

BOOK REVIEW

Peyote Religion, A History. By Omer C. Stewart.

(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. Maps, illustrations, appendixes, bibliography, index. 454 p. \$29.95.)

SINCE James Mooney, no scholar has known as much as Omer Stewart knows about the history, the legal problems, and the use of peyote by Indian people as a religious sacrament and a channel to the Great Spirit. Professor Stewart's expertise is well known to academicians. On numerous occasions, officials of the Native American Church of North America have said as much in the presence of the reviewer. Stewart has supported the use of peyote in spiritual participation as a legitimate activity in American religious life worthy of constitutional protection, and he has appeared frequently to defend it before the courts. A reviewer who is familiar with the historiography of peyote religion must feel somewhat intimidated by the charge to judge the contents of Stewart's book, for it represents half a century of careful field work and documentary research by the ranking academic authority on the subject.

In several chapters, Stewart surveys the history of the belief system from early Hispanic colonial times in Mexico to its entry into the southwestern states. From there, he traces the expansion of peyote use from tribe to tribe up the Great Plains into Sioux and Winnebago countries, and eventually to surrounding tribes as well as into western Canada. By the middle of the 20th century, the use of peyote as a religious sacrament had spread across most of North America. Stewart writes with appropriate respect as he outlines the tenets of this faith. Native American Church members follow strict moral codes and social practices, he points out, as they seek instruction and comfort through the use of the "Sacred Herb." Because peyote was classified by federal officials early in this century as a "dangerous drug," those who have believed in its value have faced legal attacks as well as social pressure. Description of the legal phase of peyote history is especially valuable because of Stewart's obvious special knowledge. At the end he includes appendixes that describe the nature of "rituals" (or prayer meetings) and contain detailed information regarding the organizational structure of peyote religion across Sioux country.

The only negative response that may be appropriate pertains to a style of presentation that doubtless will perplex some general readers. A text in conversational English is pleasant enough to read, but it is laced with anthropological

jargon and information that only the practitioner of the belief system might understand. A novice may struggle to comprehend substantial parts of the text and miss the meanings of some portions completely.

Nevertheless, general readers are encouraged to explore the contents. Professional historians and ethnographers with appropriate specialties will want to digest this volume in detail. Librarians—especially those with collections in the fields of religion, ethnography, and Indian history—are advised to treat *Peyote Religion* as an essential acquisition. It is a benchmark publication.

Reviewed by HERBERT T. HOOVER *of the history department at the University of South Dakota, who has enjoyed participation in the activities of the Native American Church in South Dakota for nearly 20 years as he has traced its history through documentary sources on the tribes of the Sioux.*

Indian Agriculture in America: Prehistory to the Present. By R. Douglas Hurt.

(Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1988. 290 p. \$29.95.)

READERS of previous works by R. Douglas Hurt know him as an accomplished agricultural historian with expertise in the areas of technology and the environment. This is worth noting in any assessment of *Indian Agriculture in America*, a book with considerable import both for agricultural and Indian history.

Turning his attention to Indian agriculture, Hurt must rely on the work of archaeologists, ethnologists, and Indian historians, for agricultural historians have given the topic small and scattered notice. This reliance shapes the organization of the book. Hurt begins with discussion of the "Mesoamerican Origins" of Indian agriculture; his concern here is with the early development of cultigens, particularly maize, or corn. Describing the dissemination of these cultigens among Indian cultures and the cultural patterns that crystallized around them, he divides the continent at the Mississippi River. This not only recognizes contrasting environmental conditions, east and west, but also highlights regional differences in farming practices and land tenure that derived from the environment and became central to Indian cultures. These re-

gional patterns—such as the wild rice culture of the Great Lakes region—comprise some of the most interesting reading in the book.

Thus far historian Hurt tills fields turned by archaeologists and early European chroniclers; hereafter he works the ground of Indian historians and ethnologists, and the issues raised are familiar: dispossession of Indians from their homelands and removal to the West; confinement on reservations, with mission schools attempting agricultural education; allotment and its disastrous consequences; the Indian New Deal under Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier; termination and other recent (often capricious) trends in Indian policy.

Two things make Hurt's recounting of these matters notable. The first is scrupulous impartiality. Hurt not only stays close to his documents, but also, most importantly, distinguishes between intent and consequences in federal Indian policy. It is easy to wax conspiratorial, to ascribe evil motives according to bad results, but Hurt refrains. His second notable contribution derives from his knowledge of agriculture. Because of his general understanding of such broad issues as water policy, dry farming, and range management, he makes sound judgments about what was or was not possible among particular Indians on particular reservations.

The general conclusion of the book is distressing. American Indians originally were competent farmers with methods that were well adapted to environmental constraints and cultures that reinforced agricultural stability. Contact with European and white American civilization ended this, however. "In the end," Hurt states, "white civilization ruined, rather than promoted, Indian agriculture."

Indian Agriculture in America is a splendid synthesis and a great credit to the author. The book is composed of broad strokes that should not conclude inquiry into Indian agriculture but rather stimulate it. Hurt demonstrates the rich potential for agricultural historians who are willing to cross into the domain of another historical specialty. Any stockman, after all, knows the virtues of hybrid vigor.

Reviewed by THOMAS D. ISERN, *an agricultural and Great Plains historian, who is coauthor (with Jim Hoy) of Plains Folk: A Commonplace of the Great Plains, published in 1987 by the University of Oklahoma Press.*

***The Law of the Land, Two Hundred Years of American Farmland Policy.* By John Opie.**

(Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987. xxi, 231 p. \$25.95.)

VOLATILITY in economic relationships is a hallmark of our times, not least in agriculture. Given normal delays in getting research into print, it has been the unusual book on agricultural policy in recent years that has not been overtaken by events before publication. *The Law of the Land* is not an exception. Its primary focus is on an inappropriate American pattern of farmland holdings created by a headlong rush to

convert public lands to private property, abetted by the rectangular survey. The public land survey emerges in Opie's account as a mistaken tool of land policy.

Several quotations reflect the author's principal theme: "Strong arguments can be made, from the perspective of two hundred years, that Congress failed. It faced enormous pressure for outright sale to the highest bidder. In the process it lost opportunities to devise a national commons, invent long-term leasing, and offer tracts more adapted to terrain, climate, and soil conditions." He points out that "Historically, American farmers have consistently made more money profiteering in land than in farming" and asserts that "it is a real myth that government land policies served the farmer well." "By 1862 passage of the legendary Homestead Act for the independent farmer was more pitiable than honorable."

Condemnation of the survey verges on overkill. It had many faults, but its evaluation requires more balance than is evident in this book. Two points illustrate the neglect of important consequences of the survey. It created a solid foundation for land-based credit, with minimal disputes over boundaries. This point is not developed.

A second point concerns the contribution of the survey to the creation of the United States as a single common market. Much of the credit for this achievement must go to the public land survey. It facilitated railroad land grants, tied the country together, and resolved the question of where to locate the roads—on the section lines. European struggles with acquisition of highway rights of way in the 20th century are a reminder of problems that America avoided with its grid system of property rights in land.

The second half of the book includes a commendable emphasis on the role of water, not land, as a determinant of the pace and location of future agricultural development. The gradual exhaustion of the Ogallala aquifer is probably the most profligate example of policy failure in contemporary American agriculture, as the author properly stresses. But its true impact is misinterpreted, in that Opie claims that "wheat surpluses are under pressure as production declines with the falling water levels of the Ogallala aquifer, the only significant regional irrigation resource." The bulk of Ogallala water is used to produce sorghum, corn, and cotton, not wheat. The exhaustion threat is to the feed supply of Great Plains cattle feedlots, and not to bread grain supply.

The question of food supply for a hungry world dominates the concluding chapters. It is here that the interpretation has been overtaken by events. The fears of food shortages that emerged in the 1970s and contributed to the land price boom and bust of the 1980s appear today in a different light.

For over 50 years the phenomenal increases in agricultural output in industrialized countries have been associated with declining areas of harvested cropland. Opie points out that land has become just one of the factors of agricultural production, and that ownership of land is not the guarantee of security for the farmer that folklore postulated. But land ownership remains a critical variable, primarily for its role as a credit base. And, contrary to the author's view, the bulk of the land in U.S. field crop production is still organized in family farms, although not the 160-acre farms of the 19th century. Opie concludes: "the revolutionary change in agriculture over the past fifty years may no longer require private

ownership, on-site residency, and the fabled (and flawed) owner-operated farm."

Recalling Mark Twain's famous remark: The obituary may be exaggerated.

Reviewed by PHILIP M. RAUP, *professor emeritus of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. He has served as an international consultant on agricultural reforms and development.*

***The Superior North Shore.* By Thomas F. Waters.**

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987. 361 p. \$25.00.)

THOSE WHO ENJOY the magnificence of Lake Superior will welcome Thomas F. Waters's natural history of the Superior north shore. The author, a professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Minnesota, presents an attractively written chronicle focused on natural resources and human uses thereof running from the Precambrian geological era to the present. After a survey of geological history, Waters introduces the prehistoric people of the upper Great Lakes, the first to master human survival in a gradually warming environment as early as 9,000 to 10,000 B.C. The saga of the French explorers and missionaries follows. French, British, and American fur traders march across the scene in pursuit of beaver pelts and other animal skins, reaping the first commercial harvest of a regional natural resource. Exploitation of the area's iron, copper, gold, and silver deposits is briefly summarized. Next the reader surveys the history of the big cut of virgin white and red pine and the logging of the boreal forest. Almost 80 pages are devoted to a history of the lake's fish resources encompassing a lucid discussion of original species, the rise and decline of the commercial fisheries, the invasion of the sea lamprey, and the difficult adjustments in the wake of lamprey devastation. Now, Waters feels, a productive commercial and sport fishery is a reality. The author devotes one chapter to northern Lake Superior's migratory water birds and one to antlered mammals. The focus then shifts to special locations with both the Nipigon Basin and Isle Royale highlighted in brief natural histories. The rich heritage in parks around the north shore is thoughtfully presented as a third locational theme.

In this reviewer's opinion the truly excellent parts of the study are those relating to the fisheries, the antlered mammals, and the birds. These present scientific information in a readily comprehensible, lucid manner for readers from any background. The discussion of the Lake Nipigon region, Isle Royale, and the park heritage also will be valuable to devotees of the north shore. Carol Yonker Waters has added a significant and beautiful dimension to the work with her illustrations.

Yet the historian will read the book wishing that Waters had given greater attention to the dynamics of historical change, to continuity or the lack thereof over time, and to the changing and evolving complex of interrelationships that in-

cludes humans and natural resources. For example, the discussion of prehistoric people needs to consider the gradual change from simpler to more complex ways of life from 9,000 B.C. to 1600 A.D. The role of the Jesuits deserves a fuller explanation with attention to the relationship between civil government and religious authority. French-Iroquois antagonisms need to be related to the pattern of exploration and to the fur trade. The positive contributions of a wide range of Indian people to the furtherance of the fur trade and exploration deserve to be stressed, and so does the impact of that trade upon native peoples. While the author does discuss some of the environmental damage wrought by humans throughout the study (and especially on pages 309-311), this reviewer thinks that human failings should have been more fully highlighted. Nevertheless, *The Superior North Shore* is a very valuable and welcome addition to the history of the greatest of the Great Lakes.

Reviewed by MARGARET BEATTIE BOGUE, *professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of Around the Shores of Lake Michigan: A Guide to Historic Sites (1985).*

***Memoirs of a Wobbly.* By Henry E. McGuckin.**

(Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Publishing Co., 1987. 94 p. \$5.95.)

LIKE OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS to Charles H. Kerr's "First Person Series," Henry McGuckin's *Memoirs of a Wobbly* provides a dramatic view of the American working class from the bottom up. The author, an activist in the revolutionary Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) or "Wobblies" from 1912 until his death in 1974, dedicated his account "to the young of today, who are struggling so courageously to correct the inequities of the past and present." Indeed, it was the militant example of activists like McGuckin, fighting to build industrial unionism in the 1910s, that gave inspiration to the student radicals of the 1960s and early 1970s. As McGuckin's son mentions in the book's "Afterword," his father was often called upon to address student groups in Berkeley and San Francisco during the peak of the antiwar movement.

In this lively narrative, brief and ungrammatical as it often is, one finds an insider's account of 60 years with one of the most-discussed labor unions in American history. Although the author worked closely with such well-known labor activists as Bill Haywood, Ralph H. Chaplin, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, it is the experiences and impressions of McGuckin himself, a rank-and-filer, that give the book its vitality.

Leaving his relatively secure home in Paterson, New Jersey, as a teenager, the author preferred hobo jungles, freight train boxcars, and starvation-wage jobs to the Catholic education his father had envisioned for him. After months on the road, rambling from Vancouver to Richmond, Virginia, McGuckin found himself working at a freight dispatch terminal halfway between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Shortly thereafter, he traveled to the Northwest where he participated in the IWW

"free speech fight" in Aberdeen, Washington. It was during this struggle of 1911 and 1912 that McGuckin became impressed by what the Wobbly soapbox speakers had to say about industrial unionism and promptly joined the union.

One of the first actual labor struggles that the author became involved in was the historic Paterson silk workers strike of 1913. He carried the message of this important labor battle to St. Paul where the streetcar conductors were on strike. Here the author gave the first of many hundreds of soapbox speeches, encouraging the conductors with news of the 25,000 silk workers who were in action in his hometown.

In April, 1915, Henry McGuckin became an IWW delegate for a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, to formulate plans for what became the Agricultural Workers Organization (AWO), IWW, with headquarters in Minneapolis "to be near the center of harvest activities." Chaired by Walter T. Nef, the organization became known as Local 400 and, according to McGuckin, "began with nine members and [in less than two years] reached more than one hundred thousand." Nef, whom the author calls "a real hero of the movement, both in and out of jail," single-handedly put into practice the "job delegate system." This system, which sent organizers into the harvest fields with membership cards, union badges, and IWW literature, proved to be, in McGuckin's words, "one of the greatest and fastest organization tactics, not surpassed to this day."

Like most IWW "bindle stiffs," McGuckin wandered and bummed his way around the country, but his *Memoirs* often lead back to Minnesota. Besides his activities with the AWO and the St. Paul streetcar workers, he was active in Duluth and Virginia during the summer of 1916, helping to organize the miners of the Mesabi Range for a strike that Bill Haywood saw as one of the most important in IWW history. And in the summer of 1917, he was sent by Walter Nef to Baudette, Minnesota, where he was to organize and collect dues in the logging country.

The hard work that the author did in Minnesota and elsewhere was carried out for an organization that he firmly believed had "the answers . . . for that day and time." He passionately believed, as his *Memoirs* illustrate from beginning to end, that "we were decent men and women who had fought the day to day battles, took the blows, and shed the blood that made today's labor movement possible." Perhaps those critics who see the current labor movement as moving along a path of continuous decay or who see all workers as part of an amorphous entity called the "middle class" could, as Henry McGuckin asserts, "profit from a fresh infusion of Wobbly commitment to social justice."

Reviewed by DONALD E. WINTERS, JR., author of The Soul of the Wobblies (1985), who teaches at the College for Working Adults in the Minneapolis Community College.

NEWS & NOTES

CARLTON C. QUALEY, whose association with the MHS began during his undergraduate years at St. Olaf College, died in Minneapolis on March 25. Born in Spring Grove, Minnesota, in 1904, Dr. Qualey received his graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota and Columbia University. He was a specialist in immigration history, whose book *Norwegian Settlement in the United States* (1938) was a pioneer effort in the field of quantitative research. His early teaching career was in the East—at Columbia University's Bard College and at Swarthmore College—but most of his academic career was spent at Carleton College. He served as director of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1947 to 1948 and in that capacity also headed the society's publications program, including this quarterly. After his retirement from

Carleton in 1970, he moved to St. Paul where, with offices at the MHS, he initiated the Minnesota Ethnic History Project. The result was the 1981 publication of *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups* for which Qualey coauthored the chapter on the Norwegians. He was a founding member of the Immigration History Society and edited its newsletter from 1973 until his death. He also served on the editorial board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association for half a century. In the course of his long professional career, Carlton Qualey contributed some eight articles and numerous book reviews to this magazine and served as a willing, helpful, and cheerful referee. His colleagues and co-workers at MHS will miss his friendly and energetic presence.

THE SOLON J. BUCK Award for the best article to appear in this journal during 1987 has been given to Kathryn Ericson. She will receive the \$600 prize for her article "Triple Jeopardy: The Muus vs. Muus Case in Three Forums," which appeared in the Winter, 1987, issue of *Minnesota History*.

Serving on this year's panel of judges were: Peter J. Rachleff, professor of history at Macalester College; Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, collections manager of the Dakota County Historical Society; and Mary D. Cannon, editor of the magazine.

UNDER the editorial aegis of John Franklin White, the Scarecrow Press recently issued *Art in Action: American Art Centers and The New Deal* (Metuchen, N.J., 1987, 195 p.,

\$22.50). Pointing out that the depression of the 1930s "resulted in the largest public programs for art in history," editor White brings together nine regional and cultural historians who contributed essays to the book. The art centers they examine range from North Carolina to Washington State, from Oklahoma to Minnesota, and Chicago, Utah, Phoenix, and St. Louis. The Minnesota example is "The Walker Art Center: A Crowning Achievement," written by White. His essay, dealing with the years from 1938 to 1943, details the emergence of the Walker as a community asset, with exhibitions of local artists' work and classes "for the masses" in most art media. With the help of WPA and private support, the Walker played a big part in raising the artistic consciousness of the community, which had been "forever enriched by the presence of government patronage."

AMONG the Sleeping Giants: Occasional Pieces of Lewis and Clark, by Donald Jackson (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1987, xiv, 136 p., \$17.95) is a delightful addition to the literature on the leaders of the famed expedition that probed the upper reaches of the Far West between 1803 and 1806. Jackson's eight essays, written with wit, perception, and a subtle infusion of context that keeps the nonspecialist on track, include "Among Sleeping Giants"—his term for the dormant volcanoes observed as peaks on the journey through the Pacific Northwest that became widely known when Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980. In "A Dog Named Scannon—Until Recently," he describes his investigations revealing that, alas, earlier scholars had misread in the expedition manuscripts the name of Meriwether Lewis's adventurous companion. Seaman he was, not Scannon. "We could call this," Jackson comments, "simply the tale of a man and his dog, roaming the High Plains and the passes of the Rockies in one of our great sagas of western exploration. For me, however, it gets better when I see it also as proof that there is still fun to be had in the writing of American history."

Jackson's sense of fun, not without its sting, touches his observations on personal experiences "In Editing the Lewis and Clark Letters," precluding first publication in 1962. His comments on "manger guarding" by historians contemplating future books, on the foibles of generous collections

and archivists, and, with rare candor, on his own naïveté as a neophyte in the arcane world of scholarship will amuse and inform anyone who has traveled the brambled path from subject selection to publication.

Lucile M. Kane

HISTORICAL geographer Robert C. Vogel, city historic preservation officer, has written the first of what is intended to be a series of Perspectives in Cottage Grove History. Published in 1986, *The Historic Houses of Cottage Grove: A Field Guide*, is a 20-page booklet that attempts to read the cultural landscape of the Washington County town, "using historic buildings as documents." Vogel discusses vernacular houses and houses of style as "patterns in the built environment, whose elements and arrangement are conveyed either through architectural fashion, in the case of houses of style, or popular tradition, as in vernacular houses." He moves on to a brief history of the area, settled first by New Englanders, and characterizes the two villages in the township, the rustic East Cottage Grove, which recalled New England, and the railroad town of Langdon, a characteristic plains country settlement. The latter declined after 1920, while the former grew modestly until suburbia entered the township in the 1950s and the area boomed in the 1960s and 1970s as a suburb of St. Paul (but one with much land still in rural use.) A summary of house styles and Cottage Grove examples in photos follows, ranging from Greek Revival, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Vernacular "L," and Corn Belt Cube. A brief glossary concludes the publication. The booklet is a remarkably good brief local history that provides interested residents and other observers with a way to learn from the built environment. It is available from the City of Cottage Grove, 7516 80th St. South, Cottage Grove 55016 for \$2.95, including tax and postage.

THE LUMBER and railroad ventures of Nathaniel Caldwell Foster (1834–1923) in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, vicinity, are carefully described in William W. O'Gara's *"Foster's & Nobody Else's": The N. C. Foster Enterprises* published by the Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society as part of its Mid-Continent Rail Heritage Series (1988). In 1876 the entrepreneurial Foster moved his lumbering operations from Green Bay

to Fairchild, near Eau Claire where, starting with a lumber mill, he built a million-dollar empire of industry, transportation, commerce, and finance. In Minnesota, he controlled lumberyards in Avoca, Slayton, and Heron Lake. Today, Foster is remembered for his railroads. O'Gara considers him a Wisconsin innovator in the use of railroads to support lumbering in the absence of water transport. In 1878 he founded the Chicago, Fairchild & Eau Claire River Railway as a logging tramway, converted in 1882 to a regular rail line. In 1897 it was reorganized into the common carrier Fairchild & North-Eastern Railway Company, whose initials inspired the road's popular name and this volume's title, "Foster's & Nobody Else's." The road began a steady decline following shutdown of Fairchild lumbering in 1905, and ceased operations in 1929.

Although brief, this 72-page history is fully documented with notes, bibliography, index, photos, tables, and excellent maps drawn on USGS topographic base maps. The use of then-and-now photographs of surviving buildings and structures adds a welcome historic preservation perspective. Several historical photos are by railroad photographer J. Foster Adams, whose collection of negatives is held by Mid-Continent. *Foster's* is available in large-format paperback for \$8.95, plus postage and handling, from Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, P.O. Box 55, North Freedom, Wis. 53951.

Robert M. Frame III

MARY E. NILLES has produced the latest in her series of publications on Rollingsstone, Minnesota, a town of Luxembourg heritage near Winona. From the local history point of view, it is interesting to see the type of source materials Nilles is able to discover about her home town and the way she chooses to organize and analyze this information. After a too-brief introduction, the book moves on to a timeline of the town's history in the early years, and then to the analytical heart of the volume, an account of the evolution of Luxembourgish ethnicity in Rollingsstone, with due attention to migration paths, language, religion, food, and various other forms of social interaction. The section on language is particularly good. The next section, derived from census records and "a sampling of local news," lists pioneers and gives information about their vital

statistics and activities. Part 5 includes a map and a series of descriptions of the principal historic sites of the area, rural and town, including Elba as well as Rollingstone. Finally, part 6 makes available the census records of the town in 1860 and 1880. There is a name index to both the census lists and to the volume as a whole. Reproductions of old documents and of photos, old and new, are also included. Given the presence in town of a photographer, one Baptiste Rivers, it would have been useful to tell readers something about who might have taken the older pictures.

A Legacy from Luxembourg: A Historical Guide to the Early Settlement of Rollingstone, Minnesota (Winona, Mary E. Nilles, 1986) is available for \$9.95 (plus \$.60 tax for Minnesota residents) and \$1.00 shipping fee from Luxembourg Legacy, Box 155, Rollingstone 55969.

TO HONOR that state's sesquicentennial, the University of Illinois Press has issued three new volumes in its reprint series. Each has a new introduction, and each costs \$24.95. The titles are *The Illinois Country, 1673-1818*, by Clarence W. Alvord (introduction by Robert M. Sutton); *The Frontier State, 1818-1848*, by Theodore C. Pease (introduction by Robert W. Johannsen); and *The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870*, by Arthur C. Cole (introduction by John Y. Simon).

AGRICULTURAL historians and students of the Great Plains region in general will note with interest the publication of Thomas Isern's *Custom Combining on the Great Plains* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1987, 264 p., cloth, \$21.95, paper, \$8.95). The study, which the author characterizes as "exploratory," concentrates on the itinerant "custom cutters" who follow the harvest. Research focuses on the southern plains, although there is material on the northern part of the region and parallel developments in the prairie provinces of Canada, as well. Numerous charts, illustrations, maps, and tables accompany the work. Perhaps most enticing about this solidly researched, scholarly work, however, is the author's knack at the social side of history. It is clear that he has talked to—and lived among—the people whose lives he depicts, and his ability to capture this human element is a welcome addition to the "hard data" of modern agricultural history.

ARCHITECTURAL history is captured in picture and text in a new book from Nodin Press. *Landmarks—Old and New: Minneapolis and St. Paul and Surrounding Areas* contains a collection of 42 drawings by Frieda Rich, accompanied by Lael Berman's text, that range from the 1872 house of Alexander Ramsey to the 1985 Ordway Music Theatre. The handsomely printed volume provides end-sheet maps of the buildings included, and, happily, among the felt-tip pen-drawn illustrations are the original Minneapolis Public Library and the Metropolitan Building—both of which have been razed. The book is available for \$12.95 from the publisher, 525 N. Third St., Minneapolis 55401.

RESEARCHING the Germans from Russia: Annotated Bibliography of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection describes the holdings of "one of the largest archives of its kind in the New World." Compiled by Michael M. Miller, the 224-page guide lists books on Germans from Russia in both the Dakotas, throughout the United States, and Hutterites, Mennonites, as well as Volga, Black Sea, and Volhynian Germans. Other categories include church and family histories, literature, folklore, recordings, tapes, North Dakota county and community histories, maps, newspapers, census material, cookery, and periodicals. Four helpful indexes—colony and district, name, subject, and title—offer easy access to the volume which is illustrated with copious photographs. The bibliography, published in 1987 by the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, is available from the institute (for \$20 plus \$1.50 postage), Box 5075, North Dakota State University, Fargo, 58105.

FROM the prolific pen of Michael Kammen come 12 essays that examine "how historical inquiry (in the broadest sense) has been, is being, and might fruitfully be conducted in the future, with particular reference to the American scene." In *Selvages & Biases: The Fabric of History in American Culture* (Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1987, 336 p., \$24.95), the author considers "History as a Way of Learning and Knowing"; "Patterns of Meaning in the Historian's Craft"; and "The Quest for Meaning in American Culture." The essays, which have appeared between 1975 and 1985 in conference proceedings or journals, derive their cohesion "primarily from

their common origin in a single mind reflecting upon closely related problems." One of them, "Uses and Abuses of the Past: A Bifocal Perspective," appeared in the Spring, 1982, issue of this journal.

INTERESTING tidbits stud a new publication by the Ramsey County Historical Society, *The Mississippi and St. Paul, A Short History of the City's 150-Year Love Affair with its River* (St. Paul, 1987, 48 p., \$8.95 plus \$2.00 tax, postage, and handling). Written by Virginia B. Kunz, who was aided by four researchers, the book is divided by era into three sections: 1850-70, 1870-1920, and "the new beginning: 1920—." Although much of the material in the book will not be new to students of St. Paul's history, the focus on the city's relationship to the river does provide an engaging framework for the facts. And the profusion of photographs and other illustrations add much to the volume. Perhaps of most interest, however, are the excerpts from interviews with contemporary St. Paulites which festoon the outside margins of most pages. The placement of these quotes, along with the wealth of pictures, created design difficulties, making cluttered pages where it is sometimes difficult to find the right caption for the right picture; their value, however, far outweighs this inconvenience. The book is available from the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth St., St. Paul 55102.

CALLS FOR PAPERS have been issued by two historical conferences. The Western History Association welcomes papers and proposals for sessions for its 29th annual meeting to be held in Tacoma October 11-14, 1989. The committee especially encourages proposals commemorating the passage of the 1889 Omnibus Bill. They should be sent by September 1, 1988, to John D. W. Guice, Department of History, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station, Box 5407, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5407.

The Missouri Valley History Conference, which will meet in Omaha on March 9-11, 1989, invites papers in all fields of history as well as interdisciplinary and methodological studies. Proposals should be submitted by November 15, 1988, to Dr. Jerold L. Simmons, Program Co-ordinator, 1989 MVHC, Department of History, University of Nebraska, Omaha 68182.



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