

ings in Hamblin's and his family's and associates' lives, to tell readers of his and their struggles in pioneer Utah and the West. Mrs. Brooks knows her characters intimately; she recreates their conversation with credible accuracy; she expresses their feelings with an empathy born of her own childhood and pioneering in Nevada and Utah's Dixie. These people are her people, both by birth and by scholarship.

Readers learn of Jacob's "call" to help the Indians (Lamanites), of Maria Haskell's death, and young George A. Smith's, of Jacob's fearlessness in facing the hostile Navajos, of the Santa Clara flood, and of the terrible sacrifices made by those faithful Saints and Mormon women especially, seeking to survive on the ragged edge of the Mormon frontier. Hers are sad, if heroic stories, told only as she could tell them. And in all of them there is a tone of poignant tragedy. Their quality makes the book worthwhile history and excellent literature.

Melvin T. Smith
Utah State Historical Society
Salt Lake City, UT

Book Notices

Exploring Iowa's Past: A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology, by Lynn Marie Alex. (Iowa City: The University of Iowa Press, 1980. pp. 169, illustrations, glossary, appendices, \$7.95 paper.)

This "handbook" is a part of the Programming Archaeology for School Teachers (P.A.S.T.) program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This guide describes what archaeology is, what archaeologists do, and how one can pursue a career in archaeology. It is a step-by-step account of how one recognizes and reports archaeological sites, the purpose of a survey, what skills are necessary for excavating, how to classify artifacts and properly store them, and where to go for more information. Key vocabulary and concepts are

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emphasized throughout and defined in a handy glossary at the end of the text. References at the end of each chapter provide suggestions for further reading. The illustrations by Doris Macdonald and Mary Slattery are most helpful. This is truly a valuable book for the layperson and anyone interested in Iowa's cultural heritage.

Beautiful Iowa, by Robert D. Shangle and Brian Berger. (Beaverton, Oregon: Beautiful America Publishing Company, 1980. pp. 68, illustrations, \$6.95 paper.)

This is one in a superb series of books on various states published by Beautiful America Publishing. The book consists of forty-eight full-page color photographs with several pages of eloquent and informative text. The high contrast color photographs (including several farm scenes, Terrace Hill, Old Capitol, Amana, State Capitol, Hoover Birthplace, Dubuque Courthouse, etc.) may seem trite to Iowans at first, but they are taken from new angles which provide a fresh look at Iowa's scenery. The text contains a nostalgic aura while providing some new insights into Iowa's rich heritage. This book is ideal for gift-giving and to have on one's coffee table for the enjoyment of guests. It is well worth the price.

Cedar Rapids, Tall Corn and High Technology: A Pictorial History, by Ernie Danek. (Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1980. pp. 232, illustrations, bibliography, index, appendices, \$19.95.)

The author, a freelance writer originally from Minnesota, has combed available sources for insights into the history of Iowa's second largest city. The book devotes most space to the period from the Civil War to the present. The narrative, while journalistic in style, is lively and enjoyable. Much emphasis is placed upon thumb-nail sketches of the large businesses and manufacturing concerns of the city. Through the use of biographical sketches and colorful anecdotes the author introduces such personages as the Cherry Sisters; artist Grant Wood; Art Collins, the radio pioneer who built communications equipment for the Apollo moon landing in 1969; and such community leaders as the Armstrongs, Killians, Fennells, and Klingers to mention only a

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