Bunyan's land.'" The writer concludes that "Paul Bunyan represented only the most obvious facts of American life—the worship of bigness and power, and the ballyhoo of salesmanship and promotion."

A SHORT SECTION on "Midwest Reformers" is included in volume 4 of Joseph Dorfman's scholarly study of *The Economic Mind in American Civilization* (New York, 1959. 398 p.). The first of two volumes covering the years from 1918 to 1933, the work mentions such

Midwestern reformers as Arthur C. Townley (here mistakenly called "Albert"), Lynn Frazier, Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, and Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska. The author also takes note of the beginnings of the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota and the Minnesota Farmer Labor party.

IN 1875 Minnesota became the fourth state in the Union to allow women to vote in school elections, according to Eleanor Flexner's *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States* (Cambridge, 1959. 384 p.). Few other references to the state occur in this definitive work on the suffrage movement. Mention is made, however, of the fact that the Minnesota legislature was one of six to give women the presidential vote shortly before Congress passed the woman suffrage amendment in 1919.

THE FIRST ISSUE of a fortnightly publication known as the *Century Gazette* appeared at Morrison, Illinois, on January 9. Each number will contain reprints of articles, news reports, and advertisements that appeared in American newspapers "during the corresponding two-week period a century ago." The initial number covers the "weeks ending Saturday, January 7, 1860." Sources for each item are given, though unfortunately there is no location by states. Organization by subject or locality would help to make the publication useful.

AN ADDITION to the roster of state historical quarterlies is *Louisiana History*, the journal of the Louisiana Historical Association. The current Winter issue is volume 1, number 1. In the leading article, Kenneth T. Urquhart surveys "Seventy Years of the Louisiana Historical Association."

SOME OF THE exploits of Febold Feboldson, the "Swedish Paul Bunyan," are described by Paul Vandervoort II in the *American Swedish Monthly* for December. The writer points out that the "Great Plains were Febold's domain"; thus "while Paul Bunyan made history in the lumber country, Febold likewise was performing Herculean exploits on the prairies." Febold, however, "didn't get Paul Bunyan's publicity," though in the author's opinion he "was every bit as great as Bunyan."

A CHAPTER in the story of Swedish immigration to the Middle West is supplied by James I. Dowie in *Prairie Grass Dividing* (Rock Island Illinois, 1959. 262 p.). This book tells of Swedish settlement in the Platte Valley of Nebraska, the beginnings of the Nebraska confer-

ence of the Augustana Lutheran church, and the founding of Luther College at Wahoo. The author draws a great deal of his source material from personal papers and correspondence, reviewing the social and economic development of the community as well as its religious life. Originally written as a dissertation at the University of Minnesota, the book is of interest for Midwest readers because, as O. Fritiof Ander observes in his foreword, it is "a part of the history of the west . . . and an historical setting for *Giants in the Earth*."

FOUR BOOKLETS dealing with the *Origins of North Dakota Place Names* have been added to the series which is being compiled and published by Mary Ann B. Williams (see *ante*, 36:325). The new publications, all issued in 1959, deal with the counties of Cass, Barnes, Stutsman, Wells, Foster, Eddy, Kidder, Ward, Renville, Burke, Mountrail, Towner, Sheridan, Rolette, Pierce, Bottineau, and McHenry (20, 32, 22, 42 p.). Copies of the booklets are available at \$1.00 each; they may be purchased from the North Dakota Historical Society or from Mrs. Williams, who resides in Washburn, North Dakota.

THE WISCONSIN community of Prairie du Chien is designated as the "cradle of St. Paul" by Gareth Hiebert in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press Pictorial Magazine* for November 8, 1959. The house of Hercules Dousman, the graves of Father Lucien Galtier and Joseph Rolette, and the site of Fort Crawford are among the places significant for the history of Minnesota and its capital city which are described in this article. Pictures of the Dousman and Brisbois houses and of Father Galtier's grave illustrate the article.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A FORMER superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota graduate school, was honored at a conference on "Immigration in American History" held on the university campus on January 29 and 30. The occasion was Dean Blegen's forthcoming retirement in the summer of 1960 and the completion of two decades of leadership in graduate studies. His connection with the historical society spanned the years from 1922 to 1939. Among the scholars who participated were Henry Steele Commager of Amherst College, Oscar Handlin of Harvard University, Mrs. Ingrid Semmingsen of Oslo, Norway, Philip D. Jordan of the University of Minnesota, John T. Flanagan of the University

of Illinois, Carlton C. Qualey of Carleton College, Father Colman Barry of St. John's University, Franklin D. Scott of Northwestern University, and Henry Pochmann of the University of Wisconsin. Plans are under way for the publication of their papers in book form. A dinner in the ballroom of Coffman Memorial Union concluded the event.

TO MARK the seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of Sinclair Lewis at Sauk Centre, a "Commemoration Service" was held in that Minnesota community on February 11. Attention was called also to the fact that 1960 marks the fortieth anniversary of the publication of *Main Street* and the thirtieth of the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Literature to the Minnesota novelist. Participating in the program were Mr. Ben DuBois of Sauk Centre, who presented some reminiscences of the youthful "Red" Lewis; Professors Erling O. Larsen and Charles E. Shain of Carleton College, who discussed Lewis' literary contributions; and Mr. Russell Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, who suggested appropriate memorials to Lewis, including the preservation of his Sauk Centre home. The leading article in this issue of *Minnesota History* serves as another tribute to Lewis. The author, Professor John T. Flanagan, has long been a student of Minnesota and Midwest literature. Of the fifteen major articles which he has contributed to this magazine, the first, a study of "Thoreau in Minnesota," appeared exactly twenty-five years ago, in March, 1935.

"AN ABRIDGMENT of Dr. Claude Lewis's journal of an expedition made by himself and his brother, Sinclair Lewis, to northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 1924" has been edited with an introduction by Donald Greene and George Knox and published by the University of Minnesota Press in a booklet entitled *Treaty Trip* (1959. 42 p.). With a party led by an Indian agent named William R. Taylor, the brothers went from Sauk Centre to Winnipeg and thence into the remote reaches of northern Canada, where they witnessed annuity payments at various backwoods settlements. The journey, according to the editors, "produced Sinclair's (Harry's) *Mantrap* and Claude's journal, begun as a series of letters to his wife, Mary." At various points passages from *Mantrap* are compared with Dr. Lewis' text, providing an interesting feature of this unusual publication.

TO CALL attention to the centennial of the birth of a famed Minnesota architect, the North-

west Architect includes in its November-December issue an article on "Cass Gilbert: Forgotten Giant" by Robert S. Jones. The writer gives considerable attention to Gilbert's design for the Minnesota Capitol, built at the turn of the century.

A STUDY of *Homes for Aged and Chronically Ill Persons in Minnesota: Their Development and Licensure*, by Ethel McClure, has been issued by the division of hospital services of the Minnesota department of health (1959. 99 p.). The writer surveys the growth of Minnesota facilities for the aged and the changing attitude toward them from territorial days to the present. The main body of the report deals with efforts made after 1935, when social security went into effect, to meet the need for some form of supervision and regulation of private boarding care and nursing homes. Miss McClure concludes that in Minnesota there has been a steady, though often hard-won, improvement of standards for care of the aged. Her narrative, which is written clearly, in nontechnical language, is supplemented by tables and graphs. A helpful appendix provides a chronological record of important laws and events pertaining to the topic, and for further clarification, the laws are grouped by subject matter. Included also is a bibliography of pertinent books, pamphlets, reports, and periodicals. The work is a valuable contribution to the study of social welfare in Minnesota—a field that has received little attention from historians.

THAT "most of the early lumbermen in Minnesota came from the State of Maine," bringing "with them the logging and lumbering methods which became 'standard practice' in the industry for 60 years" is stressed in some reminiscences of Joseph A. DeLaittre, as told to Calvin L. DeLaittre, which appear in a recently published *Story of Early Lumbering in Minnesota* (1959. 43 p.). Both men are members of a prominent lumbering family which illustrates this westward migration. Their narrative opens with "The Story of Howard M. DeLaittre," who with his cousin, John DeLaittre, migrated from the woods of Maine to start a family business in Minnesota. They were typical of the state's pioneer lumbermen, like Thomas B. Walker, William D. Washburn, William W. Eastman, Charles A. Bovey, and others who operated on a modest scale, meeting the risks of a hazardous industry with a minimum of capital and a maximum of Yankee frugality and ingenuity. Joseph DeLaittre's recollections of "Three Winters in the Woods," presented in the second chapter, give a vivid picture of life in the

logging camps of Aitkin County at the turn of the century. The third and closing section contains anecdotes and reminiscences of some of the more colorful "Boss Lumbermen." The encouragement and advice of Mr. Elwood Maunder and Miss Clodaugh Neiderheiser of the Forest History Foundation of St. Paul are acknowledged in a foreword. The booklet is strikingly illustrated with full-page scenes of early logging days in the state.

PLANS for building a great "Seaway Collection" at the St. Louis County Historical Society in Duluth were announced in the organization's annual report for 1959. According to its president, Dr. Richard Bardon, the nucleus will consist of "records and papers of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Tidewater Association, an organization born out of the genius and inspiration of an eager group of Duluth men forty-one years ago to bring the Atlantic to the heart of the continent through connecting the head of the Great Lakes with tidewater via the St. Lawrence River." This important collection, comprising almost 250,000 items, is owned by the St. Louis County society. During the past year it was arranged, inventoried, and made available for study under the direction of Professor Arthur J. Larsen of the department of history in the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota. The papers, which cover the years from 1919 to 1939, consist of records, correspondence, books, memoranda, and other materials, and they include letters signed by many of the political leaders of the era involved.

THE ROLE of taconite in the history of a Minnesota mining firm is stressed by its president, Arnold Hoffman, in a booklet commemorating the *Fortieth Anniversary of the Mesabi Iron Company, 1919-1959* (New York, 1959. 48 p.). The account, which was published for the company's stockholders, is "dedicated to the memory of Daniel Cowan Jackling, without whom the taconite of Minnesota might still be a slumbering giant." Until his death in March, 1956, Jackling headed the company. His accomplishments in developing the low-grade ores of the Mesabi are stressed throughout.

THE IMPACT of taconite production upon two areas of Minnesota's iron country is treated in *Skillings Mining Review* for November 7 and February 6. The earlier article is devoted to "The History of Aurora-Hoyt Lakes." From the incorporation of Aurora on the eastern end of the Mesabi Range in 1903, the story is carried to the laying out of near-by Hoyt Lakes, a step-

child of the Erie Mining Company, whose huge taconite project at that place went into production in 1957. Until the latter event, Babbitt held the distinction of being the "youngest of the range towns." According to the account in the issue of February 6, "Babbitt was started in the spring of 1920, the settlement being called Argo at first." The story of the Babbitt area, however, is traced back to the 1860s, when it was explored by George R. Stuntz, Henry Eames, Peter Mitchell, and others; and it is continued into the 1950s, when, with the processing of low-grade ore, a modern village evolved about the taconite plant of the Reserve Mining Company. The mine in the vicinity is appropriately named for Peter Mitchell, "explorer and capitalist who first visited the locality ninety years ago."

IN AN ARTICLE on "Minor Dialect Areas of the Upper Midwest," appearing in the November, 1959, *Publication of the American Dialect Society*, Professor Harold B. Allen of the University of Minnesota discusses some terms used commonly in certain sections of Minnesota. Included are such localisms as "coulee," "bluff," and "rubber-binder." The author notes the use of "coulee" in the Red River Valley and in the Winona area, but he seems to have overlooked its application over many decades at Birch Coulee in the Minnesota River Valley.

MANY REFERENCES to Minnesota activities, especially among Scandinavians living in the state, are to be found in the *Diamond Jubilee Story of the Evangelical Free Church of America* by H. Wilbert Norton, Olai Urang, Roy A. Thompson, and Mel Larson (Minneapolis, 1959, 335 p.). Here is reviewed the story of a religious denomination from its first church conference in 1884 to 1959. Bible schools in Rushford and Minneapolis and meetings in various Minnesota communities are mentioned, and a long list of Evangelical Free churches existing in the state is included in the final chapter.

EPISCOPAL missionary activities of Bishop Henry B. Whipple and his successors among the Indians of Minnesota during the course of a century are reviewed by the Reverend Alan R. Clark in the *Living Church* for November 8.

IN A *Souvenir Program* issued for the twenty-sixth annual convention of the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society, held in Minneapolis from October 2 to 4, the one-hundred-and-fortieth anniversary of Fort Snelling is featured. Included is an account of "Fort Snelling: The Beginning of Minnesota," by Russell W. Fridley of the Min-

nesota Historical Society. He reviews the story of the many attempts to preserve the old fort, and concludes that one of the best ways "to build public interest in the development of this site . . . would be to begin now to secure a commemorative stamp in 1969 to mark the 150th anniversary" of its establishment. A Fort Snelling exhibit, consisting of "important known letters, and postmarks of this famous landmark which served as the first Minnesota post office" was among the displays arranged for the meeting.

THE FIRST issue of the *Polk County Historian*, published in January by the Polk County Historical Society, provides concrete evidence that the organization has been reactivated. Plans are under way for the publication of the news sheet as a "monthly journal of history."

A HALL built for the Grand Army of the Republic at Grand Meadow in 1891 has been turned over to the Mower County Historical Society for use as a museum, according to an announcement in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for February 12. Originally intended for meetings of the local GAR, organized in 1865, the hall has been maintained by the Women's Relief Corps since 1906. The *Post-Bulletin* notes that this is "one of two GAR halls remaining in Minnesota. The other is in Litchfield." The announcement stresses the fact that the Mower County society plans to use the Grand Meadow Hall for the housing of a Civil War collection.

THE DISCOVERY of three official documents concerned with the election of Mower County delegates to the Minnesota Constitutional Convention is announced in the *Austin Daily Herald* for December 15. The originals, which were found in Chisago County among the papers of Lucas K. Stannard, a delegate to the convention, have been placed in the public library of Austin, and photostatic copies have been made for the Minnesota Historical Society.

SKETCHES from Gareth Hiebert's "Oliver Towne" column in the *St. Paul Dispatch* have been reprinted in a little book entitled *Once Upon a Towne* (1959, 185 p.). An earlier collection, *St. Paul Is My Beat*, which appeared in 1958, is described in the issue of this magazine for June, 1959 (p. 239). Though none of the selections in the current work is strictly historical, the author leans heavily upon nostalgia, and odd or obscure bits of area history appear frequently throughout its pages. No hard and fast line is drawn at the St. Paul city limits. In one section the author ventures "Into the Valleys

around St. Paul" — notably those of the St. Croix, Mississippi, and Minnesota rivers — and in another he goes as far afield as Isle Royale in Lake Superior. For those who enjoy a chatty, sentimental ramble, the book contains, in the author's words, "a multitude of vignettes and true tales of Minnesota."

TWO RECENT articles in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* call attention to the fiftieth anniversary of Boy Scout activity in the United States. Writing in the issue of February 7, Roy Dunlap describes the formation in Ramsey County of Minnesota's first Boy Scout unit, and drawing on early minutes of the organization, recounts some of the difficulties it overcame and the milestones in its growth. A feature article by Irvin Letofsky published on February 14 pays tribute to Charles L. Sommers of St. Paul as the "central figure in the rich history of Northwest scouting."

ILLUSTRATED articles appearing in recent St. Paul papers recall vividly the opulence of the 1880s and 1890s, an era when fortunes made in the opening of the West were spent with grandiose extravagance. In the *Pioneer Press Pictorial Magazine* for November 22, Betty Roney describes the "Moorish palace" built in Stillwater by millionaire lumberman William Sauntry; and Jim Carney recalls the days when the St. Paul Midway boasted one of the nation's palatial horse-racing establishments in the *Dispatch* of December 1. According to the latter, the race track and stables, known as "Kitsondale," were the home of many a famous harness racer of the 1880s and reflected the prosperity of their builder, Norman Kitson, who had made a fortune in fur trading and railroad promotion. Montgomery Ward, Brown and Bigelow, and several other commercial and industrial concerns now occupy the site.

A ONE-ROOM schoolhouse of a type that is rapidly disappearing in Minnesota is the subject of an article in *The Farmer* for October 3. This example has been preserved by the Winona County Historical Society as a permanent exhibit on the Winona County fairgrounds at St. Charles. It is among the projects of the Winona County organization described by Dr. Lewis I. Younger in the December, 1958, issue of this magazine.

NINE PRIZES of a thousand dollars each are being offered by the McKnight Foundation of St. Paul in connection with its humanities program for 1960. They will be awarded to residents of Minnesota who submit outstanding

unpublished works in the fields of American history, military history, or biography, ancient or European history, the novel, the novella, the drama, or the essay. Manuscripts submitted must reach the foundation by December 1, 1960. For further details write to the secretary of the foundation, 736 Mendota Street, St. Paul 6.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

A DINNER at Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis will mark the society's hundred-and-eleventh annual meeting, to be held on May 5. With Mr. Sigurd F. Olson, a widely known Minnesota conservationist and author, as the principal speaker, the program will revolve about the role of the voyageur in the state's early history. The menu will feature dishes enjoyed in the wilderness, including wild goose and wild rice.

FIVE TOURS to areas of special historic interest are being planned by the society for the coming summer. They will include visits to the lower Minnesota Valley and West Newton with its old-time country store; the logging area about Leech Lake and Big Fork, featuring a tour of a lumber camp and a sawmill; the Lake Mille Lacs country, centering about the society's newly acquired Indian museum; the border lakes country north of Ely, long familiar to the voyageurs of the fur-trade era; and the St. Croix Valley. Three of the tours will occupy one day only; that to Ely will last three days, and that to Leech Lake, two days. The Mille Lacs trip is planned for June 26 — the date of the dedication of the Indian museum. For all other tours, dates will be announced later.

ON MARCH 4, Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of newspapers on the staff of the society, retired after forty-two years of service. He began his career with the society in 1918 as an editorial assistant, and he served for many years as curator of its museum. Readers of this magazine will recall numerous articles and book reviews that have appeared over his name in its pages.

TO SUCCEED Mr. Babcock as newspaper curator, Mr. Thomas F. Deahl of Minneapolis has been named. He has attended the universities of Ohio, Miami, and Minnesota, studying radio broadcasting, architecture, and sociology, and he has recently been enrolled in the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. He joined the society's staff on March 21.

ANOTHER recent addition to the staff is Mr. Alan R. Woolworth, who became curator of the museum on February 15. He came to St. Paul from Dearborn, Michigan, where he directed the local historical museum. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology from the universities of Nebraska and Minnesota, and he has worked as a professional archaeologist for the Smithsonian Institution and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Articles from his pen have appeared in a number of professional journals and reports.

WITH THE death on December 8 of Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul, the society lost a valuable member of its honorary council who was first elected to its executive council in 1942. According to a writer for the *Minneapolis Tribune* of December 13, her death "severed one of Minnesota's links with its early days," as well as with the society's past. Her grandfather, Governor Alexander Ramsey, was the first president of the frontier historical society upon its organization in 1849, and her mother, Mrs. Marian Ramsey Furness, served on its executive council for many years previous to her death in 1935.

A SURVEY of historic sites in Minnesota, now in progress under the direction of the society's associate editor, Mrs. Holmquist, is described and explained by Hal Quarforth in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 14. Assisting her in the project is Mrs. Brookins, editorial assistant; Mr. Becker of the society's picture department is photographing the sites as they are located. Together, they are establishing a permanent central file of significant sites and structures that will serve as a guide for those concerned with preservation in the future. Mr. Quarforth notes some of the houses, cabins, mills, schools, churches, and other structures that have been located, and he reproduces pictures of several. In connection with the survey, which the society hopes to keep up-to-date, it plans to publish a booklet containing descriptions of some of the significant historic spots that visitors will find attractive and interesting.

ABOUT sixty members attended the first meeting of the advisory committee of the Minnesota Civil War and Sioux Uprising Centennial Commission, held in the Weyerhaeuser Room of the society's building on February 12. Appointments to the committee, which consists of representatives from every section of the state, were announced earlier by Senator Leslie E. Westin of St. Paul, chairman of the commission. Pre-

liminary plans for the centennial observance were formulated at the meeting. They were discussed further at a regional gathering held in New Ulm on February 29, intended especially to promote the event in the Minnesota Valley and southern Minnesota.

AMONG readers who have made extensive use of the society's manuscript collections in recent months is Miss Berta Ulloa of Mexico City, who is preparing an inventory of manuscripts relating to Mexican history from 1910 to 1940 preserved in depositories in the United States. Miss Ulloa's Minnesota research has uncovered rich sources pertaining to her subject in the papers of John Lind, Frank B. Kellogg, James Gray, Frank Matson, and others. With financial assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation, the project is being conducted under the auspices of the College of Mexico, which plans to publish a guide to materials available in the United States.

THE SOCIETY is indebted to the Colonial Dames of Minnesota for two gifts of five hundred dollars each, to be used toward specific projects. One will help to make possible the erection of permanent interpretive markers on the original buildings remaining at Fort Snelling and the foundations unearthed there in 1957 and 1958. The second grant will go toward the publication of a guide to historic sites in Minnesota, now in preparation.

THE ONLY known copy of a pamphlet on *Emigration to North America* by Joseph Nelson (London, 1869. 19 p.) has been acquired by the society. It contains the printed version of a letter to the president of the English poor law board in which the author proposes the organization of a steamship company to promote the transportation of emigrants to North America. He especially recommends the Middle West for settlement, stressing the advantages of Minnesota and states that border it.

A BRIEF article about the society's new "Indian Museum at Mille Lacs" by Mr. Fridley appears in the November-December issue of the *Conservation Volunteer*. Other staff members who have contributed to recent publications include Mr. Grahn and Mr. Dunn. The former discusses "The Local Historical Society and Its Problems" in the *Missouri Historical Review* for January, and the latter is represented in *Covers* by a reprint of part of his article on "Mail for Pioneers" of the St. Croix Valley, which appeared originally in the June, 1959, issue of this magazine.



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