

vanced while the rich declined, he cites no names or statistics to prove his point. He concludes by saying that in Georgia: "The lesson of defeat seemed to be that tangible success mattered more than philosophical principles," but he does not mention how this squares with the South's postwar "Lost Cause" syndrome.

Editor Lane, in *"War Is Hell!"*, does make several points that bear repeating. Despite mythology, Sherman's movement through Georgia affected only a portion of the state, and other parts never experienced war either before or at that time. South Carolina endured more at the hands of Sherman's army than did Georgia. During the difficult days of Sherman's march, civilians suffered not only at the hands of the Northerners but were even more disillusioned to see their own troops plunder and steal from them.

In 1881, when the International Cotton Exposition was held in Atlanta, the most famous stockholder present and the one most lionized was William T. Sherman. "At last," says editor Lane, "the forces of economic and social change had produced this happy, if ironic, reconciliation." Sherman, intimates Lane, was the maker of modern industrial Georgia. Perhaps he was, but Lane does not show it conclusively. And even if true, how does the publication of these Sherman writings throw any new historical light on this assertion?

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*Early Daze in Oil.* By ERNEST C. MILLER. (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1974. Pp. 85. Foreword, illustrations, notes, and sources. \$5.95.)

Humor and history are often estranged, but Ernest Miller has bound them together in a slender volume on petroleum history called *Early Daze in Oil*. The author is blessed with a fascination for the funny as well as practical aspects of the history of early oil. Basically, Dr. Miller presents, in episodic form, the inane and only too human parts of existence in the nineteenth century oil boom towns of northwestern Pennsylvania. If you are amused by swindlers, fast women, and early photography, this book might interest you. The author's enthusiasm and raucous humor permeate this study and make his treatment of the Pennsylvania oil fields unique.

From a scholarly viewpoint, *Early Daze in Oil* has few new insights into petroleum history, but it does not even pretend to do such a thing, so the author's contribution is the injecting of mirth into an area of history usually categorized as dull. Perhaps prostitution, divining, and phony land deals get more than their just due in this monograph, but excesses are nothing new in scholarly work as well as in more popular accounts.

The research and documentation of these humorous episodes is meticulous, and this is unusual and admirable for a book of this nature. Much of the early technology of drilling for oil and making containers for oil is done in simple and readable prose. Again, this is a refreshing change from many standard works on petroleum history.

While this work is by no means comprehensive, it is a good popular history of notable and hilarious incidents in oil's first years as an industry. Therefore, anyone interested in a light but factual treatment of early oil should be directed to this study. Dr. Miller has drawn on his seemingly endless knowledge of petroleum history to forge a readable book for the general public interested in "black gold."

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*FLO: A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted.* By LAURA WOOD ROPER. (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973. Pp. 476. Acknowledgments, photographs, maps, appendices, notes, index. \$15.00.)

Laura Wood Roper's biography of Frederick Law Olmsted should take a place of honor among the bicentennial books about famous Americans, although he is a type of man not traditionally praised in historical celebrations. He was not a military man, a statesman, an explorer, or an inventor. He was a defender of the beauty of America.

Without the crusading of this pioneer American landscape architect, the grandeur of Niagara Falls and of California's Yosemite Valley and sequoia groves would have been exploited by businessmen. He planned the setting for the Vanderbilt Biltmore estate at Asheville, North Carolina. Thousands of visitors admired his background for the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893.