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In This Issue

SHARON M. LAKE, an independent scholar, provides an account of the trial of a group of protestors at the Duane Arnold Energy Center, a nuclear power plant near Palo, in 1979. She sets the incident in historical context and explains why the jury in the trial reached a not guilty verdict, unlike juries in similar cases around the country at the time.

DAVID ZWART, associate professor of history at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, analyzes hundreds of congregational histories to show how rural Protestants in the mid-twentieth century identified themselves, how they constructed stories about what it meant to be from the heartland. Their stories, he finds, recounted the hard work and faith that had created the heartland. They also believed that those characteristics needed to continue in order for the region to remain the heartland.

Front Cover

Linn County Sheriff Orlie Workman faces down a group of protestors at the Duane Arnold Energy Center near Palo in 1979. For more on that incident and the trial of the protestors that followed, see Sharon Lake's article in this issue. Photo from Des Moines Catholic Worker Photo Archives.

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