

with steadily enlarging problems, this chronicle of the calm and steady course of the little borough of Thornburg perhaps may strike a small but hopeful note in the face of the Medusa mask of our dilemmas.

Department of Architecture
Carnegie-Mellon University

JAMES D. VAN TRUMP

The First Oil Rush. By FRANCES G. CONN and SHIRLEY S. ROSENBERG. (New York: Meredith Press, 1967. Pp. 141. Index, illustrations. \$3.95.)

This story of the early days of the oil excitement in northwestern Pennsylvania is a good summary for younger readers. The authors commence their history with the knowledge that the Persians, Romans, and Chinese had of petroleum in various forms and then carry the tale through the work of the American promoters Bissell and Eveleth, the scientific investigation of Benjamin Silliman, Jr., and the heart-breaking work and final success of Edwin L. Drake.

The wild excitement generated by Drake's success is well told and the history is carried into the 1870's when John D. Rockefeller and his Standard Oil Company were coming rapidly to the fore as leaders in the oil business. But then the writers shift their story at that point and offer a quick resumé covering the development of gasoline, the automobile, the importance of fuels in war, the fear of limited crude oil reserves in this country, the development of the Middle East as the great production center of the world, and the growing importance of the petrochemical field.

There are several errors that the true history buff will find difficult to understand. "Cornplanter's Reservation" is given as the early name for Oil City; originally the place was called Oil Creek Furnace about 1823, then in 1840 the post office name became Cornplanter, and finally in 1860 Oil City. There never was a "Cornplanter's Reservation" in the state; his lands in Venango and Warren Counties were outright gifts from Pennsylvania and were known as "The Cornplanter Grant." There is a great difference between an Indian reservation and a grant.

The photographs and index are adequate but not a single source of material has been indicated and even some young readers find a bibliography of interest and sometimes of considerable help.

Warren, Pennsylvania

ERNEST C. MILLER