



Edith Spurlock Sampson, c. 1915. A Pittsburgh Peabody High School graduate, she was the first African-American woman selected to be a United Nations delegate.

education, sports, the arts, and religion, and student texts. It is available for \$50 (plus, if mailed, \$8 for postage and handling) by contacting the Historical Society's Museum Programs Department at (412) 281-2465.

Pittsburgh Crawfords: The Lives & Times of Black Baseball's Most Exciting Team

by James Bankes

Dubuque, Iowa: William C. Brown, 1991. Pp. 173. Foreword, introduction, photographs, appendix, index. \$15.95 paperback.

PRETTY MUCH exactly what the title says, this book is full of engrossing anecdotes about the fabled Crawfords, a champion team in the former Negro League. Although not a rigorous look into larger issues of local or national history, it is sure to excite baseball history buffs. In a most unique appendix, the author compares the abilities of some especially accomplished Crawfords with well-known white players, and rules on who was better (an engaging exercise since they didn't play one another).

— Paul Roberts

Dead Laws for Dead Men: The Politics of Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Legislation

by Daniel J. Curran

Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993. Pp. 208. Preface, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.

SCHOLARS OF coal mining's social and business history, as well as the general reader, surely will appreciate Curran's direct attack on the failure of federal legislators to protect the safety and health of underground miners. Half of the book is devoted to a concise review of coal mining's U.S. history. With this backdrop, he picks apart key mining laws to show how they almost always came hastily after horrible cave-ins or explosions — typically mine owners and government regulators knew the deadly conditions

generation to generation. The study of these struggles provides an opportunity to consider the joys and frustrations, and the accomplishments and disappointments, that have helped mold character as well as the region's history.

The package contains a teacher's guide, primary documents, a cassette tape of oral history interviews, a reproduction of Dr. Martin R. Delany's *The Mystery* newspaper, and a set of 16 biography cards which highlight the achievements of local African-Americans in business, politics,

existed before the "accidents" — and even then wide enforcement of the laws has not occurred, leaving the fields, in Curran's view, about as deadly as ever. The author is especially critical of regard for workers during the Reagan-Bush years of the 1980s. — Paul Roberts

Around the World in 72 Days — The Race Between Pulitzer's Nellie Bly and Cosmopolitan's Elizabeth Bisland

by Jason Marks

New York: Gemittarius Press, 1993. Pp. 261. Introduction, photographs, epilogue. \$20, \$12.95 paperback.

THIS UNUSUAL account of a famous event cooked up as a publicity stunt in 1889-1890 has a strong Western Pennsylvania connection. Elizabeth Cochran (a.k.a. Nellie Bly) was Pennsylvania-born and started her journalism career as a social muckraker for the once-proud *Pittsburgh Dispatch*. This is a highly readable pot-boiler with exotic settings and interesting asides about the Victorian world. — Paul Roberts

The Longrifles of Western Pennsylvania

by Richard F. Rosenberger and Charles Kaufmann

Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993. Pp. 139. Preface, introduction, photographs, various reference materials. \$60.

FINE DESIGN and detailed photographs, many in color, distinguish this coffee table book on old rifles produced and sold in Western Pennsylvania. Although gun making mainly for the local hunting trade continued in the area into the mid-1800s, the Monongahela River Valley, for instance, was a prominent production region on a national scale only through the late 1700s, by which time the fortified edge of white settlement had moved further west. The authors handle adequately the principal treaties and relevant pieces of white European frontier history, but the chapters on local craftsmen and firms engaged in the weapons business narrows to information of more use to the gun collector than the historian. Writing which would place all the figures and firms in historical context generally is lacking, but the book seems targeted more at the collector audience anyway. — Paul Roberts

Monster on the Allegheny... and Other Lawrenceville Stories

by Allan Becer, James Wudarczyk, and Jude Wudarczyk

Pittsburgh: Lawrenceville Historical Society, 1993. Pp. 183. Preface. \$8 paperback, postpaid from Lawrenceville Historical Society, Box 4015, Arsenal Station, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-0015.

MOST OF these stories about the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh are based on previously published books and articles — that is, history with an emphasis on secondary, rather than original sources. But the "old" information is recycled into new stories, ones about Pittsburgh's urban and regional history but