

The Indian Journals, 1859-62. By LEWIS HENRY MORGAN. Edited by LESLIE A. WHITE; illustrations selected by CLYDE WALTON. (Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan Press, 1959. 229 p. Illustrations, maps. \$17.50.)

Reviewed by Harold McCracken

REFERENCE to Lewis Henry Morgan as the "Father of American Anthropology" is made in his *League of the Ho-dé-no-sau-nee or Iroquois* by the editor of the 1901 edition, Herbert M. Lloyd. There are those, including the present reviewer, who might subscribe to another nominee for such a hallowed title (George Catlin, for example), although certainly none will deny Morgan an extremely high place as an accredited and respected pioneer in the field of social anthropology of the American Indians. In the all too recent reappraisal of our human relations with and the ethos of the Indians, the present journals are undeniably important to a sound understanding. The fact that they have remained unpublished for a century is not so much a discredit to our past indifference, as it is a credit to the present searching for an honest evaluation of the race of human beings which was so completely subjugated and culturally destroyed in the making of our national homeland.

This handsomely prepared volume is fortunately far more than the mere putting into printed accessibility the journal and notes of a scientific traveler among the Indians living in the area extending westward from Kansas and the Red River of the North to the Rocky Mountains in the years 1859 to 1862. It is an encyclopedia of pertinent and soundly documented observations on the customs, ceremonies, and ancestral culture of a race that has literally ceased to exist. It is as interesting to the layman as it is important for the professional anthropologist or naturalist. The reader will find here a wealth of concise factual information on many phases of tribal life, as well as on the contem-

porary fauna of the regions covered. Among the subjects touched upon are the significance of the roasting ear dance and the bread dance; how pemmican was made; the state of polygamy and a husband's relationship to his wife's sisters among the Crows; burial customs and torture ceremonies; the fish in the Platte and grizzly bears and wild sheep along the Missouri; the declension of nouns, comparative vocabularies, numerals, and geographic names; the native names and formalities prescribed for various dances; and sidelights on the unfortunate social effects which had already resulted from the red man's transition from his ancestral mode of life to that of the "civilized" white man. Furthermore, the volume includes a sketch of Morgan's life and scholarly accomplishments, as well as copious notes which can lead to further information on the Indians.

The book contains an excellent assemblage of particularly fine color and black and white reproductions of Western Americana art relating to the Indians. It is a bit unfortunate, however, that they represent a period in the history of the tribesmen that culturally is considerably previous to the time when Morgan made his field observations. This may give the layman an erroneous impression. In the period between the days of James Otto Lewis, George Catlin, and Karl Bodmer and those of Morgan, the red man experienced an abrupt transition, sinking to a regrettable depth in the limbo of a lost culture. The earlier pictures do add greatly to the beauty of the book and they do not detract in any way from the importance of the text. Certainly *The Indian Journals* of Lewis Henry Morgan should be in every library of Western Americana.

SLAUGHTER ON THE PLAINS

The Great Buffalo Hunt. By WAYNE GARD. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1959. vii, 324, xii p. Illustrations. \$5.75.)

Reviewed by Merrill G. Burlingame

HERE IS a carefully organized, closely meshed account of the slaughter of the American buffalo

MR. MCCracken is the director of the Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Gallery of Western Art at Cody, Wyoming.

on the Western plains—one of a number of dramatic and extravagant episodes in the conquest of a continent. The book has a comprehensive scope. It includes an examination of the nature of the massive beasts, their all-encompassing utility for the Indians, the mechanics of the trade for the great robes, and detailed accounts of the quest for hides as the basis of the trade shifted from robes to hides. Finally, a nostalgic chapter is devoted to the song and legend of those who still dreamed, "Oh, give me a home where the buffaloe roam," after the bones had been gathered by homesteaders who used the profits from their sale to help establish themselves on the inhospitable plains.

Detailed research has piled instance upon instance in each chapter to a place where diminishing returns are avoided only by skillful craftsmanship in fitting the mosaic into a rapidly moving narrative which has drama and imagery. All the colorful characters are here, from Sir St. George Gore, who expended "an estimated half-million dollars on his hunt," to the highly efficient and durable Mooar brothers. The story has excellent qualities of suspense in several sequences, particularly in that of the siege of Adobe Walls.

This reviewer would observe, of course, that predominant emphasis is given to the Middle and Southern plains, and relatively little to an equally large Northern herd, where along the Missouri particularly, the documentation is adequate.

The author gives some attention to interpretation, such as the encouragement of the slaughter by the military in the interests of better control of the Indians, the economic influence upon the expansion into the plains, and the transition from buffalo hunter to cattle rancher. Since so much of the book is devoted to the hide hunt, the addition of an explanation for the insatiable demand for hides from the new industry in the East would have added strength. The railroads are frequently mentioned, but somewhat incidentally as a way by which the sportsmen got onto the plains, rather than as a significant and necessary adjunct to the rapid extermination of the buffalo.

A more forceful presentation of the interpretative aspects would have given added meaning

to the excellent account of a striking and important movement. Expertly written and especially well illustrated, the book is a worthy addition to the rapidly increasing number on the subject of buffalo hunting.

LAKE SUPERIOR JOURNEY

Sketches of a Tour to the Lakes, of the Character of the Chippeway Indians, and of Incidents Connected with the Treaty of Fond du Lac. By THOMAS L. MCKENNEY. (Minneapolis, Ross & Haines, Inc., 1959. viii, 493 p. Illustrations. \$8.75.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

AS SUPERINTENDENT of the recently organized bureau of Indian affairs in the war department, Thomas L. McKenney and his fellow commissioner, Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, traveled to Fond du Lac at the head of Lake Superior in the summer of 1826 to conclude a treaty with the Chippewa. This volume, originally issued in 1827, is composed of McKenney's daily letters and journal-like jottings describing his journey of four months. The book has long been familiar to students of Minnesota history for its graphic account of the signing of the treaty of Fond du Lac on August 5, 1826, for its descriptions of the customs of the voyageurs and the Chippewa, and for its charming word pictures of the pristine wilderness of Lake Superior's south shore. The publisher is to be commended for making this rare and readable work available to a modern audience.

McKenney left Georgetown in the District of Columbia on June 1, 1826, to make his way up the Atlantic coast to New York City and then westward via the Erie Canal and the lakes to Detroit, where he met Governor Cass. From there, the two men proceeded by schooner and canoe through Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior to the American Fur Company's post at Fond du Lac near what is now the city of Duluth.

Well over a third of the text is devoted to the Lake Superior portion of McKenney's journey, which consumed the weeks from July 4 to August 18. The author writes well and has a keen eye for detail. He describes Indians spearing fish in the rapids of Sault Ste. Marie, the

MR. BURLINGAME is a member of the history faculty in Montana State College at Bozeman and an authority on Montana frontier history.

MRS. HOLMQUIST is associate editor on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.

making of a birch-bark canoe, Chippewa dances and ceremonies, the agility and skill of the voyageurs, the treaty signing and the departure of the company to the strains of "Yankee Doodle," as well as the look of the country in both clear and stormy weather. His letters abound, too, in brief, sharply etched word portraits of people like John Johnson, the trader at Sault Ste. Marie, Henry R. Schoolcraft, who accompanied the party to Fond du Lac, and the Chippewa chiefs who attended the treaty councils. The range of McKenney's interest was wide and his sympathy for the red man was deep.

In reprinting this delightful book, it is regrettable that the publisher did not see fit to provide an introduction and an index, both of which would add greatly to the interest and value of the work. Modern readers, unaware of the author's official position, for example, will not be enlightened by the text. They may well wonder also to whom these detailed and vivid reports were addressed, for McKenney nowhere identifies his correspondent. Introductory material explaining the background of the treaty and the importance of the belief that immense deposits of copper abounded in the region would help to explain the author's interest in that metal. The original illustrations, based on sketches by J. O. Lewis, who accompanied the party, are reproduced in the new volume. They were badly executed and poorly printed in the original, and they have not been improved by reprinting.

NORTHERN NEIGHBOR

A Source-book of Canadian History: Selected Documents and Personal Papers. Compiled by J. H. STEWART REID, KENNETH MC-NAUGHT, and HARRY S. CROWE. (Toronto, Longmans, Green and Company, 1960. xvi, 472 p. \$7.75.)

Reviewed by Donald F. Warner

A NOTABLE recent development in historical publishing has been the appearance of numerous volumes of readings consisting of excerpts from basic documents and secondary works not available in most libraries. At the risk of giving a disjointed and *Reader's Digest* impression of man's story, the source book has added a valuable dimension to college history teaching — a dimension which should also be helpful to the lay reader who gets his history without the benefit of classes, credits, and cuts.

While such books are numerous for the histories of Europe, Great Britain, and the United States, the present volume is the pioneer work in its field, and it is a promising beginning. It is divided into ten topics, principally political and constitutional, covering the history of Canada from the earliest discoveries and stressing the nineteenth century, germinal period of the Dominion. There are few readings on the years since 1900, which will be comprehensively treated in a subsequent volume. Readers of *Minnesota History* will be particularly interested in Part 6, entitled "The Winning of the West," which includes readings and documents on the Red River Settlement and its tribulations, and on the causes and results of the Riel rebellions — topics closely associated with the upper Midwest. Other and scattered references, particularly those dealing with railroads and with Canadian-American relations, contain information of interest to readers living south of the border.

The editors of this book have essayed a difficult task and discharged it excellently. They have minimized the unavoidable tendency to fragmentation by cogent introductions to each block of readings. In their search for significant materials, they have ranged widely and chosen well from unpublished and published documentary collections, Parliamentary debates and papers, monographs, general histories, and newspapers. While it is unthinkable that any two historians will agree precisely on the few documents and readings which should be culled from the myriad of those available to give the most accurate, comprehensive, and meaningful picture of the history of a nation, the selections in this volume will come close to winning general approval.

This reviewer regrets principally that so little space was given to the French period and that a more readable type face was not used. American readers in general would find some maps very useful. Such criticisms are minor in comparison to the contribution this *Source-book* makes to teachers and students of Canadian history, who will anxiously await the appearance of the companion volume.

MR. WARNER is a member of the history faculty in the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire and the author of a newly published book on Canadian annexation, entitled *The Idea of Continental Union*.

ANTI-UTOPIAN NOVEL

Caesar's Column: A Story of the Twentieth Century. By IGNATIUS DONNELLY. Edited by Walter B. Rideout. (Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1960. xxxii, 313 p. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Martin Ridge

SINCE Donnelly's *Caesar's Column* has been out of print for years and is something of a collector's item, this new edition will be welcomed by many readers interested in American thought and letters. Aside from Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, this was the best-known piece of radical fiction in the late nineteenth century. Unlike Bellamy's *Utopia*, which predicted a roseate future for America in the twentieth century, Donnelly's work conceived of the future in terms of a gradual degeneration of American society terminating in a ghastly blood bath unless the American people launched into an era of reform. *Caesar's Column* is the first American anti-Utopian novel.

In his introduction to this new edition Professor Rideout has provided an outline of Donnelly's life and a brief analysis of the book. Comparing it with Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and George Orwell's *1984*, the characteristic anti-Utopian novels of the current era, the editor finds Donnelly inferior as a novelist but equally effective in presenting a detailed projection of a nightmarish future. Donnelly is criticized for his ambivalent attitude toward the Jews and his overconcern with the money question. He is given credit for recognizing and opposing the influence of social Darwinism, indicating an awareness of the doctrine of conspicuous consumption, and anticipating the problems of a nation in which technology has outstripped man's knowledge of society. Professor Rideout concludes that Donnelly was a genuine artist who was seriously concerned with his craft in *Caesar's Column*, that he was much influenced by the romantic, melodramatic novels of his time, and that as an author he worked well with his materials.

It is significant that this new edition of *Caesar's Column* was published by the Harvard

University Press in a series of works considered important to men in the western world. Minnesota's Ignatius Donnelly, whose long career in public life was almost always marked by failure, would probably have found great satisfaction in seeing a book he had written to help elect a Populist candidate to the presidency included in a series with works by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Cotton Mather.

FLIGHT TO FAME

The Hero: Charles A. Lindbergh and the American Dream. By KENNETH S. DAVIS. (Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1959. 527 p. \$4.95.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

THIS IS a superbly written biography of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and his relationship to his times. It is the story of a courageous, individualistic, lonely, thinking man who markedly helped to change the world in which he lived through air power. It is a book compounded of an illuminating blend of research, analysis, and understanding. To write the biography of so complicated and contemporary a figure as Charles A. Lindbergh is not easy. Denied the cooperation of Lindbergh and his closest friends, Mr. Davis nevertheless undertook the assignment with irrepressible zeal. The results of his labors demonstrate that he succeeded admirably.

The Hero is not only a careful and thoughtful account of Lindbergh's life, but it represents a skillful attempt to review his career against the varying backgrounds of World War I, the depression of the 1930s, the New Deal, and World War II. "The man himself, as his public record shows," writes Mr. Davis, "is amazingly symptomatic of certain dominant moods in recent Western culture, and his life describes a remarkably pure symbolic curve across the turbulence of our times." This curve swings from the unequalled and hysterical idol worship of the American public for Lindbergh, through the slow decline of his reputation in the late 1930s and early 1940s, to the lonely isolation that marks him as a distant figure today.

The author convincingly demonstrates that a

MR. RIDGE, who is a member of the history faculty in the San Diego, California, State College, has a biography of Donnelly in preparation.

MR. FRIDLEY is the director of the Minnesota Historical Society.

hero's achievement—in this case Lindbergh's epochal trans-Atlantic flight of 1927—is dependent on what has gone before. Far less convincing is Mr. Davis' subsequent argument that what follows is necessarily determined by the hero's background. This exaggerated thesis may produce the plot for an excellent novel like Joseph Campbell's *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, to which Mr. Davis acknowledges a debt for the basic idea of the book. It is of little value, however, in interpreting a life so eventful and subject to so many unforeseen events as Lindbergh's. This preconception, in this reviewer's opinion, constitutes the book's one flaw.

Mr. Davis' characterization of the Lindbergh story is absorbing throughout as he delineates his subject's ancestry on both sides; his early life in Minnesota and Washington, D.C.; his residence with his mother, who was estranged from her husband; his inadequately known career as one of the genuine pioneers of aviation; his happy marriage to Anne Morrow; his interesting association with Dr. Alexis Carrel and his invention of the artificial heart; his ill-fated political career of the 1930s and ambiguous relationship with racism and Fascism; and, finally, his little-known and heroic record in World War II. Many readers may question the author's conclusion about Lindbergh's purported sympathies with the Nazi regime. The evidence seems inconclusive and there is the counter theory that the flyer was connected with the American government's intelligence service.

Mr. Davis shows that Lindbergh is best understood in terms of his father, a Republican maverick Congressman and a man of great integrity and intense individualism; and his mother, a brilliant woman of definitely scientific interests. The author's absorbing analysis of the traits inherited by the son from his parents and their forebears provides one of the most interesting portions of the book.

The author's mastery of the huge amount of material on Lindbergh is reflected in a remarkable bibliographical essay. Unfortunately it does not include Robert Morlan's *Political Prairie Fire: The Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922*, which is the best source on the senior Lindbergh's role as the Nonpartisan League candidate for governor in the crucial Minnesota election of 1918.

Mr. Davis' book is a truly impressive example of a good biography based largely on printed materials and interviews. That the papers of

Lindbergh and his father were not available to the author was not his fault. It is to be hoped, however, that a future biographer will be able to use these sources and thus produce a more intimate portrait of the man. Until that day arrives, Mr. Davis' book will remain an excellent and absorbing account of Minnesota's famous "flying colonel."

PROMOTING TRANSPORTATION

Government Promotion of American Canals and Railroads, 1800-1890. By CARTER GOODRICH. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1960. x, 382 p. Map. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Robert C. Toole

SINCE World War II, economic historians have devoted much study to the relationships between American national, state, and local governments and the economy, including the promotional activities of governments in developing internal improvements. A leader in this research is Carter Goodrich, a professor of economics at Columbia University who has also participated in economic development programs in underdeveloped countries.

The relation between public and private activity in the creation of canals and railroads constitutes the main theme of Professor Goodrich's book, with its focus on "the controversial, and still timely, issue of competition and co-operation between government and business." The author hopes that an analysis of the American experience may be of use to people who are considering what the roles of government and private enterprise should be in the nations now striving for development.

Sources for this study include nineteenth-century public documents, law cases, newspapers, and periodicals. Professor Goodrich also has brought together much of the pertinent information in a large number of monographs, articles, and unpublished doctoral dissertations and masters' theses. Using these varied materials, he bravely estimates the total commitments in cash or credit made by governments for canal and railroad construction. His estimates suggest

MR. TOOLE is a research associate for the Business History Foundation in St. Paul, where he has been working on a history of the Great Northern Railway.

that, not including federal land grants, governments contributed roughly a fifth of the nearly four billion dollars invested in these improvements by 1873. States provided about half of the public outlay, local governments almost two-fifths, and the national government approximately a tenth. After 1873 governments supplied only a negligible fraction of the investment in railroads.

A few of the author's brief mentions of Minnesota are inaccurate; for example, Minnesota entered the Union in 1858, not 1857, and it authorized state railroad bonds in 1858, not 1860. Other statements illustrate opportunities for additional research in the state's economic history. The city of St. Paul, for example, did not appropriate \$500,000 for railroad aid in 1864, but in that year the legislature did confirm an action of the city council in 1863 by which it voted the issue of railroad bonds amounting to \$250,000. Local assistance to railroads was not revived by a general law of 1877, but was limited by a constitutional amendment in 1872.

Although written primarily for the specialist, the book can be read by others with pleasure and profit. It summarizes existing knowledge of an important phase of American history, contributes considerable new data and interpretation, and makes clear the significant role of American governments in promoting canals and railroads.

CULTURAL TRENDS

Studies in American Culture: Dominant Ideas and Images. Edited by JOSEPH J. KWIAT and MARY C. TURPIE. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1960. viii, 233 p. \$4.75.)

Reviewed by Charles Cleaver

THE ESSAYS in this book were compiled to commemorate the work of the late Tremaine McDowell, who was chairman of the program in American studies at the University of Minnesota and a pioneer in stimulating interdisciplinary inquiry into America's civilization. Most of the essays were written by men who were at one time or another students or colleagues of Profes-

sor McDowell at Minnesota. The character of his impact on the world of scholarship is well indicated by these essays; they are catholic in their range of subjects, and imaginative in their methods of analysis.

There are many ways into a culture as complex as that of the United States, and this book suggests a good number of them. It contains fifteen essays. Some are rather specific, such as Mulford Q. Sibley's discussion of the perfectionist theories of the Oneida community and David R. Weimer's study of symbols underlying American Federation of Labor polemics from about 1890 to about 1920; some are speculative and general, like Allen Tate's analysis of the state of mind from which modern Southern literature springs. Of particular interest to readers from Minnesota are three essays. Dean Theodore C. Blegen records a number of songs sung by immigrants to the Great Plains, and suggests various ways in which they are useful to our understanding of the attitudes of those people. David W. Noble discusses the "climate of opinion" in which Thorstein Veblen formulated his commentary on America at the turn of the century, and suggests a kinship between his thought and that of his contemporaries, where most students of Veblen have found only contrast. John W. Ward discusses the symbolic import of the public reaction to Charles Lindbergh's flight to Paris in 1927, pointing out the ambivalence in the fact that the event meant to the same people an assertion of both the old pioneer values and new ones which celebrated the machine.

If the wide range of this book is exciting, the free and lively inventiveness of its methods of inquiry is even more so. One finds here a teacher of literature discussing Henry Adams' attempt to relate new scientific knowledge to old cultural beliefs; a teacher of history demonstrating the manner in which a novelist embodied in his work the changing attitudes toward the new cities of 1900; and another teacher of literature describing the manner in which a literary and philosophical tradition nourished the work of a painter. One writer shows how religious sensibility animates much American literature, and another writer demonstrates how a vernacular tradition informs a certain strain of "serious" literature. Here are varying points of view about the usefulness of literature to sociology and of sociology to literature; and here also two teachers of literature and a sociologist collaborate on a study of the unconscious response of early nine-

MR. CLEAVER is a member of the faculty of the division of language and literature in Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa.

teenth-century Americans to the machines which had invaded their pastoral land. The first two essays in the book, by Henry Nash Smith and Reuel Denney, and the last two, by Charles H. Foster and Robert E. Spiller, address themselves directly to the question of method in American studies. These essays give the book a unity. But a deeper unity pervades the whole work. All the writers have clearly felt the crisis which presently lies in the fragmentation and compartmentalization of knowledge, and all have attempted to explore means of restoring some sense of wholeness to our understanding of the American culture.

MINNESOTA SENATOR

This Is Humphrey: The Story of a Senator. By MICHAEL AMRINE. (Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1960. 261 p. \$3.95.)

Reviewed by Charles H. Backstrom

STATES like Minnesota with few electoral votes seldom are candidate hunting grounds for the national parties. Speculation about the presidential possibilities of a home-grown politician thus stirs up unusual excitement. Talk about Minnesota's Governors John A. Johnson and Floyd B. Olson was cut off by their untimely deaths, making impossible a test of whether their personal attractiveness and leadership ability could persuade the national Democratic party to accept their advanced views and risk their regional handicap. Hubert H. Humphrey forced a trial of this balance in 1960.

Senator Humphrey acquired a seemingly necessary campaign item in this book explaining his views and describing his political and personal development. Although admitting the impossibility of tracing each facet of the Humphrey personality and program, the author finds much of it originating in the wholesome, competitive, yet heartbreaking life of dust-choked South Dakota home towns in the 1930s. In this setting Dad Humphrey coached young Hubert in the philosophy of Bryan and Wilson. Hubert himself watched Roosevelt and studied theoretical

and practical politics at the University of Minnesota and in Saturday night sessions with fellow students who are still among his backers. The secret of Humphrey's political success, the author says, is a capacity to "get people involved," and he mentions, but cannot truly depict, the fantastic resources of energy, curiosity, and intellectual and forensic ability through which he involves them.

People around the nation have been finding out who Humphrey is and what he stands for. If they wish to know what he was and how he works they can read Michael Amrine's favorable but quite objective biography. Minnesotans will also want to put into perspective what they already know about their favorite son who was reaching for the top.

ABBREVIATED DICTIONARY

Dictionary of the American Indian. By JOHN L. STOUTENBURGH, JR. (New York, Philosophical Library, 1960. 462 p. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Alan R. Woolworth

ACCORDING to the publisher's blurb, this is "an up-to-date source book for the student, researcher or individual who simply wants a clear, unbiased picture of the American Indian." Since it has neither preface nor foreword to explain what the compiler had in mind when assembling its component parts, and the author does not cite authorities for definitions or statements, the book can hardly make any pretensions to scholarly status.

Minnesota historians and others will be distressed to find that such important Indian villages as Kathio and Kaposia are omitted. Some entries examined at random reveal the author's lamentable lack of technical knowledge about his subject, and his definitions throughout are superficial. Although his work might be of some use to those who depend on small public libraries, it is definitely not a reference tool for serious students or scholars. Frederick W. Hodge's monumental *Handbook of American Indians* is the only general work thus far published which merits the title "Dictionary of the American Indian."

MR. BACKSTROM, assistant professor of political science in the University of Minnesota, observed Senator Humphrey in 1958 as a Congressional fellow of the American Political Science Association in Washington.

MR. WOOLWORTH is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum, and a specialist on the Indians of the plains.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

THE NATIONWIDE concern for preserving historic sites is brought sharply into focus by a handsome brochure recently published by the National Park Service under the title *That the Past Shall Live* (39 p.). The authors, John Shirley Hurst and John A. Hussey, tell how the park service "is moving forward on many fronts to meet and cope with the numerous problems besetting and threatening the nation's historic values." They point out, nevertheless, that "to hold any hope of success, this gigantic undertaking must be a joint venture in which Federal, State and local agencies — as well as patriotic individuals and organizations — work as partners." A similar theme is developed by Clifford Lord in an address on "The Conservation of Historic Sites," presented before the Pacific coast branch of the American Historical Association in September, 1959, and published in *Idaho Yesterdays* for the Fall of 1959. Mr. Lord recommends local rather than federal action except in cases where large-scale emergency measures are necessitated by inundation or other drastic land changes. He advocates that historical societies take responsibility for the conservation of historic sites because they have the "unique status to co-ordinate effectively the many individuals, groups, and interests which can be brought to bear on any single project."

"WHETHER or not there exists a natural region which could be called the Midwest, there is an area of the central United States in which the residents consider themselves to be Midwesterners." This conclusion is reached by Joseph W. Brownell in an article entitled "The Cultural Midwest," appearing in the *Journal of Geography* for February. The study is the result of a survey conducted by sending questionnaires to the postmasters of 536 communities. They were asked simply whether the community in which they lived lay within the Midwest. The answers indicate that Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota, along with western Oklahoma, southern Michigan, and northern Ohio and Indiana, form the "core of the cultural Midwest."

THE HEADING of an article in the February number of *Changing Times: The Kiplinger Magazine* announces that "It's Fun Digging into Your Town's History." The anonymous writer relates that "People are waking up to the fact that every town's history is romantic and thrill-

ing," and "that piecing together the story from old deeds, letters and the memories of the oldest inhabitants can be an absorbing and satisfying project." As a result "local historical societies are multiplying." A few examples of their accomplishments are listed, and some suggestions for organizing procedures are offered — all based upon publications and activities of the American Association for State and Local History. The writer concludes that "Historical research combines the best parts of being an explorer, a detective, a writer and maybe a member of show business. And the best thing about it is that the raw material is lying all around, free."

A PAMPHLET on the *Dakota Indian Religion* by Vernon D. Malan and Clinton J. Jesser has been published by the Dakota State College Agricultural Experiment Station as number 473 of its *Bulletins* (Brookings, 1959. 64 p.). The authors deal with the traditional beliefs of the Sioux and their modification under the impact of western civilization. Since they are sociologists, they are primarily concerned with the present cultural patterns of the Indian community and the extent to which western or traditional value systems are being accepted or have been combined in what are termed "transitional religions." The earlier years of cultural change are described in passing, and the writings of Minnesota missionaries like Gideon H. Pond and Stephen R. Riggs are, among others, drawn upon for illustration.

"THE MANNERS of American Society and the apparent equality (in some respects) of all classes, appear unnatural and sometimes disgusting," commented Robert Clouston in 1846 while on a business trip from Fort Garry via St. Paul to St. Louis. Extracts from the journal of this observant and articulate young Scotch employee of the Hudson's Bay Company provide the basis for some "Traveler's Tales" of "Early Midwestern Life and Manners," which Mrs. W. F. Mitchell contributes to the Winter issue of *Midwest Folklore*. Though distressed by the crudities of backwoods travel, Clouston was not always negative in his judgments. Amused and highly intrigued by many frontier social phenomena, he concluded that "American gentlemen are very different from these rascally, bragging, low-bred scoundrels one meets along the roads." Readers of *Minnesota History* will recall Clouston as the traveler featured in Mrs. Mitchell's article entitled "International Buying

Trip: Fort Garry to St. Louis in 1846," which appeared in this magazine for June, 1958.

UNDER the title "Shooting the Stars and Chaining the Land," in the Spring issue of *The Beaver*, Marjorie Forrester recounts some of the difficulties experienced by the joint British-American commission which, in the years between 1872 and 1875, surveyed and marked the United States-Canadian boundary from the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rockies. According to this writer, the section to the east of the Red River — part of Minnesota's northern boundary — presented the greatest difficulties. The Northwest Angle area, for example, included swamps where "the men never knew when they would sink up to the armpits in horrid muck," and in the vicinity of Roseau the party "had great difficulty in finding a ridge of land close to the boundary and solid enough to hold a camp." The article is fully illustrated with contemporary photographs and drawings. Writing in the same issue, George Woodcock tells of "Louis Riel: Defender of the Past," dwelling especially upon the last phase of Riel's career.

THE WINTER, 1959, issue of the *Naturalist* commemorates the three-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Lake Superior with a series of articles and a wealth of striking illustrations. In an introductory essay, Grace Lee Nute reviews the story of the lake's discovery in 1659 by Radisson and Groseilliers and presents a translation of some of Radisson's observations on the appearance of its south shore. Other articles of particular historic interest are T. F. McIlwraith's account of "Primitive Man on the North Shore," in which he reviews recent archaeological discoveries on the boulder beaches of Lake Superior; Elizabeth M. Bachmann's sketch of the "Ghost Mine of Silver Islet" in Thunder Bay; and Leland R. Cooper's examination of Chipewewa culture as exemplified in the Indian community on Madeline Island, published under the title "Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker."

THE HISTORY of western Canada, with particular emphasis on the region adjacent to the head of Lake Superior, is set forth by J. P. Bertrand in *Highway of Destiny* (New York, 1959. 301 p.). The first twelve chapters of the book are devoted to Indian life, exploration, and the fur trade, of which the last receives the fullest treatment. There the author ranges far afield and gives an outline history of the entire North American fur trade, with its rivalries, private wars, and diplomatic and political implications.

The last seven chapters cover the history of northwestern Ontario and Fort William from about 1820 to the present, including the growth of mining and transportation. The book is not annotated, but a bibliography and an index are included.

A STUDY of the *Woman Suffrage Movement in South Dakota* by Dorinda R. Reed has been published by the State University of South Dakota as Report no. 41 of its governmental research bureau (Vermillion, 1958. 126 p.). The writer records that as early as 1872 the "Dakota Territorial Legislature came within one vote of favoring woman suffrage," and that it passed such a bill thirteen years later "only to have it vetoed by the territorial governor." The successive campaigns which finally attained suffrage for South Dakota's women in 1918 are described in some detail. It is of interest to note that the first of the state campaigns, that of 1890, "attracted national attention because Susan B. Anthony, founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association, came to South Dakota to lead the fight in person."

IN AN ARTICLE on "Rølvaag and Turner's Frontier Thesis," published in the Autumn, 1959, issue of the *North Dakota Quarterly*, Robert Steensma expresses the belief that the "transformation in the character of the pioneer, as described by Turner, is revealed in the two leading characters" of O. E. Rølvaag's *Giants in the Earth*. The writer concludes that one "is apt to see much more vividly what Turner meant" after reading the novel with the historian's theories in mind.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

AN archaeological survey of ancient Indian village, burial mounds, and historic sites on Prairie Island in the Mississippi at its junction with the Vermillion River below St. Paul has been made possible through a grant of \$2,000 from the Northern States Power Company, which plans to erect a new generating plant on the island. Professor Elden Johnson of the University of Minnesota, who is state archaeologist, and members of his staff will conduct the survey. The site is closely associated with French exploration of the upper Mississippi Valley; Pierre Charles LeSueur, for example, spent the winter of 1696 there.

THE FIRST number of the *Minnesota Archaeological Newsletter*, a "new venture for archaeology in Minnesota," appeared in March. It is mimeographed for free distribution by the de-

partment of anthropology in the University of Minnesota and will be issued each spring and fall. The present number contains a report on the 1959 summer field session at Itasca State Park and describes plans for the 1960 session, which will conduct excavations in the Crookston-Fertile-Red Lake Falls area. A section on "Glacial Lake Agassiz and Prehistoric Man," accompanied by a map, describes a research program now under way to "determine . . . the nature and sequence of human occupation associated with Glacial Lake Agassiz II."

PLANS are now being made for a two-day seminar on the Civil War, to be held early in September on the campus of the University of Minnesota under the joint sponsorship of its extension division and the Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable. Included will be a forum on problems relating to the teaching of Civil War history in the high schools. Further details about the seminar will be announced later.

THE MOVEMENT for "A Parkway for the Mighty Mississippi," as planned and promoted by ten river states, is reviewed by U. W. Hella in the *Conservation Volunteer* for the March-April. The writer, who is director of the division of state parks in Minnesota, sketches his story against a background of Mississippi River history, and he outlines plans for the parkway dating back as far as 1915. In a Minnesota report submitted in 1956 no fewer than "65 sites were recommended as worthy of development in connection with the Minnesota section of the parkway."

LETTERS written in 1860 and 1861 by Albert H. Pratt, a young grain speculator in the upper Mississippi Valley, are the basis for Dorothy J. Ernst's article on a "Search for Fortune along the Mississippi" in the January issue of *Mid-America*. The writer tells how Pratt, beginning as a bookkeeper in Daniel Wells' La Crosse and La Crescent Bank at Hokah, became inspired by visions of wealth to be reaped in trade on the Mississippi. Operating on capital borrowed from Wells, he "ranged up and down . . . the river, purchasing grain and distributing it for storage at La Crosse, Trempeleau, Winona, Hastings, and St. Paul."

THE CAREER of "Friedrich Orthwein: Minnesota's First German Editor" is the subject of a sketch by John C. Massmann in the April-May issue of the *American-German Review*. According to this account, Orthwein came to Minnesota in 1855, following a varied career in Europe, North Africa, and Milwaukee. During the suc-

ceeding four years he published several papers in the state, including the state's pioneer German language daily, the *Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung*. The author tells how, through numerous political, personal, and business vicissitudes, Orthwein insisted stubbornly on following "only such principles as would aid the German immigrant," until ill health and financial failure forced him to abandon journalism and leave Minnesota.

A WELL-ILLUSTRATED summary of *Big Stone County History* by Mrs. Walter Wulff (1959. 122 p.) opens with brief general reviews on a county-wide basis of such topics as "Organization," "Schools and Churches," "Roads and Railroads," "Agriculture," "Pioneer Life," and "Nationalities." Sketches of villages and townships follow, and sections at the end deal with resorts on Big Stone Lake and granite quarries near Ortonville.

HOUSED in a building of its own, erected at a cost of \$70,000, is the museum of the Grant County Historical Society, which was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on May 13 at Elbow Lake. Participating in the program were Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Arch Grahn, its field director. The museum was made possible through the generous bequest of the Misses Hannah and Betsy Anderson, and the museum forms a fitting memorial to their parents. Their father, Halvor Anderson, emigrated from Norway and settled in Elk Lake Township in 1867. Plans for the new structure were worked out with the cooperation of the Minnesota Historical Society. The one-story brick structure includes a large exhibit gallery, a lobby and reception desk, a library, an office, a workshop, and a storage area, as well as display windows.

ST. LOUIS PARK is one of seven suburban communities to be considered in some detail by Albert I. Gordon in his recent study of *Jews in Suburbia* (Boston, 1959. 264 p.). Others are located across the nation from Boston on the east to Los Angeles on the west. Some mention is made of St. Louis Park's history and the backgrounds of its Jewish population, though most of the material presented is statistical and sociological. Numerous references to this Minnesota community occur throughout Rabbi Gordon's study.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH anniversary of the birth of Sinclair Lewis and its accompanying commemoration, as noted in the March issue of *Minnesota History* (p. 40), continue to draw

attention to the author, his boyhood home, and "The Original Main Street" in Sauk Centre. Feature articles in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 13 and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for May 1 treat these subjects from different points of view. In *American Speech* for May, C. Merton Babcock discusses "Americanisms in the Novels of Sinclair Lewis."

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

TOURS of the Minnesota Valley area and of the logging country about Grand Rapids and Big Fork were held under the society's auspices on May 15 and on June 11 and 12. Planned for later in the summer are a trip to Lake Mille Lacs on August 7, when the society's new Indian museum will be dedicated; a tour of the St. Croix Valley, with stops at Taylors Falls, Scandia, and Center City, on August 21; and a visit to the border lakes area about Ely and Winton, the mining community of Tower-Soudan, and the North Shore of Lake Superior from September 9 to 11. Reservations for all the tours should be made in advance with the society.

FOR HIS ARTICLE on "Lumber and Labor in the Lake States," published in the March, 1959, issue of *Minnesota History*, Professor George B. Engberg of the department of history in the University of Cincinnati received the society's Solon J. Buck Award for 1959. The award, which carries with it a prize of fifty dollars, is given each year to the author of the best article appearing in the society's quarterly. The winner for 1959 was selected by a committee consisting of Father Colman Barry of St. John's University, Collegeville, Professor Carl Chrislock of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and the editor of the quarterly. Father Colman, who was chairman of the committee, announced the award at the society's annual meeting in Minneapolis on May 5.

ABOUT two hundred people attended the various sessions and events that marked the thirteenth annual County History Institute held under the auspices of the society. It assembled on May 5 as one feature of the society's one-hundred-and-eleventh annual meeting, and continued on the morning of May 6. Represented by those who attended the institute were forty-two counties, seven independent historical museums, three states, and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Among the speakers was Henry D. Brown, director of the Detroit Historical Society, who appeared before a luncheon meeting. The sessions revolved about such subjects as plans for the Civil War and Sioux Uprising cen-

tennial commemoration, genealogy, museum collections and techniques, and the financing of local historical work.

THE rehabilitation of the Historical Building and the erection of a substantial addition that will provide space for its expanding collections and museum exhibits were among the recommendations made in the final report of the Self-Survey Task Force for the society, submitted to the Governor on May 12. According to the report "the role of the state should be that of adequately housing, properly equipping, and suitably staffing" the society, and private contributions and dues paid by members should be used in financing special projects and activities.

THE SOCIETY is co-operating with the division of state parks in planning the historical interpretation of the newly established Crow Wing State Park near Brainerd. The park was authorized by the 1959 legislature, which appropriated \$15,000 for the purchase of the site with the provision that it be made available after a like amount was raised in the locality. The additional sum, raised by an association operating in Crow Wing and Morrison counties, was turned over to the state conservation department on April 28. It assures the preservation of the site of old Crow Wing, at the junction of the Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers, which figured in the French, British, and American eras of Minnesota's history, and was the scene of an important Sioux-Chippewa battle.

THE FIELD NOTES of William Clark discovered in 1953 in a St. Paul attic by the society's curator of manuscripts, Miss Lucile Kane, have been purchased from the heirs of General John Henry Hammond by Mr. Frederick W. Beinecke of New York and presented to the library of Yale University. The story of their discovery and the ensuing litigation involving them is fully covered in the issue of this magazine for June, 1959 (*ante*, 36: 216-229); their final disposition is described in the Winter number of *Manuscripts*.

A FORMER superintendent of the society, Dr. Solon J. Buck, was honored on April 8 in Washington, D.C. On that occasion a portrait of Dr. Buck by Bjorn Egeli was unveiled in the conference room of the National Archives Building. Among the speakers was Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota, who succeeded Dr. Buck as the society's superintendent in 1931. Dean Blegen's forthcoming retirement is the occasion for a review of his career which appears in the University of Minnesota *Alumni News* for March.



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