
BOOK REVIEWS

Minnesota Votes: Election Returns by County for Presidents, Senators, Congressmen, and Governors, 1856-1977. Compiled by Bruce M. White et al.
(Minnesota Historical Society Public Affairs Center Publications, St. Paul, 1977. 234 p. Paper \$6.50.)

POLITICAL HISTORIANS and political scientists will be ever grateful for this fine compilation of Minnesota election statistics. As the title indicates, the volume contains county-level votes for all candidates in federal races and for governor from the first prestatehood election in 1856 to the special election for representative in the seventh congressional district in 1977. Prior to this publication, these data were widely scattered, occasionally inaccurate, and, particularly for the early years, elusive and often conflicting. To have all these returns in one volume, authoritatively rendered, and at a very modest cost, is a great contribution to scholarship.

For the past ten years, these same county-level data have been available, for Minnesota and all other states, in machine-readable form from the Historical Data Archive of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan. Data in this form, however, are very expensive to acquire, to handle, and to store, and quite impossible to use for simple tasks like looking up the vote for a single county in a particular year. While there is no substitute for machine-readable data for certain kinds of research, *Minnesota Votes* will surely become an indispensable companion and guide to their use.

This work has many potential users. One such group will undoubtedly be political scientists and historians who are interested in patterns of electoral change over a long historical period, perhaps in comparison with similar processes in other states. Serving the needs of this group presents a challenge to the compilers of a volume such as this. On the one hand, these analysts need comparable data over the entire period; on the other, they are unlikely to have detailed knowledge of the historical context of all the elections with which they are dealing. Thus, a test of the usefulness of this volume is the extent to which someone can utilize the information for his or her own analytic purposes without committing major substantive gaffes. For the most part *Minnesota Votes* passes this test very well. The compilers have made a conscious decision to present the data in its simplest form — raw votes for each candidate using the contemporary party label — thereby leaving most decisions concerning the combining of minor party votes or the comparability of party names to the analyst. Departures from this policy are explained in the introduction. The pitfalls inherent in county level analysis when the county boundaries are unstable are pointed out and a reference for assistance in handling this problem offered. One area in which more guidance for the user would be welcome is in the handling of party labels. A

simple list of party names and their abbreviations is given without discussion of even the most straightforward name changes. (For example, the sudden appearance of Independent-Republican candidates is sure to confound most non-Minnesota users.) This is compounded by occasional inconsistencies in the usage of the abbreviations and the use of hyphens in the abbreviations for single party names as well as to signify nominations of candidates by more than one party.

Without a doubt, the compilation of this amount of data is an effort of heroic proportions. The product is sure to be a major reference work and a model for other state historical societies to imitate. One can only hope that the Minnesota Historical Society will next turn its attention to a similar compendium of primary election statistics.

Reviewed by NANCY ZINGALE, assistant professor in and chairperson of the political science department at the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul. Ms. Zingale received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation was on Minnesota electoral history.

Sweden: The Nation's History. By Franklin D. Scott.
(Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1977. 654 p. Illustrations. \$25.00.)

THE PUBLICATION in the spring of 1977 of Franklin Scott's new history of Sweden fills a void in the basic textual literature of Swedish history for the English-speaking audience. Stewart Oakley's *A Short History of Sweden* (1966) has been out of print for a number of years and was always hampered by certain problems with readability and the brevity with which Oakley covered the period since 1809. Ingvar Andersson's *History of Sweden* (1956) remains available, but it too suffers from brevity in certain period treatments and, worse, has become badly dated in its interpretive perspective. *Sweden: The Nation's History* represents one volume in a "series," which also includes Karen Larsen's *History of Norway* (1948) and John Wuorinen's *A History of Finland* (1965). (A similar volume for Denmark has been proposed, but remains to be initiated.) Conceived many years ago, Scott's volume has been a long time in the making, but is well worth the wait.

The first half of Scott's history is quite traditional. In the first ten chapters he surveys the development of Sweden from man's appearance in the Scandinavian region around 15,000 B.C. through the reign of Gustav IV, who was deposed in 1809. He reviews political, international, social, economic, and cultural developments, and places the nation's evolution into context with Scandinavian and European events. Virtually the entire second half of the book is devoted to Sweden's development since 1809. This reflects both Scott's predilections and the importance of Sweden in the contemporary world. Six in-

tensive chapters review the period from 1809 to 1914. Included are considerations of the vast social changes of the period, the evolution of parliamentary democracy, the industrialization of Sweden and the resultant social and economic dislocations, and the changing position and posture of Sweden within the European and world communities. The final four chapters deal with Sweden since 1914. They survey the wartime experience of the country, the rise of the Social Democrats to their position of political predominance in the period 1936-76, the initiation and development of the welfare state and its accompanying economic and social ramifications — both good and bad — and the trends in cultural and intellectual developments in this century. Scott brings events as nearly up to date as possible. He concludes his political survey with the defeat of the Social Democrats in the election of September, 1976. The number of footnotes has been kept to a minimum, and the reader must turn to the back of the volume to follow them. An extensive bibliography has been appended. In addition, there are some — but not enough — maps and tables and thirty-six pages of photographs.

Scott's care and academic rigor, along with the assistance he has secured from a large number of his colleagues in the field, has resulted in a volume which is accurate, eminently readable, and interpretatively up to date. Although Scott's own bias is toward great men and power politics, he often reflects the influence of other scholars with differing points of view. The resultant causal openness of the volume is one of its strengths. Scott is not without fault, however. His admitted avoidance of controversies is, at times, frustrating. Some major debates are completely glossed over. For example, he avoids treatment of the enticing problem of Charles XII's death in 1718.

Sweden: The Nation's History is an excellent volume, both for an academic audience and for a wider, more popular audience. He has achieved an effective, if not provocative, balance between text and popular survey. For the English audience, it is currently the finest work available and should remain so for years to come.

Reviewed by BYRON J. NORDSTROM, assistant professor of history at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Nordstrom, who received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota, edited the book. The Swedes in Minnesota, which was reviewed in the Spring, 1977, issue of Minnesota History.

Edward Sheriff Curtis: Visions of a Vanishing Race. By Florence Curtis Graybill and Victor Boesen; photographs prepared by Jean-Antony du Lac.

(New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1976. xi, 302 p. Illustrations. \$35.00.)

THIS is the most recent and the most expensive of a variety of books and periodicals on Edward Curtis and his magnificent photo-anthropological project on North American Indians. Curtis spent over thirty years producing a visual and written record of what he believed was a vanishing race. Throughout this project he tried to show how the Native Americans lived before they had contact with the white man. The project culminated in the publication of a forty-volume work which is

often hailed as the most ambitious and extensive photo-anthropological publication ever undertaken by one man. Numerous luminaries lent their support to the project, including President Theodore Roosevelt and financier J. P. Morgan. When Morgan lent his financial support, he stated that he wanted the books to be the finest ever published in America. Many feel that Edward Curtis accomplished that goal.

Against this background of uncompromised excellence, today's reader should expect the same from this latest Edward Curtis publication. Unfortunately, most readers undoubtedly will be disappointed by the "coffee-table" mentality which pervades much of the work. The book's greatest failure is the quality of the reproductions. The images are very contrasty with little detail in critical areas of the images. Thus, the rare subtlety and power of Curtis's original work is only hinted at. Additionally, the layout of the photographic images is monotonous and unimaginative. Little is done to create the magic interplay of images that is possible with Curtis's work. It should be noted, however, that the reproductions are numerous and in content, at least, representative of Curtis's work.

The written section of the book is much more satisfying. It was coauthored by one of Curtis's daughters, and is the first publication to utilize parts of the long-neglected and illuminating correspondence between Curtis and his editor, Frederick Webb Hodge. The reader is thus given a substantial glimpse into Edward Curtis, the man, and into the toils, traumas, and joys involved in the production of Curtis's magnum opus. This excellent anecdotal information is diminished, however, by the fact that the information simply does not go far enough. There is no mention of the last twenty-four years of Curtis's life. The rich text of Curtis's work is barely touched upon. Factual errors and omissions, while minor and few, are nevertheless disturbing.

The book, on the whole, is not unlike a popover; at first glance it appears much more substantial than it really is. This reviewer, for one, is very disappointed to see the work which cost Edward Curtis his health, his family life, financial security, and a major portion of his adult life represented by a book which appears to be primarily motivated by commercial concerns. Thus, the interested reader is urged to read the book in a library and save his or her \$35 for something more substantial.

Reviewed by CHRIS CARDOZO, an exhibiting photographer, art collector, and attorney, who began collecting, writing, and lecturing on Edward Curtis's photographs several years ago. Mr. Cardozo is currently living in an isolated area of Mexico doing an extended photographic project.

Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow. By Dee Brown.

(New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977. vii, 311 p. Illustrations. \$12.95.)

IN THIS VOLUME Dee Brown purports to detail the history and consequences of nineteenth-century railroad development of the trans-Mississippi West. He begins with the arrival of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad at the Mississippi River in 1854 and continues through the completion of the nation's fifth transcontinental, the Great Northern, in 1893. Construction details, financial concerns, and the joys and hazards of rail

travel are covered in varying depth. However, the historical narration of events rapidly degenerates into diatribes against the railroad companies, their officials, and their political supporters. According to Brown, railroads in and of themselves constituted an evil which ruined American society, caused governmental corruption to zoom to unparalleled heights, destroyed Native American culture, and allowed corporate monopolies to oppress Americans and immigrants alike. One finishes this polemic with the overwhelming feeling that we would today be living in an idyllic Eden if railroads had been banned from the West. Recitation of several chapter titles reveals the author's thesis: "Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill, While the Owners Take the Plunder"; "Exit the Land Grabbers, Enter the Stock Manipulators"; "Trampling the Frontier"; "The Iron Horse Assumes a Devil Image."

The evil begins with the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi in 1854. This single act sealed the doom of the steamboat industry, consigned New Orleans to second-class status, and occasioned the rise of Abraham Lincoln, who had the audacity to defend the railroad. The nightmare continues with the Central Pacific's "greedy exploiters" and the Union Pacific's "colossal looting of the people's treasury and plundering of national land resources." Brown similarly disposes of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe transcontinentals.

Brown saves his most virulent comments for the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways and their major officials, Henry Villard and James J. Hill. Predictably, the NP land grant receives treatment as another theft of America's resources by an illicit combine of government and corporate officials. The land grant also abetted General William Sherman's "holy endeavor" of destroying Indian culture by using railroads to help extinguish native title to the lands. "Silent collusion" between the Office of Indian Affairs, the secretary of the Department of Interior, Congress, and the president accomplished extinguishment. Intricate financial manipulations enabled Villard to gain control of the NP, finish it, and stage a completion ceremony that diverted the world's attention while the company went bankrupt. However, Brown laments, "whenever one buccaneer of the rails left the scene another was always ready to take his place."

James J. Hill took Villard's place on the northern plains and represented the culmination of evil in railroad annals. According to Brown, Hill based his fortune on the land grant of the St. Paul and Pacific, "arranged for the records to be juggled" to defraud the Dutch bondholders of the company, and then launched his own career. Following in the ruthless tradition of his idols, Napoleon and Genghis Khan, Hill knew that "God favored him," and he therefore acted like an "irascible old lion, ruling by fear, with a temper so violent that when crossed he was known to toss equipment, furniture, and men out of windows."

Brown supports these conclusions with no documentation save some contemporary newspaper articles. His land grant concepts were proved erroneous years ago. Even a cursory study of documents in the Northern Pacific and Great Northern archives at the MHS would alter many of the "facts" about those lines. No attempt is made to state positive consequences of rail development in the West. Passing mention concedes the value of Hill's extensive agricultural experiments, but only in the context of luring immigrants to the plains.

Photographs of good quality appear in the volume, though most have been published elsewhere. Brown is at his best in a chapter on firsthand experiences of early transcontinental passengers taken from original accounts. Except for these two points, however, *Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow* is a disaster, a retrogression to journalistic sensationalism, and an affront to the entire scholarly community. The railroad excesses of the nineteenth century were present and deserve to be told, but only in a balanced account with proper documentation.

Reviewed by DUANE P. SWANSON, former Great Northern records project director in the Minnesota Historical Society's division of archives and manuscripts. Swanson is now one of the division's field representatives.

***Edwin Whitefield: Nineteenth Century North American Scenery.* By Bettina A. Norton.**

(Barre, Mass., Barre Publishers, 1977. 158 p. Illustrations. \$19.95.)

WHEN Edwin Whitefield, English-born artist, publicist, and land promoter, first arrived in Minnesota Territory in 1855, he did so as a tourist from Canada where he felt he owed his first allegiance. A second trip the following year apparently changed his mind, however, for in the summer of 1856, after taking up a claim on a small lake near Glencoe, Minnesota, he became an early settler of the territory and a tireless Minnesota booster. Not long afterward, caught up in the great land speculation movement that had hit Chicago twenty years earlier and was just moving up the Mississippi River, Whitefield staked out a second claim and settled in the border area between Todd and Stearns counties, in Kandotta on Fairy Lake, which he both platted and named.

All this time he was very busily sketching Minnesota sites, including such landmarks as Fort Snelling, St. Anthony Falls and Minnehaha Falls. Many of these he intended to publish as lithographed views to add to his album of North American cities, as well as to promote settlement in the Minnesota Territory. But, even though he worked hard to advertise the area, promising that "families that a few years previously were toiling in the crowded Atlantic towns [would] find themselves in their new homes . . . enjoying the luxuries and refinements of the most happy civilization," his efforts to promote Minnesota as a settlers' haven brought him neither personal recognition nor financial reward. In 1860 he left Minnesota for Chicago, and four years later he settled permanently near Boston, where he died in 1892.

The work of this colorful nineteenth-century painter and land promoter is the subject of an attractive volume by Bettina A. Norton. Painstakingly researched and beautifully illustrated (including eight plates in full color), *Edwin Whitefield: Nineteenth Century North American Scenery*, is an account of Whitefield's career as an artist-businessman. The story was culled from a careful reading of Whitefield's letters, diaries, and newspaper advertisements — although, strangely, the author did not use the collections at the Minnesota Historical Society and had to depend on the excellent articles by the late Bertha L. Heilbron for her Minnesota material. There are other lapses, too. Nowhere is the artist's *oeuvre* discussed in its historical context. Nowhere is his work compared with, or re-

lated to, that of the topographical artists of nineteenth-century America (like John Caspar Wild) or to their close allies, the panoramists (Henry Lewis, for instance). Though Whitefield painted a number of sensitive and very accomplished flower studies for a planned collection of American wild flowers, the author never mentions the name of John James Audubon, the primary visual recorder of North American fauna and flora. Neither does she seem aware that even in the best of Whitefield's city views, charming though they may be, there are slight distortions in scale that reveal the hand of a self-taught, or primitive, artist. In fact, we are told nothing of Whitefield's education or background, his artistic training — or lack of it.

Taken together with the sort of careless editing that dates Whitefield's written determination to compile a collection of American wild flowers in 1812 (he was born in 1816!), Ms. Norton's failure to comment significantly on Whitefield as an artist makes her work of limited value. More is the pity, for Whitefield does deserve a full and historically perceptive account of his life and the considerable artistic work he left behind. Archival research is a tool essential for an understanding of our cultural and artistic heritage. It is the beginning of the methodology, however, not its end.

Reviewed by RENA NEUMANN COEN, *author of Painting and Sculpture in Minnesota, 1820–1914. She has also written several articles for Minnesota History and other publications.*

Captain Philip Pittman's *The Present State of the European Settlements Along the Mississippi*. Edited by John Francis McDermott.

(Memphis, Memphis State University Press, 1977. 208 p. Maps, illustrations. \$20.00). (Facsimile edition of London, 1770, publication.)

THOSE devoted to the history of the mighty Mississippi will be delighted with a new facsimile edition of Captain Philip Pittman's classic account of his explorations beginning in 1763 and concluding five years later. The narrative was published in London in 1770 and far exceeded both in text and maps any similar narration written previously by either Englishmen or Frenchmen.

Pittman provided fresh, up-to-date information on "the Balize, New Orleans, and the villages of the Mississippi Valley, including the newest settlement, St. Louis, founded in 1764, which he visited twice." Although long recognized as a significant source, the book was neither reprinted nor published in facsimile until 1973. Then Robert R. Rea provided an introduction for a facsimile edition published by the University of Florida Press. Now comes another facsimile edited by John Francis McDermott, adjunct research professor, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

Pittman, a British officer, was ordered by his superiors to discover the nature of French posts and settlements along the Mississippi of which they knew little. Although not trained as an engineer, Pittman did his work well. As McDermott points out, Pittman occasionally was prejudiced against French officials with whom he came in contact and was not always fully informed about that which he was writing. He accepted some

rumors as fact. However, he gathered useful and informative data on places of interest and reported them succinctly. This reviewer agrees with McDermott when the latter writes that he wished Pittman had not been as concise as he was.

Yet, at times, Pittman devoted considerable space to villages and posts and, now and again, penned rather colorful observations. No one can successfully deny that he was specific and set down details. He said, for example, that there was one three-pounder mounted in the faces and flanks of every bastion at the Arkansas post; he pictured Fort Chartres as an irregular quadrangle built of stone and commonly "plaistered" over; he wrote that Louisiana indigo was esteemed for its beautiful color and that cotton was of a most perfect white; and he described the French garrison at St. Louis as comprising a captain-commandant, two lieutenants, a fort-major, one sergeant, one corporal, and twenty men. Pittman wrote of mills for corn and planks, of the menace of logs, trees, and shoals in the Mississippi, and of wives being brought down from Canada. He described New Orleans' public square with the Church of St. Louis, "a very poor building," mentioned the city's Capuchins and Ursulines, and spoke of orange trees which "are not unpleasant objects and in the spring afford an agreeable smell."

Unfortunately, nothing is known of Pittman's life before he arrived in America and was assigned to regiments of His Majesty's Foot stationed in Mobile. His military and exploring careers in the New World, thanks to McDermott and others, is clear enough as reported, together with meticulous notes, in McDermott's lengthy introduction. After returning to England, Pittman published his document of enduring importance, became a captain in the service of the East India Company, journeyed to Madras as an engineer, married there in 1772, and died at Vizagapatam, India, in 1775.

It is needless to say that once again McDermott's recognized skill as historian and editor is obvious in both organization and interpretation. A word about his arrangement of the volume may prove useful for those who may wish to consult it: preface, list of illustrations, chronological check list of maps and plans, editor's introduction, the facsimile, editor's notes to the Pittman text, sources consulted, and index. The worth of the book, of course, lies in both the facsimile and McDermott's impeccable introduction and notes.

Reviewed by PHILIP D. JORDAN, *professor emeritus of history, University of Minnesota. Now a resident of Burlington, Iowa, he is a well-known author of numerous books, articles, and book reviews. Many of his writings have appeared in Minnesota History over the years.*

***The End of the Road: The Life of Lord Mount Stephen*. Vol. II. By Heather Gilbert.**

(Aberdeen [Scotland] University Press, 1977. xii, 442 p. Illustrations. £10.)

GEORGE STEPHEN, later Lord Mount Stephen, is the second most important figure, after Sir John A. Macdonald, in the history of the Dominion of Canada, and played a leading role in the opening of the American Northwest. Born in modest circumstances in Scotland in 1829, he immigrated to Canada when he was twenty-one and prospered in booming mid-cen-

tury Montreal. By 1877 he had accumulated a comfortable fortune and was president of the Bank of Montreal. In that year he agreed to help James J. Hill finance the latter's long-dreamed-of scheme to take over the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and by 1880 was worth several million dollars. By then Macdonald, the Conservative leader of Canada, was ready to try once more to join the eastern and western halves of the Dominion by a railroad and persuaded Stephen to head the project. The Canadian Pacific, completed to Vancouver in 1885, was the greatest achievement of Stephen's life and one of the greatest works of man, but the five-year struggle against nature and impending bankruptcy exhausted him. He remained head of the Canadian Pacific Railway for six more years, then, at age sixty-two, retired permanently to England as the first colonial peer of the British Empire.

This exciting story was told in Mrs. Gilbert's *Awakening Continent: The Life of Lord Mount Stephen, 1829-1891*, Volume I, first published in 1965 and reprinted ("with amendments," which are not identified) in 1976 to accompany Volume II. Gilbert did not let the fact that Stephen left no papers deter her from writing his biography. In Volume I she successfully reconstructed the Hill and Canadian Pacific phases of Stephen's business career, largely through the extensive collection of letters between Stephen and Macdonald in the latter's papers in the Public Archives of Canada. (Why, oh why, do politicians, of whom even the best have so much to hide, save their papers, while the real movers and shakers burn theirs?) Joseph G. Pyle's half-century-old biography of James J. Hill was also a great help, although if Gilbert had had access to Hill's papers she would have found a great deal more material bearing on that remarkable partnership than Pyle used.

In Volume II, Gilbert has not been so fortunate. During the thirty years of life remaining after he returned to England, Mount Stephen managed his large investments with great skill and supported the hospital for the poor that was his favorite charity. It was not a very interesting life, and to reconstruct it Mrs. Gilbert has had to fall back upon the correspondence of persons closely associated with Mount Stephen in business and society. Chief among these are the papers of Lord and Lady Wolseley — he became commander-in-chief of the British army — and the letterbooks of Gaspard Farrer, senior partner in Baring Brothers and Company and chief financial lieutenant of Mount Stephen for over forty years.

While Gilbert presents Farrer as Mount Stephen's "alter ego," it is doubtful that the opinions of this gossipy, gushy servant of the rentier class can always have reflected those of his principal. Farrer seems not to have known the real extent of Mount Stephen's commitment to Hill in the financing of the Pacific extension of the Great Northern Railroad in 1889, and his analysis of the railroad politics of the American Northwest during the years of the Hill-Harriman struggle would have made Mount Stephen smile. Mount Stephen was involved in Lord Wolseley's jockeying for office, and doubtless he was saddened by the Wolseleys' unexplained hardness towards their daughter, but so were their other friends. Of course Mount Stephen worried from day to day as Hill led him and many others a merry chase, from the dash to the Pacific, to the snatching of the Burlington from under Harriman's nose, to the awful day in 1901 when the Northern Pacific corner nearly brought the financial temple down on everybody's heads, to

the final signing of a customer for the iron ore deposits that Hill had bought with the Great Northern's money. It would be fascinating to know what Mount Stephen thought about these events, but he wrote Hill few letters after he moved to England, and the answer is not to be found, apparently, in Farrer's letterbooks.

These criticisms aside, however, it must be said that Gilbert has written a touching story of the long retirement of a man whose real life ended thirty years before his death in 1921. Only the Hill papers, which were not open to Gilbert, are known to contain substantial Mount Stephen material that she has not used. It is not the lack of materials that makes Volume II such an anticlimax, but the very course of Mount Stephen's later life. The contrast between him and James J. Hill, who planted himself firmly in the soil of Minnesota and never deserted it, is striking. Mount Stephen never developed the same affection for Canada as Hill, who was born a Canadian, developed for the United States. Thus it was that while Hill grieved over the inane demagoguery of the Grangers in the 1880s, the Populists in the 1890s, and the insurgent Republicans after 1900, he never stopped trying to guide the nation's railroad policy. Canadian railroad policy after 1900 was as disastrous as our own, and could have used the counsel of its foremost railroad builder. But Mount Stephen never forgave the Grits who forced Macdonald to abrogate crucial guarantees made to the Canadian Pacific. There are two letters dated 1888 in the Hill papers in which he tells his friend, "I am thoroughly disgusted and for the thousandth time bitterly repent that I ever had anything to do with them or their country. . . . I would like to shake the dust of Canada off my feet and turn my back on the country for ever." Three years later his little Scottish birthplace, Dufftown, hailed him as the First Baron Mount Stephen. Dying childless, he was also the last.

Reviewed by ALBRO MARTIN, lecturer in business administration at Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration and editor of the *Business History Review*. He wrote James J. Hill and the Opening of the Northwest, which was reviewed in the Spring, 1977, issue of *Minnesota History*.

Working Places: The Adaptive Use of Industrial Buildings. A Handbook Sponsored by the Society for Industrial Archeology. By Walter C. Kidney.

(Pittsburgh, Ober Park Associates, 1976. 171 p. Illustrations. Hard cover \$13.95, Paper \$7.45.)

Historic American Engineering Record Catalog, 1976.

Compiled by Donald E. Sackheim.

(Washington, D.C., National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. xi, 193 p. Illustrations. Paper \$3.50.)

INDUSTRIAL PRESERVATION, a relatively new and not universally popular pursuit (witness Minneapolis's Grain Belt Brewery controversy), is the subject of two recent publications. Using a case study approach, Walter Kidney presents in *Working Places* Butler Square, a 1906 Minneapolis warehouse converted to shops and offices, and the St. Paul Open School, a transformed computer factory, as workable and interesting examples of industrial building re-use. Minnesota has numer-

ous similar projects including Park Square Court in St. Paul, formerly Noyes Brothers and Cutler, Inc., a wholesale drug company warehouse; the old creamery in Ada, which is now the restaurant and shops of the Creamery Mini-Mall; the Old Mill Apartments at Sauk Centre, which used to be the Central Minnesota Power and Milling Company building; and the Duluth Union Depot, which has become a museum and cultural center.

Anyone considering re-use of an industrial building will be especially appreciative of Kidney's how-to-do-it checklist along with his detailed appendixes discussing legal and financial resources and ramifications. A film companion to the book is available through purchase or rental.

The disconcerting side of Minnesota's industrial and engineering preservation effort is inadvertently revealed by the state's absence from the *Historic American Engineering Record* [HAER] *Catalog*, 1976, a state-by-state list of structures and buildings studied by HAER since its establishment in 1969 as a federal program. HAER prepares photos, drawings, and records of significant sites, usually on state initiative and funding, which are kept in the Library of Congress. One hopes that such intensive recording will be pursued for important structures in Minnesota, since building re-use, while preserving the past in the landscape, does not always preserve the multitude of structural details which are important pieces of evidence for the historian.

Reviewed by ROBERT M. FRAME III, *research historian for the MHS State Historic Preservation Office and a member of the board of directors of the Society for Industrial Archeology. He recently completed a study of Minnesota flour and gristmills.*

***Folk Songs Out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music.* Edited by Harry B. Peters.**

(Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977. 311 p. Illustrations. Paper \$6.95.)

WISCONSIN has long been known to scholars as a state with a rich tradition of folk songs. Franz Rickaby's classic collection, *Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-Boy* (1926), contains a substantial number of songs he collected there in 1919 before he traveled on to Minnesota, where he gathered most of his lumbering songs. As early as 1939, Asher Treat published an insightful article, "Kentucky Folksong in Northern Wisconsin," in the *Journal of American Folklore*. But until this publication no book-length folk song collection has appeared.

The book's editor, Harry B. Peters of the University of Wisconsin School of Music, got the idea for the work in 1973 when he was contacted by the widower of Helene Stratman-Thomas. Ms. Stratman-Thomas collected Wisconsin folk songs from 1940-46 under the auspices of the Library of Congress and the University of Wisconsin. Peters was asked to complete the work. He also added material from the University of Wisconsin manuscript holdings and from printed sources. Peters limited the songs in the volume to those in the English language. However, the field notes of Stratman-Thomas, also published in this work, indicate that a wealth of diverse ethnic song tradition remains unpublished.

The book contains 200 songs, photographs, a list of infor-

ants, invaluable excerpts from the field notes of Rickaby and Stratman-Thomas, an index of the songs, and the editor's introduction. Unfortunately the organization of the work is confusing. There is no rationale given for the way songs are grouped. There is no over-all table of contents, no complete index, and no bibliography or discography. It is an unusual pleasure to have a field collector's own photographs in such a work, but the choice and use of the other photographs is less than satisfactory. Often the juxtaposition of songs and photographs shows the editor's lack of training in folklore and can lead the unsuspecting reader to outrageous conclusions. For example, the old and widespread sea shanty, "Reuben Ranzo," faces a totally unrelated, full-page picture of a black guitarist.

There are other serious flaws. Peters seems unaware that he has edited some of the most common folk songs in the English language as well as some startling surprises. Even the most cursory use of the folklorist's standard titles and classification systems would have made the book more useful to all readers.

This reviewer would rather have seen Helene Stratman-Thomas's and Rickaby's raw manuscripts reproduced than to have folk song so misrepresented. It is not pleasant to say that a neighbor has done an injustice to his heritage, but that is the case with this book. Not only is the editing careless, but the introduction and the headnotes misrepresent the nature of folk song and the state of folk song scholarship. No one even slightly familiar with folklore would claim that after enactment of the 1790 copyright laws "opportunities for anonymous ballad and balladeers sharply declined."

Long ago historians realized that a date is meaningless unless its context is understood. The same is true of folk song. No song can "tell us about everyday life [in Wisconsin]" or "remind us, with a pang, of our roots" unless we can understand its context and see how the Wisconsin experience changed it. Folklorists have slowly come to understand how and when they need to learn from and work with historians. Certainly historical societies can do themselves a service by producing works by scholars familiar with the subject matter. Peters could have been the coauthor of an outstanding work.

Reviewed by ELLEN J. STEKERT, *Minnesota state folklorist, director of the Center for the Study of Minnesota Folklife at the Minnesota Historical Society, and professor of English at the University of Minnesota.*

***The Diaries of Louis Riel.* Edited by Thomas Flanagan.**

(Edmonton, Alberta, Hurtig Publishers, 1976. 187 p. Paper \$4.95.)

THE "PROPHET OF THE NEW WORLD," as Louis Riel styled himself, has been as much of an enigma to Canada's political historians as he was to the pragmatic politicians of his day. As the visionary leader of the French-Canadian warriors of the prairies in two revolts against the myriad evils of nineteenth-century frontier expansion, he achieved a position symbolic of the deepest divisions of Canadian society. This position led to his vilification, exile, and ultimate execution — and to his simultaneous idealization as a martyr to cold-blooded political expediency. Both as a man and as a symbol, Riel has proved hard to remain neutral toward even a century after his death. The translation and publication of his 1885 diaries will

therefore be welcomed as a rare chance to find what Riel said of and for himself.

At his trial Riel stated that he intended his papers for publication, but his diaries languished in various Canadian repositories for nearly 100 years before being resurrected. The reason for this seeming neglect is quite simple: The diaries are not important historical documents in the sense of shedding light on the events of the 1885 rebellion. Although they commence in June, 1884, and carry on through the months of political agitation, the outbreak of war, the siege of Batoche, Riel's surrender, trial, and last imprisonment, the diaries contain only fleeting references to these events. Instead one finds a long litany of dreams, meditations, prayers, and prophecies. This does not altogether detract from their interest: Riel was an eloquent writer, and the diaries show a dramatic progression and climaxing of ideas. There is thus a certain literary value which makes up in part for their lack of factual content.

Historians should not, however, ignore these documents, for the implicit assumptions of Riel's intended messages to posterity are revealing. The 1885 rebellion seems like an inexplicable overreaction to the economic and political problems Saskatchewan faced, if low grain prices, monopolistic railroad control, and land ownership questions are taken for the only motivating forces. They were far from that. In Riel's mind these injustices were eclipsed by a driving religious imperative that gave the rebellion the dimensions of a holy war. Riel saw the New World's salvation in a mystical synthesis of worn-out European traditions that would create a new and vital spiritual force. The rebellion was only a prelude to the new age Riel foresaw. The diaries show that many of his puzzling actions during the rebellion conformed to an elaborate framework of symbolism and allegory by which he lived. The pages, themselves saturated with allegory, reveal Riel's acute sense

of the significance in every step he took and every detail he saw or dreamed.

Some readers will inevitably turn back to the question that perplexed Riel's contemporaries and his biographers — was the man sane or insane? The diaries do not answer, but in providing an insight into the rationale of Riel's mysticism they provide a fairer ground on which to judge him. For Riel was a genuine mystic. He believed in the sentience of the world about him; he experienced divine possession in very physical ways; he even practiced a rigid dietary and exercise regimen. Though his mystical creed was expressed in the most devout Christian terms, its underlying themes are timeless. They could be traced as easily in Cree or Sioux religion as in Christian. But Riel's mystical system was not insane because it echoed some tones of the Ghost Dance as well as the Catholic liturgy.

Thomas Flanagan has provided an excellent, thought-provoking introduction, a glossary of names, and editorial comment in the text (which would have been less obtrusive in the form of footnotes). More explanation of the events taking place as the diary was written would have been helpful, especially in the part covering the battle of Batoche. In several cases Flanagan has fallen into a trap historians should beware of: He takes Riel literally, interpreting as actual events some passages that could easily be read as visions or prophecies. Overall, however, Flanagan has made a major contribution in editing these manuscripts. Minnesotans can only regret that there are no similar diaries for the 1869-70 rebellion in which the state's expansionist ambitions figured so prominently.

CAROLYN GILMAN is an editor and researcher on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. She has done research on the Riel Rebellions.

news & notes

A MINNESOTA newspaper and an individual Minnesotan received special recognition from the national awards committee of the American Association for State and Local History. The committee met on September 24-26 prior to the AASLH 1977 annual meeting at Charleston, South Carolina. The *Minneapolis Tribune* was voted an award of merit "for consistent and substantial support of numerous phases of local history through feature stories, magazine sections and articles, and editorials." J. C. ("Buzz") Ryan of Duluth was voted a certificate of commendation "for contributions to the history of Minnesota logging and forestry."

SINCE 1968, the cartoons of *Minneapolis Tribune* cartoonist and St. Paul native Richard Guindon have been showing Minnesotans to themselves in new

and wildly funny ways. Now many of these cartoons have been collected in a book called *Guindon* (Minneapolis Star and Tribune Co., 1977, paper \$4.95) which will show those who have never read Guindon what they have been missing and allow his faithful followers to replace their now worn and yellowed clippings.

Guindon has a knack of precisely capturing Minnesota life in all its aspects — cold winters, late springs, farmers, old people, double-knit polyester leisure suits, the State Fair, the Winter Carnival, skate boards, the Foshay Tower, the IDS Building, the legislature, the fabled and exotic western suburbs of Minneapolis, not to mention the intangible mixture of innocence and bravado, broad-mindedness and small-thinking, self-esteem and self-criticism that make up the Minnesota personality. As such

the cartoons are valuable and hilarious documents not only of events and fashions in Minnesota in the 1970s, but also of the "Main Currents in Modern Minnesota Thought."

Many Guindon cartoons are of historical subjects, which may partly explain the following he has among Historical Society employees. Few of the bulletin boards in the many MHS offices do not display at least one Guindon cartoon. A further indication of their popularity may be seen in the fact that the MHS bookstore sold twenty-eight copies the week after it was stocked, nearly all of them to staff members.

BRUCE M. WHITE

TWO SMALL but useful booklets have recently been added to the literature on Minnesota's largest Indian tribe. *The Anishinabe of the Minnesota Chippewa*

Tribe, by Timothy G. Roufs (Phoenix, Ariz., 1975. 104 p. Illustrations.) is a part of the Indian Tribal Series and is published under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633. It gives a brief, readable, and well-illustrated summary of Ojibway (here spelled "Ojibwa") culture and history. Although the text is unannotated and sometimes uses dates with more positive exactness than available sources justify, it is generally accurate and based upon the best of recent research. The closing section on reservation life and present tribal organization is especially valuable.

As a part of its American Indian bibliographical series, the Newberry Library in co-operation with Indiana University Press has issued *The Ojibwas: A Critical Bibliography*, by Helen Hornbeck Tanner (Bloomington and London, 1976, 78 p., paper \$3.95). Although the 275 entries are presented in traditional scholarly form, those which are particularly adapted to classroom use are clearly indicated. Among them is the Minnesota Historical Society's school resource unit on *The Ojibwe*. Had the Tanner bibliography been available when that unit was being researched and written, the time and effort required for its creation would have been greatly reduced.

RHODA R. GILMAN

AN EXHIBITION of art and craft objects normally results in a catalog which provides viewers with basic information. Rarely is an attempt made to combine information concerning major social changes with crafts development, as Sharon S. Darling has done in *Chicago Metalsmiths* (Chicago Historical Society, 1977, 141 p. \$12.95). The result is a concisely written history of a craft, its practitioners, and the changes it has undergone during the more than 160 years of Chicago's existence.

The history is divided into three periods, each of which manifests its own character and adds dimensions to the changing craft. The first period, 1804-90, encompassed a shift from the original manufacture of "Indian trinkets" to, finally, the mass-production and merchandising of utilitarian items. Large-scale manufacturing and wholesaling became a particularly big enterprise following the Chicago fire of 1871. The 1890-1918 period, to which most of the book is devoted, was a time of social reform highlighted by a return to handcrafted and often nonutilitarian items. The final period, 1918-70, saw a continuation of

handcrafting which was without the demands for reform, but unfortunately, this latter period also resulted in a near extinction of the individual metalsmith and his beautiful products.

Profusely illustrated, this volume offers not only an outline concerning predominant styles in each period but also provides photographs of makers' marks to assist in attribution of items. A major commendation is in order to Walter W. Krutz, who photographed many of the items pictured in the book. Although it is specific in geographic coverage, metalwork collectors, particularly of silver, will find this book a welcome addition to their bookshelf.

DOUGLAS GEORGE

DAVE WOOD wrote *Wisconsin Life Trip* (Whitehall, Wis., 1976, 118 p., paper \$3.95) as an antidote to Michael Lesy's *Wisconsin Death Trip*. Insofar as Lesy's book is located specifically between 1885 and 1900 and Wood's merely touches on that period, *Wisconsin Life Trip* misses its target. However, Wood fulfills his more modest purpose "to demonstrate that despite hardship, isolation, even the macabre, life has many good moments in small town America."

Most of *Wisconsin Life Trip* is in the form of vignettes, many of which have been previously published either in "Chips off the Block," Wood's column in the *Whitehall Times*, or in his monthly column in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*. Wood's stories are about growing to adulthood and about recapturing the flavors of small-town life as a summer returnee to Whitehall (Trempealeau County), Wisconsin. (He spends the rest of the year teaching English at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.) Wood takes the reader back to memorable events of his youth — the first airplane he saw close up, free movies, games of marbles, church suppers, and the one-room schoolhouse. He also relates perplexing problems of the present, such as what to do with four beer cases full of multiplier onion sets and how to hold (or not to hold) a Wisconsin luau.

For the most part, *Wisconsin Life Trip* is set in Whitehall and its environs, and, while the events it reports are local, they represent not just Whitehall, Wisconsin, but "small-town Middle America" and could just as well have taken place in Minnesota or any other state in the upper Midwest. As a matter of fact, the population centers that Whitehall most directly relates to are both in Minnesota: the small city, Winona, and the big city, Minneapolis.

Although Dave Wood's memories

may not be our own, he gives us the opportunity to share his with him. So pull a chair up to the fireplace, sip your hot chocolate, and enjoy a *Wisconsin Life Trip*.

RALPH NEUBECK

A SCHOLARLY study of Jesse James is now in paperback. Originally published in 1966 by the University of Missouri Press, *Jesse James Was His Name* by William A. Settle, Jr., is now available for \$3.95 from the University of Nebraska Press.

Settle's book is a thorough effort to separate the facts from the fiction surrounding the Jesse James legend. Unlike most writers who have written about James, Settle takes an objective attitude towards the man known in American folklore as both a bad man and a Robin Hood. The author chronologically examines his career as a bad man, pointing out what can be documented as fact and what appears to be fiction. When the two are indistinguishable, he admits it. Similarly, he does not convict Jesse and his brother Frank of robberies when the evidence does not point conclusively towards them. The author does not, for example, unequivocally name the James Brothers as participants in the 1876 Northfield bank raid. He readily admits, however, that the incident "seriously weakened the belief that enemies had falsely accused the Jameses of banditry."

Settle also examines the evolution of the Robin Hood legend. Like virtually everyone else who has written about James, he traces its origin to the Civil War and its aftermath. However, his examination of the social, political, and historical events that gave birth to the legend is superior to previous publications. His painstaking analysis of the contemporary news coverage of the Jameses' exploits, and the subsequent pulp fiction, dime novels, early "authentic histories," songs, and movies that have nurtured and added to the legend over the years is outstanding.

Extensive documentation of the text, a lengthy annotated bibliography, and a detailed index help make this book an excellent reference book for Jesse James enthusiasts.

ROGER BARR

SUSPEND your disbelief for a moment. Imagine a typical sleepy small town where the main topics of conversation are the potholes in Main Street and the curves of the local cafe waitress. Then suppose the grease monkey from Earl's Texaco becomes the inadvertent discoverer of — a genuine Viking rune stone.

The town is overnight transformed into a neon and beer can Vinland. A Runestone Festival with a local Viking Princess is only the beginning (remember, this is just a wild fantasy). What glory for a town whose only boast had been a restored nineteenth-century tractor gear factory! And they owed it all to one stone

Such is the saga recounted in *Runestuck*, a novel by Calvin Trillin (Little, Brown, and Co., \$7.95). Despite the fact that the book's setting is Berryville, Maine, there are some in the book's preposterous set of characters who may seem strangely familiar to readers of *Minnesota History*. Take, for instance, Dr. George Gustafson, the cryptographer and beer distributor from Faribault, who thinks every rune stone ever discovered is real and dismisses carbon dating as "a flim-flam device used by the nitpickers." There is even a wet blanket historical society picketing the proceedings and an unimaginative archaeologist who insists on taking things literally.

Wild as the confusion may be among the book's runestuck characters, good nature triumphs in the end. It seems at last we may have a book which gives us an excuse to agree on one thing — to laugh.

CAROLYN GILMAN

ONE OF THE valuable effects of the bicentennial was to make people aware that history does not begin with the events and occurrences of twenty-five or fifty years ago, but encompasses all that is important, useful, characteristic, or interesting about the lives of all of us.

This recognition has triggered a resurgence of interest in documentary photography as one of the best methods of recording all the various aspects of our daily lives — the way we dress, live, eat, work, travel, and celebrate.

Recently three American documentary photography projects, each in its own way, have attempted to create such a record.

In 1975, the United States Department of Agriculture decided to put together for the bicentennial a book of photographs that would document American agriculture. Using nearly sixty photographers from all over the country, it produced *The Face of Rural America* as its 1976 yearbook of agriculture (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1976, 284 p. \$7.30). Well designed and containing excellent photographs (mostly in black and white) and an informative though not overpowering text, the book documents all aspects of rural American life in 1975. It is

the book's strength that it approaches farming not just as an occupation but as a way of life and thus concerns itself not merely with the technological aspects of the business but also with the land, the people, the weather, the celebrations, and all the personal aspects of farm life that will be so interesting to people of future generations.

With somewhat different purposes, the Nebraska Photographic Documentary Project, consisting of photographers Robert Starck and Lynn Dance, traveled between 1975 and 1977 throughout Nebraska "documenting the life, landscape, and architecture of the state" in order to "record in clear images the way Nebraskans live today for this generation and for those that follow." As a result of this project, a book entitled *Nebraska Photographic Documentary Project, 1975-1977: Images of Nebraska* (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Neb., 1977, 111 p., paper \$12.95.) was published. The book contains 110 photographs, all of which are technically good and often imaginative. However, they seem randomly arranged, and as a whole make up somewhat of a hodge-podge. Furthermore, the captions are almost entirely uninformative. The authors remark that they "have kept words to a minimum, relying upon the people and places to tell their own story." This seems a feeble justification in a book of documentary photography which in the words of the photographers does not "represent a full cross-section of Nebraskans, their land, and their celebrations." To tell us almost nothing about the subjects they photographed implies the opposite. It is also ironic that they should have kept their own text to a minimum and then called upon Wright Morris, who has so skillfully combined photographs and text in his own works, to write a general introduction to their photographs.

The same mistake was not made by the photographers of the Dakota Photo Documentary Project. From March to August, 1976, the seven photographers involved in the project made a photo survey of the state of North Dakota. In 1977, the photographers and project director Mark Strand published at their own expense a book of the project's photographs entitled *Dakota Photo Documentary Project, 1976* (1977, 104 p., paper \$2.00; available from Plains Distribution Service, P. O. Box 3112, Fargo 58102, or from Mark Strand, Communications Office, North Dakota State University, Fargo 58102). The book, printed on newsprint, contains many striking photographs but does not

make the mistake of supposing that a photograph because it is a photograph does not need any explanation. Some of the captions in the work in fact match the beauty of the photographs themselves, especially in the case of Bruce Severy, whose photo and text devoted to Ole Abbleseth, the ninety-two-year-old Norwegian who claims to be the oldest living survivor of the Titanic, is worthy of Wright Morris. Readers who are interested in seeing other examples of photos from the North Dakota project are referred to the *Minneapolis Tribune's* Sunday *Picture* magazine for January 23, 1977, which is entirely devoted to photographs from the project, many of them in color.

Any discussion of contemporary documentary photography would be incomplete without mentioning the continuing efforts of *Picture* magazine. Previously noted (see *Minnesota History*, 45:315 — Winter, 1975) for their issues on historical subjects, they are also remarkable for their occasional issues or articles which document contemporary people, places, and events of the Midwest. A recent issue (October 16, 1977), for example, was devoted to the Hutterite colony in Olivet, South Dakota, and contained excellent examples of documentary photography at its best.

BRUCE M. WHITE

THE COMPILATION of papers, *Agriculture in the Great Plains, 1876-1936*, edited by Thomas R. Wessel (Washington, D.C., 1977, 263 p., \$8.00) published by the Agriculture History Society, resulted from the society's symposium held in Montana last year. This immense empire of wheat and range cattle has periodically felt the effects of scarifying droughts that turned the land into the Great American Desert or in modern times into the Dust Bowl. At other times, low commodity prices parched the farmer's or rancher's purse, led to a search for scapegoats, or to clamorous claims on the government for relief.

Most of the papers presented at the symposium reported on events and problems of the Great Plains, where marginal agriculture is peculiarly sensitive to the vagaries of weather and markets. Thus, this book has little bearing on Minnesota history. However, the excellent article on "The Use of Objects in Historical Research" by John T. Schlebecker will be of value to museum curators, teachers of courses in historical research and criticism, and graduate students in economic history.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

Since 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.

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