

The review begins, "Most books in the *States and the Nation* series, of which *Illinois* is among the latest, have been greeted by the scholarly community with tolerance at best and ridicule at worst." That's a puzzle because it was demonstrably false when written, as any half-serious survey of scholarly reviews would show, and of course is unmistakably refuted by the laudatory reviews of most of the books in the series published by five scholars in the June, 1980, issue of the *American Historical Review*.

Later in the review Ridge criticizes Jensen's book for things that "may not be his fault. He probably had a shoot-out with the editors of the series and had to compromise . . . ." Probably? At least a quick phone call to the editors would have seemed in order to check grounds for a potshot like that. If Dr. Ridge becomes interested in the actual facts, I'll be glad to provide them.

Gerald George  
Director,  
American Association for  
State and Local History

## Call for Papers

A conference cosponsored by Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Children's Museum, and the Indiana Historical Bureau and entitled "Generations, the Family in American Life: A Dialogue with the Community" is to be held in Indianapolis on March 25-27, 1982. The conference proposes to assess the current state of knowledge about the American family in the past and present and, upon the basis of this information, to speculate about its future. Following the format of the 1978 conference in Indianapolis on Childhood in American Life, this will be an interdisciplinary symposium for the exchange of information about current research. It will not, however, be a specialized conversation between researchers, but rather a sharing of knowledge with the concerned community. Papers are especially sought that discuss the nature and roles of American families of vary-

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*Indiana Magazine of History* and only if, in the editor's judgment, it serves a worthwhile scholarly purpose. Authors of reviews and articles are provided an opportunity to respond. The editor reserves the right to impose space limitations on communications.

ing ethnic and national origins in the American past, based on, among other approaches, genealogical research, as well as papers that consider the relationship of styles of dwellings to family life in the past, present, and future (and the role of historic preservation in facilitating such study). Papers that explain the role of museums and other historical research collections in providing data for the study of family living patterns and for giving the present generation a graphic sense of family life in the past are also sought. Submit proposals to: Warren French, Conference Chairperson for Program, c/o Center for American Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, 925 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.