

his share of criticism for contributing to the ruination of the ecology. Professor Jacobs's approach no doubt has a great deal of merit on this score since he is a historian's historian. He may sway enough professors to teach the importance of an ecological balance to enough teachers who in turn may have some influence with their students, thus reversing the pollutant trend so prevalent in America today. It is quite evident throughout the book that Professor Jacobs envisions himself as a crusader, almost a dictator to other historians.

Aside from the foregoing critical comments, the book is well written, well documented, extremely informative, and very interesting. The footnotes provide a bibliographical source par excellence.

Richmond, Virginia

HELEN FRANK COLLINS

Pithole, the Vanished City. By WILLIAM C. DARRAH. (Gettysburg, Pa.: The Author, 1972. Pp. 240. Bibliography, index. \$8.50.)

Given a very capable historian with a thirst for accuracy and a facile pen, plus twenty-five years of dedicated research, and you should have an outstanding book. And that is exactly what we have in this latest volume about *Pithole, the Vanished City*.

William C. Darrah of the Gettysburg College faculty, author of ten previous books (the best known being *Powell of the Colorado*), first became interested in Pithole, oildom's most famous boomtown, while an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh years ago. He never lost that interest, but twenty-five years ago he seriously commenced his research, and this definitive book is the result.

While the book is completely interesting and very well illustrated, several chapters deserve special mention. Chapter 3, "The Birth of Pithole," is a fine summary on how the city came to be, the unusual methods of handling land and lease sales, and the myriad details of a town springing from the wilderness. Chapter 8, "Plank Roads, Pipelines and Railroads," is the story of the teamsters, their greed, and their displacement by the introduction of the pipelines and the coming of the railroads with lower rates and much greater capacity to move crude petroleum. Chapter 10, "The Production of Oil: 1865 in Retrospect," tells of the most famous productive wells; of producing troubles compounded by fires, explosions, and nonstandard barrels; and most important, the first attempt at rotary drilling by Luther Atwood's patented process. In chapter 15, "Some Technology," author Darrah pro-

vides an explanation of inventions and improvements generated at Pithole in the field of drilling wells, pumping, moving the crude oil, and refining techniques. The area served as a valuable proving ground for many aspects of the petroleum industry.

Chapter 18, "The Death of Pithole," is a sad chapter indeed. The author chronicles the slow but certain death of the town as production declined, and new "strikes" were reported in nearby regions such as West Pithole Creek and more especially at Pleasantville where a spiritualist, Abram James, drilled the Harmonial Well directed by spirits, of course, and set off a chain reaction of drilling and oil activity. Many families left Pithole for the newer regions of petroleum activity.

Between these important chapters, Mr. Darrah has included a detailed résumé of entertainment at Pithole and of the soiled doves, part of every frontier movement whether it be in the rush for gold, petroleum, cinnabar, or uranium — certainly a necessary adjunct to culture, entertainment, and excitement in any discovery of natural wealth. Nor has he forgotten Ben Hogan who billed himself in later years as, "the wickedest man in the world." Here, for the very first time, are the authentic facts and figures in Hogan's life; Darrah has separated the mythical from the truth and as a result presents a somewhat sordid tale of Ben's career which ended at the age of seventy-five in late 1916 in Chicago where he operated a cheap hotel for derelicts.

Future historians of the earliest days of petroleum will find a hard time writing anything new regarding Pithole for Mr. Darrah has completed his dedicated task with a remarkable volume that can be recommended without equivocation.

Warren, Pennsylvania

ERNEST C. MILLER

Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas: A Manual of Practice.

By ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR. (Pittsburgh: The Allegheny Press, 1971. Pp. 78. Illustrations. \$4.80, hardbound; \$2.80, paperbound.)

Somewhere in the blight-splotched core of every American city nestles a district pregnant with historic character. In his short but highly informative manual of practice entitled *Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas*, Arthur P. Ziegler contends that today too many of these potentially delightful neighborhoods of old brick row or quaint frame single houses unconscionably languish, usually for want of that