

mythologizing through the revelation of secrets and contrasting interpretations of events. Readers have to work to create, as best they can, a cohesive narrative of place from the highly subjective perspectives of each character. Stacy shows, however, that this dissonance is evident in *Spoon River Anthology's* origins and reception, too. For a time, *Spoon River Anthology* helped to construct the midwestern small town as an American myth.

The Dawn of Industrial Agriculture: Anthropology, Literature, and History, by E. Paul Durrenberger. 317 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. Louisville, CO: University of Colorado Press, 2021. \$37.95 paperback.

Reviewer J. L. Anderson is the author and editor of numerous publications on Iowa and midwestern history, including *Industrializing the Corn Belt: Agriculture, Technology, and Environment, 1945–1972* (2009), *The Rural Midwest since World War II* (2014), and *Capitalist Pigs: Pigs, Pork, and Power in America* (2019).

Anthropologist E. Paul Durrenberger's *The Dawn of Industrial Agriculture* describes the changing Iowa landscape through the eyes of Iowa-born novelist Paul Corey and, to a lesser extent, his partner Ruth Lechlitner. The thrust of the book is that Corey's writing about the midwestern rural experience of the early twentieth century through the 1940s was as much anthropological as it was literary; Corey's stories were not classic protagonist vs. antagonist fiction, but instead functioned as a Geertzian "thick description" of a disappearing culture, a sentiment Corey expressed when noting that his work was "more of a historical and social document as well as fiction" (160). According to Durrenberger, the rural industrialization of the twentieth century was led by land-grant universities, agricultural scientists, economists, main street businesses, and the Farm Bureau, all of whom emphasized increased profit through the application of technology and a strong business ethic, with catastrophic consequences of rural depopulation, community collapse, and environmental degradation.

The narrative moves between history, biography, literary description, and analysis, as well as multiple geographic locations, including Iowa, Chicago, New York, Europe, and California. Throughout, Durrenberger addresses the broader context of Corey's work, including the "revolt from the village" and Regionalism movements, the economic distress and dislocation of the Great Depression, the collective action and government intervention of the New Deal, and the Cold War. Corey's Iowa-based stories, planned and executed in the 1930s and 1940s, were some of his most successful. One reviewer recognized Corey's distinctive contributions by highlighting his keen observations of farm life

and distinctive framing in the novel *Three Miles Square* as a “story without a beginning or an end” (115).

The Dawn of Industrial Agriculture in Iowa often suffers, however, from its distinct organization and lack of focus. Transitions between sections are abrupt, with some material underdeveloped and seemingly unrelated to the story of Corey’s perspectives on agricultural industrialization. Much of the action is far from Iowa, including European travel, work in New York City, and subsistence farming in New York’s Hudson Valley. The reader learns a great deal about both Corey and Lechlitner, with extensive excerpts from correspondence as well Lechlitner’s poems, but again much of this material lacks a connection to Corey’s critique of rural culture. Durrenberger discusses historical events to provide some context, but does not ground it in the scholarship on the rural Midwest of the last sixty years. Furthermore, considering that Corey and Lechlitner are the primary subjects of the book, it is odd that there are no index entries for either person. Finally, it is difficult to see the intended audience for this book. Readers will gain a better understanding of the respective works of a significant Iowa-born author, with literary studies specialists benefiting the most. Historians of the Iowa experience will find the treatment of historical events and Corey and Lechlitner’s place in them interesting, but too perfunctory and dated to be very useful.

The Fight for the Soul of the Democratic Party: The Enduring Legacy of Henry Wallace’s Antifascist, Antiracist Politics, by John Nichols. New York: Verso, 2020. viii, 286 pp. Notes and index. \$26.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Joseph Jones is the Executive Director of The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement at Drake University and chairman of the board of trustees of the American Council of Young Political Leaders. His research focuses on the intersection of civics, experiential learning, and access.

In this book John Nichols posits that Henry A. Wallace fought valiantly through word and deed to push the Democratic Party and the country to be more progressive, inclusive, and forward thinking, but that he ultimately failed to move the United States in that direction. The author further leads the reader to consider whether Wallace was sacrificed for the “greater good of the party” in favor of the more centrist Harry Truman.

Throughout this book the reader comes to understand Wallace’s vision of a world, which challenged the status quo, the power brokers, and those who would have had to give up money and status in a realigned society. Wallace’s desire to build coalitions and friendships with those of the same ideology including socialists, communists, unions, the