



REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



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FICTION

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. *ALICIA'S TREASURE*. Houston: Pinata Books, 1996. 123p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$5.95, ISBN 1-55885-086-4. 95-37669. (Juvenile)

In a simple and delightful manner, Diane Gonzales entertains young female readers with the story of Alicia and her exhilarating first trip to the Gulf beach town of Port Aransas. Full of anticipation, Alicia accompanies her teenage brother Sergio and his girl friend Carmen to the rented house of Carmen's family for a weekend. It is Carmen who included her; Sergio, being a typical older brother, would never have. Gonzales wonderfully describes the sights, sounds, smells, and atmosphere of beach swimming, shell collecting, pier fishing, and sunset watching. Alicia savors all of these sensations and experiences while she compares the dynamics of Carmen's family to her own. Alicia's sibling squabbling with Sergio is true to life: Sergio's constant teasing of his younger sister and Alicia's near revulsion at the kisses of Sergio and Carmen. Perhaps the most meaningful incident in the book is the realization by Alicia of the meaning of selfishness as Carmen admits to it and Alicia realizes her own and Sergio's. At the end, Alicia's treasure from the seaside outing is not what she thought it would be.

Bertrand is the San Antonio author of *Sweet Fifteen* (Vol.11, No.2) and a teacher of English and creative writing at St. Mary's University. She knowingly captures everyday lives of middle class Mexican Americans and creates meaningful stories for late elementary and middle school readers.

Sally Dooley

Bonner, Cindy. *THE PASSION OF DELLIE O'BARR*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1996. 353p. Hardcover: \$18.95, ISBN 1-56512-103-1. 95-25537.

With the publication of *The Passion of Dellie O'Barr*, Bonner completes her third novel about the McDade family, whom she placed in Bastrop County in the decades before and moving into the twentieth century. While each novel stands independent of the others, Bonner exploits certain themes such as making choices. In this novel, the father, a harsh unyielding man, has instructed his offspring: "We are all free to make our messes . . . to go by the rules or to break them." His daughters break the rules; therein lies the second theme: the awakening of the self.

Dellie forsakes her wealthy, highly-respected husband for a destitute though dynamic farmer, a rabble-rouser for the Populist Movement. She aggressively seeks from the farmer the passion she has never enjoyed with her husband. Her days

become a "mess" of wrong choices, through which she comes to realize she has spent her life thus far half-child, half-adult, never knowing her true self.

After committing arson on behalf of her lover and paying for her deed with a prison sentence, she concludes: "A woman has an obligation to herself to accept responsibility for the part she has played in shaping her life." Lily, in *Lily* (Vol.VII, No.4), learns this same lesson with like disastrous results. Along with this revealing knowledge of self comes the transforming power of love, the main theme of *Looking After Lily* (Vol.IX, No.3). Bonner's characters are deftly presented and absorb readers' interest. A bonus lies in her historically accurate depiction of Texas as it moved somewhat away from outlawry to the violence of a state in the throes of adolescence.

Ernestine Sewell Linck

Brandon, Jay. *DEFIANCE COUNTY*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996. 373p. Hardcover: \$23.00, ISBN 0-671-53654-0. 96-3540.

Kelsey Thatcher is a stranger in a strange town in East Texas, and she has an unpopular job to do. The brother of Galilee's district attorney has been arrested for murder. The victims are the sister- and brother-in-law of Morgan Fletcher, the aforementioned DA. To make the situation even more volatile, the murder victims' baby is missing. In order to gather evidence, Kelsey must win the confidence of the townspeople who initially regard her with disdain and suspicion for prosecuting their popular plant manager. When Kelsey receives the mandate from the city's matriarch to obtain a guilty verdict against Billy Fletcher, she suspects there is more to the case than meets the eye, but there are even more twists to the plot than a simple murder mystery. Thanks to compelling characterization, the story moves quickly and draws the reader into the thick pine forest of Defiance County, where Kelsey finds more than one answer to her isolating dilemma.

Sarah Tusa

Cambor, Kathleen. *THE BOOK OF MERCY*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996. 262p. Hardcover: \$22.00, ISBN 0-374-11550-8. 95-47729.

In this brilliantly written first novel, Houstonian Kathleen Cambor establishes herself as a creative new author. The important themes of love, loss, and forgiveness are revealed in the lives of a blue collar family in Pittsburgh. Edmund, the fireman father, marries an irresponsible and increasingly mentally ill dancer, Fanny. Bored with her marriage and two young children, Anne and Paul, Fanny deserts the family and reappears whimsically, but never for long, throughout their childhood. The absence of

the wife and mother seriously wounds father and children. They cope in various ways: Edmund grows remote and immersed in his work, while the lonely children long to escape which they do as soon as they leave high school: Paul to a Catholic seminary and Anne to college and medical school. An aging, solitary Edmund becomes obsessed with an alchemic laboratory to search for the formula to make himself young again and to bring Fanny home. Anne, now a psychiatrist and single mother, narrates some of the stories, and the others are filtered through the consciousness of Edmund, who at age eighty-three is confined to an institution.

Edmund's quest and his descent into insanity eventually bring Anne home. Together they attempt to love and forgive one another the sins of omission of the past. In a like manner, but through letters, Paul, Edmund, and Anne strive to reconcile. Mercy is released--grace and compassion that forbears punishment even when justice would demand it. As Paul's priest friend says, "Nothing's perfect. Knowing how to mend things is the key." They accomplish the most difficult of tasks: mending broken relationships. Cambor's skillful portrayal of complex characters in her original plot makes for thoughtful and pleasurable reading. This novel could easily be the best fiction by a Texas writer this year.

Sally Dooley

Cousins, Margaret. **CHRISTMAS KEEPERS: EIGHT MEMORABLE STORIES FROM THE 40s and 50s.** 2nd ed. San Antonio: Corona Publishing Co., 1996. 230p. Hardcover: \$18.00, ISBN 0-931722-55-1. 96-85581.

Margaret Cousins is a native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas, but she spent her career in New York City where she was an editor at *Good Housekeeping* (1945-1958), *McCall's* (1958-1961), and *Ladies' Home Journal* (1971-1973). Additionally during those years, she wrote over 200 stories and articles for these and other magazines. Collected here are eight Christmas stories she authored in the 1940s and 1950s. Given the age of the stories, it is not surprising to notice the anachronisms visible today: the sound of an egg beater, a dance program, and ladies wearing white kid gloves. Surprising too is the plight of a forty-five year-old female character in "Homemade Miracle" who is considered old and finished. Still, the stories give the reader a warm and comfortable feeling of a bygone time when life seemed more simple, more moral, and more safe.

In all of the stories, the main characters have a change of heart at Christmas such as in the "Inconstant Star" when a circus barker realizes he is dishonest and repents at Christmas upon seeing a bright star. "Santa Claus and the Tenth Avenue Kid" shows a transformation of an unlikely reprobate department store Santa. These nostalgic stories will bring pleasure to elderly readers while younger readers will notice their warmth and the changes in society and culture over the past fifty years.

Cousins recently died in San Antonio. Her biographies for children of Thomas Edison and Ben Franklin and a novel, *Boy in the Alamo*, remain popular and have been in print for several decades.

Sally Dooley

Knowlton, Laurie Lazzaro. **WHY COWBOYS NEED A**

BRAND. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 1996. 32p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 1-56544-228-2. 96-13713. (Juvenile)

Anyone who loves cowboys and horses will be enchanted with this latest offering from Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton. The simple, positive story, whimsically illustrated by renowned artist James Rice, provides young readers with a down-to-earth hero, who needs help solving a puzzle. Slim Jim Watkins does not seem like the type to be stumped by a problem. When confronted with a challenge other cowhands disdain, Jim hitches up his britches announcing, "Shoot, I can do that!" This 'can do' attitude earns Slim Jim a most loyal ally when he volunteers to break a herd of wild horses. The feared bangtail bronco, Bonecrusher, is Slim's reward for sticking to the bucking horses "like the flea on a dog." When the grateful foreman suggests Slim could start a ranch with such a fine horse, our hero's quandary is revealed in Slim Jim's exasperated response: "A feller needs a brand if'n he's a hankerin' for a ranch of his own." This dilemma does not interfere with Slim's continuing good deeds. He acquires all the elements needed to establish his own spread in gratitude for his unselfish acts of kindness, except for the illusive and all-important brand. This shortcoming is left for the reader to ponder until, with inspiration from Bonecrusher, the ideal brand flashes into Slim Jim's mind. The delightful full-page illustrations will help this become a read-along favorite.

Paul W. Miller

Medearis, Angela Shelf. **TREEMONISHA.** New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1995. 37p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$15.95, ISBN 0-8050-1748-8. 94-48933. (Juvenile)

After being freed from slavery after the Civil War, a group of people move north to start anew in a town they call Liberty. In this rendition of the Scott Joplin opera, the townspeople of Liberty establish, lose, and then regain their independence. Treemonisha, a foundling, grows up in Liberty and is sent away to be educated. During her absence the townsfolk, lacking in education themselves, become victimized and soon exchange their recently-won emancipation for slavery to superstition and fear. Zdzetrick, an evil conjurer, weaves a web of deceit around the townsfolk. Upon her return home, Treemonisha challenges Zdzetrick's strange power over her people. When Treemonisha is kidnapped, the people of Liberty gather their lost courage and attempt a rescue. This action emancipates them once again.

African American cultural heritage is revealed through the illustrations of religion and dance in ceremonies. The strength of religious conviction is evidenced in the similarities between people's reactions to the preacher's sermons and the conjurer's chant. In this contrast between light and dark, good and evil, education and illiteracy, good admonishes evil even while turning the other cheek. Although the picture book format is attractive to children, the content will be more appealing to older readers and adults.

Zanthia Smith

Rice, James. **COWBOY NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, TEXAS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.** Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 1996. 26m. Audiocassette: \$9.95, ISBN 1-56554-002-6. (Juvenile)

Anyone who enjoys James Rice's books is sure to enjoy this reading of two of his classic tales. Harvey Derrick narrates the tales and wrote the accompanying tunes to the music of such Western favorites as "Home on the Range." The sounds of the wind and the cattle lowing set the stage for the gravelly voice of the "cowboy" telling the tale. Each story has an introduction. "Cowboy Night Before Christmas" is about Christmas celebrations in different places. This seasonal story tells the tale of how two freezing cowboys help Santa make Christmas happen and have a special Christmas of their own.

The introduction to "Texas Night Before Christmas" explains that this story is based on the famous Clement Moore poem. This is a true Texas tale from Gimp and Leadfoot, the longhorns landing on the sod shanty roof, to the hot cup of mud for Santa. Children and grown-ups alike will enjoy this tape. Public and school libraries should add this to their audio collection -- or start one.

Beth Fuseler

Rice, James. *TRAIL DRIVE*. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 1996. 30p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 1-56554-163-4. 96-23057. (Juvenile)

Those who have enjoyed James Rice's previous books such as *The Cajun Night Before Christmas* and *Cowboy Rodeo* will appreciate his newest book which he wrote and illustrated. Each illustration occupies a full two-page spread with a short statement about the work on a trail drive. In a far corner of the page, Texas Jack, a jack rabbit, comments on the action in colloquial English of the time.

This book informs about the hardships involved in driving Texas longhorns to the railhead. Rounding up, branding, and organizing the drive are revealed along with the hazards met on the trail and how the cowboys coped. The drawings are very expressive of emotions and are often humorous. Young cowboys and cowgirls will delight in this read aloud book.

Frances M. Ramsey

Shuler, Linda Lay. *LET THE DRUM SPEAK*. New York: William Morrow and Co., Inc. 1996. 446p. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-688-12834-3, 95-33068.

Popular San Antonio novelist Linda Lay Shuler continues the story begun in her *New York Times* bestseller *She Who Remembers* with the story of Antelope, the blue-eyed young offspring of Kwani. Antelope and her mate, Chomoc, travel with their baby daughter Skyfeather from their home with the Anasazi in prehistorical New Mexico across the plains to what is now Oklahoma and the city of the mound building Hasinai. Shuler's research of the pre-Columbian Southwest is revealed in her detailed account of the structure of these tribes' social, economic, and spiritual lives. Chomoc trades with the Hasinai and then is seduced and abducted by the Queen of the City of the North. The Great Sun, the ruler of the Hasinai, desires Antelope as his mate and Skyfeather as a human sacrifice. Terribly frightened and alone, Antelope calls upon the spirits of her ancestors so that she will know what to do. Far Walker, the healer, encourages her to let the drum within her speak, because it is the voice of her ancestors in her blood. After much tribulation, good triumphs over evil, and in the process, the reader learns some-

thing of the ways of these ancient tribal people. Despite the author's incorporation of the culture of ancient Native Americans, the characters are like cardboard cut-outs moved around on a flannel board rendering minimal suspense and drama.

Shuler has been an independent radio, television, and film writer/producer for twenty-five years. Currently, she is writing the last volume of her *Time Circle Quartet* of which this present volume is the third in the series.

Sally Dooley

Smith, C. W. *HUNTER'S TRAP*. Forth Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1996. 255p. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-87565-162-3.

This is literate fiction for adults. The setting is El Paso and environs in 1930. Professor Smith uses words as a skilled surgeon wields his scalpel. The analogy extends a bit further, for throughout this taut story, there is blood aplenty which does not end until the penultimate page. In the first sentence Smith refers to the Vernal Equinox. The term is used to enhance the theme -- good and evil are too often equally balanced in man's nature.

That unfortunate balance is central to the character of the protagonist of the story, Wilbur Smythe. Smythe's childhood is miserable and he longs for real love. He finds it with Bobette and his daughter, Pearl. His emotional scales are further balanced when he is befriended by a Kiowa Indian suddenly oil rich who hires Smythe as his assistant. All this is snatched brutally and suddenly away when Smythe's wife and employer are gruesomely murdered in his presence. The rest of the story is of twists and turns as Smythe plots to find and destroy the man, Bill Kale, who took everything from him. The story's Dark Angel, Kale, played a dramatic and unhappy role in Smythe's youth which adds intensity to the plot.

"Maybe I do believe in Heaven and Hell, sort of," says Smythe. "It's an idea people carry in their heads of the best and worst that can happen." At the end Wilbur Smythe has lived his definition to the fullest.

Victor Lang

Stern, Daniel. *TWICE TOLD TALES*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989. Reprint. Houston: Rice University Press, 1995. 154p. Paperback: \$11.95, ISBN 0-89263-336-0. 95-7872.

Daniel Stern brings together in this collection six incredibly enjoyable stories, each one cleverly linked to a work by another writer. The titles, "The Liberal Imagination by Lionel Trilling," "The Interpretation of Dreams by Sigmund Freud," "A Clean Well-Lighted Place by Ernest Hemingway," "Aspects of the Novel by E.M. Forster," "Brooksmith by Henry James," and "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life by Sigmund Freud," pay tribute to the writers and the works that Stern has selected to incorporate into his own stories. Stern's characters are creative souls that seem constantly to be flirting with self-destruction while trying to survive in their art as well as in their flesh. Katherine Eudemie, who appears in two of Stern's stories, is such a character. "When her suicide attempts no longer attracted the appropriate attention, she had a baby." Katherine succeeds in having a child, and in "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life

by Sigmund Freud," she continually forgets to reclaim her daughter from the coat room attendant in a New York City restaurant where she frequently goes for lunch.

Twice Told Tales is an outstanding short story collection for which Stern deserves much praise, enticing his audience with lively urban settings and characters whose flaws only make them more endearing. This collection is a must for short story enthusiasts. Daniel Stern is the Cullen Distinguished Professor of English in the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program and the author of nine novels, two short story collections, a play, and several screenplays.

Gayla Chaney

Thomas, Rob. *RATS SAW GOD*. New York: Simon and Schuster Books For Young Readers, 1996. 219p. Hardcover: \$17.00, ISBN 0-689-80207-2. 95-43548.

First-time novelist Rob Thomas presents a present day rebel without a cause in *Rats Saw God*. The character of Steve York, a high school student alienated from his father and aligned with the more Bohemian students in his high school is an appealing protagonist. Steve York is given a writing assignment, a 100-page paper, to salvage a lost English credit and graduate on time. York writes about what he knows, his own life. While living in California with his mother during his senior year of high school, Steve details the experiences of his previous life in Houston with his father. He describes his three years in Houston with 'the astronaut,' the name he calls his father, and his friends who represent neo-Dadaists at their school, which includes his girlfriend who grants him his first broken heart.

Thomas writes of typical teenage experiences with alcohol, drugs, and lost virginity in an honest, amusing style and portrays an adolescent boy replacing his alienation and disenchantment with a reconcilable acceptance of his father and his life, in general, that moves him closer to his own maturity.

Rats Saw God offers young adult readers a fresh rendition of an old theme. Rob Thomas lives in Austin, Texas, where he recently received the Violet Crown Award from the Austin Writers' League and the University Co-op for this book.

Gayla Chaney

Wade, Mary Dodson. *OPA'S STORIES*. Houston: Colophon House, 1996. 18p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$4.95, ISBN 1-882539-20-6. (Juvenile)

Opa's Stories is a fictionalized account of several documented events in the early history of Fredericksburg, Texas. The comfortable format features grandfather Opa relating stories well known to grandson Wilhelm, during the course of relaxed conversation. Opa's exuberant "Ah-yah" signals an upcoming story laced with good nature and German terms. Young Wilhelm is so familiar with Grandpa's tales, he finishes the book's first offering, "The Cornmeal Chairs," for the sleeping Opa. From the cozy environs of Opa and Oma's garden and front porch emerge tales ranging from John Meusebach's friendship with the Comanches to an account of a Herr Brodbeck's pre-Wright Brothers' airship. Opa's musings, spiced by warm gingerbread and hot cider, reveal a surprising depth and variety in the area's past.

The attractive cut-paper collage illustrations by Pat Finney contribute to the homey tone of the work. They are highlighted by a beautiful centerpiece featuring an oversized Polyphemus moth. However, the quaint illustrations belie the difficulty of the prose, which will present some young readers with more substance than they can consume. A sixteen-term glossary of German words is useful to the unversed.

Paul W. Miller

POETRY

Medearis, Angela Shelf. *SKIN DEEP AND OTHER TEENAGE REFLECTIONS*. New York: Macmillan Books for Young Readers, 1995. 48p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$15.00, ISBN 0-02-765980-1. 94-19928.

Although most of the thirteen full page black-and-white illustrations by Michael Bryant depict African American teenagers, the anxieties and emotions explored in these poems are mostly universal among adolescents. Topics addressed include identity, security, drugs, sports, puberty, and race. Other issues such as ambiguous feelings toward the opposite sex, relationships with parents, intellectual honesty, and sibling jealousy are touched upon. Targeted to readers ten and older, these poems could be good discussion starters leading to an understanding that one is not alone in the problems faced.

Frances M. Ramsey

★★★NONFICTION★★★

BIOGRAPHY

Brinker, Norman and Donald T. Phillips. *ON THE BRINK: THE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP OF NORMAN BRINKER*. Arlington: The Summit Publishing Group, 1996. 203p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 1-56530-212-5. 96-13412.

If one would take a random survey of name recognition of famous American restaurateurs and restaurant chains, the name Ray Kroc would probably rank high on the list along with his famous fast food franchise with the familiar "Golden Arches." The name Norman Brinker would result, perhaps, in a few shoulder shrugs and responses of "never heard of him." Ask these same individuals if they have heard of the food franchises Steak and Ale, Bennigan's, Chili's, Burger King, and Jack in the Box, and the responses would no doubt be affirmative. After reading this book, the public will come to appreciate the genius of this entrepreneur that Wall Street and people in restaurant business circles have known for years.

Written in collaboration with Donald T. Phillips, Brinker's book is actually a testament to his extraordinary determination and perseverance in his business and personal life. The even-numbered chapters in the book chronicle his childhood years in New Mexico down to the present time as chairman of the board of

Brinker International. Several "Brinker principles" of his business success end each of these chapters. The odd-numbered chapters relate Brinker's life-threatening injury from one of his numerous polo accidents, his comatose state, and miraculous recovery in the early months of 1993. Concluding the work is an appendix of "The Brinker leadership philosophy."

The book is not too technical nor does it go into a lot of detail about the intricacies of the eight franchises Brinker either created or was involved with. Any aspiring entrepreneur will want to include Brinker's book on his or her reading list. Business students in management and ethics will likewise want to read the story of the many popular innovations Brinker made in the casual dining segment of the restaurant business.

This book gets a "thumbs up" recommendation for college and public libraries. Large high school libraries with vocational business collections may also want to consider this work as well.

Jon P. Tritsch

Carlson, Paul H. **EMPIRE BUILDER IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE: WILLIAM HENRY BUSH.** College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1996. 186p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89096-712-1.

William Henry Bush, successful New York-born Chicago entrepreneur, married into the family of Joseph F. Glidden, an early developer of barbed-wire and half owner of the Frying Pan Ranch in the Texas Panhandle. The 250,000-acre Frying Pan, founded in 1881, covered large parts of western Randall and Potter counties and abutted the railroad-generated town of Amarillo. During the droughty period of the early 1890s, Bush gradually assumed management of the ranch. From that time until his death, in 1931, Bush spent increasingly more time in Amarillo and became a driving force in the Panhandle's development.

Paul Carlson, a talented Texas Tech University historian, offers a thoroughly researched study of a man, his transcontinental business holdings, and his many economic and philanthropic contributions to Northwest Texas. Clearly revealed are Bush, the promoter of agricultural diversity (dairy and grain farming) in the Panhandle; Bush, the shrewd but unassuming capitalist in both Amarillo and Chicago; and Bush, the thoughtful, dependable family type. To be sure, Carlson's well-crafted work is solid ranching history. But it is a great deal more, and it provides valuable insight into a part of the state whose past is too often neglected.

James A. Wilson

Greene, A.C. **CHRISTMAS MEMORIES.** Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1996. 78p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$16.95, ISBN 1-57441-017-2. 96-8410.

Kirkland, Elithe Hamilton. **LEET'S CHRISTMAS.** Privately Printed, 1985. Reprint. University of North Texas Press, 1996. 63p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$16.95, ISBN 1-57441-014-8. 96-16221.

These attractive gift books are memoirs of two fine Texas authors. Hamilton is remembered for *Love is a Wild Assault* which despite its title, is not a romance. Greene is the author of

over twenty books. Both of these new volumes are printed in large type on creamy colored paper and are liberally illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings. Each narrative captures a specific childhood event the author experienced.

Leet, as Elithe was called, was five-years-old in 1912. She recounts her childish excitement over holiday preparations with family members. In her efforts to assist, she reached out to carry into the house a bottle of Four Roses which would go into the traditional egg nog. Somehow the bottle slipped from her hands and shattered. She was devastated, yet somehow, on Christmas morning, her favorite doll, attired in new clothes, sat under the Christmas stocking. A great mystery to a young child, yet it was suggestive and instructive on the power of forgiveness and love within a family. Toni Thomas' green spruce garlands embellish every page and are often accompanied by illustrations in this enjoyable reading experience.

Greene chose two stories: "The Too-Big Christmas Tree" and "Christmas Shopping: A Reminiscence." Through his description and insightful portrayal of family members' interaction, he gives two vivid snapshots of his childhood and the values that shaped him. Geoffrey Greene's drawings thoughtfully reveal family life in turmoil and peace. Since the books speak of love and forgiveness, they make for appropriate Christmas reading.

Sally Dooley

Hall, Sarah Harkey. **SURVIVING ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER: THE JOURNAL OF AN ORPHAN GIRL IN SAN SABA COUNTY.** Austin: Eakin Press, 1996. 131p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89015-986-6. 94-12612.

In this engrossing account, the author tells it like it really was. Hall's earliest memory of Texas frontier life was "the fear of Indians and trying to catch the sunshine through the cracks of our little log cabin and the horror I felt to the humming of the spinning wheel." Born in what is now San Saba County in 1857, Sarah Hall learned her ABCs while carding wool, saw the corpse of a scalped neighbor, planted corn, made molasses and endured the deaths of both of her parents, among other things, by the time she was twelve. Written in 1905 for her children, Hall's narrative focuses primarily on her childhood and early married life, ending with the murder of her brother Mose in 1888. With a keen memory for detail and stark candor, which sometimes borders on self pity, she puts emphasis on the dark side of frontier life, as she writes of her fear of Indians, loneliness, overwork, pain, sickness, grief, and deprivation.

Scholars will lament the lack of an index or annotation, but the general reader will be enthralled by this readable, honest appraisal of life on the Texas frontier, which not only describes day-to-day life, but also how the author felt about it. Putting the account into historical perspective is an insightful foreword by Dr. Paula Mitchell Marks, who observes, "Few accounts of life in nineteenth century Texas provide either the vivid personal detail or the poignancy of these recollections."

Mary M. Fisher

McLeRoy, Sherrie S. **RED RIVER WOMEN.** Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 1996. 274p. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 1-55622-501-6. 96-73226.

While researching the history of Grayson County, McLeRoy found herself drawn to the stories of women who lived near the Red River and contributed to our state's heritage, some more, some less. She chose eight of these women for her book. The first was Sophia Porter, about whom sufficient folklore has accumulated to label her a Jezebel. Her second husband of four, Holland Coffee, a successful operator of Coffee's Trading House on the Red, was able to build her a fine house, Glen Eden. After his death (the suspicious circumstances of which remain a mystery), Sophia prospered from her investments in land and lived out her life as the grande dame of Glen Eden.

There follows the sometimes scandalous story of Lydia McPherson, who won the title "First Woman Publisher in Texas and Oklahoma." She was known for her "no-holds-barred commentaries" and was convinced that the life-blood of towns and their growth was the newspaper. Next is Lucy Pickens, a "dazzler" from Marshall, who, as wife of the ambassador to Russia, charmed the royal family with her beauty, social grace and political acumen. Upon her return to Washington and the South, those same assets brought her fame as the Queen of the Confederacy.

Olive Ann Fairchild's story is a sad one of Indian captivity. Lucy Kidd-Key and Ela Hockaday were educators extraordinaire. Edna Gladney established a home for unwed mothers in Fort Worth, made famous by Greer Garson's portrayal of her Mrs. Edna Gladney in *Blossoms in the Dust*. The final sketch is about Enid Justin, who, when her drunkard husband left her for another woman, kept her family business going and developed it into one of the biggest boot-making companies in the world. Collectors of Texana will want *Red River Women* on their shelves. Readers will find it exceptionally well written and researched -- every page informative and enjoyable.

Ernestine Sewell Linck

Nash, Sunny. *BIGMAMA DIDN'T SHOP AT WOOLWORTH'S*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1996. 186p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89096-716-4, 96-14743.

In this memoir of her childhood in Candy Hill of Bryan, Texas, (a poor section noted for its unpaved streets, leaky houses, and outhouses), Sunny Nash describes her life as an African American in the segregated South. Life meant second-hand textbooks, balcony seating at the movie theater, and purchasing clothes without trying them on first. Through a series of vignettes, she tells about the places, and people who were influential in her life during the 1950s and 1960s: notably her grandmother, Big Mama, who was part Comanche, and her mother. Big Mama gave Nash love and security as well as sage advice to help her overcome prejudice and adversity and also hope to look to a future beyond Candy Hill. Her mother said, "You don't know what you will want to be when you grow up, and I want you to have the tools you need to be anything you want to be." Through her mother's sacrifice, Nash took piano lessons and had a set of encyclopedias. Even though doors were closed to Nash, her mother and grandmother gave her hope that she would be able to help open those doors.

After completing high school, Nash worked as a singer for about six years. Then recognizing the instability of her life, she entered Texas A&M University in 1973 and graduated in 1977 with a

journalism degree. She was one of the first African American women to graduate from Texas A&M. Presently Nash is an award-winning writer, television producer, and exhibiting photographer in California. Her highly readable book provides an encouraging story of triumph over tremendous obstacles.

Shirley Brown

Phillips, John Neal. *RUNNING WITH BONNIE AND CLYDE: THE TEN FAST YEARS OF RALPH FULTS*. Norman: University of Oklahoma P, 1996. 322p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: 29.95, ISBN 0-8061-2810-0. 95-42771.

Phillips offers a well-substantiated look at the Barrow gang through information provided by Ralph Fults and corroborated by others. Fults participated in several of the Bonnie and Clyde adventures after he met Clyde in prison. Fults was beaten severely by a guard, and Clyde tried to help him. This event was the beginning of a ten-year friendship between Fults, a young man without direction who tended to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and Clyde Barrow, a hardened criminal.

Phillips, while debunking the romanticized myths about Bonnie and Clyde, manages to present them and Fults as victims of social, political, and economic circumstance. Fults, after ten years of lawlessness, was later able to reform himself. He sought to tell his story so that others would know the circumstances that propel youth into crime.

This book is very well written, and Phillips corroborates Fults's account with interviews and articles from other people. There is an extensive bibliography, maps, drawings, and photos, which make this book an excellent resource for research or as required reading for sociology, Texas history, or psychology classes.

Janet K. Turk

Thompson, Dorothy Davis. *THE ROAD BACK: A PACIFIC POW'S LIBERATION STORY*. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1996. 160p. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-89672-362-3. 96-17062.

The Road Back is the story of nurse Dorothy Davis Thompson's journey back to the Philippine Islands during the Second World War. The daughter of an American businessman living in China, Thompson was reared in Shanghai but trained as a nurse in New York City. When the war broke out in 1941, she was serving as a Civil Service nurse in the army hospital in Manila while waiting for her commission as an army nurse. When the Japanese occupied Manila in January 1942, she and other American civilians were interned by the Japanese at Santo Tomás. She helped establish a camp hospital to care for the sick, but became so ill that she was repatriated to the United States in late 1943.

After returning to the States, Thompson worked diligently to become a part of the war effort. After some months of frustration dealing with governmental bureaucracy (which included an interview with Eleanor Roosevelt) she secured her army commission and orders to return to the Pacific. In late 1944 she arrived in the Philippines, where she worked as an army nurse until the end of the war. She now lives in San Antonio with her husband Jack, whom she met during the course of her wartime

odyssey. Her memoir has unusual features, as she saw the war both as a civilian and an army officer.

Ralph A. Wooster

CONSERVATION

Bartlett, Richard C. *SAVING THE BEST OF TEXAS: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO CONSERVATION*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995. 240p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$40.00, ISBN 0-292-70834-3; Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-292-70835-1. 94-043734.

Bartlett offers a refreshing approach to saving and protecting the most valuable natural resource in Texas, the land. *Saving the Best of Texas* details the common sense techniques of the Nature Conservancy of Texas, a group of people dedicated to protecting and promoting indigenous wildlife and habitats within the state. This group of private citizens is not affiliated in any way with various government offices, and it uses personal money (without the confinements of state or federal policies) to buy and protect land in Texas. Likewise, the organization seeks to inform the general public about the value of natural habitats and species to the various ecosystems of the Lone Star state. Numerous pictures of different areas which enhance the text and make the reader aware of the beauty found in Texas.

Janet K. Turk

CORRESPONDENCE

Kingsbury, John M. *TRADING IN SANTA FE: JOHN M. KINGSBURY'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH JAMES JOSIAH WEBB, 1853-1861*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1996. 326p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$40.00, ISBN 0-87074-389-9. Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-87074-390-2. 95-43120.

It is always a pleasant surprise, and a slight shock, when someone uncovers a new source of contemporaneous information on the Santa Fe Trade. Jane Lenz Elder and David J. Weber not only unearthed this small lode at the De Golyer Library, but discovered 150 more letters at the Missouri Historical Society. Combined, the correspondence comprises a narrative covering nearly a decade of the Santa Fe Trade during the years between the Mexican War and the American Civil War.

Kingsbury's letters to his partner Webb, who remained in the East during most of the period, give a detailed account of commerce in the recently acquired New Mexico Territories. He also includes information on government, politics and social conditions in the area; although, like many early American settlers in the Southwest, he managed to ignore, for the most part, Hispanic culture, the Roman Catholic Church, and local customs.

The book's main topic is commerce -- retail and wholesale business, buying, selling, out-guessing the market and trying to make a profit. It will not find a large audience among recreational readers, but historians, scholars, teachers, and anyone interested in Southwest history will find it fascinating reading. Every library in the Southwest should have a copy in its history collection. Extensive and enlightening notes, a comprehensive introduction, lengthy bibliography and a staggeringly full index

make it a fitting addition to the literature.

Bill Farrington

Shaffer, Roger A. *LETTERS HOME: A SOLDIER'S LEGACY*. Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 1996. 201p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 1-55622-488-5. 96-11712.

This is the moving and bittersweet story of a young American soldier who was killed in the last year of World War II. Like thousands of other Americans, Bill Rogers, a resident of Montana, was drafted nearly a year before Pearl Harbor. After basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington, Rogers completed Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was then assigned to the 36th Division, the old Texas National Guard, which was completing its training before overseas shipment. Rogers served with the division in the North African and Italian campaigns. He was killed by enemy artillery fire in the bitter fighting near Monte Cassino in January 1945.

Roger L. Shaffer, a Florida attorney and nephew of Rogers, has done an excellent job in compiling his uncle's letters home. Along with numerous photographs and official papers, the letters form a lasting legacy to one who gave his life for his country. The letters tell us much about the hopes, fears and dreams of a young officer who was devoted to his family and friends. They also tell us much about a generation of Americans who lived through the challenges of the greatest war in history. Rogers' letters will bring back many memories, especially to any who served with the 36th Division.

Ralph A. Wooster

CULTURAL RELATIONS

Poyo, Gerald E., *TEJANO JOURNEY 1770-1850*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. 186p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-292-76570-3. 95-41290

Tejano Journey is part of a growing trend in the research and study of Hispanic society in Texas. It chronicles the development of this unique culture from the Spanish colonial settlements of the 1770's to the Texas of 1850. The text portion of the book consists of 132 pages which are divided into seven chapters and a conclusion. The reference section is fifty four pages. The footnotes, bibliography and index are well written and should prove very useful to those wishing to do further research into Tejano culture.

Tejano Journey is a general history of the period it covers. Its views and conclusions are drawn from a Tejano perspective. The primary focus is on the cultural development of Tejanos and their reactions to the various events of that turbulent portion of Texas history. It also deals with the influence of Anglo-American culture on the development of Hispanic culture in Texas. Topics of interest include the rise of settlements under Spanish rule and their conflicts with Spanish authorities. Following Mexico's independence it covers the growing influence of Anglo-American settlers and the Texas Revolution of 1836. The latter portion of the book deals with Tejano attempts to adapt to the new Anglo dominated culture during the Republic of Texas and the early years of U.S. statehood. *Tejano Journey* is a good choice for anyone wanting an introduction to Tejano

history prior to 1850.

James N. Hendrix

Ricklis, Robert A. **THE KARANKAWA INDIANS OF TEXAS: AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF CULTURAL TRADITION AND CHANGE.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. 222p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$35.00, ISBN 0-292-77073-1. Paperback \$ 16.95, ISBN 0-292-77077-4. 95-030404.

As a Galvestonian, I read eagerly for the truth about the Karankawas. The history of this group is well documented and dispelled much of the hearsay misinformation I received as a boy. Voracious cannibalism was not a characteristic of these people. They may have practiced a limited and ritualistic form of it upon occasion. Their diet was far more likely to be fish, shellfish, white-tailed deer and the occasional bison, supplemented by wild potatoes gathered by women of the tribe.

European contact with the Karankawas occurred in the late 1600s and by the early 1800s a high degree of acculturation had taken place. There was a period of hostility between the Spaniards and the Karankawas from the 1720s to the 1790s when a transformation occurred. A shift from resistance to the Spaniards to an acceptance of their presence occurred. Contrary to what one might expect, this was a clever integration of the Spanish Mission into the Karankawa culture. At the most basic level of native life, the mission was incorporated as an ecological resource. This provided the groundwork for partial acculturation in later years to Spanish behavioral and cognitive patterns.

When reading the book for basic information as I did, how nice not to be bedeviled by footnotes taking up three quarters of each page. "References Cited" come at the close of the book along with the index. Because of the extensive documentation, scholars will be richly rewarded by attention to this work.

Victor Lang

Stavans, Ilan. **THE HISPANIC CONDITION: REFLECTIONS ON CULTURE AND IDENTITY IN AMERICA.** New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1995. 288p. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-06-017005-0. 94-5070.

The subtitle of this book belies the transcontinental scope of the author's heroic quest. In his search for the roots of the diverse groups of Hispanic Americans -- Chicano, Puerto Rican, etc. -- Stavans takes the reader on an intellectual journey through South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. In order to delineate a conceptual framework for self-identity among Hispanics, the author meticulously surveys and critiques the various vehicles of self expression among the diverse groups, from poetry to essays to popular culture. In a defiant tone, Stavans asserts that the Eurocentric lineage of United States culture renders the immigrants and exiles from Latin America marked outsiders, partly because of the difference in their accent and skin color. Furthermore, he attempts to explain why the Hispanic never becomes as fully assimilated as immigrants from European countries. In reference to perceived imperialistic actions by American Anglos, Stavans boldly asserts, "We are a different variety simply because, unlike previous immigrants, most of us didn't come to America; instead, America came to

us." *The Hispanic Condition* ultimately assumes the tone of a manifesto with the author's declaration: "We shall infiltrate the enemy, we shall populate its urban centers, marry its daughters, and reestablish the kingdom of Aztlán." Providing a comprehensive, if controversial discourse on a segment of culture that is intrinsically relevant to Texas, this book is an important contribution to an understanding of our society and should be included in public and academic library collections throughout Texas.

Sarah Tusa

EDUCATION

Kemerer, Frank and Jim Walsh. **THE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO TEXAS SCHOOL LAW.** 4th ed. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. 410p. Index. Hardcover: \$40.00, ISBN 0-292-74324-6; Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-292-74325-4. 96-4490.

While the U.S. Congress and national politicians for several years have engaged in competitive hand-wringing over the ills of public education, the Texas Legislature in 1995 made its first serious effort to cure those maladies since the Ross Perot-inspired reform legislation over ten years ago. The recent recodification of state education law ("Senate Bill 1") may lack the sound-byte sex appeal of the Perot Committee's effort (who can forget the ungrammatical pithiness of "No pass, no play"?), but there is something buried deep within its 779 pages to catch the interest of nearly everyone.

For parents, the bill creates the illusion that they can more easily machete-chop their way through local administrative flubber to find the core of their children's educational needs. For teachers (or their unions), there is the hope that SB1, by interjecting a Texas Education Agency-appointed hearing examiner into the termination or nonrenewal process before the local board has a chance to act, may have the effect of saving a few more marginals from the unemployment rolls. (In fact, getting hired by a Texas school district is now tantamount to lifetime tenure.)

Frank Kemerer, a respected education professor, and Jim Walsh, a veteran school lawyer, have comprehensively touched all the SB1 bases in providing a well-organized and indexed reference source for the beleaguered building principal who can't get his lawyer on the phone.

Tanner T. Hunt, Jr.

ESSAY

Seale, Jan Epton. **HOMELAND: ESSAYS BESIDE AND BEYOND THE RIO GRANDE.** Edinburg: New Santander Press, 1995. 146p. Paperback: \$14.00, ISBN 0-935071-10-5.

Seale offers a unique look at life in the Rio Grande Valley as she defends it from the slander of the uninformed who cannot reason beyond humidity levels and heat indexes. She presents vibrant pictures of the Valley, its inhabitants, and life as she knows it in the hot, humid, multicultural area of deep South Texas. Some of the essays reflect upon her childhood in Waxahachie, but even these are tied into her life in McAllen, Texas.

This collection encompasses children growing up, modern weddings, fear of flying, and several other areas of life to which the

average reader can relate. In "Taking the Heat Off the Valley," Seale attempts to make sense of the heat and humidity of the Valley as she reflects on her encounters with people who have no concept of the area other than its high temperatures and humidity levels. The essay refutes the notion that the Valley is hotter-than-Hell and not worth living in, but Seale offers too many statistics to make the essay flow smoothly. "Remembering the Sabbath" is an account of Seale's life as the daughter of a Baptist minister. It offers a humorous but realistic depiction of "Texas Baptist Sundays" with portraits of a mother who returns from worship and loosens "the stays, straps, and hooks that held her figure in compliance with the limits of voluptuousness allowed Baptist preachers' wives in the fifties" and a daughter who, after experiencing "slobbery kisses" following a youth devotional, becomes "extremely ambiguous" about her body being the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Seale is the author of three books of poetry, a book of short fiction, and several children's books. She lives in McAllen, Texas, where she writes and teaches writing classes.

Janet K. Turk

GUIDEBOOKS

Foster, Nancy Haston. **THE TEXAS MONTHLY GUIDEBOOKS: TEXAS MISSIONS.** Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1995, 150p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-87719-276-6. 95-34476.

Written in a conversational and breezy style, this interesting guidebook succeeds in making history informative and entertaining while simultaneously serving as a guide for visitors to the sites described. A brief introduction about Spain's original purpose for establishing the missions to colonize the land it claimed in the New World is followed by descriptions of the four locations of mission activity in Texas. About one-half the book looks at the five missions in San Antonio, of which the most famous, of course, is the Alamo. Ninety-five miles southeast of San Antonio are located Mission Espiritu Santo and Presidio La Bahía, an important Texas revolutionary site where 342 Texas men were executed by the Mexican army. The oldest surviving structures, however, are found near El Paso where the Spanish arrived in 1680. Some historians claim that the first American Thanksgiving occurred at San Elizario Presidio Chapel in 1598, preceding the one in Massachusetts by twenty-three years. The fourth group of missions depicted in the guidebook was established in East Texas, but little remains of this group, except for Mission Tejas. The book concludes with a final chapter "Frontier Life and the Rise and Fall of the Texas Missions."

Each description is accompanied by a black-and-white photograph of the mission, a diagram and map, history, and details about tours, exhibits, and special events. Also noted are the sites in historical parks that allow for opportunities for picnicking, hiking, and camping. This is an excellent resource for students as young as seventh grade to use for reports in addition to being a general guide for tourists and families. The guidebook is so good that I can overlook errors like "polyglot exhibits" and "non de plume."

Sally Dooley

Foulk, Karen. 147 FUN THINGS TO DO IN HOUSTON.

Sugar Land: Into Fun Company Publications, 1997. 190p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-9652464-0-X. 96-76785.

This guide to what to do in Houston and the surrounding area was developed over twelve years of visiting places with the author's children. While the emphasis is on what to do with your children, any visitor or native to Houston will find interesting activities and places listed. The book is divided into ten chapters. There are chapters on "what's Houston got to show off," eating out, tours, museums, amusement parks, shopping, annual events and one on Galveston. The majority of places are in Houston. However, it takes one as far afield as Concan and Orange.

Each entry contains the street address, phone numbers, a description of the place, hours, cost and directions. The author cautions to call and confirm the information in the book, which was accurate at the time of publication. Each section is preceded by a map giving the approximate location which, when combined with the directions, makes each place easy to locate. The book is small enough to be carried in the car for those spur of the moment trips. Public libraries may want to keep it on their shelves for handy reference.

Beth Fuseler

Harrison, Joanne. **HOUSTON.** 3rd Edition. Index. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1996. 292p. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-87719-272-3. 96-43886.

Ms. Harrison, a reporter in *Newsweek's* Houston bureau and founding editor of *Houston City Magazine*, is responsible for the last two versions of this popular guidebook, including this fine new edition, the first in six years. Harrison does a credible job explaining just what it was that drew her to this admittedly unattractive metropolitan area still the fourth largest American city. In the process, she does an admirable job of balancing the historical with the present. While thumbing through to check out the trendiest new place to be seen (Empire Cafe), the reader will invariably stumble across one or more of the mini-biographies of notable figures from Houston's past, scattered like signposts throughout the text. Names like M.D. Anderson, Gail Borden, Hugh Roy Cullen, George Hermann, Ima Hogg, Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, Mickey Leland, Dominique De Menil and Gus Wortham leap from the pages and give the reader tremendous perspective on how this city grew and prospered in the exact fashion that it did. Yet another nice touch is the inclusion of various "Images of Houston," which, flying in the face of the "picture-is-worth-a-thousand-words" tradition, are appropriate and moving quotations from area poets and novelists. Considerably less elegant are the randomly-inserted "Houston Factoids," which furnish the reader with various information related to the Bayou City, some of which is pertinent and some of which is pure filler.

In addition to descriptions of the city proper and its attractions, Harrison includes information about the surrounding areas, with particular emphasis on Galveston and the Clear Lake/NASA region. The guide is well-indexed and includes a listing of books about Houston as well as newspapers and local media for the traveler, new immigrant, or interested party to consult. Curiously, other than a map of the city at the front of the book, there are no photographs or other illustrations. As Harrison makes clear in her preface, "Houston has always been

a city imagined." Note: A previous edition from Texas Monthly Press was published as, *Texas Monthly Guide to Houston*. Recommended for all Texana and travel collections.

David Carroll

HISTORY

Davis, Joe Tom. *HISTORIC TOWNS OF TEXAS, VOLUME II: COLUMBUS, GONZALES, JEFFERSON*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1996. 291p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-57168-044-6. 91-17276.

Anyone interested in curious facts, brief biographical sketches, and anecdotal tales of local color will enjoy Joe Davis' curious book. This second volume of *Historic Towns of Texas* focuses on three communities that trace their origins to the Mexican and Republic periods (1821-1845, collectively). Each has distinctive claims to its place in Texas history: Gonzales was the site of the first "battle" of the war for independence; Columbus boasts of its Austin colony "Old 300" origins; and Jefferson was the most important inland port in Texas throughout Reconstruction.

Although Davis maintains a positive tone throughout, he is not above exposing local blemishes such as the following. For Gonzales he tells of the 1894 election campaign, in which John Wesley Hardin made public that the Democratic candidate for sheriff had helped him escape from the county jail twenty-two years prior. Columbus's boast as the oldest Anglo American community in the state is not borne out by the evidence. The Ku Klux Klan's presence in Jefferson "incited racist crimes, lynchings, and floggings" during the early 1920s.

Unfortunately, *Historic Towns of Texas II* has a number of significant shortcomings. Although the book contains endnotes, these are content-oriented instead of citations of sources consulted. The anecdotal and heavily biographical text is disjointed and superficial. And, on a minor note, the quality of the illustrations is marginal. Consequently, while the casual reader of Texas history will find Davis' book engaging, the serious student will find it of limited value.

Jesús F. de la Teja

Dearen, Patrick. *CROSSING RIO PECOS*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1996. 196p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$15.95, ISBN 0-87565-159-3. 95-26692.

Ending on an elegiac note which observes that the Pecos today is "a river tamed, even dying," Patrick Dearen builds this history around the fact that once the Pecos River was a nearly impassable obstacle for American settlers moving west. A wild and steep-banked river through a barren country inhabited by hostile Indian tribes, the Pecos was known to early settlers only from the few fords along its length of 300 miles. Most got across as fast as they could, if they could, and moved on. Each fording place receives its own chapter, complete with historical and contemporary description and each chapter retells the story of the same years, from gold rush to the coming of highway bridges. There is a certain redundancy to this scheme, but each crossing has its own stories of flood and famine, outlaws, Indian raids, drovers, wagon-trains, and frontier cavalry outposts, and Dearen is most concerned to tell these tales. Dearen is no sensationalist, but many of the stories--and characters such as

Loving and Goodnight, Clay Allison, and Bob Olinger--have plenty of color without fictionalization.

His account is well researched from period military and civilian documents and from oral histories including Dearen's own interviews with many West Texas old-timers. The reader is invited to marvel again at the perseverance and ingenuity with which people confronted the river and each other along its banks, and is obliged to reflect that these very qualities, heroic in their isolated contexts, have been the river's very undoing when magnified and multiplied.

Randall S. Holdridge

Erickson, John R. *THROUGH TIME AND THE VALLEY*. Austin: Shoal Creek Publishers, 1978. Reprint. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1995. 230p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$25.95, ISBN 0-929398-95-5. 95-8925.

In 1972, author John R. Erickson and photographer Bill Ellzey decided to venture forth on horseback for a fifteen day, 140-mile trip. This book recounts their travels from Plemons, located near Borger in the Panhandle, to Canadian. In preparing for their journey through the Canadian River valley, Erickson interviewed a number of "old-timers" and researched the library for historical data on the area. Erickson engagingly describes the landscape and the people it shaped. We meet hardy ranchers and their families and listen as they swap stories. It is hard to forget the heartfelt details of the death of the Dixon family's infant; on the other hand, we smile at the folklore surrounding the moonshine stills that once operated in the valley. We hear about old Charlie Tubb who at age ninety drove himself to California and flew to Australia where he spent nearly two months. Upon his return, he offered a bet to anyone for \$1000 that he would live to be 100. No one took him up on it, and he died at age ninety-six. Erickson admits in the preface to this new edition that he wishes he had researched and asked more questions about the ruins of the Pueblo Native Americans who inhabited this country nearly a millennium ago. The reader wishes he had also.

The black-and-white photographs are a disappointment in that many are grainy and gray with little definition. Nevertheless, this is a pleasant journey back in time to a distinct locale in Texas. This book is Number 2 in the Western Life Series Books of the University of North Texas Press.

Sally Dooley

Hardin, Stephen L. *TEXIAN ILIAD: A MILITARY HISTORY OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 321p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$24.95, ISBN 0-292-73102-7. 94-1564.

This book provides a military analysis rather than a political view of the campaigns of the Texas Revolution. The author details the strengths and weaknesses of both sides. He discusses the strategy, and the immense geography of Texas which caused the War to develop as it did. He explains why the battles took place, where they did, and how the armies of both sides were arrayed for battle. He also discusses the tactics on both sides and the innovations (or lack thereof) that were used. Mr. Hardin brings the legends to life, and we get to see them as real people and the battlefield from their points of view. It is a fascinating book.

It is profusely illustrated showing the dress of the times and the uses of the equipment. The battlefield maps are plain and easy to read. One can take the map to the battlefield and see where the armies were formed for battle. I enjoyed the book a great deal. It contains an excellent bibliography and index for quick reference.

Ky W. White

Jameson, James. **THE STORY OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$35.00, ISBN 0-292-74043-3; Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-292-74042-5. 96-1212.

In 1883, just eleven years after the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first, came a public suggestion that the big bend of the Rio Grande could also be suitable as park land. The idea grew as people recognized the area's uniqueness and splendor, yet it was not until 1944 that it became a national park. Chief promoters were some of the state's prominent citizens: R.M. Wagstaff of Abilene, Amon G. Carter of Fort Worth, Horace Morelock of Alpine, geologist Ross Maxwell, J. Frank Dobie, Walter Prescott Webb, and, to be sure, Governors "Pappy" O'Daniel and Coke Stevenson. The process of establishing a national park was tedious, and it involved the Texas State Park Board, the Permanent School Fund, the Texas Legislature, the U.S. Congress, ranchers with land holdings, and corporations with mineral rights. The book also relates the efforts to develop with Mexico an international park in the Sierra del Carmen, a vision proposed almost concurrently with that for the U.S. park, but hampered by the Mexican government's concept of public parks which conflicts with the policies of the U.S. Park Service. While these differences may never be resolved, the Park administration currently struggles with insufficient funds and shortage of staff.

Jameson's book will be of interest to those readers who deeply appreciate Big Bend National Park, as well as those concerned with public land policy and the conservation of natural areas. This book complements Ron Tyler's 1975 publication, *The Big Bend: A History of the the Last Texas Frontier* (reprinted in paper in 1996 from U.T. Press), which focuses on the social history of the area.

Joann Karges

THE MARCH TO MONTERREY: THE DIARY OF LIEUTENANT RANKIN DILWORTH, U.S. ARMY. Ed. by Lawrence R. Clayton and Joseph E. Chance. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1996. 119p. Bibliography. Paperback: \$12.50, ISBN 0-87404-198-8.

At the beginning of the Mexican War, Lieutenant Rankin Dilworth was a young graduate of the United States Military Academy. Ordered to participate as a company commander in Zachary Taylor's campaign in northern Mexico, Dilworth traveled from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, by way of New Orleans to the mouth of the Rio Grande. He spent much of the summer of 1846 in the vicinity of Matamoros before marching up river to Camargo in August. From Camargo, Dilworth moved with Taylor's forces toward Monterrey in early September, was wounded on September 21 in an attack on the town, and died on September 27.

There isn't much in Dilworth's record that is especially revealing with respect to his character. He was very young, only twenty-four when he died, and was apparently a relatively happy and well-adjusted soldier in the very early stages of a career. He recorded very little that might suggest any particular concerns about the war, its origins, or its implications. His diary is most useful in its description of the times, the world of the professional soldier, the people of both countries and the countryside. The editors' introduction is well-done, particularly in its presentation of the situation surrounding Dilworth's activities. Descriptive and explanatory notes at the end of the volume focus on genealogical information but contain other helpful information.

Adrian Anderson

McCaffrey, James M. **THIS BAND OF HEROES: GRANBURY'S TEXAS BRIGADE, CSA.** Austin: Eakin Press, 1996. 262p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-89096-727-X. 96-3005.

The history of the brigade, which came to be known by its most popular commander, Brig. Gen. H. B. Granbury, is told by James McCaffrey, Department of History, University of Houston, Downtown. Granbury's brigade consisted of the infantry cavalry regiments and Richardson's Company of Independent Texas Cavalry, units raised in 1861 and 1862 in central and east Texas. The brigade fought under several commanders, eventually surrendering in April 1865, at Greensboro, North Carolina. This history of the brigade is rich with anecdotes, which help the reader understand the character of these independent frontiersmen who gave so much in defense of their state and the Confederate cause. The romance of the era and the bravery of the Texas soldiers and troopers, along with the warts, are detailed in this account.

The men of Granbury's brigade saw their first action at Arkansas Post, where most of the brigade were captured, in a frustrating and unexplained surrender after a short but seemingly effective defense. The story of the surrender and imprisonment of the enlisted men at Camp Butler illustrates the hardship faced by these troops. The officers, imprisoned at Camp Chase, fared somewhat better. After their release and a few weeks of recuperation, the men joined in the defense of Richmond, and later fought with distinction in several major engagements, including Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Atlanta.

The book will be of interest to students of Southern military history and essential in any collection on Texas military units. A comprehensive listing of the officers and soldiers by company, which is included in the appendix, will be of special interest to genealogical researchers.

Ray W. James

McConnell, H. H. **FIVE YEARS A CAVALRYMAN OR, SKETCHES OF REGULAR ARMY LIFE ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER, 1866-1871.** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996. 297p. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-8061-2817-8. 95-25718.

With the possible exception of the cowboy or, perhaps, the gunfighter, there is no more enduring icon of the Old West than that of the cavalryman. The myths and fables surrounding the

U.S. Cavalry have been perpetuated over the years in countless movies that portrayed the cavalryman as a highly romantic figure who was single-handedly responsible for the taming of the American West in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

In the five years immediately following the Civil War, H.H. McConnell lived the life that others only dreamed. He joined the cavalry for the excitement and the adventure offered by the great untamed wilderness of the Western frontier; he wanted to see it and experience it before it was gone. With daily entries in his journal, McConnell strips away the romantic myths and perceptions of the cavalryman, and shows the hard edge of reality—a life of boredom, drudgery, drunkenness, and thievery, punctuated with occasional danger. For those who would know how the "Old West" really was, as seen through the eyes of a real cavalryman, this book is invaluable. Not only is his narrative articulate, but he also shows keen powers of observation as he describes both the beauty and the harshness of the frontier of northwest Texas. His insights and observations about the officers and men of his regiment reveal much about the complex social structure of a typical cavalry troop and their daily struggle to live and work together in a wild and desolate country.

Robert Looney

Reynolds, Clay with Marie-Madeleine Schein. *A HUNDRED YEARS OF HEROES: A HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1995. 315p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 0-87565-145-3; Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-87565-149-6. 95-15428.

To most contemporary city slickers, the present existence of a profitable and popular rodeo and livestock show would be considered an anachronism, but to many Texans, the event is almost a cultural icon. The Fort Worth Rodeo and Fat Stock Show began in March 1896 and continues today as an exciting attraction in Fort Worth every winter. Reynolds and Schein have used interviews, periodicals, and books for reference, but perhaps the most useful resource has been the unpublished Weisberg manuscript, a collection of articles, photocopies of newspaper stories and magazine articles, along with material from the expositions' programs. Although the clippings of these often do not have sources identified, their existence corroborates, verifies, or corrects other accounts. Because the record of this event parallels the history of agriculture and social development in the state, the book is expressive of a way of life.

Charles McFarland and C.C. French agreed in the late 1800s that a stock show would stimulate the livestock industry and perhaps attract meat packing plants. From rather modest beginnings in North Fort Worth as a livestock show, the event has grown to a modern extravaganza of livestock exhibition and rodeo centered in the west side of town. The authors trace the inclusion of different events such as sheep dog demonstrations, wild horse stampede, bull riding, and even cowboy mounted football and basketball, which each enjoyed a brief popularity. Entertainment has varied from the opera *Rosalinda* staged by the Fort Worth Opera Association in 1956 to western singers like Gene Autry. The number of rodeo entrants remains healthy with purses of \$350,000 for prizes. The contribution of strong leadership by men such as Amon Carter, John Justin, S. Burk Burnett, and Billy Bob Watt has directed the growth.

Reynolds, a Denton resident, has written three novels, the latest of which is *Franklin's Crossing*, and nonfiction, *Taking Stock: A Larry McMurtry Casebook*. Marie Schein teaches at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth. Readers with an interest in animal husbandry, cowboys, and rodeos will find this an excellent, detailed resource.

Sally Dooley

Townsend, Tom. *TEXAS TREASURE COAST*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1996. 166p. Index. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 1-57168-043-8.

Most of the thirty-eight chapters in this anthology open with a ripping historical yarn of a ship on its doomed final voyage and then describe the treasure -- historical artifact, equipment, or even gold -- that went down with the ship along the Texas Coast. The chapters are divided chronologically into six sections: Spanish treasure, pirate treasure, the Texas Republic, the Civil War, schooners and steamships, and twentieth century wrecks. Because most chapters were originally published separately, uneven treatment and repetition makes this an awkward book to read in one sitting. And although treasure hunters love poring over maps, only one map (concerning the Civil War Battle of Galveston) is included. But what the book lacks in unity, it makes up for in rich detail, guaranteed to tantalize armchair treasure hunters. It is designed to make mouths water over accounts of the missing silver of the *Santa Rosa* or the pirate treasure of Galveston Bay.

Townsend, a lifelong diver and treasure hunter, is a controversial authority of Texas shipwrecks. In his attempt to tell colorful stories, he accepts records of doubtful authenticity, like the questionable "Lafitte diary." Some readers will find Townsend a bit one-sided in his politics: he lays all the blame for pilfered shipwrecks, not on salvage divers who sell the stuff on the black market, but on Texas' state bureaucracy for failing to negotiate with the salvagers. Still, the book is satisfyingly suggestive and contains a useful index and an informative table of over 100 shipwrecks.

Stephen Curley

Yancey, Diane. *CAMELS FOR UNCLE SAM*. Dallas: Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., 1995. 92p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-937460-91-5. 95-6129. (Juvenile)

In 1851 U.S. Senator Jefferson Davis suggested importing camels for the army's use in the desert southwest. Diane Yancey, the author of several books of history, has written an interesting account of the camels which were first brought to the port of Galveston in 1856. The first camels, tested on a surveying trip across West Texas and New Mexico, proved to be more ideal than horses or mules. They could travel longer without water, survive on native vegetation, and carry heavier loads. Even though more camels were later imported, interest in their use declined because of prejudice, unpleasant characteristics of the camels, the onset of the Civil War, and the building of the transcontinental railroad. The book includes an account of what happened to the camels and their drovers when the animals were abandoned in the wilderness as well as the legends which arose as a result.

This is a handsome book with good layout, attractive type, and many black-and-white illustrations derived from photographs, drawings, and paintings. The research value for upper elementary students studying history, transportation, or camels is enhanced by notes of sources for each chapter and illustrations and a bibliography.

Frances M. Ramsey

NATURAL HISTORY

Campbell, Linda. **ENDANGERED AND THREATENED ANIMALS OF TEXAS**. Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife, 1995. 130p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 1-885696-04-3.

This attractive publication, distributed by the University of Texas Press, is a treasure of information about threatened species in Texas—including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. As each species is discussed, a brief description of the animal is given, a distribution map is provided, its habitat is described, and the life history is detailed. There is a concise notation concerning the attempted recovery efforts.

"Where to See" and "Where to Learn More" sections are included. The book also details for the reader "how you may help," and it lists places where more information may be obtained. In many instances management guidelines and other details are given. While this is not a book which one sits and reads from cover to cover, it is an excellent resource. This volume would be useful in any home, public, or school (elementary through university) library.

Jed J. Ramsey

Neck, Raymond W. **THE TEXAS MONTHLY GUIDEBOOK: A FIELD GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES OF TEXAS**. Houston: Gulf Publishing Company, 1996. 323 p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$21.95, ISBN 0-87719-243-X. 95-33013.

Butterflies are the one representative of the vast insect world which are generally admired and liked by the average person. Many children collect butterflies, and many adults would like to identify that lovely visitor to their yard. This useful field guide covers the 446 species of butterfly found in Texas. Entries are arranged systematically by butterfly family. Each entry contains common and scientific name, description, food plants, range, and life history and is accompanied by a map of the state showing distribution of the butterfly. Photographs of 200 butterflies plus some larvae and chrysalides are indexed in the entries. The quality of the photographs is generally excellent though details are hard to see on some of the darker and smaller species. The guide also includes a brief discussion of the biology of butterflies and indexes to food plants and the butterflies by common and scientific names. The focus on species known to occur in Texas and the distribution maps will be extremely helpful to the amateur butterfly lover who is trying to identify a specimen. The guide is recommended for all types of libraries.

Kathleen R. Murray

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tucker, Anne Wilkes. **THE SONIA AND KAYE MARVINS PORTRAIT COLLECTION**. Houston: The Museum of Fine Arts, 1995. 46p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-89090-068-X.

Eighty portraits, tracing the history of photography from its beginning with the daguerreotype process to the present, have been interpreted and reproduced in this book, honoring the donors, a Houston family of portrait photographers. The Marvin Portrait Collection is a recent gift to the museum, which holds one of the most extensive and impressive collections of photography in the country. A short but informative introductory essay by Anne Tucker, Curator of Photography, explains the unique characteristics of the public portrait, the focus of this publication and of special interest to the Marvins. This type of portrait differs from private portraits of family members and loved ones by concocting public images of notable personalities. Other short essays interpreting the individual works are by students and assistants to the curator — Maggie Olvey, R. Eric Davis, Harlow Tighe and William R. Thompson.

Lynne Lokensgard



EDITOR'S CHOICE

SCIENCE

Hackerman, Norman and Kenneth Ashworth. **CONVERSATIONS ON THE USES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1996. 107p. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-57441-015-6. 96-19162.

Reading this book is like listening to two brilliant men talking about a subject on which they are extremely knowledgeable. The reader wants to pull his chair a little closer and tune into what they are saying. Norman Hackerman and Kenneth Ashworth say that without the continuous contributions of science and technology our planet will not be able to support six billion people. But, they stress, mankind's complex and sophisticated needs cannot be fulfilled by science on demand. Scientists need to be able to take the time necessary to do the research and go where their investigations take them, not where someone directs them to go.

According to the authors, one of the most difficult problems in the United States today in the field of science is the declining pool of bright and motivated students. There is a tendency for students to want to get a quick return on what they do, and a scientist does not see the fruits of his work for many years, if ever. The authors state that scientists themselves need to do a better job in explaining science to the public. As the public becomes more familiar with science and what scientists do, more funding will become available for projects, and quality and quantity of scientists will increase.

This book will be of interest to students, teachers, researchers and to anyone who enjoys a deep and insightful conversation

between two erudite and wise men. Hackerman, a former president of Rice University, is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Rice. Ashworth serves on the Commission of Higher Education of Texas and is presently an executive vice-president at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Shirley Brown

TRAVEL

Carrington, Jackie. **ROMANTIC WEDDING DESTINATIONS**. 2d ed. rev. Sugar Land: Innovanna Corp., 1996. 152p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$24.95, ISBN 1-888759-11-9. 96-076479.

Due to escalating expenses and time-consuming planning, many brides and grooms choose to forego a traditional wedding in their hometowns. These weddings with 200 guests can easily consume six months of planning and have an average price tag of \$19,000. Annually, as many as 75,000 couples in the United States decide instead to travel to a romantic wedding destination. There in the presence of a few friends and family, they can relax and enjoy themselves in a lovely ceremony and then begin their honeymoon. Carrington explains how to work with a destination wedding planner and then highlights possible venues that offer something unusual in Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean, as well as in several states: California, Florida, Hawaii, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. For each listing, Carrington provides vital information: travel and marriage documents needed, transportation arrangements, brief descriptions of the locale and its climate along with simple maps. The lists of wedding planners often reveal the range of services they can provide: flowers, tux rental, transportation, catering, and photographers along with beach, yacht, or even volcano settings. The book gives sound advice for consumer protection, and the appendix has helpful phone numbers of airlines and car rental agencies. Carrington's prose style leaves something to be desired with sentences such as "Pirates once enjoyed its beautiful bays, beaches and clear waters to themselves." Still, this book should prove helpful for those dreaming of marrying in a new and exotic place.

Sally Dooley

Parent, Lawrence. **TEXAS SCENIC DRIVES**. Helena: Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc., 1995. 178p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-56044-339-1.

These descriptions of thirty beautiful Texas drives could be useful whether planning a lengthy vacation or a day's outing. The scenic drives are scattered throughout the state and include such places as Guadalupe Pass, Palo Duro Canyon, Enchanted Rock, Rio Grand Valley and Big Thicket National Preserve. Each entry includes a general depiction and mileage, special attractions, location on a state map, highway numbers, best seasons for enjoying the route, availability of camping and other services, nearby attractions, plus addresses and telephone numbers for more information. Each article includes a narrative of the drive, area geology and history, and local plants and wildlife. Special activities such as fishing, hiking, or river tubing are mentioned. Eight pages of colored photographs and an appended suggested reading list add to the value of this handy

travel guide. Designed to aid those who enjoy driving through Texas, this book will also be a source for middle and high school students for geographical and geological information and some local history.

Frances M. Ramsey

Permenter, Paris and John Bigley. **TEXAS GETAWAYS FOR TWO**. Kansas City: Two Lane Press, Inc., 1996. 187p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-878686-24-0.

Latest in the seemingly endless permutation of guidebooks to Texas is this one geared to twosomes, presumably romantic twosomes wanting to sample what the book calls Texas' "smorgasbord of intimate adventures for two." Some fifty-two "romantic" getaways are divided into eleven categories, including bed and breakfasts, big city night spots, water fun, coastal and border adventures, small towns, shopping, and "festivals for lovers." Each of the listings, such as that on the Alsatian village of Castroville, includes location, points of interest, dining, lodging (romantic, of course), and special events. With a state as big as Texas, the authors have had to choose carefully, but they offer a varied sampler of destinations ranging from honky tonks to tony restaurants spanning the state from Amarillo (recommended for hiking, picnicking, antique shopping) to Laredo (recommended for shopping, night life, dining). Because the guide is arranged thematically rather than regionally, and includes no maps save a tiny silhouette with a heart locator, readers less familiar with Texas geography may miss, for example, that Enchanted Rock (listed in "Adventures for Two") could be visited on the same getaway as Fredericksburg (listed in the bed and breakfast section). Nonetheless, they are sure to pick up plenty of travel ideas in this entertaining guide.

Mary M. Fisher

TRIALS

Riley, Gail Blasser. **MIRANDA V. ARIZONA**. Hillside: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1994. 128p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$17.95, ISBN 0-89490-504-X. 93-34380.

Gail Blasser Riley, a Texan and a lawyer, has written a superb book that examines the ideas and the arguments behind the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the landmark case involving Ernesto Miranda. The book details Mr. Miranda's arrest in Arizona in which Miranda confessed his guilt to the Arizona Police. His admission was admitted into evidence by the judge in the state court; as a result, he was convicted by the jury. Miranda appealed his conviction to the highest court of Arizona, which affirmed his conviction. Bring indigent, Miranda had court appointed attorneys who appealed his case to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled it was a violation of the U.S. Constitution to allow Miranda's confession as evidence without first warning him of his rights to have legal counsel before talking to the police. It also provided that if the accused cannot afford an attorney, one could be appointed to represent him free of charge.

This informative book brings to life the people behind the case and explores the controversy that the decision ignited about the rights of the accused versus the rights of the victim. The book is written for middle school students as well as for adults. The final section includes: discussion questions, chapter notes, a glossary,

and an index. It is an important acquisition for all libraries.

Sarah Matheny

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