

BOOK REVIEWS

The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Métis in North America. Edited by Jacqueline Peterson and Jennifer S. H. Brown.

(Winnipeg, University of Manitoba Press, 1985. Maps, illustrations. xvi, 266 p. \$26.99.)

AT THE FIRST North American Fur Trade Conference, held in Minnesota in 1965, James L. Clayton abruptly pulled the rug from under historians and buffs alike by the blunt statement that "the American fur trade was never very important economically, even in its palmiest days." With a convincing array of facts and figures, he showed that, as business empires went, the fur trade "simply did not amount to much anytime, anywhere."

But those who promptly wrote off the fur trade as a subject of current historical interest were mightily mistaken. Times were changing. Business and even economics were already losing ground as the principal lens through which to view the past. By the later 1960s and early 1970s minorities, women, ethnic groups, and social historians had begun to rearrange and expand the historical scene. Whole new dimensions of the fur trade story soon surfaced. First among these was the part played by the Indian and the ways in which tribal peoples adapted to the commercial world of the European. Archaeologists and students of material culture showed that many assumptions resting on biased documentary evidence had been mistaken. Then historians of women and the family pointed out the vital importance of Indian wives and children as links between traders and tribal groups. Finally, the unique cultures and historical roles of the métis or mixed-blood communities were recognized.

The Newberry Library took the lead in addressing the last subject by organizing a conference in Chicago in 1981. Guest of honor was Marcel Giraud, whose path-breaking work, *Le Métis canadien: son rôle dans l'histoire des provinces de l'Ouest*, was published in France in 1945 and has remained until recently the only scholarly study in the field. (It has still not appeared in English.)

The present book is for the most part a collection of papers presented at the 1981 conference. Several have been updated and one article originally published in 1958 has been added. They have been well worth waiting for despite the lapse of nearly five years. As with most such collections, the quality varies, but the book represents a benchmark of scholarship on the subject and a much-needed source of information and definition. A selection of color plates relating to métis art,

footnotes conveniently placed at the end of chapters, and an ample index add to its attractiveness.

Although the conference was international, the papers are skewed toward Canada. This is not surprising, since it is mainly there that the métis achieved identity as a group, and they are almost by definition descendants of French-Canadian ancestors. (The much-debated usage of the term "métis" is discussed in the editors' introduction.)

Of particular interest to Minnesota readers will be the essay by Jacqueline Peterson on "Métis Genesis in the Great Lakes Region," within which she includes the upper Mississippi, and the article on the dispossessed métis of Montana by the late Verne Dusenberry. Papers on distinctive métis art and language illustrate cultural patterns that can be traced to the United States side of the border—principally in the Red River Valley.

Editors Peterson and Brown, both of whom are represented in the collection, as well as authors Sylvia Van Kirk, Olive Dickason, and Irene Spry will be familiar to those who have attended fur trade conferences held over the past few years in Winnipeg, Grand Portage/Thunder Bay, and Montreal. Together with a handful of others—including several connected with the Minnesota Historical Society—these people are shaping the direction of fur trade studies today.

Reviewed by RHODA R. GILMAN, senior research fellow of the MHS, who edited the papers of the first fur trade conference and who has been closely involved with fur trade studies for over two decades.

The End of American History: Democracy, Capitalism, and the Metaphor of Two Worlds in Anglo-American Historical Writing, 1880-1980. By David W. Noble.

(Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1985. 166 p. Cloth, \$25.00; paper, \$14.95.)

J.H. HEXTER, history professor at Washington University, addressed his colleagues at a recent meeting of the American Historical Association. Urging them to "abandon a position which we can sustain only at the cost of not saying what we know," Professor Hexter asserted that "no one but ourselves impose on you a professional prefrontal lobotomy."

No one could accuse historian David Noble of writing lobotomized history or of yielding to the scientific, value-free history that Hexter traces to the 17th-century French philosopher, René Descartes. Noble, who has taught at the University of Minnesota for over 30 years, has produced numerous works of intellectual and cultural history, including *The Paradox of Progressive Thought* (1958), *Historians Against History* (1965), *The Eternal Adam and the New World Garden* (1968), and *The Progressive Mind* (1970).

His new book builds upon the intellectual structure established by his earlier works. Like *Historians Against History*, it assesses the importance to American historical ideas of Frederick Jackson Turner's frontier thesis, Charles Beard's commitment to industrialism and the Progressive paradigm, but *The End of American History* also probes the relationship between American culture and the economic system of capitalism. Noble offers a shrewd and compelling analysis of radical historian William Appleman Williams, who interprets American interventionist foreign policy as "the inevitable price that the shapers of foreign policy were willing to pay for their commitment to the necessity of an overseas marketplace."

Noble's methodology is largely a historical application of Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962, 1970). Kuhn contends that scientists do not go all the way back to nature in their inquiries but refer rather to the intervening layers of explanation—the theoretical filters or "paradigms" that dominate contemporary scientific thinking. When enough evidence accumulates to invalidate a standard paradigm, a "revolution" in thinking occurs—and the resulting new paradigm dominates until the next revolution. Historians have been guided by such paradigms as American exodus from the Old World into the New, as well as concepts of American exceptionalism and Republican virtue.

To explain trends of American history over the past three centuries, the author offers two significant symbolic or metaphorical structures: that of the Old World versus the New World and that of Republican virtue. In assessing the impact of these symbols as well as the "earthquake" that shook historical assumptions in the 1940s, Noble draws on Gene Wise's *American Historical Explanations* (1973), J.G.A. Pocock's *The Machiavellian Moment* (1975), and Sacvan Bercovitch's *The American Jeremiad* (1978). Thus he is influenced by three historians who, in the period following World War II, heralded the collapse of the consensus paradigm championed by Richard Hofstadter.

The End of American History provides valuable insights into the role of the United States in today's world. Although the work might be somewhat befuddling to a reader without some grounding in the essential cornerstones of American historical writing, it offers a profound re-evaluation of American historiography as well as a clear commentary on the profoundly tragic nature of this nation's concept of its historical mission. By rejecting the narrow perspective of the consensus paradigm, Noble is able to examine a broader range of economic and political features of American culture. He is able to offer what historian Gene Wise calls "strategies of inquiry" or alternative methods. Such alternatives would be unavailable to the historians that Dr. Hexter chastised at the American Historical Association's conference for "being ad-

dicted to neutral, value-free language in historical discourse." As he has in his other books, David Noble provides a broad, dynamic view of critical transformations that have characterized recent history's search for meaning.

Reviewed by DONALD E. WINTERS, JR., a member of the humanities faculty at Minneapolis Community College, the author of *The Soul of the Wobblies* (1985), and co-author of an essay that appeared in the Fall, 1984, issue of this magazine.

The Soul of the Wobblies: The I.W.W., Religion and American Culture in the Progressive Era, 1905-1917. By Donald E. Winters, Jr.

(Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press, 1985. 159 p. \$27.95.)

THE EXPLOSION of interest in labor history in the last two decades has spurred renewed attention to the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Several major accounts of the organization have appeared, along with documentary and oral history collections. There has even been a major film. In Minnesota, we are beginning to recapture this part of our heritage as we deepen our research into the state's rich labor history.

Winters, faculty member of the College for Working Adults at Minneapolis Community College, offers a fresh and interesting perspective in *The Soul of the Wobblies*. He challenges the reader to probe beyond the Wobblies' explicit hostility to organized religion to perceive the "religious" currents within the heart and soul of that movement. The author explains his working definition of religion as "a system of beliefs and symbols which seeks to develop in the working class a sense of solidarity and class consciousness, and a motivation to engage in a class struggle against the evil forces of capitalism toward the end of creating a new order."

Winters lays out his themes in the chapter "Father Hagerty, Comrade Debs, and the Dialectic of Solidarity." Hagerty, a former Catholic priest, was "perhaps the most influential single voice in the early shaping of the union." He especially promoted a "prophetic approach" within the IWW's rhetoric and ideology, one which emphasized conflict and struggle in the pursuit of justice. So, too, did Eugene Debs, who saw Christ as not "meek and lowly but a real, living, vital agitator." Together, these ideological threads were entwined with the dialectic of solidarity—"the solidarity of Father Hagerty and the other syndicalists in the I.W.W. burns with the flame of prophecy and the rage of Christ's violent removal of the money-changers from the temple."

Over the next three chapters, the book illustrates this relationship with examples from the IWW's music, press, and poetry. Winters reaches deep into a variety of primary sources for letters to newspapers, editorials, satirical songs, speeches, poems, and the like. Throughout, he keeps his connecting thread clear—the religious character of these activi-

ties: the sense of martyrdom, the commitment to a vision of a better way of life, the argument that "pure" Christianity rejects war and materialism.

The author pulls his argument together with a case study of the role of Finns in the IWW-led Mesabi Range strike of 1916. He focuses on the convergence of the Wobbly outlook with traditional Finnish values: skepticism toward external authority; commitment to realizing in everyday life a set of simple moral values; an evangelical urge to proselytize and convert others. He challenges received notions, such as that of a Finnish-American community polarized between "church Finns" and "red Finns." Instead, Winters urges us to explore the common territory the factions shared.

This is certainly a useful approach. Better answers to old questions appear, as do new questions. For instance, the author introduces new perspectives on the set of questions revolving around the Wobblies' legacy. Most historians date the demise of the organization to 1919—or 1917—or 1922. But recent research on the early 1930s, such as my own on the Hormel sitdown strike of 1933 and the emergence of the Independent Union of All Workers, or new insights into the teamsters' strikes of 1934, shows former Wobblies in prominent organizing and leadership positions. Many were "double-headers"—rank-and-filers who paid dues to both the IWW and their American Federation of Labor craft union.

Winters's emphasis on the soul and deep commitment at the individual level helps us to understand how veteran Wobblies could "keep the faith" through more than a decade of bleakness and repression—and then re-emerge when times changed. Though he does not discuss this theme, this may well be where his major contribution lies. I would be more confident, however, if the book contained as much social as intellectual history. Who were members of the Wobblies? What kinds of men and women joined? From what cultures did they come? What sort of internal life did they create for the movement? How did these factors interact with the working-class milieu in which they traveled: lumber camps, harvest barracks, railroad "jungles," ethnic ghettos? What were their lives like? We still need answers to these questions.

Reviewed by PETER J. RACHLEFF, *assistant professor of American history at Macalester College, St. Paul, and the author of Black Labor in the South: Richmond, Virginia, 1865-1890 (1984).*

***American Forestry: A History of National, State & Private Cooperation.* By William G. Robbins.**

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1985. 344 p. \$26.95.)

THE STORY of American forestry is more than trees, forests, loggers, and conservationists. It is a story of policies, projects, and the myriad organizations involved in the growing, cutting, protecting, and processing of wood and wood products. American forestry, outside the boundaries of the national forests, has been built upon co-operative programs that involve

federal, state, and private forestry organizations and interests.

As William G. Robbins admits in his new book, co-operative projects are "less distinct" and have received little historical attention. His work is intended as "a general description of federal forestry relations with public agencies and private enterprise." But, he also admits, co-operation is "a broad and elusive theme that defies clear definition."

Therein lies both the major value and the chief weakness of this book. A compendium of little-known facts about state, federal, and private forestry agencies and programs spanning a period of more than 70 years, it reviews how forestry began and then develops the themes that fill the book. Forest fire protection has dominated co-operative efforts from the 1920s on, but to that have been added emergency relief programs in the 1930s, expanded forest production in the 1940s and 1950s, the growing professionalism of state forestry in the 1960s, and the discernible shift of forestry initiatives from the federal to the state agencies in the 1970s.

This is a story of agencies and policies rather than individuals. The spotlight follows interesting episodes which, if expanded, would fill a chapter and provide a substantial example of "co-operation." Instead, however, Robbins only suggests the contours of co-operation and gives the reader a brief introduction to the significant players and events. The author attempts to compensate for this choice by illustrating the themes with examples from four representative states: Georgia, Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota.

Minnesota coverage begins with recording the organization of the first state forestry association in 1876, the Minnesota forest fire warden system in 1895, and the Minnesota State Forestry Board in 1899 (incorrectly dated 1897). Modern forestry began in the state in 1911 with creation of the Minnesota Forest Service. From its beginnings, Minnesota assumed leadership in fire protection and co-operative programs. State Forester William T. Cox dominates the period from 1911 until his dismissal in 1924. His organizational abilities and weaknesses, the impact of the Cloquet fire, and his jousts with Governor J. A. O. Preus are sketched in but not filled out. Later in his chronology Robbins returns to Minnesota to discuss in a thorough, measured fashion the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, farm forestry programs, and interstate fire compacts between Minnesota and Wisconsin and Minnesota and Ontario.

This is a reference work and not for the general public. Robbins' scholarship is impressive, much of it reconstructed from official documents and primary sources. The 811 footnotes attest to meticulous research and documentation. The sheer breadth of the topic necessitates a focus on institutions and programs rather than individuals. It is also impossible to report, in depth, on particular state programs and institutions, but the work does provide other scholars with a map of a new subject which can be further researched and described in detail.

Reviewed by R. NEWELL SEARLE, *who manages state government relations for Cargill, Inc. He is the author of several scholarly articles on forest policy and conservation and of Saving Quetico-Superior, A Land Set Apart (1979), winner of the Forest History Society's first biennial book award.*

Reviving Main Street. Edited by Deryck Holdsworth.
(Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1985. Illustrations. 246 p. Cloth, \$25.00; paper, \$12.95.)

WILL the downtown shopping districts of small cities and towns survive? Since World War II the construction of freeways, roadside shopping strips, and enclosed malls, together with the financial and regulatory advantages of new construction around the edges of town, have all changed shopping habits and eroded downtown's predominance as the retail, service, and social center of the community. Vacant and neglected buildings further reduce incentive to stop downtown. A tacky, deserted area drains community pride and confidence and shrinks the tax base. Property and business owners, interested citizens, and public officers are now working to reverse that trend. *Reviving Main Street* describes the background, principles, and methods of that effort.

Until the late 1970s, the common cure for downtown's ills was to tear down the old for new buildings and parking lots that made the center of a city or town look like a roadside strip or shopping mall. This cure nearly killed the patient, but it also aroused concern about community heritage and identity. Preservation-minded citizens opposed demolition and alteration of original buildings, maintaining that Main Street is the traditional core of a community, that its buildings are the tangible evidence of local history, and that downtown is the symbol of why people are who and where they are. It was clear, however, that Main Street could not be preserved if it could not pay its own way. How could preservation succeed where the local economy had not?

In 1977 the National Trust for Historic Preservation pioneered an approach to saving architecture by stimulating downtown economic development in three midwestern communities. In 1980 the approach was taught to 30 more communities in six states. At that time Heritage Canada started its own three pilot projects. *Reviving Main Street* relates the Canadian experience in a collection of ten essays divided into three parts. Part one describes the unique character of downtown and the nature of the threat to its future. Two essays by Harold Kalman, architectural historian and author, discuss the similarities and differences in the evolution of Main Streets across Canada and assess the impact on their appearance and economics of shopping malls, chain stores, and public buildings. In part two, Jacques Dalibard and John Stewart, the originators of Canada's Main Street program, describe early municipal, state, and provincial efforts to revitalize downtowns in England, the United States, and Canada. These authors then tell how the National Trust and Heritage Canada developed its own approach, the Main Street Program and Main Street Canada.

Preservationists, community development professionals, downtown business owners, and municipal officials will find the third part of this book most useful. In six essays the original seven Canadian Main Street co-ordinators share their experiences and recommendations for the practical application of the Main Street approach, which consists of simultaneous work in four vital areas. The essay "Organizing for Change" explains the co-ordinator's role in bringing local interests together to agree upon needs and priorities and to mobilize

political, financial, and technical support for local efforts. Three essays about design describe ways to improve the physical appearance and commercial image of downtown, following the principle "work with what you have." The next essay tells how to plan and carry out promotions to highlight, enhance, and advertise downtown's assets, stressing retail sales, community festivals, and events that use historic, cultural, or natural attractions as their themes. Finally, "Taking Care of Business" describes how shopping-mall management techniques can be applied in order to fit the mix of businesses to local market preferences.

Reviving Main Street points out that historic preservation and conservation share a common theme: respect what you have inherited and use it wisely or lose it. The conservation movement teaches that the economic and recreational values of the natural environment are preserved through good management—local and individual responsibility and effort, consistent promotion and investment, thoughtful adaptation to changing circumstances, and protective measures. This book is an excellent introduction to understanding and managing the built environment, specifically Main Streets. I recommend it to all who care about the preservation of local character, to those who are concerned about the survival of downtown commercial districts, and to those who seek to strengthen the future role of small cities and towns.

Reviewed by JOHN F. GROSSMAN, *who is executive director and Main Street manager for the Hastings Housing and Redevelopment Authority. He is also the staff advisor of the Heritage Preservation Commission.*

The History of Wisconsin. Volume III. Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893. By Robert C. Nesbit.
(Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985. 693 p. \$30.00.)

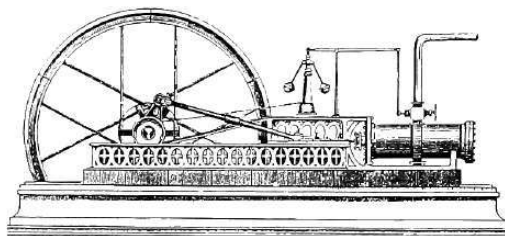
AS THE SUBTITLE indicates, this is primarily an account of social and economic history during two decades of rapid growth nicely fitted between the financial panics of 1873 and 1893. The first section of five chapters deals with the economic transformation that took place in that period, including the transition from grain farming to dairying, the rise and decline of the lumber industry, the expansion of the railroad network, the development of diversified manufacturing, and the part played by farmers, entrepreneurs, and workers in this process. The second group of five chapters covers the social aspects: demographic trends, including immigration and migration; the structure of villages, towns, and cities; industrial unrest, and social problems. A chapter entitled "Inequalities" is an especially sensitive treatment of women and minorities. Cultural history—religion, education, literature, and the arts—receives rather scant attention, crowded mostly into a chapter on "Life and Times." Only the last 100 of the 647 pages of text are devoted directly to government and politics, often thought to be a main focus of both state

and national history. Considering the generally traditional political climate in Wisconsin in those pre-Progressive years, this distribution of effort is a well-conceived one in a book that attempts to identify the main areas of significant historical change.

Professor Nesbit, who has already done much to promote the study and writing of Wisconsin history, has produced an accomplished work of historical synthesis. Though he has made use of many original sources to lend color and authenticity to his narrative, in the main he has based his volume on the sound infrastructure of a wide variety of monographs on every aspect of Wisconsin history, many of them University of Wisconsin theses and dissertations, and more than a few published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It is no diminution of his scholarly expertise and originality to commend him for his diligent and discerning use of the resources available in Madison's two great library collections.

Moreover, Nesbit has written a very readable, at times lively, account of an important period in the state's history. While often concerned with statistical and other "dry" material, the author also creates convincing word pictures of real people and real communities. The book is generously illustrated with many remarkable snapshots of the home, the farm, the workplace, and even the recreational scene. Like the other volumes in this series, it includes a useful bibliographical essay.

Reviewed by CLIFTON J. PHILLIPS, *professor of history at De Pauw University and author of Protestant American and the Pagan World (1969), Indiana in Transition, 1880-1920 (1968). He is presently the editor of DePauw Sesquicentennial Historical Publications.*



NEWS & NOTES

A VARIETY of literary contributions made by Scandinavian Americans is discussed in a collection of papers from the second Scandinavian Immigration Conference (SIMCON II) held by Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 1981. *Scandinavians in America: Literary Life* was edited by J. R. Christianson and published by the Symra Literary Society in 1985. Participants from both sides of the Atlantic contributed papers on Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, and Swedish writers and writings, or looked more broadly at activities within the larger Scandinavian communities. Of particular interest to historians is Danish scholar Kristian Hvidt's rumination about the relationship between literature and history. Among other things, he observes: "The relationship between the historian and the author of fiction in many respects is similar to that of the photographer and the painter. They can describe the same scenery, but they do it in two different ways." And

"Historians can learn a lot by reading novels and short stories. They can improve their writing style (which is too often very bad), and they learn how understatement and emphasis can make a clearer picture than the detailed one." Other contributions include the late sociologist Peter A. Munch's exploration of ethnic identity among early Scandinavian immigrants, historian Carl H. Chrislock's assessment of the impact of World War I attitudes on the Upper Midwest's Scandinavians, and historian Ingrid Semmingsen's survey of Norwegian women emigrants as seen in traditional historical and literary sources. The 342-page book is available from the Symra Literary Society, Decorah, Iowa 52101; the cost is \$24.00.

IT WAS under the leadership of John Philip Weyerhaeuser, Jr., "That the vast Weyerhaeuser wilderness" in the Pacific Northwest became an operating forest that could "provide continu-

ous employment, furnish adequate cheap supplies of lumber and add materially to the national wealth," argues Charles E. Twining in this new personal and business biography, *Phil Weyerhaeuser: Lumberman* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1985, illustrations, xvii, 401 p., cloth, \$25.00). Although this study is not footnoted, the author does rely heavily upon manuscripts and other primary sources, including the John Philip Weyerhaeuser, Jr., Papers at the Weyerhaeuser Company Archives, Federal Way, Washington, and the Weyerhaeuser Family Papers at the Minnesota Historical Society. Twining devotes most of his attention to his subject's adult business life, first as a young man in Idaho during the 1920s and, from 1933 to his death in 1956, as head of the Tacoma-based Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. His accommodation with the National Recovery Administration and other New Deal agencies and his occasionally stormy relations with others in the

industry, the U.S. Forest Service, and various prominent individuals, are included in this account. Similarly, Twining pays attention to the sometimes turbulent course of labor relations in the industry throughout the depression-plagued 1930s, World War II, and the postwar boom period when the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company entered an era of diversification, developed new managerial styles, and expanded its holdings in Oregon and in the southern pines. This biography is enhanced by the author's detached, yet lively style and generally sympathetic treatment of his subject.

W. Thomas White

JEFFREY A. HESS brings diverse accomplishments in Minnesota history to his study of *Their Splendid Legacy: The First 100 Years of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts* (Minneapolis, 1985, 101 p., \$10.00). Rooting that society in booming Minneapolis and its image-conscious, culturally concerned citizens, Hess enlivens the society's main departments—the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Minneapolis School of Art (now the Minneapolis College of Art and Design)—through the stories of their founders and guiding spirits. Some are well-known figures, like William Watts Folwell; others, like Robert Koehler and Mary Moulton Cheney, are treated in the detail befitting their roles in Minnesota's young art world of a century ago. Just as important is Hess's appraisal of later generations of cultural leaders like Edwin H. Hewitt, John R. Van Derlip, and Russell A. Plimpton.

Their Splendid Legacy is a history of taste, as well. By its teaching, collections, and exhibits, an organization like the Society of Fine Arts guides the taste of an entire region. Cycles of aesthetic preference are clearly seen, whether in public damnation of the "so-called art" of the Post-Impressionists in 1923, or in the equally unsettling rediscovery of French academic painters in 1969. The institute's most important acquisitions serve as touchstones for the personal interests and institutional directions prevailing at the time of collection.

Hess deftly presents information and analysis about concurrent activities that shaped these organizations. He indicates the sources of the

founders' wealth—primarily milling—and explains how their anonymous, co-operative, corporate style of business in the 1880s informed their strategies in developing the Society of Fine Arts. He explains the society's 1965 self-study of goals and audiences in the light of the urban growth that also led to the formation of the Metropolitan Council. And he describes the 1911 drive to raise money for the institute not only as an outpouring of philanthropy, but also as the city's "first modern fundraising campaign," carefully staged to exploit elements of surprise and rivalry. The volume recounts growing pains, as well as achievements. Author Hess examines the prickly relationship between the society and lumberman-collector Thomas B. Walker in the early decades; the periodic reorganizations of the art school; and the wholesale disposal of works from the institute's collections in the 1950s. This "weeding" of some 4,500 pieces cost the museum considerable national prestige and, as Hess notes, was "a disruption of the Society's sense of its own past." By facing such issues squarely, *Their Splendid Legacy* helps to reveal the humanity on which institutions like the Society of Fine Arts are built.

Nevertheless, a reader may wonder about some issues merely hinted at in the text. The ten-year "affiliation" of the Children's Theatre Company with the Society of Fine Arts receives just passing notice; the two-year service of an acting director in the stormy late 1950s goes unmentioned in the text. Such small qualms will not seriously hinder the enjoyment of this book. *Their Splendid Legacy* might easily have been commissioned as a paean to good taste and illustrious achievements. Its dignified, richly designed production might have been just a paper monument to rarefied interests. To their credit, author Hess and the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts have made this centennial volume a model of how an institutional history can reveal one community's aspirations and identity.

Thomas O'Sullivan

READERS interested in folklore, the supernatural, or just simply a good book will enjoy Beth Scott's and Michael Norman's *Haunted Heartland* (Madison, Stanton and Lee Publishers, 1985, 504 p., cloth, \$19.95). The

collection of over 150 "true ghost stories and supernatural occurrences" covers ten midwestern states. Hauntings and other unexplained happenings from Albert Lea, Goodhue, Milford, Minneapolis, Monticello, Nobles County, Roseau, St. Paul, Stillwater, and Winona make up the Minnesota section of the book. A far-from-exhaustive bibliography, subdivided by state, provides the sources of many of the tales and some general books on related topics.

The authors are good storytellers who do not, in general, allow themselves to get carried away with the "dark and stormy night" prose that often mars such collections. They have done their homework and talked to people who shared their homes with the unquiet dead or who have witnessed strange events, or at least inherited a story or two from a friend. Nevertheless, the entries in this book are rewrites (one author is a free-lance writer, the other a professor of journalism), not the tales straight from the original narrators. What the prose loses in authenticity, however, it probably gains in readability. Scott and Norman have compiled a book that is both good entertainment and a good reference for the student of occult phenomena.

EVERYONE who wants to know something about the lovely old houses in that charming little town now has a guide to help with the identification. Virginia and Lee McAlester have put together *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, 525 p., cloth, \$30.00) that covers everything from Indian tepees to post-World War II split-levels. The authors combined text with numerous drawings of house types and style details, all of which are illustrated by photographs. A good index and bibliography help the reader find material to identify that particular house.

SOLOMON D. BUTCHER, who took some of the most appealing photographs ever to document the 19th-century settling of the West, now has a book of his own. The Euro-American pioneers of western Nebraska, sitting or standing in front of their sod houses, gaze from the pages of this beautifully produced volume, written by John E. Carter. In an

excellent introductory essay, Carter, curator of photography at the Nebraska Historical Society, tells us much about Butcher—the man and photographer—his family, how they arrived in Nebraska, and how his work fits into the context of American photography at the time. The author analyzes the fortunes of small-town photographers, their dependence on the community's economy, and the peripatetic nature of the business.

Occasionally Carter provides a few pieces of information about the content of the individual images reproduced in the 142-page volume, but the scarcity of data leaves one wishing for more. An 1887 Custer County photo, for example, shows the David Hilton family posed around its parlor organ with farm animals and implements of several varieties in the background. The woman and girls are carefully dressed in what must have been good clothes; the man and boys are far more casual: the man wears neither coat nor tie, and the boys are barefoot. The text accompanying the picture says, in part, "When this photograph was taken, the family still lived in a sod house, a situation of considerable embarrassment to Mrs. Hilton—so much so that she steadfastly refused to be photographed in front of it. To make the picture to her liking, Mr. Hilton and the photographer had to drag the pump organ out and away from the house so that she could show friends back east that she had one without revealing the condition of their dwelling."

Solomon D. Butcher: Photographing the American Dream was published in 1985 by the University of Nebraska Press and costs \$28.95.

CLAY COUNTY, South Dakota, must be one of the better-documented counties in the Upper Midwest. Herbert S. Schell, author of *History of South Dakota* (1961) and of the award-winning *History of Clay County, South Dakota* (1976) has written another book about the place, *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* (1985), published by the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce. The 341-page volume has an index, a bibliography, and a number of interesting photos. It acts in some ways as a supplement to the earlier county history, with 24 chapters organized topically that set the county in its regional context. The topics covered range from the Missouri River

and other water problems, aspects of farming in the area, agricultural processing and manufacturing, the press, medicine, education, including athletics at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, civic improvement, fire-fighting, religion, temperance, and the Chautauqua movement. It is available for \$14.95 plus \$2.00 for handling from USD Book & Supply, Inc., 401 East Cherry St., Vermillion, So. Dak. 57069.

THE FIRST history of Isanti County has recently been published. Unlike many recent town and county histories, this one is home-grown. Vernon Bergstrom and Marilyn McGriff, the co-authors, are local historians who researched, wrote, and published the handsome 324-page paperback themselves. An attractive bright blue-and-yellow cover announces the Swedish predominance in the county; a detailed table of contents and a helpful index guide readers to many of the topics discussed. The volume has some parallels with the late 19th and early 20th-century histories of Minnesota counties: it begins with the ice age, proceeds to prehistoric and then historic Indian people, and moves along in roughly chronological order to the present. It does not, however, include histories of individual families in the county. A tongue-in-cheek chapter entitled "Just Between Us Scandinavians" addresses topics of interest to descendants of the Vikings.

The photos and graphics are well selected and the maps helpful. The chapters are clearly written. McGriff's are documented; Bergstrom's are not. An extensive bibliography lists sources for each chapter, but suffers from numerous errors. Roy, not Ray, Meyer wrote the *History of the Santee Sioux*; James, not Lane, B. Stoltman wrote *The Laurel Culture in Minnesota*; Eldon Johnson, not Eldon Lehman, wrote *The Arvilla* (not Arvillo) *Complex*, and so on. Fortunately, the text seems far less problematical. Of particular interest is the chapter on crossroads communities, which provides not a township-by-township, settlement-by-settlement survey of the county, but a more analytical approach to the question of town development in strongly rural areas of the state. The final chapter, on the post-World War II era, looks at a number of issues most county histories don't get to, from the changing nature

of agriculture in the county ("Immigrants from the Twin Cities probably account for much of the increase in the number of farms. They keep goats and rabbits and raise vegetables and fruit.") to the replacement of baseball by slow-pitch softball as an activity for men, women, boys, and girls. In short, the Isanti County history was worth waiting for. It will be much read by residents and researchers. Copies may be ordered from Isanti County Book, P.O. Box 81, Braham, Minn. 55006 for \$12.95 (Minn. residents add \$.77 tax per book), plus \$2.50 for postage and handling.

FOR those interested in local history, the state-by-state listing of 5,000 county histories compiled by P. William Filby in *A Bibliography of American County Histories* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 449 p., \$24.95) supplies basic but by no means comprehensive information. Although the compiler proposed to give "bibliographical references to all county histories of any consequence up to the present time," he has neglected to list important ones of consequence for some states and has excluded completely those for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Regional or "collective" histories for groups of counties are included for some 30 states, but not for Minnesota, thereby omitting the useful compilations of the George Ogle Company, Warner-Foote, A. B. Eastman, and William H. C. Folsom's *Fifty Years in the Northwest*, which contains early history and biography for northwestern Wisconsin as well as counties in eastern Minnesota. In the best of all worlds for local historians, index information and indexes should be a top priority. Most of the books in these listings either do not have indexes or the compiler does not mention them. It is true that such books are notoriously unindexed, but it is possible that some (like Folsom) may have unpublished indexes. The fact that Filby's book does not have an index makes one wonder whether he has overlooked their importance. For Minnesota local history, finally, this book is no substitute for Michael Brook's local history listings in the *MHS Reference Guide to Minnesota History* (1974) and the 1983 *Supplement* compiled by Brook and Sarah P. Rubinstein.

Helen M. White

IN *Voyages of the Steamboat Yellow Stone* (New York, Ticknor & Fields, 1985, 182 p., cloth, \$16.95), Donald Jackson places the boat in its historical setting. It is best remembered as the first steamboat used on the Upper Missouri, where it gained fame by transporting such celebrated passengers as the artists George Catlin and Karl Bodmer and the German naturalist, Maximilian, Prince of Wied. Jackson reviews the familiar story that the boat was the brainchild of Pierre Chouteau, Jr., of St. Louis, who wanted to supply distant fur-trading posts with the most modern craft available. The "Yellow Stone" was used on the Upper Missouri from 1831 to 1833; it was then supplemented by a new steamboat of improved design and transferred to the Mississippi River.

The "Yellow Stone" required extensive renovation at the end of its second year on the Mississippi. Then in 1836 it was sent to Texas to carry cotton on the lower Brazos River. While engaged in this mundane business the boat was commandeered by General Sam Houston, who was then leading an army of volunteers in the Texas revolt against Mexico.

There is no known record of the "Yellow Stone" after 1837. Jackson offers various theories about its fate and explains its significance in Texas history and lore. Although the frontier history of the "Yellow Stone's" era is well known, Jackson does provide interesting details about the boat's construction and steamboat technology in general.

"NO ARCHITECT . . . tried harder to impose his reading of national identity on the public buildings of his generation than Cass Gilbert," writes Geoffrey Blodgett in the December, 1985, issue of the *Journal of American History*. Describing the Minnesota-reared architect as a "conservative at bay," Blodgett delineates his career from the time he "attained national prominence in 1898 on the strength of his ornate state capitol for Minnesota . . . the most influential model of neoclassicism among capitols built after the Civil War" to his last great commission, the United States Supreme Court building. The article stresses Gilbert's conservative stance

both in architecture and in politics, and emphasizes his preference for "the mainstream to the cutting edge."

STUDENTS of religion will be particularly interested in an article by Daniel P. O'Neill in the Spring, 1985, issue of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Using the sources of the social historian, the St. Mary's College (Winona) history professor has analyzed "The Development of an American Priesthood: Archbishop John Ireland and the Saint Paul Diocesan Clergy, 1884-1918." He concludes that "John Ireland's commitment to the Americanization of the Catholic church . . . left a permanent mark on the institutional character of Minnesota Catholicism, producing a clergy recruited from the local laity, and sharing many similar ties, commitments, and values. With pastors and parishioners from the same bolt of cloth, the cohesiveness of the Minnesota Catholic community was greatly enhanced."

GENEALOGISTS and students of family history will welcome two recent works in the field. It has been nearly 20 years since the last guide to the National Archives genealogical resources. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (Washington, D.C., National Archives and Records Service, 1982, 304 p., cloth, \$21.00, paper, \$17.00) provides an expanded, updated and lavishly illustrated finding aid that covers more than 500 types of records within the archives. It includes military records, ship passenger lists, land deeds, census data, and items relating to specific groups such as Indians and blacks. Each section has an introduction, description of items, and examples in an easy-to-use format.

A much broader work is *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Salt Lake City, Ancestry Publishing Co., 1984, 786 p., \$39.00). Written by Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerni, it identifies, locates, and describes all the basic manuscript, microfilm, and published record groups now available for the period between the beginning of European colonization in America and 1910, the year of the last census open to the public. The categories covered are

extensive: vital, court, cemetery, and census records; land, tax, and military records; business and institution records; and city directories, newspapers, published biographies, and genealogies. Significant are the resources described for many minority groups, which are often ignored in basic "how-to" books. This book is *not* a "how-to" book; its title tells it all—the source of information. Many genealogies relating to Minnesota families are donated to the MHS library. Among recent additions, most of them privately published, are the following:

Arthur P. Burris, *Burris Ancestors* (Minneapolis, 1974-1984, 3 vol., 500 p.).

June Calin, *The Peterson Families from Lenhovda, Sweden: from 1960 to 1982, 292 Years of History* (Minneapolis, 1982, 207 p.).

Roger A. Campeau, *The French Connection to Sir Louis Campeau: 1500's to 1981, Twelve Generations* (New Hope, 1981, 40 leaves).

Bertha H. Comaford, *The Huke (Hukee) Families in Norway and America, 1610-1982* (Minneapolis, 1982, 18 p.).

Eugene J. Eastland, *Eastland Johnson Family from Floda* (Stillwater, 1982, 71 leaves).

Linda Mainquist-Kostich, *The Stories of the Axel and Hulda Mainquist Family* (St. Paul, 1981, 207 leaves).

Patrick T. Skelly, *A Bodem-Zirbes Family History: the Ancestors, Families, and Descendants of Edward Bodem and his Wife, Veronica Zirbes* (New Hope, 1982, 244 leaves).

Eunice Stenshoel, *Rokne Root and Branch: the Families of Martha Bardsdatter Osgjerd & Lars Mikkelsen Rokne* (Minnetonka, 1978, 57 p.).

Blain Whipple, *Ben and Nellie Scott Family* (Portland, Ore., 1981, 206 p.).

Harold I. Wilmot, *A Connecticut Yankee Comes to Minnesota* [Wilmot family] (Willmar, Biword Publications, 1982, 84 p.).

Jan R. Wolf, *Deutsch Family History, 1803-1982* (Minneapolis, 1982, 331 p.).



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