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Review of Day In, Day Out: Women's Lives in North Dakota.

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Day In, Day Out: Women's Lives in North Dakota. Edited by Bjorn Benson, Elizabeth Hampsten, and Kathryn Sweney. Grand Forks: The University of North Dakota, 1988. Introduction, bibliography, index. vii + 326 pp. \$10.95.

Day In, Day Out: Women's Lives in North Dakota celebrates the contributions of women to the history and development of the state of North Dakota on the occasion of that state's centennial in 1989.

This is a book of stories long and short, factual documentaries of institutions and circumstances, stories of individual journeys. We learn of Catholic sisterhoods of teachers, missionaries, health care providers; of women's clubs public and political whose early contributions to the culture of the state included publication

of a poetry magazine; of the Métis women of the Turtle Mountain Indian reservation; of the Wahpeton Indian School; of women such as Ida M. Crum who in 1897 was the first woman admitted to the bar in North Dakota, where in 1988 the 215 lawyers who were women comprised 13.7 percent of the state's licensed attorneys; of Evelyn Waldren, a barnstormer during the Depression, who flew 23,000 hours over 57 years; of Agatha Matchie, teacher, homemaker, and founder of the Central Dakota Commercial College in Jamestown; of Little Casino, "the madam of the toniest bawdy house in town," who in the late 1800s brought one of the first pianos to North Dakota.

The beauty of the book rests in the variety of voices among the writers—writers whose names we recognize and whose names we don't—voices that discuss the fact of pay equity, of women as homesteaders, the coming of German women from Russia to live in North Dakota, the work of women during World War II, the role of women as politicians and influencers of public policy.

In the beginning the editors envisioned a book to reflect "the diversity of experiences of women in the state, to be read and enjoyed by the diverse women who were its authors and subjects," not, as they write in their introduction, "the add-women-and-stir methods of compensatory history." What results is a wonderful collection of woman's experience in North Dakota. Only two of the essays came at the request of editors. The balance were selected from among one hundred writers who answered a call for proposals.

Publication of *Day In, Day Out*, edited by the same individuals responsible for North Dakota's *Plainswoman* magazine, was sponsored by the Committee for the North Dakota History of Women Project.

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