

George W. Norris: Gentle Knight of American Democracy. By Norman L. Zucker. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966. Pp. x, 186. Frontispiece, notes, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Franklin D. Roosevelt during his campaign for the presidency in 1932 described Senator George W. Norris as "the gentle knight of American progressive ideals." The author of this book endorses Roosevelt's estimate. This is not to say that the book is a eulogy; the author, a political scientist, often criticizes Norris' pet ideas, such as the unicameral legislature and progressive inheritance tax. He finds an absence of sophistication in Norris' notions about the virtue of small business, evil of political parties, and railroad-middlemen responsibility for farm distress. Still, he always returns to the theme that Norris was a man of conscience and courage who for more than forty years fought the good fight for American liberalism.

This is not a biography of Norris but a description and analysis of ideas and proposals over the many years of his public service. It presents Norris as a man of the nineteenth century who never quite made peace with the twentieth; a Populist more than a Progressive, who retained timeworn ideas about "rugged individualism" and laissez faire, who saw the "interests"—trusts, railroads, bankers—as the great enemies of democracy.

The author used the Norris Papers in the Library of Congress, speeches and articles, the autobiography, some unpublished graduate theses, and a range of secondary material. He did not consult collateral manuscript sources.

The book could have benefited from careful editing. The author's prose often has twists and turns, as on page 5 where in the space of twelve lines the reader confronts three "buts" and two "however's." He meets a "Yet although" on page 111 and a "however, although" on page 149. On page 78 he finds that some areas of the economy were "by their very nature natural monopolies."

While it lacks the spark of Norris' *Fighting Liberal* and offers no novel interpretations, this book is a useful contribution to the expanding Norris literature. It is a concise and critical analysis of the thought of an important spokesman of American liberalism in the first half of the twentieth century.

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John Edward Wiltz

The Cross Timbers: Memories of a North Texas Boyhood. By Edward Everett Dale. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966. Pp. 186. Illustrations, index. \$4.75.)

That E. E. Dale is one of the profession's most talented yarn spinners can be attested by any historian fortunate enough to have attended a publishers' party at one of the uncrowded conventions of a generation ago. There Dale could often be found, tall glass in hand (but seldom touched), sprawled comfortably in an easy chair, charming his listeners with tales of his boyhood on a Texas farm or his early