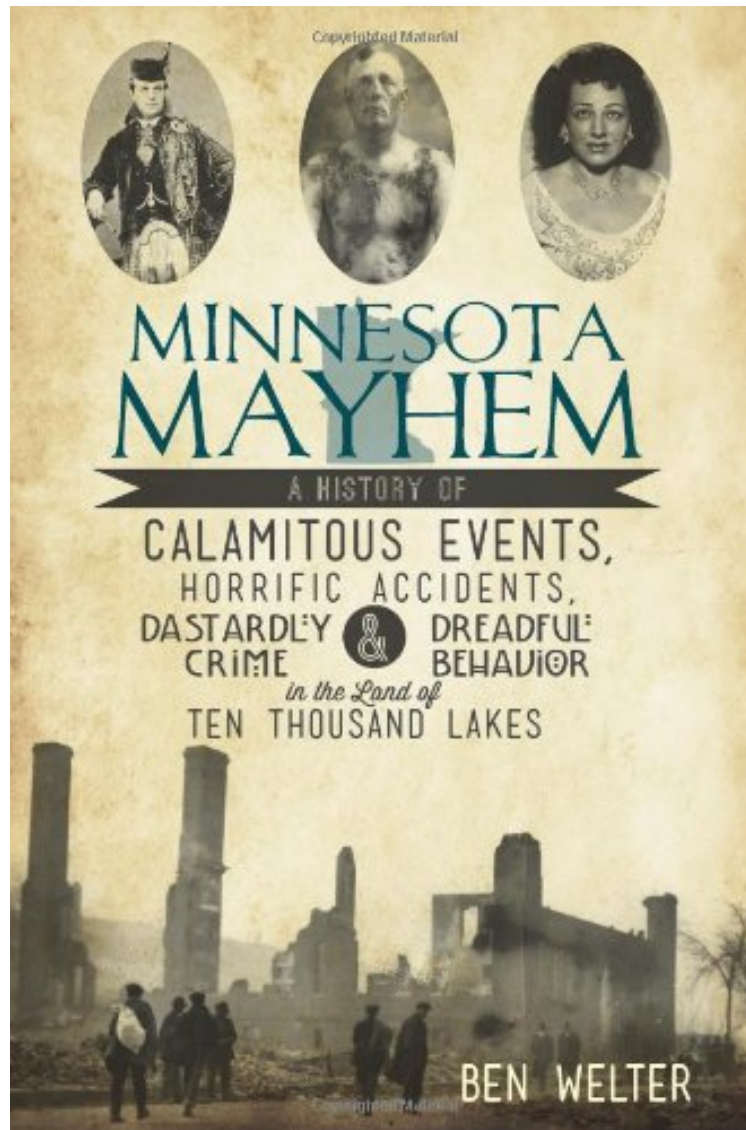


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Minnesota Mayhem: A History of Calamitous Events, Horrific Accidents, Dastardly Crime Dreadful Behavior in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes (True Crime)

Ben Welter

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Ben Welter : Minnesota Mayhem: A History of Calamitous Events, Horrific Accidents, Dastardly Crime Dreadful Behavior in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes (True Crime) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minnesota Mayhem: A History of Calamitous Events,

Horrific Accidents, Dastardly Crime Dreadful Behavior in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes (True Crime):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Remembering the Stories Gone By!By Happy ReaderThis slim volume, only 160 pages, is fun. Ben Welter gives us 34 stories taken from the pages of the venerable "Minneapolis Tribune", in business since 1867 (and now the "Star Tribune"). The stories are presented in chronological order, from a con man in August 1871 to the nationally reported Congdon murders in June 1977. It is interesting to see how the writing style of newspaper reporters has changed. Here's an excerpt from the 1881 story concerning a fire in the State Capitol building: "There was a grand rush for the doors, the lieutenant-governor, with admirable coolness, attempting to allay the excitement, which only rose the higher as a body of senators attempted to escape by the door, only to be beaten back by flame, and a cloud of black smoke that threatened to shut off that escape. Brave men blanched with fear. A thousand thoughts rushed through excited minds, and the distance from the windows to the ground was measured with anxious eyes." It's not "reporting" as we know it, but it is good story-telling. The book has stories of 1898 Road Rage, race relations, gangsters and storms there has to be storm reporting in Minnesota. Lots of generally interesting articles, too. Such as a fascinating 1901 interview with the infamous Jim and Cole Younger, just before their release from prison after serving 25 years for their part in a Jess James' attempted bank robbery. Jim told the reporter: "I don't think I shall be much disturbed by the mechanical and engineering advances that have occurred in the last 25 years.... I take the "Scientific American" [and] every issue of that paper I have studied carefully.... Now, of course, it will look odd to see a carriage running round without horses, or a big car traveling without mules or steam, but for years I have known that these things were, and pictures have familiarized me with their appearance." Ben Welter has been gleaning stories such as these since 2005. He publishes them in a blog on the "Star Tribune" website, titled "Yesterdays' News". This book was published in 2012, and his blog is still going strong. This collection of stories is 4.5 stars, rounded up to 5. Happy Reader 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny and Interesting!By mrspatchesVery good reading. Some odd events, some really funny stories, but all interesting! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy Denise BorgI love history especially state and family histories. After reading this book I learned many things I didn't know about the state where I was born and raised. I would DEFINITELY recommend it to everyone.

Turn back the yellowing pages of Minnesota's past and explore the best of the state's worst moments, as chronicled in the Minneapolis Tribune and its successor newspapers. These stories and photos, culled from the Star Tribune's microfilm archive by author Ben Welter, range from the catastrophic to the merely curious. From a fire that destroyed the State Capitol in 1881, to a wordless fistfight that broke out on a Minneapolis street in 1898, a flu outbreak that killed more than 10,000 Minnesotans in 1918 and the arrest of Frank Lloyd Wright at a Lake Minnetonka cottage in 1926.

About the Author Ben Welter, news copy chief at the Star Tribune newspaper, is a Minneapolis native and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. At work, he edits stories and writes headlines and photo captions. In his free time, he fishes for bluegills, rides a mountain bike and plays hockey and Scrabble. His history blog, "Yesterday's News," features stories and photos culled from the Minneapolis newspaper's 145-year-old microfilm archive. To avoid dating himself, he established one rule at the blog's launch in 2005: stories published during his own lengthy newspaper career do not qualify as "Yesterday's News." He has broken that rule just once, posting an account of Twins legend Kirby Puckett's exhausting first day in the Big Leagues in May 1984.