

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.

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*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

American mark of historical acceptance, the Palladian colonial vintage. But lest American cities in the heat of renewal overhastily consign all their non-Georgian architectural heritage to rubble, Ziegler cautions preservationists, especially those west of the Alleghenies, that their city's architectural treasures, their Williamsburgs and Society Hills, are in all likelihood fashioned in the Victorian mode and are to be found bedecked in Second French Empire mansard roofs, or Gothic revival towers, and flaunting cornices replete with almost garish Italianate brackets.

A decade ago Pittsburgh preservationists discovered just such a quaint mid-nineteenth-century neighborhood in the "Mexican War District," seconds north of Pittsburgh in the Manchester area. The sight of several blocks of decaying but still marvelously intact row houses trimmed in the best tradition of the Second French Empire architecture of the 1850s inspired the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation to undertake a program of neighborhood renewal deploying texts on historical restoration in place of heavy earth moving equipment. So successful was the plan that Arthur Ziegler, one of the founders of the PHLF, condensed the organization's Mexican War experience into a seventy-five-page manual which offers guidelines and pithy advice to an individual or group considering a similar undertaking.

Ziegler in concert with critics of urban renewal such as Jane Jacobs and Herbert Gans condemned the wholesale demolition of old neighborhoods in the wake of the Housing Act of 1949. Although the Housing Act of 1954 committed local public agencies engaged in urban renewal to "preserve and revive" existing neighborhoods, and while the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 provided for citizen participation in urban renewal, in practice the Urban Renewal Administration has been as a whole unsuccessful in establishing effective channels for community input. Despite the recent and welcome predilection of city housing authorities for attractive low-rise residential units in place of past Pruitt-Igoe monstrosities, too many URA surgeons still employ radical procedures to excise the cancer of blight.

In 1964, Herbert Gans investigated the effect of urban renewal on the removed population of Boston's West End. Gans found that renewal had not only needlessly uprooted a stable community but levied a psychological toll on those displaced. Moreover, Gans argued that by dwarfing the supply of cheap housing in the inner city where low-skilled workers subsisted on the dwindling supply of lowly jobs,

renewal exercised an even greater hardship on the poor.

In *Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas*, Ziegler blueprints a solution to preserving the city's historic architecture while keeping intact that supply of reclaimable low-to-moderate cost housing. Ziegler's plan recycles the old shabby but restorable housing by utilizing private and public funds to restore the "historic" facade and to refurbish the interior for reuse as good low-cost inner city housing. Not only would this recycling of the city's salvageable housing preserve historic architecture, but, to borrow from Jane Jacobs, the resulting admixture of old and new housing offers aesthetic satisfactions while keeping intact the healthy diversity of urban life. In addition, preservation according to Ziegler provides financial benefits to the city by increasing the taxable value of urban real estate and attracting tourism.

Ziegler recognizes that a commitment to the preservation of a formerly rundown community requires organization and great quantities of capital. Much of his book, in fact, gives advice on how to acquire and engage public and private support. Nevertheless, Ziegler never loses sight of the significance of community involvement. While he argues that a successful historic district must include young upper-middle class residents who can financially spearhead the rehabilitative process, it is the present residents with their roots in the neighborhood and their devotion to its possibilities who, Ziegler argues, will supply the bone and sinew for a socially, cohesive neighborhood. Using the revolving fund, the rent supplement program of the Housing Act of 1934, and the leased housing program under the United States Housing Administration, the mortgages and rents of preserved houses can be geared to the low-income family.

According to Ziegler, the success of any program of historic preservation hinges dramatically on effective communication both with the neighborhoods (or historic district) and the financial community. Ziegler urges young preservationist groups to clearly advertise their objectives using brochures, television, radio, or any available media. He also suggests cocktail parties to celebrate the opening of the first restored house and annual tours through the restored area to keep the public informed of progress.

Ziegler's short book offers a succinct statement of the basic steps to be employed if a city opts for the PHLF program of "historic preservation in the inner city." While one might be skeptical of Ziegler's optimism in dealing with the problem of community involve-

ment in urban renewal (recall that the federal government's program of Community Action disastrously flopped), the PHLF's demonstrated success in the Manchester district, albeit on a small scale, suggests some justification for enthusiasm.

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*American Axes.* By HENRY J. KAUFFMAN. (Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1972. Pp. 151. Introduction, illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

In this day of collectors and their collections, it was just a matter of time until someone compiled a reference book on axes. Henry J. Kauffman used his own extensive collection of axes as a starting point for *American Axes*.

The axe has been man's chief tool of all work since prehistoric times. As the many fine photographs in this beautifully done volume show, axes were also used to depict artwork and history. Several examples of this skill have been preserved in remarkable clarity. Not only was artwork etched on the axe blade, but axes were shown in artwork such as the Bayeux tapestry.

The axe changed very little from earliest times until necessity mothered the inventive American mind to accomplish practical adaptations for the extensive and multifaceted use to which this tool was applied in clearing forest land, building houses, farming, butchering, and making other tools. Mr. Kauffman has done an excellent job of tracing the development, adaptations, and history of the axe, especially in America. He has described the operation of bloomeries, the addition of steel to the iron blades, and how and why poleaxes were developed. There were right- and left-handed axes and a left-handed axeman was a workman much in demand because of his rare ability.

Another valuable part of the book is the roster of all known American axe manufacturers since the eighteenth century. Mr. Kauffman frequently adds anecdotes about their business operations and shows pictures of their advertising circulars. The widespread interest in axes is truly amazing.

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