Cedar Rapids, Tall Corn and High Technology: a Pictorial History

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emphasized throughout and defined in a handy glossary at the end of the text. References at the end of each chapter provide suggestions for further reading. The illustrations by Doris Macdonald and Mary Slattery are most helpful. This is truly a valuable book for the layperson and anyone interested in Iowa's cultural heritage.


This is one in a superb series of books on various states published by Beautiful America Publishing. The book consists of forty-eight full-page color photographs with several pages of eloquent and informative text. The high contrast color photographs (including several farm scenes, Terrace Hill, Old Capitol, Amana, State Capitol, Hoover Birthplace, Dubuque Courthouse, etc.) may seem trite to Iowans at first, but they are taken from new angles which provide a fresh look at Iowa’s scenery. The text contains a nostalgic aura while providing some new insights into Iowa’s rich heritage. This book is ideal for gift-giving and to have on one’s coffee table for the enjoyment of guests. It is well worth the price.


The author, a freelance writer originally from Minnesota, has combed available sources for insights into the history of Iowa's second largest city. The book devotes most space to the period from the Civil War to the present. The narrative, while journalistic in style, is lively and enjoyable. Much emphasis is placed upon thumb-nail sketches of the large businesses and manufacturing concerns of the city. Through the use of biographical sketches and colorful anecdotes the author introduces such personages as the Cherry Sisters; artist Grant Wood; Art Collins, the radio pioneer who built communications equipment for the Apollo moon landing in 1969; and such community leaders as the Armstrongs, Killians, Fennells, and Klingers to mention only a
few. Hundreds of photographs, maps, sketches, and illustrations highlight this fascinating saga of a city and its people. The book, sponsored by the Cedar Rapids-Marion Chamber of Commerce, is one other cities could use as a model project.


Reprinted in paperback form, Bartlett’s book is volume thirty-eight in “The American Exploration and Travel Series.” The author traces four geographical and geological surveys conducted across the vast western expanses between 1867 and 1879. The so-called “Great Surveys” were led by: Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden, medical doctor turned geologist; Clarence King, aristocrat and intellectual; John Wesley Powell, conqueror of the Colorado River; and Lt. George Wheeler, military man and scientist. Anyone interested in topography, geology, and history will want to study Bartlett’s account of these surveys.


This is the somber story of the plight of the northern Shoshoni tribe (later to be called the Lemhi after a Book of Mormon name) as they were forced to cope with the encroachment of the white man. The author, professor of history at the University of Utah, has based most of his research on the government reports of the time. Mr. Madsen currently is retained by the Bannock-Shoshone tribe (located at the Ft. Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho) in a research and consulting capacity, in assisting the tribe with court claims against the U.S. government. This monograph, with its handsome photographic reproductions and exquisite design (typical of Caxton Printers), should find appeal among all scholars interested in the arduous life of the native Americans.