

# REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



PUBLISHED BY LAMAR UNIVERSITY - BEAUMONT

Volume XIII

SUMMER 1998

Number 2

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## FICTION

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Bell, Nancy. *BIGGIE AND THE MANGLED MORTICIAN*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. 201p. Paperback: \$5.95, ISBN 0-312-96491-9. 96-54632. (A St. Martin's Dead Letter Mystery)

This is another fun read featuring Biggie Weatherford and her neighbors. The setting is Job's Crossing, a small town in rural Texas. The cast of characters includes the latest addition to the local business community, the new mortician, Monk Carter. This story is narrated by J.R., Biggie's twelve-year-old grandson. The closeness of the community is illustrated by the spirit in which people pull together to put on a fund-raising play starring various townspeople. Biggie is directing as well as acting one of the parts. But what happens when one of the cast members is murdered? Will the play go on? Who will take over the role? What clue will make solving the case possible? Why was the victim murdered? Who did it?

This book will be enjoyed by both young adults and mystery fans. The description of small town life and of the people who live there is very enjoyable. Recommended for school libraries and public libraries.

Dorothy Leising

Dearen, Patrick. *ILLEGAL MAN*. Thorndike, Me.: Thorndike Press, 1997, 363p. Large Print. Hardcover. ISBN 0-7862-1238-1. 97-35991.

Patrick Dearen's *The Illegal Man* follows Ricardo from his rural, poverty-stricken village in Coahuila to the border around Del Rio and on two attempts at crossing the Rio Grande, to his life as a *mojado*, and to his eventual job on a remote Texas ranch. Along the way, we also get the points of view of peripheral characters: Ricardo's wife, the Border Patrol Agents who chase him, the coyote who nearly kills him. Dearen's landscapes have an authenticity and sensuality. Cat's claw and mesquite pull at trouser legs and puncture flesh. The layout of the land is precise and gives the feel and look of southwest Texas. Dearen's action scenes show the fright and desperation of the characters. While some of his quiet scenes reveal introspection--Ricardo's wife fetching water and remembering her husband, a coyote's self-disgust--efficiently etch out character. The story itself is about an ignored group of people who, in the news, seem al-

ways a mass and never individuals. Thus, this would make a very good movie, but as a fiction, the story and characters are destroyed by the cloying language.

For all his attention to detail, Dearen, finally, doesn't seem to trust that detail. Overly dramatic sentences punctuate it. Ricardo thinks of his wife: "The image of Carmelita lying with eyes forever shut filled his senses, bringing pain far worse than that in his leg." Just in case the reader doesn't get it, we are told how poor Ricardo is: "engulfed by poverty and as degraded by his failure to give his children the essentials of life." Many sentences start with prepositional phrases and thus are backward running, begging for profundity. Several sentences with long introductory phrases and clauses explaining the pathos end up being dangling modifiers. The pathetic fallacy takes over the landscape. Any threatening natural event soon has human intentions, emotions, or instincts. Thunder is always growling.

Describing characters who speak another language than the language in which the author is writing plagues Dearen as it did Hemingway. When the Mexican characters think or speak in Spanish, the result is elevated diction. When they speak in English, the I's become ees so that the characters sound like they've just auditioned for *THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE*. And when Dearen mixes Spanish with English, he usually follows the Spanish word with an English appositive so that the technique becomes redundant.

The book, then, is better as journalism. The locales, procedures, and clothes seem accurately documented. But the language interferes with the enjoyment of the book as a novel. The characters become noble peasants--one-dimensional characters pursuing some nobility rather than basic human needs.

Jim Sanderson

Ducharme, Dede Fox. *THE TREASURE IN THE TINY BLUE TIN*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1998. 144p. Paperback: \$11.95, ISBN 0-87565-180-1. 97-15419. (Juvenile)

Ducharme, a native of Texas and granddaughter of Jewish immigrants to Texas, relates the story of a Jewish family who immigrates from Russia to Texas in 1912, and introduces the reader to a unique cultural aspect of Texas' history. The story focuses on Max Miller, the Americanized name of Muttel Mendelsohn, the twelve-year-old son. When his father, a traveling peddler, fails to arrive home for the family's first Passover in America, Max sets out to find him.

Max's relationship with his father and his belief in his Jewish heritage underlie his efforts to find his father. He is accompanied by Joe Hollis, son of a drunken blacksmith. The author gently portrays the cultural and familial differences between the boys during their experiences searching for Max's father. On their journey, Max shares with Joe what it is to be a Jew, and Joe teaches Max more about being an American boy. Thematic elements which enrich the story include: the importance of traditions and education, familial effects on children, and the effects of grief on the full range of characters. The Glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew Expressions in the back of the book is a definite plus. 1993 Winner of the Annual Sydney Taylor Award, this book makes a nice addition to public, school, and home libraries.

Nan Reed

Martinez, Floyd. *SPIRITS OF THE HIGH MESA*. Houston, Texas: Arte Público Press, 1997. 192p. Paperback: \$7.95, ISBN 1-55885-198-4. (Juvenile)

*Spirits of the High Mesa* by Floyd Martinez is a book about change. Flavio, a Mexican-American boy, is becoming a young man. He is torn between the old ways of his grandfather, El Grande, and progress and modernization. His home, Capulin, is also experiencing growing pains, as electricity, the U.S. Forest Service, and a saw mill irrevocably alter the town and the lifestyles of its citizens.

El Grande is the personification of the "old ways." He sees clearly that every convenience is paid for by a loss of a way of life based on self-sufficiency. El Grande works hard to instill his wisdom in his grandson. But Flavio is young, and though he respects his grandfather, he is enamored of the rewards of progress. Not until Flavio is a middle-aged man, sick with cancer, does he recognize the value of El Grande's lessons.

Martinez does a superb job bringing his characters to life. This is not a book that tells the reader what and how to think, but slowly reveals the layers of change as modernization takes root. As El Grande teaches Flavio, the reader also learns. A bear hunt, visiting an Indian burial site, a round-up, cattle branding, digging irrigation ditches, and the burial of a "witch" are part of Flavio's world. Cows, pigs, horses, goats, and a coyote have a place in his everyday life. But as progress slowly chips away at a lifestyle, the animals and rituals also slowly disappear.

This is an excellent book with complex, intriguing characters and a clear portrayal of the rich, pre-World War II, Mexican American culture. The Spanish language is sprinkled liberally throughout the book, which adds to the diversity and realism of the story. Recommended for young adults, this tale is so entertaining and thought-provoking that many adults will also enjoy it.

Diane Fusaro

Martinez, Max. *LAYOVER*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1997. 249p. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-55885-199-2. 96-39824.

This story revolves around Priscilla Arrabal who is on a bus to Houston. She is from San Antonio, leaving behind a former boyfriend and his new girlfriend. She is a college graduate and has left her job. Her career is on track, and it is time to move on to a more responsible position. During the bus' brief stop in a small town, she takes the opportunity to go across the road to have beer. Since she is in no hurry to get to Houston, she decides to stay around (layover) and take a longer look at the town.

Joe Blue, whom readers met in *White Leg*, has a more substantial role in this story and has a murder to solve in his jurisdiction. This murder takes place at the motel where Priscilla is staying. The victim happens to be Priscilla's one-night stand, a local young man. Priscilla panics and leaves the scene. The rest of the story involves Priscilla's attempts to sort out her options while the police work on finding her and solving the case.

Max Martinez intersperses chapters concentrating on the involved police work with chapters on Priscilla's activities. Human emotions and what the characters are thinking are a central theme. Suspense builds effectively, and the round characters are interesting.

Adult language, sexual content, and violence puts this book in the adult section for libraries. Recommended for libraries with strong Hispanic collections and those with large mystery or crime fiction collections.

Dorothy Leising

Rabasa, George. *FLOATING KINGDOM*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 1997. 328p. Hardcover: \$21.95, ISBN 1-56689-063-2. 97-15993.

George Rabasa's *Floating Kingdom* presents the story of a teenage gringo going south on a marijuana run and an elderly Mexican leading illegals north for jobs and economic opportunities and their ill-fated collision while crossing the Rio Grande during a flash flood. Young Simon Tucker nearly drowns, only to awake on a tiny island in the middle of the Rio Grande that Lucio Sequila, the self-proclaimed president of Sequilandia, claims for himself and his family. Missing not only his wallet and new tennis shoes, but his memory as well, the badly beaten teenager is nursed back to health by Sequila's three daughters while his worried parents in Texas flood the airways and communities with flyers and an offer of a \$10,000.00 reward. When a scheme to extort a higher ransom fails, Lucio Sequila knows his home is under siege and the tranquil existence of Sequilandia is quickly unraveling.

*Floating Kingdom* depicts an interesting clash of cultures and motives, culminating in a suspenseful showdown as the Anglo Simon Tucker blurs the lines

and allegiances between the two worlds that exist on either side of the Rio Grande, subjecting everyone around him to danger.

George Rabasa is the winner of the Writer's Voice Capricorn Award for Excellence in Fiction. His previously published collection of short stories, Glass Houses, won the Minnesota Book Award for Short Stories.

Gayla Chaney

## \*\*\* NONFICTION \*\*\*

### BIOGRAPHY

Carey, Mary. MY THREE LIVES. Austin: Eakin Press, 1997. 443p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$27.95, ISBN 1-57168-125-6.

Mary Carey has authored eleven other books having to do with her adopted state of Alaska. Writing about her "three lives" the author demonstrates it may well take a Texan to thrive in the larger state.

The author describes her three lives recounting first when she was a nineteen-year-old expectant mother who had run out of money for food. Out of desperation, her husband held up a grocery store to provide food for his family and was sent to a notorious Texas prison. When he breaks free, he and Ms. Carey are off and running.

Ms. Carey's second life takes up in Alaska, where, among other things, she goes polar bear hunting at Point Barrow in -34 F° weather. She also manages to become the first woman atop Mt. McKinley in the winter time, and I do not envy her that particular distinction.

In the third phase of her life, Ms. Carey has become a published author, a raconteur and, finally, a political activist. The latter career is embraced by the author when Governor Egan of Alaska attempts to divert Federal funds for the ALCAN highway to maintenance in other parts of the state. Ms. Carey and her friends do not think that is the best thing for the state of Alaska. The governor loses and the state gains.

This book is good fun and the tales are well told. Ms. Carey's has been an interesting and unusual life, worth sharing with readers.

Victor Lang

Christman, Calvin L. ed. and Susan Johnson Hadler and Ann Bennett Mix. LOST IN THE VICTORY: REFLECTIONS OF AMERICAN WAR ORPHANS OF WORLD WAR II. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1998. 251p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$32.50, ISBN 1-57441033-4. 97-26872.

During the war years, 944,426 American fathers were drafted. When the war ended in September 1945, crowds cheered the returning victors, but the wives and children of those who died were largely ignored. In many families, the father was never mentioned again, and the children grew up wondering about their fathers. Ann Mix was one of those orphaned, and in 1990 she began a search to find out about her father. In talking to others whose fathers were killed in the war, she discovered that they too longed for more information. In 1991, Mix founded the American World War II Orphan Network to be a depository for sources of information about WWII servicemen who were fathers. Psychologist Susan Hadler, also a war orphan, collaborated with Mix to collect twenty-five of the stories of some of these now adult children and how their fathers' deaths affected their lives.

Although all their stories are unique, all of the war orphans express curiosity about their fathers and the feeling of being different from other children because they had only one parent. Most of the interviewees did not remember knowing their fathers, and so the letters, photographs, and medals they have are treasured. In many households, the mother never spoke about the father after receiving news of his death. Some children learned only from their grandparents what their dads were like. If the widow remarried, the child benefited if the family spoke well of the deceased dad. In other circumstances, the family did not blend well, and the children suffered another loss. Several of the interviewees told of locating living service friends of their fathers and learning for the first time how their fathers died. Journeys to battlefields and cemeteries in Europe brought peace and closure to many. The book concludes with an appendix that is a guide for people wishing to know more about a veteran. Titles of history books, addresses of service and veteran organizations, and various archives will aid researchers. The editor and collectors of these stories have made public a neglected portion of American history. Public, college, and university libraries should add this book to their shelves.

Sally Dooley

Light, Linda. PASSIONS AND PREJUDICE: THE SECRETS OF SPINDLETOP. Richmond, KY: Spindletop Productions, Inc. 1997. 405p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-9645717-2-7.

Since the first black gold spurted from Texas ground, there has been nothing so fascinating to Texans and non-Texans alike than the "awl bidness" in Texas. It always has seemed to me as if oil found in another state was somehow different and less mysterious than that found in Texas. Ms. Light certainly agrees, though she does not say so directly. She says so in her one-woman show about Pansy Yount of Spindletop, which was presented at the Julie Rogers Theater in Beaumont, Texas, in 1997.

The author does not follow the academically accepted path for writing biography. Rather, Ms. Light manages to let us see and hear Pansy Yount through dia-

logue, oral histories and core documents. "When Spindletop first gushed forth, it was uncontrollable for nine days. At the time, Spindletop could produce more oil in a day than all the other oil wells in the world put together."

There is a school of thought propounded by Beaumont historian Johnny Walker that "if Frank had lived and if Pansy Yount had stayed in Beaumont, there might have been a good chance that Beaumont would have been Houston instead of Houston." The book aside, that is rather fun to speculate upon. Pansy, however, wound up living—not entirely happily—in Kentucky.

The tastes of oil, Texas, Kentucky, American saddle-bred horses, treachery and romance are an interesting brew for a biography. Most of all, at the end of this book I would like to have known Pansy Yount.

Victor Lang

Lavergne, Gary M. *A SNIPER IN THE TOWER*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1997. 324p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$18.95, ISBN 1-57441-029-6. 96-50411.

Before 1966, mass murder was such a foreign concept to Americans that the criminal justice system had no statistical category for it. Then, on a hot August day in Austin, Texas, a young man named Charles Whitman gunned down forty-five people in less than two hours, changing America's perception of murder and murderers forever. Gary Lavergne has done an excellent job of documenting Whitman's gradual emotional disintegration, and the familial and personal problems that contributed to it. He also depicts the social forces of the mid-sixties and their role in Whitman's final break. Finally, Lavergne examines the far-reaching effects of the tragedy, at both the social and personal levels.

Charles Whitman's father was an abusive authoritarian who expected perfection from his children. He encouraged his young son to play with guns, allowing the two-year-old Charles to handle a high-powered rifle. Whitman's mother, a longtime victim of domestic violence, had sought refuge with Charles in Austin shortly before the murders. In addition, Charles was experiencing marital problems, scholastic difficulties, depression, and was abusing both alcohol and "uppers." Lavergne's balanced and well-researched account of Whitman's last days offers the reader a closeup view of a troubled young man, while avoiding facile speculations about exact causes of the tragedy.

In Lavergne's consideration of the aftermath of that August afternoon, he traces not only the personal stories of many of the individuals involved, but also the sweeping social changes brought about by the introduction of a "new" and horrific type of crime. This book would be an excellent addition to criminal justice collections, but would also be of interest to the

student of history, sociology or psychology.

Sharon Kelley

Medearis, Angela Shelf. *PRINCESS OF THE PRESS: THE STORY OF IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT*. New York: Lodestar Books-Dutton, 1997. 58p. Index. Hardcover: \$14.99, ISBN 052567493-4. 97-8520

The third in a series of Rainbow Biographies written by Angela Shelf Medearis, *Princess of the Press: The Story of Ida B. Wells-Barnett* is a six-chapter book which chronicles the life of an extraordinary woman whose parents were born into slavery and who was six months old when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The oldest of seven children, at the age of fourteen she became the head of her family when her parents and baby brother died of yellow fever. In spite of the odds against her due to her family circumstances, she became well educated, a leader in the movement for the equality of African-Americans in the United States and a highly regarded and influential member of the African-American press who wrote and spoke about injustice in schools for African-American children and about the unjustified lynchings of African-Americans. Ultimately her speeches and writings forced her to move from the South, where she was born to the North where she continued her crusade for justice and equality throughout her life.

This is an inspiring story about the contributions of a woman who would not settle for the status quo. She had vision, drive, and exceptional courage. Written at approximately an eighth grade level according to the Fry Readability Formula, this book would be an excellent middle school resource about a true American path blazer.

Also included in this book is a chronology of events in Ida B. Wells-Barnett's life, end notes, suggestions for further reading, and an index.

Andrea R. Karlin

Robinson, Charles., III. *SATANTA: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A WAR CHIEF*. Austin: State House Press, 1997. 235p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$18.95., ISBN 1-880510-56-1. 97-37009.

Satanta (White Bear), c. 1816-1878, was a Kiowa war leader of common valor, bravery, and skill who shared leadership roles with Satank, Kicking Bird, and other chiefs of the period 1840 and afterward. He participated in the Great Southern Plains Indian Peace Alliance in 1840, negotiations that resulted in the treaties of Fort Atkinson (1853) and Medicine Lodge (1867), and the Warren Wagon Train massacre in 1871. He died at a Texas prison in 1878 after throwing himself out of a second story window.

This lively biography is the most complete account yet of the life of Satanta, a powerful, well-built, and highly influential Kiowa leader. It covers in some detail all the most famous—or infamous—events in his life,

but its most important contributions relate to the material covering the last few years before Satanta's death.

There are least two serious problems: 1) the author uses far too many long quotes; they detract measurably from the writing and overall presentation. Such use is a lazy habit the author needs to break; 2) the book lacks sophistication in analysis and interpretation. Clearly, the author is not familiar with recent trends in American Indian biography that emphasize gender, class, and race. His interpretation that women were "drudges and slaves" with little power, few rights, and no responsibilities beyond household chores is disappointing and wrong.

Paul H. Carlson

Tune, Tommy. *FOOTNOTES\*: A MEMOIR*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 233p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$24.00, ISBN 0-684-84182-7. 97-24763.

From dancing classes as a youngster in Houston all the way to Broadway stardom, Tommy Tune has quite a life story to tell. Tune, incredibly his real name, left Texas in the 1960s and headed for New York on the advice of a friend: "In Houston, if you dance, are talented, and extremely unusual they call you a sissy or a weirdo. In New York they call you a star." His first audition landed him a job dancing in the chorus of the popular musical *Irma La Douce*. His six foot six, 160 pound figure sang and danced in *Seesaw*, *My One and Only*, and other hit musicals. He went on to choreograph and direct, becoming the only person in theatrical history to win Tony Awards in four different categories and to win the same two Tony Awards two years in a row. His musicals *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Grand Hotel*, and *The Will Rogers Follies* were loved by millions of theater goers here and abroad.

In an anecdotal style, he combines memorable personal and professional triumphs and failures, vignettes of famous personalities he has known, theater history, philosophy, and questions about life and love. Carol Channing was a mentor, and he has worked with major theatrical figures such as Twiggy, Laurence Olivier, Agnes de Mille, Ruth Gordon, and Gene Kelly. He gives an account of his relationship with partner Michael Bennett, the rejection Tune endured, and Michael's death from AIDS. Openly homosexual, he advises the reader to skip over these pages of reminiscences if they offend. Ambivalent about intimacy, he finds himself at age fifty-seven suffering the loss of friends and his agent to AIDS and frequent disabling foot injuries. He wonders how he will live out his life. He could direct, but "...dance has always been my central source, the point from which my other gifts have flowed. Without that core where would I be? Where am I? I've never realized how important dancing is to me until I am denied it."

This is an entertaining portrait which moves along at a fascinating clip. Lacking chronology, the reader never knows what to expect from page to page. There

is the heavenly glitter of stars but also the dark pits of despair. Theater lovers will certainly be entertained by this book and probably will not be offended by some of the weird tales and thoughts he expresses, taking them as part and parcel of a uniquely talented individual.

Sally Dooley

## BUSINESS

Davenport, Thomas H. and Laurence Prusak. *WORKING KNOWLEDGE: HOW ORGANIZATIONS MANAGE WHAT THEY KNOW*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1998. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$29.95, ISBN 0-87584-655-6. 97-10781.

Thomas H. Davenport, professor of information management at the University of Texas, Austin, has teamed with Laurence Prusak of IBM Consulting Group to produce a useful and readable overview of knowledge management. Based on the concept that what an organization's employees know and what they can learn are the most valuable assets any company has, Davenport and Prusak present clear examples of good knowledge management practices from dozens of different companies.

The book defines the differences between knowledge and information, and shows how different management strategies are required for effective handling of knowledge in an organization. Techniques are provided for analyzing and measuring knowledge in the corporation, and the necessary skills are presented for managing and transferring knowledge within the organization.

Davenport and Prusak give practical advice on encouraging the generation of knowledge in a firm, hiring "experts," classifying existing knowledge, and building a knowledge base that can be maintained and enhanced. The role of traditional data management and automation is examined, with suggestions on how technology can assist in storing and sharing vital knowledge in organizations. The authors also point out the dangers of losing quantities of valuable experience when knowledgeable employees leave due to retirement or downsizing, with suggestions for minimizing this loss.

*WORKING KNOWLEDGE* is a must-read for both business and information management specialists, and would be a valuable addition to any academic business collection.

Sharon Kelley

## CHRISTIAN LIVING

Williams, Leslie. *SEDUCTION OF THE LESSER GODS*. Nashville, Word Publishing, 1997. 246p. Paperback: \$15.99, ISBN 0-8499-1491-4. 97-44340.

Christians seek to love and serve their God, and they prayerfully ask God for security, peace, understand-

ing, self-fulfillment, and the ability to love. These requests are for good and desirable states in life, but in the asking lurks a danger. Christians can come to want these gifts from God more than they desire God Himself and doing His will. These desires can become lesser gods that Christians come to idolize, and in the process they lose their relationship with God in Christ. In twelve chapters, Williams tackles the values of Christians and our culture and explains how they can corrupt when they are sought singularly. She carefully explains through anecdotes, scripture, and examples from literature how people can go astray by the seduction of these lesser gods. Her own struggles, successes, and defeats are honestly faced and related, further clarifying the fine line between devotion and idolatry. No boring theology tome, this is a lively account of the realities of Christian living today. Serious Christian readers will be challenged by this thought provoking book to examine their lives and motives.

Williams, wife of an Episcopal rector and a mother, has a Ph.D. in Literature and is presently Chair of the Fine Arts/Communication Division at Midland College. She is a fine writer who exhibits not only intelligence and wit but also spiritual depth.

Sally Dooley

## CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE

Abernethy, Francis E., ed. *BETWEEN THE CRACKS OF HISTORY: ESSAYS ON TEACHING AND ILLUSTRATING FOLKLORE*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, Publications of the Texas Folklore Society #LV, 1998. 284p. Hardcover: \$27.00, ISBN 1-57441-036-9. 97-17598.

Editor Abernethy, in his introduction to this volume, writes, "Historians research, document, and file the facts of happening . . . but sometimes . . . they lose the spirit—which falls between the cracks of history where it is pounced upon by the ever-lurking folklorist, who scarfs it up like a hog on a mushroom" (vii). Further, the beginnings of history, the Alpha, lie in folklore, and he continues, "most probably will be the Omega" (viii).

Following his establishment of the significance of folklore study are six items on pedagogy for collecting and treating lore by Old Timers' processes. Abernethy's Classroom Definitions of Folklore repeats his oft-quoted definition: "Folklore is the traditional knowledge of culture" (5), a statement worthy of being placed in a time capsule." Joe S. Graham's essay "Toward a Definition of Folk Culture" concentrates on the nearly lost Hispanic folkways. And Rhett Rushing's "Beginning Within: Teaching Folklore the Easy Way" is informative and reminiscent of the First-Lady-of-the-Texas-Folklore-Society's Martha Emmons' pronouncement that folklorists just go outside, observe, record, and systematize the oral, traditional, variable, anonymous, and formularized.

Among the essays illustrating the process and prod-

uct of the folklorist, are Ken Davis' legends about the Phantom Killer of Texarkana and other confined villains; Ken Untiedt's "Gang Graffiti," detailing graphic methods of underworld communication systems; Patrick Dearen's "The Bluebird Mare from Sterling City," focusing on a high-kicking rodeo bronco; Charlie Oden's "Rail Tales: Some Are True," a reminder of "The Wreck of Old Number Nine"; Allan Turner's and Richard Stewart's bits of ghost lore in "Noises in the Attic"; and others about the Lenten penitential immolation of women trapped in spring housecleaning, table manners (with special reference to eating over the sink), fiddling in early Texas, and the night the stars fell.

*Between The Cracks Of History* informs as it entertains. It is a valuable addition to the Publications of the Texas Folklore Society. J. Frank Dobie would applaud.

Ernestine S. Linck

## GUIDEBOOKS

Barrington, Carol. *SHEFRRA STEIN'S DAY TRIPS FROM HOUSTON: GETAWAYS LESS THAN TWO HOURS AWAY*. 7th ed. Old Saybrook: Globe Pequot Press, 1998. 268p. Maps. Paperback: \$13.95, ISBN 0-7627-0110-2.

Barrington, a veteran day tripper and resident of Houston, presents twenty-three day trips from Houston in which everyone can find something that appeals to them. However, it will take more than twenty-three days for the average family. On a recent Saturday, our family managed to enjoy only two of the nine items suggested on the trip to the Clear Lake area.

Trips to the northwest, west, southwest, northeast, east, and southeast of the city are given in detail (she also recommends that you take along a good Texas map.) Each trip includes a brief history of the town and phone numbers for local information; a "What to Do" section that includes directions to and descriptions of the places of interest; a "Where to Eat" section that gives good descriptions of the cuisine, hours, general cost range, addresses, phone numbers; a "Continuing On" that gives directions to the next town; and often a "Wandering the Backroads" section that gives you the country way to get about. The last chapter is a list of celebrations of festivals arranged by month. It does not attempt to give exact dates, which so often change, but does give phone numbers to contact for information.

Use of the book is somewhat hampered by the lack of an index. We had heard about a place in the Houston area that we wanted to see, but just thumbing through the book we were unable to find it. Later we found it in the west section.

The author recommends that you stop to chat as you go. This book is much like that, a friendly chat among friends on many of the interesting things you can do



to enjoy the Houston area. Recommended for individuals and public libraries.

Beth Avery

Permenter, Paris and John Bigley. *DAY TRIPS FROM SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN*. Old Saybrook: Globe Pequot Press, 1997. 3rd. ed. 254p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-7627-0134-X. 97-4404.

For those who like to travel and are constrained by time or money, *Daytrips from San Antonio & Austin* offers an abundance of suggestions about sights to see and visit at a distance of two hours or so from the cities. Most trips can be done on a day or long afternoon, although some require a lengthy day. The area covered exposes the traveler to a varied Texas landscape of beaches, desert, prairie, hills, and plains. Main highways are identified but the authors suggest obtaining accurate maps that supply farm-to-market (FM) and ranch roads (RR). From San Antonio, the day trips go northward to Blanco, an old ranch town, Austin, San Marcos, and New Braunfels, on the Comal River, and east to Schulenburg, and Praha, home to the painted churches, and Gonzales, of Texas revolutionary fame. Longer trips branch out to Padre and Mustang Islands and to Laredo and our Mexican neighbor. From Austin, the trips stretch to Salado, an old stagecoach stop, Waco, and Washington-on-the-Brazos, known as the birthplace of Texas. Quaint Round Top, with its bed-and-breakfast inns and Festival Hill concert hall and center, is an entertaining destination while Llano, Marble Falls, and Burnet provide a contrast to the rugged terrain, lovely spring wildflowers, and Lake Buchanan.

A brief history introduces each trip, and the authors include handy directions and maps to get there. Places to visit of historical interest or just for fun are noted along with hours of operations and fees. Lodging and restaurants are listed, as are their price ranges. Shops in which to browse or hunt that special souvenir are given. The back of the guide lists addresses of the cities to use to plan travel. To add to the adventure, one could time the travel to coincide with special events using the calendar of festivals and celebrations. Helpful appendixes offer advice about entering and shopping in Mexico. Information for Winter Texans aids those who flee winter weather for our more temperate southern climes. This helpful and entertaining guide concludes with a glossary of Tex-Mex food.

The authors are a husband-wife team of travel writers who are long-time residents of the Texas Hill Country. In addition to several travel books, their articles have appeared in numerous periodicals. This revised edition should be popular with public library patrons.

Sally Dooley

## HISTORY

Baron, Steven M. *HOUSTON ELECTRIC: THE STREET RAILWAYS OF HOUSTON, TEXAS*. Lexing-

ton, Kentucky: Steven M. Baron, 1996. 223p. Illustrations. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$39.00. ISBN 0-9653828-1-8.

This is a careful, well researched and beautifully produced book. For rail buffs, it is an obvious choice to read. For others, the fascination comes by learning of the influence of electric transportation on the development of Houston and Galveston. I dislike the term "Coffee Table" when applied to a book, but this is one to place where others can see it. It is an excellent conversation piece.

From "Mud and Mules" in 1868 to the "End of the Line" in 1940, readers hear the swish of wheels on tracks as cars glided around Houston and down the highway to Galveston. My father often spoke of the romance of taking the "Galveston Flyer" or the "Houston Rocket" from Galveston to Houston and return. The cars had parlor sections and sported a distinctive blue and white paint scheme. Not many Texans were riding the Orient Express in 1924, but there was a small taste of that adventure in riding the Interurban between Galveston and Houston. The trip time was eighty minutes and was eventually reduced to seventy-five, which gained national attention at the time. There was one glaring flaw to the Interurban concept. In order to maintain the "blazing" seventy-five minute schedule, it was necessary to bypass established towns between the terminal cities.

Good reading and handsome production. Purchase a ticket for a nostalgic ride.

Victor Lang

Barr, Alwyn. *POLIGNAC'S TEXAS BRIGADE*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1998. 72p. Black/white photographs. Illustrations. Maps. Paperback: \$12.95. ISBN 0-89096-814-4.

Originally published in limited quantities in 1964 by the Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, this book is a brief but excellent study of the Texans led by the only foreign General Officer of the Confederacy, Camille Armand Jules Marie, Prince de Polignac, the son of the last prime minister of Charles X of France. Polignac was assigned to command a brigade formed by Gen. Kirby Smith in July 1863. The nucleus of the brigade included three regiments of Texans, the 31st and 34th Texas Cavalry, and the 17th Texas Consolidated Dismounted Cavalry, a unit organized from the troops of seven regiments who had escaped at the fall of Arkansas Post. In the fall of 1863, the 15th Texas Infantry, the 22nd Texas Dismounted Cavalry, and the 11th Texas Battalion were added to the brigade.

The author, Alwyn Barr, is a professor of history at Texas Tech University and a past president of the Texas State Historical Society. Barr has added a new preface for this edition.

Though the brigade was formed in 1863, Barr's book describes the history of the various regiments involved from their formation in north Texas early in the

war. The north Texas origins of several of the units is an important theme of the study, because this portion of Texas was settled primarily by immigrants who had migrated westward through the midwestern states, as opposed to the more southerly migration of the peoples who settled the remainder of the state. As a result, the counties from which many of these men came were not always such fervent supporters of secession as the counties in south, east and central Texas. Consequently, discord and desertions were frequent problems for the regimental commanders. Many companies had been raised under the implied promise that their service would be on the frontier, and not in the Eastern theater. Nonetheless, these various regiments were molded into an effective force by Polignac's leadership during the last half of 1863. As might be imagined of such an independent lot as formed these Texas regiments, many were initially wary of the new French general, nicknaming him Polecat. They came to respect him, however, recognizing his military judgement in combat situations such as their attack on Vidalia, across the Mississippi from Natchez, in 1864, where he correctly assessed the strength of the recently reinforced garrison and halted an ill-fated attack.

The book is a well-documented history of the service of this brigade, from Texas and Indian Territory through Arkansas and Louisiana, to their unpopular and aborted orders to cross the Mississippi. I think this book belongs on the shelf of every student of Texans in the war, and I strongly recommend it to every library in the state. It will be of special interest to descendants of the men who followed and fought with General "Polecat" Polignac, Soldier Prince of Dixie.

Ray W. James

TEXAS. Mankato: Capstone Press, 1998. 48p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$19.00, ISBN 1-56065-355-8. 95-49345. (Juvenile)

Texas is an outstanding informative book written on a second to fourth grade reading level. The book gives an overview of the state of Texas, including its history, geography, people, and sights and sounds of the great state. The format includes an introduction of facts about Texas, while six chapters detail historical as well as current information, with colorful photographs of Texas. Well developed, the book also has maps, a Texas time line, a listing of famous Texans accompanied by brief biographies, a glossary of significant words, and an index. In addition, the book identifies Internet sites, and lists reference books and addresses for other information. Texas has been revised and updated by the Geography Department of Capstone Press with Holly Taylor of the Texas State Historical Association as content consultant. This is an excellent reference book for the grade school students and will be an important acquisition for school and public libraries.

Sarah Matheny

Cotham, Edward T., Jr. BATTLE ON THE BAY: THE

CIVIL WAR STRUGGLE FOR GALVESTON. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998. 252p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$37.50, ISBN 0-292-71204-9; Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-292-71205-7. 97-4835.

Galveston, the best port between New Orleans and Vera Cruz, was the focus of the Civil War in the Southwest. Cotham tells its tales with feeling: clumsy pre-war preparations by a committee on public safety; the impassioned speech of 70-year-old Sam Houston come to Galveston to preserve the Union (greeted by catcalls and threats such as, "Here's a rope; hang the old traitor"); war-anxious islanders fleeing to the mainland, the voluntary Confederate surrender of Galveston; Magruder's successful attack to retake the island; stealthy maneuvers to prevent a Union counterattack; increasingly chaotic island government; and the 1865 negotiated surrender and its aftermath.

At center stage is the quirky 1863 Battle of Galveston, never before described in such complete and fascinating detail. Cotham is especially good in relating the exploits of swashbuckling General (nicknamed "Prince") John Bankhead Magruder, redeeming himself after military disgrace in the East. Magruder treated the war as a play in which he was the consummate actor: lighting numerous phony campfires to exaggerate his strength, attacking when least expected, arming forts with wooden "Quaker guns" and then shifting a real cannon by rail, from fort to fort, to create illusions of firepower.

Cotham's well-documented narrative affectionately recounts the stories of ordinary and extraordinary folks who, willy-nilly, found themselves in the crucible of history. Thirteen black and white photos and three maps help illuminate this fine book. This is history written both stylishly, to please the many, and substantially, to reward the scholars. Recommended for all Civil War history collections.

Stephen Curley

Hawes, William. PUBLIC TELEVISION: AMERICA'S FIRST STATION. Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 1996. 160p. Illustrations. Hardback: \$24.95, ISBN 0-86534-245-8. 96-14798.

Most students majoring in mass communication learn in an introductory course that KUHT-TV in Houston became America's first noncommercial television station in 1953. What author William Hawes adds to this well known fact is a perspective that compares the 1950s goal to make instructional television an "electronic blackboard" with the Public Broadcasting System in operation today.

Hawes, who taught telecourses as early as 1959, outlines KUHT's origins and growth from the early days when the Joint Committee on Educational Television was formed to explore the educational possibilities of this still-new medium. The account stretches into the 1990s, when PBS stations were busily redefining their role as competitors for a shrinking audience. During that forty year period, many of the early teach-



ing missions of stations like KUHT were taken over by other sources of instruction such as the public school systems in Houston and other cities. The constant search for money to finance community television and provide local programming forms a recurrent theme and a frame of reference for comparisons between public television stations and their usually wealthy, commercial cousins. As the author points out, commercial station owners even begrudged the FCC decision to set aside what broadcasters saw as an "exorbitant" number of more than 250 stations dedicated to educational television.

Because the bulk of the writing focuses on KUHT's role in the Houston community, readers curious to know more about how this station's original educational mission can be compared to the distance learning aspirations of today's Internet-based teaching strategies will find few answers from Hawes. It would be interesting to know if this new mass medium will change its content as much as public television has over the past forty-five years. A section on how the lessons learned from the 1950s experiment with instructional television at KUHT could be applied to today's distance learning might be very useful to educators.

The author's close relationship with key figures at KUHT and the University of Houston, where he joined the faculty in 1965, offers a richness of anecdotal support to this evolutionary story of a constant fight for financial survival. The details of KUHT's license challenge based on accusations that the station did not adequately represent the entire Houston "community" will be instructive to those who may believe that only the executives of commercial stations ever have to worry about license renewal. Communication faculty and students everywhere can learn something from KUHT's continuing questions about its mission and the role of university-related television in American broadcasting.

Larry Elliott

Jackson, Ron. *ALAMO LEGACY—ALAMO DESCENDANTS REMEMBER THE ALAMO*. Austin, Eakin Press, 1997. 181p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 1-15768-097-7.

All true Texans remember and honor the 189 (more or less) defenders of the Alamo. Ron Jackson's collection of forty-nine vignettes now allows us an interesting insight into the way the descendants of some of these heroes, as well as descendants of the Mexican soldiers who overpowered them, have passed down their oral histories of the men of the Alamo and the events that brought them together at San Antonio de Bexar in the spring of 1836.

This is not a traditional history book. The stories are typically not corroborated, and in some instances may even contradict each other—that is the nature of the oral history tradition. But the value of the book is that these old stories, even if made hazy and biased or exaggerated by their retelling, have been collected in

print. Hopefully, the growing presence of the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association will mean these stories, and others yet to be written down, will be preserved, and Ron Jackson's book is a good start.

Some of the stories are well documented; the long and detailed letter sent by William R. Carey to his family from San Antonio in January of 1836 is a good example of these. Carey describes the Alamo as an "ancient Mexican fort & Town, divided by a small river which emanates (sic) from Springs. The town has two Squares in and the Church in the center, one a military and the other a government square. The Alamo or the fort as we call it, is a very old building, built for the purpose of protecting the citizens from hostile Indians." Of the oral histories, one of the most interesting is the story of Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson, related by her great-great-grandson. As a survivor, her story has lent credibility to the legendary ending of the siege, in which the defenders resisted to the last, refusing to surrender.

Some of the other men represented by these stories include Bonham, Cottle, Crockett, Kimble, King, Malone, Seguin, and Travis. This book will be of interest to students of the Republic of Texas and the Alamo. I hope it will stimulate a renewed interest in genealogical study by those Alamo descendants who have yet to discover their heritage.

Ray W. James

Nance, John Milton. Edited by Archie P. McDonald. *DARE-DEVILS ALL: THE TEXAN MIER EXPEDITION, 1842-1844*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1998. 547 p., Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$59.95, ISBN 1-57168-214-7. 97-32637.

*Dare-Devils All* is a comprehensive and detailed account of the experiences of approximately 300 men from Texas who took part in an expedition (which could well be termed an invasion) into Mexico in December, 1842. Following the leadership of Col. William S. Fisher, a somewhat self-appointed commander, these adventurers broke away from a larger Texan force that remained north of the Rio Grande. Acting without any official sanction or authorization from the government of the Texas Republic, the force launched an attack on the Mexican town of Mier, but with little success. More than two hundred Texans surrendered to Mexican forces.

Although Professor Nance describes the battle of Mier in some detail, his book is largely devoted to a description of what happens to the Texans at Mier after the surrender. He tells the story in meticulous detail, describing individuals, treatment, food, travel, relations with their captors, punishment, escapes and attempts to escape, the well-known "Black-Bean" episode, efforts of representatives from the United States, Great Britain, and France to effect the release of the adventurers, and many other aspects dealing with the captives and their daily lives. From time to time the captives and their actions are viewed in the larger perspective of Mexico and its relationship with

Texas and other countries and other issues. But the book is primarily about the experiences of prisoners in Mexico in the mid-nineteenth century. In fact, Professor Nance also describes the experiences of other Texan prisoners held in Mexico.

Working as an editor with a considerably larger manuscript originally written by Professor Nance, Professor McDonald has produced a valuable addition to the literature of the Texas Republic. One criticism is in order: geography and locations are constant companions in the telling of the story of the Mier captives. More maps would have been very helpful additions to the book.

Adrian Anderson

Robinson, Willard B., with Jean M. Robinson. *REFLECTIONS OF FAITH: HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN THE LONE STAR STATE*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 1994. 268p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$45.00, ISBN 0-918954-57-6. 94-20796.

In the decades following Texas' separation from Mexico, many incredibly diverse cultures descended upon the land. As communities formed, various religious groups built distinctive houses of worship that reflected symbolically their own beliefs and theology. This book is a study over the decades of the expressed reverence, beauty and inspiration found in the emerging styles of architecture primarily associated with religious institutions.

Emphasizing design, form and function, the author explores the styles of architecture found in early Texas missions, antebellum churches, Victorian churches, stately formal edifices, and modern aesthetic buildings. Synagogues are also included in the survey. The photographs are liberally interspersed among architectural drawings and floor plans. In addition to detailed studies of exterior designs and building materials, the author also includes explanations of interior furnishings, worship arrangements and decorations. Changing theology, economic circumstances and cultural developments are noted as new styles emerge in each time period.

This is a very scholarly work, not just a glittery travel guide to churches in Texas. The terminology is at times very technical, but it seems essential to an adequate description of the interiors and exteriors of the buildings. The excellent quality of the black-and-white photography contributes to the expression of thought found in the text. The book is recommended to intellectual adults, students of architecture, and students of church history.

Sharon Day

Sitton, Thad and Dan K. Utey. *FROM CAN SEE TO CAN'T: TEXAS COTTON FARMERS ON THE SOUTHERN PRAIRIES*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. 316p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-292-77720-5; Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 0-292-77721-3. 96-37625.

Thad Sitton's recent book, *Backwoodsmen: Stockmen And Hunters Along A Big Thicket River Valley* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), was a study of a rapidly disappearing way of rural life in the Big Thicket of East Texas. Together with coauthor Dan K. Utey, Sitton now looks at another part of Texas farming life and culture that is likewise on the verge of becoming extinct: the small cotton farmer.

The authors focus attention on Washington and Fayette counties, which were two important cotton-growing areas in the valleys of the Brazos and the Colorado rivers. The first two chapters look at the culture of cotton farming and the settlement of the region by German-, Czech-, Anglo-, and African-American farm families. With this background laid, the remaining chapters take the reader through a typical seasonal cycle of rural life in Washington and Fayette counties--a cycle where the cotton crop is the center of life for these farm families. The time frame used in this survey encompass the years 1927-1928, on the eve of the Great Depression. The book's final epilogue chapter describes how factors like government programs, increased mechanization, school consolidations, and encroaching urbanization spelled the end of what was a way of life for these farm families. By now, the reader understands that work in the cotton fields went on from before sunrise to after sunset, "from can see to can't."

Sitton and Utey have made good use of numerous written and oral history sources. The oral sources, especially, give sound testimony of how rural life was in Texas not too long ago. Both authors are to be commended for compiling this excellent work. Texas agriculture and the rural folk involved with it are areas that need to be depicted for posterity. Like Sitton's previous work, this book gets an enthusiastic recommendation for all libraries' collections on local history, rural life, and agriculture.

Jon P. Tritsch

Tennant, Alan. *THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS OF TEXAS*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980. Reprint. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. 167p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-292-70481-X. 80-16821.

This first paperback reprint commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of Guadalupe Mountain National Park, a park located five miles west of El Paso. The text by Alan Tennant is entertaining to read because of his style. The range of information is broad and detailed, owing to Tennant's knowledge, field work, and reverence for this vast area. Prehistory, geology, Indian history, and discovery by Europeans are all discussed in conjunction with the natural history of flora and fauna, the variety of which is astounding. Human interest is heightened by a retelling of the unusual experiences of rangers and park visitors. Bold drawings and colored photography by Michael Allender enhance the text and reveal the beauty and majesty to be seen in the park. Colorful fall maple leaves in a pool on McKittrick

Creek, an alligator juniper tree, as well as views of McKittrick Canyon and El Capitan exemplify the quality and loveliness of Allender's photographic competence.

In several places, footnotes to update information would have been helpful to people planning an excursion to this spot in far West Texas. In 1978, there were 80,000 miles of trails. Are there more now? Has the park itself been enlarged? Has the planned visitor's center been built? Overall this is an easy-to-read book loaded with information about the park, and the photographs and drawings illustrate the beauty of the place. Perhaps those libraries that shied away from the hardcover price twenty-five years ago will find this paperback edition more palatable.

Sally Dooley

Todish, Tim J. and Terry S. Todish *ALAMO SOURCEBOOK 1836: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE ALAMO AND THE TEXAS REVOLUTION*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1997. 215p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$21.95, ISBN 1-57168-152-3. 97-14503.

Alamo wonks will not want to be without this thoroughly-detailed collection of material compiled by two brothers in Michigan. In seventeen chapters, *Alamo Sourcebook* summarizes events preceding, surrounding, and following the storied battle. The fact-packed compendium also covers the various phases of the building's history, analyzing several myths and providing details of combatants and leaders. Additionally, it includes thirty pages of text and carefully drawn illustrations of the uniforms, weapons, and equipment used during the Battle of the Alamo. Everything—ranging from lists of combatants and non-combatants to lists of Alamo movies and music—is covered here, along with an extensive collection of maps and illustrations. A fold-out back cover, in color, of the Alamo pictures it as it would have appeared at the beginning of the siege in March of 1836.

Mary M. Fisher

Walker, Donald R. *A FRONTIER TEXAS MERCANTILE: THE HISTORY OF GIBBS BROTHERS AND COMPANY, HUNTSVILLE, 1841-1940*. Huntsville: Texas Review Press, 1997. 181p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$30.00, ISBN 1-881515-08-7. 96-47120.

The title of this book may lead one to the conclusion that this is a history of just another small town business. After all, how many individuals outside of Huntsville and Walker County have ever heard of Gibbs Brothers? Author Donald Walker, a professor in the Department of History at Texas Tech University, presents an interesting history of a small Huntsville general store that eventually evolved into a rather formidable family-owned company engaged in the business of land, timber, and mineral resources. What makes the story more interesting is that this company was designated by the Texas State Historical Commission in 1964 as "the oldest . . . in Texas

under original ownership and on [the] first site." It is still located on the courthouse square in downtown Huntsville.

For reasons that are explained, the author limits the survey to the end of the Depression years of the 1930s. Walker's research into numerous company records and other primary sources tells the story of the arrival of Thomas Gibbs and his business partner, Gardner R. Coffin, to the new settlement of Huntsville on September 4, 1841. The two men set up shop on the courthouse square with the goods they brought with them and commenced the operation of a fledgling mercantile business. Soon after, Coffin's declining health and death brought another Gibbs brother, Sandford, into the business. They became involved in the fortunes of Huntsville and were active in the boosting of the town's economy through good times and bad. Together, the brothers would accumulate lots and acreages throughout Walker and several surrounding counties. After Thomas died in 1871, Sandford continued with the business and maintained its holdings until his passing in 1886. His widow, Sallie, proved to be extremely astute in business affairs. She played a major role in the start of the town's first national bank. Sallie also involved the family assets in the new economic boom of East Texas, the timber industry. This alone would soon eclipse all other aspects of the family business. Sallie's greatest legacy, before her death in 1918, was putting all of the assets, minus the mercantile, into the present-day company, a move which would discourage family heirs from partitioning the assets among themselves. The author points out for singular praise the steps Gibbs Brothers and Company have taken in the wise practice of selection management of its forest lands. This practice does not allow clear-cutting timber stands and selectively regulates what trees can be harvested.

In all, this well-researched book would make a nice addition for business history collections. Libraries with holdings on Texas local history, land management, and the timber industry will want to consider this book as well.

Jon P. Tritsch

Zlatkovich, Charles P. *TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY: OPERATIONS AND TRAFFIC*. El Paso: Westerner Press, 1998. 251p. Black/white photographs. Illustrations. Paperback: \$29.95. ISBN 0-9660680-0-9.

Charles Zlatovich is a professor of business administration at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is a lifelong railroad enthusiast, and this book includes numerous anecdotes of his own experiences with the T&P, beginning in his youth when his grandfather, a longtime T&P employee, introduced him to an insider's view of the railroad operations.

This book is an amazingly detailed collection of facts and figures about the operations and traffic of the T&P. Two additional volumes are planned: one on equipment and facilities, and one on historical perspectives. This volume, a short history of the railroad

from 1871 to 1976, offers a summary description of the lines and territory served and a detailed description of the passenger and freight operations.

One story which was of particular interest to this reviewer is the story of the Mississippi River crossing at New Orleans. A car ferry, the Gouldsboro was constructed using the hull of the Union ironclad Civil War gunboat Chickasaw which fought in the battle of Mobile Bay. The conversion to car ferry was carried out in 1882. The Gouldsboro was 238 feet long, and could carry ten freight cars across the unbridged river. This service was an improvement on earlier ferry service which required unloading cars on one bank, ferrying the freight across the river, and reloading cars on the opposite bank. The car ferry service continued until 1942, even after completion of the Huey P. Long rail bridge across the Mississippi in 1935. Surprisingly, the rail traffic carried by the car ferry was very competitive in speed with the traffic carried by the bridge, which took a less direct route.

This book can be recommended to libraries which feature holdings on railroad history or development of Texas commerce and industry, for it will be of interest to any researcher studying early operations of this railroad. Railroad enthusiasts who seek the level of detail about operations which this book contains will also be interested.

Ray W. James

## JOB HUNTING

Sanborn, Robert and Citrin, Richard S., HOW TO GET A JOB IN DALLAS/FORT WORTH. Chicago: Surrey Books, 1998. 354p. Paperback: \$17.95, ISBN 1-57284-000-5. 97-38673.

This book is not only an excellent job search resource for all job seekers, but it is probably the best job search guide on the market for people seeking employment in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Companies and contacts are provided in forty-one different categories from Accounting to Utilities. Career advice is also provided in every category.

The chapter titled "The 10 Step Job Search" pulls information from some of the best career strategy books in print. Some of the topics that are covered are: How to Organize the Search; How to Prepare a Resume; How to Prepare for a Killer Interview; and Persistence and Follow-up.

Since networking is the most effective job search technique, the authors devote an entire chapter explaining this process and providing networking resources in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They discuss six myths of networking, and then they provide a step-by-step guide to networking. There are short discussions on network etiquette and networking after you get the job.

This book is highly recommended both for people seeking their first professional job and for career

changers. If the job seeker would read all of the advice in the book, and then take advantage of many of the suggested resources, his or her job search would go much faster with a much greater chance for success.

Gerry C. Juhan

## MEDICAL SCIENCES

Silverthorne, Elizabeth and Geneva Fulgham. WOMEN PIONEERS IN TEXAS MEDICINE. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1997. 238p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$24.95 ISBN 0-89096-789-X. 97-18885.

The purpose of this book is to provide a sampling of Texas women who have pioneered in various medical fields. A brief sketch of medicine before 1800 leads into chapters on early healers, nurses and nursing, dentistry and pharmacy, medical practice, and new frontiers.

Each chapter begins with a survey of the medical specialty and its early history in Texas. Then come several chronologically arranged vignettes of outstanding women in that area. Of particular interest are sections on curanderismo, midwifery, and nursing in Texas history. The latter area includes an excellent brief discussion of the arrival of Roman Catholic nursing orders such as the Ursulines, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, and the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The chapter on new frontiers discusses women currently active in such fields as psychiatry, virology, and genetics.

The book, intended to be a survey of Texas women in medicine, is logically organized, clearly written and includes a good bibliography of mostly secondary sources. It is suitable for junior high and high-school libraries and for readers who are interested in the general development of Texas medicine and the role of women in it. Perhaps its greatest value will be to inform young women in Texas of the contributions of those who have gone before and to inspire them to continue in that path.

Howell H. Gwin, Jr.

Ugalde, Antonio and Gilberto Cardenas. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AMONG INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRANTS: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. 170p. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-292-78536-4. 97-31178.

This book presents eleven of the thirty-five papers presented by experts of various disciplines from thirteen countries who participated in a workshop held in Grenada, Spain, in May 1995. "International Migration, Health and Social Policies" was organized by The International Migration and Human Rights project of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and the Andalusian School of Public Health to exchange ideas and explore solutions to their common concerns of policy issues and

the provision of social and health services to immigrants.

In each chapter barriers to access to health services by immigrants due to cultural differences are identified and researched. Strategies for provision are discussed. The problems identified include difficulties relating to offering multi-cultural service. The challenge of the extent, quality, cost and efficiency of health care provision is also a major theme. The immigrant will always encounter barriers in the host country due to cultural differences, no matter how efficient or elaborate the system of the host country.

Because it is a publication of academic papers, presented at a global symposium, this book is not light reading. It is, however, an excellent resource for anyone involved with provision of health services to a multi-cultural community. This book will find a welcome place as a reference for Public Health providers, social workers, researchers of multi-culturalism, and academe.

Faith P. Wallace

## NATURAL HISTORY

Curtin, L.S.M. *HEALING HERBS OF THE UPPER RIO GRANDE: TRADITIONAL MEDICINES OF THE SOUTHWEST*. Santa Fe: Western Edge Press, 1997. 248p. Line Illustrations. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-889921-01-7.

*Healing Herbs of the Upper Rio Grande* is a compilation of herbal and folk remedies of the southern Colorado and northern New Mexico areas. Written in an easy-to-read format, it includes common names, plant families, and the Latin classifications for over 235 species of healing herbs. The folkloric style of writing for each entry is entertaining in and of itself. Many, but not all, of the entries include a tale of how and why the herb was used. Descriptions for locating and identifying the actual plants are included but are not sufficiently detailed to allow the general reader properly to identify the herbs if they are to be used for medicinal purposes. The beautiful line drawings of over 100 of the herbs will assist in identification, but they too are inadequate for positive identification. An extensive glossary of New Mexican Spanish terms and a remedy index assist in the better understanding of the more uncommon terms used in each of the entries. For subsequent study, be sure to read the recent references, further readings, and the Internet resources sections. The best use of *Healing Herbs of the Upper Rio Grande* would not be for practical healing but for its folkloric history of the herbs. Students and instructors who are interested in southwest folklore will find this book informative and entertaining. Other readers who have no previous background in southwest folklore may be indifferent to its content.

Glenna Brooks

## PICTORIAL WORKS

Davis, John T. and J.B. Colson. *AUSTIN: LONE STAR RISING*. Memphis, Tenn.: Towery Publishing, 1994. 320p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$39.50, ISBN 1-881096-08-4. 94-14484.

McVay, Freda and Ashton Thornhill. *LUBBOCK: CITY OF LAND AND SKY*. Memphis, Tenn.: Towery Publishing, 1994. 255p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$39.50, ISBN 1-881096-09-2. 94-21463.

Stone, Ron and Maria Moss. *HOUSTON: SIMPLY SPECTACULAR*. Memphis, Tenn.: Towery Publishing, 1996. 271p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$44.95, ISBN 1-881096-32-7. 96-28646.

Strauss, Annette and Carolyn Brown. *DALLAS: WORLD-CLASS TEXAS*. Memphis, Tenn.: Towery Publishing, 1997. 271p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$44.95, ISBN 1-881096-44-0. 97-19944.

According to its Web page, Towery Publishing is a leading supplier of community publishing services. Many chambers of commerce use them for directories, guides, magazines and maps and often participate in the sponsorship of these books. Among the many pictorial books of the publisher's Urban Tapestry Series published to date are these four Texas cities: Austin, Lubbock, Houston, and Dallas.

While some of these books have been produced in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, they are not the usual "we're a great place to live and situate your company" promotional-type material. Instead, these picture books give the reader a glimpse of everyday life in these cities. They follow identical formats: a short essay about the city by a prominent local personality, numerous color photographs with brief, factual descriptions of the event or history of the place, a section on corporate profiles ("Profiles in Excellence"), a list of the photographers who contributed to the book, and an index of sponsors. The Austin book, especially, has a nice introductory essay by Austin journalist John T. Davis, describing the experience of the phenomenon called Austin as it evolved from a sleepy college town to the vibrant city that retains the humanness of a small town. He quotes Willie Nelson as saying, "There are other places around that are magic places for me, but Austin is definitely a big one." The candid, color pictures throughout the books were taken by area photographers and give a nice portrait of community life. This section would have been greatly improved by the addition of an index to the topics covered by the photographs. The coverage of major sites and places of interest is a bit uneven. For example, the Houston book has brief descriptions and pictures on higher education institutions of Houston Community College, Houston Baptist University, University of Saint Thomas, Texas Southern University and Rice University. There is no mention of the University of Houston. The section on corporate profiles lists only those corporate sponsors who participated in the production of the book and then only lists them in rough chronological order of the businesses'

founding. The concluding index does arrange them in alphabetical order but is of no help for the contents of the rest of the book. The sponsoring firms do have nice write-ups on their histories, employees, and operating philosophies which could be of use for the reader.

Austinites, Lubbockers, Houstonians and Dallasites will want these books on his or her shelves or coffee tables. Public libraries, especially, may find patrons enjoying the photographs, then asking for other books on these Texas cities. These pictorial works would also make nice gifts.

Jon P. Tritsch

Beth Avery

Smith, Luther. *TRINITY RIVER*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1997. 107p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-87565-168-2. 97-318.

In an introductory essay Mike Nichols, author and resident on a Trinity River tributary, states that the Trinity River flows in seventeen Texas counties from its humble beginnings at Four Forks in northeast Texas. A gully in Archer county marks the West Fork's origin, the Elm Fork begins in Montague County, the Clear Fork in Parker County, and the East Fork in Grayson County. Five million people live along the banks of the Trinity River as it flows south from the Metroplex to the Gulf of Mexico near Galveston. Although it is mostly sluggish, heavy rains can swell it and result in disastrous floods. Luther Smith, professor of photography at Texas Christian University, began taking photographs of the Trinity river using a large-format 8" x 10" camera and an antique 7" x 17" panoramic or banquet view camera. He crossed the river at every possible point, gathering various perspectives over a seven-year period. In another essay Thomas W. Southall, art historian and photography curator, states that the photos are not "environmental diatribe" but rather one man's response to a river. The collection is not an attempt to make a history of the river nor to document its progression downstream. Instead, Smith has sought to capture the complex nature of the river and its tributaries without imposing "artificial drama."

Following Southall's and Nichols' essays, are sixty duotone photographs, which show the basin and river from wooded banks and quiet pastoral views to city skylines with the river in the foreground. Industry alongside the river is juxtaposed to pristine wilderness areas. The river's twenty-nine lakes provide drinking water and recreation for most of East Texas. Pollution is revealed, but other shots show people fishing. The river's remarkable range of width and depth comes across in the collection. Enjoyable to peruse and educational in the essays and notes, the book would have been much more meaningful had descriptive captions been under each photograph rather than contained in the photographer's notes at

the end of the book.

The observations found in Smith's notes are interesting, however, because he has come to know this river so well. The photographs are not the kind to amaze the viewer, but rather require study to appreciate.

Sally Dooley

## SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Hoggard, James. *RIDING THE WIND & OTHER TALES*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1997. 199p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-89096-781-4. 97-14678.

Presently James Hoggard is a professor of English at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and the author of ten books and seven plays. His literary output has been recognized with a NEA Fellowship and membership in the Texas Institute of Letters, where he has also served as a two-term president. A native Texan and son of a Methodist minister who moved the family frequently, Hoggard has experienced much of the culture of Texas in his fifty plus years. His entertaining personal essays collected here reflect not only his past but its effect on the present, and as such reveal the power of memory in one's life. He is a skilled storyteller who uses metaphors as "methods of perception . . . a way of organizing the world." He is fascinated by the "mythic moment—the image that combines past and present while simultaneously intimating the future."

The title essay recounts the horror of a tornado that ripped through Wichita Falls in the spring of 1979. Although it devastated the city, it drew its inhabitants into closer community. Here, as with the other essays, Hoggard looks to other images to understand the meaning of the event leading him to focus on the omnipresent mesquite and its "geo-spiritual sign of North Texas itself." In "The Christmas Pyramid," the family sings Norwegian carols, as it always did, representing a way the present tries to stay friends with the past. It is in these rituals, Hoggard remarks that "the past becomes one with the present." In a different vein, "Letter from Nineveh" recounts his impressions of three weeks in the Middle East as a visiting scholar. As always, his attention to significant detail and use of metaphor emphasize his insight, curiosity, and sense of adventure. Several brief essays describe boyhood maturing experiences which shaped his character and intelligence.

These essays are a pleasure to read, and Hoggard's work should be on the shelves of public and university libraries.

Sally Dooley



## Contributors

Adrian Anderson is Professor of History at Lamar University. He received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He is co-author of TEXAS, THE LONE STAR STATE.

Beth Fuseler Avery is the Director of the Mary and John Gray Library at Lamar University. She received an A.B. in Education for the College of William and Mary and an M.S. in Information Science from Drexel University. She is the current editor of the REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS.

Glenna Brooks holds a Master's Degree in Behavior. She has been a vegetarian for seven years and has studied natural and homeopathic medicines.

Paul H. Carlson is Professor of History at Texas Tech University. He is the author of five books, including EMPIRE BUILDER IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE: WILLIAM HENRY BUSH.

Gayla Chaney is a student at Lamar University, majoring in English. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in WESTVIEW, POTOMAC REVIEW, EL LOCOFOCO and other literary periodicals.

Stephen Curley is Professor of English at Texas A&M University at Galveston. He holds a Ph.D. from Rice University.

Sharon Day is a graduate of Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky with a B.A. in English. She is an artist and was the Office Manager of the Beaumont Art League.

Sally Dooley is the founding editor of REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS.

Larry Elliott worked as a television reporter, producer, assignment editor and news director in Lubbock, Texas. He received his Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Florida and teaches broadcast classes at Lamar University, where he is an advisor for campus television programs.

Mary M. Fisher, a longtime award-winning newspaper columnist and editor, is now a school administrator in San Antonio. She received a B.A. in English and an M.A. in history from the University of Texas at Austin.

Diane Fusaro is the coauthor of several education publications and the author of a math videolab series. She holds a B.A. in Technical Journalism from Colorado State University and an M.A. in Education from Colorado College. She has taught intermediate grades and worked in the education publishing field and in libraries.

Howell H. Gwin, Jr. is Professor of History at Lamar University. His speciality is ancient, classical and medieval history, especially the history of science. He is the author of one book and numerous articles on medieval leprosy and medieval medical education.

Ray W. James, P.E., Ph.D. is Manager of the Major Highway Structures Program at Texas Transportation Institute and Director of Student Services, Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University. He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and enjoys genealogical research and Southern military history.

Gerry C. Juhan is a Career Counselor in the Career Center at Lamar University. She has a B.A. in history from Lamar and an M.A. in Education from California State University in Los Angeles.

Andrea R. Karlin earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Reading Instruction at the University of New Mexico and is Associate Professor of Education at Lamar University specializing in children's literature.

Sharon Kelley has been with Lamar University for more than twenty years, and is currently a computer system support specialist for the Lamar Library. Sharon is now completing a Master's degree in Computer Science.

Victor Lang is a Retired Lobbyist, a business lecturer at Galveston College, and a professional storyteller.

Dorothy Leising has worked in libraries for more than twenty-five years. She currently staffs the reference and electronic information desks at Colorado State University. She is an avid mystery reader.

Ernestine Sewell Linck, retired Professor of English at the University of Texas at Arlington, is the author of EATS: A FOLK HISTORY OF TEXAS FOODS and more recently HOW THE CIMARRON GOT ITS NAME AND OTHER STORIES ABOUT COFFEE.

Sarah Matheny is Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Human Development, Department of Professional Pedagogy, Lamar University.

Nancy L. Reed holds a Ph.D. in Education from Colorado State University and is a professional editor of fiction, educational activity books, and academic articles and books. She is an author/coauthor of children's, juvenile, and adult fiction, educational activity books, and professional articles.

Jim Sanderson teaches fiction writing and American literature and film at Lamar University. He holds a Ph.D. in fiction writing from Oklahoma State University and has published award-winning short stories, essays and a soon to be published novel, EL CAMINO DEL RIO. He has published scholarly articles in THE NEW MEXICO HUMANITIES REVIEW, THE HIGH PLAINS LITERARY REVIEW, the JOURNAL OF AMERICAN CULTURE, and the CONFERENCE OF COLLEGE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH JOURNAL.

Jon P. Tritsch is the cataloger at the Mary and John Gray Library. His M.L.S. is from Emporia State University, and he has an M.A. in American History from Sam Houston State University.

Faith P. Wallace is an instructor in the Department of Nursing, Lamar University.

## REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS

Beth Fuseler Avery, Managing Editor

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TAMU, TCU, TSHA, UNT  
are distributed by:  
Texas A&M University Press  
John H. Lindsey Bldg.  
Drawer C  
College Station, TX 77843-4354

Texas Review Press  
Sam Houston State University  
English Department  
Huntsville, TX 77341

Thorndike Press  
P.O. Box 159  
Thorndike, ME 04986-9989

Towery Publishing, Inc.  
1835 Union Avenue, Suite 1000  
Memphis, TN 38104

University of Texas Press  
P.O. Box 7819  
Austin, TX 78713-7819

Western Edge  
126 Candelario St.  
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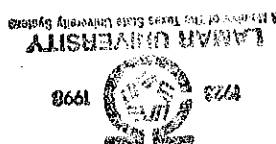
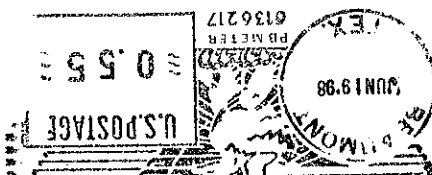
Westerner Press  
P.O. Box 221485  
El Paso, TX 79913

Word Publishing  
Park West II  
1501 Lyndon B. Johnson Free-  
way, Suite 650  
Dallas, TX 75234

Review of Texas Books (ISSN 0892-6212) is published quarterly by the Mary and John Gray Library, Lamar University. Annual subscription: \$10.00, non taxable. Your subscription begins with Issue No. 1. Those who subscribe at Issue No. 2 or 3 will pay the full annual subscription amount and receive the back issues to form a complete volume. Subscriptions may also be processed through national subscription services.

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Editorial Offices: P.O. Box 10021, Beaumont, TX 77710 Telephone: 409-880-8118  
Business and Subscription Office: P.O. Box 10021, Beaumont, TX 77710 Telephone: 409-880-8118



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Lamar University  
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