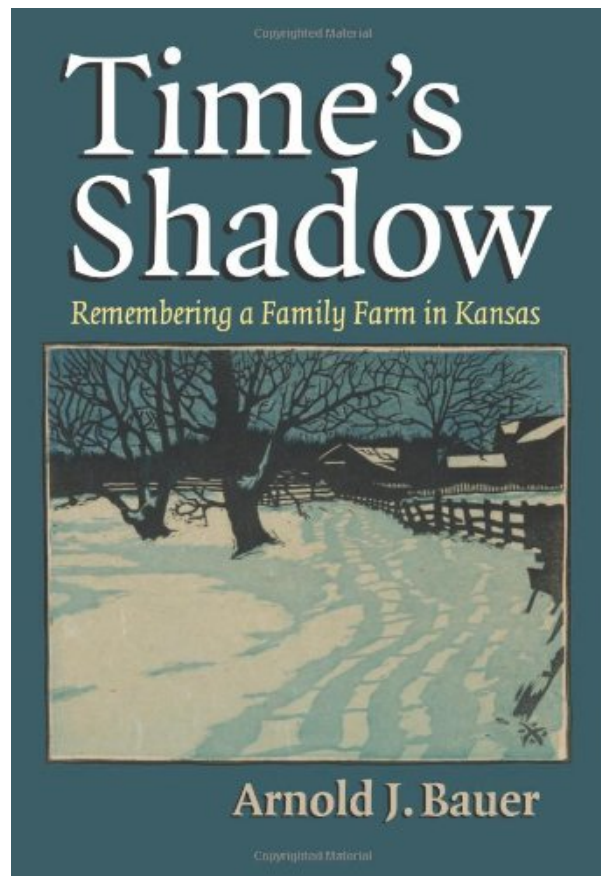


**TIME'S SHADOW: REMEMBERING A
FAMILY FARM IN KANSAS BY ARNOLD J.
BAUER**



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Time's Shadow

Remembering a Family Farm in Kansas



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Time's Shadow: Remembering A Family Farm In Kansas By Arnold J. Bauer. Adjustment your behavior to put up or waste the time to just talk with your good friends. It is done by your everyday, do not you really feel bored? Currently, we will show you the extra behavior that, actually it's a very old habit to do that could make your life more qualified. When really feeling burnt out of consistently chatting with your buddies all spare time, you could find the book entitle Time's Shadow: Remembering A Family Farm In Kansas By Arnold J. Bauer and then review it.

Review

Bauer's story is told clearly and convincingly and at times reaches a level of touching eloquence. . . . Will be a contribution to the understanding of the changes in rural life and family farms on the Great Plains from the 1910s to 1960s and appeal to anyone interested in Kansas history. --Rex Buchanan, author of *Roadside Kansas: A Traveler's Guide to Its Geology and Landmarks*

Bauer's work is very reminiscent of the classic *Sod and Stubble*. Descriptive and reflective, it leaves us with the powerful sense that something significant happened. I like it a lot. --Thomas D. Isern, author of *Dakota Circle: Excursions on the True Plains*

About the Author

Arnold J. Bauer went from his family farm to study in Mexico and Berkeley and to teach Latin American Studies at the University of California at Davis. In 2005 he received the "Order of Merit Gabriela Mistral," the highest recognition the Chilean government awards for contributions to education and culture. He lives in Davis.

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TIME'S SHADOW: REMEMBERING A FAMILY FARM IN KANSAS BY ARNOLD J. BAUER PDF

Arnold Bauer grew up on his family's 160-acre farm in Goshen Township in Clay County, Kansas, amidst a land of prairie grass and rich creek-bottom soil. His meditative and moving account of those years depicts a century-long narrative of struggle, survival, and demise. A coming-of-age memoir set in the 1930s to 50s, it blends local history with personal reflection to paint a realistic picture of farm life and families from a now-lost world.

Bauer's was typical of true family farms, where wives supplemented family income by selling butter and eggs and children provided unpaid labor. These hardworking farmers were not particularly heroic or virtuous. They had their debts and doubts; but at the same time their struggles for a kind of moral economy offer valuable lessons that merit our attention today.

Among Bauer's vivid recollections: driving a team of huge, clomping work horses; his father's daybreak call to long days in the field at age 12; and surviving eight years of education in a one-room schoolhouse (with one teacher determined to have all her students learn the harmonica). He shares the trials of Depression and drought, experiences the coming of electricity—which prompted his father to take on a sideline as an electrician—and reveals the vital importance of the local blacksmith. Throughout the book, he finds wonder in the commonplace, like going to town on a Saturday night for a black walnut ice cream cone.

Here is a childhood that few in the United States will ever know. More than that, it is a key to understanding the tragedy that befell the smaller family farms on the Great Plains as sweeping changes after the mid-1950s—falling grain and livestock prices, adverse terms of trade for agricultural products—turned out to be more devastating than tornados or dust storms.

Gracefully written with a keen eye for the telling detail, *Time's Shadow* eloquently captures the events of an era and the meaning it held for one boy and those around him. It is a refreshingly unsentimental "Little House on the Prairie" that will resonate not only with older compatriots but with anyone whose curiosity leads them to wonder about a world we have lost.

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Features

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Bauer's story is told clearly and convincingly and at times reaches a level of touching eloquence. . . . Will be a contribution to the understanding of the changes in rural life and family farms on the Great Plains from the 1910s to 1960s and appeal to anyone interested in Kansas history. --Rex Buchanan, author of *Roadside Kansas: A Traveler's Guide to Its Geology and Landmarks*

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Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Once a Kansan, Always a Kansan

By Thorold Roberts

Bauer's book captures well my own experience of living, albeit briefly, on a family farm in Kansas in the 1950's. His observations of town vs. country ways, the demanding daily work needed to keep the farm going, and the taciturn manner of his own family and that of his relatives and neighbors could be slightly edited to fit the memoirs of thousands who experienced such a life in that time and place. The dominant theme for farm life as he remembers it is the economic self-sufficiency of the farm itself, but along with that went sometimes a sense of loneliness and isolation, especially for young people coming of age in that environment. Despite his background as an academic historian, Bauer writes in a simple, uncluttered, and honest style that conveys feeling without fake emotion or contrivance. He leaves the boring scholarly facts for others to report. I have recommended the book to many friends and relatives, even those whose Kansas memories may be much less rewarding than mine and Bauer's.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Elegy Written in a Kansas Churchyard

By Galen P. Cawley Jr.

It seems note-perfect to me, as if the author was describing family stories that I've heard my from my own Kansas-born father, aunts, and uncles. Mr. Bauer has held up a mirror to us all in describing the lives of farmers rooted so profoundly in one time and place. Beautifully written, unsentimental, and yet moving.

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book

By William mcgreevey

Arnold J. Bauer, born in 1931 in northeast rural Kansas, looks back on his childhood more than half a century ago. "Time's Shadow" was picked as one of the year's five best books by the reviewer for "The Atlantic" magazine. And with good reason. Bauer, now emeritus professor of history at University of California Davis, balances the intimacy of a personal story with a broader and well-informed view of a changing rural American landscape now gone forever.

He tells us of nightly trap-setting for muskrats, cold weather or no, and sales of their skins generating his first pre-teen income. He describes his father's work on a 160 acre farm and gradual shift to become the mechanic

and engineer benefiting school, church, and neighbors almost without limit. He tells of his older sisters' early escape from farm life, one of whom found a career in the American Foreign Service.

The arrival of rural electric service when Bauer was about age ten brought fundamental change. Near the book's end he tells a bit about a cousin who managed to assemble many small farms into thousands of acres cultivated with modern machinery needing far fewer workers and far fewer farmhouses. A century-long experiment led by German immigrants in the nineteenth century is over.

Arnie Bauer was a student in the first class I taught in Latin American economic history at University of California, Berkeley, in the fall of 1965. We have been friends ever since as he devoted his professional life to understand Chilean rural society. He lives still on Rancho Dos Patos, a few miles west of Davis, California. The excellence of this memoir testifies to his years of combining a sensitive awareness of rural life and its limits and critical analysis of how limits can be overcome and yield the fruits of modern economic development. His own forebears had but limited education and skills; they saw the need and opportunity presented by exceptional children and fostered their own careers (Bauer takes us only through a year at Kansas State, his military service, and GI Bill support that took him to Mexico City College).

It's an American story with all the fine connections to a global vision of how change occurs as challenges seem somehow to be met (trapping those muskrats) and opportunities seized, sometime little more than a child listening and learning from determined mothers and fathers.

You will be glad you read this book.

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