

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.

The Bark Covered House, or Back in the Woods Again. Reprint. By William Nowlin. (Dearborn, Mich.: Dearborn Historical Commission, 1959. Pp. xiv, 250. Illustrations. Paperbound, \$2.00.) *The Bark Covered House*, first published in 1876, is a classic description of pioneer life in southeastern Michigan. Its author, William Nowlin, migrated from the Hudson Valley of New York to a wilderness farm

near Detroit, arriving with his parents in the spring of 1834. The privations and hardships of pioneer life, characterized by isolation and the need for self-sufficiency, are vividly detailed. The early and rapid development of both water and railroad transportation, however, soon shattered pioneer life in the Detroit area. *The Bark Covered House* supports the thesis that the pioneer era was much shorter in areas where transportation developed rapidly than in areas lacking such development. Teachers of junior and senior high school students wanting source material about pioneer life will find *The Bark Covered House* a mine of information.

On the Threshold of Liberty: Journal of a Frenchman's Tour of the American Colonies in 1777. Translated by Edward D. Seeber. *Indiana University Publications Humanities Series*, Number 43. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1959. Pp. x, 172. Index. Paperbound, \$3.00.) This volume records an unknown Frenchman's impressions of the American colonies as they were when he made a tour of several months during 1777. The author stresses that he noted a spirit of liberty and a tendency toward independence on the part of the American colonists, then in the midst of the War for Independence. His observations indicate that he also perceived American distrust of the French, and he expressed the view that Americans would never sincerely like the French (pp. 66-67). Professor Seeber appears to have done his editorial work with care. The account offers observations which bear upon social and economic history as well as upon political and military aspects of the American Revolution.

Here is Your Indiana Government. Ninth edition, revised (September, 1959). (Indianapolis: Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, 1959. Pp. vi, 127. Tables, charts, illustrations, appendix, index. Paperbound, \$1.25.) This ninth edition of *Here is Your Indiana Government* includes much valuable information about state and local government in Indiana. Much of the information included is either not otherwise available or else not readily available. The Indiana State Chamber of Commerce has performed a worth-while service in continuing annual publication of *Here is Your Indiana Government*, which first appeared in 1944. This booklet should be extremely useful to teachers and students in the junior and senior high schools of the state. In addition, it should also be a valuable reference book for adult study groups as well as for citizens in general.

Bibliography of School Laws and Texts of Major School Laws enacted by the Ninety-first Indiana General Assembly. School Law Series. (Indianapolis: Indiana State Teachers Association, 1959. Pp. xxvii, 158. Bibliography. Paperbound.) This item is a useful compendium of legislation regarding schools enacted by the Indiana General Assembly at its biennial session in 1959. Forty-three school laws are here "photographically copied from the official print of the Acts" (p. iii). In addition, an annotated bibliography summarizes the content of these and various additional laws. This publication is part of the

School Law Series which the Indiana State Teachers Association has published following the close of each legislative session since 1945. It should be particularly useful to school administrators, members of school boards, students of Indiana school law, and citizens wanting information about school laws in a convenient form.

Elkhart County Year Book, 1959. (Goshen, Ind.: Elkhart County Agricultural Society Project Committee, 1959. Pp. 112. Numerous illustrations, map, indices. \$3.00.) This book emphasizes information about farm and rural life in Elkhart County as of approximately 1958, though some historical information is included. Numerous pictures illustrate and supplement the text. Here is substantial information that, at least in Elkhart County, farm life has become more "organized" and also represents a much higher standard of living than formerly. These and other important changes in farm life are readily apparent when the content of the *Elkhart County Year Book, 1959* is compared with the content of the *Annual Reports of the State Board of Agriculture* for Indiana during the 1850's.

Interurban Railways of Allen County, Indiana. By Roy M. Bates. (Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 1958. Pp. 49. Map, illustrations, bibliography. Paperbound.) This pamphlet contains considerable information about interurban railroads of Allen County, and much of it is of interest to students of such railroads within Indiana and the American Middle West. Author Roy Bates has previously studied ghost towns and water-powered mills of Allen County as well as other aspects of local history. Bates credits Charles L. Henry, an Indiana lawyer and congressman, for coining the word "interurban." He indicates that Allen County's last interurban was discontinued in 1941.

A List of all the Friends Meetings That Exist or Ever Have Existed in Indiana, 1807-1955. Compiled by Willard Heiss. (Indianapolis: Published by the compiler, 1959. Pp. 64. Bibliography. Paperbound, \$3.00.) The content of this mimeographed publication is correctly described by its title. In introductory remarks Mr. Heiss modestly writes: "The following pages are the result of many years of this writer collecting bits of information from this source and that. This has been a tedious task and even now only points the direction. Errors and mistakes abound in these lists and it will be a continuing process of corrections." Perhaps some readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* can suggest additions or possible corrections to the list. This listing of Friends' Meetings in Indiana offers much evidence that considerable diversity has characterized Indiana Quakers.

Whitewater: Indiana's First Monthly Meeting of Friends, 1809-1959. By Opal Thornburg. (Richmond, Ind.: Igelman Printing Co., [1959]. Pp. 32. Illustrations, bibliography, chronology. Paperbound.) In this brief pamphlet Miss Thornburg has ably indicated the primacy

of the Whitewater Monthly Meeting within Indiana. Her sprightly style and ability to interpret facts with perception make this sesquicentennial account both readable and useful. Her references to persons such as David Hoover, Dr. John F. Plummer, Levi Coffin, Barnabas Hobbs, and Cyrus Hodgin show that leaders of more than local importance have been nourished by the Whitewater Monthly Meeting.

Vanishing Crafts and Their Craftsmen. By Rollin C. Steinmetz and Charles S. Rice. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1959. Pp. 160. Illustrations. \$4.75.) An illustrated popular account of the persistence of various crafts: blacksmithing, wood carving, lime burning, candymaking, charcoal burning, cigar making, pottery making, glassmaking, ox-yoke making, etc. This volume presents "vanishing crafts" as one of the unfortunate casualties of modern industrialization.

Adventures of Isaac Knight—Indian Captive: A True Story of the Northwest Territory for Young and Old Americans. By Ken McCutchan. (New York: Greenwich Book Publishers, 1959. \$2.75.) Ken McCutchan has written an interesting tale regarding Isaac Knight's captivity among the Indians of the Old Northwest. According to the legend here recounted, the Knight family settled where Henderson, Kentucky, now stands in the spring of 1793, and soon thereafter Isaac was captured by Indians. The bulk of the story details his life among the redmen. This tale indicates the dreadful loss of life among the Indians because of smallpox; it offers information about the fur trade and Indian life generally; and it uses General Wayne's campaign of 1794 to illustrate the costly conflict between the whites and Indians. One might easily question various details and aspects of this story, but here is a legend of Indian captivity which should be of interest to junior high school students of Indiana history. Experiences such as those McCutchan describes were a serious danger among the early settlers of the Ohio Valley. (This type of danger is also vividly related in "Spencer Records' Memoir of the Ohio Valley Frontier, 1766-1795," which appeared in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, December, 1959. Records' memoir is also suitable for use by junior high students as well as by adults.)

Blind Tiger: A Novel of the Triumph of Faith over Alcohol. By Anet Garrison. (New York: Exposition Press, 1959. Pp. 172. \$3.00.) The subtitle of this volume, *A Novel of the Triumph of Faith over Alcohol*, suggests its general content. Its locale is a small Indiana town. Anet Garrison previously wrote *Abe Lincoln at Loafer Station*.