

Tours



Stone Arch Bridge (Courtesy MeetMinneapolis.com)

Friday, March 30

The Three Mississippis of the Twin Cities

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Cost: \$34.50

The Mississippi River changes more dramatically in its short run through the Twin Cities metropolitan area than anywhere else along its course. These changes explain why St. Paul became the Mississippi River's head of navigation and Minneapolis a milling center. Immediately above St. Anthony Falls, in the heart of Minneapolis, the prairie river begins and runs north to Lake Itasca. Below St. Anthony the Mississippi drops into a narrow, 8.5-mile gorge, falling over 110 feet through three locks and dams. Then, at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, the Mississippi becomes the large floodplain river. This is the river of Mark Twain and steamboats, the river of image, myth and metaphor.

This tour begins at St. Anthony Falls, with an excursion out onto the lock, overlooking the falls. Participants will then travel along the gorge to Minnehaha Falls. We will continue downriver to Indian Mounds Park, which overlooks the large floodplain river from a bluff 200 feet above the Mississippi. We will end below the bluff, at the new Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, which was until recently a railyard. The site is home to Carvers Cave (sacred to the Dakota Indians) and caves associated with Jacob Schmidt's original brewery. For the entire tour you will be in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a 72-mile long unit of the National Park Service. Dr. John Anfinson, National Park Service historian and author of *River of History* and *The River We Have Wrought*, will lead the tour.

Friday, March 30

Mall of America

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Cost: \$15.00

The tour, led by Jim Farrell, St. Olaf University, will explore the Mall of America as an artifact of the history of consumption, considering the way it reflects and affects shopping, identity, commercialization, marketing, entertainment, suburbanization, automobility and politics.

Friday, March 30

Minneapolis Historic Riverfront Milling District

12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$34.50

Participants will tour the historic Mississippi riverfront district at St. Anthony Falls in downtown Minneapolis, which was the flour milling center of the world in the early twentieth century (home of Pillsbury and Gold Medal Flour) and is now a growing cultural, recreational and residential neighborhood. National Park Service historian David Wiggins, will lead the tour onto the restored 1883 Stone Arch Bridge for a spectacular view of the falls and the historic buildings surrounding it.

Saturday, March 31

Mille Lacs Indian Museum

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00

Take a chance to get out of Minneapolis, and discover the history and culture of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. This tribal museum reflects a unique collaboration between a tribal community and a state historical agency. The Mille Lacs Indian Museum offers exhibits dedicated to telling the history of the Band, their struggle for sovereignty within the state of Minnesota, and the recent Supreme Court decision that reaffirmed their treaty rights. This tour will include discussion with museum staff and a stop at a restored 1930s trading post adjacent to the Museum. Transportation to and from downtown Minneapolis is included in the tour price.

Saturday, March 31

Minneapolis 1934 Truckers' Strikes

Sponsored by Labor and Working-Class

History Association

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$15.00

This two hour walking tour, limited to thirty participants, will leave from the Minneapolis Convention Center at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. The tour will focus on the dramatic events of the three 1934 Minneapolis truck-

ers' strikes, in February, May, and July of that year, which saw two strikers and two sheriffs' deputies die, hundreds injured and arrested, more than ten thousand march in the streets, and, in the end, thousands of truck drivers and warehouse workers unionized, turning Minneapolis from the U.S. "open shop" citadel into a "union town," and establishing a base from which to organize over-the-road trucking from Fargo, North Dakota, to Omaha, Nebraska. The tour will visit key sites in the strike, including the 1930s market and warehouse districts, the former strike headquarters, and downtown legal and financial centers.

The tour will be led by labor historian and activist, David Riehle, a railroad engineer and local chairman of United Transportation Union Local 650. Recently a member of the national executive board of the Labor and Working-Class History Association, Riehle has published extensively on local labor history in the *St. Paul Union Advocate*, the bimonthly newspaper of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, *Ramsey County History*, the journal of the Ramsey County Historical Society, and the electronic newspaper, *Workday Minnesota*. For the past eight years he has led labor history walking and bus tours for the "Untold Stories" program, sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.

Saturday, March 31 Twentieth-Century Urban Development in the "City of Lakes"

12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cost: \$34.50

This tour will focus on the history of the built environment in Minneapolis. Judith Martin, Director of Urban Studies at the University of Minnesota and an urban planning and preservation activist, will discuss important Minneapolis sites, including the downtown business district; Minneapolis's renowned municipal park system and famous chain of lakes (conceptualized by Theodore Wirth, a visionary leader in the early twentieth-century national public parks movement); significant 1973 federally-supported New Town-In Town project designed by modernist architect Ralph Rapson, now home to one of the largest Somali refugee immigrant communities in the U.S.; and more recent sites of urban revitalization and growth.

Saturday, March 31 Bob Dylan's American Journey 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$45.00

Robert Zimmerman of Hibbing, Minnesota, "became" Bob Dylan during his time in Minneapolis when he attended the University of Minnesota. When he was eighteen and nineteen years old, he hung out with a coterie of students, bohemians, musicians, intellectuals, writers, and outcasts centered around Dinkytown, a small commercial district for students adjacent to campus, and the West Bank, a student and immigrant area on the other side of the Mississippi River from the university campus. This bus tour will visit some of the key sites in Dinkytown and the West Bank associated with Dylan in 1959 to 1960, when he adopted folk music after his high school rock 'n' roll days in northern Minnesota. Leaping ahead to 1974, the tour will also visit Sound 80, a recording studio near the West Bank where many of the final sessions were recorded for Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*, with Minneapolis musicians (who were not credited on the released album's liner notes). Kevin Odegard, one of the *Blood on the Tracks* musicians, will be at Sound 80 to talk about those recording sessions. Odegard's book *A Simple Twist of Fate: Bob Dylan and the Making of Blood on the Tracks* chronicles those sessions and restores the role of the Minneapolis musicians to the story of Dylan's 1975 masterpiece album. The tour will end at one of the musical cornerstones of the West Bank music scene, the 400 Bar, where happy hour will include a set by musical legends "Spider" John Koerner and Tony "Little Sun" Glover, the two remaining members of Koerner, Ray, & Glover. (Dave "Snaker" Ray died in 2002.) Dylan learned a trick or two from these cats in his Minneapolis days and beyond. He continued to see them at folk festivals and on the music circuit and remains friends with them to the present day. Their 1963 album, *Blues, Rags, and Hollers*, was enormously influential in the education of musicians both obscure and famous as well as of music listeners. The bus tour will be led by Colleen Sheehy, associate faculty of American Studies and art history at the University of Minnesota and director of education at the Weisman Art Museum, where she is coordinating curator for the exhibition, "Bob Dylan's American Journey, 1956-1966," which will be on view during the OAH conference.

