BOOK NOTES

As usual, a great many books come our way for review. In an effort to give our readers at least some information about as many of them as possible, given the limited space available, the following are presented in this section and are noted by the editor.

Since I have been associated with cookbooks of late, I might as well start with *The Eyes of Texas Cookbook*, compiled "by the Staff and Viewers of ‘The Eyes of Texas.’" It was published by Shearer Publishing, (406 Post Oak Road, Fredericksburg, Tx. 78624. 1987. Illustrations, Index. P. 260.) There is an introduction by Ron Stone, who hosts the popular television show that shares its name with this book. The book includes twelve-divisions (Appetizers, Beverages, etc.), including Dessert, which is divided into four sections — indicating that this is the favorite part of the meal for many Texans. Contributors of recipes are credited, and each entry is presented in a familiar, easy-to-follow format.

Another of my interests is the American West, especially Western film, so I am happy to tell you about the following:

John Tuska, *The American West in Film: Critical Approaches to the Western*, (University of Nebraska Press, 901 N 17, Lincoln, NE 68588), brings one of the genre's best known and most important writers into print in paperback. This book was published originally by Greenwood Press in its Popular Culture Series in 1985. Tuska's *The Filming of the West* remains a standard work in the field. This volume is devoted to the criticism of Western films, and is not a history of the Western.


Closer to home, Donald Clarke's, *West to Eden: Texans in Hollywood*, (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23069, Austin, TX 78735, 1987. Bibliography. Pictures. Index. P. 182.) discusses more than 200 movie personalities on both sides of the camera who have made their mark on the motion picture industry, and have some connection to the Lone Star State.

The American Civil War continues to be the cause of a number of books. Recently received are:

and an introduction by the compiler, a professor of librarianship at Illinois State University. The year 1955 was selected because it marked the beginning of preparation for the centennial celebration of the war. Sections are devoted to works on The North, The South, and Anthologies and Studies. Nearly 400 items are listed. Typical entries list complete bibliographic references and in most cases there is an annotation.

*The C.S.S. Florida: Her Building and Operations*, by Frank Lawrence Owsley, Jr., (University of Alabama Press, P.O. Box 2877, University, AL 35486, 1987. Index. P. 309. $15.95) is a reprint of a book published earlier. It contains a new introduction and a revised bibliography. It is the story of Confederate raiders that severely damaged the United States merchant fleet, featuring the vessel mentioned in the title.

*Civil War Generals: Categorical Listings and a Biographical Directory*, compiled by James Spencer, (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881), lists persons who became general officers during the Late Unpleasantness. The various lists are by rank; first names; middle names; hometowns and states; date of birth; month of birth; college — separate listing for U.S. Military Academy; work before the war; work after the war; place of death; date of death; month of death; killed in battle — by battle; killed in battle — alphabetically; killed in battle — by date; and a section titled "Biographs", which consists of a few lines on each person that contain most of the above in a single place. And it is all indexed. It is a monument to data processing, and is useful for looking up specific data.

*Tom Jones’ Hood’s Texas Brigade Sketchbook*, with an introduction by Col. Harold B. Simpson, (Hill College Press, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas 76645. 1988. Illustrations. $15.00), is the exact opposite of the above. The former is without pictures; this one is all pictures, or at least drawings, of uniforms, equipment, and other things dealing with most Texan’s favorite Civil War unit.

Several books present our state in a literary way for juveniles:

*Stay Put, Robbie McAmis*, a novel by Frances G. Tunbo, is the eighth Chaparral Book for young readers issued by Texas Christian University Press (Box 30783, Fort Worth, TX 76129, 1988. Illustrations. P. 158. $15.95). It is the story of a “19th century Robinson Crusoe in Texas.” It contains drawings by Texas artist Charles Shaw that illustrate the adventures of a band of youths who are stranded in early Texas.

Martha Tannery Jones’ *The Great Texas Scare: a Story of the Runaway Scrape*, (Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., P.O. Box 12311, Dallas, TX 75225, 1988. P. 96, Illustrated. $10.95 Hardcover), chronicles the troubles of the hundreds of families who moved eastward before the retreating Texas army and the invading Mexican army during the Texas Revolution. It features Amanda as its central character, and the story involves her adventures with friends and family in a desperate time in their lives and in the life of Texas.
Texas Alphabet, written and illustrated by James Rice, (Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., 1101 Monroe St. Gretna, LA 70053, 1988. P. 40 Color illustrated), is an excellent teaching tool for young children. Each letter of the alphabet is illustrated by a drawing that depicts some scene or character from Texas history, with a brief caption that explains the drawing.

Great Texas Christmas Legends, by Zeno Zeplin (Nel-Mar Publishing, HC-2 Box 267-C, Canyon Lake, TX 78133-2705, 1987. P. 121. $10.95 Hardcover), contains stories about the traditions of the most favorite of all American and Texan Holy Days and holidays. It would make an excellent gift for the more advanced juvenile.


Finally here are some "useful" books that came our way. All of the above are of course useful in their own way, but these will come in handy for checking up on things:

The Texas Alamanc, 1988-89, prepared by Mike Kingston for the Dallas Morning News (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767, 1988. Photographs. Maps. Index. P. 640. $8.95), contains all the data you will ever need to know about our state; Ray Miller's Eyes of Texas Travel Guide: Dallas-East Texas, (Lone Star Books, A Division of Gulf Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2608, Houston, TX 77252-2608. 1988. Photographs. Index. P. 225. $10.95) will be of special interest to our crowd; The Roads of Texas, (Shearer Publishing, 406 Post Oak Road, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, 1988. Illustrations. Maps. Index. P. 170. $12.95) with an introduction by Leon Hale, who has traveled more Texas roads than most of us, can guide you just about anywhere you want to go with BIG directions; and A Guide to the History of Texas, edited by Light Townsend Cummins and Alvin R. Bailey Jr. (Greenwood Press, Inc., 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881. 1988. Index. P. 320. $59.95), can lead you to all the best archives, libraries, and museums where you will find Texana galore. In twenty-seven chapters, as many writers will lead you to the best sources that deal with their assigned topics.

Whew! I know it was a quick survey, but all these folks worked hard on their projects, and each deserves this venue to let you know of their contribution.