



# REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



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## FICTION



Gilb, Dagoberto. *THE MAGIC OF BLOOD*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993. 300p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-8263-1436-8. 93-13195.

These twenty-six stories, a number of which have been previously published, have no single common setting or tone, but the volume is unified by the matter-of-fact acceptance of doom that galvanizes each protagonist. The humorous stories are dark, the rest darker, but the darkness is not of the protagonists' making, and they do not succumb to fear of it. The plots do not seem to hinge on the fulcrum of drama, but of anticlimax. Heroes are both unlikely and unwilling, but they cast long shadows nonetheless. Gilb writes about courage and faith and commitment without using the words. He writes about *chicanos*, not self-conscious, self-absorbed, cause-driven activists, but real *paisanos* grimly determined to live and find some way to justify it.

Gilb has won a number of literary prizes, fellowships, and endowments, and is widely anthologized. *The Magic of Blood* was recently awarded the Texas Institute of Letters award for the best book of fiction published in 1993. Gilb also won the short story award for "Nancy Flores" published in *The Sonora Review* and included in this collection. He has been a visiting writer at the University of Texas and lives sometimes in El Paso.

Andrew B. Preslar

Gurasich, Marj. *A HOUSE DIVIDED*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994. 170p. Bibliography. Paperback: \$9.95, ISBN 0-87565-122-4. 93-14189.

Another issue in the fine Chaparral series for young adult readers, *A House Divided* continues the story of the von Scholls, a German immigrant family, begun in *Letters to Oma* (Vol.IV, No.3). Louisa, a young teenage girl, is the main character in this exciting story set in the Texas Hill Country during the Civil War. Although Texans seceded from the Union, the Germans of the Hill Country were largely against slavery. Louisa's brothers Fred and Will took different sides; Fred hid, refusing to be conscripted, while Will joined the Confederate troops. Heartbroken when Fred is killed by renegade southerners and Will ends up in a Yankee prison, Louisa disguises herself as a male hospital orderly in order to free Will. Her plan and their escape provide suspenseful reading. Gurasich has created believable characters in a richly detailed, war-torn setting.

Sally Dooley

Luttrell, Ida. *MATTIE'S LITTLE POSSUM PET*. New York: Atheneum, 1993. 36p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-689-31786-7. 91-47709. (Juvenile)

Playing possum is literally acted out in this appealing story in which Mattie's new pet possum makes certain that the blame for household mayhem is put on Howler the dog and Prowler the cat, the resident pets. Mattie is unsuspecting even though Howler and Prowler sulk at the attention Mattie lavishes on the possum. Only when Mattie catches the possum with egg on his face does she realize the possum's deceit. Houston author Ida Luttrell clips along at a rapid pace complementing her text with action-filled illustrations by Betsy Lewin. This adds up to delight for youngsters who will listen to the story and identify with feelings of jealousy, anger at unjust blame, and finally justice.

Sally Dooley

Morgan, Faye. *RIDING THE GOLD CURVE*. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1994. 392p. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-89672-326-7. 93-31588.

In this fictionalized autobiography, Faye Morgan describes her failings and triumphs as she dealt with multiple sclerosis exacerbated by a multitude of personal problems. The author and the main character, Abby, both nurses, denied the existence of MS in their bodies, until the gold curve test, a neurological procedure, was a final clue in their diagnoses. The disease and events in Abby's life (divorce, loss of custody of her children, death of her second husband, alcoholism, car wreck, abandonment by her family, and abuse at a nursing home) were all obstacles to her independence and her career as a public health nurse. She suffered innumerable bouts of despair, but fought back with determination. To cope with MS, she changed careers and living arrangements in order to maintain self-sufficiency. In dealing with this material, the novelist often crosses the line from fictional autobiography into what reads like oral history. In spite of so many events and characters in Morgan's plot, Abby (Faye Morgan) emerges as an admirable character who informs readers about living with a painful degenerative disease. Generally, Morgan's writing style prevents the story of her battles from becoming a soap opera of never-ending crises; her plucky responses to life's vicissitudes inspire.

Sally Dooley

Ruffin, Paul. *THE MAN WHO WOULD BE GOD*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1993. 155p. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-87074-354-6; Paperback: \$10.95, ISBN 0-87074-363-5. 93-5225.

How can it be that in a first collection Paul Ruffin could carry

off creating a "fictional cosmos as fully fleshed as Faulkner's corner of Mississippi", as Gordon Weaver notes of these stories? It can't. Nor does this writer deserve publication in the Southwest Life and Letters Series of SMU Press, devoted to publishing "outstanding new fiction. . . about Texas." Ruffin, widely known in Texas literary circles for his poetry and his editorship of *Texas Review*, settles for characterization as weak as "[t]hey were products of the sixties" and vapid equations of domestic tension with pop psych, as in a strained housewife's plunging her hands into the blueberry pie she has baked for her brutish husband (this in "The Fox" with its namesake in Lawrence's novella!). Cliché is followed by unlikelihood: thus a married couple, held hostage by a crazed storekeeper, discusses how long it has been since they slept together on a single bed. Then they have great sex. Enter obscurity: in "Grief" what is the relationship of Barbara's ethnicity and her repressed sexuality? And concerning her tears at story's end, is she opening up or just about to relapse into said repression? Most importantly, why would I care about Barbara's dilemma when Ruffin has not even helped me to care about Barbara?

The title story's concern with the grandiose is interesting, but another Texas writer, Clay Reynolds, has much more effectively rendered this theme in his elision of the grandiose and the grotesque in the novella *Summer Seeds*. Ruffin comes close to such an effect in "Lamar Loper's First Case." But one will like this story more for its playing out of every "sensitive" Texas male's fantasy rage at his macho roots than for the quality of its dialogue or the far too naive acquiescence of the target of Loper's rage. *The New York Times Book Review* recently reviewed Ruffin's collection, but I'm not buying.

Robin M. Latimer

Storey, Gail Donohue. *THE LORD'S MOTEL*. Reprint. New York: Persea Books, 1993. 212p. Paperback: \$9.95, ISBN 0-89255-194-1. 92-10532.

*The Lord's Motel* is a humorous book about male/female relationships. Three young women—one who attracts men like bees to pollen; another, a career woman, who fails to attract; and Colleen, the witty and wise protagonist, a librarian involved with a handsome social director of cruise vessels—live in apartments at the Lord's Motel. With Houston for a backdrop and zanies like St. Francis, manager of the motel; Chisholm Jim, the lawyer; and Lt. Sprunt, the jailer, readers are primed for a hilarious read. Colleen is motivated by her innate humanity and her yearning to love and be loved. She organizes Service to the Unserved, delivering reading matter to shut-ins, the elderly, and prisoners in jail. She becomes friends with Dolores, who has killed her abusive husband, and out of this relationship Colleen realizes that her affair with the social director is self-destructive. The story is told in first person and in present tense, making Colleen's experiences intimate and immediate. There is more than meets the eye, however. Storey asks: What happens to women who are products of repressed upbringing?, to women desperately searching for a Betty Crocker marriage "where you live with a man you love and both of you find in life a happy, calm refuge?", to women searching in a world where aggressive females have driven eligible males into hiding?, to abused women who have no choices? Her questions cause readers to think; they do not diminish the comic elements of the tone of the book. Love

triumphs, and the story ends with the miracle of birth—a pleasant antidote to the violent tales generally characteristic of fictionalized urban life.

This is Storey's first novel. Now living in Houston, she is a gifted writer who is able to balance laughter with the serious as her characters move along trippingly, making their choices and facing their futures optimistically.

Ernestine Sewell Linck

Swanson, Doug J. *BIG TOWN*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1993. 293p. Hardcover: \$18.00, ISBN 0-06-017749-7. 93-29503.

Swanson's debut is not a complete disappointment, but devotees of detective fiction will not fail to observe the lack of credible characterization on which turns Swanson's incestuous plot. In this novel, detective, criminal, and henchperson are lovers, friends, and business partners. Swanson has potential: fresh figures of speech and imagery, and an occasional depth to certain characters suggest that second and third novels might be stronger. Swanson's effective rendering of the postmodern Dallas setting, with an improved storyline, could certainly produce some of the chill missing here.

Robin M. Latimer

Williams, Jeanne. *NEW MEDICINE*. New York: Putnam, 1971. Reprint. Dallas: Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., 1994. 160p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-937460-90-7. Paperback: \$8.95, ISBN 0-937460-93-1. 93-37756

This fictionalized account of the events surrounding the battle at Adobe Walls will be of interest to young adults and older readers seeking an absorbing story set in a period of great change in Texas history. With the decimation of the buffalo by the buffalo hunters, the traditional life of the Plains Comanches must end. Walker, a young Indian brave, seeks medicine from the spirits to know how to help his people. His mother, Good Hands, knows this means learning how to live with white men and still be Comanches, but this means farming and not hunting. After a grueling winter on the reservation at Fort Sill, the Indians are sick, hungry, and humiliated. How Walker finds a compromise between the white men's culture and that of his people is a dramatic story, but the ending seems almost too neat and tidy for such a traumatic dilemma. Nevertheless, the book captures a culture in transition and ends on a note of optimism for the future of Native Americans in our society, even if such an optimism has proven unrealistic.

Williams is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and a winner of four Western Writers of America awards for her novels. Her well-researched historical fiction of the American West has been translated into numerous languages, and her work is enjoyed worldwide.

Sally Dooley

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

Windle, Janice Woods. *TRUE WOMEN*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1993. 451p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 0-399-13813-7. 93-17982.

In an absorbing and forceful novel that shimmers with a blend of history, myth, and family stories, El Paso author Janice Windle has created a remarkable first novel based on three of her female forebears. They were all "true women"--the title comes from the 1868 minority report advising against woman suffrage because "native modesty and inborn refinement of feeling causes every true woman to shrink from mingling in the busy noise of election day." But these stalwart women did not shrink from much that life threw at them, so the book reveals to us real women: the true ones whose lives are integral to American history. The women's stories span Texas history, beginning with Euphemia Texas Ashby's participation in *The Runaway Scrape* through Georgia Lawshe Woods' Civil War experiences to Bettie Moss King's life, which takes the reader through World War II. Although these women lived near Seguin and San Marcos, their lives intersected with persons pivotal to Texas history such as Santa Anna, Sam Houston, and the Reverend Andrew Jackson Potter. Contending with the harsh realities of pioneer life, these true women also squared off against the Mexican Army, Indians, and Yankees and made a difference in the history of our state. In a period of strict segregation, several of these ladies acknowledged that their first cousins were black, and deep black-white friendships blossomed and endured.

Windle is a marvelous storyteller and her metaphors and images cast a gauze over the family stories so that they are revealed as in tableau. "Now they (the family) moved through the green gothic solitude like a legend let loose from a storybook." The legends and stories handed down from grandmother to granddaughter delightfully balance the extensive historical research. This is a grand saga with appealing style which reserves a place for Windle as an outstanding new writer. The book is a Main Release of the Literary Guild and a Super Release of the Doubleday Book Club.

Sally Dooley

Wozencraft, Kim. *NOTES FROM THE COUNTRY CLUB*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1993. 205p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-395-62892-X. 93-13007.

In her latest novel, Kim Wozencraft deftly describes the horrific plight of a battered woman. Cynthia Mitchell is an inmate at the Veritas Unit of the Fort Worth Federal Correctional Institute where she is undergoing psychiatric treatment to determine if she is competent to stand trial for murdering her husband. Although the unit is a "country club, compared to most," the reader views the disturbing life inside an insane asylum. Through a series of flashbacks and conversations with other

prisoners and the psychiatrist, Cynthia describes the tragic events that led her to the humiliation of prison life. Readers sense Cynthia's terrifying helplessness and hopelessness. Wozencraft employs ethnic dialogue, street language, and real-life situations to bring the characters to life. Graphic descriptions of physical abuse will cause readers to speculate on their own reaction to such violence.

The novel climaxes with a grueling trial scene that includes the details of the night that Cynthia's husband was murdered. Wozencraft is the author of the best-selling novel *Rush*, which became a motion picture. The movie rights for *Notes* have been purchased.

Janet C. Serice

Zeplin, Zeno. *DISCOVERY ON DUSTY CREEK*. Canyon Lake: NEL-MAR Publishing, 1994. 92p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 1-877740-23-3; Paperback: \$7.95, ISBN 1-877740-24-1. 92-43165. (Juvenile)

Zeno Zeplin, who visits elementary schools to promote student writing and solicit their ideas for his own work, has written this book in response to requests for a story about dinosaurs. While looking for fossils and arrowheads after a bad storm, Ginny Brown discovers dinosaur bones exposed by a flash flood on Dry Creek, which runs through the Brown's ranch. When Ginny and her parents notify the state museum of natural history about the find, the director's excitement matches theirs, and what had promised to be a dull summer changes into a big adventure. As Ginny looks for more artifacts and helps the paleontologists excavate and preserve the rare find, readers will learn more about how the earth reveals its hidden history. Readers ages eight to thirteen may be lured to Ginny's hobby or even toward a career choice.

Attractive line drawings by Judy Jones illustrate the book, and those depicting arrowpoints or fossils are repeated and identified at the end of the book. Other books by Zeplin include *The Haunted Classroom* (Vol.V,No.2), *The Cross-Eyed Ghost* (Vol.VI,No.2), and *Clowns to the Rescue* (Vol.VIII, No.2).

Frances M. Ramsey

## POETRY

Barney, William D. *WORDS FROM A WIDE LAND*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1993. 194p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$16.95, ISBN 0-929398-64-5. 93-29508.

Unique in its arrangement, this book of journal entries has a paragraph for every day of a year, but not for any given year. Entry dates range from the 1930s to the 1980s, and William Barney, revered Texas poet, is intimately in every page. The reader is there with him gardening and observing nature, loving it yet hating to kill its fire ants. The reader is there walking with him and his Mary, running in rain with them after a Bicentennial celebration, visiting Dobie's ranch, or exchanging some of his books for sacks of buffalo chips with a wry tongue-in-cheek bit of humor.

This is a book which should stand with the classics. It is quotable, epigrammatic, and filled with lines the reader wants to tell someone. It is a book to keep, yet one to give. One comes to know the man who is the poet, discovering where and how his poems originate. He seems deceptively simple, yet is not simple at all. He says great things about small things: one sees his mind at night before sleep "like a bee crawling over a hive / tasting one cell after another" or his mind in sorrow "Untying knots." He delights in life, saying humbly: "There's nobody I'd rather be." One gem is this: "You can't really appreciate diamonds / unless you have worked in the mines." I have sat at his table, looking at other notebooks of memorable lines. May the good publisher ask for more!

Violette Newton

Hall, H. Palmer, ed. *A MEASURED RESPONSE*. San Antonio: Pecan Grove Press, 1993. 109p. Paperback: \$10.00, ISBN 1-877603-16-3.

A collection of poems about the Viet Nam and Persian Gulf Wars, this slim volume is compiled from works previously published and works the editor has located on-line, the latter primarily about the Persian Gulf by non-veterans. The introduction, insufficient to orient the average reader to the collection, points out that we will probably have to wait some time for the poetic responses of Persian Gulf veterans. For those who have a command of modern war poetry, this volume might be a limited resource. One suspects, however, that the editor has published too little, too soon, with no clear rationale or vision in so doing. Wait awhile for a possible update and revision before purchasing this book.

Robin M. Latimer

Ramsey, Buck. *AND AS I RODE OUT ON THE MORNING*. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1993. 64p. Paperback: \$9.95, ISBN 0-89672-310-0; Audiocassette: \$9.95, ISBN 0-89672-312-7; Book and Audiocassette: \$18.95, ISBN 0-89672-313-5. 92-40992.

American cowboy poetry has attracted a large and loyal following in recent years, and it was at the 1990 Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Elko, Nevada, that Buck Ramsey first recited "Anthem," which serves as prologue to this book-length poem. Instead of using the primitive ballad meters favored by most cowboy poets, Ramsey has chosen a sophisticated form, the fourteen-line, rhymed iambic stanza of Pushkin's "Eugene Onegin" (the same stanza form used by Vikram Seth in his best-selling verse-novel of 1986, *The Golden Gate*). The results are mixed: at times Ramsey writes spirited passages of verse, but his reach sometimes exceeds his technical grasp. A few of his effects are so deliberately old-fashioned that they approach camp: "He stayed and drank until the gloaming / Of prairie dust and yell'wing light / Brought to his cowboy breast a longing / to low'r himself into the sight." The plot, an account of young cowboy Billy Deaver's rites of passage and fateful meeting with Sam Houston's lawyer son, Temple, proves a good yarn but unfortunately a slim peg to hang an extended poetic narrative upon. Readers of Western lore will doubtless enjoy Ramsey's descriptive passages and his bittersweet nostalgia for the days of the open prairie. The poet reads the work on an audiocassette

which is also available from the publisher.

R.S. Gwynn

## ★★★NONFICTION★★★

### ANTHROPOLOGY

Wright, Bill. *THE TIGUAS: PUEBLO INDIANS OF TEXAS*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1993. 161p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$40.00, ISBN 0-87404-229-1. 92-062200.

As the foreword by anthropologist Daniel J. Gelo suggests, this book is apt to be of greatest interest to the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur in present-day El Paso, whose recent history and present-day concerns it chronicles. The general reader is more likely to find this book colorless and insubstantial. Illustrated by lackluster photographs taken by the author in contemporary Ysleta, the book has the effect of confirming the doubts it is intended to dispel.

The Texas Tiguas failed to secure tribal recognition from Abraham Lincoln along with other pueblos because, at the time of Lincoln's action, they were within the Confederacy. This historical oversight was corrected in 1968, but by then proximity to burgeoning El Paso and the lack of a secure land grant had resulted in almost total absorption into the Mexican border community. Wright demonstrates clearly the validity of the historical claim, dating to prehistoric times, but fails to blunt the perception that, tribal efforts to preserve traditions aside, the dilution of the population and cultural encroachment have doomed the Tiguas to a relatively prosperous disappearance into the mainstream. Nothing emphasizes this more than Wright's snapshots, which do indeed show us some handsome Ysletans, but which also mark a sharp contrast with the documentary photographs from the turn-of-the-century, which he also includes. The commentary on Wright's photographs by a Tiguas, interpreting the pictures for the reader, along with an interview with tribal elders, reveals an earnest desire among Tiguas to be traditional, but also a naive lack of grounding for the desire. In this sense, *The Tiguas* is a sad book, but instructive beyond its author's claim.

Randall Holdridge

### ART

Booth, Herb. *IN THE SPORTING TRADITION: THE ART OF HERB BOOTH*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 157p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$49.50, ISBN 0-89096-571-4. 93-4144.

Sporting art celebrates an ancient tradition of mankind, and it combines the elements of landscape enlivened with people and animals interacting. Collected here are forty-nine color plates of hunting and fishing scenes, most of them set in South Texas, along with Herb Booth's commentary. The opaque water colors freeze vivid moments during a hunt: hunters shooting at flushed quail, pintails flying in just as the duck hunter is picking up decoys, and a father allowing his son to shoot his first buck. Fishing scenes are also depicted. The book concludes with a

listing of Booth's limited edition prints published for sale to the public or through conservation organizations. Booth was named 1993 Artist of the Year by both Texas Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Herb Booth grew up hunting in Colorado, and his love of hunting and painting drew him to South Texas where he began a close professional and personal friendship with Meredith Long, an important Houston dealer in wildlife and sporting art. Commissions and opportunities to hunt, observe, and paint grew after Booth moved to Rockport in 1970. Booth sees himself as conserving a way of life, recording history, and preserving tradition. Michael McIntosh, himself a hunter and expert on sporting art, details Booth's development as an artist in a thirty-page introductory piece. Hunters and fishermen will respond emotionally to the authentic South Texas scenes contained in this beautiful large-format book.

Sally Dooley

Steinfeldt, Cecilia. **ART FOR HISTORY'S SAKE: THE TEXAS COLLECTION OF THE WITTE MUSEUM.** Austin: Texas State Historical Association for the Witte Museum of the San Antonio Museum Association, 1993. 298p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$45.00, ISBN 0-87611-116-9. 93-12535.

This book represents a very conscientious effort to provide information that can be used by students and serious researchers. It is beautifully illustrated with fifty-seven color and over 100 black-and-white plates. Steinfeldt, senior curator of the Witte Museum in San Antonio, has taken the museum's extensive collection of Texas artists, dating within the period 1845-1950, beginning with the state's independence from Mexico to modern abstractionism, and compiled biographies on over seventy of them, arranged alphabetically. The eight-page introduction by William H. Goetzmann, Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Austin, presents a historical background. He explains how life in Texas is represented by these artists, and how early immigrants brought European styles to isolated settlements. Both writers emphasize the impact and reputation of nineteenth-century landscapist and art teacher Robert Onderdonk. The effect of the Depression and the popularity of the Regionalist style are also explained in this well-documented book.

Lynne Lokensgard

## AUTHORSHIP

Michener, James A. **LITERARY REFLECTIONS.** Austin: State House Press, 1993. 213p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$21.95, ISBN 1-880510-06-5. 93-32356.

Readers and admirers of James Michener, the prolific non-agenarian author, will enjoy this collection of his occasional writings. This potpourri contains essays, four poems, his first published fiction (a short story), and his reflections on his own writing and that of others. As a youth, he read widely in the literature of the world, and he mentions individuals, books, and authors instructive to him in preparing and learning his craft. At age forty he began to write. His diligence and dedication are extraordinary: in his introduction he states, "Even though I have been publishing for half a century, I still consider myself an

emerging writer requiring self-evaluation and work . . ." His opinions of the works of Grace Livingston Hill, Margaret Mitchell, Ernest Hemingway, and Truman Capote are delightful commentaries, while he also pays tribute to classics written by William Thackeray, Gustave Flaubert, and Leo Tolstoy. Insightful and valuable, this little book reflects the reading and writing of one of America's most popular contemporary authors.

Sally Dooley

## BIOGRAPHY

Barta, Carolyn. **PEROT AND HIS PEOPLE: DISRUPTING THE BALANCE OF POLITICAL POWER.** Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1993. 501p. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-56530-065-3. 93-1052.

Carolyn Barta is a Dallas newspaper reporter with considerable experience. Her work is an account of Ross Perot's campaign of 1992, based on extensive interviews and newspaper accounts. It is no exposé. (She says several big publishers turned it down because it was not negative.) Instead it is a detailed and generally appreciative look at the inner workings of the Perot campaign. Although Barta does criticize Perot from time to time, she obviously admires the man and his message. She concentrates on Perot's own role and the role of the professionals and volunteers who worked for his victory. For example, she confirms the speculation that one reason Perot fired Ed Rollins, was because he did not like Rollins' advice to spend more money on publicity. She also discusses at length the strangest aspect of the campaign, Perot's withdrawal. Barta does mention what she refers to as rumors about Republican dirty tricks to embarrass his daughter, who was about to be married, but Barta does not emphasize, as Perot did, its importance to his withdrawal.

If a reader wants to learn more about Perot, this book is an excellent place to turn for a detailed and fascinating view of the campaign.

Walter A. Sutton

Cramer, William L., Jr. **AIR COMBAT WITH THE MIGHTY 8TH: A TEENAGE WARRIOR IN WORLD WAR II.** Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 158p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89015-939-4.

Bedford, Texas resident Bill Cramer was eighteen when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Cincinnati, Ohio in May 1942. He completed training as a bombardier but at the time could not receive a commission because of his young age, so he went to gunnery school. In 1943 he was assigned to a B-17 crew in the 351st Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force in England. During the next two years he saw extensive combat in raids over France and Germany, including the costly Schweinfurt raids. Just before Christmas 1944, his plane was shot down over enemy held territory and he and co-pilot Pete Hagen of Port Arthur, the only survivors of the crew, were captured by the Germans. An attempted escape led to Hagen's death and severe punishment for Cramer. Finally he was able to escape, and aided by the Belgian underground, returned to Allied lines. After a brief visit with his family and the parents of two deceased comrades, he returned to active duty. The book ends with his departure for counterintelligence school.

He subsequently served as intelligence officer in the Air Force and is today president of Cramer Intelligence Associates, a Texas company that specializes in intelligence data and management counseling. This is a spirited and well-written account that will appeal to those interested in the Second World War and the men who made victory possible.

Ralph A. Wooster

Greer, James Kimmins. *TEXAS RANGER: JACK HAYS IN THE FRONTIER SOUTHWEST*. New York: Dutton, 1952. Reprint. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 237p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.50, ISBN 0-89096-567-6; Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-89096-572-2. 93-4302.

This is an abridgement of the 1988 reprint of the 1952 original biography, *Jack Hays: Texas Frontier Leader and California Builder*, which detailed the life of possibly the most heroic and celebrated--and possibly most often written about--Texas Ranger captains. Hays was an exciting frontier figure, varied in his experiences, fascinating in his courage and vision, as well as in his typification of the Texas Ranger image. Like its ancestors, this simplified version is thorough and accurate, and no less dense with detail nor with imaginative speculation than was the original. Ultimately, though, it will probably answer any questions anyone might have yet about Jack Hays except one: Why is there a need for another volume that does nothing more than repeat what has been said before?

Clay Reynolds

Griggs, William Clark. *PARSON HENRY RENFRO*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 257p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$27.95, ISBN 0-292-72762-3. 93-7349.

This essentially is a family history revolving around a man who was prominent among Baptists from the 1850s to the early 1880s, a Confederate soldier and chaplain, a success in business, and eventually a convert to free thought. As told here with obvious affection by a great-great-grandson, the story is fascinating. It calls attention to family greed and envy, illuminates to some extent political and cultural conflicts of the nineteenth century, and focuses upon religious controversies on the Texas frontier. The Renfro family migrated from Tennessee to Texas in 1851, and the twenty-year-old Henry soon enrolled at Baylor in Independence. Although a fervent Baptist most of his life, Renfro's reading of Robert Ingersoll, Tom Paine, and Baruch Spinoza led him into the Free Thought Movement in the early 1880s. He died in 1885.

Although based upon a cache of previously unexplored family letters and records, this is not a definitive biography, for it fails to provide adequate historical context for Renfro. Even so, students of Texas history, especially those interested in the Civil War and religion, will enjoy this fine study.

John W. Storey

Hill, Margaret Hunt with Burt and Jane Boyar. *H.L. AND LYDA*. Little Rock: August House Publishers, Inc. 1994. 216p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-87483-337-X. 93-49546.

This warm and intimate reminiscence of Margaret Hunt Hill is filled with accounts of her growing up as a child of an extremely prosperous father partnered with a loyal and firm mother. Margaret describes a happy childhood with great respect for both her parents, although H.L. held center stage as an intelligent and cunning dynamo who entered the oil business and satisfied his passion for taking risks to make money. How the family's life revolved around the oil business, from El Dorado, Arkansas, to Tyler and Dallas, Texas, reveals a great deal about the early days of various facets of the oil business and is fascinating reading. H.L. and Lyda expected their children to model them in working hard and contributing to the community, which Lyda Hill has done as an adult despite being a very wealthy woman. Just how wealthy H.L. left his family is not explained. At his peak, however, his income was estimated by *Fortune* to be a million dollars a week (unfortunately the authors provide very few dates and no footnotes).

H.L.'s political activities as seen by his daughter give insight into America in the 1940s through 1960s. Undoubtedly, Margaret was proud of H.L. and Lyda, but the knowledge that H.L. had another "wife" and four children rocked Margaret and the family. When it became known that there was a third "wife" and four children, Margaret withdrew from her father, understandably bewildered by his behavior. Still, in this daughter's look at a father, the reader gains a great deal of insight into the life of a most creative and unusual individual and his family.

Sally Dooley

Johnson, Jimmy with Ed Hinton. *TURNING THE THING AROUND: PULLING AMERICA'S TEAM OUT OF THE DUMPS--AND MYSELF OUT OF THE DOGHOUSE*. New York: Hyperion Press, 1992. 285p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-56282-725-1. 93-24918.

You can take the boy out of Port Arthur, but, as Jimmy Johnson makes abundantly clear by book's end, it turns out you can't take Port Arthur out of the boy. Filled with colorful characters named Buckshot Underwood (Johnson's iron-fisted high school coach), Uncle Billy, Baby Joe, I.E., and "Beat Weeds" (classmate Janis Joplin's moniker), this account leaves little doubt where the Dallas Cowboys' successful coach has been. The difficulty is in predicting where he will go. In life, Johnson gives the impression that he is basically cold and calculating in all areas, from interpersonal relationships to football. He chooses not to apologize for where he has been and what he has done, but here at least he radiates some warmth, particularly when he writes about his two grown sons from his now defunct marriage. The book is part biography--with passages devoted to his upbringing in Southeast Texas, his playing days at the University of Arkansas, and his early years coaching--and part "how we did it," i.e., the specific coaching and player personnel maneuvering that led Dallas from a fumbling 1-15 season to a Super Bowl in four short years.

The book was authored in the heady afterglow of a championship season. Dallas has since repeated in the Super Bowl, and the uneasy relationship between owner Jerry Jones and Johnson has become intolerable to both parties. Jones has replaced Johnson with Oklahoma legend Barry Switzer, and it is uncertain where the enigmatic Johnson will land. What does seem clear

from reading this memoir is that he is not a likely candidate for a long-playing role in the NFL.

David Carroll

Newton, Willis and Joe Newton. **THE NEWTON BOYS: PORTRAIT OF AN OUTLAW GANG.** As told to Claude Stanush and David Middleton. Austin: State House Press, 1994. 332p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 1-880510-15-4; Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 1-880510-16-2. 93-43267.

It is not often one has the opportunity to access first-hand accounts from actual members of a legendary outlaw gang. This book, compiled from taped interviews with survivors Willis and Joe Newton, chronicles the early years of the Newton brothers as they grew up on the West Texas frontier in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their joining forces with brothers Jesse and Doc, and various other outlaws, to embark on a notorious career, individually and collectively, of robbing eight banks and six trains in the United States and Canada. The Newton Boys' main claim to fame was the train robbery at Rondout, Illinois, on the night of June 12, 1924. The robbery, still ranked as the biggest in American history, netted the gang three million dollars in cash and bonds. The brothers actually settled down to more sedate activities after serving prison terms in Leavenworth Penitentiary.

Stanush and Middleton meticulously transcribed the tapes, used earlier in the production of a documentary about the gang's outlaw days, into print. In all, this book would make a nice addition to public and academic libraries and to collections focusing on oral history, sociology, and criminology.

Jon P. Tritsch

Porterfield, Billy. **DIDDY WAW DIDDY: PASSAGE OF AN AMERICAN SON.** New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1994. 423p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$23.00, ISBN 0-06-016999-0. 93-25301.

Billy Porterfield has had a varied career as a writer for periodicals, radio, and television. The author of six previous books, Porterfield is currently a columnist for the *Austin American-Statesman*. Those who have read his works know him as a creative, original thinker whose frank and blunt comments sometimes shock but never bore. This, his memoir of a youth spent moving from place to place in Oklahoma and Texas during the Depression and Second World War, will touch anyone who grew to adulthood during the 1930s and 1940s. Billy's dad left the farm to become an oil field driller and took the family with him from one job to another seeking the mythical "Diddy Waw Diddy," a dream place always down the road. In their Hudson Terraplane, the Porterfield family crisscrossed Texas in an odyssey that saw them move twenty-two times in seventeen years. In the course of their journey through towns like Smithville, Aransas Pass, Gladewater, Woodsboro, Norias, Petronila, and Corpus Christi, young Porterfield and his brother and sister encountered a variety of fascinating and often unique characters. Their experiences were sometimes bewildering and frustrating (such as the four day, fifteen-hundred-mile trip to see Joe DiMaggio during his hitting streak only to attend on the day the streak ended), but they were seldom dull. Porterfield's

*Diddy Waw Diddy* brings to life times and places that have changed, sometimes for the good and sometimes for the not-so-good. It is a book to read and to reflect upon.

Ralph A. Wooster

## FOLKLORE

Abernethy, Francis Edward. **SINGIN' TEXAS.** Dallas: E-Heart Press, 1983. Reprint. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1993. 183p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$19.95. ISBN 0-929398-71-8. 93-39616.

This paperback reprint will be welcomed by those interested in Texas acoustic music who were unable to obtain a copy the first time around. Compiled by Francis Abernethy, a professor of English at Stephen F. Austin University and a fine bluegrass musician in his own right, *Singin' Texas* contains the words and music for ninety-two traditional Lone Star songs, together with textual background, and over fifty photographs of performers. One quibble: there is no tablature for pickers. However, the book is a valuable resource for those interested in Texas' rich musical heritage, and would seem to be a valuable addition to any school library.

Tanner T. Hunt, Jr.

## FUNDRAISING

Farb, Carolyn. **HOW TO RAISE MILLIONS: HELPING OTHERS HAVE A BALL!** Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 169p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 0-89015-924-6. 93-29479.

Carolyn Farb, glamorous Houstonian and volunteer fund-raiser, has written an anecdotal book to try to teach others the skills she has developed over nearly twenty-five years of community service. Although the book is full of platitudes and clichés, Farb evidently has a talent for putting together fundraisers for arts groups, diseases, and civic causes. Having her as a chair ensures a successful venture. There are some well proven guidelines for asking people to contribute time and money, but often they are buried in the anecdotes. The clichés and platitudes grow tiresome.

Although the book is not well organized, individuals searching for new ideas to raise charity dollars can gain some from this book.

Sally Dooley

## GARDENING

Mielke, Judy. **NATIVE PLANTS FOR SOUTHWESTERN LANDSCAPES.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. 310p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN 0-292-75553-8; Paperback: \$22.95, ISBN 0-292-75147-8. 93-12092.

This is a handsome and informative book about gardening with plants indigenous to the southwestern United States. Texans from the Trans Pecos area of West Texas, a desert environment, would find this book of interest. Mielke is a landscape designer, teacher, and senior horticulturist at the Desert Botanical Gar-

den in Phoenix. Her comprehensive guide will be invaluable to both the landscape professional and novice gardener in the arid area surrounding Van Horn, Pecos, El Paso, and Presidio.

Sally Dooley

## GUIDEBOOK

Ruff, Ann, Gail Drago, and Marjie Mugno Acheson. **THE TEXAS MONTHLY GUIDEBOOKS: TEXAS BED & BREAKFAST**. 3d ed., rev. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1993. 204p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-87719-239-1. 93-10528.

Noted for their history, charm, or food, B&Bs will interest travelers who are weary of chain motels and restaurants and who long for ambiance, conversation, and homecooked meals. The authors divide the state into four areas and list accommodations by towns, although many are rural locales. In addition to providing the addresses, phone numbers, and costs, this lively guide describes each B&B's delights and amenities and reveals the variety of B&Bs across the state waiting to be explored and enjoyed. The names of ten reservation services are included in this updated guide.

Sally Dooley

## HISTORY

Castaneda, Christopher J. and Joseph A. Pratt. **FROM TEXAS TO THE EAST: A STRATEGIC HISTORY OF TEXAS EASTERN CORPORATION**. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 296p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$35.00, ISBN 0-89096-551-X. 93-3073.

This work might be subtitled "the rise and fall of a Texas corporation." University of Houston business historians Christopher Castaneda and Joseph Pratt have traced the story of the Texas Eastern Corporation from its creation after the Second World War to its purchase by the Panhandle Eastern Corporation in 1989. During its forty-two year history, Texas Eastern was a major player in the economic expansion of the Southwest. Founded by a group of entrepreneurs headed by Houston construction business giants Herman and George R. Brown, who purchased the Big Inch and Little Big Inch pipelines constructed during the war, Texas Eastern played a significant role in transporting natural gas from the Southwest to the booming East Coast market in the postwar decade. After moving into the California market with natural gas, Texas Eastern expanded its operations into the shipment of liquefied petroleum products, oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, and oil refining in the Southwest.

Then, in the 1970s, the corporation entered the expanding Houston real estate market with the development of the modern Houston Center. These moves seemed destined to ensure the stability of the corporation but increased government regulations and the collapse of oil prices in the 1980s, followed by the disastrous demise of the real estate boom, made the corporation vulnerable to a hostile takeover. After warding off the Coastal Corporation takeover, Texas Eastern merged with Panhandle Eastern in 1989.

This is a thorough, scholarly, corporation-sponsored study that

provides many insights into corporate strategy and tactics. It is an unusual study in that neither the authors nor their sponsors realized they would be tracing the "death" of their subject when the work began.

Ralph A. Wooster

Clayton, Lawrence. **HISTORIC RANCHES OF TEXAS**. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. 93p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-292-71154-9. 92-43918.

In *Historic Ranches of Texas*, Lawrence Clayton tells the stories of twelve ranches chosen because of geographical location or historic interest. Much has been written previously about some of these ranches, very little about others. Two of them, King and Yturria, are in South Texas; one, Iron Mountain, is in the Big Bend area; one Y.O., is in the Hill Country; and the other eight, Four Sixes, Green, Swenson, Lambshead, Matador, Pitchfork, Waggoner, and XIT, are (or were) located in Northwest Texas and the Panhandle. Beautiful watercolors by well known Texas artist J.U. Salvant depict landmarks particularly important to the heritage of each ranch described in the text.

The chapters on the ranches describe the location and size, the founding, growth, and break-up (in some instances), the individuals who owned, managed or worked on the ranches, the sources of capital (foreign investors, mercantile interests, oil), the brands, breeds of cattle, blood lines of horses, water, fencing, brush control, and present day operations. Although the introduction contains some serious analysis, the sketches on the ranches are brief (three or four printed pages) and uncritical; consistently the author emphasizes the positive contributions of the ranching families to the livestock industry, local economies, social affairs, and conservation. Clayton used printed sources (quite extensive on some ranches), but he and Salvant also visited the ranches for interviews and observations. This book is not designed for academic use, but its realistic Western art and interesting text will appeal to general readers.

Paul E. Isaac

DeShields, James T. **BORDER WARS OF TEXAS**. Privately Printed, 1912. Reprint. Austin: State House Press, 1992. 394p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 0-938349-98-8; Limited Edition: \$60.00, ISBN 0-938349-99-6. 93-15163.

Literature concerning the conflict between Indians and settlers in nineteenth-century Texas depends upon a relatively small number of original sources, especially for the events of the first half of the century. One of the frequently cited sources is DeShields' book, but it has long been out of print and scarce, so this State House Press reprint is a welcome one. Readers will find that *Border Wars of Texas* reflects the values of its age. Indians are bad and settlers are good. Typical are subtitles such as "Murder of the Gotcher Family" and "The Morgan Massacre." It is the story of war presented in graphic terms, with emphasis on the violence of the conflict between Indians and settlers. DeShields interviewed participants in these conflicts and others who had first-hand knowledge of the events and combined these with information gleaned from published sources to present a story replete in detail. Unfortunately, DeShields only rarely indicates his sources, and, though his integrity as a historian is not in question, some of his sources related their stories to him more than fifty years after the event. Nevertheless, DeShields is

often the only source for some of these affairs, and we are fortunate to have it readily available once more.

Adrian N. Anderson

Groneman, Bill. *DEFENSE OF A LEGEND: CROCKETT AND THE DE LA PEÑA DIARY*. Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 1994. 210p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-55622-322-6. 93-33614.

The diary of José Enrique de la Peña, an officer with Santa Anna at the battle of the Alamo, produced quite a controversy when first published in English some years ago. For the most part, it offered little new, except for a paragraph which related the story of the surrender and execution of David Crockett. Many readers found the story of the surrender impossible to accept and considered it something approaching blasphemy, while others accepted it and went in search of supporting evidence that might be found in other accounts. Still others wondered what the fuss was all about. Groneman, while claiming to be allowing readers to form their own conclusions, is obviously more than somewhat skeptical of the account. In fact, he questions the legitimacy of the entire diary, and readers who accept his analysis will be led to do the same. Groneman considers three issues: the character of De la Peña; whether or not the physical and chronological characteristics of the diary indicate that it is a forgery; and an effort to explain why the suggestion that Crockett surrendered produced such a controversy. Groneman describes De la Peña's background as an ambitious manipulator seeking to advance his career. Groneman then questions the chronology of the diary, the paper used, and certain discrepancies in the handwriting. These issues suggest that further inquiry be made. His effort to explain and justify the reaction of those who felt betrayed by the story of Crockett's surrender is less convincing. Certainly, if the diary is a fake, it should be revealed as such, but many scholars wonder about the concern over Crockett's surrender. In our Western culture surrender in the face of overwhelming odds has never been considered dishonorable. Why should it be so in this instance?

Adrian N. Anderson

Guthrie, Keith. *TEXAS FORGOTTEN PORTS. VOLUME II*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 292p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 0-89015-878-9. 88-16504.

This is the second volume in veteran Texas newspaperman Keith Guthrie's projected trilogy describing the development of Texas' ports. In Volume I, published in 1989, Guthrie covered Texas ports from Matagorda Bay to Corpus Christi. In the present work Guthrie discusses ports on the Red, Brazos, and Rio Grande, the ports of Jefferson, Houston, and Galveston, and landings on Caddo Lake and Buffalo Bayou. A third volume covering ports on the Trinity, Neches, Angelina, and Sabine rivers as well Port Arthur, Port Neches, Beaumont, Orange, and Sabine Pass will complete the series.

As was true in his earlier work Guthrie makes extensive use of local sources, some of high quality and others of less value. Emphasis is placed upon the colorful personalities who played a part in the history of Texas ports. The text is particularly strong on the nineteenth century; little attention is given to twentieth-century developments. Readers expecting a detailed, scholarly analysis will be disappointed. Those interested in a lively narra-

tive with fascinating stories of people, ships, and towns will enjoy the book. Illustrations by the author's wife help make this a most attractive volume.

Ralph A. Wooster

Marquart, James W., Sheldon Ekland-Olson, and Jonathan R. Sorensen. *THE ROPE, THE CHAIR, AND THE NEEDLE*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 275p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-292-74158-3. 93-15717.

In this well-researched and dispassionately written volume, the history of capital punishment in Texas is traced from the early days when the rope was used for both legal and illegal hangings to the present time when a lethal injection is used. Emphasis is upon the death penalty process since 1923, when local hanging was replaced by electrocution at the state penitentiary in Huntsville. Between February 1924, and July 1964, when executions were suspended pending review of capital punishment by the Supreme Court, 361 individuals were executed in Texas. In June 1972, the Supreme Court in *Furman v. Georgia* decided by a 5-4 vote that capital punishment was being administered in an arbitrary and capricious manner and was thus unconstitutional. Most states, including Texas, responded by passing new statutes aimed at meeting the high court's objections, and by 1977, executions were resumed in the United States. At almost the same time "Old Sparky," the electric chair, was replaced in Texas by lethal injection. Since that date 177 persons have been executed, with Texas heading the list with fifty.

The authors, professors of criminal justice and sociology in three different Texas universities, provide a storehouse of information concerning capital punishment in the state. Using both statistical data and case histories, they show the racial inequities that led to the court's action in 1972. They also show how implementation of present statutes has eliminated some but not all of the inequities of conviction and punishment. They point out the cyclical nature of criminal justice and punishment as citizens grapple with one of the most complex issues in our society. This is a well-balanced and thoughtful volume that engenders strong emotions and feelings.

Ralph A. Wooster

## POLITICS

Forman, Maury B. and Robert A. Calvert. *CARTOONING TEXAS: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CARTOON ART IN THE LONE STAR STATE*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 193p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-89096-560-9. 93-1570.

Maury Forman, co-founder and director of Cartoon, Inc., and Robert A. Calvert, professor of history at Texas A&M University, have put together a fascinating collection of Texas political cartoons of the past 100 years. Included are works of some of the best-known cartoonists in the state's history, from William Sydney Porter, who later became famous as the short story writer O. Henry, to contemporary artists such as Pulitzer Prize winner Ben Sargent. As the editors point out, a political cartoon "must create an intellectual and emotional response" (xi), thus the successful political cartoon addresses critical issues of the day, whether it be corruption in government, the struggle over spend-

ing and taxation, civil rights, educational reform, or some other issue.

The editors include nearly 200 political cartoons appearing in Texas newspapers and literary journals during the past century. Each cartoon is accompanied by commentary explaining the context of the cartoon. The work is divided into decades with an editorial introduction describing the issues of the decade and introducing the individuals whose cartoons follow. Brief biographies and cartoon portraits of the thirty-eight cartoonists whose works are shown are also included. One can learn much about the political history of Texas from this work.

Ralph A. Wooster

Stewart, Kenneth L. and Arnolde De León. **NOT ROOM ENOUGH: MEXICANS, ANGLOS, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE IN TEXAS, 1850-1900.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993. 148p. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$27.50, ISBN 0-8263-1437-6. 93-13110.

In this thoughtful and well-researched volume, Kenneth L. Stewart, professor of sociology at Angelo State University, and Arnolde De León, professor of history at the same institution, show how structural changes occurring in the second half of the nineteenth century established Anglo dominance in Texas that allowed no room for social and economic equality for Mexican Americans. Utilizing unpublished census data and other primary and secondary sources, the authors, whose previous works include *Tejanos And The Numbers Game* (University of New Mexico Press, 1989), argue that the establishment of Anglo American rule, following independence from Mexico in 1836, increased immigration in the second half of the century, and that the transition from frontier conditions to modernity resulted in significant economic, social, and political gains for the Anglo majority in Texas. At the same time, Mexican Texans, or *Tejanos*, saw their relative position in society declining in spite of their efforts to share in the benefits of modernization. The authors clearly believe that the traditional picture of Texas history as an epic in which the Anglos singly overcame all obstacles to create a new society is incorrect. They also believe that Texas history, like Texas society, has failed to leave room for the role played by other ethnic groups, and they hope to provide a better balanced picture of the state's history.

Ralph A. Wooster

Welborn, David M. **REGULATION IN THE WHITE HOUSE: THE JOHNSON PRESIDENCY.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. 354p. Index. Hardcover: \$45.00, ISBN 0-292-79078-3. 93-19982.

Professor David Welborn's book is a significant addition to the already abundant list of scholarly studies on aspects of Lyndon Johnson's presidency. He focuses on the relationship between the presidency and various regulatory agencies, commissions, and executive departments. Typical concerns are commissions such as the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Communications Commission and executive departments such as the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury. He describes Johnson's involvement with these agencies in a variety of issues, but he particularly is concerned with appointments, the influence of special interest groups, and the interplay of political considerations in the regulatory function. Supporting

his conclusions with a considerable amount of impressive evidence, he concludes that Johnson was an effective chief executive who worked with his advisors with diligence and with success. In most instances the president avoided undue intervention in regulatory affairs but also avoided unfortunate political consequences. Johnson, he determines, encouraged regulatory agencies to perform their functions in the public interest and in a fair and judicious manner.

The study, largely based on the materials found in the LBJ Library in Austin, is judiciously supplemented with current literature in the field. It is a well-written, well-researched study about a little-known and often misunderstood area of presidential responsibility.

Adrian N. Anderson

## SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Christian, Mary Blount. **HATS ARE FOR WATERING HORSES: WHY THE COWBOYS DRESSED THAT WAY.** New York: Rand McNally, 1976. Reprint. Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., 1993. 64p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-937460-89-3. 93-35748. (Juvenile)

Right off, Mary Blount Christian makes clear that a cowboy dressed the way he did not just for comfort or convenience, but in order to do his job and do it safely. In cowboy colors of black and tan on white, Lyle Miller's drawings, newly added to this reprint, illustrate realistically the work of the cowboy. In brief chapters each article of clothing is discussed and illustrated, giving the history and multiple uses of the distinctive ensemble cowboys wore and wear even today. The horse, the other half of the cowboy, is described in the final chapter. This is an attractive and informative book that provides a good reference for children.

Sally Dooley

Hammond, Ken, comp. and ed. **STATE LINES.** College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 223p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$29.50, ISBN 0-89096-557-9; Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-89096-562-5. 93-3512.

The fifty-two short essays collected here first appeared in "State Lines," a weekly feature in *Texas Magazine*, the Sunday supplement of the *Houston Chronicle*. These informal essays are based on personal experiences and feelings, not opinions or principles. A list reveals that most of the authors are Texans, but the book is not concerned with oil wells, armadillos, or cowboys. Although rooted in Texas soil, the experiences related here transcend mere geographical lines as they range across the longitudes and latitudes of human emotions. The variety of life we share is explored in poignant vignettes of childhood, maturation, and old age. Upon completion of each essay, we are wont to say, "That's how it is," or, if our experience differs from the author's, we think, "So, that's how it is for him; I understand now."

These pieces make for pleasant pick-up reading, yet they are so personal that they beg for our reflection. Those familiar with Texas letters will recognize the names of Billy Porterfield, Lionel G. Garcia, Rick Bass, C.C. Risenhoover, and Naomi Shihab Nye. While many new writers' works are introduced, the high stand-

ards of quality are sustained. Delightful reading, this book is highly recommended for public, high school, and university libraries.

Sally Dooley

## SPANISH LANGUAGE

Harrison, William F., and Dorothy Winters Welker. **SPANISH MEMORY BOOK. JUNIOR EDITION: A NEW APPROACH TO VOCABULARY BUILDING.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. 74p. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-292-73079-9; Paperback: \$8.95, ISBN 0-292-73081-0. 93-12717.

It is harder to try to remember the jingle associated with each vocabulary term than it would be to just simply memorize the term itself. I find no real benefit in using this book.

Christine M.E. Bridges

## TRIALS

Naifeh, Steven and Gregory White Smith. **FINAL JUSTICE.** New York, Dutton, 1993. 466p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$24.00, ISBN 0-525-93452-9. 92-41733.

The authors chose an ironic title for their true-crime book. The verdict in this infamous case was final, but there was no justice, because the defendant was Cullen Davis, a Texan worth more than 100 million dollars. In lively and suspenseful prose, the authors re-create the murder scene in the summer of 1976, when a disguised man broke into the home of Priscilla Davis, Cullen's estranged wife, and murdered her daughter. Both Priscilla and another woman who was present identified the man as Cullen, and the case went to trial, twice. Yet Cullen Davis remained unconvicted. Perhaps the most absorbing and horrifying part of the book is the portrayal of "Racehorse" Haynes' brilliant defense in which he cleverly manipulated the law to get his client acquitted. Haynes was such a master that the trial actually maligned Priscilla and diverted attention from his client who became a popular folk hero of sorts. Although the book lacks documentation, authors Naifeh and Smith present their material in a convincing manner. They previously collaborated on four national bestsellers, including *The Mormon Murders*.

Sally Dooley

## CONTRIBUTORS

Adrian N. Anderson is Professor of History and Head, Department of History at Lamar University-Beaumont. He received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University and has taught at Lamar since 1967. He is the co-author of **TEXAS, THE LONE STAR STATE**.

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Randall Holdridge is Dean of the Webb School of California in Claremont. A native Texan, he graduated from the University of Arizona and lived in Tucson where he cultivated a strong interest in the history and natural history of the Southwest.

Tanner T. Hunt, Jr. is a senior partner in a Beaumont law firm. As Cornododger Snopes, he hosts a musical variety program "Saturday Night with the Folks" on public radio.

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Violette Newton is author of **THE SHAMROCK CROSS**, poems of Ireland, and is editor of **IN CELEBRATION**, poems of the Beaumont Poetry Society.

Andrew B. Preslar has degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Lamar University. He is a poet and short story writer and has taught English at Lamar University since 1983.

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