

December 20, 1997

Because of my ties to the “land”, I have a profound interest in its history. In 1997 I have read two good books on the subjects of homesteading and the Iowa prairie.

Bad Land by Jonathan Raban is a well-researched historical account of homesteading. It details the promotion and selling of land by the government and the railroads. *Bad Land* is a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction.

Take This Exit is a collection of short stories subtitled “Rediscovering the Iowa Landscape” and is edited by Robert F. Sayre. In recommending this book I would just quote author W.P. Kinsella, “If you love Iowa as much as I do, you’ll love this book.”

Both books are available in paperback at most bookstores or check at your local library. After reading the books I’ve made a New Years resolution I think I can keep. In 1998 I am going to walk one of the Iowa prairies during each of the four seasons. You may want to do the same! Here is a short list of some of the larger prairies around the state.

<u>Prairie Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>
Anderson Prairie	200	Estherville
Calver Prairie	160	Spirit Lake
Five Ridges Prairie	500	Plymouth Co.
Hayden Prairie	240	Lime Springs
Kalsow Prairie	160	Manson
Loess Hills Wildlife Unit	200	Onawa
Rolling Thunder Prairie	123	New Virginia
Steele Prairie	200	Larrabee

It has been a good year at the *Iowa Land Sales Report* and we are thankful. We appreciate your business and we look forward to serving you again in 1998. Best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season.

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