

Trani and Wilson also incorporate substantial elements of the revisionism associated with such historians as Joan Hoff Wilson, Carl Parrini, Melvyn Leffler, Donald Winters, and Robert Zieger. They note in particular the rise of a "corporate liberalism" and the way in which this affected diplomatic developments, economic policy, and the organization building of the departments of commerce and agriculture. What they make of this, however, is not entirely satisfying, chiefly perhaps because they miss or have chosen to ignore much that these revisionists have considered especially significant. There is little recognition, for example, of the divisions or changes within business or of the administrative conflicts over what constituted desirable forms of economic organization. Nor is there a recognition of the larger frameworks involved or the kinds of historical continuities that the revisionists have stressed. On the contrary the images of progressivism and the New Deal are essentially those found in the liberal history of the 1950s.

The authors have not, in this reviewer's estimation, jettisoned enough of the old progressive framework. But this disagreement aside, there is much to admire about the way that Trani and Wilson have pulled together and synthesized recent scholarship. They have also provided an excellent bibliographical essay, one that should be the starting point for those who would become serious scholars of the Harding presidency.

University of Iowa, Iowa City

Ellis W. Hawley

A Valley Renewed: The History of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. By Hal Jenkins. (Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1976. Pp. xii, 206. Illustrations, appendixes, index. Clothbound, \$11.00; paperbound, \$5.75.)

This book deals with the planning, financing, and implementation of solutions for the recurrent problems of flooding and drought in the Muskingum River Valley of eastern Ohio. During the 1920s, while memories of the devastating flood of 1913 were still fresh, business leaders of the region formulated tentative plans for a water conservancy district. Their program for flood control and water conservation through a series of dams and reservoirs drew heavily on the example of the Miami Conservancy District, which had been planned by Arthur E. Morgan after the 1913 flood.

Although reconciliation of conflicting interests within the Muskingum watershed proved difficult, acquisition of funds

emerged as the major obstacle. Only after the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 could the Muskingum Valley business leaders find the money to carry out their plans. During the early New Deal years the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) became a reality.

With federal support came some hard lessons for the gentlemen from the Muskingum Valley. While the government promised and ultimately delivered sufficient money for establishment of MWCD, federal funds brought the government into planning and supervision of MWCD projects. Plans were altered, and autonomy was compromised as the flood control program was turned over to the Army Corps of Engineers. Conceived and planned as a local effort, MWCD thus became largely a federal undertaking.

Acting more as editor than as author, Hal Jenkins has drastically condensed the late Dr. Roscoe Eckelberry's annotated 1,500 page manuscript into "a manageable narrative for a wider audience" (p. ix). With this larger readership in mind, Jenkins has deleted "most of such academic trappings as footnotes and citations that are of little interest to the general reader" (p. ix). The result is a straightforward narrative of the development of MWCD, marred by numerous lengthy quotations from plans and reports and the lack of an analysis of the importance of MWCD in the development of water resource legislation and programs. The general reader's interest remains to be determined. For the historian the inclusion of the notes or a bibliographic essay, coupled with some assessment of the significance of the MWCD enterprise, would have increased the value of this volume. Readers interested in a more analytical approach should consult Lyle E. Craine, "The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District: A Study of Local Control," *Law & Contemporary Problems*, XXII (Summer, 1957).

*Historical Division, Office
of the Chief of Engineers,
Baltimore*

Frank N. Schubert

Tomatoes Were Cheaper: Tales from the Thirties. By Charles A. Jellison. (New York: Syracuse University Press, 1977. Pp. ix, 240. Note on sources. \$10.95.)

Tomatoes Were Cheaper, a treatment of America in the 1930s, is not a scholarly monograph but rather an attempt "simply to recapture something of the flavor of American life as it was during those years" (p. vii). The usual scholarly appa-