

## REVIEW NOTICES

### *True Brew*

*A Guide to Craft Beer in Indiana*

By Rita T. Kohn. Photographs by Kris Arnold.

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010. Pp. xx, 263. Maps, Illustrations, index. Paperbound, \$19.95.)

In celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition, Rita T. Kohn interviewed a number of Indiana craft brewers to discover the challenges they faced bringing their products to the public. Although Indiana has a 200-year history of small-scale or hand-crafted brewing, craft beers have enjoyed increasing popularity in the past few years. The author believes that the current state of the industry in Indiana “reflects a balance between the neighborhood brewpub and a microbrewery” (p. xvi). Her book—more a representative sampling than a comprehensive encyclopedia of all that Indiana offers—provides the reader interesting insights into many of the state’s beers, brewers, and breweries, including the immensely popular Sun King Brewery in Indianapolis and Upland Brewing Company in Bloomington.

### *Madura’s Danceland*

By Patricia Madura Ward-Steinman

(Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2010. Pp. 128. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$21.99.)

This addition to Arcadia’s Images of America series offers a glimpse into midwestern popular culture from 1929 to 1967 through the lens of Madura’s Danceland, a family-operated dance hall in Whiting, Indiana, that was popular throughout the Calumet region. Utilizing newspapers, advertisements, posters, song sheets, and family photographs, Patricia Madura Ward-Steinman, the daughter and granddaughter of the owners, weaves the history of the establishment into a broader context. Readers can see the impact of the major events of the twentieth century, including Prohibition, the Great Depression, and World War II, upon this family business. *Madura’s Danceland* also provides a glimpse of the famous bands who performed at the venue over the decades, and in the process shows the transition from the jazz and big band sounds of the 1930s and 1940s to the beginnings of rock ‘n’ roll in the 1950s.

### *The Land, The People*

By Rachel Peden

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010. Pp. 368. Illustrations. Paperbound, \$19.95.)

Much more than a personal memoir, Rachel Peden's *The Land, The People* is an ode to a way of life. Peden moved to a farm during the Great Depression, and for nearly half a century she wrote a weekly column on agrarian life which appeared in both the *Indianapolis Star* and the *Muncie Evening Press*. In this reprint of the original 1966 collection of her essays, Peden describes her life as a farm wife and mother, meditates on industrialization and its effects, and laments that the family farm is "among our diminishing natural resources" (p. xviii). With language echoing Emerson and Thoreau, Peden's work reveals her love of land and soil. Although ostensibly about the simple life, this thoughtful book raises complex issues still relevant today.



### *Diana of the Dunes The True Story of Alice Gray*

By Janet Zenke Edwards

(Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2010. Pp. 157. Illustrations, appendices, notes. Paperbound, \$19.99)

Diana of the Dunes has been the stuff of newspaper stories, legends, and ghost tales in the Calumet region of Indiana since the early twentieth century. Alice Gray, the real-life Diana, was born in Chicago in 1881. She

graduated from the University of Chicago in 1903, concentrating in mathematics, and went to work at the U.S. Naval Observatory. This intelligent and accomplished woman, who went on to study in Germany and to return for graduate studies in Chicago, suddenly left her urban life in 1915. Gray moved to an abandoned fishing shack along the shores of Lake Michigan in northern Indiana. Her retreat from civilization to be close to nature became the fascination of the area's press for the next decade, until her death in 1925. The author includes excerpts from Gray's diary in an interesting appendix.



### *Opera for All Seasons 60 Years of Indiana University Opera Theater*

By Marianne Williams Tobias. Contributing Editors George Calder, Nancy J. Guyer, C. David Higgins, and Charles Webb

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010. Pp. vii, 496. Illustrations, appendices. \$39.95.)

This sumptuously illustrated book chronicles the six-decade history of Indiana University Bloomington's Opera Theater. Boasting captioned black-and-white and color photographs of hundreds of productions, the volume considers the theater's history by topic: premieres and first productions, the core repertory, diverse and unusual productions, operas presented on tour, summer musicals and operettas,

and finally a glimpse behind the scenes. Three appendices offer complete lists of operas by season, operas by title, and singers by role. Graduates of the Jacobs School of Music and the many thousands of opera lovers who have attended the theater over the decades will appreciate the book's evocative rendering of past productions. Given the expertise of the author and the depth of knowledge shared by her four contributing editors, however, historically minded readers and opera enthusiasts will wish that more than twenty-nine pages of this substantial book were devoted to text.



### *The Peculiar Boars of Malloy*

By Doug Crandell

(DeKalb, Ill.: Switchgrass Books, 2010. Pp. 235. Paperbound, \$13.95.)

This is an engaging and richly anecdotal coming-of-age novel—with a twist. Doug Crandall's award-winning farcical story tells the tale of a rural Indiana farmer who is the laughing stock of his town and a disappointment to his sons. In an attempt to bolster his masculinity and impress his neighbors, the farmer purchases two boars. The irony is that the two boars turn out to be gay and in a deeply committed relationship. The media flock to report the unique story—their coverage distorting truth and value. The author artfully weaves animal rights and gay rights into this uniquely midwestern satire.

### *Riley Child-Rhymes with Hoosier Pictures*

By James Whitcomb Riley

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010. Pp. xviii, 166. Illustrations. \$17.95.)

In 1895, James Whitcomb Riley published a small book of poems, many of which would remain famous for generations, including “Little Orphant Annie” and “The Raggedy Man.” This well-produced little volume is a reprint of the 1905 edition with illustrations by Brown County artist Will Vawter. Readers only vaguely familiar with Riley will enjoy reading some of his best-known poems, including several of the author's famous “dialect” poems, written in Riley's somewhat fanciful rendition of a southern Indiana accent. Riley's poetry is especially enjoyable when read aloud—“The Bear Story” alone is worth the price of this book.



### *Spookiest Stories Ever*

*Four Seasons of Kentucky Ghosts*

By Roberta Simpson Brown and Lonnie E. Brown

(Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010. Pp. xviii, 259. Illustrations. \$24.95.)

Many presses have anthologized the “haunted” tales belonging to a variety of cities and states, but too often these books are poorly written. Enter Roberta and Lonnie Brown, who have collected a wonderful set of ghost stories from the state of Kentucky, organized the stories by the four sea-

sons, and retold them with a storyteller's flair for language. Read a few of these out loud around a campfire in the summer or by the fireside at

night and see if you can go to sleep without one look behind the door and another under the bed.

