

the Civil War, but Zeitlin also uses the bird's story as a vehicle for a number of other stories. The book is, therefore, a veritable pot-pourri of mid- and late nineteenth-century history with the eagle as the unifying force.

A Disney Studio writer could not improve on the true story of Old Abe. Born in rural Wisconsin, the eagle was originally captured by Chippewa Indians in 1861 and traded to a farm family for a bushel of corn. Adopted by the newly raised Company C of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers, the eagle went to war and participated in the long and hard service of that regiment. Returning to Wisconsin after the war, he became a pet of the state and a genuine national celebrity and traveled widely as a feature of patriotic meetings and conventions until his death in 1881.

The eagle's story is, of course, inextricably connected with the story of the Eighth Wisconsin. The book, therefore, contains a regimental history of that organization. Its marches and battles are included, as are the details of the common soldiers' lives and the incredible hardships of their service. Also recorded are biographical sketches of a number of the officers and enlisted men of the regiment.

Old Abe's postwar career is then recounted, and this story leads to an account of the activities of the veterans in that era, activities with which the eagle was intimately associated. Because the postwar veterans' organizations were in the forefront of Republican "bloody-shirt" politics, these, too, are described. Adopted by the veterans' groups for this purpose, in the author's words, "Old Abe became a perfect symbol of nationalistic Republicanism, a living version of the Bloody Shirt" (p. 80). The eagle's involvement in the centennial celebration of 1876 permits the author to describe that episode of Americana. And because all of the postwar events touched by the eagle took place during the heyday of American Victorianism, the reader grasps the flavor of that sentimental and colorful time.

The book contains a number of fine photographs of the eagle and the events and people with which the book is concerned. These enliven the text significantly. Zeitlin is a professional historian and a careful and deep researcher, as his copious citations attest. He is also a graceful writer, thoroughly at home in Civil War history and the period and events about which he writes. Replete with information and insights, this book is an excellent exposition of its several themes.

*Indianapolis, Ind.*

Alan T. Nolan

*Organized for Prohibition: A New History of the Anti-Saloon League.*

By K. Austin Kerr. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1985. Pp. xvii, 293. Notes, illustrations, note on sources, index. \$25.00.)

Early in this work K. Austin Kerr reminds his readers that the prohibition movement in the United States was directed against

"the liquor traffic," not against the individual consumer or abuser of alcohol. The name of the nation's most powerful prohibition organization, he points out, was the Anti-Saloon League, "not the Anti-Liquor League or Anti-Beer League" (p. 2). This distinction is vital to Kerr's study for, in his view, the league must be understood as a progressive reform organization that fought a uniquely successful battle not against individual weakness but against an industry perceived by many Americans to be a social menace.

Kerr's history begins with an examination of the liquor business and the unsuccessful political efforts of dry organizations in the 1880s. It then traces the evolution of the Anti-Saloon League from its origins in Ohio in the 1890s to its national campaigns for "local option laws" and the Eighteenth Amendment and finally into the difficult period of the 1920s and the league's decline. Kerr attributes the league's remarkable victories to a number of factors: the inability of distillers and brewers to take seriously and work together against dry reformers; the general optimism of the progressive era; the excitement surrounding World War I; and most significantly, the league's innovative system of organization and political strategy.

Unlike the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other groups, the ASL "was to be like a modern business firm, bureaucratic and not democratic" (p. 81). It employed specialized departments to streamline operations; state chapters were operated by full-time paid superintendents and carefully selected governing boards; all important decisions were made by a small group of men who headed the national office. The league was organized by congressional district and supported local candidates of any party who could be counted on to support the dry cause. Kerr contends that the league provided the model for the modern single-interest political action group.

In general this is an extremely valuable, thoroughly researched book that makes extensive use of surviving ASL papers and reveals for the first time the activities and strategies of the organization most responsible for bringing about prohibition. There are, however, several weaknesses. First, there is no attempt to describe the rank-and-file membership or to analyze the social basis of important ASL electoral victories. Second, the chapters on the period after the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment are weakened by their narrow focus on the internal struggle between Wayne Wheeler's "coercive" approach and Ernest Cherrington's "educational" strategy concerning the problem of law enforcement. Kerr appears to suggest that the league and perhaps even prohibition itself might have survived if only dry leaders had not been so divided. Third, Kerr draws the rather startling conclusion that prohibition "worked" (p. 276) because consumption rates of alcohol were lower in the years after prohibition than they had been before. If

prohibition had worked, the league would not have lost within a few years the considerable political influence which had made the Eighteenth Amendment possible.

*California Institute of Technology,  
Pasadena*

Leonard Moore

*Fighting Soldier: The AEF in 1918.* By Joseph Douglas Lawrence. Edited by Robert H. Ferrell. (Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1985. Pp. xvii, 165. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$15.00.)

The United States experience in World War I did not encourage an extensive memoir literature. Middle- and upper-class males, the most likely sources of personal accounts, were oriented as civilians to a minutes-and-seconds life-style discouraging the keeping of journals and the writing of letters. Their Great Adventure was short, influencing lives rather than shaping them. The pace of events from induction through training to combat was too hectic to allow much time for introspection. The war ended anticlimactically. The nation had only begun to pour its strength into Europe's battlefield by November, 1918, and had neither triumphs nor tragedies to compare with the Marne, Verdun, or Passchendaele. The "Matter of America" furnished material for only the first chapters of an epic. Awareness of that fact may have been as important as the abrupt postwar return to normalcy in discouraging completion or publication of personal experiences that even to their authors seemed callow when compared to those of Robert Graves, Henri Barbusse, or Ernst Jünger.

These circumstances did not render their memories inconsequential. In the 1970s the United States Army Military History Institute at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, began collecting letters, diaries, and narratives from the aging veterans. Robert H. Ferrell of Indiana University discovered Joseph Douglas Lawrence's manuscript. Ferrell's unobtrusive historical commentary and excellent technical footnotes enhance this outstanding story of an infantryman at war in the American Expeditionary Force. Lawrence, in civilian life a bookkeeper, enlisted in the South Carolina National Guard in June, 1917. As part of the 30th Division his company was assigned to the British for training. Lawrence experienced the Ypres salient at perhaps the quietest time in its history, the summer of 1918. His initiation to trench warfare was interrupted by his selection for officers' training school. Two months later, a newly minted second lieutenant, he joined the 113th Infantry of the 29th Division.

The United States Army's policy of assigning new officers to units other than those in which they served as enlisted men owed more to the caste system than to common sense. Whatever a man's