

and interviews. Robert Twombly's introduction provides an excellent summary of Sullivan's intellectual and philosophical development. Each of the fifty-one "papers," presented in chronological order, are preceded by notes that set the individual piece within the context of Sullivan's life and times.

The Public Papers reveal Sullivan as both the expert architect and the poet. When he writes about technical or professional matters he is clear, concise, and informative. His more philosophical writings are also clearly written, but the subject matter is more difficult and esoteric. Reading these elusive and emotional poetical essays is rewarding for those interested in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architecture and artistic theory, for they reveal Sullivan's personal version of late Victorian transcendental thought.

Sullivan's concern focused on the creation of a uniquely American architecture. He believed that fine architecture did not occur arbitrarily, but that it could only be produced by fine men in a fine culture in harmony with the complex and dynamic structure of nature. Nature was to him the source and the model for life and whatever man could develop that was beautiful and functional. Sullivan's papers reveal an artist of sensitivity and intellect who struggled to express the structure and emotion of nature through his architecture.

America's Farm Crisis, by Carol Gorman. New York: Franklin Watts, 1987. 125 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. \$12.90 cloth.

REVIEWED BY EARL M. ROGERS, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The farm crisis of the 1980s affected Iowa severely. Carol Gorman, a Cedar Rapids teacher and author of several books for young adults, discusses its background and impact. The experiences of two teenage Iowa girls are told briefly to show the stress on their families.

The author devotes much space to background, concentrating on farm program details. Gorman refers to the world food shortages of the early seventies, which helped bring on the boom and bust cycle, but she fails to clarify the immediate background of the farm crisis. The federal income tax cut of 1981, followed by a spectacular increase in the deficit financed by overseas borrowing, caused the strong dollar that overpriced farm exports. Commodity and farmland prices collapsed, leaving many farmers unable to repay debts contracted in the seventies. Agricultural economists and rural sociologists, including those at Iowa State University, journalists, and farm

activists eloquently described the impact on families and rural communities in Iowa and other states. Gorman names only one farm organization, the Farm Bureau, and mentions few of the responses to the crisis, leaving the reader with a very incomplete picture. A better book for her readership would have less farm program background and more examples of victims and survivors on farms and in small towns, not only in Iowa, but in other states as well, as implied by the title.

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