

extraordinary array of students who have later contributed much to the life of the nation. Jones's work is a welcome addition to the growing number of histories of Iowa colleges and universities.

As "Ding" Saw Herbert Hoover, by Jay N. Darling. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1996. Iowa Heritage Collection. 144 pp. Illustrations. \$10.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SILVANO A. WUESCHNER, WILLIAM PENN COLLEGE

As "Ding" Saw Herbert Hoover offers an overview of Herbert Hoover's illustrious public career through the eyes of an editorial cartoonist. However, it is evident from the outset that this collection of political cartoons was intended to show Darling's admiration for Hoover rather than to present a critical portrayal of the man with whom he shared a friendship for more than forty years. The reader, therefore, is treated to inspirational glimpses of Hoover as distilled through the subjective pen of Darling, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist whose work appeared in the *Des Moines Register* from 1906 to 1949. To find a critical view of "the Chief," readers will have to turn to other sources.

This compilation of editorial cartoons was first published in 1954. In the 1996 Iowa Heritage Collection edition, there are four additional cartoons; and Darling's introductory essay, detailing his association with Hoover, has been prefaced by an introduction by Timothy Walch, director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch. Darling's comments provide insight into his relationship with Hoover, and the cartoons of Hoover are enjoyable in and of themselves; Walch's introduction lends added value to this edition. All in all, this a light-hearted and enjoyable book that could grace coffee table and waiting room table alike.

Halfway Home: A Granddaughter's Biography, by Mary Logue. Midwest Reflections. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1996. x, 201 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. \$22.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SUZANNE BUNKERS, MANKATO STATE UNIVERSITY

A number of excellent contemporary works of autobiography and memoir emphasize the multiple perspectives from which a personal story unfolds. Mary Logue's *Halfway Home*, published in the Minnesota Historical Society Press's new memoir series, Midwest Reflections, is a timely contribution to this effort.

Mary Logue's personal biography of her grandmother, Mae Kirwin, reflects midwestern life during the past century. Mae Kirwin was born in 1894 in Chokio, a small prairie community in western Minnesota. She married and raised her five children there. After her husband's untimely death, Mae became the town's postmistress and was active in community and political causes until shortly before her death in 1961. Mary Logue's memoir offers a good deal of information about the lives of not only Mae Kirwin but also other family members, including the author herself. The book places these lives in a well-researched historical and socioeconomic perspective.

The author's use of a "multiple focus" is a particularly strong point because, by learning about the lives of several family members within the community setting, readers develop a context in which to assess the life of the title figure. Beyond that, the reader gets to "see" the author at work. This kind of reflexivity is crucial to the reader's understanding of how the author views her subjects and, consequently, how their stories are told.

Halfway Home will appeal to a wide audience, including a general readership as well as those especially interested in immigration history, midwestern settlement patterns, Minnesota history, and intersections of biography with autobiography.

Growing Up in the 40s: Rural Reminiscence, by Jerry L. Twedt. Iowa Heritage Collection. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1996. 243 pp. Illustrations. \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY PHILIP J. NELSON, HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Anyone who came of age in the 1940s, especially on a farm or in a small town, will no doubt recognize parts of their lives in this book. Jerry Twedt has not attempted a full-blown autobiography, but rather has written a light-hearted, easy-reading sketch of his boyhood days in the northern part of Story County, Iowa. The author uses a topical approach to present stories and information on the "Roland Consolidated School," "The War," "The Three-Holer," "The Barn," and "The Church," among others. He nimbly intersperses often humorous anecdotes with more straightforward factual accounts of activities such as breaking horses, weaning calves, threshing, and working in a canning factory. Although the book is generally presented through the eyes of a young farm boy, the author still manages to be a discerning observer of cultural and technological change. For example, he recognizes the advent of tractors, rural electricity, and television as powerful heralds of change in the lives of twentieth-century rural folk.

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