

duced to less than postcard size in order to fit two to a 9×8-inch page, and some of these thus lose impact or clarity as details become less distinct. A magnifying glass helps, and it is understandable that sacrifices had to be made to keep costs down.

Because Nebraska is a neighboring state and many of its early white settlers came from states directly to the east, including Iowa, these volumes would be of interest to Iowa academic, historical, or genealogical collections.

*Prairie University: A History of the University of Nebraska*, by Robert E. Knoll. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press and the Alumni Association of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1995. xviii, 223 pp. Illustrations, notes, essay on sources, index. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JUSTUS F. PAUL, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

Robert E. Knoll, Varner Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska, has written a history of the University of Nebraska's first 125 years in which he chronicles the issues and challenges facing the university and the responses of its leaders to those issues. His account begins when the university began in 1869 with no buildings, with clergymen as chancellor and most of the faculty, and with a classical and conservative curriculum. Specialized programs came later. The first year's enrollment was 130 students, with 110 of them in the prep school.

From 1876 to 1900, leaders continued to define the nature of the university. With a more secular orientation and increased interest in a modern curriculum, scholars replaced clerics on the faculty, and by 1900 the university was among the elite public universities, with several professional schools and programs. Enrollment grew and the campus became a center for intellectual discourse. Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews (1900-1909) left the university with a clearly defined mission.

Under Samuel Avery (1909-1927), the university retreated from its leadership position. Avery's inability to deal with several crises hurt the campus, as he avoided or mishandled issues such as building locations, wartime dissent, and the ongoing conflict between supporters of the liberal arts and advocates of the professional programs. His leadership saw the university move from its "golden years" to a decade of "economic and academic depression" (79).

The Great Depression and World War II again changed the nature of the university. Students began to view it as a place to search for contacts, jobs, or spouses. The war's effects included a sharp drop in enrollments, cessation of building, and stagnating programs.

After the war, students returned, building resumed, and, particularly during the chancellorship of Clifford Hardin (1953–1968), the university sought to become a research center funded heavily by federal dollars. Other major changes occurred during the Hardin years: the role of Nebraska Educational Television expanded; the University of Nebraska Press became a leader among university presses; a Kellogg grant led to construction of a continuing education center (later renamed the Hardin Center); and the Sheldon Art Gallery was built. With the merger of the University of Nebraska and the University of Omaha in 1968, Hardin was named the first chancellor of the University of Nebraska System.

Hardin's successors faced problems similar to those on other campuses, including student unrest, faculty concern over shared governance, public disenchantment and declining state financial support, arguments over quality and access, and the growing role and cost of technological change. During the past quarter-century, these problems made administrators' lives and careers more difficult and shorter at the University of Nebraska as they did elsewhere.

Football's role at the university is discussed from the first game on campus in 1889 to the glories of the Devaney and Osborne eras. So little attention is paid to any other extracurricular activities that one might wonder if there *were* any other sports or cocurricular activities.

Knoll's history is readable and informative, attractively designed, and enhanced with a fine selection of photos. It is the first work to deal with the University of Nebraska "system" and will take its place among the growing body of writings about public higher education.

*Beneath the Whispering Maples: The History of Simpson College*, by Joseph W. Walt. Indianola: Simpson College Press, 1995. xvii, 856 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY CARROLL ENGELHARDT, CONCORDIA COLLEGE

*Beneath the Sheltering Maples* is a consummate insider's account written by an emeritus professor of history who served for forty years at Simpson College. Professor Walt is indebted to previous college historians who, faced with a paucity of sources caused by a 1918 fire, assembled files of college catalogs, newspapers, and yearbooks which he has supplemented by industriously mining Indianola, Warren County, and other newspapers. The latter allow him to explore in detail town-gown relations, which were often close but sometimes strained by constant fund-raising and the student activism of the late sixties. Thanks to the author's conviction that "people are important,"

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