

10-1979

Book Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

(1979) "Book Notes," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 17: Iss. 2, Article 11.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol17/iss2/11>

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized administrator of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Book Notes

Calendar art buffs and Texas historians and folklorists now have a mutual interest focus: The Callcott-Collinson Calendar. Callcott-Collinson has issued a most interesting document to mark the passage of the year. The practical uses of the item, are, obviously, to help the forgetful stay on pace with payday and other meaningful dates. One would expect a calendar to do at least that much. But this one does so much more. Each date is captioned to remind the user of some meaningful anniversary from Texas history and in the absence of an Alamo or Inauguration, just some interesting tidbit is provided. The fold back pages use photographs from the W.D. Smithers Collection and the Austin-Travis County Collection to "picture" something appropriate from Texas history. My favorite is from March. It is a 1917 photo of the Alamo, which shows an automobile agency jammed up against the south wall, and that grand oak in the plaza is just a sappling. Old photos are fun, and this calendar is too. Best of all, it is only the first of a promised series of calendars which will feature the same kinds of things in future years. This calendar was compiled by the staff of the Stevenson Press, and is available at 1214 West 5th Street, P.O. Box 10021, Austin, Texas 78766. The price is \$4.95 (5% tax for Texas residents).

Malcom McLean's *Papers Concerning Robertson's Colony* rolls on. At hand is Volume V of his major work, which covers the period from October 11, 1830 through March 5, 1831. This volume contains the official documents leading up to the establishment of the Austin and Williams contract, the largest of the forty colonization enterprises undertaken while Texas was still a part of Mexico. Many of these documents are made available here in English translation for the first time. This volume brings a few surprises: it shows a more kindly treatment of Indians by Mexicans than had been thought, suggests that Mexican officers were deeply involved in smuggling activities, that Robertson and Alexander Thomson cut a road around Nacogdoches at night because they had no valid passports with which to pass legally through the town, and finally, that Stephen F. Austin was not above printing bogus certificates for his immigrants. These documents again seem to reveal Austin as much more interested in personal gain than is usually assumed. The volume may be ordered from The University of Texas at Arlington Press, UTA Box 19929, Arlington, Texas 76019 for \$25. The book contains a bibliography and an index, and is Volume V of a continuing series.

Why Stop? is the kind of book you always wish for as you speed by historical markers at seventy-five, or, fifty-five miles per hour. You always mean to stop and see what event or happenstance occurred there, but you never have the time. *Why Stop?*, compiled by Claude W. Dooley, is the answer. It is an encyclopedia of some 2,850 markers located along Texas' federal and state highways. Over 6,000 such markers have been erected over the state, but no attempt is made to include them all. Many are not really accessible by motor car, and this volume is oriented to the motoring public. It is easy to use. Texas towns are listed alphabetically, then each marker is listed under the town reference, complete with distance from the community. Then the inscription on the marker is reproduced. There is also an index. The book may be ordered from Lone Star Legends, P.O. Box 1646, Odessa, Texas 79760 for \$8.95, which includes handling and tax.

A number of years ago, before she moved to West Texas, Madeline Martin compiled Thomas Wilson's recollections under the title *Some Early Southeast Texas Families*. The book was published in 1965 by the Lone Star Press, which was a euphemism for Cooper Ragan, who has helped many a historical effort. The book was interesting, it was helpful to genealogists, and it was successful. I have mailed copies to relatives as far away as Washington state. Now comes *More Early Southeast Texas Families*, which includes biographies of families "from the colonial period when Moses Austin was authorized to introduce his first 300 families for settling in Texas until March 2, 1836." The southeast Texas included in this book embraces the area bounded on the north by El Camino Real from Gaines Ferry to Ayish Bayou and then in a southwesterly direction to the Trinity River; on the south it extends to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the east to Sabine Pass and up the river. This includes all or parts of San Augustine, Sabine, Newton, Jasper, Tyler, Polk, Liberty, Chambers, Hardin, Orange, and Jefferson counties. An attempt was made to include some families from each county, and twenty-nine families are discussed. Except for the Bevil family, there is no duplication from the earlier work. This book was published by Eakin Publications, P.O. Box 178, Burnet, Texas 78611, and may be ordered from them for \$10.

Coronado's Children first appeared nearly a half-century ago, and its luster is undimmed. A collection of tales about those

who searched the southwest for treasure, *Coronado's Children* remains one of J. Frank Dobie's best known and best loved works. This is about the fourth time the book has been reissued or reprinted. A fresh foreword by recently retired publisher Frank H. Wardlaw on his association with Dobie while both worked at the University of Texas adds measureably to the present edition. As always, Dobie's stories are good stories; they deal with people and their ways, with the country they lived in and the way they lived in it. Those who have worn out their earlier editions, or who were born too late to get one, will welcome this publication from the University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78712. The price is \$9.95.

This is something of a Dobie year; also appearing recently is Lon Tinkle's *An American Original, The Life of J. Frank Dobie*. This book is available from Little Brown of Boston for \$10. It is the first major biography of Dobie, Texas' master story-teller. Tinkle is himself a major southwestern writer, and is admirably suited for his subject. Dobie was born in 1888, and grew up in the South Texas bush country when the open range days of the great cattle drives had just passed. He knew the men who had lived the deeds, heard their stories and eventually became the person most responsible for preserving them. Dobie introduced the now-famous University of Texas literature course which dealt with the life and literature of the southwest. When scoffed at because critics said there was no literature there, he replied that there was plenty of life and went about his business of being, in the words of the title, an original. By the time of his death in 1964 both Dobie and his subject had achieved international fame, and what was harder, Texas acclaim.

Civil War buffs and Old South advocates will note a new biography about the leader of the Lost Cause, *Jefferson Davis*. The book is by retired University of Kentucky historian Clement Eaton, and is available from the Free Press, a division of Macmillan, for \$12.95. Eaton's treatment is the first book on Davis to appear in some time, perhaps evidence of a renewed interest sparked by the continuing publication of Davis' papers by the project headquartered at Rice University. This book is brief, especially in Davis' earlier years, but is worth reading.

Other books received include Ludwell H. Johnson's *Division & Reunion: America, 1848-1877* (John Wiley & Sons:

Somerset, N.J.), for \$7.97. It is in the American Republic Series, edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher. It presents controversial interpretations of military and political leadership.

Lawrence Goodwyn's *The Populist Moment, A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*, published by the Oxford University Press and available in paper for \$4.95, is also controversial. In its author's words, "This book is about the flowering of the largest democratic mass movement in American history. It is also necessarily a book about democracy itself. Finally, it is about why Americans have far less democracy than they like to think and what would have to happen to alter that situation."

Three paperback collections of symposia presentations have recently been published by the University of Mississippi Press. *What Was Freedom's Price, The Age of Segregation: Race Relations in the South, 1890-1945*, and *Perspectives and Irony in American Slavery*, are the result of Ole Miss' annual conference on southern history. Essayists include such notable author-teachers as Willie Lee Rose, C. Vann Woodward, Carl Degler, Eugene Genovese, Kenneth M. Stampp, Stanley Engerman, Dan Carter, and George Tindall. Each is available in paper for under four dollars from The University of Mississippi Press, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson Mississippi 39211.

Finally, Carl M. Brauer's *John F. Kennedy and the Second Reconstruction*, published by Columbia University Press, deals with the leadership of Kennedy in the early 1960s in the reconstruction of the nation through civil rights activities. The book recounts how the Kennedy administration responded to a number of dramatic racial crises in the South, including the Freedom Rides, the Albany Movement, the desegregation of Ole Miss, and the George Wallace movement.