

tive. In addition, *The Mapmaker's Eye* contains wonderful illustrations, including watercolors, drawings, and maps, many attributed to David Thompson himself. The book is a solid contribution in the area of the European exploration of Oregon Country and a revealing look at the relationship between Native Americans and fur traders.

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William J. Spillman and the Birth of Agricultural Economics

LAURIE WINN CARLSON

(Columbia: University of Missouri Press, Missouri Biography Series, 2005. vii, 210 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$39.95)

William J. Spillman is not a well-recognized figure in American agricultural history. At least 35 years ago, this reviewer asked a student to study the life of Spillman. The resulting senior seminar paper noted Spillman's many interests and accomplishments as a pioneer plant geneticist, farm policy expert, mathematician, and agricultural economist. As an afterthought, the student concluded that Spillman remained largely an obscure figure who should command more than a footnote. *William J. Spillman and the Birth of Agricultural Economics* by Laurie Winn Carlson makes Spillman more than a footnote to history in this study of one of the most innovative minds in American agricultural science and economics.

Carlson is a wide-ranging author whose works include studies of Jefferson's yeoman farmer ideology and the role of cattle in American history. The latter

work contains discussions of veterinary science and cattle diseases, reflecting her interest in science and technology history. No doubt her association with Washington's land-grant state university in Pullman, where Spillman began his career as an agricultural economist and scientist, drew her to this subject.

Born during the Civil War in 1863, Spillman died during the Great Depression in 1931. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1886 and joined the faculty at the Washington Agricultural College in 1894. Working in the heart of Eastern Washington wheat country, Spillman sought new and better wheat varieties through plant breeding. His experiments showed "a predictable pattern to the inheritance of characteristics" and that "traits combined and recombined rather than blending together" (p. 20). Because of his articles on wheat hybridization, he became known as a pioneering American plant geneticist. Most important, he helped revive genetic studies in the United States along the paths outlined by the Austrian monk Gregor Mendel decades earlier.

His appointment to the Bureau of Plant Industry within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1902, where he was soon promoted to chief of farm management, brought Spillman into the center of a USDA that was expanding under the leadership of Secretary James "Tama Jim" Wilson. Spillman worked primarily on plant and seed improvements, farm economics, and the development of a law of diminishing returns respecting the application of fertilizers. Spillman and the USDA looked to farm efficiency and cost reductions for improving the lot of American farmers. After conflict with the new secretary of agriculture, David Houston, Spillman left the USDA in 1918 for a career in agricultural journalism, only to return to government in the 1920s.

In that decade, his book encouraging planned production, *Balancing the*

Farm Output (1927), appeared. Two years later, the Harvard economist John D. Black coined the phrase *domestic allotment* in his book *Agricultural Reform in the United States* (1929). Both men sought planned production to achieve fair prices for farm products. On the basis of Spillman's and Black's thinking, the Montana agricultural economist M. L. Wilson developed the voluntary domestic allotment plan, which he presented to the incoming president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. It became an integral part of the New Deal's Agricultural Adjustment Act and the foundation for future government support of agricultural prices based upon the concept of parity.

Of course, there was irony in these developments. An entire generation of agricultural economists, Spillman included, who promoted agricultural efficiency and optimum production, now embraced what amounted to production control and suppression to achieve favorable market returns. Though the author takes great interest in Spillman's technical studies, the book expands quickly into American agricultural politics between the depression of the 1890s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. The dual tracks challenge the reader, but this larger picture proves essential to an understanding of William J. Spillman's contributions to the era.

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Vanishing British Columbia

MICHAEL KLUCKNER

(Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005. 224 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95)

In this beautifully illustrated book, the artist and author, Michael Kluckner, of-

fers not only portraits of a changing British Columbia but also an essay on the transitory nature of settlement and abandonment in the rural North American West. The book is essentially concerned with "roadside memory" (p. 9) in rural rather than urban British Columbia. Kluckner correctly argues that cities are "crucibles of evolution" where change is often a positive force (p. 10). In the rural hinterlands, however, change today is often synonymous with depopulation and desertion. Kluckner mixes the roadside watercolors he painted on trips throughout the province with family photographs, vintage postcards, maps, brochures, floor plans, and diagrams to portray the farmhouses, motels, canneries, and railroad roundhouses that could "likely disappear 'within a heartbeat'" (p. 10).

Kluckner argues that the fact that so much of the province's population is now urbanized contributes to the popular, if flawed, image of the British Columbian landscape as a pristine environment devoid of people. Yet, the development of the North American West depended upon the use and misuse of the environment, and the history of modern British Columbia is a history based on the exploitation of natural and rural resources. What, Kluckner wonders, will replace the "fishing docks and lonesome cabins of the romantic past" that reflect the province's roots and ideals (p. 213)? As in several of his earlier books, including *Paving Paradise* (1991) and *Vanishing Vancouver* (1990), Kluckner calls for preservation programs and a greater recognition of the province's material history.

Vanishing British Columbia is no simple exercise in nostalgia. Kluckner uses his paintbrush and commentary to depict a wide variety of locations that fall within a pattern he believes central to the identity of British Columbia: places of exile and utopia; railroad and foot corridors; government and institutional buildings; "folkloric landscapes" (p. 31) of mining, farming, and fishing; and the

motels and roadhouses that make up an "architecture of mobility" (p. 32). Traversing British Columbia, Kluckner preserves a vast array of images within this framework, ranging from filling stations in the Cariboo to venerable old estates in the Okanagan.

A prominent and noteworthy facet of Kluckner's approach to British Columbia's past is his emphasis on those sites and towns that served as places of exile and utopia. He includes a number of paintings depicting the now-abandoned communal houses once inhabited by the Doukhabor religious sect in the West Kootenays. He also focuses on inland communities, like Sandon and New Denver, that served as centers of Japanese-Canadian internment between 1941 and 1945. Kluckner's attention to both these groups and to the province's First Nations and Chinese provides an appropriate balance to the more traditional presentation of B.C. history and society, depicted through images of Canadian Pacific Railway roundhouses and hotels and vacation homes in the Gulf Islands.

As wonderful as Kluckner's paintings are, what sets this volume apart is the nature of the accompanying text. Unsure of how to place his paintings into context, Kluckner put up several sketches on his website and subsequently received a number of responses from people searching for these places online. Ultimately, more than 450 people contributed the oral histories, family photos, and letters that document the sites in *Vanishing British Columbia*. These contributions and the commentary they engender are further enhanced by the superb footnotes provided in the margins. The sum total is a work that, although disguised as a coffee-table book, is in fact an excellent (and democratic) resource for anyone interested in British Columbian history.

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The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

SALISH-PEND D'OREILLE CULTURE COMMITTEE AND ELDERS CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

(Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. xviii, 198 pp. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index, source acknowledgments. \$29.95)

Though the events surrounding the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition are more circumspect than those of a century ago, a triumphant atmosphere still pervades the bicentennial commemoration of the so-called Corps of Discovery. Written partly in response to this celebratory attitude, *The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, by the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, provides a refreshing counterbalance to the overwhelmingly Eurocentric accounts of the well-studied expedition. The authors correctly note that "for all the rising flood of books and articles, films and television programs, events and historical exhibits on Lewis and Clark, few accounts have given much attention to the people who happened to live in the vast area suddenly claimed by the United States following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803" (p. xii).

Part I of the two-part *Salish People* describes the Salish world before the arrival of Lewis and Clark, beginning with an overview of tribal creation stories and tribal origins. Throughout this section, the authors emphasize that Salish history did not commence with the arrival of Lewis and Clark, illustrating their point with a timeline that starts with the first evidence of human occupation around the shoreline of Glacial