

The Small Towns Book: Show Me the Way to Go Home

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"The Small Towns Book: Show Me the Way to Go Home." *The Annals of Iowa* 45 (1979), 167-167.
Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.11114>

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Book Notices

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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