1,001 Broadways: Hometown Talent on Stage

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thirteen different positions with the National Park Service, beginning
in 1929 as a fire fighter in Alaska and finally working as the director of
the Albright Training Academy at Grand Canyon National Park. The
Institute of the American West copublished this handsome volume
which is a real credit to the publishers and the author.

1,001 Broadways: Hometown Talent on Stage, by Lorelei F. Eckey,
Maxine A. Schoyer, and William T. Schoyer. (Ames: Iowa State
University Press, 1982. 143 pp., illustrations, bibliographic essay, in-
dex, $12.95 cloth.)

This is a biography of Franceswayne Allen (sister of Maxine
Allen Schoyer) and the Universal Producing Company of Fairfield,
Iowa. It describes the almost forgotten theatrical phenomenon of early
twentieth-century America—the home talent show. The home talent
shows of the 1920s and 1930s took the forms of plays, musicals,
pageants, and revues, which were written or adapted by a profes-
sional production company which used local citizens as performers.
This is a fun book for casual readers and for students of theater and
Iowa history.

Farm Women on the Prairie Frontier: A Sourcebook for Canada and
the United States, by Carol Fairbanks and Sara Brooks Sundberg.
(Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1983. 237 pp., illustrations, index,
$17.50 cloth.)

This sourcebook is intended for students, teachers, and general
readers who wish to explore the historical and literary materials of the
grasslands of Canada and the United States. Four essays in Part I pro-
vide useful introductions to the land and the people, the history and
the fiction. Part II, the annotated bibliography of source materials,
directs readers to relevant materials including diaries, reminiscences,
general books, and literary criticisms. It is a very useful introduction
to this topic and well worth the attention of midwestern students.

The Oral History Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society,
compiled by Lila Johnson Goff and James E. Fogerty. (St. Paul: Min-
nesota Historical Society Press, 1984. 121 pp., index, $7.95 paper.)

This guide includes 1,474 oral history interviews. Part 1 lists
those housed in the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and Part
2 lists those housed in the various Regional Research Centers in Min-
nesota. There are numerous topical headings ranging from labor
unions to Farm Holiday Association. A handy index to interviewers