

The Wayfarer

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THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Three generations of a Tennessee family representing 150 years are presented in their trek westward. The author speculates on the value of cultural transmittal through oral tradition inspiring such families to strike out on their own in an attempt to make history.

The Roads They Made: Women in Illinois History. By Adade Mitchell Wheeler with Marlene Stein Wortman. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Publishing Co., 1977. 213 pp., illus., maps, notes, bibliography, index, \$10.00 cloth, \$3.95 paper.)

Details the important role of women in the history of Illinois.

Growing Up on Bald Hill Creek. By Harvey M. Sletten. (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1977. xii, 161 pp., illus., \$6.95.)

An illuminating record of growing up in North Dakota rural areas which provides a nostalgic return to an earlier America for the older reader and a glimpse of a simpler time for the younger reader.

Echoes of Spring Valley. By J. Clarine J. Boyken. (Albert City, Iowa: Appeal Publishing Company, 1978. vi, 119 pp., illus., bibliography, \$7.95.)

Spring Valley School was located in Scott Township, Hamilton County, Iowa, a distance of five miles from the town of Ellsworth. This is the personal story of the author's school days in the one room rural schoolhouse so typical of American life. This is nostalgia at its best and a book to be enjoyed by young and old alike. A true credit to its author for preserving one segment of Iowa's heritage.

The Wayfarer. By James H. Blackmore. (Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1977. 162 pp., \$4.25 paper.)

This is a novel set in Iowa and written while the author was in Iowa City visiting his wife's relatives. It is not unusual for novels to be conceived in Iowa City (home of the famous Writ-

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ers Workshop) but much of this novel was actually written in the library of the State Historical Society while Mrs. Blackmore was doing genealogical research. Here is the touching story of a Southern soldier who went to Iowa after the War. It is based on thorough research and a keen insight into human nature and will hold the reader's interest from the first page to the last. The story might be fictional, but the portrayal of life in post-Civil War Iowa is true.

The Small Towns Book: Show Me the Way to Go Home. By James and Carolyn Robertson. (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Press, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1978. 208 pp., illus., \$5.95 paper.)

The story of people who are moving back to smaller towns—seeking the simple life, yet finding problems—unemployment, rising property taxes, and dwindling farmlands. This book explores the battle which must be fought by those seeking a return to the soil and small town life.

The Bull Moose Years: Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party. By John Allen Gable. (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1978. xi, 252 pp., illus., notes, bibliography, index, \$15.00.)

Historians of the Progressive era are few and this book sheds some new evidence, but very little overview, on the political alignments which produced the Progressive Party. The in-depth analysis of the national and state elections between 1912 and 1916 provide fresh insights. For Iowa history scholars the election of 1912 is significant for the fact that it was the first time since the birth of the modern Republican party that a Democrat (Wilson) carried the state. Gable's book helps to provide a better understanding of why the Bull Moose party failed, but provided a good lesson in political maneuverings.

—MDG

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