



■ Awards—given and received: *Minnesota History* coauthors Lisa Plank and Thomas Saylor have won the David Stanley Gebhard Award for the best article on Minnesota's architectural history. Their essay, "Constructing Suburbia: Richfield in the Postwar Era," appeared in the Summer 2008 issue. Given every two years by the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, the award honors the late Minnesota-born Gebhard, whose nationally known publications included work on the state's architectural history.

Austin Gromatzky's paper, "Southdale Regional Shopping Center: How One Man's Vision Fundamentally Changed the Culture of the United States," has won the 2010 *Minnesota History Magazine* Award for the best senior-division History Day paper on a Minnesota topic. Addressing this year's theme, "Innovation in History," the paper examines the genesis and outcome of architect Victor Gruen's ambition to "preserve urban civilization" by designing an enclosed suburban shopping center. The goal: to create a community center that would combat the placelessness, anomie, and other evils Gruen perceived in suburbia. Gromatzky is a junior at the Blake School in Minneapolis.

■ Inkpadata: the name of this Dakota leader has been irrevocably linked to the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857, an attack on forty settlers that earned the warrior a reputation for brutality. Now Paul N. Beck challenges a century and a half of bias to reassess Inkpadata's life and legacy. In *Inkpadata: Dakota Leader* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008, 176 p., cloth, \$24.95), Beck draws on Indian agents' correspondence, journals, and American Indian sources to paint a broader picture of the whole person, showing Inkpadata to have been not only a courageous warrior but also a dedicated family man and tribal leader who got along reasonably well with whites for most of his life, wanting nothing more than to uphold the traditional ways of his people.

■ Those traditional ways among many Native American groups include esteeming the wisdom, authority, and religious significance of old age. For the Ojibwe, this deference to older women and men has been crucial to surviving colonization. In *Honoring Elders: Aging, Authority, and Ojibwe Religion* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009, 400 p., cloth, \$84.50, paper, \$29.50), Michael D. McNally provocatively places the elder alongside the priest, prophet, sage, and other key figures in the study of religion. His book explores the nature of respect in Ojibwe culture, finding the key to earning this honor to be rooted in narrative traditions, moral vision, and ritualized practices of decorum that he compares to Confucianism.

■ *Small-town Boy, Small-town Girl: Growing Up in South Dakota, 1920–1950* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2009, 262 p., paper, \$17.95) brings together two memoirs of childhoods lived miles apart. Eric B. Fowler hailed from Milbank and recalls the hardships of growing up in a low-income, single-parent family. Sheila Delaney experienced the wealth and occasional grandeur of Mitchell's social elite. Together, their stories illuminate another view of the plains, beyond farm narratives or the Dust Bowl—life in thriving, modern American small towns. Both Fowler and Delaney tell stories of the joys of childhood, the sorrows of illness and uncertainty, and the complexity of family dynamics and human relationships. And while their respective small towns launched them to lives and careers elsewhere, eventually they were called back home to remember.

■ The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is just one of many races starring burly dogs whose ancestors were the lifeblood of the northern winter world, carrying people over otherwise impassable distances of snow and ice. *Born to Pull: The Glory of Sled Dogs* by wilderness adventurer Bob Cary (1921–2006), now back in print (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009, 96 p., paper,

\$12.95), is a celebration of these dogs who love to run in cold and snowy Minnesota. This charming book for younger readers features lively stories from veteran mushers, insider information on dog care and training, and watercolor illustrations by Gail de Marcken.

■ Students of labor and immigration history will be interested to note the publication of *Railroading and Labor Migration: Class and Ethnicity in Expanding Capitalism in Northern Minnesota, the 1880s to the mid-1920s*, Jimmy Engren's doctoral dissertation from Växjö University (Växjö, Sweden: Växjö University Press, 2007, 434 p., paper). Using Two Harbors as a case study, the monograph examines power relations based on class and ethnicity between the Anglo-American managers of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad and its Swedish immigrant laborers. The volume may be read in the Minnesota History Center library.

■ Another book available only in libraries is about—a library. The title tells the story: *They're Closing Our Library—From Jordan Branch to North Regional, a Lesson in Community Civics*. In this 410-page, large-format tome, J. S. Futcher with assistance from Edith Futcher details the story of how a committee of north Minneapolis residents formed in 1964 to contest the closing of a small branch library. Rewarded in 1971 with a larger regional facility, the committee continued to work to preserve the story of its activism as the neighborhood changed and financial tides again buffeted the Minneapolis library system. The book can be perused in the MHS and Hennepin History Museum or borrowed from the various north Minneapolis community libraries.

■ The nation's northernmost extant early-twentieth-century conservatory gets its due in Leigh Roethke and Bonnie Blodgett's lovely book, *Jewel of Como: The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory* (Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2009, 123 p., cloth, \$40.00). Lushly illustrated with contemporary

color photographs as well as reproductions of historic postcards and other images, the book sets its jewel within the larger story of landscape design, urban parks, and the men, trends, and events that made Como Park and its glass house a reality. The authors provide plenty of information about the conservatory's history and contents, too, taking the story to the 2005 opening of the building's new wing.

■ Moving outward from his previous study of the Kensington Runestone, Scott F. Wolter presents his theories about pre-Columbian travels on the continent in a new book, *The Hooked X: Key to the Secret History of North America* (St. Cloud: North Star Press, 2009, 276 p., paper, \$18.95). In it, Wolter traces the history of the X character, found on the Kensington and several other North American stones. His journey, which involves additional symbols, documents, and locations, leads him back, eventually, to the medieval Cistercian monks and Knights Templar, whose shared beliefs, he asserts, the symbol represents.

■ The history of a national treasure housed in Minnesota is vividly detailed in Dave Kenney's *The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra: 50 Years of Music* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2009, 128 p., cloth, \$30.00). More than a celebratory volume, the book offers an honest look at the ensemble's half-century of adventurous musical programming, leadership, and periodic troubles.

■ Eleven biographical essays highlight midwestern women who challenged gender, racial, class, or ethnic boundaries during the Populist and Progressive eras. *Feminist Frontiers: Women Who Shaped the Midwest*, edited by Yvonne J. Johnson (Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2010, 206 p., \$29.95) contains chapters on the lives of women ranging from the well known Carrie Nation of Kansas to less familiar women such as Elfrieda von Rohr Sauer of Winona. In her essay about this German American, born and raised within the teachings of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church, Carol Piper Heming points out the ways in which a woman who ap-

peared to follow a conventional path challenged protocol and authority. Although she may have appeared docile, "Frieda" extended her life beyond the usual boundaries of a pastor's daughter and minister's wife.

■ Wildfire is always a timely topic, as dry conditions keep the danger in the public eye. Coauthors Harl A. Dalstrom and Kay C. Dalstrom chronicle one such inferno in *"We Were Not Worried at Dinner Time": The October 1938 Forest Fires and the Last Frontier in the Rainy River—Lake of the Woods Borderland* (Emo, Ontario: Rainy River District Women's Institute Museum, 2009, 111 p., paper, \$20.00 Canadian). Relying largely on newspaper accounts and other local sources, the authors unfold the story of the warm and windy October day—Thanksgiving in Canada—when 17 people in Ontario and one in International Falls lost their lives amid widespread destruction. The authors also discuss the nature of life on what they call "one of North America's last frontiers." On the U.S. side of the border, the book may be ordered from the Koochiching County or Roseau County Historical Society (218-283-4316 or 218-463-1918, respectively).

■ Today, the Black Hills of South Dakota are home to a national park, two national monuments, and the largest state park in the country (Custer), not to mention Mount Rushmore. In *A Marvelous Hundred Square Miles: Black Hills Tourism, 1880–1941* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2009, 221 p., cloth, \$25.95) Suzanne B. Julin tells how private and government groups, both local and national, worked to turn an isolated part of the country into a national tourist mecca. The book also examines the ways in which these developments changed or affected the local culture and established a new identity for the region.

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