

those of J. B. Morris, where it stayed until his death in 1977. Morris and the *Bystander* "worked to stabilize the home, family, church, school, and business" (358–59). They also worked to increase political involvement and racial pride. Yet Morris and the *Bystander* were unusual in two respects: they remained steadfast in their loyalty to the Republican Party long after most blacks left it for the Democratic Party during the 1930s; and they did not adopt the strategy of "victimization" during the decade, 1954–1964.

These differences raise some questions about Suggs's assertion that "this book shows that the black experience is homogeneous" (352), as well as his claim that "the black press in the Middle West is different from the black press in the South" (358). There is no question, however, about Suggs's thesis that the black press helped "conquer the Great Plains as assuredly as the six-shooter and barbed wire" (349). It did so by promoting democracy, equality, Christianity, capitalism, family, education, and racial pride—in short, by promoting community. Nor is there any question that the black press in Iowa, and especially the *Iowa Bystander*, played as active and integral a role in this conquest as did the "Buffalo Soldiers."

The Centennial Anthology of North Dakota History, Journal of the Northern Plains, edited by Janet Daley Lysengen and Ann M. Rathke. Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1996. xviii, 526 pp. Illustrations, figures, map, notes, index. \$24.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JAMES MARTEN, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

North Dakotans have no Alamo to remember and no great Civil War battles to endlessly re-fight. George Armstrong Custer passed through, to be sure, but his "last stand" took place elsewhere. North Dakota radicals started state-owned banks and flour mills rather than a revolution, and the ethnic groups who dominated the early history of the state—Scandinavians and Germans, mostly—were, as Garrison Keillor likes to point out, solid citizens, but hardly as colorful as the Italians and Jews clogging the cities of the eastern seaboard.

Yet the history of North Dakota contains plenty of grist for the historian's mill: the dramas of making a living in an unfriendly environment, of building communities in remote outposts, of demanding to be heard in a country that in real life all but ignores the heartland it so blithely claims to admire. *The Centennial Anthology of North Dakota History* showcases the richness of the state's past by reprinting twenty-eight articles from that respected state historical journal.

Framed by Elwyn B. Robinson's and D. Jerome Tweton's essays on the state's past and future, respectively, virtually all of the articles fit into Robinson's six themes of North Dakota history: remoteness, dependence, radicalism, economic disadvantage, periodic overdevelopment, and adjustment to climate and geography. The interests and the backgrounds of the authors are wide-ranging: professional archeologists wrote articles on Native Americans, while another selection is a memoir by a pathbreaking photojournalist of the earliest days of television in North Dakota. In between are articles on Missouri River steamboating and small-town lynching, immigrant hardships and president-to-be Theodore Roosevelt, Native Americans at home and at far-off boarding schools, a French entrepreneur and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, and farm radicals and labor organizers. Several offer excerpts from primary sources, including three produced by women: a diary from Fort Berthold in the 1860s, letters from a hard-pressed farm wife just after World War I, and the memoir of a rural schoolteacher in the 1920s. Most of the entries have at least some relevance to the region as well as the state, particularly John Hudson's revisionist look at frontier housing; Thomas D. Isern's "Custom Combining in North Dakota," which necessarily includes information on the movements of itinerant harvesters throughout the country's midsection; and William C. Pratt's examination of the tensions over the New Deal and Communism within the national and regional Farmers Union in the years after the Second World War. Experts may quibble with interpretations and methodologies; general readers may find a handful of articles to be too specialized; and some critics may find the writing quality a little uneven and the coverage of some issues too sparse; but the volume generally succeeds in providing a cross-section of the historiography of North Dakota.

Elwyn B. Robinson wrote in the late 1950s that "to a considerable extent, the history of the state is the history of hard times" (8). Those hard times, as well as a few good times, are presented effectively, sympathetically, and honestly in this fine collection of essays.

Kinship with the Land: Regionalist Thought in Iowa, 1894-1942, by E. Bradford Burns. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996. xii, 195 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$27.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY THOMAS K. DEAN, MOORHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

E. Bradford Burns's account of regionalist thought in Iowa compiles the ideas, texts, and artistic productions that have defined Iowa's character and experience for the state's residents, the country, and

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