

turies, periods about which scant information exists. A review of these early sports provides a fascinating glimpse of the ways in which people demonstrated their athletic prowess. Of particular interest is a section that briefly discusses a game related to baseball that was played during the Revolutionary War.

Guenther also examines the twentieth-century rise of both men's and women's college and professional sports in Pennsylvania, and she provides a considerable amount of interesting information in those chapters. Penn State football deservedly gets special attention. In addition, there is mention of movies, museums, and exhibits that relate to the state's vast sports heritage.

Although its content is generally interesting, the book has some critical errors, which I am best equipped to comment on from a Philadelphia perspective. For instance, the statement that manager Gene Mauch used only pitchers Jim Bunning and Chris Short in the Phillies' ten-game losing streak in 1964 is mistaken (Art Mahaffey and Dennis Bennett each started two games). The contentions that Al Reach played for the Athletics in 1862, that the Phillies did not sign black players before 1957, that Shibe Park was renamed Connie Mack Stadium in 1941, and that Rube Oldring was a pitcher with the Athletics are also incorrect.

Certainly, it is not possible to write a complete history of a state's sports in a 108-page book. Nevertheless, there are some glaring omissions. There is no mention of Dick Sisler's famous home run in 1950, the 1955–56 NBA championship Warriors team, or the 1960 Eagles NFL champions. Many important names—Steve VanBuren, Paul Arizin, Mike Schmidt, Man 'o War, Ralph Kiner, Pie Traynor, and Willie Stargell, to name just a few—are omitted. Also overlooked are the Palestra, the IVB Golf Classic, and Langhorne Speedway. Such omissions, coupled with the factual errors, serve as unfortunate distractions in what is otherwise an interesting little book.

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The Problem of Jobs: Liberalism, Race, and Deindustrialization in Philadelphia.

By GUIAN A. MCKEE. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. 400 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, index. \$39.)

For “most Americans,” asserts Guian A. McKee, “liberalism . . . in the postwar years actually wore a local face. It was in communities across the country that people interacted with their government on a daily basis and that liberalism took on concrete meaning” (11). This startling assertion revises the “end of reform” thesis, which maintains that “the New Deal, and by extension postwar liberalism, abandoned any serious effort to address problems of economic structure” (8). It also qualifies the “bitter narrative” that traces the decline of urban social move-

ments and reform, along with the “rapid growth of segregated suburbs,” to racial conflict and urban working-class violence (9).

In place of these oft-told stories, McKee shows that in Philadelphia a home-grown variety of liberalism tried to counteract deindustrialization and ameliorate the employment problems of the city’s African American poor. This local liberalism had two branches. One was industrial policy, represented by the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), which offered assistance with site purchase and facility construction in an attempt to stem the flight of manufacturing from the city. The other branch was employment policy, represented notably by the Reverend Leon Sullivan’s remarkable Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC), copied in cities in both the United States and other countries.

Activities within each branch met with considerable success. PIDC mitigated and slowed the exit of manufacturing industries to the South and overseas to low-wage countries. OIC provided vocational training and created jobs for African Americans excluded from the labor market by poor education and the exodus of employment opportunities from the city. Both PIDC and OIC relied on financial support from the federal government, either in the form of tax policy or grants. Neither could have survived solely on local government and private-sector funding. The two branches of urban liberalism, McKee laments, failed to merge. The racial politics that separated them prevented the emergence of a coordinated industrial-employment strategy that would have been more powerful and effective than either PIDC or OIC operating alone. Had this bifurcation of industrial and employment policy been avoided, McKee implies, the city’s future might have taken a different path.

Philadelphia enjoyed an era of progressive city government during the mayoralties of Joseph Clark (1952–56) and Richardson Dilworth (1956–62). But the era that followed, the mayoralties of James Tate and Frank Rizzo, subordinated public interest to political patronage and the politics of race. As a consequence, the city largely squandered the limited opportunities offered by the War on Poverty, which, in McKee’s view, was undercut by a failure to focus on job creation and an ineffective, divisive political model. By contrast, the Model Cities Program promised to direct federal dollars to pressing urban problems, including job creation. Undercut by grossly inadequate funding and vitiated by local politics, Model Cities generally failed to meet its objectives. Nonetheless, in Philadelphia, the Model Cities administration joined for a short period with PIDC to merge industrial and employment policy. The results, though too little, too late, showed what might have been had PIDC and OIC been able to join forces earlier. The hollowing out of American cities’ industrial cores, McKee suggests, was not inevitable.

Based on extensive archival research, clearly written, and vigorously and persuasively argued, *The Problem of Jobs* offers an original interpretation of

post–World War II liberal reform and late twentieth-century urban history. In the process, it excavates a local liberalism whose fascinating history remains largely buried. The story narrated in this exceptionally important book is both tragic and inspiring. The tragedy lies in the urban consequences of the nation's inability to conquer its historic politics of race. The inspiration comes from the refusal of local liberalism to die despite decades of assault and its vision of an alternative path that American cities might have followed. The story McKee tells so well is as provocative for thinking about the present and future of American cities as it is for revising the narrative of their past.

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