

A Window on Main Street: Life above the Corner Drug Store, by Virgil Lagomarcino. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1995. xiii, 119 pp. Illustrations. \$10.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY TERRENCE J. LINDELL, WARTBURG COLLEGE

Virgil Lagomarcino, a dean emeritus at Iowa State University, takes readers back to his childhood, beginning when his father purchased a drugstore in Waverly, Iowa, and the family moved into the apartment above it. In a series of anecdotal essays sprinkled with literary and philosophical references, Lagomarcino sifts through his memories of institutions, events, and people in Waverly from the mid-1920s to the early 1940s. The principal settings for his observations about the life, character, and characters of small-town America include the drugstore where he worked as a fountaineer (known more commonly as a soda jerk), the apartment above the drugstore from which he watched the comings and goings of the community, Main Street, the Carnegie library, and the school.

Scholars of the period will find an occasional gem of social history here, but the work will appeal chiefly to individuals looking for an entertaining evening's reading. I grew up a generation later and a state away from Lagomarcino's Waverly, but these reminiscences strike a familiar chord. Lagomarcino has given us a humorous, insightful, and enjoyable view of life in small-town America in the decades leading up to the Second World War.

I'll Be Seeing You: World War II Diary and Correspondence, Cpl. Mary Elizabeth Osen, February 1943–September 1945, edited by Lynn Ethan Nielsen and Mary Taylor Nielsen. Parkersburg: Mid-Prairie Books, 1994. 143 pp. Illustrations. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY MARILYN E. HEGARTY, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

I'll Be Seeing You, a collection of diary entries and letters, chronicles Mary Elizabeth Osen's experiences in the Women's Army Corps. Osen was born and raised on an Iowa farm, then became a schoolteacher before enlisting. She served both stateside and abroad. While stateside she filled her diary with reflections on training and assignments; after shipping out to New Guinea and the Philippines, she corresponded frequently with her large extended family. The editors, Osen's descendants, add chapter introductions that include biographical and historical information.

This book offers an interesting look at servicewomen's everyday lives, while simultaneously revealing the roots of Corporal Osen's

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