

comprehensive collection of 364 letters written by and to Mother Jones. The transcripts of thirty-one speeches given by Mother Jones during a twenty-one-year period between January 1901 and February 1922 constitute most of the book. Also included are seventeen articles published primarily in *The Appeal to Reason*, *The Cincinnati Post*, *The St. Louis Labor*, and the *International Socialist Review* between 1901 and 1915.

Professor Steel and the University of Pittsburgh Press have made a monumental contribution to American history in collecting and publishing these important documents of the American labor movement. As Americans ask who were the real heroes of the twentieth century, Mother Mary Jones must be counted in the front ranks. She spoke for the American worker in a truly American form. She described the pitiful conditions of miners and workers, factory and brewery girls. She railed against pompous politicians including the "monkey chaser," Theodore Roosevelt. She dared the press to print the truth from the workers' point of view. She ridiculed the capitalists whose luxury was bought at a heavy price in suffering by the working class. She chastized those she sought to lead for not doing enough, but she looked to the future with optimism and faith. Her broadest goal was for "the children to have good schooling . . . [the] women to know nothing but what is good . . . to leave to this nation a noble manhood and greater womanhood" (108-9). She assured workers that "the labor movement was not originated by man, [but] was a commandment from God Almighty. He commanded the prophets . . . to go down and redeem the Israelites that were in bondage, and he organized the men into a union and went to work" (91).

The speeches and writings of Mother Jones portray the struggle for a more humane America. Each selection is prefaced by a short introduction. A welcome feature of this volume are the short biographical notes on individuals cited in the speeches and writings. Both volumes will stand for many years as a standard reference for those who seek to understand the course of American labor during the first three decades of this century and its most colorful and inspiring spokesperson.

A Ruth Suckow Omnibus, by Ruth Suckow. Introduction by Clarence A. Andrews. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1988. xvi, 310 pp. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SARA McALPIN, BVM, CLARKE COLLEGE

This new collection of ten short stories and one novella by Ruth Suckow reprints the work of an author much admired in the 1920s

and 1930s, but largely neglected in her later years and since her death in 1960. Suckow created almost her entire fictional world in Iowa, demonstrating a unique ability to capture realistically the people, scenes, institutions, and activities characteristic of her native state.

Selections here include some of Suckow's typical people: the single woman, often longing for a fuller life; elderly parents ill at ease in retirement and with their own children; adolescents struggling for identity and certitude; women and men longing for the remembered contentment of youth. Several of Suckow's recurrent concerns also emerge from these pages, in the juxtaposition of country people with town folks; the price of unquestioning loyalty to a parent, a loved one, an institution; the frustration or emptiness of failed relationships; rigid social stratifications of small towns; the plight of the nonconformist in an unaccepting environment; and "under everything an unassuaged aching" (44) felt by several characters in these and other Suckow stories who yearn for greater satisfaction in their lives.

These stories, accompanied by Clarence A. Andrews's fine introductory overview, give new readers of Suckow a fresh opportunity to know and appreciate her fiction. Many readers already familiar with her works will enthusiastically welcome this new printing, though they will, no doubt, miss personal favorites in the collection, and wish that first publication dates of the stories were included in order to examine development. Any reader interested in Iowa, however, will discover here an invaluable resource not only of vividly imagined fiction, but also of socioeconomic history, all rendered in rich detail. Indeed, as a uniquely significant Iowa author, Suckow deserves to have her work much more widely available in contemporary editions.

Prime Fathers, by Frederick Manfred. Salt Lake City: Howe Brothers, 1988. 176 pp. \$15.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT F. GISH, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Frederick Manfred (Frederick Feikema) occupies a special place of respect among writers who continue to explore the American West—old and new. Best known for his "Buckskin Man Tales," Manfred is also a poet and, as *Prime Fathers* demonstrates, an essayist of the first order.

Prime Fathers takes its title and theme from Manfred's miscellaneous tributes to some of the men who have influenced him over the years. He throws in a few personal musings on literature and language and on "placeness" and why writers are influenced by land and lives. The implication, overall, is that influences of "prime fathers" are

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