

## I Remember Mamie

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## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

As Strickland methodically examines each of the aspects of Oklahoma history, he reveals two surprising elements. First, there is more written Oklahoma history than might be expected. For such a new state, Oklahoma has enjoyed examination by an incredible number of researchers, especially in certain areas such as the Indian period. On the other hand there are major gaps in Oklahoma historiography. Strickland is careful to note where work needs to be done, and he also indicates where it might occur without the major difficulties caused by absence of records or other problems. Strickland's essay is a valuable tool for historians of Oklahoma.

Other essays are by Anne Morgan, Sheila Manes, and Jerome O. Steffen. They deal with literature, the Okies in California, and an attempt to place Oklahoma history into a larger context. Their quality varies, but all tend to fall short of the exceptional essays described above.

The collection is a legitimate contribution to increased understanding of Oklahoma. It is much better overall than most recent collections in Oklahoma history. And, as expected, the press has produced another well designed and clean product.

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### Book Notices

*Fire Insurance Maps of Iowa Cities and Towns: A List of Holdings*, comp. Peter H. Curtis. (Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of the State Historical Society, 1983. pp. 50, \$2.50 paper.)

This is a survey of the holdings of the three largest fire map collections in the state of Iowa: Office of State Historical Society, the University of Iowa Library, and the State Archives. In addition, a list of the Iowa holdings in the Library of Congress is provided for the Bennett Map Company and Sanborn Map Company. Fire insurance maps provide genealogists, historians, urban planners, and other scholars with a wealth of data and this book brings that information together into a very useable source. An absolute "must" for all reference collections of libraries in Iowa.

*I Remember Mamie*, by Donald L. Kimball. (Fayette: Trends and Events, Inc., 1981. pp. 235, illustrations, bibliography, \$13.95 cloth.)

The author does not claim this to be a scholarly work nor an intimate biography, but rather the narrative of the life of a noted Iowan and one of the nation's First Ladies. Kimball first met the Eisen-

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howers in 1952 in Chicago when he worked on the nomination committee and there he developed a casual acquaintance. Mamie Doud Eisenhower was born in Boone, Iowa where her birthplace has been preserved. The book is enhanced by several nicely reproduced photographs and is a credit to the author.

*A Place to Grow: Revitalizing Iowa's Economy*, by David B. Hinton. (Newton: News Printing Company, 1983. pp. 116, appendixes, notes, \$3.75 paper.)

Written by a member of the Iowa Development Commission and a Marshalltown native, this book is really a treatise on the author's viewpoints of where Iowa is going in the future. It is a strategy of action for economic growth in the Hawkeye state.

*A Hero Nonetheless: Albert Miller Lea, 1808-1891*, by Robert M. Merryman. (Lake Mills: Graphic Publishing Company, Inc., 1983. pp. 152, illustrations, notes, appendixes, index, \$14.95 cloth.)

A very readable book and one well worth the price. The author has performed an excellent task of pulling together bits and pieces of information about Albert Lea into one source. Residents of Minnesota know that one of their cities is named after this man, while Iowans are aware that it was Lea who did more than any single person in giving the name to their state. He really popularized the name "Iowa" through his famous book, *Notes on the Wisconsin Territory*. This is a handsomely illustrated work with Lea's original maps nicely reproduced and best of all all the profits from sales go equally between the Iowa and Minnesota State Historical Societies. A cause well worth any reader's support.

*Geology of Iowa: Over Two Billion Years of Change*, by Wayne I. Anderson. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1983. pp. 268, illustrations, maps, references, index, \$32.50 cloth, \$17.95 paper.)

The author, head of the earth science department at the University of Northern Iowa, has written the first general overall summary of the state's geologic past—a chronological account of the rock formations that underlie the farmland and cities of Iowa. Specially prepared maps portray the various geographic settings of ancient Iowa from Precambrian times to the coming of man. He explains the environment of deposition or formation for each of the state's major rock groups and describes key fossils. It is written for the general audience—interested citizen, teacher, and beginning college student and is richly illustrated and highly informative. A much needed and long awaited general textbook.

—MDG

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