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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Hasinai. Southern Caddoans as Seen by the Earliest Europeans.* By Herbert Eugene Bolton. Edited by Russell M. Magnaghi. (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK 73019), 1987. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 194.

Herbert Eugene Bolton wrote this study of the eastern Texas Indians popularly known as the Tejas about 1907. It grew out of an abortive start at a monograph on the Indians of Texas undertaken at the suggestion of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Bolton's failure to publish it, the editor tells us (p. xiii), was due to "his busy schedule and a change in his research interest."

Indeed, Bolton, from 1906 to 1938, spurned urgings to complete the manuscript and submit it. At the outset, Bolton advised the bureau not to expect an anthropological work but one of historical nature (p. 8). In later years, he demurred because he had not kept abreast of the subject (p. 18). Thus, the conclusion seems warranted that, as an ethnologist, he never really felt comfortable.

Following Bolton's final expression of reluctance in 1939, John R. Swanton of the Bureau of Ethnology — one of those who had urged him to complete the work — published his *Source Material on the History and Ethnology of the Caddo Indians*, which embraced the Hasinai, in 1942. In 1954, a former Bolton student, William J. Griffith, published *The Hasinai Indians of East Texas as Seen by Europeans, 1687-1772*, citing his mentor's unpublished manuscript as the "most complete and authoritative study of Hasinai ethnology." And so it remains. Any suggestions offered here for expanding this compendium of early European observations on the tribe from which Texas takes its name would seem ostentatious.

Robert S. Weddle  
Bonham, Texas

*The Heroic Triad: Backgrounds of Our Three Southwestern Cultures.* By Paul Horgan. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767), 1987. Bibliography. Index. P. 256. \$10.95.

Paul Horgan, the Southwest's most celebrated historian, fashioned this triad from three of the region's principal cultures: Pueblo Indians, Spanish-Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans. In a series of richly imagined and artfully crafted vignettes, Horgan evoked the beliefs, values, material cultures, and communal and private lives of these peoples.

This Texas Monthly Press edition of *Heroic Triad* represents a reprint of a reprint. First published in 1970, *Heroic Triad* consisted almost entirely of excerpts from the Pulitzer-prize winning *Great River: The Rio Grande In North America History*, a two-volume work that first appeared

in 1954. From *The Great River*, Horgan had drawn what he termed "my impressionistic presentations of the social History of the Southwest" (p. 237). The result was a remarkably satisfying book, with a surprisingly modern ring to historians immersed in the "new" social history. Those who allow themselves the pleasure of being swept along on Horgan's stream of limpid prose can well overlook the shoals: that the sources of Horgan's facts and quotes cannot be easily traced, that his bibliography is out of date, or that the same errors of fact and interpretation that marred *Great River* are perpetuated. Why, however, buy this volume of excerpts when the two-volume *Great River* is available in paperback from the same publisher at little extra cost?

David J. Weber  
Southern Methodist University

*The Presidio and Militia on the Northern Frontier of New Spain, 1570-1700.* By Thomas H. Naylor and Charles W. Polzer, S.J. (University of Arizona Press, 1615 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719), 1986. Illustrations. Photographs. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. P. 756.

Although quite a lot has been written about the military system of the Spanish Borderlands in the eighteenth century, not much can be found about it during earlier times. Co-authors Naylor and Polzer present a volume that helps to fill this void. Their work traces the evolution of the presidial system in the Northern Provinces of New Spain from its inception in 1570 till 1700, when Bourbon rule began.

This book represents the first full-length volume in a new Documentary Relations of the Southwest (DRSW) series. It is a documentary history whose purpose is to present primary source evidence in such a way that other investigators can forge new interpretations or reconfirm old conclusions regarding the evolution of the presidial system in northern New Spain. The book will appeal to scholars and history buffs who are interested in the Spanish colonial history of the American Southwest.

The book is organized into four chapters: The Chichimeca War; Early Rebellions; Mid-Century Challenges; and Northern Rebellions. They are arranged to show the chronological development of presidios in northern New Spain. After an editorial introduction to each chapter, selected Spanish documents pertaining to presidios and the militia are presented, first in an English translation and next in a typescript of the original Spanish document in modern Spanish orthography. This method gives the reader a good idea and feeling of the life and times described in the documents. The text is enhanced by annotations and well-placed footnotes.

This first DRSW volume is a welcomed and needed addition to the body of knowledge regarding the rich Spanish heritage of the American Southwest. It includes military activity in the El Paso area of Texas in

the 1680s. Hopefully, future volumes will include heretofore unused documents pertaining to other presidios in Texas such as La Bahia, Los Adaes, and San Antonio de Bexar.

Robert H. Thonhoff  
Fashing, Texas

*Stolen Heritage: A Mexican-American's Rediscovery of His Family's Lost Land Grant.* By Abel G. Rubio. Edited by Thomas H. Kreneck. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, Texas 79735), 1986. Illustrations. Photographs. Endnotes. Bibliography. Index. P. 224. \$14.95.

Abel Rubio is not a historian by profession but an accountant. The author grew up in south Texas where he suffered discrimination from Anglo Texans. This work is a product of what Thomas H. Kreneck, the editor, as well as Rubio have described as an "obsession to uncover a stolen heritage" (pp. xi, xx). In attempting to do so Abel Rubio has contributed a well-documented case study of a *Tejano* family and their losses to land-grabbers.

Don Manuel Becerra was born in 1765 in *La Bahia* and in 1821 was employed by Stephen F. Austin. In 1832 the Manuel Becerra family was granted at least 8836 acres of land in south Texas by the Mexican government. This study also handles the experiences of the de la Garza family living in *La Bahia* and *Refugio*. The de la Garza family, related by marriage to the Becerras, was divided when the head of the family, Don Carlos, became caught up in the Texas Revolution. The Becerra and de la Garza families established their homes on the land grant only to have it taken away by Anglo immigrants. Rubio chronicles the lives of both families on the Texas frontier. In addition to documenting the past, Rubio notes the legal course the families have taken in the successfully asserting their claim to the land grant.

Rubio has utilized oral interviews with elderly family members in his extensive research. He has compared the information acquired from oral testimonies with historical records whenever possible. The manuscript was edited by Thomas H. Kreneck who wrote his dissertation on Sam Houston and has aided Abel Rubio in furnishing a well-researched case study to *Tejano* history.

Yolanda Romero  
Texas Tech University

*In The Deep Heart's Core. Reflections on Life, Letters, and Texas.* By Clifford Craig Edward. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Bibliography. P. 145. \$13.95.

In his "Prologue" Clifford confesses his lack of credentials in the "field" of Southwestern Literature. But if clarity, style, and weight of

content rest on his background in Greek and German philosophy, then such should be a requisite for those Texas sons who whip out navel-gazing essays on Texas belles-lettres appearing in the *Monthly*, the *Observer*, the *Humanist*, and sundry English department journals around the state. The Ph.D. in Philosophy certainly hasn't hindered Clifford's ability to speak English, and when appropos, to speak "native."

Several of the essays contain the holier-than-thou, native-born, self-definition stuff that McMurtry, Greene, and others stir up at regular intervals. But the best of Clifford just may prove to be a significant departure point — a level-headed one at that — in the never ending volleys and return fusillades on the whos, whats, whens, wheres, whys, and even ifs of Texas art and myth.

While living as a Texas expatriate in Maryland, Clifford chances on Myles O'Donovan, son of the short story writer, Frank O'Connor. Not only is O'Donovan better read and more knowledgeable on many specifics of Clifford's birthright, but he believes that the American West, especially his beloved New Mexico, is the "last great hope of the human race." O'Donovan begins Clifford's soul-searching route home.

Clifford brings himself to grips with the Texas myth through the German philosopher, Martin Heidegger. He sounds out a different type of living than mere technological manipulation: an existence based on a direct relationship with the earth itself. He sees Heidegger's roots in pastoral Germany as the basis for the philosopher's analysis of global technology. Clifford asks if Texas in all its splended offerings might provide that "other" way of thinking which can break the hegemony of technology. And he considers a great many of those Texas offerings: the "South" and the "West" of Texas, the land itself, the "Ethnic Terrain," the popular culture, the urban and the rural makeup, and even the country music of our grand assylum. (Yes, Waylon and Willie do appear.)

But if this description sounds dull and disordered, Clifford is neither. From his redefinition of myth ("One myth among others is the modern myth of the bare fact: that myth is a bad one. The key is to get the myth right ...") to his nose-to-nose confrontations with McMurtry ("*l'enfant terrible*"), Morris ("... always belonged to Mississippi more than it belonged to him"), and James Lee ("an Alabama boy who teaches at North Texas State"), through his appreciation of the Irish poet, Seamus Heaney ("If he would travel around reading my poems, I would be famous within a year — and if I traveled around reading his, he would be forgotten within a year"), Clifford offers an entertaining and informed perspective of the sum of Texas myth and art. The overall message: "Quite simply put: you can go home again ... In my case, I began to see the place working on me as a stronger force than all of my highest aspirations of self cultivation."

The book is wonderful. Buy it. Better yet, send it to a friend, especially

an intellectual or academic who has moved out of state. Your friend will hate you for it. But you might find him camped on your doorstep several weeks later — for all the reasons *In The Deep Heart's Core*.

Lee Schultz  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*River in Dry Grass*. By Pete A.Y. Gunter. (Shearer Publishing), 1984.  
P. 288. \$10.95.

*River in Dry Grass* is Peter A.Y. Gunter's first novel. He has woven together a rich tapestry of family conflict, murder, suicide, and small-town life. The story centers on Justin "Jim" Tremorgan who has just returned from Harvard. Justin and his parents make a hurried trip to the North Texas town of McKittrick to look after his dying grandmother. Grannie is completely disjoined from reality, and mischievous, irresponsible Uncle Bascomb makes matters worse by refusing to care for her.

Much of the story takes place on the banks of the Red River at Pickett's Prairie as father and son camp out during a lull in the family crisis. This is the occasion for the father to relate to Justin the family history. Gunter weaves into this section unobtrusively and casually fascinating bits of Texas history and folklore. The reader gets a sense of the colorful and brutal story of Texas history being unrolled for young Justin in his family biography.

The human tragedy of the Tremorgan family is offset by an underlying humanism and humor that counterpoints some of the grimmer aspects of the story. The author manages to catch the tone and accent of life in a small town — in this case McKittrick — in the 1950s, the decay, the racial prejudice, and the loss of sense of place.

Originality and flair of style and dialogue turn this local story into a powerful, evocative picture of a young man coming of age and the end of an era for a family and a community. This is a warm, loving book with many regards for the reader.

James H. Conrad  
East Texas State University

*Plantation Life in Texas*. By Elizabeth Silverthorne. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1986. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. P. 234. \$22.50.

Any historian who studies the slave plantations of Texas faces many formidable challenges, not the least of which is that such work has been so long awaited as to raise high expectations. Additionally, such powerful scholarship has emerged on the *antebellum* South that several different dimensions of the plantation could be explored. For these reasons

*Plantation Life in Texas* was perhaps destined to disappoint some readers. Certainly it does, but it will delight many others.

Those who prefer their history descriptive rather than analytical are likely to appreciate this volume. Silverthorne deals with the construction of houses, preparation of food and clothing, and the vagaries of taste. She expertly details the planting, harvesting, and processing of crops in the context of the rhythm of the seasons. Attractive illustrations (over fifty, seven in color) by Charles Shaw bring additional life to the author's words. There are also four maps although none locates the plantations named in the book. East Texas, especially the Jefferson-Marshall area, receives attention, although the Red Lands and other important subregions are neglected. Throughout the emphasis is on the more lavish rather than cruder stage of plantation development, and the tone is celebratory. This work evokes a sense of almost nostalgic appreciation for the social patterns of our rural past.

Silverthorne is obviously more confident in describing the life of white families than in dealing with the people of the quarters. She uses the WPA narratives as well as some plantation records and does not neglect the slaves, yet her account fails to give meaning to their struggles and too quickly dismisses their resistance to bondage. The author instead suggests the overriding importance of ways in which the plantation knit white and black together. Unpleasant features of race relations are not altogether ignored, but Silverthorne does not successfully grapple with the conflicts of will that everywhere characterized slavery. This shortcoming is reinforced by the concluding pages on Reconstruction and the end of slavery, a section that is poorly researched and uninformed by recent historiography.

Silverthorne provides an interesting and fond description of the Texas plantation, but she certainly should not have the last word on this important subject.

Paul D. Lack  
McMurry College

*Planters and Plain Folk. Agriculture in Antebellum Texas.* By Richard G. Lowe and Randolph B. Campbell. (SMU Press, Dallas, TX 75275), 1987. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 216. \$22.50.

If you had come to Texas before 1861, probably you would have been a farmer, living in the eastern two-thirds of the state and practicing Southern culture. You would have been a part of about seventy-five percent of the population. In understanding your life, as a worthy sequel to their *Wealth and Power in Antebellum Texas*, Richard Lowe and Randolph Campbell have examined the growth and development of agriculture in Texas.

The authors divided their study into five main parts. These included a general summary of Texas agriculture, a presentation of the demographic and economic characteristics of the state's farmers, six excellent case studies of individual farmers, economic differences between planters and yeoman farmers, and the profitability of Texas agriculture. *Antebellum Texas* is divided into four regions of which the very important Region I comprised most of present day East Texas. There farmers produced cattle, hogs, wheat, corn, potatoes, sugar, and cotton. It was also a land of yeoman farmers and slaves.

Important conclusions reveal a dynamic, productive, profitable institution of slavery and farming in general. But the authors stopped short of refuting the natural limits of slavery idea. Although slaveholders were in the vast minority, they controlled two-thirds of the agricultural wealth and grew nine-tenths of the cotton. Yet on the Civil War's eve, little antagonism existed between the planters and plain folk.

*Planters and Plain Folk* is a classic in Texas history.

Irvin M. May, Jr.  
Blinn College at Bryan

*Texas Women. A Pictorial History. From Indians to Astronauts.* By Ruthe Winegarten. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), 1986. Photographs. Credits. Bibliography. Index. P. 187. \$24.95.

Upon sighting an oversized "pictorial history," most readers automatically assume it is a "coffee table" book — pictures held together with a light narrative. Ruthe Winegarten's *Texas Women: A Pictorial History, From Indians to Astronauts* is indeed large and filled with photographs, but this is far from a "coffee table" contribution. Here the narrative is as well-written and thorough as the photographs, which beautifully enhance the story. Eight chapters deal with all aspects of Texas women's lives and achievements from the pioneer days of Jane Long to the recent space explorations of Sally Ride. Alongside such expected, familiar heroines are the names, stories, and even faces of Native American, black (free and slave), Hispanic, and white women. Heretofore denied recognition, these Texans find their rightful place in history with *Texas Women: A Pictorial History*.

Winegarten, whose previous works on Texas women include *I Am Annie May, the Personal Story of a Black Texas Woman*, has produced an overview of Texas women which crosses both class and racial lines. The volume is well-written, extensively documented, and an excellent, much-needed addition to Texas history.

Vista Kay McCroskey  
Texas Christian University

*A Terry Texas Ranger. The Life Record of H.W. Graber.* (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761), 1987. Index. P. 454.

Had it not been for the American Civil War, Henry W. Graber's life would have been typical of many other nineteenth century Texans, meaningful but probably forgotten. He was born in Germany in 1841, emigrated to Texas in 1852, and orphaned a year later. He worked as a printer's devil in Houston and Galveston, as a surveyor's assistant on the frontier, and in the mercantile business in Houston, Waxahachie, Hempstead, Rusk, and Dallas. He was a community leader whose accomplishments included the promotion of tap railroads.

After secession Graber served briefly with John S. "Rip" Ford and then joined the famed Eighth Texas Cavalry, commonly called Terry's Texas Rangers. He fought with the Rangers from the beginning to the end with the exception of some nine months as a prisoner of war. Surrender failed to bring peace to Graber. During Reconstruction he was involved in a skirmish near Hempstead in which two marauding United States soldiers died and he was forced into hiding until the end of military government.

Graber's memoirs has long been the rarest and one of the most important books on Terry's Rangers. The fact that the author also described his post-war career, providing rich details concerning Nineteenth-Century Texas business practices and local history, enhances its value. The State House Press is congratulated on republishing this work and researchers will further bless the publisher for adding an index. Tom Cutrer's introduction helps put this book into perspective, even though he erroneously informs the reader that Captain (actually Brigadier General) Tom Harrison surrendered the regiment. The commander who did so was Tom Weston (p. xxvi).

There are, alas, serious deficiencies which the publisher ignored. There are inaccuracies and omissions (such as the name of Graber's wife, Louise), but the greatest problem is chronology. Dates are rarely noted and the narrative is terribly disjointed. Between pages 72 and 73, for example, Graber skipped from July 1862 to April 1863, and continued his story into 1864, at which point he realized his omission and backtracked to June 1862. One must read his war record in conjunction with another source to understand it fully.

This reviewer recommends *A Terry Texas Ranger* with reservations and hopes that in the future The State House Press will provide suitable editorial notes for its releases.

Paul R. Scott  
Texas State Library

*This Band of Heroes. Granbury's Texas Brigade, C.S.A.* By James M. McCaffrey. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), 1985. Photographs. Illustrations. Maps. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 262. \$16.95.

*This Band of Heroes* is not for the Civil War generalist or new student of Texas history. The book is a comprehensive and sometimes tedious assessment of the military exploits of several thousand Texas Confederates who served in the Army of Tennessee. Known to history as "Granbury's Brigade," these men served the South from the fall of 1861 to Joseph E. Johnston's surrender in April 1865, when, due to heavy casualties, the unit was reduced to a single regiment. James McCaffrey painfully chronicles the recruitment, organization, training, initial combat, and distinguished service of this almost forgotten Texas Confederate unit. Tragically, these Texans served the Lost Cause too well, sustaining nearly 5000 captured at Arkansas Post in January 1863 and suffering excessive casualties during Braxton Bragg and John B. Hood's disastrous 1863-1864 campaigns.

McCaffrey's work poses several interesting quandries for the reader. His suggestion that Hood's decision in 1864 not to attack the North, and therefore possibly force the Federal government to sue for peace, is pure conjecture (p. 147). The assertion that the military exploits of Hiram B. Grandbury's Brigade deserves equal footing with those of Benjamin Terry's Texas Rangers or John B. Hood's Texas Brigade essentially remains unproven (jacket). Even with these faults James M. McCaffrey's *This Band of Heroes. Grandbury's Texas Brigade* will interest the Civil War specialist or Texas history buff.

Donald Willett  
Texas A&M University at Galveston

*Rangers and Sovereignty.* By Capt. Dan W. Roberts. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761), 1987. Photographs. Index. P. 260.

There is a special breed of people who confidently face danger and defeat it. Astronauts, test pilots, combat soldiers, and others have installed themselves in the halls of valor. In this pantheon, there is a special niche carved with two words, "Texas Ranger."

Captain Dan Roberts was a happy blend of adventurer and writer. He served during the transition from employment of the Rangers as Indian fighters to their use as a law enforcement agency on the frontier. His story shows the Rangers to have been tough, humorous, and flexible. The reputations built in this transition time have survived to this day.

The second part of this book, by Mrs. Roberts, details her life with her husband in Ranger camp, and shows that the valor and resourcefulness

of the period was not limited to men. Both stories are of interest for the student of the frontier and the Rangers.

Howard L. Sandefer  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

*Shooting Stars. Heroes and Heroines of Western Film.* Edited by Archie P. McDonald. (Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana 47405), 1987. Photographs. P. 265.

For the past several years Archie McDonald has conducted an innovative course through Stephen F. Austin State University: a history of the American West illustrated by the Western films of John Wayne. Now McDonald has put together a volume of twelve articles which thoughtfully and engagingly examine the *Shooting Stars* of the cinematic West.

The twelve subjects are well-selected. The book begins with an article discussing William S. Hart and the dusty, authentic look he imposed upon the first epoch of popular Western films. Next is a description of the athletic Ken Maynard, who set an unsurpassed standard for spectacular riding feats, and who introduced singing cowboys to the genre. The most important singing cowboy was Gene Autry, who appeared in Maynard films before achieving stardom. Dr. Ray Merlock's article brilliantly analyzes the dynamic effect that Autry exercised over B Westerns.

McDonald himself fittingly discusses John Wayne, in addition to providing a nostalgic introductory essay that will prove keenly evocative to those of us raised on Western films. Other major stars who receive article treatment are the recently deceased Randolph Scott, Gary Cooper, Burt Lancaster, and Clint Eastwood. Two intriguing subjects rarely included in such books are Audie Murphy and, in a timely evaluation, Ronald Reagan. The final two chapters ably survey two other neglected subjects: "Women in Western Films" and "When Television Wore Six-Guns" — the latter a landmark essay which could readily be expanded into a fascinating book.

The major omission is Tom Mix, who transformed the style of Westerns from the gritty realism of Hart to the flashy, slam-bang adventures appropriate for the Jazz Age. And even though Clint Eastwood has been a major force in contemporary cinema, it can be argued that his advancement of the dreary, mindlessly violent Spaghetti Westerns ultimately was a primary factor in killing Western movies at the box office. But such cavils admittedly are subjective. Without question *Shooting Stars* is perceptive and readable, an important addition to the library of any Western film buff.

Bill O'Neal  
Panola Junior College

*Simpson Speaks on History.* By Colonel Harold B. Simpson. (Hill College Press, Hillsboro, TX 76643), 1986. Index. P. 124. \$12.00.

In addition to being an author and educator, Harold B. Simpson is a popular public speaker. His latest work is a compilation of six of his most requested speeches. Topics included in the collection are Audie Murphy, Hood's Texas Brigade, Jefferson Davis's camel experiment, Civil War drinking habits, Robert E. Lee, and the old Second Cavalry on the *antebellum* Texas frontier.

*Simpson Speaks on History* is a popular work. Professional historians will find it a repetition of earlier works and the absence of footnotes is annoying. But the work is clearly designed for a larger audience. From his description of Audie Murphy's manifestations of what we now call post-traumatic stress to that of John Barleycorn's service in the Civil War, Colonel Simpson has provided the reader with six stories that are as informative as they are diverting. History ought to be interesting, and this history is.

Ron Spiller  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Birth and Death of Boonville.* By Margaret Lips van Bavel. (Nortex Press, Austin, TX. Order from Betty Foster, 1104 Dominik, College Station, TX 77840), 1986. Photographs. Illustrations. Bibliography. P. 105. \$15.00.

In *Birth and Death of Boonville*, Margaret van Bavel tells the story of Brazos County's first town, a tale similar in many respects to that of other frontier settlements. Laid out in 1841 to serve as the county seat, Boonville grew slowly but steadily and by 1860 it had become a community of some importance. Immediately after the Civil War, however, it suffered the fate of many other towns bypassed by the railroad. First its residents and businesses moved to the tracks at Bryan, and in 1866 the county government followed. The few remaining structures gradually faded away so that now all that is left is the cemetery.

To write this history van Bavel employed techniques that other researchers engaged in similar projects would do well to emulate. In addition to the usual sources, such as petitions in the State Archives and accounts of visitors and settlers, she combed through the tax rolls, deed records, and commissioner's court minutes. The details thus gleaned, often no more than a parenthetical remark, added color to her text and also enabled her to create a reasonably detailed map whereas before there was only a surveyor's plat.

Purists will quibble about some aspects of this work. The Austin family, for instance, could not have moved "south" from Pennsylvania to Connecticut (p. 13), nor did the Pony Express deliver the mail (p. 68).

A more serious problem stemmed from the decision to dispense with footnotes. Usually the sources were apparent, but there were some frustrating exceptions, such as her assertion that Boonville was named for Daniel Boone. Other writers have claimed that the founders were honoring Mordecai Boon (also spelled Boone), an early settler. Was van Bavel speculating, or did she find something missed by others?

Despite a few lapses, *Birth and Death of Boonville* is a well researched, nicely written work that deserves a place in all libraries and most collections of Texana.

Paul R. Scott  
Texas State Library

*Sonovagun Stew: A Folklore Miscellany*. Francis E. Abernethy, Editor. (SMU Press, Dallas, TX 75275), 1985. Photographs. Index. P. 171.

The Texas Folklore Society annually publishes a book on Texas folklore for its members and the book buying public. In recent years, these volumes — there are now forty-eight in the series — have been collections of essays with each volume focusing on some common theme: folk art in Texas, folk architecture, etc. *Sonovagun Stew* departs from that format. Instead it is a miscellany collection of essays on Texas folklore, leftovers that could not be placed conveniently under any single rubric, but nevertheless, this is a tasty mixture of the spicy, exotic, and bland — a perfect dish for the connoisseur of folklore.

The book contains fifteen separate chapters or essays by seventeen authors and the subject material ranges from “Three Corridos of the Big Bend” to “A Texas Planked Pirogue: The Caddo Lake Bateau.” Such a collection of necessity leads to an unbalanced assemblage of works; a less orchestrated selection, though, is a richer, more innovative approach to Texas folklore.

In my opinion the essays that make this a “must read” for lovers of folklore are the ones that fall into the category of personal reminiscences. I would include in this category essays by John Graves, “Folklore and Me”; James Ward Lee, “Heaven”; Paul Patterson, “The Old-Time Cowboy Inside Out”; Marguerite Nixon, “The Gathering”; Al Lowman, “Mildrew on the Elephant Ears”; Joe S. Graham, “Old Army Went to Hell in 1953” and William N. Stokes, “Forty-two Baptist Kids and three Baptist Deacons.” One other essay, “It All Wound Up in Bales” deserves special praise because of its clear and insightful telling of the old way of cotton cultivation before the advent of mechanization.

The other essays add to our knowledge in a somewhat different manner. These are the scholarly analysis, carefully researched for the most part, and perhaps because of this less appealing to the reader.

To return to the stew metaphor, this dish is well worth sampling, if not consuming in its entirety.

James H. Conrad  
East Texas State University

*Rayburn. A Biography.* By D.B. Hardeman and Donald C. Bacon. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767-1569), 1987. Photographs. Sources and Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 554. \$21.95.

Twenty-five years after Sam Rayburn's death, the first full-sized, deeply researched biography of East Texas' most effective and influential national figure has appeared. Any future study of the great Speaker and of twentieth century legislative history will have to take this political biography into consideration. And a political biography, indeed, it is, for Sam Rayburn was a remarkably simple man who had few interests beyond his family, his farm, and the legislative arena. Save for two preliminary chapters on Rayburn's roots, including his two years at William Mayo's East Texas Normal, and a later chapter on his brief, unsuccessful marriage, the biographers, the late D.B. Hardeman and Donald Bacon, focus almost entirely on his remarkable legislative career.

Hardeman, a former Texas Legislator, aide, and confidant to Speaker Rayburn, gathered most of the material, much of it from interviews of key figures, including the Speaker himself. Bacon, a prominent political journalist, editor, and writer, tapped more recent material, including many oral transcripts, and composed the engrossing narrative. Despite their obvious admiration of the Speaker, the authors do not side-step his flaws. The figure that emerges is a more earthy and ambitious politician than earlier Rayburn biographies have described, and his coziness with independent oil producers is frankly exposed — and explained. Above all, however, Sam Rayburn's skill, fairness, and dedication to American democracy stand out preeminently in this fine study of one whose "extraordinary life was rooted firmly in the rich black dirt of North Texas" (p. 3).

Edward Hake Phillips  
Sherman, Texas

*Impressions of Mr. Sam: A Cartoon Profile.* Edited by H.G. Dulaney and Edward Hake Phillips (Bonham: The Sam Rayburn Foundation, 1987, vii + 164 P. Illustrations. \$7.50).

During the bicentennial year the Rayburn Foundation has seen fit to depict another aspect of Sam Rayburn's life. Under the editorship of Ed Hake Phillips, professor emeritus at Austin College, and H.G. Dulaney, director of the Sam Rayburn Library, this small volume illustrates in caricature, but more often with reverence, the actions, accomplishments, and problems of Rayburn over a forty-nine-year career.

Although only a few of these illustrations regrettably have to do with Rayburn during his early career, the period from 1931 to 1961 is well detailed, thus giving the reader a good review of Rayburn's effect both on Texas and the United States. So, for those wishing to know more about this great American who held the Speakership of the House intermittently for twenty-one years, *Impressions of Mr. Sam: A Cartoon Profile* is a welcome addition.

Ben Procter  
Texas Christian University

*Panthers to Arrowheads, the 36th Division in World War I.* By Lonnie J. White. (Presidial Press, Box 1763, Austin, TX 78767), 1984. Photographs. Index. Maps. P. 238.

The purpose of this book is to record the history of the 36th Division during the "Great War." White has accomplished his mission by tracing the unit from their first boring assignment along the Mexican border during the Pershing expedition, through their call up in 1917 and training at Camp Bowie near Fort Worth. After sharpening their combat skills, the unit shipped out for France where it underwent more training before being committed to battle in the Champagne near the end of the war. Although the soldiers saw less than a month of combat, they earned "a high reputation as a combat division," including two Oklahomans receiving Medals of Honor.

The entire book is well-written and adding the hometown of the men in the narrative helps Texans and Oklahomans feel these soldiers are "our soldiers." The book is a worthy addition to any library.

David V. Stroud  
Kilgore College

*Ringing the Children In. Texas Country Schools.* By Thad Sitton and Milam C. Rowold. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1987. Photographs. Notes. Index. P. 239.

This book's charm comes from the way it is composed of reminiscences by former teachers, students, and trustees of Texas country schools between 1885 and 1945. Their stories cover every aspect of school life — teachers, school buildings, discipline, programs, and entertainment, as well as games and pranks, and finally, the long fight over consolidation during the 1930s and 1940s. Considered within the context of modern educational theory, such memories and anecdotes have a serious place in the history of public education in Texas because they provide the basis for striking observations about teaching and learning in the old common schools. Peer teaching, grade level, and subject area combining, "spill

over" learning (students overhearing recitations by older or younger children) — in these and other ingenious ways teachers created rich classroom experiences despite a chronic lack of supplies, libraries, and equipment.

Their hard work paid off. In 1924 a statewide survey found that students in the "inferior" country schools scored consistently higher on standardized tests than those in consolidated and urban system. Children in some country schools were capable of work almost two grades above their chronological ages. By including information from this and other studies of Texas' educational system, Sitton and Rowold have avoided the sentimentality that old-time stories too often carry. Instead, with their clear writing and solid research, this engaging and entertaining study provides any number of ideas about public education and what it might become despite the vastly different conditions of our times.

Elizabeth York Enstam  
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*Muddy Banks*. By Ruby C. Tolliver. (Texas Christian University Press, Box 30783, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1987. Illustrations, P. 151. \$14.95.

Ruby C. Tolliver's novel for young adults, *Muddy Banks*, is set against the background of the Battle of Sabine Pass that occurred on September 8, 1863. The novel concerns a runaway slave boy named Muddy and a white widow, Mrs. Banks, who befriends him. Mrs. Banks is opposed to slavery but purchases Muddy to prevent him from coming to harm from his former master.

The story examines the conflict in Muddy's mind between his desire for freedom and his loyalty to Mrs. Banks. The climax comes at the Battle of Sabine Pass. That battle is a subject of particular interest to this reviewer as the battle was the topic of my Master's Thesis. Tolliver's presentation of the battle, with a few minor errors, is generally correct. She slightly exaggerates the size of the attacking force, placing it at 6000 men when it was closer to 5000. The author also has the Jeff Davis Guards involved in the construction of Fort Griffin. This error is quite understandable as a popular legend maintains that the Irish-born artilleryists' build the fort they defended. The fort was built by a party of 500 slaves under the direction of Major Gerutius Kellersberger between March and August of 1863.

The lapses are relatively minor and do not detract from the story which provides a glimpse of this interesting battle.

Paul H. Varga  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Texas Country. The Changing Rural Scene.* By Glen E. Lich, and Dona B. Reeves-Marquardt. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1987. Photographs. Index. P. 264.

Texas became an urban state as farmers moved to the city, and like past generations of Texans, the rural scene continued to change. Appropriately, Glen Lich, Dona Reeves-Marquardt and their contributing authors consider what "the end of rural Texas means to modern citizens" (p. xiii).

In answering this question, a series of selective essays attempt to capture the mood, or spirit, of rural Texas. Lich surveys the rural scene, but in his good essay ignores the impact of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and colleges of agriculture. Weniger analyzes the relationships between nature, people, and the land. Lowman investigates the names of Texas communities. A distinguished conservationist historian, Smallwood, attempted too much in his essay about cotton, ranching, and oil, and the dynamic spirit of agriculture was omitted in a bland account.

But Schultz's homesteads, Allen's women, Colquitt's writers, and Abernethy's music restore to the reader an understanding of the people. Many Texans went to the city, but are they really "living city but thinking and singing country" (p. 165) as Abernethy suggests? Perhaps, for those who made the transition, but will their children follow this pattern?

The book closes with a brief portrait of Mexican-Americans by Weigand, Calvert, Texas blacks by Graham, Wends by Wilson, and Hurnville Germans from Russia by Reeves-Marquardt. McDermott, a philosopher, provides an afterword.

What is the book's significance? It identifies many of the principal elements in Texas's changing rural past. Through the conclusions of Smallwood, Abernethy, McDermott, and others, ideas for future action are presented. Well written, thought provoking, *Texas Country* is important for understanding the interrelationship between rural and urban Texas.

Irvin M. May, Jr.  
Blinn College at Tyler

*A Culture of Risk. Who Cares for America's Heritage?* By Charles Phillips and Patricia Hogan. (American Association for State and Local History, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, TN 37204), 1984. Appendices. P. 95.

The number of historical organizations has increased dramatically during the last two-and-one-half decades. In this AASLH publication, Charles Phillips and Patricia Hogan present a comprehensive statistical analysis of the status of state and local history organizations that surveys the types of programs the institutions provide, the audiences and

communities they serve, the nature and value of the collections they hold, the administrative and financial support that they command, and the priorities they set for the allocation of their resources.

Their study is introduced by John Alexander Williams' essay on the evolution of historical societies from eighteenth-century learned societies to their current role as public museums. But it is the statistical analysis by Phillips and Hogan that will be most welcomed by those with a commitment to the preservation of state and local history. For this study goes well beyond the major institutions to include the smaller historical organizations — described by the authors as “young, poor, and local” — whose establishment has constituted the field's greatest growth in the years since 1960, and who, the authors argue, play an increasingly important role in preserving local history.

The profile that Phillips and Hogan draw of the smaller, newer organizations is troubling. Although fund raising and financial stability head the list of concerns for institutions of all sizes, the precarious fiscal health of the small, local organizations makes them particularly vulnerable in an era of reduced federal and state support and increased competition for limited funds.

Phillips and Hogan do not offer specific recommendations for appropriate action, but they have compiled and analyzed the data necessary to make those decisions.

Jane Hood  
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*White House Operations. The Johnson Presidency.* By Emmette S. Redford and Richard T. McCulley. (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), 1986. Notes. Index. P. 247. \$30.00.

This timely book is the fifth in a series designed to form an administrative history of the Johnson Presidency. The authors' purpose is “to provide a comprehensive view of how a president and those who assisted him managed the White House and the executive branch to achieve the objectives of law and presidential policy” (p. ix).

The Johnson White House staff was composed initially of Kennedy holdovers and persons experienced in Johnson's service, and additions were made cautiously. The president's desire for accomplishment and his personal activism made heavy demands on his assistants. The White House staff was the primary avenue of information flow to the president, but in his insatiable thirst for more facts and ideas, Johnson constantly grabbed the telephone for instant contact. Thus, he “was supported by but also floated above the staff system” (p. 69). Furthermore, he was able to maintain command of his staff. George Christian stated Johnson's dominance bluntly: “He ruled” (p. 71). Tragically, as public criticism of his Vietnam

policy mounted, the president became progressively more defensive and intolerant of divergent views within the White House.

Heavily dependent as a president is on his staff for information, the authors conclude that Johnson will succeed or fail "on his own ability to manage the total advisory system, to judge the credibility of his advice, and ultimately to weigh things correctly himself" (p. 76). This is a lesson presidents ignore at their peril.

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*Ancestry's Guide to Research. Case Studies in American Genealogy.* By Johni Cerny & Arlene Eakle. (Ancestry Publishing, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110), 1985. Illustrations. Index. P. 364. \$10.95.

There are many how-to-books on the market dealing with genealogical research, but Cerny and Eakle have compiled a step-by-step instruction in genealogical research, using the case-study approach.

If someone is interested in learning how to trace his family, this book will be an excellent guide. This volume is a companion to *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. When *The Source* was printed, many users said that it was too advanced for their level of skills. This second volume is much more elementary in scope and is recommended for the novice.

A special chapter thoroughly reviews research from its beginning. This study takes the reader through research generation by generation. Problems dealing with each step are discussed and a possible solution illustrated.

Evaluation of sources is stressed and citation of bibliography is discussed. If genealogical research is to be a respected field, the searcher must learn which sources are reliable and which must be used only as a guide. The genealogist must learn to document each statement with reliable proof.

This volume is written in an easy-to-read style and would be of benefit to anyone who wishes to begin genealogical research.

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