well-crafted, well-researched investigations of about a hundred standing buildings in Pittsburgh and a roughly equal number of minor treasures and destroyed buildings which Van Trump brings to life for us. Each reader will have his or her favorites: Frank Furness's Baltimore and Ohio Station, the lyric Wrightian houses of Peter Berndtson, the Georgian tearoom at the Webster Hall. The essays amount to an extraordinary revelation of the buildings and neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, and seem to work best when taken as a series of daily meditations. That religious analogy is only fitting, for who better has played the role of Intercessor for Pittsburgh?

Department of Fine Arts
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Franklin K. Toker


Were it not for the relative insignificance of the product of his factories — matches — Ohio Columbus Barber might well rank with Carnegie and Rockefeller as one of the nineteenth century's great industrialists. In several respects, his life was the stuff of myth. From humble origins as a salesman for his father's tiny Middlebury, Ohio, match-making facility, Barber rose to create the Diamond Match Company in 1880, a near monopoly with 85 percent of the American market. A decade later, he had the resources (and the ego) to found a new town. He called it Barberton (today an Akron suburb). Soon after the turn of the century, he fulfilled yet another dream, as Diamond achieved dominance in world markets. Barber lived his last years in baronial splendor, supervising an enormous "scientific" farm from a forty-room mansion high above Barberton's working-class population.

Unfortunately, Barber had some unappealing qualities. Not the least of these was a profound niggardliness in matters large and small. Tradesmen had to sue to collect wages, waiters went untipped, and tax collectors in Akron, Chicago, the state of Illinois, New York City, and Washington, D.C., found the "Father of Trusts" (p. viii) slippery, indeed. Ambivalent as he must have been about parting with his savings, most of Barber's philanthropic efforts went awry. He planned to
build a church and a hospital in Akron and a library in Barberton, and to deed his farm to Western Reserve University as a teaching facility. Only the hospital project came to fruition. Barber's bigness began and ended with his six-foot-six frame.

Diamond Match, too, had its seamy side. It was, after all, a virtual monopoly, intended to eliminate competition and make profits for the stockholders. The "daddy" of Barberton (Barber's word!) believed in paternalism and built a lunchroom for his workers, but he could also evade a state law requiring the eight-hour day. Worse still, Diamond's work force of women and children suffered severe health problems, including facial deformities, from proximity to white phosphorus. Match-making was a nasty business and Barber was not unsuited to it.

Fleming will have little of this. Without making a case that competition was, in fact, "destructive," Fleming describes Barber as a benign advocate of stability and efficiency and Diamond as a company that controlled the market but was "not in restraint of trade" (p. viii). He claims that Diamond did not injure consumers, and yet the company was very profitable and prices increased after the merger. When John Galbraith wrote in *The Anatomy of Power* that "nothing is so important in the defense of the modern corporation as the argument that its power does not exist," he could have had Fleming's study in mind.

Fleming also makes excessive claims for Barber as employer and philanthropist. Accepting Barber's own dubious arguments at face value (such as, that regular dental examinations nearly eliminated phosphorous necrosis), Fleming characterizes Barber as a man in the forefront of the battle against occupational disease, determined to make his factory "a safe, happy place to work" (p. 63). While Fleming ostensibly acknowledges Barber's penchant for control in his philanthropic ventures, he insists on seeing Barber as a sensitive, personable man who wanted to be liked and respected and was — somehow — denied his due.

This book has few of the characteristics of a good scholarly study. Fleming does not attempt to set his economic analysis of the Diamond Match trust in any theoretical or historiographical context. Similarly, he writes of Barber as a "progressive" without knowing what that means. Except for an ample batch of illustrations, the book is technically inadequate and poorly crafted. Printing or proofreading errors are frequent, material is often quoted rather than digested, and too much of the data is from a newspaper, the *Akron Beacon*. Even the volume's greatest virtue — the presentation of significant and interest-
ing information about a relative unknown in American business history — is vitiated by the author's excessive praise for a man and a company with obvious flaws.

*Department of History*
*State University of New York*
*Fredonia, New York*

_WILLIAM GRAEBNER_


This is the eighth book on the early oil industry and its development written by Ernest C. Miller. This work represents the melding of the author's two primary commitments: the petroleum industry and the region of his long-time residence, Warren County. Professor William C. Darrah, in the foreword to his book, *Pithole — The Vanished City* (Gettysburg, Pa., 1972), expresses his gratitude "to Mr. Ernest C. Miller of Warren, Pennsylvania, an oil man and first-rate historian of the petroleum industry."

Miller succeeds in placing Warren County into more prominent historic perspective in the history of the petroleum industry. Much confusion has resulted from the fact that the first successfully drilled oil wells occurred at the meeting point of three counties in northwest Pennsylvania — Crawford, Venango, and Warren counties. While Titusville, situated at the southeast tip of Crawford County, has been universally cited as the site of the first oil strike, Colonel Edwin L. Drake "struck oil" on August 27, 1859, in a field about a mile southeast of the city in the northeast sector of Venango County, where the Drake Well Museum now stands. The southwest corner of Warren County abuts the eastern Crawford County line just above Titusville, while its southern boundary borders on northeastern Venango County. What Miller adequately points out is that much of the most intense oil drilling activity in the tumultuous early decades of the mid-nineteenth century occurred in northern Venango and southern Warren counties.

Titusville does, however, lay proper claim to the site of the first refining process. According to Miller: "The earliest refinery in northwest Pennsylvania was erected by William H. Abbott and his partners at Titusville, Pennsylvania, late in 1860 and the first run of crude oil made in it on January 23, 1861" (p. 25).