

The book is devoid of footnotes, which is understandable given the nature of it. Yet there is no justification for the absence of both a bibliography and an index. An appendix listing motive power and other equipment owned by the various companies is included, however.

*Iowa Trolleys* is a must for any buff who is interested in the railroads of Iowa. Serious students of railroad history will find it less rewarding.

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*The Amanas Yesterday*, photographs collected by Joan Liffing Zug, text edited by John Zug. The Amana Society, 1975. pp. 48. \$2.95.

Sixty-eight photographs taken between 1900 and 1932, primarily by the people living in the seven villages of the Amana Colonies in Iowa, form the core of this book. The religious communal spirit of the Amana people (of Swiss, German and Alsatian ancestry) lives in this unique collection. History in this instance becomes immediate, and accessible to young and old alike. The pictures are tools that offer viewers an opportunity to analyze, interpret, and most of all enjoy scenes from the past.

In the years before the turn of the century, photographers were not allowed in the Colonies, but after 1900 the rules were relaxed to the point where eventually almost every family displayed in its home an album containing photographs of family members, friends and relatives.

Joan Liffing Zug spent nine years compiling the group of photos in *The Amanas Yesterday*. Her search was initiated when she came upon a small collection, mainly postcards, in the possession of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Moershel. At the time Ms. Zug was working on a documentary of life in the Amanas. Out of several hundred she located, sixty-eight photographs were selected as

representative of the over-all view of the seven villages: the factories, the religious observances, the fires, explosions at the woolen mills, and the daily life of the people.

Residents of Amana are seen harvesting ice with horses, sawing huge tree logs by hand, plowing fields with oxen, knitting, working in the communal kitchens, gathering walnuts on family outings in the fall and May flowers in the spring. Seldom were people alone, either in work or play. Life in the Amanas during the first third of the twentieth century was not all toil—there were many light moments: witness the cheerful faces, carefree activities (fishing, sleigh riding), happy mealtimes and wedding processions, to name a few.

The communal life came to an end in Amana in 1932 due largely to factors related to the pervasiveness of an expanding industrial economy. Changes that had been wrought many years before in America's society-at-large finally touched the Amana Colonies. *The Amanas Yesterday* stands as a valuable record of a communal society as it looked and functioned before those changes became apparent.

—J. G.

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## The Bicentennial Looks for History Manuscripts

That Gold Rush diary of Great Uncle Eliphalet, did you stash it in the walnut chest or is it in the lock box down town? Better look around. The Heritage Committee of the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission is launching a search for documents with family and local institution ownership. What are they? Where are they? Can these manuscripts and rare imprints be made available for research, while still in private hands, to students and local historians? You can see that Great Uncle Eliphalet's adventures with dust, dysentary and destiny on the road to Eldorado should certainly be included.

While an all-Iowa search for history resources has long been needed, this is not the first venture. A beginning was made in 1939 under the Historical Records Survey of the federal Works

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