

Vance also develops a theory of natural territory and monopoly in which the geography of competition eventually substituted for the geography of terrain minimization. The book's final chapter discusses Canadian rails in depth and describes how developing Asian markets have reversed the normal traffic flow and extended the developmental phase.

Once the reader cuts through the heavy vocabulary, he finds a fascinating collection of theories and descriptions of America's rail development. Many clear, attractive, and excellently drawn maps enhance the book and add to its understanding; but, unfortunately, they contain numerous errors of chronology, geography, and nomenclature. On balance, however, the book is an important addition to railroad literature.

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The Jacksonian Promise: America, 1815–1840. By Daniel Feller. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. Pp. xiv, 227. Bibliographical essay, index. Clothbound, \$38.95; paperbound, \$13.95.)

Daniel Feller has contributed a well-crafted addition to the interesting series, *The American Moment*, edited by Stanley Kutler and now available in twenty volumes on periods and topics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In synthesis and interpretation Feller's view of Jacksonian America is informative and attractively written. Clearly the book will be a welcome resource for general readers as well as for professors and students.

The key word in the title is "promise," which announces the author's theme. Feller has probed the literature on the age of Jackson to consider many perspectives—democratizing politics, reform movements, industrialization, presidential leadership, and a number of others. He finds the current emphasis upon a market revolution, as illustrated by Charles Sellers's recent publication, to be useful but too negative. Indeed Feller argues that despite its merit Sellers's work represents a trend that itself must be reexamined; so, after looking extensively into the evidence, he contends that too often scholars have seen the Jacksonian years as a time of approaching disaster, whether political or moral. He therefore calls for a retreat from historiographical presentism, of emphasizing what was tragic or destructive in the offing. Instead, he depicts the years, 1815–1840, as an era of optimism, of constructive change, in terms of those who were contemporaries of Old Hickory.

An effective focus of the discussion is a description of the celebration of the jubilee year 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the Dec-

laration of Independence. The creativity, the enthusiasm associated with digging the Erie Canal, which had been completed the previous year, reflected the temper and beliefs of the nation, Feller believes.

Perhaps he is too generous about the role of Andrew Jackson himself. He sees the path of Jacksonian individualism toward social and economic improvement to be superior to the American System of governmental promotion of economic growth. A critic might find the Democrats' position negative, too. It would have been helpful to the reader if the author had gone past 1840 a bit to examine the duel in 1841—the decisive year for the declining Whig party—between Henry Clay (the more active author of the American System than John Quincy Adams) and the states' rights President John Tyler. But the author has the right to select his own boundaries.

In any case, this is an excellent examination of a significant topic.

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The Life and Legacy of Annie Oakley. By Glenda Riley. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994. Pp. xvii, 252. Illustrations, note on sources, index. \$24.95.)

Often confused with Calamity Jane, who merely donned buckskin to tell tales of her "daring exploits," Annie Oakley was a highly skilled markswoman who delighted audiences with her sharpshooting talents. Born in 1860, the fifth child of an Ohio farm family, Oakley endured a girlhood marred by poverty, backbreaking labor, and, possibly, sexual abuse. In a feminine reversal of a typically male success story, she rose to material comfort and national prominence as a performer in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Ironically, a child of the Old Northwest became a symbol of the Far West.

In this intriguing biography Glenda Riley seeks to illuminate both the person and the legend, both the myths surrounding Oakley and the reality of her life. Separating the two, as Riley shows, is far from easy; in a fascinating concluding chapter on her subject's enduring legacy, she shows how each successive era has remade Oakley in its own image. Riley's Oakley emerges as an enigmatic, contradictory figure: a devoted wife but a shrewd businesswoman dedicated to her sharpshooting career, a "feminist" but also a "lady" who took pains to distance herself from the suffrage movement and the "new woman."

One wishes, however, that Riley had explored these contradictions more fully, for in the end she presents a strangely uncomplicated view of Oakley's life and image. One wonders, for example, if