Eastern Iowa's Aviation Heritage

Jan Olive Full
Dakotas from territorial days into the twentieth century, and no amount of cooperative economic activity or pressure-group politics could overcome the cozy relationship that characterized corporate interests and the ruling Republican ring. Lee details the complexities and challenges of fusion politics. In the end, over the objections of Loucks, South Dakota Populists fused with the Democratic Party and won the votes of numerous Silver Republicans to make impressive in-roads into elected office. James H. Kyle was elected as a Populist to two terms in the U.S. Senate, and Richard Pettigrew drifted from his Republican base to become a Silver Republican during his second term. Meanwhile, Andrew Lee served two terms as the Populist governor of South Dakota.

Sadly, as happened in other areas of Populist strength, the agrarian radicals were unable to capture both executive office and legislative majorities for sufficient time to accomplish their goals, which included moderate inflation for indebted farmers, government ownership of railroads, fiscal and grain trading regulation, and a raft of political reforms that eventually became law during the Progressive Era.

America is experiencing another Gilded Age of corporate excess, significant inequality, government corruption, fiscal crisis, and a resurgence of populist activism, whether among the Tea Party or those who see themselves as part of the 99 percent. For just about anyone interested in today’s economic and political crisis, Lee’s book will make you think even while expertly telling the story of South Dakota’s Populist movement.


Reviewer Jan Olive Full is managing member of Tallgrass Historians L.C. She is the author of Iowa City Municipal Airport: Opening the West to Aviation, 1918–2007 (2007).

Following six pages of introductory matter, Scott M. Fisher’s pictorial history book contains more than 200 black-and-white historical images of wide-ranging subjects in the history of aviation in eastern Iowa, from hot-air balloons to presidential helicopters. Each image is accompanied by a long caption, which usually but not always interprets the image. The book is organized chronologically into six short chapters dated between the late 1800s and 2010. The first and last chapters each cover several decades, but the middle chapters address only single decades, indicating the author’s main focus on the years from 1910 to 1950.
There are no notes, bibliography, or index, which is the typical format for this publisher’s local history series, but each image is credited.

Fifty-nine of the 7,500 publications in Arcadia’s Images series have Iowa subjects. What is most useful about the series and this book is the potential for uncovering previously unpublished images held in private collections. When combined with better-known images from public archives, the subject is presented in an extremely accessible format. One learns a little history along the way from the captions. Without sources, however, the photo credits offer the only useful research tool. Unfortunately, the credits in this volume may not always be accurate. This book is of interest to aviation enthusiasts who do not want or need to replicate the research for their own purposes, surely the intended audience.


Reviewer Glen Jeansonne is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. His articles and books about Herbert Hoover include _The Life of Herbert Hoover: Fighting Quaker, 1928–1933_ (2012).

_Freedom Betrayed_ is Herbert Hoover’s last will and testament about foreign policy, a landmark in diplomatic, revisionist scholarship at the hands of a former president. Thoroughly researched and meticulously edited by George H. Nash, the dean of Hoover scholars, it is a labor of love for both the author and the editor. _Freedom Betrayed_ begins with an incisive, detailed introduction by Nash. The editor traces the evolution of the manuscript through numerous revisions and places each portion of the narrative within the historical context in which it was written. Nash reveals glimpses of early drafts in order to establish the evolution of Hoover’s thought. The editor describes the materials Hoover used and identifies the ex-president’s research assistants, proofreaders, fact-checkers, and secretaries. Nash pieced together hand-written, annotated scraps, determined which to include, and edited for clarity.

Part history, part memoir, the manuscript pertains exclusively to foreign policy and communist subversion from 1933 to 1952. Hoover relates as much of the story as possible via documents and quotations in order to render the narrative more objective. He remained during that time the spokesman of the GOP and attempted to exert influence on foreign policy. Hoover published seven books during the last five