

and complex machines, factories, mills, power stations, and communication and transportation systems were available in the state. Penn State accepted this challenge and over the past century awarded no fewer than 23,000 baccalaureate degrees, 2,500 graduate degrees, and 11,000 associate degrees in the various fields of engineering. Because of these heroic efforts, Penn State understandably became the largest collegiate source of professional engineers in the commonwealth.

Specifically, *Engineering Education at Penn State* traces in graphic detail the story of just how the educators at this land-grant institution went about the business of teaching and researching in the disciplines of engineering. With sensitivity and thoroughness, Bezilla chronicles the way these "unsung heroes" faced such important issues as those related to public support, academic purpose, instructional methodologies, physical facilities, research priorities, and community service. In a real sense their success in dealing with such continuing challenges explains the emergence of the Pennsylvania State University as one of the important centers of engineering study and research in the country today.

As Pennsylvanians continue to make public policy decisions about their system of higher education, they, of course, should be well informed of the critically important contributions these colleges and universities have been making to the state's economic and social life. By bringing to light the remarkable achievements Penn State has made in engineering education, Michael Bezilla helps us to understand better the indispensable roles such academic programs play in maintaining and improving the technological and industrial systems upon which our modern world rests.

School of Education
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

RICHARD K. SECKINGER

The Mountain, the Miner, and the Lord, and Other Tales from a Country Law Office. By HARRY M. CAUDILL. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1980. Pp. xii, 177. Preface. \$12.50.)

The life of the average folk of Appalachia emerges from the pages of Caudill's volume in a way which purveys both the joys and the pathos of mountain life. This anthology of stories about the people of Appalachia presents vignettes of life in the author's native Letcher County, Kentucky.

This book contrasts the old provincial mountain ways and their values with the now occurring impact of metropolitan values on the region in a way that reflects admirably on some aspects of the past. While the author hankers after the simple hard-working home life of the Appalachian housewife and farmer, he laments that knowledge of basic life skills has been replaced by the homogenized culture of the larger society with assembly-line workers and frozen TV dinners.

The past does not emerge tinged with rose-colored glasses from all these stories. The brutality of the mineowners in the early twentieth century leaps from the pages in the story of a miner who killed the bully mine guard to please his wife. Their son, named for John L. Lewis and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born nine months after the death of the guard, who had pistol-whipped workers, killed miners, and beaten their wives. One senses the bittersweet nostalgia of *The Grapes of Wrath* in this and some of the other vignettes in this volume.

Mountain life, like city life, presents the astute observer with a kaleidoscope of characters whose stories reaffirm man's faith in mankind. In a "Visit to the White House," Lilley Cornett obtains a release from a veterans hospital after World War I through sheer determination. His will and faith in the justice of his country enabled him to see Woodrow Wilson who intervened on his behalf.

The very human spirit of Franklin Roosevelt emerges from the story of Bad John Wright. Early in his life, Wright aroused the wrath of powerful elements in the community when he organized an ambush of the Ku Klux Klan to revenge the whipping of one of the "lewd women" of the community who was a "best friend" of Wright. Later, he became a tough law enforcement officer. Franklin Roosevelt stayed at Bad John's on one of his visits to the county and slept on a mattress in front of the fire in Bad John's bedroom. Roosevelt would later wryly remark that "I am probably the only man in the world who watched Bad John make love."

The Rooseveltian sparkle and humanity emerge in the story "Christmas Comes to Lord Calvert" about a poor boy from Chicago who was arrested for running a truck filled with moonshine through Letcher County. The youth obtained the assistance of the talented local lawyer Cleon K. ("Lord") Calvert who was touched by the youth's honest insistence that he knew nothing of the contents of the truck. The poor lad took the truck-driving assignment to feed his aging mother and young brothers. This reviewer will not spoil the surprising ending for the reader whose appetite, he hopes, will be

spurred by this review to spend a couple of pleasant hours with this volume.

Once more Harry M. Caudill has captured the essential human quality of life in the Kentucky mountains. This work does much to bridge gaps of misunderstanding between urban and Appalachian America. The toughness of the mountaineer, his humor, and his sorrows speak to the American reader through this book in a fashion that goes far to dispel hackneyed stereotypes. For the sheer joy of reading a fine book — and a very human one — this work needs to be on every American's bookshelf.

Department of History
West Liberty State College
West Liberty, West Virginia

KENNETH R. NODYNE

FOREIGN TRAVEL ON THE
MONONGAHELA RIVER?

California, up the river, insists on keeping its name, which instead of localizing, is only calculated to mislead. Now if some of the little towns springing up at the several coal works would only adopt the name of Texas, Mexico, Peru and South Africa, then indeed could a man travel a great ways and not go very far from home.

Monongahela City Daily Republican, May 15, 1882

JOHN KENT FOLMAR
California State College