

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

and women. In this new novel Dick takes up with a mountain man buddy named Higgins, and the two of them return to the Upper Missouri country where Dick meets and marries Teal Eye the Blackfoot. The two aging mountain men with their families settle reasonably happily, a small community of friends bound together by mutual interest, obligation, and their love of the mountain life. Thus Guthrie develops a theme implicit in his earlier novels—the theme that it is important for people who freely choose one another's company to learn to live together, talking to each other and cooperating as fully as possible, although such healthy companies of people seem possible to Guthrie only in small groups.

But greed and overpopulation spoil everything for Dick in the end. In Guthrie's fictional world, these two related human tendencies inevitably cause ruin. In a number of episodes in *Fair Land, Fair Land* it is the mass of settlers, farmers, miners, or soldiers that always brings true grief. The closing episode of the novel is a massacre in the tradition of Sand Creek or Wounded knee or the Washita: blue coated troopers pour into the Blackfoot village where Teal Eye and Dick are living peaceably and intelligently. Though he dies by violence, as likely many of the old time mountain men did, the manner of Dick Summers's death is another statement of Guthrie's saddened understanding that greed and too many people and the power-seeking mentality may finally destroy both the wilderness and the quality of human life in the American West.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

DAVID REMLEY

The California Column in New Mexico, by Darlis A. Miller. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. pp. xviii, 318. Photographs, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$9.95 paper.

This book is an endlessly fascinating footnote to history. Although the first forty pages treat the Union volunteer brigade that marched in 1862 from California into New Mexico Territory, the balance of the work deals with individual veterans down to 1885. No dull sociological analysis or collection of case studies, it skims the careers of more than seventy men of the California Volunteers who came to New Mexico and it mentions nearly all of the other approximately 270 who remained in the territory after discharge.

Casual readers will find the volume engagingly written but may be surprised that California, symbol of the Far West, provided so many pioneers for the New Mexico frontier. Of course, most of them did not start in California but came originally from eastern states—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maine principally. A large num-

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ber had participated in the Gold Rush, which explains why they were prominent in New Mexico mining.

Other enterprises described by Miller, in which veterans of the California Column played significant roles after the Civil War, are stockraising, farming, commerce, and politics. A bonus is her digest of military operations against hostile Indians that involved both California and New Mexico Volunteers until the war's end. Her concluding chapter on frontier society neatly weaves the lives of the "California Boys" into the New Mexican social fabric.

Miller reveals that rather than dominating the communities where they settled, they blended easily with the predominant Hispanic culture and quietly built Anglo institutions such as public schools and Protestant churches. Only a few short-lived mining camps were controlled by the veterans. Few of the men achieved fame beyond their chosen homeland, though Albert J. Fountain and Thomas V. Kearn are well known in the Southwest.

The book is attractively printed and illustrated. The University Press of New Mexico published it for the State Historical Society, and it does credit to both. A minor flaw is its inadequate index. The entries include mostly personal names and there is no analysis or identification of even the major *persona*. I predict, nevertheless, that this will become the standard source for authoritative information about a very important segment of New Mexican society in the era of Reconstruction.

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Governor Philip F. La Follette, the Wisconsin Progressives, and the New Deal, by John E. Miller. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1982. pp. 229. Appendix, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$21.00 cloth.

John E. Miller's *Governor Philip F. La Follette, the Wisconsin Progressives, and the New Deal* addresses two topics in American history: first, the complex interaction between the New Deal programs passed in Washington, D.C. and the state governments that often administered those programs in forty-eight different political environments, and second, the fortunes and misfortunes of the La Follette clan in Wisconsin.

Many authors have followed the lead of James T. Patterson's *The New Deal and the States* and examined the fate of various New Deal programs when they intersected with the politics of a particular state. Miller's analysis of Wisconsin is especially interesting because of the

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