

cadre of "new" leaders, such as Jesse Dickinson of South Bend, State Representative William Fortune of Marion County, and Henry J. Richardson and Willard Ransom, two Indianapolis NAACP chapter lawyers. Thornbrough's book ends with a brief analysis that notes that, after the 1970s, many black Hoosiers began to reevaluate and try to cope with the now questionable gains they had achieved during the previous decades.

Indiana Blacks in the Twentieth Century is a meticulously researched and well-written piece of scholarship. The only two problems are the lack of a detailed analysis of the role black women played in the various grassroots and civic organizations that operated during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s and the space the author uses examining the conflicts within black American communities over the correct strategy to employ to end racial segregation. In general, despite these minor shortcomings, Thornbrough's book is a riveting study of the life of black Americans in a crucial midwestern state that adds much to the fields of black history and Indiana history.

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Ball State University: An Interpretive History. By Anthony O. Edmonds and E. Bruce Geelhoed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. xiii, 350. Illustrations, notes, note on sources, index. \$29.95.)

Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, is one of about 300 universities in the country that began as normal schools and teachers colleges. In the nineteenth century, as the value of education was recognized and laws requiring school attendance by children were enacted, normal schools or teacher training institutions were established, some as commercial endeavors and some by government units. Many had brief lives; those that survived were taken over by the state or a city. With the financial help of George A. Ball, a wealthy manufacturer, the assets of the Muncie National Institute, a former normal school that was then training hotel employees, were purchased and donated to the state of Indiana to become a branch of the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute. In time this branch of the Normal School separated from the Indiana State Normal School to become an independent teacher's college, and in 1965 it achieved university status.

Ball State University, while shaped by many of the same influences as other institutions of this group, was sharply different in one respect, and that difference is reflected in its name. From the very beginning, the Ball family, owners of the factory in Muncie, Indiana,

that manufactured glass jars for canning, was generous in supporting the institution financially. One might expect, or perhaps fear, that the Ball family in return for its philanthropy would have attempted to influence the administration of the school. While members of the Ball family served on the board of trustees, the authors of the history indicate that they did not make their views any more dominant than those of other trustees, except in one instance. In 1945, a member of the Ball family who was serving as a trustee persuaded the other trustees to name John R. Emens as president of the school. While the authors present details of the efforts to sway the board, they also acknowledge that the appointment turned out to be an excellent one.

Professors Anthony O. Edmonds and E. Bruce Geelhoed have produced a model institutional history. They conducted interviews with both active and retired professors and administrators, distributed questionnaires among students and alumni, and combed the university archives. In addition, they enlisted the aid of one hundred students in history research methods courses, who adopted the university's history as their research projects. Instead of making the task easier, such an abundance of material presented challenges of selection, organization, avoiding repetition, verification, and a host of other problems, all of which the authors coped with skillfully. Out of this mass of materials they produced a well-written, coherent, and informative narrative.

Ball State was closely tied to the city of Muncie and its business community, and it was a tie that was strained at times. The authors seem to present a balanced view of conflicts that arose between the university and the city. Indeed, in reviewing controversial situations involving the city as well as the faculty and administration of the university, they appear to present both sides of the disputes.

In this otherwise excellent history, there are a few weaknesses. A cascade of quotations in the first chapter attempts to provide a history of higher education but often lacks coherence. The authors could have presented the background more effectively in a few paragraphs and in their own words.

College and university histories are written for a limited audience—faculty members, alumni, and a few local residents. They are not likely to make it to the “Best Seller” list, no matter how good they are. However, this history of Ball State would be appropriate as required reading for classes in higher education administration. Edmonds and Geelhoed have produced an excellent history.

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