

The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey: Memories from the Farm of My Youth

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The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey: Memories from the Farm of My Youth, by Alan Guebert with Mary Grace Foxwell. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2015. xiii, 152 pp. Photographs. \$17.95 paperback.

Reviewer Pamela Riney-Kehrberg is professor of history at Iowa State University. She is the author of *The Nature of Childhood: An Environmental History of Growing Up in America since 1865* (2014) and *Childhood on the Farm: Work, Play, and Coming of Age in the Midwest* (2005).

Alan Guebert's *The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey: Memories from the Farm of My Youth* takes readers on a meandering walk through the seasons on his family's dairy farm in southern Illinois. Guebert grew up there in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1980. He is the author of the syndicated column "The Farm and Food File" and has drawn his material from that column. His family was a relatively prosperous one, and the farm was large. With the help of three full-time and three part-time hired men, the family farmed more than 700 acres of Mississippi River bottomland. Only as the family's boys matured did the family dispense with its hired labor. Once the sons were grown, their father replaced their labor with machines. The book is named for Guebert's great-uncle Honey, who, though sweet-tempered, managed to destroy every machine he laid his hands upon.

This book is fun and lightly written, well suited for the casual reader. There are no great revelations or deep secrets here. Instead, it is a loving examination of a place and time that have disappeared in the past half-century. The author reflects on hard work, a beloved family, and the often oppressive weather of America's heartland. This is a good book for a rainy (or snowy) day.

Educating Milwaukee: How One City's History of Segregation and Struggle Shaped Its Schools, by James K. Nelsen. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2015. 287 pp. Maps, tables, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Kathryn Schumaker is assistant professor of classics and letters at the University of Oklahoma. She is the author of "The Politics of Youth: Civil Rights Reform in the Waterloo Public Schools" (*Annals of Iowa*, 2013).

James K. Nelsen's *Educating Milwaukee* is a careful examination of the history of school reform in Milwaukee. That city, like many others in the Midwest and Northeast, suffered from the loss of manufacturing jobs, increasing poverty, and white flight to the suburbs during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. At the same time, the Milwaukee Public Schools were at the forefront of emerging trends in American education. Nelsen employs newspaper accounts, school board