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Managing Editors

Holly Carey
Janet Turk

Founding Editor

Sally Dooley

Advisory Editor

R. S. Gwynn

Associate Editors

Joe Nordgren
Andrew Preslar

Business and Subscription Offices:

P.O. Box 10023
Beaumont, TX 77710

Email Address:

txbooks@hal.lamar.edu



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Editors' Choice: *Bones Hooks: Pioneer Negro Cowboy* Bruce G. Todd

African-American Cowboy and Civic Leader

Review by Lloyd M. Daigrepoint

Readers seeking adventure and anecdote will not be disappointed by *Bones Hooks: Pioneer Negro Cowboy*. In the late 1800s Hooks worked throughout the Pecos and Panhandle region for many ranchers, including Charles Goodnight; he was, as he himself declared, a specialist, deemed by many not only the best bronc buster of the era but the best judge of horses as well. He first proved his talent and daring as a youth, secretly mounting an outlaw horse named Old Bill, who then "broke down the barn door, tore across the lot, knocked down the stile block at the gate, and continued up the road bucking wildly, with [the boy] still in the saddle holding on for dear life" (29).

Long after retirement from ranch work, Hooks, in a venture reported in papers across the country, doffed his Pullman porter's uniform in Pampa, Texas, at the behest of several cattlemen, donned boots and spurs, and rode to a standstill an outlaw horse all others had failed to tame.

Sara R. Massey's collection *Black Cowboys of Texas* (Texas A&M, 2000) has signaled the beginning of an era of appreciation of the African-American contribution to ranching and other aspects of pioneer culture—a contribution long overlooked in popular westerns and in film and television. Fittingly, Bruce Todd reminds us that among wranglers and ranch-hands blacks comprised one in four and on trail drives black cowboys made up as much as forty percent of crews. One major theme of this biography represents a variation on Frederick Jackson Turner's "frontier thesis," that American democracy owed less to English traditions dating back to the Magna Carta than to the frontier itself, where individual skill and virtue mattered more than wealth or class. Hooks himself declared, "In the pioneer days there wasn't much race feeling. . . . When a man rode up to a door, no one looked at his color" (35).

Hooks's story also evinces a racial variation of another frontier theme, one reminiscent of

fictional characters such as Natty Bumpo and actual historical figures such as Tom Horn—the alienation of the frontiersman within the very society he has helped to advance. Virtually the only discrimination Hooks encountered in his bronc busting days occurred within the towns—refusal of service in a café, being unable to accompany his best friend (a white cowboy named Tommy Clayton) on social visits. After retirement Hooks was, like all blacks, denied membership in newly formed pioneer organizations, and he was excluded from the increasingly popular rodeo circuit—despite accolades from champion riders like Samuel Thomas Privet (better remembered as "Booger Red") who proclaimed, "What I can ride in the saddle, Bones can ride bareback" (93).

Settling in Amarillo, Bones seldom experienced discrimination *personally*, his reputation bringing down barriers normally placed before blacks. But he did not rest content in his privileged existence; he used his recognition and his friendship with many whites to gain respect and advancement for his people. Through investments and leadership he established the North Heights suburb of Amarillo to allow black citizens to own homes and operate businesses. He helped found a school and a hospital and made great efforts to attract African-American teachers and physicians of reputation. He became a charter member of numerous civic organizations, and he personally organized The Dogie Club to instill civic virtue in black youth. Along the way, Hooks garnered the personal recognition of Eleanor Roosevelt, President Roosevelt, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, and many others, and he lived to see "Bones Hooks Day" made into an annual honorary event in Amarillo.

Matthew Hooks acquired his nickname as a naïve youngster when another ranch hand, assuming that Hooks possessed a pair of dice, demanded, "Hand me them bones." The spunky youth replied that he did not have *them* and that his *name* was *not* Bones! Of course, the frontier penchant for ironic sobriquet prevailed and Hooks was called *Bones* for the

Continued on page three

Bruce G. Todd, born in Nashville, pursued many careers including working on offshore oil rigs, a stint in the Marine Corps, and helping to establish a branch of the Salvation Army in Sante Fe. He is currently a resident of Amarillo, where he founded the Potter County Oral History Project.

Lloyd M. Daigrepoint is Professor of English at Lamar University and Co-Editor of *Lamar Journal of the Humanities*. His major area of interest is American literature, and he has published articles on Mark Twain, Kate Chopin, Larry McMurtry, and John Kennedy Toole.

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rest of his life (31). But Bones's story as told by Bruce G. Todd illustrates the power of good character and determination to overcome not only the ironic labeling of a rough and gritty environment but as well the far more destructive labeling of racism—the name *Bones Hooks* having now become the stuff of legend, the emblem of civic virtue.

TODD, BRUCE G. *BONES HOOKS: PIONEER NEGRO COWBOY*. GRETNA: PELICAN PUBLISHING CO., 2005. 221 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$23.00 CLOTH. ISBN 978-1-58980-294-0. 2004027736.

Galveston Bay Sally E. Antrobus

Ecotourism with an Environmentalist's Slant

Review by Stephen Curley

This is no standard travel guide—although it does include descriptions of tourist spots and a comprehensive calendar of annual events. Sally Antrobus aims at creating a broad nature lover's guide to all of Galveston Bay and surrounding communities.

The delicate ecosystem of the Bay is under assault from all sides. Her book—a personal tour of a huge, underappreciated natural resource—doesn't pull punches. She excoriates irresponsible development that sacrifices long-term good for short-term profit, points out visual blight, documents the impact of pollution, and explains the shortcomings of regulatory legislation.

Antrobus dishes up some fascinating trivia to dramatize the importance and fragility of Galveston Bay. A gallon of fuel can move one ton of cargo 60 miles by truck, 200 miles by train, but 500 miles by barge. Texas ports account for one out of every five tons of goods moving through all American ports. And 60% of cargo tonnage that comes through Galveston Bay is related to petrochemical industries.

The book is generously illustrated with images of the environment. I liked the section of twenty color photos, but I loved the black-and-white sketches by the late Frederick Weis. Scattered throughout, they capture the quiet dignity of flora, fauna, and place that is Galveston Bay.

Antrobus, a board member of the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association, writes passionately about ecology. Some readers may be annoyed at the insistent anti-industry tone of many of her comments; but, after all, she admits to being an environmental activist. She covers Galveston Bay affectionately, with greater depth and breadth than can be had in any other guidebook. Recommended for dedicated naturalists as well as weekend tourists.

ANTROBUS, SALLY E. *GALVESTON BAY*. COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS: A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005. 240 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY. ILLUSTRATIONS. INDEX. MAPS. PHOTOS. \$19.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-461-8. \$40.00 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-460-X.

Life of the Marlows: A True Story of Frontier Life of Early Days.

Robert K. DeArment, Ed.

(Revised by William Rathmell)

A Broadened Scope

Review by Dale Farris

Editor DeArment (*Bat Masterson, George Scarborough, Alias Frank Canton*), longtime member of the Western Outlaw and Lawman Association and the Western Writers of America updates the story of the five Marlow brothers and their tribulations in late nineteenth-century Texas. Stuff of Old West legend, the story of the Marlow brothers served to inspire the John Wayne movie *The Sons of Katie Elder*. Violent, full of intrigue, with characters of amazing heroism and deplorable cowardice, their story was first related by William Rathmell in the 1892 book *Life of the Marlows*, published shortly after the events it described occurred in Young County, Texas.

The story tells how Boone, the most reckless of the brothers, shot and killed a popular sheriff and escaped, only to be murdered later by bounty hunters. The other four brothers, arrested as accessories and jailed, made a daring break from confinement, but were recaptured. Once back in their cells, they were forced to fight off a mob intent on lynching them. Later, shackled together, the Marlows were placed on wagons by officers late at night

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Sally E. Antrobus is a freelance editor with a special interest in natural history and the outdoors. In addition to being a board member of the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association, Antrobus, a resident of Seabrook, is also a trustee of the Armand Bayou Nature Center and produces a bi-monthly journal for the Houston Safari Club.

Robert K. DeArment lives in Sylvania, Ohio. He is a member of the National Association for Outlaw and Lawmen History, the Western Writers of America, and the Western Outlaw and Lawman Association.

Stephen Curley holds a Ph.D. in English from Rice University. He is a professor of English at A&M University—Galveston and a frequent contributor to Review of Texas Books.

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and bound for another town, but they were ambushed by angry citizens. In the resulting battle, two of the brothers were shot and killed, the other two were severely wounded, and three mob members died. The surviving brothers eventually were exonerated, and members of the mob that attacked them were prosecuted in cases that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The original 1892 edition, *Life of the Marlows, As Related by Themselves*, published at Ouray, Colorado, by Plaindealer Print, Kelly & Hulanski, Publishers, in pictorial wrappers with illustrations was again released in 1931 in a new edition with additions and revisions by Ouray Herald Print, W.S. Olexa, Publisher, Ouray, Colorado. Revised by William Rathmell, this edition also was adjudged by Ramon F. Adams, Texas bibliophile, writer and collector, after examining nearly 3,000 books on Western outlaws, lawmen, and gunfighters, among his 150 most important works in this field, the importance determined by the work's historical significance or its rarity.

Although the Marlows did relate their story, it was Rathmell who authored both prior volumes, and according to Rathmell's daughter-in-laws, he was "employed by the Marlow family to write a history of their doings." With these important family memoirs, we better understand the dramatic and exciting events that shook Young County, Texas, in the winter of 1888-1889 and the bitter legal battle that followed.

Although neither earlier edition enjoyed great readerships, later writers have drawn upon the Rathmell work to keep alive the story of the brothers, and the story first gained national notoriety in the headlines of the June 1891 edition of *The National Police Gazette*.

DeArment provides a summary of the history of the Marlow manuscript and how the story influenced many other Western writers and how elements of the tale were used in the Wayne film, and he nicely explains the early history of the brothers leading up to the critical events of 1888-1889. Replete throughout are DeArment's extensive corrective or clarifying annotated notes, which help further broaden the scope of this soundly researched material.

Since the original and the expanded reprint of 1931 are both quite scarce and were sympathetically slanted toward the Marlows, DeArment's new edition professionally analyzes and presents an objective, annotated edition of the original that deserves a place in all Texas academic libraries.

DEARMENT, ROBERT K., ED. *LIFE OF THE MARLOWS: A TRUE STORY OF FRONTIER LIFE OF EARLY DAYS*. DENTON: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS, 2004. 272 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX, NOTES. B & W PHOTOS. \$27.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-57441-179-9.

East Texas Daughter Helen G. Green

From Humble Roots

Review by Dale Farris

Author Green, now semi-retired and serving on the board of trustees of Dallas Metrocare Services, shares her heartfelt memoirs that present her stunning life. Raised in poverty in Tyler, Green went on to become the first black woman admitted into a Dallas school of professional nursing, the first black nurse manager at Harris Methodist Hospital in Euless, the first black department director at Timberlawn Psychiatric Center, the first black president of the Texas Society of Healthcare Educators (TSHE), the first black individual to be on the board of directors for the TSHE division of the Texas Hospital Association, and the first black chair of the board of directors of TSHE. In this moving, personal story, she details the battles she fought and insults she endured to reach her professional goals.

Green was blessed with an educated mother who was determined to help her daughter rise beyond the poverty of her childhood and who emphasized that education was the key. Her mother was the single greatest influence on her and the person most responsible for her success. Her less well educated father believed in ruling the family with an iron fist, and her brother ran away from home in rebellion. Her vivid, riveting description of her poor childhood in segregated East Texas reminds readers exactly what it was really like for African Americans living in that time.

Married and a mother at an early age, the author never lost her ambition. She studied in a segregated class for her certificate as a licensed vocational nurse. While working as an LVN, she applied for admission to professional nursing schools and was consistently turned down for seven years. Finally, she was accepted into the Methodist Hospital of Dallas School of Nursing, where she was clearly an experiment. She met encouragement and support from the dean and faculty and most of her classmates, but she also endured curiosity, scorn, and rudeness from some professional healthcare workers and some students. At graduation, she was awarded the Florence Nightingale Award for academic and clinical excellence.

Over the years, Green's continuing education (MBA) and her professional success placed great strains on her family. She and her husband were periodically at odds and even briefly divorced, her daughter distanced herself from the family and developed a drug problem, and her son was often saddened by the anger between his parents. Yet much as she worked at her family life, Green could not and would not give up her professional goals, which she felt were necessary for a successful life.

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Ms. Green tells her story frankly and honestly and reflects on the experiences of many black citizens, no matter their professions, during the fifties and sixties and into the twenty-first century. Her determination and courage clearly shine in these admirable memoirs that also reveal her humor, her love, and her compassion that she was determined to share with the world. Her story is important and essential for all libraries.

GREEN, HELEN G. *EAST TEXAS DAUGHTER*. FORT WORTH: TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2003. 300 pp. PHOTOS. \$26.50 CLOTH. ISBN 0-87565-276-X.

Bitter Harvest: The Social Transformation of Morelos, Mexico, and the Origins of the Zapatista Revolution, 1840-1910

Paul Hart

Reflecting a Broader Pattern

Review by Dale Farris

Author Paul Hart provides an excellent analysis of the origins of the Zapatista revolution in Morelos, Mexico, from 1910-1919. Hart began his study because he wanted to know what started the revolution and how a defeated rebellion in one of the smallest states in Mexico (immediately south of Mexico City) helped initiate a nationwide land-reform program that lasted for most of the twentieth century. The author originally thought the study would concentrate on the hardships imposed during the 1876-1910 Diaz dictatorship, but he soon realized that understanding the origins of the revolution in Morelos meant exploring the seemingly lost decades of Mexican social history from the 1840s to 1870s and that instead of simply being a localized peasant rebellion born out of circumstances unique to the area, the forces at work in Morelos on the eve of the revolution represented an intense version of similar processes taking place across large parts of Mexico, especially in the North. He also found that many of the people who fought in the Morelos revolution were not only peasant villagers but also sugar workers, experiences

that connected them to the working-class revolutionaries of Chihuahua and Durango, thus creating a different picture than portrayed in most of prior books on this subject.

Hart provides a social history of nineteenth-century Morelos, Mexico, and explains the causes of the rebellion. He also suggests parallels with other parts of the country, shows how what happened in Morelos fits in the larger story of the revolution, and adds an important contribution to the comparative study of rural rebellion in general, even though the story is not primarily about the military phase of the revolution nor its results. He also explains how the Zapatistas helped overthrow the Diaz regime and won major concessions from ensuing governments, even though they actually lost the war. As he further explains in the handy appendix, a significant redistribution of land ownership took place, especially in Morelos, where the old landowning class was destroyed and the communal pueblos regained their lands and earned the right to increase their holdings in order to accommodate population growth. While local control was never realized, popular pressure from below pushed national leaders toward land reform, which also did not last.

After a concise, informative history of the area and its politics, Hart continues with substantial chapters on the meaning of the land to the people, the beginnings of the struggle for independence, the U.S. invasion and its impact on the Morelos area, the agrarian insurrection of 1856-1861, the civil war, French intervention, and social banditry, Apatlaco and the Morelos countryside, poverty and progress in 1876-1910, the social costs of overproduction and the origins of the Morelos revolution, and the Zapatista revolution.

His brief conclusion sums up his main findings, i.e. the changes in the Morelos countryside began before the Porfiriato during the 1840s, the transformation of the countryside displaced a large number of peasant villagers creating a rural working class, the revolution came at a point when the sugar industry was in crisis, the agrarian reform took place because of the persuasive way in which the Zapatistas articulated their vision to the nation, and local values emanating from the revolutionary Morelos became accepted on the national level as just by a large portion of the Mexican public.

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Helen Green, now semi-retired, lives in Dallas and remains active in nursing. She serves on the board of trustees of Dallas Metrocare Services and conducts seminars for small groups.

Paul Hart is currently an assistant professor of history at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of California at San Diego.

Dale Farris holds a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from Lamar University. He is a professional reviewer for Library Journal, Quality Press, and Quality Progress magazine.

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Hart's title is extensively researched, solidly presented, and provides an excellent addition to Mexican history collections in all academic libraries.

HART, PAUL. *BITTER HARVEST: THE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF MORELOS, MEXICO, AND THE ORIGINS OF THE ZAPATISTA REVOLUTION, 1840-1910*. ALBUQUERQUE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, 2005. 328 PP. APPENDIX. BIBLIOGRAPHY. GLOSSARY. INDEX. MAPS. NOTES. PHOTOS. TABLE. \$42.50 CLOTH. ISBN 0-8263-3663-9. 20025019250.

A Marmac Guide to Houston and Galveston, 5th ed.

Syd Kearney, Editor

An Insider's View

Review by Dale Farris

Native Texan and longtime Houston resident Syd Kearney, an award-winning travel writer, photographer, and editor, updates this handy Marmac guide to the Houston and Galveston area while furthering her solid experience as a world traveler and travel writer. In keeping with the long established Marmac tradition, the guidebook is designed for the resident and traveler who seek comprehensive information in an easy-to-use format and who have a zest for the best in each city. Information included has been chosen based only on what can be recommended by the Marmac team's own research, experience, and judgment, and once again, these recommendations form the basis for their reputation.

Following a concise history of Houston/Galveston and current trends, the book then highlights the essentials regarding relevant travel services, including always helpful advice on transportation, lodging, restaurants, shopping, nightlife, sightseeing, and day and weekend adventures outside the cities. Key maps are provided at the beginning of the book, and again the guide provides super additional information on the needs of international travelers, senior travelers, and handicapped or very young travelers, which continues to set this series apart from the many travel guides that fill the shelves. While the guide is, of course, ideal for tourists and natives alike, new residents will especially appreciate the chapter on various neighborhoods and school districts.

Highly recommended for all public libraries, especially those in the Houston / Galveston area.

KEARNEY, SYD, ED. *A MARMAC GUIDE TO HOUSTON AND GALVESTON, 5TH ED.* GRETNAL PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2005. 256 PP. INDEX. MAPS. PHOTOS. \$17.95 PAPER. ISBN 978-158980-322-0.

A Black Physician's Struggle for Civil Rights: Edward C. Mazique, M.D.

Florence Ridlon

Not Just Mazique's Struggle

Review by Dale Farris

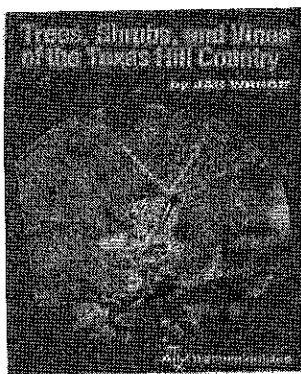
Author and sociologist Ridlon (Ph.D., Sociology, Syracuse University), writer in residence in the department of journalism at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, and co-founder of the Wheeler/Ridlon Communications public relations firm, provides an important new biography of African American physician and civil rights advocate Edward Craig Mazique (1911-1987). Ridlon traces Mazique's life from the poverty and discrimination of Natchez, Mississippi, to his status as a prominent physician in Washington, D.C.

Following chapters on Mazique's early life in rural Mississippi and how he managed to shed the shackles of Natchez, the story continues with his entry into medical school, his early practice days, and his growing involvement in civil rights that would eventually involve him in the struggle for voting and employment rights. Ridlon also relates Mazique's heavy involvement in the initial work to establish Medicare, his efforts to continue the struggle during the turbulent '60s, his receipt of the honorary Doctor of Science degree from Morehouse in 1974 for "recognition of his achievements as a medical man and his concern for equal status for black physicians and adequate health care for the disadvantaged," and his many civic and charitable activities and support, ending with his unfortunate death in 1987.

Much of the story is in Dr. Mazique's own words, taken from interviews with the author, and what emerges is a picture of an exceptional but very human man, who, despite discrimination and repression, excelled beyond all expectations. The handy epilogue summarizes the importance and impact of Dr. Mazique's life on countless Americans, a life that combined science and social consciousness in Mazique's special brand of medicine.

Highly recommended for all libraries.

RIDLON, FLORENCE. *A BLACK PHYSICIAN'S STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS: EDWARD C. MAZIQUE*. ALBUQUERQUE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, 2005. 416 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY. INDEX. NOTES. PHOTOS. \$29.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-8263-3339-7. 2004023086.



Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of the Texas Hill Country Jan T. Wrede

**Guide to Hill Country Plants: An
Attractive, Authoritative Resource**
Review by Mary M. Fisher

The Texas Hill Country is home to a rich diversity of plant life. Now there is a handy, handsome illustrated guide to its trees, plants and shrubs written by the director of education at Boerne's Cibolo Nature Center. Jane Wrede, who also writes newspaper nature columns, introduces her guide with the requisite data on the area's geology, topography, climate and plant communities, past and present. Like the nature educator she is, she then turns to topics ranging from the benefits and uses of native trees and shrubs, such as cedar elm and agarita, in landscaping and ranching to dealing with invasive species, such as chinese tallow. She also discusses cedar management, oak wilt and caring for native plants.

The 125 plant listings that follow, arranged by family, include reader-friendly descriptive material and showy color photographs printed on glossy, heavy stock paper. Besides common and scientific names and identifying characteristics, each of the one-page summaries includes uses for landscaping and wildlife as well as ethnographic uses. We learn, for example, that the small mealy red fruit of the showy Turk's cap plant not only is good eating for birds but is edible either cooked or raw. The leaves can be used as a poultice and a soothing emollient, and the flowers provide food for butterflies and the ruby-throated hummingbird. It is easily propagated and though slightly invasive, it is an attractive shade-tolerant ornamental.

Following the plant listings are charts for plant

managers detailing potential height and site preference among other things, an abbreviated glossary of terms, and an index. With its appealing graphics and authoritative descriptions, this visually attractive and concisely written guide to identification and uses of Hill Country plants will be an indispensable resource for Hill Country ranchers, home owners and visitors as well as landscapers wanting to incorporate native plants.

WREDE, JAN. *TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY*. COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005. 246 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, MAPS, PHOTOS. \$23.00 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-426-X.

Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights in Beaumont, Texas

By Robert Robertson

Golf Courses as Battlefields
By T J Geiger II

Trying to situate a historical event in a local and national context is extremely difficult when many forces are at work. However, Robertson does this masterfully in *Fair Ways* as he writes of the campaign to desegregate the municipal golf courses of Beaumont, Texas. He hooks readers from the double entendre title to the last page.

This is a story of how many changes after World War II came together to radically alter American society and, more specifically, the city of Beaumont. These changes included an emerging black middle-class who often took up golfing and black lawyers trained in movement-making as well as the law.

Many black WWII veterans coming home after serving their racist country took advantage of educational opportunities. This increased their ability to acquire higher-paying jobs and start businesses. They became local leaders in the work for racial uplift.

African Americans became widely involved in both the white and black golf worlds.

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Syd Kearney is a native Texan and longtime Houston resident. She is an award-winning travel writer, photographer, and editor. Her travels have led her around the globe

Florence Ridlon received a Ph.D. in sociology from Syracuse University. She is a sociologist and writer in residence in the department of journalism at the University of North Texas in Denton. She lives in New Braunfels with her husband.

*Mary M. Fisher graduated with a master's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin. She is an award-winning journalist now working as a school administrator and the author of *Rosita's Bridge*.*

T. J. Geiger holds a B.A. in history and English from Lamar University. He has an interest in mid-to-late twentieth-century American political and social history.

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Welcomed by the white professional and recreational golfers only as caddies and servants, becoming hidden "shadow players," blacks formed their own golfing associations and had their own tournaments. However, for recreational black golfers, facilities were generally of inferior quality.

In the mid-1950s, golf courses became battlefields in the movement for civil rights in Texas. Civil rights-trained lawyers practicing in Beaumont coordinated with black golfers to offer a legal challenge to Jim Crow laws.

This brilliant history illuminates a little known element of the Civil Rights movement. Highly recommended for libraries, teachers and students.

ROBERTSON, ROBERT. *FAIR WAYS: HOW SIX BLACK GOLFERS WON CIVIL RIGHTS IN BEAUMONT, TEXAS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005. 232 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES. \$29.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-442-1. 2005000435.

against the elitist *criollo* (of Iberian heritage) Mexican government.

Having consulted Mexican and American sources, archival documents, government publications, speeches, newspaper accounts, books, articles, and dissertations, Levinson aims to convince readers that during a major war between two national powers, the campesino population of Mexico rebelled against the centuries of racial and caste prejudice that it had experienced at the hands of the Mexican government and the rural patron hacendados in order to improve the social and cultural conditions of the disenfranchised and dispossessed.

LEVINSON, IRVING W. *WARS WITHIN WAR: MEXICAN GUERRILLAS, DOMESTIC ELITES, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1846-1848*. FORT WORTH: TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005. 192 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES. \$29.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-87565-302-2.

Wars within War: Mexican Guerrillas, Domestic Elites, and the United States of America, 1846-1848

Irving W. Levinson

Texas on the Periphery

Review by Emma B. Hawkins

Published in Canada, *Wars Within War* by Irving W. Levinson does not focus directly on Texas history, but rather on the War of 1846-1848 between Mexico and the United States of America. Only a bit of space is reserved for the curtailed activity of the Texas Rangers; however, Texas is generally on the periphery, serving mostly as a staging depot for the gathering and dispatching of the U. S. troops under the commands of Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott and Commodore David E. Conner.

Basically, the author concludes that the primary benefit gained by the United States in the War of 1846-48 was the establishment of a defined southern border with Mexico—the Rio Grande River. The action begins with the hostilities of April 6, 1846, and ends with the final withdrawal of U. S. troops on September 6, 1848. In between, the book covers the major battles for Vera Cruz and the national capital; the end of formal fighting between the armies of the United States and Mexico on September 14, 1847; the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848; and the armistice of March 6, 1848. But, more importantly for the author's thesis, the action also includes the partisan warfare directed against U. S. troops as well as the civil warfare in Mexico that pitted guerrillas or separatists, mostly peasant and mostly Indian,

The Santero's Miracle—A Bilingual Story

Rudolfo Anaya

A Dream and a Miracle

Review by Andrea Karlin

The Santero's Miracle—A Bilingual Story written by renowned New Mexican writer Rudolfo Anaya with a Spanish translation by Enrique Lamadrid is a charming story of Don Jacobo, a *santero*—a person who carves saints—and the relationship he has with his family, neighbors, and San Isidro, the patron saint of farmers. When a snowstorm strands the people of his small village, the *santero* asks his half finished carving for help. Will a miracle happen that will help save a very sick neighbor and bring his entire family to the village for the Christmas holiday?

Written in English with Spanish words interspersed throughout the text and in Spanish, this bilingual story includes a glossary at the back of the book to help readers of the English text unfamiliar with the Spanish terminology.

Amy Cordova's colorful yet simple illustrations give readers the feel of a place where life is less hectic and where a miracle might actually happen.

ANAYA, RUDOLFO. *THE SANTERO'S MIRACLE—A BILINGUAL STORY*. ALBUQUERQUE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, 2004. 32 PP. GLOSSARY, ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-8263-2847-4. 2003028247.

A Spoon for Every Bite: Una Cuchara para Cada Bocado

Joe Hayes

A New Mexico Folktale
Review by Andrea Karlin

Young and old readers and listeners alike will enjoy the expert storytelling of Joe Hayes in this New Mexico variant of a Hispanic tale of two neighbors, one rich, arrogant, and foolish, the other poor, clever, and respectful. With full text written in English and in Spanish, and beautifully expressive and colorful illustrations by Rebecca Leer that perfectly complement the text, this story takes the reader to a time and place when people really used "a spoon for every bite."

HAYES, JOE. *A SPOON FOR EVERY BITE: UNA CUCHARA PARA CADA BOCADO*. EL PASO: CINCO PUNTOS PRESS, 2005. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$8.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-938317-93-8.

Texas after the Civil War: The Struggle of Reconstruction Carl H. Moneyhon

Beyond the War: Beyond Popular Thought
Review by Max Loges

One of the murkiest periods of American history is the years between 1865-1876. In the South the states were struggling with the changes brought by the Union victory in the Civil War. Texas was certainly no exception from the norm. For decades the standard history of this period is that the failure to carry out the dream of black enfranchisement and equal protection under the law was the fault of a radical Congress and self-promoting, corrupt, white Republican politicians who wished to impose radical and impractical policies on the state.

In *Texas after the Civil War*, Carl Moneyhon largely discredits this traditional view. He first establishes that the actions of the state constitutional convention after the Civil War and the subsequent Throckmorton Administration had no intention whatsoever of

legally acknowledging or by its policies providing for the most basic changes that the Union victory assured. Moneyhon also reveals that Governor Davis' election was far from being forced on the state but rather the natural result of a black population eager to vote and a pouting white population willing to boycott it. He then looks at the actual policies of the Republicans with reference to education, railroads, state law enforcement, and taxation and finds that they were neither radical in nature nor was there widespread corruption in their administration. Finally, he examines the 1872 election and shows that the Republicans' fall from power was not simply the result of a backlash against them but that intra party squabbling and white intimidation of black voters were significant reasons for Davis' defeat.

The book is well written, and its thesis amply supported. Readers would benefit greatly from reexamining this period with an authority such as Moneyhon who has no axe to grind.

MONEYHON, CARL H. *TEXAS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR: THE STRUGGLE OF RECONSTRUCTION*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 297 PP. \$19.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-362-X. \$45.00 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-361-1.

Buffalo Days: Stories from J. Wright Mooar Robert F. Pace, Editor

Bold Hunting
Review by Max Loges

Buffalo Days comprises the memories of J. Wright Mooar, an important professional buffalo hunter in the period 1872-79. Although this subject is not often given exhaustive treatment in works about the West, there is great truth in Mooar's claim that the buffalo hunter, rather than the army or settlers, opened up a vast empire for settlement and drove Indians forever out of Texas. For with the killing off of the Indians' meat supply, they were transformed from fearless raiders to meek wards.

The book is not a chronological or exhaustive treatment of the subject but rather the selective memories of a major participant. Mooar gives us an inside look at the business ranging from weapons used, area covered, process involved in making a large kill, and processing the product.

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Robert J. Robertson is a Beaumont businessman, writer, teacher, and leader in local history affairs. His earlier book, *Her Majesty's Texans: Two English Immigrants in Reconstruction Texas*, was also published by Texan A&M University Press.

Irving W. Levinson is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Houston, previously taught at the University of Texas in Austin, and is a Fulbright Scholar. *Wars within War* is his first book.

Emma B. Hawkins is Assistant Professor of Medieval English language and literature at Lamar University.

Andrea Karlin earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and reading instruction at the University of New Mexico and is an associate professor of education specializing in children's literature at Lamar.

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In addition, the author provides selected experiences of himself and other hunters from his meeting with Billy the Kid to Big Jack's hand-to-hand battle with a wounded bull buffalo.

Buffalo Days first appeared as a series of nine articles in *Holland's: The Magazine of the South* in 1933. They were actually written by Mooar's pastor friend James Winford Hunt, but a deliberate attempt was made to preserve the persona of the frontier hunter. The new edition edited by Robert Pace includes a general introduction and useful endnotes about subjects mentioned by Mooar. Also preserved are the original illustrations by Granville Bruce, a noted illustrator of the times. *Buffalo Days* is a must read for anyone interested in the West.

PACE, ROBERT P., ED. *BUFFALO DAYS: STORIES FROM J. WRIGHT MOOAR*. ABILENE: STATE HOUSE PRESS, 2005. 128 PP. END NOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS. \$19.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-880510-95-2. 2005000097.

Texas State Bird Pageant

Todd Michael

A Bird Finds a Song of Her Own

Review by JoAn W. Martin

Molly lives deep in the heart of Texas. Who wouldn't be happy surrounded by deer, cowboys, and bluebonnets? One day a beauty pageant is announced in all 254 counties of Texas. Horseflies need not apply. Molly almost chickens out, but at the last minute, she puts her name on the list.

Poor Molly loves to listen to all the other birds' songs, but, sadly, she has no song of her own. She can only mimic the songs she hears. Even though imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the birds laugh at her, calling Molly a copycat and accusing her of stealing their songs. Molly flees for home.

The next morning Molly flies to Kingsville and appeals to her dear friend Gabby Green Jay. She encourages Molly to find her own true voice. In turn, Molly decides to write some lyrics and persuades Gabby to put them to music. The others continue to make fun of her, but Molly keeps writing and exercising her vocal cords.

At the pageant, the competition is fierce with Bonita Blackbird performing with a mariachi band and Miss Dovey Crockett reading cowgirl poetry. Todd Michael uses alliteration and clever wordplay, "everybird," to bring a smile to the reader's face.

When Molly becomes the official state bird, the announcer asks everyone, "Let's put our wings together." He gives the reader interesting facts about mockingbirds and a listing of state birds. *Texas State Bird Pageant* will evoke Texas pride

in school children, bird lovers, and everyone whose heart is in the Lone Star State. Included is Molly's original song with music and lyrics.

Illustrator of *Texas State Bird Pageant*, Lee Brandt Randall's bird pictures are beautifully done, some in costumes with hats and scarves, dancing, singing, picnicking, even typing. She offers a wealth of detail celebrating Texas.

MICHAEL, TODD. *TEXAS STATE BIRD PAGEANT*. BRANDON, MS: QUAIL RIDGE PRESS, 2005. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-893062-75-9.

Look Back with Longing

Suzanne Morris

Their Dancing Defies All Limits. Can Their Love Defy All Odds?

Review by JoAn W. Martin

Look Back with Longing, a love saga filled with loss and betrayal, begins in the early part of the twentieth century. One story thread leads to another which circles around to a different idea. Suzanne Morris' many-layered plots and subplots offer twists and turns to keep the reader completely engrossed.

Geneva Louise hated the dreaded word "orphan," but while attending her parents' funeral, she knew she had to face the cold, hard truth. With her cousin Anne as her appointed guardian, the sixteen-year-old teen moves in with Anne and Victor and their three children.

Victor is the only one in the household who seems welcoming and is kind to Geneva. When he offers her the opportunity to model for his art photography, she cannot refuse. She describes one early photograph, *Maiden at the Window*: "Peering out a sunny window in her thin tunic, her hair a shower of waves around her shoulders and down her back, and crowned with a ring of flowers, the maiden appeared impregnated with light, as though the sunshine had been poured into her. . . ." Geneva is too young and innocent to realize that these photographs will never hang in a museum.

Tony Selby, a professional dancer, has had to leave England under indeterminate circumstances. He comes to Madame Linsky's studio auditioning dancers for a partner. When he sees Geneva perform, he invites her to do the Vaudeville circuit with him. Tony and Geneva, gifted dancers, have an illustrious career, but personal problems interfere. Letters go astray; one crisis is deflected but another occurs. Geneva continues to hope someone will help her confront her problems. Madame Linsky is her best ally, encouraging her

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to continue her dancing.

Part of the uniqueness of *Look Back With Longing* is Suzanne Morris' use of limited point of view. In an effort to avoid telling the story second-hand, the author shifts the viewpoint among several key characters, even using the adult male point of view. She employs British voices and their peculiar phrasing to acquire the "Britishness" of English characters. Thus she also captures the authenticity of the English way.

The strong sense of place reveals her background of English literature. She admits to watching many episodes of *Masterpiece Theatre*. A dancer herself from the time she was three years old, Morris describes the graceful but death-defying lifts of acrobatic exhibition dancing in detail, making visualization clear.

The reader develops a close relationship with the characters, never wanting the story to end. Fortunately, *Elizabeth's Legacy* and *Clearharbour* will be published this year to complete the trilogy.

The love expressed in the Lake District scene—the beautiful views, Geneva's desire to stay there forever—are overshadowed with a feeling of doom that pulls the reader forward to wonder, what's next?

One problem piles on top of another, keeping Tony and Geneva apart through years of their lives and their promising dancing careers. With help from the police, a private investigator, and an old friend, Geneva keeps digging until she gets answers out of all the chaos.

MORRIS, SUZANNE. *LOOK BACK WITH LONGING*. LINCOLN: UNIVERSE, INC. 2005. 492 PP. \$35.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-595-67400-3.

Keeper of the Colony

H. J. Ralles

The Computer Game Adventure Continues
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Ralles has written another adventure in which Matt Drommond plays a computer game as a character inside the computer rather than safely at home in front of his computer. Ralles'

unique characters with strange names, Keir, Gorbun, Bonya, Nadia, place the reader far into the future. Trouble begins on the first page and continues non-stop in the dangerous Colony of Javeer. Matt's game takes place on Earth in various places but five hundred years away. Keir witnesses the Gulden Guards capturing an old man on the streets of Boro. Not daring to interfere, he bumps in to a boy in summer-weight clothes and realizes this guy is not from Boro. Keir feels guilty bringing home another mouth to feed, but his mother and sisters welcome the stranger. After Keir explains the situation on Javeer, Matt assures Keir's family he will drive the Gulden Guards and their tyrant leader out. When they ask him how, Matt realizes he can't begin anything until he finds his laptop computer.

Keir's sister, Bronya, searches and finds the laptop on snow-covered streets where Matt lost it when he and Keir were escaping from the Guards. A boy snatches it away from her and disappears. By bargaining away her family's food and fuel, Bronya expects to get the computer back. But when the boy brings it to their home, he also brings the Gulden Guards who arrest Bronya. She is taken to Javeer who questions her about her brother and the stranger. When she gives no information to the evil leader, she is sentenced to work at the castle.

Varl, an old man also captured by the Guards, makes friends with Sarven in Central Jail. Sarven brings Varl up to speed as to their location in Boro and informs him about Javeer conquering the area and becoming the tyrant ruler, proclaiming himself as "Keeper of the Colony." When Varl finds out that Matt is on Boro Boro, he has confidence that Matt can accomplish the desperate task of rescuing his friends.

Worse than imprisonment, Bronya, Varl, and Sarven are sentenced to work in the mines, which are two miles down and guarded by the Gnashers.

The reader is granted a flashback to Targon. He is in Matt's house in 2110 trying to find a way back to his home, Zaul. He convinces Matt's brother, Jake, to play the game without revealing Matt's serious situation. Using the device of Matt's brother playing the game with Targon's help, the reader gets an insider's view of how Matt got trapped in the game.

Jake admits to Targon that his talent is not in solving puzzles, but the rhyming clues must be

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A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Todd Michael grew up in Tarkington Prairie, Texas. Information about him and his books is found at www.toddles.us. Illustrator of Texas State Bird Pageant, Lee Brandt Randall is an art teacher in middle school in Baton Rouge, LA.

Suzanne Morris' Look Back With Longing is the first book in the trilogy. Shay's Jewelers in Baytown and Daydreams in Crosby will have the other two books in the Clearharbour Trilogy on the shelf as they become available.

Dr. Max Loges is Professor of English at Lamar University. He has published articles on a wide range of subjects including the Civil War.

*JoAn Martin is a retired teacher from Baytown schools and the author of a young adult historical novel *Yankee Girl*. She has also published numerous articles and book reviews.*

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assessed and understood to proceed to the next step in the game. Meanwhile back on Boro Boro, Matt has difficulty convincing the Underground Council that he can be trusted and is not a spy for the Gulden Guards. But how can he and his friends deal with the hazards of working deep down in the gold mine?

When Matt realizes that the rock-eating Gnashers can be worked with, hope returns. After many dangerous and exciting events, Javeer's reign is doomed, and he and his Gulden guards leave Boro Boro. Even when Matt realizes he is witnessing a hologram, he finds he can't let go, even though he recognizes the game is addictive. Both the reader and Matt cannot resist the challenge of another exciting adventure.

RALLS, H. J. *KEEPER OF THE COLONY*. DALLAS: TOP PUBLICATIONS, 2006. 260 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-929976-35-6.

Six Bits a Day

Elmer Kelton

A Cowboy Gets His Start at Six Bits a Day

Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Hewey Calloway is a fun-loving, adventurous, would-be cowboy who is content to work for seventy-five cents a day for tight fisted C. C. Tarpley. He enjoys the freedom to move about seeking new adventures and spending his meager earnings on drink and other pleasures. His younger brother, Walter, however, prefers a more settled life with a family and saving for security. He dreams of marriage to the boarding house girl, which seems a fate worse than death to his brother.

Hewey persuades Walter to go with him to bring back a herd of cattle for their employer, hoping that distance will make Walter forget Eve. Along the way they are joined by a retired buffalo soldier, manage to get Jerome Padgett out of jail so that he can take them to the cattle herd, and help an old rancher salvage most of his herd from an unscrupulous land buyer. Hewey has his share of close calls and is rescued from trouble with the law by a friendly Texas Ranger. When the herd nears home, the cowhands encounter their boss feuding with his neighbor. In the fracas Walter is seriously hurt and taken to the boarding house for recovery under the loving attention of Eve.

Although Hewey dreams of exploring new places west, he is happy to continue working for C. C. Tarpley at six bits a day with the hope of a raise when he becomes a cowboy rather than a cowhand. His outlook: "Money isn't everything. Look at the fun I'm having."

The events of this book precede those of Kelton's *Good Old Boys* which was made in to the movie *The Smiling Country*.

As in his other ward-winning western fiction, Elmer Kelton presents interesting characters and a realistic picture of the life of the time and place. He explores ethnic and social animosities in a balanced, sympathetic manner. Recommended for those who enjoy western adventure spiced with insight.



KELTON, ELMER. *SIX BITS A DAY*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2005. 272 PP. \$23.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-765-30956-4.

Jericho's Road

Elmer Kelton

Texas Rangers and Border Feuds after the Civil War

Review by Frances M. Ramsey

In this sixth book in Kelton's Texas Rangers series, Andy Pickard, formerly known as Beaver Boy, is sent to help patrol along the Rio Grande River. Here he finds a deadly feud between large land holder Jericho Jackson in Texas and Guadalupe Chavez in Mexico who believes the boundary should be the Nueces River farther north.

While Andy, Farley Brackett, and Len Tanner are traveling to their post from San Antonio, they are attacked by a group of Jericho's men led by Burt Hatton. In the gun fight, the nephew of Jericho's wife is killed. To cover up his effort to rob three rangers, Hatton reports to his boss that it was Chavez's men who shot him thus triggering more hatred and desire for revenge.

Sgt. Donahue reveals his hatred of all Mexicans on either side of the border and his desire to annihilate them all. He also dislikes Andy's questions. By the time the feud subsides, Andy has had enough of the loneliness and frustration of ranger life and hopes to settle in the hill country.

As Kelton does so well, he puts the reader inside a multifaceted issue, revealing complicated relationships and well-rounded characters. When Andy gets better acquainted with those he thought all bad or very irritating, he becomes more understanding. *Jericho's Road* has a good balance of history, action, suspense, romance, and humor.

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Encountering characters from previous books in the series is like meeting old friends. Recommended for those who enjoy a realistic look at the legendary west.

KELTON, ELMER. *JERICO'S ROAD*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2004. 288 pp. \$23.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-765-30955-6. 2004047177.



Sons of Texas Elmer Kelton

Texas Before the Republic
Review by Francis Ramsey

Originally published by Berkley Publishing Group under Kelton's pen name Tom Early, *Sons of Texas* is the first in a trilogy describing the Lewis family as they move westward into Texas. Mordecai Lewis moved his family to the Tennessee canebrakes in 1816 where they carved out a farm. Forever seeking his ideal place, Mordecai frequently leaves his family to subsist on the farm and hunting while he explores further west. When he organizes a party to enter forbidden Texas to capture wild horses to sell, sixteen-year-old Michael follows his father's party to share the adventure. In a battle with a Spanish patrol, most of the party is killed. Because the sergeant disobeys cruel Lt. Rodriguez, Michael is rescued. Eli, a smuggler friend of his father, takes him to Natchitoches where Marie Villaret helps to nurse him back to health.

Back on the farm, Michael is restless and dislikes farming. While his brothers farm, he hunts and traps, spending most of his time alone in the woods. Eventually, he and his brother Andrew set out to find a place of their own. After numerous skirmishes with bad guys, they meet Stephen F. Austin who has permission to settle 300 American families in Texas. Although Marie is willing to go with him, Michael remembers his mother's struggle with his father's absences and thinks it would be unfair for a footloose man to inflict that on a wife. The book ends with Marie's promise to

be ready and waiting when he returns from his travel with Austin.

Kelton's development of characters and attention to setting make this a delightful way to experience the history of early Texas. Highly recommended.

KELTON, ELMER. *SONS OF TEXAS*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2005. 336 pp. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-765-31021-X.

We're Dead, Come On In Bruce Davis

The Young Brothers Massacre Explored In Depth

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Several prominent criminals went on crime rampages during the period of the late 1920s into the early part of the 1930s. Some that may come to mind include Bonnie and Clyde, John Dillinger, and Pretty Boy Floyd. None of these characters, though, can match the brutality that occurred two days into the new year of 1932 on a farmstead close to Springfield, Missouri. A posse of ten local lawmen attempted to surround and arrest two members of the Young family, Harry and Jennings, but was met by a hail of deadly gunfire from them. When the smoke cleared, six officers had been killed and three wounded, and the brothers managed to escape the area. Not counting the tragedy of September 11, 2001, that incident in the Ozarks resulted in the highest number of civilian law enforcement officials killed at one time in this country.

Bruce Davis, a Springfield, Missouri, Methodist minister, became interested in this almost forgotten incident and decided to research it in depth. The result is a well-documented and detailed work that is written in an easy-to-read narrative style. Davis shows thoroughness in his research by examining not only the background of the Young family but also the prevailing political climate of the Springfield area involving local government and law enforcement officials. The author makes heavy use of primary source material as is indicated in an excellent bibliography and extensive chapter notes. Maps and pictures of the major characters involved in the incident enhance this work even more. Few books have been written about the Young Brothers massacre, but none of them have the breadth of detail of Davis' work. Including an index would have been helpful, but that should

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Other books in H. J. Ralles' Keeper series are also available from Top Publications: Keeper of the Kingdom ISBN 1-929976-03-8 (2001); Keeper of the Realm ISBN 1-929976-21-6 (2003); and Keeper of the Empire ISBN 1-929976-25-9 (2004).

Elmer Kelton of San Angelo, Texas, is one of the most honored and most recognized Western writers of our time. Among his other awards, he is a seven-time recipient of the Spur Award, has earned four Western Heritage Awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and was named the Greatest Western Author of all time by the Western Writers of America.

Francis M. Ramsey is a retired librarian from the Beaumont ISD. She received her B. S. in zoology from Kansas State University and received her library certification from Oklahoma State University.

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not be a major detraction for the reader. Neither the book *We're Dead, Come On In* nor the author is Texas-related, although the manhunt for Harry and Jennings Young did end with their demise in a shootout in their Houston hideaway. Regardless, this title gets a strong recommendation for purchase by public and academic libraries. Collection development interests would be criminal justice and sociology.

DAVIS, BRUCE. *WE'RE DEAD, COME ON IN*. GRETN, PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2005. 303 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, MAPS, NOTES, PHOTOS. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58980-326-8.

Contrabando: Confessions of a Drug-Smuggling Texas Cowboy Don Henry Ford, Jr.

A Texan Relates His Adventures as a Former Marijuana Smuggler

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Many of us are aware of the persistent problem of drug-trafficking that occurs on a daily basis along the southern border with Mexico. Seldom, though, do we get first-hand accounts from actual participants in this illegal activity. Now, we have that opportunity in this book by Don Henry Ford relating his ten-year career as a smuggler of marijuana across the Rio Grande River in the area of Big Bend National Park.

Ford relates how financial problems of raising cotton on his West Texas farm first led him to smuggle the illegal grass from Mexico. Not only did he become a smuggler, but he also became a habitual user of his cargo. The author goes into vivid detail in describing how poverty and corruption have led many poor people south of the border to resort to the dangerous enterprise of raising marijuana as a cash crop. Ford was able to buy off Mexican officials and evade American authorities in their interdiction efforts against the drug trade for most of his career but was finally busted by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and sentenced to a federal prison camp at Big Springs. He did escape from the camp and returned again to Mexico with the intention of staying there for good while continuing in his illegal trade. Only after an encounter with a dangerous Mexican drug warlord that nearly cost Ford his life did he finally decide not only to get out of the smuggling business but also to quit his marijuana smoking habit for good. Don Henry Ford never glorifies his adventures, nor does he come out a rich man from his activities. In fact, he states in one of the book's concluding chapters: "... the love of money and the things it can buy is behind most of what's evil in this world."

The book does have noticeable weaknesses of lacking both a table of contents and any kind of an index. Illustrations consist only of four photographs, two of which are on the dust jacket. Regardless, *Contrabando* merits a definite purchase for both public and academic libraries wanting to add to their collection

areas of Texana and the "War on Drugs" topics.

FORD, DON HENRY, JR. *CONTRABANDO: CONFESSION OF A DRUG-SMUGGLING TEXAS COWBOY*. EL PASO: CINCO PUNTOS PRESS, 2005. 237 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$22.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-938317-85-7. 2004-24511.

Civil War & Revolution on the Rio Grande Frontier: A Narrative and Photographic History

Jerry D. Thompson

Lawrence T. Jones, III.

The Civil War and Reconstruction Periods on Both Sides of the Rio Grande Valley

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Jerry Thompson, a respected historian on the Rio Grande Valley and the American Civil War in the Southwest, and Lawrence T. Jones, III, a recognized expert on early Texas photography, have teamed together to produce this narration of the turbulent decade of the 1860s in the Texas-Mexico border region of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Particular attention is focused on the twin cities of Brownsville on the U.S. side and of Matamoros on the opposite shore of the Rio Grande.

At first glance, the volume has the appearance of a "coffee table" book. The reader soon discovers that the book is actually a good historical analysis of the contentious relations between the United States and Mexico, supplemented with numerous photographs of scenes and characters of the period surveyed. The authors begin with a short summary of the art of photography and the photographers in Matamoros and Brownsville during this period, followed by separate views and descriptions of the two cities. Successive chapters explore the importance of the area for the cotton trade, which was a vital source of cash for the Confederacy and the Union Army campaigns to cut it off. A third player in this game was the warring factions on the Mexican side, plus the invading French army thrown in for good measure. Both American and Confederate sides had to curry favor with the faction that would be of the most help to the cause at that time. Attention is also given to the numerous border raids between the two sides that occurred both during and after the Civil War. A final chapter mentions a devastating hurricane that hit the region in 1867, causing considerable damage to the lower Rio Grande Valley. This really has little to do with any of the discussed topics in the book, but it probably helps to "fill out" the remainder of the decade. If anything, the photographs are a good pictorial record of the devastation to Brownsville and Matamoros at that time.

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In addition to the photographs, there are a few maps plus an excellent bibliography to consult. The pictures of several participants in the war and border skirmishes, together with scenes from the cities involved, would make this book an excellent choice for public and academic library collections dealing with Texas and the Civil War.

THOMPSON, JERRY D. AND LAWRENCE T. JONES, III. *CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTION ON THE RIO GRANDE FRONTIER: A NARRATIVE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY*. AUSTIN: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 2004. 174 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY. ILLUSTRATIONS. INDEX. \$39.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-87611-201-7. 2004-11737.

It's a Jungle Out There: Mascot Tales from Texas High Schools

Rob Sledge

Mascot Mania: Spirit of Texas High Schools

Sabrina Barlow, et al., editors

Lions and Tigers and Bears...Oh, My!

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Have you ever heard of a "Wampus Cat" and how Itasca High School chose it as the team mascot? Would you have guessed that the high school athletic teams in Winters call themselves the "Blizzards"? Have you wondered what mascot name is the most popular in Texas high schools? (Answer: the Eagles). These questions and other trivia are answered in these two fact-filled books on Texas high school mascots.

The two books take somewhat different approaches in arranging and organizing their mascot material. Author Rob Sledge's *Jungle* book divides the mascots by types and devotes a chapter to each, e.g. Canines, Felines, Soldiers, Ranch Life, etc. Brief descriptions and information are provided for each mascot and the accompanying school, along with numerous illustrations for many of the critters and characters. Each chapter also lists well-known Texans who were students at the schools. *Mascot Mania*, the result of a graduate English class research project at Sam Houston State University, portrays only selected

mascots in far fewer chapters but goes in to more detail on those chosen for the book. In addition, each book devotes a chapter covering those mascots that have provoked controversy on their usage, i.e. Indians and Confederate symbols. Finally, both books list the mascots in an alphabetical mascot index by name, while *Mascot Mania* does its second index by city and town name.

Although Sledge's book is more thorough in coverage than *Mascot Mania*, all libraries, especially in schools, can feel comfortable adding either one to their collections. Better yet, both can be purchased for maximum exposure on the subject of Texas high school mascots.

SLEDGE, ROB. *IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: MASCOT TALES FROM TEXAS HIGH SCHOOLS*. ABILENE: STATE HOUSE PRESS, 2005. 184 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. INDEX. \$14.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-880510-94-4. 2005-17449.

BARLOW, SABRINA, ET AL., EDITORS. *MASCOT MANIA*. HUNTSVILLE: TEXAS REVIEW PRESS, 2005. 147 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. INDEX. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-881515-72-9. 2004-28531.

100 Great Things about Texas

Glenn Dromgoole

Fixin' To

Review by Janet K. Turk

Dromgoole's collect of Texas trivia, wit, and flat out lies and exaggerations is sure to spark the interest of native and non-native Texans alike. Each page offers a brief sentence or two about something related to the great Lone Star State. Collectively, all entries, even the exaggerations, shed a delightful light on Texas, Texans, and why Texans are so proud of their state.

Dromgoole reminds us that "Texas was once an independent nation, and most of the time we act like it still is." Then, he confesses that "fixin' to" is the state verb while reminding people that Texans "don't talk funny. Ever'body else does."

Additional trivia mildly slights another state, country, or group of people. Dromgoole notes that Texas claims to having had the first Thanksgiving feast in 1598 near what is now known as El Paso. Of course, this event occurred twenty-three years before the more acclaimed event in Massachusetts. He also reminds people that Texas is larger than every European country except Russia and that it is the most widely recognized state shape throughout the world. Moreover, Texas claims the world's largest rose garden located in Tyler, the largest parking lot at DFW Airport, the biggest rattlesnake roundup in Sweetwater, and the biggest fire hydrant in Beaumont. This humorous collection suggests one overall idea—apparently, the old saying is true: "It ain't braggin' if it's the truth."

DROMGOOLE, GLENN. *100 GREAT THINGS ABOUT TEXAS*. ABILENE: STATE HOUSE PRESS, 2005. 104 PP. \$6.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-880510-96-0.

Jon Tritsch works as a cataloger and helps develop collections for history and political science for the May and John Gray Library at Lamar University. He holds an M.L.S. from Emporia State University and an M.A. from Sam Houston State University.

Review of Texas Books

Department of English and Modern Languages
Lamar University
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Beaumont, TX 77710

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