tention to devote to such topics as reform, war and peace, the university and its relationship to the larger society, academic freedom, political and business leadership, corporate responsibility, and national and regional planning. Nore meets this problem head on and provides her readers with appropriate balance while, at the same time, going out of her way to give Beard's critics equal time.

Intellectual biography is probably the most difficult type of biography to write since it must focus on life, times, and ideas and must strive to make some sense out of the interplay between all three elements. When one adds to these obvious problems a life as complex as Charles Beard's, one might conclude that there are easier paths to follow. Fortunately, Nore chooses the difficult way. As a result she has researched and written a study that may serve as one kind of model in this genre. In addition, her interpretation is an important addition to recent Beardian scholarship, especially as it relates to the traditional "placement" of Beard as one third of the intellectual trinity which includes Vernon L. Parrington and Frederick J. Turner. Perhaps she may now wish to turn to an equally important subject who richly merits an intellectual biography, Robert Lynd. In fact, Nore handles the relationship between Charles and Mary Beard so well that Robert and Helen Lynd should present no problem whatsoever.

_Ball State University, Muncie_  
Warren Vander Hill


Wendell Willkie's life forms an incredible tale that is well chronicled in Steve Neal's spirited, engaging biography of the Hoosier-born, Wall Street executive who captured the 1940 Republican nomination for president. As Neal describes him, Willkie was a maverick and free spirit. Among his family in Elwood, Indiana, and as a student at Indiana University, he was a radical. In later years Willkie reflected: "Any man who is not something of a Socialist before . . . forty has no heart. Any man who is still a Socialist after . . . forty has no head" (p. 8). By age forty-one Willkie was president of Commonwealth and Southern, a giant utility holding company. Intellectual ability, a charismatic personality, and luck contributed to his business success and led to his political rise.

Willkie seemed not to have a chance for victory at the 1940 Republican National Convention. A lifelong Wilsonian Democrat,
Wendell Willkie in Elwood, Indiana, during the 1940 Presidential Campaign

Courtesy Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington.

He registered as a Republican for the first time in 1939. He was not well known, had a not-so-secret mistress, had never held elective office, and had to defeat such formidable Republican regulars as Robert A. Taft and Thomas A. Dewey. Neal's writing and analysis are at their best in recounting Willkie's triumph over these obstacles in one of the most improbable candidacies in American history.

The president of Commonwealth and Southern had fought an eight-year battle with the Tennessee Valley Authority that, although ultimately unsuccessful, made him a folk hero among New Deal critics. Still, Willkie would never have been able to snatch the nomination from Taft and Dewey without the Nazi conquest of France in June, 1940. Among the Republican candidates Willkie alone was an outspoken internationalist, who warned that the United States had vital interests at stake in the European war. When the convention balloting began on June 27, the Nazi victory had brought many Republicans to Willkie's position. With adept convention strategy by Indiana Congressman Charles A. Halleck and others, the erstwhile Democrat won the right to contest
Franklin D. Roosevelt. In November Willkie carried his home state of Indiana and only nine others. Despite the lopsided electoral vote, the popular vote was much closer.

A political writer for the Chicago Tribune, Neal has done his homework in several archives, including Willkie's papers at Indiana University's Lilly Library. The author clearly likes Willkie and occasionally lapses into some excesses. For example, he gives Willkie extravagant credit for his role in the 1941 passage of the Lend-Lease Act and the 1943 termination of the unequal treaties with China. On balance, though, Neal has drawn a dramatic, sensitive, colorful, and honest portrait of Willkie that provides both entertaining and informative reading.

Indiana Central University, David L. Anderson

Indianapolis


That the life and accomplishments in aviation of Orin Moore Welch are not better known is lamentable indeed. Welch was a self-educated aeronautical engineer and flier who in 1927 began constructing airplanes of his own design in Anderson, Indiana. After four years of experimentation he began production in Portland, Indiana, of an inexpensive, reliable, and safe cabin monoplane that he hoped would bring personal flying to the masses. The Welch Aircraft Company moved to South Bend in 1936 and then to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in 1940. By the time production ceased on the eve of World War II, the family owned and operated firm had delivered fifty of the diminutive planes, a considerable number of which were powered by Welch designed and manufactured engines.

Drina Welch Abel has written an admiring tribute to her older brother, who was declared missing and presumed dead while flying a C-47 from Chungking to Calcutta in 1943. The book abounds with her personal recollections, newspaper accounts, and information on nearly every Welch airplane. The detailed drawings, photographs, specifications, and registration lists should prove a boon to antique airplane buffs and scale modelers looking for something out of the ordinary.

The book is, however, going to disappoint the specialist historian. It is amateurish in nearly every respect. Abel has made no attempt to place her brother's career within the historical