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## Book Notes

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## BOOKNOTES

If nothing else, the Sesquicentennial stimulated the publication of *Texana*. A great many more books came our way for review and noting than we can accommodate immediately, so it is hoped that writers and publishers will be patient as we work our way through the stacks. The following are some items we think our readers will find of particular interest most immediately.

*The Texas Alamanc*, Mike Kingston, editor. (The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265), 1986. No Texan can be truly informed about his state without a current copy of the *Alamanc*, edited by Association director Mike Kingston. The 1986-1987 edition is especially devoted to the Sesquicentennial.

*The Great State Fair of Texas* by Nancy Wiley (Taylor Publishing Company, 1550 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235; \$24.95), contains an interesting narrative history of the fair and a foreward by noted Dallas historian A.C. Greene. The book is amply illustrated. It commemorates the enlarged fair in honor of the Sesquicentennial and will become a souvenir of the event.

*The 50 Best Books on Texas* by A.C. Greene (Pressworks Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas), is just that: a listing of the books Greene considers the best on our state, with comments on each. He states: "I boldly submit my choice for Texas' 50 best books. And, outraged or in agreement, give you leave to make your own." The list grew from a request by Pressworks Publishing to provide a list for a series on Texas Letters.

*Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year 1986 Edition*, edited by Charles Brooks (Pelican Publishing Company, P.O. Box 189, Gretna, LA 70053; \$9.95), is another presentation of "bests," this time cartoons collected over the year. They are organized in approximately thirty topics, including AIDS, SDI, Congress, etc.

*Susanna of the Alamo. A True Story* by John Jakes (Gulliver Books, Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101; \$13.95), is a juvenile book written by one of America's foremost storytellers. It focuses on Susanna Dickinson, wife of artilleryist Almeron Dickinson. Bacon's illustrations add a special dimension.

*The Texas Cowboy* by the Texas Cowboy Artists Association, text by Donald Worcester, and an introduction by Elmer Kelton, (Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas 76129; \$50.00), is a Sesquicentennial project of the TCA. "In painting, drawing, pastel, and bronze, the art of this book demonstrates that indeed the cowboy of today is alive and well, even proud of his link to the historic cowboy of the past," a quotation from the press, is an accurate statement of the book.

*Ace Reid: Cowpoke* by John R. Erickson (Maverick Books, Box 549, Perryton, Texas 79070; \$15.95), is another book about cowboys, but a

different kind. While some of Reid's cartoons are presented, this is really a book about Reid himself, written with the cooperation of the principal subject.

*Newton County Nuggets: A Collection of Stories by Newton County Folk*, compiled by Pauline Hines, (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), is another Sesquicentennial project, this time by the Newton County Historical Commission. It is filled with stories and remembrances of numerous Newton County folks, sites, and events.

*Roll Call at the Alamo*, by Phil Rosenthal and Bill Groneman (The Old Army Press, P.O. Box 2243, Ft. Collins, CO 80522; \$37.50), is more than a list of participants. This slender volume contains narratives on such topics as the siege and the death of David Crockett, and a compendium of statistical and demographic information about the participants.

*Great Texas Christmas Legends and Secrets of Silver Valley*, both by Zeno Zeplin (Nel-Mar Enterprises, P.O. Box 1138, Wimberley, Texas 78676; \$7.95 each), are also Sesquicentennial publications. The first contains five Christmas stories, and the latter is a tribute to the Hispanic influence in Texas history. The author's plan is to craft stories that will inspire rereading by the entire family at every Christmas.

*A Lady and A Lone Star Flag. The Story of Joanna Troutman* by Henry David Pope (A Lady & A Lone Star Flag, 1408 Comanche Ct., Arlington, TX 76012), is a Sesquicentennial republication of a centennial commemorative, the story of the creator of one of the early Texas flags.

*South by Southwest. 24 Short Stories From Modern Texas* edited by Don Graham (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713; \$22.50), is a presentation, as its title suggests, of short stories. It is justified, the press asserts, to have a collection of *only* Texas stories because Texas "is a region unto itself." The work of such notable writers as William Humphrey, William Owens, Bill Brett, A.C. Greene, and Larry McMurtry is included in the collection.

*The Indians of Texas: An Annotated Research Bibliography* by Michael L. Tate (Scarecrow Press, P.O. Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840; \$52.50), contains nearly 500 pages of references to its subject, plus an excellent index.

*Texas* by Mary Austin Holley (Texas State Historical Association 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, Texas 78712), represents one of the real services of the Texas State Historical Association, namely the reprinting of important publications. This is the sixth installment in the Fred H. and Ella Mae Moore Texas History Reprint Series, and is one of the best in my view. It is a wonderful description of Texas in 1836.

*Tales of the Big Thicket* edited by Francis E. Abernethy (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), is another good service of the University of Texas Press. Abernethy's book, originally pub-

lished in 1967, is a fundamental starting point for any who would know the Thicket.

*The Maverick Guide to Australia*, by Robert W. Bone (Pelican Publishing Company, 1101 Monroe Street, Gretna, LA 70053), may come a bit late for some Texans in this year of Sesquicentennial exchange with South Australia's Jubilee 150, but this writer had the opportunity to use this book on a visit to Australia and can testify that it was of tremendous value. While there I hardly had time to consult it, but I do give it an endorsement.