

Unfortunately, the text consists solely of Smith's memories "as told to" Robert B. King. Since King, a newspaperman, says nothing about his own role, we can only guess about his influence on Smith's story, or whether he has exercised a historian's caution. Smith recalls events, some of them more than eighty years old, without the aid of documents except a few photographs. The text contains no notes or bibliography; even its title is a line from a poem which is printed in full but not attributed to anyone. Nevertheless, Smith's simple, lively narrative is believable, and at times compelling.

A. V. Sorensen and the New Omaha, by Harl A. Dalstrom. Omaha: Douglas County Historical Society, 1987. iii, 359 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY LAWRENCE H. LARSEN, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Axel Vergman Sorensen was born in Denmark in 1903 and died in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1982. He never graduated from high school, but founded a successful regional electrical products supply firm. He became an Omaha civic leader, and in the 1950s headed a charter convention that produced a new city charter for Omaha that voters ratified in 1956. The "Home Rule Charter," which changed Omaha's city government from a commission plan to a strong mayor and council arrangement, got off to an uncertain start amid charges of corruption. In 1965 Sorensen ran for mayor, defeating an incumbent charged with various unsavory dealings. During his four years in office, Sorensen promoted pro-business government. This traditional method ignored minorities, and severe racial disturbances followed. However, Sorensen's leadership ability and common-sense pragmatic approach to municipal government struck a responsive chord with many of Omaha's citizens. After retiring from office, he resumed a role as a civic leader that he maintained for the rest of his life.

Harl A. Dalstrom, a professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, through prodigious primary research fortified by his own deep knowledge of the history of Omaha, has produced an excellent book that places Sorensen in the larger context of the development of post-World War II Omaha. Of special interest is Dalstrom's analytical observation about Sorensen's managerial style: "As a business executive and as a Mayor of Omaha Al Sorensen identified people who he felt could do a particular job and as long as they gave evidence that they were performing their responsibilities diligently and properly, he gave them the latitude they needed to accomplish their tasks" (1). Using methods that had served him well in the

business world, Sorensen helped to create a new Omaha. As Dalstrom demonstrates, he stands as a significant and successful post-machine urban political leader.

A Guide to Documentary Editing, by Mary-Jo Kline. Foreword by Arthur S. Link. Prepared for the Association for Documentary Editing. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987. xvii, 228 pp. Appendix, bibliographies, index. \$29.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY BETH LUEY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The allied fields of documentary and textual editing have grown and changed immeasurably over the past two decades. The line between "historical" and "literary" editing, once drawn dark and straight, has been deliberately blurred and occasionally effaced. A field whose subjects once were the Founding Fathers and a few other great white men is now publishing the papers of ordinary people of all races and both sexes. Computer technology has revolutionized the actual tasks of the documentary editor.

Mary-Jo Kline's *Guide to Documentary Editing*, already in its second printing, is the first published handbook for documentary editors. After her introduction to the history and issues of the field, she provides a step-by-step description of the process: the search for documents, organization of the edition, selection, transcription, emendation, annotation, physical presentation, indexing, and publication. Each chapter provides discussions of alternatives and references to other authorities.

Mary-Jo Kline is an experienced, knowledgeable, and articulate documentary editor. In preparing the *Guide*, she consulted with dozens of other editors. As a result, this book is authoritative without being dictatorial. It is invaluable to anyone preparing a historical text for publication, whether that text is the official correspondence of a state's governor or a great-grandmother's diary. It is also useful for those who wish to teach documentary editing. Along with the forthcoming bibliography and anthology also being sponsored by the Association for Documentary Editing, this *Guide* will provide an excellent foundation for college courses.

An Oral Historians' Work (videotape), by Edward D. Ives. 33 min. Distributed by Sheldon Weiss Productions, Blue Hill Falls, ME. \$60.00.

REVIEWED BY ROY ROSENZWEIG, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Edward D. (Sandy) Ives is a noted folklorist, director of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History at the University of Maine, and

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