

No One Is Above the Law: The Story of Southern Iowa's Federal Court, by George Mills and Richard W. Peterson. Des Moines: Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit, [1994]. ii, 177 pp. Illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography. \$10.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY LAWRENCE H. LARSEN, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

No One Is Above the Law is a functional history of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa from its creation in 1882, when Congress divided Iowa into Northern and Southern Districts, to the present. Mills is a journalist and author, and Peterson has been a part-time Magistrate Judge in the Southern District since 1970. Peterson, addressing the scope of federal legal questions in Iowa, writes, "Vast in number and of an unlimited variety that has described a full spectrum of constitutional and societal issues, the litigation of more than fourteen decades in the district's federal trial court has during its years of service mirrored the social, economic and political dynamics of the Hawkeye State" (4).

The book contains informative biographical profiles of all eighteen past and present Southern District judges, with accounts of their most important and interesting cases. There are also sketches of the two Iowans who have served on the United States Supreme Court, Samuel Freeman Miller (1862-1890) and Wiley Rutledge (1943-1949). Other features include essays on the origins of Iowa, the federal courts, and the Southern District, plus pictures of judges and courthouses, workload statistics, and enumerations of judges and various court officers. Of unquestionable value, *No One Is Above the Law* should be available in every Iowa library.

The Chalk Dust Report, by Margaret Di Paul. Iowa City: Rudi Publishing, 1993. viii, 165 pp. Illustrations. \$10.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SANDRA D. HARMON, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Chalk Dust Report is a charming memoir of a first-grade teacher whose career spanned the midsection of the twentieth century from the 1930s to the 1970s. Margaret Di Paul began teaching in the midst of the Great Depression in 1934 in a rural Iowa one-room school before she had received any formal teacher training. After obtaining her two-year diploma from Iowa State Teachers College, she used her teaching credentials as a means of seeing the United States. Her subsequent career took her to eighteen different classrooms in large and small urban and rural schools in ten states, with time out to complete her B.A. degree and to marry. Her *Chalk Dust Report* is a collection of

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