



REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



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Letter from the Editors

Greetings! We are back in business, as this current issue testifies. Although the previous editor, Sally Dooley, needed to move on to other projects, she continues to work closely with the new editorial staff to provide a smooth transition and to ensure the continued high quality of the *Review of Texas Books*. The new editors are Beth Fuseler, director, and Sarah Tusa, serials acquisitions librarian at Lamar University. It has taken a few months to restart the *Review*, so we will try to catch up with the next two issues -- one in late August and a double issue in December. We will return to the familiar quarterly publication schedule in 1997. We thank all our subscribers for their continued support of this service and for their patience during the brief hiatus. The new editorial staff looks forward to providing timely reviews of a wide array of Texas books for readers of all interests.

Sarah Tusa and Beth Fuseler
Co-editors

★★★★★ FICTION ★★★★★

Harper, Jo. **OUTRAGEOUS, BODACIOUS BOLIVAR BOGGS!** New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996. 30p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$15.00, ISBN 0-689-80504-7. 95-6029. (Juvenile)

Teachers may think that they have already heard every excuse about why a child has arrived late to school, but they obviously have not met the outrageous, bodacious Boliver Boggs. As he captivates his classmates' attention with his long, incredible tales, he frustrates his teacher and this reviewer as he drones on and on in his pseudo-Texan/Western twang.

This newest book by Houston author Jo Harper has charming and whimsical illustrations by JoAnn Adinolfi which move the reader from page to page as Boliver tells his tales in his outrageous, bodacious manner. Although the style in which this story was told and its content did not appeal to this reader, children ages four to eight for whom it is intended, may react positively to it for just those reasons--the outrageous bodacious nature of the character and the manner in which this story is told.

Andrea R. Karlin

Hennech, Mike and Billy Bob Hill, eds. **TEXAS SHORT FICTION: A WORLD IN ITSELF II.** Redmond: ALE Publishing,

1995. 293p. Paperback: \$15.95, ISBN 1-881301-05-02. 94-73039.

Hennech and Hill offer an eclectic view of Texas and its inhabitants in their new book, *Texas Short Fiction: A World in Itself II*. This collection represents the work of thirty-one Texas writers from all over the state. The common thread for the collection is life in Texas, both present and past. "Oladean's Diary" is written from the point of view of an eighth grader who lives in Houston with her mother. The mother, afraid of crime, moves Oladean to Harmony, a backwoods place in which the baseball scores are the front page news. Oladean is furious with her mother until a cow is killed in a Satanic worship service. However, just about the time the town comes alive with the gossip and scandal of the event, Oladean must move again because now her mom feels Harmony is not a safe place either. Follow this story with Laurie Champion's tale "How to Listen to Country Music" and one begins to understand the diversity of Texas presented in this collection. Champion offers advice about how to understand country music. She moves the reader through surviving time at a country bar without looking like a nerd to understanding the real truth of the matter about country music: those with broken hearts can understand the lyrics no matter how drunk they get! "Keeping the Myth Alive," by Charlie McMurtry continues the country music vein but in a different way. His is the music of the wide open sky that calls thirteen-year-old John, who tries to understand his father's cowman ways. A new cowhand, Hotshot, comes to work with John and his father. Hotshot offers wisdom to John about a cowboy's life and how his father had not always been such a burdened cowman but had once ridden and roped with the abandon of a real cowboy. This information causes John to see his father in a new light of awe and wonder, and brings the life of the struggling cowboy alive for readers.

This collection is the second one compiled by Hennech and Hill (Vol. VIII: 3, 4). It offers a perspective of Texas through the eyes of the young, the old, the heart-broken, and the lost. All of the stories, whether set in the present or the past, have realistic characters, dialogues, and settings. We can only hope the third edition of *Texas Short Fiction* offers more of the same.

Janet Turk

Martinez, Max. **WHITE LEG.** Houston: Arte Publico Press, 1996. 257p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 1-55885-098-8. 95-33396.

Gil Blue is the archetypal antihero. He lacks virtually any admirable qualities. He is an insensitive, bigoted, crude, mean, self-centered drunk, almost out of control in every aspect of his life. To pay his credit bills, Gil puts a pair of his wife's panties over his head as a mask and robs convenience stores. When he kills a Texas Ranger and three other witnesses, the FBI gets

involved. By the time the short novel is finished, Gil has raped and murdered his own wife (although not at the same time), participated in a kidnaping and killed the victim, killed a couple of other killers, and saved a county cop.

Martinez uses *Gil Blue* to evoke our best and worst responses. We accept Gil without trying to blame him, and ironically we even feel a disturbing sense of relief when we realize he's going to get away with all of it. Martinez' skills as a wordsmith and a stylist are considerable, and the reputation he established as a satirist in his earlier fiction is apparently well deserved. The plot roars along like Blue's old Buick, kicking up dust with every turn; sexually explicit passages in the novel are crude, but perhaps not gratuitously so.

Martinez has a Ph.D from the University of Denver and lives in San Antonio. *White Leg* is his second novel, though there will surely be others to follow. Texana collectors and crime story fans will be waiting.

Andrew B. Preslar

Starnes, Gigi. *GRANDMOTHER'S TALES: DISCOVERING ARCHAEOLOGY*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1995. 55p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$11.95, ISBN 0-89015-979-3. 94-16080. (Juvenile)

This brief and simple narrative is not so much a story but rather a vehicle to explain archaeology to the elementary school reader. An archaeologist who is a grandmother takes her granddaughter and her friend on a dig. She explains the careful process by which these scientists sift through dirt layers to discover and classify artifacts and learn more about history. The girls are excited to participate. New vocabulary is defined in the glossary. Profusely illustrated with black-and-white drawings by Mark Mitchell, the book is instructive and pleasant reading.

Sally Dooley

Webber, Earlynne. *SECRET OF THE BIG THICKET*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1995. 89p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$7.95, ISBN 1-57168-035-5. 93-46915.

Webber presents something unusual: she gives us a book about the Civil War South that shows people who opposed slavery, people who were draft dodgers, and even people who were turncoats, revealing them all as persons of conscience in a moral dilemma. She also convincingly reconstructs daily life during this time period in the Big Thicket area. Both the language and the story have a satisfyingly quick pace. However, the changes in viewpoint are disconcerting, particularly since the book is short and the chapter headings or markers do not prepare the reader for the shift of viewpoint. The author would have been well advised to stay in young Davey Merriwether's consciousness throughout.

The book should be useful to students investigating the impact of the Civil War in the lives of Texans.

Jo Harper

NONFICTION

BIOGRAPHY

Cypher, John. *BOB KLEBERG AND THE KING RANCH: A WORLDWIDE SEA OF GRASS*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995. 239p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$27.95, ISBN 0-292-71171-9. 94-22454.

With considerable assistance from petroleum income, Bob Kleberg transformed the King Ranch from being the best known ranch in Texas into a multinational ranching enterprise. His vision of the desire of developing nations for more and higher quality beef led him on a quest to buy land and introduce his Santa Gertrudis cattle into many countries, including Cuba, Venezuela, Spain, Argentina, Australia, and Morocco, while also increasing holdings within the United States. Kleberg was undoubtedly a significant entrepreneur and innovator in his field. His business acumen was great, but after his death the King Ranch steadily sold off most of the acquisitions he had labored to accumulate; he had simply not provided for his own succession. Cypher contends Kleberg could not accept his own aging, a critical flaw in an otherwise brilliant man.

His personal relationships are not covered in detail, and the author's admiration greatly outweighs his somewhat lengthy description of Kleberg's frailties. He had a long married life, which produced a daughter and eventually six grandchildren, raised his sister's two children, B.K. Johnson and Bobby Shelton, and had a brother who was a U.S. Congressman. To have dealt with his interplay with them would have given a more complete picture of the man. Cypher worked at the King Ranch from 1948 to 1988, much of the time as Kleberg's assistant, and saw to the implementation of Kleberg's plans. Presently Cypher, an excellent writer, resides in Kingsville, Texas, and is a contributing columnist for the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.

A. R. Dooley, Jr.

Dodge, Tom. *OEDIPUS ROAD: SEARCHING FOR A FATHER IN A MOTHER'S FADING MEMORY*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1996. 212p. Paperback: \$15.95, ISBN 0-87565-153-4. 95-26697.

The loss of control over one's own life is one of the most frightening prospects an adult can face. In the case of Alzheimer's disease, the characteristic symptoms of disorientation and loss of short-term memory threaten one's very sense of identity. As Tom Dodge slowly comes to recognize his mother's battle with the effects of this disease, he paradoxically begins a healing process. Having been raised without a father, the author of this memoir desperately prods his mother's ironclad defenses and "fading memory" to learn the truth about his birth father. Mr. Dodge progresses from frustration to compassion toward his mother and finally acknowledges the depth to which she had buried the shame of unwed motherhood, only to have it surface in the imagined gossip of fellow nursing home residents.

Alongside the chronicle of the author's evolving relationship with his mother, this book also includes the mother's narrated memories of her youth as well as the author's own childhood reminiscences. The pain of growing up in the absence of a father

is ultimately eased, if not completely overcome, by the bittersweet discovery of his paternal relatives.

Oedipus Road is about dealing with a parent with Alzheimer's, but it is also about families and -- most importantly -- about healing.

Sarah Tusa

Farmer, David. **STANLEY MARCUS: A LIFE WITH BOOKS**. Dallas: Still Point Press, 1993. Reprint. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1995. 149p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$17.95, ISBN 0-87565-147-X. 95-7570.

Stanley Marcus is a merchant, author, columnist, civic leader, book collector, and publisher. Throughout his long career, he has made an impression on the literary arts in Texas through his founding of the Book Club of Texas and his friendships with literary people such as J. Frank Dobie, J. Evetts Haley, Carl Hertzog, and E.L. DeGolyer. His own books, *Minding the Store*, *Quest for the Best*, and *The Viewpoints of Stanley Marcus*, reveal him to be a delightful person and writer. David Farmer, librarian at the DeGolyer Library at SMU, chronicles Marcus' life with books in this entertaining and gracefully written biography, first published in a fine collector's edition two years ago. The book provides insight into the man, a period, and literature in Texas, showing that Farmer undoubtedly admires and respects his chosen subject. Bibliophiles will relish Marcus' story.

Sally Dooley

Henson, Margaret Swett. **LORENZO DE ZAVALA: PRAGMATIC IDEALIST**. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1996. 146p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-87565-150-X. 95-32720.

The paradoxical subtitle of this biography of Lorenzo de Zavala is nonetheless appropriate. Mexican-born Zavala, Texas Revolutionary figure and vice-president of the new Republic, espoused the liberal philosophies of the French and American Revolutions but was also able to adapt them to the real world. Unfortunately, he never received the recognition he probably deserved. His efforts in Mexico to redistribute land antagonized the landholders, and when he went to Texas the Anglo Texans never quite trusted him. He died in late 1836, to Mexicans a traitor, to Texans an outsider. Henson does an admirable job of clarifying the complexities and chaos of politics in Texas and Mexico in the early nineteenth century. In Mexico the Masonic Order held the political reins, but was itself split into *yorkinos*, liberal York Rite Masons, and *escoceses*, conservative Scottish Rite Masons, between whom the balance of power changed almost daily. It is no wonder that Zavala admired the stable government of the United States. Henson's extensive research is apparent; the bibliographical essay at the end that replaces the traditional footnote bibliography format contains an excellent evaluation of sources, although pinning down specific references might sometimes be difficult. Her book, part of the Texas Biography series, is not only interesting but extremely valuable as a Texas history resource.

Judith Linsley

Hunt, Annie Mae and Ruthe Winegarten. **I AM ANNIE MAE**.

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1983. Reprint. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. 152p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$13.95, ISBN 0-292-79099-6. 95-52883.

Since it was first published in 1983, this fascinating first-person account by the granddaughter of a slave has been widely accepted across the country, turned into a musical and performed as a one-woman show across Texas. This new paperback edition will allow an even wider audience to appreciate the struggles of Annie Mae McDade Prosper Hunt in the face of poverty and prejudice. As told to oral historian Ruthe Winegarten, her story spans 120 years of the history of black women, from her slave grandmother to herself as domestic worker (and later Avon sales lady and seamstress), to her computer operator daughter. The compelling memoir is illustrated with a generous sprinkling of black-and-white photographs of Annie Mae and her family.

Mary M. Fisher

Perlin, Doris E. **EIGHT BRIGHT CANDLES: COURAGEOUS WOMEN OF MEXICO**. Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 1995. 162p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 1-55622-390-0. 95-14089.

Eight remarkable Mexican women are profiled, ranging from the illustrious scholar Sor Juana de Inés to Margarita Maza de Juárez, wife of Mexican president Benito Juárez. Brief biographical sketches detail how each of these strong-minded women broke from the cultural gender boundaries of her day. Sor Juana, for example, became a champion for the rights of women to be educated. Others featured in this engaging selection of life stories include the Aztec woman known as *La Malinche*, who assisted Cortez in the conquest of her people, and two *Tejanas*: Francisca Alvarez, who defied General Santa Anna's orders and helped save several men from the slaughter of Fannin's men at Goliad; and the mysterious Madam Candelaria, who is purported to have been a survivor of the Alamo battle. Illustrated with black-and-white likenesses of the eight women and buttressed by extensive chapter notes and a bibliography, the lively biographies will appeal to a wide audience.

Mary M. Fisher

Stilwell, Arthur E. **FORTY YEARS OF BUSINESS LIFE**. Edited by Yvonne E. Sutherlin. Port Arthur: Port Arthur Public Library and Friends of the Port Arthur Library, 1995. 70p. Index. Hardcover: \$14.00.

In this short book of seventy pages, Arthur E. Stilwell recounts the highlights of his forty-year business career in insurance, finance, and railroad construction. The length of the book does not do justice to Stilwell's accomplishments.

The reader obtains a camera-flash glimpse of a man who was a promoter, a visionary, and a builder in one of the most exciting periods of economic growth and development in the history of the United States and the city of Port Arthur. Here was a man who had business associations with prominent figures such as George M. Pullman, George W. Westinghouse, John W. Gates, Porfirio Díaz, and Pancho Villa. Certainly, if Stilwell's purpose in writing this book was to provide future generations with historical perspective from an insider's view, its length would be much greater.

However, the book was apparently intended to be more of an investment prospective than a historical document. It was written after the resolution of an acrimonious legal conflict between Stilwell and a group of business competitors. To restore his reputation in the financial community, Stilwell wrote the book to be "sent to personal friends and others who may become interested with me in my future business activities."

The book is recommended as a brief outline of Stilwell's business career. The reader should recognize that more questions are raised than answered by the book, but it should serve as a guide to additional sources of information for those who are interested in the life of Arthur Stilwell.

Charles. F. Hawkins

DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

Alsmeyer, Marie Bennett. *SIX YEARS AFTER D-DAY: CYCLING THROUGH EUROPE*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1995. 172p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-929398-82-3. 94-48004.

A pleasure to read, this simply-written book details the astonishing 1200-mile bicycle trip through Europe that Marie Alsmeyer and her husband, Hank, took as a young couple only six years after World War II. Both served in the military during the war but became professional journalists after graduating from the University of Texas on the G.I. Bill. Using her diaries, letters, and notes, Marie chronicles their remarkable journey and renders her impressions of a devastated Europe in the process of rebuilding. Although traveling on a restricted budget, the Alsmeyers enjoyed the flavor of Europe through their own sense of adventure and their friendly contacts with the natives. This charming memoir will be of interest to travelers, historians, bicycle enthusiasts, and women's studies scholars.

Sally Dooley

FOLKLORE

Fowler, Zinita. *GHOST STORIES OF OLD TEXAS 3*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1995. 87p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$11.95, ISBN 1-57168-060-8. 95-37431. (Juvenile)

This is the author's third collection of ghost stories which she discovered in the folklore of the state. Since the first volume was published in 1983, she has traveled widely across Texas telling her ghost stories to enthusiastic school children. The twenty-six tales collected here are the kind of stories which are thrilling when told around a campfire or in a darkened room. Derived from actual events, Ms. Fowler gives names and locations of the occurrences. Since none of the tales are unduly gory or malevolent, but only mysterious and spooky, the stories are sure to please elementary school readers. Four of the stories are illustrated by the pen-and-ink drawings of J. Kay Wilson.

Frances Ramsey

HISTORY

Clark, John E. *THE FALL OF THE DUKE OF DUVAL: A PROSECUTOR'S JOURNAL*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1996.

351p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 1-57168-049-7. 95-040801.

One of the most fascinating and frustrating elements in Texas political history is the long reign of the Parr political machine based primarily in Duval County in the deep southern tip of the state near the Rio Grande. That machine, begun by Archie Parr early in the century, was taken over by George Parr, one of his three sons, in the 1930s. George Parr ran the machine until the 1970s when he was found dead in his car--a suicide--shortly before he was to begin serving a prison sentence for tax evasion.

Many books have been written on the famous or infamous Dukes of Duval and on some of the other political machines that operated in South Texas in the twentieth century. This book differs because it is written by one of the chief prosecutors in this case, who, along with William Sessions, later head of the FBI, initiated this case in conjunction with the IRS in 1972. After tracing the near impossibility of state prosecution because of the structure of Texas state government established in the 1876 state constitution, Clark examines the use of federal power, especially that of the federal Grand Jury, to investigate and prosecute this case. It is an adventure story and an interesting one at that.

This prosecution began under the Richard Nixon administration, and George Parr always held that it was a political move against him. John Clark says that it began almost incidentally with the audit of an Austin architect who had some very large cash withdrawals that he did not claim as business expenses. They were kickbacks paid to different individuals to do business in Duval County. The architect received immunity to testify before the Grand Jury in San Antonio and Corpus Christi, and from that point on the Parr machine slowly began to fall apart, culminating with George's suicide and his nephew Archer Parr's sentence to prison. No one emerged to take over the machine, although several people including Archer tried. The story is complicated and very interesting, and I recommend it to high school and college students and all readers interested in Texas political history.

As a teacher, I found the book frustrating because it lacks footnotes and a bibliography. I found myself wanting to know what was in those boxes in Dan Moody's office dating from the hotly-contested 1948 senate race that pitted Lyndon Johnson against ex-Governor Coke Stevenson for the Democratic nomination. Box 13 in Starr County and part of the Parr operation became the focal point of the election, and I would love to know where all of the information quoted is located now. Also, not until the very end of the book does the author try to explain the source of George Parr's power, so there is really not a full picture of Duval County life. However, that is not what the author intended to give his readers. He was writing about the investigation and prosecution and has done that very well.

Jo Ann Stiles

Gournay, Luke. *TEXAS BOUNDARIES: EVOLUTION OF THE STATE'S COUNTIES*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995. 138p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$29.50, ISBN 0-89096-653-2. 95-13850.

Using a well-chosen title and a multitude of maps, Luke Gournay in *Texas Boundaries* presents a succinct account of the many different boundaries defining Texas and its subdivisions since

the arrival of the first Europeans. Chapters one through three cover the Spanish and Mexican period, with Chapter three introducing the early division of Texas into municipalities. Chapter four on the Republic discusses the boundary claims of the Republic and their subsequent adjustment, and contains a description of the organization of the original twenty-three counties based on the boundaries of Mexican municipalities. The remaining chapter, approximately two-thirds of the book, describes the creations and modifications that led to a total of 254 counties. Arranged chronologically by date of creation, the story of the organization of each county and other pertinent information, primarily concerning the selection of the name, concludes with an account of Kenedy County formed in 1921. Counties were ordinarily created in groups, and for each group there is a map outlining the new additions.

Texas Boundaries has some limitations. Most editors and authors will agree that typographical errors are inevitable, but somehow or another, announcing the date of the Louisiana Purchase to be 1903 in the caption on page eight seems to be unusually regrettable. More maps and descriptions of boundaries during Spanish rule would have been helpful, and more documentation of sources and references for additional study would have been even more useful. But, while the narrative is brief, almost terse, it contains the most pertinent information. The maps are small but well designed and clearly drafted. Probably most valuable as a reference source, *Texas Boundaries* is a welcome addition to Texas historical literature.

Adrian N. Anderson

Marks, Paula Mitchell. *HANDS TO THE SPINDLE: TEXAS WOMEN AND HOME TEXTILE PRODUCTION, 1822-1880*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1996. 133p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89096-699-0. 95-46409.

When settlers began moving westward, textile production was largely a home industry. In this volume, Paula Marks uses written records of nineteenth century settlers to elucidate this particular history in Texas. She divides her volume into four chapters in which she focuses on spinning and weaving, with occasional information on cloth dyeing. The "creative manipulation" of textiles (i.e., sewing, knitting) is not a major theme.

In the first chapter, "Legacy and Contexts," Marks provides background on textile production during the colonial American plantation era and describes the challenges of producing cloth for westward settlement and transferring the needed equipment. Basic explanations of fiber processing, spinning, and dyeing are included. The second chapter, "The Early Years, 1822-1836," focuses on the importance of homespun materials in the lives of early settlers, the effect of frontier conditions on home textile production, the experimentation with native fibers and dye sources, and the role of slaves in textile production. In the third chapter, "The Republic and Early Statehood Years, 1836-1860," Marks explores the thriving home textile production on the frontier and its concurrent decline in more established areas as commercial goods became increasingly available. She also touches on the beginnings of the commercial cloth industry in Texas in the 1850s. The final chapter, "The Civil War and the West Texas Frontier, 1860-1880," assesses the continuing importance of the home textile factory in West Texas, the return to those methods elsewhere as war conditions brought ridiculously

high cloth prices and a scarcity of commercial textiles, and the effect of flourishing trade in the post-war era.

Marks points out, "handspun, handknit, handwoven, hand-dyed" were terms early Texans would have considered redundant, since they knew of no other types of fabric. She makes no attempt to analyze the Mexican textile tradition, but covers Anglo and African American traditions, as well as those of European immigrants. Although the volume does not provide in-depth analysis, it contains a useful, interesting, and well researched history of a home industry that constituted a large part of the daily lives of Texas women.

Jessica Foy

Matovina, Timothy. *THE ALAMO REMEMBERED: TEJANO ACCOUNTS AND PERSPECTIVES*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995. 146p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-292-75185-0; Paperback: \$10.95, ISBN 0-292-75186-9. 95-10131.

With respect to the Alamo, the *Tejanos* (Texans of Mexican ancestry) have a difficult position according to the editor of this compelling anthology of *Tejano* accounts of the Alamo battle. "To identify with the victorious Mexican army leaves Mexican Americans open to false accusations . . . that they descend from a race of murderous butchers who are the enemies of liberty. But to identify with *Tejano* Alamo defenders implies that their ancestors rejected their own people and heritage to ally themselves with Anglo American aspirations and ideals," notes Timothy Matovina. Except for brief statements identifying their source and context which precede each of the thirty-seven documents, Matovina, a theology professor at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, allows *Tejanos* to speak for themselves. In this illuminating book, accounts are divided into four types: first reports of the battle, conversations with local *Tejanos*, unpublished petitions and depositions, and published accounts from newspapers and other sources.

The picture that emerges is a vivid reminder of the dilemma that *Tejanos* faced and the different ways they reacted: some fought with the Texans, others sided with the Mexicans. In some cases, allegiances divided brothers. Matovina, who makes no comprehensive analysis of the accounts' veracity, suggests that they must be viewed critically. Many depositions were not given until decades after the event, while others, such as petitions for government compensation, reflect the authors' purpose. Nonetheless, this first full-scale collection offers a rich insight into the formation of Mexican American identity in San Antonio. In a short concluding essay, Matovina says that they still speak today to Mexican Americans who face "the ongoing dilemma with regard to the Alamo." Additionally, they speak eloquently to a general audience trying to gain a more balanced perspective of the storied conflict.

Mary M. Fisher

Roell, Craig H. *REMEMBER GOLIAD!* Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1994. 92p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$5.95, ISBN 0-87611-141-X. 94-25973.

Remember Goliad! is a well-done addition to a worthy undertaking, the Fred Rider Cotten Popular History series. These books present the histories of various historical sites and have been

remarkably successful in the presentation of brief but complete stories that entertain and inform general readers and those who may be more knowledgeable. For most who have even the slightest acquaintance with the history of Texas, the name "Goliad" immediately brings to mind the Texas Revolution and the execution of 400 Texans by Mexican forces, the "Goliad Massacre." Roell devotes about one-fourth of his book to this tragedy, but his study actually is a balanced account. Beginning with the early explorers, he takes the story through the Spanish era. He includes a description of empresarios and settlement activities in the period of Mexican rule and precedes his account of the massacre with a discussion of military affairs in the Revolution. A brief epilogue describes the major events that have affected the site since the Revolution.

An index would have been useful, but of great value to casual readers and more serious scholars is the bibliography. It is comprehensive and carefully annotated, and anyone who wishes to know more about Goliad than is available in the text can most surely find suitable recommendations for additional reading.

Adrian N. Anderson

Sitton, Thad. **BACKWOODSMEN: STOCKMEN AND HUNTERS ALONG A BIG THICKET RIVER VALLEY.** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. 310p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 0-8061-2742-2. 95-3681.

Thad Sitton, a "town boy" from Lufkin in Angelina County, has compiled a fascinating work about a backwoods way of life in East Texas that, until recent years, had changed little from the subsistence customs largely inherited from the rural South of antebellum times. He looks at the rural lifestyle prevalent in the Neches River Valley counties of Anderson, Cherokee, Houston, Trinity, Angelina, Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Hardin, and Orange. Sitton first reviews the geography of the Neches River Valley and provides a history of early Paleo-Indian inhabitants, particularly the Caddo Indians. Next, the author examines the migration patterns of settlers into the area, starting with fugitives from justice, followed by newcomers from the Upper and Lower South after 1836. These backwoodsmen subsisted on the land, using it for hunting, trapping, moonshining, and fishing in addition to working timber and transporting products on the Neches River. The open woods stock raising of hogs and cattle, perhaps the foremost activity, is likewise described. The stockman-farmer, or backwoodsman, had virtually unfettered access to the land and its resources. Impediments such as fences, game laws, or stock laws were greeted with hostility as a threat to their inalienable rights and to a time-honored way of life. The final chapter describes how some of these impediments finally did become law in some of the Big Thicket counties, but only after much heated debate and threats of violence.

Sitton's book is well researched with a wide ranging bibliography that includes numerous oral histories from individuals who were familiar with or who actually lived this lifestyle. The book earns an enthusiastic recommendation for academic and public libraries. East Texas libraries, especially, will want to add this work to their collections.

Jon P. Tritsch

Wooster, Ralph A. **TEXAS AND TEXANS IN THE CIVIL**

WAR. Austin: Eakin Press, 1995. 308p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$27.95, ISBN 1-57168-042-X. 95-35743.

This much-anticipated book admirably fills the long-standing need for a general history of the Lone Star State and its people during the American Civil War. From Texas' own brand of secession to the tragic war's last battle fought in South Texas, the author gives a first-rate summary of the significant role Texas and Texans played in the war. Thoroughly researched, the work examines the state and its people both in the field and at home. Soldiers and battles are given due treatment, as are politics and state finances. The roles of women and African Americans are also assessed. An insightful account of the contributions of Confederate and Unionist Texans after the war serves as the final chapter of the book.

Texas and Texans in the Civil War is a splendid synthesis of modern scholarship, providing thirty-four pages of bibliography and more than fifty pages of notes. The writing is clear and offers an informative, fast-paced narrative which should appeal to both the scholar and the general reader. The extensive survey of primary and secondary sources, many of which are not easily available to the average reader, should serve for many years as the beginning place for all future study on the subject. This handsome, well-written book belongs in every public library.

Jonathan K. Gerland

HUMOR

Dooley, Kirk and Eben Price. **"READ MY LIPS": CLASSIC TEXAS POLITICAL QUOTES.** Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1995. 172p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-89672-350-X. 95-3409.

It is often quite accurately alleged that there are few people more naturally colorful than the citizens of Texas. Along that same vein, it is generally held that there is hardly a more colorful class of Texan than the Texas politician, many of whom qualify as quintessential stereotypes of that profession. This short, entertaining book of political quotations more than adequately illustrates the latter point. Starting with the historical era of the Republic of Texas and ending with the George Bush/Ross Perot verbal sparring of the 1990s, this book showcases the best and the worst of Texas politics, both on the fringes and in the mainstream of the fray. Almost everyone you would expect to populate this book can be found in its pages--from Sam Houston to Dolph Briscoe, from Ma Ferguson to Ann Richards.

Perhaps Texas' most dominant politician, at least in this century, was Lyndon Baines Johnson. The quotable Johnson, who never missed an opportunity to zero in verbally on weaker men's egos, rates the single most coverage. The book's chapters are in chronological order and a useful index makes navigation easy. Complete with bibliography, Dooley and Price's compilation is recommended for Texana collections.

David Carroll

Pryor, Richard "Cactus." **PLAYBACK.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995. 158p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-292-76567-3. 95-10561.

Popular after-dinner speaker and radio commentator, "Cactus" Pryor has collected here over forty of his favorite radio essays. These short pieces provide pleasure and insight for the reader just as they did for his many listeners to KLBK in Austin over the course of five decades. With vivid word pictures, his interviews, stories, and travel descriptions bring to life interesting people and places. Interviews include the famous: John Wayne, James Michener, Jane Fonda, and Lyndon Baines Johnson. But the stories of his encounters with so-called average people are the ones that emphasize the uniqueness of each individual: from a leper on Molokai, to a 104-year-old man who was teaching himself to read and write, to a net caster at the tidal flats on Corpus Christi Bay. Taken as a whole, the essays reveal the depth of his understanding, appreciation, and affection for not only Texas and its people but for all the world and its peoples.

Sally Dooley

NATURAL HISTORY

Jacobs, Louis. *LONE STAR DINOSAURS*, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995. 160p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$27.95, ISBN 0-89096-662-1. 95-4034.

Dinosaurs are an ever-popular subject for people of all ages. This attractive volume covers dinosaurs found in Texas and the accompanying geologic evidence in a thorough and understandable manner. Dr. Jacobs explains the idea of plate tectonics and continental drift as they relate to dinosaur existence where fossils have been located. The three major "dinosaur find" areas are in the panhandle plains, the north central plains, and the Big Bend, and they are illustrative of three major geologic periods of time. His explanation of the possible extinction of these distinctive reptiles is both readable and intriguing. The book is lavishly and colorfully illustrated with original artwork by Karen Carr.

With a text that is neither dry nor academic, Dr. Jacobs often writes with humor: "*Quetzalcoatlus* is a true Texas giant, enigmatic and impressive. Ross Perot with a forty-foot wing span." This reviewer highly recommends *Lone Star Dinosaurs* to all kinds of libraries, because adults and readers as young as high school will enjoy such an informative and well-done book.

Jed J. Ramsey

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