#300 (the “Westmoreland”) is identified as having been taken on September 14, 1963, the notes to the rolling stock roster indicate that the car was dismantled and burned at Rook in 1959. There are also spelling and typographic errors. Inclusion of a more detailed map would have been welcomed. The reader could then better identify textual references to sidings, bridges, tunnels, and stations which don’t appear on the end-paper maps.

Despite these shortcomings, the authors deserve great credit for producing a comprehensive history of the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway. While written primarily as a railroad history, the book offers much more by highlighting the role of this key local railroad in Western Pennsylvania’s industrial and economic development, and in the lives of the region’s people.

Oliver W. Miller
Pennsylvania Railway Museum Association, Inc.

Indiana County 175th Anniversary History, Volume II, 1866-1988

By Clarence D. Stephenson

This is the fourth volume to appear in Stephenson’s monumental history of Indiana County. Volume I, reaching through 1865, was published in 1978; Volume III, a source book, appeared in 1979, and Volume IV, biographical sketches, followed in 1983. Stephenson plans a fifth volume which will include an index, maps and gazetteer. (See reviews of earlier volumes in this journal’s predecessor, The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, Vol. 67 [April 1984], 158–9; and Vol. 68 [July 1985], 271–3.)

The rules of modern historical scholarship dictate that seldom does a single author write a massive multi-volume history anymore (approximately 3,000 pages in this case) — much less a four volume county history. Stephenson has ignored the rules and taken us back to an historical style of the last century, a century which was more certain that facts embodied truth and spoke for themselves. It was also a century which liked its history long. Those readers who like their history in an old-fashioned mold and measure it by length, weight and facts will be pleased with this series and this volume. This is, then, traditional county history.

Nonetheless, the author has produced a work of some charm and value despite what are, from the professional historian’s point of view, major flaws. The flaws in Volume II are much the same as noted in earlier reviews. There is an endless piling up of names and facts, as if the author feared discarding any piece of information he had so carefully gathered over the years. The massive quantity of information has not been digested into a central theme. There is little discrimination between major and minor events. Just about everybody and everything gets mentioned — at least once. Names of all the churches are included, and there are regular sections on “Disaster and Tragedies” in which mine accidents, fires and floods are remembered. There is even one quaint section entitled “Miscellaneous Woes.” In sum, this is not a critical and analytical history of Indiana County. As with earlier volumes, budget constraints made it impossible to produce a really handsome series. There are, however, over 70 illustrations which help capture the image of the Indiana County that was. I again lament the absence of maps, but we can hope that this deficiency will be overcome in the fifth volume.

To be fair, it was not Stephenson’s intention to write a modern, critical history. He identifies major divisions in his two narrative volumes (I and II) as “Chronicles,” and indeed there is in all of this something of the faithful medieval chronicler dutifully, even lovingly, recording events. There is also something of the collector and preservationist. That is, one senses that the author believes that in the act of collecting and recording information he has preserved parts of Indiana County which would otherwise be lost, and there is, of course, merit in that. Therein rests part of the attraction of this volume and series. Stephenson’s work is strongest when he lets the past speak in its own idiom, and he does that regularly. There are frequent insertions of primary materials — in places the volume reads more as a source book — which transport the reader, rather nostalgically, to earlier moments in our history. For example, he includes a good number of letters from Indiana County doughboys who fought in France in World War I when all seemed much clearer and simpler and when war was the just against the unjust. When I read into the Vietnam era I yearned for some letters from Indiana County soldiers to point up the contrast. There is also some very flavorful material on the temperance movement, ethnic tensions rising out of the coal boom and immigration.
into Indiana County, and native Protestant suspicions of Roman Catholic "foreigners."

Any attempt to describe the scope of Stephenson's work fails because he put in so much. There are sections describing "Cultural Developments" which range widely over topics from minstrels to the Indiana County Fair. Transportation, one of the author's favorite subjects, receives much attention, as does the development of coal mining. He also inserts interesting stories on all but forgotten events such as the involvement of 24 Indiana County men in the Madeira & Mamore Railroad project in Brazil in 1878, but we never learn why. In a section dealing with the "Home Front" in World War II, we learn on page 552, but wonder why, that "by December 8, 1943 the Laboratory School pupils had bought an average of $41 of war bonds and stamps per pupil — enough to pay for 12 jeeps." There is information on women and Women's Clubs, all presented in a traditional way; for example, there is a section on the "Achievements of Local Women." There is a lot on local politics. In all this, admittedly much of it interesting, one wishes for a hint of what sets Indiana County off from other counties, of what is distinctive and different here, and a stab at justifying county history as a unit of historical analysis. Alas, those points are never approached.

But, there is a lot of valuable material here. Stephenson is a conscientious and diligent digger for information. His sources are mainly traditional, but know them he does. Both he and his volumes are important historical resources for Indiana County. Thus, any future historian working on Indiana County would do well to consult Stephenson. Libraries and local historical societies would want to acquire his series for their reference value if nothing else, and there are enough suggestions for

term papers in Stephenson to keep a teacher of American and Pennsylvania history going a lifetime. Teachers at high school and college levels might also find this volume useful to develop exercises in critical thinking and quantitative methods. For example, Stephenson writes (page 784) that there is "little doubt that Indiana County, along with the nation at large, is suffering a decline in moral and ethical standards." He cites increased liquor sales, pornography and a high rate of teenage pregnancy as evidence. It might make an interesting class exercise to examine exactly what is moral and ethical decline and then try to devise a scheme to measure it.

These volumes are obviously not the kind of history you pick up and read from the start to finish. At best readers will select out bits and pieces which catch their fancy, and if sensitive at all, their historical consciousness will be pricked. And if that happens these books will have done their work.

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James M. Oliver
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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**Seen Any Good Diners Lately?**

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The Artful Memory of Mary Shaw

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The Challenge of Interpretation at Historic House Museums

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Continuity and Change along the National Road in Pennsylvania

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- Robert Bruce, The National Road, 1916

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