

franchised chains routinely dominated the experience—*Minnesota Eats Out* is an attractive book. Readers will perhaps recall restaurants such as The Covered Wagon (interior motif ranch house, naturally) in St. Paul and Minneapolis, F. W. Woolworth or other five-and-dimes' lunch counters, The Emporium and Schuneman's department store dining rooms in St. Paul, and, if they could afford luxurious train rides, Pullman diners. Readers have the chance to revisit those dining establishments or learn about them for the first time. All of this proceeds with visual aids, including restaurant collectibles such as matchbook covers, monogrammed restaurant ware, menus, postcards, and historical photographs. Throughout the visual display, accounts of particular restaurants, restaurant owners, and their groups of customers add to the entertainment. The authors' extensive backgrounds make this treat possible. Kathryn Strand Koutsky, a designer, understands the architecture and interior design that were essential to selecting the book's memorable restaurants. Linda Koutsky, a designer and columnist, showcases some of her collection of restaurant ware in the volume. Equally significant, Eleanor Osman, author of a very popular cookbook and longtime food writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, assembles the recipes from the restaurants that, on various pages, add gustatory promise for readers after they finish the book. It should long remain a staple among popular readers. This book is fun.

Cedar County: A Memoir of Iowa, by Steve Sanger. New York: Writers Club Press, 2003. v, 208 pp. \$16.95 paper.

Reviewer Jeffrey A. Kaufmann is professor of history and head of the Social Sciences Department at Muscatine Community College. He is editor of the *Cedar County Historical Review* and has written extensively about one-room schools and other topics related to rural Iowa.

Steve Sanger's book vacillates between boyhood memories of the year he spent on a Cedar County farm in 1945 and his 13-month sojourn in Tipton, the county seat, in 1988–1989. He also writes extensively of his aging parents, trips away from Cedar County, and various personal and romantic interludes. His more recent time in the county revolved around formal interviews of farmers, business partners, ministers, and local officials and informal observations of people at a small restaurant. There is much detail about his friendship with an Irish trainee reporter and a couple who ran a Victorian bed-and-breakfast.

Sanger admits that his project changed from "oral history to personal odyssey" (154). In rich detail, he describes conversations in local bars, his lonely existence in a trailer court, and beautiful rural land-

scapes. His approach is more sociological than historical, emphasizing the closed nature of small rural communities. His view is biased and at times condescending. Sanger's limited exposure to Cedar County and even Tipton makes generalizations about rural life problematic. Some chapters emphasize the history of the area, but discuss common facts based on readily available secondary sources.

Because the book is "not a work of history and . . . not quite a full-fledged memoir" (195), its contribution to Iowa history is severely limited. As a highly personalized work on contemporary life in a small midwestern town, it provides an interesting perspective; however, its methodology and focus also limit its comparative usefulness.

Raising a Stink: The Struggle over Factory Hog Farms in Nebraska, by Carolyn Johnsen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. xii, 181 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$21.95 paper.

Reviewer J. L. Anderson is a Ph.D. candidate in the agricultural history and rural studies program at Iowa State University. His dissertation is a study of agricultural change in Iowa from 1945 to 1970.

Raising a Stink is a study of the controversies surrounding large-scale hog production in Nebraska during the 1990s. Carolyn Johnsen, a Nebraska Public Radio reporter and producer, uses personal interviews, government documents, local and regional newspapers, farm publications, and technical reports to show how economically efficient large-scale hog production provoked responses from people concerned about safety (water quality), quality of life (smell), and economics (property rights, land values, and tourism). Pork producers, state bureaucrats, elected officials, lobbyists, activists, merchants, and neighbors fought at county and state levels. County supervisors struggled to implement zoning regulations to either accommodate or block new operations, while citizens attempted to goad Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality officials to be more aggressive in dealing with factory farms. Meanwhile, legislators attempted to promote economic development while simultaneously protecting public health and ecosystems, fashioning compromises that left all parties wanting more.

The book is more narrative and anecdote than historical analysis, but that does not diminish its usefulness for students of Iowa or the Midwest. It is an ideal textbook for bringing the Midwest into college and university courses in history, political science, environmental or landscape studies, and sociology. Johnsen includes numerous references to developments in other pork-producing states, highlighting

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