

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

endorsement of the Ku Klux Klan which was a significant political force in the city in the early twenties. Stapleton rewarded the Klan for its return endorsement by appointing a prominent klansman chief of police. Although he repudiated the Klan after its influence had waned, Stapleton continued to actively seek aid from "the gambling, saloon, and red-light proprietors" who had supported Mayor Speer. (p. 206)

The problem is not that Dorsett favors bossism; rather, it is that he has failed to provide sufficient evidence to convince the reader of the validity of his interpretation. Presumably, the "quality of life" chapters were intended to justify the less savory aspects of bossism, but they are not persuasive. Dorsett is an acknowledged authority on big city politics with several books to his credit including *The Pendergast Machine* (1968) and *Bosses and Machines in Urban America* (1974). However, the thirteen-page bibliographic note is small consolation for the lack of footnote references to the documentary evidence in this work. Dorsett interviewed people important to Denver's past too. It would be useful to know where this material was used.

This omission suggests that the publishers have aimed the book toward a general audience. They certainly have sprinkled the text liberally with photographs that are useful to layman and scholar alike. No doubt the need for general histories of the major cities in the West exists, but the flaws in this book spell an ominous beginning to the publisher's proposed Western Urban History Series.

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*A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England*, by Howard S. Russell. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1976. pp. xvi, 672. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. \$18.50.

This study of agriculture in New England is a comprehensive treatment of a subject that is encyclopedic in nature. Howard S. Russell has gleaned information from the many town and county histories of the region, as well as from memoirs, biographies and manuscripts of many persons familiar with various aspects of growth and changes in New England farming over three centuries. The result is a very readable and important contribution to the history of agriculture.

The author starts his story with New England's first farmers, the Indians. They had cleared the land, developed crops, and contributed their knowledge to help make the efforts of the first English settlers

## *Book Reviews*

successful. The newcomers were greeted, not only by Indians familiar with farming, but by a terrain, soil, and climate to which they were not accustomed. Not many had been farmers in the English countryside so the adjustments to be made and the lessons to be learned were many.

Wars—the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution—caused farming to suffer. In the first instance villages and farms became desolated, and hundreds of people in the country areas were killed or captured. During the Revolution farming again bore the brunt of it as farmers from New England helped to man the Continental Army. In each case there was a resurgence afterwards. Farmers migrated to unoccupied lands where forests were transformed into farms and new villages came into being.

During the nineteenth century four key factors increasingly influenced the character of New England's agriculture and the life of its farm people. These were the rapid expansion of means of transportation; marked improvement in education and information; utilization of better tools and machines; and a great increase in the industry and population of the area. Although each brought benefits to New England, each also created problems. Other factors which had an influence were emigration from the hills; immigration of new populations from Europe; the constant problem of adapting to economic changes; and the beginnings of farm organizations.

In the post-Civil War period New England farmers had to compete with farmers in the Midwest where land was more plentiful and production of basic crops easier. Depressions took their toll too. As a result many farms became abandoned. As the third century closed, the hills had reverted to their original forested conditions, although the better farms had improved and prospered. Throughout the three centuries, the New England farmers had adjusted to varying conditions, good and bad, demonstrating repeatedly their ingenuity and perseverance.

Throughout the book Russell has furnished many interesting details about all aspects of farming in New England. The introduction and development of the many strains of grains, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and poultry are recounted. He has not overlooked the relationship of farming to the growth of towns, its place in the government of towns and villages, and the marketing of products through local markets or by means of export trade. He has also shown the important role that women had throughout the period. Russell also gives numerous examples of Yankee ingenuity in inventing new tools with which to produce better crops, or at least do it more efficiently.

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This history will be of interest to many in other agricultural areas of the United States where farming practices, as well as the forebears of the farmers, have derived much from early experiences in New England. Because of its detailed, encyclopedic nature, *A Long, Deep Furrow* will long serve as a basic reference work.

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### Book Notices

*Herbert Eugene Bolton: The Historian and the Man, 1870-1953.* By John Francis Bannon. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1978. xix, 296 pp., illus., maps, bibliography, appendix, index, \$15.00 hard cover, \$8.95 soft cover.)

This is the story of a prominent historian who dominated the field of Spanish borderland history for over fifty years. He authored or edited over forty books and was a mentor to some 100 doctoral and 300 master degreed students while at the University of California, Berkeley. The reader of this biography will come to appreciate Bolton the man, and more so Bolton the historian.

*The United States Marshals of New Mexico and Arizona Territories, 1846-1912.* By Larry D. Ball. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1978. x, 315 pp., illus., notes, bibliography, index, \$12.50.)

This work is more than a series of biographies of noted law enforcement men—it is a scholarly examination on the development of the office of United States Marshal and its relationship to the people it serves and to the federal government. This book will long serve as a primer of frontier law enforcement.

*Encyclopedia of Western Gun-Fighters.* By Bill O'Neal. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979. xiv., 386 pp., illus. bibliography, index, \$24.95.)

This is a "Who's Who of Gunfighting" and is a compilation of facts, myths, and lies about the lives of 255 men and some 600 gunfights of the Old West. Included are not only the famous gunfighters—Wild

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