The Annals of Iowa

x, 218 pp., illus., notes, bibliography, index, $15.00.)

The author is concerned with the architectural origins of four temples in Utah of the nineteenth century. Her thesis is to establish an American provenance for these early temples through stylistic analysis.

The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture. By Charles van Ravenswaay. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977. 535 pp., illus., map, notes, bibliography, index, $45.00.)

In seeking to discover how the origins and experiences of individual Missouri-German craftsmen influenced their work, the author delights in describing individual houses, baskets, chairs, etc. Yet he never loses sight of the people themselves. More than 600 illustrations enhance the book. This work should interest those working with ethnic topics who may not have the expertise to interpret the kinds of historical evidence dealt with in this book.


A skillful examination of the “invention” of the idea of Appalachia and its impact on American thought during the early twentieth century. It is the history of an idea rather than a history of Appalachia itself. An excellent 50-page bibliography enhances the work.


Steamboats played a significant role in the history of Iowa and the Midwest. But few people realize their importance in the West. Other books have dealt with steamboats in other sections of the West, but this is the first to be concerned with the boats
that churned the waters of the Colorado River from the Gulf of California to Wyoming between 1852 and 1916. The lifeline of many areas was the steamboat bringing supplies and carrying back millions of dollars in precious metals. It is ironic that steamboats aided railroad construction which helped speed their own demise. This book, lavishly illustrated, documents a colorful and important segment of the history of the American Southwest.


Riding in a motorhome furnished by the Winnebago, Inc. of Forest City, Iowa, the author and his family traveled the route of the Lewis & Clark trail. While civilization has altered most of the route, much of the beauty remains undisturbed. Using the journals of Lewis & Clark, the author combines their observations of 1804-06 with his own personal ones. Iowans are especially interested in the fact that the only casualty of the expedition, Sergeant Floyd, died on the Missouri River and was buried in what is now Sioux City. Today the Sergeant Floyd monument (a sandstone obelisk resembling the Washington Monument) stands as Iowa's tribute to this expedition. Complementing the narrative are the drawings of flora, fauna, and scenery. Lewis & Clark would have enjoyed this book with its useful maps and listing of the sites and facilities available along the trail to the modern adventurer.

*William Clark, Jeffersonian Man on the Frontier.* By Jerome O. Steffen (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977. xii, 196 pp., illus., notes, bibliography, index, $9.95.)

More than the usual biography this work is an analysis of Clark's life as it reflects early nineteenth-century America.

*Wilderness Calling: The Hardeman Family in the American Westward Movement 1750-1900.* By Nicholas Hardeman. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977. 357 pp., illus., maps, bibliography, index, $14.95.)
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