Now That the Buffalo's Gone
Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. is a well-established author of volumes on subjects related to American Indians. Among his better-known works are *The Patriot Chiefs, The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest, The Indian Heritage of America,* and *Red Power.* In his most recent book, *Now That the Buffalo’s Gone,* he offers a series of essays which details the plight of twentieth-century Indians as they struggle to live, retain their land and water rights, protect their religious beliefs, and regain self-government and limited sovereignty as a distinct and continuing minority people. The themes within this book vary in originality and the tone of Josephy’s writing is reminiscent of Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.* The contemporary issues, however, with which Josephy is concerned aptly bring to readers’ attention the federal government’s utter failure to provide a healthy social and economic environment in which Indian people can flourish.

Although the author’s emphasis is on contemporary issues, he provides historical settings. When he describes the Florida Miccosukees’ struggle for survival he begins with their resistance to Spanish rule in the early sixteenth century. To illuminate the New England Passamaquoddy’s and Penobscots’ campaign to force a restoration of Maine land to tribal ownership, the author reviews the devastation of the New England tribes by disease, white mendacity, and the Pequot and King Philip’s wars of the seventeenth century. He uses the same technique to deal with the New Mexico and Arizona Pueblo’s efforts to prevent further erosion of their culture and desecration of their religious ceremonial sites. Perhaps the most chilling narratives are those concerning the Northern Paiutes’ and the Pacific Northwest tribes’ heroic struggles to defend their water and fishing rights. Only after decades of turmoil did the federal government intervene on their behalf to protect the livelihood of the Native American people from the encroachments of commercial and sport fishermen, industrial pollution, urban water needs, and other white interests.

Josephy writes with verve and the emotionalism of conviction that Native Americans have been shamelessly exploited and despoiled of their heritage and resources. Few can objectively disagree because Native Americans are the poorest of the poor among all minorities. Knowledgeable students of Indian affairs, however, will recognize that this book does not present all of the intertribal and intratribal
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strife. The author does not for example discuss the anti-Navajo sentiment which their powerful and long-time tribal chairman, Peter MacDonald, engendered and which ultimately led to his defeat by a tribal rival. Nor does Josephy portray the full range of activism or militance which led to Wounded Knee II. Josephy describes Richard Wilson’s strong-armed rule on the Pine Ridge Reservation to demonstrate intratribal factionalism but rival intertribal activists also engaged in more than verbal conflicts with other Indian activists. Since Josephy does not provide citations to sources, students will encounter substantial difficulties in verifying crucial passages of text.

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More than a general history of the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company, The Mill on the Boot is also a well-written account of much of the development of Tacoma, Washington and the nearby Puget Sound area. Tacoma looks down on the “Boot,” which at one time was a boot-shaped tideflat island at the mouth of the Puyallup River. Murray Morgan, who has written several books concerning the Pacific Northwest and is perhaps the best known for Skid Road, his history of Seattle, begins with the old Northwest backgrounds and business endeavors of Chauncey Griggs, Addison Foster, Henry Hewitt, and C. H. Jones, who in 1888 made “... the largest purchase of timberland in the nineteenth century” from the Northern Pacific Railroad and were the principal founders of the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company.

Morgan describes the development of the company, from that beginning until the sale of the St. Paul and Tacoma to the St. Regis Paper Company in 1957, through two major depressions, two world wars, and innumerable problems involving labor, market expansion, freight rates, and natural disasters. Morgan also explains several innovative technological advances made in mill, railroad, and logging camp operations.

Woven together with the company expansion is the increased growth of Tacoma. The founders, along with relatives and company associates, were also involved in area land development, coal mining, dry docks, railroads, steamships, banking, a wholesale grocery, an ice company, and veneer, planing, and shingle mills. Many were involved in Tacoma’s charitable, social, and political activities; Griggs,