

*Silver Screens: A Pictorial History of Milwaukee's Movie Theaters*, by Larry Widen and Judi Anderson. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2007. xi, 180 pp. Illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Jennifer Fleeger is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature at the University of Iowa. Her research focuses on sound and music in American cinema.

*Silver Screens* extends Widen and Anderson's work on Milwaukee's cinema history, which began in 1986 with the publication of *Milwaukee Movie Palaces*. The authors write with an eye to the local, highlighting aspects of the city seemingly intended to spark the memory of the reader. The inclusion of a range of detailed and beautiful photographs, however, will interest even those who have never visited Milwaukee. The authors rely primarily on interviews and archival research, a combination that maintains an aura of reminiscence even as it presents precise data on individual theatrical sites. The text is divided into six chapters, ordered chronologically from 1842 to the present, and includes an afterword that focuses on recent renovation and improvements in comfort and projection.

Aside from the photographs, the most remarkable aspects of *Silver Screens* are its numerous sidebars that provide portraits of local businessmen, discussions of specific districts, and descriptions of the theaters themselves. Less useful, perhaps, are the more general inserts on popular stars, films, and technologies. Nonetheless, most of these broad paragraphs do attempt to connect a comprehensive history of the cinema to the local event; for example, the shifting responsibilities of projectionists from the silent to the classical Hollywood period center for Widen and Anderson around the formation of Local 164. Finally, an appendix listing the addresses, seating capacity, and current status of any theater ever to exhibit a movie in Milwaukee will be appreciated by historians and longtime residents of the city alike.

*From the Garden Club: Rural Women Writing Community*, by Charlotte Hogg. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. xiv, 182 pp. Appendix, bibliography, notes. \$15.95 paper.

Reviewer Christine Pawley is professor of library and information studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Reading on the Middle Border: The Culture of Print in Late-Nineteenth-Century Osage, Iowa* (2001).

When Charlotte Hogg was 11 years old, her family moved from Fargo, North Dakota, to Paxton, the little town in western Nebraska where