

In the end, Langer's legacy is to have been one of the last true Populist leaders. He did indeed listen to and care about the poorest farmers in his state. As Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois recalled, "Senator William Langer . . . was the last blown-in-the-bottle Populist. . . . Whenever people were in trouble, with their backs against the wall, Bill would be on their side, swinging both arms and pouring out a stream of violent language" (1). Between his rough language, his radical policies, his anticapitalist programs, and his antifederalist attitude, he made enemies in every conventional political camp. And yet the people of North Dakota loved him, voting for him when he was under indictment, when he was old and failing, and even after he had died. As Robert Vogel demonstrates, his courage and character made any contest between him and his enemies inherently "unequal."

Every Farm Tells a Story: A Tale of Family Farm Values, by Jerry Apps. Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press, 2005. 224 pp. Illustrations. \$16.95 cloth.

Reviewer J. L. Anderson is assistant professor of history at the University of West Georgia. He completed a dissertation at Iowa State University on the industrialization of Iowa agriculture after World War II.

In *Every Farm Tells a Story*, author Jerry Apps recalls his youth on a Wisconsin farm during and after World War II to show how much his beliefs and values can be traced to his farm upbringing. As the author notes, profound changes occurred on farms from 1940 to 1955. During those years, electrification, milking machines, combines, and many other new technologies transformed the lives of Apps family members. Apps uses his mother's farm account book to introduce stories of farm life, covering one-room schools, silo filling, strawberry picking, visiting town, and much more. Work was ever present in the lives of Apps family members, and much of the book describes how children contributed to the success of the family farm. By extension, readers learn how a rural work ethic contributed to the success of those who left midwestern farms.

General readers and students of the Midwest will find the book a good introduction to the difficulties of making a living on a farm in the mid-twentieth century. The prose is clear and conversational with good descriptions of the "hows" and "whys" of farm practices. One of the most appealing aspects of the book is its portrayal of the relationship between Apps and his parents. Ma and Pa were a constant, moderating presence in the lives of the Apps boys, and the author's descriptions of their relationship will remind many readers with rural backgrounds of the quiet competence of their own parents or grandparents.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.