Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Texas Senate, Volume 1, Republic to Civil War, 1836-1861, by Patsy McDonald Spaw, Editor (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1991. Photographs. Index. P. 394. $50.00 Hardcover.

First of a projected five volumes, this publication surveys the history of Texas from 1836 to 1861. Into its account of important historical events is interwoven the foundation, organization, membership, and actions of the nine senates of the Republic and the eight senates of the State of Texas that convened from independence to secession. Edited by Patsy McDonald Spaw, chief clerk, and the staff of the Senate Engrossing and Enrolling Department, it draws data from Senate Documents, newspapers of the era, legislation, and the personal papers of former members.

An appendix of more than sixty pages furnishes senator's names and the districts they represented during the first twenty-five years after independence. Lists of senators of the Republic of Texas were annotated by Chief Justice Thomas Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court, while those of early state senates were annotated by the staff of the Senate Engrossing and Enrolling Department.

The intent of each volume of the set is to provide "an informal reference work, giving information on who the members of the Senate were, providing vignettes of the more colorful members, detailing issues of the time and their resolution, and describing Senate proceedings and controversies (p. xi)." When completed, the five volumes will constitute a unique contribution to the history of Texas governing institutions. Studies of the governor's office and its incumbents have been published as well as histories of some of the state's courts, but full-scale treatments of one of its legislative chambers until now have not been forthcoming.

Although this "informal reference work" contains a liberal sprinkling of direct quotations from persons and documents, curious readers will be disappointed to find that footnotes are not supplied, leaving them to guess at sources. A notable exception, however, is the lengthy appendix, especially that portion devoted to the Senates of the Republic of Texas, which is documented generously. That documentation provides valuable, as well as interesting, biographical information on virtually all of the Republic's senators. An annotated bibliography partially compensates for the lack of notes.

Some East Texans are featured conspicuously in the accounts of the Senate's actions, especially during the time of the Republic. For example, Isaac W. Burton, who represented the Nacogdoches District in three early congresses; Kindred H. Muse, who represented Nacogdoches and Houston counties in three later congresses; Isaac Parker, who represented Nacogdoches, Houston, and Rusk counties in three congresses and four state legislatures; and John Alexander Greer, who represented San...
Augustine in eight of the ten congresses. All receive extensive treatment.

Each volume of this series will provide a useful insight into the evolution and dynamics of an important segment of Texas government in its time period, and the complete five-volume study will depict the full story of the Senate and become a much needed research tool for students of Texas history and government.

Joe E. Ericson
Stephen F. Austin State University


This volume, reader pleasing in design and structure, is composed of two essays. Each describes contributions of incredible individuals whose frontier experiences and endeavors are responsible for the rapid developments in Spanish and French cartography covering the Texas area during a brief, thirty-three year period from 1685 to 1718.

The first essay, *The Olivan Rebolledo — Saint-Denis Maps*, written by Jack Jackson and Robert S. Weddle, primarily treats three unpublished manuscript maps associated with Olivan presently housed in the *Archivo General de la Nacion*, Mexico, and identified in the text as Figures 1, 2, and 3.

These maps demonstrate the contributions made to the Olivan maps by Saint-Denis. Saint-Denis’ explorations of the Red River, his friendship with the Indians of New Spain, and his alleged trade journeys across the interior of Texas in 1714 and 1716, provided him with information about New Spain coveted by and received by both Spain and France.

The second essay, *Le Maire and the “Mother Map” of Delisle*, written by Jack Jackson and Winston DeVille, features the works of Francois Le Maire, a French missionary stationed at Mobile, who, much to the neglect of his religious responsibilities, devoted himself to collecting cartographic information and drawing various maps of the territory north of the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to the Rio Grande. Saint-Denis was his primary source as to the Red River and New Spain east of the Rio Grande.

Through Le Maire’s learned friend, Father Jean Bobe, chaplain of the Palace of Versailles, Le Maire’s works were made available to the illustrious cartographer, Guillaume Delisle. The excellence of Le Maire’s maps and reports was recognized by Delisle in both his correspondence and in the title of his famous 1718 map, *Carte De La Lousiane Et Du Cours Du Mississippi*, thereby preserving Le Maire’s name in the annals of cartography.
I recommend this volume to all who are fascinated by maps and have wondered how some of these early maps are so credibly accurate.

Jenkins Garrett
Fort Worth, Texas


This publication gives a brief history of this historic building from its plans and construction to the restoration efforts of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Built in 1841, this structure was to be the home of Dubois de Saligny, *charge d'affaires* to the Republic of Texas.

In 1848, Joseph W. Robertson, mayor of Austin, purchased the home and his family owned and occupied it until May 1940. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas wished to purchase the home and restore it, but could not raise the money required. In May 1945 the Texas Legislature passed a bill authorizing the use of remaining Centennial funds to purchase the home. The DRT was given custodianship of the French Legation in August 1949. This volume tells of their restoration efforts and photographs illustrate some of the furnishings which are there today.

Carolyn Ericson
Nacogdoches, Texas


A new twist is put on the subject of the death of Stonewall Jackson in this work of speculative historical fiction. Salmon P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, frustrated by his increasing separation from the center of power in the government, acting alone, devises a scheme to hire an assassin to kill Jackson. From this implausible beginning the plot degenerates.

Chase steals the money to finance the plot by forging a ledger entry in records of the Department of the Treasury. From one inconceivable circumstance to another the author hurries on, with the book having more the feel of a made for TV soap opera movie of the "North-South" genre (including the usual overabundance of sexual situations) than the "startling", "thought-provoking contribution" it is advertised to be on the book's dustcover.

Jackson's Christianity is depicted as more of an intellectually debilitating weakness than the central strength of his character. While Christian-bashing seems popular among many authors today, it does not
make for accurate "historical" fiction.

The strength and interest of the book is King's excellent grasp of the minutiae of the period. Nonetheless, while preparing for this review, I continually found myself asking, "Do I like this book?" I finally decided that if I had to ask the question, I already had answered it.

Joe Martin
Lufkin, Texas


On August 10, 1887, John R. Hughes enlisted as a private in the Texas Rangers at Georgetown, Texas, thus inaugurating the career of a famous law enforcement officer. Over the next twenty-eight years — twenty-two as a Ranger captain — he distinguished himself as a man who "was never whipped in a fight, never lost a prisoner, and rarely failed to capture or kill the criminal he set after." As a consequence, "he richly deserved the title of Border Boss" (p. 5), writer and personal friend Jack Martin asserted in a biography of Hughes written in 1942.

Mike Cox, public information officer for the Department of Public Safety, was in complete agreement with this assessment, so much so that he was instrumental in having Border Boss republished. His efforts have produced highly commendable results. In a short introduction he has presented information about Hughes that was unavailable for the biography, since the Ranger captain did not die until 1947. Cox also has alerted readers to other papers and research materials concerning Hughes, and he has updated the bibliography on his subject. More importantly, he has allowed a present-day audience the opportunity to read about the exploits of a great Ranger captain who served on the rugged Texas frontier along the Rio Grande from the 1890s to 1915.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


This book offers a delightful, photographic history of Jewish people in Texas. It demonstrates that Jewish settlers have been part of the life of the state since 1579. Jews came to Texas with the Spanish almost thirty years before the first permanent English settlement in America. They lived on the harsh frontier, traded with Indian tribes, and fought on both sides of the American Civil War. Although Jews have always constituted less
than one percent of the population of Texas, they have contributed significantly to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of the state.

Many Jews took part in the Texas Revolution. For example, Dr. Moses Levy, General Sam Houston's surgeon general, was among the 300 men at the siege of Bexar in December 1835. "I am engaged ... in the real, stirring, and precarious struggle of man with man," he wrote (p. 10). Since then, Jews have fought heroically in every American war. Still, Jewish groups have suffered discrimination from reactionary associations such as the Ku Klux Klan. Cross-burnings and brutality were among the many nightmares that Jews endured between 1920 and 1945. Nevertheless, many Jews moved to the forefront of business, the professions, and politics. "I just wanted to show what I could do with my brains," said Albert Lasker, a genius of modern advertising (p. 135).

The book cites numerous Jewish Texans who have excelled in their fields, including Annette Strauss, mayor of Dallas; Stanley Marcus; Nobel Prize winner Joseph Goldstein; and William Zale, of Zales Jewelry. This book is well-written, well-documented, and largely based on original research. It is an absolute must for lovers of Texas history, ethnic studies, and good books in general.

Valentine J. Belfiglio
Texas Women's University


Scarcely a year apart appear two pictorial histories of Texas Jews, similar in content but from different publishers. Both recount the Jewish contributions to Texas history, culture, and economic development. That contribution has been enormous.

Cabeza de Vaca is conceded to have been the first European of record to traverse what is now Texas. That odyssey occurred between 1528 and 1536. De Vaca was followed in less than a half century by the first Jew of record, Gaspar Castano de Sosa, whose peregrinations were limited to the Trans-Pecos area. Both books bring the story to the present time.

In Pioneer Texas Jews, Ornish has organized her material into categories: adventurers, soldiers, colonizers, statesmen, ranchers, financiers, wildcatters, humanitarians, merchants, educators, artists, doctors, lawyers, etc. This approach creates a rough chronology: Winegarten and
Schechter observe a more precise chronology. In both books the story is presented in terms of individuals — dozens of them. Their contributions are duly noted along with their various honors — a few large and countless small.

Inevitably, those who record this kind of grass-roots history are confronted with the necessity of relying on family lore and tradition. Such source material cannot be accepted uncritically. Ornish asserts, for example, that Herman Ehrenburg, the boy soldier of Goliad, was a Jew. Not true. Winegarten and Schechter, although not unscathed, have negotiated this minefield far more successfully than Ornish, whose claims at times are unnecessarily extravagant.

There is the further problem of putting these individual stories into some sort of context. How did all these pieces fit into the whole? Again Winegarten and Schechter have the edge. Each chapter begins with an overview of Texas history at a particular time, interwoven with an account of Jewish activity in that same time span. Moreover, their prose style is more sophisticated than in Ornishes', which, at times, is superficial and cliche-ridden.

In both books the choice of illustrations is rewarding, but here Pioneer Texas Jews scores, because the images are crisper and the page layout more felicitous. The serious student should probably acquire both of these publications. Ornish is worth having for the nuggets it contains and the leads it offers. But if a single choice is to be made, then Winegarten-Schechter is the hands-down choice. It should be noted that the latter contains a useful glossary of Hebrew words, as well as a timeline to aid comprehension. Both volumes have substantial endnotes, extensive bibliographies, and good indexes. Deep in the Heart carries the sanction of the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Al Lowman
Stringtown


In Common Bonds: Stories By and About Modern Texas Women, editor Suzanne Comer successfully accomplishes the seemingly impossible task of producing a literary anthology which is, indeed, representative of the lives of “modern Texas women.” All of the thirty-two short stories are set in the twentieth century, but many of the concerns are as old as womanhood. Here are the ravages of time, the frustrations of courting, the fears of growing older, the pangs of needless loss. These, of course, are concerns which are not new to Texas women; the “heroines” here, however, often face such challenges with a resolve born of the knowledge that life can hold something more than they have been taught to expect.
Particularly touching are Elizabeth Davis's "The Hawk," which forcefully confronts the pain and confusion of early loss; Annette Sanford's "Standing By," an account of role-reversal between a mother and daughter; and "The Legacy," Lianne Elizabeth Mercer's tale of the acceptance of death. These selections are almost joyful in their combinations of suffering and beauty.

The final episode in the anthology is an unhappy one. Suzanne Comer, senior editor at Southern Methodist University Press, began this work in 1986. In 1990, only a few days after publication of Common Bonds, Comer succumbed to cancer. The variety and talent represented in this work are a tribute to her perseverance and abilities. She hoped, above all else, to capture "What [women] write about when we write about ourselves" (p. xviii). Fortunately for her readers, Suzanne Comer succeeded in that aim.

Vista K. McCroskey
Southwest Texas State University


Upon visiting Austin for a family wedding, John Barclay McGill was smitten with a cousin who had grown up from the young child he had known before. Being a journalist and adept with words, he decided to write and tell her of this new dimension of his feelings that had changed his life. Mollie McCormick, astonished but pleased, began a correspondence which lasted over a year and eventually led to marriage. These letters portray not only a deep affection and love for a woman, but the everyday life of a young man turned sheep rancher and the hardships he suffered on the frontier of Texas about the time the frontier was ending.

Encompassing the melodrama of boy loves girl, girl plays fickle, father disapproves of suitor, long distances and few visits, fear she will find another, etc., make this collection of letters relevant to today's youth. However, they also say much about life in the 1880s and 1890s, including hardships on the plains, lifestyles, etiquette, courage, and disappointment of a suitor in those times. As each letter was read the anticipation of the next one was there. Even though only his letters to her were included, the reader knew what she had replied.

This was one of those books the reader wanted not to end and when finished wanted to know "the rest of the story!" This was an extremely enjoyable book and an excellent use of primary source materials. The author also includes preface information about the family, the author of the letters, and their position in Texas society. A small epilogue told what
happened to them, but also proved that there is more to the story! This book is a must for Texana collectors.

Linda J. Cross
Tyler Junior College


This sampling of memorabilia, criticism, and polemic grew out of a symposium held at Texas A&M University in 1988. The "Uneasy Relationship" is focused in the two "slights" that the Great State made to the great author: in 1939 her collection, *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, "was passed over by the recently organized and male-dominated and establishment-oriented Texas Institute of Letters in favor of the decidedly inferior *Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver* of a favorite son, J. Frank Dobie" (Sylvia Ann Grider's "Introduction," xvi), and "set off a reaction that continued until 1964" (Sally Dee Wade, 116). "The other rift between Porter and Texas occurred twenty years later in 1959, when through an apparent misunderstanding, the University of Texas did not name its new library after her" (xvii).

These historical *faux pas* are literally or figuratively symbolic of the "rift" which the collection is meant to understand or to close (xiv). Though Grider's later essay in the collection is more biographical, the gendered polemics are distracting: "I think I have illustrated the common urge among Katherine Ann Porter's contemporaries, disciples, and followers to obliterate her from the record and to deny her preeminence as the first Texas writer to achieve national and international stature" (52). Larry McMurtry, for instance, finds Porter a "threatening figure" who inspires his "sexist" attacks on her ability (51). Later in the book Sally Dee Wade treats Porter's distaste for the "regional" and "provincial" (thus Dobie, Bedichek, and Webb) and details the two slights Grider mentions.

The other essays, however, do not hold to Grider's "reestablishment"-of-Porter's-place polemic. Interesting and delightful are the reminiscences of Indian Creek by Willene Hendrick and the letters quoted by Cleanth Brooks. Don Graham, in a lucid essay, shows Porter "as a Texas Writer in a specifically Southern context" (60), and Thomas Walsh documents the influence of Mexico and its culture on the stories and the writer. Janis Strout's essay looks at actual geographical "estrangement" in the texts and focuses on the dichotomies of distance/autonomy and home/belonging. Darlene Habrour Unrue, with debt to the biographers and critics, covers the general literary influences.
As its post-script, the collection contains an annotated chronological bibliography of Texas writing on Porter from 1905 to 1987.

Lee Schultz
Stephen F. Austin State University


The legacy of William Buchanan, by Archer H. Mayor, is a tribute to the history of the timber industry. In *Southern Timberman*, Mayor effectively chronicles a century of struggles, triumphs, and disappointments of William Buchanan and his heirs, who rose to the challenges of preserving family honor and tradition.

Mayor's extensive research and interviews provide a factual accounting of this time. Through numerous quotes and photographs, the reader is able to visualize the aggressive lifestyle of William Buchanan as well as the attitudes and hardships of the people who lived and worked in the sawmill towns he built.

Mayor effectively profiles the family members who followed in William Buchanan's footsteps. Events such as son-in-law Stanley Steeger's decision to begin a reforestation program are vital in historical accountings of the timber resource and the forests we now enjoy. Yet another decision by Steeger's son-in-law, John O'Boyle, to expand into the paper industry reveals that the same competitiveness and drive was still as much alive in the 1960s as when the first sawmill was built.

*Southern Timberman* takes the reader from 1880s through 1979 when the Buchanan era came to an end when the business was sold to International Paper Company. Mayor's work is a valuable contribution to the history of the men and women who helped build the timber industry of today.

Ron Hufford
Texas Forestry Association

*Easy Money: Oil Promoters and Investors in the Jazz Age*, by Roger M. and Diana Davis Olien (University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515) 1990. Notes. Glossary. Index. P. 216. $11.95 Paper. $29.95 Hardcover.

The authors describe how World War I prosperity and the nation's appetite for oil speculation brought forth some of the most ingenious thieves in history, many of whom were promoters in Fort Worth and Houston. Promoters have played a constructive role in the American petroleum industry, but in the 1920s, too many oil sharks routinely
capitalized corporations for hundreds of thousands of dollars largely on the basis of imaginary assets.

Many promoters were inept. Frederick A. Cook, the erstwhile Arctic explorer and promoter of Eagle Oil, was so blinded by his dreams that he proved to be as incompetent as he was dishonest. Robert A. Lee was an impoverished, semiliterate, retired janitor until he was transformed into a general and a scion of Robert E. Lee by the promoters of General Lee Interests. He was wholly incapable of continuing the hoax when investigators moved in. Even S.E.J. Cox, described by the Federal Trade Commission as the "most seductive and unreliable promoter in America (p. 104)," lacked the management acumen to build a personal fortune. Nevertheless, they and others bilked investors out of millions of dollars.

Federal and state authorities generally lacked the funding and manpower to conduct meaningful investigations. After the Harding Administration scandals, however, the Department of Justice, needing a diversion, prosecuted Cook, Cox, Lee, and a few others and dispatched them to Leavenworth. Most operators then restricted their hyperbolic propaganda until the stock market crash ended the great speculative boom. Tens of thousands of individuals suffered financial losses, and the scandals made it difficult for honest oilmen to raise venture capital.

This social and business history is well organized and offers a wealth of new material on the oil industry. The authors amply document their findings with court records and business papers and ably describe the oil mania in colorful detail.

George Green
The University of Texas at Arlington


As this remarkably important and informative volume points out, toys and games provide their participants and creators with tremendous emotional and physical pleasure. More importantly, perhaps, many games and toys transcend mere amusement because they offer educational value as well as the development of hand-eye coordination.

Part I notes that such toys as kites, floaters, weapons, and dolls — to name only a few that are covered in this exhaustive work — originally were crafted from available natural materials. The folklorist in this section
also provides the reader with precise step-by-step instructions that will allow him to create his own toys that will, in turn, reflect personal pride. Part II addresses the educational value and pure pleasure participants enjoy while playing clapping games, Steal the Bacon, marbles, and Rags, as well as other frontier games. These amusements, according to Texas' leading folklorists, satisfied a child's need to play/work with groups while at the same time the child gains an understanding of dominance and competition for territory. In Part III, five folklorists discuss the cultural, economic, and inherited characteristics of mankind that have helped make Texans recreational people.

This text is not limited to the folklorist but to all who are peripherally interested in folklore as such but are vitally interested in toys and games as they study their impact on culture.

Michael K. Schoenecke
Texas Tech University

Black Cats, Hoot Owls & Water Witches, Beliefs, Superstitions and Sayings from Texas, edited by Kenneth W. Davis and Everett Gillis (University of Texas North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203) 1990. Sketches. P. 112. $8.95 Paper.

When I was a young boy growing up in East Texas, we frequently ate at my grandparents' supper table at Slocum, often dining on fresh fish from the Neches River and Box Creek. My grandmother always cautioned her guests not to drink milk on these occasions, claiming that "milk with fish is poisonous."

It was a piece of advice that has lingered with me all my life and, to this day, I shudder when I mix the two at mealtime. My mother, in her late seventies, shuns fish entirely because she "likes milk too much to give it up for fish."

I was delighted to find that Kenneth W. Davis and the late Everett A. Gillis — both of the Department of English at Texas Tech University — have included that old superstition among their delightful collection of beliefs and sayings from Texas, Black Cats, Hoot Owls and Water Witches.

Davis and Everett probably haven't included every superstition you'll find in rural (and urban) Texas, but they've done a good job in including every one I can remember, including such memorable, old-time beliefs as:

• "If there is a ring around the moon, count the number of stars within that ring. Then you will know how many days there are before there will
Texas is remarkably rich in country superstitions, beliefs, and sayings — and Davis and Gillis—have performed a valuable folklore service in collecting many of them. Their book is enhanced by the wonderful woodblock illustrations of artist Teel Sale from the University of North Texas.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


Personal memoirs offer special insights into the past by depicting first-person details and anecdotes about bygone eras while revealing a great deal about the attitudes and points of view of the writers. Memoirs of a Rolling Stone 1875-1905 presents the peripatetic recollections of Andrew Jarvis Giraud, who spent his adolescence and early manhood exercising an incredible wanderlust. Giraud’s mother died when he was a boy, and his father was a drunkard. Born and reared in Galveston, Giraud was boyhood friends with feisty “Lil Arthur” (Jack) Johnson, who grew up to become prize fighting’s first black heavyweight champion. When Giraud was fourteen years of age he left Galveston and commenced a decade and a half as a hobo, traveling in “Side-Door Pullmans” (empty boxcars) and feeling equally at home in a “Jungle” around a “Mulligan” or in a saloon eating a lunch at the the bar for the price of a beer. Giraud frequently worked for floral nurseries, dairies, wheat combining crews, fruit picking gangs, and cattle and sheep ranchers. He barnstormed with a female baseball team, cooked in a Harvey House, prospected for gold, found
jobs at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 and the New Orleans Mardi Gras in 1894, and returned to his home town long enough to dig for survivors of the disastrous Galveston hurricane of 1900. Before finally settling down at the age of thirty, he had traveled throughout the West and Mexico and much of the rest of the United States. He wrote *Memoirs of a Rolling Stone* as an old man, but he was able to recall a rich variety of period detail, while indulging in occasional exaggerations, which are pointed out as part of an excellent editing job by Edward Hake Phillips, retired professor of history at Austin College.

A more restricted story in distance and chronology, but far more charming and vigorous, is *The Money Domino* by Robert H. "Buck" Rodgers. In 1913, when Buck was four, his family left the cotton fields of Texas with the hope of establishing a cattle ranch on a homestead claim in Colorado. The Rodgers clan, including Buck's parents, siblings, grandparents, and uncles, traveled to Colorado in a family wagon train. It proved impossible to begin a cattle operation, and the dream was abandoned in 1918. But the family sustained a genuine pioneer experience for five years, and Rodgers has preserved the adventure with exuberance, humor, and a perception of background that make *The Money Domino* a delightful and historically valuable reading experience.

Bill O'Neal
Panola College


For years now Tom Lea has stood at the crossroads of art and history, a painter who depicts history as most would have had it look, and a gifted author who, after four novels and a two-volume history of the King Ranch, plus various other writings, could have earned his living with his pen equally as well as with the brush. Even as a child, Lea knew that he wanted to be an artist, but his training at the Art Institute of Chicago, under muralist John Norton, prepared him for the historian's role as well. Returning to El Paso following several years in New Mexico, Lea won his first large commissions from the federal government and painted murals for post offices and government buildings in El Paso, Seymour, and Odessa as well as several out-of-state cities. These, plus early illustrations for J. Frank Dobie's *Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver*, led to a commission from *Life* magazine as a correspondent during World War II, permitting him to see much of the action in the Pacific firsthand.
It was only after he returned from the war and found that post-war artistic trends had "passed me by" that he settled into a style readily recognizable in the many books that he illustrated — his, Dobie's, and many publications by his friend and designer Carl Hertzog, also of El Paso — and that he became serious about his talent as a writer. His first novel, *The Brave Bulls*, resulted from his study of bullfighting. *The Wonderful Country*, *The Hands of Cantu*, *The Primal Yoke*, and *The King Ranch* followed, all with Lea's dramatic illustrations. He wrote *In the Crucible of the Sun* in 1974 to complete the story of the King Ranch by documenting its Australian operations.

A 1971 trip to England, where Lea saw John Constable's cloud paintings and had the opportunity to read much of his correspondence, led to an enthusiastic return to the easel, this time with a new style that emphasized light-infused colors and forms rather than pictures where light serves primarily to sharply define the images. Lea's colorful canvases throughout the 1970s and 1980s show that he relished this new insight, even as he continued to choose many of his themes from history.

This sumptious production from Texas A&M University Press is a long-awaited record of Tom Lea's career. William Weber Johnson, who authored the delightful study of Kelly Blue which the A&M Press reprinted several years ago, has contributed an insightful, warm, and informative essay. And dozens of Lea's prints, drawings, and paintings are reproduced in faithful color or dramatic black and white. Kathleen Gee Hjerter's careful compilation includes several wonderful surprises, such as Lea's compelling and graphic prints made during his sojourn in New Mexico and the mural studies that he made, even those that he did not get to paint in final form.

The unfortunate aspect of this handsome book, however, is that it does not tell us as much as we would like to know about the man who has played such an important role in the literary and artistic life of our state. There is no attempt, for example, to tell us what portion of his work is not represented in this book. Nor are many of his later works given any historical context. Are there stories behind paintings as different as *Yesterday* (1974) and *Durango Design* (1977)? We are told even less about his books, not even the years in which they were published. Even if this book, for reasons unexpressed, could not have contained a catalogue raisonne' of Lea's work, surely a bibliography of his writings could have been included.
Tom Lea is a handsome and personal tribute to an impressive career, that would have profited from considerably more scholarship.

Ron Tyler
Texas State Historical Association


Scholars of American literature have written extensively on the comic element in nineteenth-century American fiction, but there has been little done in the way of critical analysis on modern humorous western fiction. In The Laughing West, Professor C.L. Sonnichsen partially fills that gap by providing a generous selection of twenty-one humorous pieces of modern western humor with a lengthy, critical general introduction, section introductions, afterword, and bibliography.

Most of the excerpts in the anthology come from novels and short stories written after World War II. Only one woman writer, however, is included in the volume; the others are white Anglo-American males. Sonnichsen has excluded from the work the West Coast (that is, the states of California, Washington, and Oregon), but few will object to this restriction.

For the most part Texas writers are well represented in the book; they include John Nichols, author of The Milagro Beanfield War (1976); Larry L. King, The One-Eyed Man (1966); H. Allen Smith, Return of the Virginian (1974); Dan Jenkins, Baja Oklahoma (1981); and William Brinkley, Peepers: A Comedy (1981).

The selections strongly suggest that modern western humor has undergone a remarkable transformation since the nineteenth century. Indeed, the humorous fiction of the modern west resembles modern American fiction more closely than it does nineteenth-century American humorous fiction. As Sonnichsen notes in the introduction, the humor of the West has grown "dimmer and grimmer, and shifted from the country and rural to the urban." Nevertheless, the anthology apparently has captured the interest of readers because it is now in its third printing.

James H. Conrad
East Texas State University

"What happened to the American West — the region west of the 98th meridian — after the frontier was no more?" (xi) To answer that broad question, editors Gerald Nash and Richard Etulain, both of the University of New Mexico, have compiled thirteen diverse essays, supplemented by an historiographical entry and a selective bibliography, for this book. They succeed in this ambitious undertaking in many ways. Perhaps the best contributions concern the peoples of the West; especially useful are the essays defining the sub-regions of the area and the importance of modern urban centers. In other sections authors comment on assorted topics ranging from the environment and the economy to art and literature. Without question, The Twentieth-Century West, Historical Interpretations explores numerous and varied aspects of the Trans-Mississippi region.

While anyone interested in regional history will learn from this book, perhaps graduate students are its most likely, and most appropriate, audience. While the research is sound, certain articles are tedious and difficult. Others are too narrow in scope for most readers. Still others use large numbers of statistics without explanations which non-statisticians can understand. On the positive side, authors are not afraid to analyze and to draw conclusions pertaining to the West as a whole. In addition, each writer suggests topics for further research — especially numerous thesis and dissertation topics. For students of Western History, The Twentieth Century West, Historical Interpretations will be a welcome addition to their library.

Eddie Weller
San Jacinto College — South


This account of life at the United States Military Academy by one of its early (1982) woman graduates is both fascinating and disappointing. It is fascinating in its portrayal of the demeaning and substantial hurdles placed in the way of women at West Point. It is disappointing because it often seems to have been written more as a part of Ms. Peterson's unsuccessful campaign for Congress in 1990 than an attempt to inform or propose solutions to the very real problems faced by women in the military.
Any graduate of a service academy has a right to feel proud of his or her accomplishment. Peterson, however, seems to have done little wrong during her four years at West Point and in this amazingly self-centered account, she continually reminds the reader of her ability and dedication. "If I was going to be a good cadet I was going to follow all the rules, not just the ones they checked up on" (p. 78). Ironically, it is this attitude that leads to her failure to achieve a major leadership position during her senior year, a failure that clearly still weighs heavily on her memories of West Point and which she blames on a "betrayal." Despite her bitterness, Ms. Peterson's views of West Point are often as rigid and unrealistic as those of many of the old alumni she castigates. No officer who is not a West Point graduate, she claims, is qualified to be a West Point TAC. No civilian is qualified to be Secretary of the Army. Only the Academy is competent to run the Academy.

Some readers will be offended by Ms. Peterson's unsubtle attempt to make political capital out of her West Point experience, particularly since she accepted her appointment with no intention of remaining in the Army. The use of a military title on the dust jacket — three years after leaving active duty — is inappropriate. At the same time, however, her subject is compelling and important. The ultimate right of free citizens — men and women — is the right to bear arms in defense of the Republic. Whatever faults Ms. Peterson may have had as a cadet, her tenacity and that of other women graduates is a significant contribution to the full realization of that right.

At its core this book is the story of an unconsciously self-centered college student who finds out that many people do not see the world the same way she does. It is not an important book but it will be of some interest to readers interested in West Point, the issue of women in the military, or some voters in the Second Congressional District.

Ron Spiller
Nacogdoches, Texas


This is truly an admirable work — once the author's announced intentions are ignored. The book is a sweeping, comprehensive, and instructive history, perhaps the best single-volume work on its subject yet to appear. If one does overlook the author's several questionable theses as
to its justification, this is one all students of World War II will wish to own.

Writers, including himself, he postulates in his preface, have tended to distance themselves from the "drum-and-trumpet" school of military history (p. xv) in favor of sociopolitical analyses. The result? "An effort to avoid venturing into the heat of battle," he declares.

Invoking the sainted D.S. Freeman, Temple historian Weigley proposes to correct this by titling this study in imitation of "Lee's Lieutenants" and then proceeds to study Patton, Hodges, Montgomery, et al — not the dog face and junior officer who won the victory with their courage and blood. The irony is that he features on the short title page a British aphorism: "He who has not fought the Germans does not know war."

As for any failure to study the man with a gun in his hand, Weigley might have tried Charles MacDonald's *Company Commander*, (1947), Robert Merriam's *Dark December*, (1947), John Toland's *Battle: The Story of the Bulge*, (1959) and John Eisenhower's *The Bitter Woods* (1969) — to choose examples from only one battle.

Questionable, too, is the author's assertion of "a relative paucity of biographies, especially of studies of generalship ...." (p. xvi). One wonders if Professor Weigley has heard of Martin Blumenson, Stephen Ambrose, or John Eisenhower, among many others.

All this said, the Temple professor demonstrates total understanding of how the World War II American army came to be from a "constabulary" of 190,000 men and officers in 1939 (p. 12). In that year, in the words of George Marshall, it was a "midget force," the nineteenth in the world behind even Portugal. By 1945, this "midget force" had grown to a power which bestrode western Europe. This book shows how it was used.

If only, instead of generals we all know about, Weigley had given more attention to the likes of fighting "lieutenants" like Earl Rudder, who led his battalion up the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, to Creighton Abrams, the tank battalion commander who became chief of staff, to Maurice Rose, an armored division commander killed by a German foot soldier in the final months ....

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth

This could just as well have been titled “Hang-In Sam,” for this tactless, durable soldier. The Hanging Sam epithet was acquired at a military trial of a rapist when, rebelling at the lengthy process he exclaimed, “Hang the SOB.”

Sam Williams of Denton was fairly typical of those non-West Point graduates who entered the military service as regular officers following World War I. He was not over educated, industrious, ambitious, neat, willing to partake of hardships, physical activity (Sam played polo) and qualified for rank two grades beyond that held.

Wounded twice in World War I while serving with the 90th Division, between the wars he attended the necessary schools and somewhere along the line advanced from being a mediocre writer to “the finest I have ever known.” As a brigadier general with the 90th Division and an attitude towards it of a proprietor, he led troops off a stricken ship after D-Day in Normandy, and berated two division commanders for their poor performance in combat (general officers in Normandy were demoted and relieved right and left). Often forward with the troops, he was himself “busted” and returned statesides. Officers valued serving under him.

Here Williams’ force of character was shown in his return to grace with the famed 26th Infantry of 1st Division in post-war Germany, where he established standards, followed by duty in Korea (command of 25th Division), Japan, and Vietnam, where he won his third star. He died, childless, at Fort Sam Houston, on April 25, 1984.

Haynes Dugan
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