

# Urban History Review

## Revue d'histoire urbaine

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**Delainey, W.P., and Sarjeant, W.A.S. *Saskatoon, The Growth of a City, Part I; The Formative Years, 1882-1960*. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Environmental Society, 1974 (Second edition with revisions, 1975). Pp. iv, 88. Maps. Illustrations. \$2.50**

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## BOOK NOTES

*Editorial Note - Beginning with this issue of the U.H.R., the editors welcome unsolicited "book notes" for inclusion in this section. These notes should be no longer than 250 words and deal with publications in the broad field of urban studies, both inside and outside Canada. As a general rule, lengthier book reviews of studies dealing with urban development in Canada will be solicited and will appear in a separate "book reviews" section. Thesis abstracts will continue to be published in a separate section but their inclusion calls for the continued co-operation of our readers.*

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Delainey, W.P., and Sarjeant, W.A.S. Saskatoon, The Growth of a City, Part I: The Formative Years, 1882-1960. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Environmental Society, 1974 (Second edition with revisions, 1975). Pp. iv, 88. Maps. Illustrations. \$2.50.

Although the urban dimension of prairie society has generally been ignored, the history of Saskatoon has not. The publication of John Archer, Historic Saskatoon (1948), was followed by Eric Knowles and Bruce Peel, The Saskatoon Story, 1882-1952 (1952), and by Sally P. Clubb, Saskatoon: The Serenity and the Surge (1966). There have also been many articles, theses, and studies written that deal with specific aspects of Saskatoon's history. The most recent additions to this growing body of literature are two volumes in a projected three volume project undertaken by the Saskatoon Environmental Society and entitled "Saskatoon - Past, Present, and Potential." Volume I was Sally P. Clubb and W.A.S. Sarjeant, Saskatoon's Historic Buildings and Sites (1973); and volume II is Saskatoon, The Growth of a City, 1882-1960. A third volume, to be published in the near future, will deal with the period from 1960 to the present. Both published volumes are available from the Saskatoon Environmental Society, P.O. Box 1372, Saskatoon S7K 3N9.

Saskatoon, The Growth of a City is an important book since it is one of the first published studies to go beyond the anecdotal and

delve into the underlying geographical and historical factors that had so much to do with Saskatoon's spatial evolution. But while the book's main emphasis is the diverse factors that contributed to the development of Saskatoon's landscape, it also contains significant amounts of material on the social and political history of the city. The inclusion of no less than eighty-nine maps and photographs gives this study added value.

Alan F.J. Artibise  
National Museum of Man

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Gelfand, Mark. A Nation of Cities: The Federal Government and Urban America, 1933-1965. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975. Pp. xvii, 476. \$19.95.

This volume traces the discovery of the "urban crisis" by the American Federal Government and the gradual institutionalization of its concern, beginning with the calculated neglect of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century to the deepening involvement that originated in the Depression. The relationship is examined from both sides; if the Federal Government felt no obligation to cities, municipal leaders asked for none. The gradual drift to a new alignment stemmed from the crisis in the cities, not as a consequence of the bureaucracy in Washington seeking greater power.

Although A Nation of Cities discusses the significant social and economic trends in big cities, it is not a history of urban America from 1933 to 1965. It is an inquiry into how urban affairs came to be established on the agenda of liberal reform in this period, not how the city was transformed over these years. The book discusses and analyses not only the growing partnership between the Federal Government and the nation's large central cities but also the fruits of that partnership - federal housing, urban redevelopment, highway programs, etc. - and their impact on the metropolitan environment.