

Book Reviews

work. *Iron Frontier* should stand as a useful addition to mining and business historiography by illuminating this less romantic and neglected part of America's frontier experience and the ancillary activities of business leaders such as John D. Rockefeller who were involved in the process.

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Normal to University: A Century of Service, by Arthur H. Mattingly.
Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Missourian Litho and Printing Co., 1979.
pp. xi, 304. Photographs, footnotes, appendices, index. \$8.00.

The histories of regional state universities which began their institutional lives as teachers' colleges or normal schools are still largely unwritten. *Normal to University* is the story of the first one hundred years of a regional state university, Southeast Missouri State. It traces the presidential administrations and major developments that occurred from 1873 to 1973.

Founded in 1873 as one of the first normal schools in the Midwest for the purpose of training elementary school teachers, the early years of Southeast Missouri State were characterized by trials and uncertainty. Not until 1899 did presidential leadership stabilize. The appointment of Dr. Washington S. Dearmont as president in 1899 opened a period of growth that established the institution permanently. Presidents during the present century generally served long terms in office. However politics sometimes disrupted the status quo; at least three presidents were fired by the board of regents because of political differences.

The board was non-political in other matters such as the name of the institution: the name changed as the school developed. In 1919 the name of the school was changed to State Teachers College, establishing it as a four-year degree granting institution. The name was again changed in 1945 to State College indicating the broadening of the goals of the college beyond teacher preparation. The final name change occurred in 1972 when the college was designated a state university.

The period 1960 to 1973 was one of unprecedented growth for the university. Enrollment increased dramatically and the size of the physical plant doubled. By the end of the first century, the university

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had developed from a teachers training institute to a regional state university where about half of the degrees granted annually were non-teaching.

Arthur H. Mattingly, a Southeast Missouri State graduate and history professor is well qualified to write *Normal to University*. Mattingly conducted detailed research by using sources including newspapers; board of regents, city council, and faculty minutes; college catalogs; annual public school reports; and personal correspondence. The text is well written and organized. The book is not limited to just local events but the author does a good job of tying in the history of the college with national events. The photographs are well chosen and add to the interest of the work. The footnotes provide a basis for other historians who may decide to pursue other topics relating to the history of the school.

Although *Normal to University* is overall a worthwhile book, several weaknesses are evident. The major weakness is a lack of information about who the students were, where they came from, and what happened to them after graduation. The education of the student body is after all the primary purpose of any institution of higher education. The other apparent shortcoming is a lack of analysis and evaluation on the part of the author in the concluding chapter. A more detailed assessment of the first century's developments and perhaps a prediction for the future would have enriched this work.

In spite of these weaknesses, *Normal to University* makes a significant contribution to the literature of the history of higher education. Hopefully the book will stimulate similar studies.

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Tomorrow's Harvest: Thoughts and Opinions of Successful Farmers, by Hiram M. Drache. Danville, Illinois: The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., 1978. pp. xiv, 314. Photographs, appendix, bibliography, index. \$10.95.

In *Tomorrow's Harvest*, Hiram M. Drache presents a sequel to his previous book, *Beyond the Furrow* (1976). His focus is still on the family farm and the elements that make for success or failure. Essentially, *Tomorrow's Harvest* is a survey of approximately two hundred farmers and their wives, whom Drache considered to be successful, as

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