

After two days sampling the sights and sounds of the city, Nellis concluded that "Porkopolis" had no charms for him (71). But without the steel manufacturing and engineering of the industrial city, Nellis would not have had his Columbia Expert and the freedom it afforded him.

Bicycling was, and remains, largely an urban, middle-class recreational activity. Hayes notes that a bicycle like Nellis's cost about one-fourth of a factory worker's annual pay (16), putting the sport out of reach for most working-class people. Underscoring the class basis of cycling, Hayes also notes that "wheelmen belonged to that class of gentlemen-adventurers . . . who enjoyed an evening in their club rooms after a day in the wilds," a social setting far removed from most nineteenth-century Americans' experience (56). In Nevada Nellis encountered a railroad worker who made no effort to conceal his contempt for the wheelman, having "neither sympathy nor tolerance for anyone with enough leisure time to devote to such a seemingly frivolous activity" (143).

Readers may note the absence of women among the cyclists Nellis met during his trip, even though women by then had taken to the wheel, even hazarding to mount high-wheeled "ordinaries" like Nellis's bicycle. Were there no women cyclists in Chicago, Des Moines, Omaha, or the many small towns Nellis passed through, or were they not important enough to him to note?

Such issues are the focus of scholarship in sports history. Although Hayes does not explore them in significant depth, *An American Cycling Odyssey* is useful and entertaining for sports and literary scholars and for cycling enthusiasts.

Inside the Fighting First: Papers of a Nebraska Private in the Philippine War, edited by Thomas S. Nielsen. Blair, Nebraska: Lur Publications, 2001. xiv, 187 pp. Illustrations, index. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Michael W. Vogt is curator at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge, Iowa. His research interests include American military, frontier, and Gilded Age history.

Inside the Fighting First is a chronological compilation of letters and diary entries written by Private Henry O. Thompson of St. Edwards, Nebraska, who served with Companies K and M, First Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry from August 1898 through August 1899. Each chapter, documenting the observations of a midwestern volunteer soldier, includes a thorough introduction explaining the larger historical context of events in which the First Nebraska participated. Thompson's writings convey the initial enthusiasm and excitement for

army life and the boastful bravery of an unseasoned soldier. After the company sustained its first casualties during the opening days of the Philippine War, his writings reveal the quick evolution of opinion toward the Filipinos from neutral observer to vindictive soldier employing racial epithets.

For students of American imperial and military history, this work is useful in illustrating the logistical problems and conditions of service endured by volunteer soldiers campaigning in the Philippines. In addition, the exploits of the First Nebraska mirror those of the Fifty-First Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment as recorded in Private Joseph Markey's *From Iowa to the Philippines* (1900). Furthermore, *Inside the Fighting First* complements recent scholarship on this period such as A. B. Feuer's *America at War: The Philippines, 1898–1913* (2002); Richard K. Kolb's *Blaze in the Boondocks: Fighting on America's Imperial Frontier in the Philippines, 1899–1913* (2002); and Brian M. Linn's *The Philippine War, 1899–1902* (2000).

Hero of the Heartland: Billy Sunday and the Transformation of American Society, 1862–1935, by Robert F. Martin. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002. xi, 163 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.95 cloth.

Reviewer William Vance Trollinger Jr. is associate professor of history at the University of Dayton. He is the author of *God's Empire: William Bell Riley and Midwestern Fundamentalism* (1990).

It is hard to imagine how anyone could write a boring book about the colorful evangelist Billy Sunday. Robert Martin does not disappoint. The University of Northern Iowa historian tells a lively and well-researched story about Sunday's Iowa childhood—his father's untimely death, his family's grinding poverty, his mother abandoning him to an orphanage—as well as his career as a major league baseball player, his conversion at a Chicago mission and his marriage to Helen (Nell), his remarkable success as an entrepreneurial evangelist, and his failures as a father. In all this Martin convincingly depicts Sunday as the quintessential midwesterner and American who, “in his sincerity and unique embodiment of so much that was a part of his nation's past and present, . . . represented for millions of Americans a figure of heroic proportions” (140).

Hero of the Heartland is a short book, but Martin fills it with interpretive insights. He convincingly argues that Sunday's “childhood separations” left him with a “profound sense of insecurity and inadequacy” (23) that dogged him his entire life, a point that helps explain

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