

music. The pamphlet is handsomely illustrated with photographs of singers and dancers, and with excellent translations of Ojibwa texts.

The album and pamphlet should find wide usage among elementary and high school teachers, as well as college courses focusing on Native American culture. Of course, the Ojibwa people themselves should delight in discovering that their music lives not only within their own tradition but within the larger American society.

"Yours for the Revolution": The "Appeal to Reason," 1895-1922, edited by John Graham. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. xii, 332 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, index. \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY RICHARD W. JUDD, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

The socialist press was a major force in American political culture prior to World War I. The most successful socialist newspaper was the *Appeal to Reason*, founded by Julius A. Wayland and published between 1897 and 1922 in Girard, Kansas. With a paid circulation of 760,000 in 1913 and single-issue printings reaching as high as 4.1 million, the paper dwarfed the circulations of all but a few popular periodicals. The story of the *Appeal* is significant in its own right, but more important is the light this collection of *Appeal* articles sheds on the rank-and-file activities of a complex and diverse midwestern socialist movement.

Of particular interest to Iowa readers is the section on the "land question." The *Appeal's* primary readership came from the vast trans-Mississippi West, where resentment over rising tenancy, railroad rates, crop liens, foreclosures, and land grabs fueled socialist sentiment in numerous small towns. The *Appeal* was at its best in blending indigenous midwestern values, the legacy of Populism, and socialist analysis. Thus the articles reveal not only the essence of heartland radicalism, but also much about the midwestern popular ethos. In addition, this section provides a richly textured picture of life on the land, drawn by staff writers, socialist organizers, and by the farmers themselves.

Yours for the Revolution offers a marvelous cross-section of analysis, opinion, and observation on midwestern radicalism, and fits into a growing literature on grass-roots American socialism. The articles are arranged chronologically within each section, which promotes a mild sense of déjà vu as the reader passes from section to section, but demonstrating the evolving socialist perspective in each topic makes this arrangement imperative. Graham's carefully chosen selections reveal the mentality of rank-and-file radicals, and above all, the abid-

ing faith in socialism and in human reason that drove this powerful and diverse movement. It is a historical perspective difficult to capture, yet at the very heart of the movement's success.

The Nickel Machine: A Biographical Memoir, by John M. Harrison. Iowa City: Maecenas Press, 1990. 125 pp. Illustrations. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY TOM MORAIN, LIVING HISTORY FARMS

William Allen White, America's most famous small-town newspaper editor, wrote that "it is the country newspaper that reveals us to ourselves." *The Nickel Machine*, John Harrison's loving portrait of his father Jack, is in the tradition of small-town journalism with which they have both been intimately acquainted. Jack Harrison was editor of the *Oakland Acorn* for nearly forty years and president of the Iowa Press Association in 1924. Son John grew up in the newspaper office, went into partnership with his father on the *Acorn*, left for other newspaper assignments, and then taught journalism for many years at the university level. The "nickel machine" of the title was the office linotype, which the Harrison children were told produced the nickels for their allowances.

Like many small-town editors of his day, Jack Harrison was active in politics. Much of the book recounts his political career and achievements. Elected to the state legislature, he narrowly lost a bid to become Speaker of the House, an event that soured him for a time on political participation. Later, he ran unsuccessfully for Congress. The book also describes Harrison's family life and community activities. As editor, Harrison was at the center of many community improvement activities and was a tireless promoter of Oakland. Nor does the book neglect Harrison's personal side. He loved to play cards and enjoyed singing in the Congregational church choir, and he passed his love of music on to his children.

In the introduction, the author claims that his father, while not famous, was "remarkable," yet "representative of significant aspects of American life" of the era. The author, however, spends little effort trying to substantiate these claims. Written without footnotes, it is an extended essay on a subject the author knew intimately and loved deeply. In the best tradition of the home-town newspaper, the book is a celebration of the significant events in the lives of the people who matter most to those for whom it is written.

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