

The Jacksonian Heritage: Pennsylvania Politics, 1833-1848, by CHARLES MCCOOL SNYDER. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1958, x, 256 pp., selected portraits, appendices, bibliography, and index. \$3.50.

This volume advances through the years 1833-1848 a series of studies of state politics which have reflected the inspiration of Prof. Roy F. Nichols of the University of Pennsylvania and the publishing subsidies of the state historical commission. Western Pennsylvania did not furnish strong leaders during this period, and does not, as a result, play a significant role in the confused affairs that centered at Harrisburg. This study is nevertheless an essential basic guide to the twists and turns of partisanship during the early years of party formation.

After an initial chapter which provides a description of the state during the period, the author devotes eleven chapters to the intricate progress of partisanship. Appendices furnish the essential information of apportionment and election returns, a bibliography organized by types of information provides a good view of the sources used (although not necessarily needed for this study), and a series of portraits of the principal protagonists gives a sense of flesh and blood to personalities whose lives are only summarily treated in the narrative. All were politicians to whom voting on "principle" meant voting with their party at times when their inclinations were otherwise. The fractionalization of parties was the rule rather than the exception between election periods, and Pennsylvania has been equalled by few states in the splintering of its political groups. The author found in his study that three main issues give focus to the period: the politics of the Biddle bank, the Bank of the United States which Jackson had denied national support; the general, and vague, problem of internal improvements, to which the bank was linked; and, late in the period, the national tariff. As a conclusion, the author states: "By 1848 the harmonizing of State with national party measures was an accepted, albeit unpleasant, duty which weighed heavily upon the leaders of both parties; the convention was universal on all levels of activity; parties remained loose-knit but permanent committees, campaign chests, and other paraphernalia were contributing to give them modern appearance" (p. 219).

The changes thus summarized are more apparent than real. Few Pennsylvania politicians had enough of a foot in both national

and state politics to concern them, and only James Buchanan combines the two interests. Of party organization, as distinguished from the actions of individual leaders, the author of this study has little to say. His efforts have been primarily directed to "politicking" at the top level, and the reader will find that Pennsylvania politics remains personal even after the reduced powers of the governors placed a greater premium on organization than had been true before the constitution of 1838 was adopted. One catches a glimpse of the lobbying and bribery of the bank interests, but the jobbing of the legislative vote, which was far more general than is indicated, is considered secondary to the author's purpose. There are, of course, great difficulties in following the course of politics as personal as that of corporate interests and local improvements.

Readers who wish to delve into state actions or those of individuals will have to supplement their use of this book with further biographical materials and with other sources which supply economic and social data that give meaning to this political drama. The personal correspondence used has been taken at face value; such correspondence cannot be expected to reveal the whole story. The great merit of this volume lies in its reduction to an intelligible order the muddled and rocky stream of state politics during a period when issues begin to be recurrent. This has been done successfully, and the volume will find use both as a work of reference and as an exposition of the interplay of political factions and personalities at the height of the "middle period" of our state's history.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

CHARLES W. PAAPE

Where Else But Pittsburgh! by GEORGE SWETNAM. Davis & Warde, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., 1958, 194 pp. \$3.95.

News Item: Pixie from Dixie Discovers Pittsylvania

Back in the 1860's the South made some gallant attempts to invade the North and take Pittsburgh—leading to considerable bloodshed and ill-feeling all around. And then, when the North nodded, the real invaders from Dixie moved up and infiltrated the city. To-day every Pittsburgh newspaper has on its staff Texans who love Pittsburgh's climate, Georgians and Kentuckians and Carolinians