

new buildings included a wide variety of student housing projects, extensive efforts to serve the theater, diversified laboratories to fill research needs, and classrooms, libraries, and other edifices which were the results of extensive planning.

The long established projects of Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey, dealing with male and female sexuality, received thorough-going support from President Herman B Wells, a situation which would not have been possible even a short time before. In a period of conflicting ideologies, great differences of opinion existed in the state and the university as to the extent to which communism had acquired a foothold in the United States. Similar discussion concerned itself with the influence of Naziism. The belief of many that communism and Hitlerism should receive the same treatment in a functioning democracy startled even some exponents of free speech.

Wide attention to many of the new academic developments expressed itself in the struggle for curriculum reform and in the fight for beauty and utility in building construction. Likewise there was determined effort for improvement in administrative procedures, in abounding efforts to secure athletic distinction, in the development of radio and television excellence, and in participation in the newly emerging nuclear age. Sometimes cultured progress seemed to be sidetracked by an emphasis on pragmatic concerns, but here too there was phenomenal support for changing viewpoints. In no place was this more evident than when the Metropolitan Grand Opera Company made its annual appearance, supplementing a local auditorium series of real distinction.

All in all the book is a remarkable social and intellectual history of Indiana University, 1938-1969.

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*Racine: Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County.* Edited by Nicholas C. Burckel. (Racine, Wis.: Racine County Board of Supervisors, 1977. Pp. xiv, 648. End maps, notes, figures, tables, illustrations, appendixes, index. \$7.50.)

*Woodlot and Ballot Box: Marathon County in the Twentieth Century.* By Howard R. Klueter and James J. Lorence. (Wausau, Wis.: Marathon County Historical Society, 1977. Pp. ix, 414. Map, illustrations, footnotes, selected bibliography, index. \$6.20.)

Throughout the nation the bicentennial celebrations provided both the occasion and the funding for projects of a commemorative nature. Accordingly many new tomes have appeared on the local history sections of library shelves. Wisconsin, despite—or perhaps because of—its reputation for being one of the most thoroughly researched states, has not been slow to sponsor volumes of various kinds. *Racine: Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County* and *Woodlot and Ballot Box: Marathon County in the Twentieth Century* are two such local projects from two contrasting areas of “America’s Dairyland.”

Racine County, located in the southeastern quadrant of Wisconsin, was an agricultural region in its early years, but since the 1880s it has been part of the urban-industrial, lake-shore corridor. In an attempt to give full play to human and political diversity as well as to economic development, ten local scholars were each asked to contribute a section on the county. Subjects range from geography and agriculture, through industry and business to politics and government, religion, education, and culture, the immigrant heritage, Indians and early white settlement, organized labor, and the community in war. In the long-hallowed tradition of county histories this volume aims to be both a reference tool for much of Racine’s past and a topical history which any reader can pick up and enjoy at any point. The reference aspect is readily visible both in style and content, and it is buttressed by a useful statistical appendix. The text is also easy to scan, but its enjoyment is marred by an uneven quality. Some parts match the solid Wisconsin standard of scholarship, but others indicate only a half-hearted interest in and commitment to the subject under discussion. Perhaps the authors were asked to span too long a period in such a short space. Given the existence of other Racine County histories penned by an earlier generation, it might have been more useful to concentrate on the present century, which has certainly produced a myriad of interesting phenomena worthy of detailed attention.

Such a decision was indeed taken by the coauthors of *Woodlot and Ballot Box*. Howard R. Klueter and James J. Lawrence set out to narrate the economic and political history of Marathon County in the twentieth century. Located in the northcentral part of Wisconsin this county’s early development focused on the exploitation of abundant timber resources. Once this lumbering heritage has been discussed, the shape of the modern economy gradually emerges in the form of wood-using industries, especially paper, and then more recently with newer

manufacturing groups like metalwork. The contribution of the agricultural sector also receives well-deserved attention. Political events in this populous heartland region have followed a complex course. Progressive and liberal tendencies were and are offset by an underlying conservatism, and economic upturns and downswings have competed with ethnocultural ties in election issues at both the local and state level. Information on twentieth-century Marathon County is certainly abundant, but its presentation could be improved. It is difficult to understand why more attention has been directed to the economy and to the earlier years of this century. But more disturbing than the lopsided treatment is the dense style. The authors seem reluctant to depart far from their primary and secondary sources. Further refinement of evidence would make for easier reading, especially for a general audience. The book is more likely aimed at eager Marathon residents. Doubtless that small band of academics who seem to make a career out of knowing all about Wisconsin will also peruse this and the Racine volume, but few others will take the time to delve into the nitty-gritty of local history. These bicentennial books are certainly worthy of note, but they will have limited impact.

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*A Kentucky Sampler: Essays from The Filson Club History Quarterly, 1926-1976.* Edited by Lowell Harrison and Nelson L. Dawson. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1977. Pp. 446. Notes, map, illustrations. \$12.50.)

A private society in Louisville dedicated to the collection of Kentucky history, the Filson Club has been in existence for nearly one hundred years and its journal, the *Filson Club History Quarterly*, for slightly more than fifty years. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the *Quarterly*, Lowell Harrison, professor of history at Western Kentucky University, and Nelson L. Dawson, editor of the *Quarterly*, present twenty-eight articles from the approximately eight hundred published since 1926. Striving for chronological balance and topical diversity, the editors have divided Kentucky's history into five periods: the pioneer era, the antebellum years, the Civil War, the late nineteenth century, and the twentieth century. From four to seven essays comprise each period.

Predictably some articles are better than others. Particularly impressive are Thomas D. Clark's "The Slavery Back-