In This Issue

DURWOOD BALL, associate professor of history and editor of the New Mexico Historical Review at the University of New Mexico, offers an account of Captain Edwin V. Sumner’s expedition to the northern reaches of Iowa Territory near the Canadian border in 1845. The campaign, as originally conceived, had a straightforward mission to inscribe U.S. sovereignty on the land, impress national authority on Native Americans living in the region, and assess the military threat posed by the Santee Sioux, Métis, and British. Ball argues, however, that President James K. Polk’s expansionism at the time, and the resulting tensions with Great Britain and Mexico, elevated the importance of the campaign.

PAUL MOKRZYCKI, a doctoral candidate in the history department at the University of Iowa, assesses what the disappearance of Des Moines paperboys Johnny Gosch in 1982 and Eugene Wade Martin in 1984 meant for Iowans and other midwesterners and how they shaped the national discourse about missing children since the 1980s.

STACY PRATT MCDERMOTT, assistant director and associate editor for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, reviews four brief topical books about Abraham Lincoln.

Front Cover

In September 1984 President Ronald Reagan held a campaign rally at the Cedar Rapids airport. With Air Force One parked behind him, Reagan grieved the disappearances of Des Moines paperboys Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin and assured those gathered at the airport that “none of us will rest until the streets in Iowa and throughout this nation are once again safe, particularly for our children.” For more on missing paperboys in the 1980s, see Paul Mokrzycki’s article in this issue. Photograph courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Simi Valley, California.

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Contents

1 Beyond Traverse des Sioux: Captain Edwin V. Sumner’s Expedition to Devil’s Lake in 1845
   Durwood Ball

29 Lost in the Heartland: Childhood, Region, and Iowa’s Missing Paperboys
   Paul Mokrzycki

71 Lincoln in Brief: A Review Essay
   Stacy Pratt McDermott

77 Book Reviews and Notices

95 Announcements
Review Essay

71 WILLIAM C. HARRIS, Lincoln and the Union Governors
    JOHN DAVID SMITH, Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops
    THOMAS A. HORROCKS, Lincoln’s Campaign Biographies
    FERENC MORTON SZASZ WITH MARGARET CONNELL SZASZ, Lincoln and Religion

by Stacy Pratt McDermott

Book Reviews and Notices

77 JOHN T. PRICE, ED., The Tallgrass Prairie Reader, by Marcia Noe

78 GARY PHILLIP ZOLA, We Called Him Rabbi Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry, A Documentary History, by Shari Rabin

80 TIMOTHY L. WESLEY, The Politics of Faith during the Civil War, by Mark S. Schantz

81 RONALD R. SWITZER, The Steamboat Bertrand and Missouri River Commerce, by Maria Howe


85 DOUG ANDERSON ET AL., Orange City, by David Zwart

86 BRYCE T BAUER, Gentlemen Bootleggers: The True Story of Templeton Rye, Prohibition, and a Small Town in Cahoots, by Bill R. Douglas

87 EDWARD WHITE, The Tastemaker: Carl Van Vechten and the Birth of Modern America, by R. Tripp Evans

89 MATTHEW CECIL, Hoover’s FBI and the Fourth Estate: The Campaign to Control the Press and the Bureau’s Image, by Frank Durham

91 PAMELA RINEY-KHEIRBERG, The Nature of Childhood: An Environmental History of Growing Up in America since 1865, by Paula Petrik

93 RALPH SALISBURY, So Far, So Good, by Thomas K. Dean