

Iowa also experienced the changes in campus life that Nelson describes, as more and more teenagers pursued higher education, and college towns changed to reflect their mores. At Iowa as at Missouri, new ideas about modern women challenged traditional social norms that emphasized their roles as wives and mothers. Like Missouri, Iowa was pulled between its small-town culture and its emerging national role as a center of research, commerce, and transportation.

Uncommon Americans: The Lives and Legacies of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover, edited by Timothy Walch. Contributions in American History 200. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2003. xi, 314 pp. Photograph, notes, index. \$67.95 cloth.

Reviewer Lisa Ossian is a history instructor at Southwestern Community College, Creston, Iowa. Her research and writing have focused on the Great Depression and the World War II home front in Iowa.

Herbert Hoover saved more lives from famine than any other person in the twentieth century, forever earning the title of the Great Humanitarian; he also earned a million dollars before his fortieth birthday through innovative mining practices worldwide, earning another title as the Great Engineer.

Uncommon Americans opens with its only photograph, which both intrigues and startles the reader with the gaze of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover, almost begging readers to reconsider and reevaluate their lives and legacies. In this volume of 19 varied essays, 17 authors examine the Hoovers' political, social, and economic contributions within seven chronological categories: first thoughts, formative years, helping hands, progressive ideals, glorious burdens, exile and return, and a last word. Each essay examines a particular facet of either Hoover's life, presenting interesting analytic phrasings and appropriate descriptions but perhaps appearing too apologetic in counteracting previous historiography.

Many historians have considered Herbert Hoover to be the most influential man in American public life from 1921 through 1933, but as George Nash argues, an intellectual fog continues to surround the man and his presidency, with many Americans simply labeling him a failure due to the ultimate leadership crisis of the Great Depression. John Milton Cooper's essay, "The Hoovers' Early Years," directly critiques contemporary historians' dismissal of the Hoovers, particularly citing Arthur Schlesinger's biography, *Crisis of the Old Order*, which staged the initial negative tone, comparing the Hoovers' life to a Richard Harding Davis novel but without the heroism.

Uncommon Americans is particularly suited for readers interested in Progressivism and presidential leadership. Some essays do refer to both Hoovers' Iowa roots (mostly Herbert's austere pioneer existence and Quaker teachings), although both left Iowa before adulthood for the world stage. Other topics include the Hoovers' determined humanitarianism in the hunger drive for European children following the Great War, the president's early orphaned years and subsequent work with children's welfare and health issues, development of children's organizations such as the Girl Scouts by Lou and Boys' Clubs by Herbert, and active participation in progressive ideals such as economic planning and better homes. Nancy Beck Young depicts Lou Henry Hoover as a "forgotten feminist" because few contemporaries understand this First Lady's volunteer activism and extremely interesting life challenges. A particularly well-focused essay is David Hamilton's account of President Hoover warring against the Great Depression on too many of its one thousand fronts.

There are omissions, however. There is no discussion of the major progressive issues of prohibition and suffrage or the dramatic 1928 and 1932 presidential campaigns. The details of the Hoovers' world travels, especially during the Boxer Rebellion in China, are also rather glossed over. Varied in length and detail, most essays address each Hoover separately instead of capturing the essence of their working relationship. But these are minor criticisms. No collection of essays could begin to completely capture the Hoovers' extensive charitable and political work within 261 pages.

Perhaps the most emotional essay in the collection, enhancing Hoover's rather complex yet loyal personality, is "Some of My Best Friends Are Democrats." Timothy Walch uses sources such as calendars, committee votes, and memos along with several anecdotes to paint a touching portrait of Hoover's friendship with Joseph Kennedy. Both were unapproachable men of power who relied on each other's opinions and relished each other's company, especially as their ages increased and their political powers decreased.

The last essay by Richard Norton Smith anchors the book with its inspiring examination of the positive ideologies, generous instincts, moral obligations, yet controversial mistakes of Hoover's complicated personality and life. Smith writes, "In Europe and Asia he saved more people from starvation than Hitler and Stalin together could murder—yet he drove to his final campaign appearance in 1932 through crowds of angry New Yorkers shouting, 'We want bread!'" (250). Despite this puzzling paradox of power, historians should remember Hoover's faith in American know-how and his unlimited generosity along with

his determined belief in local solutions and cooperative efforts rather than coercive federal mandates. Hoover certainly earned both titles of the Great Humanitarian and the Great Engineer, but he just couldn't project the image or emotion of the Great Communicator as the Great Depression demanded. As Smith concludes, Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover are still sadly not in vogue, but this collection of essays attempts to rediscover, reexamine, and reposition the various dimensions of the Hoovers' courageous lives as uncommon Americans.

The Enemy among Us: POWs in Missouri during World War II, by David Fiedler. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003. xiv, 466 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Chad William Timm is a high school history teacher in Des Moines, a Ph.D. student at Iowa State University, and the author of a master's thesis at Iowa State University titled "Axis Prisoners of War in Iowa, 1943-1946: Harvesting Fields of Dreams" (2002).

In *The Enemy among Us*, author David Fiedler points out the little-known fact that between 1942 and 1945, more than 400,000 Axis prisoners of war were sent to the United States. In 1942 successful Allied campaigns against Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht in North Africa led to widespread captures of Axis prisoners. The British landscape could not accommodate the increasing number of prisoners, forcing the United States to aid in POW internment. Eventually, according to Fiedler, "POWs lived and worked in nearly every state in the country" (12).

Fiedler's book specifically portrays the experiences of the 15,000 German and Italian POWs who lived and worked in Missouri, as well as of those Missourians who came to know them. Using a diverse array of archival and contemporary sources, Fiedler describes each of Missouri's four main camps (Weingarten, Crowder, Clark, and Fort Leonard Wood) and 26 branch camps from inception to closing. He elaborates in fascinating detail on topics ranging from camp construction, escapes, POW labor, and education to recreation and community relations. Iowans should take particular interest in Fiedler's work, as our own state interned more than 10,000 German, Italian, and Japanese POWs between 1943 and 1946.

The Missouri camps experienced POW escapes, their labor programs were often opposed by organized labor, and Fascist extremists among the POW population struggled for control of their comrades. Despite such sporadic troubles, "the program was by and large a success" (411). Confirming what Arnold Krammer, the foremost scholar on the subject has said of POW camps across the country (in *Nazi Pris-*

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