

But like so many liberal and left observers, Dowie retreats from his own critique. Early in the book, he describes foundations as “drag anchors” on social change that are “bland, self-congratulatory.” By the last (and weakest) two chapters of the book, Dowie has resorted to platitudes: “A healthy community leads to a healthy community.” And, “If America is to become more progressive in fact and outlook, it will be, in part, because its philanthropists seek social progress.”

Dowie complains that the dominance of conservatives in the “civility” debate must be matched by “progressive” foundations whom he hopes will put more of their money where their mouths are.

I am reminded of the old joke about the group of women who return from a Catskills vacation. They complain the food was bad *and*, of course, there wasn't enough of it! Dowie seems to think philanthropy would improve if only there were more of it.

Ultimately, the book's weakness is its inattention to how the extraction, accumulation and distribution of wealth could change.

The author sees capitalism as eternal, despite its very short history. He is suspicious of the public sector and the intervention of government officials, bureaucrats or special interests in allocating money. Yet these suspicions, though understandable, contradict his thesis about democracy, and his earlier suggestion that foundations are inherently “ademocratic.”

Yes, in these days of Clinton and Bush, Yeltsin and Putin and numerous others, it is hard to imagine an exciting democratic system of public government. Yet the logic of his argument still fails. If foundation schemes to slightly mitigate the worst of capitalist excess through a bit of philanthropy have been a dismal failure for a century, why will it change now?

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Granite Staters

John O. Harney

The New Hampshire Century: Concord Monitor Profiles of One Hundred People Who Shaped It, Felice Belman and Mike Pride, Eds., University Press of New England, 2001, \$19.95

New Hampshire has been bucking regional and national trends throughout the past century, growing when the rest of the region shrank, embracing local rule as state and federal powers grew, going its own way. Who made it so?

Editors of the capital city's daily newspaper, the *Concord Monitor*, look at 20th-century New Hampshire by profiling 100 famous and not-so-famous people who have called the state home: from teacher/astronaut Christa McAuliffe to poet Donald Hall to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. There are less famous shapers too, including a stonewall builder, a computer expert and a survivor of the Spanish Flu of 1918.

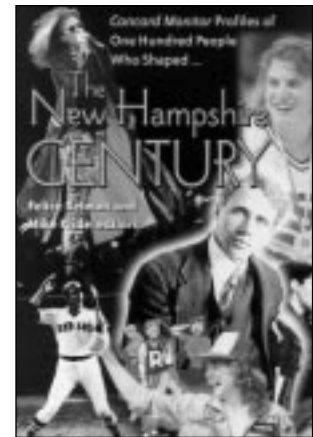
The book is edited by *Monitor* editor Mike Pride and former *Monitor* city editor Felice Belman, now with the *Washington Post*.

The collection is written in the easy journalistic style of newspaper profiles, making some of the pieces frustratingly brief. Exactly five paragraphs are devoted to John Sununu, the high-tech era governor who dogged Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis throughout the 1988 presidential election and was rewarded with the chief of staff job under the elder George Bush.

A profile of the first two women elected to the New Hampshire Legislature, Jessie Doe and Mary Louise Rolfe Farnum, weighs in at just three paragraphs, but is interesting nonetheless given New Hampshire's national leadership in electing women lawmakers. About this phenomenon, the editors quote 1990s House Speaker Donna Sytek: “You can always find women in the world's lowest-paying jobs.” New Hampshire legislators today earn \$100 a year for their service in Concord just as Doe and Farnum did.

A longer essay on Carlton Fisk is a home run, explaining how the Red Sox

catcher grew up in snowy Charlestown, N.H., where “the growing season is just too short” for ballplayers, how Fisk made his home in New Hampshire even after making the majors, and how the church bells rang in Charlestown at 12:33 a.m. after the favorite son famously coaxed a 12th inning home run over Fenway Park's Green Monster to win game six of the 1975 World Series.



The editors offer a fascinating account of the life of labor leader Elizabeth Flynn, from her activist grandfather's role in a plot to set up an independent republic in Canada, through her shuttling the children of striking workers' out of harm's way in Lawrence, Mass., to her leadership of the American Communist Party and her state funeral in Moscow.

Of course, places and times are not really shaped only by people's good sides, and *The New Hampshire Century's* panicky exits when lives go awry gets tiresome. For example, the chapter on Sherman Adams is good enough, but the scandal involving Boston textile manufacturer Bernard Goldfine that ultimately cost Adams the perceived role as Ike's righthand Yankee is relegated to a single mention in the final paragraph. The lack of preparation offered the reader for New Dealer Gov. John Winant's 1947 suicide is even more perplexing. Ultimately, the profiles are endearing, if a bit economical—just like New Hampshire.

John O. Harney is executive editor of CONNECTION.