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Minnesota. Dept - Minnetours, 11 easy ways to discover

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnetours

11 easy ways
to discover
MINNESOTA.



All yours. All year. All near.

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How to use this Minnetour brochure.

First, what's a Minnetour?

It's what it sounds like. A "mini-tour" of Minnesota. A short, routed loop trip of one of our state's areas that is especially rich in historical, natural and recreational attractions.

Where are these Minnetours?

Look at the Minnesota map on the opposite page. It shows all 11 of the Minnetours you'll find individually routed and described in this brochure. Note that no matter where you are in Minnesota you're near your next Minnetour.

Is each Minnetour complete?

As complete as possible. But, naturally, we couldn't include everything on any given route. So there are many interesting sites and side trips you'll want to discover on your own. Which makes Minnetours even more fun.

Where should you start?

Each Minnetour is routed from an arbitrary starting point and proceeds in a counter-clockwise direction. But, since these are loop trips, you can start a Minnetour at any point you choose.

Are the directions accurate?

Yes, except for unforeseen detours, our directions will accurately guide you. But you may want to take side trips or short cuts, so we suggest you obtain a copy of the current official Minnesota highway map. Also, our directions are necessarily brief regarding specific locations of many sites. Don't hesitate to ask for directions when you stop for food or fuel. Minnesotans are good neighbors.

Want more information?

For more information, such as the dates of events mentioned in our Minnetour descriptions, write to: Minnesota Tourist Information Center, P.O. Box 102, 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN. 55101. Or call toll-free (800) 652-9008.

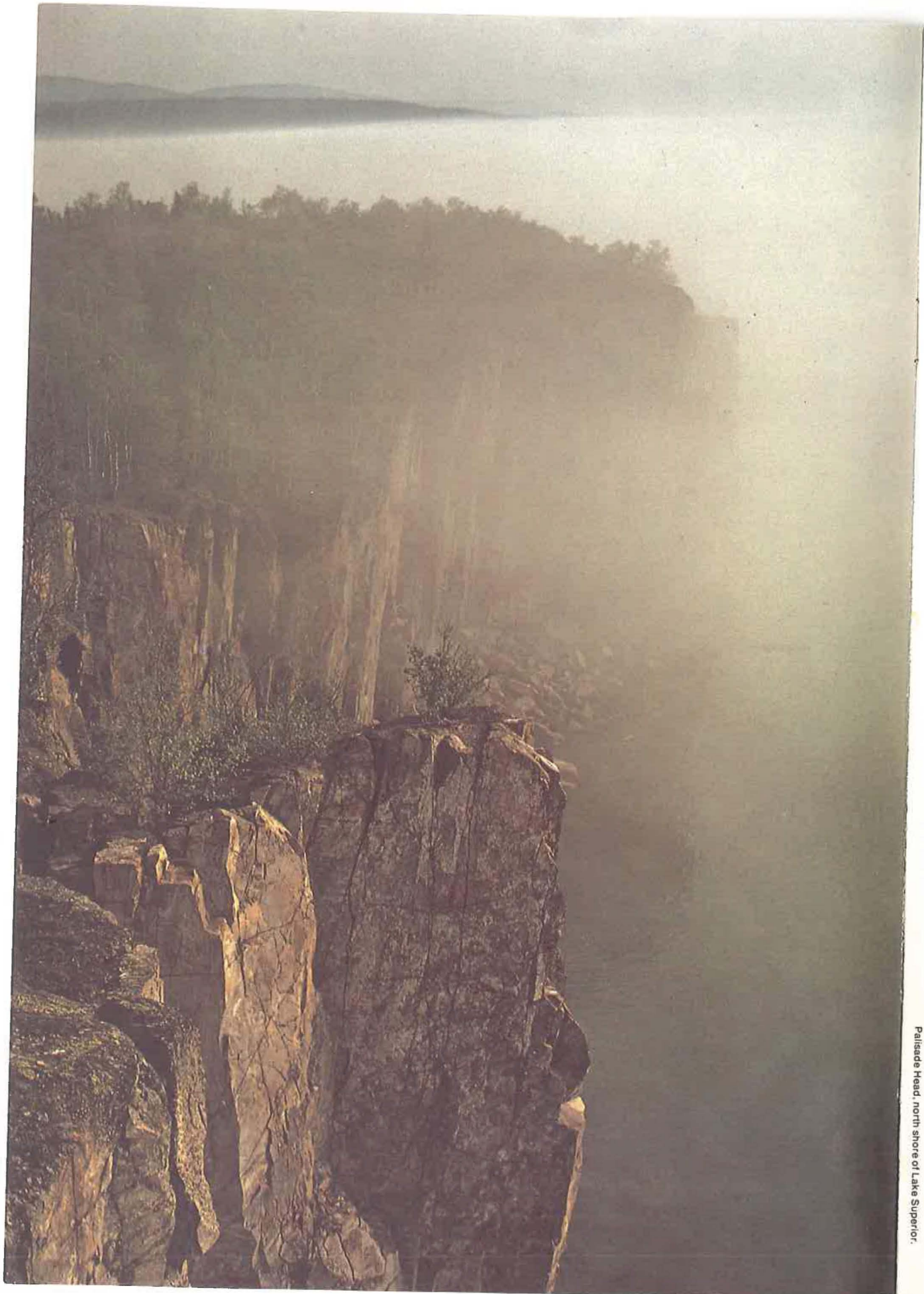
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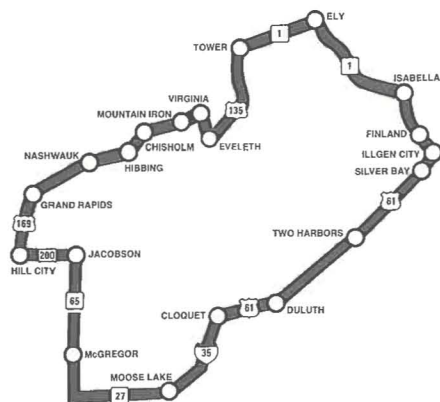
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Palisade Head, north shore of Lake Superior.

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SUPERIOR TREK *Minnetour 1*

Duluth is a good starting point for this tour. If you drive into the city on I-35, stop at Thompson Hill Information Center not only for information, but also for the panoramic view of Duluth international harbor, largest inland port in the world. Metro Duluth's information center is located on the harbor side of the auditorium arena.

Duluth provides a wide variety of exploring opportunities. You can watch ships pass under the famous aerial lift bridge from the big picture window in the Marine Museum. Or, drive the 30-mile Skyline Drive for a spectacular view of the city and harbor. Or visit the new Lake Superior Transportation and Industrial Museum in the Area Cultural Center in the old Union Depot. Be sure not to miss the new year-round recreational area, Spirit Mountain, one of the largest ski areas in the Midwest.

Now head north on Highway 61 along Lake Superior's magnificent North Shore Drive. Travel to Two Harbors on old Highway 61, the scenic route along the lakeshore.

At Two Harbors, observe ore loading operations from Paul Van Hoven Park or from Fisherman's Point. Eight blocks south of Highway 61 in town is the Two Harbors Information Center and the Lake County Historical Society Museum. See old "Three Spot," the first locomotive to carry ore from the Soudan mine, and a 20th century railroad locomotive, one of the largest of its kind ever built in America.

Continue north on 61 to Gooseberry Falls State Park. Park your car, load your camera and take the footpath to the magnificent falls.

Proceed north to Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. It preserves a lighthouse built in 1909. A unique attraction is a tape-recorded, self-guided tour.

You can lunch in Silver Bay or buy snacks for a picnic at Palisade Head. Palisade Baptist Church is a good landmark to watch for before you turn off to the 350-foot rock cliff providing an awesome view of Lake Superior and, inland, the jagged Sawtooth mountains.

Continue to Baptism River State Park where a scenic foot trail leads to another spectacular waterfall.

Drive Highway 1 through the stately pines of the Superior National Forest, and enjoy some of Minnesota's most beautiful wilderness views on

the route into Ely, best known as a jumpoff point for canoeists heading into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, largest unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the nation's only wilderness canoe area. About a mile east of town on Highway 159 is the Voyageurs Visitors Center, with mining and lumbering displays plus a replica of a voyageur canoe.

From Ely, go west to Tower-Soudan State Park, probably the most unusual of our state parks because here you can take the country's only tour of an underground iron mine. It's a half-mile below the ground and open June through September.

Now follow Highway 135 to Eveleth, home of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame. Then go north to Virginia and the "Viewpoint in the Sky," a 20-story observation platform from which you can watch operations at the Rouchleau Mine.

Continue to Chisholm and the Museum of Mining for a good background on iron mining technology (Minnesota produces two-thirds of the nation's iron ore).

Next is the lively town of Hibbing, home of the world's largest open-pit iron mine, the Hull-Rust-Mahoning mine, almost five miles across and nearly 600 feet deep.

At Grand Rapids, visit the Information Cabin with your campground, resort, restaurant and sightseeing questions. You might also arrange a tour of Blandin Paper Company's mill before heading south to Hill City.

In Hill City is spring-fed Hill Lake, where you can enjoy a pleasant park with picnic tables, swimming beach and campground. From there, follow Highway 200 through Hill River State Forest to Jacobson, then south to Savanna Portage State Park on your route to McGregor.

South of McGregor is the 16,000-acre Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Great blue herons, geese and Indian burial grounds are prime attractions.

Continue east to Moose Lake, host of Agate Days in mid-July. Agate hunters can find our state gemstone along almost any gravel road in Carlton county.

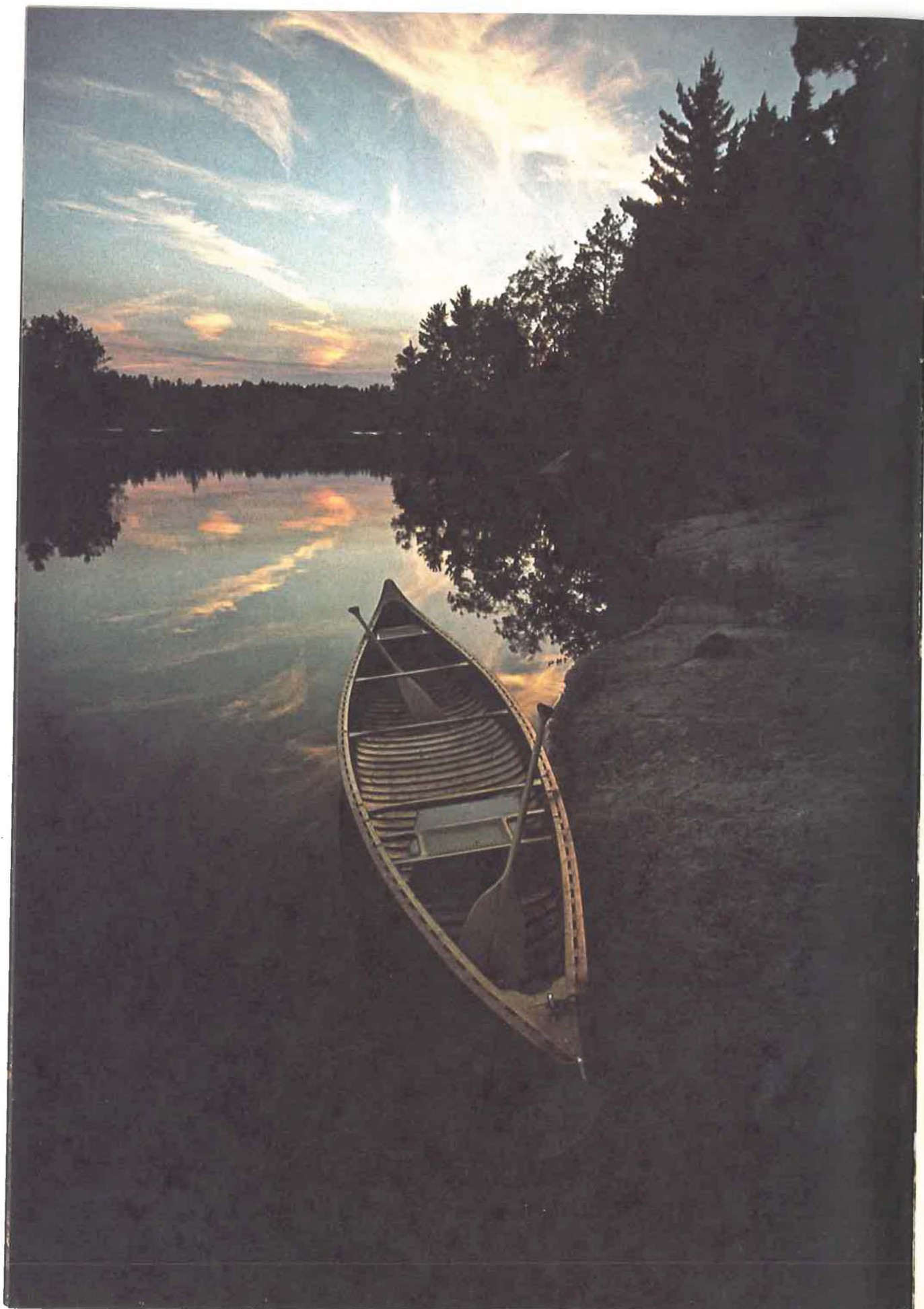
From Moose Lake, take I-35 north. Stop at Jay Cooke State Park, featuring spectacular terrain with the St. Louis River running through a picturesque gorge.

If you're interested in architecture, stop in Cloquet. There's a gas station in town designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the only one he designed.

Alternate Route

From Ilgen City, follow Highway 61 to the tip of Minnesota and the Grand Portage National Monument, a fur post restored to its 18th century appearance to recall when it was the boisterous center of Voyageur activity.

Interspersed along this scenic drive are the famous recreational areas of the Gunflint Trail, the Sawbill Trail and the Arrowhead Trail, each with its own system of trails, resort and camping facilities. Another attraction is the Lutsen North Shore Art Fair in mid-July.



Lac LaCroix in the border lakes country.

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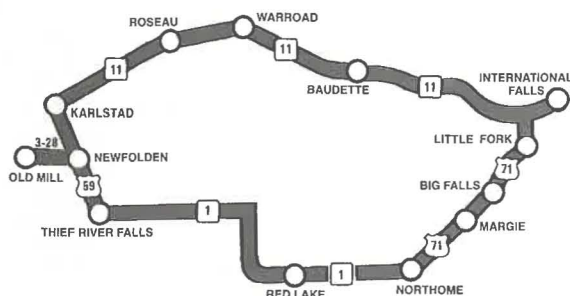
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VOYAGEURS EMPIRE *Minnetour 2*

We begin this Minnetour in International Falls on the Canadian border. Here you can tour Boise Cascade's large paper manufacturing facility in the morning and afternoon, Monday through Friday, and take pictures of the children with Smokey the Bear at Smokey Bear Park.

International Falls is the major jumpoff point into the legendary Voyageurs National Park. When complete, the park will encompass some 219,400 acres, of which about 80,000 are water. The main body of land is Kabetogama Peninsula, accessible principally by water, with an interior that holds a number of lakes that can be reached only by foot. Through this forested lake country, the French-Canadian voyageurs transported furs for a century and a half. Though the colorful voyageur is gone, his land is not. From the water, the stretch of lake country today looks much as it did during the late 1700s and early 1800s. You can enjoy camping, fishing and boating within the boundaries of this national park. Access roads lead from Duluth, Orr and International Falls. There are no roads into the interior.

From International Falls, take Highway 11 west about 15 miles to the junction of the Big Fork and Rainy Rivers. Off the road are Indian burial mounds including the largest mound in Minnesota, dating as far back as 1,000 years. The Laurel Mounds are accessible only by crossing private property, so ask permission. A Minnesota Historical Society interpretive center is planned for this site.

As you enter Baudette, you'll see a giant walleye, which hints of the great fishing to be found in Lake of the Woods. While here, visit Zipel Bay State Park which has three miles of the finest sand beach in the state, a fishing stream, foot trails and picnic facilities.

Now backtrack to Highway 11 and continue westward to Williams. There, just off the highway, is Lady Slipper Rest, a state wayside where three varieties of lady slipper, or moccasin flower, grow wild.

Continue northwest to Warroad, only American port on Lake of the Woods and America's largest shipper of pulpwood. Also, a major hockey stick manufacturer is headquartered here. An all-day boat cruise is available which takes you across Lake of the Woods to Fort St.

Charles on the Northwest Angle. Want to see a mink ranch? Stop in at the Chamber of Commerce and ask directions. Tours are available June through August after the young are born.

At Roseau, you can tour the Polaris snowmobile plant at 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. And, if you don't mind going out of your way a bit, take Highway 11 six miles west to Highway 89, then 12 miles north to Pinecreek, to visit the Roseau River Wildlife Area. Here's a chance for you to photograph birds, water fowl, deer and moose on more than 50,000 acres of refuge. Tours can be arranged at the area's office in Pinecreek.

Continue in a southwesterly direction to Greenbush and Karlstad. Before Karlstad, you'll pass through one of the larger wildlife management areas operated by the state in this region, the Twin Lake Wildlife Area.

Another unusual park, Old Mill State Park, is 11 miles west of Newfolden on County Road 28. A historic mill has been restored so the family can see it operate as it did in the old days. The park has camping facilities, a swimming beach and foot trails.

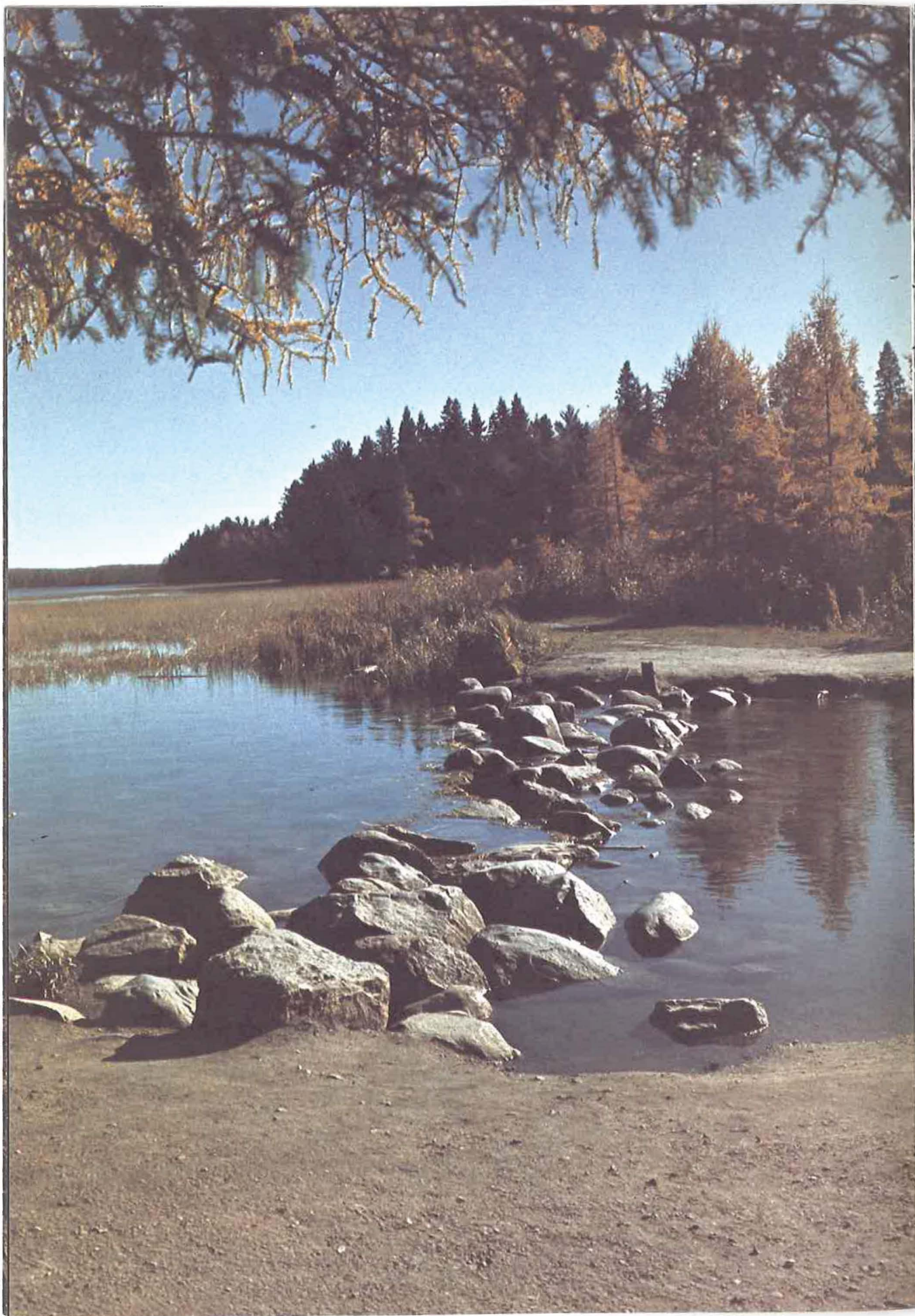
Go south to Thief River Falls, a modern community and the home of Arctic Enterprises, Inc., another nationally prominent snowmobile manufacturer. Its tours begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. In town, a recreation area on the Red Lake River has a swimming beach, campground, picnic area and boat ramp.

On your way out of town on Highway 1, stop at the Northland Ecological Study Area, a 40-acre natural tract operated by Northland State Junior College, that's open to the public.

Now follow Highway 1 through the Red Lake Indian Reservation and around Lower Red Lake. On the reservation, visitors can see commercial fisheries, fishing villages, sawmilling and other activities carried on by the Chippewa. On July 4th a giant Pow Wow is held at Red Lake. The Tribal Council Hall houses an Indian crafts shop where beadwork and leather items are for sale. At the Tribal Council Hall you can obtain information concerning sport fishing on the smaller lakes not used for the fishing industry.

If you want to see where Paul Bunyan is buried, drive five miles north on Highway 72 to Kelliher. Otherwise, go on to Northome and through the Pine Island State Forest to Big Falls. This is Minnesota's largest state forest and derives its name from the islands created by the now extinct Lake Agassiz.

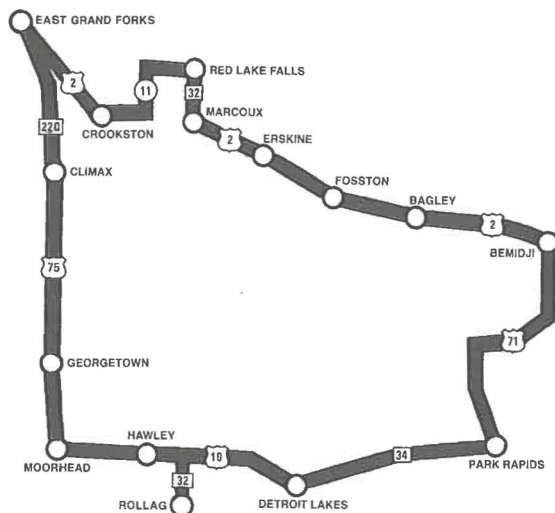
At the junction of Highways 6 and 71 in Big Falls is a Wayside Logging Display with a sleigh used to haul pine logs to the Big Fork River in the early 1900s. It was pulled by steampowered haulers or by horses on roads made of ice. For campsites, take County Road 3 west from Big Falls about four miles to where a sign directs you to primitive state forest campsites on the Big Fork River.



Mississippi birthplace, Itasca State Park.



Mississippi birthplace, Itasca State Park.



HOMESTEAD TRAIL *Minnetour 3*

This tour begins in Moorhead, the heart of the Red River Valley, which supplies much of the raw agricultural material for the city's industries. Visit the Clay County Historical Museum, in the courthouse on 11th Street for a good background on the area. Moorhead is also the home of Concordia College and Moorhead State College and its Strawhat Players summer theatre. American Crystal Sugar Company offers tours of its sugar beet refining plant, October through February. And there are two art centers to visit, Rourke Art Gallery and the Red River Art Center.

Drive straight east to Buffalo River State Park, located on the shore or "beach" of the Red River Valley (in reality, the bed of prehistoric Lake Agassiz). Hiking trails head through virgin prairie land where marsh and prairie flowers are abundant.

About 10 miles further along is Hawley, where the word "Viking" has special meaning. What is believed to be a Viking mooring stone was found on a nearby lakeshore and transferred to Hawley Park where you can view it.

During Labor Day weekend, take a detour south to Rollag where the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion draws together the state's largest collection of steam engines and gas tractors.

When you reach Detroit Lakes, you'll be in the "Sunfish Capital of the World," so named because of the abundance of these fish in 412 lakes surrounding this year-round vacation city and three and a half miles west on Highway 10 is Fort Detroit, a replica of a frontier fort, complete with stagecoach rides.

Continue east to Rochert, about two miles north of the highway. This is the headquarters of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, an area of deer, small mammals and many lakes with stands of wild rice.

Move eastward to Park Rapids and pass through Smokey Hills State Forest. Though best known as a resort town, Park Rapids was born in the lumbering era and that industry is still important here. Nearby lakes, including Fish Hook

Lake located within the city, are among the best fishing waters in America.

Stay on Highway 71 to reach Itasca State Park. Just don't pass up this beautiful park with its stands of virgin Norway pine more than a century old. Here, too, is the birthplace of the Mississippi River, so narrow and shallow you can wade across. There are also Indian burial mounds, a museum and Douglas Lodge, where accommodations must be arranged well in advance, and campsites overlook sparkling Lake Itasca.

As you head toward Bemidji, look for Paul Bunyan and Babe statues on the west shore of Lake Bemidji. At the intersection of Highways 71 and 2, is the Chamber of Commerce information building, housing an historical-wildlife museum and aquarium and artifacts from Paul Bunyan legends.

At Bagley you'll find excellent camping and swimming, an outstanding Outdoor Life Museum and good restaurants and shopping.

At Marcoux, turn north on Highway 32 to Red Lake Falls. This bustling community was built to take full advantage of the natural beauty of Sportsmen's Park with its lovely waterfalls.

A good place for a picnic is Old Crossing Treaty Wayside. To get there, take County Road 11 about eight miles west toward Huot. This is the site where, in 1863, the Chippewa ceded 9.7 million acres of land for white settlement of the Red River Valley. It was also the important crossing for Red River Oxcarts, the tracks of which are still partially visible.

Now follow County Road 11 to Crookston, processing center for wheat, barley and sugar beets grown in the area, and home of the Polk County Pioneer Museum.

East Grand Forks, west of Crookston, is a port of entry for Minnesota. It has the largest of American Crystal Sugar's sugar beet processing facilities, one of the two Potato Research Centers in the U.S. and a river which actually flows north, the Red River of the North.

As you approach Georgetown, watch for a sign directing you to an historical marker. Take this road and turn in at Hudson's Bay Fur Trading Post Park to see the reconstruction of a fur storage warehouse built in 1859. Furs were stored for transportation by dog team, oxcart and piroque (canoe) to Yori Factory in Hudson Bay and shipped by sailing vessel to London.

Alternate Route

Camping enthusiasts may wish to investigate Mahnomen County to plan a future trip. It lies totally within White Earth Indian Reservation. Take Highway 59 south from Erskine to Mahnomen. Going east on Highway 113 from Waubun, stop in at Little Elbow Lake State Park, which includes a primitive campground, picnic area and fishing spot. The route takes you past the entrance to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

Follow Highway 113 to Highway 71, or turn north on County Road 39 through Itasca State Park to Bagley.



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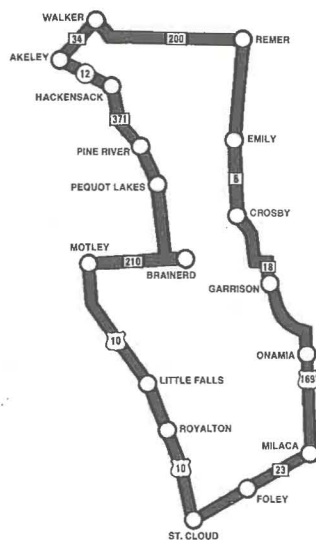
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BUNYAN LAND Minnetour 4

Begin this Minnetour in St. Cloud, recently honored as one of 10 "All-America" cities. Its sports center, industrial park and downtown mall were cited as major contributions to the city's revitalization. Quarries in and around the city supply granite for venerable buildings around the nation.

From St. Cloud, go northwest to the scenic countryside of Foley where in mid-June, you can take part in Foley Fun Days.

Continue northwest to Milaca and take a breather in any of four village parks. Don't miss the Village Hall. Inside its walls of native stone are colorful murals depicting the logging era.

Onamia is directly north, near Rum River State Forest and Mille Lacs Wildlife Area. Five miles northwest of town is Mille Lacs Kathio State Park with an interpretive center and a naturalist to explain this area once inhabited by large tribes of Sioux and Chippewa.

As you tour the south and west shores of Mille Lacs, treat the kids to Fort Mille Lacs where a live animal park, forest trails, restaurant and museum of Indian art, artifacts and tools of early pioneers and loggers are located. Follow Highway 169 around the west side of the lake and you'll come to the Mille Lacs Historical Society Indian Museum. If you stop nowhere else, stop here. It's one of the most successful attempts yet made in depicting the history and culture of Minnesota's Indians. The museum is open May 1 through Labor Day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nearby are the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and the Little Flower Mission Church. A new marina, with restaurant and bait shop, is open to the public.

Continuing on to Garrison, it will become obvious that this huge lake has many fine fishing resorts. It's one of the finest walleye-producing lakes in the state. In winter, more than 5,000 fish houses spring up and roads criss-cross the frozen lake to connect them.

From Garrison, drive north to Crosby, at the beginning of the Cuyuna Iron Range. Crosby is

the home of Scorpion snowmobiles and summer tours are available daily. Visit the Cuyuna Range Historical Museum as well.

By the time you get to Remer on Highway 6, you'll be in Chippewa National Forest, abundant with lakes, fish and wildlife. From Remer, drive west to Leech Lake, site of a July 4th regatta. At Walker, you'll find intriguing antique shops, good resorts and restaurants, and an excellent Museum of Natural History. Depending on the time of year, take your choice of fishing, sailing, sled dog racing, cross country skiing or snowmobiling.

Now drive southwest to Akeley. Paul Bunyan was born here. His cradle is still preserved for you to see and photograph. Akeley was once a booming lumber town and lumberjacks amused themselves with tall tales about Paul. These were eventually collected and Paul Bunyan became an American folk hero.

From Akeley, take County Road 12 east. This picturesque route leads to Hackensack, where you can see a colorful monument to Paul Bunyan's sweetheart, Lucette Diana Kensack.

Continue traveling south to Pine River, a busy resort community, then to Pequot Lakes. Frog jumping contests are a weekly event and Bean Hole Days are a mid-summer festival. And don't miss the turtle races each summer Wednesday in Nisswa.

As you approach Brainerd, look for signs directing you to Lumbertown USA, a pioneer village of interest to the whole family. In Brainerd, visit Paul Bunyan Center where you can actually talk with the 50-foot lumberjack himself. It's open May through September. If you go for auto racing, check the schedule at the Brainerd International Raceway.

West of Brainerd is Motley. Many believe Babe the Blue Ox evolved in legend from a huge ox that really did pull logs in the area for many years. But the only vestige of that era left here is a pleasant one, the Motley Castle, just a block off Motley's main street.

Follow Highway 10 southeast to Little Falls, home of Charles Lindbergh, Jr. Stop at both the Lindbergh Home and the Interpretive Center which highlights three generations of Lindberghs through photos, slide shows and displays. The Center and home are open May through October. Little Falls has other attractions. The historic "Wanigan" excursion boat is harbored in Pike Creek at Smuda's Zoo. It's a replica of the floating kitchens and bunkhouses that followed the log drives down the rivers. The five-mile trip goes to the location of Zebulon Pike's fort on the Swan River.

On the return leg of this tour visit Collegeville, about 20 miles west of St. Cloud on Highway 52. The Benedictine community welcomes visitors who want a little peace and quiet and offers them a visit to St. John's Abbey, a unique piece of modern architecture.

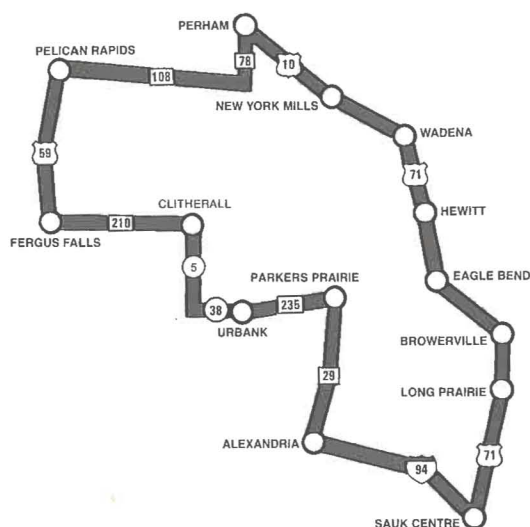
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SINCLAIR LEWIS

When thirty-four-year-old Lewis and his wife moved to a small town in Minnesota in 1904, they found a place that was a good deal like the one they had just left in New York. It was a place where the people were not so much interested in the things that were going on in the world as they were in the things that were going on in their own lives. It was a place where the people were not so much interested in the things that were going on in the world as they were in the things that were going on in their own lives.

The Sinclair Lewis Home, Sauk Centre.



VIKING LORE *Minnetour 5*

Fergus Falls, where the excellent Otter Tail County Historical Museum is headquartered, is a good place to begin this Minnetour. An unusual sight is Lake Ellis, on a hill just north of the downtown business district. And the city has a wild goose sanctuary at the end of Lincoln Avenue.

Now travel east to Battle Lake, which derives its name from a historic battle fought here in 1847. It marked the final victory of the Chippewa in their long conflict with the Sioux. West of town, earthen ramparts of old Fort Julson can be seen.

A short distance east of Fergus Falls is Clitherall, the earliest permanent white settlement in this country. It was founded by a group of Latter Day Saints who broke off from Brigham Young's entourage on their trek westward.

Take County Road 5 to Inspiration Peak Wayside. From the top of this hill you can see several lakes in three different counties. Continue on to Urbank and Parkers Prairie, where you turn south to Lake Carlos State Park. It has more than a thousand acres of rolling land abounding in sugar maples and other hardwoods. A supervised swimming beach and boat rentals are available.

South of the park is Alexandria, home of the Kensington Runestone. A runic legend on the stone seems to indicate that a Viking expedition visited Minnesota in 1362 A.D., 130 years before Columbus reached America. The Runestone Museum is just a half a block from a giant Viking statue. Halberds, spear points and other Viking articles, including the Runestone itself, are displayed along with Indian and immigrant memorabilia.

Travel east to Sauk Centre, the small town immortalized by Sinclair Lewis in his Pulitzer prize-winning novel, "Main Street." Enter town via Sinclair Lewis Avenue and you'll drive past the author's boyhood home. It's open to visitors daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There's also a museum with more Lewis artifacts in the new information center at the junction of I-94 and MN 71, open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Now go north to Little Sauk. Inquire at the

post office about the location of River Glen Gardens, Japanese gardens landscaped by the owner. The gardens and Indian and pioneer life displays are open weekends only.

Next is Long Prairie, headquarters of Hart Press Publishing Company, one of the largest in the U.S. where tours may be arranged on weekdays. It's also the home of the "Marching Ambassadors," a high school band which has been winning national competition for years. And be sure to visit the Todd County Historical Museum in the courthouse.

Keep driving northward through Browerville and Eagle Bend. See a lot of turkeys? No wonder. This is one of the areas contributing to Minnesota's national leadership in turkey production. At Wadena's Sunny Brook Park, fish for trout, explore a hiking trail or visit the zoo. In town there are good places to eat and good overnight accommodations.

If you want a memorable canoe trip, drive to Menahga, north of Wadena. The Crow Wing Trails, 75 miles of beautiful and accessible wilderness where carefully planned saddle and snowmobile trails, campsites and canoe routes have been planned, extends south from here. Pick up a map in Wadena, Sebeka or Menahga. The beginning of the organized canoe trail is at the Blueberry Bridge northeast of Menahga. From here, 12 campsites are placed along the river at convenient intervals. The trail ends at McGivern Park. You will find several canoe outfitters in the area of the Trails.

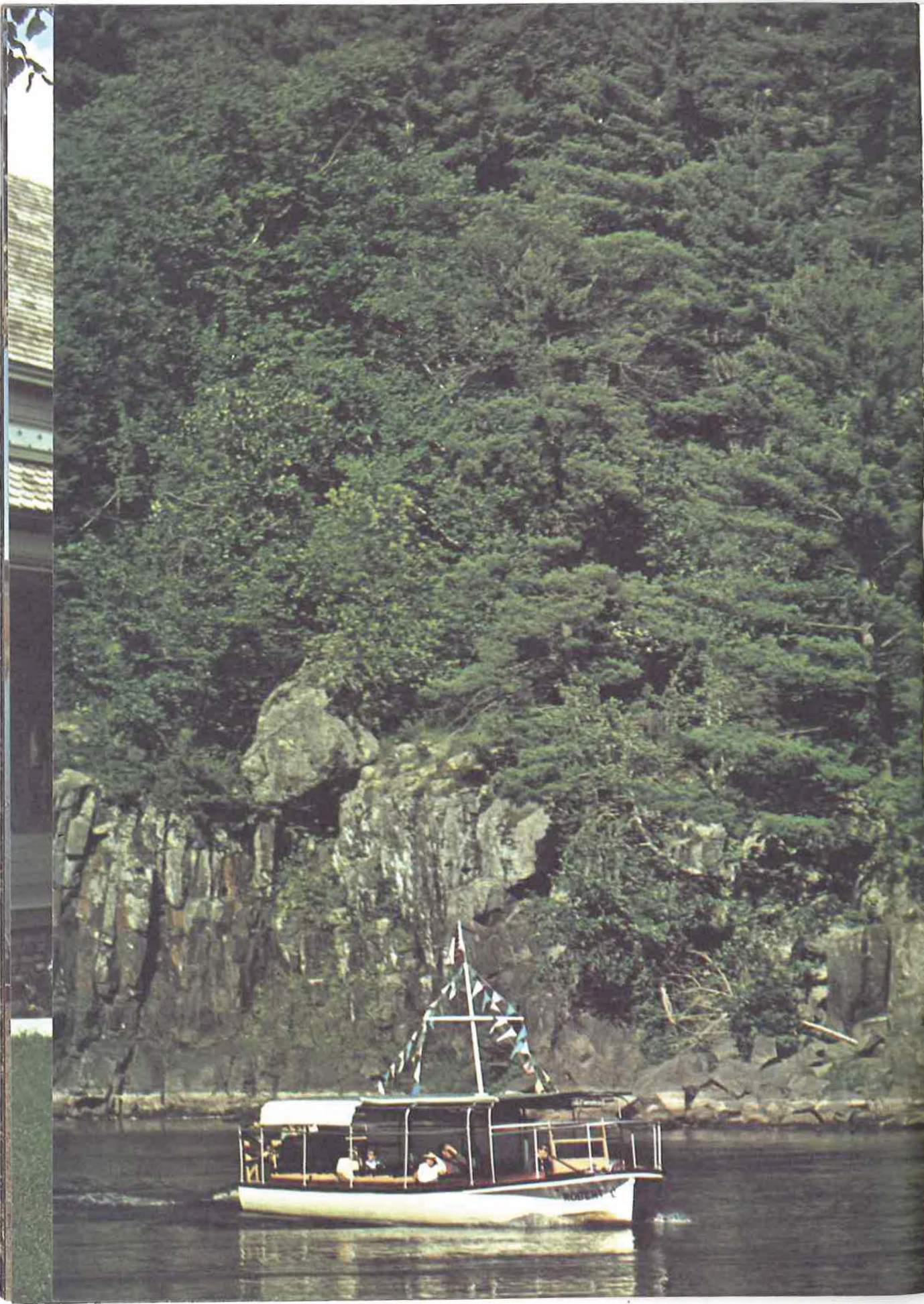
From Wadena, take highway 10 west to New York Mills. If you're fortunate enough to pass through early in July, you will enjoy the mid-summer Finnish Festival here.

Perham, a delightful resort community, is northwest of New York Mills. East of town, on private land, is Schroeder's Brewery, now abandoned, which flourished in the 1870s. Inside, you'll find most of the original beer-making equipment.

By following Highway 108 through the lake country, you'll arrive in Pelican Rapids. The world's largest pelican stands below the dam at the south end of a Broadway (behind a drugstore). After you've taken a picture of this giant specimen, drive two miles north of town on highway 59 to the historical marker noting the discovery of the human skeleton now called "The Minnesota Man"—earliest evidence of human habitation in Minnesota.

About two miles south of town, take County Road 3 east to Maplewood State Park. True to its name, the park's rolling hills are covered with maples as far as you can see. You'll find 20 lakes within the park with nature, saddle and snowmobile trails.

From here, proceed to Erhard and Fergus Falls, or take a short detour to one of Minnesota's most photogenic old mills. You can reach the Old Phelps Mill by taking County Road 3 for 12 miles to County Road 10. Turn east on 10 and this leads you to the hamlet of Phelps and an 1889, water-driven flour mill.



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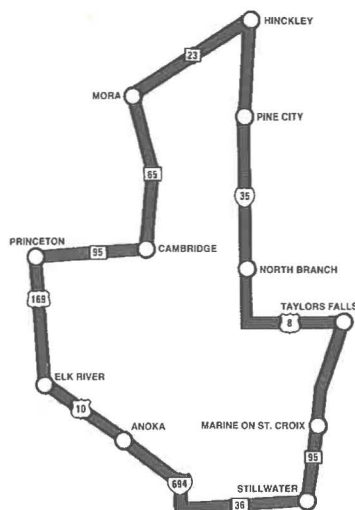
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The Dalles on the scenic St. Croix River.



TOWN AND COUNTRY *Minnetour 6*

This Minnetour begins at the birthplace of Minnesota, Stillwater, where plans for the Minnesota Territory were drafted in 1838. Among the community's many attractions are the ruins of Minnesota's first prison, its present prison in nearby Bayport, the state's oldest courthouse, Lumberjack Days in July and an historic house tour which features opulent homes of early lumber barons. The Washington County Historical Museum is also open to the public from May through October on Tuesday, Thursday and weekends from 2-5 p.m.

Continue north to Marine-on-St. Croix, where the first commercial lumber in Minnesota was cut in 1839. The undisturbed charm of the town square makes it a particularly nice stop.

Just two miles north is William O'Brien State Park, a particularly beautiful area on the St. Croix River, which has swimming, boat rentals, camping and extensively marked cross country skiing trails for winter fun.

Follow the highway to Taylors Falls and approach the town slowly so you can appreciate the majestic beauty of the St. Croix River Valley. You might enjoy taking one of the excursion boats at Taylor Falls for a cruise of the scenic wild river. By all means, visit Interstate State Park for some spectacular scenery and geology. Nearby is an overlook where you can park the car and put your camera to work.

In 1851, the first frame building in Taylors Falls was built by an independent logger, William H.C. Folsom. Three years later he built another with an imposing view of the valley. To get to it, take Government Street (from the junction of Highways 8 and 95) to the top of Angel's Hill. The home is open on weekends from June through September. You will find many of the old homes in the Angel Hill District well worth the drive.

Go west now through the Center City, Lindstrom and Chisago City area where steamboats brought Swedish immigrants to Minnesota in the 1850s. A statue of Karl Oskar Nilsson, a legendary character of Vilhelm Moberg's books, stands in Lindstrom as a symbol of all immigrants who

came to the United States. The Yesterfarm of Memories Museum, seven miles northeast of Lindstrom, has an extensive collection of the memorabilia of our early pioneers.

Continue north to Rush City and follow the signs to the state owned heron rookery, where these birds nest and can be observed very easily.

Back on the freeway again, take it to the Pine City exit, and follow the signs that lead you to Northwest Company fur post (Tom Connor's) about two miles west of town. Built in 1804, the post did a brisk business with the Indians before it was totally destroyed by fire. The Minnesota Historical Society has meticulously reconstructed the post and provided Voyageur guides outfitted in clothing of the era.

North of Pine City is Hinckley, a city all but destroyed by a great forest fire in 1894. A monument to those who died is located east of the interchange with I-35. Memorial Park or "Pit," an old gravel pit dug in the 1800s which provided life-saving protection for hundreds of citizens as the fire passed over, is in town west of the interstate exchange.

To the southwest is Mora, host of Dala Days in mid-June and the Vasa Loppet Cross Country Ski Race in February. Look for the 25' high Dala (or Dalecarlian) horse as you drive into town. The Dala horse was a holy animal in ancient Sweden. Today, the brightly painted wooden symbols are sold in Mora's shops.

About 20 miles south is Cambridge, named after Cambridge, Massachusetts, from which the Minnesota town's early residents came. You're still in the heart of "Swedeland" on this Minnetour as evidenced by the Swedish Festival in mid-June when a parade, canoe races and rope pulling contest across the Rum River give the whole family an opportunity to participate.

From Cambridge, head west of Princeton, the "City of Flowers." If you arrive in early June, you'll be in time for the annual Polka Festival. Also, visit the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge about five miles west of town. You might also consider a canoe trip down the Rum River, one of the most beautiful in Minnesota.

Continue south to Elk River, where you can pick from several picnic sites along the Mississippi River. On Highway 10 a few miles south of Elk River is a sign directing you to the Oliver H. Kelley Farm, settled by the man who founded the National Grange Movement. Not only is the site on the National Register, but the house is furnished with antiques and utensils common to farm life in the 19th century. Many of the antiques have been donated by Grange members from across the United States. Picnic grounds are on the premises.

Take the highway south to Anoka, best known as the "Halloween Capital of the World," where the occasion is celebrated in a big way each October. When you cross the Rum River via the Main Street Bridge, notice the dam. It's a good spot for the kids to fish while you do a little shopping downtown.

From Anoka, take any one of several routes to the Twin Cities where you'll find a wealth of attractions and historic sites.



Minneopa Falls in Minneopa State Park.

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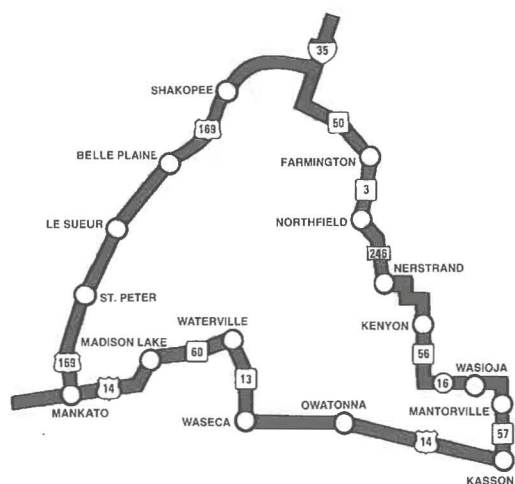
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PIONEER HERITAGE *Minnetour 7*

A good place to begin this tour is Mankato's Hubbard House, operated by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. It contains informative displays of the area's Indian and pioneer history. A few miles west of town is Minneopa State Park which has a campground, waterfall and Seppman Mill, Minnesota's finest Dutch windmill.

Return to Mankato and go east to Waterville, the "Bullhead Capital of the World" and put in your line.

Turn south to Waseca, a community built around beautiful Clear Lake. Courthouse Park, on the Le Sueur River, is a delightful spot to visit, as it preserves a chunk of the native southern Minnesota woodlands. Waseca also has a University of Minnesota Experiment Station that welcomes you to view crops, flowers, vegetables and an arboretum.

Continue east to Owatonna, named for a legendary Indian princess restored to health by drinking the water in Mineral Springs Park. Chief Wadena is said to have moved his entire village to the area so that his delicate daughter might drink this local water, rich in iron and sulphur. Her statue is in one of the 16 city parks offering picnic and playground facilities. On the town square is the Northwestern National Bank, an imposing structure designed by the renowned architect, Louis Sullivan. South of town is the Village of Yesteryear, comprised of authentic old buildings that have been preserved and moved here from the surrounding countryside. It's open May 1 through September 15.

On your way to Dodge Center and Kasson, stop at Rice Lake State Park. You'll find picnic and camping areas, a swimming beach, hiking trails, and a lake.

North of Kasson is Mantorville, a town listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It looks much as it did in the 1880s, with a summer melodrama, old covered bridge, dance hall, sheriff's office, even a boardwalk. After exploring the town, stop at the Hubbell House for lunch or dinner. The restaurant, once a stagecoach stop, has historic documents on the walls in-

cluding land grants signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Now turn west on County Road 16 to Wasioja. This old town is an entire historic site in itself, with the only Civil War Recruiting Station preserved in Minnesota, an old school house with a large rock down which the 19th century students would slide, and the ruins of an old seminary.

North of Nerstrand Woods State Park is Northfield, home of St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges. It's also the site of Jesse James Days in early September with a reenactment of the famous attempted bank robbery of 1876. Downtown is the building which once housed the bank that Jesse and his gang tried to rob.

Next stop is Savage, named after the owner of the immortal racehorse, Dan Patch. A Dan Patch Days celebration in August features a horse show, carnival and parade.

Before you get to Shakopee, you'll notice pioneer buildings between the highway and Minnesota River. This is the Minnesota Valley Restoration Project. Among its areas now open to the public are Dakota village; the home of Oliver Faribault, a local fur trader; and a German immigrant farm area.

West of Shakopee is Chaska, one of the state's oldest river towns. The city square park with its gazebo for summer band concerts protects several Indian mounds.

Southwest of Chaska is another old river town, Carver. It retains much of the character it had when the steamboats stopped here. You'll find antique shops and lots of evidence of the area's early German settlers.

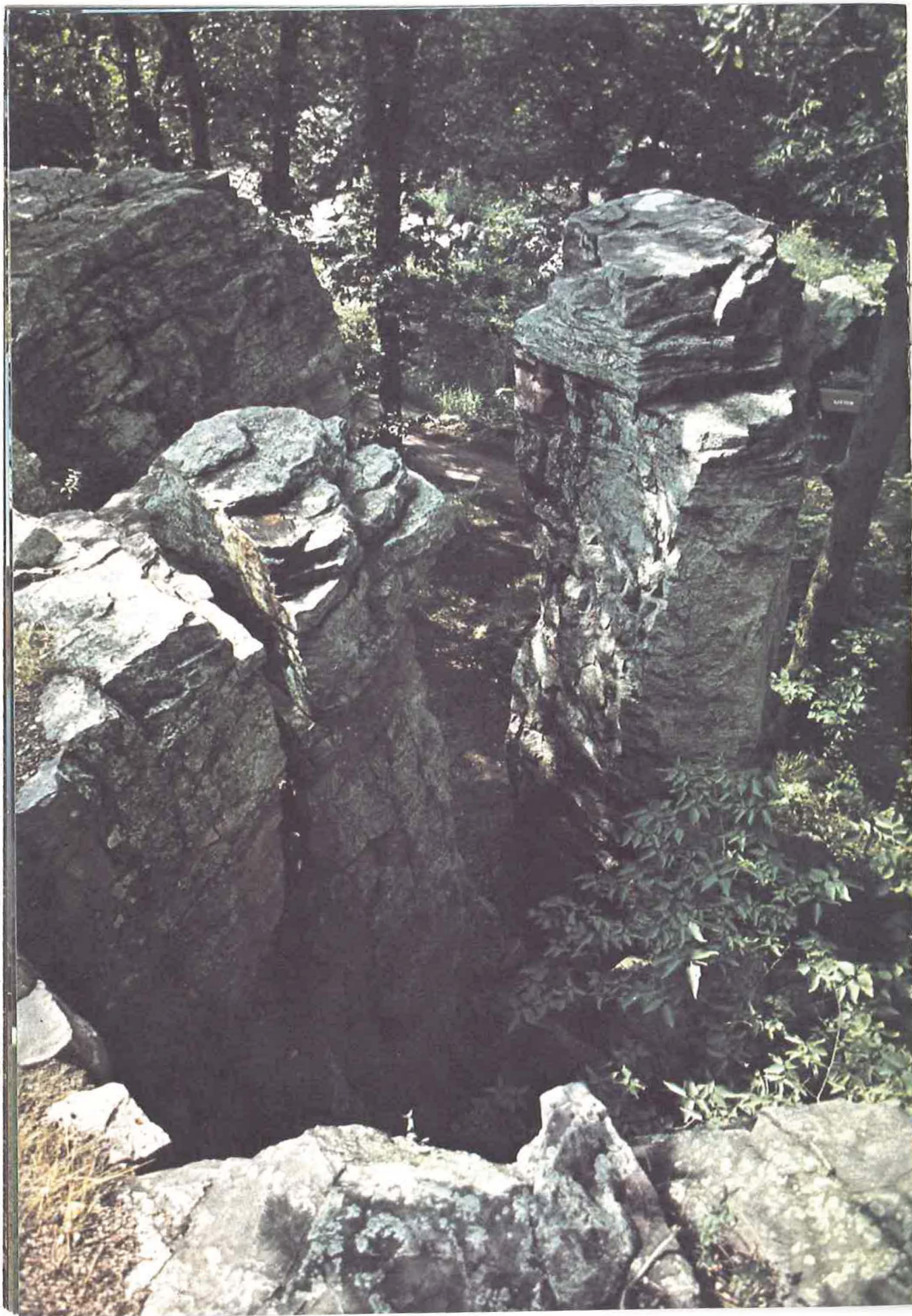
If you prefer, stay on the west side of the river and travel to Henderson, the site of the Sibley County Historical Museum. Or cross the river at Jordan, continuing south to Le Sueur where the Jolly Green Giant has his valley. The Green Giant canneries welcome visitors daily, June through August, when canning operations are in full swing.

Your next stop is St. Peter, home of Gustavus Adolphus College and its Nobel Hall of Science, dedicated to Alfred B. Nobel, inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Foundation. Also, note the sign on Main Street informing you that five Minnesota Governors came from St. Peter.

If time permits, visit Traverse Des Sioux State Park, where the historic treaty was signed which opened southwestern Minnesota to white settlement.

Alternate Route

Rather than following Highway 13 to Waseca, continue on Highway 60 to Faribault, where you can tour Faribault Woolen Mill, Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Other points of interest are Shattuck School for Boys, the Alexander Faribault House and a museum in Buckham Memorial Library. Also, a log cabin (1856), Episcopal Church (1871), and country schoolhouse (1884) can be found at the Rice County Fairgrounds.



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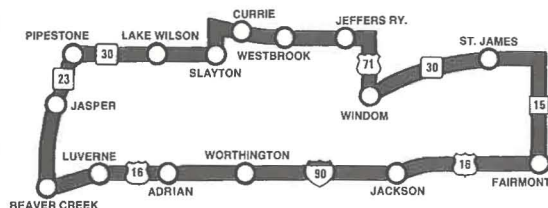
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Leaping Rock, Pipestone National Monument.



WESTWARD HO *Minnetour 8*

The City of Pipestone and Pipestone National Monument begin this tour which highlights Minnesota's Indian and pioneer heritage. Pipestone is named for the red stone found only in Pipestone and Rock counties. The quarries were considered sacred by the Indian tribes and are protected at the National Monument. Here, you may watch native Americans fashion peacepipes from pipestone and demonstrate other crafts. If you're here during the last two weekends of July or the first of August, don't miss the "Song of Hiawatha" pageant performed in the natural amphitheater.

Travel south from Pipestone to Split Rock Creek State Park. Near the park is the town of Jasper where the world's hardest stone, Jasper, is quarried. The town was founded at the turn of the century by immigrant Swedish stone cutters.

Now drive south to Beaver Creek Information Center. Then go east to Luverne and visit Hinky House Museum, filled with pioneer items from the early settlements of the prairie farmlands.

A few miles farther north is Blue Mounds State Park. It encompasses Sioux hunting grounds and among its attractions are a small herd of buffalo, rock outcroppings that may be the oldest on the continent, and natural cactus.

Next stop is Adrian, home of the historic Slade Hotel which has been doing business here since 1891. The Slade contains many of its original furnishings and is included in the Minnesota Registry of Historic Places.

Then comes Worthington, a town noted for its Peace Avenue of Flags where 126 flags of the United Nations are flown every day and for its King Turkey Days each September.

Before you drive into Jackson, don't miss Fort Belmont, a reconstructed pioneer fort with an operating flour mill, museum, 100-year old cabin and other Americana.

Continue east to Fairmont. The new 260-acre Cedar Creek Park on Hall Lake, just south of the city, has several miles of lakeshore and wildlife habitat.

Turn north toward Madelia and St. James, where the Jesse James Gang eluded a posse of a thousand men after the unsuccessful Northfield bank robbery in 1876. A marker on Highway 3 northwest of Madelia recalls where the Gang was finally caught.

West of St. James is Butterfield where, in August, the Thresherman's Association hosts a Steam and Gas Engine Show. Here, you can see giant steam engines power old thresher rigs, saw mills and lathe and shingle mills.

Continuing west, you'll come to Mountain Lake, a Mennonite community, and Heritage House, a museum in a typical Mennonite farmstead. Farther west at Windom you can fish and canoe in the Des Moines River.

Now go north on Highway 71 about 12 miles to Highway 30 where you turn east. Soon you'll see a sign that indicates a turn on County Road 2 to the Cottonwood County Petroglyphs. The Indian rock carvings preserved here may go back as far as 3000 years B.C. No one knows exactly what the more than 2000 rock carvings mean or which tribes made them. The Petroglyph site, with a modern shelter and interpretive center, is open daily from May through Labor Day.

Return to Highway 30 and go west through Jeffers and other communities of interest to travelers in search of a good lunch or casual shopping.

Next is Currie, the gateway to Lake Shetek State Park. Be sure to visit the Andrew Koch Cabin, associated with the 1862 war in which 14 of about 30 settlers were killed. Maintained by the Murray County Historical Society, the Cabin is open on weekends.

Continue west and then south to Slayton, the "Hub City." Nearby is a wildlife refuge, and in town a historical society building housing a museum.

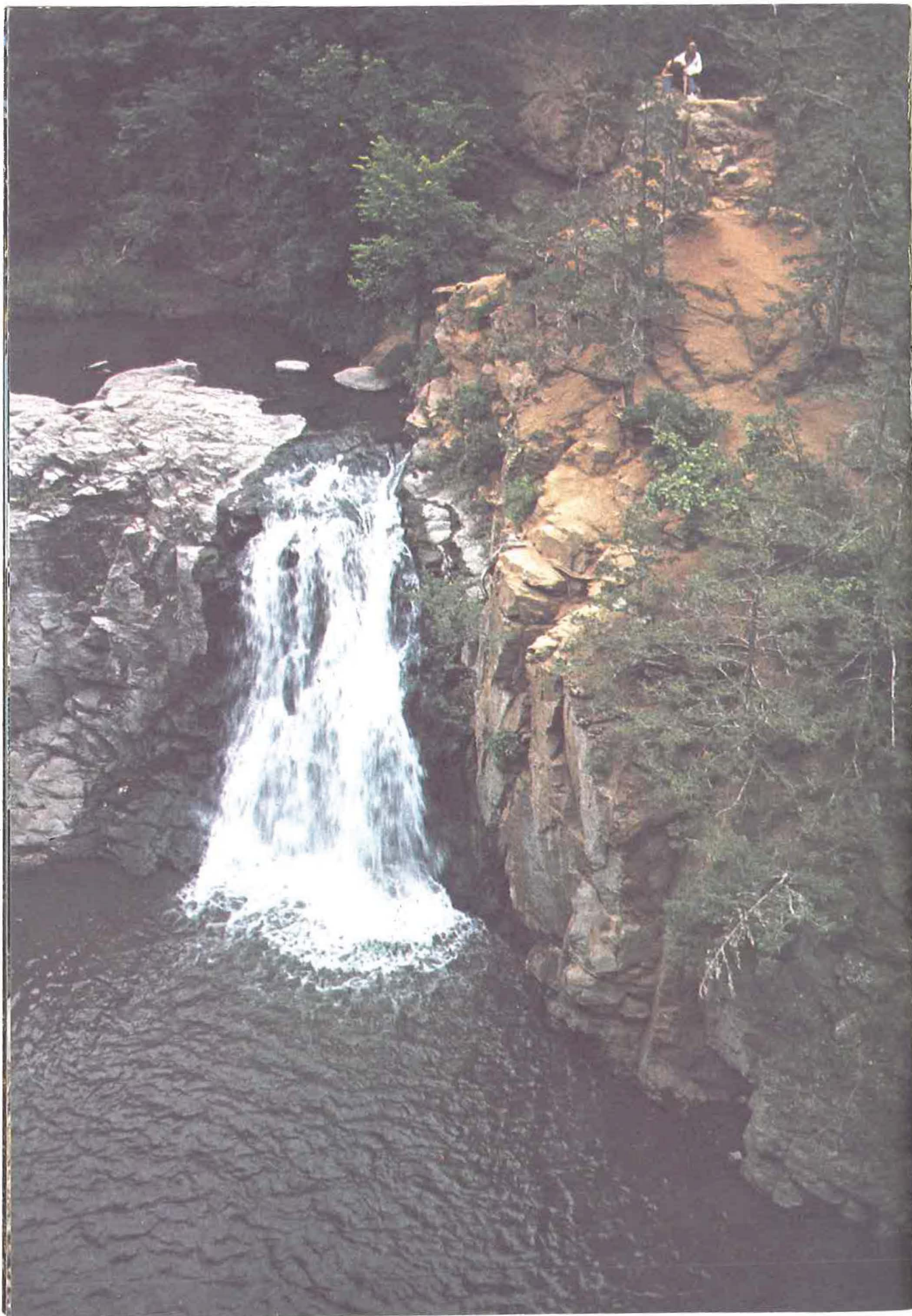
The historical Chanarambie Valley southwest of Slayton extends approximately 30 miles from Chandler to Edgerton. Crisscrossed by old wagon trails, Indian graveyards and smoke pits, it is commonly known as Buffalo Ridge. Atop the ridge are huge figures laid out in stones and boulders. A man, a buffalo and others less definite, were created by Indians hundreds of years ago.

Alternate Route

After the Jeffers Petroglyphs, go north and then west to Walnut Grove, the town featured in the weekly television series, "Little House on the Prairie." The series is based on books by Laura Ingalls Wilder which tell of her childhood, some years of which were spent on a farm "on the banks of Plum Creek."

Continue west to Tyler, rich in Danish tradition. Danebod Folk School located in town was founded in 1888 to serve Danish American immigrants. It still serves the community.

West of Tyler is Lake Benton where Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park offers year-round recreation. Winter sports include downhill skiing, snowmobiling, skating and inner tubing. Summer offers camping, scenic trails and historic sites to explore.



The falls in Ramsey Park, Redwood Falls.

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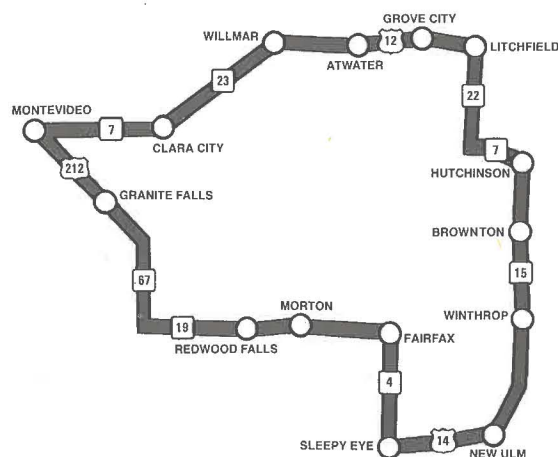
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SIoux NATION *Minnetour 9*

Begin this Minnetour at Montevideo. Just south of town is the Camp Release Wayside, from which several hundred prisoners were freed by their Indian captors after the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862. Montevideo is sister city to Uruguay's Montevideo; and a statue to Jose Artigas, the George Washington of Uruguay, adorns a downtown shopping mall. South of town is a restored Pioneer Village, so unique it won a state award for the Chippewa County Historical Society.

About 11 miles southwest of Montevideo is the Olof Swensson Farm Museum. It includes an authentically furnished 22-room brick house, a working grist mill, and farm implements used by the pioneers.

At Granite Falls, the Yellow Medicine Historical Society Museum has a delightful collection of artifacts plus several pioneer buildings.

Just south of Granite Falls is the Upper Sioux Indian Agency. In August of 1862, driven to desperation by the refusal of the federal government to supply food and clothing under terms of the Traverse Des Sioux Treaty, the Dakota attacked this agency and touched off the tragic war of 1862.

Redwood Falls, birthplace of the Sears, Roebuck and Company, is your next stop. Be sure to visit Ramsey Park with its beautiful waterfalls. In mid-June, the city is host to an Inventors Congress, the largest of its kind in the country.

After leaving Redwood Falls, look for signs directing you to the Lower Sioux Agency interpretive center. Except for one stone building, the Agency was completely destroyed at about the same time the Upper Sioux Agency was attacked. Today, a modern interpretive center explains the causes and effects of the Uprising.

In Morton, you'll find Lower Sioux Pottery, run by the tribe on the reservation. You may purchase pottery and watch potters mold and paint clay vessels.

Two miles northeast is Birch Coulee State Park, site of one of the hardest fought battles of the 1862 war. Another famous incident, the Red-

wood Ferry Ambush, is memorialized by an historical marker on Highway 19.

Much more detail on the 1862 Uprising can be gathered at Fort Ridgely State Park where you'll find an interpretive center and museum offering a slide show account of the two-day battle at this fort.

Continue to Sleepy Eye, named for a respected Dakota (Sioux) chief. His grave and monument are near the old railroad depot.

Drive east to New Ulm, a charming German community. Visit the beautiful little gardens of Schell's Brewery; Defenders Monument, a tribute to the townsfolk who fought off an Indian attack in 1862; the impressive statue of Hermann; and Flandrau State Park with its campgrounds, swimming and hiking trails.

Now travel north to Hutchinson. At the Crow River dam in town, you'll see a statue of Little Crow, the chief who reluctantly, but effectively, led the 1862 Uprising. West of town is the Sam Anderson Haven for waterfowl, which offers good wildlife watching.

North of Hutchinson is Litchfield, home of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Hall and museum, Engebretson's Eskimo Museum (prior reservations requested) and Ness Lutheran Church, built in 1874.

Now go west to Willmar and stop at the Kandiyohi County Historical Grounds. Landmarks to look for are a huge steam locomotive and a teepee. The Pioneer Museum, open Sunday afternoon, is also located here.

Alternate Route

From Willmar, travel north to Spicer, a resort community which claims Green Lake as one of the two cleanest lakes in the world (the other being in northern Russia).

Continue north to Paynesville where you'll find an historical society center and Lake Koronis for boating, swimming and fishing.

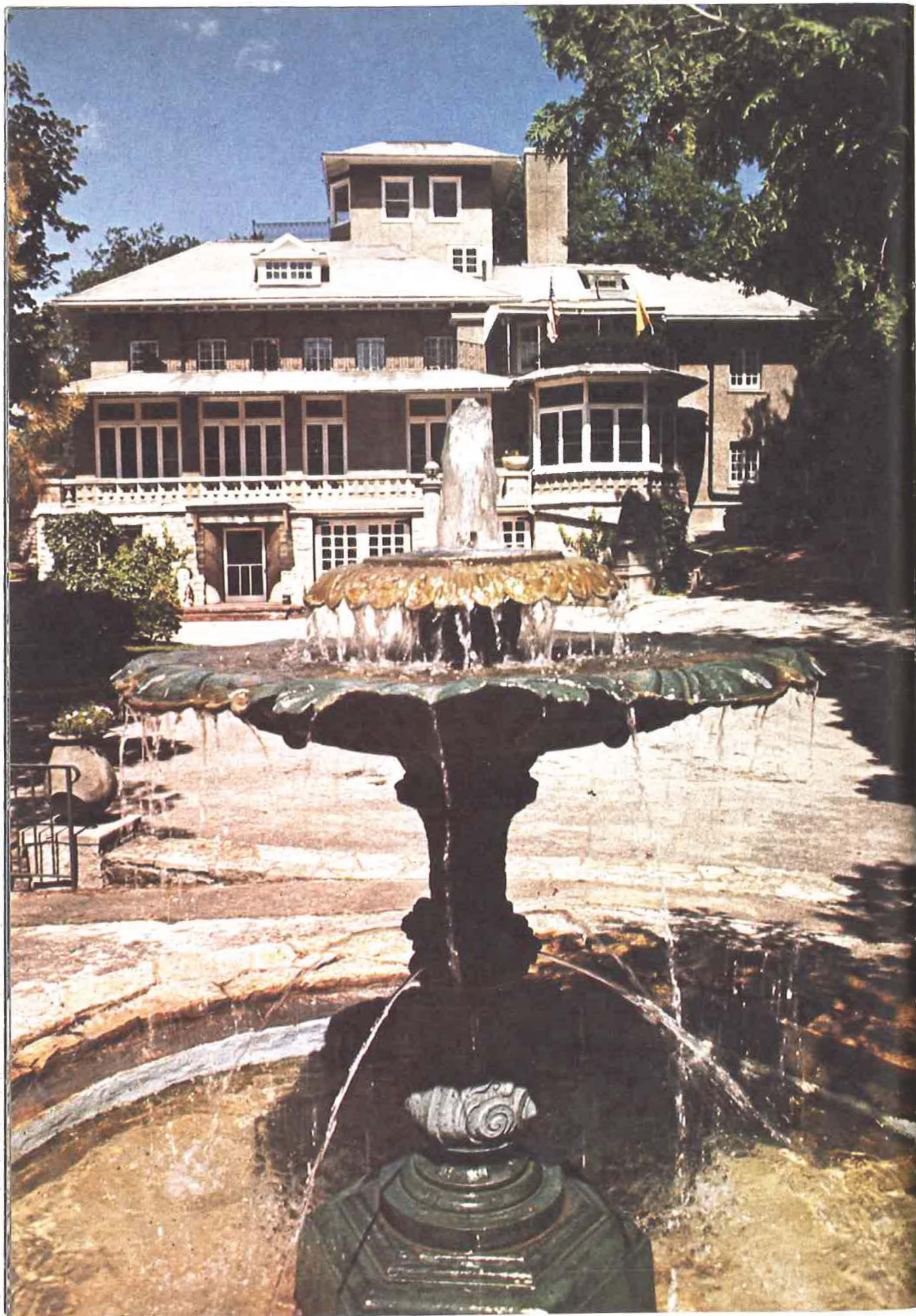
Jog a little west now toward Glenwood and Lake Minnewaska where the Waterama is held annually in late July.

At Starbuck, you'll find the Wildlife Museum and Old Tyme Theater. South of town is Glacial Lake State Park, a segment of hills and valleys formed by the last glacier about 11,000 years ago.

Continue south to Benson and its historical museum. Then head back toward the Minnesota River Valley and Appleton, gateway to the Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Area.

On your way back to Montevideo, watch for County Road 13 which takes you to Lac Qui Parle State Park commemorating the site of the first church and school in the Minnesota Valley.

Another option. You may wish to tour the area between Willmar and Glenwood on Glacial Ridge Trail, a driving trail filled with historic sites and state parks. A map for the trail, drawn up by the Glacial Ridge Development Association, is available in Glenwood and Willmar.



Maywood, home of Dr. Charles H. Mayo.

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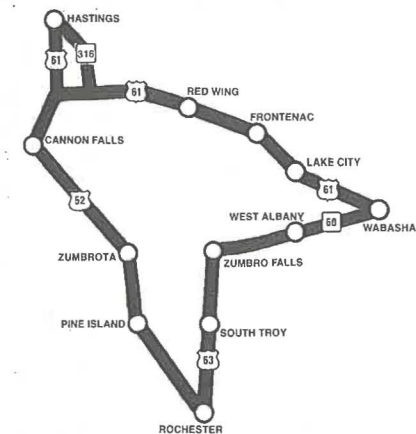
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RIVER BEND Minnetour 10

Begin this Minnetour at Hastings with its walking tour of Olde Towne including the towering, domed Dakota County Courthouse, built in 1871 and the Gardenia Hotel, being restored to its original Victorian motif. Other landmarks are the General William Le Duc House on Vermillion Street (open by special appointment only) and Old Mill Park on the Vermillion River.

Just south of Hastings is the town of Cannon Falls, tucked in the beautiful valley of the Cannon River. If you like, canoe or inner tube from here to Red Wing.

But if you drive, take Highway 52 south to Zumbrota and look for the city park where the only authentic covered bridge in Minnesota is preserved. Though the bridge no longer spans the river, it is so well-preserved that you can read the jackknife carvings of schoolboys of almost a century ago.

Continuing south to Pine Island, you'll see signs for Douglas Trail, part of the multi-use trail system for cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding and bicycling. Before leaving Pine Island, you may want to taste the cheese produced by Land O'Lakes, Inc. or at one of the other cheese shops in town.

Continue on to Rochester, home of the internationally-known Mayo Clinic. Free tours of the clinic and the Mayo Medical Museum are offered daily. And definitely stop at the new Olmstead County Historical Society building just off County Road 25. While there, arrange for a bus tour of Mayowood, the spacious estate built by Dr. Charles H. Mayo in 1910. Tours are conducted twice daily, except Monday, throughout the summer.

From Rochester, go north to South Troy and east to Hammond, a little hamlet where you can buy groceries, eat a hot lunch, fill your tank, get a haircut and mail a letter. All at the same store. A little side trip, not indicated on any map, begins in Hammond. You'll find a township road that goes northwest to Zumbro Falls. It follows the Zumbro River Valley for about six miles and is truly scenic.

If you want to travel paved roads, follow County Roads 11 and 2 to Millville and then east to West Albany and Dumfries. This route into Wabasha is beautiful. And a couple of overlooks

present fabulous panoramas of the Hiawatha Valley.

The City of Wabasha is named for three generations of Dakota Sioux Chiefs whose villages were in the region. In the last century, the town thrived on steamboat river commerce. A landmark is Minnesota's oldest hotel, the Anderson Hotel, built in 1856 and still in operation.

Follow the river highway north to Lake City, on the shore of Lake Pepin. Here, water skiing was invented by Ralph Samuelson in 1922. A pontoon fishing pier gives you a chance to test your fishing luck in this great white bass country. After picnicking in one of many city parks you may want to take the family on an excursion boat tour of Lake Pepin. It leaves twice daily during the summer and reveals more of the history of these waters named "Lake of Tears" by Father Hennepin.

There's a relaxing wayside area to the north just before you come to Frontenac Station. After lunch, explore Old Frontenac by taking County Road 2 off the main highway. Old Frontenac doesn't have accommodations for overnight visitors, but you're welcome to drive along the street facing the river to view the old homes, many of which were built in the late 1850s and are now included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Episcopal Church, for instance, has been holding Sunday services for more than 100 years. Before leaving the area, stop at Frontenac State Park for some scenic views of Lake Pepin. You'll find camping areas and hiking trails plentiful.

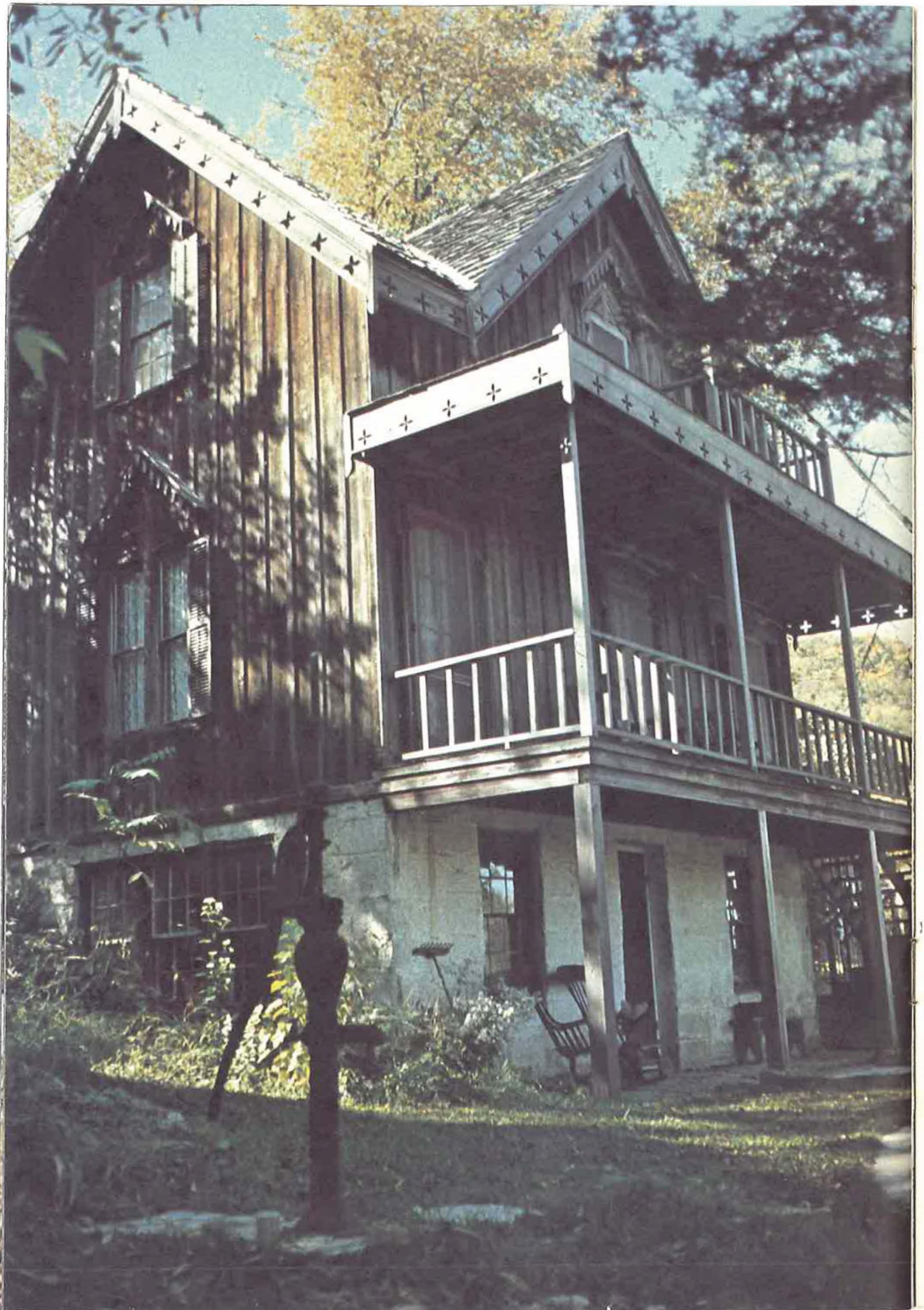
Now continue on Highway 61 to Red Wing. The town hugs the majestic bluffs lining the Hiawatha Valley. This geographical setting is most visible from Memorial Skyline Drive. In town, you'll see some marvelous examples of 19th century architecture. And the history of the area is traced with excellent displays in the Red Wing Historical Society Museum.

Alternate Route

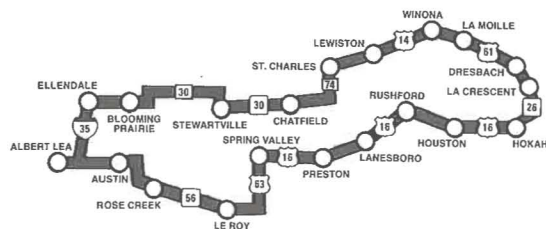
For pleasant scenery, follow County Road 2 from Millville south to Elgin and Viola. If your trip is timed properly, you may get in on an offbeat festival held in Viola during mid-June. The Gopher Count centers around bounties paid for gophers and includes a parade and street dancing. It may be the oldest organized festival in Minnesota.

East of Viola is one of the most popular parks in Minnesota, Whitewater State Park, located along the trout-laden Whitewater River and in a valley walled by high, wooded, limestone bluffs. Ask the park ranger or naturalist to point out the many hiking trails in the area, one of which leads to a gigantic beaver dam that has been undisturbed for years. This park is one of the busiest in the state; perhaps because there are no mosquitoes here. It's a camper's dream.

Highway 71 continues through the Whitewater Wildlife Area and joins 61 at Weaver. Turning north on 61 you are on one of the most scenic routes in the United States, the Hiawatha Valley, dividing Minnesota and Wisconsin.



The Bunnell House in Homer, built in 1850.



CRACKERBARREL COUNTRY Minnetour 11

A good starting point for this tour is Albert Lea where the newest of our highway tourist centers provides information and literature on Minnesota vacations. While in the area, visit the Freeborn County Historical Society museum (open summers, T, W, Sun. 2-5 p.m.) or take a boat ride on Fountain Lake. Walk the nature paths of Helmer Myre State Park, centered around Big Island on Albert Lea Lake, and see more than 400 species of wildflowers.

On to Austin. Visit the Mower County Historical Center at the fairgrounds where old trains, a horse-drawn vehicle museum and pioneer buildings are on display. A unique attraction is the Hormel Nature Center with its more than 85 varieties of trees.

Now take Highway 56 through Rose Creek and Adams. These charming hamlets recall a placid era of dandelion wine and lemonade on the front porch.

Near LeRoy is Lake Louise State Park, at the confluence of two streams which form the Iowa River.

Go north to Spring Valley, established in 1855, for a nostalgic look at the ornate downtown architecture.

Now proceed east to Minnesota Caverns and Mystery Cave which offer daily guided tours from late April through October. The caves have underground rivers, fossil imprints, and towering formations. But wear a jacket; it's 47 degrees down there all year.

Next stop is a unique state park built around the abandoned townsite of Forestville, dating back to the 1850s. The last business in town, the Meighen store, closed in 1910. The store, the living quarters of the family who ran it and the original shelf stock are on display. Maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society, the store is open to visitors.

Now head for Preston. In the Courthouse is the Fillmore County Historical Society Museum, and camping facilities are available in town. The nearby Root River and Camp Creek are teeming with trout.

Lanesboro is your next stop. Here you can visit the Lanesboro Trout Hatchery, largest in the state.

Continuing northeast along the Root River valley, you'll come to Rushford. On the river you'll see Tew's Mill, built in 1875. It was once a feed mill and later a hatchery.

Travel east to Houston and make a picnic

stop at the city park. Just north is Money Creek, a peaceful town on a creek that got its name when a settler dropped a wad of bank notes in the water. Hanging them on a bush to dry, he lost them for good when a wind blew them back into the creek.

East of Houston is Hokah, home of Potter Cheese, a cheddar making operation. Tours are available by special arrangement. Buy some cheese before you continue on your way to La Crescent, the "Apple Capital," where in the fall, apples sold at roadside stands make a satisfying mid-afternoon snack alone or with cheddar cheese. While you're there, don't miss the scenic Hiawathaland Apple Blossom Drive.

Between La Crescent and Winona, there's a Rest and Information Center at Dresbach, on the banks of the Mississippi.

Next, turn at La Moille and head toward the hamlet of Pickwick. Here, an old mill still grinds food, and willows droop over the mill pond from which a trout stream tumbles.

Return to the river highway and proceed to Homer where you can visit the historic Bunnell House, which appears on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1850, it's called the "Lace House" because of the fancy carvings along its eaves.

Your next stop is Winona, a city steeped in river lore. The steamboat Julius C. Wilkie is now a museum open for you to tour. It was one of the last paddlewheelers to regularly ply the Mississippi. While downtown, don't miss the Watkins Art Gallery; the Winona National Bank which houses big game trophies, works of art and craft; and the Merchants National Bank, one of the last structures of the "Prairie School" of American architecture.

Head west to Stockton, to see one of the last remaining water-powered mills, built in the 1800s. It's still in operation.

In Lewiston, there's a museum of pioneer living at the Arches Branch Museum. And down the road at St. Charles, you can see an actual Little Red School House, built in 1905.

Continue south and west through Chatfield and Stewartville where you can fish and picnic at Lake Florence. Then jog north to catch Highway 30 leading to Blooming Prairie's Steam Museum on the Art Anderson farm. It displays every facet of early farm life in Minnesota including work horses and steam threshers.

Alternate Route

Follow the highway south from Lanesboro to Harmony and tour Niagara Cave, carved by subterranean rivers millions of years ago.

Continue east on Highway 44 through spectacular country to Caledonia. At the fairgrounds is the Houston County Historical Museum and just west of town off Highway 76 is Beaver Creek Valley State Park, where high, wooded bluffs present a typical Houston County scene. Beautiful.

Minnesota facts and figures



State Flower
Pink and White
Lady Slipper



State Fish
Walleye



State Bird
Common
Loon



State Gemstone
Lake Superior
Agate



State Tree
Norway Pine



State Flag
Adopted in
1957

Area—84,068 square miles (12th largest state)

Land Area—80,009 square miles

Inland Waters—4,059 square miles

Width—358 miles

Length—405 miles, extending from 43° 30' to
49° 23'4" (northern most point in the
continental U.S.)

Circumference—1,880 miles

Population (1970 census)—3,805,069 (19th largest state)

State Capital—St. Paul

Largest City—Minneapolis

Average Mean Altitude—1,200 feet

Highest Point—Eagle Mountain 2,301 feet

Lowest Point—602 feet, the surface of Lake Superior

Three River Systems—Mississippi, Minnesota
and the Red River of the North. Water
flows from Minnesota in three directions—
Hudson's Bay, Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of
Mexico. No water flows into the state.

Average last spring freeze—April 30

Average first fall freeze—October 13

Annual precipitation—24.71 inches

Annual snowfall—42.3 inches

Summer mean temperature—70 degrees

Average mean temperature—44 degrees

Minnesota's major historic sites

The Minnesota Historical Society operates 13 major historic sites, some of which are included on the 11 Minnetours. Here is a complete listing of these major sites:

Lindbergh House and Interpretive Center:

Located at Charles A. Lindbergh State Park, two miles south of Little Falls on County Road 52. Open from May through October, admission is free. Phone 612/632-3154.

Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm:

Located two miles southeast of Elk River, accessible from U.S. 169, 10 and 52. Open from May through September and on weekends during October. Admission is charged. Phone 612/441-1619.

Upper Sioux Agency:

Located nine miles south of Granite Falls on Hwy. 67. Part of a State Park, it is open May through October with admission being a state park sticker or daily fee. Phone 507/697-6321.

Lower Sioux Agency and Interpretive Center:

Located nine miles northwest of Morgan from County Road 2. It is open year around and admission is free. Phone 507/697-6321.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum:

Accessible from U.S. 169 on southwest shore of Mille Lacs Lake. Open May through September. Admission is charged. Phone 612/532-3632.

Minnehaha Depot:

Located on Minnehaha Avenue near East 49th Street in Minneapolis, it is part of Minnehaha Park. Open May through Labor Day, admission is free. Phone 612/726-1171.

Historic Fort Snelling:

Located in St. Paul and accessible from Hwys. 5 and 55, it is open May through October. Admission is charged. Phone 612/726-1171.

W.H.C. Folsom House:

On Government Road in Taylors Falls. Open weekends June through September, admission is charged. Phone 612/465-2535.

Alexander Ramsey House:

265 Exchange Street in St. Paul. Open year around, except on Mondays. Phone 612/222-5717.

Burbank-Livingston-Griggs House:

432 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. Open year around except on Mondays. Admission is charged. Phone 612/227-1343.

Connor's Fur Post:

Located near Pine City off I-35, one and one-half miles west on County Road 7. Open May through September, admission is charged. Phone 612/632-3154.

Jeffers Petroglyphs:

Located three miles north of Hwy. 30 on County Road 2, east of Jeffers. Open May through September, admission is free. Phone 507/628-4611.

Fort Ridgely:

Located on Hwy. 4 seven miles south of Fairfax, it is part of a state park. Open May through September, weekends in October. Admission is a state park sticker or daily fee. Phone 507/426-7888.

Detailed information on any of these sites may be obtained from the Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling, St. Paul 55111. Phone 612/726-1171.