



OFF THE PRESS

The Frontier Re-examined. Edited by JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT. (Urbana, Chicago, London, University of Illinois Press, 1967. 192 p. \$6.95.)

Reviewed by James L. Clayton

THIS COLLECTION of thirteen disparate essays by some of the most noted contemporary authors of western Americana may be divided into four sections: a half-dozen papers of mixed quality on a variety of subjects of interest chiefly to the investigator; three solid papers on the literary aspects of the frontier; two worthwhile although not altogether new critiques of Frederick Jackson Turner; and two lackluster accounts of the fur trade.

Of the first group John C. Ewers' illustrated evaluation of trans-Mississippi art and Herman R. Friis's analysis of the cartographic results of government explorations prior to 1860 are probably the most informative. Mr. Ewers praises the realism of Carl Bodmer, Rudolph Friederich Kurz, and Gustavus Sohon but finds most paintings of the old West mediocre, including many by the best-known artists. Mr. Friis convincingly calls for more extensive use of maps by historians. Also of interest are a description of the "jumping-off-places" on the Overland Trail by Merrill J. Mattes and an explanation for the bad manners and low

morals on the frontier attributed by Ralph E. Morrow to the decline of organized religion.

For this reviewer, the most interesting essays in the book are two well-written and insightful treatments of literary subjects by Jules Zanger and Joe B. Frantz. Mr. Zanger presents a brilliant analysis of the heroic figures of Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. Boone is solitary, independent, silent, elusive, serious, noble, heroic—a man of nature. Crockett is noisy, a braggart, humorous, mocking, picaresque, a creature of faction—a man in society. Both became folk heroes in their lifetime and fixed the limits of popular imagination about the frontier. Mr. Frantz's unsuccessful search for the philosophy of the cowboy is probably the best-written essay in the collection. The author believes the cowboy to be *the* American hero. But what the cowboy believes is inexplicable. Somehow he stands for that magic rustling in the prairie wind, the freedom of the big sky, the hard but clean life, the deafening solitude of high mountains. We know he was a man of action; we do not know his significance.

The same thing can be said of the frontier generally. We know what happened. We *feel* it into the very depths of our fiber. But what does it mean? Certainly not what Turner said it meant. Indeed, the editor of this volume has even reversed his name in the foreword to Frederick Turner Jackson! After reading this "new" re-examination, one is left with the same vague yet powerful impression that J. S. Kenyon expressed years ago about the American frontier: "It is a grand place to view the stars."

Mr. Clayton, an associate professor of history at the University of Utah, received the society's 1966 Solon J. Buck Award for his essay on the economic significance of the American fur trade.

Adventure at Astoria, 1810-1814. By GABRIEL FRANCHERE. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1967. xxxix, 190 p. Illustrations, map. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Theodore L. Nydahl

THE TITLE and dates of the Gabriel Franchère journal identify it at once as an account of the well-known fur trade venture of John Jacob Astor in the Pacific Northwest. Two groups were sent to the mouth of the Columbia River. Franchère was a member of the one which went by sea around Cape Horn in the ship "Tonquin."

Originally, Franchère had no intention of writing for publication. He kept a diary during the eventful years of 1810-14 and upon his return to Montreal was encouraged to expand his diary into a printed journal. It was first published in French in 1820; an English translation appeared in 1854. And now, over a hundred years later, we are given a second English version, interestingly enough the work of Franchère's great-grandson, Hoyt C. Franchère.

The journal deals with the difficulties and dangers of the "Tonquin" voyage—around South America to the Sandwich Islands and thence to the mouth of the Columbia River; the establishment of Fort Astoria, fur trade activities in the Oregon country, and sale of the post to the British; the nature of the Oregon country—its flora, fauna, and Indian life; and finally, the incredibly difficult return trip through the Canadian Rockies to the Great Lakes and then to Montreal.

Gabriel Franchère was a careful observer and recorder. His entire career as a fur trader, which extended beyond the middle of the century, earned him a reputation for accuracy and integrity in all his dealings and records. At times, one might wish for greater detail in *Adventure at Astoria*. For example, his treatment of fur trade activity is scanty. Nor is the journal as colorful as one might expect from an accounting of so adventurous an expedition. His is a matter-of-fact, prosaic report of an important episode in America's westward advance.

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Prospector, Cowhand, and Sodbuster: Historic Places Associated with the Mining, Ranching, and Farming Frontiers in the Trans-Mississippi West. Edited by ROBERT G. FERRIS. (Washington, National Park Service, 1967. xiv, 320 p. Maps, illustrations. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by H. Allan Tolbert

THIS THIRD published volume in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Series, issued by the National Park Service, joins *Soldier and Brave* (1963) and *Colonials and Patriots* (1964) as volume 11 in the series. Other volumes are currently being prepared, and it is to be hoped that they will be as interesting and as well done as this informative inventory.

In the foreword George B. Hartzog, Jr., director of the National Park Service, writes that although "soldiers, traders, road and railway builders, and other adventurers helped fill in the map of the American West, . . . overshadowing them all in actually subduing the land . . . were the prospector, cowhand, and sodbuster. . . . This volume surveys the legacy of historic sites and buildings bequeathed by these actors in the drama of conquering the West."

The book, divided into two major parts, covers the subject promised in the foreword and outlined in the title. Part I presents a succinct and adequate historical background of the mining, ranching, and farming frontiers and traces the major movements, adjustments, developments, interrelations, and contributions of each industry in the growth and settlement of the West. Part II, consisting of four subdivisions, is the Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, including gold, silver, and copper mines; cattle and sheep ranches; irrigated, dryland, and bonanza farms; and associated places. This part presents five historic sites and monuments in the national park system, describes twenty-seven spots and two historic districts which are eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks, and deals briefly with 172 other places which were considered

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but declared ineligible because they lacked sufficient national significance. (The criteria applied in determining sites of "exceptional value" are set forth in the book.)

Descriptions of the 206 historic places mentioned in Part II are of varying length and completeness, but essential information relating to historical significance, ownership, location, and present appearance is given in a meaningful and useful fashion. Maps, illustrations, photographs, and an index contribute to the appearance and utility of the volume.

For anyone interested in tracing the history of the mining, ranching, and farming frontiers of the trans-Mississippi West through the historic sites associated with them, this book is a must.

FACETS OF FORESTRY

First National Colloquium on the History of the Forest Products Industries. Edited by ELWOOD R. MAUNDER and MARGARET G. DAVIDSON. (New Haven, Forest History Society, Inc., 1967. vii, 221 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Fred W. Kohlmeyer

COSPONSORED by the Forest History Society of Yale and the Business History Group of Harvard, this colloquium brought a number of historians, economists, scientists, foresters, and industry leaders to Boston on May 17-18, 1966. The eleven papers presented, introductory remarks by chairmen of the four sessions, and a verbatim transcript of some of the dialogue that ensued are recorded in this volume.

The speakers drew on their own special areas of knowledge and experience to range widely over the sprawling and many-faceted forest products industry from the dim historical past to the nebulous future. The scope of the program was obviously too broad, as might be expected from a first meeting of this kind. The material presented was of extreme diversity and at the same time included considerable repetition. Nevertheless, the reader of these proceedings gains a coherent impression of a dynamic industry that has more or less

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successfully adjusted to tremendous changes and is girding itself for further ones to come.

Looking back on the industry's troubled past, various participants recalled the time when lumbermen were condemned by conservationists and attacked as monopolists. They traced the subsequent long and painful transition to improved forest management, better utilization of resources, and permanency of the industry—a period marked also by changes in economic conditions, government policies, and technology.

David T. Mason, in reciting his personal recollections of the past six decades, referred to the struggle to achieve equitable tax treatment, noting that the so-called Weyerhaeuser accounting system devised by Hugo Schlenk of Cloquet in 1908 first gave proper weight to stumpage valuation and depletion allowances.

Research scientists from Potlatch Forests in Idaho and the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, pointed to continuously advancing technology, ranging from the area of forest genetics to prefinished wood paneling. A Crown Zellerbach executive cited amazing increases in the productivity of woods labor and described mechanical equipment that enables a logger to harvest twelve cords of pulpwood a day.

These proceedings provide an informative, imaginative view of the problems, achievements, and aspirations of the industry from many different perspectives.

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Boston Capitalists and Western Railroads: A Study in the Nineteenth-Century Railroad Investment Process. By ARTHUR M. JOHNSON and BARRY E. SUPPLE. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1967. x, 392 p. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Richard C. Overton

THIS is a significant book. It not only illuminates the intrinsically important role of Bostonians in financing western railroads, but it also suggests a pattern of entrepreneurial action which may well be far more typical of the 1840-90 economic revolution than has been heretofore recognized.

This volume is logically organized. Following an introduction which incidentally provides an enlightening thumbnail appraisal of recent findings by Robert W. Fogel and Albert Fishlow, the opening section—"The Era of Preparation"—describes how, between 1820 and 1845, Boston emerged as a center of surplus capital. This derived notably from the China trade, and it was through the same business that the men at the top learned how to delegate authority and build up a corps of reliable lieutenants, two skills soon to be applied in the American West. In the succeeding "Era of Involvement" beginning in the mid-1840s, capitalists like John Murray Forbes channeled Yankee dollars into railways that served areas as remote as Ohio and Michigan. There followed the "Era of Commitment" in the prewar decade when, according to an emerging pattern, State Street funds nourished the Illinois Central and Burlington railroads. Finally, during the "Era of Systems" that lasted from the Civil War until 1890 (by which time management was becoming ever more distinct from ownership), separate Boston groups matured their techniques in controlling the Union Pacific, the Burlington, and the Santa Fe.

Whereas the authors depict clearly the notable differences among these systems, they rightly stress the fact that all three lines were under constant and similar pressures to grow rapidly "through private enterprise with government aid and a minimum of safeguards." Thus even the usually sharp contrast between the opportunistic and the developmental investor became blurred; indeed, the unbridled competition so characteristic of the late 1870s and 1880s forced ordinarily conservative men into overbuilding and, in some cases, into disaster. Yet however diversely the systems met their several destinies, each did in the end develop its respective area and provide essential transportation services at a steadily decreasing cost.

This is a tightly organized, no-nonsense presentation. The case studies are handled with a sure touch and commendable selectivity. Throughout the book analytical summaries

keep the descriptive passages in proper focus and perspective; the concluding "Overview," for example, is a masterpiece. The bibliography is ample and representative, the documentation meticulous and appropriate, and the index adequate. *Boston Capitalists and Western Railroads* challenges business historians to undertake comparable studies of capital mobilization in other eastern cities. This volume sets a high standard indeed.

HEALTH HUCKSTERS

The Medical Messiahs: A Social History of Health Quackery in Twentieth-Century America. By JAMES HARVEY YOUNG (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1967. xiv, 460 p. Illustrations. \$9.00.)

Reviewed by James Taylor Dunn

MR. YOUNG, magic nostrum historian *par excellence*, has given us a book that is a worthy sequel to his delightful *The Toadstool Millionaires* (1961). Here is the continuing story of the patent medicines and other health frauds that have been foisted on the public since the advent of federal legislation in 1906. The book's pages are not filled with the "grim, uninhibited gusto . . . of the 19th century," like those of its predecessor, but it does contain numerous cases, all of them told with a fine sense of style, which prove that the old quackery is still with us today—frequently as blatant (on television especially) and as incredible as in grandfather's time. "It is not only not dead," Mr. Young concludes, "never in previous history has medical quackery been such a booming business as now." Sobering words, indeed!

The author, who is on the faculty of Emory University, again gives us a readable, scholarly, and thoroughly documented book. At times the detailed and extremely complicated lawsuits make for difficult going; but Mr. Young has chosen well from the thousands of cubic feet

Mr. Overton, professor of history at the University of Western Ontario, is the author of Burlington Route: A History of the Burlington Lines (1965).

Mr. Dunn, chief librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, reviewed The Toadstool Millionaires for this magazine in March, 1962.

of government records for his case examples of pseudo-medicine hucksters. In so doing, he joins the ranks of effective muckrakers like Samuel Hopkins Adams, Arthur J. Cramp, and James Cook.

Minnesota comes into the story through the bureau of chemistry's successful 1913 suit in Minneapolis against the germ-eradicating nostrum "Microbe Killer," as well as through the later investigating activities of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Representative John A. Blatnik.

Together, Mr. Young's two fascinating volumes can be called the definitive general history of American quacks and quackery. Much more on the local scene now needs to be researched. The midwestern story is also a good one, with its John Tills, its Boyd T. Williams, and untold numbers of others.

PICTOGRAPHS

Indian Rock Paintings of the Great Lakes. By SELWYN DEWDNEY and KENNETH E. KIDD. (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1967. x, 191 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Elden Johnson

THIS revised edition of the work first published in 1962 adds many sites and examples of native rock painting to those Selwyn Dewdney recorded earlier. In addition to listing new rock painting sites in the Shield country of Ontario and Minnesota, Mr. Dewdney has expanded the geographical coverage east, west, and north of the heartland of this fascinating aspect of native American art.

The form and style of the original book are preserved and the added data appear primarily in separate sections which follow the geographic subareas of the large region. Mr. Dewdney's personal narrative, which recounts the difficulties and often the thrill of locating a previously unrecorded site, is fortunately retained—fortunately, because this style not only invites the reader to participate in the excitement of the quest, but also because it contains many of the author's insights and im-

pressions in the context of his first contact with the site.

Kenneth Kidd's anthropological interpretation of the rock paintings has not been modified, but he has added a brief epilogue in which he suggests directions which future stylistic and interpretive analysis of the data might take.

Certainly there appears to be significant stylistic variation represented in the rock art recorded here. This may reflect changes in styles through time, or the variation may be a product of distance from the Quetico concentration and possible center. The meaning of these art forms is difficult to know and, in many instances, is unknowable; yet the distribution does coincide with that of Algonquian speakers, and the authors suggest one interpretation, partially substantiated by Indian informants, that fits both the distribution and our knowledge of this general Algonquian culture. These peoples did elaborate the common American Indian concept of the vision quest, a practice whereby the young male, fasting and in isolation, seeks supernatural aid in the form of a guardian spirit. Many of the rock paintings are located in isolated places, and some may depict an individual's representation of the vision he received.

Readers will enjoy the text, the excellent illustrations, and the enthusiasm with which the materials are presented. We owe the writers a debt of gratitude for recording and preserving these examples of native American art.

POLITICS BY COMPUTER

Sectional Stress and Party Strength: A Study of Roll-Call Voting Patterns in the United States House of Representatives, 1836-1860. By THOMAS B. ALEXANDER. (Nashville, Vanderbilt University Press, 1967. xvii, 284 p. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Roger E. Wyman

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER is one of a growing number of political historians who are

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utilizing computers and the quantitative research techniques developed by social scientists. His study of the relative importance of party and sectionalism in congressional voting between 1836 and 1860 is based upon computer analysis of selected roll calls for each of the thirteen Congresses of the period. Mr. Alexander's findings parallel those of Joel Silbey, whose *The Shrine of Party* (1967) analyzed congressional voting in the 1840s; both agree that party considerations proved stronger than sectional ties on virtually all major topics, including slavery (although sectional division within each party was more pronounced over slavery than any other issue). In the 1850s, however, Mr. Alexander's tables reveal "a fusion of partisan and sectional attitudes" and a gradual but steady polarization into sectionally based parties. The split over slavery within the Whig party finally destroyed its unity on other issues and led to the Whig demise, thus accelerating the development of clearly sectional parties in the late 1850s.

The application of quantitative techniques to historical political analysis can produce very fruitful results and has already contributed to a rewriting of much American political history. But these methods have distinct limitations and there are many dangerous (and, it seems, inherent) traps to be avoided. Mr. Alexander seems well aware of the limitations of his techniques, but he has fallen into many of the traps. Perhaps the most common pitfall is the tendency, after expending months of clerical labor in preparing and manipulating raw data for the computer to digest, not to engage in research beyond the analysis of the computer's output. The author's failure to integrate manuscript and other primary or secondary sources into his study severely weakens his conclusions. His evidence comes only from an analysis of the tables he presents.

Mr. Alexander's ingenuity in research methodology does not extend to the presentation of his findings. His woefully brief commentary (the text makes up less than 19 per cent of the book!) is prosaic and repetitive, and since each Congress is treated separately, it lacks temporal perspective. The "appraisal" is particularly weak. The data does not seem to have been properly digested, and the text serves only as a guide to the plethora of tables, many of which could have been omitted or more imaginatively presented.

Both the general reader and the professional historian will find the book frustrating. It is little more than a collection of information grouped conveniently into tables and scalograms. The dust jacket rightly proclaims that this extensive research need never be repeated, but it will be up to some other historian to draw meaningful conclusions from Professor Alexander's body of data.

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Karl Bitter, Architectural Sculptor, 1867-1915.

By JAMES M. DENNIS. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1967. vii, 302 p. Illustrations. \$12.50.)

Reviewed by Brooks Cavin

WHEN one thinks of baroque and neoclassic architecture, the dominant image in the mind's eye is peopled with classical figures calmly looking down from lofty perches, unconcerned by the hustle and bustle of the little people below. Few persons have occasion to wonder how they came to be there—who ordered them; who made them; why?

The story of Karl Bitter's career as a sculptor gives insight into these questions; indeed, it goes even further to reveal the intensity of inner drive that an artist has to live with. The first test of this drive came at age fourteen when Karl withstood his father's wrath and entered the School of Applied Arts in Vienna—the father insisting that his son "had condemned himself to the life of a worthless 'lump.'" The next seven years, devoted to study and work as a sculptor, greatly intensified Bitter's passion for producing art. Consequently, when he was drafted into the army for three years, it is not surprising that he took advantage of a furlough to desert and go to the United States. He immediately fell upon good times—working with the architects Richard Morris Hunt and George B. Post, who needed vast amounts of sculptural detail for the inside and outside of mansions on Fifth Avenue and great country estates.

Some of his most sensitive work was done

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during the 1890s in these private commissions, which are not on view to the general public. However, he adorned with figures many public buildings and plazas with which most people are familiar — though generally unaware of the identity of the artist. They include the Metropolitan Museum and the Pulitzer Fountain in New York City, the Jefferson Memorial in St. Louis, the Wisconsin State Capitol at Madison and, locally, the Thomas Lowry Monument in Minneapolis.

Bitter's work was basically classical in the grand manner, but he occasionally incorporated elements of *art nouveau* and even suggestions of the "WPA style" which would

develop several decades later. The author notes that Bitter "once wrote to an artist friend in Vienna that he would even like to have been 'modern,' but his education and training would not allow it."

This book is not for everyone. In fact, many readers may find the tedious descriptions of sculptural groupings too much to take, especially since the fine illustrations speak for themselves. However, Mr. Dennis has done a scholarly job of research on the work of this amazingly productive sculptor, and his book does great service in calling attention to the role Bitter played in promoting art for the enjoyment of the public.

. . . on the *HISTORICAL HORIZON*

A TROVE of manuscript materials has been unlocked by the publication of *A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society* (Philadelphia, 1966. 491 p.). Generations of scholars have known of the extensive manuscript holdings on the American Indian within the collections of this institution, but it is only now that a published guide is available to show fully their scope and value. Compiled by John F. Freeman, the *Guide* has been published as volume 65 of the society's *Memoirs*. It is divided into four parts: alphabetical lists of 294 manuscript, microfilm, and record collections; a list of items and groups of items classified by tribe, language family, or geographical region; a bibliography of published material referred to in the first two sections; and an extensive index. The major emphasis of the collection, which stems directly from the interest and encouragement of Thomas Jefferson, is on Indian linguistics, and the holdings are weighted toward the eastern tribes. Entries under Ojibwa (Chippewa) number fifty-one and include letters by Henry R. Schoolcraft and Douglass Houghton, a copy of the original manuscript of Thomas L. McKenney's *Sketches of a Tour to the Lakes* (1827), and Zebulon M. Pike's "Journal of a voyage to the source of the Mississippi." Of the thirty-six entries under Dakota (Sioux) the majority involve linguistics and stem from the work of Ella Cara Deloria.

Alan R. Woolworth

A SPECIALIZED GUIDE to *Labor Manuscripts in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* has been compiled by F. Gerald Ham (Madison, 1967. 48 p.). In a short introduction Mr. Ham reviews the history of the Wisconsin society's notable collection of materials on the American labor movement and points out that its holdings are supplemented by those of the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library and by numerous special collections housed elsewhere on the university's campus — a situation which led to the formation in 1964 of the John R. Commons Labor Reference Center. The body of the guide is divided into sections encompassing the papers of labor unions (national); education, social, and political action organizations; individuals; Wisconsin labor organizations; labor material in the Wisconsin State Archives; and miscellaneous manuscripts. Within these categories collections are listed by name. The extent, the inclusive dates, and the general contents are given.

THE JANUARY, 1967, issue of the *Journal of the West*, devoted entirely to the Great Plains, includes a short piece on "The United States Army and Relief to Pioneer Settlers, 1874-75," by Gilbert C. Fite and an article on "Steamboating on the Missouri" by William E. Lass. Drawing upon vividly detailed army reports, Mr. Fite describes the destitution among settlers in western Nebraska and elsewhere on the Great Plains in the wake of drought and grass-

hopper invasions. He also records the efforts of officers on the scene to persuade the War Department bureaucracy that emergency aid must be given. Mr. Lass reviews the story of commerce on the Missouri from its beginnings with early St. Louis fur traders to its end with the building of railroads across the northern plains. He devotes considerable space to the effects of the Black Hills gold rush of the 1870s and the transportation patterns that evolved in shipping supplies to that remote area. Dakota gold also figures in an article by Jerry Keenan, published in the April, 1967, issue of the same magazine. Under the title "Exploring the Black Hills: An Account of the Custer Expedition," this author traces briefly the well-known story of the army reconnaissance march that opened the area to white invasion "in direct violation of the Laramie Treaty."

TOO LATE for the centennial era but never too late for Civil War buffs is Paul M. Angle's handsome *Pictorial History of the Civil War Years* (Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1967. 242 p. \$6.95). After an introductory chapter on "The Long Road to Secession," the author has divided the book into five sections, one for each year of the war. The text—held to a minimum—is concise and readable; in keeping with the volume's purpose, the pictures carry the main burden of the story. Mr. Angle has relied primarily on photographs, but he has turned to the artists of the time for action illustrations, drawing in these cases on the original, often unfinished, sketches of the artist rather than the engraver's or lithographer's concept of "what readers wanted to see." The illustrations also include cartoons, posters, broadsides, and excerpts from newspapers, all put together in a format that succeeds in being strikingly attractive without lavish display.

TIMOTHY L. SMITH, professor of history and education at the University of Minnesota, suggests some "New Approaches to the History of Immigration in Twentieth-Century America" in the July, 1966, number of the *American Historical Review*. Facing the lack of adequate scholarly work in the area of twentieth-century immigration, he calls upon historians to abandon "value-laden arguments over cultural pluralism . . . over the nature of Anglo-Saxon domination and of religion's social role" and instead "lay frank stress upon assimilation, both cultural and structural, rather than ethnic exclusiveness." In pointing out some of the major avenues and instruments of acculturation, he cites examples from Minnesota's iron range country, drawing heavily upon the findings of

an "extensive investigation" of the social history of the state's iron mining towns recently conducted by himself and two colleagues, Clarke A. Chambers and Hyman Berman. According to Mr. Smith, the iron range area after the turn of the century was "in both language and religion as polyglot as Chicago," but it provided an environment in which cultural islands could not be maintained and where "an astonishingly rapid adjustment of all groups to prevailing American folkways" took place. He briefly examines the factors operating to produce this and suggests further avenues of investigation.

"THE ISOLATIONIST viewpoint . . . cannot be elevated to the level of political philosophy, yet it cannot be dismissed as simple obstructionism based on ignorance and folly," says Manfred Jonas in *Isolationism in America, 1935-1941* (Ithaca, New York, 1966. 315 p.). He points out that it was "the considered response to foreign and domestic developments of a large, responsible, and respectable segment of the American people." In presenting his analysis of the isolationism preceding World War II, the author draws on private papers, manuscripts, periodicals and newspapers, and legislative records. The book is annotated and provides an index and a bibliography. Among the isolationists examined by Mr. Jonas are such disparate figures as Oswald Garrison Villard, Hamilton Fish, Robert Taft, Norman Thomas, Earl Browder, and Charles A. Beard. Minnesotans mentioned include Ernest Lundeen, Paul J. Kvale, Harold Knutson, and Charles A. Lindbergh, the latter "probably the most effective proponent of isolationism in the years immediately preceding Pearl Harbor." A biographical sketch of the Minnesota flier traces his career and indicates that his stand "had many roots. It may have owed something to his home environment and the antiwar stand of his father. . . . [although] he shared none of the radicalism which had supported the pacifism of the elder Lindbergh."

A LIVELY LOOK at the *River Boats of America* is taken by Frank Donovan in a recent book (New York, 1966. 298 p.). The first two chapters treat the presteamboat era briefly; the remaining chapters concern the years from 1807, when Robert Fulton's "Clermont" first rode the Hudson River, to about the first decade of the twentieth century. Mr. Donovan writes of steamboats in the East, the West, and the North; he describes mountain boats, bonanza boats, "floating palaces," Civil War boats, and showboats. His accounts of river boats on the Upper Mis-

issippi include the "Virginia's" first trip to Fort Snelling in 1823 with Lawrence Taliaferro and Giacomo Beltrami aboard; the "Fashionable Tours" of mid-century to the Falls of St. Anthony and Fort Snelling; the immigrants who "changed the upper Mississippi Valley from a frontier to a populous and thriving agricultural area"; and the race in 1858 between the "Grey Eagle" and the "Itasca." The volume is indexed and liberally illustrated but is not annotated.

A NEW PUBLICATION devoted primarily to the customs and lore of the Plains Indians has been started by the California Indian Hobbyist Association. Entitled *The Singing Wire*, it appears monthly and in addition to brief articles and pictures, it includes announcements and communications from members of the association. Suggestions and contributions are solicited. Inquiries should be addressed to the editor at 8410 Mammoth Avenue, Panorama City, California.

A CONFERENCE devoted to "The Western Frontier as Travelers Reported It" will be held at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, on February 22 and 23, 1968. Among the speakers scheduled are Herman R. Friis, Archibald Hanna, Dale L. Morgan, John T. Flanagan, John Porter Bloom, and John C. Ewers. The chairman of the gathering will be John Francis McDermott, research professor of humanities at Southern Illinois University. The papers and discussion will center around available resources of travel literature from the frontier period.

SCHOLARLY SCRUTINY of Minnesota's F. Scott Fitzgerald continues unabated. A recent addition is a book by Robert Sklar entitled *F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Last Laocoön* (New York, 1967. 376 p.) which is essentially a study of the "genteel romantic hero" figure whom the author believes to be the nucleus around which Fitzgerald's fiction revolved. Mr. Sklar indicates that "the quality of critical and creative intelligence" has not been ascribed to the jazz-age apostle and has written this study to correct the record. *The Critical Reputation of F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Bibliographical Study* by Jackson R. Bryer (Hamden, Connecticut, 1967. 434 p.) gathers together in six sections a wealth of reviews, articles, books and book sections, foreign comments, and graduate research efforts concerning the St. Paul-born writer's literary output. Mr. Bryer attempts to "make clear that Fitzgerald was the object of considerable critical attention during his lifetime" as well as after 1940, the year which marked the resur-

gence of interest in his work. The author also says that it is "the most important purpose of this work to suggest some . . . new areas of critical investigation." A brief and helpful introduction precedes each section of the bibliography, including the index.

THE CONTINUING debate over *The Art of Sinclair Lewis* is extended in a new book by D. J. Dooley (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1967. 286 p.). The volume is chronologically organized, weaving the story of Lewis' life, his novels, and criticism of his work together. In the concluding chapter entitled "The Author, the Critics, and the Nightmare World," Mr. Dooley says that it "is noteworthy that the part of America [*the Midwest*] which he most often attacked was that for which he had the greatest hope." The book is annotated and includes a bibliography and an index.

MEMORIES of ninety years in the St. Croix Valley are reviewed in an article appearing in the October, 1967, issue of the *Independent Banker*. Under the title "'Ghost Country' Banker," author Bill McDonald interviews Carl H. Sommer of Rush City, whose seventy-five years of banking in Minnesota recently earned him the designation of "Minnesota's Distinguished Senior Banker" from Governor Harold LeVander. The article describes changes in the area since Mr. Sommer's birth near Rush City in 1877, with particular emphasis upon the many homesteaders who settled the cutover lands of the Wisconsin "barrens," only to leave when they found the soil too unproductive for farming.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

LOW WATER in the upper Mississippi River near Aitkin during the fall of 1967 revealed the sunken hull of a nearly forgotten river steamer, according to an article in the *Aitkin Independent Age* for September 20. The story of the relic is told by Dorothy McMunn, who points out that the boat—the "Andy Gibson"—was 120 feet long when launched in 1884 and was later extended to 140 feet, being the "largest riverboat to operate the Mississippi in this area." Mrs. McMunn tells of how, after its retirement in 1892, the boat was dismantled and sank slowly into the mud, the "hull filled with river silt from annual floods, her giant triple tandem rudders imbedded in four feet of Mississippi muck." According to the author the hull has been presented to the Aitkin County Histori-

cal Society, which hopes to restore partially the stern section for display adjacent to its museum.

A LOOK at *The Face of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis, 1966. 231 p.), taken by Jerome Liebling and Don Morrison, includes a capsule history of the metropolis "intended as no more than a glimpse of the city's origins, and a hint of the natural advantages, grasped opportunities and citizen vigor that combined to spur the phenomenal growth of a backwoods village that got a very late start in life." Excellent photographs by Mr. Liebling comprise the bulk of the book and greatly enhance Mr. Morrison's lighthearted considerations of the Mill City in the four seasons, its people, homes, churches, businesses, education, and cultural activities. Another recent publication reveals *Minnesota in Pictures* through the camera of Robert Bergman (Minneapolis, 1967. n.p.). Sixteen of the 172 pictures are in color. A brief introduction by Theodore C. Blegen points out that this photographic "collection is memorable for a variety that offers more than the dimension of breadth. . . a contribution to the record of Minnesota and its people from far yesterdays to the present."

THE STORY of "The Soudan Mine and Minnesota Iron Co." is told by Kenneth Duncan in a substantial article appearing in *Skillsings' Mining Review* for November 4, 1967. Mr. Duncan brings together much scattered information never before made available in one place, focusing on the management of the company which opened the Soudan, Minnesota's first iron mine, in 1884. Although he carries the account to 1963, when the mine was finally closed with "a record in the Lake Superior region of never missing a year of shipment for a full 80 years," the bulk of the article is devoted to the period before 1901. In that year the Soudan, along with the other holdings of the Minnesota Iron Company, came under the control of the United States Steel Corporation. Reviewing the story of early explorations on both the Mesabi and Vermilion ranges, he tells of the efforts of two Minnesotans, George C. Stone and George R. Stuntz, to interest eastern capital in the area and their ultimate success when the Pennsylvania industrialist, Charlemagne Tower, commenced mining operations at the Soudan and built the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad. Mr. Duncan then follows the various shifts in control, each involving a step toward the consolidation which culminated in 1901. Thumbnail sketches of the major personalities are included, with somewhat more

extended treatment given to Don H. Bacon, president of Minnesota Iron from 1891 to 1901, who, the author suggests, may have "wielded more power in the mining region for a substantial period" than any other single man. The article is illustrated with several early photographs, including one of Bacon.

ANOTHER REPORT has appeared in the series issued by the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota as a part of the state natural resources program on prehistoric archaeology. In this *Archaeological Survey and Excavation of the Stumme [sic] and Vach Sites, Pine County, Minnesota, 1966* (11 p. \$.50) Leland R. Cooper describes the results of mapping and test-trenching done at these two locations on the banks of the Snake River near Pokegama Lake. The booklet includes a map and eight photographs, seven of which show burial pits unearthed at the Stumme site.

A SMALL SETTLEMENT in Nicollet County, established ten miles northwest of St. Peter in 1855 by Swedish immigrants, receives attention in the *Swedish Pioneer* for July, 1967. Emeroy Johnson tells "What An Old Minnesota Church Register Reveals" about the 864 settlers whose names, dates and places of birth, dates of arrival in America, and dates of affiliation with the Swedish Lutheran church are listed therein. The article indicates that the majority of the immigrants were from Skåne, followed by many from Småland, and Wästergötland.

TWO MEMBERS of the society's staff are represented in the current issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist* (Volume 29, number 1). Writing on "Archeological Excavations at Grand Portage: An 18th Century Fur Trade Metropolis," Alan R. Woolworth, chief of the museum and historic sites departments, outlines the importance of northeastern Minnesota's "Great Carrying Place" and tells the history of archaeological explorations there, particularly those conducted since the creation of Grand Portage National Monument in 1960. The article is accompanied by a map and photographs of a number of artifacts uncovered there. To the same magazine C. Margaret Kimball, who was museum registrar and tour guide in 1965-67, has contributed a short note on four "Renaissance 'Trade' Medals in Minnesota." The Autumn, 1967, number of *Wisconsin Tales and Trails* includes an article on "Menomonie's Mabel Tainter Memorial" written by Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of *Minnesota History*, and illustrated with photographs by Eugene D. Becker, the society's curator of pictures.



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