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 immemorably 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.

*Woman's College of the University of North Carolina* Betty Carol Clutts

*A Ticket to the Circus: A Pictorial History of the Incredible Ringlings.*

*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.
Her sons, John Ringling North and Henry Ringling North, have guided the Ringling Circus since 1937.

The Ringling Circus has always been a fast-moving performance by the top stars and acts in the world. To accomplish this feat and to give the audience a smooth-running show requires almost split-second timing by the entire company. The book tells of the working menagerie, the ticket seller, the cook house, the circus band, the "spec," the side show, the after show or concert, the elephants and horses, the street parades, the winter quarters, and of all the departments working together in the "back-yard" under the "Big Top." It ends with the chapter, "The Tent is Folded." This chapter leaves the reader with the question of whether the original Ringling Brothers would have favored a circus under the canvas or whether they would have cut expenses to produce a circus under the sky.

_Peru, Indiana_  
Ferol Friedline Meeker

**Review Notices**

_The Enduring Lincoln_. Edited by Norman A. Graebner. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1959. Pp. viii, 129. Index. $3.00.) This volume includes four lectures given at the University of Illinois as part of the university's sesquicentennial observance of Lincoln's birth. Professor Roy P. Basler deals principally with Lincoln as symbol and myth, as "An Immortal Sign," the interpretation of which is varied, often ambiguous, and frequently more a reflection of the popular image of America than of the real Lincoln. Basler indicates major problems which arise from Lincoln myths and symbols that have developed. Professors T. Harry Williams, David Donald, and Norman A. Graebner have much in common in what they say of Lincoln. To Williams, Lincoln was a "Pragmatic Democrat"; to Donald, he was a "Whig in the White House"; to Graebner, he was a "Conservative Statesman." Basler is quite likely in basic agreement with much that these three lecturers say, but he and they travel different paths in these lectures. Williams, Donald, and Graebner agree that Lincoln distrusted doctrinaire minds such as possessed by abolitionists, that he had basic principles but was not rigidly committed to any definite set of policies, that he was the Great Nationalist even more than the Great Emancipator, and that he was essentially a conservative. These are thoughtful essays in a broad historical context, interesting to scholars and general readers alike.