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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE IMAGE OF PROGRESS Alabama Photographs, 1872-1917 by Melton A. McLaurin and Michael V. Thomason (University: University of Alabama Press, 1980), iv, 218pp. \$19.95, softbound.

This is a Must for all Alabama readers. It is a vivid portrait of daily life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All levels of social and economic life of the state are represented. The photographs convey the period to us in a way that words alone could not. Most are not posed.

Huntsville and Madison County are well represented among the 207 images. Just one photograph of this city is reproduced here to whet your appetite. Recognize the couple?

REPUBLICANS, NEGROES, AND PROGRESSIVES IN THE SOUTH, 1912-1916, by Paul D. Casdorph (University: University of Alabama Press, 1981), iii, 241 pp. \$18.95.

This provocative new book is a study of the disastrous schism in the Republican party during the Bull Moose era of 1912-1916, in the Deep South states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, as the progressive Republicans behind Theodore Roosevelt competed for Republican party support with the conservative followers of President Taft.

"An important outcome . . . is that both camps made it nearly impossible for the Negro to continue his association with the GOP after 1912. Though the mass exodus of Southern negroes to the Democratic party did not come until 1932, their departure was hastened by the conservative-progressive fight for control of the GOP."

The book should be read by the serious student of Alabama history.