

Book Notices

Dakota Oratory: Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Eastern Sioux, 1695-1874, compiled and illustrated by Mark Diedrich. Rochester, MN: Coyote Books, 1989. Portraits, appendix, bibliography. 102 pp. \$14.95 paper.

Ojibway Oratory: Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Chippeway, 1695-1889, compiled and illustrated by Mark Diedrich. Rochester, MN: Coyote Books, 1990. Portraits, appendixes, bibliography. 110 pp. \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY HERBERT T. HOOVER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Free-lance writer Mark Diedrich has added these two titles to the biographical studies he previously published under a label of his own creation without peer review. Again he makes an interesting contribution with volumes that contain noteworthy orations by leading Native Americans in the history of Minnesota. Each quotation appears with a narrative introduction that identifies the importance of the speaker and supplies some historical context. Some are accompanied by portraits sketched by Diedrich. Together they emphasize the nature of tribal leaders and their strategies in the diplomacy of Indian-white relations while they bring together considerable data about some leaders of considerable fame and others far less well known.

I Have Spoken and other publications of this nature all present the same problems, which the compiler freely admits. Such orators as these spoke under conditions of stress through interpreters who possessed varying degrees of skill and integrity. Interpreted orations were transcribed by others with similar deficiencies. As a result, the words placed in print do not necessarily replicate those included in the orations, either in the precise selection of terms or the general sense of themes. They run as close to the oratorical intentions of the speakers as possible, however, and add substance to information regarding the roles of distinguished leaders.

These two volumes are well worth the cost to all librarians, scholars, and general readers with interests in the history of Indian-white relations and tribal leadership in the state of Minnesota. Despite the absence of peer review, Mark Diedrich's credibility has been

established well enough by the academic reviews he has received for his previous publications.

So Much To Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier, edited by Ruth B. Moynihan, Susan Armitage, and Christiane Fischer Dichamp. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. xxii, 325 pp. Illustrations, bibliography. \$32.50 cloth, \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY RUTH M. ALEXANDER, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

So Much To Be Done is a collection of letters, diaries, and little-known autobiographies written by nineteen women who lived on the mining and ranching frontiers of the American West. Nearly all of the women were white (the exception was an Indian woman), but they came from diverse backgrounds—urban and rural, genteel and working-class. The book is divided into three parts, corresponding to the different regions of mining and ranching activity: California and Nevada; the High Plains and Rocky Mountains; and the Southwestern Desert.

The editors of *So Much To Be Done* hoped to show that "there is no single, simple interpretation that can encompass all of western women's . . . experience of settlement" (xiii). In this goal they ably succeed. They have selected a rich array of writings, revealing a fascinating multiplicity of responses to western life. Although some female settlers were timid, others were brave; some spent their lives in childcare and housework while others were urban entrepreneurs; some women enjoyed the challenges of life in the frontier West while others never overcame their separation from loved ones and their isolation from the ordered society of the eastern states.

Still, this could be a better book. It needs a much stronger introduction, one that offers a sustained analysis of women settlers' gender values, their interaction with the western market, their expectations and experience of marriage and motherhood, and their relations with outlaws, Indians, and Mexicans.

So Much To Be Done will be of particular interest to new western and women's historians. However, it should also have comparative value for those studying settlement in Iowa and other midwestern states.

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