

Webber's investigation into Pella's history and culture is cursory. The result is that *Pella Dutch* is easily accessible to a broad audience, yet less satisfying on a more academic plane.

*More Han Ola og Han Per*, by Peter J. Rosendal. A bilingual edition edited by Einar Haugen and Joan N. Buckley. Bur Oak Book. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1988. xxvi, 167 pp. Illustrations. \$19.95 paper.

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For almost twenty years (1918–1935), readers of the widely circulated Norwegian-American newspaper, the *Decorah Posten*, were regaled by the outrageous antics of Ola and Per. Per was the major character; excitable, baffled by strange American ways and always ready to speak his mind, he reacted dramatically to every situation. Polla, his "city girl" wife, had a mother who was the stereotype of the disagreeable mother-in-law. Lars, Per's newcomer older brother, was an "educated fool," more of a nuisance than a help on the farm, and much given to his bottle of moonshine. Ola, Per's neighbor and daily buddy, was easygoing, jolly, not very bright, utterly baffled by new technology, and dependent on Per for advice. The characters all spoke a form of Norwegian mixed with Norwegianized English, referred to by other Norwegians as "Spring Grove Norse." Their lives as recorded by humorist Peter J. Rosendal were filled with events that, however outrageous, never failed to delight *Posten* readers. As a comic strip, *Ola og Per* was of a quality equal to that of the well-known contemporary English language strips *Andy Gump* or *Bringing Up Father*.

Oxford University Press published a volume of earlier strips under the title *Han Ola og Han Per*. This volume includes 331 strips published between 1926 and 1935, and represents Rosendal's work at its creative best. Splendidly edited, this bilingual edition includes two excellent introductory essays by the editors. Anyone with an interest in Norwegian-American ethnicity or, for that matter, in the technological revolution that was so radically transforming all rural life during the 1920s and 1930s will find this a thoroughly rewarding volume. So attractive is the format that this collection would also make a splendid gift to pass on to a friend who might appreciate a delightful out-of-the-ordinary book.

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