

"Uncle Knute" from Iowa and surrounding midwestern states, including many in the Norwegian language.

Norwegian Yankee will become a principal source on Nelson, replacing Martin Odland's earlier study (1926) and Erling Rolfsrud's brief journalistic account (1986). Gieske and Keillor have produced a well-researched and very readable book about an important political figure in the Populist-Progressive era.

Cultivating Cooperation: A History of the Missouri Farmers Association, by Raymond A. Young. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1995. xiv, 246 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, index. \$25.00 cloth, \$11.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY KIMBERLY K. PORTER, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

In *Cultivating Cooperation*, Raymond A. Young traces the history of the Missouri Farmers Association (MFA) "from behind the mule to modern times" (x). Along the way, he presents an insider's view of the organization founded in the spring of 1914 "to promote and improve the economic and social position of farmers, to raise the plane of farm living to a higher level, [and] to enhance the economic, social, educational and religious opportunities of farmers and their families" (186).

Young's story of cooperative buying and selling, community creameries, poultry processing plants, soy oil extraction facilities, feed and flour mills, cement production, and oil distribution is a detailed one—rich in dates, locations, financial data, and leadership. His narrative is primarily a chronicle, and the argument that links the MFA's successes is an implicit one.

According to Young, the business-oriented MFA developed from a constituency of farm clubs organized to provide entertainment, social experiences, and cooperative buying power. Only when they realized the need for "an institutional mechanism by which they could bring economic balance under their control" (10) did they solidify their confederation.

The economic motivations for organization are, in Young's account, implicitly intertwined with philosophical ones. The MFA has survived and prospered, according to Young, primarily due to the aspirations of its farmer-members. Its cooperators understand that only through continued and concentrated patronage can the benefits of united buying and selling be maintained. Democratic control ensures that the leadership of the organization will not stray too far from the rarely articulated but widely held goals and principles of the MFA.

As Michael L. Cox suggests in his introduction to *Cultivating Cooperation*, Young's work is more than a history of the MFA. It also serves as a handbook for cooperative business endeavors. "Strong visionary leadership, well-defined economic objectives, close employee-patron relationships, and a progressive, well-formed, cooperatively oriented membership" (11) are the key ingredients to the successful and continuing operation of the MFA and presumably any other cooperative enterprise.

Beyond its implicit argument, *Cultivating Cooperation* is otherwise flawed. The most serious fault is its failure to place the MFA in historical context. Young fails to give readers any indication of other cooperative agricultural efforts (regional or national), to discuss alternative methods of agricultural organization, or to place the efforts of the MFA in their milieu. Indeed, his work scarcely mentions the McNary-Haugen movement, the AAA, the exigencies of wartime production, or even the farm crisis of the 1980s. Nor does the volume present the usual scholarly apparatus of bibliography or effective references.

Reservations aside, *Cultivating Cooperation* has value. Members of the MFA will enjoy the opportunity to explore their institution. The volume also provides room for comparison and contrast with similar or contrasting ventures, or it could serve as a guide for future endeavors. Moreover, *Cultivating Cooperation* offers an interesting personality portrait of the agricultural journalist (and MFA founder) William Hirth along with an account of his involvement in cooperative agriculture.

Gentle Warriors: Clara Ueland and the Minnesota Struggle for Woman Suffrage, by Barbara Stuhler. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1995. xvi, 323 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth, \$15.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY THERESA KAMINSKI, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

Focusing on the actions of Clara Ueland, the last president of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA), Barbara Stuhler recounts the efforts of Minnesota women to secure passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Drawing from organizational records, suffrage periodicals, Ueland family histories, and standard historical works of the suffrage movement, Stuhler has written a thoughtful account of a state suffrage campaign and its relationship to the national one led by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This approach, largely overlooked by scholars, illustrates the difficulties faced by suffragists in their long battle.

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