

of a frustrated landscape painter and recalling fine moments in Anderson's best short stories. Other pieces report sorties to Washington and elsewhere in the outside world.

To students of the man, especially interesting are the various evidences of Anderson's intense involvement with this journalistic experience. Here was a new field, he insisted, that demanded the best brains in the country: From it could come a fresh expression of popular will that would counter the standardizing tyranny of cities, industrialism, and big business.

There is much more—nothing, however, that reaches the stature of *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919) or of the author's great tales and various autobiographical chapters. Style ranges characteristically from best to worst. Childlike sentences and ellipses—often intensely appealing—alternate with sloppy verbosity. But all of it lives. Highest notch is reached, for this reviewer at least, in a few memorably indignant paragraphs of April 12, 1928, reporting the unspeakable conditions of the men's cages in the county jail. In moments like these one meets the man that helped give direction to the generation of Hemingway and Faulkner.

Otterbein College

Robert Price

As We Saw the Thirties: Essays on the Social and Political Movements of a Decade. Edited by Rita James Simon. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1967. Pp. 253. Notes. \$6.50.)

In the past two decades oral history projects have provided one of the most encouraging new developments in the study of twentieth-century United States history. By making available important data which otherwise might be lost to posterity, these programs in many cases have produced important source materials. The volume edited by sociologist Rita James Simon is another example of oral history. She invited eight individuals who played an active role in social and political movements of the 1930's to describe their experiences. In particular, Professor Simon asked them to discuss their purposes and goals, their followers, and their successes and failures. The resulting lectures were given between October, 1965, and April, 1966, at the University of Illinois where they were also transcribed. Together with brief introductions they constitute the substance of this book.

If not all of the invited participants were well known, yet all were active in their respective causes. Norman Thomas, Earl Browder, Gerald L. K. Smith, Granville Hicks, and former United States Senator Burton K. Wheeler need no introduction. On the other hand, A. J. Muste (pacifist), Max Schachtman (founder of the American Trotskyist movement), and Hal Draper (an organizer of the American Youth Congress in 1934) are more obscure. Each, however, receives equal space.

Thomas comments on the Socialist view of the United States in the Roosevelt era; Browder explains the perspective of American Communists; and Schachtman supplies a Trotskyist appraisal. Smith recalls Huey Long's

crusade; Muste speaks of labor struggles; Draper dwells on student movements; and Wheeler focuses on his years in the Senate during the New Deal. Hicks confines his remarks to writers of the decade.

The editing of the volume reveals at least three weaknesses. Mrs. Simon has reproduced the lectures as they were presented and has not provided needed explanatory footnotes to illuminate or correct casual or offhand comments by the visitors. Nor do the brief introductions to each talk help readers to place a particular speaker in historical context. In her introductory remarks concerning Smith, for example, the editor curiously omits any mention of Smith's long career as one of America's most rabid anti-semites. Surely his great admiration of Nazi genocide programs is relevant to an understanding of his views on social justice. Finally, the conceptual framework of the book is very loose. Although Mrs. Simon posed some worthwhile questions for her guests, the participants did not consistently use her frame of reference. Indeed, they display a propensity to ramble.

The contribution of this work to an understanding of the 1930's is not profound. With the exception of discussions by Browder and Schachtman the essays tend to be superficial. They add little to what is already known, whether fact or insight. In the vast literature about the New Deal this book will take its place as a collection of brief reminiscences.

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Gerald D. Nash

Below is the author's reply to the review of *History of the United States Rubber Company: A Case Study in Corporation Management* ([Bloomington]: Bureau of Business Research, Indiana University, 1966), found in the December, 1967, issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. The reviewer, Jack J. Detzler, Saint Mary's College, was given an opportunity to respond but did not do so.

January 23, 1968

Dear Editor:

On pages 322-23 of the December, 1967, issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History* there is a review of the *History of the United States Rubber Company*. The critical judgments of the reviewer appear to have been formed from the viewpoint of the general reading public. However, as indicated in the Foreword and more specifically in the Introduction, this work was designed as a case study in corporation management, primarily for use in a graduate course in business administration. The assignment to develop such a study determined the choice and organization of the material.

From the general reader's viewpoint, proportion may seem "askew," as it did to the reviewer. For example, much more space has been taken in detailed discussion of financial operations than would be considered advisable in the usual business history. Serious financial problems dominated the