

Minnesota Historical Society Press

NEW TITLES

Spring 2027

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS

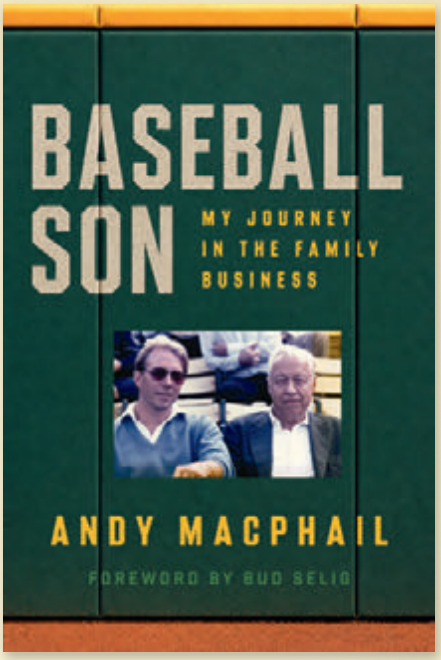
The Minnesota Historical Society Press is a leading publisher of the history and culture of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. The Press advances research, supports education, serves the local community, and expands the reputation of the MNHS through the publication of books and e-products, the *Minnesota History* journal, and the free, digital encyclopedia MNopedia.

Front cover: Disc golfers of all ages pose with the latest discs, from *Heavy Plastic: Frisbee Freaks, Flying Saucers, and the Disc Golf Revolution* by Joe Feidt (see page 4).

BASEBALL SON

My Journey in the Family Business

ANDY MACPHAIL
Foreword by Bud Selig



AVAILABLE APRIL

- MEMOIR / BASEBALL, 300 PAGES, 6 × 9, 32 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX
- HARDCOVER, $29.95 USD, $38.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-361-7
- E-BOOK, $19.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-362-4

The son and grandson of legendary Major League Baseball executives Lee and Larry MacPhail, Andy MacPhail joined the family business at the age of twenty-three with a temporary job in the Chicago Cubs' rookie league—and quickly began to climb. At thirty-three, he became the youngest general manager in baseball history and built the underdog Minnesota Twins into World Series champions in 1987 and 1991. He navigated the corporate politics of the Tribune Company as Cubs CEO during the 1998 home run chase and the devastating five-outs-away heartbreak of 2003. He engineered structural turnarounds as the president of baseball operations for the Baltimore Orioles and the Philadelphia Phillies.

With trademark understatement, MacPhail recounts fascinating behind-the-scenes stories of his hire as Twins GM, of grappling with free agency and data analytics, of becoming the first baseball executive ever traded. He does not skirt the effects of nepotism: getting fired from his first job because of it, tapping connections he had made as a teenager, and recognizing that "your last name could not rescue you from a bad performance." Written with the sharp wit of a seasoned professional balanced by the grounded perspective of a family man, this memoir reveals the emotional toll of a relentless game even while celebrating the cultural relevancy of America's pastime.

Andy MacPhail holds an important place in Minnesotans' hearts as the general manager of the Twins teams that won the World Series in 1987 and 1991. His career in Major League Baseball includes leadership roles with the Chicago Cubs, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Philadelphia Phillies. He lives in Delray Beach, Florida. **Bud Selig** served as Commissioner of Major League Baseball from 1998 to 2015.

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Top to bottom:

Kirby Puckett and Andy MacPhail after the Twins defeated Toronto to get to the 1991 World Series

Backyard baseball with Reed and Drew, mid-1990s

Lark, Reed, Andy, and Drew at the ceremony inducting Andy into the Twins Hall of Fame, 2017







FROM THE BOOK . . .

On returning to Minnesota after winning the 1987 National League playoffs

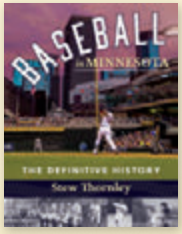
The pilot announced that a crowd was growing to meet us at the airport, and that we might need to participate in an informal thanks and acknowledgment before hopping on the buses to the Dome. Not long after, he came back on to say that the airport could not adequately handle the size of the growing crowd, now exceeding 5,000. The welcome-home fans would be asked to go to the Dome. . . .

Rather than using our customary point of disembarkation, the buses took us through the secure back entrance and drove us down to the giant garage door that was at field level. None of us had any concept of what awaited us when that door opened and we all stepped out onto the field. Over 50,000 fans had gathered spontaneously. I saw families who must have yanked their kids from their beds to be a part of the celebration, because they were in their pajamas. Most of us had tears in our eyes; some wept openly.

No experience in my professional life will ever match the moment those garage doors opened and revealed the size and exuberance of the crowd.

Stepping from behind the shadows of his Hall of Fame grandfather and father, this baseball son charts his own extraordinary forty-plus-year career shaping the modern game.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Baseball in Minnesota: The Definitive History
Stew Thornley
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD,
ISBN: 978-1-68134-212-2

They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota
Frank M. White, foreword by Dave Winfield
PAPERBACK, $19.95 USD, $25.99 CAD,
ISBN: 978-1-68134-004-3
E-BOOK, $12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-005-0

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mnhspress.org

HEAVY PLASTIC

Frisbee Freaks, Flying Saucers, and the Disc Golf Revolution

JOE FEIDT



Heavy Plastic is a love song to the thrill of playing sports. Hall of Famer "Jumpin'" Joe Feidt whisks readers back to disc golf's early days and shows how it has grown from a little-known countercultural pastime to a legitimate candidate for the Olympics.

Feidt recounts the game's origins, when long-haired hippies played Frisbee in city parks. He describes the eclectic cast of characters who founded disc golf: "Steady" Ed Headrick, Stork, Jim Palmeri, and many more. These trailblazers created associations, organized tournaments, marketed the sport, and innovated its trademark invention—smaller, heavier discs that flew farther than standard Frisbees.

A top Minnesota pro for years, Feidt was also the game's first journalist, publishing a disc golf newsletter in 1981. Feidt's leadership, coupled with an active statewide club, firmly established Minnesota as an epicenter for the sport. Today, the state has almost as many disc golf courses as traditional golf courses. Thanks to this groundbreaking work, Minnesota is a destination for disc golfers from all over and home to several world champions.

Heavy Plastic recaptures the carefree spirit of a simpler time, honors the contributions of fans and players, and celebrates the pure pleasure of the game.

AVAILABLE APRIL

- MEMOIR/SPORTS & CULTURE, 230 PAGES, 6 × 9, 30 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX, APPENDIX
- PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-363-1
- E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-364-8

Joe Feidt is Minnesota's original disc golf mover and shaker. He designed and installed several of the state's first courses, founded some of its first tournaments, and edited its first publications. A member of the World Disc Golf Hall of Fame, he lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .



Chain baskets were a major technological development in disc golf courses.

I first played catch with my brother Dan, sister Mary, and our dog Knut. But life would provide me with an ever-growing collection of new Frisbee friends. Beach Frisbee in Florida and Mexico with my adventure buddy Louis Newell was so much fun. Like a sailor tacking into the wind, I would throw into the breeze at an angle and let the disc hover his head. Slowly it would drop down, like a parachute landing. Running into the waves diving for the disc with girls watching. Those were the days.

I got passionate about Frisbee at Colorado College. It was September 1968, and I was off to my freshman year at CC, a liberal arts college in Colorado Springs. That year, our country had suffered through the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy. Riots and fires engulfed Washington, DC, Detroit, and even Minneapolis. The Vietnam War—and resistance to it—raged. Fear, anger, and tribalism ruled. Sound familiar?

In early September I packed my college essentials in a black trunk and flew to Colorado. In the black trunk were clothes, a small stereo, three albums (*Motown's Greatest Hits*, *Love-In* by Charles Lloyd, and Iron Butterfly's *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*), *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, a typewriter, the board game Stratego, a chess set, and a white Wham-O Master Tournament Model Frisbee.

In this unconventional memoir, disc golf's preeminent spokesperson recounts the sport's heady beginnings, follows its evolution into a cultural phenomenon, and celebrates the charismatic champions and devoted fans who made it what it is today.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Euphoric Recall: A Half Century as a Music Fan, Producer, DJ, Record Executive, and Tastemaker
Peter Jesperson, foreword by David Fricke
HARDCOVER, $29.95 USD, $38.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-271-9
E-BOOK, $9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-272-6

Home Club: Up-and-Comers and Comebacks at Acme Comedy Company
Patrick Strait
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-316-7
E-BOOK, $12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-317-4

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HAPPY TO GATHER

A Hospitality Guide for Midwestern Hosts and Guests

TERRI MICHELS

A cookbook and entertaining guide that offers practical tips, heartfelt traditions, and delicious recipes to help create gatherings filled with warmth, connection, and memories that will last for lifetimes.



AVAILABLE MARCH

- COOKBOOKS / ENTERTAINING, 224 PAGES, 8 × 10, 150 RECIPES, INDEX
- PAPERBACK, $29.95 USD, $38.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-357-0
- E-BOOK, $19.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-358-7

The concept of inviting groups of people to one's home for celebrations or commemorations can seem daunting. Even the most seasoned host may be pardoned for sometimes wondering, *Can I pull this off?* Equally concerning for the guest is the question: *How can I be helpful?*

In this Midwestern-themed and universally applicable hospitality guide, Terri Michels shares her vast experience on both sides of the equation, offering clear instructions for a variety of occasions, from the essentials of who to invite and what to serve to the enhancements of conversational prompts and decorative touches. Michels draws on decades of gatherings, telling stories of successes as well as comic outcomes.

Categories including Celebrations, Friendship, and Community highlight meals like "Chicken Dinner with a Twist," "Soups Supper," and "Minnesota Block Party." Thoroughly tested recipes are both straightforward and flexible, inspiring for novice and experienced cooks alike. And suggestions for accepting help from guests by giving them useful tasks strengthens the sense of community these gatherings build. This guidebook invites all comers to enjoy their time together around the table.

Terri Michels is a cookbook enthusiast, recipe creator, author, and photographer. She finds joy in blending her love for food, storytelling, and the beauty of everyday moments. She lives in Mankato, Minnesota.

From *Minnesota Potluck*

Margo's Broccoli Grape Salad

Margo and Steve may be newer to the neighborhood, but they've felt like family from the start. They moved here from "out East," bringing along their energy, their warmth, and a deep commitment to community. Both teach. Both stay active in social justice work. And both love to cook.

Margo often introduces us to new salads, soups, chilis, and grain dishes. She expands our table and our palates. At the same time, she honors her Midwestern roots with beloved classics like this Broccoli Grape Salad.

It's the best kind of sharing: something new, something familiar, and always made with heart.

10 cups broccoli florets (3½ pounds)
6 cups seedless red grapes (3 pounds)
1 cup sliced celery
6 green onions, white and green parts, sliced
2 cups mayonnaise
⅔ cup sugar
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 pound sliced bacon, cooked and crumbled
1⅓ cups slivered almonds, toasted
½ cup raisins and cranberries, optional

In a large bowl, combine broccoli, grapes, celery, and onions, stirring to mix. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar, mixing well. Pour over broccoli mixture and stir until well coated. Gently stir in bacon, almonds, and raisins or cranberries (if using). Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight to let the flavors blend.



Neighbors line up for a potluck feast.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Land of 10,000 Plates: Stories and Recipes from Minnesota
Patrice M. Johnson
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD,
ISBN: 978-1-68134-168-2

Dish and Tell: Recipes from the Heart
Sarah Peterson
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD,
ISBN: 978-1-68134-329-7
E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-334-1

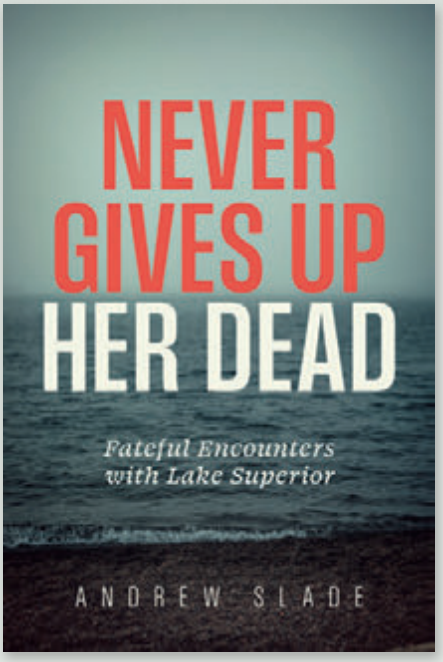
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NEVER GIVES UP HER DEAD

Fateful Encounters with Lake Superior

ANDREW SLADE

This spellbinding profile of Lake Superior, one of the world's most volatile landscapes, vividly portrays nature's power over human ambition and the tragedies that arise when the two collide.



AVAILABLE MAY

- NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT, 240 PAGES, 6 × 9, 40 B&W PHOTOS AND MAPS, NOTES, INDEX
- PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-365-5
- E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-366-2

Among the Great Lakes, Superior is truly superlative. It is the biggest, coldest, deepest, northernmost, and westernmost lake. It spans states and countries, eras and ages. Lake Superior occupies an indelible place in the imaginations of all who encounter it. Despite the lake's extremes, human beings have long dared to live near and travel or work on it. Unfortunately, the record shows that technological prowess is no guarantee against the dangers and power of the lake.

Never Gives Up Her Dead is an exploration of encounters with the lake's extremes and how its deadly conditions have laid bare the hubris of miners, explorers, paddlers, and swimmers. Drawing on archival research, Andrew Slade goes beyond familiar stories and headlines to tell forgotten histories of the shipwrecks, drownings, disappearances, and murders that dot Lake Superior's map. The book concludes with a reflection on what it takes to face Superior's dangers and make it out alive.

Andrew Slade has spent most of his life exploring the North Shore of Lake Superior, where he has worked in environmental education and policy for over thirty years. He is the author of several guidebooks, including *Hiking the North Shore*. He lives in Ely, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

On my visit to the village of Silver Islet, I walked the length of the harbor settlement, past chunky miners' lodgings built into a stony ridge, until I reached a creek and a lovely beach. Finally, the little tuft of dry land that was the mine site was visible, emerging from behind Burnt Island as I walked. From my shoreline view, the islet appears as a few scraggly trees barely standing on a pile of dirt that looks like the next storm could blow it away.

Did Frue win his battle with Lake Superior? Certainly the mine was productive, one of Canada's richest mineral lodes. But Frue himself died before the mine was closed, so technically the mine outlived him.

Lake Superior never gave up the fight and continues to this day to wash the remnant of the islet with her storms.

In the winter of 1883, after silver production had dropped to a mere pittance, the lake froze over sooner than anticipated, and the ship carrying that winter's coal for the pumps could not make it to Silver Islet. The pumps stopped. Superior water inexorably filled the shafts.

Lake Superior, in the meantime, has reclaimed Island Number 4, returning it to its original size. On a calm day, visitors in boats can still see the first few feet of the shaft, darkening in an eerie tunnel down into the earth. Apparently one could drop a silver coin overboard and it would disappear into the void, back into the earth.



Great Lakes freighter *Mataafa* lying wrecked at the entrance to Duluth harbor after the storm of November 28, 1905.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Last Entry Point: Stories of Danger and Death in the Boundary Waters
Joe Friedrichs
PAPERBACK, $19.95 USD, $25.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-286-3
E-BOOK, $9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-287-0

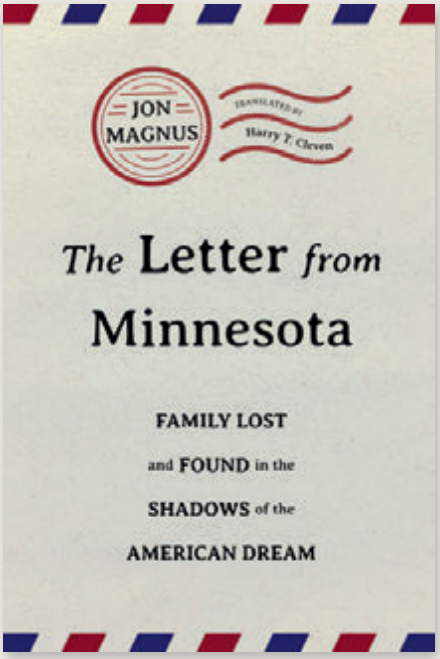
Minescapes: Reclaiming Minnesota's Mined Lands
Pete Kero
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-224-5
E-BOOK, $12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-225-2

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THE LETTER FROM MINNESOTA

Family Lost and Found in the Shadows of the American Dream

JON MAGNUS
Translated by Harry T. Cleven



AVAILABLE MARCH

- MEMOIR / GENEALOGY / SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES, 224 PAGES, 6 × 9, 30 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY
- PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-350-1
- E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-351-8
- COPUBLISHED WITH THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Ytterbø, Norway. The author's ancestral home. At the bottom of a painted wooden trunk, Jon Magnus finds a sorrowful letter sent from Kelliher, Minnesota, dated March 18, 1951. It is from his granduncle Edwin, who left the family farm in Tørdal in Telemark County in 1904—and wasn't heard from for forty-seven years, until this missive arrived. This "America letter," written upon the death of Edwin's brother and rediscovered decades later, inspires a search for answers.

Career news correspondent Jon Magnus employs investigative and narrative journalistic methods in telling the story of his granduncle. He visits archives, contacts long-lost relatives, and travels to the United States, trying to piece together the life of a man he didn't know in an era long gone. Why wasn't Edwin heard from for so many years? In recounting this history of family "lost and found," *The Letter from Minnesota* offers two interwoven stories, one about Edwin the immigrant, and one about the author and his search.

In this translation from the Norwegian, Jon Magnus explores universal themes in his family's story, coming to appreciate his granduncle's choices and his life in a new land, while chasing down surprising clues in a decades-old mystery.

Author **Jon Magnus** was a foreign correspondent for the Norwegian daily *Verdens Gang*. He lives in Drøbak, Norway. Translator **Harry T. Cleven** served as editor of *The Norseman* journal by Nordmanns-Forbundet (The Norse Federation). He lives in Oslo, Norway.

FROM THE BOOK . . .



Author Jon Magnus holds the letter that inspired his search for answers.

The sorrowful letter in the painted trunk has haunted me ever since I found it that evening many years ago. Who was the man who wrote it? Why weren't we told anything about him? And why did the family back home in Norway hardly hear anything from him? I've looked long and hard for the answers.

In the summer of 2016, 112 years after Eivind Ytterbø—Uncle Edwin—crossed the hills to reach the boat that would take him on the first leg of his journey, I find myself standing about as far out on the American prairie as it is possible to be. Countless weeks and months of searching—in old farm histories, in digitized archives, and on deep dives in dusty American basement storerooms—have provided me with a clue: It was here, in far southwestern North Dakota, that the poor farmer's son from Tørdal first sought his fortune. . . .

I hold a sort of map in my hand. In one of the squares, some bureaucrat sitting behind some desk has etched the name "Ed Yetrebo, 1906" in tiny letters in black ink. The name is handwritten and Americanized; still, it leaves no doubt: This is my granduncle who disappeared, the man who wrote the letter from Minnesota in 1951.

I drive as far as I can, counting the mileposts, and exclaim out loud to myself: "Here!" Then I grab the strange map and a compass and set out on foot.

An award-winning journalist investigates his own family's history, seeking to find a long-lost relative who emigrated from Norway to North America—and disappeared.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Muus vs. Muus: The Scandal That Shook Norwegian America
Bodil Stenseth, edited by Kari Lie Dorer, translated by Kari Lie Dorer and Torild Homstad
PAPERBACK, $29.95 USD, $38.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-298-6
E-BOOK, $9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-299-3

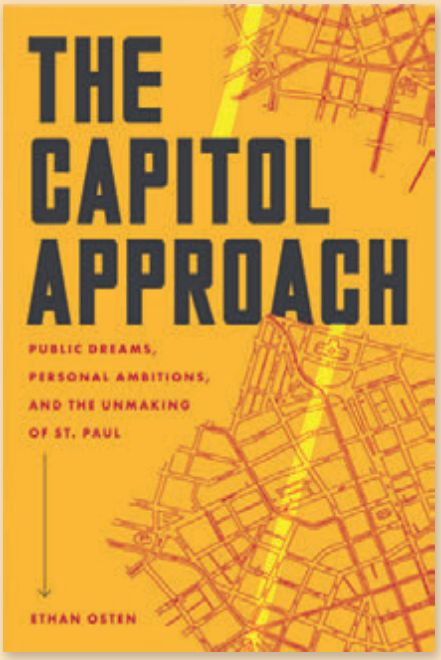
Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work
Odd S. Lovoll
PAPERBACK, $24.95 USD, $32.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-115-6
E-BOOK, $9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-120-0

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THE CAPITOL APPROACH

Public Dreams, Personal Ambitions, and the Unmaking of St. Paul

ETHAN OSTEN



In *The Capitol Approach* urbanist Ethan Osten examines civic planning in St. Paul, Minnesota, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Famed architect Cass Gilbert envisioned a beautiful park and parkway system in front of the Minnesota State Capitol building. For sixty years, city planner George H. Herrold idealistically sought to bring Gilbert's dream to life. Along the way a motley crew of entrenched political machines, labor organizers, civic and religious reformers, and an emerging guild of civil servants influenced the course of the city's history and set the stage for the dream's partial fulfillment.

Herrold added ideas of his own to Gilbert's dream. He sacrificed his reputation for the cause. Finally, he achieved success by subordinating his own will to the Capitol Approach. In a tale rife with secrets and betrayals, compromise and qualification, altruism and idealism, Herrold ultimately discovered that achieving a worthwhile goal could require sacrificing everything else he held dear.

AVAILABLE MARCH

- POLITICAL HISTORY/URBAN PLANNING, 656 PAGES, 6 × 9, 70 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX
- PAPERBACK, $39.95 USD, $51.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-359-4
- E-BOOK, $17.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-360-0

The Capitol Approach is a case study of how civic plans and moral reform efforts, once embedded in institutions, can outlive and outgrow the reasoning that produced them, and how the planners, politicians, and citizens who pursue them can be undone by their own success.

Ethan Osten is a professional transportation planner. Previously, he was principal assistant to the chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. He holds a master of arts degree in classics from the University of Minnesota. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

The Capitol Approach dream was no closer than ever. There was still no Circumferential Bypass or Central District Bypass, no Edgcumbe Parkway extension, not even a fully built out Kellogg Mall. As Betz was lowered into the ground in Oakland Cemetery that spring, George Herrold might well have felt part of his own career being buried with him. The golden age of the city planning movement in St. Paul was over. Who knew if it would ever recover?

Herrold's days were now monotonous and uncomfortable, spent in a Public Works office cold to his ideas instead of the comfortable private suite that had been his domain for years. Rosen and Shepard probably meant to keep it that way. He was seventy years old. Most of his contemporaries in early planning had long left their official city posts, and even the revered Edward H. Bennett had been fired by the Chicago Planning Commission back in 1929. And if he should refuse to retire, well, Shepard's scrapbooks were filled with the obituaries of far younger colleagues. It was only a matter of time. Rosen was a popular politician in the prime of his life, and he could be confident of outlasting a septuagenarian. Shepard was only a few years older than Rosen. Surely, they must have hoped that they would convince Herrold to give it up soon.

The old man knew better. He had worked under a dozen commissioners and city engineers. Rosen and Shepard might believe they could freeze him out, but they were wrong. He would leave them all waiting.

A legendary architect's vision for the grounds in front of the state capitol inspired a city planner to devote his career to making it happen. But bringing the dream to life exacted a heavy toll, displacing residents and destroying a reputation. This gripping tale reveals the human cost of grand ambitions.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Becoming the Twin Cities: Swindles, Schemes, and Enduring Rivalries
Drew M. Ross
PAPERBACK, $27.95 USD, $36.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-323-5
E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-324-2

John Dillinger Slept Here: A Crooks' Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920–1936
Paul Maccabee
PAPERBACK, $29.95 USD, $38.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-0-87351-316-6
E-BOOK, $14.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-946-5

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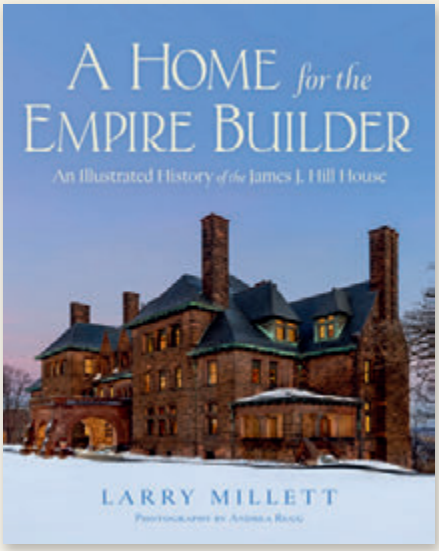
A HOME FOR THE EMPIRE BUILDER

An Illustrated History of the James J. Hill House

LARRY MILLETT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA RUGG

One of Minnesota's most magnificent homes, the historic James J. Hill House remains a testament to the wealth, ambition, and power of the nineteenth-century railroad titan who built it.



AVAILABLE MAY

- ARCHITECTURE / MINNESOTA HISTORY, 144 PAGES, 8 × 10, 200 COLOR AND B&W PHOTOS, INDEX
- HARDCOVER, $34.95 USD, $45.99 CAD, ISBN: 978-1-68134-327-3

Founder of the Great Northern Railway and one of the nation's richest men, James J. Hill began planning for his grand new house on Summit Avenue in the late 1880s. Designed for Hill's large family, which included his beloved wife, Mary, and nine children, the house was the biggest and most expensive ever built in St. Paul, and it remains so to this day.

With massive, unadorned walls of Massachusetts sandstone, the house's exterior reflects Hill's dominating personality. Yet Hill was also an art lover, and the home's interior features surprisingly delicate woodwork, much of it carved by hand, among many other artisanal features as well as engineering innovations. The 36,000-square-foot house was finally completed in 1891, and it was Hill's home until his death in 1916.

After Mary Hill's passing in 1921, family members donated the mansion to the St. Paul–Minneapolis Archdiocese, which used it for classes, residences, and offices over the next fifty years. In 1978 the Minnesota Historical Society acquired the house and undertook extensive repairs and restoration before opening it to the public for tours.

A Home for the Empire Builder is the first full account of the landmark's history, complemented by photographs that capture the sophistication and grandeur of the Gilded Age.

Architectural historian **Larry Millett** is the author of *Minnesota's Own: Preserving Our Grand Homes*. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. The work of award-winning architectural photographer **Andrea Rugg** has been featured in more than fifty books on home improvement. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .



Two industrial-strength basement boilers kept the house warm on even the coldest days.

The heating system was especially important to Hill, and he sought to make it as powerful and efficient as possible. The home's furnace room, located beneath the picture gallery, is especially impressive, built around two mammoth brick-lined, coal-fired boilers. Installed by E. P. Bates of Syracuse, New York, the steel and cast-iron boilers were set in an extra-deep room in the basement below the gallery. The boilers, which remain in place but are no longer used, look as though they would have been large enough to heat an entire office building.

Although bathrooms and servants' quarters were equipped with standard radiators, most of the house was heated indirectly through a system of twenty-six heating chambers located in the basement. Radiators mounted horizontally along the ceiling of the chambers produced warm air that rose through the house, without mechanical assistance, via a series of ducts. Bates supposedly guaranteed that the system could heat the house to seventy degrees even if the temperature outside plunged to forty below zero. The house's twenty-two fireplaces provided added heat during particularly cold winter days and also helped increase air circulation throughout the house as part of its carefully designed ventilation system, which included an air intake tunneled beneath the house and a fan in the attic.

The rest of the basement included the kitchen, where Mary could sometimes be found making preserves, as well as a laundry, a cold storage chamber, a wine cellar, and a servants' hall and dining room. The laundry was connected to a room equipped with ingenious racks where clothes could be hung to dry.

ALSO OF INTEREST





Minnesota's Own: Preserving Our Grand Homes
Larry Millett, photographs by Matt Schmitt
HARDCOVER, $49.95 USD, $64.99 CAD,
ISBN: 978-0-87351-929-8

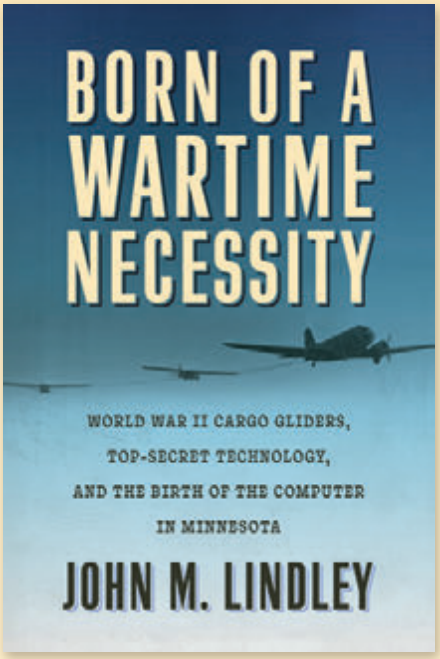
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BORN OF A WARTIME NECESSITY

World War II Cargo Gliders, Top-Secret Technology, and the Birth of the Computer in Minnesota

JOHN M. LINDLEY



Born of a Wartime Necessity provides an in-depth examination of the men and women of Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC) in Minnesota who built more than 1,500 cargo gliders that were used in airborne operations in the European and Pacific Theaters of World War II. Investment banker and entrepreneur John E. Parker founded the company and launched its fledgling operation off the ground and into the skies.

Historian John M. Lindley shines a light on an obscure weapons system while honoring a local company's presence on global battlefields. Despite fragile appearances, cargo gliders are effective unpowered aircraft for transporting troops, arms, and supplies into combat zones. During World War II NAC gliders were deployed in such battles as Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands, the Burma campaign, and the invasion of Normandy.

Following the war, NAC transformed into Engineering Research Associates (ERA). This early computer company in St. Paul trailblazed technologies that served mid-century civilian businesses as well as supporting government surveillance during the Cold War.

Born of a Wartime Necessity documents how NAC's history is a distinctive Minnesota story of wartime industry, manufacturing innovation, and civic commitment.

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John M. Lindley is a historian and the author of several books, including *Carrier Victory: The Air War in the Pacific.* A former navigator in the US Navy, he worked for West Publishing before retiring as editor of *Ramsey County History*. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .



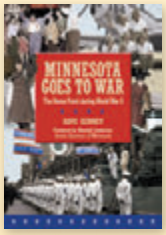
Finished CG-4A gliders at Wold-Chamberlain Field ready to be flown to bases. VILLAUME INDUSTRIES

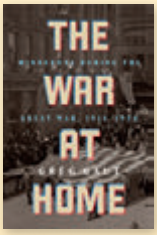
In December 1941, the United States had few plans, some blueprints, and a handful of experimental gliders, but it had no doctrine that defined how it might use gliders in combat. Nazi Germany, in contrast, had marshaled all those resources. Its air force had already demonstrated (in May 1940 in Belgium with the use of forty-two gliders and in May 1941 with seventy-four gliders while assaulting Crete) that the cargo glider was a weapons system that could be effective in air-land assaults, especially when they were used alongside paratroopers.

Unlike paratroopers who might be scattered over a large target area in an airborne assault and who could only carry the weapons that dropped with them, gliders could land on whatever flat, short, unprepared ground they could find at the point of attack. Gliders could carry small teams of soldiers or essential equipment such as jeeps, fuel, ammunition, or howitzers. Glider troops required no specialized training in using parachutes. Thus, many more soldiers could quickly land along with the paratroopers. Spurred by Germany's airborne successes, in May 1941 the US Army Air Forces rushed to establish its own glider program. Could the United States catch up, particularly when aviation experts believed that superior air weapons favored victory in combat? With so much at stake, the AAF had no time to waste in developing a glider program.

The untold story of Minnesotans who built the cargo gliders that helped win World War II—and the visionary founder who transformed a Minnesota aerospace company into a technological pioneer.

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A GARDEN FOR ALL

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Caring for a garden is a year-round job, one that brings joy in the planning as well as in the eating. In between there is a lot of work: preparing the ground, taming the weeds, harvesting tasty fruits and vegetables, canning or freezing to enjoy through the winter.

Cali and her mother begin by looking at the seed catalog and deciding what to grow. They rake and smooth the garden patch. They plant the seeds, label the rows, and water the thirsty shoots.

As they work, creatures of all shapes and sizes make the garden their home, helping to enrich the soil. Ducks and deer and bunnies nibble on the greens. Birds and butterflies visit for shelter and for nectar.

The garden is generous: string beans, zucchini, brussels sprouts, beets, peppers, swiss chard. Cali and Mom gather the roots and the leaves. They chop and blanch and can. They line their pantry shelves and admire the vibrant colors.

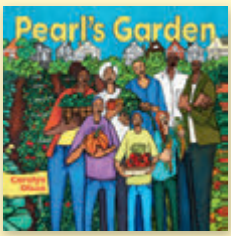
Back outside, the garden's inhabitants—both aboveground and below—make use of the vines and the sunflowers, the stems and the scraps. The garden is always there, protecting and nourishing all of nature's inhabitants. And Cali and Mom are always looking forward to the next season.

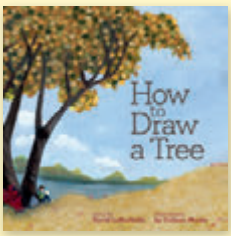
Children's book artist **Colleen Muske** is the author-illustrator of *Linden: The Story of a Tree*, the author of *Brave Old Blue*, and the illustrator of *How to Draw a Tree* by David LaRochelle. She lives in Stillwater, Minnesota.





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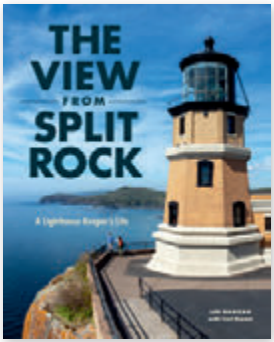


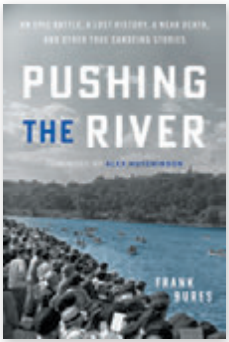


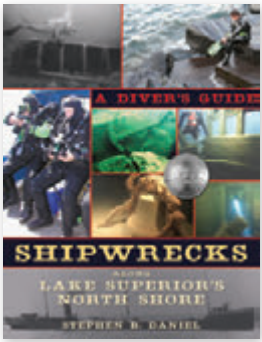
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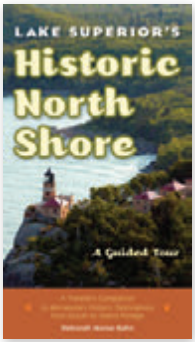
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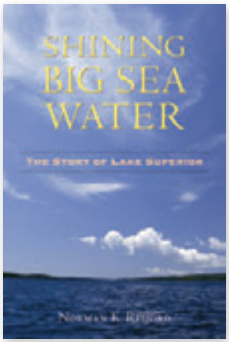
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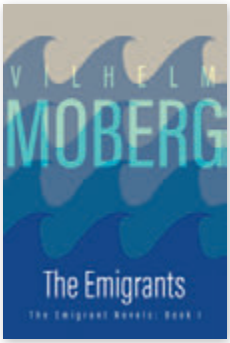
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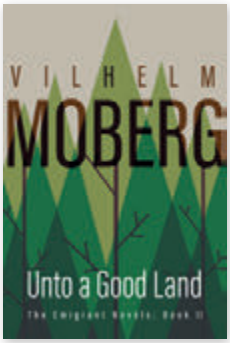
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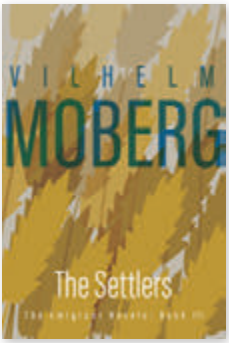
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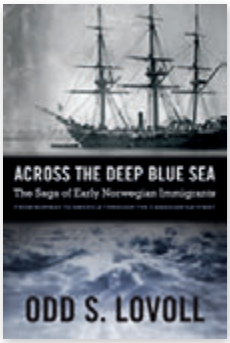
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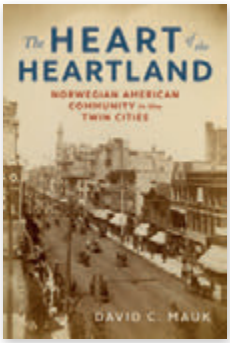
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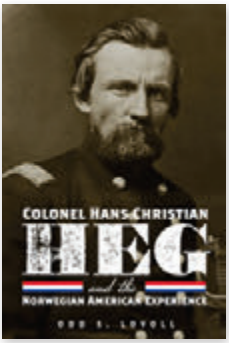












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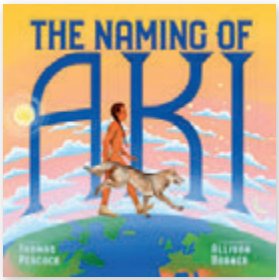
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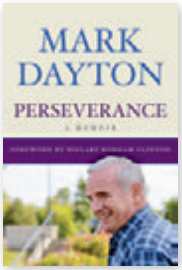


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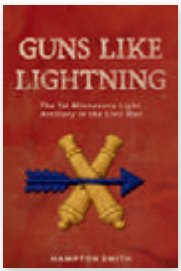


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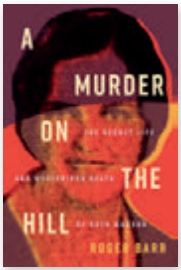


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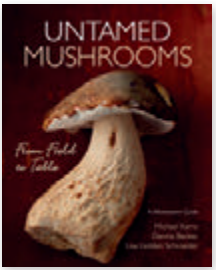
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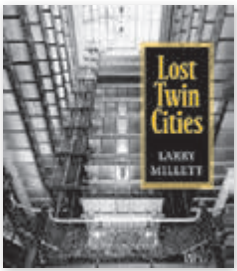


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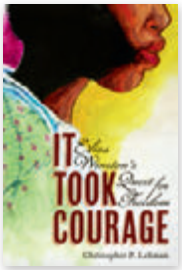


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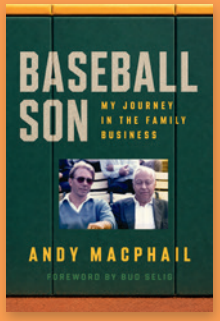
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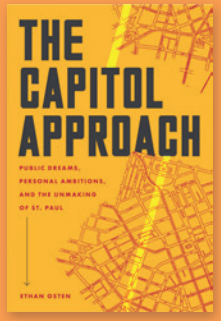
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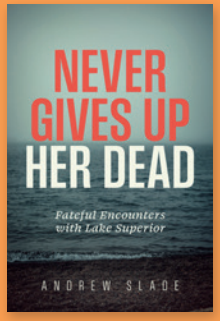


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