technology and social change rather than seriously undermine the author's intent. More importantly, Kline succeeds in explaining why the "surprising persistence of rural culture in the face of its near disappearance . . . is best understood as a mutual construction of technology and society" (280). The unique consumer practices of rural Americans shaped their world. At least until 1965, such practices remained one of the chief cultural assets of rural America and a powerful barricade against the normative values of an undifferentiated (deterministic?) national culture.

Hoover, Conservation, and Consumerism: Engineering the Good Life, by Kendrick A. Clements. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000. xiii, 332 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. $35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Ellis W. Hawley is emeritus professor of history at the University of Iowa. His research and publications have dealt chiefly with U.S. public policy in the 1920s and 1930s.

The book under review, Kendrick Clements tells us, was originally envisioned as "gap" history, using what he had learned about Herbert Hoover and conservation to illuminate a neglected and misunderstood period in the history of American conservation policy. As published, however, it does much more than fill this gap. It breaks new ground, in particular, in linking conservation to an emerging consumer society, providing a new context for understanding conservation debates in the 1920s, and adding a new dimension to the story of Hoover's efforts to have expertly informed planning without creating centralized bureaucracies. Conceptually innovative, massively researched, and thoughtfully and clearly written, its contributions make it "must" reading not only for scholars of Hoover but also for historians of environmental policy and mass consumption. For the years 1920–1933, Clements shows, an understanding of each is crucial to an understanding of the others.

As convincingly depicted by Clements, Hoover's upbringing and pre-1920 experience led him to embrace a vision of conservation that accepted the new mass consumption society and sought to improve its operation by bringing planning and management to the use of resources and providing constructive recreational outlets for mass leisure. Yet upbringing and experience also led him to believe that this could be done without sacrificing cherished forms of liberty, primarily through the engineering of fact-finding, educational, and coordinative structures that were capable of securing appropriate local and private action. He sought, vigorously and creatively as secretary of commerce

and more problematically as president, to implement these ideas. The heart of Clements's book consists of a detailed reconstruction and assessment of the resulting accomplishments and failures. After bringing Hoover, conservation, and consumerism up to 1920, the book devotes three chapters to the Commerce years, three to Hoover's presidency, and one to his post-presidency.

The accomplishments, Clements finds, were many and did, for a time, move conservation policy in a new direction. They included new industrial standardization programs, new responsibilities for the Bureau of Fisheries, new initiatives in fostering waterway development, and "remarkably creative and effective collaborations" (2) for dealing with the Mississippi flood of 1927 and promoting outdoor recreation and suburban ideals. Failures, however, were also many and were particularly notable in efforts to promote oil and timber conservation, decentralize the management of the public domain, control water pollution, and make conservation activities a component of economic stabilization. In these cases, the expectations concerning managed voluntarism, local initiatives, and educational publicity were unrealistic. And ironically, the resulting failures often created openings for the very bureaucratic expansion that Hoover had hoped to prevent and later, during his post-presidency, would keep trying to undo. By 1932, Clements writes, it "was almost as if there were two governments in the field of conservation—one led by Hoover, trying to divest Washington of responsibility and preaching voluntarism and localism; and another, led by established federal agencies, quietly carrying on and even expanding traditional programs" (187).

For environmental historians, Clements's major achievements are in showing how conservation became linked to the gospel of efficiency and concerns about the misuse of mass leisure, how this worked in a time of political conservatism to produce a "second government" for the field, and how central Hoover and the tensions within his personal value system were to what occurred. Such showings make it clear that the conventional wisdom about inaction and anticonservationism during the period must be substantially revised. In addition, Clements notes and discusses briefly the efforts of Hoover and Ray Lyman Wilbur to expand the definition of conservation in still other directions, most notably to include human as well as natural resources and hence to encompass children as a national asset to be protected and properly developed. The brevity with which these efforts are treated, however, is disappointing. And much of the story—particularly regarding the background from which the White House children's conference emerged, the competing approaches to "child conservation,"

and the accompanying bureaucratic warfare between the Children's Bureau and the Public Health Service—is missing. The subject is worthy of another chapter, and one wishes that Clements had chosen to research and write one.

Any weaknesses, however, are far outweighed by the book's strengths. It is a work, moreover, that students of Iowa history will want to add to their reading list, both because of the new knowledge and understanding it provides of Herbert Hoover and because of the way it alters the national context within which Iowa's state conservation programs were taking shape.

Waiting on the Bounty: The Dust Bowl Diary of Mary Knackstedt Dyck, edited by Pamela Riney-Kehrberg. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999. xiv, 365 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. $37.95 cloth.

Reviewer Barbara Handy-Marchello is associate professor of history at the University of North Dakota. She has written articles on farm women on the northern plains and is preparing a book titled "'Carrying Half': Gender and Settlement in Rural North Dakota."

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg is absolutely correct when she states in her preface to Mary Knackstedt Dyck's diary that this is an exceptional document of rural life in the Dust Bowl. Diaries of farm women of any era are rare enough, but this one gives readers an inside look at a national environmental disaster during a period of national economic depression. Dyck's personal perspective on these events rarely reaches beyond her family and immediate surroundings, but readers with an interest in this time period and location will find her diary informative.

This document covers the years 1936 to 1941. Dyck and her husband, Henry, farmed in Hamilton County, Kansas, in the heart of the Dust Bowl. Dyck's diary is part account book, part family record, and part record of her personal feelings and thoughts. It appeals for two contrasting reasons. The ordinariness of their lives and work draws readers into the family. Milking cows, separating cream, churning, gathering eggs, preparing meals, washing clothes, and cleaning house were the daily events that structured the Dycks' lives. Visits with family and neighbors, trips to town, and Henry's "tomcatting" in Colorado (where he could buy liquor) constituted most of their social activities. Mary had fewer occasions to leave the farm, but sometimes joined other women to quilt or went with Henry to the community hall dance.

The dust storms were interlaced with farm life. The length, the degree of darkness, and the intensity of the wind distinguished one storm

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