

own career as entrepreneur, educational leader, and philanthropist. He chaired the CBS Television Affiliates Board, helped create Iowa's Public Broadcast Service, and—although a college dropout—ascended to membership on the Iowa Board of Regents. Although Quarton's descriptions of his many travels late in life seem gratuitous, his entertaining reflections on Iowa broadcast history make *Lucky Man* a satisfying read.

*Iowa City's Irving Weber: A Biography*, by Lolly Parker Eggers. Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2006. xii, 402 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.00 paper.

Reviewer Jan Olive Nash is principal of Tallgrass Historians L.C. In that capacity, she has visited and studied the history of Iowa towns for 15 years and has made close studies of several Iowa City properties. She also recently completed a Ph.D. dissertation at Loyola University Chicago on the survival of small towns in Iowa.

Lolly Parker Eggers is clearly Irving Weber's biggest fan, for who else could muster the stamina needed to research the minutiae contained in her biography of Iowa City's beloved official historian? Covering everything from Weber's 1839 genealogical roots in rural Johnson County to his boyhood neighborhood gang, his successful business career, and, finally, his retirement years spent writing local history, Eggers documents Weber's long life (1900–1997) with organizational skill and clear prose. While placing her subject within a strong community history, little broader context emerges to understand Weber within the larger patterns of the twentieth century, although he experienced most of it. Some historical generalizations are overstated, and the book lacks footnotes, but Eggers includes paragraphs of specific chapter sources for those wanting more detail. An extensive bibliography and useful index promise user-friendliness for researchers.

This book is really a nostalgic social history of a small midwestern city, wrapped around the biography of a prolific local historian. As the former, it recalls Lewis Atherton's *Main Street on the Middle Border* (1954) and largely repeats work already in general circulation. It is also a case study of a local historian, in which Irving Weber emerges as one of the last of his type—the well-mannered gentleman historian raised by Victorian parents. Weber epitomizes a segment of civil society and a manner of behaving unfamiliar to many today. Modest and soft-spoken, Weber did an immense service to his hometown. With the help of this biography, he will forever be a fixed part of this community's memory.