

sive Party. All things considered, Kasperek asserts, the La Follette political dynasty did a better job of transferring power than did either the Roosevelts or the Kennedys.

Fort Des Moines, by Penelope A. LeFew-Blake. Images of America Series. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006. 127 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$19.99 paper.

Reviewer Michael W. Vogt is curator at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge and a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa's board of trustees.

Fort Des Moines, completed in 1903, played a significant role in the history of the U.S. Army. The third Iowa fort so named, the post's history began as one of the last and largest cavalry facilities constructed in the twentieth century. Over the following 40 years Fort Des Moines served as the starting point for two revolutionary programs that forever changed the army's employment of African Americans and women. On the picturesque parade ground at Fort Des Moines, long-held racial and gender stereotypes were shattered.

LeFew-Blake's illustrated history begins with a brief introduction summarizing the history of Fort Des Moines No. 3, chronicling the changing use of the fort in response to evolving military tactics, technology, and personnel use over time. The remainder of the book is divided into four chapters illustrating the post's role as the first training site for African American officer candidates (1917), the cavalry, hospital, and artillery (prior to World War II), and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps/Women's Army Corps years (1942-1946), and, finally, the structural deterioration of a once scenic military complex. Each chapter is illustrated with period photographs and postcard images providing a unique visual history of Fort Des Moines and its support of U.S. military operations throughout the twentieth century.

Readers should not be misled by the book's title and presume that the author uniformly covers the entire history of Fort Des Moines No. 3. LeFew-Blake devotes the majority of her text, research, and photo selections to the experiences of the 72,000 women who entered the army at the fort. All 21 bibliographic sources reference WAAC/WAC history. That emphasis allows readers to more fully understand the early 1940s military environment at the fort and the available billets and constructed amenities supporting the training, social, and military activities of the first women to enter the army at Fort Des Moines during World War II.

The book's primary focus on the WAAC/WACs leaves little room to explore several other interesting aspects of Fort Des Moines's past. The 1917 African-American Officers' Candidate School is briefly mentioned in the introduction and is represented in chapter one by only a single image. The almost forgotten efforts of Hospital 26 (1918-1919) personnel rehabilitating wounded World War I soldiers are refreshingly covered by a series of 41 photographs. Unfortunately, the source of these unreferenced images (a souvenir booklet published at the hospital) does not appear in the bibliography. Although the introduction mentions the role of the fort as an artillery training base during the 1920s and 1930s, no images of 155mm howitzers or gun crews once prevalent at the fort appear. Entirely absent is the brief use of the fort by the 125th Observation Squadron of the Iowa Air National Guard after its federal mobilization in September 1941. Lastly, only a few minor references interpret the fort's more recent use by Army and Navy Reserve units up to the present day. As the first photo history of century-old Fort Des Moines No. 3, the book provides uneven and sparse coverage but successfully delivers a photographically rich overview of WAAC/WAC activities during World War II.

Republican Women: Feminism and Conservatism from Suffrage through the Rise of the New Right, by Catherine E. Rymph. Gender and American Culture Series. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. xi, 338 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$59.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Linda Van Ingen is associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. Her research and writing have focused on gender, race, and electoral politics in the twentieth century.

What began as a research project on Iowa Republican Mary Louise Smith has become, in the capable hands of Catherine Rymph, an impressive national history of Republican women from the 1920s to the 1980s. Rymph combed dozens of public and private archival collections to bring local perspectives into what is largely a history of the National Federation of Republican Women. Iowa women play large and small parts in this study. Smith is important for her role in the 1970s as a Republican feminist and the first woman chair of the Republican National Committee (RNC), and she is an interesting contrast to the conservative model of Republican womanhood presented by Phyllis Schlafly. Iowa club leader Ella Taylor of Tama County and Dorothy Christiansen of the Iowa Council of Republican Women are examples of diverse political styles in the 1930s and 1950s. While val-