People, Pride, and Progress: 125 Years of the Grange in America

Thomas Woods
in July 1917. Tom Vaughan, Bisbee Museum curator, describes everyday life in a copper camp, noting the racial and ethnic composition of the population, the role of women, the social environment surrounding saloons, and the proliferation of schools, churches, theaters, and fraternal lodges. His theme is Bisbee's transition from a mining camp to an industrial city.

Everyone connected with this project should be proud of the high quality of the final product. Some readers of this journal may establish possible historical and preservation ties between Bisbee and coal mining communities in southern Iowa. All can enjoy this exceptional collection of photographs and benefit from the excellent historical essays.


**REVIEWS BY THOMAS WOODS, STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN**

David H. Howard's *People, Pride, and Progress* is an important contribution to an understanding of the great breadth of the history of the Grange, America's most enduring farmers' organization. It is the only book available that treats the entire history of the Grange from its founding to the present. Howard uses a chronological approach to discuss the issues and policies the Grange supported in the administration of each National Grange master.

For more than 125 years, the Grange has had a significant influence on American rural life and social policy. A grassroots organization, it was organized in the late 1860s and early 1870s through the enthusiasm and persistence of midwestern farmers. Iowa has always played an important role in the Grange. Fiery Dudley W. Adams, Iowa State Grange master, became the second national Grange master in 1873. The next year, Iowa boasted more than 1,800 subordinate granges, nearly twice the number in any other state, and it led the nation in Grange cooperative activity, doing more than $5 million worth of business with Grange agents.

The author's goal was to "present a usable history which will provide inspiration and ammunition for Grange leaders and workers as they build their organization" (9). In achieving that goal, Howard has crafted his book to bear a family resemblance to other books written by Grange leaders. These include Thomas Clark Atkeson's *Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, a history of the
organization to 1916, and Charles Gardner’s *The Grange, Friend of the Farmer*, which takes the history of the Grange to the mid-1940s. In some ways, this book is a good primer not only on the Grange, but also on the history of national agricultural policy, since it touches on most of the important legislative initiatives and issues relating to agriculture in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.


REVIEWED BY ROBERT F. GISH, CAL POLY STATE UNIVERSITY

Anyone who attempts to follow Frederick Manfred’s literary and life travels through Siouxland knows that the subject and symbolism of the title of his latest book are of long-standing importance in Manfred’s many, many books. Siouxland, both literal and metaphorical, like most places of mind and body, spirit and soul, knows well the repeated, generational struggles of primitive and civilized, the ancient and the ethereal. In *Of Lizards and Angels* Manfred manages to handle such scope, such range, with all the force and magnitude of the Norse and Icelandic sagas, the Freudian and other psychologies, and the intuitions of the human heart that influence so much of Manfred’s work.

In his latest novelistic roaming of Siouxland, Manfred follows the lizard yearnings and leanings, the instinctual drives and appetites of the Freyling family, from frontier struggles with the land and settlement into the modern travail of urban social angst. Some readers might see this family saga amounting to a catalog of crimes and perverisons, while others might focus on the Old Testament’s lessons of vengeance. Still others might find more of the soap opera than the saga in the pervasive and relentless dramatizations of battles of the fittest compounded by battles of the sexes. Manfred’s fans, however, know that few writers struggle with the life force in all of its manifestations as devotedly as he does. Here in *Of Lizards and Angels* the élan vital shows raw.

It has to be so in Iowa, where Tunis Freyling and his wife Clara first settle. There’s the land to be cultivated—and the harsh and austere yet captivating obviousness of nature, season after season. As family and farm grow, human nature mirrors the pulse and passion of the cosmic truths of the cycles of sex and regeneration, degeneration and death. Tunis has a deep secret he carries with him, a secret that colors not only his life but the lives of his wife and their children. The nature of the secret is not really the point. It is the