

Immigrants and the City: Ethnicity and Mobility in a Nineteenth-Century Midwestern Community. By Dean R. Esslinger. (Port Washington, N. Y.: Kennikat Press, 1975. Pp. xii, 156. Maps, tables, appendix, notes, note on sources, index. \$9.95.)

This study of ethnicity and mobility in nineteenth century South Bend is the first book length example of the "new" urban history to use an Indiana setting. Like many earlier community studies—from Boston to Milwaukee to Omaha—Dean R. Esslinger's book focuses on the common people—the usually inarticulate Americans who left little or no literary evidence. His major sources for studying South Bend's immigrants are not letters, diaries, or newspapers but rather the federal manuscript census returns for the years 1850-1880, which provide data on occupation, property, age, residence, and ethnicity for nearly every resident. Use of census data for historical research is not novel (more than a quarter of a century ago Elfrieda Lang worked through some of the same returns that Esslinger used), but within the last two decades historians have begun to ask new questions of these data and, with the aid of computer techniques, have developed new methods to answer these questions.

South Bend grew rapidly in the years 1850-1880 as it changed from a small commercial town to a booming industrial city with nearly half its population composed of first and second generation immigrants. Esslinger analyzes relationships between the processes of urbanization, industrialization, and immigration, especially as these relationships were reflected in the mobility of immigrants. Beginning with a short overview chapter on the city, the author presents a chapter on geographical mobility, showing the rapid population turnover in South Bend; on residential mobility, describing increased residential clustering by ethnic group and by type of work after 1870; and on occupational mobility, assessing the opportunity for immigrants to move up the social ladder. A chapter on patterns of immigrant social and political leadership compares different ethnic groups, emphasizing the strength of German and English leadership, largely as a consequence of their earlier arrival and their willingness to enter into voluntary associations.

Esslinger's major conclusion is that while South Bend was a relatively open community in 1850 compared to older

eastern cities, industrialization and urbanization after 1850 increased social and residential divisions and restrictions and decreased prospects of assimilation for later arriving ethnic groups, especially Polish Americans. This conclusion is by no means new, but Esslinger has made significant scholarly contributions in providing quantitative support and in elaborating the intricacies of these far reaching changes in a small midwestern city. His work will surely be of interest to the many scholars studying mobility and ethnicity in other communities, although they might wish that Esslinger had not bound himself so exclusively to the four midcentury census returns. Readers interested in the general development of Indiana and the Midwest will also profit from Esslinger's work. The writing style is clear and concise; the quantitative techniques used can be readily understood; and the subject is interesting and of utmost significance. Indeed, there have been few books published in the last decade that tell readers more about life in nineteenth century Indiana.

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Guide to Manuscripts Collections & Institutional Records in Ohio. Edited by David R. Larson *et al.* ([Bowling Green]: Society of Ohio Archivists, 1974. Pp. x, 315. End maps, notes, index. \$8.00.)

Ohio archives and manuscripts are being revealed to researchers by published inventories. Guides to the manuscripts in the Ohio Historical Society, Western Reserve Historical Society, and American Jewish Archives, and county and municipal government records have been published in the last four years. A guide to state government records is scheduled for 1975.

This *Guide* lists the many manuscripts to be found in public, college, and historical society libraries and museums. Included are the large holdings of the Cincinnati Historical Society, the University of Cincinnati, Oberlin College, Kent State University, Hiram College, and Northwest Ohio-Great Lakes Research Center in Bowling Green, Ohio; archives of the Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Church of America at Wittenberg University; and the Quaker collection at Wilmington College.