

Review Notices

Weekly on the Wabash. By Wheeler McMillen. *New Horizons in Journalism.* Edited by Howard Rusk Long. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1969. Pp. viii, 244. Index. \$5.95.) McMillen has written a sprightly and perceptive account of life in and near Covington, Fountain County, Indiana, during the years of World War I, 1914-1918. Sprinkled with wit and rich in understanding concerning human foibles, he preserves a slice of Hoosier life in a small town in which agricultural and rural influences still held full sway. His comments about Hoosier politics and politicians are revealing and extremely interesting but not always entirely advantageous to the reputation of persons discussed. This volume is also quite instructive in indicating how a small town newspaper was run somewhat over a half century ago. Readable and informative as the book is, the author must be placed on academic probation as regards his general knowledge of Indiana's history. For instance, he incorrectly runs the Wabash and Erie Canal all the way down the Wabash River via Vincennes to its mouth (p. 17), and he mistakenly states that the Indiana Constitution of 1851 had a "proviso that it might be amended or changed by a majority of all votes cast at any general election" (p. 169).

Newport and Vermillion Township: The First 100 Years, 1824-1924. By Harold L. O'Donnell. (Danville, Ill.: Printed by The Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1969. Pp. 321. Illustrations, maps. \$10.20.) This account of "The First 100 Years" of Newport and Vermillion Township, in Vermillion County, Indiana, includes immense detail, a substantial amount of significant information and interpretation, and numerous helpful illustrations. In places the evidence presented is frankly approximate and incomplete, while here and there are errors of fact. Nevertheless, O'Donnell has based this volume on substantial research in records of county commissioners, newspapers, and various other sources. He exhibits much understanding of the highlights of the principal topics discussed, and he is aware of how general developments at the state and national levels affected life in Newport and Vermillion Township. His readable, earthy style reflects his considerable degree of homespun wisdom about men and events. Readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* will remember O'Donnell as the author of *Eugene Township (Vermillion County, Indiana): The First 100 Years, 1824-1924*, which was reviewed in the issue for June, 1964.

A Brief Guide for an Architectural Survey of Indiana. (Indianapolis: Indiana Junior Historical Society, 1968. Pp. 22. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. Pamphlet, \$.50.) *Architecture in New Harmony, Indiana, 1814-1969.* (New Harmony: New Harmony High School Guild of Guides, 1969. Pp. 18. Illustrations. Pamphlet, \$1.00.) *19th Century Architecture—Liberty, Indiana.* (Liberty: Short High School History Seekers, 1969. Pp. 16. Illustrations.

Pamphlet, \$.50.) Though apparently intended, principally at least, for use by secondary school students making local architectural surveys, *A Brief Guide for an Architectural Survey of Indiana* affords the general reader information about how such surveys are made as well as about various architectural styles to be found in Indiana. The two studies of architecture at Liberty and New Harmony are additional items in the series sponsored by the Indiana Junior Historical Society, and their content is similar to that of previous publications in the series. (These studies may be obtained from the Indiana Junior Historical Society, State Library and Historical Building, Room 408, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.)

A History of Minnesota. Vols. III, IV. By William Watts Folwell. Reprint. (St. Paul: The Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. Pp. xiv, 605; xvii, 575. Illustrations, notes, maps, appendices, index. Vol. III, \$7.75; Vol. IV, \$6.50.) These two volumes bring to a conclusion the reprint edition of *A History of Minnesota* which were originally written during the 1920s by William Watts Folwell. In this reprint edition, save for correction of minor errors of fact and typographical errors, the text has not been updated, but new maps and illustrations have been added. The Minnesota Historical Society is to be commended for this achievement. Even though Folwell needs to be checked against more recent studies, his four volumes remain a most valuable, comprehensive, and detailed history of the Gopher State during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Music Publishing in Chicago before 1871: The Firm of Root and Cady, 1858-1871. By Dena J. Epstein. *Detroit Studies in Music Bibliography*, No. 14. Edited by Bruno Nettl. (Detroit: Information Coordinators, Inc., 1969. Pp. x, 243. Notes, appendices, bibliography, index. \$6.00.) Here is a very detailed account of music publishing in Chicago to 1871, with, as the title suggests, major emphasis on music produced by the firm of Root and Cady. Several appendices include a checklist of plate numbers of items from Root and Cady, a listing of music books published, a composer index to sheet music publications, and a directory of the music trade in Chicago to 1871. In short, this volume is more a work of reference than an historical account in the usual manner.

Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives. Herman J. Viola, Associate Editor. Vol. I, No. 1. (Washington: National Archives, Spring, 1969. Pp. 74. Magazine.) According to James B. Rhoads, archivist of the United States, the "readership" of *Prologue* is expected to be centered in the world of scholarship but also includes "that segment of the enlightened public which draws inspiration from the record of our national heritage" (p. 1). Moreover, Archivist Rhoads hopes that this new historical magazine will serve a very helpful role in increasing communication and cooperation

between scholars in the academic and archival communities. This initial issue, edited by Herman J. Viola, former assistant editor of the *Indiana Magazine of History*, seems well designed to foster these desirable objectives. Readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* should have particular interest in two articles: that by Herman R. Friis concerning "The David Dale Owen Map of Southwestern Wisconsin" and one by Jane F. Smith on "The Use of Federal Records in Writing Local History: A Case Study." (*Prologue* is published three times annually—spring, fall, winter. Subscriptions are \$2.50 for one year, \$4.50 for two years, and \$6.00 for three years. Subscribers should make checks or money orders payable to GSA (NAEJ) and send with full name and mailing address to Cashier, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408.)

Meadow Lake: Gold Town. By Paul Fatout. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1969. Pp. xiii, 178. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$6.95.) In this concise volume Fatout recounts the beginnings of Meadow Lake as a California gold town in 1865 and then traces its rise, waning, and disappearance. In so doing, he offers an interesting and informative account.

Illinois Poets: A Selection. Edited by E. Earle Stibitz. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1968. Pp. xvii, 227. Notes, indices. \$4.95.)
Illinois Prose Writers: A Selection. Edited by Howard W. Webb, Jr. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1968. Pp. x, 147. Notes. \$4.95.) These companion volumes were published as a part of the Illinois Sesqui-centennial celebration. They are organized in a similar fashion with groupings of related selections introduced by brief commentary. The individual selections are also preceded by short comments. The nature of the material enables Stibitz to include both more poets and more works in his volume; introductory information is consequently quite brief. Stibitz has rather thoroughly discussed his selective process which provides "not just poetry by Illinois poets but poetry that also is in some way Illinoisan or midwestern in subject matter and spirit" (p. xiv), poetry which also represents national trends, and a "selection representative of successive periods in Illinois history" (p. xiv). From 1818 to 1968, from William Leggett to William Vaughn Moody to Vachel Lindsay to Gwendolyn Brooks and many others, Stibitz has done much to achieve his goal. There is good poetry and mediocre poetry here, but it is almost always interesting poetry. Webb's volume is shorter and in some ways much less comprehensive than the former volume. Recognizing the hazards of short excerpts of prose, Webb has presented substantial selections from fifteen authors which represent to him "the best and most interesting prose about Illinois by residents of that land" (p. vii). Beginning with a letter from Father Gabriel Marest in the early eighteenth century and other "Early Settlers" through "Abraham Lincoln," a section on "Chicago," and into "The Modern Range" there is much thought provoking material. The

introductory material is sufficiently complete to set the selections in perspective; the selections may goad many readers into exploring further both the authors and their times. *Pamela J. Bennett, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

The Miami Years, 1809-1969. By Walter Havighurst. Revised edition. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1969. Pp. 332. Illustrations, bibliographical notes, index. \$5.95.) Professor Havighurst's volume is an updating—with some corrections—of his Miami University sesquicentennial publication of 1958. Four chapters have been added "sketching the University in these years [1959-1969] of strenuous development" (p. 318). The updating begins with a chronicle of "The Sesquicentennial Year" and moves then into the real developments of the years: growth of physical facilities, student body, and national recognition (the latter primarily because of alumni sports personalities); changes in calendar and graduate curriculum; a new president; student protest; and future planning. It is a pleasant book which includes many facts about the university handled in an imaginative fashion. It is interesting to the public because of historical settings and the example of growth and progress in education; for Miami graduates and others who have real ties with the university, it will also no doubt serve as a framework by which to remember their own Miami years. *Pamela J. Bennett, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

The Sherman Letters: Correspondence Between General Sherman and Senator Sherman from 1837 to 1891. Edited by Rachel Sherman Thorndike. Reprint. *The American Scene: Comments and Commentators.* Edited by Wallace D. Farnham. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1969. Pp. XIV, viii, 398. Illustrations, notes, index. \$15.00.) A reprint of a volume first published in 1894, *The Sherman Letters* contains the correspondence between two Ohio born brothers. General William Tecumseh Sherman and Senator John Sherman, reared separately and vastly different in character and outlook, were instrumental in many of the important political and military events of the 1800s. This work, edited by General Sherman's daughter, describes much of the drama of the nineteenth century and "offers something more as well, providing insight into the dynamics of leadership, illustrating how those who appear to control events are controlled by them in turn" (p. XI). The editor has concentrated on letters written between 1861 and 1877 and has deleted portions of many letters. The correspondence here published, however, contains a running commentary on more than fifty years of American history and reveals two powerful, articulate, exciting participants in that history. *Lorna Lutes Sylvester, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

The Centennial Years: A Political and Economic History of America from the Late 1870s to the Early 1890s. By Fred A. Shannon. Edited by Robert Huhn Jones. (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc.,

1969. Pp. xx, 362. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$1.75.) Published posthumously in 1967, Shannon's *The Centennial Years* is the story of the United States between 1876 and 1892. During these years the country feted the anniversaries of its independence, its Constitution, and its discovery and "found itself coming into a young adulthood that was overshadowed by problems of business and society that were not to be solved simply by the application of salves and dosing with placebos" (p. 12). Edited by Jones, one of Shannon's Ph.D.'s, the original volume has now been issued in paperback edition. *Lorna Lutes Sylvester, Indiana University, Bloomington.*