

include what others might categorize as popular music, blues, and hillbilly music. It is therefore not surprising to find a section entitled "I've Got the Railroad Blues," with a concise discussion of the form and content of blues music.

As if all this were not enough, there are also excellent photographs and other illustrations, a list of recorded instrumental music relating to trains, a list of important albums, and a detailed bibliography. Because railroads have played such an important role in Indiana's history, much of the information Cohen has compiled will be of great interest to local historians. Railroads have held a fascination for Americans since the early nineteenth century, which explains the profusion and popularity of these songs. Today, as passenger service is disappearing, we need reminders of the crucial role trains have played in our past. U. Utah "Bruce" Phillips has written a song entitled "Daddy, What's a Train?" (which is not included in *Long Steel Rail*), a sad comment on their demise. If, eventually, we are left with nothing else, we will always have railroad songs. And thanks to Norm Cohen, we will know what they are about and where to find them. Unfortunately, the price of the book is a bit steep.

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The Melting Pot and the Altar: Marital Assimilation in Early Twentieth-Century Wisconsin. By Richard M. Bernard. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980. Pp. xxviii, 162. Tables, maps, graphs, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$17.50.)

Although marriage across nationality lines is only one of many possible indices of immigrant assimilation, the author of this small but thought-provoking monograph makes a strong case for its primacy as a "measure of the success of the American melting pot" (p. xvii). Thus, the purpose of the book is set forth clearly at the outset: "to shed new light on immigrant assimilation by centering attention on the extent, patterns, and causes of intermarriage" (p. xvi). The setting for the study is Wisconsin, and the data examined derive primarily from a sample of the state's manuscript marriage registrations. Although the treatment is, of necessity, heavily quantitative, the prose is clear, and the book's many tables are succinctly summarized and explained. Happily, the author frequently enhances his presentation with case studies of particular

couples—including such notable figures as Carl and Paula Sandburg and Robert and Belle Case La Follette.

The book begins with an introductory essay that explores the theoretical and methodological problems in the study of marital assimilation and surveys and critiques previous treatments (primarily sociological) of the subject. The first chapter then sets the stage by detailing the size, composition, and distribution of Wisconsin's immigrant population. (In 1900, 25 percent of the state's residents were foreign born, another 46 percent were native born of foreign parents; the comparable figures for Indiana were 6 percent and 15 percent.) The three subsequent chapters—the heart of the book—deal with the questions "how much" and "why" by examining the statewide intermarriage rates of the major immigrant groups, the individual factors (e.g., age, class, exposure to other cultures in childhood) that inclined immigrants toward or away from exogamy, and the group factors (demographic "availability" and socioeconomic "desirability") affecting the process.

The results of these analyses are detailed, complex, and subject to many qualifications. The relative importance of the various individual and group variables, in particular, cannot be readily summarized in a brief review. Suffice it to say that many immigrants in early twentieth-century Wisconsin did indeed marry across nationality lines, western Europeans slightly more often than eastern Europeans. The author's findings seem to support his contention that "recent studies stressing cultural and structural pluralism . . . may have improperly deemphasized the assimilative side of immigrant life in America" (p. 124). More studies will be needed to test that proposition, and this book likely will be an important point of departure for such work. While the author's empirical findings are certainly welcome, in the long run the greatest value of this careful study may well be its theoretical and methodological underpinnings.

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Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaign of France and Germany, 1944-1945. By Russell F. Weigley. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1981. Pp. xviii, 800. Maps, illustrations, notes and sources, index. \$22.50.)

Addressing an audience at the Pentagon in 1946, Winston S. Churchill declared that the rapid expansion of the American