

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

The Arch began in 1962. But Bob Arteaga, the official architectural photographer, has left hundreds of photographs for us to enjoy. These color photos are presented in this handsome book, together with the miraculous life of Arteaga written by his long-time friend R. Ted Pepple. Arteaga not only photographed The Arch, but as the book illustrates, many of the best-known architectural structures in St. Louis also caught his camera's eye. This book is a real credit to the author and should attract anyone interested in architecture and photography.

*A Frontier Family in Minnesota: Letters of Theodore and Sophie Bost, 1851-1920*, edited and translated by Ralph H. Bowen. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1981. pp. 391, photographs, notes, index, \$25.00 cloth, \$12.95 paper.)

Professor Bowen of Northern Illinois University has done a remarkable job in making this collection of letters available to Americans. The letters were originally published in France, but are now available for our thorough enjoyment. Theodore Bost was a French-speaking Swiss immigrant who came from a wealthy family and after teaching school in New England moved to the Territory of Minnesota. Later his childhood sweetheart, Sophie Bonjour, joined him on a farm near Lake Minnetonka and they spent the next sixty years of their lives there. Both were gifted writers and their letters evoke their surroundings, their daily lives, in a prose that is vivid, precise, vigorous, and often profoundly moving. These letters go beyond the external life of an immigrant family and delve into the psychological dimensions of the immigrant experience, the feelings of exile, uprootedness, and loneliness. This collection of letters really amounts to a true-life novel about the first decades of settlement in the Big Woods of Minnesota. Intriguing reading which will hold the interest of scholar and casual reader alike.

*On the Illinois Frontier: Dr. Hiram Rutherford, 1840-1848*, ed. Willene Hendrick and George Hendrick. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982. pp. 115, illustrations, bibliography, index, \$19.95 cloth.)

Through the letters and newspaper articles written by Hiram Rutherford, a native of Pennsylvania who sought his fortune in the newly settled area of eastern Illinois (Oakland), the reader learns a great deal about frontier medical practices and the concerns of people on the Illinois frontier in the mid-1800s. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book concerns Rutherford's lawsuit over a family of

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slaves he hid. The slave owner, Matson, sued Rutherford and retained the legal counsel of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and Matson lost the case, but it is interesting to note Lincoln's stance on the issue and even more difficult to explain his conduct. This slim volume presents an astute insight into the life of an abolitionist physician on the Illinois frontier and should attract the attention of many readers and students of the period.

*Skid Road: An Informal Portrait of Seattle*, by Murray Morgan. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982 Revised Edition. pp. 288, photographs, index, \$7.95 paper.)

An urban history of a little-known city in the far northwestern corner of our country, this book vividly portrays the first 150 years of Seattle—the pioneering, Indian warfare, lumber industry, the Alaska gold rush, the amusement business, the strike of 1919, and the tumultuous politics of the city. The author writes in a humorous and creative style, but the book is based on solid research. A refreshing approach to urban history sure to delight its readers.

*Hearth & Home: Preserving a People's Culture*, by George W. McDaniel. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982. pp. 297, illustrations, photographs, notes, bibliography, index, \$25.00 cloth.)

A thoroughly researched work blending oral interviews with visual documentation to present a most interesting work on material culture. The author, a folklorist who wrote this book as a graduate student at Duke University, investigated black tenant farmhouses in southern Maryland. He drew upon the oral testimony of former slaves interviewed by the WPA in the 1930s and on reminiscences of elderly blacks who still live in similar type of houses. This is more than the history of such houses, it is also the story of the furnishings and lifestyles of those who lived in such houses. A superb contribution to the study of material culture and a credit to the publisher.

*Tell About When You Were a Little Girl, Grandma*, by Thelma Curry Luther. (Adel, Iowa: privately published, 1982. pp. 72, illustrations, n.p.)

A good example of family history and autobiographical narrative. The author has captured the real flavor of life in rural Iowa and produced a handsome, paperbound booklet. Could easily serve as a model to others wishing to write family history.

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