

ics, Modernization, The Depression, and Contributions and Contests are interspersed among the recipes. Eighmey explains, "As wonderful as the recipes are, it is impossible to write only about the food. The history of these dynamic years informs our understanding of the recipes, and the cuisine helps us see the impact of history on farm families" (8). A segmented period timeline preceding most chapters adds interest but does not correlate with chapter content.

Eighmey corrects some historical misperceptions that cooks were not concerned with efficiency and food was not as healthful or tasty in the early twentieth century as it is now, but it is evident that her manuscript was whipped up hastily. Ruth, granddaughter of magazine founders "Uncle Henry" and Nancy Cantwell Wallace, is named as a daughter along with Harriet and Josephine, who continued editorial work after their mother's death in 1909 (6). Historians will be frustrated by the lack of references and the failure to use ellipses in quotations as well as some incorrect dating. Others might be troubled by reversed chapter numbers or the duplication of "The Child's Curiosity" on pages 87 and 215, and no one will have the delight of knowing that a letter captioned "House Cleaning with Sense" (49) was written by [Mr.] I. M. Queer.

Glitches aside, Eighmey has given us an attractive book that will bring delicious bygone fare to a variety of twenty-first-century gatherings. Both reader and cook will gain unique insight into a past culture as well as some history, philosophy, and values of *Wallaces' Farmer* magazine.

Race on the Line: Gender, Labor, and Technology in the Bell System, 1880-1980, by Venus Green. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001. xv, 370. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$59.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Roland L. Guyotte is professor of history at the University of Minnesota, Morris. His research concentrates on the history of immigration, race relations, and twentieth-century U.S. history.

This ambitious volume joins a substantial literature treating women's paid labor during the twentieth century. Green takes her subject from the late nineteenth-century beginnings of the telephone industry to the present. *Race on the Line's* most important contribution is its systematic, detailed account of the central role of technological change in the work lives of the women and, recently, people of color employed by the Bell system and its successors.

Like other studies of twentieth-century women's labor history, Green's book tells a harsh tale of corporate exploitation. Although

women originally became telephone operators because of perceived special talents, their working conditions consistently deteriorated. Stringent work rules and a "speed up" environment gradually made telephone work an especially stressful occupation. Yet many women bought into the system's propaganda that because only "ladies" could work for the Bell system (a decision that systematically excluded African American women until the 1940s), they must put up with losing control of what mattered to them on their jobs.

Labor unions were of only limited help even when women turned to them, Green argues, for they emphasized a trade union ideology that did not address the women's concerns. In an early instance, Des Moines operators fought for and won union recognition in 1902, "but recognition as defined by male unionists, not by themselves. For the operators, union recognition meant having a voice in the selection of the person who supervised them. For male trade unionists it meant a 'closed shop'" (106). Male unionists also consistently kept women out of craft jobs that paid better and offered more autonomy, relegating women to increasingly routinized operator employment.

Ultimately, the automation of the telephone industry made working conditions worse for men and women alike. Later in the twentieth century, some craft employment opened up to women, Venus Green among them. (Green left a low-paying job in publishing for craft employment with the New York Telephone Company in 1974 and stayed until 1990. She left to pursue a degree in history; she is now an assistant professor of history at the City University of New York.) Operator jobs, especially in big cities, became the preserve of African American women as working conditions and job security hit bottom. Yet by that time, many telephone employees no longer accepted the company line, and the women Green interviewed often sharply criticized the Bell system and their union alike.

Green's book is deeply researched in telephone company sources and interviews with contemporary employee activists, and it effectively takes into account the work of a generation of other scholars of women's labor history. It moves the story of women in the telephone industry considerably beyond that sketched out by Stephen T. Norwood's *Labor's Flaming Youth: Telephone Operators and Worker Militancy, 1878-1923* (1990), which paints a more sanguine picture of employee agency. One might fault Green's contrast between earlier "ladies'" passivity, derived from written sources, and contemporary worker militancy, drawn from interviews—were the earlier employees really taken in, or was telephone employment relatively attractive given women's alternative work in factories, offices, sales, or even on farms

or in domestic service? But overall, *Race on the Line* is an important contribution to the ongoing revision of women's labor history.

Still on the Move: Wartburg College, 1852–2002, by Ronald Matthias. Cedar Rapids: WDG Publishing, 2002. viii, 136 pp. Illustrations. \$49.95 cloth.

Continuity and Change: 100 Years—Waldorf College (1903–2003), by James S. Hamre. Forest City: Waldorf College, 2002. vi, 194 pp. Illustrations. \$25.00 cloth.

Reviewer L. DeAne Lagerquist is professor of religion at St. Olaf College. She is the author of *In America the Men Milk the Cows: Factors of Gender, Ethnicity and Religion in the Americanization of Norwegian-American Women* (1991) and several articles about Lutheran higher education.

Anniversaries—both personal and institutional—provide occasions for reflection on the past. Families gather to celebrate milestones with displays of photographs that evoke stories about one another and decisive events. These two volumes serve their closest communities, alumni, and other friends of the colleges in an analogous fashion: each marks a significant institutional anniversary by providing narrative, biography, and photographs. Neighbors from Waverly, Forest City, and other areas of Iowa and “relatives” connected through church membership will also be interested to learn the stories of these two Iowa Lutheran colleges: Wartburg, founded by Germans in the mid-nineteenth century; and Waldorf, established by Norwegians fifty years later. Each book chronicles the college's existence from founding through a series of challenges to the present day when these are two of the four colleges in Iowa associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). While the authors refer to the colleges' churchly context and to national trends, such as the social movements of the 1960s, the focus of these books is local rather than comparative. Readers interested in issues such as religion and higher education or the interaction between churches and institutions more generally will find the details provided here of interest, but they will need to provide their own framework and make their own comparisons.

Similar purposes and elements do not make for identical books. Hamre's history of Waldorf gives attention to a wider range of individuals and includes more voices. The section headed “Pioneers” fills nearly a quarter of the book; each of the 12 sketches has a different author, often a person with a personal connection to the subject. The subjects selected are persons for whom buildings are named, including Tillie Rasmusson, “Queen of the Culinary Arts” and director of food services for almost a half-century, and President Lars W. Boe,

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