

Without disparagement of the new product, one wonders why this boiled-down version was considered necessary. Certainly the original two-volume work is not lacking in either solid, worthwhile content or stylistic charm. Actually, the word reduction is not so great as one might at first suspect. The 445-page new edition is set in smaller, more compact type than are the 692 pages contained in the original two-volume work. Much of the condensation has taken the form of trimming Spanish regalia in order to make room on the coach for such new riders as Richard M. Nixon, Earl Warren, William F. Knowland, and Goodwin Knight.

A distinguishing feature of the two-volume work was the author's frank appraisal of personages and events in California's long and varied history. Fortunately this original flavor is retained in the present version. The final chapter entitled "California at Mid-Century" (Dumke's own) may perhaps be distinguished from the foregoing ones by its tender regard for Republican luminaries.

The number of illustrations and maps have been reduced from a list of 34 items to 22. Only a couple of contemporary scenes have been included in the new edition. As usual, the general make-up and appearance of this Borzoi book meet the standard set by the publisher.

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*The National Forests.* By Arthur H. Carhart. Introduction by Joseph W. Penfold. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959. Pp. xiv, 289. Map, illustrations, appendix, index. \$4.75.)

It is not necessary to be a lumberman, an irrigation farmer, or a bird watcher to appreciate the review of American forestry policy presented by Arthur H. Carhart. In fact, one already aware of the role of the national forests in conserving timber, water, or wild life will find the consideration given his special interest in *The National Forests* too cursory for satisfaction. In the same way, the historian looking for intimate views of the makers of American forest policy will be disappointed, for the glimpses one catches of James Wesley Powell, Gifford Pinchot, and Theodore Roosevelt are too brief. This, in short, is not a book for the specialist unless he seeks to broaden his vision—to see his particular interest in the general context of the forestry movement.

Qualified for his task by brief employment in the forest service and lifelong interest in and contribution to the conservation movement, the author accepts the responsibility of acquainting the American public with its increasingly valuable property, the national forests. He presents a broad, well-balanced, and multi-dimensional picture of the forests and of the service which maintains them. The primary, legally defined purposes of the national forests—preservation of timber resources and protection of watersheds—receive emphasis. The inception and development of national forestry policy is outlined; the sources of conflict between forestry policy and profit-seeking interests are explained; the administrative organization which enables the United

States Forest Service to perform its diverse functions is sketched. Of course, the outstanding floods and fires are considered along with modern methods of preventing and combating them.

The individual forests, however, are the principal subject of consideration. To Arthur Carhart each forest has a distinct personality. Deriving its basic traits from geological and climatic conditions, each has its typical plant and animal associations. The author successfully combines description of the forests with description of the work of the service. His technique is to describe a particular forest region and then to present a phase of the work of the service that is especially important therein.

Well-chosen pictures do much to help the reader visualize the distinctiveness of the individual forests and the work of the forest service. The map of the regions, to which one is constantly referred, would be more useful if it were larger and more detailed. Had it been a fold-out sheet or an end paper it would have been much more readily accessible and immeasurably more useful.

As the conservation movement receives increasing attention, this work should prove useful although it is not a formal history of the movement and takes note of conservation's origins and development only incidentally. It is a three-dimensional description of a national asset: nature, the land and its products; the service which maintains and develops it; the time perspective through which the land and its products have been developed by the men of the forest service.

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*A Ticket to the Circus: A Pictorial History of the Incredible Ringlings.*  
By Charles Philip Fox. (Seattle, Wash.: Superior Publishing  
Co., 1959. Pp. 184. Numerous illustrations. \$10.00.)

*A Ticket to the Circus*, by Charles Philip Fox, is a very interesting account of the Great Ringling Circus' birth, reign, and decline. It is nonfiction, but if you are a circus fan, circus enthusiast, or just a middle-aged person with the warm reminiscence of sawdust in your veins, you will enjoy every word of the 184 pages. The author is director of the Circus Museum at Baraboo, Wisconsin, so authentic newspapers are quoted and rare photographs are reproduced for the reader.

The volume tells of the development of the Ringling Circus and of the era that was its heyday. Outstanding sections include a Preface by Hester Ringling Sanford, a chapter by Alice Ringling Coerper, and a chapter entitled "Circus Logistics," which was originally published in *Fortune* magazine for July, 1947.

This is the story of seven incredible brothers named Ringling, but it is also a story of the circus itself. It is the story of a family born into poverty, but whose thoroughness of execution, honesty of purpose, and devotion to an ideal resulted in the amassing of immense fortunes. Also, it is the story of the one Ringling sister, Ida Ringling North.