It is not possible in a brief review to critique eleven chapters by contributors to this anthology. What follows is a description of its contents and a comment on its editing.

The subtitle is vitally important in understanding the focus of this work. Instruments of social control in broad context are examined in Spain’s colonies within what became the United States – Florida, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Alta (Upper) California. Also included are locations across the northern tier of states in present-day Mexico – Nueva Vizcaya, Northeastern New Spain, Sonora, Saltillo, and Nuevo Santander. An additional chapter touches on North America only tangentially in that it examines the complex question of who controlled the king of Spain. And, yes, there were subtle controls over a seemingly all-powerful, divine right monarch.

Naturally, social control varied by geography, religion and missionary efforts, foreign presence and pressure (early on from the English and French and later from the United States), multi-ethnicity (Spaniards, non-Hispanic Euro Americans, Indians, and people of African descent), population densities, and relations between indigenous groups such as Apaches and Comanches. Despite these variables, contributors point out that social control encompassed a myriad of ways in which a society attempts to maintain order by persuading, coercing, or educating individuals to accept and behave according to the principles and values of the group of which they are members, want to become members, or have been compelled to become membership. What worked reasonably well as social control in one colony worked not at all in others.

Since the journal in which this review appears relates primarily to Texas topics, I will use the contribution by Juliana Barr as an example of social control in the future Lone Star State. Barr cogently points out that Texas can best be described as divided into quadrants with the Spanish-controlled area constituting only one-fourth of the totality. The other quadrants were under native control – Apaches in the west, Caddos in the east, and Comanches and Wichitas in the north. Over-all, Texas was a huge land uniquely characterized by native dominance – a point emphasized by my colleague F. Todd Smith in his new book on Texas Indians, From Dominance to Disappearance, published by the University of Nebraska Press (2005). Accordingly, social control early in colonial Texas turned out to be as much if not more a matter of Indians controlling how Spaniards responded rather than the reverse.

This book is expertly edited. Particularly impressive is the cross-referencing of points raised in one area to their applicability in other locales. Thus,
these chapters do not stand apart like individual ships at sea but rather come together as integrated whole much like a fleet.

Donald E. Chipman
University of North Texas


In _New Orleans and the Texas Revolution_, Edward L. Miller brilliantly portrays a vital and passionate relationship. Drawn together by dreams of freedom and a better world, but more importantly by the lucrative cash crops and expansive dreams, both locales pledge fealty to the other. Like all burning romances, the relationship was tempestuous.

With the formation of the “Friends of Texas” at Banks Arcade in New Orleans, Miller describes the meeting of the economic houses that bankrolled the Texas revolt. Led by William Christy, the pledges to spread democracy and fight against tyranny covered possible economic gains for a motley and divergent association of supporters. Their goal – to open Texas economically, either by a return to federalism in Mexico or the drastic move of Texan independence. By October 1835, merchants had raised as much as $35,000 in supplies and arms for Texian Rebels. All the while, maintaining a delicate balance of donations against neutrality laws.

The zenith of the blind support to the Mexican federalist cause appears in the Tampico expedition under General Jose Antonio Mexia. Had Mexia succeeded, vast economic and strategic rewards would have followed. With the failure of the expedition and the loss of the investment, support for Mexican federalists ended. The financial supporters of the Texian cause now demanded no aid for the Texian Rebels unless their revolution was for independence.

Although the victories of the Texian rebels in the latter months of 1835 secured a navy for Texas, with the beginning of 1836, the “Friends of Texas” support had waned. Symbolically, Miller points out that a new Texian naval vessel, the _Brutus_, was almost prevented from leaving. The fall of the New Orleans Gray’s at the Alamo and in the massacre at Goliad rekindled massive support. So important was William Christy in this support, that after the victory at San Jacinto, Christy received a petition of appreciation along with General Cos’ bridle and saddle.

Miller breaths life into what could have been possibly the dry material of an economic history. Passions leap from the page, driving the reader to the next event. Although his sources are drawn from varied locales that certify his work as scholarly, his ease and skill at writing make this work a valuable source for the general reader.

Andrew Reynolds Galloway
Schreiner University/St. Phillips College
Historians generally portray the Mexican War in strictly national terms. Here, Robinson gives the reader a clear, sharp account of the war from the Texas viewpoint.

Robinson begins with a summary of the reasons for the United States' going to war with Mexico. While ignoring the fact that the slaveholding South was anxious to acquire the western territories for expansion, he points out a little recognized feature — that both countries were desirous of conflict for their own reasons. But it was the American administration, led by President Polk, who made the first move by sending troops under General Zachary Taylor to the Texas coast just north of the disputed boundary with Mexico. This ultimately led to a skirmish, and then to the declaration of war.

Texans from the start played key roles in the war. For example, Taylor enlisted the Texas Rangers into federal service. The Texans were especially eager to fight Mexicans, and their enthusiasm caused them to commit atrocities; Robinson recognizes the Ranger regiment of mostly East Texans under Colonel George T. Wood for avoiding this, at least early in the conflict. The Rangers fought bravely in the front lines, but continued atrocities forced Taylor to withdraw them from action. General Winfield Scott relied on help from the Rangers' erstwhile commander, Samuel Walker, a captain in the Mounted Rifles Regiment, who had a part in developing, with Samuel Colt, the military-style revolver which solidified the Rangers' fame.

Nolan E. Boles
Nacogdoches, Texas

They were the common soldiers of our Civil War. Actually, they were the "uncommon" common soldiers. Their exploits and suffering have been chronicled by such Civil War luminaries as Bell Wiley, James McPherson, and Jeff Wert. Yet, if you read these brilliant accounts, you are struck by the fact that these works primarily explore the fates of the soldiers serving in the Eastern and Western theaters at the expense of those serving in the Trans-Mississippi.

Thomas Reid's *Spartan Band*, the story of the 13th Texas Cavalry, is a welcome addition and expansion of our knowledge of these unquestionably stalwart but relatively unappreciated soldiers who served west of the Mississippi River. Reid weaves this tale from the politics of recruitment, to the harsh and tedious day-to-day realities of soldiering, to the terror and rush of
battle, to the final reality of defeat.

*Spartan Band* hits its stride when peeling back the curtain that separates our generation from theirs. We learn of the monotony of drill and the insufferably hot conditions of which one soldier remarked: “the thermometer stood at 110 degrees, and the breeze was as refreshing as steam from an escape-pipe.” If it was not too hot, it was too cold and the Texans dubbed a camp near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, with the entirely descriptive name of “Camp Freeze Out.”

Provisions were not ignored and one member rather dryly observed of the rancid beef: “It was so poor that we could not eat it.” Not so dryly, Company C determined to bury the sorry fare by means of a ceremonial funeral complete with a guard of honor and musical accompaniment provided by drums and mess pans. The universe of battle is not ignored, as a fallen Texan at Mansfield urged his comrades on by waiving his hat and beseeching them to “crowd them boys, crowd them.”

In the end, all came to naught for these brave men, save for the dignity and courage of their duty. All does not come to naught in Reid’s book, for it tells the story of these “uncommon” common soldiers.

Daniel M. Laney
Austin, Texas


It is often said that the American Civil War is the great watershed in the history of our nation because that conflict produced so many significant changes in the fabric of American society. One of those changes is the manner in which prisoners of war are housed and treated.

In 1861 neither side in the great struggle had given much thought to establishing prisoner of war camps or the problems that would follow the capture of thousands of enemy soldiers. A number of fine books have detailed the harsh treatment of Union and Confederate prisoners, treatment that ultimately killed one in seven prisoners.

Charles Sanders has taken this brutal chapter of the war a step farther. His well documented work suggests that leaders on both sides deliberately chose to ignore the needs of prisoners – shelter, food, and medical supplies – for the sole purpose of winning the war. Using archival materials as well as journals and diaries kept by prisoners, Sanders provides a comprehensive analysis of how Union and Confederate prisons were administered during the war. He details the establishment and operation of the major camps and explains how and why the policies that controlled those operations were shaped by the governments to achieve their national objectives.
Sanders treats both sides equally and fairly, providing strong evidence to support his idea that for the most part, the treatment of prisoners in the Civil War developed into a systematic form of genocide. He also points out that after the war, both sides attempted to expose the horrors perpetrated by the enemy while covering up their own brutality with grand myths or outright lies. He concludes by emphasizing that the trepidations endured by American men in prison camps between 1861 and 1865 inspired much better treatment of enemy prisoners in our nation’s ensuing wars.

Mark Choate
Austin, Texas


The fundamental story told in this book is well known to all students of American History. Immigrants of European ancestry arrived in a region occupied by Indians and—thanks to technological superiority, an increasing advantage in numbers brought about in part by the impact of European diseases on the Indian population, and ruthlessness—dispossessed the original residents. Indians were killed, driven out, or placed on reservations. The story is not a pretty one anywhere in the Americas, but Gary Anderson argues that it was especially ugly in Texas. Anglo-Americans, he contends, engaged in a “deliberate ethnic cleansing” (p. 7) of Texas aimed primarily at Indians and, to a lesser extent, Mexican Americans. Ranger units, which Anderson compares to paramilitary groups responsible for much of the violence in the remnants of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, acted as the primary agents of ethnic cleansing in Texas.

The problem with Anderson’s book is not the story itself, but how he sets it up and tells it. For example, when placing his book in historiographical context, he makes the claim, which admittedly struck a nerve with this reviewer, that no general history of Texas has significantly challenged the portrayal of Indians by T.R. Fehrenbach in Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans (1968) as murderous savages who deserved what happened to them. To prove that Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State (2003) is no different, Anderson quotes my description of one Comanche raid in 1860 as “what amounts to a conclusion” (p. 13) and neglects to mention the real conclusion on the following page, which states that it is possible to see the Texas frontier as a story of raw exploitation by whites and the decimation of earlier arrivals. Also, the tone taken throughout the book seems intended to make up for all the “apologetics” by previous historians. Whites in general and Rangers in particular are painted as murderous villains, whereas Indians tend to be peaceful except in response to white provocations. Indians rarely raped captive white
women, treated kidnapped children well, and killed infants only when necessary. And so on.

The book is filled with errors; some small and only bothersome, and some that really matter. For example, finding Virginia given as the birthplace of Moses Austin, Frederick Law Olmsted’s name spelled “Olmstead” and “Olmsted” in the same paragraph, and Shapley Ross turned into “Shapely” Ross are not matters of much consequence. However, the claim that the Mexican Constitution of 1824 abolished slavery is an important error, as is the distortion created by writing that “of the 600,000 people calling Texas home in 1860, a mere 21,878 owned slaves” (p. 39). Of those 600,000 people, nearly 200,000 were slaves and therefore unlikely to own bondsmen themselves, and the vast majority of the 21,878 slave-owners were heads of households that included at least four or five members of the free population. To present the numbers as Anderson does dramatically understates the importance of slavery in Texas.

Finally, even Anderson, in spite of his attempt to be even-handed, appears to have an Anglo-centric bias. “Nothing was inevitable,” he writes. “Left alone both Tejanos and Indians would have acculturated much of what has become Texan. Many Tejanos had already embraced republican capitalism. And Indians likely would have discarded the war bonnet for the broad-brimmed felt hat over time” (p. 16). Thus Anderson seems to think that the only thing really wrong with the triumph of white culture was the way it won.

Randolph B. Campbell
University of North Texas


In Jack Schaefer’s classic Western novel, *Shane*, the title hero tells the little boy who hero-worships him that a gun is simply a tool. “A gun is as good — and as bad — as the man who carries it.”

Charles G. Worman has devoted a volume of more than 500 pages to detailing this personalization of frontier firearms. Worman and Louis Garavaglia co-authored *Firearms of the American West*, a monumental work published in two volumes in 1985 by the University of New Mexico Press. *Firearms of the American West* explored the evolution of firearms technology and usage on the frontier in encyclopedic detail. While Garavaglia went on to study modern firearms, Worman collected anecdotal accounts by men and women of the frontier. These accounts are presented, with informative explanations and superb illustrations, in *Gunsmoke and Saddle Leather, Firearms of the Nineteenth Century West*. 
Worman has assembled personal recollections and reflections on firearms from the men and women of the vast frontier west of the Mississippi. Among hundreds of photographs are images of such notables as Buffalo Bill Cody, George Armstrong Custer, Ranald Mackenzie, Teddy Roosevelt — and their guns. The photos also feature cowboys, hunters, lawmen, soldiers, prostitutes, and Native Americans, as well as pistols, rifles, shotguns, holsters, and ammunition of almost every conceivable type. Weapons are displayed in interior photographs of bunkhouses, barracks, saloons, and private homes.

"There are probably in Texas about as many revolvers as male adults, and I doubt that if there are one hundred in the state of any other make [than Colt]," observed traveler Frederick Law Olmsted in 1854 [p. 158]. Texas Rangers were responsible for landmark contributions to the evolution of Colt revolvers, one of the most important of all frontier weapons. Included among Texas references are East Texans John S. "Rip" Ford, a San Augustine physician before becoming a famed Ranger leader; Harrison County soldier and future governor Peter H. Bell; and notorious gunman John Wesley Hardin. *Gunsmoke and Saddle Leather* is fascinating and informative.

Bill O’Neal
Carthage, Texas

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*Gospel Tracks Through Texas* (*GTTT*) covers a unique ministry of the American Baptist Publication Society in Texas from 1895 to 1903. The Society decided to use train cars as church buildings on wheels. These chapel cars would travel into small towns or work sites and hold revival services. Often they were also instrumental in establishing churches in frontier regions.

*GTTT* narrates the arrival of the Gospel Car *Goodwill* which was assigned to traverse the state, stopping in small towns, oil fields, and ranches. Although the chapel car traveled extensively throughout the entire state, East Texas figures prominently in this work. *GTTT* especially discusses the emerging communities of the piney woods such as Marshall, Longview, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and several others.

Taylor focuses upon the chapel car ministry as well as the missionaries who served on the car. They were a wide-ranging lot. E.G. and Hollie Townsend were native Texans whose ministry was tragically cut short. Edwin and Nettie Stucker were transplants from Illinois, while Alberto Diaz was a fiery Cuban who was driven from the island during the Cuban revolution against Spain. Diaz also ended up burning bridges from his Baptist supporters in Texas as well.
Any criticisms of the book are negligible. I wish that Taylor had explored more of the economic reasons that the ranch foremen, oil companies, and railroad corporations supported the evangelization of their workers. Their thinking seems to be that Christian workers are less likely to fight or drink, two major past-times deterring worker productivity. But overall, this work is to be commended for its use of primary sources and Taylor’s ability to weave a compelling narrative. What emerges is an impressive picture of the economic, racial, and religious factors at work in rural Texas at the turn of the century.

John S. Vassar
Shreveport, Louisiana


The Texas Gulf Coast has intrigued, beguiled, and bedeviled those who have sought to use its varied resources. Directed at a popular audience, Texas Coast successfully captures many of these conflicting emotions in its six dozen magnificent photographs by Laurence Parent, with accompanying descriptive text by Joe Nick Patoski. Their subjects are as diverse as the coastal regions they seek to represent, with beautiful images ranging from the expected beaches and dunes to the Battleship Texas and the prickly pear cacti of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. Patoski’s brief text can be surprisingly nuanced for a book of this genre, pointing out, for example, that Port Aransas High School has no football team, that the Port Bolivar Ferry to Galveston Island is “the best free ride in the state” (p. 16), and that many coastal cities have become increasingly interested in preserving their local environments because it is good business, not out of some sudden awakening of ecological consciousness.

East Texans will find that slightly less a third of this handsome book describes the upper Texas Coast, with the text acknowledging that it often “goes unappreciated” (p. 13), a condition that probably will continue for the near future with the closure of a section of Highway 87 south of Sabine Pass. Nonetheless, with images of lighthouses, shrimp boats, animals, trees, beaches, and Galveston Island, the book successfully captures many of the region’s natural and man-made environments. There are even strikingly handsome photos of Freeport’s petrochemical plants and a tanker sailing out of port, a salute not only to photographer Parent’s skills, but also to one of the coast’s most important economic engines.

Robert Wooster
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Oklahoma State University professor emeritus Douglas Hale has devoted most of his career to researching ethnic immigration to the American West. His previous works The Germans from Russia in Oklahoma and The Third Texas Cavalry in the Civil War, reflect this dedication. Hale’s latest book, Wanderers Between Two Worlds, presents readers with a detailed account of eight German émigrés to the American Midwest, the region that became known as the German Triangle (Milwaukee, Cincinnati, and St. Louis), and Texas. These political activists came to the United States to escape punishment for their radical activities in Germany.

Hale divides the book into two parts. The first part is a narrative of the efforts of the German Student Union, the Burschenschaft, in the failed effort to liberalize the governments and unify the various Germanic states. The second part is the story of their activities in the United States from St. Louis to Texas to Mexico and the Oregon Territory. Students of ethnic and immigration history, the American West, and German-American history will find this book an interesting synthesis. For readers interested in East Texas history, unfortunately, Ferdinand Lindheimer was the only adventurer who spent much time in the Lone Star state, much of that time in the Central Texas Hill Country.

Wanderers Between Two Worlds is a narrative. Hale’s purpose is to tell the story of these German expatriates, not analysis nor revision. His familiarity with the sources is commendable, yet the reader wishes for a few more footnotes to substantiate some of the more personal information. Although the reader sometimes gets the feeling of being on a Homerian travel epic with a plethora of adventures and characters, the journey is a pleasant one.

Gene B. Preuss
University of Houston-Downtown


Darlene H. Unrue had her work cut out in writing a biography of Katherine Anne Porter. As elusive as a butterfly, Porter flitted from place to place, romance to romance, and job to job in a constant search for fame and fortune. Most of KAP’s writing life was hand-to-mouth, and one of her many friends often provided a roof over her head when she was impoverished.

Porter commented that she could not live if she could not write, and she spent her entire life writing news articles, book reviews, journal articles, poet-
ry, short stories, and finally novels. Feeling she had not achieved her goals, at age sixty-five she wrote that she was “determined to be a writer.” Her life of notoriety included five failed marriages, and by her own count, thirty-seven lovers. She had trouble meeting deadlines and often had to extend or break writing contracts. She frequently lied about her age and mixed fiction with fact in other parts of her life as well.

Porter made a “wild dash” from her native Texas at the start of her writing career and remained in other states, Mexico, or Europe for most of her life even though she drew characterizations based on her family. She became sophisticated and cosmopolitan, sought after by the literary intelligentsia. Her masterpiece, *Ship of Fools*, for which she received a Pulitzer Prize, was twenty years in the writing.

Katherine Anne Porter died in Maryland in 1980 and was buried in her birthplace of Indian Creek, Texas, in 1981.

Unrue’s biography is packed with interesting events and famous personalities Porter encountered over her long life. Many such people became characters in KAP’s writings. The biography is interesting, informative, and entertaining. Unfortunately, it has no traditional footnotes, and the back references are difficult to use to validate the information given in the text.

Sarah Ragland Jackson
Nacogdoches, Texas


The author chronicles the origin of a Marine Academy and its development into a highly rated university. The school was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1931, during the Depression, but the bill did not provide funding. Finally after much hard work by legislators, Texas A&M University administrators, and citizens of Galveston, the school opened in 1962 with only twenty-three students and no buildings. During its first two decades, the survival of the school was in doubt, with great fluctuations in state funding and enrollment, and one legislator even calling for the closure of the school in 1986.

At first degrees were limited, with majors only in marine transportation and marine engineering, but with the addition of Dr. Sammy Ray, an authority in marine biology, enrollment increased significantly with a new major in marine biology. Students were attracted to the school because of his reputation. Texas A&M University at Galveston used a strategy that has been successful across the nation: hire the best faculty and set high entrance requirements. In 1999, the strategy paid off. *US News and World Report* and *Time/Princeton Review* rated the Galveston campus as one of the top schools.
in the nation. The campus now has an enrollment of over 1,600 students.

Curley has an appealing writing style. Amid all the facts and figures, he includes interesting anecdotes, student activities, and photographs that make the story come to life. I recommend the book not only for the former students of the Galveston campus and to anyone interested in the history of this institution.

Jack D. McCullough
Stephen F. Austin State University


The authors of Texas Ghost Stories are well-known storytellers who perform regularly in Texas and throughout the Southwest. I have seen them in action and appreciate their skills. They have put together a collection of ghost stories intended to serve as a resource for other would-be-tellers of tales.

The book is divided into three parts and offers fifty-one stories, not fifty, as indicated in the title. Part I is entitled "Tales the Pioneers Brought." It contains seventeen ghost stories that came to Texas along with early settlers. Some originated in the British Isles, some are of Cajun origin, and some are slave tales. My favorite in this group is "Marcario," the story of a man who tries to outwit Death but in the end must sacrifice himself to save his family. It is easy to picture this tale being told by a master storyteller in a semi-dark room before an eager group of listeners on a dark night in October, probably Halloween.

Part II is entitled "Tales of the Pioneers." It includes nineteen stories that originated in early Texas. My favorite is "East Texas Ghost Dog." Here, an elderly black lady who lived near Jefferson is walking home late at night from her job as a domestic. She encounters a group of men dressed in white robes and hoods — obviously Klansmen — and fears for her life. But she is guided safely home by a spirit dog. Other tales in this group deal with Indians, Tejanos, and famous Texans such as Jim Bowie and Jean Lafitte.

Part III is entitled "Urban Myths and Contemporary Tales." Here we find fifteen stories from more or less recent times. My favorite is "Room 636 at the Gunter." It deals with a beautiful blond woman who is murdered in Room 636 in the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio and still walks the halls to this very day. Other stories in this group tell of ghostly children, crimes of passion, and vampires.

An appendix written by Tim and Doc advises the would-be-storyteller how to prepare. It explains how to select a story to match an audience, how to memorize the story, and how to make the most effective presentation. Their
most important piece of advice, however, is this: telling a story is not quite as easy as it sounds.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr.
Midwestern State University


William Secrest sets himself several challenges with his title. One is to provide a comprehensive biography of Harry Love, who is noted in both Texas and California history. Secrest does this with sources ranging from memoirs of frontier Vermont to Department of Defense documents. Extensive use of newspaper and personal accounts enhance a narrative that includes ocean going and keelboat adventures, Mexican War battles, Rio Grande expeditions, and Gold Rush violence. Throughout the whole, Secrest keeps his eye on his protagonist, Harry Love, a man so impressive both in build and in character that he was known as “The Black Knight of the Zayante.”

The second challenge is more complicated. In tying Joaquín Murrieta to the story of Harry Love, Secrest has to prove three things: 1) that Murrieta really existed, a fact widely debated in some leading histories of early California; 2) that Murrieta was a real criminal, not a Robin Hood/Zorro-type hero of the oppressed; 3) that the pickled head Love displayed, as proof of the outlaw’s death, was indeed that of Murrieta. These Secrest proves with a judicious selection of contemporary newspaper reports, reminiscences, legal affidavits, and court and state records.

Secrest’s third challenge is to tie this Texan to California history. Accordingly, he takes the reader on a wild ride through Love’s early life in New England, enlistment in the U.S. Army, arrival at Fort Brown, service as an express rider, and success as captain of the first successful keelboat expedition up the Rio Grande. It was in the gold fields in California, however, that Love met his destiny. His pursuit and killing of the notorious bandit, Joaquín Murrieta, and his eventual downfall at the hands of a woman, Mary Swain Bennett, end Secrest’s vivid tale of a remarkable and memorable man.

Mary Jo O’Rear
Corpus Christi, Texas

Richard Selcer, known widely for research on the Hell's Half Acre district of Fort Worth, threw his intellectual lasso into the herd of historians of “Wild West” Texas and rounded up some of the best known and most skillful writers of the genre to assemble this interesting volume. Following a helpful introduction, Byron and Sharon Peregrine Johnson provide further context on “the fine art of mixiology,” after which other authors chronicle the histories of four of the most famous historic saloons in Texas.

Chosen for their notoriety at the time and for their persistence in the folklore of the region, these “watering holes” include the Vaudeville in San Antonio, Ben Dowell's in El Paso, the Iron Front in Austin, and the White Elephant in Fort Worth. The volume concludes with a brief epilogue briefly summarizing the decline of saloons in Texas society.

The authors of the four chapters on individual saloons would have done well to have paid more attention to the introduction before penning their sections for the work. This first chapter provides a helpful economic and social background for the text that follows, but the authors seemed to follow their own individual interpretations in generalizing about saloon culture in Texas. While one author stated that “Saloon men tried to keep a discrete distance between their places and theaters…, (p. 268), another discussed the happy combination under one roof of a saloon with a vaudeville theater (pp. 53-121). Several of the authors wrote at length about events, mostly violent, that occurred in places other than the saloons about which they were writing; these are interesting stories, but they serve to distract readers from what one would expect in a book focusing on the specific Texas saloons.

These shortcomings do not prevent me from recommending the book. It adds to our understanding of this aspect of past life in the Lone Star State. The authors prepared readable, entertaining texts, and their endnotes lead the most ardent readers to more detailed sources.

T. Lindsay Baker
Tarleton State University


In 1999, the Dallas Morning News chose the Abilene Eagles (1954-1957), as the best Texas high school football team of the twentieth century. The Eagles, led by coach Chuck Moser, won three consecutive state titles and
Veteran sports writer and radio sports show host Al Pickett documented the Moser years with facts about the community, coaching staff, and players from Abilene. He included interviews with Abilene coaching staff and players and provided detailed descriptions of Moser's coaching methods.

In 1953, Moser arrived in Abilene to build an unremarkable program into a football powerhouse. He assembled a first-rate coaching staff, including Hank Watkins, Bob Groseclose, B.L. Blackburn, Nat Gleaton, Shorty Lawson, Wally Bullington, and Harold Brinson. Moser demanded the most from his team. He began a rigorous off-season training program that emphasized speed and quickness and required all team members to study pages of plays and statistics. Moser also imposed curfews and required all players to have eligibility slips signed by their teachers. If players were unable to pass at least three classes they were not allowed to play. Moser's eligibility slips came almost fifty years before "No Pass/No Play" laws were enacted.

Moser's methods paid off. After failing to win the district title in 1953, the Eagles built a thirty-seven game winning streak and earned three consecutive state titles in 1954, 1955, and 1956. In 1957, the Eagles extended their winning streak to forty-nine games but failed to advance to the state finals after a tie with Highland Park in the semifinal game.

Pickett's book justified the choice of Moser's Eagles as "Team of the Century," and illustrated how his program not only won championships but prepared students for success.

Lance Pickering
Nacogdoches, Texas
Sunday school teacher and housewife.

John Neal Phillips transformed Blanche's manuscript by introducing punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure into the original style. Phillips included valuable supplemental information, including a time line of the major events of the Barrow gang, a foreword by Blanche Barrow's friend, an annotated list of the Barrow gang's victims, maps of crime scenes, and replicas of primary documents. Most valuable are the many photographs, many taken by Blanche, interspersed throughout the text.

Phillips heavily edits the text to reconcile conflicts with other sources. For example, after the shoot-out at a garage apartment, the manuscript stated that Blanche ran away screaming and waving her arms. Phillips says that no witnesses reported such behavior, and Blanche herself later cast doubt on it. Phillips theorizes that she used this version to help gain early release.

Blanche Caldwell Barrow's *My Life with Bonnie and Clyde* provides a fascinating glimpse into this infamous outlaw gang. John Neal Phillips creates an outstanding source for both novice and expert readers.

James B. Seymour
Cy-Fair College


For his twenty-seventh book, the prolific Bill O'Neal turns to the topic of residential historic sites connected with Texas political leaders. *Sam Houston Slept Here: Guide to the Homes of Texas' Chief Executives* is primarily a guidebook. It should prove valuable to any Texan with an interest in heritage tourism or the domestic life of famous men. O'Neal restricts his subject to extant houses. He gives street addresses and tells which are open to the public. For those that are not, O'Neal advises on the best route for viewing the exterior.

Although they were hardly "chief executives," the reader will appreciate the inclusion of houses belonging to Stephen F. Austin, John Nance Garner, and Sam Rayburn. Each gentleman made his mark on the state's cultural, political, and economic landscape. However, the bulk of the book focuses on residences of actual chief executives, whether provincial or state governors, presidents of the Republic, or presidents of the United States. O'Neal begins with the commandant's house in San Antonio that became the provincial governors' "palace" in 1772. Next, he describes the Greek Revival mansion, built in Austin and first occupied in 1856, which still serves as the official residence of Texas governors. Private homes of the republican and antebellum eras are introduced in discussions of the homes of Austin, Sam Houston, Anson Jones,
and Elisha Pease. Austin's is a replica, as are the outbuildings at Jones' "Barrington" plantation (1844), now a living history museum.

To bridge the timeline, O'Neal tosses two Civil War-era governors – Edward Clark and Pendleton Murrah – into the narrative even though neither home has survived. Beginning with Richard Coke’s summer house in Galveston, the post bellum and Progressive-era homes of Governors J. S. Hogg, Joseph Sayers, S.W.R. Lanham, and T.M. Campbell show the typical Victorian dwellings that were deemed appropriate for the urban professionals who managed Texas in those days. Homes of more modern governors include those of James E. and Amanda Ferguson, as well as Governors Dan Moody, Ross Sterling, Beauford Jester, Allen Shivers, Price Daniel, Preston Smith, Dolph Briscoe, W.P. Clements, Ann Richards, and Rick Perry. Some homes are surprisingly humble, while others, like the mansions of Sterling, Shivers, and Briscoe, conform to Hollywood stereotypes about oil barons and cattle kings. Governor George W. Bush’s houses occupy the final section of the book—the homes of U. S. presidents from Texas – which also includes residences of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, and George H. W. Bush.

It is somewhat disappointing that only forty-three percent of the state governors’ homes are included. Out of forty-four governors, O'Neal shows us the residences of twenty. Since Texas got “two governors for the price of one” with the Fergusons, that leaves twenty-five governors (and two presidents of the Republic) homeless on the pages of Sam Houston Slept Here, including quite recent people such as Coke Stevenson, John Connally, and Mark White. O'Neal says that some of the omitted houses are in gated neighborhoods or away from public roads. On the other hand, with the exception of Clark and Murrah, O'Neal chose not to include any governors whose homes are lost, even if photographs and written descriptions survive. Historians will likely see this as a fault, but in light of the book’s primary purpose as a guidebook, the decision is understandable. On a more positive note, readers will enjoy the vignettes of domestic life that O'Neal supplies, especially the photographs of interiors. These show how leaders presented themselves at home and how their surroundings reveal the varied social and economic strata of the political elite. Especially fascinating are the sequential photographs of the homes of upwardly mobile leaders, such as the Bushes, whose early residences were extremely modest.

In Sam Houston Slept Here, O'Neal reminds us of the historical significance of seemingly ordinary sites. Few Texans have thought of the homes of politicians as worthy of preservation; consequently, many were lost. Yet, with books like this to pique the interests of developers, tourists, and history buffs, that indifference may change. For example, since O'Neal began his research, the George W. Bush Childhood Home project secured the house in Midland where George and Barbara Bush lived early in the 1950s. It is now becoming a house museum to recreate the ambience of that era. While some may scoff at the idea of a tract house having historic significance, there was nothing remarkable about Abraham Lincoln’s log cabin at the time it was built.
Anyway, the significance of what we save is not for us to determine, but our posterity. They certainly cannot visit relics that are gone.

Jeffrey Owens
Tyler, Texas

Mirabeau B. Lamar: Second President of Texas, Judy Alter (State House Press, McMurry Station, Box 637, Abilene, TX 79697-0637) 2005. Illustrations, Patrick Messersmith. P. 72. $17.95.


Mirabeau B. Lamar came to Texas from Georgia in 1835, then fought in the war with Mexico for Texas independence. After the war ended, Lamar was elected vice-president of the Republic of Texas. Two years later Lamar became the second president of Texas. He gave speeches about the Comanches and fought with the Cherokees and the Comanches. He moved the state capitol to Austin and started the education system in Texas. After being president, Lamar fought in the Mexican War and wrote poetry, then became the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua. He came back to the U.S. in 1859 and died in December of that year at the age of sixty-one.

One of the best parts of the book was the war for Texas independence, because the author explained why they were fighting. It was good that the poem Lamar wrote to Henrietta Moffitt is in the book, because it is nice to see how he felt. The book also taught me about why the wars with the Indians and Mexico happened, and the kinds of things that happened in battle. The book also helped me know more about Sam Houston and who he was, what he did, and how he did it. I also learned that Mirabeau Lamar had friends and enemies in his life, and about the legend of him taking his wife to an Indian hut and caring for her after an accident.

Henrietta Chamberlain was born in Missouri in 1832. She married Richard King in 1854 after moving to Texas. They lived on a small ranch that quickly grew into one of the biggest ranches in Texas. During the Civil War, Richard King worked for the Confederacy. Union troops once attacked the ranch, and Henrietta and her children moved to San Antonio. After the war, they all returned to the ranch. Richard King died in 1885 and left his wife 500,000 acres of land and $1.5 million in debt. Henrietta owned the ranch for the next forty years. Robert Kleberg, a lawyer, helped her run it. She made the ranch bigger, developed a new breed of cattle, and built a big house. She donated land for the city of Kingsville, and helped build schools and other things. She died in 1925 at the age of ninety-three.

This book taught me that grownups have lots of responsibilities. The pic-

At first glance this work by Mavis Kelsey and Robin Hutchison appears to be a coffee table book. The full *quarto* size and colorful dust jacket make it an attractive book for tabletop display. This is much more, though, than a book that looks pretty.

The authors have catalogued over 2,000 engravings printed in Texas or of Texas subjects. These descriptions are arranged chronologically by date of their first publication. Photographs of 470 of the printed engravings illustrate nearly every page. A fifty-page index provides cross-references by subject and title of the engravings. Some references to artists and engravers are also listed in the index.

Most of the printed engravings listed are found in the Mavis and Mary Kelsey Collection of Americana in the Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M University. Some are found in other collections in the Houston Public Library, San Jacinto Museum of History, The Institute of Texan Cultures, and elsewhere.

Ron Tyler, former director of the Texas State Historical Association, has written a helpful introduction. He considers the graphic printing arts in general, the national and international attraction to Texas scenes and subjects, and graphic printing in nineteenth-century Texas.

Although the title refers to 350 years from 1554 to 1900, the catalogue itself is predominantly a list of nineteenth-century engraved prints of Texas. The period before 1830 covers less than ten pages and lists only fourteen printed engravings; photo illustrations of six of these are included. This first section and each of the seven decades that follow are introduced by Kelsey’s and Hutchison’s comments which set the historical situations in which the engravings were first published.

This is a well-constructed book in full green cloth, bound to withstand regular use. It will be useful to historians and others not only in finding period illustrations, but for seeing the engravings as historic documents in their own right. In his introduction, Donald H. Dyal says these illustrations “trans-
late into lenses through which we can view the world through different and enhanced eyes.”

Milton Jordan
Georgetown, Texas


When one is a middle-aged newspaperman trying to hang on until retirement — toiling amidst a strange new world of bloggers, unending news cycles, and a generation of young people whose attention span precludes reading anything longer than a truncated text message sent by cell phone — it’s hard not to daydream about being a News Baron. Imagine confidently striding one’s city as a Colossus during the first third of the past century. One might even forgo air-conditioning for such power.

Texas’ big-city newspaper publishers early in the twentieth century — when those newspapers evolved into significant social and economic forces — usually were mustachioed, pot-bellied white men decked out in vested suits adorned with pocket watches. They believed in Progress with a capital “P.” As a rule, they didn’t much like unions or blacks, though most concluded in the 1920s that the Ku Klux Klan was bad for business.

Patrick Cox, assistant director of the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, has written an engaging account of the press barons — Jesse Jones, George Dealey, Amon G. Carter, and William P. Hobby, among others — who helped usher Texas out of a post-Reconstruction funk into the modern age. Texas newspaper publishers relentlessly promoted their cities and fought for civic improvement while fighting to keep intact the Southern racial divide between whites and blacks.

Cox chronicles the fascinating machinations of the Pa and Ma Ferguson era of Texas politics, which included the former’s impeachment and the latter’s election as the state’s first woman governor.

His story concludes as the state celebrates its centennial in 1936, with a bash headquartered in Dallas — spearheaded, naturally, by a newspaper publisher.

Those interested in how power is used — as well as who gets to wield it — will enjoy this contribution to the study of journalism, often called the rough draft of history.

Gary B. Borders
Lufkin, Texas

As today’s events become tomorrow’s history, future biographers will not be as fortunate as David Horton and George Nielsen, who had a treasure trove of written materials about their subject, something historians will find less and less in the future’s electronic media world.

Horton and Nielsen dug deep and struck it rich in their biography of “the apostle of prison reform” [p. 188]. They present not only the life of one of Texas’ greats, but they also give a reader new to both subjects a concise but correct picture of the man himself and the history of the Texas prison system which he personally molded and that “brought him to a pre-eminent place in the history of American prisons” [p. 108], through his charismatic and visionary leadership.

“Managing by Walking Around” was Beto’s style, long before Tom Peters and Bob Waterman popularized the phrase in their book, In Search of Excellence (1982.) Beto became known as “Walking George” almost immediately after he was named director of the Texas Department of Corrections in 1962. Inmates hung that tag on him because of his unannounced and unexpected visits to the system’s many prisons. Not only did he learn what was going right and wrong with the inmates themselves, he also learned first hand what was going right and wrong with the convicts’ keepers and the facilities in which they all operated.

The book is intended to be “instructional” and it is. It also presents prison problems espoused by Beto more than thirty years ago – some that still exist today. And Walking George is enlivened with bits of humor – such as Beto’s practice of “talking to the organ grinder and not the monkey” when it comes to fund-raising [p. 38]. This biography reads almost like a novel.

William T. Harper
Bryan, Texas


This collection of essays, selected from presentations given at the University of North Texas’ Annual Military History Seminar, combine the thoughts of major military historians and veterans. It provides an interesting sample of the last sixty years of American military history.
The first two sections of the work cover World War II and include discussions of the Eastern front, the decision to use the atomic bomb, first-person accounts by B-17 and B-29 crewmen, and a Marine veteran of Tarawa and Iwo Jima. Section III contains General Russell E. Dougherty's discussion of Cold War leadership, including observations on General Curtis LeMay. The section on the Korean War includes a discussion of the enduring lessons of the war by Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, among them that "America is, in truth, a Pacific power, not an Asian power" (p. 147). In Section V, George Herring assesses Lyndon Johnson as commander-in-chief, while former-POW David Winn explores the question of how "smart people do dumb things" (p. 191). The work concludes with Princeton's Normal Itzkowitz discussing the psychology of terrorism and Texas A&M professor Brian Lynn comparing our experiences in the Philippines a century ago to current operations in Iraq.

Seminar presentations frequently do not translate well to the printed page, and collections covering a broad time period often loose focus. The editors, however, have provided detailed footnotes and the collection retains its focus, a focus on major strategic and leadership themes, effectively illuminated by first-person accounts. This collection is highly recommended for libraries. Were it available in paperback it would make an excellent additional reader in undergraduate courses in modern U.S. history or military history.

Ronald L. Spiller
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Behind and Beyond the Pine Curtain: A Collection of Essays by an East Texas Editor, Gary B. Borders (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2004. Contents. P. 244. $22.95. Paperback.

As an unashamed, unabated reader of East Texas newspapers, I subscribe to more than a dozen every week. In many of the newspapers, the editor is more than just an editor; many write columns at least once a week.

Each time I read a particularly good column, I invariably tell myself, "With all that talent, he should be writing a book."

One of my favorite editors, although he is now a publisher, is Gary Borders of the Lufkin Daily News. And, thankfully, Gary has written a book of the columns written for The Daily News and Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel since 1995, many of them passed along to 600 newspapers by the New York Times News Service.

The seventy or more essays in Behind and Beyond the Pine Curtain are largely about East Texas. It's the kind of book you can read for a few minutes, put aside while you mow the grass or feed the cows, and then return to the book without missing a part of the plot.

Gary wasn't born in East Texas, but we have long forgiven him for
that. However, a good ol’ boy in East Texas would call his essays “stories,” but that’s just the way things are in the Piney Woods.

Gary talks about skinny dogs, the things that make him thankful at Thanksgiving, driving around in an ugly truck, hunting mayhaws in the swamps, the joy of woodworking, the indigenous East Texas index-finger wave, the death of Ambassador Ed Clark of San Augustine (a friend we shared), the simple pleasures of walking along a shrouded country road, and a lot of other things sprinkled with East Texas and New Hampshire accents.

Of all the columns bound within *Behind and Beyond the Pine Curtain*, my favorite is one about another country editor, Sam Malone of San Augustine, a fiery editor who kept a whiskey bottle in his desk and a shotgun propped in the corner of his office.

In February 2001, Gary ended a column on Sam with the same sentiments expressed by many of Sam’s friends: “Sam never made much money, gave away as much printing as he charged for, never shied away from a good fight and had as much courage as anyone I ever met. He left dozens of dear friends across the Pine Curtain. I’m proud to be one of them.”

I wish that Sam Malone, like his friend Gary Borders, had published a collection of his “stories.”

Thank you, Gary, for a wonderful, readable book. Every East Texan should have a copy on their bedside table.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


The forty years from 1960 to the present were four significant decades in American history. They included the assassination of a president, the Civil Rights movement, a war that threatened the fabric of our country, a fifty-year clash between superpowers, and the worst terrorist attack in our history.

Murphy Martin has lived more history than most can study. In this book, he tells the story of these four decades from his “front row seat.” He traced his experience from his origins in Lufkin, Texas, through his beginnings in journalism and his experiences in the profession. He provides not only the story of these four decades and their influence on his life, but also insights and observations that can only come from one who witnessed the events. The book provides the historian or general reader with stories and observations from the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, selections from Martin’s interviews with Robert and Marina Oswald, the Jack Ruby Trial, confrontations with the Klan in the midst of the Civil Rights turmoil, the close personal friendship that
grew between Martin and Ross Perot, and his relationships with American presidents and other personalities.

Lee Winningham
Nacogdoches, Texas


Perhaps some would be perplexed at the need for yet another “pretty” picture book with the Alamo adorning its cover and its contents extolling the grandeur of the great state of Texas. Even as an enthusiastic native eager to see Texas universally recognized as a former nation, I was not convinced of the book’s necessity. As I slowly absorbed the visual cornucopia by some of America’s best photographers, I changed my mind.

The book is a visual tour of natural sweeping vistas, historic landmarks, and cultural heritage sites of Texas taken at the perfect confluence of sunlight, sunset, or nightfall, and in perfect weather. While there seems to be a “favoring” of the Austin area, the book covers the whole state from Amarillo to Galveston Island, and from the limestone cliffs above the Pecos River to the lush Big Thicket National Preserve. While all the photographs are stunning, the one I liked best is Richard Reynolds’ vision of Caddo Lake State Park in the fall (p. 62). The native Texan truly captures Caddo Lake’s mysterious nature.

A second reading should include the brief descriptive captions under the photographs by editor Kari Cornell, who notes “some believe that Nacogdoches is the oldest town in Texas...” (p.65). She could be more definitive. The book is a perfect gift for family and friends, and unlike many such books, it is a great value; I recommend it to anyone who loves beautiful color photographs of Texas' natural environment. After all, it is the only book of which I am aware that eschews the usual carpet of bluebonnets in favor of a huge field of cabbage in a Mission, Texas, field of dreams.

Cynthia Devlin
Zavalla, Texas


James Ward Lee may not have been born in Texas, but he got here as quickly as he could. He draws on more than forty years of teaching English and American literature at the University of North Texas, Denton, and a lifetime of soaking up all things Texan to produce his first major book. With a nod
Lee devotes more than half the pages to an overview of Texas literature, anchored in an analysis of J. Frank Dobie and Larry McMurtry. Both of these legendary authors Dobie’s romantic, and McMurtry’s more ironic, treatment of the western influenced Texas writers, including women and Mexican Americans, but in different ways. Lee acknowledges the contributions of Katherine Anne Porter, Shelby Hearon, the “first woman novelist to come out of Texas,” and the poet Betsy Colquitt (p.125).

A past president of the Texas Folklore Society, Lee examines the relevance of folklore: the definitive short story. He explores the view of Texas perpetuated in popular culture, the “myths” of the cowboy and the rich oilman, with observations of small town Texas, also giving space to the oft-neglected Arklatex region.

In the last section, Lee presents anecdotes from his pre-Texas life. With tongue in cheek, he recounts some milestone experiences as a fourteen-year-old prep schooler, and his Korean War.

A self-confessed bookworm, Lee demonstrates a love of all literature. Citing influences from Aristotle to Edwin Shrake, from John Donne to John Wayne, he offers insight into the development of Texas literature and the impact of external trends, including politics and popular culture.

Sue Terry
Lufkin, Texas


Biographies featuring prominent businessmen have dominated the bookshelves of ambitious junior-executives in recent years. Cadres of corporate managers debate the content of such works over countless business lunches. Most of these bestsellers focus upon various strategies for optimizing corporate profits, but few offer meaningful insight, let alone a blueprint for entrepreneurial greatness. However, John J. Nance’s latest work deserves a look.

Nance’s Golden Boy: The Harold Simmons Story chronicles Harold Simmons’ rise from watermelon stacker to billionaire financier. Simmons, a native of Golden, Texas, a diverse business empire built from the ground up. Nance’s work reveals the keys to Simmons’ success. First, Simmons’ East-Texas background taught him to trust in: “Solid people. Texans, like himself, who handled life even-handedly and honestly” (p. 29). Next, Simmons realized that an entrepreneur must learn from positive and negative experiences
continually, always gleaning new ideas for the future. Most importantly, an empire builder must avoid complacency. When acquiring pieces of his vast holdings, Simmons refused to rest on his reputation, even when the long hours threatened his home life. His resolve enabled him to ride out the inescapable boom-bust-cycle inherent in Texas, and his engaged management style eased the minds of his investors and employees during turbulent times.

Nance's background as a novelist helps make the text a descriptive delight. The work is a must read for aspiring entrepreneurs, Texas history buffs, and biography aficionados. In short, *Golden Boy: The Harold Simmons Story* is a refreshing story of a corporate builder who outshined his competition via superior intellect and ambition.

Richard L. Merrill
Pocatello, Idaho


Rarely does there appear among historians an individual who epitomizes the quintessential scholar, teacher, and mentor. An academician and gentleman who has amassed an exceptional record of achievement is UTSA professor Félix D. Almaráz, Jr. *Tejano Epic*, edited by Angelo State University professor Arnoldo De León, pays tribute to Almaráz's four decades in behalf of Texas and Tejano scholarship with a collection of original essays, or *festschrift*.

This brief book includes several student-oriented essays written by scholars whose professional careers benefited from Almaráz's pioneering efforts. Following a concise cataloging of the writings of Don Félix, Nora McMillan examines the life of Ana Maria del Carmen Calvillo, who challenged gender norms of her day. Jesús F. de la Teja analysates the Saltillo Fair and its impact on the socio-economic world of northeastern colonial Mexico. Caroline Crimm exposes the truth about Petra Vela Kenedy and her role in building South Texas. Other contributors to the volume (de León, Pycior, and Romero) document the diversity of the Tejano community, such as a rising middling class, Tejana activism, and migrant workers. Additionally, Thomas Kreneck evaluates the life of Dr. Hector P. Garcia for his contribution to archival-based scholarship, while Anthony Quiroz compares the Economy Furniture Company strikes in 1958 and 1968 with different results for Mexican Americans. In a concluding essay, Almaráz shares his thoughts on the historian's craft, advising scholars to be "ambassadors for their profession" (p. 132).

Organized around themes that engaged Almaráz throughout his illustrious career, *Tejano Epic* is a satisfying tribute to a well-deserved and respected historian. While unabashed in its admiration of Almaráz, the volume achieves
its purpose of investigating old topics while “shedding new light and understanding on the human experience” (p. 132). Students in the college classroom and scholars of borderlands history will find it a useful addition to an ever-growing body of Tejano scholarship.

Mary L. Kelley
Lamar University


Francis Edward “Ab” Abernethy closes more than thirty years as editor of the Texas Folklore Society publications with this wonderful collection of miscellany culled from his files. The volume opens appropriately with correspondence from J. Frank Dobie to a favored UT student and collaborator named John R. Craddock. Most of the letters date from a period early in the 1920s when Dobie, as English Department chairman at Oklahoma A&M, was trying to supervise “six or eight other more or less human beings” (p. 17) and getting admonished by the school president for smoking on campus, not attending chapel, and failing too many students. These letters remind us of Dobie’s love of the outdoors, endearing humanity, and sheer skill as a prose stylist. His influence as a folklorist and storyteller runs through numerous articles in this collection, most notably pieces on the legends of the Texas headless horseman and the phantom white mustang.

Lucy Fischer West, daughter of a German sailor and a Mexican schoolteacher, contributes a profoundly moving reminiscence of growing up in El Paso, in the days when the Rio Grande still “flowed furiously” (p. 43). West recalls crossing the border into Juarez for her first years of school due to her mother’s belief in “the value of a Mexican education” (p. 46). West and her mother continued to do so in later years to visit relatives and ex-colleagues, buy groceries, and take part in celebrations such as the Day of the Dead. She acknowledges this rich cultural background as her mother’s enduring gift.

Phyllis Bridges tells the incredible story of Clementine Hunter, a black woman born in 1887, who worked most of her life on a Natchitoches Parish plantation. She quit school at age ten and remained proudly illiterate, preferring work in the fields. In her sixties, and now doing household labor, she came upon tubes of paint discarded by a visiting artist. This led her to do the first of roughly 4,000 paintings, most of which depicted simple scenes from the everyday lives of plantation workers. Hunter’s paintings initially sold for a pittance, but today are worth as much as $5,000 and considered excellent examples of folk art.

This is a brief sampling of articles from this volume. It is filled with
excellent writing and marvelous stories and is a fitting capstone to Ab Abernethy's distinguished tenure at the helm of the Texas Folklore Society.

Stephen Davis
Kingwood College


Confession: I'm Sooner born and a Sooner bred, and when I die I'll be a Sooner dead. With that now behind me, I can proceed with an honest and straightforward review of the above-cited book.

Perhaps the best way to begin is to quote the first two sentences of the University of Oklahoma President David Boren's introduction: “This beautifully and powerfully written book is far more than just a history of the earliest years of the University of Oklahoma. It is ... a story of how the frontier experience helped shape the American character and continues to influence our national self-image.”

The author is Julian J. Rothbaum, professor of modern American history at OU and co-editor of seven volumes of the letters of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

Do not look here for seven national football titles at the University of Oklahoma. Nor—as President Boren delights to say on television—that OU has more National Merit scholars in its students today than does any other public university in the nation.

Volume I ends too early for any such. This is the story of how a raw territory with few if any high school graduates decided that it must have a university of stature in 1892.

The first class of fifty-seven students met on the second floor of a “downtown” store front in Norman and first met on the campus a mile from downtown out on a bald and barren prairie in a single building in 1894.

The first president, Dr. David Ross Boyd, despairing over the naked condition of the campus when he arrived, led in planting a variety of trees to give some arboreal beauty to otherwise barren surroundings.

As unlikely as it may seem, I learned much state history and geography from this book. For instance, as many times as I have traveled between Shawnee and Norman through a narrow band of shinnery and scrub oak between the two towns ending just east of Norman, I have learned that I had traversed the Cross Timbers without my knowledge that I had done so.

Interestingly, the first four horsemen of the original faculty, including Doctor Bovd, met on the campus for a reunion in 1933 or 1934—exact year
unstated in the outlines — in a photograph only a year earlier or the same year I matriculated there.

Pictured also in his World War I uniform as a captain in the army is Walter Campbell, a full professor of English (Stanley Vestal to those who do not know him otherwise), who taught me writing in a first semester freshman class.

You bet I am pleased to have this scholarly, annotated, yet highly readable book for my own shelf.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth, Texas


The Birth of the Texas Medical Center is essentially Dr. Frederick C. Elliott’s autobiography, but supporting materials are drawn from oral history interviews and other source materials. Elliott was a pioneering dentist and one of the original advocates and founders of the Texas Medical Center. This book offers a fascinating look into his life and career, as well as the political maneuvering that lay behind the creation of one of the world’s best healthcare facilities. It also shows how the community rallied behind the medical center politically and philanthropically to create “Houston’s gift to the world” (p. 208). Elliott’s life and career is the perfect vehicle for the examination of the construction of the medical center because he was intimately involved with its creation and served as its executive director for much of his career.

While the book remains focused on the medical center, it also contains a large amount of social history, especially concerning the founding of many of Houston’s charitable organizations and the support they gave to the medical center. It contains a fair amount of attention to gender and race issues in Houston and in the medical community. It is these observations that made the work far more engaging than one might expect. The entire story is presented from a first-person point of view, which also helps to peak the reader’s interest.

William H. Keller, the book’s editor, is to be congratulated for bringing such a fascinating viewpoint to life. His hand is virtually invisible in the work, as the power of Elliott’s story does not require a large amount of help. The book also fills a large hole in the history of Houston because many of the established histories of the city give only scant details on the importance of its healthcare facilities. The Birth of the Texas Medical Center not only highlights the importance of the facility, it also details the human interactions that led to its birth, growth, and continued success.

Tom McKinney
Houston, Texas
Kenneth B. Ragsdale's *Austin, Cleared for Takeoff: Aviators, Businessmen, and the Growth of an American City*, is an engaging account of aviation history in the city of Austin. Ragsdale traces the roots of the city's aviation industry from aviator Calbraith Perry Rodgers' historic landing in Austin to the opening of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. He gives an account of the persons responsible for Austin's growth due to the aviation industry. The reader can enjoy his accounts of pilots, politicians, and businessmen who helped mold the city's aviation industry.

Ragsdale provides an excellent account of the University of Texas' role in the training of pilots and the financial impact of aviation on the school during both world wars. The lives of the students, professors, and civilians involved in the flight-training programs at the University of Texas were particularly enjoyable. For the aviation enthusiast, Ragsdale lists various aircraft types and names throughout the book. He also furnishes numerous statistics that enable a better understanding of the magnitude of aviation's contributions to Austin. Ragsdale used interviews, manuscripts, public records, and secondary sources to root the book in sound scholarship.

Karr Pittman
Nacogdoches, Texas