

Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges: A Complete Guide

by Benjamin D. Evans and June R. Evans

Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993. Pp. 255. Bibliography, index, illustrations. \$39.95, \$19.95 paper.

PENNSYLVANIA HAS 219 still standing — more covered bridges than any other state, so a first-class guidebook to their locations and conditions makes sense. This glove compartment-sized book categorizes the bridges by county, then alphabetically.

Each entry is accompanied by a photo and construction data: year built, truss style, waterway, whether it's in use, number of spans, length, width, builder, owner, and condition. A paragraph of text typically contains a history of the bridge, anecdotes, and a discussion of its construction.

The introduction explains general covered bridge history, state route numbers, and construction techniques. Color prints of any of the book's photos are available from the authors, covered bridge historians from Coopersburg, Pa.

Actually there are now only 218 left standing, or fewer: the Davis Bridge near Marianna fell March 20, 1994. It had been closed to vehicles in 1981 after the crossing of a tractor-trailer left it weakened. The last of three covered bridges near Marianna, this one was noted for straddling the Washington-Greene county line. That's one more reason to buy and use this guidebook.

— *Brian Butko****Story of Old Allegheny City***

Pittsburgh: Allegheny City Society, 1994 (reprint; originally published by the Allegheny City Committee, 1941). Pp. xviii, 236. Foreword, preface, bibliography, illustrations, index. \$40, \$25 paperback. To purchase from the Allegheny City Society, call 412/322-8807.

FOR AN actual in-print comparison of Pittsburgh's North Side (formerly Allegheny City) with "ancient Rome," and for other loving tributes, this is the book. The Allegheny City Society is intent upon "documenting the history and culture of America's premier lost city," and this reprint of a U.S. Works Progress Administration history of the old town is the first big salvo in the campaign. (A lot of people on the North Side still haven't gotten over being gobbled up by Golden Triangle interests, working on behalf of "greater Pittsburgh," after a sham referendum in 1907.) That story is provocative, and the entire book is lively, but a reliance on short sketches of prominent people and their institutions creates so many historical blindspots — the approach is seldom used today — that one must wonder about the logic, in 1994, of reissuing it. Considerable homage is paid to the area's "old world" charm, but by the late nineteenth century Allegheny City had become, some would argue, basically a bedroom community for Pittsburgh's industrial-age rich; routine govern-

ment corruption, ward-boss politics, and a hooligan police force had made the Allegheny River more of a symbolic than real boundary with Pittsburgh anyway. — *Paul Roberts*

The Covered Bridges of Pennsylvania: A Guide

by Susan M. Zacher

Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1994. Pp. 134. Bibliography, index, illustrations. \$9.95 paper.

RIGHT ON the heels of the Pitt Press offering noted above, PHMC has issued an updated version of its 1982 covered bridge guidebook. These new books are virtually identical, but the PHMC one divides the state into six regions before listing the bridges by county, while the latter is strictly alphabetical by county.

This guide shows the budgetary and editorial constraints of PHMC, especially in the text descriptions. In fairness, however, the authors of the first book admit in their text that much of their data came from Zacher's 1982 edition. — *Brian Butko* ☺

Photograph Credits

Villages

Pages 100-115 All photographs by the author and various family members, now in the Katrencik Collection in the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives. Page 107, top and right, from the Historical Society's Museum Programs Department.

Maternity Care in the Progressive Era: The Elizabeth Steel Magee Hospital

Pages 116-128 All photographs courtesy Magee Hospital Archives.

Christopher Columbus' American Lawyer: Michael A. Musmanno and the Vinland Map

Pages 130-141 Photograph p. 130 of bronze bas relief plaque (actual size 30 inches in diameter) provided by the manufacturer, Matthews International Corp., Pittsburgh. All other photographs courtesy Michael A. Musmanno Collection, Duquesne University Library, Pittsburgh.

Director's Gallery

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