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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Historic Preservation in Small Towns: A Manual of Practice.

By Arthur P. Ziegler and Walter C. Kidney. (American Association for State and Local History, 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203), 1980. Appendix, Index, Bibliography. p. 146. \$8.95.

Historic Preservation in Small Towns: A Manual of Practice by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and Walter C. Kidney is a useful, yet disappointing volume. Written as a companion to Ziegler's *Historic Preservation for Inner City Areas*, the work combines a discussion of preservation methodology with case studies of preservation activity in cities of under 50,000 in population and in rural areas. According to the authors, this is a "how-to sourcebook" or a "how-some-have-done-it sourcebook" and as such, is of some value for the beginner in historic preservation.

Most useful are the discussions of strategies to be used by preservationists, some of the case studies and the appendicies and bibliography which list national preservation agencies, addresses of state preservation officers and useful works on historic preservation. Also of value is the discussion of the financial and economic aspects of preservation. Too often, beginners in the field attempt to save a building and fail before they begin by neglecting economic factors.

Three of the six case studies, written by preservationists in Hudson, Ohio, Galveston, Texas and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, are thoughtful accounts of the activities, both successes and failures, of groups within these communities. Of particular interest is the sense of awareness which these preservation officials show in terms of the place of preservation in the entire community. The other three, written by Walter C. Kidney, are brief accounts of preservation in a series of New England villages and well have been replaced by one more substantial account of preservation activities in a rural setting, such as The Green Spring of Virginia.

In a sense, the case studies are indicative of the book's liabilities. Although designed to deal with small cities, villages and rural areas, the case studies either describe activities in cities which are at the upper limit of the population criteria (Galveston is larger than 50,000), or refer to small communities which are little more than suburbs of large cities. The reader is forced to ask whether or not historic preservation is viable in small towns if the authors of a book on the subject fail to cite any examples among the case studies. Yet communities referred to in the photographs and the captions, which rarely are related to the text, are examples of this activity and the book would have been improved had more explicit use of that experience been included.

The authors also fail to deal with the emotional problems associated with historic preservation. Charges of "elitism" plague the preservation movement, as does the image of "newcomer versus native." The authors owe the reader, particularly one who is just getting involved in historic preservation, more than the suggestion that local critics be co-opted into preservation by persuading them that they too may be a part of the "elite." The only intimations of the substance of and solutions to the problem are to be found in the case studies describing Galveston, Texas by Peter Brink, Hudson, Ohio by Patricia Eldridge and Murfreesboro, Tennessee by James Huhta.

Finally, the authors do not provide standards other than age for determining if a structure should be preserved. One gathers that, in the minds of the authors, the earlier a structure, the better it is. Clearly, buildings of the mid-twentieth century are, in their minds, not worth preserving. The authors should recall that, for many communities, factors such as age and personal taste are not sufficient standards for an effective preservation program. The former may not be relevant and the latter is uncertain. Use and historical association are also important and should be discussed.

In these ways, the book is of limited value. The new preservationist may find some helpful guides and thoughts, but will soon outgrow the book when faced with the day-to-day realities of preservation, and the more experienced preservationist has no need for the volume.

Patrick H. Butler III
Galveston, Texas

New Spain's Far Northern Frontier. Edited by David J. Weber.
(University of New Mexico Press, University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87100), 1979. Notes, Index,
Illustrations. p. 321. \$9.95.

New Spain's Far Northern Frontier is a collection of eighteen essays on Spain in the American West from their first explorations in the New World to their loss of their Western hemisphere holding.

The essays within this work are: "The Significance of the Spanish Borderlands to the United States," Donald E. Worcester; "The Search for the Fabulous in the Settlement of the Southwest," George P. Hammond; "Spanish Scientific Exploration Along the Pacific Coast," Donald C. Cutter; "The Mission as a Frontier Institution in the Spanish American Colonies," Herbert Bolton; "The Presidio: Fortress or Farce?" Oddie B. Faulk; "The Ranching Frontier: Spanish Institutional Backgrounds of Plains Cattle Industry," Sandra L. Nyres; "Settlement

Patterns and Village Plans in Colonial New Mexico," Marc Simmons; "California's Hispanic Heritage: A View Point into the Spanish Myth," Manuel Servin; "Comparative Demographic Analysis of Texas, 1777-1793," Alicia Tjarks; "The California Frontier," C. Allan Hutchinson; "The Frontiers of Hispanic America," Silois Zavala; "The North of New Spain as a Political Problem in the Eighteenth Century," Luis Garcia; "Spanish Indian Policy in Northern New Mexico, 1765-1810," Joseph F. Park; "Shifting for Survival in the Spanish Southwest," Albert H. Schroeder; "Indians and the Breakdown of the Spanish Mission System in California," George H. Phillip; "The Flowering and Decline of the Mexican Santero, 1789-1900," William Wroth; "Spaniards, Environment, and the Pepsi Generation," John L. Kessell; and "Scarce More than Apes: Historical Roots of Anglo-American Stereotypes of Mexicans," David J. Webster.

All these essays describe the Spanish-Mexican impact on the culture of the Southwest. Two of the articles deserve special attention. The first, "The Significance of the Spanish Borderlands of the United States," by Donald E. Worcester, asserts that the Spaniards influenced the laws that are still in effect today in the Southwest, especially those laws that govern marriages, communal property, and water rights. And, "California's Hispanic Heritage: A View Point of the Spanish Myth," by Manuel Servin, calls for a reexamination of the mestizos in the history of the Borderlands.

Billy Lindley
Kilgore

Mexican Folktales from the Borderland. By Riley Aiken. (Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75275), 1980. p. 159. \$10.00.

Riley Aiken began collecting folktales in 1929. Consequently, in search of interesting materials he traveled through the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. Aiken also journeyed through the chaparral of Cameron, Maverick, and Presidio counties along the Rio Grande. The compilation of such pursuits Aiken contributed to the Texas Folklore Society which, in turn, published his stories from 1935 until 1964. Not surprisingly, some of Aiken's contributions appeared in J. Frank Dobie's *Puro Mexicano*.

In his encounter with Mexican folktales, Aiken discovered that many stories had Old World origins that underwent alteration to fit the New World cultural landscape of colonial New Spain. He perceived that the art of narrating tales stemmed from the experiences of ordinary people. Often a mere fragment of a traumatic episode, modified and embellished, resulted in an orderly recitation replete with dialogue, drama, and resolution. Most stories emerged in the form of legends,

myths, or tales, all of which required an uncluttered, forward-moving methodology of re-telling for preservation and transmission. Aiken's *cuENTOS* are tied together by unifying themes of adventure, bewilderment, humor, and irony.

With acute sensitivity and respect for the Hispano-Indio heritage of the Mexican people, Riley Aiken reconstructed his collection of *cuENTOS* in English, carefully choosing the appropriate words to convey the essence of an idea, retaining Spanish as a vehicle for terms that defied translation. *Mexican Folktales from the Borderlands* is an entertaining, informative, and instructional volume that permits the reader to appreciate the pathos and humor of the Spanish-dominant regional culture.

Felix D. Almaraz, Jr.

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Comparative Frontiers: A Proposal for Studying the American West.

By Jerome O. Steffen. (University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73069), 1980.

Index, Bibliography, Notes. p. 139. \$10.95.

Periodically, historians call on their fellows in a certain research field to be more sophisticated and less provincial, and to become more familiar with the work of scholars in other disciplines. Jerome O. Steffen is issuing such a call to historians who study the frontier experience in the United States. Steffen is properly concerned. Some historians have given the impression that they thought "frontier history" was little more than tales of eccentric mountain men, melodramatic gunfights, and colorful cowboys.

Steffen not only emphasizes the need for frontier historians to read ethnological studies of American Indian tribes, but also challenges them to ponder the broader studies of geographers, sociologists, and anthropologists. Furthermore, Steffen calls for historians of the frontier to make more comparisons between American frontiers, arguing that they should use more sophisticated methods and terminology. He suggests (pp. x-xi) that change on a frontier should be judged as either "fundamental"—replacing old concepts and thus leading to striking changes in traditional practices, or "modal"—outward changes of a practice "whose conceptual foundation remained essentially the same." Moreover, Steffen points out that the amount of contact between a frontier and its base (or "parent culture") affects the type of change. An "insular" frontier having infrequent contacts ("links") with its base, is likely to be more affected by environment, and will thus experience more fundamental changes than one having more contacts with the parent culture. The more links a frontier has with its base, the more

"cosmopolitan" it will be (pp. xi-xii). Steffen picks four frontiers (furtrading; ranching; mining; and Cis-Mississippi farming), and judges how insular or cosmopolitan each example was. He reaches interesting conclusions which make worthwhile reading and includes an excellent bibliography. Unfortunately, the author's frequent use of the passive voice will put off some readers. But frontier historians will benefit from reading Steffen's proposals in *Comparative Frontiers*.

Joseph G. Dawson III
Texas A&M University at Galveston

A Weekend in September. By John Edward Weems. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1980. Photographs, Index, Acknowledgements, p. 180. \$10.95.

A highly interesting and completely factual book, though it reads like a novel, *A Weekend In September* is the best account ever turned out on Galveston's great disaster, the 1900 storm.

Originally published in 1957, the book has been re-issued by the Texas A&M University Press. As a contribution to intelligence about the 1900 Storm the book seems more valuable and interesting today than when it was originally published. The opportunity ever to assemble another first-person account of the events of that week-end in Galveston is forever gone. Galveston does have, perhaps, a half dozen people still living today who can recall the storm, but they were so young at the time that they can remember only bits and pieces of the whole story.

By interviewing seventy-one people, whom he lists by name in the back of his book, Mr. Weems is able to present the full dramatic and factual details, including in 1957 about a dozen eye-witnesses who were adults in 1900, and the results as set down by the author make for exciting reading, without any embellishment.

Bob Dalehite, Galveston historian, proprietor of the *San Luis Press*, and himself an authority on the 1900 storm, in 1975 reprinted "The Story of the Galveston Disaster," an article written by Walter B. Stevens for the December, 1900, issue of *Munsey's Magazine*. At the end of the reprint Dalehite presents his bibliography of the best books and articles which have appeared on the Galveston disaster.

Of Mr. Weems' *A Weekend In September*, Dalehite says: "The most accurate and interesting of any on this list. Mr. Weems' timing was perfect, as he was able to interview Galvestonians who were adults in 1900, many of whom were directly involved in the reorganization of the city after the storm."

Again, we commend Mr. Weems for his fine contribution to the

drama and facts about the great Galveston disaster, which forever changed the course of the city's history, and we recommend that every person interested in history have a copy of it on his bookshelves.

Robert A. Nesbitt
Galveston, Texas

The Power Vested. By Harry Krenek. (Presidial Press, P. O. Box 5248, Austin, Texas 78763), 1980. Index. p. 181.
\$12.75 plus 75¢ postage.

During the years 1919-32, the Texas National Guard functioned, on occasion, as a state police force. *The Power Vested* studies the National Guard where local law enforcement proved insufficient or corrupt.

The Galveston dock strike of 1920 and the 1922 Denison railroad strike where the Guard was called in had the effect of breaking those strikes. In both cases most local authorities were not in favor of using troops. In Denison the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad brought successful federal pressure to bear on state authorities, and troops were dispatched.

Martial law was established in Mexia in 1922 and Borger in 1929 because of an oil boom. Local law enforcement had been suborned and gamblers, prostitutes, and cheap booze overwhelmed ordinary citizens, causing the Governor to order in the Guard. Two other incidents—one at Sherman, one at Longview—involved racial incidents too big for either town's constabulary.

The discovery of the East Texas oilfield in 1930 sparked a series of events involving lawlessness, "hot oil," and the need for prorationing. The Guard was least effective under these conditions, largely because of the political and legal problems engendered by the East Texas bonanza.

Governor Ross Sterling probably lost his bid for reelection in 1932 because of his Humble Oil and Refining Company connections which made it appear that he was personally involved along with General Jacob Wolters—Commander of the Texas National Guard—who was general counsel for Texaco.

After 1932 the function of the Guard became more traditional; i.e., involvement in natural disasters, while the state police were reorganized and modernized. Municipal police forces were also upgraded.

In this volume Harry Krenek has written a good solid account of the use of volunteer soldiery as constabulary in Texas after World War I on through the great East Texas oil field boom.

Robert L. Wagner
Austin, Texas

Talking with Texas Writers; Twelve Interviews. By Patrick Bennett. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843). 1980. Index. p. 306. \$17.50 cloth; \$9.95 paper.

In this work Patrick Bennett has compiled a collection of interviews with twelve of the most respected writers of Texas. He defines a Texas writer as "... one who has spent his formative years in Texas, regardless of where he lives now, or one who has moved to Texas and become a resident." (p. 6) Writers who meet these qualifications include Larry McMurty, A. C. Greene, John Graves, Max Apple, Shelby Hearon, Leon Hale, Preston Jones, Elmer Kelton, Frances Mossiker, William Goyen, Larry L. King, and Tom Lea. The authors selected for this volume range from poets and playwrights to newspapermen and novelists. Bennett discusses the reasons for selecting each of these writers in his introduction. In addition, he includes a photograph and a short biographical sketch of each author before the corresponding selection. Bennett also presents a list of the works of these writers at the end of the book.

Because Bennett used a tape recorder rather than longhand notes for his interviews, *Talking with Texas Writers* abounds with quotations. The interviewer also attempts to retain the individual flavor of each writer's speech patterns in the accounts of these conversations, putting down the general purpose of the message rather than the literal record. As a result, Bennett wrote this selection in a dialogue format which makes the reading enjoyable and entertaining.

The issues discussed in these dialogues vary according to the subjects of the author's works. Several themes, however, remain constant in the book; for example, Bennett questioned the writers about their working habits, their favorite works, and their suggestions for young writers. The responses to these queries are of interest to readers who are considering a career in writing. Reading *Talking with Texas Writers* is a must for any student interested in studying Texas literature or in writing it.

Karen Guenther
Houston, Texas

Southern Writers A Biographical Dictionary. Edited by Robert Bain, Joseph M. Flora, and Louis D. Rubin, Jr. (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803), 1979. Dedicatory essay, preface, and alphabetized biographical entries. 515 pp. \$30.00.

Southern Writers draws into a single publication brief biographical studies of 379 Southern American writers. It includes practitioners of nearly every literary form: criticism (Cleanth Brooks), drama (Paul Green), folklore (J. Frank Dobie), history (Alex Haley), humor (Irvin S. Cobb), journalism (Hodding Carter), novel (John Barth), poetry (James Dickey), and short story (William Goyen). Major writers naturally command significant attention: Clemens (Twain), Faulkner, Glasgow, Jefferson, Kennedy, Lanier, O'Connor, Poe, Ransom, Simms, Welty, Tennessee Williams, and Wolfe. But minor and even less well-known figures are represented. In fact, each entry, prepared by one of 172 different scholars contributing to the publication, ranges from 300 to 1,000 words, depending in part upon the prominence of the subject.

Edited by three accomplished scholars, the dictionary is the twenty-third volume in the continuing Southern Literary Studies series. Louis D. Rubin, Jr., co-editor of *Southern Writers*, also serves as general editor for the series. The present volume is dedicated to the noted researcher, teacher, and writer, Lewis G. Leary, author of *That Rascal Freneau* and many other books.

In their preface to *Southern Writers*, the editors acknowledge that they experienced the same problem of inclusiveness associated with all such reference publications. The problem, they say, was especially acute with contemporary writers: "There was no possible way to include all or even most of the currently active" authors "and still have room for writers no longer living." The editors, as indeed most others have done, solved the problem by exercising a good deal of subjectivity. If "the reader wishes to know why writer X is included, when writer Y is not," they explain, "we can only declare that it is because we believed" that "X belonged and Y did not."

The historian and literary scholar, I believe, will agree that the editors exercised good judgment. Further, they likely will agree that what is written about those authors is generally sound. *Southern Writers* adds a valuable new reference tool to the list that includes James D. Hart's *Oxford Companion to American Literature* and other notable biographical dictionaries. For the researcher and teacher in need of a brief introduction to a Southern writer and his works, it will come in very handy.

Edwin W. Gaston, Jr.
Stephen F. Austin State University

Dueling in the Old South: Vignettes of Social History. By Jack K. Williams. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1980. Bibliographic Notes. p. 109. \$9.95.

An important element in antebellum southern life and culture was the "code duello" which became an accepted social institution, especially among the South's gentry. Well-placed southerners, including congressmen, governors, newspaper editors, and planters admitted, without compunction, to participation in such contests. Because the duel was considered a matter of class and caste, a facet of southern gentility and a badge of southern chivalry, the institution thrived throughout the antebellum period and declined only after the Civil War disintegrated the overly romanticized "moonlight and magnolia" society of the South.

In this brief monograph, Williams examines the formalized structure of the duel. John Lyde Wilson, one-time governor of South Carolina, wrote the standard text on dueling in 1838. His *Code of Honor; or, Rules for the Government of Principals and Seconds in Duelling* (reprinted in this volume) contained the proper rules and procedures to be adhered to concerning the duel. While devoting attention to the details of the duel, Wilson also offered advice concerning grounds for the challenge, how a duel might be avoided, procedures of issuing and replying to the challenge, and regulations for the conduct of seconds. Williams illustrates his discussion of Wilson's formal rules with instances drawn from specific duels fought in the South. Other contemporary works on dueling procedures are also analyzed.

Although dueling was widely accepted as a social institution, it was not without its critics, especially editors and ministers. At times, even state legislatures, seeking to curb its influence, condemned the practice as a crime. Even though Williams describes the critics' arguments and traces the development of antidueling societies, he maintains that little progress was made in curtailing its practice until more stringent judicial attitudes developed.

Since dueling has long been an intriguing subject to historical writers, Williams' major contribution lies as a synthesizer. However the brevity of the volume (eighty-three pages of textual materials) contributes little to what is not already available in extant secondary sources. His treatment of individual duels in illustrating techniques or rules of the "code duello" often leaves the reader puzzled as to the cause or outcome of the mentioned fray. Nevertheless, this abbreviated monograph affords the casual reader a pleasant evening's diversion, but the historians' quest to unravel the mystique of the Old South continues.

Marshall Scott Legan
Northeast Louisiana University

Correspondence of James K. Polk. Edited by Wayne Cutler. (Vanderbilt University Press, 2505 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37203), 1980. Index. p. 836. \$20.00.

Reading the correspondence of James K. Polk provides a real sense of the issues, conditions, and lifestyles of that era. This reviewer was struck most by the passion for politics displayed by Polk and his correspondents. Personal tragedy is evident, too. The letters to Polk from his brother, Samuel, are especially poignant as they chronicle his losing battle with tuberculosis. In both Samuel's letters and those of others about his ever deteriorating condition, we sense the helplessness of the doctors and the state of medicine in that era to combat diseases that today are virtually non-existent.

The material included by the editors is heavily laden with political concerns that reflect the rise of the Whig party as a major threat to the Democrats. Partisanship was far more vitriolic than today. Andrew Jackson in congratulating Polk on his election as governor in 1839 comments that "it will be at least a century before she [Tennessee] will permit herself to be duped into her later false position by such jesuitical hypocrites and apostates as Bell White & Co." Much can be gleaned about the workings of the Democratic party in Tennessee and its relationship to national politics.

From the letters to Polk it becomes evident that he is already established as a person of national stature with a bright political future. This remained true even after his defeat in 1841 when he tried for a second term as governor.

Like its predecessors, Volume 5 has been carefully edited and the explanatory notes are most useful to the reader. For those seeking insights and understanding of the politics and economic issues of the 1840s and more specific information on Tennessee in this time period, I highly recommend the book.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College

Nomad: George A. Custer in Turf, Field, and Farm. Edited by Brian W. Dippie. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78712), 1980. Notes, Index, Illustration. p. 174. \$22.50.

This book is based on the fifteen letters that George A. Custer contributed to a New York based sportsman's journal, the *Turf, Field and Farm*, between 1867 and 1875. These letters were written with the pseudonym of Nomad. Editor Dippie compiled the letters in chronological order according to their date of publication. The letters are divided into four categories. To make the letters meaningful, Dippie gives necessary background information at the beginning of each chapter.

The letters then appear as they did originally in the journal except for the references to Dippie's extensive notes.

The first chapter, entitled "Kansas 1867: 'This life is new to most of us,'" contains five letters. The first two tell of buffalo hunts and the last three describe the Indian expedition which Custer accompanied earlier that year. These three letters are perhaps the most historically important because "they anticipate several chapters of Custer's book *My Life on the Plains*. (p. XIV) Dippie points the discrepancies between the two versions in his detailed notes. These cast serious doubts on the credibility of *My Life on the Plains*, which often has been uncritically accepted by many. The second chapter, "Kansas 1869-1870: 'the plains were dear to us'", vividly describes the buffalo hunts. The third chapter, "Kentucky, 1871-1873: "... nothing but horse, horse, horse'", has five letters which exemplify Custer's interests after his transfer to Kentucky. Chapter four contains two letters which express Custer's joy at being transferred to the Dakota Territory on a mission to control the Sioux. Unfortunately he met his death at the Indian's hands on June 25, 1876.

Dippie tries to humanize Custer and to shed insight on the character of cavalrymen's activities. By using Custer's writings and adding notes, Dippie demonstrates interests of these men and the exaggeration of George (ambitious) Custer's tales.

Michael Nesbit
Seagoville, Texas

Kingdom Come! Kingdom Go! By M. Jourdan Atkinson and Eugene V. Giles. (Eakin Publications, P. O. Box 178, Burnet, Texas 78611), 1980. Index, Photographs. p. 261. \$11.95.

Kingdom Come! Kingdom Go! was born from the memoirs of Eugene Victor Giles, farmer, merchant, and state legislator from Walnut Grove, Texas. Upon his death in Austin in 1974 at the age of 94, Eugene V. Giles left his notes and papers to his cousin, M. Jourdan Atkinson, who used them as source material for *Kingdom Come! Kingdom Go!* The intention of the authors is to portray the "extension of a family"—that of Frederic and Harriet Jourdan—and to depict "the rise and fall of a cotton kingdom in central Texas." The book is a memorial to the authors' grandparents, Frederic and Harriet Jourdan.

The book is divided into four parts with two interludes, a postlude, appendices, and geneological tables. Part one documents the lives of various members of the Jourdan family to the deaths of Frederic and Harriet Jourdan. Parts two, three, and four trace the movements of Frederic's and Harriet's numerous descendants. Drawings of the southwest by Jennifer Bird and short poems by the author, M. Jourdan Atkinson, are included between each chapter.

The geneological details and journalistic style in which the book is written lead the reader in a merry chase through fact and fancy. None of the chapters follows a standard format, but each appears in the "order of a series of paintings," skipping from "one vignette to another." The book does not include a bibliography, but documentation may be found in the footnotes. The title of the book, which suggests the authors' promise of a portrait of the rise and fall of a central Texas cotton kingdom, is misleading. The subject of cotton is barely mentioned. The book itself is generally tedious and confusing reading, and of little interest to any outside the Jourdan family.

Peggy L. Lofton
Victoria, Texas

Nursing in Texas: A Pictorial History. By Eleanor McElheny Crowder. (Texas Nursing Association, Box 9802, Drawer 589, Austin, Texas 78766), 1980. Photographs, References. p. 184. \$14.95.

Nursing in Texas: A Pictorial History presents a broad collection of photographs which show the varied ways in which nurses have functioned in Texas from 1890 to 1976. The book marks the history of the growth and development of nursing in Texas starting with the initial program, John Sealy Hospital, which opened in 1890. Pictures of the 1895 nursing class introduce the beginning of the history. Progression through each decade provide information regarding the change in clothes, the change in the environment, the onset of a scientific basis for nursing practice, and the changes in societal status that nursing was beginning to enjoy.

As war changed many facets of American life, it is important to notice the impact that military events and military education had upon the change of nursing in Texas throughout the history. As technologies of war produced different types of patients needing care, it also required new methods of meeting health care needs. The Red Cross ships of the Spanish-American War and the jungle homes and training of flight nurses were cited as examples of the impact of war on nursing.

The pictures for the decades of 1950 through 1970 illustrate nursing's growth in knowledge and skills from wartime experiences. Based on these experiences, nurses were routinely involved in working with disasters, using modern technology and emergency flight and transportation to aid the injured. The book ends at the time of the nation's Bicentennial but Dr. Crowder's expectations include new horizons for the nursing profession.

The book, *Nursing in Texas: A Pictorial History*, is the product of historical displays which were stimulated by the 1976 Bicentennial.

Dr. Crowder was appointed chairman of the Bicentennial Committee of the Texas Nurses' Association and historical displays, costumes and photographs were collected to place at the 1976 convention in San Antonio. Dr. Crowder has been deeply interested in historical documentaries related to the delivery of health care, with a special interest in nursing. It was her goal to provide a history of nursing which would provide stimulation for nurses and shatter the stereotypes that laypersons may have about nursing.

Beverlyanne Robinson, R.N., Ph.D.
Director, Division of Nursing
Stephen F. Austin State University

The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower, by Elmo Richardson. (The Regents Press of Kansas, 366 Watson Library, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, 1979. Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 218. \$12.00.

In his book, which is the seventh installment in the American Presidency Series by The Regents Press, Elmo Richardson presents a revisionist view of the Eisenhower presidency. He challenges the widely held opinion that Eisenhower was an "average" and perhaps inadequate chief executive led through the great presidential maze by his advisors. Richardson's purpose is to stir the reader to take a new measurement of the Eisenhower presidency.

Based on research in newly opened portions of the Eisenhower papers, *The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower* takes a detailed look at Eisenhower's personal role in his administration's policy-making. The first chapters examine Eisenhower's personality, his philosophy of the uses of presidential power, and of the role of government. In later chapters Richardson examines Eisenhower's approach to decision making in the White House and his belief that deliberation was the key to solving any problem, big or small.

The major occurrences during Eisenhower's two terms, including the Formosan and Suez crises, the Geneva summit, and the Cold War, budget problems, and civil rights, are discussed. Richardson also examines Eisenhower's dealings with Congress, and his personal relationships with such top cabinet members and advisors as special assistant Sherman Adams, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and Ezra Taft Benson.

This examination of Dwight Eisenhower's presidency is enlightening. By stressing Eisenhower's belief that the "government is people" and not just one man, Richardson achieves his stated purpose by compelling his readers to re-evaluate the conventional assessment of Eisenhower's presidency and formulate their own opinions.

Clark M. Sherman
Madison, Wisconsin

Delta: The History of an Airline. By W. David Lewis and Wesley P. Newton. (The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia 30602), 1979. Appendix, Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 503. \$15.00.

One need not read far into DELTA before coming to the realization that Lewis and Newton are obviously friendly to Delta Airlines. This should come as no surprise because this work was subsidized by Delta. But once the reader gets beyond the authors' partisan point of view, the work is readable and interesting.

Newton and Lewis draw from five years of research into Delta corporate records in their attempt to construct the story of how the tiny crop-dusting firm of Huff Daland Dusters grew from its modest surroundings in rural Mississippi into the most profitable of all American airlines. Delta now serves cities from the West coast to Europe in half a dozen foreign nations. Emphasis is placed on the ever changing Delta fleet and the many hard-fought battles with competitors for Civil Aeronautics Board approval of new air routes. Only the crop-dusting division and the advent of postal contracts sustained Delta in its early years, but following World War II the airline really took off. Consolidations with Chicago and Southern and with Northeast Airlines, together with hard-won new routes, propelled Delta from a small, Southern, regional airline into a major international carrier.

Throughout the book, the authors' focused on personalities in an attempt to portray what they call "the Delta family feeling." This personalistic approach, based on scores of interviews with past and present Delta employees, with particular focus on C. E. Woolman, the paternalistic patriarch of the "Delta family", provides entertaining reading for the scholar and nonscholar alike. Though the authors' try to stress the uniqueness of the Delta story their work provides an interesting insight into the growth of the airline industry and a significant contribution to the relatively new field of corporate history.

John Godwin
Marshall, Texas

America's Energy Famine: Its Cause and Cure. By Ruth Sheldon Knowles. (University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019), 1980. Index. p. 337. \$14.95.

When confronted by the mystery of the unknown, people usually develop grand myths to explain what they do not understand. For example, man developed numerous explanations of the origin of his universe, and religionists have fought ever since.

Completely confused about the energy problem, Americans developed two basic beliefs to explain the shortage. First, a kind of "devil theory", claims shortages are contrived by greedy, money-mad oil com-

panies. The second faith, evangelized convincingly by Ruth Sheldon Knowles in *America's Famine: Its Cause and Cure*, holds that the energy crisis is real and is the product of Arab nationalism and United States government mismanagement at home. Knowles claims that thirty years of short-sighted government policy over domestic oil production, counter-productively led to our increased dependence on expensive OPEC oil.

Knowles exonerates the oil companies of any significant misconduct, arguing forcefully the demagogic myth of "windfall" profits and stingy reinvestments. So the cause of the oil shortage is not corporate greed but insufficient investment capital. Knowles quotes sources to prove that America will need to invest twice what it currently invests on oil production to achieve nominal energy independence by 1990. This money can only be raised through price de-regulation and less confiscatory tax policies, resulting in higher profits for producers. Knowles further explains that oil and gas are still, and will remain, the most plentiful, practical and economical sources for the rest of this century. If we conserve the energy we have and invest wisely, argues Knowles, we can achieve energy independence and without disturbing the environment.

This is Knowles' fourth book relating to the oil industry. She has been energy consultant to four governments and began her career in 1941 under Harold Ickes. Though suspiciously conservative to some, Knowles argues her points convincingly in this book. It is readable, informative, clearly argued and offers a realistic, though perhaps unpopular solution to our "energy famine". Is she correct? You have got to believe.

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BOOK NOTES

Leon Hale is, and has been for a long time, my favorite observer-writer of Texas' common people. I would like to say that Charles Kuralt is the Leon Hale of CBS-TV, and I would also like to be able to write the way he does. What brings this to mind is the republication of his collection of essays, *Turn South at the Second Bridge* (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843, \$12.95). I read it when first published nearly a score of years ago, and I am reading some of it again. Things like the Welcome Woods story and the Model T make me laugh out loud, the way we used to laugh during the comedy at the movies when we sat there in the dark, alone in the crowd, and just laughed until our sides hurt. You can still see those comedies on Saturday morning TV, but they aren't funny now. Hale isn't as funny now, either, because the down hill side of things brings