

and commentaries all the more valuable, and providing models of scholarly editing. These are also important contributions to the history of the Midwest, as both the Voris and Vermilion families illustrate middle-class lives in a time of crisis. For military historians interested in lower-level officers, social historians analyzing family, race, and gender relations, and regional historians looking at partic-

ular states, these two editions will be significant sources of evidence; and they are also interesting to read.

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Gentlemen, It's Been My Pleasure *Four Decades in the Indiana Legislature*

By Senator Lawrence Borst

(Cincinnati: Guild Press Emmis Books, 2003. Pp. 247. Illustrations. \$24.99.)

In a book that provides all the benefits of an insider's account and contains all the disadvantages of being a personal recollection, former State Senator Lawrence M. Borst writes with three clear objectives in mind. First, he tells the story of the formation and early years of the Republican Action Committee of Marion County, an organization that emerged under the leadership of Keith Bulen as one of the very few urban political machines in the latter half of the 20th century. Borst describes the strategies used by Bulen and his allies to expand their power, and he provides valuable details about the methods used to construct a Republican machine that eventually won control of the city of Indianapolis. Next, he sets the record straight as to how Unigov was conceived, planned, and implemented. His account clarifies several points about the origins of Unigov, includ-

ing who coined the name (Buert SerVaas) and the role that Keith Bulen played in designing the new government (very little). Finally, Borst writes to tell the story of a friend, Indianapolis attorney Ed Lewis, "a funny, shrewd man with all kinds of talents" (p. 8). To this third purpose, Borst provides some interesting vignettes, but his anecdotes fail to provide authoritative documentation of the many roles Lewis played behind the scenes in politics and government.

The promise of this book lay in the number of key events and public policies over the past four decades that might have been illuminated. Borst, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, was a leading figure in framing the biennial state budgets and was the main architect of Indiana's tax structure. He mentions that he was a conferee on every state budget since 1971. Unfortu-

nately, he provides little coverage of these items. He barely mentions public education, with the exception of higher education and kindergarten, but it was usually education funding that derailed the legislative sessions and caused governors to call special sessions. He does provide some valuable details on the issue of gambling, including the legislative fights on the lottery, pari-mutuel betting, and riverboat casinos. He presents his version of the overhaul of the tax structure during the special session of 2002, but his story omits much of the reasoning put forward by others that also became part of the package. He also recollects events surrounding the passage of Governor Otis Bowen's tax package of 1973, but his brief mention contains only anecdotes and fails to add anything new for the historical record.

A memoir is self-selected and, for the most part, self-serving, by definition. This book is no exception. Although it adds little substance, it does contain some valuable anecdotal insights into the way the Indiana legislature operates and the reader is

able to extract some lessons that advance our understanding of the legislative process. The book lacks a consistent theme—something a watchful editor could have provided—and an index would have been useful.

As Lawrence Borst is leaving the legislature, the book title seems appropriate. Yet its origin is rather surprising. Borst explains that while in a Las Vegas casino, he saw a well-dressed man “with a gorgeous blonde on his arm” who approached the craps table and promptly lost \$30,000 (p. 237). The gambler stepped back from the table, took two chips from his pocket, flipped them in the air and onto the table and said, “Gentlemen, it has been my pleasure.” Borst writes that he had never been so impressed and that he wanted to have the phrase “engraved on my tombstone. I thought, too, that it would make a good title for a book” (p. 238).

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Envisioning Cahokia *A Landscape Perspective*

By Rinita A. Dalan, George R. Holley, William I. Woods, Harold W. Watters, Jr., and John A. Koepke

(DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2003. Pp. x, 241. Illustrations, maps, figures, appendix, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$48.00; paperbound, \$29.50.)

Cahokia Mounds is the premier American Indian center in eastern North America. Within its five-square-mile

area were built more than one hundred earthen mounds, including Monks Mound, the largest in the New