BOOK REVIEWS


This is the first comprehensive story of logging, lumbering, and forest conservation in East Texas. It begins in the earliest days of the Republic by describing an enormous forest punctuated by a few isolated sawmills serving local needs. Succeeding chapters document the irresistible encroachment of civilization and commerce, the unregulated exploitation and eventual deforestation of most of the region. The book culminates with the conservation and reforestation efforts that began in the 1930s and produced the Piney Woods of East Texas as they are known in 1984.

The wealth of information presented makes the book an excellent reference on forestry in East Texas. The profiles of those individuals who dominated history are excellent. A listing of people described would contain the names of the giants of the industry. It would also show the extensive care that has been taken to document and clarify every aspect of this excellent piece of historical scholarship.

But there is more. Over two hundred photographs and illustrations provide visual support to an excellent and highly readable text. The illustrations alone are worth the price of the book. One can only imagine the time spent reviewing thousands of illustrations to select that one best illustration for inclusion at that particular point in the book.

Sawdust Empire is a big book both in detail, scope, and physical size. It's full-page (8½ by 11) format allows for large illustrations and readable type. So, by any measure—scholarship reference, illustrations, or by the pound—the book is a bargain and is highly recommended to all interested in East Texas Forestry.

Kent T. Adair
Stephen F. Austin State University


If further proof be needed, here is convincing evidence that the writing of local history has at last achieved a respectability long denied it.

Campbell calls this volume a “biography” of a county—actually a thirty-year segment in the long history of Harrison County—demon-
strating how research into the records of a small geographic unit can reflect new light on the larger picture.

The work validates in every respect the North Texas State University history professor’s contention that “... the biography of a community can be as solidly based as any type of historical investigation.” That Campbell succeeded is confirmed by two respected authorities. The Texas State Historical Association chose it for publication, and James Michener, who read galley proofs while researching for his sesquicentennial novel about the state, has called it the best such of which he is aware.

 Actually, the book is light years away from the image connoted by “county history.” It is a scholarly work buttressed by more than a decade of intensive investigation into manuscript census returns, local deed and probate files, plantation records, letter files in the Austin archives, and family records available only in Marshall and Harrison County.

During a part of the period covered, Harrison had the largest population of any county in the state. It had 145 planters owning as many as twenty slaves each. It was the home of three Texas governors and two U. S. Senators. Its bar was outstanding, and it had one of the most respected newspapers in the state.

In addition, during the Civil War it was not only the capital of the Missouri government-in-exile but was also the most important subheadquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department, which became an almost autonomous province of the Confederacy under Edmond Kirby Smith.

Up to a half of its eligible males served in various military units, foremost of which was Company E, 1st Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade, which surrendered eight men when the end came in 1865.

This is not a military history, however. Campbell deals with the secession crisis, the war, emancipation, and two versions of Reconstruction as focused on one county.

His research dispels a popular myth of monolithic support for secession in the years before the war, based largely on the county’s military involvement and its referendum vote of 866 to 44 favoring withdrawal from the Union.

The truth of the matter is, however, that during the decade from 1850 to 1860 opposition sentiment (whether Whig, Know-Nothing or Unionist) made up a fraction of the political feeling approaching one-half. This large fraction was not necessarily opposed to slavery as the touchstone of sectional allegiance—most of its members were slave owners, in fact—but rather was motivated by a desire to preserve the Union.
Opposition thus was "conflict within consensus," in the author's view, a phrase evocative of the give-and-take involved in the democratic process for deciding large political issues. With a few notable exceptions, the county's population, whether pro- or anti-secession, joined forces to fight the issue to its conclusion.

Many county residents who had reservations about separating from the Union paid for this unenthusiastic allegiance with their wealth and their lives, as in the case of Theophilus Perry, who suffered a fatal wound at the Battle of Mansfield, just across the state line. His story, based on family letters discovered at Duke University, is one of the best chapters in the book.

The volume is one to be added to the shelves of all Texas history buffs, lay or professional.

Max S. Lale
Marshall, Texas


These five essays published as the 1981 Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures are a significant contribution to the continually growing body of literature on pre-Civil War American politics. Each of the authors has already established himself as a careful student of American political history and their work reflects careful, serious historical research and investigation. One of the authors, Thomas B. Alexander of the University of Missouri, is the best known practitioner of the "new political history" which emphasizes a quantitative approach to understanding our nation's past.

Interestingly, Professor Alexander's essay "The Dimensions of Voter Partisan Constancy in Presidential Elections from 1840 to 1860," emphasizes voter continuity during the pre-war decades, a finding that disputes Alexander's own conclusions in his earlier Sectional Stress and Party Strength (1967). In that volume, analyzing congressional roll call voting, Alexander stressed the realignment of political organizations along sectional lines as the Civil War approached. In the present essay Alexander shows there was little shifting of votes in pre-war presidential elections. "Political leaders," he writes, "were dealing with largely intractable masses of voters, who were not likely to accept a conscious change of party" (p. 113).

William E. Gienapp, author of the first essay in the volume, "Politics Seem To Enter Into Everything: Political Culture in the North, 1840-1860," on the other hand, finds a major realignment of
voters largely along sectional lines in the 1850s. This was not, he believes, an easy matter because party loyalties in the age of mass politics were strong. "Only in periods of realignment, such as the mid-1850s" he writes, "did many voters form new identities, and such eras are rare" (p. 59). This shift Gienapp notes was easier for young voters. Older voters found a repudiation of past affiliation much more difficult.

The essay by Stephen E. Maizlish, "The Meaning of Nativism and the Crises of the Union: The Know-Nothing Movement in the Antebellum North," traces one such realignment of ideas and attitudes in the 1850s. The author skillfully points out the relationship between opposition to immigration and opposition to the extension of slavery in the national territories. Northern supporters of the Know-Nothing movement had to choose between the two when Southern Know-Nothings gained control of the party convention in 1856. As a consequence, most northern members withdrew and joined the Republican party.

In his essay "Winding Roads to Recovery: The Whig Party from 1844 to 1848," Michael F. Holt describes the efforts of Whig Party leaders to revive that major political party in the mid-1840s. While he argues that the party was "more robust and its issues more vital" (p. 124) than traditional interpreters give credit, he concedes that Whigs turned in desperation to a non-issue military hero Zachary Taylor to bring victory in 1848.

The last essay, "The Surge of Republican Power: Partisan Antipathy, American Social Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War," by Joel H. Sibley, is an excellent synthesis for the volume. In this thoughtful and highly readable essay, Professor Sibley relates ethnocultural factors to the secession movement. He notes that the coming of great numbers of immigrants in the 1840s and 1850s "strongly revived rarely quiescent Puritanism and gave it new vigor, direction, and expectations" (p. 216). This extreme Puritanism was institutionalized into the sectional Republican Party. Democrats, particularly those in the South, were convinced that the principle of the Republican Party was to meddle into everything—society, home, family. The Republicans "intended to destroy by every means possible the value, institutions, and behavior hostile to their conception of right, from Sunday carousing to tripping in taverns and in private to the holding of slaves" (p. 224). Southerners concluded that secession was the only answer to the Republican use of power by the Federal government to control their lives and their fortunes.

The essays in this volume provide many valuable insights for those who would understand the complexities of antebellum politics. While there will be some disagreements with the interpretations of the indi-
individual authors, the volume cannot be ignored by scholars of nineteenth
century politics. One note of caution: the work is not for the casual
reader.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

_Eating, Drinking, and Visiting in the South; An Informal History._
By Joe Gray Taylor. (Louisiana State University Press, Baton
Rouge, LA 70803), 1982. Notes, Illustrations, Index, Bibliog­
raphic essay. P. 184. $22.50 Cloth; $7.95 Paper.

For decades historians have been proclaiming the disappearance
of the South as a distinct American region. Joe Gray Taylor stops short
of echoing the premature reports of demise. However, if there is truth
to the theory that we are what we eat, let the wake begin!

_Eating, Drinking, and Visiting in the South_ is a catalogue of virtu­
ally every gastronomic peculiarity which has graced Southern tables,
from bear to Big Mac and everything in between. Many of the menus
described by Taylor are less than inspiring conglomerations of unhealth­
ful and poorly prepared foodstuffs. Although much of the negative
reporting about the Southern diet might be attributed to the unfamiliarity
of Yankees and other foreigners with Southern cuisine, there is strong
evidence (and Taylor uses it well) that the Southern palate historically
has been unsophisticated. Southerners, from frontier times to the
modern era, have cared more for quantity than for quality in their food
and drink.

Lusty appetites and simple tastes do not equate to the bland white
diet of fatback, flour gravy, and biscuits. That dietary curse came from
the post-Civil War technology of the Midwest. Until grinding poverty
and its accompanying diseases sapped the energy of many Southerners,
variety was the main characteristic of Southern food and drink. What­
ever was available in the woods, streams, gardens, and coastal waters,
some Southerner somewhere found a means to capture, cook, and con­
sume. Eel, oysters, bear, bison, wild and tame fowl graced Southern
tables, occasionally all at the same meal. Fruits, nuts, and every part
of every vegetable were common to high and low alike. Just because
everything was boiled or fried is no reason to assume that it was bad.

There is much more to Taylor's tale. He treats drinking habits
and Southern hospitality in the process refuting a myth or two. Never­
theless, the most significant element of the work is food, Southern style.

J. Herschel Barnhill
Oklahoma State Archives

This is the first full length biography published on the redoubtable Sul Ross, one of Texas' most impressive historical figures. It has long been needed, and now, eighty-five years after his death, Judith Benner has brought one forth that should satisfy most readers. The book is the product of considerable research, and its contents are presented in a clear, readable style.

For those unfamiliar with Lawrence Sullivan Ross, he was, quite simply, a great man. Had he lived in the Jacobean period he might well have been the composite model for the Bard when he wrote, "... some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Ross enjoyed all three. When only a youth of nineteen, he showed daring, bravery, and resourcefulness when he commanded a body of armed men—volunteers, Indians, and regular army troops—in a successful campaign against the Comanches. Then, this transplanted Iowan achieved and had greatness thrust upon him by becoming a Texas Ranger, a Confederate general, a legislator, and a governor. In his post-gubernatorial years he also became the able and popular president of Texas A&M. All of these accomplishments, any one of them a merit of a lifetime in the efforts of ordinary men, were won in the scant space of fifty-nine years. Withal, he appeared as a modest and quiet man, and he was almost universally admired by his superiors, peers, and subordinates. He drew the favorable notice of such diverse personalities as Sam Houston, Winfield Scott, and Earl Van Dorn.

Ross also had his enemies, and his judgments were not always correct. These matters are not ignored by the author. Even when Ross faced adversity, however, his prime characteristics remained his doggedness and his calm. Benner captures his spirit, and this biography will please most readers of Texas history.

James W. Pohl
Southwest Texas State University


Here is yet another contribution to Civil War history, this one being one of the more controversial of recent publications. The themes of this book are two-fold: that the Confederacy exhausted itself by practicing the philosophy of the offensive-defense; and that the reason
for this self-destruction is found in the predominantly Celtic games of Southerners.

Most Civil War historians have long known that the Confederacy waged an aggressive tactical offense in the majority of Civil War battles, especially in the use of the flank attack. Frequently, these offensives were costly even if the results were often victorious. Confederate leaders believed, as military leaders have tended to agree, that wars and battles are won through offensive operations. Civil War generals who were graduates of West Point were familiar with the Napoleonic maxim that attacking forces needed a three-to-one numerical advantage over defenders to assure success.

The point made by the authors is that the Confederacy could ill-afford the human cost of exercising this tactical policy. A point better made is that at some time during the war Confederate leaders might have re-assessed their tactical options in view of their dwindling manpower.

Having made a fair case for the obvious the authors then fell victims to their own generalizations. They go to great lengths to convince the reader that Southerners were by nature very aggressive folk because of their predominant Scot-Irish origins. They then selected the proper historical instances to show where the Scots and Irish and their tribal antecedents just naturally preferred wild-eyed, screaming headlong rushes at their enemies. This, they point out, were later Confederate characteristics, including the Rebel Yell.

The authors then explain that Yankee soldiers, on the other hand, were predominantly descended from English stock, a people who were just naturally more systematic, organized, and methodical. Thus they were victorious through stoically awaiting their foes on the points of their bayonets while in defensive postures. The fault of these, and for that matter, all generalizations, is in the omission of the varied and numerous exceptions. For example, it is highly questionable that the ethnic and national origins of the make-up of the Federal armies was nearly as Anglicized as the authors make it. Further, there are too many examples where Confederates defended well and Federals ran (in one direction or the other) in wild-eyed enthusiasm.

But to point out all the exceptions to the authors' generalities is needless. It is quite possible that the main contribution of this book lies in its controversy. Certainly the authors' viewpoints should stimulate many an interesting discussion among Civil War buffs for years to come.

Robert W. Glover
Tyler Junior College

For many years, the lives of the great captains of the Civil War have been covered and re-covered, analyzed and revised, in many published works. And that is as it should be.

But it is also proper that the lives of the many, many “ensigns” of the War be told, that “little histories” be written to cover every area of the United States as it existed in the 1860s which had its own heroes who made valiant contributions to the War effort. All too often, their stories have not been told.

John James Alexander Alfred Mouton of Louisiana was such a man, and William Arceneaux’s telling of his life is a welcome addition to any Civil War shelf. This second edition of a work, first issued a decade ago, focuses on the life and Civil War career of General Mouton, a West Point graduate who placed his allegiance to his native state first as did so many other Southerners.

Mouton’s native state of Louisiana had strong ties to the North, stronger, perhaps, than most of the Southern, secessionist states. The strength of those ties made the rending of them the more painful for Mouton and many like him.

Arceneaux’s book begins, as he puts it, “nearly a century and a half prior to the birth of Alfred Mouton,” for he deemed it important to trace the background of the French Acadians who migrated to Louisiana after France ceded her North American colonies to England following the War of Spanish Succession (Queen Anne’s War), which ended in 1713.

From that time, the history of the state of Louisiana has been laced and seasoned with the contributions of these French-speaking settlers, known today as Cajuns. John James Alexander Alfred Mouton was an Acadian and proud of it, and Arceneaux does an interesting job of exploring that facet of Mouton’s background.

After graduation in 1850 from West Point, where he was highly thought of by his fellows, Mouton married, got his own plantation, joined the state militia, and entered politics. The ensuing decade, Arceneaux says, was probably the happiest of his life.

Commissioned a captain in the Confederate army at the beginning of the War, Mouton served with valor. Arceneaux refers to the Civil War as “the darkest era in the history of the Acadians” with the possible exception of their forced migration from Canada. But in the early days of the War, Acadians, like other Southerners, were excited, confident, and only a little apprehensive of the conflict’s eventual outcome.

Arceneaux traces the War’s early reception in Louisiana, painting
a broad picture of the reactions of the citizenry, white and black.

The author describes the battle of Shiloh, in which Mouton was seriously wounded, and defends Beauregard's decision to halt the attack at nightfall following Johnston's death. What is unarguable is his judgment that Shiloh was a disaster for the Southern cause.

Mouton recuperated from his painful facial wound in New Orleans, learning just two weeks after Shiloh that he had been promoted to brigadier general, making him at thirty-three years of age, one of the youngest general officers in the War. The rest of his service was in his native state, and the author traces the scope of Confederate and Civil War activity in Louisiana, a theater for the most part ignored in most Civil War histories. Herein lies the main value of this book—its illumination of the long and tedious decline of Southern fortunes as Union forces swept up and down the Mississippi valley, capturing New Orleans, then Vicksburg, and isolating Louisiana from the eastern theater of the War.

Mouton, hale and hearty despite a rumor that he had died in a brawl involving Texas and Louisiana troops, figured prominently in this activity under the command of Major General Richard Taylor, a fellow Louisianan. Bayou Lafourche, the Teche, Bisland, Irish Bend, the Red River Campaign—these names hold a hallowed place in Louisiana Civil War history. And a most improbable ally joined Mouton during this period: Camille-Armand-Jules-Marie de Polignac, a French nobleman and soldier of fortune who had joined the Confederate cause. The Count had been commissioned a brigadier general and had served briefly with the Army of Tennessee before being assigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department and Mouton's division.

The Frenchman's excessive drinking and carousing, strongly disapproved of by Mouton, caused friction between the two despite their common heritage. Still, each respected the other's military ability.

Mansfield, Louisiana, was perhaps the high point and certainly the end of Mouton's career. During what Arceneaux refers to as "the largest and most decisive battle of the Civil War in the West," Alfred Mouton died leading his men in a charge described later by General Taylor as "magnificent." The charge turned the tide of battle as Mouton's grief-stricken men, now under the command of the De Polignac, broke the Federal line. Another major engagement the next day at Pleasant Hill ended in Federal defeat, and the Union Army "was retreating in panic and disorder, not stopping until they reached the Mississippi River." "... the courage of Mouton..." was a key factor "in crushing the Union drive," Arceneaux says. But the cost was high. One-third of the Confederate strength was lost, about 1,000 men—700 from Mouton's Second Division. Every officer in the 18th Louisiana Regiment was killed, wounded, or captured. "Above all," Taylor later
wrote, “the death of gallant Mouton affected me. . . . Modest, unselfish, and patriotic, he showed best in action, always leading his men.”

General Mouton was buried where he fell, on the battlefield at Mansfield, with the fallen Colonel Leopold Armant, the only other man to command the 18th Louisiana Regiment, buried at his side. After the War, the body was re-interred in Vermilion, Louisiana, his home.

Arceneaux sums up Mouton’s military career: “He was a good soldier.” And this is a good book about that good soldier and about an area of Civil War military history usually given short shrift in the history books. It is through the authors of these “little histories” that the complete scope of the War is becoming known, and much remains to be covered in all parts of the nation.

Jerry L. Russell, Chairman
Civil War Round Table Associates
Little Rock, Arkansas


It is refreshing to read and review a book that helps to deepen an understanding of the people who helped to continue and preserve some of the cultural bases for nearly fifty-five percent of the people who now live in San Antonio, Texas, and Bexar County.

Arnoldo De Leon’s book, The Tejano Community, 1836-1900, is a contribution to Texas history that will open vistas of the Texas past which have been ignored for many years. The contributions to politics, labor, religion, folklore, and other cultural aspects by Tejanos has been significant; and they are not forgotten, thanks to this monograph.

The book brings out a significant point. Despite the overpowering influence, and sometimes oppressive influence, of the dominant culture, the Tejano in the nineteenth century maintained his own identity and at the same time adapted to and used the dominant culture to his own benefit.

This book particularly helps a person to understand the complexities of acculturation, adaptation, assimilation, and resistance Tejanos of the present day have toward the dominant culture.

This is a very brief review of a book that stands on its own merits: good information, prolific research, and good presentation. It should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in Texas history; but, even more so, on the shelves of clergymen, politicians, statesmen—both Tejano and Gringo—who seriously wish to work toward a just and honorable society in Texas.

Barnabas Diekemper, OFM, Ph.D.
Oblate School of Theology
Though four major political bosses in South Texas during the Progressive Era are purportedly the subject of this book, closest attention is given to James B. Wells. This is necessary since Wells towered over the others—which included Manuel Guerra, Archie Parr, and John Nance Garner—and in fact his support launched the career of each of these politicians. Also, Wells' machine in Cameron County served as a model for other aspiring bosses to copy.

Evan Anders' purpose is to interpret the rule of these four men—Wells in particular—according to recent models developed by revisionist social scientists. As this school of thought explains it, political bosses of the Gilded Age provided basic benefits to citizens which the rapidly changing urban communities of the period could not deliver. During the Progressive Era, however, this type of government came under attack by reformers. For Jim Wells, who had held power in South Texas since the mid-1880s and provided services to ranchers, the merchant class, and the Mexican American inhabitants of the Valley, the reformist thrust of the Progressive meant continued battles to preserve traditional rule. The same difficulty faced other bosses who ascended to power in counties of South Texas in the early 1900s and subscribed to Wells' philosophy.

The author's attempt to describe the conflict between the machine politicians and reformers entails extensive coverage of the intrigue and cunning used by the bosses, their strategem during each election, the campaign rhetoric they used, and, alternatively, the techniques utilized by the insurgent Progressives. Also analyzed is Wells' connections to state and national politics and how his influence rose and waned according to the successes or failures of the issues or candidates he supported. Rich details explain how Wells and his fellow politicos had to grapple with the changes wrought by an economic revolution that lured a constituency to the Valley that was not dependent on boss rule for services. The scenario throughout is one of "bosses under siege" as Progressivism represented a movement more in tune with the times.

The book reflects the growing trend in Texas history to embrace perspectives employed in other disciplines. It is far ahead of the studies done by Edgar G. Shelton (Political Conditions Among Texas Mexicans Along the Rio Grande, 1946) and Ozzie G. Simmons (Anglo Americans and Mexican Americans in South Texas, 1952) on the politics of the Valley. Also, Anders sees the events under study as multi-dimensional, as history usually is. Both the bosses and the Progressive challengers have their virtues and vices; politics are not one of Hispanics versus Anglos; and the causes for the rise and decline of boss rule extend far
beyond the vicinity of South Texas and the character of each boss. Moreover, the study is a refreshing departure from the fascination an earlier generation of Texas historians had with the story of the Alamo and other "patriotic" themes in Texas history.

On the negative side, a couple of points bear mentioning. It is unfortunate that economics necessitated omitting the documentation. For historians trained to be footnote readers, this is excruciatingly frustrating. Also, Anders' portrayal of Hispanic voters is one of passive personalities manipulated by bosses. Must Mexicanos always be objects in the historical process? In Anders' defense, however, the book deals with the bosses and the techniques used to resist the onslaught of the reformers, not with Hispanic political behavior.

All in all, this is a book worth reading. It will henceforth shape any writing of the Texas story.

Arnoldo De Leon
Angelo State University


Thirteen social scientists in ten monographs provided statistical records and analysis to predict that in San Antonio's future a new political consensus "for the first time, will distribute power among competing groups, so that progress will not come, as it has too often in the past, at the expense of the community." Focus throughout the volume is on the domination of the minority by the elites, divided in recent years between old families (merchant/banking) and nouveau riche (land developers). The demise of the elitist Good Government League, a retold story in essay after essay, occurred concurrently with increased political activity in the Mexican-American community. Unequal educational opportunities and sub-standard public services in poorer sections of the city have given rise to Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), which allied itself with middle-class environmentalists to oppose real estate developers who sought to build over the Edwards Aquifer, San Antonio's source of water supply. Such development would not only bring about the possibility of water pollution, but would extend urban development northward to the detriment of the inner city. No longer does a single group control public policy in San Antonio, where there is more democracy in the city than in the past.

Donald E. Everett
Trinity University
Jessie Evans: Lincoln County Badman. By Grady E. McCright and James H. Powell. (Early West Series, Box 9292, College Station, TX 77840), 1983. Photos, Illustrations, Maps. P. 240. $15.95 Cloth; $8.95 Paper.

Jessie Evans was a mysterious badman who drifted into New Mexico Territory in 1872 having already learned counterfeiting at his parents' knees. In New Mexico he worked for the legendary John Chisum, headed a gang of livestock thieves, and consorted with Billy the Kid and most of the other gunmen who fought in the Lincoln County War. Expanding his illegal activities into Texas, Evans landed in the state penitentiary in 1880. He escaped a year and a half later, and although various rumors purportedly identified him as various old men during the twentieth century, Jessie Evans disappeared from history after a decade of notoriety in the Southwest.

In their first book, authors Grady E. McCright and James H. Powell have enthusiastically pursued their subject and uncovered several nuggets of new information, particularly when mining the Frank Warner Angel report on the Lincoln County War. At times, however, there is too great a reliance on secondary sources; one quote from W. P. Webb (p. 21) is cited from Leon Metz, John Selman, and is not even directly related to Evans.

Four appendices are useful, especially a listing of the supporters of the warring factions in Lincoln County. The greatest asset of the book is a superb collection of photographs, including a new likeness of Billy the Kid, recently discovered by the publishers. Western buffs exhibit an insatiable appetite for material about the Lincoln County War, and Jessie Evans: Lincoln County Badman will provide an interesting addition to libraries centered around the bloodiest range war of the Old West.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College


"Captain Walker does not follow trails. He makes them."
Joseph R. Walker was more than a mountain man, as admiring contemporaries such as New Mexico tavernkeeper Jim Gray readily acknowledged. Walker was a far-ranging trailblazer of enormous abilities; he was a resourceful guide for emigrants, military units, surveying parties, and railroad builders; by turns he was a trapper, sheriff, farmer, rancher, trail herder, prospector, an inquisitive archaeological explorer, and, when necessary, a courageous Indian fighter. An intelligent,
courteous individual with a commanding physique and unshakeable integrity, Walker embodied the finest qualities displayed by Americans during the epic westward movement.

Born in 1798 in Tennessee into a family of notable pioneers, Walker began roaming at an early age and journeyed across the West for half a century. During the course of his varied career he achieved widespread fame, reluctantly retiring from the field in 1867 because of failing eyesight. He spent the last nine years of his life in comfortable circumstances on a California ranch. Bil Gilbert, who wrote about Walker a decade ago in the Time-Life book, *The Trailblazers*, was surprised that no suitable biography existed about this prominent frontiersman. He has corrected a number of long-standing errors (Walker's given name, for example, was Joseph *Rutherford* rather than the commonly-accepted Joseph *Reddeford*), and he has written with passion and talent about Walker and the American frontier during its most exciting century. The text is rich in anecdotes and Gilbert's analytical insights always prove interesting.

The only illustrations in this book are maps, which are crudely drawn and lettered. At least two painted likenesses of Walker exist, and while one adorns the dust jacket, the lack of any other photographs or paintings is a drawback.

The bibliography lumps primary sources, secondary sources, books, and articles into one section. This list is dominated by secondary works, and a careful perusal of the text and notes suggests that research for the book also was dominated by secondary sources. Although a more thorough study of the man may be possible, a more readable version seems unlikely because Gilbert's gifts as a writer are formidable and he has portrayed the story of Joe Walker and America's pioneering experience with excitement and color.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College


"Four men in five seconds" proclaims a bronze plaque at a downtown intersection in El Paso. One of the West's deadliest gunfights erupted at this site on April 14, 1881. The most noted principal was city marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, but *El Paso Lawman* explores the role of another principal, former marshal George W. Campbell. This little book by Fred Egloff presents the scant information available on Campbell's early life, details the famous shootout, and discusses the aftermath of events.
Campbell was a native of Kentucky who wandered to Texas as a young man during the 1870s. He served as a deputy sheriff in Clay County, drifted into New Mexico, then turned up in turbulent, violence-prone El Paso, where six months later he earned a minor claim to frontier fame by becoming one of four men to be fatally wounded during a few seconds of blazing action.

Egloff became interested in El Paso history while he was stationed at Fort Bliss. As sheriff of the Chicago Corral of the Westerners, he presented a paper on Campbell, based on family letters, photographs, and other unpublished primary resources. Further research in contemporary newspapers, official records, and secondary works resulted in the expanded manuscript which has been added to the growing list of the Early West Series of the Creative Publishing Company.

In recent years Jim and Theresa Earle, publishers of the Early West Series, have made a significant contribution to gunfighter lore by providing an outlet for authors who have researched lesser-known chapters of frontier history. Their volumes always are richly illustrated, and Egloff has collected rare photographs of his subject characters, as well as numerous views and diagrams of El Paso.

A significant asset of the book is an introductory essay by C. L. Sonnichsen, foremost historian of the Southwest, who discusses the role of "the good guys and the bad guys of the mythical West . . ." (p. 10). George Campbell was part good guy, part bad guy, and El Paso Lawman relates his brief but dramatic story.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College


Abilene had its beginning with a town lot sale by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company on March 15, 1881. It celebrated its centennial in many ways, ranging from a number of cultural events to the publication of three books about the city. Abilene: An American Centennial is the result of an effort to preserve the heritage of and to record contemporary Abilene by means of photographs. The source for the historical section is the Abilene Historic Collection at Hardin-Simmons University. Contemporary Abilene was photographed during 1981 by five local photographers. Fane Downs, Professor of History at McMurry College, contributed a four-page "Introduction to Abilene," an analytical portrait, and Roy Flukinger, Curator of Photography at the University of Texas at Austin, in a five-page essay traced the historical development of photography, the purpose of the photographers, and an analysis of the photographs.
Abilene was incorporated and became the seat of Taylor County in 1883. It grew, according to Downs, because of its aggressive leadership, good system of transportation, and diversified economy. The leaders won the contests for the county seat, the epileptic school, Camp Barkeley, Dyess Air Force Base, the headquarters for independent oil operators, and three church colleges that have provided a unique religious climate and stimulated the cultural environment of the city. In 1981 Abilene with a population of 100,000 (of whom only about sixteen percent are black and hispanic) had not lost its pioneer heritage.

Among the fifty-six historical photographs, eleven made during or prior to 1900, several are rather dim, possibly because of pioneer photography, aging, and the publisher's presentation in an artistic format. Unfortunately, there is no photograph of the epileptic home, the courthouse, of either of the two major hotels, or of any college building.

Contemporary Abilene is recorded in fifty-two black and white photographs. John Best concentrated on subject events; James Clark and Mary Jane Phillips in different styles focused on everyday life; Larry Smith chose as his religion subject; and Bill Wright filmed people and their environments. Together, these photographs provide an in-depth presentation, but conscientious historians, in the opinion of this reviewer, prefer more sharply and clearly defined subjects that leave less latitude for imaginative interpretation.

Overall, the book is both disappointing and highly laudable. Its value would be greatly enhanced if additional information accompanied a majority of the captions. Nevertheless, as a pioneer venture in historiography, it is a beautiful work and a significant contribution that should be in every public library and emulated by every town and city.

Ernest Wallace
Texas Tech University

Remington and Russell. By Brian W. Dippie. (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78712), 1982. Bibliography. P. 188. $29.95.

No two artists of the American West have received more public attention and accolades than Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. Although contemporaries, and both financially successful, the two men reflected widely divergent personalities and backgrounds. Remington received his academic training at the Yale School of Fine Arts and by the 1880s had found a lucrative trade in providing sketches for national magazines such as Harper's Weekly. Born in Canton, New York, he sought the adventure of western America at the very opportune time that it was becoming the nostalgia of easterners. He was dubbed the "soldier's artist" because of his campaigning with cavalry units in
the Southwest and with many of those same men in the Spanish-Ameri­
can War. Their glories, both real and imagined, became the subjects
of Remington's finest sketches, paintings, and sculptures.

Charles Russell was born in St. Louis, but upon his sixteenth
birthday was sent to work on a Montana sheep ranch. He soon con­
verted to a ranch hand and found his niche in life. Without formal
artistic training he developed a crowd-pleasing style with both sculpture
and painting, and by 1920 finally achieved some financial security for
the first time in his life. Like Remington, he suffered criticism and
neglect from members of the art critic elite, but this never seemed to
sidetrack him from painting for the pleasure of himself and his friends.

Despite the ready availability of many "coffee table books" con­
taining the works of Remington and Russell, Brian Dippie's addition
is well conceived. He has drawn upon nineteen Remington paintings
and fifty-one Russell paintings which have been permanently lodged
with the new Sid Richardson Collection in Fort Worth, Texas. Having
written a previous book on Russell and having graduated from the
University of Texas with a Ph.D. in American Studies, Dippie comes to
the task with a sharp eye for art, history, and American culture. He
provides a good biographical sketch of both artists, as well as a profile
of Sid Richardson, the Texas oilman and philanthropist who assembled
the collection. Dippie's main contribution, however, rests with his
detailed comments on each painting, its background, and its artistic
strengths and weaknesses. This descriptive format is likewise extended
to eleven additional works by artists such as Charles Schreyvogel, Wil­
liam Robinson Leigh, and Frank Tenney Johnson which are also found
in the Richardson collection.

The technical reproduction of these paintings is almost as good
as Dippie's text, but some of the darker shaded paintings do not copy
well under the lens of the camera and a few lighter ones are a bit washed
out. Only a direct viewing of the originals can do full justice to the
color schemes employed by these two revered artists.

Michael L. Tate
University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Impeachment of Jim Ferguson. By Bruce Rutherford. (Eakin
Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), 1983. Photographs,
Bibliography, Index. P. 155. $11.95.

This slim, attractively bound volume is a well-written treatment
of the issues and debates that led to the impeachment of Governor Jim
Ferguson. While documentation is limited, with heavy reliance on news
articles in the Temple Daily Telegram, the complexity of the impeach­
ment process is presented in a clear and understandable manner.
What is lacking from this work is a significant treatment of the Ferguson era in Texas politics and how the impeachment of Farmer Jim fits into that period. The story of Ferguson's impeachment would best fit into a much broader treatment of Fergusonism than is offered here. Ferguson's fight with the University of Texas, for example, is only superficially explained in terms of questionable use of mileage books by professors, controversial budgeting practices by the university, opposition to Ferguson by some of the professors and students, and Ferguson's dislike of fraternities. However, no in-depth explanation of the Ferguson-University tensions is offered. Additionally, there are some irritating factual errors in the work. Speaker of the House of Representatives Sam Rayburn, for example, is referred to as a Texas senator. In a comparison of the Ferguson impeachment with the Nixon impeachment effort, Rutherford argues that Nixon could have possibly weathered the impeachment storm if he had not fired Archibald Cox. Yet Nixon did weather the firing of Cox; his fundamental problem was the discovery of his complicity in the Watergate cover-up and it was that, rather than the firing of Cox, that would have led to his impeachment had he not resigned.

Rutherford's last two chapters leave much to be desired. In one, he draws parallels between the Nixon impeachment effort and the Ferguson impeachment. The precedential value of the Ferguson impeachment for the Nixon impeachment is, however, never made certain. Nor are the parallels between the Nixon and Ferguson careers terribly convincing. The final chapter tries to show Ferguson's influence on Lyndon Johnson. Yet evidence of that influence is weak. LBJ's father was a strong Ferguson man, LBJ as a boy was on the Ferguson campaign trail with his father, LBJ frequently visited Farmer Jim when Jim was dying, they both may have been populists, but that hardly shows Jim Ferguson as a political role model for LBJ. Though Rutherford writes of evidence that Johnson thought Farmer Jim a role model and writes that that evidence has been ignored by Johnson's many biographers, such evidence is not provided.

In short, the book is a good, well-written, descriptive treatment of the Ferguson impeachment process, but it is inadequate for those desiring an understanding of the Ferguson era.

Anthony Champagne
The University of Texas at Dallas


William L. McDonald's lavish photo-history of Dallas' commercial
and residential development in the nineteenth century's last three decades and this century's first two and a half is a splendid piece of work. Actually, "development" is a misnomer as applied to what happened to Dallas in that period. Unwilling to follow the lead of other American cities in adopting an overall urban plan, Dallas' business leaders were perfectly happy to see their city sprawl over the prairie, this way and that, guided only by the prospect of profits to be gained from the rapid, if relatively short-lived, inflation of land values. Indeed, as A. C. Greene points out in his helpful introductory essay, real estate promotion became a way of life in a place whose lack of a navigable waterway and port facilities held back the location of large-scale industry and necessitated a concentration on merchandising and finance.

_Dallas Rediscovered_ tracks that speculative urge through 263 well-produced photographs, all substantially captioned; several schematic and detailed street maps showing different areas of expansion for different periods; and an informed, clearly written accompanying text. The photographs, especially of numerous grand residences that long ago ceased to exist, leave the reader with a profound sense of regret for the devastation the city's rampant boosterism and presentism have visited on its richly varied Victorian architectural heritage. Again and again McDonald's captions end by noting that a particular structure was later demolished to make way for an apartment complex, a glass-box office building, or, in many instances, nothing nobler than a parking lot. Comparing the miraculously surviving sixth Dallas County Courthouse (1895) and the sterile new city hall designed by I. M. Pei helps us understand both how far Dallas has come and how much it has lost.

Charles C. Alexander
Ohio University


For many years a pressing need has existed for a general study of the range sheep and goat industry in Texas, and while the present work is not definitive, it is a welcome addition to Texana. Beginning with Spanish occupation in the sixteenth century, it covers the development of the open range system and carries the industry up to the enclosed pasture of the present. Previously, a number of fine diaries, biographies, memoirs, and regional studies of Texas have been published, but this is the first broadly based coverage. Of special interest to many should be the inclusion of goat husbandry, a long-neglected subject.

The format is basically chronological, but within that framework
are chapters on various aspects of the industry, regions, and leaders: e.g., Spanish Period, Rio Grande Plain, George W. Kendall, etc.

A strong point is Carlson's inclusion of a wealth of biographical material on leading figures such as Charles A. Schreiner, Thomas C. Frost, George W. Kendall, and William L. Black, the latter two given separate chapters. Chapters of particular interest are "The Rio Grande Plain," "The Edwards Plateau," and "The Sheep Wars." This reviewer found the chapter devoted to William L. Black particularly interesting and rewarding. Black, long ignored by historians, was a major figure in the sheep and goat industry. Also, it was refreshing to read that the sheep wars were kept in their proper perspective. It was pointed out they were limited in time and place and there never was a natural antipathy between cattle and sheep raisers. They co-existed in Texas from the beginning.

There are several drawbacks. Repetitious material and a lack of cohesion between some of the chapters are detractions. At times the author is carried away with flowery-descriptive prose; at other times his writing is unnecessarily clipped and brief. Too many sources, and even quotations and statistics, are taken from secondary works. The author, however, does draw heavily from such contemporary sources as the papers and publications of the sheep and goat associations. As usual, Texas A&M University has published a useful and attractive book.

Victor H. Treat
Texas A&M University


What do British preservationists have to say to preservationists in Dallas or Houston, Nacogdoches, or San Antonio? Based on a 1979 London Symposium, Our Past Before Us raises some provocative issues. Too frequently, those involved in conserving historic resources are so busy dealing with crises that they have little time for reflection. There is as yet no history of the preservation movement, and, despite its rising popularity, little critical analysis. This book offers a beginning at both.

In Britain the tremendous popularity of monuments and the countryside is in itself contributing to their destruction. Thus, the questions are raised, not only what will be preserved and why, but who will have access to it and on what terms?
This volume offers a unique opportunity to thoughtful American preservationists to compare theirs with the British experience.

Susanne Starling
Eastfield College


The South remains striking because it is so familiar yet foreign. Authoring one of the most famous novels of all time, Margaret Mitchell created some of fiction's more enduring figures in Gone With the Wind. Her childhood South was couched in pre-war values and post-war memories. Her favorite nursery rhymes concerned Atlanta history. By the age of nine she was a writer. Constructing her novel, she immersed herself in referent experiences of Georgia folk communities: landscapes, cultural burdens, and details of making a living. Perhaps journalism is finest when holding a mirror to the world, showing a way of life we may never experience ourselves. In this, she succeeded admirably. Anne Edwards is equally competent as Mitchell's biographer.

Margaret Mitchell was born on the day William McKinley was re-elected. When she died Harry Truman offered personal condolences. Throughout these turbulent decades she noted which characteristics molded people. As the daughter of an old and prominent family, it seemed she knew everyone in the city she loved. Her decision to become a journalist was the most significant of her life. She was a gifted interviewer of her generation and its predecessors. Fully engaged with life, she reported it in exemplary wit. She had a unique capacity to set strangers at ease. This served her well all of her days.

Margaret's narrative power produced hundreds of incidents and characters in a meticulously researched historical novel. She described impediments strewn into lives and how people dispelled them. In clear prose, she conveyed cumulative ideas, images, and impressions of her native region. Margaret always thought her novel inferior to ones from contemporary writers. At no time in her life did she understand its world-wide acclaim. Fueled with praise rarely received in her Atlanta Journal days, she marveled at such excitement.

Obviously Gone With the Wind was therapeutic for major blows in Margaret's life. Like her heroine Scarlett, she had a sharp tongue. She was demure or rebellious, as the occasion required. "In truth, she cared very much about what other people thought of her, especially those people whose love and admiration she so desperately needed" (p 72). This astute sentence applied to both women. Like Scarlett, Margaret flaunted propriety and called attention to herself. She neverforgot a slight. Setbacks and disappointments spurred both women to
greater tenacity. Both were strong feminists, yet dependent upon the men in their lives (Rhett and John). This spawned a feeling of “what ifs” that haunted them.

Much of *Gone With the Wind* is autobiographical (if veiled). Like Scarlett O'Hara, the life of Margaret Mitchell was influenced heavily by Irish and Huguenot ancestors, strong mothers, and devoted black servants. Grim horseback accidents affected both families. There are striking similarities of Mitchell and O'Hara friends or family members. Both women often suffered from insomnia. Both had marginal interest in politics. Both knew people like Ashley Wilkes who never emotionally recovered from a war.

Yet there were differences. Scarlett enjoyed a life of good health; Margaret was accident-prone. Scarlett received strength from her beloved Tara; Margaret was an urban person. Scarlett had far more self-confidence. Margaret masked insecurities in endless pranks and unconventional mischief. She enjoyed personal challenges. Her heroine did not. Both worked in war efforts, yet Scarlett was less sincere. Few women in America could so combine charm and speaking skill as Margaret did to sell $65 million in war bonds in six weeks. Like Scarlett, the war pushed her to unknown strengths.

Newspaper years were the happiest of Margaret's life. Those following her novel's publication were maddening. Millions of readers wondered whether Rhett would return. Margaret wished Scarlett would just leave. For years, shy people surrounding the colorful Margaret had lived through her—just as people lived through her vivacious Scarlett. She enjoyed this attention immensely. Once an overnight celebrity, she had to avoid outsiders. Her fondness of new and different people remained, but in changed form. She never had been much of a letter writer. After the book was published, she wrote 20,000 letters in just four years. This is even more interesting when compared with our modern absence of letters vs. frequent phone calls.

Anne Edwards has provided, like her subject, a remarkable volume. Transition lapses are rare. Occasional sentences are overly long. The most disturbing tendency is the consistent use of "girl" when "woman" is correct. Yet the biography offers fresh interpretations of a saga, fascinating quotes, and documentation heretofore unseen—especially on the first half of Margaret's life.

In 1936 the *New York Times* reviewer of *Gone With the Wind* praised it as "surpassed by nothing in American fiction." He noted that Margaret's characters lived, aged, and changed before the reader's eyes. Anne Edwards' subject does the same. This superb biography of Margaret Mitchell is unlikely to be surpassed.

Staley Hitchcock  
Union Theological Seminary

Walter Prescott Webb maintained in his Great Frontier thesis that the entire New World discoveries served as a frontier for Europeans after the fifteenth century and precipitated an economic boom for the European Metropolis. He expressed the hope that his introductory study would "open up a broad front of investigation." This publication of Essays on Frontiers in World History is evidence that Webb's hope is being fulfilled.

The essay authors—Philip Wayne Powell, W. J. Eccles, Warren Dean, Leonard Thompson, and Robin W. Winks—originally presented their theses at the fourteenth annual Webb Memorial Lectures (University of Texas at Arlington, 1979). Their topics, "spanning four continents and a time frame of some four hundred years," offer an expanded perspective of the frontier. North America's First Frontier in Mexico, New France in Canada, Sao Paulo in Brazil, Southern Africa, and Australia, are covered. The authors assess the effects of European trade and settlement on both the environment and the natives, the role of racial attitudes, the development of the economy, the growth of frontier institutions, and the relation of the frontier region to the European Metropolis. Excellent maps make it possible for the reader to be where much history is taking place, so often in isolated, faraway places.

A firm salute goes to C. B. Smith, Sr., of Austin, whose support makes the Webb Lectures and other Webb programs possible. As a student of Dr. Webb, Smith harvested inspiration and knowledge from a remarkable man. In return, he has dedicated himself to disseminating that knowledge to us all—and he is a remarkable man for it.

Dorman H. Winfrey
Texas State Library


The popular Foxfire Project that arose in the foothills of Georgia has prompted many school teachers to include oral history in their classroom curriculums. Now a book takes the Foxfire concept and provides a step-by-step instructional handbook on using oral history in the classroom.

The three authors, all experienced educators and practitioners of oral history, cover the familiar bases of a typical oral history manual: recording equipment and procedures, interview outlines, preliminary
research, note-taking in the field, transcription and storage of tapes, legal forms, and interviewing techniques and strategies. Useful appendices contain bibliography, goals and guidelines for interviewers and interviewees, criteria for evaluating classroom oral history interviews, and sample release form and data sheet. In addition, there is an excellent section on the starting of a *Foxfire* magazine.

A thorough reading of these sections permits the classroom teacher, student, or interested individual to master at least some of the terminology and techniques to conduct a successful oral history interview and an oral history project.

What the book does best is to explain the ways that oral history can be used in the classroom. The authors discuss nine detailed case descriptions of successful oral history projects, examples that illustrate the wide range of possibilities in classroom oral history. They consider end products of oral history such as *Foxfire*-type books and magazines, media productions, researching current community problems, and various types of curriculum materials. Unlike most other oral history manuals and handbooks, this one addresses the theoretical aspects underlying oral history.

In all, the book is logically organized and well researched and written. It is hoped that the book stimulates increased use of solid oral history practices in the classroom and elsewhere.

Jim Conrad
East Texas State University


By Gilberto R. Cruz and James A. Irby. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), 1983. Photographs, Appendices, Author's Index. P. xii, 337.

On first glance, the reader will undoubtedly assume that Professors Cruz and Irby have set themselves an impossible task. There is no way that a bibliography of Texas history can be included within the covers of one book. Furthermore, several earlier bibliographies (some multi-volume) have done excellent jobs in what they attempted.

Why then, one may ask, should a new bibliography be published, and what value can it have to us? This volume has several important benefits. For one thing, it is current. Included are recent publications and doctoral dissertations. For another, it is a handy one-volume reference that can serve as a guide to the casual reader or as a beginning for the serious researcher.

The book does have flaws. Some readers may quibble about the subject headings, but that is a minor point. A more serious problem inherent in the structure of the book is the loss of valuable space when
the same publication is listed in more than one place under different subject headings. One might also wonder how the compilers chose the entries.

These criticisms are minor. *Texas Bibliography* is a welcome new addition to the shelves of amateurs and professionals alike. As long as the user does not fall into the trap of assuming that this book is the last word on published sources on a given subject, it can be quite valuable as an aid to reading and research.

Donald W. Whistenhunt
Wayne State College

*Correspondence of James K. Polk, Volume VI, 1842-1843.* By Wayne Cutler, Editor, Carese M. Parker, Associate Editor. (Vanderbilt University Press, Nashville, TN 37203), 1983. Index. P. 726. $30.00.

This volume of the Polk correspondence covers his years in a sort of political wilderness. The Whigs occupied the President's House in Washington and Polk himself had been defeated in his bid for re-election to the Tennessee governorship in 1841. These were extremely partisan times, as Wayne Cutler's introduction indicates, and Polk seemed unable to do much that might restore his political fortunes and those of the Democrats.

In 1843 Polk again ran for governor, hoping to carry the state and thus demonstrate that he deserved a place on the national ticket in 1844 as Martin Van Buren's vice-presidential running mate. The strategy failed, for Polk not only lost the contest for governor but the Democrats lost control of both houses of the legislature. Despite this, he continued to try to position himself as the choice for second spot on the 1844 Democratic ticket.

The correspondence in this massive volume covers these eventful but discouraging years for James K. Polk. The contents indicate his wide range of acquaintances and political friends. Readers will gain an excellent sense of the nature of Tennessee politics in the early 1840s and how prominent figures sought to use state politics to position themselves for national office.

Volume VI maintains the high standards of the previous ones. Letters are footnoted to explain references in the letters as well as other aspects, such as whether they were marked "private" or "confidential."

A very important inclusion in this volume is the "Calendar" which lists all Polk correspondence from 1816 through 1843. Letters italicized in the Calendar have been published or briefed. For those seeking a ready reference to information on Polk and his many activities, the Calendar should be useful and make the research task simpler. The
262 pages that the Calendar occupies indicates how massive the Polk correspondence was.

All major academic and research libraries should have this series and many will want Volume VI because of the Calendar of Polk’s correspondence.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College


As technology and marketing make video systems increasingly accessible, educational agencies throughout the United States have considered, or are considering, its utilization. _Videotaping Local History_ is the American Association for State and Local History’s “consumer’s guide” for historical organizations. It is a practical book that covers, but does not exhaust, the major aspects of the subject. Author Jolly explains how video works, evaluates products currently available, describes equipment operation, discusses applications, and notes considerations for tape storage. He also covers such subjects as whether projects should be done in-house or contracted to professionals and what support is available from local television stations.

In researching this subject, Jolly queried users throughout the country to determine what they did and why. Remarkably, it seems that more utilize it for presenting information than for preserving history. Many institutions use it to interpret exhibits, train personnel, and reach television viewers. Occasionally, oral historians tape interviews but only as an adjunct to their conventional programs. It seems that no one accession tapes of significant events from local television stations. Jolly did not poll such stations or the networks to determine if they preserve such footage.

Jolly warns his readers that video is not for everyone and that great thought must precede any commitment. Those considering video would do well to study this book as their first step.

Paul R. Scott
Regional Historical Resource Depositories and Local Records Division, Texas State Library

Thomas J. Schlereth's Material Culture Studies in America is a satisfying anthology of articles dealing with many different facets of the study of artifacts in North America. Designed to serve, in part, as a resource for the classroom teacher, the volume should be on the shelf of any individual interested in the analysis of artifacts as historical documents. Schlereth also provides the reader with a careful discussion of the historiography of material culture studies, placing the field within the broader context of American history as a discipline.

The variety of material available in the text is a testament to the author's discriminating vision. He divided the selected articles into three major groups, moving from theory to methodology to practice. While those in the field may well find a favorite article left out, the selection is catholic and one does not envy the editor's task of cutting out material. Among the authors whose works were sampled by Schlereth were Wilcomb Washburn, Charles Montgomery, E. McClung Fleming, James Deetz, Kenneth Ames, Henry Glassie, and John Schlebecker. Any teacher looking for material to be used as course readings in this area should be pleased to have such a selection.

More important is Schlereth's own essay on the literature of material culture as it evolved in the years between 1876 and 1976. While noting the existence of some who were concerned with the history of objects before 1876, he contends that the major interest develops in relation to the Centennial celebrations. By dividing the century into three major eras, the Age of Collecting (1876-1948), the Age of Description (1948-1965) and the Age of Analysis (1965-1976), he provides a useful framework for the understanding of the literature of material culture. In the discussion the author notes specific trends and discusses the relationship between this literature and such fields as the Annales school, structuralism, art history, and cultural geography.

If the book has a flaw, it is in the absence of illustrations. Many of the articles were originally illustrated and a volume dealing with material culture should, ideally, show the artifacts which are being examined in the text. This may, however, be a decision based on the economics of publishing.

In all, the volume will be a standard reference for the study of material culture. By combining an excellent survey of the periodical literature with a well-constructed bibliography and historiographical essay, Schlereth has produced a volume which will be a resource for students, teachers, and material culture specialists alike.

Patrick H. Butler III
Harris County Heritage Society
A History of Rice University: The Institute Years, 1907-1963.
By Fredericka Meiners. (Rice University Studies. P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251), 1982. Photographs, Notes, Bibliography, Index. P. 249. $29.50.

An author who writes an institutional history published by that very institution enters perilous territory, but Fredericka Meiners seems to have avoided most of the pitfalls and traps that often ensnare the unwary. This history of Rice Institute (now University) from its beginnings in the early years of this century to 1963 presents a detailed chronicle of its growth and maturing under three presidents.

Unlike most institutions of higher learning, Rice had the advantage of a large endowment from the beginning. Because of this it was able to develop an attractive physical plant and not charge tuition until the 1960s. The original benefactor, William Marsh Rice, left a sizeable estate to a group of trustees charged with founding an institution for the advancement of literature, science, and art. From this beginning emerged the Rice Institute which formally opened its halls to students in 1912 under the leadership of Edgar Odell Lovett.

For me the most fascinating section of the book was the effort of Lovett, the trustees, and others to define the mission and goals of the institution—no simple task given its location. As Meiners observes, in the early years of the century Houston was hardly the dynamic, bustling city it has become in the 1980s. Attracting and retaining quality faculty proved a difficult task, but Lovett and others persevered and ultimately were successful.

What makes this history of interest to those other than Rice alumni is Meiners' effort to place Rice in the broader context of developing its place and role in the City of Houston and how an academic institution accommodated itself to events such as the two world wars. The relationship between Rice and Houston is detailed better in the first part of the book than later. Some greater consideration of city-campus relations after 1945 would have strengthened the work.

Meiners shows us how an institution such as Rice had to adjust to changing circumstances and how difficult this often was. She is willing to criticize when it seems appropriate and praise at other times. Rice alumni will enjoy the large number of photographs and illustrations throughout the book—and some will recognize themselves at their "youthful best."

I have a couple of minor complaints about the work in terms of layout. The three-column per page format made the reading too much like reading a newspaper; two columns per page would seem more appropriate. For the alumni as well as others, maps of the campus indicating changes would have greatly enhanced its value. Given the lavish use of illustrations, this is a surprising omission.
Yet overall Meiners has written a work that will explain much about the workings of Rice that no doubt escaped the notice of those who were students and will, for alumni and outsiders alike, indicate the ways in which an obscure academic institution on the Texas prairie developed into a first-rate university.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College


Regional intellectual chauvinism is nothing new in this country. Before the mid-point of the last century, Midwest intellectuals declared themselves independent of their Eastern cousins. Southerners, too, awakened to their own regionalism, spawned a cultural community that extolled the traits and characteristics which were peculiarly theirs. Now, in its season, subject matter about which writers have written for over one hundred years, is identified as being regional, and creates a fabric that Ronald B. Querry in Growing Old At Willie Nelson's Picnic, proudly says is uniquely Southwestern.

The Southwest, indeed, has had its season, and without doubt the literary and fine arts will be its lasting fruit. A dress code prescribed by the urban cowboy syndrome, the avaricious-high rolling-tough-acting-rancher-oil magnate stereotype portrayed on the electronic tube, and the momentary acceptance of country and western music and dance, gained amazing popularity nationwide. But these were just another craze, tried by a fickle public, enjoyed, and abandoned for some other flash on the popular cultural calendar. Of lasting quality will be the work of artists, red or white, who chose the Southwest's land and people as subjects, whether they worked in oils or watercolors, clay or marble, poetry or prose.

Querry's edited work contains twenty previously published selections which range from biographical sketches to first-hand observations, and from reminiscences to folk tales. Reluctantly, he includes all of Texas and Oklahoma, along with Arizona and New Mexico in his Southwest. And the common denominator (theme) which holds his region and his selections together is "the sense of place." His "sense of place" is composed of four ingredients: the land; the uncrowding of space; the people/land relationship; and, transcending all, the blend of the three dominant cultures, Indian, Spanish, and Anglo. It is the blending of cultures, the perception of cultural self and of others, which, according to Querry, gives "today's Southwest a unique tricultural personality."
Certainly Querry’s choice of authors is impressive: N. Scott Momaday, Larry L. King, Larry McMurtry, William C. Martin, whose article gave the book its title, and, Arrell Morgan Gibson, to name only a few. Of the twenty works reprinted, several leap out, become immediate favorites, making the reader pause and reflect upon past personal experiences. King’s emotional reminiscence of his father in “The Old Man,” is the strongest piece. The picture drawn of the relationship which grew between King and his father, is not only warming but underscores the strengths and character which one generation can pass to another. McMurtry’s “The Old Soldier’s Joy” poignantly details his observations of people at a fiddling contest, and laments that most of the vigor of East Texas rural life has fled to the suburbs and become urbanized. And, in “Growing Old At Willie Nelson’s Picnic,” Martin, who spent three days at a raceway south of College Station, Texas, to listen and watch “redneck rock,” refuses to decry missing the sexual revolution but allows himself contentment to be in his own time and space.

Each selection, prefaced by a short introduction about its author, its author’s works, and the selection itself, fits into one of six categories which explores the editor’s “sense of place.” “Legacies” examines the depth of a people, both red and white; interpretations of the meaning of the international border to those on either side is presented in “Borderlines;” “Livestock” is of cows, cowboys, and cow places; out-of-the-ordinary religious rites, traditionally a part of the region, as in “The Penitentes of New Mexico,” are described in “Ceremonies;” folk and country music, football, rodeo, and a “redneck” concert are the subjects of “Diversions;” in “Art,” the lasting qualities of the Southwest are spoken to; and, in “Tales,” stories of people, Indian and Anglo, living out lives on the land, are told. Twenty-five photographs are appropriately scattered throughout the book and add to the interpretations presented in words.

All the stories are well written and a fine balance is achieved: pathos with humor; narrative stories with eyewitness accounts, folk tales with modern sketches. The book is like a well-planned concert, similar to the one Martin wrote about in “Growing Old At Willie Nelson’s Picnic.” There is a little of something for everyone.

Thomas H. Smith
Dallas County Heritage Society
The Loblolly Book. Edited by Thad Sitton. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1659, Austin, TX 78767), 1983. P. 250. $10.95.

In 1967, teacher Eliot Wigginton of Rabun Gap, Georgia, suggested to his students that they begin publishing a magazine of community oral history, folklore, and folklife. The magazine emanating from Wigginton's challenge, Foxfire, touched off a historical preservation flame that still burns brightly today.

An anthology of student articles from Foxfire was published by Doubleday in 1972 as The Foxfire Book, and additional volumes have hit the booksellers' shelves almost every year since.

Hundreds of teachers throughout the nation have reacted to Wigginton's success: "If they can do it, so can we."

In Texas, student folk history journals have sprouted up in Gary, Albany, Douglass, Lockhard, and Carthage, to name a few, and others are being planned.

The Loblolly Book (the name is taken from Gary High School's journal, Loblolly, the earliest of the Texas folk journals) offers a unique medley of social history and folklore. Its articles are taken from the five Texas student journals, each devoted to recording and preserving the folk culture of their particular communities.

The book is skillfully edited by Thad Sitton, editor of the "Texas Sesquicentennial Newsletter" and the author of Bringing History Home (Texas Sesquicentennial Commission) and Oral History: A Guide for Teachers and Others.

Published by Texas Monthly Press, The Loblolly Book gives readers an opportunity to learn about home remedies older Texans used to treat common ailments. Examples: For a burn, "burn sweet-gum balls, get the juice and mix it with Vaseline, and put it on the burn." For someone with chicken pox, "kill a black hen and scald it; then get the water and bathe the person."

To develop the articles, students in the five schools went into their communities and visited old-timers, urging them to recall times "when household soap was made in big black pots in the yard, when underwear was often crafted from feed sacks, when bacon was pursued in the river bottoms at considerable risk to life and limb, and when getting married was a good deal more hazardous than at present."

The Loblolly Book is a marvelous piece of Texana and should be enjoyed by anyone who has a love and respect for the state's early customs.

Bob Bowman
Delta Drilling Co., Tyler, Texas
This Favored Place, the Texas Hill Country. By Elroy Bode, with photography by Frederick Baldwin and Wendy Watriss. (Shearer Publishing, 3208 Turtle Grove, Bryan, TX 77801), 1983. Photographs. P. 136. $13.95.

It is both providential and unfortunate that I review Bode's This Favored Place. It is providential that another son of the hill country evaluate the book, but it is unfortunate for I can the better see what failings there are.

The book is a series of nostalgic vignettes of life in the Kerrville area thirty to forty years ago. It looks back to a simpler day and avoids discussing the modern commercialization of Kerrville and the dude ranches except to talk to them obliquely in kindly and distant fashion.

Bode can write well, sometimes in a precise picturing of the favored place, sometimes in a poetic vein that is more romantic than precise, and sometimes in a bit too precious a tone.

Many will find the book entrancing, others will be much less enamored. It is too nostalgic to give much useful information about the life pictured, but it catches quite well the meaning and feel of that life for a boy who knew both town and ranch existence.

The illustrations are in keeping with the thrust of the book.

Ernest B. Speck
Sul Ross State University

This Here's a Good'un. By Bill Brett. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1983. Illustrations by Frank Abshier. P. 120. $9.95.

These here are all good'uns. In this collection of stories Bill Brett achieves an authentic voice appropriate for their Southeast Texas settings. The reader is always aware that he is hearing the story told. Grammar and vocabulary are calculated to maintain a salty regional tone without getting in the way of the reader's understanding.

Brett invents a variety of personae as first person narrators, but the recurrent voice is that of an older man recalling experiences of his youth that are important to his maturity. In "Learning What a Man Should Do" a boy who is becoming a man gets a lesson in sharing from an Indian family. In "Growing Up in 1918" a sixteen-year-old faces the duty of shooting his injured horse. The title piece, "This Here's a Good'un," is a rambunctious tale of a kid who attempts to manage a runaway steer on his own and winds up with it charging into the Felicia saloon.

Reflecting a way of life that is pre-World War II, these good'uns
emphasize the interrelationships of men and boys as they hunt, work cattle, roughneck, and try their hands at rodeoing. The womenfolk are mainly on the sidelines.

Brett's writing is earthy but it is neither vulgar nor crude. There is an air of wholesomeness to it, and it generates chuckles, belly-laughs, and an occasional tear. Despite their casual tone, these stories give evidence of hard-won wisdom and considerable literary skill. If you can't hear Bill tell 'em in person, these here's the next best thing.

Melvin R. Mason  
Sam Houston State University


The brave pioneer mothers, the drudges, and the soiled doves all existed in the American West, writes Sandra Myres in her interesting study of westering women, concluding that these were stereotypes, not myths. Through documents drawn from over 400 collections of primary materials, Myres has succeeded in replacing these stereotypes with a fascinating collection of real people, transmitting them to us through their own words. She has examined the complexities that exist beyond these stereotypes, and in most cases she has done that very well. Impressions of the frontier and the Anglo-Indian relationship are discussed extensively. Prejudice against Spaniards, Mexicans, Negroes, Pikers, and Mormons was also quite strong, but often tempered by good experiences for clear-eyed observers.

Life on the trail and in their new homes was also examined, as were the adjustments women made in their lives and in their communities as the population grew out of play-parties and into Mozart. The suffrage struggle that began in the West is examined in detail. In her survey of economic prospects, Myres states that "the reality of women's lives changed dramatically as a result of adaptation to frontier conditions while the public image remained relatively static." Myres has done well in bringing us the realities of those lives, not the stereotypes.

This book is important for those interested in western and women's history. The notes and sources constitute an amazing bibliography. I ardently wish those notes were on the relevant pages instead of gathered at the back; fortunately, they are worth the inconvenience.

Jo Ann Stiles  
Lamar University

This book offers the perspectives of several scholars describing the implications of the new social history on various fields of historical study. This new social history approach offers a multi-disciplinary perspective and a concern for historical processes and group analyses which will reveal the lives of common people rather than the lives of the few and famous. Through use of demographic data, diaries, artifacts, and many other sources which help to speak for the "inarticulate" (those concerned more with making a living than with leaving a historical record), social historians can reveal a more accurate picture of life. Each of the articles on such subjects as cultural pluralism, women's history, urban history, agriculture and rural life, families, workers, politics, and artifacts presents the historical development of that area of study and uses examples of current studies to demonstrate the new way of looking at the lives of ordinary people. Suggested readings at the end of each selection make this work a valuable reference.

Unfortunately, one of the most intimidating aspects of the new social history has been its tendency to obscure extremely insightful new findings behind a cloud of methodological jargon. While knowledge of the research method is helpful, one gets the feeling that many of the major points which would be useful to the professional and to the general public will only be heard by a handful of other "new social historians." Historians have been preaching to the converted for too long. It seems ironic that much of the writing about ordinary people cannot be read or understood by ordinary people. The new and exciting results of such research should be made understandable and usable in increasing the public's knowledge of ordinary people and everyday life. It will be the task of teachers, museum professionals, and other stewards of our cultural resources to distill the information from such studies and incorporate these exciting new perspectives into their interpretation of our history. General readers should be aware that this book is not a description of everyday life in the past, but a collection of essays about how to research and interpret it. In that role, it is a tremendous contribution to the study of our heritage.

Michael W. Everman
University of Missouri—Columbia
"Plants and animals determine the quality of the land. But quality, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. To a farmer, high quality is more corn and less crabgrass; to a rancher it may be steers, not deer. A child, concerned with the frenzy of anthills and the mystery of cocoons, is unimpressed with cornfields and registered beef. There is only one thing invariably true: for each person quality means a different sum of things, and each will choose, from those things that are available, different ones of them to appreciate."

—from *Land of Bears and Honey*

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