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Nota di contenuto	Threshold to an empire -- Beyond the great river -- War and peace on the Missouri -- In a Spanish dungeon -- Scions to the fore -- Amid an Indian war -- A frontier in havoc -- The "Osage outfit" -- VIPs at the Verdigris -- Probing the plains -- To the prairies unknown -- Debt unto death -- Steamboats "to the mountains" -- A mile wide and six inches deep -- Deadly cargoes : whiskey and cholera -- Charles Chouteau at the helm -- Passions of war -- Requiems in retrospect -- Addendum : the Chouteau women -- Appendix A : Chouteau families and Osage offspring -- Appendix B : Chouteau-related trading posts -- Appendix C : Chouteau-involved Indian treaties.

## Sommario/riassunto

In the late eighteenth century, the vast, pristine land that lay west of the Mississippi River remained largely unknown to the outside world. The area beckoned to daring frontiersmen who produced the first major industry of the American West--the colorful but challenging, often dangerous fur trade. At the lead was an enterprising French Creole family that founded the city of St. Louis in 1763 and pushed forth to garner furs for world markets. Stan Hoig provides an intimate look into the lives of four generations of the Chouteau family as they voyaged up the Western rivers to conduct trade, a.

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