

BOOK NOTES

Angell, William and Claesgens, Joan. *Literature Resources for Consumer-Oriented Housing Education* (St. Paul: University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service) October 1976. 126 pp., \$5.00 paper. Order: Extension Housing Bibliography, 266 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108; check payable to U of M.

This publication, previewed at the 11th AAHE Annual Meeting, contains approximately 2500 abstracts of non- and semi-technical housing references available from 300 sources, including state extension services, professional and trade associations, and federal agencies. Most of the citations are bulletings, worksheets, etc., and are not catalogued in traditional library or other sources as are the resources that support classroom instruction on-campus. The index, an adaptation of *Sweet's Catalog* and HUD's *Urban Vocabulary*, containing 13 major categories and over 100 sub-categories, could well be the basis for a housing filing system. A key word cross-reference adds insurance that citations covering more than one topic will be found, yet not listed repeatedly. The materials listed, the result of mailed requests, were screened for relative educational value to housing consumers and abstracted to reflect breadth and character of content, but not a comparative evaluation. Since one could spend over \$300 in postage alone ordering the items, it would be interesting to note which 120 references were selected for distribution to the Minnesota extension field staff.

The most obvious benefits of this collection are summed up in the general objectives of the project: to create an awareness of professional and

trade association involvement in consumer-oriented research and education, and of federal and land-grant institution-developed teaching resources in housing. This will encourage: cooperation between housing educators and association interests, more timely development of new materials, and effective use of improvement of existing resources (including the avoidance of unnecessary and time-consuming production of teaching aids which duplicate materials available from other sources).

Most citations are relatively recent, but can very quickly become dated in any bibliography. Thus the mention of a possible computerized system for corrections, additions, etc., is a hopeful sign. Even if that does not materialize, the basic resources, with addresses, are worth having in one volume. Finally, the reader and this association should feel challenged to undertake a study of the *available* resources listed, and determine what additional resources are *needed*, then get on with them!

—Betty Jo White
Colorado State U.

Abler, Ronald editor. *A Comparative Atlas of America's Great Cities: Twenty Metropolitan Regions* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press and the Association of American Geographers) 1976. 528 pp., oversize, \$95.00 cloth.

This large volume is one of three products of the AAG Comparative Metropolitan Analysis Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, and intended to serve as individual portraits and con-

sistent comparative documentation of the 20 largest urban regions containing nearly half of the U. S. population, and a record of what has and has not been accomplished as of the 1970 Census with respect to a range of stated national urban policy goals. The 1970 benchmark is taken at the beginning of the process of *counterurbanization*.

Brian J. L. Berry of Harvard comments in his Foreward, "This atlas documents the geographical outcomes of individual Americans' achievement-orientation and quest for status, their passage through successive stages of the life cycle, their assimilation through the melting pot or their failure to assimilate."

After a "how to use the atlas," the brief introductory chapters present the emergence and interdependence of metropolitan America, a listing of the "problems of places and problems of people" covered in the book, and sources of information about American cities (including Census data limitations). A chapter is devoted to each of the 20 regions to comprehensively and visually present via two-color maps and histograms the Census findings on items such as housing built before 1940 and between 1960-70; mobile homes; housing value; monthly rent; single-unit detached housing; and socio-economic characteristics of the population. This method of presentation gives "life" to and some explanations for the more detailed Census reports. Each chapter includes topics of special interest within the region, which cover these and other terms: restrictive zoning; crowded housing; minority housing; blacks in new housing; rent stress; housing for the elderly; and residential change/turnover.

It becomes clear that "a city is NOT a city is NOT a city" from the maps and summaries comparing 23 variables among the 20 regions. A few of the variables of interest to housing educators include: private water supplies and sewage disposal; seasonal housing; crowded housing; housing value- and rent-income ratios; long-term housing vacancies (abandonment); in addition to the socioeconomic factors.

A final summary includes a "where do we go

from here?" commentary on past, current and future policies and policy issues regarding U.S. metropoli. A glossary of terms, location maps, data tables, cartographic notes, and a very extensive index/gazetteer complete this volume. It would appear to be an essential reference work and an important point of departure for housing students, concerned citizens, and policymakers at local, state, and federal levels.

The companion volumes (1 and 2) are published by the Ballinger Publishing Company, 17 Dunster Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. They are: *Contemporary Metropolitan American: Twenty Geographical Vignettes* (11 of these are to be separately published as paperback editions also); and *Urban Policy-Making and Metropolitan Dynamics: A Comparative Geographical Analysis*.

—Betty Jo White

Hendler, Bruce, and Gentili, Joseph. *Mobile Home Park Siting in New York State* (Ithaca: Cornell University; joint publication of Cooperative Extension Service and Center for Urban Development Research) 1975. 36pp, \$1.00 paper. Available from Mailing Room, Research Park, Building #7, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

The purpose of this publication is to provide persons in New York's public and private sectors with a set of considerations for mobile home park siting. But it would not be limited to use in that state since only a few localized points are made. More than seventy simple, shaded black and white drawings with colored accents to show "good" (red) and "poor" (green) are accompanied by brief text. The presentation appears to be easily adaptable for public use with overhead projector.

Many suggestions apply to individual mobile home siting as in rural areas, and as well to single-family detached conventional homes and their