pretending to serve the public, regardless of who it is. And when he gets the news he should print it, regardless of how much it costs" (7). Over a year of exposés in the *Gazette* led to 49 indictments, including that of State Attorney General Edward O'Connor.

But on the same day as the *Gazette* carried the story that it had won the Pulitzer Prize, it also shared the news that the Iowa Supreme Court had struck down the dozens of Sioux City indictments, based on an Iowa statute that prohibited prosecutors from accepting outside funding. Although many of Marshall's targets escaped prosecution, their political careers were destroyed and the political establishment of the state subsequently took greater care to enforce liquor and gambling laws.

The book ends with Marshall's involvement with the No Foreign Wars Committee, a disaster that pushed Marshall into a nervous breakdown, forcing his retirement. Harrington contends that the same combativeness that served Marshall well in rallying Iowans against compromised state officials backfired in building a mass movement against American intervention in the Second World War.

Skillfully weaving research from the *Cedar Rapids Gazette,* the *Des Moines Register*, and the Verne Marshall Papers at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, Harrington avoids the sorts of pulpy clichés that usually accompany popular histories of 1930s crime and journalism. *Crusading Iowa Journalist Verne Marshall* is a welcome addition to the study of Iowa during the Great Depression. Readers accustomed to conceiving of the New Deal in Iowa entirely in terms of thoughtful technocrats, beleaguered farmers, and empowered workers will be in for a surprise. Harrington's study shows that the politics of alcohol did not disappear with the repeal of Prohibition. As a work of journalism history, the book also serves as a case study of the perils of checkbook journalism.

Wisconsin on the Air: 100 Years of Public Broadcasting in the State That Invented It, by Jack Mitchell. Madison: Wisconsin State Historical Society Press, 2016. xi, 226 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. $24.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Stephen C. Coon is emeritus associate professor, Greenlee School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Iowa State University. He has written extensively about broadcast journalism.

Jack Mitchell, the first producer for National Public Radio's (NPR) *All Things Considered,* has compiled an informative and entertaining chronology of Wisconsin Public Broadcasting, an institution he helped shape as director of Wisconsin Public Radio for more than two decades from 1976 to 1997. He mixes material from the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, public radio files at the University of Wisconsin, and

documents from the Rockefeller Foundation. However, the bulk of *Wisconsin on the Air* relies on numerous interviews Mitchell conducted with key figures instrumental to the growth of Wisconsin's public radio and television, including contemporary personalities such as Michael Feldman of *Whad'Ya Know?* Mitchell also describes his own imprint on the institution in what is a half-historical and half-autobiographical account —a potential bias he concedes in the introduction.

The book is divided into two sections. The first half treats the first 50 years of what the author labels educational broadcasting. The second part covers the era of public broadcasting made possible with the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and financial support for noncommercial stations. It is a story of personalities and politics arising from competing historical, economic, and technological forces that affected the institution during a century of operation.

The tale begins with a nearly inaudible piano melody flowing from a receiver speaker in the living room of University of Wisconsin physicist Earle Terry in 1917. By all accounts, the guests listening in Terry's home were not impressed. Certainly they had no reason to believe they had witnessed the historic origin of what would become one of the nation's foremost public broadcasting operations.

The University of Wisconsin saw the new medium as a vehicle for spreading the institution's Wisconsin Idea, a commitment to its educational mission to extend progressive ideas from the campus to homes across the state. Mitchell argues that the academic origin of radio continues to influence contemporary public broadcasting. Just as universities "sift and winnow" for truth among competing ideas, so, too, do broadcasters in their commitment to objectivity, fairness, and balance in verifying facts. "Public broadcasting was born in and nurtured by universities, and public broadcasters think like academics" (22).

Although there is no specific reference to Iowa, avid public broadcasting listeners and viewers will recognize a comparable history in the Hawkeye State. Terry's experiments with wireless transmissions, for example, mirror similar experiments at Iowa State College in Ames between 1911 and 1921—a chronology that is detailed in separate histories written by Dwight W. Smith, Charles Black, and longtime WOI radio host Don Forsling. Of interest to some Iowa readers will be descriptions of the tension between private and public interests in Wisconsin about the proper role of noncommercial radio and later television. These are reminiscent of the controversy in Iowa that forced the eventual sale of commercial television station WOI by Iowa State University. Neil Harl documented that tale in *Arrogance and Power: The Saga of WOI-TV* (2001). Finally, Iowa public radio listeners will relate to Wisconsin broadcasts of classical music, horticulture tips, and readings from popular books.

Wisconsin on the Air is a welcome contribution to the extant literature about American broadcasting, which is disproportionately devoted to descriptions of commercial pioneers. It is a history full of interesting personalities, political conflict, and struggles to recognize and adapt to changing competition, radio listeners' habits, and technological change. The methodology is an effective and credible approach for similar institutional histories in Iowa.

Harvest of Hazards: Family Farming, Accidents, and Expertise in the Corn Belt, 1940–1975, by Derek S. Oden. Iowa and the Midwest Experience Series. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2017. xi, 251 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. $65 paperback.

Reviewer Katherine Jellison is professor of history at Ohio University. She is the author of *Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913–1963* (1993).

In this long overdue history of the farm safety movement, Derek S. Oden provides a thorough accounting of how midwestern farm families, agricultural organizations, government agencies, safety experts, and farm implement manufacturers made mid–twentieth-century farming a less dangerous occupation. Although the various players in the campaign to improve farm safety did not always seamlessly coordinate their efforts, their common crusade produced results: The Corn Belt farm was a safer place to live and work in 1975 than it had been in 1940.

Oden begins his study of the farm safety movement with the World War II–era effort to reduce farm accidents as part of the national campaign to increase overall agricultural production. During that time of national unity, midwestern farmers, industrial safety experts, and government agencies shared a common premise: safer farming would maximize production of food, fiber, and fats for military use. Following the wartime emergency, interest in improving farm safety continued as increased mechanization and greater reliance on the use of chemicals raised new concerns about the hazards of postwar farming. Agricultural colleges, farm implement manufacturers, and 4-H clubs were just a few of the institutions that raised awareness of farm safety issues by providing equipment demonstrations, tractor driving courses, farm safety contests, advice literature, and other prescriptive measures to lessen the dangers of farm work. During this educational phase of the safety movement, farm families largely embraced its principles and goals. Only when employee and consumer protection activists of the 1960s and 1970s called for greater government regulation of the conditions, equipment, and products of the American workplace—including the family-owned farm—did midwesterners begin to question the efficacy of the farm safety movement. Farm operators began to view safety