



REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



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★★★★★ FICTION ★★★★★

Bonner, Cindy. *LOOKING AFTER LILY*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1994. 336p. Hardcover: \$18.95, ISBN 1-56512-045-0. 93-33730.

Though *Looking After Lily* is independent of Bonner's first novel, *Lily* (Vol. VII, No. 4), it is a sequel and invites comparison, particularly with regard to the author's effective use of first person point of view. In *Lily* the fifteen-year-old shares with readers her emotions, fears, and disappointments, as she falls in love with an outlaw. In the sequel, Haywood Beatty tells his story. Acquitted of charges brought against him in a famous Texas shootout in 1883, he grudgingly half promises his jailed brother he will look after the pregnant Lily. Like *Lily*, this is a love story. Haywood, despite his intentions, falls in love with Lily. Both stories are plotted along the conventional lines of the "becoming" tale. However, Haywood experiences no Joycean epiphany; rather, an undercurrent pulls him from outlawry to love for Lily, which carries him forward to estimable stature.

Taking a few historical facts, Bonner has woven into her work an ethnological view of Texas in the 1880s, a time when Texas, too, was "becoming," emerging from chaos to stability and power. Yet another dimension of Bonner's writing is humor. Haywood is entertaining. Most comical is his being dunked by Missionary Baptists with Baby Emmy in his arms "to wash the Catholic off her." The author suggests a third novel following Lily, her baby, and her husband to West Texas. We have great expectations for their further adventures. Bonner's star continues to rise.

Ernestine Sewell Linck

Cattarulla, Kay, ed. *TEXAS BOUND: 19 TEXAS STORIES*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1994. 244p. Hardcover \$22.50, ISBN 0-87074-367-8; Paperback \$10.95, ISBN 0-87074-368-6. 93-45385.

In his forward for *Texas Bound*, essayist and fiction writer Lawrence Wright identifies three levels of Texas culture that underscore "a sense of its own apartness." At the first is the callous, self-absorbed stereotypical roughneck whose unshakable courage conquers all flaws. At the second is the educated pedant standing on the threshold of neurosis. And at the third is the discontent adventurer who searches beyond Texas' boundaries and finds in the confused progression of years a longing to be reconciled to one's past. These nineteen superbly-crafted stories traverse all three levels, holding up Texas for our pleasure and amazement, and challenging our sensibilities about diverse issues. For example, in "The Kind of Light that Shines on Texas,"

Reginald McKnight sees racism as "Primary school in primary colors," and in Annette Sanford's "Trip in a Summer Dress," a young single mother journeys into the shame she feels for deceiving her illegitimate son into believing he is her younger brother. An Elvis impersonator, a real Bubba, sings his way to fame and misfortune, a group of friends don antlers on Halloween while getting too drunk to care about being mistaken for "wild animals," and an aging divorcee regales in the bizarre and uproarious circumstances that lead to her coming into possession of a seventeenth-century Venetian palazzo, where the "Italianos" are as affectionately lopsided as her acquaintances back in Texas. Though a few selections such as "Before Daylight" and "Burgers, Beer, and Patsy Cline" drift toward sentimentality, these impressive stories have been deftly chosen to provide a composite study of what can only be described as the Texas state of mind.

Joe Nordgren



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Cherry, Lynne. *THE ARMADILLO FROM AMARILLO*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1994. 30p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-15-200359-2. 93-11185. (Juvenile)

In a perfect harmony of storyline, illustration, and theme, talented author and illustrator Lynne Cherry brings to youngsters the brightly colored fantastic travel excursion of an armadillo named Sasparillo. Starting out from a field of bluebonnets in South Texas, Sasparillo travels to San Antonio, through the Texas woodlands, to Austin, and onto the Panhandle plains and Amarillo. The variety of the topography and vegetation pique his interest: "Where in the world am I?" he asks. Hitching a ride on the back of a friendly eagle, Sasparillo soars above the earth, higher and higher so he can understand Amarillo as a city, in a state, in a region, in the United States, and North America. When the eagle and armadillo fly with a space shuttle, they see the spinning planet Earth as a part of the universe. Now Sasparillo knows where in the world he is! The final beautiful double-page illustration shows Sasparillo perched on a globe surrounded by varied geographical maps and charts which show the ways we have of knowing where in the world we are. Children are sure to delight in this presentation of pictures and rhyming text, which accurately portrays Texas' diversity. Opening children's minds to the concept of Texas' place within the cosmos and the wonder of the universe is accomplished beautifully.

fully and originally here.

Lynne Cherry, a Maryland writer, has written books on environmental subjects and won awards for *The Great Kapok Tree* and *A River Ran Wild*. She is the director of the Center for Children's Environmental Literature.

Sally Dooley



Crook, Elizabeth. *PROMISED LANDS*. New York: Doubleday, 1994. 511p. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-385-41858-2. 93-24144.

The Texas Revolution is the tumultuous setting of *Promised Lands*, Elizabeth Crook's second historical novel. As in her previous book, *The Raven's Bride* (Vol. VI, No. 2), she bases her fiction on solid, careful research. Beginning in the fall of 1835 and concluding with the battle of San Jacinto in late April of 1836, the plot follows the lives of two families, the Anglo Kenners and the Tejano Pachecos, caught up in the vortex of war. The lives of Kenners and Pachecos cross time and again as Texas' fate with Mexico is worked out.

Although the book gets off to a slow start with the introduction of characters and events that don't seem consequential, Crook later draws these incidents and people together as important forces in the plot. Crook is most skillful in her use of historical detail. Vivid descriptions of the grime, blood, and noise of war are coupled with her sensitive portrayal of the hopes, fears, and despair of the characters. The terror experienced by those crossing flooded rivers as they flee in the Runaway Scrape is nearly as great as that suffered by those who fought and died at Goliad. The characters' dilemmas of political and personal allegiances provide a spellbinding entertainment which will also increase the reader's understanding of a pivotal period in Texas history.

Sally Dooley

Flynn, Robert. *THE LAST KCLICK*. Dallas: Baskerville Publishers, Inc., 1994. 363p. Hardcover: \$21.00, ISBN 1-880909-21-9. 93-45618.

Set in Vietnam, Robert Flynn's fifth novel focuses upon Sherrill O'Connell, a disheartened writer and teacher at a small Texas college. Creatively and emotionally lost after the death of his thirteen-year-old daughter, O'Connell leaves behind for a year his wife and tenured position to become a reporter for *REAL* magazine, a gung-ho "bomb the gooks all the way back to Hanoi" publication. Trapped one day during an ambush at a small landing zone, he grabs a rifle and slays three of his Viet Cong attackers. For his heroics, O'Connell suddenly is transformed into a popular myth: he becomes an armed correspondent patrolling for a hot story, for a figurative *REAL* kill.

Prompted by jealousy, O'Connell's peers first implicate him in a civilian massacre and later accuse him of molesting children. Portrayed as a ruthless murderer by the media back home, his colleagues denounce him, and his wife begins losing faith in their marriage. To exonerate himself, O'Connell joins a film crew assigned to cover a military sweep into enemy territory. For him, every treacherous kilometer and photographic "klick" involves a

harrowing search to find what remains of his essential self. However, in this steamy, hostile region, truth and personal integrity are of little value, for they have nothing to do with "making" news.

Fame becomes the trip-wire in this intense and absorbing novel. A former Vietnam correspondent himself in the early 1970s, Flynn argues that even when framed in the eye of a camera, "Everyone dies alone."

Joe Nordgren

Greenberg, Robert [Dr. Bob]. *TYRANNOSAURUS TEX IN THE TIMELESS TOWN*. Austin: State House Press, 1994. 64p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$6.95, ISBN 1-880510-14-6. 94-7864. (Juvenile)

Written by a practicing psychiatrist, this third book in the *Tyrannosaurus Tex* series tells what happens in a fictitious town after the hands in all of its clocks are stolen. In the resulting chaos, the owner of the only functioning timepiece, thief Othnielia, usurps the power of the mayor, crowns himself king, and forbids the use of any time words. Finally, the residents cooperate to take back control of their town.

The exploration of how one relates to time or timelessness is entertaining, but this reviewer finds dinosaurs dressed and behaving like humans disconcerting; nevertheless, the Public Broadcasting System, recognizing children's fascination with dinosaurs, plans to develop the series for upcoming television programs. The sturdy paperback includes a list of characters, a dinosaur glossary, and black-and-white pen and wash drawings by noted illustrator Charles Shaw.

Frances M. Ramsey

Heintze, William Ty. *VALLEY OF THE EELS*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 141p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-89015-904-1. 93-2906. (Juvenile)

Middle school science teacher William Heintze demonstrates a true understanding of the young adolescent in *Valley of the Eels*. He excels in this new novel, the first of a planned trilogy, by creating interesting characters who behave like typical teenage boys who find themselves in an extraordinary situation. Science fiction is a difficult balancing act. The author must instill credibility into an unreal, and therefore incredible, scenario. Heintze combines captivating elements together in a fast-paced story of three boys who spend a summer diving off the coast of Corpus Christi, Texas. A dolphin befriends them and leads the way to an alien colony deep in the Gulf of Mexico.

Readers fourth grade and older will find pleasure and excitement in this Texas adventure. This is gentle science fiction; the author makes concerted efforts not to create a threatening or scary alien world. In fact, a human villain offers the most significant dangers to the youths. Heintze also carefully addresses such politically correct issues as environmental protection, multiculturalism, and mutual parent-child appreciation and regard. The story will cause the reader not only to think but to ponder--a rare event in today's juvenile fiction market.

Cynthia Calvert

Lindsey, David. *AN ABSENCE OF LIGHT*. New York: Doubleday, 1994. 519p. Hardcover: \$23.00, ISBN 0-385-42311-X. 93-35730.

David Lindsey, a recognized master of the mystery novel, is noted for his unusual and complex plots based on research and knowledge of high tech detective work. He is especially effective at presenting believable characters who are physically and emotionally struggling through the fast-paced, steamy and sometimes oppressive streets of Houston. In this new thriller, Marcus Graver, head of the HPD's Criminal Investigation Division, searches for clues surrounding the apparent suicide of one of his investigators. If it's not a suicide, Graver fears it to be a murder resulting from one of the dead man's investigations. Graver decides to keep the investigation to himself, and he enlists the help of two loyal members of his team and a freelance investigator who has access to state-of-the-art equipment. Over a five-day period, a series of horrifying events unfold with the investigators using intelligence that is either one step ahead or behind the brilliant but evil machinations of a world-wide arms and drug dealer. The intricate plot Lindsey creates is intelligent yet full of surprises and twists that entice readers to read just one more page or chapter until the book's tumultuous conclusion. Surely this is another best seller here.

Lindsey lives in Austin but often is on location researching a new novel. About every three years he produces a unique and cerebral thriller.

Sally Dooley

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *SITTI'S SECRET*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1994. 27p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-02-768460-1. 93-19742. (Juvenile)

Sitti's Secret is a beautiful harmony of text, by Naomi Shihab Nye, a Texas writer, and evocative colored illustrations, by Nancy Carpenter. The story concerns Mona who lives in the United States but remembers and thinks often of her Arabic grandmother, Sitti, who lives halfway around the world. Little Mona visited her Sitti once and spent happy days with her cousins and grandmother in Palestine. With her father serving as translator, grandmother and granddaughter bonded lovingly. Although their worlds are entirely different, loving and being loved by a grandmother bring gravity and light to a young girl's place on planet Earth.

Nancy Carpenter's marvelous paintings capture the distances in both mileage and culture that separate this family. The paintings also reveal that love, family ties, and memories transcend distances and differences in peoples. A most hopeful and lovely book, *Sitti's Secret* read aloud to youngsters will stir thoughts about living in a big, wide world that is multicultural.

Sally Dooley

Owens, Mary Beth. *COUNTING CRANES*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1994. 32p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$14.95, ISBN 0-316-67719-1. (Juvenile)

Author-illustrator Mary Beth Owens has created an exquisite picture book outlining the life cycle and migratory patterns of the whooping crane. These graceful waterfowl that winter in Texas were once an endangered species, dwindling to only

fifteen birds in 1941. With protection, their number has gradually increased. In delicately detailed and colorful watercolors and acrylics, the bordered art on every page beautifully illustrates the five-line haiku-like text which describes the cranes' natural history. The reader or listener counts along as the text is read from one to fifteen cranes, fifteen being a momentous number for the whooping crane. Owens' *A Caribou Alphabet* was an ALA Notable Book and named one of the ten best illustrated books of 1989 by *Parenting* magazine. *Counting Cranes* should be similarly received.

Sally Dooley

Pugh, Ann Barham. *DIGGY ARMADILLO GOES TO THE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO-BOOK II*. Fort Worth: Diggy and Associates, 1994. 44p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$7.95, ISBN 1-879465-02-7. (Juvenile)

When we last saw Diggy Armadillo (formerly Arnie Armadillo), he was trying to rescue his friend Rosita (formerly Amanda the armadillo) from the back of a van. The van departs with Diggy, in tears, chasing after it as Rosita remains trapped inside. In *Book II*, the adventure continues and the reader is taken to points of interest in Fort Worth as Diggy searches for Rosita. During this search, we also visit and learn about the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. Elementary-aged children living in the Fort Worth area and planning to visit the historical sites and places of interest mentioned in the book should enjoy Diggy's adventures while they learn about Texas history and culture. Simple black, white, and red illustrations by Cynthia Vanway Hanphy accompany this paperback.

Andrea R. Karlin

Ross, Alice, Chaplin Ross, and Kent Ross. *WHISTLE PUNK*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1944. 141p. ISBN 0-87565-123-2. 93-14187. (Juvenile)

In 1944, in the Piney Woods of East Texas, twelve-year-old Mac Johnson and his family are trying to cope with the death of Donald, Mac's older brother, a fighter pilot killed in combat by the Germans. To complicate their grief, Mac's father has agreed to have German POWs help cut the lumber that forms the family's livelihood. Mac is torn between getting revenge for his brother's death and being the responsible individual he has been entrusted to be as the new whistle punk for his father's lumber operation. This novel, written at a fifth-grade level, will give students an interesting read as they learn about lesser-known Texas and United States history. Included at the end of the book is a list of suggested readings about this period in history and a list of English translations of German phrases used intermittently throughout the novel.

Andrea R. Karlin

Townsend, Tom. *THE GHOST FLYERS*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 103p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$11.95, ISBN-0-89015-897-5.

In the setting of a rural East Texas town, just before the turn of the century, a thirteen-year-old boy and a newspaper reporter friend set out to find answers to the long, dark shadow they have seen crossing the midnight skies as well as information concern-

ing four missing people whom they know. When they discover a flying machine with three people aboard, an exciting adventure of mystery and suspense begins. Joining the airship crew, the two boys become part of a flying adventure that involves connecting with another airship with evil people on board, decoding a secret map, and discovering a hidden cavern that holds the mystery of the flying machines. The suspense keeps one reading until all mysteries are solved and the story ends. The book will have great appeal to the intermediate and middle-school reader. Although the story is fictional, the author notes that ghost flyers often appeared in the night skies over the southwestern United States during 1896-1897. They disappeared as quickly as they came.

Sarah Matheny

Watt, Donley. *THE JOURNEY OF HECTOR RABINAL*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994. 191p. English Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-87565-125-9; Spanish Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-87565-128-3. 93-30375.

This debut novel by Donley Watt, a native Texan who has published short stories in various periodicals and anthologies, relays an impressive and powerful story. (So strong is TCU Press' belief in the worth of this novel that they are publishing a Spanish edition in 1995.) Separated from his family when brown-shirted soldiers burn his home, Hector Rabinal flees Guatemala. His illegal immigration through Mexico to Texas to work is fraught with suspense and fear, but Hector demonstrates remarkable strength of character and joy in doing hard work well. He misses his wife and soon returns to Guatemala to search for her. Hoping for her return, he rebuilds his shack and in so doing restores hope to the village. But then the brown shirts destroy again.

But Hector triumphs, because he learns to live with the good and the bad in life: "both together made a life complete." He understands that a job may appear overwhelming (a field to hoe), but taken one row at a time, the job can be accomplished. Having a plan, a deliberate way to live his life, helps him feel control and confidence, eclipsing fear. Hector Rabinal does not merely endure; he prevails. Watt's spare style adds strength and poignancy while it underscores the depiction of this simple Guatemalan Indian. The bloodshed in present-day Guatemala now has a face on it--the heroic Hector's; truly Watt has written a compelling, beautifully formed novel.

Sally Dooley

AUDIO

Cattarulla, Kay, producer. *TEXAS BOUND: 8 BY 8; STORIES BY TEXAS WRITERS, READ BY TEXAS ACTORS*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1993. Playing time: Approx. 3 hours, 2 Audio Cassettes: \$15.95, ISBN 0-87074-369-4.

Recorded live at the Dallas Museum of Art, these eight readings from *Texas Bound: 19 Texas Stories* celebrate one of the state's most robust literary traditions. The performers, Tyress Allen, Roger Alvarez, Tess Harper, Judith Ivey, Tommy Lee Jones,

Norma Moore, Randy Moore, and Doris Roberts, all have close ties to the state, just as the indelible characters they bring to life are distinctly Texan in one way or another.

Tommy Lee Jones and Judith Ivey establish the emotional boundaries of solitariness and shared laughter that enclose the performances. Reading Larry McMurry's "There Will Be Peace in Korea," Tommy Lee Jones evokes the hollow-sounding utterances of two men laboring in the face of "bad norther" (a foreboding allusion to the war) to patch up a friendship gone awry. With near lugubrious perfection, Jones lets us listen to them toss their lifeless memories and empty farewells into a dusty wind. In contrast to the gritty, Judith Ivey's marvelously inventive reading of Lynna Williams' "Personal Testimony" captures the edgy intensity of the self-proclaimed criminal narrator who is profiteering at a Baptist summer camp for adolescents. An adopted, rebellious twelve-year-old, she is dead certain that she will never be able to have sex in the same time zone in which her mother lives, and her father's Baylor class ring is a heavy reminder of the heights to which she must aspire. Listening once to these readings will not be enough. The voices are so authentic and engaging that they have the power, as suggested by *D Magazine*, "to lure even the most ascetic bibliophile into a night of indulgence."

Joe Nordgren

Kelton, Elmer. *THE DAY THE COWBOYS QUIT*. Wichita Falls: Spellbinders, 1993. Abridged. Playing time: approx. 6 hours, 4 Audio Cassettes: \$25.00, ISBN 1-883268-03-6.

With the hardback publication in 1971 of *The Day the Cowboys Quit*, Kelton distinguished himself from Louis L'Amour and the other cowboy writers marketed in grocery stores. As Kelton has said, while L'Amour's heroes are six-foot tall and sure of themselves, his heroes are five-foot eight and nervous. Kelton's retelling of the 1883 cowboy strike around the XIT spread in the Texas Panhandle concerns Hugh Hitchcock, an honorable and simple cowboy trying to avoid the strike but who ends up being beaten and pushed into the fight before then being elected as the county sheriff. In his new role, he must face down both Lafey Dodge, a "better man" in terms of gunsmanship, and wealthy new cattlemen who want to run the county. With Lafey Dodge, Hugh, and Hugh's old boss Charlie Waide, Kelton gets at the real Texas characters beneath all the dust of twentieth-century fiction and movie glamorization.

Unfortunately, Ronald Wilcox, the actor who reads this novel, and Spellbinders tapes seem to want Kelton to join the ranks not of Louis L'Amour and Max Brand, but of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. Wilcox keeps his own pleasant voice when reading or speaking Hugh's lines, but he turns the rest of Kelton's sometimes clichéd dialogue into B Western movie material. Every cowhand sounds like a grizzled old coot who seems a cross between Gabby Hayes and Arthur Hunnicutt. For the voice of the cattle baron's accountant, Wilcox pinches off the ends of his words and affects an Edward Everett Horton imitation. With a higher voice and more pinched words, Wilcox makes all the women characters sound as though they are trying out for Blanche Dubois in an East Texas church production of *A Street Car Named Desire*.

Jim Sanderson

POETRY

Jones, Roger. *STRATA*. Huntsville: Texas Review Press, 1993. 62p. Paper: \$6.95, ISBN 1-881515-03-6.

The author is the first winner of the *TEXAS REVIEW* Breakthrough Series. Jones's subjects are primarily regional, like those of *Remembering New London*, his 1980 chapbook. The poet of the Texas landscape must labor under the shadow of Walter McDonald, who comments that these poems "lift us out of flat, caliche plains to more discoveries than I thought could touch or delight me." Sometimes the younger poet does not stray far enough from his influences: "Thirty minutes out of Iraan / the doomed odor of petroleum begins" could pass for an opening to one of McDonald's own poems. Still, the tone of bemused concern in the face of both natural and human violence seems uniquely Jones' own. In "Infestation" a couple lie awake while pine bark beetles "go on gnawing their way / through the thick trees, through / the soft wood of our brains." A sick bat in "Original Sin" unexpectedly takes flight: it "skitter[s] like a jagged flake of ash / overhead" to set "a fatal spell" on the memories of the boys who have prodded it. "Again: A Kinzer Dream" recalls a childhood trauma, a pet hen killed by a neighbor's cat; the memory is conflated with the blind eye of the title character and the poet's own eye, which recalls in scrupulous detail images of farm and family. "Strata" holds a central metaphor: the uncovered layers of soil and rock can be "read now like the wide- / lined pages of tablets / where, as children, holding / pencils big as clubs, / we shaped the wobbly letters / of our first alphabet." In this "we see the story / of our own ground," the telling of which becomes the poet's primary concern.

R. S. Gwynn

Murray, E'Lane Carlisle. *THE LACE OF TOUGH MESQUITE*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 62p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$12.95, ISBN 0-89015-903-3. 93-2915.

The Lace of Tough Mesquite is the 1992 winner of the William E. Bard Book Award, an award given yearly by the Poetry Society of Texas. The poetry is divided into four sections titled "Roadside Heritage," "Texas' Seasons," "Flyways," and "Canyons and Coasts." Murray belongs to the generation of poets which includes Lisa Kahn, Robert Lee Brothers, and William Barney. These poets record an ancestral Texas and a quickly disappearing landscape. To take her place among such poets, Murray's work must add a new perspective and give the reader a fresh look at Texas landscape as seen through the spring-lace of leafing-out mesquites; this she does not accomplish. While some of the poems are rhythmic and offer new comparisons, most of them offer no new response to the Texas scenery. When Murray works with a rhyme scheme, she tightens her lines and creates a satisfying poem, but many poems do not achieve such polish. And one feels more is to be seen in the images than Murray presents. Though Murray's family and friends will treasure this offering, those who know her only through this book will be left wishing to meet a more finely tuned poet.

Gabriele U. Stauff

★★★NONFICTION★★★

BIOGRAPHY

Henson, Margaret Swett and Deolece Parmelee. *THE CARTWRIGHTS OF SAN AUGUSTINE*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1993. 337p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN 0-87611-129-0. 93-21498.

Family history is often just exactly that--history written by the family, for the family, and of little interest to anyone else. *The Cartwrights of San Augustine* is different. Although in some respects it follows the traditional approach in terms of genealogical detail and is based upon voluminous family records, this narrative of family affairs is integrated into the story of nineteenth-century Texas. The result is a valuable contribution to our understanding of that period. The first Cartwrights, somewhat more affluent than most other immigrants, arrived in Texas during the period of Mexican rule. Shrewd and diligent, the family added to their fortune over time, accumulating more than 360,000 acres of land by 1870. The role of the family in public affairs was limited; commerce and agriculture, not politics or public service, dominated their lives. For this reason, the Cartwrights, although influential in local affairs of the San Augustine area, were little known in other areas of the state.

Readers who are interested in the Civil War and Reconstruction will find the section of the book dealing with those years particularly valuable. There is an abundance of detail concerning living conditions, treatment of slaves and freedmen, crime, and other aspects of daily life. It is possible that life for the Cartwrights in those troubled times was not typical, but if it was, living conditions were not as difficult as ordinarily described. Occasionally an error of fact will plague the most scholarly of scholars, and one can be found on page 309. The Spindletop gusher came in on January 10, 1901, not January 10, 1900. Far more serious is the omission of a bibliography. If this is a trend of the future, it is most unfortunate.

Adrian N. Anderson

Hopewell, Clifford. *JAMES BOWIE: TEXAS FIGHTING MAN, A BIOGRAPHY*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 155p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$18.95, ISBN 0-89015-881-9.

Writing biography when the subject leaves papers, letters, and records is difficult enough. Writing biography when the subject leaves almost no written records and exists primarily as a legend based on myth is almost impossible. One of the better known names associated with the battle of the Alamo is James Bowie, but little is really known of him. He is remembered as a slave smuggler, a participant in a number of bloody feuds, the creator of a vicious but effective knife useful in hand-to-hand combat, the successful suitor of the daughter of a prominent Mexican official, a tragic figure who lost his wife and his family to cholera, and finally as a very ill man who perished at some point in the fighting at the Alamo. There is some evidence to suggest that he led an unstable life, one that was often affected by violence and conflict. His courage seems to have been considerable; his judgment may well have been doubtful, at least in some situations. His relationships with prominent men of his time have

never been clearly defined, and there is some reason to question his ethics in business dealings, although proof of such is lacking.

Considering the subject and available source materials, Hopewell probably tells the story as well as it can be told. But he doesn't answer many questions that one might have about Bowie. Documentation is sparse and the biography is by no means comprehensive. Hopewell is biographer of another Texas hero--Sam Houston (Vol.2 No.2).

Adrian N. Anderson

Lefever, Alan J. **FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT: THE LIFE AND WORK OF BENAJAH HARVEY CARROLL.** Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 180p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89015-943-2. 93-44797.

The longtime pastor of the First Baptist Church, Waco, and the founder and first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Benajah Harvey Carroll was a giant among Texas Baptists. Replete with numerous photographs, this carefully researched volume, the first in a projected series on Baptist leaders in Texas, portrays Carroll as a man of humor, a formidable debater, a manipulator of sorts, an innovator whose church had deaconesses in the 1870s, a fervent prohibitionist, and a defender of Baptist orthodoxy. To students of Baptist history, most of this is rather familiar territory. However, the nuances and insights of Alan J. Lefever, whose admiration for Carroll is readily apparent, bring the Baptist leader's personality and regional prominence into sharp focus. Although far from definitive, this is a helpful biography. Unfortunately, the story is interrupted much too often by lengthy quotations, which should have been woven into the text.

John W. Storey

DEPRESSION--MENTAL ILLNESS

Cronkite, Kathy. **ON THE EDGE OF DARKNESS: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CONQUERING DEPRESSION.** New York: Doubleday, 1994. 352p. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.50, ISBN 0-385-42194-X. 93-29956.

Depression crosses all socioeconomic lines and afflicts 17.6 million Americans annually. Although millions seek treatment, many do not because of ignorance or fear of being considered lazy or weak. Author Cronkite's suffering with depression catalyzed her research to write this book, hoping that it would help educate and encourage others who are ill. A number of famous people and other acquaintances who have had depression granted Cronkite interviews, and they frankly discuss their travail and triumphs. Conversations with medical professionals and Cronkite's own experiences are included and, when coupled with the interviews, the book resembles a lively panel discussion in prose. Kitty Dukakis, Mike Wallace, Rod Steiger, Jules Feiffer, Art Buchwald, and others describe pain and terror and their escape routes while several physicians and psychiatrists shed light on this dark disease. Symptoms and treatments are described while suicide, substance abuse, depressed children, and the support of family and friends are discussed. There are no pat answers nor is this a self-help book, but the variety of experiences is enlightening to those in despair about the disease, either because they or a loved one suffers.

An unlikely mix of appendixes finish the book: Liz Carpenter's list for beating the blues (this is confusing because a simple case of the "blues" is not the same as clinical depression); a brief list of support and educational resources; and an abbreviated section on medical and drug-induced depressions. The lack of hard data hampers the book somewhat; still, the book provides some insight into this debilitating disease. Much, much more research is clearly indicated. Cronkite, who also wrote *On the Edge of the Spotlight*, lives in Austin with her husband and two sons.

Sally Dooley

EDUCATION

Post, Linda. **STONY GROUND: ONE TEACHER'S FIGHT AGAINST JUVENILE CRIME.** Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 237p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-89015-918-1. 93-9095.

Linda Post, a Temple, Texas, English teacher for twenty-five years, has written a most unusual book with three distinct but interwoven components. First, she relates the chilling true story of four teenage students' drug abuse, violent crime, trial, and punishment. Secondly, Post demonstrates how she effectively used the classroom to teach self-esteem and accountability to all her students, especially to the wayward boys. Lastly, the book presents an urgent plea for public schools to return to the instruction of ethical behavior in the classroom because the family and culture have largely abdicated responsibility. The true-crime story is fast-paced, and the reader admires the patience and ingenuity of a teacher who honestly cares for juveniles considered unsalvageable by most of society. How the boys learn that their choices and actions have consequences is told with great sensitivity. Through Post's classroom and informal relationship with one teenage murderer, she shows a way to counter juvenile violence by teaching values through the study of literature and history in order to encourage behavior modification. Her argument is convincing since it is based on her experiences.

A distraction in the book is the author's fascination with some coincidences involving license plate numbers, the location of tombstones, Jessie James, the frontier outlaw, and the execution of Gary Gilmore. These are extraneous to the points Post is making.

Sally Dooley

GUIDE

Foster, Nancy Haston and Benjamin A. Fairbank. **THE TEXAS MONTHLY GUIDEBOOKS: SAN ANTONIO.** 4th ed., rev. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1994. 286p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-87719-221-9. 93-44860.

Among other sights, Sea World, Fiesta Texas, River Walk, the missions and, of course, the Alamo make San Antonio the number one tourist destination for both Texans and out-of-state visitors. This excellent guidebook, newly revised, provides up-to-date information on tourist attractions, historical sites, lodging, restaurants, and myriad special events of San Antonio and environs. All this, plus a brief history along with a bibliography, gives the traveler information needed for an entertaining trip to the Alamo City. This fourth revision in a decade recommends

this guidebook.

Sally Dooley

HISTORY

Adams, John A., Jr. *SOFTLY CALL THE MUSTER*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 89p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$9.95, ISBN 0-89096-586-2. Limited edition: \$25.00, ISBN 0-89096-599-4. 93-36982.

The history of an honored tradition at Texas A&M University, the San Jacinto Day Muster, is chronicled by John A. Adams, Jr., in *Softly Call the Muster*. Adams has employed the A&M Archives, the libraries of the Association of Former Students and the Pentagon, over 600 personal interviews and even a visit to Corregidor in writing his brief but informative narrative. The April 21 observance has its origins in San Jacinto Day celebrations dating from the 1870s and only later came to acquire a memorial function. In the early twentieth century, gatherings of ex-Aggies away from the campus increased, but it was the publicity provided to a 1942 muster of Aggies on Corregidor shortly before its surrender to the Japanese that became the tradition's identifying event. By the following year that occasion and the official title "Muster" had become inextricably attached to what is surely the most revered of Aggie traditions. Adams' succinct story includes copious notes and appendixes providing, among other things, lists of muster speakers and Corregidor defenders.

Tim Summerlin

Blessington, J.R. *THE CAMPAIGNS OF WALKER'S TEXAS DIVISION*. New York: Lange, Little & Co., 1875. Reprint. Austin: State House Press, 1994. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 1-880510-04-9. 93-43423.

Students of Texas history will welcome this reprinting of the history of the largest unit of Texas soldiers in the Civil War. First published in 1875 and reprinted in limited editions in 1968 (Pemberton Press, Austin) and 1983 (B.R. Scallion, Pine Bluff), *Campaigns of Walker's Texas Division* is truly a Civil War classic. Written by a Texas soldier who served with the division throughout the war, the book traces the activities of the Texas division from its organization through three years of heavy combat in Louisiana and Arkansas. Commanded initially by Texan Henry McCulloch, the division came to be known for Major General John G. Walker, the forty-year-old Missourian who commanded the unit from December 1862 through June 1864. Under Walker's leadership the Texans took a prominent part in the battles at Milliken's Bend, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Jenkins Ferry. Noted for its long and swift marches, the division came to be known as "Walker's Greyhounds." The only division in the Confederate army composed entirely of troops from one state, the division included among its officers one former (Edward Clark) and two future (O.M. Roberts and Richard B. Hubbard) governors of the state.

The present edition includes a historical overview of the division by Professor Norman D. Brown, author of several Civil War studies, and an essay about J.R. Blessington and his book by T.

Michael Parrish, author of the recent biography of Richard Taylor. These articles and the new illustrations greatly enhance the value of the volume.

Ralph A. Wooster

Doscher, J. Henry, Jr. *SUBCHASER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC: A SAGA OF THE USS SC-761 DURING WORLD WAR II*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 110p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$15.00, ISBN 0-89015-947-5. 94-2271.

Numerous works have been written describing the role played in warfare both by larger surface vessels, such as battleships, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, and underwater boats or submarines, but comparatively little has been written about small combat vessels such as subchasers, mine sweepers, and patrol boats. Even so, these smaller ships play a vital role in most wars. Never was that more true than in the Second World War. The present volume, written by a Texan who commanded the *USS SC-761*, a wooden subchaser in the South Pacific, describes the activities of one such ship in the Solomon Islands campaign. Most of the officers and enlisted men on the *SC-761* were reservists who had never seen salt water service prior to the war. They, and thousands of others like them, played a vital role in manning the patrol craft so necessary to the success of the United States Navy.

This volume will appeal more to the specialist in naval affairs than the general reader, but the work does help provide a more complete picture of warfare in the South Pacific.

Ralph A. Wooster

Erickson, John R. *CATCH ROPE: THE LONG ARM OF THE COWBOY*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1994. 174p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$26.50, ISBN 0-929398-66-1. 93-35820.

Anyone who has worked on a ranch knows the importance of the horse and the lariat in dealing with cattle. Nobody knows this better than cowboy author John Erickson. What began originally as a series of articles in *The Cattleman*, from May 1982 to April 1983, has now evolved into Erickson's fascinating book on the history and evolution of one of the cowboy's most important tools, the catch rope. In his preface, Erickson carefully defines his topic as the ranch roping done by the working cowboy as compared to the arena roping done in rodeos. With this distinction made, the author notes the use of the rope by the ancient Persians and others, briefly explores roping in the New World, and explains the development of the two competing roping styles: dallying and the hard-and-fast method. The remaining chapters in the book's first part describe various loops and throws and the uses of the rope in different terrains and ranching situations. In part two of the book, the author devotes chapters to different kinds of roping stories, many personal and some downright humorous. Most entertaining are chapters on unusual things roped like deer, bears, and a woman carrying a tray of cups and a pot of coffee. Erickson concludes the book with an excellent annotated bibliography that shows the research and scholarship that went into his work. The book is also generously illustrated with photographs and with "Cow Pokes" cartoons by Ace Reid.

Catch Rope is the first publication in the University of North

Texas Press' new Western Life series. It is definitely recommended for Texana collections and for collections concentrating in cattle ranching, cowboys, and of course, roping.

Jon P. Tritsch

Gallaway, B.P., ed. **TEXAS, THE DARK CORNER OF THE CONFEDERACY: CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS OF THE LONE STAR STATE IN THE CIVIL WAR.** 3d ed. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994. 286p. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$45.00, ISBN 0-8032-2148-7; Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-8032-7036-4. 93-37186.

This attractively designed third edition of B.P. Gallaway's *Texas, the Dark Corner of the Confederacy* contains forty-two excerpts from contemporary accounts of life in Civil War Texas. As in the earlier editions, one-fourth of the readings describe life in Texas before the war; the others life and events during the war. The title of the volume comes from Kate Stone, a plantation aristocrat who was forced to migrate to Texas as a refugee from occupied Louisiana. The shortage of goods, the heat and the insects, and the social conditions, which she found primitive, led her to write in her journal that she had found the "dark corner of the Confederacy" in East Texas.

Professor Gallaway's collection provides a good introduction to Civil War Texas. His selections come mainly from well known published accounts, including those of Frederick L. Olmsted, James B. ("Buck") Barry, W.W. Heartsill, Thomas North, Francis Lubbock, and Kate Stone. Five selections are taken from the contemporary *Texas Almanac*. Gallaway's favorite, however, appears to be the travel account of British colonel Arthur J.L. Fremantle, who visited the Confederacy during the war; six selections come from this source. Gallaway has added several new entries to this edition. Four appendixes add to the value of the work. The bibliographical essay by Alwyn Barr of Texas Tech, one of the state's most knowledgeable scholars, is the most complete in print. It is well worth the price of the book. *Dark Corner* should be in every public library in the state.

Ralph A. Wooster

Graham, Joe S. **EL RANCHO IN SOUTH TEXAS: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE FROM 1750.** Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1994. 121p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$10.00, ISBN 0-929398-58-0. 93-32211.

This book is based on the first major traveling exhibit of South Texas private cattle ranches, which is currently at the John E. Connor Museum in Kingsville, Texas. Both book and exhibit examine South Texas ranch culture in its historical context. While the *presidio* and mission systems formed the basis of Spanish settlement elsewhere in the Southwest, in South Texas it was the cattle ranch that was the primary social and economic institution. The Spanish first brought ranching to what is now South Texas in 1750, and their past experiences enabled them to succeed in this arid, brush country. Later Anglos who came adopted the methods of land and cattle management used by the Spanish and the indigenous Mexicans. The mythic American hero, the cowboy, can clearly be seen as a creation of the Spanish and not the Anglo American as believed by many. It is interesting to note that the *vaquero* of Mexico was simply a day laborer who worked on horseback, not the romantic figure of American culture. In successive chapters, Graham offers detailed studies

of the ranch in Spain, Mexico, and South Texas, and then looks at two modern ranches. Archival and contemporary black-and-white photographs of varying quality illustrate the text, and Graham frequently cites the research of others to support his work. His knowledgeable discussion is impressive. Engaging and readable, this well done history provides information for the scholar and general audience.

Sally Dooley

McCaslin, Richard B. **TAINTED BREEZE: THE GREAT HANGING AT GAINESVILLE, TEXAS 1862.** Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1994. 234p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 0-8071-1825-7. 93-15835.

The story of the Great Hanging at Gainesville during the Civil War has been told in several works, but none as thoroughly and objectively as Richard McCaslin's *Tainted Breeze*. Begun as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas, McCaslin's study takes its title from a 1859 Austin newspaper which wrote of the smell of treason "on the tainted breeze." McCaslin shows the division of sentiment, in a tier of counties south of the Red River and north of Dallas, that led to the fears and suspicions culminating in the largest public hanging in American history. Local authorities were convinced that unionists in the area were planning some type of insurrection or uprising to restore federal control. On October 1, state militia units began arresting leaders of the movement centered in Cooke County. More than 200 suspects were arrested and forty-four of the accused were hanged after trial by a citizens' court. Utilizing contemporary and modern sources, McCaslin reveals the steps leading up to the arrests and executions as well as the events that transpired after the hanging. He shows that both vigilantes and victims shared a concern for order and security, the one believing these could best be secured in the Southern Confederacy and the other seeing a return to federal control as the only way to guarantee security.

This is an intriguing, if grim, story carefully told. The documentation and research on which the book is based are most impressive. The footnotes provide full documentation, but, unfortunately for scholars, the book does not contain a bibliography.

Ralph A. Wooster

Noyes, Stanley. **LOS COMANCHES: THE HORSE PEOPLE, 1751-1845.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993. 364p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN 0-8263-1459-7. 93-13951.

The Comanche Indians of the plains have long been a favorite subject for writers and readers alike. Noyes' *Los Comanches* is a competent and useful addition to the literature on these people who dominated the southern plains for more than a century. Although Noyes tells the story of the Comanches to a point somewhat beyond what the title of his book suggests, his primary focus is on the years beginning with their arrival in Texas and ending with the end of the Republic of Texas. His approach is comprehensive. He considers religion, family affairs, tribal organization, the respective roles of men, women, and children, the impact of the horse, and other aspects of daily life. A significant part of the book deals with war, a common activity of the Comanches, and its many different consequences, especially

the treatment of captives. And, he discusses at some length the difference in Comanche relationships with Spain, the United States, and Texas.

Noyes is thoroughly familiar and heavily dependent on the published literature on his subject. His footnotes are particularly useful to the reader, and his bibliography is as complete as could be desired. His skill in synthesizing and writing leads to a well-told story, but perhaps his most significant contribution is his relentless presentation of conflicting patterns of behavior and even of appearance. Depending on the chronicler cited, and perhaps the individual Indian, Comanches were short or tall, kind or cruel, modest or crude, aggressive or cautious, etc. Noyes' story should leave readers wary of generalizations about Indians, especially Comanche Indians.

Adrian N. Anderson

Ragsdale, Crystal Sasse. *WOMEN & CHILDREN OF THE ALAMO*. Austin: State House Press, 1994. 114p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$21.95, ISBN 1-880510-11-1; Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-880510-12-4. 93-41998.

This is a traditional book written about a non-traditional topic. The tone of the book is in keeping with the long-standing presentation of the Alamo as a battle between the brave and courageous Texans who sacrificed their lives and the treacherous and vindictive Santa Anna who took them. Ragsdale attempts to separate fact, legend, and myth in the story of the Alamo, but there are some errors here: Santa Anna did not "declare war on the United States" (p.15) and the much-debated "immortal line in the Alamo dust" (p.24) is presented as fact. The stories of the women and children who survived the Alamo reflect much of the confusion concerning the Alamo battle. After discussing the Alamo in terms of its legends and history before 1836, and the story of the battle, Ragsdale presents an account of the experiences of each of six survivors, all but one of Mexican ancestry. None were participants in the battle; some observed more than others, and often their descriptions of what happened differed. In fact, sometimes their stories changed or expanded over time.

Ragsdale's study is a valuable one. There is little in it that has not been presented before, but she does excellent work in emphasizing some aspects usually ignored--that is, the presence of a number of non-participants and the treatment accorded them. Moreover, Ragsdale presents the more significant portions of the stories told by these survivors. From those, readers may not be able to determine what truly happened, but they will almost certainly become aware of the source of many of the legends and much of the contradictions and confusion associated with the story of the battle.

Adrian N. Anderson

Wade, Mary Dodson. *ESTEVAN: WALKING ACROSS AMERICA*. Houston: Colophon House, 1994. 32p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$10.95, ISBN 1-882539-11-7; Paperback: \$4.95, ISBN 1-882539-12-5. (Juvenile)

Printed with purple ink on bright yellow pages, *Estevan* is an eye-catching book, and the adventure related is an eye-opener in its danger and excitement. Estevan, a dark-skinned Moroccan slave, sailed in 1527 with over 500 Spaniards from Spain to the

New World. Losing its ships off the coast of Florida, the expedition faced fear, hunger, and enemy Indians. Eventually Estevan, Cabeza de Vaca, and two others escaped their Indian captors and walked from Florida, to Texas, crossing over to the Rockies, and south to Mexico City where they arrived in 1536. Later the Spaniards enlisted Estevan as a guide for Francisco Coronado, and they searched in vain for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibolo. This amazing story, based on *The Narratives* by Cabeza de Vaca, is sure to pique the interest of second to fourth graders in their study of the history of the exploration of Texas. The book cries for illustrations of the vivid events described in the text. Wade is remembered for previous juveniles chronicling the lives of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin.

Sally Dooley

Winegarten, Ruthe. *GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS & OTHER TEXAS WOMEN, FROM INDIANS TO ASTRONAUTS: A PICTORIAL HISTORY*. rev.ed. Austin: Eakin Press, 1993. 189p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-89015-944-0. 85-30766.

Ruthe Winegarten's seventh book, *Governor Ann Richards & Other Texas Women, From Indians to Astronauts*, is a second edition of her earlier *Texas Women, A Pictorial History*. Above all else it is a treasure trove of photos of Texas women, a feisty group whose vibrancy is reflected in the great variety selected for inclusion here. This volume is particularly important for its emphasis on the women of the many ethnic and racial groups who have done their considerable part to develop Texas. Both editions of this book grew from the two-year effort of the Foundation for Women's Resources to create a traveling exhibition on Texas women that toured the state for several years in the early 1980s. The Foundation appealed statewide for help from scholars and interested citizens statewide to "find" the history of Texas women . . . to literally dig it out of the nooks and crannies where it lay unused and uncelebrated.

The biographical sketches accompanying the photographs are short but filled with information to aid the classroom teacher and send the researcher looking for additional information on these individuals. Ms. Winegarten's work finds Texas women engaged in both "women's work" and a wide variety of occupations. Wonderfully fascinating characters appear on page after page. Dr. Sofie Herzog, a Viennese trained physician who came to Texas about 1893 with her fourteen children, worked as a railroad doctor. Jovita Idar of Laredo organized a group in 1911 to promote the rights of Mexican Americans and women, while Juanita Craft organized dozens of branches of the NAACP. The section on women in Texas politics is interesting, and the book concludes with a list of all the female legislators to serve the state. This is not a comprehensive history of Texas women and does not pretend to be. It is a valuable resource for libraries and teachers, and at the same time, it is a delightful book to peruse at one's leisure.

JoAnn Stiles

MANUAL

Murray, Thom and Linda Wiley. *STAYING POWER--HOW TO GET THE B.S. OUT OF COLLEGE OR THE B.A. OF YOUR CHOICE*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1994. 180p. Paperback: \$18.95, ISBN 0-929398-65-3. 93-35802.

Two Texas educators address the problems facing college students today in *Staying Power*. Beginning with the well documented fact that a higher educational level and potential rising income level are clearly linked, the authors remind readers of the widening wage gap between degree-holding workers and those without. The remainder of *Staying Power* focuses on perseverance: "getting into college is the easy part . . . the hard part is developing the staying power to complete your degree." Written in a light, conversational tone and accompanied throughout with interactive worksheets, issues such as deciding where to go, learning the rules at a university, selecting a major, managing time, using the library and other support systems, and preparing for graduation are carefully discussed.

A secondary theme of *Staying Power* is personal responsibility. Not enough students, especially those just graduated from high school, have the slightest idea of what to do with their lives. Murray and Wiley repeat the message that it is the student's job to discover what it will take to accomplish personal educational goals. Although all college students could utilize some of the advice, entering freshmen of all ages would benefit immensely from this guidebook to college success.

Cynthia Calvert

NATURAL HISTORY

Gehlbach, Frederick B. MOUNTAIN ISLANDS AND DESERT SEAS: A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDERLANDS. rev.ed. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. 298p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$15.95, ISBN 0-89096-566-8. 81-40402.

This reprint, with a new preface, is welcome if only because it makes a standard volume available in paperback, handy for the campbox, if heavy for a backpack, in the borderlands. Gehlbach's book has such mixed goals that one can never really settle into it comfortably. It is at once narrative and technical, narrative and scientific, personal and political--and these elements are only awkwardly reconciled. Gehlbach covers the entire border, on both sides but mainly in the U.S., from the Rio Grande delta to the sprawling desert farmlands west of the Colorado. The regional history is limited to those human actions which have impacted the natural environment, but still the sweep of centuries of human interaction with a harsh but delicate land is traced in the changes wrought on flora and fauna. Gehlbach structures his discussion along the tension between natural and "unnatural" history, and shows how one species or land type or another prospers or falters as the landscape is changed by geologic or human forces.

It's plain that Gehlbach cherishes the country he describes, but his lyricism is seldom really successful; there are many writers who better express the aesthetic and emotional scope and beauty of the borderlands. But his literary efforts bring his broad and detailed knowledge of the scientific facts within the layman's realm of understanding, and support his conviction that if we must change the face of the earth, we ought at least to do so intelligently, anticipating our impact:

Randall H. Holdridge

ORNITHOLOGY

Kutac, Edward A. and S. Christopher Caran. BIRDS & OTHER WILDLIFE OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 203p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$30.00, ISBN 0-292-75550-3; Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-292-74315-7. 93-15432.

Kutac, an ornithologist, and Caran, a geologist, have collaborated and produced a fine volume pointing out the native wildlife of nineteen counties in South Central Texas. All of the vertebrates and some invertebrates are listed. Since this is an area which varies in topography from the flat Gulf Coastal Plains to the Balcones Escarpment, the plant and animal life is also varied in makeup. This handbook offers a concise description of the ecology in each county and gives a checklist of all the native birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, and land snails found in each locality. County by county, the book lists locations of interest to nature lovers and contains detailed maps showing where each park or natural phenomenon can be found. Each point of interest is treated separately, and information is given about recreational facilities available as well as a listing of the species of plants and animals which might be found there. Scientific and common names of each species are given, and there are notes concerning the relative abundance and preferred habitat of each species.

This volume concerns a rather small region and will be of most use to people in Texas. However, because of the many types of ecosystems within that region, this book might well be used as a text in other parts of the world.

Jed J. Ramsey

AUDIO

Benson, Robert and Karen Benson. SOUNDS OF TEXAS BIRDS. Vol. 2. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. Playing time: 45 minutes. Boxed Audio Cassette: \$10.95, ISBN 0-89096-570-6. Compact Disk: \$16.95, ISBN 0-89096-573-0.

This recording follows *Favorite Texas Birds: Their Song and Calls, Vol. 1*. There is much more information contained than the mere songs and sounds made by Texas birds. Dr. Robert Benson, director of the Center for Bioacoustics at Texas A&M University, prefaces each series of songs with details about the distribution of the species, breeding habits, nesting, and courtship displays. The habitat of each particular bird recorded is described as well as its distinguishing characteristics and behavior. Verbal descriptions providing key information precede each song, giving the listener particular things to note. For instance, Benson describes the "dialects," variations in song, possessed by that bird, and sometimes explains how to get the bird to sing. The sixteen species of birds recorded are pictured, and companion birds are mentioned when appropriate. Both the beginner and seasoned birder will enjoy using this recording. Since many of these birds range over other parts of the country, *Sounds* is of interest to people living in states other than Texas. It is well done, and we look forward to Volume 3.

Jed J. Ramsey

SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Granfield, Linda. **COWBOY: AN ALBUM**. New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1993. 96p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$18.95, ISBN 0-395-68430-7. 93-11027.

Written by a native Bostonian who now resides and teaches at the university level in western Canada, this cowboy compendium covers the subject well. Although it is not from a Texas perspective, the book reveals the role ranching played in the American West and still plays to some degree. Extensive research is evident in the carefully written text, which is complemented by a large assortment of archival photographs and informative drawings detailing the cowboy's clothing, horse, work, food, and recreation. She touches on the romanticism that has enveloped this hardy occupation. Granfield pays particular attention to vocabulary, and there are several glossaries of terms for various aspects of the cowboy culture. She concludes with an interesting survey of the cowboy, and how the Indian, Mexican, and Afro-American have been depicted in films over the past half a century, and she hopes for a more realistic portrayal of these groups in the future.

Sally Dooley

SPORT

Juergens, Vernon with Rhonda Glenn. **THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GREAT GOLF FOR WOMEN**. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1993. 159p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$11.95, ISBN 0-87833-853-5. 93-42903.

Golf today is booming in popularity, and forty percent of all new golfers are female. This book will go a long way in providing basic, simple instruction about the game. Vernon Juergens, an experienced instructor, teamed with Rhonda Glenn, a television commentator on women's golf and a resident of Roanoke, Texas, to write a guide especially for women, taking into account their strengths and weaknesses. The guide begins with definitions of the essential golf vocabulary and concludes with an extensive glossary of terms to acquaint the novice with the equipment, the golf course, and the rules. In their unusual approach, the authors teach the putting stroke first and then move on to chipping and then to the full swing. The intricacies of tempo, timing, and acceleration are explained. Instruction is complemented with numerous black-and-white photographs illustrating details of the grip, stance, and swing. Especially helpful is the chapter discussing common problems and their cures. The written and unwritten rules of golf etiquette are explained so that new players can know what is expected at the course. Glenn's previous books on golf include *Golf For Women* written with Kathy Whitworth and *Illustrated History of Women's Golf* which was honored as "Golf Book of the Year" by the U.S. Golf Association and excerpted in *Sports Illustrated*.

Sally Dooley

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