In This Issue

LESLIE STEGH, retired records manager at John Deere, recounts the details of a series of strikes in Waterloo and the organized opposition from employers. He emphasizes the dispute over workers’ right to collective bargaining, the efforts by both sides to use local newspapers to sway public opinion, the relative absence of violence during the strikes, and the ultimately unsuccessful attempt to organize workers across industries to achieve a general strike.

KATHRYN A. SCHUMAKER, a lecturer in the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage at the University of Oklahoma, describes the struggle for civil rights reform in Waterloo’s public schools in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Initiated by students seeking more equitable treatment in their schools, their movement was coopted by a plan to desegregate the city’s schools that ignored many of the students’ basic concerns.

Front Cover

Workers at Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company were prominent among the nearly 3,000 workers who participated in a series of strikes in Waterloo in 1919, the subject of Leslie Stegh’s article in this issue. This photo of a loading crew in 1920 is courtesy of John Deere.

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Contents

321  The Waterloo Strikes of 1919
     Leslie Stegh

353  The Politics of Youth:
     Civil Rights Reform
     in the Waterloo Public Schools
     Kathryn A. Schumaker

386  Book Reviews and Notices

410  New on the Shelves

412  Index
Book Reviews and Notices

386 Enfys McMurry, *Centerville: A Mid-American Saga*, by Derek Oden


390 Timothy B. Smith, *Rethinking Shiloh: Myth and Memory*; and Linda Barnickel, *Miliken’s Bend: A Civil War Battle in History and Memory*, by Brian Craig Miller

393 John Zimm, ed., *This Wicked Rebellion: Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers Write Home*, by Patrick G. Bass

394 Norman K. Risjord, *Dakota: The Story of the Northern Plains*, by Jon K. Lauck

396 Todd W. Nichol ed., *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 36, by Dag Blanck

398 H. Roger Grant, *Railroads and the American People*, by Scott E. Randolph

400 Peter H. Argersinger, *Representation and Inequality in Late Nineteenth-Century America: The Politics of Apportionment*, by Mark Wahlgren Summers

402 Keith Newlin, ed., *Garland in His Own Time: A Biographical Chronicle of His Life*, by Marcia Noe

402 Greg Olson, *Voodoo Priests, Noble Savages, and Ozark Gypsies: The Life of Mary Alicia Owen*, by Victoria Smith

403 David Vaught, *The Farmers’ Game: Baseball in Rural America*, by Benjamin G. Rader


408 Gerald Vizenor and Jill Doerfler, *The White Earth Nation: Ratification of a Native Democratic Constitution*, by Mark R. Scherer