

Winnebago Oratory: Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Hochungra, 1742-1887, compiled by Mark Diedrich. Rochester, MN: Coyote Books, 1991. 106 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, appendix, bibliography. \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JASON TETZLOFF, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Too often Native American history is written from only a white voice or perspective. Compiler Mark Diedrich has attempted to supplement the white-generated record with this collection of Winnebago or Hochungra speeches. Using a variety of sources, he has collected a number of speeches of orators of the tribe. These orators comment on white encroachment on Winnebago lands, inter-tribal relations, and Winnebago-white relations as the tribe was moved from their ancestral home in Wisconsin to several other states in the upper Midwest, including Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and finally Nebraska, where their current reservation is located.

Winnebago Oratory provides important information on one of this region's largest and most important tribes. It offers the reader an accessible Indian voice that was previously available, but only in relatively inaccessible collections of documents. The selected speeches provide Winnebago commentary on important topics for the Winnebagos and other residents of the upper Midwest, topics that have lacked Indian perspective. The period from 1839 to 1848, when the Winnebagos were in Iowa, is well represented; that period is neglected in the literature on Iowa Indian history. The book's carefully documented format leads the reader to the sources that provided these speeches, opening the door for further study and inclusion of these often ignored and missing Indian voices.

Brownie the Boomer: The Life of Charles P. Brown, an American Railroader, edited by H. Roger Grant. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1991. xx, 259 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROGER A. BRUNS, NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

At the end of the nineteenth century, the steel arms of the railroads laced the country, almost two hundred thousand miles of track reaching nearly every county in the United States. The railroad brought mobility to thousands of men and women looking for work

and to others, driven by wanderlust, who saw in the roaring trains the golden key to places never seen and things never done.

Charles P. Brown was one of those road nomads, hitting the freights first as a hobo and then as a railroad itinerant, a boomer. In the road life, Brown and his fellow drifters found drama and excitement, exhilaration and suffering. They later recalled the hops to every corner of the country, where they could swap yarns, share mulligan stew, take on partners, and feel a sense of community. They recalled the hardships, the loneliness and violence; men being whipped on chain gangs and jailed for vagrancy; the mutilations and death from the razor wheels; the hunger. But the lure of moving was always powerful and they clung to the life, proud that they had met its demands.

Some wrote reminiscences. We remember the great literary effusions of Jack London and Jim Tully. But others, in their own crude vernacular, with their own raw sense of drama and pathos, also told their stories. Charlie Brown's account, first published in 1930, is one of the best we have, a tale that takes us from his early days as a hobo surrounded by men such as Denver Red and Chicago Blackie to his time on railroad crews from Iron Mountain, Missouri, to Needles, California. Superbly edited by railroad historian H. Roger Grant, this new edition of *Brownie the Boomer* is a rousing testament to the lives of the railroad itinerants, a work of interest to social historians, railroad experts and buffs, students of labor, and all other armchair knights of the open road.

Taliesin 1911-1914, edited by Narciso G. Menocal. Wright Studies, vol. 1. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 1992. ix, 141 pp. Illustrations, notes. \$39.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY WESLEY IVAN SHANK, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Two buildings of major importance designed by Frank Lloyd Wright are in Iowa. The City National Bank and Park Inn Hotel built in 1909-1910 in Mason City, viewed as one building, follows his Prairie style, inspired by the horizontality of the prairie and with a simplicity appropriate to an age of machine production. Not here the outworn symbolism of historic architecture. Cedar Rock, built in 1948-1950 near Quasqueton, where Wright's architecture is transformed, is the second major building. Inspired by nature, the building and the surrounding landscape interweave to create a sym-

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