

Local 8 withstood economic downturns and government repression when its leaders were imprisoned for sedition during World War I. However, the union did not survive rifts within the IWW that were spurred by the Bolshevik Revolution, divides within the African American community that accompanied the arrival of new migrants from the south, and a unified campaign by employers in Philadelphia in the early 1920s against Local 8 and for operating on an open-shop basis (hiring black workers new to both the city and the solidarities forged by the IWW). On splits among radical trade unionists, Cole relates—as well as he can with the available sparse evidence—the efforts of Communists to dissolve Local 8 for the union's anarcho-syndicalism—the so-called Philadelphia Controversy.

Cole's research and engaging narrative are to be applauded. But, Local 8's radical, interracial trade unionism still remains elusive. Perhaps greater attention by the author to the community lives of dockworkers would have afforded deeper understanding. Also, brief comparisons with other instances of enduring organizing of white and black workers would have also clarified whether Local 8 was a story of unique circumstances.

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*Rising from the Wilderness: J. W. Gitt and His Legendary Newspaper, the Gazette and Daily of York, Pa.* By MARY A. HAMILTON. (York, PA: York County Heritage Trust, 2007, xvi, 342 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

For more than fifty years, the *Gazette and Daily* of York was one of the most remarkable and controversial newspapers ever published in Pennsylvania. Owned by Josiah William (J. W.) Gitt, the newspaper earned a reputation as an extremely liberal daily. Gitt transformed a struggling paper into a vehicle for his radical views, one that backed a Progressive Party candidate for president, questioned the cold war, and supported the civil rights movement.

In her exhaustively researched book, Mary A. Hamilton provides an insightful look at Gitt and his unusual newspaper. Hamilton, a retired professor of journalism and former staff member at the *Gazette and Daily*, uses Gitt's personal correspondence, interviews with former staff members, and the paper's archives to tell the curious story of how the unwavering liberal voice not only emerged, but managed to survive, in conservative York County. Some in the community labeled Gitt a "Communist" and called his publication a "nigger" paper. Yet, to others he was a voice of reason during a pivotal period in American history.

Born in Hanover, Gitt graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and attended the University of Pennsylvania's School of Law. He practiced law for

seven years, until 1914, when his uncle sold the *York Gazette*. Gitt and a partner purchased the paper, and they bought another local paper, the *York Daily*, three years later; they combined the two newspapers to form the *Gazette and Daily*. Shortly before his death in 1970, Gitt sold the paper to a local group, and it changed the name to the *York Daily Record*.

Hamilton argues that Gitt was not motivated by wealth, but by a desire to improve the local community and society in general. Few newspapers in the country were as consistently liberal as the *Gazette and Daily*. Though Gitt rankled many in the York establishment, the “stubborn Dutchman,” as Gitt often called himself, was undeterred. The *Gazette and Daily* was the only mainstream newspaper in the country to endorse Henry Wallace, the Progressive Party’s candidate for president in 1948. And while many in the press supported the Committee on Un-American Activities during the cold war, the paper was an outspoken critic.

Although he largely left the operation of the newsroom to others, Gitt took great pride in the paper’s editorial and opinion pages. The *Gazette and Daily* added a second editorial page long before other major metropolitan papers did so. These pages often featured material from leftist columnists who wrote specifically for the paper. Opponents often claimed that the *Gazette and Daily*’s liberal slant colored its news coverage, and those accusations seemed to be confirmed when the paper refused to run ads for the Republican Party during the 1964 presidential election. As Gitt believed that Republican Barry Goldwater was unfit to be president because of his support for the Vietnam War, he decided that the paper could not accept Goldwater advertising in good conscience. Many criticized Gitt for his decision, and the paper lost some subscribers. The *Gazette and Daily* also was one of the first papers in the country to oppose American involvement in Southeast Asia, and for twenty years the paper argued that the United States should not be involved in what it said was a civil war in Vietnam.

Hamilton clearly has affection for the *Gazette and Daily*, but she is generally evenhanded in telling its history under Gitt’s ownership. She also does not ignore some of the family’s problems, including the ironic fact that one daughter’s marriage to an African American man strained relations with some family members, especially Gitt’s wife. Hamilton relies heavily on Gitt’s correspondence, perhaps too much in some places. But, otherwise she has told the compelling story of a courageous newspaper that was not afraid to take unpopular stands.

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