

Connor's well-written reminiscences, a useful addition to the bibliography of America's urban Catholics, evoke fond memories of a country unified by the crises of war and depression, nickle four-dip, twin-headed ice cream cones, dime movies with bank nights and free dishes, popular music with lovely melodies and lyrics that sometimes reached the quality of minor poetry sung by people with pleasant voices who could articulate the words, innocent romances, strong families, harmonious parish neighborhoods, and safe city streets. But *Hampton Court* contains little about the numerous disadvantaged African Americans in Indianapolis. Connor mentions his mother's kindness to a black woman who worked for the family but admits that blacks were almost invisible to his eyes, at the time a situation true for white middle-class people in most American cities.

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*From Needmore to Prosperity: Hoosier Place Names in Folklore and History.* By Ronald L. Baker. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995. Pp. 371. Notes, bibliography. Cloth-bound, \$29.95; paperbound, \$15.95.)

Building on previous works on Hoosier jokelore and folk legends, Ronald L. Baker continues to establish himself as a dean of Indiana folk culture. In his latest work, *From Needmore to Prosperity*, Baker argues that stories are as important as facts as he encyclopedically compiles Indiana's colorful assortment of place names. His aim, he writes, is not "merely the compilation of facts to discover a single vision of formal culture" but rather the presentation of "the diverse thoughts and feelings of a community" through interdisciplinary investigation. Folklore is joined with history (à la Richard Dorson) because the former "presents other voices and other visions and provides a context" for place-name research (p. 1). In short, Baker maintains, folklore humanizes place names.

In the introduction Baker points out that historically folklore has been of scant interest to place-name scholars largely because the popular usage of the term *folklore* (especially by historians) implies falsehood. Other scholars have taken interest in etymological approaches, leaving little room for folkloristic details. Folklore, in Baker's understanding, can reveal the function of place names: "Since names are so extremely important in human culture," he writes, "place-name researchers should examine what they mean to all people who know them and use them as well as what they meant at the time of naming" (p. 6).

H. L. Mencken notwithstanding, many Indiana place names are imaginative, and some are even more imaginatively enshroud-

ed in legends that some people still believe to be true. *Hoosier* is the most obvious example, but there are others. Hymera, for example (pronounced, mind you, *High Mary*), is thought by some to have been named for a prostitute with absurdly expensive prices and not for the Sicilian counterpart, Himera. Galveston (*gal-VES-tuhn*), some maintain, came not from Texas but from founder James Carter in 1852, who, gazing out a window trying to think of a name, saw a girl walk by wearing a vest. And lest the reader think that only the illiterate or provincial create place-name legends, Baker is quick to point out that highfalutin folk do, too. For example, some say that Gnaw Bone is from France's Narbonne. The big picture is that people create etiological stories when facts are forgotten or unknown, and *From Needmore to Prosperity* is chock-full of them.

In an alphabetical list Baker includes place names, some long gone, followed by (locally accepted) pronunciation, county, and a short explanation. Clearly a compromise between scholars and local history buffs, the book includes folk legends and anecdotes but always clearly identifies them as such. Unfortunately, there is no map, and one wishes that even a map of counties had been included (a larger pull-out map with place names included would have been ideal). Even so, the book will be a must for coffee tables and libraries across the state, allowing Hoosiers to select and learn more about their favorite place names. This reviewer's list includes Alert, Bugtown, Chili, Fair Play, Half Way, Hardscrabble, Onward, Surprise, U Know, and Zulu.

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*Indiana Negro Registers, 1852–1865.* Compiled by Coy D. Robbins. (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994. Pp. xvi, 185. Notes, map, index. Paperbound, \$30.00, plus \$3.00 shipping. Order from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716.)

*Reclaiming African Heritage at Salem, Indiana.* By Coy D. Robbins. (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1995. Pp. viii, 234. Maps, notes, tables, charts, illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$33.00.)

*Indiana Negro Registers, 1852–1865* and *Reclaiming African Heritage at Salem, Indiana* are interesting companion pieces that provide a close look at small Indiana towns in the early nineteenth century and place them in a national context.

*Indiana Negro Registers* is a description of fifteen Negro registration lists that resulted from a state law designed to enforce the thirteenth article of the state constitution of 1851 which called for