

As if all of this were not enough, the book is poorly designed and was apparently published without copyediting. It is full of typographical errors. Some of the information is contradictory, such as two different dates assigned to the same event. There is uneven spacing between sub-chapters, and some paragraphs are inexplicably set off with triple spacing. Quotation marks do not always come in pairs, and the ellipsis is misused. The illustrations are generally good, but they could have been placed more closely to the relevant text.

Ironically, the acknowledgements contain the names of most of those we know and love (and respect) in the profession of Iowa history. Come on, folks! We can do better than this.

—Timothy N. Hyde
Des Moines

The University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, A History, 1916-1976, by Hilda R. Carter and John R. Jenswold. Eau Claire, Wisconsin: Eau Claire Foundation, 1976. pp. xiii, 162. Illustrations.

It is expected that any college celebrating its golden anniversary would produce its own remarkable history. The authors for this sixty-year history have extended their tale from an excellent inscription which honored the semicentennial of Eau Claire's institution of higher learning. The monument of the original fifty years was crafted by Laura E. Sutherland, and the more recent authors have placed her record in their own literary frame, carefully superimposing the most recent decade upon her work, now embracing the same school as a mature sexagenarian.

The fifty-plus-ten feature of the book's present writing is only one of several "unusual" aspects of this tome concerned with another of the hundred of grown-up normal schools. One other remarkable feature of the Eau Claire institution is that in a day when the average tenure of a college president is less than five years, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has had only three presidents (now called chancellors) since its inception in 1916. The triplet of presidencies is matched against the succession of three titles acquired by the present school. In the order familiar to other teacher training institutions, it moved upward from normal school to teachers' college to university. Long after other state campuses came to the Wisconsin scene, Eau Claire was carved from the bluffs above the Chippewa River; no other state schools were to be established in Wisconsin until 1969.

Are there other unusual features that mark this mid-Wisconsin institution? Despite its recent, bureaucratic bulge which characterizes so many of our tertiary-level institutions of the seventies, the Eau Claire complex has retained a small-college atmosphere with a happy relationship with its hosting town. Although it has spread its campus to the other side of the river, it remains a compact and friendly place, with a snug, person-to-person relation-

ship between its faculty members and their student charges.

Capping the distinguishing features aired in this review is the history book itself which is cast in dimensions familiar to those who have shelved their school annuals; it is a slim and tall volume and in flipping its pages it does appear to be a book worth cherishing among other bound mementos of an adult's school years. If the book seems comfortable on the shelf, it is because it is a warm and comfortable volume in many ways.

The Eau Claire school may have been isolated by the forests that gently cushion it, yet the familiar features of growing institutions demonstrate that it is in tune with the world beyond the trees. Along with other institutions in Wisconsin and beyond, it was first a two-year normal school, then a teachers college which later added a couple of years to qualify it as a degree-granting institution; ultimately it was to append departments to become, within the past six years, a tentacle of the total structure of Wisconsin institutions now labelled The University of Wisconsin.

Of special interest to Iowans is the fact that the academic leader who was mainly responsible for this last act of consolidation was, for several years, a citizen of our state. Once John C. Weaver had been baptized at the University of Iowa into celestial administrative functions, he went on to Ohio, then to Missouri, before emerging as president of what is now the University of Wisconsin, reaching its appendages from Madison outward and now comprising the nation's fourth largest consortium of state-run ivy clads.

The book, with its portfolio of resurrected illustrations, should spark the interest of anyone like this reviewer who concocts excuses for travel within the midwest. The forests that attracted the early settlers to the area almost a sesquicentennial ago still fringe the campus, and the comfortable aspects of the scene should still show through.

—Robert E. Belding
The University of Iowa

The Frontier in Alaska and the Matanuska Colony, by Orlando W. Miller.
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975.

Orlando W. Miller, an historian residing in Alaska, has written a scholarly account of a federally sponsored agricultural community in the Matanuska Valley which offered fresh opportunities to many unemployed workers from the Upper Great Lakes region during the Great Depression. The New Deal administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt funded this back-to-the-land movement through the Works Progress Administration, thus allowing several hundred families to re-locate, and attempt to escape poverty while they regained their self-respect. Since there was no W.P.A. office in Alaska, the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation managed the colony, which tried to "rehabilitate individuals and families as self-sustaining human beings by enabling them to secure subsistence and gainful em-

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