

and urbanization. Mainline Protestant churches, in conjunction with organizations such as the YMCA and the Boy Scouts, effectively overturned longstanding hostility to play and sports and redefined Christian theology so that salvation “lay as much through the body as through the soul” (p. 63). In response to this quest for a hypermasculine Christianity, Putney reveals, many Protestant women also embraced the “strenuous life” by creating alternative organizations like the YWCA, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. Putney argues too that Protestant foreign missionaries’ initial reliance on muscular Christianity was abandoned after World War I and replaced by an emphasis on peaceful cross-cultural fellowship and anticolonialism. By his analysis of the legendary football coach Amos Alonzo Stagg, Putney exposes the long line of coaches who have blended Christian ideas with their shaping of athletes, later seen in Tom Landry and in University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, who founded Promise Keepers, a late twentieth-century version of muscular Christianity.

Those already familiar with the vast literature on turn-of-the-century masculinity will not find much that is startlingly new in *Muscular Christianity*. Putney relies on paradigms of “separate spheres” and the “feminization of American culture,” which other scholars have questioned, and he adds little to the compelling question, recently explored by George Chauncey, John Gustav-Wrathall, and Kevin Murphy, of whether the relationships among men in muscular Christian movements (YMCA, Social Gospel, settlement houses) were homosocial or homoerotic. And at times, Putney misses the purely metaphorical use of the language of muscular Christianity that often represented a call for more vigorous zeal and faith rather than an equation of physically healthy bodies with Christianity. Nonetheless, Putney has produced a synthesis that constitutes an excellent starting place for readers unfamiliar with the topic of Protestantism and masculinity during the Progressive era.

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An Engineer's Diary of the Great War. [By Harry E. Spring]. Edited by Terry M. Bareither. (West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 2002. Pp. vii, 259. Illustrations, notes, appendices. \$32.95.)

An Engineer's Diary of the Great War is an edited version of the war diary and scrapbook kept by an Indiana native, Lieutenant Harry E. Spring, an electrical engineer in the 37th Engineers. It was earlier transcribed by his daughter and given to the editor by his granddaughter. The well-appointed book is nicely organized with appropriate illustrations (some of them photos taken by Spring himself) and excellent maps. The editor, engineer Terry M. Bareither, though not a professional

historian, has done a fine job of organizing the entries and presenting the diary in a pleasing and clear daily format and has annotated several chapters with useful explanatory notes. There is a glossary of military terms, though why the editor feels it necessary to explicate the meaning of such common terms as “mess” and “KP” is not clear. Even more strangely, the introduction includes such flagrantly extraneous items as the introduction of the Raggedy Ann Doll to American consumers in 1917, the patenting of the electric toaster in 1918, and the establishment by Congress of Grand Canyon National Park in 1919. There is no index, which is badly needed.

The intrinsic value of the diary is severely limited. The chronological account is incomplete, for Spring's wartime diaries did not survive intact and thus the entire period from November of 1917 to August of 1918 is missing. And only 73 pages of the 259 pertain to Spring's soldiering in France. The critical period covering the Meuse-Argonne offensive takes up only 32 pages. Most disappointingly, Spring, as a platoon commander, contributes little or no information regarding the mission of the electrical engineers in the field. We learn nothing new about their daily work beyond the obvious—repair of power stations, pump repair, placement of generators and telephone lines, etc.

Though Bareither claims to have deleted most trivial entries detailing routine daily comings and goings of members of the platoon, what remains is irritatingly repetitious and mundane. Gas attacks and bombardments are chronicled without a word of description. Though Bareither promises that through Spring's eyes readers will “meet some of the most important American leaders of World War I, such as . . . General ‘Blackjack’ Pershing” (p. 2), the sole mention of Pershing during the war period appears on October 17, when Spring “saw Gen'l Pershing plodding around in mud in Chatel this P.M.” (p. 107). And in February 1919, Spring saluted Pershing during a routine inspection, but we learn nothing of worth from this meeting, gratifying though it may have been to Spring personally.

Five appendix pages are devoted to reports concerning the postwar accidental death of one of Spring's men, who fell out of a train door while the train was in motion, hardly sensational stuff. A few egregious errors mar the sparse commentary. For example, Bareither writes that the U.S. mobilized “almost ten million men” (p. 1) by the time of the armistice, an estimate more than double the correct number.

These inadequacies would be somewhat offset if Spring divulged something of genuine human interest, including his own opinions or those of his fellows, or if he provided eyewitness accounts of stirring events. But he does not. There is really little or nothing new to be learned here. All in all, the content of the diary itself is remarkably mundane, uninformative, and pedestrian. Though undoubtedly a much-treasured family memoir, *An Engineer's Diary of the Great War* is disappointingly uninformative to students of the Great War.

Archives in this country and Europe are replete with unpublished diaries of far greater interest and value.

DONALD RICHTER taught history for nearly forty years at Ohio University, Athens. His most recent books are *Chemical Soldiers: British Gas Warfare in World War I* (1994) and *Lionel Sotheby's Great War: Letters and Diaries from the Western Front* (1997).

Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement in the Midwest, 1954–72. By Gretchen Cassel Eick. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001. Pp. xiv, 312. Map, illustrations, notes, tables, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

Dissent in Wichita may not sound like an important topic, but Gretchen Cassel Eick has written a very significant book. “In 1958,” she claims, “black Kansas youths organized the first successful sustained student sit-in of the 1950s, two years before sit-ins swept the South” (p. ix). The aim of this study is to examine that sit-in, but there is much more. Eick explores how the activists forged a civil rights consensus in Kansas and a few midwestern cities and what impact that had in Washington, D.C. Along the way she introduces us to what historian John Dittmer and others have called “local people,” the grassroots folks who made a difference in their communities and eventually in the nation. In Wichita there were many, including Vivian Parks, Jo Gardenhire, Anna Jane Michener, Fred Sparks, and especially Chester Lewis.

During the 1950s, most public facilities in Wichita, including schools, parks, and swimming pools, were segregated. The only hotel that would accept blacks was also a brothel. The main drugstores would sell food or drinks to African Americans, but only as take-out service. In July and August 1957 that changed; the sit-ins, which disrupted business and depressed profits, began, and Dockum Chain Drug Stores abandoned their segregation policy. “The youths had won,” Eick declares. “The largest drugstore chain in Kansas had desegregated not only its Wichita stores but also all Rexall Drug Stores in Kansas” (p. 9).

The Wichita sit-ins had an impact, and the next year students were sitting-in at drugstores in other towns in Kansas and in Oklahoma City and St. Louis. Yet, according to the author, the NAACP did not publicize the Wichita sit-in because at that time the organization did not support the tactic. That silence, Eick maintains, doomed the event to the historical dustbin. “Neither the sit-in in Wichita nor [the one] in Oklahoma City is mentioned in most scholarly literature on the civil rights movement, although they preceded by two years the February 1960 Greensboro, North Carolina, sit-in that is popularly credited with beginning the modern sit-in movement” (p. 11).

This important book does much more than tell the story of the sit-in. Eick describes the local NAACP, its growth, and problems it faced in the era, especially the rise in 1964 of the “Young Turks,”