

national creed to critique the national practice" (p. 179). He also reminded America that, as a nation, it was "no closer to the Kingdom of God than any other. All alike remained under the judgment of God" (p. 208). These latter words provide a cogent closing for a path-breaking book—and a poignant message for America in the twenty-first century.

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Creating a Hoosier Self-Portrait
The Federal Writers' Project in Indiana, 1935-1942

By George T. Blakey

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005. Pp vi, 262. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, \$29.95.)

The Federal Writers' Project (FWP) was a New Deal program formed to utilize the writing, interviewing, and analytical skills of journalists, teachers, writers, and others who had lost their livelihoods during the Great Depression. Writers who would go on to gain a name in American literature—including Nelson Algren, Ralph Ellison, Eudora Welty, Zora Neale Hurston, Studs Terkel, and Saul Bellow—were all, at one time or another, employed by the FWP.

The project's most public and lasting legacy is the *American Guide* series: a combination of "state history, encyclopedia, and travel guide" to each of the forty-eight states, assembled from hours of interviews, writing, and re-writing by fieldworkers (p. 41). While the primary job of each state's FWP staff was to research, write, and see through to publication

a Guide, the project also resulted in side projects, including most notably the former-slave narratives that have been published in recent decades.

In this meticulously researched and highly readable book, George Blakey has created an essential resource, both for readers interested in this period in Indiana and American history, and for future historians. While some of the material collected by the FWP workers in Indiana appeared in the final *Indiana Guide* (1941) as well as in other publications—including newspaper columns and a collection of folklore, *Hoosier Tall Stories* (1937)—most of the material collected by the fieldworkers has never been published or used extensively by scholars.

As Blakey states in his introduction, "This massive body of information, stored in archival boxes at the

Library of Congress, the National Archives, and Indiana State University, presents a more complex portrait of Indiana than do the few finished publications It is time to pay attention to them" (pp. 4, 5). In this important book, Blakey expands the work, begun by Ronald Baker in his study of the folklore collections of Indiana's FWP, of uncovering and analyzing this rich source of material.

Blakey places the *Indiana Guide* in its national context, which he then sets against the passions and obsessions of the three writers primarily responsible for the finished project: Ross Lockridge, Rebecca Pitts, and Gordon Briggs. The Indiana that emerges in the *Guide*, as Blakey describes it, is a self-portrait created by the convergence of these three particular writers. But it is in his analysis of the rest of the self-portrait—the unfinished projects, ephemeral publications, oral histories, and research inventories—that the true picture of Depression Indiana emerges. Blakey refers to these manuscripts as

"archival windows" that "offer a view of Indiana that is far more urban, female, multiracial, and multiethnic than the published works portray" (p. 211). By combining the vision of Indiana in the published accounts with those in the unpublished archives, Blakey states, "an Indiana of the Depression decade emerges that is more complex and less nostalgic than that found in the FWP books and articles" (p. 211). The archival collections remain, as he notes, rich with interviews, observations, and lists from around the state. This is one of those books that makes anyone interested in Indiana history want to take a pilgrimage into the archives with the author as their guide.

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"Honoring Those Who Paid the Price"

Forgotten Voices from the Korean War

By Randy K. Mills

(Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2002. Pp. xx, 276. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Randy Mills draws upon soldiers' letters and recent personal interviews with veterans, relatives, and friends to recover the voices of Indiana veterans of the Korean conflict. He contextualizes their struggle in the

broader scope of the war's arc from shocking mobilization to fading victory to disillusioning stalemate.

Mills adroitly selects ordinary citizens' voices, devoting lengthy sections of the narrative to their detailed