

graphical discussion. Quotes are not attributed. It appears that contemporary newspaper coverage was the basis for many of the stories.

Written in a breezy style, *Behind the Badge* contains a wealth of little-known details about Des Moines and the Des Moines Police Department. Intended to entertain and inform, the book provides colorful and interesting observations from the law enforcement point of view. It is useful for capturing coverage of more recent events, as well as tracing changes in policing over time. *Behind the Badge* will be of interest primarily to Des Moines law enforcement personnel, but it also offers undocumented glimpses into changing attitudes toward certain crimes, the role of police in society, and law enforcement techniques, equipment, and practices.

Nellie Stone Johnson: The Life of an Activist, as told to David Brauer. St. Paul: Ruminator Books, 2000. xiii, 231 pp. Bibliography. \$23.00 cloth.

Reviewer Kristin Anderson-Bricker is assistant professor of history at Loras College. Her dissertation was "Making a Movement: The Meaning of Community in the Congress of Racial Equality, 1958-1968" (Syracuse University, 1997).

Nellie Stone Johnson begins her book with the statement, "you don't have to be Superman or Superwoman to accomplish things. You can be a regular person just like everyone else" (3). Throughout this oral history, Johnson reiterates her desire to be remembered for her work for the family farmer and laborer, the people she identifies as the salt of the earth. A labor organizer, civil rights activist, and feminist, Johnson used unions, political parties, and her strong personality to achieve her goals. She committed her life to securing workers' right to organize and establishing equality of opportunity for women and people of color. Born in 1905 and raised on a Minnesota dairy farm, Johnson identifies herself as a grassroots organizer, radical farmer, pragmatic doer, proud black, and spirited political activist. Her story provides insights into early twentieth-century farm life, the labor movement, the Farmer-Labor Party, Hubert Humphrey, and Minnesota politics.

Nellie Stone Johnson is one of the thousands of individuals who worked in their local communities to achieve social change during the twentieth century. Although the rank-and-file peopled such social movements, scholars of labor, civil rights, and women's rights have concentrated on the lives of national leaders and organizations. Johnson's oral history represents one of the many stories of ordinary individuals doing extraordinary things finally being told. This memoir joins the growing number of published works providing the building blocks needed to understand more completely the struggle for class, race, and gender equity in the United States.

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