

Southern California. With its historical overview, it might also serve as interesting supplemental reading in a standard history course on the high school or college level. Given its clear and interesting presentation, this book might prove a boon to history teachers striving to interest a sports obsessed society in something beyond next year's pennant race.

University of Notre Dame

Edmund F. Wehrle

***Work and the Waterways: An Aural History of Midwestern Workers.* One Audio Tape (60 minutes) and Teacher's Guide. Loyola University of Chicago and the Chicago Maritime Society, 1987. Order from the Chicago Maritime Society, c/o The Newberry Library, 80 West Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610. \$13.00.**

This package consists of a cassette containing about thirty folk songs, a two-part program outline, many discussion questions, an explanation of each song, and some material discussing the general use of music in understanding the past. The cassette also includes considerable lecturing about the life of workers in the Midwest that is done pleasantly and well, and dramatic speaking done by actors who are impersonating early nineteenth-century workers. All of this is intended to impart a sense of "you are there."

The songs are well chosen and well sung, although they are done more in an operatic than lower-class folk song style. Almost invariably, singers chosen for such recordings have a voice and style like television announcers on the national networks. Consequently, they do not sound very authentic. Dramatic speaking on this cassette manages to convey a feeling of authenticity much more successfully than the songs. Even so, the grammar of the speakers is so unrealistically good that they have a tough time preventing their twentieth-century culture from showing through.

The package contains some well-chosen documentary excerpts from contemporary newspapers. These could be reproduced for students and should considerably enhance the value of the material. The writers break the presentation into two units, but there is enough flexibility to allow a teacher to present the whole thing in one day, or if preferred, more than two days might be spent presenting the material. Overall, the written portion of *Work and the Waterways* is well done. The authors show good judgment in what to emphasize and in the choice of suggested questions.

This material would be most appropriate for public school students, but it could certainly be used in community and senior colleges as well. In most courses in the latter, however, more traditional materials would probably better accomplish the objectives that this publication is intended to achieve.

University of North Texas

E. Dale Odom

Waldo Heinrichs. *Threshold of War: Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Entry into World War II.* New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. Pp. 279. Cloth, \$21.95.

With the wealth of available articles, biographies, edited diaries, and monographs that examine various facets of American entrance into World War II, the classroom teacher faces the dilemma of choosing one or two selections from a giant historiographical buffet table, for neither time nor appetite allows for the consumption of the entire intellectual feast. With the publication of Waldo Heinrichs's *Threshold of War*, the selection process has thankfully become a bit easier.