BOOK REVIEWS

Lone Star Preacher, by John W. Thomason, Jr., (Texas Christian University, Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1992. Illustrations. P. 304. $29.95.

"All Hail" T.C.U. Press for including Lone Star Preacher in its reprints of outstanding Texas fiction thereby introducing this generation to one of the greatest Texas novels ever written. First serialized in The Saturday Evening Post in 1938, it was published in book form by Scribners in 1941. It was John W. Thomason’s last book.

Colonel Thomason, a native of Huntsville, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1917 and remained a career officer in the Corps until his death in 1944. He wrote and illustrated ten books, a flood of short stories and articles printed in national magazines, and became one of the most successful writers in America. Lone Star Preacher generally is regarded as Thomason’s masterpiece. J. Frank Dobie called it the best Texas book “that has yet been published.” Leon Hale, long-time Houston columnist thought it the best book ever written by a native Texan. Thomason’s masterful illustrations add greatly to the spirit of the story.

It is the moving account of a fictitious character, Reverend Praxiteles Swan, a Methodist minister who joined Hood’s Texas Brigade under General Robert E. Lee in Virginia and was converted to a fighting Captain in the legendary Fifth Texas Regiment. In his Foreword, Thomason alleges that Swan is the “combination of two distinguished early Methodist saints in Texas, with overtones from several Godly and scholarly men of those days whose life span overlapped my own.” One of the models for Swan was Elder John W. Stevens, author of Reminiscences of the Civil War, who Thomason knew at a boarding house while teaching in Penn City in 1914.

Max Lale, another Thomason admirer, has contributed an outstanding and comprehensive Afterword to the new edition. It needs to be added that Thomason wrote a little-known sequel chapter entitled “The Preacher Calls the Dance” which appeared in the May 3, 1941, issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

F. Lee Lawrence
Tyler, Texas


Today, Thurber is nearly a ghost town located along Interstate 20 in the mesquite-covered hills of north central Texas. During its heyday, however, Thurber was one of the Southwest’s most important coal mining towns, and
was also known for brick-making plants that supplied paving and building bricks to the entire region. *A WAY OF WORK AND A WAY OF LIFE* describes how Thurber became—surprisingly for Texas—one of the most effectively unionized mining towns in the country. The author consulted a wide variety of source materials, including newspaper articles, union meeting minutes, letters, and corporate records of the Texas & Pacific Coal & Oil Company and its predecessors.

In mining towns such as Thurber, ethnicity was a major factor. A substantial part of the work force was foreign born—especially Italian and Polish—and the author describes their relationship to native-born miners and the community. Rhinehart also describes the changing relationship between labor and management in the context of individual labor leaders, rank-and-file miners, and the owners and managers of the company. This book documents the birth, maturity, and decline of one of Texas' most fascinating communities. Illustrations, including statistical charts and tables, supplement the author's narrative. *A WAY OF WORK AND A WAY OF LIFE* is recommended highly to those interested in mining, labor, and Texas/Southwestern history.

Richard V. Francaviglia
University of Texas at Arlington


Laurence Walker's book *The Southern Forest* should be read by everyone who claims to be an environmentalist. The text provides a rich history of early plant and tree identification along with past challenges that confronted timber harvesting and the affects of early logging on the environment, water quality, wildlife, and society as a whole.

Not only does this text provide a colorful look at the past, it also provides an in-depth look at present forest management programs and the challenges facing our future resource. In this section of the text, Walker challenges the reader to look towards the future regarding land management, air, and water quality issues that will confront future generations.

True to Walker's reputation of being thorough in the teachings of his profession, this is truly a factual as well as an entertaining text with documented and personal anecdotes of our rich history. I encourage those interested in the history of our forest resource to read this text.

Ron Hufford
Texas Forestry Association

The subtitle “Remarkable Reflections On Growing Up In Another Era” is an apt description of the contents of this delightful and informative book. Novelist Robert Flynn and Susan Russell, co-founder of Learning About Learning Educational Foundation, along with four young people who assisted with interviews, have produced a book of memories that carries messages for young and old alike. With financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alice Kleberg Meyer Foundation, this book emerged from a curriculum development program called “Thinking Historically.” The idea was to get students directly involved with history through oral interviews with Texans, both well known and not so well known, about their childhoods.

Those interviewed present a wonderful glimpse of the lives of children from a number of different ethnic and economic groups, primarily early in the twentieth century. These Texans had problems and joys in the lives they have reconstructed from their memories, and their value systems will lead to interesting discussions. Maury Maverick’s disarming observation that at sixty-five he still had not decided what he wanted to be, Horton Foote’s comments on pecan trees and houses that survived hurricanes, and Nakāi Breen’s experiences as a Cherokee living with the Kickapoo are a sampling of the delights to be found within the cover of this book. Others interviewed include Eloise Benavides, Stanley Marcus, John Armstrong, Paul Baker, Fannie Chisum, Ruben Munguia, Wanda Ford, Eck and Leroy Horton, John Banks, and Maggie Cousins. The photographs that portray Texas and the lives of these thirteen individuals are also excellent.

The stated purpose of the original project was to stimulate the interest of young people in history. With all of its drawbacks, oral history is one of the best ways to develop that interest. I am sure the project achieved its goal, and it resulted in a delightful book for all of us to enjoy as well.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University


Women in Texas was published originally in 1982 as a collective biography of women who had contributed to the colorful history of the Lone Star State. Revised in 1992, it begins with the “Mother of Texas,” Jane Wilkinson Long, and ends with Governor Ann Richards leading the “New Texas” after her election in 1990. The book is dedicated in part to co-author Crawford’s
grandmother, Dolly Conley Huey, who was "throughout a lifetime an East Texas Woman." Biographies include a spotlight on East Texas with Jane Wilkinson Long joining her husband in Nacogdoches in 1819 after he led some 300 men to the town to help free Texas from Spanish rule. A handmade flag from Jane Long flew over the Old Stone Fort.

*Women in Texas* details the history of Mary Austin Holley. The cousin of Stephen F. Austin, her writings include a book on early life in Texas which contributed to interest in and immigration to the state. Her letters to Stephen F. Austin provide a historical background on frontier Texas.

From Adina De Zavala and Clara Driscoll defending and protecting the Alamo to Minnie Fisher Cunningham and Jane Y. McCallum leading the suffrage movement in Texas, women are portrayed as strong influences in Texas history. It was in May 1944, that “Minnie Fish” Cunningham, an East Texas woman, announced her candidacy for governor of Texas! Of course, the state already had learned the slogan “Me for Ma and I ain’t got a dern thing against Pa!” in Miriam Ferguson’s gubernatorial bid in 1924.

*Women in Texas* biographies are not lengthy and spark interest regarding the women who are an integral part of our history. The references following each chapter serve as an excellent source for follow-up. The original book included the biographies of thirty strong women who contributed to Texas history. The revised version seems to lack luster, missing some of the substance in the early stories in the book.

With a 1992 copyright, *Women in Texas* seems dated. The biography of Liz Carpenter seemed to stop in 1981. Sarah Weddington’s history did not move past her role as senior advisor to President Jimmy Carter, despite Roe v. Wade being a paramount focus issue for women in the early 1990s. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan’s biography ends after 1980 yet she remains a strong political figure in the 1990s. The chapter on former Railroad Commissioner Lena Guerrero must be revised to exclude the information on her having graduated The University of Texas as a Phi Beta Kappa honor student. The comments regarding her work in the cotton fields may be accurate but might also be re-evaluated. Unfortunately, for Lena Guerrero and the women of Texas, that chapter becomes a tragedy. And the biography of Governor Ann Richards seemed flat. The passion, hope, commitment of women to see that she was elected did not seem to be communicated. The re-energizing of women by Ann Richards was something to behold and had not been experienced since the suffrage movement ... and it worked!

Debra Berry
Nacogdoches, Texas
While most histories of the twentieth-century civil rights movement focus on events that occurred in the deep South in the 1950s and 1960s, Conrey Bryson reminds us that organized resistance to the erosion of black political rights began in West Texas in the early 1920s with Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon's challenge to the state's white primary laws. Bryson argues that Nixon, a lifelong Democrat and founding member of the El Paso branch of the NAACP, was situated ideally to challenge the Texas efforts to disenfranchise blacks. As a physician, Nixon had the financial wherewithal to sustain himself during the long legal challenge to Texas' voting laws; as an El Paso resident, he had the good fortune to reside in the Texas community least characterized by deep-seated anti-black racial antagonism.

Bryson chronicles in detail the two legal challenges that Nixon made to the white primary. Although the United States Supreme Court ruled in his favor in both cases – Nixon vs Herndon (1927) and Nixon vs Condon (1933) – Nixon's efforts to exercise his right to vote were thwarted by the Texas legislature and subsequent court rulings. Nevertheless, Nixon's attack on disenfranchisement inspired others to enter the struggle and led eventually to success in Smith vs Allwright (1944).

This book is not without its flaws. While Bryson recounted the legal strategy and court proceedings in great detail, he could have strengthened his book by linking the legal struggle to the black community in El Paso and Texas. There is, in fact, more information about Fred C. Knollenberg, the white El Paso attorney who represented Nixon in his legal struggles than there is about black El Paso, black Texas, or even Nixon himself. Finally, I am puzzled by the author's insistence on using the uncapitalized "negro" throughout the book. In spite of these concerns, this is a valuable book. Bryson should be commended for focusing attention on this significant episode in Texas history, and Texas Western Press deserves our accolades for reprinting his study.

Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University

Restorationists, students of architecture and the decorative arts, genealogists, and anyone interested in the history and the heritage of East Texas should find this publication in the Texas State Historical Association's
“Popular History Series” a useful introduction to an important historic house museum that reflects an opulent life style of prominent Beaumonters during the Spindletop Oil Boom and beyond. Well researched and documented by its authors, this illustrated work provides a brief history of an imposing, seventeen-room Beaux Arts Colonial mansion built in 1906 and the people who lived in it until the death of its last owner, Mamie McFaddin Ward, in 1982. A superb example of an architectural style that was popular in the United States during the early decades of the twentieth century, the McFaddin-Ward House has had no major structural alterations and has been preserved with a “lifetime’s accumulations of items” (p. 43). It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and designated as a Registered Texas Historical Landmark in 1976. Mamie McFaddin Ward provided in her will that the house would be restored, preserved, and converted to a museum. A foundation was established for this purpose and the house was opened to the public in 1986.

Naaman J. Woodland
Lamar University, Beaumont


Always well dressed with a folksy, down-home image, she was elected in large part due to the vote of her fellow women. She saw to it that women were appointed to positions of prominence in state government.

Texas Governor Ann Richards?
No, Texas Governor “Ma” Ferguson.

With that tidbit of little-known information and other political facts, fiction, anecdotes, and lore, Pittman’s book is a “frolic” through Texas politics, from Governor “Pass-the-Biscuits Pappy” O’Daniel’s record one million-plus votes in the 1940s to Railroad Commissioner Lena Guerrero’s political undoing in the 1990s for claiming a college degree she never earned.

Pittman provides a half century of first-hand information on Texas governors, legislators, political “characters” and anybody who is somebody or was somebody in Texas politics during the past fifty years. He also provides an insider’s view of the real power in the state legislature - the Texas lobby.

If it’s quick information you’re after, Pittman’s “Texas Luster” thumbnail sketches precede biographical information on each of the dozens of politicians in his book. Or if you have a difficult time understanding the foreign language spoken in the legislature, there’s a “lingo” section to bail you out. Or if you just want a laugh or two, his “Prattle” section of quotes, sayings, and slogans will both amaze and amuse you.
Pittman has provided a true Britannica of information on Texas politics, politicians, and political power brokers, including the elite, the not so elite, and the wish-we-were elite.

If you follow Texas politics, Pittman's book will jog your memory and tickle your funnybone. If you're new to Texas politics, don't visit the Texas statehouse without reading this book first. You need to be forewarned about what goes on there.

J. Lyn Carl
Austin, Texas


During the summer of 1948, Lyndon Baines Johnson campaigned for the Democratic Senate nomination against ex-Governor Coke Stevenson and several others. Johnson made it into the run-off election and then defeated Stevenson by a narrow margin: the famous 87 votes. It was assumed at the time that voter fraud decided the issue, and practically every subsequent study of the election has verified that assumption. Hence, an inordinate amount of attention has been given the run-off election, even though it was the early part of the summer that was really interesting.

Just out of the army, working on his degree at the University of Texas, and just beginning what was to be a distinguished career in communications, Joe Phipps was caught up in the campaign as one of Johnson's active young protégés. Some of Phipps' contemporaries would remain attached to Lyndon Johnson in some way or other for the rest of their lives; but he did not. The end of the summer of 1948 brought an end to their association, and yet that summer was an experience that Phipps would never forget. More than forty years later he produced this memoir, which is a significant contribution to the Johnson literature.

Phipps' primary responsibilities during the campaign were two: he wrote the copy for Johnson's numerous radio spots; and he travelled with Johnson in the famous helicopter — the Johnson City Windmill — handling the introductions and set-ups for all of Johnson's speeches. In the process he had about all the close contact with LBJ that he could stomach and he came to know the congressman very well. In this delightful memoir he not only chronicles the hectic events of the summer, he captures the essence of Johnson's personality. According to Phipps the real Johnson was indeed just as mean and coarse as the images created by his most hostile biographers. Moreover, Phipps answers a vital question that has long puzzled and divided Johnson scholars: was LBJ personally involved in the illegal activities of George Parr that won him the election? According to Phipps the answer is
“yes.” On the night of July 21, 1948, Johnson flew to South Texas and asked the “Duke of Duval” for his support. It was granted. Parr asked nothing in return. He simply decided to abandon Coke Stevenson, whom he had long supported, because he thought the ex-governor was taking him for granted.

This is an informative and well-written book. It adds a new perspective to the Johnson literature and should be read by everyone with an interest in the Lone Star Colossus.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr.
Midwestern State University


Chandler Davidson observes that the politics of Texas has not attracted the attention that it deserves from historians or other scholars. This situation has occurred despite the economic significance of Texas and the prominent role that the state has played in national politics throughout much of the twentieth century. The provincialism that has allowed social scientists to ignore Texas (as well as most other major states outside of the northeast and the midwest), is one of the issues that Davidson, a sociologist at Rice University, addresses in _Race and Class in Texas Politics_. Davidson, however, does not replace provincialism with regional chauvinism. Instead, he uses the study of Texas politics to add to the understanding of national politics.

Davidson organizes his book around the political theories of V.O. Key, a political scientist who spent his formative years in west Texas, received his doctorate at the University of Chicago, and then spent much of his academic career at Johns Hopkins and the University of Alabama where he directed a study of electoral politics in the South. Out of this study came Key’s most significant book, _Southern Politics in State and Nation_ (1949). Key argued that the South’s one-party system was based on race, and that as the significance of race dissipated (especially in Southern rim states such as Texas and Florida), a true two-party system would emerge. Key further argued that in this reconstitution of Southern politics, class would replace race as the organizing element of politics, with the Republican Party representing the interests of the wealthy class, while Democrats represented the needs of the poor and working classes.

Davidson uses Texas as a test case to evaluate the accuracy of Key’s thesis. He concludes that Key correctly predicted the emergence of a vital two-party system in Texas, and that class did become the primary factor in party identification. Davidson views the Texas Republican Party as a conservative organization representing the interests of the state’s wealthy, while the Democratic Party has become the party of the progressive element in the
state. The flaw in Key's theory, according to Davidson, is that race has continued to dominate politics in Texas. Indeed, he concludes his study with the pessimistic observation:

But how could the exorcism of racial issues from Texas politics be achieved when racial antagonisms were still tightly woven into the fabric of everyday life?... How could a moratorium be declared on the subject when one of the two major political parties saw an advantage in keeping it before the public, fanning the embers of old racial hostilities? (p. 271)

Davidson accomplishes much more than just evaluating Key's thesis. He captures the essence of Texas politics as few others have done. He achieves this not only by analyzing traditional topics like voting behavior and political alignment, but he enriches his study with brief vignettes of Texas political and economic leaders and rich case-study data illustrating the political attitudes of ordinary Texans. The result is a rich work that not only brings Texas politics to life, but adds to our understanding of national politics—especially the increasing importance of race as an element in politics.

Davidson's work is not without flaws. The structure of his book around Key's somewhat dated study is not all that effective. Davidson also does not hide his bias in favor of the progressive element in the Texas Democratic Party and its role in the state's politics. More seriously, his analysis of the state's early political history is weakened by his reliance of dated sources. However, these flaws do not detract from the overall effectiveness of this book. Davidson is to be commended for his insightful analysis of racial politics. He has created a work that will be valued by those interested in both Texas and U.S. politics in the late twentieth century.

Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University


William Wayne Justice, A Judicial Biography, by Frank R. Kemerer, is a significant work on East Texas and its recent judicial history.

Justice first goes into detail on the forces which shaped the character and philosophy of William Wayne Justice. After reading the first chapter, titled "The Early Years," the reader can better appreciate and foresee Justice's later political involvement and appointments as U.S. Attorney and federal judge as well as his court decisions. In the meantime, the reader can experience a return to East Texas of the 1920s through today, warts and all. William Wayne Justice was the best source for the details of life and experiences, though in this section the book very nearly becomes autobiographical.

The second part of the book deals with the decisions of William Wayne
Justice, the judge. This section should be absolutely fascinating to East Texans, especially to those who have met William Wayne Justice, lived under his decrees, or known the people or places involved in court cases he decided. Many of the circumstances and events Kemerer describes flood back into memory.

The significance and difficulty of many of the decisions of William Wayne Justice are clarified and put in perspective. From statewide school desegregation to prison reform, William Wayne Justice significantly changed Texas and especially East Texas. He was a virtual pioneer of institutional reform. Rather than righting an individual wrong, he frequently went further and attempted to reform the institution or law that perpetrated or allowed such a wrong in the first place.

Kemerer also deals with some of the troubling aspects of Justice’s decisions. In his zeal to explore and correct a perceived wrong, Justice often went beyond the conventional in fashioning broad and sometimes harsh remedies which didn’t always succeed. He occasionally even went beyond what the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals would tolerate. As a surprising testament to his activism, in the prison reform suit of *Ruiz v. Estelle* Justice handpicked plaintiff’s attorney William Bennett Turner when, as Justice told Kemerer, “... I decided that I’d have a little test case to see what a first-class lawyer could do with the state’s contentions and what he could develop in favor of the inmates, because I wanted to find out if there was any substance to what they [the prisoners] were saying” (p. 358).

Kemerer has included a terrific amount of material about the actual legal issues decided by William Wayne Justice. Much of that detail which might be of less interest to the casual reader has been placed in fifty-one pages of footnotes so the text is not cluttered.

*Justice*, while favorable toward its subject, also reminds us of the way it was in East Texas. Would we willingly return to the “Pre-Justice” days of school segregation, voter discrimination, warehousing and sometimes abusing juveniles and the mentally retarded, segregated public housing, and six prisoners in a 5 foot by 9 foot cell? I think not. For that difference, Kemerer points out, we can in large part thank William Wayne Justice.

Rob Atherton
Nacogdoches, Texas


To an emotionally besieged Houston, beset by critical media coverage and a soaring crime rate, Marguerite Johnston’s voluminous history of the Bayou City arrived as an early Valentine. Reorder signs multiplied along bookstore shelves as eager customers exhausted the publisher’s first edition.
The demand is well placed. The author acquired an intimate knowledge of the city over a period of decades as a columnist and editor of The Houston Post, earning impressive honors along the way. This finely-written product of extensive interviews and exhaustive letters, diaries, and collections carries the reader from the town's humble origins on a muddy stream in 1836 to its entry into global prominence a century later. Legions of community leaders parade across the 400, double-columned pages, with virtually every prominent figure traced forward and backward through family members, marriages, and social and business relationships. Household names the likes of Anderson, Baker, Clayton, Cullen, Hogg, Hughes, Rice, and Wortham spring to life in witty anecdotes and memorable quotes. Johnston argues that Houston has prospered from an early and continuing tradition of philanthropy and offers countless examples of private benevolence and civic responsibility.

Unsurprisingly, not every turn at bat collects a hit. Stephen F. Austin endured considerably more than "several months" imprisonment in Mexico City (p. 5); Sam Houston Hall, not the Coliseum, housed the Democratic convention in 1928 (p. 277); and the University of Houston received the Merchants and Manufacturers Building for its Downtown campus in 1974 rather than in the 1980s (p. 420). Footnotes tend to amplify the text rather than indicate the sources.

The reader should not expect a full-dimensional account of the state's largest city. The author acknowledges an absence of the political sphere but also limits this social history to the movers and shakers. Commoners muddle about in the background, surfacing only during wartime and other crises. Evidently no Hispanic contributed enough to warrant a listing in the lengthy index. Indeed, most non-WASPs remain discreetly between the covers of Fred R. Von der Mehden's Ethnic Groups of Houston, a recommended supplement. Nor is the often penurious opposition of these privately generous people to governmental assistance programs for the needy examined.

The plain folk of the bayou, reading of the beautiful people, may recall the small child with nose pressed against the candy store window. In either case the view within compensates the effort.

Garna L. Christian
University of Houston-Downtown


For years biographers have tried to understand their subjects intimately, both in their public persona and also in their personal lives. Psychologists Ray Choiniere and David Kiersey have continued this trend by dividing American presidents into four psychological groups (Artisans, Guardians,
Rationals, and Idealists) with each group subdivided into directing or reporting classes. While the study of character types is perhaps ancient (dated by the authors to 550 B.C.), placing all of the presidents into these categories is surely a new and overwhelming task. Yet the authors tried to delve into the very temperament of each chief executive in order to make him "more memorable" while also writing an "engaging introduction to the study of character and temperament" and helping "voters make more informed choices" during elections (Preface).

Although a fine and worthwhile concept, the book has several flaws from an historical perspective. For instance the authors neglect major works concerning the presidents, such as Douglas S. Freeman on George Washington, Henry Pringle on Edmund Morris on Theodore Roosevelt, or Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., on Andrew Jackson or Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since the authors state they are not historians and instead have depended on major secondary sources in order to draw their conclusions, their analysis is, at times, suspect. In addition the authors often cite otherwise insignificant incidents in support of major points. These glimpses usually are not drawn from detailed biographies but instead from such works as Presidential Anecdotes, Presidential Campaigns, and Presidential Wives, by Paul Boller; while these are interesting books they do not claim to offer a complete picture of the individuals but, instead, short, memorable, often unusual, events. Numerous errors also appear throughout the text from transposing the pictures of James Buchanan and William Henry Harrison to mislabeling their own charts. Finally, numerous graphics were difficult to understand and would have been enhanced by a better explanation (see pp. 31, 168, 383, and 504).

While the book succeeds in its goal to be an "engaging introduction" into character study, it fails in the historical arena, making it a marginal purchase at best.

Eddie Weller
San Jacinto College South


Pete Gunter published his first Big Thicket Book (The Big Thicket: a challenge for conservation) in 1971 when Thicket conservationists were in the thick of the battle to save what was left of a dwindling big woods. Prospects were grim at the time. Timber and oil companies, loggers, and some land owners adamantly opposed making any part of that southeast Texas wilderness into a park or reserve or anything that took it out of commercial use or raised taxes or flooded the land with outsiders. As conservationists within and without the Thicket began to grow in number and power,
the loggers began a frenzy of cutting to get the timber before it was put off limits. Timber companies, to discourage any desire for a park, began clear-cutting, which is taking every tree, weed, and blade of grass off and leaving scraped earth and windrows of unused cut trees and brush tops. In some areas timber companies went through mixed pine and hardwoods and girdled and poisoned all the hardwood. The result was that where grand stands of beautiful mixed forests once stood, now pine plantations stretch out in sterile rows.

Those were bad days and bitter battles! And Pete Gunter’s *The Big Thicket: a challenge for conservation* was instrumental in the long fight to preserve the Big Thicket.

Twenty-two years have passed and Pete is taking another look at the Thicket in *The Big Thicket: An Ecological Reevaluation*. This time he is able to view the Thicket with more optimism about its future.

Most of the work of saving the Thicket was done by the Big Thicket Association of Texas, founded in 1964. Dempsie Henley, mayor of Liberty, led the early fight and published his own account of the state of the Thicket in *The Big Thicket Story* of 1965. The most important step, however, was the involvement of Senator Ralph Yarborough, who was raised on the edge of the Thicket and who dedicated much of his energy during his last congressional tenure to establishing a worthwhile national preserve. Gunter writes an exciting account of Yarborough’s struggles – and George Bush’s and Lloyd Bentsen’s – to pass a Thicket bill that culminated in 1974 with the passage of Congressman Charles Wilson’s bill to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve.

Conservationists have added to the lands of the Thicket Preserve since then and only recently have added the Village Creek Corridor to the Big Thicket holdings. The battle has not been completely won yet, but prospects for preservation are looking good. Land is being added and visitors are coming in increasing numbers. Pete has been a part of this Big Thicket preservation movement since its early years, and he writes about it with first-hand knowledge.

I really do like Pete Gunter’s book. I would recommend it to anybody who is getting started in Thicket exploration. It begins with a brief but complete geological history of the Thicket and a discussion of its biological diversity. It has a winning chapter on the colorful Thicket guide and character, Lance Rosier of Saratoga. And he describes in detail the frustrating legislative maneuverings to get the Thicket named and protected as a national preserve.

That is the first half of the book. Pete spends the last half on a section appropriately named “The Big Thicket Now: A Users’ Guide.”

The Users’ Guide consists of seventeen sections, describing in detail and with maps, various units of the Big Thicket National Preserve, and any-
body going there should have a copy with him. The book tells the reader what to look for and what he can explore after he gets there. This section tells about the natural habitat of each unit, the trails to take, the places to camp or canoe, and how to get there in the first place.

If I had one criticism of the Big Thicket Preserve management it would be that they do not have enough big road signs telling visitors how to get to particular areas of the Preserve. I lost one entire afternoon trying to get back into the Neches Bottoms and the Jack Gore Baygall Unit from Highway 92 and FM 2937. I ended up on a tram road in a swamp at a washed-out bridge by a garbage dump. I shall try again someday.

To return to Pete's Users' Guide: Anybody going into the Thicket will do well to read it ahead of time and pack it with him in his sack lunch.

Pete Gunter is a philosophy professor at North Texas State University at Denton, and I have always been impressed at the miles he traveled to attend to the business of the preservation of the Thicket and participate as an active member and officer of the Big Thicket Association. Presently he is the chairman of the Big Thicket Task Force of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources. Pete is a dedicated environmentalist who has focused his energy on preserving the Big Thicket of southeast Texas. He is committed and he is knowledgeable, and he knows of what he speaks and writes in The Big Thicket: An Ecological Reevaluation.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

Corners of Texas, by F.E. Abernethy (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203-6856) 1993. Black & White Photographs. Index. P. 320. $29.95 Cloth.

If you're intrigued with the backroads of Texas, Corners of Texas is your kind of book.

Inside its pages you will visit Bill Brett, who carries you on a hog race in the Big Thicket. You will learn how to make an old fashioned sunbonnet. You will be exposed to El Pato, a boat used for carrying Mexicans back and forth across the Rio Grande. You will revisit a historic East Texas lynching in the 1890s. And you will make a tour of unusual tombstones for young people in Central Texas.

Corners of Texas, the 52nd publication of the Texas Folklore Society, draws upon the experiences and collections of twenty-two Texas folklorists, writers, and just plain folks who have written some of the Society's best papers over the past three years. Ab Abernethy puts it all together in a delightful, readable volume that makes you want to crank up the car and start visiting unusual people and places on your own.
The book's title was taken from Frank Dobie and Dick Holland, who tell about library corners that contain writings that are forever Texas.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


F.E. Abernethy, editor of the Texas Folklore Society's last fourteen volumes, has set his stamp of those volumes. Because of his particular focus, the publications, usually miscellanies and collections on a variety of subjects, have moved into other arenas. Often the editor treats one broad category – music, folk architecture, toys and games – and invites the membership to contribute on the theme. The volumes are popular among a wider group than ever before. The first volume of the history of the society is yet another departure. A history ought to be done, but histories get to be so – historically alike. Abernethy never lets the volume get away from what he wants it to be – more than lists and facts. Beyond officers and founding names, the book contains programs, covers of publications and interesting information about the origins of the society. The volume testifies to the reach, both multi-culturally and interculturally, of the group. The photographs, however, are simply the best part. The faces look out from another time and speak volumes. And yes, many of the faces are women's faces.

These are interesting tidbits about the personalities who were power houses within the society. There are specially written remembrances by past presidents. My favorite is C.L. Sonnichsen's account of showing up at a meeting in 1938 and being immediately elected president. If he entertained any idea that he was that special, he was soon informed that the society had long wanted to hold a joint meeting with the New Mexico Folklore Society and it was decided that the first man from El Paso to show up was going to get to be in charge. Sonnichsen humorously tells of the troubles in keeping the personalities on both sides of the Rio Grande in check.

Abernethy sets the TFS always in the midst of historical perspective and he makes rich use of letters to illustrate the philosophies and interests of the major participants within the organization such as J. Frank Dobie.

I can only write personally about the book. My heart and writing life have been with TFS for nearly thirty years – the group who in 1909 began to preserve the best of Texas – me, you, us.

Joyce Roach
Keller, Texas
The term "fire-eater" was used in the 1850s to denote those Southerners who vigorously and persistently advocated Southern independence. Often labeled radicals, they preferred to think of themselves as conservatives trying to preserve fundamental American values. They were dedicated to state rights and believed that African slavery was essential to the continuation of a republican society. In this volume Eric Walther presents biographies of nine such fire-eaters whom he believes illustrate "the unity and diversity of people and ideas encompassed within the secession movement" (p. 6).

Seven of the nine fire-eaters described by Walther were from the states in the lower South; only Virginians Nathaniel Beverley Tucker and Edmund Ruffin were from the upper South. Five of the group, R. Barnwell Rhett, Laurence Keitt, Louis T. Wigfall, James D.B. DeBow, and William Porcher Miles, were born in South Carolina. John A. Wuitman, born in the North, spent his political career in Mississippi, and William L. Yancey, who was born in Georgia, educated in the North, and studied law in South Carolina, represented Alabama in public life.

Texas readers will probably find greatest interest in Louis T. Wigfall, the volatile South Carolinian who moved to Texas in 1846, lived briefly in Nacogdoches, and then made his home in Marshall. He entered politics, was chosen to represent Harrison county in the state legislature, and was elected to the United States Senate to succeed Sam Houston in 1859. When the Civil War came he served a brief stint in the army and was then chosen as one of Texas' senators in the Confederate Congress. Here he became one of the most outspoken critics of President Jefferson Davis.

Each of the biographical sketches is well written and thoroughly researched. This reviewer wishes the author had developed more fully his brief (six pages) concluding chapter where he presents some intriguing comments without sufficient elaboration to be totally convincing.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University


The Big Bend of West Texas, with its raw frontier, has always been a place of legend; maybe the isolation and loneliness of that incredibly beautiful place breeds a very special type of people. Elton Miles has written a book full of details and information about the legends, the people, the events, and the places of the Big Bend. His writing on the Matachines and
the railroad is carefully researched and will provide many students of the colorful history of the area with valuable information. He brings to life, with nostalgia and wry amusement, the character and rugged individualism of those strong enough to live and survive in the Big Bend. He paints with a loving and tender brush the haunting beauty of the Chisos, Chinatis, and Sierra Vieja. The stories about the army’s forays into Mexico are full of amusing, and at times hilarious, mis-adventures. Miles, however, does not shrink from telling the truth about those forays and their results. Telling the truth about life on the border, he is never preachy, but he still manages to convey with gentleness and compassion, doleful aspects in the lives of both the Mexican and black inhabitants of the region.

For those who love the old stories of West Texas, this book will certainly not disappoint, but provide a well-written series of heartwarming and informational tales.

Rose T. Trevino
Laredo, Texas


The late Professor Grimes and his associates trace the development of SMU and Perkins School of Theology from their joint founding in 1915 until the present. W. Richey Hogg’s Introduction frames the whole book well and allows the reader to shake hands with the author and his wife. Before his death, Grimes completed his history through 1981. Roger Loyd extends the story through the deanship of James Kirby. The latter rounds out the work with his vision for the future. Throughout, the interplay of the affairs of Perkins and SMU are treated.

The work employs the following grid: 1) the contributions of each dean, 2) the movement of faculty and administrators, 3) changes in curricula and degree programs, and 4) a discussion of student life. Extended discussions focus on “Controversy and Conflict,” “The Struggle to Become an Inclusive School,” “Controversy, Conflict, and Reconciliation,” “Building the New Quadrangle,” and “In Service and Action.”

Grimes maintains that the founding of SMU and Perkins at the same time are essential for understanding their development – separately or together. With the passing of time, the two became more and more separate in interplay and involvement. The university gradually seemed to become more secularized in winning academic freedom and independence.

The author views the following as pivotal points in the school’s history: the large philanthropic gifts of the Perkins and Bridwell families, the renaming of the school to Perkins, the faculty appointments under Dean Merrimon
Cunninggim – including the invitation of Albert Outler to leave his prestigious Yale chair and his willingness to join the faculty, and the strengthening of the relationship of the churches with Perkins under Quillian. These he believes charted the course to national and international prestige.

The authors have written a definitive work on the history of Perkins. Grimes, even though dying of cancer, produced a work which is at the same time judicious and thorough, substantive and balanced, diplomatic and candid. Uniquely gifted for the task, he not only was an insider but, his roots, his education, and his temperament also suited him for the job.

Methodists, SMU graduates, and Perkins alumni – indeed, everyone who has an interest in the rise and progress of religion in the United States, and particularly the Southwest – will find Grimes' work stimulating and rewarding. For scholars, it allows them to stand on his shoulders and look further into the subject; for the laity and casual readers, it is both readable and enjoyable.

Dick Dixon
Lufkin, Texas


T. Harry Williams' studies of prominent leaders remain some of his most enduring contributions to Civil War historiography, so it seems proper that leadership was the focus of eleven well-known historians who convened in his honor under the aegis of Southeastern Louisiana University. This compendium of their research reflects the broad spectrum of their interests.

Three symposium participants have published works earlier about Civil War leaders, but they offer new reflections on these same men. Richard Current declares that Abraham Lincoln was not a "Constitution-stomper" (p. 1), though it becomes clear that it was President Lincoln's words and not his actions that belie attempts by later politicians to justify their extra-constitutional acts. Herman Hattaway reconsiders Stephen D. Lee's command of artillery at Second Manassas in an essay that leaves little doubt why Lee became "something of a hero" (p. 136). Finally, William C. Davis' declaration that John C. Breckinridge was the "most capable and efficient" (p. 140) of the Confederate secretaries of war reinforces the irony that the only goal left to him upon assuming office early in 1865 was an "honorable peace" (p. 145).

The highest levels of the Confederate command structure also draw the attention of three other symposium participants. Grady McWhiney concludes that Jefferson Davis was "imprisoned by his own character and back-
Emory M. Thomas portrays Robert E. Lee as a son chagrined by his famous father's late career and as a husband frustrated by a lazy or invalid wife, but also as an ambitious leader who chose to laugh at life rather than cry. More controversial than either of these is Lawrence L. Hewitt's absolution of Braxton Bragg for the Kentucky campaign of 1862. Hewitt convincingly argues that Bragg was not to blame for the failure of the invasion and that he achieved significant strategic objectives by his maneuvers.

Two other symposium participants also focus on the failure of leadership in the Confederacy, though only one tries to redeem his subject as Hewitt did. Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., joins a few previous authors in blaming Jefferson Davis for the Confederacy's loss of New Orleans. In the process, he exonerates Mansfield Lovell and provides a detailed account of futile preparations to defend a city stripped of troops. Jon L. Wakelyn offers little defense for the lack of leadership provided by the speakers of Confederate legislatures, but his thorough discussion of their backgrounds certainly explains their inability to take charge.

Richard M. McMurry's closing essay, which asserts that true leaders were to be found among the officers who led small units, provides a framework for contrasting two articles that reflect the diversity presented by the symposium participants. Edwin C. Bearss provides an account of Brice's Cross Roads, one of many engagements in which Nathan Bedford Forrest personally led his men in battle. Conversely, Archie P. McDonald demonstrates that Jedediah Hotchkiss was a valuable map maker but he rarely if ever led troops, though he was an officer.

McDonald's well-written contribution, however, illustrates the essential value of this collection. There is something for almost every Civil War aficionado in this work. It is hoped that future conferences will retain these participants' emphasis on both quality and diversity.

Richard B. McCaslin
High Point University

Life of Robert Hall, Indian Fighter and Veteran of Three Great Wars. Also, Sketch of Big Foot Wallace, by "Brazos" (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1993. Black & White Photographs. Index. P. 126. $14.95.

Robert Hall is one of those legendary characters in Texas history who has done everything having to do with the westward movement of the United States—frontiersman, cowboy, Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, and veteran of three wars (Texas Revolution, Mexican War, and Civil War). He was bigger than life, both in physical stature and accomplishments.

Born in South Carolina and coming to Texas with a group of Kentucky volunteers, Hall arrived just after San Jacinto and joined the Texas army.
When the Mexican threat waned in 1837 he married Polly King and joined the Texas Rangers to protect his home. This involved him in much of the Indian problems of the Texas frontier, especially against the Comanche. After annexation, like most Texans, he felt obliged to join the United States army in the Mexican War and served under Zachary Taylor at Buena Vista. The ensuing years until the Civil War were spent ranching in central and south Texas.

Being a unionist during the Civil War did not prevent Hall from getting into the fray. In May 1862, he joined the 36th Texas Cavalry on western Texas duty, and later was involved in the Red River Campaign where he learned to dislike the Federals more than the Comanches. In early 1864 he came home on furlough and never returned to the war.

Hall and his family were involved in several lawsuits which are described in the introduction. His reputation grew as he joined the Texas Veterans Association and began attending meetings, oftentimes dressed in his famous frontier suit. In 1899 he died in Cotulla where he lived with one of his thirteen children.

There were several unusual things about this book: "Brazos," the mysterious author; the rarity of the book because so few copies were printed (not published); the difficulty of the reader to believe everything written; the confusing timetable (not chronological) of the numerous chapters; and the boastfulness of Hall about the most historic events of Texas history. As a primary source, there are many interesting and valuable parts of the book, especially the first hand accounts of the Battles of Plum Creek, Medina, Salado, Buena Vista, and the aftermath of San Jacinto. Much is said about Indian life in Texas, including both friendly and hostile tribes. Probably one of the best accounts of the Mier Expedition is described in the last segment entitled "Big Foot Wallace."

Like Noah Smithwick's book, this book, too, is a must for every Texas history buff. It is short, easily read, and interesting. Biography or auto-biography, it surely deserves a place in Texana collections.

Linda Cross
Tyler, Texas


In this year of the Houston bicentennial, another volume on the most famous citizen of Texas is hardly surprising. But Star of Destiny: The Private Life of Sam and Margaret Houston is not a typical biography. Madge Thornall Roberts, a descendant, began this work as a family history for her children. Then, in 1991, after transcribing the Houston letters in the Frank
Williams collection housed in Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Huntsville, she determined to share her knowledge with a wider audience. The result is peppered heavily with information from that correspondence, but the author also manages to incorporate other primary and secondary sources as well as family lore.

On first glance, Star of Destiny may appear to be little more than extensive quotes connected by an informative narrative; but it is much more. Roberts chose to utilize letters which present Houston as a loving father and attentive husband. And they, for the first time, provide a realistic portrait of Margaret Lea, the cultured twenty-one-year-old woman who fell in love with a roughhewn frontiersman twenty-six years her senior. The words of these two lovers are sometimes startling in their passion, so intimate that the reader has a sense of intruding—as though accidentally glimpsing one’s parents in a private gesture of tender affection. For example, on a visit to Alabama in 1842, a sickly Margaret wrote to her husband, “my spirit pines to be with you, and in my present state of anxiety about you, I do not think my health could be improved by a longer absence ... my Love” (p. 84). In other letters, as in this one, mutual respect, admiration, and desire are evident.

Star of Destiny is a valuable source for historians and a fascinating treat for “buffs.” Roberts scrutinizes this marriage in impressive detail. And while she does not tarnish the iconic images of her subjects, she does render them more human, more fallible, more vulnerable; they were, indeed, sensuous beings possessed of compelling emotions. The romance of Sam and Margaret Houston proves that great love stories need not be tragic.

Vista K. McCroskey
University of Texas at Tyler


Isabel R. Marvin’s fictional book for children based on historic records is actually two separate stories under one cover. The story line of Part I deals with the historic fact of a ship wreck off Padre Island, Texas, in 1554; Part II, also set on Padre Island, takes place in 1993. In both stories the writer uses a young, thirteen-year-old-heroine to drive the plot. Events in the lives of the girls ties the two stories together even though they are separated by centuries. Part I colorfully portrays the life of a young Spanish girl who set sail from Mexico with her father for their native Spain. The adventures encountered are filled with vivid descriptions of domestic life, life at sea, and survival on an island. The plot is suitable for elementary school readers; however, the terms and vocabulary will present a challenge. Part II has an easy-to-follow vocabulary and exciting plot filled with suspense and dis-
covery which often parallels Part I. The chapters are well-crafted, making the reader want to continue reading. Because this book vividly depicts an important event in Texas history, I recommend it for school libraries.

Sarah Jackson
Stephen F. Austin State University


This carefully edited volume reflects the central role of Jefferson Davis during a truly crucial year in American history. The documents begin with a letter from the Mississippi senator's oldest brother discussing news and political gossip from the home plantation area and conclude the momentous twelve months with William Lowndes Yancey's summary from London of European reaction to the American conflict. Between these two communications, 1449 other items are printed either in full or abstracted version.

These documents, including 124 letters in full version and 1269 others abstracted, reflect the whirlwind of events around Davis, the creation of the Confederate States of America, his selection as its president, and his efforts to lead the new nation - first in peace and then in war. From Edwin DeLeon, the senator learned on January 8, "the cotton states may now be regarded as having decided for secession," and from J.E.B. Stuart a week later, that promising officer's belief that rupture of the Union was "probable." In those tumultuous weeks, Davis was calmly moderate in both his public and private remarks.

Among the most memorable items in this collection are Davis' farewell remarks to his senatorial colleagues, who listened in "profound silence, broken only by repeated applause;" his Inaugural Address in Montgomery when he proclaimed "our true policy is peace" and assured everyone that "you shall not find in me either a want of zeal or fidelity to the cause that is to me the highest in hope;" and his November 18 speech to the Confederate Congress which concluded with the admonition, "Liberty is always won where there exists the unconquerable will to be free." While he had initially hoped for a field command, "I think I could perform the functions of genl. if the Executive did not cripple in my operations." Instead, as the Confederate chief executive himself he had to endure the jealous carping of such commanders as Beauregard, Bragg, and J.E. Johnston. Meanwhile, he also had to sort through many suggested plans for immediate victory and such outlandish schemes as a bullet-proof locomotive; an airship to travel "at the rate of 100 miles per hour;" a legion armed with shotguns; a plan to take Washington with "a new set of arms as yet unknown;" a secret design which would destroy an enemy three-quarters of a mile away "provided that you do not consider any means unfair in ware;" and a "many charged, breech load-
ing, diverging barrelled, rifled cannon for shooting any size or style of leaden bullet from 1/2 to 1 1/2 pounds.”

Meanwhile, dozens of applicants wrote for appointments and others urged immediate action on every front, but the patient Confederate leader calmly worked through a lack of funding for his new nation, too many bickering generals, overly optimistic reports from Border State sources and Europe, and his own illness in September. While the Southern government operated from Montgomery, Davis read a report that his executive rival in Washington was “light, inconstant and variable. His ear is open to everyone.” His demanding schedule soon wore on his endurance so much that the London Times reporter noted Davis’ “very haggard, care-worn, and drawn look.” A few days later, an apparent assassin stalked him and he confided to his brother, “God knows what the tide of war may bear to me.” But those worries vanished for a while when he proudly telegraphed from Manassas late on July 21, “Our forces have won a great victory.”

Texans were often the authors of these opinions, from a fireater’s boast in March that Sam Houston “has sunk beneath the waters,” to a compliant from a group at Paris over their state’s need of arms, and a Lone Star planter’s offer to give one-eighth of his property to help “role the great Confederate juggernaut through the ensuing swamp of abolitionist indignation.” Later, three Red River County cotton-growers promised one-half of their crop, while a Marion County veteran from 1812 wanted to attack the enemy on every front, and Ben McCulloch believed five regiments of volunteers were ready to march northward toward the Yankers.

This volume is remarkably well prepared. It is flawlessly free of errors of fact, interpretation, or typography. The annotations and explanatory notes are splendid, including biographical sketches of 210 individuals, a detailed index, and forty-four pages of sources. The editors wisely have chosen not to reprint most items already available in the Official Records, but they have noted those papers, as well as the 204 pages of materials for 1861 in Dunbar Rowland’s 1923 edition of Davis’ Letters, Papers, and Speeches. Unfortunately, many telegrams from these critical months have been lost, but the tireless and careful staff of this project have provided all students of the war with this fine volume of all materials they have located – including the year-end summary from Davis’ overseer at Brierfield. He wrote of his plan “to informe you about your Plaze & Bizness ... I have 251 Bald upe and ... the lint room and upe stars full and I think the Plase will make more cotton then laste yeare and a Plenta of come to do the Place the coming yeare.”

Haskell Monroe
University of Missouri

Gregg Cantrell’s biographical history of American politicians Kenneth and John Rayner, white father and slave son, relies on extensive primary research and a competent reading of secondary works. The reader follows the story from Kenneth Rayner’s antebellum northeastern Whig country of North Carolina to John Rayner’s Populist and Progressive Texas of the 1880s to 1910s. Within this compass, the author explores exclusionary attempts by father and son to expel race as the organizing principle of Southern politics and exchange it for other social and economic issues. The scope of the lives and times of Kenneth and John Rayner exposes the limits of Southern dissent that the Rayners both violate and results in their political destructions and personal humiliations. Of a particular note is that Cantrell, when exploring the elder Rayner’s post-Whig involvement with the Know Nothing Party, does not descend to uninformed nativist-bashing but carefully probes the causes for Rayner’s adherence to the anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant party of the mid-1850s.

Gregg Cantrell writes well, a great help when deciphering the causes and effects of the perplexing and often confusing area of Southern dissent and racist politics. The Introduction and Epilogue neatly organize and summarize the issues of this biographical narrative. The body of the work becomes more personal through Cantrell’s incorporation of speeches, newspaper columns, and private letters by both Rayners.

Best used at the senior and graduate level, this work remains distinct enough in content and analysis that an educated layman should find it an excellent and provocative read. It deserves a place on the shelves of all historians involved with the race and politics of the nineteenth-century South.

Melvin Clarno Johnson
Nacogdoches, Texas


The architectural legacy of pioneer master builder Abner Cook reflects an era of power and promise in Texas history. Extant evidence of his work, including such Austin landmarks as the Governor’s Mansion, Woodlawn (Elisha M. Pease Mansion), the Neill-Cochran House, and Little Campus, provide important insights into the frontier capital and the architecture profession, both of which were only beginning to develop during the mid-nineteenth century. As a designer, Cook employed a vernacularization of popu-
lar styles and emphasized familiar and traditional forms. Although his work represented wide-ranging influences, his success with Greek Revival architecture eventually overshadowed other stylistic endeavors, as well as his entrepreneurship and his service as first superintendent of the state penitentiary in Huntsville.

Architectural historian Kenneth Hafertepe works through myths that surround Cook and the Greek Revival forms that became synonymous with his Austin work. Utilizing available historical resources, which are limited, and his extensive knowledge of American architectural thought, the author presents a broader context for understanding and appreciating Cook’s contributions. What might have been a pedantic study of a regional builder becomes instead an important perspective on Texas social history. Particularly helpful is the division of the biographical narrative along lines of recognized historical themes, from the Republic to Reconstruction. Some conjecture remains, but Hafertepe uses investigative and analytical skills to narrow the possibilities.

Of particular interest to researchers of architectural history are the numerous illustrations, including photographs, drawings, and floorplans, as well as plates reproduced from early texts that influenced Cook’s designs. Equally important are the appendices that provide details about his projects and clients.

Dan K. Utley
Baylor University


This attempt at a one-volume synthesis examines the diversity of Spanish Texas and its legacy. Donald E. Chipman focuses on eighteenth-century affairs in the region with Spanish and French intercolonial rivalry as a backdrop. Chapters one through three deal with geographical and human diversity, early European contacts and northward advance into Texas. Chapters four and five examine international challenges to Spain’s ambitions with reference to the East Texas missions; while chapters six through eight survey settlement patterns, retrenchment, and mission/presidio affairs. Chapters nine and ten examine the changing international scene and Anglo-American intrusion between 1783-1803. In two conclusions, Chipman analyzes important global events that led to Mexican Independence and discusses lasting traditions from the Hispanic past.

Professor Chipman does not wrap us in the myths and fables of some Texas histories but shows how a sense of Texas identity evolved through Europeans, Indians, and mestizo people. How these people devised crucial
patterns for survival in the Southwest is reconstructed with Texas not as the last province settled in northern New Spain, but as part of a larger scenario, from Cabeza de Vaca to the present. A weakness may be that Chipman accepts Spanish/Indian syncretism as a given. It would be instructive to learn how it actually occurred.

Most successful chapters cover international rivalry in the last half of the seventeenth century and events after the French and Indian War. Chipman carefully explains significant changes in Spanish imperial policy and how they impacted shifting alignments in Texas. That Spain thought in terms of buffer zones is highlighted as creating the improvised conditions of East Texas. Basic continuities of this neglect were telling. Missions, presidios, and Indians appear as pawns in Spanish and French rivalry over the lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast region of Texas. Here, Chipman uses the human drama of La Salle and St. Denis to chronicle the vacillation of Spain’s imperial enterprises.

The product of a skilled historian, the book is well-balanced and provides the updated synthesis attempted. It certainly meets the needs of university students, especially the readable format and the publisher’s affordable paperback.

Roberto Mario Salmon
University of Texas-Pan American


Arnoldo De Leon’s study will please lovers of Texas history as well as those interested in Latin Americans in the United States. This book will be especially valuable for non-Hispanic Texans with only an outsider’s perception of the experiences of Tejanos. The author emphasizes the social and economic diversity of a group often regarded as homogenous.

Hispanic Texans saw little change before 1880 in lives of marginality and oppression. The generation from 1880 to 1910, on the other hand, encountered the onset of commercial agriculture, industrialization, and urbanization; new opportunities accompanied continued discrimination. The decades from 1900 to 1930 brought heavy immigration from Mexico due to hard times and political turmoil there. The Hispanic community in Texas was influenced by many who continued to look homeward rather than embrace new ways.

The Great Depression brought increased suffering and hostility, and many Texas-Mexicans went to Mexico voluntarily or otherwise. World War II, however, opened new possibilities for advancement and assimilation. From 1945 to 1960 a continuation of this brighter political and economic climate prevailed.
The turbulent period from 1960-1976 represented another watershed for Hispanic Texans, the era of *El Movimiento*, the Chicano Movement. Confrontation and cultural separatism went hand in hand with accelerated "mainstreaming" as more *Tejanos* entered the middle class.

De León's otherwise excellent book ignores the heavy immigration of the 1980s and since. This recent influx may bring changes as important as those of the 1900-1930 era.

D.S. Chandler  
Miami University (Ohio)


The authors of this diverting little collection neatly sidestep the scholars' debate over the distinction between proverbs, maxims, adages, aphorisms, and axioms by asserting that "a saying is a concise, popular statement, often moralistic in nature, which expresses what most individuals believe to be true" (p. v).

These epigrams and bits of folk-wisdom, given in both Spanish and English, were collected in hundreds of interviews and casual contacts with elderly Spanish-speakers in Texas and northern Mexico. Some of these sayings can be traced through Mexican history to Islamic and Indian traditions. The reader is struck by the number of these precepts that reflect those of English-speaking Texans. Such expressions deal with universal concerns that all peoples face.

Some of these "concise" Mexican sayings might better be described as pithy and laconic – "*Para cada perro hay su garrote;*" for each dog there is a bludgeon, or every problem has its solution (p. 77). Some are more to the point. "*Si no apesta, no es pata;*" if it doesn't stink, it isn't a foot (p. 18). Trenchant observations about women crop up frequently. "*El hombre propone, Dios dispone, y la mujer descompone;*" man proposes, God disposes, and woman rearranges (p. 8). "*Una cojera de perro y lágrimas de mujer no hay quien las crea;*" one should not believe a dog's limp or a woman's tears (p. 19).

There is even good advice for book reviewers, too often ignored – "*A menos palabras menos plietos,*" the fewer words the better (p. 38).

D.S. Chandler  
Miami University (Ohio)

Persuasively argued, clearly written, and carefully researched in primary and secondary materials, this is an important contribution to the growing body of literature on the African-American church. For almost a century scholars have debated whether Africans arrived in the Americas culturally naked, stripped of all ancestral traditions. Without being polemical, William E. Montgomery, a historian at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas, insists that African vestiges endured, and he is convinced that the evidence can be seen in the African-American church. This study concentrates on the latter nineteenth century, a period of immense transition in the South. Although there is no bibliography, the footnotes, which are located conveniently at the bottom of the page, attest to the author's thoroughness. The index is adequate.

According to Montgomery, African-American churches evolved along two fundamentally different paths. Among the sparse black population of the North and the small free black community of the South, the church, for the most part Methodist or Baptist, was little different in structure and theology from that of the dominant whites. But among the slaves, whose vast numbers in the South enabled them to retain some sense of their African past, a folk church rooted in African culture emerged. Certain African beliefs and practices survived within a Christian container. The obvious socioeconomic gap between the blacks who followed these divergent religious paths created some tension after the Civil War. As Montgomery shows, racial unity notwithstanding, the strain between the untutored former slaves and the black aristocracy, arising from differences of class, experience, and culture, often was apparent.

The church nevertheless proved indispensable after emancipation. Concerned with the needs of body and soul, it pursued spiritual as well as economic, educational, and political objectives with equal vigor. Montgomery hints that it was not surprising to those familiar with the African-American experience that Martin Luther King, Jr., came from the church. Although more suggestive than definitive, this work does for African-American religion in the latter nineteenth century what Albert J. Raboteau's Slave Religion (1978) did for the antebellum years.

John W. Storey
Lamar University
Reading again Lewis L. Gould's *Progressive and Prohibitionists*, which was first published in 1973, is like encountering an old and well-liked friend. The thesis — that prohibition was the key to progressive reform — has now become the standard interpretation of Texas politics from 1911 to 1921. Gould's argument that the drys were sincere and not yahoos standing against progress has been incorporated into the textbooks and graduate seminars of those who study and teach the history of the state. And like a well-known friend, knowledge of the book does not breed boredom. The writing style sustains the pleasure of meeting the thesis once more, and the careful organization of the monograph leads the reader to the conclusion that prohibition battles led drys to accept the need for a stronger government and to reject the negativism of those who saw prohibition as state interference with individual liberties.

The interpretations of progressive reform have undergone sizable modifications since this book was published. Gould addresses some of those interpretations and calls for clarifications and new research in an introduction written for this reprint. As he points out, there is much work for scholars to do in fleshing out the history of Texas from Populism through World War I. He remains, nevertheless, committed to the thesis that the prohibition crusade is critical to understanding the progressive politics of a one-party state. Thus far no new work has refuted that contention. Scholars and their students should commend the Texas State Historical Association for making available again this well-known and justly praised monograph.

Robert A. Calvert
Texas A&M University