Mr. Blake’s manner of writing is as nimble and witty as his analysis is perceptive. He spares none of us in searching out the causes for this horrendous mediocrity that our society is creating. He points to rapacious land speculators, moribund government regulators, imperious business men, advertising soothsayers, and a bemused public that acknowledges no higher authority than the right of each individual to use and abuse his property as he wants, no matter how adversely that effects the whole community. Even our artists and “intellectual elite” who should have the vision to show the way today as they have in past generations, have lost their way in a futile pursuit of transient novelty.

The depressing thing about Mr. Blake’s appraisal is that it is so accurate. The “systematic uglification of the United States” goes forward with complete public approval. Nature is recklessly being eliminated. And the arrogant and barren environment that we are substituting for nature is a frighteningly accurate portrait of ourselves, our countrymen and our society.

— B. Bunting

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