

BOOK REVIEWS

The Lake District of Minneapolis: A History of the Calhoun-Isles Community. By David A. Lanegran and Ernest R. Sandeen.

(St. Paul, Living Historical Museum, 1979. viii, 112 p. Maps, illustrations. Cloth \$16.00, paper \$8.95.)

RESIDENTS of any urban neighborhood seldom stop to consider, as they walk or drive daily through familiar streets and admire handsome houses, just how the area acquired its special character and appearance. During the nine years I lived in the Kenwood district of Minneapolis, it never occurred to me that I was enjoying life in a "nineteenth-century upper-middle-class suburb" that had "miraculously survived into the 1970s virtually intact." Nor had I any idea, when I moved to Lake Harriet, that I was on the edge of the Cottage City district, laid out in tiny lots a century ago with the expectation that small, simple summer cottages would be located there. Probably very few of the many joggers and bicyclists circling Lake of the Isles each day know, when they pass Twenty-Sixth Street on the east side of the lake, that the "largest and most expensive house in Minnesota history" once stood just across the street and that it was demolished only twenty years after it was built without ever having been lived in.

Bounded on the east by Lyndale Avenue, on the north by railroad tracks and Wayzata Boulevard, on the west by the Minneapolis city limits, and on the south by Lakewood Cemetery, the Minneapolis lake district, as defined by Lanegran and Sandeen, is indeed "one of the most delightful urban settings in North America." In *The Lake District of Minneapolis*, a worthy companion volume to the earlier *St. Paul's Historic Summit Avenue*, the authors have added immensely to this resident's appreciation of its several distinctive neighborhoods.

The story begins, after a brief look at the glacial formation of the lakes, with Eatonville, a Dakota Indian farming community established with the encouragement of Indian agent Lawrence Taliaferro on the southeastern shore of Lake Calhoun in 1828. Better known as Cloudman's Village, the settlement was planned to help the Dakota become farmers. Seeds, hoes, plows, and skilled farmers were provided, and by 1831 some 300 Dakota were living in the village and tending 80 acres during the growing season. Missionaries Gideon and Samuel Pond arrived in 1834 and built a cabin on the hill near the village, but five years later trouble between the Dakota and Ojibway led to Eatonville's abandonment, and the Ponds moved on to stations in western Minnesota.

By 1874 farmers and speculators were purchasing land in the lake district as settlement grew up around the Falls of St. Anthony. Soon elegant resort hotels like the Calhoun House

and the handsome Lyndale Hotel with its spacious second- and third-floor verandas sprang up around Lake Calhoun and were the scenes of gala parties. But the resort business moved on to Lake Minnetonka by the 1890s, and the fine Lyndale Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1888.

With the growth of a good public streetcar system and the dredging and filling that transformed the marshy lakeshores into usable park land, the lake district became "prime real estate" in the late nineteenth century, and the neighborhoods — Groveland, Kenwood, Cottage City, Lowry Hill, and others — grew rapidly. Boating, swimming, canoeing, bicycling, and jogging were then, as they are today, popular pastimes, along with one which has since disappeared entirely — winter horse racing on a half-mile track laid out on the frozen surface of Lake of the Isles. From the 1890s until 1929 these races, first with sleighs and later with bicycle-tired sulkies, attracted some of the best trotting horses in the state.

The final sections of this attractive book are devoted to walking tours of the lake district neighborhoods. Here the emphasis is on architectural styles and decorative details to be noted on individual residences, but there are also brief glimpses of some outstanding homes that have not survived into the 1980s. A nice addition is a tour of Lakewood Cemetery, which directs the stroller to interesting monuments and the graves of significant individuals.

Whether you are a resident of the lake district or simply wish to enjoy the parks and boulevards, you will find this book enhances your pleasure and pride in an area that has long been "center stage in Minneapolis."

Reviewed by NANCY EUBANK, interpretation program manager in the Minnesota Historical Society's field services, historic sites, and archaeology division.

Voyageur Country: A Park in the Wilderness. By Robert Treuer.

(Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1979. xiv, 173 p. Illustrations, maps, chronology. \$10.95.)

ROBERT TREUER'S newest book intertwines two histories in one. The first — the story of the North Woods — is painted on a broad canvas and is prologue to the second, the first extended account of the effort to establish the nation's newest and Minnesota's only national park — Voyageur's. In the first 100 pages, Treuer recounts in highly readable prose the geologic,

prehistoric, and historic dimensions of the forested region of northeastern Minnesota and south-central Canada rich in fur and timber and fabled with its rock-bound lakes interconnected by rivers and portages that gave rise to the transcontinental fur trade of the period between 1650 and 1850. The dynamic of change between the Indian and European cultures appeared in the colorful form of the French-Canadian voyageur paddling *canots du nord* for fur traders searching for adventure, fame, and wealth.

Treuer condenses large chapters as he retells the history of subjects as diverse as the Dawson Road, Louis Riel, the Vermilion Lake gold rush, Alexander Baker (the first squatter at the townsite of International Falls), Rainy Lake City, and the lumber empires of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company and E. W. Backus that were fueled by natural and man-made water power. These varied subjects of Treuer's narrative move swiftly through the first 100 pages.

Voyageur's National Park, carved out of this forested lake-land, is the subject of the second story. As the geographical scale contracts, the focus sharpens and the narrative becomes more detailed. Pioneering conservationists — Christopher C. Andrews, Ernest B. Oberholtzer, and Sigurd F. Olson — familiar from Newell Searle's excellent book, *Saving Quetico-Superior: A Land Set Apart*, reappear to inspire the makers of the park as they did for so many earlier conservation achievements along the Rainy River watershed. However, others play prominent roles, too — Judge Clarence R. Magney of Duluth, who promoted the creation of state parks along the North Shore and led a successful drive to establish Grand Portage National Monument, and U. W. "Judge" Hella, who resurrected the idea of a national park in the Kabetogama Peninsula, first in the 1930s while doing a state-wide park plan, and later in the 1950s as director of Minnesota state parks.

The central figure and indispensable leader in the story is Elmer L. Andersen, state senator, businessman, civic leader, and humanitarian, who served as governor of Minnesota between 1961 and 1963. A national park was one of two keystones in Andersen's carefully thought out and executed plan to improve the economy of northeastern Minnesota, the other being the enactment of an amendment to the state constitution that would adjust taxes on the taconite industry and thereby promote its expansion in this depressed region. After his defeat as governor, he led both efforts to highly successful conclusions, the taconite amendment in the mid-1960s and Voyageur's National Park a decade later. Congressman John Blatnik, Treuer notes, made a notable contribution in shepherding the bill through Congress, and others provided significant support at crucial moments. These included Charles A. Lindbergh, William O. Douglas, and Arthur Godfrey. Local opposition, including that of Boise Cascade and some residents of the area and a formidable bipartisan coalition of influential state senate leaders, stalled the drive. However, Andersen's vision, creative leadership, organizational skills, and eloquence, aided by the Voyageur's National Park Association, resulted in the park's establishment by Congress in 1975.

People always have fought over the North Woods — for fur, copper, timber, gold, iron, water power, and public lands. That Minnesota's abundance of public lands, in contrast to other midwestern states, made the concept of a national park possible is given insufficient attention in the story. It was this

contrasting view over the role of public lands — for national use or for local commercial exploitation — that led to the bitter battles waged over the creation of Minnesota's two national forests early in the century and, later, of the lone national park. That debate continues to rage. Indeed, it can be argued that Voyageur's was created at the crest of the recent wave of public interest favorable toward government setting aside lands for public use. Its establishment, it can also be argued, dramatizes the public reaction, still building, against creating any more state and national parks and has become the visible symbol of the "anti-park" philosophy so familiar on the Minnesota scene today.

Treuer has produced a fresh book on a subject that enriches Minnesota's already well-established reputation as a leader in conservation. It corroborates the widely held thesis that the conservation movement draws most of its ideas from city dwellers and urban areas and transplants them where they are usually met with considerable hostility. The book suffers from inadequate organization that more intensive editing could have helped. The omission of an index in a volume as rich as this one is in reference material is inexcusable. A few errors crop up along the way. Duluth was not formerly Fond du Lac, Chequamegon is misspelled (or given a very archaic spelling), and Otter Tail comes out as Otter Trail.

Reviewed by RUSSELL W. FRIDLEY, *director of the Minnesota Historical Society.*

The Churches and the Indian Schools, 1888–1912. By Francis Paul Prucha, S.J.

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1979. 278 p. Illustrations. \$16.50.)

A LEADING AUTHORITY on the history of federal Indian policy has authored this treatise about a contest that took place between the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the (Protestant) Indian Rights Association for control of boarding school education on reservations during the period between the American Civil War and World War I, while Indians looked on with little influence upon their own fates. Working alternately through Congress, the federal courts, and the executive branch of the United States government, the two organizations defended their respective interests in a number of issues: the support of mission contract schools with federal gratuities; the support of the schools with tribal trust and treaty funds; the distribution of federal rations among pupils enrolled in mission schools, and the offering of religious instruction, and the wearing of religious garb, by ecclesiastics who worked in government boarding schools. Father Prucha presents convincing evidence to show that the Catholics were victorious. In the end, they had not only triumphed over their Protestant adversaries in the contest for control of Indian education but had also won a widely accepted role in national political affairs.

That the book focuses almost exclusively upon the manipulation of the three branches of the federal government by these two organizations is its only shortcoming. Prucha's failure to explore the consequences of BCIM and IRA efforts at the reservation level frustrates the curious reader, and, worse, sometimes distorts the significance of the events he describes. He

shows that ecclesiastics won an important victory by preserving the right to draw rations from the Indian Field Service for mission school enrollees, for example, but fails to point out that this privilege had uneven effects at the local level. Mission school leaders could not draw food allowances for children whose families were removed from ration rolls after 1901 for having become self-supporting, and sometimes would not draw any rations at all due to local pressures. Father Pius Boehm rejected rations at Immaculate Conception Mission school on Crow Creek Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, for instance, out of fear that his school would suffer criticism for snatching sustenance from the mouths of sick and elderly tribal members.

This reader's chagrin over omissions and distortions caused by the limited scope of Prucha's book is mollified, however, by the value of the information it provides. Its text is based upon exhaustive research in major collections of primary sources as well as extensive reading in published documents and secondary sources. It is embellished by interesting descriptions of the personalities and the intrigues that shaped federal policies on Indian education between the American Civil War and World War I. And it brings to light, for the first time, the influence that denominational representatives had upon boarding school education for Indians during that era. Although the narrative is encumbered in places by excessive detail, it is well written and it should be of interest to scholars, students, and general readers alike who keep up with literature on the history of federal policies that have controlled the lives of American Indian people.

Reviewed by HERBERT T. HOOVER, *professor of history at the University of South Dakota. He is a specialist in frontier and American Indian history.*

***James McLaughlin: The Man with an Indian Heart.* By Louis L. Pfaller, O.S.B.**

(New York, Vantage Press, 1978. xvi, 440 p. Maps, illustrations. \$15.00.)

JAMES McLAUGHLIN was one of the most important men to be employed in the Indian service of the United States. For twenty-four years he served at Sioux reservations in Dakota, including duty as agent at Devils Lake (1876-1881) and agent at Standing Rock (1881-1895), for the next twenty-eight years (1895-1923) he was an inspector and trouble-shooter on Indian matters for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for the Department of the Interior. During those fifty-two years he devoted himself unstintingly to his Indian charges and to a just and humane carrying out of federal Indian policy. That policy was to acculturate the Indians and assimilate them into white society, and McLaughlin was a sincere and aggressive advocate of the policy. He was convinced that the Indians could not preserve their aboriginal culture and that their survival and well-being depended upon acceptance of the new ways — English language schools, individual farming and stock raising for self-support, and Christianity. What set McLaughlin apart was not only his long tenure in office (he was still active at age eighty-one) but his integrity and fairness in dealing with the Indians and the consequent acceptance he had among them.

His strong views on absorption of the Indians into white culture would win McLaughlin few adherents today, but he epitomized the society in which he lived and endeared himself to both whites and Indians in the historical circumstances in which he worked.

Since McLaughlin's service touched so many aspects of American Indian affairs in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, his biography is almost a miniature history and throws light on many elements of federal policy. McLaughlin was agent at Standing Rock during the Ghost Dance craze of 1890 and ordered the arrest of Sitting Bull, an action that resulted in the death of the chief; he was called upon to allot Indian lands under the Dawes Act; he inspected and promoted government Indian schools; he drew up agreements for cession of Indian lands; he served on a competency commission to speed up patenting of Indian lands and consequent citizenship of "competent" Indians; and he worked diligently to settle claims of Indians against the government.

Louis L. Pfaller is the foremost authority on McLaughlin. He has edited a comprehensive microfilm edition of McLaughlin's papers and has thoroughly researched the pertinent records of the National Archives. There is little in McLaughlin's long service that he has missed, and the picture that he presents is a complete and fascinating one. The book, however, is not without problems. Pfaller sets McLaughlin on a high pedestal as a superhero, an approach that makes the man's notable accomplishments less convincing than a more critical account might have. And stylistically the book is badly flawed. Long documents are quoted verbatim in the text, a device that impedes the flow of the narrative and gives it an undigested character, and the writing frequently descends to a colloquial style that seems inappropriate in a scholarly study. The book is in large part a chronological series of anecdotes, with too little serious attempt to present a critical analysis of the man, his character, and the significance of his work. It is to be regretted that the author was not able to find a publisher who might have furnished expert editing assistance, which could have turned the manuscript into a truly fine book.

Reviewed by FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA, *professor of history at Marquette University and author of many books and articles on Indian and frontier history.*

***Streetcar Man: Tom Lowry and the Twin City Rapid Transit Company.* By Goodrich Lowry.**

(Minneapolis, Lerner Publications Company, 1979. xiv, 177 p. Illustrations. \$7.95.)

IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT for an author to write dispassionately about a close family member, but Goodrich Lowry has done much better than most. His account of the career of his grandfather, Thomas Lowry, for half a century Minnesota's "Streetcar Man," provides an interesting and informative background for the study of the man and the magnificent system of street railways which for so long was a special feature of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. He has characterized Tom Lowry as the perpetual optimist who could smile in the face of imminent disaster and as a man with such a

winning personality that he could gain the esteem, if not the affection, of such tycoons as J. P. Morgan.

More than that, using the scattered sources available to him, Goodrich Lowry manages to cast needed light on the Twin Cities of the later nineteenth century. It is true that this reader would have liked a little more information about the actual building of the streetcar empire of the Twin Cities, but that has been covered in considerable detail in Russell Olson's *The Electric Railways of Minnesota*, published by the Minnesota Transportation Museum in 1976. Using the two sources, one gains a view of the streetcar empire of Tom Lowry that is one of magnificence. Surely, it required a man of great optimism, even greater perseverance, and, finally, of great foresight to create the transportation system which was such a delight for city dwellers of a generation ago.

Tom Lowry grew up in Illinois near "Lincoln Country," and Abraham Lincoln became his idol. According to his grandson, as Tom matured he even came to look like Lincoln. He went to Minneapolis in 1868 at the age of twenty-four, clutching a diploma to show that he was trained as an attorney and filled with ambition. For the first few years of his residence in Minneapolis, law was his primary interest, but it was only a short while before he became an ardent booster of his new home and an investor in what became extensive real estate holdings. His marriage in 1870 led eventually to the purchase of the properties at Hennepin and Groveland avenues, where he built the pretentious home which gave the area its name of "Lowry Hill." All in all, during those first years Tom Lowry was first a lawyer and then a real estate speculator.

In 1873 a corporation was formed to build and operate a streetcar line in Minneapolis. That corporation fell on evil days in the panic of 1873 which ravaged the state and nation. But in 1875 the corporation was reorganized, and Tom Lowry's name now appeared as a shareholder. And so he began the adventure which became the second great love of his life. From that day until his death in 1909, he was "Mr. Streetcar" for the people of Minneapolis and St. Paul. In time he converted his horsedrawn line to one powered by electricity. He brought about a merger of his enterprise with a struggling system in St. Paul to form the Twin City Rapid Transit Company. At the height of its operations, the firm's trolleys ran over 368 miles of track, and it wove a network of transportation lines to link the Twin Cities with such suburban communities as White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Hopkins, and Lake Minnetonka. The author tells in a short concluding chapter some of the melancholy story of the fate of the trolley lines and the emergence of the motorized bus system which provides transportation for the Twin Cities of today.

This book is well worth reading not only for its story of the era of electric trolleys but also for its summation of the life of an extraordinary man who helped to build a city. Technically, the book is well developed, very readable, and well illustrated. A valuable feature is the inclusion as an addendum of a list of transportation museums throughout the United States, but unfortunately the magnificent Museum of Transportation and Industry located in the "depot" at Duluth is not among them.

Reviewed by ARTHUR J. LARSEN, professor emeritus of history at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a longtime specialist in transportation subjects.

A Bibliography of Iowa Newspapers, 1836-1976.

Compiled by the Iowa Pilot Project of the Organization of American Historians—Library of Congress United States Newspaper Project.

(Iowa City, Iowa State Historical Department, 1979. 371 p. Paper \$8.00.)

AS SOURCE MATERIALS for historical research, files of old newspapers offer some unique advantages. They frequently provide details of local events that might be difficult or impossible to find in any other way. They give a contemporary point of view, as their news stories are told from the perspective of observers in the midst of events in the actual process of unfolding and in the idiom of the day. Also, newspapers by their nature automatically present the contemporary context of each happening with a completeness and specificity unmatched by any other form of documentation. The same issue that carries, for example, the account of the bank robbery (or whatever may be the main object of one's research) automatically places that event within the context of a panoramic picture of that place and time, down to such details as who won the baseball game that day, what was playing at the theater down the street, and how the weather was.

Headlines add touches of drama to this picture. The recognizably familiar newspaper format conveys a feeling of immediacy and a conviction of reality that help make reproductions of old front pages singularly useful for illustrative purposes.

One obstacle to the more widespread use of old newspapers for historical research and interpretation is, of course, a frequent lack of information regarding what newspapers were being published in any given area and time, and where any surviving copies of them might be found.

This book, *A Bibliography of Iowa Newspapers, 1836-1976*, undertakes to provide a checklist of all newspapers ever known to have been published in that state. The entries are grouped by town, with the towns arranged in alphabetical order. For each title are given its span dates, frequency of publication, minor title variations, any special characteristics that would distinguish it from a standard English-language community newspaper, and any runs of the paper — either on newsprint or on microfilm — known to be held by libraries or other repositories. In most instances the holdings information distinguishes between bound and unbound runs of newsprint files and, in respect to microfilms, between master negatives and service copies. Notes such as "Formed by merger of. . ." or "Followed by. . ." indicate historical relationships between the titles listed.

About 6,500 titles are included in the checklist. Holdings of these by 696 Iowa repositories are indicated, based on a comprehensive survey of college and public libraries, historical societies and museums, county courthouses and newspaper offices throughout the state. Holdings of these titles by forty-two repositories outside Iowa are also indicated, but as the introduction makes clear, these entries do not represent a truly comprehensive catalog of Iowa newspapers available at out-of-state locations. Although the lists of microfilm holdings appear largely to duplicate information already available in the Library of Congress' *Newspapers In Microform*, in many instances the Iowa checklist will be more convenient to consult. In both works the newspapers of each town are arranged in

alphabetical order. The Library of Congress' publication, however, uses the full bannerhead or masthead title as the basis for alphabetizing, while the Iowa checklist — for purposes of alphabetization — ignores the place or frequency of publication if one of these occurs at the beginning of the bannerhead or masthead title. Thus, for example, the daily edition of the *Burlington Hawk-eye* appears in the Burlington section of the Iowa checklist alphabetized as *Hawk-eye*, a great convenience to the average user who probably will remember the paper by that name and not recall whether at any given time it was officially the *Daily Hawk-eye*, *Burlington Hawk-eye*, or *Burlington Daily Hawk-eye*.

In fact, the daily edition of the *Burlington Hawk-eye* did change back and forth between these minor title variations at least four times during the period from 1857 to 1933. The Library of Congress' publication gives each of these title variations a separate entry, with the result that to find holdings information for this period one must consult five entries: going from *Daily Hawk-eye* to *Burlington Daily Hawk-eye*, to *Burlington Hawk-eye* and back to a second entry under *Burlington Daily Hawk-eye*, and finally to a second entry under *Burlington Hawk-eye*. In the Iowa checklist holdings information covering the entire seventy-six-year period is found in a single entry, under *Hawk-eye*, thereby decreasing dramatically the amount of time and effort required of users to locate these data.

The Iowa checklist does provide separate entries for title changes involving more than the addition or deletion of the place or frequency of publication. For example, the *Hawk-eye and Telegraph* which preceded the *Hawk-eye* and the *Hawk-eye Gazette* which followed it have separate entries, with references to them in the entry for *Hawk-eye*. That entry also

includes notes regarding the minor title variations it encompasses.

One feature not provided by the Iowa checklist, however, is a title index. Since the listings are primarily arranged geographically by place of publication, it is necessary to know where a particular paper was published in order to locate the listing for it. For those who might not know, for example, that the *Hawk-eye* was published in Burlington, a title index providing that information would have been a helpful addition.

Regarding its physical characteristics, the book is provided with an attractive and appropriate cover. The page design and typography in the body of the book, however, are less well done. The text is reproduced from a computer printout restricted to upper-case letters only. The reproduction is of uneven quality, with information in some of the entries toward the end of the book being readable only with some difficulty (at least in the review copy examined). The page layout is mechanically done, with frequent instances of the name of a town being placed at the bottom of one page or column and the first entry under that town placed at the top of the next.

But the typography used to present this material is, of course, less important than the remarkable fact that these data are now available at all. An immense amount of thoughtful effort has obviously gone into compiling and organizing this information. For any researcher into Iowa state or local history wanting to locate all available relevant sources, consulting this book will be not only a great convenience but also something of an obligation.

Reviewed by RON WALRATH, director of the Minnesota Historical Society's newspaper microfilming project.

NEWS & NOTES

LYNN WEINER has been named winner of the Minnesota Historical Society's Solon J. Buck Award of \$400 for the best article to appear in *Minnesota History* during 1979. Her article, entitled "'Our Sister's Keepers': The Minneapolis Woman's Christian Association and Housing for Working Women," was published in the Spring, 1979, issue. A graduate student in American Studies at Boston University, Ms. Weiner has been living in Minneapolis while completing her doctoral dissertation, "'A Woman's Place': The Persistent Debate Over Women Workers and Morality in the United States, 1866-1978." The article was an outgrowth of this larger work.

Co-winners of the Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best work by MHS staff members to appear in *Minnesota*

History in 1979 are Douglas A. Birk and Bruce M. White. They jointly produced the winning article, "Who Wrote the 'Diary of Thomas Connor'? A Fur Trade Mystery," for the Spring, 1979, issue. Each will get half of the \$200 Blegen Award. Birk is an archaeologist with the MHS division of field services, historic sites, and archaeology, and White has been assistant editor of *Minnesota History*. He will begin a sabbatical leave in September to study the independent fur trader of the Lake Superior area, 1760-1820. He will spend much of his time at McGill University, Montreal.

The Buck-Blegen Award committee this year consisted of Thomas C. Buckley, associate dean of the University of Minnesota's General College; Peg Meier, *Minneapolis Tribune* reporter

who is on leave to write a popular book on Minnesota history; and Kenneth Carley, editor of this magazine.

LORING M. STAPLES' love affair with a Minneapolis hotel has culminated in a small, attractive volume entitled *The West Hotel Story, 1884-1940: Memories of Past Splendor* (Minneapolis, Carlson Printing Company, 1979. 135 p., \$7.95). The hotel, designed by LeRoy S. Buffington, was "an architectural masterpiece in a way," and, according to Staples, "its history is a distinctive part of the history of Minneapolis." Nostalgia buffs will enjoy the rich details and vivid descriptions of the West's heyday which included serving as national committee headquarters during the Republican

party's convention of 1892 (that nominated Benjamin Harrison for president) as well as numerous balls and receptions given by the "carriage trade" of Minneapolis' socially prominent citizens.

Mystery fans will ponder the murder of Lannie Day in 1900 in the hotel's billiard room which, as the author points out, "remains a mystery murder novel without a last chapter." The financial machinations of Helen Wood, who owned the hotel from 1905 to 1927, are traced in all their complications and offer still more mystery in the ultimate decadence and demise of the West. While the book suffers from light editing and inattention to typographical detail, it has been well researched, with a bibliographic note for each chapter, contains a good selection of illustrations, and provides a titillating bird's-eye view of high society, murder, and politics — especially at the turn of the century.

MARY D. CANNON

THE so-called Hinckley Fire of 1894 in Minnesota generated a voluminous collection of first- and second-hand descriptions, government files, railroad records, reminiscences, and later studies that chronicle the disastrous event. Taken individually, the accounts are largely uneven and incomplete, often emotionally charged and exaggerated, and sometimes erroneous. In addition, they are occasionally contradictory. All have contributed to both the history and the legend of the devastating forest fire that took over 400 human lives and ravaged not only the town of Hinckley but the villages of Sandstone, Mission Creek, and Brook Park, plus some 480,000 square miles of trees and farmland mostly in central Pine County.

In a laudable attempt to separate facts and fiction, Grace Stageberg Swanson has written what appears to be the most balanced account so far of the tragedy and its aftermath in a recently published book entitled *From the Ashes: The Story of the Hinckley Fire of 1894* (Stillwater, Croixside Press, 1979, paper \$8.95). She has done a commendable job of gleaning and analyzing information and presenting it in an objective, readable style.

Swanson organized material from published and unpublished sources and oral history interviews into eleven chapters, each of which focuses on one aspect of the story. This approach results in broad, detailed coverage, including a historical background of the area, sections on destruction at seven settlements, the toll in human terms, relief efforts, rebuilding, and biographical

sketches, and concluding with a summary of conservation measures and more recent forest fires. It also results in the repetition of information. Despite that shortcoming, the work is a useful and welcome addition to the literature on the Hinckley Fire. Its 246 pages are well illustrated with 214 photographs, maps, and documents. It also includes reference notes, a bibliography, and an index.

JEAN BROOKINS

THE 1930s are recalled by Finny Lager in a little book entitled *Happy Depression On The Iron Range* (1979, 102 p., \$4.50). In it the author remembers various events from his growing-up years in Colerane-Bovey. Boyish pranks figure frequently in Lager's reminiscences as do the activities of Finnish immigrants, a group which included Lager's parents. The Virginia dentist offers comments on the Finn farms of his relatives, the making of *piaksu* boots and *kulja* drinks, boardinghouses, hunting, game wardens, lumberjacks, foods, Prohibition, the remigration of Finns, and their worker hails and saunas. Perhaps most interesting are the author's allusions to the emergence of a "Ranger" image among the people of the area, which is best expressed in the poem with which the pamphlet ends:

Why Is a Ranger?

Why is a Ranger?

I can't never know.

Some say we're different
and others 'ain't so"

Why does the pucksacker
think we're so strange?

Soon he's like us,
as he melts to the Range.

Was it the people
from many lands, arrive?
Working and helping
so all could survive.
The ore knew no difference
which man used a spade.
Learning together is how
Rangers were made.

Our music, our talking,
our mixture of kin,
We argue with laughter,
a strong love within.

Why is a Ranger?
I just can't decide.
Maybe it's our history,
maybe it's our pride.

The booklet can be obtained from Dr. H. E. Lager, 710 Ninth Street North, Virginia, Minn. 55792.

JUNE D. HOLMQUIST

SINCE the mid-1970s, a printing company in Texas, Taylor Publishing of Dallas, has been working with county historical societies in states from Texas to Minnesota to produce new county histories. Sold mostly by subscription, the books are written, compiled, and edited by the local historical societies and their constituents, with the printing company providing aid in getting started as well as design and editorial assistance along the way.

The earliest Minnesota volumes were done in Red River Valley counties and are all of similar format. History books for Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Red Lake, Wilkin, and a number of counties in North Dakota and South Dakota, which all appeared in 1976, are physically similar, bound in a red leatherette cover, with a Red River oxcart prominently embossed on the front. A similar volume on East Otter Tail County appeared in 1978. A more recent volume, for McLeod County, which came out in 1979, is in light brown and has the face of fur-trader Martin McLeod on the cover. Another recent volume for Douglas County is also bound in light brown without any distinguishing motif. Each of the volumes has heavy and glossy, or semi-glossy, paper, and is between 300 and 800 pages long, with three columns to a page.

The contents and basic subdivisions of the volumes are more or less similar in each of the books as well. In compiling the volumes, the historical societies have all emphasized the importance of individuals and families. The bulk of each volume is devoted to a series of family histories, usually written by members of the families and illustrated with family pictures. These family sketches are organized either alphabetically or by township. Also contained in each volume are much shorter sections concerned with such subjects as churches, schools, cemeteries, businesses, and other institutions, and a section usually called "Features," which contains a miscellany of stories and reminiscences about murders, lynchings, interesting incidents, Indians, and so on.

It would be easy to criticize these volumes for "academic" failings, but it would be wrong to expect them to be what they do not set out to be. They are not, and do not pretend to be, interpretive histories. They are, instead, compendiums of the raw materials out of which future interpretive histories can be written. As such, they are a rich resource of anecdote, tradition, reminiscence, photographs, poems, names, and dates concerning ordinary and not-so-

ordinary people. As the McLeod County history points out, these volumes are the epitome of democracy — they are “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” If these volumes did not exist, where would historians go to find the information they contain except perhaps to the few oral interviews that historical societies have the time and money to obtain? What other sources are there for the ordinary individual's own personal and family history?

On this point, however, we should mention one special problem that many of these volumes have. Except for the histories of Douglas, McLeod, Marshall, and Pennington counties, they lack subject and name indexes, and even those with them leave something to be desired. This will make their use problematical except to local residents, scholars, and other individuals who have the time to comb the volumes from cover to cover.

Many of these volumes may still be available through the individual county historical societies at around \$30.00 each. It should also be noted that Kittson County, which published a volume through Taylor Publishing in 1976, soon afterward found that many families who were not in the first volume were clamoring for a second. The society, therefore, put together a second volume called *Our Northwest Corner*, the same title as the first, which was printed by Josten's American Yearbook Company of Topeka, Kansas, and which may be ordered for \$25.00 (for the cost of the book plus tax) and a \$2.00 mailing fee, from the Kittson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 98, Lake Bronson, Minn. 56734.

The regional representative of Taylor Publishing Company is Frederick O. Rieger, 14218 Park Avenue S., Burnsville 55337.

BRUCE M. WHITE
and DEBORAH M. STULTZ

AN ILLUSTRATED “how-to-do-it” manual entitled *Historic Preservation for Minnesota Communities* has been published jointly by the Minnesota Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Planning Agency (St. Paul, 1980, 64 p.). Written by Charles Skrief, SHPO supervisor and the society's legal counsel for preservation, the booklet is intended to provide “the reader with enough information to initiate a preservation program, conduct a survey, plan and conduct a feasibility study, and become acquainted with some of the legislation relating to historic preservation.” Also included are photos that constitute a useful illustrated guide to architectural styles encountered in the

state and descriptions of nearly thirty examples of successful preservation projects that have been completed there. Eight appendices offer sample forms and ordinances, criteria for the inclusion of a site in the National Register, sources of financial assistance, standards for rehabilitation, and a selected bibliography. As a final bonus, the nearly 400 varied Minnesota sites on the National Register as of February, 1979, are listed by county. While they last, copies may be obtained free of charge from the society's Historic Preservation Office, James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn. 55102.

A NEW STUDY, *Creativity, Conflict & Controversy: A History of the St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* (Washington, D.C., 1979, 461 p., \$15.00), was written as part of a corps-commissioned series by Raymond H. Merritt, director of the Cultural and Technological Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Tracing the district's evolution from 1866, when Major Gouverneur K. Warren opened an office in St. Paul to conduct surveys of the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries, to the present, the author has placed the work of the corps within a broad context of water resource management, conflicting interests in the resource, urbanization, government regulation, and the “decision-making process in a democratic society.”

The task was complex, for shifting district boundaries at various times brought within the responsibility of engineers stationed at St. Paul a number of projects not only on the Upper Mississippi, Lake Superior, and several other waterways in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa but those in portions of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well as in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. Although many considerations influenced the shape of the district, the author points out cohesive factors like the position of St. Paul and Minneapolis as a commercial, industrial, and cultural hub within the area and interlocking concerns for transportation, flood control, pollution, wildlife, and recreation.

Illuminating the conflicts and controversies that emerged as the engineers moved to manage water resources were the construction of reservoirs on the headwaters of the Upper Mississippi that set northern Minnesotans, championed by Duluth, against Twin Citians; river improvement between St. Paul and Minneapolis that set the “Twins” against one another; and episodes reflecting opposite interests such as bridge building

and navigation, the lumber industry and navigation, sewage disposal and pollution control, and water-power development and flood control.

The handsome book is well indexed, profusely illustrated, and supplied with helpful maps, tables, footnotes, and bibliographic notes.

LUCILE M. KANE

A RECENT PUBLICATION which records the transformation of a farming community into a metropolitan suburb is Helen Holden Anderson's *Eden Prairie: The First 100 Years* (Eden Prairie Historical Society, 1979, 139 p., \$8.00). The author, whose family was among the first settlers in the area, has worked for a number of years to obtain both written and oral recollections of Eden Prairie's early days.

Of special interest is the material on the Scotch-Irish and Bohemian immigrants who homesteaded in the south and north halves respectively of the township. Their struggle to turn their farms into profit-making ventures is a major segment of the book. Of necessity, they turned to diversification as exemplified in raspberry farming, the Browns' goat farm, dairying, and truck gardening for the Minneapolis market. The numerous pictures are well chosen; there is a bibliography as well as endsheet maps. Copies may be ordered from City Hall, 8930 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344.

SALLY RUBINSTEIN

“TO UNDERSTAND Jane Grey Swisshelm as a newspaper editor, abolitionist, and political activist, requires an understanding of Jane Grey Swisshelm as a feminist.” So writes Paula A. Treckel in an article, “Jane Grey Swisshelm and Feminism in Early Minnesota,” that leads off the Spring, 1980, issue of *The Midwest Review*, an annual publication of Wayne State College, Wayne, Neb. The author is an assistant professor at both the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, which are near St. Cloud, the scene of Swisshelm's turbulent five years in Minnesota as an outspoken newspaper editor.

Professor Treckel says that “the issues of women's rights and abolition were inseparable” for Swisshelm and that she also “was opposed to women paying taxes if they were denied the right to say how those tax monies might be spent by their government.” The author sums up her Swisshelm study by calling her “the best example of true feminist,” although “she never joined any feminist organizations and often scorned them.”

THE SURPRISE in *Golden Gate*. "A Landmark of the Past" (New Ulm, 1979, 128 unnumbered pages, paper \$5.00) is that it was written at all, because the tiny Brown County community no longer exists. Descendants of the village's settlers who still live in the area or in various places across the country responded generously to a call for donations to erect a historical marker on the old townsite a few miles north of present-day Sleepy Eye. The Golden Gate Historical Committee put up the marker and then published the letters, pictures, and reminiscences of the respondents with the surplus donations. The writers recalled that Golden Gate had its beginnings in the 1860s after the so-called Sioux Uprising of 1862 and, before its demise after 1900, claimed such establishments as a general store or two, a blacksmith shop, the Heimerdinger flour mill, a town hall, and a post office. Copies of the booklet are available at the marker north of Sleepy Eye or from Mrs. Herman Storm, 2112 Southdale SW, Sleepy Eye, Minn. 56085.

AN ARTICLE from the Fall, 1976, issue of *Minnesota History* — Gerald S. Henig's "A Neglected Cause of the Sioux Uprising" — is included in "The Civil War and Reconstruction" section of *Readings in American History*, vol. 1, fifth edition (Guilford, Conn., The Dushkin Publishing Group, 246 p., \$6.55). Intended to be used with history textbooks in classrooms, the paperback anthology — one of a series of *Annual Editions* — consists of magazine articles on a variety of subjects from the pre-colonial period through Reconstruction. The issue of *Minnesota History* in which Henig's article first appeared was a special one on the Sioux Uprising.

TWO CONTRASTING autobiographies are represented by Marguerite N. Bell's *Just Molly* (Minneapolis, Golden Valley Press, 1980, 208 p., paper \$7.95) and Arthur G. Peterson's *Viking and Cherokee* (DeBary, Fla., 1980, 170 p., paper \$8.75). Molly Bell, born (in 1888) and bred in Minneapolis, tells of her adult life as a member of an active upper-middle-class family in twentieth-century Minnesota. Of special interest is her account of her connections with Stella Louise Wood (whose biography she wrote) and the kindergarten movement and with Sister Kenny's institute in Minneapolis.

Peterson, the author of several books about glass, deals with four aspects of his life in his memoir, growing up as a Swedish American in rather stringent

circumstances in rural Minnesota; his career in Washington, D.C., in the federal service; busy retirement with his wife (she is of Cherokee origin) in Florida; and what the author describes as his "last crusade" for simple, inexpensive funeral arrangements.

Before the turn of the century, Peterson's family moved to a farm in Kanabec County, where his father built a log home in the Swedish style, "with rough-hewn crisscross joints, and clinched with clay between the logs. The roof was made of large strips of birch bark, held in place with sod and dirt." He presents a good case for the difficulty of making a living for a large family on a subsistence farm in the cutover. Much of the clearing was done "by Mother, who believed that hard work made for healthy babies." She also had a rural mail delivery route for several years, with three small children accompanying her in the buggy. Both books make it clear that many twentieth-century Minnesota women were active people despite the limitations of their prescribed roles.

Viking and Cherokee can be ordered from Peterson at P.O. Box 252, DeBary, Fla. 32713. Add \$.75 for mailing. *Just Molly* can be obtained from Golden Valley Press, 1336 Edgewood North, Minneapolis, MN. 55427. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling.

DEBORAH M. STULTZ

A NEW BOOK, *Museums, Sites, and Collections of Germanic Culture in North America: An Annotated Directory of German Immigrant Culture in the United States and Canada* (Westport, Conn., 1980, 155 p., \$19.95), compiled by Margaret Hobbie, provides students of German immigration in both countries with a useful guide to historical sites and to every type of collection relating to this ethnic group. Eight of the 110 National Register sites listed are in Minnesota; five of them, not surprisingly, are in New Ulm. The relevant holdings of more than 150 museums, historical societies, archives, and libraries mentioned include five in Minnesota. Entries provide addresses, names of directors, descriptions of collections, dates, hours, and lending policies. The compiler has added a brief summary of German-American history since 1683, a bibliography, a selected list of European sources, and two indexes.

TO COMMEMORATE the tricentennial of Father Louis Hennepin's 1680 voyage to the Upper Mississippi and his visit to the Falls of St. Anthony, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota has

published a reprint edition, in paperback, of the friar's *Description of Louisiana*. It costs \$5.95 and duplicates the original edition of 1938, now long out of print, which was published for the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Dames of America by the University of Minnesota Press. The edition has an English translation by Marion E. Cross and an introduction by Grace Lee Nute. In the forty-two years since the original edition, no subsequent translation has been published.

A USEFUL STUDY of "The Planning of Company Communities in the Lake Superior Mining Region," by Arnold R. Alanen, appeared in the *Journal of the American Planning Association* for July, 1979. In it the author reviews the various approaches to town planning, or lack of it, utilized by mining firms on the copper and iron ranges of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan over the years, making comparisons from range to range. Using the William J. Bell and Oliver Iron Mining Company papers in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and other sources, Alanen provides information on Coleraine and Silver Bay, but especially on Morgan Park, which was developed in 1913 by the United States Steel Corporation within the incorporated area of Duluth. Planned by Morell and Nichols of Minneapolis, Morgan Park operated as a company town until the nearby steel plant was closed in 1973. The author describes some of the difficulties residents encountered in transforming Morgan Park into a functioning part of Duluth.

A VARIETY of books relating to Ojibway Indian history, language, and material culture has been published in the last few years. *The Ojibway Indians Observed*, published by the Minnesota Archaeological Society (Occasional Publications in Minnesota Anthropology, St. Paul, 1977, 259 p., paper \$6.00), contains a series of papers by Fred K. Blessing, Jr., on the Ojibway originally published in that organization's quarterly journal, *The Minnesota Archaeologist*. The essays deal with Ojibway woodcraft, religion, language, and clothing. A number of artifacts collected by Blessing over the years are pictured in detailed drawings by Adolph W. Link. Also contained in the book is a short appreciative biographical essay on Blessing and his work on the Ojibway by Thomas Vennum, Jr. Blessing died in an auto accident in 1971.

Another recent publication in the Archaeological Society's anthropological series is *Ojibwee-ikidowinan: An*

Ojibwe Word Resource Book, put out in 1979 (259 p., paper \$8.00). Edited by John Nichols and Earl Nyholm, the book contains some 3,500 words.

Also resulting in part from the linguistic expertise of John Nichols is the 1978 publication, *Gabeaunasing/At the End of the Trail: Memories of Chippewa Childhood in Minnesota with Texts in Ojibwe and English* (Occasional Publications in Anthropology, Museum of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, 1978, paper, \$5 p.), based on stories told Nichols by longtime Crow Wing County resident and guide at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Maude Kegg. As rendered into English the stories, which deal mostly with the year-long life cycle of the Ojibway, have an interesting poetic quality as well as much anthropological, linguistic, and cultural value. A privately printed parallel edition of the book is available for \$4.50, and 50 cents for postage, from Maude Kegg, Star Route, Onamia, Minn. 56539.

MINNESOTA'S last big log drive in 1937 is described in a brief reminiscent account by George Boorman, one of the crewmen, in *Life on a Log Drive* (Convik, Minn., Richards Publishing Co., 1980, paper \$3.50). The drive, which took place on the Little Fork River between the Nett Lake Indian Reservation and the Rainy River, was hampered by a flooding rainfall that scattered logs and pulp in fields and woods. Boorman describes the work of getting the timber back into the river and includes his recollections of logjams, cook shacks, waggons, the clothing he wore, and some of his fellow lumberjacks. The 19-page booklet is illustrated by 28 photographs; it may be ordered from the author at Leonard, Minn. 56652.

THE NORTHWEST Bancorporation, headquartered in Minneapolis, was founded in 1929 in the wake of an agricultural depression that followed the boom years of World War I and on the eve of the stock market crash that preluded the Great Depression of the 1930s. Nevertheless, Banco survived perilous years to become a major holding company owning majority stock in banks, trust companies, and financial service subsidiaries in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Montana, and Nebraska. A succinct account of its evolution is given in *Banco at Fifty: A History of Northwest Bancorporation 1929-1979* (Minneapolis, n.d., 71 p. and 11 unnumbered pages), by Harold Chucker, economic writer who is now associate

editor of the *Minneapolis Star*. With the First Bank Stock Corporation, a holding company established in the same year, Banco has symbolized the influence of the Twin Cities in the northwestern region, the growing financial maturity of the area, and efforts of bankers to promote financial stability through fluctuating economic cycles.

The author discusses the milieu from which Banco sprang, experiences in the depression years, changes in the organization, the growing economic complexity of the region it served through the succeeding decades, and the changing framework of law and regulation within which it operated. A particularly interesting section discusses agrarian distress in the 1930s and political repercussions that made Banco "a target of discontent." Significant, too, both from the viewpoints of management characteristics and Minneapolis lore, are glimpses of the organization's presidents, including Edward W. Decker, who headed Northwestern National Bank, the institution around which Banco was built. Decker, like Clive T. Jaffray of First Bank Stock, was a legendary figure in the city.

Banco at Fifty can be obtained free of charge from the corporation headquarters in Minneapolis.

LUCILE M. KANE

A BRIEF pamphlet on *The National Park Service in Minnesota* (1979, 24 p.) has been published by the service describing the four areas under its control in the state. They are Grand Portage and Pipestone National Monuments, Voyageurs National Park, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The booklet contains brief illustrated reviews of each area, visitation figures for 1977-79, 1978 operating costs, and information on planning and administration.

"SOME OF the finest examples of progressive bank design were executed between 1905 and 1919 [in the Midwest] by Prairie School architects Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, William Purcell, and George Elmslie." That is the conclusion of William T. Morgan of St. Cloud State University who reports on five of the buildings in an illustrated article, "Strongboxes on Main Street: Prairie-Style Banks," that appears in *Landscape*, 1980, vol. 24, no. 2.

The author begins with Sullivan's famed National Farmers' Bank of 1908 at Owatonna, Minn., "often considered the masterpiece of small-town bank architecture." Its interior, later remodeled twice, "is not only beautiful but well designed as a banking house," Morgan

says. He also discusses Frank Lloyd Wright's City National Bank (1909) of Mason City, Iowa, "now radically altered and used as a store," and the celebrated Merchants Bank of Winona, Minn., the masterpiece of the Minneapolis partnership of Purcell and Elmslie. The latter's interior, says Morgan, "is one of the most pleasing banking spaces ever designed."

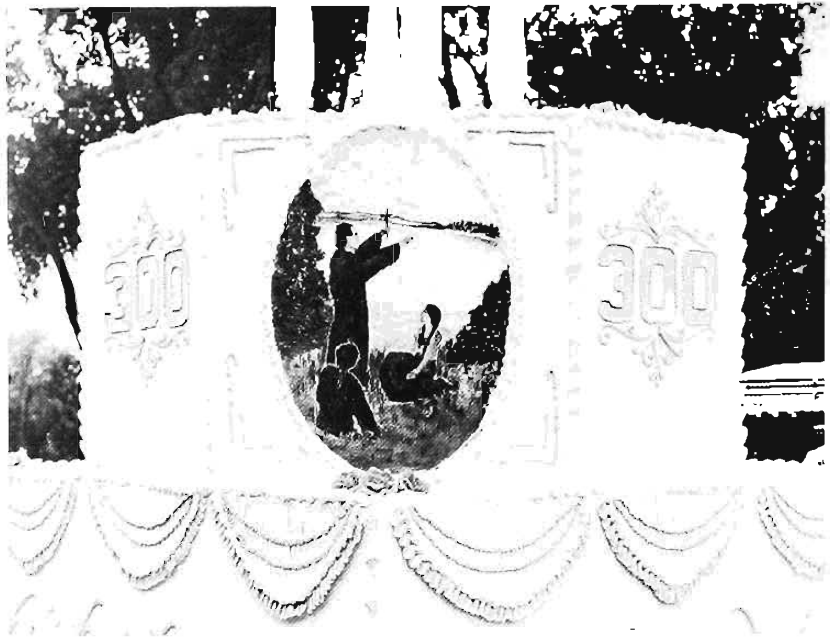
The other two banks the author treats are Sullivan's Merchants National Bank — now Poweshiek County National — constructed in 1914 in Grinnell, Iowa, and the same architect's Farmers and Merchants Union Bank, completed in 1919 in Columbus, Wis. Both are carefully preserved and have noteworthy entrances.

A NEW VERSION of *Wisconsin Indians*, by Nancy O. Lurie, has been published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison, 1980, 66 p., \$2.00). First issued in 1969, the illustrated pamphlet has been almost totally rewritten to offer an updated view of recent events among Wisconsin's Ojibway, Menominee, Potawatomi, Winnebago, and Oneida tribes. More than half of its text and almost all of its illustrations deal with the twentieth century, largely with the turbulent 1960s and 1970s. Presented are sections on Indian lands in the state, complete with helpful maps showing treaty cessions and reservations (including that set aside for the so-called Lost Band of St. Croix Chippewa, who were landless until 1934) as well as discussions of changing federal Indian policy and reservation administration.

Substantial chapters contain illuminating accounts of two major events of the 1970s among the Menominee and Ojibway. The first deals with the termination of reservation status in 1961, creation of a new Menominee County, and the successful efforts of that tribe to regain reservation status in 1973. The second concerns the Lac Court Oreilles Ojibway's three-day peaceful occupation in 1971 of a dam site in Sawyer County to protest the renewal of the Northern States Power Company's fifty-year lease to maintain the dam. Ten years later this matter was still unresolved.

Also treated briefly are the activities of the American Indian Movement (AIM) among the urban Indians of Milwaukee, the work of the American Indian Policy Review Commission and the multivolume report it issued in 1977, and a host of court cases testing fishing, hunting, mineral, and other treaty rights. The booklet contains a short bibliography but no index.

JUNE D. HOLMQUIST



Postscript: Hennepin Is Icing on a Cake

IF FATHER HENNEPIN liked publicity as much as his own writings and those of others seem to indicate, he would certainly have approved of all the to-do being made over him this year in Minnesota, particularly in Minneapolis. He doubtless would have been pleased that several artists have pictured him "discovering" the Falls of St. Anthony 300 years ago (see article on page 57). And he would have loved the recent July 4 weekend observance in Minneapolis that was part of the Falls of St. Anthony tricentennial celebration.

Perhaps the most arresting "stage prop" of the fete was a huge decorated cake (picture at left). Actually, it was a fake cake (which probably would not have bothered the good friar much) covered with real frosting — about 500 pounds of it. One of the frosting pictures on the cake showed Hennepin blessing the falls — a version that obviously owed much to the bas-relief on the Hennepin statue near the Basilica and to the Douglas Volk painting in the State Capitol. This time the modesty of the Indian maiden was carefully maintained by strategically placed braids.

The cake was designed by Suzanne Bearth, an instructor in cake and pastry decorating at Dunwoody Industrial Institute, Minneapolis, who recently left to live in Hawaii. Baking class students helped her. The cake was made possible through the courtesy of the Pillsbury Company, which provided real cakes in pans for the assembled multitude. — *Photos by Bruce M. White*





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