

absentee owners sought to stop what they saw as poaching and trespassing, a conflict familiar to students of early modern capitalism in Europe erupted in late twentieth-century America. Arthur Gomez draws on his work in *Quest for the Golden Circle* to tell the story of the conflicts in Utah and Arizona over the Clinton administration's proclamation of the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, withdrawing from development 1.7 million acres of public land, including a potentially rich coal deposit, and drawing the ire of Utah's congressional delegation. Gomez tells the story as a part of the ideological battle during the Clinton years between a Republican Congress and a Democratic White House. Finally, worthy of mention is Stephen Haycox's fine summary of the history of Alaska state lands and how Alaska politics has revolved around competing claims between the state, Alaska Natives, and the United States. Haycox is the only author in the volume to give more than a passing nod to American Indian claims on land and resources. The editors otherwise missed an opportunity to include a native perspective on land claims and sovereignty.

Yankin' and Liftin' Their Whole Lives: A Mississippi River Commercial Fisherman, by Richard Younker. Shawnee Books Series. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 2000. xiv, 119 pp. Photographs. \$49.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Norman E. Fry teaches American history at Southeastern Community College, Burlington, Iowa. He has recently written several biographical sketches for *The Historical Dictionary of the Gilded Age*.

Richard Younker's book is a biography of Junnie Putman, a commercial fisherman from Bellevue, Iowa, who fished on the Mississippi River for more than 50 years until his death in 1997. Younker chronicles a way of life and an occupation that has existed on the river for decades but is now rapidly disappearing on some parts of the river due to the effects of locks, dams, enormous barge tows, and Alabama catfish farms.

Younker's method for preserving the record of Junnie Putman's life and of commercial fishing on the Mississippi is to combine a written narrative with quotations and extensive dialogue from Putnam, his fellow fishermen, and family members. The narrative is interspersed with 70 black-and-white photographs that record Putnam at work or socializing with friends and family. Six of the book's nine chapters deal with specific aspects of the river fisherman's occupation, such as fishing with the seine net, trammel net, hoop net, and trotline. These chapters describe how the fisherman actually goes about his business of catching fish.

The story of Junnie Putman's daily life puts a human face on a hard life that required long hours of heavy labor without any guarantee of a big catch at the end of the day. Every workday Putnam put himself at risk to the whims of the wind and weather that could make the Mississippi more treacherous than a stormy sea. Even without nasty weather, the cold waters and currents of the river could claim a careless man's life in a few minutes.

Junnie Putman was the best among his peers as a fisherman and as a hunter/trapper. Younker shows great respect for the skill and knowledge it took for Putnam to succeed as a commercial fisherman, but it is also obvious that Younker is paying homage to a dying breed of men and to a livelihood that has nearly vanished from the river. In this respect, Younker preserves a piece of commercial fishing's history by preserving the personal history of Junnie Putman.

Younker's book will disappoint readers looking for a scholarly book about life on the river. The book has no index, footnotes, or historical sources to place the book in context with other accounts of river life. The book most closely resembles an oral history, but it lacks the focused interviews typical of oral histories. The strength of Younker's book is in the narrative that tells the complex story of one man's life as a commercial fisherman. The story of Junnie Putman has within it the sort of details about daily life that should make it a good read for anyone interested in life on the Mississippi.

Honor the Grandmothers: Dakota and Lakota Women Tell Their Stories, edited by Sarah Penman. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000. 146 pp. Illustrations. \$29.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Susan C. Peterson is professor of history emeritus at the University of North Dakota. Her research and writing have focused on the history of women in the western United States.

At the outset of *Honor the Grandmothers*, Sarah Penman makes evident the importance of oral tradition to Lakota culture. A testimony by Celane Not Help Him humanizes the typical American history textbook's discussions of Indian history: "After the massacre, Grandmother Earth covered them with a white blanket; everything was covered with a blanket of snow. Those frozen bodies lay there three days and they [the soldiers] just pick them up and throw them in that trench over there, and nobody didn't even pray or anything; not even a pipe carrier." Celane Not Help Him also shares the story of Big Foot, who was remembered to say, "Do what you're told. If I'm not sick like

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