BOOK REVIEWS


This lyrical and sensitive view by two naturalists of the southeast corner of Texas during the past century and a half alerts readers to the admonishment of the concluding words of the “milk and honey” verse in Deuteronomy. Following the better known portion — “For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves and waxen fat.” — is the sobering declaration — “then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.”

Joe C. Truett of LGL Ecological Research Associates in Bryan and Daniel W. Lay of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department believe a covenant with future generations has been broken by human forces that diminish the options for the survival of plants and animals. Agreeing that the quality of land is relative to the values of the individual, the naturalists grant that the farmer will want more corn and less crabgrass, a rancher will prefer steers to deer, and lumbermen will delight more in neat rows of slash and loblolly pines rather than in unspoiled wilderness.

“But in each succeeding generation some plants and some animals faded out; the options became fewer,” the writers lament. It is their goal to suggest how some of what remains might be preserved for generations to come. Interwoven into their account of personalized experiences and historical review is a pattern of stripping and spoiling of the land and its creatures by hunters and trappers, timber croppers, farmers, water managers, residential and industrial developers, and even misguided protectors who quench fires and dam streams to cause a natural imbalance.

Their account creates a challenging variegated tapestry, darting forward and backward in time to chronicle a sad transformation of a region that was once literally a land of bears and honey. Indians, Anglo settlers, logging crews, railroad workers, and slaves ate bear meat and turned the fat into cooking oil. Hollow trees with honey provided a sweet harvest and lively sport of robbing the bees. The wild spots remaining today in southeast Texas shelter no native bears and little honey.

The solution, Truett and Lay maintain, depends upon knowledge, means, and will, rare qualities among the majority of today’s land holders “who were educated away from grandfather’s knee.” “Let us hope that, somewhere in their distant past, future presidents of
corporations will have followed grandfathers along piney woods creeks with fishing poles in hand," the two naturalists conclude.

In *Land of Bears and Honey*, East Texans have their own regional Walden, written with keen historical perspectives, literary style, and deep respect for the land. A splendid foreword by Francis Edward Abernethy establishes a sense of human harmony with the landscape that is sustained throughout this remarkable volume.

Fred Tarpley
East Texas State University

*Traces of Texas History. Archeological Evidence of the Past 450 Years.*

Beneath the surface of the Texas soil exists evidence of past Texas cultures. Clues about life range from the skeletons of people and animals, long deceased, to historic artifacts such as arrow heads, pottery, tools, foundations of homes and businesses, toys, and bottles. Realizing this, *Traces of Texas History* intends to present the results of historical archeology in historical perspectives that focus upon prehistoric Texas, Indians, Spanish, Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, ranchers and the westward movement, post-statehood European farms, military, business, and urban sites.

Archeologist Daniel Fox convincingly argues the value of historical archeology and the need to preserve valuable historical sites as irreplaceable cultural resources. However, his title is misleading. While the author describes archeological research done during the twentieth century, he provides no information about twentieth century Texas historical life and culture. Thus readers of East Texas history will find descriptions of the Caddo Indians, LaSalle, Mission Delores de los Ais, The Woodlands, Richard Carter, Fanthorp Inn, and the Marshall Powder Mill. These combine with archeological evidence from sites throughout the state that include San Antonio, the Battle of Palo Alto, Fort Griffin, and the Sutherland Plantation.

Written for the general reader rather than the specialist in archeology or history, the book increases the reader's perspective. It will be a handy guide for one planning a trip in Texas to see historical places. While this book is an interesting place to start, for the student of Texas history there remains for the future the deeper challenge of interdisciplinary research, analysis, and interpretation.

Irvin M. May Jr.
Blinn College at Bryan

Weniger presents a picture of destruction of the Texas environment. He has reconstructed Texas as viewed by the early explorers and inhabitants. The book is thoroughly researched, almost entirely from primary sources. Utilizing the written narratives of over 300 different observers and over 10,000 separate references, the author examines the flora, fauna, landscapes, and wildlife of Texas as it existed prior to the avalanche of civilization. The study is organized geographically to 1860, when Weniger asserts that major changes in the flora and fauna had begun to alter Texas substantially. The author skillfully employed on-site observations by explorers and travelers rather than later accounts which are subject to discrepancies. Weniger used an abundance of quotations which, while affording the reader a clearer understanding and more accurate picture of Texas as it was, detracts from the readability of the work. Nevertheless, the book is persuasive and intelligently written. Certainly the author's research underscores the conclusions he has drawn. In an age of increased awareness of the environment, students and researchers in ecology will find this book a valuable source.

Richard Chardkoff
Northeast Louisiana University


The notion that Chinese explorers may have trekked across western Texas hundreds of years before Cabeza de Vaca's shipwreck on the Gulf coast probably will seem preposterous to many readers of Exploration in Texas. Indeed, much of John L. Davis' book challenges traditional interpretations of early Texas history. In subsequent chapters readers are asked to consider evidence that Phoenician, Viking, Roman, and African sailors also encountered Texas soil before the arrival of the Spaniards. Whether or not any foreign vessels actually did so is not important, however, for the author has fashioned a work primarily intended as an intriguing exercise in critical thinking.

Exploration in Texas will prove particularly valuable to laypersons with little training in historical method. The author covers broad topics such as the interpretation of data, the evaluation of evidence, and inductive and deductive reasoning in a manner that is both pro-
vocative and fun. In essence Davis invites all who open his book to become explorers themselves. The quest for new historical truths and interpretations and a better understanding of the past is a stimulating challenge with rich rewards to those who persist in the effort.

B. Byron Price
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum


These books are genuine contrasts. Mexico: A History is a mature, reflective work, scholarly but without footnotes. In eleven chapters totaling 567 pages of text, Miller has achieved noteworthy balance, though treatment of the pre-Hispanic Indian civilizations may be overly long for some readers. There is no obvious bias nor any effort to distort history. Nevertheless, the book is not devoid of interpretation nor of suggestions for needed research. It is an honest assessment based on study, investigation, and personal observation. The illustrations are well-chosen, the bibliography satisfactory, and the proofreading and typography irreproachable. Any outsider desirous of understanding Mexican history, if limited to a single book, should choose this one, for it could be used either as a textbook or for general reading. Its brief treatment of Texas is standard and unemotional.

Hernandez's study seems to be a severely shortened doctoral dissertation, almost to the point of losing all of the thrust of what originally must have been much better. It is too brief. To tell properly the three stories that it tries to recount: 1) Early attempts of Borderlands Hispanics to solve various community problems; 2) development of mutual aid societies; and 5) a case study of the California-based Mexican Progressive Society. The author demonstrates how, against heavy odds, Mexican-Americans utilized their typical cultural orientation not only to survive the hardest of times, but also to succeed to the point that these methods might serve as guidance to other groups. That larger story, gratifying to most observers, does not emerge with the necessary clarity. There are far too many errors in typography, misspellings, inconsistencies, and mistaken interpretations, all of which gradually erode the reader's confidence. About fifteen pages are devoted exclusively to Texas,
focusing on South Texas mutual aid organizations. Other portions of the book are by analogy applicable to Texas.

Donald C. Cutter
St. Mary’s University


This book may well be the definitive biography of Davy Crockett that has been sorely needed for so long. In it the author, a native Tennessean, puts to rest much of the myth that has been produced about one of our most popular folk heroes, particularly that created by pseudo-autobiographies and Walt Disney’s romanticized film version. In doing so he brings the reader in contact with Davy Crockett the man and explains just how his life and times led to the formulation of a legendary figure even before his death at the Alamo. The author delves into Crockett’s family life, both as a youth and a married man, as well as his service in the Creek War of 1813, and his political career as a congressman from Tennessee in which he and President Andrew Jackson learned a great deal about hating one another. Burke gives an excellent account of Crockett’s final journey into Texas after losing his congressional reelection bid, as well as brief biographies of the legendary figures he encountered at the Alamo — Bowie, Travis, and Santa Anna — and their last days together at the siege of the Alamo.

The average reader will find this an interesting, well-written book, but sticklers for fact may be a bit disappointed when they find the author using his own previously published *novel* of the Alamo and its heroes as a source of information in this biography.

Still, few biographers have been able to bring Crockett and his life to proper perspective as ably as is done in this book.

Jim Collins
Aurora, Colorado

*Johnny Texas on the San Antonio Road.* By Carol Hoff. (Hendrick-Long Publishing Company, P.O. Box 12311, Dallas, TX 75225), 1984. Illustrations. P. 192.

The character Johnny Texas has achieved the status of hero in Texas literature. In this reprint of *Johnny Texas on the San Antonio*
Road, which is a sequel to the minor classic, Johnny Texas, author Carol Hoff continues the boy's adventures. Juvenile readers and teachers of Texas history will be pleased with the results.

In this book Johnny Texas meets a series of obstacles as he travels from his home near Harrisburg, Texas, to Guerrero, Mexico, site of the mission San Juan Bautista. His purpose is to deliver a load of corn meal in exchange for much needed gold coin while a crippled father, worried mother, and admiring little sister wait at home. Wild pigs, a savage Indian, rattlesnakes, difficult streams, highwaymen, and loneliness make strong enemies, but with the help of his pet dog, friends along the way, and an occasional stranger, Johnny succeeds in meeting every challenge.

The value of Johnny Texas on the San Antonio Road is found in the degree of good history it relates. A colorful description of southern Texas provides a setting for Johnny's trek. Hoff also gives an excellent portrayal of both San Antonio and Gonzales in the days of the Republic. Every opportunity is taken by the author to relate ways of life, styles of dress, kinds of food, and political attitudes of the day as young Johnny makes his way to and from Mexico.

Faults are few and minor. Most of the characters are either very good or very evil, perhaps adding to the delight of young readers, but hardly believable in some cases. Some historical bits seem artificially placed while others are beautifully woven into the story. A good map always makes a helpful illustration, and one here could have taught some Texas geography at the same time.

School and public libraries which do not already have the book should obtain it. Adults wanting to give children an excellent introduction to life in the Republic of Texas need look no further. More such books for children are needed.

Frank H. Smyrl
The University of Texas at Tyler


Over a span of three decades, General Marcus J. Wright compiled information on the role played by soldiers from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas in the American Civil War. His credentials for undertaking this project were excellent because he was the only former Confederate soldier chosen by the United States Department

Wright compiled a broad scope of information, beginning with a "brief political history of Texas from 1528 to 1869." He listed the general officers from Texas and their staffs, followed by field officers, regiments, and battalions from Texas in the Confederate Army, including state troops. Campaigns and battles fought in Texas along with lists of war governors, senators, representatives, military population in 1860, and Confederate general officers from Texas killed in battle are included.

On its own General Wright's statistical composition would merit high marks, but it is the extensive notes and biographical sketches added by Colonel Harold B. Simpson that make *Texas in the War, 1861-1865* so valuable. Simpson's appendices include: Texas' Ordinance of Secession, a roster of delegates to the Texas Secession Convention, voting records on secession by counties, correspondence relating to the surrender of United States government property in Texas, 1861, and a sequence of events in Texas during the war years. The book also contains 131 portraits of military leaders. In June 1932 an aging group of Confederate veterans assembled in Richmond, Virginia, for their forty-second and last reunion. For many who had fought shoulder to shoulder at Shiloh, Antietam, and Gettysburg seventy years earlier, this would be their last march together.

Virginius Dabney, grandson of a Confederate veteran, covered the convention as a reporter for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. In *The Last Review*, published a half century after the gathering, the author skillfully commemorates the three-day reunion and recalls his personal memories of the post-1865 years, including the easing of sectional hostilities, earlier Confederate reunions, and topics of controversy that have flamed for decades.

Two generations after the last shot was fired passions remained high and Dabney was able to capture those intense feelings by recalling the outrage of the local citizenry of Richmond when Albert Bushnell Hart, a touring lecturer, quoted Abraham Lincoln. But that incident proved mild in comparison with the indignation displayed by Confederate veterans who learned that a Yankee from Ohio had been selected to sculpt the statue of Robert E. Lee. The book is sprinkled liberally with interesting anecdotes. In addition, the handsomely printed publication contains a wealth of old photographs.

The reader is given one last bonus by the inclusion of Douglas Southall Freeman's "The Last Parade," a moving essay dedicated to those brave men who fought in the "thin gray line."

Civil War scholars as well as students of Southern history will welcome the addition of Dabney's *The Last Review* and Simpson's
Texas in the War to their collection.

Thomas L. Dunn
Diboll, Texas


These books on nineteenth-century Louisiana are of interest to those who wish to better understand the influence of Louisiana history on East Texas. One is a definitive study of the seige and fall of Port Hudson, last outpost of the Confederacy on the Mississippi; the other, a biography of a pioneer Baptist minister who served rural Louisiana churches along the East Texas border. Both books, in unique or specialized ways, make significant contributions to the historical literature of the larger region.

Volume II of The Guns of Port Hudson — Volume I primarily is concerned with Admiral Farragut’s attempt to “run the batteries” at the Port — is a detailed, day by day account of the final seige of Port Hudson. Edmond’s purpose is to redress the long neglect of the battle which has been overshadowed by the Battle of Vicksburg. In his attempt to restore the balance, Edmonds researched extensively in sources never fully used before. He reconstructs the struggle, the heroism and sacrifice, as well as the mutiny, plunder, and incompetence of both Union and Confederate soldiers. His book certainly adds significantly to our knowledge of the Civil War and implicitly to this battle’s impact on the Trans-Mississippi West.

Poe’s well-written Green W. Hartsfield is largely based on the minister’s extensive diaries as well as the minutes and church records of the Louisiana Baptist Association and various member churches. The solid research not only gives insight into the unassuming but remarkable Hartsfield, but also into life on the ever-moving and sparsely-settled frontier as it advanced across Louisiana into East Texas. It is a story of amazing stamina and rugged individualism. The book depicts the subsistence and primitive living patterns as seen by the resourceful and resilient Hartsfield, the part-time farmer and preacher. Accounts of weddings, funerals, church functions, scandals, politics, crop failures, and even gossip, recapture a sense of time and
place for the descendants of the region's frontier plain folk, particularly those who were Baptist. It is valuable social history.

Hubert H. Humphreys
Louisiana State University, Shreveport


Stephen B. Oates is the first author in sixty years to assemble a biography of John Brown based on the original research found in diaries, journals, letters, published reports, and recollections of eyewitnesses. John Brown, now chiefly remembered for his raid on Harper's Ferry, was born at Farrington, Connecticut, the son of Gwen and Ruth (Mills) Brown. In 1820 he married Dianthe Lusk, and five years later, moved his family to Richmond, Pennsylvania, where he established a tannery. This was the first of ten migrations before his adventures in Kansas, in the course of which Brown dabbled unsuccessfully in land speculation, incurred serious debts, and in 1831 lost his wife. Oates reminds the reader that John Brown was well over fifty-five years old before he realized his obsession with freeing the slaves.

In the spring of 1855 Brown set out for Kansas, complete with a wagon full of guns and ammunition. The author vividly describes the events of May 1856 which earned Brown the title of "old Brown of Osawatomie"; the cold blood murderer of five helpless settlers on Potawatomi Creek. From late autumn 1857 to summer 1859, John Brown traveled the countryside soliciting money for his newest venture which called for the liberation of the slaves in the Southern states to a base in the mountains of Maryland and Virginia, to which slaves and free Negroes would resort. By early summer 1859 Harper's Ferry was fixed as the base of operations. The remainder of the book is spent with the raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in 1855, John Brown's capture, trial, and execution.

Stephen Oates seeks to present an objective, historical account of John Brown's life devoid of psycho-analysis; however, it is impossible to accomplish this goal because Brown's irrational behavior requires a certain amount of psychoanalytic probing. He could be dictatorial and self-righteous, pursuing his obsessions with unwavering zeal, yet he could be extremely gentle, staying up several nights to care for a sick child, his ailing father, or his afflicted first wife. The author's caution in the subject of psychoanalysis closets the bizarre spirit of Brown, presenting the facts in a somewhat tedious manner.
In the prologue, Oates states his desire to understand John Brown without condoning or condemning his behavior, but the reader receives the impression that Oates is sympathetic towards Brown and attributes the atrocities of Harper's Ferry to religious fanaticism. At one point in the story a bystander asks Brown for justification of his actions at Harper's Ferry and the zealot replies, "Upon the Golden Rule I pity the poor in bondage that have none to help them: that is why I am here . . . ." This alludes to Oates' sympathetic view of John Brown, and he allows this strain to appear frequently throughout the story.

In spite of the somewhat pedantic style, many readers should find the story of John Brown intriguing as well as informative. Thirty pages of illustrations of John Brown's family and associates add to the interest and detail of the story.

Lisa Williams
Nacogdoches, Texas


Ginger Romero, through an interest in strawberry crate labels, has created a lavish pictorial history of the Louisiana strawberry industry which began in the late nineteenth century, peaked in the 1930s, and continues today through family custom rather than as a major agricultural enterprise. Thirty pages of color photographs reproduce the paper labels which identified the wooden crates of the various strawberry associations. Farmers were subsidized by their associations and marketed their crops under association labels.

Romero collected the labels, researched the lithographic process by which the labels were produced, and conducted over 200 interviews with people who had knowledge of the Louisiana strawberry business. Her book is an exploration of the various groups that marketed Louisiana strawberries under given brand names. It is a kind of folk history of berry farmers, their families, association leaders, auctioneers, berry inspectors, trainmen, and others who participated in the planting of the berries, their sales through nightly auctions, and the trains which took the crimson fruit to distant markets.

Despite enormous effort the larger story of the industry, the establishment of box factories and ice plants, the influence of the Illinois Central Railroad in berry industry development, the role of agricultural experimentation, and the emergence of frozen foods, remains to be told.

C. Howard Nichols
Southeastern Louisiana University

Barry Jean Ancelet concentrates on South Louisiana. He provides insight into the lives of more than twenty of the most popular Cajun and Creole musicians of South Louisiana. Ancelet presents the musicians telling their own stories.

This project started on March 26, 1974, with the first Tribute to the Cajun Music Festival in Lafayette, Louisiana. Ancelet had been a major organizer of the event. This inspired his photographer, Elmore Morgan, Jr., to interview these people to record their stories. Ancelet points out that many of these people led normal lives and performed their music during their leisure time.

Ancelet arranged the book in an unusual style. Quotes from musicians are presented in script form and Ancelet's comments are in regular type. One column of each page provides the information in English, and the other column is printed in the South Louisiana language, Louisiana French. The musicians told about their unusual lifestyles and how they started in the business.

The photographer, Elmore Morgan, Jr., did an excellent job with the pictures which show musicians during their performances as well as in their homes.

Kay Mauritzen
Carthage, Texas


This modest volume of essays was prepared by students and colleagues of agricultural historian Charles L. Wood. Like most Festshrift, the quality is uneven; and, despite the title, most of the essays deal with Texas or Oklahoma rather than broader aspects of Western social and domestic life. The ten essays are grouped around five broad themes. They include three essays on women, two on domestic life, and a third on Indian field matrons. Two essays have ranching themes. One examines Spanish ranching culture, and another deals with the Panhandle Stock Association. In addition, there are essays on the Texas Farm Bureau Federation, material culture, farm technology, and the impact of the World War II draft on farming. The final piece is a reminiscence of Alexander McKay, chairman of the board of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, edited by Woods and James E. Brink.
The essays are short, generally well written, and competently edited by John Wunder who also provided a brief introduction to each section. Each essay is documented extensively, and there is a short bibliographic essay which provides suggestions for further reading.

In summary, this is a sound volume, but at $29.95 it probably is not an essential addition to the individual bookshelf.

Sandra L. Myres
University of Texas at Arlington


Because East Texas has a Southern agricultural heritage, this book is important for readers of the _Journal_. Gilbert Fite, the most important agricultural historian of our age, has attempted to survey Southern commercial agricultural development since the Civil War. And the South stretched from the coast of Virginia to Texas, meaning East Texas and beyond. As readers, we do not know precisely where Fite's South faded into the West. However, he clearly identified the commercial farmer as the central historical character with problems of slow moving efforts to modernize and earn a decent standard of living.

In the process of revealing Southern agriculture, Fite broadly interprets the region rather than provides an in depth discussion of each state's agricultural history. He weaves pertinent examples from the states into the historical fabric. In chronological fashion, he provides thoughtful observations. For example, for nearly three generations after the Civil War cotton remained the dominant cash crop of Southern agriculture. Poverty, lack of knowledge, and lack of a will to change united many Southern farmers. Then the New Deal came and encouraged the production of other cash crops by restricting cotton acreage. For more financial stability, federal conservation and credit programs provided assistance to the Southern farmer. After 1935 the main economic problem confronting Southern agricultural began to decline. The problem was an excess of rural population in relation to improved land. Many Southern farmers left farming the soil. This development accelerated mechanization, science, ranching, crop diversification, and larger farms toward a more sophisticated, labor-efficient agriculture.

In defining the broad perimeters of Southern agriculture, Fite realized that each area had its significant subjects, and all could not be included. He may be forgiven for not telling us more about ran-
ching or rice. More Texas State Exchange or David Dickson examples would have provided a stronger, personal, human dimension. If the people of Athens (peas), Tyler (roses), or other leaders of Texas agriculture seek to expand the education of the Georgia professor, I think that the rest of the Texas historical profession should be informed and invited to join the fun.

_Cotton Fields No More_, a justly deserved winner of the Theodore Saloutos Award, will rank as a classic in Southern history. For those people who never felt sand or red clay between their toes, who never chopped cotton, or who gladly left rural America as soon as they could, this book is also for you. We should remember that though many of us live in cities, we are not divorced from the farms. The farms have changed. For Texans, and especially East Texans, Fite defines the perimeters of our regional Southern agricultural history, and thus gives us an important understanding of our own culture in the 1980s.

Irvin M. May Jr.
Blinn College at Bryan


This is not a history of the Farmers Alliance and People’s Party of Texas. It is an evaluation or testing of sociological hypotheses or models relating to the origin and efficacy of protest movements within society. The two basic theories reviewed are 1) “the structural strain perspective,” and 2) “the mobilization theory.”

The structural strain theory holds that protest movements develop from strains caused by disruptive social changes. In a chapter titled “A Critique of Structural Strain Theories of Protest Movement Formation,” the author rejects structural strain explanations for the Alliance/Populist movements on the grounds that basic assumptions of this theory are under attack. That is, the theory assumes that the state acts in behalf of society, that structural strains are temporary, and that protest is non-rational. Moreover, when one tests the Alliance/Populist movement as an outgrowth of disruptive social changes, the causes for change, in this case collapsed farm and especially cotton prices, exist both before and after the protest movements. Cause for protest is then inherent in social structures and becomes manifest only when potential benefits exceed costs. Thus, the interpretations of Richard Hofstadter, John D. Hicks, James Turner, and Sheldon Hackney, among others, who have followed a
variation of the structural strain theory are lacking in sociological support.

The author supports "mobilization" theories of social protest which hold that disruptive social changes do not cause protests. Rather, social conflict is inherent in social systems, and particularly in the capitalist system. Rapid social change only creates the opportunity and resources to protest. Effective protest movements must have limited and attainable objectives, an effective communication network, and external support. Lawrence Goodwin's *Democratic Promise* and Michael Schwartz's *Radical Protest and Social Structure* are studies which employ a rudimentary form of the mobilization perspective, according to the author.

There are a number of problems which concerned the reviewer. For example, the author chose to represent the Alliance and Populist movements as essentially a commodity (price) reaction. Also, there is no effort to delineate between the Alliance and Populist movements, and Populism is viewed as an extension of Alliance protest strategy. When "business" solutions failed, Alliance protestors pursued a political solution. The author sees the subtreasury as the radical threat to the polity, which used free silver to defuse the threat. The Alliance achieved more organizational successes than the Grange because the Grange had stressed self-help, rather than organization and cooperation, Barnes believes.

Nevertheless, as Barnes suggests, sociological theory can provide useful guidelines in the historians' analyses of protest movements, and historians can benefit from the interdisciplinary methodology.

Henry C. Dethloff
Texas A&M University

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Bernard Marinbach, a member of the faculty at the Overseas Students' Unit of Tel Aviv University, has produced a thoroughly researched analysis of the problems associated with the movement of over 10,000 Jewish immigrants through the Port of Galveston.

Although a majority of Jews entered the United States through the Port of New York, an almost unknown and little recognized group first set foot on American soil at Galveston. Marinbach carefully traces their roots, their struggle against Russian Pogroms, and the bittersweet experiment of the Galveston Movement.

A number of prominent Jews were at one time either directly or indirectly associated with the movement which lasted from 1907 to
1914. Once the immigrants arrived in the United States their struggle was far from over. Although there were no Russian Cossacks to beat them with chains, bureaucratic red tape created a warlike atmosphere among Jewish immigrant organizations and the federal government.

Many, disillusioned, longed to return to their homeland. Others were deported. Marinbach tells their story. Using papers of the Galveston-based Jewish Immigrants’ Information Bureau and material located in archives throughout the world, the author constructs a complete picture of the Galveston Movement. Added to this data, Marinbach has included personal accounts in the words of the immigrants themselves.

In the recent interest to discover our “roots” Marinbach’s work provides a new, fresh insight into the origins of many residents of the United States — who, perhaps, never experienced the trauma of immigration.

Maury Darst
Galveston College


This volume, a result of fruitful local/federal collaboration between the Houston Center for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a worthwhile supplement to David G. McComb’s Houston, the Bayou City (1969) which began the era of modern scholarship about Houston but unfortunately glossed over large portions of the cultural heritage of the community. It contains chapters about the history in Houston of ten ethnic groups — Blacks, Mexicans, Chinese, Indochinese, Japanese, Greeks, Jews, Germans, Scandinavians, and French — plus an introduction and a conclusion. All of the authors are academicians although none except the editor are so identified and none of the essays carries more than the lightest scattering of footnotes. Both of these omissions are to be regretted. Yet, while shorn of the usual scholarly regalia, most of these essays are nevertheless respectable examples of first stage scholarship. They are descriptive and chronological rather than analytical and thematic. Furthermore, the articles are presented attractively on good paper with plenty of period photographs and an easy-on-the-eye format. Those with an interest in the subject can do no better than to consult The Ethnic Groups of Houston.

Howard Beeth
Houston Metropolitan Research Center

The author maintains that this is her story of public education in Dallas, and that those who find omissions should not protest, but should write their own book. Rumbley fulfills her stated purpose by presenting a parade of stories about students, teachers, administrators, and various other related and unrelated topics. Unfortunately, the parade route takes many turns as it winds through the author’s memories and anecdotal accounts offered by family and colleagues, and leaves the reader about where he started, wanting to learn something about the history of public education in Dallas during the last century. The topic itself presents endless possibilities for good stories and photographs, and those are in abundance in this book. There is little pattern to the use of the material, with most of the local and national historical trends injected out of context, with sources not cited. Accounts of stern teachers, noble administrators, lovely young ladies, and ornery little boys are accompanied by personal digressions and moralizing about the educational system and society. A patronizing tone of Southern gentility allows disturbing disregard for issues of prejudice reflected in many of the stories. One example describes the lynching of a black man and concludes “there was plenty of action for Show and Tell in Dallas at the turn of the century” (p.32).

Those interested in finding stories about the good old days will find them here. Those interested in the historic development of public education will have to write their own book.

Michael Everman
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance


Three authors of rare qualifications put together this book on the Texas governor's mansion and the families who occupied it. Jean Houston Daniel is descended from the most famous occupant of the mansion; she and her husband and co-author, Governor Price Daniel, resided in the mansion for six years; and their co-author, Dorothy Blodgett, wrote a brochure and prepared material for a guidebook on the mansion.
All are students of Texana, and they treat thoroughly every aspect of the Greek Revival mansion that is the most historic residence in the state. The book begins with a scholarly review by Governor Daniel of the executive homes of Texas from Spanish times. It ends with speculation that the current residence, completed in 1856 and occupied by every governor since, will become a museum and a new executive mansion built. In between the authors consider the construction of the mansion by master builder Abner Cook, the acquisition of furnishings, and the various repairs and remodelings. All of this is given in the context of the history of the state and nation with personal glimpses of the people who lived in the mansion. Not surprisingly, the most interesting section deals with the occupancy by the Daniel family. As Texas State Librarian Dorman H. Winfrey points out in a brief introduction, Jean and Price Daniel observed history and were a part of it.

This book was twenty years in the making, and the time and effort show on every page. Beautifully illustrated, it is both a coffee-table book and a resource for scholars.

Marilyn McAdams Sibley
Houston, Texas


The vast and rugged Big Bend country provides the setting for Kenneth Baxter Ragsdale’s gripping account of revolution, bandit raids across the Rio Grande, and the struggle of a fledgling Army Air Corps to make its presence felt among traditional infantry and cavalry. In that desolate region of West Texas hundreds of young American pilots demonstrated the military’s reconnaissance capabilities and the ability to respond to emergencies, thus bringing to light the changing role of the airplane as a device of both war and peace.

Ragsdale, an Austin-based historian, presents a brilliant account of the emergence of United States air power as well as the character and ideals of the men who flew in the early years of the Army Air Corps. The author’s thorough research included visits into the Big Bend area as well as interviews with a number of former pilots stationed in the region.

Several uprisings in northern Mexico, particularly the Escobar Rebellion, as well as incidents of banditry along the border, caused some American militarists to realize a need for the establishment of an airfield there. The Army Air Corps established a base along the
Rio Grande almost exclusively because of its strategic location. Combat troops could be landed and aircraft be deployed there in case of a border crisis.

This airfield came under the personal civilian control of Elmo Johnson, on whose ranch it was built. Johnson, who sought neither prestige nor authority, ultimately achieved a unique place in the military hierarchy for which there was neither precedent nor counterpart. Unlike any other facility in the Army Air Corps, the airfield at Johnson's Ranch evolved out of unusual needs and developed in a style that carried its functions to the edge of officialdom and beyond.

The era of this unique airfield brought about changing concepts of the role of military aviation and left behind a vastly different world. This well-researched work portrays a vivid story of the last remnants of the American frontier in contrast with the new age of aerial technology.

Mark Steven Choate
Nacogdoches, Texas


Virtually everyone who has done serious research in Texas history has noted "Austin, Gammel Book Co.", in his or her bibliography, and few readers but have seen numerous references to Gammel's Laws of Texas — not to mention Texas lawyers who use "Gammel's Laws" every day. And what a debt all of us owe the man who published such Texana as John C. Duval's Early Times in Texas, C.W. Raines' 1896 Bibliography of Texas, and Noah Smithwick's Evolution of a State.

Yet little has been told of the Danish immigrant, Karl Hans Peter Mareus Neilsen Gammel himself. His book store in Austin began in 1881 almost accidentally with twenty-four volumes, for which he had paid 25 cents, on a board stuck between two chinaberry trees. Lemonade was that first store's basic offering. By his death in 1931, the book store was a national institution and Gammel had been a much loved (and amusing) bibliophile to three generations of collectors. This biography, written by the only living child of H.P.N. Gammel and Frances Tarlton McCallum (who, with her husband, wrote the valuable The Wire That Fenced the West), is based on the diaries Gammel kept through most of his life. As biography it is pleasant reading because Gammel was giving to "jollity" as he called it. But book lovers and collectors will find it most valuable, with a listing of all Gammel Book Co. publications, the story of his dramatic rescue of documents from the Capitol fire of 1881, and numerous tales from
the Austin of Sid Porter (O. Henry) to that of J. Frank Dobie. And
the 1930 price list reprint of Gammel's private holdings will break
a modern collector's heart.

A.C. Greene
Dallas, Texas

The Other Texas Frontier. By Harry Huntt Ransom. (University of
Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), 1984. P. 72.

In this remarkable book, former UT Chancellor Harry Ransom at­
ttempts to expand the scope of individuals worthy of historical and
biographical treatment in Texas. Traditionally, it is the action-packed
exploits of stereotypical Texans — military and political heroes — that
are celebrated in story, song, and verse. But Ransom suggests a dif­
ferent role model for emulation, "the other Texans — the Texans
without guns." These figures from what he calls the counterfrontier
in Texas represent the cultural and civilizing forces: "educational and
scientific activity, literary and artistic interests."

Specifically, Ransom singles out the contributions of three
nineteenth-century Texans: physician Ashbel Smith, the first presi­
dent of the UT Board of Regents; physician Sherman Goodwin; and
Swedish immigrant Swante Palm, who donated his extensive library
to UT.

The book, compiled and edited by Ransom's widow, Hazel H. Ran­
som, consists of six short essays chiefly written in the 1950s, and in­
cludes a forward by John Graves. While his approach went against
the grain of historical writing at the time, it has now become more
commonplace with the inclusion of social history to focus not only
on non-military or non-political figures, but also on the contributions
of ordinary people. As Texas becomes ever more urbanized and shifts
to a high tech society fueled by knowledge, Ransom's role models
become even more essential.

Robert F. O'Connor
Texas Committee for the Humanities

The Land Before Her. Fantasy and Experience of the American Fron­
tiers. By Annette Kolodny. (The Univ. of North Carolina Press,
Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27514), 1984. Notes. Bibliography. In­
dex. P. 293. $28.00 Cloth; $9.95 Paper.

In The Land Before Her, Annette Kolodny chooses not to deal with
the male-created, and predominant, image of the great white
masculine hero/frontiersman typified by Davy Crockett and Daniel
Boone. Instead Kolodny presents the simple images of the frontier
created by pioneer women. This is the story of women responding to, not conquering, a foreign environment. Utilizing both the private and public writings of these women, Kolodny follows the frontier as it gradually moves west. Beginning with the New England Indian captivity of Mary Rowlandson, moving into early Texas with the writings of Mary Austin Holley, and finally reaching the "far West" in the novels of Maria Susanna Cummins, the lives of these women are revealed in both their truths and their fantasies. They are lives of simple struggles and simple dreams.

Kolodny pieces together the story of pioneer womanhood to reveal a delightful tapestry rich in diligence and determination. By reaching beyond the mythology of the frontier to grasp the realities and fantasies of frontier womanhood, Kolodny has produced an important, refreshing, and engrossing book. *The Land Before Her* is highly recommended, especially for students in woman's studies and frontier or western studies.

Vista Kay McCroskey
San Augustine, Texas


Ten thousand silk "yo-yo" units comprise the design for Leila Chaney's Centennial 84"x72" quilt "Texas Under Six Flags," one of the full-color photographs in *Texas Quilts. Texas Women.* A black and white photo shows autographs and comments by cowboys on the "XIT Autograph Quilt" by Mrs. J. Luther Ramsey of Hereford. A Texas Centennial pattern "Texas Bluebonnets," marketed in a kit and used for Lockhart's Home Demonstration Club raffle quilt in 1936, was chosen as the jacket illustration for the book. Suzanne Yabsley's study is rich in documentary details such as these. Of the twenty-three photographs, half are reproduced in full color. The quilts themselves are featured in them, with only two women pictured.

Yabsley is herself a quilter, a quilt-guild speaker, and a collector of quilts. In *Texas Quilts. Texas Women,* she provides historical background as well as information on museum collections and existing quilt guilds. One guild, she reports, invites men into the guild: "There are many men who are good at quilting and I [Anita Murphy, the founder of the Golden Triangle Quilt Guild] would love to have them as part of the group."

An attractive volume, the book contains important preservation material. However, because of its size alone — it is only ninety-nine pages long — it cannot be considered the definitive work on the subject.
Ouida Whitaker Dean
Nacogdoches, Texas


Texans have had a mild love affair with armadillos since the 1960s. During a time when being "cool" and "laid back" were considered admirable characteristics, the armadillo came shuffling along, looking very cool and laid back. He was not highly concerned with religion or politics, he was gentle and non-aggressive and non-destructive, and he viewed the world, seemingly, with a calm and philosophic detachment. Maybe he became a symbol of what people wanted to be or at least wanted to feel at the time — a philosophic detachment during the traumas of Vietnam, student riots, skyrocketing inflation, and population explosion and congestion. Whatever the reason, the armadillo became a Texas cult figure, the enthusiasm for which might have abated a little.

Larry L. Smith and Robin W. Doughty deal with the sociological (as well as the biological) aspects of this little creature in their book. This dealing with both might be what causes the book to fall between two chairs. The biological section certainly was interesting, but it could never decide vocabularily whether it wanted to be popular or scientific. The ecological discussions of distribution and dispersal were labored and repetitive. The sociological aspects, most of them, have been covered many times in popular articles, perhaps with the exception of the discussion of the Apelt Armadillo Company.

Armadillos came from the south across the Rio Grande in the 1840s or 1850s. They have since migrated or have been introduced throughout the temperate regions of the South. In the discussion of migration the authors say, "It is plausible that people carried animals [armadillos] as "meat on the hoof"." That remark stretched my credulity, which broke completely when they said: "Residents of East Texas have a tradition of consuming armadillos and even feeding an armadillo stew to their cattle, pigs, and chickens." I have been in East Texas over fifty years and "consuming armadillos" has never been a part of eating traditions that I know of. Granted that during the depression "Hoover Hogs" were eaten by some people, and some might eat them now as an experiment or novelty. But I don't believe that there is large public consumption. And the very idea that anybody would feed armadillo stew to a cow is laughable. Not many people would go to the trouble to cook an armadillo stew for a pig or a chicken either — unless, of course, they were close friends.

I profited from the section on the Apelt Armadillo Company,
founded in 1898 for the purpose of making armadillo baskets, lamp shades, and other curios. An armadillo basket, for those who have not encountered them on roadside stands, consists of an armadillo shell lined with pink (or the color of your choice) satin and with the tail turned under to the head to form the basket handle. At one time these baskets were the ultimate illustration of tacky. They are probably treasures now. Carl Apelt made quite a business out of armadillos, not only selling their hides fabricated into various artistic forms but selling them to zoos and animal collectors worldwide and to medical laboratories for use in the study of leprosy.

Smith and Doughty’s peregrinations through the world of the armadillo conclude with a view of those entrepreneurs who are most closely associated with the animal: Sam Lewis, who trains and races armadillos; Eddie Wilson, who created a center of Texas country music at his Armadillo World Headquarters; and Jim Franklin, the armadillo artist still remembered for his classic portrayal of an armadillo in intercourse with the state capitol dome. I doubt that the armadillo would be such a simple, unassuming creature if he knew what great press he had. Some armadillists are trying to make him the official state mammal. Maybe this book will help him.

On the other hand, if he had the slightest inkling that East Texans were going to cook him up into an armadillo stew and feed him to their cows, probably he would retrace his steps to Mexico. An armadillo is an authority on bad taste.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University