

Brief explanatory or interpretive statements could have made several of the images more informative. Examples include the danger to workers of roof walks and hand-set brakes (48), the "working clothes" in a stockyard (51), the Chautauqua movement (165, 167), and the relationship between electric trolley companies and amusement parks (166) and other sources of entertainment. Terms such as *Shaker buildings* (77) and "tangent" track (31) should have been explained. There are a couple of problems. Unless a drovers' caboose is considered for passengers, the train on page 89 is a short freight, not a "mixed" train. The "probability that the Midwest boasted the largest concentration of 'live wires'" and that this had some connection with railroads there (7) coupled with the weak support given for that statement adds little and may be unfortunate.

Despite its problems, this book provides an interesting and nostalgic look at one aspect of past life in the Midwest.

The Sunday Game: At the Dawn of Professional Football, by Keith McClellan. Akron, OH: University of Akron Press, 1998. xi, 503 pp. Illustrations, tables, charts, notes, appendixes, index. \$19.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY RON BRILEY, SANDIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL, ALBUQUERQUE

In *The Sunday Game*, Keith McClellan, a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and a member of the Professional Football Researchers Association, discusses the origins of professional football in the mid-sized factory towns of the upper Midwest, focusing on the period from 1915 to 1917. Following World War I, these pioneering efforts culminated in the formation of the National Football League. Readers of McClellan's volume will encounter long-forgotten football teams, such as the Canton Bulldogs, Youngstown Patricians, Fort Wayne Friars, and Massillon Tigers. Iowans may be surprised to find that the state was represented by the Davenport Athletic Club football team, labeled by McClellan as one of the 15 best professional teams in the United States during the 1916 season, which featured a successful player revolt against coach Victor L. Littig.

The Sunday Game is an in-depth study based on extensive library and newspaper archival research. However, McClellan's account is more descriptive than analytical. Although McClellan argues that Ohio offered cultural diversity and that professional football found a home with blue-collar factory workers who were alienated by the elitism of the Saturday college game, he nonetheless concludes, "When all is said and done, no one can prove what made northeast Ohio so im-

portant to the dawn of professional football" (393). According to McClellan, the rise of professional football was fueled by love for the game and civic pride, not the search for profits. The historical origins of the upper Midwest's love affair with professional football are well chronicled in *The Sunday Game*.

The Collected Short Works, 1920–1954, by Bess Streeter Aldrich, edited by Carol Miles Petersen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. xviii, 321 pp. Notes. \$45.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY CHERYL ROSE JACOBSEN, WARTBURG COLLEGE

Bess Streeter Aldrich, popular short story writer and novelist in the first half of the twentieth century, is best known for her focus on mid-western small-town life—those aspects that affirm the values of family solidarity, hard work, friendship, and continuity. In *The Collected Short Works, 1920–1954*, editor Carol Petersen has selected 31 short pieces from the last half of Streeter's career that were originally published in popular magazines.

Petersen provides brief introductions to the short stories and essays, highlighting Streeter's typical themes, characters, or publishing records—elements Petersen explored in her critical biography, *Bess Streeter Aldrich: The Dreams Are All Real* (1996). What emerges in Streeter's writing is a nostalgia for a simpler and safer time. Despite the vagaries and idiosyncrasies of some of Streeter's characters, they are uniformly good people who, eventually, receive just rewards in their lives. For example, in "It's Never Too Late to Live," the widow of a miserly man overcomes her bitterness with the purchasing and sharing of a few simple articles with an orphan girl. In other stories, romance is discovered and rediscovered, the elderly are not neglected, and girls and boys have small daily adventures. Several pieces are set in Streeter's hometown of Cedar Falls, Iowa, including essays on Streeter's life, pioneer heritage, and the craft of writing.

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