

As with many women, Sewall's interests led her from local and national organizations to the international scene where she conceived of and campaigned for the establishment of the National (and International) Council of Women which supported an ever-expanding dialogue about women's rights. When war erupted in Europe in 1914, some suffragists, including Sewall, embraced the cause of peace, for without it, they felt, women's rights could never be achieved. Sewall's contribution to the cause was her work for the 1915 International Conference of Women Workers to Promote International Peace and in the very controversial Ford Peace Ship endeavor. These efforts added to the larger work of peace carried on by the suffragist-pacifist Woman's Peace Party.

Boomhower has written an informative book that works to enlighten readers about this lesser-known, but important, activist. Sewall's life represents the path of many second-rank women whose hard work gets lost in the glow of such stars as Stanton, Anthony, Jane Addams, and Carrie Chapman Catt. This volume is a welcome addition to the literature of women's rights activism.

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Meet Jim Riley. By Robert C. Kriebel. (Lafayette, Ind.: Tippecanoe County Historical Association, 2001. Pp. xii, 148. Illustrations, notes, references, index. Paperbound, \$14.95, plus 75 cents shipping. Order from the publisher, 909 South Street, Lafayette, Ind. 47901.)

The Tippecanoe County Historical Association continues its long record of publishing local and state history with this attractive and affordable book about James Whitcomb Riley. This compact work by local historian and newspaperman Robert C. Kriebel is organized primarily by theme rather than chronologically, and, in chapters whose names were inspired by Riley dialect writing, examines aspects of the writer's life and career, such as "Fame 'n' Repatashun," "Short-comins'," "Jim 'n' Luv," and "Rever'nt Riley."

The book does not plow much new ground; the endnotes and bibliography reveal an author conversant with the secondary literature on "the Hoosier poet" but who provides little indication of having delved into archival sources. In the introduction, Kriebel lists what he sees as Riley's three primary achievements: first, "He freeze-dried and thus preserved a vanished life through his camera-eye reports and his tape-recorder-ear recreations of speech and dialect"; second, "Riley poems show how things remain in human nature unal-

tered by moonwalks and lasers. . ."; and third, "As a Christian, Riley has been all but ignored. But those who carry a *Holy Bible* in the buggies of their lives will forever find a ready witness in Riley" (p. vii-viii). Those who already share Kriebel's admiration for Riley will likely endorse these conclusions, but other students of his life and work may not find sufficiently weighty evidence in Kriebel's text to reach the same conclusions.

In claiming that Riley's dialect is merely a transcription of what he heard on the streets of small-town Indiana, Kriebel, like others before him, inadvertently undercuts a primary aspect of the poet's creativity. Riley used what he heard as inspiration for a poetic language that was distinctively his own. He was no folklorist, attempting to preserve a record of life as it was actually lived. His career was spent creating an appealing persona both for himself and for the Midwest and then popularizing his creations through his books and on the stage. Kriebel's second point about the enduring truths underlying Riley's writings is true, but surely can be seen as the goal of most literary effort and not at all unique to Riley. Regarding Kriebel's third point, about the degree of Riley's religious faith, others have reached a different conclusion, most recently Elizabeth J. Van Allen in her 1999 book, *James Whitcomb Riley: A Life*.

There are some stylistic lapses in the book that bear mentioning. While the work is documented, many of the quotations used, particularly from newspapers, are not fully cited. In addition, picture credits are often not included. Despite these minor editorial defects, and whether or not one agrees with the author's final assessment of Riley, he does attempt to provide at least a glimpse of all sides of the Riley myth. Readers should look on this work as an appetizer to the fuller repast offered in Van Allen's work.

LEIGH DARBEE is curator of printed collections at the Indiana Historical Society. Her most recent publication is *A Guide to Early Imprints at the Indiana Historical Society, 1619-1840* (2001).

Destination Indiana: Travels through Hoosier History. Text by Ray E. Boomhower. Photography by Darryl Jones. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 2000. Pp. 203. Illustrations. \$49.95.)

Readers of *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* have been entertained for many years by Ray Boomhower's series of columns titled "Destination Indiana." In crisp, short essays, he has taken us throughout the state to look at Indiana's historic sites and the personalities associated with them. Indiana University Press has now assembled twenty-three of these essays into a delightful coffee-table book. Boomhower limits himself to sites regularly open to the public, and several of his studies take us to places as familiar as the Corydon Capitol State Historic Site, New Harmony, and the Harrison homes in Vincennes and Indianapolis. But he is also careful to include less