they are few indeed and a matter of no real importance.

The author, the editors and the publishers are to be congratulated on appearance in print of this valuable, though expensive book.

Professor Emeritus
University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James

This Was Early Oil. By Ernest C. Miller. (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1968. Pp. 211. Illustrations, Index. $4.50 hard cover, $3.00 paper.)

Put a gifted historical sleuth to work on almost any subject and he'll come up with fresh and fascinating information that makes absorbing reading.

That has just happened to the youthful days of the petroleum industry.

Ernest C. Miller of Warren, an oil man for more than thirty years and an oil history writer with a mind like the memory bank of a computer, is the author of This Was Early Oil. The 211-page book has just been issued by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and should soon be on that government agency's best-seller list.

Mr. Miller went back into the contemporary accounts that told the story of the industry and the region of its birth when it was fresh-off-the-press news.

From the Scientific American of February 22, 1862, he reproduces an excellent summary of the industry's first two-and-a-half years.

From Harper's New Monthly Magazine of April 1865, he digs out an article that tells what "The Petroleum Region of America" is like as of that moment.

From the Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Democrat of October 3, 1865, Mr. Miller unearthed an account of a trip to the oil region that contains eye-opening stuff on Pithole.

He presents sketches of people like George M. Mowbray, the chemist who was of so much help to Colonel Drake.

He gives the producers' side of the so-called ills that led to the takeover of the industry by John D. Rockefeller. He includes in his volume a description of that most famous early palace of speculation, the Oil City Oil Exchange.

Most of the material that appears in This Was Early Oil has not
appeared on a newly printed page for the better part of a century. The book supplements, but does not duplicate, the two earlier compilations of oil articles, both by Dr. Paul H. Giddens, *The Beginnings of the Petroleum Industry*, 1941, and *Pennsylvania Petroleum*, 1750-1872, 1947. The Giddens books were also published by the Historical and Museum Commission.

*This Was Early Oil* is important to all oil men because, as Mr. Miller says in his preface: "The first 25 years of growth and development were most important. During those formative years, the industry developed the means, methods and rules, most of which are still in current use."

The book is important to Pennsylvanians if they have any interest at all in the gigantic, world-wide industry that was born in the Keystone State.

The illustrations are excellent and a two-page map at the beginning, "The Region About Oil Creek," is exceedingly helpful. A lot of study by Mr. Miller and an earlier historian, the late Joseph Murray of Titusville, went into that map.

The book is published in a hard cover at $4.50 and in paper at $3, both prices plus state sales tax. It may be obtained from The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Post Office Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108.

*Titusville, Pennsylvania* JAMES B. STEVENSON

Note: This review was first published in the Titusville Herald by James B. Stevenson, editor of that publication.

*Sandusky's Yesterdays.* By Charles E. Frohman. (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio Historical Society, 1968. Pp. 177. Illustrations. $5.50.)

What is more enjoyable than a conducted tour to yesterday? Charles E. Frohman, a native and lifelong resident of a medium-sized American city, does this for us in *Sandusky's Yesterdays*. The publisher is the Ohio Historical Society of which Mr. Frohman was recently president.

Pittsburghers will naturally ask: "Of what interest to me will a visit to Sandusky be?" Strange as it may seem today, Fort Sandusky