Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

As usual, more books came our way than can be reviewed. We would like to take notice, however, of the following publications that have come our way.

First, *Reminiscences of Fifty Years in Texas*, by John J. Linn, (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761; $19.95), has been reissued. Linn's book remains one of the basic sources of information on the Texas Revolutionary period. A native of Ireland, Linn came to Texas in 1829. He opened a warehouse and general store in Victoria and founded the town of Linnville. He served as *alcalde* of Victoria, and was a member of the conventions associated with the Texas Revolution. His story makes for interesting reading.

The Texas State Historical Association has reissued *Texas History Movies*, with an introduction by George B. Ward (Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, TX 78712). This evergreen version of our state's history will be greeted by those who may have missed previous editions.

The *Land Commissioners of Texas, 150 Years of the General Land Office*, by Land Commissioner Gary Mauro with a preface by the Honorable Ralph Yarborough (General Land Office, 1700 North Congress St., Austin, TX 78701), tells its contents in the title. Herein is a history of the office and a valuable biographical presentation on each commissioner.

Donald W. Whisenhunt's *Encyclopedia of Texas Colleges and Universities: An Historical Profile* (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735; $14.95), is an alphabetical listing of any institution of higher learning in Texas that you can remember. Most entries tell you the where, when, and why of the institution, if known, and many provide a history of the school.

*Bastrop County Before Statehood*, by Kenneth Kesselus (Bastrop Stationers, Drawer Z, Bastrop, TX 78602; $22.00), is important because during the eras covered Bastrop played a key role in the development of Texas history. According to the preface, it was on the frontier and experienced bitter Indian fighting, was a part of the Austin grant, and provided key leaders in the Texas Revolution and in the period of the Republic.

*Realms of Beauty: The Wilderness Areas of East Texas*, by Edward C. Fritz with photos by Jess Alford (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713; $9.95 paper), and *The Texas Bluebonnet* by Jean Andrews (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713; $9.95), are for nature lovers. The former is illustrated handsomely with color photos and black-and-white drawings, and contains an interesting narrative. The latter is a tribute to the flower that has become the Lone Star State's trademark. It also contains beautiful illustrations, and chapters
on what a bluebonnet is, how to grow them, and their many uses.

Finally, the *Texas Highway Cookbook*, by Joanne Smith with foreword by Frank Lively (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), is a book of recipes gleaned from the magazine of the same name. It is divided into chapters such as Main Dishes: Tex-Mex . . . and Mex-Tex; Chili; Beans and Black-Eyes; Salads, Veggies, and Rice; Bread, Noodles, and Dumplings; Desserts; Other Sweets; Christmas; and Something Else. You will need to see it to find out what Something Else is. I'll tell you this: the illustrations will make you think of the excellent photography associated with the magazine.