

constrained than blacks in the Ohio Valley. Black and white baseball teams competed in the town in 1911; the shooting of a white sheriff by a black in 1910 did not lead to an outbreak of violence against blacks; Monroe blacks belonged to white churches and attained a fairly high occupational level in the community. Certainly the factor of racism united Monroe blacks with others in the region, but the manner in which that racism was expressed, especially given the integrationist tradition in the northern Midwest, did not. The absence of comparisons with other small black communities and the size of Monroe's black populace also undercut the argument for typicality.

Until the last page, the author does not raise a fundamental question—why did a black community fail to take root here. His answer is that “the presence of an adequate population was missing. . . . A black community would begin to take form in the 1930s . . .” (p. 154). Combined with the typicality argument, this conclusion significantly weakens the efforts of the author. What we are left with is a disappointing book.

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The New Deal and the West. By Richard Lowitt. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984. Pp. xviii, 283. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliographical note, index. \$25.00.)

In a paper delivered at the 1963 meeting of the American Historical Association, Professor Joe B. Frantz of the University of Texas asserted: “The truth is that the federal government is the major stockholder and underwriter of the American West and that most of those portions of the West which hum with economic excitement are constantly being replenished with federal funds.” Richard Lowitt's study of the New Deal in the West amply confirms Frantz's statement for the years from 1932 to 1940. Two federal departments, Agriculture and Interior, headed by Henry Wallace and Harold Ickes, largely determined the West's destiny. The author quotes extensively from Lorena Hickok's reports to Harry Hopkins, the Federal Relief Administrator, to delineate in human terms the economic collapse in the region as the New Deal was beginning.

The Department of Agriculture attempted to translate into reality President Franklin D. Roosevelt's view that there were “Acres Fit and Unfit” for agriculture on the drought-stricken Great Plains by retiring crop lands and increasing pasturage. Unfortunately, the New Deal's response to the problems afflicting the area was fragmented. Although soil conservation work of great significance was accomplished, “a consistent, concerted, cooper-

ative effort was not to be" (p. 55). With the return of adequate rainfall and the onset of war in Europe, the government's emphasis shifted to expanding production.

The land between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada range, the Great Basin, was the territory primarily of the Department of the Interior. Ickes and his allies viewed the Inland Empire largely in terms of expanding horizons, chiefly through the development of water facilities, especially hydroelectric power. The Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams along the Columbia River were designed to achieve the promised land for the people of the Pacific Northwest. The Indian New Deal, with the goals of economic sufficiency, cultural freedom, and civic responsibility, was a "mixed success" (p. 132), although Lowitt's overall assessment is positive.

The one serious blow to the New Deal's conservation ethic in the West occurred in mineral policy. Roosevelt needed the support of congressmen from the oil and silver producing states, so production policies prevailed. In California the New Deal got a late start, and, embedded in controversy, enjoyed few successes.

Lowitt's richly documented and illuminating book should be required reading for western conservatives who pride themselves on their free, anti-big government spirit, serving to remind them that from start to finish the West has been subsidized by Uncle Sam.

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Without Precedent: The Life and Career of Eleanor Roosevelt. Edited by Joan Hoff-Wilson and Marjorie Lightman. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984. Pp. xix, 266. Illustrations, notes, sources, index. \$17.50.)

Designed to celebrate the centennial of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth in 1884, this volume is part of a series on women's contributions to the human enterprise. These essays by a number of able scholars and writers are full of praise and sympathy for their subject, yet these qualities are amply balanced by critical detachment. It is a book of distinction, a "good read," and worth the price for readers of many backgrounds. In four sections, the authors describe Roosevelt's political education, what is called her "politics of conscience," her political friendships, and the paradoxes that emerge from a study of her political activities. *Without Precedent* is overwhelmingly a guide to Roosevelt's political career, a vocation focused on working for individual equal opportunity and on setting a personal example of response to moral issues.