

for eggs, but the farmer had sold his chickens. He would accept butter, but the farmer had sold his cows. He would take corn, but the farmer had sold that, too. Determined to make a sale, the salesman said he would take a load of cobs. The farmer responded, "Listen, mister, I can't read and if I had cobs I wouldn't need your newspaper."

Haywood's sampler of Kansas humor from various eras, including tall tales, songs, poems, and cartoons, is an informative and entertaining book that will delight general readers and social historians.

Nebraska History: An Annotated Bibliography, compiled by Michael L. Tate. Bibliographies of the States of the United States, no. 6. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. xxiii, 549 pp. Chronology, index. \$79.95 cloth.

Nebraska: An Illustrated History, by Frederick C. Luebke. The Great Plains Photography Series. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. xxiv, 405 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY CHARLENE LEHMAN AND MARY E. NOBLE, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

Today, as in the past, travelers cross Nebraska without realizing the variety of its terrain, the diversity of its economy, or the richness of its history. To contribute to a better understanding of this central state, Michael L. Tate has compiled a handy, up-to-date bibliography for academics and amateurs, and Frederick C. Luebke has assembled an impressive collection of photographs and other illustrations to accompany his concisely written history.

Professor Tate has assembled the first systematic bibliography for the state, listing items published prior to October 1994. The book is arranged by broad topic, with separate listings for general histories and reference works, maps, and community and county histories. Entries have short descriptive or evaluative annotations except for the few items Tate was unable to personally examine and the publications listed among the community and county histories. Additional indexing has improved access to the community and county histories.

Users of the volume will want to read carefully the compiler's preface, which sets out the scope of the work and directs readers to supplementary sources. Tate's work includes most of the theses and dissertations included in an earlier work: Frederick W. Adrian's *Theses and Dissertations Dealing with Nebraska and Nebraskans* (1975). Tate provides new annotations for the theses and dissertations and incorporates items produced since 1970. He includes only the most important works from Nimmo and Cutler's *Nebraska Local History and Genealogy Reference Guide* (1987). Because other recent guides exist for materials

on Willa Cather, John Neihardt, and Indian tribes, he offers only selective listings for these topics. Most of the journal articles and proceedings included are from Nebraska State Historical Society publications, *Great Plains Research*, and other similar publications. Tate has excluded government documents, manuscript collections, and newspapers, but recommends sources of information on these types of publications.

Works are listed only once, so users will need to make use of subject and author indexes to locate all relevant publications. The guide does not give the institutional locations of individual items, but the author does indicate major collections of Nebraska materials. This excellent work will be an important source for years to come for anyone interested in Nebraska history.

Frederick Luebke's *Nebraska: An Illustrated History* should have similarly broad interest for anyone pursuing midwestern or Great Plains history. An emeritus professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Luebke here builds on his long career as a teacher, author, and editor in this area and credits the assistance of several university colleagues and other authorities in history, sociology, political science, geography, economics, and agricultural studies. The result is a work of considerable breadth, as Luebke traces the major environmental and cultural factors that through time have shaped Nebraska.

The fifty-eight topical chapters are grouped in five chronological parts from prehistory to the 1990s. The brief chapters consist of two or three pages of text followed by two to five pages with up to ten black-and-white illustrations. Luebke is careful throughout to delineate Nebraska's uniqueness, while acknowledging its similarities to and relationships with neighboring states. In each part are chapters on that period's developments in politics, agriculture, business, education, and the impact of wars and other national and international events and movements. General population trends are explained and illustrated with maps and other graphics; and the roles of women, Native Americans, African Americans, and other ethnic groups are thoughtfully acknowledged, not neglecting the darker aspects of these and other subjects.

The nearly three hundred illustrations — with substantial, detailed captions — complement the text visually. Selected from the collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society and a wide variety of other sources, they are chiefly photographs, with a liberal assortment, especially from the earlier years, of reproductions of paintings, engravings, and documents. Their subject matter ranges from the mundane and familiar (portraits of politicians) to the unusual, amusing, and occasionally shocking (graphic scenes of racial violence). The quality of reproduction is generally very good, although many have been re-

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.

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