

Pittsburgh Renaissance would have been impossible—even though Renaissance activists had to downplay comprehensive planning to gain real power over their city's environment.

Historians of twentieth-century planning and of Pittsburgh will welcome this study. Bauman and Muller's deftly crafted opening and closing chapters effectively place local events within a national context, which they draw from the vast scholarship on American cities produced since the 1950s. Throughout their work, they seek to analyze, not celebrate. Thus readers will find not only a record of successes but of frustrations, setbacks, and political constraints. The net effect is to significantly amplify and fundamentally revise the still valuable, if acerbic, 1969 study of Pittsburgh planning by Roy Lubove.

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Green Republican: John Saylor and the Preservation of America's Wilderness.

By THOMAS G. SMITH. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006. x, 404 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$40.)

We live in politically divisive times: blue states, red states, and very little in between (or so it might seem). In many circles, wedge issues such as the environment provide easy categorization, which is most often attributed to Democratic perspectives and implicated as exclusively anti-business and development. Historian Thomas G. Smith's *Green Republican* provides readers with dramatic evidence that this categorization is a false one.

Hailing from Johnstown, John Saylor came of age during the early days of "modern environmentalism," the 1960s–70s era when the political landscape was altered to address the concerns of scientists and interested citizens. During this era, revolutionary legislation expressed a basic change in the public's expectations: the environment was important to everyone and only the federal government had the regulative authority to act on its behalf. In Smith's fine account, we learn that a surprising figure loomed behind most of these political achievements: Saylor, the Republican representative from rural Pennsylvania.

Inspired by Republican Theodore Roosevelt, Saylor maintained a commitment to the conservation of natural resources that was not afraid to favor wholesale preservation of specific areas. "Saylor believed that once national parks and monuments had been established, they became sacrosanct." His efforts on behalf of the environment also helped him to emphasize earth stewardship with a strong religious base. "Protecting natural splendors," Smith writes, Saylor believed, "would bring present and future generations closer to the Creator" (p. 2). Despite a national reputation as an activist on national environmental issues, though, he remained committed to his region's needs.

A political history cast in the form of a biography, *Green Republican* stresses the formative importance for Saylor of growing up an outdoorsman and hunter and of visiting western national parks as a child. The young lawyer who pursued a political career for entirely different motives appears to have had no epiphanic moment.

Ardently nationalistic, Saylor was elected to his first term in the House of Representatives in 1949. During the Eisenhower years of the 1950s, Saylor left no doubt of his deep allegiance to the most conservative domestic and international policies of the Republican Party—until the subject of western water came up. Beginning with a desire to conserve natural resources and having a resistance to preferential treatment of a region other than his own, Saylor became an outspoken critic of the great water projects of the era, including the Central Arizona Project (CAP).

Regardless of his rationale for such a stand, environmental organizations began to view Saylor as a friend. He did not disappoint: in two decades of law-making and litigation, Saylor was steadfast for National Park preservation. He fought his battles publicly and, more importantly, privately in the decision-making bodies on Capitol Hill. In one of the most famous episodes of this new era, the Bureau of Reclamation sought to build a dam that would affect Dinosaur National Monument. The case bore deep similarities to the bitter Hetch Hetchy controversy that in 1913 resulted in construction of a dam in Yosemite National Park. Saylor and others swore not to repeat such an episode.

Working with David Brower, the Sierra Club, and others, Saylor led the defeat of this project in 1949. The mobilization of the American public over this single controversy helped to define the organization and mechanisms of modern environmentalism. Most remarkable, when the Wilderness Society followed this effort with a push for a federal law to preserve wilderness, Saylor led that cause as well. The Wilderness Act of 1964 is one of the most idealistic, forward-looking environmental documents in human history. Smith reports that Brower believed that due to his hard work on its behalf, the Wilderness System created by the act should be named after Saylor (p. 317).

Smith's book is predominantly political history. With great zeal and tremendous admiration, he winds through each of Saylor's political battles on behalf of the environment. After establishing the prehistory of Saylor's political career, these fights each merit a stand-alone chapter in Smith's book. This may grow tiresome to some readers. And yet, this allows Smith to fully investigate the true machinations of being a contrarian on Capitol Hill. We witness the quiet care with which Saylor selected his fights and carried them out largely in private. Ultimately, it is the very incongruity of his political views that demonstrates Saylor's importance in issues ranging from the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline to the construction of the Kinzua Dam in Pennsylvania.

When antienvironment, Republican representative Wayne Aspinall was not

reelected 1972, Saylor offered a declaration that represented the role that he himself had played for many politicians when he said: "Wayne and I have disagreed more times than I like to recall. Nevertheless, I like to think that our differing points of view on the great issues that have faced our committee, helped to mold legislation that was beneficial to the whole nation" (p. 308).

Through Smith's fine telling of these political stories, readers learn that John Saylor is a most deserving member of Pennsylvania's pantheon of environmental heroes, which includes Howard Zahniser, Edward Abbey, and, of course, Rachel Carson.

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Metropolitan Philadelphia: Living with the Presence of the Past. By STEVEN CONN. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. 274 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$19.95.)

In *Metropolitan Philadelphia: Living with the Presence of the Past*, Steven Conn provides an incisive, learned, and proudly unconventional portrait of the Philadelphia region. This richly textured and well-written volume attempts neither an exhaustive historical synthesis nor a focused examination of a particular time period or topic. Instead, Conn successfully strives for something different and distinctive—a deeply personal look through the prism of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, and environmental lenses at how Philadelphia's past and present interact with and shape each other. What emerges from this undertaking is an invaluable work that joins the ranks of Nathaniel Popkin's *Song of the City* (2002) and Buzz Bissinger's *A Prayer for the City* (1997) in helping us understand the essence of what Philadelphia is now and how it got that way.

The conception and organization of *Metropolitan Philadelphia* is shaped at every turn by the author's multifaceted engagement with the region as a professional historian, a native son, and an op-ed-writing, walking tour-giving critic, advocate, and public intellectual. The book consists of an unusually provocative prologue and five discrete essays—on William Penn and his utopian Quaker legacy, on the region's complex historical consciousness, on Philadelphia as an archetypical American middle-class metropolitan area, on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, and on how local artists and cultural institutions have shaped the region's conception of itself. But in *Metropolitan Philadelphia* Conn finds in every subject an opportunity—and indeed a creative compulsion—to push beyond the expected parameters of analysis. So, for example, the chapter on historical consciousness predictably enough touches on Benjamin Franklin, Independence Hall, and Valley Forge. However, it links these icons of local history to such disparate topics as the contours of contemporary tourism, early