

trol over the family enterprise, causing a certain amount of conflict and ill feeling. Marjorie felt desperately lonely, only gradually coming to fit into the rural community surrounding her. What she thought would be a one- to two-year commitment lasted for seventeen years. Only gradually would she come to love her life as a farm woman, as well as the community in which she lived.

What makes this book particularly worth reading, and refreshing, is its outlook. This is a relentlessly honest account of farm life. Many of Douglas's stories include elements of success. She found satisfaction, for example, in canning hundreds of quarts of food for a family's winter meals even as she found the chore terribly tedious and unfulfilling. Her first real achievement on the farm was the successful bottle-feeding of an orphaned colt. The animal, unfortunately, died at five months, leaving her lonelier than she had been before he was born. Other incidents also illustrate the ambivalence she felt about farming. While some neighbors were dear friends, others stole and were dishonest. Her son lost part of a finger in an accident. Killing chickens was far more distasteful than she ever imagined and put her off her food for some time. After returning to Minneapolis and resuming her career as a social worker, she would miss the farm, but she had always hoped that would be the eventual outcome of the seventeen-year experiment.

Approaching rural society as an outsider, Marjorie Myers Douglas gives a rather different interpretation of farm life from those born and raised in that environment. For those interested in the history of mid-western farm women, it adds yet another wrinkle to the increasingly complex picture of the past.

Courtesy, Service, Protection: The Iowa State Patrol, by Scott M. Fisher. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 1994. xiii, 220 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, rosters, bibliography. \$25.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY DANIEL D. HOLT, EISENHOWER LIBRARY

Every state has some form of a highway patrol or state police, and usually a bureau of investigation that is either incorporated within one of the highway patrol agencies or separate from them. No matter what they are designated, state police agencies are a microcosm of the state they serve, not only in relation to law enforcement and the "criminal" element, but also to the societal history of that state. As one who has written histories of a state patrol, a state bureau of investigation, and performed extensive research into a state's law enforcement, I find that such histories are too often missing from our library shelves.

The Iowa story is typical of the midwestern development of traffic control and criminal law enforcement. Scott Fisher traces the story of the Iowa State Patrol, originally designated the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol, from its beginnings in 1935 through the modern, high-tech patrol of the 1990s. The first effort to patrol Iowa roads began in the 1930s with Iowa Highway Commission "highway inspectors," but the increase in road travel, crime in the late 1930s, and the need for a trained unit led to the creation of a formal highway patrol. Its history is intertwined with the history of Iowa's road development, the growth of vehicular traffic, gangsters, politics, and the government's role in state law enforcement. Fisher's account includes statistics, details of the patrol organization, reports of troopers killed in the line of duty, descriptions of the development of technology, and stories of some of the patrol's more "famous" cases as well as the mundane. One of the more interesting facets of this history is the story of Iowa's first Secretary of State, Ola Babcock Miller, who was the founder of the Iowa State Patrol and its leading proponent with her campaign against the "Four Horsemen of the Highway" (12). There is one major oversight. The author does not discuss the jurisdiction of the patrol and its relationship with the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation. He does allude to early problems with county sheriffs concerning the need for the patrol, but it is critical to anyone interested in law enforcement to know the exact jurisdictional level of the Iowa State Patrol.

Overall, this is an easily read study that brings not only an interesting period of Iowa history to print, but also a much needed history of the Iowa State Patrol to the public. This history is a needed addition to any public library bookshelf, and is of major interest to the student of Iowa history. As Fisher states so adequately, the history of the Iowa State Patrol "is a modern history of the state of Iowa" from "major crimes to natural disasters . . . from crowd control to educating school kids" (xi).

Cancer from Beef: DES, Federal Food Regulation, and Consumer Confidence, by Alan I Marcus. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. x, 235 pp. Notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$38.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY G. TERRY SHARRER, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

In 1996 Americans will mark the silver anniversary of the so-called War on Cancer, which began with the passage of the National Cancer Act in 1971. But it won't be much of a jubilee. The overall death rate for cancer is seven percent higher today than it was in 1971. According

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