

BOOK REVIEWS

The Checkered Years: A Bonanza Farm Diary, 1884–88.

By Mary Dodge Woodward. Introduction by Elizabeth Jameson.

(St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989. 265 p. Paper, \$8.95.)

ELIZABETH JAMESON'S thoughtful and informative introduction to this new Borealis reprint relates the background of the Woodward and Dodge families and the economic times that created the bonanza farms in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota in the late 19th century. The bonanza farms grew No. 1 hard wheat almost exclusively, shipping the grain via the railroads to the mills in Minneapolis. The area became known as the breadbasket of the United States. The land grants given to the railroads by the U.S. government to finance the lines as they advanced into the western prairies were the impetus that opened up land for settlement. In addition, millions of acres were available to settlers through the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Timber Act of 1873. Others bought land from the Northern Pacific Railroad along its right-of-way.

When the Northern Pacific Railroad failed in the 1870s, Daniel Dodge (Mary's cousin) owned railroad stock that could be traded for land at par value; at the market price of the stock, this made the land available at 15 cents per acre. The Dodge farm consisted of two sections (about 1,500 acres) situated in the heart of the Red River Valley not far from the lights of Fargo.

The promise of the West, its land, and the bountiful crops from newly broken prairie soil lured many to the Dakotas. Larger farms were operated as a business, with seasonal help coming during the harvest to help with reaping. As many as 100 rigs paraded in steps to reap the "ocean of wheat." Mary Dodge Woodward arrived October 18, 1882, in Cass County, Dakota Territory, a 56-year-old widow with her three unmarried children, Walter, 30, Katie, 23, and Fred, 18. After the death of her husband, Mary—like many of her generation of women—was dependent on her children for support. Walter was to manage and operate her cousin Daniel's farm. She, in turn, managed the indoor work of making a home, cooking and cleaning for two or 22. While Walter and Fred were working on the farm, she and Katie, with the occasional help of a hired girl, kept the household operating.

The rhythm of the seasons—plowing, seeding, reaping, and enduring the confinement of winter—is mirrored in

Mary's entries. The prairie wind permeated the daily activities. The wind that in summer tore her flowers "to tatters" was the wind of winter "that cuts across the prairie so sharply that it is dangerous to be out far from the house." The wind and dry weather created fierce dust storms. "Dust flies in great clouds. . . . The house is filled with black dust, tight though it be; window sills piled with it. . . . Dust is even in the closets where there are no windows. Our faces are black in the house." But other times were more gentle: "The roses are beginning to bloom and all Dakota is literally covered with them. The roadways are bordered with roses and scarlet-eyed daisies. Walter picked some strawberries. I am sure they would grow with abundance under cultivation, but nobody tries to grow anything here except No. 1 hard wheat."

Mary saw her diary as an "old friend" which assuaged the loneliness of the open prairie. Her neighbors "come and go; families move in and out, and nobody asks whence they came or whither they go." Only Elsie and Lena Lessing are mentioned frequently. The daughters of a nearby farmer "are hauling wood with a four-horse team. Elsie stands up on her load and touches up the leaders with her whip like any man. They have done almost all the work on their farm this season: plowing, seeding, and harvesting. I cannot understand how any female can do such work as they do, yet it is plain that they are females."

Recording her world with quiet dignity—the physical world outside her door of weather, storms, and mirages, and her internal world of loneliness and her relationships with her children, especially Katie—Mary Woodward wrote simply, sometimes lyrically. "The ground is studded with diamonds of frost this morning, the whole yard of twenty acres gleaming and taking on lovely colors in the sunlight." Occasionally she writes with a wry sense of humor: "I can say that my path was strewn with roses, but if I should say my path to the pigpen, all the romance would be eliminated."

Mary Woodward wrote of the ordinary details that are seldom reflected in history books. Her diaries, a small gift each year from Walter, preserve a glimpse of this woman's life on the Dakota prairies and the settlers who first farmed in the Red River Valley.

Reviewed by BONNIE BEATSON PALMQUIST, archival collections cataloger in the Minnesota Historical Society, who recently compiled An Annotated Bibliography of Articles Pertaining to Women in "Minnesota History," 1915–1987 (1988). She is completing her master's degree at Hamline University.

Tribune of the People: The Minnesota Legislature and Its Leadership.

By Royce Hanson, with the assistance of Charles Backstrom, Patrick McCormack, and the Future of the State Legislature Study Team.

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. 278 p. Cloth, \$29.50.)

WITH THIS BOOK, Royce Hanson, former associate dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, hopes to help the Minnesota legislature deal with what he calls a "legitimation crisis." In it he and his colleagues ask searching questions: How did a well-respected legislature come to be seen as too often both inefficient and unaccountable? What can be done about the legislature's problems?

To address these concerns the book combines a fine history of institutional change in the 1970s and 1980s and a revealing treatment of political attitudes and institutional norms within the legislature. More interesting still is the provocative recommendation for establishing a unicameral legislature based on a four-year election cycle and buttressed by an increase in legislative staff.

Central themes in the book are the incivility of the legislature's politics while in session (particularly in the House) and its difficulties in making good public policy. To a degree, these problems stem from the impact on the Minnesota legislature of reapportionment based on one person, one vote, and the establishment of party designation for legislators. Along with the reaction to Watergate, these changes in the rules of Minnesota politics led to the overthrow in the mid-70s of a small group of leaders who had dominated the legislature for several decades. A new generation of leaders has struggled since then to assert control over the legislative process. Indeed, the legislature's decision to commission a study from the Humphrey Institute may be seen as part of this ongoing struggle. The rise of an "uncontrollable" budget and the increasing administrative complexity of activist state government have somewhat stymied the efforts of these leaders. Also, widening ideological conflict between the Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Independent-Republican parties has altered the meaning of divided government (a regular feature of Minnesota politics probably due to its electoral rules). Divided government has now become stalemated government.

The most important aspect of the "legitimation crisis" appears to be regular abuse of the conference process, revealed by Patrick McCormack in an early study released by the project that Hanson and his collaborators organized. The main business of House-Senate conferences, which operate in secrecy, is no longer adjustment of differences in legislation already adopted in the two houses; instead, they have become themselves a major source of new legislation that only receives perfunctory scrutiny in the closing days of a legislative session. There are few possibilities for the accountability to the public that comes from open and extended debate within the legislature. While the electoral process institutes some accountability, the public is largely unaware of the particular results of conferences. Abuse of the conference process in fact augments the power of lobbyists and special interests. The only reliable way to prevent abuse of the conference process, Hanson argues, is to transform the Minnesota legislature into

a unicameral body.

While this may seem a rather cavalier thing to do to an institution that has been around for over 130 years, Hanson's recommendation of unicameralism actually arises from a very deep appreciation of legislatures. Hanson is clearly worried that as state governments take on more responsibilities—due to change in the national political economy—their legislatures may come to be seen as disorderly, inefficient institutions that deserve to lose ground to governors and their bureaucracies. If so, American democracy will suffer, for legislatures, at their best, are innovative, open institutions that maximize both public awareness of issues and accountability to voters through their public deliberations. Without strong legislatures, government by discussion can of course still occur in the electoral process and through media debate, but it seems very foolish to dispense with legislative deliberation altogether. Hanson is thus extremely original in evoking the implicit danger to *all* state legislatures that has appeared in the past decade, as more policy responsibilities have been transferred to the states. His book is not perfect: it might have been better organized around its recommendation of unicameralism, and its approach to politics may be a bit too technocratic for some. But one hopes that this thoughtful work will inspire similar studies in other states.

Reviewed by RICHARD M. VALELLY, assistant professor in the department of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of *Radicalism in the States: The Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party and the American Political Economy* (1989).

Gateway Cities & Other Essays.

By Leonard K. Eaton.

(Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1989. 222 p. \$39.95.)

MIDWESTERN architectural history has tended to focus almost exclusively on Chicago and the influential commercial style developed there by such giant figures as John Root and Louis Sullivan. But as Leonard K. Eaton demonstrates in this fine collection of essays in the Great Plains Environmental Design Series, other cities in the Midwest and even Canada produced outstanding commercial architecture at the turn of the century. Eaton is particularly interested in the solid, unassuming brick warehouses that appeared between about 1880 and 1920 in such "Gateway" cities as St. Paul and Omaha. These buildings have attracted little attention outside their own communities, and one of the real pleasures of this book is that it illuminates a body of architecture that has been left in the dark for far too long.

The book's opening essay, which offers a definition and overview of the gateway city, is among the best. Here, Eaton provides a brief history of the growth of midwestern cities in the 1880s and explains why several developed into large rail-roading and wholesaling centers. The term gateway city comes from novelist Carl Jonas, who used the name to describe Omaha, the scene of many of his books. The hard-nosed, self-made businessmen who inhabit Jonas's fictional

world are of special interest to Eaton, because it was just such men who commissioned the great warehouses found in many of the region's cities. Eaton, a retired professor of architectural history at the University of Michigan, has long been interested in the relationship between architects and their clients, and his biographical sketches of various jobbing tycoons are especially informative. The opening essay also includes a helpful discussion of so-called mill construction, a system of heavy timber (and sometimes iron) framing that was used for most warehouses built before 1910.

The next four essays deal with specific cities: St. Joseph, Missouri, St. Paul, Omaha, and Winnipeg. The author chose these cities because all have large and (until recently, at least) relatively intact warehouse districts. One mystery is why Eaton, a native of Minneapolis, did not include an essay on his home town. There are some truly splendid warehouses in Minneapolis, which by 1890 had a larger wholesaling trade than its rival across the river. Moreover, Minneapolis warehouses tended to be more ornate and style-conscious than those in St. Paul, and exploring these differences might have made for a fascinating essay. Nonetheless, Eaton does well by the cities he has selected, offering a brief history of each, then discussing specific buildings, their architects, and their owners. He also dons the hat of a journalist, reporting on efforts to preserve and renovate each city's warehouse district. For the most part, he has good news to report, the exception being Omaha, where a massive redevelopment project has razed many fine old buildings.

The remaining four essays are a mixed bag. One is devoted to Oscar Eckerman, who was the architect for John Deere & Co. from 1897 to 1942. There is a good account here of the concrete-frame technology that became standard for warehouse construction after about 1910. Another essay deals with a pair of buildings in Michigan designed by Root, who was in many respects the most influential practitioner of the Chicago commercial style. Eaton also reprints, with an updated commentary, his ground-breaking 1960 essay on Chicago architect Jens Jensen. The last essay, which seems somewhat out of place, analyzes George Caleb Bingham's famous series of paintings from the 1850s that depict the American election process.

The five gateway city essays are clearly the best of the lot and make an important contribution to the study of architecture in the Midwest. Eaton is an architectural historian of the old school, which means he concentrates on placing buildings in their social and historical context and never detours into the obscure realm of semiology, iconography, and the like. For this, we should all be grateful. He is also a graceful writer, and these essays have an easygoing style that makes for enjoyable reading.

Unfortunately, Eaton is less accomplished as a journalist than as a historian. The research for most of these essays was done in the 1970s, and some of his reporting is badly dated. In the St. Paul essay, for example, Eaton paints a far-too-rosy picture of the Lowertown Historic District, which he obviously regards as a rousing success. In fact, Lowertown has had its ups and downs, the successes mixed with some spectacular failures and notable bankruptcies. Eaton would have been wise either to update his reporting in this case or dispense with it altogether. There are also some glaring factual

errors. In one place, he refers to the St. Paul Port Authority as the St. Paul Park Authority and in another makes a passing reference to the Minneapolis *Star-Journal*, a newspaper that has not been around for many a moon.

None of these reporting errors, however, detracts significantly from the book's value as an exploration of a too-often-neglected part of the Midwest's architectural heritage. Moreover, the book itself is nicely printed, with good photographs and extremely clear drawings by Robert Daverman. My only complaint in this respect is the oblong format, which makes it difficult to hold comfortably in the hand.

Reviewed by LARRY MILLETT, *architecture reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch and author of The Curve of the Arch: The Story of Louis Sullivan's Owatonna Bank. He is presently completing a book on lost architecture of the Twin Cities.*

Survival on a Westward Trek, 1858-1859: The John Jones Overlanders.

Edited by Dwight L. Smith.

(Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1989. xxxi, 145 p. Cloth, \$24.95.)

ON JULY 20, 1858, a party of nine men from Faribault, Minnesota, set out on an overland journey for the newly discovered gold fields of Fraser River in British Columbia. Loosely organized in two groups or "messes," they traveled by horse and wagon to St. Paul and over Red River trails to Fort Garry and the Selkirk settlements. There, in preparation for the journey over the plains of western Canada, they completed their outfits, trading off American horses and wagons for Indian horses, oxen, and Red River carts and adding 200 pounds of pemmican to their larder.

John W. Jones kept a penciled diary from day to day on the journey and sent off reports of the Faribault men's progress to Minnesota newspapers. His journal, prepared from his notes after he arrived at The Dalles, Oregon, in the spring of 1859, is now in the Newberry Library, Chicago. It is published here in full for the first time, although it was used extensively for another publication some five years ago.

The Faribault party did not travel far as a group. On the trail men shifted between the messes, and other, independent gold seekers joined on. Sometimes the party divided when men chose to follow alternate trails. As cold weather came on, several found work at Hudson's Bay Company posts and settlements and decided to wait out the winter. Others, among them Jones, struggled on to become the first of the overlanders to cross the Rockies, but none reached Fraser River in 1858.

For persons acquainted with conditions south of the border, Jones's well-written and entertaining narrative reveals a delightful mixture of the familiar and the unexpected. He describes encounters (all friendly) with Indians of a number of tribes and British officials and traders, adventures hunting buffalo and other wild animals and fowl; he comments on the wild flowers and picks a few to press in his notebook. He

notes with awe, night after night, the brilliant Donati's comet in the sky over their camp. He includes trail and weather conditions in a way undoubtedly helpful to the many overlanders who read his dispatches in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and followed on after his party another year. In some of the most memorable scenes of their miserable winter in the Rockies he tells of a heartwarming Christmas celebration with the Christian Kutenai Indians.

The Jones narrative is enriched with contemporary illustrations (1860) drawn by Manton Marble for *Harpers*, but there are no maps to help the reader trace the routes. Dwight Smith has edited Jones "silently," making paragraphs where they improve the text, correcting minor errors of punctuation and capitalization. Far less acceptable to this reader is his casual attitude toward the identification of persons, places, and events on the ground that "much of this sort of thing has already been included with other journal accounts of Fraser-bound overlanders." While one does not argue that it is necessary to identify *every* person, place, or event mentioned by Jones, surely such persons as, for example, (Pierre Chrysologue) Pambrun, Jr., and (John) Linklater to whom the Faribault train were much indebted, deserve to be identified, at the least, by their first names. Minnesota readers, too, would be pleased to have more adequately identified people like W. Ellis Smith, a later member of the 1864 Fisk expedition, and the (Charles C.) Caviliers who entertained Jones and his friends at the Selkirk settlements. More information about these and other colorful persons encountered on the journey would have enriched the narrative. As for Jones himself, Dwight Smith says that he was born in Iowa in 1831, was a clerk at Chatfield, and went on to a brief career in Nevada. One would like to know more about the obviously accomplished journalist. His name, for example, suggests that he may have been of Welsh descent. Could he have been related to the numerous Welsh families settled in southern Minnesota at that time?

Smith's book reproduces the Jones journal in full with illustrations, footnotes, and a somewhat inadequate bibliography. One book on the overlanders, for example, which the author apparently overlooked, supplies omissions in his editorial notes. Richard T. Wright's *Overlanders* (1985) narrates the adventures of the Faribault party and other overlanders who took the train to the British Columbian gold fields between 1858 and 1862. Not only does it supply biographical information about persons encountered on the journey and many of the gold seekers but it also tells us what happened to poor John Jones. Citing an obituary in newspapers of 1868, Wright says that Jones was a victim of alcoholism and jumped or fell from his boardinghouse window in San Francisco on December 12, 1868.

This reviewer would have liked to see much more of this kind of information, enriching the tale with more details about people, places, and events. Maps, rosters, and a more extensive bibliography would help put the 1858 adventure in historical perspective.

Reviewed by HELEN MCCANN WHITE, whose book Ho! For the Gold Fields (1966) tells the story of northern overland wagon trains to the Montana gold fields in the 1860s. She is also the author of Tale of a Comet (1985).

City Games: The Evolution of American Urban Society and the Rise of Sports.

By Steven A. Riess.

(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989. Illustrations, maps, index. 332 p. \$29.95.)

WITHIN THE LAST DECADE, the phrase "major league city" has entered the vernacular as a synonym for the nation's largest and best-known metropolitan areas. They are, of course, major league for many reasons, including population mass, economic viability, and political potency. But most of them also have professional national league sport franchises, a beneficence from which the phrase was originally drawn and which remains an important component of urban "big league" status.

This marriage between metropolitan areas and teams is but one phase in what Steven Riess suggests is a long-standing and dynamic relationship between cities and sport. Appropriately titled, this synthetic history documents the effects that American cities have had on sports and the effects that sports have had on cities since the early 19th century. In the end, the message of *City Games* is clear: modern sport is urban sport, and sport was (and is) the consummate meritocratic, democratic institution in American cities.

Riess's story focuses on three kinds of cities, chronologically ordered, each of which had distinctive physical and cultural conditions that begot particular sport rules, organizational patterns, and beliefs. In the early national period, as migrants from rural America and immigrants from abroad began to swell what had been towns, they created "walking cities" (1820-70), industrial and/or commercial centers that remained fairly small in area but projected new practical and cultural dilemmas and demands, especially for personal health, social order, and individual and group identity. In such places emerged sport-specific clubs that served as sub-communities for members, defined new rules for both old and new sports that fit both the space of vacant lots and the time that could be taken from work, and, with the help of the press, generated an ideology that fixed a faith in particular sports (especially the "new" athletic team games such as baseball) as panaceas for the ills and evils of urban living. After the Civil War, these walking cities gave way to industrial cities (1870-1960) which had even larger and more diverse populations, less open space, and different relationships with cities in other states and in the nation as a whole. Such conditions stimulated the establishment and growth of parks and playgrounds, athletic clubs, amateur and professional teams and leagues, and recreational sports galore, all of which played on and played out various strains of urban, industrial living: entrepreneurship, ethnic and racial conflict, educational needs, organized crime, party politics, and regional and national economic competition. Finally, at the end of World War II as urban populations began to move outward and westward, the "suburbanized metropolis" (1945-80) emerged and usurped the power and position of the industrial center. Wily politicians and businessmen also paid willingly and in some cases mightily for the franchises and facilities that had made the old cities "major league" centers. As the American obsession with spectator sports, fitness, and leisure grew, so did the sporting domains of the suburbs.

Not all historians will agree with Riess's description and periodization of urban development in the United States. His usage of the three prototype cities does ignore geographic and temporal variations. And Riess does not treat the pre-industrial forms of sport, like baits and cock fights, that continued well into the modern, industrial era. Urban historians will, however, find the author's treatment of the evolution of sporting types and of particular sports in the context of urban spaces, commercial patterns, demographic patterns, and popular beliefs quite comprehensive and accurate. Other historians and sport-history aficionados who are familiar with the literature upon which Riess draws will also recognize that much of the ground he treads has been covered before. Even for these readers, however, *City Games* offers new insights into the realms of financing and politics and more detail about some sports, like basketball, that have evolved from local practices to national favorites in the 20th century. Ultimately, this book does establish the fact that sports should be included in the telling of American history. Whether as business or as an article of faith, sporting interests clearly invaded and conditioned urban living.

Reviewed by NANCY L. STRUNA, *who is a social historian of early American sport and leisure at the University of Maryland. She is at work on a history of sport and the changing relations between labor and leisure in 17th- and 18th-century America.*

Enduring Seeds: Native American Agriculture and Wild Plant Conservation.

By Gary Paul Nabhan.

(San Francisco: North Point Press, 1989. 225 p. \$18.95.)

THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY of the American Indians began at least 7000 B.C., in present-day Mexico. Over the next 2,000 years agricultural practices spread northward and, by 5000 B.C. Indian farmers cultivated plants in the Midwest. Both environment and culture determined the manner in which native Americans domesticated, cultivated, and used plants of local and imported origin. The American Indians were superb plant breeders, who developed crops such as maize that thrived in both the desert Southwest and along the Canadian border. The domestication and cultivation of plants, however, not only changed the culture of the people who practiced agriculture but also the nature of the plants

themselves. Over time, domestication caused genetic changes that enabled plants to respond to their new, artificial environments and to become more productive. In time, both people and domesticated plants became inextricably linked; neither could survive easily without the other. With the demise of many native cultures and the destruction of the environment, however, the genetic base for many food plants has been lost forever, and the process of Indian agriculture remains unknown to most people. Irrigation projects, environmental pollution, federal Indian policy, and the economic realities of commercial agriculture have at best transformed Indian farming and at worst ruined it. Some native Americans, however, continue to plant traditional seed varieties by customary methods and thereby keep the gene pool alive. They do so because hybrid crops do not meet their needs and tastes or because those crops are unsuitable for their cultural farming practices, particularly in areas with a harsh environment.

The author, assistant director of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, has written an excellent book about the link between American Indian agriculture and the conservation of both seeds and the environment. He argues that by growing old varieties of native seeds one maintains a living link with the past and the cultures that depended on those seeds for sustenance. In this respect, seed preservation is important to one's cultural heritage. Nabhan discusses the importance of native American crops, such as marsh elder, wild rice, sunflowers, squash, and maize, to Indian cultures. He clearly shows the symbiotic link between plants, people, and the environment.

Essentially, Nabhan's work is a philosophical reflection rather than a history of Indian agriculture. His style is elegant, but the absence of endnotes will trouble scholars, even though he has provided a brief bibliographical essay for each chapter. Nabhan's call to the academic community and the general public alike to be more mindful of indigenous Indian agricultural knowledge will find a receptive audience among all who value traditional growing practices. For Nabhan, those practices are inherently important; their further loss will diminish both white and Indian culture. Overall, Nabhan has provided an excellent nature study, and general readers and scholars will find this book to be a good, brief introduction.

Reviewed by R. DOUGLAS HURT, *acting director of the graduate program in agricultural history and rural studies at Iowa State University, whose most recent book is Indian Agriculture in America: Prehistory to the Present (1987).*

NEWS & NOTES

IN *Dakota Oratory, Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Eastern Sioux, 1695-1874* (Rochester, Coyote Books, 1989, 102 p., \$14.95), compiler Mark Diedrich has gathered an impressive collection from a wide variety of published sources. Included here are some familiar people and their speeches—"Taoyateduta is not a coward!" and Wabasha (III), "They have seen the red man's face turned towards the setting sun"—which seem no less eloquent when surrounded with other examples of fine oratory. Diedrich has grouped the 80 speeches chronologically into six chapters: the French and British Period, Early American Period, Period of Intertribal Warfare, Treaty Period, War in Minnesota, and Postwar Period. A brief introduction sets the stage; in addition there are two appendixes— orators, by tribal division, and principal interpreters of the speeches—a bibliography, and 11 sketches by the compiler of the principal orators.

READERS concerned with grain marketing in Minnesota will take a special interest in *The Grain Traders: The Story of the Chicago Board of Trade* by William G. Ferris (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1988, 223 p., \$25.00). Although there are only a few Minnesota references in the book, scholars familiar with the wheat trade centered in the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce will discover common themes. Among them are the need for market services created by the westward expansion of grain growing, the emergence of grain merchants influential in the trade, the arbitration, regulatory, and marketing functions of a central market, attitudes toward it during periods of agrarian protest, and the role of government in controlling widespread marketing abuses.

Ferris, who became interested in the Board while reporting on it for the Associated Press between 1946 and 1957, competently blends broad themes with particulars of the organization's history from its

founding in 1848 to 1932, the year, he commented, that marked "a major turning point in the history of free markets." His intention was to emphasize commodity futures trading and individuals—individuals because "actions had an enormous influence on marketing and prices during the free-swinging, swashbuckling years under review." In writing about the individual traders, coterie, market "corners," "squeezes," and "bucketshops" during these zestful and perilous years, the author is at his best. Through his vivid descriptions and use of illuminating examples, he makes a very complex business understandable to nonspecialists.

Lucile M. Kane

TO COMMEMORATE the centennial of its Church in 1989, the Diocese of St. Cloud has issued *The Spirit in Central Minnesota*, a two-volume set by Rev. Msgr. Vincent A. Yzermans. These books will prove invaluable reference tools to researchers. Volume 1, subtitled *The Bishops and Their Times*, includes biographical sketches of the seven men and the significant events of their administrations. Volume 2, *Parishes, Priests and People*, provides brief histories of the 147 parishes in the 16 counties covered by the diocese, their priests, diocesan offices, religious organizations, and societies. It also includes information on lay people who served the church. More than 200 photographs also add to the value of this thorough document. The 1,133-page, two-volume work costs \$30.00 and can be ordered from local Catholic churches or bookstores.

RECENTLY published by the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology is *John Sayer's Snake River Journal, 1804-1805: A Fur Trade Diary from East Central Minnesota*, edited with introductory chapters by Douglas A. Birk (Minneapolis: The Institute, 1989, 67 p., \$9.95, plus \$1.50 handling and 6% Minn. tax). The story of Sayer's diary, for many years wrongly attributed to Thomas

Connor, was told in *Minnesota History* (Spring, 1979) by Birk and historian Bruce M. White. The present work offers a newly edited and annotated text of the diary, as well as six appendixes. The first of these, "published here for the first time," is an inventory of trade goods sent to Sayer in 1804 and believed to be written in his hand. Birk's introductory chapters provide background on the North West Company, the geographic area in which it operated, and the economics of the trade. He also includes brief biographical information on the Snake River Ojibway and some of his fellow traders such as Joseph Reaume, Joseph La Prairie, and François Bouché. Published with support from the Cross Lake Association, the book is available from the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, 3300 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis 55414.

I SAW THE RAVAGES of an Indian War is the diary of Amos E. Glanville, Sr., of Company F, 10th Minnesota Volunteers, from August 26, 1862, to July 29, 1863. In sprightly prose and with a few drawings, the diarist describes long marches, heat, cold, thirst, skirmishes with the enemy, and various encounters with his fellow soldiers. This small volume was faithfully transcribed by John K. and Carrol G. Glanville, the writer's grandson and great-grandson, but has some tantalizing gaps due to illegible handwriting and torn pages. The editors fill in where possible and describe the reasons for the omissions when necessary. The diary ends abruptly, but readers learn that the senior Glanville, still part of the 10th Minnesota, eventually traveled to St. Louis and joined the Union army for the duration of the Civil War. He was mustered out with the rank of sergeant in August, 1865. This 152-page book is available from John or Josie Glanville, Rt. 2, Box 71, Leoti, Kan. 67861 for \$8.00.



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