

lack of money. Members also seemed to be more interested in the Good Government League than in the Klan.

Iowans should find this book of interest, as Iowa had considerable Klan activity in the 1920s in both rural and urban areas. Klan Klaverns published newspapers and magazines and held countless parades. Iowa Klan Klaverns seem to have paralleled the tenets and practices of the LaGrange Klan: members were instructed not to trade at the businesses of Catholics or foreign-born, to promote "100 percent Americanism," and to help fellow Klansmen in economic need.

Editor Horowitz has done a fine job of succinctly providing background and context for the subject by discussing the changing historical interpretations of the Ku Klux Klan as well as the history of the Klan itself. Earlier historical treatments, especially that of historian Richard Hofstadter in *The Age of Reform* (1955), as well as Nancy MacLean, in *Behind the Mask of Chivalry* (1994), emphasized the Klan's "reactionary racism and rural nativism." By contrast, revisionist historians, such as those included in Shawn Lay's edited collection, *The Invisible Empire in the West* (1992), see the 1920s Klan as primarily a middle-class purity crusade aimed at corrupt urban dwellers. Following the revisionists, Horowitz sees the LaGrange Klan as a group of mainstream citizens working to strengthen traditional values and practices during the 1920s, although he does not gloss over their discriminatory and sometimes hateful practices. This edited work should be of interest to most scholars of twentieth-century American history as well as to general readers.

All the News Is Fit to Print: Profile of a Country Editor, by Chad Stebbins. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1998. x, 184 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROY ALDEN ATWOOD, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

All the News is a relatively brief biography of Arthur Aull, the irrepressible editor and publisher of the *Lamar (Missouri) Democrat* from 1900 to 1948. Aull was a tireless practitioner of "personal journalism," writing nearly all the news stories, columns, and editorials that appeared in his six-days-a-week newspaper. He was a force in local and Missouri state politics in the early years of the century, and eventually gained a modest degree of recognition in the national press for his hard-boiled journalism in the 1930s and 1940s.

Aull's journalistic reputation grew from his relentless pursuit of details—"all the news"—of scandals and controversies no matter how

private or embarrassing to members of his community or even to his own family. Although he never equaled the fame or influence as a country newspaper editor achieved by William Allen White of the *Emporia (Kansas) Gazette*, Aull eventually earned the respect of influential papers such as the *New York Times* and of famous politicians such as President Harry S Truman. Aull was, according to Truman, an "able and picturesque figure in American journalism."

Chad Stebbins has written a readable and sometimes engaging biography of this feisty but largely forgotten country editor. Stebbins provides a basic chronology of Aull's life, with several extended discussions of the major events and stories that shaped the editor's career. Stebbins thankfully removed most of the telltale signs of the academic dissertation on which this published version is based, but perhaps too much so. Missing from this story is the richness and texture of a well-crafted history that shows not just the personality and character of the man, but the meaning and significance of his work and his legacy. In that sense, the book is more of a news story than a history, more of an obituary than a biography. The book would have benefited from a fuller and deeper analysis and evaluation of Aull's journalistic practices and his enduring contributions, if any, to his craft and his community—something that looked below the big E on the eye chart. But Stebbins provides so little analytical perspective on his subject that it is difficult to find a sharp focal point to his narrative.

Stebbins clearly did a great deal of primary research, but the wider context and significance of Aull's life and work remain largely unexamined. The result is ultimately disappointing. Without the additional perspectives of critical historical context and significance, another biography of a relatively obscure country editor-publisher may be, as Thoreau once said of going around the world to count the cats in Zanzibar, not worth the effort. *All the News* is not a bad book; it's just not all it might have been.

Unruly River: Two Centuries of Change along the Missouri, by Robert Kelley Schneiders. Development of Western Resources Series. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1999. xiv, 314 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JOHN O. ANFINSON, ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Unruly River is timely and important as states along the Missouri River wage a battle over the river's management. Should the Corps of Engineers continue to control the river for shipping agricultural products,

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