

helm Warenskjold, highlighting tensions in Texas during the Civil War era, is the subject of Clair Hines's essay. Hans Eirek Aarek discusses Quakers in northern Norway and their subsequent emigration, with Iowa as "the state where most of the Norwegian Quaker emigrants gathered in the 1860s" (130). Harold P. Simonson responds to criticism of his interpretation of Beret in O. E. Rølvaag's classic, *Giants in the Earth*. Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger focuses on selected communities in Norway and America to analyze the effects of emigration and immigration. Terje I. Leiren discusses a tour of Norway in 1927 by twelve American newspapermen. Harry T. Cleven translates a portion of the memoirs of Kristian Prestgard, for many years an editor of the *Decorah Posten*, the Norwegian-language newspaper published in Decorah, Iowa. Todd Nichol translates and introduces an autobiographical account by Sigrid Eielsen, wife of noted Haugean preacher and evangelist Elling Eielsen. Steven J. Keillor discusses regional diversity, religious disunity, and agrarian movements in two Norwegian-American communities. Betty A. Bergland's essay introduces a larger study of Norwegian immigrants and their relations with American Indians.

The volume continues the NAHA's tradition of carefully edited publications based on solid research. The essays, by scholars in Norway and America, provide insights into current interests and methodologies. The variety of topics, a number of which are related to the Midwest, should appeal to persons interested in ethnic studies and the role of Norwegian-Americans in American culture.

Behind the Badge: Stories and Pictures from the DMPD, by Tom Alex et al. Des Moines: Des Moines Police Burial Association, 1999. iii, 230 pp. Illustrations, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Barbara J. Henning is an associate with Rivercrest Associates, Inc. She is also the author of *Des Moines and Polk County: Flag on the Prairie* (1988).

Behind the Badge presents 87 short pieces related to crime and policing in Des Moines. The six chapters are divided into six time periods beginning with 1843 and ending in 1999. Within each chapter are a series of one- to five-page items on such Des Moines topics as an 1874 lynching, overzealous law enforcement during World War I, organized crime, those who died in the line of duty, and the flood of 1993. Reprints from Des Moines newspapers are scattered throughout, but 21 persons, including local journalists and police officers, contributed the majority of the stories. Although the reprints and illustrations culled from Des Moines newspapers include source information, there is no indication of the source of other photographs and no notes or bibli-

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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