

Sense of Place: American Regional Cultures, edited by Barbara Allen and Thomas J. Schlereth. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1990. 213 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes. \$28.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JAMES H. MADISON, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

The dozen essays in *Sense of Place* honor the contributions of Lynwood Montell to understanding the folklore of the Upper Cumberland region of Kentucky and Tennessee. The subjects range geographically from Oregon to Maryland's Eastern Shore and topically from fur trapping to pioneer cemeteries. All are connected, however, by attention to a sense of place, particularly, as Barbara Allen states it, to understanding "how people construct a sense of place, of region, for themselves through cultural expression" (12).

Readers interested in the Midwest will find the collection of considerable utility. The overview essays by Barbara Allen and Thomas J. Schlereth constitute thoughtful introductions to the major themes and to the scholarly literature of regionalism, particularly in the disciplines of folklore and American studies. One of the essays relates directly to an interesting part of midwestern culture, the tornadoes and the stories about them that give midwesterners a particularly vivid sense of place. Tornado stories, Larry Danielson argues, allow for displaying "a covert pride in coping with and surviving such an unpredictable and potentially dangerous climate" (39). Other essays, on subjects further removed from Iowa or the Midwest, will nonetheless be of interest for revealing the complexities of regional cultures. The dualities, contradictions, and paradoxes within virtually all regions should make anyone cautious about generalizations for a place as large and diverse as the Midwest or even Iowa. And yet, as these essays show, regional identity, with its sense of us and them, runs through American culture. To assume a homogeneous nation and an American character without attention to this sense of place is to misread seriously the lessons of these essays.

At Odds with Progress: Americans and Conservation, by Bret Wallach. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1991. vii, 255 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PATRICK NUNNALLY, COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

Bret Wallach's book is an intriguing mixture of history, geography, and personal narrative. His thesis, argued through a series of case studies of land use issues across the United States, is that Americans who support conservation have been hindered by this country's faith

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.