

Mining was in a similar way portrayed as the victim of absentee millionaires by sensational writers, who chose as particular targets the Guggenheims as well as U.S. Smelting and Refining. The former operated for a generation a very successful mine near Cordova that returned a good profit, yet not one out of line with profits derived from similar operations in Utah as well as elsewhere in the U.S.A. and Latin America. They now have holdings in northwestern Alaska above the Arctic Circle that every Alaskan, Democrat or Republican, writer or statesman, hopes will get into operation soon. U.S. Smelting operated gold dredges at Nome and interior Alaska and there seems to be universal hope that the increased price of gold will permit them to resume operations. All this is a far cry from the former bitter attacks launched, as one pamphleteer put it, by "the sourpusses of the sourdough family."

There are a surprisingly few minor discrepancies, such as failure to credit Choquette with the first discovery of gold in the southeastern region on the Stikine River in 1861, as well as omission of George Carmack from the list of discoverers of gold in the Klondike that led to the "Rush of '98". Further, there were "few" — not "innumerable" — "expressions of dissatisfaction over the creation of National Forests in Alaska". Finally, there could never have been "millions" of fur seals on the Pribiloff Islands, for they cannot support such numbers. There again, the herd was restored by a Canadian-U.S.-Japanese treaty that all applaud.

The footnotes and bibliography are most thorough and extensive. I would have included A. H. Brooks, Hulley, Golder and De Armond.

*Henry W. Clark*

**ONE MAN'S WILDERNESS: AN ALASKAN ODYSSEY:** BY SAM KEITH, *from the journals and photograph collection of Richard Proenneke. Alaska Geographic, Volume 1, Number 2. Anchorage: The Alaska Geographic Society, 1973. 12 x 9 inches, 108 pages, illustrated. \$8.20.*

Dick Proenneke has done in real life something almost every urbanized and business-suited North American has envisioned in fantasy at one time or another but has never really tried. This beautifully prepared book brings his accomplishment to the easy chairs

of us less courageous souls, to stir our dreams of simple solitude, quiet beauty and dignified harmony with nature. With a single arm-load of basic hand tools and the strength of his own wit and arm, he made himself a home in southern Alaska and lived comfortably through the winter, miles from the next human; and with no smog, no mass media, crowds or politics to overload his mind, he took time to look at nature with himself a dependent part of it. Few of us ever get so privileged a view.

Proenneke's story is told in straightforward prose, chronologically arranged as pages from his diary. There is little suspense, and only two startling encounters with grizzly bears for excitement; yet I found the tale absorbing reading. Each step in the building of his cabin, each solitary fishing trip or photographic trek, the beauty of the changes of season, all blend into a quiet tale of elemental power and everyday drama. Seventy two beautifully-reproduced colour photographs of his unpeopled valley tell as much of the story as do his words. My one regret is that no map was included to enable one to follow the author's hikes in the woods and hills he describes so well.

The Alaska Geographic Society is to be congratulated for the high quality of this volume. I hope more of its kind will appear.

*Sam G. Collins*

**HURONIA: A HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE HURON INDIANS. 1600-1650.** BY CONRAD HEIDENREICH. *Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1973. 6 1/8 x 9 5/16 inches, 337 pages, 21 tables, 13 figures, 24 maps. \$14.95.*

Written by a geographer, this book uses historical data to effect a rigorous, highly quantitative analysis of slash-and-burn agriculture as practised by a North American Indian group near the northern boundary at which native maize horticulture was possible. It represents a significant contribution to the understanding of swidden agriculture in temperate regions. In the first half of the seventeenth century the Huron Indians were the centre of a network of trading routes which each year carried Indian traders from southern Ontario as far north as the shores of James Bay.

*B. G. Trigger*