

Review of Texas Books

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Editors' Choice: *The Sorrows* Randy Lee Eickhoff

Randy Lee Eickhoff is an award-winning poet and decorated Vietnam veteran. He has written several novels including *Bowie* and *The Fourth Horseman*. His poetry has appeared in both national and international anthologies. He holds a master's degree in Victorian literature and a Ph.D. in translations. He is also the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Eickhoff lives in El Paso, Texas.

Sallye Sheppard holds the position of Chair of English, Foreign Languages, and Philosophy at Lamar University. She holds a Ph.D. in Renaissance literature and rhetoric.

The Sorrows Among the Best of Ulster Cycle Tales

Review by Sallye Sheppard

Admirers of Randy Lee Eickhoff's work in recent years know that he has devoted perhaps the lion's share of his time to making the works in Ireland's Ulster Cycle available to modern readers. Eickhoff's followers know too that his efforts have produced remarkable results. Even so they may be tempted to argue that with *The Sorrows*, which comprises Book Three of the Ulster Cycle, Eickhoff has bested his own previous achievements.

The three tales included in *The Sorrows* run the thematic and emotional gamut from earthy humor to grim irony, from triumph and happiness to destruction and pathos. "The Fate of the Children of Tiurenn," the first and oldest of the volume's three tragedies, traces the revenge of the Tuatha hero Lugh upon Brian, Iuchar, and Iucharba, the three sons of Tiurenn, for having savagely slain Lugh's father, Cian. Exacting from the brothers a long and arduous penalty which they successfully complete, Lugh sacrifices his own honor by allowing them to die unforgiven for their crime against his father. The second sorrow, entitled "The Fate of the Children of Lir," concerns the four children of the aging warrior Lir and his first wife, Aobh, daughter of Bodb Dearg, who had been elected instead of Lir to lead the Tuatha De Danann as King of Ireland. After Aobh's death, Lir marries his sister-in-law, Aoife. Jealous of her husband's continued loyalty to the memory of his dead wife, Aoife casts an irreversible spell upon Lir's four children. Although Aoife receives appropriate punishment for her evil deed, Lir's children are left to endure over many centuries as enchanted swans destined to outlive human remembrance of them, even in fable. In the final sorrow, "The Exile of the Sons of Usnech," Conchobar, King of Ulster, lusts obsessively after Deirdre, beautiful young daughter of Cathbad the Cruid and his wife, Fedlimid. In order to marry the man she loves, Deirdre, who never encouraged Conchobar's attentions, must live in exile and fear, while Conchobar's obsessive pursuit of Deirdre's



unattainable beauty ultimately brings ruin to the Red Branch and all Conchobar's people.

The Sorrows contains Eickhoff's most incisive introductory comments and accomplished scholarly notes to date, and certainly this volume is a worthy addition to the earlier ones in this series: *The Raid*, *The Feast*, and *The Destruction of the Inn*. Like so many others in the Cycle, the narratives in *The Sorrows* may surface as masculine fantasies of the negative effects of female power over men. The better acquainted one becomes with these grand tales of ancient Ireland, however, the more one can appreciate their profound metaphoric and symbolic structures and their links to other great traditions of the world. One finds throughout the Ulster Cycle the familiar patterns of legend and myth, including the imposition of impossible tasks and the gathering of the great treasures of the world, such as the golden apples of the Hesperides and Persia. So, too, are these narratives replete with traitors, vengeful rulers, jealous stepmothers, tricksters, and shape shifters. Serious students of Ireland's cultural history will find in *The Sorrows* the tell-tale signs of inevitable and often painful cultural transitions from periods in Ireland's pre-Christian past to a succession of patriarchal hegemonies.

Although *The Sorrows* has been available in hard cover since March 2000, general readers, students, and scholars no doubt will appreciate this more recent trade paperback version and its less costly opportunities to mark passages

and make marginal comments. However one approaches its text and in whatever version, the reader will be rewarded by Eickhoff's accomplishment in bringing another long-neglected Irish narrative to the attention of a modern audience.

EICKHOFF, RANDY LEE. *THE SORROWS*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2001. 284PP. \$14.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-312-87027-2.

Featured Publisher:

Forge

Forge Books is an imprint of Tom Doherty Associates. The press publishes fiction and nonfiction works in a wide variety of genres and categories, including works of scholarly significance and leisure reading. Its sister imprint is Tor Books, famous for its science fiction and fantasy books.



Texas Sports Writers: *The Wild and Wacky Years*

Bob St. John

Texas Sports Writing in the Good Ol' Days
Review by David Carroll

There are genuine, if slightly intangible, reasons why Texas sports are so rich in history and hold such an important place in our culture. In addition to the great athletes themselves, the men describing their deeds played an absolutely crucial role. They told the stories, and the old school, seat-of-the-pants sportswriters that St. John describes in this book are from an entirely different time altogether. There was no Internet and no cable television, leaving more than a little time to

schmooze and develop stories. This was a male-dominated era and a much slower period in which endless nights covering athletics on the road had to be filled with diversions of all sorts, not all of them sanitary enough for public consumption. While some of the humor is of the "you had to be there" variety, the impressive cast of entertaining characters includes such larger-than-life people as Blackie Sherrod, Dan Cook, Gary Cartwright, Bud Shrake, Dan Jenkins, Frank Luksa, Harless Wade, Randy Galloway, Larry King, Jinx Tucker, and others. Several of these men are still members of the working press. The certifiable Dean of them all, Sherrod, who still writes weekly for the *Dallas Morning News*, always closes his columns with a lampooning rhyme about a current event—a curiously old-fashioned holdover, one supposes, from a time when things were simply meant to be more fun.

Along the way, St. John writes capably about the major sports story genres in Texas: the Dallas Cowboys, the now defunct Southwest Conference, and Texas's own "Friday night madness," a.k.a. high school football. He began his career as a newspaperman covering the Dallas Cowboys. In the process, the fun-loving St. John became a close friend with the likes of general manager Gil Brandt and, improbably, conservative head coach Tom Landry, and has written several books on various members of the Cowboys. In this book, his accounts of Cowboy preseason training camps, particularly when they were still held in Thousand Oaks, California, are fraught with racy episodes. Something about being away from home and near the seedy allure of Los Angeles nightlife brought out the worst behavior in players and press alike. St. John even details the legendary "Distinguished Soup Nose Award," which was awarded annually to the writer or photographer who displayed the least self-control in a public setting. The award had as its origin an incident whereby an inebriated and unnamed cameraman approached the reserved Landrys at their table in a restaurant, only to pitch forward face first into the startled Mrs. Landry's soup.

In the end, all things inevitably evolve into something less familiar. Dan Cook, longtime writer for the *San Antonio Express-News*, summed up the difference in eras as well as anyone when he sneered, "Instead of partaking

Bob St. John is the author of several books of sports history and trivia. His other publications include Landry: The Legend and the Legacy and Man Inside Landry. In addition, he has authored On Down the Road: The World of the Rodeo Cowboy.

Review of Texas Books is a quarterly publication with issues for winter (end of February), spring (mid-May), summer (August), and fall (end of October).

David Carroll has been an academic librarian for over twenty-six years. He earned a B.A. in English from Kansas State University and an M.A. in librarianship from the University of Denver.

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Sherry Garland is the author of many award-winning novels and picture books influenced by her interest in Vietnam. She lives in Houston, Texas, and has published several novels for young adult readers.

*Stephen L. Layne has been an educator for over ten years. His other publications include *This Side of Paradise* and *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*.*

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

(Continued from page three)

of the night life, drinking beer, and playing poker, the sportswriters now favor soda pop, torrid games of miniature golf, or Trivial Pursuit." While several interesting photographs populate this book, it needs an index. Recommended for readers interested in sports and sports journalism.

ST. JOHN, BOB. *TEXAS SPORTS WRITERS: THE WILD AND WACKY YEARS*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS. 2002. 257PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$18.95 PAPER. (ISBN 1-55622-797-3. 2001-31965.

The Teachers' Night Before Christmas Stephen L. Layne

Holiday Parody for Educators of a Classic Juvenile Poem
Review by Stephen Curley

"'Twas the week before Christmas / And all through the town / Every schoolteacher scurried— / They could not slow down." So begins a charming revisit from St. Nick, this time to harried teachers of elementary school students. The subject, of course, is the annual mayhem in preparation for the holiday. Watercolor paint spills onto the floor, hand-drawn signs are misspelled, pupils duel with paintbrushes, pageant angels get sick, and ten-minute wreaths take room moms an hour to make. At the week's end, haggard teachers drag themselves to the mall for last-minute shopping, when a yellow school bus (appropriately labeled "North Pole I.S.D.") descends from the sky. The little old driver is jolly St. Nick, professorially attired in floppy fedora, red tie and glenn-check brown suit—with suede elbow patches. Grades in his class record book indicate they have nothing to fear: "Santa truly loves teachers, / Support staff, and such. / Your students are blessed / 'Cause you've given so much." The earnest moral delivered, he wishes them a merry Christmas and then steps on the gas.

James Rice has illustrated more than a dozen Night-Before-Christmas parodies from the perspective of Cajuns, Irish, Texans, cowboys, rednecks, truckers, sailors, Pennsylvania Dutch, and the like. In this take on teachers, he relies on hatch marks and a warm palette:

yellow and beige backgrounds, peppered with muted reds and greens. Each double-page tableaux is pleasantly busy but never overcrowded. The happiest things about his illustrations are finding small details like a running-joke portrait of George Washington whose expression changes in response to students' antics; the rear end and flailing legs of a girl leaning out over a windowsill; and a mutt scratching its left ear.

Steven Layne, an award-winning middle school and junior high language arts teacher, has written the singsong text, which pokes gentle fun at the pre-holiday melee. His rhyming is serviceable, and his moral—which some may find overly sentimental—is seasonal. Unlike most of the other parodies in this series, this book avoids a verse-for-verse match with Clement Moore's original. Though Layne gives up the narrative unity of the source poem, he compensates by including more activities—making chains of garland out of construction paper, visiting a nursing home, playing yuletide-theme games, putting on a Nativity pageant—all of which go slightly askew.

The picture book portrays a recognizable elementary-school world: frantic, frolicsome, and fun. Favorite teachers in your life—it's written for them and not for kids—should get a kick out of this playful romp with a heartfelt ending. Recommended as a pupil-to-teacher gift.

LAYNE, STEVEN L. *THE TEACHERS' NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*. ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES RICE. GRETN: PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2001. 28PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$14.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-56554-833-7.

In the Shadow of the Alamo Sherry Garland

Remember the Alamo!—In a New Way
Review by Sally Dooley

As Mexican immigration to Texas and the United States increases, it is essential that all Texans understand the history of the Alamo from the Mexican perspective. Sherry Garland, the gifted Houston writer of numerous fine novels for young adults, succeeds with the story of Lorenzo, (Continued on page five)

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a fifteen-year-old Mexican conscript taken from his tiny village where he and his family have farmed for generations for the wealthy Esquivel family, Lorenzo, the other conscripts, and officers are ordered to march north to Texas. The army is typically followed by its family members, including his aunt and two sisters and his friend Catalina, and a goat herd. The families cook for the common soldiers who are provided little food, ammunition, arms, or uniforms. In contrast, Santa Anna and the officers, and even his contemporary, Esteban Esquivel, have handsome uniforms and plentiful food. Garland's details of the long march to Texas reveal the hardships of walking barefooted in all extremes of cold and rain across cactus strewn, rocky terrain. News comes of General Cos's surrender in San Antonio, which frightens Lorenzo and the troops who are realizing that they are cannon fodder. Fortunately Lorenzo captures Santa Anna's favor because he can play the flute, which relaxes the general.

The bloody battle at the Alamo is vividly related while Lorenzo is alternately terrified, sickened, and humiliated by his country's military leader. So skilled is Garland's narration that the reader empathizes with Lorenzo and his comrades. The Runaway Scrape, the Goliad Massacre, and the Mexican Army's defeat at San Jacinto are events in Texas' revolution, but they are newly viewed from this Mexican's point of view. That some Tejanos helped the Mexicans while others sided with the Texans is woven into the story. When he returns to his village, a matured Lorenzo knows the meaning of suffering, love, honor, and friendship.

Sprinkled throughout this exciting novel are Spanish words and phrases that add authenticity to the setting and characters and engage the reader in Spanish language and culture. Unfortunately, *curandero*, a healer, is misspelled throughout, but that small error is easily overlooked by the research and writing of this finely crafted novel for readers age ten and up. All public, middle school, and high school libraries should have this book.

GARLAND, SHERRY. *IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALAMO*. NEW YORK: HARCOURT, 2001. 282 PP. \$17.00 CLOTH. ISBN 0-15-201744-5.

The Personal Correspondence of Sam Houston, Volume IV: 1852-1863

Madge Thornall Roberts, ed.

History They Wrote
Review by Sally Dooley

Capping nearly a decade of researching and editing, Madge Thornall Roberts presents the final installment of her four-volume series of the personal correspondence of a great Texas statesman. This volume begins with Houston's service as U.S. senator and reveals his concern over the looming Civil War and his attempts to avoid it. His and his wife Margaret's letters of this period show the intimacy he and his wife maintained and the interest Houston had in details of family life and his children's education despite lengthy separations. Houston served as governor of Texas (1859-1861) and was with his family in Austin, so there are few letters from this period, except those to his son who was away at school. Roberts accomplishes a difficult task in choosing from the enormous correspondence to Houston during the last decade of his life. Her choices reveal Houston's interests and events, which he mentioned in his own letters to others. She includes letters of historical interest from key figures of the period and Reconstruction. Sam, Jr.'s letters to his family and those to him when he was a prisoner of war are particularly poignant. The letters are footnoted rather than end noted, facilitating understanding.

This book concludes with an appendix of letters written to and from family members after Houston's death. Addenda contain additions and/or corrections to the previous volumes as well as newly discovered correspondence that belongs in those earlier collections. Most helpful to students will be the comprehensive index to the four volumes and the bibliography that assisted Roberts with her understanding of her ancestor and history. Serendipitous to her research is the discovery and first publication of a daguerreotype taken shortly before Houston died.

These four volumes, together with Roberts's *Star of Destiny: The Private Life of Sam and Margaret Houston*, are a great contribution to
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Madge Thornall Roberts is the author of award-winning *Star of Destiny: The Private Life of Sam and Margaret Houston*. She contributed to the research and design of "The Wall of History," a permanent exhibit on the grounds of the Alamo.

All volumes of *The Personal Correspondence of Sam Houston* are available from the University of North Texas Press and can be obtained directly via the internet at www.unt.edu/untpress.

Sally Dooley is the founder of *Review of Texas Books*. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and has great respect for Texas writers and their diversity.

Andrés Sáenz was born on Rancho de Santa Cruz in Duval County. He graduated from high school and served in the Korean War before entering the auto supply business. His book offers an important contribution to the Tejano history of Texas.

Other books of Tejano history include *The Alamo Remembered: Tejano Accounts and Perspectives* by Timothy M. Matovina, released by the University of Texas Press and *Faith Formation and Popular Religion: Lessons from the Tejano Experience* written by Anita DeLuna and Timothy M. Matovina, released by Rowan and Littlefield Publishing Company.

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Texas history. All public and university libraries should contain these fascinating books.

ROBERTS, MADGE THORNALL, ED. *THE PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE OF SAM HOUSTON, VOLUME IV: 1852-1863*. DENTON: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS, 2001. 571PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX. \$45.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-57441-084-9.

Early Tejano Ranching: Daily Life at Ranchos San José and El Fresno Andrés Sáenz

First Ranches of Texas
Review by Sally Dooley

Responding to a public request of the Institute of Texan Cultures in 1997, south Texas resident Andrés Sáenz provided an impressive record of his and the López families in Duval County. This manuscript grew from conversations with his mother buttressed by diligent research of historical documents in Texas and Mexico. Andrés Tijerina, professor of history at Austin Community College, is the able editor, having written the award-winning *Tejano Empire: Life on the South Texas Ranchos*. In his introduction, Tijerina explains that Spanish and Mexican families settled this area in the mid-1700s. They became Tejanos when the border moved with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, changing the settlers from Mexican to U.S. citizens. These Tejano ranchers deserve credit for founding the longhorn cattle industry of the United States.

Sáenz renders daily ranch life in rich detail: sheep shearing, wild horse and cattle drives, agriculture, and hog slaughtering. He also describes shopping trips to town, housing, and schooling. Social occasions such as Christmas *posados*, fairs, and church rituals observing life's milestones are depicted. We see strong people, sustained by their families, living in an unforgiving landscape, and yet they assist hungry immigrants crossing their ranch for more opportunity in *el norte*.

Black-and-white photos mostly depict family members, but many are particularly interesting as they reveal facets of ranch life in the early twentieth century. A remarkable bibliography

developed by Tijerina provides the student with more background for Sáenz's story. A Spanish-English glossary and index complete the book.

SÁENZ, ANDRÉS. *EARLY TEJANO RANCHING: DAILY LIFE AT RANCHOS SAN JOSÉ AND EL FRESNILLO*. ED. ANDRÉ TIJERINA. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2001. 192PP. PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS, GLOSSARY, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX. \$21.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-134-1. \$9.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-5844-163-5.

Miss Spellbinder's Point of View Edward Swift

A Curious Tale and Teller
Review by Sally Dooley

Miss Clarissa Spellbinder, age 102, sits at the Back Door Bar that Once Faced the Sea on the Isle of Moly and spins spellbinding, incredible tales about Fat Satsuma, the pie-eating carnival Black Queen of the Atchafalaya. The bar's clientele (the yellow-haired whore, the midget, transvestites, and other barflies) listen to the stories replete with fantasy and mystery. Her point of view is important: after all, as she tells them, that is "the sum total of everything you are and everything you are not." With a skilled storyteller's enchantment with detail, she tells of Fat Satsuma's fantastic lovers, one for every day of the week: the Green-eyed Carpenter, the Opium-smoking Chinaman, the Turkish Barber, and the Barrel-Chested Tattoo Artist among others. Their erotic adventures with the Black Goddess titillate with sensual and colorful language. Interspersed are stories of Clarissa's childhood and adulthood spent as diarist for her father Lord Andrew Spellbinder, the adventurer and world explorer, and her mother the famous Spanish coloratura, Amelita de la Luna. Grainy faked photographs attempt to add realism to this fiction.

Subtitled a "biography of the imagination," this is an outrageous invented biography of both Fat Satsuma and Miss Spellbinder, and they and the other characters in their stories transcend time and space. Readers must pay rapt attention to take in all that interests author Edward Swift. We encounter history and historical figures like the ballet teacher, Mathilde Kschessinska, and a

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complicated Louisiana family tree for both Clarissa and Fat Satsuma. All the stories display a lushness of color, fragrance, action, and images that borders on the surreal. Swift's sometimes lyrical and very dense prose is delightful to read although the reader can become confused by the elaboration. Swift asks the reader to suspend belief in the story and enjoy the beautiful things and people that he revels in. The individuality these characters exhibit is important to Swift as he develops the theme of the self-awareness necessary to bring forth one's individuality. That entails deviating from the ordinary; yet there must be a norm from which to deviate. The Black Queen brings some resolution at the end, yet the reader remains somewhat mystified by the meaning of these energetic bursts of images, intricate stories, and stranger characters. Oh, and I nearly forgot to mention the funambulists and the ribbon that might separate fantasy from reality or the norm from the deviant. Who is to say? But Swift does not suffer what Miss Spellbinder disdains: "disease of the literal minded."

SWIFT, EDWARD, *MISS SPELLBINDER'S POINT OF VIEW*, TULSA: HAWK PUBLISHING GROUP, 2002. 249PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$23.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-930709-31-5. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-930709-27-7.

Fun Texas Festivals and Events

Jim Gramon

Fun Festivals in Texas Worth Checking Out
Review by Dale Farris

If you think Texans don't love to party, then dip into this book and you'll find your comeuppance. Folklorist, musician, and poet Gramon (*Famous Texas Folklorists and their Stories*) has assembled an essential reference for anyone interested in these many fun Texas events.

Assembled chronologically by month, Gramon provides a detailed calendar of special events that occur in Texas, including arts festivals, public fairs, jamborees, food festivals, music festivals, ethnic celebrations, rodeos, seasonal celebrations, fund raisers, and film festivals. Over 1,600 events in 600 different towns are summarized in this neat guide to traveling around and having fun in Texas.

Information about each includes its singular or regularly scheduled annual date, the region and primary city in which the event occurs, features that specially characterize the event, directions to the event location, and means to contact local leaders to get more information about the event.

The appendixes include a helpful bibliography of Web site URLs for the events, addresses and URLs for the cities and chambers of commerce that sponsor the events, and a listing of the event host towns by regions. These added organizational tools make this neat but very specialized and highly localized title a valuable ready reference tool that will greatly aid in helping readers get information about these colloquial Texas festivals that celebrate alligators, mosquitoes, watermelons, rattlesnakes, or even black-eyed peas.

Highly recommended for all public libraries, especially those in communities included in these listings.

GRAMON, JIM, *FUN TEXAS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2002. 310PP. PHOTOGRAPHS, APPENDICES, INDEX. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-886-4. 2001048511.

Insiders' Guide to Austin

Hilary Hylton and Cam Rossie

Locals Share What's Best About Austin
Review by Dale Farris

Freelance writers and journalists Hylton (*Texas Monthly's* "Mexico") and Rossie add this latest update to the hugely successful *Insiders' Guide* series, focusing on the rapidly growing Austin community. Hylton has lived in Austin since 1977, and Rossie moved to Austin in 1993.

Nearly twenty years ago, the *Insiders' Guide* series began with one local guidebook to North Carolina's Outer Banks. Today, the series has grown to encompass more than seventy cities and regional destinations in the United States and Bermuda. With noteworthy depth of content and detail, the *Insiders' Guides* are super guides to the best places in the chosen areas, and each guide is written by locals who love where they live and portray the area's

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Edward Swift is a native of a small town in East Texas, but he has lived in New York City for most of his adult life. He is remembered for his previous novel, *Splendor*, and his nonfiction, *My Grandfather's Finger*, a family memoir. Presently, Swift is completing a screenplay based on his novel *Principia Martindale*.

Jim Gramon is a well-known folklorist, musician, and poet. He is the author of *Famous Texas Folklorists and Their Stories*, published by Republic of Texas Press. He lives near Austin, Texas.

Hilary Hylton is a freelance writer whose areas of expertise include business, social issues, politics, cuisine, and travel. Cam Rossie is also a freelance writer. She is a former correspondent for the Associated Press.

Steven A. Jent is also the author of *A Browser's Book of Texas History*, which was published in 2002.

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. He is completing a degree in computer information systems.

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charm and allure as only a local resident can do. In September 2000, the *Insiders' Guide* became part of the Globe Pequot Press, which also publishes Falcon Guides and Cadogan Guides.

More than two dozen areas of interest in Austin are reviewed in chapters on restaurants, night life, shopping, the music scene in Austin, attractions, stuff for kids to do, golfing, spectator sports, annual events and festivals, hotels and motels, schools and child care, media contacts, and places of worship. Each section is organized by regions of the area, and the numerous "insiders' tips" provide additional personal comments about the section.

The overview chapter and the succinct history and politics chapters help set the stage for this vibrant, cosmopolitan area that *Fortune* magazine listed in its 23 November 1998 issue as "The Best City for Business in North America." However, the chapter on getting to Austin and getting around leaves out all mention of just how very difficult it now is even to navigate a vehicle in this densely populated area that has seen phenomenal growth during the past two decades.

Highly recommended, along with others of these great *Insiders' Guide* series, for all public libraries.

HYLTON, HILARY, AND CAM ROSSIE. *INSIDERS' GUIDE TO AUSTIN*. 2ND ED. GUILFORD, CT: THE GLOBE PEQUOT PRESS, 2001. 515PP, MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, INDEX. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-57380-169-0.

A Browser's Book of Texas Quotations Steven A. Jent

Noteworthy Quotations from Texans and About Texas
Review by Dale Farris

Author and historian Jent (*A Browser's Book of Texas History*) brings together some 700 noteworthy quotations from Texans or about Texas, from the sixteenth century through the twentieth century. Collectively, this highly personalized assembly forms a portrait of Texas in the words of some of the people who

have lived and created the "Texas experience."

While modern, literary Texans may know who said, "The Texas Legislature consists of 181 people who meet for 140 days once every two years. This catastrophe has now occurred sixty-three times" (Milly Ivins), many do not necessarily know who said this when in 1949 when the Shamrock Hotel first opened in Houston: "I always wondered what the inside of a jukebox looked like" (Frank Lloyd Wright).

Jent's criteria used to filter the items include "fragments that would illuminate the character of Texas as it has evolved over the years," and items that come from plain people such as struggling homesteaders or the editors of one-page prairie newspapers. His focus is not to produce a volume of "Words for All Time," but instead a collection that comes from speeches, drawing room conversations, letters, journals, essays, newspapers, advertisements, songs, poems, and official legal and military documents. The effort is to find citations that are "by turns entertaining, revealing, surprising, or damning," and he succeeds in this super assortment of interesting things said by folks most readers may not recognize.

Citations from notables that made the cut include such well-known personalities as J. Frank Dobie, Larry McMurtry, Frederick Law Olmstead, Lyndon B. Johnson, Clyde Barrow, Woody Guthrie, and Belle Starr, but the collection is made even richer by the inclusion of many quotables from relatively unknown folks such as William Cowper Brann, the publisher of the monthly *Iconoclast*, land agent Jacob de Cordova, John Salmon "Rip" Ford, and Charles F. Rudolph.

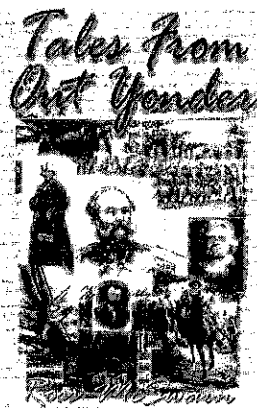
The entries are organized alphabetically, according to their subject matter, but as you would expect in such an eclectic collection, the subject headings are quite whimsical, in keeping with the author's effort to stay "in the Texas tradition of eccentricity (or contrariness)." The index by source helps browsers find quips and quotes by noted names, which may be the better place than the table of contents to start reading this neat collection. To further establish a link to readers, Jent has purposefully decided to include unconventional spellings in an effort to maintain the authentic flavor of the original text.

Even though this collection is not designed to be a systematic reference work and will likely not
(Continued on page nine)

(Continued from page eight)

contain the favorite Texas quotations all readers remember, nevertheless this is a definite certainty for Texana collections in all public libraries.

JENT, STEVEN A. *A BROWSER'S BOOK OF TEXAS QUOTATIONS*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2001. 287PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHS, INDEX. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-5562-844-9. 00-051751.



Tales From Out Yonder Ross McSwain

Going Out There

Review by Emma B. Hawkins

Tales From Out Yonder is the latest volume of a three-book series based on Ross McSwain's general-interest newspaper column entitled "Out Yonder" that appeared in the San Angelo *Standard Times* beginning in 1979 and continuing over a period of twenty years. Generally, the articles have been updated, edited, and new material added. However, there is some repetition among the three volumes: the account of the camels at Camp Verde, the story of Nazi POW camps during WWII, and tales about Cedar Choppers.

As he did in the first two books of the series, McSwain focuses on interesting people, places, and things from the fifty-four counties of southwest Texas, including the "drylands," the remote areas of Big Bend, the Hill country, and the Rolling Plains. The language is easy to comprehend, the sentences are simple in structure, and the description is concise but crammed with details. The numerous black and white photographs consist mostly of "stills," with the exception of the picture of Pancho

Villa at the Battle of Ojinaga.

In this third volume, McSwain finally provides a two-page bibliography and a four-page index, both of which are missing in the first two volumes. These additions will benefit Texas history buffs as well as those who prefer travel and sight seeing. For some of the more popular sights, McSwain even provides driving directions, days of operation, opening and closing times, and admission prices. In order to complete the series covering the broad expanse of Texas known as the Southwest, this book is a necessity.

MC SWAIN, ROSS. *TALES FROM OUT YONDER*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2001. 216PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-848-1.

Civil War in West Texas and New Mexico: The Lost Letterbook of Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley Jerry Thompson, ed.

Letters from the Civil War
Review by Max Loges

Normally when new primary material is released about an important event, readers greet the information with enthusiasm. It is questionable whether the lost letterbook of General Henry Hopkins Sibley will receive that kind of reception. Admittedly, the book has some praiseworthy features. Wilson and Thompson tell an interesting story of how the letterbook came to be lost and do a fine job of summarizing the book's content and the New Mexico campaign. The work is also an interesting example of a Civil War letterbook. These types of works aren't published very often; in fact, this is the first example I have seen.

The book's chief problem is the very reason why letterbooks are so infrequently published. It is very difficult to piece together any sort of story based on the letters, and most of the letters deal with such mundane subjects that it is difficult for even an avid reader of Civil War
(Continued on page ten)

Jerry Thompson, editor of *Civil War in West Texas and New Mexico: The Lost Letterbook of Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley*, also is the editor of *Into the Far, Wild Country: True Tales of the Old Southwest*.

Dr. Emma B. Hawkins is assistant professor of Medieval English language and literature at Lamar University.

Dr. Max Loges is an associate professor in the Department of English at Lamar University. He has published scholarly articles on a broad range of subjects.

Michelle Devlin's novel grew out of a journaling exercise designed for therapy; however, this book is not autobiographical. She is currently working on a second novel.

*Barbara Ewing, author of *Till Murder Do Us Part*, has also published a mystery novel entitled *Strangers*. Her novel *The Trespass* is due for release in July 2003.*

JoAn Martin is a retired reading and writing teacher. She has published numerous magazine articles and book reviews. Her young adult novel *Yankee Girl* was published in 2002.

(Continued from page nine)

material to maintain an interest in the book. Although none of the letters deal with accounts of battle, some are quite interesting. In #116, Sibley attempts to explain to Inspector General Cooper why the campaign that Sibley had so strongly advocated had ended in such abject failure. I also found letter 147 to Union Colonel Canby concerning the exchange of prisoners to be quite interesting.

The book is mainly written for researchers who will use it selectively, and for that purpose it serves a useful function. However, any reader attempting to obtain a "story" will most likely be disappointed.

THOMPSON, JERRY, ED. *CIVIL WAR IN WEST TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO: THE LOST LETTERBOOK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY HOPKINS SIBLEY*. EL PASO: TEXAS WESTERN PRESS, 2001. 193PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, \$23.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-87404-283-6.

Afraid of the Dark Michelle Devlin

A Dark Look at Drugs and Self-Abuse

Review by JoAn Martin

Afraid of the Dark is a fascinating view of the obsessive, compulsive behavior of a woman who continues to "use," even while undergoing therapy. The story is told almost entirely in first person dialogue. How could one person survive so many different medications day after day? How long will Alex stand by her? He is either an impossible-to-believe husband or a saint, to continue to be supportive. Ali, through the entire book, denies her dependency on alcohol, prescription pills, and marijuana, claiming she is not an addict. While seeing two doctors, entering rehab, and lying to friends, Ali considers it to be her own business how she lives her own life.

Because she struggles to complete her housework, connect with her dealer, and deceive her husband, Ali seemingly crawls from day to painful day. Ali spend every session with the doctors rehashing the blame, the shame and anger, the rage and guilt of sexual abuse that began when she was nine. Until she allows herself to remember her childhood, she will continue to need her drugs to drag through her day. Rehab is a dreaded

result, but Ali can tolerate rehab only by using drugs before and after. Her revelation of being abused by her stepfather and older cousin is almost too devastating to read. When she begins cutting herself, but keeping it a secret from everyone, and obviously feeling no pain, she has to go into a drug center. This self-abuse has been referred to as the "new anorexia."

The ending offers a resolution, but very little hope. The reader is compelled to stay with Ali through her "bouts of craziness and moments of sanity."

DEVLIN, MICHELLE. *AFRAID OF THE DARK*. BALTIMORE: PUBLISHAMERICA, 2001. 178PP. \$19.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58851-298-3

Till Murder Do Us Part Barbara Ewing

Intrigue at NASA

Review by JoAn W. Martin

With a sure sense of place, Barbara Ewing immerses the reader in interesting details of Johnson Space Center. The plot revolves around Marlow O'Kelley, a structural engineer, who has been married only six months when her beloved Pete, an astronaut, is killed in a motorcycle accident. Or was it an accident? Pete's boss, Harry, reveals to Marlow his suspicions that Pete might have been murdered. The next day Harry is murdered.

Bodies of space center employees begin to turn up on picnic tables and in training pools. Everyone offers Marlow a different perception of Pete, and to her utter confusion, Marlow feels her trust in Pete slipping away. Subplots and red herrings abound as the reader tries to untangle the cast of characters who seem bent on leading everyone astray. While Marlow analyzes three murders, the reader goes along for the ride.

Rich in sensory detail from the fishy, salty air of the bays to the tangy gumbo—even the spicy politics of the Clear Lake area—the settings give the reader the illusion of being there.

Fast-paced, *Till Murder Do Us Part* teases our brain and pulls us into the mystery, revealing no answers until the end.

EWING, BARBARA. *TILL MURDER DO US PART*. PHILADELPHIA: XLIBRIS CORPORATION, 2001. 268PP. \$31.99 CLOTH. ISBN 0-7388-9968-2.

Grand Old Texas Theaters that Won't Quit Joan Upton Hall and Stacey Hasbrook

Theaters, Tours, Ghosts

Review by JoAn Martin

Back when a ticket to a movie cost only five cents, up to contemporary times at six dollars plus, historic movie theaters are being preserved and restored across the state. Theater enthusiasts abide by the decree, "If you build it, they will come."

Fifty theaters cover the time line from 1886 to 1949. One of the most atmospheric is the Paramount, built in Abilene in 1930. Restored in 1986 with a two-story lobby, the ornate crystal chandeliers in the lobby compete with the stars twinkling in the ceiling of the auditorium.

Theaters outweigh other historic buildings as treasures. These are the locales of our earliest memories, emotional memories—our first date, our first kiss, holding hands in the dark. Citizens are not content to part with their pasts.

These palaces first succeeded, then failed, and subsequently have been restored. Many of the theaters over the years have offered an assortment of performance venues: vaudeville, silent movies, talkies, musical and dance programs, live community theater, and Broadway shows.

In response to the question, "Is this theater haunted?" one manager answered, "Aren't they all?" In a Wichita Falls opera house, a ghost has been sighted dashing across the upstairs lobby. In Texarkana's Perot, a technician was saved from falling off the catwalk, but when he turned, no one was there. The Granbury Opera house boasts a ghost who moves props and plays with the lights and door locks.

The book offers numerous resources for people interested in history, theaters, restoration, and hauntings.

HALL, JOAN UPTON, AND STACEY HASBROOK. *GRAND OLD TEXAS THEATERS THAT WON'T QUIT*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2002. 284PP, INDEX, GLOSSARY, RESOURCES. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-884-8.

Man of Aztlan: A Biography of Rudolfo Anaya Abelardo Baeza

The Paisano

Review by Andrew B. Preslar

This small but informative volume celebrates the life and art of the author whose acclaimed novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*, is considered by many scholars to be the first true, and since archetypal, Chicano novel, and Anaya himself is widely regarded as a literary artist of the first rank exclusive of genre.

This critical biography narrates Anaya's origins, formative years, and emergence into literary maturity, while drawing connections between key events and the attitudes and effects they engendered. In that sense this is a standard work. The language of the biography is deceptively simple, but the information is meticulously organized and the narrative elements artfully synthesized into a cohesive density from which a surprising amount of information may be easily drawn. This quality makes the book admirably suited for junior high and prep school students doing research projects or for general readers whose appreciation of Anaya's work leads them to learn more about his life or seek a heightened cultural awareness.

Any Anaya fan would enjoy this quick read, but the inclusion of a short list of secondary sources cited may be especially helpful to scholars just beginning to investigate the body of criticism extant on Anaya's work. Its applicability to advanced scholarly study, however, would be limited. Recommended for ninth grade readers up to college sophomores.



BAEZA, ABELARDO. *MAN OF AZTLAN: A BIOGRAPHY OF RUDOLFO ANAYA*. AUSTIN: EAKIN PRESS, 2001. 85PP, B&W PHOTOGRAPHS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, CHRONOLOGY. \$14.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-57168-564-2.

Joan Upton Hall and Stacey Hasbrook run a private consulting service for writers, providing workshops and speaking at conferences. Hall teaches writing technique classes, and Hasbrook has coproduced and conducted interviews for an Austin radio talk show. Both authors reside in Austin.

Grand Old Texas Theaters is a guidebook for touring Texas, theater by theater. At the end of the chapter, each theater is identified by address, phone number, email, and web site.

Andrew Preslar is an award-winning instructor of English at Lamar State College-Orange and has served as contributor and associate editor for *Review of Texas Books* for over a decade. He has published critical articles, fiction, and poetry, but his purpose in life is spoiling his wife and son.

Stephen Neal Manning grew up on military bases as the son of a U.S. Air Force officer. He has maintained a lifelong interest in military history and World War II veterans. He lives in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Karen Breneman is a member of Master Gardeners and the Texas Master Naturalist Program. She lives in Houston, Texas.

Frances 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.

Texans Touched by World War II Stephen Neal Manning

Living Archives: Texans Remember WWII
Review by Andrew B. Preslar

The son of an Air Force officer and a military history buff, Manning has managed, in this fascinating and terrifying book, to access and preserve a portion of a priceless but swiftly vanishing resource: the Texas veterans and citizens who survived World War II. "Each one of these people," Manning observes, "is a walking, talking search engine [who can] bring a different era to life for us if we are willing to listen."

And listen he does. In thirteen chapters Manning records his interviews with men and women representing every aspect of the war effort: from Louis Reed, an infantryman who survived the Bataan Death March and the subsequent nightmare years' imprisonment; to the six Thompson sisters, Rosies who worked in the Consolidated B-24 factory in Fort Worth; to B. C. Henderson, who survived the Battle of the Bulge, each interview emphasizes a different element of the long and brutal conflict whose progress and outcome shaped the face of our world.

Manning's occasional empathetic or introspective commentary reminds the reader of the journalist's role in focusing the images he shows us, but his interjections are neither obtrusive nor sanctimonious. Minor editing lapses (B. C. Henderson arrived at the front in 1944, not '94, for instance) are neither frequent nor serious enough to seriously compromise the overall high quality of the product. Recommended.

MANNING, STEPHEN NEAL. *TEXANS TOUCHED BY WORLD WAR II*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2003. 315PP. B&W PHOTOS, INDEX. \$19.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-942-9.

Gardening with Nature in Texas Karen M. Breneman

Gardening with Nature
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Karen Breneman has written a comprehensive guide for Texans who want to enjoy environmentally friendly gardens that are easily maintained and that provide habitat for interesting wildlife. She explains the advantages of using native plants and the dangers of invasive exotics. Maps denote the geological and ecological regions of Texas with indications of soil types and rainfall. The book includes such chapter titles as "Waterwise Gardening," "Texas Wildflowers," "Texas Wildscapes—Habitat Gardening," "Alternatives to Turf—Vegetables and Companions," "Water Gardening," "Thieves and Robbers" (invasive plants and animals), "Integrated Pest Management," "Fire Ants," "Compost," and "Proper Pruning."

The author joined Master Gardeners in 1991 and the Texas Master Naturalist Program in 1999. She and her husband have applied the principles of these programs to create a habitat garden. Included tables list native plants, recommended turf grasses, native ground covers, and a Texas vegetable planting guide. Appendices include recommended reading, organizations affiliated with gardening and nature, and a wildscape plan with listed plants. Breneman argues convincingly that by using mostly native plants and natural methods of pest control one will have time to enjoy a beautiful garden with less chance of polluting the environment or wasting natural resources.

BRENNEMAN, KAREN M. *GARDENING WITH NATURE IN TEXAS*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2002. 246PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, APPENDICES. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1556622-891-0. 2002000460.

Altoona Up North Janie Bynum

There's No Place Like Home
Review by Frances Ramsey

If one is not deterred by the idea of a baboon, a raccoon, and a loon traveling from Laguna Beach to Saskatoon to visit the lonely aunt of Altoona Baboona, the breezy rhyming text will provide a rollicking northern adventure. Auntie takes them fishing, sledding, hiking, skiing, and camping. When they are exhausted, the friends sleep in a hay cart while Auntie navigates and surprises them by being back at the sunny beach. Janie Bynum's colorful illustrations depict the pleasures and pitfalls of seeking such excitement.

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An endpaper map of North America shows the route the friends have taken. This juvenile fiction is suitable for ages four through eight.

BYNUM, JANIE. *ALTOONA UP NORTH*. NEW YORK: HARCOURT, 2001. 32PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$14.00 CLOTH ISBN 0-15-202313-5. 00-10988.

The Bug Cemetery

Frances Hill

Make-Believe Undertaking

Review by Frances Ramsey

Frances Hill has written an insightful book that sensitively explores the feelings that arise after the loss of a loved one. When the narrator finds a dead ladybug, his sister, Wilma, paints a rock for a headstone, and he picks flowers to cover the grave. Wilma makes a moving speech, and he pretends to cry. His finding the dead ladybug is so interesting that other children bring dead bugs to their cemetery, and business booms. Then their friend's cat, Buster, is hit by a car, and they all shed real tears when they bury him among the bugs that he loved to chase. "Funerals aren't any fun when they're for someone you love." The children help their father plant a flower bed around Buster's grave, and now it is full of flowers and butterflies.

HILL, FRANCES. *THE BUG CEMETERY*. NEW YORK: HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY, 2002. UNNUMBERED PAGES. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-8050-6370-6. 00-57532.

The Way of the Coyote

Elmer Kelton

Badger Boy Meets Andy Pickard

Review by Sallye Sheppard

Bringing forward action and characters from his previous novel, *Badger Boy*, *The Way of the Coyote* represents Elmer Kelton's most recent installment in the life and times of former Texas Ranger Rusty Shannon. Kelton's narrative emphasizes the difficulties of frontier life in Reconstruction Texas, where the law is often more inflicted than enforced. In such an environment, injustices are compounded by a handful of unscrupulous

local characters determined to advance their own causes at the expense of others. As corruption and greed seek to undermine honor and decency, Shannon and his neighbors are called upon to mentor seventeen-year-old Andy Pickard in his struggle to reconcile life in the white man's world of his birth with life in the Comanche world of his upbringing as Badger Boy. The novel's title derives from the coyote, the trickster of Native American myth, whose penchant for deceit and duplicity Andy initially assumes to be only negative and characteristic only of white behavior. Readily evoking both positive and negative associations, however, the image and dual nature of the coyote eventually permeate Andy's perceptions of himself and of the two cultures that have shaped him.

The Way of the Coyote stands as testament to Elmer Kelton's consistently honest treatment of the times and people that he so obviously loves. No doubt some readers will be tempted to speak of this novel only in terms of its kinship to the Western genre. Nevertheless, the book deserves praise for its reflection of Texas during the decade following the Civil War, a period in which a failed post-war economy, the continued threat of Indian raids, the cankerous hostility toward newly freed slaves and former Union loyalists, and the nascent stirrings of Klan activity compounded the difficulties of an already perilous frontier existence. Kelton demonstrates not only a grasp of historical events but also an unerring sense of how these events affected the daily lives of ordinary people. Kelton's frontier people live in a world of murder, kidnapping, war, and poverty, a world in which the practical necessities of survival have little to do with accepted notions of heroic grandeur.

The novel offers much to admire. Kelton's characters are true, his protagonists as unpolished and decent as his villains are unprincipled and mean-spirited. Similarly characteristic are Kelton's portrayal of unpretentious heroism among ordinary people motivated by hard work and decency to bring order to an often uncompromising land; his refusal to trivialize or demonize indigenous Plains peoples motivated by the real and present threat of extinction; and his sensitivity to the conflicted ethical stances of peoples who approach life from widely disparate traditions, cultural perspectives, and value systems. Finally, *The Way of the Coyote* contains the
(Continued on page fourteen)

Janie Bynum was born and raised in Texas. Her other juvenile works include *Otis* and *Altoona Baboona*. She has also illustrated *Too Big, Too Small, Just Right* and *Porcupining: A Prickly Love Story*.

Frances Hill, who lives in Austin, had a bug cemetery as a child. *The Bug Cemetery* is her first book for young readers. Vera Rosenberry's illustrations capture the children's emotions with tenderness and portray the colorful flowers and insects realistically.

Elmer Kelton is the author of numerous novels and the recipient of countless awards, including those for lifetime achievement from Western Writers of America, the Texas Institute of Letters, and the Western Literature Association.

Donley Watt has published one novel, *The Journey of Hector Rabinal* (1994), also available in a Spanish language version *El Viaje de Hector Ravinal. Una Novela* (1995) and two novellas under the title *Haley, Texas 1959*. In 1994 the Texas Institute of Letters awarded him the Steven E. Turner Award for best first work of fiction for his collection of short stories, *Can You Get There from Here? An Athens native who has worn many career hats, Watt lives in San Antonio.*

Sandra Gail Teichmann is the author of *Killing Daddy: A Caprock Story*. She is Associate Professor of English at West Texas A&M University.

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

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solid narrative structures and unassuming elegance that Kelton's most devoted fans have come to expect and appreciate. Nevertheless, even they might hope that the next novel will advance its plot without the necessity of rescuing yet another child from Comanche warriors or, for that matter, from white settlers.

KELTON, ELMER. *THE WAY OF THE COYOTE*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2001. 283PP. \$23.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-312-87318-2.

Reynolds Donley Watt

Life After Success: A Modern East Texas Tale

Review by Sallye Sheppard

A carefully crafted work by a first-rate writer, Donley Watt's *Reynolds* captures both the letter and the spirit of life in small-town East Texas, its heritage more traditional southern than frontier western, its sensibilities shaped less by rugged individualism than by neurotic pretentiousness. Watt's title character is Ray Reynolds, Jr., known simply as Reynolds in order to distinguish him from his father, Ray Senior. A forty-six-year-old failed banker, Reynolds owns the Lake City Liquor Store near the southern end of Clear Creek Lake, his boat ramp providing both sole access to the lake at his end and, as it happens, his only brother's opportunity to run afoul of the ATF. In spite of his apparent potential for success, Reynolds has a talent for failure that has affected his personal relationships just as surely as it ended his earlier banking career. His ex-wife Sheila, who has retreated to her father's ranch outside Odessa, remains a friend and the two share the bull and bear markets of their love affairs by telephone. Their sons Garry and Larry live with Sheila, and Reynolds has difficulty relating to them on the rare occasions that they visit.

A man of eclectic musical taste, Reynolds may just as well listen to Bach's Goldberg Variations and Beethoven sonatas (favoring Bach) as to Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, or Dave Brubeck. He lives in a trailer behind the liquor store with a woman almost half his age, a waitress at the nearby Next-to-Nothing Café, with whom he has become bored, as has she with him. Although Reynolds' lovers leave

him, some quicker than others, he seems content with his life. Reynolds has come to think of himself not as a failure but as unpretentious, not as someone incapable of maintaining a successful career and marriage but as someone who lives a flawed but honest life more worthy than those of people who measure integrity by traditional small-town East Texas standards. Reynolds is a complicated individual, at once a remarkably self-enlightened and self-deluded man.

Whether they hail from Watt's own hometown, readers reared in East Texas will identify quickly with the people of his fictionalized Cottonwood near Clear Creek Lake, east and slightly south of Dallas. Watts populates Cottonwood with characters as familiar as one's own relatives and neighbors. Among them are Reynolds' younger brother, Perry, a local do-right high school government teacher and former Marine with far-right political and religious leanings and a guilty secret known only by his wife, his father, and—before the novel ends—by Reynolds. Edwina and Ray Senior, Reynolds' aging parents, live in the same house but share nothing in common but their long-dead marriage. Ray Senior, a Ford truck salesman, occupies his spare time trying to finish the perpetual motion machine that he considers his real life's work, while Edwina shores up her own emptiness with a palpably self-righteous emphasis on family values.

Watt lures his readers into his narrative with the skill of a patient fisherman, providing the bait and playing the line until they are irretrievably hooked. Unlike the fish, however, they will find the experience rewarding. No doubt they will come away from *Reynolds* not only anticipating Watt's next book but also wanting to know more about him and his other works.

WATT, DONLEY. *REYNOLDS*. FORT WORTH: TCU PRESS, 2002. 191PP. \$24.50 CLOTH. ISBN 0-87565-256-5.

More than Petticoats Greta Anderson

Stories of Texas Women

Review by Sandra Gail Teichmann

Greta Anderson, in gathering the stories of ten Texas women born before 1900, presents some well-known as well as some obscure personalities who have had an impact on Texas.

(Continued on page fifteen)

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Among the best-known are Cynthia Parker, Mary Ann Goodnight, Ima Hogg, and Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan. Of interest are the lesser known: Sarah Bowman, a woman who took in stride, as well as any man, what the West of 1846 had to offer; Martha White McWhirter, a feminist in the late 1800s; Sofie Herzog Huntington, a medical doctor for the railroad workers in the Brazoria area in the early 1900s; Sara Estela Ramirez, poet; Jessie Daniel Ames, an antilynching crusader; and Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman aviator.

All of the stories, delightfully packed with details and anecdotes, are a pleasure to read. The book is beautifully presented and features a helpful index and a lovely portrait of each woman, excepting Sarah Bowman and Sara Estela Ramirez. I am pleased to be adding this title to my personal library.

ANDERSON, GRETA. *MORE THAN PETTICOATS: REMARKABLE WOMEN OF TEXAS*. GUILFORD, CT: TWO DOT, 2002. 118PP. PHOTOGRAPHS, INDEX. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-7627-1273-2.

George W. Carroll: Southern Capitalist and Dedicated Beaumont Baptist

Terry Lee Rioux

A Man Who Was a Practitioner of Applied Christianity and a Capitalist, Too
Review by Jon P. Tritsch

This is truly a book that should appeal to the varied interests of historians, researchers, and even general readers. It is a biography of a devout and committed Christian, a savvy businessman, a financier, a philanthropist, an ardent prohibitionist, and a candidate of the Prohibition Party for both state and national offices. It is a story of how a man made a fortune only to lose it, and still consider himself the richer for being able to use it for the benefit and betterment of others.

The book also shows Carroll's multiple involvement with the lumber and sawmill industries of East Texas, with the transformation and growth of the city of

Beaumont, with the Spindletop Oil Boom, with banking and investment interests, with the local and state Baptist associations, with the nurturing of Baylor University, with the rise and fall of the prohibition movement, and so forth. Carroll's personal relationships with such legendary Texas individuals as Pattillo Higgins, Anthony Lucas, and John Henry Kirby figured prominently in his life as well. The name of George W. Carroll may not be familiar now, but after reading this fascinating story of his life, one can appreciate the impact this one individual had not only on his community, but also on the state and national level as well.

RIOUX, TERRY LEE. *GEORGE W. CARROLL: SOUTHERN CAPITALIST AND DEDICATED BEAUMONT BAPTIST*. AUSTIN: EAKIN, 2001. 178PP. PHOTOGRAPHS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX. \$22.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-57168-532-4. 2001-40488.

Texas Trains

Richard K. Troxell

A Treasure Trove of Texas Train Trivia
Review by Jon P. Tritsch

In compiling this guidebook, Richard Troxell traveled close to 11,000 miles surveying numerous Texas communities and collecting pictures of locomotives, of train depots, and even of largely unknown train tunnels. The communities surveyed are arranged alphabetically into seven broad geographic areas in Texas. The author also provides a brief sketch of a train-related history or story for each of the cities and towns visited. As an added bonus of interest to this book, Troxell indicates that a Fredericksburg custom jewelry designer has made a single tiny replica of a locomotive in 18-carat gold. This piece, valued at \$10,000, is hidden somewhere in Texas, and the clues to finding it have been hidden in the pages of the book.

This book is neither a scholarly history of the railroad industry nor a survey of the many railroad companies that have operated or continue to operate today in the state. This guidebook of train trivia, facts, and stories does fill a niche that should appeal to Texas train enthusiasts, to the general reader, and to the treasure hunter.

TROXELL, RICHARD K. *TEXAS TRAINS*. PLANO: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2002. 302PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, BIBLIOGRAPHY. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-881-3. 2001-48851.

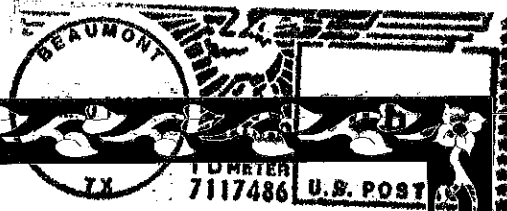
Greta Anderson teaches at Kirkwood Community College and lives in Iowa city. Her book *More than Petticoats* also appears in print as *More than Petticoats: Remarkable Texas Women as part of a series exploring important women throughout various states.*

Terry Lee Rioux's first book is very well researched, with many photographs and an excellent bibliography. It would be a great selection for both academic and public libraries.

Richard K. Troxell's *Texas Trains* offers a bibliography of train-related material and is recommended for public and academic libraries.

Review of Texas Books

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