man, more than 150 photos, supplemented by floor plans and elevations, graphically illustrate the text.

Most railroads developed standard plans for one, two, and three bedroom units and used these throughout their systems. They were spartan, many lacking water and plumbing; yet they were typical of rural and frontier housing in their areas and during their time. Most were gaunt, stark structures but occasionally Gothic bargeboards or Italianate brackets were seen, along with porches and wide roof overhangs. A few sported attractive dormers.

In addition to solving the agent's housing problem, the live-in depot discouraged burglaries and provided immediate personnel in case of emergencies. It eliminated commuting, which might be unreliable, and lowered insurance rates because of round-the-clock occupancy. Living in the depot, however, had its disadvantages. Danger from fire, train wrecks, and even avalanches was always present, and the roar of passing trains was annoying.

The practice of living in the station declined rapidly after World War II because traveling agents replaced many in residence, and the need for telegraph operators diminished as centralized electronic dispatching expanded.

The book is easy, delightful reading, suited both to the rail and the social historian. It reinforces Grant's credentials as one of the nation's two or three foremost contemporary scholarly rail historians.

RICHARD S. SIMONS is president of the Indiana Historical Society board of trustees. He is author of The Rivers of Indiana and contributing editor of Popular Mechanics Picture History of American Transportation.


Military conscription contradicts basic American ideals of individual liberty but engenders arguments for civic duty. George Q. Flynn advances a sound historical analysis that rejects polemical characterizations of draftees as either citizen-soldiers or cannon fodder. He finds that both proponents and opponents of the draft have exaggerated. The Selective Service System provided adequate manpower to meet the nation's needs through three wars. Its failings were largely political and social, which, Flynn contends, were not the fault of draft procedures themselves but were the product of more fundamental tensions in American life.

Flynn is the biographer of General Lewis B. Hershey, the Hoosier who headed Selective Service from 1941 to 1970, and Hershey figures prominently in this book. Former Indiana Governor Paul McNutt, director of the War Manpower Commission during World War II, receives brief mention. Hershey's system received
repeated endorsements from presidents, Congress, and the public. He made a political mistake, however, when he approved denying draft deferments to antidraft protesters during the Vietnam War. Flynn argues perceptively that this move to silence dissent gave a weapon to critics that already characterized conscription as a violation of civil liberties. The gradual erosion of political support for Selective Service led finally to its replacement with an all-volunteer force (AVF).

The book's best insights are into the national myths and dilemmas that the draft exposed. As the name Selective Service revealed, not everyone was needed to serve in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam. Without universal service, two cherished values clashed. Faith in the efficiency of scientific management decreed that it was possible to place the right person in the right job. Egalitarian notions of democracy assumed that random selection was the most equitable. These mutually exclusive theories plagued Selective Service's classification of registrants throughout its existence. Centralized management through national rules and quotas also warred with politically driven reliance on local draft boards that interpreted the rules and filled the quotas. This analysis masterfully blends military, political, and social history. Finally, Flynn argues that Richard Nixon politically embraced the AVF to lessen public dissatisfaction with an unpopular war. Statistical profiles reveal, however, that the AVF is no more efficient or democratic than the draft and that the dilemmas inherent in converting civilians to soldiers remain unresolved. If the nation faces a long-term, mass deployment of troops in some future war, Flynn concludes, the effective but flawed draft might well reappear.


This collection of twelve essays has been edited and published to honor Martin E. Marty, called by Time magazine “the most influential living interpreter of religion in the U.S.” In this volume Marty's students document the range of his interests. The editors have grouped the essays under three categories: Public Religion, New Directions in American Religious History, and Religious Fundamentalism. Each of the three represents a significant focus in Marty's professional interests and publication record. And what a publication record he has! The editors include a "Select Bibliogra-