histories. While this book will certainly appeal to those who wish to look back nostalgically on the good old days (I found myself yearning for a Maid-Rite hamburger), Trusty looks at Hammond realistically and is not afraid to deal with some of the less positive aspects of the city’s history such as labor disputes, black/white relations, and the decline of the downtown shopping area. A few minor errors are to be found. The Orpheum Theater was on State Street not Hohman Avenue, and Edison School was not closed in 1981.

The author has carefully chosen pictures showing many aspects of life in Hammond—work, recreation, education, social life, religious life, and organizations. Pictures are well reproduced and clearly identified. Trusty’s captions are informative, descriptive, and often humorous. Unfortunately, the photographs for the post-World War II period are few in number and among the least interesting in the book although the text is thorough and up-to-date. There are a few too many photographs of individuals and school groups; and more nonphotographic sources such as advertisements, broadsides, and prints would have been preferable. Those that do appear in the book are very effective. More maps would also make it easier for readers, especially nonresidents, to follow parts of the text. A map showing the railroad routes, which were so central to Hammond’s development, or the exact location of important landmarks that are now gone, like the State Line Slaughterhouse, would have been helpful.

Hammond: A Centennial Portrait will appeal to a variety of readers and is a worthy contribution to the celebration of Hammond’s centennial. For those who find themselves wishing that Trusty had been able to go into more detail, there is the happy news of the forthcoming publication of his Workshop of the World: A History of the Calumet Region since 1920 by the Indiana Historical Society.

Oak Park, Ill. Peggy Tuck Sinko


This is a loving portrait of one of Indiana’s oldest and most famous high schools. Shortridge was organized as Indianapolis High School, the city’s first, in 1864. During the rest of the century its facilities were gradually improved, and the school finally moved into a large building in 1905, a few years after adopting the name of Abram C. Shortridge, the city’s superintendent of schools in 1864. From the beginning the school developed a strong academic reputation and highly qualified faculty. As Laura Sheerin Gaus pro-
ceeds through the decades, she discusses various illustrious teachers, sports achievements, student activities, noted alumni, literary accomplishments, administrative decisions, and other matters concerning the day-to-day functioning of the school.

Early high school teachers were often accomplished scholars as well as versatile teachers who took upon themselves a variety of roles. The well-remembered Laura Donnan, for example, taught six classes, including history, civil government, political economy, Latin, and geometry; she also read proof for the student daily newspaper, the Echo, served as principal of the night school, managed the girls' basketball team, presided over the Senate, and much else. Not all had such a crushing load, but it was necessary for everyone to serve in a variety of capacities. Many of the long-lived teachers became institutions, including Charity Dye, George Huffard, Angeline Carey, and Roda Selleck. For teachers and students success followed success, particularly under the rule of principal George Buck. Shortridge moved into its final home, a glorious structure, in 1928.

Change, inevitably, came in the 1960s. The school became progressively more black although it remained integrated until its closing in 1981. Shortridge also lost some of its academic luster although Gaus continues to list student academic, as well as athletic, accomplishments. And the building disintegrated. Without an adjacent residential area, which was long gone by the decade of the '60s, the school was finally judged unnecessary by the school board.

Basing her work almost exclusively on material in the yearbooks and student newspaper—long a daily—as well as letters from and interviews with alumni, Gaus stays close to her sources. The numerous photographs add significantly to the detailed discussion of school life. This is not a critical study, however. There is no analysis, based on reading in the secondary literature, of such topics as the changing curriculum, the evolving nature of the student body, or the impact of the depression, World War II, and Sputnik, to name but a few. Must reading for all alumni, it adds little to an understanding of the larger meaning and role of the high school in American society. Shortridge was mostly a highly academic school that appears to deserve the nostalgic sentiments of its former students and teachers.

Indiana University Northwest, Gary

Ronald D. Cohen


In his book Hoosier Home Remedies Varro E. Tyler documents an important part of Indiana's medical history—folk medicine. By