

Funk, provides new and valuable information on the Civil War in the Hoosier state.

An eyewitness account of one of the home guards at Mauckport indicates that none of them knew how to aim their six-pound cannon. With an experienced gunner they might have shelled the boilers of the two steamboats Morgan used to ferry his men across the Ohio River. Conway declares Morgan's capture of the steamboats and the successful crossing "one of the slickest *coup de theatres* of the Civil War" (p. 58). The memoir of J. Edward Murr on the Battle of Corydon relates an unconfirmed anecdote of a miller who heard that Morgan would burn his grist mill unless he paid a ransom of \$1,000. Rushing to Morgan's headquarters at the Kintner House, he handed the general a roll of greenbacks. According to Murr, Morgan counted the money, and it came to \$1,200. Handing back \$200, with a twinkle in his eyes, the general said, "Do you think I'd be guilty of cheating a man out of a cent" (p. 80).

The book has many interesting illustrations, and it is well organized, well written, and concise. There are five valuable Civil War maps but none on the battle itself. Scholars will be frustrated with the lack of documentation; nevertheless, Conway provides a lively, colorful book that contributes to the historiography of the Civil War and will appeal to general readers.

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Indiana's Believe It or Not. By Fred D. Cavinder. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990. Pp. xiv, 158. Illustrations. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$9.95.)

Robert L. Ripley made a fortune publishing strange and interesting "believe-it-or-not" items about odd people, animals, objects, activities, and customs the world over. Indianapolis *Star* newspaperman Fred D. Cavinder, a reporter, photographer, and Sunday magazine editor, has now done something of the same for Indiana. His 158 pages of light and amusing reading can be digested in an afternoon or an evening or, like a bowl of literary popcorn, can be munched at leisure, a kernel at a time, for as long as the reader likes. Cavinder serves up 157 delicacies, averaging one to a page, in rounding up Indiana oddities from Lake Michigan to the Ohio.

Although missing what would have been a useful index, especially to places, the book contains twenty black-and-white photographs, many from Cavinder's own roamings around Hoosierland, plus a four-page introduction in which he writes: "Indiana's past and present are dotted with examples that can raise the eyebrows of a Hoosier, who doesn't easily arch a brow. But Indianans have

come to take the stand-out quality of the state almost for granted. They know Hoosiers are on top of so many heaps . . . that to say, for instance, that an Indiana Pacer scored with a [basketball] shot 92 feet from the basket is considered stating the obvious" (p. xi).

The book recalls "The Year Without a Summer" (1816, coincidentally the year of Indiana statehood) and the "Lake Manitou Monster," which Cavinder pairs with artist George Winter's drawing. Also interesting is the author's statement that a Hoosier from Terre Haute—not Horace Greeley—first said, "Go west, young man!" The Civil War and skirmish-filled Hoosier political battlegrounds provide more rich source material; *i.e.*, Boggstown's secession from the Union. Cavinder also points out that there were five Civil War generals from Crawfordsville and that the state once had four governors in 105 days. Sports enthusiasts, too, will find plenty to cheer, such as the weird tale of a 190-yard touchdown run in a high school football game in Lafayette. There is a detailed explanation of that tourist-drawing Decatur County courthouse in Greensburg where a series of trees have sprouted from the dome since 1865–1866. The United States surgeon general several years ago warned that smoking could be hazardous to one's health, but the Indiana General Assembly said the same thing in a little-remembered no-smoking law imposed on Hoosiers between 1905 and 1909. Even the familiar Coca-Cola bottle, so closely connected with a company based in Atlanta, Georgia, has Hoosier origins.

The only trouble with Cavinder's work is that these Hoosier believe-it-or-not kernels, like popcorn, are habit-forming. The book leaves you wanting more.

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Indiana's Laughmakers. By Ray Banta. (Indianapolis: Penn-Ultimate Press, 1990. Pp. [176]. Illustrations, bibliographies. Paperbound, \$12.95.)

This is a fascinating reference for both the fan of Indiana humor and the comedy scholar in general. So many Hoosier "laughmakers" are of national significance, from Kin Hubbard (creator of Abe Martin) and Kurt Vonnegut to Red Skelton and David Letterman. The book's subheading bears quoting, moreover, since it suggests the breadth of Banta's work—"The Story of Over 400 Hoosiers: ACTORS, CARTOONISTS, WRITERS and OTHERS." Thus, there are 400-plus capsule biographies of seemingly every Hoosier with a comedy connection, from the circus clown to the university academic. Entries are detailed and boast modest bibliographies, with the accent fittingly on Indiana publication sources. Such references are in line with the ever-increasing push among