Wilderness Calling: the Hardeman Family in the American Westward Movement 1750-1900

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Book Notices

that churned the waters of the Colorado River from the Gulf of California to Wyoming between 1852 and 1916. The lifeline of many areas was the steamboat bringing supplies and carrying back millions of dollars in precious metals. It is ironic that steamboats aided railroad construction which helped speed their own demise. This book, lavishly illustrated, documents a colorful and important segment of the history of the American Southwest.


Riding in a motorhome furnished by the Winnebago, Inc. of Forest City, Iowa, the author and his family traveled the route of the Lewis & Clark trail. While civilization has altered most of the route, much of the beauty remains undisturbed. Using the journals of Lewis & Clark, the author combines their observations of 1804-06 with his own personal ones. Iowans are especially interested in the fact that the only casualty of the expedition, Sergeant Floyd, died on the Missouri River and was buried in what is now Sioux City. Today the Sergeant Floyd monument (a sandstone obelisk resembling the Washington Monument) stands as Iowa's tribute to this expedition. Complementing the narrative are the drawings of flora, fauna, and scenery. Lewis & Clark would have enjoyed this book with its useful maps and listing of the sites and facilities available along the trail to the modern adventurer.

*William Clark, Jeffersonian Man on the Frontier.* By Jerome O. Steffen (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977. xii, 196 pp., illus., notes, bibliography, index, $9.95.)

More than the usual biography this work is an analysis of Clark's life as it reflects early nineteenth-century America.

*Wilderness Calling: The Hardeman Family in the American Westward Movement 1750-1900.* By Nicholas Hardeman. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977. 357 pp., illus., maps, bibliography, index, $14.95.)
Three generations of a Tennessee family representing 150 years are presented in their trek westward. The author speculates on the value of cultural transmittal through oral tradition inspiring such families to strike out on their own in an attempt to make history.

The Roads They Made: Women in Illinois History. By Adade Mitchell Wheeler with Marlene Stein Wortman. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Publishing Co., 1977. 213 pp., illus., maps, notes, bibliography, index, $10.00 cloth, $3.95 paper.)

Details the important role of women in the history of Illinois.

Growing Up on Bald Hill Creek. By Harvey M. Sletten. (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1977. xii, 161 pp., illus., $6.95.)

An illuminating record of growing up in North Dakota rural areas which provides a nostalgic return to an earlier America for the older reader and a glimpse of a simpler time for the younger reader.


Spring Valley School was located in Scott Township, Hamilton County, Iowa, a distance of five miles from the town of Ellsworth. This is the personal story of the author's school days in the one room rural schoolhouse so typical of American life. This is nostalgia at its best and a book to be enjoyed by young and old alike. A true credit to its author for preserving one segment of Iowa's heritage.


This is a novel set in Iowa and written while the author was in Iowa City visiting his wife's relatives. It is not unusual for novels to be conceived in Iowa City (home of the famous Writ-